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Honoring the fallen

For some, aviation is a hobby.
For others, it's a way of life.



U.S. Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, a Durango, Colorado native and Blue Angel pilot, died June 2 from injuries sustained from an aircraft mishap. Prior to his time with the Blue Angels, Kuss flew with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.



Story by:
Capt. Clay Groover
and Sgt. John Wilkes
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, a Durango, Colorado native and Blue Angel pilot, died June 2 from injuries sustained from an aircraft mishap. Prior to his time with the Blue Angels, Kuss flew with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. The following story was released by MCAS Beaufort Aug. 8, 2014 after Capt. Kuss learned he had been selected to fly with the Blue Angels. Semper Fidelis, Marine.

For some, aviation is a hobby. For others, it's a way of life.

"Flying is something that has always amazed me," said Capt. Jeff Kuss, a pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. "I can remember playing with jets when I was little."

His passion for flying continued to grow as he got older.

"I started flying as a civilian in high

school and when I learned more about the Marine Corps I knew that was the route I wanted to go," said Kuss, a 30-year-old native of Durango, Colo.

After graduating high school, Kuss attended Fort Lewis College and graduated with a degree in economics in 2006.

SEE **KUSS**, PAGE 7

Atlantic hurricane season most active season in recent years



Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The 2016 Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1 and runs until Nov. 30. So far this season Beaufort has experienced two tropical storms, Bonnie and the latest to affect the area, Colin. Due to a combination of factors, this season is expected to be more active than any season in the past three years and experts warn that those living along the Atlantic coast should be on alert, according to the AccuWeather website.

Story by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez
Public Affairs Chief

Weather experts are predicting for an above-normal 2016 hurricane season with at least 14 named storms forecast for the Atlantic basin. Of the 14, eight are predicted to become hurricanes and four are predicted to become major hurricanes. Three U.S. named storms are likely to make landfall.

The Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1 and runs until Nov. 30. So far this season the Lowcountry has experienced two storms, Bonnie and the latest to affect the area, Colin.

Due to a combination of factors, this season is expected to be more active than any season in the past three years and experts warn that those living along the

Atlantic coast should be on alert, according to the AccuWeather website.

According to AccuWeather, meteorologists have been monitoring the possibility for the El Niño weather pattern to transition to La Niña for months. The potential transition is a change that would have a significant impact on how active the season becomes. La Niña is characterized by below-normal water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean near the equator.

Earlier this spring, it was unclear whether or not this transition would occur, but experts say it is now looking more likely. When this occurs, less wind shear is

SEE **HURRICANE**, PAGE 4

Preparing for a hurricane:

- Have first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, food and water accessible
- Make sure insurance policies are up to date and fully covered
- Tie down and secure outdoor objects, and protect windows
- Monitor closely local watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service
- Know all evacuation routes from your home
- Promptly evacuate if recommended by authorities

Marines recognized by local community at Civitas Awards

Lance Cpl. Jimmy Vertus, center, poses for a photo with other guests after receiving the Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year Civitas Award in downtown Beaufort June 3. Since 2002, the Civitas Awards have celebrated leadership in various community sectors. The Junior Enlisted Service Member award was presented to the most exemplary junior Marine or Sailor at the Tri-Command. Vertus is a combat cameraman with Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

SEE **CIVITAS**, PAGE 6



Photo by Susan DeLoach Photography

HAPPENINGS

■ The Marine Corps Community Services Library begins a summer reading program aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort June 6. The library staff is slated to hold a range of free activities for children, teens, and adults in the Fighbertown community to encourage and support the reading program throughout the summer.

■ As part of regu-

larly scheduled, routine maintenance, runway 05-23 is closed until mid-summer. Runways undergo wear and tear when aircraft take off and land. This is similar to the wear and tear placed on roads due to traffic volume. Conducting routine maintenance on our runways maintains the integrity of the surface and ensures our pilots are operating on the most structur-

ally sound runway possible.

■ The Laurel Bay Marine Mart (7-Day Store) will be closed from Jan. 21 until the fall of this year for a renovation. Improvements will include a new floor layout and new interior.

■ 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 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.

Fighbertown Fun Fact

The Swamp Foxes: Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Story by:
Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez
Public Affairs Chief

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, known at the Swamp Foxes, shares the lineage, history and mission that are in line with that of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

Much like MCAS Beaufort's H&HS, a headquarters and headquarters squadron usually consists of the headquarters group (the station commanding general or officer), the squadron headquarters (commanding officer and his staff), Public Affairs Office, Judge Advocate's Office, a Provost Marshal, facilities planning and maintenance, a motor pool, air traffic control, meteorology, fuels, ordnance, aircraft rescue and fire-fighting, a naval medical facility and Marine Corps Community Services, and other supporting units.

