

Serving the MCAGCC  
Community at  
Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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SMP OKTOBERFEST, A6

# OBSERVATION POST



HEADSHOT, A7

BULK RATE  
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## THIS ISSUE

A5 - Chaplain

A9 - America's Battalion

B3 - Quality of Life Expo

## HOT TOPICS

### PHILIPS ROAD REPAVING

The Philips Road repaving project between the tank trail and Camp Wilson is scheduled from Sept. 19 to Jan. 31. Vehicle traffic to and from Camp Wilson will be diverted to a dirt bypass road that runs parallel to the existing roadway. The entire project will be done in three separate phases. Please be attentive to all traffic control signs.

### RED CROSS NOW ACCEPTING BALL GOWN DONATIONS

The American Red Cross 29 Palms Station is in need of ball gown donations of all sizes and colors, shoes and accessories. Donations can be dropped off at the Red Cross Office in building 1551. For more information, call Beth or Davinity at the 29 Palms Red Cross Station at 830-6685.

### CONTACTING THE DUTY CHAPLAIN

In order to reach the Duty Chaplain for emergencies after normal working hours, on weekends or holidays, please call the CDO at 830-7200. The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Quarterdeck will no longer be routing calls for the Duty Chaplain.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY - REFLECTIVE VEST/BELT REQUIRED

In accordance with CCO 1630.8c (Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations), pgh 4204 (1), "Personnel participating in individual physical training (running/ jogging/walking) must wear a reflective vest or a reflective belt" during low-light and reduced visibility conditions. This directive applies to all personnel aboard the Combat Center, military and civilian. This is a personal safety issue. Compliance with the Center Order will drastically increase safety for foot traffic on the Combat Center roads.

## COMING NEXT ISSUE

- 1/7 Homecoming
- MCMAP Instructor Course
- Best of the Best Award

## THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

September 22, 1945

The 5th Marine Division landed at Sasebo, Japan for occupation duty.

# Honorary Marine, Iwo Jima photographer, awarded Medal



JOSEPH J. ROSENTHAL  
Five Marines and a Navy corpsman raise the second flag on top of Mount Suribachi Feb. 23, 1945. The service members are Ira Hayes, Franklin Sausley, Michael Strank, John Bradley, Rene Gagnon and Harlon Block.

SGT. CHRISTINE C. ODOM  
12TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT

SAN FRANCISCO -- His career in photography spanned over half a century; the images he has captured on film have touched the lives of many, but what he was most remembered for on Sept. 15 was his humbling demeanor and gentle nature.

Joseph J. Rosenthal was named a honorary Marine April 13, 1996, by former commandant, Gen. Charles C. Krulak, for his world-renowned photograph of five Marines and one Navy corpsman raising the American flag high atop Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima Feb. 23, 1945.

On Sept. 15, Rosenthal was honored again by his fellow Marines in a ceremony at the Marines Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco to posthumously award him with the Distinguished Public Service Medal.

Retired Marine Lt. Gen. Larry Snowden, the master of ceremonies for the event, welcomed those who came to honor Rosenthal's memory.

In his opening remarks he stated, "I was on Iwo Jima when Joe Rosenthal took the picture that would become the most famous picture of that war, and perhaps, the most viewed picture in history. That picture would become synonymous with the United States Marine Corps."

At the time the photograph was taken, Rosenthal was a 33-year-old war corre-

spondent working for the Associated Press, but assigned to the Marine Corps. He missed the opportunity to photograph the initial flag-raising, which was taken a few hours earlier by Sgt. Lou Lowry. Subsequently, as luck would have it, orders came down for a second flag to be placed at the top of Mount Suribachi, so it would be seen by the entire fleet. Moments later Rosenthal saw a group of Marines preparing to hoist the flag up the mountain and accompanied them.

It took only 1/400 of a second to snap the photograph that would become a symbol of hope for an entire nation. Rosenthal's flag-raising picture won the Pulitzer Prize for photography in 1945.

"Of all the images that have captured Pulitzer Prizes, none is more memorable than Joe Rosenthal's raising of the flag on Iwo Jima," said Sig Gissler, an administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes for Columbia University.

Rosenthal had practically secured his place in history because of his photograph, but when asked what he thought about the notoriety he received, he would say he took a picture, the Marines took Iwo Jima.

Several photographs of Rosenthal were on display during the ceremony. They chronicled the story of his life and career. In addition, guests were treated to a short film produced specifically for the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

See MEDAL, A5

# Field radio operators take to the road



KATELYN A. KNAUER  
Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Instructor Sgt. Hasson Degraffenreid gives students directions on the skills portion of the humvee license test.

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Wearing flak's and Kevlar's, they load into a humvee and set out along the main-side ridgeline, receiving more than just the knowledge of how to be an entry level field radio operator, but learning how to operate a humvee.

In August, the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School started a 10-day program where students could receive their humvee license, in garrison or on overseas deployments.

"Students are eligible after we ensure they have a valid license and an updated physical screening," said MCCES instructor Staff Sgt. William Mordelle.

The average class size is 25-35 students, and the bigger classes can range from 45-55 students. The course covers several areas the students must pass to receive a valid license.

"After they have passed all the requirements they have to pass a 50-question multiple choice test," said Mordelle. "Then they have to drive 250 road miles."

See HUMVEE, A3

# Iraqi police officers to boost security in Iraq-Syria border

CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS  
1ST MARINE DIVISION

CAMP QA'IM, Iraq -- Four hundred newly-trained police officers are slated to join the 1,000-man police force currently providing security for the Iraq-Syria border region of Al Qa'im in western Al Anbar, Iraq.

The new police officers were recruited just three months ago and recently completed 10 weeks of police academy training in one of two academies in Jordan or Baghdad.

Just four months ago, the region of about 170,000, established a police force for the first time in three years.

With no police force in the region, the brunt of security was provided by Iraqi soldiers and Marines from 1st Battalion,

7th Marine Regiment.

The new police officers claim they're ready to start policing their neighborhoods and keeping the "bad guys" out.

"I am looking forward to wearing the uniform," said Ahmed, a 27-year-old man from the village of Ramana, through an interpreter. "I know that together we can help keep the insurgents from coming into our towns."

A 23-year-old named Hadi, said he has a brother serving in the Iraqi Army. Hadi said he joined the police because he wanted to serve close to his home — unlike Iraqi soldiers who can be stationed anywhere in Iraq, Iraqi police officers are "home grown," serving near their homes.

See POLICE, A7



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS,  
A police officer mans a machine gun nest while providing security atop a roof in Karabilah, a city of about 30,000 near the Iraq-Syria border.

# C.O.P. Corner

## Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

### Managing your stress

What is stress? Did you know that stress is the body's way of letting us know there is too much going on, too much for our body to handle.

Stress is the body's response to any demand or pressure. These demands, called stressors, may include, but are not limited to, major life events such as a divorce, the birth of a child or the death of a loved one.

Some other causes may include, but are not limited to, chronic strains that last over a period of time, such as living on unemployment.

Some stressors include daily or occasional strains, like taking care of a sick child or ailing mother or father.

What happens when you are stressed?

The stressors cause the body to make physical and chemical adjustments in order to maintain the necessary physiological balance for survival.

A racing heart, a burst of energy, and muscle tension are the body's physical responses to stressors.

When faced with danger, some of the first stress reactions are a rise in blood pressure, quicker breathing and heart beat, and dilated pupils, then your sight and hearing become more alert.

Table 1. Stress Checklist

PHYSICAL	MENTAL
Headaches	Forgetfulness
Teeth grinding	Poor concentration
Fatigue	Low productivity
Insomnia	Negative attitude
Back aches	Confusion
Stomach problems	No new ideas
Colds	Lethargy
Neck aches	Boredom
Shoulder pains	Irritability
Increased use of drugs	
Emotional	Social
Anxiety	Isolation
Nervousness	Loneliness
Depression	Lashing out
Worrying	Clamming up
Tension	Lowered sex drive
Mood Swings	Nagging
Easily discouraged	Fewer contacts with friends
Crying spells	Using people
Frustration	
Irritability	

Some things to do when you think you are stressed:

1. Breathe! Breathing right can help improve your posture and lung capacity, as well as your peace of mind.
2. Express yourself! Keeping your emotions inside feeds stress. Let it out.
3. Stretch! Stretching helps to relieve body tensions.
4. Change your diet! High caffeinated foods and drinks only provide fuel for your stress.
5. Get out side! Nature will help to get your mind off of things.

