

UBSERVATION



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A3 - Fallen Hero

A12-CFC

B2 - Bandsman's Journey

HOT TOPICS

NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT Navy Birthday Ball Committee proudly announces a Fund Raising Scramble Golf Tournament to be held Sunday Sept. 17. Show time is 7 a.m. with Tee Off at 8 a.m. The cost for this even is \$40 per person which includes Green Fees, Cart Fees, Club Rental, Range Ball Fees, and food. Please sign up before Monday with Lt. Velazquez at 830-2284 or CS2 (SW) Lowery at 830-2663 or HM2 (SW) Demetrulias at 830-2382.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Religious Ministries Directorate invites you to Christian Women's Fellowship, a nondenominational ministry offered to all women. A Welcome Brunch will be held Tuesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Successive weekly meetings for Bible study and fellowship will be held on Tuesdays from 9 to 11a.m. Free childcare for these events is provided in the Village Center by Child Development Center staff. CWF Meetings are held in the West Wing of the Protestant Chapel. For more information, call Jennifer Faunce at 368-9212 or Cindy Wills at 368-9502.

MCCS QUALITY OF LIFE EXPO

Marine Corps Community Services will host the third annual Quality of Life Expo in the West Gym on Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m. This year's expo will feature MCCS facilities, the Naval Hospital, Armed Services YMCA, the American Red Cross, Toys 4 Tots and more. Get great information on programs offered and enjoy FREE food, prizes and a Jupiter Jump for the kids. Come learn what your base has to offer. For more information call 830-5086.

RE-VAMP THE SMP BULLDOG

The Single Marine Program is looking for a new logo. Submissions can be emailed to doughwilloc@ usme-mees.org as a JPEG or on a disc and dropped off at the Zone on Fifth Street no later then Wednesday. Prizes will be awarded for the winner. For more information call 830-4767 or 830-5386.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

- Combat Center Challenge
- Healing Fields
- 3/11 in Action

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

September 8, 1863

Marines joined in

an unsuccessful

attack on Fort

Sumter, S.C.

The 'Darkside' is at it again 3/4 deploys for fourth Iraq tour

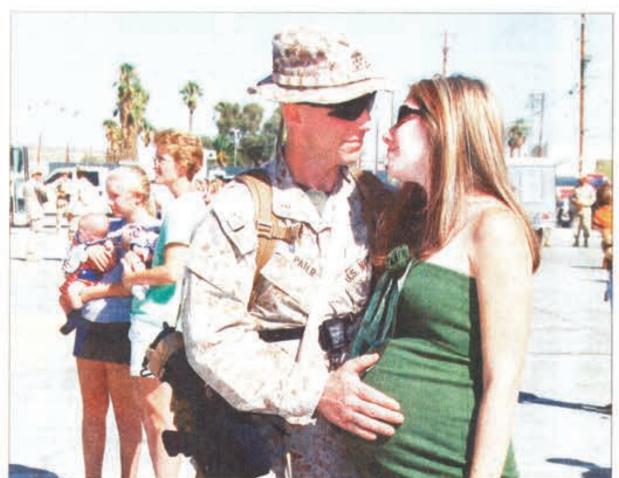
LANCE CPL, KATELYN A. KNAUER

They are modern day heroes. They have fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and spouses and kids. They are part of the elite, adored by many and criticized by others. They lay their lives on the line day in and day out serying amongst the best. They miss holidays and birthdays and that first step their child took. They are by no means ordinary.

They're at it again, with their bugs packed and their goodbyes said; more than 800 'Darkside' Marines of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, set off to Iraq's Al Anbar province for a sevenmonth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Marines and sailors departed Aug. 31- Sept. 3.

Some are on their first deployment, while others are on their second, third or even fourth tour. The battalion is no rookie to deployments with this being their fourth time over

They are famous for several reasons and are a force to be reckoned with. They were the first Marine unit to enter Baghdad. They are known for assisting in tearing down the statue of Saddam Hussein and were the first Marine Corps ground unit to accomplish three, seven-month tours in Iraq.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank Pater holds his hand on his wife Jaime Paters' pregnant belly as he waits See DARKSIDE, A7 to deploy to Iraq, Aug. 31. This is the Paters' second child together.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Dempsey L. Tomblin, a radiologist at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, was presented the American Legion's Spirit of Service award

Local 'Doc' presented

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

A hospital corpsman with the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital was presented an award from the American Legion by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in recognition of his outstand volunteerism and performance of duties during a ceremony in Salt Lake City Aug. 29.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Dempsey L. Tomblin, an advance radiology technologist, was selected as the Navy recipient of the American Legion's Spirit of Service award along with recipbranches of the armed forces

The secretary of defense was joined by the American Legion's national commander, Thomas L. Block, in presenting the glass and marble awards to each of the five service members at the 88th National Convention of the American Legion. This was the seventh year the Spirit of Service award was given out.

Nominees for the award had to be below the pay grade of E-6 and have numerous volunteer hours as well as an outstanding record of service.

"I feel very honored to ients from the other four have been able to represent

the hospital and the base," said the 32-year-old Willacoochee, Ga., native. "I also feel honored that my command thought enough of me to nominate me for this. I feel blessed because it could have been anybody."

Lt. Cmdr. Fred D. Schmitz, director of clinical support services at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital which oversees the radioldepartment, said Tomblin was more than qualified for the Spirit of Service award.

"He's been very active in mentoring our sailors here in the hospital and

See DOC, A8

Pentagon police officer looks back on Sept. 11 events

STEVEN DONALD SMITH

WASHINGTON, Sep. 6 - When José Rojas went to pull a badly burned woman from a Pentagon window after Islamic extremists drove a commercial airliner headlong into the building, ber skin came off in his hands.

"I had to actually take my fingernals and diginto her flesh with her crying and screaming to get her out of the window," Rojas said, describing his efforts to help the victim of the Sept, 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

Rojas, 43, a police officer with the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, the successor of the Defense Protective Service, was working that fateful morning at the Pentagon's remote delivery facility, where packages get inspected before entering the building.

A driver making a delivery asked the officers' on duty if they had heard that an airplane had hit the World Trade Center in New York City, Rojas, his supervisor and two other officers immediately

went into an adjacent office and turned on the television. They watched in dishelief as they learned that a second plane had also enished into the trade center. "We all just looked at each other and said, We're next," Rojas recalled.

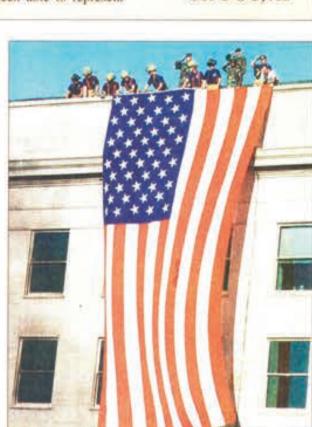
As he was about to exit the office to start spreading the word of what had happened in New York, the ground shook beneath his feet, "When I stepped out of the door, all I could see was a big mushroom ball of flames going up into the air." he

Rojas immediately ran toward the flames,

What he witnessed when he arrived near the crash site will haunt him for the rest of his life, he said. "This one guy was just holding his eye in his hand," he said.

The scene was chaotic. People were clamoring to get out of the building as fast as possible, many through windows. "I said to a bunch of people standing there. 'Let's see if we can get some of these people out." Rojas said.

See PENTAGON, A7



Service members, firefighters and other workers drape the American flag over a section of the Pentagon Sept. 12, 2001. As a result of terrorist attacks at the Pentagon the day before, more than 120 people were killed at that site.

C.O.P. Corner



Community **Oriented Policing**

The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Homecoming

This is the most important time of our lives, when a loved one comes home. There are some important things that need to be taken into consideration when husbands, wives, and significant others come home,

One of the most important things to be on the look out for is Combat/Operation Stress. Some signs to look for are:

Emotional/ Mental

- unusual anxiety, fear, guilt or spiritual issues
- persistant numbness, despair or depression
 severe negativity, irritability or anger
- obsessive thoughts, flashbacks, ballucinations or nightmares
- poor consentration or memory loss.
- loss of confidence

Physical/Behavioral

- trouble falling/staying asleep
- · jumpiness/reactions to loud noises
- · unusual fatigue, slow reactions
- · heavy feeling
- uncharacteristic aggressiveness, recklessness or carelessness
- · abuse of achohol or other drugs

If you notice any of these signs, don't be afraid to seek help.

For more information visit buildings 1437 or 1438 Counseling Services or call the A.I.D. L.I.F.E hotline at 1-800-479-3339.

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



Unleash the dogs of war

Military-working dog handlers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment train their dogs on attack techniques at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq, Sept. 1. The group works side-byside with Marines to take a bite out of insurgency during various combat operations.



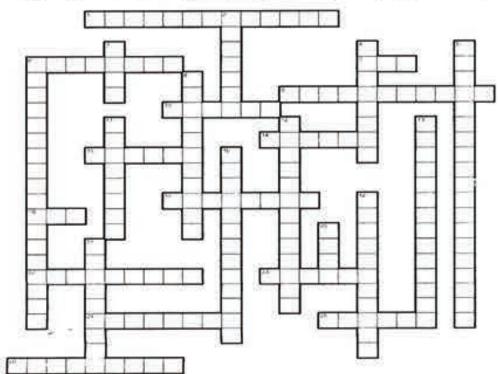
Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

"I'll tell ya what I had for breakfast, Mr. 20 questions..., I had 2 Pfc's with a side of LCpl and washed it all down with a Sergeant!! NOW!, If you ask me another question before my first cup of coffee, you'll be my lunch!"



IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON



ACROSS

- Players who catch the ball
- First down distance (2 words)
- One point kick
- "Sweetness" played this position (2 words)
- A sack in the end zone
- Protective head covering
- 15. First year in the league
- 17. The cage in front of the helmet (2 words)
- 19. The AFC and NFC combined
- The biggest game of the year (2 words)
- 23. Converted soccer player
- The football field
- Technique of taking a player to the
- 26. Out of bounds

DOWN

- Touchdown area (2 words)
- Big shoulders.
- Poles the ball is kicked between
- 5. Super Bowl award named after Green Bay Packers coach (3 words)
- Post touchdown scoring option (3 words)
- Field general
- 11. Pigskin
- 12. Players trying to sack the quarterback
- 13. Two players defend the same opposing player
- Players protecting the quarterback (2 words)
- Defensive players covering wide receivers
- 20. Tackling the quarterback behind the line of scrimmage
- Three points (2 words)

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

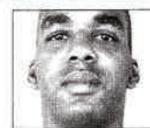
What do you consider to be nasty in uniform?

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



LANCE CPL. JEFFREY A. RODGERS

"When Marines wear covers that are not pressed. It always catches attention.



