

Serving the MCAGCC
Community at
Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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OBSERVATION POST



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THIS ISSUE

A5 - Mike Battery

A8 - Family night

B1 - 2005 in review

Hot Topics

ROAD CLOSURE

Tenth St. between Brown and Griffin Streets will be closed through Jan. 31.

TAX CENTER

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center will open Jan. 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday to assist service members and their families in completing their annual tax returns. The VITA center offers free tax return preparation by trained personnel and free electronic filing. Bring all W-2's, interest/dividend bank statements, social security cards, dates of birth and full names of everyone on your return, blank check or other proof of bank account, last year's tax return and any other relevant information. Itemized returns begin Feb. 15. Call 830-4829 for more information or to make an appointment.

RED CROSS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The American Red Cross is recruiting new volunteers for the 29 Palms Station aboard the Combat Center. Volunteer opportunities include caseworkers, office helpers, newsletter and Naval Hospital. For further information, please contact our office at 830-6685 or drop by the Village Center to fill out an application.

FIGHTING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

PREP is a 3-day workshop held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. to Fri. in the west wing of the Protestant Chapel. PREP is a class for engaged and married couples that teaches communication skills, ground rules for handling conflict and ways to enhance intimacy. Some of the topics addressed include: problem solving, building fun and friendship in your relationship, how to handle difficult issues in an effective way, sensual/sexual enhancement and steps in forgiveness. Childcare for children ages 4 and younger will be provided free at the Village Center by CDC staff. Call 830-6464 to sign-up.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

- CG's basketball season
- Martin Luther King
- Tax center

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

January 6, 1927
U.S. Marines sent to Nicaragua to aid the Conservative government party and Nicaraguan National Guard.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
Firefighter Jack Sarell and Inspector Mike Odonnell of the Combat Center Fire Department peer through a door into a flame-engulfed room during a two-day exercise at the Joshua Heights housing area Dec. 13 and 14.

Combat Center firefighters torch abandoned houses,

Practice real-life fire scenarios

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A yellow blur of rushing firefighters with a hose pumping water at 700 gallons per minute through thick black smoke into the back bedroom of a single-family residence isn't a scenario most people would want to witness in their neighborhood.

The Combat Center is well known for its training facilities, so why not expand its territory to train firefighters?

That's what was done when houses scheduled for demolition were burned to the ground Dec. 13 and 14 to provide lifelike training to firefighters in the area.

To coincide with the demolishing of structures in the Joshua Heights housing area in the Combat Center, fire departments planned a thorough training schedule to cover all precautionary measures that would be taken in reaction to an actual structure fire.

Four houses were set aside for the exercise, while contracted demolition companies knocked down neighboring blocks.

More than 100 firefighters from the Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County and Morongo Valley Fire Departments; and Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, were trained in the fire exercises, said Kevin Matthieu, assistant fire chief, Combat Center Fire Department.

As part of the training they were broken into five teams: fire attack, ventilation, safety, exposure and rapid intervention.

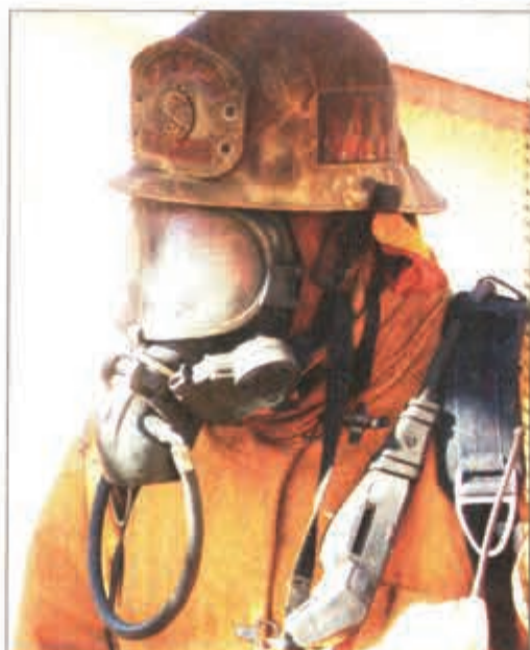
One of the major objectives of the exercise was to practice communication among the fire

departments, since they would be working alongside each other in an actual fire, said Matthieu.

"One of my biggest worries was that the communication between the various chiefs, captains and firefighters would be a big barrier to overcome," he said. "But it actually went more smoothly than expected."

Each firefighter got a chance to take on different roles as they were rotated throughout the day; once before the lunch break.

See FIRE, A4



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
Battalion Chief Chris Norton, San Bernardino County Fire Department, exits a burning house with his white helmet and face mask blackened by the smoke.

Bronze Star shines after valiant fight in Iraq

BY LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and Sailors of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, gathered behind their command post Dec. 16 to recognize Cpl. Joseph R. Avila, a 21-year-old machine gunner with the Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/7, as the commanding officer of the battalion awarded him the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V."

Avila, a Zion, Ill., native, earned the award for heroic achievement in connection with combat operations involving conflicts with enemy forces while serving as scout sniper during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The battalion arrived in Iraq in late September of 2004. Roughly four months into the deployment, Avila's unit was patrolling in downtown Husaybah, Iraq, Jan. 6, in vehicles.

Before they could meet their objectives, the patrol came under intense enemy fire causing the lead vehicle to lose control and run into a building, becoming immobilized.

"It had been slightly raining that day, and the roads were somewhat slippery," said Avila. "After we came under enemy fire, we made an effort to withdraw from the area. As the lead vehicle made a turn, they slid across the 'T' intersection and into a building, causing it to get stuck."

Avila was traveling in a vehicle behind them and dismounted from it to assist his unit members. He provided security and suppressive fire as other Marines freed the humvee from the wall.

After freeing the vehicle, the con-



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Lieutenant Col. Nicholas F. Marano, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, shakes hands with Cpl. Joseph R. Avila, machine gunner with Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/7, after awarding him the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" Dec. 16 behind the battalion command post.

voy returned to their base, Camp Gannon, but the members in the patrol realized one of the vehicles had become separated from the group.

"During the crash, another vehicle had lost its communication ability,"

See VALIANT, A3

Comedians score big laughs, raise money for Toys For Tots

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The spotlight clicks on, the microphone is hot and all eyes are on you. Now be funny.

Not many people have the talent to entertain as a standup comedian; where crowds are always different, tours can be rough and your wits must be sharply honed.

For the two comedians who toured clubs around the Combat Center Dec. 14, they showed getting in front of the microphone is merely business as usual as they delighted more than 100 spectators who gathered for the shows.

The Comic Night benefited the Toys For Tots program and featured comics Dan Smith and Marty Belafsky and was held at both the Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Club and the Excursions Enlisted Club.

Smith, a Worcester, Mass., native, headlined the event and is no stranger to the military comedy circuit. He has performed for service members around the globe during his 13 overseas tours to locations such as Europe, Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Bosnia and Iceland.

Belafsky, who was born and raised in Los Angeles, recently teamed up with Smith for a show in Korea and has been in more than 20 feature films and has even opened for the legendary Rodney Dangerfield.

"This was my second trip out to Twentynine Palms and it's literally one of my favorite bases. I love coming here," said Smith, 35, who began comedy in his college years on a dare. "There is a lot of support here, and it gets kind of rowdy sometimes. I really like that."

Smith was also one of the entertainers who performed at a similar event in September and was invited back by popular demand, said Kelly Coe, special events program manager with Marine Corps Community Services.

"Dan was very, very well received when he was here in September and is so supportive of our Marines and service members. That makes the whole experience with him great because he really wants to be here," said Coe.

With Toys For Tots volunteers and donation barrels on hand, both comics did not hesitate to encourage patrons to give a little back to those in need throughout the night.

"This show was wonderful," said Coe. "The Marines, Sailors and families did a great job supporting the event and so did our Marines collecting for the Toys For Tots in both clubs. We were able to collect toys and more than \$350 in cash."

Coe said changing venues from the base theater was a natural choice for the show.

"This particular show was done in the clubs instead of the theater because they are much more intimate and coincided with Bosses Night at Hashmarks and the NCO

and Enlisted Club holiday party. So that was just a perfect fit," she said.

For Smith, who said he gladly takes time away from his regular shows to perform for service members and being able to support Toys For Tots is a personal source of pride.

"We helped out Toys For Tots and that feels really great, but I just wish that it could have been more," he said. "Anytime you can bring not just a laugh but actual, tangible help to somebody makes you feel pretty good."



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
Comedian Dan Smith, the headliner for Comic Night at the Clubs, performed in front of crowds of Marines at the Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Club and the Excursions Enlisted Club Dec. 14.



Birth announcements

Ryan-Thomas Gannon Beaver
Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Joshua Beaver
Born Oct. 3, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 21.6 inches

Liliana Jasmin Poticar
Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. John P. Poticar
Born Nov. 14, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 20 inches

Teranique Ajaiyah Pullins
Daughter of Ms. Ashley Webb
Born Nov. 15, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 19 inches

Courtney Beth Edward George
Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Christopher George
Born Nov. 16, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 19.3 inches

Macianne Elisabeth Jackson
Daughter of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Christopher K. Jackson
Born Nov. 16, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 19.9 inches

David Jon Galaviz
Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Efrén J. Galaviz
Born Nov. 19, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19.7 inches

Katrina Rayne Chapman
Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. and Mrs. Vincent Chapman
Born Nov. 22, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches

Lucy Angela Bernocco
Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Phillip Bernocco
Born Nov. 24, 2005, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 19 inches

Alahna Marig Hawkins
Daughter of Pfc. and Mrs. Dustin M. Hawkins
Born Nov. 25, 2005, weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches

Nora Phaedra Mullen
Daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Sean Mullen
Born Nov. 25, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20.75 inches

Lorenzo LaQuan Gibbs
Son of Sgt. and Mrs. William T. Gibbs
Born Nov. 27, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 2.1 oz. and measuring 18.5 inches

Xavier Michael Deduyo
Son of Pfc. and Mrs. Cesar Deduyo
Born Nov. 29, 2005, weighing 5 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 19 inches

Leigha Babineau
Daughter of Ms. Monica Wesse
Born Nov. 30, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches

Justin Ray Harris Jr.
Son of Mr. Justin R. Harris and Cpl. Icisha S. Harris
Born Dec. 2, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 9.7 oz. and measuring 21 inches

Brianna Renee Wilson
Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Marcus S. Wilson
Born Dec. 2, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 20.6 inches

Brooklyn Jade Lockhart
Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Billy J. Lockhart
Born Dec. 3, 2005, weighing 7 lbs. 5.4 oz. and measuring 19.9 inches

Ariella Michele Guthrie
Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Jon Guthrie
Born Dec. 6, 2005, weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 19.9 inches



