

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JANUARY 12, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 1

## Combat Center Marines, service members support Ford funeral



CMDR. JANE CAMPBELL

Members of the Armed Forces Honor Guard bear the casket of former President Gerald R. Ford into St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 29, as former First Lady Betty Ford and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, commanding general, Joint Task Force National Capital Region and escort for next of kin, look on.

SEAMAN DAMIEN E. HORVATH

SPECIAL TO AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

PALM DESERT, Calif. – More than 500 military members are supporting the California portion of the state funeral for former President Gerald R. Ford here yesterday and today. The military is providing ceremonial service, security and logistical support to honor and pay tribute to the 38th commander-in-chief and the Ford family.

Personnel from the Armed Forces Honor Guard, based in Washington D.C., served as members of the guard of honor and as body bearers during the arrival ceremony at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church yesterday.

"This is very somber time for all of us in the color guard," said Marine Pfc. Trae Shelton, of the Armed Forces Honor Guard. "We conduct ourselves with the highest reverence, professionalism, and honor to pay our respects to former President Ford and his family."

Air Force Airman 1st Class Lyle S. Carter, also from the Armed Forces Honor Guard, added, "It was a way for me to salute the former president and his legacy."

Participation in the state funeral impacted all branches of the Armed Services at many levels.

"As part of the Old Guard, we are proud to rep-

resent the Army as a whole," said Spc. John S. Tilley, of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as the The Old Guard, from Fort Myer, Va. "This is our chance to show our respect for the passing of the former president."

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band from Twentynine Palms, Calif., provided musical honors and hymns for the ceremony.

"I am honored to be here paying homage and tribute to President Ford," said Master Sgt. Grady May, bandmaster for the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band at Twentynine Palms. "Every time the casket is moved, we render presidential honors, as well as play various hymns selected by the Ford family."

Nearly 350 Marines from Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command Twentynine Palms are providing security and

host support for this phase of the state funeral. The Marine contingent is augmented with nearly 200 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Defense Department civilians.

"The team of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have done a phenomenal job of organizing and executing this phase of the state funeral," said Navy Capt. Mike Tillotson, deputy commander of Joint Task Force National Capital Region. "Their professionalism and pride is evident in every phase of honoring the 38th president and former commander-in-chief."

Former President Ford died in Rancho Mirage, Calif., on Dec. 26 at the age of 93. After a departure ceremony at Palm Springs International Airport today, the remains of President Ford will be flown to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., for the Washington portion of the state funeral.



AIRFORCE 1ST LT. CARRIE L. KESSLER

Former President Gerald R. Ford lies in repose at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 29, as the Guard of Honor stands watch.

## 3/11 Marines honor Ford with 21-gun salute



CPL. ALEC KLEINSMITH

Members of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment fire volleys from their cannons as part of the departure ceremony for the California portion of the state funeral for former President Gerald R. Ford Dec. 30.

LANCE CPL. CHRIS T. MANN

SPECIAL TO AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – Field artillery Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment conducted a 21-gun salute Dec. 30 as part of the departure ceremony for the California portion of the state funeral for former President Gerald R. Ford.

Ford, 93, died Dec. 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

"The president sacrificed a tremendous amount on our behalf, and the ceremony was a way for us to honor him," said Marine Staff Sgt. Justin Y. Booker, a field artillery scout observer with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

More than 20 members from the artillery battery marched in unison on the tarmac of Palm Springs International Airport before taking their firing positions behind five 105 mm Howitzer cannons. The Marines grouped in teams of four behind each cannon. Each firing team consisted of a chief, a cannonier, an ammo technician, and a gunner.

Twenty-one cannon shots were fired with a five-second pause between each round while the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, played "Hail to the Chief."

Marines from the artillery regiment volunteered to participate in the ceremony. "The Marines under me are proud to be here and when asked (to come). They raised their hands and said, 'Pick me,'" said Gunnery Sgt. Donovan C. Thomas, a 33-year-old field artilleryman from Bronx, N.Y.

The artillery Marines arrived early this morning to prepare for the ceremony. Pfc. Jordan B. Yager helped prepare the cannons for firing in the ceremony.

"Lots of rehearsal and hard work went into this," said Yager, a motor transportation operator.

"I'm proud to be part of something larger than myself," added the 20 year old from Modesto, Calif.

The ceremony closed out the California portion of the state funeral. Ford's remains were flown to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to begin the nation's capital phase of the state funeral.

The 21-gun salute is an honor given to heads of state worldwide and is said to have originated during the 17th century, when fighting would be ceased in order to allow removal of the fallen from the battlefield.

Traditionally, the 21-gun salute is fired over a servicemember's grave in three rifle volleys. This was done during battle to signal the fight may continue.

### Weekend Weather

Friday 48/24  
Periods of clouds and sunshine

Saturday 42/20  
Mostly Sunny

Sunday 48/24  
Mostly Sunny

### Inside this issue

- A4: Marines honor five killed in action
- A6: Mojave Viper Detachment Marine donates life
- A8: Marine revamps Commanding General's Inspection Program

### Observations



2006 Year in review photo spread.

### This Day in Marine Corps History

January 12, 1991

The 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade arrived in the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Desert Shield.



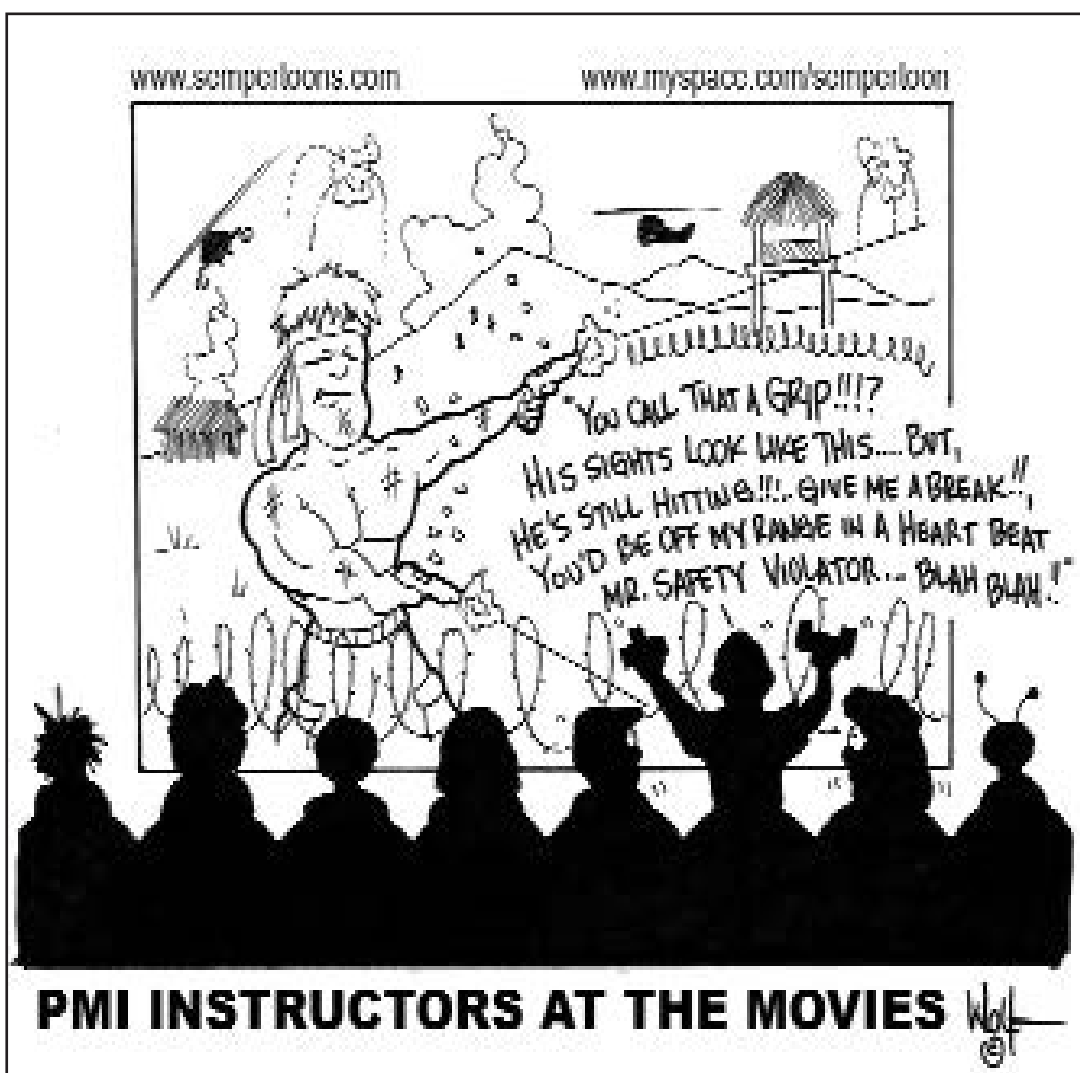
**U.S. Department of Defense  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of  
Defense (Public Affairs)  
News Release**

