

Serving the MCAGCC
Community at
Twentynine Palms, Calif.

VOL. 52 NO. 47
December 8, 2006



1/7 CHANGE OF COMMAND, A5

OBSERVATION POST



COMBAT CENTER
CHALLENGE, B1

THIS ISSUE

A4 – "Maneuver" Coyotes

A10 – Winter Festival

B2 – New SMP Coordinator

HOT TOPICS

MILITARY POST OFFICE WILL BE OPENED SATURDAY'S
The military post office will be open every Saturday during December from 5:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., so military members can pick up packages.

LIFELONG LEARNING LIBRARY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Lifelong Learning Library will be hosting a Holiday Celebration on today from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bring the entire family for a joyful evening filled with holiday music, caroling, door prizes and activities for children or just the young at heart. Refreshments will be provided. So stop in and share your holiday wishes and see our favorite guests from the North Pole. Ho-ho-hope to see you there. For more information call 830-6875.

EXCURSIONS ENLISTED CLUB FREE COMEDY NIGHT

Excursions Enlisted Club will have a free Comedy Night on today from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The evening will feature two comedians. Sergeants and below are welcome to attend. For more information call 830-6608.

MCX HOME STORE: TAKE YOUR PET'S PICTURE WITH SANTA

The Marine Corps Exchange Home Store will be offering free "Take Your Pets Picture with Santa Claus," Saturday at the Home Store from 10:15 to 1 p.m. Receive 25 percent off on all pet supplies for one day only. Your pet must be a cat or dog. Dogs need to be on a leash and cat owners must hold cats or place them in a carrier.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

- Christmas Festival
- 2/7 Sniper
- Motor Safety

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

Dec. 8, 1941

The Japanese attacked American garrisons at Wake Island, Guam and the Philippines.

Swift destruction, deadly tactics; Recon has landed

CPL. GEORGE HRUBY
1ST RECON BATTALION

Small in numbers but strong in warfighting tactics, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion hit the ranges of the Combat Center as they progressed through Mojave Viper training Saturday through Wednesday.

Targets on Range 113 were no match for the Recon Snipers of Company B., using M-40A-3 Scout Sniper rifles, as they took shots of up to 1,000 yards.

"Our versatility is what sets us apart from the normal sniper community," said Sgt. Caleb P. Hohman of Company B.

Unlike like other jobs in the Corps where a Marine only needs to know his job, Recon Marines have to know the job of basic rifleman, communications, first aid, and much more. In addition, Recon Marines receive more training on how to attack and travel from air and sea.



CPL. GEORGE HRUBY

See RECON A7 Marines from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion landed at the Combat Center to conduct Mojave Viper pre-deployment training.

Fallen tanker honored at memorial

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lance Cpl. Michael L. Ford was honored by family and friends at a memorial service held at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Tuesday.

Ford, a tank crewman from Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, passed away April 26 while conducting combat operations during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ford, a New Bedford, Mass., native was born July 6, 1986. He graduated from Great New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical School in 2004, where he studied culinary arts.

After viewing a speech made by President George W. Bush, Ford decided he wanted to make a difference in the world, said his father, Joseph Ford, Sr., after the memorial.

"He came back the very next day with the recruiter," Ford explained. "He spent his 18th birthday on a plane to Parris Island."

Ford noticed the change the Marine Corps made in his son soon after he completed boot camp.

"He came back a lean, mean, fighting machine," he explained. "For the first time, he put me in a headlock and I couldn't get out of. He wasn't fitting into his larges anymore, he was wearing mediums."

But there were things about Michael that never changed.

"He was always quite the kidder with a dumb smirk on his face," said Mr. Ford. "He

was a friendly kid and he never lost that smirk."

Ford had wanted to be an infantryman, but was told his test scores enabled him to do other specialties in the Marine Corps. He was trained as a tank crewman.

"I actually felt more at ease to know Michael would be in a tank," said Joseph.

Ford joined 1st Tank Battalion in March 2005 and deployed with his unit March 28.

"He said goodbye like he was just going to the store to pick up some bread and milk," he said about when Michael left for deployment. "I think it was his way of protecting me. He made it seem like he would be right back."

The Ford family received only one letter from Michael during his time in Iraq.

"I knew he didn't lose his sense of humor when we received a piece of paper with two big letters that read 'HI' from Michael," said Mr. Ford. "It let us know Michael was okay."

It was only 28 days after the unit arrived in Iraq that Ford's tank rolled over an explosive device and he died instantly. His roommate suffered broken ribs and other injuries and two other Marines walked away scratch-free.

"Thank God it wasn't worse," said Joseph. "I'm glad my son went out with honor, dignity and respect."

After the Marines of 1st Tank Battalion paid their respects to Ford's memorial, Mr. Ford spoke to the Marines who served with Joseph in Company C.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Marines render honors to Lance Cpl. Michael L. Ford's memorial Tuesday at Gray Field.

See MEMORIAL A5

MCAGCC kicks off holiday season

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"Deck the hall with boughs of holly," echoed across the field as Marines, sailors and families aboard the Combat Center filled the bleachers of Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Dec. 1, eager to start the holiday season.

The event celebrated the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and came with a few surprises to bring a little holiday spirit. Bundled up in jackets, scarves and sipping on hot chocolate and eating cookies, the attendees listened to and sang with the music played by the Combat Center band.

"I liked that we got to sing Christmas carols," said 15-year-old Victoria Perez, daughter of

Gunnery Sgt. Tim Perez. "I love Christmas carols and tonight was really fun."

The brisk weather marked the start of the holiday season and the arrival of Santa Claus. However, he didn't come with Rudolph and his reindeers; instead he sported a new ride. Escorted by military policeman, Santa arrived in a Combat Center Fire Truck with flashing lights and a blaring siren.

"I like that Santa Claus came because my little sister really enjoyed it," said 13-year-old Allison Garza, daughter of Capt. Paulina Rojas.

When Santa arrived, kids of all ages rushed the field to see what Santa brought and were eager to count down the time for the Christmas tree lighting.

After counting down, 3, 2, 1, a

tree in front of the Protestant Chapel lit up, but due to technical difficulties the tree in front of the Catholic Chapel lit up less than five minutes later.

"The trees are very pretty and are a spectacular sight," said Lara Heath, wife of Cpl. Jeffrey Heath.

After the trees, which consisted of a metal pole with strings of lights hanging down to resemble a christmas tree, were lit-up, the kids got in line to get a special candy treat from Santa. Despite the lack of snow in the desert, the night still offered a Christmas environment fit for all ages.

