

KUDOS and CONGRATS



CONGRATS TO OUR NEW WARRANT OFFICER SELECTS

SSgt Glen Lollar--4641

SNCOIC, Iwakuni CVIC

SSgt Sean Hays--4641

SNCOIC, IMU Quantico

Sgt Anthony Lopez--4611

NCOIC, Instructional Media Center, MCCSSS

VIM Note: One of our former 4653 Marines GySgt (sel) Charles Van Allen also made WO, in the 5702 MOS. He also applied for 4602 but our selection criteria states "only Marines that are **currently** holding a 46 MOS be considered".

VIM Note: Marines considering applying this year for the Enlisted to Warrant Officer Program should begin researching the applicable directives and reviewing your OMPF now.

News From The Fleet

Earning the 'Combat' in Combat Photographer Submitted by Sergeant Anthony Lopez, Project Manager, Instructional Media Center, Camp Johnson

After September 11, I think most of us were aware of the possibility that we might be called to support the anti-terrorism efforts of the Commander-In-Chief. In fact some of us were. With the continuation of this anti-terror campaign, truth is, many more of us may soon find ourselves capturing imagery to support this mission.

While I watched the events unfold after that tragic day, I thought to myself: 'If I were called to fulfill my duties as a combat videographer, would I be ready?' I sent an e-mail to some of our VI officers asking if any training was available to orient 4600 Marines to mission/combat readiness. Response: none to date. I was told that I needed to train with a combat camera unit. But what about Marines serving in garrison training environments? Instead of waiting for a course to be written, the staff at the Instructional Media Center, Camp Johnson took the initiative to set up a Combat Camera training evolution. For two days, 4611, 41 and 71 Marines from the eastern

coast gathered at Camp Johnson, and were treated to PME and practical application at Camp Lejeune's MOUT facility.

Taking the lead, Capt Grow shared his experiences in various combat environments, and spoke first hand of the likely scenarios that might be confronted. In addition, WO Kelsey gave a detailed understanding of a MEU and the responsibilities of a 4600 on deployment. The Marines were also given a demonstration of the International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) imagery transmission system. It was amazing how many of us were unaware of the different modes of imagery transmission. Finally, Gunnery Sergeant Fontanella, the S-3 Chief at Camp Johnson taught a refresher course on basic Marine Patrolling. The following day, the Marines were taught to maneuver in an urban environment, true to today's battlefield, and then led a patrol through a subdivision of the MOUT facility. The experience of carrying both a camera and an M16 was beneficial, (Although our TO weapon is the 9mm Capt Grow effectively stated: "You need to be versatile in combat."). The primary lesson learned is that staying alive and shooting pictures is a daunting task.

The feedback we received from the Marines after the training was very positive. In the future, we plan to elaborate on this type of training. Any input would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of Ms Pearson and the IMC staff, I would like to thank the following: LtCol John Miles, Capt Smith, Capt Grow, WO Kelsey, GySgt Fontanella, GySgt Rhoads (2d MarDiv CC for the weapons), the MOUT Facility, Instructional Management School, and Sgt Davis for acquiring and teaching the INMARSAT. A special thank you to the OIC's and VI Chiefs who allowed their Marines to train and supported this training evolution.

Shutterbugs 're-focus' on Combat Skills

Story by Cpl. Matt Preston

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT/EASTERN RECRUITING REGION, PARRIS ISLAND S.C.--(August 16, 2002) -- Every Marine is a rifleman, but a special breed of Marine shoots with more than just a weapon, as two Depot Marines proved Aug. 6-7.

LCpl Jared Hanson and LCpl Joseph Sarabia, CVIC photographers, ventured to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to train with other combat photographers and videographers on how to adapt their photographic and video techniques to a combat environment.

The Marines took advantage of the chance to take their skills into an actual training scenario.

"You can only take classes for so long," said Sarabia.

The first day consisted of classes on patrolling and other Marines' experiences in combat. The subject of when to put down the camera and when to pick up the rifle was an important one. Combat takes precedence over taking pictures, according to Sarabia.

"They told us, 'Drop your camera and worry about your rifle. When you kill the enemy,

then take pictures," said Sarabia.

Another important lesson that the Marines learned was flexibility.

"In combat, some of the simplest things become difficult," said Hanson. The ability to reload both film and ammunition under fire can become a challenge.

The second day consisted of practical application. The Marines conducted a Military Operation in Urban Terrain, or MOUT, as part of the exercise. They were issued standard 782 gear, Kevlars, flak jackets and simunitions; rounds to simulate being hit by live fire.

Hanson appreciated the opportunity to participate.

"It gave me a better grasp of what's expected of me in a combat environment," said Hanson. "You tend to see things differently when you're under fire. It's a good learning experience."

Both Hanson and Sarabia were hand picked to attend the training.

"I felt they would represent PI in a good light," said Gunnery Sgt. Ray Glover, CVIC photo chief. "They had the motivation."

One of the Marines wanted the training bad enough to miss out on some potentially higher pay. Hanson was originally scheduled to compete in the Meritorious Corporal Board for H&SBn., but he elected to participate in the training instead.

The best evaluation may not come from boards, but from the confidence that others place in them. They're the ones I'd take into combat with me," said Glover.

