Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. **'More**

with less'

VMR-1 supports three theaters of operations with one aircraft

SENIOR AIRMAN CLINTON ATKINS

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- They don't measure their worth by how challenging their job is or how big their unit is. They simply ask themselves, "Have I done all I can for the Marine Corps?" They answer that question every day here in Southwest Asia.

The VMR-1 Detachment deployed here from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., operates a single UC-35 Citation, which is used to support three theaters of operations simultaneously. The detachment is composed of five officers and four enlisted members. The plane is maintained by four civilian contractors.

"Our mission here is to provide operational support to Marines in the form of high priority passenger lift and high priority parts," said Lt. Col. Jim Garrett, VMR-1 Det. officer in charge. "We fly to lots of places, but we primarily support Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Horn of Africa missions.

"We're clearly in a support role," said Garrett, originally from Six Mile, S.C. "There's nobody stepping off our plane and pulling a trigger, but we're constantly carrying senior planners. Marine colonels and generals involved in how the United States is executing the war on terrorism.

"Our part of that is we make sure these individuals get to the right place at the right time to do what it is they need to do," he said.

The detachment flew more than 450 hours in support of the Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and coalition partners within their first three months here.

"I've taken off at sunset and landed [back here] at sunrise," Garrett said. "You're gone a lot making multiple stops all over the [area of responsibility] getting people where they need to go.

See VMR-1 page A4





VMGR-252 returns from Iraq

(Above) Cpl. Jamie Valentine hugs his daughter at the squadron's homecoming Sunday. Valentine is a flight equipment Marine with Marine Aeriel Refuler Transport Squadron

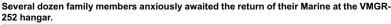
(Left) Lance Cpl. Joshua White receives a warm welcome from his younger brother. White is a powerline Marine with VMGR-252.

"He volunteered to go, and I'm so proud of him," said Lula White, grandmother of Lance Cpl. Joshua White. Lula traveled from Blue Ridge, Ga., with White's grandfather and younger siblings to see their grandson's return.

"I have missed him. Lord, how I have missed him," Lula said.

(Below) Families line the flightline in front of the VMGR-252 hangar.

A detachment of Marines from VMGR-252 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 returned Sunday to the air station after a six-month deployment in Iraq.





School liaison program helps bridge gap between parents, teachers

CPL. ANGEL J. VELASQUEZ

A good relationship between a parent and a teacher helps to ensure a child receives a good education. For parents stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, there is a program to help establish that relationship.

The School Liaison Program provides assistance and support to the parents of schoolaged military children on matters related to is to enhance the quality of the education system by developing a mutually beneficial relationship with the military community.

"The program brings together Marine

Corps families with the local school systems and provide the local schools with the resources they need to help military children,"

said Donna M. Bagley, the school liaison officer here. "The purpose is to help military school-aged children transition to local schools in an effective way, and to promote a general awareness of the Marine Corps values and military life and culture."

Bagley is a key player in making this possieducation. The primary goal of the program ble. She is one of 16 school liaison officers in the Marine Corps. The liaison officers focus on creating strong partnerships with the local schools and communities, including Craven, Pamlico and Carteret counties, by represent-

ing the command at Cherry Point on school boards, councils and advisory groups.

"I'm the voice of the families here who have school-aged children," said Bagley. "So, if they have something they want me to bring up with a school, I'm here for them.

"I've met with approximately 95 percent of the school principals and guidance counselprivate schools," added Bagley, who was a school teacher for eight years. "I do it to help them get an overall feel for what the school is like.'

Other services and support provided by Bagley include Transition and Planning De-

ployment Support, which addresses challenges related to student mobility.

The School Liaison Program helps in the coordination of volunteer services. This is done through the Adopt-A-School program. The program provides an opportunity for Cherry Point units to partner with local schools to build relationships that promote a ors in Craven County as well as a few of the shared understanding and create a stronger sense of community.

"It's a fantastic program," said Bagley. "It's particularly good for young Marines that aren't sure about a career in the Marine Corps

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August 21, 2008



Sgt. Tom Mitsch, a powerline mechanic with VMA-231, sands the blades on the engine intake of an AV-8B Harrier at Al Asad Air base in June 2007.

Ace of Spades takes top honors

CPL. WAYNE D. GLENN

Marine Attack Squadron 231 will be recognized training and readiness, deployments and reenlistas the attack squadron of the year this October in Myrtle Beach, S.C., by the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

All Marine Corps attack squadrons were judged for the award from May 2007 through May 2008.

The award is broken down into four categories, judging each squadron on mishap-free flight hours, ment rates

"I think that this is great news for the squadron," said Lt. Col. Brian Annicharico, the former com-

See MCAA page A4

FRC earns SecDef award

Center recognized for outstanding achievements in military equipment, weapons maintenance

SPECIAL TO THE WINDSOCK FRC-EAST PUBLIC AFFAIR

The H-1 helicopter line here distinguished itself once again, when it was selected by the Secretary of Defense as the 2008 Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award winner, Aug 4.

The Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding achievements in military equipment and weapons systems maintenance at both the depot and the field levels. In announcing the winners, DoD cited Lee said. "These tools allow us to the H-1 program's "exceptional and provide our customers the level of responsive aviation maintenance and logistics support to the operational forces and its many and varied warfighters/customers around the world" as the reason for its selection.

"This achievement is further confirmation FRC East is headed in the right direction as we proceed along our continuous process improvement journey," said Col. David A. Smith, FRC East commanding officer. "It's also a testament of our commitment

to providing service to the fleet."

According to Jeffrey R. Lee, H-1 program aircraft production manager, the H-1 team embracing procedures and practices like AIRSpeed, Lean, 5S+1, Six Sigma, and Theory of Constraints, and integrating the best practices into the daily schedule was largely responsible for the program receiving the award.

"We also used integrated quality teams to provide leadership and guidance to our teams, ensuring efficiency and attention to customer service," service they demand.

"The success of the H-1 program can be attributed to the team's commitment to quality and customer service. The entire H-1 team is committed to providing the warfighter the tools they need to complete the mission. The H-1 team is honored receiving this prestigious award."

The depot-level award is named

CHAPLAIN CHAT: LT. CMDR. CARL P. KOCH

up-state New York for those of you who may not know. We spent the time canoeing, kayaking, a little hiking and some relaxing time reading a good book or two in our cabin.

One of the books my wife and I read during our time off, "Lord, Save us From Your Followers," by Dan contents were even better.

Merchant writes about having a hard time reconciling God's gospel of love with the way some who claim to be followers of Jesus treat others. He contends that too many don't seem to be following Jesus when he says in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Merchant was frustrated that many have reduced their only writing about spiritual beliefs. He was writing about what anyone with a bumper sticker believes.

I guess I join Merchant in the assumption that if you put it on your bumper, you must believe it. Pro-life they don't have much opportunity to dialogue with these bumper stickers tend to indicate a driver's feelings about individuals. the abortion issue. Darwin fish emblems tend to indicate Darwinian drivers.

Merchant was also frustrated because bumper stickers don't allow for dialogue. He went on to contend that, in order to follow Jesus' command to love one another, believers in Jesus have to communicate with those who don't necessarily hold the same beliefs. He said a Christian's mission is not to convince non-believers they must be saved, but to engage in an open dialogue with a person who has the same value in God's eyes, even if that person doesn't believe in God!

Merchant tells story after story of dialogue he has had Su

Save us from your followers with people who didn't share his beliefs. He showed

them respect. And, in Merchant's opinion, he showed I just got back from leave in the Adirondacks. That's in them he loved them with the love Jesus said his followers would express toward one another.

The Windsock

Okay, remember, I was telling you about coming back from leave in the Adirondacks. There is a connection here, I promise.

I live in New Bern and drive down Hwy. 70 to get to the wing chaplain's office where I work. The morning I was Merchant. The title alone captured my attention. The coming back from leave, I saw some folks I'd seen many times before, standing alongside the road.

These good looking folks hang out along both sides of the road near Hamm's Restaurant. They're the ones carrying signs that say stuff about God on them. These signs may even have a short verse or some other catchy saying. I can't read them all when I drive by. My old eyes can't see that far away.

I only mention these folks because I see a real parallel beliefs to bumper stickers. Now please realize, he wasn't between what Merchant was writing about in his book and what these well intentioned believers were doing with their signs. Their signs are bumper stickers on a stick.

When someone is driving by at 45 miles per hour,

See CHAPLAIN page A4

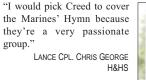
CHAPEL SCHEDULE					
Protestant	Catholic	<u>Islamic</u>			
Bible Study	Mass	Prayer			
Tuesday, 7 p.m.	Sunday, 9 a.m.	Service			
	Tuesday, Wednes-	Friday, 12:15 p.m.			
Liturgical service/	day and Friday,	Bldg 229.			
Communion	11:45 a.m.				
Sunday, 9 a.m.					
	<u>Jewish</u>				
Contemporary	Lay Leader				
Praise/Worship	Capt. Jason Rubin				
Sunday, 11 a.m.	444-2028				



What band would you like to SEE PRODUCE A "COVER" OF THE MARINES' HYMN?



"I would choose Lyfe Jennings. He's a heartfelt artist and puts a lot of meaning into his songs." CPL. DARNELL BUTLER H&HS





LEGAL ASSISTANCE

CUSTODY ORDERS CAPT. ZACHARY D SPILMAN

This article is the second in a series involving common issues with child custody.

At the Law Center we address a wide variety of le- child. gal issues involving children, but none is more common than the issue of child custody. This article will continue last week's discussion on custody issues to talk specifically about what can happen when a family court judge issues a custody order.

Every state has laws that address custody of children and most of the basic concepts are similar in every other to try and make the other look bad. state. This article will use North Carolina law as an example, but a court in a different state might not follow the same rules.

Just like the first article in this series, this article is not a substitute for the advice of a competent attorney. If you have a child custody issue, seek legal help immediately. Just talking to a lawyer can answer a lot of your questions, and waiting only makes the problem worse

The first concept in discussing court orders in child Jurisdiction is the principle that gives a court the auit doesn't have jurisdiction. Child custody jurisdiction child's home state. There are complicated rules to determine which state is the home state, but it starts with violations of visitation orders very severely. the state the child was born in, and can change every time the child moves (permanent moves - vacations out of state don't count).

Jurisdiction also relies on state law and in North Carolina a court can hear a case when any parent, relative, tion to include grandparents in the visitation order. other person or an organization that claims custody or visitation rights brings the case to court.

Highlighting Cherry Point's Warriors

Once a custody case is filed, North Carolina law requires that it be referred to mediation to try and work out an agreement. This requirement can be waived by the court, but the idea is to have the parties work out their differences and agree on a custody plan for the

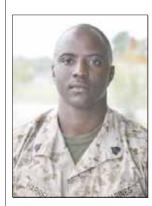
If mediation is unsuccessful, the court will have the authority to impose a custody decision on the parties. In making its decision, North Carolina law requires the court to consider the facts and decide what will "best promote the interests and welfare of the child." This can be a difficult process that pits parents against each

A court can award physical custody to one person alone, can award shared custody between people, and can even include an organization, such as a state department of social services, in the custody order. The person who gets custody is referred to as the custodial parent.

