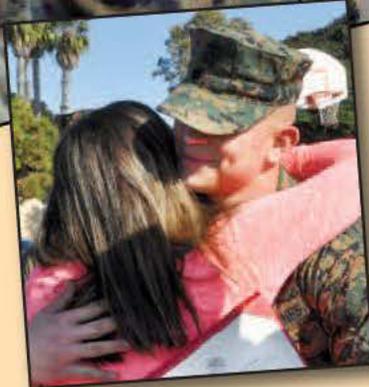




MCTSSA

Happenings

*Maj. Gen. Daniel O'Donohue,
Commander of Marine Forces
CyberSpace, chats with Cyber
Marines assigned to MCTSSA*



In This Issue

- MCTSSA Preps for G/ATOR
- Promotions, Awards, & Decorations
- MCSC Commander visits MCTSSA
- Vierra Wins National Copernicus Award

Promotions



Lance Corporal Michael K. Anton



Lance Corporal Rocky D. Bocanegra



Sergeant Manuel R. Dan, Jr.



Corporal Scott T. Graham



Sergeant Kimberly L. Sandoval



Sergeant Chirag H. Khatri



Corporal Bret J. McMahon



Sergeant Kevin P. O'Rourke



Corporal Joshua J. Dye



Corporal Lynn R. Hartley



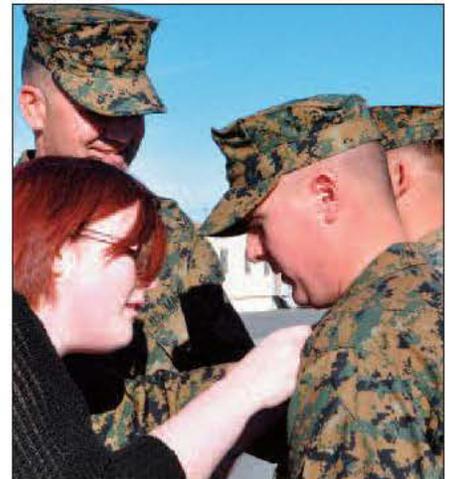
Sergeant Isaac Hernandez



Corporal Cameron L. Huelster



Sergeant Elijah R. Schellhardt



Sergeant Christopher B. Wood



—LANCE CORPORAL—

- Michael K. Anton
- Rocky D. Bocanegra

—LANCE CORPORAL TO CORPORAL—

- Joshua J. Dye
- Scott T. Graham
- Lynn R. Hartley
- Cameron L. Huelster
- Bret J. McMahon
- Montana L. Jackson

—CORPORAL TO SERGEANT—

- Manuel R. Dan, Jr.
- Mayshonna M. Bates
- Isaac Hernandez
- Chirag H. Khatri
- Julian K. Lechuga
- Gilberto Lopez
- Kevin P. O'Rourke
- Kimberly L. Sandoval
- Elijah R. Schellhardt
- Christopher B. Wood

Following their pinning to the rank of Marine NCO, MCTSSA's CO, Colonel Benjamin Stinson presents Corporals Montana L. Jackson (foreground) and Joshua Dye with a framed copy of the NCO's Creed.



Decorations & Commendations

Navy Commendation Medal

Major Jeff N. Costa

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Sgt Norris B. Avery
GySgt Yvonne R. Johnson
Sgt Colton A. Carrier

Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal

Corporal Giovanne Cabello
Corporal Joshua D. Ferguson
Corporal Ian A. Geller
Corporal John M. Kimlinger
Corporal Kevin P. O'Rourke
Corporal Estephani A. Soto

Certificate of Commendation

Sgt Casey A. Burkhardt
LCpl Tyler M. Flournoy
Cpl Scott T. Graham
Cpl Gilberto Lopez
LCpl Gene C. Weiss



Lt. Col. Kevin Schlegel, (above) MCTSSA's XO, presents Major Jeff N. Costa with the Navy Commendation Medal.

From the left, Sgt Colton Carrier, GySgt Yvonne Johnson, and Sgt Norris Avery are awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by MCTSSA's CO, Colonel Benjamin Stinson

Awards & Commendations



Mr. Tate Young of 1st Command congratulates Corporal Gilberto Lopez, from MACCS X, and then Lance Corporal Scott T. Graham, from TISG for being named NCO of the Quarter and Marine of the Quarter, respectively, for the 1st Quarter, FY 15.



Marines from across Camp Pendleton competed in the Western Division Matches held between February 25 to March 3rd learning how to enhance their marksmanship proficiency by refining precision marksmanship skills through advanced marksmanship training and competition.

MCTSSA's Sgt Daniel K. Johnson won a bronze medal in the individual pistol competition. MCTSSA put a together a team of four Marines for the Western Division Matches. Marines shot the rifle and pistol individually, and also as a team.

Photo by Cpl Orrin G. Farmer



Troffer awarded Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal



MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Col. Benjamin Stinson presented Larry Troffer with the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal during a MCTSSA all-hands ceremony on January 5 just a few weeks before he retired, culminating 38 years of service to our nation.

The Meritorious Civilian Service Award, one of the Navy's highest civilian honorary awards, was presented to Troffer for providing sustained and astute technical leadership in guiding the test and engineering efforts of the Activity in support of Marine Corps Systems Command.

"Larry has expertly navigated the challenges posed by rapid technological growth."

"Larry has expertly navigated the challenges posed by rapid technological growth," said Michael Canterbury, MCTSSA's Technical Director. "He has served as a catalyst for the introduction and employment of new tactical communications capability across the entire Marine Corps. His technical contributions have been constant, persuasive and of lasting value to the Corps."

Troffer—who joined MCTSSA in 2005—served as MCTSSA's Senior Principal Engineer for Radio Frequency communications. But his valued contributions to the Activity extend farther, having also served as MCTSSA's Commanding Officer from 1996 to 1999. ■

Civilian Awards



MCTSSA's CO, Colonel Stinson congratulates Eric Gay from the Program Engineering Support Group's SatCom Lab on being selected Civilian of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of FY15.

Also pictured is Chris Musel who received an incentive award during the all hands events in acknowledgement of his work in developing, from scratch, MCTSSA's OPSEC program.

Federal Length of Service Awards

- Timothy Schoen (30 years)
- Roger Williams (30 years)
- Timothy McLean (25 years)
- Kurt Husman (25 years)
- Joe Bao (25 years)
- Joseph Bertrand (25 years)
- Jaykant Patel (25 years)
- Julie Goodrich (20 years)
- Curtis Selden (15 years)
- Michael Kaeser (10 years)

Civilian of the Quarter

1st Qtr FY15

Eric Gay

4th Qtr FY14

Darren Spies

Incentive Awards

Chris Musel



Col. Stinson congratulates DISA Team Lead Joseph "Billy" Bertrand

MCTSSA's Commanding Officer Colonel Benjamin Stinson (left) presents a Certificate of Appreciation from the Defense Information Systems Agency to the MCTSSA team that provided the successful testing of the DoD Teleport Generation 3 Phase1 system. This testing was a prime example of collaboration and costs savings. By combining multiple needed tests into one event, DISA and the Marine Corps cut the time for fielding of upgrades, as well as saved money by maximizing and sharing needed resources.

The MCTSSA testing team included:

PESG:

- Joseph "Billy" Bertrand
- Jaykant Patel
- Minh Nguyen
- Lee Beckler
- Kenneth Williams
- Wei Zhou
- Ferdinand Gozum

TCG:

- Larry Denn

TISG:

- Sgt Jose L. Castorena
- LCpl Ryan A. Herman
- GySgt Travis Zell
- Cpl Isaac Hernandez (OFS)
- SSgt Ryan T. Morris
- SSgt James A. Jones J.

