

Serving the MCAGCC
Community at
Twentynine Palms, Calif.

VOL. 52 NO. 46
December 1, 2006



OBSERVATION POST



THIS ISSUE

A7 - RCT-7 Thanksgiving

A9 - Mess Nights

B2 - Truck Driving School

HOT TOPICS

MCAGCC TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The MCAGCC Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held from 4:45 to 6 p.m. today at Gray Field. The evening will begin with a prelude by the Combat Center Band followed by the arrival of the commanding general at 5 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive following the CG's comments, and with the assistance of the children in the crowd, prompt the lighting of the trees. Once the trees are illuminated, there will be a couple caroling songs and then Santa will distribute candy canes to the kids. Hot beverages and snacks will be provided by Marine Corps Community Services. Green and red chem. lights will be distributed to assist with the reading of the caroling songs and for the kids to play with. Seasonal civilian attire is encouraged, but feel free to come in uniform. This should be a fun time for families.

MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE BETWEEN CAMP WILSON AND OBSERVATION POST LEFT CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

Effective Immediately: In preparation for construction of the Combined Arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility in the Quackenbush Training Area, the main supply route leaving the Camp Wilson area, going directly to OP Left through the Gypsum Ridge Training Area, is closed to all personnel not directly involved with the construction of the MOUT facility unless previously coordinated with Range Scheduling. This portion of the MSR is considered a No Fire/No Maneuver Area and will remain in effect until construction of the facility is complete.

ADULT MEDICAL CARE CLINIC OPEN HOUSE

The Adult Medical Care Clinic, formerly Military Sick Call, will host an open house today from 1 to 4 p.m. Marines from Headquarters Battalion and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School are invited to come to the clinic for tours. The staff will be available to answer questions about the clinic.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

- **Combat Center Challenge**
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony**
- **Winter Fest**

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

December 1, 1947

The Corps' first helicopter squadron, HMX-1, was commissioned at Quantico, Va.

Combat Center Band marches in Hollywood Christmas Parade



Staff Sgt. Joe Streeter marches the Combat Center band down Hollywood Blvd. during the 75th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade Sunday.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Band participated in the 75th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade in Hollywood, Calif., Sunday. This was the band's third consecutive year of being invited to partake in the event.

The parade kicked off on Hollywood Blvd. and ended three-and-a-half miles down the road at Sunset Blvd.

The parade, which has been a tradition since 1928, acts as a visual reminder that Hollywood is on the cutting edge of entertainment, according to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce website.

Staff Sgt. Joel M. Daniel, platoon sergeant of the band, takes pride in knowing the Combat Center Band has been invited to return year after year.

"To me, that really shows that we are doing things the right way," said Daniel. "We [the band] have excellent chemistry with what we're doing. For some reason, it just works."

Daniel has marched in countless parades, including the Rose Parade in 1993, and has much experience with parades, music and crowds.

"We put on an excellent performance," Daniel said. "The crowd made it awesome with their enthusiasm, and the route itself was amazing with the lights, decorations and glitter."

Daniel revealed it was the

Marine Corps band that caught his interest and inspired him to join.

"It [The band] was a major motivator for me," said Daniel. "I think it's just the image the band puts out there. It's like looking at a 440 Dodge engine sitting in idle. You can literally see all the power and the potential energy, and it's like it's ready to explode. There is something magnetic about it."

Daniel said he feels it is also crucial to make themselves known to the younger crowd.

"We try to put on a little show for them. I guess you could say we act like a small recruiting tour," he said. Most of the kids in marching bands don't know they can make a real living from it."

Daniel said he loves the enthusiasm the crowd gives when the Marines march by. "I love how the crowd is always so energetic. I don't remember hearing so many 'oorahs' and 'semper fi's' at this parade before."

Lance Cpl. Bryan Coager, the newest member of the Combat Center band, shared Daniel's excitement.

"I think we did really well tonight," he said. "It was a little long, but everyone stayed focused, stayed together, and kept the intensity all the way to the end."

See HOLLYWOOD A4

Jay Leno entertains Combat Center Marines

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from the Combat Center joined with others from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, as well as service members from other branches of the armed services, at the Nov. 22 taping of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

The show, which was a specially dedicated event for the United States Military, had an all-military audience and provided military members an early Thanksgiving dinner after the show.

The show's guests were Howie Mandel, host of NBC's Deal or No Deal game show, and musical guest Nelly Furtado.

The military audience members participated in a modified version of the game show where members of the audience were picked by Man-

del's models to answer a series of simple questions like what the five-sided government building in Washington D.C., is called. Upon the correct response given by the audience members, everyone in the crowd won the prize hidden in the corresponding silver case. The goal was to get to the final, and most rewarding golden case.

When the final correct answer was given, a model opened the golden case to reveal the prize, which consisted of a Kevin Federline CD, a turkey dinner with cranberry sauce, a paper shredder, a dinner with Fabio, and an 80-gigabyte video iPod.

Staff Sgt. Diane M. Durden went along for the ride because she felt it would be a great evening. She didn't know details about the trip, but she thought it would be a good trip, regardless. She also thought it was also good for the Marines.

See LENO A10



Combat Center Marines and the Single Marine Program coordinator pose for a photo with Jay Leno on the Tonight Show set in Burbank, Calif. Nov. 22.



Combat Center Challenge

Today: 9 a.m.
Victory Field

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

What is your child doing?

Did you know that in the year 2004, it was estimated that of all Californians aged 12 and older:

- 18.5 million persons used alcohol in the past month;
- 7.5 million persons were binge drinkers, drinking five or more drinks in one sitting;
- 3.3 million persons used illicit drugs in the past month.

Do you know why children and teens try or use alcohol and drugs? Here are some of the reasons:

- Boredom
- Feels good
- Forget their troubles and relax
- Have fun
- Satisfy their curiosity
- Take risks
- Ease pain
- Feel grown-up
- Show their independence
- Belong to a specific group and look cool.

Does your child know what drugs and alcohol can do to them and ways to stay away from them?

In today's world more and more drugs are getting introduced into schools and drinking starts at younger ages. Here are some tips to help you and your child discuss drugs and alcohol.

Kindergarten to 3rd Grade is when to begin explaining what alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are. Also, how some people use them even though they are harmful, and the consequences of using them.

- Discuss how anything that is not food or prescribed by the doctor can be extremely harmful.

- Tell them that drugs interfere with the way our bodies work, can make a person very sick, and even cause them to die.

- Explain the idea of addiction, that drug use can become a very bad habit that is hard to stop.

Nine through 11-year-old children should know:

- The immediate effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on different parts of the body, including risks of coma or fatal overdose;
- The long-term results of addiction and the loss of control over their lives that users experience;
- The reasons why drugs are especially

dangerous for growing bodies;

- The problems that alcohol and other illegal drugs cause not only to the user, but also to the user's family and world.

Twelve to 14 years old is the adolescence stage and can often be a confusing and stressful time. Teens struggle to figure out who they are, and how to fit in, while establishing their own identities. Parents may not realize that their young teens feel surrounded by drug use. Nearly nine out of 10 teens agree, "it seems like marijuana is everywhere these days." Teens are twice as likely to be using marijuana as parents believe they are, and teens are getting high in the places that parents think are safe havens, such as around school, at home, and at friends' houses. Parents profoundly shape the choices their children make about drugs.