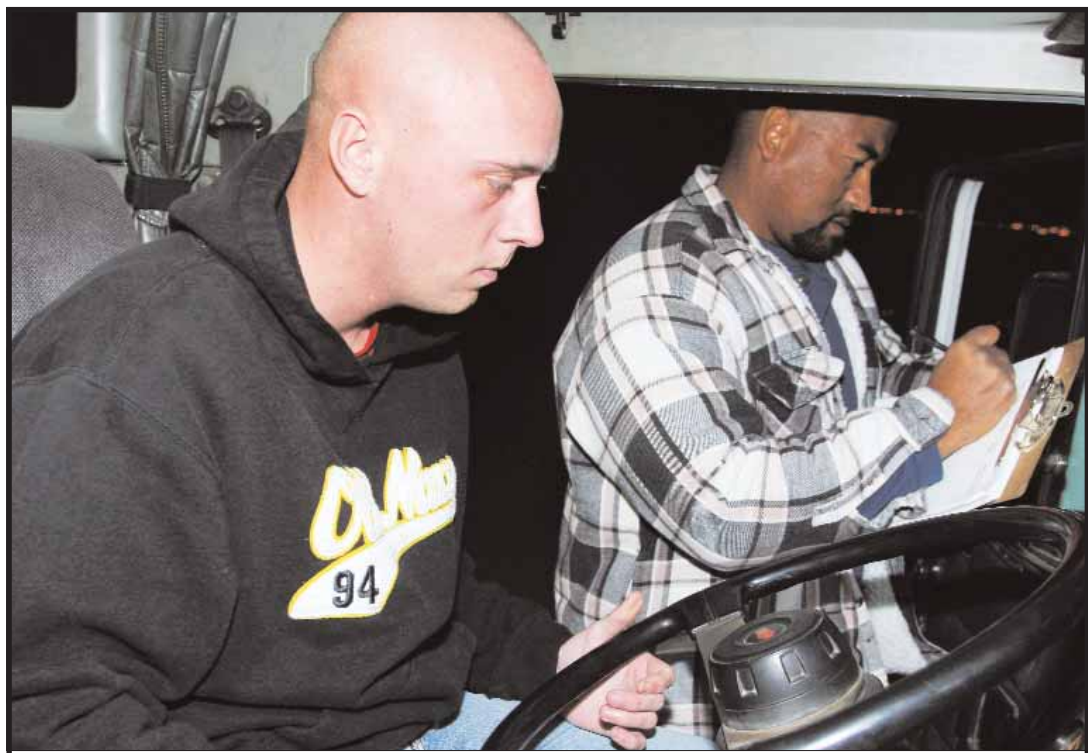
"It's a great event to get family together," said Lt. Col. Todd Ford, Headquarters Battalion. "It was a lot of fun."

See HOLIDAY A11



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Lighted "trees" stand outside the Protestant and Catholic Chapels, symbolizing the beginning of the holiday season.



Misfire

Below are corrections from last week's story 'Life after Corps: Marines ride highway to new career.'

- Ken Enfinger's, military

representative for the California Career School, name was misspelled in last weeks story.
 • The California Career School's truck driving tuition costs \$4,596 to

\$5,695 depending on the type of endorsements wanted on the license.
 • Usually a truck driver can earn up to \$147,000 per year within six years.

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

1 BOX - \$3.95

INGREDIENTS FOR COOKIES - \$6.95

1 PLASTIC SPOON - \$1.10

YOUR MARINE ON DEPLOYMENT ENJOYING EVERY BITE OF HIS 30 DAY OLD COOKIE CRUMBS.....



.....PRICELESS!

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing
 The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Keep Safe While Running

Everyone likes to run and exercise, but how can you be safe while doing it? Here are some safety tips for running:

- Always have a buddy to run with. If one is not available, you can run with man's best friend: a dog.
- If you like to run at night, base rules dictate that you need to run with a reflective strap or road guard vest during the hours after evening colors and before morning colors.
- Have multiple layers of clothes on so you don't get frost bite.
- Stay hydrated! Even if you don't feel thirsty you should drink water.

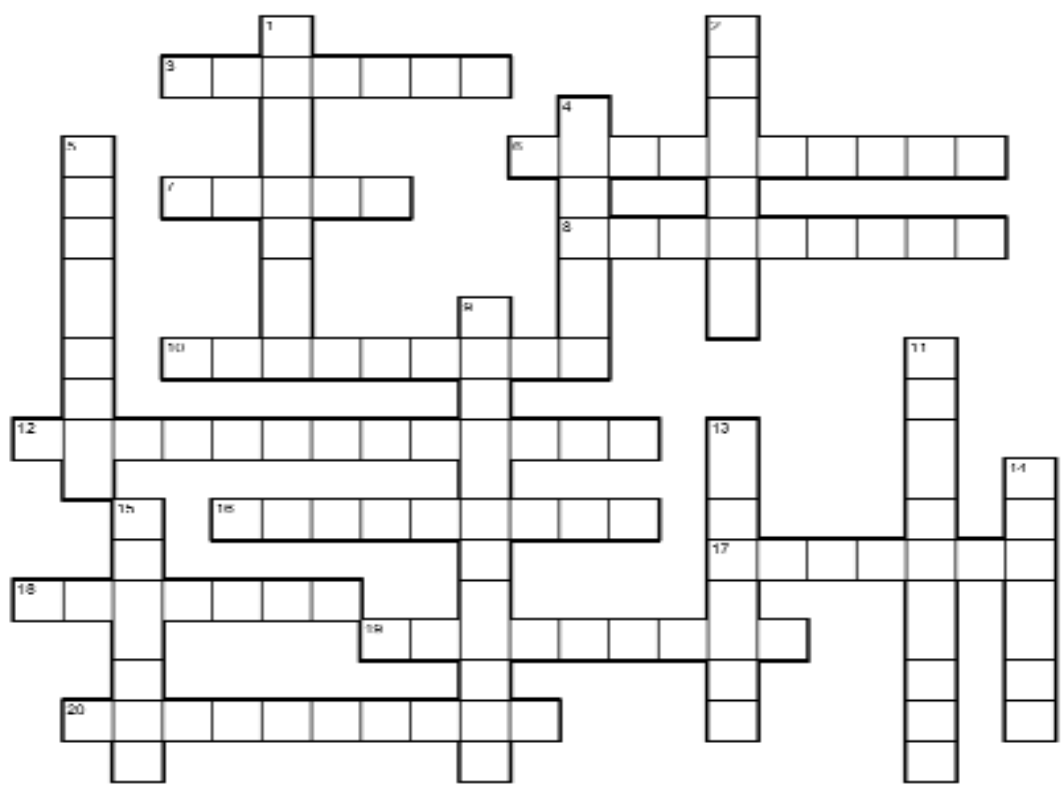
Running on busy streets is also very dangerous. Keep in mind that cars have the right of way and may not always see you.

For more information on running safety go to <http://www.orthoinfo.aaos.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.

SPELLCHECK!



ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

[Solutions on A10]

Marines, Sailors and cab drivers: MCAGCC 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 ID card. Thank you for participating.

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Signature	

Centerspeak

What do you want for Christmas?

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



SGT. PAUL DREW

COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, 1ST MARINE DIVISION



ARELY CORNEJO

SPOUSE OF STAFF SGT. ANTONIO CORNEJO



CLARISSA SANCHEZ

3RD GRADER, OASIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“For my son to be happy.”

“Good health.”

“More stuffed animals for my collection. A tiger stuffed animal.”

What's on your mind?

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

Address submissions to:

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

Or e-mail to:

evan.eagan@usmc.mil

OBSERVATION POST

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Marines' teamwork in Iraq gets 'big gun' in the air, supports infantry on the ground

BY STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

AL ASAD, Iraq – Marines have brought in the “big guns” to combat insurgents in Iraq’s western Al Anbar Province.

Utilizing a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, Marines airlifted an M198 Medium Howitzer cannon from this sprawling U.S. airbase to an undisclosed location in western Al Anbar Province.

The Marines plan on using the extra firepower to provide support in the province, where the southern Calif.-based Regimental Combat Team 7 began synchronized clearing operations to rid the region of insurgents.

RCT-7 is the Coalition Forces unit responsible for providing security and mentoring Iraqi Security Forces in western Al Anbar Province, a 30,000 square mile region which stretches from the Jordan and Syria borders, hundreds of miles east to the Euphrates River.