C.O.P. Corner Community Oriented Policing



The proactive voice
of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

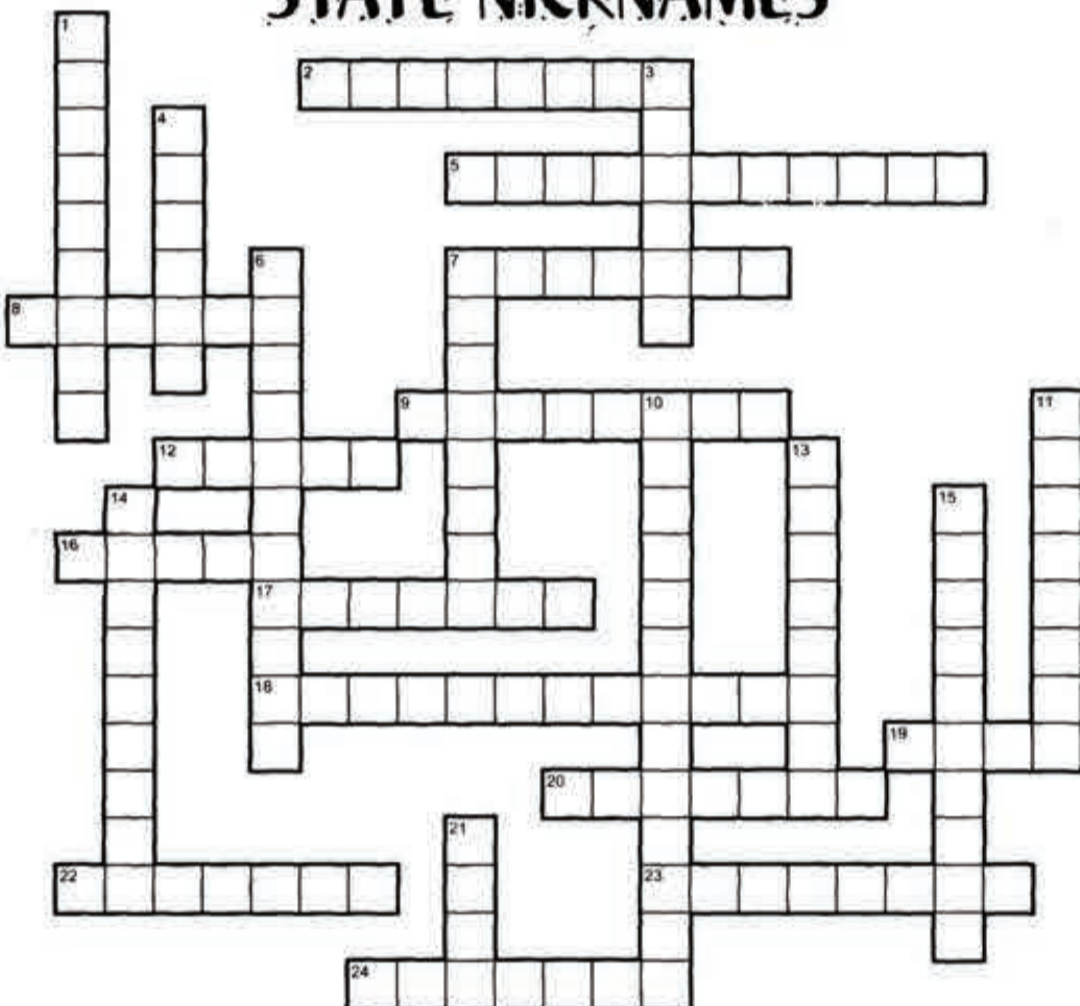
Radar Detectors

Combat Center Order 1630.8C states that no person shall operate a motor vehicle upon the base that is equipped with radar detection equipment. This includes any device that is designed for, or capable of, detecting, jamming, scrambling, neutralizing, disabling, or otherwise interfering with radar, laser, or any other electronic device used to measure the speed of moving vehicles. Possession of such equipment is equally citable as use.

The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through Crime Prevention: literature, briefs, education, crime assessments, safety tips, the Stranger Danger program, McGruff the Crime Dog, the Officer Friendly program, the Property Marking program, and the Child Identification and Fingerprinting program. For more information call Crime Prevention, 830-6094/5457.

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

STATE NICKNAMES



ACROSS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 The Centennial State | 12 The Pine Tree State | 20 The Sunshine State |
| 5 The Constitution State | 16 The Lone Star State | 22 The Equality State |
| 7 The Empire State | 17 The Hoosier State | 23 The Prairie State |
| 8 The Aloha State | 18 The Keystone State | 24 The Peach State |
| 9 The Natural State | 19 The Hawkeye State | |

DOWN

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 The Pelican State | 7 The Cornhusker State | 14 The Garden State |
| 3 The Beaver State | 10 The Palmetto State | 15 The Golden State |
| 4 The Sunflower State | 11 The Sooner State | 21 The Buckeye State |
| 6 The Magnolia State | 13 The Old Line State | |

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

Centerspeak

If you were to deploy tomorrow,
what is one non-issued personal item you would take with you?

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



LANCE CPL. CHRIS DUNN
BRAVO CO., 1ST BN., 7TH MARINES

"Pictures of my wife."



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
BERNARD GOMEZ
BRAVO CO., 1ST BN., 7TH MARINES

"A camera."



CPL. TRAVIS LEVESQUE
MIKE BATTERY, 3RD BN., 11TH MARINES

"Phone numbers of all my friends so I can talk to someone not doing the same thing I am."



PFC. DANIEL LYNDE
LIMA CO., 3RD BN., 11TH MARINES

"CD player and CDs."

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What's on your mind?

Centerspeak welcomes questions or submissions from service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

Address submissions to:
Commanding General
Public Affairs Office
(Attn. Press Chief)
MCAGCC
Box 788200
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8200

Or E-mail to:
robert.fisher@usmc.mil

Predatory payday lenders: protecting your paycheck

1ST LT. JOHN R. SEEDS
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

They lie in wait outside the front gates of military installations all across this country. They advertise with promises and promotions, reeling consumers in with "Need Cash Now?" neon signs or "Your Fast Cash Solution!" banners. Not only are storefronts making these offers of quick financial solutions, these businesses litter cyberspace at every turn.

How Payday Loans Work

The Center for Responsible Lending, a consumer watchdog organization that tracks the payday loan industry, reported in 2004 the payday loan business generated a loan volume of \$25 billion. Throughout the United States, there are over 15,000 payday lending storefronts, in strip malls or on the internet, and they are successful in selling one thing: quick fixes.

"Deferred deposit advances" or payday loans, are low-dollar, short-term, unsecured notes that consumers agree to pay off with their next paycheck. Through glossy retailing and flashing Internet ads, these lenders target the consumer who does not have the money today, but will have the money 14 days later, as soon as a paycheck or other regular income is deposited. Because these are extremely short-term loans, the cost of borrowing is very high. Generally, charges range from \$15 to \$20 for every \$100 advanced, a price tag carrying an annual percentage rate of roughly 400 percent. The trap is set when two weeks later the borrower can't pay off the loan. This triggers the full machinery of the quick-fix promissory shuffle — the lender will tack on an additional fee, and then refinance the loan, sometimes at an even higher rate, but masking the "rollover" in non-threatening terms like "extension," "deferral," "renewal," or "rewrite." Then it's too late and the cycle of debt has begun.

Consumer Protection

The truth is that payday lenders are targeting members of the military. These businesses think that Marines and Sailors fall squarely into their target demographic — the financially inexperienced who have a consistent and steady income stream.

Movement in Washington, however, does indicate an effort to shape the battlefield to the benefit of members of the Armed Forces. The Service members' Anti-Predatory Lending Act (H.R. 97), sponsored by Sam Graves, Missouri's 6th District representative, and brought before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs January 2005, attempts to protect service members and their dependents by capping interest rates on payday loans at 36 percent. However, this bill is not law, and until states start implementing their own measures, the only defense in this case is a good offense.

Protecting Yourself and Your Family

In order to avoid the lusty lure of short-term, high-interest lending schemes, consider personal financial planning strategies such as fixed-dollar monthly savings goals, traditional loans through federally insured financial institutions, shopping around for the lowest interest rates possible before you consider any loan, understanding the penalties of late payments, and at a minimum, understanding how much the loan will cost you over the term.

For more information on credit counseling, log on to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society website at <http://www.nmcrs.org> to see if you qualify for emergency loans or other low-interest loans. Military OneSource at <http://www.militaryonesource.com>, or make an appointment with a financial planner aboard the Combat Center through Marine Corps Community Services. Additionally, review ALMAR 060/05 for the Commandant's guidance on payday lending and the risks involved with these types of loans.

For any other questions, please call the Legal Assistance Office at 830-6111 to make an appointment.

DFAS Distributing year-end pay, tax statements

DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Service members, military retirees and annuitants and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2005 tax statements by mail soon, a DFAS official told the American Forces Press Service.

In fact, most retirees and annuitants already may have received theirs, with the last hard-copy mailings slated for Dec. 31, the official confirmed.

Mailing for active duty Army, Navy and Air Force W-2 forms won't begin until Jan. 24, but service members can access their forms on myPay beginning Jan. 21. W-2 mailings for reservists from the Army, Navy and Air Force will begin Jan. 4, but the forms will be posted online by Dec. 31.

Active duty and Reserve Marines can check their mailboxes after Jan. 12 or access

their myPay accounts beginning Jan. 10.

Mailing for DoD civilians' W-2s will begin Jan. 10, and the forms will be posted on myPay beginning Jan. 9.

An increasingly large percentage of the almost 6 million people DFAS serves now receive their pay and tax statements electronically through myPay, the DFAS official said. By doing so, customers get their statements quicker and more securely, said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' Military

and Civilian Pay Services.

A state-of-the-art encryption technology incorporated into the myPay system, which users access through a personal identification number, safeguards personal information that's more vulnerable to theft when transmitted by mail, the official said.

DFAS clients who never have set up their myPay accounts or have forgotten their PIN numbers can set up or get new ones through the myPay Web site, he said.

VALIANT, A1

said Avila. "No one knew whether they were hit during the incident or returned back to base, safely in a different route. We assumed the worse, so we went back in an effort to rescue them."

Reentering the kill zone, the lead vehicle of the three-vehicle convoy, suffered a direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade as they crossed an intersection, causing the vehicle to erupt into flames. Avila's vehicle maneuvered past the intersection and damaged vehicle to a secure position down the street. Marines immediately dismounted their vehicles to engage the enemy.

"As Marines in their vehicles pushed past the burning humvee, I got out right next to it to secure and assist the wounded Marines," said Avila.

Realizing that one of his team members was unwittingly staggering into enemy fire, he courageously ran across open terrain under enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety to move the Marine to safety.

"Myself and other Marines in the hit vehicle consolidated and made our way to the other two secure vehicles," continued Avila.

Sgt. Lance D. May, team leader with the platoon, was with the two intact humvees, fighting off enemy insurgents who were firing from the second floor and roofs of the surrounding buildings.

"I saw Cpl. Avila assisting the wounded and returning fire for the broken down humvee team," said May, a Jonesboro, La., native. "He placed his life on the line when he physically directed the wounded Marines to our position."

Tragically, the incident caused the Marine who was manning the machine gun on the turret of the lead vehicle to be killed instantly after receiving the RPG fire. After Avila and the other Marines made their way back to the secured humvees, Avila went back to the torn humvee to retrieve the killed Marine. He dragged him back across the kill zone and into safety. All of the casualties mounted the remaining two vehicles to return to Camp Gannon, as Avila and other Marines ran alongside the vehicles for security and fire support.

"It was the first time I had come under enemy fire that heavy," said Avila. His personal question as to whether he could function effectively in combat had been answered, he said.

Ten days later, Avila found himself in a situation where his life and those of the Marines with him depended on his unhesitating actions.

While maintaining an observation post in Karabalah, Iraq, Jan. 16, the team's position was compromised and came under intense enemy fire from a combination of heavy machine guns and small arms.

"We received heavy machine gun and mortar fire from enemy forces who were making their way closer to us," said May. "The mission at this point was to take out their mortarmen."

May directed Avila, who was serving as assistant team leader, to call in for a mortar strike against the enemy's position.

With a large enemy force advancing on their position, again without regard for his own personal safety, he called in accurate indirect fire that neutralized the enemy's advance.

"Due to his knowledge as an infantryman, there was no point where I had to think twice about tasking Cpl. Avila to call in for this strike," said May. "Likewise, there was no point when Cpl. Avila hesitated or thought twice about sending out the message. A heavy barrage of 81-millimeter mortars took out the insurgents who were about 200 meters away from us. His tactical mindset and decisive action undoubtedly saved lives."

"Cpl. Avila displayed the true meaning of courage under fire that day. He is a stellar NCO [noncommissioned officer] and it's an honor to have a Marine like himself serve alongside me. The awards given to the Marines in the Sniper Platoon show what kind of professionalism we have in this platoon," said May.

Avila's total effectiveness, forceful leadership, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself, distinguishing his award for combat valor. He upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Cpl. Joseph R. Avila, machine gunner with Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stands at the position of attention moments after being awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" Dec. 16.



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A Marine crash crewman from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, with instruction by Kevin Mathieu, assistant fire chief, Combat Center Fire Department, douses the fire set on a house in the final stretch of a two-day exercise at Joshua Heights housing in the Combat Center Dec. 13 and 14. Four houses scheduled to be demolished were set aside for training exercises by five area fire departments.