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced Wednesday that President George W. Bush made the following nomination:

Combat Center Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone has been nominated for appointment to the grade of major general.

## Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



## C.O.P. Corner



### Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

*Crime Prevention tip of the week:*

**Identifying illegal drug use may help prevent further abuse. Possible signs include:**

**Change in moods** — more irritable, secretive, withdrawn, overly sensitive, inappropriately angry, euphoric.

**Signs of irresponsibility** — including arriving home late, being tardy for school or class and dishonest behavior.

**Changing friends or changing lifestyles** — new interests, unexplained cash, new clothes and items not purchased by parent.

**Physical deterioration** — difficulty in concentration, loss of coordination, loss of weight, unhealthy appearance, or negligence in hygiene.

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

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

## National Do Not Call List – add home, cell phone numbers

JANY WASDIN  
PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Do you know about the National Do Not Call Registry?

You are sitting down to eat your dinner, you have had a long hard day, and you are looking forward to a nice meal and some time with your family. What happens next? The phone rings and it's someone trying to either sell you something or get you to contribute to something. Well, if you are tired of these practices then there is a solution. It only takes a few minutes of your time and you can do it before dinner! This is where the National Do Not Call Registry comes into play; you register and finally put an end to

those annoying interruptions, and best of all, it's free!

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home. Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint with the Do Not Call Registry at their Web site <http://www.donotcall.gov>. You can register your home or mobile phone for free. Your registration will be effective for five years.

To prevent this, go to <http://www.donotcall.gov> and register your numbers. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time to register your phone numbers.

## Need a copy of the Observation Post from 2006?

If you were featured in a story, photo or just want to pick up a certain copy of the Observation Post, time is running out.

With the new year already in full swing, we are clearing out our 2006 archive.

If you are interested in picking up a copy, come by the Public Affairs Office at Building 1417.

**ARRIVE ALIVE**  
A Combat Center Car Company 367-7433  
Top's Taxi 361-6748

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THE FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE OF THE INFORMATION THAT WE REQUEST FROM OUR CUSTOMERS. WE WILL NOT RELEASE YOUR INFORMATION TO ANY OTHER PARTY WITHOUT YOUR WRITTEN CONSENT.

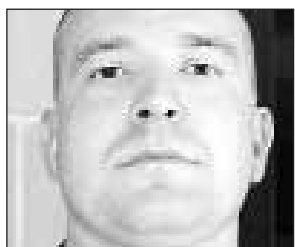
Name	_____
ID #	_____
Pick up at	_____
Destination	_____
Total fee	_____
Driver	_____
Depart/Time	_____
Company	_____
Signature	_____

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.

## Centerspeak

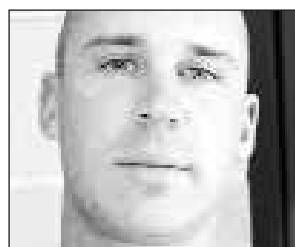
“What is your New Year’s resolution?”

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



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER ESKRIDGE  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION,  
COMPANY A

“I want to run more this year.”



LANCE CPL. TREVOR MOTZ  
3RD LIGHT ARMORED  
RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

“I want to stay in better shape.”



LANCE CPL. MIGUEL OCHOA  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION,  
COMPANY A

“Don’t drink as much.”

## OBSERVATION POST

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Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Nicole A. LaVine

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## What’s on your mind?

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

Address submissions to:

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

Or e-mail to:

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

## HOT TOPICS

### W2'S AVAILABLE ON MYPAY

Your electronic W2 for 2006 is available on MyPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx?flps=W2S-MCTFSA>

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service implemented the myPay web-based system in March 2000. MyPay delivers pay information and lets you process pay-related transactions timely, safely and securely. The Web-based system reduces the risks of identity theft associated with postal delivery by allowing members to access electronic W2, LES and other financial information. MyPay matches industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security to protect MyPay users.

If you do not have a PIN for accessing MyPay, you can obtain one via e-mail by clicking on the New PIN button on the MyPay website at the web address shown above. A temporary PIN will be emailed to your official e-mail address. If you have any questions concerning MyPay, please call the contact center toll free at 1-888-DFAS411 or 1-888-332-7411. If the information posted to your W-2 is incorrect, please contact your servicing pay office or your customer service representative for assistance.

### TAX CENTER OPENS

Tax Center opens: Monday, 22 January  
 Hours: 8:00am - 3:30pm  
 Begin taking appointments: Tuesday  
 Location: Village Center  
 Phone: 830-4829  
 Items needed: All W-2's, amount of bank/credit union interest earned, full names and SSN's of spouse, children and other dependents, SSN or EIN of day care providers, copy of prior year return proof of bank account (blank check or myPay bank print-out) for direct deposit (up to 3 different accounts), education costs paid and original Power of Attorney, if applicable.

Appointments recommended but walk-ins are welcome. No children are allowed at the tax center.

Please make arrangements. This office does not prepare returns with rental property or self-employment.

### TAKE THE LAPD WRITTEN TEST

Take the Los Angeles Police Department written test every third Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Building 1004. For more information call 866-444-LAPD or log on to <http://www.joinlapd.com>.

### GROUND HOG JOB SHADOW DAY

This year's Ground Hog Job Shadow Day will take place Feb. 2. This event is an extraordinary opportunity to influence potential future Marines by inviting young people from local communities to experience a day in the life of a Marine, sailor or MCAGCC civilian employee. Each year, high school students are invited aboard the installation to "shadow" a volunteer Marine, sailor or civilian throughout their work day. The intent is to allow the students an opportunity to observe a military or service-related trade for consideration as a potential career choice after graduation. All commands are encouraged to offer their support. The coordinator for this event is Sgt. Robert Fisher, 830-5472.

## LEISURE ITEMS

### SMP JANUARY POOL TOURNAMENT

The Single Marine Program will host a pool tournament at the Zone Jan.23. Registration begins at 5 p.m. with the tournament beginning at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 entry fee. Come out for a night of challenging pool with your fellow Marines. For more information, call 830-4767.

### OFFICERS' CLUB MONGOLIAN BBQ NIGHT

The Officers' Club will host another popular Mongolian BBQ Jan. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Officers' Club and Staff NCO club patrons will enjoy delicious Mongolian meat and vegetables barbecued to your liking for only \$0.60 per ounce for members and \$0.75 for non-members. A children's chicken platter is also available. Reservations are requested, so please call 830-6610.

## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### 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 SERVICE

**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\*  
**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

## Birth announcements



#### ELIZABETH BREANNA BLUMER

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Adam Blumer  
 Born Nov. 23, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

#### CATIE NICOLE BARNWELL

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. William R. Barnwell  
 Born Nov. 23, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20.3 inches.

#### JADEN DAVID ROBINSON

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Shawn Robinson  
 Born Nov. 26, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 21.7 inches.

