

From The Point To The Point



4th Quarter 2018 Volume 31

MARINE
EXCELLENCE
CENTER for
CONTROLLING
AIRCRAFT

CHERRY POINT
★
CONTROLLERTOWN

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SNCOIC – MSgt Chad E. Dent
Training Chief – GySgt Jerry D. Meyer
Tower Chief – GySgt Travis W. Shiflett
Radar Chief – GySgt Clark A. Tidwell
Writer/Editor – Joseph G. Hendrickson

On the Cover

The Cherry Point Tower and Operations Building from the centermat.

Photo courtesy of Cpl Julia Z. Madera

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From The Point

Trainer of the Year 2018

There were so many civilian controllers deserving of the award this year and the write-ups were outstanding. With much deliberation, Benjamin Bonilla was selected as the MCAS Cherry Point Trainer of the Year. He excelled this year with 84 hours of classroom instruction along with 131 hours on the simulators (second highest in the facility) and 460 hours as an OJT Instructor. All of these established a new personal record for Benjamin.

As an integral part of Crew One, Benjamin helped his crew break their own record with 4,731 hours of OJT and their second best effort on the simulators with 920 hours for a new combined Crew One record of 5,651 hours. They also tied the Crew One record of qualifying 6 Local Controllers during the year.

Controller of the Year

Sgt Maxwell T. Lundgren was chosen as our controller of the year and nominated for the Vice Admiral Robert E. Pirie award. He has been TRACON rated since December 2017, continues to train toward a facility rating, and has become instrumental to the facility in developing simulations for radar approach and arrival scenarios. He logged nearly 300 hours as an instructor and another 300 hours as a trainee during the year.

Controller of the Quarter

After a rare repeat performance, Cpl Vincent F. Brandow has been awarded the Controller of the Quarter for the second time in a row, this time for the 4th quarter of 2018.

Cpl Brandow had some close competition with two other nominees and the voting required a tie breaker. With 100 hours of OJT on Approach West during the quarter, he finally achieved his qualification on November 29th. He also accumulated 57 hours as an OJT Instructor.

Civilian Controller Hired

Mr. Zachary N. Heber was hired on 29 Oct 2018 to fill the tower-only position vacated when Ms. Emily Griffin was promoted. Mr. Heber was previously facility rated here as an active duty Marine until his departure in October of 2016.

Civilians Set Personal Best

Just like last year, there were seven DoD controllers this year that exceeded their own previous performances as OJT Instructors. Most improved was Benjamin Bonilla with more than double his previous best, followed by Francis Finch (37%), Eddie Mobley (19%), Joseph Zobel (17%), Doug Marshall (11%), Jill Conner (11%) and Christopher Sharpe (4%). Mark Holbrook is still hanging onto the all-time career record at 7,899.26 hours and should easily surpass 8,000 hours in the next couple of months.

Crew of the Year

Another close call between all three crews after a record breaking year of training. Crew 1 had their best year ever with 4,731 hours of OJT and 5,652 hours combined OJT/Sim, scoring 98.45 points. Crew 2 also beat their best year with 5,049 hours of OJT and 6,094 hours combined, winning in five categories and scoring 102.71 points. Crew Three squeaked out another victory with 5,448 hours of OJT (missing their own facility record by one hour), and broke their crew record of simulation with 1,013 hours, also winning in five categories and scoring 104.93 points.

2018 All-Pro Squad

Approach East
Enroute Sector
Approach West
Arrival Control
Local Control
Ground Control
Tower Flight Data
Radar Final Control 1
Radar Final Control 2
Radar Flight Data

Joseph L. Zobel
John M. Holbrook
Christopher J. Sharpe
Francis M. Finch
Emily L. Griffin
Cpl Jacob S. Greening
Cpl McLain A. Bachus
Cpl David O. Cabrera
LCpl Serge Nikov
Cpl Vincent F. Brandow

