

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 6

Mike Battery Marines return after Western Pacific deployment



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINI

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A.
LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

During their Western Pacific Theater tour, the Marines of 3/11 engaged in two live-fire exercises, one of which was near the base of Mt. Fuji, said Capt. Neal V. Fisher, battery commander.

"The 3/12 Marines receive artillery support from many batteries," said Fisher.

Baattery M was the last one to be deployed for that particular deployment program, said Fisher.

See BATTERY M, A10

Family of fallen Marine embarks on 1,500-plus mile journey from the Combat Center to Montana

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Gretchen Mack is the mother of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps, an artilleryman with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment who was killed in action in Iraq April 9, 2004.

The walk is about 1,574 miles, said Mack. Her plan is to walk five days per week for at least 20 miles a day with four other family members in order to make it back to Montana before Memorial Day.

"This is not an anti-war walk at all," said Mack. "This is a walk to heal us and all those who come back from Iraq. This may be the way to heal our hearts, like what Forrest Gump did."

At one point in the movie, Forrest decides to go for a run. He has no deeper purpose or objective in mind. he just wanted to run. As he runs

See PHELPS WALK, A9



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINI

Gretchen Mack and Kelley Orndoff, mother and sister of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps, are joined by Phelps' high school friend, Cpl. John Hakes with 1st Tank Battalion, and his wife Stephanie as they walked their first 15 miles of the 1,574 mile journey to Montana Monday.

Inside this issue

Sunday **70/45**
Partly Cloudy

- A4: 3/4 Marines restore order in western Euphrates River Valley
- A6: EOD Marine apprehends robber
- A8: Military Saves Week

2/7 hero memorialized with snowboard

***This Day in
Marine Corps
History***

— 1953 —

Capt. Ted Williams, baseball legend, survived the crash landing of his F9F Panther jet after being shot up during a bombing raid on North Korea.

Hot Topics

TAX CENTER OPEN

Tax Center hours Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Appointments are recommended. To schedule, call 830-4829.
Please bring in the following documents at the time of your appointment:

- All W-2's for yourself and spouse.
 - Bank interest or dividend statements.
 - Social security cards for everyone on return.
 - Proof of your bank account, either MyPay bank printout or blank check, for direct deposit.
 - Original power of attorney, if applicable.
 - Prior year tax return.
- The Tax Center can only prepare returns for active-duty, reserve, retired and dependants of service members.
No rental property or self-employment returns are prepared at the Tax Center. Itemized deductions begin Feb. 15. Please make arrangements for child care.

PHELPS HALL RE-OPENS

Phelps Hall resumed normal business hours Monday.
Meal Hours:
Monday - Friday
Breakfast: 5:30 – 8 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4 – 6 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays
Breakfast Brunch: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Dinner Brunch: 3 - 5 p.m.
Meal Rates for Marines on COMRATS
Breakfast: \$2
Lunch: \$3.65
Dinner: \$3.65
Breakfast Brunch: \$4.20
Dinner Brunch: \$5.15

FOUND SODA MESS MONEY

Soda mess money was found near the Commissary. Please identify approximately how much and describe the vessel containing the money. Please call Harry at 830-6417.

ROAD CLOSURES

- The Bourke Road and Eighth Street intersection will remain closed. This area will be repaved in the near future to correct a drainage problem.
- Third Street between Brown and Griffin Road will be closed for repaving from approximately Monday to Feb. 23.
- Del Valle Road will be repaved from Adobe Road to Tenth Street. Stoplights will be

installed on Del Valle at the Third and Fifth Street intersections as part of this project. The repaving work will be phased in order to minimize disruptions to traffic flow on Del Valle, but detours onto Mainside will be required. The construction period will be from approximately March 1 to Sept. 1. Please be attentive to all traffic control signs.

Leisure Items

WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHTS AT THE OFFICERS' CLUB
The Officers' Club will have Wednesday Steak Nights from 5 to 7 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a grilled to order steak, baked potato, Texas toast, and salad. Prices are \$9.75 for members and \$10.75 for non-members. Reservations are requested no later than the Monday before. Call 830-6610 for details and reservations.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING
The Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be held Feb. 16 at the Community Center room 102 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. This meeting is hosted by the Provost Marshal's Office. All housing residents are encouraged to attend. This meeting will consist of a brief on what the Neighborhood Watch Program is and what we need from the residents of housing.

SMP UNIVERSAL STUDIOS TRIP
The Single Marine Program will be taking a day trip to Universal Studios tomorrow. The cost is \$32, which includes admission to the park and transportation. Participants will be departing the Zone at 6 a.m. For more information, call 830-4767.

SMP HOLLYWOOD TRIP
The Single Marine Program will be taking a trip to Hollywood to see the taping of King of Queens at the CBS Studios Feb. 23. The cost is \$5 for transportation. Participants will be departing the Zone at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 830-4767.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
The deadline to submit applications for the \$1,500 Scholarships for Military Children is Wednesday. To get an application or to turn in a completed one, please visit the Twentynine Palms Commissary Customer Service office or the secretary's office. For any questions visit <http://www.commissaries.com>, the Commissary or call 830-7572, 830-3003 or 830-3010.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (Bldg1551)
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg. 1551)
Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+
Sun 10 a.m. Rosary
Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sun 4 p.m. Choir Practice
Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary
Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group
18-35 years of age married or single (3rd Sunday of the month)
Fri 12:15 – 4:30 p.m. Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)

Ash Wednesday and Holy Days of Obligation Masses

11:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
11:30 a.m. Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
Village Center
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women*
Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN SERVICE
Christ Chapel
Sun 8 a.m. Worship*
Tue 7 p.m. Praise and Worship*

TRADITIONAL SERVICE
Christ Chapel
Sun 9:30 a.m. Worship

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST SERVICE
Christ Chapel
Sun 11 p.m. Worship

LAY-LED GOSPEL SERVICE
Christ Chapel
Sun 12:30 p.m Worship

LAY-LED APOSTOLIC SERVICE
Christ Chapel
Sun 3 p.m. Worship
Christ Chapel
2 p.m. Study of Book of Acts

MID-WEEK EVENTS

MONDAY
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m Catholic Mass

Ocotillo Housing
7 p.m Officer's Christian Fellowship
Call Lt. Cmdr. Faunce 830-6654 for location

