MARINE CORPS NEWS WEEKLY

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NEWS BRIEFS

Realignment for exceptional family member program

The Marine Corps recently announced the realignment of the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) from the Personnel Management (MM) Division to the Personal and Family Readiness (MR) Division.

Exceptional Family Member Program is designed to improve the quality of life for family members with special needs (i.e., asthma, speech delay, attention deficit disorder, cancer, depression, etc.).

The EFMP also provides the procedures and guidelines to facilitate the appropriate assignment of the sponsor. By identifying families with special needs and maximizing the quality services needed, the quality of life provided to the Marine family is enhanced, while meeting the mission of the Marine Corps.

The MR Division is responsible for providing service policy and resources to support commanders in executing quality personal and family programs which enhance the operational readiness, warfighting capabilities, and quality of life of the Marine community.

For more information see MARADMIN 290/00 or contact Belinda A. Sims at (703) 784-9654 or DSN 278-9654.

Commandant to fly aboard MV-22 Osprey

By Capt. Bakkar-Poe, Division of Public Affairs, HQMC

WASHINGTON, DC-The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, will fly on an MV-22 Osprey Saturday, June 17, at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, CA.

The flight marks the beginning of the third and final phase of the return-to-flight plan established after the loss of 19 Marines in a crash at Marana Airport in Tucson, AZ, on April 8.

The Marine Corps' four Low Rate Initial Production MV-22s are currently participating in Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) which resumed June 5 at China Lake.

OPEVAL is designed to validate the aircraft's tactical application in support of Marine Corps missions and will continue to be flown by the Multi-Service Operational Test Team (MOTT) pilots.

Following completion of operations at China Lake, the MV-22 will conduct OPEVAL missions with passengers at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, NC.

The MV-22 has safely flown more than 40 troop-lift missions and has carried more than 700 troops during OPEVAL flights.

A complete review by the Naval Air Systems Command, the Naval Safety Center and the head of Marine Aviation found no structural or design flaws that preclude safe flight operations.

Official Photo of U.S. Marine Corps Commandant

A thorough investigation of the recent accident continues as the Marine Corps maintains its commitment to finding and correcting the cause.

For more information on the MV-22 and biographical data on Gen. James Jones, please access the websites: www.navair.navy.mil/V22 and www.usmc.mil.

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Commentary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't shoot the messenger

By Sgt. Maj. Holub, Marine Forces Pacific

Sometimes no matter how hard you try to be a good leader, there are going to be times you come up short. While I don't' think anyone goes out of their way to be a bad leader on any given day or to do things that are un-Marine like on purpose, I do know they sometimes just happen. You might be tired, or something else might have put you in a bad mood to cause you to say or do something you would not ordinarily do.

Regardless of what caused it, we sometimes shoot the first Marine who comes into our crosshairs – whether they deserve it or not. Because we are all human, all of us are affected by things which happen outside our normal duties as Marines, and those other forces sometimes have profound effects on how we treat Marines and sailors we work with and are in charge of. There are times when something that happened at home or something else was eating at you, causing you to fly off the handle at some poor suspecting Marine or sailor. So you do something or say something you regret just about as fast as it passes through your soup coolers.

I was guilty of this just a few days ago. If it happens to me, I would venture to say it happens to all of us no matter what our rank or our experience level might be. It is about that incident that I would like to talk about to you and hopefully make you aware of how it happened so you won't make the same mistake I did.

I had just returned from a rather long trip to Washington DC and the West Coast where the

Please see **MESSENGER**, *page 3*

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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Korean War Commemoration Opening Ceremony

By the Korean War Commemoration Committee

WASHINGTON—On June 25, the Secretary of Defense will host the opening ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on The Mall in Washington DC.

This event will mark the official start to the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Period which runs through Nov. 11, 2003.

The purpose of the commemoration is to thank and honor Korean War veterans and their families; especially those who lost loved ones in that war.

Other Korean War commemorative events open to the public this year include:

- **June 14**-Korean War Veterans Parade-U.S. Marine Corps Barracks, 8th and I Street, Washington, DC

- **June 25**-Wreath Laying Ceremony-Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

- **July 5**-Task Force Smith-Osan, Republic of Korea

- **July 26**-Twilight Tatto-Ellipse, Washington, DC

- **Sept. 13**-Pusan Breakout-Waegwan, Republic of Korea

- **Sept. 15**-Inchon Landing-Inchon, Republic of Korea

- **Nov. 11**-Northern Campaigns-Seoul, Republic of Korea

- **Nov. 11**-Nations Parade, New York, NY

- **Dec. 7**-Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir Campaign-Camp Pendleton, CA

- **Dec. 12**-Hungnam Redeployment and Evacuation-Navy Memorial, Washington, DC

For more information call (703) 604-0831 or visit website: http://Korea50.army.mil.

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commanding general and I attended the memorial service for our Marines who had been killed in the tragic V-22 crash. The trip had been a long one – just coming on the heels of another trip I had been on. To be frank with you, I was a bit tired and not in a real great mood. The combination of jetlag and the tragedy of losing those Marines were heavy on my mind. My laptop computer did not work the entire time I had been away from the Force headquarters and my electronic in-basket was overflowing with work I needed to take care of right away. Being that it was my first day back in the office, people were running in and out to bring me up to speed on various topics and my phone was ringing off the hook. In short, I was tired, grumpy, and just not my usual self, although I was doing my best to disguise it.

