

From The Point To The Point



MARINE
EXCELLENCE
CENTER for
CONTROLLING
AIRCRAFT



3rd Quarter 2012 Volume 6

The Best ATC Training Facility in the Marine Corps

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SNCOIC – GySgt Uriah D. Bufkin
Training Chief – SSgt Robert C. Kelley
Tower Chief – GySgt Christopher N. Hearn
Radar Chief – SSgt Matthew J. Lange
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On the cover

The entrance to the MCAS Cherry Point Airfield Operations building from the movement area. The building includes the old and new control towers.

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From The Point

GBSAA Is Nearly Here

Next month, representatives from this facility, along with Marines from VMU-2, will travel to NAS Patuxent River to be trained on the Ground Based Sense and Avoid (GBSAA) system that will aid in the movement of Unmanned Aircraft (UA) in the vicinity of MCAS Cherry Point.

If all goes well, this system will allow UA operations to and from adjacent Special Use Airspace without the current need for chase aircraft or ground observers through Class E airspace.

GySgt Christopher N. Hearn and SSgt Matthew J. Lange will head up the training which will include two days of classroom and one day of simulation. NAS Patuxent River and St. Inigoes will supply the hardware, software and a plethora of computer geeks and big wigs to provide a quality training environment.

SSgt Lange Reenlists

On 26 September 2012, a reenlistment ceremony was held at the Beer Army Outpost in James City for SSgt Matthew J. Lange. The presiding officer was Capt Scott M. Schmitz and several Marines and dependents sacrificed their work schedule to attend the festivities. SSgt Lange has been an Air Traffic Controller since 2004 and has been at this facility since July 2009.

From The Schoolhouse

Sgt Derek F. Krause	2 Jul 12
Sgt Travis L. Bash	6 Jul 12
PFC Eric J. Bettis	7 Aug 12
PFC Devin C. Haydel	5 Sep 12
PFC Edward J. Ayala	10 Sep 12
PFC Nathan D. Pollack	26 Sep 12

Milestone Reached

A new monthly record was attained during August 2012 with 1,469.72 hours of OJT and 260.67 hours of simulation for a new combined record of:

1,730.38 hours

The previous record was 1,650.80 hours, established in March of 2006.



Training

Training Program Statistics

	<u>Jul-Sep</u>	<u>Total</u>
OJT Hours	3,319.50	163,212
OJF Hours	598.30	18,886
Tower Simulation (Training)	227.32	6,552
Tower Simulation (Support)	842.12	6,669
Radar Simulation (Training)	526.26	9,406
Radar Simulation (Support)	733.16	12,982
Simulated GCAs	2,719	53,733
MOSs Issued	27	1,028
Position Qualifications	70	2,847

Controller of the Quarter

LCpl Alan P. Shade was awarded Controller of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter of 2012. He joined the facility on 6 Jul 11 and is qualified on Tower Flight Data and Ground Control. After a slow start gaining his Primary MOS, LCpl Shade became an accomplished instructor in the tower while crosstraining in radar. During this quarter, he accumulated over 100 hours as an OJT Instructor plus 15 hours on simulation which contributed to 6 position qualifications. He is nearing his third position qualification on Radar Flight Data and will soon be moving over to Radar Final Control.

