

rewarding to be able to do this.”

ARFF sends about four Marines to receive the training at Cape Canaveral each year and currently there are 12 Marines who have received the training, said Perez.

Training helps prepare ARFF Marines for space shuttle training versus the aircraft rescue training they are accustomed to.

“It’s something that is completely different from what we’re accustomed to,” said Perez. “Being one of eight alternate landing sites for the space shuttle is a very prestigious honor to have. Just knowing we have the capability and the potential for this to happen invokes a lot of pride in the Marines.”



There are two types of landings MCAS Cherry Point is equipped to handle, a launch abort landing and an emergency landing.

A launch abort landing is when the space shuttle takes off, and something causes it to need to divert. Cherry Point is the alternate landing site for a 10 minute time window after take-off should this scenario occur.

An emergency landing would occur when the space shuttle is making its way through the atmosphere and is forced to land at a site separate from its destina-

tion, said Patrick Edwards, the airfield support coordination officer for Cherry Point.

“We support every space shuttle take off and landing,” said Edwards. “In the two years I’ve been here, we’ve supported approximately 10-12 shuttle missions.”

During take-off and landing, Edwards has communication with NASA to offer assistance if there are any issues which he can address.

“Although the chances of the space shuttle landing here at MCAS Cherry Point are slim, it’s great knowing that we have the capability to support if need be,” Edwards said. (7/2/2008 By Cpl. Jennifer Poole , Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point)

SANTA MARIA FIRE DEPARTMENT TAKES OVER AIRPORT ARFF DUTIES

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA (USA) - Fire protection at the Santa Maria Airport has changed hands.

The Santa Maria City Fire Department is now in charge. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department has had the duty for the past 40 years.

County fire has now moved to help out the Orcutt community, while Santa Maria stepped up to oversee the airport. Anywhere between two to six people will be on hand in case of any emergency.

“They’re going to be guaranteed response 24 hours a day from this facility. The employees that work out of here are ARFF (Aircraft Rescue Firefighting) special-



ists, and their sole job is to respond to emergencies that are on the airport property. They won’t be assigned to respond anywhere else,” said Chief Frank Ortiz from the Santa Maria Fire Department.