

PMO beats Crusaders, 14-7.  
■ Page 4

# THE JETSTREAM

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

"The noise you hear is the sound of freedom"



Marine retires after 21 years.  
■ Page 7

www.beaufort.usmc.mil

Friday, June 4, 2004

## News to Use

### Marine Security Guard Brief

The Marine Security Guard Screening Team will visit the Air Station Monday. The team will provide a detailed brief on MSG duty at the Base Theater at 8:30 a.m. and screen volunteers for possible future assignment to MSG School. All Marines are highly encouraged to attend the briefing. The screening will take place immediately after the brief. Marines who are presently in receipt of orders are required to attend the brief to be rescreened. The uniform for the brief and screening will be summer service "C," with ribbons. For more information call 228-7152.

### DEFY Program

The Laurel Bay and Parris Island Youth Centers are looking for service members to volunteer as mentors in the 2004 Drug Education For Youth program. DEFY is a two-week long day camp (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), which educates youths ages 9-12 years old about the dangers of drugs, gangs, and peer pressure. The curriculum, place and times are provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 228-6539 or 228-7988 and leave your name and number. This is a yearlong obligation. The camp is two weeks long, June 14-23, and then it's one weekend a month for 8 months.

### COMPASS Hosting Free Classes

COMPASS is hosting free classes for Navy and Marine Corps Spouses June 8-10 at RMC Parris Island From 6-9 p.m. and on Sept. 7-9 the Air Station Chapel from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. the Classes will contain: benefits and services of the Navy, ways to deal with deployment, personal finance, tips and tricks for moving and history and tradition of the Navy. Free childcare will also be provided. For more information call 228-7362

## Around Town

### Savannah Golf Tournament

The Veterans Council of Savannah will be hosting a four-man scramble golf tournament July 17 at the Henderson Golf Club, Savannah, Ga. Players must check-in at 8 a.m. and will begin in a shot-gun start at 9 a.m. The tournament is \$50 per player, which will include green fees, cart, range ball, beverages and lunch. Mulligans will be \$5 per player and a limit of four. There will be prizes at the end of the tournament. Entrance forms are due by July 9. For more information call Gunnery Sgt. John McGraw (912)-692-8769.

### New Course at USCB

The University of South Carolina Beaufort is currently developing a new academic program - Bachelor's of Science in Security Studies - to be implemented in academic year 2005 - 2006. The inaugural course in this program will be offered by Dr. Donald Snow this summer.

The course is to begin in Summer II (July 6-Aug. 5) Monday-Thursday 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center - Beaufort campus.

Course Description: a course of the major topics and concerns facing security studies, including national military and political security, homeland security and terrorism, and questions of policy alternatives. This course is three credit hours.

For more information on the proposed Security Studies degree and this course, please call Academic Affairs at 521-4115. The USCB Summer 2004 course schedule is available in full at [www.sc.edu/beaufort/](http://www.sc.edu/beaufort/)

### Motor Transport Association

The Marine Corps Motor Transport Association will be holding their 8th reunion, Sept. 19-22 in Denver, Colo. For more information call Terry Hightower at (541)-430-3855 or e-mail at [usmacmta@yahoo.com](mailto:usmacmta@yahoo.com)

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# Rolling billboard visits Tri-Command

## Corps 18-Wheeler picks up furniture in Laurel Bay

CPL. MICAH SNEAD

JET STREAM STAFF

One of the Marine Corps' largest recruiters stopped in Laurel Bay to help a few Marines change duty stations in style, May 27.

These recruiters do not fit in Dress Blue or do pull-ups, but they turn more heads and catch more second-glances than most Marines will in a lifetime.

Since October 2002, the Corps has enlisted the aid of 80,000 pound, 70 foot long recruiters in the form of 1,000 tractor-trailers, decked out on all sides with Marine Corps graphics.

The 18-wheeler cruised through Laurel Bay to pick up furniture and belongings of Marines making permanent changes of station.

"The truck was moving from the East Coast to West Coast, so we thought it would be nice if some Marines' gear could catch a ride," said Frank Martin, quality assurance chief, Traffic

Management Office, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. "These trucks are an impressive sight and we don't see them much around here so this was a treat."

The five-year program to cover the trucks with recruiting banners reached its peak when the 1,000th tractor-trailer to be draped in scarlet and gold rolled off the lines in May. The Marine Corps pays for the materials and application of the new paint jobs while private trucking companies donate the space for free as a public service.

"It's really a campaign used for public service awareness about the Marine Corps," said Capt. Maxwell Boucher, paid media officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Headquarters Marine Corps. "We can have our graphics, icons and symbols out there where key influence's and folks in our target market can be inspired about their Marine Corps."

With an estimated 204 million vehicles in the United States, the 18-wheelers have the opportunity to reach vastly larger audiences

(MOVING, page 3)



Cpl. Micah Snead

A worker from Lowcountry Storage and Moving loads a tractor-trailer covered with Marine billboards in Laurel Bay, May 27.



File Photo

## Hawks CO takes final flight

Lieutenant Colonel L. Ross Roberts, commanding officer, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 is doused in ice-cold water by his company-grade aviators after flying his last flight as Hawk commanding officer, May 26.

# Drive-offs increase as prices go up

CPL. KAT JOHNSON

JET STREAM STAFF

As gasoline prices hit an all time high, so are the number of people driving away without paying.

More than a dozen motorists have pulled up to gas pumps at the Air Station Marine Mart and topped off their tanks without paying, reflecting a steady increase in drive-offs over the past five months.

"This is just something we can not tolerate," said Gunnery Sgt. Napoleon J. Dunbar, Provost Marshal's Office Chief, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. "I don't think someone's career is worth stealing \$12 or \$20 of gas."

Cameras located around the pumps capture motorists pumping gasoline, going inside the Marine Mart and driving away.

"The crime occurs when they go inside, purchase a bag of chips or bottle of water and never pay for the gas," Dunbar said. "Some people say they forget to pay, but it's kind of hard to do that when cashiers at the Mart ask almost every other customer 'purchase any gas today?'"

The bottom line is that there is no excuse for a Marine or Sailor to steal, according to

Dunbar.

"We pride ourselves on having integrity and morality," Dunbar said. "Every Marine has it. It's taught to them from boot camp. Stealing, whether it be gasoline or something else, is wrong."