“We’ve never lifted a Howitzer before,” said Lance Cpl. Ronald J. Butler, a 19-year-old Marine from Merrill, Wis. “(We’ve lifted) cargo and stuff, but never anything that big.”

Butler was part of the team of Marines on the ground – called a “Helicopter Support Team” – who helped prepare and actually hooked the 16,000-pound artillery piece to the helicopter.

“This was pretty motivating,” added Staff Sgt. Jerry Dominguez, the 29-year-old enlisted Marine in charge of the helicopter support team.

Moreover, the feat of getting the Howitzer safely to its destination required the combined efforts of multiple Marine Corps commands currently deployed to Iraq – a concept the Marines call a “Marine Air-Ground Task Force,” which employs three separate elements to make up a force: a ground combat element, an aviation combat element, and a combat service support element.

RCT-7, the ground combat element, provided the canon and helped coordinate the lift, while the Miramar, Calif.-

based 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), the air combat element, provided the helicopters. Dominguez’ team is part of the Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) – the combat service support element – which provides all logistical support to the thousands of Coalition Forces serving in Anbar Province.

Dominguez said his team conducts three to four lifts a week, providing an assortment of cargo – everything from ammunition to water and food to medical supplies – to troops throughout Al Anbar Province.

But while toting a canon from point A to point B via helicopter was a new feat for Dominguez’ team, transporting cargo in the air is not. In fact, air lifting supplies to U.S. troops operating throughout Al Anbar Province keeps one less supply convoy off Iraq’s dangerous roads, he said.

“This saves troops’ lives,” said Dominguez, who added that the more convoys out on Iraq’s roads, the more chance a U.S. military vehicle could hit an improvised explosive device. “It’s the IED factor. Instead of a convoy, we can just drop (the supplies.)”

As the helicopter hovered just yards above the Howitzer, Butler and half a dozen other Marines guided the helicopter’s crew from the ground, hooked the behemoth cannon to the helicopter’s underbelly, and gave the “thumb’s up” for take off.

In a matter of seconds, the helicopter flew off into an

early morning sky, toting the Howitzer – the largest ground-based piece of artillery in the U.S. military’s arsenal – underneath.

Thirty minutes later, the massive weapon reached its destination, which can’t be divulged to protect the security of on-going U.S. military operations in the province.

For the “grunts on the ground,” transporting the cannon by helicopter greatly reduces the amount of time it takes for infantrymen to receive the extra firepower the Howitzer can provide, according to Maj. William P. MacNaughton, a 36-year-old Marine from Birmingham, Ala.

Utilizing a helicopter vice a military convoy to transport the “big gun” not only kept additional Marines off Iraq’s roads for their own protection, but also “freed up combat power to do other things aside from convoy security,” said MacNaughton, who coordinates air support for RCT-7’s forces throughout Anbar Province.

“The whole purpose is to keep Marines off the road whenever possible,” he said.

In the distance, the “wump wump” sound of the rotary blades of two incoming helicopters grew louder as Dominguez, Butler and the rest of their team began preparing the next load of supplies to be air-lifted – ammunition for the Howitzer.

“We’re getting the Marines what they need,” said Butler. “It’s getting the mission done. It’s mission accomplishment.”



Marines in Al Asad, Iraq, hook an M198 Medium Howitzer to a CH-53E helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465 for transport to an undisclosed location in Iraq’s western Al Anbar Province, Nov. 29.

STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN

Maneuver Coyotes drive Combined Arms Training

CAPT. CHAD WALTON
TACTICAL TRAINING AND EXERCISE
CONTROL GROUP

Maneuver warfare requires Marines to have a firm grasp of fire and maneuver and combined arms tactics, techniques and procedures to properly employ units in conflict.

Exercise Mojave Viper's Combined Arms Training phase is the primary responsibility of the Maneuver Section at the Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group where officers, staff non-commissioned officers and NCOs accompany units downrange to train, mentor and coach the

exercises forces.

Live-fire combined arms training is the cornerstone of the Marine Corps' doctrine of "Maneuver Warfare" and is not unique to the Combat Center, however, TTECG and Mojave Viper provide a venue where the exercise force can

integrate live-fire combined arms with infantry maneuver at ranges well within what is considered "danger close" at other Marine Corps installations.

"The ranges to which we can close on the impacts of bombs, artillery and direct fire weapons can only be replicated in actual combat operations," said Maj. Blair Sokol, head of TTECG's Maneuver Section and the keeper of the safety and control procedures that allow for this realistic combat training.

The Maneuver Section "Coyotes," another name for TTECG trainers, go through very extensive on-the-job training prior to moving downrange with Marines into a live-fire environment. It is their job to assure that both training objectives are accomplished and safety procedures are followed.

"A new instructor-controller follows other Coyotes downrange at Range 410a - the platoon assault course - on several occasions, just to observe what takes place and listen in to the radio traffic as the assault unfolds," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Karl Nugent, TTECG. "As they gain experience, they will then act as training facilitators at the fire-team, squad and platoon level."

The qualified Coyotes are principally responsible for facilitating, evaluating, and debriefing all live-fire training during the live-fire combined arms phase of Mojave Viper. Though the mission in

urban areas in Iraq bears little resemblance to the open desert of the Mojave, it does not take away from the value of the training.

"There must be a balance between urban and live-fire training," said Sokol. "After the first shot is fired during counter-insurgency operations, all the Combined Arms Training we do here is readily applicable. The live-fire training is the cornerstone and allows you to transition out of counter-insurgency operations with the lowest cost to Marines."

Mojave Viper is multi-echelon training where unit training takes place concurrently. Support personnel learn their role during the Motorized Operations Training Package; the staff receives training on fire support coordination and command and control; and the companies work their way through the platoon and company live-fire assault courses. This process ensures every Marine in the exercise force, from battalion commander to the newest private, receives valuable combat training.

The battalion's ability to keep track of events in its own battlespace is an objective many units are able to improve during their time at Mojave Viper.

"We see big changes in the unit's ability to communicate as they progress through the Combined Arms Training," said Gunnery Sgt. Paul Taylor, assistant infantry representative, TTECG. "They learn to speak from platoon to platoon, up to the company and then to the battalion."

Communication across the battalion is vital when the exercise force comes back together to execute the Deliberate Assault Course where they apply all their previous lessons to conduct a successful reinforced company

assault on urban objectives while coordinating air support, artillery, tanks and their own organic weapons systems. The Coyote that accompanies each vehicle must act as his own fire support coordinator to assure the different fire support agencies are not getting in each others' way. That same Coyote must also act as the safety backstop as well, in case the exercise force is unaware of potentially dangerous situations. Though the Maneuver Section has the primary responsibility of running these exercises, many other sections at TTECG contribute Coyotes to the live-fire training. Artillery, armor, combat engineers, logistics, and air support representatives are all heavily involved.

If a combat situation warrants the application of combined arms force, TTECG ensures the Marines are ready.

"If we can have our ground forces pick through the rubble with bayonets, then the combined arms concept has worked," said Nugent.

"The Combined Arms Training portion of Mojave Viper is absolutely essential to prepare for the environment in Iraq," said Capt. Robert Hancock, operations officer for 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, who trained at the Combat Center this past summer, prior to deploying. "Marines must be able to fight at the high-intensity conflict end of the spectrum of operations in order to effectively carry out other low-intensity operations."

