



- Advanced Infantry Marine Course 3A
- Marine Corps Half Marathon 5A
- 2nd MEB-A 10 years later: Part 4 8A

# Rare feat: Marines from same unit earn Corps' coveted leadership awards

"I think the fact that the winners of these two highly-regarded awards are from 1st Bn., 6th Marines – of all the battalions in the Marine Corps they're from the same infantry battalion – is a testament to the leadership development programs we are fostering here in the Follow-Me Division, and, equally if not more importantly, to the culture of excellence that Lt. Col. Chris Niedziocha and team are instilling in their leader warriors within that battalion. I've long believed that excellence begets excellence, and I think this is validation. We champion this ethos at the Division, regimental, and battalion levels, and it's infectious. Clearly, a truly exceptional performance by these Marines, and I'm certain that both their regimental- and battalion-level leadership are exceedingly proud, and rightfully so. I know I am, and I congratulate both of these warriors on their outstanding performance. We have a tremendous amount of talent in this Division, but I think if I were the bad guy, I'd try to steer clear of 1st Bn., 6th Marines." - **Maj.Gen. David J. Furness, Commanding General, 2nd Marine Division**

## Albano receives Leftwich Trophy | Archbell awarded Hulbert Trophy

BY SGT. LIAH A. SMUIN  
2nd Marine Division

Setting the example is one of the Marine Corps leadership principles. For Marine Corps Maj. Joseph F. Albano, setting the example is more than just a principle; it is a way of life.

Albano, the former company commander of Golf and Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment (V16), 2d Marine Division (MARDIV), and a Dalton, Massachusetts native, was announced as the Lt. Col. William G. Leftwich Jr. Trophy for Outstanding Leadership via All-Marine Message 005/20, April 14.

The Lt. Col. William G. Leftwich Jr. Trophy is an annual award given to company commanders who possess characteristics that exemplify outstanding combat arms leadership. The eponymous Leftwich served as the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division commanding officer during the Vietnam War, and was killed in action November 18, 1970.

"I think the most important thing a leader can do is to lead by example," said Albano. "To model the behaviors and attitudes you want your people to demonstrate, you have to live it and it will eventually catch on. Teach, show, do."

Selection for the trophy consists of a nomination process involving recommendations from superior leaders, subordinates, and peers. The final selection was made by Gen. David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, on April 14.

"We nominated (then) Capt. Albano because he has performed far beyond expectations in a number of demanding and high profile situations," said Lt. Col. Chris Niedziocha, the Commanding Officer of V16, 2d MARDIV. "He commanded two companies, executed two service level exercises (Mountain Exercise and Integrated Training Exercise) and prepared Weapons Company and the battalion's fire support team lead-



Maj. Joseph F. Albano

ers and Fire Support Coordination Center for ITX and deployment. Any one of those is an accomplishment. Doing all that, and to the high standard that he does everything to, is a real accomplishment."

Being recognized is no small feat. The winner is recognized at the Marine Corps Association and Foundation Ground Awards Dinner, an annual event in which the Corps' top infantry leaders are awarded for superior performance and accomplishments. The Leftwich Trophy goes to the company commander who has most significantly contributed to the infantry community.

"As expected, the competition was exceptionally keen," said Berger in the All-Marine Message. "All nominees had exemplary records which indicated noteworthy leadership and command ability."

Although he is the recipient of a high honor, Albano remains humble. He realizes there were many involved in making him successful and admits it was a team effort.

"If I had to describe what winning this award means to me I would say I'm proud," said Albano. "I'm proud not because it's me who gets the recognition—but because I never would be in this position had it not been for everything the Marines and Sailors I served with gave along the way... It's a great honor just to be the nomination

from your battalion, let alone a finalist or awardee. The Trophy is important because it is one way we as a service can reward the types of behaviors, attributes and character we want our leaders and Marines to embody through their actions."

Albano acknowledged his experience as a company commander was one of the most challenging parts of his career – a challenge which allowed him to work closely with the Marines under his charge to set, work for, and achieve common goals.

"You have an immense responsibility for the development, employment, and well-being of about 180 Marines and Sailors," said Albano. "We went through a lot together during our large training events and seeing my Marines push through and achieve our goals during that was one of the most rewarding moments in my career."

Albano was recently promoted to the rank of Major and currently serves as the V16 operations officer. He hopes to continue his career so that he can lead and mentor Marines.

"I want my Marines to know they all have the ability to choose who they are as people and leaders," said Albano. "There are things that are out of our control and one thing that is within your span of control is how you respond. You have the choice, so do the right thing."

BY STAFF SGT. JEFFREY CORDERO  
2nd Marine Division

Each year the Marine Corps recognizes the efforts of outstanding Infantry Weapons Officers, known as Marine Gunners, by awarding the Gunner Henry Lewis Hulbert Trophy for Outstanding Leadership. This year, the Commandant of the Marine Corps recognized Chief Warrant Officer 3 James B. Archbell, Battalion Gunner of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division (MARDIV), as the winner for calendar year 2019, via All-Marine Message 005/20 released April 14.

The Hulbert Trophy is presented in memory of Medal of Honor recipient Marine Gunner Henry Lewis Hulbert, who was killed in action during the battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, France, on October 4, 1918. The award recognizes the Marine Gunner that most significantly contributed to the infantry community at the battalion level. It is an accolade representing a Marine Gunner's commitment to the advocacy and advancement of not only his unit, but the infantry community as a whole. The name is significant in the Gunner community, as Henry Lewis Hulbert is believed to be the Marine Corps' first gunner.

"The Hubert Trophy, to me, is the physical representation of a more experienced infantryman's desire to teach, coach, mentor and pass along his skill sets to lesser experienced infantrymen and make them better prepared to survive and succeed in modern combat," said Archbell. "A Marine Gunner represents an infantryman that has not only mastered the infantry, but has also mastered how to develop training."

In order to qualify for the trophy, a gunner must be nominated for actions performed while either a Chief Warrant Officer 2 or 3, according to Marine Administrative Message 579/19. The trophy is unique to Infantry Weapons Officers.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 James B. Archbell

Archbell feels the qualities required to earn the award are representative of what every infantry leader should aspire to be.

"Every infantry leader should take it as a personal responsibility to make sure his Marines are faster, smarter, more accurate and more cunning than his peers in the adversary forces," Archbell exclaimed. "That's how units win battles and engagements."

Archbell used his experience and expertise to construct a marksmanship plan to better prepare Marines conducting the Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) at Marine Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. He identified a few areas that would translate to better prepared platoon-level leadership for modern combat. This involved additional training, to include reinforced day and night assaults.