CO's Perspective



Much has happened since the last newsletter. MCTSSA continues to provide exceptional test, engineering and operational forces support. How do I know? Almost weekly I receive feedback from the Program Managers, Joint Agencies, HQMC staffs and Operational Forces that we support. Their reports are similar—what MCTSSA does matters to the Marine Corps and, most importantly, to Marines. In addition to the praises our

“...our mission areas overlap significantly with the Commandant’s focus and initiatives.”

customers sing, members of MCTSSA and AVTB are winning DoD and DoN-level awards for outstanding performance. Your peers are raising the bar at our command.

But we can't rest on past success. General Dunford, in his Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG), has articulated a vision to “continue to develop and leverage enterprise and tactical digital interoperability solutions” as well as ensuring “we are organizing, training, and equipping our MAGTFs for the ongoing changes in C2 systems and situational awareness tools including those systems on naval and aviation platforms.” By now you should have read the CPG and realized MCTSSA has a large

part to play in the future direction of the Marine Corps. MajGen O'Donohue, CG MARFORCYBER, mentioned during his visit to MCTSSA that commands like ours are in the “beaten zone” of the CPG. That means our mission areas overlap significantly with the Commandant's focus and initiatives. We must be familiar with his vision of our



Maj. General O'Donohue listens intently to an overview brief presented by Colonel Stinson covering MCTSSA, its many functions and their impact on Marine cyber.

future Marine Corps. We must use critical thinking and initiative to move out in the direction he is guiding us. To that end we are focusing and increasing our capabilities in several areas at MCTSSA:

- Increasing naval “Systems of Systems” interoperability testing with Warfare Centers
 - MAGTF C2 afloat test and integration efforts
 - Wireless and “handheld” device testing capability
 - JSF integration with Air and Ground C2 systems
 - Cyber threat testing during DT events
 - Network design and performance (especially with merging of tactical and garrison networks)
- Your chance to impact the future of the Marine Corps is here. Your knowledge, skills and abilities with key Marine Corps C4I systems is needed to achieve our Commandant's goals. I value your feedback and look forward to discussing these and other CPG topics with you. ■

Stork Announcements



- LCpl Mirna Hurst & Anthony, a girl, March 18, 2015
- Sgt Kimberly & Arnulfo Sandoval, a girl, February 21, 2015
- Cpl Sherman & Miranda Compton, a boy, February 17, 2015
- Kim & Huy Do, a girl, February 7, 2015
- Lance & Jennifer Raymond, a girl, January 10, 2015
- LCpl Tobias Condon & Amy, a boy, November 12, 2014
- Darren & Devin Spies, a girl, November 9, 2014

Meet the newest member of the Raymond Family



Generals O'Donohue, Banta and Shrader Visit MCTSSA



Colonel Stinson briefs and gives a first hand view to Brig. General Edward Banta and CAPT Bill Whitmire, Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities at Marine Corps Installations West, on the impact and efforts to remove mold contamination from Building 57.

Maj. General Daniel O'Donohue, (right photo) Commander of Marine Forces Cyber Command, visited and toured MCTSSA in late February. In addition to receiving orientation and command level cyber briefs and discussions, the General toured the Activity's Marine Corps Network Efficiency Laboratory (MCNEL), where he had an opportunity to talk face-to-face to Cyber Marines assigned to MCTSSA, including (from left) Sgt. Donald Rusco, Sgt Robert Welker, Sgt. Justin Feltner, and GySgt Damina Dobbs. Also pictured is MCTSSA's Sergeant Major Brandon Hall.

A few weeks later, Brig. General Edward Banta (top photo), Commanding General of Marine Corps Installations West, also visited and toured MCTSSA's facilities, including MCNEL, where he received a brief on MCTSSA's efforts for capturing and analyzing unit network data.



Brig. Gen. Joseph Shrader, commander of Marine Corps Systems Command, held a Commander's Call (left) while visiting MCTSSA where he discussed, among other items, the Commandant's Planning Guidance. Later, he paused for a photo with Marines and civilian Marines of the MCTSSA team hosting the MCTSSA booth at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association WEST Conference Feb. 11 in San Diego, Calif. From left: Chris Sikes, Brian Ard, Sgt. Colton Carriere, Brig. Gen. Shrader and Capt. Jessica Weinbrenner.