Personnel assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

operates the facilities that provide a home and a base of operations to Fleet Marine Force tenant units of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

Marine Aircraft Group 31 is the primary tenant command and consists of seven fighter attack squadrons, which fly and maintain all active-duty East Coast Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets, and includes Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31. Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 is also part of MAG-31 and its mission is to conduct effective training and operations in the F-35B Lightning II in coordination with joint and coalition partners in order to successfully attain the annual pilot training requirement.

Activated as Marine Corps Auxiliary Airfield in January 1955, the area was re-designated June 1956. On March 1, 1960, the auxiliary air station was re-designated a Marine Corps Air Station. The airfield at MCAS Beaufort was named

Merritt Field in honor of Major General Lewie Merritt, USMC (retired), on Sept. 19, 1975.

The Swamp Foxes mission is to provide a total quality environment to enhance all tenant activities in the accomplishment of their assigned missions. This includes operation support aircraft, ensuring environmentally sound facilities and practices, providing quality services while utilizing available resources, nurturing quality-of-life programs and conducting proactive community relations.

The military population of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron consists of more than 700 Marine and Navy Personnel.

The awards presented to the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, include the Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer and the National Defense Service Streamer with on bronze star.

Fighbertown deployed:



MALS-31 Stingers have detachments currently deployed to the Western Pacific supporting VMFA-122.



Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 is currently deployed to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program.



Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 is currently deployed to support operations overseas.

Tri-Command Weather 7 Day Forecast

Fri 6/10/2016	87°	72°		Mostly sunny and humid
Sat 6/11/2016	88°	74°		Sunny, seasonable and humid
Sun 6/12/2016	94°	76°		Mostly sunny and very warm
Mon 6/13/2016	88°	65°		Mostly sunny and less humid
Tue 6/14/2016	87°	73°		A thunderstorm possible
Wed 6/15/2016	89°	77°		Partly sunny and humid
Thu 6/16/2016	92°	76°		A p.m. t-storm possible

Did you know...

June 10, 1898: The First Marine Battalion, commanded by LtCol Robert W. Huntington, landed on the eastern side of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The next day, Lt Herbert L. Draper hoisted the American flag on a flag pole at Camp McCalla where it flew during the next eleven days. LtCol Huntington later sent the flag with an accompanying letter to Colonel Commandant Charles Heywood noting that "when bullets were flying, ...the sight of the flag upon the midnight sky has thrilled our hearts."



Effective June 1, MCAS Beaufort will be in Tropical Cyclone Condition V for 2016 Atlantic Hurricane season until November 30. This year is predicted to be a normal season. NOAA is predicting 10-16 named storms, which includes Alex. 4-8 will become Hurricanes. 1-4 will become major Hurricanes. Be Prepared!



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College graduates receive diplomas during joint graduation ceremony



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

Graduates exit the theater to conclude the 2016 Collegiate Graduation and Recognition Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island June 3. The ceremony was held to give the graduates the opportunity to take the traditional walk and get recognized for their accomplishment in a forum that friends and family could attend. The graduates were active duty service members, veterans and civilians from the Tricommand. Twelve higher-learning institutions awarded the graduates their degrees. Col. Peter D. Buck, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and other leaders from the Tricommand participated in the ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

Col. Peter D. Buck congratulates Latoya N. Daye, a graduate from Park University, during the 2016 Collegiate Graduation and Recognition Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island June 3. The ceremony was held to give the graduates the opportunity to take the traditional walk and get recognized for their accomplishment in a forum that friends and family could attend. The graduates were active duty service members, veterans and civilians from the Tricommand. Twelve higher-learning institutions awarded the graduates their degrees. Buck, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and other leaders from the Tricommand participated in the ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

A graduate receives her diploma while carrying her child during the 2016 Collegiate Graduation and Recognition Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island June 3. The ceremony was held to give the graduates the opportunity to take the traditional walk and get recognized for their accomplishment in a forum that friends and family could attend. The graduates were active duty service members, veterans and civilians from the Tricommand. Twelve higher-learning institutions awarded the graduates their degrees. Col. Peter D. Buck, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and other leaders from the Tricommand participated in the ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