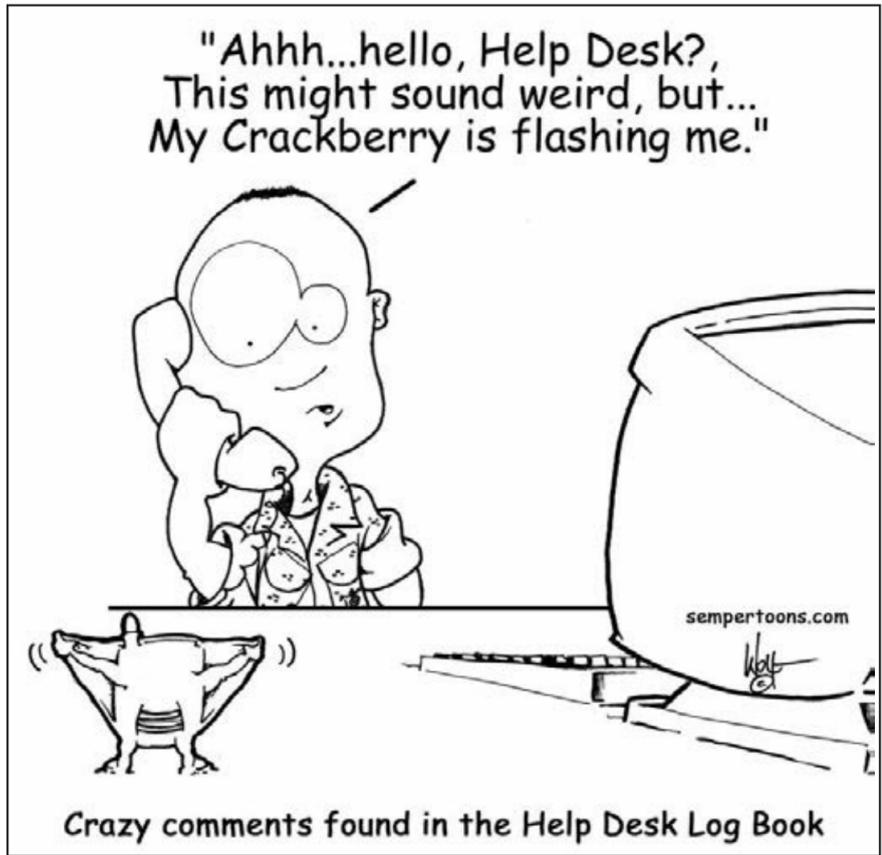
For more information on what is stress and how to relieve it go to websites: [www.cdc.gov/nasd](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd), [www.essortment.com](http://www.essortment.com), or [www.about.com](http://www.about.com).

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**

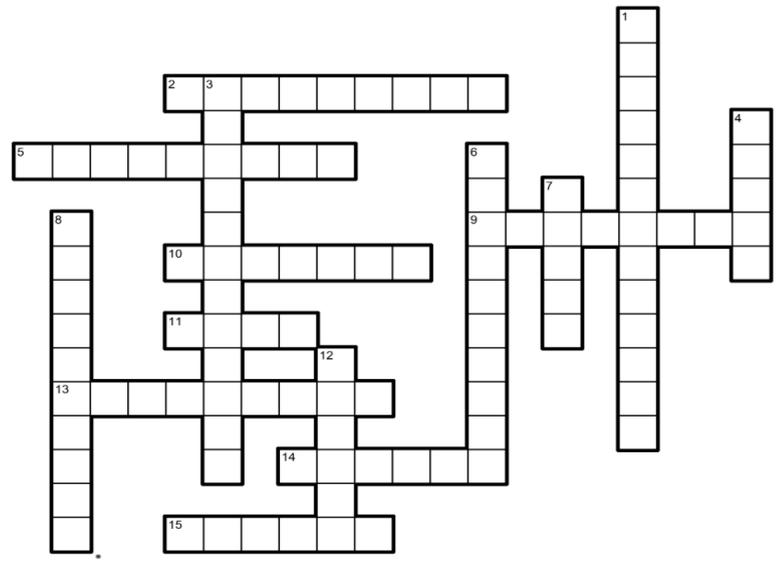
## Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



Crazy comments found in the Help Desk Log Book

## SEPTEMBER HISTORY



### ACROSS

2. American pioneer and orchardist John Chapman, known as "Johnny \_\_\_\_\_," the prototype for characters in American folklore, was born Sept. 24, 1775.
5. Plymouth Pilgrims left England on the \_\_\_\_\_ Sept. 16, 1620.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ was made the official symbol of Nazi Germany Sept. 15, 1935.
10. The wreck of the \_\_\_\_\_ was found off the coast of Newfoundland Sept. 1, 1985.
11. World War II began Sept. 1, 1939 with \_\_\_\_\_ invasion of Poland.
13. Baltimore Orioles', \_\_\_\_\_ Jr., broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing in his 2131st consecutive professional baseball game, Sept. 6, 1995.
14. Henry Hudson first sailed into the river, now known as the \_\_\_\_\_ River, Sept. 19, 1609.
15. The Bill of \_\_\_\_\_ passed in the U.S. Senate Sept. 25, 1791.

### DOWN

1. The siege of Yorktown began during the \_\_\_\_\_ War Sept. 28, 1781.
3. President Abraham Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation \_\_\_\_\_ was issued Sept. 22, 1862.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ surrendered formally Sept. 1, 1945, ending World War II.
6. President George \_\_\_\_\_ delivered is Farewell Address to Congress Sept. 17, 1796.
7. The Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ was signed by United States and Great Britain representatives, officially ending the Revolutionary War, Sept. 3, 1783.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_'s expedition ended Sept. 23, 1806.
12. The U.S. Embassy in \_\_\_\_\_ was bombed through the means of a suicide car-bomb, which exploded outside the Embassy, killing 23 including two Americans, Sept. 20, 1984.

[Solutions on A4]

## Centerspeak

If you hadn't joined the Marine Corps, where would you be now?

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



LCPL JUSTIN J. CASTILLO  
B. Co., HQBN



SGT. JACK L. SHUMATE  
K. BATTERY, 3/11



SGT. JASON GOOGE  
HQ BATTERY, 3/11



1ST LT. MATTHEW PEDERSON  
C. Co., 3RD LAR

"Working in a warehouse and living with my wife and kid."

"Going to college in Texas."

"Driving trucks around in Florida."

"I would have joined the French Foreign Legion."

## 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](mailto:evan.eagan@usmc.mil)

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Cpl. Brian A. Tuthill  
Lance Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes  
Lance Cpl. Katelyn A. Knauer  
Lance Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz  
Pfc. Nicole A. LaVine

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# HERCULES that toppled Saddam to return to Iraq

MR. BRUCE N. SCOTT  
MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND

MARCORSSYSCOM, MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, Va. -- Nearly three and half years ago, Master Sgt. Leon Lambert, a crewmember aboard a HERCULES M88A2 armored vehicle, helped topple the statue of Saddam Hussein, a scene witnessed by millions around the world thanks to heavy television coverage.

At a BAE Systems plant in York, Pa., on Sept. 7, the master sergeant enjoyed the hospitality of the defense contractor at a ceremony returning the historic vehicle, HERCULES 0139, a refurbished Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System, back to the Marine Corps.

"It's an honor to be here," Lambert told a huge crowd of employees at the ceremony. "Thanks for making a great vehicle."

The M88A2 HERCULES, originally acquired by the Marine Corps Systems Command in 2001, is an armored, full tracked vehicle used for hoisting,

winching and towing operations. Marines use the vehicle to recover tanks and other heavy equipment. BAE is currently refurbishing M88A2s along with M1A1 tanks and other armored vehicles.

Lt. Col. John Swift, MARCORSSYSCOM's program manager for tanks, told the employees of BAE that they pass these vehicles back to the Marine Corps just as they would pass food on their table to their own families.