"The community needed a better marksmanship program to survive combat," Archbell said. "After conducting all required marksmanship events, I helped make marksmanship an extremely important part of the unit's work-up and to the individual Marines."

Archbell also created new ways to use current training ranges on Camp Lejeune, in order to meet infantry-specific training requirements – methods which gave the battalion new opportunities to conduct training not normally possible.

"He was taking standard ranges and creating something that was new and safe," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joshua S. Smith, Gunner for 2d MARDIV. "We were able to meet

training requirements in a different way."

Receiving the award is no simple feat. There are approximately 104 Marine Gunners spread throughout the different levels of command, each of who start as rifle range gunners and have the potential to promote to the battalion level, and beyond, up to the most senior gunner at Headquarters Marine Corps. Receiving the award means effecting change to a magnitude noticeable across the Corps as a whole.

In terms of what goes into selecting the finalists, according to Smith, "You're finding the one percent of the top 10 percent," he said. "I was glad to see a 2d MARDIV guy selected for the trophy."

Archbell will receive the award at the annual Ground Awards Dinner hosted by the Marine Corps Association and Foundation with a date to be announced in the future. Although Archbell understands the caliber of this award, to him, the trophy means more than just personal acclaim.

"I always felt that when the Marine Corps decided I was good enough to be commissioned I had a responsibility to transfer everything I had ever learned or experienced as an infantry small-unit leader to every infantryman that I ever ran across," Archbell said. "Being selected as this year's Gunner Hulbert award recipient is an extremely humbling event. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for all the Marines that I had the privilege to lead in combat, and all the leaders that I was fortunate enough to serve with and under. I am who I am today because of those Marines."

## Semi-annual PFT **CANCELLED** due to COVID-19

BY STAFF REPORTS

MCIEAST

The Marine Corps' top leader announced Tuesday via Twitter the cancellation of the semi-annual physical fitness test requirement. Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger told Marines via tweet that the semi-annual PFT would be cancelled due to COVID-19 prevention guidelines. "Our fitness to fight remains a priority, and I expect each of us to continue to maintain our fighting condition," he added.

The semi-annual PFT period runs January 1 through June 30. During the PFT, Marines must complete three events, including abdominal crunches, in which Marines hold one another's legs down to complete.

More details on how the PFT cancellation will affect Marines will be released in an upcoming force-wide message.



# Charlie Battery keeps the rounds coming



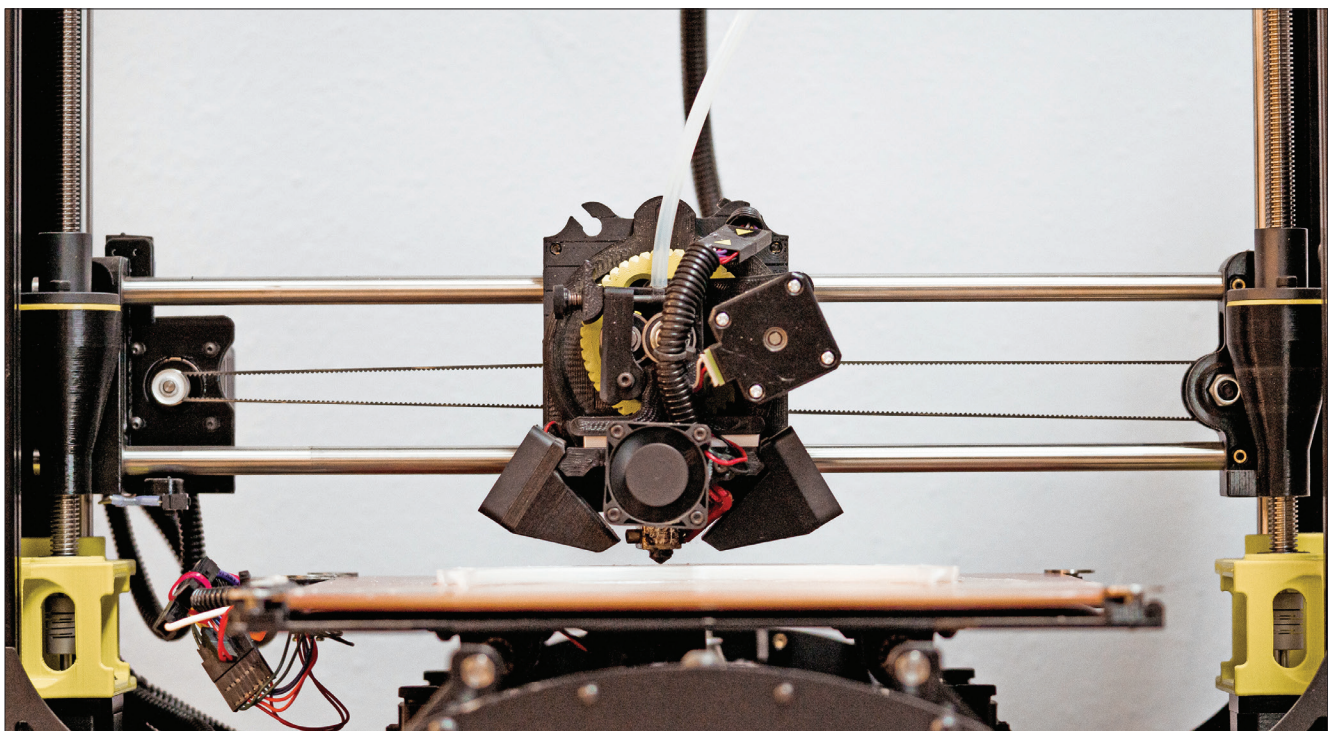
Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Parsons

U.S. Marines with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, fire an M777 Howitzer during a live-fire training event on Camp Lejeune, April 9. Marines throughout the 2d Marine Division continue to train and maintain combat readiness while following COVID-19 guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control.

## 2nd MLG Makerspace 3-D prints masks for COVID-19 response



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Samuel W. Lyman-Cruz, assistant technician, Makerspace, 2nd Marine Logistics Group explains the 3-D printer as it prints face shields on Camp Lejeune, April 20.



Photos by Cpl. Rachel K. Young-Porter

Makerspace, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 3-D prints frames for face shields. The face shields will be delivered to health-care personnel, U.S. Marines and Sailors fighting COVID-19.