Staff Sgt. Mack B. Hopkins, Sr., a graduate from Park University, receives his college diploma during the 2016 Collegiate Graduation and Recognition Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island June 3. The ceremony was held to give the graduates the opportunity to take the traditional walk and get recognized for their accomplishment in a forum that friends and family could attend. The graduates were active duty service members, veterans and civilians from the Tricommand. Twelve higher-learning institutions awarded the graduates their degrees. Col. Peter D. Buck, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and other leaders from the Tricommand participated in the ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

Members of the official party exit to conclude the 2016 Collegiate Graduation and Recognition Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island June 3. The ceremony was held to give the graduates the opportunity to take the traditional walk and get recognized for their accomplishment in a forum that friends and family could attend. The graduates were active duty service members, veterans and civilians from the Tricommand. Twelve higher-learning institutions awarded the graduates their degrees. Col. Peter D. Buck, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and other leaders from the Tricommand participated in the ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

Guests applaud the recent college graduates during the 2016 Collegiate Graduation and Recognition Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island June 3. The ceremony was held to give the graduates the opportunity to take the traditional walk and get recognized for their accomplishment in a forum that friends and family could attend. The graduates were active duty service members, veterans and civilians from the Tricommand. Twelve higher-learning institutions awarded the graduates their degrees. Col. Peter D. Buck, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and other leaders from the Tricommand participated in the ceremony.

Feds Feed Families food drive campaign kicks off aboard Fightertown

Story by:
Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez
Public Affairs Chief

Feds Feed Families kicked off its annual food drive campaign aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, this week to support households in the surrounding communities. The campaign, led by the Department of Agriculture, began June 1 and is slated to end Aug. 31.

The Feds Feeds Families campaign is a voluntary effort undertaken by federal employees to bring non-perishable foods to designated donation sites. Donations are collected weekly and are weighed in by the pound.

"There will be donation boxes at the chow hall, [Marine Corps Exchange] on base, the chapel, some important buildings, and places where large num-

bers of Marines gather," said Cmdr. William Holiman, the command chaplain for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. "People can donate anything that is canned, boxed, sealed, and shelf-stable. No fresh products or items that need to be refrigerated and nothing that is just loose."

The event comes at a time of year when donations traditionally decline and school aged children do not have access to school food programs, making donations especially important, according to the USDA.

"I go to the food bank every week in the summer and I can tell you what I see one week is always gone by the next week," said Holiman. "A huge proportion of the kids in some of our area schools do not have two parents at home. It isn't the chil-

dren's fault but they are in financial distress. There are plenty of poor grandparents who are raising their grandkids to try to keep them safe from inner city violence and drugs. So there is a real need for real people."

The donations are sent to the Lowcountry Food Bank in Yemassee, S.C. From there the food is distributed to 52 local agencies in Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper, and Colleton counties, finding its way onto the tables of Americans in need.

According to the USDA, an estimated 50 million people, or one in six Americans, struggle and face the realities of hunger. Since the campaign began eight years ago, federal workers have donated and collected more than 39 million pounds of food and other non-perishable goods such as

hygiene items to support families across America.

"Often people want to give to their own local food site, maybe it is their church or local YMCA," said Holiman. "That is fine, but we give to the central hub so that it can go to wherever it is most needed in the county. In addition, towards the end of the drive we hold on to the contributions to make up Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to give to needy Marines."

Donations are much welcomed but also volunteers in different capacities are needed to support the campaign— from setting up boxes to putting up and passing posters to collecting the food on a weekly basis, expressed Holiman. Also, leaders are encouraged to pass the word of the campaign at their sections.

"When we share what we



Photo by Cpl. Samantha K. Foster

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort kicked off the Department of Agriculture's annual Feds Feed Families campaign, June 1, to support households in the surrounding communities. The campaign is a voluntary effort undertaken by Federal employees to bring non-perishable foods to designated donation sites. The campaign is slated to end August 31.

have with those around us, it helps us to see the world through other people's eyes, experience what they experience and that makes life better for everyone," said Holiman. "And even more, today we

may be giving, but someday we may be the person who needs help. So participating, even in a small way, helps keep us fresh, helps our neighbor and helps our fellow Marines."

HURRICANE

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found in the developmental regions of the Atlantic, increasing the potential for a higher-than-normal amount of tropical systems, according to Weather Channel website.

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season yielded 11 named storms in total, of which four became hurricanes and two became major hurricanes, according to the AccuWeather website. Historical data also indicates that seasons which are active during the months of May, June and July have a higher likelihood of becoming a normal or above-normal season.

