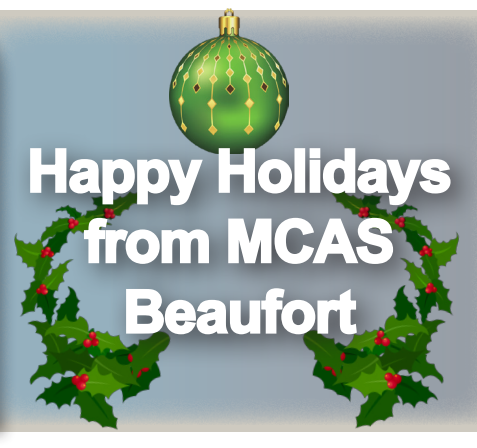


The Jet Stream

Friday,
December 23, 2016
Vol. 51, No. 52
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, S.C.

“The noise you hear is the sound of freedom.”



Happy Holidays
from MCAS
Beaufort

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PROTECT WHAT YOU'VE EARNED

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW




JANUARY

The Marine Division Tactics Course began aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Jan. 11.

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FEBRUARY

Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office conducted hostage scenario training aboard Laurel Bay Feb. 4.

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MARCH

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 departed from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program March 7.


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APRIL

Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work visited and toured installations aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort April 14.

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MAY

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 is participating in the Weapons Systems Evaluation Program at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., May 6-20.


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JUNE

Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office tackled a confidence course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island as part of a physical challenge designed


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JULY

Marines from various units aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and personnel with the Natural Resources Environmental Affairs Office participated in a nautical spill response exercise July 11-15.

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AUGUST

Units of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, both with II Marine Expeditionary Force, concluded the 10-day combined arms exercise Arrowhead Thunder 2016 at Fort Stewart, Ga. Aug. 19

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SEPTEMBER

Marine Wing Support Detachment 31 conducted field training aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort to prepare for an upcoming exercise, Aug. 29-31.

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OCTOBER

After braving the elements MCAS Beaufort is returning to normal operations days after Hurricane Matthew swept the East Coast. The planning and preparation prior to Matthew was the key to a prompt recovery of main base operations and establishing infrastructure.


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NOVEMBER

Members of the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, also known as the Blue Angels, arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort as part of a winter visit Nov. 16.

Pg. 7



DECEMBER

Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue Marines conducted a controlled burn training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Dec. 13. The training provided the Marines an opportunity to prepare for real life scenarios they might encounter.

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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 (Sunday School)
- 11 a.m. - Protestant Sunday Worship Service (Children's church is also available at this time)
- 5 p.m. - Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass

Buddhist

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

Other Faith Groups

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

Pilots, maintainers train during MDTC

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

The Marine Division Tactics Course began aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Jan. 11. The course provides F/A-18 Hornet aircrew and Marine air intercept controllers with groundside and airborne instruction in doctrine, tactics and weapons considerations for the successful use of Marine fighter attack aircraft in combat.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401, and Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 are participating in the training.

"The course provides a graduate level air to air school for some of the finest fighter pilots in the fleet to attend and continue to sharpen and hone their skills," said Capt. Rick Gallup, the pilot training officer for VMFA-122. "It is not just for Marines in Beaufort, Marines around the country can attend this course and learn as our tactics continue to evolve and change."

The training is continuous and intense for the students who are comprised of pilots from the various squadrons. The training went from theory in classroom to practical application with the F/A-18 Hornets simulating combat air maneuvers against F-5N Tiger II aircraft.

The Tiger IIs from VMFT-401 play the role of the adversary squadron in the course. Based out of MCAS Yuma, VMFT-401 is a Marine Corps Reserve fighter squadron and belongs to Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. The squadron brought eight F-5N Tiger II aircraft to support the pilots in training.

Approximately 30 Marines made the trip along with the aircraft.

"The students start off in a one on one dogfighting environment then they transition to a two-on-two employment and then the last section of the course puts four pilots up against an unknown number of adversaries," said Gallup. "The final test is applying division tactics to strike a target in hostile territory. They learn to fight their way in, drop air-to-ground ordnance, and then fight their way back out."



