Welcome to the inaugural issue of Protection Press!

Starting this newsletter has been a long-term goal of mine as a means to increase communication with and between the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) headquarters, regions, and installations. This newsletter will share important Installation Protection (IP) related information while also highlighting the great work being done by our community at installations worldwide.

IP is probably a new term for many of you reading this newsletter. As captured in the USMC Installations Strategic Plan, “Providing effective Installation Protection is essential to maintaining the mission capability, operational readiness, and quality of life of Marine Corps organizations, personnel, and families.”

MajGen Ayala, Commander MCICOM, reminds us repeatedly that operational force readiness is his (and thus our) top priority. At the headquarters level, our ability to impact readiness stems primarily from two areas: Policy and resources.

Last month, the draft MCICOM Order for IP completed its first round of staffing in the Marine Corps Action Tracking System (MCATS). We are working swiftly to adjudicate all comments and refine the document for O-6 level staffing. I value the feedback received and I am confident we will publish an order that meets our Service objectives for IP by improving program management. Our intent is to receive Commander, MCICOM’s signature on the policy by Sept. 30. We will keep you updated on our progress.

And while I do not want to take away from the importance of policy, I want to highlight a point that the MCICOM G-8 reminds me of often, which is “a program without funding is just a dream.” For this reason, we continue to focus our efforts on improving resourcing for IP programs and capabilities – it’s all about the money.
Meeting Service objectives for Installation Protection

Ruffini welcome letter continued

Since MCICOM was established and reached Initial Operating Capability (IOC) back in 2011, we have been working here at headquarters to formulate a plan to improve management of our protection programs and capabilities in support of the operating forces. We’ve been laser-focused on identifying steps we can take to ensure all IP-related programs are resourced at the appropriate level. This involves many critical tasks for our program managers, such as supporting development of Common Output Levels of Service (COLS), applying data from Mission Assurance assessments, and implementing accreditation programs as a means to validate our programs and justify resource requirements.

We use the IP theme consistently throughout all resource management activities to link the programs, capabilities, and resources in a logical manner. We use the IP framework and a common lexicon to describe the capabilities, define our resource requirements, and even organize our command. It is the command’s intent to establish and maintain nothing less than an expert ability to conduct planning, programming, budgeting and execution activities for IP programs at the HQ and Regional level. Creating this solid foundation first, we can fulfill our role to maintain mission capability, operational readiness, and quality of life for Marine Corps organizations and personnel aboard our installations.

Before I sign off, I do have one initial request and that’s for you to help us make this your newsletter. First, if you received this newsletter second-hand, be sure to sign up so you receive it directly. Second, feel free to send us your ideas for articles you would like to see written. Finally, working through your chain of command, submit any content you would like to see published to help get your good news stories recognized! See the instructions on the back cover about how to do all of these things.

I look forward to engaging you and seeking means to improve our business. You should expect to see the Protection Press quarterly. In the meantime, stay safe and thank you for all that you do!

Semper fidelis,

Tom Ruffini
Director, Installation Protection
Marine Corps Installations Command (G-3)
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps

“Providing effective Installation Protection is essential to maintaining the mission capability, operational readiness, and quality of life of Marine Corps organizations, personnel, and families.”

- MCICOM Strategic Plan January 2012

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Two PMOs receive Marine Corps law enforcement accreditation in April

Cherry Point and Yuma bring total number of accredited agencies to eight

By Lance Cpl. Travis Gershaneck, MCAS Yuma Public Affairs, and Plans, Policies and Operations (PP&O)

On an installation packed with uniformed service members, few are more distinguished than the military and civilian police officers. The glistening gold badge over the left breast pocket serves as a constant reminder that enforcing the law is their primary responsibility; a responsibility they carry out with professionalism and proficiency 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

On April 14, Headquarters Marine Corp's (HQMC) awarded the men and women of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point and MCAS Yuma Provost Marshal’s Offices (PMO) with the highest professional honor available – accreditation through the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MCLEAP), the gold standard in Marine Corps law enforcement.

“It’s the Marine Corps’ stamp of approval on our Provost Marshal’s Office,” said Maj. Jeremy Thompson, Provost Marshal for MCAS Yuma.

Accreditation was very important for Cherry Point, said Deputy Police Chief Elijah Bouie Jr. for MCAS Cherry Point. “The accreditation means that we can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with any nationally accredited law enforcement agency knowing that we also train and perform to the highest standards.”

Implemented in June of 2012, MCLEAP is a comprehensive evaluation process designed to assist PMOs and Marine Corps Police Departments (MCPDs) in improving the quality of law enforcement support at Marine Corps bases, stations, and installations. Unlike law enforcement accreditation programs found in the civilian sector, MCLEAP is a cradle-to-grave performance improvement process that partners PMOs/MCPDs with HQMC to overcome obstacles impacting law enforcement operations. PMOs/MCPDs that successfully meet the Marine Corps’ operational standards of excellence for law enforcement at the completion of this process are recognized as accredited by HQMC.

Achieving operational excellence is no easy task. PMO, MCAS Yuma began preparing for their MCLEAP assessment in January 2013. Over the course of the following 17-months they completed preparatory tasks, an initial on-site assessment, a 6-month remediation process and finally, a follow-on site visit by MCLEAP assessors to ensure solution sets were appropriately implemented. PMO, MCAS Cherry Point began its formal MCLEAP process in May 2013 and completed the same required preparatory tasks, initial site assessment, remediation process and follow-on site visit.
Both accreditation packages were presented to the Accreditation Review Panel (ARP) on March 6 and received a unanimous recommendation. The recommendation was then forwarded to the Assistant Deputy Commandant (ADC), Plans Policies and Operations Security Division (PP&O) for approval.