## OFF-LIMITS

The following businesses are designated by the base commander as "off-limits"

### CAMP LEJEUNE REGION:

Atheas Attics at 420 Eastwood Rd., Wilmington.  
Bell Auto Salvage II at 136 Abbots Branch Rd., Hubert.  
Best Exxon at 2945 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.  
Club Phoenix at 209 East 5th St., Greenville.  
Dash-In at 1316 Hargett St., Jacksonville.  
Drive Thru Mini Mart at 2729 Commerce Road, Jacksonville.  
D's Drive Thru (AKA: Raul's Drive Thru) at 226 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.  
D's Quick Mart at 2840 Highway 258 West, Richlands.  
Expressions at 419 South College Rd., #39, Wilmington.  
Express Way at 1261 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.  
Golden Dragon (AKA) Tokyo Asian House at 1850 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.  
Highlands Tobacco aka Piney Green  
Tobacco at 835 Piney Green Road, Jacksonville.  
Highway 24 Tobacco at 1448 West Corbet Ave. Jacksonville.  
Hubert Tobacco at 393 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.  
J&N Grocery at 1142 Beulaville Highway, Richlands.  
Karen Huffman's Cleaning Jacksonville.  
King's Tobacco Drive Thru at 1796 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.  
Laird's Auto and Truck Repair (U-Haul Rental) at 1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville.  
MB Super Discount at 800 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington.  
Moe's Mart at 2105 Belgrade-Swansboro Rd., Maysville.  
Nash Market at 237 New River Drive, Jacksonville.  
OJ's Tobacco and Vapor at 8900 Richlands Highway, Richlands.  
One Stop Shop at 501 Corbin St., Jacksonville.  
\*Precision Motor Sports at 1321 Lake Cole Road, Jacksonville.  
Price is Right Lawn Design in Jacksonville.  
Reid's Mart at 461 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.  
Sahara Hookah Lounge at 917 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.  
Saint Thomas Custom Homes at 3560 McArthur Rd., Broadway.

Smart Buy at 375 Jacksonville Mall, Jacksonville. (currently not open, but has history of reappearing)  
Speedy's Drive Thru at 357 Henderson Drive, Jacksonville.  
Sun House Vapor and Tobacco at 2840 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.  
Super-Fast Drive Thru Mini Mart at 1005 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.  
Tobacco at 521 Yopp Rd., Unit 106, Jacksonville.  
Tobacco Leaf at 343K Western Blvd., Jacksonville.  
Triple C Diesel Performance and Mobile Repair  
602 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville  
Veterans Affairs Service Jacksonville. (This is a private organization not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Outpatient Clinic, nor Onslow County Veteran Services.)

### MCAS CHERRY POINT AREA:

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(Big Daddy) Wesley's Grocery  
Coastal Smoke Shop  
Expressions  
Friday's Night Club (AKA: Club Insomnia, Club Classics, Infinity Lounge)  
Flyers at 400 Fontana Blvd., Havelock.  
H&D Express (AKA: Citgo)  
Nadine's Food Mart  
Tobacco Outlet (Havelock and New Bern)  
Tobacco Shop & Gifts (Beaufort and New Bern)  
Tobacco Town  
Tobacco Shop (Newport and New Bern)  
Twin Rivers (Not the mall)  
White Sands Convenience Store

### OFF-LIMITS ROADS:

Catfish Lake Road

\* Identifies a new business added since the last update of the Bulletin.

## Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption

II MEF Hotline - 451-5555 [www.iimef.marines.mil/UnitHome/CommandInspectorGeneral.aspx](http://www.iimef.marines.mil/UnitHome/CommandInspectorGeneral.aspx)  
MCIEAST Hotline - 451-3928 [www.mcieast.marines.mil/StaffOffices/CommandInspectorGeneral/CommandingGeneralsInspectionProgram.aspx](http://www.mcieast.marines.mil/StaffOffices/CommandInspectorGeneral/CommandingGeneralsInspectionProgram.aspx)  
TECOM Hotline - (703) 432-1650 [www.tecom.usmc.mil/pages/ig.aspx](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/pages/ig.aspx)  
Naval Hospital Hotlines - (910) 450-4240 [NHCL-IGHotline@med.navy.mil](mailto:NHCL-IGHotline@med.navy.mil)  
MARSOC Hotlines - 440-1045/0941 [www.marsoc.marines.mil/UnitHome/InspectorGeneral.aspx](http://www.marsoc.marines.mil/UnitHome/InspectorGeneral.aspx)  
New River Hotline - 449-6029.

## To report crimes on and off base

To report crimes on and off base, you can call the Crime Stoppers anonymous hotline at 938-3273 or text your tip to TIP4CSJAX + your tip to 274637.

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# U.S. Marines conduct the Advanced Infantry Marine Course in Okinawa

BY CPL. JOSUE MARQUEZ  
3rd Marine Division

U.S. Marines with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division participate in the Advanced Infantry Marine Course (AIMC) on Okinawa, Japan, March 9 – April 14.

The AIMC is a course designed to enhance infantry Marines' skills and leadership while leading a rifle squad. Normally units send Marines to AIMC during their pre-deployment training while at home station in the United States. 3rd Marine Division conducted this course, with a mobile training team from Hawaii, for forward deployed Marines from all four Marine Divisions. Conducting the AIMC in Okinawa allows units to increase their readiness while forward deployed and return to home sta-

tion a better trained unit.

"Marines walk away from this course as deadlier warfighters," said U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Dane Summerfelt, the chief instructor of the AIMC. "It's a very difficult program of instruction for the Marines, and all participants graduate with an immense sense of pride in having completed this course."

During the 6 week course, Marines learned a variety of skills such as calling for fire, utilizing close air support, and leading a squad through various combat scenarios.

"It was a really tough and rewarding experience," said U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Nikita Hupalo, an infantry Marine with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. "I learned a lot from the overall course, from the classroom phase through the field phase, and now

I feel better prepared to lead Marines in any combat environment. As Marines, we are expected to respond to any crisis. This course gave me the tools I need to better prepare my squad for any challenge."

The Marines spent the first four weeks of the course studying tactics and procedures in a classroom environment and conducting physical training. The final two weeks were spent in a field environment applying the skills in various combat scenarios.

While conducting this training, Marines implemented preventative health precautions such as social distancing and the wearing of masks when applicable.

"Being able to conduct this course in Okinawa, with precautions added to account for the current global health situation, highlights 3rd Marine Division's ability to maintain training and operations



Photo by Cpl. Josue Marquez

A U.S. Marine with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division participates in the Advanced Infantry Marine Course on Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan, April 1. 3rd Marine Division conducts mission essential training to remain ready to respond to any crisis situation throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

regardless of the circumstances," said Division Gunner, Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Law from

3rd Marine Division.

