

THE MATSG NEWS

April 2011
Volume 9
Issue 1

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE



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Dear Marines, Sailors, and Families,

As always, I want to thank-you for your hard work, your leadership, and your dedication to our Country, our Marine Corps, and MATSG-21. Your professionalism shows throughout the Group at every level: making a better Marine and taking care of each other. We are currently on track towards this year's mission to qualify our Marines in training for follow on assignments to the Operating Forces.

I am proud to tell you the Group has had a very peaceful winter and holiday season. As we transition to spring and summer, please plan accordingly. Take those necessary safety precautions with our Marines and your families as we "hit the beaches" here in the Florida panhandle. Staff Sergeant Arce is my Ground Safety Officer and he is available should you have any specific concerns.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a program all Marines and Sailors should be aware of. Great education benefits are possibly available for you and your family. For the first time in history, service members enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program will be able to transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses or children. I am using this program today. For more information, please contact CPAC. CWO2 Matheny is the approval authority for MATSG-21.

Thank you for your service. It is an honor to serve with you. Keep up the great work, be safe and enjoy the warmer weather.

Semper Fidelis...

Col Joseph P. Richards



SERGEANT MAJOR'S MESSAGE

Marines and families,

As we close out the 1st quarter of 2011, it has been a busy year already. In addition, to an increase in Marines to train, we continue to provide support the community in many different ways. I really appreciate the number of Marines and family members that registered for the McGuire's Race this year, it contributed to the \$22K that was donated to the Semper Fi Wounded Marine Fund. Our holiday season also went very well with no major incidents and we couldn't have done it without the extraordinary support and leadership of everyone in our Marine family here in Pensacola. Shortly after the holidays we were very fortunate to have the Sergeant Major of the Corps here to speak to the Marines. Overall the year is going very well.

We do need to make sure we don't lose perspective of our responsibilities, often in an environment like this Marines start thinking they are working a normal job. I remind all of you that being a Marine will never be a normal job with routine work responsibilities. Stay focused on your responsibilities to stay technically and tactically proficient, which requires sacrificing your time to get all possible PME completed. Stay focused on keeping yourself physically ready to withstand the rigors of combat, as we are all basic rifleman, which equals a daily fitness program and a healthy diet. Every Marine is required to maintain standards for height, weight, and fitness continuously, not just a couple times a year. Stay focused on your responsibilities as leader of Marines, as the most valuable thing you have to offer your Marines as a leader is your time and attention. We are very fortunate to have this time away from combat to train Marines and hone our skills, so take advantage of it and frequently check on how your fellow Marines are doing as they fight for freedom, so you are prepared to take their place. If you find yourself getting wrapped around designated parking spots or getting enough time off, you are losing focus on those things that are important.

I do want to take the opportunity to personally congratulate Cpl Patterson, the 2010 Marine of the Year and Sgt Pliegoflores, the 2010 NCO of the Year, they represent the best of our Marine Corps and they are our future senior leaders. I also want to recognize the 1st Quarter 2011 Marine of the Quarter, Cpl Mitchell and NCO of the Quarter, Sgt Egea, both of you did great job as it was tough competition. As we push through 2011, get the most out of every day, train hard and exploit every opportunity to learn something new and get stronger. In the process we need to recognize those that are top performers, sometimes it is easier to correct deficiencies than to recognize achievements, so let's make the extra effort to show those deserving, how much we appreciate their efforts. Stay ready to return to the fight.



Semper Fi!

