

Community Leader Forum
MCAS Miramar
October 2009

This month, the Community Leaders Forum did not hold a formal meeting. Instead, members were invited to visit a Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron based at Miramar.

We visited HMH 465, which is a CH-53E squadron. Members were given a tour through the maintenance department of the squadron and what it takes to maintain one of these complicated aircraft was discussed. Members were amazed to learn that these very complex machines are maintained to strict standards by a group of men and women that average 19 years in age.

The squadron gave us a tour through one of the aircraft and we all had a chance to sit in the pilot seat. One of the helicopter crewmen showed us many of the working components of the aircraft and what is involved in maintaining that machine.

Members were surprised to learn that several of the officers and some of the aircraft were deployed, while others were here at Miramar for training. This is somewhat different from the F-18s that tend to deploy as an entire unit.

We did not meet with the station assistant air operations officer this month, so over flight and noise statistics will be included in next month's report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C. Frederick