Col. Robert Cooper delivers his remarks during the Marine Division Tactics Course 1-16 graduation aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Feb. 5, 2016. The course provided F/A- 18 Hornet aircrew and Marine air intercept controllers with groundside and airborne instruction in doctrine, tactics and weapons considerations for the successful use of Marine fighter attack aircraft in combat. Multiple squadrons from MCAS Beaufort and around the Marine Corps participated in the training. During the ceremony, pilots received a certificate of completion and a flight suit patch identifying them as MDTC graduates. Cooper is the commanding officer for Marine Aircraft Group 31.

The course serves as an opportunity to highlight individuals who stand out in their units. Pilots with talent and skill have the opportunity to further their military education and become mentors to their fellow aviators.

"We have this opportunity to identify individuals with a lot of potential and give them excellent training so the entire Marine Corps can benefit," said Gallup.

PMO units conduct hostage situation training



Marines conduct hostage scenario training aboard Laurel Bay Feb. 4. Military police from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island are the first responders for security threats aboard either installation or military housing facility. The Marines are with the Provost Marshal's Office aboard MCAS Beaufort.

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

Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office conducted hostage scenario training aboard Laurel Bay Feb. 4. Elements from the Criminal Investigations Division and the Special Reaction Team stationed aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort participated in the exercise.

The training centered on a single individual barricaded in a house on Laurel Bay. The simulation was designed to be as realistic as possible to give the Marines a chance to test their capabilities.

"We did a hostage and barricaded suspect drill," said Gunnery Sgt. Jerimiah Conn, operations chief with PMO. "The scenario began as a domestic disturbance and escalated into a hostage situation. We brought in different units from PMO and canine units for our tactical support. The end result was the suspect surrendering to us."

The training area was controlled by cordoning off a residential area of Laurel Bay and constructing a temporary fence. The barrier ensured that the training site was a controlled environment with no outside elements interfering.

"There are constraints to working on

Laurel Bay," said CWO2 Chad Sitz, the investigations officer with CID. "We have to work around a full living community with three schools but, in the end, we need to be prepared for any possible security threat."

The PMO units from MCAS Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island are the first responders for security threats aboard either installation or military housing facility. It is necessary for Marines to train under realistic circumstances should a real world situation arise.

"We utilized real live assets and man power that we would have on the scene," said Conn. "We made sure to only use the resources that would be available to us in a real situation. Everyone was on a realistic time line."

Usually, each section of PMO trains individually to become proficient in their job fields. This scenario was a chance for them to work with other sections as part of one team.

"Training like this helps the Marines work on their tactical and communication skills," said Conn. "It is easy to sit and work through a scenario one-on-one but, when we are out here, there are a lot more variables involved."

Leaders had to coordinate with SRT and CID to get the most up to date information on the scene and make decisions in real time. It was just as much a test for them as it was for the participating teams.

"It is important for Marines to see how the entire system works from top to bottom," said Sitz. "We had everyone from Privates First Class to senior officers on the scene to rehearse their roles."

Each section had a specific role to play in the field. CID was in charge of communicating with the subject and gathering information while SRT physically interacted with the suspect utilizing their personal protective equipment. The simulation was resolved without major mistakes made by law enforcement.

"The Marines did quite well today," said Conn. "There were a few minor mistakes that we need to review but, all-in-all, they did a pretty good job and we maintained communication between our assets and the command post."

The PMO Marines of the Tri-command train every round for any crises that may arise. They conduct real world scenarios like this approximately three or four times a year.

See something suspicious Say something.

Call (843) 228-6710 / 911 - IMMEDIATELY

USMCEagleEyes.org

Hotlines

MCAS Beaufort Station Inspector	228-7789
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator	228-6904
Force Protection information and concerns	228-6924
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.

HAPPENINGS

- 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.
- 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.

- On Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24, Catholic Mass will be at 5:00 p.m. and the Protestant

Candle Light Service will be at 6:30 p.m.

- On New Year's Eve, Saturday December 31, Catholic Mass will be at 5:00 p.m.

Fightertown deployed:



MALS-31 Stingers have detachments currently deployed to the Western Pacific supporting VMFA-115.



Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 is currently deployed to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

Unit Deployment Program takes VMFA-122 to Western Pacific



A Marine guides an F/A-18C Hornet aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort March 7. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 departed for the Western Pacific March 7 as part of the Unit Deployment Program. More than 150 pilots and maintainers are participating in the deployment. The Marine is with with VMFA-122.

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

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 departed from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program March 7. The squadron will support multinational exercises, which will increase the readiness of the Marines and enhance interoperability to ensure we can work with our allies effectively.