TUESDAY
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
5 – 7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)
4 – 5:30 p.m. Children's RCIA
6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each month
Christ Chapel
9 a.m. Christian Women Fellowship*
C&E Mess Hall Bldg. 1660
11:30 a.m. Bible Study
Chaplain Flint 830-6187
Base Housing
6 p.m. All Hands Bible Study
Chaplain Taylor 830-7413 for location

WEDNESDAY
Village Center
11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room
Chaplain Flint 830-6187
6 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation for Adults*

Immaculate Heart of Mary
6 -7 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Group#
Christ Chapel
5 p.m. IHM Choir Rehearsal
5 p.m. Protestant Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study

THURSDAY
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus
1st Thursday of the Month

Christ Chapel
7 p.m. Lay-Led Apostolic Bible Study

Legend
*Indicates Child Care Provided
+Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646
Resumes Fall 2006

Marines, soldiers revive economic, social development in western Euphrates River Valley

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
2ND MARINE DIVISION

RAMANA, Iraq — Local Iraqi leaders, members of local Iraqi Security Forces and Marines and soldiers serving in western Iraq came together Feb. 1, in Ramana, Iraq, to celebrate the grand opening of a bridge which stretches across the Euphrates River here.

The celebration included a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a feast hosted by the mayor of Ramana, Raffi Harrab.

Local sheiks along with Lt. Col. Scott C. Shuster, commanding officer of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and the mayors of Husaybah and Ramana marked the celebration by walking across the bridge after the ribbon was cut.

The bridge was decorated with a palm-made arch over the south entrance of the bridge, flanked by two Iraqi national flags. All of the day's events were planned and organized by the local Iraqi people, and security was left up to the local Iraqi Security Forces. Shuster said he was pleased the Iraqi people, army and police had done such a thorough job for the ceremony.

The bridge was constructed by an Army platoon with 362nd Engineer Company, a unit based out of Fort Benning, Ga. The construction of the bridge began in December and was completed less than a week before the grand opening.

Budgeted at \$6.5 million, the steel, double truss designed bridge, known as a



Mayor Farhan T. Farhan, the mayor of Husaybah, Iraq, and Lt. Col. Scott C. Shuster, commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, walk across the Ramana Bridge just after Farhan cut the ribbon during its grand opening Feb. 1.

Mabey-Johnson Logistic Support Bridge, was named, once again, the Ramana Bridge. At 268 meters in length and with two lanes for vehicles traveling North and South across the river, the bridge connects the two Euphrates River Valley cities – Karabilah and Ramana.

The bridge was originally an Iraqi-constructed bridge.

In November of 2005,

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, a Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based battalion, destroyed sections of the original bridge with an air strike in order to interdict insurgent activities and to support counter insurgency operations in the area. This was just three months before a 16-day operation dubbed Steel Curtain where Marines and other Coalition Forces here ousted

insurgents from this area.

Since then, the effects of the disabled were “tremendous” for the people of Ramana, Karabilah, and other local cities such as Sa’dah, and Husaybah,said Army 1st Lt. Po Chun Tsui, platoon commander with 362nd Engineer Company.

Shuster said it was clear the loss of the bridge had a very negative impact on the local populace and local businesses.

“The bridge served not only as a link to commerce and economic development but also a conduit to relationships, families and a complex social network with far reaching effects,” said Tsui, a Honolulu native. “The restoration of the Ramana Bridge is a step

toward garnering support to the Coalition Forces’ and 3/4’s effort in the area.”

In June 2006, an assault float bridge, more commonly known as the Ribbon Bridge, was emplaced by the 74th Engineer Company, an Army unit out of Fort Bragg, N.C., to assist locals in resuming vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the Ramana area.

But, in October 2006, sections of the bridge were damaged due to rain storms and flooding on the Euphrates River.

Although the Ribbon Bridge, which was dubbed the Golden Gate Bridge, was emplaced across the river, it was designed for tactical application and not for long

term use such as a fixed bridge, said Tsui.

The Marine Corps purchased the MJLSB from funding allocated for Iraqi civil infrastructure development, said Tsui. After a month without a bridge between Karabilah and Ramana, construction began in December.

Building materials and labor came directly from the U.S. Army bridge building company, said Shuster.

“This project showed our commitment to the Iraqi people and positive growth in the area,” said Shuster.

During the ceremony, Mayor Raffi Harrab, the mayor of Ramana, said the connection and relationship between Ramana and Karabala was almost dead, but thanks to the rebuilding of the bridge, it is “revived.”

“We’re all very happy for such a good achievement from the Americans,” said Harrab through an Arabic-English interpreter. “We all give our thanks to the troops who made this good project happen.”

The MJLSB project required the effort of every Soldier from 362nd Engineer Company’s 1st Platoon, said Army Staff Sgt. Glenn

See 3/4 REVIVE, A5

3/4 REVIVE from A4

Fulton, senior boat operator with 1st Platoon, 362nd Engineer Company.

“For most soldiers in the platoon, the construction of the [bridge] is one of the highlights of their military career,” said Fulton, an Oakdale, Conn., native. “The thought of leaving a legacy of their time in Iraq for the Iraqi people was a motivation for all soldiers involved. Every member of the platoon played a major part in this mission.”

The construction of the Ramana Bridge also improves logistical and Quick Reaction Force support for the battalion, said Shuster.

The Marine battalion, nicknamed “Shanghai” for their garrison duty in Shanghai, China, in 1927, is currently serving its fourth deployment to Iraq since the initial push to Baghdad in 2003, which they were a major part of. The Marines and sailors of the battalion are now into their sixth month of a nine-month deployment.

Daily life for 3/4’s service members means patrolling the streets of these Euphrates River cities in search of insurgent activity. They’re also tasked with mentoring and monitoring the local Iraqi Security Forces, imparting with them essential military tactics and procedures they will need in order to man their country on their own.

Coalition overwatch on the bridge site is maintained by Marines with 3/4 from a nearby outpost. Local Iraqi Security Forces are constantly conducting security on the area through patrols and random vehicle searches at check

points. As long as the task force is serving the area, overwatch on the bridge will continue, said Shuster.

“For the same reason we want to use the bridge is the same reason the terrorists want to stop us from using the bridge – we’re providing support for the Iraqi Security Forces,” said Shuster.

Aside from combat operations in the area, this bridge will mostly be used by the local populace, said Sgt. Dmitriy Y. Degtyar, a team leader and civil affairs specialist with 4th Civil Affairs Group, an attachment in direct support of Task Force 3/4.

