



THE EMBLEM

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JANUARY 24, 2013

WWW.ALBANY.MARINES.MIL

VOL. 57, ISSUE NO. 3

Base celebrates 'Amer-I-CAN' dream

Erin Walkey
Student Assistant

Outfitted in black and white, with hands pressed over their hearts, more than a dozen students from the International Studies Elementary Charter School, Albany, Ga., lead the Pledge of Allegiance in English and Spanish during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony held here, Jan. 15.

Holding cardboard signs to remind the audience of King's legacy, the children also sang two songs to inspire the service members, Civilian-Marines, families and guests attending the observance at the Base Chapel.

Col. Don Davis, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, welcomed the attendees and encouraged them to be visionaries.

"Visionaries set a new path that is less bleak, more hopeful and changed for the better," he said.

Davis and guest speaker, Jennifer Robinson Watts, challenged the audience to continue King's dream during the event themed, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"

Watts is the assistant public defender, Southwestern Judicial Circuit, Americus, Ga., and has more than 20 years of experience in criminal defense. She assists clients from many of the surrounding counties and is the lead attorney for the State Court of Sumter County.

"As I thought about the challenges and the issues that he faced back then, I began to realize they are the same challenges and issues we face today," Watts said. "What affects one part of the country directly affects us all indirectly."

Americans can solve the nation's problems, she said, citing such tragedies as the numerous mass shootings that have happened recently around the country.

Watts quoted King who said, "We are tied in a single garment of destiny."

The other parts of the country's worries are our worries and we can solve this problem, she added.

"The last four letters of American are 'I CAN' and we can solve these problems," Watts noted. "We are European-Amer-I-CANs, African-Amer-I-CANs, Asian-Amer-I-CANs, Latino-Amer-I-CANs, Hispanic-Amer-I-CANs. We are Amer-I-CANs, so we can solve this as Amer-I-CANs."

Watts also quoted President Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person at some other time. We are the ones we are wait-



Above: Students with the International Studies Elementary Charter School lead the Pledge of Allegiance during Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany's 2013 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance, Jan. 15.



Right: Jennifer Robinson Watts, assistant public defender, Southwestern Judicial Circuit, Americus, Ga., talks with an attendee following MCLB Albany's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance at the Base Chapel, Jan. 15.

Photos by Marti Gattlin

ing for. We are the change that we seek.

"We must walk hand-in-hand as we press forward," she said.

Staff Sgt. Juana DeLosSantos, equal opportunity advisor, Marine Corps Logistics Command, who attended the more than hourlong ceremony, echoed Watts' sentiments.

"Regardless of where we come from, we can all come together for a common goal and answer the question, 'how do we get there?'" she said.

In keeping with the observance's theme, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany's Gospel Choir sang several songs about helping others and rising above bad times. The choir also had the entire congregation join them in the tune, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

MCLB Albany and the Albany Area Chapter of Blacks in Government sponsored the event.

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VITA tax service saves \$\$\$\$ in refunds for active, retired personnel

Nathan L. Hanks Jr.
Editor

Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany's Tax Center has provided free tax assistance to active-duty military, retirees and their family members for more than 20 years.

The Tax Center officially opened Tuesday and is located in Building 3500, Room 10.

The center's hours of operation will be Mondays through Fridays from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment or obtain more information, call 229-639-6186.

To assist filers with what can sometimes seem to be a daunting task is a group of Marines known as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives.

"Marines working in the Tax Center are volunteers and have been trained to prepare taxes," Gunnery Sgt. Morgon W. Latimore, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Tax Center, said. "The Marines have undergone a one-week tax preparation training course, which consists of learning how to prepare 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and the Georgia Form 500, and other forms."

The Marines will provide patrons



File photo

Military personnel and retirees who are wanting to file their income tax returns here are asked to call 229-639-6186 to schedule an appointment as soon as possible. Tax season ends April 15.

with tax advice and prepare electronic filing of state and federal tax returns until the end of tax season, April 15, Latimore said, who is responsible for overseeing the center's daily operations and ensuring taxes are prepared properly.

"We will assist tax payers beginning January 22, but the returns will not be

sent to the Internal Revenue Service until the first filing day," Sgt. Phillip Alexander, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Tax Center, said. "The first day of the filing season is January 30."

To help expedite the filing process, tax payers must bring the following:

* Bank account and routing numbers

for direct deposit (Bring a voided check or deposit slip for both savings and checking accounts in case money is owed.)

