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# OBSERVATION POST



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## THIS ISSUE

A3 - Corpsman

A6 - Key Volunteers

B3 - Fire Academy

## HOT TOPICS

### ROAD CLOSURES

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

Fourth St. will be closed from Monday through Feb. 28.

### MAIN EXCHANGE CLOSURE

The Main Exchange will be closed all day Sunday to fulfill an annual inventory requirement.

### 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.

### W-2 DISCREPANCIES

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has identified an error exists in the W-2 computation for potentially thousands of Marines. The problem applies if any taxable entries or tax affecting entries were reported from Dec. 21-31. The problem was discovered while reviewing "combat leave" entries at the MCAGCC Finance Office. Please pass to all hands they should not file their 2005 taxes until Marines who were affected by this computation error are identified, and policies and procedures for issuing corrected W2s can be put in place. For more information, contact the Installation Personnel Administration Center, 830-1818, ext. 166.

### COMING NEXT ISSUE

- 3rd LAR Memorial
- CG's Basketball
- Youth Wrestling

## THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

January 20, 1981  
52 Americans held  
hostage in Iran for  
444 days freed

## 4thMarDiv CG links up with units at Combat Center

BY LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Fourth Marine Division's 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment and 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, were activated in December, recalled from Marine Corps Reserve Centers across America and arrived here Jan. 4.

Maj. Gen. Douglas V. O'Dell, 4th Marine Division commanding general, came to the Combat Center to observe and interact with them Jan. 12 and 13.

To some, the visit put an edge on the day by giving the Marines and Sailors a chance to interact with their commanding general and gave a good interruption to the pattern of the training, which has been non-stop since they arrived here, said Lance Cpl. Brian K. Davidson, rifleman with Charlie Company, 1/25.

"It's a good thing that our general came out here to see us," said the Freehold, N.J., native. "It's the first time most of us saw him in person, and it's nice to know that we all are in his thoughts."

This will be Davidson's first deployment to OIF. He is a student at Rutgers University in New Jersey on the road to majoring in economics. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Division, after completing all of his initial training three years ago. Roughly 41 deploying positions were open in 1/25 and Davidson, along with 40 other reservists with 2/25, volunteered to fill in the positions with "New England's Own."

Based in Devens, Mass., 1/25 will operate in Al Anbar province. Based in Alameda, Calif., 1/14 will be tasked as Task Force Military Police, also operating in Al Anbar province.

While aboard the Combat Center, the training will consist of range training exercises and participation in Mojave Viper, a month-long training evolution - concentrating on assault courses and military operations in urban terrain.

Cpl. Jonathan B. Kahn, rifleman with Charlie Company, 1/25, who deployed with 2/25 for his first



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES  
Maj. Gen. Douglas V. O'Dell, 4th Marine Division commanding general, speaks with his Marines from Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment Jan. 13 aboard the Combat Center.

deployment to OIF, also filled a position with 1/25.

"We're very fortunate to have higher-ups that take care of us," said Kahn. "It puts us Marines at ease when our commanding general shows up and asks how we are doing and how's our gear holding up. He spoke to us about personal issues as well. He told us to focus on our training and the command would take care of all our problems at home. He

took an interest in all Marines on an individual basis."

On the first day of his visit, O'Dell traveled to the training area to speak with Marines and Sailors who were exercising rushing drills at the time. He also met with 1/14's Headquarters Battery formation on

See O'DELL, A3

## Iraqi Freedom vets crucial as 1/7 prepares for third deployment

CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS  
1ST MARINE DIVISION



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS  
After securing gear and loading up on ammunition at the break of dawn, Marines from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, move to the point of departure for a live-fire training exercise at the Combat Center Jan. 8.

When Lance Cpl. Joseph T. Fischer learned he would be deploying to Iraq this year, he knew coming back alive was going to depend on solid training from his battalion's combat veterans.

Fischer is part of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, a force of 1,200 Marines and Sailors based in southern California undergoing a 30-day exercise called Mojave Viper.

"I am mentally tougher and I am confident with my training that I will come back in seven months," said the 20-year-old machine gun team leader from Decatur, Texas. "I'm getting a lot of hands-on training and techniques to employ the machine gun."

The battalion is gearing up for its third deployment to the Middle East since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The training is crucial for Marine battalions headed to Iraq and Afghanistan as it consists of a barrage of classes and urban warfare tactics based on what they will face in combat. The Marines are taught everything from Iraqi culture to reacting to Improvised Explosive Devices. They even patrol through a mock Iraqi city complete with 300 role players, who add realism to the training.

Marines who have not deployed to a combat zone, such as Fischer, are acquiring a wealth of knowledge from the battalion's OIF veterans. Fifty-eight percent of these Marines have been to Iraq at least once, while nine percent - about 100 Marines - are returning for the third time.

See 1/7, A5

## Hostage training scenario tests PMO

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A team of military policemen, heavily outfitted with protective gear and drawn weapons kick down the door of a home. Their goal: take down a suspect holding his own spouse at gunpoint after hours of negotiations failed.

Moments later and with suspect in hand, the team calmly exits the residence.

This was the pinnacle of a training exercise Tuesday for the Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office. The real-life scenario was designed to incorporate and test all of PMO's sections in a crisis situation.

"This was a very successful training evolution for PMO that brought all of its sections together," said Capt. James Dollard, Deputy Provost Marshal, who helped direct the day's events. "We have conducted other role-playing scenarios on base in recent years, but this is the first for the housing area."

The exercise was held at the Vista Del Sol housing complex and followed a pre-planned script, which challenged each facet of PMO, said Dollard.

"We tried to make it as realistic as possible with the location



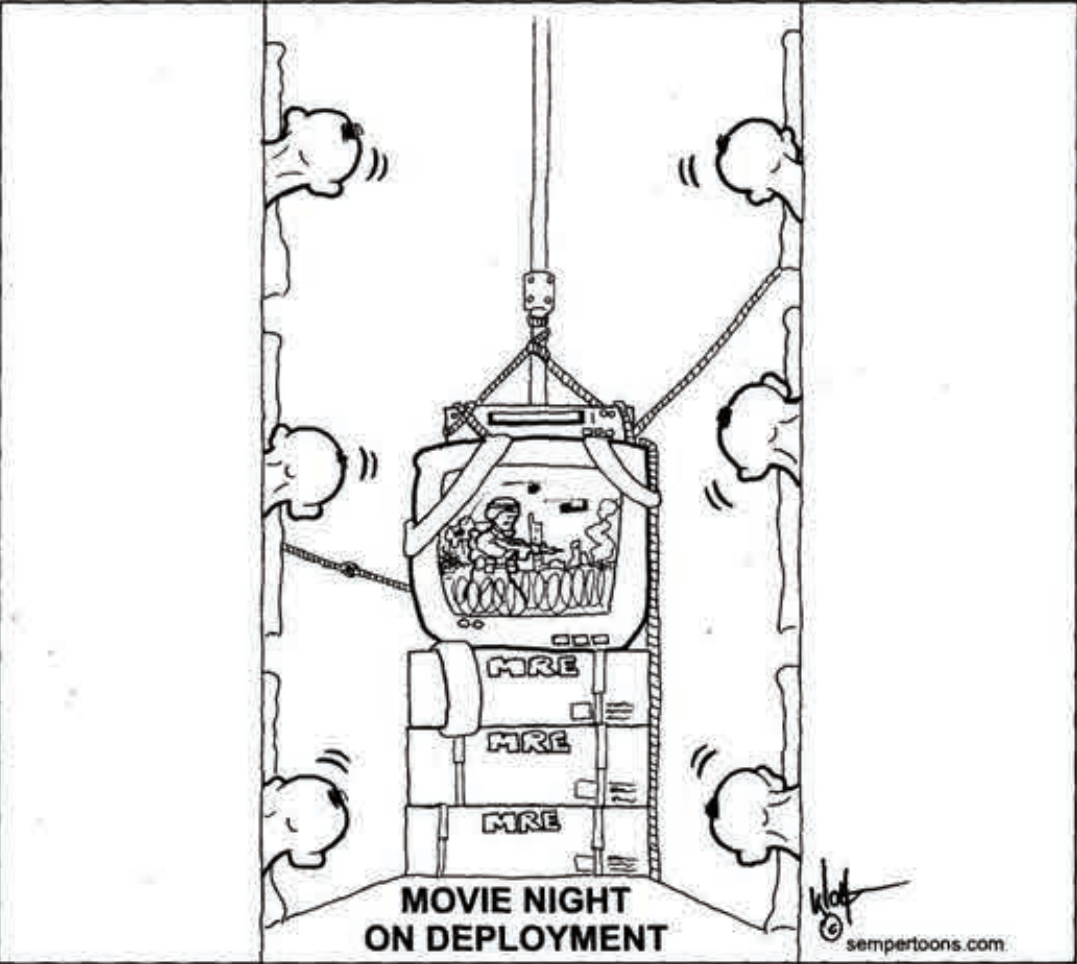
CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL  
From left to right, Lance Cpl. Janna E. Marrinier, Lance Cpl. Sam Luevano and Sgt. Douglas R. Null, of the Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team, deliver a telephone for negotiations during a hostage scenario training exercise Tuesday at the Vista Del Sol housing area.

See HOSTAGE, B2



Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



High-sugar infancy can mean adult sugar dependency

ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

Dental habits start forming at about four months, or at about the time when a baby switches from breast milk or infant formula to other foods, reports the Academy of General Dentistry, an organization of general dentists dedicated to continuing education.

This is also the age that a baby's first tooth erupts, and the types of foods introduced to the baby at this time can affect a lifetime of dental health. In fact, a strong correlation has been found between the use of sweetened drinks in infancy and the consumption of sugar-containing snacks in later years.

"The eating habits of adults are formed at weaning, so it's important for the baby to develop good eating habits that will affect the dental health," says Heidi Hausauer, DDS, FAGD, a spokes-dentist for the Academy of General Dentistry. "Sugar is known to cause cavities throughout a lifetime, and the earlier an infant gets used to sugar, the easier it is to get hooked on high-sugar snacks as an adult."

Fruit juices, for example, are high in sugar and should only comprise 10 percent of the baby's diet, yet one British study shows that 19 percent of the average child's diet in England is comprised of fruit juice. Fruit drinks can cause enamel erosion, and a baby should never be allowed to fall asleep with a bottle of fruit juice because the sugary liquid bathes the newly erupted teeth in a cavity-causing substance, which can cause baby bottle tooth decay.

"Drinks other than water should not be continually sipped throughout the day and should be served at mealtimes—never at bedtime," says Dr. Hausauer. "Children given high-sugar medicines regularly at bedtime are also at risk of forming cavities."

C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Children in Self-Care

Combat Center Order 1755.1 "Children in Self-Care" states that:

- Children under 12 years of age may not be left unattended in your home.
- Children under 16 years of age may not be left unattended overnight.
- You must be at least 12 years of age to baby-sit other children and at least 16 years of age to baby-sit children overnight.
- Children under 10 years of age may not play unattended, walk to school unattended or go to any youth centers unattended.

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

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Centerspeak

What restaurant would you like to see nearby?

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

CPL. TOM ESCOBEDO

ALPHA Co., 3RD LAR BN.

"I'd like to see a Quizno's instead of Subway."

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER DORITY

AIRFIELD Co., MWSS-374

"Applebees or a family restaurant."

PFC. BRANDON PITTMAN

ALPHA Co., MCCES

"Maybe a Wendy's or bring Burger King back."

LANCE CPL. KEVIN LAROSE DOWD

CHARLIE Co., 1ST BN., 7TH MARINES

"Outback Steakhouse."