“When you drill down to achieving those standards, it gets the Provost Marshal, his MPs and cops back to the fundamental things they’re supposed to be doing on a regular basis: weapons qualifications, use of force adherence, upholding regulations,” said Lt. Col. Bryan Wood, with the Deputy Commandant of Security Plans, Policies, and Operations Security Division.

With the April 14 accreditation announcement, Cherry Point and Yuma joined six other PMOs/MCPDs that have achieved the law enforcement accreditation since the program began two years ago to standardize and professionalize the police force in the Marine Corps. In December, four more PMOs/MCPDs accreditation packages – Barstow, Hawaii, Okinawa and 29 Palms – will go before the HQMC accreditation board for consideration.

The success of MCLEAP has not gone unnoticed; currently the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (P&R) is developing an accreditation program modeled after what the Marine Corps Law Enforcement has implemented. When the Department of Defense (DoD) accreditation program is implemented it will include all of the military services and five defense agencies. This effort will help to professionalize law enforcement across the DoD improving the safety of personnel both here and abroad.

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First PACS demonstration successful; second test scheduled

The Marine Corps, under the direction of the Department of Defense (DoD), has searched for a single, access control system that will effectively allow active duty and civilian personnel, family members, and contractor staff to gain entry at all Continental United States (CONUS) Marine Corps installations.

The DoD authorized compliant commercially available solutions and empowered the Defense Installation Access Control (DIAC) Working Group to develop its own solution that would successfully vet the identities of personnel accessing a DoD installation using DoD, federal, state, and local authoritative data sources. Each military branch was given the opportunity to develop its own solution.

The Marine Corps’ solution is the Base Automated Access Control System (BAACS) developed by the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). BAACS, which is currently being tested, has been designed to comply with all federal mandates associated with Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM) 09-12 “Interim Policy Guidance for DoD Physical Access Control.”

BAACS is designed to be interoperable across the DoD regardless of the installations’ geographic location or military branch. This means, BAACS is interoperable with the DIAC solutions selected by the other services. The goal is to create an interconnected Physical Access Control System (PACS) to rapidly, electronically and securely authenticate approved physical access credentials, provide continuous information management against authoritative databases, and support
access enrollment, authorization processes and secure information sharing throughout the DoD and authorized federal agencies.

For example, if a DoD user presents an authorized credential at one installation they are considered affiliated with that installation. If the same individual accesses another installation, the individual is affiliated with both installations. If an alert such as a Be On the Lookout (BOLO) is initiated by either affiliated installation, both installations will receive the BOLO notification regardless of the DoD branch. Additionally, if that individual attempts to access an installation they are not affiliated with, records accessed by the interoperable PACS servers will identify the individual as a person with an active BOLO. The actual authority to grant or deny access to an installation always remains with the gate sentry.

From June 3 to June 5, the DIAC conducted the first Joint Capabilities Technical Demonstration (JCTD) Operational Demonstration (OD) of all of the services’ selected PACS. The Marine Corps tested its BAACS at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar’s West Gate. The demonstration tested the ability to authenticate Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) affiliated personnel. Specifically, the demonstration tested the ability to authenticate individuals using data in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and the ability to share information on personnel affiliated with military installations. The demonstration, which was deemed a success, assessed the ability of all the services’ PACS to:

- Register Common Access Cards (CAC) & Local Population (LP) credential
- Check an identity against Local Population Database (LPDB)
- Enroll an LP identity
- Add an LP identity card
- Add security alerts such as BOLO, Revoked, Suspended, Debarred
- PACS updates
- Clear security alerts
- Change/update an LP identity, i.e. McDonald’s employee now works for Denny’s
- Deregister an identity CAC & LP

The second JCTD OD, identified as OD2, is scheduled for the week of July 21. The Marine Corps will again participate from MCAS Miramar. The goal of OD2 is to test the added capability of vetting personnel against data from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. This test is now authorized because on June 10, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD) for Personnel and Readiness signed a waiver for DoD Directive 5200.27, “Acquisition of Information Concerning Persons and Organizations not Affiliated with the Department of Defense.” DoD 5200.27 prohibits “collecting, reporting, processing, or storing information on individuals or organizations not affiliated with the Department of Defense,” but the OUSD waiver allows for limited use of information on non-DoD affiliates within NCIC for purposes of access control. The PACS solution currently receives data on all individuals with records within NCIC, including non-DoD affiliates.

If the second demonstration is successful, the Marine Corps must decide if it will fund the PACS capability throughout the Marine Corps to provide access to federal authoritative databases and become complaint with regulatory guidance. At minimum, a site survey will be necessary to identify all of the requirements for a primary and secondary entry control point at installations. Initial projections for BAACS and the modifications at entry control facilities will cost the Marine Corps an estimated $30 to $35 million to implement.
While the BAACS solution continues to be assessed, the Marine Corps is developing a contingency plan to use a commercial PACS with the capability to meet all federal government requirements on an interim basis. MCICOM is exploring contracting options, but a definitive way ahead has not been defined yet. A waiver is not in place from the Marine Corps authorizing the use of commercial PACS. What is in effect is a notification letter to the DoD Inspector General (DoDIG) from Plans, Policies and Operations, Security Division (PP&O, PS) acknowledging the continued use of commercial PACS.

