

Serving the MCAGCC
Community at
Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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January 27, 2006



OBSERVATION POST



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This Issue

A4 - AFAF

B1 - CG's Basketball

B1 - Super Bowl XL

Hot Topics

ROAD CLOSURES

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

Fourth St. will be closed through Feb. 28.

TAX CENTER

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center is open 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.

INCORRECT W-2s IDENTIFIED

A list of local Marines affected by incorrect W-2's has gone out. If any of the following actions were reported on Marines during the period Dec. 22-31, you may be notified by disbursing within the next 30 to 60 days. Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE), Lump Sum Leave (LSL), Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB), Separations Pay or Disability Severance Pay. Please pass to all hands that they may now have their 2005 tax returns prepared and if any other W-2's are need correction they will be notified. If a W-2C (corrected) is issued at a later date they may have to amend their tax return. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the tax center at 830-4829.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

• Brig. Gen. Reid
Memorial Service

• 2/7 Returns

• 7th Marines deploy

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

January 27, 1988

400 Marines and Sailors deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of Joint Task Force Middle East.

3rd LAR mourns the loss of two members



Marines and Sailors of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion listen to the words of fellow Marines during a memorial service for Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Best and Petty Officer 3rd Class David S. Sotelo Jan. 18.

STORY COMPILED BY CPL. GRAHAM A. PAULSGROVE
AND LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

The Marines and Sailors of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, gathered at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Jan. 18, to pay their final respects to Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Best, former light armored vehicle crewman with Alpha Company, 3rd LAR, and Petty Officer 3rd Class David S. Sotelo, former senior line corpsman with Alpha Company, 3rd LAR.

Best and Sotelo died during a military vehicle accident on Interstate Highway 15 Jan. 4, while enroute to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for pre-deployment training.

The battalion is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in coming months.

"We are here today to pay our final respects to two members of the wolf-pack family," said Lt. Col. Matthew L. Jones, battalion commander, 3rd LAR during the memorial of the service members. "They were two very fine men who accomplished a lot in the time they had."

Best was a 20-year-old native of Springfield, Mo. He was known as a hard worker and good friend to many.

"While Lance Cpl. Best was relatively new [to the unit], we all knew he was on a great track," said Jones. "Unfortunately we will not see what kind of

Marine he would grow to be but he was certainly heading the right course."

"For those who knew Best, there is now a void," added Lance Cpl. Jason White. "He was a great Marine and a great friend. He always put the needs of others in front of his own."

Sotelo, 22, a native of Murrieta, Calif., was a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was known to his peers for his knowledge, humor and selflessness.

"He was the type of person who didn't care about himself - he only cared about taking care of others," said Cpl. Nathaniel V. Stallings, one of several Marines and family members who spoke of Best and Sotelo during the service.

"He was the first true hero I ever met," said Sgt. Gamielle Marshall, training noncommissioned officer, 3rd LAR. "I will never forget him."

Sotelo is survived by his wife, April, and their three children, Christopher, David and Alyssa.

"They were family to the company and to our Marines and Sailors. And, with their family, I share their sorrow," said Capt. Michael R. Nakonieczny, Alpha Company commander. "They will not be forgotten."

Two other Marines from the unit were injured during the accident, but have since returned to their unit. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of taps.



Beginning Monday speed humps and a speed limit reduction at the front gate will keep drivers at a safe speed when entering and leaving the Combat Center.

Get ready for slower, bumpier ride at main gate

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Commuters traveling in and out of the main gate should soon be expecting to hit a bump in the road - literally.

New speed humps will be installed by the Provost Marshal's Office Sunday and Monday night as part of an effort to slow traffic and make the gate safer.

"We are going to be putting three speed humps in the inbound lanes just prior to the gate on Sunday to keep traffic slow," said Staff Sgt. Michael Stahl, PMO accident investigation chief who is heading the project. "For the outbound lanes, we are putting in the speed humps as well but on Monday. Additionally, the speed on Adobe Road will be reduced to 35 miles per hour both ways on base and 20 outbound at the gate."

The installation of the speed humps and reducing speeds will fulfill a tri-fold mission, said Capt. James P. Dollard, Deputy Provost Marshal.

"This is for the safety of our military police who are at the gate, to protect our automatic barrier system and to upgrade our current force protection measures," said Dollard. "This will be a very fast installation that will happen literally overnight."

For the Marines who serve as sentries at the gate, the idea of slowing cars that race by them will help them feel more safe while standing post, said Lance Cpl. Ryan King, a patrol supervisor with PMO.

"We have Marines walking around the area 24 hours a day, and if people are flying by at 50 or faster, then those are just unsafe conditions," said the 22-year-old Corvallis, Ore., native.

As traffic speeds through the main gate, it passes over a sophisticated automatic barrier system hidden in the road.

See SPEEDHUMPS, A9

TOYS FOR TOTS 2005

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

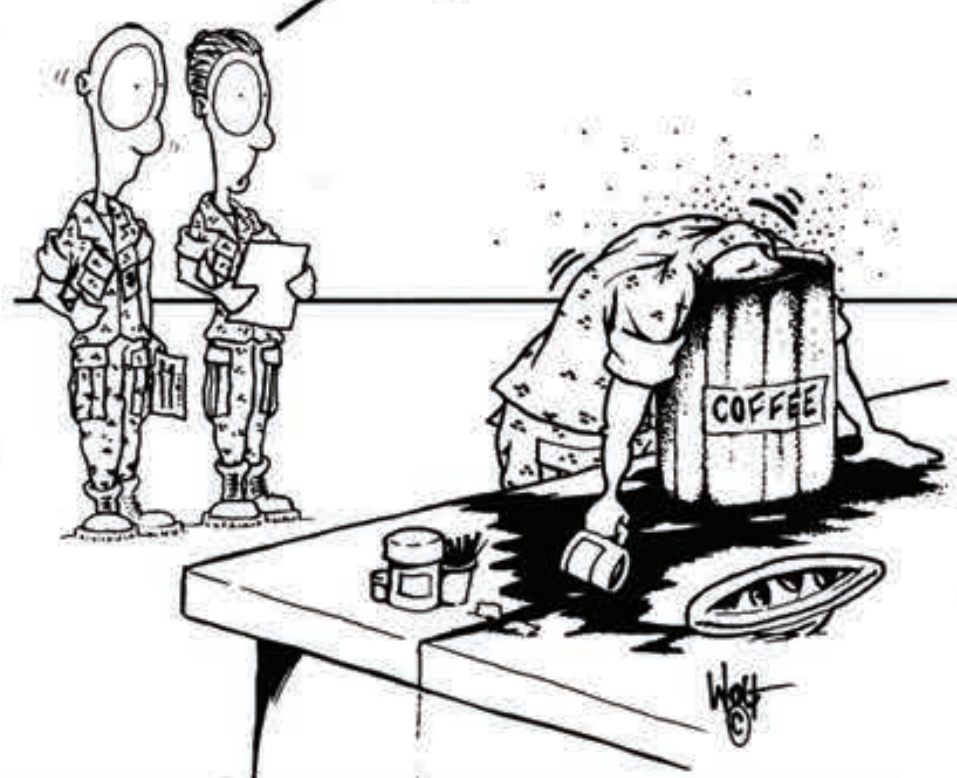
A hearty "MANY THANKS" to the MAGTFTC/MCAGCC Family — Marines, Sailors, Spouse Clubs, Volunteers, Commands and Organizations of the Combat Center — who once again proved to be a consummate team making the 2005 Toys for Tots program a resounding success. I would like to particularly recognize the members of the Toys for Tots Advisory Committee who were instrumental in planning the 2005 campaign. Whether you donated toys or devoted your valuable time to answering hotline calls; collecting, buying, and sorting toys; or working distribution and delivery to the families, you can take great pride knowing that you brightened the faces of well more than 23,000 children in the desert communities this Christmas Season. Thank You!

Sincerely,
Brig. Gen. D. M. Stone

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

"Ohh Yeah....,
It's definitely MONDAY!"



C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Does someone close to you have a drug or alcohol problem?

Have you noticed behavior changes? Are they moody, short-tempered, hostile or "spaced out"? Are they suddenly failing courses, repeatedly late for work, having problems with work performance, or hanging out with people you don't trust?

Stop and think about it. They may have an alcohol or drug problem.

Here are some signs of alcohol or drug abuse:

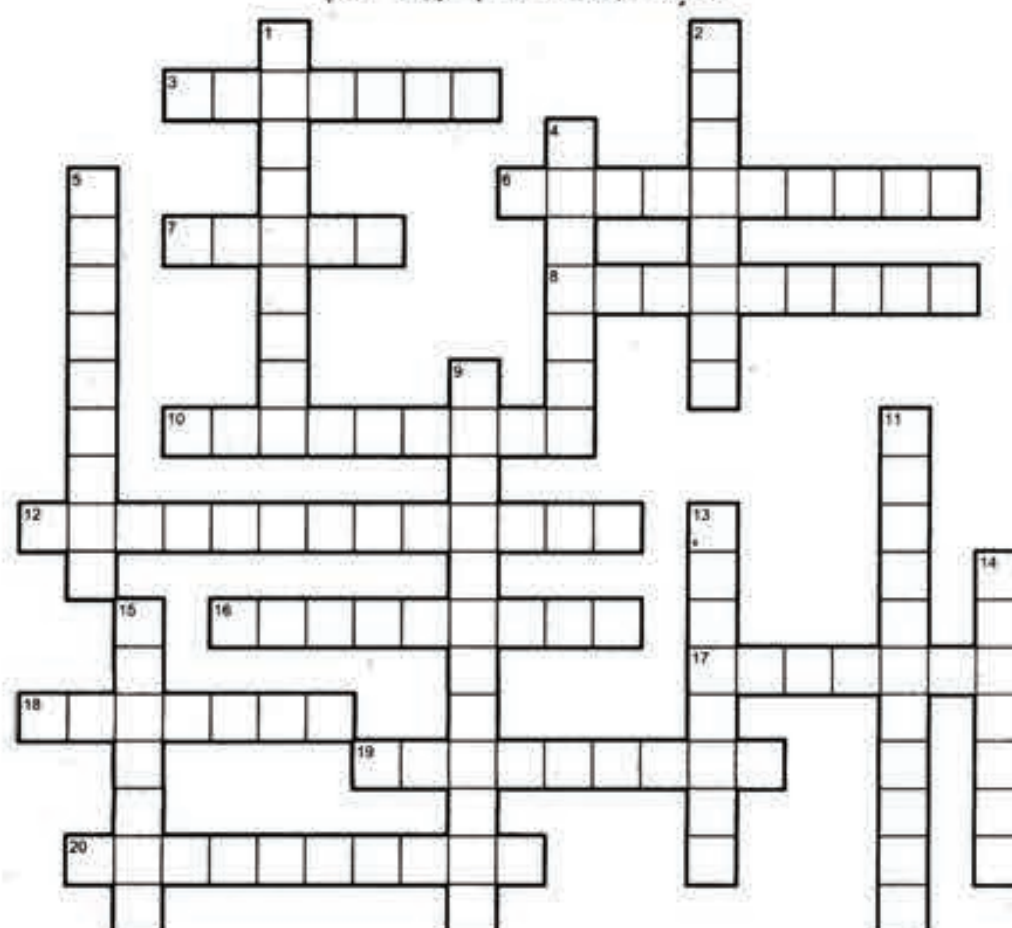
- Increased interest in alcohol or other drugs, such as talking about them or talking about buying them
- Spending majority of free time going to bars or clubs
- Owning drug paraphernalia, such as pipes, hypodermic needles or rolling papers
- Having large amounts of cash on their person
- Drastic change in weight
- Slurred or incoherent speech
- Withdrawal from others, frequent lying, depression or paranoia

If you observe any of these signs, they may have an alcohol or drug problem. You need to compare these behavior signs to behaviors in the past. It's better to say something and be wrong than to say nothing and have them get into serious trouble.