MCTSSA Preps for Next Generation Radar

G/ATOR Program Manager Receives Rundown of MCTSSA's Resources

After the Ground/Air Task-Oriented Radar—or G/ATOR—is fully deployed, it will provide the U.S. Marine Corps with a single radar capable of performing multiple missions, including air surveillance, air defense, air traffic control, and counter-battery/target acquisition. In doing so, it will replace five older Marine Corps Systems, several of which are currently used at MCTSSA.

“This is the one system that will do everything from tracking that hostile UAV, to vectoring the friendlies around the sky, to observing rockets, artillery, and mortars so you can direct the counter fire.”

“This is the one system that will do everything from tracking that hostile UAV, to vectoring the friendlies around the sky, to observing rockets, artillery, and mortars so you can direct the counter fire,” explains Lee Bond, a Senior Principal Engineer—who also happens to be G/ATOR’s former program manager.

The Marine Corps G/ATOR program commenced in 2005 and last month the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Sean Stackley, reported to Congress that the system had achieved a Milestone C in 2014, a decision point that ends the

Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase for the acquisition and initiates the low rate initial production of units.

“Moving into new technology is never risk free,” says Bond. “If it was already in production, we would be deploying it today.” This is one of the reasons that Bond’s successor at the program office, John Karlovich, and Sharleene Prieur G/ATOR’s Acquisition Manager toured MCTSSA in March.

MCTSSA—with its long history of providing Marine Corps System Command Program Offices with state-of-the-art testing—provides an ideal environment and economical infrastructure for furthering the testing and validating the G/ATOR’s many mission capabilities in the near term. It is also provides a valued information exchange, through its Operating Forces Tactical Systems Support Center (OFTSSC), for addressing future operational issues that routinely confront Marine operators once a system is fully fielded.

During their visit Karlovich and Prieur were given tours and briefs on MCTSSA, OFTSSC, the Air Combat Element Lab, the Ground Combat Element Lab, as well as an opportunity to talk with radar Marines and testers across the Activity. A highlight of the tour was a first-hand viewing of MCTSSA’s proposed expansion to the acreage located south of the currently facility. In this area, new infrastructure will be tailored and built to specifically handle the very flexible G/ATOR radars and their many operational uses.

“In keeping with MCTSSA’s long and successful tradition,” says Bond, “a particular emphasis will be placed upon integration of G/ATOR with the 21st century MAGTF’s C4I family of systems.” ■



MCTSSA Radar Marines chat with Mr. Karlovich during his tour of the 59 Radar Dome.



The G/ATOR Radar



G/ATOR Program Manager, Mr. John Karlovich (center) and Sharleen Prieur, G/ATOR’s Acquisition Manager are briefed by MCTSSA Commanding Officer, Colonel Benjamin Stinson on various the elements and infrastructure MCTSSA provides for system testing.

Kudos from the IG

The Marine Corps Systems Command Inspector General and his team conducted an inspection of MCTSSA from 2-4 December 2014. A total of 40 functional area programs were inspected, and following a thorough and detailed assessment, MCTSSA was found Mission Capable in all areas.

The inspectors also recognized 11 members of the Activity for their outstanding professional performance and superb stewardship of their respective functional areas:

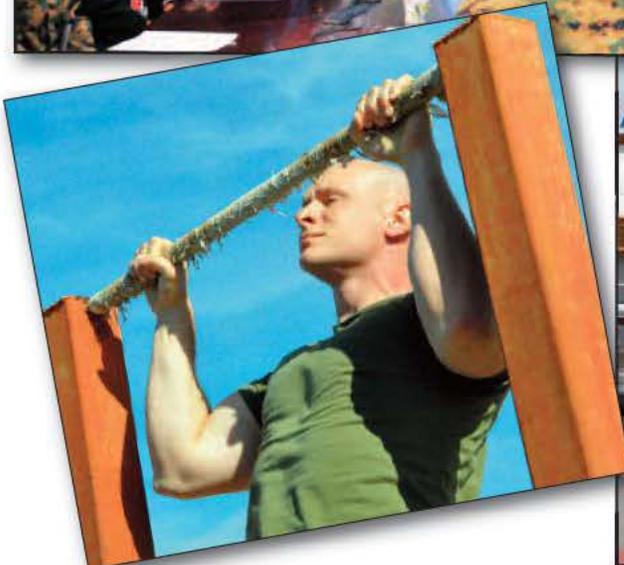
- 2ndLt Amanda Jones
- LCpl Emmanuel Villegas
- Sgt Frank Tartsah
- GySgt Andrew Garza
- Mr. Brian Lehman
- Ms. Alisa Munden
- GySgt Jacob Romfh
- Capt Kanella Hatchett
- MSgt Roy Ahlers
- SSgt Timothy Melius
- Sgt Kevin O'Rourke
- Sgt Saul Perez.



Jackson Kottmyer (left), Marine Corps Systems Command Inspector General, is greeted by MCTSSA's Sergeant Major Hall at the kick off briefing for the command's IG inspection of MCTSSA held in early December 2014.



Accompanied by MCTSSA's Sergeant Major Brandon Hall, MCSC's Sergeant Major Fletcher Pearson (above and left) inspects MCTSSA Marines and its color guard.



240th Marine Corps Birthday

Semper Fidelis

Mark your Calendar... 10 November

Last year, MCTSSA's Marine Corps Ball was—without a doubt—a major success story! Everything ran perfectly from the ceremonies, to the guest speaker—Sgt. Maj. Ronald Green, now the Marine Corps' 18th Sergeant Major—thru the dinner, topped off with some wild dancing, dessert and hours of just fun.

"The Marines, civilians, and their guests made the Birthday Ball truly a celebration," said Captain William Travis, the Ball's committee chair. That might indeed be true. However, behind virtually every successful event you will almost always find extraordinary behind-the-scenes planning and preparation—which is probably the reason Captain Travis was again selected to chair the 2015 MCTSSA Marine Corps Ball committee, working hand-in-hand with MCTSSA's Sergeant Major Brandon Hall.

"The command has settled on all the necessities for the 240th Birthday of our Corps in order for us to celebrate with style," says Hall. "This year it was decided by the majority of the MCTSSA family to try a different location, somewhere in San Diego."

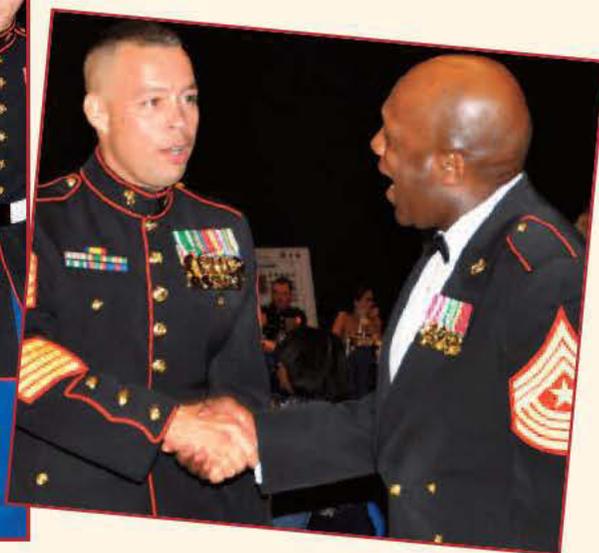
After an extensive search of locations, the decision was made to hold this year's Ball on November 10 at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, located on the waterfront in the heart of San Diego.

"Keep in mind that by going to San Diego things get a bit pricey.

Everyone should start preparing now so it's not a financial burden as we approach the holiday season," the Sergeant Major cautions.

Part of those financial preparations included a series of fundraisers to help defer attendance costs for junior Marines. Heading up the list is a Chili Cook-off in April, followed by the MCTSSA annual Golf Tourney in May.

