



Friday,
August 7, 2015
Vol. 50, No. 31
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, S.C.

The Jet Stream

"The noise you hear is the sound of freedom."

Hotel & November Co. Graduates

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U.S. Marines Corps Declares the F-35B Operational – Page 9

Construction moving along on simulated LHD



See page 4 for story and photos

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonah Lovy

A simulated Landing Helicopter Dock is being constructed on the flight line aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. An LHD is a classification for amphibious assault ships which are capable of landing helicopters or vertical take-off jets like the F-35B Lightning II.



A Marine stands at parade rest for the pilot and weapons system officer of an F/A-18D Hornet aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort July 30. The pilot is executing a systems check before he takes the jet to the skies. The Marines and aircraft are with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 31.

MCAS Beaufort Main Gate to close for road construction

Story by:
Cpl. Brendan Roethel
Press Chief

The entrance ramps and a portion of Geiger Blvd. leading to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort's main gate will be closed to be repaved Friday Aug. 14 and will reopen Monday Aug. 17.

The inbound lane leading in to MCAS Beaufort will close at 12 p.m. Aug. 14 in order to facilitate the movement of

SEE MAIN GATE, PAGE 6



Courtesy Photo

The entrance ramps and a portion of Geiger Blvd. leading up to the main gate will be closed to be repaved and repainted Friday Aug. 14 in the afternoon, and will reopen Monday Aug. 17 at 6 a.m. Cunningham St., aboard the Air Station, will also be closed to traffic during this time, as the cement barriers on Geiger Blvd. will be stored there.

Palmetto Fire brings the heat

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Samantha K. Torres
Staff Writer

Integrated training exercises pull pieces from all branches of the military to create a working force like no other. Exercise Palmetto Fire is a joint service exercise that was took place at the Townsend Bombing Range and Fort Stewart Army Base in Georgia, July 27 - Aug. 7.

"The exercise incorporates Marine

Corps, Air Force, and Navy aircraft," said Capt. Brian Radler the Air Officer with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion.

Palmetto Fire is an air-to-ground exercise that involves tactical reinforcements of aircraft for the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion and the 15th Air Support Operations Squadron.

"The exercise is hosted by [Marine Aircraft Group] 31 with the mission of training and upgrading the aircrew Marines of [Marine All-

Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons] 533 and 224 as forward air controllers," said Capt. Jason Whitaker, the weapons systems training officer for VMFA-224. "The ground troops can utilize this exercise to learn and rehearse information back and forth amongst the pilots in the air."

Units along the east coast will participate in the exercise, from Marine Corps Air Station New River,

SEE PALMETTO FIRE, PAGE 7



MESS HALL MENU

Monday - Friday Breakfast: 6 - 7:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays Brunch: 8:30 - 11 a.m.
Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

MIDRATS

Sunday - Thursday
11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

TAKEOUT WINDOW HOURS

Breakfast - Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Lunch - Mon. - Fri. 12:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Dinner - Mon. - Fri. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday

Lunch Bayou jerk pork loin and rice
Dinner Shrimp cocktail, fried chicken, steak

Sunday

Lunch Salmon with cucumber relish
Dinner Baked ziti with italian sausage

Monday - Friday Breakfast

Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven-fried bacon

Monday

Lunch Baked smoked ham and sweet potatoes
Dinner Spicy shrimp with cheesy grits

Tuesday

Lunch Chicken and dump- lings and rice
Dinner Herbed roast pork loin with pan gravy

Wednesday

Lunch Roast turkey and green beans
Dinner Manhattan clam chowder

Thursday

Lunch Arroz con pollo and garlic bread
Dinner Apple glazed corn beef and squash

Friday

Lunch Herbed baked chicken and carrots
Dinner Chili macaroni and green beans

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic
• 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass
• Confession takes place before Mass
• Confession Monday - Thursday at noon

Protestant
• 9:45 a.m. - Protestant Church School (Sun- day School)
• 11 a.m. - Protestant Sunday Worship Service (Children's church is also available at this time)
• 5 p.m. - Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
• 5 p.m. - Saturday Worship Service at Laurel Bay Youth Center

Buddhist
• 11 a.m. - Saturday Worship Service in the Chapel Fellowship Hall

Labyrinth Walk
• 8 a.m - 4 p.m. - Monday in the Chapel Fel- lowship Hall

Other Faith Groups
• For Jewish, Mormon and Islamic support, contact the Chaplain's Office at 228-7775

See something suspicious Say something.

Call (843) 228-6710 / 911 - IMMEDIATELY
USMCEagleEyes.org

Hotlines

MCAS Beaufort Station 228-7789
Inspector
Sexual Assault Response 228-6904
Coordinator
Force Protection infor- 228-6924
mation and concerns
PMO Dispatch 228-6710
Severe Weather and
Force Protection 1-800-343-0639

Sexual Assault

The contact number for a Uniformed Victim Advocate is 592-0646. This number can get you in contact with a UVA 24 hours a day.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Beaufort, call 228-7777. If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse within MAG-31, call (252) 466-5038. The automated answering service on these lines is available 24 hours a day.

