OBSERVATION POST

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ARINE CENTER GROUND COMBAT

JANUARY 2, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

Vol. 51 Issue 1

HOT TOPICS

SMOKING NEW CALIFORNIA LAW

Health and Safety Code Article 2.5 to chapter 4 of Part 15 of Division 104. Amend: Vehicle Code \$12814.6 (SB 7 Chapter 425) Makes it an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100 for a person to smoke in a motor vehicle any time a minor is present cle any time a minor is present in the vehicle.

OBSERVATION POST CHANGES
The Observation Post beginning today will be delivered Wednesdays. Submissions need to be to PAO NLT Thursday for announcements/hot tonics and ments/hot topics and Wednesday for news/feature submissions. If you have questions call the PAO office at 830-3765.

TREE TRIMMING IN HOUSING AREAS

Valley Crest landscaping will be in the following communities on the days listed below for tree trimming. Shadow Mountain: Jan. 3-11 Adobe Flats: Jan. 14-18 Condor Terrace: Jan. 21-23 Call the community office if you have any questions. Main side 368-4500 Ocotillo 368-4021

MAGTFTC SECURITY MANAGER SENDS

"Whoever embezzles, steals, purloins, or knowingly converts to his use or the use of another, or without authority, sells conveys or disposes of any record, or thing of value of the United States or of any department or agency thereof shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both." Leaking UNCLASSIFIED govern-ment information can be a felony offense. POC for Information Security is Bruce De Wald, at 830-7181.

NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING MILITARY FATHERS

rauternood INational Initiative (NFI) is seeking nominations of outstanding military fathers to be considered for the 2008 NFI Lockheed Martin Military Fatherhood AwardTM Please see: www.fatherhood.org/mfa.asp for more details. Please email nominations by Jan. 4 to militaryfa@father

hood.org.
The Awardee will be announced in February.

3/7 leaders relinquish command

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. **DUNN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, formed up for a change of command and post and relief ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 14.

Lt. Col. Roger B. Turner, outgoing commanding officer of 3/7, and Sgt. Maj. Douglas L. Smith, outgoing 3/7 battalion sergeant major, relinquish their respective positions to Lt. Col. James Woulfe and Sgt. Maj. James McCook.

The ceremony began with opening statements from the narrator and an invocation from the battalion chaplain.

After the invocation, Turner passed on the battalion colors to Woulfe, signifying Turner's passing of his post as battalion commander to Woulfe.

"I've been here for 32 months and to leave this fine group of men here required a lot of help," said Turner in a speech following the ceremony. "These are remarkable



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Lt. Col. Roger B. Turner, outgoing 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, commanding officer, passes the colors on to Lt. Col. James Woulfe, incoming commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 14.

men and some of the best sailors of his new battalion. America has to offer. They have an eye-watering dedication to the mission and to themselves."

Woulfe also addressed the audience and the Marines and

3/7, I'm thrilled and honored to be here," he said.

Once command of the battalion had been passed to Woulfe, a post and relief cere-

mony was held for Smith and "To the Marines and sailors of McCook. Smith turned in his noncommissioned officer sword to Woulfe, symbolizing his step-down from his post as

See COMMAND, A8

NREA looks for hidden treasures aboard Combat Center

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In the distance, a spot of turquoise sand could be seen as the vehicles drew near a hillside just outside the Lavic Lake training area Dec. 17.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs hosted an archeological and historical tour of little-known locations on the Combat Center that are home to artifacts, ruins and rock art.

Dr. Marie Cottrell. natural and cultural specialist with NREA, organized the tour along with help from John Hale, archeologist; Brent Husung, natural resource specialist with NREA; and Dr. Brian Henen, ecologist.

The tour was primarily aimed at providing Col. Wes S. Weston, Installation and Logistics director, with information about the bases' resources, which span the entire Lavic Lake training area. Cottrell, Henen, Husung and Hale each offered their expertise on artifacts and remains found enroute to the area.

The first stop was at the remains of an old mill site surrounded by turquoise sand. The sand gets its color from copper minerals deposited into the ground from ore that was stripped while looking for gold.

The mill site, which is called Kenton Mill was built into a lava ridge on the hillside in the late

See NREA, A5



California State University, Los Angeles, students assist NREA in an excavation here at Surprise Springs in 2005 to increase understanding of Native Americans who once lived in this area. Although there are many restrictions on certain historically-valuable areas, some training is allowed.

This Day in Marine Corps History

-Janurary 2, 1777:-

Marines participated in the 2nd Battle of Trenton.