"We had such a fantastic time at last year's celebration," says Hall. "We are looking forward to making this year's event an even better time for all of us. See you there!" ■



MCTSSA launches 100 percent shredding procedures

One man's trash may be more than an Adversary's treasure; it could be a gold mine!

We should never underestimate the capabilities or strength of conviction of terrorists or any other adversary, and everyone should be careful of what we are revealing. From that backdrop, however, it's also an interesting fact that the information that is often used against us by an adversary is not classified information; it's information that is openly available, generally to anyone who knows where to look—which can be as simple as snooping in a strategic trash bin.

At the end of last year, MCTSSA launched its Operations Security (OPSEC) program's 100 percent shredding requirement, and on the first day of collection a team of Marines from Logistics collected nearly 1,400 pounds of scrap paper!

Going forward, monthly shredding events will be held at MCTSSA on the 4th Wednesday of every month to expedite this task. These shredding events will provide all

personnel with the opportunity to dispose of documents containing critical information, indicators associated with military activities or events, For Official Use Only, Privacy Act data, and other sensitive unclassified information. Additionally, all material not cleared for public release will be shredded prior to disposal.

"Our OPSEC Program has been developed to protect MCTSSA's critical information so as to prevent potential adversaries from obtaining specific facts about our intentions, capabilities, and activities."

"Our OPSEC Program has been developed to protect MCTSSA's critical information so as to prevent potential adversaries from obtaining specific facts about our intentions,

capabilities, and activities," says Chris Musel, MCTSSA's OPSEC coordinator. "Our OPSEC goal is to have a trained and vigilant workforce that protects critical information as second nature, by preventing exploitation by potential adversaries."

Besides OPSEC, Musel points out that this program also accomplishes a couple of other purposes: first of all, it makes it difficult for criminals to steal the identities of Marines, civilian Marines, and family members associated with MCTSSA. Secondly, it is environmentally friendly enterprise, and a source of revenue that Camp Pendleton makes from the recycling center, funding that in turn is used to support Marine activities. ■



Sgt Matthew Causey and LCpl Nicklas Zachariason from Logistics collected approximately 1,400 lbs of paper throughout MCTSSA on the Activity's first 100% shred day collection.



OPSEC ISSUES:
Call: (760) 725-9501

Headline



In March, MCTSSA hosted its second Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) orientation program that's designed to enhance the readiness of Marines, both single and married, and their families. The orientation included mentorship by experienced and knowledgeable Marine Corps spouses, Marine Corps Family Team Building personnel, and MCTSSA staff— as well as information sharing, small group discussions and interactive activities.

"We have the luxury of being a non-deployable unit, said Lt. Col. Kevin Schlegel, MCTSSA Executive Officer. "But the way the world is, things could change. We have an expeditionary Marine Corps, so exercising the system — getting ready where you might go next — is part of this whole thing."

The LINKS program offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle, and helps spouses, Marines, children, teens, parents, and extended family members understand and adapt to the unique challenges of military life.



Lt. Cmdr. James Williford, our local chaplain, provided much to the delight of all an hilarious presentation on body language and its role in effective communication.



Leading the Way for Women in Technology

In mid-March, MCTSSA's Females in Technology held a workshop, featuring Carlynee McDonnell, CEO and founder of Change in Our Lifetime, Inc. The workshop covered a variety of topics, including an historical review of women in politics and business, followed by the participants sharing their backgrounds and experience in technology, a discussion on leadership and effective collaboration, the "Fine Art of Mentoring," and finally, effective communications.



Carlynee McDonnell shares an experience with Sgt Martha McKinney

MCTSSA's David Vierra Wins National Copernicus Award

David R. Vierra — who leads the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System (JTIDS)/Multi-functional Information Distribution (MIDS) LINK-16 Network Design Facility (NDF) for the Marine Corps—has been named a recipient of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA) Copernicus Award for his sustained and superior performance in the field of interoperability and command, control, communications, computers and intelligence/information technology (C4I/IT).

"I didn't expect to get an award for what I do...I've worked tactical data systems for 35 years..."