The Maneuver Section at TTECG conducted 19 Mojave Viper exercises in fiscal year 2006 and continues to provide Marine Corps units with vital pre-deployment training in combined arms integration and fire and maneuver.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Master Sgt. Donald Downey, Operations Chief, Maneuver Section, Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group, instructs exercise force Marines during the Range 400 company live-fire exercise at Mojave Viper.



Battalion commander says farewell to 1/7

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Col. Nicholas M. Marano relinquished command of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment to Lt. Col. Jonathan J. Dill in a change of command ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 1.

Marano has been on three deployments and has been the battalion commanding officer since June 2005. His next assignment will send him to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization based in Rome, Italy.

Dill attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff

College. His first assignment in 2002 after school was as the commanding officer for Recruiting Station New York. Following his tour on recruiting duty, he was assigned to the G-3, 2nd Marine Division in Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned to Iraq in August to work directly for the commanding officer of RCT-7 as the training, performance and capabilities assessment officer of the Iraqi Army.

Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., the ceremony's guest speaker, recognized the unit's outstanding accomplishments and dedi-

cation to mission accomplishment.

"These men carved out their own reputation from their high standards," said Paxton. "They did what the Corps and country expected them to do."

Marano also expressed his gratitude in his speech to the crowd. He spoke about the maturity, compassion and unparalleled professionalism of the Marines and sailors of the battalion.

"They have proven with their sweat and blood that our objectives are attainable," he said.

"This is not a battalion or commanding officer's war," continued Marano. "This is a squad leader's war. This is a war belonging to the 19- to 22-year-old corporals, sergeants and lance corporals who are patrolling the streets alone and unafraid. These leaders made life and death decisions and executed the policies of this country."

The battalion's accomplishments were not limited to securing urban areas and doubling the area of operations. The unit was also responsible for breaking the cycle of regression in Al Qaeda due to insurgents, and the effective training of more than 1,400 Iraqi policemen. It was this that stood out as the unit's greatest accom-

plishment, said Marano.

"The Marines are the ones who stiffened the resolve of the Iraqi police," he said. "They gave the police the will and desire to provide security for themselves. They [Iraqi police force] are now the most promising and effective local security force in Iraq."

Marano concluded his speech with a warm welcome to Dill.

"You're going to have a good time with these men," said Marano. "It's a hard day for me to stand here."

Dill expressed great enthusiasm in taking over a unit with such a renowned reputation and extensive experience on the battlefield.

"It's a privilege to come to this battalion," said Dill. "It will always be about the Marines and being able to serve with them. This is probably the biggest highlight of all that I've done so far."

The bittersweet emotions expressed by both men illustrated their dedication and gratitude for all the battalion has done for this country.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Col. Nicholas M. Marano hands over the battalion colors to Lt. Col. Jonathan J. Dill in 1st Battalion, 7th Marines' change of command ceremony Dec. 1 at Gray Field.



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Lance Cpl. Michael L. Ford's father, Joseph Ford Sr., and his aunt Rachel D'Intinofanto, grieve in front of his memorial.

MEMORIAL from A1

At the end of the service, Joseph welcomed the Marines into his extended family and thanked them for the hospitality they had

showed him during his visit.

"I want to thank all of you that inspired Michael to be the fine young gentleman he was," he said to the Marines. "He became a man a father could be proud of."

2007 tax season right around the corner; are you exempt?

2007 State Tax Exemptions Filing. The States of Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and West Virginia do not tax service members claiming legal residence in those states if they meet certain criteria specific to each state. If you meet all of the respective conditions for your state, please come to the Installation Personnel Administration Center, Customer Service Section and complete the required documentation for your state of residence. Marines claiming legal residence in the aforementioned states must complete the required forms NLT 30 December 2006 in order that appropriate MCTFS entries post prior to the state of the new tax year. Marines completing these forms not later than 30 December will be exempt from paying state tax for the entire year; however, Marines filing during the taxable year (2007) will be required to file a state income tax claim for that portion of the year (2007) that state tax was withheld. The withholding of state income tax will stop on the month after the month the form is filed (within 30 days). Retroactive adjustments cannot be made.

Conditions:

Connecticut. Do not rate a state tax exemption if they reside in single-type government barracks, quarters on a ship, or any structure that contains only

bachelor-type quarters and not facilities ordinarily found in a dwelling, such as facilities for cooking and bathing. If a Marine is a resident of Connecticut, they must file a resident return and pay state tax due unless they meet all the following conditions for the entire taxable year. CT residents rate a state tax exemption if:

(1) Marine did not maintain a permanent place of abode in Connecticut.

(2) Marine maintained a permanent place of abode outside Connecticut.

(3) Marine spent 30 days or less in Connecticut

(a) If the tax-exempt criteria is met, the following applies:

(b) Marine must complete a separate W-4 Form for federal tax and separate W-4 Form for state tax.

(4) The form for state tax must be a Connecticut State W-4 Form.

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: Department of Revenue Services, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Illinois. Illinois allows an exemption for active duty military pay. Allowable exemptions include:

(1) full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, including basic training; full-time duty for serving in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves or a National Guard unit, including ROTC;

(2) service in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves in a time of national emergency;

(3) federal service in a National Guard unit during civil disturbances or national emergency;

(4) time spent in annual summer camp training as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves or the Illinois National Guard, including ROTC; and

(5) full-time duty as a cadet or midshipman at the U.S. Army, Air Force, Naval, and Coast Guard Academies

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: Willard Ice Building 101 West Jefferson Springfield, IL 62702-5510

Minnesota. An individual on active duty in the U.S. armed forces stationed outside of Minnesota will not be considered a Minnesota resident for Minnesota income tax purposes for the period of time the individual is stationed outside of Minnesota. This change is effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2000. With a "non-resident" tax status, the individual does not pay Minnesota income tax on his/her military pay. A DD Form 2058-1 must be completed and placed in the Marine's Service Record.

Missouri. If the military member's home of record is Missouri, his or her domicile is Missouri. In this case, the person is subject to Missouri income taxes on all income from whatever source including his or her military pay. The Missouri domiciled member can be exempted from state taxes if he/she files a sworn statement (Form MO

NRI) that he/she:

(1) maintained no permanent place of abode in Missouri during the tax year;

(2) did maintain a permanent place of abode elsewhere; and

(3) did not spend more than thirty (30) days of the year in Missouri.

(4) If the above criteria are met, then the member is considered to be a non-resident for tax status purposes. With a "non-resident" tax status the individual does not pay Missouri income tax on his or her military pay. The following applies:

(a) Marine must complete a separate W-4 Form for federal tax and separate W-4 Form for state tax.

(b) Line out the word "additional" on line #6 of the State W-4

Form and replace with the word "specific", and

(c) Enter "None" in the amount block for line #6 of the State W-4 Form.

(5) Complete a DD Form 2058-1 for the state of Missouri; place a copy in the SERVICE RECORD and have the member mail the original to the State Taxing Authority.

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: Department of Revenue, Office of Divisional Support Services, P.O. Box 3022, Jefferson City, MO 65105-3022.

Montana. Residents are not liable for state tax, however, must file State W-2 Form and attach copy of current enlistment contract for verification of active duty status.

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: Department of Revenue P.O. Box 5805 Helena, MT. 59604-5805

New York/New Jersey. Do not rate a state tax exemption if they reside in single-type government barracks. They rate a state tax exemption if:

(1) they reside in either family-type government quarters or reside on the local economy,

(2) the member and/or dependents do not maintain a place of abode in the state during the tax year,

(3) they spend no more than 30 days in the state during the taxable year.

