MARINE CORPS NEWS
WEEKLY

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NEWS BRIEFS

MV-22 Osprey Update

Division of Public Affairs, HQMC

Washington DC — A Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey, which remained at Marana Airport in Tucson, AZ, following the April 8 crash of a second Osprey, returned May 22 to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, AZ.

The Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) aircraft was the lead aircraft in a section of two participating in the simulated Noncombatant Evacuation Operation mission that resulted in the tragic loss of 19 Marines.

The aircraft returned to Yuma to allow Marine Corps crews to conduct routine maintenance in preparation for a return to flight of LRIP aircraft involved in Operational Evaluation.

The decision to return the LRIP aircraft to full flight operations will be made by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Jones.

The Marine Corps continues a thorough investigation of the recent mishap and is committed to finding and correcting the cause.

Enlisted Essays

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The U.S. Naval Institute announces the fifth annual Enlisted Essay Contest. Entries must be postmarked on or before Sept. 1. Prizes of $1,000, $750, and $500 will be awarded to the top three essays; others may be purchased for publication at standard rates. For complete details, visit www.usni.org, or call (410) 295-1058.

Sgt. Bryce R. Piper

BAN CHAN KHREM, Thailand — Lance Corporal Adam M. Riley shows a Royal Thai Marine his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. The Marines had just completetd a 48-hour, day and night live-fire exercise during Cobra Gold 2000. Lance Cpl. Riley is a member of Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

Are Your Records Ready For Promotion?

By Sgt. Tanya C. Espinosa
Marine Corps News

Marines looking to pin on their first rocker have until July 18 to get their packages to Headquarters Marine Corps. The board will convene for approximately nine weeks.

To be eligible for consideration, Marines must have completed the Sergeants Nonresident Course (now the Sergeants Distance Education Program) 8000 series, Noncommissioned Officer Basic Nonresident Program 7000 series, or the Marine Noncommissioned Officer Course 03.3.

Every Marine eligible needs to submit a photograph taken no longer than six months before the board convenes, and it is highly recommended that a member of the

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National Moment of Remembrance

Memorial Day, May 29, 2000 at 3 p.m. (local)

Honoring members of our Armed Forces who have given their lives in defense of freedom.

Commentary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What Motivates Us To Do What We Do?

By Staff Sgt. Michael D. Reed
MCRD Parris Island, SC

Society turns its back and doesn't hold people accountable. I see this problem as one that has been decades in the making. It's not the politicians. It's not corporate America taking over. It's not our police and law enforcement officers who have gone wrong. It is a slow, but increasing decomposition of our standards, morals, and values. It's false advertising in every form of our living. We market our products, our politics, our businesses, and ourselves, with a little less honor, and a little more selfishness every day.

Good order and discipline. At the very foundation of those concepts must be standards that are uniformly known, consistently applied, and non-selectively enforced. Our military standards are higher than those in our society at large because of what we do. We defend our nation, and the tools of our trade are lethal. The public holds us to a higher standard.

We are held in high regard by the public, because of the integrity we demonstrate by holding ourselves accountable and others accountable for their actions.

In the Marine Corps, we expect all members to live by the highest standards implicit in our core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. We should not and will not accept less. However, when those standards are not met — in the form of misconduct or behavior that does not meet our standards — then it is our responsibility and our duty to hold Marines involved accountable for their actions and respond appropriately. Depending on the severity of the action, the response might be disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or some type of administrative action, such as non-judicial punishment.

Marine Corps standards require far more than mere compliance with the law. They require that people display the extraordinary discipline, judgment, and training that their duties require and the American people expect. Marines must recognize that loyalty and commitment must be to the larger organization, to the Marine Corps as an institution. Selectively enforcing standards is the death of this ethos. You cannot afford to disillusion the majority by being lenient on those who fail to meet, or choose to ignore, Marine Corps standards.

The bottom line is simple: Marine Corps standards must be uniformly known, consistently applied and non-selectively enforced. Accountability and responsibility are critically important to good order and discipline of the Corps. And, failure to ensure accountability will destroy the trust of the American public. The very people living under the Constitution we swore to support and defend, and who look to us, the members of their nation's Marine Corps, to embrace and live by the standards that are higher than those in society we serve. Lying, cheating, and stealing. Is it acceptable to be self-serving and self centered? Even if it means avoiding all responsibility for our actions. Accountability and responsibility seem to be a thing of the past. The age-old adage; "If you don't get caught ... you're not doing anything wrong." We are a nation quickly becoming accustomed to changing the rules to fit our immediate desires. The quick fixes. Whatever feels good at the time.

