



Supporting the Marine Air Combat Element

# FLIGHT JACKET

ARABIAN GULF EDITION

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Vol.2, No.5

## AV-8Bs blitz targets

By Sgt. John C. DiDomenico

**SAUDI ARABIA --** Infantry Marines on the front lines were taking incoming Iraqi artillery rounds as Operation Desert Storm began last week. They quickly radioed for close air support.

The radio call was soon answered by aircraft from Marine Aircraft Group-13 (Forward.) After OV-10 Broncos spotted the firing unit, Marine AV-8B Harriers from the "Tomcats" of Marine Attack Squadron-311 from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., silenced the heavy guns.

According to Captain Frank D. Smith, mission pilot, flying one of the first missions of the air strikes was a little frightening.

"The bomb runs were a little scary," he said. "We were nervous at first, but calmed down once we began and concentrated on the mission."

Because of overcast skies, the four Harriers had to fly low. They spotted the Bronco's mark and began their dive with the nose of the Harrier on the target. They peppered the Iraqi artillery battery with 500 and 1,000 pound bombs, cluster bombs and Sidewinder missiles.

According to Capt. Smith, the trial by fire for the Harrier went by the numbers and was successful.

"This was the first time the plane has been used in combat. Our mission went perfectly, the way it was supposed to," he said. "There was no doubt in any of our minds that we neutralized that target. It was down hard and for good."

The four Vertical Short Take-off and Landing aircraft returned to their airfield and cheering Marines.

"We were proud to do our mission and succeed," Capt. Smith concluded. "As we walked back to our area, our Marines were cheering and congratulating us and taking photos. It was pretty awesome to participate on the first day."

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# Camp 53 Super Stallions get GPS

By Cpl. Joseph J. Dowdy

SAUDI ARABIA -- Marine Aircraft Group 16 CH-53E Super Stallions here were fitted with the Trimble Trimpack Global Positioning System for the first time Jan. 24. The units receiving the "G.P.S" were Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 465 and 466 deployed as part of Operation Desert Storm.

The pilots of the units receiving the land navigation device were instructed in its use by Capt. Dan J. Krall of HMH-466.

The GPS had limited use in the infantry field before it was applied to the aviation field. It is a shock-proof, water-resistant, hand-held or mounted, olive drab piece of equipment the size of a pizza box. It is designed not to be overloaded by external electromagnetic radiation and was built to specification for use by military ground vehicles, infantry units, and paratroopers.

It is one of two navigational aids that were considered add-on equipment for the CH-53E during their current deployment here. The other add-on is the Loran "C" navigational aid.

There are now five navigational aids that CH-53E pilots can use to carry out their mission. Of all the navigational instruments at the disposal of the pilots, the most accurate is the Loran "C" and the GPS. The Loran "C" is accurate to within approximately 100 meters from true position and the GPS is accurate to within approximately 8 meters.

The GPS is also superior to other navigational aids in many other areas.

Pilots using the GPS no longer will have to convert military grid reference system coordinates (used by the infantry) into

converted figures in the universal transverse meridian system (used by the Loran "C" and other navigational instruments). This is because the GPS uses military grid reference numbers as well as three other latitude-longitude coordinate number systems.

The GPS uses satellite signals unlike other navigational aids that rely on ground-based signals subject to terrain interference.

"I like it because of its accuracy and ease of use," said Capt. Krall. "Pilots I have instructed in its use find it user friendly and don't need much practice time with it. It's a simple unit and all the required information for its use is in every pilot's head."

After being referenced in a Marine Corps message, the 'G.P.S.' was researched and requested at MAG-16 three months ago. The units arrived around Christmas.

The two squadrons had little difficulty in installing the Trimpacks.

The maintenance shop from HMH-466 chose to install the units on the dashes of the instrument panels for easy viewing by the co-pilot/navigator and the pilot; and also so the device could be easily installed and removed.

"The GPS is extremely important to have, especially here in Southwest Asia, because there are few landmarks," Capt. Krall concluded. "At night we've used dead reckoning with night vision goggles to navigate in the past. It's tough to imagine getting off course when there are lives at stake; but without accurate navigational aids, that is what can happen. When we use the GPS, there is no guesswork."