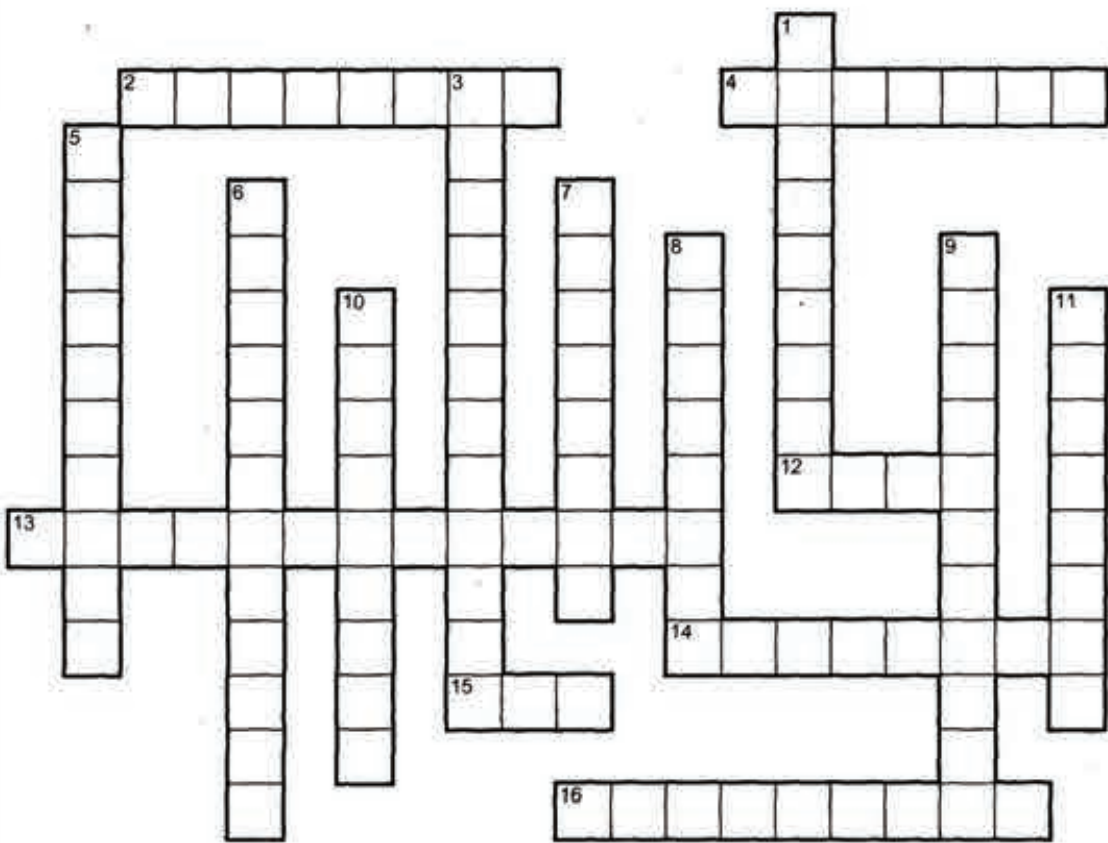
What's on your mind?

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

NHL TRIVIA & LINGO



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 2 Three goals

4 NHL team that plays in Madison Square Garden

12 The area between the two hash marks in front of the net is known as the \_\_\_\_.

13 Players with the highest amount of goals scored by the end of the season is awarded the \_\_\_\_ Award.

14 Using your hockey stick to hit the limbs of an opposing player with no intent of going for the puck

15 Color of the centerline on a hockey rink

16 Standing in front of a goalie to obstruct his vision.
- 1 Ended their five-year Stanley Cup winning streak in 1960.

3 The player behind your defense

5 Wayne Gretzky's idol growing up

6 Attacking the opposing players before they exit their zone.

7 Canadian hockey city that arguably started ice hockey.

8 Your player goes into the opposing zone before the puck.

9 Shooting and hitting the goal post

10 The other team has taken a penalty. You have a two-minute \_\_\_\_.

11 Last NHL team to win two consecutive Stanley Cups in the 1990s (team name)

[Solutions on A4]

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## O'DELL, A1

the following day. Marines and Sailors of the battery gathered in a "school circle" around O'Dell as he spoke to them about his expectations this year. He spoke of the responsibilities 1/14 will be tasked with in Iraq, and he asked the Marines and Sailors to keep unit cohesion and awareness during their deployment.

"Spend every waking minute focused on training here," said O'Dell. "There will be some realistic, aggressive training going on here that you probably have never seen in most of your Marine Corps careers. So stay aware of your training, share with all Marines of what's on your mind and don't lose focus."

O'Dell offered a deal with the Marines and Sailors as well.

"We cannot afford for Marines and Sailors to be looking over their shoulders at what's going on at home during this training and deployment," explained O'Dell. "So if you let your higher-ups know of any concerns or issues that need to be dealt with at home, we'll take care of it, as long as you put 100 percent focus on training and operations."

"Furthermore, you will see occurrences out in Iraq that could break your heart one morning," continued O'Dell. "But in the afternoon, you will realize that you've been heroic throughout the day."

O'Dell's presence and words brought perspective to the Marines and Sailors who have never deployed to Iraq. He concluded his speech with two commands:

"Prepare yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually," he added. "Take care of each other and look out for the Marine who seems to be struggling in his mind or heart. We're a band of brothers here, so we only have each other."

# The Fewer. The Proud. The Corpsmen.

BY LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Wherever Marines go, there are corpsmen following, guarding and watching over the wellbeing of the Marine unit. Seaman John Bradley was the corpsman with the notorious 28th Marine Regiment who raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi during the invasion of Iwo Jima.

There is no question that corpsmen uphold the highest traditions of serving the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps when treating Marines, Sailors and all other casualties of war on the front lines today. Their stories might seem unsung, but it is the Marines who thank them and commend them for their own lives and the lives of their comrades that make their stories travel.

Seaman Patrick E. McWilliams, preventive medical readiness corpsman with Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, is recognized by the Marines in his battalion as more than the active corpsman who serves alongside the Marines.

"The man has pulled Marines out of a burning humvee that was hit by an improvised explosive device; he has walked in front of enemy fire to save Marines; he has patched up Navy Seabees; he is handy with the tourniquet, he puts all other Marines and Sailors in front of him and he loves his job," said Cpl. Joshua J. Owens, artillery fire control maintenanceman with Mike Battery, 3/11. Owens served with McWilliams in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 as they conducted combat operations from Al Asad.

"I respect him because he always looks out for everyone around him," continued Owens. "And it's unusual for a man to be against insurgents one year, and patching them up the next year when he worked in a detention facility in OIF 3."

The Navy and Marine Corps even recognized McWilliams as valiant awarding him the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" in 2004.

He received the award for his actions while serving as a corpsman with Lima Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 from Feb. 22 to July 31, 2004.

McWilliams participated in more than 70 combat missions and was the primary medical caregiver for 41 Marines during that time. He also provided medical assistance to Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Iraqi civilians who were injured from IEDs, direct fire and indirect fire, according to the award citation.

An example of McWilliams' great initiative was when his sense of duty extended beyond the care of the Marines that he served with. After witnessing a civilian vehicle veer off the road in Al Anbar and flip several times after sustaining a blown tire, McWilliams, exercising sound judgment, quickly moved

to the scene and provided medical assistance to the injured passengers.

Before joining the Navy, McWilliams, a 23-year-old San Bernardino, Calif., native, an associate degree from Victor Valley. He joined to leave his commonplace life of being a student and working two jobs to become a service member, he said. His interest was in medicine and in the Marine Corps, so his recruiter informed him of the position as a Navy corpsman.

"After I joined the 'green' side of things, I began to love what I do more and more every day," said Williams. "It's a great job where I get to play Marine and corpsman. It's the best of both worlds, and the camaraderie is like none other with this battalion."

During one of these missions, McWilliams was assigned as the corpsman with Lima Battery reconnaissance element and tasked with scouting the road in front of the main convoy.

"This was the time when I saw the most use of myself and other corpsmen during my deployment," said McWilliams. "The convoys ran into many IEDs and small arms attacks. I saw some horrific and tragic incidents, which shook everyone that I was with. But, I never hesitated to patch up anyone in need of help. I served with some valiant Marines and corpsmen in Iraq. It became second nature for me to follow their valiant lead."

McWilliams has strived to be the best corpsmen for his unit, he said.

"I've never been hurt or received a Purple Heart, but I excel to be the best corpsman."

who fixes any man," McWilliams said. "I was never worried about myself—just my Marines."

McWilliams wishes he could be serving in Iraq today. He feels the Navy and Marine Corps is better off with him serving alongside his Marines and Sailors, he said.

"It's a good feeling when you get back to the States though," said McWilliams. "I'm overwhelmed with pleasure when I see a Marine walk up to me and say 'thanks' or 'glad to see you back' when I come home. I know I do my job well."

Recently, McWilliams has been teaching younger corpsman the knowledge he gained in Iraq. He hopes to implement more medical training with his Marines and corpsmen, such as trauma courses and field exercises.

He is approaching the end of his Navy service in June and looks forward to spending his time dirt biking, catching up on his reading and will continue his education in college.

"Marines have a few good men," said McWilliams. "Many of them are corpsmen."



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES  
Seaman Patrick E. McWilliams, preventive medical readiness corpsman with Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, stands in front of the battalion's battery offices.



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KATE BECKINSALE SCOTT SPEEDMAN  
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SCREENPLAY BY DANNY McBRIDE DIRECTED BY LEN WISEMAN

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IN THEATERS JANUARY 20



# Computer game promotes drug, alcohol prevention

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps' newest and most exciting tool in drug and alcohol prevention, a substance abuse prevention computer game called 'First to Fight - Close Combat,' is now more accessible than ever at the Combat Center.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps and Destineer Studios developed a video game demonstrating how substance abuse impacts not only the individual who uses illicit drugs, but also their fellow Marines, the unit, and ultimately, the mission, according to the FtF substance abuse prevention toolkit instruction manual.

Released in December 2005 the game has been distributed throughout the Marine Corps by base drug demand reduction coordinators. For Marines who haven't had a chance to play the game, the Single Marine Program has teamed up with David Roman, Combat Center drug demand reduction coordinator, and is now available on four computers dedicated to its usage at The Zone.

"This game provides the Marines and Sailors with prevention and education just by them sitting down and playing a video game," said Roman, a retired Marine. "There is a huge amount of information on drug and alcohol prevention. Staff NCOs [noncommissioned officers] and NCOs can use the discs for drug and alcohol presentations to educate their troops. That's the most important thing."

FtF is a four-disc set that contains not only the interactive game, but also a vast amount of information on drug prevention and links to websites for further education.

To help give Marines perspective of what drugs can do, the game simulates the effects of various illegal drugs and forces the Marine to continue to play the game

through the eyes of a drug user.

The Single Marine Program's Headquarters, The Zone, is a natural fit to promote FtF because they provide Marines and Sailors with a drug and alcohol free atmosphere.

"The Single Marine Program is an alcohol free program," said Heather Fiske, SMP coordinator. "All of our events and our facilities are drug and alcohol free. We show the Marines and Sailors how to have a good time without them. We've had a pretty good turnout for the game. When one of the Marines sees someone playing they get interested and start playing also."

The computers set up at the Zone allow four Marines to play either on the same fire team or individually as the leader of their own fire team.

According to Roman, FtF is more fun to learn about the dangers and effects of using drugs than most required annual training, such as safety briefs.

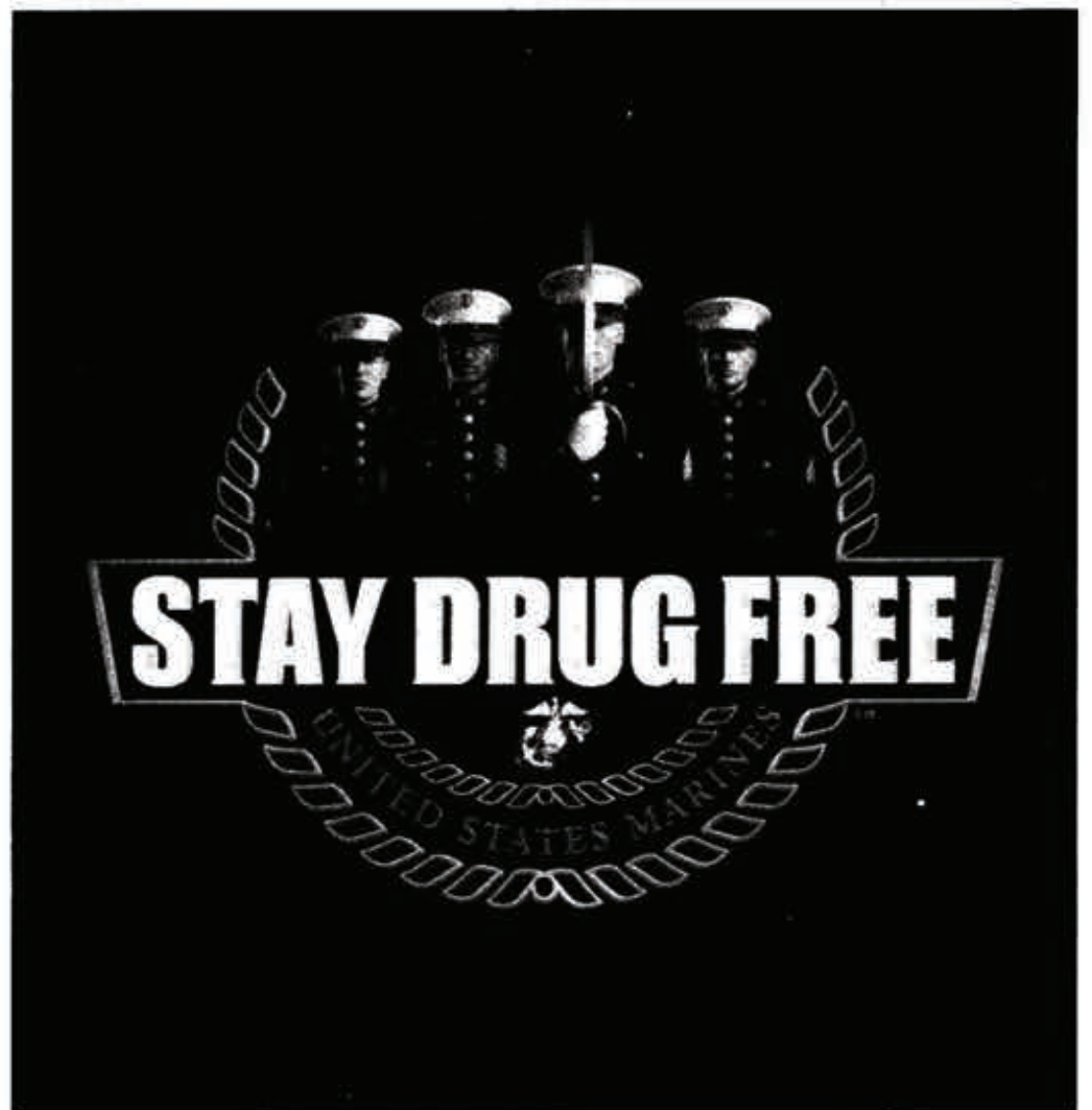
"We want the Marines to be able to educate themselves," he said. "A lot of guys just wait around for the safety briefs. Those can be the most boring type of training on this subject. This game is one of the best tools we have for prevention education. They can do it on their own time and they don't have to wait for a safety brief."