"The Marine Corps has a strong sense of family, and because of the work you do, you are all part of the Marine Corps family," said Swift. "The M88A2 is a completely new vehicle with improvements in the suspension, the engine and the armor. It is the only vehicle that gives the Marine Expeditionary Forces the ability to recover tanks."

The HERCULES showed that ability in the Mideast. Lambert's company arrived in Iraq with 14 vehicles and left with 14.

"The only reason we

came back with all our vehicles was due to the recovery capabilities of the HERCULES," he said.

The master sergeant's fondest HERCULES memory is the toppling of the Saddam Hussein's statue.

"They were tearing the statue down with their bare hands and they actually did it," stated Lambert. "I was glad to be a part of what gave the Iraqis their first taste of freedom in a long time."

At the end of the ceremony, BAE presented Lambert and Jason Rose, a former Navy Corpsman and crewmember on 0139, with a painting depicting the HERCULES toppling the statue in Fardus Square in Iraq, which was signed by each employee working on the project.

In gratitude to BAE employees, Lambert and Rose signed the programs of almost a hundred employees and thanked each of them individually for the work that they do building and refurbishing vehicles for the Marine Corps.



MR. BRUCE N. SCOTT

Lt. Col. John Swift, Marine Corps Systems Command program manager for tanks, Master Sgt. Leon Lambert and former Navy Corpsman Jason Rose. stands in front of the HERCULES vehicle that helped topple Saddam's statue in Iraq.

## HUMVEE, from A1

The general opinion of the class was excitement, as students expressed that they enjoyed the time away from the classroom and being behind the wheel.

"It's fun to drive early in the morning," said Pfc. Michael Trznadel, Field Radio Operator's Course 37. "It's a good bonding time."

Following the 250 road miles, students

move into what many say is the hardest part of the course: the limited visibility portion.

"This is where they drive the humvee with the cat eye lights from 9 p.m. until completion, or midnight until completion," said Mordelle.

While some struggled with the limited visibility, others lucked out and said the full moon helped a lot on their drive.

The next portion of the class was the eight-mile, off-road course, driving up hills

and through ditches and ravines.

"The off-road part of the course was fun going up and down the hills," said Pfc. Andrew Pollock, FROC 37. "It's nice to have the opportunity of learning to drive the humvee."

One of the final portions is the skills test, in which the student must show their ability to drive in a straight line and reverse along the same line. They must also execute a smooth stop while driving 20 miles per hour.

"The skills test was hardest for me, driving the straight line back," said Trznadel. "I'm short, so it's hard to see out the mirror while reversing. Otherwise, it feels just like driving a car."

Along with operating a humvee, a student must learn the basics of maintenance and

insuring it remains operable.

"They complete a preventive maintenance check so we can make sure they know where certain things are," said Mordelle. "They make sure the lugs on the tires are good, check the oil and make sure there is water, a fuel can and safety triangles in the back."

The class has proven to be successful and has gained popularity with each class.

"It's a good program," said Mordelle. "It was kind of hectic getting the ball rolling. The program is going to benefit a lot of Marines and help meet mission requirement, whether it be overseas or here. I feel confident that the Marines learning the course hold the knowledge of the radio and operating a humvee."



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

MCCES Instructor Sgt. Hasson Degraffenreid teaches students how to adjust the mirrors of the humvee during the skills portion of the humvee license test.

# MCAGCC kicks off first Senior Leaders Course

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center kicked off its first Senior Leaders Course at the Protestant Chapel Sept. 15.

Over 19 senior leaders ranging from E-8 and up, and O-6 and up, gathered to discuss equal opportunity and issues surrounding it in a three-day, 36-hour course.

Equal opportunity advisors from Marine Corps installations on the west coast gathered to discuss underlying and sometimes undetected problems among Marines.

"The course is an attempt to remind senior leaders to talk about socialization and interact with other people," said Master Sgt. Michael Williams, 1st Marine Division EOA. "The class is geared toward human dynamic, stereotypes, racism and sexism. It's a chance for senior leaders to discuss things in an open forum."

Some of the classes taught were socialization, values, perception, discrimination, extremist organizations and processing reports and com-

plaints. The class was given to re-emphasize equal opportunity within units and issues that sometimes may be ignored or overlooked.

"I learned a lot, it opened my eyes," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Cheryl Gillon, Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command G-3 operations chief.

"The Marine Corps is a cross section of society," said Gillon. "Thirteen weeks of boot camp cannot erase what someone has learned over 18 to 20 years. Education helps combat certain issues."

The curriculum for the course is made and authorized by Headquarters Marine Corps and was taught by Marines from Marine Corps Installations West, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marine Division and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

"The class was a good chance for leaders to get a new look at innovations and leadership as a concept," said Gunnery Sgt. Herrick Ross, MCAGCC EOA.

The feedback for the course was positive and many left saying it opened their eyes to issues they didn't realize they were ignoring.

"The class follows a building block structure, using interpersonal awareness and how certain things affect an equal opportunity climate,"



Master Sgt. Michael Williams, 1st Marine Division, gives a class at the first Senior Leaders Course at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Sept. 15.

said Ross.

The senior leaders present at the class were from a range of different military occupational specialty fields, but all could take the knowledge from the course and apply it to the training and work place they managed.

"The stuff [equal opportu-

nity issues] here is very important because in our MOS we deal a lot with a wide range of people," said Master Gunnery Sgt. David Gomez, provost sergeant. "As military police we have to be impartial, especially as a senior leader."

In the class, senior leaders

were asked to do different exercises to make them examine their way of thinking.

"They said, 'there is a doctor and a judge,' and automatically I assumed both were male," said Gillon. "There are little things that I was doing that I didn't realize."

The class, which turned out to be a success, is being recommended for junior Marines as well as senior leaders.

If a unit would like an equal opportunity course for section training contact Gunnery Sgt. Herrick Ross at 830-4567.



The first graduating class of the Senior Leaders Course stands together moments after their graduation at the Protestant Chapel Sept. 15.



## MEDAL, from A1

Following the program, on behalf of Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, Maj. Gen. Michael Lehnert, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, posthumously awarded the Distinguished Public Service Medal, to Rosenthal for service to the Marine Corps and his country.

The medal was accepted by his daughter, Anne Rosenthal. She and her brother, Joseph J. Rosenthal Jr., were also presented with American flags, which were flown over Arlington National Cemetery and letters from the Secretary of the Navy.

“My father lived a long and abundant life,” said Anne. “We should not be sad for him. He had wonderful friends and was admired by so many people.”

Echoing the sentiments of his sister, Rosenthal Jr. acknowledged that as an honorary Marine, his father and family had experienced the camaraderie of the Marine Corps. This led to Rosenthal Jr.’s personal understanding that Marines live up to their motto, ‘Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful.’

To Joseph Rosenthal for services set forth in the following citation:

“For exceptionally distinguished public service in support of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. On February 23, 1945, a bespectacled Mr. Rosenthal made a picture of five U.S. Marines and one U.S. Navy corpsman that immortalized the American Fighting spirit during World War II and became an everlasting symbol of service and sacrifice, transcending art and the ages. Mr. Rosenthal’s poor eyesight prohibited him from serving in the armed services, so, he instead went to war summoning the craft he had practiced since the Great Depression. He bravely accompanied island-hopping forces in the Pacific as a civilian news photographer. On Iwo Jima, Japan, short of breath from climbing the 546-foot volcano, Mr. Rosenthal, in haste, stood on top of shaky rocks in search of the best graphic composition. As the six men hoisted an iron pole and the American flag unfurled in a smart breeze for all to see, Mr. Rosenthal captured the precise moment, unaware, until much later, of its significance. Since that very day, his iconic photo has stood as a testament to the perseverance, esprit and dedication of American Marines. In recognition of his own service and dedication, Mr. Rosenthal is posthumously awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award”.

Signed Donald C. Winter Secretary of the Navy, 5 September 2006

# Chaplains take long walk of faith through college

**SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III**

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Religious ministers from more than 100 denominations and faith groups comprise the Chaplain Corps. They come from all different walks of life. While some religions and denominations carry similarities, no two chaplains are alike.

Chaplains call the military home, just like the next Marine or sailor, but they also answer to a higher calling. They work with skills gained only through years of experience and education. But their military specialty is not beyond the reach of those who wish to join the chaplaincy; it just takes a little longer.