Approximately 200 Marines and sailors from VMFA-122 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 aboard MCAS Beaufort will participate in the deployment. "These types of deployments offer a variety of training and experience for all Marines throughout the squadron," said Capt. Christopher Collins, the officer in charge of the airframes division for VMFA-122. "We get to work alongside many of our allies in a short time period, which allows everyone to become more familiar with how everyone conducts operations."

The Unit Deployment Program allows Marines to forward deploy from their base of origin to support combatant commanders around the globe. VMFA-122 will be temporarily stationed aboard MCAS Iwakuni with Marine Aircraft Group 12.

"We do the whole spectrum of the training we are given from the training readiness guidance," said Collins. "That includes air-to-ground and air-to-air. We focus on close air support because that is mainly what we do as Marines."

The squadron's maintainers enable the F/A-18 Hornets to provide close air support and provide intelligence, reconnaissance

and surveillance to friendly ground units.

"I am really interested to see how other services and countries perform," said Lance Cpl. John Sloan, an aviation ordnance technician with VMFA-122. "I know that things are going to be different but I look forward to learning something new."

The Marines will also get the opportunity to visit several different countries during the deployment. This is an opportunity for Marines to experience other cultures and see sights other Americans may never get to see.

"I am really excited to see new places and have new experiences to share when I come home," said Sloan.

The interaction with foreign countries is helpful for the Marines to experience different people, cultures and work with other aircraft and crews, enhancing the capability to learn and work together toward a common goal or to beat a common enemy.

"The biggest thing we will be doing out there is participating in exercises with allied foreign countries," said Collins. "We are also working with other services like the U.S. Air Force."

The standard deployment length for UDP is six months but VMFA-122 may be gone longer depending on the exercise schedule.

"In the Marine Corps, we need to be prepared to operate anywhere, so by training in new environments with other services we can execute realistic scenarios," said Collins. "It is going to be helpful to train in the Western Pacific so we can get out of our comfort zone."

Did you know...

December 19, 1972:

The Marine detachment of the USS TICONDEROGA provided shipboard security for three U.S. astronauts, Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmitt, and their Apollo-17 space capsule. The astronauts had successfully completed a (then) record lunar stay of more than 75 hours.



The Atlantic Hurricane season ended effective 12:01a.m., December 1, 2016. As predicted, the Atlantic region had above normal activity (15 named storms) due to late La Nina conditions.

NOAA climate prediction center, predicts persistent La Nina conditions that will result in a warmer and dryer winter for the Southern US states and a cooler and wetter winter with above average snowfall in the Northern and Midwest states. The Southeast will remain in drought conditions until late spring.

Monitor the latest forecasts and briefings from the National Weather Service in order to prepare your family for any extreme weather when traveling for the Holidays.



Contact us:
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mcasbeaufort@gmail.com
BFRT_JPAO@usmc.mil

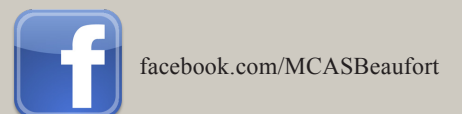
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Press Chief
Cpl. Jonah Lovy

Community Relations/Staff Writer
Lance Cpl. Ashley Phillips
Lance Cpl. Benjamin McDonald



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Deputy Secretary of Defense visits Fightertown

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Jonah Lovy
Staff Writer

Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work visited and toured installations aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort April 14. Work visited the air station to observe the F-35B Lightning II program firsthand and hear from pilots and maintainers from Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 about the aircraft's progression.

The F-35 is a 5th Generation fighter, combining advanced stealth capabilities with fighter aircraft speed and agility, fully-fused sensor information, network-enabled operations and advanced logistics and sustainment. The aircraft represents the future of fighter jet technology. The Marine Corps, the Navy, and the Air Force are slated to adopt the F-35 as their primary fighter attack jet.

The Marines are the only branch to utilize the F-35B, the short takeoff and vertical landing capable landing variant. The F-35B's maneuverability makes it ideal for landing helicopter deck operations and forward deployment.

The mission of VMFAT-501 is to train F-35B pilots. It is currently the only training facility for training Marines on the F-35B variant.

Work was accompanied by Philip Dunne, the United Kingdom's Minister of State for Defence Procurement. VMFAT-501 works with international students and pilots from the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force every day to create a fully integrated training environment.

