

## **Miramar CLF Report April 16, 2009**

**The April meeting of the Miramar Community Leaders Forum was held on board MCAS Miramar on April 16, 2009. This month, members were given a tour of MCAS Miramar's Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT).**

**All Marines must qualify annually in both the M16-A4 service rifle and the M9 service pistol. This qualification is conducted outdoors on the firing range using live ammunition. The qualification standards are extremely high and a few Marines have difficulty successfully completing the annual competition with an acceptable score. Here is where the ISMT comes in.**

**Their coaches recommend most of the Marines who come to the ISMT during the known distance course of fire on the rifle and pistol range. Marines are sent to the ISMT because they are struggling with or need to work on an aspect of marksmanship. Most problems are corrected by simple fixes like trigger control, breath control, and finding their natural point of aim.**

**The ISMT utilizes simulators that are exact replicas of the M16 rifle and M9 pistol to give Marines a good feel of how heavy the weapon is and what it is going to do when fired. These simulators do not replicate the recoil of firing a live round exactly, but they do allow the Marines the opportunity to apply the principles of marksmanship.**

**The simulator uses compressed air to simulate the firing of a live round and the weapons do have some recoil. The coaches have a crosshair on their computer screen that is guided by a laser that moves as the barrel of the weapon moves. The system also has a tracker that shows the operator the movement of the barrel before and after the shot.**

**In addition to the M-16 and the M-9, the ISMT has the M-249 squad automatic weapon, the M240G medium machine gun, and the M2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun.**

**Members of the Community Leaders Forum were afforded the opportunity to fire all of the weapons on the simulated range. Some targets were simple "bulls eyes" while other were simulated enemy combatants on a large movie screen that involved friendly troops as well as the enemy. Various scenarios were available to the instructors and we tried most of them.**

**We all came away with a newfound respect for the combat Marine and the high level of skill it takes to hit a target 200-300 yards in the distance. It takes extreme concentration, control of hand movement, trigger control and breathing control. After observing our Marines firing their weapons and hitting the target time after**

**time, we were all very glad that those Marines are on our side. I would sure hate to be an enemy combatant facing our Marines. They are a formidable force!**

**The next meeting of the CLF will be in May, the date to be determined.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jeffrey C Frederick**