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Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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OBSERVATION POST



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THIS ISSUE

A3 – New CLB-7 C.O.

A8 – A Chaplain's work

B8 – All-Marine Softballer

HOT TOPICS

MESSHALL SCHEDULE FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Phelps Hall (1460): Closed Sept. 2-5 for the Labor Day Holiday. Littleton Hall (1660): Open to provide all subsistence support for the Combat Center during this period. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for Breakfast Brunch 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for Dinner Brunch. Phelps Hall will reopen on Sept. 6 under normal hours of operation. The points of contact are CWO Tidwell at 830-7017 or Gunnery Sgt. Martin at 830-7017.

801 RESIDENTS A/C UPDATE

The procurement of 1,200 portable AC units is in the final stage and bids are expected to be received no later than September 5. An evaluation will be made and a purchase will then follow.

NASCAR SHOWCAR AT COMMISSARY

The NASCAR Tide show car will be at the Commissary on Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be free Tide giveaways to customers who purchase Tide or Downy products. This is a great opportunity to get your picture taken with the Tide car. Don't forget to bring your camera.

CONDOR GATE OPENED FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Condor gate adjacent to the commissary is open for the school year. Condor gate's operating hours will be 6 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, except for Holidays. Parents be sure that you adhere to CCO 1755.1, which states that children 9 and under will be accompanied while walking to school, and pleased be watchful for traffic and only use designated crossing areas.

ROAD CLOSURE

Sturgis Road between Third and Fourth Streets will be closed from now until Sept. 8 during working hours. The post office will still be accessible from Fourth Street.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

• 3/4 deploys

• Uniform Tricks

• CFC Kick off

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

September 1, 1969

The 1st Marine Regiment was presented the Presidential Unit Citation for Operation Hue City (Vietnam).

3rd LAR remembers Marines, sailor



Marines pay their final respects to three fallen comrades – two Marines and a Navy corpsman – during a memorial service Aug. 26, at the Marines' outpost in Rawah, Iraq.

STAFF SGT. JIM
GOODWIN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

RAWAH, Iraq — Just more than two weeks after memorializing four Marines killed in action, Marines serving in this region of Al Anbar Province gathered to remember three more – two Marines and a sailor – who died last week during combat operations in Iraq.

In a somber ceremony on the Marines' outpost in this Euphrates River city Aug. 26, Marines and sailors from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion memorialized: Cpl. Adam A. Galvez, a 21-year-old from Salt Lake City; Lance Cpl. Randy L. Newman, a 21-year-old from Bend, Ore.; and Hospitalman Chadwick T. Kenyon, a 20-year-old from Tucson, Ariz.

All three men were part of the battalion's Company D, which spent three months living out of their eight-wheeled, armored troop carriers – Light Armored Vehicles – combating insurgents and roadside bombs in Fallujah earlier this year.

The unit also conducted humanitarian missions in Kharmah and Habbaniyah, large towns on Fallujah's outskirts,

See 3rd LAR, A6

ESD named 2005 Logistics Unit of the Year

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Exercise Support Division was named the 2005 Logistics Unit of the Year by the Marine Corps Ground Logistics Awards Board with an award presented by the Combat Center's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, at the unit's headquarters Tuesday.

"Every great leader has a great logistician behind him," said Stone to all the Marines and Department of Defense civilian employees at the awards ceremony, as he presented the award to ESD's officer-in-charge, Lt. Col. Geoffrey W. Stokes. "I feel like a great leader because of this unit."

With 190 Marines and civilian employees, ESD managed the issue, receipting, maintenance and repair of more than 1,735 combat ready reportable items and 7,213 other accountable items, worth \$286 million,

See ESD, A9



Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone presents the Ground Logistics Awards' 2005 Logistics Unit of the Year Award to Exercise Support Division at a gathering at the unit's headquarters Tuesday.

3/14 finishes Mojave Viper, prepares mentally for Iraq

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from various active and reserve units across the country joined to supplement Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, as they prepared to deploy to Iraq as Provisional Military Police Battalion, Task Force MP, 3/14.

The unit was activated in April and finished their training with the final exercise of Mojave Viper Thursday.

"We have a little bit of everybody," said 1st Lt. Jason Kaiser, executive officer. "It's a unique situation. We joined together about a month ago, but we've come together to go to combat."

The unit was largely supplemented with military policemen from 1st Marine Division, MP Company, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, while others came from 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, in Grand Prairie, Texas; and 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, in Seal Beach, Calif.

As Marines from units across the country were joined to fill 3/14's ranks, no military occupation specialist was spared – artillery, supply, military policemen – Marines from all walks of life in the Corps were taken into the unit.

"We're a mutt company," said Pfc. Philip Lawrence, military policeman, and Birmingham, Ala., native. "We're all just stuck together, but it works out."

Many of the Marines among the unit say they are prepared to go to Iraq, and some of them look forward to the day their boots hit the dirt.

"The anticipation is killing me," said Lance Cpl. Luis Corro, supply with Battery G, 3/14, and Newark, N.J., native. "At first, I didn't want to deploy with this unit. I wanted to deploy with my own unit, but we've really come together in the last month."

While most of the 3/14 anticipates landing in Iraq, not every Marine is excited. Some of them just look forward to the experience and the eventual return home.

"I want to get 'r done and get it over with, come home and go back to school," said Willow Grove, Penn., native, Lance Cpl. Michael Berth, from



A Marine with 3/14 aims in on suspicious activity during his watch into the first night of the final exercise during Mojave Viper on Monday.

See 3/14, A8

C.O.P. Corner

Community

Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Drinking and driving can cost you

With Labor Day approaching, service members can look forward to an upcoming 96 hour liberty. Some people may choose to stay at home and barbecue with family, while others may choose to go drink to have a good time.

With drinking comes a lot of responsibility, such as obeying the legal drinking age of 21 and not letting anyone under age drink, as well as not drinking and driving. Drinking and driving can cost you a lot of money, wasted time, and possibly your career.

Did you know that the penalties for DUI or DWI in California (Maximum), are:

- 1st offence = 6 months in jail, up to \$1,800 fine and license suspended for 120 days.
- 2nd offence = 1 year in jail, \$1,000 fine and license suspended for one year.
- 3rd offence = 1 year in jail, \$1,000 fine and license suspended for three years.

These are just the punishments and along with that you also have the cost of everything else.

Vehicle towing	\$150
Storage	\$50 per day
Booking, fingerprinting, and photo fee	\$156
Drivers license reinstatement fee	\$125
Car insurance increase	
(3-year mandatory insurance requirements)	\$1,000 per year
1st offense DUI fine	\$1,400 to \$1,800
Assessment for the court system	\$816
Community service fee	\$150
DUI victims fund	\$100
Alcohol abuse education fund	\$50
DUI classes	\$550
DUI Victims' Impact sessions	\$20
Time payment charge	\$35
Public transportation for one year	\$500 to \$800

Minimum total fees, fines, and assessments \$8,240*

* If you use an attorney, the initial consultation could range from \$750 to \$1,000

After these charges you will also be subject to punishment under the UCMJ, which may include loss of pay or pay grade. Be smart and don't drink and drive.