When a person drives off, cashiers will stop the next person who attempts to pay for gas because the pump has not been cleared in the computer. After this happens, the security system will link the time and amount with the previous car and determine who did not pay for the gas. With cameras strategically placed around the pumps, every motorist can be identified by the make of their car and license plate number.

"Hardly ever do we have a plate that's unreadable, but sometimes the car might have dealer tags or temp tags," Dunbar said. "If this happens we'll send a B.O.L.O., (be on the lookout), to all military police on base and we'll catch them that way."

Stealing gas is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Military police aboard the Air Station will be keeping an extra watch for any persons driving off without paying for gas.

"This is a very serious situation," Dunbar said. "We want it to stop and we are commit-

ted to finding each and every offender."

Gas prices will not be affected by the thefts, but the privilege of having a base gas station might be revoked. Any military member accused of stealing, will be detained by PMO until their squadrons Staff Duty Officer picks them up. If the person accused is a civilian, they will be turned over to the appropriate authorities for further action.

"We will find the person, regardless of if they are military or not," Dunbar said. "It's part of our values as PMO Marines to maintain good order and discipline throughout the base."

Military Police assigned to track people accused of stealing believe a persons demonstrates lack of integrity when they steal.

"When people do things like this, it shows just how much we are needed," said Cpl. Brendon P. Scott, policeman, PMO, MCAS.

Scott, and fellow MP's Cpl. Jeremy J. Watkins and Lance Cpl. Brian Cain have responded to several gas thefts at the mart. They agree that military members should adhere to higher standards and stealing is not one of them.

"I don't know if they are absent minded," Cain said. "But I've never forgotten to pay

(GAS, page 7)

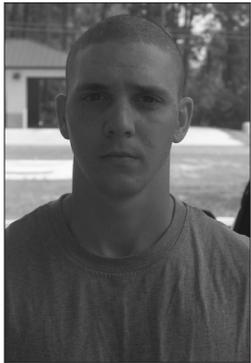
# Word on the Street

What is your favorite Marine Corps commercial?



**“The guy who goes through the gauntlet, defeats the monster and is struck by lightning to become an officer.”**

*Lt. Col. Doug Den  
VMFA-312*



**“The one where the Marine climbs up the mountain.”**

*Lance Cpl. Timothy Mcgregor  
VMFA(AW)-533*



**“The guy climbing up the mountain and jumping through the gauntlet.”**

*Cpl. Timothy Johnson  
VMFA-312*



**“I like the one that tells you about the low prices at the exchange.”**

*(Ret.) Gunnery Sgt. Willard Simeon  
Civilian*



**“The guy climbing up the mountain.”**

*Lance Cpl. Rick Stark  
VMFA-312*

# Filthy spoken words

**CMDR. RICHARD C. BUTLER**  
*MAG-31*

Can words be powerful? Simple puffs of air moving across our vocal cords! We are inclined to be doubtful. WORDS. A food, gas or energy shortage may exist, but not words, and we tend to discount their power. Yet, everyone of us can recall incidents in which the force of words was evident.

“In mid 1968, a research team from the social psychology program at Columbia University was conducting an experiment in lower Manhattan. They were dropping wallets on the street, and learning that about 45% of the people who found the wallets returned them to their owners within a few days. The research had been in progress for some time, and this return rate, 45%, had become a reliable average.”

“Then, an extraordinary thing happened. Not a single one of the wallets dropped on June 4 was returned. During that night, a young man named Sirhan Sirhan fired a bullet through the head of Robert F. Kennedy. The bullet had killed him, as the public soon learned through the news media. But it did something else as well. It damaged whatever social bonds had caused people to return those lost wallets. The bad news demoralized people and made them socially irresponsible.” (Psychology Today, 12/76,Holloway)

That incident was related by two psychologist in an article entitled, “How Good News Makes Us Good.” Can it be true? Are we so affected in attitude and actions by what we hear about us? Yes, say these authors, and it doesn’t take much searching the scriptures to find agreement. Proverbs is the Biblical book that most often deals with the effect of our speech, and here is what we find:

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (12:18)

“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.” (12:25)

“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.” (17:22)

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” (25:11)

So these “puffs of air” have an impact on all of us, both good and bad. There are those who come to us like a damp and foggy cloud. They are the gloom-casters, and we can count on them to have a complaint or a criticism wherever they come or go. They visit in the hospital with a person who is about to have foot surgery and they tell about the surgeon in California who cut off the wrong leg. “A downcast spirit dries up the bones!” “There is one whose words are like sword thrusts.”

What, then? Are we to pretend that bad news does not exist? Not at all. But it is to say that whenever we are involved with other people, we recognize and use the positive, uplifting influence of good news, of supportive affirmations. Mark Twain once said, “I can live for two months on one good compliment.” There is something strengthening about affirmative words—there is power in them. They give direction.

When Job’s friends were listing his strengths, one of them said this about him: “Your words have kept men on their feet.” (Job 4:4) He was known for that! People were stronger because of what Job said. His good words made others glad! How fit are the words you speak every day to people you encounter along the way?

*Luke 4:4*

## Church Schedule

### Catholic Mass

**Tuesday-Thursday: 11:35 a.m.**

**Saturday: 5 p.m.**

**Sunday: 9 a.m.**

### Catholic Confession:

**Saturday: 4 p.m.**

### Protestant Services:

**Sunday: 11 a.m.**

### Muslim Service:

**Friday: 12 p.m.**

**Base Chapel: 228-7775**

**Chaplain after hours: 228-7121**

# Day for memorial, not summer fun

**CPL. MICAH SNEAD**

*JET STREAM STAFF*

We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies.

- Moina Michael, 1915  
I started planning my Memorial Day weekend by figuring out where I was going, who I was going with, and what we were going to do.

It wasn’t until I read a commentary in the Jet Stream by the 1st Marine Division Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Wayne R. Bell, (“Seventy-two Reasons for Memorial Day, May 28) that I actually stopped and thought about why we get a long weekend at the beginning of every summer.

Memorial Day isn’t a holiday, or just the first weekend of the summer. It’s a time to stop and give thanks to the hundreds of thousands who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America. It is the one day of the year when our nation should pause and remember our heroes: our fathers,

mothers, sisters and brothers who laid down their lives for the security of our own.

Honor, courage and commitment are ageless, omnipresent words in our Marine Corps. It would be a disgrace to say I have upheld my honor while letting a Memorial Day pass without recognizing its meaning.

