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Semper Fidelis: Faithful to the spirit of the Marine motto Page 1D

THE GLOBE



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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2009



CAMP LEJEUNE TOP MARINE CORPS BASE

Base receives Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence

JULY 30

CPL JESSICA L. MARTINEZ
Marine Corps Base

Every year U.S. military bases around the world attempt to distinguish themselves while competing for an award and this year, one base has stood out amongst the rest.

The Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence for the Marine Corps was presented to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune during an award ceremony held in the Pentagon, July 22.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the award, which was established by President Reagan in 1985. To commemorate this prestigious award, the trophy underwent a makeover. Previously, the trophy was large, wooden and built to represent the environment, but now it is a crystal obelisk trophy, symbolizing the installation's strength and clear vision.

Col. Richard P. Flatau Jr. accepted the award as Camp Lejeune's base commander. A check for \$300,000 was also given to Lejeune from Headquarters Marine Corps.

Col. Flatau said the money will be used by Marine Corps Community Services to replace lodging units at Onslow Beach. Because the lodging units are used year round and by all ranks, it makes it a good place to invest the money.

"This is a great honor and privilege," said Flatau. "This award is for what is done, tasks big and small, day and night. It's been an accumulation of everything and everyone. It is recognition of all the people who do great things collectively on and off the base. We couldn't have achieved this without the surrounding communities. They enable the base to do the great things we do. They support us. We have an excellent partnership, which helps to get things accomplished."

Approximately 90 people from Camp Lejeune and the surrounding communities

SEE LEJEUNE 9A ▶



SEPT. 17

Gone but never forgotten

9/11 ceremony gives faces to those lost

INSIDE THE GLOBE



CPL. KATIE DENSMORE
Marine Corps Base

In one of the most devastating terrorist attacks on American soil, 19 people changed the lives of millions. In an attack coordinated by al-Qaida, 2,993 people lost their lives. The attack not only changed New York's skyline, but America as a whole.

The attacks were meant to kill the American spirit, but just the opposite happened. America was drawn closer together. Flags were flown across the nation to show a united front against a new enemy.

Eight years later, Amer-

ica has not forgotten the planes that crashed into the twin towers, Pentagon and the plane that crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pa., nor have they forgotten the brave emergency responders who lost their lives running into a burning building in an attempt to save as many innocent civilians as possible.

To honor all of those who died in the attacks, the Onslow Civil Affairs Committee hosted a ceremony at Lejeune Memorial Gardens beside the 9/11 memorial.

The memorial is a beam from the World Trade Center that a delegation of the Fire Department New York

and the Fire Family Transport Foundation delivered as part of an Independence Day celebration July 3, 2003. The beam was donated to recognize the Marines for their support in the aftermath of the attacks and continued actions in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Underneath a cloudy sky, the cool morning was an appropriate setting for the somber ceremony. The event began with the 2nd Marine Division Band playing "Proud to be an American" and "America the Beautiful" as people milled about before finding their seats.

Members of the Onslow Civil Affairs Committee stood behind the beam. They were dressed in white shirts and black pants. When they stepped on the stage in groups of four they symbolized civilians who lost their lives in the attacks. Each member of the committee held a photo in front of their face as the narrator read a story about the person who lost his or her life that day. The presentation was meant to remind the audience that the victims were more than just names. They were real people who were going about their daily lives when tragedy struck.

The first group to be

honored was the unsuspecting passengers on the planes that crashed. The youngest victim honored during the ceremony was an 11-year-old girl.

"Asia Cotton had just started the sixth grade at Bertie Backus Middle School in Northeast Washington," read Ed Williams, a member of the New River Harmony Men's Barber-shop Chorus and narrator for the event. "Asia was eager to learn and pleased to be at the campus where her father worked. Asia had been selected to take a trip to California with a teacher

SEE 9/11 9A ▶

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CAROLINA LIVING 1D

ARLINGTON, VA. | DEC. 17

'In life they honored their country, in death their country honors them'

LANCE CPL. VICTOR A. BARRERA
Marine Corps Base

All was quiet, there was no laughter in the air, not even the children spoke. Everyone knew this was a sacred and somber place. It is where family and friends come to see their loved ones who died while serving this country.

The day began with the sun glinting off of the rolling hills of marble, flowing across the land as far as the eye could see. Hundreds of thousands of fathers, brothers, sisters and mothers lay here, all of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice fighting with honor, courage and the utmost commitment for their country in conflicts from as far back as the Civil War.

It was a bitter cold day, but the sun warmed up the faces that reflected off of the rows of white headstones in Arlington National Cemetery. They stood as symbols of service and sacrifice, but this time they did not stand alone.

On Dec. 11, 55 Marines with Marine Corps Combat Service Support School, Camp Johnson, N.C., embarked on a seven-hour trip that would take them to Arlington, Va., the final resting place for more than 300,000 service members, civilians and presidents.

The Marines came to pay their respects to service members who came before them and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. For many Marines, this was the first time visiting the cemetery.

"It's a new experience for me," said Pfc. Dennis Alava, a student with MCCSSS. "I came to pay my respects and show my gratitude for those who fought for this country."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Damany S. Coleman

Service members, friends and families placed balsam fir wreaths on more than 15,000 headstones at the Arlington National Cemetery, Dec. 10. Row after row of these stone figures bared the names, ranks and occupations of the men and woman who fought for their country, from as far back as the Civil War.

What started out with a few dozen friends laying 5,000 wreaths in a corner of Arlington in 1992, blossomed to thousands of people coming to lay wreaths every second Saturday of December from places as far as California, Washington and Florida. The amount of wreaths placed on the headstones now totals more than 15,000.

Although the numbers are staggering, each wreath is placed with tender care and thought.

Wreath-layers were asked to take one wreath and then take the time to select one hero to honor with a wreath and if they have a religious preference, a prayer.

Throughout the cemetery Marines took time out of the day to stand, kneel or sit by a grave and offer a prayer, talk or shed a few tears for someone they never knew.

The Marines placed their wreaths covering an entire section of the cem-

etery, however, they weren't quite finished, they still had wreaths to lay at one more section of Arlington. A section often called 'the saddest acre in America.'

The United Service Organization sponsored 1,000 extra wreaths for section 60, the final resting place for fallen service members from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Alongside the Marines, families of the fallen placed their wreaths on the graves of their loved ones.

One of the family members present was Ruth Stone-sifer, who lost her son to a Black Hawk crash during the first night of Operation Enduring Freedom and is now a member of the American Gold Star Mothers.

"Sometimes during moments of panic we fear that our children will be forgotten," said Stone-sifer. "Seeing a group of strangers paying their respects to their graves gives us hope that they will not be forgotten."

Although each wreath was a simple one made from balsam fir trees with a bright red bow, they had a great impact on people attending. Throughout the cemetery mothers, fathers, friends and siblings cried as they reached out to touch the headstone of a deceased loved one.

Each headstone bears the name, rank, military branch, birth date and the day they passed away. Most service members were in their early to mid-20s, who never got to experience a full life, raise a family or come back to see their loved ones.

"The goal for Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom," said Morrill Worcester, founder of Wreaths Across America. "These are families here, they're not just stones, they're not graves, this is our history."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carrey

A VH-60 helicopter with Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 lands in front of the Capitol during the 56th Presidential Inaugural Rehearsal, Jan. 11.

WASHINGTON | JAN. 15

Service members rehearse, prepare for presidential inauguration

SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Headquarters Marine Corps

From providing musical performances to acting as key personnel during the swearing-in process, hundreds of service members were on hand Sunday around the Capitol to support the 56th Presidential Inaugural Rehearsal.

Each branch of service played a key role in working out potential issues before the inauguration, said Howard Gantman, staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

The rehearsal started promptly at 5:30 a.m., with a rough walk-through, followed by the placement of military bands and joint-service cordon personnel.

Army Staff Sgt. Derrick Brooks, who serves with 741st Military Intelligence at Fort George G. Meade, Md., took a position of honor as he stood in for President-elect Barack Obama.

Other service members stood in

for Vice President-elect Joe Biden and the Obama and Biden families. Navy Seaman LaSean McCray played the role of Michelle Obama. Army Spc. Nicholas Ruppel stood in for Biden and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Karen Lowden acted as Jill Biden.

Two military children stood in as the Obama girls. Dominique Sewell, the 14-year-old daughter of Army Sgt. 1st Class Natalie Sewell-Johnson, stood in as Malia. Ten-year-old Gianna Justice Samora-Nixon, daughter of Navy Chief Petty Officer Kenneth Nixon, was Sasha.

All were selected based on height, weight, gender and ethnicity similarities, explained Air Force Maj. Andra Higgs, an action officer with the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

The military's involvement in the presidential inauguration is a centuries-old tradition, which honors the commander in chief,

recognizes civilian control of the military and celebrates democracy, Higgs said.

More than 5,000 service members will participate in the Tuesday event and provide ceremonial assistance.

"It's an honor for them to be center stage," Higgs said. "We're very glad to have been provided with such world-class support."

Today's rehearsal gave members of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee a sense of what they can expect next week, when 240,000 ticketed guests and potentially millions of spectators gather in Washington, D.C. to see Obama become the 44th U.S. president.

"It's an honor and a privilege to take part in this (rehearsal)," said Navy Lt. Marcus Jones, who stood in as an Obama family member. "Beside the birth of my children and my marriage, this will be one of the most memorable days of my life."

MAN ON THE STREET

What was your greatest accomplishment for 2009?



Lance Cpl. William R. Quigg
Company I, Headquarters and Support Battalion
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune
Claremore, Okla.

"I got married in November and get a non-judicial punishment."



Staff Sgt. Julian Johnson
Headquarters and Service Company, 8th Engine Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group
Wildwood, Fla.

"Continuing to my honor, courage and commitment, constantly forgetting things as you progress."



Cpl. Paul E. Williams
Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group
Vancouver, Wash.

"Closing down Taqaddum and the Army taking over. I just came back from deployment."



Emmorie Deaver
Carpenter with Marine Corps Community Services Facilities and Maintenance
Jacksonville, N.C.

"I volunteered to be a Marine Corps Community Services program manager over to Iraq for a year. Just being able to see the troops over there... it's a great honor and privilege."



Thomas Gagnon
Military Police Officer with Marine Corps Base Provost Marshal's Office
Jacksonville, N.C.

"My involvement in the church this year. I go every weekend and off and on Wednesday when I get the chance."

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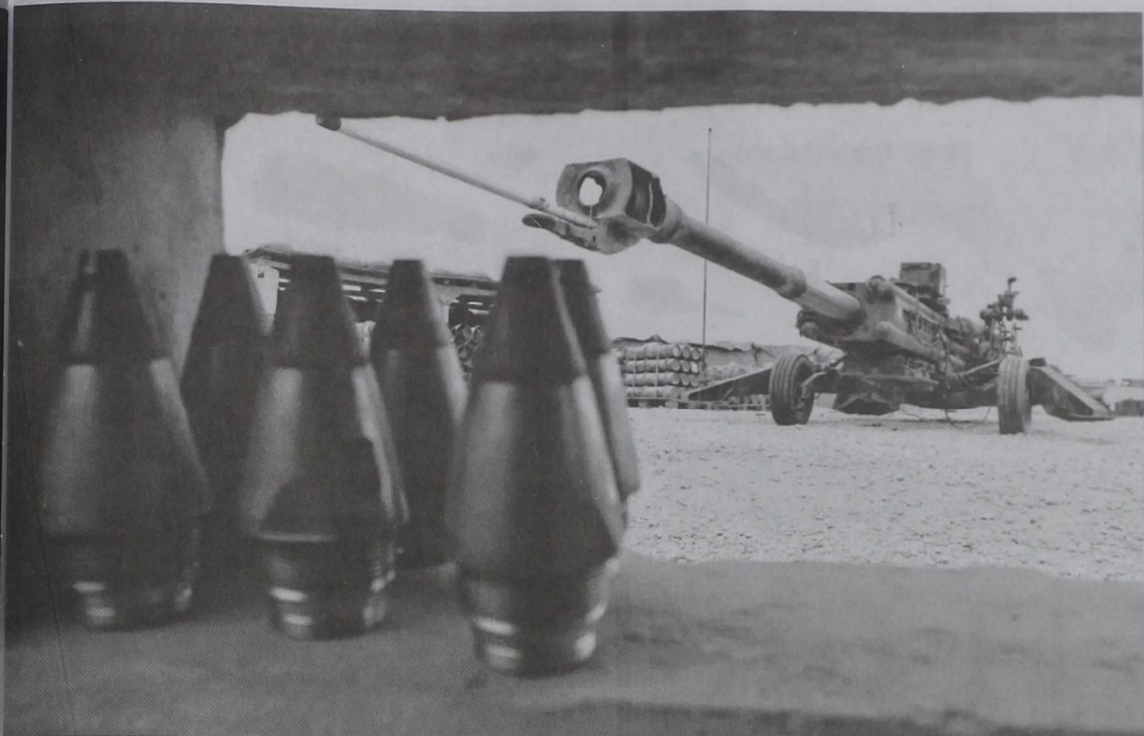


Photo by Sgt. Dorian Gardner
Munition caps are stacked in place during an inventory of all remaining artillery shells. Battery G was the last remaining Marine artillery battery in Iraq and will be leaving with the last remaining Marine Corps operated M-777 howitzers.