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

SPELLCHECK!



ACROSS

- Located away from one's native country. Conducted or involved with other nations or governments; not domestic
- A place where meals are served to the public
- Of a strikingly odd or unusual character; strange
- Humiliate. To cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; disconcert
- Categorization of a group of people according to ability or status
- A form containing a set of questions, especially one addressed to a statistically significant number of subjects as a way of gathering information for a survey
- Occurring at once; instant
- To have faith, confidence, or trust
- A person who engages in an art, science, study, or athletic activity as a pastime rather than as a profession
- A promise or an assurance, especially one given in writing, that attests to the quality or durability of a product or service
- Evident; observable

DOWN

- A special advantage, immunity, permission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste
- To set or keep apart; disunite
- Ornaments, such as bracelets, necklaces, or rings, made of precious metals set with gems or imitation gems
- Having an awareness of one's environment and one's own existence, sensations, and thoughts; wake
- Now and then; from time to time
- The work of keeping something in proper condition; upkeep
- A weight consisting of a short bar with a metal ball or disk at each end that is lifted for muscular development and exercise
- Tenth, eleventh ...
- An instance or a means of communication between different groups or units of an organization, especially in the armed forces. A close relationship, connection, or link

[Solutions on A5]

Marines, Sailors, and cab drivers: MCAGCC will reimburse AAT licensed cab company for transportation to the Main Gate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Drivers: please legally record information from your fare's military ID card. Thank you for participating.

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Centerspeak

Did you keep your new year's resolution and if not, why?

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



LANCE CPL. ABRAHAM
MIRANDA
NOVEMBER BATTERY, 5TH
BATTALION, 14TH MARINES

"I've been able to keep all of mine. I just kept it simple."



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS ANGEL
PACHECO
MWSS-374

"I didn't make any because I can never keep them."



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2
FRANKLIN J. CUNNINGHAM
3RD MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

"I kept them all so far. People make big changes and unrealistic goals. You have to keep them realistic."



SGT. NATE GREER
WEAPONS CO., 3RD BATTALION,
7TH MARINES

"I didn't go to the gym as much as I wanted, but then again, I recently got married."

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:
evan.eagan@usmc.mil

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Cpl. Evan M. Eagan
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Lance Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes
Lance Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz

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Birth announcements

CHLOE KIIZA WATKINS

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Bronson Watkins
Born Jan. 15, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches

BAILEY JAMES HYRNE

Son of Gunnery Sgt. and Mrs. Jeff Hyrne
Born Jan. 17, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20 inches

ISABEL MAE SPARLES

Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Timothy Sparles
Born Jan. 16, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 19.6 inches

JUSTIN MICHAEL PEREIRA

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Jesse Pereira
Born Jan. 20, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 21.4 inches

VA outranks private sector in health care patient satisfaction

DONNA MILES

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Veterans continued to rate the care they receive through the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system higher than other Americans rate private-sector health care for the sixth consecutive year, a new annual report on customer satisfaction reveals.

For VA Secretary R. James Nicholson, the news is affirmation of what he called "the greatest story never told," that the VA offers top-quality care for its patients.

VA medical services received high marks during the annual American Customer Satisfaction Index, which has ranked customer satisfaction with various federal programs and private-sector industries and major companies since 1994.

Veterans who recently used VA services and were interviewed for the 2005 ACI survey gave the VA's inpatient care a rating of 83 on a 100-point scale - compared to a 73 rating for the private-sector health care industry. Veterans gave the VA a rating of 80 for outpatient care, five percentage points higher than the 75 rating for private-sector outpatient care and 9 percent higher than the average satisfaction rating for all federal services.

"Although VA has received many wonderful endorsements recently, the support of our veterans - the people who know us best - is the highest praise," Nicholson said.

The latest survey marks the sixth consecutive year that VA's health care system has outranked the private sector for customer satisfaction, Nicholson noted today during a joint interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

He called this year's results, like those over the past six years, a testament to the hard work of VA employees and generous funding from Congress and the president, who have increased the VA's budget by 57 percent over the past five years.

The results also reaffirm what Nicholson said the VA's 7.5 million enrollees have recognized all along: The VA continues to get better all the time. "It's been good for a long time, but now it's great," he said.

Over its 75-year history, the VA has created "the largest integrated health care system in the world and arguably the best," Nicholson said. Some 237,000 VA professionals provide health care to more than 7.5 million enrollees through 154 hospitals, 860 clinics and 200 veterans centers. These health care facilities are "on the leading edge of technology and safety" as they provide a model for the medical profession, Nicholson said.

A computerized medical record system - one Nicholson said he hopes will serve as a model for the Defense Department and other organizations - helps eliminate hospital mix-ups and ensures more thorough patient care, he said.

In addition, VA remains a leader in medical research, developing the pacemaker, helping pioneer the CT scan, and performing the first liver transplant, among other advances, he said. The VA has been involved in studies involving Parkinson's disease and a recent breakthrough in an immunization for shingles.

Meanwhile, the VA continues to strive to better serve its patients, Nicholson said. The department's staff is working to reduce waiting time for appointments and to ensure veterans of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan receive top priority for care, he said. "We have ramped up for them," he said, noting that the VA has already provided medical services to about 135,000 new veterans. "We are there for them and ready for them."



DENTAL CORNER

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

LT. KEVIN E. HUDSON DC, USN

The Combat Center's 23rd Dental Company, 1st Dental Battalion and the American Dental Association invite you to observe National Children's Dental Health Month. During the month of February, we want to focus attention on your children's dental health. Education, examination, prevention and early treatment will keep your children's teeth (and yours) in great shape for a lifetime. The dental officers and corpsmen of 23rd Dental Co. will be visiting selected local elementary schools to educate children and teachers on various oral health issues. Topics will include healthy nutrition as well as instruction on how to properly brush and floss.

Here are a few things that parents should know about caring for their child's teeth:

1. Decay can start as soon as your child's teeth begin to erupt into the mouth. Therefore, it is very important that parents do not give their child a bottle with milk or juice to go to bed with. Both of these are high in natural or added sugars. If a child needs something to drink when going to bed, water is best.
2. It is very important that parents start cleaning their children's teeth twice a day as soon as the teeth erupt in the child's mouth. This can be done with a variety of age appropriate toothbrushes or even with a warm washcloth. This does two things for the child. One, it helps soothe teething pain, and two, it helps prevent decay-producing plaque from building up on the teeth. It is equally important for parents to try and make tooth brushing a fun daily event. Initially, it is not really important that a young child has good tooth brushing skills, but rather that he gets into the routine of doing it. The skill will come with daily practice.
3. Daily flossing is very important. Parents should floss their children's teeth until they are able to floss by themselves (usually in the early elementary school years). As children get older and their permanent teeth erupt into their mouth, they should be taught to floss correctly. This is where a visit to the dentist can provide valuable information.
4. Regular brushing and flossing, combined with twice-a-year checkups and a professional dental cleaning is the best way to maintain good oral health.

The doctors and staff at 23rd Dental Co. encourage all active duty members to be responsible for the good dental health of their families. All Marines and Sailors are encouraged to become part of the Tricare Dental Plan offered through United Concordia.

For more information about the United Concordia Tricare Dental Program, please visit the Web site: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/dental/default.cfm>.

For information about MCAGCC/MAGTFCTC's National Children's Dental Health Month Initiative, contact Lt. Kevin Hudson via email at: kevin.e.hudson@usmc.mil.

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The few service members who attended the AFAF kick-off meeting in Palm Desert, Calif., Jan. 19 were treated like celebrities, like Navy Capt. David A. Starkey being photographed between a World War II Sailor and a former Marine.

Palm Desert charity celebrates \$100,000 to 29 Palms Marines in first year

GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

As a way to refocus themselves for the coming year, members, contributors and volunteers of the American Friends of our Armed Forces gathered at The Lakes Country Club Jan. 19 to celebrate their organization's impact and discuss its direction for 2006.

What started as a handful of Palm Desert, Calif., neighbors supporting the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots drive, has become a non-profit charity directly responsible for collecting and donating more than \$100,000 to 11 dif-

ferent Marine Corps support programs here at the Combat Center, including the Single Marine Program, Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports, the Officers' Spouses Club, the Armed Services YMCA and the resident Boy and Girl Scout troops.

Four Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 — including the unit's commanding officer Lt. Col. Drew T. Doolin and Sgt. Maj. Larona E. Armstrong — and Navy Capt. David A. Starkey, the Combat Center Religious Ministries Director, were also in attendance to show their appreciation for the good work done on behalf of their fellow service members and

their families.

"There were three Marines who came down to pick up the toys before Christmas season of 2004, and we had them sit with a group of us for dinner," explained Walter Van Benthuyzen, AFAF president, about how it all began. "We asked one Marine, 'Do you play golf?' and he said, 'No, but my boss loves it,' and within a week, we had 16 Marines down here playing golf with us."

That golf trip to Palm Desert was repaid with an invitation to the Desert Winds Golf Course here aboard the Combat Center. It was over dinner after that round of golf that the question "How can

we help the troops?" was asked. The ensuing conversation would eventually turn the group of well-meaning, retired neighbors into a successful state and federal charitable organization.

Less than one month later, those same volunteers who helped gather toys for tots, collected enough money to put together gift boxes and ship them off to Twentynine Palms Marines in Iraq.

"In each gift box, we included a list of everybody who contributed and their e-mail address," Van Benthuyzen said. "And all of us that summer started getting letters from Iraq."

"So as summer went on, we kept getting these letters," he continued. "I said to Judy,

"If we really got organized, we could make a difference."

So, with Judy, his wife, and the help of some friends with law experience, he established AFAF.

To some, the direct results of this work may be hard to visualize, because they don't always see charity in action. When Chaplain Starkey spoke at the Jan. 19 meeting, however, he attempted to bring sharp focus to that vision by describing a personal experience where AFAF helped a Marine family in need.