FIRE, A1

considered the a.m. shift; and another after lunch, considered the p.m. shift.

Each fire department sent out half of their firefighting teams per day to participate in the exercise, keeping half the team on duty in order to tend to any emergencies.

After completion of the interior fire attack training, each house was set on fire to practice exterior fire attacks. Exterior fires have more of a risk of catching onto surrounding dry vegetation and spreading onto other houses in real emergencies, said Mathieu.

The days ended at about 6 p.m., allowing the firefighters to get in some night training. There's not too much of a difference, but there is limited light available that was taken

into consideration for that part of the training, said Mathieu.

When all firing exercises for the day were completed, the houses were set on fire, and not until all walls were collapsed and burnt to fine particles, did the firefighters start to extinguish the flames. This created quite a scene for onlookers all over the Combat Center. Large swirling clouds of black and orange flailing flames were the signal firefighters took as the closing of each day.

"This is great training," said Conrad Peguro, Combat Center firefighter. "There's nothing like the real thing, but this is the best practice to have in order to prepare for it."

The last exercise this extensive with the same fire departments was more than

10 years ago. Buildings are not often available to just set on fire, so it was important to take full advantage this time around, said Mathieu.

"This went extremely well," he said, as the exercise came to a close. "It was very exciting to have the opportunity to work alongside other fire departments, training as much as we did, and to see our plans all coming together."

The sound of firetruck engines, the blinding image of red, blue and white lights against clouds of smoke in the middle of the night, can be disturbing to anyone, but the freshly trained firefighters aboard the Combat Center and neighboring departments are now even more prepared to handle any fire situation.

The fire rescue plan of attack

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

There is a lot more to fighting fires than screaming fire trucks, firefighters rushing in with hoses and black smoke.

Firefighters train regularly to synchronize the many hidden details of effectively fighting fires, and an opportunity to train in actual house fires for local fire departments on Combat Center grounds created a chance to perfect the inside operations of a fire rescue.

For two days firefighters from the Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, Morongo Valley and Marine Wing Sup-

port Squadron 374 drilled through firefighting procedures.

Firefighters are broken into five teams of three to four firefighters in a real-life fire emergency:

- The fire attack team is first in the house to conquer interior fires.
- The ventilation team comes in conjunction with the fire attack team to break the windows and

open up the building to release toxic fumes. This team also tears apart the walls and any furniture, such as mattresses and couches, to destroy any hidden fires.

- The safety team remains at a distance from the action as backup in case the fire becomes uncontrollable by the first two teams. For the training exercise, this team's assignment was also to assist the instructors before and after each take in case of any emergency outbreaks.
- The exposure team stays outside the perimeter in case the fire spreads beyond the house and onto any dry vegetation around the house.
- The rapid intervention crew stands by, prepared to intervene and rescue any injured firefighters.

In a real fire emergency, each of the teams would be on a fire truck. The Combat Center Fire Department has three trucks, so in order to fight an actual house fire, the fire department would need to recall all firefighters and call on one of the civilian fire departments in the area for more support. This would include the departments that took part in the fire training exercises, making communication even more critical.

Throughout the day the teams took time out of fighting fires to rehabilitate from the heat build-up. Fires in a typical bedroom can heat to 400 degrees in 10 minutes, said Conrad Peguro, firefighter, Combat Center Fire Department.

"It's important to stay very low when fighting fires and to get rid of as much smoke as possible," he said. "When the room doesn't get rid of heat quick enough, there is a possibility of a flashover."

For a firefighter, a flashover is one of the most dangerous fire behaviors to encounter, Peguro said. A flashover occurs when there is so much heat in a condensed space that the fire restarts and becomes more disastrous than the original fire.

In the event of a flashover, the search and rescue of a victim can come to an abrupt and often tragic end. This is where ventilation has an important role, said Mathieu.

The Combat Center Fire Department regularly trains with MWSS-374 in fire exercises at the Expeditionary Airfield here to continue improving firefighting techniques to better serve the community, said Mathieu.

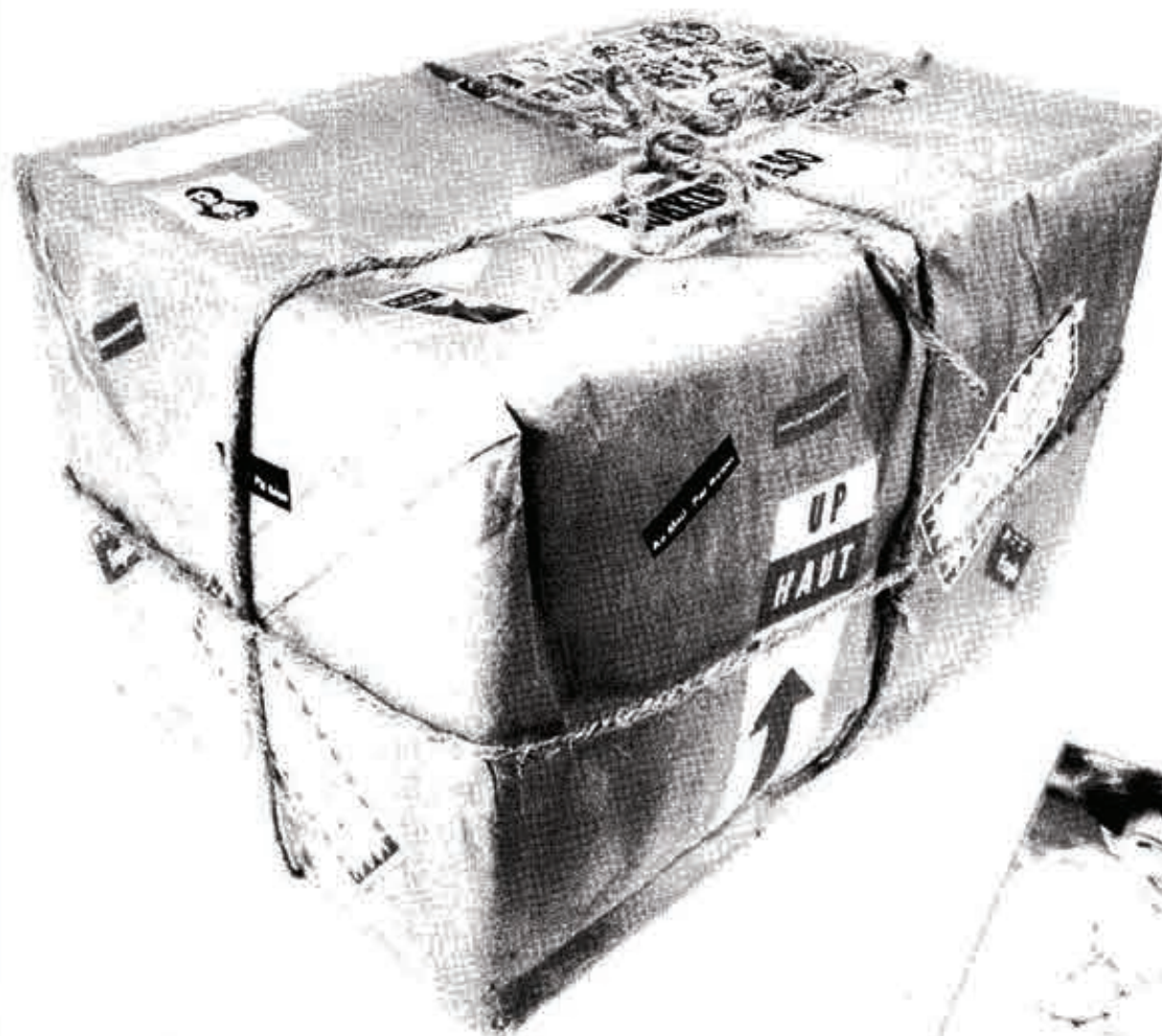
Behind the scenes of what appears to be a scattered assembly to extinguish a fire, there is coordination and practice emplaced into each firefighter to react quickly and efficiently in any situation.

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3/11 Mike Battery causes chaos with new howitzer

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

During Operation Iraqi Freedom I in January 2003, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, provided artillery support crucial in allowing I Marine Expeditionary Force to penetrate deep into Iraqi territory and bring down Saddam Hussein's regime in 21 days of major combat operations, according to the 3/11 Web site.

Right after the fall of Baghdad, the battalion took up the mission of a provisional infantry battalion and assisted in civil and military duties as well as conducting security and stability operation patrols in the capital city, securing hospitals and other important infrastructure.

Though that fight took place more than two years ago, elements of 3/11 continue the fight in 2005.

The battalion served as a military police force in OIF 3. The batteries separated into platoon-sized units and dispatched throughout the country in 2005.

After seven demanding months of executing their mission, Mike Company, 3/11, returned to the Combat Center Oct. 6 to pick up their mission as cannoners.

The battery was introduced to the Marine Corps' new artillery weapon system, the M777 lightweight howitzer, upon their return. Even though the Marines hadn't served as an

artillery battery in the past two years, their skills were refreshed and brought up to par with their new weapons system.

Mike Battery set off on an expedition to the Combat Center's training area to execute a firing exercise with the M777 for the first time the week of December 17.

"We haven't shot a howitzer in over a year. Now, we are just getting back in the gist of things. We're picking back up with our MOS and where we left off as cannoners."

The purpose of the exercise was to validate the training they received by the New Equipment Training Team on the M777 and prepare for combat operations in order to support a maneuver force with both accurate and timely artillery fires, said Gunnery Sgt. David E. Reid, battery gunnery sergeant.

The NET Team from Fort Sill, Okla., met with Mike Battery two weeks prior to the firing exercise. The team prepared the battery section chiefs on the duties during firing missions and the weapons system's maintenance.

After two weeks of dry firing, the battery was ready to fire

live ammunition from the M777.

The battery conducted firing missions upon their arrival to the training area throughout their last day in the field Dec. 21.

"The missions with the new gun are tedious but important," said Cpl. Jeffrey R. Alford, cannoner with Mike Battery. "Coming back to shooting howitzers again is a very important deal for us. It's tough to get back in the swing of things, but nonetheless, we are ready for any of it."

Sgt. Octavius L. Stone, section chief, led Alford and the rest of the sections' crewmen throughout the exercise.

"We haven't shot a howitzer in over a year," said Stone. "Now, we are just getting back in the gist of things. We're picking back up with our MOS and where we left off as cannoners. The battalion wants to make sure we're on the same sheet of music as other batteries so we will follow Kilo Battery in fielding this gun and become the sixth Marine Corps firing battery to use the new weapons system. Most of us have been together with the battalion since 2003 so we all know our comforts with each other. But, as Marines leave the battery, new Marines take their place, earning an important task with an important weapon."

Marine says goodbye to Marine Corps after 22 years

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps life is not for everyone. For the few and proud who graduate recruit training, some find the Marine Corps is not exactly how their recruiters described it. Many finish their initial contracts and return to the civilian world. A few will try another enlistment term just to be sure. Some will continue on to complete 20 years of the Marine lifestyle.

Those who choose to make the Marine Corps their life and stay on until retirement often find the road long, but rewarding.

One such Marine, 1st Sgt. Darrell R. Settemire, Delta Company first sergeant with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, finally bid the Marine Corps adieu Dec. 16 after 22 years of dedicated service.

"He was one of the most brilliant leaders the Marine Corps ever had," said Capt. Hunter R. Rawlings, Delta Company commanding officer with 3rd LAR. "He's moving on to be with his son and his family."

Settemire received a Meritorious Service Medal for committing 22 years of his life faithfully to the Marine Corps.

"I had the pleasure of being the individual who submitted the award, but it was a joint effort writing it," said Rawlings. "We've all come to respect his leadership."

Settemire enlisted in the Marine Corps June 18, 1983,

and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

After doing on-the-job training with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine

"Good luck, Godspeed and Semper Fidelis."

Regiment, as an artillery cannon crewman, he moved on to India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, in Okinawa, Japan, in May 1985.

He later went on to Security Supervisors' Course in June 1989, and upon graduation, reported to Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Keflavik, Iceland.

In July 1991, he moved on from security forces to return to the artillery field where he served with various batteries.