Two Bronze Star Medals awarded in December



The Marines of 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Tanks, show off their firepower



College scholarships available for spouses and children of military personnel



2007 year in review

A2 November 9, 2007 **OBSERVATION POST**



C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention • Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office, Crime Prevention Section



Larcenies aboard MCAGCC

Larcenies have always been a big problem across the U.S. There has been an increasing problem of thefts aboard the base and especially in the barracks, which is an issue we have to strongly look at and find a way to address.

Out of the 90 larcenies, almost all of them could have been prevented or been easier to solve if the person would have secured the items properly, kept receipts of merchandise or marked or engraved their property for identification purposes. Also ensure that you write down and keep a record of all serial numbers and other identifiers of merchandise and keep that list in a secure location. Most pawn shops will not take property that has engraving markings on them.

	acc
Unit	Larcenies
7th Mar	4
1/7	12
2/7	7
3/7	3
3/4	6
3/11	4
3rd LAR	11
1st Tank Bn	4
3rd AABN	3
MWSS-374	5
CLB-7	3
VMU-1	2
MCCES	13
HQBN	8
NAV HOSP	0
23rd Dental	0
Staff Housing	0
Other	4
Grand Total	90

DUI / DWI Update

Here are the stats on how many DUIs/DWIs that we have had aboard Here is a total number of Marine MCAGCC and off the installation:

Unit Total	s On Base/Off	Base Ranks
7th Mar 1	1 2/9	1 PFC/1LCpl/7Cpls/1PO3/2nd Lt
1/7 13	3 8/5	1PVT/2PFC/7LCpl/1Cpl/1Sgt
2/7 13	2 7/5	1Pvt/1PFC/2 LCpl/2Cpl/1Sgt/1SSgt
3/7 5	2/3	1PFC/1Lcpl/2Cpl/1HN
3/4 29	9 8/21	1Pvt/3PFC/12Lcpl/7Cpl/2Sgt/1SSgt/1HN
3/11 10	0 4/6	1Pvt/1PFC/1LCpl/4Cpl/1Sgt/1HM3
3rd LAR 1	1 9/2	1Pvt/1PFC/4LCpl/5Cpl/2Sgt
1st Tank 1	0 6/4	4LCpl/3Cpl/1SSgt
3rd AABN 5	3/2	1Pvt/2LCpl
MWSS-374 1	1 5/6	3PFC/2LCpl/2Cpl/2Sgt/1SSgt/12ndLt.
CLB-7 2	1 6/15	2Pvt/3PFC/7LCpl/4Cpl/1Sgt/1PO3
VMU-1 1	0/1	1LCpl
MCCES 1	6 2/14	1PVT/2PFC/3LCpl/2Cpl/1Sgt/3SSgt/1MSgt
HQBN 2	8 10/18	1Pvt/11LCpl/9Cpl/1Sgt/3GySgt/1Capt
Nav Hosp. 1	0/1	1 Unknown Rank
23rd Dental	0	0/0
Other Mil 10	0 3/7	4Cpl/2Sgt/1GySgt
Mil Dep 8	8/0	6Wives/1Husband
DOD Ĉiv 0	0/0	
Other 4	4/0	3 Civilian-NMA

related DUI's broken down by month.

Jan/10, Feb/14, Mar/12, Apr/17, May/20, Jun/19, Jul/17, Aug/15, Sept/27, Oct/20, Nov/24 Dec/13 thru Dec/26.

Out of the 206 DUIs/DWIs, all of them have lost or will lose their driving privileges for a minimum of

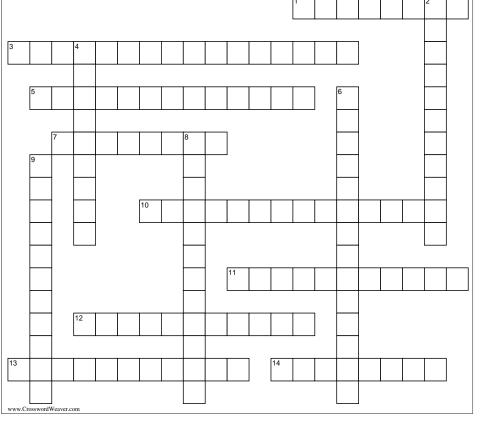
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

Literature, Briefings, Education, Crime Assessments, Safety Tips, Stranger Danger Program, McGruff the Crime Dog, Officer Friendly Program, Operation Identification (Property Identification), Child Identification and Fingerprinting.

For more information about the above services, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Section at 830-4561/6094.