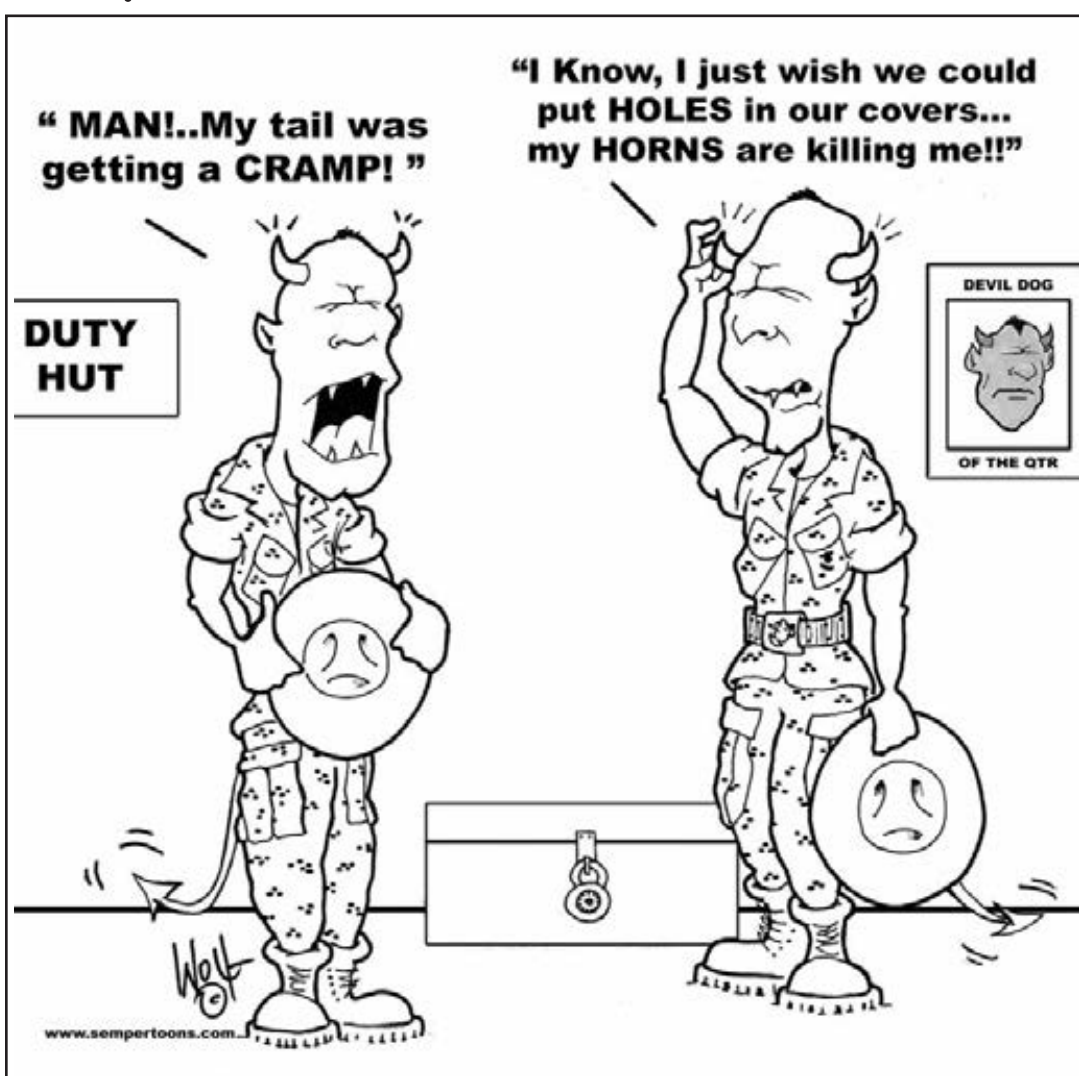
For more information go to the Web site www.dmv.ca or <http://www.dui-help.com>.

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.

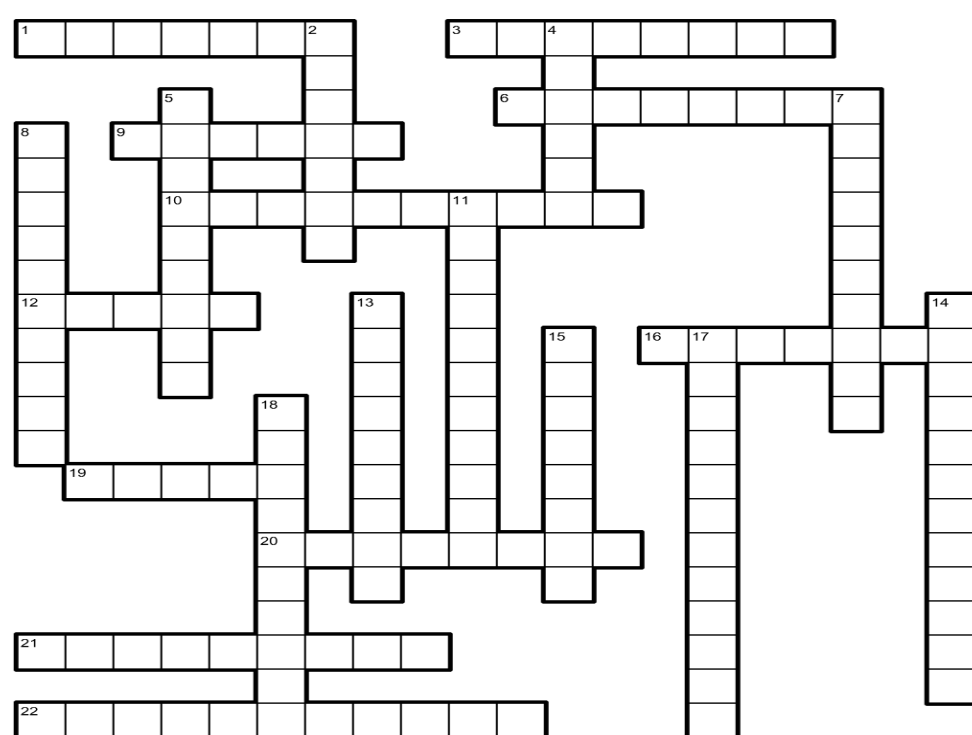
Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



NATURAL DISASTERS



ACROSS

1. unusually long periods of insufficient rainfall
3. heavy snow, strong winds and life-threatening wind chill
6. characterized by heat which is considered extreme and unusual in the area in which it occurs
9. extreme shortages of food which cause people to die from starvation
10. closely related to an avalanche but occurs with ground elements such as rocks, trees and parts of houses
12. when a body of water rises and overflows onto normally dry land
16. a giant wave of water which rolls into the shore of an area with a height of over 50 feet
19. closely related to volcanic eruption
20. event in which precipitation falls as ice
21. a geophysical hazard involving a slide of a large snow mass down a mountainside
22. very large tsunami

DOWN

2. violent rotating columns of air
4. a geologic period where the climate all over the world would change and places which were once considered habitable would then be too cold to inhabit
5. when a thunderstorm produces numerous hailstones which damage the location in which they fall
7. a disaster where two tectonic plates within the earth's crust collide and cause cracks in that area, causing buildings to fall down
8. a phenomenon where the sun suddenly releases a great amount of solar radiation, much more than normal
11. disaster in which an extraterrestrial piece of rock or other material collides with Earth
13. a depression in the surface topography caused by the collapse of a subterranean structure such as a cave
14. measures the intensity of an earthquake
15. fire that burns out in the wild
17. an eruption which is thousands of times more massive than a normal eruption
18. a cyclonic storm system that forms over the oceans

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

What would be the best place for a reenlistment ceremony?

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



SGT. JASON ST. PIERRE
HQ BN., TTECG



SGT. JOHN HARTLEY
HQ BATTERY, 3RD BN., 14TH MARINES



HM3 BRIAN POWERS
C Co., 3RD LAR BN.



STAFF SGT. JASON VAN
C Co., MCCES

"On the parade deck at MCRD Parris Island where I graduated boot camp."

"Hawaii. You can't beat K-Bay. I've never been there, but it must be nice."

"Ireland because my family is from there."

"Belleau Wood."

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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Patrick H. Brink
Sgt. Robert L. Fisher III
Cpl. Evan M. Eagan
Cpl. Heidi E. Loreda
Cpl. Brian A. Tuthill
Lance Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes
Lance Cpl. Katelyn A. Knauer
Lance Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz

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CLB-7 receives new commanding officer

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Service Support Battalion 7 received a new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony held Aug. 24 on the commanding general's parade field.

Lt. Col. Steven A. Simmons took charge of CLB-7 from Lt. Col. Drew T. Doolin, whose next assignment is with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the Pentagon.

The CLB-7 change of command was a unique one because most of the Marines from the battalion are still deployed overseas.

During the ceremony a letter was read from Brig. Gen. David G. Reist, commanding general of 1st Marine Logistics Group addressing Doolin's service.

For Lt. Col. Doolin: "Drew, your tenure as commanding officer has been marked by service in war or preparing for war, and you have risen to the occasion superbly," said the letter. "Twice you were tasked to deploy to Al Asad and support Regimental Combat Team 7 throughout the vast expanses of western Al Anbar province, and both times your leadership brought together a diverse task organized team that accomplished the most demanding missions - you never flinched!"

Reist also addressed Simmons in the letter with the highest regards and expectations.

"You join us with a tremendous reputation and your Marines and sailors will benefit from this," wrote Reist. "The challenges that lie before you will be immense, and you are blessed with a tremendous team to solve every issue."

Doolin addressed family, friends and the Marines and sailors of CLB-7.

"The Marines and sailors on the field today obviously represent many, many more because so much of my battalion is deployed, but they have done a great job today," said Doolin. "I just want to thank you for a wonderful parade. You've done an excellent job and great work. Thank you very much."

Doolin also reflected on his time spent in Twentynine Palms.

"This is a unique place, one that we have really grown to love," he said. "Thank you to Twentynine Palms. You've been a real warm cocoon kind of family."

Simmons shared how eager he was to join CLB-7 and be part of the team.

"I didn't hesitate to take this command because it meant being with the magnificent Marines and sailors out there," said Simmons.