He then reported to Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego in January 1996. He spent two years on the drill field before returning once again to the artillery field.

From July 2000 to January 2004, he served as an instructor at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Academy in Okinawa, Japan.

Eventually, he transferred to 3rd LAR in February 2004 to take what would be his final position. During his tour, he participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 in Al Anbar

province.

"In combat, he was an inspiration," said Rawlings. "In garrison, he was as much a manager as a mentor. He took the time to explain

things to the junior Marines. He's had a lasting effect on the company."

During Settemire's deployment to Iraq, an improvised explosive device took him out of the fight, but he chose to remain with his Marines.

"I will always credit him for the success Company D experienced during our last deployment to Iraq," said Sgt. Maj. Leland W. Hatfield, battalion sergeant major, 3rd LAR. "He was one of the first in his company to be wounded by an IED. He not only refused to be med-evacuated from the initial engagement, but he made it very clear he had no intentions of leaving his Marines under any circumstances. This level of bravery and courage served to feed the tenacious spirit of those around him and culminated in the successful operations of his company as they spent the entire deployment separated from the Battalion."

A fellow instructor at the Staff Academy with Set-

temire, 1st Sgt. Charles Dural, Alpha Company first sergeant, 3rd LAR, enjoyed his time working with and knowing Settemire.

"He's had an outstanding career, just from his outstanding contributions to the company alone," said Dural. "He's a great mentor. His door is always open, and he's very knowledgeable. It's sad to see him go, but I'm happy for him."

Staff Sgt. Osbaldo Noriega, administration chief with 3rd LAR, said he quickly came to respect Settemire's leadership of Marines.

"From the moment I got here, I saw he takes care of the Marines," said Noriega, who's been with 3rd LAR for only a few months.

Rawlings said he enjoyed working with Settemire and sent him off with fond words for his future. "Good luck, Godspeed and Semper Fidelis. We'll always have a place here in Delta Company."

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Vice President surprises service members at Al Asad; awards 3/7 Marine Bronze Star

CPL. MICAH SNEAD
2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

AL ASAD, Iraq — Vice President Dick Cheney surprised service members and brought a pre-Holiday message of support to Al Asad, Iraq, Dec. 18.

More than 600 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers gathered in a hangar on the western Iraq air base, home of the 2nd

Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), shortly before Cheney's arrival. Rumors about the surprise guest circulated through the crowd until Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Johnson, the commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd), took the stage and introduced the military's second-in-command.

"Well, I'm not Jessica Simpson," Cheney joked, after taking the stage. "But, I'm glad to be here. I happened to be in the neighborhood, so I thought I'd drop by."

Cheney, making his first visit to Iraq as vice president, met with some of Iraq's top military and civilian leaders and toured an Iraqi Security Force training facility before delivering a speech to service members at Al Asad.

"Each one of you is helping to write a proud chapter in the history of freedom," Cheney said. "Americans know about the heroism out here every day. Our goal is victory and with you in the fight, that victory is assured."

Cheney said part of the reason for his visit was to let the deployed service members know their sacrifices are not going unnoticed and they have not only his support, but also the support of the American people.

"I've come with a message from home," Cheney said. "Americans are grateful for your service, we support your mission and we're proud of each and every one of you."

Cheney also expressed his views on talk out of Washington of a premature withdrawal from Iraq.

"You've heard some prominent voices advocating a sudden withdrawal of our forces from Iraq," Cheney said. "Some have suggested that the war is not winnable and a few seem almost eager to conclude the struggle is already over. But they are wrong. The only way to lose this fight is to quit and that is

not an option."

Two Marines in the crowd were especially surprised when they were ushered onstage after the vice president's speech to receive Bronze Star medals. Corporal Jeffery A. Firman, a 20-year-old light armored vehicle crewman from 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and a Rochester Hills, Mich., native, and Cpl. Jaret M. Radimer, a 20-year-old rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and a Suffolk, N.Y., native, are both on their second combat deployments, but this was their first time on stage in front of hundreds of their peers.

"It was awesome, but I was nervous at the same time," Firman said. "Of all the things you go through, I never expected to have the vice president give me a Bronze Star."

The Marines were in forward combat areas before being summoned to Al Asad, but were never told exactly why until a narrator began reading their award warrants.

"It was pretty cool, definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Radimer said. "When they first told me I was coming here, I actually thought I was in trouble."

Firman was awarded the Bronze Star for exposing himself to enemy fire to rescue wounded Marines during a firefight. After seeing Marines fall under machine gun and small arms fire, Firman returned fire, directed his vehicle toward the wounded, carried wounded Marines to safety and then returned to his vehicle to provide fire, covering the Marines' evacuation.

Radimer received his Bronze Star for actions during an improvised explosive device and small arms ambush during a mounted patrol. Radimer used his Humvee to shield Marines from small arms fire then provided cover fire and assis-



Vice President Dick Cheney pins a Bronze Star medal on Cpl. Jaret M. Radimer, a 20-year-old rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Suffolk, N.Y., native, at Al Asad, Iraq, Dec. 18.

tance for the casualty evacuation team. During the engagement, Radimer realized his platoon sergeant was unconscious and trapped inside a burning vehicle. Radimer had to pry an air conditioning vent off the Humvee with his bare hands to rescue the Marine.

Despite the special recognition and a break from combat operations, both Marines were eager to return to their units.

"I actually hated to leave my guys behind," Radimer said. "This was nice, but I'll feel better when I get back out there. It just doesn't feel right to get this kind of attention and be away from them."

After the award presentation, Cheney held a roundtable discussion with 30 service members from a variety of units deployed to Iraq's Al Anbar province. U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, who accompanied Cheney on the trip to Al Asad, sat in on the meeting. Corporal Bradley P. Warren, a machine gunner with 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, and a St. Louis native, opened a questions-and-answers session by asking Cheney about the topside

view of progress in Iraq.

"Iraq's looking good," Cheney said. "It's hard sometimes, if you look at just the news, to have the good stories burn through. Part of it is that what we're doing here, obviously takes time. It's hard, tough, day-in, day-out kind of work that all of you are involved in. But from our perspective, from the standpoint of the president... I think it's remarkable progress."

Army Specialist Mujahid Kuwa, a Deleng, Sudan, native, used his face-to-face time with Cheney to thank him for the United States' efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Coming to Iraq made me remember the terrible things that have gone on in the past in Sudan," said Kuwa, an administration specialist and Arabic translator with the 67th Area Support Group who currently resides in Cheney's hometown of Lincoln, Neb. "It made me realize that these people need help and the United States is here to provide it. I felt like I needed to tell him, on behalf of thousands of other people, that we appreciate what the United States is doing all across the world."

Cheney thanked the ser-

vicemen and women for their sacrifice and wished them safety throughout the rest of their deployment before posing for photographs and leaving Al Asad.

"The whole thing was good to go," said Cpl. Ryan T. Hunt, warehouse chief for Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 and a Versailles, Ind., native, who sat in on the roundtable discussion with Cheney. "He had a lot of positive things to say about the future out here. It was a good reminder that we are here for a purpose and we're making progress."

Cheney's final words for the service members focused on the support they have waiting at home and the appreciation the United States has for all of their military.

"I want you to know, especially at Christmas time, how much you mean to America," Cheney said. "This is the season for counting our blessings, and Americans realize how fortunate we are to have people like you wearing the uniform of our country. I want to thank you once again for serving far from home in an hour of great need. You reflect immense credit on the uniform you wear and the cause you serve."

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Stop smoking, save lives

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With a new year upon the world, it's time once again to make resolutions for 2006.

Whether it's weight-loss, saving to purchase a new car, getting out of debt, or anything else, it's a chance to be better than the year before. For tobacco users, why not try a tobacco cessation class for this New Year's resolution?

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital holds tobacco cessation classes each month.

"It's the second leading drain on the Department of Defense for active-duty personnel," said Martha Hunt, health promotion coordinator. "It's the leading cause of health problems in the US. Tobacco use causes 50,000 deaths annually, 6,000 of which are children under the age of 5."

The human brain is made up of billions of nerve cells, and they communicate by releasing chemical messengers called neurotransmitters. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, scientists recently discovered nicotine raises the levels of a neurotransmitter called dopamine in parts of the brain dealing with pleasure. Dopamine is the same neurotransmitter found in addictions to other drugs like cocaine and heroin. This could explain why tobacco use is so addictive.

When people get bored or stressed they often respond by using tobacco to relieve that stress or boredom, and that's an inadequate coping response, said Hunt.

"We give them the tools needed to deal with coping with boredom and stress," she said, referring to the smoking cessation course.

With all the dangers inherent in using tobacco, it seems impossible to find a harmless version to smoke or chew. The tobacco cessation course provides support, motivation and nicotine patches to those seeking a way to give up their harmful habit.

"Tobacco is lethal," said Hunt. "The whole focus of the course is to get them off tobacco, not to get them to switch to a different brand."

Since the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health in 1964, 27 additional reports have concluded that tobacco use is the most avoidable cause of disease, disability and death in the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, cigarette smoke damages lungs and airways by causing air passages to swell and become filled with mucus. Cigarette smoke can also lead to lung disease, chronic bronchitis, heart disease or cancer. Women smokers are at greater risk of developing osteoporosis, and some women may begin menopause earlier.

Smoking also affects normal breathing, making it more difficult as emphysema develops. Emphysema is a blockage in the airways that develops because of permanent changes in lung tissue, which makes getting enough oxygen difficult for even normal breathing.

Smoking is not only dangerous to smokers. Second-hand smoke can also be deadly. Considering the dangers created by second-hand smoke, breathing it is very similar to being a regular smoker.

All over the world, people die every year from disease caused by someone else's tobacco use. For children, its effects are even more impairing. Second-hand smoke has been found to contribute to causing bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma attacks, and inner ear infections in babies and young children. In some cases it has also been associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, according to studies done by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

According to the National Cancer Institute's Web site, tobacco companies designed light cigarettes with tiny holes in the filter, which dilute cigarette smoke with oxygen. As a result, smokers are forced to inhale deeper carrying the smoke and tar deeper into their lungs, increasing their chances of contracting lung disease.

"In fact, a light cigarette doubles the rate of lung cancer, and by the time lung cancer is detectable, it's already too late," said Hunt.

Smokeless tobacco, while lacking some of the dangers of smoking, is not harmless. There are more than 4,000 chemicals, including nicotine, in tobacco. Thus, smokeless tobacco carries the same innate dangers as regular tobacco. It can also cause cancer of the mouth, larynx or esophagus, as well as tooth and heart problems.

"One can of dip is equal to five packs of cigarettes, and it is a lethal dose to an animal or small child," said Hunt. "Smokeless tobacco causes oral cancer, smoking causes lung cancer — they're equally deadly."

According to the Surgeon General's 2004 report on the health consequences of smoking, quitting will have immediate as well as long-term benefits, reducing risks for diseases caused by smoking and improving health in general.

For more information or a schedule of classes, contact Martha Hunt at 830-2814.

New year, new MREs

LANCE CPL. R. DREW HENDRICKS
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC, CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — If you are tired of trying to make Meal-Ready-to-Eat menus more palatable, then your search may be over.

The field rations have progressed a long way from the C-rats of the past, and they continue to change even to this day.

Four of the current 24 MREs have been removed and are being replaced by new and improved menus, according to the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, located in Natick, Mass.

Usually the ASSC only replaces two MREs a year, but this year they wanted to give the list a boost in variety.

"There was a lot of negative feedback on these four MREs, we couldn't narrow it down to just two," said Judith Aylward, the MRE Improvement project manager.

Country Captain's Chicken, Thai Chicken, Beef Teriyaki and Pasta with Vegetables have all been scratched off the MRE menu.

The ASSC has come up with four new main meals and an assortment of new sides and candies approved by service-members by suggestion or taste tests.

"If there were four MRE boxes with one MRE left in each, all of them would be Country Captain's Chicken," said Sgt. Rusty Campbell, who while deployed in Afghanistan, had eaten MREs for 35 or more days straight. "If you got stuck with one, you just took everyone else's Tabasco sauce and made the best of it."