* Military and family member identification cards

* Spouse's and children's social security cards

* Date of birth for self and all family members

* Social security numbers or employer identification numbers for all day care providers, amounts paid and addresses

* If a service member is overseas and the spouse is filing for both, the spouse must bring a power of attorney authorizing them to file and sign for service member.

* 2011 Tax Return (not mandatory)

* W-2s - All W-2 forms for spouse and self for 2012

* 1099-INT - All interest-received statements for 2012

* 1099-MISC - Any miscellaneous income received, self-employment, rental property, etc. for 2012

* 1099-DIV - All dividends and gain from stocks and mutual funds for 2012

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Base hosts bench press competition

See page 3

MCLB Albany Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly Cloudy Hi 71, Lo 38	Partly Cloudy Hi 66, Lo 38	Partly Cloudy Hi 65, Lo 41

Social Media

Follow the latest happenings on base via Facebook and Twitter:

'Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.'

'MCLBAlbany'

MCLB Albany Updates

Marine and Family Services plans PCS brief

A permanent change of station brief is being held today from 8-11 a.m. in Building 7200.
For more information, call 229-639-5278.

Marine Corps Exchange and Information, Tickets and Tours closes for inventory

The Marine Corps Exchange and Information, Tickets and Tours will close Monday for inventory.
For more information, call 229-888-6801.

Marine Corps Exchange gas pumps close for tank testing

The Marine Corps Exchange gas pumps will close Monday for annual tank testing.
For more information, call 229-888-6801.

Budget for Baby Workshop date set

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society will host a Budget for Baby Workshop, Feb. 8 from 9-11 a.m. at Marine and Family Services in Building 7200.
Registration is required by Feb. 1.
Classes are open to active-duty service members, retirees and their family members.
Attendees will learn about financial adjustments associated with a new baby including increased expenses, pressure from consumers targeting new parents and entitlements available through government and private sources.
For more information, call 229-639-5278.

FRO announces Fun Night Out

Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany's family readiness officer has scheduled a Fun Night Out for military couples and single service members, Feb. 15 from 6-10 p.m.
The event will be held at the Town and Country Restaurant and Single Marine Lounge.
Child care will be provided by the Child Development Center at a cost of \$4 per child per hour.
To register a child at the CDC, call 229-639-5765.
For more information, call 229-639-8896.

MCCS to host education, career fair

Marine Corps Community Service will host an

Education and Career Fair on Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Building 7120.

The purpose is to provide employment and education opportunities for service members who are transitioning from the military, military spouses, family members and Department of Defense personnel.

For more information, call 229-639-9122.

Commissary offers Rewards Card

The free Commissary Rewards Card is available at the Commissary.
The card is designed to reduce the number of paper coupons patrons clip and carry - saving them time and money.

Adding digital coupons is done online after registering through www.commissaries.com/rewards/index.cfm.
New digital coupons typically become available every two to three weeks.

For more information, visit the website or ask in the Commissary.

PAO takes photos on Friday mornings

Command and promotion photos are taken by the Public Affairs Office staff every Friday morning.
Marines should arrive on time and in the proper uniform.

Service members should also ensure their ribbons are in the proper order and their uniforms fit according to Marine Corps uniform regulations.
All ranks must have a staff noncommissioned officer or above present during the photo session.

For more information, call 229-639-5216/5479.

Safety training DVDs available

Available for all employees, visit the Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany Risk Management Safety Training Library located in Building 3500, Room 301, to sign out training films and DVDs.

Look through the safety training DVD listings and find topics of interest.

Fill out a sign-out card and take the training film back to your worksite.

Conduct the training and return the DVD within 10 days.

For more information, call 229-639-5249.



THE EMBLEM

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Published by *The Albany Herald*, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense of the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

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Editorial content (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office staff at MCLB Albany, Ga.

Base Theater movies



This is 40
"R"
Friday, 7 p.m.



Parental Guidance
"PG"
Saturday, 7 p.m.



This is 40
"R"
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$4 for adults; \$2.50 for children age 6-11 and free for children younger than 5. Cash only.

MCCS Events

YMCA Spring soccer, T-ball registrations begin

Parents wanting to register their children for YMCA Spring soccer, T-ball and Itty-bitty T-ball may apply at Thomason Gym, which ends Wednesday.

For details on age, fees and season dates, call 229-639-5246.