(4) If the tax-exempt criteria is met, the following applies:

(a) Marine must complete a separate W-4 Form for Federal tax and separate W-4 Form for state tax.

(b) Line out the word "additional" on line #6 of the State W-4 Form and replace with the word "specific", and

(c) Enter "None" in the amount block for line #6 of the State W-4 Form.

(d) Complete a DD Form 2058-1; place a copy in the Service

Record and have the member mail the original to the state Taxing Authority.

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: New Jersey: Division of Taxation, Gross Income Tax, P.O. Box 1848, Trenton, NJ 08625.

New York: Department of Taxation and Finance, Income Tax Bureau, State Campus, Albany, NY 12227.

Oregon. Residents rate a state tax exemption if:

(1) they do not maintain a place of abode in the state during the taxable year or,

(2) they spend no more than 30 days in the state during the taxable year.

(3) If both tax-exempt

criteria are met, the following applies:

(a) Marine must complete a separate W-4 Form for federal tax and separate W-4 Form for state tax.

(b) Line out the word "additional" on line #6 of the State W-4 Form and replace with the word "specific", and

(c) Enter "None" in the amount block for line #6 of the State W-4 Form.

(4) Complete a DD Form 2058-1 for the state of Oregon; place a copy in the Service Record and have the member mail the original to the State Taxing Authority.

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: Department of Revenue, State Office Building, Salem, OR 97310.

West Virginia. A member of the Armed Forces who is domiciled outside West Virginia is considered to be a non-resident of West Virginia for income tax purposes; therefore his/her military compensation is not taxable to West Virginia even though he is stationed in West Virginia and maintains a permanent place of abode therein.

(1) Marine must complete a separate W-4 Form for Federal tax and separate W-4 Form for state tax.

(2) Line out the word "additional" on line #6 of the State W-4 Form and replace with the word "specific", and

(3) Enter "None" in the amount block for line #6 of the State W-4 Form.

(4) Complete a DD Form 2058-1; place a copy in the Service Record and have the member mail the original to the state Taxing Authority.

Submit Original Forms to IPAC: Customer Service.

Mail a Copy of Forms to: Department of Tax and Revenue Taxpayer Services Division P. O. Box 3784 Charleston, West Virginia 25337-3784



CPL. GEORGE HRUBY

A team of Recon Marines assaults a trench system while keeping rear security and suppressing targets to the front.

RECON from A1

On the second day of training to engage targets, Recon Marines reviewed gun drills on how to set up the weapons and fire them, followed by immediate action procedures for when the weapons may jam, or get two rounds stuck in the chamber of the weapon, for heavy and medium machine gun systems. To test skill, accuracy and speed, teams competed in gun drills from the rear of humvees, and in the dirt, with tripods and mounts.

"It gave our gunners good experience behind the weapons, and aids them to employ the weapon systems properly," said Sgt. Robert R. Brukardt of 3rd platoon.

Conducting gun drills for engaging targets on Range 108, Recon Marines practiced patrolling techniques and live-fire drills with 5.56mm and 40mm rounds. What normally takes a platoon of basic riflemen to accomplish, a smaller amount of Recon Marines accomplished twice as fast and accurately.

Plastic green targets referred to as green Ivans, pop straight up and down and in some areas move from left to right. When hit, they fall down, and depending on what setting their on, they pop back up a few seconds later.

By foot, Recon progressed through the range until all

green Ivan targets were hit with 360 degree security in place, and the entire range was in the hands of friendly forces. With a debriefing on the pros and cons of their performance during the scenario, team leaders prepared for the next range, the next day with a new plan and similar objectives for the same mission to take out all green Ivans facing the Marines.

Starting in the staging area in front of the range, team leaders took their Recon Marines through "contact front, rear, left and right," to prepare them for the live fire training they were about to undertake, followed by a safety brief reviewing left and right lateral limits of where Marines are allowed to fire on the range, then a walk through to give a tour of the grounds and answer any ques-

tions the Marines may have had about targets. With the range safety officer following close behind to ensure no accidents occurred, teams made a final practice run with full gear on and unloaded weapons. When everyone was ready, weapons were loaded and green Ivan targets on the course assaulted.

Sending a few Marines at a time, a few shoulder fired AT-4 rockets, were fired, at armored targets such as old unserviceable tanks, at the end of the day live M203 grenade launcher rounds were fired as well.

Over this four day training evolution, Recon Marines practiced movements, different methods of destroying targets and threats, and worked within their teams and with each other.



CPL. GEORGE HRUBY

Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Pape of Company B, 1st Recon Bn. aims in with his M40A3 Scout Sniper Rifle while taking shots at green Ivan targets.



CPL. GEORGE HRUBY

Cpl. Nick H. Muratori lay's down 40mm rounds with his MK-19 heavy machine gun.

21-year-old lance corporal's desires of leading Marines fulfilled in Iraq

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

SA'DAH, Iraq – Lance Cpl. Justin N. Lang is in Iraq leading a team of six Marines through the streets of Karabilah and Sa'dah – two cities just east of the Iraq-Syria border – facing threats such as small arms fire and improvised explosive devices.

Still, he is living his dream, he said.

Lang, a Granger, Ind., native, is serving with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, in a small U.S. Marine outpost in the northwest region of Iraq. He is three months into a seven-month deployment, and this is his second tour of duty in Iraq since he's been in the Marine Corps.

"I think being a team leader is one of the hardest jobs here," said Lang. "But I can handle this. I love teaching the new guys the right way to do things."

The battalion, based out of the High Desert in southern California, has operated in the northwest region of Iraq's Al Anbar Province since September. The battalion is serving its fourth deployment to Iraq since 2003.

The 21-year-old Lang is a fire-team leader and is in charge of five other Marine infantrymen with the battalion's Lima Company. They spend their days here patrolling Karabilah and Sa'dah, two cities which lie along the Euphrates River in Al Anbar Province.

But Lang's job is more than just leading patrols in this combat zone. He is responsible for planning his team's missions, and ensuring his Marines' well-being.

"Maybe I don't realize it's a lot of weight being a team leader," said Lang. "But, I know I can keep up with the responsibility."

As a team leader, Lang is accountable for the Marines, their equipment and weapons

they take with them "outside the wire" – U.S. military jargon for leaving the safety of their bases to perform their mission.

Aside from combat operations, Lang has to ensure his team members are physically and mentally prepared for anything the team may be tasked to do, everything from security patrols to searching for improvised explosive devices and insurgent activity.

From proper hygiene, to reviewing standard operating procedures, Lang says his Marines' well-being is his number one priority.

"I make sure the guys...are non-complacent while they're on post, patrols or convoys," said Lang. "That's what's most important to me."

Lang, who celebrated his 21st birthday a couple weeks before he set off to Iraq, knew he wanted to join the Marine Corps ever since he was in elementary school. Since he enlisted in 2004, he wanted to serve the Corps in Iraq.



Lance Cpl. Justin N. Lang, a 21-year-old from Granger, Ind., and an interpreter wait to greet an Iraqi civilian during a patrol in Sa'dah, Iraq, Nov. 18. Lang is part of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

"I like being here better than serving the Corps in the States," said Lang. "This is an 0311's [rifleman] job. This is what we train to do. I knew I wanted to go to Iraq and that's why I signed up [enlisted]."

Lang comes from a family of Marines – both his parents served in the Marine Corps, as did his brother and every single male on this father's side of the family.