"I was surprised I was selected," said Vierra. "I didn't expect to get an award for what I do...I've worked tactical data systems for 35 years, but I do appreciate being selected."

In receiving the award, Vierra — who has worked at the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA) since 2002—was cited for exceptional and sustained service to the Marine Corps in leading Link 16 network design efforts and providing subject matter expertise in the development and fielding of JTIDS/MIDS LINK-16 networks. His day-to-day contributions in these vital air defense network operations and air C2 interoperabilities have ensured that Marines have the right information, at the right time and place to meet their command and control needs.

AFCEA and the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) present the Copernicus Award to those who have demonstrated exceptional initiative, leadership and insight within the selectee's area of expertise.

"We're very proud of Mr. Vierra being selected for the Copernicus Award," said Colonel Benjamin P. Stinson, MCTSSA's Commanding Officer. "It truly reflects the outstanding contributions he has provided to Marines and the Joint community through his Link 16 network expertise."

The Copernicus Awards, established in 1997, were named for the Copernicus Architecture used as the blueprint for the future command, control, communications, computers and intelligence structure of the Navy. AFCEA and the U.S. Naval Institute present the Copernicus Award to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional initiative, leadership and insight in jobs related to C4I/IT. This year, judges reviewed applications from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—including active-duty military and civilian nominees—and selected 25 awardees. ■



Brig. Gen. Kevin Nally, Department of the Navy deputy chief information officer for the Marine Corps, presents the 2015 Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association Copernicus Award to David Vierra, who is joined by his wife Mila, on Feb. 10 in San Diego, Calif. Vierra, an information technology specialist at MCTSSA, received the award for his sustained, superior performance in the field of interoperability and command, control, communications, computers and intelligence/information technology.

Baker Earns PhD in Electrical Engineering



James Baker, senior principal engineer for the Test & Certification Group, has been awarded with a PhD by the University of Hawaii's College of Engineering. Baker's dissertation presents new concepts and design approaches for the development and optimization of electrically small antennas (ESA) suitable for high frequency (HF) radio communications and coastal surface wave radar applications. During his studies, Baker published five journal papers and twelve conference papers. He joined MCTSSA in 2010.

Recycled Trailers

MCTSSA gets New Office Space; Project Helps Habitat for Humanity

Although certainly commonplace at MCTSSA, trailers aren't exactly the height of modern office architecture, but the trailers that are now being assembled as you enter the Activity might change that thinking.

These trailers—16 in total—originated from the other side of Camp Pendleton where they were used as Marine housing units. About five

years old, each trailer was originally designed to contain two living quarters complete with bathrooms and showers, although—as it turns out—most of the 32 quarters were rarely used for the purpose they were built.

Being essentially brand new, the trailers are being reinvented into two MCTSSA office facilities, composed of eight trailers each, with little going to waste.

"When we first began demolition for this project, we decided it didn't make sense to dispose of the relatively new fixtures inside of these trailers," says Wade Lousberg, Operations Manager for Sygnos, Inc., the project's prime contractor. "We called Habitat for Humanity and asked them to come out and look around to see what they would like to take from the trailers, so we weren't simply throwing

away all the doors, hardware, toilets, closets, light and shower fixtures, air conditioning units and other components, ...which typically happens. It's a decision we made; we felt that Habitat for Humanity would benefit, rather than all of that going into a landfill."

This win-win recycling of trailers project began in January

and should be completed by July. The exterior architecture of the buildings will look essentially the same, except all will have new, relocated windows and doors, a new roof, and central heating and air conditioning. The interiors are also being completely refurbished and divided into office space.

One building will serve as MCTSSA's visitor center, as well as the new home for security; the other building will accommodate Resources, Contracting, and Training.

The general contractor—Sygnos, Inc. is a service disabled

small business—with a history at MCTSSA, having done seven other projects, including the construction of the CoC lab.

"We just enjoy doing this type of work, and we love it when the end user gets the product they expected. That's what keeps us going." ■



MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Colonel Benjamin Stinson inspecting the new office space construction with MCTSSA's Sergeant Major Brandon Hall.