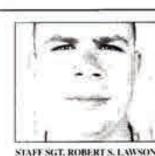
STAFF SGT. DENNIS S. JOHNSON

66 It does not look good when overweight Morines are in a uniform that is too small for them. They need to get a bigger sized uniform.



H & S COMPANY, 3RU LAH

for Marines come from the field and they're wearing a cover that's all sweaty and has a masty ring of sweat and dirt going around it.



STAFF SGT, ROBERT S. LAWSON VMU-1

y biggest pet peeve is hair-Every week a Marine should have a fresh hair cut."

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

Observation Post

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Combat Correspondent

Commanding General

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Director and crew honor fallen hero

CPL. MEGAN L. STINER

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (Sept. 1) - "I've never seen a film that tells this kind of story," said Lee Hirsch, producer and director, as he prepared to shoot another segment of footage for a History Channel documentary. "His act of selflessness, the ultimate sacrifice ... This is truly a Marine's story."

As soon-to-be "Devil Dogs" make their way through boot camp, they are told countless stories of Marines of times past who have made the greatest sacrifice and dedicated themselves to their fellow Americans. They are read accounts of individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice in order to save lives and preserve the freedoms of others.

But, according to Hirsch, Sgt. Rafael Peralta's tale of heroism and courage began much earlier than the day he saved his fellow Marines by sacrificing his own life.

The ultimate act of selflessness he performed, after joining the Marine Corps as soon as he received his green card, is incredible," began Hirsch, a New York City native: "From the moment he gained his citizenship, he was so patriotic - so committed as an immigrant. It is truly a story that needs to be told."

More that two years ago, Peralta and his unit, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, left Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kancohe Bay to serve their call to duty as one of the first Marine units involved in the Battle of Fallujah, Iraq.

While clearing houses, a routine course of action for Marines deployed to Iraq, something unexpected occurred that involved Peralta and several other Marines of Alpha Company, 1/3. Insurgents ambushed the Marines, and a firefight ensued shortly after the Marines entered one of the houses. Amidst the chaos, Peralta was wounded and lay near the center of the room. As fellow Marines tried to regain their position, a grenade rolled into the room. Peralta grabbed it and tucked it underneath his body in order to absorb the blast and give the rest of his Marines a chance to escape the house alive.

Peralta lost his life that day, but the rest of the Marines involved in the ambush walked away with minimal injuries.

Although the account tells a dynamic tale of ultimate sacrifice and loyalty, according to Hirsch, Peralta's story begins much earlier than that,

And in order to tell the entire story. Hirsch and his crew filmed in multiple areas and filmed numerous individuals to ensure Peralta's sacrifice and dedication was remembered the way his family and friends would have wanted it to be.

"It was interesting," said Hirsch, "we were actually filming for a documentary on the impact of Latinos in American history when we came across the story of Rafael. We knew right away it was a story that had a far greater impact than we had yet come across."

Hirsch and his crew first met Peralta's family at Peralta's gravesite in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. San Diego, on the one-year anniversary of his death, Nov. 15, 2005.

"As soon as we met the family, we knew there was something about his story and the people

it impacted that would be worth telling," said Hirsch. Once they collected details about his life and death, the crew began filming in places like Tijuana, Mexico, where Peralta spent much of his childhood. They also spent time in California and Hawaii, in order to get a better perspective of the life he led when Peralta came to the

They also interviewed a plethora of individuals who knew Peralta.

"We interviewed all of his family," said Sarah Foudy, associate producer, "as well as a lot of his friends and many of the Marines we could find who were there or directly involved in the incident when he died."

"This is a documentary, a story of truth, honor and love," said Hirsch, "I believe in order to connect to his death you must first connect to his life, and that is what we are trying to accomplish with this production."

The completed film will be an hour-long program that not only highlights a Marine's individual courage and devotion from other Marines' perspectives, explained Hirsch, but also the life he led outside of the Corps, as told by those who loved him and knew him best.

It isn't just a sad story about something tragic that happened to someone, said Hirsch. It is a true account about life and death, friends and family, coping and rejoicing and moving on while remembering the ways one man shaped the lives of so many others.

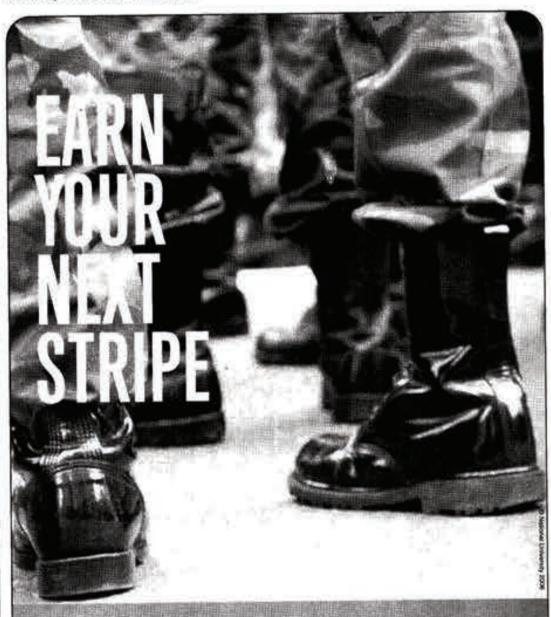
According to Hirsch, the projected timeframe for the production to air on the History Chan-

nel is between the months of March and June 2007.

"This is an amazing story of honor, courage and love," said Hirsch. "We feel it is important at we tell this story in a way that portrays the true individual behind such a selfless, heroic and patriotic man."



Sgt. Rafael Peralta was killed in action more than two years ago in Fallujah, Iraq, after a heroic attempt to save the lives of his Marines. The History Channel is documenting Peralta's story which will air next year.



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CLB-7 returns home after big role in OIF

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT COMMESSAMINE (C)

Family and friends gathered at the Combat Center's Victory Field Sunday to welcome home more than 130 Marines, and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 after a seven-month tour in Iraq.

As part of Regimental Combat Team 7, CLB-7 monitored and conducted logistical convoys to provide troops' needs, managed explosive ordnance demolition and operated a surgical hospital, said Sgt. Jessi Warthen, motor transportation specialist.

The largest part of the unit's overall mission was to transport supplies, such as water, food, ammunition, letters from home and fuel, to more than 135,000 troops in Iraq, she added.

The unit also participated in the rebuilding of Iraq, roads, facilities and buildings while training Iraqi soldiers to carry out their own logistics

operations, according to an article written April 13 by Cpl. Daniel J. Redding, combat correspondent for the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

CLB-7 convoy vehicles traveled more than 2,000 miles per month on dangerous roads, where improvised explosive devices and insurgent attacks are continuous threats. The unit had received more than 37 Combat Action Ribbons and 10 Purple Hearts as of Aug. 7. said Lt. Col. Drew Doolin, CLB-7 former commanding officer, during an interview with Gordon Dillow, a reporter with the Orange County Register.

Sgt. Vince Barrientos was hit by an IED three weeks after the unit's arrival in Iraq and received one of the 10 Purple Hearts. His wife was faced with one of a military spouse's biggest fears, she said.

The first thing I asked was 'do you have everything?" said Barrientos' wife, Jessica. "Luckily, he said 'yes."

Barrientos recovered and continued supporting combat operations with his unit.

I think that's what wives worry about the most," said Jessica, "Because their husbands reassure them that they're going to be alright and nothing is going to happen to them."

Barrientos was just happy to get into some clean clothes, he said, with the memory of the IED attack far out of reach.

Troops of CLB-7 were greeted with homemade signs, ear-to-ear wide grins, hugs and kisses from family members and friends that traveled from states all over the country to meet their loved ones.

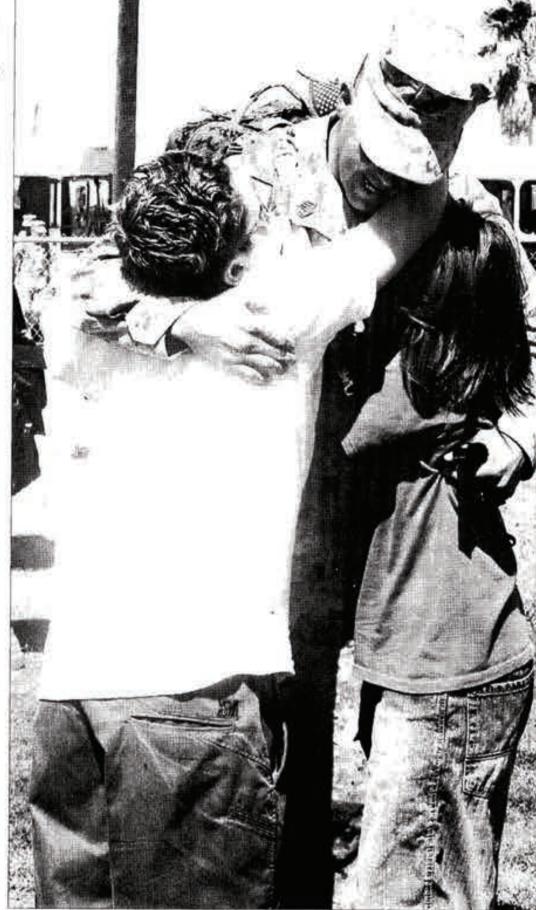
Petty Officer 2nd Class Kurt Wiese's family traveled from Spokane, Wash., to welcome the corpsman back from his second deployment with CLB-7.

There are 11 of us that came up to see him," said his sister Karmen Cecil. "We're very proud of him. He's always been someone to stand behind his men, do his job and makes sure he and his Marines get home safely."

His family was looking forward to spending the rest of the Labor Day weekend doing "whatever Kurt wants to do."

"We're probably going to take him to get a good oldfashioned American meal," said Cecil.

Almost as soon as Marines and sailors stepped onto Victory Field, they stepped off to enjoy the rest of the holiday weekend with their families and friends.



Gunnery Sgt. David Young is greeted by his two sons, Thomas and Michael, as he steps onto Victory Field after returning from CLB-7's deployment to Iraq.

