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Marine Corps News

'Operation pages' flies into action

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By *Lance Cpl. Frances L. Goch*, MCAS Miramar



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - Retired Staff Sgt. Guiles leads the Young Marines to an awaiting KC-130J with their books they have collected for deployed Marines. The Young Marines collected more than 10,000 books.



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - Young Marines Alonzo Mooreman and Katie Aguilar unload one of the many boxes of books sorted and ready for distribution to deployed Marines. The young Marines collected books for more than six months.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. (Feb. 1, 2007) -- The Temecula Young Marines collected and donated more than 10,000 books to send to Marines currently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan or recuperating at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The Young Marines, ranging in age from eight to 18, loaded pallets Feb. 1 at Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, for transportation to the deployed Marines.

"We wanted to show our support to the Marines that are deployed," said 15-year-old Bryanna Vaughn, Young Marine and student at Temecula Preparatory School.

With knowledge of deployment life from their commanding officer, retired Staff Sgt. Michael Guiles, the Young Marines wanted to help any way they could.

"(Marines) don't have that much to do in their free time so we wanted to help," said Jarrod Blake, Young Marine and student at Great Oaks High School.

The Young Marines collected books over a six month period, gathering contributions from a bookstore that was closing, friends and family members, according to Guiles.

There are currently 46 members of Temecula's chapter of Young Marines and 26 recruits hoping to join their ranks.

"It is beneficial to both the forward Marines and the Young Marines because it lets our guys overseas know that they are not forgotten and the Young Marines get to feel the pride of being able to show their patriotism through such a selfless act," said Guiles.

The Young Marines' generosity is not through just yet, they are also assisting AMVETS, a nationally chartered veterans organization, collect DVD's for "Operation DVD."

"It's a morale booster, whether you are deployed or here at the station to see such support being given to the troops," said Staff Sgt. Mark Curreri, loadmaster, VMGR-352, MAG-11, 3rd MAW. "I was happy to be able to help them in the undertaking of their mission."

For more information on how to help AMVETS and the Young Marines with "Operation DVD" visit www.operationdvd.us or www.amvets.org.

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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - Retired Staff Sgt. Guiles leads the Young Marines to an awaiting KC-130J with their books they have collected for deployed Marines. The Young Marines collected more than 10,000 books. Photo by: Lance Cpl. Frances L. Goch



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. - Young Marines Alonzo Mooreman and Katie Aguilar unload one of the many boxes of books sorted and ready for distribution to deployed Marines. The young Marines collected books for more than six months. Photo by: Lance Cpl. Frances L. Goch