Multi-Country Marine Corps submitted by Sgt Mauricio Campino, Combat Photographer, 2d MarDiv

I recently had a chance to train with Marines from Echo Company, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines and their counterparts in the Portugese Marine Corps. A group of forty nine reservists along with myself participated in the bilateral exercise which took place from June 17th through June 23rd at the Escola de Fuzileiros (the Portugese equivalent of USMC School of Infantry) outside of Barreiros and at Pinheiro Da Crux, Portugal. The exercise marked the first time in ten years Marine units from the two countries trained together.

The training began at the infantry school where we tackled the base's infamous obstacle courses. First the rope course, a grueling twelve-part obstacle course involving tree climbing, zip lines and Tarzan swings and then the mud course; a 500 yard swamp filled endurance course with similar obstacles and mud ranging from knee-high to 6 feet deep. The obstacles truly test the body as well as the mind as some of the obstacles are as tall as fifty feet.

The remainder of the training week involved infantry tactics ranging from patrolling to small boat operations and from Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) to vehicle check points and searches. The Marines also conducted live-fire



weapons training with rifles, medium and heavy machineguns, and sniper rifles. Having been a grunt the first four years of my career really helped me during this deployment. I had a good sense of where to position myself so as to not interfere with the training and still managed to get good coverage of the Marines. On this deployment I got to test out the new camera bags that came with the 720s and got plenty of opportunities to try different configurations of field gear and camera equipment. I also got a new appreciation for protecting my gear. At one point during the training, I wrapped my camera in a towel for cushioning and then in the rubber waterproofing bag that every Marine is issued with their gas mask. Once I insured my camera was safely waterproofed, I proceeded to swim and crawl through the muddy water to the higher dry spots to get some good shots. I definitely enjoyed participating in the training.

After the field evolution finished, the Marines were treated to a closing ceremony with very similar Marine traditions like a cake cutting and cheerful toasts to "The Corps". For all of us who participated in the exercise, the Portuguese "Fuzileiros" will always be remembered for their esprit-de-corps and hospitality. This was one of the greatest opportunities I've had to do my favorite part of this job, which is to show the world what Marines do.

District Photographer? ? ? What's that? submitted by Cpl Chad Simon, Combat Photographer

What does a Marine Corps recruiting district photographer do? That was the question I had in my mind when I was afforded the opportunity to become the 1st Marine Corps District photographer. The short answer to that question is "a lot of cool and interesting stuff."

I have been the 1st Marine Corps District, Garden City, NY, photographer for almost a year and I still cannot believe some of the events we get to cover, especially in the New York City area. As the photographer, I work for and report to the Public Affairs Office.

Working with Public Affairs personnel is a great opportunity. I get to dabble in writing if I want, and take photos of all the events, even if I don't want to. Prior to coming to New York, I had two photos published outside of the base newspaper in Yuma, AZ. Since being Garden City, I have had photos published on the USMC web page and in numerous Long Island newspapers, not to mention "Leatherneck"

magazine. As I write this article I have a photo in the current "Leatherneck" issue and on the USMC web page.

Government housing is provided, but not in the form of a barracks. We have government leased apartment complexes. There are complexes for Officers, married military members, and for single Marines. While single, I had one roommate in a four-bedroom apartment. We had a living room, dining room and kitchen/laundry room.

The position allows for a Lance Corporal or Corporal to get a good taste of what it will be like to be a section head. I am tasked with keeping the photo boards current throughout Headquarters and ordering and maintaining supplies, all the while providing photo coverage for an entire district.

Upon arrival to a district you are issued two sets of dress blues - get used to them. We wear Dress Blues Alphas for about every event we do. The uniforms are hot as Parris Island for the summertime, but act as nice cold weather gear in the New York winters. In addition to district events, all district Marines perform color guard duty, which is a fact of life at a district. However, some are really great events and outstanding photo opportunities.

In the recent past, we performed color guard duty for the US Tennis Open and NY Mets game in Queens, and also the NY Yankees in the Bronx. The Marines get all access to the US Open. Last year some of the Marines met the Williams sisters, currently ranked in the top five of the world standings.

I have had the opportunity take photos and walk on the trading floor of the NY Stock Exchange and to photograph a visiting general as he tossed the ceremonial coin at a NY Jets home game. We also work with a reserve unit for the Toys for Tots program. That gig landed us great seats at a NY Islanders hockey game.

The past few paragraphs are the longer answer as to what a district photographer does. We don't get to go on deployments; however, we definitely get to do our job in a variety of great places.

If given the opportunity, a Marine should definitely seize it and become a district photographer.



Depot Lithographer Tackles Green Belt Instructor Course

Story by Cpl. Eric R. Lucero

**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT
DEPOT/EASTERN
RECRUITING REGION, PARRIS
ISLAND S.C.--(August 16, 2002)**

-- The stereotypical Marine is a muscular, young, clean-cut man

standing 6-feet tall with big biceps and tight abs. The stereotype of a martial arts instructor is likely more extreme. Combine the two and you have an individual with godlike attributes.

While Depot Reproduction Marine, Lance Cpl. Robert E. Feliz' 5-foot, 5-inch, 130-pound frame hardly fits this demigod image, his extraordinary spirit has allowed him to complete nearly three weeks of the toughest training he's ever undergone at the Green Belt Instructor Course of the Corps' martial arts program.

