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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 11, 2008

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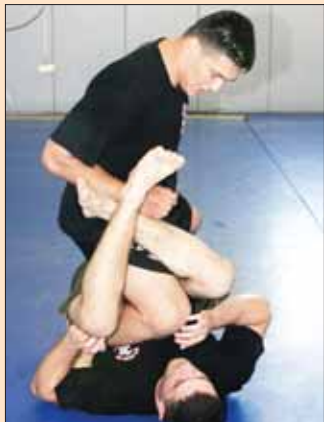
VOL. 51 ISSUE 24



3 Vista Del Sol family housing adds dog park



5 Science Day a blast at 29 Palms Elementary



8 Mixed Martial Arts club kicks into gear



9 Soap box derby is a yearly treat for local kids

This Day in Marine Corps History

June 12, 1961-

President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., "at all times during the day and night."

New commander prepared to march 7th Marines

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lt. Col. Michael P. Hubbard relieved Col. Bryan P. McCoy as commanding officer of 7th Marine Regiment during a change-of-command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 2.

McCoy, a native of Norman, Okla., assumed command in June 2007 and is now moving on to MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla., where he will serve as the United States Central Command's deputy chief of current operations.

Hubbard takes command after holding the regiment's operations and executive officer billets since August.

Once the passage of command had taken place, McCoy spoke about the quality and hard work the Marines and sailors of 7th Marines displayed under his watch. McCoy commented on how



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Col. Bryan P. McCoy, former regimental commander, 7th Marine Regiment, salutes Lt. Col. Michael P. Hubbard, regimental commander, 7th Marine Regiment, after relinquishing his command to Hubbard at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field here June 2.

the regiment made cycling in and out of Iraq look effortless and therefore might have missed out on recognition they deserve.

"It's an honor to command this regiment," he said. "This regiment is a national treasure, and we can never thank you enough."

Before passing the spotlight to his successor, McCoy said his

See **COMMAND, A10**

2/7 Marines, sailors see stars, stripes in Afghanistan



CPL. RAY LEWIS

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Magnus speaks to Marines and sailors assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division about Long War Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Jason L. Dunham.

CPL. RAY LEWIS

2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

CAMP BARBER, Afghanistan — The Marine Corps' top commanders recently visited with Marines and sailors of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, serving here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The "star-studded" week, which featured visits by three Marine Corps generals and one U.S. Army general, was highlighted by a town hall meeting hosted at the flagpole by Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Magnus.

While expressing his admiration and informing the troops of ongoing projects to improve their overall quality of life, the ACMC told the Marines they were executing a

very important mission and that the Afghan people are very happy about them deploying here to help.

"You make the Taliban afraid," Magnus said. "These insurgents will be beaten by their own people in the end. In the meantime, we just need fine American boys like you to help them get over the hump."

The week started with a visit from Lt. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

Helland, who is also the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, initially met and ate lunch with those Marines still operating around the Kandahar Airfield. The next day, he traveled here on a two-day trip

See **VISIT, A15**



LANCE CPL. JOSHUA MURRAY

Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Dotson, a corpsman with Task Force 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, attends a graduation ceremony at the Vocational Training Center in Husaybah, Iraq, June 1. The school graduated 244 students during their third cycle, compared to an average of 162 from two previous classes.

New vocational center trains 244 Iraqi workers

LANCE CPL. JOSHUA MURRAY

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

HUSAYBAH, Iraq — Every day, the streets here bustle with activity. Locals are building new homes and improving buildings damaged in the past. The people here are slowly rebuilding their community and 244 trained workers can now lend a helping hand.

The Vocational Training Center, located here, teaches men a variety of skills from welding to basic computer

knowledge that they can use to improve themselves and their community. The third group to complete the training received graduation certificates here, June 1.

"You should all be very proud of yourselves," said Lt. Col. Steven J. Grass, the battalion commander with Task Force 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, who spoke at the ceremony. "You've been given a unique opportunity, and I encourage you to make good

See **GRADS, A11**

Asleep at the Wheel

APRIL PHILLIPS

NAVAL SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Last August, during the Critical Days of Summer, a third class petty officer left a bar in Jacksonville, Fla., and headed home. Bad decision. Everyone knows drinking and driving is an accident waiting to happen. However, what killed this Sailor was the fact that he was tired. Who isn't at two in the morning? He fell asleep for just a second – enough time for his Chevy Tahoe to drift off the side of the road, which immediately woke him up. However, he over-corrected and ended up rolling the SUV numerous times. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

Experts have realized that fatigue is a fatal factor in more and more traffic accidents as people lead increasingly hectic lives and travel longer distances for work, school, and recreation. This problem can be exacerbated for sailors and Marines who often work long hours and may attempt to pack in as much recreational activity as possible between deployments.

“Folks on leave or vacation want to maximize every minute,” said Dan Dray, a traffic safety specialist at the Naval Safety Center. “Too often they push the envelope and drive long distances after working all day.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute combined to study the problem of fatigued driving. Their study found that drowsiness is a significant problem that increases a driver's risk of a crash or near-crash by at least a factor of four. However, they also noted that fatigue may be significantly under-reported, so the danger could be even greater.

Fatigue on the roadways doesn't only occur from a lack of sleep. The monotony of driving long distances can cause sleepiness even if you're well-rested. However, Dray said there are things you can do to stay alert. The most important thing is to take breaks during the trip.

“Stop every hour and a half to two hours,” he recommended. “Take a walk and stretch your muscles. Stay hydrated but avoid caffeine.”

Dray said caffeine is only good for a short burst of energy, and when it wears off, you might be even more fatigued than before.

It's important to fight fatigue proactively. “If you feel fatigued while driving, it's probably already too late,” Dray said.

That means you should always start the trip well rested. Try to leave work early so most of the drive can be completed during daylight hours. Learn to recognize the signs of fatigue which include:

- Trouble keeping your eyes open and focused.
- Nodding, or difficulty keeping your head up.
- Daydreaming or wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- Yawning a lot or needing to rub your eyes.
- Drifting out of your lane or tailgating.
- Missing road signs or driving past your turn.
- Feeling irritable, restless and impatient.
- On an interstate, drifting off the road and hitting the rumble strips.

If you notice any of these symptoms, immediately look for a place to stop and get a room for the night before you become a danger to yourself and others on the road. Getting home late is frustrating; not getting there at all is a tragedy.

For more information on fatigued driving, visit <http://www.safety-center.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle>.

SAY “AH!”