The four new meals include a penne pasta dish, chicken fajitas with soft tortillas, Sloppy Joe sauce to put on wheat snack bread and a cheese omelet breakfast meal.

The new meals were put on trial to ensure quality.

"All of our meals are put through field tests, which allows us to see how well the new meals fare against the current menus," said Aylward.

The Operational Forces Interface Group is a team that takes surveys from

Marine and Army installations throughout the nation. These surveys are used to get an accurate look at what the service members enjoy, and what they just throw back in the box.

"Troop preference is the biggest consideration. We can make the meal fit every regulation, but if you don't like it you're not going to eat it," said Aylward.

The new meals did well in recent taste tests with chicken fajitas being the favorite.

"I might be a little cautious about eating chicken fajitas from an MRE, but the idea does sound fairly appetizing," said Sgt. Wayne R. Welty, a security specialist at Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

Main meals are not the only thing needed to make an MRE the gourmet meals they are: sometimes little treats can make an unpopular meal great.

Snacks like the cinnamon scone and the orange carbohydrate drink, which has a strong resemblance to Gatorade, both scored high in the taste test. However, one item surpassed them all: Walnettos, a caramel and walnut flavored candy.

"The Walnettos went over surprisingly well, so we have started to work on a similar chocolate flavored candy," said Aylward. "We have also been looking at adding more commercial items such as M&M's, which are big moral boosters."

Coming up with new menu ideas is a rather large challenge. Nutritionists like Aylward have to meet all sorts of standards.

These standards include nutritional value, weight & volume, and variety. There are even certain stipulations that require MREs to be made with only American-made products.

"There are so many factors to juggle, but by far the most influential one is whether or not you like them," said Aylward.

There shouldn't be too much to worry about if you don't like the taste of some of the items. Chances are if a lot of people share your opinion, the item will be gone by next year.



LANCE CPL. R. DREW HENDRICKS

Four new Meal-Ready-to-Eat menus have arrived to replace a few of the outdated and unwanted menus.

According to Aylward, the items for 2006 and 2007 have already been selected and the list for 2008 will be approved sometime in Feb. 2006.

"In the end, we may complain about it but we will still eat it," said Campbell. "It's just a bonus if it tastes edible."

Here is a sneak preview at the items slated for 2006 and 2007.

2006 What's in:

- HooAH! Bar
- Chili with beef
- Tuna fish
- Mango peach apple sauce
- Raisin nut mix with pan coated chocolate discs
- Caramel apple bar
- Chocolate banana muffin top
- Pizza cheese spread
- Chocolate peanut butter spread

What's out:

- Beefsteak with mushroom gravy
- Chicken tetrazzini

2007, What's in:

- Meatball with marinara sauce
- Chicken with dumplings
- Cornbread stuffing
- Wild berry and tropical Skittles
- Marbled pound cake
- Apple butter
- Chunky peanut butter

What's out:

- Jambalaya
- Cajun rice with sausage

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Family night a success for 7th Marines

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Fun, food and family was the name of the game as more than 200 Marines, Sailors and their families gathered for the Headquarters Company's, 7th Marine Regiment, family night Dec. 15 at Victory Field. The carnival-like atmosphere was not only meant as a social gathering for service members and their spouses,

but also a night to entertain children of all ages with various activities and displays.

"Today was about the families and getting them out here and to honor the sacrifices that they make, as well as those of our Marines and Sailors," said Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Mashburn, regimental sergeant major. "This also gives everyone the opportunity to see the

Marines in a different light. Marines can see their senior leadership and their junior leadership with their children and families, and I think that is important to see that side." The field was a bustle of activity through most of the night, and children played on a multitude of attractions including an inflatable obstacle course, playing football or getting photos taken with Santa.

A raffle drawing with various prizes for on- and off-base activities was also held for guests, as well as booths offering information on base services.

A static display of vehicles such as an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, a M777 lightweight howitzer, an amphibious assault vehicle, seven-ton trucks and Humvees were also on hand.

"We had the entire base support this event extremely well," said Mashburn. "Artillery, tanks, AAVs as well as the base itself all helped out, so we're happy for all of the support today."

For one of the bright, young faces in the crowd, the evening's events were exciting and memorable.

"This was really cool," said Cody Justice, 9, whose parents and four siblings accompanied him. "We got prizes and there were tanks



and things we could go inside of. There was stuff for kids and grownups, too. I liked it all."

Families were also invited to enjoy a complementary meal of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs as well as cookies and hot chocolate.

"I think this is great," said Cpl. Jason C. Evans, who's wife and three children joined him for the festivities. "This is really for the kids, and they all had a lot of fun. It's also a good chance for spouses as military members to meet

other spouses. I think we should do gatherings like this more frequently."

Events such as this really bring the unit closer together and does not require enormous effort to put on, said Mashburn.

"A lot of times we look at things and we say that we just don't have the time to do it," Mashburn said. "I don't think we see enough family days. This is actually something that the Marines really wanted to put together, and they did it well. All the kids seem

to be having fun with everything and right on down the line."

As the evening drew to a close, the smiles on the faces of children let everyone know the event was a complete success.

"It does not take a lot of initiative to get something like this going and to find the time to do it," said Mashburn. "That is something that I would tell any organization, is that it's important to find the time and to honor our families."



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Thunder, silence rock Combat Center

CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO
The Battle Color Detachment, comprised of the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marines Corps Color Guard from the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., performed at the Combat Center March 9. The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, known as "The Commandants Own," began the ceremony with the performance of "Music in Motion," using hand-polished, 10 and one-half pound, M-1 Garand rifles tossed in the air.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
A Humvee attached to a communications array sits atop a hill at sunrise Oct. 27 at the Canyon Air Defense Complex aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 took part in a six-week Weapons and Tactics Instructor course at MCAS Yuma.

MWSS-374 provides support for Yuma WTI



Violent storm pummels Combat Center

CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO
Flames from an electrical pole on Third Street set ablaze by a lighting strike July 24 consume a pick-up truck. Combat Center firefighters were on the scene and were able to put out the blaze in 21 minutes. The storms cause major flooding, traffic problems and power outages for many Twentynine Palms residents.



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
Doubled-over, Marines and Sailors half walk and half crawl up the side of "Sugar Cookie," one of the massive sand hills on the 8 kilometer course in the Ridge Run April 15. Many of the runners made short stops on the way up the hill.

Marines learn "Sugar Cookie" not so sweet



Wives to warriors

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
Alison Proulx chambers a blank ammunition round into a M249 squad automatic weapon as her coach, Cpl. Brian Collins of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, instructs her during the battalion's "Warrior Day" event Oct. 14 at the Prospect training area.



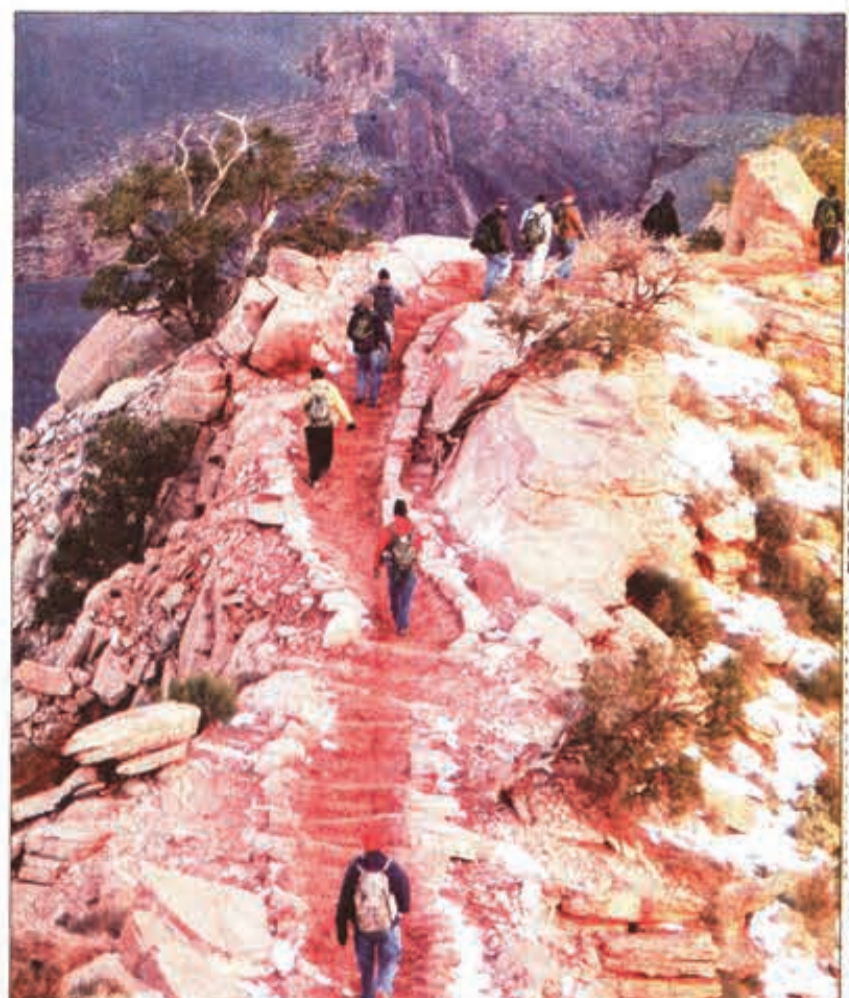
SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
Cpl. Scott Garrett, India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and McDonough, Ga. native, pounds a bag in fury and pain after being sprayed with oleoresin capsicum Feb. 4. Getting sprayed with OC is one of the requirements for the non-lethal weapons training package. A Marine is required to get sprayed before being authorized to use it.

3/11 feels pepper spray's power



Combat Center, community pay final respects

SGT. JENNIE HASKAMP
Pallbearers prepare to fold the flag that draped Sgt. Zach S. Davis' casket in front of the Protestant Chapel after his funeral service. After the flag was presented to his family, Davis' casket was loaded on to the bed of a San Bernardino County fire engine and returned to Wiefels and Sons Mortuary. Davis, 25, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, was killed in Iraq's Al Anbar Province Jan. 6.



CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN
Members of 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, make their way down the Grand Canyon on the 7.5-mile descent along the Kaibab Trail. Lima Company went to the Grand Canyon for a conditioning hike Feb. 8-9.

Lima 3/7 hikes Grand Canyon



Combat veteran escapes death

To show staff and visitors at Loma Linda University Medical Center's Intensive Care Unit what he looks like healthy, a boot camp portrait lies on Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu's bed in the ICU Jan. 27. In less than a month, LeBleu, a Lake Charles, La., native, went from healthy to showing signs of fatigue and sickness to being diagnosed with acute liver failure. LeBleu received a transplant that saved his life.

SGT. JENNIE HASKAMP



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHELL
Lance Cpl. Tommy Escobedo, a light armored vehicle mechanic for 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and a Bakersfield, Calif., native, hugs Claudia Sanchez, a family friend, at 3rd LAR's homecoming at Victory Field April 26.

Welcoming our warriors home



Sudden death

The goalkeeper for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, attempts to block a kick by a 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion player at Felix Field June 23. In a sudden death shootout that night, 1/7 defeated 3rd LAR after they tied at the end of the second half.

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHELL



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
Marines from India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, put two weeks of non-lethal weapons training into practice by quelling mock riots Feb. 9. Marines and Sailors from Kilo and Headquarters Battery, 3/11, stood in as rioters for the training exercise.

3/11 quells mock riots

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MCCS Sports will host Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Competition beginning Monday in the West Gym. For more information, call 830-4092.

LEISURE

WINTER DANCE

CYTP will host a 2nd to 6th grade Winter Dance on Jan. 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Cost is \$2 for YATO members and \$4 for all others. Bring a friend and join us for games, prizes, and refreshments. For more information, call 830-3227 ext. 273.

YOUTH AND TEEN LOCK-IN

CYTP will be hosting Youth and Teen Lock-In on Jan. 20 from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. for teens aged 13 to 18 years old still in high school. Come join us for a night of free pizza, bowling, movies, games, and prizes. Cost for members \$10 and \$15 for all others. Space is limited so make a paid reservation by Jan. 18. For more information, call 830-3227 ext. 273.

