

From The Point To The Point



4th Quarter 2019 Volume 35

MARINE
EXCELLENCE
CENTER for
CONTROLLING
AIRCRAFT

CHERRY POINT
★
CONTROLLERTOWN

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SNCOIC – MSgt Rex L. Loden
Training Chief – MSgt Jerry D. Meyer
Tower Chief – GySgt Travis W. Shiflett
Radar Chief – Sgt Matthew D. Fee
Writer/Editor – Joseph G. Hendrickson

On the Cover

Artist's rendering of the proposed CERAP, Control Tower, Operations and Range Management facility.

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From The Point

Trainer of the Year 2019

Another tough choice this year with several instructors turning in some very impressive numbers. With much deliberation, Zachary N. Heber was selected as the MCAS Cherry Point Trainer of the Year. In his first full year as a civilian employee, he went after the OJT record and was crushing it until September when he was promoted and had to train in radar. He still beat the old record with 917 hours and completed his training before the year ended.

Controller of the Year

Sgt Matthew D. Fee was chosen as our controller of the year and nominated for the Vice Admiral Robert E. Pirie award. He has been facility rated since 4 Mar 2019 and has been our Radar Chief since 5 Aug 2019. In those few months he has qualified trainees on 58 positions and logged nearly 6,000 hours of training within the newly designated CERAP. This nomination will be sent to MCIEAST for further selection and possibly all the way to the Department of the Navy.

Crew of the Year

Crew Two finally pushed past the other two crews to capture the Crew of the Year Award for 2019. They excelled in both OJT and Simulator training and tied with Crew Three for number of qualifications at 69. They blew away the record for total OJT in one year at 6,746.63, a record Crew Three set just two years ago. They also had the highest ratio of simulation to OJT with 18.22%

Controller of the Quarter

Cpl Joshua T. Villegas has been awarded the Controller of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of 2019. A native of Havelock, NC, Cpl Villegas distinguished himself as a hard worker and talented controller. Since his arrival here, he has qualified on Tower Flight Data and Ground Control, PCAed to MACS-2, deployed on an exercise and is nearing completion on Local Control training.

During this quarter, Cpl Villegas balanced his proficiency and training with 113 hours as an instructor and 100 hours as a trainee.

Two Civilian Controllers Hired

We finally started seeing the positions left vacant in the tower being filled when Mr. Steven Allo was hired on 25 Nov 2019, filling the slot vacated last January. A month later Mr. Brendan Doherty was hired on 23 Dec 2019, filling Robert Coates' slot from September. Mr. Allo is a previously facility rated Marine that left here in 2008 while Mr. Doherty was a previous Tower Supervisor that returned after a 5-month absence. We hope to fill the last remaining position during the first quarter of 2020.

Civilians Set Personal Best

Nearly all of the civilian controllers exceeded their own previous performances as OJT Instructors this past year. Zachary Heber set a new facility record of 917 hours which was 150% more than his previous best. Jill Conner also beat the old record with 870 hours, followed by Joshua Hall, Chris Sharpe, Tim Klinger, Rob Coates, Eddie Mobley, Francis Finch, Joseph Zobel, Benjamin Bonilla, Mike Vitchers and Dan McIlhenny.

Class VII Facility

As anticipated, Cherry Point was officially designated a Class VII Combined Center Radar Approach Control (CERAP) Facility on 10 Oct 2019 by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). This upgrade makes this facility only the second CERAP in the Department of the Navy, the other being MCAS Yuma.

2019 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

Jill A. Conner
Eddie Mobley Jr.
Christopher J. Sharpe
Timothy L. Klinger
Zachary N. Heber
Cpl Joshua T. Villegas
Cpl Lane S. Acosta
Cpl Tristan H. Nichols
Cpl David O. Cabrera
LCpl Jack L. Schafer

From The Point

Top Five Civilian OJT Instructors

Zachary N. Heber	917.28
Jill A. Conner	870.02
Joshua J. Hall	751.47
Christopher J. Sharpe	652.15
Timothy R. Klinger	618.02

Top Five Marine OJT Instructors

Sgt Jacob S. Greening	411.63
Cpl Abraham K. Schropp	337.83
Cpl Thomas L. Godfrey	306.53
Cpl John D. Reyes Jr.	302.20
Cpl Cameron J. Yon	287.32

Top Five Simulator Instructors

Benjamin Bonilla	164.62
Cpl Tristan H. Nichols	135.05
Jill A. Conner	131.17
Joshua J. Hall	120.47
Christopher J. Sharpe	115.95

Top Five Trainees (OJT+Simulation Hours)

LCpl Matthew B. Randolph	676.23
LCpl Roberto A. Rodriguez	616.80
Cpl Laura E. Thompson	613.80
Cpl Nicholas M. Leybold	587.15
Cpl Serge Nikov	544.33