CAMP TAQADDUM, IRAQ | MAY 14

Marine cannons go silent after 6 years in Anbar

DORIAN GARDNER
Personal Combat Team 6

As the security situation in the Anbar province continues to improve, the final Marine Corps artillery unit to operate its cannons is preparing to go home, signifying a change in the nature of the conflict in Anbar. Three Marine artillerymen currently deployed with Battery G, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, were present during the initial invasion into Iraq in 2003, and these same men now have a new mission — to see the conclusion of artillery's chronicle in Anbar province.

On March 20, 2003, coalition forces entered Iraq, beginning an offensive that focused firepower at specific targets in order to gain control of significant strategic positions. Before this attack commenced, Marines sat in their vehicles waiting at the Iraqi border, a border covered with M-198 howitzers, which were then the pinnacle of Marine Corps artillery fire power.

Within range of the long-range weapons, coalition forces struck hard and fast to gain the advantage and overrun enemy positions. "It was a machine gun of artillery fire," said Staff Sgt. Eric Sandoval, Battery G commander. "We were firing six rounds a minute. There were six volleys in the air before the first volley hit the deck."

Demoralizing the elite forces on the border, Marines pushed forward into enemy territory. A week into the fight, Marine artillerymen with the West Coast-based 5th Marine Division, 11th Marines, were 15 kilometers south of Baghdad, said Sandoval. While Sandoval and the rest of 5th Battalion continued further south, Capt. Benjamin Harrison, currently the Battery G commanding officer, went north with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, bypassing Marines engaged in Nasiriyah. One of those Marines was Capt. Michael J. Carrasquilla, the current RCT-6 fire support coordinator.

During the invasion, Carrasquilla, a forward observer with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines at the time, commented that artillery had no problem living up to its magnificent history.

"We did what artillerymen always do during a time of war — justify our existence to the Marine Corps," said Carrasquilla.

As the fight in Iraq progressed, a new weapon was introduced to Marine Corps artillery. Replacing the M-198 howitzer, the M-777 howitzer became the artilleryman's primary weapon. Capable of more accurate fire, the M-777 was a lighter, more efficient version of the M-198 howitzer.

As time passed, artillery found less room for action. Enemy combatants used crowded suburbs and everyday clothing to blend in with the local populace, limiting an artilleryman's ability to fire without causing significant collateral damage. This is always a concern when considering a fire mission, according to Harrison. "We place more restrictions on ourselves in order to not cause more damage and maintain support of the civilian population," he said.

But soon artillery faced a new restriction. It wasn't the enemy's use of urban areas that prevented fire missions; it was the changing nature of the conflict in Iraq. As the war continued, the level of violence reached new lows and the need for artillery fire drastically diminished. With coalition forces support, the Iraqis built an ever more independent and capable army and police force. In response, coalition forces began a responsible drawdown of troops. Additionally, combat outposts previously occupied by Marines were handed over to Iraqi security forces.

Though the kinetic aspect of artillery's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom has significantly decreased, artillery commanders are still assisting in civil affairs and have played a valuable role in helping Iraqis reconstruct their society.

Battery G has fired numerous illumination rounds in support of nighttime operations since their arrival at Camp Taqaddum. But now, with levels of violence reaching new lows, the Marine Corps is ready to send its artillery home.

"As a whole, in 2003, we came here to liberate a country," said Carrasquilla. "In 2009, we are here to help the people of Iraq develop a self-sustaining country ... we are helping the people of Iraq develop a new way of life."

Even while preparing to withdraw, artillerymen are preparing for new missions wherever they are ordered to go.

"We will be just as efficient as we were against the common enemies of the Iraqi people," said Harrison. "Our tactics will adapt as Marines do."



Photo by Sgt. Dorian Gardner

Lance Cpl. Marly Warnick clips metal ties around pallets of artillery shells while another Marine holds them in place. Marines from Battery G packaged all remaining munitions in preparation for their return to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune this month.



Photo by Sgt. Dorian Gardner

Marines with Battery G, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, load crates of munitions onto trucks as they prepare to leave Camp Taqaddum, recently. Battery G is the last Marine artillery battery currently deployed to Iraq.



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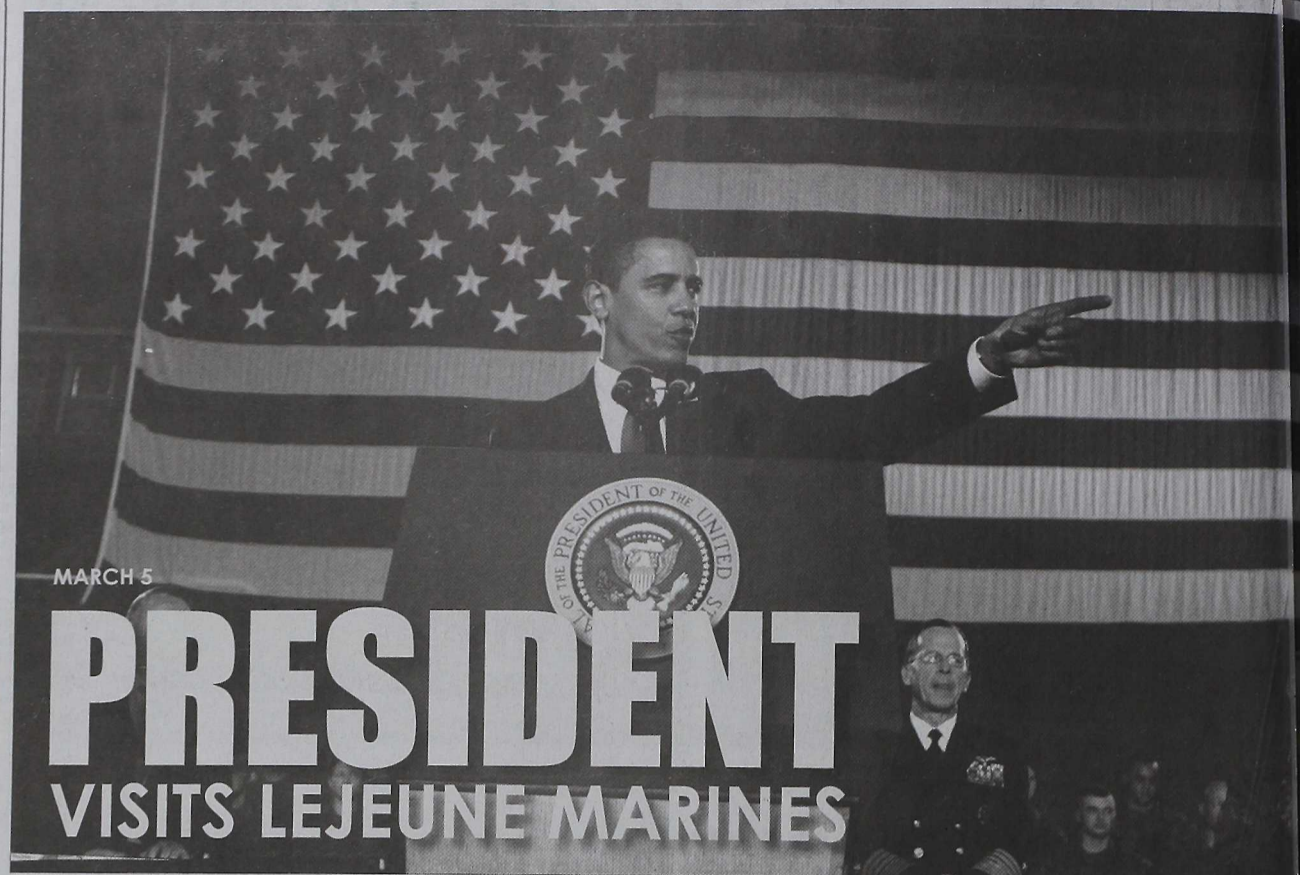


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MARCH 5

PRESIDENT VISITS LEJEUNE MARINES

President Barack Obama, talks to service members and civilians during his visit to Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 27. The president spoke on current policies and strategy for Iraq.

Obama sets end dates for eventual drawdown in Iraq

CPL. BRYCE C.K. MUHLENBERG
Marine Corps Base

There was an air of tense anticipation during preparations that began before the break of dawn as media personnel laid siege to the gates of Camp Lejeune, waiting for passage on base.

These individuals turned a dimly lit sports arena into an international stage. National media, secret service and Marines from North Carolina and the Pentagon packed themselves into bleachers and the musty corners of the jam packed arena.

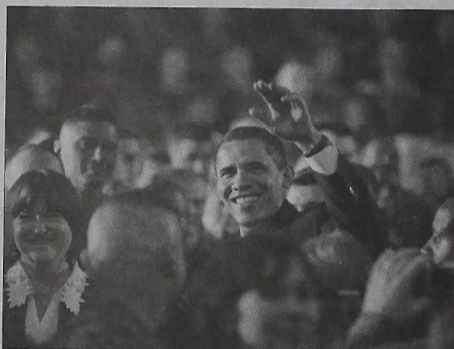
There couldn't have been more than fifteen square feet of floor space open during what, for most Marines, was a day of celebration and history with the possibility the president would announce an official end to combat involvement in Iraq.

"We will retain a tran-

sitional force to carry out three distinct functions: training, equipping, and advising Iraqi Security Forces as long as they remain non-sectarian; conducting targeted counterterrorism missions; and protecting our ongoing civilian and military efforts within Iraq," said President Barack Obama. "Initially, this force will likely be made up of 35 to 50,000 U.S. troops."

For the Marines who had seen deployment, seen the gradual change, and understood regular infantrymen no longer rated a role in Iraq's progress, this may easily have been welcomed news and became obvious with a resounding and rolling clap from the crowd.

The president attributed the first portion of the new strategy, and the overwhelming success in Iraq over the last six years, to these service members, Iraq's secu-



President Barack Obama waves to the crowds acknowledging an enthusiastic group who yelled, "We love you, Obama."

ity forces and a partnership with Sunni Arabs. The Marines and civilians sat with rapt attention as the president continued to explain his plan. "As we responsibly remove our combat brigades, we will pursue the second part of our strategy: sustained diplomacy on behalf of a more peaceful and prosperous Iraq," he said. The drawdown will make clear that Iraq's future is its own responsibility and its success as a nation will rely

on the fortitude of the Iraqi people and the ability of its leaders to act responsibly, he said. "Iraq is a sovereign country with legitimate institutions; America cannot - and should not - take their place," he said.

The president explained American political, diplomatic, and civilian efforts can continue forward progress and build a base for lasting peace and security, which is no longer to be shouldered fully by the military and cer-

tainly not combat arms.

"You and your families have done your duty - now a grateful nation must do ours," he said.

The president, to great applause, spoke of plans to increase military pay, improve veteran's benefits and the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and ensure military personnel and their care is not forgotten.

In a sea of green combat camouflage utility uniforms, the president closed his speech saying, "Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Semper Paratus." The Marines erupted in applause as the president waded into the crowd, and it quickly became apparent even if the press was there for the rest of the world; he was there for the Marines. After humbly exiting the building, surrounded by secret service agents and barricades, he traveled past the numerous base personnel and military families and into Marine one. He was headed to pay

respects to the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Fund.

"Each American who has served in Iraq is part of our own story," he said. "Each of you has your own story. And that story is not a part of the history of the United States of America - a nation that exists only because of the men and women here today for it from the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Anbar; from the mountains of Korea to the streets of Kandahar."

These words rang in the ears of the Marines, even after the lights had been dimmed and the crowd had packed up, and the president was gone. For the Marines, he had literally changed their lives in an hour.

"Thanks to the sacrifices of those who have served, we have forged hard-won progress, we are leaving it to its people, and we have begun the work of ending this war."

MARCH 19

CH-46s return from their final East Coast deployment

CPL. AARON J. ROCK
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

If you have been a Marine anytime since the start of the Vietnam War, you have seen revolutionary and evolutionary changes in the Corps. New technology, gear, weapons and vehicles have been assimilated and then replaced. But since 1964, one thing hasn't changed.

The CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter has served as the primary medium-lift helicopter for the Marine Corps since its introduction to the fleet, and despite over 40 years of improvements and upgrades,

its distinctive shape would be familiar to anyone from multiple generations of service members. It has been around so long that it has become the standard of measurement by which aircraft on flight decks are arranged.

The CH-46, or phrog, as it is called affectionately by many, is now approaching something many long-serving veterans eventually see, retirement.

"We are the last active duty, East Coast phrog squadron. We've reached a milestone," said Lt. Col. Mike D. Snyder, a phrog pilot since 1993 and com-

manding officer of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Aviation Combat Element's Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 (Reinforced).

The Sea Knight, based on the flight deck of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force deployed aboard amphibious vessels since the 1970s, will soon be replaced by the 22 Osprey as the primary medium-lift aircraft of the Corps.

A month into their deployment, Central Command sent the MEU's 53E Super Stallion helicopters to Iraq, and the Sea Knights as primary support aircraft for the next six months, a job they performed well, according to Snyder.