Qualifications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>MOS</u>
LCpl S. S. Jacobi	9 Jul 12	AR	
Cpl M. T. Carr	10 Jul 12	FD	
Cpl M. E. Boyd	10 Jul 12	FD	
LCpl R. J. Hession	10 Jul 12	FD	
LCpl K. C. David	11 Jul 12	LC	7252
GySgt J. D. Houser	14 Jul 12	RD	
LCpl J. Navarrete	14 Jul 12	RD	
Cpl M. E. Boyd	16 Jul 12	GC	7257T
LCpl S. C. Stiffel	16 Jul 12	GC	7257T
Cpl J. A. Mohundro	18 Jul 12	APE/APN	
SSgt J. A. Felix	18 Jul 12	FC	
LCpl A. D. Rochester	19 Jul 12	LC	7252
LCpl D. J. Turner	20 Jul 12	FC	7257R
Cpl C. M. Balk	24 Jul 12	APE/APN	
Sgt B. D. Lewis	25 Jul 12	LC	7252
LCpl C. D. Collins	26 Jul 12	FD	
SSgt J. H. Clark	27 Jul 12	APW	7253/54
GySgt J. D. Houser	27 Jul 12	APW	7253/54
SSgt J. H. Clark	27 Jul 12	RD	
LCpl J. D. McDaniel	27 Jul 12	RD	
PFC J. D. Warner	31 Jul 12	FC	7257R
SSgt R. F. Pyles	31 Jul 12	FD	
Cpl B. C. Piburn	2 Aug 12	APW	7253/54
PFC J. E. Entzi	6 Aug 12	RD	
LCpl J. B. Bohannon	6 Aug 12	RD	

Qualifications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>MOS</u>
LCpl D. P. Goodwin	8 Aug 12	RD	
Cpl J. C. Skelton	11 Aug 12	RD	
SSgt J. H. Clark	13 Aug 12	FC	7257R
LCpl E. P. Dorsey	14 Aug 12	APW	7253/54
LCpl J. Navarrete	20 Aug 12	FC	7257R
LCpl J. Pinero	21 Aug 12	APW	7253/54
LCpl K. T. Smith	21 Aug 12	LC	7252
Cpl C. M. Balk	22 Aug 12	AR	
LCpl C. D. Collins	23 Aug 12	GC	7257T
Cpl D. J. Monteiro	24 Aug 12	APW	7253/54
Sgt D. F. Krause	27 Aug 12	RD	
SSgt J. A. Felix	28 Aug 12	GC	
Cpl J. A. Mohundro	29 Aug 12	AR	
LCpl M. E. Gonzalez	30 Aug 12	RD	
Sgt T. L. Bash	6 Sep 12	FD	
LCpl D. P. Goodwin	7 Sep 12	FC	7257R
Cpl A. J. Walters	12 Sep 12	LC	7252
LCpl S. S. Jacobi	14 Sep 12	FD	
LCpl J. D. Warner	18 Sep 12	FD	
LCpl R. J. Hession	18 Sep 12	GC	7257T
LCpl A. D. Orton	19 Sep 12	APE/APN	
LCpl B. R. Adams	19 Sep 12	FC	7257R
LCpl M. J. Whelton	28 Sep 12	FD	
Sgt C. E. Martinetz	28 Sep 12	FD	
SSgt R. F. Pyles	28 Sep 12	GC	



To The Point

with
Joe Hendrickson

WHY WE DON'T USE VIDS TO TRACK TRAINING (and probably never will)

There have been numerous attempts since the dawning of the computer age to automate different aspects of Air Traffic Control. Some of these have been very successful and some have not. Most ATC facilities have built databases and/or spreadsheets to tabulate, track, report and analyze their training programs as they evolve. Here at Cherry Point, we built a simple database during 1997 that captured the data that was recorded on position logs and on 1 Jan 98 all of our training and proficiency became available to our managers to use for performance, improvement, trends, awards, etc. Fifteen years later this database has grown to over 300,000 records and includes 14 different types of training with links to other databases to correlate data with individuals, either to the trainee or to the instructor. It requires about 1,000,000 keystrokes per year to enter the data. For historical records, we have training data on over 600 controllers that have passed through this facility since 1992. Due to its simplicity, we can retrieve data from 10 years ago as easily as from last month.