SgtMaj Richard Lewallen
SgtMaj Richard Lewallen

AMS-1 COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Marines, family, and friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed some well deserved time off over the holidays. December finished as a GREAT year for all Dracos! I am happy to tell you that we successfully accomplished our 2010 mission and I am looking forward to continued service with the outstanding Marines of AMS-1 in 2011. As proud as I am of the hard work and instructing we do, I am also mindful and aware of the role each and every family member plays in the success of our squadron day-in and day-out. Your unwavering support allows our Marines to literally move mountains everyday when instructing and I thank you, the families, for your direct contribution to our squadron and mission success!! Next, congratulations to the following Marines who were just promoted or received an award during December through March: GySgt's Davis, and Gates; SSgt's Whiten, Mahany, McTague, and Betts; Sgt's Dorfman, Wheelless, Schoolfield, and Sgt Pliegoflores. Sgt Pliegoflores was also named MATSG-21's NCO of the Year, Sgt Egea was named NCO of the Quarter, and Sgt Dorfman was named the Naval Aviation School Command's Junior Military Member of the Year. Job well done! Also congrats to Sgt Bailey and his family who just recently welcomed a new baby boy to the world. This time of year also brings farewells and hails as Marines prepare to PCS this summer. I would like to take this opportunity to farewell our Squadron Gunnery Sergeant, GySgt Beem, and his family and thank them for their time and sacrifices in making AMS-1 a better squadron. Lastly, I need to touch a bit on safety. As we get back into the swing of things after the holidays, we need to refocus our energies back to the basics. Ensure we are not taking shortcuts, watch out for one another, and know your limits. Spring is rapidly approaching and we all will be back out doing yard work, working on our vehicles, and improving our houses. Ensure we continue to use ORM on-duty as well as off-duty and remember, "Stay Focused." Let's make 2011 the best year yet for AMS-1.

Semper Fidelis

Major Michael Graziani

AMS-2 COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Marines and Friends,

Congratulations to GySgt's Trent and Sanchez (Maintenance Air Traffic Control) on their recent promotions, well done gentlemen. Congratulations are also in order for GySgt Foster (Avi, Squadron GySgt) on his selection to MSgt.

Recently joining AMS-2 are Sgt's Mahabir, Wood, and Davis (MATC) and SSgt's Villarreal and Parsons (MATC), welcome aboard! We also have some new members in the AMS-2 family. GySgt Sachse and SSgt Mitchell (ATC) both had new baby girls, while SSgt Martinez (MATC) had a new baby boy. Deserving of recognition is Cpl Patterson who was recently named the MATSG-21 Marine of the Year, great job! SSgt Clark (ATC) and GySgt Alaniz (Avi) and Sgt's Bryan (MATC) and Brady (ATC) all graduated resident PME courses. GySgt Alaniz and Sgt Brady stood above their peers by winning the "Gung Ho" award, which is given to the number one student in the class. Similarly, great effort by SSgt Mullins (MATC) for receiving 5 Letters of Appreciation for volunteering in the local community.

Detaching from the squadron are MSgt Knowlton and SSgt Tapia, both from ATC. Each will be missed as they performed superbly while at AMS-2. Lastly, congrats to GySgt Yessenia Garrett (MATC) on her selection as the new AMS-2 Squadron Gunnery Sergeant, a key billet that is challenging to say the least. As always, thanks to all the families for supporting your Marine.

Semper Fi!

Major Damon Hickey

TOP PERFORMERS

Corporal Damion Patterson serves as the Administration Clerk, Aviation Maintenance Squadron Two, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21.

Corporal Patterson was born on 27 August 1985 in Georgetown, Guyana. He graduated from Bush Lot Secondary School with honors in 2003. In January 2007, he immigrated to United States. In November 2007, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depots Parris Island, South Carolina.

In February 2008, he graduated from Recruit training and went on to Marine Combat Training in North Carolina. Private Patterson went on to Personnel Administration School, where he received the MOS of 0121.

Private First Class Patterson was assigned to the Consolidated Personnel Administrative Center, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21, Pensacola FL in June 2008 as a Personnel Clerk. During this period he worked as a key member in the Joins Section, where he routinely ensured that Marines, Enlisted and Officers, were checked into their respective Units and there Travel Claims were paid in a timely manner. Lance Corporal Patterson also devoted his free time to numerous volunteer services which includes the Red Cross.

On the 1st of October 2009 Corporal Patterson was reassigned to Aviation Maintenance Squadron Two, where he serves as the Administration Support for the entire Squadron, Corporal Patterson also graduated the Corporal's Leadership Course in December of 2009.

Corporal Patterson is married to Judene Patterson of Georgetown, Guyana and lives in Pensacola FL.