Teens need to know the immediate, distasteful consequences of tobacco and marijuana use -- for example, that smoking causes bad breath and stained teeth and makes clothes and hair smell. As a parent you should discuss drugs' long-term effects:

- The lack of crucial social and emotional skills ordinarily learned during adolescence;

- The risk of lung cancer and emphysema from smoking;

The 15 to 17 year age group is when your child needs to understand how to resist peer pressure. Teens need more than a general message not to use drugs. They need to hear from a parent that anyone can become a chronic user, or an addict, and that even non-addicted use can have serious permanent consequences.

Most high school students are future-oriented so they are more likely to listen to discussions.

- Discuss how drugs can ruin chances of getting into a good college, or being hired for a job.

- Talk about how fatal or crippling car accidents and liver damage are some of the results of heavy drinking;

- Let them know that addiction, brain damage, memory loss, coma, and death are the consequences of heavy drug and alcohol use.

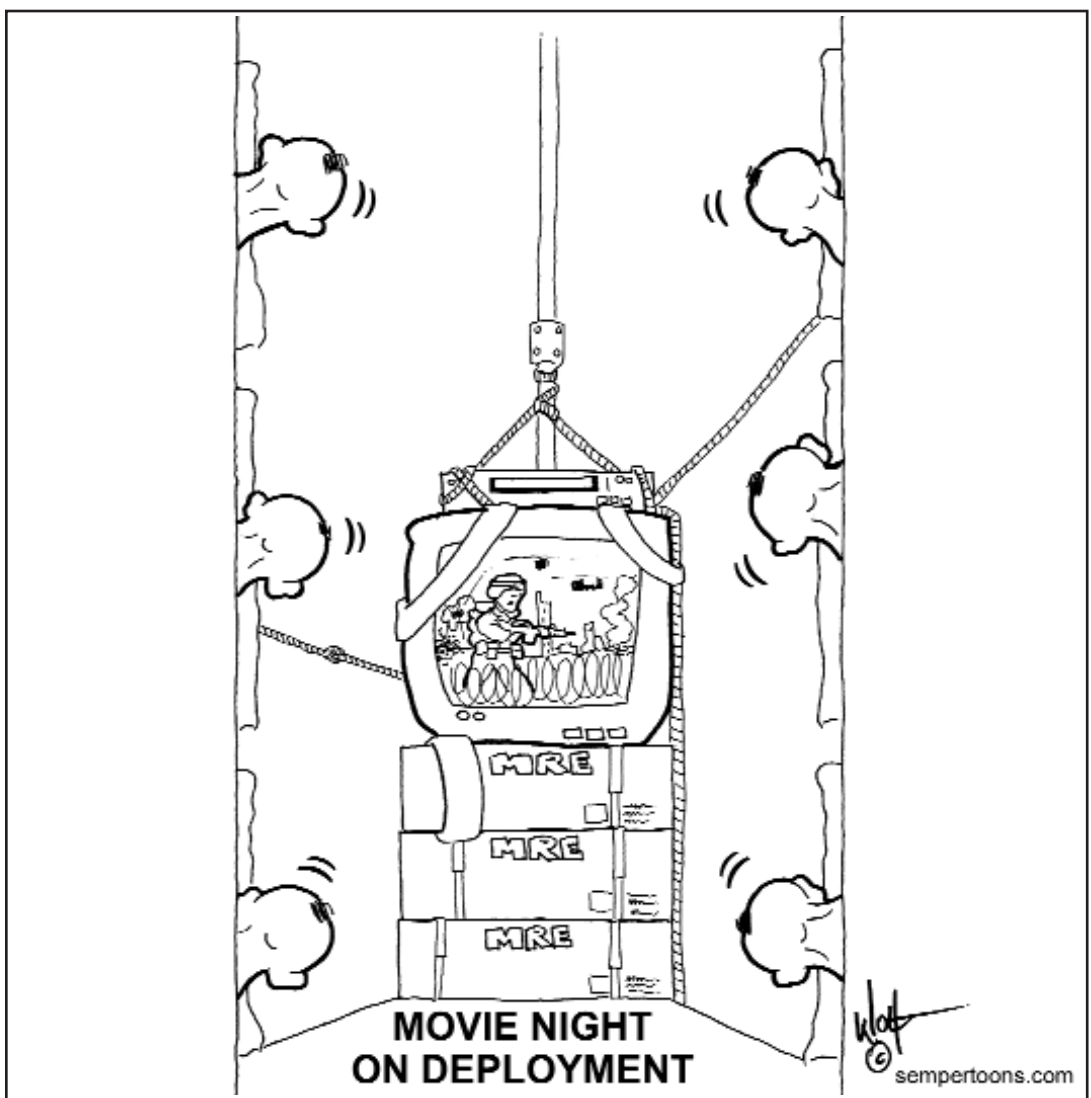
For more information on how to discuss related topics with your child, go to <http://www.yic.gov/drugfree/childknow.html> or <http://www.safestate.org>.

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

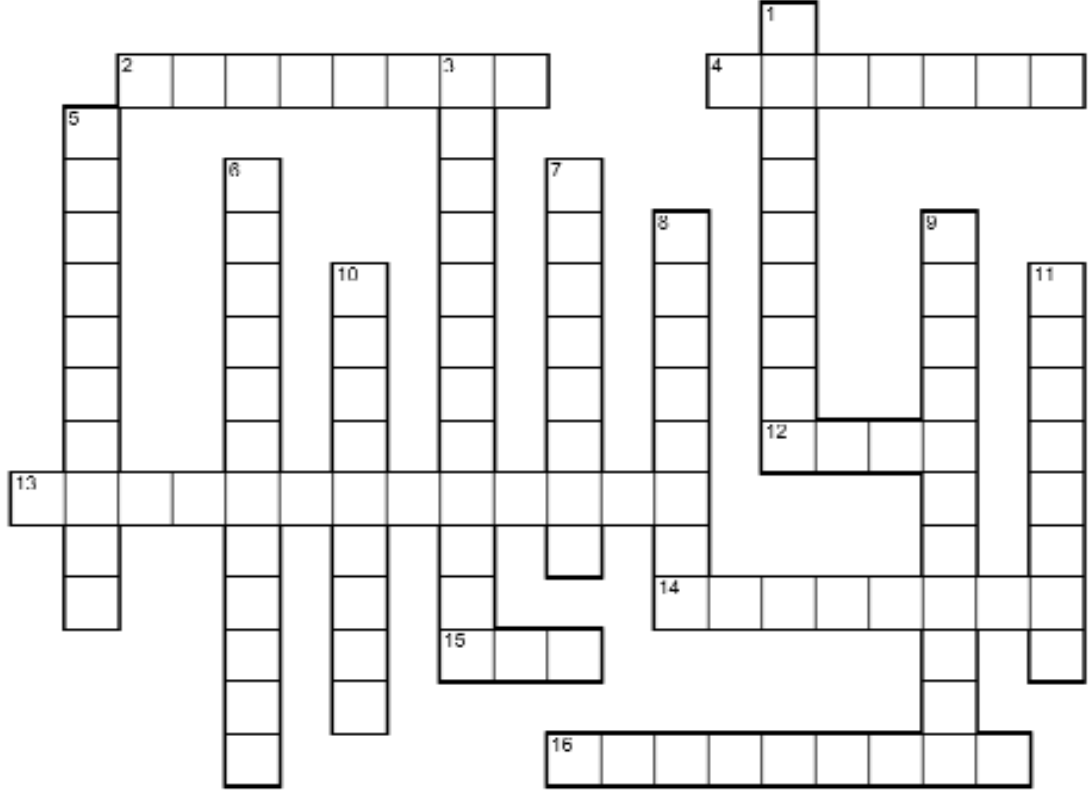
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through Crime Prevention: literature, briefs, education, crime assessments, safety tips, the Stranger Danger program, McGruff the Crime Dog, the Officer Friendly program, the Property Marking program, and the Child Identification and Fingerprinting program. For more information call Crime Prevention, 830-6094/5457.