Before becoming a chaplain, an applicant must attain a bachelor’s and master’s degree and spend time in ministry. While such a feat of time and dedication may appear daunting, it can be accomplished with a little perseverance.

A few chaplains, like lieutenants Michael A. Taylor and Karen J. Rector served as enlisted Navy before moving on to college and returning as chaplains.

When Rector, Headquarters Battalion chaplain, realized everything she had to do before becoming a chaplain, it “scared the daylights” out of her, she said. She had spent four years as a sailor before returning to finish college. It took her 10 years including her time in the military to finish her education for chaplaincy.

“I knew what I needed to do to become a chaplain,” she said. “I made the decision and I knew it was the right one. I knew I had to give up a lot of things, like time. I knew nothing was going to stop me from doing this.”

Each chaplain had a different life before putting on a military uniform. They learned through pain and suffering like everyone else. These experiences give chaplains a well of knowledge to help others through their difficulties.

Lt. Matthew S. Weems, 3rd Battalion, 11 Marine Regiment, chaplain, served eight years in youth ministry before being called to the Chaplain Corps. Experiences working with teens and his own journey through

life help him better understand the needs and concerns plaguing young Marines and sailors today.

“It’s a direct relation – I can empathize with a young person, I’ve been there and I’ve worked those issues,” said Weems. “I know their favorite bands, I have a MySpace account. You do what you have to do without compromising yourself.”

Some may be ready to fill the shoes of a chaplain, but others may not. The decision requires more than just a yes or no answer. It requires several years of dedicated college learning with a focused curriculum.

“My seminary professor told me, ‘If there’s anything else you can be, do it, because being a minister is hard,’” said Lt. Robert B. Wills, 1st Tank Battalion chaplain. “You have to be able to stand upon principles and do what is right and necessary. If you’re doing it for a job you’re going to be miserable. It’s a calling, not a job.”

Those eager to join chaplaincy should take heed, it’s not about them, it’s about representing their faith accurately and helping their fellow service members.

“Your motivation to become a chaplain should be your faith,” said Wills, who spent 14 years in ministry before becoming a chaplain. “It has nothing to do with the military. It has everything to do with God. God never said, ‘I want you to work Monday through Friday, 9 to 5, can you just give up that time?’

“You can still do this job if you don’t have the calling, but you aren’t as effective,” he said. “This is a God thing, not a military thing.”

Those who do become chaplains for the right reasons will find success and a feeling of accomplishment they may not find elsewhere, said Lt. Cmdr. Emile G. Moured, deputy director of Religious Ministries Directorate.

“Like any calling, when you’re where you’re supposed to be you have confidence and a sense of purpose,” said Moured. “As a Christian, my heart is to encourage people to enter into a walk with God.”

Chaplains serve in whatever capacity they are placed by the commanding officer, but they also have a higher authority

they answer to, and it’s this faith that guides them and makes them successful in helping others.

“I don’t need to know my theology, my tradition or my denomination like I know the Bible,” said Taylor. “I need to know the word of God. That’s what sets people free.”

Going through the difficulties necessary to becoming a chaplain only makes them stronger and more capable of the duties required of them as a chaplain, said Cmdr. Thomas P. Hall, Catholic chapel chaplain.

“I would encourage anyone who felt called to chaplaincy to follow the call,” he said. “Stay close to God as you understand God. Live one day at a time. Don’t worry about promotions or assignments. Put yourself at the service of others and respect the most intimate beliefs of every person.”

### Qualified applicants must be:

- U.S. citizens at least 21 years of age and meet certain medical and physical fitness standards

- A bachelor’s degree from a qualified educational institution

- A master’s of divinity or similar degree from a school of theology or university

- Accredited distance-education graduate programs are also accepted

- Approval from their respective faith group to represent their group in the military

- Must then attend the Navy Chaplain School in Newport, R.I., for a basic orientation course

- Candidates may also apply for the Chaplain Candidate Program while in seminary for those who want to be commissioned before completing their graduate studies.



PFC. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Privates first class Gabriel Espada and Dave Pietras, Company A., Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, saw through a log in a cutting competition at the Oktoberfest held at Big Bear Sept. 16.

## Single Marine Program embraces German Culture

**LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the autumn winds blew and the music played, Marines danced and participated in competitions embracing the rich German heritage at the 36th annual Big Bear Oktoberfest Saturday.

Around 40 Marines partic-

ipated in the trip to the Oktoberfest hosted by the Single Marine Program.

Transportation to the event was at a low cost and admission to the event itself was free to active-duty military members.

"It was nice because transportation was only five dollars, and if we would have gone there ourselves we

would have paid \$60 on gas alone," said Adam Ulfig, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School student.

The Marines traveled to Big Bear in the morning and stayed until late in the evening. Several Marines danced to the German band, "The Express." Marines also competed in a log-cutting competition and "bier" stein holding competition.

"It was interesting to see

and experience the German culture," said MCCES student Angela Hearne.

Along with the event, bratwursts, sauerkraut, meat pies and apple strudels were served, and are only a few of the several foods authentic to the German culture.

"It was a motivating trip," said Pfc. Gabriel Espada, MCCES student. "I had a lot of fun. The food was good."

SMP hosts several trips to different events for single

Marines and sailors which boost morale and allow them to interact.

"It gives these young Marines a chance to discover life outside of the base environment and an opportunity to do something fun and productive," said Ronald Choquette, headquarters battalion, S-1 noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "It's important that these Marines get a chance to enjoy themselves and take a break from the daily grind of work."

Ulfig agrees.

"It got us off base. It gave us the chance to get away and enjoy a day in a small mountain town. It was a chance to relax in a nice atmosphere."

SMP trips offer a wide variety of opportunities for single Marines to experi-

ence exciting trips with others they usually wouldn't see. The Oktoberfest trip turned out to be a success with many Marines who agreed SMP should host a trip to next year's Oktoberfest.

"A trip to Big Bear would be awesome, I'd definitely suggest it," said Choquette.

Even Marines who are currently students, and will be gone for next year's event, suggested SMP continue hosting trips to the Oktoberfest.

"The trip gave students who are stationed here, and leave after their school, a chance to see a different part of California before they leave," said Hearne. "I enjoyed the trip and I know that my fellow Marines did to."

## POLICE, from A1

Iraqis here remain undeterred from attacks on local police and continue to enlist at monthly recruiting drives. Just four months ago, the police station in Husaybah, a city of 50,000 was attacked twice in one week by insurgents using explosives attached to suicide vests. The attacks resulted in five police officers killed.

"The bombing made me angry because I knew one of the police officers who was killed," said a 22-year-old from Husaybah. "I don't care if the insurgents have bombs; we have guns."

Two months later in Ubaydi, a town of about 10,000, another suicide bomber wearing a vest laden with explosives detonated himself at the local hospital leaving two Iraqi Soldiers dead.

Despite the attacks, the Iraqis continue to enlist. During a three-day Iraqi Police recruiting drive last month, 500 Iraqis from the Euphrates River valley signed up. In Fallujah, once an insurgent-infested stronghold, recruiting drives netted 176 applicants last month.

The police transition team here, a group of Coalition Forces and retired U.S. police officers in charge of mentoring and training the new police force to become self-sustaining, say the new batch of police officers will add a much needed boost to existing security forces.

"The Iraqi Police here are already doing a good job, now they'll be able to put more officers in all of the smaller villages throughout the Al Qa'im region," said Arthur L. Dehlinger, a 14-year police veteran from Big Spring, Texas.

Dehlinger is one of several retired U.S. police officers responsible for building-up the Iraqi police in the Al Qa'im region.

The new police officers will work in their hometown communities and will provide security and stability alongside Marines and Iraqi Soldiers. While several police stations dot the region alongside the Euphrates River, more police stations are being built in villages where police have been non-existent over the last three years.

As Iraqi Security Forces who currently maintain law and order in the villages and cities here begin taking over their own areas of operation, the Marines will take a more back-seat role in providing

security to the region.

The region's security has improved significantly in less than a year, according to local tribal sheikhs and city leaders who meet frequently with the Marines.

"Today the city of Karabilah is a better and safer place thanks to the Marines and the work they have done with the Iraqi Police and army," said Abu Munder, the 50-year-old mayor of Karabilah — through an interpreter.