SUPERBOWL

SIDELINES

Joshua Tree Retreat

GRIDIRON

SOLUTIONS

Kokopelli ... and The End of Time" ____

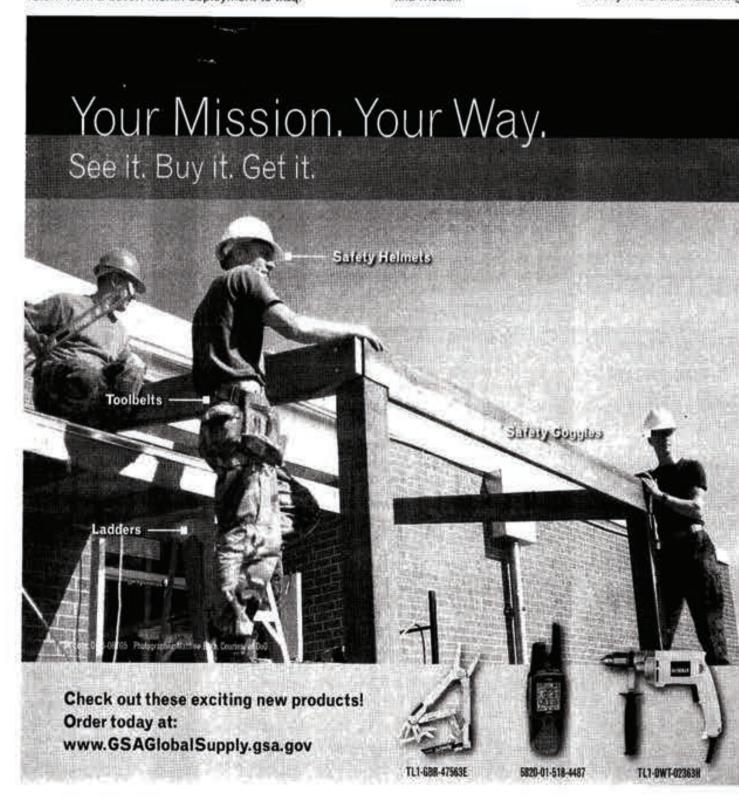
Kichard C. Hóagland s

Oct 6th - 9th, 2006

WIDERECEIVERS



Family and friends welcome home more than 130 Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 after they return from a seven-month deployment to Iraq.



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U.S. General Services Administration

Chaplains serve throughout history

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Watching old war movies, no one ever sees the chaplain. They're never there. They are not one of the sung heroes or the mysterious men who stories revolve around.

But chaplains have served armed warriors and military members for countless years. History records leaders of the divine have served on the fields of battle as far back as ancient Assyria.

When the Continental Navy was approved by Congress on Oct. 13, 1775, it was felt religious leaders were needed to serve on ships.

The second article of Navy Regulations stated, "The Commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine services be performed twice a day on board, and a sermon nental Navy on Oct. 28, 1778. preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent." Chaplains were not exclusively mentioned, but a sermon implied Congress intended for an ordained clergyman to be on board.

"When the military first begun, they brought in chaplains because they knew the men needed to be ministered to and faith was extremely important, especially in the beginning," said Lt. Robert B. Wills, 1st Tank Battalion chaplain.

They were never officially mentioned until Jan. 6, 1776, when the Journals of the Continental Congress referred to them in the distributions of prize money from captured ships.

Reverend Benjamin Balch became the first chaplain known to serve in the Conti-

On Jan. 28, 1802, President Jefferson issued a new edition of Naval Regulations that includes the duties of a chaplain, "Read prayers at stated periods; perform all funeral ceremonies; perform the duty of a schoolmaster instructing midshipmen and volunteers in writing, arithmetic, navigation, and whatever else they might need to make them proficient; and teach the other youths of the ship as the captain orders."

Chaplain Robert Thompson first introduced the idea of a Naval Academy to the Secretary of the Navy on July 27, 1807, to teach young officers navigation. Chaplain George Jones later became a highly influential figure in the establishment of the currently known United States Navel Academy at

Annapolis, Va., in 1845.

Chaplains started many reformations and rid the Navy of several "traditions" such as flogging. Jones persuaded many sailors to sign pledges of abstinence and introduced coffee and sugar as the replacement for grog.

They were key in eliminating some of the more brutal punishments, like being keelhauled," said Lt. Cmdr. Emile G. Moured, deputy director of Religious Min-"Today istries Directorate. we're seen both as the spiritual advisor and the moral and ethical advisor."

A number of other chaplains lent their abilities and passions to the creation of other helpful institutions.

Chaplain Walter Colton published the first American newspaper in California, The Californian, on Aug. 15, 1846.

The Chaplain Corps came under fire March 13, 1859. when civilians objected to its existence. The House judiciary Committee defended the sailor's rights to divine service and later adopted a new regulation defending the position of chaplain and their rights, "Every chaplain shall be permitted to conduct public worship according to the manner

and forms of the church of

which he may be a member."

Since its establishment, the Chaplain Corps had been primarily Christian until Oct. 30, 1917, when Rabbi David Goldberg became the first Jewish chaplain to be commissioned. He still the wore the traditional cross on his uniform until June 26, 1918, when he was granted permission to wear a shepherd's crook instead. The "Tablets of the Law" became the official device for Jewish

chaplains in 1941.

Several chaplains have stepped beyond the call of duty to help on the battlefield, sometimes even at the cost of their own life.

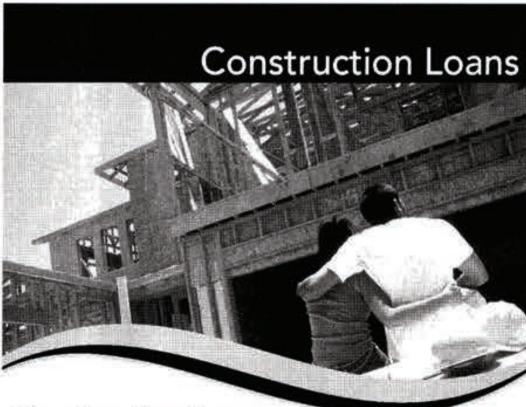
Cmdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan became the first chaplain awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions aboard the USS Franklin on March 19, 1945. Lt. Vincent R. Capodonna, another chaplain who served during Vietnam, received a Medal of Honor for his "heroic conduct" in Quang Tin Province, Vietnam on Sept. 4, 1967.

Today, there are positions open for chaplains to serve in many different forms of worship - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist - the military and its chaplains today have embraced diversity and are fighting to keep a freedom of worship.

Iraqi Army recruits in Habbaniyah, Fallujah



Maj. Brian Wirtz, a military advisor to 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, relaxes while Iraqi soldiers administer multiple screenings to recruits nearby.



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*And use The commander Patter subject to the edge than to Seen and settless of the committee or less.

2ND LT. LAWTON KING

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Soldiers from the 1st Iraqi Army Division enlisted 293 Iraqi males from greater Fallujah and Habbaniyah as part of an al Anbar Province-wide recruiting drive Tuesday and Wednesday.

They looked enthusiastic about doing this, and that's a good sign," said Maj. William Gerst, a Regimental Combat Team 5 assistant operations officer who assisted the Iraqis in the coordination of the campaign, "It's a sign that they notice we're here to help them and they are taking control of their own destiny."

"I want to serve our country and defend Iraq," said one recruit through an interpreter.

Patriotism ... I want to defend my country," said another.

After undergoing literacy tests, medical examinations, physical fitness evaluations and security screenings, the eligible applicants signed contracts adorned with the Arabic header, "In the Name of God."

The recruits were then transported by Marines from RCT-5 to a month-long boot camp in Habbaniyah staffed solely by Iraqi personnel drawn from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Brigades of the 1st Iraqi Army Division.

Upon graduation from basic training, the Iraqi soldiers will report to the Iraqi division of their choice and receive a period of leave.

"This is very important," said Hassanian Mussa, a 32-year-old interpreter from Kut, Iraq, attached to 2nd Brigade. "This is a good step for these guys. The new government gives these guys the opportunity to show their loyalty to their country.'

Cpl. Clayton Busenga, a 22-year-old from Long Beach, Calif., assigned to a 2nd Brigade Military Transition Team, shared similar sentiments.

"It shows that we are working on leaving Iraq pretty strongly," he said.

The courage of the Iraqi recruits elicited applause from Marines and Iraqis alike present at the drive.

The individual Iraqis know they are going to get targeted ... so I give them credit for that," Busenga said,

"These guys are very brave," said Hassanian Musa.



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'America's Battalion' dedicates gym to fallen warrior in Iraq

SGT. ROE F. SEIGLE

HADITHA, Iraq — Marines who knew Staff Sgt. Jason C. Ramseyer will tell you that he loved three things his family, his Marines and going to the gym.

Ramseyer, 28, died April 21, 2006, in the western Al Anbar Province of Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded near him.

To honor the fallen warrior, Marines from Ramseyer's unit, the Hawaii-based 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which arrived in Iraq in March, dedicated the make-shift gym in the Marines' headquarters - the Haditha Dam - in honor of the Lenoir, N.C., native.

In a simple ceremony Aug. 20, 2006, the Marines named the gym "Ram's Dam Gym." The small gym. which consists of various workout benches, free weights, televisions and a radio, features new equipment and enclosure around the facility.

Since the Marines arrival in Iraq, they have honored their fallen by naming facilities after them. The Marines assigned to the battalion's Weapons Company named their forward L. Cooling, the battalion's operating base "Camp Lueken," after Cpl. Eric Lucken, 23, who also perished in a roadside blast, just one day after Ramseyer was killed.

Marines' communications shop at the dam was named after Cpl. Andres Aguilar, 21, who died in a vehicle accident April 2, 2006, on a moment's notice. Aguilar. from Victoria. Texas, and Lueken, from Dubois, Ind., were both assigned to 3rd Battalion.

The Marines hung a plaque near the gym's entrance, officially commemorating it to Ramseyer's memory.

A partially completed painting of Ramseyer is just below the plaque.

"Staff Sgt. Ramseyer loved his job and the gym," said Sgt. Michael Ferguson, 23, who served as a platoon sergeant on the Jump CP. the battalion commander's personal security element, with Ramseyer. "He went to the gym every chance he could get."

Ramseyer was the platoon commander for the battalion's Jump CP. He was handselected by Lt. Col. Norman

commanding officer, for this position - a duty his Marines say he performed with consummate professionalism and unparalleled valor.

Ramseyer was responsible On the highest level of for providing security to the the Haditha Dam, the commanding officer and his staff. He and his Marines served as a quick reaction force that was equipped to respond to combat situations

> He frequently traveled Al Anbar Province's roads, and was exposed to small arms fire and roadside bombs.

Although Ramseyer, a nine-year veteran of the Marine Corps, was a common site in the dam's gym, Marines say they will remember him as a family man who would never put his Marines in a dangerous situation that he was not willing to put himself in first.

"His Marines respected him because he treated them. regardless of rank, with the respect and dignity they deserved. He was a great friend and a great Marine," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael Kiernan, 33, company gunnery sergeant for the battalion's Weapons Company. "We all miss him."