GOLF SCHOOL

Desert Winds Golf Course is now accepting reservations for the junior and adult golf schools beginning Saturday. Space is limited. Call 830-6132.

1/25, 1/14 WELCOME ABOARD PARTY

Hashmarks SNCO Club will host a Welcome Aboard Party for units 1/25 and 1/14 on Wednesday. The event is open to all eligible club patrons and will feature FREE food with a carving station, FREE prizes and the BUD GIRLS! Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Call 830-6610 for more information.

MONGOLIAN BBQ

The Officers' Club will present a Mongolian BBQ on Jan. 13 from 5-7 p.m. Enjoy made-to-order Mongolian BBQ for only .60 cents per ounce for members and .75 cents per ounce for non-members. Reservations are requested. Please call 830-6610.

STEAK NIGHTS

Hashmarks SNCO Club and the Officers' Club will continue the popular Monday Steak Night after football season. Attendees will receive grilled to order steaks, a baked potato, Texas toast and a salad. Prices are \$9.75 for members and \$10.75 for non-members. Reservations are requested no later than the Friday before. Call 830-6610.

SMP LAUGHLIN TRIP

Single Marine Program will host a day trip to Laughlin Jan. 14. There are casinos, mall, movie theater and boat rides along the river. Cost of the trip is \$5. You must be 21 years or older to gamble in the casinos. Deadline for reservations is Jan. 11. For more information, call 830-4767.

SMP BIG BEAR TRIP

Single Marine Program will be hosting a ski weekend to Big Bear Jan. 20 to 22. Participants can ski Jan. 20 evening and all day Jan. 21. Cost includes double occupancy, equipment rentals and ski lifts during the trip. Deadline for reservations is Jan. 17. For more information, call 830-4767.

Did You Know?

The Chicago White Sox and the Milwaukee Brewers played a game lasting 8 hours and 6 minutes on May 9, 1984. The Chicago White Sox eventually won 7-6 in the 25th inning.



CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO
Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, takes time to speak with Sgt. Edward Salatino, optics repairman, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, at the Simulation Center Aug. 1.

Commandant visits Combat Center



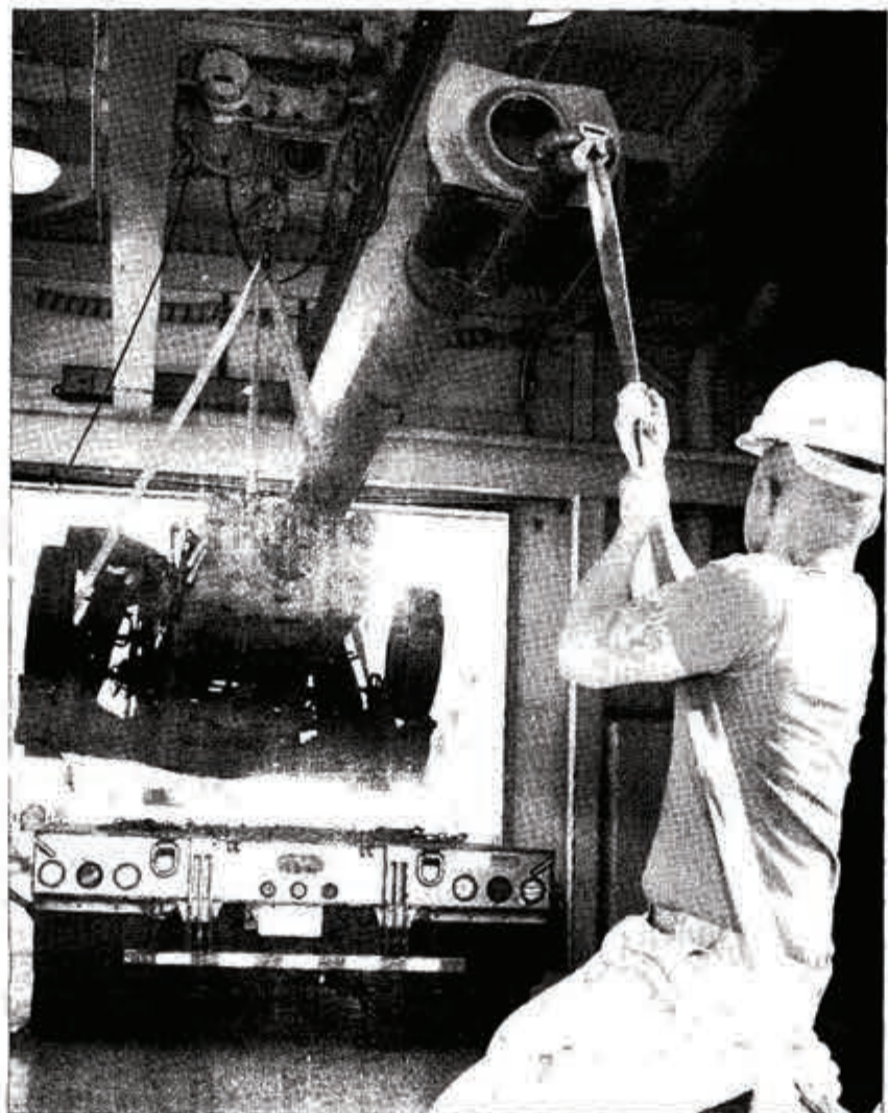
CPL. PAUL ROBBINS JR.
Lance Cpl. Joseph A. Navalle, a team leader for scout sniper platoon, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, kneels before the memorial erected for his fallen teammate, Lance Cpl. Juan C. Venegas, who died April 7 in a vehicle accident.

Mourning our fallen warriors



7th RCT command element returns

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
Staff Sgt. David L. Holcomb, maintenance chief, waves to friends and families gathered Mar. 24 to greet the husbards of Marines and Sailors returning from a 14-month deployment to Iraq. Headquarters Element, 7th Regimental Combat Team, stayed to support the various units from the Regiment deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.



New howitzer arrives

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
Marines of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, dismount a new M-777 155 mm lightweight howitzer from a truck. The three howitzers delivered April 11 are the first of the M-777s in the Marine Corps, and the first new howitzers to 3/11 in more than 20 years.



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

The strength of the Wolf is the Pack

Alec Smith (center) and Jurod Bank crowd around a picture at the foot of Brig Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, while Clay Badger watches from the chair. "As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk, the Law runneth forward and back - For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength for the Wolf is the Pack." Zilmer reads aloud while the Cub Scouts follow along and read with him. The quote comes from Rudyard Kipling's 'The Second Jungle Book'.

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55857 - 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, CA 92284
Office 760-228-5000 Fax 760-369-7490

- 61737 Alta Mura J.T. 3bd, 2ba \$950
- 7535 Bannock Y.V. 2bd, 2ba \$825
- 7173 Sage #7 Y.V. 1bd, 1ba \$525
- 7245 Murray Lane #B Y.V. 2bd, 2ba \$775
- 7180 Olympic #3 & #5 J.T. 1bd, 1ba \$525
- 58257 Caliente Y.V. 2bd, 1ba \$795

**110 HOMES
FOR SALE**

YUCCA Mesa 4 sale by owner custom built, 3 bdrm, 2 ba, central air/heat & Arocooler swamp, granite kit, counter tops, maple cabinets. Vaulted, kit., dining & living room, close to school, ready to move in. Priced to sell \$279,900. (760) 902-7441 or 902-7442 Pat 58257 Pimlico St

AFFORDABLE

Free computerized hot list of properties reveals 10 best buys in your specific price range. Free recorded message
1-866-215-2732
ID# 1040
Rancho Springs Realty

LOANS, hard money or conventional. Trust deeds bought & sold. Thacher & Daughter, CA. RE. lic. # 00364875 (760) 365-1100**29 PALMS**

10 acre ranch estate, 2200 sq. ft. 2 bd, 1 ba, 1 story, new well, 83015 South Rd. \$279K (760) 779-9922

3 bdrm, 2 bath hot tub, fenced, many extras. 5569 Abnoria Ave 29 Palms. \$168,700. Call (760) 366-8321

BY OWNER

3 bdrm, 2 ba, 1776 sq. ft. pool, lg. incd. yard, all new, A/C, carpet and tile, frp., 2 bonus rooms, 2 car garage. Located behind Park Visitors Center, 74424 Chemeheuv, only \$229,900 (760) 641-0537 or (760) 409-9925

**110 HOMES
FOR SALE**

VIEW house over 2100 sq. ft. 4 bdrm, den 2 ba cent air 1.5 acre, frp., \$325K. Elitoma Dr. (800) 358-3366 Ask For Larry.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

FIXER home for sale for immediate cash buyer. Fixer, below market 3 bdrm, 2 ba. (760) 779-9922

JOSHUA TREE

2 bdrm., 2 ba., 1800 sq. ft. south side corner lot. Great area! \$159K. Call Sara 401-6189

2 new homes, 3 bdrm, 1.75 bath + extras \$195,000. Owner. Agent 365-2446

FRIENDLY Hills, new 4 bd, 2 ba on 1/2 ac. Many upgrades! \$1500 mo. (800) 546-4443

House for sale, 100% financing avail., 64858 Tonto Dr, 2 bdrm, 1 ba, gar, 1125 sq ft, \$159K Jack (866) 249-2121

YUCCA MESA

BRAND NEW, never lived in, 4 bdrm, 2 ba, 1,464 sq ft, walking distance to Yucca Mesa Elementary school, 584013 Del Mar, \$257,500. Call owner for an appt (760) 369-7465

YUCCA VALLEY

2005 construction 3 bdrm, 2 ba, 12,000 sq ft lot, \$259,000. 7583 Inca Tr (760) 408-8071

Selling Your Home?

For experienced professional service call: **Palos Verdes Escrow**
Competitive rates - (760) 369-1000

OVER 2,000 sq ft, 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 ba, 2 car gar, close to 1/2 ac, \$340,000 365-5665

**110 HOMES
FOR SALE**

Brand new- Pick your carpet & move in!



3 bdrm, 2 ba, bonus room, granite counters, ceramic tile floors
\$259,900 • 5409 Mariposa, 29 Palms
\$249,900 • 5333 Encilia, 29 Palms
Call Wayne @ (760) 369-2724 or (951) 743-9095
For details on these or other homes

**110 HOMES
FOR SALE****BRAND NEW****Good location!**

4 bdrm, 2 ba, custom home, split plan, 2X6 const., fans, tile kit. & ba, master walk in, upgrades, finished dbl gar., covered porch & patio, 2,505 Sq ft under roof!
Only \$329K!
365-1441

CUSTOM HOME**JOSHUA TREE**

2.5 acres, forever view, quiet street, oak kitchen, bath & utility, solid surface tops, all energy star, 2x6 walls, 3 rooms of stone tile, top appliances, brushed nickel fixtures, \$1080 sq ft under roof, \$210,000 firm. Many extras, weakener & or a retired ideal. (760) 365-7510

YUCCA MESA

YUCCA Mesa under construction, 4 sale by owner custom built, 3 bdrm, 2 ba, central air/heat & Arocooler swamp, granite kit, counter tops, maple cabinets. Vaulted, kit., dining & living room, close to school, ready for stucco color. Priced to sell \$310,000. (760) 902-7441 or 902-7442 Pat 58347 Caliente YV

**115 INCOME
PROPERTY****29 PALMS**

29 Palms Investment Opportunity! New 4 Plex Units, turn key ready to rent. \$594,999 Sunwest Development 866-324-3600. www.sunwestdevelopment.com

**110 HOMES
FOR SALE****YUCCA VALLEY**

DBL wide, 2 bdrm, 2 ba, new rehab, beautiful, Xint location, Aztec MHP, Bob 364-9218

GATES of Spain Senior Mobile Park, 2 bdrm, 2 ba, please call 365-2374 to view between 9 am & 4 pm

SENIOR Park 14x56 MH totally new 2 bdrm, 1 ba, owner will carry, \$38,500 365-2265