Feliz, a native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, graduates today from the course. Looking at him, one would hardly think he would be in charge of training Marines how to dominate the opposition in hand-to-hand combat on the battlefield.

Growing up on the mean streets of Santo Domingo, Feliz learned early on that life was hard, and in order for him to survive, he would have to make a change in his life.

"Sammy," as his friends know him, left the Dominican Republic and arrived in the Washington, D.C., area when he was 18 years old and enlisted in the Marine Corps less than a year later in August 2000.

Feliz wasted no time. After completion of recruit training and training for his Military Occupational Specialty, Feliz arrived back on the Depot in July 2001.

He quickly found being stationed in Beaufort was nothing like his native homeland and quickly started looking for ways to keep himself busy.

Finding an interest in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, Feliz quickly developed that interest into a passion for the training.

"I love to train," said Feliz. "They say the Marine Corps is a force in readiness. I just want to make sure I'm ready to go when the blood's about to flow."

Feliz takes the same high-speed, can-do, no-quit attitude to all he does, whether he is at work or at home.

"He's high speed," said Staff Sgt. Kevin McCants, Feliz's staff non-commissioned officer in charge. "At work, I know I can depend on him to get the job done."

McCants, who is also a MCMAP instructor, has nothing but confidence in the 21-year-old.

"I know he'll be a fine instructor," he said. "Not only is he teachable, but he loves to share his knowledge."

Feliz's motivation for training doesn't stop there. Recently, during a trip to the gas chamber for his annual training, he requested to go through twice after seeing other Marines running for the doors.

"I wanted to motivate them," said Feliz. "That and I loved being in there."

Feliz attributes his hardcore attitude toward training to his time spent in his homeland.

"It's a different world over there," he said. "You learn one of life's little lessons every day."

Feliz recalls a lesson he learned at the age of 10. His father came home one day with a baby pig and gave it to him as a pet. For the next year, Feliz cared for and raised "Bienvenir" until he realized nothing in life was for certain.

"On Christmas Eve, my family waited until I went with some friends to play basketball before they sprang their trap," said Feliz. "When I got home, I found out we were having pig for dinner. That was my pig!"

From that day on, Feliz learned that in order to make it, he would have to both test himself every day and take his pets with him every time he left the house.

"Now I don't have to worry," said Feliz. "They don't let me keep pets in the barracks anyway."

Although Feliz finds that day both humorous and hurtful, he remains loyal to his family by bettering himself everyday in hopes of providing them with a positive role model to emulate.

"They're really important to me," he said. "If I can show them I am successful, maybe some of them will follow in my footsteps."

"That's why I train so hard and push myself the way I do. Besides that, I don't want to develop a gut the way so many of my friends do."

Having the opportunity to instruct his friends in a MCMAP course is something Feliz remains eager to do.

"I can't train anybody until I pick up corporal," he said. "Once I do, they better watch out because that's when I'll get my kill on!"

Artillery Relocation Exercise 2002, Ojojihara, Japan. Submitted by LCpl Izzel Sanchez 3^D Marine Division Combat Camera

The Artillery Relocation Exercise started the morning of July 13, 2002. At K5-right, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, where the assigned marines from Battery-R, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment stationed in Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan and all supporting units, such as Combat Service Support Detachment (CSSD-32) from Camp Kinser Okinawa, CPAO III MEF and The 2 Combat Camera Marines from Camp Foster; to include myself, reported to their appointed place of duty to board an International plane on a scheduled flight to Sendai Airport, Sendai, Japan. Upon boarding the buses at K5-right, the deploying unit was transferred to the flight deck to board the aircraft. At around 0845 the plane departed Okinawa, and proceeded to Sendai, Japan.

Upon Arrival At Sendai Airport, the Japanese Self-Defense Force guided the unit on buses to The Ojojihara Training Area, Ojojihara, Japan where the Exercise took place. I fell under Headquarters detachment. I reported to 2nd Lt. Zachary Riggle, a Public Affairs Officer from camp Foster.

The Exercise began with live fire on the 18th of July. I, as a combat Videographer, was there to experience and document the blasting of the howitzer rounds. I also got the experience firing the howitzer myself. The battery cannoneers briefed me through the steps of loading and firing the so-called "steel rain dragon". Even though it was an experience that goes for no more than 10 seconds, it's something that only a certain amount of people get to do, and I, without having to be in that MOS, was one of the Few.

Viewing the rounds blasting out of the howitzers left me thinking of where they were hitting, so I found my way to the impact area and spoke with the forward observers. They informed me that there was a bunker closer to the impact area where they had two Marines and the view would be closer and clearer. On one of their trips to that hill, I rode with them in the HMMWV and got a chance to view and document the explosions of the round impacts. Thanks to the help and cooperation of the Marines, I was able to provide close-up images to all who aren't able to view it live.

As part of my job, having to document the main events of an exercise gives me the chance to view all aspects of what an operation would be like. Also, in the case that an operation would need visual support from a combat Videographer, having the experience of an exercise gives me the knowledge necessary to perform my duties in those types of situations.