One child in this family of five needed regular medical attention, but one of the two cars they owned was broken down, he said. This created a complicated and expensive

one-vehicle travel plan that sometimes left the wife and children at home without transportation.

"This family was in a critical situation, and the American Friends of our Armed Forces stepped up and got that car fixed so they could take care of that child," Starkey told the assembled crowd. "It's those types of situations that the finances you have been able to make available to our Marines and Sailors go to an absolutely worthy cause, and I thank you for that."

"Thanks for appreciating us," is what the chaplain passed at the meeting, and for almost all of the AFAF contributors, who are retired, a little thanks is all they need.

"Sometimes down here, it's a resort environment," Van Benthuyzen explained. "People are going out to dinner, they're playing golf, and you lose a little bit of contact with the real world. Let's face it; this is a pretty nice way to live."

"When we go to the base...we're really seeing the heroes," he stated. "Like Chaplain Starkey said, he serves the servers, and that's what we're trying to do."

To contact AFAF or to donate time, services or money, go to their Web site, <http://www.AFAF2006.com>.

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ANNAPOLIS

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS JAMES FRANCO TYRESE GIBSON JORDANA BREWSTER "ANNAPOLIS" DONNIE WAHLBERG CHANCE CRIDE VICELIOUS SHANNON MUSIC BY BRIAN TYLER COSTUME DESIGNER GLORIA GRESHAM FILM EDITOR FRED RASKIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER PATRICK PODESTA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PHIL ABRAHAM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVE NICOLADES PRODUCED BY DAMIAN SACCANI MARK VANDERKAM WRITTEN BY DAVID COLLARD DIRECTED BY JUSTIN LIN

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

annapolis.movies.com

OPENS JANUARY 27 AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

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Pacific Marine Money Market Savings & Money Market IRA			Wells Fargo Money Market Savings		
Balance	Interest Rate	APY*	Balance	Interest Rate	APY*
\$2,500 - \$9,999 (\$2,500 Minimum Balance)	2.62%	2.66%	\$0 - \$9,999.99	0.50%	0.50%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	3.13%	3.18%	\$10,000 - \$24,999	0.65%	0.65%
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"I wish I were an Oscar Mayer Wiener..."



Pre-school children from New Horizons line up in front of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile outside the Commissary here Thursday. The Wienermobile paid a visit to the Combat Center during its tour to military installations and special events around Southern California. It came from Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Calif., Thursday morning and visits Los Angeles next. Kraft Foods sponsored the visit.

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Service members receive new benefits for severe combat injuries

CPL. SARAH M. MAYNARD
MCB CAMP BUTLER

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan — Service members who suffer traumatic injuries in combat are eligible for financial compensation as of Dec. 1, 2005, thanks to a new program under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The Traumatic Injury Protection Insurance program was part of Public Law 109-13, which President George W. Bush signed May 11, 2005. Injuries covered under the TSGLI must be sustained in combat, and include loss of speech, sight, hearing, arms, legs, and other similar seriously debilitating wounds.

"The purpose of the program is to provide compensation to service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury," said Jeffery A. Shattuck, a Marine Corps Traumatic SGLI representative. "It is not intended to serve as a long term income replacement."

"That could be something like loss of sight in one eye, loss of a hand at the wrist, or third degree burns covering 30 percent of the body or face," Shattuck said.

The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance determines payment amounts. These amounts are based on how severe the combat injury or loss of ability is and how it affects the performance of specific daily living activities, according to Shattuck.

The new coverage will be automatically added to those service members who have SGLI coverage.

"All service members covered by SGLI will automatically receive TSGLI coverage through an increase of one dollar to SGLI premiums," Shattuck said.

Service members who were injured before the initiation of the program will be included.

"Retroactive coverage will be available to any service member, with or without SGLI coverage," Shattuck said. The service member must have been injured in Operation

Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom on or after Oct. 7, 2001, but before Dec. 1, 2005. After Dec. 1, a service member must have been enrolled in SGLI to be eligible for TSGLI payments."

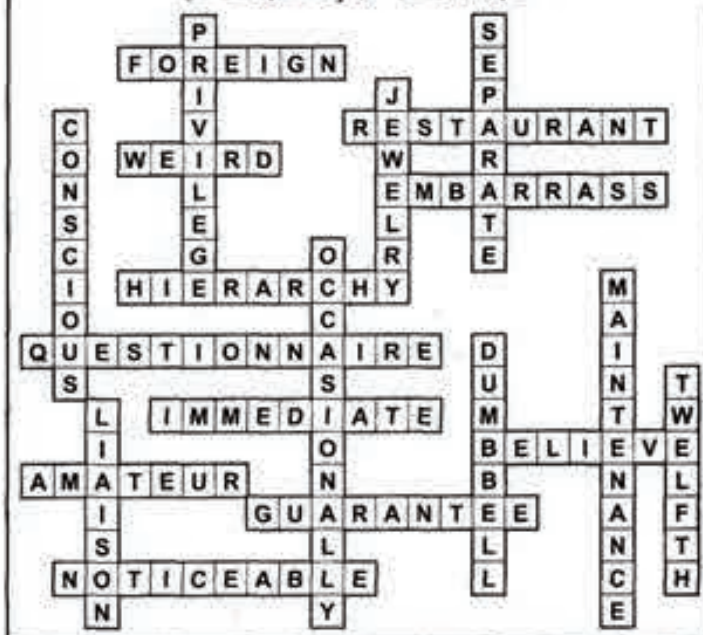
More information about the TSGLI program, including a complete list of injuries covered under the TSGLI and amount paid for each is available at: <http://www.manpower.mil/tsgli>.



CPL. RICHARD STEPHENS

Sgt. James Wright, who received the Bronze Star Medal with valor device from Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, salutes during the national anthem at the June 1, 2004, presentation ceremony in front of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. Wright was given a speed boat as appreciation for his actions while serving in Iraq.

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CA1

Some stay, some go, all proud

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the final year of a Marine's enlistment approaches, he or she may be unsure whether or not to stay in the Corps. What some Marines may not take into consideration is that there are benefits in staying Marine.

However, for riflemen with three combat deployments in their first enlistment on active duty, the stress and burden they carry may be enough to consider ending their honorable service.

Third Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, became the first Marine battalion to deploy to Iraq three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when they returned to the Combat Center July 31.

Two Marines who were with the battalion for all three deployments are Sgt. Myles G. Compton, a Tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missile gunner with Weapons Company, and Cpl. James M. Foley, a rifleman with Lima Company.

The two enlisted before ground elements were deployed to Iraq. Both Marines' intentions when joining were to protect America from terrorism.

Compton is currently serving as platoon sergeant with Combined Anti-Armor Team 1. He entered the Marine Corps when he was 20 years old and living in Springfield, Mo.

"College wasn't working out the way I wanted it to, so I was thinking about the Marine Corps a lot," said Compton. "The attacks on September 11 made my decision."

Unlike Compton, Foley knew he wanted to be a Marine right after high school. He is currently a squad leader in 1st platoon.

"My father is a retired master sergeant and my uncle is a retired gunnery sergeant," said Foley, a Sturgis, S.D., native. "I had the influences my whole life."

"I had no clue what to expect going into my first deployment," said Compton. "It all happened really fast." Compton said after the initial push into Baghdad he began to enjoy the Marine Corps more and more.

When Compton, Foley and 3/4 liberated Baghdad, they were lead by Lt. Col. Brian McCoy, battalion commander, and they made history in Firdos Square pulling down the statue of Saddam Hussein there.

"I was ready to deploy for the first time," said Foley. "I felt like we accomplished a whole lot when we got there too."

When the battalion came back from their first deployment, they trained for six months, deployed again as part of a Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Japan, and ended up deploying to Iraq again.

"OIF 2 was completely different from our first deployment for the most part," said Compton. "Our tactics and techniques



From left to right, Sgt. Myles G. Compton, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stands with Sgt. Bonel Pierre, the battalion career planner, and Cpl. James M. Foley, a squad leader with Lima Company, 3/4.

were changed, and we were under strict order of conventional warfare. All in all, OIF 2 was more dangerous than OIF 1, which made our mission frustrating and difficult."

After Compton and Foley's safe return home from OIF 2, they did not expect to be training for a third deployment, they said.

"I thought 'three combat deployments in three years might be pushing it,'" said Compton. "I felt like we were playing with fire now. But as a section leader, I knew it needed to be done. Still, I felt lucky when we returned."

"I was OK and ready for the second deployment but worried about the third one," said Foley. "I wasn't looking forward to it."

The experience Compton gained during the three deployments could not be matched anywhere else, he said.

"I am not as naive as I used to be about the world now," said Compton. "My peers can never have the knowledge that I gained being a Marine."

Compton feels his time serving in the Marine Corps was worthwhile, but has different plans for the future.

"I'm ready to go home and try something different," he said. "I plan on taking everything I learned here and applying it to a career."

Compton wants to work as a civilian contractor for the military and deal with infantry weapons systems.

After four grueling years in the Marine Corps, Foley reenlisted in October 2005.

"I am pretty proud of my accomplishments," said Foley. "I became used to deployments and training. It's hard to adjust when arriving to Iraq and returning home. It just takes time. Speaking for myself, the Marine Corps hasn't impacted me negatively. I look forward to serving more."

Although he is proud of serving three combat deployments, the life was difficult on Foley's family. The deployments were hard for his wife, Kathleen, when his daughter, Liz, was born while he was in Iraq, he said.

Foley has arranged to become an instructor at the School of Infantry.

"I need a break," said Foley. "I want to spend more time with my family. I love what I do but I need some time away from the infantry."

Compton is scheduled to end his active-duty service in April and is looking forward to working in the civilian world.

"I appreciate what the Marine Corps has done for me," said Compton. "But, I'm ready to move on. Being deployed three times was stressful for my family, in particular my wife, Kacey. The Corps is not for me anymore, and I'm ready to move on."

Both Marines are aware of the benefits of staying in the Corps. The battalion's career planner, Sgt. Bonel Pierre, speaks with every Marine about the benefits of "staying Marine."

"I sit down and talk to them on how they feel about staying in," said Pierre. "I think it's better to do it one-on-one. I tell them there is more out there in the field than just deploying."

Pierre's job is to mentor and look out for the young Marines. He shows them what the Marine Corps has to offer, he said.

"Infantry Marines automatically rate a bonus for staying in after their first enlistment that can reach past \$20,000," said Pierre. "They can go on permissive temporary additional duty for 21 days or even get duty station incentives — just in case they'd rather not be with a deployable unit. All of this depends on their rank and time of service as well."

Compton, Foley and Pierre understand why Marines choose to stay in or get out, they said. There are many reasons for their choices — all of which reflect on their experiences, said Pierre.

"A lot of guys get stressed out from combat and being away from home," said Foley. "Some say 'it's time to throw in the towel' and move on to different things."