"I would like to thank MCAS Beaufort and the community for hosting Minister Dunne and me," said Work. "This visit showcases the importance and strength of the U.S.-UK partnership."

As Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Dunne is responsible for the procurement and support of equipment, and science and technology domains for the British military. In 2018, the U.K. plans for their F-35 team to achieve initial operating capability in a land-based role and aboard the future HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier in 2020. VMFAT-501 is essential for them to achieve this goal.

The interoperability of the squadron was a key component to the visit. United Kingdom personnel are training on the same equipment as their Marine counterparts so they were both qualified to take questions regarding its opera-



Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work and Phillip Dunne meet with Lt. Col. Gregory Summa in Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501's hangar aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort April 14. Work visited the air station with Dunne to observe the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program firsthand and hear from pilots and maintainers about the aircraft's progression. Dunne is the United Kingdom Minister of State for Defence Procurement. Summa is the commanding officer of VMFAT-501.

The squadron is slated to have 20 jets by the end of the year. The British operators have been in Beaufort since 2014. The international team is fully integrated in the Marine unit, working together to gain proficiency with the brand new jet.

"The F-35 aircraft is a strategic investment for the next 50 years," said Work. "The Department of Defense is absolutely confident the aircraft will be a war-winner."

With the expanded capabilities of the U.K. and the continued diligence of the Marines, both nations are able to figure out the most sufficient, safe, and proficient ways to operate the F-35B.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense's wife, Cassandra Work, also accompanied him on his visit to the air station. She visited MCAS Beaufort medical facilities as well as the child development center. Mrs. Work, a former Army nurse, often takes time during their various operational trips, to visit local establishments that are used by other spouses or dependents related to the Department of Defense. This is to help answer questions and concerns spouses and dependents may have.

Thunderbolts storm Tyndal AFB



A pilot prepares to take off from the flightline aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort May 4. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 is participating in a Weapons Systems Evaluation Program at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., May 6-20. The program gives pilots experience with flying against real aircraft outside a simulation. The real world training helps Marines be tactically proficient and prepared to deploy. The pilot is with VMFA-251.

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Jonah Lovy
Staff Writer

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 is participating in the Weapons Systems Evaluation Program at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., May 6-20. 14 pilots from VMFA-251 stationed aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort travelled to Tyndall to sharpen their skills.

"The pilots will start out with basic fighter maneuvers, which are one on one engagements between our aircraft and Air Force F-16s and F-22s," said Capt. Kyle Wilson, the ground safety officer for VMFA-251. "After everyone gets acclimated to the area they begin the missile shoots."

The program gives pilots experience with flying against real aircraft outside a simulation. The real world training helps Marines be tactically proficient and prepared to deploy.

"When we are out there training and launching missiles the Air Force is going to observe how we perform," said Capt. Jonathan Gilson, a pilot with VMFA-251. "It is a good experience for all the pilots to actually employ their training and to improve their proficiency. It is good for a pilot to actually have the experience of having something come off the aircraft."

The program will also help test the weapons systems of the F/A-18Cs that the squadron uses. Ordnance used during the training includes air-to-air, air-to-ground and radar guided missiles.

"Pilots will shoot many different kinds of ordnance," said Wilson. "We have a number of AIM-7s, AIM-120s and AIM-9s which are different variants of missiles. AIM-7s and AIM-120s are radar guided missiles and AIM-9s are heat-seeking missiles which we use generally within visual range."

The AIM-7 is a medium range semi-active radar homing air-to-air missile introduced in the late 1950s. The AIM-9 is a short-range, air-to-air missile, and was the world's first combat successful air-to-air guided missile introduced in the late 1950s. The AIM-120 is an advanced medium-range air-to-air missile with active guidance, and was introduced in Iraq in the 1990s.

"This helps the mission by allowing us to test our weapons systems and collaborate with other branches to ensure our mission readiness," said Wilson.

The Marines are not the only branch to participate in WSEP. The Air Force is hosting multiple squadrons in this particular program and trains regularly with other branches.

"This is not a training event that we always attend," said Wilson. "Other Marine squadrons as well as visiting Navy and Air Force squadrons participate in this joint training exercise."

MCAS Beaufort rehearses oil spill decontamination procedures



Marines and civilian personnel use a boom to contain a simulated oil spill aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort July 13. The boom is towed behind the boats and acts as a large net, trapping the oil to be collected by a skimmer boat. The Marines are with the air station fuels section and the civilians are with the Natural Resources Environmental Affairs Office.