#### MACKENZIE CHRISTINE PAGELLA

Daughter of Pfc. and Mrs. Miles Pagella  
 Born Nov. 28, 2006, weighing 5 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

#### SHAYLYNN MARIE SCHILT

Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Luke Schilt  
 Born Nov. 29, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

#### WILLIAM CONRAD SWEEDEN

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. William J. Sweeden  
 Born Dec. 2, 2006, weighing 9 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 21.3 inches.

#### BLAKE WILLIAM HARSHMAN

Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Bryan Harshman  
 Born Sept. 28, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 21.9 inches.

#### HAYLI JO McCANNON

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Sean McCannon  
 Born Nov. 16, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

#### CHLOE ERIN HUNSINGER

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Steven Hunsinger  
 Born Nov. 16, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

#### BREANNA SHARON DENISE DOTCH

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Jonathan Dotch  
 Born Nov. 16, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

#### MACKENIZE REANN TURNER

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Brian Turner  
 Born Nov. 17, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

# 3/4 Marines and sailors honor 5 killed in action in Anbar Province

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

AL UBAYDI, Iraq – Memorial services were held by U.S. Marines and sailors serving in northwestern Al Anbar Province, Iraq, to honor the lives of three fallen Marines, one sailor and a civilian interpreter Dec. 28.

Lance Cpl. Fernando S. Tamayo, 21, of Fontana, Calif.; Seaman Kyle A. Nolen, 21, of Ennis, Texas; Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Burgess, 21, of Sanford, Mich.; Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Mayhan, 25, of Hawthorne, Calif.; and Fathel Rahman Omar Abdel, known as "Mike," were all killed Dec. 21, 2006, during combat operations in northwestern Anbar Province, several miles away from the Iraq-Syria border.

The service members and interpreter were serving with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, a Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based battalion. The four service members were four months into a seven-month deployment when they died.

The three Marines and Navy corpsman were represented with Kevlar helmets set atop rifles stuck bayonet-first into sandbags. The fallens' combat boots were placed in front of their memorials; dog tags hung from the rifles. Even though Abdel did not have a rifle and helmet memorial, he was honored by the battalion during the service. Marines recognized him for his dedicated and "brave service."

"In a time of war we lost them, but in a coming season of peace their legacy will be



U.S. Marines serving with the southern Calif.-based 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, file past the memorials of three fallen Marines and one fallen sailor following a memorial service Dec. 28, in a U.S. Marine outpost in Al Ubaydi, Iraq.

evident in a world that is a better and safer place because they passed through it," said Navy Lt. Alan Rogers, the battalion's chaplain, during the ceremony.

1st Sgt. Ryan F. Blue, the senior enlisted man of India Company, said saying goodbye to "four heroes who gave their lives by simply doing their

jobs" was one of the hardest things he's ever done.

"There is surely one word to describe each of these Marines and one sailor and that is 'courageous,'" said Blue, an Omaha, Neb., native. "They sacrificed themselves in protection of us."

Tamayo was remembered

by Marines he served alongside with as a quiet person. A few days before his death, Tamayo said he was happy to be getting the combat operational experience he was getting in Iraq, said Blue.

Nolen, known as "Doc" to the Marines he served with, was remembered for his young looks and the medical service he provided to his fellow Marines and sailors.

"Doc may have looked very younger than he was, but he was surely a man," said Blue.

Nolen was attached to the battalion's India Company, and often treated "wounded, sick or injured" Marines under sporadic mortar fire, said Blue.

Fellow Marines recalled Burgess as a very dependable Marine. His journey in the Corps began alongside Lance Cpl. Shawn Didde, a 21-year-old from Kansas City, Mo., when they graduated from boot camp together at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. It was just "a short matter of time until a friendship was born," said Didde.

"There was a never a dull moment with him," said Didde. "India Company couldn't have asked for a better

machine gunner."

Burgess always had a "salty" look to him, with his hair not so groomed, said Blue.

As a vehicle commander, the 21-year-old Burgess was responsible for leading a three-man team of Marines on vehicle patrols. The job he filled is a billet usually given to more senior Marines, usually non-commissioned officers.

"He was well above the average lance corporal," said Blue.

Marines remembered Mayan as a person who was always in good spirits.

"He always made me laugh," said Cpl. Michael Foss, a 25-year-old from Buffalo, N.Y.

A Marine with a solid frame, he was always good for cheering people up and to talk to, said Marines who he served with. "How are you doing?" was a common question Marines remembered Burgess asking them, said some.

Just last year, this region was the battle grounds of a 16-day-long fight between Marines and insurgents who infested the area. The operation was dubbed "Steel Curtain" and ended in the ousting of nearly 250 insurgents.

Now, alongside the Marines, the Iraqi security forces are working to maintain security in this region by walking the beat every day in search of insurgent activity.

During the ceremony, Marines and sailors lined up and took turns rendering a final salute to the fallens' memorials; a final goodbye before continuing their mission of providing security to this region of Iraq.

Blue said although the deaths are tough to deal with, there is a mission the Marines have to accomplish here. Blue wants his men to come home

alive when the battalion returns to the state later this year.

But until then, the Marines will continue focusing on accomplishing their mission, providing security, mentoring Iraqi security forces, and finding improvised explosive devices.

"They will stay focused and they will find them [IEDs]," said Blue.

India Company is currently conducting combat operations just off the Euphrates River. They are also tasked with mentoring and monitoring Iraqi security forces here, imparting with them combat tactics, techniques and procedures they will need to be able to conduct combat operations on their own.

Marines here say Iraqi soldiers and police are patrolling the streets more and more on their own, finding and ridding cities and villages of insurgent activity. The police force in this region started with 400 volunteers last year, which was what "primed the pump" for what led to today's current police force of about 1,400 Iraqi police, according to Lt. Col. Scott C. Shuster, the battalion's commanding officer.

"This is a sure sign of progress," said Shuster during a meeting with local Iraqi leaders last month.

Long days and nights have paid off for the Marines and sailors here, who are finding weapons caches, capturing insurgents and finding IEDs.

In fact, India Company found two IEDs a day after the memorial service and rendered them safe.

"Nothing can bring our brothers back and they all will be truly missed," said Didde during the memorial service. "So let's honor these Marines today and let us never forget."



U.S. Marines and sailors from the southern Calif.-based 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stand in front of four memorials during the memorial service for three fallen Marines and one fallen sailor Dec. 28, in a U.S. Marine outpost in Al Ubaydi, Iraq.

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

# 'Tell 'em about the dream, Martin!'

GUNNERY SGT. HERRICK  
A. ROSS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR

As he gazed at the multitudes spread across the National Mall, blacks and whites together, he was deeply moved. He doubted his words were worthy of the occasion these pilgrims had created. His conscience called him to depart from the prepared text and summon from his years of struggle, suffering, and successes a vivid description of the vision he carried in his heart. He paused. Mahalia Jackson called from behind, "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin."

And so he began, "I still have a dream . . ."

January 15, marks the 22nd annual celebration of Martin Luther King jr.'s birthday. The mere mention of his name conjures up for many, an inner peace, as well as the image of a tranquil man. Along with those emotions, many have visions of the violence that enthralled a nation because of segregation. For the multitudes, Monday will be a day of acknowledging the man and his legacy of peace through non-violence.

Before Martin Luther King jr. was known as a Nobel Peace Prize winner or the pioneer of the Civil Rights movement, he was known as the son of a preacher. The King family life revolved around worship and church activities, with each day beginning and ending with family prayer. Young Martin exhibited indications of high intelligence at an early age. By age 5 he could recite whole Biblical passages and hymns. He began singing hymns at church gatherings, often with a hint of the blues. Martin learned from preachers the power of language and spoken words, and surrounded himself with books even before he was able to read. He once told his parents, "You just wait and see. When I grow up, I'm going to get me some big words."

His loving family and supportive church community could not shield him from the depressing reality of racial segregation. His first best friend was a white boy whose father owned a store across the street from the King home. In 1935, they entered separate schools, and Martin was no longer permitted by the boy's parents to play with him. Martin's parents then explained to him what it meant to be "colored."