A custody order must also include additional terms to promote the welfare of the child, including visitation with the non-custodial parent (the parent who does not have primary custody). Visitation is often contencustody cases is to look at the jurisdiction of the court. tious because parents get angry with each other and try to use the child as leverage to get what they want. thority to hear a case, and a court can't hear a case if But, visitation isn't the parent's right to see the child - it's the child's right to see, and have involved in his is based primarily on the residency of the child – the life, the non-custodial parent. Accordingly, visitation is rarely optional and most family court judges treat

Visitation is usually "unsupervised," and custody orders can include terms allowing the non-custodial parent to take the child out of the state or out of the country. In North Carolina a court also has the op-

See LEGAL page A4



"If I could pick a group it would be Floetry. The music they sing is real meaningful and they're a classic group." SGT. VINSON HARRELL MACS-2

"I think Carrie Underwood would do a good job. She has a really beautiful voice." STAFF SGT. TAD JOHNSON VMAT-203





"I would say Toby Keith because he is very patriotic. Also because he has done a couple shows in theater for the troops.

CPL. JACOB MCKENZIE

Job Title: MENTOR/COMBAT ENGINEER Unit: MWSS-271 Hometown: NEW LAND, N.C. Age: 21 Date joined: SEPT. 11, 2005

What is your job?

My job is to mentor junior combat engineers.

What's your favorite aspect of your career?

I have a chance to bond with the other Marines and give them someone to look up to.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is keeping accountability of all my Marines. Also getting to know them and any problems or issues they may have.

How does your job support the mission of 2nd MAW and MCAS **Cherry Point?**

By providing the new Marines with the knowledge that I have so when I leave it will remain within the squadron.

How does your job in garrison differ from your job in the field?

In the field we get tasked out with a lot more jobs and missions. In garrison we have a lot more time for training.

What schools are required for your job?

Combat Engineers School in Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune









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Marines participate in Exercise Carolina Hornet 08

LANCE CPL. ALICIA R. GIRON

More than 200 Marines, Sailors and civilians from across the globe participated in Exercise Carolina Hornet 2008 aboard the USNS Wright, July 13 through Tuesday.

The purpose of the exercise was to fully test the USNS Wright as an aviation logistics ship, or T-AVB, in operations supporting forward-deployed rotary and fixed wing aircraft, said Lt. Col. Chuck M. Dunne, the commander of troops aboard the ship.

"Our mission is to provide robust, realistic and safe training for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing in the conduct of T-AVB operations," said Dunne. MALS and accompanying Marine at Morehead City port, July 30. Wing Support Squadrons and Marine Aircraft Communications Group supported embarking and debarking equipment while aboard the USNS Wright.

The T-AVB load training ensures that MALS personnel remain proficient in the core competency of using ship's equipment and procedures required to load equipment aboard the USNS Wright, said Dunne.

an annual basis and rotated throughout the four MALS units assigned to each MAW, Dunne out, we fix them and after the parts are fixed, they go back out to where they came from." said.

The USNS Wright is one of two aviation logistics ships. The USNS Curtis' homeport is and work together to conduct STOMs, said Doyle. located in San Diego, Calif. conducts the same T-AVB operations but on the West coast.

Carolina Hornet began at the USNS Wright's homeport in Baltimore where approximately 31 Marines from the four MALS units came together and conducted practice drills loading and offloading Mobile Maintenance Facilities VANS aboard the ship. The Marines practiced a little over a week, and loaded the VANS and sailed down the Atlantic Coast to the Port of Morehead City, N.C.

Marines from the 2nd MAW, 3rd MAW and 2nd Marine Logistics Group began loading VANS once the ship arrived in Morehead City, July 26.

"The loading phase is the most difficult and most unique part in teaching our Marines from all Military Occupational Specialties to learn how to work the different equipment and loading of the ship," said Dunne.

The CH-08 exercise consists of an eight-phase operation, and the loading portion of the

operation is phase five.

"The past couple days, we have loaded 103 mobile maintenance facilities and additional support equipment on the T-AVB," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Arthur L. Leblanc, the cargo load officer of the ship.

The majority of the mobile maintenance facilities came from both MALS-14 and MALS-31. MALS-29 transported six mobile facilities to port, and MALS-26 transported three to support CH-08

Marines aboard USNS Wright conducted at-sea-operations after leaving the loading portion

Marines and Soldiers aboard an 824th Army Transport Command boat with the Army Reserve Unit simulated ship-to-objective maneuvers with personnel aboard the ship. The ARU boat's mission was to deliver aircraft-related parts to the USNS Wright. A total of six STOM exercises occurred while aboard the ship.

"The purpose of a sea-based operation is to provide aviation logistics to aircraft while This training is conducted biannually on each coast throughout the 2nd and 3rd MAW on ashore," said Charlie R. Doyle, the aviation planner aboard the ship. "The parts will come

This operation was the first time Marines had to encounter being aboard these two vessels

Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 delivered aircraft parts to 2nd MAW Marines during CH-08.

"Our purpose is to demonstrate bringing parts out to the ship," said Capt. Jed S. Foglesong, an aviation advisor with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269.

Approximately five flight operations occurred while aboard ship. The focus of the heliborne resupply was to train Marines for future deployments, said Foglesong.

"So far during this exercise, we've shot the .50-cal and 240-Golf," said Lance Cpl. Brad D. Fosler, an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection security guard with MALS-14.

The ATFP team conducted training while afloat along the Atlantic Coast. ATFP Marines fired the 50-calibrater heavy machine gun and M240-Golf to simulate an attack in a

See HORNET page A5



A Marine flying in a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter looks out the aircraft's door to ensure the helicopter properly lands aboard the USNS Wright's flight deck.

Aircraft Rescue Firefighters stand watch on the flight deck aboard the USNS Wright while a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter conducts flight operations during Exercise Carolina Hornet 2008.

Tuition assistance gateway to continuing education, attaining degree

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL CURVIN

This article is the second of a three-part series on military educational opportunities.

Every military student must attend Training and Education's "College 101" where finer points of schooling are taught. After taking the class, Marines have more information on the regulations concerning offduty education.

"The orientation course is designed to provide policies and procedures and helpful information for college students," Janette Fintchre, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point education service specialist said. "It helps them be more successful in utilizing tuition assistance.'

The orientation course also establishes

what happens if a Marine must withdraw from a class and underlines the importance of maintaining good grades.

'You have to withdraw before you receive a failing grade," said Fintchre. "Failing grades are not waiverable."

This is the rule when using tuition assistance. Even if a student withdraws, they have to do so in line with the specific college's guidelines to ensure they aren't liable for the cost of the course. Since different colleges have different policies, students are reminded to make sure they understand the regulations involved before they choose to withdraw.

"In order for a military person to avoid a financial obligation, their reason for withdrawing must be military related," Fintchre

said. "You can generally withdraw from the courseif your military duties conflict with class scheduling.

If this is the case, the student must turn in paperwork that explains the conflicts of military duties. However if the withdrawal is for personal reasons, the student may be financially liable for the course.

"If it is for personal reasons, the student will usually end up refunding the money to the school," Fintchre said.

One of the benefits of the educational services available here is the ability to gain a degree even while deployed. Some colleges offer traditional classroom instruction in a deployed environment.

"For deployments we have Park University," Fintchre said. "They'll do deployments

aboard ship as well as on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. If it's on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan, then it is military members that are teaching. These members have at least a bachelor's degree and have been approved by the universtity.'

For military family members, the Training and Education center offers a variety of services, from classes to testing, but is currently unable to offer military tuition assistance to family members.

College, whether through internet courses or a traditional classroom, is available to all active duty members aboard the air station. To receive further information, go to the Training and Education Building located on C Street or contact the staff at 466-3500.

Photo of the Week: BUGS!



A female hercules beetle, the largest beetle in this part of the country, roams around a porch outside a house in Grants Landing.

The Windsock wants to showcase the talents of the Cherry Point community by giving you the opportunity to submit your best photos from around the air station. These can include volunteer events, youth sports and more. The only limit is your imagination. Submissions should be appropriate for publication, include a detailed description of the photo and contact information. All submissions should be sent in the highest resolution possible. E-mail your submission to cpbestphoto@gmail.com. Only one submission per person, per week.

SCHOOL from page A1

because they can see if maybe they want to work in a school when they get out. It's also an amazing use of Marine Corps talent and expertise because Marines have so much to offer the local community with all the leadership training they have received."

Some of the services a unit could provide to a school are guest speaking, beautification projects, reading programs, field trip volunteering and mentoring programs.

"We currently have five units actively involved in Adopt-A-School," said Bagley. "I'm working on increasing that amount. I'd like to at least double it for this year.'

For more information on the School Liaison Program, contact Donna Bagley at 466-4196, ule. or visit the Web site at http://www.cherrypoint.usmc.mil/school/default.asp.

AWARD from page A1

assistant deputy under secretary of defense, land, Wash., and the Air Force's 31st Aircraft who championed organic depot maintenance maintenance Squadron, Aviano, Italy; (small for three decades. There are six field-level category) the Army's Bravo Company, 610th awards presented in the categories of large, Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Riley, Kan., medium, and small units. The recipients of and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312, this year's Secretary of Defense Field-level Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C. Maintenance Awards are: (large category) the Army's 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Ar-1st Special Operations Maintenance Group, 29. Hurlburt Field, Fla.; (medium category) Fleet

in recognition of Robert T. Mason, a former Readiness Center Northwest, Whidbey Is-

The awards will be presented at a banquet during the 2008 DoD Maintenance Sympotillery, Fort Bliss, Texas and the Air Force's sium and Exhibition in Denver, Colo., Oct.

LEGAL from page A2

Usually the order will allow the parties to agree to more visitation time, with the order being the minimum.

The custody and visitation order is enforceable through the court, with violators subject to fines and imprisonment. It is also subject to modification, to include changing the custodial parent. Common military events (such as long periods of training, deployments, and unaccompanied tours) can require a modification.

Unfortunately, unless the parties can agree on the best course of action for the child, modification means another court battle.

Next week I'll discuss child support.

Capt. Spilman is a Legal Assistance Attorney. Legal Assistance can help you with noncriminal legal matters. Walk-ins are accepted weekdays at 0730 in the Joint Law Center; Bldg. 219, and appointments can be made by calling 466-2311.

MCAA from page A1

manding officer of VMA-231. "The Marines Marine Expeditionary Unit and a squadron shouldn't be doing what you're doing. That's in this squadron worked their butts off and deployment to Iraq in 2009. they deserve this award."