Simmons addressed CLB-7 with a guarantee on how he was going to lead the battalion.

"I'll make you this promise," said Simmons. "I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure you and your families are taken care of because I know if I focus on that, you're going to make that mission happen. Just like you have for the past two years."

Lt. Col. Simmons

Lt. Col. Simmons was born May 16, 1967, in Columbus, Ohio. He attended the Ohio State University on a Marine-Option scholarship, through Naval Reserve Officer Training



Lt. Col. Steven A. Simmons receives the unit colors from Lt. Col. Drew T. Doolin, during a change of command ceremony at the commanding general's parade field, Aug. 25.

Corps. While at Ohio State, he attended Officer Candidates School at Quantico, Va., and received the Board of Governors of the Marine Corps Association Honor Graduate Award and, during his senior year, he was battalion commander for the 250-man NROTC unit. He graduated from Ohio State in March 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

In March 1990, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and attended The Basic School at Quantico, from April to October. After graduating from TBS on the Commanding General's Honor's List, he attended the Basic Engineer Officers Course at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and received his military occupational specialty of combat engineer officer. Following his MOS school, he reported to 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group and was assigned at the project officer for the L-5 M-60E Machine Gun Range where he supervised the construction of the 60 acre, 250 pop-up target range. He then assumed duties as the platoon commander and embarkation officer for Company A and deployed to Honduras to participate in Ahaus Tara '92. While in Honduras, he was the project officer for the construction of two school houses. After returning from Honduras, he attended the Engi-

neer Equipment Officers Course at Marine Corps Engineer School and earned the additional MOS of engineer equipment officer. From August 1992 to April 1993, he was the equipment platoon commander for C Company. In April 1993, he assumed the duties of assistant operations officer and became the Headquarters and Service Company Commander.

In May 1994, he was selected for promotion to the rank of captain and transferred to Recruiting Station Nashville, Tenn., for assignment as the officer selection officer. From 1994 to 1997, he recruited future Marine officers from the college campuses of Tennessee, Northern Alabama, and Northern Mississippi. In 1997, he was transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. to attend the Engineer Officer Advanced Course with the U.S. Army. Capt. Simmons graduated second in his class of 60 officers and received the Assistant Commandant's Award. While in Missouri, he completed a masters degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a 4.0 GPA. In June of 1998, Capt. Simmons reported to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division and commanded Engineer Support Company from July 1998 to July 1999. In July 1999, he was promoted to major and transferred to

Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division where he commanded Headquarters and Service Company. In July 2000, Maj. Simmons transferred to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. At NPS, Maj. Simmons studied computer science and graduated with a Masters of Science in September 2002.

Following graduation from NPS, Maj. Simmons reported to Marine Corps Systems Command where he was the assistant program manager for Manpower Information Systems and the project officer for the Total Force Administration System and Marine Online. As project officer, he

managed over \$22 million in systems development and hardware procurement. He led the development and fielding effort of the modern Marine Online that allows individual Marines and unit leaders to perform administrative tasks via a globally accessible web application and centralized database. During 2005, Maj. Simmons volunteered for an individual augmentation billet with Central Command and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq for six months as the Marine representative with the CENTCOM Deployment Distribution Operations Center. Maj. Simmons was transferred in July 2005 to Marine

Forces Pacific headquarters at Camp Smith, Hawaii, for duties as the Force Engineer, G-4 and was promoted to his present rank in October 2005. He was selected for battalion commander during fiscal year 2006 of CLB-7 based in Twentynine Palms, CA.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals and two Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals. Lt. Col. Simmons is married to the former Laura Catherine Cary from Nashville, Tenn., and they have twin 2-year-old sons, William and Alden.

New batch of Iraqi medics graduate, ready for service with Iraqi military, police units

CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

CAMP AL QA'IM, Iraq — When Iraqi soldiers and policemen here are wounded in combat, they used to rely on U.S. service members to patch up their wounds.

Not anymore.

Twenty Iraqi soldiers and police officers serving near the Iraqi-Syrian border graduated from a combat medical course earlier this month, enabling them to now provide their own emergency care.

The five-week course taught by coalition forces at the Iraqi camp here will allow wounded Iraqi soldiers and policemen to receive medical care from their own medics, lessening their dependency on U.S. medical personnel. The graduation marks another step for the Iraqi military to become a self-sustaining force.

"The Iraqis will continue to provide security in the region as they've been doing. Only now when they're wounded, they will be taken care of by their own medics," said Lt. Col. Paul K. Lebidine, Military Transition Team Chief for the 3rd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division.

Transition teams are teams of U.S. service members responsible for mentoring and advising the Iraqi Army.

The course is the first of its kind for Iraqi Security Forces serving in this western Al Anbar Province region along the Euphrates River. The course is designed to teach the Iraqis what U.S. medical personnel deem the most crucial life-saving skills in order to treat casualties in combat.

From learning procedures to stop life-threatening bleeding, treating patients for shock and applying bandages, the Iraqis learn everything U.S. medical personnel use to treat soldiers in combat.

The Iraqis were tested on their knowledge of the medical procedures with written exams and numerous hours of practical application.

"I am very pleased with what I've seen from the Iraqi students as they've been studying hard, attending classes every day and showing their instructors what they've learned," said Lebidine. "Now they get to show their soldiers and policemen what they've learned."

In the past, Iraqi soldiers here relied entirely on U.S. medical personnel for all their medical needs. Some months upwards of 30 Iraqi soldiers are treated at the Marines' medical facility here, according to Navy doctors here.

The 20 graduates will embed with Iraqi military units throughout the various outposts where Iraqi soldiers and policemen serve side-by-side with Marines.

The plan is to outfit Iraqi Army outposts with at least one Iraqi medic, according to Marine officials with the military transition team.

Iraqi police officers in the region also aim to benefit from the placement of medics there as they have been the target of terrorist attacks in the past.

Just two months ago, two separate insurgent attacks on the police station in Husaybah, a city of about 50,000, left five police officers dead — there was no medic on-site. In the city of Ubaydi, a city of about 15,000, a suicide bomber wearing a vest targeted Iraqi soldiers manning a security post at the city's hospital — fortunately a Navy corpsman was nearby.

With the newly-trained police medics, the police department in Husaybah will have an on-site emergency medical provider in case future attempts are made on the police there rather than rely on U.S. servicemen to respond, said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricardo Villanueva, the assistant instructor for the transition team and a U.S. Navy corpsman.

Once the Iraqi medics are assigned a duty station they will continue to be mentored by Navy corpsmen who serve alongside Marines at the outposts.

"The Iraqis won't be out there on their own," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alfredo N. Alonso, a medical chief with the police transition team here.

"The Iraqis will continue to work one-on-one with their American medic counterparts and eventually they will teach combat lifesaving skills to the rest of the officers in their departments," said Alonso, 30, a native of Long Beach, Calif.

Although the new medics will continue to be mentored by Navy corpsmen at military outposts throughout the Al Qa'im region, Iraqi soldiers will now rely on their own medics to receive medical treatment — an important step towards ensuring the Iraqis become completely independent by year's end.

"I have been with these students nearly 'twenty-four-seven' in and out of the classroom," said Villanueva, 24, a native of Baltimore, Md. "The students are with me when I'm working at the medical clinic and they are constantly learning how to actually treat patients."

Some of the Iraqi soldiers had prior medical experience including one student who had studied medicine for two years at the university in Baghdad. Others had no medical experience although Villanueva said most of the students were somewhat educated and had no problems picking up the material.



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS

A soldier with 3rd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, injects another student with sterile water during the testing portion of the combat medical course for Iraqi soldiers and policemen serving near the Iraq-Syria border.

"I am glad that the training is finally over and I can start to show what I've learned," said a 30-year-old newly-graduated Iraqi medic through an interpreter who chose to remain anonymous. "It has been long hours in the classroom but I know what I've learned is important to save lives."

Some of the Iraqi soldiers and police officers who serve in Al Anbar Province choose to remain anonymous, and some-

times refuse to have their picture taken for fear of being targeted by insurgents, although the Marines here say that every day less Iraqi soldiers are concealing their faces with wool covers.

Although just 20 Iraqis graduated the course, the Americans deem it an important stepping stone for the Iraqis' progress towards operating independently, and allowing U.S. Forces to leave.

3rd LAR, from A1

and they provided security for a raid which resulted in the capture of a high ranking terrorist in Haditha, according to a July 7 report from Cpl. Graham A. Paulsgrove, the battalion's combat correspondent.

For weeks at a time, the company lived out of their vehicles, slept inside or next to them, seldom returning to a base for a hot meal or shower, according to Paulsgrove's report.