From The Point

Top Five Civilian OJT Instructors

Christopher J. Sharpe	622.48
Jill A. Conner	585.13
John M. Holbrook	557.88
Timothy R. Klinger	529.18
Joseph L. Zobel	524.53

Top Five Marine OJT Instructors

Sgt Matthew J. Stoll	309.18
Cpl Jacob S. Greening	280.40
Cpl Troy D. Farrington	260.32
SSgt Nathan L. Patterson	251.75
LCpl David F. Jimenez	239.72

Top Five Simulator Instructors

Douglas P. Marshall	145.82
Benjamin Bonilla	131.00
Christopher J. Sharpe	129.27
Emily L. Griffin	105.92
Francis M. Finch	99.68

Top Five Trainees (OJT+Simulation Hours)

Cpl Ashley T. Rodriguez	595.47
LCpl Lane S. Acosta	570.12
LCpl Cameron J. Yon	519.45
Cpl Josiah L. Tavares	473.92
Brandon M. Mack	460.75

TRACON and Facility Ratings

Cpl Troy D. Farrington	8 Feb 18	TRACON
GySgt Clark A. Tidwell	21 Feb 18	TRACON
Sgt Kevin J. Harte	28 Mar 18	Facility
Cpl Anthony M. Mamula	29 Mar 18	Facility
Cpl Samuel R. Klaiber	17 Apr 18	TRACON
Cpl Thomas L. Godfrey	19 Apr 18	TRACON
Cpl Cameron R. Hill	2 May 18	Facility
Cpl Troy D. Farrington	10 May 18	Facility
Cpl Josiah L. Tavares	13 Jun 18	TRACON
Cpl Abraham K. Schropp	8 Aug 18	Facility
LCpl Cameron J. Yon	12 Dec 18	TRACON

Rookie of the Year

LCpl Matthew B. Randolph 403.16 Total Hours

Civilian Instructor Milestones

Timothy R. Klinger	5,000 OJT Instructor Hours
Michael T. Seabrook	4,000 OJT Instructor Hours
Eddie Mobley Jr.	4,000 OJT Instructor Hours

Cherry Point Records Broken in 2018

Facility

John M. Holbrook – 7,899.26 (Career OJT)
 Most LC Qualifications in a year – 19 (Tie)
 Most OJT Hours in a year – 15,267.50
 Most OJT Hours in a month – 1,728.93
 Most Sims in a month – 631.13
 Most AR Sims in a month – 134.80
 Most FD Sims in a month – 65.00
 Highest ratio of GCAs for OJT – 80.44%

SNCOIC – Career at NKT (MSgt Dent)

Most OJT + Sim hours – 42,640
 Most Qualifications – 548
 Most AR Qualifications - 28
 Most LC Qualifications - 45

Training Chief – Career at NKT (MSgt Cruz)

Most OJT + Sim hours – 62,763
 Most Qualifications – 844
 Most MOSs achieved – 285
 Most APE Qualifications - 33
 Most APH Qualifications - 34
 Most APW Qualifications - 59
 Most AR Qualifications - 49
 Most FC Qualifications - 92
 Most RD Qualifications - 102
 Most FD Qualifications - 101
 Most GC Qualifications - 103
 Most LC Qualifications - 65

Training

Training Program Statistics

	<u>Oct-Dec</u>
OJT Hours	3,766.15
OJF Hours	401.85
Tower Simulation (Training)	223.71
Radar Simulation (Training)	464.58
Simulated GCAs	1,863
MOSs Issued	15
Position Qualifications	58

From The Schoolhouse

PFC Christopher D. Willingham	10 Oct 18
PFC Christopher M. Kondrot	16 Oct 18
PFC Caleb C. Guillery	29 Oct 18
PFC Khari J. Thompson	21 Nov 18
LCpl Joshua M. Burnett	4 Dec 18
LCpl Kierstein J. McAtee	6 Dec 18