Today the squadron is playing a major roll in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, cer. "I could not be more proud or happier to gave me that morning. Marine Attack Squadron 231 flew 1,738 combat sorties, totaling 5,158 hours, in support of We will definitely try our best to do it again a chaplain involves many things, and one of. And I'm happy to say I believe every 2,678 Joint Tactical Air Requests. VMA-231 next year!" is currently preparing to deploy with the 26th

vid C. Forrest, VMA-231 commanding offi- And I want to thank you for the reminder you be the commanding officer of this great unit.

SON STATHAM TYRESE GIBSON IAN MCSHANE JOAN ALLEN

VMR-1 from page A1

Though their capability is in high demand, the nine Marines find ways to make the most out of what they have.

"We do more with less," said Maj. Andy Smith, VMR-1 Det. UC-35 pilot. "Part of that is because we have fewer people and another part is because our budget is proportionately smaller than the other services. We have to improvise and do more with less money and be more efficient."

To maximize their effectiveness, the detachment will ask customers to adjust their sched-

"Instead of saying 'no,' we ask the customers if they can go a day prior or an hour earlier," said Maj. Rod Spake, VMR-1 Det. UC-35 pilot. "There are sometimes when we have to say 'no,' but most of the time we make it work.

Since their only plane is in constant use, routine maintenance is performed for two days every two weeks, Smith said.

"We don't take days off, they kind of fall out naturally," Garrett said. "We just work, work and work until the airplane has to go into maintenance."

Since they are so few and their mission is so demanding, the time spent grounded goes to fulfilling additional duties.

The days I don't fly are days when almost the whole time I'm out and about taking care of my additional duties," said Sgt. Michael Klein, UC-35 crew chief from Williamstown, N.J. We're a fairly small group so each of us has several duties." Spake said.

Through hard work, the Marine detachment maintains a high level of flexibility.

"I can tell you what we're doing [days from now], but something may come up and the Marine Corps will say, 'this has to happen, we need this Marine to get [there], "Garrett said. "We will flex to make that happen."

The detachment takes every opportunity to support the warfighter, Garrett said.

"Our greatest pride comes from providing every ounce of support we can to Marines who are in the field," he said. "We diverted the plane one time to take home a Marine whose wife was extremely ill back in the states - that made us feel good. We are very much into the brotherhood of our fellow warfighters."

CHAPLAIN from page A2

sign-holding folks. The most they can do is to! My job as a chaplain isn't to hold up with their hand that's not guite a wave. While that is saying something, it's not a dialogue.

Now, if it's your friend, or maybe even you who is one of the sign-carrying folks on route 70, I don't want you to think I'm saying you between you and God. You may be showing 'This award is an honor," said Lt. Col. Da- the love Jesus spoke of in many other ways.

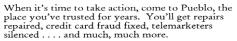
> I was coming back to work. My work as of them is being in dialogue with the people who come to see me. They don't necessarily agree with my theology but they don't have

read the sign and maybe wave if they agree a sign or to confront them with a bumper with what they read. If they don't like what sticker. My job is to dialogue with them - to they read, they may make another gesture listen, to talk and hopefully to help them deal with what ever brought them in to see me in the first place!

> I pray I never cause anyone to exclaim, "Lord, save me from your follower!" I hope I'm good at showing you the respect you deserve, no matter what you believe. Not through bumper stickers. Not through signs on sticks. Through dialogue.

> But let me warn you, I pray that I show each one of you, through my words and deeds, the "love one another" kind of love Jesus spoke chaplain at Cherry Point prays the same sort of prayer. Come see us. Let's talk!

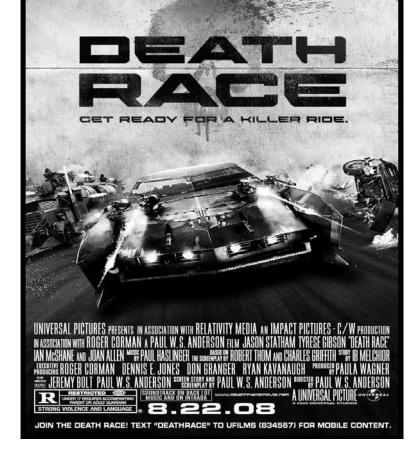




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U.S. Marine Corps Photo

Final Farewell



Five Marines aboard the *USNS Wright* participated in a burial at sea during Exercise Carolina Hornet 2008, Aug. 10. The American flag was presented to Robert D. Silva, the captain of the ship, by Sgt. Michael S. Gay, a ground training non-commissioned officer with MALS-31.

HORNET from page A3

combat zone.

"Our job is to look after Marines' welfare and to neutralize unidentified vessels," said Fosler.

ATFP Marines stand a constant post that rotates through 18 Marines from different MALS. The Marines stand post for four hours at the front and back of the ship at least twice a day. ATFP is in charge of securing *USNS Wright* and to make sure a Marine, Sailor or civilian does not go overboard.

In the middle of at sea operations, the USNS Wright pulled pier side at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, N.C., for two days. While at MOT-SU, the commander of troops led Marines from all units in a squadron run. Aircraft Rescue Firefighting also conducted drills on the ship's flight deck at MOTSU.

"We're here for one reason and one reason only," said Staff Sgt. Brock H. Sinclair, a section leader of ARFF with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274. "We are here to ensure the safety of the air crew while aboard the ship."

While aboard the ship, ARFF conducted several drills to maintain their skills as crash crews. Sinclair said the team is limited to the different type of drills they are able to do because of being on ship, and less equipment is available.

At sea operations continued after leaving MOTSU, Aug. 7. Brigadier Gen. Robert S. Walsh, the Commanding General of 2nd MAW, visited Marines on ship Aug. 8. Brig. Gen. Walsh toured the entire ship and spoke with various Marines about their job aboard the ship.

With all the hard work and no time off, Marines were able to take a break from the exercise, Aug. 9. Officers and staff non-commissioned officers cooked and cleaned for junior Marines during a "Steel Beach" picnic on ship. The SNCOs and officers grilled burgers, hot dogs, buffalo wings, steaks and ribs on the ship's flight deck. Marines were able to learn about one another and share common interests during the cookout. It was back to work after the picnic.

Five Marines aboard the ship participated in a burial at sea, Aug. 10. The rest of the Marines who did not take part in the burial stood in formation as the five Marines proceeded with the naval rite.

The American flag was presented to Robert D. Silva, the captain of the ship by Sgt. Michael S. Gay, a ground training non-commissioned officer with MALS-31. This was many Marines' first time being involved in a burial at sea.

The ship returned to port in Morehead City, Aug. 13. During this time, the Port Operations Group offloaded the VANS and ancillary equipment to the parent MALS in which they came from. The majority of Marines departed the ship and went back to their unit's workplace.



The USNS Wright sails down the Atlantic Coast during Exercise Carolina Hornet 2008.







HMM-365 (REIN) aces Afghanistan test



KC-130J Hercules aircraft return to Kandahar after a suuply air drop in Garmsir. Three planes dropped more than 1,000 pounds of supplies for the forces on the ground while performing a division drop.

MAJ. KELLY FRUSHOUR

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - A CH-53E Sea Stallion flies low over the vastness that is Afghanistan's red desert. The tail-gunner squats over a machine gun, scanning the horizon as the helicopter pitches and sways. Below, trails and firing munitions. of varying size appear with no discernible origin and a lone camel casts a shadow on a sand dune.

Abruptly red becomes green as the aircraft approaches vegetation surrounding the Helmand River. Square mud and straw compounds with high walls pepper the ground below and just as suddenly as it becomes green the landscape melts back into rolling red sand. The trip from Kandahar Airfield to Forward Operating Base Dwyer is almost over. The small fort sits in the desert like a lonely tile overlooking the "green zone" a few kilometers away.

focal point being the Garmsir District of Helmand Province.

At more than 3,000 combat sorties and counting, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (Reinforced) Marines have filled their days and nights flying, fueling, fixing aircraft

"If you look at a typical MEU ACE and what a typical MEU ACE supports, we're not asked to do anything unreasonable out here," said Capt. Brandon L. Whitfield, officer in charge, Tactics and Plans, HMM-365 (REIN), 24th MEU, ISAF. "It's the same missions as always but a typical MEU ACE supports a company at a time, for two weeks to a month. Where here, we support a battalion and sometimes a combat logistics battalion and we're doing it for eight months. It's a huge difference."

Comprised of AV-8B Harriers, KC-130J Hercules, CH-46E For more than 100 days the 24th Marine Expeditionary Sea Knights, CH-53E Sea Stallions, AH-1W Super Cobras Unit's Aviation Combat Element has supported Marines on and UH-1N Hueys, ACE Marines perform a multitude of

the ground conducting operations across Afghanistan - their tasks including battlefield illumination, re-supply, insertion, extraction, casualty evacuation, close air support, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Gearing Up for the First Op

With combat operations launching more than 100 miles from Kandahar Airfield, the squadron staged its assets across two provinces. Support and attack helicopters are set to launch from Forward Operation Base Bastion, located north of the operating area. More support and attack helicopters are joined by controllers, rearming and refueling Marines just west of the operating area at FOB Dwyer while the squadron headquarters, with support and attack aircraft, operates from Kandahar.

In total, preparations for the operation included 498 hours of training and reconnaissance flights, 198 hours of assault support, 279 hours of escort and intelligence, surveillance,

See TEST page B4

Knowledge, skill, will - 1/2Marines hit ground running

LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

CAMP HABBANIYAH, Iraq - Since June 28, 2004, when the Coalition Provisional Authority officially transferred sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government, Marines have done their part to assist the Iraqi people in building a unified Iraq with the political and economic stability needed to govern itself.

Marines with Task Force 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, have hit the sands of Camp Habbaniyah with a passion for their mission. The battalion officially took control of the area from 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Aug. 10.

Inheriting an area of operations in an increasingly peaceful Iraq, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines

NCE CPL. KEVIN N. MCCALL

fuel.

The Gem of Kilakarai, a Singaporean

LANCE CPL. STEFANIE C. PUPK

A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 prepares to land at le Shima before beginning a coordinated rapid ground refueling exercise with airmen from 1st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base.

Flight of the Tigers Rapid refuel returns HMM-262 to the air



Gunnery Sgt. Desmond Wyatt, the camp commandant for Camp Habbaniyah (left) and Lance Cpl. will conduct partnered operations Thomas Daily, a police sergeant with and build civic and Iraqi Secu-Regimental Combat Team 1, finish rity Force capabilities to enable a displaying the battalion logo in the

See KNOWLEDGE page B3

Marine, Navy team thwarts pirates

CPL. TIMOTHY T. PARISH

ABOARD USS PELELIU (LHA 5) - Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, deployed aboard USS Peleliu (LHA 5) in the Gulf of Aden, helped prevent a pirate attack August 8, providing aerial support and Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

At 7 a.m., the crew of USS Peleliu received a distress call from the Singaporean cargo ship Gem of Kilakarai reporting being attacked by two small pirate vessels about 10-miles away from USS Peleliu's position. After receiving the reports, USS Peleliu changed course and launched three helicopters to provide security for the civilian cargo ship and to run off the pirates.