BOWL SEASON HEROS



ACROSS

206

Grand Total

- 1. An injury against Pittsburgh held him and his team back from the BCS title game
- 3. Led his defense to a spot fot the nataional title for a second
- 5. Led Illinois to its first Rose Bowl
- This QB has a Golden Arm this season
- 10. 2007 Player of the Year
- 11. All-American DL on the SEC Championship team
- 12. Throws down in a showdown against a fellow Heisman candidate
- 13. Arguably the best freshman QB of 2007
- 14. The 2007 Heisman winner

DOWN

- 2. This small QB led his team to a big Orange Bowl Game
- 4. Has a uncle who used to play in the NBA
- 6. Hopes to puut USC back on its pedestal in the Rose Bowl
- 8. Turned the Kentucky football program around
- 9. Currently holds 20 NCAA records

[Solutions on A8]

Centerspeak

Who plays the best gangster, Al Pacino, Robert DeNiro, or Denzel Washington?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense.



PFC. KARL KNAAK 3/11

efinitely Al Pacino. Robert DeNiro stars in too many comedies."



LANCE CPL. JAMES MEMS CLB-7

fter seeing 🚺 'American Gangster,' I think **Denzel Washington** is more gangster"



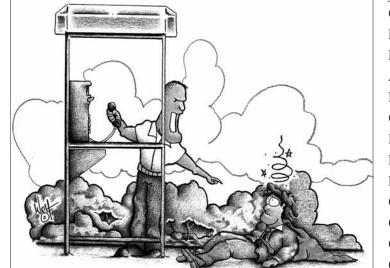
enzel Washington because he can't make a bad movie.'

LANCE CPL. DOMINIC BELMESSIERII CLB-7

OBSERVATION POST

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



"At ease Superman!, You may be bullet proof.....But there is no way you're GRUNT PROOF!!! "

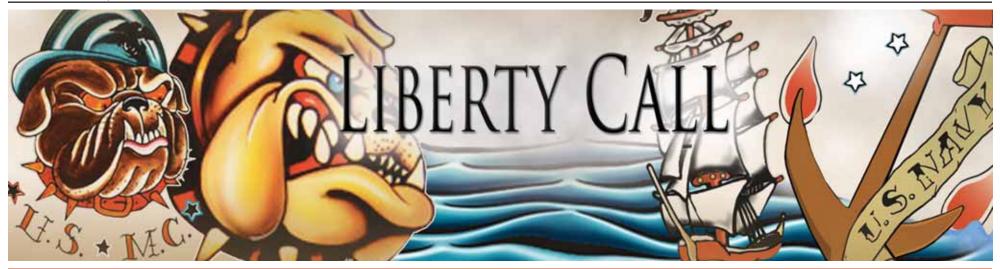
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A3 November 9, 2007 **OBSERVATION POST**



Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

WEDNESDAY

Fred Claus 7 p.m. - PG

THURSDAY

Lions for Lambs 7 p.m. - R

FRIDAY

Enchanted 6 p.m. - PG

This Christmas 9 p.m. - PG-13

Beowulf Midnight - PG-13

SATURDAY

Muppet Treasure Island **FREE**

11 a.m. - G

Mr. Magorium's Wonder **Emporium**

2 p.m. - G

Enchanted 6 p.m. - PG

August Rush 9 p.m. - PG

Lions for Lambs Midnight - R

SUNDAY

Mr. Magorium's Wonder 2 p.m. - G

The Mist

6 p.m. - R

Hitman

9 p.m. - R

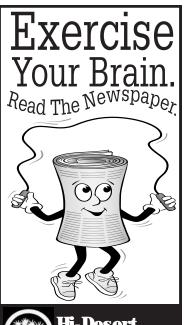
MONDAY

Fred Claus

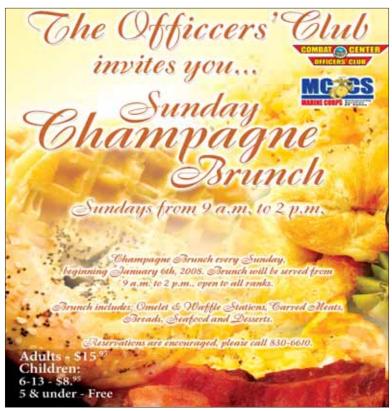
7 p.m. - PG

TUESDAY

Lions for Lambs 7 p.m. - R









SATURDAY, JAN. 12 KNOTT'S BERRY **FARM TRIP** Call 830-4SMP TO SIGN UP

Opening Night Theatre 29 Announces **Neil Simon's Rumors**

Rumors, is Director Pelfrey's 3rd production at Theatre 29 and is the opening show of the

Theatre 29 2008 season.

