

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

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SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

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Assistant Commandant visits MCAGCC



Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert Magnus speaks to Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, during his visit to the Combat Center Monday.

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert Magnus visited the Combat Center Sunday and Monday to see first hand the training being conducted aboard the Corps' largest base.

The visit was Magnus' first since becoming the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps last year.

Magnus arrived Sunday, but didn't tour the base and its various ranges until Monday.

After eating breakfast at Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps Mess Hall, Magnus, who was accompanied throughout the day by Combat Center commanding general, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, made his way to Camp Wilson, where he received a brief about the Mojave Viper Support Detachment from the officer in charge, Col. Ron H. Andersen.

Following the brief, Magnus visited the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer where he was briefed on the current state and future plans to enhance the facilities.

Before leaving Camp Wilson, the general and his entourage made a stop at the Security Cooperation Education and Training Center where he was apprised of the happenings of the facility, which trains Military Transition Teams, by director Col. Dwight Trafton.

The next stop was at Explosive Ordnance Disposal, where EOD Marines brought the assistant commandant up to speed on the current improvised explosive device threat, as well as their ability to incorporate countering such threats into the training at the Combat Center. Later, Magnus took a ride in, and also drove, a Joint EOD Rapid Response Vehicle, the vehicle of choice for EOD Marines deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, due to its high level of armoring.

One EOD Marine, who briefed the ACMC on the various robots in the IED-defeating arsenal, was glad to have the chance to talk to the Corps' second man in charge.

"It's great anytime higher-ups come here to see what we're doing," said Sgt. Jacob Wimer, an EOD technician, and recent later-

al mover into the EOD military occupational specialty. "It gives us a good opportunity to show off what we do here in the fleet."

After eating lunch at EOD, Magnus and the rest of the official party went to Prospect range where Infantry Officer Course students were conducting a mechanized attack. Viewing this evolution gave Magnus an idea of the type of training lieutenants receive before joining the Fleet Marine Forces.

The ACMC was then taken to Wadi Al Sahara, a mock Iraqi city where some of the most important training Marines from around the Corps receive before deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in the city, Magnus met with the police chief and the mayor. He also spoke to Marines who were conducting training there.

One Marine in particular, Lance Cpl. Andrew Herrera, was nearly speechless after his encounter with the ACMC.

"It was a great experience, because it lets us know our leaders want to be out here with us," said the rifleman from Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. "It shows that they care about the training we're receiving."

Magnus also spoke to a small formation of Marines from 4th Platoon, Company C, 1/4, at Forward Operating Base 3, a base the Marines use as a staging area before entering the city.

"You Marines are absolutely the finest I've seen in my 38 years," Magnus said to the platoon who formed a school circle around him. "I want to thank each and every one of you for being United States Marines."

The general's final two stops took him to the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, where Marines learn to evacuate humvee's in the event of a rollover, and the Battle Simulation Center, a facility where Marines use various computer programs to learn to speak Arabic and other useful skills needed while deployed.

After two days at the Combat Center, Magnus left the base confident in the training Marines receive here before going overseas to protect America.

MTV Road Rulers put to test at MWTC

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The cast of MTV's Road Rules Viewer's Revenge 2007 knocked out another challenge at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Saturday.

The Road Rulers worked with instructors from the Mountain Leader's Course in a day-long training sequence Friday to prepare for the challenge.

Training began Friday with the arrival of the cast at approximately 10:30 a.m. They were briefed on their "Mountain Marine Mission" by the show's host, Drew Bell, and introduced to their primary instructor, Staff Sgt. Steve Morris. Morris

instructed the Road Rulers to don their cold weather gear. After a quick gear check, it was time to head up the mountain.

After a bumpy, 35-minute ride in a convoy of BV-206s – Swedish-made, tracked personnel carriers – the cast and crew debarked at a ski lift. At the ski lift, the Road Rulers were taught how to walk using assault snow shoes and ski poles. Their first task was to walk a short distance with the shoes, complete a turn, and walk back to where they began. Morris turned the task into a race, pitting the males against the females. The girls dominated the competition.

See ROAD RULES, A4



The camera rolls as the cast of MTV's Road Rules Viewer's Revenge 2007 is introduced to their primary instructor, Staff Sgt. Steve Morris. The Road Rulers were filmed at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Saturday.

Weekend Weather

Friday 78/51
Cloudy

Saturday 79/53
Mostly Sunny

Sunday 79/53
Mostly Sunny

Inside this issue

• A6: FMTU employs foreign role-players

• A7: MWTC prepares Marines for battle on different terrain

• A8: Family Advocacy Program

Observations



Great American Voices dazzle MCAGCC

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 2003 —

Marines were engaged in one of the deadliest battles of the Iraqi War at An Nasiriyah.

HOT TOPICS

MARINE SECURITY GUARD SCREENING TEAM VISIT

The MSG screening team is coming to the Combat Center Thursday. The team will be screening all interested Marines for this demanding duty with the State Department. The screening will be at the Protestant Chapel from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. All Marines to be screened will report in the Charlie uniform and have their Commanding Officers Screening Check-list (Phase 1), financial worksheet, medical and dental records. For more information, contact the base career retention specialist Gunnery Sgt. Whitaker at 830-6171 or see your unit CRS.

TAX CENTER OPEN

Tax Center hours are Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Appointments are recommended. To schedule, call 830-4829.

Please bring in the following documents at the time of your appointment:

- All W-2's for yourself and spouse.
- Bank interest or dividend statements.
- Social security cards for everyone on return.
- Proof of your bank account, either MyPay bank printout or blank check, for direct deposit.
- Original power of attorney, if applicable.
- Prior year tax return.

The Tax Center can only prepare returns for active-duty, reserve, retired and dependants of service members.

No rental property or self-employment returns are prepared at the Tax Center. Itemized deductions begin Feb. 15. Please make arrangements for child care.

ROAD CLOSURES

Del Valle Road will be repaved from Sixth to Tenth Street beginning around April 9. Northbound traffic will be routed up Sixth Street to Brown Road, then down Tenth Street back to Del Valle Road. Southbound traffic will be routed up Tenth Street to Brown Road, then down Sixth Street back

to Del Valle Road. Please be attentive to all traffic control signs.

LEISURE ITEMS

LINCOLN MILITARY HOUSING CURRENTLY HIRING LIFEGUARDS

Lincoln Military Housing is currently hiring lifeguards for the housing area pools. The candidates must be CPR and First Aid certified. All qualified applicants should apply at the Lincoln Military Housing Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The pay range will be between \$9 - \$11/hour depending on experience. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. For more information, please call Lincoln Military Housing at 368-4500.

THE SAFETY CENTER IS LOOKING FOR MOTORCYCLE ITEMS

The safety center is looking for motorcycle related items to be used as visual aids during the Basic and Experienced Rider courses. Any and all donated items will be used to help aid the MCAGCC Riders awareness about motorcycle rules, regulations, and PPE requirements aboard the base. Remember, if you donate old gear instead of throwing it away, you could be responsible for saving a Marine's life. Some main items we are looking for are:

- Helmets (damaged or not)
- Skid lids (novelty helmets) (damaged or not)
- Riding boots (damaged or not)
- Good examples of winter riding gear
- Good examples of summer riding gear
- Any vests (mil-spec or regular) (damaged or not)
- Or anything else you think would help heighten the MCAGCC's rider awareness.

The point of contact is Sgt. Bridges and he can be reached at 830-3000 every weekday except Wednesday, where he can be reached at 830-6154, and 819-2270 during off-duty hours.

AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD TRAINING

The American Red Cross is holding lifeguard training April 2 – 6 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost of the course is \$75 and can be payed at the Red Cross on Hallee Road in Joshua Tree. Participants must bring receipt to class for verification. Anyone 15 years of age or older may sign up for this training. Bring a swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and water on the first day. Be sure to also bring lots of warm clothing. Participants must make their own lunch arrangements. The point of contact for this is Mrs. Melville and she can be reached at 830-6212.

MCX HOSTS MILITARY SPOUSE SOCIAL

The Marine Corps Exchange will host a Military Spouse Social Wednesday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. There will be a spring and summer fashion presentation of women's and children's clothing, a demonstration on Clinique products, along with guest speakers from Lifelong Learning Library, ITT and a service rep from the MCX. There will also be free food and prize giveaways. Attendance is mandatory to win prizes.

SMP HOSTS MAGIC MOUNTAIN TRIP

The Single Marine Program is taking a trip to Magic Mountain Saturday. Participants will be departing the Zone at 6 a.m. The cost is \$25 and includes transportation and entrance to the park. Let us rock your world! Do you like Rollercoasters? Do you like Gs? Then this is the trip for you. 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 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 Fri 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 9 a.m. Worship*

LAY-LED INDEPENDENT BAPTIST SERVICE

Christ Chapel

Sun 11 a.m. Worship

LAY-LED GOSPEL SERVICE

Christ Chapel

Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

LUTHERAN SERVICE

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Thurs. 4:30 p.m. Worship & Communion

MID-WEEK EVENTS

MONDAY

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

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

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

Chap Flint 830-6187

Base Housing

6 p.m. All Hands Bible Study

Chap Taylor 830-7413 for location

WEDNESDAY

Village Center

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room

contact Chap Flint 830-6187

6 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation for Adults*

Immaculate Heart of Mary

6 -7:00 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

7:00 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study

THURSDAY

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

4:30 p.m. Lutheran Divine Service

with Communion

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



LANCE CPL. URIEL DE LUNA-FELIX

Staff Sgt. Steve Morris, an instructor at the MWTC, teaches David Leech, a Road Ruler, how to properly maneuver on Telemark skis.

ROAD RULES from A1

The next portion of the Road Rulers' training was learning how to ski using specially-designed Telemark skis. Their first test was to learn how to move properly on the skis, which was demonstrated by Sgt. Josh Dart. The cast also learned how to ski downhill, stop on the skis, and, if they fall, how to fall and recover correctly. Several of the cast members found skiing to be difficult, but as they learned, their peers cheered them on.

Once the Road Rulers learned the proper skiing techniques, it was time to put them to the test. Each member of the cast was brought to the top of the hill via ski lift. Their objective was to ski to the bottom of the hill. The majority of the cast skied to the bottom with relative ease, but two of them experienced a great deal of difficulty. However, each cast member made it to the bottom successfully.

As the daylight began to dwindle, the Road Rulers were transported by the BVs to an open meadow where they completed the day-long training sequence. Here, they learned how to tactically dig a trapped avalanche victim out of the snow. The digging technique is designed to reduce the exhaustion of the digger and effectively unbury an avalanche victim without hitting them with a shovel, explained Morris.

Next, the cast had to learn how to transport a casualty using a small sled. Each member of the cast accomplished the task individually. After the last Road Ruler completed the test, the entire cast had to work as a team to pull the sled. One person pulled from the front, one pushed in the back using ski poles and two pulled ropes attached to each side of the sled. The remaining two people ran alongside the sled to relieve their teammates as needed.

After a long day on the slopes, they were done. The cast and crew climbed back into the BVs and headed back down the mountain just as the sun began to hide behind the mountaintops. The Road Rulers were housed in a squad bay for the night. The next day would begin much earlier and be much more strenuous.

Saturday, the Road Rulers were awakened at approximately 6 a.m. and by 7:30, they were all ready to go. Everyone loaded up on the BVs and headed back up the mountain to complete the day's challenges.

The hour-long ride in the BVs brought the cast to a frozen lake. Their first task was to utilize the casualty transportation training they acquired the previous day to rescue a dummy that had been trapped in an avalanche. The witness, played by Dart, guided the Road Rulers to the site of the casualty by calling for help. The cast had to use teamwork to pull the rescue sled to the site using the techniques they learned the day before.

Once the cast members arrived on the scene, they were tasked with digging out the dummy. After they successfully unburied the dummy, they had to transport it by sled to a BV parked atop an adjacent hill as quickly as possible.

The cast received a short lunch break after they rescued the dummy. While they ate, Morris dared them to take the "MRE Cracker Challenge." The objective is to completely



LANCE CPL. URIEL DE LUNA-FELIX

Road Ruler Adam Larson completes his final challenge in the freezing cold water.

consume both crackers in the MRE package within two minutes without drinking any water. Only one Road Ruler, David Leech, was bold enough to accept the challenge. Unfortunately for Dave, he could not successfully complete it.

After their break, the Road Rulers moved on to their final challenge. Only four cast members were required to participate. If all four participants passed, the team would win \$10,000. The challenge was to ski several feet into a hole cut into the four feet of ice covering the frozen lake while wearing a full MOLLE pack. Each Road Ruler entered the water on Morris' command. Once in the frigid water, each member of the cast had to remove the pack, place it on the ice, ground the ski poles and recite their name, hometown and the alphabet. Then they had to pull themselves out of the water and roll over once on the ice. With safety in mind, the Road Rulers had to run to a warming tent to change into dry clothing immediately following their completion of the challenge.

First in the water was Leech, 20, from Kansas City, Mo. He had some difficulty pulling himself out of the water, but still managed to enjoy the

experience.

"I liked it," he said with a hearty laugh after warming up and changing into dry clothes.

After Leech came Dan Walsh, 23, from St. Louis. Aside from being a Road Ruler, Walsh is also a radio operator in the Marine Corps Reserve attached to 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment.

"It was cold," said Walsh, "but it wasn't terrible."

Adam Larson, 28, from Exeter, N.H., was next in line to accept the challenge.

"I liked it a lot," commented Larson. "I'm big into the outdoors and testing my limits."

The last Road Ruler to complete the challenge was Tori Hall, 20, from Midlothian, N.C.

"It was cold and it was bad," she said. "It wasn't about trying to prove anything. It was just about who wanted to do it."

After the challenge, the wrap-up scene was filmed on the frozen lake, using a BV for a backdrop. The host began by personally thanking Morris and the other Marines for their support. Then he informed the cast that they had successfully completed the challenge and won \$10,000 toward their "handsome reward." Morris also congratulated the Road Rulers on a job well done.

The entire cast was very

appreciative of the support and instruction they received from the Bridgeport Marines.

"Working with the Marines was great, but tough," said Kina Dean, 23, from Pennsville, N.J. "I feel that we got the best training from the best people."

"We've had quite an experience the last two days," added Suzie Meister, 27, from Pittsburgh, Pa. "Now I have a new respect for the military. Thank you to all the Marines for having us and treating us so well, and to all the troops who are fighting for us."

"Marines rock!" exclaimed Leech. "My hat's off to them."

The experience was especially exciting for Dan, who has already deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's cool because you never know what's coming and you have to adapt," he said. "You really learn a lot about yourself."

Once the wrap-up was filmed, everyone boarded the BVs and headed back down the mountain for the last time. The Road Rulers turned in their issued gear, boarded the Road Rules RV and hit the road.

The "Mountain Marine Challenge" episode aired Wednesday at 10:30 p.m.

Changes to Marine Corps tattoo policy

MARADMIN 198/07

Subj: Announcement of changes to the Marine Corps tattoo policy

1. To detail revisions and additions to the tattoo policy found in MCO p1020.34g, Marine Corps Uniform Regulations.

2. Effective April 1, 2007, paragraph 1004.1c of MCO p1020.34g, Marine Corps uniform regulations, is cancelled and replaced with the following paragraph. "... Marines are prohibited from: Tattoos or brands on the head and neck. Sleeve tattoos are likewise prohibited. A sleeve tattoo is a very large tattoo, or a collection of smaller tattoos, that covers or almost covers a person's entire arm or leg. Half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoos that are visible to the eye when wearing standard PT gear are likewise prohibited. A half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoo is defined as a very large tattoo, or a collection of smaller tattoos that covers, or almost covers, the entire portion of an arm or leg above or below the elbow or knee. Tattoos or brands that are prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale, or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the Marine Corps are also prohibited. Prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale, or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the Marine Corps may include, but are not limited to, any tattoo that is sexist, racist, vulgar, anti-American, anti-social, gang related, or extremist group or organization related."

3. The following new subparagraphs 1004.1c(1) and 1004.1c(2) are added.

(1) Marines who currently have a sleeve tattoo(s) will be grandfathered. The Marine's command will insert a photograph of the respective tattoo along with a measurement of the size in inches and of the location on the body and the date the tattoo was documented, on the Page 11 of the Marine's service record book. The Marine will sign the Page 11 entry verifying the information is correct."

(2) The deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs is designated as the adjudicating authority for any tattoo issue involving retention or special duty assignments. Review of a questionable tattoo will be submitted to DC M&RA via the reenlistment, extension, lateral move system. The package will include a photograph of the tattoo, measurement of the size in inches, description of the location and explanation as to why the tattoo has been deemed questionable by the commander.

4. Commanders are required to educate all their Marines on the new policy and document any Marine that requires grandfathering by July 1, 2007.

MAGTFTC SAFETY ACCIDENT PREVENTION SAFETY GRAM 001-12

Safety office; (760) 830 8465

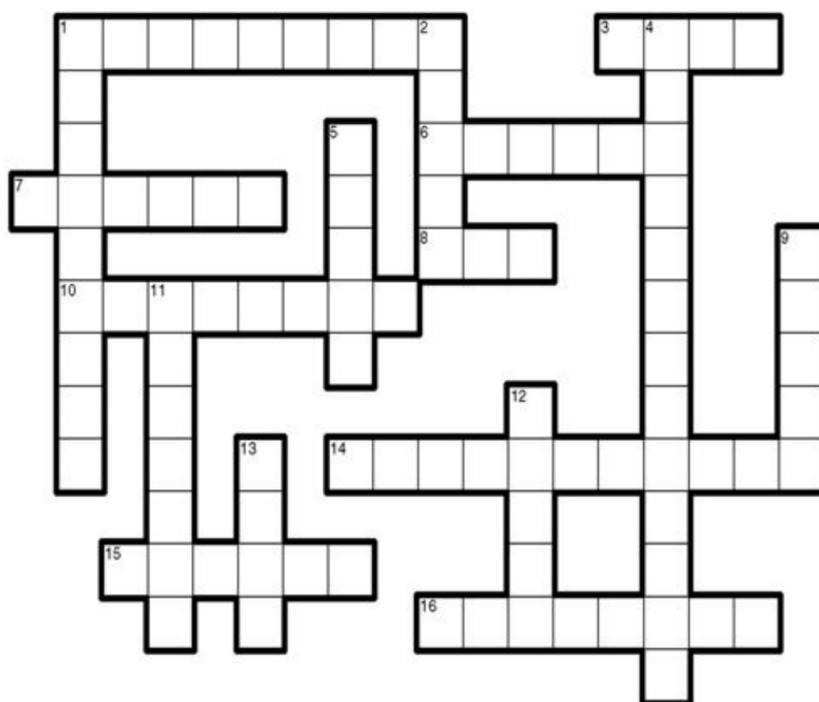
Home Or Workplace Ladder Safety Tips

- Only one person at a time may use or work from a single ladder.
- Always face the ladder when ascending or descending it.
- Keep three limbs (points of contact) on the ladder at any one time, i.e. both hands and one foot.
- Carry tools in a tool belt, pouch, or holster, not in your hands, so you can use both hands when ascending or descending.
- Wear fully enclosed slip resistant footwear when using a ladder.
- Do not climb higher than the third rung from the top of the ladder.
- When working from a ladder, always work within an easy arm's reach from the working surface.
- Don't "walk" a ladder while standing on it. Get down from the ladder to move it to another location.
- Never stand on the top rung of a step ladder.
- Do not use a ladder or step ladder if:
 - There is a missing, weakened, broken or otherwise defective rung.
 - Any rung or tread depends for its support solely on nails, spikes, or other similar fixing device.
- Do not use a metal ladder or ladder reinforced with wire near any electrical conductor, electrical equipment or apparatus that may result in a person receiving an electric shock.

**Accidents are an unacceptable risk to
mission accomplishment!**

"MAGTFTC/MCAGCC Safety – Be Relentless with Safety"

SPRING



ACROSS

- Working with plants and dirt
- Water falling from the sky
- Holiday with a bunny and eggs
- Spring flower that can kiss
- Not old
- Yellow flower
- Beautiful winged insects
- Gentle wind
- Ball and bat sport

DOWN

- Shadow animal (2 words)
- Color of grow
- Day to tease people (3 words)
- Red breasted worm eating bird
- They fly with strings and tails
- Fragrant blossom
- Become plants
- Honey maker

[Solutions on A8]

FMTU employs foreign role-players to assist with training

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH R. STAHLMAN

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Two teams with Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, Foreign Military Training Unit, successfully completed an Operational Readiness Evaluation at Camp Blanding, Fla., Feb. 22 through March 1.

During the seven-day training exercise, the two teams were evaluated on their readiness to deploy to a foreign nation and accomplish Foreign Internal Defense missions.

"This is the most realistic way for the team to test their standard operating procedures and their tactics, techniques and procedures," explained Capt. William M. Eaton, officer in charge of the exercise control group of the ORE.

FMTU used foreign contractors as role players to add the realism of being in a foreign country. For this exercise, Russian and Arabic contractors were employed to act in leadership roles for two different host nations.

Having the teams interact with the foreign leadership was an invaluable piece of the ORE.

"Dealing with foreign nations' customs and culture differences is a tough mission to accomplish, but it is essential when training a foreign military," said Eaton. "That's why having foreigners acting as role players is priceless to the ORE."

Throughout the exercise, the Marines were evaluated on how they dealt with different scenarios created by the exercise control group. How the teams established rapport with the host nation, instructed the military on basic Marine Corps tactics, and maintained communication within the host nation are key aspects the evaluators looked for when assessing the teams.

FMTU Marines complete

approximately 190 hours of language training to help overcome the complications of language barriers. Most host-nations also provide interpreters to help with the communication between the teams and host-nation troops.

At the end of the ORE, the exercise control group critiqued each team on various aspects of the training. A detailed critique about both strengths and weaknesses strengthens the teams and prepares them to help train foreign military more thoroughly.

"After completing the ORE, the teams will be better prepared to enter the host nation, quickly establish rapport and begin training the foreign troops in identified skill sets in order to improve the host nation's ability to fight the Global War on Terrorism," Eaton concluded.

FMTU now includes 11 operational teams. More teams are forming now and MARSOC is looking for qualified volunteers to help take on the challenge of Marine Corps Special Operations missions.

Active duty Marines and Navy corpsman interested in joining MARSOC are encouraged to contact the Marine Special Operations School at (910) 450-2720/2721 (DSN 750-2720/2721) or contact us online by going to the Web site <http://www.marsoc.usmc.mil>.



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH R. STAHLMAN

A Marine instructs Arabic military role players on how to provide medical care to wounded personnel at Camp Blanding, Fla., Feb. 22.

MWTC prepares Marines for different clime, place

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif. is host to a number of courses which provide mountain operations training for all service members and NATO forces.

The primary course taught at the base is the Mountain Leader's Course. MLC is broken down into three portions, said Staff Sgt. Steve Morris, the staff non-commissioned officer for MLC.

In the first stage, students are taught how to survive in a mountainous environment. Some survival skills include hunting animals, skinning and cleaning them, and constructing shelters.

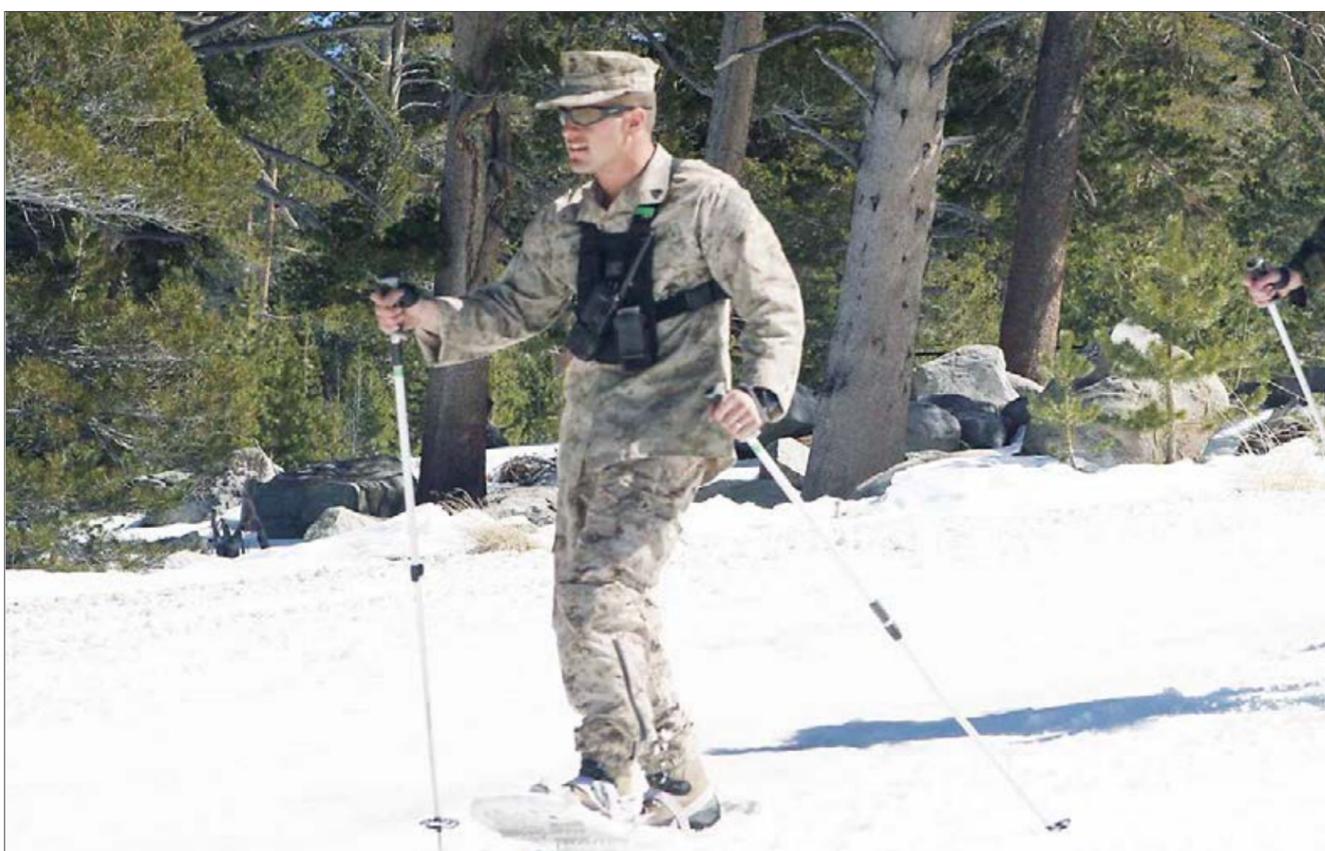
The second stage teaches students mobility skills in a mountainous environment. This includes navigation techniques and utilizing vehicles fit for the terrain, such as the BV-206 – a Swedish-made, tracked personnel carrier.

The final stage of the course teaches students how to conduct combat operations in the environment.

"At the end of the course, the individual is expected to be capable of planning, training, and advising other troops and unit commanders in a mountainous environment," said Morris.

MLC is also divided into summer and winter packages. The summer package consists of standard mountain training. The winter package adds cold weather and snow as a factor. Each package is approximately six-and-a-half weeks long. The packages are taken consecutively, which creates a 13-week course. The entire course teaches the students the skills they need that allows them to accomplish their mission, said Morris.

Recently, the cast of MTV's Road Rules Viewer's Revenge 2007 completed their first challenge, which consisted of several "bread crumbs and introductory skills" featured in



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. Josh Dart, an instructor at the MWTC, demonstrates how to walk using assault snow shoes and ski poles.

MLC training, commented Morris.

"This is cool," said Dan Walsh, a member of the Road Rules cast. "I've never done anything like this before."

Walsh, who hails from St. Louis, is also a radio operator in the Marine Corps Reserve attached to 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to MLC, the base is also home to several other courses, to include Survive, Evade, Resist and Escape training – otherwise known as SERE – Mountain Medicine, a high-angle mountain sniper course and individual unit operations training to teach company-sized units or larger.

"The best thing about this base is that even if a unit isn't expecting to be operating in a moun-

tainous environment, the Mountain Warfare Training Center offers a multitude of resources that are capable of benefiting them in any operational environment," said Morris.

"The courses also reinforce team building at a small-unit level," he added.

Although the MWTC is not a very well known base, the skills Marines learn there can prove invaluable in any operational situation.

Iraqi Security Forces deliver school supplies to Fallujah children

LANCE CPL. RANDALL LITTLE

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM-6

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Iraqi soldiers and police delivered pens, paper, art supplies and other assorted school supplies to approximately 600 students enrolled at the Al Anbar School here March 18.

The Iraqi soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division and Fallujah police, known to the locals as the "Sons of Fallujah," loaded a trailer with the school supplies, as well as toys, soccer balls and candy to pass out to the children.

"The mission was entirely Iraqi-run. The (soldiers) and Fallujah police worked together to bring the supplies to the students," said 1st Lt. Mark Peckham, a 28-year-old Los Angeles native. "We wanted to get the Iraqi Army and Police working together to show the populace the IA and IPs run the city, not the insurgents."

Military Transition Team Marines advising the 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade took a backseat role, posting security

around the school to allow the Iraqi soldiers, or "jundi" in Arabic, and Sons of Fallujah to show their faces to the public and children in the school in a positive way without having to worry about insurgent reprisals. Iraqis serving in the army and police force are high-profile targets for anti-Iraqi forces more concerned with building their own power base than seeing a stable Iraq.

"We posted several security positions around the school to watch for any insurgent activity," explained Peckham. "If things got crazy we would be there to help them, but we wanted them to operate on their own. That's one of the only ways they are going to have a positive impact on the people."

Although the Marines were present, they showed little to no force in the mission. One of the main reasons for having Marines go out with the jundi and police is to boost the morale of the Iraqi forces, Peckham said.

The jundi see Marines and know if anything goes wrong the Marines are there to sup-

port them. It is a confidence booster for the Iraqis, knowing their American counterparts are nearby.

"It's important to get the IA and IPs in the city to show they are doing good things for the people," Peckham explained. "If the people notice the IA and IPs making life easier for them, they will realize as long as the insurgents are in the city it makes it difficult for the good guys to do good things."

The jundi and Sons of Fallujah worked hand-in-hand to deliver the school supplies to the children of the school, who greeted them with smiles and laughs.

Although the mission was to deliver school supplies and candies, the Iraqi soldiers and police were also showing they could work together to the people. While the Sons of Fallujah are a familiar sight on the city streets, the residents of the city are still adjusting to having Iraqi soldiers operat-

ing in their hometown.

"The IA and IPs want to show the people they are cooperating with each other," Peckham explained. "This will hopefully make the populace of Fallujah, which is mostly Sunni, more comfortable with the Iraqi Army, which is mostly Shia," he continued.

The mission was successful all around. The children were very pleased with the supplies given to them by the Iraqi Army and Fallujah police. It was positive feedback for both groups of Iraqis, letting them know their efforts do make a difference.

The Iraqi Army, Police and Marines were pleased with how the mission was carried out. The Iraqi forces not only showed a positive presence in the area but they accomplished the mission in a timely manner, Peckham explained.

The more the jundi and Fallujah police show their presence throughout Fallujah, the more cooperative the people will become. The Iraqi forces want the people feel comfortable enough to approach them and provide vital information about insurgent activity. By

taking school supplies to the children attending Al Anbar School, and passing out candy and soccer balls in the city, the Iraqi forces create an essential positive image required to build the trust of the Fallujans.

Family Advocacy Program provides support to domestic abuse victims

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It's on the TV, the radio, in video games, at school and it could be happening in your neighborhood or even in your own home. It's becoming part of society: violence. As the domestic abuse statistics grow each year, it becomes increasingly important that everyone is aware of the help out there.

"The mission of the Marine Corps Family Advocacy Program is to provide the opportunity for service members dealing with personal and relational problems to be proactive and responsible for taking care of these problems," said Perry Ford, prevention and education specialist.

Domestic abuse is characterized as domestic violence or a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, or interfer-

ence with personal liberty that is directed toward a person of the opposite sex, who is a current or former spouse, a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common, or a current, or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

"All suspected abuse should be reported to PMO [provost marshal's office]," said Ford. "The legal consequences for domestic abuse may include, but are not limited to, mandatory counseling, classes such as anger management, the domestic abuse intervention program one and two, a 52-week batterers program and administrative discharge."

Domestic violence is punishable under the Uniform code of Military Justice. All military personnel, except chaplains, are required to report any suspected domestic violence, regardless of how the suspicion arises or

whether the victim wants this information to be communicated to the command and others, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Web site, http://www.ncadv.org/files/dv_facts.pdf.

"Domestic abuse can be reported in one of two ways," said Ford. "Option one, unrestricted reporting, is when the victim wants an official investigation of an incident. The incident will be fully investigated and the victim will have access to victim advocacy services and FAP clinical services. Option two, restricted reporting, allows the victim of domestic abuse to have the option of reporting an incident of domestic abuse to a victim advocate. This does not require starting a law enforcement investigation or having the victim's or alleged offender's commander notified. It is intended to give care and support to the victim and extra time to

make a more informed decision about whether they want to report or not."

While domestic abuse can not always be identified, there are specific warning signs that friends, family and co-workers should look out for if they suspect a loved one is being abused.

"Different signs of domestic abuse could be isolation of the spouse from friends and family, marks and bruises that do not add up to the way they are explained and being fearful of their spouse," said Ford. "Also, if the abuser controls where the victim goes and who they spend their time with, abuser limits access to money or if the abuser threatens to harm the children."

For more information regarding domestic abuse or more information on what you can do to prevent domestic abuse contact the Prevention Education Office at 830-4950.

Service Members Wanted

Internationally known local photographer wants service members who served honorably for the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq for historical archive. Portraits will be taken locally five minutes from base. If you cannot travel, arrangements can be made to

accommodate all who want to participate.

This is the only fine art historical archive of the brave and honorable service members of our time.

Please contact Scott Griesbach by calling 362-4560 or by sending an e-mail to scottgriesbach@gmail.com.



OBSERVATIONS

MARCH 23, 2007



Tenor Cedric Berry sings a song called "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin" at the base theater March 15 during the Great American Voices Tour performance.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

MCAGCC dazzled by opera performance

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Great American Voices Military Base Tour performed at the base theater March 15 for their annual tour aboard the Combat Center.

The Great American Voices Tour, which is made possible by Boeing and supported by Opera America and the National Endowment for the Arts, is a nationally-recognized program which provides admission-free entertainment for military service members and their families aboard military bases across the country.

The program, which began in October 2005 and is scheduled to continue its performances through spring this year, has visited more than 40 military bases, as well as other participating opera companies.

Although a base tour is usually an annual event, the Combat Center received a second visit after program coordinators discovered extra money after its normal tour, and remembered the enthusiastic response from Combat Center residents last year, said Marlinda Menashe, associate director of development for LA Opera.

During the performance, the singers sang various songs from famous Broadway plays such as "Porgy and Bess" and "Showboat", as well as classic opera.

During the visit, singer Cedric Berry and pianist Daniel Faltus, worked directly with young people involved in arts, theater

and music at Twentynine Palms High School.

"Wednesday and Thursday we did workshop and movement with the kids in theater and music class, then today we polished it up," said Berry, talking about last week's visit.

Berry said after working with the kids, the opera singers received a surprise performance by the young singers themselves.

"Everything was perfect," said Berry about the high school singers. "Everything from the inflection to the tone was just perfect. They were great."

Although the opera performers worked in similar fashion with high school students last year, the theater audience size had almost doubled this year, said Menashe.

The following singers performed for the crowd at the base theater:

Cedric Berry, a bass-baritone singer;
Mathew Edwardsen, a tenor singer;
Tammy Jenkins, a soprano singer;
Daniel Faltus, a pianist who acted as the narrator and maestro.

"Great American Voices is the fourth program brought nationally to a military audience," said Leslie Liberato, program manager for NEA. "It's great to be able to bring this type of thing to an audience that doesn't have a lot of exposure to the arts because they are so secluded out here. It's an opportunity for people to reconnect with culture, and after last year's

response, we had to come back."

Menashe agreed.

"There was a wonderful connection between the young artists and the opera performers," said Menashe. "The kids out here just don't get this kind of opportunity very often. It's a great way to give back. And it's even better when everyone can give back to each other," she said about the high school students performing for the artists.

No matter what language a song is written or sung in, music is a language everyone can understand and appreciate.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Singers Mathew Edwardsen and Diana Tash sing "It's a Grand Night for Singing" for the opening song of the Great American Voices Tour at the base theater March 15.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Tammy Jenkins gives a solo performance at the base theater March 15 during the Great American Voices Tour performance.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Pianist Daniel Faltus and singers Tammy Jenkins, Mathew Edwardsen, Diana Tash and Cedric Berry prepare to bow after their finale of the Great American Voices performance March 15 at the base theater.

2007 Intramural Basketball Standings

As of Wednesday

MCCES A	9-0
3/7	9-1
TTECG	6-2
MWSS-374	6-3
Tanks	5-3
MCCES B	5-5
I&L	4-5
Hospital	3-6
CZY-38 Urban	1-7
3rd LAR	1-9
Magazine	1-9

Derrick Gray of Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Team A takes it to the hole for two easy points during a game against Tanks in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League Tuesday.

LANCE CPL NICOLE A. LAVINE

Desert's premier community orchestra to commence Spring 2007 season

*Open to dedicated
student and
professional musicians
of all instruments*

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. - The Desert Music Foundation and Hi-Desert Playhouse Cultural Center is proud to announce the Spring 2007 Season of the desert's premier large community orchestra, the Junior Philharmonic. Calling out dedicated student and professional musicians of all instruments and all ages, this Spring season will enable musicians to play contemporary music featuring selections from Pink Floyd, Chick Corea, Andrea Bocelli, Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean and much more.

An orientation will take place Monday at 6 p.m., at the Hi-Desert Playhouse Cultural Center, and interested musicians will need to bring their instrument to audition. All music is specially arranged and orchestrated based on each musician's skill and level of proficiency. All musicians must meet a basic level of competency on their instrument for participation. Rehearsals take place Monday nights, and a minimal weekly fee of \$5 per person covers material, music, and facility costs. This Spring season will be conducted by maestro and composer Jarrod Radnich and will culminate in a June concert performance. For more information, please call the Desert Music Foundation at 366-0270.

