

Miramar Community Leaders Forum  
May 15 2008

Col O'Connor, Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar welcomed the members to the monthly meeting. He said that right now, approximately 30% of the Miramar aircraft are deployed in support of combat operations.

The guest speaker for the meeting was 1stLt Courtney O'Brien, a C-130 pilot. Courtney is the only female C-130 pilot at Miramar. Her briefing was quite informative, providing the members with a "view from the cockpit." 1stLt O'Brien is typical of the young officers serving in the Marine Corps. She is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, will beat you badly on the basketball court, and is a respected pilot. She was very comfortable speaking to the group of community leaders.

Air operations for March and April of this year were down slightly from the same period last year (13,508 vs. 12,512). Noise complaints from the surrounding communities were up somewhat from last year. The March/April time period indicated 78 total noise complaints community wide this year, compared to 63 complaints for the same period last year. Rancho Bernardo, which rarely complains about helicopter noise, registered 6 complaints during this time frame.

Analysis of the various flight tracks show that the increase in noise complaints came from helicopter overflights, more so than from jet traffic, with the I-15 and "Beach" routes the heaviest. In both cases, it appears that the smaller "Huey" and "Cobra" helicopters based at Camp Pendleton generated the noise. In some cases, these aircraft may have flown lower than their planned altitudes and closer to the beach. The air operations officer has reminded these squadrons to adhere to the published route structure and altitudes. Also, squadrons returning from combat operations will receive a "reminder briefing" regarding routes and altitude restrictions prior to resuming local operations.

The next CLF meeting is scheduled for June 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C Frederick