"The mission showcased

IE SHIMA. Okinawa - Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, joined airmen from 1st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Group, on Kadena Air Base, for a rapid ground refueling exercise here Aug. 8.

LANCE CPL. STEFANIE C. PUPKIEWICZ

The exercise took place at a forward arming and refueling point established on the island by the 1st SOS, 353rd SOG airmen and Marines with Detachment 18, a support detachment assigned to HMM-262, the aviation combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The coordination with the Air Force for a rapid ground refueling is not typical, said Capt. Jonathan C. Spencer, a pilot with HMM-262, also known as the Flying Tigers.

When both services reserved Ie Shima's airfield. the command saw the opportunity to train with the Air Force and worked it out.

Ie Shima, an island to the northwest of Okinawa, was selected for the exercise to simulate an expeditionary airfield because of its non-standard coral runway.

The rapid ground refueling was setup

with the Air Force C-130 Hercules performing the role of the fuel source with fuel lines running at least 300 feet to where the Sea Knight helicopters would Barnes with the 1st SOS, 353rd SOG. taxi up to the refuel point and simulate taking on



Two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, practice close formation landings at le Shima. HMM-262 is the aviation combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

> "This is, by far, one of the most dangerous things we do," described Air Force Master Sgt. Jeffrey W.

cargo ship, came under attack by pirates See PIRATES page B2 in the Gulf of Aden Aug. 8.

See FLIGHT page B3

CMC visits Camp Fallujah, speaks about progress



CPL. CHRIS T. MANN RCT 1

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, visited service members and toured the local battlefield shared by Marine units of Regimental Combat Team 1 Aug. 16.

During his visit, the commandant spoke with Col. Lewis A. Craparotta, commanding officer, RCT-1, and surveyed progress service members are making in Fallujah and the surrounding regions.

"I don't think anyone would have predicted that the al Anbar Province would

become a model for elsewhere in the nation," said Conway, during a town hall meeting aboard the camp

that is good remarks for the In the morning, Conway and Craparotta conrest of Iraq." voyed with a group of Marines from Camp Fallujah

to Camp Blue Diamond

in Ramadi, where he met

with several commanders

members and the Iraqi police and army. Afterwards, they had lunch with members of the

Iraqi Army and spoke with several of their senior leadership officials about security throughout the region.

Following the meeting with IA officials, Conway returned to Camp Fallujah for a town hall meeting at the Chapel of Hope. Marines and other service members aboard Camp Fallujah packed tightly into the chapel to listen to what he and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, the

sergeant major of the Marine Corps, had to say.

The Commandant delivered a message to Marines and other service members about developments in the region

"What you have today is a very likeable condition in the al Anbar Province, and again, that is good remarks for the rest of Iraq," he said.

Conway also spoke to the crowd about repeated deployments to combat environments Marines are currently facing today. He said he is pushing for longer periods of time for Marines to stay in the United States

before deploying again to places like Iraq or Afghanistan.

> After Conway and Kent addressed the service members, they opened the floor for questions.

> Marines in the crowd took the opportunity to inquire about numerous issues ranging from the new Marine Corps physical training uniform and the

and other staff to discuss joint efforts between service Combat Fitness Test, to how November's presidential election result might affect future deployments.

Conway closed by thanking the service members for their continued efforts and service in Iraq, and reminded those present to remain vigilant and stay alert.

"This is still a dangerous place, you are still drawing combat pay," said Conway. "You can still get killed out here if you don't go about your business in a serious fashion on a day-to-day basis.'

Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks with Col. Lewis A. Craparotta, commanding officer, Regimental Combat Team 1, at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, during a survey of progress in Iraq Aug. 16. Conway also spoke with several Marines at the Chapel of Hope aboard the camp to address current issues taking place in the al Anbar region.

"What you have today is a

very likeable condition in the

al Anbar Province, and again,

Gen. James T. Conway

commandant of the Marine Corps

PIRATES from page B1

the Marine Corps-Navy team's ability to react to a no-notice, real-world contingency and execute a successful mission profile within a compressed timeline" said Lt. Col. Pete C. Farnum, 15th MEU operations officer.

During the incident, the pirates fired on the Gem of Kilakarai with small arms and rifle-launched grenades. The pirates disengaged their attack upon intervention from USS Peleliu and 15th MEU helicopters. A rifle-launched grenade used during the attack failed to detonate and was lodged on the bridge wing of the Gem of Kilakarai. There were no reports of injury during the attack. Aerial reconnaissance and security flights of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (REIN) helicopters over the Gem of Kilakarai helped determine the need for further assistance from the Marines aboard USS Peleliu. After assessing the best course of action, EOD Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 15 and a security detachment with Golf Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/5, were flown by two UH-1N Huey helicopters aboard the Gem of Kilakarai to remove the threat. After assessing the threat on board the Gem of Kilakarai, the unexploded grenade was properly disposed of by the EOD team from CLB-15.

"All elements of the [Marine Air Ground Task Force] were is called down." Brandon said. utilized as they were designed. The MEU developed the plan utilizing real-time intelligence and photographic imagery from the combat camera Marines which validated the suitability of aircraft operations," said Farnum. "[HMM-165 (REIN)] prepared the aircraft and flew the mission profile; any contingency; and [CLB-15] provided the EOD expertise, which ultimately ensured that the unexploded ordnance was safely and expeditiously disposed of."

The quick response of USS Peleliu and the 15th MEU garnered praise from the Bahrain based 5th Fleet for their quick, precise and decisive actions in repelling the pirate attack. The incident further highlighted the operational capabilities of to a ship to dispose of ordnance," said Weisinger. the 15th MEU as a forward deployed, quick-response unit, according to Sgt. Michael C. Brandon, Squad Leader, Golf Company, BLT 2/5. The Marines on the deck of the Gem of limited amount of planning time didn't hinder a successful operation, Brandon said.

We're always ready. Our gear is always ready if a mission

The planning and intelligence gathering operations also aided the Marines who boarded the Gem of Kilakarai, according to Brandon.

"The planning process is very important. Being briefed beforehand and knowing as much as possible about the situ-[BLT 2/5] provided security and were prepared to respond to ation before launching helped out tremendously," Brandon said

> The Gem of Kilakarai, which was transiting the Gulf of Aden to the Suez Canal, presented a unique challenge to the EOD team aboard the USS Peleliu, according to Gunnery Sgt. Hiram P. Weisinger, EOD Team Leader, CLB-15.

> "This was the first time I've ever done anything like flying

The mission also highlighted the readiness of the Marines of the 15th MEU to conduct any mission, Weisinger added.

"In a quick and concise manner, the Marine Corps-Navy the Kilakarai credit their readiness prior to the incident. The team was able to develop and execute a tailored and well coordinated plan that translated into mission success," Farnum said.





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Lance Cpl. Christopher Goodwin and Cpl. Robert Lorenzo, crew chiefs with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, observe training from inside a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter Aug. 8 during a rapid ground refueling exercise at le Shima.

He went on to say that the practice helps improve the proficiency of the airmen and the Marines participating, and it also helps reduce the likelihood of errors.

'It's an invaluable asset, especially when you are out there," Spencer said and further described the FARP as a mobile fullservice fuel station.

The Marine Corps has the same capabilities for supplying fuel to its aircraft during rapid ground refueling with its Hercules aircraft and its CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters.

Rapid ground refueling is used by HMM-262 pilots during future. deployments to the Philippines and Thailand when they cannot carry enough fuel to make it all the way, said Spencer.

The joint training was seen by Barnes as a positive step in helping maintain wartime readiness for both services, and he looks forward to training with the Marine Corps again in the

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self-reliant and legitimate local security and government apparatus that facilitates transition and provincial Iraqi control. We want to see the Iraqis put their face on the mission while we are here to provide over-watch and reassure them

they are doing right," explained Staff Sgt. Issac Sato, a platoon sergeant with the battalion's Quick Reaction Force. Taking the reins from their predecessor of the area, Ma-

rines are working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi army, police and the civilian populous to improve the quality of life.

The steps the Iraqi people are taking, with the help of Ma-

rines, are crucial because, "With Saddam gone and violence has prepared the leadership as well as the individual Marine down, the Iraqis want their own country and in order to do that they have to take the lead," said Sato.

Marines have trained across the whole spectrum of warfare, from high intensity conflict to the complex nature of a counter insurgency environment. But now the Marines of 1st Battalion, 2d Marines are helping Iraqis help themselves everything themselves," he said. to improve their infrastructure and develop governance and security at the local level.

"The cohesion and camaraderie, in addition to training,

to successfully complete every mission," said Maj. Gordon Miller, the battalion's executive officer.

Miller stressed the importance of building a unified community by working with the people for security, governance and essential services. "Success will come when Iraqis handle

Marines and their Iraqi brethren have the "knowledge, skill and will to make it happen," said Miller.



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A CH-46 Sea Knight with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (Reinforced), 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, en route to Forward **Operating Base Dwyer**

and reconnaissance (ISR), and the transporta- hicle after the escorting Harrier pilots could personnel.

Traversing the Desert

tested the night of April 15. An indirect fire attack on Kandahar Airfield interrupted the final confirmation brief for the first ground convoy departing Kandahar for FOB Bastion. It hit nothing, but foreshadowed an attack later in the evening that was not as harmless. This first convoy was comprised mostly of Combat Logistics Battalion 24 Marines who had to spread their resources across the two provinces as well, but theirs had to be moved by ground since most of their assets were trucks and other vehicles which were to be used as part of the logistics train.

For this initial convoy the ACE provided air support in the form of fixed and rotary wing aircraft as the convoy began its journey just after 10 p.m. The ground movers made steady progress navigating chosen routes and called in as they passed established checkpoints. Sixteen minutes after they passed one such check point, a Cobra pilot escorting the convoy radioed that a vehicle in the convoy had struck an Improvised Explosive Device.

"We saw it, felt it and smelled it," said Lt. Col. Duane Opperman, the squadron's executive officer and a UH-1N Huey pilot flying escort for the convoy. "We came around to look for small arms fire because usually an IED goes off and then there is somebody shooting."

The pilots determined it was a Marine ve-

tion of 1.4 million pounds of cargo and 2,152 analyze data and say that it did look like "one of ours," said Opperman.

All this planning and training was first couldn't tell it was a HMMWV, I thought it the wounded on their stretchers and they laid was a roadside car, a VBIED (vehicle-borne them in the bird." IED)," he said.

> The pilots started counting vehicles and it started to feel like it wasn't a VBIED said the Huey pilot. "There was one vehicle that wasn't checking in," he added.

medical evacuation was requested and at this point Opperman was running out of fuel.

"I did not want to land down there because the zone was not secure. I was still looking for an ambush on the first responders," Opperman said.

It was also known that there were two wounded Marines, Opperman landed

CPL ALISON L. MARTINEZ

We had nothing, just an open space on the "It was hard to tell because we were low. I cabin floor," he said. "The ground guys had

Crewmembers Staff Sgt. Addison Hall and Sgt. George Joyer started bandaging and stabilizing the two wounded Marines from the convoy.

