



MESS HALL MENU

Monday - Friday Breakfast: 6 - 7:30 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.	Saturday, Sunday and holidays Brunch: 8 - 11 a.m. Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.
MIDRATS Sunday - Thursday 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.	
* Take-out window: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10 a.m. Sunday - Thursday 6 - 8:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
<i>Lunch</i> Smoked ham and cabbage soup	<i>Dinner</i> Three bean chili and cilantro rice
Sunday	
<i>Lunch</i> Herbed baked chicken and rice	<i>Dinner</i> Pork chops and roasted sweet potatoes
Monday - Friday Breakfast Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven fried bacon	
Monday	
<i>Lunch</i> Pepper steak and steamed rice	<i>Dinner</i> Veal parmesan and marinara sauce
Tuesday	
<i>Lunch</i> Bayou chicken and cauliflower mashed	<i>Dinner</i> Country fried steak and brown gravy
Wednesday	
<i>Lunch</i> Chicken piccat and lyonnaise carrots	<i>Dinner</i> Hungarian goulash and Creole shrimp
Thursday	
<i>Lunch</i> Roast chicken breast and bread sticks	<i>Dinner</i> Salisbury steak and green beans
Friday	
<i>Lunch</i> Baked fish with spinach topping	<i>Dinner</i> Stuffed green peppers and rice



CHAPEL SERVICES

- Roman Catholic
- 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass
 - 11:15 a.m. - Weekly Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Protestant
- 9:45 a.m. - Protestant Church School (Sunday School)
 - 11 a.m. - Protestant Sunday Worship Service
 - 11:30 a.m. - Wednesday Bible Study
 - 5 p.m. - Protestant Bible Study
- Other Faith Groups
- For Jewish, Mormon and Islamic support, contact the Chaplain's Office at 228-7775

SQUADRON HAPPENING

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 will hold a family readiness meeting, which is open to all Were-wolves family members at Port Royal Posta Sept. 30. For more information, contact Sarhi Wiggins at 228-6074.



Fightertown News Briefs

Officers’ Club closed for renovation

The Officers’ Club will be closed Sept. 2 through Sept. 13 for renovations, re-opening Sept. 14 during normal business hours.

Promotion Photos

The photo studio aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in building 596 is open weekly Monday through Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m. For any

concerns or questions about checking out audio visual equipment, call 228-7735.

Give your opinion

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is on Facebook and looking for your feedback. The Jet Stream is trying to get input on what you would like to see, or not see, in the paper. Feel free to comment or give us your opinion on our Facebook page under the discussion tab at www.facebook.com/MCASBeaufort.

Commentary

Ten years after 9/11

Cpl. Josh Pettway
Staff Writer

Many people mark their calendars for special occasions like birthdays or holidays to commemorate times of joy, but there are some days that remind the world of great loss and tragedy.

September 11, 2001 is one of those days, which forever scarred the hearts and minds of Americans worldwide. But where life ends, it must also begin again.

Once the Twin Towers fell, many lives and perspectives were forever changed. Since then, abstract wounds have begun to heal, but it may take more than 10 years for some to recover from the damage.

After the dust settled, many people reacted to the event by trying to contact the families of the injured; some even attempted to dig free those trapped in the rubble free. Strangers united and, in my case, this event further encouraged me to enlist.

At the age of 11, my awareness was limited to what I saw every day. Before 9/11, I was very unaware of worldly events. Justifiably, many would consider 9/11 an eye opening experience. Even now, I understand how permanent those effects are on the world, but every year I still find myself wishing those lives lost could be returned.

Witnessing al Qaeda’s horrific effect on my country truly gave me reason to take action.

In a way, the horrible images that were burned into America’s memory also gave new life to a patriot within us all.

Within two hours after the initial attack, almost the entire nation was aware of the damage done. Ten years later, there are monuments built in honor of those lives lost. As a nation we have become much stronger and closer, unfortunately with the assistance of a tragedy.

However, I believe that optimism only helps us cherish the memories we have of those lost. Some are burdened with feelings of revenge and hate, but letting those emotions win, also means giving up. I refuse to allow those responsible for the events of 9/11 to control how I feel, especially 10 years later.

It is our duty as citizens to fight against this type of war. Not everyone wears a military uniform, but even the youngest child can fight against terrorism by living happy lives and honoring the ones we love.