He remarked later, "As my parents discussed some of the tragedies that had resulted from this problem and some of the insults they themselves had confronted on account of it, I was greatly shocked, and from that moment on I was determined to hate every white person."

As he grew older, Martin became painfully conscious that he was not allowed to sit at a restaurant lunch counter, and was required to use "colored" restrooms and drinking fountains, freight elevators, and sit

only in the balcony of movie theaters. He also became aware that his father, as he grew more prominent in the business community, received threatening telephone calls and abusive letters from the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist organization. By the time he was ready to enter school, nothing had changed.

King skipped several grades in school and entered Booker T. Washington High School in the fall of 1942 at the age of 13. Two years later he passed the high school exam, graduated, and enrolled in Morehouse College. At Morehouse, he was mesmerized by its president, Dr. Benjamin Mays, who championed liberation through knowledge. King thought Dr. Mays was the ideal minister. He was rational, not emotional; yet his sermons were both intellectually and spiritually stimulating. Dr. Mays helped King realize the ministry could be a worthy vocation from which he could attack social injustice. Although he had always resisted following in his father's and grandfather's path, he decided at age 17 to pursue the ministry and soon after was ordained as assistant pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The pivotal event in his seminary years was an electrifying lecture presented to the students on the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi applied Thoreau's philosophy in nonviolent strikes, boycotts, and marches aimed at ending British oppression in India. King regarded Gandhi as the first person to elevate the love ethic of Jesus above personal interaction to achieving social change on a large scale. King said Gandhi "came to feel that this was the only morally and practically sound method open to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom."

King was scheduled as the final speaker of the day at the March on Washington, allotted just eight minutes after singer Mahalia Jackson. When his moment arrived, he stepped to the microphone amid great expectations. Three major television networks interrupted scheduled programming to carry his speech live. He delivered his carefully crafted lines, alluding to the unfulfilled promises of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation 100 years earlier. Thousands clapped and shouted in cadence to his rhythmic lines. He paused. Mahalia Jackson called from behind, "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin." And so he began: "I still have a dream . . ."



Dr Martin Luther King jr. waves to the crowd after delivering his "I have a dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1963.

"It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed—we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

"I have a dream that one day, even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today!

"I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, that one day, right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today!

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough

places shall be made plain, and the crooked places shall be made straight and the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

"This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with.

"With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

"With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will

be able to sing with new meaning—my country 'tis of thee; sweet land of liberty; of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride; from every mountain side, let freedom ring—and if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

"So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

"Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

"Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

"Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

"Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

"But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

"Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

"Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

"And when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children—black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants—

will be able to join hands and to sing in words of the old Negro spiritual; 'Free at last, free at last; thank God Almighty, we are free at last.'"

COURTESY PHOTO

# Combat Vets of Iwo Jima return to the 'Black Sands'

CYRIL O'BRIEN  
 Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima Press Release

The Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima will hold their annual reunion and historical symposium Feb. 16-19 in Arlington, Va. Families, historians, and students will join them to commemorate and examine this battle, which is the subject of two new movies directed by Academy Award winner Clint Eastwood, "Flags of our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima." Eastwood has been invited to attend the symposium and banquet. The veterans also organize the annual historic pilgrimage to the black sands of Iwo Jima March 9-16, where they meet with Japanese veterans of the battle in a Joint Reunion of Honor.

Veterans from all branches who served in one of the deadliest battles of World War II

will reunite at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va., on Feb. 16 for registration and an evening reception. The symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 17, led by Col. John Ripley, USMC, former Director of the Marine Corps History and Museums Division and Dr. Malcolm "Kip" Muir, Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis, Virginia Military Institute. The symposium will examine the battle, strategies, and leadership of both combatants during the epic 36-days that cost the U.S. 28,000 casualties and the Japanese 22,000. Panelists will also explore how the campaign hastened the end of WWII in the Pacific.

On Feb. 18, the group will tour the newly dedicated National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va. Hosting the veterans will be Lt. Gen. "Ron" Christmas,

USMC, President, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Employing state of the art technology, the museum displays life-like figures, weapons, vehicles, and aircraft, simulating, an immersion into armed conflict. A visit highlight will be the ceremonial ground breaking for a memorial dedicated to Joe Rosenthal, the Associated Press correspondent who took the historic photograph of the flag raising atop Mount Suribachi, which has become the most recognized photograph in the world. A memorial breakfast on Feb. 19, the anniversary of the campaign, will close the reunion. The Sheraton National Hotel will offer reduced rates for attendees as well as prior to and after the reunion to allow guests to further visit sites in the Washington, D.C., area. Call 888-627-8210 and mention

"Iwo Jima Convention."

The 62nd Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima will be March 9-16. The reunion is headquartered on the island of Guam, the site of another major Pacific Island campaign, and is highlighted by a Continental Airlines charter flight to the "Black Sands" on March 14. Active duty Marines and sailors from III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa will escort the group. Joining the U.S. Veterans will be Japanese survivors of the battle in a joint memorial service to commemorate the great losses that occurred there.

Veterans of all services, their families, students, and other interested parties should contact the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima, 4600 Duke Street, Suite 418, Alexandria, VA, 22304-2517. Telephone 703-212-8567, e-mail combatvetsiwo@miltours.com.



JOE ROSENTHAL

The Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima will hold their annual reunion and historical symposium Feb. 16-19 in Arlington, Va.

**SOLUTIONS**

## Company gunny gives gift of life

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER  
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A glance into the office of Staff Sgt. John Farr would reveal a hardcore company gunnery sergeant behind a desk scattered with work and a coffee pot working overtime. Just like all other Marines, he wears the uniform proudly displaying the institution he has pledged his allegiance to across his chest, the United States Marine Corps.

But to look no further into the office and the Marine who uses it, would only tell half the story. A further look would reveal a hero, not only for his loyal service to the country, but for his donation of life to one sick man.

In 2001, the National Marrow Donor Program and the military gave a big push to units to look for volunteers for either bone marrow trans-

plants or stem cell donations.

"During the big push for donors, I got on the registry and became a card carrier and everything," said Farr.

On leave between transitioning from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C., to Mojave Viper Support Detachment, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Farr, who serves as the company gunnery sergeant for the detachment, received a phone call telling him he was a possible match and asking him if he would be willing to donate.

"I went to the hospital and completed my preliminary blood work to see if I was a match," said Farr. "The test came back and the doctors said 'yes, you are a match' and asked me if I wanted to donate. I notified my command letting them know I would like to pursue it."

According to The National Marrow Donor Program, stem cell donation is an alternative

to bone marrow transplant. When donors are selected, they are given hormone shots for five days to increase the number of stem cells in the blood. On the last day of treatment, blood is removed through a needle in one arm passed through a special machine called a blood cell separator. The rest of the blood is placed back through a needle in the other arm.

Farr received orders and was sent to C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Center in December 2006. Farr was making a journey across country to help a man he knew little about, but knew he could improve the quality of life for someone out there. The information Farr received was vague: a 59-year-old male with leukemia, but he still extended a helping hand.

"In the Marine Corps we preserve life and liberty for

others, and I look at donating as doing my part as one person," said Farr. "Just because I'm not in Iraq doesn't mean I can't do my part to help here in the states."

While donating does come with possible risks, it also comes with great rewards. It is not every day you are given the chance to prolong someone's life.

"Donating reminds me of that quote, 'no greater love does a person have for another than to give their life,'" said Farr.

Backed by the Marine Corps, his chain of command and his own moral beliefs, Farr bettered the life of another by a simple deed. It wasn't about self satisfaction when he donated stem cells, it was about extending the life of another human being so he could be with his family the next holiday or birthday. It was an act of unselfishness and heroism.

# 3/4 commander near Iraq-Syria border sees 'sure sign of progress' in Iraqi police

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

HUSAYBAH, Iraq – The Al Qa'im region – a cluster of cities and towns along the Euphrates River just east of the Iraq-Syria border – is currently the “safest place” in Al Anbar Province, according to the region's mayor.