MCAS Beaufort Movie Schedule

HERO. MARINE. MAX
Saturday 2 p.m.
PG (1:51)

TERMINATOR
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
PG-13 (2:02)

DOPE
Saturday 7:00 p.m.
R (1:55)

MCRD Parris Island Movie Schedule

INSIDE OUT
Sunday 2 p.m.
PG (1:35)

HERO. MARINE. MAX
Sunday 4:30 p.m.
PG (1:51)

ted2
Sunday 7 p.m.
R (2:00)

Road Construction Word Search

E	N	A	L	D	N	U	O	B	N	I	W	V	N
N	W	O	R	K	Z	O	N	E	N	H	B	N	O
H	O	O	T	L	A	H	P	S	A	L	C	X	I
I	G	I	N	S	R	E	I	R	R	A	B	A	T
G	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	R	A	M	P	I
H	E	Y	I	C	G	N	I	L	E	V	E	L	L
W	D	M	T	V	U	R	U	O	T	E	D	T	O
A	A	E	A	E	A	R	L	U	E	O	U	R	M
Y	A	T	S	I	F	P	T	D	R	G	B	A	E
E	P	U	S	O	N	A	E	S	C	N	F	F	D
T	R	O	L	C	L	G	S	R	N	A	Y	F	Z
R	S	E	N	O	C	C	A	P	O	O	W	I	G
I	I	Y	A	L	E	D	C	T	C	G	C	C	J
O	G	N	I	D	A	R	G	M	E	W	K	B	I

Word Bank

CONSTRUCTION
HIGHWAY
ASPHALT
CONCRETE
WORK ZONE
TRAFFIC
BARRIERS

CLOSED
DEMOLITION
ENTRANCE RAMP
SAFETY
CONES
MAIN GATE
DETOUR

IN BOUNDLANE
REPAVING
DELAY
GRADING
LEVELING

Sudoku

7			6		5	2		
						8		
			7	4				
	6					5		
			9				8	7
5		1			2		9	
2						7	1	
9			1					3
	8				7		2	

July 31st solution

E			A					
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			O	L				
			E	T				
			H					
			E	R				
			A	R	O			
			O	A	R	S	O	T
			E	I	A	R	I	O

July 31st solution

2	5	6	8	9	1	3	7	4
9	4	3	2	7	6	5	8	1
7	1	8	5	3	4	6	2	9
6	7	4	3	1	2	9	5	8
8	3	1	9	4	5	2	6	7
5	2	9	6	8	7	4	1	3
4	9	5	7	6	8	1	3	2
3	6	7	1	2	9	8	4	5
1	8	2	4	5	3	7	9	6

Fightertown deployed:



VMFA-251 Thunderbolts are currently deployed aboard the USS Roosevelt as part of the U.S. Fifth Fleet.



VMFA-312 Checkerboards are currently deployed to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program.



MALS-31 Stingers have detachments currently deployed to the Western Pacific supporting VMFA-251, VMFA-312, and VMFA(AW)-224.

Did you know...

August 7, 1990: President Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against possible Iraqi invasion. One week later the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area as part of Operation Desert Shield which would become the largest deployment of U.S. forces since the Vietnam War.

Fightertown Fun Facts

Looking back at Laurel Bay's beginning

Story by:
Cpl. Brendan Roethel
Press Chief

Five years of planning, meetings, and budgeting, the loud roars of heavy equipment machines and the tune of the Marine Corps Hymn played by the Parris Island Marine Band filled the air during the Capehart Housing Project Ground Breaking Ceremony Jan. 27, 1958.

The \$15.9 million contract for constructing the homes was the largest single contract in South Carolina history at the time. The two year project cost approximately \$77 million to build the community of 1,100 homes made to accommodate 5,000 military personnel and dependents on the 1,060 acre site. Seven different home designs were chosen to give variety to the development.

Currently the military community has almost doubled the number of homes and hosts approximately 6,000 military personnel, dependents and retirees.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Col. Herbert C. Freuler welcomed the ceremonies' guest speakers Lt. Gen. Vern J. McCaul, the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, the main speaker for the

event, and Albert Gersten, the contractor for the project.

In his speech, McCaul expressed excitement for the project and that he believed in Gertsen's ability to accomplish the project well and on schedule.

Rivers mentioned that the project would bring Beaufort into a period of prosperity and that the housing development would be the showplace of the Marine Corps and would not be matched.

Gertsen stated that he was honored to be the builder of not only a city, but one that would harvest a strong military family community.

To conclude the ceremony, the ground was broken by Freuler and the other guest speakers.

Four months after the ground breaking ceremony, the government housing location officially became known as Laurel Bay. The housing development was named Laurel Bay after the cotton plantation that occupied the area during the early 19th century. The Laurel Bay Plantation was well known for its long avenue of oak trees leading into the plantation, some of which are still standing today as the original contractors made every effort to conserve

them.

The grounds of Laurel Bay have more history that extend beyond its life as a plantation.

In 1816, Laurel Bay became the final resting place of South Carolina Governor Paul Hamilton. Hamilton served as the third Secretary of the Navy under President James Madison during the War of 1812.

Throughout Laurel Bay, some of the streets, areas, and buildings within the community are named in honor of the Native American tribes that once inhabited the land. To honor those inhabitants that live there and in the surrounding areas, many of these places were named after their tribes. For example the Edisto Woods Community Center is named after the Edisto Tribe.

The Lowcountry was one of the first visited and earliest settled areas in North America, and the grounds of Laurel Bay tell a part of that story. Read streets signs, walk through Laurel Bay and look at the oak trees and know that history surrounds the community. Laurel Bay is more than just a plot of land, it's a historic area whose story is being written everyday by the men and women that live and serve there.



Effective June 1, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is in Tropical Cyclone Condition V for Hurricane season until Nov. 30. There are currently no threats. Due to El Nino conditions, it's likely to be a below average tropical cyclone season for the Atlantic. NOAA is predicting 6-11 named storms, 3-6 hurricanes, and 0-2 major hurricanes. Monitor local weather sources to stay up to date and be prepared.