Meteorologists are monitoring the northwestern Caribbean and eastern Gulf of Mexico for potential development in the upcoming weeks, according to the Weather Channel website. However, even a weak tropical storm hitting the U.S. can cause major impacts, particularly if it moves slowly, resulting in flooding rainfall, according to the Weather Channel website.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division encourages residents to make sure homes and lives are ready for a natural disaster.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety.

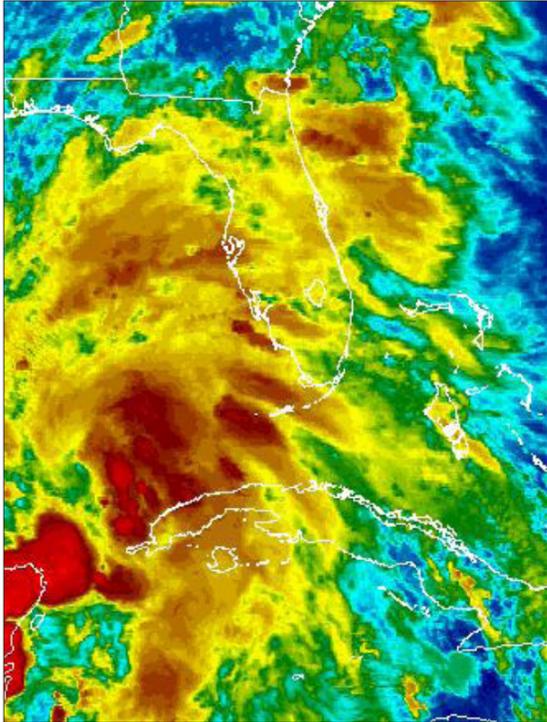


Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The 2016 Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1 and runs until Nov. 30. So far this season Beaufort has experienced two named storms, Bonnie and the latest to affect the area, Colin. Due to a combination of factors, this season is expected to be more active than any season in the past three years and experts warn that those living along the Atlantic coast should be on alert, according to the AccuWeather website.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HURRICANE HAZARD RISKS

- 1** Storm surge is water pushed onshore by the tropical system. It causes the most damage of any of the hurricane hazards.
- 2** Wind from a hurricane can top 200 mph and cause massive damage to buildings in its path.
- 3** Inland flooding caused by heavy rain damages homes and can wash out roadways well away from the coast.
- 4** Tornadoes are common as a hurricane moves ashore. They are not typically long-lived, but they can cause plenty of damage.
- 5** Rip currents and rough seas are common both before and after a hurricane, making swimming or surfing very dangerous.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WHERE TO GET HURRICANE INFO

- 1** Television - Tune in to your trusted local news source.
- 2** Phone - Access mobile.weather.gov on your mobile phone and get Wireless Emergency Alerts.
- 3** Radio - Receive forecast information and news on your NOAA Weather Radio.
- 4** Social Media - Stay in touch with friends and family and receive updates from your trusted sources of information.
- 5** Computer - Access information from weather.gov, ready.gov and flash.org

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING YOUR HURRICANE SUPPLIES

- 1** Food/Water - Get supplies well in advance, enough for each person for at least one week.
- 2** Medicine/First-aid - Ensure you have 30 days worth of medication and supplies. Pharmacies may be closed.
- 3** Communications - Have extra batteries for radios and a hand crank charger for your phone.
- 4** Gas - Fill up your car or a gas can beforehand. If the power goes out, you will be unable to pump gas.
- 5** Money - Have cash on hand. With no electricity, ATMs and credit cards will not work.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STRENGTHENING YOUR HOME

- 1** Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches
- 2** Have the proper materials in advance to board up your windows to protect them from flying debris.
- 3** Bring loose outdoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.
- 4** Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually the most vulnerable.
- 5** Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

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CIVITAS

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Photo by Susan DeLoach Photography

Col. Peter D. Buck accepts the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Civitas Award on behalf of Cpl. Daniel L. Odom in downtown Beaufort June 3. The Civitas awards are presented by the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce and recognizes businesses, Individuals, and organizations deemed exemplary in the region. The NCO award is presented to the most exceptional NCO at the Tri-Command. Buck is the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. Odom is an administration specialist with the Installations Personnel Administration Center.



Photo by Susan DeLoach Photography

Lance Cpl. Jimmy Vertus gives remarks after receiving the Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year Civitas Award in downtown Beaufort June 3. Since 2002, the Civitas Awards have celebrated leadership in various community sectors. The Junior Enlisted Service Member award was presented to the most exemplary junior Marine or Sailor at the Tri-Command. Vertus is a combat cameraman with Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.