At this time, installation access control for Marine Corps installations in foreign countries is not being addressed in the initial iteration of the DIAC’s Access Control Initiative. This is due to the numerous Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) issues and laws regarding obtaining and maintaining information on the local national population.

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**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SECTION**

**EMIMS update: WebEOC training scheduled and CONOPS drafted**

Development of the 19 different Emergency Management Incident Management System (EMIMS) boards within WebEOC is underway. The Information Assurance (IA) process has provided the MCICOM EM team with some challenges regarding the Authority to Operate (ATO) on USMC servers. Searching for other options for hosting has not proven successful. Currently Full Operational Capability (FOC) for EMIMS has shifted to the right from the end of FY 14 to Q1 FY 15. With additional support coming from the MCICOM G-6, we hope to regain some of the time lost.

WebEOC administrator training is set for Aug. 11-15, in Atlanta, GA. End User training will be conducted by the Regions using a combination of classroom, individual computer based training (CBT), and facilitated CBT where practical. MCICOM G-3 is envisioning a phased implementation of EMIMS beginning with MCINCR and MCICOM, then MCIWEST, followed by MCIEAST and MCIPAC.

A Concept of Operations (CONOPS) is being drafted for EMIMS. A working Rough Draft will be ready for Action Officer level review during the WebEOC administrator training. The CONOPS will need to be adapted to account for the uniqueness of each Region and Installation.

POC: Mark Brown, MCICOM G-3 IP Branch Emergency Management Section Head, mark.a.brown4@usmc.mil or Chris Greene, MCICOM G-3 IP Branch EM support, greene_christopher@bah.com // [Back to the “In This Issue” Index]

**AtHoc, the net-centric component of MCMNS available for use**

Since December 2013, all Marine Corps installations have had access to the AtHoc IWSAlerts, software used to power the net-centric component of the Marine Corps Mass Notification System (MCMNS), a new emergency management tool administered by the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) G-3 Installation Protection (IP) Branch.
The MCMNS, an electronic mass notification system, allows installations to quickly notify users about emerging and emergency situations via computer, email, phone, text, and both indoor and outdoor public address systems. The Department of Defense (DoD) mandated goal is to alert installation personnel within 10 minutes of verification of an incident requiring notification.

“The MCMNS is an important component of the Marine Corps’ Emergency Management Program, helping ensure the safety and security of personnel aboard our installations,” said Mr. Thomas Ruffini, MCICOM G-3 Installation Protection Branch Head. “In our technologically connected world, the MCMNS gives us the ability to reach users during an emergency which is critically important to our overall Installation Protection strategy.”

The MNWS has four elements:

1) Giant Voice for outdoor areas
2) Indoor Voice for indoor facilities
3) Telephone alert system for phone call/text alerts
4) Software alert systems for computer alerts

The Marine Corps already had Giant Voice on its installations and Indoor Voice was added as an element of new construction and many rehab projects. While some installations had a variation of a telephone alert system, the Marine Corps lacked a state-of-the-art software alert system. Following a comprehensive review process, AtHoc, Inc., with its IWSAlerts system, was selected as the Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS) net-centric component of the MCMNS. AtHoc IWSAlerts was fielded and activated in the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

MCICOM is also moving forward to ensure IT support for AtHoc. With the transition from the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) Continuity of Services Contract (CoSC) to the Next Generation Enterprise Network (NGEN) contract, support for AtHoc has become a challenge because the Marine Corps has not finalized ownership of various roles and responsibilities for the support and maintenance of the eMNS. MCICOM G-6 is actively pursuing options to ensure both interim and ongoing support for this important component of the MCMNS.

The CoSC that the eMNS is operating under was scheduled to end on June 30, but the contract was recently extended through Sept. 30. A second bridge contract has been identified to extend eMNS services from Oct. 1 through June 2015. During this time period, MCICOM G-3 will work with Marine Corps Systems Command (PdM ERS) to complete a solicitation for a new three- to five- year contract, tentatively to begin July 2015. to provide a stable and enduring contract.

While work has progressed in ensuring IT support for eMNS, policy guidance for the MCMNS and the eMNS are under development. A draft Concept of Operations (CONOPS) has been developed to provide the initial direction for the use of the MCMNS. The official HQMC policy guidance for the use and support of the eMNS is moving forward. MCICOM Regions were tasked to provide Action Officer level input to a draft MARADMIN on the MCMNS. The MARADMIN will provide interim policy guidance until the topic can be fully addressed in the next change to Marine Corps Order 3440.9 “Marine Corps Installation Emergency Management.”
Many installations are working on developing their own local policy guidance using the interim guidance provided by MCICOM. In addition, MCIEAST has a well-developed draft Mass Notification System (MNS) order that they are sharing with other regions/installations to make drafting local guidance easier. With policy guidance in place in conjunction with solid IT support and a funding plan, installations will be in a better position to make use of this important tool in their emergency response tool box.

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Exercise Twisting Thunder 2014 tests emergency management response over two days

By Joycelyn Biggs, MCLB Albany Public Affairs, and MCICOM (G-3) IP Branch

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY -- Twisting Thunder 2014 barreled onto Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany, April 1, leaving 28 simulated fatalities, two collapsed structures, trapped victims, a host of injuries, and displaced families.

The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate MCLB Albany’s ability to respond to and recover from a tornado event. Unlike most training exercises that are typically completed in four to six hours – this one occurred over two days lasting roughly 30 consecutive hours. Twisting Thunder also marked the first time that Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) East Region held an exercise that lasted overnight.