Snyder said what was especially impressive is the aircraft fulfilling their missions are, in many cases, ten times as old as the flying them and crewing them in the air.

HMM-264's youngest aircraft hit the fleet in September of 1970. It's oldest in the fleet of 1966. Between just two aircraft, disengaging all others in the squadron they have over 20,660 flight hours.

Colonel Mark J. ... commanding officer of the 26th MEU and a ... pilot since 1987, said ... Marine Corps definitely something right with it.

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SEE FINAL



Photo by Cpl. Patrick Fleischman

...k smoke, personnel from the Environment Management Division's y Section use rakes and create small back burns to remove fuel for a lbed burn to prevent its movement to other areas aboard the base.

SETTING FIRES

PATRICK FLEISCHMAN
Corps Base

Camp Lejeune plans to set fire to more than 93,000 acres of land this year - on purpose.

Starting forest fires protect, preserve and promote wild- bits, improve training and guard al property.

is why Camp Lejeune Environ- al Conservation Branch's Forestry n conducts "prescribed burns" hough Camp Lejeune and Marine Air Station New River during ar.

prescribed burn is an intentionally e burning under specified condi- that allow the fire to be confined edetermined area and produce the or and characteristics required by al resource managers, said Danny

burn, chief forestry technician for y protection, Forestry Section, En- mental Conservation Branch, Envi- nental Management Division, Instal- s and Environment Department for e Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Historically, fire was the single most tant natural process to shape the e of the Southeastern Coastal e, he said. Ignitions, such as light- strikes and fires started by Native

icans, provided the source for fires urned much of the landscape on a three year interval.

Forestry personnel use prescribed ng to mimic the historical role of a maintaining native ecosystems.

An example of this occurs in the eaf or wiregrass ecosystem, said hburn. If fire is removed from the m for a long period of time, the eom will eventually be dominated by underbrush and other undesir-

species. This underbrush is actually undant it eliminates or significantly es the germination of grasses and iceous plants. Repeated fire opens e forest floor which allows for ger- tion of longleaf pine along with a ty of desired grasses and herbaceous

s. These burns can be dangerous for l- wildlife, but not as dangerous as an nned fire, he said.

Prescribed fires are set in a manner hich we are able to control what will be burned and when weather mers allow for a cooler, slower ng fire," he said. "Wildland fires uncontrolled and with higher inten- than controlled fires. High intensity s detrimental to most upland habi- and endangers life and property and

likely destroys essential components of the ecosystem, such as the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker that Camp Lejeune is committed to preserving."

Given the type of training aboard base, such as the use of ammunition and flares, wildfires are inevitable. But with continued prescribed burning, which reduces the amount of fuel available for ignition, the fires will be less intense, thus less damaging to the ecosystem.

Approximately 93,000 acres on Camp Lejeune receive some level of fuels management, and this year approximately 25,000 acres will be burned, he said.

"We estimate about 20,000 (acres) during the dormant season of January to March and about 5,000 (acres) during the growing season between March and July," he said.

Marshburn and his team use a prescribed burning prioritization model to determine what areas are considered priority areas for burning based on various factors such as time of last burn, red-cockaded woodpecker cluster maintenance, and recruitment site preparation and management. It is also important to coordinate with range personnel prior to the day of the burn to prevent confusion.

"I can tell you that it is a very serious concern of Camp Lejeune's about a fire starting on base and going off base, regardless of it starting as a wildland fire or a prescribed burn," he said. "Smoke from prescribed burns (crossing) highways is one of the most common problems encountered. If there are unpredictable wind shifts or other unforeseen circumstances, the prescribed fire operation may be terminated."

In addition to preserving wildlife habitat, the Environmental Conservation staff burns ranges on a scheduled cycle to reduce the amount of underbrush. This cyclic burning maintains the ranges in a usable form by deterring growth in the shooting lanes.

Prescribed burning in training areas also control thick vegetation in the understorey of upland pine stands, allowing for easier and safer navigation of the terrain. Upland pine stands are the areas used mostly by training units.

"Burning is one of the most important treatments natural resource managers in the Southeast can apply in terms of time, cost and effectiveness to manage vegetation," he said. "Continuing to administer prescribed fire on the forest lands of Camp Lejeune help to maintain them in a healthy condition, and it drastically reduces the chance of catastrophic wildfire."

For information on the prescribed burns, contact EMD at 451-5063, or visit their Web site at lejeune.usmc.mil/emd.

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CT. 29

They came in PEACE

1,000 tears for every name, the Beirut Memorial is honored once again



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonathan G. Wright

Members and friends as well as foreign dignitaries gathered together to remember those lost during the peacekeeping presence in Beirut during the annual Commemoration of the Beirut Memorial Observance Ceremony at the Camp Lejeune Memorial Gardens, Oct. 23.

CPL JONATHAN WRIGHT
1st Corps Base

They came in peace." The words inscribed on the granite wall can give a brief glimpse of the events that occurred on Oct. 23, 1983. Some of the names felt that day were a mix of despair, a mix of emotions still felt by 26 years later. Families gathered in silence as they paid tribute to the lives lost and remembered the sacrifice made by so many Marines and soldiers, national and foreign, on one day in Beirut. The ceremony, where the families of the fallen were more than the diaspora which they resembled, was strong and solemn, seemingly stopped for a moment following the Beirut Memorial Ceremony, held every Oct. 23 at 3:30 a.m. at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens, is a way of remembering those who were killed in the bombing of the barracks as well as in Grenada; the 273 men that perished. This event, plus subsequent actions in Beirut and Grenada, caused the deaths of 13 U.S. Marines, soldiers and sailors," said Sam Phillips, mayor of the City of Jacksonville. "Most of these men were from Camp Lejeune and were friends and neighbors of citizens of Jacksonville in Onslow County, North Carolina. This event is something our community do not ever forget." On October 23, 1983, at 6:22 a.m. a massive explosion of the Marine command, a fog of gray cement and ash clouded over the sky. A second explosion

was heard in the distance as a similar catastrophe occurred in the French military detachment's base. "They came in peace." In the book *Peacekeepers at War*, by retired Marine Colonel Timothy J. Geraghty, commanding officer of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit in Beirut, he recalled the account of Sgt. Steven Russell, duty sergeant of the guard for the Marine barracks: "He saw a large yellow Mercedes truck accelerating through the barbed-wire obstacles directly toward the Battalion Landing Team Headquarters. He ran through the headquarters screaming 'Hit the deck! Hit the deck!' Right behind him, he saw the 19-ton vehicle crash through his sandbag guard shack at the entrance and stop in the middle of the lobby. A few seconds later, he saw a bright orange-yellow flash at the grill of the truck. The last thing he remembered was feeling 'a wave of intense heat and a powerful shock wave.'" Geraghty was just one of many survivors who attended the ceremony. The speeches had not yet concluded when an air of sorrow appeared on the attendee's faces. A little girl, who seemed to have not yet reached the age of 10, was crying into her mother's shoulder for the deaths of those she never had the chance to meet. "They came in peace." "Two hundred and forty-one Americans lost their lives 26 years ago today, as a nation we sometimes remember these events simply by the numbers," said Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, deputy commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary

Force. "We as Marines want to remember the names." Lefebvre was a young captain on barracks duty in New Jersey as a company commander in charge of 385 Marines. He turned on the TV that morning and watched the casualty count grow. "Sir, we can cut the force in half here and half of us can go over tomorrow," he said. "It's that level of commitment that exemplifies who we are and what we're about." Lefebvre ended the speeches with a story as told by former Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Paul X. Kelly. At the time Kelly was visiting critically injured Marines from the Beirut bombing in an Air Force hospital. "He spoke of a young Marine with more tubes going in and out of his body than he had ever seen," said Lefebvre recalling the commandant's encounter. "He couldn't see very well. He reached up and grabbed my four stars just to make sure I was who I said I was. He held my hand with a firm grip. He was making signals and we realized he wanted to tell me something. We put a pad of paper in his hand, and he wrote 'Semper Paratus.'" SEE BEIRUT 9A ▶



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonathan G. Wright

The color guard made an appearance at the 23rd annual Commemoration of the Beirut Memorial Observance Ceremony at the Camp Lejeune Memorial Gardens, Oct. 23.

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in a building or going about their daily lives."

Then the final civilian group was honored, those who died within the Pentagon.

After the stories of the Pentagon victims were told the committee members dressed in black and white left the stage.

The air was then filled with the beautiful and introspective sound of violins and other stringed instruments from Jacksonville High School's Cardinal Chamber Strings.

The music lead up to one of the highlights of the ceremony, the National Moment of Silence. The moment was held all across America at 8:46 a.m., a minute after the

first plane crashed.

All heads bowed as the attendees and participants took time to reflect over the stories of the innocent people they had heard earlier and those who had died while protecting America's freedom on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The moment of silence was broken as three sirens from emergency vehicles went off one after another. Their echoes faded in the distance as the narrator resumed the ceremony.

"These sirens represent the response of brave law enforcement, firefighters and rescue personnel who responded on that day to the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and to the field in Pennsylvania where

one of the planes crashed," read Williams. "Standing before you are members of our community who also willingly risk their lives to save others. They will help share with you the stories of some of the fallen first responders of that fateful day."

After the first responders were represented, the final group of military representatives took their place on the stage. Although service members did not perish in the terrorist attacks, they were honored for their sacrifices in the War on Terrorism.

The final life honored was that of Army Sgt. Roger L. Adams, Jr. Williams read the story with a special emphasis on Adams' son Tyler.

"(Tyler) remembered that he had known his final football game (a year ago) would be the last game his father would see him play in because of his deployment," Williams said. "In that game, he caught the winning touchdown and pointed to his dad in the stands as acknowledgment of the role he had played in his life."

Williams added Tyler did not know the game his father watched him play this past year was indeed the last game he would ever attend. To honor his father's sacrifice Tyler's jersey was placed on the beam.

Then Marine participants from Camp Johnson began to assemble one of

the most recognizable symbols of those killed-in-action. Boots, rifle, dog tags and Kevlar were all carefully placed together.

The narrator then began to bring the ceremony to a close as he talked about the strength that came from this tragedy.

"Tragedies have a way of unifying us," he said. "They help us see that we stand on common ground. Despite the horrific suffering on that day eight years ago, there has come a great outpouring of pride and strength in our country. The pride brought unity, nationalism and spirit. The strength has brought resolve, compassion and action."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonathan G. Wright

1. John K. Love, commanding officer of the 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, salutes alongside Sgt. Maj. Rudy Resto, sergeant major of the 8th Marine Regiment, after laying a ceremonious path during the 23rd annual Commemoration of the Beirut Memorial Observance.

BEIRUT FROM 7A

"They came in peace."

When the speeches concluded and the colors posted, the attendants were then able to walk those slow steps down to the memorial wall inscribed with the names of those who were lost. One could feel his own heart move from the look in the eyes of those who reached out and felt the indent of a name or when that hand started to tremble as the flood of memories came rushing in. A look of deep mourning laced with a tinge of regret made up the deep pools of their eyes, and their faces fell in tune.

"It was a very deep, moving ceremony," said French Col. Brice Houdet, French embassy attaché in Washington, D.C. "I was in our 'military high school' at the time, and it was a deep shock to all of us. Being once a paratrooper myself, this ceremony always means a lot. No one will let the memory of what happened die."

LEJEUNE FROM 1A

traveled from Jacksonville to the Pentagon for the ceremony.

"We have a close working relationship with the base," said W.C. Jarman, chairman of the Onslow County Board of Commissioners. "The city, county and base work as one to get things done. It's a collaborative effort. The military commitment doesn't stop at the gate, it extends out into town. The county is good neighbors to the base and the base is good neighbors to the county. This award is proof of that."

This is the sixth time Camp Lejeune has been presented this esteemed award, and as Marines who strive for nothing but the best, the award was well earned and received.

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...L FROM 4A

maintain and upgrade the aircraft despite the fact that it was supposedly going to be phased in the '90s.

They told me in flight school that I probably only be flying the 46 for a few years before the Osprey would replace it, and now here I am as the MEU commander, my 53s are taken away, and the 46, old and tired, carries the MEU," said Snyder.

Both Desens and Snyder both said that the Osprey will replace the CH-46 in the fleet, it can't replace the phrog in everything it does.

"The CH-46 is a proven technology. It is one of the most reliable aircraft in the inventory. It is stable and provides the perfect platform for things like fastroping,

which will be problematical with the Osprey. Also, it is metal. Which means if it gets shot full of holes it is an easy fix, while the MV-22 will not be so easy," Desens said.

Snyder agreed. "Even though we are replacing the aircraft, it is still fully capable of performing the mission," he said. "(The Osprey) is not a replacement for the mission; it is a replacement for the aircraft."

The seminal moment for the aircraft during the float came as USS Iwo Jima passed under the Peace Bridge spanning the Suez Canal carrying Sea Knights for the last time. It was a poignant moment for some, while for others it just represents progress.

Snyder said it was a little bittersweet to know it would be the last time.

"It's kind of sad. 46s have been around so long and they've been such a stable workhorse it's hard to see them go after flying them for almost 16 years," he said.

Desens said that while he can understand why some will miss it, "It would be a little like bemoaning a horse and buggy. Marines tend to be nostalgic, but in actuality we are innovators."

It really wasn't sad, the phrog has served well. She has earned and deserves her sunset. I thought to myself, 'How cool is it to see the last East Coast phrog headed under the bridge?'"

At the same time, he acknowledged how important the CH-46 is in the history

and lore of the Corps.

"How many warriors have been in the back of a 46; these 46s?" he asked. "Vietnam in the '70s, Beirut in the '80s, all of the (Noncombatant Evacuation Operations), Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan. There are generations of Marines that have ridden in them still around."

He and Snyder were also quick to point out that even though the 46 will no longer go on MEU deployments, it's not going away completely for awhile.

"It will still be around for seven or eight more years, and still be receiving its modifications," said Snyder.

Desens put it succinctly. "I think the last 46 pilot may have been born, but not yet commissioned."

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YEAR IN SPORTS



NEW RIVER TAKES BASE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Photo by Jamie Cameron

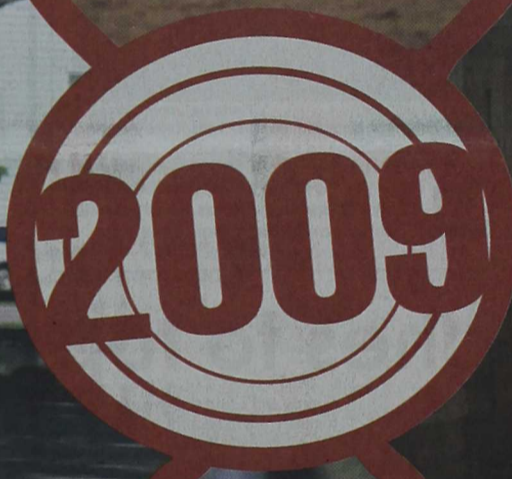
The New River Knights came out on top in the base intramural football championship.



WOUNDED WARRIORS HEAL THROUGH SPORTS

Photo by Cpl. Jessica L. Martinez

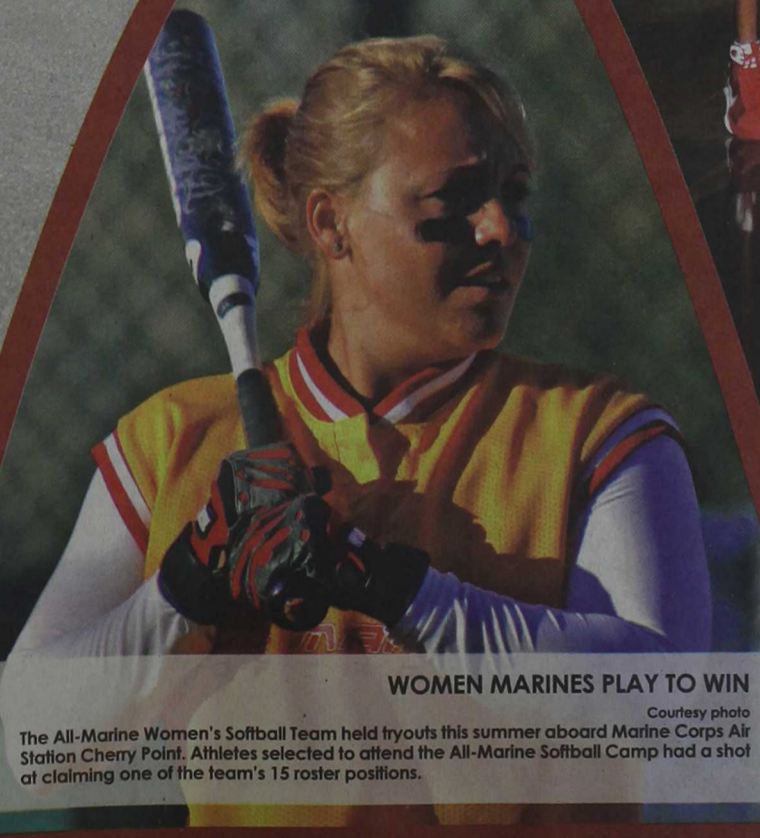
Marines with the Wounded Warrior Battalion — East and Brian Renier, cycling project manager, ride around Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune during one of their cycling sessions.



DEVIL PUPS ENJOY SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN SPORTS

Photo by Jamie Cameron

The Lejeune High School Devil Pups showed great skill and spirit in their athletic endeavors throughout the year.



WOMEN MARINES PLAY TO WIN

Courtesy photo

The All-Marine Women's Softball Team held tryouts this summer aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. Athletes selected to attend the All-Marine Softball Camp had a shot at claiming one of the team's 15 roster positions.

Outdoor adventures plentiful during 2009 hunting, fishing seasons



Lejeune Outdoors

With Jamie Cameron

The sporting year has come to a close, but all is not lost. The late waterfowl season continues through the end of January, along with several small game seasons to keep intrepid outdoorsmen busy.

Fishermen have their chances too. Speckled trout seem to have perked up with the onset of cooler temperatures and the red drum are out there if you look hard enough.

Offshore, the bluefin tuna and king mackerel fisheries are going like gangbusters, and there are wahoo, billfish and blackfin tuna available out in the Gulf Stream.

As I reflect on my year afield, I can't help thinking 2009 has been very, very good to me.

Things started off slowly. The spring wild turkey season was a complete wash. I worked one bird on opening day out in the North Carolina Piedmont, but he never came close enough to even catch a glimpse. By the time I returned to the Coastal Plain, the birds in my areas had completely shut down. I did not have a single bird honor my calling after four weeks of steady effort.

That is not to say others weren't having great success. For those who hit the woods the first week of the season, the turkeys were gobbling away and responding well. I know several folks who took

their two birds over the course of the spring.

In 2010, I plan to finally learn how to use a diaphragm call this winter. I love the versatility and no-hands operation these calls have. I just need to get over the gag reflex that overcomes me every time I stick one in the back of my throat.

I must admit my fishing effort was limited this year as well. I just never got around to taking advantage of the early spring shad run on the Neuse River. When the fish are making their spawning run up the Neuse and Roanoke rivers, anglers can enjoy 100-fish days. Hickory shad are terrific fighters on light tackle. Even fly-rodgers get in on the action and at times out-catch their fellow anglers who use light spinning tackle.

My one fishing highlight was a two-day trip offshore from Hatteras. A group of friends and I chartered The Stormy Petrel out of Hatteras during late June and the action was practically non-stop. On our first day, we split our effort between trolling and bottom-fishing. When we sent baits to the bottom, the fish box filled quickly with triggerfish and a few black sea bass. Triggers are fantastic table fare, though they are tricky to fillet. On the troll, we

caught dolphin (mahimahi) until our arms gave out. Catching big dolphin is a thrill, but running into a school of smaller fish and chumming them up to the side of the boat is one of my favorite experiences at sea. As the boat idles along, the 2- to 5-pound "bailer" dolphin stick close as long as there's something to eat. When you have seven of your good buddies standing shoulder to shoulder at the back of the boat, each hooked up to a jumping dolphin, the ensuing chaos is pure, unadulterated fun.

Area fishermen reported average seasons for inshore species like Spanish mackerel, bluefish, spot, sea mullet, red drum and pompano, but it was a banner year for black drum and false albacore. Locally, the flounder season was poor and the speckled trout fishing was lackluster, but, as always, some good catches were made by those diehards who know their quarry. As the fall hunting

seasons came around, I got in on a great dove shoot in Down East Carteret County and managed to get my first limit ever (15 birds). That luck carried over into deer season, and now five deer reside in my freezer.

Deer hunting can depend a lot on the quality of the land on which you hunt, but there is no denying some folks were bagging some really nice bucks around the area.

My duck hunting success has been slow out of the gate, but I'm looking forward to a great late season to round out the year.

I hope your year afield has been as successful and satisfying as mine. Remember, success should never be measured by the weight of your bag or cooler. The outdoor life is all about participating in the natural world and sharing those experiences with friends.

Until next year, good luck out there.



Photo by Jamie Cameron
Crista Tattersal bagged her first wild turkey during Eastern North Carolina's spring season.



Have you been on an outdoor adventure lately? Share your photos, send them to jamie.cameron@militarynews.com

JULY 30

Roberts punches to top

JAMIE CAMERON

Assistant managing editor

The All-Marine Boxing Team is looking forward to making Lance Cpl. Melissa Roberts feel right at home when she arrives aboard Camp Lejeune Sept. 19.

With championship belts from the 2009 U.S. National Boxing Championships in Denver and the 2009 Women's National Golden Gloves Championships in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Roberts will be an elite addition to All-Marine Boxing coach Ron Simms' stable of fighters.

"During the National Boxing Championships, Lance Cpl. Roberts was focused and stuck to her game plan. When adversity arose, she adjusted and stayed disciplined," said Simms, who was in attendance with members of his team. "That is the true sign of being a champion."

In addition to winning the featherweight division, Roberts was crowned Most Outstanding Boxer at both tournaments.

Roberts is currently stationed in New York, where she trains Monday through Saturday at the renowned Coney Island Havoc Boxing Gym with Andre Rozier. Though she started boxing in 2003, the 22-year-old had to put down the gloves for a 3-year stretch starting in 2006 when she joined the Marine Corps and gave birth to her daughter. Health concerns for her daughter kept Roberts out of the ring until January of this year, but boxing was never far from her mind during the layoff.

"I always missed it. Boxing is a part of me," explained Roberts. "Even when I couldn't train full time, I still went to the gym to work out whenever I could. It's only been since the start of this year that my daughter's medical condition has improved to the point where I could put my full effort back into boxing."

Though she looks forward to training with Simms and the All-Marine Boxing Team, Roberts said her future will be dictated by whatever is best for her daughter. "(My daughter) still requires medical treatments here in New York, so we'll just have to see how it works out," said Roberts. "As long as things work out, I will remain (at Camp Lejeune) working out with the All-Marine team."

As a boxer with aspirations for the 2012 Olympics, assuming the Olympic Committee votes in favor of adding women's boxing to the London Games, Roberts works hard to balance her commitments to Corps and country.

"When I box, I box as a representative of the Marine Corps, but I train with Andre Rozier," she said. "If Mr.

Simms and I find that we can work together, I will become a member of the All-Marine Boxing Team who is trained by Mr. Simms and Mr. Rozier.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to work with Mr. Simms," Roberts continued. "It's always good to have more than one trainer because different people see different things."

For his part, Simms said he is more than comfortable taking on a fighter of Roberts' considerable skill and potential. "Lance Cpl. Roberts' strengths are her mental toughness and her physical strength," he said. "Boxing is boxing, but the majority of women seem to pay attention to detail more than the guys. I look forward to welcoming Lance Cpl. Roberts to our gym."



Melissa Roberts and All-Marine Boxing coach, Ron Simms celebrate Roberts' win at the National Boxing Championships. Courtesy photo

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WEDNESDAY		
High tide	11:45 a.m.	
Low tide	5:36 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY		
High tide	12:28 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
Low tide	6:33 a.m.	6:50 p.m.
FRIDAY		
High tide	1:21 a.m.	1:23 p.m.
Low tide	7:35 a.m.	7:37 p.m.
SATURDAY		
High tide	2:15 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
Low tide	8:40 a.m.	8:27 p.m.
SUNDAY		
High tide	3:10 a.m.	3:18 p.m.
Low tide	9:42 a.m.	9:20 p.m.
MONDAY		
High tide	4:05 a.m.	4:16 p.m.
Low tide	10:40 a.m.	10:14 p.m.
TUESDAY		
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SPORTS ON STAGE

Tennis clinic

The Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department is offering winter tennis clinics with local expert, Tony Pereira. Weekly classes will take place at the Emerald Isle Community Center, Monday and Friday, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., from Jan. 11 through March 27. Cost is \$10 per session and drop-ins are welcome. For more information, call 252-354-6350.

Church basketball league

The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring an adult church basketball league. Team registrations will be accepted through Jan. 6. The cost is \$375 per team and \$10 per player. For more information, call 347-5332.

Youth boxing program

Training for future boxers is available with All-Marine Boxing Team head coach, Ron Simms. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Area 3 Gymnasium aboard Camp Lejeune. Youth athletes ages 8 through 17 are invited to join and learn self-confidence, hand-eye coordination, balance, offensive and defensive techniques and, most of all, have fun. The cost for one year of instruction is \$30 per child. Additional family members pay \$20 annually. This opportunity is open to all authorized personnel. For more information, call 451-2629.

Mountain bike training

Both veteran and inexperienced mountain bikers are invited to participate in weekly training rides, held every Tuesday and Thursday until Feb. 25. The rides take place from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Brig Trail aboard Camp Lejeune. The rides are open to all authorized patrons, age 12 and up. Cyclists under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 451-8499.

Ski trip

It's not too early to start planning for the MCCS-organized ski trip to Sugar Mountain, scheduled for Jan. 15 through 18. Call 451-1440 for information.