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# NBC teams set up decon stations

By LCpl. Chago Zapata

SAUDI ARABIA -- No one wants to think about it for fear it might happen, but it's a reality. Chemical weapons are a very real possibility in this war considering Iraq's potential for that kind of attack. The possibility exists of Scud missiles and Iraq aircraft loaded with bombs carrying chemical agents and dropping them on U.S. bases.

Decontamination stations were built here for personnel, equipment and aircraft by a joint Marine Corps and Air Force Nuclear, Biological and Chemical team to be used in case of chemical attack.

"If we were to be hit by chemical agents, a survey team would check the area for actual contamination," said Corporal Craig A. Wardwell, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of aircraft decontamination for Marine Aircraft Group 11 NBC team. "Once that was determined the units' commanding officer would recommend which personnel would go to decon stations."

"Our job is to teach Marines from each squadron to decontaminate people, equipment and aircraft," said Sergeant Darrin B. Arthur, NCOIC of MAG-11 NBC team. "The stations here are run by people we trained from different squadrons, but any Marine should be able to decon anyone as long as there's someone there to show him."

According to Sgt. Arthur, there are three types of decontamination stations;

personnel, equipment and aircraft. About 10 people at a time run each station with each squadron providing reliefs.

The personnel decon stations consist of a water wash down and getting people out of the Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP suits). "It's just a matter of getting contaminated clothes off and making sure they're physically OK," Sgt. Arthur said.

"The equipment decon is like a car wash," said Cpl. Wardwell. "We spray the equipment with DS-2 (decontamination solution 2), water and use elbow grease to take care of the rest."

Corporal Wardwell said only water can be used on aircraft due to the corrosive qualities of DS-2 and other solutions used to decontaminate, like Super Tropical Bleach (STB 70 percent chlorine) and regular bleach (30 percent chlorine).

"We use only water for the aircraft and let natural decontaminants like wind, sun, rain and time take care of the rest," Cpl. Wardwell said.

The NBC teams are prepared to set up decontamination stations anywhere as long as the area is clean, said Sgt. Arthur.

"We're on duty 24 hours a day prepared for any chemical attack in any size, shape, or form," Sgt. Arthur said. "So when the time comes, if it comes, we'll be ready."

# You can't keep Americans down

By LCpl. Chris Hitchcock

**SAUDI ARABIA** -- Never in his worst nightmare did he think he would live in a desert. Never in his wildest dream did he think he would here his songs played on the radio. In Operation Desert Storm, both came true.

Corporal Mark B. Ratliff, of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-16 from Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, Calif., has been playing guitar for 12 years. He has written over 150 songs. But music had never been anything more than a hobby. Until now.

With nine years in the Marine Corps as an Aviation Ordnance Technician, Cpl. Ratliff knows how boring deployments can be. Especially to a remote location like Saudi Arabia. Early in the deployment, he decided to make sure that he had something to keep him busy.

"I had my mother send me my guitar," said Cpl. Ratliff. When I had time off I started to write songs again."

Unlike the songs he wrote for his church youth group, his latest compositions revolve around the everyday lives of his fellow Marines deployed in Operation Desert Storm.

One of his songs, "You Can't Keep Americans Down," was inspired by the wave of war protests in the States.

"I wanted people to understand that we can't let Hussein get away with the invasion of Kuwait," he said. "Just think what the world would have been like if we hadn't stopped Adolf Hitler. We have to do what's right."

Corporal Ratliff, originally with MALS-39 from MCAS Camp Pendleton, decided to record the songs and send them home to his

mother as a present. He set up a portable stereo in a tent and strummed away.

"The recording quality isn't that great," he said laughing. "You can hear the generators running in the background."

On the "flip side" of the tape, he recorded a second song called "Liberty, Booze, and Women."

"The song is really self-explanatory," he said smiling. "It's about the only things that the guys in my tent talk about."

When he mailed the tape to his mother, Cpl. Ratliff thought that would be the last time he heard it. He thought wrong.

His mother had other plans for his talent. When she received the tape she brought it to Charlie Tuna, a well known California disc jockey.

Tuna liked "You Can't Keep Americans Down" so much that he played it on his show that day. The response wasn't great. It was phenomenal. Tuna received more than 500 calls praising the song and requesting it to be played again.

The next day Charlie Tuna interviewed his mother on the phone and played "Liberty, Booze, and Women" as well.

"I can't believe the response my music has been getting. I've heard talk of record contracts, interviews with NBC and stuff like that. It's all like a dream come true."

Since then, Cpl. Ratliff has continued to write more songs based on the current conflict. The latest is titled "Hussein, Where You Gonna Go?"

Although he is in the spotlight, Cpl. Ratliff says most

**MUSIC from page 4**

of his inspiration came from his squadron.

"Being with ordnance is really different," he said. "You are always far from the main part of the squadron because of the explosives. You live like outcasts. That makes us a really tight group of people. My squadron has been extremely supportive. Sometimes I think they are more excited about this whole thing than I am."

When asked about his feelings on the war, he smiled and sang a chorus from one of his songs.

*"Gonna roll, roll, roll into that Baghdad town. We're gonna shave off your cheesy mustache and plant your head in the ground. Hussein, you've messed with the best, now we'll lay you to rest. You can't keep Americans down!"*

REGULATION REMINDERS

**OPERATIONAL SECURITY** - When responding to "Any Servicemember," family or friends' letters, personnel are reminded about Operational Security.

Never provide information such as unit size, location, morale, equipment or photographs as it pertains to the protection of military information.

**TENT CITY** - Tent areas are to be kept clean of debris and food. Eating in the tents is prohibited for health reasons. Filthy areas and food sources breed disease, insect and rat infestations.

**UNIFORMS** - All persons not on the flightline are required to wear their covers. Desert covers will be worn with the brim down.

To eat in the Marines' mess tent, a regulation T-shirt, cover, cammie trousers and boots must be worn.

Marines eating at the mainside mess hall must be in full uniform.

Marines should wear their utility blouse at all times except when working outdoors or in the field mess.

Cut-off utility trousers are unauthorized.

FLIGHT JACKET

The FLIGHT JACKET is a weekly newspaper published Wednesday. Persons having story ideas or suggestions should see a FLIGHT JACKET staff member at 3d MAW Public Affairs Offices. In the MAG-11 area, the office is located in the building next to the hangers in room 38 and can be reached at ext. 4340 on the blue phones. In the MAG-16 area, the office is located in the 3d MAW HQ compound in the first group of general purpose tents after the command post tents. We can be reached at 9-9269-310 on the green phone. Submissions for that week's paper must be received by 1600, Sundays.

MAG-11 AREA BASE SERVICES**Disbursing**

The Marine Corps Disbursing Office is located next to the post office and exchange. The hours are Monday thru Saturday, 0730 to 1800. On Sundays it is open from 0800 to 1200. The Marine Corps disbursers can only cash money orders, checks and traveller's checks. There is a \$750 limit per check and a maximum of \$1,000 per month.

**Barber Shop**

The barber shop is open daily from 0900 to 1800. All haircuts are \$3.50.

**Exchange**

The Marine Corps Exchange is open daily from 0800 to 1300 and 1500 to 2000.

**Post Office**

The Marine Corps Post Office is open daily from 0800 to 1100 and 1200 to 1700. Money orders and stamps are available Monday thru Saturday.

**Movies**

Movies are on the shown on the screen between the field mess and tent city every night at 1920.

**Mess Hall Hours**

*Monday thru Friday:*  
 Breakfast: 0500 - 0830  
 Lunch: 1000 - 1400  
 Dinner: 1730 - 2030

MAG-13 AREA BASE SERVICES**Disbursing**

The Marine Corps Disbursing Office is located next to the Marine Corps Exchange. The hours are Monday thru Saturday, 0730 to 1700. On Sundays it is open from 1000 to 1400. The Marine Corps disbursers can cash money orders, checks and traveller's checks. There is a \$750 limit per check and a maximum of \$1,000 per month.

**Exchange**

The Marine Corps Exchange is open daily from 0800 to 1300 and 1500 to 2000.

**Movies**

Movies are shown nightly at "The Dungeon" theatre at 1900 and 2100.