Kiernan wears a "Hero Bracelet" on his right wrist bearing Staff Sgt. Ramseyer's

talion, 3rd Marine Regiment in Iraq's western Al Anbar Province, was honored recently when the Marines named a refurbished weight room in their headquarters building after Ramseyer. The new gym is known as "Ram's Dam Gym." name - something he said he petitions on the bench press

blast in Haditha, Iraq. The Lenoir, N.C., native, who served with the Hawaii-based 3rd Bat-

"will never take off." and motivated each other to Ferguson said he and Ramkeep physically fit. seyer would often have com-"When we were not on missions, we were in the gym," said Ferguson. "He knew how to motivate all his Marines. He was a true leader

> without him." Now, as long as Marines are in Iraq and living in the Haditha Dam, they will be reminded of Ramsever

and it is just not the same

every time they enter the gym, said Ferguson,

Marines here agree that the naming of the gym was the best way they could honor Ramseyer because he spent most of his offtime in the gym.

"We all miss him," said Ferguson. "Now we will be reminded of his sacrifices every time we go to the gym. He will never be forgotten.

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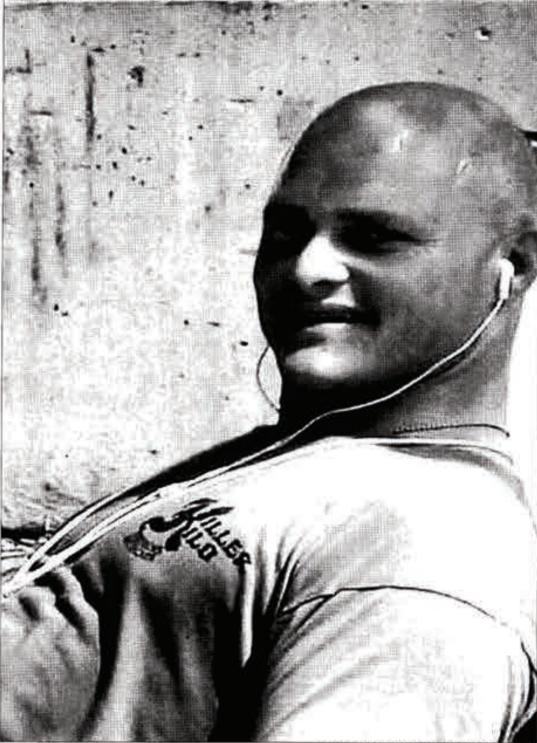
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Staff Sgt. Jason C. Ramseyer, pictured here, was killed in action April 21, in a roadside

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DARKSIDE, from A1

With a near 60 percent of the battalion deploying for the first time, the senior leaders exude a great deal of confidence in the Marines they are in command of and vice versa with the Marines on their first deployment being confident in their leaders.

"We're a hundred percent ready," said 1st Sgt. Robert J. Mims, Headquarters and Service Company first sergeant, who is on his first Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment, but fought in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. "Our training with Mojave Viper got them ready, because it was good training. I have no doubt in the abilities of any Marine. They all know their job and I believe the Marines themselves are confident in what they need to do."

Eighteen-year-old Lance Cpl. Jared Placensia of Los Angeles, is deploying with 3/4 for his first deployment and seems intrigued by the fact that he will get to serve next to Marines with past deployments.

"I am extremely confident in the Marines above me." said Placensia. "I have already learned so much from them. They know what they are doing, when it comes to their jobs, I wish to attain their level of skills."

Marines who have confidence in their abilities accredited it to their pre-deployment training.

"I feel that the training in the past months has properly prepared us for this deployment," said Greenwood, S.C., native, Lance Cpl. Adam Bice, of H&S Company, who is deploying

on his second tour.

Marines with 3/4 trained with Mojave Viper, division schools and also completed their annual training. They have been trained in ways to deal with different scenarios they may encounter while overseas.

"Mojave Viper training was immaculate," said Salem, Ore., native, Sgt. Benjamin Sundell, H&S Company, who is serving on his fourth deployment. "During Mojave Viper we did well on a squad level, a platoon level all the way up to company level. We pushed through it, and we did well with it."

Sgt. Ryan Goode, Communications Platoon H&S Company 1, serving his third deployment spoke highly of the training received in comparison to what Marines would do in Iraq.

"It was a good training facility," said Goode. "A lot of guys who are new had the chance to get a feel for what their job would be like over there. I would say the training was worse than Iraq, at least we have air conditioning there."

Many Marines who have had previous deployments have seen changes in several things pertaining to training and equipment.

"We're changing the way we fight," said Goode. "Our gear has improved along with the technology we have available to us now."

As for others, the opinion seems to be the same saying they see an upgrade in the amenities every time they return to Iraq. "Our living quarters are not bad at all," said Sundell.

As for the family and friends of the Marines deploying, busy work seems to be the best way for them to pass the time.

"You just got to keep yourself busy," said Jenna Sundell.

Sgt. Sundell's wife of two years. "First deployment is always the worst."

Newlywed Janelle Bice, wife of Lance Cpl. Bice plans on furthering her education while her husband is gone.

"I'm going to concentrate on school work and that kind of stuff to stay busy," said Janelle. "I'm going to try to stay as busy as possible, and write tons of letters."

As family members waved bye, the Marines loaded the bus, some nervous, others excited, but with an illuminating confidence on what they were about to embark on.

PENTAGON, from A1

He went to a ground-floor window and began yelling for people to come toward his voice. "People just started appearing out of the thick, black smoke," he said.

The first person he encountered at the window was the lady whose skin came off in his hands. Rojas, who had once been a fireman in his native U.S. Virgin Islands, said the severity of her burns surprised him. "I've seen burnt bodies," he said. "but this was bad."

He carried the woman away from the building and then ran back to the window, where he started pulling others to safety. "I was just trying get out as many as I could," he said.

Everything that followed the crash seemed to happen in slow motion, Rojas said, yet the details about the people he encountered throughout the day are lost to his memory. "I can't really remember any faces," he said.

When the fire department arrived, Rojas explained to them that he had been a fireman and asked if they wanted him to suit up. "I think they knew the building was getting ready to collapse, so they told us to get everybody back," he said.

A renovation project had recently been completed near the crash site, and numerous propane cylinders used for the project were still sitting in a fenced-in area, he said. When flames reached the tanks they began to explode. "These tanks were just shooting off up in the air. Poof! They were landing all over the place " he said.

Rojas stayed at the Pentagon until 2 a.m. Sept. 12. When he

finally did go home, he said, he took a quick shower, briefly chatted with his wife and kids, and then went back to work.

"I was angry. Angry is being mild," he said. "My thing was, 'How dare they hit our house?' When we're on duty this is what we swore to protect."

His seething anger began to dissipate over time as he was heartened to see the country pull together. "I feel 9/11 brought the country a lot closer together," he said, "especially people."

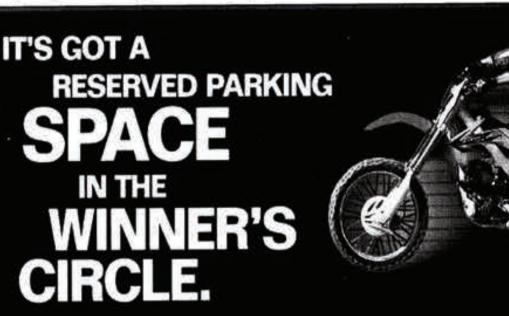
Rojas said he and his fellow officers were not well prepared to respond to this type of terrorist attack. "That was something never conceived," he said.

He said the force's procedures and training have improved drastically, and the agency has grown by several hundred officers since the attack. "Our officers are better prepared to deal with a major catastrophe. Training is 100 percent better now," he said.

Pentagon police officers now receive various specialty training, including counter-weapons of mass destruction training. "When the anthrax scare started, I was part of a three-man team that actually started (our) chemical, radiological, biological and nuclear unit," Rojas said. "We started the hazmat team where we'd actually go around sampling."

In addition, Rojas said PFPA's interaction with other federal agencies, like the FBI, is also now much better.

"It's tremendous the amount of respect the Pentagon police department and the agency as a whole gets now with other agencies. We didn't have this before," he said. "It makes me very proud."



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A petty officer third class and two passengers (both petty officers second class) were headed down a road when the front-seat passenger petty officer second class spilled a drink in his lap. He subsequently got upset with the petty officer third class, and the two started arguing, which led to the petty officer second class pouring some of his drink on the petty officer

When the petty officer third class made a comment about having the drink poured on his leg, the petty officer second class got even more upset and punched the windshield. The petty officer third class then slammed on the brakes, causing his car to swerve into oncoming traffic and collide with a mini-van.

The petty officer third class spent one day in a hospital and lost 30 workdays with a broken ankle, while the petty officer second class in the front seat suffered only a scalp laceration. The petty officer second class in the back seat had a cut on his right ear.

More than 40,000 people are killed each year in motor-vehicle crashes, with another 3 million injured. Driver inattention is a contributing factor in more than half of these crashes.

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Here are some suggestions to help you manage distractions safely:

 If the newspaper, business report, or day planner is too great a temptation, stick it in the trunk of the car until you arrive at your destination.

 Make sure that everyone and everything that could be a distraction is secured.

 Don't wait until you're driving to plan your route or attend to personal grooming. Do that before you go. Leave a little earlier—you'll be less stressed.

Pre-set the climate control, radio, CD player, and any other device you

 When you're hungry or thirsty, take a break. The next time you catch yourself slamming on the brakes to avoid hitting

someone or something, recognize that you may be driving distracted. Use some common sense and help keep our roads safer for everyone.

For more information, refer to these websites:

 Sea&Shore Summer 2004, "Distracted Driving": http://safetycenter. navy.mil/media/seashore/issues/summerO4/distracted.htm

 Ashore Summer 2002, "Distracted Drivers: A Dangerous Breed": http://safetycenter.navy.mil/media/ashore/issues/summerO2/distracted.htm

 Ground Warrior Summer 2001, "Distracted Driving—Are you Guilty of http://safetycenter.navy.mil/media/groundwarrior/issues/summerO1/distracted.htm

 National Safety Council Distracted Driving fact. http://www.nsc.org/ nsm/distracted.htm

 AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Fact Sheet for the Distracted Driving Phase II Report: http://www.aaafoundation.org/multimedia/index.cfm?button=distractedIIF

DOC, from A1

done wonderful things in radiology," he said. "I can't come up with enough superlatives to describe him. He's simply outstand-

Within the hospital, Tomblin took a pivotal role since his arrival in 2004 in the radiology department to change from chemical X-ray processing to a new digital technique, a feat which earned him a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He also helped expand his department's onthe-job training opportunities for his fellow sailors.