Moral factors play an important role in developing the individual. When Marines are moral, the moral power that binds them together and fits them is given its main chance for success. I am speaking of training in morals for everyday living. When Marines conduct lives built on high moral standards, they tend to develop qualities that produce inspired leadership and discipline.

Trust in the Marine Corps and in leaders who consistently set the example expected of Marine Corps professionals is vital. Acting as a buffer to protect subordinates is a key responsibility of any leader. Leaders must avoid "passing the buck." Leaders must act from the courage of their own convictions even when such a position runs counter to just making someone happy. Reaffirm these values and ensure they guide you, your performance, behavior, and conduct every minute of every day.

For letters to the editor only: *mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil.*
Resources do not permit answering general inquiries.

MCN WEEKLY

Commandant of the Marine Corps
General James L. Jones
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps
Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael

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Weapons Company Commander Named Leftwich Trophy Winner

By Capt. Alan F. Crouch
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC

Captain Daniel M. Sullivan, commanding officer of Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, was selected as the 1999 Leftwich Trophy recipient.

The Leftwich Trophy, named after Marine Lt. Col. William G. Leftwich, has been awarded annually since 1979 in recognition of outstanding leadership by a Marine captain serving with ground forces in the Fleet Marine Force.

Lieutenant Col. Leftwich was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star for heroic actions in Vietnam where he died in a helicopter crash in 1970.

Captain Sullivan, a Huntington, NY, native, served as the commanding officer of "L" Company, 3d Bn., 8th Marines, in 1998 and 1999. During 1999, he and his company were part of security operations in Albania and Kosovo.

"To me, this isn't an individual award — it's a unit award," said Capt. Sullivan. "It's the culmination of two years of hard work by my Marines."

Of the thousands of ground combat officers in the Marine Corps, only six are nominated each year to compete for the trophy. A panel of senior Marine officers selects one winner who must also be approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Courtesy of Eric Steinkopf, The Daily News

Captain Daniel Sullivan (center) observes as Lance Cpl. Nelson Adames, left, uses a mortar ballistic computer to assist Lance Cpl. Jesse Navarrette to call for mortar fire.

The captain said he was influenced to join the Marine Corps by observing his father, a Marine tank officer. He said although his father did not actively encourage him to join the Marines, he "liked what he saw" in his dad's Marine Corps career — the chance to go places and do good things for people.

"There's always been a healthy dose of public service in my family," said Capt. Sullivan, whose three younger siblings are also Marine Corps officers.

Captain Sullivan is scheduled to join the staff of the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Quantico, VA, when he leaves his current assignment next month.

Remote Mortar Demonstrated At Quantico

By Cpl. James Covington
MCB Quantico, VA

The Marine Corps Warfighting Lab displayed its new, experimental mortar system May 5 during a firing demonstration.

The Mobile Fire Support System (MFSS) is a rifled 120 mm mortar system. It is the first remotely fired mortar system.

"It can be fired from anywhere within [range of] communication" said Forrest Lindsey, the senior engineer at the Warfighting Lab. "We can actually put a satellite receiver on it and fire it by satellite."

The MFSS is equipped with its own Global Positioning System, field radio and fire control computer. The turret has power traverse, elevation and loading capabilities. When the system receives a fire mission over the radio, it can turn, load and fire, within 12 seconds.

"We've designed the very first robotic gun," Lindsey said. "It allows us to respond faster and much more accurately to fire missions."

The new system has a range of 8.2 kilometers and 13 kilometers when using Rocket Assisted Projectiles. During a test fire, the MFSS, firing from 6,000 meters away, placed nine rounds within a 2-meter circle.

"We have the capability to provide lethal and accurate fire support," said Maj. Lance McDaniel, the ground combat representative for the advanced technology division of the Warfighting Lab. "We're looking to achieve first-round fires for effect."

The MFSS system's mobility makes it a very agile weapon.

"We're looking for it to be a weapon that can be towed by a Humvee, carried in a V-22 [Osprey], pushed

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Staff Sgt. Craig Shell

Just in Time for the Action

A Marine CH-53E helicopter is offloaded from a C5A Galaxy, flown by 68th Airlift Squadron, at Makadonia Airport near Thessaloniki, Greece on May 18. The Helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 will support ground troops partcipating in exercise Dynamic Mix 2000. Dynamic Mix 2000 is an exercise involving 14 NATO countries and involves live fire exercises, command post exercises and cross training.

By DOD News Service, Washington

The United States is participating with 13 other nations in Dynamic Mix 00, a multi-phase, multi-force combined NATO exercise comprised of air, land, maritime and amphibious operations throughout the NATO southern region. The exercise began May 20 and will continue to June 10.