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65	66						67							
68							69				70			
71							72				73			

ACROSS

1. Garbage hauler
5. Little white lies
9. Pie-in-the-face sound
14. Aesop's also-ran
15. New York stage award
16. Hurler Satchel
17. Make English, inform
19. Shop talk
20. Ms. Shore, hitchhiking?
22. Not exactly a brainiac
23. Bo Derek's score
24. Goblet part
27. Emissions watchdog org
30. Court figures, briefly
32. “___ had it!”
33. Pres. Jefferson
37. Poet's planet
39. Some Muslims
41. Zoo keeper's words to a cat in a mud puddle?
44. String player of old
45. “Tic Tac Dough” win
46. Cereal-pitching tiger
47. “___ Beso”
48. Get-up-and-go
50. Gen-___ (boomer's kid)
52. Ring officials, briefly
54. Pro-Second Amendment org.
56. “___ Irish Rose”
61. Talking bird with a hit record?
65. Spread open
67. San Marino or Andorra
68. Mount the soap box
69. “No guarantees”
70. Author Bagnold
71. “The Highwayman” poet
72. David Bowie's “___ Dance”
73. Becomes solid

DOWN

1. Pottery fragment
2. Tippy craft
3. Grinder's instrument
4. Joins with a torch
5. Convergence points
6. Footnote abbr.
7. “Carmen” composer
8. Sign on a new lawn
9. Reach across
10. Law firm aides, for short
11. Attack vigorously
12. Make ___ of (succeed in)
13. Vietnamese holiday
18. Words of understanding
21. Where the Old Woman lived
25. Perrier rival
26. Having an open weave
28. Ominous sign
29. Sculptures, oils, etc.
31. Drag to court
33. Liv of “Armageddon”
34. Monopoly buy
35. Like a foul ball into the stands
36. Reagan-era mil. program
38. Abbr. meaning “no liquor provided”
40. Clear after taxes
42. WWW access enabler
43. Courteney of “Friends”
49. Word before scream or fear
51. Smashes into
53. Election Day list
55. Ouzo flavoring
57. Data storage units
58. Totally ridiculous
59. “... your cake and___, too”
60. Loses one's fur
62. Salts' assents
63. Minute or mile
64. Be off the mark
65. Trinity figure
66. Country clubteacher

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

If you could create your own holiday what would it be and why?

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



CPL. STEVEN CABRA
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

“I would want a holiday for September 11 to make it a national thing for everyone.”



MASTER SGT. JEROME MANNE
1ST TANK BATTALION

“August 18 would be a European American Day because I am an immigrant from Europe that became a U.S. citizen.”



CAPT. BROOKS BOEHLERT
INFANTRY OFFICERS COURSE

“I would want a Marine Corps holiday to immortalize the Corps.”

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Claire L. Stults
Employer: Marine Corps Community Services
Job Title: Head librarian
Job Duties: Order new materials and oversee the basic operations of the library.
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.
Hobbies: Reading, cooking, and water skiing
What do you like most about your job: I love seeing all the new people coming into the library and benefiting from all the resources we provide.
Significant achievements since coming to the MCAGCC: None yet.
Military Service: No, girlfriend of 2nd Lt. Daniel Whitt.
Time On Base: 2 weeks

OBSERVATION POST

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THURS. 6/12	NOW THROUGH 6/29	FRI. 6/13	SAT. 6/14	SAT. 6/14
Hi-Desert Nature Museum Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, "Fire Survival in Calif." Time: 12 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57090 29 Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7212	Fourth Annual Lavender Festival '08: Time: Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Where: 123 Farm and Highland Springs Resort 10600 Highland Springs Ave. Cherry Valley For info call (951) 845-1151	Paradise City Tribute to Guns N' Roses Time: 8:45 and 10:15 p.m. (two shows) Where: The Rock Yard, Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Springs Dr., Indio For info call (800) 827-2946	Eric Burdon and the Animals Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison Place Coachella Fore more info log on to http://www.spotlight29.com/	Buggy About Summer Carnival Time: 9-11:30 a.m. Where: Sunrise Park 401 S. Sunrise Way Palm Springs For more info call 416-6731
SAT. 6/14	SAT. 6/14	SAT. 6/14– SUN. 6/15	SUN. 6/15 – FRI. 6/20	TUES. 6/17
Classic Car Show Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Where: Historic Harvey Casa del Desierto 681 N. First Avenue Barstow For more info call 255-1890	Stop the Towers Hootenanny Benefit dinner and silent auction Time: 4-8 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's Palace in Pioneertown For tickets or info call 228-9676 or visit http://www.ca.desertco.org/calendar.html	Father's Day Weekend, including open cockpits Time: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Air Museum 745 N. Gene Autry Trail Palm Springs For more info call 778-6262	Palm Springs Restaurant Week More than 40 restaurants offer premier three-course meals for discount prices. Where: Various restaurants in Downtown Palm Springs For more info call 943-2333	McCallum Summer Festival musical performances for all ages Time: All Day Event Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS

Who let the dogs out? Vista Del Sol family housing office

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the Combat Center's Vista Del Sol family housing no longer have to take their dogs aboard the base or to surrounding city dog parks, to allow them to run freely and meet new friends.

The Vista Del Sol family housing office recently added a dog park to the neighborhood between the Aztec Avenue and Two Mile Road residencies, providing a place for pets to roam without a leash.

Teresa Williams, housing manager, facility support, Vista Del Sol Family Housing Office, spearheaded the project.

"I was asked to pick a spot for the park," said Williams, an Oxford, Miss., native. "I chose the hill between Aztec and Two Mile because it was easily accessible for Joe Davis, Two Mile and Aztec, and the view from the hill was amazing."

The dog park is also next to a playground where Williams said parents can let their pets play in the Park with an escort, while children enjoy the playground at the same time without having to worry about one getting away.

Once the site for the park was approved by the administrative officer for Military Family Housing, construction began.

The dog park was completed in November and was utilized by residents as soon they noticed the fencing was completed, said Williams.

Staff Sgt. James Baker, kennel master, K-9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, donated an obstacle course used for training military police dogs to the park in January.

"We had some extra dog stuff that we didn't need that sat on a lot for years," said Baker, a Lexington, Ky., native. "When Teresa said she could use it, the other K-9 Marines and I moved it out there."

There are three obstacles in the dog park. Each can be used for several different-sized dogs.

Some Vista Del Sol residents have already taken advantage of the dog park and use it regularly.

"I really like the dog park," said Nicole Smith, as her dog, Honey, ran throughout the park, playing with another dog. "The dogs have a lot of space to run around and obstacles they can play on."

Smith, wife of Lance Cpl. Brian Smith, rifleman, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment,

and Tigard, Oreg., native, also said the park is a great place for her dog to release energy so she won't get too rowdy at home.