FtF is the first of three drug and alcohol prevention computer games to be put out by Headquarters Marine Corps.

"We're trying to teach Marines how drug use affects the mission," said Roman. "That's the whole point."

The SMP and Roman are working to put together a FtF tournament, tentatively scheduled for mid-February.

For Marines and Sailors who enjoy the game, a free copy can be received at the Zone.



CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN  
The Single Marine Program and the Combat Center's drug demand reduction coordinator, David Roman, teamed up to promote a new substance abuse prevention computer game called 'First to Fight - Close Combat' at the Zone. The game, which was released in December 2005, is available for Marines and Sailors to play on four computers at the facility.

# New physical requirements help service members stay prepared

SGT. CHAD SWAIM  
MARINE FORCES ATLANTIC

NORFOLK, Va. — These days Marines and Sailors are deploying more and more. When the need arises, service members should be able to deploy at the drop of a hat. Recent changes in the preventive health assessment (PHA) program can help reduce the time service members need to prepare for deployments.

What this boils down to is essentially an end to the five-year physicals most are used to, and the beginning of the annual PHA.

"Studies have shown that they are not effective tools for maintaining the health of our active duty forces," said Petty Officer 1st Class Rhonda L. Rossi, medical administrative assistant, U.S. Marine Forces Command.

There's not much difference between the five-year physicals and the PHA. All of the same blood tests will be completed. However, medical personnel will be looking at shot records,

ensuring service members go to dental, and opening a dialog with patients about any potential health problems.

"It's also a chance to council you on better health practices that are better, plus you get to ask questions," said Rossi. "We're going to make sure everything works at this moment, along with the lab work along with things that we can touch feel or quantify."

This new requirement actually took affect in December 2001. However, according to Rossi, a native of South Bend, Ind., only recently has been enforced.

"Navy medicine did not have the resources available to make sure that all of the approximately 50,000 active duty in this area alone were seen once a year," said Rossi. "The clinics could not support it."

This change applies to everyone on active duty in the Navy and Marine Corps, as well as some reservists.

"If reservists are on active duty for over a year, they will also be subject to this requirement," said Rossi. "This plan was probably modeled after the fact that reservist have to get

an annual statement of redness from a provider once a year that tells them weather or not they're fit to serve as reservist for the next year."

However, there are exceptions to the rule. According to Rossi, there are some special duties such as, but not limited to, diving, independent and aviation duties that will still require the older physical, as well as reenlistments and separations.

The annual PHA will also help some service members cut down on the time and stress of preparing for a deployment by keeping all of their physical requirements up to date.

"Someone recently brought me their record, and they needed eight shots before they could deploy," said Rossi. "There are some people who practically have to start all over."

Rossi recommends that anyone with a birth month of October through December of 2005 as well as those in January and February of this year call now to get their PHA scheduled to help prevent delays down the road.

The Marine Corps requires that you be physically fit before you can get orders for deployments, transfers and schools, and the PHA is the only authority that says you are good to go, according to Rossi.

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1/7, A1

Vets such as Sgt. Jorge O. Santiago, one of the battalion's platoon sergeants, provide first hand accounts of what the unit will encounter in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, especially to Marines who have never deployed.

"One of the most important things for them to learn is geometries of fire and that involves knowing where everybody is at all times," said the 25-year-old from Bethlehem, Pa. "The only thing missing from the training they're receiving today are rounds coming back at them."

The vets muster every opportunity to instill in the first timers how quickly they need to react upon encountering problems by running vigorous weapons drills and teaching them to solve problems under pressure.

The vets present different scenarios to the less experienced Marines, such as dealing with casualties and intense enemy fire.

The less experienced Marines know there will be little room for fatigue, complacency and mission failure, according to Private First Class William D. Hyden, a machine gunner from 3rd platoon, Alpha Company.

"It's a big confidence boost when you know your Marines have been to Iraq and you have people around to guide you and look out for things," said Staff Sgt. Jason C. Neale, 1st platoon sergeant, Alpha Company.

The morale amongst the company is high and the reality of deploying to Iraq in the coming months is prominent in the first timers' minds, Fischer attests of his comrades.

The dry desert environment of Twentynine Palms is similar to the environment in Iraq — dry and cold in the winter, and dry and hot in the summer. Perhaps more importantly, the training the Marines endure here is structured to put them in an environment similar to that which awaits them in Iraq.

The training's realism can be seen during the urban warfare portion of the exercise, which includes a host of Arabic-speaking role players who are actual Iraq-born natives.

Mojave Viper gradually progresses from simple combat techniques, such as effectively employing machine guns and rifles against still targets on firing ranges, to clearing entire buildings and pitting the Marines' ingenuity against that of enemy role players in a mock town. These exercises are a chance for the Marines to see how all of the weapons in the platoon come into play. This is crucial because the Marines must understand the capabilities — and limitations — of every weapon in their inventory, said Santiago.

From direct combat operations to dealing with Iraqi locals, the Marines must remain alert while remaining sensitive to local Iraqi customs and courtesies. Some tactics and techniques require employment of all of ground troops' weapons at once, while others — such as pushing through a group of Iraqi civilian protesters — require non-lethal and investigative tactics to get the job done.

Perhaps the most valuable experience the first-timers are learning from the vets is maintaining situational awareness in order to avoid friendly fire, said Neale, a 30-year-old Sugarland, Texas, native.

Maintaining situational awareness is important because you need to know where your teammates are located at all times in order to avoid accidents, said Neale.

Learning the techniques to adjust immediately from one scenario to the next is also crucial to saving lives, said Santiago. The ability to react quickly to attacks, such as an ambush or IED, can mean the difference between life and death.

With the majority of the unit's team leaders under the age of 25, the battalion's noncommissioned officers — small-unit leadership — will ultimately be making "on the ground" decisions. In coming months, the battalion's small-unit leadership will lead daily patrols and other operations through Al Anbar.

"It's important that one does not hesitate to communicate when there's a problem," said Hyden, a 21-year-old from Little Rock, Ark. "Many of the newer guys hesitate when there's a problem, and that can get you killed."

Mojave Viper is a good opportunity for the platoon sergeants to correct any deficiencies in the squads so Marines know exactly how to operate when the real thing comes around, according to many of 1/7's leaders.

Following numerous field fire exercises, the Marines will move into the next evolution of the training — urban warfare. They will operate inside the mock Iraqi city and learn how to put to use what they have learned so far.

"It's a more accurate picture of what the Marines will be doing on a daily basis," said Santiago.

The urban warfare training is where the Marines will put their combined fire skills to use on the streets of a mock Iraqi town, where dozens of insurgent role players are waiting to test the Marines' combat efficiency. This is the portion of training the Marines consider the most crucial, according to the platoon sergeants.

In the coming weeks, the Marines will learn crucial skills they'll need to operate and survive in Iraq, such as respecting host nation culture and using their Arabic translators to search Iraqi homes and buildings for weapons and insurgents. They'll also learn life-saving tactics, such as how to conduct a medical evacuation and react to the latest IED techniques.

It's all about teamwork and keeping your Marines out of danger," said Neale.



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS  
Exhausted from running with more than 50 pounds of body armor and other military gear, Lance Cpl. Arturo Gomez, a team leader with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, catches his breath before continuing with live-fire training at the Combat Center Jan. 8.



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS  
Marines from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stay alert and "take a knee" in the Mojave Desert after running several hundred yards during live-fire training aboard the Combat Center Jan. 8.

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# Fox News spotlights teen's letter-writing campaign to the troops

PAUL X. RUTZ  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The 16-year-old founder of "A Million Thanks," a nationwide program encouraging students to write thank-you letters to service members, appeared on "Fox and Friends" this morning to speak about her new campaign to send 2.6 million cards and letters to the troops in 2006.

Shauna Fleming, whose organization has so far collected 1.6 million thank-you letters, said her goal of 2.6 million represents the number of troops — active duty, National Guard, and Reserve — in the American armed forces.

Fleming conceived her program as a way to help her school reach out to America's

men and women in uniform. "I just wanted to do something to let our troops know that we appreciate them, that we are still there for them," she said. "So I went to my high school principal and the faculty and all the students, and I said, I'd like everyone to get involved in doing this, and the ball got rolling, and everyone was behind it, (including) the surrounding community. It actually became a nationwide program, and I've been continuing ever since."

Launched in May 2004, Fleming's program reached its original goal of a million thank-you letters only five months later. A Million Thanks was the first grassroots group to join the Defense Department's "America Supports You" program. Since then, the program has gained support from celebrities such as country music artist John Michael Montgomery and actor Gary Sinise, star of the television series "CSI: NY" and co-founder of Operation Iraqi Children.

Fleming said her group's partnership with the Defense Department helps get the word out to people who would like to participate.

"They have a great Web site set up," she said. "People can go to that site, <http://AmericaSupportsYou.com>, they can click on that link, and it will tell exactly how you can write letters, and send them off so that we can reach our goal of 2.6 in 2006."

Army Spc. Mike Pecka joined the teen on "Fox and Friends." He received some

of the letters while deployed to Iraq and stressed their importance to the troops.

"It makes all the difference because when you're over there, you don't get a lot of mail. Mail is hard to come by," Pecka said.

The first box of letters Pecka got from Fleming's group weighed 13 pounds. He brought one letter as an example. "I picked this out before I disbursed them to all the troops over there," he said.

Pecka said when he read the hand-written letter with a drawing of the flag, he really took it to heart. "It actually made me cry."

"It's an amazing thing what these little kids do for us, and when it comes from little kids from middle school and elementary, it makes all the difference, and like I said, it made me cry."

"Fox and Friends" anchor Steve Doocy read one letter from a young student named Amanda, of Paramus, N.J. "Thank you for being my hero and being brave out there. I really am proud to be an American because of you, and only you."

Fleming expressed her hope to continue bringing this message to troops for a long time to come. She went on to describe her own feelings of gratitude to Pecka.

"Hearing from Spc. Pecka, it just means all the more to me," she said. "He sent me a flag from Iraq, which I opened with Gen. Myers, the former (chairman of the) Joint Chiefs of Staff, and just something like that really hits home. It's something I want to do forever."

# KVN helps spouses stay in touch

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A new family arrives on base and before they even have time to get comfortable in their new community, they are preparing for their service member's deployment. It's a situation all too common on military bases these days. Sometimes, a spouse can feel cut off from their loved one, or worse, the world they had grown used to at their last command.

But a military spouse need not feel lost, for there is hope.

The Key Volunteer Network exists to help spouses stay in touch with their loved ones by forwarding updated, accurate information about what's happening in their spouse's unit, as well as introducing military spouses who are new to the base about the Combat Center and its surrounding areas.

"The KVN is there for all units," said Monica McBroom, key volunteer trainer. "They are there to give information to the spouses. They are particularly helpful when service members are deployed because the service member is not here to relay that information from the command or the command's staff."

The KVN was designed for commanding officers to keep family members updated about what is happening within the unit. When a key volunteer coordinator gets information, it is circulated through the unit's network, said McBroom.

"It frees the command to concentrate on the mission," said Lorie Lassater, key volunteer coordinator for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

The KVN also works as a support group, especially for a deployable unit. Key volunteers get spouses of the unit together to help each other get through the deployment and answer questions about the unit's or service member's status, said Elaine Taylor, Headquarters Battalion key volunteer coordinator.

