

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 10 No.14

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

April 11, 2008

FEATURE

Marines create 'fastest dice game in universe'

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What started out as a friendship between two officers in the Marine Corps continues today as a growing company, GaZima Games, Inc.

Major Greg Lane, operations officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 and director of operations and design of GaZima Games, Inc., invented a board game with former Capt. Greg Zima.

The two friends met at the Naval Academy, attended flight school together and flew in the same squadron, HMH- 462.

While Zima now rolls the dice in the board gaming industry attending toy conventions, Lane continues his career as a Marine pilot and attends some conventions.

"We come up with the concepts, develop a prototype that's

as close to our game as possible and then make presentations to game companies," said Zima.

After years in the making, the board game, Zip!, has finally hit the shelves in Barnes and Noble, selling for \$19.95. It can also be found on the inventors' Web site, www.gazimagames.com.

"Greg is more of the 'big-picture thinker' who comes up with the ideas and I'm more of the details guy," said Lane.

Zip!, 'the fastest dice game in the universe' has players compete against each other rolling dice and getting the correct combination shown on a card the fastest.

"This game gets people involved while everyone is simultaneously rolling," said Zima. "It's a more interactive game no one has seen before and when we presented it, people were wanting dice games."

With the invention of several

games, the two have spent thousands of dollars on traveling but often talk about how it's going to pay off.

"The games industry is really tough, meaning a lot of games will be out for one or two years and then disappear," said Zima.

Over the years, they talked about how the most important aspect of the games lay in their friendship, not the hobby.

"I think the most important aspect is the time spent together and the friendship that we've grown," said Lane. "With being Marines, we have a bond where we stick together."

While Lane soon departs for his third deployment, Zima, the president and CEO of GaZima Games will continue to market and promote their games.

"This last year I've devoted all my time to this and we've picked up eight other game licenses. This fall we will have



Major Greg Lane, left, co-founder of GaZima Games demonstrates Zip! 'the fastest dice game in the universe' with his business partner Greg Zima. The game is for sale at Barnes and Noble bookstores and on the inventors' Web site, www.gazimagames.com.

five games on shelves," said Zima.

In Iraq, Lane will not only take his flight equipment but he will also pack Zip! for his

Marines to play.

Later, Zima plans to send a large shipment of board games to the Marines deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.