"Deployments to Iraq aren't a pleasant experience most times," said Compton. "Some Marines may think a combat deployment is the only thing guaranteed in the Marine Corps so they may choose a different path. I wouldn't suggest anything to a Marine debating what to do. It's all up to the individual and what they want in their future."

"I think I'll go career," said Foley. "I can't see myself doing anything else. I have the support of my family about this. But for other Marines, staying in may not be what they want after serving multiple combat deployments. But, it's not like this everywhere. Eventually you get a choice of what you want, such as a B-billet. But it's the nature of the beast to serve three combat deployments in one enlistment. I think every Marine in this battalion is proud of that whether they stay in or not."

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Chief Warrant Officer 2 David M. Stabenaw, team commander, Team 3, Detachment 4, 6th Civil Affairs Group, 2nd Marine Division, hands medicinal supplies to a Fallujah resident who suffers from asthma during a recent mission.

Civil Affairs continues making positive difference

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

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines assigned to the 6th Civil Affairs Group, 2nd Marine Division, prove there is another side of the story to tell as they continue to carry out their missions to provide guidance within Al Anbar province, the largest province in Iraq.

"The stories that we don't hear enough about - the good news stories about making lives better and a nation stronger - that's what the civil affairs Marines do every day in Iraq," said Col. Paul Brier, commanding officer, 6th CAG.

The group arrived in September to help rebuild the infrastructure and assist in the transition to a self-governing people.

"We're helping the people of Iraq, and I honestly believe it's come a long way from where we were," said Sgt. Richard F. Litto, team chief, Team 3, Detachment 4, 6th CAG. "Schools have been built, roads are being repaired, water supplies are coming back into the neighborhoods, and people are actually smiling at us. That's pretty good."

Recently, members of Litto's team visited the site of one of their first projects, a school the team adopted in Fallujah.

"We followed it right through several different phases as far as assessing it, finding a contractor, obtaining funds and making payments," said Litto, a reserve Marine and native of Boston. "We went through the whole process from start to finish, and we became very friendly with administrators, teachers and students. It was pretty awesome to go from beginning to end."

The team returned to the school after the

renovation process was complete to drop off supplies.

"It was like we went to school there as kids," said Litto. "When I look at these kids, I can see my kids. We can all see our children there. That's the innocence and it makes it all worth it."

During their visit, the team also visited families in need of medical care and handed out medicinal supplies. Lt. Troy J. Handojo, medical officer, battalion aid station, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, interacted with local residents he came across who needed medical assistance.

"Although we are not always able to provide extensive medical care, we can provide basic initial therapies," said Handojo, a Covina, Calif., native. "We've seen a number of cases. It's always satisfying to be able to help the Iraqi people, and they have expressed gratitude toward us. I think, however, bigger impact in improving health in this country will come when the infrastructure is strengthened. For example, having clean, potable water, reliable waste disposal, education, health and safety regulatory agencies, and of course healthcare will all have a greater role in ensuring public health."

Litto said there is a notable difference in the attitudes of residents who come in contact with the civil affairs team, and it's a gratifying experience for the Marines who visit the markets and see people shopping and walking down the street not having to look over their shoulder in fear.

"People are coming out," said Litto. "Maybe some people don't express it as openly as they'd like to. I spoke to a man who said,

'America is good. Thank you for being here.' But he said it in a whisper."

Litto remembers an enlightening moment while on a mission in Fallujah. The team was visiting a neighborhood when he noticed a woman holding a baby in her hands at her gate. He contemplated whether or not he should walk over and give her supplies.

"You can't approach women," said Litto. "You have to stay in your lane and we're taught that with civil affairs training as far as cultural differences. I didn't make eye contact with this woman because I didn't want to offend her. I saw her child, and I walked over there with a big bag of toys and handed them to her 3- or 4-year-old child. The husband came running over and I thought, 'Oh no, What did I do wrong?' He thanked me and shook my hand."

Litto politely asked the husband if he could take a picture with his family and the mother took her baby and placed him in Litto's arms.

"That was just an incredible situation to be in," said Litto. "It was something I'll never forget. That to me was them showing respect to me."

The civil affairs team continues to improve the local environment on a daily basis leaving their footprint in the road to democracy.

"There have been some tough times in Iraq, and yes things are getting progressively better," said Litto. "But if you show people that you care about their families and that you're willing to help their families, it changes people. They can see the sincerity in it. Sure there are problems and there will be problems, but they're far and few between, which is a good thing."

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Iraqi Army recruits sit through a lecture at the East Fallujah Iraqi Camp. Normally, soldiers undergo a standard eight-week basic training program, however, because of current conflicts the training was condensed into a four-week course. The recruits are trained by Iraqi military instructors.



CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO

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Iraqi Army confident in the future of Iraq

CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO

II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Twenty-five-year-old Iraqi Army 1st Lt. Hussin, who's been a soldier for five years, smiled at the thought of a promising future for Iraq and the hopes of defeating terrorists which plague his country. When asked if he thinks whether the country will divide or remain together he responded, "Together, but not just Iraq...all of the world."

Despite the presence of insurgents throughout the country, Iraqi soldiers are hopeful their training will help rebuild a peaceful Iraq. With assistance from coalition forces the growing Iraqi Army continues to recruit and train men.

The army was developed under the Iraq Ministry of Defense after the 400,000-man army of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein was disbanded. The army is nearly 100,000 troops-strong, but the goal is to have 135,000 properly trained soldiers.

The East Fallujah Iraqi Camp, a location originally set up for operations during Operation Al Fajr, is the site of a new class of recruits ready to take on the challenge

to become Iraqi soldiers.

"We were hoping to get 700 [recruits] in here, but when they found out they were going to the Al Anbar province only 420 got on the buses," said Col. Mike Lentz, EFIC camp commandant.

The main recruiting stations are located in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul. According to Multi-National Force - Iraq, the men range between ages 18 and 35 and were recruited from Al Anbar province via advertisements and word of mouth. Upon completion of training, the soldiers must serve their country for two years.

Until now, training was conducted at one of two Iraqi Military training bases - Kirkush or An Numiyah, however, the growing need for soldiers called for other training grounds.

"The Kirkush military training instructors are very professional and very thorough," said Lt. Col. Scott Lystad, Ministry of Defense Coordinator, Iraqi Security Forces Directorate. "They have high standards. They're strict on the recruits, and the recruits seem to respond to it very well."

Kirkush instructors are

known to be self-sufficient, however, coalition forces comprised of Marines and Soldiers will advise them.

The training is condensed into a four-week course. Normally soldiers undergo a standard eight-week basic training program that includes basic soldiering skills, weapons marksmanship, individual tactics, physical training, soldier discipline and drill and ceremonies. Later they enroll in advanced courses in infantry tactics, heavy weapons, land navigation and other operational training both before and after joining units in the field.

"It's a little more advanced than what we would be teaching at a regular course because of the current conflict," said Army Staff Sgt. Travis Case, military advisor, Advisory Support Team. "We want to give them as much information as we can in a short period to get ready."

Army cadre such as Case train Iraqi soldiers in high volumes anywhere from 500 to 1,000. Although the regular training bases have better training resources than what is available here, instructors make do with what they have because of the current

demand to fill immediate requirements.

"They want to become part of something," said Case, referring to the Iraqi soldiers. "They'll endure throughout the whole course on a promise that they're going to do something for their country."

The ultimate goal for coalition forces is to turn the Iraqi recruits into effective combatants. Instilling in the recruits self-sustaining discipline that will endure after their training is complete will take strong officer and noncommissioned officer leadership to enforce it. To better train recruits, coalition forces recruited soldiers who served under the old regime. Such officers and NCOs proved to be invaluable to the mission as they provided input and advice.

"In the old army, all they knew was suffering," said Hussin. "There is a big difference between the old and new, and we try to do everything we can for these soldiers so that together we can build a new army and a new Iraq."

Although there are several differences in military eras, one noticeable difference is the amount of respect within the soldiers. Members of tribes and sects are treated

equally. Notable differences in training between U.S. forces and former training under Saddam's regime include schooling in human rights, the laws of land warfare and tolerance in a multi-ethnic team.

"There is a big difference in armies," said Iraqi Army training instructor, 1st Lt. Bashir, who's been a soldier for 12 years. "We cannot even compare it. Here we provide our soldiers with everything they need."

The army's performance is crucial to plans to draw down the number of U.S. troops in the country. Iraqi Army officials still find the need for coalition force presence.

"The coalition forces work with us together and help us to build a new Iraq," said Hussin. "Every country hopes to be left alone without anyone to help them. Us...not yet, not Iraq. We need them here. We cannot handle everything. We need support from any country willing to help Iraq."

"We have nearly 450 soldiers to make good Iraqi Army to finish terrorists," said Bashir. "God willing, we will do anything for Iraq. God willing, all of us can work together under coalition forces to make good soldiers to fight for our future."

Hashem, an Iraqi Army training instructor, admits he has not seen much improvement in Iraq, but he is confident they will be able to put out quality soldiers in the city and the army will eventually defeat terrorism in their country.

"God willing that will not be a problem for long," said Bashir, referring to the terrorists. "And if there is, every problem has a solution. We will find the solution and finish it."

Confident in their training, the two Iraqi instructors are proud to don their uniforms, in spite of fearing for their lives.

"There are too many terrorists out there, but we don't care," said Hussin. "It is our duty and we have to work on that. This is my country. If I don't fight for it, no one will."