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



NHL TRIVIA & LINGO



ACROSS

- Three goals
- NHL team that plays in Madison Square Garden.
- The area between the two hash marks in front of the net is known as the ____.
- Players with the highest amount of goals scored by the end of the season is awarded the ____ Award.
- Using your hockey stick to hit the limbs of an opposing player with no intent of going for the puck.
- Color of the centerline on a hockey rink.
- Standing in front of a goalie to obstruct his vision.

DOWN

- Ended their five-year Stanley Cup winning streak in 1960.
- The player behind your defense.
- Wayne Gretzky's idol growing up.
- Attacking the opposing players before they exit their zone.
- Canadian hockey city that arguably started ice hockey.
- Your player goes into the opposing zone before the puck.
- Shooting and hitting the goal post.
- The other team has taken a penalty. You have a two-minute ____.
- Last NHL team to win two consecutive Stanley Cups in the 1990s (team name).

[Solutions on A10]

Centerspeak

What is your greatest achievement this year?

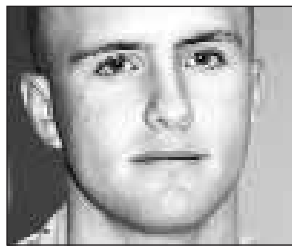
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FIRST SGT. JOSEPH BREZE
HQBN



STAFF SGT. DIANE DURDEN
HQBN



LANCE CPL. RANDY LITTLE
2/7

“Running a triathlon and being selected for sergeant major.”

“Battling and WINNING breast cancer.”

“Getting married and having a baby boy.”

What's on your mind?

Centerspeak welcomes questions or submissions from service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

Address submissions to:

Commanding General
Public Affairs Office
(Attn. Press Chief)
MCAGCC
Box 788200
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8200

Or e-mail to:

evan.eagan@usmc.mil

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Marines, as your new commandant, I want you to know how proud I am of you. Around the globe, you have acquitted yourself with distinction and honor both in combat and in peace.

This generation of Marines has ably shouldered the battle colors of the Corps — colors passed to us by the finest fighting force in our nation's history.

To those who have gone before, we owe much; to our nation's security, we devote ourselves fully.

Much of what our Corps has accomplished has been due to the wartime leadership of General Hagee and the support of his wife, Silke. When General Hagee assumed responsibilities as the 33rd commandant of the Marine Corps, the Corps was fully engaged in Afghanistan and the war on terrorism, but not yet committed in Iraq.

He led the Corps as it mobilized for Iraq and as it transformed for global engagement in the long war. General Hagee's exhaustive efforts to ensure our Marines were provided the best equipment is worthy of all of our respect and gratitude. My wife, Annette, and I salute both General and Mrs. Hagee's support for all of our wounded Marines and their families. The Hagees embody our Corps' commitment to "taking care of our own."

Marines, the next few years will be tough. We are engaged in a complex war that will not be over soon; however, it is a war we must win! Below are my focus areas for the next few years, which I will more fully describe in the Commandant's Planning Guidance — but be certain of this: our Marines and sailors in combat are our number one priority. Those in harm's way deserve our fullest attention and support.

Our focus areas:

- Achieve victory in the long war.
- Right-size our Corps to achieve a 1:2 deployment-to-dwell ratio.
- Provide our nation a naval force that is fully prepared for employment across the spectrum of conflict.
- Reset and modernize to "be most ready when the nation is least ready."
- Improve the quality of life for our Marines and their families.
- Rededicate ourselves to our core values and warrior ethos.
- Posture the Marine Corps for the future.

You will soon receive my Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG). Within 30 days, I want commanders at all levels to review this guidance with their Marines, sailors and civilians. I plan to visit many of you over the next several months. I will seek your feedback on the CPG and your ideas how we can continue to defeat our adversaries, best serve our nation, and forge the next chapter in the proud history of our Corps.



Semper Fidelis,
General, United States Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps



The MCAGCC band marches down Hollywood Blvd. during the 75th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade Sunday.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

HOLLYWOOD from A1

Coager said he felt the Marines left a strong impression on the public.

"I think the people see us as Marines when we are marching. But then, they see us playing songs like Butter Beans, and they see that we know how to have fun, too."

Although it may seem like the Marines are doing these events solely to benefit the interested public, the events are good for the Marines, as well.

"I think this gives the band a good chance to get feed-back," said Coager. "It's good for the Corps because it gives other people the chance to see that there is more to us than what's shown on T.V. or what's printed in the newspapers."

It's no wonder the Combat Center Band is invited to return year after year.



WHAT'S NEXT?

If your EAS is on the horizon, then now's the time to act to secure your future as a member of the Army National Guard.

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 Spaghetti Dinner
 (No Potatoes)
 Ham Steak Dinner
 with Pineapple Ring
 Chicken Strips (3)
 Ground Sirloin Steak
 Chicken, Beef or Shrimp Stir Fry
 over Rice w/ Carrots, Celery,
 Peppers, Onions, Zucchini,
 (No Potatoes)
 Liver & Onions
 Chicken Breast Dinner
 Fish & Chips
 Meat Loaf
\$5.95

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 Twentynine Palms
 367-2008

Name _____
 ID # _____
 Pick up at _____
 Destination _____
 Total fee _____
 Driver _____
 Date/Time _____
 Customer _____
 Signature _____



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

Western Anbar's senior Marine commander, enlisted, visit troops along Iraq-Syria border for Thanksgiving

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

AL QA'IM, Iraq - Regimental Combat Team 7's commander and sergeant major commended and expressed thanks to their Marines and sailors here for the "phenomenal things" they're doing for the citizens of the Al Qa'im region.

Col. W. Blake Crowe and Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Mashburn spent Thanksgiving Day visiting the Marines of the southern Calif.-based 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, who are based in outposts in the northwest region of Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

They're foremost message was simply "thank you for what you are doing for this region."

"I know it's tough being away from your homes and families" said Mashburn to a group of Marines with 3/4. "But, you are doing an outstanding job here and we're watching you from afar in Al Asad, [Iraq.]"

RCT-7 is the Coalition Forces unit responsible for providing security to more than 30,000 square miles in western Anbar, stretching from the Syrian and Jordanian borders, east to the Euphrates River.

The sergeant major and colonel are based at the regimental headquarters in Al Asad. 3/4 is one of RCT-7's subordinate units in western Al Anbar Province.

The battalion is three months into a seven month Iraq deployment. They are tasked with patrolling the streets of the many cities that lie along this Euphrates River region, just miles east of the Iraq-Syria border. The Marines here face threats such as small-arms fire and improvised explosive devices every day while operating in the region.

The battalion also works with Iraqi soldiers and police, mentoring them so Iraqi Security Forces can eventually provide security to their own country.

"It's good to see Marines with aggression and control," said Mashburn. "You are allowing the Iraqi citizens to taste freedom more and more, and at the same time, keeping them safe from the insurgency."

Since 3/4's arrival here in September, the Marines have successfully disarmed IEDs, captured wanted individuals and found weapons caches in their area of operation.

"No better friend, no worse enemy holds true with [you all]," said Mashburn, quoting the 1st Marine Division's motto.

Along with securing the streets from adversaries, the Marines here have built a good rapport with its civilians. Husaybah, a city that borders Syria and was the setting of Operation Steel Curtain - a 2005 operation which pitted U.S. Marines and local Iraqi tribesmen against hundreds of insurgents - now hosts a flow of business in its market street, clear of insurgent activity.