**CPL Damion Patterson
2010
Marine of the Year**



**"To observe a Marine is inspirational, to be a Marine is exceptional."
~ Author Unknown**

TOP PERFORMERS



**Sergeant German
Pliegoflores
2010
NCO of the Year**

Sergeant German Pliegoflores is assigned to the Non-Destructive Inspection Technician School, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21, Aviation Maintenance Squadron 1. He was born in Toluca, Mexico where he graduated from Eagan High school class of 2002.

Recruit Pliegoflores reported to Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego on 2 Aug 2004 and upon completion reported to MCT for training. In January 2005 PFC Pliegoflores reported to NAS Pensacola for Aviation Structural Mechanic "A" school and upon completion reported to NAS Oceana for Advanced Composite Repair Material "C" school where he was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal. On 1 May 2005 Lance Corporal Pliegoflores reported to MCAS Futenma MALS-36 Airframes for duty. He then attended the Aircraft Corrosion Control Course and Aircraft Paint, Touch-up & Marking course. Cpl Pliegoflores then reported to MCAS Cherry Point on 17 July 2006 for Aircraft/Support Equipment basic welding and Oxyfuel/Shielded metal arc welding courses.

On 24 January 2007 Cpl Pliegoflores began a 7 month deployment in support of OIF 06-08 with HMM-262 as an aviation welder. On 1 July 2007 Cpl Pliegoflores was promoted to Sergeant while forward deployed. In February 2008 Sgt Pliegoflores reported to NAS Pensacola for Aircraft Nondestructive Inspection School and completed the course on 5 May 2008. On 6 October 2008 Sgt Pliegoflores deployed with HMM-265 in support of Operation Talon Vision in the Philippines for 30 days as a NDI technician. On 15 January 2009 Sgt Pliegoflores deployed with HMM-265 in support of Operation Cobra Gold in Thailand for 30 days as a NDI technician. On February 27 2009 Sgt Pliegoflores deployed with HMM-265 in support of Operation Key Resolve for 27 days as the Det OIC and NDI technician. Upon return to MALS-36 Sgt Pliegoflores was re-assigned to Quality Assurance as the 510 QAR. On 1 July 2009 Sgt Pliegoflores reported for instructor duty to NAS Pensacola.

Sgt Pliegoflores is authorized to wear: Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Metal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with 1 star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with 3 stars.



"You don't join the Marines, you become one!"

~ Author Unknown

TOP PERFORMERS

Sgt Alexes Egea is assigned as one of the AMS-1 AD Instructors. He enlisted into the United States Marine Corps on November 2002 from Fredericksburg, Virginia. On July 28, 2003, he transferred to MCRD Parris Island. Upon graduation of Recruit Training, PFC Egea then reported to Marine Combat Training aboard Camp Geiger, North Carolina. PFC Egea Graduated MCT as an honor graduate. After graduation in October 2003, PFC Egea received orders to check in to NATTC NAS Pensacola for "A" school as an AD-A1 student. PFC Egea graduated as class leader an in March 2004, PFC Egea reported to Whidbey Island, Washington to his "C" school for the MOS 6223 to work on the J52-P408-A/B motor. PFC Egea was promoted while attending "C" school on April 1, 2004 and departed April 2, 2004 for MCAS Cherry Point to check-in to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14.

In July 2004, LCpl Egea served a six month tour as a gate guard/Military Police officer. Upon completion LCpl Egea transferred back to MALS-14. Upon his return to MALS-14, LCpl Egea attended and graduated the Corporal's Course in September 2005. In October of 2005, LCpl Egea was sent back to NAS Pensacola to attend the Jet Oil Analysis Program School. From January 2006, LCpl Egea deployed with VMAQ-2 to Al Asad, Iraq where he was attached to MALS-16 as a Jet Oil Analysis Operator in support of Navy, Marine, and Army aircraft. In July 2006, LCpl Egea reported back to MALS-14 and was promoted to Corporal August 1, 2006.

In November 2007, Sergeant Egea served on the USS Fort McHenry called African Partnership Station to Ghana and Cameroon, Africa. He provided leadership training of the allied Naval forces there. Upon return to MALS 14 Sergeant Egea served as the Test Cell NCOIC.