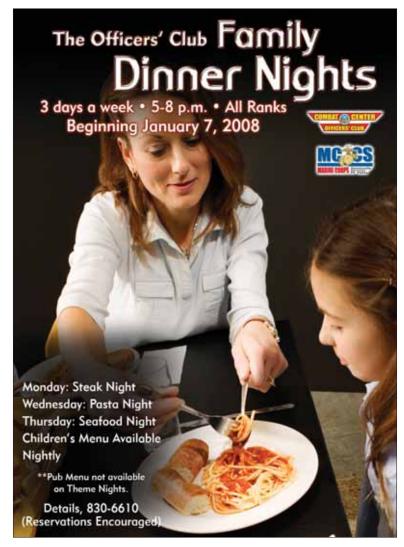
In the show, which was a Broadway sellout, four couples arrive at the townhouse of the deputy New York city mayor and his wife to attend a party celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary. However, the four couples soon discover that there are no servants, the hostess is missing and the Deputy Mayor has shot himself (it's only a flesh wound.) The comedic complications arise when,

given everyone's upper class status, they decide they need to do everything possible to conceal the evening's events from the local police and the media.

This is a classic Neil Simon farce of high society which has left audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter.

Tickets are \$10.00 for regular admission.

\$8.00 for Seniors and Military, and \$6.00 for children under 12 and Students with ID. Reservations can be made by calling the Theater 29 Box Office at 760-361-4151.





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A4 NOVEMBER 9, 2007 OBSERVATION POST

2/7 commander awarded Bronze Star Medal

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. **ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors from Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, joined Marine veterans for an awards ceremony Dec. 19 at the base theater.

Capt. Jonathan L. Riggs, Echo Co. company commander, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a Combat Distinguishing Device. Lance Cpl. Joshua McArthur, radio operator, was awarded the Oscar P. Austin Award. Lance Cpl. Robert Pofahl, assaultman, was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal.

Riggs received the Bronze Star for heroic achievements while serving as company commander during his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Riggs led his company with great bearing during their deployment with more than 75 engagements with the enemy.

According to the award citation, Echo Co., under Riggs' leadership, discovered more than 20 weapons caches and 14 improvised explosive devices and was responsible for more than 50 percent of the battalions detainees sent to the theater interment facility.

Riggs, regardless of his own safety, directed the operation of an M240 Medium Machine Gun against opposing enemy fire during a patrol.

Riggs also established a patrol base within the village of Rufush, Iraq, an area previously dominated by insurgents.

The ceremony began with McArthur being presented his award along with a KA-BAR given to him by Marine veterans close to Echo Co.

The award is presented to an Echo Co. Marine, ranking lance corporal or below, in honor of Pfc. Oscar P. Austin, a Medal of Honor recipient who lost his life while protecting a fallen Marine during the Vietnam War.

"It is pretty cool to receive this award," said McArthur. "I've been with this company for more than two years. It is pretty hard to get something like this when you're a non-infantry Marine in an infantry unit, so for them to come up to me and shake my hand, and congratulate me is awesome, it is an honor."

Pofahl received a NAM for actions against enemy resistance during his recent deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He detected the enemy, and he used a .50 caliber machine gun to halt their attempt to surround his patrolling Marines.

"This is just as much their's as it is mine," said Pofahl, indicating the Marines with him during the attack. "I did my job, and they did what they were supposed to do."

After the ceremony, many Marines and sailors from Echo Company, 2/7, along with the veterans present during the award ceremony, went to Victory Field to celebrate all the Marines who received awards with a barbeque.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Capt. Jonathan L. Riggs, company commander, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device during an award ceremony Dec. 19 at the base theater. He was awarded the medal for heroic actions during his deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

3/11 officer awarded Bronze Star

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. **DUNN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When Marines or sailors go above and beyond what is expected of them, either in combat or in garrison, it does not go unrecognized by their commands.

Capt. Waco Lane, commanding officer, Lima Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal Dec. 14 for his actions while serving as an assistant team leader and operations advisor for Military Transition Team 0122, Regimental Combat Team 6, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), in Fallujah, Iraq, from Dec. 28, 2006 to July 25, 2007.

Lane and 10 other Marines from the Combat Center and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., were responsible for training and advising 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, during their tenure in Iraq.

"Our role was simply to assist and advise the IA battalion from everything like how to handle pay and logistics to conducting intelligence-driven operations and establishing battalion training standards," he said. "We made sure they were doing everything as efficiently as possible."

As assistant team leader and

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN Lt. Col. James C. Lewis, 3/11, commanding officer, congratulates

Capt. Waco Lane, Lima Battery, 3/12, commanding officer, Dec.

14 for earning a Bronze Star Medal.