Both completed the combat lifesavers The pilots were still counting when the course and were prepared to provide aid, aid that preserved the lives of the two evacuated Marines said Navy Lt. Wayne Smith, 24th MEU Surgeon.

"They ran out of the bird, past the tail rotor, went back there and grabbed stretchers. I looked back there at one point and there were



A CH-46E lands at FOB Dwyer to deliver Marines and supplies. Since the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit began combat operations, HMM-365 (REIN) has delivered more than 1.4 million pounds of cargo to Marines on the ground.

medical bags ripped open, they were doing all kinds of stuff on those guys," said Opperman.

Operations Begin

Two weeks later Operation AZADA WO-SA commenced with HMM-365 (REIN) conducting a battalion minus insert during low light level conditions into Garmsir District. This was the first night insert of this magnitude by the Marine Corps since Vietnam. Waves of Marines required insertion into predetermined landing zones by support helicopters.

C-130's provided aerial refueling and battlefield illumination for the Marines on the ground while AV-8B Harriers and attack helicopters provided close air support. At one point during the night at least one of every type of airframe in the squadron would fly in support of the battalion insertion. That evening, helicopters lined the runway at FOB Bastion as infantry Marines loaded the aircraft under a moonless sky.

"We watched the clock and waited for the time to lift," said Capt. Clay Dye, a CH-53E pilot with HMM-365 (REIN), 24th MEU, who flew the lead aircraft in the second wave and totaled four trips to the insert area throughout the night. "We staggered it by time so the first element took off and then about five minutes later I took off."

The helicopters, loaded with combat ready Marines, departed and crossed over the Helmand River to the east following it south. "We were high altitude on our route down

which made it difficult with no illumination, no horizon with all four aircraft - trying to keep them together," Dye said.

The trip was silent, except for the hum of the rotors, until the first element passed their last checkpoint before the insert – then the radios came alive.

"We could hear the escorts in the objective area talking. We had the benefit of hearing how the insert went with the first element, said Dye.

"As we got closer to the objective area, our route actually turned back to the north almost making a 'J' so we could look over to the right and see the other aircraft at that point," he said.

"We were probably only about seven to eight kilometers away as they made their turn back to the north which was reassuring, watching that happen and knowing where they were," he added.

The second wave timed their final approach into the landing zone as the first element was leaving the zone, a difficult proposition.

As the night wore on - the dust hid more than just the landing zones

"We really hadn't watched where they were

See **TEST** page B5





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Helicopters prepare to depart FOB Dwyer after a successful resupply mission.

and moving into their positions," said Dye. "Coming through that dust cloud, thinking we had a safe place to land, and there's a squad of Marines on the ground. It made it difficult."

things challenging with the dust tact. hiding their locations until it was almost too late to alter course.

to land, you can't see the ground until the last second, and then there's a ditch there," Dye said. "It was a lot of work for the crew chiefs in the back because they weren't able to pick up the ground until the last 10 feet and it was barely enough time in support of ISAF," said Tanis, scenario. The troops on the ground took the lead toward the man's pofor them to see something, to tell us and then for us to make a correction – particularly with the weight we were carrying. Certainly we are used to the luxury of excess power, but there and at that point, we were coming down whether we liked it or not.

Supporting the Allies:

As if supporting the two battalions wasn't enough - the MEU's ACE also supports other American forces. and International Security Assistance Force units.

"Flying is flying, we're more concerned with who we are supporting," said Capt James Tanis, pilot, AV-8B Harrier detachment, HMM-365 (REIN), 24th MEU.

Azada Wosa launched, Marine them," Tanis said. Harriers flying over Garmsir were tasked to support British forces who were receiving rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine gun fire in the Kajaki Dam region.

now filled with Marines setting up 15 minutes of being re-tasked, we to small, to confirm what target they ing out of FOB Delhi and they are out. Meyer returned to FOB Dwyer were flying overhead the Brits. need you to hit. Others, you just Then we returned to Garmsir. That need to take that extra minute or was interesting, flying another mission in the middle of the mission." According to Tanis, the most intense dav was June 15, when they

Irrigation ditches also made supported five sets of troops in con-"For one of them, not only could

we hear the machine guns at the "Looking for a smooth level place Forward Air Controller's position on the target. returning fire, we could hear them taking fire, I heard the rounds impacting near the Fed. Air Controller as he talked us in," Tanis said.

"We hear some interesting accents on the ground when we fly adding that they could tell who the more experienced ones.

All forces in Afghanistan use some version of a nine-line, a standardized way of requesting support. Even during the most intense fighting on the ground, pilots in support are required to read back certain the location of the target and the distance from the target to friendly

"Sometimes we get the information we need and we get great feedback on our effects like 'Bloody hell mate - Direct hit!' Sometimes, with less experienced ones, we support them as quickly as possible On May 2, days after Operation draw the information we need from

> "Working with our own guys is nice because we know them, they know us and our procedures." said Tanis. "When you're working with, for example, a Dutch joint tactical

two to confirm how close friendly forces are and where they are in relation to the fire they are taking."

The FAC will say what they need

"That is the most rewarding thing, gaged at the moment." knowing that you are going to support guys who are taking fire and you are hopefully going to take out the enemy," said Tanis. "Mostly the requests we get is an over-watch are moving from A to B or they are sition doing a patrol. We will look for suspicious activity, IEDs, etc."

For the last five weeks the Harriers have flown in support of ISAF front of the vehicle. every morning while being on alert to support the MEU.

Tanis sums up the ISAF experi- away from the fire. vital pieces of information such as ence by saying, "It's pretty wild that an Army guy, a Brit - all these guys in one flight. And then we have Australians controlling us as we return to the airfield."

> The Harriers are not the only MEU airframe supporting the al-

In late May a section of skids – an while trying to calm them down and AH-1W cobra and a UH-1N Huey were escorting a Charlie Company convoy in Garmsir.

"We were doing route clearance thing over the radio which just sounds like garbled static in the background and I can't hear it," said

in trouble.

Opperman said the voice on the radio was asking for any FAC. "I thought he wanted a radio check so we didn't answer him but about the third time it sounded like he was and based on what the supporting running and he was out of breath. aircraft has, the pilot can make rec- He was Scottish so he was hard to ommendations as far as what ef- understand. I came over the radio fects the troops on the ground want and identified that I was a Huey and that the FAC was otherwise en-

> The Scot said he was taking fire and that they were in a troops-inontact situation.

> Since Opperman had the better communication with the soldier, he

> The pilots saw two vehicles and one of them looked about ready to go up in flames, gas was burning in

> The soldiers on the ground were in a trench line and were running

"He was just saying, 'We're takyou can talk to a Dutch, an Italian, ing fire! We're taking fire!" said Opperman.

> 'We asked him from which direction he was taking fire," said Opperman. "Whatever direction he was saying, ... I couldn't understand, so I said, 'I can see the direction you are travelling, are you taking fire from your left side or from your right side?' He kept coming back with something ... I couldn't understand him.'

"He was definitely Scottish," said for them and then we hear some- Meyer. "It sounded like he was saying he was taking fire from the east, or from the west."

At this point Meyer was low on "We were in the middle of sup- air controller or a Brit, some of them Maj. Samuel L. Meyer, cobra pilot, fuel and Capt. Dan Gomes, cobra porting the MEU when we were are extremely professional, they HMM - 365 (REIN), 24th MEU, pilot, HMM - 365 (REIN), 24th called away," said Tanis. "Within will talk you in like they should, big ISAF. "But the XO hears it is com- MEU, ISAF, was prepared to come

and Gomes' cobra joined the scene.

"The guy was still running and we couldn't quite figure out what he was talking about, southeast or southwest, he had a thick Scottish brogue. There was a lot of 'If I put you here will it make you happy?" So we would say, 'Yes, we're very happy," said Opperman.

Then Gomes saw where the enemy was firing from. "Thank God because I was looking in the entirely wrong direction," said Opperman. "I was looking southwest and the bad guy house was southeast."

Gomes fired a Hellfire missile into the building.

Meanwhile, Meyer checked back on station after refueling and the Scot came back up on the radio and marked his position. Their conversation went as follows:

"Do you have my position?"

"Contact your pos.

"I am popping red smoke. Do you see the smoke? The color is red.'

"Roger, tally smoke."

"Everything south of the smoke is bad. Everything's bad!'

Then the Scot said, "Cleared hot.'

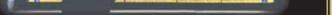
"That was the only time we (the skids) were challenged for language," said Opperman. "We flew in support of the battalion. It was only because that guy came up over the radio, was under contact, was in duress and was asking for help from anybody ... we just happened to be there.'

Despite language barriers, environmental challenges and non-stop required maintenance the ACE keeps flying, always ready for the next squawk of the radio.



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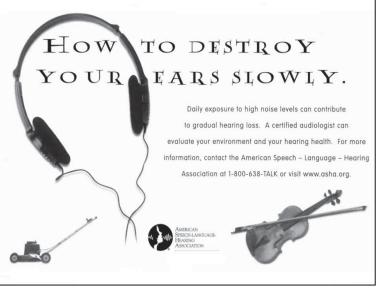
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She graduated from Havelock High School Class of 1979.

Who Is She?

See the next issue to find the next clue.













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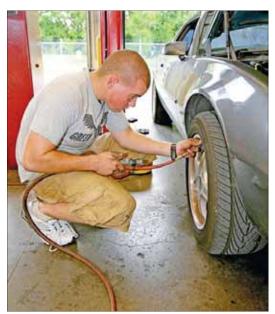


Gas prices have been hitting all-time highs. To battle increasing costs motorists can take several steps to improve vehicle efficiency.

Auto centers provide professional tips to ease the gas woes



Motor vehicle operators can decrease the amount of trips to the gas station by peforming basic maintainence.



Gas Saving Tips

Slow down - One of the best ways to improve gas mileage is to simply reduce your speed. Check your tire pressure - Under inflated tires are one of the biggest causes of poor gas mileage.

Check your air filter - A dirty air filter restricts the flow of air into the engine, which harms performance and economy.

Accelerate with care - Aggressive acceleration uses much more fuel than smooth acceleration. Get back to nature - Consider turning off the air conditioner and rolling down the windows.

CPL. CHARLES E. MCKELVEY

MCAS CHERRY POIN

The future of gas prices is unsure and unless your plans for the future are buying a hybrid vehicle or a smaller car, you will undoubtedly notice the difference in your wallet. Ideal gas mileage will differ from person to person, but

everyone can agree that an increase in miles per gallon is a good thing.

There are many different ways to improve gas mileage from a vehicle and even regain lost miles. A less aggressive driving style along with a gas improvement tune-up are two of the most popular.

Some improvements can be made in a driveway, while others may require a trip to the auto shop.

For the not-so mechanically inclined military member the Auto Skills Center here can save both gas mileage and wear and tear on an automobile.