Recently, Iraqi Police here took a lead role in providing security for two public soccer games.

"When it came time to provide security for the soccer games, we (Marines) let the police run the show and we were simply advisors," said 1st Lt. Daniel F. Davis, the executive officer for Company C, who operate out of Karabilah.

Karabilah, a city of 30,000, is one of dozens of cities and towns along the Euphrates River just east of the Iraqi-Syrian border in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, where U.S. and Iraqi forces have spent nearly three years fighting insurgents, and more recently, building Iraqi Security Forces to take that mission over.

The boost in manpower is just one example of how Iraqi police are bolstering security in the region. The police chief has established new security measures with the additional police to deny the insurgents use of the region's major highway, which extends from the Syrian border into Baghdad. The security measures will also restrict the insurgents' ability to plant the improvised explosive devices on the widely-used road.

One of the biggest threats for Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in this region are improvised explosive devices, according to the Marines here. The roadside bombs have been responsible for numerous deaths.

Despite the dangers of IEDs, Iraqis here continue to enlist to become police officers and soldiers. Many are undeterred by the threat of insurgents who move into the villages dotting the Euphrates River hoping to make the area a base of operations.

"Now that I am a police officer, my brothers want to become officers too," said Ahmed. "It will be the job of the Iraqi Police and soldiers to take care of the people here, not the Marines."

# Marine survives sniper



LANCE CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN  
Cpl. Daniel M. Greenwald, an assaultman from Rockland County, N.Y., attached to 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, holds up the Kevlar helmet that saved his life. He was shot in the head by an insurgent sniper while conducting a vehicle checkpoint. He escaped with only a minor gash on his forehead.

## LANCE CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

1ST MARINE DIVISION

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- Cpl. Daniel M. Greenwald knows that being hard headed isn't always a bad thing.

Greenwald, from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, was shot in the head by a sniper while conducting vehicle checkpoint operations in Al Anbar province of Iraq. He's now an expert at explaining just how good his helmet works.

"I was the greeter on one of the ends of a vehicle checkpoint," said Greenwald, a 24-year-old assaultman from Rockland County, N.Y. "I was doing a double check on my vehicle, turned in and that's when I got shot."

The bullet's impact knocked him out for a short moment. When he woke, he was wondering what sort of 18-wheeled truck just hit him.

"Everything went black," he said. "I knew I got hit with something. It sounded like a grenade or a small improvised explosive device."

Greenwald jumped behind his humvee for cover as soon as he got to his feet. Still dazed from the

impact, he radioed his Marines that he was hit.

They set up security to block the area they believed the round originated.

"We wanted to make sure he was alright and get him out of there," said Cpl. Daniel J. Kelley, a 25-year-old squad leader from Centerville, Tenn. "The squad reacted well. They set up the cordon automatically."

The squad's hospital corpsman rushed to aid Greenwald.

"When I first got up there I thought he was dead because blood was running down his face," said Navy Seaman Jared D. Condry, a 20-year-old corpsman from Jacksonville,

N.C. "Then I started talking to him and he was responsive."

Condry began to assess Greenwald's injury and discovered an inch-long gash on his head. He put a patch on the wound and loaded him into a humvee that transported him to Camp Fallujah.

Doctors there took a closer look at Greenwald's injury.

"They got me back in like 20 minutes," Greenwald said. "It was a quick evacuation. The Marines' performance in the situation was great."

The Kevlar helmet was inspected more closely at the camp's medical center. The bullet never penetrated through the helmet. It hit the night-vision goggles mount, rode the inside of the helmet

and flew out the right side. A screw flew out of the helmet and caused the gash on Greenwald's head.

Marines who know Greenwald have been letting him know how lucky he was to walk away from the incident with only a gash.

"You have to wear your Personal Protective Equipment," Greenwald said. "You never know what can happen. I was doing a regular VCP. I didn't expect to get shot in the head."

Greenwald is currently waiting to be medically cleared so he may rejoin his fellow Marines on the front lines.

"I'm just anxious to get back out there," Greenwald said. "I want to help out the squad."



## Look what the tide brought in

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Reed and his 4-year-old daughter, Larke, and 9-year-old son, Dustin, check out the 2006 NASCAR Tide show car at the Commissary Sept.13. The show car is dissected into two halves – meant to display its attention-grabbing body on the right side and the engine and interior on the other. The two devil pups also received a miniature model of the Tide car.

# Continue your education: courses now enrolling

Courses for the Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education Program seminars offered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the Combat Center begin in October.

Each seminar will meet once a week for two hours. Attendance is voluntary. Seminars will also be offered on different nights during the week to provide flexibility in case a student is unable to attend his or her regular seminar.

Both EWSDEP (8650) and CSCDEP (8800) seminars closely parallel the resident course, and are equivalent to resident Professional Military Education for promotion and assignments. Each seminar will provide a structure to assist students in making regular progress in the course. Additionally, the adjunct faculty brings significant expertise to the course and facilitate group discussions to ensure learning objectives are attained. Learning is enhanced when a group of eight to 15 Marines sit down to share their views and experiences.

Additional information, to include schedules for the upcoming year, may be found at the Web site: <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce/programs/pmedep.asp>.

Chief Warrant Officer's, first lieutenant's, and captain's may enroll in EWS. majors may enroll in CSC. Captains may enroll if they have completed EWS. Both seminars are open to reserve officers and officers of all services. Gunnery sergeants and above may enroll in EWS or CSC if

they have completed their required PME and attain a waiver from College of Continuing Education

Marine Corps Administrative Message 203/06 announces changes to Marine Corps University PME policy, to include changes to the enlisted waiver request process. PME requirements by grade are identified at the Web site: <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/pme/pme.htm>.

To enroll, complete the attached form and return it to: [jeffrey.r.willis.ctr@usmc.mil](mailto:jeffrey.r.willis.ctr@usmc.mil) or [stephanie.dellacosta.ctr@usmc.mil](mailto:stephanie.dellacosta.ctr@usmc.mil). Those interested in completing the PME through independent study may also enroll. Enrollment can also be done through the Marine Corps Institute.

For more information call 760-725-8400 or DSN 365-8400, or visit the Web site: <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce/index.asp> for information.



### DRAFT DRAFT SCHEDULE (EVENINGS AND LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE)

AY 2007 Seminar Schedule  
For  
Camp Pendleton Region  
POC Mr. Jeffrey Willis (Regional Coordinator)

#### MCB, Camp Pendleton

SEMINAR TYPE	DATES	DAY OF WEEK	SEMINAR LEADER	TIME / LOCATION
EWS 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	Oct 06 - May 07	TBD	TBD	1730 / Bldg 22181, CPen CCE Sat Campus
EWS 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	Oct 06 - May 07	Tuesday	Lt. Col. Sellers	1730 / Bldg 210568, AAS Schools Class Rm 224
EWS 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	Oct 06 - May 07	Wednesday	Lt. Col. Wilson	1730 / Bldg 520591, ITB Bn Conf Rm
EWS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half	Oct 06 - June 07	Monday	TBD	1730 / Bldg 22181, CPen CCE Sat Campus
EWS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half	Oct 06 - June 07	Tuesday	Lt. Col. Topley	1730 / Bldg 210801, 3d AABn Conf Rm
CSC 8801-8803	Oct 06 - June 07	Tuesday	Col Sweeney, USMC (Ret)	1800 / Bldg 210721, 1 MEF G-5 Conf Rm
CSC 8801-8803	Oct 06 - June 07	Wednesday	Col Sullivan, USMC (Ret)	1800 / Bldg 22181, CPen CCE Sat Campus
CSC 8804-8809	Oct 06 - June 07	Tuesday	Col Goodman, USMC (Ret)	1800 / Bldg 23166, MCAS Trng Class Rm
CSC 8804-8809	Oct 06 - June 07	Thursday	Col Egan, USMC (Ret)	1800 / Bldg 210721, 1 MEF G-5 Conf Rm

#### MCAGCC, 29 Palms

SEMINAR TYPE	DATES	DAY OF WEEK	SEMINAR LEADER	TIME / LOCATION
EWS 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	Oct 06 - May 07	Wednesday	Lt. Col. Cook	1730 / Bldg 1865, MCCES Conf Rm
EWS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half	Oct 06 - June 07	Tuesday		1730 / Bldg 1559, CG's Conf Rm
CSC 8801-8803	Oct 06 - June 07	Tuesday	Lt. Col. Catlin, USMC (Ret)	1700 / Bldg 1559, R/T Conf Rm
CSC 8804-8809	Oct 06 - June 07	Thursday	Lt. Col. Bodkin	1700 / Bldg 1559, R/T Conf Rm

#### MCLB Barstow

SEMINAR TYPE	DATES	DAY OF WEEK	TIME / LOCATION
EWS 2d Half	Oct 06 - May 07	Tuesday	1730 / Bldg

## Commissary Agency warns customers to avoid bagged fresh spinach

WASHINGTON — In response to an alert from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Defense Commissary Agency is advising its customers not to eat any bagged fresh spinach. The FDA alert, dated Sept. 15, warns that the bagged spinach “may be a possible cause” of the confirmed outbreak of E. coli.