3rd Marine Division continues to conduct mission essential training to

remain ready to respond to any crisis situation throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

## Camp Lejeune Post Office takes precautions to ensure safety during mailing procedures



Photos by Cpl. Alexia Lythos

U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune Post Office wear face coverings as a protective measure against the spread of COVID-19 on Camp Lejeune, April 10.

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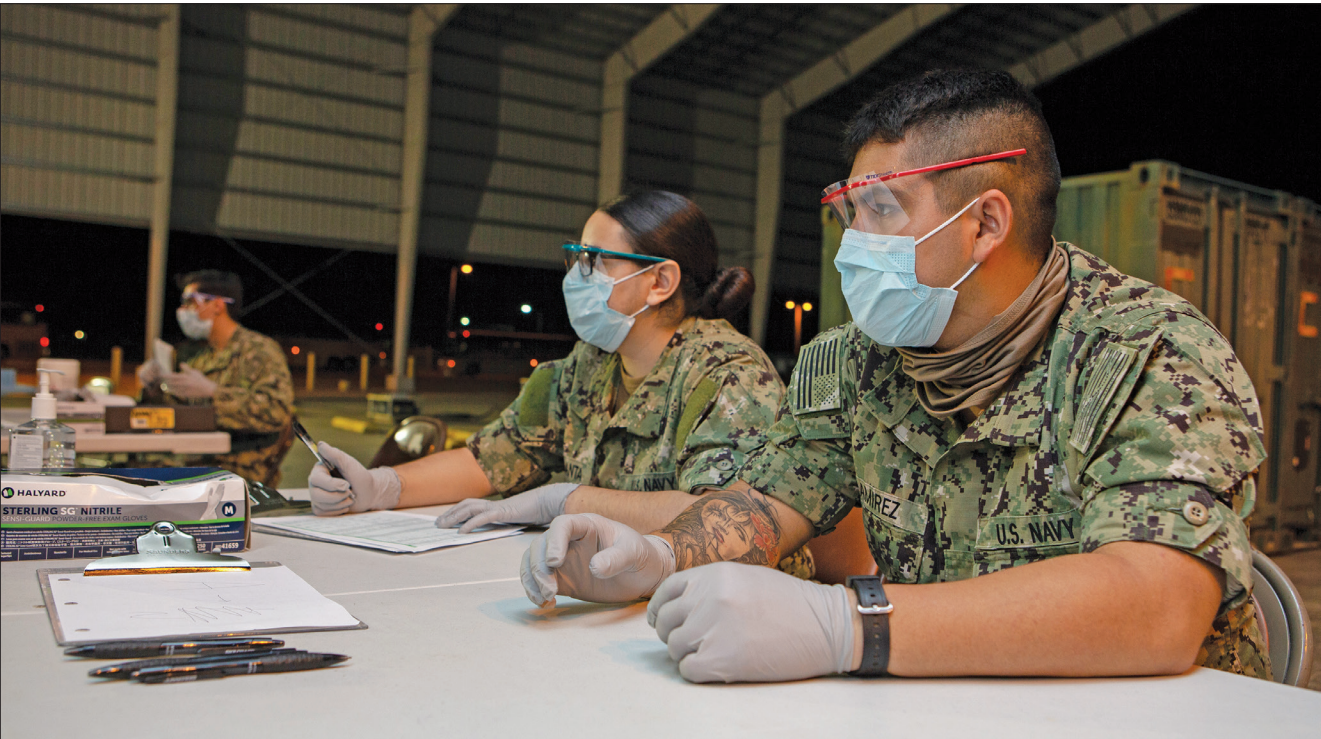


Lance Cpl. John Paul Aisa, a postal clerk with Headquarters and Support Battalion, distributes mail while wearing a face covering. A recent order by the commanding general, Marine Corps Installations East – MCB Camp Lejeune made it mandatory for individuals to possess and wear face coverings when in base activities in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



A U.S. Marine postal clerk from Camp Lejeune Post Office takes precautionary measures when handling items by wearing rubber gloves. The purpose of these measures is to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while enabling the personnel in mission-critical facilities to continue to perform their tasks.

# Navy Corpsmen at Cherry Point screen Marines before their MCCSSS training



U.S. Navy Corpsmen medically screen entry-level Marines arriving at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, April 8. The Marines were screened to ensure they were healthy prior to attending their respective Military Operational Specialty (MOS) schools. Nearly 100 of the Marines who were screened will go on to attend their MOS training with Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools (MCCSSS) at Camp Johnson.



U.S. Navy Lt. Rachel Ames, a Medical Officer with MCCSSS, communicates with Corpsmen over a plane phone.



U.S. Navy Sn. Eugenio Beltre, a Corpsman with MCCSSS, screens Pfc. Itzel Mixquilt, an entry-level Marine.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Nicolas Atehortua



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## Marine Corps Half Marathon to be finale of 2020 Grand Prix Trifecta

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER  
Sports Writer

Since the Marine Raiders Mud, Sweat and Tears five-mile mud run was canceled due to COVID-19, the MCCS Lejeune-New River Grand Prix Series has made the Marine Corps Half Marathon scheduled for Sept. 12 the final race in the 2020 Trifecta, a trio of series races.

Runners who competed in the first two Trifecta events, the X-treme Endurance Challenge and the St. Paddy's Engineer Challenge, can receive their Trifecta medal once completing the Marine Corps Half Marathon or its five-mile option.

Though some might be weary of COVID-19 lingering through the summer, MCCS Lejeune-New River Fitness Branch Head

Mary Troja is remaining optimistic that people will be able to run the Marine Corps Half Marathon, an event many people use as a warm up for October's Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC.

"It's very scenic," Troja said of the half marathon on Camp Lejeune. "It's a flat and fast course. It's a great training run if runners are training to run the Marine Corps Marathon in Quantico at the end of October."

The half marathon begins and ends at Goettge Memorial Fieldhouse on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Runners participating in the Trifecta are allowed to do the five-mile.

For more information or to register for the race, visit [www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/grandprix](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/grandprix).



Runners make their way down Heroes Mile during the 2019 Marine Corps Half Marathon on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Photo by Erin Vance

## Former Devil Pup now captain of UNCW track team



UNC Wilmington junior track captain Da'Rod Crutchfield spent four years at Lejeune High School and won three state medals as a long jumper. Now, he's shooting for UNCW's all-time athletics record book and a profession in career development for student-athletes.

Photos by Joe Browning/UNCW Athletics

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER  
Sports Writer

Da'Rod Crutchfield, a 2017 Lejeune High School graduate, is no stranger to winning. He won an individual state championship and three regionals as a long jumper at LHS as well as three regional team championships.