Contact us:
228-7225

mcasbeaufort@gmail.com
BFRT_JPAO@usmc.mil

Commanding Officer MCAS Beaufort
Col. Peter D. Buck

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Clayton Groover

Public Affairs Chief
Sgt. Dengrier Baez

Press Chief
Cpl. Brendan Roethel

Community Relations/Staff Writers
Lance Cpl. Samantha K. Torres
Lance Cpl. Jonah V. Lovy

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Editor's note: We at The Jet Stream care about our reader's opinion. In reaching our goal to put out the best possible product, we understand the importance of your feedback. Please add a comment to the "How can we improve The Jet Stream?" topic on our www.facebook.com/MCASBeaufort discussion board on how we can better your base newspaper.

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Brain Teaser
It takes 10 minutes to fry one steak - 5 minutes from each side. Two steaks can fit on a pan. **What is the shortest possible time to fry 3 steaks?**

July 31st Brain Teaser solution:

Four parts in two cuts are easy.

Now just cut the cake horizontally (split the bottom and top part).

Happenings

- Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at the Station Chapel aboard MCAS Beaufort every Monday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m. Meetings are open to all service members, veterans, and civilians within the Tri-Command.
- The Station Chapel aboard MCAS Beaufort is hosting a Youth Lock In Movies, Fun, Games, and Crafts Night Aug. 8-9 from 6pm.-11a.m. Parents interested in registering their children for the event should call 228-7775. Registration ends Aug. 2.
- The MCAS Beaufort Library will be closed for renovations for approximately two months beginning Aug. 1. During this closure, please visit the MCRD Parris Island Library or other libraries in the surrounding area. The Parris Island Libraries hours of operation 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information call 228-1672.
- The photocopying of U.S. Government identification cards is a violation of Title 18, U.S. Code Part 1, Chapter 33, Section 701 and punishable by fine and imprisonment.
- The detention ponds located in the Freedom Sound neighborhood of Laurel Bay housing are off limits to all personnel. 'No fishing allowed' and 'Keep out' signs have been posted on the fences encircling ponds.

Tri-Command Weather *7 Day Forecast*

Fri 8/7/2015	89°	76°		Partly sunny and humid
Sat 8/8/2015	90°	77°		Some sun with a thunderstorm
Sun 9/2015	89°	77°		A shower and t-storm around
Mon 8/10/2015	89°	79°		Humid with partial sunshine
Tue 8/11/2015	91°	77°		A strong thunderstorm
Wed 8/12/2015	92°	76°		A t-storm around in the p.m.
Thu 8/13/2015	92°	73°		An afternoon thunderstorm

Construction moving along on simulated LHD

Story by:
Lance Cpl. Jonah Lovy
Staff Writer

Construction is underway on a simulated Landing Helicopter Dock aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. When completed, the dock will be located on the MCAS Beaufort flight line.

An LHD is a classification for amphibious assault ships which are capable of landing helicopters or vertical take-off and landing-capable jets like the F-35B Lightning II. These vessels are built with a full flight deck similar in appearance to an aircraft carrier to operate utility and attack helicopters.

"Pilots can rehearse landing [on the dock] before trying it on the real thing," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Seth Mangasarian, the public works officer for MCAS Beaufort. "Now pilots can get the training they require right here at the Air Station."

The simulated LHD will have all the working lights and equipment found aboard a ship. The base is solid concrete made exactly to the dimensions of the real one. The dock will also feature a control tower.

The F-35B is the short take-off and vertical landing variant of the F-35 series of aircraft. Once the LHD is complete, F-35B pilots will be able to hone their vertical landing skills.

The project is scheduled to be completed in less than a year.



Courtesy Photo

An F-35B Lightning II lands on the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) during the second at-sea F-35 operational test. The F-35B is assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 501, Marine Aircraft Group 31.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonah Lovy

Construction has begun on a simulated Landing Helicopter Dock aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. The simulated LHD will have all the working lights and equipment found onboard a ship. The base is solid concrete exactly the dimensions of the real one. The dock will also feature a control tower.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonah Lovy

Construction workers begin work on a simulated Landing Helicopter Dock aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. When completed, the dock will be located on the MCAS Beaufort flight line.



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<http://issuu.com/thejetstream>



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MAIN GATE

continued from page 1

the concrete barriers to Cunningham St. on the air station. The outbound lane leaving MCAS Beaufort will close at

5 p.m. Aug. 14 and the portion of Geiger Blvd. leading to and from the main gate will be milled and paved. This will improve the road and make for a smoother, safer, ride for vehicles entering and exiting the air station.

If base access is required during this time, all inbound and outbound traffic will use the Truck Gate, located north

of the Main Gate off of Highway 21. When leaving the installation, all traffic will be directed to turn right, heading north onto Highway 21 to minimize delays at the gate.

Safety is paramount to MCAS Beaufort and repaving and repainting the roads will make them safer for everyone visiting the Air Station.



Courtesy Photo

All inbound and outbound traffic during this time will use the Truck Gate, located north of the Main Gate off of Highway 21. When leaving the installation, all traffic will be directed to turn right, heading north onto Highway 21 to minimize delays at the gate.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Samantha K. Torres

F/A-18D Hornets are staged before kicking off joint training exercise Palmetto Fire aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, July 27- Aug. 7. The squadron, along with Navy and Air Force reinforcements, will train to execute indirect fire exercises utilizing aircraft. The jets are with Marine-All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 31.

PALMETTO FIRE

continued from page 1

NC, down to Mayport Naval Station, Fla.

"We will utilize mortars, fixed wing aircraft, and rotary aircraft," said Whitaker.