"If we can maintain security of their streets, we will have their support," said Cpl. Carl G. Williams about the Iraqi people. Williams is a squad leader with the battalion's Kilo Co. "They want the insurgency out just as much as we do, so our relationship with them is more of a business relationship."

Mashburn also stated that regimental officials were confident in putting a battalion that was self-sufficient in this region. Overall, he's proud of what the battalion is doing, he said.

Young Marines, such as Lance Cpl. Jordan R. Hintz, a 20-year-old from Esko, Minn., was one of the many Marines who met with the regiment's senior leadership Thanksgiving Day. He was happy to see that the sergeant major and colonel wanted to be involved with the Marines' lives during the festive holiday, he said.

"It's good to see that they want to know how we are and how we're living," said Hintz after Mashburn visited him and his comrades in the living quarters of his outpost. "He asked of our concerns and if we felt fine being here. We told him things here were great."

Marines like Hintz are living in 20-square-foot living quarters that bunk roughly six or more Marines or sailors. Hintz is a machine gunner in a platoon that conducts vehicle-mounted patrols in the city of Karabilah.

Along with their concerns for the troops' welfare, Mashburn and Crowe wished the Marines a "Happy Thanksgiving" to all they met, shaking hands and taking time to chat with Marines and sailors.

"Everyone's got something to be thankful for, right?" asked Mashburn to some of the Marines he met with. He answered the question for them - "the Marines you work alongside with every day, watching each other's back" during combat operations.

"I am thankful for [you all] being here," said Mashburn. "Although you are not with your families at home, you are with your families here - the Marines and sailors you work with."

"Happy Thanksgiving, and



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Mashburn of Regimental Combat Team 7, shakes hands with Lance Cpl. John Sommer during Mashburn's and RCT-7's commanding officer, Col. W. Blake Crowe's, Thanksgiving Day visit to Marines and sailors serving near the Iraq-Syria border, Nov. 23.

I hope you eat a lot of food today," said Mashburn, a native of Salem, Ill.

To some Marines, Thanksgiving in Iraq was just another day on the job, according to Hintz.

"I kind of lost track of the days out here," said Hintz. "Even though it's Thanksgiving, we still have jobs to do."

Hintz said he misses his family and his girlfriend in Minnesota, but he's glad he's with his buddies here.

"Civilians can never understand what it is to be a Marine out here," said Mashburn to the Marines here. "You are ensuring these people's freedom. It takes a great amount of maturity from you young people to take care of that. It's amazing what you do."



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Marines from 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, serving in Husaybah, Iraq, located just east of the Iraq-Syria border in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, were treated to a full Thanksgiving Day meal Nov. 23.

Along Iraq-Syria border, 3/4 noncommissioned officers fill battalion's critical leadership roles

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

AL QA'IM, Iraq - In this Euphrates River region, just miles east of the Iraq-Syria border, U.S. Marines here rely on small-unit leaders to guide them during daily operations.

Many of the noncommissioned officers assigned to the southern Calif.-based 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment fill crucial leadership roles normally designated for Marines of a higher rank - squad leaders, platoon sergeants and platoon commanders.

Out here, a bad decision could mean the difference between life and death, and Marine leaders like Hans I. Blum, Andrew P. Schweers and Lucas J. Mathews have more than themselves to worry about.

All three are Marine sergeants with the battalion's Quick Reaction Force - an on-call platoon of Marines which serves as a back-up force to the battalion's troops on the ground.

Blum and Schweers are section leaders with the platoon, a role normally designated for staff sergeants - one



Sgt. Hans I. Blum, a 25-year-old Marine from Tamuning, Guam, and Sgt. Andrew P. Schweers, a 25-year-old Marine from Minnetonka, Minn., recite an oath of enlistment during a reenlistment ceremony in Al Qa'im, Iraq Nov. 19.

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

rank higher than sergeant. Mathews is platoon sergeant for the Quick Reaction Force's two sections. His job is normally held by a gunnery sergeant, which is two ranks higher than his own.

"The management part of my job can be stressful at times but for the most part I like it, and I like where I'm

at," said Schweers. "Training young Marines and seeing them operate, execute missions and succeed is rewarding."

But being a good leader is more than just training and operating successfully, according to Mathews. He says leadership depends on an individual's initiative to show what they're capable of.

"The responsibility is something we were in search of ever since we left high school," said Mathews. "Making it this far and holding a higher billet makes us want to continue striving for that next higher position."

All three Marines are currently serving their third tour of duty in Iraq. The battalion

has deployed four times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Everywhere the Marine Corps is and where my Marines are is where I want to be," said Blum, who was born in Egypt, but lived in Guam since he was 13 years old. "I would rather not be anywhere else than here with these guys in Iraq."

The battalion is based in Al Qa'im, a northwestern region in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, where they conduct daily patrols along the Euphrates River just several miles east of the Syrian border. The battalion works side-by-side with Iraqi soldiers and police who will eventually relieve Coalition

Forces of security operations here.

Blum and Schweers recently reenlisted for another four years in the Marine Corps and Mathews is slated to reenlist soon.

After all, it's "an honor" to lead Marines in a combat zone, according to Blum.

"Being a leader gives me the feeling that I am doing something really worthwhile," said Mathews, a Stockton, N.J., native. "I think we're all achieving goals here and everything is going well for our platoon."

Blum, Schweers, and Mathews aren't the only Marines in their platoon carrying duties normally designated for more senior Marines. Staff Sgt. Christopher K. Kimes, a 35-year-old Marine from Marietta, Ga., is the Quick Reaction Force's platoon commander, a billet normally filled by a commissioned officer.

Kimes is responsible for planning of the Force's missions and the overall welfare, morale and discipline of his Marines.

"The battalion has the trust and confidence in our abilities," said Kimes, who is on his first deployment to Iraq. "It's only right that we put our most qualified Marines in leadership positions."

Normally, Marines on their first enlistment, like Schweers, Mathews, and Blum, wouldn't be given such leadership roles, according to 1st Sgt. Gary J. Bass, who says the Marines filling senior leadership billets are "doing an excellent job."

"Not only are these Marines holding a billet that is for a staff NCO or an officer, they're performing their duties extraordinarily well," said Bass.

All four Marines - Kimes, Blum, Mathews and Schweers - said they believe that leadership billets are opportunities for senior Marines to step up and fill in those shoes.

The four Marines say they look forward to leading their fellow Marines home safely to their families.

Every day they spend most of their time in the living quarters going over operational procedures that they carry out when they leave the base - procedures that may save their lives.

"If I had to pick a dream team of Marines, it would be those three sergeants," said Kimes of Blum, Mathews, Schweers. "I'd go anywhere or do anything with those guys."

Still, the Marines have a lot of time to themselves during the days they are not "on call." They spend time reading books, watching movies, writing letters or using the base's internet cafe to call home or surf the net.

And of course, monitoring their Marines' welfare is priority in a combat zone.

"We have to make sure things are going OK with them," said Blum. "I know who's married, who has a girlfriend and they normally tell me what's going on at home. I got to make sure they're focused, because if their not, then that's a problem."

RCT-7 celebrates Thanksgiving in Al Anbar province



STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
A "Horn of Plenty" and other decorations, made entirely out of bread, set the scene for a Thanksgiving meal at a dining facility at the U.S. military base in Al Asad, Iraq, Nov. 23.

STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

Service members were treated to a full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings – turkey, stuffing, potatoes, crab legs, prime rib, pie, and cake, among other foods. Al Asad is headquarters for the Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based Regimental Combat Team 7. RCT-7 arrived in Iraq in January

and is the Coalition Forces unit responsible for training Iraqi Security Forces and providing security to more than 30,000 square miles in Iraq's western Al Anbar Province. "We'd all love to be with our families, but since we can't be with our families, I can't think of anyone else to be with (on Thanksgiving) than United States Marines and sailors," said Col. W. Blake Crowe, RCT-7's commanding officer.



STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
Lt. Col. David E. Ducey, a 44-year-old Marine from Northbridge, Mass., helps serve Thanksgiving dinner to Marines and other service members in Al Asad, Iraq, Nov. 23.

Fallen heroes guard Heaven's streets

LANCE CPL. RYAN C. HEISER,
2ND MARINE DIVISION

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — "A million men cannot take Tarawa in 100 years," boasted Imperial Japanese Fleet Rear Adm. Keiji Shibasaki.

Sixty-three years ago 35,000 Marines, sailors, and soldiers took the heavily fortified island, and over 4,500 Japanese lives, in 76 hours. It was the first time in history the Japanese forces offered heavy opposition to a Marine amphibious landing.

2nd Marine Division hosted "Tarawa Day" here Nov. 21, in order to honor these veterans and remember the sacrifices made by those who fell on the island. 2nd Marine Regiment joined approximately 20 veterans and their families to commemorate the battle, which took over 1,100 American lives.

The day included a memo-

rial at the base Protestant Chapel and a speech by the regiment's Commanding Officer Col. Stacy Clardy before moving to a series of static displays which included modern assault amphibian vehicles, as well as WWII-era weapons and equipment.

"Today we remember our fallen brothers," Clardy said. "That cost is tattooed on the heart of every Marine."

On the morning of Nov. 20, 1943, American assault crafts approached the small island and the Imperial troops who were bunkered down in two years of fortification. Lead companies, the groups of Marines who landed on the island first, lost 45 percent or more of their men, which was the highest casualty rate of the battle.

"We knew it was death, but the choice was clear," said Henry Norman, a former private first class and veteran of the battle. "You got the ocean behind you and the island in front of you, and you sure

aren't going back."

Over 1,000 Marines and sailors died on the beach and 3,000 more were wounded during the three-day battle for the island which keyed the division's phrase, "Keep Moving." Some have said the battle validated the Marine Corps' war-fighting concept of amphibious warfare.

American troops fought through a maze of 500 pill-boxes, the name given to fortified machine-gun positions, and bunkers which were connected by tunnels and defended by wire and mines. Of the 4,700 Imperials, only 17 survived the battle.

"We weren't brave," said William E. Ashley, Tarawa veteran and former staff sergeant. "We were just going to do what we had to do, and we weren't going to let anyone die."

As the men in his amphibious vehicle bailed out water with their helmets, their gunnery sergeant was killed, Ashley explained. Five min-



LANCE CPL. RYAN C. HEISER,

Veterans of the battle of Tarawa visited the base and viewed static displays of World War II-era weapons here Nov. 21, to memorialize "Tarawa Day."

utes later there were only five Marines left out of the 15 man team. They hadn't even landed yet.

The completed, although bloody, mission paved the way for a stronger attack into

the main forces of Japan. Tarawa and its airstrip were a much needed foothold into the Pacific, and became an important operational post during the following battles with Japan during WWII.

Clardy ended the memorial with words to the fallen heroes of Tarawa.

"Stand tall while you guard the golden streets of Heaven. Once a Marine, always a Marine."



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Santa Claus is coming to town

Members of the Combat Center Band jam out during last year's Holiday Concert. This year's Holiday Concert will be held Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the base theater.

Mess Nights: more than just good manners night

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps is notorious for its proficiency on the battlefield as well as its dignified manner in formal environments. In the introduction of the 9th Communication Battalion's mess night manual titled "The History of Mess Night," such professionalism is addressed:

"Gallantry and comradeship in arms have enabled our small corps to build a name for itself that is known throughout the world, feared by our enemies and respected by every military service in existence. This name was not easily won, and we of the Corps should not allow ourselves to forget how it was accomplished, nor should we allow others to forget. By that we do not mean we should advertise our war record nor should we even mention it, but to maintain our name we must conduct ourselves at all times in a manner befitting one who is part of such a tradition. The maintenance of traditional discipline, gallantry and love of the Corps is our duty. We must see that the same high standard of respect and prestige is not only maintained but further strengthened. It must be passed on to the future officers who will take our place among the ranks of the Corps and look

back with pride on what we have accomplished. The mess night is an element in fostering such standards."

The seemingly-ridged foundation of mess nights is due to its orientation dating back to the Royal British Marines, and even as far back as King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Despite the long history of mess nights, they still hold the same concept of celebration and camaraderie among warriors.

The first notable formal U.S. Marine mess nights took

place in Washington, D.C., during the 1930's and 1940's. It was in this time period that the 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, ordered the publication of the book "The Marine Officer's Guide," the first published document of mess etiquette.

Ray V. Wilburn, a retired Sergeant Major, recalls the mess nights he attended while in the Corps.

"We did everything completely by the book," said

Wilburn, referring to the execution of mess night affairs. "If you had to go to the bathroom, no matter if you were enlisted or an officer, you had to raise your hand and ask the president permission before you could go. Then, you would have to ask permission again before you could re-enter the room."

Wilburn went on to describe the differences he sees in the mess nights now. Now, there's been kind of a drifting away from the regulations they had

in earlier mess nights. Now, it's much more of a fun thing for Marines. It's more relaxed than the controlled environment they had at first."

Something mess nights have now that wasn't always there is the "fining". That is where Marines can accuse other Marines at the mess of outlandish and arbitrary crimes ranging from bad fashion to strange habits. These fines vary in severity and punishment, depending on the creativity of the staff,

president, and Mr. Vice.

It may seem as though the fines are meant to make the attendees uncomfortable, but they are not intended to single-out a Marine. Instead, it offers a more light-hearted atmosphere for attendees to laugh among each other and bond as a band of brothers and sisters.

Mess Nights are a traditional way of giving honor to past Marines and victorious battles which changed the course of our history.

Marines keep Camp Wilson squared away



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Squared away is a term drill instructors use at boot camp to describe flawlessness, and it's a term that you continue to hear throughout your Marine Corps career. Marines are squared away whether it be their personal appearance, their work, or their living quarters. So when it comes to keeping Camp Wilson squared away, the Marines of the camp commandant's working party do just that.

Their job is to ensure the camp is presentable and there are adequate living quarters for the units arriving. They fix the broken things around Camp Wilson and also help enforce rules.

"We're the jacks of all trades, and the masters of none," said Cpl. Mike Thompson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "If our job ceased to exist, the Marine Corps would just have the units police call themselves,

but it would diminish the time the units had to train."

The Marines work in a section described as a "tight" shop, because all the Marines agree they work as a team to get the job done.

"My favorite part of the job is the guys I work with," said Cpl. Daniel Gerholdt, section leader.

Lance Cpl. Jason Briseno, crewman, agrees, "It's a real family-like environment."

The working party consists of 23 Marines from different units tasked with keeping all of Camp Wilson clean and ready for the different units coming on deck.

"Every day is different," said Thompson. "Whatever comes our way that needs to be fixed, we fix it."

The Marines of the camp commandant's working party spend long hard hours ensuring that the camp's maintenance is kept presentable. They are the handymen of the camp and the go-to Marines when something needs to be fixed.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
Pfc. Thomas Andrews, general maintenance, helps keep Camp Wilson clean by police calling the area.

LENO from A1

"This gets the Marines out into the community and gives the public a chance to see them in a good light," Durden said.

This was the first Single Marine Program trip for Pvt. Chris Wagner, a Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School student from Company B.