"We try to give our residents the same amenities and facilities enjoyed by on base residents (Lincoln Military Housing)," added Williams. "We try to pro-



Max tugs on Honey's neck at the newly opened Vista Del Sol Dog Park June 3.

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vide our residents with whatever they need to improve their stay at Vista Del Sol."

The dog park is equipped with three gates that allows for easy access by all Vista Del Sol residents.

Williams also said she recently

ordered resting benches for the dog park.

Since the park is already in use, there will be no official grand opening; however residents are aware, and take advantage of it use daily.

Get To Palm Springs!

RIDE MBTA

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday				
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00 4:00	10:25 4:25	10:30 4:30	10:40 *4:40	10:45 *4:45	11:00 *5:00	11:10 *5:10	11:45 *5:45

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*				
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
12:00 *6:00	12:10 *6:10	12:15 *6:15	12:50 *6:50	1:35 *7:35

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

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Potentially dangerous animals, pit bulls not welcome on base

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center and Lincoln Military Housing have been working to remove pit bulls and potentially dangerous animals from on-base housing and Vista Del Sol housing.

Pit bulls are defined as a mixed breed of canine that has Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier or pit bull terrier or is identifiable as partially one of these breeds, according to Combat Center Order P11101.12L.

“We encourage residents to report pit bulls and we follow up each aggressively,” said Ray Zapata, Family Housing Division housing officer.

Also according to CCO P11101.12L, potentially dangerous animals are

defined as any animal that is determined by the base veterinarian that can pose a health or safety hazard to people who live aboard the Combat Center and Vista Del Sol Housing. A potentially dangerous animal is not restricted to only dogs. Any animal that can be considered a pet in on base housing that is threatening can be categorized as potentially dangerous.

Lincoln Military Housings policy states that if a pit bull is in a home it has to be removed within 24 hours of being found, said Jennifer Martin, Lincoln Military Housing district manager. “It creates a safer environment for the neighborhoods especially when the children are outside playing.”

The veterinarian will decide if the animal is

potentially dangerous by looking for any unusual aggressive or threatening mannerisms, a noted history of aggressive behavior or if a dog contains any form of pit bull in their lineage.

When a pit bull or potentially dangerous animal is found in base housing, the owner will be notified and required to remove the dog from the area within one day of notification.

When an owner fails to remove the pit bull or potentially dangerous animal from the family housing area, the animal will be impounded and the owner will be summoned to the base magistrate.

“Once identified, they are given 24 hours to

See PIT BULLS, A10



COURTESY PHOTO

The Combat Center and Lincoln Military Housing have been working to remove pit bulls from on-base housing and Vista Del Sol housing. According to Combat Center Order P11101.12L pit bulls are defined by the Combat Center as a mixed breed of canine that has Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier or pit bull terrier or is identifiable as partially one of these breeds.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Stephen Felder and his father, Master Gunnery Sgt. Spencer L. Felder, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of supply, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, conclude the Growing Palms Home School Group's promotion ceremony with a prayer at the Protestant Chapel June 3.

Inaugural promotion ceremony held for home schooled students

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 50 students advanced to the next academic grade during the Growing Palms Home School Group's promotion ceremony at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel June 3.

The ceremony, which was the first of its kind held at the Combat Center, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Master Gunnery Sgt. Spencer

L. Felder, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of supply, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, and prayer led by Jacob Good and his father Tactical Training Exercise Control Group's Maj. Matt T. Good, deputy director, Urban Warfare Training Center.

The master's of ceremony were Theophilus Felder, son of Spencer L. Felder,, and Joshua Poston son of Master Gunnery Sgt. Thomas C. Poston, operations chief, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and the ceremonial welcome was given by Traylon Post, daughter of Thomas C. Poston.

During the ceremony's presentation of certificates, the parents of those promoted presented their child with their respective diploma, an achievement medal and a balloon.

In addition to the presentation, the ceremony also included a piano piece by Andrew Mayer, son of Navy Lt. Joseph Mayer, chaplain, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and a musical performance by Calvin Chartier and his father Maj. Joshua B. Chartier, Military Iraqi Transition Team leader, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

Gabo and See-Wah Steele, son and daughter of Capt. Richard R. Steele, also performed music for those in attendance. Gabo played a solo piano piece, and was later joined by her brother, See-Wah on trumpet, for a performance of God Bless the USA.

See HOME SCHOOL, A14

HOT TOPICS

RUN FOR THE FALLEN 2008

Run for the Fallen is a cross-country memorial run commemorating the American service member. Beginning Sunday, a dedicated team of eight runners will run one mile for every service member killed in Iraq since the war began. Throughout this cross-country run, an American flag and a personalized sign card will be placed at the end of every mile in remembrance of each service member. Run for the Fallen is committed to the men and women that benefit from our run. The run is scheduled to start near Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., and will be coming through the Twentynine Palms area roughly June 21. If you're interested in running with the group or showing your support more information can be found at www.runforthe-fallen.org or contact Jon Bellona at (315) 404-2239 or jon@runforthe-fallen.org.

SKY'S THE LIMIT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Sky's the Limit is beginning ground breaking soon for the establishment of an observatory in the city of Twentynine Palms. They need the assistance of eight Marines to assist the handicapped on the nature trail walk on June 21 and 22. The time period each day that they need assistance will be from 7 to 11 a.m. The point of contact is Ms. Jerri Hagman at 367-0030.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR ALL JUNE 26

The Legal Assistance Office, building 1514, assists all active duty service members with their naturalization process. For family members, a military outreach is scheduled for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist family members with naturalization, permanent resident status, VISAs, etc. on June 26. The immigration officers will assist with general information on all types of immigration issues, petitions and applications, completing immigration forms, checking status of cases, and answering questions. Please call the LAO at 830-6111 to schedule an appointment with an immigration officer or for more information.

SUMMER HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

In small ways and in just a few hours a month, you can make a difference! You can offer practical help and emotional support to terminally ill people and their families. Summer classes to become a volunteer for the Hospice of Morongo Basin will be held Wednesday and Friday mornings, June 18 through July 2, and Tuesday July 8. Call 366-1308 for information or to register. There is no charge for training.



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SOLUTIONS

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29 Palms Elementary School Science Day a blast for kids, Marines

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Students from the Twentynine Palms Elementary School were surrounded by science at every

turn of their school, including a cow and robots on their playground, during the Twentynine Palms Elementary School Science Day June 4.

“The intent of the science day is for the children to experience

all the sides of science,” said Cathy Nelson, Twentynine Palms Elementary School fourth grade teacher and science day coordinator. “It was such an enjoyable experience for the kids and all participants.”