Funding allocated for civil infrastructure development was granted to local Iraqi contractors in Ramana. All materials needed for construction projects come from south of the Euphrates River, across from Ramana. But, without the bridge, these materials had to be rerouted to another bridge, several miles away from Ramana, costing more money to the contractors, said Degtyar.

“This was very inconvenient to the local contractors,” said Degtyar, a Denver native. “Now, with the bridge put in, construction projects in the area will surely speed up.”

“The Ramana Bridge is an open gate toward economic development and growth,” added Degtyar.

To a land of mostly farming and sheep herding, this is a very important development to this area, say some Iraqi people here.

“The Ramana Bridge’s presence will serve as a symbol of the United States’ commitment to the nation of Iraq and the Iraqi people,” said Tsui. “This is a significant leap forward.”



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

A Marine battalion-level convoy security team with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, travels across the Ramana Bridge in Ramana, Iraq, one of the many Euphrates River cities that lie here in western Al Anbar Province.

EOD Marine apprehends robber

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in or out of uniform. Whether they carry their core values card or not, honor, courage and commitment and the knowledge of right from wrong is with them wherever they go and they are expected to live up to their title.

On Jan. 27, Staff Sgt. William R. Walker, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, didn't let panic interfere with clear thinking and taking action to do what he knew was right. "I was at the Cabazon outlet stores shopping for shoes," said

Walker. "As I left the store with my wife, the manager came out after us and yelled at someone to stop and return to the store. At that point a man and a woman who appeared to have been together began to run in the opposite direction."

With quick concise thinking, Walker began to chase the male to apprehend him until the sheriff's department would arrive. Chasing the male until he went up an embankment, he met up with a security officer and ended up apprehending the female instead.

"Several minutes later, Riverside Sheriff's Department showed up and I gave an account of what happened and a description of the guy I

was chasing," said Walker. "He was eventually caught in a drainage ditch near a local Indian reservation. He had on a pair of stolen shoes from the store we were in."

Walker didn't think twice about chasing the robber and putting himself in harm's as he ran after the assailant but rather the thought of what he would do if he caught up to him. Walker didn't need to be on base or at work to exemplify true courage, yet he took his act of courage modestly.

"I think it takes courage to do something you know could end up in you being harmed in some way," said Walker. "It goes to show you how much courage the Marines

and other service members have, who are fighting or have fought in combat overseas. They are getting shot at, ambushed and hit by IED's [improvised explosive devices], while I just chased a sneaker thief."

While Marines are doing their duty overseas, Walker is doing his job stateside. Whether it be apprehending a robber or training the other Marines at work, Walker carries the title Marine with pride. He is also looked upon as an excellent Marine by his superiors.

"He's a go-to problem solver who works well with others with no supervision," said Maj. Michael Glass, EOD officer-in-charge. "He

is a well spoken Marine who is very knowledgeable in his MOS [military occupational specialty]."

Walker, who has been a Marine for eight years knows that it is an all-day, every day kind of job. He also knows the values instilled in him through the Marine Corps are values he can keep with him his whole life.

"I believe in our Corps values, not only as values that Marines should live by, but also as traits that anyone should embrace," said Walker. "Doing the right thing is something that anyone should try and accomplish whether at work or not. Those values don't go away when we're on liberty."

For the dental patient, facts about bottled water

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

The human body is made up mostly of water and depends on water to keep organs and systems functioning properly. Water regulates body temperature, helps remove waste, cushions the joints and transports nutrients and oxygen to billions of cells. Increasing water intake sometimes can help alleviate a condition called dry mouth, or xerostomia. And

water that contains an adequate amount of fluoride helps prevent tooth decay and builds strong teeth.

Health experts generally recommend consuming eight to 10 cups of water a day. The amount may vary based on body size, physical activity and exposure to hot weather.

More health-conscious consumers are sipping bottled water. Some even forgo fluoridated tap water in their homes for costly bottled water. A recent study shows that Americans consumed

more than 5 billion gallons of bottled water in 2000, more than double the amount from a decade earlier. Some predict that bottled water soon may become the nation's second most popular beverage after soft drinks.

If bottled water is your main source of drinking water, you could be missing the decay-preventive benefits of fluoride, a naturally occurring mineral that helps prevent tooth decay.

Water fluoridation is a community health measure that is recognized widely for its role in preventing tooth decay. In areas where natural fluoride occurs in water below the optimal level, many communities add a minute amount of fluoride to the water supply to make certain that residents receive the benefits of fluoride.

While the fluoride content of bottled water varies greatly, the vast majority of

bottled waters do not contain optimal levels of fluoride. Some contain no fluoride. When water is treated before it is bottled, fluoride may be lost. For example, many popular brands of bottled water undergo reverse osmosis or distillation. These treatments remove all of the fluoride from the water.

How can you make sure you and your family — especially children—are getting the right amount of fluoride protection in bottled water? Check the label for fluoride content. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's current regulations do not require bottled water companies to indicate fluoride content on bottled water labels, unless it has been added to the water.

Contact the company if the fluoride content is not shown on the label and ask what level of fluoride the

water contains. Amounts of fluoride are the same whether they are reported in parts per million or milligrams per liter. To help prevent tooth decay, water should contain 0.7 to 1.2 ppm of fluoride. One ppm is equal to 1 mg/L. Consider:

— How much bottled water do you (or family members) consume each day?

— Is bottled water also used for meal preparation and added to canned or powdered soups, juices and other drinks?

— Is another source of drinking water used during the day, such as an optimally fluoridated community water supply at day care, school or work?

Don't overlook your home water treatment systems, such as reverse osmosis and distillation units, which may remove the fluo-

ride from water supplies. It's a good idea to look at the manual for these devices or to contact the manufacturer if you can't determine their effect on fluoride levels.

Prepared by the ADA Division of Communications, in cooperation with The Journal of the American Dental Association. Unlike other portions of JADA, this page may be clipped and copied as a handout for patients, without first obtaining reprint permission from the ADA Publishing Division. Any other use, copying or distribution, whether in printed or electronic form, is strictly prohibited without prior written consent of the ADA Publishing Division.

"For the Dental Patient" provides general information on dental treatments to dental patients. It is designed to prompt discussion between dentist and patient about treatment options and does not substitute for the dentist's professional assessment based on the individual patient's needs and desires.

Get thrifty at base ASYMCA thrift store

The Armed Services YMCA Thrift Store located at building 192, offers free uniforms, and uniform items to all active duty military personnel. The Thrift Store has clothes for the entire family, as well as housewares and electronics. The first Saturday of every month there is a bag sale and storewide sale from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Store hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donation hours are Monday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Thursday 8 to 11:30 a.m. The store number is 830-4692.

P

F

C

J

A

M

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

K

H

E

S

A

T

W

C

H

E

S

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

R

S

O

N

C

H

O

S

I

W

O

J

I

M

A

N

E

R

E

N

L

I

T

Y

C

H

E

S

A

N

D

E

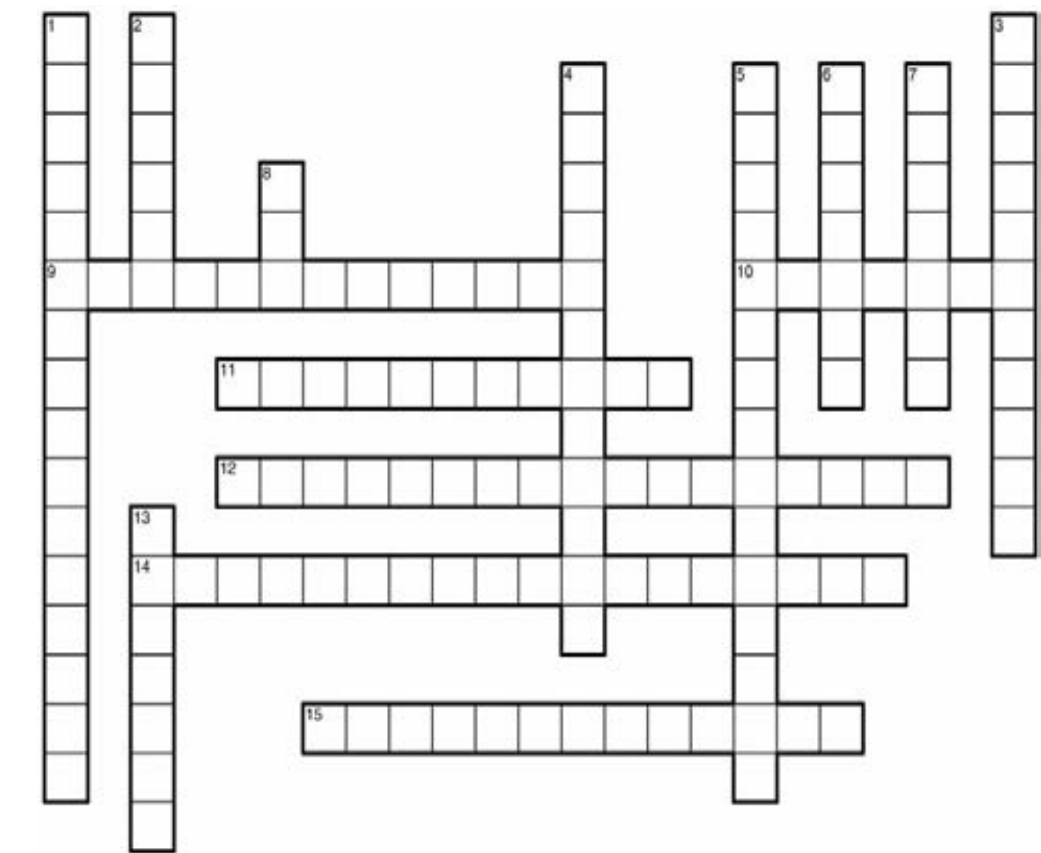
R

S

O

N

MARINE CORPS KNOWLEDGE



ACROSS

- 9. First African-Americans in the Marine Corps.
- 10. Joe Rosenthal immortalized this famous battle ground.
- 11. Marines seized a fortress in this city in 1847 and was later recognized in a verse of the Marine Corps Hymn.
- 12. Brought honor and renown to the Marine Corps through music.
- 14. Became the fifth commandant at the age of 37.
- 15. This landing turned the tide of the Korean War.

DOWN

- 1. First black Marine to earn Medal of Honor.
- 2. Marines prevented the North Vietnamese from penetrating U.S. defenses in this battle.
- 3. At this famous battle site Capt. Lloyd Williams said, "Retreat, hell! We just got here."
- 4. 5 Navy Crosses.
- 5. Marines at this battle site were surrounded.
- 6. In 1805, Marines defeated the Barbary Pirates under the charge of Lt. Presley O'Bannon.
- 7. Marines fought house to house in this Vietnam battle.
- 8. The number of battalions congress authorized in 1775.
- 13. Accounted for more than 200 dead Boxer Rebellion soldiers.

[Solutions on A7]

Military Saves week, urges service members to save

AMERICA SAVES

PRESS RELEASE

The Defense Department has designated Feb. 25 through March 4, as Military Saves Week to encourage service members and their families to establish savings goals and set money aside for emergencies and other needs. Marine Corps Community Services Personal Financial Management Program is proudly supporting this effort by asking military members to join Military Saves as part of Operation Financial Fitness.

Jany Wasdin, PFMP Coordinator, states that she is delighted to support Operation Financial Fitness and the Military Saves campaign. We see an incredible need for improved saving habits in today's world. This is a model program for changing lives by creating economic opportunity."

Saving money and alleviating debt require dedication, sacrifice, and patience. Military Saves provides the necessary tools to help accomplish that financial mission. Individuals simply make the commitment to save money on a regular basis to achieve their personal financial goals. Participants receive helpful financial tips and the much-needed encouragement to continue the savings habit. Visit www.militarysaves.org for more information or to



CPL. RANDY BERNARD

The Defense Department has designated Feb. 25 through March 4, as Military Saves Week

sign up for the program. Military Saves is part of the nationwide campaign, America Saves, and is sponsored by Consumer Federation of America, the Department of Defense, the NASD Investor Education Foundation, and a nationwide network of Defense Credit Unions and Military Banks.

Part of the DOD Financial Readiness Campaign, Military Saves encourages leaders to focus attention on encouraging their troops to get out of debt and save money. For more information on Military Saves, please visit your MCAGCC financial institution or MCCS Personal Financial Management Program.



PHELPS WALK from A1

across the country, he gains much attention from inspired spectators who believe he is running for a cause.

Unlike Forrest Gump, there is a definite cause for this long journey made by the family members of a fallen hero.

The walk, Mack said, is an attempt to gain local and national publicity in hopes to raise money for the Chance Phelps Foundation, an organization which supports injured Marines.

“Our goal isn’t really decided,” said Mack about how much profit she hopes to see. “We just want to raise money for the ones coming home with injuries.”

The Web site dedicated to Phelps, <http://www.run4chance.com>, tells the story of Phelps’ valor as he provided suppressive fire to enemy insurgents who planted a road-side improvised explosive devise to stop his convoy.

“The IED went off about 300 meters in front of us,” said Lance Cpl. Thomas Medbery, a Marine who was in the first vehicle of the 6-vehicle convoy when it was attacked. “I didn’t see what really happened because I was blinded by shrapnel and glass in my eyes.”

Medbery said the rear vehicle, the one Phelps was in, provided suppressive fire while the injured parties were evacuated. All those who were wounded were successfully evacuated, said Medbery.

The Web site also shares letters from Marines in Iraq, as well as current events about deployed service members.

“He was definitely a morale booster,” said Medbery about Phelps. “I will always remember his humor and how he was always one of the



Marines of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, join the family of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps for a breakfast before the family begins their 1,574 mile walk to Montana in honor of Phelps, who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

more cheerful ones in the bunch.”

Mack agreed.

“He was the funniest guy,” said Mack. “He was my motivation and my inspiration. He was like the glue that kept everyone together,

and he kept everyone going.”

Mack and other loved ones of Phelps have taken their vow of traveling by foot literally. They say they hope their journey across six states might inspire others to know Phelps’

story, and the story of many other young men and women who do not make it home.

Mack’s inspiring journey may very well touch hearts the same way simple-minded Forrest Gump did when he said, “I just wanted to run.”

Multi-National Force West changes leadership

II MARINE
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
(FWD) PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PRESS RELEASE

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — First Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) transferred authority of Coalition forces in Al Anbar province, Iraq, to II MEF (Fwd) in a ceremony here Feb. 9.

The flag of the Camp Pendleton, California-based I MEF (Fwd) was reverently rolled on its staff and placed in a sleeve by Commanding General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, signifying the end of one year as the leader of the Multi-National Force – West. The colors of the Camp Lejeune, North Carolina-based II MEF (Fwd) were then drawn from its sleeve and unfurled by Maj. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin, the II MEF (Fwd) commanding general.

“I’ve been amazed by how much the Marines, soldiers and all the servicemen have been able to accomplish here under such difficult circumstances,” said Zilmer, of Reading, Penn. “What impressed me the most is how well we worked with the Iraqi security forces and how far they’ve come in such a short time.”

During their year as the headquarters element of MNF-W, a force of more than 30,000 servicemen and women from each branch of the services and a small number of foreign military members, I MEF (Fwd) took on the challenging role of rebuilding the Iraqi security forces while increasing the security and stability in the largest Iraqi province.

“My intent was to assist the Iraqis in building the number and capability of their security forces, while bringing down the level of violence to where they, the Iraqis, can provide their own security,” said Zilmer. “As we’ve seen already, a lot of great things can happen here once security is restored. We’ve come a long way since last year.”

When I MEF (Fwd) arrived in Camp Fallujah in February, 2006, the Iraqi Army’s 7th Division had only recently been formed, and the 1st Division’s ranks had been

depleted to nearly nothing. Today, both divisions add up to more than 14,000 soldiers, or “jundi”, and have taken the lead in security operations in many largely metropolitan areas of the province, along with the new Iraqi police in those areas.

Two years ago, there were no effective Iraqi police in Al Anbar. Now there are more than 4,000 operating in all of Al Anbar’s largest cities. Many more have joined in recent months and others have joined Emergency Response Units that assist the police.

The integral borders between Iraq and three of its neighbors are now patrolled by approximately 2,700 Iraqis in Border Enforcement. They protect 550 miles of borders as part of a layered defense against the influx of foreign insurgents, terrorists and contraband weapons.

“Combined planning and coordinated execution of operations (between the Iraqi Army and police) are becoming the norm, vice the exception as it might have been a year or two ago,” said Lt. Col. Clayton J. Fisher, the senior advisor on the Military Transition Team that works with the Iraqi Army’s 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. “Additionally the Iraqis are seeking to take the reins and drive operations, with coalition forces assuming an ‘over-watch’ role, assisting and supporting as needed.”

Of the 55 planned new

police stations to be added to the 38 active stations now in the province, the Iraqis plan to name one of them in the Ramadi area Al Wissam, or “the Warrior” Police Station, and dedicate it to the late U.S. Army Captain Travis Patriquin.

Patriquin was killed in action while serving with 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division in Ramadi. He was

one of the many Soldiers and Marines who worked with both the tribal leadership and provincial government in Ramadi to bring about positive change in Al Anbar.

In the last year, the provincial capitol has seen a significant drop in violence due largely to the steady increase in volunteers to the various Iraqi security forces. The provincial government has

also worked hard to bring more than \$170 million in much needed reconstruction funds into the province.

According to Col. Charles R. Gross, the civil affairs liaison to the Anbar governor, said the last year was very difficult for the provincial government, yet “both the Governor and the Provincial Council persevered in their commitment to bringing secu-

rity, stability, economic development, and the rule of law to Anbar Province.”

Gross, with the 4th Civil Affairs Group from the Naval District Washington, Washington, D.C., added the relationship between I MEF (Fwd) and the provincial government was very close and will continue to be mutually beneficial with the change in leadership to II MEF (Fwd).

BATTERY M from A1

“There won’t be another deployment to Okinawa for at least another two years or year-and-half,” said Fisher.

The Marines of 3/11 also worked with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, which is made up of five armies, five maritime districts, and three air defense forces, totaling more than 239,430 personnel, according to the Web site <http://www.britannica.com>.

In training with the JSDF, Marines and sailors worked side-by-side with the Japanese defense forces to get exposure to their operations in case of America being called upon to defend the country of Japan, according to the Web site.

“Basically, our purpose there was to provide a certain level of protection to the Japanese people,” said Fisher. “Safety is paramount.”

Lt. Col. Mark Tull, commanding officer of 3/11, said he was very pleased with the execution of the unit’s training exercises.

“I only heard good things about the unit from the 12th Marine Regiment,” said Tull. “They spoke very highly about our Marines.”

The Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy was also made available to Marines and sailors of 3/11 during their deployment, so they might further advance their education while achieving mission accomplishment.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason W. Andrews greets his wife and kids after being bombarded with silly string at Victory Field Feb. 7. Andrews, along with the rest of Mike Battery, returned to the Combat Center after a six-month tour to Okinawa, Japan.