Photo by Susan DeLoach Photography

The color guard presents the American Flag during the playing of the National Anthem at the 2016 Civitas awards in downtown Beaufort June 3. The Civitas awards are presented by the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce and recognizes businesses, Individuals, and organizations deemed exemplary in the region. They also recognize the noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted service member of the year.



Photo by Susan DeLoach Photography

Guests listen to the opening remarks during the 2016 Civitas awards at downtown Beaufort June 3. The Civitas awards are presented by the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce and recognizes businesses, Individuals, and organizations deemed exemplary in the region. They also recognize the noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted service member of the year in the Tri-Command. Since 2002, the Civitas Awards have celebrated leadership in various community sectors.



Photo by Susan DeLoach Photography

The 2016 Civitas awards prepare to be presented at downtown Beaufort June 3. The Civitas awards are presented by the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce and recognizes businesses, Individuals, and organizations deemed exemplary in the region. They also recognize the noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted service member of the year in the Tri-Command. Since 2002, the Civitas Awards have celebrated leadership in various community sectors.

KUSS

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From there, he went to Officer Candidate School and The Basic School, where he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant. He attended flight training in Pensacola, Fla. and learned to fly jets in Kingsville, Texas.

In 2011, Kuss was assigned to VMFA-312 and went on to participate in various training exercises. In July 2013, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom aboard the USS Harry S. Truman.

After Kuss returned from deployment he saw a chance to pursue one of his dreams – joining the Navy’s Blue Angels flight demonstration team.

Kuss was one of three F/A-18 Hornet pilots selected to join the team for the 2015 season.

“Who wouldn’t want to fly one of those [jets],” he said. “There is nothing like it.”

“As a Blue Angel you are the face of the Navy and Marine Corps,” said Lt. Col. Nathan Miller, the commanding officer of VMFA-312.

Miller, who flew with the Blue Angels in 2006, described Kuss as an outstanding Marine.

“[Capt. Kuss] has the overall Marine concept and his personality and work ethic are a great fit,” said Miller. “We believe in him and know that he believes in the Marine Corps.”

The Blue Angels represent the excellence and professionalism found throughout the Navy and Marine Corps. Each Blue Angel team member is an ambassador of their service and a representative of their fellow service members, said Miller, who flew with the Blue Angels in 2006.

“I have always wanted to be a part of the Blue Angels,” said Kuss. “It has always been a goal of mine.”



Photo Courtesy

A total of 16 officers voluntarily serve with the Blue Angels. Each year the team typically selects three pilots, two support officers and one Marine Corps C-130 pilot to relieve departing members.

According to the Blue Angels web site, each applicant must be career oriented, possess an aircraft carrier qualification and have a minimum of 1,250 tactical jet flight-hours.

For a three-month period during the air-show season, applicants attend between two and four air show performances, said Kuss. While attending the shows, applicants get to know the team and see what the Blue Angels do, because they have a very high operational tempo.

According to Kuss, the candidates who make it to the final cut visit Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., for a week. During that week, the potential Blue Angels go through more in-depth testing, meet families of the team and other candidates and attend interviews.

“When I found out I was selected the feeling was surreal,” said Kuss. “It’s an honor to be a part of this and to be the face of



Photo by Sgt. John Wilkes

Capt. Jeff Kuss was selected to fly with the best of the best - the Navy’s Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron. Kuss, a 30-year-old native of Durango, Colo., will join the Blue Angels for the 2015 season. Kuss was a pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 at the time of this photo.

the Navy and Marine Corps.”

“All of our finalists this year are incredible examples of some of the finest officers in the Navy and Marine Corps, from both the aviation community and the fleet,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. John Hiltz, Right Wing pilot and the applications officer for the 2014 team. “What was most important for us was to select the most qualified individuals for the team to represent the more than 540,000 sailors and Marines deployed around the world, around the clock. I’m happy to say that we’ve done that.”

“A significant number of extremely talented, experienced sailors and Marines applied this year, and we are proud of

those we have chosen to join the 2015 team,” said Navy Cmdr. Tom Frosch, flight leader and commanding officer for the team. “They are excellent representatives of the skilled service members defending our freedom around the world.”

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach.

Since their inception in 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 400 million fans.

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Printing out the Future: Marines learn benefits of 3D printing

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Justin T. Updegraff
II Marine Expeditionary Force

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina — Marines from various units learn, assemble and design 3-dimensional objects using the Invent3D printer at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 1-2.

During the past two days, the Marines were introduced to the printers, assembled them and learned about their capabilities.