The forward air control will provide the ground troops a with better visual and extra support in the case of a real life situation. With the exercise taking place in close proximity to the Air Station, it is possible for the aircraft to carry ordnance from the Air Station to the bombing range.

"For the guys on the deck and the ones executing forward air control, they will go out on the battlefield and find targets that need to be prosecuted with indirect fire assets," said Whitaker. "Then, either mortars, artillery or aviation ordnance will be used to destroy, suppress, or neutralize the targets on the field."

It's been eight years since MAG- 31 has

executed a large-scale exercise utilizing live ordnance. Training with ordnance allows the Marines to familiarize themselves with the process and become more proficient in their military occupation specialty.

"We are loading inert ordnance on the jets, giving the ordnance Marines an opportunity to work with the simulated bombs," said Whitaker. "We don't often get the opportunity to work with or load ordnance, but it's beneficial to both the ordnance Marines and the aircrew. It's a great opportunity."

All units played their role in the joint training exercise, and will be more prepared to execute successful future missions when the call is made.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Samantha K. Torres

A F-A/18D Hornet taxis down the runway aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort July 30. The jet is preparing to execute a night flight as part of the Palmetto Fire Exercise. The exercise is a joint service exercise utilizing Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force aircraft. The aircraft is a part of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 31.

HITT winners announced

One step closer to Ultimate Tactical Warrior

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Jonah Lovy
Staff Writer

The male and female winners of the Tactical Athlete Competition hosted by Marine Corps Community Services have been announced. The competition was held at the gym aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort July 28-29.

Twenty-nine Marines from MCAS Beaufort competed in challenges based on the rigorous fundamentals of the High Intensity Tactical Training program. The course included several cone drills, a standing broad jump, a kneeling power ball throw, a 400 yard tactical course, and a kettlebell burpee challenge.

The top scoring female is Staff Sgt. Marissa Grudowski, a mobile facilities technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, Marine Aircraft Group 31.

Grudowski is an Olympic style weight lifter who recently started doing cross-fit training. Olympic style lifting is the way athletes weight lift in the modern Olympics, in which the athlete attempts a maximum weight single lift of a barbell loaded with weight plates.

"I'm very excited for the next round of competition," said Grudowski. "I'm going to go out there and represent the base, and hopefully come out on top."

The male with the highest score is Lance Cpl. Brandon Gitz, a cryogenics equipment operator with MALS-31.

"It was a good time," said Gitz. "I really enjoy exercising, so I decided I would just try it and have some fun, but I ended up winning."

Gitz says he is enthusiastic about the next round of competition and can't wait to start training.

"I'll go on runs with other Marines and work out at the gym," Gitz said. "I really enjoy being physically fit and pushing myself to do better."

The winners are invited to compete in the final event at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Sept. 16.



Staff Sgt. Marissa Grudowski executes a tire flip aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Aug. 4, to prepare for the Ultimate Tactical Athlete competition. The competition is scheduled for Sept. 16 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Grudowski is a Mobile facilities technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, Marine Aircraft Group 31.



Lance Cpl. Brandon Gitz executes a tire flip aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Aug. 4, to prepare for the Ultimate Tactical Athlete competition. As the top scoring Male competitor, Gitz is invited to compete in the next round at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Gitz is a cryogenics equipment operator.



Staff Sgt. Marissa Grudowski trains for the Ultimate Tactical Athlete competition aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Aug. 4. Grudowski was the top scoring female in the first round of the competition July 28-29. Grudowski is a Mobile facilities technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, Marine Aircraft Group 31.

Proposed changes to the Marine Corps uniform policy

Story by:
Cpl. Brendan Roethel
Staff Writer

The Marine Corps is currently conducting an online survey to collect feedback on possible uniform changes. Active duty Marines can now influence the future of the policy by voting at https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/application_noncac/

According to Mary Boyt, the Marine Corps Uniform Board manager for Headquarters Marine Corps, the survey began on July 12 and will conclude Aug. 9. Once the survey closes, the Commandant will be briefed on the results and make a final decision on the uniform changes.

The survey asks for feedback on three areas of the uniform policy. The first is a proposed change in the female dress blue coat. The current garb may be replaced with a redesigned coat that more closely resembles the male coat.

Marines can vote to keep the current design, switch to the new design, or keep the current coat while reserving the new one for special assignments.

The second area contains three recommended changes to the seasonal uniform policy that Marines can either approve or disapprove.

The first recommendation would allow Force level commanders to determine the seasonal uniform for their area of opera-

tion. Currently, Marines all over the world are locked into the same seasonal uniform schedule regardless of their operational climate.

The second recommendation proposes the removal of the Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform from the seasonal rotation entirely; leaving the decision of what cammies to wear entirely up to the commanders.

The third recommendation would make service uniforms the universal uniform of the day for the entire Marine Corps. The only exception would be for Marines in a working environment where service uniforms would be impractical such as a deployed environment or a potentially haz-

ardous work place.

The final proposal on the survey would remove desert cammies from the required gear list and use only the woodlands.

According to the survey, this proposal would improve uniformity within the Corps, but would not give Marines in a desert environment a uniform that matches the environment they are working in. However, there is enough desert flame resistant organizational gear in circulation to allow Marines who need to use them to continue.

Retiring the desert uniform will also cut back on uniform costs for the Corps.

Active duty Marines are encouraged to let their voice be heard at and vote no later than Aug. 9.



Courtesy Photo

Active duty Marines can now go online and influence the future of their uniform policy. An online survey is now available for Marines to vote on possible changes to multiple uniform policies.