"It seems like they have a really good selection for trips," said Wagner. "They did a pretty good job at pulling in all the right people from left and right in order to get this together for us. Besides that, they are feeding us a Thanksgiving dinner, and that's just awesome. Plus, I'm going to meet Jay Leno!"

Wagner wasn't the only one excited about meeting big-name celebrities. Pfc. Tiffany L. Duffy said she has watched Leno's show for years and is a huge fan.

"I like the fact that I can get into uniform and go meet people I really like," said Duffy. "Times on base can be a little stressful, and fun stuff like this takes your mind off of it."

Lance Cpl. Brandon Watkins felt the same way. "This isn't only getting us off base, but it's also giving us a once-in-a-lifetime chance at meeting Jay Leno," he said.

"The trips are important because it reminds the Marines that the Corps is interested in looking out for us and letting us relax. It's really nice to come out of the field and be able to get a little vacation."

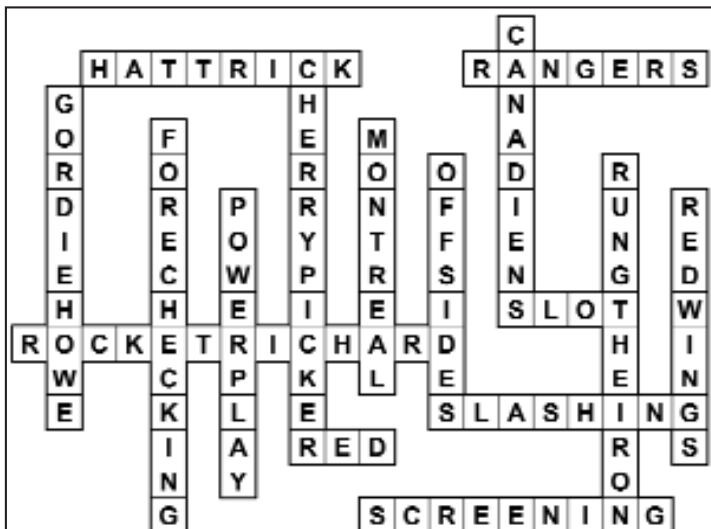
Lance Cpl. John Fannin, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Weapons Company, said he hasn't been able to go on any of the SMP trips because his unit is always in the field when the trips are taking place.

"I think this is really good because it lets us know that the big names haven't forgotten about the little guys," said Fannin. "They really pulled out all the stops for us."

Lance Cpl. Andrew Stone agreed.

"They were great hosts," he said. "It was great getting the free prizes, meeting the models and shaking hands with outrageous celebrities. This kind of stuff is good for the 03's because we don't get to do cool stuff around Twentynine Palms. It gives us a chance to get off base without having to blow an entire pay check."

Between the inter-service rivalry, free prizes, and celebrities, the Marines of the Combat Center found themselves having a great time.



SOLUTIONS

3/4 Marine, Wash. native, joined military to fight global war on terror

SGT. ROE F. SEIGLE
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

AL QA'IM, Iraq - Barely out of high school, Cpl. Adam Kelley left his hometown of 4,000 in Yacolt, Wash., and joined the Marine Corps - just to get to Iraq.

He did just that.

Now, the 20-year-old has a responsibility on his hands many his age couldn't fathom - the lives of 12 other Marines in a combat zone.

"I wanted to do something different than most kids," said Kelley, a squad leader assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. "I wanted to come out here and make a difference and catch some bad guys."

Kelley arrived in Iraq in September. Since then, he has spent his days, and countless nights, patrolling the streets of Al Qa'im, Iraq, with his Marines and capturing insurgents.

Kelley frequently reminds his Marines when they patrol the windswept streets of the Al Qaim region - a region of 230,000, just miles from the Iraq-Syria border in Al Anbar Province - that "complacency kills" - a phrase posted in black and white on a wooden sign near an exit to the Marines' forward operating base here.

The crisp, cold air has become colder every night and the Marines are wearing more military-issued clothing to keep warm, but the bitter cold is the last of Kelley's concerns.

"I got 12 other guys to worry about besides myself," said Kelley, who joined the Marine Corps only two months after his 18th birthday. "All I really care about is that they come back from each mission safely and go

home to their families when this deployment is done."

Yesterday he was on a patrol, talked to some children near a market place and bought them some candy. Kelley has developed a wide vocabulary in Arabic during his two deployments to Iraq. He enjoys practicing his Arabic with the children, he said.

"I love to give them pens, pencils and paper," said Kelley, who played football on his high school's team. "That is the same to them as candy."

However, Kelley rarely makes eye contact with the children for more than a few seconds. He keeps his eyes and ears open to the surrounding area, always mindful of all the locals' actions.

"I constantly tell myself and my Marines to keep their head in the game out here because a situation can change real fast," said Kelley.

Last month, for example, the Marines were patrolling the streets in military vehicles when an improvised explosive device detonated.

This was not the first time Kelley has seen combat.

Kelley has deployed to Iraq twice in the last two years. He was one of the many infantrymen who fought insurgents in the volatile streets of Fallujah with his current unit in 2005. There Kelley learned not to take simple things in life that many take for granted - like a hot meal three times a day and a decent night's sleep in a warm bed, he said.

Kelley said he often looks forward to "mail call" because he knows he will get certain food items in the mail - assorted candies and microwavable food items.

"Food from home is always better than an MRE (Meal, Ready-to-Eat)," said

Kelley.

Kelley said when he was serving in Fallujah last year, Marines often ate MREs for two or three days at a time before they were afforded a hot meal due to the intensity and frequency of missions.

"When I was in Falujah last year we would often go two days without sleep, or a hot meal, because we would get tasked with missions night and day," said Kelley. "We still sometimes have to go a whole day without sleep."

Although the level of violence in Al Qa'im now is much less when compared to combat operations in Fallujah last year, Kelley says he and his Marines, along with Iraqi Security Forces, must always be vigilant, patrolling day and night to keep the insurgency suppressed.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Kalokoski is Kelley's platoon sergeant. When Kalokoski joined Lima Company, he was told by several non-commissioned officers of Kelley's ability to lead Marines. Kalokoski says he was immediately impressed with how hard Kelley worked and the respect he garnered from other Marines.

"I knew he would make an excellent squad leader," said Kalokoski, 27, native of Hummer City, Pa. "He has a lot of maturity for a 20-year-old."

Kelley is also an asset to every patrol he goes on because he has a large vocabulary in Arabic - especially useful if the Marines do not have an interpreter with them on a patrol, said Kalokoski.

"Kelley always follows the rules and the commander's intentions," said Kalokoski, an eight-year Marine Corps veteran. "I never have to ques-

tion his actions."

Kelley plans to leave the Marine Corps when his contract is up in less than two years. As a civilian, he wants to be an auto mechanic, he said.

Kalokoski is encouraging Kelley to reenlist in the Marine Corps because he has a vast realm of skills - most recently, Kelley learned how to operate radio and communication equipment.

"I have about two more years to convince Kelley to reenlist," said Kalokoski. "He is the (youngest) squad leader I have and all I have to say to him is 'here is the situation - fix it,' and it gets done."

Kelley's father, William Kelley, said from his home in Yacolt during a phone interview that he would support whatever decision his son makes, but he would like to see his son go to college.

"I am very proud of my son and I know that whatever he decides to do he will do a good job at it," said William. "If you had a son like mine, you would want a hundred of them."



SGT. ROE F. SEIGLE, Cpl. Adam Kelley keeps an eye on a roadway in front of a market Nov. 18, in Al Qa'im, Iraq.