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum showcased exhibits of the history, culture and arts of the Mojave Desert, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had an exhibit that explained the science behind weather and the climate.

A Mobile Dairy Classroom was also parked at the elementary school where Daisy, a dairy cow, and her handler, Steve Miller, educated the children about the lives of dairy cows and everything a cow’s milk can produce.

The Combat Center set up four stations for the science day. Students learned about the science behind crime scenes with the Naval Criminal Investigative Services, robotics and explosive devices with Explosive Ordnance Disposal, desert life and the life of a desert tortoise through Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, and what it takes to become a dog handler with the Provost Marshal’s Office’s K-9 unit.

NCIS Special Agents Elizabeth Heisey and Cornelius Smith introduced themselves and their job duties of investigating

crimes committed throughout the world related to the Navy and Marine Corps. Heisey explained what they first look for when entering a crime scene and the special body suit they wear to prevent contaminating the crime scene.

Smith taught the children how to lift fingerprints off of a glass mason jar using magnetic powder and clear tape. Every child was able to lift their own fingerprint and tape it to an evidence card for them to keep.

“We wanted to inform them on what we do,” said Smith. “We also handed out child identity cards for them to take home.”

EOD talked about the history of the Combat Center and how it was used as a testing site for explosive devices during World War II. Students were then showed a wide range of diffused explosive devices that look similar to what people may find aboard the base. Gunnery Sgt. Kelly Crawford, EOD operations chief, told the students what to do if

See SCIENCE, A9



Lance Cpl. Esteban Dorado, a Provost Marshal’s Office military dog handler, runs and braces up to be tackled by Norbo, a 9-year-old military working dog, June 4.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Commuter vanpool service available to base personnel going to work

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Having to commute over two hours every morning to get to work can be excessive, especially with the rising gas prices. The Combat Center has many people who work aboard the base and live as far as Beaumont, Hemet, Perris and Temecula in Southern California who must travel to and from work every day.

To help these employees and service members, the Combat Center devised a vanpool program to help base personnel make the journey from their homes to the base while saving money, gas and the environment.

Patrons of the vanpool service meet at an established area that is centrally located between their homes where everyone can meet to be picked up and taken to work.

“We are saving fuel and money for each individual and cutting down on pollution,” said Delores Brodie, the vanpool coordinator and human resource specialist at

the Human Resource Office. One concern that keeps some from participating in vanpools is the perceived lack of control over the driving schedule. However Brodie reassures potential participants saying, “We’re always to work on time.”

The base’s vanpool rents vans from Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Vanpool Service Inc., which can seat seven to 15 people.

Through the Transportation Incentive Plan, vanpool participants can receive up to \$115 to help pay for the fees and cost of the van and gas. To be eligible for the voucher of \$115, civilians must be federal government employees, including Nonappropriated Fund employees. All active duty service members are eligible to receive vouchers.

“The savings are astronomical,” said Bob Koons, Exercise Support Division electronics technician and who lives in White Water, Calif., and is a vanpool rider. “We are taking 10 to 11 vehicles off the road and it is all good for the green environmental side.”

Contractors that work aboard

the base can use the vanpool services, but must pay the \$115 and remaining fee with their own money.

The remaining fee consists of the difference from the vouchers and remaining money needed to help pay off the gas and van. That fee is split between all the passengers using the van.

Brodie used to have to pay over \$500 a month on gas and car checkups when she would drive herself from Perris, Calif., to Twentynine Palms, Calif. After joining the vanpool she received a \$115 voucher and only had to pay \$100 dollars out of her own pocket to cover the difference, saving \$400 a month.

“That was before the rising gas prices,” said Brodie. “Now if I was driving myself I would be paying nearly \$800 a month to drive to work daily.”

Brodie has been working hard to expand the vanpool, trying to get vans for Combat Center employees living in Palm Springs, Yucca Valley and Barstow, Calif.

“I try to keep people together



Jack Smith, Exercise Support Division mechanic, climbs aboard a van that is part of the vanpool program that helps Combat Center personnel get to and from work every day.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

that have similar work hours and where they are coming from,” said Brodie. “It doesn’t matter where they live – just where they work.”

To be able to rent a van for vanpool purposes, six people must be signed up to use that specific van.

Also available to service members and civilians employed by the federal government is a \$30 voucher from the Transportation Incentive Program to use the

Morongo Basin Transit Authority for the month. The buses make stops throughout the base all the way to Morongo Valley.

The vanpool has been working hard to give civilian employees and service members a chance to save money on gas and a reliable way to get to and from work daily.

For more information about the vanpool, contact Brodie at 830-4723.

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Marines learn the ropes at TRST

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M.
DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – A patrol creeps silently through a forest, surrounded by cliffs and mountains. The trail stops cold at the edge of a cliff face. With no apparent way down the side, the patrol has no choice but to rappel to the bottom.

The Mountain Warfare Training Center offers a 16-day course where Marines can learn



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Cpl. Matthew D. Stormont, a rifleman from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., rappels down a steep, rocky slope as part of the Tactical Rope Suspension Technician course Friday.

the ropes of rappelling techniques.

The Tactical Rope Suspension Technician course teaches Marines how to navigate mountainous terrain when all standard means of travel have been exhausted.

“The purpose of this course is to get everybody technically efficient in TRST systems so they will be able to apply them in country and even in training,” said Staff Sgt. Stephen Comeau, Mountain Leaders Course chief instructor at the MWTC’s School of Mountain Warfare. “Our goal is to have our mountain leaders be the go-to guys for their units to learn how to survive in a mountainous environment.”

There are no prerequisites to attend TRST, and it is originally derived from the Assault Climbers course, which is a part of MLC. This is the first time the MWTC has offered a stand-alone course in rappelling techniques.

"The biggest difference is that MLC gives the Marines more time in the mountains," said Comeau, a 29-year-old Plaistow, N.H., native. "In MLC, they also learn a lot of techniques for mountain survival."

Comeau explained most of the TRST course revolves around practical application. The students are taught everything they need in the first few days. The rest of the course is spent practicing what they learned and mastering the techniques.

TRST instructors also teach

Marines how to cross open areas in the mountains, such as gorges and streams. The first thing the Marines were taught when they began field training June 6 was various ways to cross streams.

Stream crossings can become tricky and there are several factors to take in to consideration. Knowing the depth and speed of the water is the key to a successful crossing. Not knowing those two elements can be dangerous if not taken into account, said Comeau.

"TRST is something a line company, reconnaissance battalion or basically any infantry unit can utilize in the field," he said. "These are tools I think grunts on day-to-day patrols should learn. We teach it all here and if they're savvy enough on the material, they can start thinking outside the box in their applications."