“The health and safety of our patrons and employees is always a top priority with the Defense Commissary Agency,” Patrick B. Nixon, the agency's director, said. “We urge everyone to take this alert seriously and avoid any consumption of bagged spinach. We also advise everyone to continue to monitor their local media and the Food Safety area of our Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, for more information.”

As a precaution, in light of the FDA advisory, DeCA has directed its commissaries to immediately remove from their shelves all fresh spinach and any salad mix that contains spinach as an ingredient.

E. coli O157:H7 can cause diarrhea and, in some cases, lead to kidney failure through a condition known as Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. HUS particularly affects young children and the elderly. In more severe cases, HUS can lead to serious kidney damage and possible death. Thus far, one death and eight cases of HUS have been linked to the E. coli outbreak. In all, some 50 cases of illness have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The FDA has identified the outbreak in more than 20 states. Anyone who feels they may have symptoms of illness related to eating bagged spinach should contact their local health care provider immediately.

# ‘America’s Battalion’ makes big catch

LANCE CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

SAQLAWIYAH, Iraq -- Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment dealt the insurgency a heavy blow in their area of operations.

Marines from Company F serving detained a high-value individual and 70 others in Saqlawiyah Sept. 14.

Marines patrolled the countryside of Saqlawiyah in the early part of the day to gain information on insurgents rumored to be in the area. They went to homes in the area to try and get help from the locals.

“The mission was to roll down west Saqlawiyah, show our presence and find improvised explosive devices,” said Cpl. Nathaniel A. Clough, a 21-year-old squad leader from Kennebunk, Maine.

Marines from 3rd Platoon sat with locals to talk about problems in the area and insurgents. They invited Marines into their homes and shared information. They offered Marines chai, an Iraqi tea, and discussed the insurgency in the area.

“It’s good that people actually care,” Clough said. “They share their problems with us and sometimes give us ‘intel’.”

Marines received a call over the radio about a known insurgent believed to be in

the area. They were instructed to wait for supporting units before moving into the location.

The word to move in came over the radio minutes later and they sped to the area.

The units arrived simultaneously and began to search houses in the area. Marines moved through every house systematically. They entered rooms and checked all possible hiding areas and moved on to the next until they reached the rooftop of a house. On the rooftop, they moved to every corner to ensure no one was hiding there.

The searches did not turn up anything, but they did not go without incident.

An Iraqi male was seen running into some bushes during the search. Marines ran to where he was spotted but did not catch him. He later returned to the scene and told Marines he ran because he was scared. He was questioned and released.

“It went well,” Lance Cpl. Derrick W. Bolden, a 19-year-old machine gunner from Van, W.Va. “The mission was accomplished with no injuries and everything ran smoothly.”

Information came through the radio again as Marines completed the search. Another location was given for the wanted insurgent.

When Marines arrived to the new area they were amazed by the scene. There were 71 Iraqi males seated in the front yard of a home. Another group of Marines was already on scene, keeping watch over the crowd. Women and children were at the back of the house.

“It’s crazy to see that many guys together,” Leonard said. “It makes you wonder what they were doing.”

Marines searched the home and found weapons. They patted the men down from head-to-toe to ensure that the men weren’t hiding anything.

A gunshot rang out from the backyard while Marines were searching the men. Marines rushed through muddy grass to the area they heard the gunshot to track down a shooter. They crouched behind an armored vehicle in the yard and along the sides of the house. Marines peered into the darkness to search for the shooter or any movement that might give him away. Marines in an armored vehicle circled the area with a spotlight. No one was hurt, but they did not find a shooter.

Marines found an insurgent leader in their area of operation in the group. There were also 13 other known

insurgents in the group.

Marines felt the raid’s result put fear into insurgents.

“It tells them to watch out,” said Lance Cpl. Mathew S. Leonard, a 20-year-old rifleman from Northport, Fla. “We’re coming for them and we’ll get them.”

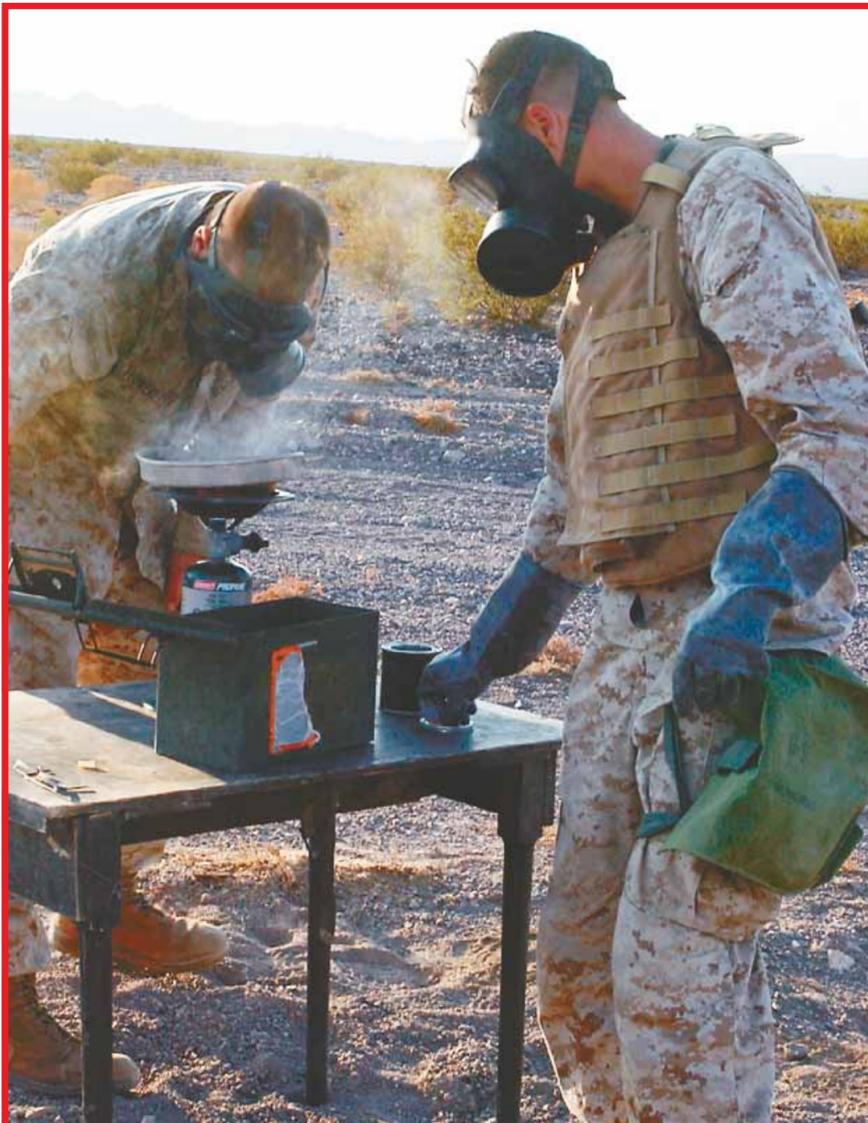
Intelligence from Iraqi civilians helped Marines accomplish the mission. The help of the Iraqi locals is crucial for Marines to succeed. The capture of the insurgent leader is a testament to how much trust Iraqi locals have in Marines.

Clough added the insurgent leader wouldn’t have been caught “If the locals in the area didn’t share information.”