Story and photos by:
Staff Sgt. Dengrier Baez
Staff Writer

Marines from various units aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and personnel with the Natural Resources Environmental Affairs Office participated in a nautical spill response exercise July 11-15.

The intent of the exercise was to maintain proficiency in nautical spill response procedures aboard MCAS Beaufort. The exercise allowed Marines to evaluate environmental and nautical conditions and tactics in order to quickly respond to an oil spill in the waterways leading to the air station.

"We are mandated by the Coast Guard and the [Environmental Protection Agency] to have a Facility Response Team and as part of that we're required to do so many exercises a year," said Christopher Vaigneur, the spill response coordinator for NREAO. "I am responsible for making sure that we have enough personnel trained in the response team in case we do have a spill we're able to respond to it effectively and in a timely manner."

During the exercise, the participants properly execute a spill contingency plan, hazmat training, and use the equipment to control and contain any contamination over water.

"Today we simulated a barge leak and try to set up some cascading boom to contain the oil that way we could position our skimmer so we could recover most of the spilled

product," said Vaigneur.

The skimmer, a boat equipped with an oil recovery system, helps filter oil contamination in the water and is one of many assets in the air station's arsenal for protecting the waterways. The boom is towed behind the boats and acts as a large net, trapping the oil to be collected by a skimmer boat.

"This type of training is important because you get to be hands on instead of just sitting in a classroom hearing about but not experiencing it," said Cpl. Ismael Tapia, a Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting. "Like this you get to see where everything and how it is actually operated which makes for effective training."

Due to their expertise in protecting the environment and responding to critical situations, a majority of the course was occupied by Marines with the air station's ARFF section. Other units from the air station also had an opportunity to take something away from the exercise.

"I was impressed with the amount of teamwork and coordination it takes to respond in case of a spill," said Sgt. Sandino McKnight, a motor transport mechanic with MCAS Beaufort. "This was definitely a good opportunity to go outside of your job field and learn something important especially me being a motor transport mechanic," said McKnight. "I never thought I would be doing something like this and it's a great experience overall."

PMO promote camaraderie, teamwork during confidence course

Story and photo by:
Staff Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez
Staff Writer

Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office tackled a confidence course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island as part of a physical challenge designed to enhance confidence, build camaraderie, and promote team building, June 9.

"We like to do at least one physical training session per month to boost morale and build esprit de corps within the unit," said Maj. Eduardo J. Pinales, the Provost Marshal for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. "We chose the confidence course for PT because it's quite a physical challenge and gives the Marines the opportunity, who never got a chance to do it before, to do it now."

The role of PMO is to provide law enforcement, investigative, and security services to MCAS Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Naval Hospital Beaufort, S.C. The demands of the job require

"We haven't done this [obstacle course] since we were recruits so I think is a great way to build some confidence and push your body physically," said Sgt. Michael L. Marcum, a criminal investigator with PMO.

The Marines were split into groups mostly by work section and given a different starting point at the course. Once the signal was given to start, it was on that team to complete a full rotation.

"Most of the groups were a mix of different sections, so there were Marines talking and interacting with others who they might have not had a chance to do that with in the past," said Marcum. "Once we got moving and going through the obstacles everybody started to have a good time and pushed them to do things they thought they weren't able to do."

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is unique because male recruits from the eastern United States and all female recruits train here, totaling nearly 18,000 recruits annually. Designated as a recruit training base on November 1, 1915, more than a million men and women have trained at the depot, and have served the United States all over the globe.

"It's a unique experience being stationed here at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort



A Marine climbs an obstacle at the confidence course on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island during a physical training event June 9. The Provost Marshal's Office coordinated the event to challenge the Marines physically, build camaraderie, and promote teamwork. Marines from every section of PMO participated in the event. The Marine is with PMO, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

and Parris Island," Sgt. Michael Toops, an assistant operations chief with PMO. "Events like this give the Marines a chance to do something that they might not have in other duty stations."

Due to circumstances that arise during recruit training not every Marine gets the opportunity to participate in every training event. For some Marines, this was their first time going through the obstacles.

"It was good training and a great way to get back on the saddle for me," said Cpl. Lyndsay D. Dole, a military police officer with PMO, who recently returned from maternity leave. "The hardest but most fun obstacle here is 'Slide for Life.' I've never done it before but I got through it."