“It is our duty as citizens to fight against this type of war. Not everyone wears a military uniform, but even the youngest child can fight against terrorism by living happy lives and honoring the ones we love.”

In light of 9/11, on and off base...

Bolden Elementary School will be holding a memorial program where students will read a 9/11 script, recite poems and lead the student body in singing the National Anthem and Proud to be an American. Colonel Brian Murtha, the Air Station's commanding officer, will be one of the guest speakers. The event will take

place in the Bolden gymnasium and guests are asked to arrive by 1:45 p.m. today.

The city of Beaufort and local churches will host a 9/11 remembrance at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a civic ceremony, followed by a 9/11 Service at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.



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Things you need to know

Fraud,Waste and Abuse

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

Sexual Assault

The contact numbers for a Uniformed Victim Advocate are 228-4784 and 228-4110. The after hours number is 592-0646.

Siren sound meanings

Upon notification from the weather office, Giant Voice pre-recorded messages will be broadcast. All destructive weather notifications begin and end with a 12 second wailing siren. Then follow on information is repeated twice between siren wails. The following are abbreviated examples of each warning that will be broadcast through Giant Voice.

- Lightning within 5 nautical miles...
- Thunder storm Condition 1, winds up to 50 knots and/ or hail up to 3/4 of an inch...
- Tornado condition 1 a tornado is imminent...
- Tornado condition 2... observed within 60 nautical miles
- An all clear broadcast will be

announced sounding “all clear”.
Test tone – A steady tone will be broadcast for 10 seconds, followed by an alert stating “This is a test” and then another 10 second tone. For more information please call 228-7904, or for example warning tones, visit: www.whelen.com/outdoor/warntones.htm.

Fightertown deployed:



VMFA-115 Silver Eagles
are currently deployed as part of the Unit Deployment Program to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.



VMFA-312 Checkerboards
are currently deployed to Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Photos by Cpl. Justin M. Boling
Master Gunnery Sgt. James Hunter, the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 maintenance chief, pins the rank of corporal on the collar of his son, Cpl. Nathan Hunter, a 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) embarkation clerk at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Sept. 1. Nathan attributes a lot of his professional success to the guidance and advice given to him by his father.

Marine father promotes Marine son in Afghanistan

Cpl. Justin M. Boling
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Fwd)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Each fall, parents watch with pride as their sons and daughters attend their first day of school, or take on new responsibilities as they head to college.

This fall in Afghanistan, one father was able to watch his son assume a new level of responsibility as a U.S. Marine when he became one of the Corps’ noncommissioned officers.

When Cpl. Nathan Hunter, an embarkation clerk with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), was promoted to his current rank in Afghanistan, on Sept. 1, fate allowed his father and mentor, Master Gunnery Sgt. James Hunter, to be present and to pin new corporal chevrons on his son.

“I always wanted to follow in my father and older brother’s footsteps and be a Marine,” said Nathan, who calls New Bern, N.C., home. “It meant a lot to have my father present when I was promoted.”

According to the master gunnery sergeant, he always knew that his sons would grow up to be Marines. Even when they were very young, James said, Nathan and Mitchell would run and physically train with their father.

Nathan has been deployed to Camp Leatherneck for the past seven months in support of the air combat element for the NATO International Security Assistance Force in southwestern Afghanistan. In July, James deployed to serve with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 as head of the squadron’s maintenance department.

“I think having a family member present makes a deployment a little bit easier,” said James, originally from West Palm Beach, Fla. “Anytime that I miss my family I can always call or email him and we try to eat meals together and enjoy each other’s company.”

Though away from their homes, the deployment brought the father and son



While Nathan has been deployed for about seven months, his father only arrived about a month ago. Both Marines said they try to enjoy each other’s company as much as possible by sharing meals and staying in contact.

geographically closer. With James working at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C and Nathan being stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., the two did not regularly spend time together.

Although separated, Nathan can always rely on his father to be a trusted source of help when needed.

“My dad has always been there to give me advice to set me on the right path,” Nathan said. “My father’s experience has helped me a great deal both personally and professionally.”

Nathan’s promotion also ironically falls right in line with a similar milestone in his father’s career.

“Twenty-seven years ago next month, I pinned on corporal while deployed in the western Pacific,” James said. “So it is really fitting to have my son pick up at this point in both of our lives.

“When I look at him I see a reflection of my youth and the wonderment of be-

ginning a new path in life,” James added with a smile.

For Nathan becoming a Marine Corps noncommissioned officer means a new role in the Marine Corps.

“Although I am still technically the junior Marine in my work section the rank still means higher expectation from my leadership as well as many new responsibilities,” Nathan said.

As Marines are promoted, they bring with them new ideas while still enforcing long-held high standards. These new ideas and leaders are what allow the Corps to maintain its status as America’s force in readiness.

“I have been in for 29 years and I have watched the Marines Corps change,” James said. “The Marines of today are very smart and technically savvy as well as being quick studies.

“My son is a member of this new generation of Marines with a very bright future ahead of him.”

CORPS BITS



MEU launches communications balloon

PACIFIC OCEAN — Marines serving with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit launched a communications balloon Sunday from the amphibious assault ship Makin Island off Southern California’s coast.

The balloon is designed to carry a radio relay up to 80,000 feet above Earth, extending communications to an area 600 miles in diameter, regardless of terrain.

“The Marines are improving a lot,” said Staff Sgt. Tatum M. Kaneta, MEU radio chief and Honolulu native. “We are getting our operating procedures down and becoming more proficient in the steps we need to take for a successful balloon launch.”

The unit embarked the amphibious assault ship Makin Island and the amphibious transport dock New Orleans in San Diego Sept. 1 to begin a second seagoing exercise since becoming a complete Marine air-ground task force in May.

The balloon provided instant communication with a long-range raid force in Twentynine Palms, Calif., allowing more stable, clear and understandable communication between ship and shore parties, said Kaneta.

Marines with Company I, Battalion Landing Team 3/1, were the raiders inserted by the unit’s aviation combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced).

The Marine air-ground task force is scheduled to deploy this fall.

CMC encourages participation in Health Survey

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS — The Commandant of the Marine Corps encourages anyone who receives an Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Health Survey to complete and return it.

“Taking part in the survey is completely voluntary; however, I fully support ATSDR’s work on this important project and strongly encourage you to participate. The more surveys that are filled out and returned, the more likely the results will be useful,” said Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The survey asks participants who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune or Camp Pendleton between 1972 and 1985 about the dates and locations of when and where they lived and worked, as well as their work history and health. Everyone who receives the survey will have detailed instructions on how to fill it out.

Survey recipients are encouraged to participate by completing and returning the survey to ATSDR regardless of their health status.

The ATSDR expects to release findings in 2014. Each survey participant and those registered with the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water web page will receive a summary of the final report.

For more information about the Health Survey, visit ATSDR’s website at http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/health_survey.html or contact ATSDR at: 800-232-4636.

To register with the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water web page to receive current information and updates, please visit www.marines.mil/clwater.

For Marine Corps media queries, please contact Capt. Kendra Hardesty, Media Officer, HQMC Division of Public Affairs at 703-614-4309.



Corps Shot

Cpl. Chad Pulliam

Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit’s maritime raid force fire at targets during a marksmanship exercise on the flight deck of USS New Orleans Sept. 4, miles off Southern California’s coast. The MEU embarked the amphibious assault ship Makin Island and the amphibious transport dock New Orleans in San Diego Sept. 1.

JSF

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and pilot brief and debrief rooms. Also new for the maintainers aboard the Air Station are the sunshades for the aircraft parking area to ensure the aircraft are well protected from the elements to keep them in service longer.

"[Marine Corps Air Station] Beaufort's existing hangars are reaching the end of useful life at fifty-years old and must be replaced to meet the changing mission of the Air Station," stated Col. Brian C. Murtha, Air Station commanding officer. "This construction project moves MCAS Beaufort one step closer to receiving the Joint Strike Fighter and ensuring that we continue to meet the training and operational requirements as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness."

The many guest speakers remarked on topics such as the overwhelming amount of support from the community, the history and intent for the new project and the revolutionary advancement in expeditionary capabilities for Marine air-ground combat power, further solidifying our enduring commitment to America.