“Normally, four- to six-hour exercises tend to focus on the initial response,” said Bob James, deputy director, Operations and Training Division, MCLB Albany. “We wanted to bring in the aspect of planning for long-term recovery and in some instances, mitigation.”

Mark Brown, emergency management section head for MCICOM G-3 Installation Protection Branch, praised MCLB Albany for undertaking the unique training exercise.

“Not only did MCLB Albany recognize a gap in the traditional emergency response exercise through a real-world event, but the installation answered the challenge of creating, enacting and evaluating an exercise that more closely mirrors the real-world circumstances,” Brown said.

Real-world circumstances do not always occur in the daytime during a single operational shift, when all emergency response departments are fully staffed and the required assets are readily available, Brown said. “Incidents can occur at any time of the day and can last anywhere from a few minutes to hours to several days.”
The idea to conduct a longer exercise through the overnight hours was a direct result of the evacuation of 4,000 students from Naval Air Station Pensacola to MCLB Albany during Hurricane Isaac in 2012, James said. “During that evacuation, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functioned for four days during which time critical coordination of billeting, meals, water, medical, sanitation, safety, etc. for the displaced students were orchestrated.”

MCLB Albany is a fairly small installation so the number of resources and billets are limited, but critical operations and responses must be provided throughout an incident, James said. “By holding the longer exercise, we forced ourselves to prioritize work, provide personnel training opportunities to work in situations they may not be accustomed to and to test and refine shift change procedures.”

“Darkness brings another aspect to the scenario, in this case, responding to a tornado,” James said. “Working overnight allowed participants to perform functions such as: search and recovery, providing medical aid, etc. in minimal light conditions.”

To mimic an actual tornado event, the Twisting Thunder exercise scenarios were chaotic and the participants were unaware of exactly what would happen or when. This forced quick decisions pertaining to how to handle each crisis, who would be involved and how, according to Marvin Thomas, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives protection officer, Mission Assurance Branch, MCLB Albany.

Within an hour of the simulated tornado touching down, there was a fuel spill, a missing child, a building collapse with possible victims, 12 casualties, and a transformer being destroyed reported to the emergency operations center.

During these types of exercises, rescuing victims is expected. However, other logistics issues such as repairing damaged buildings and finding accommodations for displaced military family members were also successfully addressed during the drill, said Capt. Justin Jacobs, deputy public affairs officer, MCLB Albany.

As in an actual disaster, the EOC served as the command and control center, which coordinated response efforts and operations, and tested the base's ability to stand up the center for a sustained period.

Throughout the exercise, evaluators were present in the EOC as well as in the field to observe and suggest areas of improvement. Evaluators deemed Twisting Thunder 2014 successful.

During the training, many lessons were learned in effectively communicating within the organization as well as with entities in the community.

“There was a lot to be gained from working a multiple operational period exercise, as this not only exercises staff, but also may affect the normal day-to-day operations,” said Etta Lucas, emergency manager, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina. Lucas, along with the MCIEAST regional emergency manager, evaluated the EOC operations and capabilities during the night shift. “This exercise provided MCLB Albany the opportunity to exercise
additional staff, review night and day operations when additional resources will be required, set up an alternate EOC, and even allow for the feeding and sheltering of operations and Command and Control during an extended event.”

Representatives from several MCLB Albany offices, including but not limited to, the Marine Corps Police Department, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Fire Department, Base Operations, Comptrollers’ Office, and Naval Branch Health Clinic Albany, were present in the EOC. This exercise was executed utilizing the Regional Exercise Team East and USMC Emergency Managers from MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS Beaufort, and MCSF Blount Island Command to help evaluate and provide emergency management subject matter expertise.

Some of the partnering agencies included Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Department of Public Health, Dougherty County/Albany Emergency Management Agency, Dougherty County Coroner, Dougherty County Police Department, Dougherty County Emergency Medical Service, Albany Fire Department, Amateur Radio Association, Turner Job Corps, and others.

Camp Pendleton wins DoD Large Fire Department of the Year award

For only the second time since the Department of Defense (DoD) Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) awards were created in 1996, a Marine Corps fire department is a DoD fire department of the year award winner.

On May 6, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton F&ES Department was named the DoD’s Large Fire Department of the Year for calendar year 2013.

The only other Marine Corps fire department to win a DoD F&ES award was Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, which won in 2006. Coincidentally, Camp Pendleton Chief Thomas Thompson was the operations section chief at Barstow when they won the award.

Receiving the large fire department of the year award is a tremendous honor, Thompson said. “The Large Fire Department of the Year award is the grand prize for all of the DoD fire departments. All of my folks know how competitive it is. There’s a sense of pride, a little something extra to their steps so to speak, with this award.”

Since Thompson became chief at Camp Pendleton in November 2011, he has changed the way the department handles everything including, budgeting, strategic planning risk assessments, and tactics and strategies. The reason for all of the changes is to improve the way the department functions and to align it

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with the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s (CPSE) F&ES accreditation effort administered by the Center of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

The CPSE accreditation is the gold standard that all fire departments strive to achieve, Thompson said. “It’s not an easy process. Only 200 out of the 30,000 organized fire departments around the world have successfully earned accredited agency status. We are headed that way now. I expect that in mid-2015 our department will achieve this milestone. Achieving accredited agency status is not just a project; it is a process that will carry us through the future.

As a team, everyone has embraced the challenge to improve our processes, Thompson said. “I am just amazed at the caliber of my folks and their willingness to change. I can’t be more proud of them. I’ve been in the fire service for 30 years now and this has been my best assignment yet. The mission here at Camp Pendleton is very diverse and high risk. We have a very active mutual aid program with our surrounding communities; we make a difference every shift, not just within our installation boundaries, but within Orange County, the cities of Fallbrook, Escondido, Oceanside, San Diego, and the 20 miles of Interstate 5 that runs through the base.”