Lassater, married to Gunnery Sgt. Shelby Lassater, CAAT Black platoon sergeant, Weapons Company, 3/7, for about 10 years, feels her experience as a military spouse could be extremely helpful to spouses new to the Corps. It provides an outlet for spouses who've been around the Marine Corps to pass information around to new ones, she said.

KVN also welcomes incoming families, provides information and referral, offers moral

support during difficult times, and assists in developing and maintaining a sense of community among the unit.

"The KVN is very valuable," she stated. "The women who serve should be commended because we all have spouses who are deployed, and we take this stress along with dealing with our spouses being gone."

Each unit aboard the base has its own KVN, but Headquarters Battalion recently reactivated theirs.

"When I came here, I wanted to get involved and be a part of the ministry that my husband was doing," said Taylor. After she found out about the key volunteers, she went through the course and restarted the KVN for Headquarters Battalion.

Spouses interested in becoming key volunteers can contact their key volunteer coordinator or McBroom. After attending a training session created by Headquarters Marine Corps to become key volunteers, they need to approach their spouse's commanding officer or family readiness officer and be appointed in writing.

"We try to accommodate all types of spouses whether you're a stay-at-home mom, whether you work during the day or have other volunteer commitments," said McBroom.

Spouses are not required to give a certain amount of time or obligation to the KVN, but they are free to help out however they feel able.

"To volunteer doesn't mean spouses have to give up a whole lot of time," said Taylor. "Spouses can choose how much time they want to volunteer. They can volunteer for just one project, or they can volunteer to do one type of thing. We want spouses to know they can help in whatever capacity they want to."

The next key volunteer training course will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is another course Feb. 7 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The key volunteer network is a great resource for all service members and their spouses as well as for the units," said McBroom. "They have a bigger demand during a deployed unit's time away from the base, but they also hold a very important position with the unit for non-deployed service members."

For further information, call McBroom at 830-4163.

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## Story Correction

from Jan. 13, page A4

**MCCES welcomes back students, highlights special service on base**

Jany Wasdin is the Personal Financial Management program coordinator. For more information on financial counseling, call 830-7342.

Larry Stratton, Marine Corps Community Services community support officer, gave the financial management presentation at the brief Jan. 4.

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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Come Pray With Us.</p>			

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# Radio operator knows no barriers

CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO  
II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Cincinnati native, Cpl. Tasha M. Monz is on her third deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, proving the war in Iraq has become yet another major milestone for women in the military.

This time around, Monz, assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (FWD), serves as the battalion commander's radio operator and often finds herself in volatile areas as her job takes her beyond the camp's concertina wire and into the streets of Iraq.

"I love it," said the 22-year-old, referring to the weekly convoys she rides in. "We went on two convoys yesterday. I thought it was going to be an issue out here at first because I thought they weren't going to let females off base. As long as I know what I'm doing I'm not worried about it."

When this deployment is complete Monz will have spent just under two years in the Middle East in the course of three years; two months in Kuwait and 20 months total in Iraq.

"I like being deployed," said Monz with a smile on her face. "Honestly, the whole purpose of me coming back here is for the junior Marines. I don't mind being out here. It's not a big emotional thing for me. I just make sure my Marines are ready to go and give them a heads-up on what to expect out here."

A wealth of knowledge and experience gave Monz an advantage, and she was able to walk into this deployment ready to take charge.

"Corporal Monz is one of the best radio operator/communicators that I have worked with in 23 years," said Lt. Col. Francis X. Carroll, CLB-8 commanding officer.

"As a noncommissioned officer, she seeks responsibility and looking out for other members of the vehicle crew and the platoon. The fact that she is on her third tour in Iraq and she has orders to 1st Marine Logistics Group — which means she will likely be back for a fourth tour — speaks volumes about her dedication."

The blue-eyed corporal is confident in her military occupational specialty proficiency and she's certain that is the reason why she holds the position on the commander's security team.

"In September 2005, the battalion S-6 told me that he was giving me his best communicator as my radio operator," said Carroll. "Cpl. Monz has exceeded all expectations. Particularly when operating outside the wire. [She] facilitates my ability to command and control the battalion operating across a large battle space."

During the December Iraqi national elections, CLB-8 had six different units operating in and around the cities of Fallujah, Kharmah, Ameriyah and Ferris. Monz opened the lines of communication resulting in situational awareness and ability to influence the battalions operations.

"I can take someone outside and show them the ins and outs of a piece of equipment," said Monz with confidence. "I think that's a good quality to have. I want these Marines to take back with them the MOS knowledge that'll get them further. If they know the job when they come out here they can teach someone else."

But the enjoyment of her deployment was abruptly overshadowed three months into her tour. Monz received word that her 42-year-old mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It seems that every time I come out here something happens to my mom," said Monz. "It was hard and I worried, but I knew my mom was a strong person and my step dad and sister were taking good care of her. She reassured me she was going to stick through it and she'd be fine."

Monz secluded herself from others to find relief after she received news of her ill mother. "When I first found out I didn't want to be around anybody," said Monz. "I figured I'd lay low for a while. She's good now. She had surgery and radiation to remove most of the cancer."



CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO

Twenty-two-year-old Cpl. Tasha M. Monz is on her third deployment to the Middle East. Monz, assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (FWD) serves as the battalion commander's radio operator.

Although her mother was fighting a personal war against cancer, Monz refused to let it dampen her spirit and instead focused on her mission here in Iraq. Upon her return, Monz plans on treating her mother on a trip to Las Vegas.

"We're more like best friends, and I definitely look up to her," said Monz. "We're big Jean Claude Van Damme fans, and when I went on leave I bought every movie there ever was with him. I think we only got through two of them. She looked fine and was doing well. I still talk to her every single day."

After three tours in the Middle East and various obstacles she overcame while deployed, Monz plans on a future deployment and also hopes to be a career Marine.

"I think retiring at 38 sounds really good," said Monz.

## Nerves of steel? EOD looking for lat-movers

CPL. ANTHONY GUAS  
MCAS BEAUFORT

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT, S.C. — "Those guys are crazy!" is the common response many Marines shout out when they talk about an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician.

Master Sgt. Donald Parrish, the officer in charge of EOD for Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 jokingly agrees, adding, "One of the prerequisites is that you have to be a little unstable."

Those Marines itching to test their mettle and see if they have what it takes to handle a job that is sure to deliver hazardous assignments, the EOD military occupational specialty has boosted in size and is looking for Marines who are interested in filling the vacancies.

"The EOD mission has grown and more Marines are deploying overseas and augmenting other EOD teams," Parrish said. "We have Marines who are going on back-to-back deployments."

To help ease the burden of constant deployments, the Marine Corps has increased the number of positions in the occupational specialty and is expected to continue until 2008-2009. The number of seats for Marines at the EOD school has also increased to accommodate the number of Marines needed in the MOS.

"The Marine Corps now has a hundred seats per year and we still have fifty-two open," Parrish said. "It is an all-service school and before there would only be one Marine per class, now there are twenty to twenty-four."

Although the EOD field is looking for more Marines, there are many requirements they must meet.

Senior lance corporals to sergeants who are at least 21-years-old are eligible. They must also have a GT score of 110 or higher, can't be colorblind, must meet Marine Corps height and weight standards, must be eligible for a secret security clearance, and have no prior use of drugs in the military.

If a Marine meets the preliminary qualifications, they will undergo an interview process, which includes a stress test, personal fitness test and an essay.

"We want to get a feel for the person before giving a recommendation," Parrish said. "We are a small field, so we are very selective."

Most Marines who join the MOS agree becoming an EOD technician is no easy task, according to Sgt. Ronald Perez, EOD technician. The school is about seven months long and requires a Marine to not only be intelligent, but also be able to apply the techniques.

"It is a very demanding school," Perez said. "It's not just about book smarts or being good at tests, you have to

be well-rounded."

Although the school might be tough and the job is life threatening, it is the never-ending challenge that draws most of the Marines to the MOS, said Perez.

"Sometimes you'll be out on an emergency call, there will be times when you are sitting behind a desk and other times you will be on the range blowing stuff up," Perez explained.

Perez, who just returned from EOD school himself, feels that he has joined an elite group of Marines in EOD.

"I became interested by just talking to the EOD Marines about their job," Perez said. "After returning from Iraq, I decided to move into the MOS. It is a peculiar job and I love it."

Unlike many other jobs, schooling is never complete as an EOD technician, said Parrish. There are multiple schools that an EOD tech can attend to continue to build on their knowledge and enhance their skills.

"The fact that they can attend so many schools is what draws a lot of Marines," Parrish said. "The Marines can attend everything from Anti-Terrorism Evasive Driving to Secret Service Schools."

Education does not stop with formal schools. On the job training is continuous, regardless of rank, he said. From lance corporal to master sergeant, EOD techs are always learning something new.

"You could be in the field for your entire career and not have learned everything," he said. "It's hard for Marines to get bored in this MOS."

The EOD technicians believe what was already a unique and rewarding MOS is improving and will now be open to many more Marines.

"We are looking for Marines who are self-motivators, who have high morale and integrity," Parrish said. "This is a great MOS on which Marines rely on each other and everybody listens. This is a challenging MOS that brings more to the table than any other job."

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CPL. BRIAN A. TUTTILL

## SORTING IT OUT

Lance Cpl. Peter Garcia, field wireman, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, goes through his pack during an early morning gear inspection with his fellow Marines Jan. 18 at the Bourke Street parking lot.

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LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

The girls of the cheer/dance team practice one of the new jumps they learned at the Community Center Jan. 12.

## Combat Center Cheer/Dance team has big year ahead in 2006

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Cheerleading is normally found in high school gyms and football fields, but as the basketball season revs up at the Combat Center, the Cheer/Dance team prepares to boost spirits across the courts here.

This year, forty girls between the ages 7 and 12 are scheduled to cheer and perform dance routines during the Combat Center's youth and mens basketball games throughout the season.

The girls will prepare for a scheduled guest appearance at the Staples Center when the Los Angeles Clippers meet the Washington Wizards March 25.

The girls are split into two groups by age. Half of the girls are in the 7- to 8-year-old group, led by Sheila Keim. The other half is in the 9- to 12-year-old group, led by Nicole Brown.

The two coaches have years of experience in cheer and dance, but have never led such a large group of girls, said Keim.

"We were approached by a representative from the Marine Corps Community Center about coaching the girls," she said.

"When we saw the turnout of girls, we felt overwhelmed at first, but we're very optimistic about the whole thing."

The coaches put the routine together before the practices started in the beginning of this month. They decided that during the performance at the Staples Center, the girls would perform to the song "Shake Your Tail Feather," by the Cheetah Girls from the "Chicken Little" soundtrack. The girls are scheduled to perform as one big squad in a three-minute routine during halftime.

"The song is really popular among the girls," said Keim. "They're really excited about the performance."

The girls practice twice per week at the Community Center, an hour per group. They spend half the hour working on cheer fundamentals and the other half on dance.

The girls are now learning there is a lot more to cheer/dance than the routine, said Keim.

"We have to strengthen their core so it is easier to perform the moves in the routine," she said. "At the beginning of each practice, we stretch and do a small number of calisthenics fit for their ages. We have them do five to 10 push-ups, and 20 sit-ups, which is good for the jumps they will perform."

Starting physical activities at a young age enables young girls to get a sense of how the body works, develop different

learning styles and focus skills, said Keim.

Parents know there is a lot more the girls get than dance moves and cheers, said Kimberly Tidwell, mother of eight-year-old Muranda Tidwell.

"It's good for her confidence," she said. "Also, by keeping active, kids stay out of trouble. I like to use extra activities to push my children to get good grades. They know if they don't get good grades, they can't participate in their choice of activities."

Although Muranda is young, it is important to instill her parents' beliefs early and the importance of excelling in school, said Tidwell.