I wish I had an excuse for my ignorance. What excuse is there, though, when every day I wear a uniform that represents 228 years of glory, pride and respect?

Perhaps I am simply a victim of modern America; an America where Memorial Day is one of the biggest “vacation weekends” of the year; an America where citizens complain about the impact military training will have on them. But that is no excuse. As a member of the United States Armed Forces, I should be better than that.

If for no other reason, what if it were me? What if I were one of the dead and forgotten in the woods surrounding Paris, the beaches of the Western Pacific, or the sand dunes of the

Middle East? To lose one’s life, the greatest sacrifice in eternity, for a three-day weekend at the beach? Shame on me.

In 2000, President William J. Clinton called on all Americans to observe a universal “National Moment of Remembrance” on each Memorial Day. The moment is intended to be shared for one minute at 3 p.m. local time on every Memorial Day.

How callous have we become, that our highest elected official has to ask us to take one minute during a day to do what the entire day is intended for? It feels pretty disgraceful to me. The world we live in seems to have brushed aside the true meaning of every other nationally significant observation and tradition, save, of course, the 1st Amendment, which some say protects everything from child pornography to flag burning.

This year, I almost made the mistake of forgetting Memorial Day. To all our fallen heroes and their families, past, present and future, I raise a toast and make a vow: “Never again.”

# Safe driving can prevent accidents

More Marines died in traffic accidents last year than in combat. A Marine dying anytime is a somber tragedy, but the fact that Marines die more often in their cars on the way back to base than fighting for their Corps and country in combat is not only disheartening, it’s entirely unnecessary.

Sadly, most people seem to believe two common misconceptions about impaired driving. The first is that impaired driving means drunk driving. While drunk driving is a common form of impaired driving, there are many other types. Anytime a person gets behind the wheel tired, mad, on medication, talking on their cell phone, or some combination thereof, they are



**Lance Cpl. Justin V. Eckersley**  
*Jet Stream Staff*

driving impaired.

The second misconception is that accidents caused by impaired driving are uncommon at worst. According to the Navy’s Safety Center, one in every three Americans will be affected by an impaired-driving accident.

Another interesting statistic is that Marines are dying in car accidents every 29.5 days. Using these statistics, a Marine with a 20-year career will have seen 459 Marines die in car crash-

es over their career.

The fact is that no matter how many statistics get discussed, or stories put in the newspaper, the ultimate decision to be a safe driver is left in the hands of individual Marines and Sailors. Nobody can do a breathalyzer test on someone who is tired or angry.

Only the driver can remind himself that his medications cause dizziness that might affect his driving. All that commanders can do is tell their troops about the dangers of driving impaired, and trust their troops to be responsible.

Sometimes, doing as little as pulling over and taking a deep breath, or walking around the car can be enough to save lives. So be safe, be smart, be alive.

## THE JETSTREAM

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.  
“The noise you hear is the sound of freedom.”

Commanding Officer MCAS Beaufort .....Col. Harmon Stockwell  
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**Col. Harmon A. Stockwell,**  
**commanding officer, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort**

## Commander’s Notes

**Q:** Last week I read a story in the JetStream about motorcycle regulations. I was confused about when I could wear reflective clothing and when I had to wear a reflective vest. Could you be more specific?

**A:** All personnel assigned to or while operating or riding a motorcycle aboard the Air Station or Laurel Bay Housing must wear appropriate brightly colored upper garment or reflective vest for daytime use. At night service members must wear a reflective vest or reflective upper garments. This means that you are required to wear these items at all times when operating/riding a motorcycle (on or off base). Reflective vests, are made of mesh fabric, that is yellow, international orange or lime green with at least one and a half inch to two inches wide vertical or horizontal reflective strips going from front to back. Reflective upper garments can comprise of all reflective material or other materials with reflective material attached. The material must be sewn or ironed on. Any strips that are Velcro or taped are not considered permanent.

# Laurel Bay School Happenings

[www.laurel-bay.odedodea.edu](http://www.laurel-bay.odedodea.edu)  
Calendar of Events

June 7	Report Cards Mailed to Parents
August 2	Teachers Return
August 5	School Begins Grades 1-6
August 12	School Begins Grade K
August 19	School Begins Grade Pre-K

## New School Names and Grade Levels

The name of the new school nearing completion and the new names for the existing schools have been approved and will be announced soon. The names will be published in *The Jet Stream*. The new school will serve some students in grades 1, 2, and 3. Laurel Bay Primary School will also serve some students in grades 1, 2, and 3 and will continue to serve all students in grades PK and K. Laurel Bay Intermediate School will serve all students in grades 4, 5, and 6. School assignments for grades 1, 2, and 3 are being mailed to parents at the beginning of June. Parents will be notified about a week before school begins about class/teacher assignments for all grades.

## Registration for School Year 2004-2005

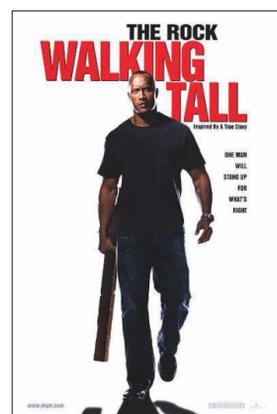
Registration for all new students will take place at Laurel Bay Intermediate School during the summer break. Registration hours are from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Community members are requested to help spread the registration news to all new neighbors as they arrive in the Tri-Command community. Details about registration can be obtained at [www.ddess.org/laurel-bay](http://www.ddess.org/laurel-bay).

All new students are required to present a birth certificate and South Carolina Immunization Form at the time of registration. We also request that each child's social security card be presented. Sponsors will need ID cards and proof of housing.

# MCAS Lasseter Theatre



Walking Tall  
PG-13  
Tonight at 7 p.m.  
Sunday at 7 p.m.



Home on the Range  
PG  
Saturday at 2 p.m.

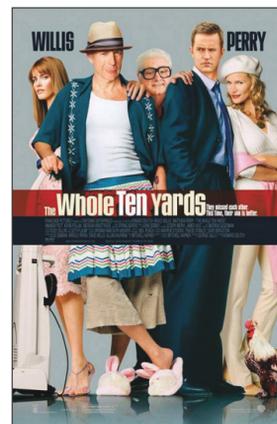


Lance Cpl. Leslie Gosnell

## Hawks Change Command

Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence R. Robert salutes Lt. Col. Mark G. Mykleby after relinquishing command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 533, May 27. Robert will become the executive officer for Marine Aircraft Group 31.