Aircraft mechanics, supply Marines and small-arms repair technicians attended the class to integrate these 3D printers into various military occupational specialties, allowing the Marines to design and print any product when it is needed.

Once they were familiar with the technology, they applied problem-solving techniques to create and print 3D designs using computer aided design software.

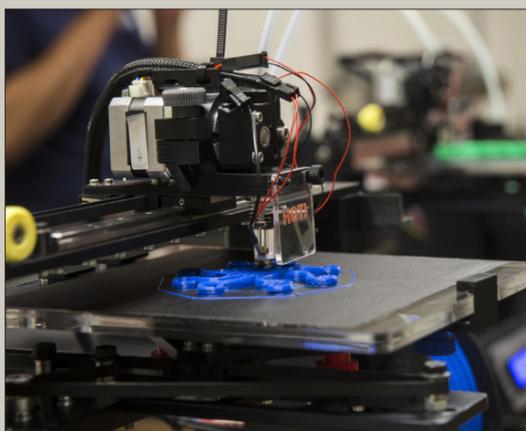
"The goal of this training is to take advantage of some of the benefits of additive manufacturing or 3D printing", said Justin Yates, one of the instructors who led the training and an assistant professor at Francis Marion University. "Jobs that are highly customized and need a specific tool, product or part that's difficult to find a commercial product for or it's very cost prohibitive, I can sit and design it on the computer and print it out using the 3D printer."

Forward deployed units can produce tools and parts when the support structure for shipping is not available or is delayed. When they need a replacement part, they can design it to the exact specifications and print it out using a 3D printer.

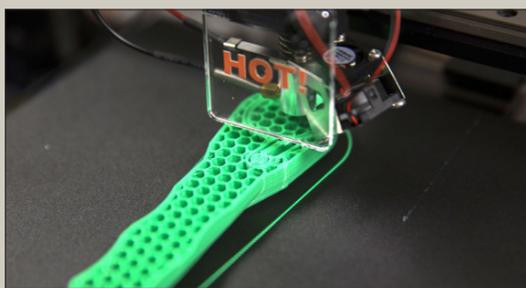
"The end state here is to hopefully integrate the 3D printers into our new mobile machine shops", said GySgt. Justin Horn, a maintenance chief with 2nd Maintenance Battalion. "So if the need arises to make a one off part, and there is a machinist in country, you'll have the support. But I think the intent is to also have more widespread usage of the 3D printers."



A Marine makes small adjustments to the Invent3D printer before loading a design during a 3D printer class at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 2. Additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, allows Marines to produce parts quickly, with exact specifications and at almost any location.



Marines from various units learn how to setup and print designs using an Invent3D printer during a class at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 2. Additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, allows Marines to produce parts quickly, with exact specifications and at almost any location.



Marines from various units manufacture a ratchet using a 3D printer at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 2. Additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, allows Marines to produce parts quickly, with exact specifications and at almost any location.



Lance Cpl. Devin Kato, a small arms repair technician with II Marine Headquarters Group, inspects his final product during the 3D printer class at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 2. Additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, allows Marines to produce parts quickly, with exact specifications and at almost any location.

Staff NCOS have a new career course option



Staff Sgt. Lynn Kinney, the Public Affairs Chief for Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, receives a graduation certificate from Col. Ian R. Clark, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, after the first annual year class of Career Course Seminar on Camp Pendleton May 26. Career Course is required for promotion to gunnery sergeant. The 15-week seminar requires staff sergeants to attend a three-hour class, once a week and complete homework assignments and participate in small group discussions.

Story and photo by:
Sgt. Tony Simmons
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, California — The Marine Corps strives to keep its service members educated and ready to assume leadership roles of greater responsibility. To ensure readiness through good leadership and decision-making skills, mandatory periods of military education are required for every rank.

In January, staff sergeants from across I Marine Expeditionary Force participated in the first Career Course Seminar of annual year 2016, conducted by the College of Distance Education and Training on Camp Pendleton.

"Career Course Seminar is a 15-week iteration that only requires staff sergeants to attend one night a week for three hours," said Mr. Harrison Tanksley, the CCS Chief Instructor with CDET. "It allows that Marine to stay within their unit, instead of attending the resident course for seven weeks."

To create a more personal learning environment, seminars maintained an approximate ratio of 12 students to one facilitator.

"We all come from different backgrounds, and with a smaller group it led to more experience and ideas being added to the discussion," said Staff Sgt. Sean Fordham, the chemical, biological, radiological, neurological chief for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

During the classes, senior staff non-commissioned officers shared their own experiences in order to help mentor the students.