On April 2009, Sergeant Egea received orders to report to NAS Pensacola.



**Sergeant Alexes Egea
NCO of the Quarter
1st Qtr 2011**



**LCPL Rasheed Mitchell
Marine of the Quarter
1st Qtr 2011**

LCPL Rasheed Mitchell was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He shipped from the Boston MEPS to attend Boot camp at Paris Island on April 27, 2009 where he was a recruit in 2044, Second Battalion. After boot camp LCPL Mitchell attended MCT at Camp Geiger, where he acted as guide and received a meritorious mast upon completion of the training. From Camp Geiger he then went to Newport Rhode Island Naval Justice School; MOS school for legal clerks, successfully completing the course in December 2009. LCPL Mitchell arrived at his first duty station here at NAS Pensacola, on December 15, 2009 where he was assigned to the MATSG-21 legal section. While here he has completed the requirements for green belt certification, been a part of funeral detail and color guard, and attended corporal's course.



Deborah Salerno-Maye

Family Readiness Officer
MATSG-21

(850)-452-9460 x3111

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****Take a look!****

**So many resources
for Military
Members and their
Families!**

<https://ehqmc.usmc.mil/sites/family/mrz1/upfrp/fro/Shared%20Documents/Resources%20for%20Military%20Members%20and%20their%20Families.pdf>

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is now accepting applications for 2011.

"The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has provided more than 25,000 scholarships and \$60,000,000 to children whose parents are active duty, reserve, retired, veteran Marines and Navy Corpsmen. Applications are being accepted now for the 2011 school year.

Marine families can apply on-line now at:
<http://www.mcsf.org/page.aspx?pid=326>

MATSG-21 FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Don't forget to go to <http://www.matsgfl.usmc.mil> for a more detailed version of the MATSG Newsletter and many more resources that are available. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see on this website or in the MATSG Newsletter, please feel free to send your ideas my way! Please keep in mind that this website is under construction.

In addition, MATSG-21 Family Readiness will be hosting our very first Barracks Bash for the AMS-1 and AMS-2 Students of MATSG-21 and we are looking for a few great volunteers to help us out and have loads of fun while doing so! This event will be on April 9, 2011 from 1000 to 1400. If you are interested, please call me at 850-452-9460 x3111 or email deborah.salerno-maye@usmc.mil.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the MATSG Newsletter and are able to find some useful resources to benefit you and your family!

Attention Military Spouses!

Are you a dislocated worker? Are you unemployed? Are you looking to go back to school? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may qualify for WIA Funds through Escarosa Career Center. Go to <http://www.workforceescarosa.com/> click on Programs then 'Workforce Investment Act'. A listing of available training can also be viewed by selecting the 'List of 2010-2011 Training Programs'. For more information, please call 850-607-8700

Military Spouse FREE AFCP Scholarship!

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation together with the National Military Family Association and The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPER) are pleased to announce that the application period for the FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Accredited Financial Counselor Fellowship is now open. This program will provide up to 200 military spouses with the education necessary to enter the financial counseling career field. This is a FREE training opportunity for all Military Spouses who desire a profession in Personal Finance. Applications are now being accepted for Fellowships to become an Accredited Financial Counselor. Deadline is April 15th.

<http://support.militaryfamily.org/site/R?i=svfTwrziHp8oeEDTTwSQ>

Scholarship for Military Daughters

The Julie Foudy Leadership Foundation will continue to honor and support families who are serving our country by offering full scholarships to military daughters interested in attending the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy. Scholarships have been generously funded by Tri-West Healthcare for military families. Applications for 2011 will be available beginning the first week of January at the Foundation's website, www.foudyleadershipfoundation.org.

The application is a PDF file, which will need to be downloaded, printed, completed, and then mailed to the address provided. Interested applicants can contact Kerri McClellan at kerri@foudyleadershipfoundation.org or at 949-338-5544.

GREAT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

A scholarship award is offered to wives of uniformed service members to attend vocational training programs in the "Medical Field."