Among the biggest successes to date is data entry tracking relating to the 10 fire demand zones (FDZ), Thompson said. With the tracking, he knows exactly how long it takes to respond to each call in every zone and can provide the Marine Corps with a risk assessment of every FDZ.

In addition to improving processes, Thompson is also improving the department’s working conditions by renovating the 1940s era fire stations. In 2013, one fire station was completely remodeled and two others received a kitchen and bathroom remodel.

Additional 2013 achievements include:

- Thompson was selected as the first Marine Corps fire officer to serve as the DoD’s representative on the Commission on Fire Accreditation International’s (CFAI) board.
- Entered information on 2,487 buildings into a database for the accreditation process
- Created a new employee training program covering 100 percent of NFPA and DoD competencies
- Obtained three buildings to conduct breach/collapse rescue training prior to demolition
- Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) commendation for efforts during the “Deluz Fire,” a multi-day base wildfire burning 1,600 acres and saving more than 800 houses
- All base family day care providers receive one-on-one education from the fire department
- Contracted onsite hazardous materials training, 50 members received IFSAC certification saving the government $200,000

The DoD award isn’t the only recognition received by the department this year. The United States Forest Service awarded the Case Springs Station with the “Best Engine Crew.” The station, which is open only during the wild fire season, is co-staffed with two firefighters from Camp Pendleton department and two firefighters from the forest service.

“They were recognized throughout the U.S. Forest Service in this region as the brush fire engine crew of the year,” Thompson said. “They had a very busy fire season last year and were recognized for their actions in the fires. It has never been awarded to a DoD agency before.”
Camp Pendleton’s 154 firefighters operate 10 engine companies, four ambulances, a truck company, and two rescue trucks. In all, the department is 176 people strong.

Calendar year 2013 statistics

- 4,552 emergency calls
- 1,723 fire hazard inspections conducted, 1,203 discrepancies noted with corrective actions
- 184 installation brush fires/11,206 acres extinguished
- 352 mutual aid responses to municipal partners. Responded to 82 structure fires outside installation, $49 million in property saved.
- 82 new construction plans reviewed, 13 life safety codes updates caught before construction
- 71 patients extricated from motor vehicle accidents
- 8 regional exercises conducted
- 6 heart attack saves

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Marine Corps firefighter named DoD Civilian Firefighter of the Year

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Firefighter David Lewis – a career firefighter with more than 10 years of experience working for the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps – is the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Civilian Firefighter of the Year for calendar year 2013.

“I am completely blown away knowing that I have been selected for this award,” Lewis said. “I work with some of the best of the best here at Camp Pendleton and to be selected as Firefighter of the Year here, then to move up to the Marine Corps level and then to be selected again as the Firefighter of the Year for the entire DoD is something that I would have never expected. I owe much of my success to numerous mentors over the span of my career. While I would like to name each and every one of them here, I realize that is not possible in this forum. The best thing that I can do is to pass it forward to those young men and women who are beginning their careers in the fire service.”

Lewis, a proven and skilled first responder willing to do whatever is necessary to improve the department’s emergency response, joined Camp Pendleton in 2012. He is assigned to Camp Pendleton’s busiest fire station.

Beyond his technical competency as a firefighter, Lewis also took the lead in several key operational programs such as:

- Coordinating living quarters for the entire station during a complete remodel of the fire station saving the department $25,000.
- Co-authoring the department’s fire apparatus inspection and testing policies.
- Taking the initiative in becoming certified as an off-road emergency vehicle operator (EVOC) instructor. After becoming certified, Lewis provided 120 man hours of off-road EVOC training to members of the department.
Developing the emergency medical services (EMS) portion of Camp Pendleton’s Center for Public Safety Excellence’s (CPSE) accreditation effort administered by the Center of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). A certified paramedic, Lewis wrote the EMS goals, objectives, performance indicators and self-assessment manual.

Assisting with the creation of Camp Pendleton’s first new employee training manual and handbook, which took more than 100 hours to write and edit.

The new employee handbook is an invaluable resource for the department, said Chief Thomas Thompson. “I hire personnel from throughout the DoD fire service and not all departments and training programs are the same. Our handbook is a good roadmap whether they are brand new hires or a 15-year veteran. It helps them transition into the department. It keeps them safe, it keeps us safe.”

“Dave is an absolute rock star,” Thompson said. “There are so many things that he has been involved in, different programs that needed to be stood up, tracked, evaluated and self-assessed. Whatever the challenge, he’s up to the task.”

Lewis’ path to the DoD’s Civilian Firefighter of the Year award began with being selected as Camp Pendleton Fire Department’s Firefighter of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2013. That award made Lewis eligible for Camp Pendleton’s Firefighter of the Year award.

This year marked the second time that Lewis was nominated for the DoD’s highest individual F&ES award. While at Fort Sam Houston Fire Department in San Antonio, Texas, Lewis was the Army’s 2009 nominee for the DoD Fire Officer of the Year award.

It’s an odd feeling to have been nominated twice for the DoD’s highest individual award, Lewis said. “I don’t feel like I have done anything out of the norm or extraordinary. I simply show up every day to a job that I have always wanted to do, I do what I know needs to be done with a bunch of great guys and gals and I have fun while doing it. It really doesn’t get any better than this.”