His first journey to Iraq began one month after joining Lima Company, 3/4, based at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. There is where he learned to become a good infantryman, he said.

"I was a 'boot' [new Marine] so I basically had to learn our combat procedures on the job out there," said Lang, who admits that he learned "everything I know" from his team leader, whom he served with in the past.

Lang's first deployment was a very successful learning experience for him, he said.

He learned how to be confident with decisions he made, how not to get complacent in a combat zone, and how to lead patrols, all of which he uses today as a team leader.

"I am here as a team leader because I have the experience," said Lang. "If something goes down [combat action], I guarantee they [his Marines] will look at me for direction."

It was during his first tour of duty in Iraq that he was dubbed, "Brick" – a nickname which has stuck with him. He earned the nickname from fellow Marines after he ran into a brick wall, head first, while charging through a chain-linked fence during a patrol in Fallujah last year.

"He always sparks a funny conversation to break the monotony of being out here," said Cpl. Adam F. Kelley, a 20-year-old squad leader from Yacolt, Wash.

Kelley has known Lang for 2-and-a-half years, dating back to their training together at the School of Infantry in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"From the 'laundry elves' that steal socks or the funny stories we have out here, [Lang] is a person you can have fun talking to," said Kelley.

Keeping a sense of humor is important for the Marines who face life and death situations everyday here, said Lang. Still, humor never

replaces strict professionalism when it comes time for the Marines to perform their various missions.

"I'm a team leader because I care," said Lang, who says he enjoys games of touch football at the Marines' base now and then. "I have enough confidence and self pride for what I do here. I like knowing they [his superiors] can count on me."

Lang said it can be tough worrying about his Marines and making sure everything is perfect, and at the same time, worrying about himself. But, this is what he asked for when he joined the Corps, he said.

After all, being a Marine has been his dream since grade school.

Along with patrolling the streets in search of insurgents, weapons caches and improvised explosive devices along the cities in this Euphrates River region, Lang's battalion is tasked with mentoring Iraqi soldiers and police so they can provide security for their country on their own.

Lang says he's content living "patrol-to-patrol" at his company's outpost. He doesn't really think about home a lot but he does call home once in a while, he said.

"The only time I call home is to thank my family for the care packages they send – and to keep my mom from having a heart attack," said Lang.

Winter Festival a hit among Combat Center families

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Operation Enduring Families, Winter Festival held Saturday, gave many a chance to sacrifice their time to ensure children of Marines and sailors stationed aboard the Combat Center started off the holiday season right.

This year, the lines for the festival wrapped around the community center with eager

kids waiting to get their picture taken with Santa and participate in different activities. Several different organizations participated in the event, ensuring things ran smoothly.

Each child had the chance to get their picture taken with Santa, pick one toy and get a free Christmas tree.

Students from J. Serra High School from San Juan Capistrano, Calif., participated for their third year by donating toys for the event.

"This year the school donated about 450 toys," said Andy Sulick, director of admissions for J. Serra High School. "We tell the students to bring a new unwrapped toy for 2 to 12-year-olds. Our students are the ones who do all the donating."

"I grew up in a military family, so I have a soft spot in my heart for military kids," he continued. "It's these kids who sacrifice time with their moms and dads fighting for our freedom."

Along with the high school, KDI Stoneworks and American Friends of our Armed Forces sponsored the event. California Barbecue Association provided a free barbecue feast for all who attended. The event also included two Jupiter Jumps, face painting by Jiffy the Clown and different arts and crafts. There was a variety of favorite aspects among the children.

"I liked the toy," said 11-year-old Josh Holmes. "It makes you feel good to know you're well taken care of."

Eleven-year-old Ella Ramirez agreed.

"The toy is awesome because you get to pick whatever one you want and keep it," she said.

Although 9-year-old Brittany Williams seemed to enjoy her toy, she had a different favorite event.

"The face painting is probably my favorite thing here," she said as she waited eagerly in line for her turn.

This year's Winter Festival



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
Two year old Dylan Brown son of Lance Cpl. Steven Brown picks a toy at the Winter Festival held at the Community Center Dec. 2.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
Four year old Evan Romero son of Staff Sgt. Marlon Romero decorates a paper sword at the Winter Festival held at the Community Center Dec. 2.

had a huge turnout in comparison to previous years.

"The event was a huge success and has become a popular holiday event for MCAGCC [Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center] families," said Kelley Coe, Marine Corps Community Services special events program manager. "This year there were 1,000 in attendance, which is more than five times the attendance we have had in the past."

As kids left the Community Center with a toy in one hand and an arts and crafts project in the other, many had huge smiles across their faces, impressed with the day's event.

SOLUTIONS

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

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 Thank you for participating.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Bobby Azevedo, son of Staff Sgt. Eric Azevedo, counts down with Santa at the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony Dec 1. at Gray Field.

HOLIDAY from A1

Mindy Ford agreed. "We really enjoyed the event. This is our first year here, and the event really helped start the holiday spirit."

The event, which lasted a couple hours, left many with a smile on their faces as they hummed Christmas carols. The event turned out to be a success and an enjoyment to the many families that attended.

"Considering all the difficulties and grief families have

had to endure this past year, it's nice to celebrate the birth of the Savior in a way that provides some hope and a pleasant diversion — and, really, for a comparatively small investment," said Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Emile Moured, deputy director. "I thought Lt. Col. Bodkin did a great job organizing a unique holiday event."

The trees, which now are lit up every night, provide a pleasant sight to all who live aboard, and visit the Combat Center.

Communication, a key essential to training

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

From the earliest forms of communication like hieroglyphics, to the high-tech, high-speed cell phones, internet and radios, communication among humans plays an essential part in the everyday life of the corporate world, domestic life and the training for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There are currently 28 Marines working at the Mojave Viper support detachment S-6 communication shop. They are a mix of Marines from service support groups, divisions and wings all brought together in one shop to assist in Mojave Viper pre-deployment training.

“The MVSD S-6 provides the communication guidance and communications equipment for all units training at Mojave Viper,” said Staff Sgt. Tyrone M. Scott Jr., data chief, on temporary additional duty from Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28.

The communication shop keeps a 24-hour duty and has days that can start at 5:30 a.m. and last until 9 p.m. Their job entails every aspect of the communication front out at Camp Wilson.

“We plan, install, operate and maintain tactical data networks in a field environment,” said Scott. “We also control, maintain and issue all cryptographic control item gear to training battalions.”

There are several other important parts to the role communication plays.

“My job is to provide the division staff with unclassified, classified and secret

internet, as well as e-mail and file sharing capabilities while in the field or deployed. Also with basic troubleshooting while in garrison” said Cpl. Nickoli Pengelly, tactical data network administrator.

Throughout the shop, there seems to be a general consensus as to what makes the shop run smoothly, and the benefit of them being there for the training Marines.

“My job benefits the

communication Marines who train at Mojave Viper,” said Pengelly. “We are the headquarters and support element, so we provide the units with the means to communicate with their higher, and give them a realistic feel of problems they may run into with communications in country.”

Scott agrees, “It [S-6 communication shop] gives them the tools they will use in

country and training they will need to take to battle.”

Communication continues to play a crucial role in the war, allowing units to communicate with each other at their location, with their higher-up’s on their status, and providing Marines overseas the ability to call and send messages home.

“Without communications, the Marine Corps wouldn’t function,” said

Scott. “Everybody needs phones, radios and e-mails.”