## Birth announcements



**Railey Deanne Nolen**  
Daughter of HN and Mrs. Kyle Nolen  
Born July 18, 2006,  
weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and  
measuring 20.6 inches.



CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN

## SBD: Silent but deadly

Pfc. Ryan Flowerette, Lima Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, checks to see if his gas mask works properly. The Marines and sailors of Lima Battery did a gas mask function check Aug. 7 at the Combat Center's Lead Mountain training area to ensure their gas mask were working properly before deploying to Iraq.

**LOCATION: MCAGCC BASE THEATRE**  
**TIME: 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 26**

T. J. Leyden, the co-founder of "StrHATE Talk Consulting" will share his experience and insights about the white supremacy movement and his years both supporting and countering their activities.

Before founding StrHATE Talk Consulting with his wife, Leyden was a neo-Nazi skinhead and a member of Hammerskin Nation, the world's largest skinhead gang, for 15 years. After many life-changing events and a pro-

found change of heart, Leyden left the white supremacy movement and has been working to counter their ideals and activities since. StrHATE Talk Consulting is an organization that works to combat hate, bigotry, intolerance and discrimination through education.

For more information about this event, contact Gunnery Sergeant Herrick Ross, MCAGCC Equal Opportunity Advisor, at 830-4567.

# Marines compete for Commissary Ironman, discover store's true value

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Single Marine Program teamed up with the commissary to hold a Patriot's Day Ironman and Commissary Awareness event at the commissary Sept. 11.

The event was held to promote the benefits of shopping at the commissary. Commissary employees welcomed more than 20 Marines and gave them a brief, but thorough, tour of the commissary.

"The whole purpose of the event was 'outreach,'" said Andrea Largent, Commissary customer service manager. "The overall savings on most products we sell here is 35 percent. Not too many Marines know about that, especially the single Marines. I wanted to try something fun that I know they do in Camp Pendleton – have an Ironman competition to give some small units some fun and exercise, and at the same time, learn about the benefits of shopping at the commissary."

After the tour, the Marines formed into three groups of six. They then competed in three events – a push up competition, a sit-up competition and a relay race with each runner carrying two 20-pound bags of rice.

A team from the Installation Personnel Administrative Center came out on top in the competition. The team was given a \$300 gift certificate for the commissary.

After the competition, the Marines were treated to a grilled steak and chicken lunch, complimentary of the California Bar-B-Q Association.

"This was good competition, and I had a blast," said Cpl. Caleb M. Little, a Bremen, Ga., native with Company G., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "I am glad I learned about the value of shopping at the Commissary. I didn't know that much about it before. But now I know it's a whole lot better than shopping at any local grocery store."

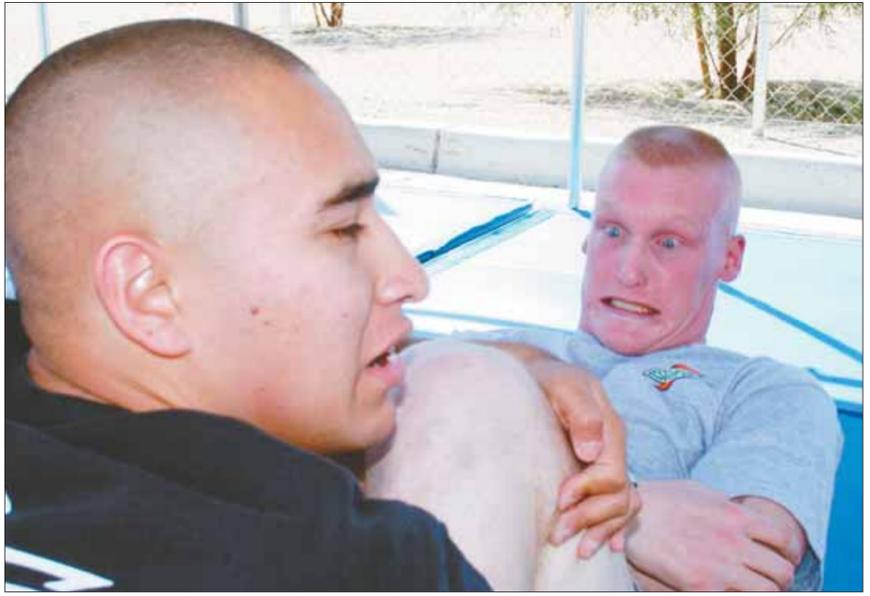
Cpl. John P. Williams, an Annandale, Va., native with Company A., Headquarters Battalion, is his company's SMP representative. He expressed that it is always cheaper to ride with SMP.

"I'm glad someone from the commissary coordinated with SMP to get an event like this," said Williams. "One of the main goals of SMP is to save single Marines money. The commissary does exactly that."

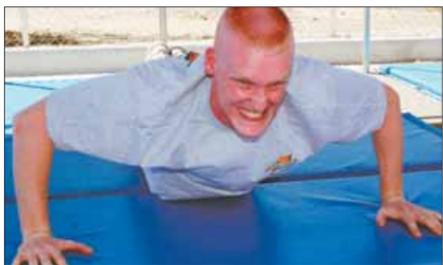
"Today was a good break from work," added Williams. "We appreciate the commissary employees coming in to show us some good values. I was not aware of how much I could save by shopping at the commissary. Hopefully this will encourage others to come to the commissary and also more SMP events."



Cpl. Caleb M. Little, a Bremen, Ga., native with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, carries two, 20-pound bags of rice, running a relay race during the Patriot's Day Ironman and Commissary Awareness Day competition Sept. 11 at the Commissary.



Lance Cpl. Angel Ortiz holds Cpl. John P. Williams feet while he performs sit-ups during the competition.



Cpl. John P. Williams, struggles on one of his final push-ups during a two-minute push-up competition



Tony McDowell, a local representative for the California Bar-B-Q Association grills steak and chicken for the Marines at the competition.



A team from the installation personnel administrative center slap hands after winning the competition.



CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN

A Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School running back tries to cut through the Headquarters Battalion defense in a game during the Commanding General's Intramural Football League Monday at Felix Field.

## HQBN teaches MCCES lesson

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Intramural Football League kicked off its second week of action with two games Monday night at Felix Field.

Headquarters Battalion played Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School in a battle between two intramural league powerhouses.

Headquarters entered the game with a 1-0 record after destroying 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 52-0 a week prior, while MCCES was looking for its first win of the young season after a 6-0 loss to 1st Tank Battalion.

From the opening kick-off the game was very physical, with neither team scoring until late in the first quarter when Headquarters' Antonio Posey, 2, intercepted in MCCES territory and returned it for a touchdown. Unable to complete a two-point conversion, the game remained 6-0.

Headquarters' stifling defense stopped MCCES on their ensuing possession with Posey coming up big again with another interception.

In the second quarter, quarterback Odis Alexander, 9, connected with Posey in the endzone for Posey's second touchdown of the game. After another failed two-point conversion the score was 12-0.

MCCES, who has been plagued this season with injuries and a permanent change of station by their coach, couldn't get much going on offense. However, Headquarters looked to be in midseason form, as they were able to move the ball at will with a passing attack, led by Alexander, and a rushing attack, led by LeAaron Newsome, 11.

Headquarters put seven more points on the board before halftime, when Alexander connected with Jay Johnson, 15, with 32 seconds

remaining in the second quarter making the score 19-0.

When the second half started, Headquarters wasted no time striking again, this time with a long run from Newsome, thanks to his quick foot speed and large holes created by his offensive line.

Later in the third quarter, the Headquarters defense scored again, with an interception by Curtis Brown, 12, who returned for a touchdown, making the score 32-0.

In the fourth quarter, MCCES got their offense rolling and put together their strongest drive of the game, however it ended with a missed field goal.

Headquarters regained possession deep in their own territory, where second string quarterback Brandon Dion took over for Alexander.

Unable to get the offense moving, Headquarters attempted to punt on fourth and long, but it was blocked in the endzone and resulted in a safety for MCCES, making the score 32-2.

MCCES closed the game with a last second field goal, making the final score 32-5.

Alexander said the key for his Headquarters team to keep winning is maintaining its focus.