"They were Dragoon's warriors. They were real warriors," said 1st Sgt. Willie T. Ward III, of Galvez, Kenyon and Newman during the ceremony. Ward, a 38-year-old from Warner Robins, Ga., is the company's senior enlisted advisor. "They were Wolf Pack. They were my brothers. I loved them."

The deaths of the three men came on the heels of the deaths of four other Marines from the very same platoon within Company D: 2nd platoon. Sgt. Christian B. Williams, a 27-year-old from Winterhaven, Fla.; Cpl. Phillip E. Baucus, a 28-year-old from Wolf Creek, Mont.; Lance Cpl. Anthony E. Butterfield, a 19-year-old from Clovis, Calif.; and Lance Cpl. Jason Hanson, a 21-year-old from Forks, Wash., were all killed due to combat operations here Aug. 2.

They were memorialized in a similar ceremony here Aug. 10. Galvez, Kenyon and Newman attended that ceremony.

During all of their exploits in eastern Al Anbar Province, no one from Company D was killed. All six of the battalion's deaths occurred during combat operations in this region of western Al Anbar province.

"It's too soon since the last time we were remembering the loss of another group of Marines from the same company, from the same platoon, which has borne so much of the share of our losses during this fight," said Lt. Col. Matthew L. Jones, the battalion's commanding officer, during the service.

"These men – Adam Galvez, Chad Kenyon, Randy Newman – they lived for a lot more than just what was going on over here," said Jones.

During the ceremony, Marines from Company D's 2nd Platoon took turns speaking about their fallen comrades before a final roll call of the company's men, and the playing of Taps.

Lance Cpl. Gary M. Cassen, a 19-year-old from Cofax, Calif., remembered Kenyon as a "person of principle, who did everything he could to the best of his abilities."

Kenyon, who joined the Navy in August 2004 and 3rd LAR Battalion in May 2005, was someone who would "put his life on the line for others," said Cassen. In fact, he was "glad to do it."

"The Marine Corps and the Navy were lucky to have a person of this caliber," said Cassen. "Chad loved his Marines as much as he loved his Navy."

While Company D was in Fallujah, Kenyon treated several casualties, including one Marine who was shot in the chest. Luckily, the Marine's body armor stopped the enemy round from penetrating.

"Rounds would start going off and Chad would be in the front running and gunning," said Cassen, who also spoke in remembrance of Butterfield during the unit's Aug. 10 memorial service. "After everything had calmed down, we would be like, 'Hey Chad, you need to stay in the vehicle until someone gets hurt.' But he would look you dead in the eyes and say, 'And what? Let you have all the fun?'"

Less than three weeks before his death, Galvez was promoted to his current rank in Al Asad, Iraq – a large, U.S. military airbase southeast of Rawah – where he was recuperating from previous combat injuries.

An LAV mechanic by trade, Galvez, who joined the Marine



CPL. GRAHAM A. PAULSGROVE

During a July 1 patrol through western Al Anbar Province, Iraq, Lance Cpl. Randy L. Newman, 21, from Bend Ore., inspects gear before heading out. Newman was one of three U.S. service members from Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion who was killed in action last week while on patrol in Rawah.

Corps two years ago this month, was transferred from the battalion's Headquarters Company to Company D as a replacement driver while the unit was in Fallujah. He was "always willing to go the extra mile" to help others, according to Lance Cpl. Alberto Garcia, a 22-year-old from Corpus Christi, Texas, and scout for Company D's 2nd Platoon

"He was a real motivator when he came to us," said Garcia. "He was our driver and our mechanic, but most of all he was a great friend."

Garcia recalled when Galvez was injured – a roof fell on him and several other Marines after a suicide bomber detonated a truck laden with explosives near a U.S. military outpost in Rawah. Galvez told Garcia that he believed his ankle was broken, but when Garcia went to get help, Galvez freed himself from the rubble, ignored his pain, and tried to help others injured from the blast, according to Garcia.

"He grabbed his weapon, hobbled around, he helped me dig the rest of the Marines out," said Garcia. "Even after help got there, Doc Kenyon had to force Cpl. Galvez to get (medically evacuated) on the vehicle."

Moreover, Garcia said Galvez was a person of strong character, and turned down the opportunity to return to the U.S. after he was injured.

"He decided to stay side-by-side with his platoon until this deployment was over," said Garcia. "This goes to show you what kind of person, and more importantly, what kind of Marine he is."

"I think I speak for everybody – we love you, we miss you, take care, God bless," said Garcia.

Cpl. Benjamin T. Bosse, a 25-year-old from Coopersville, Mich., and LAV "gunner" for 2nd platoon, said Newman was "from Oregon, and damn proud of it, but yet, he was even prouder to be a Marine."

"He wasn't just any Marine, he was a brother to us. He joined our family," said Bosse, who was Newman's roommate back in the U.S. "He will be remembered, not as a Marine, but as a brother."

Newman was also a man with goals, said Bosse, who always had dreams of "becoming this, or becoming that."

"I remember him ...telling me, 'You know, I may be a driver, but I'm gonna be a gunner,'" said Bosse. "And it happened – he was a gunner."

Following the ceremony, the hundred-plus Marines, sailors and soldiers in attendance filed off to pay final respects to the fallen Marines' and sailor's memories, represented in true military fashion at the service – military helmets set atop three rifles, stuck bayonet-first into a wooden pedestal and adorned with each fallen Marine's dog tags draped around each rifle's hand grip.

"We can't look at this as though we've lost two Marines and one Navy corpsman," said Cassen. "But as if we've gained three guardian angels."

"What's important to remember, is that they weren't just Marines and sailors," said Jones. "They were your friends, your brothers."

Third LAR Battalion, which is based out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., is part of Regimental Combat Team 7, and arrived in Iraq in March.

RCT-7 is the U.S. military unit responsible for providing security and mentoring Iraqi Security Forces in western Anbar – an area more than 30,000 square-miles in size which stretches from the Jordanian and Syrian borders hundreds of miles east to Hit, a city about 70 miles northwest of Ramadi.

This is the battalion's third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The battalion will be replaced by another Marine unit later this year.

Local girl who befriended Marines, sailors needs immediate surgery to live

CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

CAMP AL QA'IM, Iraq — After befriending Marines and sailors serving in this region of Iraq, a 12-year-old Iraqi girl in need of a kidney and liver transplant is now in a life-or-death struggle.

Hadael Hamade, a young Iraqi girl from Karabilah, Iraq, a city of about 30,000 near the Iraq-Syria border, desperately needs life-saving surgery in order to live, according to U.S. Navy physicians who have treated her on occasion in recent months.

The girl befriended Marines from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment — the U.S. military unit assigned to provide security in this portion along the Euphrates River — months ago when the Marines were on patrol in the city.

"When we first saw Hadael several months ago, she was walking," said Navy Lt. Mark D. Rasmussen, an anesthesiologist with the surgical suite here. "Now she can't move much. The Marines needed to carry her from her house to the humvee, and from the humvee to the surgical suite here."

Since then, U.S. military forces here have regularly checked-up on the girl, evaluating her condition.

Hadael's father, Ahmed, a 46-year-old school teacher, sought the aid of Marines and sailors, stating that doctors in his country cannot help his daughter, according to Navy doctors here.

After losing four children to kidney disease, he's not ready to let his 12-year-old daughter suffer the same fate as her brothers and sisters, he said.

"If I need to go to outside of Iraq to help my daughter, I will go," said Ahmed through an interpreter. "I will do anything to help my daughter stay alive and I am thankful for anyone that wishes to help me in any way."

But that's not enough to save the girl. She needs immediate surgery, and regular medication, to sustain her. That procedure and follow-on care, though, could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars — money Hamade's family doesn't have, and medical treatment Iraqi doctors are unable to provide, according to Ahmed.

Hadael recently received medication which doctors say will prolong her life a bit, medicine donated by several U.S. non-government agencies.

But the medicine is a temporary fix to a much larger problem. Without a kidney transplant and further treatment, Hadael will die, according to Navy Capt. H.D. Elshire, the officer-in-charge of the Marines' medical facility at their camp at this border city.

The surgery is just the start, as Hadael will require life-long medical care if the kidney-liver transplant is successful. That, the Marines say, will require a life-time of medication, and plenty of funding to purchase that medicine.

"If she doesn't get it soon,

her chances of survival are pretty dismal," said Elshire, 55, a Huntington Beach, Calif. native. "There is no help for her here in Iraq as the doctors in Baghdad don't have the resources to help her."

Hamade's case has recently garnered attention in the U.S. after several non-profit organizations and a congressman from California learned of her situation. Her case was first brought to their attention upon the death of a Marine killed here, who just days before his death vowed to help the girl by bringing it to the attention of his chain of command.

Lance Cpl. Aaron W. Simons, a rifleman with the Marines serving in Karabilah, met the dying girl during a midnight security patrol through the city, according to the girl's father.

Simons befriended the family and wanted to help Hadael's father find help for his daughter, according to Simons' best friend, Cpl. Ian Kutner, who also visited the family several times.

"I remember the young Marine (Simons) and how he was interested in getting help for my family," said Ahmed. "I am very sorry for his death. Without him I would have never gotten help for my daughter."

Several months ago, Hadael had become very ill in the middle of the night and her father ran out into the street for help. He knew the Marines were near-by, said Ahmed. A few days later she was taken hundreds of miles east to a medical center in Baghdad, but the doctors there could do nothing for her, he said.

"She was evaluated, and they (doctors) basically said, 'The prognosis is too poor, you're too sick,' and they sent her home," said Lt. Col. Larry White, director of a civil military operations center for the Al Qa'im region.

Due to a lack of medical resources in this region capable of handling cases of this nature, four of Hadael's siblings have died from the very same hereditary kidney failure now claiming her life, said Ahmed.

The disease, called "Oxalosis," began in Hadael's liver, where it limited her liver's metabolizing capabilities. That began a chain reaction of deterioration, affecting her other organs — specifically her kidneys, causing permanent kidney failure. The dis-



CAPT. MIKE ALVAREZ

Ahmed, a 46-year-old school teacher in Karabilah, Iraq, comforts his 12-year-old daughter, Hadael, while Navy Cmdr. Tara J. Zieber, a U.S. Navy medical director, checks Hadael's vital signs. Hadael is in desperate need of life-saving surgery in order to live, according to U.S. Navy physicians who have treated her on occasion in recent months. Hadael suffers from a disease called "Oxalosis," which causes permanent kidney failure.

ease has caused Hadael to appear small for her age, ill-appearing and has zapped her energy — she is too weak to walk, U.S. doctors say.

The disease is prevalent in the Middle East and is the leading cause of renal (kidney) failure in Iraq, according to Elshire.

Nevertheless, concern for this region's healthcare system have been expressed. The governor of Al Anbar Province, an area roughly the size of South Carolina, made a pledge to improve local medical resources in the area, including the construction of a new hospital, when he made a tour of Al Qa'im last month.

Ahmed has sought the aid of the Americans because professionals in Iraq have already given up on saving his daughter's life, he said.

When Ahmed learned that his daughter had the same disease his other children died from, he took her to the local hospital in the nearby city of Husaybah, where doctors there told him that they could do nothing for her. He went to Baghdad where Iraqi doctors gave him the same story — they could do nothing.

Without treatment, Hadael's health began deterio-

rating. That is when Ahmed sought the help of the Marines.

"She is alive right now because of the Americans," said Ahmed. "My other children died because there is no medicine here in Iraq."

Of the few U.S. medical centers with the facilities to handle special circumstances like Hadael's, two have turned her case down, according to White.

"They're explanation was that aside from the fact that the cost of treatment would be extreme...this would put this girl and her family through a tremendous ordeal to get them to the States and transplanting organs and still might have pretty low odds of success with the case," said White, a 39-year-old from St. Paul, Minn.

"Their point is that, do we put these people through this? Do we spend this kind of money on a case that in all likelihood is not going to be successful?" he said.

Hadael has enough medicine for the next six months, thanks to donors in America.

Now, a permanent solution is a race against time — finding an answer to her problem may take years — something her family can't afford, according to the medical personnel here.

"She needs a kidney-liver transplant now," said Elshire. "The longer they wait for a donor, the less chance she has of living."

Even if Hamade receives a financial sponsor and medical institution willing to perform the surgery, there is also the likelihood that her whole family may have to relocate outside Iraq for her to receive the long-term follow up care that she will require, according to White.

For now, Hadael will make regular trips to the Marines' base to receive her weekly medicine which is intended to raise her blood count, until a solution can be found through

the work of non-profit organizations around the world.

The Marines say they will continue to visit Hadael's family from time to time.

"Hadael doesn't move around much because she is tired all the time," said Kutner when he and other Marines visited the girl recently. "Other than sit in the living room watching TV, she can't do much."

Hadael's father says she doesn't play with the other kids in her neighborhood and doesn't smile much anymore, although when the Marines come around she smiles a bit more.

Staring at his daughter as she lies on a green stretcher, receiving medication inside the Marines' medical facility in Al Qa'im, Ahmed says that now, "all that is left to do is wait."



How to Keep Mishaps Off Your Barbecue Menu

DEREK NELSON

NAVAL SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

One of the real treats of summer is a hamburger right off the grill. Probably the best part of a freshly grilled burger is that you get to customize it: slice of cheese, pickles, ketchup, onions, and maybe a few hot peppers. The only real challenge is to decide if you want to get a second one, or maybe shift gears and go for a hot dog. Yes, life is full of tough decisions.

Firing-up the grill seems like a fairly straightforward procedure. But, there's always the opportunity to turn a barbecue into an accident, which can result in a trip to the hospital.

A young seaman went to light a gas grill with the propane valve leaking. He put in a hand-held gas igniter to light the grill. The accumulated gas from the leaking valve ignited, flaring up 3 and a half feet. He suffered burns to his face.

Trying to restart a grill, a petty officer 2nd class sprayed lighter fluid onto the hot coals. The flames rushed up and ignited the container. The container exploded in his hands, causing third-degree burns. The damage from the burns was enough to require skin-graft surgery.

Here's how to make sure that starting a fire or getting burned isn't on the menu.

- Keep your grill at least 3 feet away from your house, porch, shed, trees, or bushes.
- Use starter fluid that is specially made for barbecue grills. Follow the instructions about how to apply and light it.

- Don't squirt starter fluid on a fire after you've already tried to start it.

- Never use gasoline to try to start or restart charcoal. Gasoline is incredibly explosive and dangerous.

- If you have a gas grill, make sure you read and follow the instructions about how to use and store it.

- Make sure the valves work and that you are completely familiar with how to use them. Also know their purpose. Make sure they are off when you aren't using the grill.

- Store gas cylinders outside, and keep them away from buildings.

- If your gas grill needs repairs, take it to an authorized dealer or repair shop.

- Keep children away from the grill while you are cooking and after you finish—while the grill still is hot and when hot coals remain.

- Don't leave lit grills unattended.

Just as important to safely operating the grill is making sure the food you're preparing is safe to eat. While you enjoy a nice, hot, summer day, remember to keep meat chilled until you're ready to cook. Wash your hands, utensils, and cutting boards to avoid bacteria contacting meat. Make sure meat is cooked thoroughly by using a meat thermometer. Meat must reach a temperature of 160 degrees before it is safe to serve. If you have any doubt about whether the meat is safe to eat, throw it out.

For more information on food preparation and storage, visit University of Illinois Extension, "Outdoor Grilling": <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/grilling/index.html>

3/14, from A1

Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 in Elkton, Mass.

The sergeants were given the time to train their own Marines first to better prepare them before coming together. With the added training before joining, they became more cohesive as one fighting unit, said Sgt. Adrian Perez, Battery D, 2/14.

"The Marines need to have a combat mindset before they go to Iraq, always have the mindset," said Perez. "Once you're there, it's too late.

The military policemen from Camp Pendleton added their own experience to the Mojave Viper training to give the Marines an added bonus and discard misunderstandings about their job before becoming a military police battalion in Iraq.

People are often confused about the actual duties of an MP, said Staff Sgt. Melvin Miller, military policeman with MP Company. He described an MP as a "grunt with a badge."

"There's a big misconception about MPs," he said. "We don't sit around in squad cars. We don't man gates. We're field MPs. Everything we're doing here in the Mojave Viper, we'll be doing in Iraq."

The Marines, most were working civilian jobs or going to school not long ago, evolved over the last couple months of training into a ready fighting force. While missions change, a Marine's readiness for combat will not.

"They've come a long way since we got them, said Miller. "In the short amount of time we've trained them, they succeeded. They learned to adapt. There's no doubt in my mind, if the mission changes when we get there, they'll be able to adapt."



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Marines with 3/14 and interpreter Hassanin Aljafer, meet with a role player at Range 200 during their Mojave Viper exercise on Monday.

America Supports You: Program helps wounded vets find new jobs

SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Severely injured service members and their spouses are seeing doors open to meaningful civilian careers, thanks to a partnership between the Defense Department and the private sector.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense, DoD's Military Severely Injured Center and Military.com — a private organization that provides information and serves as a networking hub for current and former military people, defense workers and their families — are co-sponsors of "Hiring Heroes."

