

**Miramar Community Leaders Forum**  
March 19, 2010

The March meeting of the Miramar Community Leaders Forum was held onboard MCAS Miramar on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2010.

Dr. Charles Black, Wildlife Biologist in the Environmental Management Department, led a tour of vernal pools on the main station of MCAS Miramar. The undeveloped areas of Miramar contain the largest undisturbed numbers of vernal pools in Southern California. Over 7000 pools and other basins such as ditches and ruts support vernal pool plants and animals, including four endangered plant species and two endangered fairy shrimp species. Dr. Black took us to a natural vernal pool area near the West Gate, where we saw pools in a pool/mima mound landscape. Mima mounds are small hills adjacent to pools that were probably formed over many thousands of years by burrowing gopher activity. These pools had highly fragrant San Diego mesa mint present. Although the pools had just dried from their winter filling, San Diego fairy shrimp are present in them when they are ponded. Adult fairy shrimp collected from another area where pools still held water were exhibited in a small aquarium. The group also visited the newly constructed demonstration vernal pool, where an associated interpretative kiosk is nearly completed. This demonstration pool is located in a recreation area near the parade ground, and will be a place where military personnel and guests can go for self-guided tours at any time. The group looked at several existing basins on this site, and saw the rare and endangered San Diego button celery growing.

Due to the field trip nature of this meeting, air operation statistics were not presented this month. These figures will be included in the April report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C Frederick