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- One entry per contestant per week.
- Correct answers consist of picking actual winner of game and advertisement the game appeared in (example: winner-Atlanta Falcons; ad-Gold's Gym)* In order to win the Cash Pot, the winning entry must have picked all 10 games correctly.
- In the event of a tie between perfect (10) picks, the tie breaker will be closest to total points scored in designated Monday night's tie breaker game.
- If there is still a tie, the winner will be picked out of a hat.
- If there are no winners pot will grow by \$50. If there is a winner, the pot will be awarded and new pot will start at \$100.

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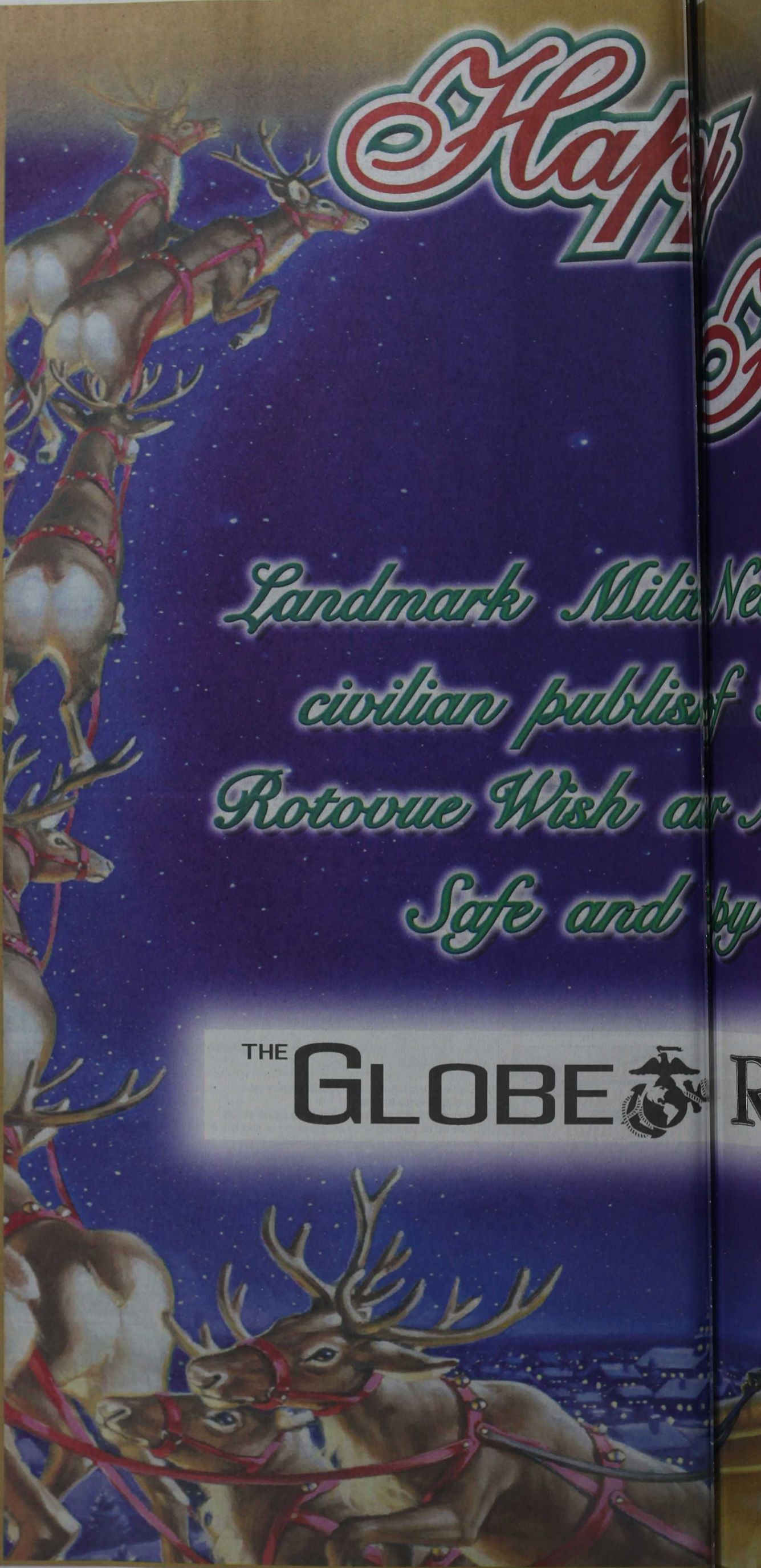
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Marine steps down as rodeo clown

CE CPL. ATHAN G. WRIGHT
The Corps Base

The shrill shriek of a rope slashes into the ears, harrowing a crowd of cheers and screams. A rope is pulled taut, and in turn opens a side of a dirt arena, and leaping forth a minotaur of old, a bull bucks forward a lone man atop a back. Around and around the beast spins, clinging the warrior tight, yet miraculously stays seated. Exactly seconds later a roar from the crowd, signaling the success of all rider as he half-outs, half-flies his perch, rising and making his back to the gates. At what's to stop him being completely seized by the bull he conquered? The sport of bull riding is not in existence for the fearless fighting clowns who, there, would not expect every thrown bull from a brutal injury to the face by hoof or horn. Such is the story of Master Sgt. Mark Hardin, a bullfighting professional for 13 years in front of the bull with an additional four of riding.

Hardin started riding in 1991 and continued until 1995, when his parents persuaded him to stop. "My mom and dad said I shouldn't be (riding bulls) because it was too dangerous," said Hardin. It wasn't until the next year that a friend of his asked him to help stand in for a bullfighter.

"He guided me how to do it, 'stand here, do this', and afterward it was the adrenaline that hooked me," said Hardin. "I attended a bullfighting school in Georgia that same year, but what helps is experience and knowing bulls and cattle."

However, as anyone may easily assume, standing in front of a half ton of bucking fury might bring a little bit of bodily harm. "The worst injury I've seen him get is where a bull hit him 10 feet into the air," said Master Sgt. Christine Webb, the personnel and administrative chief for the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. "He walked away from it, although I know he's had worse." "I broke my left ankle, a few of my left ribs, all my fingers, been knocked out and tore up both of my knees," claimed



Mark Hardin, a Marine Corps master sergeant and bullfighting clown, demonstrates the need for speed in the ring, June 20. He has been bullfighting for the past 13 years and is now retiring from the bullfighting profession.

Hardin. "The worst scenario is death; it's still bull riding, so someone is going to get hurt." Hardin also runs a bullfighter-loaning organization called Saving Grace, which upon request sends out bullfighters to various rodeos if needed. Now, after a total of 17 years in the bull riding/fighting profession, Hardin has come to realize that his family and his commitment to the Marine Corps are bigger priorities. "I want to make sure my last rodeo is what it is because I want it that way," said Hardin. "I'm doing what I love and don't want it to end, but

I want to leave because I want to, not to be forced to." Hardin also stated that his first bullfighting rodeo started at the Onslow Rodeo Arena, owned by Aleck Bernard. "Aleck has been a great help to me over the years," said Hardin. "So, I want my last rodeo to be the place where I started." With some last words on his whole bullfighting experience, Hardin urges to at least watch or get involved, being a great way to meet friends and be around animals, and more importantly teaching children about responsibility. "I've known (Hardin) for years through the

arena," said Webb. "The rodeo's a big thing for him." His last rodeo was smooth and energetic, ending without injury to both rider and fighter alike. Looking back on his 13 year-long career warding off the bulls, Hardin said that it's not an easy thing to leave, but will still in some ways be involved with the rodeo on the whole. "I've considered announcing or judging, and I'll still be running Saving Grace, but it's just time I recognize that I have other priorities more important than my hobbies," said Hardin. Hardin's last words about his bullfighting

experience tie together everything he's done and seen for more than a decade. "It's been the greatest privilege to have the ability to do what I've done," said Hardin. "I've met some great people along the way, and I'd do it all over again if I could." The clown makeup and bright striped socks now stored away for good, this warrior's cowboy hat is not yet ready to be hung up; while his bullfighting days are over, his rodeo days continue. "There is no doubt in my mind that this is the greatest sport on the Earth," said Hardin.

Marines set pace in Run For The Warriors

JAMIE CAMERON
Assistant managing editor

Camp Lejeune Marines not only led the 4th annual Run for the Warriors Saturday, they dominated the event. Cameron Loos, 37, won the 10-meter race with his time of 35:23, Jessica Crompton, 26, won the women's 5K race in 23:16. Both are based aboard Camp Lejeune. Other top finishers included Mike Huffman, 36:04 and Daweet Wachen, 36:55, rounding out men's top three in the 10K; Kasi Bakston of Midway Park, who won women's 10K in 38:54, followed by Myra Mohr, 43:57, and Mylinda O'Quin, Camp Lejeune, 45:48. Early morning rain showers may have kept some runners from race day but, according to Robin Kelleher, president and CEO of Hope for the Warriors, the 10K, 5K and mile fun run drew well over 2,000 participants. And for those who did run, the weather could not have been any better, as the rain clouds parted and a cool breeze graced the race course. Among those benefiting from the event was David Swiam, who, at 70 years of age, crushed his younger competition in the 10K wheel chair race. Swiam, who finished the course in 1:09:10, served in the Marine Corps from 1971 to 1977 and was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point around his tour of duty in Vietnam. "I'm an old Marine and ever since the start of the event I've been coming to run it," he said at the finish line. "I want to show the young guys how an

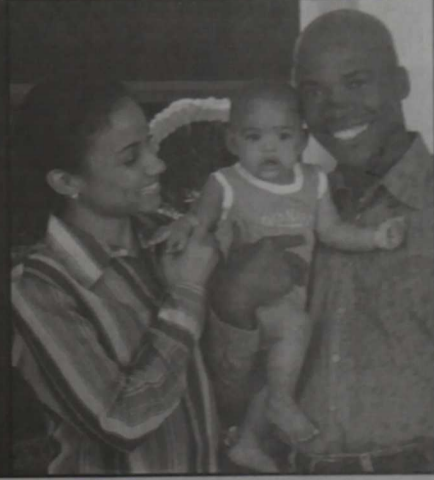
old Marine can do it." Swiam's average speed on the course may have been a blistering 19.6 miles-per-hour average, but he held all of the participants who finished behind him in the highest regard. "No matter what position you come in, it's an accomplishment. It doesn't matter how we finish." Wounded warrior Sam Schoenheit was among the many who put more value in simply running the race than his overall placement in the 1-mile fun run. "I supported my fellow Marines and I had a lot of fun," he said. "I was surprised at how many people came out to show their support. It's great." Although the Run for the Warriors race aboard Camp Lejeune was named Onslow County's Event of the Year in both 2007 and 2008, Kelleher said the event took 10 leaps forward this year. She estimated the money raised for Hope for the Warriors at more than \$100,000, thanks to sponsors and race registrations. Hope for the Warriors is a non-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for service members and their families who have been affected by injuries or death in the line of duty. To meet those goals, the group offers career transition services, hope and morale programs, wish grants, temporary housing for families of wounded warriors, and spouse support groups and scholarships. "We're beside ourselves about the whole event," said Kelleher. "I think it has a lot to do with the continued support from the community and the military. They've seen in four years that we're in this for the long haul, and have responded with amazing participation."



The 4th annual Run for the Warriors aboard Camp Lejeune was a huge success, raising funds to benefit wounded service members and their families.

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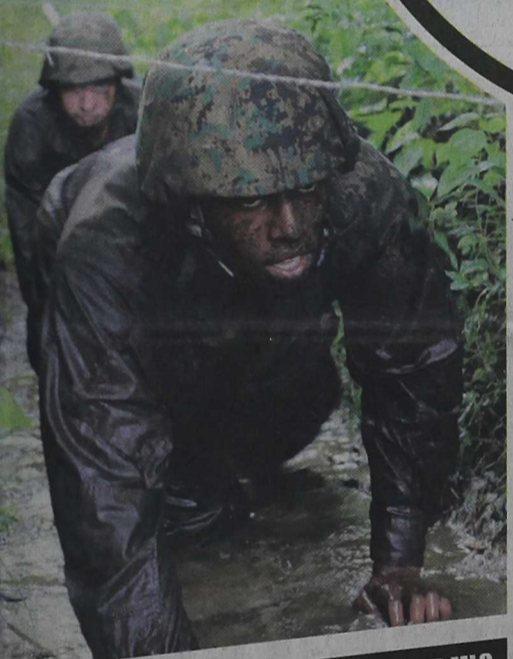
BLT 1/9 COMPLETES REVAMPED BORNE COMPANY RAID COURSE

Photo by Cpl. Alex C. Guerra
Cpl. Darin B. Blackburn, a rifleman second platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit, directs his squad as they fire automatic weapons toward possible threats as they egress from a raiding facility at Camp Lejeune, Aug. 19, during the Heliborne Company Raid Course.



2ND RECON CONDUCTS PARACHUTE TRAINING

Photo by Lance Cpl. John A. Faria
Cpl. Brian Corbett, a reconnaissance Marine with Force Company, 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, secures his parachute following a successful jump out of the MV-22 Osprey at Tactical Landing Zone Falcon, June 5.



ENDURANCE COURSE PUTS 2ND MLG MARINES TO THE TEST

Photos by Lance Cpl. Dwight A. Henderson
Marines from Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, work their way through an endurance course, July 17. The 3.4-mile endurance course features a variety of manmade and natural obstacles such as a wall, culverts, swamps and water-filled trenches.