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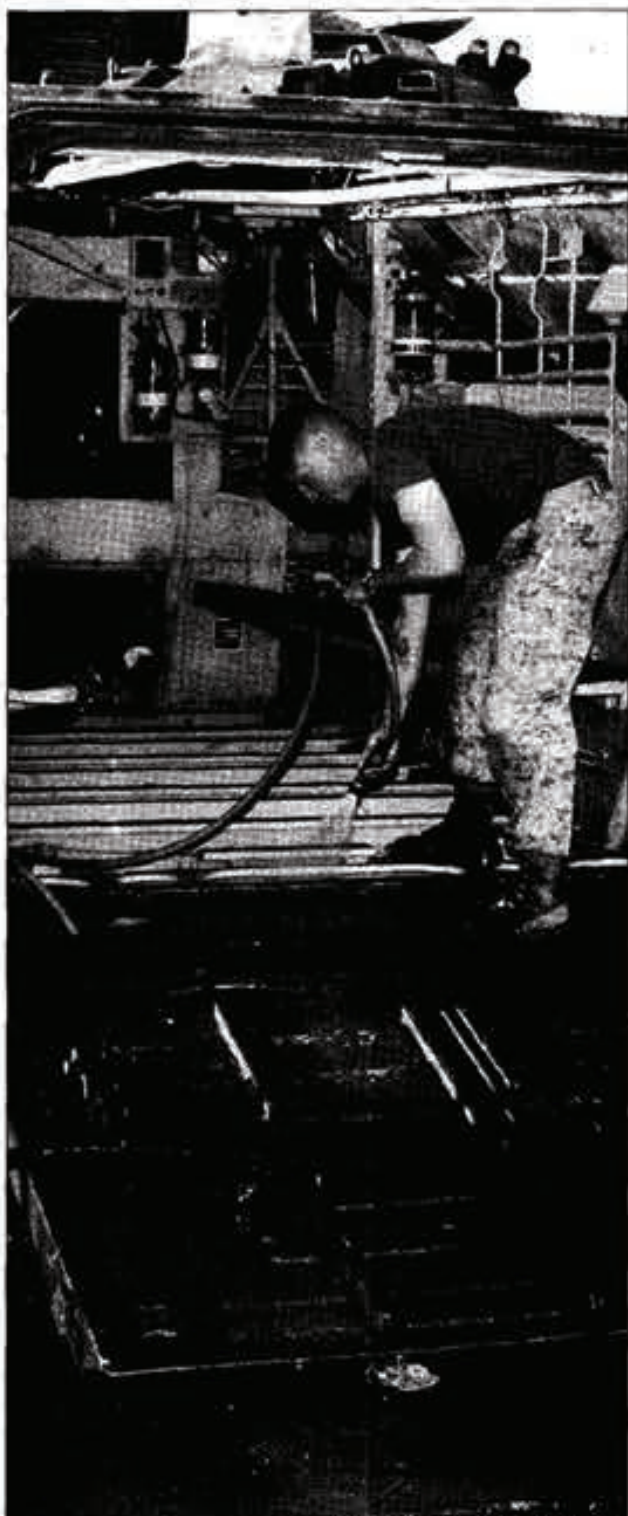
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It's an AAV but I keep it clean.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Pfc. Alexander C. Bottorff, a Blair, Neb., native, amphibious assault vehicle crewman with Charlie Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Assault Battalion, thoroughly wash an AAV Wednesday at the Combat Center's tank washes on Del Valle Drive. Charlie Company, based out of Camp Pendleton, joined forces with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, in support of Mojave Viper.

SPEEDHUMPS, A1

Marines can deploy these barricades instantly with the push of a button, but cars driving over it at high speeds tend to wear and damage the system faster, which could possibly pose a threat not only to motorists, but to military policemen as well, said Stahl.

Another reason PMO elected to install the new speed humps is to upgrade the anti-terrorism force protection level of the main gate, which would allow sentries more time to better handle a threat or emergency situation, according to Stahl.

The speed humps, not to be confused with bumps, said Stahl, will be gradual enough to force vehicles to slow, but are not as jolting as speed bumps, which are shorter and more abrupt.

"The speed of travel was the whole reason we chose the humps over others, they are rated for about 20 miles per hour," Stahl said. "We didn't want to essentially stop everyone at five miles per hour. That would severely affect traffic."

The humps are easy to install and are designed in sections that can easily be replaced if heavily-worn spots develop or damage occurs, saving both time and money, said Dollard.

Some people may have mixed feeling about the changes in speed and speed humps, but everyone should get used to them fairly quickly, said King.

"I think it will take a little while for everyone to get used to because it's going to be a change from what it's been out here," King said. "There may be a little congestion at the main gate at peak hours at first, but I don't think that it will take too long for everybody to adjust to it."



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTTILL

Lance Cpl. Ryan King, patrol supervisor with the Provost Marshal's Office, uses a radar gun to clock outgoing traffic at the main gate.

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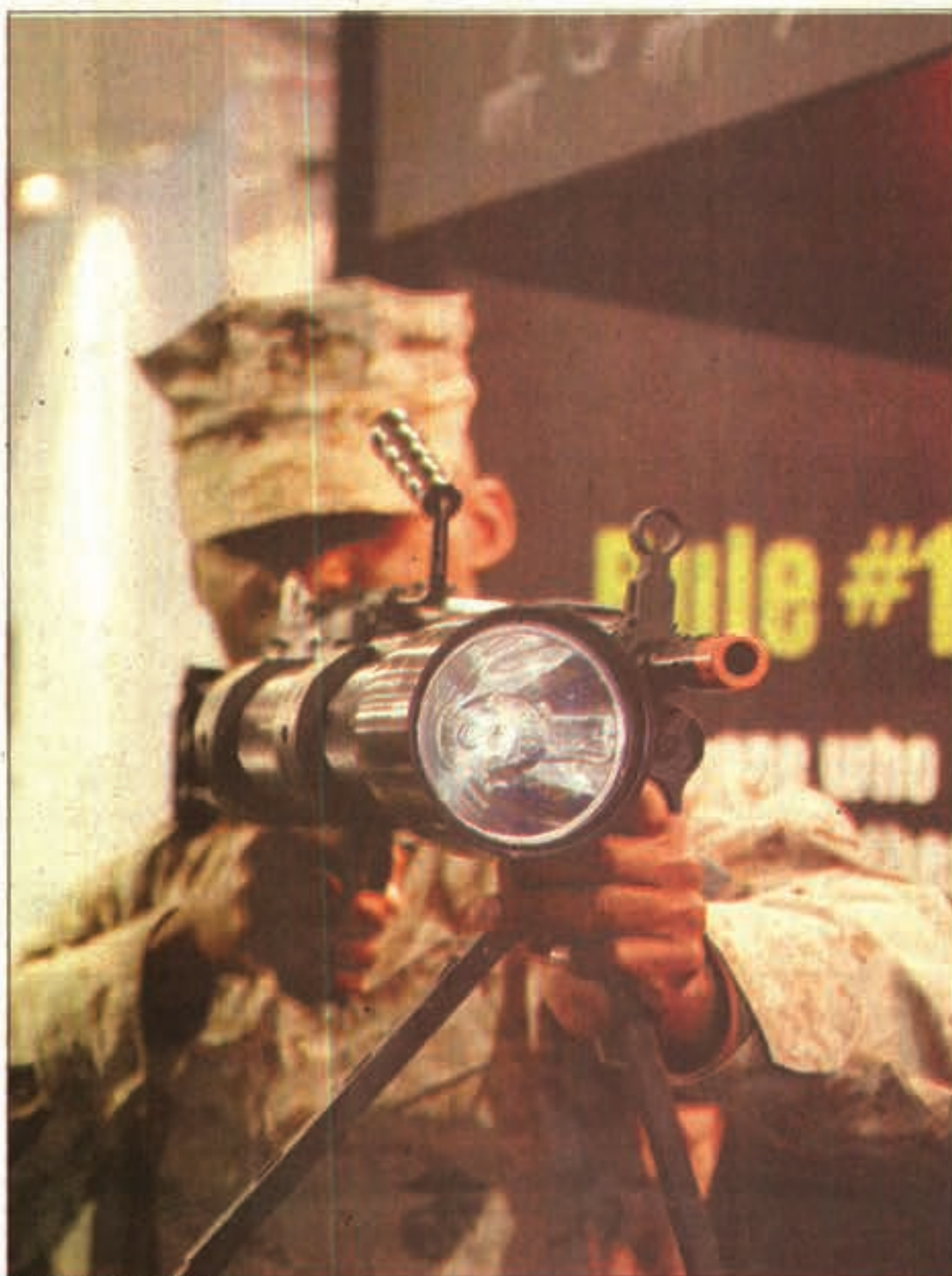
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LANCE CPL. LANESSA ARTHUR

Lance Cpl. Matthew B. Everett, personnel administration, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, tests the Night Hunter II, a rifle mountable flashlight at the Marine Corps Installations West Expo, Jan. 18-19. The NHII can be used to see objects 1,200 meters away with white light and 800 meters away with infrared attachment.

LANCE CPL. LANESSA ARTHUR
MCB CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

— Marines got a chance to see and, in some cases, feel this year's newest military gear when the Marine West Expo was held at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club Jan. 18 and 19.

Marines at the event had the opportunity to pick up a few sample items and to gather information on products from cleaning supplies to weapons' enhancements.

Products from Xenonics like the Night Hunter and Night Hunter II, which aren't typical flashlights, could prove beneficial for Marines conducting combat missions on Iraq's urban battlefield. The lights have stronger bulbs and can be modified to infrared. The NH is a hand-held or mounted light with a range of 2,400 meters with normal white light and 800 meters infrared, said Dave Henry, Night Hunter customer service representative.

The NH-II is smaller and is easier to carry. This piece of equipment fits directly on the M-16A4 service rifle. It slides onto the hand guards and sits directly under the muzzle. Its beam can reach up to 1,200 meters in white light and 800 meters as an infrared beam. One disadvantage to the light is the weight, roughly four pounds.

"It was heavy, pulling the muzzle down, but I would take it into combat," said Lance Cpl. Matthew B. Everett, personnel administration clerk, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force.

Other technologically savvy items include scopes by Trijicon.

The scope, identified as TA31RCO, can be mounted on the M-16A2 and M-16A4 service rifle and requires no batteries. It gets its energy from the fiber of tritium on the top of the scope. This gathers light all day and stores it for use during the night, Monnig explained.

Items that could be handy for operations and downtime were also on display.

Panasonic has developed a laptop called Toughbook. It has all the capabilities of a normal laptop computer, plus some, said Steve Jochim, area sales manager, Panasonic Computer Solutions Company. The Toughbooks as a whole can endure temperatures from below freezing to 150 degrees, repel water and

can be dropped without suffering damages, he said. The laptops have a failure rating of 5 percent in a combat environment compared to the 25 and 30 percent of a regular laptop in everyday conditions. Plus, the Toughbook comes with a three-year warranty, added Jochim.

"One group of Marine (flight-line maintenance) already has this technology," said Jochim. "Those Marines deploying can check out the Toughbook through our Web site (<http://www.toughbook.com>)."

These were only some of the items demonstrated at the Expo to enhance the military way of life. Many Marines left with a look at the technology the Corps is getting in the upcoming months.

"The vendors were very helpful and are giving us free stuff to accomplish our mission and make it a little easier for us when we deploy," said Lance Cpl. Christopher A. Florea, armorer, Assault Amphibian School Battalion Marine Corps Base. "They should do this more often."

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CG's Intramural Basketball tips off new season

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League began at the West Gym Jan. 19 when six teams brought their skills to the floor.

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital came out strong in the first game defeating Headquarters Battalion Team 2 65-49.

Naval Hospital came hard from the tip-off and scored within 15 seconds. They kept the points coming as Headquarters Battalion struggled to keep up.

In the final three minutes of the first half, Headquarters Battalion broke out of their shell and came back from a nine-point deficit to finish just behind at 29-28.

"We haven't practiced a lot, so I haven't seen what these guys can do," said Greg Purden, Headquarters Battalion coach. "I'd heard the hospital team was really good. We'll come back in the second half and show them what we got."

James Redmond, Naval Hospital coach, didn't seem worried about the second half and remained confident his team would pull through.

"We're going to capitalize on the mistakes they're making and not make the same mistakes," said Redmond.

Headquarters Battalion came out fighting in the second half, but could not break the Navy defense.

After nine minutes, with Headquarters Battalion still behind 49-48, Naval Hospital upped their offense and walked away with the win.