The Whole Ten Yards  
PG-13  
Saturday at 7 p.m.



# Beaufort foster program provides homes

CPL. KAT JOHNSON  
JET STREAM STAFF

The Beaufort Humane Association is looking for a few good people to become foster parents to abandoned cats and dogs from the Beaufort Animal Shelter.

Every day hundreds of dogs and cats are left homeless or are neglected by their owners. When this happens, local animal shelters are left with the responsibility of housing and caring for the animals. However sometimes the animals are too sick to be in a shelter or the shelter does not have enough room to house them.

In an effort to place those animals, the

Beaufort Animal Shelter has started the Foster Care Program "We are looking for some good, nice people to adopt a pet or offer their house as a foster home for the many animals we have here," said Mark Robertson, BAS.

The Beaufort Animal Shelter and the Animal Association maintain the Foster Care Program. Once the shelter receives an animal that needs special care or has too many of a certain type, they turn to the association to find the pets a home.

"We love helping the animal shelter find a home for these precious pets," said Laquitta Padgett, associate, BHA. "It's part of being a community."

With the FCP, the shelter is able to house animals that need to be bottle fed or given extra medication.

The FCP allows the sick or overpopulated animals to receive care without taking away from the other cats or dogs at the shelter., according to Padgett.

"We think this program is a great idea for military members," Robertson said. "I realize many active duty military love animals but don't adopt because of their transience. The Foster Program is a great match since it's a short-term program."

Volunteers for the program are needed to house pets anywhere from a few weeks to a couple of months, depending on the animal.

Any interested person needs to contact the association and fill out the required paperwork. Pets will be fostered based on the needs and abilities of both the animal and family.

"We will provide the families with food, flea treatments and all necessary shots," Padgett said. "All the families have to provide is a good home and a lot of love."

To participate in the Foster Program, contact the Padgett of the Beaufort Humane Association at 263-7925.

## MOVING

continued from page 1

than door-to-door recruiting and phone calls, according to the MCRC.

"The 'rolling billboard' campaign continues to assist our recruiting efforts by increasing awareness about opportunities for young men and women to serve in the Corps," said MCRC Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Christopher Cortez. "The colorful Marine images on the sides of these 1000 tractor-trailers are seen daily by untold thousands of prospective applicants and their families as the vehicles travel throughout the nation."

Drivers of the trucks also report positive reaction to the "Corps-on-wheels" concept.

"The other truckers going by honk their horns and give me the thumbs up. A lot of them are former Marines, I hear it over the C.B. radio," said John Peterman, a driver for Bar-Nunn Trucking. "Drivers will pass me on one side, then slow down and pass on the other side to see the whole truck."

The Tri-Command area, with more stop lights than freeways, may not see one of the trucks again for a while but its brief appearance was enough to make an impact.

"Even while it was pulling through Laurel Bay, people were stopping and staring," Martin said. "For people who love the Marine Corps, these trucks definitely lead the pack."

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Lance Cpl. Justin Eckersley

William Plate, center fielder, PMO, smacks a line drive into the outfield during an intramural softball game, May 27 at the Air Station Softball Fields. The Outlaws defeated the Crusaders 14-7.

## PMO slaps cuffs on Crusaders, 14-7

CPL. CRAIG A. SHERMAN

JET STREAM STAFF

The Outlaws from the Provost Marshal's Office doubled up the Crusaders of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, during Intramural Softball competition at the Air Station Softball Field 1, May 27.

Outlaw extra hitter Bill Long went 1 for 4 but his only hit was a three run bomb over the center field fence which gave PMO a six run lead heading into the bottom of the seventh which the Crusaders could not come back from.

The Outlaws, known for their strong bats, began slowly with Right Fielder Eric Bryant providing the only hit and run in the first inning. The Outlaws added three more in the second to go up 4-0 on the Crusaders.

The Outlaw defense played like gang-busters, holding the Crusaders scoreless for the first two innings until Pitcher Keith Lessard blasted a two-run homer over the center field fence to bring his team within two

of PMO.

But that is as close as the Crusaders would come as the PMO defense held the '122 batters scoreless except for the top three hitters in their lineup, who scored all seven of the Crusaders runs.

In the seventh inning, despite a seven run hole the Crusaders remained confident.

"All we need is base hits," Lessard said. "If we string together enough hits so we can get back to the top of our line up we can make this game competitive and win."

After a hit by Crusaders Left Fielder Brian Haskamp, it looked like '122 was starting to pick up momentum but a double play by the PMO defense ended any chance for the Crusaders.

With the win, PMO moves up to fourth place with a 9-4 record and '122 drops to eighth place with an 8-7 record.

"We played flat in the middle of the game," Bryant said. "We picked up it toward the end of the game with our bats but our defense still needs some work."



Lance Cpl. Justin Eckersley

Darell Brooks, right center fielder, PMO walks into home after a home run by Bill Long, extra hitter, PMO, in an intramural softball game May 27. The Outlaws defeated the Crusaders 14-7.



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### MCAS Beaufort Enters the ICE Age

No, we're not traveling back into a time of glaciers, mammoths, and saber-toothed cats, we're traveling fast-forward into a time of web-based customer feedback!

MCAS Beaufort officially entered the ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) age on Tuesday with a web site which will allow customers to give direct and immediate feedback to service provider managers about installation products and services. MCAS Beaufort's ICE Site will launch with 140 on-line service provider comment cards. You can click on the ICE logo on MCAS Beaufort's home page [www.beaufort.usmc.mil](http://www.beaufort.usmc.mil) or log on at [ice.disa.mil](http://ice.disa.mil) and click MCAS Beaufort. Select a category from a list, and click on the info column to see service provider information such as hours of operation, phone numbers, and upcoming events. Click on the service provider list to fill out a comment card and with a click of the mouse, the system sends your suggestion, complaint or compliment to the proper service provider manager for action. ICE is the difference between the speed of paper and the speed of electrons! All you need is an Internet browser to access the ICE system from literally any computer, any time, and any place.

Questions concerning the ICE system can be directed to Capt Layne Smith at 228-7212 or Mr. Walt Haines at 228-6667 in the Business Performance Office, Room 208B, Building 601.