Recon's Wrath

First Reconnaissance Battalion is currently conducting pre-deployment training at the Combat Center. Attacking green Ivan targets on Range 410A, Cpl. Brad W. Jungers, 3rd Platoon, Company B, with his M-240G machinegun lays down hot lead for his team as it assaults trench three. "I was providing supportive fire on an enemy machinegun bunker to allow the enveloping force to push forward and accurately engage the enemy in the trenches," said the 21-year-old.



CPL. GEORGE HRUBY

SPORT SHORTS

YOUTH BASKETBALL
REGISTRATION
DEADLINE

Youth Sports is offering basketball for ages 4 to 14. The cost is \$30 and includes a uniform and award. Register from now until Dec. 20, or until the program is filled. You can register at the Community Center building 1004. For further information call 830-8421 or 3910.

YOUTH WRESTLING
REGISTRATION
DEADLINE

Youth Sports is offering wrestling for ages 4 to 14. Cost is \$10 and includes a T-Shirt and award. Youth Sports provides the use of uniforms and headgear. Tournament fees and all other cost are the responsibility of parents. Register at the Community Center now until Dec. 20, or until the program is filled. For more information call 830-3910 or 8421.

LEISURE

HASHMARKS SNCO
CLUB, "WADDA-YA-
MEAN IT'S TOO COLD
TO RIDE" PARTY

Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club will host its Second Annual "WADDA-YA-MEAN IT'S TOO COLD TO RIDE" Party, Saturday at 5 p.m. Enjoy music, food and no cover charge. This is a private party, not affiliated with the Club so all ranks, retirees, and civilians are welcome. You don't even have to own a bike. A designated driver and vehicle will be provided. For more info, contact Master Sgt. Cowan at 830-5542 or 830-5543.

HASHMARKS SNCO
CLUB MEMBER
APPRECIATION
NIGHT

Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club will hold a member appreciation night Dec. 8. Two comedians will perform from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and our DJ will follow promptly for the dance crowd. The club will also hold its annual Toys-for-Tots drive that night. Bring in a toy or make a minimum of a \$5 donation to Toys-for-Tots and you will automatically be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Marine Corps Community Services gift card or one of several other great prizes. Of course, lots of free food will be available for your enjoyment. So come out, bring a toy, and make a night of it at your club. For more information please call 830-6610.

PENNY-A-PIN-SPECIAL
AT SANDY HILL
LANES BOWLING
CENTER

During this special, bowlers only pay for what they score. Bowl a 200 or higher and your game is free. Enjoy this limited-time special with the entire family. Shoe rental is additional. Reservations are not available. For details please call 830-6422.

Did You Know?

You weigh less on the top of a mountain than at sea level.

Headquarters blanks 1/7 in championship football game

moves on to face Pendleton's MAG-39 in Best of the West



Members of Headquarters Battalion celebrate their 28-0 victory over 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, in the Commanding General's Intramural Football League championship game Nov. 21.

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Headquarters Battalion beat 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 28-0 in the Commanding General's Intramural Football League Championship Game Nov. 21 at Felix Field.

Headquarters Battalion returned to the championship game for the first time since 2002 after posting a 7-0 record during the regular season, and beating Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, 26-14 in the second round of the playoffs.

First Battalion, 7th Marines entered season play midway through the season, due to a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After going 1-3 during the regular season, 1/7 advanced to the second round of the playoffs on a forfeit by 1st Tank Battalion.

In the second round, 1/7 stunned Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School by a score of 8-0.

In the first quarter, Headquarters' offense, which

rolled on opposing defenses throughout the season, came out flat and fumbled the ball twice, one of which was on 1/7's 22-yard line. However, two plays later Headquarters got the ball back after lineman Chris Hooshmand caused a turnover on the 13-yard line.

One minute into the second half Headquarters got in the endzone on a pass from quarterback Odis Alexander to wide receiver David Anderson. Antonio Posey caught a pass from Alexander on a two-point conversion, making the score 8-0.

Neither team could get much going during the rest of the half, and Headquarters held onto their 8-0 advantage through halftime.

First Battalion, 7th Marines, received the kickoff to start the second half and quickly moved downfield on Headquarters penalties and a long pass, bringing them to the Headquarters 21-yard line. Although they looked poised to get on the scoreboard, Headquarters' Sean

Brown intercepted stopping their advance.

A few minutes later Alexander connected with Anderson again who found his way into the endzone, making the score 14-0.

In the fourth quarter, Headquarters' Willie Campbell scored on a nine-yard rush bringing the score to 20-0 with less than 10 minutes left in the game.

A few minutes later Headquarters struck again, this time on a touchdown by Damien Brown. After capitalizing on a two-point conversion, the score was 28-0, which would eventually be the final score.

After the final horn sounded, excited Headquarters players rushed the field in celebration.

"The first half was pretty shabby," said Alexander, after the game. "In the second half we came out with more determination to finish the game."

Anderson, who came up big was named the game's most valuable player, an award he won for the second straight year.

"Sometimes big players have to step up and do big things," he said. "Alexander gave me the ball, and I did what I had to do."

Headquarters will move on to play Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., tomorrow in the Best of the

West Championship Game in Oceanside, Calif.

"It's going to be a great game," Anderson said. "We're going to go there and do the best we can. We don't know what kind of talent they have,

but we're going to give it the best we got."

Headquarters faces Pendleton's league champion, Marine Air Group 39, who posted a 7-1 record through the regular season.



David Anderson runs downfield after catching a pass from quarterback Odis Alexander during the Commanding General's Intramural Football League championship game Nov. 21.