**120 LOTS &
ACREAGE**

GREAT views, 2.5 acres, close to pavement, utilities. \$80K (760) 401-2574

FLAMINGO HEIGHTS

VIEW! 2 acres N. Yucca Valley on Breezy Ln. \$49K (760) 779-9922

JOSHUA TREE

2.5 ac, NE of Border/La Brea \$30,000. (707) 357-0780

PAVED road lot, near JT airport, \$20,000, (707) 357-0780

LANDERS

GOAT Min level 5 ac, mobile home, water in septic in, power on street, SE corner Botkin Rd & Sunset Mesa Rd call (909) 560-9311 \$52,500

YUCCA MESA

5 ac. in Yucca Mesa, corner of Alta & Breezy Ln \$125K OBO. (510) 745-9910

YUCCA VALLEY

1.9 acres commercial land on Pima Tr. behind Hi-Desert Star. \$199K (760) 285-2998

5 acres with city views on S. Kickapoo Trail, 1 mi. from town \$149K. (760) 779-9922

**125 MOBILE HOME
SALES****29 PALMS**

Quick sale cash only. 3bdrm 2ba, family park pets ok. 10min to base \$6500/obo. 367-6280

JOSHUA TREE

BEAUTIFUL 2 bdrm mobile homes, starting @ \$22,500, terms avail. 2 pull out mobile homes starting at \$4,000, Joshua Mobile Estates (760) 366-2993 (909) 379-8098

YUCCA VALLEY

DBL wide, 2 bdrm, 2 ba, new rehab, beautiful, Xint location, Aztec MHP, Bob 364-9218

GATES of Spain Senior Mobile Park, 2 bdrm, 2 ba, please call 365-2374 to view between 9 am & 4 pm

SENIOR Park 14x56 MH totally new 2 bdrm, 1 ba, owner will carry, \$38,500 365-2265

**135 REAL ESTATE
WANTED****Absolute Fair
Prices For Houses.****AS IS****Cash Fast No Fees**

Little or No Equity Okay
(760) 779-9922
property-partner.com

I buy lots, land, cabins, homes, any condition, for cash. Can close quickly Call (760) 366-4669

**Equal Housing
Opportunity**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-424-8590.

**Hi-Desert
Publishing Co.****Properties
for Rent**

200 • 299

**200 APTS. &
DUPLICES****LEASE**

Purchase available throughout Morongo Basin/Desert communities, call (951) 237-2082

**200 APTS. &
DUPLICES**

LEASE Purchase available throughout Morongo Basin/Desert communities, call (951) 237-2082

Thank You,

Judy & Dave
Rentals
thanks all of their tenants for their patronage and the Hi-Desert Star Classifieds for their excellence in customer service.

29 PALMS

1 bdrm \$550 + deposit, new w/all new appl. Avail now, 366-9773

1-2 bdrm duplexes \$500-\$600. Section 8 ok. 1 (800) 688-2219

2 bdrm, 1 ba

garage/water pd, stove, fridge, \$595/mo 365-2333

2bdrm, 1ba, in town

Indry, carport, w/tr/pd, \$550/mo + dep. avail. 1-13-06. 760-367-0378

CUTE 2 bd, 1 ba

w/carport. Very clean. \$600/mo + dep. 73586 Sunnyslope, 365-8992

DUPLX 72997 Home

stead "WS" Very large 1 bdrm, seems like a house, \$600/mo + dep. (760) 776-2009

LARGE studio, stove

w/d hupks, sunken ba. \$400 + dep. 365-2333

NICE homes for rent

1&3 bdrm, Indry rm, util incl, close to Base \$550/mo-\$750/mo. Also lg 3 bdrm duplex \$850/mo. Call 760-699-3420

STUDIO apt, water

elect & trash paid, \$325/mo. + deposit. Call 760-219-8020

**200 APTS. &
DUPLICES****NOW RENTING****73538 Sun Valley****29 Palms****Spacious NEW****Fourplex**

3 bdrm, 2 ba, washer, dryer, refrig. incl. 1,260 sq ft, \$995/mo, sm incd rear yd, trash & water pd

Contact Mike @ (949) 285-5700

JOSHUA TREE

2 bdrm, 1 ba, duplex, w/gar. \$500/mo, ref's requested, 365-8975

DUPLEX 61967 A

Begonia Pl, 2 bdrm, 1 ba, washer/dryer, \$650/mo + dep. (760) 776-2009

YUCCA VALLEY

2 bdrm, 1 ba, gar, trash paid. \$495 + sec. 228-2218

2 bdrm, apt., free local phone, gated building \$700/mo. + sec. 365-1387

BRAND new YV lg 2 bdrm, 2 ba, duplex, 2 car gar, A/C, W/D hupks, cov. patio, incd bk yd, no pets. 7144 Barbary, near Carrows rest. Avail 2/1/06 6 or 12 mo lease, \$795/mo + sec. dep. \$25 non-refundable credit ck fee. 567-6533

Nice 2 bdrm, 1 bath, incd back yd & 2 car gar, no pets. \$500/mo. + dep. (800) 760-6627

SMART Apt. 2 bdrm, 1 ba, garage, laundry rm, call 228-2955 on Bannock Tr.

STUDIO apt. free local phone, gated building. \$500/mo. + sec. 365-1387

TRI-PLEX 3 bdrm, 2 ba, w/t paid, no pets, \$750/mo + \$750/sec. (760) 365-2500

CHARMING

1 bdrm, 1 bath well maintained in gated sec. building great loc., mgr on site, w/t pd. \$575. Call Steve 228-1292

LARGE, CHARMING

2 bdrm, 1 ba garden apt. Very nice & clean, well maintained grounds. Fncd bk yd, carport, great loc., w/t paid. \$695. Call Steve 228-1292

29 PALMS

1 bdrm \$550 + deposit, new w/all new appl. Avail now, 366-9773

**205 COMMERCIAL
FOR RENT****YUCCA VALLEY**

PRIME Highway location for lease, professional/retail, 1300-2780 sq ft, 57407 29 Palms Hwy, Y.V. 365-5748

**210 MOBILE HOME
RENTALS****29 PALMS**

SMITH'S Ranch 2 & 3 bdrm rentals. Clean, quiet, close to base. 760-367-7203

29P EDGE-O-TOWN

Mobile Home Park. Furn/unfurn. 1 & 2 bdrm. \$300-\$400 + \$300 dep. Laundry room. Adjacent to Stater Bros. Possible discounts available. (760) 367-9364

**220 UNFURNISHED
HOUSES****RENTALS****DESERT VISTA REALTY**

(8) New 3, 4, 2 bdrm. homes in Y.V. and JT Call for Availability (760) 406-1161 or (760) 369-2884 desertvistarealty.com

AVAILABLE now!

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

'91 FORD RANGER - 4.0 V6 long bed w/ 59K miles. Pioneer stereo in dash, 12 disk CD changer, amp, subwoofer. \$4,700 OBO. Call 760-367-4690. 1/6/06

MOTORCYCLE - New 05' Suzuki GSX-R 750. \$9,000 O.B.O. Call 760-361-4075. 12/09/05

MOTORCYCLE - 2004 Harley Davidson Softail Duece, EFI, pipe and chrome upgrades, 1741 miles, perfect condition, \$16,500. Call 760-369-8515. 12/09/05

MOTORCYCLE - New 05' Suzuki GSX-R 750. \$9,000 O.B.O. Call 760-361-4075. 12/09/05

MOTORCYCLE - 2004 Harley Davidson Softail Duece, EFI, pipe and

chrome upgrades, 1741 miles, perfect condition. \$16,500. Call 760-369-8515. 12/09/05

MOTORCYCLE - '04 Harley Davidson Softail Duece, EFI, pipe and chrome upgrades w/1,800 miles in perfect condition for \$16,500, call 369-8515. 12/02/05

'01 FORD RANGER - Blk w/radio and tires, tinted windows, title in hand w/32K miles for \$7,750 O.B.O. For more info, call 368-9866. 10/11/05

'01 FORD RANGER - Edge yellow w/flareside w/71K miles for \$8,000 O.B.O. For more info, call 368-9866. 10/11/05

'03 TOYOTA TACOMA - Pre-runner, A/T V-6, Ext. Cab, SR5, TRD w/28K miles for \$20,000 O.B.O. For more info,

call 567-9344. 10/11/05

05' SUZUKI GSX-R 750 - Yellow & black in showroom condition under only 10 miles for \$9,000 O.B.O. For more info, call 407-791-2719. 10/11/05

'93 FORD ESCORT - LX Wagon 4D. 5-Speed Manual, power steering, AM/FM Radio for \$1,200.00, for more info, call 367-3326. 11/04/05

HELP WANTED

HORSE RIDER - Want an experienced, horse lover to work out 2 horses. Will provide tack, etc. Call 362-1124. 1/6/06

HELP WANTED - F/T job working w/disabled adults in Morongo Basin for \$10/\$11 hr. For more info, call Chief Master Sgt. Castaneda, USAF (Ret) at 909-335-9202, ext. 100. 11/18/05

PETS

LOST KITTEN - Grey/black kitten lost in Ocotillo Housing area with targets on belly sides, call 368-1108. 11/25/05

MISCELLANEOUS - Washer and dryer \$100, full size bed/frame \$75, nightstand \$25. Call 760-365-9653. 1/6/06

ELECTRONICS - WebTV setup: includes Internet box, laser keyboard remote, scanner, printer plus all instructions \$45. Call 367-7066 or 799-8445. 1/6/06

MISCELLANEOUS - 180 ft. chain-link fence with 2 gates for \$275 OBO. Call 760-367-7950 or 760-401-0182. 1/6/06

APPLIANCES - Kenmore avocado green, cook top stove, 36 in. gas w/ 4 burners and griddle. Great condition

\$55. Call 367-7066 or 799-8445. 1/6/06

APPLIANCES - Maytag washer/dryer with Neptune front for large loads capacity for \$700.00 obo, call 368-3232. 12/02/05

FURNITURE - Leather couch/double recliner for \$750.00 obo; leather swivel/rocker/recliner for \$300.00 obo. For more info, call 219-2184. 12/02/05

DRYER - Frigidaire heavy-duty electric dryer with manuals in excellent condition for \$100.00, call 366-7317. 11/25/05

LUGGAGE SET - Suitcase w/wheels and 2 duffel bags - tapestry print for \$20.00, free scanner for computer w/Windows '98, call 368-1108. 11/25/05

FURNITURE - Glass-top

table w/ 3 chairs. Good condition, chairs need upholstered. \$45.00 O.B.O. Call 368-0349. 1/6/06

TELEVISION - '00 Toshiba 42" flat screen TV (only the screen is flat) for \$700.00 O.B.O. Call 406-1785. 11/18/05

TENNIS PLAYERS - Want to play, tennis players needed for pick-up game. For more info, call 367-1799. 11/04/05

FURNITURE - Twin captain's bed w/match. Chest for \$100.00. Twin bed w/match. Chest for \$50.00, call 368-1959. 10/21/05

HOUSE FOR SALE - Desert Paradise: 3 bdrm, 2 bath, cross-fenced residence. \$195,000; close to Luckie Park. 74211 Two Mile Road; call 361-1511. Showings by appointment only. 11/04/05

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Friday, the week prior to publication. Trader ad forms may be filled out during normal working hours at the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1417. Ads may

also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. Ads will only be accepted from active or Reserve duty and retired personnel, their family mem-

bers and civil service workers. The limit for ad submissions is two per household per week.

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 exchanges 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-served, space-available basis.

220 UNFINISHED HOUSES

NEW large 3 bdrm, 2 ba, lg fncd yd, top location, 7461 Fox Tr, \$1,100 + \$1,100 dep. (909) 484-6464

223 ROOMS 4 RENT

29 PALMS
LARGE turn home, full privacy \$450/mo, 29 palms, child/pet ok. 367-6724

YUCCA VALLEY

Beautiful turn. house in upper Western Hills, nice view \$500/mo/person, \$655/mo master suite, + \$500 dep, no pets or smoker 365-8401 or 413-2181

Employment Advertising Policy

This newspaper does not knowingly accept employment ads that indicate an age preference, from employers covered by the Age Discrimination Act, or knowingly accept ads expressing a preference of sex, where no bona fide occupational qualification exists under the Fair Employment Act from employers covered by that act. Nor, do we in any way condone employment that discriminates on a basis of race, religion, ancestry or national origin. For further information regarding occupational qualifications and employers covered, contact the Fair Employment Practice Commission.