“The battery did a great job,” said Col. Robert Davis, commander of 11th Marine Regiment. “It’s always good to have any live-fire exercises for the batteries so they can operate as a full battalion.”

Fisher agreed.

“Any time we can fire live-fire exercises is a good time,” he said.

“The Marines did an outstanding job,” he continued. “They represented us very well, and they were wonderful ambassadors.”

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Prado, battery gunnery sergeant, was pleased with his Marines’ performance as well.

“The Marines did a great job staying out of trouble during this deployment,” he said. “Even though the tempo was

very busy, like it is with all deployments, morale and motivation were very high.”

Melissa Granger, wife of Staff Sgt. Mike Granger, section chief and native of Beaumont, Texas, said she and their 7-month old daughter,

Emma, are looking forward to spending with together when he returns.

“I’m really not worried about going out, I just want to spend time together,” said Melissa. “I’m so thrilled he’s coming back!”

Name	_____
ID #	_____
Pick up at	_____
Destination	_____
Total fee	_____
Driver	_____
Date/Time	_____
Customer	_____
Signature	_____

**ARRIVE ALIVE**

WE ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PLEASE USE SEATBELT SAFELY

No endorsement of the sponsor is intended by the Federal Government or the USMC.

**ARRIVE ALIVE**

A Combat Center Car Company 361-7433

Top's Taxi 361-6748



Marines, Sailors, and cab drivers:
MCCS will reimburse ANY licensed cab company for transportation to the Main Gate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. **Drivers:** please legibly record information from your fare's military I.D. card.
Thank you for participating.

Save time, DMV goes online

DMV

PRESS RELEASE

SACRAMENTO — Department of Motor Vehicles Director George Valverde today announced the launch of a brand new public service marketing campaign for 2007 - "Driving Change," and an enhanced Web site - all designed to encourage customers to "Save Time, Go Online," by utilizing the department's recent string of new and innovative online services. The DMV's new-look Web site is located at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov>.

"Our goal is to drive customers to do business on their time, not ours, through our newly-improved Web site," DMV Director George Valverde said during a morning media briefing at the department's South Sacramento Field Office. "We are extremely proud of the enhancements to the site and our very first marketing campaign."

The campaign features fun and creative billboards and entertaining radio spots, all working to help promote the fast and efficient services offered on the DMV Web site. Other DMV-driven marketing opportunities include ongoing grassroots outreach efforts, including partnership development, ethnic outreach, event participation and educating Califomians how they can save time by conducting their DMV business online.

Outdoor billboards are being placed in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus County and greater San Diego areas along major thoroughfares and high-traffic intersections. The radio portion of the campaign consists of :30 and :60-second spots in English and Spanish in the San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bemardino/Riverside, Modesto and Sacramento regions.

The California DMV - one of the nation's first motor vehicle departments to offer online services to customers has created an online renaissance. Vehicle Registration Internet Renewals numbered approximately 3.9 million during 2006. An increase of 34 percent from 2005. More than 976,000 online driver license renewals have been

logged since September 2004, and the Department is adding a new online feature every 120 days. And just last week, the number of Californians who have signed up to become organ or tissue donors on the state's "Donate Life California Organ & Tissue Online Registry" surpassed 1 million - more than 695,000 of which were registered through the DMV and its Web site. The DMV is also nearing an additional Internet milestone: 500,000 personalized plate reservations. In addition to renewing vehicle registrations online, customers can also use the DMV Web site to:

- Renew driver's licenses and vehicle registration
- Purchase personalized plates
- Check the license status of driver's education or traffic schools, new or used vehicle dealers and more
- File change of address or vehicle transfer forms
- Calculate fees and taxes due
- Request refunds
- Find the nearest DMV offices, hours of operation and wait times
- Schedule office appointments for up to three transactions or for three separate customers
- Make appointments for both car and motorcycle driving skill tests
- Study the Driver's Handbook, the Motorcycle Handbook, the Parent-Teen Training Guide and more
- Take interactive driver's license exams
- Answer the most frequently asked questions in extensive archives

The DMV is a department under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Acting Secretary Barn R. Sedlik. The DMV licenses drivers, maintains driving records, registers and tracks official ownership of vehicles and vessels, investigates auto and identity-related fraud, and licenses car dealers, driving schools, and traffic violator schools.





AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. D. MYLES CULLEN

G'Day mates

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace begins a pass and review of the Australian honor guard and band at the Defense Ministry in Canberra, Australia, Monday.

OBSERVATIONS

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

Hitting the slopes: 2/7 Marine memorialized with snowboard

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

On Dec. 1, 2005, the Marine Corps lost another brother. Remembered by many as an avid snowboarder, it only seemed fit to memorialize him with something that hit close to who he was.

On Feb. 9 Al and Linda Turk donated a snowboard to Outdoor Adventures in honor of their close friend Sgt. Andy A. Stevens, who was a scout sniper with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Stevens joined the Marine Corps in 1995 after graduating from high school. Those who knew Stevens remember him as a hard worker who loved football, but most of all snowboarding.

“Andy was an outstanding Marine, a heck of a patriot and a snowboard addict,” said Al Turk during the dedication ceremony. “He was such a great young man, this is the least we could do.”

Al, who works at the Battle Simulation Center on base, met Stevens a couple years ago when he came to work at the center. From there, the bond between them grew bigger.

“He used to come over to the house and watch the Packers games with us,” said Al. “Its tough losing someone who was like close family to you.”

The ceremony included a memorial poster being presented to both the Turks and Steven’s mother and step father. Along with the board being presented to Outdoor Adventures, the Turks got the chance to present it to the first renter.

Lance Cpl. Cory Gray, 2/7, served with Stevens in Iraq.

Gray said it was a coincidence that he was going snowboarding and afforded the chance to be the first to rent the board. It was an honor for him to take it, he said.

The board is shiny black, with Sgt. Stevens name, unit and date he passed away airbrushed on it, along with the Marine Corps emblem proudly displayed below it. It is a memorial like no other, that can be enjoyed by many and allow Stevens to be remembered by his comrades for years to come.

“Its hard to put into words what this means,” said Kaye Olson, Stevens mother.

“Its awesome that now all Marines can come and rent it. I hope they enjoy it as much as

Andy did,” she said.

The Turks who donated the board expressed that they didn’t want it to just sit around or be a plaque on the wall, but they wanted the board to be used by fellow Marines.