# '273 deployment becomes family affair for Sweathog

STAFF SGT. HOUSTON F. WHITE

3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

**ALASAD, Iraq** — The treacherous stretches of desert that characterize life in Iraq may not seem like the ideal backdrop for something as heartwarming as a family reunion. However, for Sgt. Maj. Melvin O. Chestnut, sergeant major, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, the harsh environment has proven to be the perfect place to reunite with relatives.

Currently deployed to Al Asad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 43-year-old discovered his nephew, Sgt. Isaiah Montgomery, motor transportation vehicle recovery operator, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, would be serving a mere stone's throw away before he departed Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif.

"I received an e-mail from (Montgomery) before we left for Iraq telling me that he was deploying out here too," said the Sumter, S.C., native. "A couple of weeks after I arrived here in February, I found out that he was stationed on the other side of the base."

Ironically, Montgomery's birth year coincided with his uncle's enlistment into the Corps, setting the stage for him to follow in the sergeant major's footsteps years later.

"Junior was born in February of 1978 in Sumter and I came into the Marine Corps in June of 1978, so really, I joined right after my older sister, Thomasina, had him," remarked Chestnut.

During trips home to visit his family, the sergeant major fell under the impression that his nephew did not have the potential to become one of the few and the proud.

"I always remembered him as a little skinny kid with his pants hanging down around his hips," smiled Chestnut. "I would have to pull his pants up and square him away, so I never really pictured Junior becoming a Marine."

Little did he know that his nephew was planning on becoming the next in a long line of contributors to his family's Marine Corps legacy, due in part to the example set by his



Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.

**Sergeant Major Melvin O. Chestnut (left), sergeant major, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38, pays a visit to his nephew and Sgt. Isaiah Montgomery (center), motor transportation recovery operator, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd MAW, and Master Sgt. Delbert C. Thigpen, motor transportation chief, MWSS-273, in Al Asad, Iraq, May 13.**

uncle and other Devil Dogs family members.

"It was motivating growing up around my uncle and the other Marines in my family. It really made me want to be like them," said Montgomery, who has a total of seven Marines in his immediate family.

"I remember when my uncle would come home on leave and he would have nice

clothes and be well-dressed," said the 26-year-old. "I always tried to hang around him and get little (pieces of advice), because he would only be home for a short period of time before he had to go back to his duty station."

Despite being verbally discouraged from joining the Corps as a youngster by his uncle and friends, Montgomery chose to follow the

example Chestnut set through his actions as a Marine while steadily advancing through the ranks.

"Basically, I looked at him as a role model when I was growing up," Montgomery said. "I looked at joining the Marines as a challenge too, even though all of my friends told me Marines were crazy."

After warning his nephew against joining the Marine Corps for years, Chestnut admitted that seeing his nephew in uniform for the first time was a rewarding experience.

"Actually, I always tried to talk my nieces and nephews out of joining the Corps," explained the sergeant major. "I never suggested joining to Junior. But seeing him dressed in his Marine Corps uniform for the first time made me very proud."

Though the enviable position as the relative of one of the top enlisted Marines in the Corps could cause a less mature person to become complacent, Montgomery remains modest with a strong work ethic, according to Manning, S.C., native, Master Sgt. Delbert C. Thigpen, motor transportation chief, MWSS-273. Coincidentally, Thigpen grew up less than 20 miles away from Montgomery's hometown and shared the same recruiter as Chestnut.

"You would never know that Montgomery is the relative of a sergeant major because he never mentions it," Thigpen said. "He's a good non-commissioned officer and he really knows how to handle his business."

Handling business in the same combat zone together for the first time has drawn a range of emotions from both Sumter Leathernecks.

"It's actually very exciting to be serving with Junior," said Chestnut. "During (OIF I) I was out here in the same regiment as his older brother, so I've always felt that as an uncle, it was my responsibility to look over them, while we're here."

"This is my first chance being deployed with my uncle and it feels good," Montgomery said. "It's a real comfort being stationed out here with him because I know I can go to him if I need advice. Seeing the success he has gives me something to strive for."

# Marine takes a bow after 21 years

CPL. CRAIG A. SHERMAN

JET STREAM STAFF

Many people know Gunnery Sgt. Donald Denning as a religious man, spending most weekends at the Marine Corps Air Station Chapel in prayer or volunteering. But those who work with him describe him as a great leader who accomplishes his missions and takes care of his troops. After 21 years of service to his country, Denning is calling it a career and moving back to his home state of Washington.

Denning was born on July 19, 1965 in Seattle, Washington. He was the younger brother in his family and throughout his life was always in competition with his older brother.

"I wanted to do everything my older brother wanted to do," Denning said. "If he did a job or a sport well, I would always try and out do him."

Denning's brother raised the bar for Donald when he accepted the ultimate challenge of joining the Marine Corps.

"When my brother joined the Marines, everyone told me that there was no way I could make it through boot camp and become a Marine," Denning said. "I took that as a personal challenge and decided to follow in my brother's footsteps."

Denning joined the Delayed Entry Program in Sept. 1982 before he graduated high school in 1983. Denning reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on July 20, 1983, shortly after his graduation.

"I graduated boot camp in October and was meritoriously promoted to private first class," Denning said. "My family was impressed with my accomplishment but did not show the enthusiasm I thought they would."

After boot camp and Marine Combat Training, Denning transferred to Marine Air Training Support Group 90, Naval Air Station Memphis, Tenn., where he completed Support Equipment Electrician Training in April 1984.

Denning was then transferred to Marine



Gunnery Sgt. Donald Denning, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, receives the national colors and his awards from Lt. Col. Paul Augustine, commanding officer, MALS-31. Denning celebrated his retirement at the MALS-31 hanger, May 27.

Corps Air Facility, MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif. There he completed his "C" school training on the NC-10 mobile electric power plant.

"After school I began to work as a support equipment electrician," Denning said. "After I began working I quickly decided to see the world."

Denning took full advantage of his opportunities and volunteered for Marine Security Guard Duty. When he completed MSG training Denning was sent to Tunis, Tunisia, where he was promoted to corporal. After spending a year in Tunis, Denning was moved to the American Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. While stationed in Brussels Denning was promoted to sergeant before returning to the fleet.

"I spent the best years of my career in Tunisia and Belgium," Denning said. "I got the opportunity to see different parts of the world, experience other cultures and interact with different people."