Hiring Heroes helps connect service members with DoD and other federal agencies, as well as civilian companies, with significant positions to fill. But it's not just a career fair, Mark Smith, chief of the Recruiting Assistance Division of the Defense Department's Civilian Personnel Management Service, said.

"We don't want them just coming in and getting interviews," Smith said. "We want them to be prepared for an interview, know how to dress for the interview, know how to present a resume, and then basically, hopefully, get a job from that."

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, another troop-support organization, inspired Smith to create Hiring Heroes. He met Roger Chapin, the coalition's founder, at a luncheon and discovered the coalition, a private entity, was already working to help wounded service members transition into civilian careers.

At that point, he realized the

Defense Department needed to step up to the plate. "It's great (that private organizations are) doing it — but DoD has got to do something too," Smith said.

He was pleasantly surprised to find that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld already had budgeted to develop the Military Severely Injured Center, he said.

"Rumsfeld had something going that was really good, and ... now it's a combined effort," Smith said. "We now support the Military Severely Injured Center, and we put our Hiring Heroes directly with them. So it's a partnership."

Hiring Heroes held its first job fair at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here in April 2004, he said. Since then, more than 800 injured service members and their spouses have attended events at Brooke Army Medical Center, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and most recently, at Fort Gordon, Ga.

DoD alone has made more than 70 job offers, and civilian employers may have extended many more offers, he said.

"I'll be honest ... I'm biased. I want them in DoD, but I understand that's not always going to happen in all cases," Smith said. "As long as we get them a job, I'm OK with that, but we would love to keep them in the DoD family if we possibly can."

The next event will be held at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio Sept. 18 and 19. For more information about this event or other upcoming Hiring Heroes events, contact Karen Hannah, the Hiring Heroes program manager, at 1-888-363-4872 or by e-mailing her at karen.hannah@cpms.osd.mil.

More to chaplains than just deck-plate ministry

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

What does a chaplain have to do but prepare for his sermon or walk around chit-chatting?

While this may be a commonly held misconception, a chaplain does spend time walking around talking with Marines and sailors. It is part of their job called deck-plate ministry. But it's just the beginning, not the whole.

Each commanding officer maintains a religious program for the spiritual and moral welfare of their Marines. The coordinators and counselors for that program are the chaplains.

"The command's religious program is just that, it's the command's program," said Lt. Cmdr. Emile G. Moured, deputy director of Religious Ministries Directorate. "We work directly for our commanding officer. Our primary purpose here is to be pastors. To be ministers, we have to work within ethical boundaries. Thankfully we have a command that understands that."

With such a diverse country, people who now comprise the military can no longer be placed in all-encompassing faith groups. As such, chaplains too come from all different walks of faith from more than 100 denominations and faith groups.

"Thank God we live in a country that values freedom of religion," said Moured. "The chaplains have been charged to protect that freedom by ensuring everyone is provided for. It does not mean we have to agree with everybody theologically, but we need to at least be able to provide for them."

Marines and sailors may feel hesitant to see a chaplain because of those variances or differences in faith, but chaplains put aside theological disagreements to help all of their fellow service members.

"Our job as chaplains is to represent our faith group accurately, but also to take care of everybody — every Marine, every sailor — as best we can," said Moured. "Obviously our faith system is going to differ from those of Marines and sailors at different points, but it's still our responsibility to provide for them."

Religious or inspirational reading materials from mul-

iple faiths can also be acquired through a chaplain.

Along with providing counseling and maintaining the welfare for their own Marines and sailors, they also will often provide an open door to other's problems, including spouses.

"Spouses also face problems with homesickness, deployments or losing their husbands. Their closest contact to both the Corps and God is the chaplain," said Moured. "They may not be looking for counsel but just encouragement."

Chaplains may seem to spend an inordinate amount of time walking around to different sections, getting to know their fellow service members — their hopes, where they come from, their dreams of the future — but it comes together when a Marine or sailor feels more comfortable to see them about a problem.

"We do it to go see what's going on," said Lt. Robert B. Wills, 1st Tank Battalion

chaplain. "I'm looking for that person who needs help."

For some people, knowing a chaplain is around can help them feel at ease to talk about their problems.

"It's going around and letting people see who we are," said Lt. Karen J. Rector, Headquarters Battalion chaplain. "It's just stopping and talking to people, getting to know them. Sometimes just seeing a chaplain has a great comfort on people."

Chaplains accept their duties with a desire to help Marines and sailors. Not just in their problems, but in their spiritual walk and welfare. They serve in times of need and happiness. In their calling, they serve the military by God's direction.

"While some are called to serve God, others are called to serve their country through the Naval Sea Services," stated Capt. Henry Nixon, chaplain program manager. "Those who are called to serve both are Navy Chaplains,"

ESD, from A1

such as communications equipment, humvees and ordnance materials. That ensured 100 percent mission completion for 36 Mojave Viper cycles that involved more than 50,000 Marines in 2005, according to the awards citation.

ESD dedicated their mission to enhancing the quality and quantity of equipment provided to the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group and operating forces which participated in the Mojave Viper pre-deployment training program at the Combat Center.

Since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003, the pre-deployment tempo increased dramatically and equipment used continuously began to wear down. Equipment was issued and reissued to one battalion after another, not allowing time for required maintenance. ESD formed contact teams to go to Camp Wilson and perform limited technical inspections on the equipment to determine what items were repairable in the field, and what was needed to be recycled to ESD for repair. This enabled training to continue at the rate needed.

Since its establishment in

1995, the unit has never failed to meet mission, said Terry Vetsch, electronics mechanic, who has been part of the unit since 1996.

"We started out as one lot on the street with only 90 humvees," he explained. "But we've always used what we got to make mission and training was never affected."

Now, ESD has more than 570 humvees of all variations at their facility.

ESD maintains and distributes communications equipment, motor transport assets, ordnance materials and engineering needs to units training in Mojave Viper, said Vetsch.

"Basically, anything the units need, we maintain and provide," he said.

Members of the unit were thankful for the recognition after all the years ESD has been stepping up to the plate to support pre-deployment training at any rate the Corps demands.

"It's not every day we get a pat on the back," said Cpl. Dustin Vollmer. "I'm glad we're being recognized for the work we do."

"It raises morale all around and gives us more pride in doing our everyday jobs," he added.

In Loving Memory of Preston French August 14, 1990 ~ November 28, 2005

Believe!

Wipe away the tear from your eye,
For there's no longer need to cry,
My son died so your loved one
could have Eternal life,
Now he is with me in paradise,
I know you loved him,
but I love him more,
I held his hand and gently
led him through the door,
He's more alive now than he was before.
He's happier now than he's ever been,
In this perfect world without hurt or sin,
Asleep? No! We walked together today,
And he watched you as you knelt to pray,
He smiled and said, "they miss me you know"
do they understand why I had to go?
I loved them and know they loved me,
Tell them I'm happy, tell them I'm free.

*Loving and Missing You Always,
Mom, Dad, Lendsey, Family and Friends*



Armed Forces Voters Week Sept. 3-9

1. Am I Registered to Vote?

To check the status of your voter registration, contact your State or Local Election Office. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website has a listing of all the State Election Office's websites. Simply visit our website at www.fvap.gov and select the State Election Site. Once at this homepage, you'll find a great deal of election information including how to contact your local election office.

Seven states, as well as the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, allow you to check your voter registration status online. The states providing this online service are: Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia. Visit this website for more specific information on registering in these states: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/stregissites.html>.

2. Where am I registered to vote?

In order to determine where you are currently registered to vote, contact the election office where you last resided in the United States. If you are unsure of the county you live in, visit www.fvap.gov and select "What is My County".

3. How do I change where I'm registered to vote?

In order to change the jurisdiction where you are registered to vote you must change your residency. Changing one's residency requires that you are physically present in that location and have the intent to remain a resident. Whenever you move into a new county or state, you should always contact the Local Election Office to inform them that you have changed your address. Communicating with your Local Election Office is the best way to help them help you. You can also signify that you have a new address by filling out block 6 in the FPCA. If you have previously registered to vote in a jurisdiction other than the one in which you are applying, indicate "previously registered in (location)". In order to obtain more information regarding this procedure you can visit <http://www.fvap.gov> and select "State by State Instructions".

4. What do I do if I haven't received my ballot but I sent

FPCA in on time?

One of the best ways to check on the status of your FPCA is to contact your Local Election Office. Any questions regarding FPCA status should be addressed to them. To find out when your state mails out ballots, refer to the 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide (found online at www.fvap.gov, select "State by State Instructions"). If election day is drawing near, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote.