"To my knowledge, a lot of Surveillance and Target Acquisition platoons and line companies are using techniques like this in country," he added.

Although the course has just begun, the 31 Marines attending TRST said they are having a good time and learning a lot.

"This is good, especially for people training to become instructors," said Cpl. Charles Henry, originally a rifleman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. "This really prepares



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines from the Tactical Rope Suspension Technician course cross a stream as part of their training Friday. The students learn several different ways to safely cross streams in TRST, based on the depth and current of the water.

you for MLC. A lot of guys have never rappelled, so this course gives them confidence in that skill.

"If we go to Afghanistan or get involved in another conflict in a mountainous environment, I feel I can teach my Marines what I'm learning here. It's one more wicket they can hit to prepare for that."

Henry, a 23-year-old Springdale, Wash., native, is currently attending TRST in preparation for MLC. He is training to become an instructor at the School of Mountain Warfare.

Many of the Marines attending TRST are from the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and use this type of training frequently to support their mission.

"In our [Military Occupational Specialty], this is definitely good training to have," said Lance Cpl. Torin Costello, a rifleman with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and Chicago native. "I was here about seven months ago training with the British and we didn't get to do anything to this extent. This time, we get to be the point [noncommissioned officers], so we learn what's right and what's wrong."

Although there is no set date for the next TRST course, a basic MLC is conducted twice annually, in the summer and winter. Two advanced courses are also held annually.

MWTC continues to structure courses geared toward preparing Marine Corps units for success in mountain warfare.

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Summer heat brings risk, raises awareness

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In movies and in history books, a pirates' Jolly Roger black flag flying above a ship or fort indicated potential death to those who saw it. Although a black flag seen at the Combat Center does not hold such a menacing implication, it does give warning.

A black flag is flown on the corner of Del Valle Road and Adobe Road when temperatures exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

The three other flags, which are colored green, yellow and red, each signify a different level of potential risk associated with temperature and humidity.

Now that summer has arrived, base personnel are at higher risk of suffering heat injuries if they don't stay aware of the rising temperature.

Navy Lt. Thida Buttke, department head for the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital public health department, said heat injury prevention is as simple as sipping water.

"Always have water with you," said Buttke. "Drink plenty even if you aren't doing anything."

Buttke cautions against exerting too much energy outside, especially during a black flag day.

"When we have black flag conditions, avoid [physical training]," said Buttke. "Obey the flag guidelines. That is why they are there. Have respect for the temperature."

Buttke also recommends using the buddy system when exercising in case one person experiences symptoms of a heat injury. The most common forms of heat injuries reported at the Naval hospital are heat

cramps and heat exhaustion, said Buttke.

Contradictory to common belief, the most common heat-related health issue does not go as far as heat exhaustion or even heat cramps. It is simple dehydration, the earliest indicator of a more serious heat injury if not taken care of, according to <http://www.MedicineNet.com>, a Web site known for its articles on health and medical information.

For those who engage in extracurricular activities outside, extra caution is advised to stay hydrated, said Cindy Von Halle, supervising park ranger for Joshua Tree National Park.

Von Halle said she and other park officials recommend avoiding dehydration by bringing at least a gallon of water per person for non-strenuous activities. A two-gallon water supply per person is recommended for

activities requiring more energy, like hiking.

These recommendations are for drinking water only and do not include water needed to wash dishes and extinguish fires if camping.

The best time to engage in outdoor activities is between 7 and 10 a.m., while making sure to rest during the peak heat of the day, said Von Halle.

Remember, even though the black flag flying on the horizon of the Combat Center does not strike fear into the hearts of man like old Jolly Roger, the potential dangers it represents is no less ominous.

To find a complete list of flag condition guidelines and the daily Wet Bulb Globe Temperature forecast, visit the base Web site <http://www.29plams.usmc.mil> and click the Naval hospital link, or call the hospital quarterdeck at 830-2190.

**HEAT CONDITION
FLAG COLORS**

GREEN
80° – 84.9°*

Exercise can be conducted and discretion is required for all heavy exercise unless acclimatized to desert conditions.

YELLOW
85° – 87.9°*

Strenuous exercise and activity must be reduced for new, un-acclimatized personnel during the first three weeks of heat exposure. Avoid outside classes.

RED
88° – 89.9°*

Strenuous exercise must be halted or reduced for Marines and Sailors who haven't had up to 12 weeks to acclimatize.

BLACK
90°* – ABOVE

All outdoor activities and training must be suspended. Weather conditions are too dangerous for exercise or movement outside.

*According to the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature index



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ASYMCA Soapbox Derby racers speed through Twentynine Palms

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Racers converged at the top of Cactus Drive and Hilltop Avenue in Twentynine Palms, Calif., to compete in the Armed Services YMCA's annual Soapbox Derby June 6.

Nearly 50 racers competed in

2008 Derby Winners

Ages 5-8 Stock Division

- 1st Gavin Chandler
- 2nd Camerin Rimmington
- 3rd K. J. Morton

Ages 5-8 Super Stock Division

- 1st Hunter Alderson
- 2nd Caleb Blair
- 3rd Corey Blair

Ages 9-14 Stock Division

- 1st Scott Clinkscales
- 2nd Kenneth Johnson
- 3rd Jerrica Landers

Ages 9-14 Super Stock Division

- 1st Mark Clinkscales
- 2nd Joshua Alderson
- 3rd Keaton Cook

General's Choice Award

Taunya Causseaux

Mayor's Choice Award

Antonio Avalos

ASYMCA's Choice Award

Cody Picard

People's Choice Award

- 1st Taunya Casseaux
- 2nd Xavier Avalos
- 3rd Bonnie Avalos

the event, which kicked off the Twentynine Palms Street Fair and Car Show.

Sony Avalos, ASYMCA business manager and wife of Sgt. Pablo Avalos, small arms technician, Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, said the association's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that develop a healthy mind, body and spirit for military personnel and their families.

"We are here for the sole and unwavering purpose of serving those who serve America aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, as well as Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport," said Avalos, a native of Portsmouth, Va. "We carry out our mission through programs such as the Thrift Store, our parent-child interactive programs and our family assistance program."

She also said the purpose of the derby is to raise funds in support of the association's programs, because doing so has always been a challenge for them.

However, she said the race provides more than just money.

Avalos said the derby provides an opportunity for children and parents to spend quality time together, promotes good sportsmanship and raises the esteem of those children involved.