Crutchfield is now a junior at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) and captain of the track team, but the support he got during high school remains with him today.

"The environment and the culture at Lejeune was the key factor in my success," Crutchfield said.

"Everybody pushed me to strive to be the best that I could."

Spending four years at LHS was a memorable experience for Crutchfield, who rarely stayed in one place for long growing up.

"Without the Lejeune staff and all the teachers that I've met throughout the years, I wouldn't

be the person that I am today," Crutchfield said.

"I definitely take all their support, and all the knowledge they gave me, and put it into the knowledge that I have now."

Last spring, Crutchfield won a pair of silver medals at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships in the long jump and

the 4x100-meter relay, but winning medals isn't all he's focused on.

He is majoring in recreational sports leadership and tourism and is a part-time intern for student-athlete support at UNCW. He serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, is a member of the Student-Athlete

Leadership Society and wants to work in the career development of student-athletes.

With spring sports at UNCW canceled due to COVID-19, Crutchfield will have two more years of eligibility to accomplish his goal of writing his name in UNCW athletics' all-time record book.

## Former Stallion signs with JUCO national champs

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER  
Sports Writer

Southwest Onslow High School graduate Dharyus Thomas, class of 2019, has decided to continue his basketball career at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst after playing last season at the Washington Academy in Greenville.

After a learning experience in Greenville, and going up against talent like five-star LSU recruit Cam Thomas and Oak Hill Academy, Thomas says he's only gotten better.

"It took me some time to get comfortable with the team," Thomas said. "Then I grew into it. I started becoming a better person on and off the court."

While earning his associate degree from Sandhills, Thomas hopes to get noticed by a four-year college. He's also happy to be able to continue to play the game, especially for Coach

Mike Apple, who won his second NJCAA Division III National Championship at Sandhills in March.

"Coach Apple makes sure his players know what they have to do in the classroom," Thomas said. "He's always on their backs. I like how he approaches things."

Thomas wants to step in and make a big impact for the Flyers, who went 34-2 last season, and continue to grow the school's reputation for finding and developing good basketball players.

"I'm really excited for what I've got to bring to the plate next year," Thomas said. "I want to go there and make a name for myself."

Thomas was the 2019 Coastal 8 Conference (1A/2A) Player of the Year as voted on by the league's coaches and played in last year's North Carolina Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game.



Dharyus Thomas, center, signs to play basketball at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst, North Carolina in the company of his parents and Coach Mike Apple, back.

Courtesy photo



# Swansboro guard signs with Methodist

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER  
Sports Writer

Swansboro High School senior shooting guard Isaiah Rodriguez has signed to continue his playing career at Methodist University in Fayetteville.

Rodriguez averaged just over 10 points and five rebounds per game last season for the Pirates, who finished 9-17 overall, and made the Onslow County Classic's all-tournament team after leading Swansboro to a second place finish.

"I've been wanting to play college basketball my whole life," Rodriguez said. "That was always the goal, to be able

play an extra four years somewhere I could call home. When I finally got that offer, and was able to make my decision, it was a dream come true."

Rodriguez will be teaming up with Living Water Christian's Dae-kwon King, who committed to Methodist earlier this month. The two will strive to continue Methodist's winning ways. The Monarchs won the USA South Tournament Championship in February to cap off their fourth-straight winning season.

Known as a sharp-shooter, Rodriguez says he'll use his best attribute - passing - to make an immediate impact at Meth-

odist. He said hard work is what his teammates and fans can expect from him.

"I'm ready to go in, work as hard as I can and be able to make others around me better and just continue that winning tradition," Rodriguez said.

Making the transition to a new school and city shouldn't be too hard for Rodriguez, who said moving around as a military child had a big impact on him.

"It pretty much made me into who I am today," Rodriguez said. "I got to travel the world, see a lot of places (and) meet a lot of new people. It built my social skills ... having to make new friends every move."



Swansboro High School senior Isaiah Rodriguez looks to make a pass against Havelock on Jan. 28.

# Dixon's Jeffers signs with Salem State



Dixon High School senior Payton Jeffers signs to play softball at Salem State University in Massachusetts during an in-home signing ceremony and birthday celebration, April 19.

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER  
Sports Writer

Dixon High School senior Payton Jeffers signed to play college softball for Salem State University in Massachusetts on April 19, her

18th birthday, at an in-home signing ceremony and celebration.

"I'm very, very excited," Jeffers said of the opportunity. "The group of girls that I am going to be playing with are awesome ... Knowing

that I am going to get to play a sport I love for four more years is just a dream come true."

Playing volleyball and basketball in addition to softball, Jeffers said, helped her pursue college softball by main-

taining a passion for the sport. As a kid, Jeffers played in the MCCS Youth Sports leagues on base, where she met Dixon senior Madison Orona in 2010.

"Our relationship is very important to me,

because she has always been like my best friend in sports and outside of sports," Orona said. "We've always had classes together and we've always played sports together, since we were in elementary

school."

Orona plans to attend Anderson University in South Carolina this fall when Jeffers heads north to try and help Salem State back to its first NCAA Division III Tournament since 2012.



Dixon High School seniors Payton Jeffers, left, and Madison Orona, right, are daughters of retired U.S. Marines and met while playing in MCCS Youth Sports leagues back in 2010.

## Sports Talk

with Matthew Sokol

**Current position:**  
Multimedia Copy Editor on Gannett's Carolinas East Production Desk

**Previous job:** Sports writer for The Globe

**Favorite sports team:**  
New York Yankees

Sports Talk is a Q&A series in which sports writer Calvin Shomaker talks with people who work in sports media.

**CS: Who is your favorite Yankee of all-time?**  
**MS:** Derek Jeter

**CS: What do you miss most about working for The Globe?**  
**MS:** Covering the Devil Pups. I think it was a very special thing to be able to cover Lejeune. It was a very unique beat, and I miss the writing.

**CS: What were a couple of the highlights during your time here?**  
**MS:** The Lejeune boys' soccer team's playoff run in 2018 (state semifinals) and the girls' tennis team's incredible playoff run in 2018 (state semifinals).

**CS: Who was the best**

**high school athlete you saw play while working for The Globe?**  
**MS:** Desmond Johnson, not just because of his on-the-field play, but also because of his character and his professionalism. He had that Marine Corps mentality, which makes sense being at Lejeune, but he was just a great guy overall.

**CS: How would you sum up the value of newspapers for community members?**  
**MS:** Local journalism is very important. I think people in the local community depend on that news and want to hear that news. It's our responsibility to provide that story to them and do it in an ethical manner ... In these tough times for journalism, I think journalists have to stick together.