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Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport Stands up ALS Program

All Marine Corps F&ES Departments now have the ability to provide ALS care

By MCIWEST-MWTC Bridgeport Fire Chief Kevin Sullivan

MCMWTC Bridgeport Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) reached an important milestone during the month June with the implementation of Advanced Life Support (ALS) into their existing Emergency Medical Services program. With this upgrade, all Marine Corps CONUS Installations with Marine Corps F&ES Departments now have the capability of providing ALS care.

Four paramedics were hired in January of 2014 and were certified by the Inland County Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) and the State of California. The program itself was recognized by ICEMA and will be functioning under their protocols and medical direction.
The process of becoming an ALS program took several years to accomplish. First, the need for the program had to be demonstrated. Despite a low call volume, the high-risk training and remote location of the installation places many Marines and other service members at risk for serious injury in which ALS was required. As a result, a request was made by Colonel John Carroll, Commanding Officer of MWTC Bridgeport to Marine Corps Installations Command to upgrade the program to the ALS level. Funding for the additional equipment that was required was provided by MCICOM through a centrally managed program.

In response to the department adding an advanced level of service, Kevin Sullivan, Fire Chief of MWTC Bridgeport stated, “I am very pleased to see that the ALS program is now fully up and running at MCMWTC. Knowing that the Marines and all individuals at MCMWTC now have a higher echelon of care makes the last few years of work advocating for this program totally worth it. The members of this fire station are dedicated to supporting the functions of this base and to provide the best medical care possible and the ALS program is now an instrumental part in that mission.”

Five emergency rescue apparatus to be refurbished through SLEP

Five fire apparatus are being refurbished in a Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) using funding obtained by Marine Corps Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES).

SLEP programs are a good option to supplement the procurement of new apparatus. Through SLEP, the apparatus is refurbished, extending the service life of a vehicle at a lower cost per year of additional service than the cost of procuring a new vehicle. The refurbishments will add approximately 10 years of additional service life to the emergency response apparatus, saving the Marine Corps approximately $1.2 million in new procurement funds.

The Marine Corps has used SLEP programs to refurbish fire apparatus in the past, but a dedicated funding stream does not exist to make it a regular option.

The five units slated for refurbishment through a Naval Facilities Engineering Command Expeditionary Warfare Center contract are:

- A 1996 Pierce pumper for Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany
- A 1995 Pierce pumper for Marine Corps Recruiting Depot (MCRD) Parris Island
- A 1998 E-One pumper for Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton
- A 2001 Pierce pumper for MCB Camp Pendleton
- A 1999 BME heavy brush truck for MCB Camp Pendleton

The task order for the refurbishments has been finalized and the work should be completed in fiscal year 2015.
Good candidates for SLEP tend to be vehicles that have been highly dependable, but may be in need of technology or safety updates due to age. The refurbishment process under SLEP brings each apparatus up to the current mechanical and safety equipment standards.

The process begins with a thorough inspection and testing of all of the components at the refurbishment facility. Once the inspection is completed, the vehicle is torn down and reconstructed with replacement and rebuilt parts and tested to see if it meets the current standards.

POC: Mike Pritchard, MCICOM G-3 IP Branch F&ES PM, email: michael.pritchard1@usmc.mil // [Back to the “In This Issue” Index]

**Marine Corps F&ES begins ambulance procurement program**

Starting this fiscal year, the Marine Corps Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES), in cooperation with fleet management personnel in MCICOM G-4, has decided to purchase ambulances instead of continuing with the traditional practice of leasing them.

The Marine Corps has been leasing ambulances since 2008 when the fleet was transferred to the F&ES program from the Navy’s Bureau of Medicine (BUMED) hospitals. During the last six years, leasing costs have more than doubled, making leasing a more costly and less attractive option.

In fiscal year 2014, the Marine Corps ambulance procurement program is replacing five leased ambulances with purchased ambulances in an effort to reduce the overall cost for the life of the units. The ambulances are being purchased through a General Services Administration (GSA) contract and are being built by Wheeled Coach industries of Winter Park, Fla. All five ambulances should be delivered late this fiscal year or early in fiscal year 2015.

The procurement of ambulances is anticipated to save the Marine Corps several hundred thousand dollars during each 15-year replacement cycle.

POC: Mike Pritchard, MCICOM G-3 IP Branch F&ES PM, email: michael.pritchard1@usmc.mil // [Back to the “In This Issue” Index]
San Diego wildland fires at NWS Fallbrook and MCAS Camp Pendleton

By MCIWEST-MCB Camp Pendleton Fire Chief Thomas Thompson

Camp Pendleton is no stranger to wildland fires, but during May 14-19 we experienced the ultimate fire storm; all told, over 21,000 acres were burnt. With an extreme fire danger rating, Santa Ana winds, warm temperatures, and relative humidity in the single digits, the Complex Fire was “the perfect fire storm” comprising three major fires; the Tomahawk, Pulgas and Combat fires.

The first fire started on the Naval Weapons Station-Fallbrook. The fire started at 9:30 a.m., and with relative humidity in the single digits, fanned by Santa Ana winds (35-45 MPH), the fire quickly spread. Division Chief John Crook assumed “Tomahawk IC” with Division Chief Bruce Wathen as Operations section. The fire was moving extremely fast, which caused the evacuation of O’Neill housing and an elementary school. We ordered an Incident Management Team (IMT) – SoCAL Team 2 and on the evening of May 14 the team arrived and plans were being put in place for the team to take over at the next operational period. The fire turned 160 degrees in the afternoon as winds changed and was now threatening the City of Fallbrook. Although we had airships fighting the fire already, the USMC assets had a huge impact in our efforts to keep this fire on the installation, as H-60’s, H-46’s and H-53’s were utilized. Close coordination of ground and air assets contained the fire to a few back yards in Fallbrook. The IMT took over the fire at 0600 on the 15th and Fire Camp was set up at Lake O’Neil.