U.S. Naval forces involved in Dynamic Mix 00, including operational units of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, will operate within various NATO commands during the exercise. Participating Sixth Fleet units include USS Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, comprised of USS Wasp, USS Oak Hill, and USS Trenton. Embarked in these amphibious ships is the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

The purpose of Dynamic Mix is to exercise NATO command and control, reinforcement and transfer of authority procedures. Dynamic Mix 00 will also exercise the operational deployment of reaction forces, interoperability, flexibility, and mobility of multinational forces, all within the framework of a NATO, multilateral, multinational exercise.

The exercise will take place concurrently in more than one location in NATO's southern region, hosted by Italy, Greece and Turkey. Participating in the exercises will be forces from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

Dynamic Mix 00 will be the largest NATO exercise conducted in the Southern Region this year. About 15,000 troops, 65 ships and 290 aircraft are planned to participate, as well as most NATO headquarters in the Southern Region. The exercise is under the direction and coordination of the commander in chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH).

10-Day U.S. Exercise Tests Ability Of Government Agencies And Military During Disaster Response

By Staff Sgt. Jason Tudor
Joint Task Force Civil Support

PEASE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NH (AFPN) — The Department of Defense continues supporting Exercise Top Off 2000 here, which has aligned several government agencies in a simulation testing nearly every aspect of their emergency management skills.

DOD representation comes in several forms, but may be most visible through its use of Joint Task Force Civil Support.

The command, located in Norfolk, VA, is a newly established unit assigned to U.S. Joint Forces Command. JTF-CS provides command and control over DOD forces in support of a lead federal agency for managing the consequences of weapons of mass destruction incidents in the United States and its territories.

Top Off — an acronym for "Top Officials," which unites the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FBI, DOD and other agencies — is a 10-day, multi-agency crisis management and consequence management exercise.

"We have an important role assisting our citizens domestically when other relief agencies are overwhelmed," said JTF-CS commander, Army Brig. Gen. Bruce Lawlor.

This includes areas like fighting fires, providing a post office during a strike, disaster relief, hurricane and other national incidents.

The unit's main authority stems from the Stafford Act (there are several other legal precedents including the Constitution). Passed in 1988, the act allows the president — in response to a state governor's request — to declare an emergency or major disaster in order to provide federal assistance. This includes providing military personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities and managerial, technical and advisory services.

RECORDS

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command group certifies the height and weight annotated on the photo.

If a Marine was the subject of a completed disciplinary action, by military or civilian authorities, not previously reported on a fitness report, the commander must submit a message to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. A disciplinary action is considered completed when a Marine is awarded non-judicial punishment or is found guilty in a court-martial or civilian court proceeding.

Marines may send personal communication: letters to the president of the board, copies of award certificates, copies of school certificates, etc.; however, any material must be received at Headquarters Marine Corps on or before July 18. Update material received after the convening date will not be forwarded to the board.

Every Marine is responsible for ensuring their records are complete and accurate. Marines with missing fitness reports will not be given a remedial promotion in the event they fail selection.

For more information, refer to Marine Administrative Message 258/00.

NEXT?

By Sgt. Bobbie J. Bryant
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC

Marines are dying. Will you be next?

Just before leaving Camp Lejeune, a large sign in the center median of Holcomb Boulevard flashes either a red, green, or yellow light, sending a vital message to all who pass.

The fatality sign is intended to be a reminder of recent injuries and deaths caused by traffic accidents.

Speeding motorists may not have noticed what the sign has to announce as they pass. The green light represents clear roadways with no Camp Lejeune Marines killed or injured. The red light signifies the recent death of a Camp Lejeune Marine in an automobile accident and will flash an average of three days, according to Freeman White Sr., base traffic safety specialist. This week, the light has flashed yellow to signify that a Marine was seriously injured in a vehicle accident. According to Mr. White, only Marines assigned to Camp Lejeune are represented on this sign.

The sign also displays the deaths that occurred by this time last year. There have been 13 fatalities so far this fiscal year while there were only three this time last year. That is a 433 percent increase in just one year.

"We are very concerned with the sharp increase in traffic fatalities among our Marines," said Jordan L. Pickett, deputy safety manager. "We have made every effort through ongoing and continuous safety fairs, briefs and classes to educate our Marines over the years. However, we are still seeing fatalities due to fatigue, speed, use of alcohol, or failing to wear seatbelts."

These contributing factors are all easily correctable, according to Mr. Pickett. "We strongly encourage Marines and Sailors to realize they could lose their life and take the lives of others with them if they don't heed the advice given," he said.

Editor's Note: This article was edited for length. It originally concluded with a list of all Camp Lejeune Marines who died in traffic accidents this year. Unfortunately, nearly every base could compile a similar list. As the author asked at the beginning, "Will you be next?"

