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NEWS

AWARD,

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it without second thought or reservation. It is humbling to go to work everyday and work with so many great Marines."

The following Marines earned the awards while with 3rd MAW: Maj. Anthony Baggs, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, earned Marine Naval Flight Officer of the Year while serving with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121. Cpl. Brandyn Gutche with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 obtained Maintenance Marine of the Year. Sgt. Javier Lopez-Tapia, with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, earned the Aviation Supply Marine of the Year. Staff Sgt. Blair Clark with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 took home the Aviation Ground Marine of the Year. Capt. Luke Watson while with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 earned the Exceptional Achievement Award.

Four squadrons earned unit awards with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 taking home Fighter Attack Squadron of the Year. Marine Aerial Refueler and Transport Squadron 352 achieved Marine Aerial Refueler and Transport Squadron of the Year.

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 attained the Aviation Safety of the Year. Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 obtained the coveted Commandant of the Marine Corps Aviation Trophy.

Each year, the Marine Corps Aviation Association awards 27 Marines and squadrons for their accomplishments and excellence in aviation.

"Each year, the different aircraft units submit their nominees and the board votes and select the submissions," said Lt. Col. Timothy H. Hogan, the deputy branch head for aviation, manpower and support branch, Department of Aviation, Headquarters Marine Corps. "Each year a board selects the winners based on several factors including operational commitment, unit readiness and personal readiness. These are the best squadrons and Marines in the Corps for the year."

The Marines and squadrons will receive their awards at the Marine Corps Aviation Association's 37th Annual Symposium and Reunion, Oct. 16-18 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. For more information about the best in Marine Corps Aviation, see MarAdmin 428/08 at www.marines.mil/news/messages.

'Fastest dice game in the universe' deploys



Gazima Games, a local game distributor, donated more than 160 board games including Fki Football, Dao, Casinopoly and the company's own game Zipl to Marine Corps Community Services here Aug. 18.

The games will be sent forward to Al Asad Air Base in Iraq, where Major Greg Lane, who helped create the game, plans to hold a tournament to familiarize Marines with the game when it arrives.