

MCAS Miramar CLF
Notes from Sept 6 mtg

On September 6th, members of the Community Leaders Forum were given a VIP tour of Miramar's Aviation Physiology unit. This organization exists to give those who fly (pilots and other aircrew) a complete understanding of the environment in which they operate and the safety concerns therein.

Upon arrival at the facility we were given a very high tech lecture, complete with Hi-definition graphics, on what the facility was all about and what the concerns are regarding aviation crew safety.

We were then given a familiarization tour of the low-pressure chamber. This device is used to teach aviation crewmembers the effects of hypoxia (insufficient oxygen at altitude) and how to deal with it. We all sat in the chamber and were given a very detailed lecture by the Executive Officer of the facility.

Following the low-pressure chamber demonstration, we were given a tour and demonstration of parachutes and water survival equipment. Marine Corps personnel were on hand to don the gear, demonstrate how it all works, and demonstrate the crew training that is required.

We were then given a demonstration of the aircraft ejection seats, including the firing of an ejection seat training device that all aviators must experience.

Finally, we were taken to the water facility where actual aviation classes were being conducted in the area of water survival. Pilots were dropped into the water and dragged in a parachute harness and had to demonstrate competence in freeing themselves from the parachute, inflating flotation devices and boarding life rafts. We also were afforded the opportunity to witness pilots being hoisted out of the water with a crane-like device that simulated being rescued by helicopter.

The base leadership went out of its way to show us some of the training that all aviation crewmembers must accomplish on a recurring basis. We appreciated the time and attention given us by the senior officers of the base.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C Frederick