



TEAM BEAUFORT NEWSLETTER



FROM THE COMMAND DECK

Colonel Miller and Sergeant Major Mays



Welcome to the Team Beaufort newsletter. This newsletter provides updates on air station operations, tenant commands, and the command focus of effort. This newsletter is a direct result of feedback received from the Equal Employment Opportunity survey. One of our three pillars of command is communication and this newsletter, coupled with the quarterly civilian breakfast, is designed to improve communications with our civilian workforce.

PILLARS OF COMMAND

1. COMMUNICATION
2. PROFESSIONALISM
3. STANDARDS

WHO WE ARE

We are the operational base for Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG-31) and we are the only place in the world that trains Department of Defense and United Kingdom pilots to fly the F-35B Lightning II. The installation includes three components: a 6,949-acre main site with two runways; a 971-acre Laurel Bay Family Housing area; and the 33,834-acre Townsend Bombing Range, an air-to-ground bombing range located in Georgia, which provides Fightertown pilots the opportunity to train for air-to-ground combat.

COMMAND PRIORITIES

Support the Warfighter

The mission of MCAS Beaufort personnel is to support MAG-31 with the highest quality aviation facilities, support, and services to promote their combat readiness. That is our top priority. We strive to provide MAG-31 warfighters with the means to be successful.

Support the Family

We are committed to enhancing quality of life and supporting each member of the Beaufort family - Marines, Sailors, civilians, and their dependents. Just as we support the warfighters, we must support each member of the team to achieve success. We want your time in Beaufort to be personally and professionally enjoyable.

Communication and Professionalism

Effective communication and professionalism are key elements to success. This newsletter is part of our commitment to you to share information about the things important to us and ongoing events across the Air Station. We expect your commitment to be exercising professionalism in the workplace. It is the hallmark of a successful organization. Our goal and expectation is that the level of professionalism in our interactions with one another, interactions with supported commands, and interactions with other organizations be second to none.

Significant Events

F-35B Transition Status

During September 2017, we farewelled Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 (VMFA-122). The unit relocated to MCAS Yuma and is in beginning the transition to the F-35B. According to the most recent USMC aviation plan, the next squadron we are scheduled to receive is Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 502 (VMFAT-502) followed closely by the transition of VMFA-115 to the F-35 in the 2020s.



There are more than 200 personnel with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force and Royal Navy stationed aboard MCAS Beaufort. They are training to fly and maintain the F-35B alongside U.S. Marines within VMFAT-501. A large contingent of the U.K. personnel are preparing to return home, commencing in the summer of 2018. In preparation, the U.K. had some significant events during Fiscal Year 2018. The U.K. detachment received the last F-35B on 14 December 2017 and began to transition F-35B equipment to the U.K. on 25 January 2018. The departure of the U.K. detachment will

be bittersweet. Hosting these fine professionals has been a pleasure and we will be sad to see them go, but it is an exciting time for the F-35 program as it means the world's most lethal and survivable aircraft will be operated by one of our most trusted allies.

All of our F-18 squadrons are scheduled to transition to the F-35 in the 2020s. Two squadrons are scheduled to remain at MCAS Beaufort and three will relocate to MCAS Cherry Point. All F-35 Squadrons aboard MCAS Beaufort require new hangars capable of fulfilling the logistics, technology, and software needs of the F-35. In line with these requirements, construction on the newest F-35 hangar has recently been completed near the current VMFAT-501 hangar. You may notice this new hangar and the three-story parking garage next to it which, ironically, is the only parking garage in Beaufort County. Now that this construction is complete, we are scheduled to start the demolition of the old VMFA-312 hangar this spring and build a new F-35 hangar in its place.



MAG-31 Update

MAG-31 continues to train and deploy at a high tempo. In the last six months all five of their operational squadrons are either deployed, preparing to deploy or recently returned from deployment. VMFA-115 is training for deployment overseas in the coming months. VMFA-251 returned in March from a six-month deployment to Japan. VMFA-312 is currently deployed aboard the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, USS Theodore Roosevelt. VMFA(AW)-224 returned from a deployment to Central Command in November 2017. VMFA(AW)-533 deployed to Japan in March. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 (MALS-31) continues to provide Marines for each deployment.

MCAS Beaufort Update

We started off the fiscal year by officially accepting responsibility of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) on 1 October 2017. Located in Long and McIntosh Counties in southeast coastal Georgia, TBR is 82 miles southwest of MCAS Beaufort. It is the primary air-to-ground training range for aviation units stationed at MCAS Beaufort. Recently expanded from 5,183 acres to 33,834 acres, TBR is in the process of being modernized for training operations and is scheduled to be complete by December 2019.

Significant Events (continued)

Construction on the new Bolden Elementary/Middle School on Laurel Bay continues and we are expecting the work to be complete this year. The new school features many technological advances and state of the art designs to more efficiently educate today's students and better equip them for life's future endeavors.

The Marine Corps Law Enforcement Personnel with the Provost Marshal's Office are worthy of recognition in this inaugural civilian newsletter as two of our civilian police officers helped save a recruit's life on Parris Island. On 4 February, they arrived on scene to a drill instructor conducting chest compressions on an unresponsive recruit. The police officers used the automated external defibrillator to revive the recruit who was later transported to a Charleston area hospital and recovered. Stories like this make us proud to be part of Team Beaufort as it shows the dedication and commitment to duty shown by so many within this command.

A Note of Appreciation

Thank you for what you do for this organization. Sometimes the hours are long and the work is thankless, but you continue to accomplish the mission. We plan to visit your workspaces in the coming months and personally express our appreciation for your service to the Air Station. You possess the knowledge and expertise to keep MCAS Beaufort operating efficiently and effectively. You are the continuity of Team Beaufort and the Air Station succeeds because of your dedicated service.



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT