

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JANUARY 19, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 2

New Curation Center opens, preserves Mojave's history

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Offering insight and educational opportunity for those stationed at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, a ribbon was cut opening the doorway of the new Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center by Commanding General, Brig Gen. Douglas M. Stone, Wednesday.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division was authorized money to begin design work on the center more than two years ago.

According to the Merriam-

Webster dictionary, paleontology is a science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains. Archeology is defined as the scientific study of material remains, such as fossil relics, artifacts, and monuments, of past human life and activities and remains of the culture of a people.

"We analyzed the costs and determined that it was actually cheaper for us to build a repository at MCAGCC than it was to rent space for our artifacts at another Federally-approved facility," said John Hale, archeologist and collections manager. "The result is our new Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center. It is essentially a warehouse with tight temperature and humidity controls. In addition to storing the artifacts, bones, stone tools, and other materials that we recover during the excavation process, we store all of our records there, including field notes, maps, photographs, and reports.

"Furthermore, we have some limited interpretive space in the entrance hallway and scattered throughout the building covering different periods in time," he continued.

NREA, who is in charge of the center, is also in charge of making sure sites are excavated before units continue training in certain areas.

"We have two methods," said Dr. Jim Cassidy, archeologist. "One is avoiding the site if it serves a function, and two is



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone along with the help of Maj. Milton Clausen, NREA, and base sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. William Johnson cut the ribbon opening the new Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center on base, Wednesday.

conducting archeological investigations. I will personally survey the cultural resource and make sure nothing is destroyed. If it is a big job, we will call in a contractor. We try and facilitate the mission while preserving and documenting all the resources we can."

The center will be opened to Marines, their families, civil-

ian visitors and employees.

The center will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 to 5 p.m. and the first and third Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. People are welcome to tour the facility during these times, said Dr. Marie Cottrell, natural resources officer.

There are over 1,600

archaeological sites on base. The center will showcase paleontological and archaeological materials gathered at those sites, along with historical documents used to investigate and track these discoveries.

"I think this is outstanding and very educational," said Cpl. Bryan Istre, Headquarters Battalion. "I think all Marines

should learn about the history of this base."

While the center continues to grow with artifacts, it will continue to grow as an educational opportunity for those who pass through the Combat Center.

For more information on the Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center, call (760) 830-7641.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

The new Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center, which opened Wednesday, displays different historical artifacts recovered such as this Native American rock painting.

MCIWEST gets new top enlisted Marine

CPL. BRIAN J. REIMERS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Marine Corps Installations West received a new top enlisted Marine Jan. 12, during a Relief and Appointment ceremony here.

Sergeant Maj. Barbara J. Titus was appointed as the Sergeant Major of MCIWEST replacing Sgt. Maj. Wayne R. Bell. The billet not only oversees Camp Pendleton, but also six other Marine installations on the West coast.

Major Gen. Michael R. Lehnert, Commanding General of MCIWEST, spoke to his new senior enlisted advisor, "Sergeant Major, I don't know if you ever aspired to be the Sergeant Major of a Marine Corps Installation, either East or West, but one nice thing about this particular job is that you have an opportunity to affect Marines and their families for years and years to come."

Hundreds of flags and camouflage dressed

Marines stood tall in the background as the ceremony highlighted the top ranking enlisted Marine and her new billets.

"I look forward to the challenges that I will be meeting here as the sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations West," Titus said to Lehnert. "I am also thrilled and happy for the opportunity to serve with you and to serve Marine Corps Installations West Marines, sailors and family members."

Titus enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve March 3, 1978, and reported to Recruit Training at Parris Island, S.C. Since the completion of Recruit Training, Titus has served as an administrative clerk, air traffic control navigational aids repairman, drill instructor and company 1st sergeant.

Some of her personal decorations and awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps achievement Medal.



CPL. STEVEN A. VALLETTE

Sgt. Maj. Barbara J. Titus receives a sword from Maj. Gen. Michael R. Lehnert, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, Jan. 12 during a relief and appointment ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Weekend Weather

Friday  57/30
Mostly Sunny

Saturday  58/33
Partly Sunny

Sunday  61/34
Mostly Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: CFC donors receive awards
- A6: RCT-7 concludes year-long tour
- A8: President authorizes tour extensions

Observations



DUI's on the rise

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1929 —

Brig. Gen. Smedley Butler's 3rd Marine Brigade was disbanded at Tientsin, China.

Need a copy of the Observation Post from 2006?

If you were featured in a story or 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.

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing



The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

How Not to Get Hooked by a 'Phishing' Scam

Phishing is a high-tech scam that uses spam or pop-up messages to deceive you into disclosing personal information. The message usually requests you to update or validate your account information. The message directs you to a Web site that looks just like a legitimate organization's site, but it isn't. Your personal information is then used to make unauthorized purchases and in some cases your identity is stolen.

Preventive Measures:

1. If you get an e-mail or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply or click on the link in the message.
2. Don't e-mail personal or financial information.
3. Review credit card and bank account statements.
4. Use firewall and anti-virus software, keep it up to date.
5. Be cautious about opening any attachment or downloading any files from e-mails you receive.

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

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



Medal Of Honor Citation for Cpl. Jason L. Dunham

Marine Corps News, Headquarters Marine Corps

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

CORPORAL
JASON L. DUNHAM
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt approximately two kilometers to the west.

Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team toward the engagement to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander's convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy. Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons. As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

Marines, Sailors and cab drivers: MCGS 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.

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

WE ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE
THANKS FOR DRINKING RESPONSIBLY

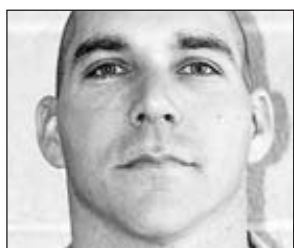
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Destination	_____
Total fee	_____
Driver	_____
Date/Time	_____
Customer	_____
Signature	_____

Centerspeak

"What would you want your mark on history to be?"

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



FIRST SGT. ANDREW T. CECE
2/5, GOLF COMPANY

"I want my mark on history to be raising a happy and successful family. I'm already making history. It's time to pass it on to my kids."



CPL. MARK GORZIK
TTECG

"I was in 3/5, and my mark on history is pulling down the [Saddam Hussein] statue."



PFC VICTOR J. OVIEDO
MCCES, COMPANY A

"I'd like to invent something that will make this world a safer place."

OBSERVATION POST

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What's on your mind?

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

Call Cpl. Evan M. Eagan at 830-6213

Or e-mail to: 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 e-mailed 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.

LAST CALL FOR FLU SHOTS

The Adult Medical Care Clinic in Bldg. 1552 will be having a last call for flu vaccines Wednesday and Friday from 12 to 3:30 p.m. Any active duty personnel from Headquarters Battalion or Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School who has not yet had the flu vaccine is urged to come to the clinic to receive this vaccine. Vaccines prevent the vaccinated person from becoming sick and also stop the spread of a potentially deadly illness. Supervisors should ensure that subordinates have received this vaccine as it directly relates to medical readiness.

PHELPS HALL CLOSING

Phelps Hall will be closed until Feb. 4 in order to remove and replace the linoleum mess deck. Littleton Hall will be open in order to support the Combat Center's feeding mission during the closure.

Littleton Hall's hours of operation are as follows:

Weekdays		Weekends	
Breakfast	5:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast Brunch	8 -11 a.m.
Lunch	10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Dinner Brunch	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Dinner	4 - 6 p.m.	Takeout	Closed
Takeout	5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.		

The Points of contact are Capt. Knowles at 830-6822 or Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tidwell at 830-7017.

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. Call the Public Affairs Office for more information at 830-5472.

LEISURE ITEMS

SMP JANUARY POOL TOURNAMENT

The Single Marine Program will host a pool tournament at the Zone Tuesday. 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 today 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.

SMP MEDIEVAL TIMES TRIP

The Single Marine Program is hosting a Medieval Times trip Jan. 27 departing the Zone at 10 a.m. The cost is \$40 which includes transportation and a delicious meal. Come and join us for a step back in time with castles, maidens and jousting. It promises to be a night to remember. For more information, call 830-4767.

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

JOLIE ELENA TAIT

Daughter of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Thomas K. Tait III
Born Dec. 5, 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches.

TEARRA SHANTAI LEVENE

Daughter of Petty Officer 3rd Class and Mrs. Joshua Levene
Born Dec. 4, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

SOPHIA MARIE SCHUSTER

Daughter of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Paul Schuster
Born Dec. 5, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

CFC eagle level donors receive awards

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one Combined Federal Campaign donors were awarded by Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone for being an eagle level donor at the Officers' Club Tuesday.

To be recognized as an eagle donor, they had to contribute more than \$1,000 annually. The 2006-2007 CFC began Sept. 8 and ended Nov. 15. This year the campaign set a goal of \$225,000. Although they fell short, they saw an improvement from the previous year.

"Setting a goal is a good motivator," said Brenda Roberts, CFC chairman. "It provides the focus in the direction you want to go and then helps you stay on track."

This year the CFC contacted 10,930 personnel out of 11,000 and received a total of \$197,931.09 versus the 6,932 personnel contacted last year and the \$160,501.04 donated.

This year's eagle level donors were: Pfc. Thomas Linzy, Pfc. Brandon Kelsey, Sgt. Joshua Carson, Staff Sgt. G. L. Guthrie, 1st Lt. Geir J. Gabrielson, Capt. E.A. Cassleman, Maj. Blair J. Sokol, Lt. Cmdr. Jason B. Faunce, Lt. Col. M. L. Jones, Cmdr. Barry A. Wayne,

Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, Jo Rosbough, Jose G. Rios Sr., Carol Boyer, David L. John, Paul Otis-Diehl, Bernard A. Gomico Jr., C. J. Shirley, Taligola Kiboigo and the Combat Center Fire Department.

This year there was an increase in contribution from everyone. Three specific units stood out among the rest.

"We had great participation from all the Combat Center units," said Roberts. "However, several units did exceptionally well this year. First Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment pledged \$17,606 with two eagle donors. Second Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment pledged \$23,097 and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School pledged \$24,934 with two eagle donors also."

The CFC allows all federal employees to donate to U.S., local and international charities. While some people donate for the sheer reason of donating, some donate to the charities which seem to hit home.

"I donate because I have cousins who are affected by tumors," said Linzy. "Also when I was in Iraq, I saw kids who were less fortunate and I told myself, when I get back, I'm going to do something to help."

Others like Capt. Elizabeth Cassleman, Company C. MCCES, see it as a privilege to be able to donate.

"I feel like it's my duty to donate,"



Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone presents Pfc. Thomas Linzy with an eagle level donor award for contributing more than \$1,000 annually to the Combined Federal Campaign.

said Cassleman. "I'm privileged enough to be a captain and receive the paycheck I do. I want to be able to pass it on to those who are less fortunate. It's nice that we can donate both

domestically and internationally to help people out."

This year's CFC proved to be a success with an increase in both contact with the units and increased donations.

"The 2006-2007 CFC was a great success thanks to all the hard work of the unit CFC representatives and the support of the commands," said Roberts.

Camp Wilson Marines fueled for more training

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

You can't expect a convoy to get very far on empty tanks.

Although Marines training at Camp Wilson are not in immediate danger of being stranded in an insurgent-infested area of Iraq, empty fuel tanks add problems to the already demand-

ing training Marines and sailors must endure.

Therefore, it was a relief to Camp Wilson Marines when a new fuel farm was created last November.

The fuel farm was established and managed by Gunnery Sgt. Elijah J. Dent, a logistics chief from 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division based in Camp Lejuene, N.C., who was

assigned as the Camp Wilson maintenance chief.

Dent revealed that getting the project started was the most difficult part due to extensive paperwork.

"There was no one around willing to do all the tiring paperwork and leg work," said Dent. "So, I went out and did it when no one else would."

Dent also supervised his small, but proficient team of

Marines who manned the fuel farm.

The crew who helped run the fuel farm included Cpl. Jackson L. Wishin, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and Cpl. Aaron S. Jordan, Combat Logistics Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group. They were responsible for setting-up and running the fuel monitoring and overlooking any potential problems with fueling equipment, as well as routine daily checks.

They also were responsible for maintaining the maintenance and efficiency of the fuel farm when Dent was not present.

"This fuel farm is used to refill all tactical vehicles that are in support of Mojave Viper training," said Dent.

The fuel farm consists of three 15-foot wide, 6-foot deep concrete pools, each holding its own rubber storage bladder holding about 20,000 gallons of JP8 fuel, said Dent.

"The idea of having a fuel farm in Camp Wilson is one that has been floating around for quite some time," said Dent.

"It's just that no one wanted to commit to the idea or carry out plans to make it work."

Dent, along with the rest of the fuel farm crew, received approximately 36 hours of training from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 and the Combat Center Fire Department.

"We got plenty of good training before we were given this job," said Wishin. "We were trained on what to do in case of a spill and how to use a TAU [twin agent unit], which is pretty much a giant fire extinguisher," said Wishin.

Prior to the fuel farm, the training units aboard Camp Wilson relied solely on the transportation of fuel from the mainside fuel station by use of 7-ton trucks.

"Depending on operations, we could send anywhere from 40 to 100 trucks a day to get fuel," said Dent. "And each truck carries about 900 gallons of fuel, so you can imagine how much fuel we needed on a day-to-day basis."

Aside from the inconvenience, the process of transporting fuel from mainside was also very time-consuming, which hindered training units' effectiveness, said Dent.

"This is so much more effective and so much easier," Dent said.

Wishin agreed, explaining the rotation of 24-hour shifts among the Marines responsible for over-seeing the fuel farm.

Using Jordan as an example, Wishin explained although Jordan was on duty, Wishin would still make an appearance every day for at least an hour or so to make sure things were running smoothly.

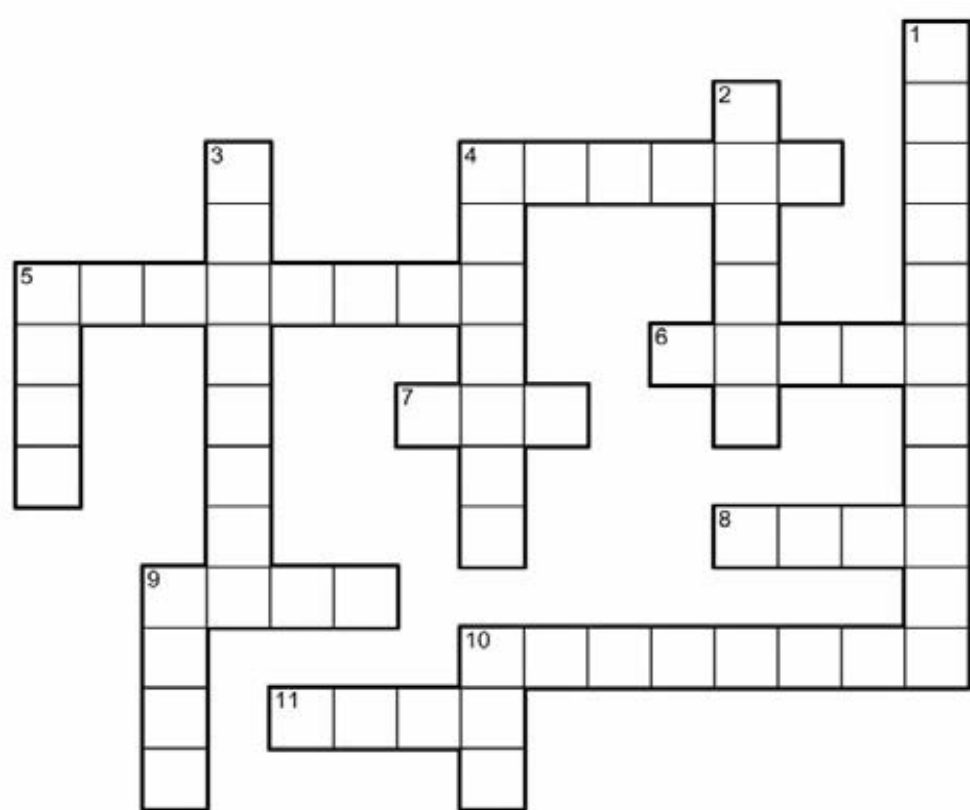
Dent also made frequent visits to the fuel farm to oversee operations and to check-up on the welfare of his Marines.

Dent returned to Camp Lejuene Dec. 20, leaving his tribute to hard-working Marines behind. He said he was glad to have such a positive impact on the operations of Mojave Viper.

"I didn't do it alone," said Dent. "I had the help of good Marines like Gunnery Sgt. Ruby Fink, who helped over look maintenance. And these Devil Dogs helped just as much," said Dent, referring to Jordan and Wishin.

With Dent's help, operations at Camp Wilson will be more proficient and allow Marines and sailors to focus on training with a full tank.

WORDS THAT BEGIN “Z”



ACROSS

4. A dead body that has been brought back to life by a supernatural force.
5. A white crystalline oxide. Not to be mistaken for a diamond.
6. Referees in football and hockey are often referred to as this animal.
7. Animal kingdom.
8. Flavor or interest; piquancy. The outermost part of the rind of an orange, lemon, or other citrus fruit, used as flavoring.
9. A metallic element that is brittle at room temperature but becomes malleable when heated. Atomic number 30.
10. A rigid airship having a long cylindrical body supported by internal gas cells.
11. An area or a region distinguished from adjacent parts by a distinctive feature or characteristic; a segment.

DOWN

1. Animal constituent of plankton; mainly small crustaceans and fish larvae.
2. A fastening device consisting of parallel rows of metal, plastic, or nylon teeth on adjacent edges of an opening that are interlocked by a sliding tab.
3. A variety of squash having an elongated shape and a smooth, thin, dark green rind.
4. Fervent; keen; fanatical; obsessive.
5. The principal god of the Greek pantheon, ruler of the heavens, and father of other gods and mortal heroes.
9. None; nothing; zip; zilch.
10. A school of Mahayana Buddhism that asserts that enlightenment can be attained through meditation, self-contemplation, and intuition rather than through faith and devotion.

[Solutions on A9]

Submit Your Entries for the 2007 Voting Slogan Contest

The 2008 primary and general elections promise to be very exciting, and we need a slogan to inspire interest and participation. The Voting Slogan Contest is a biennial contest sponsored by the Federal Voting Assistance Program in its efforts to promote interest in elections among citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act — members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, their families, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

It is very easy to participate. Just create a simple slogan, or slogans, that expresses in your own words the importance of voting or something that may inspire someone to vote, and submit it to the FVAP.

Upon completion of the contest, a panel of independent judges will review slogan submissions and choose the winning slogan on its originality and motivational value. This winning slogan will be featured in the FVAP's 2008 information campaign which focuses on increasing voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide and encouraging them to participate. In addition, slogans will be posted on the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov in the 2008-2009 Voting Assistance Guide, on motivational posters, audiovisual materials and in other FVAP publications and manuals.

The contest winner and runners-up will not only feel the satisfaction of knowing that their slogan is helping improve voter awareness, but they will also be given a certificate of recognition for their contribution to this important endeavor.

There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may submit, but all slogans must be submitted separately, with only one slogan per entry. The deadline for submission is April 9.

All submissions must include your full name, service, if military, mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number and e-mail address so that we may contact you upon winning.

Send entries via one of the following methods:

E-mail:

slogan@fvap.ncr.gov. Text only, one slogan per e-mail with contact information on each e-mail. Enter "Voting Slogan Contest" on subject line. Due to security concerns, e-mail messages with attachments are subject to deletion.

Fax:

703-696-1352 or DSN 426-1352. Visit the FVAP Website for toll-free fax numbers from 51 countries. Submit separate page for each slogan with contact information on each page. No cover sheet is necessary.

Mail:

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
Attn: Voting Slogan Contest
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

If submitting by mail, please type or print (legibly) on regular 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper one slogan per page with contact information on each page.

Please join the FVAP in helping to inspire others to vote by submitting your entry today. You could be one of this year's winners!

Religious Ministries Directorate of MCAGCC/MAGTFTC invites you to Christian Woman's Fellowship

Our Winter Luau will be held Tuesday from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Successive weekly meetings for Bible study begin Jan. 30 and are held Tuesdays from 9 - 11 a.m. Free childcare for these events is provided at the Village Center by CDC staff. CWF meetings are held in the West Wing of the Protestant Chapel. For more information, call Kacie Salisbury at 368-0444 or Jennifer Faunce at 368-3502.

RCT-7 leaves Anbar province 'better place' after year-long deployment

SGT. ROE F. SEIGLE
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

AL ASAD, Iraq (Jan. 11, 2007) — For nearly a year, U.S. Marines in Iraq's western Al Anbar Province have recruited thousands of Iraqi police officers, improved security in cities like Haditha, Al Qa'im and Hit, and are "leaving Anbar Province better than we received it," according to one senior Marine official here.

"We have accomplished the initial mission that was handed to us...and that was to train and equip Iraqi Security Forces," said Lt. Col Christopher Dowling, operations officer for Regimental Combat Team 7.

The Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based regiment is the Coalition Forces unit that has spent the past 12 months in western Al Anbar Province,

where U.S. forces faced some of the fiercest fighting in Iraq while recruiting and training Iraqi Security Forces.

The regiment was responsible for providing security to more than 30,000 square miles in Anbar Province, stretching from the Iraq's borders with Syria and Jordan, east hundreds of miles to the city of Hit, located 30 miles northwest of Ramadi.

Now, RCT-7 will be relieved by the North Carolina-based Regimental Combat Team 2 as part of a regularly scheduled rotation of troops that occurs yearly in the Al Anbar Province.

In 12 months, the Marines of RCT-7 have recruited more than 3,000 Iraqi police officers to provide security and eventually relieve Coalition Forces of that task in western Anbar Province, where insurgents

launch daily attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Despite threats and violence from insurgents, local men in the Province have continued to volunteer to join local police forces — proof that the Iraqi people want a "future for Iraq — not a future with Coalition Forces but a future with Iraq," said Dowling, a native of Houston, Texas.

About 138 Iraqis were recruited last month from the regiment's area of operation and sent to police academies located in Jordan, where new recruits spend eight weeks training before they return to their hometowns as policemen.

"(Iraqis can have) a brighter future by having Iraqi Forces there, having the IP's, (Iraqi soldiers) there and working with the sheiks from the tribes," said Dowling.

When RCT-7 arrived in Iraq last January, the Marines faced multiple counts of daily small arms fire and improvised explosive device attacks. The entire western portion of the Province lacked even one policeman, according to Dowling.

In the midst of these insurgent attacks in the past year, RCT-7 and its Iraqi counterparts have captured more than 2,000 insurgents and located more than 400 insurgent weapons and munitions caches. This was accomplished through thousands of foot and vehicle patrols.

"We have challenged the enemy in all locations," said Dowling. "We have taken his ability to logistically supply himself."

Security conditions in western Anbar Province have improved enough so that families are now walking down the streets with their children, city councils are meeting regularly with U.S. and Iraqi forces to discuss infrastructure projects, agriculture and economy is beginning to flourish in some



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS

Marines and sailors from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, along with a handful of Iraqi soldiers, provided two days of medical evaluations to citizens of the small villages along the Iraqi-Syrian border in western Al Anbar Province June 10-11.

areas, according to Dowling.

A year ago, most Iraqi families in western Anbar would not leave their houses, said Dowling.

"They (Iraqis) are seeing that being with the insurgency, being with foreign fighters is not the future, but being with a peaceful nation, a nation that can build, an agrarian and industrial nation in itself is the way to go," said Dowling.

Some of the 3,000 Iraqi police officers, who are a mixture of Sunnis and Shiites, are providing security along with Coalition Forces in the Haditha Triad region and Baghdadi, which was once a hotbed of insurgent activity. The Triad and Baghdadi cities are located in the heart of the Sunni-dominated Al Anbar Province along the Euphrates River 120 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Dowling says that recruiting local police was a challenge last year because of the threats of murder and kidnapping by

insurgents. Anyone who spoke or cooperated with Coalition Forces faced being murdered and kidnapped by insurgents.

Earlier last year, several Iraqi police recruits were gunned down and killed by insurgents in front of a police station in Anbar Province. An Iraqi police chief in Rawah, a city of about 30,000 northwest of Haditha, was beheaded last June. Iraqi police stations in Husaybah, located just east of the Iraq-Syria border, were attacked twice by explosive-laden insurgent suicide bombers.

Still, the police remained vigilant, and most remained on the job or returned shortly after the attacks, according to RCT-7 news reports.

But the Marines continued to patrol the cities and suppress the insurgency. During a recent operation dubbed "Majid," more than 2,000 North Carolina-based Marines joined RCT-7 Marines to "clear and hold" several cities in the Haditha Triad region.

Marines who patrolled the cities reported a 90 percent decrease in insurgent attacks because an eight foot tall dirt wall was constructed around the cities, as well as key entry control points, to keep insurgents out. All vehicles coming into and leaving the cities were inspected for weapons and insurgents. A similar dirt wall was constructed around Anah, a city of 25,000 east of Haditha.

With the extra security established, 13 Iraqis recently walked up to the Marines' forward operating base in Hadithah and asked to join the police force. They were screened, recruited and sent to the training academy in Jordan.

"These people, as most peoples, will want order in their lives and stability, and I believe, I firmly believe that we're doing that," said Col. W. Blake Crowe, commanding officer of RCT-7, during a recent Pentagon Press Corps briefing.

See RCT-7, A7



SGT. ROE F. SEIGLE

Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, escort two men to a detention facility June 1 in Haqlaniyah, Iraq.

RCT-7 from A7

Along with growing police forces, city council meetings are being held with Coalition Forces in Rawah, for the first time in six months and more are being scheduled. A bank and courthouse were also opened.

"We have to win the confidence of local leaders," said Crowe. "A lot of these engagements take time. Due to murder and intimidation, that is a challenging aspect of our task."

In Hit, one tribe alone had 800 men volunteer to join the police force and also committed close to 300 volunteers for the Iraq Army, said Crowe.

But Crowe said that recruiting police in the region has also become less of a challenge because Iraqis are realizing that peace and stability can be achieved by having Iraqi Security Forces.

"We've built the Iraqi Police, we're building their police stations, we've equipped them with hundreds of vehicles and we're supplying them with the accoutrements of war," he said.

Moreover, policemen have received equipment with RCT-7's assistance, such as helmets, small-arms weapons and training by Special Weapons and Tactics teams. Nearly 100 Iraqi police officers and soldiers

were also trained and Iraqi Government-certified as medics.

Dowling credits RCT-2, who operated in western Anbar in 2005, with providing RCT-7 a "balanced area of operations" that was conducive to recruiting policemen by "giving them a foothold" in Al Anbar. That was achieved when eight U.S. and Iraqi military battalions ousted insurgents from and secured Al Qa'im, located along the Syrian border, and wiping out insurgents and foreign fighters throughout key locations in the region, said Dowling.

"We held that with one American battalion...and three Iraqi battalions that gave the local population the confidence to back their government and stand up a police force that today is over 1,400 Iraqi police that are well-trained, well-equipped and well-led," added Crowe.

Dowling said Iraqi soldiers and police are able to spot insurgents much quicker than Coalition Forces – a plus of Iraqis providing their own security.

"Some of the best people to do that are the Iraqi Army because they know foreign fighters' dialects, they know the towns' people (and) they know how Iraqis act," said Dowling.

Although security in the region has stabilized in the last year, Dowling said the biggest challenge for RCT-2 is to "keep the momentum going."

"There are good days, and there are bad days and you got to remember those good days," said Dowling. "When you lose your Marines or your sailor or your soldiers it becomes very hard to press on or believe in your cause."

During the deployment, 68 servicemembers assigned to RCT-7 were killed in action.

"You cannot describe the



CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS

Lt. Col. Nicholas F. Marano, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is accompanied by several Iraqi Security Force commanders and the mayor of Karabilah, Iraq, as they cross a newly-constructed bridge over the Euphrates River in Karabilah, July 23.

loss of one of your friends," said Sgt. Rodrigue Jean Paul, a native of Queens, N.Y. and a platoon guide assigned to the Hawaii-based 3rd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, which spent seven months in Iraq as part of RCT-7. "It is a part of you that is lost and you can never get back. You just take what you have left and move forward but never, ever, forget those that you lost."

Jean Paul made this statement in October of last year right before he departed Iraq after a seven-month deployment. He was close friends with Cpl. Yull Estrada, a 21-year-old who was killed Sept. 20, 2006.

Lt. Col. Norman Cooling said in October that the servicemembers who are serving in Iraq are a "select few with a moral compass, selflessness and a strong set of values."

"When the greatest threat of our generation came, the majority of Americans watched it on T.V.," said Cooling, who commanded 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, when the unit was in Iraq as part of RCT-7 last year. "Only a select few...will volunteer to risk their lives to

meet that threat."

Despite the sacrifices that were made, RCT-7's Marines, sailors and soldiers, are still proud of the fact that they are turning over the Anbar province to RCT-2 in better condition than they received it.

"Good things are happening out here," said Crowe to reporters during his recent Pentagon Press Corps briefing. "I can walk you down streets that you would never walk down before. I can show you the most prosperous market, that on market day, six to 10,000 people come in from

the desert... to go to the market to buy their goods."

On the eve of RCT-7's deployment to Iraq last January, Crowe gave words of encouragement to his troops, a short phrase he repeated nearly a year later during his Pentagon Press Corps briefing.

"We don't plan to fail. We didn't come here to tie and we didn't come here to lose; we came here to win," said Crowe. "I'm extremely proud of what the Marines, soldiers and sailors of Regimental Combat Team 7 have done this past year."



STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN

An Iraqi soldier speaks with residents of Hit, Iraq – a city of 30,000 in Al Anbar Province – during a foot patrol June 11.



LANCE CPL. NATHANIEL SAPP

Marines assist 2nd Lt. Samuel Joiner to safety after he was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Anah, Iraq last month.



CPL. GRAHAM A. PAULSGROVE

The sun sets on Marines from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, May 3 in western Al Anbar province, Iraq.

President authorizes unit tour extensions in Iraq

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

PRESS RELEASE

Washington — President George W. Bush announced Jan. 11, an increase in forces in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom. This increase included extending selected Marine Corps units currently in country.

The Marine Corps units affected are: 3rd Battalion (reinforced), 4th Marine Regiment;

1st Battalion (reinforced), 6th Marine Regiment; 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) consisting of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (rein-

forced) and Combat Logistics Battalion 15.

The two reinforced infantry battalions will be extended for approximately 60 to 90 days. The 15th MEU (SOC) will remain in Iraq for approxi-

mately 45 days. There are about 25,000 Marines currently serving in Iraq. The affected units and key family members have been notified by their chains of command.

These battalions are

scheduled to deploy again approximately seven to nine months after they return from Iraq, assuming operational requirements remain constant. The 15th MEU (SOC) is expected to resume its normal schedule once its current deployment ends.

This is the fourth OIF deployment for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment while 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment have conducted two deployments to Iraq. Also, this is the third time the 15th MEU (SOC) has supported Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Per current policy, Marines in these units who are nearing their end of active duty service commitment will be rotated back to their home duty station for out-processing. However, if individual Marines volunteer to stay with their unit, they can initiate their request via the chain of command. Marines in these units who are slated to attend formal schools or are in receipt of orders to move to new units or commands should not be affected by these extensions.

These extensions will strengthen the coalition forces' abilities to secure areas of Al-Anbar province that might draw insurgents escaping the increase of forces in Baghdad.

Our objective remains a peaceful and stable Iraq that is at peace with its neighbors while being able to defend itself from internal and external threats. We remain committed to helping Iraq achieve those goals.



3/11 India Battery returns after 6-month deployment to Okinawa

LANCE CPL. NICOLE LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Although the conference room was filled with eager wives holding big signs and posters, the children still managed to find space to run around the legs of people and tables. Only a few official huggers and fellow Marines peppered the room, but everyone present was awaiting the return of Marines of India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

The Marines of 3/11 were attached to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, the Battalion Landing Team of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, when they deployed for a six-month tour to Okinawa, Japan, July 11.

They embarked on the USS Juneau (LPD 10), a ship serving as a part of the Essex Forward Deployed Amphibious Readiness Group.

In August, Marines of 3/11 conducted a five-day exercise where they fired more than 500 rounds. The live-fire training sharpened the Marines' skills with weapons such as the M-198 155mm Howitzer medium

Howitzer cannons, said Capt. Stephen Ford, India Battery commanding officer.

Marines also received a 10-day non-lethal training exercise package complete with an Oleoresin Capsicum spray station in Camp Fuji, as well as bilateral training exercises with foreign military service members like the Philippine Marines.

When the units disembarked Okinawa in November, 20 Marines went to China for additional bilateral training.

"Those 20 Marines and other Marines from 1/5 got together with the Chinese military and played tug-of-war and stuff like that," said Ford. "It was a great goodwill gesture. Plus, it was the first time since 1942 that Marines went over to China and stayed there for a while."

Although this deployment was shorter than the standard seven-month deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the time away from loved ones does not become any easier.

For family members like Rebecca Mahoney, wife of Staff Sgt. Kevin Mahoney, numerous deployments stack up quickly. Mahoney said it became easy to lose track of where her husband had gone



Cpl. Patrick Edmonson, radio operator with 3/11, kisses his wife Whitney Jan. 12 in the 3/11 conference room.

and where he was going.

"After deployment number eight, I just started losing count," said Rebecca. She added that her husband was deployed only a week after moving into their new home on base.

"I'm wondering if he is even going to know where home is," said Mahoney. "He hasn't even seen any of our things in our house yet."

Mahoney said despite the miles that lie between her and her husband, he still got to watch the kids open half of their Christmas presents by means of a web cam.

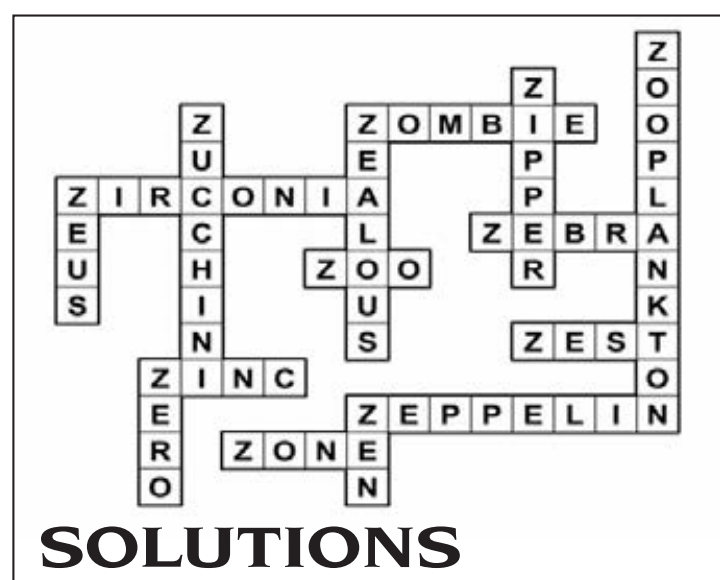
"The kids saved the other half of their presents so we

could have another Christmas with him," said Mahoney. "The kids have been waiting forever for him to come back home."

1st Lt. Sean T. Campbell, the family readiness officer for 3/11, said homecomings are a crazy but cheerful time.

"As of Tuesday, we thought they were all flying in on Sunday morning," said Campbell. "We just found out yesterday about the split arrivals. I'm just happy everyone got back home safely."

The rest of the battery returned home Sunday at the West Gym.



SOLUTIONS



LANCE CPL. NICOLE LAVINE

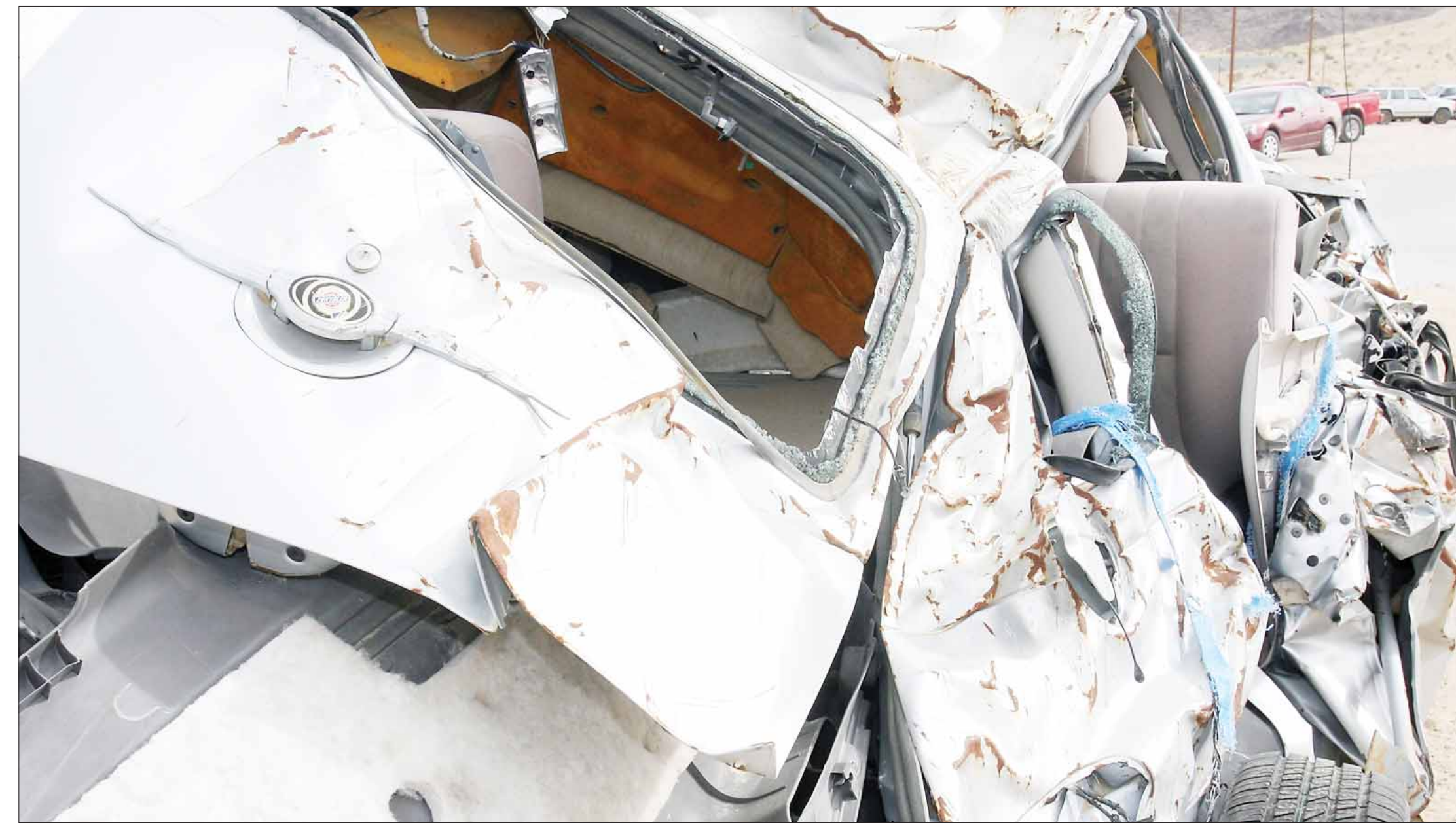
Sgt. Christopher Harp, liaison chief, grins at his son Tristan Jan. 12 at the 3/11 conference room.



OBSERVATIONS

JAN. 19, 2007

A sobering trend: DUI's on the rise at the Combat Center



CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

A totaled vehicle is displayed outside the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School's student barracks on Griffin Street, as a reminder of the consequences of reckless driving.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A new year means a fresh start and renewed goals. The goal of the Combat Center Safety Office and Provost Marshal's Office is to decrease the number of drivers under the influence of alcohol aboard the base.

Michael Wells-Smith, the Combat Center Safety Director, said there has been 53 DUI's to date for fiscal year 2007.

"This averages out to 15 per month, which would put us at 181 for the year if we don't stop this upward trend of irresponsible drinking and driving," he said.

Comparing 2004 and 2005 DUI statistics to 2006 reveals a slight decrease in incidences, said Master Sgt. Anthony Brenner, chief at the Combat Center Safety Office.

Although the decrease was only about 10 people, it is still progress. It means nearly a dozen less Marines and sailors made the decision to get behind the wheel after drinking. At least 10 less innocent lives were not put at risk last year.

Wells-Smith said leadership plays a large role in the actions of off-duty service members.

"It ultimately rests with the driver who chooses to drive under the influence," he said. "But it comes down to leadership. If those leaders would take a few minutes a day and require their Marines to listen to the consequences of DUI's and how it affects their career and the lives of others, perhaps it would be enough."

Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, Combat Center sergeant major, said he doesn't have a problem with legal-aged service members drinking, as long as they make the right decisions.

"If you get behind a wheel, and whether you feel impaired or not, you are risking not only your life, but the lives of everyone else on the road," said Johnson.

According to the Center Safety Office records, the average number of DUI's in fiscal year 2004 was 11. The following year brought an increased average of 13 DUI's per month. Fortunately, the average went back down to 11 in 2006.

