

Miramar Community Leaders Forum 19 March 2009

The monthly Community Leaders Forum was held March 19th on board MCAS Miramar in the Commanding Officer's Conference Room at 5:30 p.m. This was the last CLF meeting for the base commander, Colonel Chris O'Connor. He is retiring in April and he and his wife will be moving to Virginia. Col O'Connor has done a great job at the helm of the air station and will be sorely missed. The new CO will be Colonel Dave Myers. The formal change of command will take place on the flight line at the base on April 2nd.

The guest speaker for the March meeting was Mr. Randy J. Monohan whose position is Manager of Utilities and Energy on the base. Mr. Monohan spoke about the efforts onboard Miramar to conserve water.

Like all the rest of us, the base has been charged with reducing water consumption. In 2006 and 2007, the base had already started conserving water. During those two years, they managed to reduce consumption by 15%. And, like a lot of the rest of us, those efforts didn't count. The base is now faced with a new mandate to further reduce water consumption. Efforts in this area have been quite productive. In 2008, the base was able to reduce consumption another eleven percent (11%) from the 2007 base line. The projection for the second quarter of this year increases that number to -16%. Long-range projections show the base using 63% less water in 2015 than they did in 2007.

Through a massive plumbing project on the base they are now using recycled water for dust control management, street cleaning and dual plumbing is installed in all new buildings. Toilets are flushed with recycled water. Outside, the base has redesigned much of the landscaping using drought tolerant plants. Thousands of square feet of artificial turf have replaced water hungry grass.

Results have been impressive. In the City of San Diego, the average household annually uses 121,600 gallons in an apartment or condo. 137,000 gallons are consumed in a house with a small yard. The average home with a larger yard has an annual consumption of 169,000 gallons. Just in the last two years, MCAS Miramar has saved more than 48,000,000 gallons of drinking water by using the recycled water. This is equivalent to the annual

water consumption of 394 apartments or condos, 348 homes with small yards or 284 homes with large yards.

Air operations were down slightly in February compared to the same period last year. Total fixed wing/helicopter operations were 5,636 for Feb 2009 vs. 6,686 for the same period last year. However, noise complaints were up. The base received 28 complaints for February of this year vs. 13 for the same period last year. The I-15 helicopter route received 3 complaints. They all occurred on the same day regarding a single flight and the complaints all came from Rancho Bernardo. A flight of two CH-53 helicopters flew from north to south over the I-15 freeway at a very low altitude precipitating these calls. The air operations officer has spoken to the aircrew involved and requested they comply with the "course rules" for aircraft in the Miramar traffic route structure.

Other information: I attended a meeting in Scripps Ranch regarding the proposed basing of the V-22 Osprey at Miramar and Camp Pendleton to replace the ancient CH-46 helicopters. If approved by the Secretary of the Navy, the V-22 will begin arriving in 2010 and transition will be complete by approximately 2015.

The next meeting of the Community Leaders Forum is currently scheduled for April 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C Frederick