See STAR, A6

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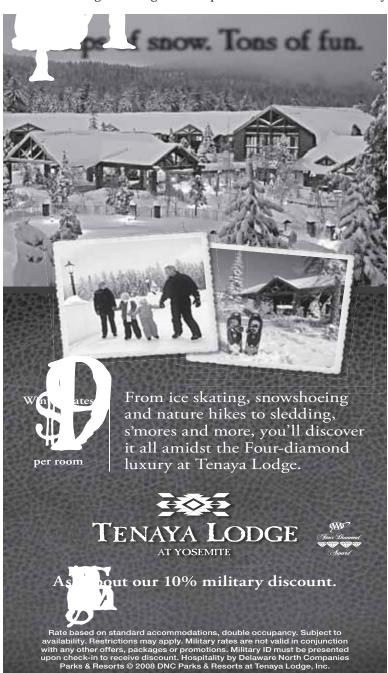
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A5 November 9, 2007 **OBSERVATION POST**

2/7 Marines conduct back to basics tactical leadership training

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

All the team leaders from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, completed a three week tactical small unit leader's course Dec. 14 at the Combat Center's Training Area West and Range 102.

The course helps bring back the basic training skills Marines learned in the School of Infantry and boot camp.

said Cpl. Tony Whittenbaugh, team leader, Echo Company, 2/7. "This has helped me jump back into an infantry mindset and get better experience with my other team leaders."

"The training has been pretty good,"

Lance Cpl. Christopher Cowley, team leader, Golf Company, 2/7, agreed with Whittenbaugh, explaining that all the team leaders will be prepared to lead their

Marines instead of improvising their train-

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Marines from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment use a mock Iraqi house as cover while searching for a weapons cache during their tactical small unit leader's course Dec. 14 aboard the Combat Center at Training Area West and Combat Center Range 102.

ing at the spur of the moment.

The training consists of land navigation, live-fire drills, patrolling, communication, first aid, reporting procedures, learning new weapon systems and much more.

"The live-fire drills through the stations were pretty good," Whittenbaugh. "It was more in-depth on how to use your optics and shoot over your sights."

Following each fire team was a guide, watching as the Marines performed their assigned task and guiding them when needed. The guides helped after a task was completed, debriefed the Marines and informed them on what they need to work on and what they performed well.

"We have gotten so Iraq-specific in our training we have gotten away from the basics of conventional warfare," said Gunnery Sgt. Trent Kuhlhoff, company gunnery sergeant, Golf Co., 2/7. To ensure all team leaders retained the information the Marines moved through sta-

An hour or more for each station guaranteed each Marine went through the period of instruction, practical application portion and evaluation period.

"If a Marine fails they go through remediate training until they understand and get it right," said Kuhlhoff.

The culminating event of the TSULC

consisted of fire-team sized patrols encountering opposing forces and weapons caches in a small mock Iraqi village.

"It is great the battalion is focusing on small unit training," said Lance Cpl. Mike Roth, team leader, Golf Co., 2/7. "We're learning to be more proficient in the important aspect of warfare."

The Marines traveled different routes where they encountered enemies and weapon caches. Using the training they learned earlier in the week, they had to call the site into the forward operating base before returning from their patrol. "The training gives you a basic knowledge on how to lead a fire team," said Cpl. Lance Charvat, team leader, Golf Co., 2/7. "It refreshes the team leaders on a lot of things they may have forgotten."

Each week of training was lead by a different company from 2/7, ensuring every aspect of the team leader training was covered.

"The whole battalion leadership is involved with the team leaders training," said Kuhlhoff. "It is a complete battalion effort."

Now that the team leaders from 2/7have completed their training in TSULC, they have grown in their leadership roles and can pass their knowledge down to new and incoming junior Marines.

NREA from, A1

19th century and used until the beginning of World War I.

"One of the significant things about that site is that the men working there kept no records about what they were really doing," said Hale after the tour. "We don't know a lot about it. If those sites were destroyed, we'll never know what it was like to live the isolated life those men did out there."

There, Cottrell also pointed out fragments of purple glass which received its pigment from manganese deposits used in glass before the WWI era.

After the mill site, the tour

continued to a historic mining camp, where structural remains thought to belong to a cabin or tent rock foundation were found. Among the rest of the remains, there were also two fire rings, a possible privy location, a cement foundation and what appeared to be a small mill or well pump.

At this and the Kenton Mill location, artifacts such as food cans, bottle fragments, tobacco cans, nails, 6-inch spikes, bricks, pipes and barrel hoops could be found lying in the sand.

"These men used to eat their food out of lead cans and smoke cigarettes out of lead foil-lined packs," said Hale. "They used

mercury and cyanide to filter out gold. It was a hard life out there."

Later on, the group was fortunate enough to get a first-hand look at historic petroglyphs, or rock art splayed along a mountainous area on base.

The petroglyphs varied in color due to exposure to the elements and their age. Although spread out, many petroglyphs feature a pattern of similar images. It is thought the rock art was created by one of several Native American tribes including the Serrano, Chemeneuvi, Mojave and Cahuilla. The period in which the rock art was made is still debatable since there is little known about them.

It is for this reason Husung believes it is vital to preserve these historic finds.