Due to the fact that many drink and drive and get away with it, the reality of death and losing a career may seem like a far-

fetched possibility. The idea of killing a family on the way home from a restaurant, or even a fellow service member is one that doesn't cross the mind of an intoxicated driver.

Wells-Smith said he feels if service members were more aware of the death and destruction they could be causing, it may be enough to prevent drinking and driving altogether.

Fortunately, no deaths resulted from drunk driving in the past year. It is a record the safety office says they wish to keep.

"Marines take care of their own," Wells-Smith said. "Marines don't leave other Marines on a battle field, either. Even if they're not on the front lines, Marines still walk on dangerous battlefields daily."

In an effort to expand safety knowledge and execution, the Combat Center Safety Office will soon be developing Safety Awareness Training for corporals and sergeants. The training will focus on topics such as DUI's, Operational Risk Management, motorcycle and private motor safety and off-duty and recreation safety.

For more information, call the safety office at 830-3779.

Palm Springs USO opens doors to troops



CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — A United Services Organization Center was recently opened in the Palm Springs International Airport to accommodate traveling troops and their families.

The facility is open to active, reserve, former and retired military members and their families from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, and assists in meeting their needs after those hours, said Roxy Snell, USO volunteer.

The center offers a place to rest and store luggage, refreshments, books, games, playing cards, television, videos, telephones and help with transportation and flight information. The USO also has an agreement with two local hotels to provide rooms to troops that have to spend the night due to delayed flights.

"We try to take care of the troops any way we can," said Snell.

"We have first-aid kits, calling cards, sewing kits, and if we don't have what they need, we'll do our best to make up for it."

The USO is a Congressionally Chartered non-profit organization that relies on public donations and volunteers to operate. Everything in the room, provided by the City of Palm Springs, was donated, including the sofas, chairs, microwave, television, movies, reading materials and food.

The USO was formed in 1941 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt determined it would be best if private organizations handled recreation of the U.S. armed forces.

During World War II, the USO was a way for the community to participate in the war effort. In more than 3,000 communities, USO centers were established to become the "Home Away from Home," according to the USO's official Web site, <http://www.uso.org>.

There are plenty of places to relax at the Palm Springs International Airport's new USO Center located by the baggage claim terminals.

See NEW USO, B2

MWSS-374 Marine wins big on 'Price is Right,' leaves in luxury

LANCE CPL. RANDY LITTLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Hopeful thoughts ran through his mind as he reached his hand into a bucket, which seemed to go on forever, to pull out another piece to his puzzle. He would either be successful in pulling out another number to complete the price tag of a brand new Cadillac DTS, or he would pull out an x marked piece that would bring him to defeat.

Cpl. Chad Van Rys, an aircraft rescue fire-fighter, with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and native of Modesto, Calif., was recently chosen to appear as a contestant on the game show "The Price is Right" during a Single Marine Program trip to a taping of the show.

"I remember watching 'The Price is Right' with my grandma when I was around 15, and I remember thinking how cool it would be to be able to go on the show," Van Rys said.

Van Rys and several of his friends went to the production lot where the show is taped to find out if they could be on the show, he said.

"There were a lot of people there trying to become contestants on the show, and I guess I just stood out because they picked me as a contestant," he said enthusiastically.

He was called up to one of the podiums where they first have to bid on a prize. The contestant with the closest guess to the actual price without going over earns a chance at winning a bigger prize.

"We were bidding on a three-in-one multi-

purpose game table," he explained. "Everyone overbid on the table the first time so we had to bid on it again. I guessed \$580 and the table was \$600, so I won the first game."

After Van Rys won that contest, he moved on to the stage next to the show host Bob Barker.

The curtain was then raised to show that Van Rys would be competing to win a brand new Cadillac DTS valued at more than \$42,000.

"The game I had to play consisted of me pulling a number out of a jar and then putting all the numbers in the correct order that would display the price of the car," he said.

Every time he put his hand in the jar, he pulled out a number, except once when he pulled out a strike, he said.

"I felt so much adrenaline pumping through my body as I pulled out each number. It took just a few tries, but I finally guessed the correct price and I blew up with excitement," he exclaimed.

After the show, Van Rys tried to explain to his wife, Rachel Van Rys that he had just won a new car.

"I told my wife but she wouldn't believe me so she called my mom and dad," said Van Rys. "My mom knew right away that I was telling the truth and my dad kept saying 'I bet a country boy like you never thought he'd be driving a Cadillac.'"

Van Rys picked up his new Cadillac Jan. 12 at a Los Angeles dealership and is currently looking for a buyer. If you are interested in buying this vehicle call Van Rys at 209-985-5430.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cpl. Chad Van Rys won a brand new Cadillac DTS like the one pictured above on the Price is Right on Jan. 4.

NEW USO from B1

The center is new and the volunteers are looking forward to future plans and improvements for the center.

"We're working on getting a big screen TV, internet service and toys for the children," said Snell.

"We try to make it like their own living rooms," she continued.

The volunteers, like Snell, are more than happy to be there to make traveling through Palm Springs as comfortable as possible, as well as supporting the troops.

"We love our country," said Snell. "And they're giving their lives to fight for it. Not only that, but they are really committed to it."

Not only is the USO a relaxing area for service members, it's also a place to find a friendly face in a busy airport.

"I love meeting the service members," said Dessa Byrd Reed, USO volunteer, who also serves as the public information officer.

Reed is also a book author and public speaker, who enjoys talking with the military personnel visiting the USO, she said.

The USO currently operates more than 130 centers worldwide. There are centers in 10 countries and more than 33,571 volunteers nationwide. There are 33 USO airport centers to help military travelers with connections, foreign language translation, long layovers

and missing luggage.

The Palm Springs' USO center is located near the baggage claim terminals with a volunteer staffed at all times. For more information, log on to <http://www.bobhopeuso.org> or <http://palm-springsairport.com>.



CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

Roxy Snell and Randy Morton, USO volunteers, are part of the new Palm Springs International Airport USO center staff.