Upon the conclusion of the exercise, the Marines took the chance to view the culture of the Japanese locals. By visiting Japanese families and contributing to community relation projects, they continued to strengthen the relationship between Japan and the United States. In addition, visits to the city of Sendai were provided to give the Marines the chance to relax for some hours out in town. The streets, the people, the buildings, parks, and all aspects of the Japanese way of living were something interesting to see. The Marine Corps sends me, and, as a Combat Videographer, it's a fun experience.

Don't let it happen to you! submitted by WO Kelsey, OIC CVIC MCB Camp Lejeune

On July 26, 2002, building 54, which houses the Combat Visual Information Center at Marine Corp Base Camp Lejeune, was struck by lightning. Usually this wouldn't cause any alarm because there are a number of ways lightning dissipates through buildings into the ground. Normal procedure is to turn off and unplug all the computers and electrical equipment to ensure the systems are not damaged by electrical surges.

When the Marines at the CVIC heard the first crack of lightning they hurried to unplug all the systems. During that process a surge of lightning struck the Camp Lejeune, Range Operations Division, communication tower, which is on the south side of building

54, and continued down through the cabling and into the metal framework of the suspended ceiling that runs through the building. A civilian contractor, from range maintenance, noticed a large streak of blue light shoot over his head through the entire false ceiling.

All the CVIC and Range Operations Computer systems were turned off and unplugged within ten minutes of the lightning strike. However, no one thought to unplug the computers from the Ethernet. Apparently when the ceiling was electrified it sent current through the Ethernet cabling and blew out the Hub in building 54 even though it was grounded. The lightning then traveled through each of the Ethernet connections and destroyed most of the network interface cards (NIC) in the building. Some of the computer systems NIC ports are built into the motherboard of the systems. The electrical damage in those machines was catastrophic.

Our information systems Marines were able to repair most of the damage within a week but the CVIC was out of business for two days.

CVIC has purchased American Power Conversion Battery Back-UPS with Surge Protectors to prevent any future electrical hazard or lightning strike damage. Each UPS has a 10 minutes battery back up. This UPS can also be set up through Windows 2000 using the computer's USB port to automatically save any open files and shut down the computer if power is disrupted. www.apc.com/products/back-ups_vs/index.cfm. We highly recommend purchasing an UPS for **all of your** systems.

LF CARAT, The Marine Corps Premiere Deployment Written by: Lance Corporal Antonio J. Vega, Combat Photographer, and consolidated Public Affairs staff. Photographs by: Lance Corporal Antonio J. Vega, Combat Photographer,

Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training is a series of bilateral training exercises held throughout Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and the Republic of the Philippines. The commander of the United States Seventh Fleet directed that the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training cruise be established in 1995. This linked multiple previously separate bilateral training exercises in Southeast Asia, making planning, movement and logistics easier to coordinate.



This region has nearly 500 million inhabitants and is a crossroads of world trade, making it a vital link in the world economy and strategically significant. Elements of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) form a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force, the Landing Force of CARAT, which is now an annual rolling series of bilateral exercises between

U.S. Naval Forces and ASEAN countries. The III MEF Marines who participate in LF CARAT embark on amphibious shipping and conduct their missions along with the U.S. Navy, Army and Coast Guard team.

The LF CARAT deployment shows the United States commitment to the ASEAN region and fosters training between the countries and humanitarian aid events. The exercise also affords many training opportunities for the U.S. Marines, who gain exposure to joint and combined training, new cultures, languages, geography and terrain. While maintaining readiness to respond to contingency missions, the Marines gain valuable training directly related to their Military Occupation Specialties as well.

My name is Antonio J. Vega, a photographer for the United States Marine Corps. Recently I was tasked with a three month long deployment to document an annual phenomenon called Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training (LF CARAT). The year was 2002 mid spring through early summer. Everyone was talking about this extravaganza that brings members of the U.S. Armed Services and their ASEAN counterparts together. The six ASEAN countries taught the U.S. service members a lot about surviving in the jungle, and various other aquatic things. The U.S. in turn taught the host nations many things that will help them grow and prosper. Together we all learned team building, and gained each other's friendship.

The Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Coast Guard members learned a great deal about the host nations cultures, languages, religions, geography and military practices. "These Marines and Sailors will return with vital experience should III MEF be called upon to respond to a future crisis in the region." Lt. General Wallace C. Gregson, Commanding General, III MEF

After returning to Okinawa, and I reflect on the events that have occurred within the last couple of months...I can't help but cheerfully laugh and wish that every Marine that serves a term of their enlistment in Southeast Asia are able to participate in someway with the mission known as Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training. Otherwise known as the feel good event of the summer.

Night Vision Problem and Solutions submitted by SSgt Baxter, Combat Videographer, CVIC Yuma

Are you having problems with night vision and the PD-150? This is how CVIC MCAS Yuma, addressed our equipment dilemma. We purchased a night vision system from Electro-Physics almost a year ago in support of Weapons and Tactics Instruction (WTI). This particular system was supposed to give full screen vice the old spot scope image. Shortly after receiving the gear, we op checked the system with no joy in getting the system to work. After calling the technician, and a week of retesting, we where able to get nothing more then a spot scope at best.

This was a problem.