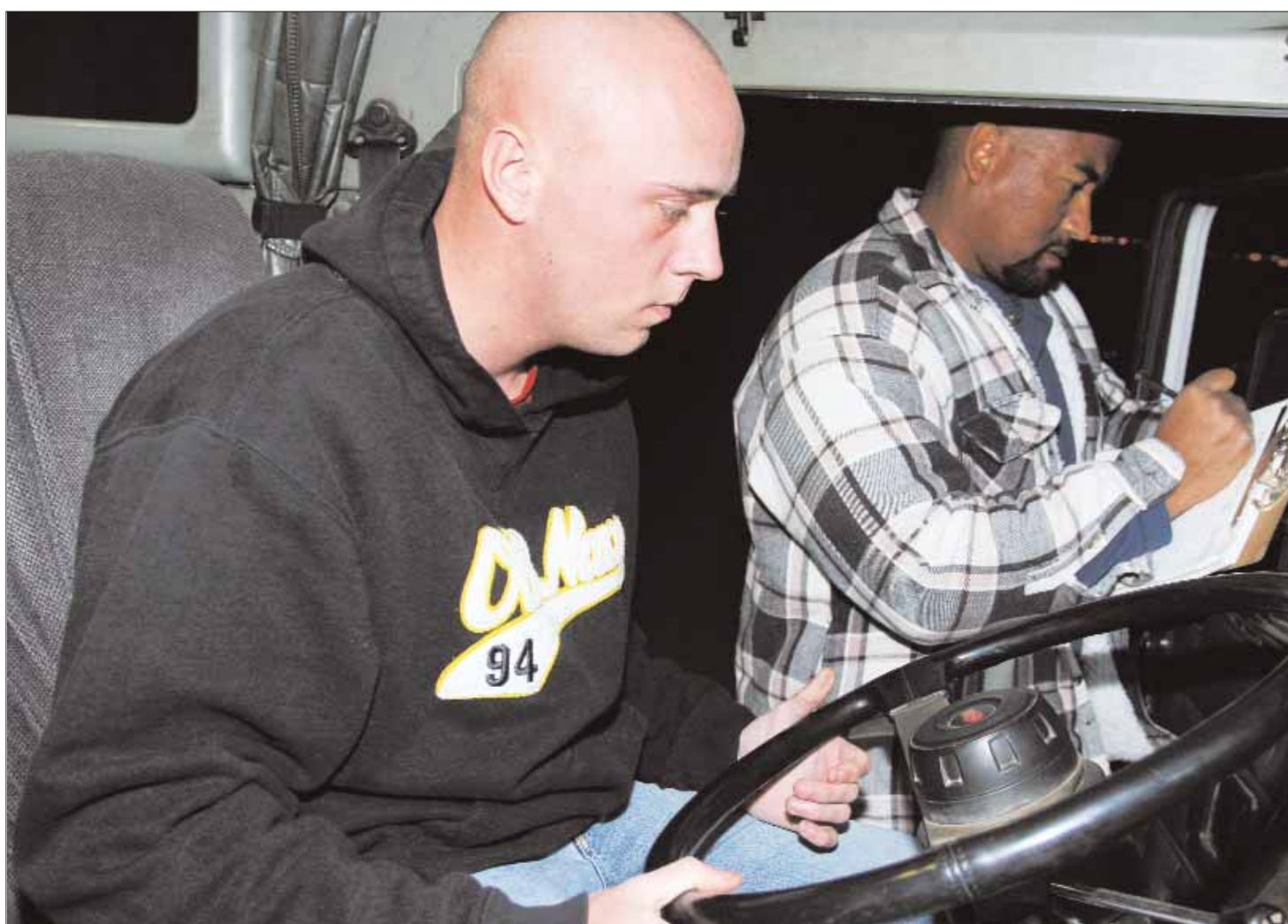


Headquarters Battalion running back Willie Campbell rushes down field during the Commanding General's Intramural Football League championship game Nov. 21.



Headquarters Battalion and 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment get set for a play during the Commanding General's Intramural Football League championship game Nov. 21. Headquarters went on to win 28-0.

Life after Corps: Marines ride highway to new career



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Lance Cpl. Chris Forest, anti-tank assault man, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, demonstrates the five-point break test in front of the truck driving course instructor, Anthony O. Hall. The California Career School offers a four to six week truck-driving course to service members in the Twentynine Palms area.

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Five years ago, the California Career School decided to take their truck driving courses to service members on military bases in the Southern California area. Since then, more than 2,500 veterans have gone through the training and have received lifelong job placement assistance from the school. There were 250 former Marines from the Combat Center from this statistic, said Ken Enfinger, military representative, California Career School.

More than 70 percent of manufactured products are distributed through trucking, keeping the demand for truckers high and recession-proof, said Enfinger. The pay steadily rises each year, going from \$38,000 to \$44,000 per year in 2005 to \$41,000 to \$48,000 as starting pay

this year. If this trend continues, in six years, truck drivers could possibly earn \$147,000 per year.

"Whether you've never had a license, or your military occupational specialty is motor transportation driver, the course is straightforward enough for anyone to accomplish," he said.

The cost of the nationally accredited school allows service members to use the tuition-assistance program and their Montgomery G.I. Bill to pay for the tuition which costs \$4,295 to \$5,370, depending on the type of endorsements wanted on the license. Endorsements are certifications for truck drivers to transport specific items. Those available from the school include passenger, double and triple trailers, and hazardous materials.

The course lasts four to six weeks during evening hours Monday through Thursday and in the morning on Satur-

days. The class is all hands on learning with five to 12 students per class, enabling more individual attention.

It's a good backup plan to have at your disposal, said Lance Cpl. Chris Forest, anti-tank assault man, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "I decided to go to college, but I still want to have this in my background to use at any time. There is always a need for truck drivers."

Anthony O. Hall, course instructor, went through the course more than two years ago before retiring as a gunnery sergeant from the Combat Center. Hall was a motor transportation driver during his career in the Marine Corps.

Having the background in driving helped a little, but anyone who applies can successfully complete the course. Students who have never even driven manual, learn how to drive a 10-speed and double clutch in three weeks, said Hall.

"It's a great opportunity to learn an easy skill that is always needed in the job market," he said. "It's for anyone

who loves to drive or who just applies themselves."

The license doesn't lock in a long-range trucking career, meaning not all licensed truck drivers will be employed to drive across the nation. That doesn't mean there aren't big bucks working locally, where you go home every night. A formerly retired Marine, who took the course two months ago, is now employed by a contractor on this base earning \$40 per hour, said Enfinger.

The school also offers a 40-hour behind-the-wheel skills-refresher course for those who have already graduated the course and need to brush up on skills and laws.

In the spring, the California Career School will also be offering an on-line course for Automotive Service Excellence certification for diesel mechanics, said Enfinger.

For more information, go to the Base Education Office at Building 1524 or Ken Enfinger can be reached at 835-3403.

Since 1922, Visiting Nurses Program brings healthcare to homes

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In 1922, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Navy Relief Society requested approval of a resident nurse to be hired and available to families to perform regular duties and make home visits. The idea was almost immediately approved and Nell Watson was hired as the first visiting nurse of the Visiting Nurses Program.

In its early years, the Visiting Nurse's position was not held steadily at most bases and lacked documented organization. But since the 1950s, the program became more professional and developed standardization for the practices provided.

The duties of a visiting nurse were listed in the 1951 Manual for Auxiliaries:

- "Follow-up visits as directed by the medical officer on patients discharged from the hospital to render services indicated by the Medical Officer;

- Follow-up visits on patients confined to bed at home, as directed by the medical officer;

- Home visits to mothers of newborn infants to assist and instruct them in carrying out the care and feeding of the babies (an example would be demonstration of a baby bath);

- Giving inoculations and vaccinations at home of patients or at designated centers when not available or practical for patients to obtain them otherwise;

- Transportation to dispensary or hospital for emergency cases when other transportation is not available."

Fifty-five years later, the visiting nurses still have the same duties, and are only a call away, instead of requiring a recommendation from a medical officer, said Lisa Geduld, visiting nurse, Combat Center Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

Geduld, a native of Hackensack, N.J., has been the Combat Center's visiting nurse for more than 11 years.

The demographics of the area determine what kind of care the visiting nurse will provide, she explained.

"Here, at the Combat Center, we have a lot more young couples and first-time parents," she said. "I do a lot of home visits to weigh babies to ensure proper growth and development."

Geduld also provides professional advice for diaper rash, teething, crying, skin care, sibling issues and safety-proofing the child's environment. Geduld is available for quick referencing on any type of childcare, she said.

"Most people in the military, or married to a military member, are far away from their own families," she explained. "It's scary to have a sick child and have nowhere to turn to for questions."

For Geduld, her role as a visiting nurse means much more than providing information. She is also there to listen, she said.

"I've helped patients that have gone through a miscarriage or loss in their family and postpartum depression," said Geduld. "I've been able to relate with most of them because of my own experiences as a mother."

Geduld is used as a quick reference by most of the new parenting programs aboard the base. Through her own experiences and education, she is able to answer questions or know where to find them, she said.

"I always stress education," she said. "Times have changed and the more you know about current medical care, the better you can care for you and your family."

Geduld is available to anyone associated with the military, whether they are on active duty, reserve duty, retired, or a family member or widow of a service member.

For the elderly, Geduld is available to deliver medications, do blood pressure assessments, and most regular nurse duties, she said.

"I look forward to coming to work every day, knowing I'm going to touch at least one person," she continued. "That's the first reason anyone becomes a registered nurse, to help people."

Geduld can be found at the Village Center, Building 1551, or call 830-7451 for more information.