"Most people don't realize their car is getting worse gas mileage than it should," said Todd Foster, manager of the Auto Care Center. "These problems can usually be fixed with a tune-up or one of our automotive services."

The Auto Care Center checks a vehicle for faulty equipment or areas needing service before starting any actual work. After the overview is complete the Care Center will consult with the car owner before making any repairs to avoid unnecessary repairs and maintenance. Along with tune-ups, another service the Auto Care Center offers is a fuel injector cleaning, which can improve fuel delivery and regain efficiency.

"The fuel injector cleaning service we offer is much different than the fuel injector cleaner that you can buy from the store," said Foster. "We use a much more potent chemi- Auto Skills Center contact 466-2352 cal that is run directly through your injectors and really

cleans them out."

For those who know their way around an engine bay, the Auto Skills Center offers an outlet for the Cherry Point community to make their own repairs and revive gas mileage

"The Auto Skills Center provides a place for anyone on base to come and work on their vehicle and use our tools, lifts and knowledge," said Brian A. Butler, a work leader at the Auto Skills Center. "Whether someone wants to make a repair to their vehicle or is looking to make gas mileage improvements we have everything to help them complete the job."

Some of the most common gas improvements made at the Skills Center are replacing air filters, checking tire pressure, replacing spark plugs and wires and replacing PCV valves.

"It's up to the vehicle owner to make the repairs on the vehicle," said Butler. "We'll point out what needs to be replaced and guide them along the process, but they're the ones actually turning the wrenches.'

Another service offered by the Auto Skills Center is the 21-point vehicle inspection for spouses of deployed service members. Each Monday spouses can bring their vehicle by to get a free inspection and make sure their vehicle is in good running order.

"The most important thing about vehicle repair is to not be scared of the car," said Butler. "If you never try to fix something on your vehicle, you will never know if you can fix it or not."

For more information on the Auto Care Center contact the front desk at 463-1640. For more information on the

CPL. CHARLES E. MCKELVEY Lance Cpl. Nathan Kahle checks the tire pressure on his Pontiac Trans Am. Under inflated tires are a leading cause of poor fuel economy



CPL. CH LES E. MCKELVE

Pfc. Chris Efferson inspecets his vehicle in an engine bay. Automobile operators can perform different types of maintainence at the Auto Skills Center for a small fee.

Leaving kids alone can cost too much

Air station order outlines when it is wrong to leave children alone

PHYSICAL SECURITY PMO

The hot summer days are upon us again, and as the temperatures sore higher and higher, so does the number of heat related casualties and deaths.

Those of us in Eastern North Carolina are especially familiar with the heat of summer, with temperatures often reaching well into the upper 90s.

And when the temperature edges past 100 degrees outside, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach as high as 120 degrees.

Like so many drivers, I have opened my car door to the unrelenting heat that pours out, only to climb in and grab the searing hot steering wheel. The seat belt buckle, and the resulting burn can be quite painful.

We see the public warnings. We've all read or heard the news stories describing, how a parent left their small child inside a hot car, and the resulting death of the child.

The parents say they were only gone a couple minutes, but even that few minutes of carelessness can result in tragedy for a small child or pet left inside a hot vehicle.

Yet, every day, children are still left unattended inside a vehicle while mom or dad runs into an air conditioned store for just one small item.

Air Station Order P11101.18C states that, "Parents are responsible for the proper care and conduct of their children, and must not leave children under the age of 10 unattended in any housing area or vehicles."

This order is strictly enforced by the military police and violators are prosecuted.

The act of locking or leaving a child unattended in the car is not only a violation of the air station's order, but is a cruel and dangerous act that can cause serious injury or death. Severe cases of accidental death caused by military personnel may result in punishment by general courts martial, and civilians can be charged with felony child abuse and unlawful homicide.

Parents who leave their children unattended in vehicles are not the only people to blame. Concerned citizens who witness the violations but refuse to report such acts to the proper authorities are also responsible.

Statistics show that 95 percent of Americans who witness the act of leaving or locking a child in a vehicle never report the crimes to the authorities.

Maybe people don't like the idea of confronting their neighbors, friends, or family members. Others don't like speaking with the police.

It's time we stop thinking of ourselves, and help those unable to stand up for themselves, the children.

A quick trip into the store with your child in the car is not worth the lost life of a loved one.

If you see someone aboard the air station leave a child unattended in a vehicle, take the time to get involved. You may save a life.

Make note of the make, model, color, and license plate of the vehicle and immediately report the incident to the air station Security and Emergency Services Department at 466-3616 or 466-3617.

FRC-East aviation safety specialist recognized *Attention to detail prevents possible loss of aircraft and aircrew*

SPECIAL TO THE WINDSOCK

FRC-E

John Doyle, an aircraft engines quality assurance specialist, is the Fleet Readiness Center East Aviation Safety Professional of the Month.

During the final inspection portion of a post-test inspection of an F402 AV-8B Harrier engine, Doyle noticed a small amount of soot under the exhaust duct variable nozzle area, which is the area where the nozzles rotate for vertical lift. The small soot deposit peaked his curiosity and inherent attention to detail, and Doyle decided to investigate further.

While conducting this investigation, he discovered and identified a 3-inch crack in the nozzle weld area.

It was surmised the damage occurred due to the extreme conditions the engine was subjected to during test operations. Doyle's keen attention to detail in finding the crack prevented it from increasing in size due to the pressures placed on it during vertical and forward flight, prevented potential single nozzle failure and prevented possible loss of aircraft and aircrew. His actions are commendable and in keeping with the command's business policy, "Unsurpassed Service to the Fleet and Relentless focus on Quality, Environment, and Occupational Health and Safety."

Doyle joined the FRC East team under the Cooperative and Apprentice Program in 2000. Upon completion of the program, he was assigned to the F402 Engine repair shop as a pneudraulic systems mechanic before being selected as an aircraft engines quality assurance specialist.

Doyle has an associate's degree in aviation technology, and obtained his airframe and power plants license in 1999.



John Doyle (right), an aircraft engine quality assurance specialist, receives the Safety Professional of the Month Award from FRC East commanding officer Col. David A. Smith. Doyle followed a very small clue to discover a potentially dangerous crack in a Harrier engine.

Stafe House

Anecdotes from the Naval Safety Center

An E-6 in Florida was engaged in what a report calls a practice jiu-jitsu match at a local martial arts school. That doesn't sound too hazardous, does it?

The combatants weren't vying for the dojo championship, after all, just practicing.

So the opponent got him in a hold that involves applying pressure to the shoulder and arm. Must have been a pretty good hold, because the E-6 was about to cry uncle.

This is technically known as tapping out, which has been shown to be equally effective to yelling out in pain and swearing, or at least more dignified. However, this process was rudely interrupted by the E-6's arm snapping in half.

Guess that meant he lost the match. He missed a month of work and spent six months on light duty. Tap out sooner.

To subscribe to the full Friday Funnies, register at http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/media/funnies/find_funnies.htm

DID YOU KNOW?



Marine 1st. Lt. William "Billy" Mills, wove through a field of lapped runners and passed the race favorite, Ron Clarke of Australia, to win the 10,000 meters race at the 1964 Olympic Games.

His victory is described as one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history and he is still the only American to ever win a gold medal in that event.

OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO



TIP OF THE WEEK

Have a lot of stuff on your desk? Place the items you use most frequently closest to you to avoid repeated extended reaches.

THE LOCAL BUZZ

Announcements

★ Indicates new announcement

★Money Gram Scam

Navy Criminal Investigative Service is currently investigating a Marine Corps spouse who used Wal-Mart Money Grams, as a form of payment, while purchasing a vehicle from another dependent. The suspect alleges she received the Money Grams from various individuals who had purchased pieces of artwork from a painter in the United Kingdom. Initial contact between the artist and the spouse was via e-mail.

The agreement was upon her receipt of the Money Grams she would keep 10 percent of the value and forward the additional funds to a specific individual residing in the United Kingdom. The Money Grams were flagged as forgeries by the financial institution of the dependent who was selling the suspect a vehicle.

This particular Wal-Mart Money Gram scam was corroborated by the United States Secret Service as a known scam originating from the United Kingdom.

★Multicultural Heritage Day

The Havelock Tourist and Event Center will host a Multicultural Heritage Day, Sept. 17.

The event will include performances from a variety of cultural groups and food with cultural information. Cultural food, from lumpia to funnel cakes, will be

available for purchase from local restaurants.

The event is open to the public and will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bus transportation from Cherry Point will be provided.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Michael Arkin at 466-2326.

Recruiter Assistance

Spend up to a month at home without taking leave. The 4th Marine District is actively seeking motivated Marines for recruiter assistance.

The 4th Marine District is the headquarters for much of the Eastern United States including Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, North Dakota, Virginia and West Virginia.

Recruiter assistance Marines will have the opportunity to interact with the community near their hometowns and are able to earn 20 promotion points for every referred recruit who enlists.

For more information on the program, contact Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Hoak at 717-770-4547.

Cherry Point Technology Exposition

This summer's Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

Monthly Events Weekly Events

Together For Life

The "Together for Life" one-day premarital seminar is conducted for active duty personnel age 26 and under within 90 days of marriage.

Please visit https://www. cherrypoint.usmc.mil/chapel/ default.asp to sign up.

Disabled Veterans

Chapter 26 of the Disabled American Veterans meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7315 in Havelock at 7 p.m. The VFW Post is located in the Lynnwayne area.

For information, call Edward Macleod at 447-3357 or Doug Matters at 447-2761. Fort Macon Summer Concerts Fort Macon State Park in Atlantic Beach is offering a free summer concert series on Friday nights from 7-8 p.m.. Alcohol is prohibited, but lawn chairs and picnic supplies are encouraged.

For more information, call the Fort Macon State Park office at 726-3775.

New Bern Music in the Park

Pack a picnic, grab a blanket or lawn chair, and come out to Union Point Park, located in downtown New Bern, for the annual "Music in the Park" series. This year's series will run each

Friday now through Sept. 26, featuring music from various musical

genres. For more information, please call 639-2902.

From the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli,

arine Corps History

Here's what happened this week in ...

Technology Exposition will be held today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Bachelor Officers' Quarters Command Conference Center. All military, civilian and contractor personnel are invited to attend and view demonstrations of the latest in emerging technologies free of charge.

More than 25 exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in networking products and services, global satellite services, linguistics, digital media, transport solutions, communication technologies, systems integration, network solutions, engineering and IT products, storage solutions, office automation products, data management, audio and visual equipment, and much more. Complimentary refreshments and giveaways will be available. For more information, call Natalie Tier at (301) 596-8899 Ext. 227 or e-mail Tier@ncsi.com.

Ghostwalk Honors 'Spirits of the Neuse'

The New Bern Historical Society is scheduled to host the Ghostwalk this year on Oct. 24 and 25.