Another of Tomblin's brainchildren was the creation of a mentoring program called "Recruit the Chief," which he designed for junior sailors in the hospital to work toward passing their career advancement The program has tests. already seen nearly 25 sailors successfully become petty officers since its induction, but Tomblin said he hopes to expand the program

and reach even more people. "I really love my job I really like helping people and helping them see their potential." said Tomblin, who enlisted in the Navy in June 1996 after attending the Uni-

versity of Georgia in Atlanta and playing football there. "When I came here to Twentynine Palms, I saw a great opportunity."

But leading from the front is nothing new for Tomblin, who was his recruit training division's honor graduate and also the honor graduate from his basic and advanced courses for radiology at Navy School of Health Sciences in San Diego. He said his path to the Navy medicine partially came from his father, who served in the Air Force, and his major of physical therapy in college.

Putting his health science knowledge to use, Tomblin began using plyometric training, a form of strength training, during workouts and soon was able to slam dunk a basketball. One day during a local high school basketball game halftime, he dunked a ball on the court and caught the eye of the head coach, who recruited him to help train his team.

After a summer of training the Twentynine Palms High School varsity basketball team to new limits and a series of successful summertime tournaments later. Tomblin was asked to stay on as an assistant coach, which he still volunteers with on a regular basis.

"I love sports and I believe sports can be a tremendous builder for people." said Tomblin, who also plays basketball on the Combat Center's varsity team, the "Over 30 League" and on the hospital's team during intramural season. This year was the intramural hospital team's first-ever championship title.

"Sports are about bonding with people of different cul-

tures and emphasizes that you work together to be successful," he continued. "Those are the same things you have to do in the military or the civilian world, too. If you start as a youngster in sports. it can definitely help you be successful in those types of environments."

Although he continues to test for advancement to petty officer first class, Tomblin has also submitted a commissioning package to the Navy Medical Service Corps which was recently reviewed by a board and the results will be announced in November.

Schmitz, who was one of the board's reviewing members, said he was very impressed with Tomblin and his commissioning package continues to get stronger with each command he is with. Additionally. Tomblin is working to complete dual bachelors degrees in health care administration and radiology technology.

'It's not his first time on that board and we here at the hospital are optimistic

he'll be selected this time,"

said Schmitz. Currently, Tomblin has orders to report to the 3rd Marine Logistics Group at Marine Corps Base Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, as a "green side" Marine unit hospital corpsman in January.

"My first training was as a unit doc," said Tomblin, who plans to earn his Fleet Marine Force qualifications, a distinction among green side corpsmen, once he arrives at Camp Foster. "I was trained to do this, and I'm looking forward to it.'

Back at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, many of Tomblin's colleagues said they will be sorry to see him go once he leaves for Japan.

"He's going to be very difficult to replace when he transfers on," said Schmitz. "He was an outstanding candidate for the [Spirit of Service] award and was recognized for all the right reasons. He does so many things for us and has been very important to radiology in his time here. He's been incredible and we're going to miss him."



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Iraqi Army takes over Abu Ghraib prison

2ND LT. LAWTON KING

ABU GHRAIB. Iraq — As the American flag descended, the Iraqi sun rose.

The morning of Sept. 1, soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division assumed control of the Abu Ghraib prison from U.S. Army Task Force 134, Iraqi soldiers will provide security for the facility until the Iraqi Ministry of Justice dispatches its own security detail.

"Returning the empty prison to the control of the Ministry of Justice clearly says that enforcement of the rule of law is a cornerstone of the constitutional government of Iraq," said Iraqi Col. Monam Hashim Fahed, the battalion commander of 2-4-1.

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 will remain with the Iraqi brigade for a short duration to serve as a training cadre assisting the Iraqi unit through the initial stages of their mission. Additionally, an RCT-5 military transition team that mentored the brigade for roughly the last year will continue to advise Iraqi commanders and supply any requested guidance.

"It highlights the continued responsibility of the Iraqis," said Army Lt. Col. Scott Marley, the military transition team leader attached to 2-4-1.

"The significance is that the Iraqi military is taking the lead in a non-conventional mission," added Army Capt. John Langford, the 29-year-old military transition team intelligence advisor from Auburn, Wash.

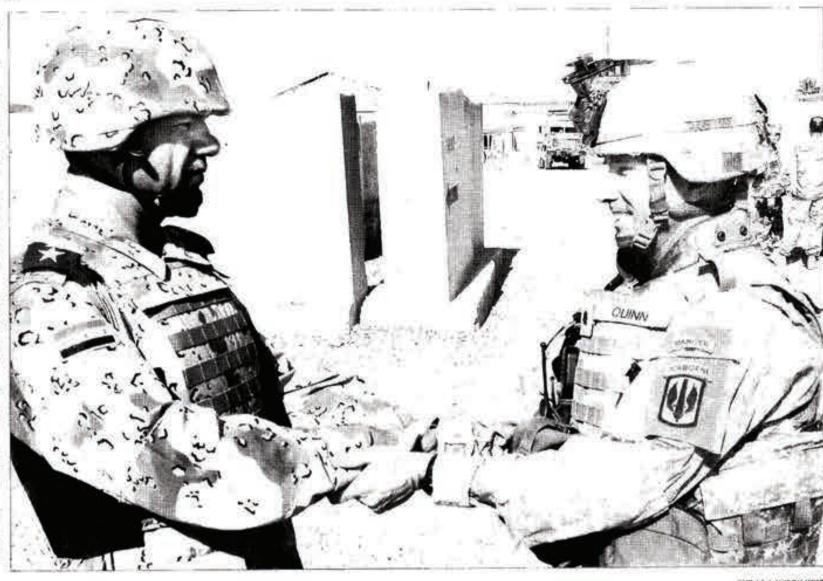
The American flag was lowered in a brief turnover ceremony and passed to Army Lt. Col. Stephen Quinn, the 44-year-old battalion commander of 3rd Battalion, 321 Field Artillery Regiment from Virginia Beach, Va., and the outgoing commander of Abu Ghraib security.

Monam, who flanked Quinn during the security turnover, expressed his gratitude following the ritual and assured those in attendance that Iraqi soldiers were prepared to undertake the formidable responsibilities.

"We have been in the city of Fallujah for two years. Our mission is to defeat the terrorists," he said. "Our soldiers received very good training from the U.S. Army, Marines and Navy SEALS. We participated in the Battle of Fallujah.... And I promise, we'll do our best."

Quinn added that Marines noted the aggressiveness of the Iraqi soldiers in battling insurgents.

Several hours later, Army Maj, Gen Jack Gardner, the commanding general of Task



Iraqi Col. Monam Hashim Fahed, the battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, assumes control of security at the Abu Ghraib prison from U.S. Army Lt. Col. Stephen Quinn, the battalion commander of 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment. Several hours later, two representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Justice received the keys to the prison from Army Maj. Gen. Jack Gardner, the commanding general of Task Force 134 and overseer of detainee operations in Iraq. The prison is now officially an Iraqi lacility.

Force 134 and overseer of all detainee operations in Iraq, arrived on the scene to determine whether or not all last-minute administrative issues were resolved.

Satisfied that the facility was fit to be transferred to the custody of the Iraqi government, Gardner and two representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Justice signed several official documents, effectively handing over administrative control of Abu Ghraib prison to Iraq.

Iraqi MOJ representatives presented Gardner with an ornate sword and several other gifts.

Gardner in turn dropped two keys into the hands of one of the MOJ representatives and retired outside for yet another flag-lowering ceremony.

Gardner addressed the dozens of spectators

and applauded the efforts of the U.S. servicemembers who served honorably at the prison after the ceremony was completed. He held the tri-cornered, folded American flag in his hands while he spoke.

Gardner then departed in his convoy, soon to be followed by Quinn's security force,

"Today acknowledges that Iraq is the main effort," said 1st Lt. Cameron Brown, a 24year-old platoon commander assigned to G Company, "The U.S. is not Iraq's future. The Iraqi army is Iraq's future."

Browne and his Marines will remain at the prison for a short period to facilitate the transition and to interface with the units in the surrounding areas.

"It's easy to forget the significance of this in our exit strategy."







Birth announcements

Emma Grace Granger
Daughter of Staff Sgt. and
Mrs. Michael Granger
Born July 7, 2006, weighing
7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring
21 inches.

Summer Marie Hope Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Shawn Hope Born July 11, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 8.9 oz. and measuring 21.1 inches.

Haile Nicole Telford Daughter of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Luke Telford Born July 12, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 21.4 inches.

Dakota Corey Camerer Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Zachariah Camerer Born July 12, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches. Roman Charles Ortiz Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ortiz Born July 13, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measur-

ing 21 inches.

Conner Gray Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Dylan Gray Born on July 15, 2006, weighing 7 lbs, 7 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Vanessa Elisa Lara Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. David Lara Born July 16, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Alexander Patton Weibling Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Scott Weibling Born July 16, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 21.7 inches.

Kailey DeAnne Nolen Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Kyle Nolen Born July 18, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20.7 inches.

Austin Eugene Cook
Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs.
Steven Cook
Born July 18, weighing 6
lbs. 2 oz. and measuring
19.7 inches.

Kaleb Scott Woodson Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Brad Woodson Born July 18, 2006, weighing 5 lbs. 2.9 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

Kayla Jill Woodson Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Brad Woodson Born July 18, 2006, weighing 4 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 18.5 inches.

Leyera Marie Favela Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Isau Favela Born July 20, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 14.6 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches. Bianca Adinda Lafferty
Daughter of Capt, and Mrs.
Robert Lafferty
Born July 22, 2006, weighing 7 lbs, 15 oz, and measuring 20.4 inches.

Kaitlyn Paige Chow Daughter of Lt. Jg. And Mrs. Early Chow Born July 24, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 19,4 inches.

Jolee Samantha Stull Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Joseph Stull Jr. Born July 25, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

Braden Ezra Kisse Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Wade A. Kisse Born July 25, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 21.2 inches.

Hailey May Hampton Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Ashley R. Hampton Born July 29, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches.

Freddie Ricardo Walker Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Freddie Walker Born Aug. 2, 2006, weighing 9 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 21.8 inches.

Lilian Avery Claveria Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. David Claveria Born Aug. 2, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20.6 inches. Justin Caden Walters Son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Walters Born Aug. 3, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 0.5 oz. and measuring 20.3 inches.

Emily Claire Hartman
Daughter of Sgt, and Mrs.
Ryan Hartman
Born Aug. 4, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

Logan Wyatt Rayman Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Shawn Rayman Born Aug. 5, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 6.8 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

Ethan Javier Hilton Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Michael Hilton Born Aug. 5, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 6,7 oz. and measuring 20.7 inches.

Caelum Sullivan Lee Curcie Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Elijha Curcie Born Aug. 7, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Keilana Alexandra Popowski Daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Jason Popowski Born Aug. 9, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 18 inches. Michael Richard Gonzaga Hart Jr. Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Michael Hart Born Aug. 11, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 20.2 inches.