Just as turnover of the Tomahawk fire was completed, another wildland fire in the Las Pulgas area kicked off. Division Chief Ken Jacques assumed “Pulgas IC” and started ordering the necessary Type I and III strike teams to battle this fire. Division Chief Bruce Wathen assumed Operations once again and four department members assumed roles as Division Group Supervisors. Personnel as far away as Alameda County joined in on this fight. The Pulgas fire quickly spread, causing additional area evacuations. All told, this fire consumed more than 15,000 acres. Structural protection Type I engine strike teams kept the surrounding structures from burning … it was an awesome sight to see … not one structure burned!

Yet another fire started while efforts and assets were concentrating on the Pulgas Fire. The “Combat Fire” in the San Mateo area (North end of the base) caused the evacuation of the San Onofre housing areas. The last of the department’s available assets were employed and fire behavior and conditions were so extreme, the IC had to pull our firefighters back; it jumped Basiline Road and headed West. Indirect fire attack, along with USMC airships checked the fire from leaving the base into San Clemente. All told, the Combat fire burned 1,500 acres. The decision was made to merge the IMT and Camp
Pendleton into Unified Command. Now the IMT assets were available to employ to help our department battle the other two fires. Camp Pendleton Deputy Fire Chief Wilkerson assumed Complex IC. The seamless integration worked extremely well. Many years of fostering relationships with our outside response agencies brought this conflagration to an end, in which structural damage was held to one out building which was slotted for demolition.

Three additional brush fires (smaller in scale than the Freeway Fire) and the regular EMS runs/fire calls did not diminish during this time. We were completely out of resources, given there were other fires in the San Diego area that consumed assets from surrounding communities. Safety was paramount throughout and reported injuries were limited to blisters, poison oak, insect bites and one case of heat exhaustion. This is amazing, given the temperatures reached 100 degrees on day two of the fires. Mandatory call back of off duty personnel to battle the blazes obviously was needed; our fire department personnel worked throughout with little to no rest, Protecting Those Who Defend America! A special thanks to the firefighters from Navy Region South West and MCAS Miramar for sending your teams to combat these fires!

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Camp Pendleton firefighters raise thousands for wildfire victims

After the Cocos (May 14-20) and Poinsetta (May 14-16) wildfires in California burned 2,500 acres, 41 homes and 18 apartment units in Escondido, San Marcos and Carlsbad in May, Camp Pendleton Professional Fire Fighters Local F-85 members organized a fundraiser for the victims at Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens. The event raised $18,779 and two freight trucks full of donated furniture and household supplies.

“Our members saw firsthand the devastating effect the May fires had on the citizens and wanted to do something to help,” says Local F-85 Secretary Ron Pickett. “And we wanted to do it as quickly as possible.”

F-85 set June 12 as the fundraiser date. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens agreed to donate half all the proceeds for that day, provide two freight trucks to haul donated furniture and household items and create a special Pale Ale called “Rising Phoenix” for the occasion. F-85 also organized a silent auction.

Camp Pendleton fire fighters set up the 2014 San Diego Wildfires Fund for the monetary donations, but needed extra help to assist on the day of the fundraiser. Local F-85 members reached out to the San Diego County Council of Firefighters, a conglomeration of all of San Diego County’s fire agencies, including IAFF members, who agreed to help.

The members of Local F-85 plan to present the check and the donated items to the [Community Recovery Team](http://www.iaff.org/CommSpotLight/14Stories/061914CampPendleton.htm) an organization that will distribute to the affected citizens based on degree of need.

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2014 Atlantic hurricane season preparedness guide

By Phil Molloy, MCIEAST OPSEC Program Manager

Yep! It’s that time of year already … hurricane season. Purchase supplies that you need early! Don’t wait for a storm. When a storm threatens, lines will be long and supplies short (or non-existent).

This guide will prepare you for much more than a hurricane. It’s generally good for any event that may affect you and your family -- flood, snow storm (just add a heat source), power outage, wind storm, earthquake, or any other short-term incident that could impact your day-to-day routine and family survival. So, as you read and use this guide, think of other situations. Remember, this is only a guide. You should customize a plan that best fits whatever situation. And if you’re new to the “prepper” community, what I’ve provided here is a very good start.

“This guide will prepare you for much more than a hurricane. It’s generally good for any event that may affect you and your family -- flood, snow storm (just add a heat source), power outage, wind storm, earthquake, or any other short-term incident that could impact your day-to-day routine and family survival.”

- Phil Molloy, MCIEAST OPSEC Program Manager

Hurricane preparation is important for the safety and comfort of you and your loved ones both during and after a storm. Many of the items listed for purchase were gleaned from the many lists available. However, much of what you will see here (recommended purchase items and actions) was developed from trial and error – lots of errors. More was developed from experience in the rescue and recovery efforts of several hurricane disaster areas to include Floyd, Hugo, Andrew, and Katrina.