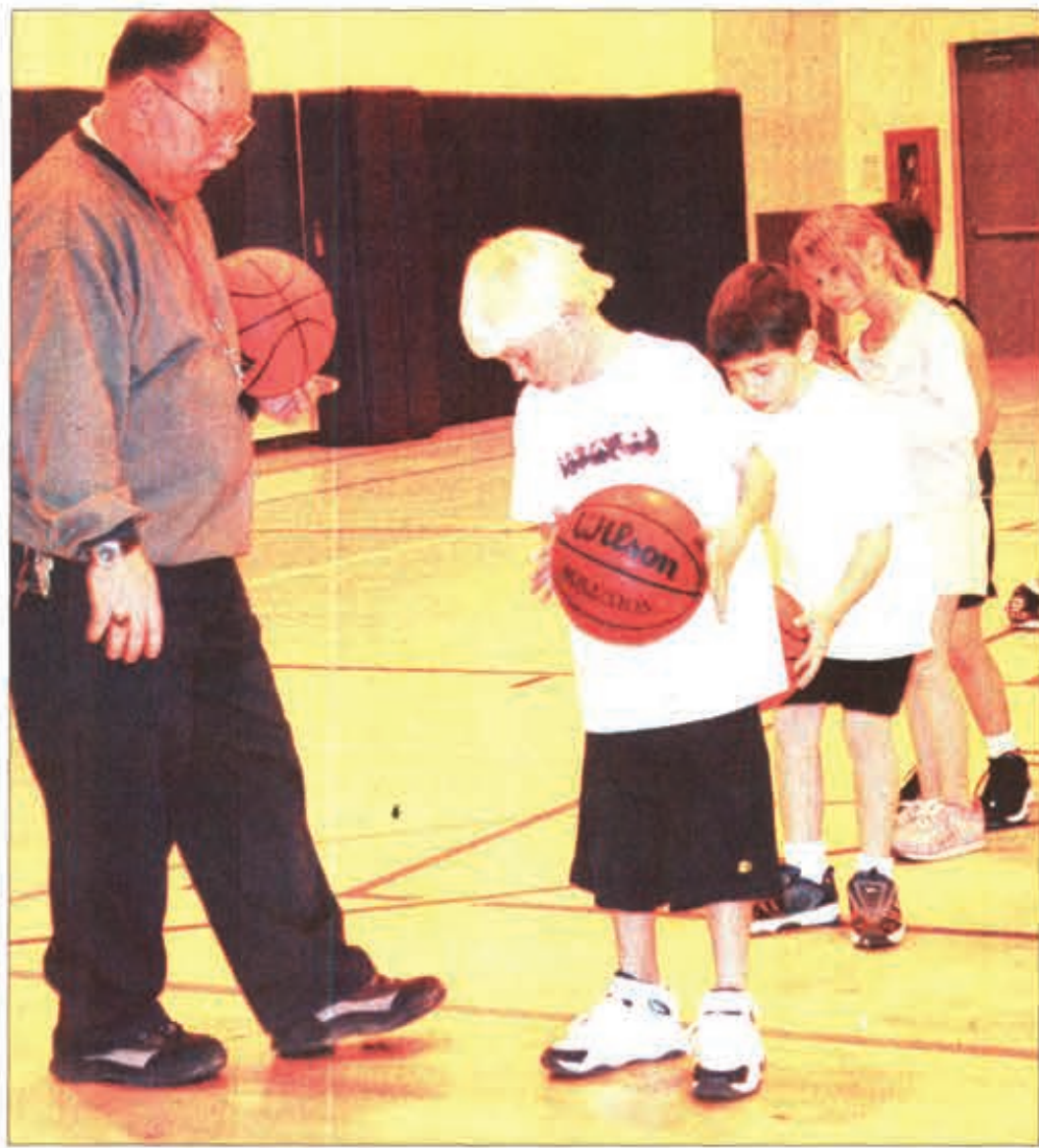
"I like to dance because it's a fun activity and you get to express a lot," said Muranda, who recently wrote an essay in school about the cheer and dance team she's so proud of.

According to the Iowa State University Web site, ISU conducted a study about extra-curricular activities and concluded that children involved learn character-building lessons, life-long skills and social skills. The study goes on to say extra-curricular activities might even save some at-risk students who might otherwise drop out of school.

The first scheduled performance for the Cheer/Dance team is at the East Gym at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 9.

## Combat Center youth basketball season starts

*"Trophies build egos, coaches build character,"  
said Joe Rosselli.*



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Joe Rosselli, youth sports coordinator, filling in as coach for one of the 8- and 9-year olds basketball teams, directs one the children where to stand to practice free-throws at a practice held Tuesday.

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"It's fun!" said Alex Morgan, 8, explaining why he enjoys playing on the youth basketball team. "I like shooting."

Children don't realize they are acquiring more skills than how to effectively shoot, block and pass.

"I believe it teaches Alex how to pay attention and focus," said Matthew Morgan, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Alex's father. "It's a different type of discipline that can prepare him for the other, maybe harsher types, of discipline he will encounter later in life. Also, it's great for exercise and to get him out of the house, away from video games for some time."

So while children are enjoying practice, parents know their children are learning more about life from their coaches, said Joe Rosselli, youth sports coordinator.

"Trophies build egos, coaches build character," he said.

Children learn the importance of sportsmanship, social skills and time management skills from balancing homework and practices at a young age.

The coaches are certified and go through a background check before taking on their roles. The coaches of any youth sport at the Combat Center have their own distinct style, but are all in agreement that the main focus of the sports is recreation, not competition, said Rosselli.

"All the kids receive equal playing time," he said. "We focus on fun and fundamentals."

Basic nutritional advice is given to the children as well. As the kids are released from practice, the coaches yell friendly reminders such as, "don't drink too much soda" or "drink water" and "don't stay up too late."

There are more than 150 children,

boys and girls, playing on a youth basketball team here this season, which lasts two months. There are four teams of 4- and 5-year-old children, six teams of 6- and 7-year-olds, four teams of 8- and 9-year-olds and six teams of 10- to 12-year-olds.

Each age groups' games are played at progression levels. The 4- and 5-year-olds play with small baskets, with little organization and no score. The main idea is to give the children a feel for the game, said Rosselli.

"The 6- and 7-year-olds play with no score, while referees explain what a foul is, that there is no double dribbling and other intricacies of the game," he explained.

The 8- and 9-year-olds and 10- to 12-year-olds play more of an actual game, except there are seven-minute quarters for the 8- and 9-year-olds and eight-minute quarters for the 10- to 12-year-olds.

Youth sports are also a great way to get families together. It provides a chance for the Morgan family to get out of the house and cheer, said Matthew.

It's also a great opportunity for families to get acquainted with other families aboard the base, said Saori Dykes, mother of Charles, 8.

"It's great, because we get to know other families, we become friends and help each other out," she said. "If one of our other children is sick and we have to stay home, we can call on another parent to give our child a ride to practice that night. It builds a stronger community."

There will also be a Start-Smart Basketball program for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds starting Feb. 3. Kids will learn the very basics, such as dribbling, said Rosselli.

There are no finals, trophies or statistics kept for youth basketball, the children and families take home a lot more than that, said Rosselli.





CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL  
Lance Cpl. Derek Rusnak, a member of the Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team, searches role-player Cpl. Josh Clingerman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, as he takes him into custody during a hostage scenario training exercise Tuesday.

### HOSTAGE, A1

in the housing areas, and tried to make it where we could call on all of our resources and have them work together," Dollard said. "The weapon and hostage situation forced us to elevate our level of reaction and incorporate more elements."

Exercise controllers were present throughout the three-hour event to monitor, advise and revise the script as needed. First responders were called to the scene, and soon more than 40 military police were on hand including watch commanders, military working dogs, Criminal Investigation Division's negotiation team and other support personnel. Eventually, a mobile command center and the Special Reaction Team, similar to a civilian Special Weapons and Tactics team, were called in.

The script required the hostage-taker inside the home to resist negotiations and for SRT to apprehend the suspect, said Dollard.

"This is great training for us, because it could happen any day," said Lance Cpl. Damon Mancuso. "You have to train for it if you're going to do it right."

"What we did out here was pretty much by the book, but for a real situation there are of course going to be things that change," said the 20-year-old Grants Pass, Ore., native. "It gave us a way to look at ourselves and keep safety in mind and to not make irrational decisions."

Dollard said more events like this are being planned for the

future, based on the success and value of the training Marines received.

"There will definitely be more exercises like these in the future," said Dollard. "This is really a big classroom for us, but we are still in the crawling stage. When we start walking, we'll let things be more independent. Maybe it will be only myself and the Provost Marshal who know what's going on, and that will be the running phase, I think."

For Master Sgt. Michael Burke, who spent the entirety of the exercise with the hostage and suspect as a controller, his view of the drill was unique.

"I did not have a radio up there, so all the [intelligence] I had was what I could see going on out the window," said Burke, chief criminal investigator for CID. "Our first responders and SRT did a great job, as well as our negotiations team."

"Everything went very well, the Marines did great out there," Burke continued. "This is truly invaluable training and is a good platform for us to step off from and improve. We were able to evaluate how we deal with a crisis situation and will develop ideas on where to go from here."

Vista Del Sol grew quiet in the afternoon as police vehicles, which inundated the area earlier, returned to base. Combat Center Marines, Sailors and their families can rest assured their military policemen are not only prepared to handle just about any situation, but have realistic training to as well.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL  
The Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team moves in column to the front door of a home for entry during a hostage scenario training exercise Tuesday.

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MCCS Sports will host Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Competition beginning Jan. 19 in the West Gym. For more information, call 830-4092.

## STEP CLASSES

Step Classes are now available at the West Gym on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 6 a.m. For more information, call 830-4131.

## YOGA CLASSES

Yoga classes are now available from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at the Community Center and from 5 to 5:45 p.m. at the East Gym. For more information please call 830-4131.

## VARSITY WRESTLING

Organizational meeting for varsity wrestling will be Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the West Gym mat room. Practices are Mon., Wed. and Fri. at 6 a.m. starting Wed. Active duty and DoD are eligible. Call 830-4092 for more details.

## LEISURE

## MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is now accepting applications for their 2006-2007 Academic Year. Scholarships range annually from \$500 to \$10,000. Applications are available at the Education Center or at [www.mcsf.org](http://www.mcsf.org). High school seniors must submit applications by March 1. All other applications are due by April 15. Call the Education Center at 830-6881 for further information.

## SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

What if all of your prayers were answered? What if you could be God for a day? The Protestant Chapel will hold a special movie and discussion night Jan. 29. Bring an open mind, a heart for the Lord, and we'll furnish the popcorn for a viewing of 'Bruce Almighty.'

## RED CROSS

## CPR/FIRST AID CLASS

The American Red Cross will be hosting a CPR/First-Aid class on Jan. 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the training room at the Village Center.

Cost of the class will be \$50 and pre registration is necessary by Thursday at the Red Cross office in the Village Center. For more information, call 830-6685.

## Did You Know?

The highest Super Bowl attendance is 103,985, for Super Bowl XIV, between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the LA Rams at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif., on January 20, 1980.

## Area fire stations looking for a few good men



Engineer Tim Cole and Reserve Firefighter Brandon Mollicone refill their fire trucks' 500-gallon tank at the Twentynine Palms Fire Department, Station #421.

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Twentynine Palms Fire Department, San Bernardino County Fire Department and Copper Mountain Community College are looking for Marines and Sailors who are interested in giving back to their community through volunteer firefighting.

Beginning Wednesday, Copper Mountain Community College is offering a semester-long Paid-Call Firefighter Academy for service members and civilians and will accept late applications.

A paid-call firefighter is on volunteer status but gets paid a certain amount of money each time they respond to a call for assistance or, with some stations, paid by the hour.

The amount paid per call varies with each fire station. Twentynine Palms Fire Station pays \$5 per call. Volunteers are also paid for attending weekly training sessions at the fire station.

"It's tough to find volunteer firefighters these days, and it's even tougher to keep the ones we get," said Fire Chief Jim Thompson, Twentynine Palms Fire Department. "We get military members and we know that they will eventually get transferred, but the service they provide while they're here in Twentynine Palms is invaluable."

The course marks the third Paid-Call Fire Academy held by Copper Mountain Community College and meets Wednesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 180-hour course provides students with seven college units and works as an elective credit toward a fire technology degree.

The course covers basic firefighting topics such as hose use, ladders, breathing apparatus and safety and some advance classes in fire protection and also includes certifications in hazardous materials response, auto extrication, wildland firefighting, swiftwater awareness, confined space awareness and the incident command system, according to a Twentynine Palms Fire Department press release.

According to Thompson, a former radio chief for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the academy is a good stepping-stone for Marines and Sailors who are separating from the service and are looking for possible career options.

"This is good for people who have an interest in pursuing some other vocation after they separate from the Marine Corps," he said. "There is a tradition of military service in firefighting. A lot of fire organizations look highly on hiring former military personnel."

Instructors from the course come from the various fire agencies in the area, with Capt. Jesse Quinalty from the Twentynine Palms Fire Station serving as the lead instructor.

The last academy graduated 12 students with nearly half of them service members from the Combat Center.

In order to attend the course the service member must attend a mandatory orientation briefing, pass a physical agility test and have written consent from his or her command.

For more information contact Quinalty at the Twentynine Palms Fire Department, 367-7524.

## MCCS Valentine's Keepsake Giveaway



*From Our Heart to Yours*

MCCS is going to give you the opportunity to win a wonderful Valentine's Day Package. All you have to do is sign up and you could be our Keepsake Giveaway Winner!

Winner will be drawn and notified on February 3, 2006.

Main Exchange or New Home Store anytime from January 2, 2006 through February 2, 2006.

Go online to the MCCS Web Site at [www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org) and sign up to win or call 830-5055.