Eli Richard Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Eric Anderson Born Aug. 11, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 22 inches.

Jon David Leon
Guerrero Jr.
Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Job
LeonGuerrero
Born Aug. 13, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. and measuring 20
inches.

Olivia Rhaine Bouchard Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Michael Bouchard Porn Aug. 13, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Adryana Sky Rowland
Daughter of Lance Cpl. and
Mrs. George Rowland
Born Aug. 13, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 20.2 inches.

Alexia Nicole Lesher
Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs.
Nicholas Lesher
Born Aug. 14, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 20.6 inches.

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INTRO. TO EXPOSITORY WRITING	M	8-11:45a	09/11-12/11/06
WRITING THE RESEARCH PAPER	F	9-11:30a	10/20-12/15/06
HOME HEALTH AIDE	S/N	7a-4:50p	12/02-12/17/06

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& 5

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Combat Cooks: the hidden workers

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

It is 5:30 a.m.

You roll over, hit the alarm clock and get up ready to start your day. You don't have to worry about chow because you're going to get three square meals a day provided in a nicely furnished mess hall with televisions and a variety of food. The preparation and time put into the food is probably the last thing on your mind as you chow down.

Military Occupational Specialty 3381 may not be familiar, but the job title "cook" is. It's a job field that often gets overlooked or battered by many Marines, but the daily life of a Marine cook is not easy.

Depending on what shift a cook gets, you could be snug in your bed as they are already up starting their day before the sun has even come up. Many get up at 3:30 a.m. to start getting ready for their busy day ahead. By 4 a.m. they are getting daily inspections of their hair, fingernails and uniform to insure proper sanitization. Around 4:15 a.m. all the food is being prepared, cooked and made ready to be served.

Setting up for meals involves a lot of rushing to make sure the mess hall is prepared to serve the Marines and sailors who walk through the doors. At 5:30 the service line is set up and the mess hall begins to fill with hungry Marines.

"The schedule is necessary, so that we can have breakfast ready by 5:30 a.m.," said Sgt. Eduardo Hernandez. "It is long hours, but someone has to do it."

To attain the MOS of Basic Food Service Specialist a Marine must attend a 12week basic course in Fort Lee, Va. Along with the odd hours, a cook must also maintain the standards set forth for Marines and complete all annual training.

"We still go to the gas chamber, the rifle range and do our physical fitness test and swim qualifications," said Staff Sgt. David Rothenberger who has been a food service specialist for 15 years and is now the chief cook at Phelps Mess Hall.

It's Saturday afternoon.

If you want chow on a weekend, where do you go? The mess hall. Cooks not only have hectic weekday schedules like their fellow Marines, they also work every other weekend. On top of all that, Marines still need to eat during holidays, so the mess halls must remain open to serve them too.

To put the amount of work cooks do into perspective, consider this. Families host backyard picnics and make hamburgers for themselves and their friends, while cooks feed hundreds of Marines three times a day - at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"Right now we are feeding approximately 600 Marines for lunch alone," said Master Sgt. Pedro Rosado, Regimental Mess Manager. "Then we have about 450 for breakfast and 500 for dinner. This is a very slow month too because there are whole battalions deployed. The typical numbers that come through for lunch are closer to 900."

Along with providing food in the mess hall, cooks also prepare field meals for infantry battalions and are also fully deployable themselves.

"Right now I have 53 Marines deployed," said Rosado. "I have Marines in Al Asad, Okinawa, Korean Vil-



LANCE CPL KATELYN A. KNAUER

Marine Food Service Specialists prepare breakfast at Phelps Mess Hall for hundreds of Marines on a daily basis.

lage, Al Qa'im, Fallujah then I have Marines working with Mojave Viper, Bridgeport cold weather training and some also attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit."

Currently there are 39 deployable food service Marines working in Phelps Mess Hall who are periodical-

ly sent on the Fleet Assistance Program to Headquarters Battalion, Bravo Company. Along with the cooks in the mess hall and those currently deployed, 21 food service Marines are permanently assigned to base food service in non-deployable billets who work to support two mess halls on base this if a Marine fails field day

and one at Camp Wilson.

The mess hall must also meet strict sanitation regulations. The mess hall receives 24 unannounced inspections, two announced Naval Hospital inspections and one technical inspection a month.

"Just think about it like

he just does field day again," said Rothenberger. "If we fail field day, we get shut down."

Whether it is here or overseas, these cooks are ready to serve with a satisfaction from a job well done.

"I enjoy cooking, it's making magic happen with food," said Rothenberger.

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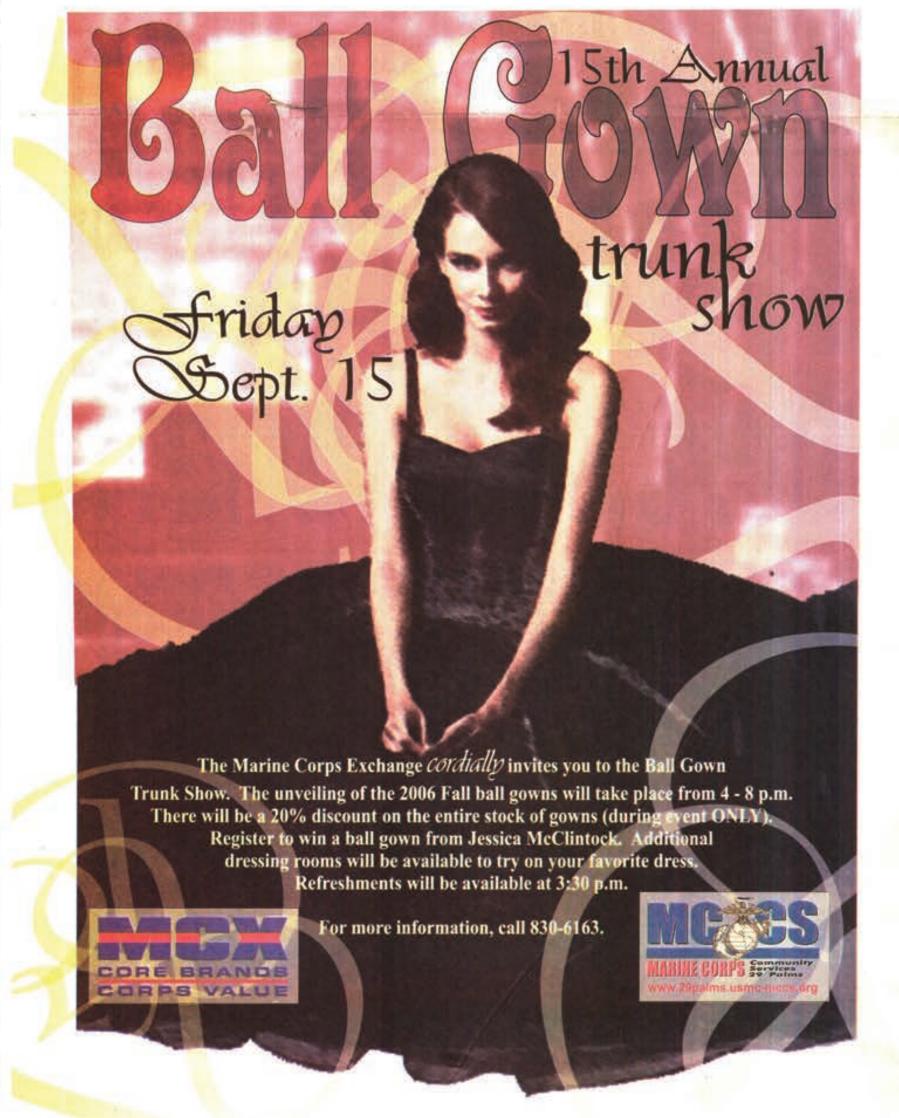
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What in the world would you give?

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Each year hundreds of organizations and charities are put on a list to receive money through the Combined Federal Campaign.

On the list are hundreds of charities that support a variety of things, which affect millions of people either directly. or indirectly, through a loved one who benefits from the charities' services.

The CFC is a yearly charity drive in which federal employees pick a charity of their choice to donate to, with over 1,700 local, national and international health, welfare and philanthropic organizations to choose from.

This year the CFC is looking to up their ante and bring in more money versus fast year's \$160, 501 pledged with 60 percent contact on base and 30 percent participation.

"Our goal this year is to raise \$225,000, have 100 percent contact and have over 50 percent participation," said Brenda Roberts. Twentynine Palms Area CFC chair.

This year the CFC aboard base will begin its eight week charity drive Sept. 8

To participate and make donations a pledge card must be filled out stating what specific organization you would fike to donate to and how that donation is going to be paid.

Donations can be made in cash, check or through an allotment in which the money can be taken from paychecks over a period of time.

"We encourage allotments be made. That way they can spread it out and pay a low amount each payday," said Roberts.

Those who wish to can also donate paying the lump sum, but must still fill out a pledge card with their designated charity listed.

This year there are 41 command representatives aboard the base, delegated all the way down to the battalion level.

"All the representatives have been trained and are responsible for their people." said Roberts.

By having command representatives the goal of 100 percent contact is more attainable and allows the cause of the CFC to be explained to those who wish to donate.

Those who are leery of donating should be advised that the CFC is the nation's largest workplace charity drive and that organizations must meet strict eligibility requirements on an annual basis, according to the CFC Web site, http://www.opm. gov/efc.html/efc hist.htm.

Though the Twentynine Palms Area CFC is a small

Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, Combat Center commanding general, fills out his annual Combined Federal Campaign contribution allotment form. The Combat Center is the lead federal organization in its geographic area for the campaign.

money donated goes a long way and helps thousands of people - whether it is fighting a disease or supporting a local organization that your family benefits from. In the end money donated through

piece of the big picture, the CFC is put towards things which benefit the everyday public.

Last year nationally the CFC received record pledging totaling \$268,5 million in 2005. That's a \$11 million increase over 2004, according

to the CFC Web site.

Everyone is given a chance to donate and help attain the goals set out for the Twentynine Palms Area CFC and help increase this year's numbers even more.

So the question remains, what would you give?

The commanding general will kick off the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign today at Victory Field from 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Nine local charitable organizations will be on hand to display their services to the Combat Center Community,



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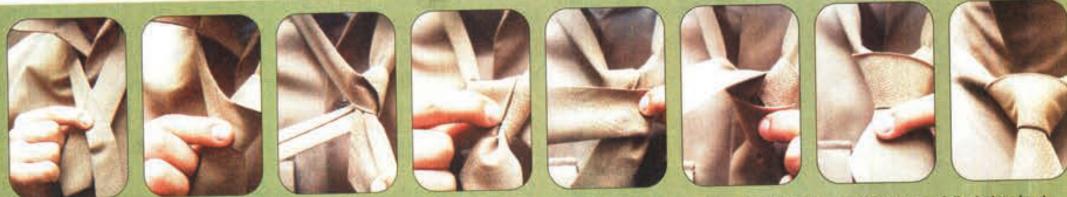


Saturday 9-8 · Sunday 10-6





OBSERVATIONS



Clip on ties are obvious shortcuts that make Marines look lazy. (Think of the fat, donut-eating car salesman.) Use this eight-step guide to tying a full-windsor knot the next time you bust out your Field Scarf.