In October 2008, Cherry Point received the Visual Information Display System (VIDS) along with our STARS/ATCOACH upgrade. We played with it for a couple of months and determined that it was barely adequate for currency recording but unable to provide any usable data for our training program. There wasn't a training report available on the console and the positions available to log onto were not correct. We chose to continue using FAA Position Logs for all training, both live and simulated. When the latest ATC NATOPS Manual was released on 1 Jul 09, there were new position identifiers and new codes adopted in order to track more information relating to instructor time and different types of training. Our problem was that none of these new position identifiers or codes were on the VIDS but because of the paper logs, we were already recording all of this training information. We didn't have a choice whether to comply or not, with our version of the VIDS, we absolutely could not. Paper logs would continue. On 29 Jul 09, we forwarded a request through ATC Maintenance and MCIEAST to reconfigure the VIDS to match our position codes. After years of assurances and optimistic emails, that has still not happened.

Along comes MCIEAST NATOPS Evaluators in 2010 and we are hit with a discrepancy because trainees do not log on the VIDS. The inability of the VIDS to either track or report training was irrelevant. Last month MCIEAST showed up again and still cannot interpret regulations nor can they remedy the VIDS problem. The checklist item simply asks "Is a position log maintained for each operating position?" Our simple and correct answer is "Yes". Here is where we must stray from simple to insane.

First the evaluator attempted to quote ATC NATOPS with "All controllers and students signing into facility logs shall be maintained on the Visual Information Display System (VIDS)" but left off the following sentence "If VIDS is not available, a paper or electronic FAA Form 7230-10 may be used." Then he stated "Trainees are tracked via paper, not logged onto the VIDS". This statement is correct and should have satisfied the NATOPS requirement. The final sentence read "Correct controller codes that are needed to sign into the facility logs via the VIDS and track a controller's time on position are not available". BINGO! That justifies our current procedure. Now get ready for the recommendation. "Install most recent update of VIDS software with appropriate codes." No conclusion that we are already complying with NATOPS requirement and no acknowledgement that this is already three years overdue and that the "update" has been continuously pushed back so that we still don't have a clear date when to expect it. According to Einstein, this is a clear case of insanity.

Now let's talk about future upgrades and how they may affect process improvement. Keep in mind that Cherry Point uses empirical data for more than just currency and weekly training reports. Our current VIDS database uses older codes of M, T, R, C, and S for OJF, OJT, Skill Checks, position responsibility and supervisor respectively. What happens when the upgrade takes place to add new codes of I, F, Q and A for Instructor, Familiarization, Qualification and Annual. My guess is that all of the data that was entered with old codes from 2008-2012 will be expunged and all training history must once again be started. The old data will never be accessible and future data will probably go through a similar deletion with further upgrades.

Under our current system, we still have all of the training data from 10 years before VIDS was even installed to the present. If regulations decide to change OJF from an M to an F, we can pull up the 15,614 current "M" entries dating back to 6 Aug 96 and change the code in mere seconds.

Here is why we will probably never use the VIDS as part of our extremely successful training program.

Paper Logs/Facility Database	VIDS
Allows for skill checks to be conducted for annual proficiency, qualification, and performance at random or scheduled intervals (25%, 50%, etc.)	Codes are developed for annual proficiency and qualification only
Correlates all trainees to each instructor	Tracks instructor time and trainee time but does not match them together
Allows for correction when a controller or trainee makes a sign on or sign off error	Any error resulting from forgetting to sign on or sign off at the correct time cannot be fixed (zero defect mentality in a training environment)
Can capture multiple participants, instructors and trainees conducting a scenario	Only allows up to two individuals to sign on
Allows for changing of operating initials or reassignment as a result of transfer	Currency and training data would be skewed or incorrect if duplicate operating initials were assigned within certain time frames and a person changing initials would have two sets of data
Does not require that instructors change from "C" to "I" each time a trainee signs on	Instructors must log off and log back on each time a trainee begins training and then again when the trainee is complete
Data is transferred to the training office the next day and becomes a permanent part of the training program history	Data must be collected or queried from a VIDS workstation and if needed for future use, must still be transferred to some type of record
Allows for global changes to previously entered data when required by updated procedures	?

Bottom Line: The VIDS (with upgrade) will be adequate and appropriate for qualified controller currency tracking, but as part of our training program, it will be categorized as "not available".