MCTSSA's Single Marines Enjoy an Evening of Grilled Steaks and Relaxation

In recognition for their many contributions, MCTSSA's single Marines received a special treat in February: a grilled steak dinner with all the trimmings.

"Last fall the CO said he wanted to do something special for our single Marines," said Major Jeff Costa, MCTSSA's Family Readiness Officer. "So Sgt. Christopher Barrett, MCTSSA's barracks manager working with the Sergeant Major and other single Marines put the night together."

Hosted by the wives of MCTSSA's Commanding Officer and Sergeant Major Toni Stinson and April Hall and supported by volunteers from MCTSSA's senior staff and Family Readiness team, the Marines got to enjoy their home-cooked steak dinners with an evening of relaxation, outdoor TV, and games at one of Camp Pendleton's new single Marine Recreation Centers.





AVTB SHOWCASES CAPABILITIES TO DoD ACQUISITION STUDENTS

For the second year, MCSC's Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch (AVTB) has hosted the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Program Manager's Course PMT 401 class, giving DAU students from across the DoD community an opportunity to experience first-hand the unique Marine Corps Systems Command's amphibious testing capabilities while gaining some exposure to the Marine Corps, its equipment and service culture.

Kicking off the academic venue, MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Colonel Benjamin Stinson and AVTB's Director, Lt. Col. Robert Bailey provided organizational and mission overview briefs, followed by a tour of the AVTB facility. Then the fun began.

The PMT 401 class which is comprised of senior military, government and industry acquisition professionals—embarked aboard Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAVs) for a “tracked vehicle” experience around the Camp Pendleton, licensing course content to actual encounter. The class also had an opportunity to experience high-water speed mobility aboard AVTB's Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) in the waters offshore of Camp Pendleton.

The DAU PMT 401 course is designed to improve DoD acquisition outcomes by strengthening the analytical, critical thinking and decision-making skills of potential leaders of major defense acquisition programs and program support organizations. ■



AVTB holds Alcohol Awareness Exercises

...3 of the 5 volunteers were legally drunk within two hours

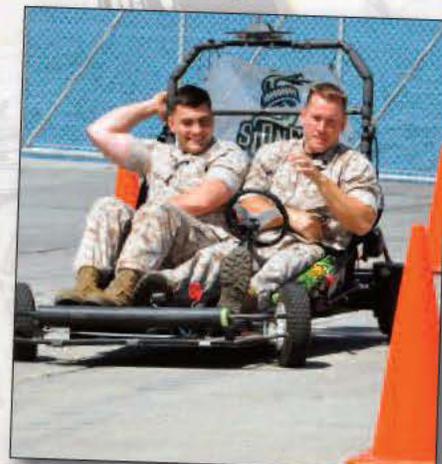
AVTB Marines and civilians participated an alcohol awareness and DUI prevention training evolution in late March, illustrating clearly how a person's intoxication level quickly changes within a few hours of alcohol consumption.

Planned by SSgt Worth Cottrill, five AVTB Marine volunteers consumed within two hours five alcoholic beverages — beer, wine, and whisky — of varying quantities and then participated in field sobriety tests conducted by Officer J. Bettencourt of the California Highway Patrol. Officer Bettencourt, a prior Marine himself, shared his first-hand experiences and provided AVTB with valuable insights into the hazards of operating a vehicle under the influence.

The Camp Pendleton's Substance Abuse Counseling Center provided hands-on training that included remotely controlled go-karts, 'beer goggles' designed to impair vision and balance, and radio-controlled cars, allowing personnel to experience what it feels like to operate a vehicle out of control and by someone under the influence.

"I'm proud of SSgt Cottrill and the event

he organized and coordinated. All participants gained better insight into the hazards and dangers of drinking and driving," said Lt. Col Robert Bailey, AVTB's Director. "We plan to conduct hands-on awareness and prevention training throughout the year to educate and promote safety and force protection."



Competition & Fun

Training...