"This is a historic day for Beaufort and a historic day for our Corps," said Maj. Gen. Jon Davis, the commanding general for 2d Marine Air Wing. "I'm really proud of Beaufort. You've been supportive of the military, and you know the importance of this, not only for the Lowcountry, but for our nation. You've earned this."

The groundbreaking ushered in construction of two facilities, the training facility and hangar, both of which

were awarded by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast totaling over \$70 million to Hensel Phelps Construction Company of Orlando, Fla.

"This airplane will help us continue to stay mission ready," said Davis. "This aircraft will help take care of the Marines and provide the very best air support possible."

"This [groundbreaking] is about the future," said U.S. Rep. Paul C. Broun, the honored guest from Georgia's 10th District. "I am very excited to be here during this groundbreaking to show my support for the Corps. We will be providing the necessary resources to the rifleman in the field to help provide the support they need on the battlefield and keep them safe."

The construction for the two facilities an expected date of completion of September 2013. The facilities are the beginning of many new construction projects preparing for the Joint Strike Fighter.



Photos by Sgt. Gina C. Rindt

Colonel Brian C. Murtha, above, the Air Station commanding officer, speaks during the Joint Strike Fighter Hangar and Training Facility Groundbreaking Ceremony Sept. 1. Other notable speakers were Beaufort Mayor, Billy Keyserling, bottom left, and Major Gen. Jon Davis, bottom right, the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general.



POWERLINE

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to direct the pilot in a safe route away from other Marines and aircraft on the flight line," said Sgt. Jacob Harold, of Loveland, Colo., a VMFA-312 powerline work center supervisor.

After the Hornets were parked, blocks were placed in front and behind the tires while a ground wire was connected to the aircraft in order to begin the inspection process.

The Marines inspect the aircraft opening and check the various parts of the Hornet to ensure no defects or damage such as corrosion are found. During the inspection process, other powerline Marines change the oil and test fuel in the aircraft.

"We are responsible for inspecting and maintaining aircraft, traffic control on the flight line, tire changes and most engine related issues," said Lance Cpl. Jurrell Brown of Millersville, Md., a VMFA-312 powerline plane captain.

Working in the harsh, des-

ert environment of Twentynine Palms can lead the Marines on the flightline to battle the factors of heat, dehydration and fatigue while they help to support units on the ground.

"This environment is able to put us into the mindset of being in Afghanistan because we get to experience both ground side and being away from home unlike on the Air Station," said Brown.

While supporting Mojave Viper, Marines will also face issues with airframe parts due to the secluded location of Camp Wilson.

"The training teaches them to ensure every aircraft is ready to go out in a timely manner," said Gunnery Sgt. James Gill, the VMFA-312 powerline division chief.

The experience gives Marines the opportunity to get a mental and physical feel for what Afghanistan may be like.

"It is important for us to support Mojave Viper because it fosters the importance of a tactical [Marine Air Ground Task Force] which gives ground units the confidence to utilize our capabilities," said Harold.



Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

Lance Cpl. Jurrell Brown, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 powerline plane captain, inspects an aircraft's hydraulic system after flight Sept. 1 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

EOD

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"The success of missions and operations depends on how fast we respond," Delfino said.

The Colleton County Sheriff's Department had already evacuated the area more than 150 yards away from the explosives when the EOD team arrived.

"Once they showed up, it was [detonated] pretty quick," said Sgt. Terry Nance, a deputy with the Colleton County Sheriff's Department. "They got in, were very professional and took care of it."

It was a fast job partly because the explosives had to be detonated on site, Delfino said.

Only explosives that are military in origin can be brought back onto the base. Therefore, they couldn't take the material back to the Air Station to dispose of it in a controlled environment.

After a suitable location was found in the woods several hundred yards from any residents, the dynamite was

detonated around midnight.

"The dogs and crickets went silent," Delfino said.

The residents were allowed back to their homes immediately after the detonation, grateful that nothing bad happened.

"Our purpose is to protect people and property wherever we are," he said. "The team gives the people here a sense of security that they might not have if it was not."

Finding explosives is common in this area. There is a lot of ordinance from the Civil War and demolition explosives that farmers used several decades ago.

Delfino advised that if you see anything that looks like it might be an explosive, regardless of where it was found, leave it alone and call local authorities.

"There are more resources we could call on, but we've always found the EOD team on the Air Station more willing to respond quickly when we've needed them," Nance said.