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.



Employment

300-399

300 HELP WANTED

ADMIN/STAFF DUTY OFFICER

Must have strong navy admin skills, TURBO PREP required and a Security Clearance. Send resumes Recruiting@aht-llc.com Fax: 757-499-3972 APT LLC, EOE

AUTO Tech.: Est. shop needs Lead mechanic to run automotive side. Great pay and flexible hours. RV and Diesel experience beneficial. Call ASAP. 228-2435

CAREGIVER, YV for 2 adults, good cook, ref's req'd. Send info to C-700, PO Box 880, Yucca Valley, Ca 92284

CAREGIVERS needed, fingerprint, phy & TB, first aid needed, call Christie @ 228-2729

CLERICAL: YV store needs multi tasked person. Payroll, A/P experience helpful, computer comfortable, will train quick learner. Pay \$10-\$20/hr based on experience & long term potential. Holidays, vacation, group medical, dental. Fax resume to 365-2119 or apply Kelly's Future.

COOKS & servers for 29 Palms location. Apply in person, 3-5pm, The Rib Co. 29 Palms.

300 HELP WANTED

CROSSROADS Cafe & Tavern is currently seeking energetic personable Line cooks, dishwashers & counter staff. Applications accepted @ 61715 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree. No Phone Calls.

D & T Finish has immediate opening for exp carpenter w/tools and own transportation, exp w/doors, trim, shelving and base a must. Pick up application at 7506 Kickapoo Tr, YV or fax resume to 369-1423

Del Taco, YV now hiring all shifts incl. graveyard. Must be flexible to work at both stores in a fast paced environment. Exp. preferred, but willing to train. Apply at either location.

DEL Taco, YV now hiring FT Managers, Exp. in quick-service preferred, but willing to train the right person, 792-2499

DENTAL: Need DA dent, exp. must, call Dr. Chang, fax resume (760) 365-2351 Cell, (213) 447-9068

DRIVER tow truck, full time, local, Class A preferred 364-2846

DRIVERS taxi, clean DMV x 10 yrs, Palm Springs \$\$ cash daily, for info (760) 578-5100



GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

The Big Bear Grizzly has an immediate opening for a full-time reporter/photographer. The Grizzly is an award-winning weekly covering several resort communities in the San Bernardino Mountains. The successful candidate is an experienced journalist who likes to do it all. Assignments could include covering local government meetings, crime, theater, a high school basketball game or snow boarding event. Applicant must have journalism experience and be willing to relocate; will consider a recent journalism graduate. Ideal candidate has a nose for news, is a creative writer who can work under light deadlines and handle multiple assignments. Must be able to work nights and weekends.

Send resume and clips to: Judi Bowers, Editor P.O. Box 1789 Big Bear Lake, Ca. 92315 Fax to: (909) 866-2302 or via e-mail at: jbowers@bigbeargrizzly.net NO PHONE CALLS!

HOUSECLEANING & errands \$13/hr, 4 hrs, 1 day a week. 29 Palms 362-4529

JT Dental office looking for exp. dental receptionist, bilingual a plus, call 366-8877

300 HELP WANTED



The Rib Co.
The best little Rib House in the Desert
Come Work for the Best!

The following positions are immediately available:

Managers Assistant Managers

- Competitive Salary
- 40 hour work week
- Bonus
- Quarterly obtainable
- Flexible Hours
- Paid Vacation
- Paid Medical

If you love working with people and have an excellent work ethic, fax your resume with salary history to 365-1194 or email it to: Ron.Hill@TheRibCo.com

LANDERS cabinet shop needs exp'd help. 364-3268 or 364-4865.

LOOKING for exp'd carpenters only. Good pay. Call Jason @ (760) 660-7246

LOOKING for receptionist w/exp. in medical office. Bilingual a plus, experience a must! Please bring resume to 7024 Airway Ave, Suite D, YV

Mentor for disabled adults FT in Morongo Basin, will train, DMV, reliable trans req'd, \$10-11/hr. Pd benefits; health, dental, vacation, holiday, mileage. Call (909)335-9202

NEED Rec Aid Asst P/T Mon-Fri afternoons must be over 18 yrs old. Apply at 29 Palms Youth Club, Luckie Park, Patriotic Hall.

Office Manager position in PS.

Professional front office, phones, computer & patient contact. Competitive salary, benefits, bonuses, M/F Resume 340-9726 or Call Sally 340-4290 for Interview

PLUMBER needed must have experience. Call (760) 885-7691

PLUMBERS-SERVICE/REPAIR, clean DMV, great compensation & xnt benefits, YV area. Not just a job but a real opportunity. There's much to it, lets talk. Call David Johnson 288-2294

PRESCHOOL Teacher Pleasant, friendly, caring person, ECE units a plus. 363-7456

ROOFERS needed, must be willing to do hot tar, must have own transportation, (760) 361-4402

SMALL office part time, must be computer literate, exp w/Excel, 251-0251 or 251-0496 DHS

SWIM Coach, 4 yrs competitive swimmer or prior coaching experience (760) 318-SWIM

TEACHERS/TUTORS, PT earn \$22-\$30 per hour tutoring near your home, degree req'd. (800) 832-2487

WHY drive far to work, when work is here in the Morongo Basin? Growing Plumbing Co. needs Exp. Plumbers. Excellent benefits, now hiring, call 365-7680

Top Line Loan Officer. 80% Split, Inbound Calls. Must be licensed & experienced. (760) 369-1700

300 HELP WANTED

The Rib Co.
The best little Rib House in the Desert
Come Work for the Best!

The following positions are immediately available:

Managers Assistant Managers

- Competitive Salary
- 40 hour work week
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- Paid Vacation
- Paid Medical

If you love working with people and have an excellent work ethic, fax your resume with salary history to 365-1194 or email it to: Ron.Hill@TheRibCo.com

305 KIDS CLASSIFIEDS

Free Ads!
If you are between the ages of 12-17 and are looking for work after school, bring your ID to the Hi-Desert Star or Desert Trail office and we will give you a free ad in this classification.

310 WORK WANTED

CAREGIVER for elderly, 25 yrs. exp. I come highly recommended w/ ref's. (760) 366-3532

MATURE woman seeking position as live-in caretaker & housekeeper. Has quiet, gentle yellow Lab dog. (760) 401-7837



Services

400-499

300 HELP WANTED

300 HELP WANTED

RARE OPENING



Join the Winning 5-Star Team! Parts/Counter Help needed.

- Experience preferred
- Work 10 minutes from home
- Full company benefits

Apply in person
Yucca Valley Chrysler
55288 29 Palms Hwy.

400 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enjoy Wine?
Visit beautiful California Wine Country... from the comfort of your home or office. Learn about wines, where they are made, and the people behind the wines. You can get recipes to go with them or plan your trip to this fantastic region.

Come see what's new at
www.winecountrythisweek.com

Subscribe Today!!!
The Desert Trail
367-3577
Hi-Desert Star
365-3315

400 ANNOUNCEMENTS
TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN THE DESERT TRAIL & OBSERVATION POST CALL LINDA AT THE TRAIL OFFICE TODAY! 367-3577 29 PALMS

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

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TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN THE DESERT TRAIL & OBSERVATION POST CALL LINDA AT THE TRAIL OFFICE TODAY! 367-3577 29 PALMS

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TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN THE DESERT TRAIL & OBSERVATION POST CALL LINDA AT THE TRAIL OFFICE TODAY! 367-3577 29 PALMS

300 HELP WANTED



FT Pressman & Pressman's Helper
(nightshift position)

Benefits, paid vacations, no week-ends. Apply at Hi-Desert Star 56445 29 Palms Hwy, YV. No phone calls. EOE

300 HELP WANTED

300 HELP WANTED

California Career School

Truck Driving Instructor

30+ year old vocational school with multi locations is seeking FT/PT instructors. Class A lic., with excellent safety record, 3 yrs OTR exp and desire to train others.

****NEW PAY PACKAGE****
call 760-835-3403 or 760-948-3195

300 HELP WANTED

300 HELP WANTED

Desert Manor
8515 Cholla, Yucca Valley

F/T RN OR LVN and AM DISHWASHER
Apply in person or contact Shelly @ 365-0717

Santa Fe Assisted Living
55425 Santa Fe Tr, Yucca Valley

P/T PM COOK and F/T CAREGIVER
Apply in person

403 BOARD & CARE

HIDESERT FAMILY ELDERCARE
"Senior Living at its best"
Specializing in Alzheimer's & Dementia care.
6410 El Reposo St. Joshua Tree, Ca 92522
(760)366-3845
Lic. #366409076

410 FAMILY & CHILD CARE

CAREGIVER For Seniors

Certified with references
24 hr. shifts avail., including lower desert areas. All aspects of care, excellent cook. No smoking/drinking.

Call Billie 366-2880

For Legals 365-3315

435 SERVICES

TRI-COUNTY Cleanup Hauling Service. Junk wood, metal, trash, debris removal from houses garages & rentals. Member of Better Business Bureau. 361-6701, c#760-685-8001

A/C & HEATING
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LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
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The wind cut right through the windbreaker of Don Kelly, an Army veteran from Colorado Springs, Colo., but this didn't stop him from doing what he loves.

"I've golfed in the snow," said Kelly, who has golfed for the past 20 years. "If I could golf through snow, I can golf through anything."

Kelly, among 16 other stubborn golfers, went up against the dreary clouds and wintry air to compete in the fifth annual Ham Shoot at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Dec. 17.

In celebration of Christmas, the Golf Course has a tournament where hams are awarded to selected golfers.

At 8 a.m., the golfers loaded up their golf carts, zipped up their jackets and set out on a mission to take home the ham. Starting at the back nine, the competitors waited for the morning hours to take away the cold breeze, but surprisingly, the weather seemed to keep getting worse.

"This shouldn't affect our game very much, just taking time to warm our hands up before each stroke might make it a longer one," said Kelly.

As Kelly went on to his third hole, he had one birdie and two bogeys under his belt, but kept an optimistic outlook.

"I'm just warming up," he said. "I usually play my worse holes in the beginning anyway. This is normal for me."

Nicholas Shroyer, a native of Walker, Calif., starting playing golf six months ago to wear off boredom.

"I take any opportunity to golf," said Shroyer. "I'm not necessarily here for the hams, but to put some practice in for my newfound love of the sport."

By the fifth hole, Shroyer had made one birdie and two bogeys, along with two double bogeys. At that point, Shroyer seemed to lose sight of his love for golf.

"This is what you do when you go over par," he said, throwing his golf club through the branches of a nearby tree.

At the ninth hole, Kelly was anticipating another birdie when he realized he had aimed at the wrong hole on his second stroke.

"I said I've played in snow, but I didn't say I played well," he explained.

The golfers gathered in the warmth of the clubhouse at the end of their 18 holes, only to discuss the affect the cold had on their game.

"I golfed so awful," said Shroyer. "I know I'm not getting a ham. For over half of the game I went over par."

Surprisingly, Shroyer took home a ham, one of eight honey-glazed hams awarded to the winners of the Ham Shoot. His handicap determined him as one of the winners.

The weather didn't hold back all the players from showing up. Gary Yandell took first place with a gross score of 74. John Bowen got closet-to-the-pin at the third hole.

"In past years, we have gotten at least 40 golfers in this tournament," said Todd Wade, manager, Desert Winds Golf Course. "The weather played a big role in the turnout and everyone's game today."



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
Nicholas Shroyer putts in a bogey at the sixth hole of the fifth annual Ham Shoot at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Dec. 17. With his handicap score, Shroyer was one of eight golfers to take home a Christmas ham.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
Don Kelly, Army retiree, successfully saves his ball from a sand trap at the fourth hole of the fifth annual Ham Shoot at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course. The weather was the worst kind for golfing, but 17 golfers showed up to play for Christmas hams Dec. 17.

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