In game two, 1st Tank Battalion rolled over Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Team 2.

After winning the tip-off, 1st Tanks kept racking up points before MCCES Team 2 got their first basket nearly 10 minutes into the first half.

"First, I have to get everybody on the

same page... then it's just shutdown," said Ivory Taylor, MCCES Team 2 coach. "We get the defense up like we did in the last five minutes, and that's it — that's a wrap."

But in the second half, Tanks continued to roll on with the game to finish 44-31.

William S. Harvey, 1st Tanks coach, runs the team and the game with an intensity not seen in other coaches. He screams plays and advice to his players from the sidelines.

"That's just me — it's who I am," said Harvey. "The Marines know when it's game time, it's on time. I'll scream in their face. I'm not going to hold back — I don't sugar-coat it."

"But they know I'm proud of them at the end of the game," he continued. "If I remain intense, they'll remain intense for the full 40 minutes of the game."

Eric Cooke, 1st Tanks, said he is confident his team will take the league championship.

"This is all we need right here," said Cooke, who is currently injured but plans to return to playing soon. "Just give us the trophy."

Headquarters Battalion Team 1 defeated MCCES Team 1 in the final game of the night 51-44.

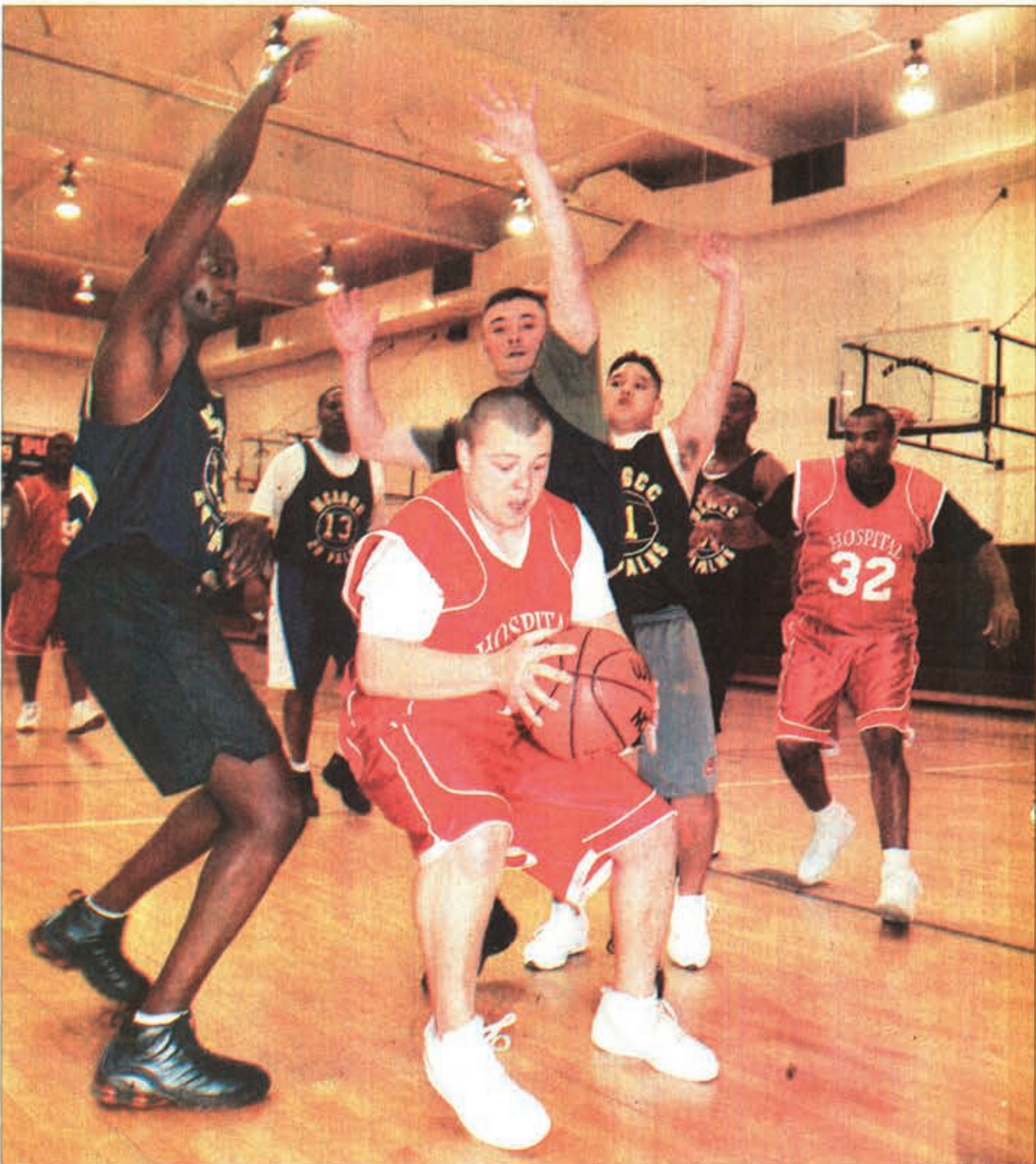
Games are played Monday and Thursday each week. Stay tuned to the Observation Post for continuing coverage of the CG's Intramural Basketball League.

Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Competition 2006 Team Standings as of Jan. 24

	WON	LOST
1. HOBN (2)	0	2
2. 1st Tank Battalion	2	0
3. HOBN (1)	1	0
4. MCCES (1)	0	2
5. MCCES (2)	1	1
6. Naval Hospital	2	0
7. 3 / 11	0	1



Antonio DeLeon, 1st Tank Battalion, puts up a lay-up against Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Jan. 19.



Michael Matysuk, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, recovers the rebound from Headquarters Battalion in the first game of the season Jan. 19.



X-Large excitement set for Motor City

BART R. KERCHEVAL
SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVATION POST STAFF

Yet again, the stage is set for an incredible match up as the American Football Conference Champion Pittsburgh Steelers (14-5) face the National Football Conference Champion Seattle Seahawks (15-3) for the granddaddy of gridiron, Super Bowl XL. To whom it may concern, the game will be televised on ABC Feb. 5 at 3:30 p.m. (PST) from Ford Field in Detroit.

For those less concerned with which commercials will top this year's finest or which party will have the most incredible seven-layered chip dip, let's get right into what we should expect from the two best teams in each respective conference.

The Steelers traditionally get labeled as having one of the most potent defenses in the National Football League year-in and year-out, but what has brought them so far this season may arguably be the leadership of their second-year-quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. His stellar performance, especially this post-season, has guided the Steelers as one of the AFC's two wildcards, making it the first time since 1985 a team has won three straight away games on the road to the Super Bowl.

An excellent cast of receivers such as Hines Ward and Antwaan Randle El, among others, gives Roethlisberger the potential for a devastating aerial assault. Running back Jerome "the Bus" Bettis, who has never won a Super Bowl ring, heads back to his hometown of Detroit to play in what will most likely be the final game of his career.

The Seahawks possess one of the most dangerous offenses in the league this year, which would still be true if quarterback Matt Hasselbeck never threw a pass. Shaun Alexander led all running backs with 1,880 yards rushing during the regular season and also broke the NFL single season record with 28 rushing touchdowns.

Hasselbeck does throw the ball though, and quite well at that, and is just as effective behind the center as Roethlisberger. Though his two favorite targets, Bobby Engram and Joe Jurevicius, have done exceptional this year, Hasselbeck is capable of spreading the ball out among all his receivers, using any weaknesses in the defenses he has faced this season.

This is the first appearance in the Super Bowl in franchise history for the Seahawks.

While both teams have excellent offenses, the old coaches' adage "Defense wins championships" will undoubtedly be proven in this year's competition. Whichever team musters the endurance to score last will most likely prevail.

Don't bother cutting your nails before hand though, because this one should go down to the wire. Expect a Super Bowl of eXtra Large proportion.



Youth Wrestling fun, challenging for kids



Aaron Vera, 6, tries to wriggle from under opponent Brandon Hudson, 7, at youth wrestling practice Jan. 19.

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For some, the visuals of competitive wrestling include ropes, breaking tables or chairs, wearing capes and skimpy outfits and maybe having a tag partner to help finish your opponent off.

For the young children who attend freestyle wrestling practice through the Community Center and Marine Corps Community Services, it's nearly all smiles as they learned there is much more to this challenging sport than what "professionals" do on TV.

"Some kids come here with a few misconceptions," said Joe Rosselli, MCCS community and youth recreation manager. "It's not like they see on TV with the ropes and body slams."

Seventeen children, the youngest a mere 4 years old, attended the class Tuesday night at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School padded martial arts training room.

The team, which has produced state champions and regional qualifiers in the past, has no girls, but all dependents of Department of Defense cardholders are welcome to join, said Rosselli, who is still accepting enrollments.

"We have a very young group this year - the majority is 4 through 7-year-olds," said Rosselli, a former coach and wrestler himself. "The class is \$20 for kids age 4 through 14, and practice goes twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday nights."

The fee covers equipment, a place to practice, uniforms, headgear, a trophy and T-shirt for the

season, which began in December and ends in spring.

Team members have the option to travel and compete in nearby tournaments against children of the same age and weight class and eventually could qualify for state or national matches, said Rosselli.

Sgt. Anteli Linares watched son Fernando, 4, while he attended his first practice Tuesday.

"This is a good program they have going here and the coaches are great," said Linares, who dabbled in the sport himself as a teen. "There are differences in ages and size, but they make sure they take their time with the little guys so they understand, but also with the bigger ones. I know it's safe for him."

"He's really happy and really excited," continued Linares. "He loves coming to the practice every time. It's great for kids, everybody should try it."

Working as a volunteer, Gunnery Sgt. Mark Hensley, head coach and a wrestler since age 11, said he not only does this for his son, but to guide aspiring young minds to succeed.

"My son was 6 when we first moved here, and because of my background, I wanted to get him wrestling," said Hensley, an instructor with MCCS' Charlie Company. "He's really taken to it and he's stuck with it, and I hope the other kids will, too."

Hensley, now 32, said he sees a lot of changes in those he coaches from the start of a season to the end no matter what their age. Common improvements are focus, self-disci-

pline, social skills, teamwork and maturity.

"I think when kids wrestle, they develop a lot of maturity," said the Franklin, Ind., native. "It's just you and your opponent out there on the mat. I think it's very important, even for kids at this age, to learn how to win and lose with grace. It teaches humility."

"Kids come here and at first just want to mess around and play, but by the end of the season, they are more focused and about as disciplined as a 5- or 6-year-old can be," he said. "But we're all here to have fun, still."

Although wrestling may seem dangerous to any wary parents due to its physicality, Hensley assures the hazard is low. Safety is a constant concern and is not taken lightly.

"It's a relatively safe sport, especially at this age," he said. "We try to keep horseplay to a minimum and keep a close eye on them. But they are young, so they are going to run around and do kid stuff, but we make sure they are safe."