Denning returned to the fleet and Camp Pendleton with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39 in 1989. While attached to MALS-39 he served as the work center supervisor for the work centers unit 930 and the electrical Repair unit 920. He also served as Production Control Chief and Quality Assurance Representative for the Support Equipment Division. Denning was then selected as the S-6 chief who oversaw the installment of Windows NT and the integration of System Supply Operations and the

Computer Repair Technicians jobs for the entire Marine Corps.

"It was a great experience to see them use my ideas and watch them work for the Marine Corps in a positive way," Denning said.

In 1992 and 1994 Denning completed two tours to Okinawa, Japan, including operations in Korea and the Republic of the Philippines. Between his deployments, Denning met his wife Kathy in June 1993.

Denning brought his family to Beaufort, S.C., where he was stationed with MALS-31 as the work center supervisor for the electrical repair work center and as the support equipment division staff non-commissioned officer in charge. After the Combined Air Exercise 9/10-00 where he served as the SNCOIC, Denning was reassigned as the MALS-31 information systems coordinator.

"While I was the information systems coordinator I transitioned MALS-31, Marine Aircraft Group 31 and its squadrons from the Marine Corps Enterprise Network to Navy Marine Corps Intranet," Denning said.

In Feb. 2003, Denning was assigned as the Support Equipment NCOIC for MALS-31.

"I stayed in the Marine Corps because I promised myself that as long as the Corps provides me with a challenge and I continue to excel, I would stay enlisted," Denning said. "However, I'm a gunnery sergeant and I feel that I have met all the challenges that the Marine Corps has to offer and I'm ready to give my family the life they need."

Denning's plans for retirement includes starting a second career with the First Command Financial Planning Services in his home state of Washington.

"I have always wanted to leave a legacy of excellence for my Marines," Denning said. "So I put forth all my efforts into accomplishing the mission. Once the mission was completed I would concentrate on troop welfare. If the mission is complete, then you are taking care of your troops."

Gunnery Sgt. Denning celebrated his retirement yesterday at a ceremony held at the MALS-31 hanger.

## Airspeed/Lean helps Marines increase customer service

CPL. CRAIG A. SHERMAN

JET STREAM STAFF

Contractors from Lockheed Martin are helping Air Station Marines and Sailors streamline the way they do business.

The Airspeed/Lean program is a week-long training cycle designed to 'cut the fat' from several operations that shops handle daily.

"The program helps people understand the inter-dependence among shops and helps us analyze what we are doing right or could be doing better," said Sgt. Jasmin Cruz, power plants, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31.

At the beginning of the program members from different shops get together and attempt to work out what needs to get done and whose fault it is when something falls through.

"This event takes a diverse group who work in different areas and allows them to communicate and hash out their differences to make a better process and get things done," said Robert Pierce, Lean six-sigma consultant, Lockheed Martin. "In the beginning of the program, we ask the Marines to give ideas on what they have to do to get a job done."

Airspeed/Lean can be used in any shop or situation where a task needs to be completed.

"Marines from MALS-31 described what it took to get a person to check into the squadron and add them to the team, then purchase a new part and get it to the customer," Pierce said.

During the beginning of the session, the Marines from MALS-31 named more than 90 steps they had complete from the receipt of a part to using it in the squadron. After the week-long course, the process was reduced to 14 steps.

"We don't give them ideas or a solution to obtain their goals," Pierce said. "We guide them to find their own solutions."

There have been eight Airspeed/Lean events since the program began aboard the Air Station in February 2003.

"The program brings to light where key people need to be," said Master Sgt. Phillip Cooper, aviation supply, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, MALS-31. "By being able to streamline our many processes, we are helping Marines to enhance job skills and reduce possible confusion."

During the middle portion of the session, the Marines begin to understand how to recognize and improve many of the obstacles in their jobs.

"As Marines we have perceived road blocks," said Staff Sgt. James Davis, BRU-32 NCOIC Ordnance, MALS-31. "However, when you get together with the different shops in the squadron, you find that those road blocks are easily moved and it is not as difficult as your perceived."

There is no such thing as perfection, according to Cruz. However, there are ways to improve different processes in a shop and this program is a way to do that.

During each session, the Marines are taught time management, the best ways of thinking and the importance of accountability. They get a clearer view of the big picture and identify the customer and what they want.

At the conclusion of the session, the squadron's commanding officer, executive officer, maintenance officer and all other division officers receive an out brief from the Marines that describes the current state of the shop and the proposed improved process. It also describes how activities will be monitored and enforced of the new system.

"We will get the job done no matter what," said Master Sgt. Pedro Herrera, power plants division chief, Airspeed/Lean base site coordinator, MALS-31. "With this program we can accomplish the mission faster, achieve a better quality and increase our customer satisfaction."

There is a 14 member lean Marine staff that reminds me of a "Fire Team". They redefine the focus-of-effort to help guide work centers to obtain a better proficiency with their customers.

"We do not implement this program because of a problem," Herrera said. "We do it so we can achieve continuous improvement, eliminate unnecessary waste, and maintain great readiness at the lowest possible cost."

All of the changes that have been made within MALS-31 are in accordance with the squadron regulations and manuals.

Airspeed/Lean courses are held twice a month and are open to any shop aboard the Air Station, regardless of discipline.

For more information about how to streamline and increase the quality of your customer service and products, call Master Sgt. Herrera, at 228-7231 or 228-7571.

May 28, 2004

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CELEBRITY BOOK SIGNING  
JUNE 16 - 11AM

TOM CLANCY  
with General Tony Zinni (Ret.) and Tony Koltz  
BATTLE READY

Retired Marine Corps General Tony Zinni is coming to the MCX aboard MCRD Parris Island on Wed, June 16, and will be signing the new book BATTLE READY, authored with Tom Clancy and Tony Koltz.