They have to continue to tell that story no matter the hard times we are in, but I think journalism is still going strong.

**CS: What advice would you give to kids who are considering a career in journalism?**  
**MS:** Experience, experience, experience ... Give it time (and) put the hard work in because good things take a lot of effort. Just stick with it.

**CS: What's something you're looking forward to when sports return?**  
**MS:** To see baseball start. I think it's really weird not seeing any games right now, and all sports in general; it's just a part of our lives. There will be a sense of normalcy when we do see sports again, even if it's not in person.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### MALACHI BORDERS

**Sport:** Basketball  
**School:** Living Water Christian  
**Class:** Senior

**Quick Facts:**

- Attended Lejeune his first three years of high school
- Has committed to play basketball at William Peace University in Raleigh
- Led the Warriors to second in the state and third in the nation
- NC Christian South Conference Player of the Year

**Q: WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU ACCOMPLISHED THIS PAST SEASON THAT YOU'RE PROUD OF?**  
**A:** Having a great relationship with all the guys ... What I pulled away from this season was I have brothers now for a long time, so that's one of my big pickups from this last season. I have a huge support system now, not only with college but the rest of life.

**Q: DID YOU NOTICE A BIG IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR GAME FROM YOUR JUNIOR TO SENIOR SEASON?**  
**A:** Most definitely. My biggest thing that I improved on was my scoring ability and becoming a better teammate.

**Q: WHAT IS THE KEY TO GETTING RE-**

**CRUITED?**  
**A:** What separates you from another player is if you have grades and game film ... Your grades can pay for school, because at the Division III level they aren't allowed to offer athletic scholarships, so if you have great grades they're willing to give you top tier educational scholarships.

**Q: WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER ABOUT LEJEUNE?**  
**A:** Academics. Lejeune is so fundamentally sound with academics ... There's just so much with the academic field that Lejeune has to offer.

**Q: WHAT KIND OF PLAYER ARE YOU ON THE FLOOR?**  
**A:** A leader .. When

crunchtime comes I want the ball in my hands making big decisions.

**Q: IS THERE A PLAYER YOU MODEL YOUR GAME AFTER?**  
**A:** I'm a true point guard, and you don't see that too much anymore; you see a lot of scoring guards. My top three when I was coming up were Chris Paul, Tony Parker (and) Steve Nash - people who could really pass the ball and just make way for other people on the court by getting them in the offense or putting them in positions they need to be.

**Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS CAREER WISE?**  
**A:** Once I get my degree at William Peace I want to go to the Air Force and be an officer.

If you'd like to nominate an area athlete for Athlete of the Week, email [cshomaker@camplejeuneglobe.com](mailto:cshomaker@camplejeuneglobe.com). (Nominations must have connections to the local military community.)



# My top three:

## Things to know about the 2020 NFL Draft



### SPORTS FOCUS

**CALVIN SHOMAKER**  
Sports Writer

Round one of the 2020 NFL Draft begins tonight at 8 p.m. Here are three things you should know about this year's draft.

#### No. 1 - The draft is being held virtually.

One of the most interesting aspects of the 2020 NFL Draft has nothing to do with the teams or the players, but rather with how the draft is being held. In accordance with social distancing guidelines caused by COVID-19, teams will conduct their draft operations, including making their selections and negotiating trades, online via video conferencing.

#### No. 2 - QB Joe Burrow will likely go No. 1 followed by DE Chase Young.

Barring anything crazy, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback from LSU will be drafted No. 1 overall by the Cincinnati Bengals. Burrow, who went to high school in Ohio, will have high expectations in year one after throwing an all-time record 60 touchdown passes and winning a national championship last season in Baton Rouge. Ohio State defensive

end Chase Young is expected to go No. 2 to the Washington Redskins. Young, who has the potential to grow into one of the game's best defensive players, recorded 16.5 sacks and forced six fumbles for the Buckeyes last season.

#### No. 3 - The wide receiver class is stacked.

Out of ESPN's top 20 available players, five are wide receivers, and some

analysts are saying 12 or more wideouts could be off the board by the end of round two. A few receivers garnering the most attention are Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III, CeeDee Lamb from Oklahoma, LSU's Justin Jefferson and Brandon Aiyuk of Arizona State.

While Jeudy will likely be the top prize for teams drafting a receiver first, Ruggs III ran the fastest 40-yard dash of anyone at the combine, clocking a 4.27. Lamb, Jefferson and Aiyuk also have high ceilings and are capable of making big impacts in their rookie seasons no matter where they're drafted.

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## Sports on TAP

For more information on games, tryouts, special events and exercise classes around MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, check out Sports on Tap each week. To add your activity, call (910) 451-7421. Availability is limited to space. To add your event to our website calendar, visit [www.camplejeuneglobe.com](http://www.camplejeuneglobe.com).

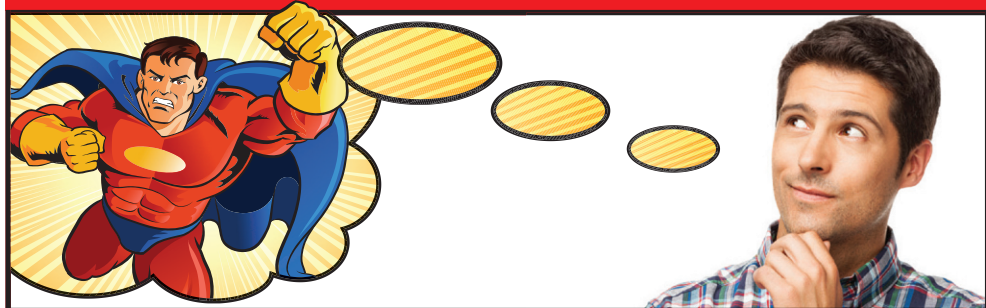


### Semper Fit Virtual Run

Now through May 31, MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River

Complete three of 10 courses ranging from 2.4 miles to 13 miles by May 31 to receive a free USAA Grand Prix Series t-shirt from one of our past running events. Feel free to walk, run or bike the courses with your stroller or pet. All courses start and finish at either Wallace Creek or New River Fitness Centers. Proof of completion must be provided by cell phone or smart watch in order to earn your t-shirt. To view route options, visit the event page on MCCS Lejeune-New River's Facebook page. Shirts will be available for pick-up at the Wallace Creek Fitness Center once normal operations return. For more information, email [lejgrandprix@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:lejgrandprix@usmc-mccs.org).