Tips to make your uniform look like a million buck\$

CPL BRIAN A. TUTHILL

high in maintaining a crisp military appearance throughout their proud history. But what little things help set Marines above the rest? How do you go from off-the-rack to outstanding?

Uniform tricks and tips are often as unique as Marines themselves; some keep with them lessons they were taught in recruit training or Officer Candidate School while others still discover new ones to share with their Marines throughout their careers.

However you prepare your uniforms, one lesson seems to ring true throughout the years: treat your uniforms with care and respect and they will make you look like a cut above the rest.

See TIPS, B3



Put pennies in the gaps behind the leather chin strap across bill of your cover to keep it tight and from moving up.

Here's a tip from Marine Barracks 8th & I

To relieve pressure from the front and sides of framed covers, cut a long middle section from a wire clothes hanger. Bend it into a "V" shape. Use pliers to bend the ends around the screwposts and center the "V" behind the eagle, globe and anchor mount.

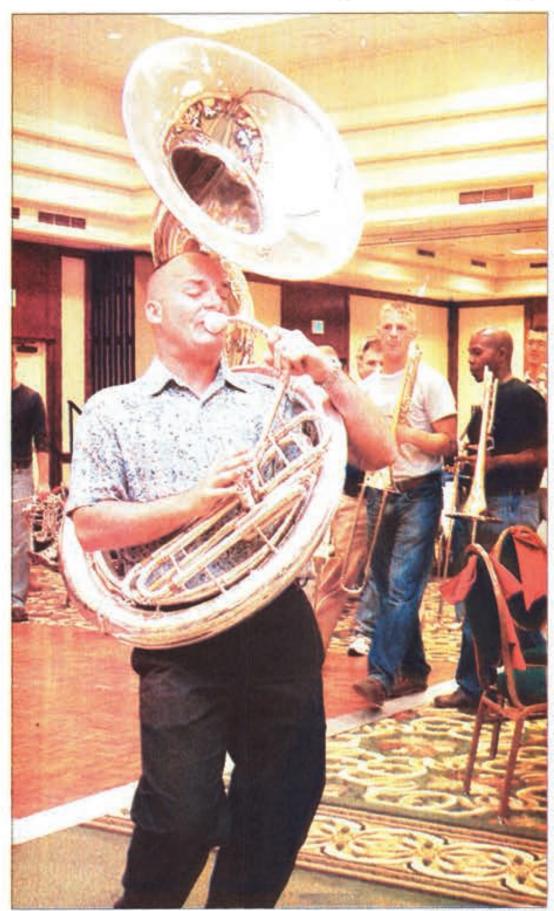








Bandsman's journey to the Combat Center



Staff Sgt. Joel Daniel, a native from Hermosa Beach, Calif., joined the Army as an infantryman and spent three years as a machine gunner. He later enlisted as a Marine in August 1995.

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LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When Staff Sgt. Joel Daniel, a native of Hermosa Beach, Calif., graduated high school from Redondo Union High School in 1988, he set down his tuba he had been playing since he was in eleventh grade, and joined the Army as an infantryman.

He spent three years in the Army as a machine gunner in 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division. He deployed to the Middle East in support of the Multi-National Force and Observers to keep peace between Egypt and Israel. By the time his contract expired, Daniel knew soldier-life wasn't for him, he said.

He missed music.

Daniel decided to pursue a career doing something he loved. He enrolled into El Camino College in Torrence, Calif., and later transferred to Long Beach State University and received an associate's degree in music.

But there was still something missing in his career.

From serving in the Army, Daniel experienced a brotherhood within his squad most people outside of the military don't know.

"I wanted the espirit de corps you can only get from the Marine Corps," he explained. "Marines look out for each other."

In high school, Daniel was in the Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Corps and had seen Marine Corps bands perform. It had left a mark on him that surfaced when he decided to enlist as a Marine in August 1995, he said.

"The Marine Corps is more of a lifestyle," said Daniel. "The Army was more of a job."

When Daniel had completed boot camp and training at the School of Music at the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Va., he found himself back at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego for three years.

In 1998, Daniel received the chance of a lifetime as the fourth Marine to be added to the

In 1998, Daniel received the chance of a lifetime as the fourth Marine to be added to the Commander in Chief Allied Forces, Southern Europe Band in Naples, Italy. The band performed for NATO ceremonies and other community relations performances all over Europe and the Mediterranean, he said.

"Living in Europe made me realize that America isn't the center of the universe," said Daniel. "It broadened my scope to other ideas and lifestyles,"

After four years in Italy, Daniel went back to the School of Music for six months for more training. He was then assigned to the 2nd Marine Division Band at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

A year after joining the band, Daniel and his fellow bandsmen were deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The band served as the camp's security force. Daniel was a platoon commander of more than 35 troops, he said.

Other Marines were not sure what to think as the band stepped on deck in Iraq, but soon found new meaning to "a Marine is a Marine."

"They were actually surprised to see how tight-knit we were as a unit," said Daniel, "They didn't realize it takes teamwork and a lot of communication to perform music that flows to other areas of being a Marine."

Daniel had learned to play the bag pipes after being mesmerized by their sound at a Highlands games festival during his years in college. He strapped them onto his pack as he conducted security measures in Iraq, he said.

"Whenever there was a half an hour to kill, I would pull out my bag pipes and start playing," he said. "Marines would gather around and listen.

"Music has a way of taking you somewhere else, like a kind of therapy," he explained.

When Daniel returned from the deployment, he returned to the School of Music for 30

weeks to take an advance course in conducting, arranging, history and theory of music.

With this new training under his belt, Daniel arrived to the Combat Center Band in March.

"The band here is the best musically competent band I have ever experienced," he said, "This band is untouchable."

Even after all of Daniel's adventures of big city living and European travels, he and his wife of 10 years, Joni, were craving small-town living, he said.

"We love it here in Twentynine Palms," said Daniel, "We're glad to finally be in a small, quiet community."

Daniel is pursuing a bachelor's degree in music, would like to be a band officer and eventually retire from the Marine Corps, he said.

> Visit our table Friday, Sept. 15, 2006 In the MCX @ 29 Palms, 10am - 2pm



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TIPS, from B1

White dress cover

- Use glass cleaner to wipe down vinyl covers and use a clean sock across the bill to remove fingerprints.
- Use newspaper and window cleaner on black high gloss instead of paper towels so no fibers are left behind.
- Don't leave it in the back of a car window. The heat will warp the bill. Leave it at home or somewhere safe.
- Wash cotton or vinyl covers with a load of whites and a minimal amount of bleach.
 Too much bleach will cause yellowing, about a capful will do.
- Drying covers will cause shrinking. If your cover is starting to sag, put it in the dryer a few minutes to reduce this affect.
- Buy cover fabric 1/8 size smaller than your frame size for a proper tight fit.
- When you put a cover together, make sure your eagle, globe and anchor is straight on the front first.
- Put pennies in the gaps behind leather chin straps across bill of cover to keep it tight and from moving up.
- Female Marines can put clear tape or tissue paper on the sweatband of cover frame to absorb makeup.

White belt and white gloves

- They can be cleaned in the washing machine with whites and a very light amount of bleach or regular detergent.
- For discolored spots, use spot detergent before washing.
- Keep belts and gloves stored in a bag so nothing can get on them between uses.
- Wash them as soon as possible after use before stains have time to set in.

Barracks and Garrison covers

- Unfold garrison cover and iron out wrinkles. Wear it about two fingertips from the bridge of the nose.
- To relieve pressure from front and sides of framed covers, cut long middle section from a wire clothes hangar. Bend it into a "V" shape. Use pliers to bend ends around screwposts and set "V" center behind eagle, globe and anchor mount.

Dress blue coat

 Take uniforms for dry cleaning when possible.

The Covenant

(PG 13)

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- Store on a wide-shouldered wooden hangar to properly hold form of coat.
- Keep covered in plastic or a garment bag to keep dust off. A lint brush goes a long way, too.
- Iron with a handkerchief or thin cloth on top of fabric to prevent "shine". Use a damp cloth to wipe away most shine temporarily. Do this for all service and dress uniform items.
- Even though this is unauthorized, some females
 Marines cut their white dress blues undershirt around the midriff so they don't have to tuck it in.

Brass, buttons and buckles

- Use a slight vinegar solution to thoroughly clean medals and buttons.
- Buttons and medals should be taken off for dry cleaning.
- For anodized items, try lighter fluid and clean cloth instead of glass cleaner for smudges. Take care not to get fluid on fabric.
- Don't use Brasso on anodized metal because it will remove the finish.
- Wrap brass buckle in cloth to protect from scratches.

Dress and service trousers

- Ironing trousers before wear should help keep a stiff appearance.
- To keep trouser creases extra sharp, use a very light coat of starch when ironing.
- When putting trousers on a hangar, double check it's flat or you may find a double crease.

Service alpha coat and neck ties

- Dry clean service coat, trousers and green waist belt together so they fade equally over time.
- Learn how to tie a proper knot, Most methods are simple. Ties should be the same material or brand as the khaki shirt worn.
- Double check the length of your tie after cinching the knot.
- Don't wear clip-on ties, People notice.

Khaki web belt

- A khaki web belt is not made to hold up trousers. If your trousers fit properly, a small trim of trouser color should be seen above the belt.
- To keep web belt tips in

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- place, break a paperclip in
 half. Take the small piece
 and slip the straight end into
 the fold of the belt's metal tip
 from underneath. Then set
 the curved end behind the
 belt. This will keep your belt
 in place.
 - Keep one belt aside for dress uniforms and inspections. There should be no discoloration, sagging or tarnish on the brass.

Khaki shirts and shirt stays

- Dry clean DSCP issued shirts more often than thicker shirts.
- Keeping paper towels or tissue paper under your arms can help prevent sweat marks.
- Applying a water repellent spray to the interior of your shirt may stop sweat from showing through.
- Using shirt stays will keep it looking neat as you move around. Find which style you prefer. Individual or Yharnesses are most popular.
- A rubber strap around the inside of the waist band will keep slender Marines' trousers from shifting and sagging.