Mayor Farhan T. Farhan made the comment during a meeting with the top U.S. military commander in this northwestern section of Al Anbar Province, Lt. Col. Scott C. Shuster.

During the meeting, Farhan praised Col. Jamaal Shihab Muhammad, police chief of Al Qa'im, for being a key figure in making the region safe.

“Col. Jamaal has a very good reputation in Al Qa'im. He represents the safety of this region,” said Farhan.

The Marines agree with Farhan, and attribute the increased security here to the hard work and sufficient number of Iraqi police who work in the area.

Less than a year ago, there wasn't a single policeman walking the beat in the western Euphrates River cities in the Al Qa'im region. Now, nearly 1,400 uniformed, armed, and trained police officers walk the beat, according to the Marines.

“They (insurgents) know that well-led, well-trained and well-equipped Iraqi police will defeat the insurgency,” said Col. W. Blake Crowe, commanding officer for Regimental Combat Team 7, the U.S. Marine Corps unit which operates in more than 30,000 square miles of Anbar's western area.

Long days and nights of patrols on foot and in Humvees have paid off for 3/4 Marines and Iraqi Security Forces here: Coalition and Iraqi forces are successfully capturing insurgents, discovering weapons caches and finding roadside bombs before they go off – crucial steps to keeping the region safe, according to Marine Corps leadership here.

During the meeting with local leaders here, Shuster commended the region's chief of police, Col. Jamaal Shihab Muhammad, for leading his policemen toward the success they've had – smothering insurgent activity and continuing their mission of keeping the streets safe through daily patrols.

“They [Iraqi police] have been doing a great job [in Husaybah],” said Shuster, battalion commander of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, the U.S. military unit responsible for providing security and mentoring Iraqi soldiers and police in this region just east of the Iraq-Syria border. “They are happy to be among the people. They look like they belong.”

Shuster said the police here are currently running patrols, conducting [vehicle] check points and “rolling up bad guys” on their own.

“They're actually making a difference and steadily improving,” he added.

The region is perhaps the top “success story” in western Anbar Province, according to Marine commanders. More than a year ago, the region was a haven for insurgents. That's when U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a major offensive, effectively killing or capturing nearly 250 insurgents during an operation dubbed “Steel Curtain.”

Immediately afterwards, the Marines established more than a dozen “battle positions” throughout the area in a “clear and hold” tactic – once the bulk of the insurgents were



Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, read a map during a patrol with a team of Iraqi policemen Dec. 17, in Husaybah, Iraq.

out, the Marines kept their foot in the door and established the battle positions to maintain security.

Shortly after, local men lined up by the dozens to join the newly-formed police forces.

“Al Qa'im [region] is full of people who are interested in living their lives in safety, security and hopefulness for their future,” said Shuster.

The police force here started with 400 volunteers last year, which was what “primed the pump” for what led to today's current police force,

according to Shuster.

By November, the number of Iraqi police here jumped to 1,400 fully equipped and fully trained police officers. The Iraqi police are now patrolling more on their own and relying less on U.S. forces, said Shuster.

“This is a sure sign of progress,” said Shuster, who also reported to Farhan that the control of a tract of land in the Al Qa'im region has been given to Iraqi police, and they are patrolling this area with “Coalition overwatch.”

However, the Iraqi police

have faced problems here recently – lack of supplies and paychecks, reported Muhammad.

“Everyone – the Marines, [Iraqi] army and police – are doing a good job, but the men [police] will only be motivated until we get more supplies and paid,” said Muhammad.

Despite shortages in pay, cold-weather uniforms and fuel for their police vehicles, the Iraqi police continue to work hard day and night, said Muhammad.

Shuster said he believes the police keep coming to work because they understand the newly established government is 14 months old and is work-

ing hard to provide stability for all police departments in Iraq.

In turn, Shuster recommended a possible resolution to the problem – a meeting between Muhammad and Anbar's provincial police chief to voice Al Qa'im's police force needs.

Just as Shuster, Farhan and Muhammad hoped, and the problem was resolved Dec. 12, 2006, when Muhammad returned to Al Qa'im from a meeting with the provincial governor in Ar Ramadi – with him he brought paychecks for the police officers here.

“We are working as hard as we can, and the Iraqi police are cooperating to the best of their

ability,” said Shuster.

As long as Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Government work together, Iraqi Security Forces will be able to eventually operate independent of Coalition Forces' support, said Shuster.

The police force here are demonstrating their capabilities and “with confidence comes dependability,” he added.

“I came to Iraq with modest expectations [of the Iraqi Security Forces here],” said Shuster. “I have been pleasantly surprised to see that the IPs [Iraqi police] are more capable and more dedicated than what I expected.”



An Iraqi policeman provides security outside a house during a patrol with U.S. Marines Dec. 17, in Husaybah, Iraq, a city that sits just on the other side of the Syrian border.

# Marine awarded for revamping CGIP

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat readiness is key when it comes to the military and the way things are run. So, when a program that evaluates the effectiveness of the military is not effective, problems may arise.

Master Sgt. Juan F. Velasquez, center inspector chief, received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Combat Center Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone Jan. 5, for implementing a corrective action plan to make the Commanding General's Inspection Program operational.

"The purpose of the Commanding General's Inspection Program is to promote Marine Corps combat readiness, integrity, efficiency, effectiveness and credibility through impartial and independent inspections, and assessments directed by the commandant of the Marine Corps, via the inspector general of the Marine Corps," said Velasquez.

The inspection concentrates on core functional areas such as personnel administration, substance abuse, equal opportunity, body composition, physical fitness, uniform inspection, unit training management, medical and dental readiness, safety, security, and special interest areas mandated by the commandant of the Marine Corps, according to Marine Corps Order 5040.6G.

The inspection is conducted on a bi-annual basis and different functional areas are inspected by subject matter experts under the supervision of the command inspector general.

When Velasquez realized the program was ineffective, he did what he was taught throughout his Marine Corps career: take action and fix it. He created and briefed a corrective action plan and implemented the plan when it was approved.

"Being assigned the responsibility of the Commanding General's Inspection Program, we did a complete audit of the program," said Velasquez of his section's responsibilities. "This consisted of pulling the records back to 2003 in order to get an accurate picture of what our



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Master Sgt. Juan F. Velasquez received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal Jan. 5, for implementing a corrective action plan to make the Commanding General's Inspection Program effective.

deficiencies were, if any. Once the deficiencies were identified, we created a plan of attack on how we were going to execute the inspections."

The importance of the inspection is to show what areas of the unit are weakest and what areas are strongest so they can implement corrective action. It also tells the commanding general whether or not the units are combat ready

and completing tasks they are required to do.

Velasquez's plan of attack proved successful in the end with the Inspector General of the Marine Corps finding the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center mission capable in October.