RECON MARINES PREPARE FOR SNIPER CHALLENGE

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian M. Woodruff
Sgt. James E. Glendening, an assistant team leader with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, practices observation techniques during the pre-sniper course, March 17. During the course, Marines learned the arts of stalking, observation and distance estimation. The Marines were also tasked with designing their own ghillie suit. The course is designed to get the Marines ready to attend a formal scout sniper school.



VIETNAM MEMORIAL: MAKING THINGS RIGHT ONE MEMORIAL AT A TIME

Photo by Cpl. Katie Densmore
Members of Rolling Thunder pay respect to the passing of the colors during the dedication ceremony for the completion of phase one of the Vietnam War Memorial at Lejeune Memorial Gardens, June 13. The wall contains more than 58,000 names and was checked seven times to ensure all of the names were included and in alphabetical order.



2ND TANK BATTALION BLASTS THROUGH RANGE QUALIFICATIONS

Photo by Cpl. Thomas J. Hermesman
M1A1 Abrams tanks prepare their weaponry and systems for a firing demonstration Dec. 5 at range SR-10 here. Marines with 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, are regularly required to qualify on live-fire tank ranges. The M1A1 Abrams Main Battle tank has been a part of America's arsenal of armored fighting vehicles since 1980.

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\$134,900-3005 Derby Run Rd, Jacksonville. Perfectly situated 3 bed, 2 bath within walking distance of everything Jacksonville has to offer: dining, shopping, all levels of schools, jogging, tennis, skateboard park, city park, community center, basketball. Minutes to Camp Lejeune and New River Air Station. New carpet in all the rooms, new paint, new appliances, new tile floor and countertops in kitchen-this home is ready for you to enjoy. Come see the home of your dream!! Call DARREN at Canavan Real Estate Team (910) 355-0397.

\$140,000-2457 White Oak River Road, Mayville. This is country living at it's finest! Spectacular 2 bed, one bath that just explodes with comfort and charm. Watch the sun go down while sitting on the back porch during those gorgeous Carolina evenings. Entertain family and friends in the huge main yard among carefully maintained landscaping. Sit in the den and curl up next to the stove. Updated appliances in the immaculate kitchen, plenty of closet space. Two-car garage has tons of space for the home mechanic or tinkerer, and the four bay wired barn offers unlimited potential for gardening or farm equipment—with around 2 acres of land, you can grow almost anything that your heart desires! Additional photos available upon request. Seller is very motivated—come make an offer on the home of your dreams today! Call DARREN at Canavan Real Estate Team (910) 355-0397.

\$199,000-390 Futrell Road, Jacksonville. Enjoy Carolina living in this beautiful home! This three bedroom home, two car garage with a large master suite on the ground floor. Upstairs you have two large bedrooms with a bonus/family room as well. Storage you have it in this home, closets galore and the upstairs bathroom even has its own linen closet. New carpet throughout except areas that are tiled. Ceiling fans, blinds and a kitchen with all the appliances including smooth surface range, microwave range hood, double door refrigerator and dishwasher with recessed lighting as well. Nearly 3/4 of an acre with a large fenced back yard and large open deck, play house with slide, above ground pool and all you need to entertain the family. Sit back and enjoy on the expansive front porch 6x39 feet! Every hour of every day you will be glad you found this home! Call BARBARA at Canavan Real Estate Team (910) 355-0397.

\$246,400-203 Chastain Drive, Jacksonville. Why leave home, especially the neighborhood when you have everything you need. The Commons offers walking path, parks, softball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, recreation center, senior center and all schools within the subdivision. Shopping within walking distance, military bases just minutes away and I haven't even told

Real Estate For sale

you about the lovely home yet. This four bedroom home offers all the space and amenities you could want. Enter the large foyer with arched entrances to the formal living and dining room, then into the large family room with cozy fireplace, television niche and a row of windows that allows the warmth and illumination of the day. Wrought iron spindles adorn the tucked away staircase that leads to 5x15 upstairs landing. A Master Suite that allows you the luxury you deserve with two walk in closets, large master bath with double sink vanity, separate shower and deep soaking tub. Three other bedrooms offer great space and an additional walk in closet. Ceiling fans throughout, bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room tiled. The kitchen offers great space with great counter space, all appliances, corner cabinet, pantry and a secretary for children to do homework or a laptop to look up recipes to spoil the family. Entertaining? You will have the patio for just that with a 30x30 patio with cap post lighting. Enjoy it all with the home and the location! Additional pictures on the virtual tour link. Master bedroom ceiling fan does not convey. Call BARBARA at Canavan Real Estate Team (910) 355-0397.

\$249,900-962 Blizzard Town Road, Pink Hill. This is country living at it's finest. Huge 2 bed, 2.5 bath located on 6 acres of landscaped North Carolina perfection! Imagine waking in the morning with the gorgeous Carolina sun shining through your bedroom window as you bath in the huge jetted tub, then proceed down the pine floored hallway to the kitchen to prepare breakfast and coffee using stainless steel appliances and looking out the multitude of windows upon your landscaped dream world in your eat-in kitchen. Take your coffee outside on the massive screened porch and serenely relax as you calmly watch wisp of comforting fog roll across your two ponds and smile as you watch the ducks joyfully frolic in the cool morning dew. You have found paradise—paradise has found you. Make an appointment today to tour the life you have always dreamed of! Call DARREN at Canavan Real Estate Team (910) 355-0397.

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1023 PATCH DR-Newport. Price reduced! Quaint bungalow nestled in the pines just minutes from Morehead City, Newport, beaches of Bogue Banks and MCAS Cherry Point. Crown molding, multi-level deck, shed with 220/120 power, 1200 sqft, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, great starter or retirement home situated on 45 acres. \$137,500. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 866-467-3105.

104 DEERFIELD RD-Beautiful building lot in upscale Oakhurst River Estates that perks for a 4 bedroom home. Fabulous neighborhood which includes an Onslow County waterfront park with a canoe/kayak launch! Perfect place to build your dream home. A fabulous buy for only \$59,900. Call Lois Hutchins, CHOICE Realty, 910-330-4481.

105 POLLARD DR-Immaculate 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with gorgeous hardwood floors, fireplace, privacy fenced yard and double garage in lovely Gateway. Minutes to the new Walmart, the bypass and all bases. Qualified buyer can move in TODAY!! \$8000 cash back for first time homebuyers!! CHOICE Realty 910-330-4481.

111 BLUE BIRD LN-Newport \$179,900. New construction in sought after Newport neighborhood. Priced to sell, this 3BR, 2BA home has an open floor plan. Close to shopping center and schools. Square footage per builders specs and plans. Great location for Cherry Point! Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 866-467-3105. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

114 STEEP HILL DR-Reduced to \$214,900. Spacious home on large 2/3 acre lot. Freshly painted living room with fireplace, formal dining room & breakfast nook. Large, open kitchen includes dishwasher,

Real Estate For sale

smooth-top stove, microhood. Large 4th BR or Bonus Room (septic is for 4 BRs). Great location on Silver Creek Golf Course, minutes to shopping, schools, marinas or beach. Sellers have moved & need to sell now - reduced from \$234,900 to \$224,900 to \$214,900. Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 866-467-3105. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

120 LONGWOOD DR-Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with upgrades galore located on a large wooded lot in beautiful White Oak Landing waterfront community with boat dock, gazebo and awesome view of the White Oak River! Only 2 miles from Historic Swansboro and minutes to the side gate of Camp Lejeune. Fabulous buy at only \$235,900!! CHOICE Realty 910-330-4481

132 CEDAR HOLLOW LN-Three Bedroom, 2 bath on canal with large garage, boat house & lift for the water enthusiast. Short ride to Intracoastal Waterway. \$285,000. Call Realty World-Ennett & Associates 910-327-3600.

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309 LAMROC DR-Emerald Isle. Special Announcements

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\$189,900. Own at the beach for less than \$190,000! Cute 3 bedrm home walking distance to Emerald Isle restaurants and shopping. Lots of built-ins in the bedrooms and dining room. Brick permanent foundation on a nice high lot. Nice back yard with storage shed. Hot water heater new in 07. Have it all, live on the island plus a good location to either Camp Lejeune or Cherry Point! Call Bluewater GMAC @ 888-354-2128 www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

310 APPALOOSA CT-Swansboro. 153,500!!! Check out this great price for a well maintained home with a split bedroom plan. Upgraded by current owner. Close to schools, shopping, and the beach! Convenient to Camp Lejeune. Spacious backyard for kids and pets to play. Seller will provide Old Republic Home Warranty and pay \$2000 closing costs with acceptable offer. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 800-752-3543. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

3131 MILL CREEK RD-Newport, \$164,900. "AS GOOD AS NEW" Completely remodeled 1400sf Brick Rancher. Improvements include NEW: Roof, H/AC, Kitchen cabinets and countertops, SS Appliances, Bathrooms new everything, Hardwood and Tile throughout, and also a new Front Porch. Nice location to Cherry Point. This home is nestled off main road with nearly an acre of privacy. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 866-467-3105. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

376 WHITEHOUSE FORKS RD-\$149,900! Charming farmhouse to be split out with about 1/2 acre. (Buyer can purchase more acreage if desired). 4 bay building, garage and shed included. Sheetrock walls over heart pine. Aluminum siding over wood siding. Off Hwy 58 just 2 1/2 miles from Emerald Isle bridge, nice

Real Estate For sale

location for either base kitchen, formal DR & LR, 10 rooms, 1 bath and separate rm. Large screen porch in front. Great potential! Call GMAC about our Military Program @ 800-752-3543. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

3BR/2BA/2CAR-NEW HI ASHBURY PARK LANE. Located on large corner lot and open living, dining, & areas. Buyer closing cost. Ask about possible possession closing. CALL JOEY OR SAM WITH CHOICE REALTY (910) 265-0771 OR (910) 330-4154 www.SamJodyRealty.com

418 STONEYBROOK REDUCED TO \$139,000. 1 split floor plan doublewide ceilings on brick foundation neighborhood just mins beaches of E.I. Lots of windows, built-in cabinet ceiling fans, beautifully 1 yard w/accent lighting, con porch & 2 open back deck, drive, fenced in back yard ground pool w/sep, de softener. A true family home about ramp. Call Bluewater about our Military Advantage @ 888-354-2128 www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

419 STAR HILL DR-Cape \$259,000. Classic & ch 1/2 acre lot w/nice shrubs. Detached garage heater/air cond unit. Worksh docks & side door w/covered. Large covered front porch, 1 separate dining room window. Breakfast table spa window in kitchen & island floor in kitchen. Parquet in a picturesque home in a Star Hill Golf Course subdiv. Bluewater GMAC about our Advantage Program @ 888-354-2128 www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

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741 BROAD CREEK-Newport. \$124,900. Nice doublewide home with water access nearby! This is a vacation home, and has been well cared for. New roof, new water heater, and the heat pump is less than 3 years old. On a brick foundation, so should qualify for most financing programs. Beautiful lot with mature Live Oaks. All just a couple blocks from the community playground, boat ramp & day dock. Easy commute to Cherry Point or Morehead. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 866-467-3106. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com

828 SHADOWRIDGE RD-Jacksonville. \$155,000. Vinyl siding is 1 year old and the interior is going to be painted on 8/25/09. Ceiling will also be scraped & painted. New carpet, flooring & Home Warranty. Seller will also pay some closing costs too! Move right in! Only minutes from Camp Lejeune. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 800-752-3543. www.NCMilitaryAdvantage.com.

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294 BROOKSTONE WAY
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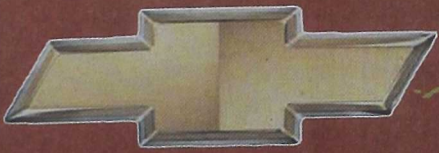
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in the area. Little E
Army Officer 2nd C
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the date.