Whether it be a letter in an envelop or an e-mail over high speed internet, communication is a crucial part of everyday life. Every day we communicate in one way or another. The MVSD S-6 communication shop makes it a little easier for the Marines training with Mojave Viper to communicate and train.

SPORT SHORTS

HAM SHOOT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Desert Winds Golf Course will hold the annual Ham Shoot Golf Tournament Dec. 16, show time is at 7 a.m. The tournament format is a two person scramble with \$55 hams awarded to gross and net places. The cost is only \$35 and includes a cart, greens fee, range balls, lunch and beverages. Please sign-up by Tuesday. Call 830-6132 for more information.

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 830-3910.

LEISURE

MCX 14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUN FESTIVAL

The Marine Corps Exchange will be hosting their 14th Annual Holiday Fun Festival at the Main Exchange Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with an all day event with refreshments, drawings for a television, DVD players, a home theater system and a dozen other great prizes. There will be a story time at 10:30 a.m., Laurinda's Incredible Puppet Show at 10:45 a.m. and 4 p.m., a caricature artist, Jiffy the Clown, and Virginia the Face Painter.

DESERT WINDS GOLF COURSE FAMILY HAYRIDES

Desert Winds Golf Course will have free Family Hayrides around the golf course on Dec. 16 from 5 to 8 p.m. Santa Clause will be attending. Duffer's Snack Bar will be open. Crafts and coloring books will be given to the children. 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?

A person will die from a total lack of sleep sooner than from starvation. Death will occur after about 10 days without sleep, while starvation takes a few weeks.



Sgt. Jesus Delatrinidad, embarkation specialist from 1st Tank Battalion, knocks Lance Cpl. Miguel Herrera, administration clerk, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, off the platform during a jousting match.

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

2006 Combat Center Challenge: 3/7 breaks Tanks' winning streak

More than 2,000 members of the Combat Center community gathered at Victory Field for the fourth annual Combat Center Challenge Dec. 1.

Marines competed to take the trophy from 1st Tank Battalion, who have been holding it for the past three years.

Participating units included 1st Tank Battalion, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Headquarters Battalion and 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Each of the seven units competed in a sand volleyball tournament, M16-A2 rifle assembly and disassembly competition, the corpsman event, an iron man physical fitness test, hummer pull, basketball tournament, jousting, dummy grenade toss, First to Fight video game tournament and tug-o-war.

Naval Hospital took first place in the corpsman event and CLB-7 took the dummy grenade toss competition. The rest of the events' first place winners were split between Tanks and 3/7. Tanks dominated the basketball tournament, jousting, the hummer pull and the First to Fight video game tournament, while 3/7 beat out the competition in the iron man PFT, sand volleyball, M16 assembly and disassembly, and tug of war.

For the first time in the Challenge's history the competition ended with a tie. Tanks and 3/7 were tied for the overall top spot, and it was left to the coaches to decide what sport would be the tie-breaker.

On Monday, the two units went head-to-head in a basketball game to determine this year's trophy taker. More than 200 people showed up to cheer on the units. As Tanks tried to keep a tight grip on their title, 3/7 ripped it out of their grasp and won the tie-breaker event, 62-46.

"We started off shaky," said 3/7 player, David Harmon. "But we came through at the end and took the overall competition."

While the competitive events are the largest attraction, there were other attractions at the field such as the "drunk-driving course," where participants wore beer goggles to simulate the rigors of driving while intoxicated, a football toss, over-sized glove boxing, wall-climbing, barbecue and music.

The prevention and education office set up booths to promote awareness on topics such as drug abuse and alcoholism.

The first place team for each event received T-shirts and \$25 gift certificates to the Marine Corps Exchange. Second place teams received T-shirts and \$20 gift certificates.

"All in all, this was a very successful event and the troops love this type of field competition," said Charles Dougwillo, event coordinator.

Sgt. Jesus Delatrinidad, embarkation specialist with 1st Tank Battalion, agreed.

"This is a great way to get everyone together," he said. "People tend to bond when they are in a competition together. It's great for each unit."



Lance Cpl. James Nethaway, a motor transportation specialist from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, attempts to throw a football through a tire at the Combat Center Challenge Dec. 1.



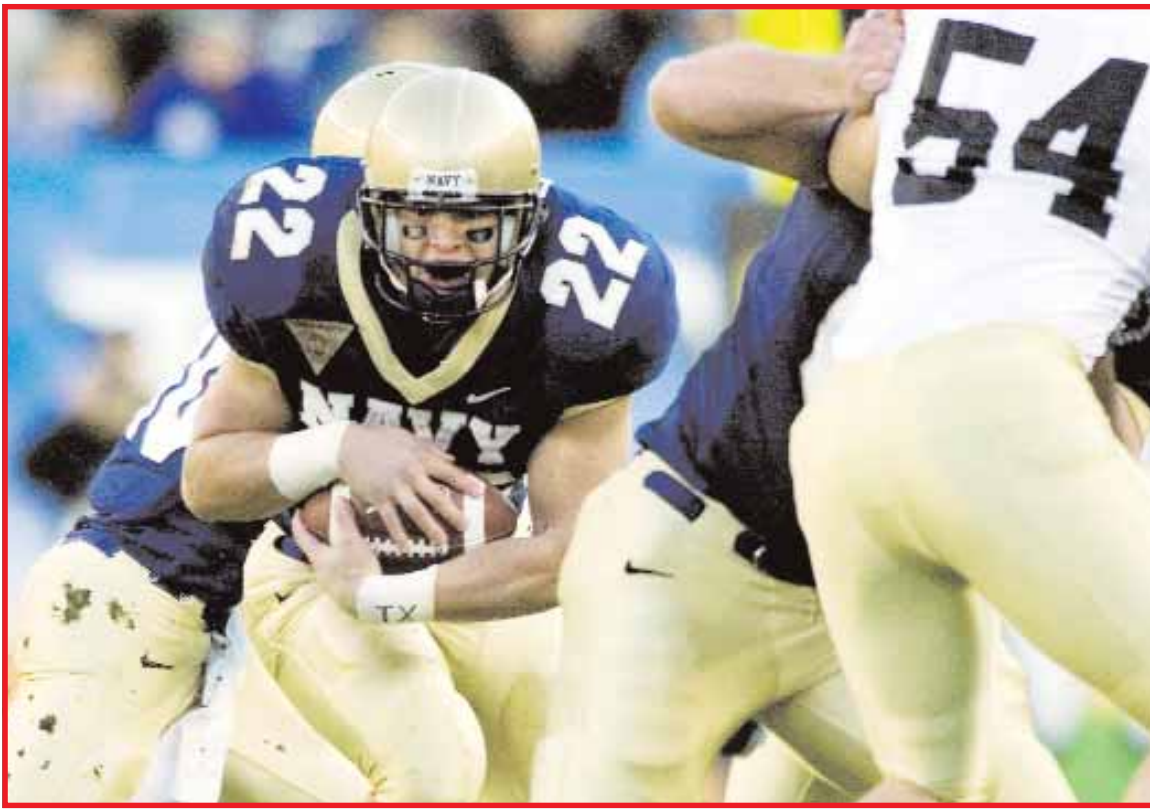
Marines from Tanks and 3/7 play in the tie-breaking basketball game for the Combat Center Challenge championship Monday.



Marines experience driving through the eyes of an intoxicated driver by wearing beer goggles at the Combat Center Challenge Dec. 1.



Marines from Headquarters Battalion take part in the tug of war against the Naval Hospital in the Combat Center Challenge. HQBN won.