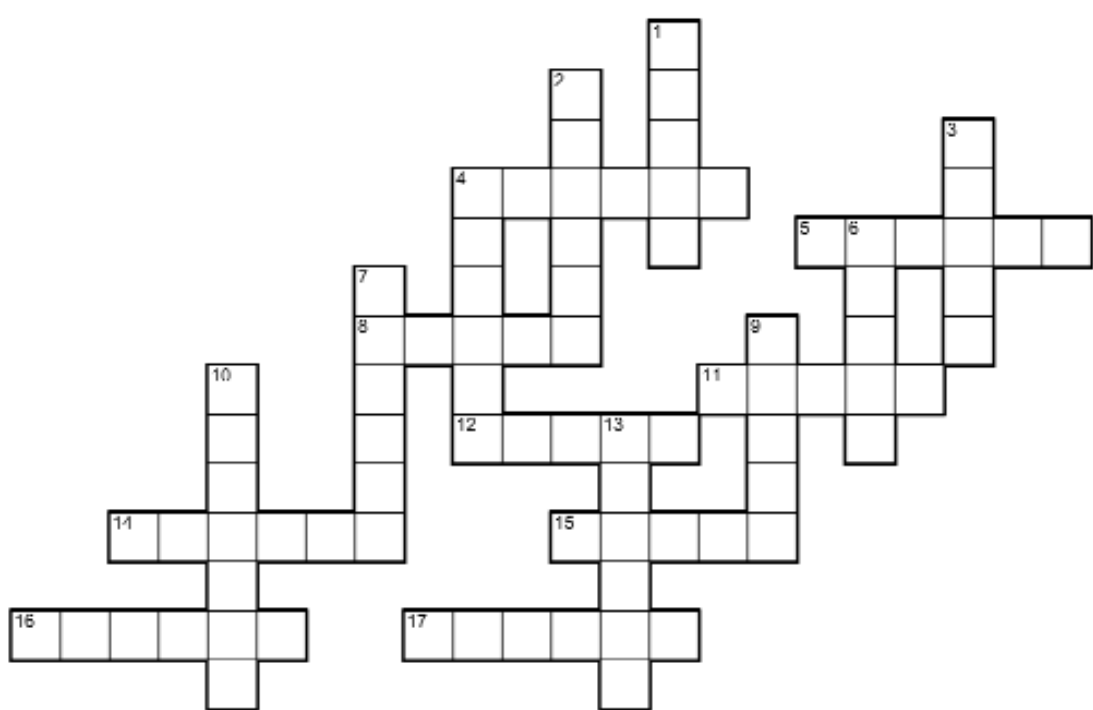
While Velasquez received his award modestly, co-workers and base officials realize the work

that was put into the plan.

"While I appreciate and thank Brigadier General Stone and Colonel [Michael] Callaghan for recognizing me, my opinion is that I didn't really do anything special or extraordinary that deserved special recognition," said Velasquez. "When it comes right down to it, I was just doing my job."



# GHT WORDS



**ACROSS**

- 4 Fear; terror; anxiety; horror.
- 5 Brilliant; Vivid.
- 8 Used to indicate obligation or duty: "You \_\_\_\_\_ to work harder than that."
- 11 Brawl; clash; battle. "First to \_\_\_\_\_."
- 12 Fixed or fastened firmly in place. No slack.
- 14 A situation, especially a bad or unfortunate one.
- 15 The period between sunset and sunrise, especially the hours of darkness.
- 16 "The pop-fly was \_\_\_\_\_ by Gary Sheffield."
- 17 A measure of the heaviness of an object.

**DOWN**

- 1 The ability to see.
- 2 A medieval tenant giving military service. Sir Arthur; Paul McCartney.
- 3 The power, force, or influence held by a person or group. Physical strength.
- 4 A scheduled airline run or trip.
- 6 Two wrongs don't make this.
- 7 Purchased something.
- 9 "Allow me to shed some \_\_\_\_\_ on the situation."
- 10 Goods carried by a vessel or vehicle, especially by a commercial carrier; cargo.
- 13 The distance from the base of something to the top.

[Solutions on A6]



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**Graduating High School Seniors: Application Submission Deadline**

**March 1, 2007**

Notification by April 16, 2007

**All Other Students: Application Submission Deadline**

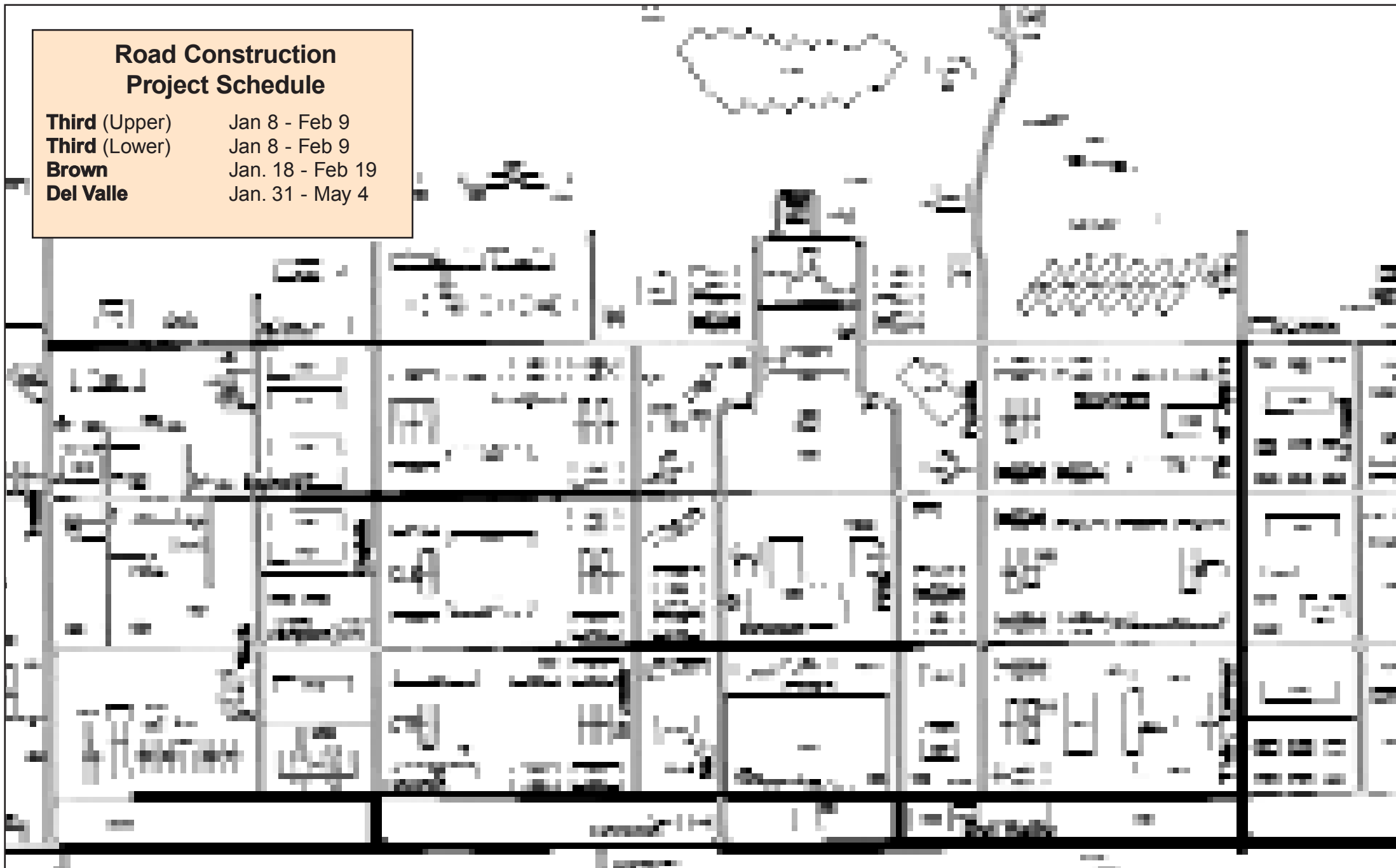
**April 16, 2007**

Notification by July 15, 2007

**MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.**  
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**Road Construction Project Schedule**

<b>Third (Upper)</b>	Jan 8 - Feb 9
<b>Third (Lower)</b>	Jan 8 - Feb 9
<b>Brown</b>	Jan. 18 - Feb 19
<b>Del Valle</b>	Jan. 31 - May 4



This is a map of road construction projects currently underway aboard the Combat Center.

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

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 A Combat Center Car Company 367-7433  
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**WE ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**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.