"A sergeant major or master gunnery sergeant sits with those staff sergeants in a classroom setting for the three hours and discusses issues for consideration," said Tanksley, a Thomson, Georgia native. "To ensure students are prepared for the discussion they are given a three-question quiz in a five-minute time limit and have homework to do prior to class."

One main goal of the seminar is to give staff sergeants the ability to communicate at the same level as a company grade officer, so in the event that an officer is out, a staff sergeant is still capable of implementing the commander's intent.

Tanksley added, "We try to instill in the students that a staff sergeant is a mentor to the new lieutenants as much as they are to junior Marines."

To ensure the students are capable of being mentors and carrying out their commander's intent, the course is broken into three different blocks: administration, warfighting and communication. In the event a Marine is sent on temporary orders to another Marine Corps base, the student can pick up class right where they left off.

"If a Marine goes somewhere else, all I have to do is let my counterpart know they are going to have a temporary student," said Tanksley. "That student will

pick up training with the temporary unit and upon returning to Camp Pendleton, finish out the course and graduate with the rest of his class."

The ease of being able to continue class at different locations is beneficial to Marines attached to deployable units going through pre-deployment training programs.

"A Marine in a deployment cycle would have to dedicate themselves to seven weeks at the academy," Tanksley expressed. "With the seminar, a student can go to the field for a week and the seminar instructor will work with them to prevent the student from being dropped from the class."

Although working and going to school can be a hassle, many Marines are still able to tackle the challenge.

"This is definitely for Marines in deploying units. I have a lot going on, so breaking away to go to a traditional career course would not be feasible," added Fordham, a native of Schenectady, New York. "It was useful to not have to leave the projects I'm working on and still finish my period of military education."

Career Course Seminar provides the skills necessary for a staff sergeant to act as a problem solver, lead at a platoon level, mentor company-grade officers, and to lead and develop subordinate leaders.

Marine aviator tapped to become next assistant commandant

Story by:
Gina Harkins
Marine Corps Times

Marine Lt. Gen. Glenn Walters has been nominated to serve as the next assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced Tuesday.

Walters, a career aviator who currently serves as the deputy commandant for Marine Corps Programs and Resources, was also tapped to receive a fourth star. If confirmed by the Senate, Walters will replace Gen. John Paxton Jr. as the Marine Corps' second-highest ranking officer and 33rd assistant commandant.

A Cobra pilot by trade, Walters has served with a host of helicopter and test squadrons. He was the first commanding officer of Marine Operational and Evaluation Squadron 22 and has served as the assistant deputy commandant for Marine Corps Aviation. He was not immediately available for comment on the nomination.

Walters received his second star while deployed to Afghanistan where he led 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). When the unit was deactivated in March 2012, bringing an end to its role as the aviation combat element in southwestern Afghanistan, Walters said the Marines were able to accomplish their objectives in large part because they implemented new technology, like iPads, into their missions.

"Night and day difference in Marjah," he said at the deactivation ceremony, according to a Marine Corps release. "A year ago there

were bloody battles and gunfire. When we left, you could go visit the schools, see the girls going to school, walk through the bazaar. Commerce is growing and booming."

Walters was commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1979 after graduating from The Citadel, the prestigious military college in South Carolina. He was a platoon commander with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, before attending flight training in Pensacola, Florida.

He was designated a naval aviator in March 1981 and was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 39, where he trained to fly the AH-1T Cobra helicopter. He was then transferred to Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 where he served as the flight line officer.

In 1987, Walters deployed in support of Operation Earnest Will, the U.S. military's mission to protect Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attacks. He has served on land and at sea in the Asia-Pacific region.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Awards and the Air Medal.

Paxton will soon retire after 42 years in uniform. A career infantry officer, he commanded grunt units from the platoon through division levels. Paxton previously led Marine Corps Forces Command and Marine Corps Forces Europe. He could not immediately be reached for comment on his next steps.



Photo by Headquarters Marine Corps

Lt. Gen. Glenn Walters, nominee to serve as next assistant commandant of the Marine Corps.



Photo by Headquarters Marine Corps

Gen. John M. Paxton, Jr., is currently serving as the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps.



Marines with Bravo Company, 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion prepare to fire tracer rounds from AT-4 rocket launchers at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. June 3. The unit took to the firing line to broaden their mission capabilities and prepare for real world scenarios.

Rockets Away: 2nd LEB takes to the firing line

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Dalton Precht
II Marine Expeditionary Force

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina -- Marines with Bravo Company, 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion took to the firing line with the AT-4 rocket launcher at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, June 3.