Qualifications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>MOS</u>
Mr B. M. Mack	1 Oct 18	APH	
Sgt B. P. Doherty	2 Oct 18	FD,GC	
LCpl B. L. Cook	2 Oct 18	RD	
Cpl P. W. Underwood	3 Oct 18	APW	7254
LCpl J. T. Villegas	4 Oct 18	FD	
Cpl J. Cortes	5 Oct 18	FC	7257R
Mr B. M. Mack	9 Oct 18	APE	
GySgt T. W. Shiflett	9 Oct 18	AR	7253
Mr B. M. Mack	12 Oct 18	AR	
Mr R. G. Coates	12 Oct 18	LC	
SSgt O. Y. Lau	17 Oct 18	FD,GC	
LCpl J. T. Myrick	19 Oct 18	FD	
LCpl L. E. Thompson	19 Oct 18	RD	
Ms E. L. Griffin	23 Oct 18	APW	
PFC J. D. Schafer	23 Oct 18	FC	7257R
LCpl B. C. Rouse	24 Oct 18	RD	
PFC A. J. Giron	25 Oct 18	FD	
LCpl J. D. Sanchez	25 Oct 18	FD	
LCpl L. S. Acosta	4 Nov 18	FD	
Cpl T. H. Nichols	5 Nov 18	AR	7253

Qualifications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>MOS</u>
Mr B. M. Mack	5 Nov 18	FC, RD	
Mr Z. N. Heber	8 Nov 18	FD, GC	
SSgt M. C. Fisher	14 Nov 18	FD, GC	
Sgt M. D. Fee	16 Nov 18	FC	
LCpl L. E. Thompson	16 Nov 18	FC	7257R
GySgt T. W. Shiflett	19 Nov 18	FC	7257R
LCpl L. S. Acosta	24 Nov 18	GC	7257T
LCpl J. T. Myrick	28 Nov 18	GC	7257T
Cpl V. F. Brandow	29 Nov 18	APW	7254
LCpl J. T. Villegas	4 Dec 18	GC	7257T
Mr Z. N. Heber	4 Dec 18	LC	
Sgt B. P. Doherty	4 Dec 18	LC	
LCpl M. B. Randolph	6 Dec 18	APW	7254
LCpl B. T. Markwood	7 Dec 18	FC	7257R
Cpl R. C. Flournoy	7 Dec 18	FC	7257R
Sgt M. D. Fee	9 Dec 18	RD	
LCpl C. J. Yon	12 Dec 18	AR	7253
SSgt M. C. Fisher	12 Dec 18	LC	
Sgt B. L. Walker	18 Dec 18	GC	
PFC C. M. Kondrot	18 Dec 18	RD	



To The Point

with
Joe Hendrickson

Garbage In Nothing Out

There is an old acronym “GIGO” which means Garbage In Garbage Out. It usually refers to faulty data or information feeding a report that ends up being unread or of little use. There are two types of GIGO reports that I have to contribute to in my capacity as a statistics collector. One type is the annual collection of data for fitness reports and various award boards. They always ask for stats during a period that hasn’t ended yet, requiring some kind of projection. Projecting is not data, especially through certain months of the year like December. The other type is when they need detailed statistics on numerous variables over several years and you have one day to finish. With those conditions, the product is most likely to be garbage.

However, when it comes to sending reports to higher headquarters my experience here over the past 20 years has been mostly Garbage In Nothing Out. Our facilities have been required to send constant data in various reports on monthly, quarterly and annual intervals. We never receive any feedback on the results in the form of a written report. This information is sent to regional offices, Headquarters Marine Corps and Chief of Naval Operations. There has to be a reason to collect data on Training & Qualification, Traffic Counts and Simulator Usage other than to file it away. We track OJF, OJT, revocations, check-ins, check-outs, classes, tests, team meetings, tape talks, skill checks, instructor hours and designations.

My assumption early on when this was sent to MCIEAST was that there would be an annual report highlighting the accomplishments for the region, which includes Beaufort, New River, Quantico and Cherry Point. So far I have received a total of zero reports. At the Cherry Point Level, I have 246 monthly training reports, 20 annual training reports, 13 10-year statistical reports, not to mention the numerous traffic counts and analyses that go along with them. I sometimes thought that perhaps there were these type of regional reports being sent to higher headquarters but I have yet to see any evidence of these either.