# Hail to the Chief

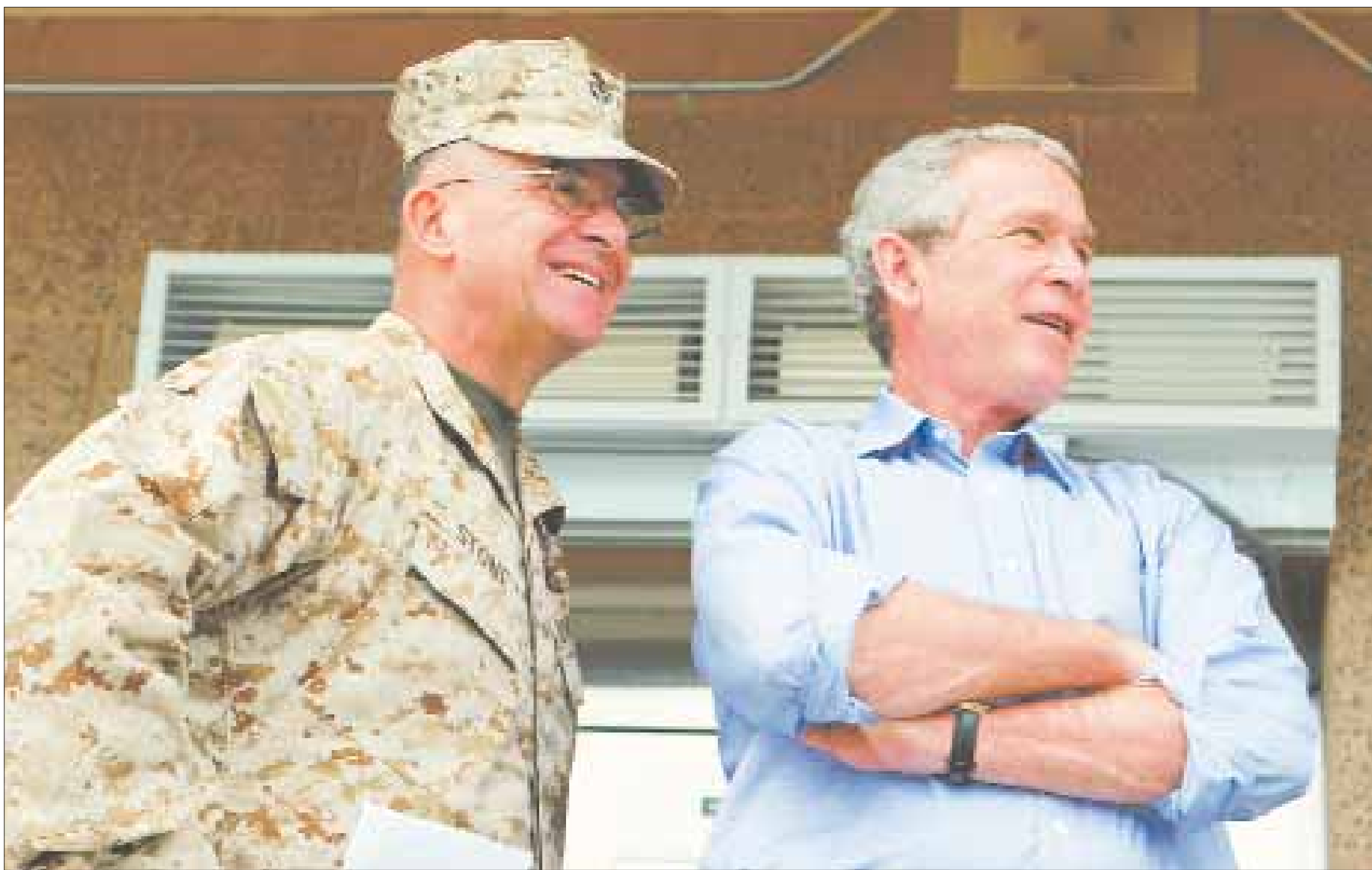
Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire volleys at the Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 27 to honor former president Gerald R. Ford. Volleys were fired every half hour, beginning at reveille and ending at retreat.



# OBSERVATIONS

JAN. 12, 2007

## 2006 Year In Review



LANCE CPL. PATRICK GREENE

**President Bush visits MCAGCC.** President George W. Bush and Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone chat outside the 7th Marines mess hall April 23 during the president's first ever visit to the Combat Center.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

**MAGTFTC activates unit colors.** Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, MAGTFTC Commanding General, and Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, MAGTFTC Sergeant Major, uncased the colors at a Colors Designation ceremony at Range 215, July 9.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

**Fire ravages High Desert.** Combat Center firefighters, as part of a multi-crew strike team, battled the Sawtooth Complex Fire near Yucca Valley, Calif., from July 8 -19.



COURTESY PHOTO

**MCAGCC Celebrates 54 Years.** This 1959 photo of the Combat Center's main side area from east to west, shows the results of the first seven years of Marine life in the high desert. Aug. 14 marked the 54th birthday of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. The milestone was commemorated Aug. 18 with a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially dedicate the 29 California Fan Palm trees along Adobe Road as a visual symbol of the local civilian and military communities that share the same name.



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

**Combat Center parade deck redesignated Lance Cpl. Gray Field.** Col. Bryan P. McCoy, Cpl. Ward A. Stone, and Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, Combat Center commanding general, unveil a memorial and rename the parade field "Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field" Oct. 6.

For More Photos See 2006 REVIEW, B3



LANCE CPL NICOLE A LAVINE

## Kings of the Court

Gunnery Sgt. Vernon Cook, Col. Jeffrey Cooper, Sgt. Maaj. Nicholas Bourikas and Master Sgt. Robert Cole display the trophies they earned in the 2006 Commanding General's Intramural Racquetball Tournament at the East Gym. The avid racquetball players play daily at the East Gym and welcome all competitors during lunch hours.

## Time running short for 2006 Tax moves

### IRS NEWS RELEASE

SAN DIEGO — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers they have less than four weeks left to make their final financial moves for the 2006 tax year.

Taxpayers can take the first step toward planning by reviewing tax law changes featured on the IRS Web site. A little advance planning now could save taxpayers time, and perhaps even money later.

For many families, tax planning may mean adjusting withholding allowances for more take home pay, gathering records for pertinent deductions like the child and dependent care credit or considering charitable donations. A 2006 law change states that clothing and household goods donated after Aug. 17, must be in good condition or better in order to qualify for a charitable deduction.

For investors, tax planning may mean deciding which stocks to sell or buy. It may also mean contributing to a tax deferred retirement plan or IRA. The maximum IRA contribution for the 2006 tax year is \$5,000. The Retirement Savings Contribution Credit, or "Saver's Credit" is also available to eligible tax payers and was made permanent from the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The Energy Act of 2005, the Tax Increase Protection and Reconciliation Act and the Pension Protection Act all came into play in 2006. All three offer several major tax law provisions to be mindful of.

Eligible taxpayers can deduct IRA contributions and moving expenses if applicable. Students may deduct interest on college loans and spouses may deduct alimony payments. These items are among the tax deductions that are "above the line" and can reduce taxable income.

Many benefit by itemizing their deductions on Schedule A of Form 1040. Taxpayers should consider using Schedule A if their itemized deductions exceed their standard deduction. For the 2006 tax year, the standard deduction is \$5,150 for single taxpayers and \$10,300 for taxpayers who file married filing jointly.

Among the common deductions itemized on Schedule A are state and local income taxes, real estate taxes and home mortgage interest. Charitable donations are only deductible on Schedule A and taxpayers should keep a record, or paper trail of their contributions. For car donations, taxpayers should consider the 2005 law change that generally allows only the gross proceeds of the car sale at auction to be deducted rather than fair market value.

Refinance or sell a home this year? Eligible taxpayers may be able to deduct some costs associated with their loans such as points and home mortgage interest. Taxpayers who sell their home after living in it as their main residence for two of five years may exclude from tax up to \$500,000 in capital gains from the sale of the home.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

If your EAS is on the horizon, then now's the time to act. Contact an Army National Guard representative at 1-800-GO-GUARD.

- Up to \$20,000 Bonus
- Up to two-year non-deployment tour\*
- Up to 100% state tuition funding on top of federal tuition funding
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- Serve in a unit in your hometown

\*One-year non-deployment tours available in all states. Some states also offer two-year non-deployment tours.