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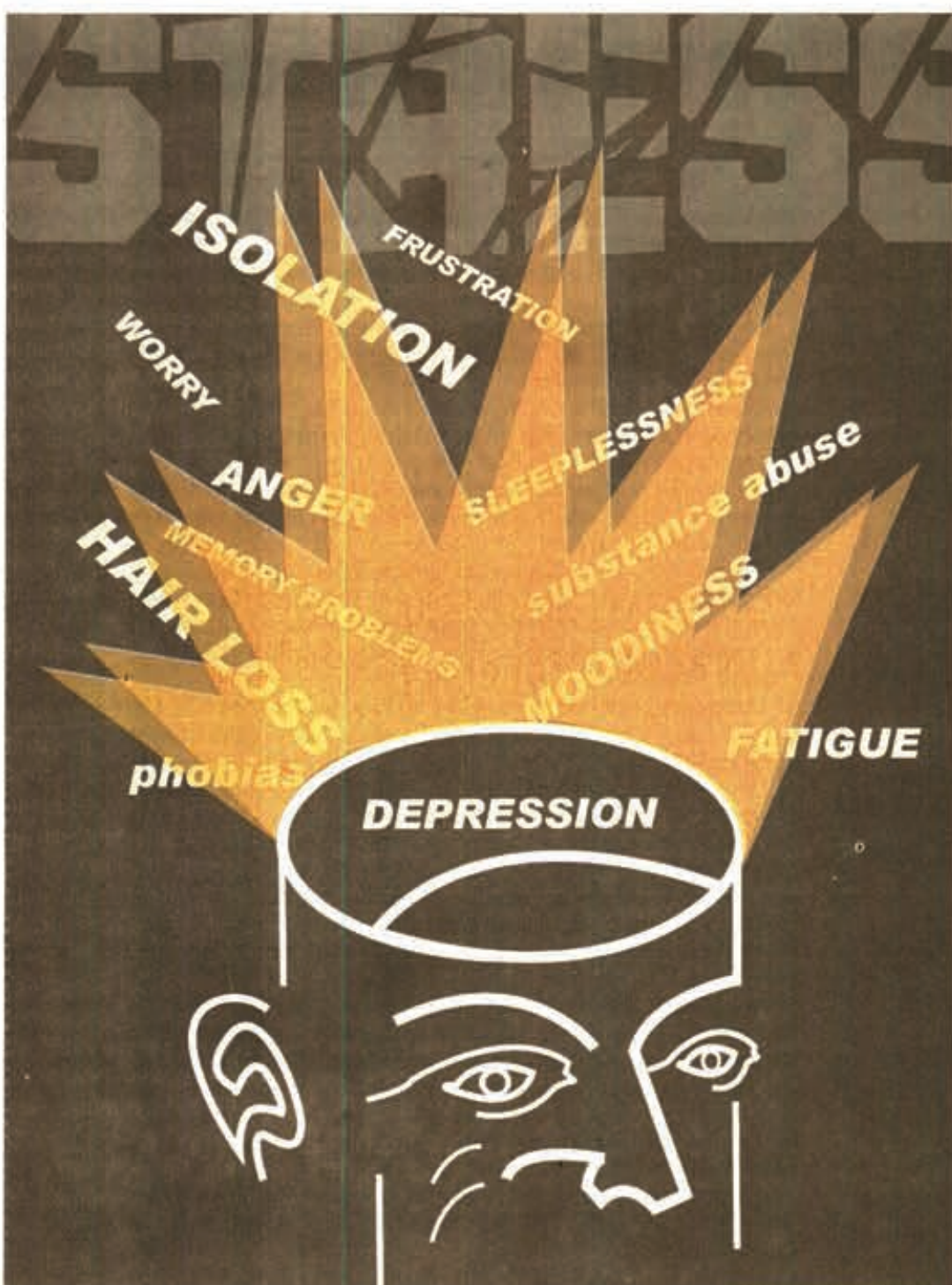
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No endorsement of the sponsor is intended by the Government or the USMC.







OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS IMAGE  
The Leaders Guide for Managing Marines in Distress was developed based on the Air Force Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress, with a few new features.

## A one-stop, online shop for stress guidance

LANCE CPL. ADAM JOHNSTON  
MCB CAMP LEJEUNE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Stress is something almost every person on the face of this planet has to deal with on a regular basis — Marines are no exception. With the ongoing deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the War on Terror, Marines have already begun returning to Camp Lejeune with symptoms of Combat and Operational Stress.

But combat stress isn't the only problem Marines have to contend with. Other stressors include things such as marital problems, substance abuse and suicidal behavior, to name a few. After two years in development, the Marine Corps released the Leaders Guide for Managing Marines in Distress on Nov. 16, 2005.

The guide provides an exciting new web-based tool for leaders of Marines, from fire team leader to commander, to maximize personal and unit readiness when a Marine is confronted with a potentially distressing situation, according to MARADMIN 582/05.

"It was designed as a quick-access, one-stop tool for leaders to use in helping their Marines handle and overcome problems," said Lt. Cmdr. Aaron D. Werbel, a behavior health affairs officer with Headquarters Marine Corps, and key developer of the project.

Problems Marines face can occupy a significant amount of a leader's time and can have detrimental consequences for both the Marine and the unit if the issue is not quickly addressed and handled effectively, according to MARADMIN 582/05.

"The best benefit of the tool is the ability to have instant access to more than 40 different problems in one place," said Werbel. "Marine leaders have always been able to provide the support for, and instill confidence in, their

Marines. With this resource, they no longer have to waste valuable time searching for information on the subject."

The guide was developed based on the Air Force Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress. Though similar to the Air Force's template, the Marine Corps' version includes a few new features.

"The Navy and Marine Corps originally wanted to do a joint product, but they quickly realized that it wouldn't be very efficient," said Werbel. "Marine Corps culture and Navy culture are totally different."

The guide is a dynamic Web site tool that will be expanded and updated on a

daily basis or as needed, according to Werbel. On an annual basis, subject matter experts will review the Web site and recommend changes and/or additions that need to be made.

"In about a month or so, we will be ready to launch an exact version of the Web site, not including external links, that leaders can download onto their computer's hard drive," said Werbel. "This will enable leaders out in the field a way to access this information."

For more information on the Leaders Guide for Managing Marines in Distress, go to <http://www.usmccs.org/leadersguide>.

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LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

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

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DUPLEX, 2 bd, 1 ba, total rehab, everything new, \$650/mo, 1st, last + ref's, w/ pd, ready by 2/1/06. (951) 236-7866 (951) 295-9144

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

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

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

## 200 APTS. &amp; DUPLEXES

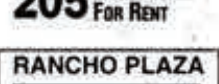
**CHARMING**  
1 bdrm, 1 bath well maintained in gated sec. building great loc., mgr on site, w/ pd. \$575. Call Steve 228-1292

## LARGE, CHARMING

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

## 205 COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

## RANCHO PLAZA



Located Down Town 57466 29 Palms Hwy. 385 sq. ft. \$250/mo with a 1 year lease. W/T paid. First & Last required  
Call: 365-4278

## 29 PALMS

29Palms, industrial metal bldg for workshop or contractor use, \$600/mo 909-596-8181

## 8 downtown offices

\$150/mo ea. Prime location in 29 Palms. 661-943-1823 or Cell# 661-435-8325



# 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 - Bk 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/lareside 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. Castanedo, USAF (Ret) at 909-335-9202, ext. 100. 11/18/05

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

## PETS

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

CHOCOLATE LABRADOR - AKC, OFA hip & elbow. CERF male, 4 years old. Shots, dewes, microchipped, \$200.00. Call 760-449-0944. 1/20/06

## MISC.

SPINNER BIKE - Multi-SPORTS EnduroCycle 200, excellent cond. \$350.00 OBO. Call 361-7541. 1/20/06

ROOM FOR RENT - Master bedroom for rent in Yucca Valley. All utilities incl. Private bath. \$550 per month. 1 yr agreement. Call 760-449-0944. 1/20/06

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

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

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 reupholstered. \$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

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 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

4 bdrm, 2 ba, new home, friendly hills JT, great view, \$1,195/mo (951) 323-5165

**A Prime Location!**

El Pueblo style home, on 1+ acre, endless views, 2 bdrm, 2.5 ba, 2 walk-in closets, courtyard entry with fountain, 3 patios, wood burning stove & 2 car gar. \$1400. mo. with optional detached guest suite & kitchenette, full bath and closet \$1500 mo., (760) 329-2219

FRIENDLY Hills, new 4 bdrm, 2 ba. Ready to rent or sell. \$1500 mo. (800) 546-4443

NEW 3 bdrm, 2 ba, Quiet area, views, dogs ok. \$950/mo. (760) 880-1054 or 329-7788

## MORONGO VALLEY

3 bdrm., 2 ba., nice quiet neighborhood, fncd. back yd. W/D hook-ups. No pets. \$995/mo. + dep. (760) 363-6824

## PALM SPRINGS

N Palm Spgs, 3bdrm 2bath Garnet area, \$600/mo. Call 909-596-8181/909-913-9133

## WONDER VALLEY

3 bdrm, 1 ba, fully renovated, quiet loc. fncd yd, stove, avail now! \$695 365-2333

## YUCCA VALLEY

2 bdrm, 1 ba, enclosed patio, attach. car, extremely clean, Appl., included, fncd yard w/banquet trees. 7733 Mariposa Tr. \$875 + sec. (760) 805-6641

2 bdrm, 1 ba, fncd yd, w/d hkuaps, attach car, very nice, \$750/mo. 365-9738

2 bdrm, 2 ba, 1,500 sq ft, in Western Hills, high in the rocks, awesome views of the city, \$1,200 + dep 250-0794

2 bdrm, 2 ba, 1/2 ac, fully fncd, new paint & tile throughout, close to town, ready for immed. occupancy. \$875/mo 333-9197

3 bdrm, 2 ba, 2 car gar., fncd yd, no dogs, great area, \$850/mo + \$850 dep. (909) 484-6464

3 bdrm, 2 ba, central air, dbl gar., best area Copper Hills, fncd yd, \$1,100/mo. + \$1,100 sec., 58327 Taos Tr. (909) 484-6464

3 bdrm, 2 ba, w/ outdoor spa, lg fncd yd, \$1,100/mo., 58219 Delano Tr., Ryan- (949) 597-1672.

BEAUTIFUL, 3 bdrm, 1 ba in YV, lg fncd yd, 2 car gar. Call for an appt., 363-6106

CHARMING home in Western Hills, 2 lg. bdrms., 2 ba, fireplace, lg. sunroom, 2 car gar. Wonderful views! Pets OK. \$1195 mo. + dep. Avail. 01/21. 228-2850 or (760) 449-4880

CUTE, 2 bdrm, close to town, w/d hkuaps, fncd yd, \$595/mo., avail Jan 18. 7471 Elk. 365-3499

LOTS of storage, 3 bdrm, 2 ba, 5 ac., dog pen, 2 gar., 1,800 sq ft, (888) 500-1140 x25

## 220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

NEW home in Yucca Valley, 4 bdrm, 2 ba, 2 car gar., 1,650 sq ft, rent \$1,400 + sec. dep., no pets, for more information call (715) 643-6404 or (715) 643-2024

TOWNHOUSE 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1 car gar, very nice, dishwasher, laundry fac., \$900/mo. 365-9738

## LARGE HOUSE

\$1,200 County Club, also house to share \$800 in Sky Harbor and Palm Desert, no smoke/pets. (760) 660-1583 after 7:00

## 223 ROOMS 4 RENT

29 PALMS

ROOMS for rent (brand new home) \$395. Private studio w/kitchenette \$495. All utilities & cable included! (714) 749-2728

## JOSHUA TREE

## RENTAL WEEKLY

In Joshua Tree In rooms refri & micro, cable, heater & phone. Low rates! 366-1113

ROOM for rent with private bath & full hshld use. 2005 1800sf home, call 366-9773

## 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.



300-399

## 300 HELP WANTED

AASPE Village Care accepting applications for Caregivers, fingerprint, Phy. & TB, call Christie @ 228-2729

ACCEPTING applications from tired people for fast-paced & challenging retail position. Outstanding customer service skills required. Experience preferred. Please apply at: Steve's Office Supply, 6255 Adobe Rd. Please, no phone calls.

## 300 HELP WANTED

ALARM Supervisor Lg alarm/CCTV/Fire Sound system provider seeks serv/install supervisor w/industry exp. Xint writing, computer & comm skills req'd. Co. vehicle, benefits incl., 401K. Clean bkgnd & DMV, drug test req'd. Palm Desert Branch. Home automation Security/Fire alarms/CCTV Xint pay & comp pkg. benefits incl., 401K. Gd DMV & drug test req'd. Fax resume to: 714-449-9598 or email: ganano@sdsysystems.com

ALARM/AUDIO Technician Lg Alarm/Sound System/CCTV provider seeks installers for the following fields for our Palm Desert Branch. Home automation Security/Fire alarms/CCTV

BARTENDER & COOK Blue Skies Country Club, apply in person Mon.-Fri., 11-2pm, ask for Mr. Kim, 55100 Martinez Tr. Y.V.