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS BRIEN AHO

Navy drops anchor on Army

Navy Fullback Adam Ballard breaks down the field in first series play, during the 107th Army-Navy football game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Dec. 2. Navy won the game 26-14.

New coordinator, fresh ideas look promising for SMP

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Single Marine Program is due for many profound and good changes, according to the new SMP coordi-

nator, LaVonne Lessard.

Lessard, who has eight years of experience with the SMP at other bases in the Marine Corps, has only held her position here as coordinator for two weeks. Despite that, co-workers like Cpl.

Joshua Niedermeier say they can already sense the winds of change.

"Lessard's ideas and creativity are what's really going to get this place where it needs to be," said Niedermeier. "I can tell how this place was before we got here, and where it can be."

Lessard agreed, saying the employees and contractors at SMP would have to play catch-up before implementing the new activities she has in mind for the program.

"We can take this all the way to power zone," Lessard said. "I want to ignite this program so we can work at a higher level. I want to get the Marines and sailors excited about it, hopefully through my own enthusiasm."

Perhaps Lessard's eagerness stretches further than the steady flow of young Marines who come in to sign-up for trips. Lessard said she has noticed a larger amount of Marines wearing rockers and shiny insignias stopping by her office. She claims that, even though the constant flow of higher-ranking Marines

makes the day busier, it also shows there is a genuine interest by the command.

Members of the local community seem to share the same interest in getting the Marines and sailors off base and involved in the community.

"We got a call not too long ago from a guy in Palm Springs who wants to donate 60 tickets to a comedy play," said Lessard. "There are so many people willing to help our troops, it's great. We have our fingers in so many pies!"

But pies don't pay the bills. Lessard admits that, despite the fact that the Combat Center's SMP budget is the lowest she has worked with, she still wants to initiate more activities, trips and material goodies for the service members.

"We are thinking about getting a trip going every single weekend, just to give these guys something to do," Lessard said.

Some of the new amenities the Zone will obtain are Microsoft X-boxes, wide-screen TV's, a more user-friendly internet access and a bigger movie room.

"We also want to make more room for the newer, hotter games, and just make this place a little more comfortable and



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
LaVonne Lessard, the New Single Marine Program coordinator, stands in front of the Zone's Holiday decorations with her assistant Joshua Niedermeier.

hip. We're even talking about getting a paint job to bring more color because it's a little hospital-looking with all this white," laughed Lessard.

In addition to material contributions to the SMP and the Zone, Lessard wants to put more emphasis on parties.

"Back in Japan, we had what we called 'barracks bashes' where we would put a pizza party on wheels and cart it to whatever barracks number we pulled out of a hat," said Lessard. "That was all the rage in Japan, and I think it could work here, too."

Lessard said that she has great passion for Marines and feels it is her calling to work with them.

"When I was stationed at an Army base in Germany, I literally got home-sick to be around Marines again," she said. "I just love their discipline, mentality and respect. You don't find that anywhere else."

Lessard went on to say that the Marines make the program.

Niedermeier agreed. He said he believed that as long as there are Marines participating in the program and civilians who willingly volunteer their time, the program will continue to thrive.

"Without the Marines or the support from the volunteers, there would be no program at all," said Niedermeier.

Lessard's desire to serve is only matched by her enthusiasm. Her cheerleader mentality combined with her experience and vision make a promising recipe for the future success of the SMP and the amusement of the eager service members.

Birth announcements



MADILYN JOLEE STATON

Daughter of Petty Officer 3rd Class and Mrs. John Staton
Born Oct. 11, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 20.7 inches.

LOGAN PAUL RAMEY

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Nicholas Ramey
Born Oct. 12, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 21.4 inches.

KEVIN RYAN McGINLEY

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Timothy McGinley
Born Oct. 12, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20.7 inches.

ETHAN BRYANT HOUSE

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Joseph House
Born Oct. 13, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

DAMIAN LINO ANDRADE

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Marcelino Andrade
Born Oct. 13, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

EVA MARIE CARLINA CATALDI

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Michael Cataldi
Born Oct. 16, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 20.7 inches.

CRISTIAN MIGUEL VALLE

Son of Capt. and Mrs. Miguel Valle
Born Oct. 16, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 19.2 inches.

SOFIA SWANNER

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Paul Swanner
Born Oct. 16, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 20.3 inches.

MIGUEL JOSIAH LEANDRE

Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Michael Leandre
Born Oct. 19, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 19.75 inches.

RUBEN ANDREW RODRIGUEZ

Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Julio Rodriguez
Born Oct. 19, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

LANDON ALLEN ZEHNER

Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Jonathan Zehner
Born Oct. 21, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches.

JACK DANIEL LOWE

Son of Cpl. and Mr. Alyssa M. Lowe
Born Oct. 22, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 21.3 inches.

JASON BRADLEY STURGILL

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Jason Sturgill
Born Oct. 22, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

JAXSON AIDEN WORKLEY

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Eric Workley
Born Oct. 25, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz.

ISABELLA ROSSELLINI MANNOIA

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. D'Angelo Mannoia
Born Oct. 25, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19.1 inches.

LANDON DWIGHT-LEE PETERSON

Son of Pfc. and Mrs. Joshua Peterson
Born Oct. 30, 2006, weighing 9 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 21.2 inches.

ELIJAH OCI FIGUEIRA

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mr. Felisia Kusuma
Born Oct. 31, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 20.9 inches.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
 Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
 Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (Bldg1551)
 Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg. 1551)
 Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+
 Sun 10 a.m. Rosary
 Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
 Sun 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
 Sun 4 p.m. Choir Practice
 Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary
 Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
 Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group
 18-35 years of age married or single

(3rd Sunday of the month)
 Fri 12:15 – 4:30 p.m. Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)

Ash Wednesday and Holy Days of Obligation Masses

11:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
 11:30 a.m. Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
Village Center
 Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women*
 Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Christ Chapel

Sun 8 a.m. Worship*
 Tue 7 p.m. Praise and Worship*

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Christ Chapel

Sun 9:30 a.m. Worship

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST SERVICE

Christ Chapel

Sun 11 p.m. Worship

LAY-LED GOSPEL SERVICE

Christ Chapel

Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

LAY-LED APOSTOLIC SERVICE

Christ Chapel

Sun 3 p.m. Worship

Christ Chapel

2 p.m. Study of Book of Acts

MID-WEEK EVENTS

MONDAY

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass

Ocotillo Housing

7 p.m. Officer's Christian Fellowship
 Call Lt. Cmdr. Faunce 830-6654 for location

TUESDAY

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

5 – 7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)
 4 – 5:30 p.m. Children's RCIA
 6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each month

Christ Chapel

9 a.m. Christian Women Fellowship*
 7 p.m. Praise and Worship

C&E Mess Hall Bldg. 1660

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
 Chaplain Flint 830-6187

Base Housing

6 p.m. All Hands Bible Study
 Chaplain Taylor 830-7413 for location

WEDNESDAY

Village Center

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room
 Chaplain Flint 830-6187
 6 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation for Adults*

Immaculate Heart of Mary

6 -7 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Group#

Christ Chapel

5 p.m. IHM Choir Rehearsal
 5 p.m. Protestant Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
 7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study

THURSDAY

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

7 p.m. Knights of Columbus 1st Thursday of the Month

Christ Chapel

7 p.m. Lay-Led Apostolic Bible Study

Legend

*Indicates Child Care Provided
 +Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646
 # Resumes Fall 2006