Post-hurricane isn’t pretty, folks. Fact is – it can get very ugly – sometimes total devastation “like a combat zone” as it has often been described after a destructive storm. The National Weather Service Hurricane Center has warned that storms will increase in frequency and intensity over the next two decades. Forewarned is for-armed. Don’t be caught unprepared! The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends you keep a minimum of a 3-day supply on hand at all times. The Latter Day Saints recommend being prepared to be self-sustaining for one year. I recommend not less than a 15-day supply. Why? Because that’s the far-end average of getting past most situations, but you can do your own research and determine what level of preparedness is best for your family.

Basic disaster supply kit:

- Water – one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for the radios and flashlights
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Most towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps

Source: FEMA
Once again, our own preparedness served my family (and a few unprepared neighbors) quite well after the somewhat mild, but relentless winds of Hurricane Irene in August 2011. Though there was no significant damage to local structures, trees and limbs took out enough of the power lines to keep us in the dark for more than two weeks. I was able to supply enough power for our neighbors to keep their refrigerator and freezer going and I got two other neighbors to share another generator for the same thing. My home had everything we needed – water, lights, fans, and a small 125v window A/C unit. The only aggravation I had was having to refuel the generator every 18 hours. I even had enough fuel for the whole two weeks!

My friends, neighbors, and even some family members once thought I went a little overboard with preparations. I don’t think I do too much and I certainly didn’t do it all at once – it has taken years – but they now all appreciate the time I take to write things such as this hurricane preparedness manual. They know I’ve used most of what I recommend and that I will always help them make the best purchase decisions. So, in answer to those with the question “do you or have you really used these?” Yes, I do!

Do not think you can survive a hurricane regardless of its strength or how many you have survived. Each is different. Listen to your local or regional Emergency Management officials. If you are advised to evacuate, then EVACUATE!

If you were unwise and did not evacuate as recommended, but managed to make it through, let’s talk about “after the storm.” Imagine that a storm has caused major destruction to your town and your neighborhood. Most of the windows are out of your house and part of the roof is gone - just like most of your neighbors. You’ve survived the storm, but the power lines are down, roads are blocked, and all essential services are unavailable – no water, sewer, electricity, gasoline. The bugs and mosquitoes are horrendous, the snakes have come out of hiding, abandoned or lost domestic animals are hunting for food, and the heat and humidity are sweltering. BUT, unlike your neighbors, you were prepared! You have a generator, plenty of water, food, tools and materials to secure your shelter, and lights and electric/battery powered fans to make the hot, humid nights more tolerable. How did you know what to do before the storm and prepare for this day? Read on...
First, P-R-I-O-R-T-I-Z-E! To do this, I suggest you focus your funds on “after” the storm because, after the anxiety of the storm itself, this will be the longest and most trying time. The lists here are not all-inclusive but it’s a good place to start. You can, and should customize your own list to meet your personal and family needs. Start small and work your way up. It’s all a matter of prioritizing.

Your focus should be preparation before the storm, survival and safety during the storm and survival, safety, and comfort after the storm.

If you have not been through a serious hurricane, don’t do as many have and be lulled into a false sense of security. Don’t think “we’ll be okay just like always” or “we don’t get the really bad storms” or (here’s the worst comment) “I’ve been through one they said was going to be bad but it was nothing.”

Though we haven’t been hit with any major storms recently, I suspect we are long overdue for a real hum-dinger.

It’s always a good idea to look into some basic emergency rescue and first aid training so you can help yourself and your neighbors after a nasty incident like a tornado or hurricane. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course is an excellent place to start and is made for anyone from eight to eighty. Get your organization, neighborhood, scout troop, business, or church group involved. After a devastating event, emergency responders may be hours or days away from reaching you. Being trained as a CERT responder is a great way to save lives, care for the wounded, or protect property until they arrive. Contact your county Office of Emergency Services for more information.

If you have not been through a serious hurricane, don’t do as many have and be lulled into a false sense of security. Don’t think “we’ll be okay just like always” or “we don’t get the really bad storms” or (here’s the worst comment) “I’ve been through one they said was going to be bad but it was nothing.”

- Phil Molloy, MCIEAST OPSEC Program Manager

Phil Molloy’s disaster kit

Phil Molloy has created a storm-tested disaster preparedness guide that covers nearly every eventually including an evacuation checklist, a “stay at home” preparation checklist and an expanded disaster kit with detailed food supply lists and how to make an emergency toilet. Recommended items on Molloy’s list that are not on FEMA’s basic disaster supply list include:

- Battery-operated fan and lanterns
- A clean change of clothes, rain gear, and sturdy work/swamp boots
- Copy of home insurance policy and other important papers in large zip-lock bags to keep them dry
- Emergency toilet - A 5 gallon bucket with tight lid, plastic bags for liners, disinfectant or bleach, deodorizer, toilet paper
- Food supplies - Shelf-stable juice and milk, beverages (powdered or canned, fruit juices, instant coffee, tea), raw vegetables that don’t need refrigeration, dried fruits, prepared foods (canned soups, beef, spaghetti, tuna, chicken, ham, corned beef hash, packaged pudding), snacks (crackers, cookies, hard candy, unsalted nuts)
- Kitchen supplies - Water purification tablets (you can always boil), pocketknife, camp stove or other cooking device and plenty of fuel, disposable dinnerware (plates, cups, utensils, napkins)
- Baby needs - Disposable diapers, wipes, diaper rash ointment, extra formula, baby food, medicine
- Pet supplies - Dry and canned pet food, cat litter, copy of the pet’s medical file (required if you have to board your pets), list of motels/hotels that will accept pets if you have to evacuate

For a full copy of Molloy’s hurricane preparedness kit, please email phil.molloy@usmc.mil with a subject of “Requesting Hurricane Preparedness Kit.”
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