"It's our part to be good stewards of the environment," said Husung. "The Marine Corps has an exceptionally good reputation for conserving natural resources and we want to make sure it's there for the next generation of Marines to train on."

Although there are many restrictions on certain historicallyvaluable areas, some training is allowed such as foot patrols.

The last stop of the day was at the Lavic Lakebed proper site which was molten lava about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

There, one could find a large rock-built ring about 25 meters in diameter on the ground. It is uncertain who made the ring or why it was made in such a barren area.

"If we don't preserve these things, in 15, or 50 or 100 years when they have developed some new technology to help better understand that, they won't be there," said Hale.

While NREA continues to work hard to preserve historic treasures lying within the boundaries of the Combat Center gates, it is still up to individuals here to assure that the quality of our home environment lasts for generations to come.



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A6 NOVEMBER 9, 2007

OBSERVATION POST

Warriors Club brings relaxation to training Marines

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Warrior's Club is a dining and recreation facility run by Marine Corps Community Service employees for all military members located in Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center.

The club serves as a place where Marines can relax and unwind after a long day of training.

"We give them somewhere to have fun," said Trisha Watson, MCCS food service worker. "They can come in here without worrying about every little thing that crosses their path."

The club provides hot food including hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken strips, fish sticks, fries, nachos, turkey and chicken sandwiches, wraps, pizza, and a variety of drinks.

"It is a really nice break from MRE's (Meal-Ready-to-Eat) and cold food," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Cobb, Motor Transport Chief, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment. "They have a variety of items you can choose from. If a Marine wants to be healthy there are chicken wraps and lean sandwiches, or you can get pizza and a hamburger."



Lance Cpl. Austin Rowland, Motor Transport mechanic, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, uses the pool tables during a quick break at the Warrior's Club Dec. 19.

According to Cobb, many Marines miss the opportunity to eat at the chow hall due to training.

"We sometimes miss all three meals of the day," said Cobb, currently training through Mojave Viper for his upcoming deployment to Iraq. "It is MRE's, the exchange, or the Warrior's Club and we almost always choose the Warrior's Club."

The club also houses multiple pool tables, arcade machines that wrap around the club and televisions mounted on every wall.

"The Marines are out here

training to defend our country," said William Schroeder-Cox, Warrior's Club supervisor. "This club provides those Marines a break from their hard day, it is like a haven. They can come in, sit down and just relax after their constant training."

Units currently undergoing training through Mojave Viper can reserve the Warrior's Club for a night.

The Warrior's Club opens its doors to Marines in units reserving the club for their unit party, usually held within a couple of days before a unit finishes its Mojave Viper training.

A disc jockey plays music, alcohol is available to Marines old enough to drink and food is available throughout the night.

The Warrior's Club offers many services to Marines and sailors currently training through Mojave Viper, including food, relaxation, and entertainment.

For more information about the Warrior's Club, contact the club at 830-5613, or visit the Web site http://www.mccs29palms.com.



2008 ARMED SERVICES CONTESTS

YMCA ART CONTEST:

The Armed Services YMCA Art contest 2008 seeks young artists for its annual contest titled "MY MILITARY FAMILY". Students are asked to draw a picture of their military family. All entries should be drawn on a 8X6-inch template included in entry form.

YMCA ESSAY CONTEST

The Armed Services YMCA Essay Contest 2008 seeks students who can write about MY MILITARY HERO for its annual contest. Grades 1st through 8th grade should submit entries of at least 100 words but no more than 300. The essay can focus on any person who is/has served in the military. For more information on either contest visit the ASYMCA office bldg 696 or call (760) 830-7481, contact Toinette Ishee or Anita NeuFultz.

STAR from, A4

operations advisor of the MTT, Lane directly oversaw 10 direct action raids, six cordon and searches, four civil engagement operations, and numerous patrols conducted by Marines and Iraqi Army personnel.

Lane's role on the MTT also directly led to the capture of 40 insurgents and the discovery of 6 weapons caches and more than 30 improvised explosive devices.

Although Lane was cited for these and other actions while serving on the MTT, he is humble about receiving a Bronze Star Medal.

"Honestly, I was just doing my job and what was expected of me every day," he said. "My actions weren't glamorous like charging across an open battlefield with my Marines. I just tried to do my job as best I could by teaching the Iraqis to stand on their own so we can all leave that country.

"For me personally, the MTT was one of the best jobs I ever had," added Lane. "At the same time, it was also one of the most frustrating and patience-testing jobs I ever had. However, if I was asked to do it again, I absolutely would without hesitation."

Lane's service and dedication to his duties on the MTT did not go unnoticed by his peers or his current command.

Maj. Lee Helton, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, executive officer, commended Lane for earning a Bronze Star Medal for his actions while serving on the MTT. Helton was Lane's team leader on the MTT during their deployment to Iraq

"In a small team, every individual is critical to the mission," said Helton. "He was a key component to making that battalion proficient and successful in combat."