Fifteen (15) \$8,500* scholarships and five (5) **\$10,000*** scholarships will be awarded for tuition for vocational training in one of the following fields: dental assistant, medical assistant, medical billing and coding specialist, medical insurance technician, patient care assistant/technician, nurse assistant training program, or medical transcription. **Two (2) \$30,000*** scholarships will be awarded for tuition for vocational nursing programs. The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition expenses only -- no books or other fees included. All funds are paid directly to the educational institution. **Twenty-two (22) scholarships totaling \$237,500* will be given.** **The stated amounts are the maximum amounts awarded under each scholarship, but the actual amount paid out may be different than the stated amount because the scholarship awards may be used only for tuition charges, and not towards books, room/board, class fees or similar charges.* For more information, please go to: <http://www.operationhomefront.net/scholarship/>

Military OneSource – FREE Tax Consultation!

Military OneSource is pleased to announce that they will once again provide free tax consultation and free on-line tax filing services to military service members and their families during the tax season. As in the four previous years, participants will have free online access to the H&R Block At Home Basic tax product. Call 1-800-342-9647 or go to:

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/TaxFilingServices.aspx>

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

Listed below are the various Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) locations and operating hours for NAS Pensacola:

Naval Air Station Pensacola (Primary Site)

161 Turner Street, Room 145
Pensacola, FL 32508
Tel: 850-452-3100x1332
Mon-Thu: 0800-1600
Fri: 0800-1200

Appointments available between 0800-1100
and between 1300-1500
Walk-ins available all day
Can do complex tax returns

Naval Aviation School's Command

181 Chambers Avenue, Suite C (Building 623)
Pensacola, FL 32508
850-452-2490
Mon-Fri: 0800-1600

By appointment only, preferably 1400-1600

Naval Air Technical Training Center

Mega Building Satellite Site
Chevalier Field Ave, Room 2247
Pensacola, FL 32508
850-452-7308x4196

Mon, Wed, Thu: 1100-1300, 1530-1730
Tue & Fri: 1100-1300
Walk-ins only

Air Department Satellite Site

Building 3921, Room 209
Mon, Wed, Fri: 0900-1100, 1300-1500
Walk-ins only

Air Traffic Control Satellite Site

Building 3220, Room 267
Mon-Fri: 0800-1400; Walk-ins only

MATSG- 21

211 Farrar Road, Room A147C
Pensacola, FL 32508
Mon-Thu: 0900-1100 (by appointment only),
1100-1300 (walk-ins only)

Center for Information Dominance Corry Station

Building 511, Room 120
Pensacola, FL 32507
850-452-6140
Mon, Wed, Fri: 0800-1530
Thu, Thu: 0800-1830
Walk-ins only

Naval Hospital Pensacola

6000 West Highway 98, Room 1021
Pensacola, FL 32512
850-505-7112
Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 (by appointment only),
1300-1600 (walk-ins only)

Updates to the Post 9/11 GI Bill

Effective Aug. 1, 2011

- ✚ The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay all public school tuition and fees; this includes graduate training, out-of-state tuition differential, etc.
- ✚ For students attending private institutions of higher learning or foreign schools, the tuition and fee reimbursement will be capped at the lesser of net out-of-pocket cost or \$17,500 annually. However the Yellow Ribbon Program still exists
- ✚ College fund payments will be paid on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term. Those training at one-half time or less will be eligible for college fund payments
- ✚ Reimbursement will be available for multiple licensing and certification tests
- ✚ Reimbursement will be available for fees paid to take national examinations used for admission to an institution of higher learning, such as the SAT
- ✚ Vocational Rehabilitation participants will be able to elect the higher housing allowance offered by the

Post-9/11 GI Bill if otherwise eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill

- ✚ Break or interval pay will no longer be payable under any Department of Veterans Affairs education benefit program unless under an executive order of the president or due to an emergency situation such as a natural disaster or strike. Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment. This means that if a semester ends Dec.15, housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only. Benefits will begin again when a new semester begins. Benefits will be paid for the remaining days of that month and term.
- ✚ Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be prorated in the same manner.