"Everybody knows we have one of the best teams on the base," said the Las Vegas native. "Everybody is gunning for us. We have to keep focused."

MCCES assistant coach Joe St. Onge remains optimistic, despite his teams 0-2 record.

"We played with a lot of heart," St. Onge said, a Sioux City, Iowa, native. "As far as talent and size, we just don't match up with Headquarters Battalion. But we played with lots of intensity and I'm very happy with the effort from everybody."

In the second game of the night, Tanks beat 3/11, 13-0.

The next game is scheduled for Wednesday when Headquarters plays Tanks.

# Marines swing away, with help from Seattle Mariners



GUNNERY SGT. MARK OLIVA

Marines from Regimental Combat Team 5 pose with the baseball gear donated to them by Seattle Mariners' General Manager Bill Bavasi.

GUNNERY SGT. MARK OLIVA  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines in Iraq are slugging for home runs, thanks to a little help from the Seattle Mariners.

Seattle Mariners General Manager Bill Bavasi sent several sets of professional baseball gloves, bats, balls and even ball caps to Marines at Regimental Combat Team 5 here recently. The donation is giving Marines their own seventh-inning stretch from near-constant operations in the War on Terror in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Marines here, though, had a key man with access to the club's front office. Maj. Michael F. McNamara, a senior watch officer for the regiment, just happened to be lifelong friends with Bavasi. The idea had its roots in a chance discovery two years ago when McNamara was deployed to Camp Blue Diamond.

"I found a baseball near one of the hooches there," McNamara said. "It was a just a little league baseball, but everyone would come by my desk and they'd grab it just to feel that leather in their hands."

That prompted McNamara to send a note to Bavasi, with whom he used to be college roommates.

"I asked him to send me a dozen baseballs," McNamara said. "I've got this tourist attraction. He sent me three dozen baseballs, t-shirts and hats."

Fast-forward to 2006 and McNamara was deployed once again to Iraq. Bavasi offered to send baseball gear for Marines. McNamara never expected top-shelf gear, though. Bavasi ended up sending two-dozen professional quality gloves, three dozen baseballs and another two-dozen baseball bats, the same bats Major Leaguers use when they're up at that plate.

"Marines have never seen this kind of equipment," McNamara said. "They didn't have this gear in high school or college. I told them, 'Well, you're in the varsity now.'"

Bavasi said all the credit doesn't go to just the Mariners. He said a good friend Jim Hughes at Rawlings and Seattle Mariners' Equipment Manager Ted Walsh helped him round up the gear. Bavasi said this wasn't an official gesture on behalf of the ballclub, but a personal one.

"Because of my relationship with Mike, I arranged for the shipment," Bavasi said in an e-mail exchange. "Many of us have friends of relatives over there and do things like this on a personal basis. There are plenty of individual connections with members of our armed forces within every ballclub. Front offices, coaches players ... there are plenty of individual connections."

McNamara explained that aside from offering Marines gear to play, Bavasi gave Marines a chance to put aside the daily pressures of life in a combat zone.

"The coolest part is every Sunday, these guys get to go play baseball," he said. "For two and a half hours, they're not in Fallujah. They're back on their high school field. They're back in Little League. There's not that many gifts you can give that can do that."

"For people to come along like that who care is so important," McNamara added.

Staff Sgt. John L. Heine, a 28-year-old from Buffalo, N.Y., is one of those Marines who reverts to his glory days. He played baseball as a kid for Little League and continued through high school and a year in college. He even had a tryout with the Portland Braves' Minor Leagues a few years back.

He's a pitcher and still plays in adult city leagues when he gets the chance.

"It was exciting to think the general manager of the Seattle Mariners took the time out of his schedule to collect up the gear and send it," Heine said. "That was the most special thing. It's very important, especially here in Iraq. It's something that takes our minds off of everything else."

Sgt. Jonathan K. McNatt, a 28-year-old from Mt. Pleasant, Texas, said he was awed that folks in Major League Baseball took the time to think of Marines deployed to Iraq.

"It's great," he said. "It shows a lot of support for the troops in Iraq. It means a lot to the guys that we get that support."

# 3rd annual Quality of Life Expo attracts 300+



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Lance Cpl. Justin Johnson, his wife Melissa and their 19-month-old daughter, Rylea, visits with Amy Pacione, Armed Services YMCA assistant event coordinator at the 3rd Annual Quality of Life Expo Sept. 13 at the West Gym.

## LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 300 people came to the 3rd Annual Quality of Life Expo at the West Gym Sept. 13, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, to learn about services available aboard the Combat Center.

Different sections of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, all MCCS facilities and many other organizations, to include the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce and the base fire department, set up display booths for all who came to the West Gym for the expo.

It was held as a 'welcome aboard' informational affair, said Kelley M. Coe, MCCS special events program manager.

"The mission of the expo was to raise awareness of the many programs and ser-

vices available aboard the Combat Center, as well as what is available in our local community," said Coe.

The expo targeted everyone aboard the Combat Center, those who have recently been stationed here or have recently returned from deployment.

"It gives them the opportunity to learn and take advantage of the many things that our base has to offer," said Coe. "The Quality of Life Expo provides information to everyone on the many organizations and programs available to them that are appealing to anyone on the individual or family level."

Capt. John J. Gutierrez and Gunnery Sgt. M. R. Morones, both representatives for the Toys for Tots program, expressed the benefit of having a booth set up at the expo.

"This is an excellent opportunity to get the word out on Toys for Tots," said Morones. "We set up a booth every year and it brings awareness to all who come to the expo."

"If the Marines would just get in here and look at the booths that are set up, they would be surprised of the services offered that leads to a better quality of life," he added.

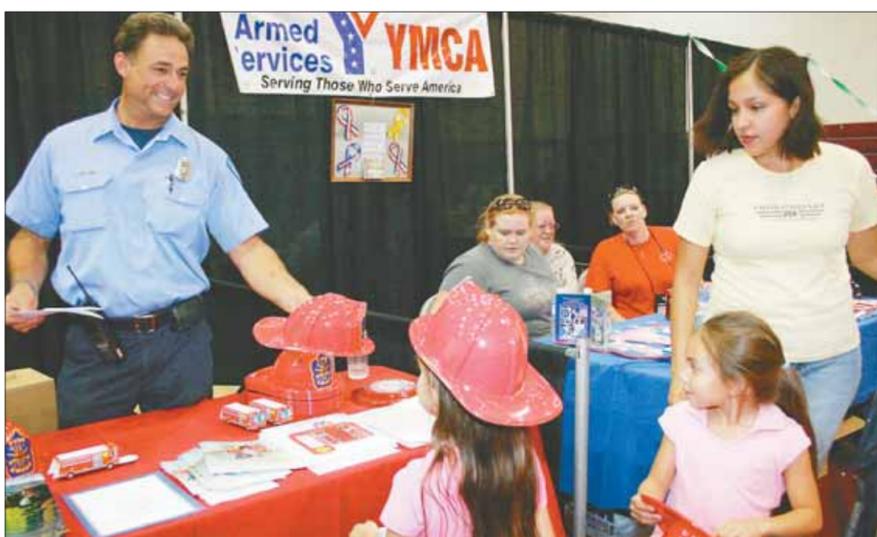
David J. Roman, Combat Center's drug demand reduction coordinator, felt the expo is always a success because it is free. People come not just to learn about what is offered to them on base, but to interact with the many services and work sections' representatives, he said.

"Because of the different booths, you have different sources of information," said Roman, standing behind his booth of drug

and alcohol awareness pamphlets. "If a person didn't like what was offered at one booth, they can move right along to the next one. They have so many choices of what booths and services they can take interest to. And, this is all set up for the Marines and sailors, and one main focus, to better the quality of life on base."

Along with the expo's booths, grilled hot dogs and soft drinks participants enjoyed prizes raffled throughout the expo. Some went home with a four pack of Disneyland tickets, a four pack of San Diego Zoo tickets, a Game Cube, a George Foreman Grill or a DVD player.

All went home more aware of what services are provided in the Combat Center community.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Mark J. Aid, a Combat Center fire inspector, hands plastic fire helmet to Marina Puga, 6, (left) after handing one to her friend, Medie Ledbetter, 5, at the 3rd Annual Quality of Life Expo Sept. 13 at the West Gym.