After working with Electro-Physics, we sent the entire system back for them to look at. This included the NV system, PD-150, batteries, everything we use they got. After review by their technicians, it was found that the "Bracket" system was manufactured incorrectly, and that the 70-300 mm lens was defective. The company is currently replacing this gear and getting our system up and running at no cost to the government.

If anyone one else is having problems with there systems, I highly encourage you to contact the company and have them take a look at the gear.

Here is list of our entire system setup: Sony PD-150 w/supporting equipment
Central Intensifier Unit - 9350CIU-31V, Sony Adapter – 9350 BRAC-VX2
Zoom Lens – Z70-300, Kodak Adapter – 9350NIK-S



NATO HQ Skopje, Macedonia submitted by SSgt Kevin W Williams, Combat Photographer 2nd MARDIV Camp Lejeune

I recently returned from a six-month deployment to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) where I had the opportunity to work in the Allied Press Information Center (APIC) at NATO HQ Skopje, FYROM. The responsibilities there included providing Combat Camera support to the Commanding General, video support for the Allied Press Information Center, maintaining

historical files of NATO and Task Force Fox (TFF) missions, and providing photos for APIC web-site. This was my first time working with NATO and it was as educational as it was rewarding.

The role of TFF and NATO is to contribute to the protection of international monitors who will oversee the implementation of the peace plan in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Whenever there is trouble in an area the monitors have to be evacuated. Therefore, a lot of training was done to maintain a level of readiness for these evacuations. These were interesting shoots because they involved several different countries working together.

In addition to recording the official missions I had the chance to travel throughout the KFOR area of operations visiting the different bases (US and other Countries). This was something that very few US soldiers are allowed to do. I had a lot of freedom as far as what I took photos of and where I went. To see more photographs from NATO HQ Skopje visit the AF South web site at www.afsouth.nato.int. Then click on the NATO HQ Skopje icon at the bottom of the page.

For those Sgt.'s and SSgt's looking for a chance to see Europe while supporting a worthwhile effort this is the opportunity of a life time. During my time there I was able to travel to Germany, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic. If time had allowed it I would have seen more. And those of you looking to pin on a couple of extra ribbons shouldn't miss this trip.

Always Bring Your Gear! Even If It Is Not On The List

submitted by LCpl Chavez CVIC 29 Palms CA

Always be prepared when going on a field op with any unit or you might regret it. I just recently went on a field op with 3/11 for six days. I was assigned to HQ Battery which started out on the boring side because all we did was sit around in 115 degree weather waiting for nothing. After three days into the op I was put with the 3/11 survey team. This is when things got exciting because the survey team was playing the aggressors. This was fun because we got to hit the different btry's with artillery simulation grenades and blanks. However, on the last day of the op we attacked with arty sims, blanks, and **CS**. That would have been cool **if** I would brought a gas mask. We attacked with a massive wall of CS, but we were positioned up wind of where the CS was released. After that, lets just say that I was unable to take pictures. I laid on the deck and started sucking water but due to the massive amount of CS in the air I was hurting. Lesson learned: I never want to go to the field again without a gas mask even if I wasn't required to have one.

MCAGCC MAGTF TC CELEBRATES IT'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

submitted by GySgt Mathews, SNCOIC 29 Palms CVIC



On Tuesday, August 22nd 2002, The Marine Corps base Twentynine Palms celebrated their 50th year of existence. The event took place on a bright cool morning at 0800 in front of the flagpole that faces the generals building and overlooks the base. The Commanding Officer of the base, BGen Christian B. Cowdrey, addressed about fifty attendants from neighboring cities who all came to pay tribute to the base. Among the guests where a few city officials and high-ranking officers and enlisted Marines. They where given a brief history of the base and then awed with the incredible fighting tactics and capabilities of our prestigious base. MAGTF TC is home of the combined live fire exercises in the Marine Corps, which puts MCAGCC at the forefront of today's training evolution. The ceremony was followed up with cake and refreshments, and a few stories of remembrance from locals, of how the base used to be. Unarguably, Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms has made giant leaps and bounds in the last fifty

years, and will continue to do so forever more.

Fuji Combined Arms Operation 04-02 submitted by Cpl Brumley, Combat Videographer

Battalion Landing Team 3/3 "Hit the beach" at Camp Fuji, Japan on 21 July and stayed until 11 Aug. The attached combat camera team consisted of Cpl. Timothy

Brumley and LCpl Trenton Harris. The units that comprised the BLT were; H & S Company, India Company, and Kilo Company from 3D Battalion/ 3D Marine Regiment, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion/ 6th Marine Regiment, and Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion/ 12th Marine Regiment. There was also an attachment from Combat Assault Battalion, 3D Marine Division.

During the exercise, the BLT conducted fire support exercises, including 155mm Howitzers and 81mm mortar systems, squad level and platoon level live fire ranges, company field exercises, a "Dirty Dozen" squad competition, and demolitions training for Combat Engineers. The Marines also got a chance to climb Mt. Fuji. Liberty included a Tokyo Giants Baseball game, a day at Tokyo Disneyland, weekend trips to Tokyo, and just going out and being a tourist in the local community.

This, as well as, many other awesome deployments are awaiting you when you arrive in Okinawa! Call the monitor and request those orders, NOW!

**Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Materiel Requirements Division**

**CWO2 John Crone
Audiovisual Requirements Officer**

Reorganization:

The latest news from MCCDC is our recent reorganization within WDID. Yes, even MCCDC is reorganizing along with the 4600 OccFld! Nothing real major in personnel changes but some names have changed and we have a new Chief of Staff. What was formally known as Warfighting Development Integration Directorate (WDID) is now called the Expeditionary Force Development Center (EFDC). What was formally called Equipment Requirements Division (ERD) is now called Materiel Requirements Division (MRD). The new Chief of Staff for MCCDC is Col. Mike Hicks. The intent of the reorganization is to become more integrated as far as C2 as well as to streamline the process. Also, several billets were identified to become civilianized to provide longevity and continuity. No worries, the AV Requirements Officer billet is safe!

DWG:

The next DWG or DOTMLPF Working Group, which is a panel that discusses courses of action on all new incoming UNS's, will be held on 26 September. As of this date there is one AV related UNS scheduled for this meeting. This is a UNS submitted by Maj. Core and TECOM for the transition to digital television equipment Marine Corps wide. The next DWG will be held the second half of October.

There are three UNS's that are currently being developed for submission. The first is a standardized job order system and database; the second is a standardized classroom package for all AV equipment in various size classrooms/theaters, and the final one is the Marine Corps Television Network (MCTVN) for centralized broadcasting that the Public Affairs field is drafting. One of the hottest issues being developed currently is the replacement of the Mobile Photographic Laboratory (MPL) vans. With the current state of affairs and the need to reduce our footprint operationally, it is critical that we develop a self contained system to deploy with the Combat Camera Units with the capability to transmit real time or near real time imagery from the battlefield to the decision makers. This initiative was the focus of the IPT/Working

Group that was held August 26-27 where representatives from SYSCOM, Requirements, VIM, and the three Division Combat Camera Units were present.

If you are developing a UNS and haven't informed me please let me know so that I can assist in any way I can and keep track of its progression. I can also give the advocates a pre-brief so that they know it's on the way.

Requirements Training:

Now that all the PCS moves for all the requirements officers are complete for the summer, EFDC has established a training package for all the new joins. Our first class was last week and it covered an overview of the combat development process. Our next class is a detailed training session on the Combat Development Tracking System (CDTS). This is a system that tracks the status of all submitted UNS's as well as a good source of reference for all Operational Requirements documents and an archive of all programs such as the Combat Camera Imagery System (CCIS).

Once the 4600 reengineering is signed the AV Requirements Officer billet that I hold will be designated as an acquisition type billet. It will continue to be called the AV Requirements Officer but it will have an acquisition designator attached. What this means to anyone that holds this billet is that all acquisition training can be obtained free of charge, on-line, through the Defense Acquisition University. There is a breakdown of the criteria that must be met to become certified at three different levels. The most substantial benefit to the billet is in the area of off duty education. In addition to any tuition assistance you may be receiving, all of your education will be funded as long as you are seeking a business related degree. This is an added bonus to any of you who may wish to replace me after a few years!

The UNS Process:

Recently, I have received a few e-mails requesting the UNS form because individuals are seeking to replace broken AV gear or just want to acquire new cameras. This is not what the UNS is for. The UNS is a tool to address any new capabilities that are needed, improvements to existing systems, or the elimination of any outdated programs. I would just like to take this time to educate you on the process if you didn't read my article two months ago or weren't at the VI conference.

Any Marine can request that a capability be addressed such as being able to shoot video in low light conditions for instance. The requestor would draft a Universal Needs Statement (UNS). I have included a UNS as an attachment at the end of this article. This UNS must go through your chain of command and be signed by a general officer. When drafting a UNS it must address a certain capability in the first block or "Description of Need" block. (i.e. must have the capability to shoot acceptable images in low light situations). The UNS should not go into specifics such as manufacturer and model number. Once the UNS arrives at MCCDC it is validated and approved at the Capabilities Assessment Branch (CAB) and is assigned a tracking number and entered into the system. One important outcome of the reorganization is that all incoming UNS's are forwarded to my section (Materiel Requirements) for comment before they go to the DWG. The UNS is assessed and approved after it has been determined that another UNS is not in the system that addresses a similar issue or that another service does not have a similar system. Representatives from Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materials, Leadership, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF) then meet and decide on a course of action. This meeting is called the DOTMLPF Working Group (DWG). If the course of action is an AV equipment requirements solution it will

come to my desk as a tasker. Once it arrives at my desk I develop a Mission Needs Statement and then form an Integrated Products Team (IPT) of subject matter experts (SME's). On this team would be myself, a SYSCOM rep (CWO4 Golwitzer), a training rep (CWO3 Sanders), usually the originator of the UNS, and any other experienced technical experts that can add their knowledge to the group such as representatives from various related MOS's and commands. The team collectively develops an Operational Requirements Document (ORD) or a Statement of Need (SON). This document will outline the requirement and describe the capability and target thresholds and objectives but not specific manufacturers or model numbers. It will also outline the impact on training, manpower, doctrine, etc. Once the ORD or SON is formally drafted and staffed it would then be signed by the ACMC and sent to Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) where CWO4 Golwitzer's team conducts the research, coordinates testing, etc. and finally makes the purchases. His team decides on what manufacturer and model that would best fit the need addressed in the ORD or SON. This equipment would be centrally managed and include a full maintenance contract as well as scheduled replacement of the gear after it has reached its service life (lifecycle management).