Effective Oct. 1, 2011

- ✚ For those training at greater than one-half time, housing allowance will be prorated according to the training time those are enrolled in. For example, if a person's full housing allowance is \$1000, and that person is attending three-quarters time, housing allowance would be \$750.
- ✚ Housing allowance will be payable to students enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance will be one-half the national average basic allowance for housing for an E-5 with dependents. The rate would be \$673.50 for 2011)
- ✚ Non-college degree programs, on-the-job training and flight-training programs will be covered under the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- ✚ The book stipend will be payable to active-duty members

Tricare Updates – Dependent Children through age 26

The Defense Department has finally formalized its plan to expand Tricare coverage for dependent children through age 26, bringing the military's policy in line with the national health care reform law enacted last year. The new initiative, called the Tricare Young Adult Program, will offer Tricare Standard benefits. Although this program is not yet in effect, it is expected to be in place this spring.

The program, which has generated intense interest among service members and their families, is a major extension of previous limits for Tricare coverage of dependent children, which were age 23 for full-time college students and age 21 for all others. To be eligible, older dependent children must be unmarried and must not be eligible for their own employer-sponsored health insurance. They will be able to purchase the Tricare coverage on a month-to-month basis. Premiums have not yet been finalized, Pentagon officials said. Some military advocates have already expressed concerns that the mandate for beneficiaries to carry 100 percent of the costs may push the premiums too high for many families to afford. Once enrollment begins, families with eligible dependent children may obtain retroactive coverage back to Jan. 1, officials said. Eligible family members who receive health care between now and the date the program is fully in place should save their receipts if they want to file for retroactive reimbursement. They will have to pay the monthly premiums back to Jan. 1 in order to obtain reimbursement. For more information go to <http://www.tricare.mil/> or call 1-800-444-5445.

CLEANING FOR A REASON

If you or someone you know is a woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning -- once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All you have to do is sign-up and have your doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA. For more information, go to: <http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

OMK Summer Residential Camps 2011

Florida Operation Military Kids and Florida National Guard are planning another exciting summer of residential camps. There are three separate camps for children 8 to 12 years old (must be 8 by June 1, 2011) and a separate camp for teens 13 to 18 years old (must be 13 by September 1, 2010).

For registration and additional information visit their blog (<http://floridaomk.blogspot.com/>). But don't wait because space is limited. For questions contact Cliff Lewis, OMK State Coordinator, sgmlewis@ufl.edu.

Youth 8 to 12 years old

Camp Ocala - June 20-24. Camp Ocala is located on beautiful Lake Sellers in the Ocala National Forest in Altoona, Florida.

Camp Timpooshee - Jul 11-15. Camp Timpooshee is located in Niceville nestled on the shores of Choctawhatchee Bay just minutes from Destin, FL.

Camp Cloverleaf - Jul 25-29. Camp Cloverleaf is nestled on the banks of Lake Francis in Lake Placid, FL.

Senior Camp for teens

Aug 1-5 at Camp Cherry Lake located on scenic Cherry Lake just 14 miles north of Madison, Florida. Rustic cabins (NO AC), an open-air pavilion, a dining hall and an auditorium are all nestled among beautiful live oaks on gently sloping banks.

These weeks have been set aside to honor military kids and are full of learning, fun activities and much, much more. It's guaranteed to provide them with an exciting Outdoor Adventure they'll never forget! What great places to enjoy all these exciting activities while creating wonderful memories and networking to forge bonds that can last a lifetime! These five-day residential camps are open to all branches of the service and all components. Cost for one camp is \$55.00 per Guard, Reserve or active duty youth; for additional camps the cost is \$175.00; for military retirees and non-military youth the cost of the youth camp is \$175.00 per youth. The cost for the teen camp is \$220.00. For more information, please go to: (<https://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/statePOCHome.aspx?state=Florida>)

We are looking for a few great volunteers to be Family Readiness Assistants. Please call Deborah Salerno-Maye at 850-452-9460 x3111 or email deborah.salerno-maye@usmc.mil for more information.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Failed Driving Test Fuels Success By: Mark Buchanan

I read the following article in *Leadership* magazine that was written by Mark Buchanan and taken from an article titled "Motorcycles and Cups." It teaches us that failure can motivate us to accomplish our goals. I turned 50 in June. To celebrate, to console myself, I bought a motorcycle, a low-slung cruiser that looks enough like a Harley that, at 100 yards, it's hard to tell the difference. I bought it before I was licensed to ride it, so straightaway I got a learners permit, recruited a supervisor, and began preparing for the Motorcycle Skills Test.