5. Do I need a notary on my FPCA?

Out of the 50 states, the four U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, 50 do not require a notary on the FPCA. The five that DO require a notary on the FPCA are: American Samoa, Michigan (only applies to civilians), Minnesota, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. In order to check the status of your state's rules regarding notary requirements go to: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/notaryreqts.html>.

6. Can I Be Registered In Two Different States?

Voting rights for the state you claim apply when you can provide proof of residence, ie: driver's license, water/gas bill, etc. (Each state's requirements are different, check with your state's election board to see what they require). You may only have one legal residence at a time, but Uniformed Service personnel and their family members may change residency each time they are transferred to a new location. If you continue to receive voting materials from your old county, notify the election board to remove you from their local voter list.

7. What are the implications for registering where I'm stationed?

Exercising your right to vote in elections for Federal offices only does not affect the determination of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under Federal, state or local law. Voting in an election for Federal offices only may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purposes of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state as your residence and have other ties with that state in addi-

tion to voting, then you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon that particular state law. Consult your legal counsel for specific questions or situations.

8. How do I get information about voting and upcoming elections?

If you have questions about where or how to vote, what forms to use or state specific regulations, consult the Voting Assistance Guide available in print form from FVAP or your Voting Assistance Officer, or its online version available at <http://www.fvap.gov>

FVAP also offers the Voting Information Center (VIC) that provides information on elections and recorded messages from U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives and state Governors. Callers may connect directly to the office of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor or their chief state election official through the VIC. The VIC also provides direct access to Service Voting Action Officers during normal business hours in the U.S. Telephone numbers:

- Commercial 1-800-438-VOTE (Collect calls not accepted).

- DSN 425-1343. DSN use is authorized for all military and family members.

- Toll free numbers are available for over 60 countries (Consult the Voting Assistance Guide or www.fvap.gov for a full listing)

9. How do I get a Federal Post Card Application?

In Person: You can obtain a card-stock version of the FPCA through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies/consulates.

Electronic: There is an online version of the FPCA, and it is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam. The form is available on the FVAP's web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpc.html> in PDF format and can be filled in on-line, printed out, signed, dated, placed in an envelope with proper postage and then mailed to the appropriate Local Election Official (LEO). The form requires Acrobat Reader 6 or higher.

Unit Voting Officers

Unit	Name	Phone #:
HQBN	MSgt Crawford	830-7084
7th Mar	GySgt Perez	830-5327
1/7	GySgt Perez	830-5327
2/7	2nd Lt Sevilla	830-4151
3/7	Capt Schaffner	830-6136
3/4	1st Lt Peoples	830-8563
3/11	1st Lt Campbell	830-5515
3rd LAR	GySgt Bivens	830-5225
1st Tanks	2nd Lt Nunez	830-7885
VMU-1	Capt Harbour	830-5686
MWSS-374	GySgt Trivino	830-7819
CLB-7	GySgt Simons	830-4809
D Co. 3rd AAVs	Capt. Vukelic	830-5196
Naval Hospital	Ltjg Panos	830-2903
MCCES	Capt Roberts	830-6786
Dental Clinic	Lt Ho	830-7054



STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN

3rd LAR Marine promoted by brother

Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Martinez, a 20-year-old Marine infantryman waits as his older brother, Cpl. Anthony R. Martinez (left) pins on one of his chevrons during a promotion ceremony Aug. 6, at Al Asad, Iraq, where the younger Martinez is recuperating after receiving wounds when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at one of his unit's outposts last month. Both brothers are from Bay City, Mich. Lance Cpl. Martinez was visited by his older brother, 21-year-old Cpl. Martinez, who serves with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing here, after finding out his younger brother was wounded. The two Marines say family bonds are especially important for U.S. servicemembers serving together in a combat zone. "It's a bond that you can't break, especially in war. You can't beat that," said the older Martinez.

McAGCC Band Strikes Chord with Veterans

Performs for 1st Marine Division Association



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Members of the 1st Marine Division Association cheer after a performance by the band at the Memorial Service in Denver.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

The French horn players play as one during the 1st Marine Division memorial service performance Aug. 25.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Cpl. Derek Dunbar, trombonist, and Staff Sgt. Michael Pratt, trumpeter, perform during the 1st Marine Division's reunion banquet.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

The Combat Center Band Trumpet section snaps their fingers during their performance of a crowd favorite, "Butter Beans."



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

The Party Band gets the crowd moving with a surprise performance at the end of the banquet dinner.

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Band traveled to Denver, to entertain more than 850 members of the 1st Marine Division Association at their 59th annual Reunion Aug. 24 to Sunday.

The band performed at three main events during the reunion, each ending in standing ovations from the crowd.

"Everybody thought they were marvelous," said the association's reunion chairman, Gary C. Wilkins. "The band was just wonderful. Everyone loved everything, from their performance at the memorial to the jam sessions at the banquet."

The band's first performance was at a memorial service Aug. 25 at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, in honor of Marines and sailors killed in action, missing in action and prisoners of war. It was also the day of the 40th anniversary of the 1st Marine Division's arrival in Vietnam. The band played selections such as "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," "Eternal Father," "The Star-Spangled Banner" and

"Stars and Stripes Forever."

The next performance was a concert later that evening at the Marriott Denver City Center. The crowd was wowed with a colorful rendition of a jazz piece called "Butter Beans." Band members sang and danced along with the music, stirring up laughter and cheers from the audience.

They also played boisterous presentations of traditional marches, such as "Freelance March," "National Emblem" and "Washington Post." The bursts of the percussions made some audience members cover their ears and others clap in enjoyment.

The reunion ended with a banquet featuring the Combat Center Band. The band played Marine favorites, such as "Espirit de Corps," "Song of the Marines," "Semper Fidelis," "The Marines' Hymn," and the division's official song, "Waltzing Matilda."

Guests, such as Randall and Liz Schmidt, enjoyed the brief information given about each song before each performance.

"I enjoyed the concert and the bit

of history given about each number," said Mrs. Schmidt. "It was very informative. It's always good to learn while having a good time."

The band members enjoyed meeting many of the association members throughout the weekend.

"Meeting the Marines from the 1st Marine Division Association motivated us to play a more spirited show," said Cpl. Regan Young, saxophonist. "We always give our best, but it was just more personal and fun for us this time."

During the banquet dinner, the band members got to sit down and share stories with some of the veterans, said Young.

"It was an honor to sit and listen to these Marines that were actually there in Vietnam and Korea and other places," he explained. "It was like a history lesson from someone who was there."

The crowd was more than pleased to have the Combat Center Band as their entertainment and guests for the reunion.

"We've been to many reunions, and it would not be the same without the band," said Mrs. Schmidt. "They completed the reunion."



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

The Combat Center Band's trumpet line-up warms up before their performance at the reunion banquet.

Sandy Hill Lanes hosts 'Say No To Drugs' Cosmic Bowling Night



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The lights were turned off, the music was turned up and the lanes were packed at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center for "Say No To Drugs" Cosmic Bowling Night, Aug. 24.

The night included activities and prize giveaways and was available for school aged children kindergarten through 12th grade.

"We gave away sleeping bags, Monopoly games, Hot Wheels cars and other little prizes," said Todd Makovsky, bowling center manager.

The event was three hours of free bowling and had a turnout of more than 90 kids and a total of 310 games played.

"Tonight is really cool," said 9-year-old Hunter Gallegos. "If we do good stuff, we get prizes, and if we go to drug camps then we get rewarded. It's really cool to be here."

As the kids bowled with friends and family, they listened eagerly to see if their name would be called to win a prize, like a toy car 9-year-old Joshua Kelley won.

"I love bowling, said Kelley. "It's cool to win because it's my birthday today too."

The kids rushed the counter as free compact disc holders were being passed out to everyone.

"It's cool that they put this together," said 9-year-old Mary Stuckey. "The whole thing is awesome. The lights flashing are cool and the bowling balls are

pretty. I like being rewarded."

The event, which discouraged the use of drugs, turned out to be a night where the whole family could get together and talk about the effects drugs have on a person's body, while still having fun.

"We just moved to this base and they have a lot of free stuff for the kids to participate in," said Tabitha Harrington a family member. "It's a fun night."

Lasi Nofo and her sister Maligitupe Nofo enjoyed bowling with the family.

"I love this," said Lasi. "Were having the best time because the whole family is here and it's awesome that they hosted this."

The night also allowed kids to interact with other kids. Charles Sandfer who belongs to a junior varsity bowling league out in town spent the night helping 4-year-old Javon Scott bowl.

"I like to bowl," said Sandfer. "I like helping others learn how to bowl, and I like that the bowling alley did this event for everyone."

This week is National Family Bowling Week and Sandy Hill Lanes is offering one free game per day to families with at least one adult present through tonight.