Once all the groups got through the course, the Marines gathered once again and retreated to an area where the leadership could address them. After a short brief, the PMO Marines returned to work where they will continue to maintain constant vigilance over the Tricommand at all hours of the day and night to ensure the safety of its residents and visitors.

Mission Complete: Exercise Arrowhead Thunder



A CH-53E Super Stallion flies during Exercise Arrowhead Thunder at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Aug. 15. Flying squadrons from Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. with support from F/A-18C Hornets from MCAS Beaufort conducted a combined arms exercise with 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division at Fort Stewart, Ga. The Super Stallion is with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Aircraft Group 29.

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Ashley Phillips
Staff Writer

Units of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, both with II Marine Expeditionary Force, concluded the 10-day combined arms exercise

Arrowhead Thunder 2016 at Fort Stewart, Ga. Aug. 19

Squadrons from Marine Corps Air Station New River, and F/A-18C Hornets from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort provided close air support and airborne forward air control while the CH-53E

Super Stallions supported the M77 Howitzer with lift assistance.

"Arrowhead Thunder was an exercise primarily for 1/10 Marines, which is an artillery battalion, to exercise all their skills and to integrate exterior elements, creating a better simulation of what the battlefield looks like when they are deployed," said Capt. Trevor W. Sewell, a CH-53E Super Stallion pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Aircraft Group 29.

For the entire exercise to come together and run smoothly it took the cooperation of multiple units aboard Fighbertown. Station fuels and Marine Wing Support Detachment 31 provided a lot of the ground work to make sure the aircraft were fueled to fly.

"Without the Marines from Station Fuels and MWSD-31 fuels, exercises like this wouldn't be possible," said Gunnery Sgt. Lyle McIntyre, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of station fuels with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "Leadership plans out the exercises and it's the Marines who pull it off." Station fuels and MWSD-31 used MK970s to fuel the aircraft on the flight line.

Last week while the exercise was in progress more than 309,000 gallons of fuel were used. An MK970 is a tactical, low profile semi-trailer used for fueling and defueling aircraft. It can hold 5,000 gallons of fuel and is the primary fueling vehicle used aboard MCAS Beaufort.

"There are two types of fueling," said McIntyre. "Hot fuel, fueling when the aircraft's engine is running and cold fuel, when the engine is off. In total last week there were 65,000 gallons in hot fuel and 244,000 in cold fuel." During the exercise, flying squadrons from MCAS New River used facilities aboard MCAS Beaufort for a staging area. Two AH-1W Super Cobras, two UH-1Y Venoms from MCAS New River and F-18 Hornets from MCAS Beaufort supported the exercise.

"Primarily we provided the fixed wing close airborne support," said Maj Craig McDermott, assistant operations officer with Marine Aircraft Group 31. "We don't get to train with ground units very often. This scale of exercise was the next step up from our usual training exercises." Marines in the air and ground came together to create a large scale combat situation.

The Marine Corps' ability to work as an air and ground task force is a powerful asset and part of what makes it unique, explained Sewell. This exercise allowed for Marines to do exactly that, train as a MAGTF. "Exercises that implement ground and air components foster teamwork and cohesiveness," said McDermott. "Any chance we got to work with our ground brethren is great. It reminds us of our true purpose, to support those ground components."

MWSD-31 prepares for Integrated Training Exercise

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Ashley Phillips
Staff Writer

Marine Wing Support Detachment 31 conducted field training aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort to prepare for an upcoming exercise, Aug. 29-31. The three day field training exercise was conducted for the 4th Marine Regiment's Integrated Training Exercise which will take place aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"We are responsible for ensuring the units flying from MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS Yuma, and MCAS Beaufort have communication support," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Hogue, the communications chief with

MWSD-31. "We will have our wiremen set up telephone wires, cyber network guys set up the computers, and radiomen to support communication."

The emphasis of this training exercise was mission readiness. By performing their missions and tasks here in a controlled environment, the unit made sure that every member understands their role in the mission. The exercise was a small practice of what they will do on a much larger scale in the ITX.

"In the radio section we run long range high frequency radios and close range very high frequency radios," said Jackson. "It's important that we train here, get as much knowledge as possible before we get into real situations."

The ITX is scheduled to run for five weeks during mid October through November. MWSD-31 communications will be providing communication for the aviation combat element throughout the ITX.