Courtesy Photo

The Marine Corps is currently conducting an online survey to collect feedback on possible uniform changes. The survey includes proposed changes to the uniform of the day policy.

Coalition trains Iraqi security forces to defeat ISIL

Story by:
Cpl. Jonathan Boynes
Marine Forces Central Command

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – With the ever-present threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, having a strong and capable fighting force to defeat them is a priority. The Iraqi Army's 7th Division, with the help of Combined Joint Task Force-

Operation Inherent Resolve's multinational coalition forces, are at the forefront of that fight.

The building partner capacity mission, based out of Al Asad Air Base, is one of the locations where training efforts focus on refining, educating and preparing Iraqi security forces to transform into an independent military, capable of defeating ISIL and

securing their country's freedom.

"The ultimate goal is to have Iraqis training Iraqis," said Danish Army Maj. Christian Friis, the Task Force Al Asad Building Partner Capacity officer in charge. "We want to make sure that they are capable of self-sustainment. We also want to instill in them a warrior ethos that leaves a deep impression of what good soldiering is. If we can leave them with a feeling of pride and confidence that perpetuates a proactive and professional military culture, then we have accomplished our goal."

The Al Asad BPC site has the staff and resources to successfully accommodate and train two Iraqi battalions at a time. For enlisted Iraqi soldiers, the training primarily focuses on marksmanship fundamentals, urban combat strategies and counter-Improvised Explosive Devices techniques.

For officers, the training consists of operations planning, platoon tactics and tactical decision making. Generally, soldiers enrolled in the training are new to the military and are relatively untrained. Even so, these soldiers are hand-picked by their parent units to attend training to make them combat ready and capable of instructing others.

"Patience is key to our success," said Friis. "We need to understand that this is a totally different culture than the one many of us are accustomed to. Many of the Iraqis lack the experience and military mindset that has become second nature to coalition members. This means that in order for us to achieve our goals we must be pa-

tient, but also culturally sensitive."

Although quality training is vital to the success of the Iraqi military, it isn't the only necessary ingredient for building a strong nation. Through the many hours of hands-on training, the coalition forces not only improve the 7th Division's ability to fight, they also develop strong and lasting professional bonds.

"Knowing that they have coalition support is important for their success when it is almost guaranteed that they soon will be fighting on the front lines," said Maj. Scott Benninghoff, the BPC sustainment lead for Task Force Al Asad. "It's also about increasing and solidifying the bond between Iraq and the coalition nations as a whole. A strong and stable Iraq with strong ties to coalition nations promotes long-term security of all of the nations involved. These are the future leaders of Iraq and hopefully they will remember, with fondness, the training experiences and the shared hardships at Al Asad."

Experienced instructors, a vigorous training curriculum and newly cemented bonds are just the beginning of a long process of stabilizing the region. The BPC mission is not designed to be a quick-fix solution.

"The Iraqis have a strong desire to be trained," said Friis. "We just have to provide the conditions that will allow for that growth. We can and have had a meaningful impact on their lives. [We've] provided the tools that will allow them to protect and defend their home, and ultimately made our own homes safer."



Photo By: Cpl. Jonathan Boynes

An Iraqi army soldier fires an AK-47 assault rifle during marksmanship training as part of the building partner capacity mission at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, July 27, 2015. Through the advise and assist and building partner capacity missions, Combined Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent Resolve's multinational coalition has trained approximately 11,000 Iraqi security force personnel to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and restore the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

U.S. Marines Corps Declares the F-35B Operational



Photo By: Lance Cpl. Remington Hall

Marines and sailors aboard the USS Wasp (LHD-1) secure and refuel an F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter after its arrival for the first session of operational testing, May 18. Data and information gathered from OT-1 will lay the groundwork for F-35B deployments aboard Navy amphibious ships and the announcement of the Marine Corps' initial operating capability of the F-35B in July. The aircraft are with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, Marine Aircraft Group 31 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 13.

Story by: Courtesy Story
Headquarters Marine Corps

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Marine Corps' F-35B Lightning II aircraft reached initial operational capability July 31, 2015 with a squadron of 10 F-35Bs ready for worldwide deployment.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121), based in Yuma, Arizona, is the first squadron in military history to become operational with an F-35 variant, following a five-day Operational Readiness Inspection, which concluded July 17.

"I am pleased to announce that VMFA-121 has achieved Initial Operational Capability in the F-35B, as defined by requirements outlined in the June 2014 Joint Report to Congressional Defense Committees," said Gen. Joseph Dunford, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "VMFA-121 has ten aircraft in the Block 2B configuration with the requisite performance envelope and weapons clearances, to include the training, sustainment capabilities, and infrastructure to deploy to an austere site or a ship. It is capable of conducting Close Air Support, Offensive and Defensive Counter Air, Air Interdiction, Assault Support Escort and Armed Reconnaissance as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force, or in support of the Joint Force."

Dunford stated that he has his full confidence in the F-35B's ability to support Marines in combat, predicated on years of concurrent developmental testing and operational flying.

"Prior to declaring IOC, we have conducted flight operations for seven weeks at sea aboard an L-Class carrier, participated in multiple large force exercises, and executed a recent operational evaluation which included multiple live ordnance sorties," said Dunford. "The F-35B's ability to conduct operations from expeditionary airstrips or sea-based carriers provides our Nation with its first 5th generation strike fighter, which will transform the way we fight and win."

As the future of Marine Corps tactical aviation, the F-35 will eventually replace three legacy platforms: the AV-8B Harrier, the F/A-18 Hornet, and the EA-6B Prowler.