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# Air Station Mess Hall Menu

Saturday June 5	Sunday June 6	Monday June 7	Tuesday June 8	Wednesday June 9	Thursday June 10	Friday June 11	
Breakfast & Brunch 8 a.m.-11 a.m.			Breakfast 6 a.m.- 7:30 a.m.				
Creamed beef, oven fried bacon, turkey sausage links, beef sausage links, grilled ham slices, etc.  Bacon burgers, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries, etc.			Creamed beef, oven fried bacon, turkey and beef sausage links, grilled Canadian bacon, etc.				
			Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m.				
			Roast pork ham, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, rosemary roasted potatoes wedges, brown gravy, glazed carrots, steamed mix vegetable.  Potato bar: baked potatoes, chili, sour cream, bacon bits, chives, cheese sauce, etc. Fast food line: chicken nuggets, corn dogs, bacon burgers, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries, etc.	Spaghetti and meat sauce, Cajun baked fish, pepperoni pizza, au gratin potatoes, toasted garlic bread, eggplant Parmesan, steamed peas and carrots.  Deli bar: bologna, ham, turkey, etc. Fast food line: chili dogs, grilled cheese, pizza burgers, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, grilled hotdogs, French fries, etc.	Southern fried catfish, meatloaf, baked macaroni and cheese, Franconia potatoes, brown gravy and mushrooms, simmered kidney beans and ham hocks, cauliflower polonaise, hot dinner rolls.  Pasta bar: lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, toasted garlic bread, Fast food line: Italian sausage, sloppy joe, chicken sandwich, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries, etc.	Salisbury steak, savory baked chicken, chicken gravy, brown gravy, mash potatoes, southwestern rice, savory summer squash, steamed asparagus.  Deli bar: bologna, ham, turkey, etc. Fast food line: BBQ riblet sandwich, grilled tuna & cheese, etc. cheeseburgers, hamburgers, hotdogs, french fries, etc.	Baked fish, beef stew, Sicilian brown rice and vegetable, buttered pasta, chicken gravy, simmered black eye peas, steamed succotash.  Potato bar: baked potatoes, chili, sour cream, bacon bits, chives, cheese sauce, etc. Fast food line: chili dogs, cannon ball sandwich, bacon burgers, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries
Dinner 3 p.m.-5 p.m.			Dinner 4 p.m.-6 p.m.				
Chopped BBQ pork, Swiss steak, home fried potatoes, steamed wax beans, steamed peas and mushrooms.	T-bone steak, Mexican pork slices, baked potatoes, Spanish rice, corn on the cob, south of the border broccoli, sautéed mushrooms and onion.	Chicken cordon bleu, stuffed green peppers, parcel buttered potatoes, noodles Jefferson, vegetable Italian blend, broccoli combo, hot dinner rolls.	Oven roast beef, turkey ala king, steamed rice, mash potatoes, brown gravy, steamed French green beans, scalloped corn.	BBQ spareribs honey glazed Cornish hens, roasted pepper potatoes, Florentine rice, corn on the cob, steamed broccoli.	Roast turkey, lasagna, steamed rice, turkey gravy, savory bread dressing, hot dinner rolls, assorted pizza, toasted garlic bread, steamed green beans and mushrooms, creamed corn.	Pork chops suey, fried fish, macaroni and cheese, pork fried rice, vegetable stir fry, steamed whole kernel corn, egg foo young, Chinese egg roll.	

## Sweathogs cut, burn, their way to mission

**SGT. J. L. ZIMMER III**  
3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

**AL ASAD, Iraq** — The Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 arrived in Al Asad, Iraq in February with one goal, to support the Marines and Sailors of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing with anything they need.

The metalworkers of MWSS-273 maintenance are here not only to assist, they are here to design and build anything a unit needs that requires heat, sweat and several hundred volts of electricity to make.

The metalworkers have been busier than almost any other group of Marines here, despite the fact that there are only two of them.

Sgt. Philip J. Thornton, a 24-year-old Deltona, Fla., native and Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Gray, a 19-year-old Gretna, Va., native, both metalworkers with MWSS-273, are a two-man team with creative ideas and the technical proficiency of men far beyond their age.

"We have a trade that does not require a technical manual to tell you how to do something," said Gray. "But that means we have to know our job well enough to not need the manuals. We have to be creative enough to make something out of nothing."

Constantly busy, the two Marines have completed more than 150 tasks since arriving in theater and still have a laundry list of assignments to complete.

"These Marines have done everything from gates to door latches and plumbing work," said Gunnery Sgt. Brett C. Scheuer, maintenance

chief, MWSS-273 and 35-year-old Buffalo, N.Y., native. "They have everyone from around the base coming to them for projects."

According to Thornton, the job is something he loves to do and having a younger Marine to teach makes it especially meaningful.

"I have been teaching Gray field-expedient ways to do things and the ins-and-outs of the military occupational specialty," said Thornton. "He is coming along pretty well and learning a lot since we have been here."

Gray said he enjoys his job and would not trade it for anything else.

"This is the best MOS in the Marine Corps," he said. "The Marine Corps has taught me a trade that I can carry with me a long way. I can always progress and get better."

Thornton, an experienced and talented metalworker, has been welding for the Marine Corps for more than six years and is encountering obstacles here he is not used to in Beaufort.

"The biggest difference between here and there is the amount of adapting and overcoming we have to do here," he said. "Different obstacles, like not having the right tool for the right job happens but, we work our way around them."

Although Gray's experience does not extend as far as Thornton's, Scheuer believes the two make an excellent team.

"If I had to pick my 'A' team, they would be on it," he said. "They are truly the best at what they do. They are the most proficient and technically sound duty experts at what they do."



Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III  
Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Gray, metalworker, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, welds a makeshift boiling pot to test a thermostat in Al Asad, Iraq, May 20.

## GAS

continued from page 1

for my gas."

PMO rarely has a case of mistaken identity, according to Dunbar.

"We know that sometimes a person can be accused of not paying because their credit card malfunctions," Dunbar said. "But I recommend that if you buy gasoline, you keep your receipt. It might be the only way to prove you

paid for it."

If you see someone stealing gas, report it to the Air Station PMO at 228-6719. Callers will not be required to give their name, but will be asked for a description of the offender.



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# Veterans & Retirees' Corner

## Retention of DIC After Remarriage

Public Law 108-183, the Veterans' Benefit Act of 2003 was signed into law on Dec. 16, 2003. The law allows survivors of veterans/retirees whose deaths were service connected to retain dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) payments if they remarry after age 57. Also, the law allows those survivors who had already remarried and were age 57 or older at the time of remarriage to apply for reinstatement of DIC.

In 2004, the basic rate is \$967 and payable without regard to any other income the survivors may be receiving; furthermore, DIC is exempt from federal income taxation.

To apply for the reinstatement of DIC, qualified survivors should apply using "DECLARATION OF STATUS OF DEPENDENTS", VA Form 21-686c. The form can be downloaded from [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf) or the NAUS Home Page at [www.naus.org](http://www.naus.org). Another source for those who do not have Internet access is to call a VA representative at (800)-827-1000 and ask for Form 21-686c.