"The Integrated Training Exercise will have multiple units coming together to do joint training to prepare whatever missions we might see in the future," said Hogue. "We could deploy at any time. With this we can work out all the kinks before ITX."

This year will be different for MWSD-31. They will be providing the same communication support with eleven Marines. That is about half the amount of people they have had in the past.

"This ITX will be new because typically a

squadron has supported communication, but now we are a detachment," said Hogue. "We will have half the manpower. Including myself we only have twenty one Marines. Only half of us will be going. It will be a challenge, a learning experience."

The field training provided the knowledge and experience that will help the Marines provide the best communication support they can when they land in Twentynine Palms. They are scheduled to do more field training this month to continue to prepare for the integrated training exercise.



Sgt. Marcus Jackson works on the radio control center during a field training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Aug. 29. The field training exercise was conducted in preparation for the 4th Marine Regiment's Integrated Training exercise scheduled for five weeks in mid October through November. Jackson is the radio supervisor with Marine Wing Support Detachment 31.



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MCAS Beaufort recovers after Hurricane Mathew



Marines chop a fallen tree at a main road aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Oct. 8. Marines and sailors with MCAS Beaufort worked to return the air station and Laurel Bay to normal operations. They removed debris and cleaned up main access roads to establish infrastructure after Hurricane Matthew.

Story and photos by:
Staff Sgt. Dengrier Baez
Public Affairs Chief

After braving the elements, MCAS Beaufort is returning to normal operations days after Hurricane Matthew swept the East Coast. The planning and preparation prior to Matthew was the key to a prompt recovery of main base operations and establishing infrastructure.

"If it looks like there's a possibility a hurricane is going to hit our local area we immediately begin preparations," said Lt. Col. Douglas Seich, the commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and part of the destructive

weather team. "The key was that we made a plan early. As the storm gets closer, we start a timeline five days out for specific sets of conditions we go to in order to prepare for the hurricane—the higher the probability it will come to our area the more involved we get with those steps for preparedness."

MCAS Beaufort issued an evacuation order for all nonessential personnel and families aboard the air station and Laurel Bay on Oct. 4. This order allowed for more time and preparation for all evacuees to leave their residence and find shelter. Although Matthew was forecasted to make

landfall on the South Carolina coastal line as a Tropical Cyclone Category 2, the potential property damage and injury was imminent.

"We had winds in the 40 knots sustained, close to 60 knots at times, with a Category 2 hurricane off our coast," said Seich. "This causes trees to fall and penetrate roofs causing property damage and potential injury or death to the members of the household. If a storm of that magnitude causes this level of damage imagine what it would be if it was a full on hurricane and hit us directly. Therefore the call to evacuate both the county and the air station family members was critical, particularly to do it early and in a controlled manner."

A destructive weather team, manned by essential personnel, stayed on the air station in preparation of Matthew's aftermath. The unit, composed by Marines and sailors from units across MCAS Beaufort, established a centralized location where they would brave the elements and respond to any cleanup and recovery efforts if needed.

"The main purpose to keep the Marines behind was to assist in the recovery efforts to help out other Marines and family members," said Sgt. Maj. Edward Hebron, sergeant major of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "We have to make sure that when the families returned home, there was a safe and livable environment."

A unit of particular importance was the Security Augment Force. The Marines and Sailors who were part of the SAF played a large role in the

preparation and recovery efforts, not only with numbers but with participation before, during and after the hurricane.

"Part of our purpose here was to provide support for the Provost Marshal's Office if needed," said Sgt. Tucker Miller, platoon guide with SAF. "After the storm, we helped out with the recovery and cleanup efforts. Marines and sailors from all specialties make up the this unit and they got a chance not only to help out with the efforts but to create unit cohesion while getting to work with each other."

Almost immediately after Hurricane Matthew passed, the Marines and sailors began the cleanup efforts as MCAS Beaufort sustained downed trees, flooding, and power outages both on the air station and Laurel Bay. For the next two days, all personnel aboard the air station worked from sun up to sun down to restore normal operations. A feat accomplished by the determination and motivation of the destructive weather personnel.

"For the SAF Marines, this is the second holiday period they missed making sure that the base and Laurel Bay were secure but still did a phenomenal job. My hat goes off to the Marines and sailors that were part of SAF," said Hebron. "Even though every Marine and sailor was working through a holiday, they did not care and got the mission done with a smile on their face. When you think of the words Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, it's about taking care of each other and that's what we did here."