- Individual shirt stays should be applied to the front and back.
- In the back, attach them on the creases about two inches below the belt line.
 Angle them outward about 45 degrees and wrap around the leg before clipping to socks.
- Also, front shirt stays angled slightly out and wrapped around the leg helps keep the front flat.
- Safety pin the rubber parts to your shirt after you fix it in place. If you're moving around all day, the pins will keep the metal lock from slipping off.

Medals, ribbons and badges

- Wearing a backing behind your ribbons keeps them from drooping down and holds the middle flush.
- Anodized medals can be carefully cleaned with lighter fluid. Keep ribbons dry or colors may bleed.
- Store and protect medals from water and impacts.
- When mounting new full sized medals, instead of buying a new set, bring in your current set with the new

medal(s) for remounting.

High gloss oxfords and accessories

- For "corframs," using edge dressing will make heels and edges shine. Keep off high-gloss leather.
- Edge dressing may chip or scuff once applied, so regular upkeep is needed. Use a razor blade to scrape off excess periodically.
- Without edge dressing, clean the heels with a brush and wet cloth to get dirt off. Use glass cleaner or polish for leather.
- For sword frogs, wrap in cloth or plastic and put somewhere safe from scratches or marring.
- If in service or dress uniforms often, alternate daily between two pairs of shoes to double their wear life.

Camouflage utilities and boots

- Utilities are a 'no-iron' uniform, but they can be ironed. Don't flatten permanent creases.
- Iron 8-point utility covers so edges don't droop.
- Hand or machine wash utility cover but hang and

air dry for proper shape.

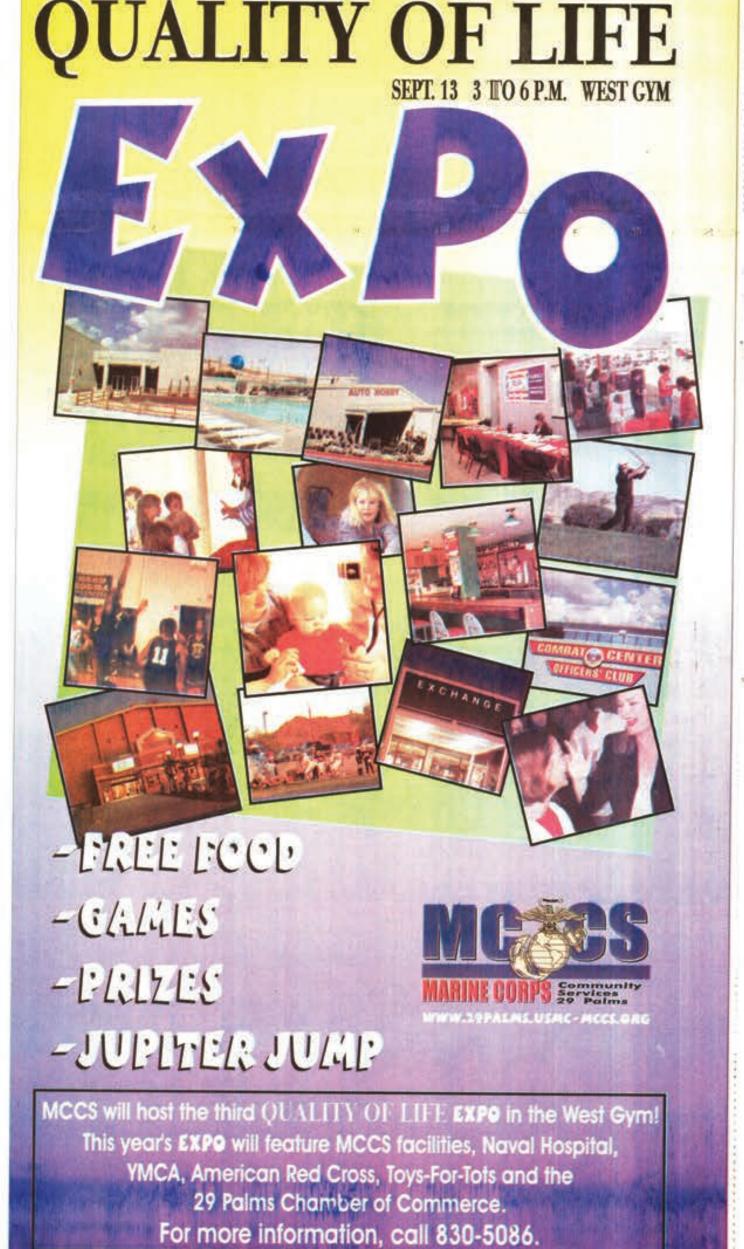
- Keep chevrons black.
 Often they are what a Marine sees first.
- Use black emblem retouch for small chips.
- Although not authorized, some Marines use ultra-fine sandpaper and flat black spray paint to retouch chevrons.
- For combat boots, buy a boot kit from the Marine Corps Exchange and follow the simple directions to clean the leather.
- Brushing boots will also remove most dust for quick cleaning.
- Boots should be regularly cleaned so stains do not engrain in the leather.

Other uniforms

- On the all-weather coat, wear the buckle centered between button sets, not aligned to the material edge.
- Carefully apply black leather dye to NCO sword grips and scabbard if needed.

Ball Season

Everyone is trying to get their stuff done as soon as possible. The sooner the better.





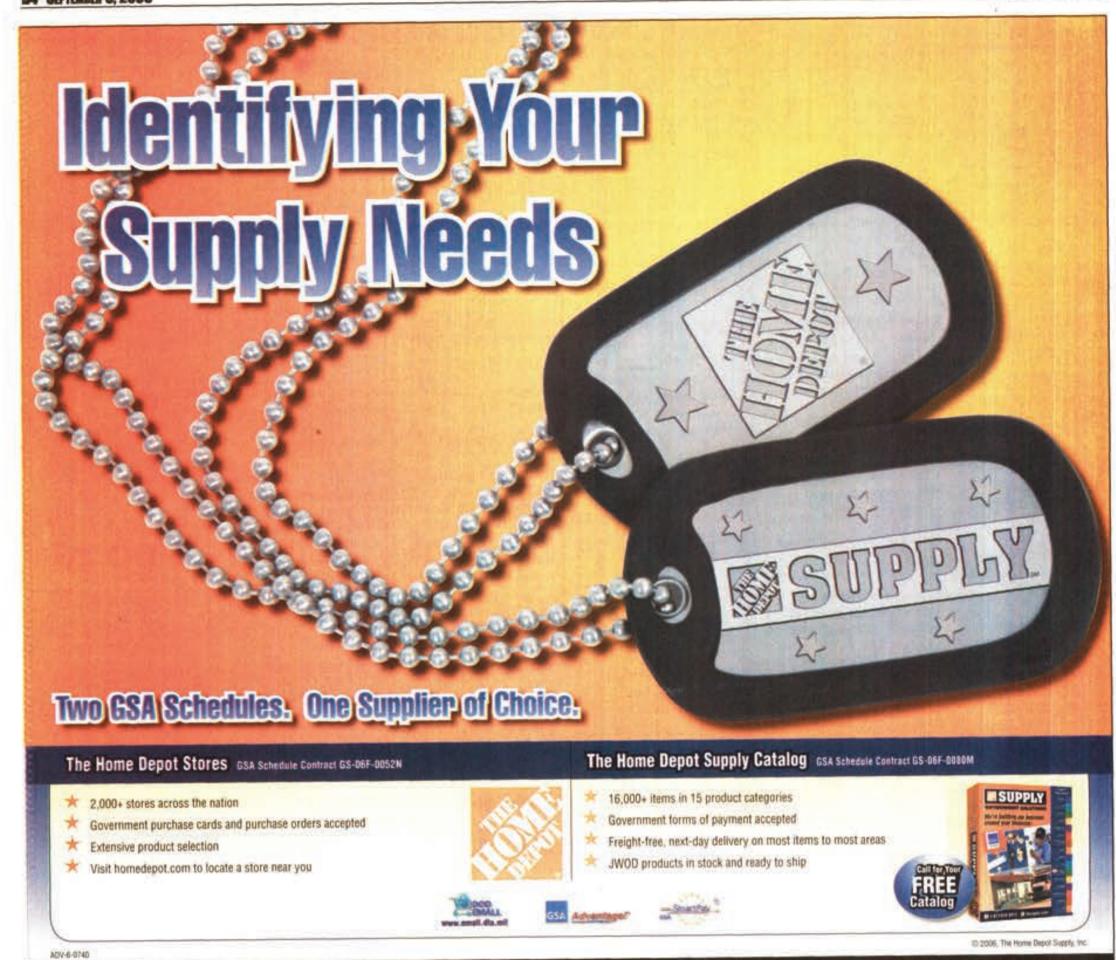
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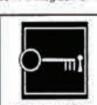
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YARD sale Sat 9/9, 8am-3pm, 73947 Samarkand. Plus sz. clothes, shoes, video games, movies & misc. YARD sale Sat 9/9. 8am-4pm, 5344 Morongo Rd X St Two Mile. Lots of misc!!

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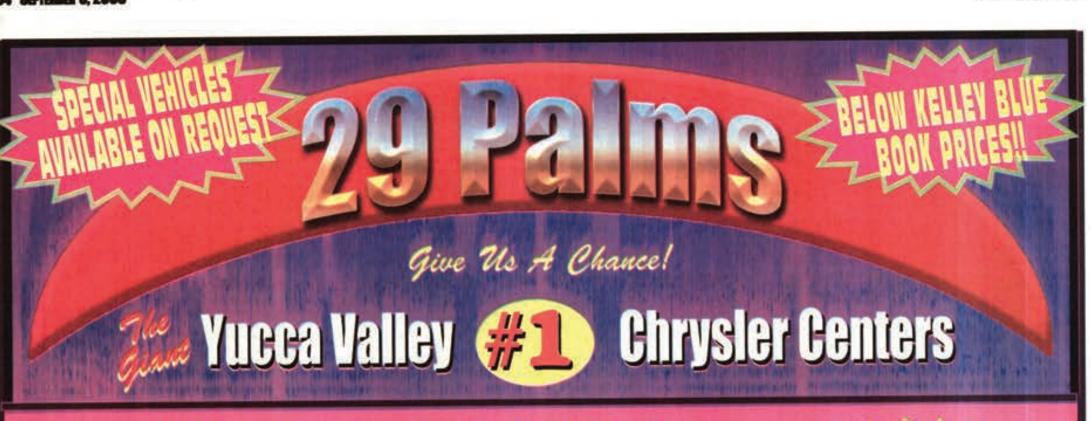
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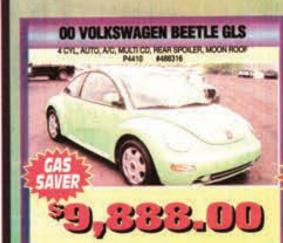


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