The deadline for applying is Dec. 16. To ensure eligible survivors know about this important change and receive the full entitlement of benefits, we urge our readers to make this information known within their churches, local senior citizen centers and nursing homes.

## Marine Corps Museum in Jacksonville, N.C.

The Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas is being built in the city of Jacksonville, N.C., to honor the Marines and sailors of the four installations that make up today's Carolina Marine Air Ground Task Force. They are Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.; MCAS, New River, N.C.; and MCAS, Beaufort, S.C.

The museum has partnered with the Library of Congress in their Veterans History Project to preserve the legacy of as many of the nation's brave men and women who served their country as they can reach.

The museum is interested in oral history interviews, which, if less than 90 minutes in length, will be submitted to

the Library of Congress in audio format. Both video and audio portions of interviews of Marines and Sailors who served at a Carolina base will be kept in the archives at the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas.

Veterans will be given the interview questions prior to the interviews, so each person will be able to prepare their answers and statements. Interviews will be conducted by appointment on an ongoing basis, but an effort is underway to record as many histories as possible over the next 12 months.

Contact the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas if you have questions or would be interested in training to be an interviewer on this project at (866) 98-MAGTF or (910) 937-0033. E-mail the museum at [trillnag@earthlink.net](mailto:trillnag@earthlink.net).

## Corps to Fill GWOT Billets With Retirees

The Marine Corps is looking for a few good retirees, about 150, to be exact.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps recently authorized the expanded use of the retired Marine population to help fill more than 2,500 existing global war on terrorism-related billets, according to Lt. Col. Linda McGowan, Deputy Section Head, Mobilization, Plans and Policy Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

"Retirees with experience in the intelligence, communications, public affairs, civil affairs, linguistics, logistics and administration fields are among the prime targets," McGowan said. "While Reserve Marines remain valuable assets to the Marine Corps, retirees typically have the higher levels of rank, security clearances and relevant experience required to fill many of the GWOT billets."

Activating retirees also is more cost-effective. When a retiree is mobilized, his retirement benefits stop for the duration of the mobilization, and he receives regular pay and allowances according to his grade and time in service. Compared to the cost of mobilizing a Reserve Marine of the same grade, the Marine Corps saves money equal to the amount of the retired Marine's benefits, according to an approved Secretary of the Navy memorandum.

"The intent is to maximize the use of our large pool of qualified and capable retirees who volunteer for active service,"

said Lt.Col. Jeffrey A. Riehl, officer in charge of sourcing, MPP Branch. We currently have about 20 retirees retained or recalled to active duty serving in GWOT-related billets," said Riehl. "Retained" retirees are those who haven't yet left active duty, but upon reaching their scheduled retirement date remain in their current billet. Once their mobilization orders are complete, they will begin to collect retirement benefits, based on their original retirement date. In contrast, "recalled" retirees are those who retired as scheduled, began collecting retirement benefits, and then were mobilized to support GWOT. Upon completion of their mobilization orders, their retirement benefits are reinstated.

"As far as their effect on the rest of the Marine Corps goes, retained and recalled retirees will count toward active-duty end strength," said Riehl. However, because of the anticipated small number of retiree activations, they won't negatively impact manpower plans, and, based on a SecNav waiver, they won't count toward controlled promotion tables either, he said."

Bernard McGowan, currently a project manager for the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Jacksonville, N.C., is a retired Marine lieutenant colonel that was one of the first in the "retired/recalled" category to be mobilized.

"I knew the Marine Corps was looking for folks with my military occupational specialty and I felt a call to duty, so I volunteered," McGowan said.

After retiring in September 2000, McGowan was then mobilized for 179 days in January 2002. He served as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Antiterrorism), Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"The Corps needed me, and I was glad to help out," McGowan said. To be qualified to serve, retirees must not have a medical disability rating or have been retired more than five years," added Riehl.

Retirees interested in volunteering should immediately submit their information via Reserve Duty Online (RDOL) at [rdol.mol.usmc.mil](http://rdol.mol.usmc.mil). (A user ID and password can be obtained by registering on Marine OnLine at [www.mol.usmc.mil/](http://www.mol.usmc.mil/).)

Retirees or commands seeking retirees should contact Lt.Col Jeffrey Riehl at (703)-432-9177/78, e-mail [riehlja@manpower.usmc.mil](mailto:riehlja@manpower.usmc.mil);

# Sweathogs receive care packages

CPL. KAT JOHNSON

JET STREAM STAFF

As Marines and Sailors of Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 drive armored vehicles through the hot Iraqi desert, 19 women from Liberty, Miss. prepare care packages to say 'thanks' for all their service.

The Zeta Zeta chapter of Kappa Delta Phi have adopted the Sweathogs of '273 and have sent more than five boxes of candy, cookies, chips, phone cards, and magazines to the Middle East in support of their troops.

"We wanted to show our military members how much we appreciate everything they do," said Karen Witkowski, chapter member. "It's our small way of saying 'thanks' for the big job they do."

The members of Kappa Delta Phi are part of the National Women's Association founded in 1897. The organization has more than 180,000 members worldwide. The organization is

committed to producing an environment that promotes personal growth and circles of friendship.

"Everything we do to send these care packages is out of the pride we have in our military," Witkowski said. "We are non-profit, so all of our funding comes from what others donate."

Three weeks ago, Witkowski and the women of Kappa Delta Phi held a garage sale raising money to put together care packages to send to the Sweathogs.

"We try to do events like this throughout the month so we can send at least one package to MWSS-273 every month," Witkowski said.

The women of the chapter have been sending care packages to troops in foreign countries for more than a year. They attempt to send items that can be useful to everyone in a unit.

"Last year we sent sixty minute phone cards to every Sailor aboard the USS Bridge," Witkowski said. "When we send items, we want to impact everyone,

not just a small group, that's why what we do is so important to us."

The Zeta Zeta chapter sends care packages to all branches of the military. Before they adopted the Sweathogs of '273, they used to send packages to the 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment 3rd Army Regiment. The Marines of '273 replaced 2/5 when they deployed to Iraq in Feb.

"I think most Americans want to show their appreciation but they don't really know how," Witkowski said. "We feel that even if we can only send the troops a bag of chips, at least they know someone cares about them and appreciates what they do."

The women of Liberty, Miss., plan to send another package to the Sweathogs later this month.

"We know our troops have families at home that send them all types of care packages," Witkowski said. "We just want them to know that what they do means a lot to people they have never met."