"The success of VMFA-121 is a reflection of the hard work and effort by the Marines in the squadron, those involved in the program over many years, and the support we have received from across the Department of the Navy, the Joint Program Office, our industry partners, and the Under Secretary of Defense. Achieving IOC has truly been a team effort," concluded Dunford.

The U.S. Marine Corps has trained and



Photo By: Lance Cpl. Remington Hall

Four F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters sit secured to the deck after their arrival aboard the USS Wasp (LHD-1), May 18, 2015. As the future of Marine Corps aviation, the F-35B will eventually replace all aircraft from three legacy Marine Corps platforms; the AV-8B Harrier, the F/A-18 Hornet, and the EA-6B Prowler. The aircraft are stationed with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, Marine Aircraft Group 31, and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 13.

qualified more than 50 Marine F-35B pilots and certified about 500 maintenance personnel to assume autonomous, organic-level maintenance support for the F-35B.

VMFA-121's transition will be followed by

Marine Attack Squadron 211 (VMA-211), an AV-8B squadron, which is scheduled to transition to the F-35B in fiscal year 2016. In 2018, VMA-311 will conduct its transition to the F-35B.



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Hotel and November Company Graduates

Honor Graduates

Platoon 2056

Pfc. B. C. Hammontree, Dalton, GA
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. A. D. Smith Jr.

Platoon 2057

Pfc. J. E. Schmitt, Pine Bush, N.Y.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. J. R. McNichols

Platoon 2058

Pfc. S. A. Cortez, Rahway, NJ
Senior Drill Instructor: Gunnery Sgt. J. W. McCrohan

Platoon 2060

Pfc. E. J. Harris, Shippensburg, PA
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. J. D. Krebbeks

Platoon 2061

Pfc. W. K. Weninger, Chargin, OH
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. S. M. Sassaman

Platoon 2062

Pfc. T. J. Gay,* Virginia Beach, VA
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. C. J. Chamberlain

Platoon 4026

Lance Cpl. A. C. Davis, Cumberland, IN
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. C. Chavez

Platoon 4027

Pfc. K. L. Lanier, Kapolei, HI
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. L. M. Harris

Platoon 2056

Pvt. M. S. Adkins , Pvt. W. R. Andrasco Jr. , Pvt. A. S. Arvin , Pvt. A. S. Bailey , Pvt. C. J. Banks , Pvt. D. W. Battles III , Pfc. T. T. Beasley , Pfc. C. E. Branham , Pfc. I. A. Campbell , Pvt. E. M. Cash , Pvt. B. M. Castle , Pfc. K. X. Charlden , Pvt. D. T. Cheatum , Pvt. C. D. Clemmons , Pfc. A. L. Condon , Pvt. P. D. Corl , Pfc. C. C. Cox , Pfc. M. W. Cox* , Pfc. J. T. Dawson , Pvt. C. M. Desinor , Pfc. M. T. Ehrensperger , Pfc. P. C. Elder , Pfc. C. J. Fontenoy , Pfc. J. D. Gageanbinkley , Pvt. E. W. Garrett , Pvt. J. C. Greene , Pvt. H. L. Hall , Pfc. B. C. Hammontree , Pvt. M. R. Henry , Pfc. J. G. Hernandez , Pvt. J. T. Huber , Pfc. R. C. Hyatt , Pfc. J. T. Labraescudero , Pfc. R. C. Mckay , Pfc. R. H. Mobley III , Pfc. E. B. Moran III , Pfc. D. W. Posada , Pfc. J. C. Quebrado* , Pvt. C. A. Roach , Pfc. A. J. Rodriguez , Pfc. X. J. Sordelet , Pvt. E. R. Taylor , Pfc. J. C. Tejjido , Pfc. B. E. Thompson Jr.* , Pvt. M. A. Tomlin , Pvt. C. D. Turrentine , Pfc. C. L. Voyles , Pfc. B. J. Walker , Pfc. B. I. White , Pfc. S. D. White , Pfc. L. D. Wilson

Platoon 2057

Pfc. Z. A. Andrews , Pvt. T. R. Annunziata , Pvt. H. C. Armstrong , Pfc. M. I. Ayala , Pvt. C. B. Bagley , Pfc. D. S. Barton , Pfc. S. M. Battenfeld , Pvt. C. A. Bradley , Pvt. R. E. Burch , Pvt. J. M. Byrd Jr. , Pvt. M. W. Collins Jr. , Pfc. M. A. Debernardi , Pfc. M. D. Denham II , Pvt. J. T. Dunkle , Pfc. P. R. Dunphy , Pfc. T. D. Fry , Pfc. D. M. Garner , Pvt. B. A. Gilkerson , Pfc. T. J. Gove , Pfc. J. A. Harris , Pvt. M. L. Hertenstein , Pvt. B. M. Huffman , Pfc. A. B. King , Pfc. J. M. Lupton , Pfc. Q. Q. Ma , Pvt. B. V. Malaguttborges , Pfc. W. M. Martinez , Pvt. P. K. Mask , Pvt. J. E. Mccauley , Pvt. M. A. Miles , Pvt. K. P. Miner , Pfc. C. A. Mowery* , Pfc. D. P. Nuneviller , Pfc. D. P. Nuneviller , Pfc. J. T. Quezada , Pvt. T. F. Reich , Pfc. R. D. Riesmeyer , Pvt. J. B. Riverasharp , Pvt. L. P. Robinson , Pfc. Z. Q. Rumsey* , Pfc. J. E. Schmitt , Pvt. L. P. Silvio , Pfc. R. M. Spaeder , Pvt. G. M. Subik , Pfc. J. N. Tavares* , Pfc. B. J. Taylor , Pvt. E. J. Taylor , Pfc. J. R. Turner , Pvt. A. B. Vaughan , Pvt. J. J. Volgares , Pvt. D. E. Wrigh