If you have any questions or would like me to help you draft a UNS let me know and I will be more than happy to help out. I have recently received several UNS's requesting specific equipment that is needed urgently. In these cases you can contact my counterpart at MARCORSYSCOM, CWO4 Golwitzer. He is our procurement officer. Keep in mind however, that currently his funding is limited and the priority is the operational forces. You can send him a naval message requesting equipment and if he can't fund it right away at least you have an official response and you can use this as ammo to obtain funding from your local comptroller.



Equipment & Systems Procurement CWO4 Wayne Golwitzer
VI Project Officer, Marine Corps Systems Command

[No submission](#)

Training CWO3 Joe Sanders
OccFld 46 Training Officer, Defense Information School

Well – I'm on board at DINFOS. My e-mail and contact info is below, feel free to drop me a line. I'm not in the USMC Global, so I'm building a Contact List as I get e-mails. If I send out a USMC VI wide message and you don't receive it, don't get upset, it is because you are not in my list yet. I will ask those that get messages to forward them to their SNCO's and NCO's. If you get a copy of an e-mail, reply to me and I'll add you to my list. If you are an expert Outlook user, attach a v-Card and I'll just add it.

First word from the desk of the VI Training Officer :

- ? If you have any issues, requests or ideas for training per DINFOS or USMC, please send them to my desk directly. Over the next few weeks I will meet with

the Inner-service Support Branch, TECOM to officially identify my duties in writing. Once that is complete I will announce my responsibilities to you.

First Request:

- ? I would like to know how many of you would like a mobile training team (MTT) to come to a site near you next Fiscal Year to address refresh training in the MOS' 11, 12, 41 and 71? Please reply directly to me. I will coordinate the requests. I'm working SME requirements and I think MTT's can be a channel to overcome many deficiencies.
- ? Examples: **Digital Photography** – how to correctly use the DCS cameras; Videography – the differences between DV mini and DVCAM; **Graphics** – Imagery Management, how the VIRIN works for illustrations, **Lithography – Reprographics**, the war fighters perspective. There are numerous issues to address, please send yours so I can build a planning document.
- ? My intent is to do an east coast, west coast and overseas MTT (maybe a stop in Hawaii for PAC and Base – we'll see how it falls out). I want to use the "Train the Trainer" method. We will hold one at Lejeune for all east coast (Quantico can be done separately if need due to close proximity at minimal cost – your call Mr. Anderson and Capt Grow), one at Pendleton, and one overseas. The SME dollars could pay for the MTT team to travel to your location. You should fund to send your trainers to the site. I think it would save a lot of money if we try it this way. I will ask the senior enlisted to host the event in their AOR and coordinate facilities in order to keep cost to a minimum. I will also try to work the MTT's around your OP Tempo. I know each area has a slow part of the year – I didn't say "STOP" or "PAUSE" – I said slower.
- ? I think these MTT's will do a few positive things for our OCCFLD:
 - o Build relationships between the Field and DINFOS.
 - o Build relationships between CVIC/COMCAM Units.
 - o Build consistency in training among the VI personnel

Our VI Community :

- ? Capt "Big Lou" Lujan is working an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to help bring together the VI Strategic Plan and other issues from our VI Conference. I will join this Team and will ensure all training issues for the OCCFLD are addressed. If you cannot attend or are not a part, feel free to send me your training concerns. I will compile a short brief for each meeting and will ensure all are aware. I am your voice for VI Training, if I don't hear from you I can't help you.

Semper Fidelis!

"You are either in contact, moving to contact or training", LtCol Chips Catalone, MCRP 3-0A

Notes from the OccFld 46 Specialist Capt R. D. Smith

New Revision of DOD Directive 5040.4 Joint Comcam

The Deputy Secretary of Defense has approved a major revision of DoD Directive 5040.4, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program." It was published August 13th and is available online via the Defense Visual Information home page at:

<http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/> (select "VI Policies/Procedures")

The purpose of this article is to summarize the key differences between the last version of the Directive, published six years ago, in September, 1996, and the August, 2002 revision.

The purpose of DoD Directive 5040.4 is to establish Department of Defense (DoD) policy and assign responsibilities for training, planning for, deploying, and employing Combat Camera Forces in support of joint, combined, and Service-specific military operations of joint interest.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ASD(PA)), which authored the revision, considers its additions and revisions essential to strengthening DoD's policy posture with regard to acquiring imagery of military operations and related activities, and then making that imagery immediately available for use by the warfighter, public affairs, other DoD users, the public sector, and, ultimately, the nation's historical record.

The 2002 revision of the Directive --

-- Institutionalizes the previously ad hoc Joint Combat Camera Planning Group (JCCPG), and identifies its membership as the ASD(PA) (chair), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Commanders of the Combatant Commands (CINC's), and the Secretaries of the Military Departments (MILDEPS), or their designees. These details are at the Directive's Enclosure 1, Committees, Working Groups, And Panels. This language in the 2002 revision serves as the directive authority for annual meetings to discuss Combat Camera deliberate and crisis action planning, and interoperability standards for equipment and systems. It establishes the JCCPG as a forum for ensuring that COMCAM is planned for and utilized to the maximum extent possible, ensuring imagery acquisition and documentation of DoD events, and interoperability among the Services.