For 18 years, the Ghostwalk has been a hit with New Bernians and draws return visitors from all over the United States. This year's theme, "Spirits of the Neuse," focuses on the maritime history of this bustling town founded on the confluence of the Neuse and the Trent Rivers.

The Ghostwalk tour features historic homes, churches, and the town's oldest cemetery, dating back to 1798. All the homes and sites have their "spirits" from New Bern's colorful past that disclose intriguing stories. For more information, go online at http://www. newbernhistorical.org or call 638-8558 or 1-800-437-5767.

Sesame Street to Visit Camp Lejeune

Sesame Street has partnered with United Service Organizations to bring the fuzzy, furry and friendly Muppets to military families around the Camp Lejeune area.

The event is scheduled to take place at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Russell Marine and Family Services Center auditorium, Bldg. 40, Sept. 27.

Admission is free and is exclusively for military families and their children. The experience includes a 60-minute show, giveaways and outreach materials.

For more information, go online to http://www.

sesameworkshop.org/TLC.

North Carolina Aquarium Summer Events

Sign up for the Aquarium's new summer special activities and learn to ride the waves, search for sea turtle nests or feed aquarium animals.

The aquarium conducts collection cruises every Tuesday

Domestic Violence Victims A support group for victims of domestic violence is provided by the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program.

Program. The group meetings are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 728-3788.

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

There is an Al-Anon Family Group Meeting meeting Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m., for family members and friends of individuals who may have or had alcohol problems in their lives. The meeting is held at Havelock First Baptist Church, 111 Hollywood Blvd.; however, it is not religious but spiritual in nature. For more information, call 447-8063 or 447-2109. and Thursday during the summer.

Participants on all trips experience sightings and closeup contact with a variety of fascinating and lively marine creatures.

Additionally, the aquarium's free summer programs are held each Monday.

The aquarium is located five miles west of Atlantic Beach and is open from 9 to 5 p.m. daily.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for 62 and over and \$6 for children 6-17. Children 5 and under, and North Carolina Aquarium Society members are admitted free.

For detailed program and special activities information, visit the Web site at http://www.ncaquariums.com or call 247-4003.

Whistle Stop Volunteers

Both the Whistle Stop and Treasures of the Point are in need of help.

Volunteers are needed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m each day and, starting Sept. 6, every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information email parliamentarian@ cherrypoint-osc.org or call 444-0949.

Marine and Family Services

Marine, Family Services Office Numbers

Family Member Employment Assistance Program, Transition Assistance Management Program, Accredited Financial Counselor, Relocation Assistance Program, and Exceptional Family Member Program can be reached at 466-4401. The Family Counseling Program can be reached at 466-3264. Retirees can contact the Retired Activities Office at 466-5548. The Substance Abuse Counseling line is 466-7568. New parents can call the New Parent Support Program at 466-3651.

Budget For Baby

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society offers Budget for Baby classes. Learn about and plan for new expenses. Call 466-2031 for information or to register.

Veterans' Assistance

A representative from the Veterans Affairs Office visits Cherry Point each Thursday in building 232. Call 466-4401 for assistance.

OFFLimits

MCAS CHERRY POINT AREA FRIDAY'S NIGHT CLUB

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE AREA BELL AUTO SALVAGE II BOTTA BOOMS CARLAND CENTENNIAL ENTERPRISES, INC. DOLL HOUSE EASY MONEY CATALOG SALES FANTASIES ILLUSIONS JACKSONVILLE SPEEDWAY AUTO PARTS RACEWAY AUTO PARTS JOSHUA EXPERIENCE/ CLUB ACCESS LAIRDS AUTO & TRUCK CENTER PAR TECH MILITARY CIRCUIT OF JACKSONVILLE PLAYHOUSE PLEASURE PALACE PRIVATE PLEASURES (A.K.A. CARRIAGE HOUSE) **REFLECTION PHOTO** SOUTHERN COMFORT TY'S R&R STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMPANY TALK OF THE TOWN II TENDER TOUCH (A.K.A. BABY DOLLS) VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

Aug. 22, 1942

The 4th Marine Aircraft Wing was commissioned at Ewa, Hawaii, as the 4th Marine Base Defense Air Wing. The Wing's three squadrons were located at Midway, Ewa and Samoa with the headquarters at Ewa. In the fall of 1944, the 4th Marine Base Defense Air Wing became the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

Aug. 23, 1984

The last Marines to serve on peace-keeping duty in Lebanon returned to the United States. The 24th Marine Amphibious Unit arrived off the coast of Lebanon April 9 to relieve Marines of the 22nd MAU who were guarding the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The 24th MAU left Beirut on July 31, marking the last presence of U.S. combat troops in Beirut since Marines entered almost two years earlier.

Aug. 24, 1814

Capt. Samuel Miller's 100-man detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, fought in the battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital. After helping to fight back three British charges, Capt. Miller was wounded and the enemy began to work around both flanks of the American force. Almost encircled, the force of Sailors and Marines was forced to retire to avoid capture. Eight Marines were killed and 14 were wounded.



Hotlines

If you are a victim of sexual assault

Immediately call 466-3264 during working hours or (800) 208-8086 after hours and on weekends. The person answering the call will help you decide what you should do next. You may remain anonymous. This procedure is not to replace calling 911 if you are in immediate danger. Remember, it's not your fault. Support is available.

Severe weather and force protection information Military personnel call 466-3093. FRC East personnel call 464-8333. DDCN personnel call 466-4083.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you know of, or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Cherry Point, call 466-2016. This line is answered by a machine 24 hours a day.



FOR MORE INFO ON THESE & OTHER MCCS ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS VISIT MCCSCHERRYPOINT.COM



FOR MORE INFO ON THESE & OTHER MCCS ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS VISIT MCCSCHERRYPOINT.COM

Bristol Motor Speedway

Track length: .533 miles Banking in turns: 36 degrees Banking in straights: 16 degrees Seating capacity: 160,000 Year completed: 1961



mmunit

HOMES.CO

The Windsock

A LOOK AHEAD:

• What: Sharpie 500 • When: 7 p.m. ET Saturday • Where: Bristol Motor • TV: ESPN

SPRINT CUP

STANDINGS

1. Kyle Busch 3,429; leader 2. Carl Edwards 3,207; behind: -222

3,127; behind: -302 4. Dale Earnhardt Jr.

3,084; behind: -345 5. Jeff Burton

5. Jeff Burton 3,080; behind: -349 6. Tony Stewart 2,871; behind: -558 7. Greg Biffle 2,854; behind: -575 8. Kevin Harvick 2,812; behind: -617

2,812; behind: -617 9. Jeff Gordon 2,791; behind: -638

2.783: behind: -646

11. Kasey Kahne 2,756; behind: -673

12. Denny Hamlin 2,735; behind: -694

10. Matt Kenseth

3. Jimmie Johnson

Moving After carefully choosing his options, Stremme poised for a return to Cup racing \mathbf{R}

By RICK MINTER Cox News Service

ASCAR driver David Stremme seems to be living the old adage: When one door closes, another one opens

Stremme was released last year from his job of driving the No. 40 Dodge for Chip Ganassi. But after a year of racing in the Nationwide Series in Rusty Wallace's car and in the Craftsman Truck Series in a Billy Ballew-owned entry and doing considerable testing in a Sprint Cup car for Penske Racing, Stremme is back in the running for a top-flight Cup ride.

He says he's 99.99 percent sure he'll be racing in Cup. Most in the garage expect him to be named driver of the No. 12 Dodge at Penske, replacing Ryan Newman who is leaving to drive the No. 4 for Stewart-Haas Racing. Stremme said that when the chips were

down for him last year and the only offers he was getting were for sub-par cars, he set about to do what he needed to do to get his career back on track. One of his first moves was to consult other drivers whose

first rides in Cup didn't work out. "Rusty Wallace is one of them, and Mark Martin is one of them," he said "I've talked to them. I'm not at a place financially where I have to run Cup races to make money. I'm looking at how to be in the sport long-term. "Tve leaned on a lot of guys who have

been around the sport. I knew it was tak-ing a chance to step back, but it worked out.

His big break came when Wallace hired him to drive one of his two Nationwide Series cars. Wallace's son, Steven, drives the other.

"That turned into a really good deal for me," Stremme said. "Rusty's a racer, and he's got really nice stuff. We've had some struggles, but we've improved the organi-

zation, and it's helped me out." The offers to return to Cup started coming again, but Stremme wants to be sure he makes the best move.

"I turned down programs to be sure I don't get in a bad area," he said. "At this level, so much is out of my

hands — like cars getting built. You have to put trust in those around you. Some of the teams I didn't feel were capable of what I want to achieve, so I sat out, and so far it's worked out, even though I still haven't signed anything.'

Stremme also has spent a lot of time with the Penske team, testing a car nearly

A two-driver Chase?

Twelve Sprint Cup drivers will compete in NASCAR's season-ending, 10-race Chase for the championship, which begins after three more races. But the real contest appears to be boiling down to a two-man race between visit of the broch or cicht time winn arthing and points leader Kyle Busch, an eight-time winner this sea-son, and Carl Edwards, whose victory last week at Michigan was his fifth in Cup this season and his second In the past three races. No other driver has more than two victories this sea-

son, and of the 14 drivers with realistic chances of making the Chase, six are winless for 2008. That group of six Greg Biffle, Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon, Matt Kenseth and David Ragan.

- Rick Minter, Cox News Service 400 at Michigan International Speedway.

week. He said he insisted in the be ginning that he'd only be a test driver if the team really wanted to put a genuine effort behind him.

They have. When Sam Hornish Jr. was successful at Charlotte, finishing 13th in the Coca-Cola 600 with his car running down the straightaways as crooked as a crab, he was using a chassis set-up developed by Stremme and the test crew.

'I feel like I'm giving them good information, and they're using it,' he said. "It's pretty hard-core testing

And it's good for his career, too. "Obviously, being associated with Penske and getting to drive the Car of Tomorrow helps," he said. "When I get in a [Cup] car, wherever that is, I'll have seat time with the COT."

DAVID STREMME Born: June 19,

1977 Height: 5'9" Weight: 180 lbs. Birthplace: South Bend. Ind. Residence: Davidson, N.C. Marital status: single Hobbies: boating, short-track racing

NASCAR

NASCAF

That's what racing hasn't been a whole lot of for me lately due to the fact we had success in '02, '03, part of '04, and since then, it hasn't been as successful. Therefore, some of the fun is gone with that. I look forward to having fun again." Newman also said he believes Stewart can make the Cup team he co-

owns with Gene Haas just as successful as the open-wheel racing teams he owns by himself. "I've seen the success, from an ownership stand-point, with the USAC

Rick Minter's

Newman said in a news conference announcing

the contract. "I told Tony, 'The bottom line is, I'm

here to have fun. I want to have fun with you.'

"I know he wants to have fun doing this.

OBSERVATIONS

Newman: 'I want to have fun'

Key story lines as NASCAR heads to Bristol.