1-800-GO-GUARD



## 2006 REVIEW from B1



CPL BRIAN A. TUTHILL

### Annual 'Soldier Ride' receives local support.

Marines of India and Lima Companies, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, cheer on Cpl. Neil Frustaglio July 26, as he passes by during the 2006 annual Soldier Ride.

### MCAGCC celebrates the 4th.

Fireworks lit up the sky over the Combat Center July 4.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER



CPL BRIAN A. TUTHILL

### Thousands attend Charlie Daniels Band performance.

Charlie Daniels rocked the Combat Center Aug. 7 at Victory Field.



CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO

### Hair today, gone tomorrow.

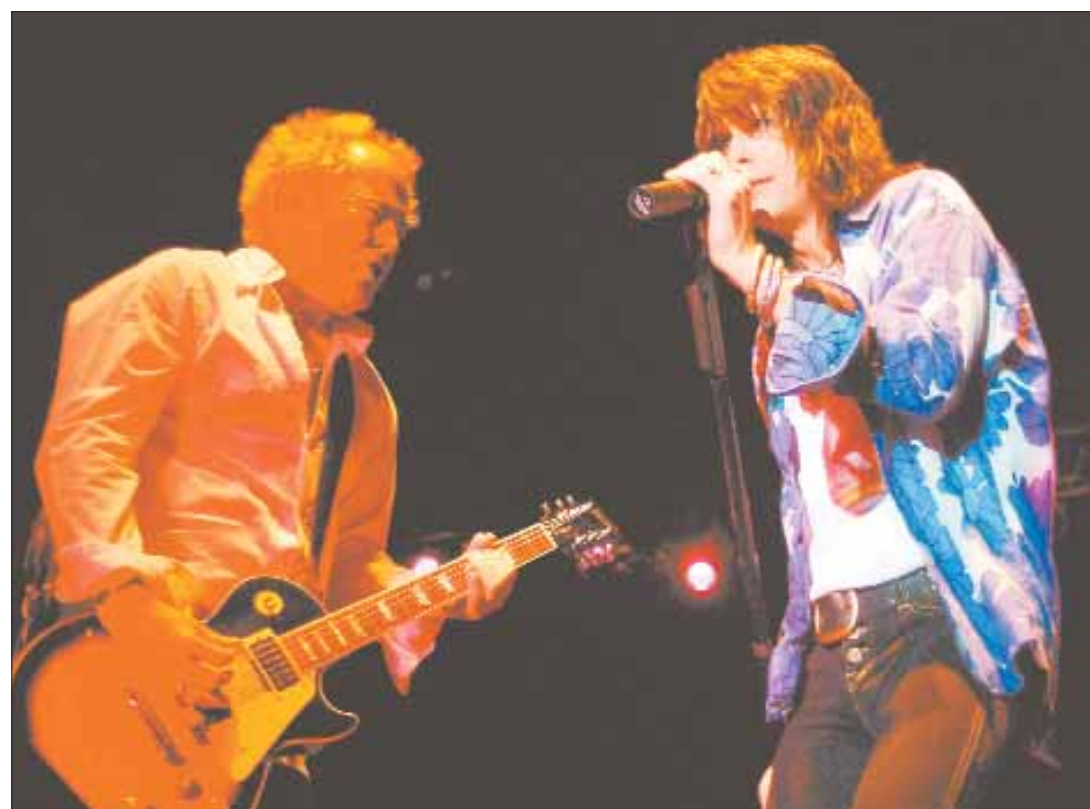
Staff Sgt. Diane M. Durden shaves the hair off Master Gunnery Sgt. Cheryl L. Gillon April 7. Gillon shaved her head to show her support for Durden who was diagnosed with breast cancer.



CPL. HEIDI E. LOREDO

### Marine competes against Iron Chef.

Capt. Eric P. Dominijanni, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., grills his famous steaks June 2 at Camp Wilson for the taping of the Food Network show "Throwdown with Bobby Flay."



CPL BRIAN TUTHILL

### 12,000+ attend 'We Salute You.'

Foreigner lead guitarist Mick Jones and lead vocalist Kelly Hansen belt out the tunes at the "We Salute You" concert May 20.

# ATFP adds 'spice' to Marines' training

by  
LANCE CPL. NICOLE  
LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines aboard the Combat Center participated in Anti-terrorism Force Protection training Wednesday at Victory field.

Marines from the Headquarters Battalion Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Platoon engaged in an all-day training course which taught an advanced level of skills in subduing adversaries, handling an expandable baton, and dealing with the physical and physiological effects of Oleoresin Capsicum gas, better known as pepper spray.

This training course is offered once a month in order to certify Marines who volunteer as Provost Marshal's Office stand-in's in case of an unexpected need for more security aboard the base.

"It will take anywhere from four to six months to qualify the Marines if their section lets them take part in the training," said Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Cortez, HQBN operations chief.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruffo engages a striking pad after being sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum gas during an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection training exercise.

The Marines spent the first part of the morning at PMO's classroom. The training then moved to Del Valle field, where Marines did practical

applications of pressure points, baton draws, baton carries, and baton strikes.

Once back in the classroom, the Marines learned material such as the three types of OC spray, the effect of OC on the human body and the three levels of contamination.

The three types of sprays include: fog spray, stream spray and foam spray. The most irritating spray, the fog spray, has an effective range of three to eight feet. The stream spray has the longest target range of three to 12 feet. The foam spray, which leaves a sticky stain on the opponent, has a range of three to five feet, said Staff Sgt. Kelly

Guinther, the instructor of the course.

Side affects of OC contamination include: a tight chest, involuntary extension of the arms, burning eyes, excessive mucus, anxiety attack and panic.

The three levels of contamination are: level one, which is direct contact with OC, level two, which is indirect contact, and level three, which is open-area contact.

Guinther also informed the class about awareness, target areas, cross-contamination and flammability. He cautioned the class to use OC spray only when there has been a confirmed level of resistance, inform fellow troops before utilizing the spray, and to use code words.

After the class period, the students made their way out to the field once more. There, they were briefed on the five stations of the course.

The first station required them to run to another Marine holding a striking pad, where they performed knee strikes after being sprayed in the face with a stream-spray of OC.

The second station required the Marine to perform upper body strikes, such as rear-hand punches, lead-hand punches, and elbow strikes.

At the third station, the Marine had to engage another Marine dressed in body armor with a baton, while remembering to block himself from strikes.

The fourth station required Marines to block attacks from two other Marines with striking pads. As the student fends off the attackers, a third attacker attempts to take a rubber pistol from the Marine's holster. This was the final station of the course.

Cpl. Jeremiah Neusbaum, a Headquarters Battalion Marine who was OC certified prior to the day's training, said he pretended to be in a life-or-death situation in order to get through the course.

"As long as you feel the pain, you know you are still alive," said Neusbaum. "It teaches you how to prepare your mind to be able to keep your bearing and complete the mission at hand."

***Fueled to Fight, MCCS to offer more healthy food options***

MARINE CORPS  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESS RELEASE

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – Monday, Marine Corps Community Services clubs and snack bars at participating installations began offering a healthy eating program called "Fueled to Fight."

This program was developed in response to the desires of MCCS customers, both military and civilian, for more fresh and nutritious offerings at MCCS food activities.

Participating MCCS clubs and snack bars will offer an enhanced salad bar and at least one healthy entrée and one side dish. These healthy menu items comply with standards suggested in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005 and in many instances will be existing regional or ethnic favorite's that have been modified to conform to the guidelines.

MCCS clubs and snack bar patrons will be able to identify the operations taking part in the "Fueled to Fight" program by the logos displayed at location entrances.

Menu items that meet the "Fueled To Fight" guidelines will also be identified. Table tents, placemats, flyers and posters will be used to promote the program, and help educate customers on how to make healthy choices.

The Combat Center is one of the installations that has been chosen to implement the "Fueled To Fight" program.

For further information on the program contact your MCCS club or snack bar manager.