Cpl. Justin J. Castillo, legal clerk at the Staff Judge Advocate office, Headquarters Battalion, Bravo Company, whose daughter, Sydni, competed in the derby, said it was a fun way to spend time with his daughter and also a way to get her outside. While Castillo



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Racers competing in the the Armed Services YMCA's Soapbox Derby in Twentynine Palms, Calif., prepare to race at the top of Cactus Drive June 6.

worked on much of the assembly, Sydni, helped with design and painting.

Chief Warrant Officer William Kelly, radar training and maintenance officer, Charlie Company, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, said the derby provided him and his son, Caleb, with a good bonding experience.

Kelly said Caleb, who raced a humvee-style racer, came up with the idea and the two worked together on creating the final product.

This year's derby had two divisions based on racers' previous

derby experience and two age categories within each division.

The Stock Division required no prior soapbox experience, while the Super Stock Division was for the more experienced. The divisions were then broken down into two age categories, 5 through 8, and 9 through 14 years of age.

The ASYMCA held its inaugural soapbox derby in 2003, but the derby failed to establish itself as an annual event.

In 2006 the association again held a soapbox derby, but this time was successful at making it a regular occurrence.

For a registration fee of \$25, racers were provided with a kit that included axles, steering assembly, and template for the brakes and steering wheel.

Once the race was over, Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, base sergeant major, thanked the many volunteers who helped with the derby and spoke about the derby's bright future.

"We know it's a sacrifice of your time, but it's worth it," said Johnson. "Each year [the derby] gets better."

For more information about the ASYMCA call 830-7481.

SCIENCE, from A5

they come across any conspicuous devices. Crawford's advice to the children was to tell an adult about the device.

The children were then allowed to drive six different types of robots around a nearby desert field while learning about their uses and how they help Marines find explosive devices.

"The science day exposes these children to the technologies that are going to be part of their future," said Crawford. "These children are our future scientists, dreamers, computer program-



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Kindergartners of Twentynine Palms Elementary School meet Thelma and Louise, two female desert tortoises, at the school's science day fair June 4.

mers and architects. Something like [science day] will hopefully broaden their horizons."

NREA focused on the endangered desert tortoise and everything the base is doing to preserve the species. Thelma and Louise, two female tortoises, were presented to the class, and students were able to touch their shell and learn about their lifespan and eating habits.

PMO brought in the military working dogs, Rex and Norbo, to demonstrate their skills to catch bad guys and capabilities of finding narcotics. The children were able to handle the equipment Marines use to train the dogs. Some of the Marine dog handlers suited up in protective gear to give a demonstration of how forceful their trained canines can be when taking down a non-cooperative individual.

The Marines took turns being tackled and roughed up by the dogs while the students cheered for their favorite take-down.

"Dogs are always fun to see," said Cpl. Danial Swafford, assistant kennel master and chief trainer. "Everybody loves seeing our dogs bite someone."

With the help of the Combat Center and organizations throughout the community, the Twentynine Palms Elementary School Science Day was able to educate the children about the variety of science they encounter in their everyday lives.

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Col. Bryan P. McCoy, outgoing regimental commander, 7th Marine Regiment, and Lt. Col. Michael P. Hubbard, incoming regimental commander, 7th Marine Regiment, salute the colors during the regiment's change-of-command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 2.

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COMMAND, from A1

departure was bittersweet, gave Hubbard some advice, and wished him and his family the best of luck.

"It's your regiment," said McCoy. "Don't hesitate to command, and good luck."

Hubbard, expressed to his Marines and sailors how proud he was to serve as their regimental commander. "It's an honor to be out in front of you right now," said the Lynchburg, Va., native.

Hubbard also thanked his predecessor, as well as those families in attendance.

As the ceremony came to an end he made reference to the regiment's motto "Prepare to March," which first appeared in 1971, according to the 7th Marines Web site.

"This regiment is prepared to march and will remain prepared

to march," said Hubbard.

Hubbard enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1986 and was commissioned through the enlisted commissioning program in 1991. He has served in the infantry throughout his career and has participated in operations in Liberia, Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti and Iraq.

Hubbard holds bachelor's degrees in history and philosophy from Ferrum College, Ferrum, Va., and a master's in management from Marymount University, Arlington, Va., where he graduated with high honors.

His military education includes the Amphibious Warfare School and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

He and his wife, Shazia, have three children, Alexander, Madison, and Zachary.

PIT BULLS, from A4

remove them and their pet entitlement is revoked, said Zapata about identified potentially dangerous animals. "Any subsequent violations would result in a recommendation to evict or in the case of Lincoln they would not renew the members lease."

To help control the amount of potentially dangerous animals in Lincoln Military Housing, residents are required to register all their pets with either Lincoln Military Housing or the Family Housing Division.

During registering, residents must provide two photos of every pet and sign a pet addendum that informs the residents pit bulls are not allowed aboard the base or any family housing area.

"A pit bull would normally be identified at this juncture and restricted at the start," said Zapata. "In addition, each resident signs the Statement of Understanding acknowledging the pit bull restriction, as well as their responsibility to read and follow the base Family Housing regulation."

Although pit bulls were already banned from the Combat Center, Lincoln Military Housing and Family Housing Division have doubled their efforts to get rid of these dangerous animals that have been illegally brought into family housing after a 3-year-old child was killed from a pit bull attack in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 14.

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GRADS, from A1

use of it.”

The center has held three periods of instruction since they began teaching in August. The center graduated an average of 162 students between the first two courses and 244 pupils from the third course.

“I see hundreds of Iraqis that could improve the lives of thousands in Iraq,” Grass said. “You will all have a hand in improving the lives of your families and your tribes.”

All three graduating classes can take part in improving Iraq by using the skills they have learned. Classes included welding, plumbing, electrical and basic construction skills.

For this latest class that graduated, the center instituted five new classes: floor tiling, household repairs, motor winding, air conditioning and a computer course joined the seven construction skills originally available for study.

“You began with seven courses and expanded them to 12,” said Grass. “I am sure that (the) Al Qa’im (region) will prosper as you put all of these skills to use.”

After graduation, the Iraqis have the choice between working on their own, or attending a three month apprenticeship course.

As with most new endeavors, changes occur resulting from trial and error. Directors have discussed replacing some of the current courses, and the next group



LANCE CPL. JOSHUA MURRAY

Students listen to several speeches from teachers, public officials of Husaybah, Iraq, and the battalion commander of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, during a graduation ceremony in Husaybah June 1.

of students can choose between day and night classes.

“They are trying to appeal to the majority,” said Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruhl, a member of the Military Information Support Team with 2nd Bn., 2nd Marines. “Through the last cycle, they found more of a desire from students for other useful courses.”