By choosing to drive next year for fellow Indiana native Tony Stewart, Ryan Newman seems to have

2.

figured in the fun factor as much, or more, than any financial considerations. "We sat down at the shop, we talked about it, signed the paperwork,"

cars and the World of Outlaws cars," Newman said. "I've seen him get

the job done at other venues. I just look forward to the opportunity."

Gibbs team in hot water

Throughout its 17 years in the NASCAR garage. Joe Gibbs Racing has been known for playing by the rules without resorting to trickery or cheating. So it's somewhat surprising that the JGR Nationwide Series teams



stand accused of placing a stop under the accelerator of their cars after the Michigan race in an attempt to make NASCAR's chassis dynamometer test show the cars having less horsepower than they re-ally do. The stop apparently was placed under the pedal to keep it from going all the way to the

floor. JOE GIBBS

JOE GIBBS Team owner Joe Gibbs issued a statement the next day indicating that he wouldn't tolerate cheating by his crews. "If this alleged incident proves true, it goes

against everything we stand for as an organiza-tion," Gibbs said. "We will take full responsibility and accept any penalties NASCAR levies against us. We will also investigate internally how this incident took place and who was involved and make whatever decisions are necessary to ensure that this kind of situation never happens again.'

NASCAR back to its roots

After spending several years seemingly trying to distance itself from its old Southern-based core audience, NASCAR appears to be courting that group again.

One sign is the decision to bring the Southern 500 back to historic Darlington Raceway.

The track's only Cup race date won't change — the race will still be on the Saturday night before Mother's Day — but the iconic name that was asso-ciated with the track's old Labor Day weekend race is being brought back.

The first Southern 500 was run in 1950, with Californian Johnny Mantz prevailing over a 75driver field. The race continued for 54 years until another Californian, Jimmie Johnson, won the final Southern 500 in 2004. Some of the sport's most progressive-thinking

drivers are applauding the decision. "When I think of Darlington and the history of

the track, the Southern 500 is what comes to mind," five-time Southern 500 winner Jeff Gordon

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

Points separating Tony Stewart, sixth in the Sprint Cup standings, from David Ragan in 14th place.

Points separating Nationwide Series points leader Clint Bowyer and second-place Carl Edwards.

Car-owner points A.J. Allmendinger needs to join the top 35 and be assured of a starting spot for upcoming races.





NASCAR

CATCHING UP WITH ... Reed Sorenson

Reed Sorenson, driver of the Chip Ganassi-owned No. 41 Dodge in the Sprint Cup Series, started the season with a fifthplace finish in the Daytona 500, but since then, the results have been disappointing. He heads to Bristol Motor

Speedway 30th in the standings, with just two top-10 finishes. He recently participated in a teleconference with reporters, including Rick Minter of Cox News Service, who filed this report:

Q. How is Juan Pablo Montoya as a teammate?

A. He's a pretty quick learn-er. It didn't take him long to get a grasp on these cars and get out of them what he wanted. A lot of times this year, we've had the same problem, the same is-sues. I feel like we want the same things out of the car. We've been working really well together this year.

Q. What is your status for 2009, and are you coming back to the Ganassi team?

Carl Edwards, driver of the No. 99 Ford, battles Greg

Biffle on his way to victory in Sunday's 3M Performance

A. We're working on it right now. The past month or so I've been testing a lot and going out of town a lot. ... We're working on [a new contract] pretty hard, and we'll see what we can come up with pretty soon.

Q. Would you consider going to another team? A. I've just been trying to

focus on what's going on with our race team from a week-toweek basis. The whole organization has been struggling on these mile-and-a-half tracks. There's been a lot of stuff going on back in the shop with the [No.] 40 team [Dario Franchitti's] getting shut down and people moving around. That was a pretty big change for everybody.

Q. What do you have to do to



GREG LAUDICK / Cox News Service Reed Sorenson heads to Bristol 30th in the standings following a 33rd place finish last week at Michigan.

get in the Chase next year?

A. We just have to put every-thing together. I think we have a pretty good car for short tracks where we can qualify decent and run a good race. Right now, we're just struggling on the mile-and-a-half tracks. ... If

n just get our program in side the top 15 or top 20 on those tracks, then I think we can get a lot better and more consistent.

Q. Do you have a workout

routine? A. I'm actually a member at the YMCA, so that's where I go. A lot of the times we're on the road and you may be gone two, two-and-a-half weeks without even being home, so it gets pret-ty tough to have an everyday routine of working out. I try to run as much as I can. You'll see a lot of guys running at the racetrack. You just try to get your stamina up and get used to the heat ... get out in the sun and try to run a couple of miles

Q. What are the challenges in moving to the Cup level at age 18 to 20?

A. The competition level is about 10 times what you're used to. ... When you were coming up, you used to have to beat five or 10 guys that were really good. Then you get to the Cup level, you've got 40 good guys out there. So it gets tougher as you go.

Battle for the title Cherry Point hosts East Coast Regional Softball Championship



LANCE CPL. DOUG PAYNE

A Marine with the Henderson Hall softball team prepares to knock one out of the park during a game against Cherry Point Sunday.

LANCE CPL. DOUG PAYNE

The 2008 East Coast Regional Softball Championship kicked off Friday as seven teams scrambled to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point to compete alongside the air station's team for this year's title.

The teams included Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, 2nd Marine Division, MCAS New River, MCB Quantico, Henderson Hall and South Carolina Marines.

The Cherry Point softball team started the year out by forming tryouts in the beginning of February. About 30 people were active in practices before the team was officially formed in June with a 15-Marine roster.

The Marines on the Cherry Point softball team have been practicing for two hours a day, four days a week in preparation for the tournament. They've been performing various hitting drills, fielding maneuvers and have participated in several tournaments with the Southern Softball Athletic Association.

"The tournaments really gave us a lot of game time and the ability to practice situations," said Wesley Armstrong, the coach of the Cherry Point softball team. "You don't know how your team will react until you are put into those circumstances."

Armstrong, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has participated in baseball and softball since he was 4 years old, and played for varsity baseball in high school. He said he has had fun being a part of the air station team for the past four years and has been looking forward to the competition.

The championship was conducted as a round-robin style tournament. In a round-robin tournament each participant plays every other participant an equal number of times. The top seeds in the round robin go on to compete for the title in a single elimination format.

Cherry Point went undefeated in the round-robin, coming in the top seed at 3-0. However, they were nudged out by Henderson Hall in the second single-elimination game, 3-2.

"This is the first time in three years we've pulled out a win in the semi-finals," said Gil George, the air station Semper Fit Athletic Division's assistant director. "It was a little disappointing not to make it to the championship game and have medal potential, but they played well as a team." 2nd Marine Division and MCB Quantico ended up making the cut to the finals. After a competitive start, Quantico started pulling out the stops and racking up the runs. Quantico pummeled Division with a 16-4 win, taking home the championship title and the gold medal and Division the silver.



LANCE CPL. DOUG PAYNE

LANCE CPL. DOUG PAYNE

A Marine with the Cherry Point softball team quickly fields a ball back to one of his fellow teammates.



Although Cherry Point didn't take the championship, Armstrong said he was happy with their performance throughout the event.

"I'm proud of what they did," said Armstrong. "They never counted themselves out. Even when they were down in their last innings, they found the spark to finish out."



LANCE CPL. DOUG PAYNE

Marines with the Marine Corps Base Quantico softball team form a huddle to celebrate their victory at the East Coast Regional Softball Championship.

Tyrone "Tybo" Butler is the first Marine to bat a home run on the air station's main softball field this season. Butler knocked the ball more than 320 feet to claim the honor.

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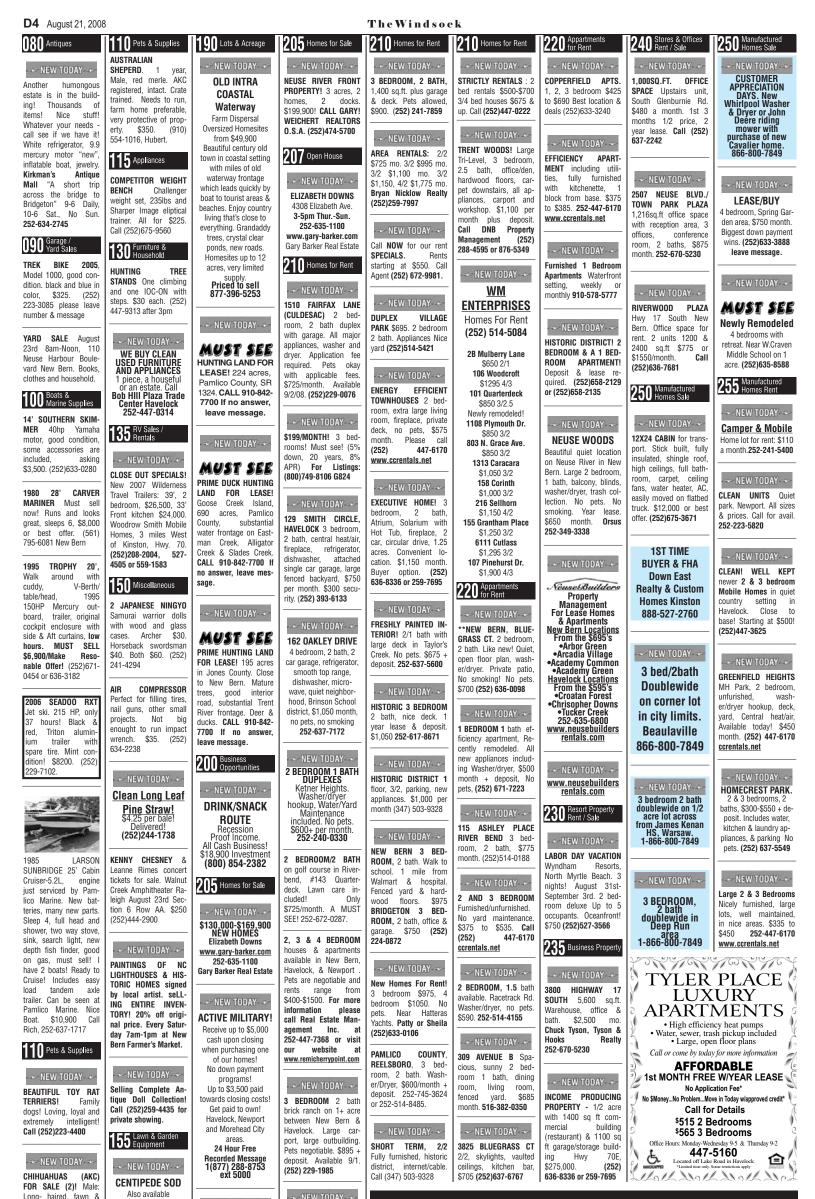
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August 21, 2008 **D5**



FORD 2002 TAURUS One owner, all maintenance records on file, 69K miles, all power,

2005 Signature 1, \$15,764, Silver, passenger van, 13K miles, Reduced \$16,988, P2381 Cella Ford (252) 638-4011



The Windsock