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## PART 4

# 10 years later, 2nd MEB-A remembers service in Afghanistan

BY PAT GRUNER  
Managing Editor

**Part 4: Female Engagement Teams break barriers, make history**

*From May 29, 2009 to April 12, 2010 the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade was deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Over the course of that year, Marines would establish expeditionary installations, train Afghan police and soldiers, take back Taliban controlled strategic hubs and lay down for posterity new operating procedures among the U.S. Marine Corps.*

“One thing I saw as a child, being surrounded by war and conflict, was that while my brothers could serve I, as a woman, could not,” said Hali Jilani, a civil-military liaison with 2nd MEB-A during their time in Helmand. “I saw no women in policy-making. When I met (U.S. Marine Corps Gen.) Larry Nicholson in Fallujah, I told him ‘you are not talking to the 50 percent of the population who are not bombing you or shooting at you. You need to utilize your women Marines.’”

Jilani is an ethnic Afghan who spent time in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2003 to 2010. She grew up on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan, with her parents under frequent fire for their work assisting Bengali families out of Pakistan and to Bangladesh. In 2008 and 2009, she worked with 2nd MEB-A helping to implement Female Engagement Teams (FETs), the first of their kind in warfare.

“The Marine Corps initiated the FET to help reach the other half of the Afghanistan population because the males were not able to communicate or engage with the female population of the Afghan people,” said retired U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Raquel Painter, who

served on FET’s with 2nd MEB-A. “The FET opened doors for female Marines and displayed the capabilities females can bring to the fight.”

2nd MEB-A’s FETs were a special breed. Much like the rest of the MEB, where everyone was expected to wear as many hats as was necessary, FETs were ad hoc to bring in the most qualified and dedicated women Marines.

“The MEB at the time of arrival didn’t bring dedicated female teams to function solely in female engagement roles,” said retired U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. Julia Watson, who was attached to 4th Civil Affairs Group with the MEB and would go on to operate I Marine Expeditionary Forces dedicated FETs. “To conduct engagements, the MEB had been able to borrow/source motivated and hard-charging female Marines and Sailors that were in theater in other jobs or unit requirements. The service women that would support engagement operations were also able to conduct searches similar to Lioness function in Iraq. The teams would pop in and out of locations for brief times as needed; they had anecdotal evidence of value with engagements and information gathering, but were not in the communities long enough to follow-through on relationships or stability operations.”

Unlike engaging an enemy, FET Marines were called on to engage with Afghan women and children in a way that made them open to receiving aid and, possibly, getting men on board with Marine presence.

“This was about gaining the trust of women on the ground,” Jilani said. “It was not an intel operation. People would ask that FETs fall under the wing of a specific group,



Marines with a Female Engagement Team on 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade - Afghanistan pose for a photo with local children in Helmand Province, 2009.

but the FETs had to be entities in their own right to function properly. Otherwise, they will lose their purpose. We asked the Marines, men and women, to break bread with the Afghan people, or to play with their kids. Make it personal. Helmand was amazing in terms of allowing Marines to relate to women and children on a personal level.”

FETs also helped to assure women and children had access to medical assistance as

needed. Women Marines and Sailors would direct women to clinics where they could be treated by U.S. military personnel. Painter recalls an instance where only men arrived at a clinic. Her teams saw to it that women got their treatment as well.

“I took my FET members and the female medical personnel and patrolled from compound to compound to help the females and children of the villages,” Painter said. “Security was provided

by the Afghan Army and 2nd Tanks Bn. That was when I learned the importance of the FET in reaching out to the females and children of the Afghan population.”

The FETs also worked at a tactical level.

“A shootout had occurred and a young man had been killed,” Jilani recalled. “He was confirmed to be connected to the Taliban but we were still refined to our trucks. It was tense and we wanted to deescalate the situation. I took a few female Marines to keep an eye on me and we went to speak with the villagers. ... A young woman told me, ‘I just want my children to be safe.’ I asked if I could see her daughters and she handed them over, no problem. I took them to see the Marines (men and women) and let them spend some time with them. It was a very human moment.”

Possibly most importantly, the work of FETs with 2nd MEB-A also made a big difference in changing restrictions placed on women service members in combat zones.

“Although anecdotal and immeasurable, the MEB FETs and the I MEF

FETs have paved the way for our military forces to take a bigger and broader approach to engagement during all forms of future operations and in different theaters,” Watson said.

“I believe that there was enough movement forward to progress the idea of the use of gender on the battlefield and what we need to prepare to study about gender roles, how we work with NGOs (non-governmental organizations), the State Department and other key leaders to build stability. Instead of reacting, our military will build the capacity within its ranks and we will be more prepared to fight and resolve conflicts faster with longer lasting outcomes. Both our men and women will be better equipped to engage with the local population as a whole.”

FETs would go on to be implemented by the Army in future conflicts, and other nations such as Canada have sought advice from Marines who spent time in and around FETs.

“It took a man like Larry Nicholson to understand how women can have an impact on conflict and cultures,” Jilani said. “The MEB was an amazing outfit.”



Raquel Painter, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. who served with Female Engagement Teams as part of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade - Afghanistan, shares part of her rations with an Afghani child in Helmand Province, 2009.

## Mobile Food Drive spreads cheer, not virus



Photos by Pat Gruner

A volunteer with Mt. Caramel HELPS Inc. gives an Easter basket to a driver during a Mobile Food Drive at Mittie's Kitchen in Jacksonville, April 9. The food drive provided supplies while volunteers practiced proper techniques to stop the spread of COVID-19.

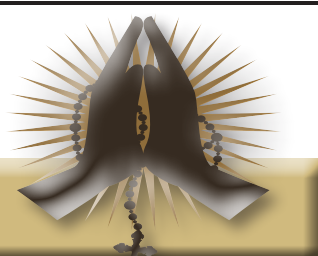


A volunteer in protective ware stands by to administer temperature checks during the drive. A sign specifically tells drivers to stay in their vehicles and practice social distancing.





# Thriving amid adversity



## CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

BY CMDR. BRANDON S. HARDING

CREDO Director, Marine Corps Installations East

We are living in interesting times. COVID-19 has impacted our lives in unexpected ways. Who knew how difficult it would be to find some personal hygiene items? Life's challenges can feel overwhelming due to the uncertainty we face. Thankfully, military service members and their families have learned how to thrive in uncertainty. We can use this opportunity for personal and spiritual development. A spiritual leader recently stated, "the joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives." With that in mind I have a suggestion of how we can direct the focus of our lives for growth. We can do more than just survive COVID-19, we can T.H.R.I.V.E. through this experience.

- Thankful
- Hope
- Rituals
- Introspection
- Volunteer
- Exercise

*Thankful* - Focus on things for which to be thankful. Think of the smallest to the biggest. Find two to three new items each day.

