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International Boxing Match: CISM Boxing coming to Camp Lejeune

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The resolve is easily read in their eyes, the determination and hunger for conquest as evident as the sweat and blood that covers their bodies. A passion to win that borders a desire to kill, for when these two warriors step into this square battlefield, survival of the fittest is the only law. Only one is destined to stand victorious.

That is the common sight that will be associated with the upcoming Conseil International du Sport Militaire, (International Military Sports Council), World Military Boxing Championship, scheduled to take place aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Oct. 10 through 16.

"What you're going to see is what people see when they watch the Olympics on television," said Jim Hunt, president of the CISM Boxing Committee and commandant of the Irish Defense Forces.

Hunt, along with Suba Saty, CISM armed forces sports secretariat, visited Camp Lejeune, April 23 through 27 to conduct a pre-site survey. The purpose of the site survey is for Hunt to visit the slated event location six months in advance to conduct a facility check, inspecting such things like lodging and chowhalls to ensure they are up to CISM regulations for the athletes' stay. This year the boxing battlefield is Goettge Memorial Field House.

"Inspections are done that early because if the location 'fails inspection,' there is sufficient time to either correct the issue or relocate the event," said Steven A. Dinote, Marine Corps Athletic Director, Headquarters Marine Corps. "Camp Lejeune passed without any issue."

Each year the U.S. hosts at least one CISM event, according to Dinote. The Marine Corps has not hosted a CISM event since 2000; Camp Lejeune in particular since 1998 with the Military Wrestling Championships. Dinote commented that it was only fitting for the boxing championships to be held aboard base, due to Lejeune being the home of the Marine Corps All-Marine Boxing Team.

Founded in 1948, the CISM is the second largest sporting organization in the world after the International Olympic Committee and is currently comprised of 133 countries' armed forces. The overall purpose of such an organization is "to contribute to world peace by uniting armed forces through sports," as told by their motto "Friendship through Sport."

"CISM participants are able to have a positive engagement with different countries where they would otherwise be unable to," said Dinote. "It's where, as separate militaries representing our countries, we meet each other not on the battlefield, but on the playing field."

As Camp Lejeune receives the green light, the CISM World Boxing Championships are in the works to come to base. Upwards of 30 countries will be represented by their militaries' star boxers, all being brought together under the banner of friendly competition.

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