

The Windsock

Vol. 46, No. 11

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. July 31, 2008

Cherry Point Marine named ATC of year

CPL. ANGEL J. VELASQUEZ

MCAF-CHERRY POINT

When Sgt. Paul K. Tengan stepped onto Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's yellow footprints in June 2002, he had his first glimpse of what would be expected of him throughout his Marine Corps career.

But he never expected his hard work and determination would eventually help him stand out amongst every Marine and Navy air traffic controller on the East Coast.

Tengan, a radar chief at air traffic control here, was named Marine Corps Installations – East Air Traffic Controller of the Year.

Despite setting goals to be the best at what he does, Tengan had no idea he would be recommended

for such an honor.

"I just do my job the best that I can," he said.

"When I first found out, the first thing that came to my mind was, 'Wow!'" said Tengan. "It's a great honor to be looked at as the top air traffic controller on the entire East Coast, Navy and Marine Corps wide. I was stunned because I didn't expect to be put up for that type of award."

Key in the 25-year-old sergeant's recognition was his ability to go above and beyond, by filling the billet of a gunnery sergeant.

"That speaks highly of him," said Gunnery Sgt. Stephan J. Dykhouse, the ATC training chief. "It's very uncommon for a sergeant to

See **AWARD** page A4



CPL. ANGEL J. VELASQUEZ

Sgt. Paul K. Tengan, the radar chief at Air Traffic Control, communicates with pilots from the ATC tower. Tengan was named Marine Corps Installations–East Air Traffic Controller of the Year, July 24.

AWARD from page A1

fill a gunnery sergeant's billet, but he had the knowledge and ability."

Tengan's awards were presented by Maj. Gen. Robert C. Dickerson, the MCFEAST commanding general. His awards included a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, a plaque and a coin from the general.

"It was amazing – one of the cooler things I have experienced," said Tengan. "I've never known of any other controller who received an award directly from a commanding general."

Tengan described the award as a reminder of the goals he set for himself since the day he first stepped on the yellow footprints.

"It's a pretty big accomplishment on my end," said Tengan, a Maui, Hawaii, native. "I always strive to be one of the better controllers and better Marines, so this award let's me know that I've achieved my goals."