CARE Staff, will train, Xint benefits. All shifts avail. Apply at 6889 Sunny Vista, JT, or 12379 Miracle Hill Rd. Desert Hot Springs, (760) 329-6471

CLEANUP/PRP person & exp. cabinet builder for custom furniture shop 363-7812 or fax Resume to 363-7260

CERICAL work from home, helping US company file. HUD/FHA mortgage refund, call ERS (877) 264-3757

CERICAL/ secretary, new car dealership auto body shop, exp. preferred, FT, generous company benefits, contact Juan Valenzuela @ Yucca Valley Ford 365-2353

Desert Rose Elder Care now hiring Residential Aids, PM shift, ask for Shari 367-9175

ELECTRICIAN wanted min 3 years exp. Contact 228-2640

ELECTRICIAN w/min 2 yrs service exp needed at Wonder Electric! 367-2855 or 365-1925

EXP Medical Assistant for front office. Med. records & ins. knowledge. Fax 365-2524

EXP'D Concrete Form Setters, Finishers and Laborers. No drugs. Call Jeff @ 228-1694

FERRELIGAS, a nationwide leader in the propane industry, is looking for a CDL qualified driver for local delivery in the Yucca Valley area. The most critical part of our success is our employees. If you want to work for a company where your experience and dedication make a difference, join the Ferrellgas team. Qualified candidates will have 1+ years driving experience, ability to meet DOT requirements, basic computer skills, and be 21 years or older. Ferrellgas offers competitive pay, a comprehensive benefits package, 401(k), Employee Stock, paid holidays, vacation, and a quarterly bonus potential. For immediate consideration, please email Thomas.Lamb@ferrellgas.com, or fax resume to (760) 946-1308, Attention Tom Lamb.

## 300 HELP WANTED

FRONT desk clerk. Computer literate, have experience w/Microsoft Office & the public, gd. phone skills. Resume with references to: 4949 Desert Knoll 29 Palms, CA 92277 or call 367-3320.

Gargage door installer & helper needed. No smoking & valid Driver's License req'd. Call Dan (760) 369-2445



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 tight 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: jpowers@bigbeargrizzly.net NO PHONE CALLS!

P/T Office Cleaning, nights & weekends. Must fill out an application. Transportation & phone are required. 365-4223

PT Receptionist needed for new psychology office in 29, fax resume to (760) 369-7167 or email: info@checkupneckup.com

TT and Bus Drivers needed @ 29 Palms. Pay is \$18.64-\$20.24 call today 858-467-1348

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

300 HELP WANTED

300 HELP WANTED

300 HELP WANTED

300 HELP WANTED

Management: No experience needed. We will train you. Start at \$9.00/hour + bonus + vacation + benefits.

Drivers: Fast money every shift plus paycheck.

For Mgmt & Driver positions you must be: 18, car/insurance, CA D.L.

Applications taken at:

13900 Palm Dr. D.H.S.: 58146 Hwy 62, Y.V.: 3665 Adobe, 29 Palms; 28201 Date Palm, CC: 1717 E. Vista Chino, P.S.: 78702 Hwy 111, La Quinta; 35750 Date Palm, CC: 77920 C.C., P.D.

## 300 HELP WANTED

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT Bulldozers, Backhoes, Loaders, Dump Trucks, Graders, Scrapers, Excavators. National Certification-Financial Assistance. Job Placement Assistance (800) 383-7364 Associated Training Services www.ats-schools.com

HELP Wanted; Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO (985) 646-1700 DEPT CA-504

LOOKING for exp. installers, we supply tools, truck & medical benefits, accepting applications, or resumes, 7164 Wamego Tr. Unit D, YV, or 369-DOOR

LOOKING for operators & pipe layers, for underground wet utility co., exp. only need apply, call 365-2270

MCDONALDS Now accepting Applications for all positions at the McDonalds of YV! Please apply at the store. 57626 29 Palms Hwy

MEDICAL receptionist for High Desert, medical exp a must, knowledge of back office a plus. Fax resume with ref's to (760) 320-0499

NOW accepting applications for bindery and copy person at print shop. Experience required. Please apply in person at VIP Print and Copy Center 7333 Apache Tr., Yucca Valley

NOW hiring cooks & drivers for YV Pizza Hut, come in for an application! 369-6545

P/T Office Cleaning, nights & weekends. Must fill out an application. Transportation & phone are required. 365-4223

PT Receptionist needed for new psychology office in 29, fax resume to (760) 369-7167 or email: info@checkupneckup.com

TT and Bus Drivers needed @ 29 Palms. Pay is \$18.64-\$20.24 call today 858-467-1348

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

300 HELP WANTED

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300 HELP WANTED

## 300 HELP WANTED

HERT TRUCKING CLASS "A" DRIVERS • Company Drivers Avg. \$3.38 p/m - Loaded/Empty • Local & Part Time • Off Weekends • Weight Bonus • Medical & 401K • Profit Sharing • Paid Vacation • Steady Year Round Work

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

WONDER Garden Cafe looking for intergetic upbeat team players for counter help & Baristas full & part time avail. Submit resume to 73511 29 Palms Hwy.

## 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.

15 yr old seeks all kinds of yard work, weeding, watering, cleaning etc! 29 Palms area only, please call 361-4008 or lv msg.

A very responsible & experienced teen looking for babysitting or other work. Call (760) 369-7278

## 310 WORK WANTED

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

CAREGIVER for Seniors. Flexible days & hours to suit your needs. Cleaning, cooking, errands, appointments, etc. Call Mary Ellen (760) 365-5145

## 300 HELP WANTED

## 300 HELP WANTED

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE

Desert Manor 8515 Cholla, Yucca Valley

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

ADMINISTRATOR / ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR Long term care, alzheimers and or dementia exp. preferred. Fax resume to (760) 365-4156

CNA'S Are you a CNA with a full time job that is looking to work extra shifts? We would love to give you that opportunity. For more information please apply in person.

Sky Harbor 57333 Joshua Lane

LVN Contact Donna @ 365-4870

Santa Fe Assisted Living 55425 Santa Fe Tr Yucca Valley

PT LAUNDRY and F/T CAREGIVER Apply in person

## 310 WORK WANTED

HANDYMAN: plumbing, elect., & auto repair. Tree cutting, 366-4697 or 368-7233, Jim

SENIOR citizen care in your home, area of JT/YV, have exp./refs., call Evelyn 366-7752 or cell (951) 237-8171



Services 400-499

## Services Offered Policy

This newspaper does not accept responsibility for services offered by any advertiser using this newspaper. Please carefully evaluate any services advertised, and do not use that service unless you have checked the references, and know and understand all terms of agreement and conditions between you and the advertiser.

California State law requires that contractors, builders, and landscapers who perform work for \$500 or more, including materials and labor, must be licensed. License numbers should be so indicated in their advertising.

Unlicensed contractors should also be indicated in their advertising.

Please refer questions to Contractors State License Board, 1250 East Cooley Drive, Suite 200, Cotton, CA 92324

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

## 400 ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 403 BOARD &amp; CARE

AASPCEN  
VILLAGE CARE  
Now Accepting  
Ambulatory &  
Non-Ambulatory

## Residents

Assisted living for the elderly. "You will feel like you're at home"

7633 & 7645 Kickapoo Trail, Yucca Valley (760) 228-7229 RCFE Lic# 366410679 Lic# 366410681

DESERT ROSE  
ELDER CARE

"Assisted Living"  
Semi private room  
available now!

29 Palms  
73511 Sunnyvale Dr  
(760) 367-9175  
Lic# 366404072

HIDESERT FAMILY  
ELDERCARE

"Senior Living at its best!"  
Specializing in  
Alzheimers &  
Dementia care.

6410 El Reposo St.  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252  
(760) 366-3845  
Lic. #366409076

## 410 FAMILY &amp; CHILD CARE

CHILD care in my home. Openings avail. all ages. Reasonable rates. Mon.-Fri., 6a-6p. (760) 567-8363 ask for Vicki. Lic#364810335

FAMILY CHILD  
CARE/PRE-  
SCHOOL in

IndianCove 29Palms  
FULLY LICENSED &  
CERTIFIED  
CALL FOR DETAILS  
760-362-5293

LITTLE CARSON'S  
DAY CARE

Open Mon-Fri.  
6:30am-5:30pm  
"lic" food program  
\*CPR/First Aid Cert.  
"ref's. Call Martha  
760-361-1470

TLC  
Family Child Care

Openings Avail  
(all ages)  
Creative Preschool  
Curriculum,  
Reading, Games,  
Crafts, Fun  
Activities,  
Reasonable rates  
CPR & First Aid  
LOTS of TLC  
Se habla español  
Lic#364810335  
(760) 228-1986

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

## 435 SERVICES

+BOB'S Mobile Auto  
Repair, reasonable prices,  
excellent service! 364-1098 or 401-1402  
Lic./Reg. #A0233282

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 &amp; HEATING

Eagle Construction, Inc., Heating & Air Conditioning, Residential, Sales, Installation & Service (760) 333-9590 or 366-1914

## APPLIANCE Repair

washers, dryers, dishwashers, range ovens. Call MB Appliance Repair (760) 464-3020

ASPHALT repairs, all  
types, free estimates,  
unic., call (760) 228-  
2869
BEST Maintenance &  
Home Improvement, 35  
yrs. Lic. #757239, Call  
228-0532

## BOB Cat Service:

rock placement, decorative rock supplier, Silver Star Enterprise, John Harmon, Owner-Operator (760) 780-8029 unic.

BOB'S Mobile Auto  
Repair, reasonable prices,  
excellent service! 364-  
1098 or 401-1402  
Lic./Reg. #A0233282

## 435 SERVICES

CLEANING, by George, residential carpet care & commercial cleaning. Military & senior disc. Lic., bonded & insured. (760) 365-4223.

CONCRETE, Masonry & Patio Covers. Call Jeff McGowan Concrete & Masonry @ 228-1694 Lic#772649

CONCRETE, driveways, patios, house slabs, auto carpentry & room add's. No job too small. Call Bill 365-6724. Lic#409280

CONCRETE, Landscape Borders, Erosion Control, Garden Borders. Call The Curb Maker (760) 365-2221 unic.

CONSTRUCTION Chimney sweep, fireplaces, masonry, waterfalls. Duda's Construction 228-0842 Lic # 702827

CONSTRUCTION Remodeling, New construction, Investor Specs. Paul Wilcox. Lic# 756232 1-888-728-5772 local

CONSTRUCTION T. T. Wolf Construction block - brick - wood patios, decks, retaining walls & fences. www.thewolfconstruction.com (760) 660-3325

CONSTRUCTION, Custom wood, furniture, finish carpentry & cabinetry. Michael Holz Constructio (760) 228-5884. Lic#42705

CONSTRUCTION, New construction, additions, remodels & repairs. John Sattler Construction Co. 363-7134 Lic #296895

CONSTRUCTION, Room additions, kitchen, baths, roofing & painting. Call Keizer Construction G.C. (760) 220-8986 Lic#791652

CONSTRUCTION, Additions, remodels, tile work, roofing, framing, concrete & backhoe work. Call Paradise Construction 272-4025 cell. 365-5160 cell. Lic #813976 See Business Directory ad

CONSTRUCTION, Home Improvement. No job too small! Specializing in Drywall. Call Hamm Construction (760) 365-0949 Lic#684360

CONSTRUCTION, Roofing, concrete, additions, remodels, & drywall. Call Paradise Construction 272-4025 cell. 365-5160 office. Lic #813976 See Business Directory ad

CONSTRUCTION, Serving the Morongo Basin Since 1984. Goodpastor Construction (760) 228-1985 Lic#503172

CONTRACTOR remodels, concrete, drywall, pool decks, etc. Jesse James Construction. (760) 363-7690 Lic # 823344

CUSTOM cabinet complete kitchen & bath room remodeling, room additions, Call Jim @ 369-3369, Lic # 258220

DEPENDABLE young woman avail. for professional & detail house cleaning, call Ellen 365-3877

DRYWALL, Drywall, tape, texture, acoustic, patch work, custom textures. Sonrise Drywall Lic#48068 365-3525

DRYWALL, A Wizard of Walls. Drywall, ceilings, acoustic, textures, stucco repair, painting & roofing. (760) 364-1907. unic.