Platoon 2058

Pvt. L. J. Arteaga , Pvt. N. R. Atkinsongambino* , Pfc. J. R. Austin , Pvt. E. M. Avalos , Pvt. B. C. Baker , Pfc. K. R. Barnhart , Pvt. D. M. Chambers , Pvt. T. M. Chambers , Pvt. Z. C. Christian , Pvt. B. C. Conyers , Pfc. S. A. Cortez , Pvt. M. H. Edmondson , Pvt. S. A. Elliott , Pvt. J. J. Ellis III , Pfc. A. J. Etelamaki , Pvt. L. A. Francogonzalez , Pvt. H. I. Jaimeenriquez , Pvt. P. W. Jarrett , Pvt. J. A. Jiannotti , Pvt. S. R. Kea , Pvt. J. C. Knott , Pfc. K. Lolo , Pfc. Z. A. Macallister , Pfc. R. A. Manillo , Pvt. M. D. Martinez , Pvt. Z. E. Matthews , Pvt. K. P. Mcfall , Pvt. D. M. Montague , Pfc. M. K. Morse , Pvt. C. A. Osteen , Pvt. J. D. Pablofrancisco , Pvt. J. M. Ramcharan* , Pvt. X. V. Rhodes , Pfc. B. Z. Rivenburgh , Pfc. R. Roman , Pvt. E. P. Shaffer , Pfc. T. J. Shemanski , Pfc. H. F. Smith , Pfc. A. C. Solek , Pfc. J. T. Stang , Pvt. R. K. Steiner* , Pfc. J. C. Tatum , Pvt. Z. T. Templeton , Pvt. R. D. Tracey , Pfc. F. Valverde , Pfc. D. J. Vandervoort

Platoon 2060

Pvt. M. A. Arias , Pvt. K. A. Ascencioesobar , Pfc. S. Baron* , Pvt. T. D. Beckum , Pvt. C. R. Benson , Pvt. K. W. Blake , Pvt. M. D. Bracey , Pvt. A. J. Breton , Pvt. N. A. Calve , Pfc. G. F. Chaves , Pfc. M. R. Coffman , Pvt. J. G. Cruz Jr. , Pvt. T. S. Cunningham , Pvt. H. M. Curillo , Pfc. J. R. Decramer , Pvt. J. P. Deletto , Pfc. M. F. Demase , Pvt. B. G. Dobson , Pvt. A. D. Egli , Pvt. B. D. English , Pvt. B. T. Everett , Pvt. C. M. Forbes , Pvt. Z. A. Gamblin , Pfc. A. P. Grewal , Pfc. E. J. Harris , Pvt. W. A. Hoyem , Pfc. C. S. Jenei , Pvt. A. V. Keplar , Pvt. M. V. Letsch , Pvt. J. M. London , Pvt. J. W. Long , Pvt. D. N. Manock , Pvt. D. G. Marquis Jr.* , Pvt. V. M. Marvin , Pvt. T. R. Middleton , Pvt. Z. M. Moore , Pfc. J. S. Perrier , Pvt. C. R. Poth , Pvt. A. L. Rosado III , Pfc. C. J. Rusnak Jr. , Pfc. J. P. Sims , Pvt. J. W. Smith , Pvt. I. A. Springer , Pfc. R. I Turner II , Pfc. M. J. Valentinetti , Pvt. E. L. Vanwingerden , Pfc. J. L. Venezia* , Pfc. N. K. Vital , Pfc. M. L. Waltz , Pvt. A. Weston

Platoon 2061

Pvt. N. L. Adams , Pfc. M. G. Allen , Pvt. B. J. Borkowski , Pfc. S. P. Brophy , Pvt. J. D. Carmelengo , Pfc. T. A. Chiappisi , Pfc. C. W. Duhon , Pfc. H. S. Gerber , Pfc. J. P. Gorman , Pvt. Z. T. Hayes , Pvt. C. T. Hillis , Pvt. T. L. Ingold , Pvt. E. M. Kalinowski , Pfc. R. F. Lerer , Pvt. J. A. Luyandoortiz , Pvt. M. S. Maccsay , Pvt. D. A. Malik , Pvt. B. N. Marchand , Pfc. A. D. Marks , Pfc. D. P. Martin , Pvt. S. O. Martin , Pfc. S. F. Martinez , Pvt. W. J. Mazon , Pvt. T. A. Milazzo , Pfc. A. S. Negi , Pvt. A. M. Nix , Pvt. S. L. O'Brien , Pfc. J. L. Pittman IV , Pvt. N. E. Raymond , Pvt. I. A. Richardshuacon , Pvt. D. O. Rivera , Pvt. E. Rivera* , Pvt. D. S. Ruiz , Pfc. K. I. Savuk , Pfc. J. L. Seredich* , Pvt. J. T. Siervo , Pfc. R. T. Slinkosky , Pvt. C. W. Smithmarkham , Pvt. A. R. Spencer , Pfc. B. H. Stillwagner , Pfc. D. R. Taft , Pfc. J. T. Tikos* , Pvt. M. R. Toribio , Pfc. D. A. Wadsworth , Pvt. Z. S. Wares , Pvt. G. D. Warner , Pfc. W. K. Weninger , Pfc. M. S. Wieszczek , Pvt. J. M. Williamson , Pvt. R. T. Young