“When I came up with the idea, I was just going to bring them the board and be done,” said Linda. “The whole ceremony was better than I could have imagined.

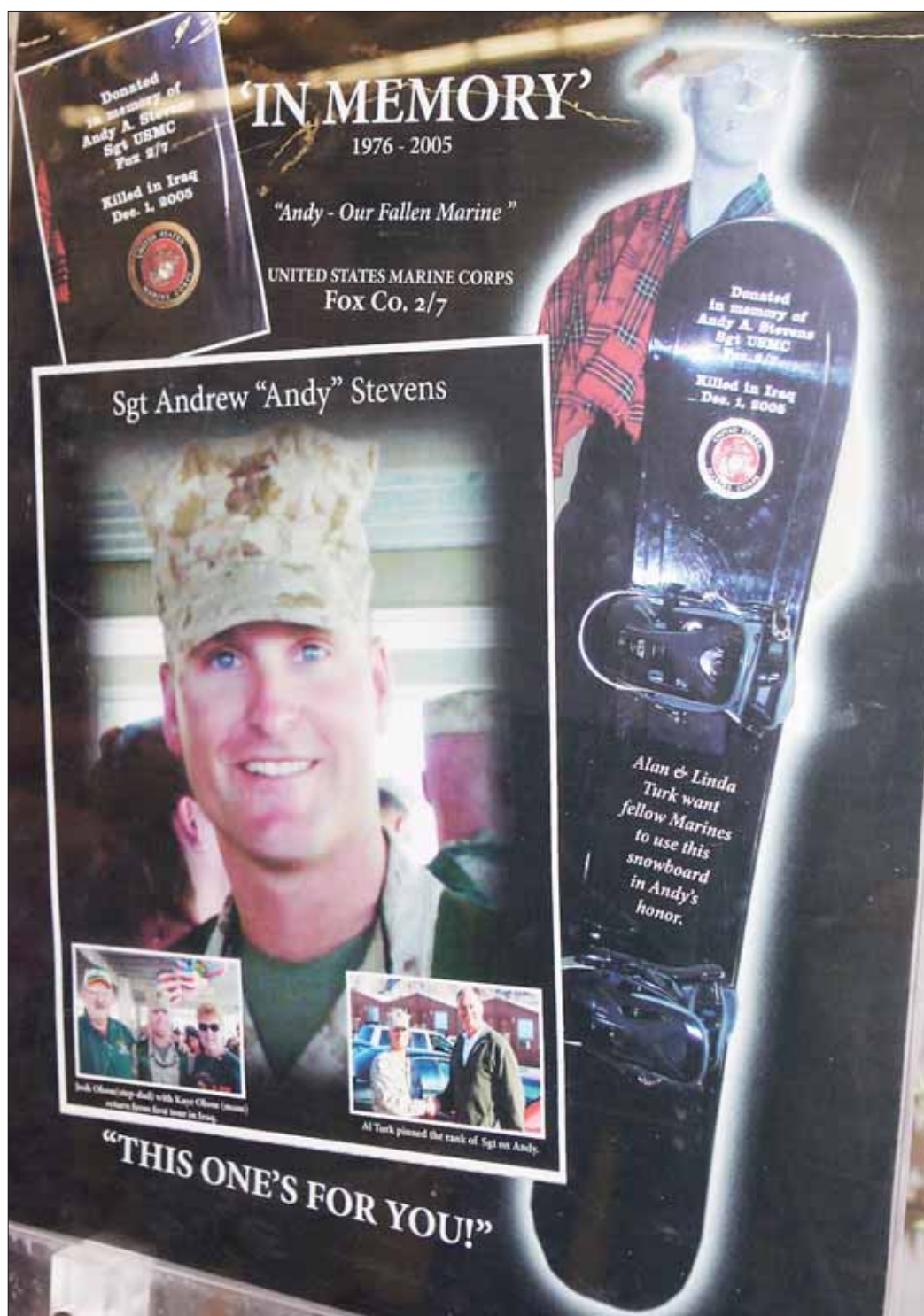
Andy meant a lot to me. He use to come over, curl up on the couch with our little dog and he was comfortable being with us. He was one of the family, not just a guest.”

The board, which is a heartfelt gift, will carry on the memory of a man who was not only a son and a brother, but a fellow Marine.

“It is a gift that will keep on giving, each and every time a Marine or sailor takes that board down the mountain,” said Mary Ellen Barrena, Outdoor Adventures manager.

“Andy was an outstanding Marine, a heck of a patriot and a snowboard addict,”

— Al Turk



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
A snowboard was donated to Outdoor Adventures Feb. 9 in memory of Sgt. Andy A. Stevens, who died in Iraq while serving as a scout sniper with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Marines respond to call of service, volunteer in local community, benefit all

CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps prides itself on holding to its core values of honor, courage and commitment. With these as guiding tools, some Marines choose to go above and beyond their duty, and extend a helping hand into the community.

Marines are volunteering in local outreach programs during their free time as a way of giving back to supporting communities. It’s Jennifer Sutton’s job, since July 2006, to connect these Marines to these programs.

“Volunteering offers many benefits,” she explained. “It is a wonderful way to learn about and engage in a new community.

“You can also explore a job field you are interested in pursuing, learn new skills that will prepare you for future employments and share skills you know while helping others. You can also remain active while waiting to secure employment,” she added.

Sutton has been a volunteer herself for the past 8 years after getting involved with a

Key Volunteer Network during her husband’s first deployment, she said.

Now Sutton helps other volunteers, which includes Marines, sailors, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees, connect with volunteer programs aboard the base and in the local community.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Brian Daneker plays a similar role within his unit. He is the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Intermediate Maintenance Training Section in Company A of the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School here. He helps junior Marines get involved in volunteer programs such as Knights of Columbus, Outreach Morongo, local schools and the Combat Center’s Religious Ministries Directorate.

“I believe to be part of the community, you need to volunteer time and talents in order to make it a better place to live,” he explained. “You never know when you or your family may be in need.”

Daneker has been a natural



COURTESY PHOTO
Marines from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School assist clean-up in the local community.

volunteer, never turning down the chance to help those in need as “Mr. Fix-It” or by offering his skills wherever need be, he said.

Daneker has managed to

make long time friends with people he has helped. An elderly lady he met 19 years ago when he was first stationed at the Combat Center as a young sergeant, is similar to

family to him, he said.

“We try to visit and help her around the house as often as we can,” he explained. “She’s family now!”

