

Miramar Community Leaders Forum  
August 19 2010

The August meeting of the Community Leaders Forum was held in the Commanding Officer's Conference Room on board MCAS Miramar at 5:30 p.m., August 19 2010.

Ms. Kristein Camper was introduced as a new member of the Community Plans and Liaison office. She will be working with Juan Lias. Juan will handle most of the planning issues, while Kristein will cover community relations issues.

The guest speaker this month was LtCol Stephen M Griffiths. LtCol Griffiths is the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. The mission of the H&HS is to provide administrative support for personnel assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar special staff echelons and to maintain operational facilities and provide services and material to support operations of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing and other activities and units designated by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in coordination with the Chief of Naval Operations.

LtCol Griffiths oversees the Provost Marshal's Office (the base police), the Joint Reception Center which processes arriving personnel, the installation Personnel Administration Center which maintains the personnel records for all personnel assigned to Miramar, Food Services (often called the galley, chow hall, or mess), the Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) which maintains the weapons skill for all the Marines at the station, the Airfield Operations which maintains the runways and controls the movement of all aircraft on the ground and in the air within 5 miles of the air station. And finally, LtCol Griffiths commands the Marine Transport Squadron that utilizes 2 turboprop and 3 jet transport aircraft to move staff and parts as necessary to support various Miramar operations. Needless to say, LtCol Griffiths is a busy man.

June of 2010 saw a dramatic increase in airfield operations compared to June of 2009. Last year (2009) the airfield experienced 7,039 flight operations (Remember, an "airfield operation" includes either a takeoff or a landing). 7,000 flight operations for a month are fairly normal for Miramar. However, in June of this year, flight operations totaled 10,539 operations. That increase was attributed almost completely to an increase in Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) operations. Squadrons were conducting refresher landings for experienced pilots and the training squadron was conducting a great deal of carrier landing practice for new F-18 pilots.

As could be expected, there was a noticeable increase in noise complaints for June of this year, compared to a year ago. Last year in June, the base received 31 noise complaints. But this June, the noise complaints soared to 92. Once again, this was attributed to the increase in field carrier landing practice operations. No complaints were received from Rancho Bernardo. Our homes are too far north to be impacted by the carrier landing practice operations.

The next meeting of the Community Leaders Forum is scheduled for September 16, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C Frederick