Lt. Col. James C. Lewis, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, commanding officer, agreed with Helton, also commending Lane on his monumental performance.

"We are glad to have the opportunity to recognize Capt. Lane's impressive Operation Iraqi Freedom record," said Lewis. "He is a very capable officer and leader, and maintains the

very high standards of our Corps. He is in the midst of preparing his battery for another deployment, where he will draw on his past experiences. They will serve him well."

Lane is currently preparing his battery for their upcoming deployment to Okinawa, Japan, this month. Lima Battery, 3/12, will be attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to Lane, three sailors from various batteries of 3/11 were promoted to the rank of petty officer 3rd class. Petty officers 3rd class Xin Qi, Headquarters Battery, 3/11; Raul Alvarado, Headquarters Battery, 3/11; and Benjamin

Swain, Mike Battery, 3/11; were all pinned their current ranks by Lewis.

Following the three promotions, Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Caldwell, 3/11 battalion sergeant major, read the citation for Lane's Bronze Star Medal. Lewis then pinned the medal on Lane and presented him with his citation and warrant.

Another unique aspect of the ceremony was that it was Caldwell's last promotions and awards ceremony with 3/11. Caldwell departed 3/11 Dec. 17 to fill the regimental sergeant major billet for 11th Marine Regiment in Camp Pendleton for one year. He will return to 3/11 following his temporary assigned duty.



A7 November 9, 2007 **OBSERVATION POST**

Steel Knight 2007 trains Marines on every level

LANCE CPL. JARED J. **BUTLER**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 1st Tank Battalion hosted Steel Knight 2007 at the Combat Center's training area Dec. 2 through 18.

The training included multiple exercises designed to train Alpha Company; Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-Guided missile System Platoon; and 1st Platoon, Delta Company, for their upcoming deployments.

The 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion also took part in Steel Knight and helped make it the largest 1st Marine Division training exercise of the year.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, 1st Marine Division commanding general, came to the Combat Center to oversee some of the exercises and address the Marinesin-training Dec. 13.

"Even through the extremely cold conditions, the Marines showed a lot of enthusiasm and interest in the training," said Waldhauser. "They put together a good effort to learn and get the most out of it."

One of the events he witnessed was the tank and infantry integration training at Combat Center Range 210.

The live-fire exercise gave tanks and infantry platoons the



Marines of 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Tank Battalion, move and communicate with each other during the tank and infantry integration training of Steel Knight 2007 at Combat Center Range 210 Dec 13.

opportunity to effectively move, shoot and communicate with each other in a hostile environment.

"The training at Range 210 is as close as you can come to simulating a real combat experience in a training environment," said Cpl. Bruce Mills, Stryker Section leader, TOWS Platoon, 1st Tanks.

The Combat Center's Emerson corridor training area hosted the other live-fire exercise of Steel Knight, the live-fire convoy course.

Much like the tank and infantry integration training, the convoy course also gave Marines the chance to move, shoot and communicate together.

Many of the non-live-fire training events took place at Combat Center Range 220, including an urban assault course, dismount and patrolling, cordon and search, and vehicle check points.

"Most of the exercises incorporated a lot of factors that I haven't seen before in training," said Cpl. Juan Moreno, 3rd Squad leader, 1st Platoon, Alpha Co., 3rd CEB. "The urban assault course featured everything you would have in a reallife situation."

Steel Knight also featured improvised explosive device lane training, culture training, and forward operating base security.

"The IED lane training was really important, because that's what we are encountering more and more overseas," said Cpl. Allen Williams, tank crewman, 1st Platoon, Delta Co., 1st Tanks.

The wide variety of exercises and events gave the Marines and sailors knowledge and experience that applied to both 1st Tanks and 3rd CEB.

"This year's Steel Knight has had a great effect on everyone," said Cpl. Brett Baatrup, tank gunner, Alpha Co., 1st Tanks. "The newer Marines are learning a lot and learning fast. The senior Marines are getting finely tuned, and everyone is getting chances to show their leadership skills."

After a well-deserved break for the holiday season, Alpha Co.; TOWS Platoon; 1st Platoon, Delta Co., and 3rd CEB will begin to prepare for their upcoming deployments this Spring.



LANCE CPL, JARED J, BUTLER

The Marines of 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Tank Battalion, show off their firepower during the live-fire tank and infantry integration training of Steel Knight 2007 at the Combat Center Range 210 Dec 13.

The Hi-Desert Publishing Company wishes all of our men and women in uniform a Happy and Safe 2008.

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COMMAND from, A1

battalion sergeant major. Woulfe then presented the sword to McCook, instating him as the new battalion sergeant major. Smith and Turner spoke about Smith's relief as 3/7's sergeant major.