Master Sgt. Robert Fritz,

communications chief, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, has been a volunteer for more than 10 years.

See VOLUNTEER, B8



<i>2007 Intramural Basketball Standings</i>	
As of Wednesday	
3/7	5-1
MCCES A	3-0
Tanks	3-1
MCCES B	2-1
TTECG	2-1
I&L	2-2
Hospital	2-2
CZY-38 Urban	1-2
MWSS-374	1-2
Magazine	0-4
3rd LAR	0-5

Time running short for Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation 2007-2008 applicants

MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Washington, D.C. — Private scholarships are the lifeblood of many aspiring college students, and for children of Marines, The Marine Corps Scholarship Fund serves in this pivotal role.

For over 45 years, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has helped accomplish what many Marines cannot — enabling their children to pursue dreams of higher education. The Foundation provides academic scholarships to the most deserving and often most disadvantaged sons and daughters of our Marines, with particular attention given to children whose parent was killed or wounded in action. Since the organization's

founding in 1962, the Foundation has provided over 20,100 scholarships, of which 977 were awarded in 2006, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000.

The average family income of the Foundation's scholarship recipients is under \$38,000/year. That leaves Marine families faced with hard choices to make with respect to the escalating financial costs of higher education.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation aims to serve as a bridge between existing federal and state financial aid packages and the deal-breaking amount the children of Marines may need to afford college without amassing huge student loan obligations.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation reminds applicants that the deadline for applying for its scholarships is March 1, for graduat-

ing high school seniors and April 15 for all other students. Applicants who meet the qualifications are advised to download forms and details from their Web site: <http://www.mcsf.org>. Students must complete their application forms and submit with a copy of their parent's Form DD214, an IRS 1040, a transcript of grades, their Federal Student Aid Report, and a 500-word essay.

Students qualify if they are:

- The son or daughter of a Marine on Active duty or in the Reserve, retired or deceased
- The son or daughter of a Marine or Marine Reservist who has received an honorable discharge, medical discharge, or who was killed while in the service of our country
- The son or daughter of an active duty, reserve or former U.S. Navy Corpsman who is

serving or has served, with the U.S. Marine Corps. Applicants must be:

- A senior in high school
- A high school graduate
- Currently enrolled as an undergraduate in an accredited college or university
- Currently enrolled in a post high school accredited vocational/technical school.

Finally, the 2006 maximum family income must be \$65,000 or less - the limit increases if siblings also apply.

Scholarship awardees are notified from the Foundation by April 16 for high school students and July 15 for all other students. The average award for students is \$1,900.

For more information, please contact The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, 1-800-292-7777.

Active duty military stay in touch by using technology overseas

REBECCA HEYL

SPECIAL TO TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Thousands of military men and women send videos to their children. But the latest trend features the parents as the stars of the videos. Children see and hear their parent reading a storybook to them, from thousands of miles away.

It's part of United Through Reading®, an organization that takes the sting out of long-term separations during military deployment while starting young children on the road to a lifelong love of reading.

"She reads along with him," Jan Rice said of 6-year-old Caroline as she watched videos of her deployed father, a Navy captain.

"Daddy asks questions, makes jokes and sometimes interjects in mid-page," said Rice. "He'll look up and say, 'why, that's just what you do!'" And then Caroline giggles.

The tapes of her father reading Caroline's favorite books were made by UTR on the carrier he commands.

The 143,000 military men and women and their families who have participated are testimony to the importance and growth of the program, according to Betty Mohlenbrock, founder and president of the organization which was established in 1989 as the Family Literacy Foundation.

"Six to eight months of a child's life represents a significant amount of time to be separated," said Mohlenbrock, an educator who knows the stress of separation first hand.

As the wife of a Naval flight surgeon deployed in Vietnam, she and their 2-year-old daughter coped with the pain of separation.

"United Through Reading helps children feel less anxiety – they don't feel like their parent will be gone forever."

Laura Bush recently accepted the position of Honorary Chair of UTR.

Increasing interest from military commands around the world illustrates the program's importance. They are participating in UTR as one way to take care of their families' emotional and behavioral health.

The program is available on most Navy ships, Naval Mobile Construction Battalions, in many Marine Corps, Army National Guard, Air Force and Coast Guard units, and U.S.O. sites, including some in California, Hawaii and Washington state.

Michele Coast's husband, a Marine



COURTESY PHOTO

A deployed father in the Middle East reads to his son on video courtesy of United Through Reading.

Lieutenant Colonel who's been in Iraq four times in the past three years, is also an enthusiastic supporter. According to Coast, the mailings have maintained a vital connection between dad and their three children.

"He had feared the children would forget him," said Coast. "When he learned they watch the DVDs over and over again, that was just huge for him."

TriWest Healthcare Alliance supports United Through Reading and has provided significant financial support for it. The gift goes a long way toward alleviating the insecurity of a young child when a parent is suddenly absent for an extended period, according to Mohlenbrock.

One military member participating in the pro-

gram from northern Iraq said, "I am now going on my 49th month of deployment and I have a 22-month-old son, Alex. United Through Reading has given me the medium to keep my images, my voice in front of my son on a daily basis. He is now saying 'daddy' to me on the phone when I call, he knows what I look like and I built a bridge between me and my pride and joy."

There are two ways to access United Through Reading. Military commands can

contact the organization to set it up especially for their units. Service members can also visit select USO sites which offer the program. For more information on United Through Reading, visit www.read2kids.org, or e-mail utr@read2kids.org. To find out more about USO sites offering the service, visit <http://www.uso.org> and click on "What We Do," and then "Special Programs."

VOLUNTER from B1

“I began volunteering when I heard of a situation that needed some help,” he said. “I volunteered and met a wonderful senior citizen who was very pleasant and appreciative of the help I provided her. I then helped her on several other occasions and became a regular volunteer assisting in numerous activities assisting people and the organization.”

Fritz urges young Marines to help in their community.

“An excellent reason to volunteer is the satisfaction and the feeling that you get, knowing that you just made a difference in someone's life,” he

explained as he would to young troops. “Other benefits are networking, meeting new people, and learning of things in the area that are not normally known, or off the beaten track.”

There are many things a person can contribute to their community, such as yard work, delivering food, taking senior citizens shopping, serving meals on holidays, spending time with children, moving furniture, and so on, said Fritz.

To get involved in supporting and helping the community, contact Sutton by calling 830-4262, visiting the Village Center at building 1551 or keeping a lookout for those in need of a simple helping hand.