Based on student’s opinions, the center has made changes to accommodate their needs. The center will begin its fourth cycle on July 1 and apply the new changes hoping to double the number of graduates that can set out to improve living conditions for themselves and all of Iraq.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Faith Lessons During Lunch

A DVD series titled “Faith Lessons” on the Promised Land Crossroads of the World 1 will be played every Thursday from 12 to 1 p.m. in building 1651. If you have any questions, please call 830-6187.

- Roman Catholic Services**
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (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 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Grp.
Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary
Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group age 18-35, married or single
(3rd Sunday of the month)
Fri 12:15 – 4:30 p.m. Exposition/ Adoration
Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)
Holy Days of Obligation Masses
12:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Non-denominational Christian Service
Christ Chapel
Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School*
Sun 9 a.m. Worship*
Wed 7 p.m. Praise & Worship*
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Protestant Liturgical Service
Christ Chapel
Sun 11 a.m. Worship

- Lay-Led Independent Baptist Service**
Christ Chapel
Sun 11 a.m. Worship
Lay-Led Gospel Service
Christ Chapel
Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship
Midweek Events
Monday
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass
Tuesday
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
5-7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (2nd Tues. of the month)
6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month
Wednesday
Village Center
11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187
6 p.m. RCIA, building 1551
Christ Chapel
5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
6 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
6 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship
7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study
7 p.m. Praise & Worship Service.
1st Thursday each month
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Legend
*Indicates Child Care Provided
+Appointments can be made for Confessions, call 830-6456 or 830-6646



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author of “Heroes at Home”

Tuesday, June 17th

6:30 p.m.

Combat Center Officers’ Club


Complimentary Gift Bags, Appetizers, Desserts, & Door Prizes

Register at: OperationHomeFront.net/field_exercise_29Palms.asp

For more information, please call 866-424-5210

CHILD CARE will be available from 6-9 p.m., at \$10 per child.
Call Christina Adams at 830-3227 ext. 227 for reservations and location by June 10th. (15 children must be registered for service.)

Combat Center Promotions for the month of June



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ANDERSON WILLIAM F
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BALES SHAY J
BARONOV ARTHUR I
BECKER ROBERT J
BENFIELD JESSICA E
BENSON MATTHEW A
BENTLEY MICHAEL G
BIRKHOLZ JOSHUA D
BLAIR KESHAUNA P
BOSARGE OLIVIA D
CAMPBELL ARTIMISHA L
CAMPOS CHRISTOPHER Q
CANDELARIO BRANDON J
CANFIELD JOSHUA L
CANNON SAVANNAH J
CHAVEZ PEDRO J
CHRISTIAN STEVEN L
CLIFTON CHRISTOPHER B
COALSON JOSHUA S
CODY JONATHAN R
CODY TYLER C
CONAWAY JORDAN J
COOLING CODY R
COWART HARRY D
CRAIN MICHAEL E
CRISEL AMBER L
DALEY JR ROBERT J
DEDRICK CHRISTOPHER M
DEMING CALEB E
DOTSON MATTHEW R
DOW IAIN K
EDES MICHAEL
ESPINAL JOHNNY J
FINNEY DANIEL S
FINSTAD KEITH D
GABELL KENNETH W
GARCIA JOSEPH
GAYDOS III ROBERT L
GOMEZ JORGE A
GONZALEZ JR JORGE L
GREENE SCOTTIE L
GUARINO JAMES R
GUSTAFSON ERIK W
GUTHRIE TRAVIS K
HALL JOSHUA J
HAMMETT SHAWN M
HANSEN ARRON M
HARTER NOAH H
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HENKE AARON J
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LAFFOON ANTHONY J
LANDIS LAURA R
LANG CHRISTIAN A
LASHA JUSTIN A
LATHAM MATTHEW A
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MARCOTTE NICHOLAS R
MARCUCCICARABALLO GADIEL O
MARTINEZ ADAM
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MCINTYRE RYAN J
MCKERNAN III PETER J
MCMILLAN JOHN M
MCNIEL JASON P
MELBOURNE KENDEL A
MEMBRENO LUIS M
MILES KENDELL J
MOLLAUN PATRICK J
MOORE JONATHAN M
MORALES JOVANI X
MORRIS JERRED E
MULLANY SEAN P
NAHNSEN NICHOLAS L
NELSON CHARLES D
NELSON NICOLE E
NIEVES JOEL
NIGHTENGALE JARRED M
NORTON JUSTIN T
NOVELOZO KATRYNANIC D
NULF NATILIE C
NYE DANIEL C
OBRIEN TIMOTHY C
OHL BRANDON M
OLIVERE DARNELL D
OSBORNE SAMUEL H
OWENS TYLER J
PARISH IAN J
PARSHALL WADE C
PARSONS DERIK E
PEREZ ARTURO J
PEREZ EZEQUIEL C
PFEIFFER TIMOTHY E
POWELL AMANDA L
PRICE BUCK J
RAMSEY ISAAK T
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ROBILLARD CORTNEY M
ROBINSON ANTHONY J
ROSE QUANTISA D
RUBIO BENJAMIN I

SAFFIOTI ANTHONY
SAGER JR DENNIS L
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THORNTON ERIC A
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TORRES JUAN A
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AUSTIN JR ANTHONY Q
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CRUZ JOSE L
DAILEY DEREK J
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June 18th • 9:30^{am}-1:30^{pm}



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There will be more than 30 employers present, including but not limited to: law enforcement, fire departments and public/private security firms.

Bring your resume and be ready to discuss your future with these exciting agencies. Business dress or uniform of the day is highly recommended. This is a FREE, ONCE A YEAR event!

HOME SCHOOL, from A4

Linette Felder, the group's coordinator and wife of Spencer L. Felder, said she felt the need to help organize the group in November when she met the Combat Center's home schooling community at the Dinosaur Park on Bourke Street.

Felder said families involved with the group hold individual classes at home, but come together every Friday to participate in physical education, art classes or musical clinics.

The group consists of students in grades kindergarten through 12, and is currently averaging a field trip every month, but there are plans to increase the number to two trips a month in the near future.

Felder also said there were various reasons why members chose to home school their children. Some of those reasons included prior home schooling experience and the parent's wish to spend more quality time with their children.

Tracie L. Poston, group member and wife of Thomas C. Poston, said her family chose to home school because it allows her to ensure her children are encouraged and supported at the level they need and because she feels the student-teacher interaction home schooling provides allows her children to excel.

Poston said her family's curriculum is taken from the California Virtual Academies which is a form of online public school offered in California. This online option, she said, gives her the ability to teach at home, but with the guidance of the public education system.