The unit conducted the range in order to bolster their mission capabilities and expeditionary readiness across the unit.

"This is the first chance in a long time that we've had to shoot the AT-4," said 1st Lt. Ethan Sarrell, the officer in charge of the range, from Bravo Co., 2nd LEB, "This is good sustainment training for our Marines and a morale booster."

During the training, the Marines of Bravo Co. fired 15 AT-4 rockets at simulated enemy tanks to prepare them for real world scenarios.

"We deal with a lot of security operations abroad and this requires us to use ordinance that normal line companies would use," said Sarrell. "We don't do normal policing operations [while forward] and we might encounter an enemy vehicle that would require a rocket

to take it down."

The one-day range gave many of the Marines the opportunity to fire the weapon for the first time. To prepare them, personnel safety officers guided them through the use of the AT-4.

Cpl. Aaron Lavendure, one of the personnel safety officers for the AT-4 range from 2nd LEB, was in charge of instructing the Marines on the proper firing procedures and remedial action methods.

"Before firing the rocket, we went over all the [safety procedures] of the weapon," said Lavendure. "I showed them the correct firing position and what to do if the weapon failed to fire."

With Bravo Co. getting ready for any real world contingencies this means for some it's time to step out of their comfort zones.

"It was the first time for most of the Marines out here," said Lavendure. "We need to be proficient in all weapon systems. Our company is a warfighting company and we need to know how to handle potential tools of the trade."



Marines with Bravo Company, 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion prepare to fire tracer rounds from AT-4 rocket launchers at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. June 3. The unit took to the firing line to broaden their mission capabilities and prepare for real world scenarios.



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Marines, Jordanians conclude Eager Lion 16 with final exercise

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
II Marine Expeditionary Force

AL QUWEYRAH, Jordan — Marines with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division and the Jordanian 77th Marines Battalion concluded their training period together with a final exercise as part of Eager Lion 16 in Al Quweyrah, Jordan, May 24.

Eager Lion is an annual military exercise organized by United States Central Command between the Kingdom of Jordan and the United States, preparing both forces to fight alongside one another.

Throughout the training evolution, which began May 15, both forces honed their skills in squad attacks, patrolling, military operations in urban terrain and the operation of various weapon systems. Their final exercise required the two forces to work together in clearing two separate towns occupied by an opposing force.

"I'm thankful and grateful for this opportunity that we got with the Marines to practice, gain experience and assess where we are in terms of readiness," said Jordanian Lt. Col. Hisham, the commanding officer of the 77th Marines Battalion.

Observing the exercise was an entourage of officers with the Jordanian Armed Forces, including Jordanian Brig. Gen. Ibrahim, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Naval Forces.

"The objective of this exercise was to work together and learn from each other," Ibrahim said. "I think this has been achieved today. This is all about being professionals that defend our respective countries."

Making use of flares, smoke grenades, squad maneuver and support by fire positions, the two forces worked side-by-side to gain ground on their objectives and clear buildings one by one. The exercise was concluded with a casualty evacuation from each battalion.

Following completion, leadership from both forces congratulated their battalions for their progress, while also exchanging gifts and appreciation for their strengthened partnership as allied military forces.

"Our actions here are a small part in the long-term relationship between our two countries," said Lt. Col. Eric Reid, the commanding officer of 1/2. "The 77th Marines Battalion did good out here and should be proud. I think that this battalion has the potential to be whatever it needs to be for the Kingdom of Jordan."

Eager Lion is a recurring exercise between partner nations designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, increase interoperability, and enhance regional security and stability.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division prepare to launch an attack during the Eager Lion 16 final exercise in Al Quweyrah, Jordan, May 24. Eager Lion is a recurring exercise between partner nations designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, increase interoperability, and enhance regional security and stability.



Lt. Col. Eric Reid, center, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, explains the scheme of maneuver to Royal Jordanian Navy officers during the final exercise of Eager Lion 16 in Al Quweyrah, Jordan, May 24. Eager Lion is a recurring exercise between partner nations designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, increase interoperability, and enhance regional security and stability.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division advance down range during the Eager Lion 16 final exercise in Al Quweyrah, Jordan, May 24. Eager Lion is a recurring exercise between partner nations designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, increase interoperability, and enhance regional security and stability.



Members of the Jordanian 77th Marines Battalion advance down range during the Eager Lion 16 final exercise in Al Quweyrah, Jordan, May 24. Eager Lion is a recurring exercise between partner nations designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, increase interoperability, and enhance regional security and stability.