Blue Angels visit Fightertown

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Ashley Phillips
Public Affairs Chief

Members of the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, also known as the Blue Angels, arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort as part of a winter visit Nov. 16. Visits are a vital part of operations as they are the first and only chance the pilots will get to scout ahead and see where they will be flying. They also use the visit to decide where they will be staying and what they will need while they are here.

"It's an important visit because MCAS Beaufort has had a lot of changes since their last visit in 2015," said Lt. Col. James Poppy, the airfield operations officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "We have had a lot of construction done on the flight line and it's also an opportunity for the pilots to meet the new MCAS Beaufort team they will be working with during the air show."

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demon-

strations and community outreach. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 484 million fans.

"We are very excited to be here," said Lt. Brandon Hempler, Blue Angels pilot #7. "It's going to be a great air show. We will be doing a lot of advanced maneuvers. Hopefully we'll inspire people to join the Navy or Marine Corps, and overall just encourage and motivate people to live well and be leaders."

The Blue Angels personnel brought one F/A-18 Hornet aircraft and a C-30 Hercules. The visit served as an opportunity for the demonstration squadron to plan and coordinate with the air station staff for the upcoming 2017 MCAS Beaufort Air Show.

"We are very happy to have the Blue Angels as a premier part of our air show," said Poppy. "The air show is a way for MCAS Beaufort to show the local Beaufort community our appreciation. We use the Blue Angels to draw in those crowds, put on a great event and say thank you to the community for their continued support."

Past airshow events have included military aircraft and vehicle static displays, aerial performances and a Marine Air Ground



An F/A-18 Hornet lands aboard MCAS Beaufort Nov. 16. The F-18 is with the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron Blue Angels. The squadron is visiting Fightertown to plan and coordinate with air station leaders for the upcoming 2017 MCAS Beaufort Air Show.

Task Force presentation which demonstrates the capabilities and warfighting doctrine of the Marine Corps to include a presentation of the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike fighter.

EFR Marines conduct real world training



A Marine ignites jet fuel with a flare during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Dec. 13. The Marines with Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue conducted the training to prepare for and hone skills necessary to face real life scenarios. The training also served as an opportunity to strengthen camaraderie and enhance trust among the unit members. The Marines are with EFR, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Story and photo by:
Lance Cpl. Ashley Phillips
Staff Writer

Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue Marines conducted a controlled burn training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Dec. 13.

The training provided the Marines an opportunity to prepare for real life scenarios they might encounter. The training simulates extinguishing a jet fire. The Marines burned jet fuel to make the training realistic.

"With this type of fire you really have to keep your head on the swivel," said Cpl. Damien Sanders, a firefighter with Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue. "If you don't properly extinguish it the fuel can reignite next to you or even behind you. When you go to our school you learn firefighting techniques with propane fires. This fire is dif-

ferent because fire burns jet fuel differently."

The exercise took place at a training pit specially designed for fires. There is a mock aircraft surrounded by nozzles that spray jet fuel into the pit and out of the back of the plane. When the Marines are ready, the jet fuel is ignited by a flare.

"For many of these Marines they don't have experience with a jet fuel fire," said Sgt. Aaron Hosenfeld, a firefighter with Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue. "This is an entirely different ball game from what they are used to. There is no replacement for experience."

To extinguish the fire, two pairs of Marines approach on either side of it. The first Marine holds the hand line or hose and controls the direction of the water. The second Marine stabilizes the first and watches for safety hazards. For the training there was also a pit safety officer watching each pair of Marines.

"Safety is paramount," said Hosenfeld. "If I deem anything unsafe or see anything unsafe I will do one of two things. I will take over the hand line myself and have the Marines back out of the pit, or I will hand signal for the trucks to rain down water."

The Marines also considered environmental safety at the pit. Because there was excess water that runs off of the pit they surrounded the back of the pit with a berm of fuel absorbing material. Another safety precaution was an extra tanker of water and a rapid intervention team on standby.

"It's exciting to be able to do these," said Sgt. David Waterfield, a firefighter with Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue. "This is my first time working a training fire with jet fuel. I think the experience is important, but it also builds camaraderie and trust. There is absolutely risk involved, so you have to trust each other."