Information, Tickets and Tours sells race car, basketball tickets

Information, Tickets and Tours has 2013 Daytona 500 and Atlanta Hawks tickets available for purchase.

For more information, call 229-639-8177.

Fitness center staff provides yoga classes

Daniels Family Fitness Center staff offers yoga classes every Monday from 9-10 a.m. and every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the fitness center.

For more information, call 229-639-6234.

MCFTB hosts Mommy and Me Playgroup

Marine Corps Family Team Building hosts Mommy and Me Playgroup Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Chapel Annex from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

For more information, call 229-639-7930.

Fitness center offers fit club

Daniels Family Fitness Center hosts Spouses Friday Fit club Fridays from 10-11 a.m.

For more information, call 229-639-6171.

Created by: GySgt Charles Wolf

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"I counted 100 but, 98 smashed your HEAD, NECK and FACE..., so you actually did 2. I highly recommended that you work on your upper body strength!"

Wolf
sempertoons.com

Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany hosts 2013 Bench Press Competition



Seven men and three women test their abilities in Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany's 2013 Bench Press Competition at Daniels Fitness Center, Jan. 16. The contestants competed to bench press pound-for-pound over their own body weights to win first, second or third place. After a warm-up, they each conducted three official lifts. According to Whitney Hendrix, fitness director, because none of the women could lift over their body weights, there are no over body weight scores for them. The female winners were based on who lifted closest to their body weights.



Bench Press Competition 2013

Male Category

Name	Final Lift	lbs over body weight
1st place – John Colbert	440	199
2nd place – Michael Henderson	430	197
3rd place – Bryant Drake	365	188

Female Category

Name	Final Lift
1st place – Lindsey Flammia	105
2nd place – Gwen McHan	85
3rd place – Techelle Matthew-Jackson	85



Photos by Marti Gatlin

Around the Corps



Cpl. Daniel Wetzel

Marines support 57th Presidential Inauguration

Cpl. Daniel Wetzel
Washington

WASHINGTON — In a tradition lasting more than 200 years, Marines from the President's Own Marine Band and Alpha and Bravo Company, Marine Barracks Washington, directly supported the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Monday.

More than 700 thousand people made their way to the National Mall to watch President Barack Obama begin his second term as Commander in Chief of the United States.

More than 21,000 service members supported the inauguration but only about 5,000 participated in the parade. They marched for about a mile and half

along the streets of Washington, from the Capitol to the White House. Although only about 300 Marines marched in the parade, this small unit represented the Marine Corps as a whole.

"At the start we march on the drums, then we play 'Semper Fidelis,' the official march of the Marine Corps," Master Gunnery Sgt. William Brown, drum major, President's Own, said. "Once we get in front of the White House, the president is in a reviewing stand. Alongside him is the commandant of the Marine Corps. It's the time where the commandant is able to display the Marine Corps to the president, which is why it is so very important that we look our absolute best and sound great."

Lance Cpl. Taylor Griffard considered himself

lucky to be a part of the ceremony. He marches with Bravo Company, a duty only held for two years, so he appreciates his tour falling in line with the Presidential Inauguration. Griffard said this was a great opportunity, regardless of political beliefs.

"This is huge for (Washington), not just as a community but for the entire country," Griffard said. "To be out here and to be able to go to this event is a rare and amazing opportunity."

For the Marines who participated, representing the Corps is a responsibility they don't take lightly.

"I think it's very important to have the Marine Corps involved in the inauguration for the president of the United States," Brown said. "We're America's Marine Corps."

III MEF Marines master bridge building

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
Marine Corps Installations Pacific

CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, Okinawa, Japan — As Marines traverse through the dense jungle, they stumble upon a 70-foot-wide trench approximately 50-foot-deep.

Without hesitation, the Marines pull out a 100-foot rope and lower a Marine down to cross the trench and start building a one-rope bridge.

Marines with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, practiced building one-rope bridges Jan. 10 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen on Okinawa, Japan.

The training took place during a tactical rope suspension techniques course taught by Special Operations Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

"A one-rope bridge is an expedient and convenient way to get a team and its gear across a wide gorge or trench," Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Fleming, an instructor with SOTG, said. "The Marines have to construct a bridge in less than 20 minutes to be able to pass the course."

A one-rope bridge is a complex rope system that stretches across a gap while tied to a tree or solid anchor on both sides of the gap. Marines attach themselves to the bridge and pull themselves across, according to Fleming.