Just because a child seems hesitant at first with the sport, don't count them out, coaches say, because they could be like a diamond in the rough.

"Some kids really can surprise you," said Hensley. "I've had kids who surprise me and their parents because at the beginning they are not really sure if they want to be there. But come the end of the season, they really excel and do great. You just never really know until you get the kid on the mat."

For more information, contact the Community Center at 830-3910.

SNCO Spouses Club is back, looking for members

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For spouses of staff noncommissioned officers aboard the base who want to do their part to help Combat Center families and the base community, the SNCO Spouses Club may be just what they're looking for.

The club has been recently reorganized and focused its efforts with the help of new staff leading the way.

"Myself and a few other ladies have gone ahead and are trying to get this to be a

fun, new and exciting thing this year," said Christina Curtin, president of the club who is helping bring it up to full force again. "We are trying to beef up the program and make it better. We are really trying to make this the thriving year that we push things forward."

The club, which currently has 10 members, is all about giving a helping hand to families aboard the Combat Center, Curtin said.

"Our club is all about our military families," said

Curtin, who hopes to boost membership in coming months. "We put out scholarships for military families, as well as being very involved this past holiday season with the food voucher program through the ASYMCA. We just really want to be involved with our base community here."

After passing her one-week mark as a member of the club recently, Yvette Jennings said joining was a natural choice.

"I really felt that it was a

great organization to join," said Jennings. "I knew they give out scholarships to military families and also the food vouchers programs over the holidays. I just think it's a very worthwhile cause and hope to see a lot of people come out and join."

Joining the club only takes a phone call and a payment of \$25 to cover expenses. Monthly meetings are held at Haskmarks SNCO Club, but the club is planning to have a grand reopening for their building some time this year.

Although still in the planning stages, the club will host a large fundraiser sale next

month on a date to be announced.

"Coming up in February we are going to be doing a big fundraiser event sale to start our activities off this year," said Curtin. "Our last fundraiser was a huge success, and the proceeds of this will go to some of our [family] programs."

This past holiday season, the club made a significant donation to the Armed Services YMCA food voucher program, which provided support to more than 450 families of Marines and Sailors during the Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays.

"The SNCO Spouses Club was one of the entities aboard the base that stepped forward and made a cash donation that really ensured our young families here were taken care of for the holidays," said Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker, Combat Center sergeant major, a club advisor and whose wife, Barbara, is a member.

"I think the biggest thing this club offers is the opportunity to serve the MCAGCC community aboard the base," said Ricker. "They have a lot of plans and they need a little more membership to get some of these plans to fruition and take it forward. They have some great ideas and they just need some people to help make these ideas come true."

Although their numbers may seem small now, Curtin said she is confident the group will continue to grow.

"We are looking to broaden our membership this year so we can get more involved within the base community and do some fun activities," she said. "We are hoping to do some bigger group activities, but right now we're baby stepping and just working with our upcoming events."

"There are a lot of ideas, but first we have to get the club really going strong," Curtin continued. "We are certainly carrying things in the right direction, though."

For more information, call Christina Curtin at 899-4148.

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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.

LEISURE

OEF VALENTINES PARTY

3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is hosting an Operation Enduring Families Valentines party Feb. 11 from 6 to 11 p.m. in the Mesa room at the Officers' Club. There will be a karaoke machine and appetizers. Tickets are \$5. Contact the Officers' Club for more information at 830-6610.

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. 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.

STEAK NIGHTS

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

BURGER TUESDAYS, TACO WEDNESDAYS

The Combat Center Officers' Club: Back by popular demand, Burger Tuesdays, burgers are \$2 for members, \$2.50 for Non-Members; Taco Night Thursdays, Tacos are \$1 for Members, \$1.50 for Non-Members from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 830-6610.

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The last Sunday of the month will be a special movie and discussion night at the Protestant Chapel's 6:30 p.m. service. What if all of your prayers were answered? What if you could be God for a day? What is love? Join us Sunday for Bruce Almighty. Bring an open mind, a heart for the Lord, and we'll furnish the popcorn.

Did You Know?

George Blair became the oldest barefoot waterskier, after successfully waterskiing on Lake Florence, Fla., at the age of 87.

Wood Hobby Shop offers facility for creative minds

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, Sailors and their families are offered a resource at the Combat Center that provides them the ability to create their own crafts and furniture for their homes.

The Wood Hobby Shop is one of Marine Corps Community Services' facilities that accommodate the interests of its service members who want to spend their free time enhancing their crafting skills.

Wednesday through Sunday, service members can create any wood project for a small price. Wood selection is limited to the shop's supply but patrons are allowed to bring in their own wood, said Don Miller, wood hobby shop manager and former Marine. There is an array of size and quality of wood the shop offers, most of which are cabinet- and furniture-grade wood and plywood. Miller supervises the patrons and assists them with their needs.

"People come in with an idea and we'll help them get it done," said Miller. The shop is also staffed with another woodworking specialist, Robert Henry.

The shop is also equipped with most wood working tools from heavy machin-

ery to sandpaper. All who wish to use the shop must attend a mandatory safety brief before beginning their first project. Safety briefs are held Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m. concerning machine safety and proper handling of equipment. Only one safety brief is needed to use the shop, said Miller.

The most popular wooden crafts made at the shop are home furniture, plaques, shadowboxes, speaker boxes for cars and gear equipment stands.

"If anyone feels like spending their free time building furniture or other wood crafts, the wood shop is here for them," said Miller. "I encourage all the Marines and Sailors who live in the barracks that don't have much to do during their free time to come in and see what they can make. Usually when a Marine comes in and makes a project, he brings friends for his next visit. Their projects are our advertisement."

To some Marines, such as 1st Sgt. William S. Harvey, company first sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, the shop is used to make home furniture projects. Harvey has been building his collection of military books. Space on his shelves at home is scarce, and his wife asked him to find more room or another spot for his books.

"The shop is user friendly," said Harvey, a Nevada, Ohio, native. "I told them what I wanted to make when I first came in, and they started me off. I'm three weeks into this project, and I come in most free chances I have."

To other Marines, such as Capt. Devin S. Mullen, logistics officer for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, woodworking is a hobby.

Before Mullen's last deployment to Iraq, he and his father cut down a cherry tree in his hometown, Comfort, Texas. His father gave him the scraps of the log to use. After returning from his deployment, he began the project of constructing home furniture. Three months later he finished building a rocking chair and is now working on a bookstand with the same wood.

"It's a useful hobby to have," said Mullen. "It calls for a delicate touch and technique. The skills you gain won't just apply here. It builds problem solving skills and planning skills. During a deployment, if someone tasks you with a project of constructing something, you'll know how to start the project and what to do to finish. And, when you think you've done your best on your project and feel comfortable with your skills, you can use your confidence to take a chance and try something new or different."

"I encourage any Marines with spare time to use the wood hobby shop," continued Mullen. "It encourages initiative and keeps Marines away from trouble. If you can do this and put effort into what you make, you'll find you can do a lot more."

In the shop are many projects people have started on and are close to finishing. Bed frames, coffee tables, pinewood derby cars and model boats and cars are some examples of these projects. Marine and Sailor spouses are some of the shops most frequent patrons. Anyone who wants a hobby should come in and give their creativity a shot, said Miller.

"People come in and provide enthusiasm and ideas - we will get them started on it," said Miller. "Things can be difficult to make, but it's up to the creator on how to carry on with a project. The diversity on the projects never ends. We're always available to give advice and help."



Capt. Devin S. Mullen, logistics officer for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, pencils in a line on the leg of his table where he will make grooves while working at the Wood Hobby Shop.

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.

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





HE SHOOTS. HE SCORES!

Petty Officer 3rd Class Christian A. Perez, corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, fires a slap shot against Petty Officer 1st Class James J. Ruane, independent duty corpsman with 1/7, Wednesday at the Combat Center's street hockey court. The corpsmen wanted to play a game of street hockey before their future deployment to Iraq.

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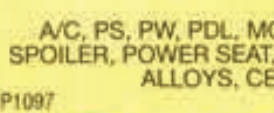
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115 INCOME PROPERTY
29 PALMS
INVESTORS portfolio top quality duplexes, & triplexes 2-15 units. All rented for top \$\$. Serious only call for info
760-408-8900

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

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

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

WANTED: Buildable
lot or acreage. Owner carry preferred, after down payment. Steven (928) 925-9776

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

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120 LOTS & ACREAGE

29 PALMS

26 acre lot, corner of 2 mile rd & Chia, flat level, in growing neighborhood. \$40,000 call (760) 567-3477

8 nice lots & acreage all good stuff, views, no flood zones, R-1 & R-3 for info. 760-408-8900

DEVELOPERS, BUILDERS, INVESTORS. 29 PALMS BOOM AREA.
Broad St & Baseline City water & electric, 7800sf sacrifice sale \$25,000. 2nd builders lot downtown area 7800sf SE corner Desert Queen & Cactus, all utilities \$40,000/obo 760-668-6857

MORONGO VALLEY
2.84 Acres in Morongo Valley. Access off Hwy 62 or Forbes Rd. Great location for commuters. Valley view from property. Electric nearby. Asking \$142,000. Please call Ann at (760) 343-1402 or (760) 834-5582 for more info.

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

WANTED: Buildable</

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

TRUCK SHELL - Like new black ARE truck shell, fits '97-'03 Ford F150 short bed. \$500 OBO. Call Jeff at 799-7885. 1/27/06

'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 OBO. Call 760-361-4075. 12/09/05

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

MOTORCYCLE - New 05' Suzuki GSX-R 750. \$9,000

O.B.O. Call 760-361-4075. 12/09/05

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

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

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

'01 FORD RANGER - Edge yellow w/lareside w/71K miles for \$8,000 OBO. 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 OBO. 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 OBO. For more info, call 407-791-2719. 10/11/05

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

PETS

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

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

MISC.

FITNESS EQUIPMENT - E-Force cross trainer \$35 OBO, DP Healthmate treadmill \$50 OBO. Call 366-8188. 1/27/06

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

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

FURNITURE - Glass-top table w/ 3 chairs. Good condition, chairs need reupholstered. \$45.00 OBO. Call 368-0349. 1/6/06

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

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

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

The Trader may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of

personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanges not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals

will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

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

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

Ads are run on a first-come, first-served, space-available basis.

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

LANDERS

LANDERS, new home, 1,400 sq ft, 2 1/2 ac, fncd, 2 car gar, frpic, w/d hupps, dishwasher, \$925/mo, 364-4889

MORONGO VALLEY

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

Guest house, w/views, water/elec. included \$575/mo. \$35 credit check (760) 808-1428

WONDER VALLEY

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

YUCCA VALLEY

2 bdrm 2 ba, w/lvng & bonus rm & frpic, sec 8 ok, \$1000/mo. + deposit. 366-9773

2 bdrm, 1 ba, fncd yd, w/d hupps, 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

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.