**Mess Hall Hours**

*Monday thru Friday:*  
 Early Chow: 0400 - 0430  
 Breakfast: 0500 - 0700  
 Lunch: 1100 - 1300  
 Early Chow: 1615 - 1630  
 Dinner: 1700 - 1900  
*Saturday and Sunday:*  
 Early Chow: 0500 - 0530  
 Breakfast: 0700 - 0900  
 Dinner: 1600 - 1800

MAG-16 AREA BASE SERVICES

**Disbursing**

The Marine Corps Disbursing Office is located next to the post office. The hours are Monday thru Saturday, 0800 to 1130 and 1230 to 1600. On Sundays it is open from 1200 to 1600. The Marine Corps disbursers can cash money orders, checks and traveller's checks with a \$20.00 minimum. There is a \$750 limit per check and a maximum of \$3,000 per month.

**Post Office**

The Marine Corps Post Office is open daily from 0800 to 1200 and 1300 to 1800. Money orders are available until 1600.

**Movies**

Movies are shown nightly at the screen next to the MWSS-374 showers at 1900.

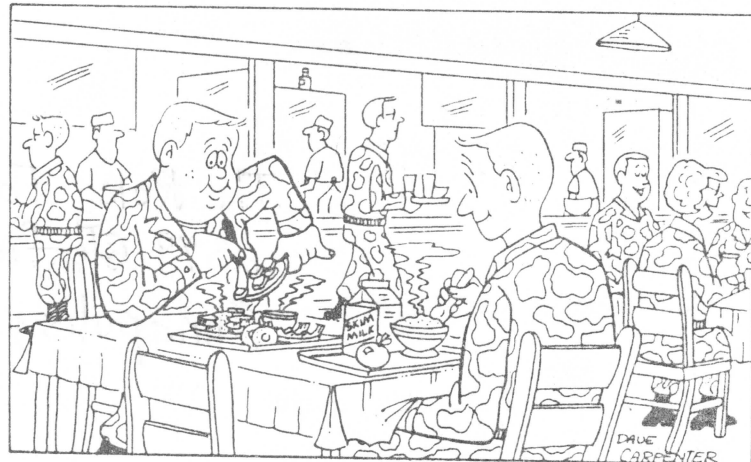
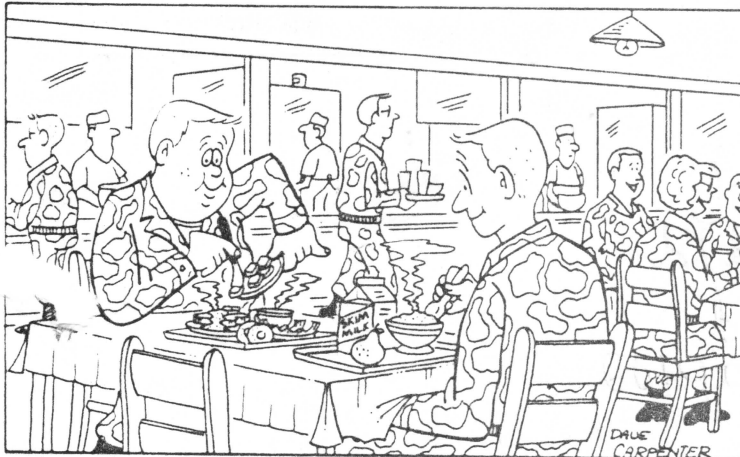
**Exchange**

The Marine Corps Exchange is open daily from 0800 to 1300 and 1500 to 2000.

**Mess Hall Hours**

*Monday thru Friday:*  
 Breakfast: 0430 - 0730  
 Lunch: 1130 - 1300  
 Dinner: 1630 - 1900

# NIT-PIK-SIX



1) Canister missing off top shelf. 2) Number of items carried on tray in background. 3) Light bulb in ceiling. 4) Mess cook has turned. 5) Eyes on seated man in the background. 6) Pear changed to apple.

**ANSWERS:**

FLIGHT JACKET

MajGen. Royal N. Moore Jr. - 3d MAW Commanding General  
Maj. J.V. McClain - Public Affairs Director  
SSgt. W. Rodney Parker - Public Affairs Chief

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F R E E

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