ELECTRIC, KDB Custom Lighting & Electric. "When only the best will do!" (760) 369-7447 Lic#572842

ELECTRIC, Comm., & Resid. Service upgrades, solar installation, ceiling fans, spa hook-ups, landscape lighting. Hi-Tek Electric 363-6743 Lic#C10-550908

ESTATE buyers, foreign gold, scrap & dental gold, jewelry, sterling. Play 4 X's face value. Call Quality Coins (760) 365-8991

FENCING Applied Fencing Inc., 24 yrs. exp. Custom fencing, enclosures & automated entry systems. Free estimates. 366-0101, Lic #832834

FENCING Chain link, field fencing, wood fence, no job too small. Fatty's Fencing 366-5462 or (760) 668-3525, (lic. pending)

GARAGE Doors, For all your garage door needs call Door Medic. (760) 401-732 4 Lic#846130

GARAGE Doors, Hi-Desert's largest inventory. Family owned & operated. Precision Garage Doors. 369-DOOR (3667) Lic#815220

GARAGE Doors, Openers. Parts and Service. Great Prices! Dan Dan 366-3353

HAIRCUTS: by Journey & Cheri, wash 'n wear, cuts for men, by appt only 365-1919

HANDYMAN Retired electrician. No job too small! Ceiling fan installation, etc., general repairs. (760) 902-1531 unic.

HANDYMAN Try Us Handyman No job 2 big or 2 small Call Art 364-4884 Senior & Military Disc.

## 435 SERVICES

HANDYMAN, Free estimates. Prompt reliable service. Call Hus bands for Rent @ 365-3438 or (760) 218-8567 unic.

HANDYMAN, Call Henry's your #1 confident handyman. Lic#779986 (760) 362-5491

HANDYMAN, Home Maintenance & Repair. See Business Directory for more info. KMS Services 369-0521

HANDYMAN: Home repair, painting & maint., Elect., pool yard & home cleaning 366-8074 or 217-2174 unic.

HAULING- Trash & debris removal from homes, garages, yards & construction sites. Reasonable rates. Call 365-0016 or (760) 408-4334

HOUSE Cleaning Honest & Reliable. Serving the Desert since 1994. Call Denise's Desert Dusters (760) 365-1967

KNP Masonry, Lic#853750 (760) 228-0636 or (760) 369-0484

LANDSCAPE: contractor w/ over 15 yrs of designing & installation of all types of commercial & residential landscaping 362-5491 Lic#277986

LANDSCAPING Clear It Away Landscaping, Commercial and Residential landscaping at a low rate. Call for your free quote. 366-3435 or 365-4083

LANDSCAPING, & Maintenance. Weekly & Monthly. Ref's available. Call Alex @ Alvarez Gardening 228-0409 (unic)

LANDSCAPING/TREE 15 years exp. Tree trimming/removal & yd clean-up. Senior Disc. Free estimates. Call Top Notch Tree Service. 369-1950 unic

MASONRY, Stone Mason counters, ceramic tile, showers, fountains, floors & fireplaces. Call Johnny Donovan (760) 668-9866 (unic)

NOW OPEN! Chinese Caidis Massages 5910 Adobe Rd #D 29Palms 760-361-0928

PAINTING, 35 yrs. exp. Quality Work Guaranteed up to 1 yr. Call Dominic's Custom house painting Lic#748880 365-1895

PAINTING, also offering home inspections & handyman services for sellers. Call Classic Painting 369-2351 or (760) 898-2588 Lic #845468

PAINTING, Concrete restoration, acid staining, custom painting, garage floor finishes. Zebra Concrete Coatings & Painting. (760) 401-0650 Lic#29537

PAINTING: Two guys for Hue, painting all your dreams come true, interior/ exterior painting, experienced (760) 553-2538

PLUMBING Jack's Plumbing servicing the Desert area since 1993. "No job too small" 228-1215, Lic#720014

PLUMBING Service - 24 hr. Ipx plastic pipe certified. Y.V., Landers, Johnson Valley, J.T. & Morongo (760) 464-1518

PLUMBING, drain cleaning & gas lines. Low prices, free estimates. Call Accustom Plumbing. (760) 217-2622 unic

PLUMBING: D & D Custom, new septic system & leech field installation, Lic#857971, bonded & ins. 228-1138

POOL Repair: Free estimates, salt systems, acid washes, remodels, and more! 333-1588 or 366-7781

PRINTING, Copies, color or copies, calendars, business printing. Self service copies, or professionally prepared for you by our friends at Valley Independent Printing & Copy Center. 365-6967

PROFESSIONAL window & mirror cleaning, residential & commercial, 365-2776 or 662-9544

ROOFING Repairs & Maintenance is our specialty! Roof certification A & N Roof Co. 365-9885 Lic#576241

SCREENS: Hunters Mobil Screen, free est., door & window repair, fast friendly Mobile service. 953-9704

TELEPHONE installation & repair, business & residential. See Business Directory ad or call 365-3609 or 343-3700

THE Chimney Sweep & Stone Mason-See ad in Business Directory or call (760) 219-1398

TOOL REPAIR Small engine repair, generators, compressors, chainsaws, repairs and more. Call (760) 228-0360 D & B Tool Repair.

TRACTOR SERVICE and fill dirt available FREE ESTIMATES Call call # 760-447-3644 (unic)

LIVINGROOM turn, antiques, patio furn., Lazy Boy recliner, 2 sofas & matching chair, entertainment center, 228-2230 great prices!

## 435 SERVICES

TRACTOR Work Brush removal for fire safety! Free estimates. Compact tractor specializing in hard to access areas. Dennis 228-2044 (unic)

TRACTOR work, backhoe, trenching, grading, septic tanks, leach lines, new installation & repair. Ask for Sam 366-8154 Lic#81009

TREE Service Free Estimates! Call Dee Bee Tree Service (760) 228-1922 Lic# 535741

TREE Services, landscaping & housecleaning, concrete serv., free estimates, 485-9166 or 368-7209

TRENCHING & Backhoe Service Foundations, septic systems, irrigation, retaining walls, post holes. Call AJM Custom Trenching & Backhoe Service. 365-3012 or (760) 553-4229 (unic)

WATER Truck & Backhoe Service Foundations, septic systems, irrigation, retaining walls, post holes. Call AJM Custom Trenching, Water Truck & Backhoe Service. 365-3012 or (760) 553-4229 (unic)

WINDOW/GLASS Finance avail. Custom replacement windows, wood, vinyl, aluminum. Unad Glass & Door/ Yucca Valley Mirror & Glass. 365-6302

WINDOWS, Residential & commercial. Xint ref's. Call Steven @ Rightway Window Cleaning 364-3678 or 401-1754 cell unic.

NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

Merchandise 500-599

500 APPLIANCES

KENMORE washer & dryer, great condition, \$350/both 228-5801

520 BARGAIN COUNTER

Entertainment ctr \$100/obo, 7 drawer dresser \$30/obo, call 367-4096

PELLET stove, \$250, like new exercise bike \$50, after 4 228-0501

527 ELECTRONICS

DELL computer, printer, desk & chair, used only 6 mo., \$550 OBO, 366-3189

530 FURNITURE

2 brass headboards, single, perfect for little girls room, \$35/ea, room divider, 4 panels, teak, very elaborate, \$65, 366-2539

Brand new sofa and loveseat with matching chair and footrest, Scotch guarded, earth tone colors, still in plastic wrapper. All for \$375, can deliver (760) 364-3621

LIVINGROOM turn, antiques, patio furn., Lazy Boy recliner, 2 sofas & matching chair, entertainment center, 228-2230 great prices!

## 533 GARAGE SALE

29 PALMS MILITARY multi family sale Sat 1/21 8am-5pm & Sun 1/22 noon-5pm. Corner of Playa Vista & Palos Verde in Ben Hunter area. Lots misc!

JOSHUA TREE MOVING sale on Jan. 20 & Jan 21, 8am-3pm, 60274 La Mirada Tr. Joshua Tree

YUCCA VALLEY ESTATE Sale, Jan. 19-22, 8-5, 3 generations. furniture, collectibles, crafts & lots more, 58690 Cocotillo Dr., off of Buena Vista follow signs to Indio.

SAT., Jan. 21, 8am to 3pm. No Early Birds! Tools, house hold items, & lots more. 57442 St. Mary's Dr.

540 LIVESTOCK

FOR sale, working goat herd, Boer & Boer cross breeds, 7 mature does, Boer buck, 8 kids, 5 doelings, 3 bucklings, also stock trailer w/cattle gate, evenings 363-6066

TB Broodmare

12 yr old Bay, Sire winner of \$876,000. Dbl registered with Jockey Club & AQHA. Kind & gentle. \$1,500/obo (760) 363-1240

Yucca Valley Equestrian Center •Rental •Boarding •Lessons •Training 365-4433

545 Lost & FOUND

29P lost 1 yr old female Terrier w/blue eyes @ Hwy 62 & Charlotte 3.5 mi. east of 4 corners. She is cute, grey/black & spayed 367-4401

FOUND dog, Jack Russell Terrier, Male, no collar, Ritchie Rd in Landers 364-2447, 401-2886

FOUND Female on 12-28 Pomeranian, tan, no collar on Aberdeen next to Mesa Market, 366-4748

FOUND small full grown female dog. Brown head & white body on 01/08 on Hopi Trail. Call 363-6616.

Have you seen this dog?

Heartbroken family is asking for your help. 85 lb shepard/ Chow mix. Green collar w/tags. Answers to "Lucy" Lost on 12/31 near YVHS. Reward!! Please Call 365-1577

LOST Dog Chow mix w/long red hair, fluffy tail, neutered male, reddish collar, black tounge, \$100 Reward! 362-4071

LOST dog, 15 yr neutered male, blonde, looks like Benji, shaggy, he is deaf, no collar, Joan 365-7776 or Carl 217-4240

LOST dog, lg German Shepherd, & med. blk Lab mix, both males, around YV High School, 369-2236

LOST dog, Welsh Corji mix, Female, gray, no collar, around hospital in JT, 366-3465

LOST, maybe at the Farmers Market, mans diamond ring, approx. size 11 or 12, 9 diamonds in it. Large REWARD! Have photo. Present from mom. Call 365-8702

550 Misc. 4 SALE

DRY seasoned split firewood. Old fashion cords. (888) 659-8733

FIREWOOD, 18' lengths, hard wood mix, 1/4, 1/2 or full cords, 364-3472

FULL body Shiatsu massage recliner chair. Wired remote control, programable, blk. plush leather, popular 800 model. \$2000. (760) 917-5671

LIFT chair, Wheel chair w/adj back & leg rests, & (4) 225/75 R15 M/S tires. Call 367-2904

NICE horse shoe desk \$125, 2 sets, American Racing 15x10 polished aluminum rims for Ford 1/2 ton P/U, Bronco, Jeep or international scout, all new in boxes \$300 set, coffee and end tables, day bed w/new mattress \$225, antique dresser \$50, rollout desk \$30, 1991 Seadoo \$100. Best offer 365-0605/401-0675

## 550 Misc. 4 SALE

FIREWOOD Sale

Avocado \$175 per cord triple size stv sz \$190 per cord also 1/2 & 1/4 cords avail. - red ironwood eucalyptus avail.

BUY LOCAL free delivery Please Call 228-2092 while supplies last

PAYING CASH For Gold Coins - silver coins - any silver or gold scrap - diamonds - antiques - tools - autos - trucks - trailers - equip. - appliances - household furniture - used rugs - horse tack - or anything of value.

We will buy complete households or estates, or businesses, none too large or too small. You bring to us or we will come to you. We will guarantee to beat any price you are offered.

We have 2 locations: Pope's Auction Yard (Corner of Santa Fe Trl & Cheyenne Ave. in Yucca Valley) Pope's Antiques & Auctions (Main store & office 1945 S. Indian Ave. in Palm Springs, CA 12 Block North of Interstate 10) For more info: Call (760) 365-7887 or (760) 329-1077

SPA DELUXE 2005 Model, Neckjets, Therapy Seat. Never Used, Many Jets. Warr., Can Deliver. Worth \$5,950, Sell \$1,950. (760) 843-7550

FIREWOOD Avocado \$190 cord Orange \$230 cord Euc \$260 cord Free Delivery Please Call (951) 487-9642

FIREWOOD •Avocado \$190 cord •Orange \$230 cord •Euc \$260 cord FREE DELIVERY Please call (951) 487-8508

560 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PIANO tuning & repair & piano lessons in your home. Call Mike Evanko (760) 362-5155

Taylor acoustic guitar. "Big Baby", Xint condition with case. \$315 333-4663

TAYLOR Big Baby guitar \$200, Martin Sigma guitar \$250 364-4953

565 PETS & SUPPLIES

FOR Sale 1 small dog carry on cage, new. 2 medium dog cages, one is new. \$85 366-1014

FREE to gd home 1 yr old black Lab w/doghouse, is fixed & has shots. 760-590-8315

2004 Crown Victoria LX

32k miles, still new, fac. warr., pwr/seats, CD, P/W, P/L, tilt & cruise. \$12,950. (760) 228-1637

1998 HONDA RED HATCHBACK 5 Sp. A/C, AM/FM CASSETTE 101K mi. \$4500 366-2624 after 4pm