"Sgt. Maj. Smith sets an impeccable example at all times," said Turner, addressing Smith. "You've been an incredible battle buddy, friend and advisor to me. Good luck in your future endeavors."

Smith made his farewell speech following Turner, highlighting the time he spent with the Marines and sailors of 3/7.

"Serving with these Marines is

one of the most outstanding things I've ever done," he said.

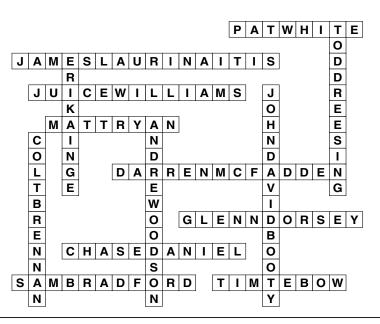
Once Smith wrapped up his speech, McCook addressed the battalion with his own.

"To the Marines of this battalion, you have an outstanding reputation," he said. "I look forward to working with you."

Following the ceremony, a farewell and welcoming reception was held for the battalion's old and new leaders at the Desert Winds Golf Course.

Woulfe and McCook will lead the Marines and sailors of 3/7 as they continue to train for their next deployment in support of operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

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Beginning today the deadline for submitting Trader ads in noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

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Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

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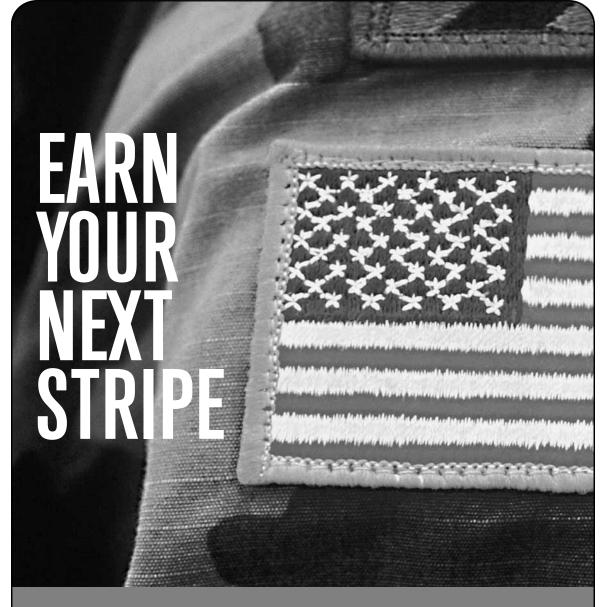
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A10 November 9, 2007

Observation POST

2007

Kear



Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, is escorted through a crowded market at Combat Center Range 215 by Mojave Viper instructors and role players July 10.



Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, Combat Center sergeant major, stand at attention behind the Installation Excellence Award trophy as the Installation Excellence Award Flag is raised at the base flagpole July 9. The flag will fly every day under the national flag until next year's winner is announced.



CMDR. JANE CAMPBELL Members of the Armed Forces Honor Guard bear the casket of former President Gerald R. Ford into St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 29, 2006. Nearly 350 Marines from the Combat Center provided security and host support for this phase of the state funeral.



A memorial, with 164 sets of dog tags hang from the pistol grip of an M-16A2, honor the Marines and sailors who have been killed since Operation Iraqi Freedom began while attached to Regimental Combat Team 7.



Lt. Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, director of urban warfare, escorts Robert Gates, secretary of defense, through the market district of Combat Center Range 215 May 29. Gates visited the base to observe combat training and receive an overview of the Marine Corps predeployment training program, Mojave Viper. He wanted to witness firsthand the capabilities of the Marines as they train for combat.



Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese, Combat Center Commanding general, salutes Lt. Gen. Sang Ro Lee, Republic of Korea Marine Corps commandant, as he steps aboard the Expeditionary Air Field at Camp Wilson June 13.



Marines from Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, dig in an M777A2 howitzer to test the Digital Fire Control System at the Combat Center's Quackenbush training area April 30.

A11 November 9, 2007

Observation POST

in Review



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVI



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Maj. Gen. Douglas M. Stone hands over the Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command colors to Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese in a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field April 5. Stone gave his oath of office earlier that day when he received his second star from Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis in a frocking ceremony at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group classroom. Stone will serve as depty commander for Multinational Force Iraq, as well as commanding general of Task Force 134, which oversees all detainee operations.



Sgt. Maj. Nicholas J. Bourikas, Headquarters Battalion sergeant major, leads the memorial motorcycle ride in honor of Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa to Camp Wilson and back to the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Aug. 17.



Nearly 3,000 residents cheered for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, driving down Main Street in Hawthorne, Nev., as part of the 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade May 19.





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A12 November 9, 2007

Observation POST



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