3 bdrm, 2 full ba, fncd yd, trash & water incl., \$1,035/mo. 365-4093

ARTIST retreat 1 ac + close to town. 2 bdrm, 1 ba, w/d, stone thru-out, \$1,000. 322-6219

AVAIL. in Yucca Valley, 3 bdrm, 2 ba, 2 car gar., 1,256 sq ft, rent \$995 + sec. dep., avail. mid Feb. for more info call (715) 643-6404 or (715) 643-2024

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

HORSE property 1 1/4 ac., coral, 2 bdrm, 2 ba., basement w/detached gar. & workshop, \$850/mo. Avail now (760) 365-1724

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 refng & micro, cable, heater & phone. Low rates! 366-1113

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

YUCCA VALLEY

ROOM w/private bath, working person to share house expenses. No smoking, drinking or drugs. 228-0517

235 WANTED SHARE

29 PALMS

SHARE 3+2, you get 2 bdrms+full house use, discount for Marines, I'm hardly home, util & phone included, \$640/mo. 760-362-3077

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.

Advertise in the Classifieds
365-3315

200 APTS. & DUPLEXES

YUCCA TRAIL APARTMENTS

Accepting applications for 1 & 2 bedroom apts. plus handicap units. Rental Assistance. Rent determined by income.

61451 Verbena Rd. Joshua Tree 366-1302

TDD 1-800-772-3140

Employment
300-399

300 HELP WANTED

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

AFG Realty is looking for professional real estate agents for their Desert Hot Springs Office. Call Steve Armstrong (760) 288-4000

AUTOMOTIVE Tech needed for busy service dept. Outstanding company benefits including 401K. References required, ASE cert preferred. Contact Bob Salo at Yucca Valley Ford Center 365-2353

BARTENDERS needed apply at 6402 Veterans Way JT

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

CAREGIVER for elderly. For more information call Maula @ 365-1546.

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

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

PSYCHIATRIC counselors, stand up comics, efficiency experts, ring masters, life of the party. Mr./Mrs. Clean & super sales persons... rolled into one. AKA Bar tenders & servers, also need line cooks, hostesses & dishwashers at The Rib Co. apply in person, both locations, YV 2-4pm, 29P 3-5pm

200 APTS. & DUPLEXES

YUCCA TRAIL APARTMENTS

Accepting applications for 1 & 2 bedroom apts. plus handicap units. Rental Assistance. Rent determined by income.

61451 Verbena Rd. Joshua Tree 366-1302

TDD 1-800-772-3140

300 HELP WANTED

COMMERCIAL, Residential & Service Depts. are hiring foreman, journeyman electrician & laborers, exp. depends on position. Drivers lic. & reliable trans. req'd. Calif. journeyman card (if applicable). Competitive pay rates, pd. time off & holidays. Med., dental & vision ins. and retirement accts. Call Briana (760) 320-4429 or fax resume to (760) 323-3302

CONCRETE Finisher, experienced only, zero tolerance, Parker Concrete. (760) 401-3233

DENNY'S in Yucca Valley is now hiring exp'd cooks. Apply in person at location.

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

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

ELECTRICIAN, Residential construction, (760) 364-4201

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

EXPERIENCED Plumber/service/repair person wanted for new company in Morongo Basin. Salary nego, must have valid CA drivers license. Call 760-367-1500 for appt.

HERT TRUCKING CLASS "A" DRIVERS

• Company Drivers
• Avg. \$38 p/m - Loaded/Empty
• Local & Part Time
• Off Weekends
• Weight Bonus
• Medical & 401K
• Profit Sharing
• Paid Vacation
• Steady Year Round Work

QUALIFICATIONS
• 1 Year Experience
• Class "A" w/ Doubles

"We're large enough to have quality equipment, yet small enough to know you"

Call (760) 248-7077 Monday - Friday

LIFE Insurance

Agent, to represent Catholic funeral plan, in Hi-Desert area. Bilingual, Spanish a plus. Call Steve (760) 406-1255

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

Roberts Realty Rentals

55971 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley, CA 92284 Phone (760) 365-1059

Yucca Valley

56594 29 Palms Hwy \$795/mo
2 bedrooms (small), 1 bath, fenced, pet OK

7775 Hopi Trail \$1050/mo
2 bedrooms, 2 bath, garage

7565 Shafter \$1500/mo
3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, Country Club area

56886 Ivanhoe Dr. \$1200/mo
2 bedrooms, family room, 3 bath, garage

Joshua Tree

61885 Apt. C Verbena \$700/mo
2 bedrooms, 2 bath

61873 Apt. A Verbena \$700/mo
2 bedrooms, 2 bath

4524 Avenida La Manana \$925/mo
2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1100 sq. feet, family room, remodeled

300 HELP WANTED

FERRELLGAS

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.Amb@ferrellgas.com, or fax resume to (760) 946-1308, Attention Tom Lamb.

SERVICE OPS Manager: Responsible for management of direct & indirect Services Operations within the Retail & Services Operations Branch. Minimum of 4 yrs experience in management principles in planning, coordinating and budgeting.

Human Resources Officer: Responsible for managing a NAF Personnel Program for approx. 700+ employees which includes staffing, position classification, pay administration, labor relations, employee development/training & equal employment opportunity. Minimum of 4 yrs experience personnel management, preferably NAF personnel. For detailed requirements see our website: www.29palms.usmccs.org. Send app/ resume no later than 2/10/06 to: Marine Corps Community Services, Personnel Office, Box 788150, 29 Palms, CA 92278-8150 or fax 760-830-8820 or email: 29palms.vacancies@usmc-mccs.org.

HOME for senior lady, for home care, room & board; ref's & fingerprinted, 228-1140 or 365-6180 must have car

300 HELP WANTED

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: bowers@bigbeargrizzly.net NO PHONE CALLS!

300 HELP WANTED

McDONALDS

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

NEWSPAPER Carrier wanted for YV route, 7 days a week, must have reliable vehicle, with signing bonus 369-2292

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

RECEPTIONIST: Full time. Good phone skills essential. Must have MS Office experience. Complete application at 54465 29 Palms Hwy or fax resume to 369-3691. Mueller Turner Company

SALES person, part time, apply in person at Sears, Yucca Valley

300 HELP WANTED

Phelps Chevrolet Nissan

is looking for fun, energetic & personable people to join our organization!

Fixed operations taking applications for: ASE certified technicians, Nissan & GM experience preferred.

Sales: looking for 4 motivated sales people to join our team at the largest auto dealership in the Hi-Desert, \$2,000/mo. guaranteed while in training (earn while you learn).

• Complete benefits, including medical, dental & paid vacations.

• Work in our brand new, state of the art dealership.

Apply in person at: Phelps Chevrolet Nissan 56916 29 Palms Hwy Yucca Valley, Ca 92284 or call for an appointment 365-2348 Sales ask for Pam V., or Gary M. Service ask for Greg B.

300 HELP WANTED

MORONGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

367-9191/365-3394 ext 225 is now accepting applications for:

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT 3 hrs per day, 10 mo per year

Computer Lab \$6,485 per yr

Special Education \$6,813 per yr

Severely Handicapped \$7,168 per yr

All Positions Have Paid Sick Leave & Vacation

REQUIREMENTS: Basic techniques related to the instruction of students. Ability to assist in teaching reading, writing and math; one year exp working with children in a supervisory or training capacity; High School diploma or equivalent required, Associates Degree desired. Passing score must be achieved on a written exam.

Applications may be downloaded from www.morongo.k12.ca.us or obtained by calling 367-9191 ext 225 and must be returned to Human Resources, Morongo Unified School District, P.O. Box 1209, 29 Palms, CA 92277 on or before: February 7, 2006 EOE/AA

305 KIDS CLASSIFIEDS

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

TEEN baby sitter, Red Cross Certified, will sit all ages Base Housing only 361-3417.

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

HANDYMAN: plumbing, elect., & auto repair. Tree cutting. 366-4697 or 366-7233. Jim WILL do elderly care, ambulatory only, call between 7am & 10am, 12pm-2pm. Evelyn 366-7752



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.

Family child care providers are required by state law to be licensed, and facility license numbers must be indicated in all advertising.

Unlicensed contractors should also be indicated in their advertising.

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

400 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Photo Ads

Get 5 editions for only \$27.00 1x2 size ad with photo and ad description.

For more information contact Linda!

The Desert Trail 367-3577

300 HELP WANTED

MORONGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 367-9191/365-3394 ext 225 is now accepting applications for: **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER CLERK** 2-3 hr. per day, 11 mo. per yr. \$11.37 per hour

Position has paid Sick Leave and Vacation

REQUIREMENTS: Knowledge of library methods, terminology and basic computer use. Library or school media experience. High School Graduate or equivalent. Associate degree desired. PASSING Score must be achieved on a written exam.

APPLICATIONS may be downloaded from www.morongo.k12.ca.us or obtained by calling 367-9191 ext 225, and must be returned to Human Resources, Morongo Unified School District, PO Box 1209, 29 Palms, CA 92277 on or before February 7, 2006 EOE/AA

300 HELP WANTED

MORONGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 367-9191/365-3394 ext 225 is now accepting applications for: **ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR** \$55,475-\$63,790 per year 12 months per year

Excellent Benefit Package **Education and Experience:** Four years of increasingly responsible and varied financial record keeping experience. Community College or Vocational School degree with study in related field, desired.

Applications may be downloaded from www.morongo.k12.ca.us or obtained by calling 367-9191 ext 225, and must be returned to Human Resources, Morongo Unified School District, PO Box 1209, 29 Palms, CA 92277 on or before: **FEBRUARY 16, 2006** EOE/AA

400 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

For Classifieds & Legals 365-3315

403 BOARD & CARE

AASPEN VILLAGECARE 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) 228-2729 RCFE 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 Alzheimer's & Dementia care. 6410 El Reposo St. Joshua Tree, Ca 92252 (760)366-3845 Lic #366409076

410 FAMILY & CHILD CARE

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

CHILD DAYCARE in 29Palms, M-F, LICENSED & ECE CERTIFIED 1 Seat available age 3yrs up. 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

NEED childcare? Stay at home mom of 3 will watch your child Mon-Fri. 6:30a.m.-5:30p.m. Great rates/ref's avail. Call Kim 760-361-0731

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

ASPHALT repairs all types, free estimates, unlic., 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 unlic.

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

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

200 HELP WANTED

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200 HELP WANTED

200 HELP WANTED

200 HELP WANTED

200 HELP WANTED

200 HELP WANTED

200 HELP WANTED

410 FAMILY & CHILD CARE

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#36511037 (760) 228-1986

CAREGIVER For Seniors

24 hr. shifts avail., including lower desert areas. All aspects of care, excellent cook. No smoking/drinking. Call Billie 366-2880

Certified with references

24 hr. shifts avail., including lower desert areas. All aspects of care, excellent cook. No smoking/drinking. Call Billie 366-2880

245 INSTRUCTIONAL

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

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435 SERVICES

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