As we come to the end of another year, we have two annual reports that are required by NATOPS, one brand new (Training and Qualification) and one highly modified (Air Traffic Activity Report). The Training and Qualification Report includes a plethora of information but includes no context other than it is inclusive of the calendar year. I naturally wonder what this information will be used for. Piles of data without any context ends up being either ambiguous or dangerous. A good example is the current requirement to have 20% of the training time be simulated. This number is loosely based on one facility’s statistics from years ago and the mandate only applies to a trainee being considered for revocation. Annual reports from regional or Marine Corps level offices that analyze data could shed some light on the effectiveness of simulation as it applies to each operating position along with other training tools such as tape talks, OJF and training team meetings. We could see best practices from each air station as they evolve their simulator programs, witnessing what is working and what is not.

Cherry Point’s success in pushing our training program to its limits is partly out of necessity (we lose 200 qualifications per year so therefore need to create that many) and partly because we compete with ourselves. We know what we have accomplished in fat years and lean years which provides us with realistic goals for future planning. We also track every record that we can in order to determine gains and losses and to motivate our crews to strive for improvement. I often wish I knew how the trends on traffic, student flow, qualifications, MOSs and simulation are at other air stations but it is just not out there. Perhaps there is some geek like me in a closet somewhere collecting this information and will someday have an epiphany that will change the world (or maybe even a decent database, hint, hint) but imagine what we would know now if we had 20 years’ worth of regional and MOS level reports to peruse. Maybe these new reports will start something.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles,
one letter to each square,
to form four ordinary words.

PRAETSEA

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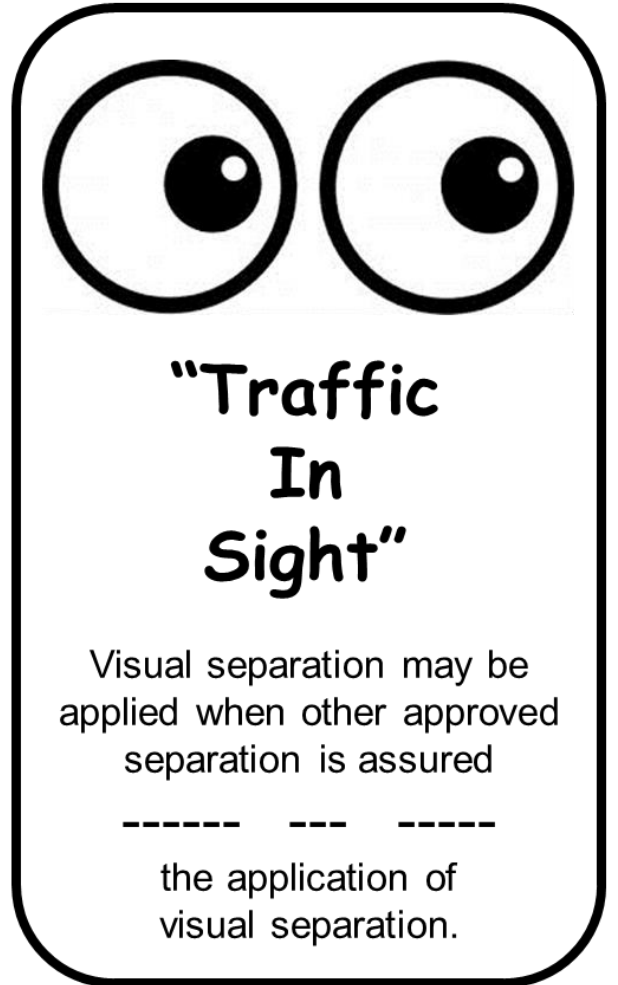
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Now arrange the circled letters
to form the surprise answer, as
suggested by the above statement.