The Marines began the training with a practical application of all the knots they had previously learned. Each Marine was blindfolded and timed while tying each knot, which were checked to ensure they were tied properly and securely.

"You have to be able to properly tie a knot under pressure to ensure that if you need to do it in a moment's notice to save a life, you can," Lance Cpl. Gage L. Theriot, a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division under the unit deployment program, said.

Once they were proficient in knot-tying techniques, the Marines started learning the basics of creating a one-rope bridge.

"To start building the bridge, you anchor a rope to a live tree that is at least five inches wide and five



Lance Cpl. Rian M. Lusk crosses a one-rope bridge during a tactical rope suspension techniques course Jan. 10 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen on Okinawa, Japan. Building a one-rope bridge is one of several events Marines in the course had to accomplish to pass. A one-rope bridge is a complex rope system that stretches across a gap and is tied to a tree on both sides, to which the Marines attach and pull themselves across. Lusk is a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

feet tall," Cpl. Trenton A. Douglass, a reconnaissance man with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, said. "This rope acts as a safety line, which is then carried across the gap by one Marine who secures it to another tree meeting the same requirements at a 45-degree angle across the gap."

After both ropes are properly secured, Marines attach a carabineer to their rope harness and the one-rope bridge and pull themselves across, according to Theriot.

After several hours of practicing building a one-rope bridge, the Marines held a friendly competition

to see who could construct the bridge the fastest.

"We were split into two teams of eight and taken to a gorge in the jungle to have the competition," Theriot said. "The teams were taken individually and timed to complete the objective on the same trees."

With good teamwork and support, both teams were able to accomplish the mission and were separated by just under 60 seconds, according to Fleming.

With new skills acquired, the Marines completed the course better prepared to meet challenges throughout Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region, according to Fleming.

Base Traffic Court convicts 30 violators

Base Traffic Court, held Jan. 15, sentenced 30 individuals for violating the Base Vehicle Traffic Regulations (Base Order P5560.9D) aboard the base.

Twenty-seven individuals were adjudicated as follows: 18 civil service/civilians, four military service members, one dependant, and four contractor employees. There were three individuals who failed to appear and considered as "no shows."

1. One individual convicted of driving without proof of insurance, failing to wear a seatbelt while driving and driving on a suspended driver's license was assessed a six month revocation of base driving privileges.

2. 18 individuals convicted of disobeying a posted stop sign were penalized an assessment of four points to their base driving records.

3. Two individuals convicted of traveling over the posted speed limit were penalized a 30-day probation period of base driving privileges and assessed four points to their base driving records.

4. One individual convicted of driving on suspended driver's licenses was penalized a 30-day suspension of base driving privileges and assessed six points to that person's base driving records.

5. Three individuals who failed to appear in BTC will receive 30 days suspension of base driving privileges.

6. The remainder of traffic violations adjudicated were minor in which individuals were issued warnings or assessed points for their infractions.

For more information about Base Traffic Court, call 229-639-7322.



Approved leave donation requests

The following employees are approved as leave donation recipients:

- * A member of Marine Depot Maintenance Command needs donations due to a family emergency.
- * Jaelyn Beckum, Marine Corps Logistics Command, needs donations due to medical reasons.
- * Phyllis J. Lewis, MCLC, needs donations due to

back surgery.

- * Donna McNair, MDMC, needs donations due to surgery.
- * Carrie Smith-Graef, MCLC, needs donations due to a medical emergency.

For more information, call the Labor/Employee Relations Office at 229-639-5255/5228.

Transition Readiness Seminar schedule

The following Transition Readiness Seminar dates are provided for Marines leaving the Marine Corps.

Feb. 4-8	June 3-7	Oct. 7-11
March 4-8	July No class	Nov. 4-8
April 1-5	Aug. 5-9	Dec. No class
May 6-10	Sept. 9-13	

TAX, from page 1

"If filing married and jointly, both do not need to be present, but the Tax Center will require a power of attorney to properly execute the tax return," Latimore said. "If filing married and separately, bring spouse's social security number and current name on social security card, and indicate whether spouse has already filed."

Upon arrival at the Tax Center, patrons must fill out an in-take and review sheet to provide the basic

information needed to start the process.

Latimore said the service may save tax payers up to \$400 in service fees. He also recommends filing taxes early to save time waiting for returns.

"As the tax season progresses, there will be more returns being processed and the turnaround time may increase," he said. "Generally speaking, the Tax Center can get your income tax refund in approximately seven to 10 days."

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