"It was a great job and greatly appreciated," he concluded.



Cpl. Josh Pettway

Navy Chaplain Lt. Adrienne Townsend thanks her friends and family for their support while she was stationed aboard Fightertown at her going away party held at the Air Station chapel Aug. 24.

FAREWELL

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the more I interacted with her, the more I found that to be true.”

Even Townsend’s co-workers gave a depiction of her character and role.

“We were there to celebrate Lieutenant Townsend and the conclusion of her first tour,” said Lt. Col. John Pylant, Air Station safety inspector. “I’m thankful for her as a former CO and as a former staff member, I feel quite a bit of sadness toward her parting ways with us. The first time I met Townsend, she sat across from me, this bright, energetic, young chaplain. I thought right away that her faith, energy and ambition would benefit the Air Station.”

As a chaplain, Townsend proved to be especially involved in her work, sacrificing her time whenever someone needed help.

“You all have made her the great individual she’s become because of your involvement in her career,” said Cmdr. Gerald Felder, Marine Aircraft Group 31 chaplain, addressing the audience. “The role of a chaplain is to make sure no one is being discriminated against for their race, religion, creed or color.”

In recognition of her outstanding service and devotion to others, Chaplain Townsend was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal.



Navy Chaplain Lt. Adrienne Townsend speaks to those who came to celebrate her career and going away after receiving an award from fellow chaplains in the Air Station chapel Aug. 24. During Townsend’s going away, she was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal by the Air Station commanding officer, Col. Brian C. Murtha.

“She is a lieutenant in the Navy and works for the Department of the Navy, but more importantly, few people get to wear the United States Marine Corps uniform and we’re proud of that,” said Col. Brian Murtha, commanding officer of the Air Station.

With so many heartfelt and supportive words, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron former chaplain was obviously overjoyed and partially saddened to leave those she had become accustomed to seeing on a daily basis.

Townsend’s parting words summed up a learning experience, which spanned her 3 year stay in Beaufort when she said, “I am completely overwhelmed right now. Thank you. There are so many stories in this room and wonderful times I’ve shared with you all. I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish anything if not for the team that’s been supporting me this entire time. I’ve learned how to give, to love and pray through the night and talk to God. As I look around here, I’m seeing answers to prayers.”

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Marines train to honor the fallen

Cpl. Courtney C.White
Community Relations Chief

Thirty Marines aboard the Air Station are assigned to Funeral Detail for a three-month period, each year. The detail Marines practice three times a week to perfect their performance and provide the best possible service to fallen Marines and their families.

Upon request of the next of kin, authorized representative or authorized funeral director, the parent service

of the eligible beneficiary shall assume full responsibility for the entire process from initial contact to final report of completion, according to www.dtic.mil.

The ceremony consists of the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin, playing of Taps by a bugler, if available or by electronic recording, and a rifle detail.

“The Marine Corps is steep in its tradition of taking care of their own,” said Staff Sgt. Dana De-

biaw, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron criminal investigator and Funeral Detail flag presenter. “We provide families with a sense of closure and let them know their loved one is not forgotten. By the end of the funeral, each Marine has a sense of pride for the service they were able to provide.”

For more information on military funerals, visit www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.



Photos by Cpl. Courtney C.White



Who is eligible for military funerals?

- Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve.
- Former military members who served on active duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.



WARRIOR ATHLETE

Ramirez and his journey through the Marine Corps while chasing a football dream

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver
Staff Writer

Marines are often referred to as warrior athletes. A term used to exemplify the mindset and physical skills a Marine must have to be the best they can be in garrison and in theater.

No other sport exemplifies warrior athletes like the hard-hitting sport of football, which is one of the most popular intramural sports aboard the Air Station, but the thirst for a more authentic experience is exemplified by Daniel Ramirez, noncommisioned officer-in-charge of passenger and travel with the travel management office.

Ramirez’s football roots began to sprout in Los Angeles, where in high school, he fell in love with the bone-jarring sport, but they did not stop there.