Both of Evana's
former military me
father was a Marine
grandfather had be
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into a family with



LEJEUNE LIVING 2009

Semper Fidelis





Photo by Heather M. Owens

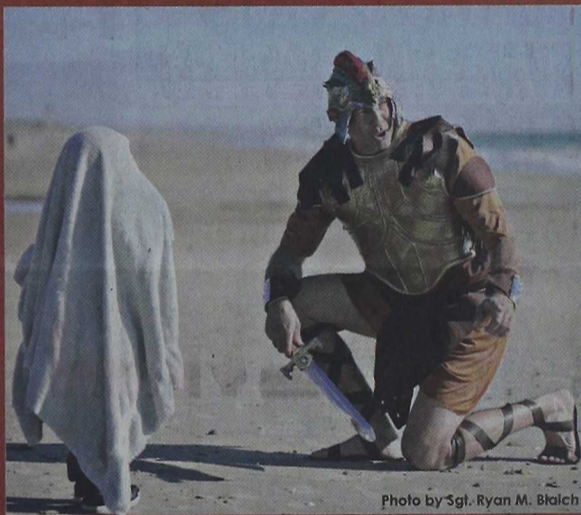


Photo by Sgt. Ryan M. Blalch

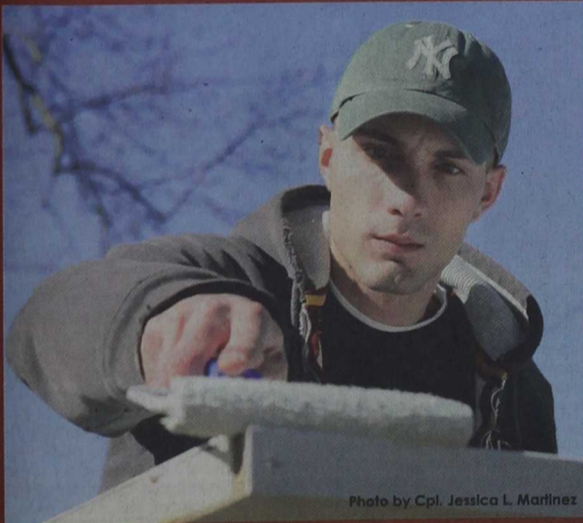


Photo by Cpl. Jessica L. Martinez



Photo by Eric Sellers

HEATHER M. OWENS
Carolina Living editor

Semper Fidelis. Members of the Camp Lejeune community have been faithful to the spirit of the Marine motto throughout 2009. It's no surprise really, Marines and sailors are used to following the course. The year started out at 1:02 a.m., Jan. 1, when Evana Elaine Ella Ebili made headlines by becoming the first baby born in the area. Little Evana's parents, former U.S. Marine Officer 2nd Class Patrick Ebili, who since became an ensign through the Army's commissioning program, and his wife, Melissa, were a little surprised as she was born nearly two weeks before her Jan. 13 date. Both of Evana's grandfathers were former military men, her maternal grandfather was a Marine and her paternal grandfather had been in the military in his home country of Nigeria. Given her birth to a family with a proud military tradi-

tion and her early arrival, odds favor little Evana's leading the way throughout her life as well.

During the following week in January, a crowd of more than 300 hard-chargers gathered on Onslow Beach to raise money for the Special Olympics. (See photograph at top right for a scene from that day.)

The Polar Plunge raised more than \$13,000 to provide uniforms, equipment and transportation for the Special Olympians from Onslow County.

Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik, commanding general for the II Marine Expeditionary Force, declared the day a success.

"I would like to thank all the teams and individuals who took time out of their weekend and money out of their pockets to participate in something which is really special," he said.

Another group of Marines started the year off right by giving up time during their New Year's liberty period to participate in a project dubbed "Extreme

Marine Makeover: Home Edition." (See the photograph at bottom left.)

They donated their time to make significant repairs to the home of a wounded Marine veteran.

"We can't forget about our fellow Marines, even after they get out of the Corps. Once a Marine, always a Marine, and it's important we take care of each other," said volunteer Sgt. Joseph Kolaszewski, with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

Marines continued to volunteer in the community all year long. In fact, during August, the 8th Engineer Support Battalion was back at it. Leathernecks from the battalion spent a Saturday tearing the old roof off Jacksonville's Salvation Army headquarters. Their efforts allowed the Salvation Army to finish the roofing project as close as possible to on budget.

The Single Marine Program was extremely active during 2009, gaining a new mascot and taking multiple trips to Orlando, Fla. (See new mascot, Spike, in

the photograph at top left and page 2D for additional coverage.)

On the home front, two area Marine spouses earned significant awards this year. Tanya Queiro, a Marine veteran, was named the "National Military Spouse of the Year" by Military Spouse magazine.

Laurie Howard was named the 2009 "Heroes at Home: Military Spouse of the Year" by Landmark Military Media, the civilian publisher of The Globe and The RotoVue.

Military children also excelled this year as an unprecedented number of Lejeune High School graduates earned spots in the nation's military academies. (See photograph at bottom right.)

Turn to the following pages in this section to celebrate even more amazing 2009 achievements.

Editor's note: Sgt. Ryan M. Blalch, Cpl. Jessica L. Martinez and Lance Cpl. Lia Gamero contributed to the reporting of this story.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Randy Little



Photo by Heather M. Owens

Lejeune's Single Marine Program Enjoys great travels, times during 2009



Photo by Cpl. Jin Hyun Lee

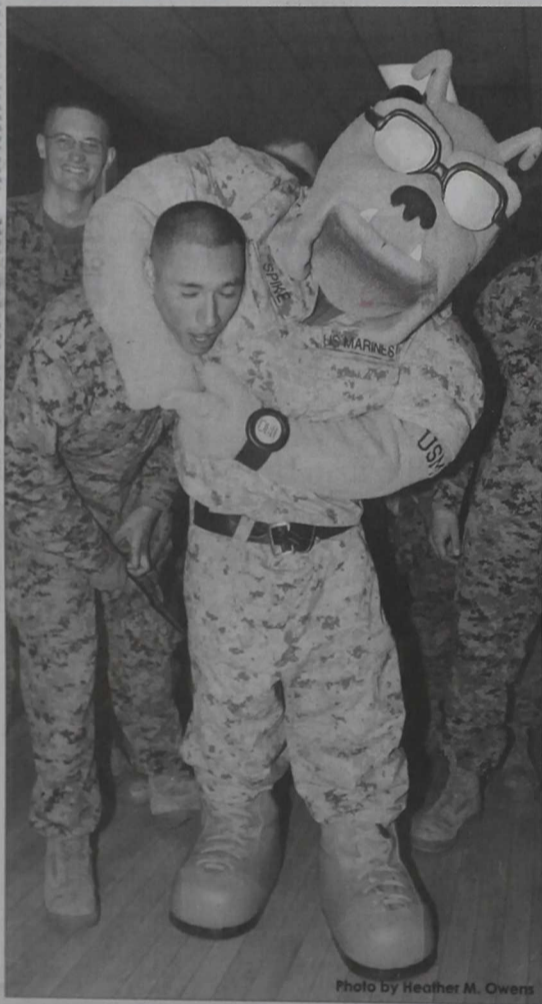


Photo by Heather M. Owens



Photo by Josefa C.

Camp Lejeune's Single Marine Program was extremely active during 2009. It took Marine sailors on monthly trips to destinations near and far. As Walt Disney World resorts offered admission to service members this year, the SMP made several trips to Orlando, Fla., to advantage of that offer (see photograph at bottom right). The participants said they enjoyed staying at Shades of Green, a resort for military members, during those trips. Closer to home SMP also made several visits to Myrtle Beach to take in the shows and sights (see photograph at middle right). August brought Camp Lejeune's legendary Sand Jam celebration, hosted the SMP, aboard Onslow Beach. (See photograph at top left). During November, the program offered a "day of beauty" at the Coastal Carolina Community cosmetology department to help single, female Marines get ready for their Marine Corps Birthday balls (see photograph top right). Plus, Camp Lejeune's unique version of the SMP mascot, Spike, came to life in 2009 and has since been seen all around base (photograph at bottom left).

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IT'S COMPLICATED R • DTS • DLP • 1:00 • 4:00 • 7:30 • 9:50

NINE PG-13 • DTS • DLP • 1:45 • 4:30 • 7:05 • 9:45

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 2 PG • DTS • DLP • 12:30 • 1:50 • 2:40 • 3:10 • 4:50 • 5:20 • 7:00 • 7:30 • 9:10 • 9:40

UP IN THE AIR R • DTS • DLP • 1:30 • 4:00 • 6:50 • 9:30

AVATAR 3D PG-13 • DTS • DLP • 12:00 • 1:00 • 2:15 • 3:30 • 4:30 • 5:55 • 7:00 • 8:00 • 9:30 • 10:30 (NO PASS/DISC)

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS PG-13 • DTS • DLP • 1:45 • 4:35 • 7:10 • 9:45 (NO PASSES OR 3D DISCOUNT TEL 9-1-168)

THE PRINCESS & THE FROG G • DTS • DLP • 1:00 • 3:30 • 6:00 • 8:30

BROTHERS R • DTS • DLP • 4:15 • 9:35

BOOKDOCK SAINTS II: ALL SAINTS DAY R • DTS • 1:00 • 3:45 • 6:35 • 9:25

OLIVIA IN WINTER WONDERLAND G • DTS • DLP • 1:35 (SAT. & SUN ONLY)

NEW MOON PG-13 • DTS • DLP • 1:00 • 3:30 • 6:40 • 9:30

THE BLINDSIDE PG-13 • DTS • DLP • 1:05 • 4:05 • 6:50 • 9:40

A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3-D PG • DTS • DLP • 1:35 • 6:55 (NO 1.35 SAT OR SUN) (NO PASSES/DISC)

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19 DG 19 on Moultrie Blvd

WEDNESDAY
"Michael Jackson's This is It," PG, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
"The Men Who Stare at Goats," R, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
"A Christmas Carol," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "Planet 51," PG, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
"A Christmas Carol," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "Paranormal Activity," R, 6:30 p.m.; "New Moon," PG-13, 9:15 p.m.

SUNDAY
"Planet 51," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "New Moon," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
"Paranormal Activity," R, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
"New Moon," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

MIDWAY PARK THEATER
81 DG 4014A in Midway Park

WEDNESDAY
"Astro Boy," PG, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
"The Box," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
"Fantastic Mr. Fox," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "2012," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.; "Pirate Radio," R, 9:15 p.m.

SUNDAY
"Fantastic Mr. Fox," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "2012," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
"The Box," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
"Michael Jackson's This is It," PG, 7:30 p.m.

NEW RIVER THEATER
BLDG 48240 on the 7th Station

WEDNESDAY
"Michael Jackson's This is It," PG, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY
"A Christmas Carol," PG, 1 p.m.

SATURDAY
"A Christmas Carol," PG, 7 p.m.; "Michael Jackson's This is It," PG, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
"A Christmas Carol," PG, 3 p.m.; "The Men Who Stare at Goats," R, 6 p.m.

MONDAY
"The Men Who Stare at Goats," R, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
"The Fourth Kind," PG-13, 7 p.m.

PAY ATTENTION MARINES AND SAILORS!

My name is SERGEANT OORAH and I am in charge of you tough men and ladies, at least when you are on the brand new Second Marine Division Association website. If you can get to the internet, look up www.2dmardiv.com. You better pay attention to the information posted on the site. It may save your life!

That's all for now.
DISMISSED!

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Densmo

With Cpl. Katie

remember when I was informed I was going to Camp Lejeune. My friend told me "Camp Lejeune" was boring and there was nothing to do there. The beaches are beautiful that's it: "You should come here."

Well, coming here was a military occupational assignment. Fort George Meade, Md., sandwiched between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., seemed at first glance like a great place to live. It turns out, I was in love with the place. However, I still remember, "I hate it here. There's nothing to do." The attitude has always changed me.

Well, however, under-stand where this viewpoint comes from and it tends to change.

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Daycations with Denismore



With Cpl. Katie C. Denismore

remember when I was informed I was going to Camp Lejeune. You told me "Camp Lejeune" was boring and there was nothing to do. The beaches are beautiful but that's it. "You hate it." I wanted, coming here to my military occupational school, Fort George Gade, Md., sanded between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., appeared at first glance to be right. But as it turns out, I fell in love with the area. However, I still could hear, "I hate it here. There is nothing to do." My attitude has always changed. I do, however, understand where this viewpoint comes from and it tends

to be people who stay within the Jacksonville city limits. I have had a theory for quite awhile that if you hopped in a car and drove 45 minutes in any direction, you could find a variety of things to do. I decided this would be my project to get Marines out of the barracks and send families exploring the area. So I stewed over this idea, perfecting it in my head, until it was ready to bring to my editor and staff noncommissioned officer in charge. Now for the hard part... the sales pitch. I bravely brought my idea to my staff sergeant and she told me to come up with five story ideas. I often tell people I couldn't believe she bought it, but she did and it was off

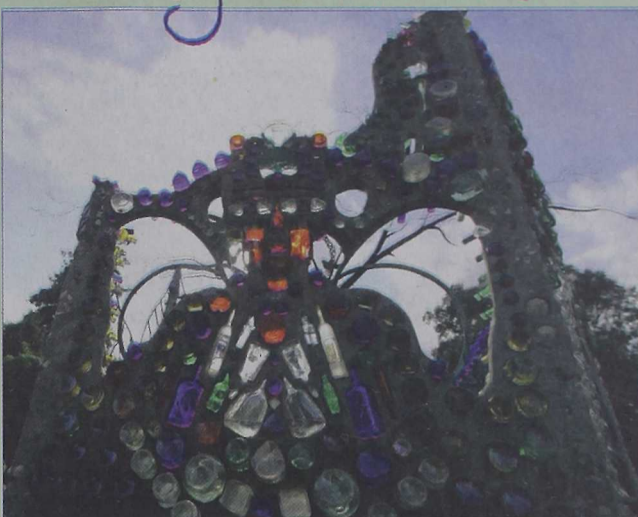
to my very first destination. Through my daycations, I found out so much more than I ever thought possible. I was simply expecting to find fun things to do, but what I found was a greater appreciation for the people and towns of North Carolina.

All of the 14 towns I visited have shown me unexpected sides. Two of the most surprising towns were Kinston and Fayetteville. I had driven through Kinston more times than I could count, but saw nothing there. It was only when I did some research that I discovered the variety of things to do. Fayetteville, on the other hand, just had a bad reputation. I am still glad I ignored the naysayers and went.