"There is a possibility that we will host another 'Say No To Drugs' bowling night after the Christmas break," said Makovsky.

The bowling center youth league is starting in two weeks. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Todd Makovsky at 830-6422.

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

6-year-old Alex Tyson prepares to throw the bowling ball down the alley at the Sandy Hill Lanes "Say No To Drugs" Cosmic Bowling Night Aug. 24.

Tooth whitening: different options produce similar results for brighter smiles

ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

In today's society, the emphasis on one's appearance is unavoidable. Consumers receive messages on a daily basis regarding products to help them lose weight, change their skin's appearance, or improve the whiteness of their teeth. Tooth whitening in particular has seen a dramatic increase in popularity over the years, due to the reasonable price of the products and the increase in public demand.

With the overabundance of consumer choices available, it might prove a challenge to find the best whitening system on the market. The results of a study that compared two similar whitening strips used by teens were published in the March/April 2006 issue of General Dentistry, the Academy of General Dentistry's clinical, peer-reviewed journal.

"There is an intense interest in cosmetics and improved appearance by baby boomers and Generation X-ers," says Henry Finger, DDS, FAGD, AGD spokesperson. "Teens especially want to improve their appearance because

of peer pressure, publications they read, and their role models."

"Whitening is popular to teenagers merely because they are esthetic-conscious," says Kevin Donly, DDS, MS, lead author of the study. Since most clinical studies evaluate the effects of tooth whitening products among adult subjects, this study was an opportunity to examine the effects on a different population.

In his report, Donly studied and compared two groups of teenagers who used whitening strips. One group used a 10 percent hydrogen peroxide whitening strip and the other group used a 6.5 percent hydrogen peroxide strip that had a thicker gel layer. The patients used the strips for 44 consecutive days, for 22 days on the upper teeth followed by 22 days on the lower teeth.

Participants in the study used the strips for 30 minutes twice daily. Use of the strips resulted in significant color improvement for yellowness and lightness/brightness. With the whitening strip systems, the most common complaints were tooth sensitivity and oral irritation, both of which subsided at the end of treatment.



COURTESY PHOTO

"To prepare their mouths for whitening, patients should maintain good oral health," adds Donly. "Brushing right before is not recommended, as it might cause abrasion and sensitivity."

What you should know

before whitening:

- Do not eat or drink anything after whitening that might cause a stain (coffee, tea, etc.).
- Existing crowns or fillings will not respond to the whitening agent.

• Strips do not whiten entire arches. They only cover the front teeth.

• Do not smoke or chew tobacco after using whitening products.

• Patients are not advised to use whitening products if

they have decay, periodontal disease, or hypersensitivity.

• Know the condition of your teeth and oral tissues. A thorough examination and cleaning from a general dentist is recommended before using whitening products.

Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Excellence Awards announced

COMPILED BY MCB QUANTICO

MCB QUANTICO — Forty-three Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Food and Hospitality activities have earned excellent ratings in the 2005 Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Excellence Awards program.

The awards were presented at the MCCS Worldwide Conference in Louisville, Ky., on August 15.

The goal of this annual awards program is to provide meaningful recognition to non-appropriated fund food and hospitality activities that have achieved the highest degree of excellence during a fiscal year.

According to Carol Garland, Head of the Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Operations Branch, "The goal of the Excellence Award program is to recognize those food and hospitality facilities who not only meet the Marine Corps' high standards of excellence, but have exceeded the standards and by doing so, have exceeded the expectations of our guests."

Garland added, "Many of this year's recipients are prior award winners, who have set high expectations of excellence for their staff and themselves. A few of this year's recipients are being recog-

nized for the first time and their hard work and dedication have finally paid off."

MCCS non-appropriated fund food and hospitality activities such as snackbars, direct operated fast food outlets, clubs, restaurants, mobile canteens, temporary lodging facilities, and recreational lodging are eligible for the award. To be eligible for the award, individual food and hospitality activities must have operated for the entire past fiscal year, they must at least break even, and must show significant gains in customer service, financial performance, human resources, and operations. Each activity is evaluated against criteria of excellence established by the Food and Hospitality Operations Branch staff. A panel from the Personal and Family Readiness Division, MCCS's headquarters organization, individually evaluates and judges each of the nominations against the award criteria.

For more information about the Marine Corps Food and Hospitality Excellence Award program contact Nancy Pasternack, Catering and Event Specialist, at 703-784-3894 or e-mail nancy.pasternack@usmc-mccs.org.

MCAGCC Recipients of the 2005 Marine Corps Food

and Hospitality Excellence Awards

- Charlie's Coffee House
- Mobile Canteens
- Quick Break
- Sleepy Tortoise Lodge
- Warrior Club



MCJROTC Marine Instructors Wanted in Chicago

If you are looking for a great second career as rewarding as your current career and in a fantastic location, consider MCJROTC Chicago, Illinois. Starting salary is equal to or better than what you would receive if call active duty in Chicago. You will utilize the same knowledge, leadership and teaching skills that developed over your active career in the Marine Corps. Join our team, be a founding faculty member at a new Chicago campus of Noble Street Charter High School. We are unrelenting in preparing our students for a successful life through post-secondary education. Our focus is academic excellence, health and fitness and community service in a disciplined environment. Noble Street is well known nationally for its success and has received significant financial funding to create new campuses. The JROTC program is an integral part of our success. MI's will be hired at new campuses, two a year for the next three academic years (A vacancy remains for AY '06-'07, two vacancies for AY '07-'08 and two vacancies for AY '08-'09. We are looking for dedicated Marines to make a difference in the lives of young people and to be part of the founding faculty of these new campuses. MI's must apply for their position within 1 year to 60 days of their approved retirement date. For more info on the MCJROTC certification process go to <http://www.mcjrotc/instructors> For more information about the City of Chicago, go to <http://egov.cityofchicago.org> For more information on Noble Street Charter High School call Lt Col T O'Connell USMC (Ret) toll free at [1-800-773-8621](tel:1-800-773-8621) ext. 226

All-Marine softball player makes quality use of time in high desert

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Although her All-Marine team finished the All Armed Forces Women Softball Tournament with a 0-9 record, Christina Mota bursts with pride when she is asked about the team.

"We've got a lot of heart," the 20-year-old Modesto, Calif., native said. "We were 0-9, but we had fun. We gave it our all!"

Mota has been playing softball since she was 10 years old after her mother signed her up to have something to do. Since then, softball has become one of her favorite pastimes, she said.

"Your worst day at softball is your best day at work," she explained. "It's a way to get away from work and all the other stresses in life."

She joined the Marine Corps after spending a year at Modesto Junior College. Her sister enlisted in the Navy and she wanted more of a challenge, she said.

After completing boot camp in the summer of 2004, she trained to become a supply clerk, and since then has been stationed at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School here. She was promoted to the rank of corporal in November 2005.

"I picked up softball as soon as I got to my unit," she said. "I played for the MCCES' team and then I played on other teams in the area in other leagues."

Mota was introduced to the All-Marine Women's Softball Team by one of the Marine Corps Community Services' sports coordinators here.

"I went to the softball camp they had here in California and got on the team," she said.

The All-Marine Women's Softball camp is three weeks long and Marines from military installations all over the world travel to Southern California to train and play various tournaments to prepare for the annual All Armed Forces Tournament in the last week of August.

Mota has found softball helps her keep it together while living in the small desert community of Twentynine Palms.

"If you don't play sports here, I don't know what you do!" she said.

Playing softball has also been key in Mota's life in helping her develop team skills.

"Technically, everything you do involves teamwork; at work, in life," she explained. "You just develop the mentality to always think of others and how to work as a team in everything you do."

Mota urges fellow Marines to join any of the All-Marine teams that include softball, golf, volleyball, cross-country, basketball, football, rugby and wrestling. For more information on All-Marine sports, log on to the Web site, www.usmc-mccs.org/sports/ml/all-marine.cfm.

Mota also volunteers coaching little league softball teams made up of 9- to 12-year-old girls in the local area, and it's one of the hardest things she has done, she said.

"They get upset at everything!" she said. "If we're losing, if they feel embarrassed by their parents' cheering, everything! But it's fun. I love it."

Mota has found volunteering with youth has been another way to keep busy, while having fun, she said.

"If you've got nothing else to do, give back to the community," she said.

The young Marine meets once a month with military children teaching them about drugs in a program called Drug Education for Youth, sponsored by the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

Mota plans to reenlist, continue her college education and pursue a career in law enforcement as a highway patrol officer after her life in the Corps is finished.

She also plans to continue playing softball and volunteering with youth no matter where her career leads.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

All-Marine Team softball player, Christina Mota, a 20-year-old from Modesto, Calif., has been playing softball since she was 10 years old.