As I sat down in my office to read my e-mails which had piled up during my absence, I discovered that the Marines from the G-6 section had been in my office working on my computer while I was away and had taken my computer off line. I could feel my anger rising as I called my clerk to get someone up to my office to fix my machine as soon as possible.

Within moments, a young, sharp lance corporal arrived ready, willing, and able to fix whatever problem I had, but that was not good enough. For here was my target of opportunity to vent some of my pent-up anger, and I was not going to let it escape. Oh boy, off I went. Ready. … Fire. …Aim!

Here was a Marine who was doing his best to fix a problem I had sent for him for and I was chewing him out – not because he did anything wrong, but because I was ticked off that Marines were killed Arizona, my laptop didn't work while I was gone, and I was tired. I knew he didn't screw up my computer; he was just sent to fix it, which he had every intention of doing. And here was the Force sergeant major chewing his butt out for no apparent reason. Luckily within moments, I realized what I was doing and stopped. I looked at the lance corporal, lowered my voice and said something that we as leaders of Marines should say when we do something really stupid. I said, "I'm sorry." I told him that I knew it was not his fault that the computer was on the fritz and that I just was not myself that day. I told him not to worry, I did not blame him, and I would appreciate it if he could help me out and fix my computer. Immediately, I could see him relax and calm down. I knew I had broken one of the most basic leadership rules by shooting someone just because I was in a bad mood. I was wrong, and I knew it, and more importantly, I knew he knew it. I was embarrassed, and I had been wrong. I had let my self-discipline slip.

Printed with Permission from Sachiko Misaka, Torii Teller Magazine

"Come On.... What did the 1st Sgt Say?!?"

Being tired and having something else on my mind, I shot the first guy I could and it happened to be this Marine. I was guilty of venting my anger on this lane corporal whose only problem was that he happened to be in my office at the wrong time.

After I apologized and he left my office, I got to thinking about how many times I had been on the receiving end of those types of butt-chewings and how angry it had made me feel. I also got to thinking about how many times this same scene is probably played out through out the Force each day by Marines who are preoccupied by something else and take out their frustrations out on someone junior in grade to them just because they can. It's poor leadership of the highest order and prompted me to write about it.

Look at it this way. How many times have you been guilty of this or have had it done to you in your career and never stopped to think about the effects it has on the morale and good order and discipline of your Marines and your unit? I would venture to say if I didn't stop when I did, this lance corporal would not have a very high regard for me in the future. You see, Marines don't mind getting their butts chewed if they did something wrong- to be honest with you they sort of expect it – but to take one for not doing anything wrong really lasts a long time in a Marine's memory. Believe me, I know I have had my face blown off on more than one occasion during my time in the Corps, and I know it is not a very good feeling.

The point I am trying to make is simple. When you are tired or have something else on your mind, you are not at your best. You have got to remember that chewing out the first Marine or sailor you see is not going to change the fact that you are not in a good mood. It's just going to tick off some poor Marines whose only crimes are being junior in grade to you and being in your blast pattern when you decide to blow up.

Use your anger wisely. There are certainly enough things to really get you fired up each day without going round inventing ones to make yourself feel better. Don't do what I did and let other things on your mind cause you to lose some respect from your Marines. And if you do fly off the handle at the wrong time, be smart enough and humble enough to realize you made a mistake and apologize. It won't kill you to say you're sorry, and your just might getback some of that respect you lost in the Marine's eyes you abused for no reason. At least I hope I did.

Semper Fi.

In Honor of Korean War Veterans

Representatives of the Department of Defense, Korean War veterans, and Major League Baseball stand at attention shortly before placing a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in honor of the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean War.

By Cpl. Kris Pettie, MCB Henderson Hall

ARLINGTON, VA—The Department of Defense and Major League Baseball paid tribute to the U.S. service members who served in the Korean War, during a wreath-laying ceremony on June 14 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Henry H. Shelton, Korean War veteran Jerry Coleman, and Major League Baseball Commissioner, Allan H. Selig, placed the ceremonial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The ceremony memorialized the more than 1.7 million U.S. service members who served during the war, and the more than 33,000 who lost their lives. The Korean-era service members came from many walks-of-life, including Major League Baseballs. Over one hundred ball players from the Majors postponed their careers to serve in the war, according to Commissioner Selig. Additionally, hundreds more left the Minor League and collegiate baseball to serve in Korea.

Leaving his career with the New York Yankees, guest speaker Jerry Coleman was among the ball players who left the Majors to participate in the war raging on the Korean peninsula. Mr. Coleman was already a veteran dive-bomb pilot of World War II when his career was once again interrupted by war. He served as a pilot of the venerable Vought F4U Corsair, flying 69 combat missions during his tour in Korea, 12 more than the number of combat missions he flew in World War II.

The ceremony comes as a prelude to the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration, which begins Sunday, June 25, in the United States and South Korea.