CERAP and Facility Ratings

Sgt Matthew D. Fee	4 Mar 19	Facility
Sgt Maxwell T. Lundgren	15 Apr 19	Facility
GySgt Jerry D. Meyer	3 May 19	Facility
Sgt Ashley T. Rodriguez	12 Aug 19	CERAP
Cpl Russell C. Flournoy	26 Aug 19	Facility
Cpl Laura E. Thompson	25 Sep 19	CERAP
Cpl Serge Nikov	30 Sep 19	CERAP
Cpl Josiah L. Tavares	13 Nov 19	Facility
Cpl Nicholas M. Leybold	4 Dec 19	CERAP

Rookie of the Year

LCpl Jordan A. Miller 719.06 Total Hours

Civilian Instructor Milestones

John M. Holbrook 8,000 OJT Instructor Hours
 Timothy R. Klinger 6,000 OJT Instructor Hours

Cherry Point Records Broken in 2019

John M. Holbrook – 8,140.61 (Career OJT)
 Most APE Qualifications in a year – 12
 Most AR Qualifications in a year – 14 (Tie)
 Most OJT Hours in a year – 18,988.85
 Most OJT Hours in January – 1,575.72
 Most OJT Hours in February – 1,404.53
 Most OJT Hours in March – 1,770.72
 Most OJT Hours in April – 1,675.30
 Most OJT Hours in May – 1,581.83
 Most OJT Hours in July – 1,646.50
 Most OJT Hours in September – 1,428.28
 Most OJT Hours in October – 1,743.87
 Most OJT Hours in November – 1,403.75
 Most OJT Hours in December – 1,665.70
 Most OJT Hours in a month – 1,770.72
 Highest ratio of GCAs for OJT (April) – 83.52%

SNCOIC – Career at NKT (MSgt Dent)

Most OJT + Sim hours – 43,469
 Most Qualifications – 559
 Most AR Qualifications – 29
 Most APH Qualifications – 23
 Most LC Qualifications - 47

ATCFO – Career at NKT (Maj Taylor)

Most OJT Hours – 40,300
 Most Simulation Hours – 7,017

Radar Chief – Career at NKT (GySgt Tidwell)

Most OJT Hours – 15,742
 Most AR Qualifications – 20

Training

Training Program Statistics

	<u>Oct-Dec</u>
OJT Hours	4,813.32
OJF Hours	472.50
Tower Simulation (Training)	289.42
Radar Simulation (Training)	597.92
Simulated GCAs	1,110
MOSs Issued	14
Position Qualifications	50

From The Schoolhouse

LCpl Joseph C. Billups	11 Oct 19
LCpl Bradley C. VanDeventer	16 Oct 19
LCpl Daniel M. Daus	21 Oct 19
PFC Jonathan T. Pigford	30 Oct 19
LCpl Kristofer J. Fairbanks	2 Dec 19
PFC Michael A. Ross	2 Dec 19
PFC Justin T. Root	4 Dec 19
PFC Gage B. Vandeventer	10 Dec 19

Qualifications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>MOS</u>
LCpl R. A. Rodriguez	2 Oct 19	APW	7254
Cpl B. D. Chrisco	2 Oct 19	GC	
LCpl K. R. Wagner	2 Oct 19	RD	
Cpl V. L. Mason	10 Oct 19	APW	7254
Lt B. N. Woolverton	10 Oct 19	FD	
Sgt B. M. Olson	10 Oct 19	FD	
LCpl J. A. Miller	10 Oct 19	LC	7252
Mr Z. N. Heber	11 Oct 19	APW	
LCpl J. L. Schafer	11 Oct 19	APW	7254
SSgt C. M. Ng	11 Oct 19	LC	7252
LCpl A. W. Bonnell	22 Oct 19	RD/FC	7257R
Cpl N. M. Leybold	23 Oct 19	APH	
Mr D. P. Marshall	25 Oct 19	APH	
LCpl M. L. Page	26 Oct 19	RD	
Mr D. P. Marshall	29 Oct 19	FC	
Mr Z. N. Heber	30 Oct 19	APH	
LCpl L. A. Harris	1 Nov 19	RD	
Mr Z. N. Heber	5 Nov 19	RD/FC	
LCpl K. J. McAtee	5 Nov 19	RD	

Qualifications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>MOS</u>
LCpl J. E. Litchner	6 Nov 19	RD	
Cpl J. L. Tavares	13 Nov 19	LC	7252
SSgt T. W. Morak	18 Nov 19	GC	7257T
LCpl A. C. Gonzalez-V	20 Nov 19	FD	
Cpl J. E. Mihalko	21 Nov 19	FC	7257R
Cpl J. Dominguezcruz	26 Nov 19	FD	
Cpl N. M. Leybold	4 Dec 19	AR	7253
LCpl M. C. Klint	5 Dec 19	GC	
LCpl A. W. Carrico	9 Dec 19	FD	
LCpl C. O. Arizpe	10 Dec 19	GC	7257T
Cpl B. M. Lee	17 Dec 19	APW	7254
LCpl C. A. Gil	17 Dec 19	RD	
LCpl M. B. Randolph	18 Dec 19	AR	7253
LCpl K. R. Wagner	18 Dec 19	FC	7257R
LCpl J. C. Billups	18 Dec 19	RD	
Cpl S. Nikov	19 Dec 19	GC	
LCpl J. D. McGhan	20 Dec 19	FD	
Lt B. N. Woolverton	20 Dec 19	GC	
Mr R. G. Coates	20 Dec 19	RD	



To The Point

with
Joe Hendrickson

TRAINING CAPACITY

One of the things I have been trying to capture over the years is not only how well we do each year but how well “can” we do with what we have. By comparing years of data with variables that we can control to variables that we can’t control, the capacity, or maximum, drives our ability or inability to improve.