The MST involves a series of tight maneuvers through an obstacle course. You have to turn on a dime. You have to weave between cones barely wider than your bike is long. You have to come to sudden stops without skidding and creepy crawl a lengthy straight stretch without veering. My supervisor was supposed to get me ready for all that.

Only, I liked riding the open road so much, we paid little mind to fiddlesome details. Occasionally, we'd pull into an empty parking lot, I'd do a few U-turns and figure 8s, declare myself a master, and off we'd go again, blazing down the highway. Born to be wild, I guess.

The day of the MST came. I was dangerously unprepared. Orange cones bristled up like warheads, terrifying me. The radius of the turns I had to execute would, I'm sure, have tripped up Houdini. I bombed. I hit those cones as though that was the goal. The adjudicator failed me inside of a minute. I was humiliated. Dejected. Angry. Ready to quit. **And then, fiercely determined.** I had to wait two weeks to retry, and in those two weeks I became Evel Knievel. I turned that bike in circles tight as a pirouette. I Latin danced between cones. I think I could have ridden that bike across a tightrope. When I retook the test, I nailed it. **I tell you all that to tell you this: failure made me ambitious. Tasting defeat made me hungry for success, and that in turn made me disciplined, focused, strategic.** Maybe, a tad obsessed.

I wouldn't want to live without ambition. Actually, I wouldn't be able to live without it. Ambition is what keeps us at it. It rouses us from slumber, pushes us out the door, and gets us reaching beyond ourselves. It calls us to sacrifice and risk-taking. Ambition is what keeps us in the fight or in the race when everything in us wants to quit.

My prayer is that next time you experience a little failure, that in response it motivates you to great success.

Just maybe the difficulty you are experiencing now is a smoke signal that will lead to a greater blessings and opportunities.

I would like to extend a welcome aboard to RP1(FMF) Dorothea Bannister. RP1 Bannister checked on board the command on September 2, 2010. She is joining us from 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC. Although RP1 has been in the United States Navy 15 years, she is no stranger to the Marine Corps. Her previous duties include MCB Hawaii, 1st MAW, 3rd MAW, MCAS Yuma, and 2D MARDIV. She deployed to Afghanistan with II Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Chaplain Tim Hall
(850) 452-9413



L.I.N.K.S UPDATES

Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills provides information to all Marines and family members on the resources available and methods for meeting the challenges of the military lifestyle.

Kids Spring Fling

When: April 15, 2011
 Time: 1700- 2000
 Who: Open to kids ages 6-12

LINKS for Spouses

When: April 18th & 19th, 2011
 Time: 0830 - 1230 both days
 Who: Open to all Military Spouses

LINKS for Spouses

When: May 14, 2011
 Time: 0830 - 1530
 Who: Open to all Military Spouses

LINKS for Spouses

When: June 21st & 22nd, 2011
 Time: 0830 – 1230 both days
 Who: Open to all Military Spouses

LINKS for Spouses

When: July 23, 2011
 Time: 0830 - 1530
 Who: Open to all Military Spouses

LINKS for Spouses

When: August 16, 2011
 Time: 0830 – 1530
 Who: Open to all Military Spouses



To Register for MCFTB Programs or if you are interested in becoming a Family Readiness Assistants or a LINKS mentor, Contact Beth Austin at 850-452-9460 ext. 3012 Elizabeth.a.austin@usmc.mil

****All Classes are held in the MATSG-21 headquarters Building 3450; CO's Conference Room**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MATSG-21 Spring Fling Barracks Bash All Enlisted Students	April 9 th 1000 - 1400	Portside P/T Field
MATSG Cup MATSG-21 All Hands	April 15 th All Day event	NATTC Ball field
MATSG-21 Family Fun Day (More info to come)	June 17 th	TBD
MATSG-21 Independence Barracks Bash All Enlisted Students	June 24 th 1000 - 1400	Portside P/T Field
MATSG-21 Pool Party	TBD	NASP O'Club Pool