Poston also said the state-provided curriculum is free of charge for residents of the San Bernardino area, but is not free in all areas of California.

The ceremony concluded with a prayer led by Stephen Felder and his father, Spencer L. Felder, and a reception where friends, families, and students enjoyed light refreshments and cake, before Kathleen Hoard, supervisory visual information specialist, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, presented the students with yearbooks - a gift donated by MCCES in recognition of the hard work and academic success achieved by the students this year.

For more information about the Growing Palms Home School Support Group e-mail the group at growingpalms@yahoogroups.com



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
David M. Viayra, son of Navy Lt. j.g. David M. Viayra, battalion medical officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, is congratulated by his mother, Elizabeth Viayra, after receiving a certificate and achievement medal.

The Copper Mountain College family would like to express our deepest appreciation to Dr. Patricia F. Caldwell




"Dr. Patricia F. Caldwell took on the task of rebuilding trust, collegiality, strength, and camaraderie within the entire Copper Mountain College Community. Dr. Patricia F. Caldwell has also restored the confidence and rebuilt the trust of the Board of Trustees in the Superintendent/President."

-Copper Mountain Community College Board of Trustees

Please join us June 18th at 10:00 a.m. on the Copper Mountain College Campus in Bruce's Coyote Kitchen for a farewell celebration





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Combat Center Trader Ads

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BIG WHITE LOVE SEAT Stain and odor free. \$50 firm. Call Brian (520) 204-0144 6/11/08.

GARAGE SALE SAT. 6/14, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 58718 Buena Vista Dr.,Yucca Valley. Stained Glass in sheets many colors, some furniture, records, collectible cards, lots of decorative molding, Avon products, clothes, shoes, etc. Questions? call Leslie 567-7921 6/11/08

MEDIUM PATIO DOGGIE DOOR 10" x 9" opening \$60. Please call (760) 367-5019 and leave a message 6/11/08.

BOWFLEX XTL310 - 310 pounds of resistance in the bars. Very little use. \$550 call 219-2184 6/4/08

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SCHWINN ORANGE COUNTY CHOPPERS STING-RAY BIKES (2) 20 inch (1 red, 1 blue) (1) 16 inc red \$75 each or OBO Call Chris at 362-5293. 5/7/08

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is 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.

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

Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: there is a 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only

for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.

VISIT, from A1

to oversee military operations conducted by Task Force 2/7 and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

While Task Force 2/7 and the 24th MEU (SOC) have Marines operating in the KAF area, both units are also simultaneously carrying out operations here in the Helmand Province. Task Force 2/7 is tasked with the mission of training, mentoring and advising the Afghanistan National Police. The MEU; however, will conduct combat operations aimed at counter-insurgency.

During the visit, the MARCENT commander was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, the 1st MarDiv commanding general. Among his entourage were also Sgts. Maj. Dennis W. Reed, MARCENT/I MEF, and Randall Carter, 1st MarDiv, other staff members, and news reporters from the Associated Press and San Diego's North County Times.

After being briefed on both the Marines' operations, the three-star general toured the camp here. He commended 2/7 on its efforts to bring peace and prosperity to the war-torn region.

The setting was quite similar when the ACMC arrived May 14. He, too, surveyed the area and ate "chow" with the Marines. The highlight of his visit was hosting a town hall meeting in front of the flagpole where the troops sat and listened to the four-star general share the story of Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who was posthu-

mously awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After telling of Dunham's heroics, the ACMC delivered a message from the corporal's mother.

Magnus said Debra Dunham told him to tell the story of her son and pass on the message of how proud she was of what the Marines are doing for their country.

"Deb said three things: 'Thank you, keep doing what you're doing, and take care of each other,'" said Magnus on behalf of the "Gold-Star Mom."

A "Gold-Star Mom" is the mother of a service member who served during war and became a "fallen angel," the ACMC explained.

"When a Gold-Star Mom says thank you, and Deb in particular, she means thank you for raising your right hand and volunteering to serve your country in a time of war; thank you for leaving your hometown or city; thank you for leaving your family; thank you for going someplace that's too damn hot, too damn cold for work, and too damn dirty, too damn hard against people that are trying to kill you," the ACMC said.

The ACMC said he and Debra know the Marines' continuous efforts contribute greatly in keeping insurgents out of America.

"We don't like our brothers and sisters, your moms and dads, your wives to be afraid as they were on 9/12. We want to turn the clock back so that they... feel secure at home," Magnus said.

Magnus said the only way to accomplish homeland security is to "go in the vipers' nest and kill

the vipers." He said it takes selflessness, and Corporal Dunham embodied that trait.

"He did what he had to do to protect his fellow Marines," Magnus said of the corporal who absorbed a grenade blast with his body to save his troops. "That's what makes you the finest combat team the world has ever seen."

Before departing the area, the ACMC combat meritoriously promoted two Marines to the noncommissioned officer rank of corporal.

Newly-promoted Cpl. Noah J. Sullivan of Company F said he was honored to be pinned by a four-star general.

"That feels unreal almost. I know it's a rare thing so it was a pretty big honor for that to happen," explained Sullivan, who said he had been chasing his current rank for awhile.

"I mean people take you seriously if you've done a deployment and have been in for awhile, but people take you more seriously when you pick up NCO [non-commissioned officer] so I was ready for that," he said.

In addition to his promotion, Sullivan said he thought the general's words meant a lot to the Marines who are operating in one of Afghanistan's most austere and remote regions.

"By the general coming out here, it lets us know that we're not forgotten. It's a morale booster," Sullivan said. "The fact that he

would come to Afghanistan is cool. Right now, we're in the middle of the desert waiting until it's our time to do what we're needed to do, and all these generals coming out helps us see the importance of our mission."

The other Marine combat meritoriously promoted was Cpl. Anthony G. Mihalo, who left with Company E to begin operations just hours after his promotion.

As the Marines cheered during the ACMC's visit, it was clear that they were moved by his words. For many of the "hard chargers," this was their first time getting the opportunity to see a general officer up close and personal, let alone four of them.

"The Marines of 2/7 begin to

realize the importance of their mission to provide security, train, and mentor the ANP [Afghan National Police] when several Marine generals come to visit them," said Maj. Lee Helton, executive officer, TF 2/7. "It is apparent that the Marine Corps' leadership is observing the performance of Marines on the ground, in order to plan for future OEF Afghanistan deployments."

Army Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone, commanding general of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, culminated the week of VIP guests May 17 when he met with Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Richard Hall, TF 2/7, to be briefed on the battalion's operations.



CPL. RAY LEWIS
Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Magnus, visits U.S. Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, on May 14, aboard Camp Bastion in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.



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