*Hope* - Hope is oriented to the future. Imagine the positive possibilities that lie ahead. Write them down. Make something visual.

*Rituals* - Rituals and routines bring order to chaos. They bring structure to emptiness. Make a daily routine and stick to it. Create rituals that connect you to something bigger.

*Introspection* - Use this time to take thorough inventory of your life. Are there areas you need to

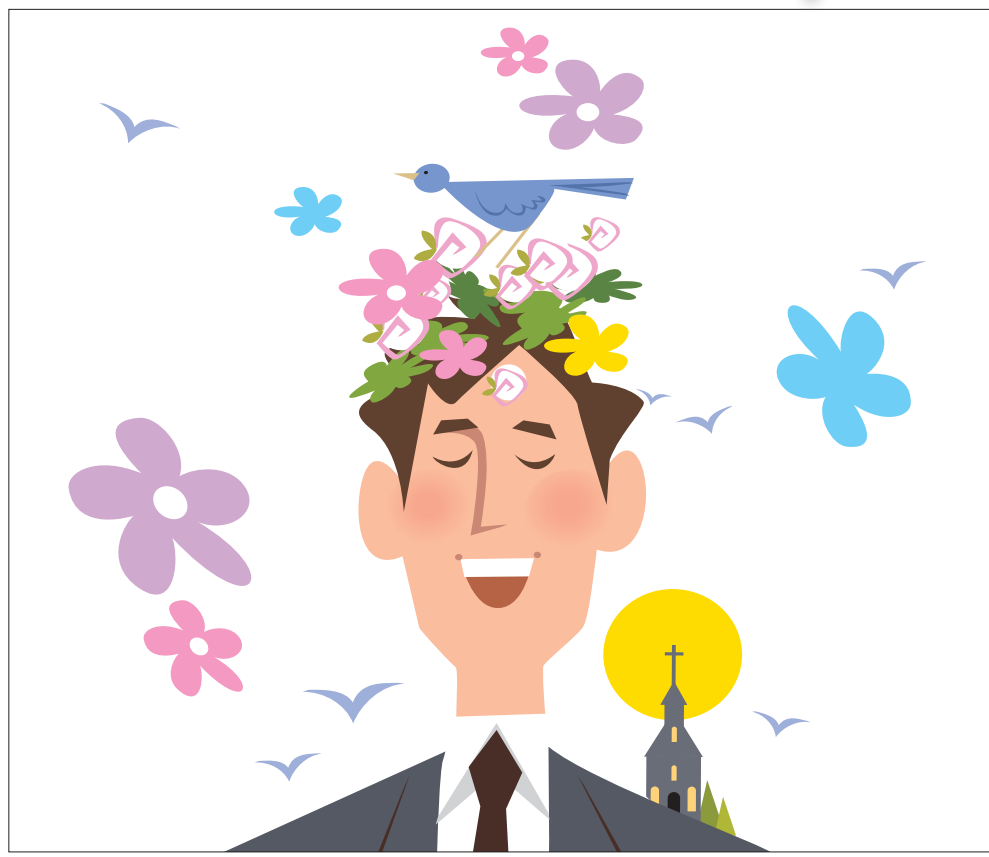
work on? Make a plan for improvement.

*Volunteer* - Think creatively how you can serve others. Send an email/text to someone who may need some encouragement. Give a roll of TP to a neighbor.

*Exercise* - Studies continue to show the benefits of exercise in all aspects of life, not just physical. During the time gyms are closed, get creative with your workouts. One can always go for a walk/run.

While the COVID-19 experience has its challenges, we can make the best of it. That's what military service members and their families have learned to do. If you need help in developing your plan to THRIVE, contact your chaplain or the CREDO office.

God Bless and Semper Paratus!



## OCS resumes nutrition hubs following spring break

### COURTESY STORY

Onslow County Schools

Following a pause over spring break, free lunch provided by Onslow County Schools (OCS) for children ages 1-18 years will resume on Monday, April 20. Except as noted below,

lunch and a breakfast item will be provided for pick-up at 10 schools and three satellite sites from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. All locations continue to be drive-through or walk-up only. No space will be provided for eating on site and multiple meals

may be picked up by parents and caregivers.

"The school system is acutely aware of the needs of our school community, and we are grateful for all who have been providing food assistance to our children during this crisis," said OCS Superintendent Dr.

Barry Collins. "As the number of COVID-19 cases has increased over the past weeks, OCS has worked hard to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and maximize available resources. The decision to pause nutrition hubs over the break was not an easy

one. However, it allowed our hard-working and dedicated nutrition staff time to retool and prepare for serving through the remaining school closure."

"Since meal service began on March 17, student nutrition staff working our sites had

been going full out," said Steve Meyer, OCS chief operating officer. "Through Thursday, April 9, they served over 255,000 meals."

For school-related COVID-19 information, visit <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/Domain/9099>.

### School Hubs:

- Clyde Erwin Elementary Magnet School
- Dixon Elementary School\* (serving from 11 am – 1 pm)
- Hunters Creek Elementary School\*
- Jacksonville High School\*
- Northside High School\*
- Northwoods Elementary School
- Richlands Elementary School\*
- Southwest Elementary School
- Southwest High School\*
- Swansboro High School\*

### \*Student Technology Repair Site Satellite Hubs:

- Belleau Woods: 145 Harbord Drive, Midway Park
- Christian Community Church: 732 9 Mile Road, Richlands
- Belgrade Community Center: 482 Springhill Road, Maysville

## Virtual concert protects, entertains and informs



Courtesy photo

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Mike Corrado, commanding officer, Deployment Processing Command and Reserve Support-Unit East, held a Live Stream Virtual Concert along with the USO of North Carolina on Facebook, April 9. Corrado played songs from his catalog as a recording musician and also provided insight on how the USO of N.C. is assisting service members across North Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic. The concert was also an example of social distancing-compliant entertainment to ensure safety for area residents.

## COVID-19

**All updates involving MCIEAST and NMCCCL will be posted here:**

### ONLINE

- [www.lejeune.marines.mil/](http://www.lejeune.marines.mil/)
- [www.newriver.marines.mil/](http://www.newriver.marines.mil/)
- [www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcl/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcl/Pages/default.aspx)

### SOCIAL MEDIA



- @camp.lejeune
- @mcasnewriver
- @NMCCLejeune



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### MORE INFO

For additional guidance on COVID-19, please visit [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)



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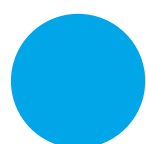
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