

Community Leaders Forum
MCAS Miramar
November 2009

The November meeting of Miramar's Community Leaders Forum was held on board the air station on the 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Opening remarks were from Col Frank Richie, Commanding Officer MCAS Miramar. Col Richie asked that community leaders try to encourage their communities to hire recently discharged veterans. These young men and women are the Nation's finest and history shows that they make excellent employees.

Col Richie also announced that the new VA National Cemetery Annex would open soon on the base with first burials anticipated in August of 2010.

Many folks are not aware that the base is a leader in conservation of resources. The base will soon be provided with 50% of its power from methane collected at the city dump adjacent to Miramar. They anticipate production of nearly 3 megawatts of electricity. Additionally, the military is experimenting with an F-18 that is powered with biofuel. Additional solar panels and solar heating will soon be installed on the base.

Finally, Col Richie informed us that the Record of Decision has been signed for the V-22 aircraft. There will be at least 6 squadrons of the new aircraft at Miramar, replacing CH-46 helicopter squadrons.

Attendees were then fortunate to hear a presentation by Major Brian Gilbertson on his Iraq experience. Major Gilbertson's primary job in the Marine Corps is that of C-130 pilot. However, he did serve a tour in Iraq as a Forward Air Controller. His unit was highly decorated for combat action and Major Gilbertson received the Bronze Star. His presentation was so moving that I have contacted persons in Kiwanis and COGG and provided them with Major Gilbertson's contact information. Both organizations are interested in inviting the Major to speak to their groups.

Air operations for the month of October 2009 numbered 14,941. This is an increase from the October 2008 total, which was 10,107. The difference corresponds to the deployment schedule. More of the squadrons were back at home base in Oct 09 vs. the same time frame last year. But as deployments alternate between East Coast and West Coast units, we can expect these numbers to reflect the base loading at the time.

The total noise complaints for October 2009 was 21 compared with 22 for October a year ago. Six of these complaints came from a frequent caller.

There are two flight tracks that affect Rancho Bernardo. The I-15 helicopter route experienced 227 overflights last month, registering 3 noise complaints. None of these complaints came from Rancho Bernardo.

The Julian North Jet departure experienced 758 overflights and logged 3 complaints as well. Once again, none of these complaints came from Rancho Bernardo.

The Community Leaders Forum will be dark in December. The next CLF meeting will be January 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C Frederick