“When I first got to Okinawa, there was not a traditional football team available for the Marines to participate in, but the local Army, Air Force and Navy bases all had football teams,” Ramirez explained. “All it took was for Marines to start making it known

“All it took was for Marines to start making it known that there is a huge interest in tackle football, but we still had to overcome the two biggest concerns – injuries and funding.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver

Corporal Daniel Ramirez and Staff Sgt. Carl Atkins go over the details of their playbook before snapping the ball during an intramural football practice at the Air Station’s football field.

that there is a huge interest in tackle football, but we still had to overcome the two biggest concerns – injuries and funding.”

Through persistence and having enough interest, the Marines in Okinawa were able to get a team started.

“By the next football season, we had a team up and running,” Ramirez said, “but it was not without personal sacrifices. We had to buy our own gear and front the bill for a lot of equipment to make it happen, but I did not let it deter me.”

Ramirez was anxious to get on the field with his brothers in arms and experience camaraderie like no other.

“The only thing I can really relate it to is battalion level [physical training] sessions,” Ramirez explained. “Being on the field together brought us a lot closer because it took Marines we rarely see on a daily basis and put us all in one place for a specified amount of time, working for a common goal. I enjoyed what we had put together.”

Ramirez’s football thirst did not go unquenched when he received orders to the Air Station. He picked up where he left off and began playing with a local team, the Beaufort Hornets, formerly known as the Broncos, two years ago.

“I play with the Hornets, a team out in town, with other Marines and civilians,” Ramirez explained. “While it is good competition, and I enjoy playing with the civilians, it does not match the camaraderie of playing with my fellow Marines.”



Corporal Daniel Ramirez heckles Staff Sgt. Carl Atkins after a bad throw during an intramural football practice at the Air Station’s football field Sep. 1.

With the Hornets’ season coming to an end, Ramirez is now preparing for the Air Station’s upcoming flag football season with his teammates – fellow Marines, who share the same interest.

“I have come to find that about 80% of the Marines playing flag football wish we had a traditional league,” Ramirez said. “Marines want contact. The Marines here are no different than the Marines in San Diego, Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, who all have either a contact football or mixed martial arts team to keep Marines entertained, which is why many of them use the Hornets as an outlet.”

Whether it has been on the shores of Okinawa or the Lowcountry of Beaufort, Ramirez has found a way to enjoy the sport he loves.

Teams need to step it up

Sgt. Gina C. Rindt
Staff Writer

College football has begun and the teams ran out onto the field this year with excitement and talent. Fans will fire up the grills, get the tailgates ready and cheer on their favorite team through thick and thin.

It is always good to see the flags flying and vehicles adored with stickers and vanity plates, because it means football is here and the time for watching a good game is finally upon us.

The year has started and now the teams need to get over the seasons prior and begin fresh. There are two teams that made an impression on me, Boise State, a known contender who dismantled Georgia, and Utah State.

Auburn, the BCS National Champion from 2010, started the season with what appeared to be a fluff game. They were expected to win without a problem and what happened? They show their true colors and almost lost to a team most people did not even watch. It is sad when a champion, who has tons of potential, comes back and almost loses in a gimme game.

How it must feel to almost lose a game to a team who does not stand out in many peoples’ minds! It was embarrassing for me to watch and I am not even an Auburn fan.

To lose your opening game after winning a BCS championship would be pathetic. Yes, for all those Auburn fans, your team won, but barely and with a little grace from God.

If this is what we are to expect from them, I am looking forward to the

Alabama verses Auburn game, because Alabama will put them in their place and show the world a true champion.

The other teams that played this weekend came out and showed some great talent and hopefully set a standard for the rest of their seasons.

Look at Boise State, who came out to play a favorite, the Georgia Bulldogs, and what a gut punch for the Georgia fans to lose the opener 35-21. It was close on the scoreboard, but in the game Georgia never stood a chance. Hopefully, the Bulldogs come back with a vengeance. Boise State, however, is a team to keep an eye on.

The LSU Tigers were one of the few teams to play an equal powerhouse within BCS during week one. Their ability to pull out a win proved they are a force to be reckoned with this year.

I am ready to watch the SEC teams play and, in time, come out of it with a BCS championship. Of course I’m rooting for Alabama, because they are my team and will show everyone what they are made of with the players they have and not complain. Head coach Nick Saban will not hear anything but motivation from his team.

This season will be good for some and bad for others, but it will be an overall good time to enjoy some friends and family while watching a great sport with players who do it for the sport – not the money.