As for the most enjoyable daycation, I definitely recommend going to Bald Head Island. I had such a blast. The area was beautiful, people were friendly and you really can't beat driving a golf cart around town.

I had heard about Bald Head right after I began writing the column. A retired colonel who is a close friend of my family recommended it, but I was worried it would be too expensive for the average Marine.

However, all of the daycations are made for an average Marine. I do



The Minnie Evans sculpture garden, which honors the garden's longtime gate keeper, at Wilmington's Airle Gardens holds many delights for visitors.

this every week in my own vehicle, with my own money, I am definitely looking forward to tax season. If something is simply too expensive or the shopping centers sell goods at exorbitant prices, I don't include it.

My goal has always been to show the Marines and their families there is so much more than Jacksonville and Camp Swampy. Every duty station is what you make of it, spend your time enjoying

the beauty, diversity and southern hospitality North Carolina offers.

Editor's note: The "Daycations with Denismore" column was a popular addition to The Globe during 2009. It has received praise from near and far. Retired Col. Keith Oliver, chair of the Public Affairs Leadership Department at Defense Information School, e-mailed the following to the Carolina

Living editor recently: "When it comes to Marine Corps community relations responsibilities, hard-charging Cpl. Katie Denismore 'get's it,'" he said. "We actually hold up her Globe 'Daycations with Denismore' column as an example to our students," he said. "Life is far too short to not take full advantage of where we're stationed — even if it's only for a couple of years, and even if we're deployed a lot."

Photo by Cpl. Katie C. Denismore

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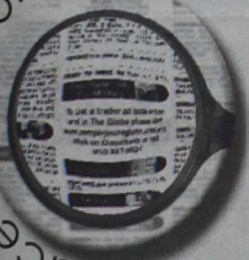
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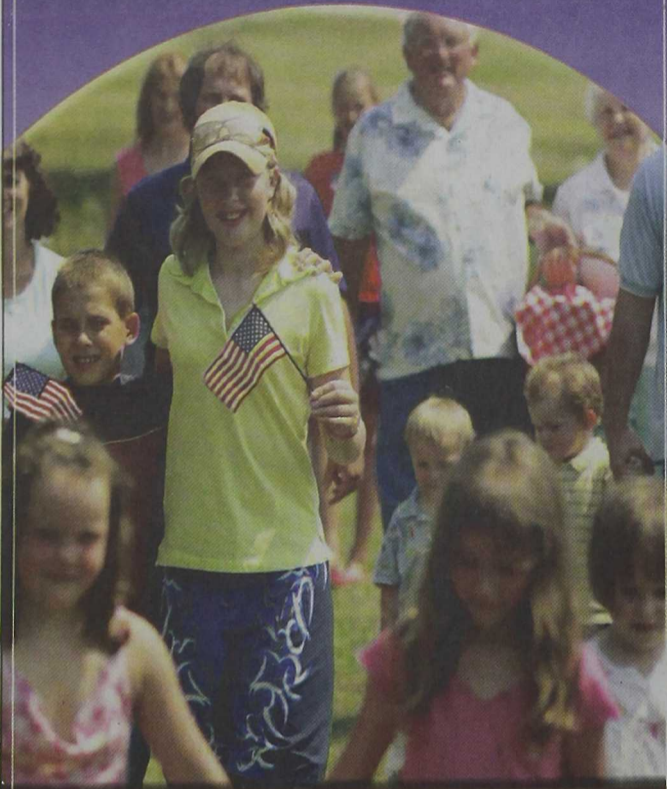


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Officers' Wives' Club 2010 scholarship program

The Camp Lejeune Officers' Wives' Club is now accepting applications for college scholarship program. Military family members, who are either grade high school seniors or military spouses attending an accredited college or university, are eligible for the scholarship. To download an application and view further information, visit the Officers' Wives' Club Web site at camplejeunewcw.org. Copies available at the Hidden Talents craft store at the Exchange Annex. Application will be postmarked or hand-delivered to Hidden Talents by Feb. 19. Selected applicants will be notified during late April. E-mail Cathy Close at davidcathyclose@att.net for additional information.

Holiday Services

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Chapel		Main Protestant Chapel	
Dec. 24 Mass	5 p.m., 10 p.m., Midnight	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	
Dec. 25 Mass	10 a.m.		
Jan. 1st Mass	9 a.m., 10 a.m.		

Camp Johnson - Eastern Orthodox	
Dec. 24 Royal Hours of the Nativity of our Lord	8 to 10 a.m.
Dec. 24 Divine Liturgy, Nativity of our Lord	6 to 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5 Feast of Epiphany	
Divine Liturgy	6 p.m.
Blessing of the Waters	7 p.m.

May your hearts be filled with love, peace, and joy! From the Marine Corps Base Chaplain Community

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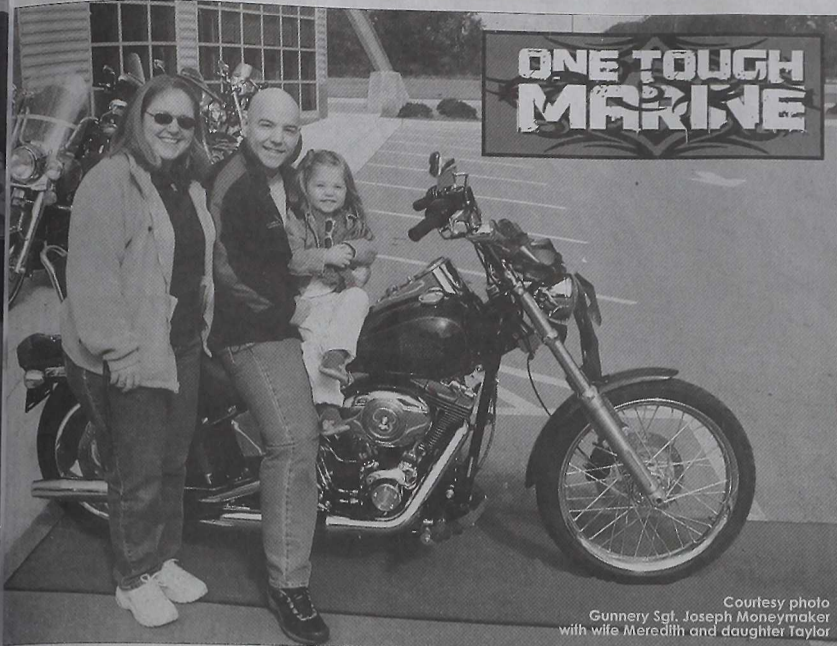
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Courtesy photo
Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Moneymaker
with wife Meredith and daughter Taylor

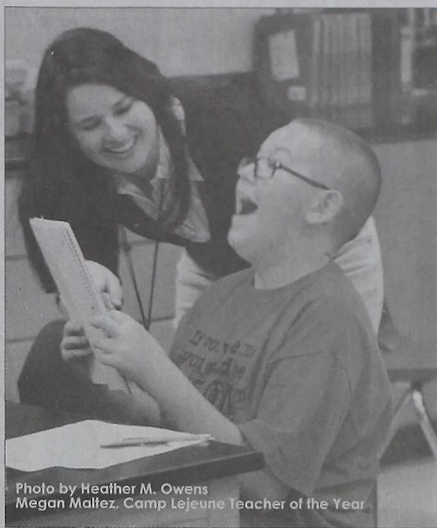


Photo by Heather M. Owens
Megan Maltez, Camp Lejeune Teacher of the Year

Camp Lejeune: Spirit of community runs deep



Patriotic Musings
with Heather M. Owens
Carolina Living editor

Camp Lejeune service members, civilian Marines and family members accomplished some amazing successes during 2009.

Though, if you were to ask these motivated and dedicated community members about their contributions to the Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville communities, they would probably say, "It ain't no big deal."

That is to say, that type of "go get 'em" attitude and compassion for others is just business-as-usual within the Marine family.

Throughout the year, I was continuously impressed with the military spouses I met and interviewed in our community. They hold down jobs, keep the family together and often, somehow, find ways to continue their education and volunteer in the community.

Two incredible Marine spouses were recognized during 2009.

Tanya Queiro, Marine veteran, civilian Marine, mother of three, is just one shining example of the type of strength military spouses show every day.

She was recognized by Military Spouse magazine as the 2009 National Military Spouse of the Year at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., May 7.

Another phenomenal Marine spouse, Laurie Howard, was named the 2009 Heroes at Home: Military Spouse of the Year by Landmark Military Media, civilian publisher of The Globe and The RotoVue.

"She says I am her hero, but I think it's the other way around. She's definitely been my rock," said her husband, Staff Sgt. Scott Howard Sr.

The middle photo to the left of this column shows Howard and Queiro, respectively, at the Heroes at Home awards ceremony held at the Officers' Club.

This fall, I had the privilege to interview one

tough Marine, Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Moneymaker, who teaches at the Communications Training Center, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and amyloidosis during 2007.

In spite of his pain and difficult treatment schedule, Moneymaker felt blessed because he had military medical insurance to help pay for his treatment.

He noticed many of the patients at his treatment center in Arkansas were not as fortunate. So, he held a poker run this fall to raise money to help offset the treatment costs of other patients at the center. The gunnery sergeant poses with his family in the photograph at top left of this page.

At the start of the school year, Camp Lejeune Dependent Schools welcomed new superintendent, Dr. Emily Marsh.

An educator for 35 years, Marsh is a spouse of a retired Army officer who has served several deployments to Iraq. She knows exactly what military families face these days. She can be seen posing in the Brewster Middle School library in the photograph at bottom left.

Area schools participated in numerous, positive activities this year. Lejeune High School students held their own Marine Corps Birthday ball, Nov. 10 (photograph at middle left). The Swansboro Marching Pirates marched in the New York City Veteran's Day parade (photograph at bottom left).

Brewster Middle School teacher Megan Maltez (photograph at top right) was named the Camp Lejeune Teacher of the Year. LHS culinary arts educator, Shirley Bryan, was named the 2009 North Carolina Educator of Excellence Award winner by the National Restaurant Association. Bryan and her students brought home top honors from the ProStart Student Invitational culinary competition earlier in the year.

I wish I had enough space to chronicle all of the amazing achievements of the Camp Lejeune community this year. Since I don't, just look around to see the heroes beside you ... or in the mirror.



Photo by Heather M. Owens
Camp Lejeune High School's Marine Corps Birthday celebration



Photo by Jamie Cameron
Laurie Howard and Tanya Queiro,
military spouses of the year



Photo by Heather M. Owens
Swansboro High School Marching Pirates

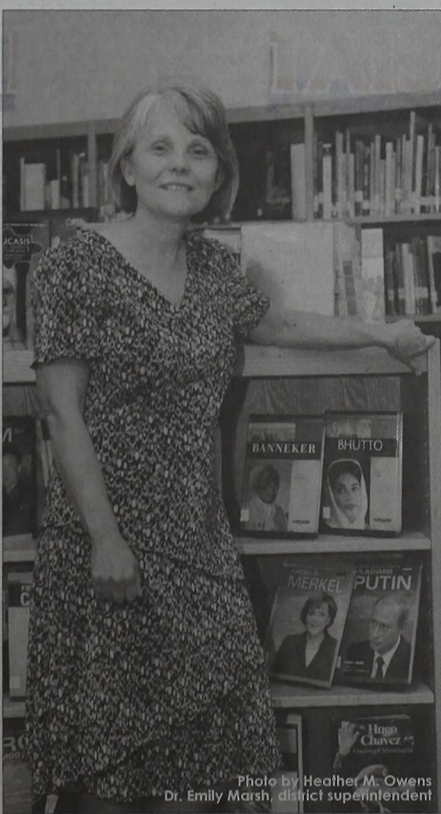


Photo by Heather M. Owens
Dr. Emily Marsh, district superintendent

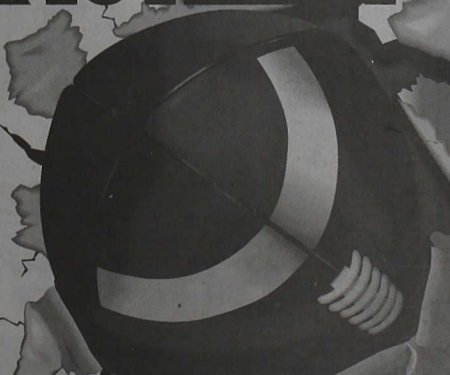
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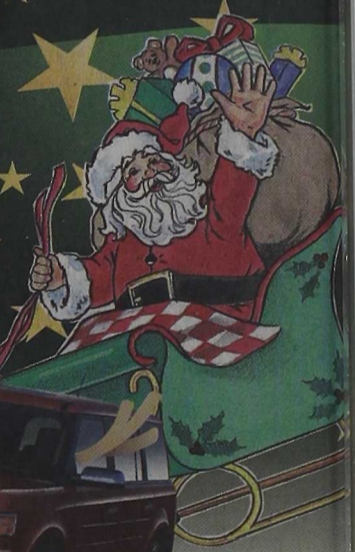
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