-- Defines a new category of imagery, labeled "joint interest." Although the Directive's subject is Combat Camera, it nonetheless promotes the concept of "joint interest imagery," a term that more accurately describes the universe of imagery DoD seeks from its Components. The term and concept were created by the ASD(PA) two years ago in part to help defeat the perception that DoD's principal if not exclusive interest is in Combat Camera imagery. Coupled with this new defined term, the Directive significantly broadens the types of imagery that should be sent to the Joint Combat Camera Center (JCCC), thereby increasing DoD's imagery gathering and redistribution efforts to include all imagery of potential interest to the Secretary of Defense, CJCS, or the MILDEPS.

-- More explicitly directs that CINC planners include COMCAM in all plans, and that COMCAM be tasked to support operations and events having national interest. The 1996 version of the Directive discusses tasking but does not contain policy mandating it.

-- Seeks rapid review of imagery for public release, and review nearest the point of imagery acquisition. The objective of this policy clarification is to eliminate unnecessary withholding of imagery due to uncertainty about DoD image review policy. It also attempts to reduce instances of imagery arriving at the JCCC unreviewed and without any designation with regard to its releaseability.

-- Directly and formally involves the ASD(PA) in COMCAM deployment and employment decisions that heretofore have been the exclusive domain of the CINC's.

-- Clearly recognizes COMCAM as a function of Operations for planning and execution in the Joint environment, in accordance with the Joint Operations and Planning Execution System (JOPES). The revision removes ambiguity regarding where COMCAM belongs in the case of military operations, and seeks to facilitate COMCAM access to combat/sensitive operations, with the objective of greater acquisition and documentation support for both operational and PA requirements.

-- Directs the CINC's to ensure an active process is implemented for review and clearance of imagery. This guidance again attempts to eliminate unnecessary withholding of imagery due to uncertainty regarding DoD image release policy.

The CY 2003 SNCO Selection Boards Will Convene:

FOR SELECTION TO

SGTMAJ THROUGH MSGT	9 WEEKS	27 JAN 2003 - 23 MAR 2003
GYSGT	8 WEEKS	21 APR 2003 - 13 JUN 2003
SSGT	9 WEEKS	14 JUL 2003 - 12 SEP 2003

Common Misperceptions

? **The board is a long ways off, I have plenty of time and besides I may not be in-zone.**

WRONG! Do not wait to see if you will be in-zone, by then it is too late.

Review your OMPF and MBS within 12 months of the annual board date.

Review your OMPF and MBS early enough that you have time to correct any problems that you discover. In some cases, the RS or RO from years ago need to be located to get a copy of a missing fitness report. Current instructions on how to order your OMPF and MBS can be obtained at the Personnel Management Support Branch (MMSB) website. <http://www.mmsb.usmc.mil/>

Realize that the OMPF and MBS are two separate documents and are not linked. It is possible for a fitness report to be listed on the MBS but, not be in the OMPF, and vice versa. Carefully review both for accuracy.

? **My records are correct, or at least the last time I looked.**

WRONG! While sitting on a remedial promotion board I noticed that the GySgt's Navy Achievement Medal Certificate was his but the citation (that contained all of

the valuable background information for the briefer) belonged to another Marine of the same last name. **REALLY READ YOUR OMPF.**

? **The briefer can read everything in my record, he must have a better copy than I have.**

WRONG! If you cannot read the information on your OMPF CD neither can the briefer. If you have blurred or poorly copied documents in your record you need to resubmit them or have MMSB stamp the document "Best available copy". This statement will at least indicate to the board that you are properly maintaining your OMPF.

Complete your required Professional Military Education. The PME certificate must be dated prior to the convening date of the selection board. Those Marines who have not completed their required PME are considered **less than fully qualified** for promotion.

REMEMBER: The briefer is allotted about 30--45 minutes to prepare and 3--5 minutes to brief your entire career. **Do your career justice;** make it easy on the briefer by ensuring they have everything at their disposal to champion your selection.

ALSO, make sure your ribbons/medals are in your OMPF. The board members do look, and if you are wearing a ribbon that you know you rate but it is not in your record, it looks bad.....they have no idea if you actually rate it. This is especially true for DI, Recruiting, and Combat Action.

And lastly, remember that your SRB is a paper record of what should be in your OMPF. Do not assume that your SRB accurately reflects what is in your OMPF.

DO ALL OF THIS **NOW**, LONG BEFORE THE BOARD.... NOT AFTER YOU ARE PASSED OVER AND LEFT WONDERING WHAT WENT WRONG!

This is YOUR newsletter. Your contributions and efforts will reflect in the success and continuation of its publication. Anyone can submit articles, kudos, questions, editorials, information, ideas, photos, recommendations etc. This newsletter reflects our community's desire to increase two-way communication at all levels. Mass dissemination is instrumental in achieving this goal.

ARE WE ON TRACK? Does this newsletter meet YOUR needs? Are the articles on target? What would YOU like to see more or less of? Send your comments to smithrd@tecom.usmc.mil