MORTAR

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out of a V-22, and set up 200 nautical miles inland," Mr. Lindsey said. "Once the LAV (light armored vehicle) body kit catches up, we're looking at making it modular, so individuals can lift the cannon section off, put it on the LAV and move it as a self-propelled artillery piece."

The MFSS project started in 1996 when Col. Anthony Wood, then the director of the Warfighting Lab wanted to develop a mortar that could be placed in an isolated location and fired remotely.

The mortar system is a result of the combined efforts of the Warfighting Lab; Picatinney Arsenal, NJ, Rock Island Arsenal, IL, Allied Signal Corporation; L3 Communications and Thomson Daimler Armaments of France.

The system is still experimental and is not scheduled to replace any existing system in the inventory.

"In the Warfighting Lab, we build and demonstrate experimental systems," Mr. Lindsey said. "It's up to the fleet and the Combat Development Command to decide what the Marine Corps will use."

If incorporated, the new system will make a significant difference to the gun crews that will fire the weapon on the battlefield.

"The gun crew can occupy and fire from trenches 50 to 100 meters away," said Lindsey. "If counter fire comes in, the gun crew is down in the trenches protected from enemy fire."

Have you picked up a good magazine lately? This one is definitely worth your time and might be worth your life. You can find it on the worldwide web at www.safetycenter.navy.mil.

Improvements Highlight Growing Importance Of Affordable, Quality Child Care For Nation's Military Families

By Linda D. Kozaryn, AFPS

WASHINGTON — Already hailed as the best of its kind in the nation, DoD's child development program will be even better in the future, according to Linda Smith, head of DoD's Office of Family Policy.

The White House lauded the military program last year as a model for the nation. This spring, the National Women's Law Center cited the program for its quality, affordability and availability.

Ms. Smith, who's devoted a 22-year government career to child care and family issues, attributes DoD's success to the countless people throughout the services who have worked to improve the child care system over the past decade.

"There was a collective will in DoD to change child care," said Ms. Smith. "Along with the leadership's commitment, many people at all levels of DoD worked to fix the problems."

The Military Child Care Act of 1989 authorized funding for child development centers, set fees based on family income and government matches and set up subsidies for family child care. It tied caregivers' wages to training requirements and established an accreditation initiative, inspection regime, and child abuse prevention and safety procedures.

Ms. Smith, who became head of DoD's child care and youth programs in 1989 and director of the Office of Family Policy in 1995, worked with Pentagon policymakers, commanders and child care providers to develop a comprehensive system that would meet families' needs. While the law primarily focused on child care centers, DoD went beyond the law in applying its requirements across the board.

Today, the military child development program links child care centers, family child care homes, after school programs and resource and referral services. What was once an underfunded, loosely organized effort is now a top military priority. Military and congressional leaders acknowledge the link between child care and operational readiness.

About half of today's service members have one or more children below school age, Smith said. The military community includes about 500,000 children under age 5, 440,000 ages 6 to 11, and nearly 295,000 ages 12 to 18.

Despite its success, however, Ms. Smith stressed, it's not time for DoD to rest on its laurels. She noted that about one-third of military children are cared for in private homes. "We can do a lot more to support family child care providers. We still have some work to do to reassure parents that family child care homes offer the same quality and are as safe as child development centers."

DoD currently meets 58 percent of military families' need for child care, Ms. Smith said. The goal is to meet 80 percent of the need by 2005. "The military has successfully focused on quality and affordability, but we now need to focus on availability."

EFMP Keeps Marine And Family Ready For Service

By Margy Oxendine

MCAS YUMA, AZ — According to Marine Corps Order P1754.4A, the Exceptional Family Member Program is a mandatory enrollment program that was developed to ensure military family members with special medical and/or educational needs are able to receive required services wherever the sponsor is assigned.

Local EFMP coordinators can assist Marines in determining if a family member must be enrolled and can provide a wealth of information, including:

— How to recognize conditions prompting mandatory enrollment

— How to complete enrollment

— How to understand EFMP benefits regarding assignments

— Self-help with regard to accessing community, state, national and federal resources and support groups

Enrollment in the EFMP begins with the recognition of certain health-related/behavioral circumstances:

Is your child in special education or, if a preschooler, sufficiently delayed in developmental milestones such that early intervention services may be required?

Is there a condition such as diabetes, asthma, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, heart disease, or any history of mental health treatment or disorder within the past three years?

As a rule of thumb, any healthcare need which will exist for one year or more, and cannot be managed by a family practice physician or general practitioner requires enrollment. This is because the individual requires specialty care not universally available, and that puts the sponsor at risk for early return from overseas assignment.

For more information on this program, contact the EFMP coordinator at your local Marine Corps Community Services.

Have you visited your
Marine Corps Community Services lately?