Platoon 2062

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Platoon 4026

Pfc. Amayaargueta, Keny C. , Pvt. Bellamy, Imani B. , Pvt. Benitezromero, Alice D. , Pvt. Bohannon, Leslie N. , Pfc. Boyd, Shelby L. , Pfc. Boyd, Tiana L. , Pvt. Byrd, Megan S. , Pfc. Cessna, Charlene E. , Pvt. Charton, Emily J. , Pvt. Chiribao, Lorena P. , Pfc. Coleman, Mia D. , Pvt. Cruz, Jeannelle A. , Pvt. Dainton, Charlene A. , Pfc. Daniel, Rhita A. LCpl Davis, Allison C. * , Pfc. Davis, Nicole A. , Pvt. Davis, Versaun A. , Pfc. Davisjordan, Brianna N. , Pfc. Drane, Allison M. , Pvt. Drexler, Gwendolyn R. , Pvt. Gerdau, Jocelyn K. , Pfc. Gomez, Shantell D. , Pfc. Gomezandrade, Katherine J. , Pfc. Gray, Taylor L. , Pvt. Hale, Jessica L. , Pvt. Harrison, Keyana R. , Pfc. Hereth, Anna J. , Pfc. Hetrick, Chelsea L. , Pfc. Holmes, Kendall M. , Pfc. Kuria, Linda W. M. , Pfc. Kydd, Andrea D. , Pvt. Larsen, Keena B. , Pfc. Lawson, Ashley J. , Pfc. Lawson, Tolliesha S. , Pfc. Lee, Kasey M. , Pfc. Loney, Moira R. , Pfc. Marsh, Taylor J. * , Pvt. Martinezruiz, Ixia J. , Pfc. Mendoza, Filomena R. * , Pvt. Merling, Yocheved , Pvt. Packard, Haley C. , Pvt. Payne, Karina G. , Pvt. Pierce, Tukea P. , Pfc. Poole, Tabitha J. , Pvt. Quintero, Tatyana C. , Pfc. Ridgell, Jeni M. * , Pvt. Robbins, Jessica A. , Pvt. Rogers, Annalise M. , Pvt. Ruczynski, Brooklynn R. , Pvt. Scott, Taylor B. , Pfc. Smith, Rachel L. , Pvt. Stephens, Asia C. , Pfc. Stromme, Leah V. , Pvt. Sylvester, Karmalifah R. , Pvt. Thomas, Justice M. , Pfc. Toth, Kathryn A. , Pvt. Ulrich, Rebecca J. , Pfc. Vargasosorio, Cindy C. , Pvt. Velazquez, Annalisa I. , Pvt. Venturamarcelino, Nayeli , Pvt. Wash, Sarah D. , Pfc. Welty, Devin L. , Pfc. Yancey, Felicia M.

Platoon 4027

Pfc. Aguinaga, Whitney N. , Pfc. Almojuela, Megan E. , Pfc. Altsman, Melissa R. , Pfc. Amezquita, Diana C. , Pvt. Anderson, Delani R. , Pfc. Bae, Joo Y. , Pfc. Barragan, Maria G. * , Pfc. Benally, Latanya , Pfc. Black, Jazmyn R. , Pvt. Carroll, Angel M. , Pvt. Chamness, Iesha T. , Pfc. Chrivia, Tonya J. , Pfc. Curole, Chelsea N. , Pvt. Delgado, Sierra A. , Pfc. Dennison, Trabrille J. , Pvt. Densieski, Cassie L. , Pvt. Diaz, Winipher C. , Pvt. Esser, Lainey A. , Pvt. Fay, Ashlei N. , Pfc. Fermin, Ike K. , Pvt. Frerichs Shea, Rachel M. , Pvt. Galvan, Hannah G. , Pfc. Ginzburg, Mariya , Pvt. Giselman, Arielle M. , Pvt. Gonzalez, Vanessa , Pfc. Gorraiz, Isabella N. , Pvt. Hall, Elizabeth C. , Pvt. Harbour, Dayna P. , Pvt. Harris, Kahryn A. , Pvt. Hernandez, Shara , Pvt. Hernandez, Valery , Pvt. Hunt, Danielle M. , Pfc. Hunter, Nikki J. , Pvt. Jacob, Jeneva G. , Pvt. Krob, Cheyenne M. , Pfc. Kuway, Darlin G. , Pfc. Lanier, Kayla L. , Pfc. Laning, Jessica M. , Pvt. Limberger, Rachel D. , Pvt. McCarry, Paige K. , Pvt. Mccloud, Cassandra N. , Pfc. Mendez, Natalia M. , Pvt. Morin, Michaela K. , Pfc. Morris, Ashley L. , Pvt. Nagey, Victoria J. , Pfc. Overgado, Mccyenne M. , Pvt. Pedraza, Sarah J. , Pfc. Phommachanh, Devin K. , Pfc. Picklo, Alexandra M. , Pfc. Pricer, Jasa A. , Pvt. Ramirezcardozo, Jessenia Y. , Pfc. Rider, Shelby A. , Pfc. Riderbrown, Holly D. , Pvt. Rocha, Cindy C. , Pvt. Salas, Jessica , Pvt. Salazar, Marvel A. , Pvt. Sanchez, Karen M. , Pfc. Santiago, Maria E. , Pvt. Silva, Adriana M. , Pfc. Smith, Rileigh C. * , Pfc. Sorto, Lesly Y. , Pvt. Torres, Jessybel , Pvt. Tudara, Destiny M. , Pvt. Valdez, Kimberly B. , Pfc. Weir, Alexandra E. , Pvt. West, Emily B. , Pfc. Wiggers, Hope A. , Pfc. Wolcott, Alora M. *

*Denotes meritorious promotion