With the release of 2018’s Training and Qualification Report, I have been able to examine what other facilities have to work with and the results of their training programs. Probably the biggest factor that I saw was the availability to train. Many of the air stations are not even open on weekends which reduces the number of days to train significantly. This reduction may not be noticed by a crew because all crews get some type of weekend, but the facility will surely be impacted. For example, New River has two crews, each working Mon-Fri, splitting the 79 hours that the field is open. In four weeks each crew will have worked 158 hours. At Cherry Point there are three crews that work four days on two days off but the field is open seven days a week. Each crew will work 160 hours in four weeks, nearly identical to New River’s crews but the difference is Cherry Point trained three crews instead of two, thus increasing the capacity by 50%.

Another important variable is number of trainees. I was able to count the number of different names on the 2018 report and get an idea of how many trainees each air station had to work with during the year. I think some names may have been missing from some reports but it still gave me some idea of how we compare. Cherry Point tops the list with 98 trainees while Quantico has the least with 19. PAR simulations were all over the place with one facility showing less than 1,000 and another at nearly 13,000: not sure how effective the IPART is but at least it’s being used.

So with some basic numbers such as OJT Hours, Simulation Hours, Number of Trainees, Number of Qualifications, Number of Days Available and Number of PAR Simulations, many comparisons can be calculated between each air station. After applying these numbers to a standard scale that determines OJT Hours/Trainee, Sim Hours/Trainee, Hours/Qual, Quals/Trainee and OJT Hours/Day, it looks like all of the air stations are doing a very good job with what they have.

Highest OJT Hours/Trainee	Quantico
Highest RFC Sims/Trainee	Yuma
Highest Sim Hours/Trainee	New River
Lowest Hours/Qual	Futenma (good)
Highest Hours/Qual	Yuma (not so good)
Highest Quals/Trainee	Iwakuni
Highest Sim to OJT	Kaneohe Bay

All the air stations had over 20% Sim/OJT ratios except Cherry Point (19.8) and Iwakuni (16.1). Speaking for Cherry Point, we did just as much simulation as 2017 but just a lot more OJT.

I don’t think that any air station is at capacity, I know Cherry Point isn’t but that doesn’t mean we are dragging our feet either. Capacity has more to do with how much fuel (trainees) is coming in than it does with how fast the engine is running and as we all know, trainees come in waves. We have some basic capacities that we have learned from experience such as: no more than three trainees per position on each crew. In a perfect world we would maintain that number indefinitely but realistically that is impossible. The paradox is that every time we qualify a Marine on a position we lose a trainee. If there is another trainee waiting on deck, capacity is maintained and the engine continues to run. With too many trainees the engine gets flooded and it now takes everybody longer to train. It’s all about balance.

I am looking forward to even better data coming out for 2019.

AIR STATIONS AND OUTLYING FIELDS (Including Decommissioned)

T I M E C C A C T J I O A C O P W E V P	ATLANTIC
N W N G H J B L U E B I R D Y L K Z A D	BEAUFORT
M A E L T O R O K L C V B D C K A X S F	BLUEBIRD
E K W N I O A K G R O V E S H J N C D C	BOGUE
C U R D T R T Y U U D F G A E H E V F A	CAMPDAVIS
C N I F U Y U M A X E L R F R G O B G M	CAMPPENDLETON
A I V G S Y N G M O J A V E R F H N H P	CHERRYPOINT
S B E H T H M I R I M A R R Y D E M J D	EDENTON
Q N R J I A X L N B F G H E P G B P K A	ELTORO
F U T E N M A L P E N S A C O L A A L V	FUTENMA
D H A T Y B I E C A P T G Y I Y Y R Q I	GILLESPIE
F J K N A Y M S N U B A V U N N M R W S	GLYNCO
E D E N T O N P T F E R L I T C E I E N	HAMBY
U D P H L I S I L O G H J M I O C S R B	IWAKUNI
S F O G A W C E R R V X C O S X C I T V	KANEOHEBAY
M G I F N A R O O T C A T P L I A S Y C	KEESLER
C H U D T M E C C A X Z L K E E S L E R	MILLINGTON
R J Y M I L L I N G T O N G H J K A U F	MIRIMAR
H K T S C A M P P E N D L E T O N N I D	MOJAVE
W L R Q W E R T Y U I O P L K J H D O S	NEWRIVER
	OAKGROVE
	PENSACOLA
	PARRISLAND
	QUANTICO
	STOVAL
	TUSTIN
	TWENTYNINEPALMS
	YUMA