

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MARCH 30, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 12

Simulation Center gives 360-degree view of battle training

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

There is no such thing as being too prepared.

The Combat Center's Battle Simulation Center provides numerous training opportunities ranging from the battalion level to the individual Marine, teaching valuable lessons to prepare them to deploy in support of the Global War on the Radical Islamic Movement.

Maj. Walter Yates, modeling and simulation officer at the Battle Simulation Center, said additions, such as the two production model HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainers based on the up-armored variants of the HMMWV and slated to arrive at Camp Wilson April 17 and 24, will be a vast improvement over the prototype HEAT.

"Over the past couple of years the Sim Center has expanded its offerings from only training simulations



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Pfc. Emmanuel Quintana from Combat Service Support Group 1, looks down the road during a simulated convoy operation on the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer.

See SIM CENTER, A4

Navy names guided missile destroyer in honor of Dunham

SGT. HELEN M. SEARCY

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

SCIO, N.Y. — The Navy honored Cpl. Jason L. Dunham

March 23 by naming a guided missile destroyer after the fallen Marine hero during a ceremony here.

Hundreds of students,

teachers and veterans packed the gym of Scio Central High School as Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter announced that the name of

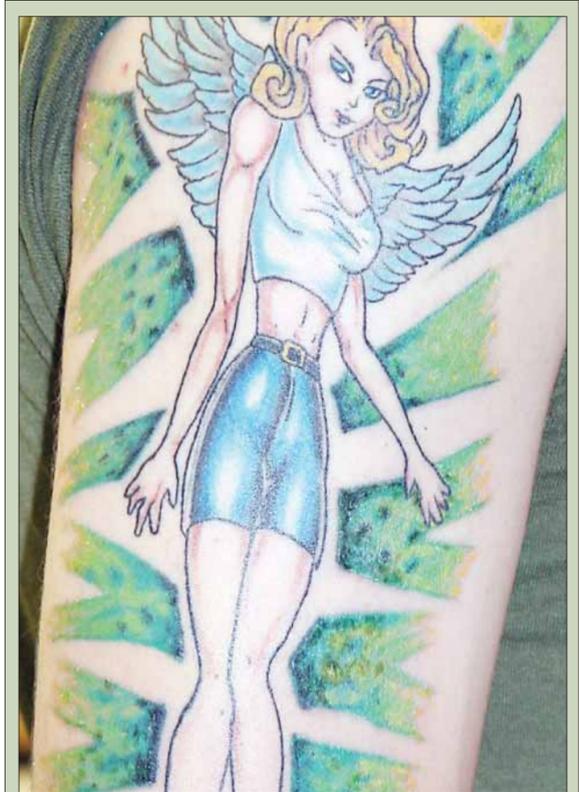
the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer would honor the memory of the Corps' newest Medal of Honor recipient.

"Today, I am pleased to announce that the United States Navy's next guided missile destroyer, DDG 109, will be named USS Jason Dunham," said Winter.

Winter made the announcement in Dunham's hometown with Dunham's parents, Dan and Deb, and siblings in attendance.

"Dan and I are very excited and proud to accept the powerful tribute the Navy has honored Jason with," said an emotional Deb Dunham to the crowd. "We wish to thank the Navy for this historical honor you have given Jay by commemorating his actions and memory with a ship's title."

See DUNHAM, A10



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Full sleeve tattoos like this one will soon not be allowed unless they are documented as pre-existing by July 1, according to the recently published Marine Administrative Message 198/07, which amends the current Marine Corps Tattoo Policy. For full story see pg. A7



NAVY CHIEF SHAWN P. EKLUND

The Navy honored Cpl. Jason L. Dunham by naming a guided missile destroyer after the fallen Marine hero during a ceremony. The parents of Jason, Deb and Dan Dunham (right,) stand next to a photo of the new ship along with Secretary of the Navy Dr. Donald C. Winter.

Weekend Weather

Friday		75/46 Sunny
Saturday		81/51 Sunny
Sunday		82/54 Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: 1/3 sets up Mojave Viper checkpoints
- A6: Scrappers hinder Combat Center mission
- A8: Suicide prevention

Observations



MCAGCC gears up for 2007 Softball season

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1969 —

The 7th Marine Regiment terminated Operation Indiana in Vietnam with 69 Viet Cong killed.

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section



Managing stress

What is stress?

Did you know stress is the body's way of letting us know there is too much going on for our body to handle?

Stress is the body's response to any demand or pressure. These demands, called stressors, may include, but are not limited to, major life events, such as a divorce, the birth of a child, or the death of a loved one.

Some other causes may include, but are not limited to, chronic strains that last over a period of time, such as living on unemployment.

Some stressors include daily or occasional strains, like taking care of a sick child or an ailing mother or father.

What happens when you are stressed?

The stressors cause the body to make physical and chemical adjustments in order to maintain the necessary physiological balance for survival.

A racing heart, a burst of energy, and muscle tension are the body's physical responses to stressors. When faced with danger, some of the first stress reactions are a rise in blood pressure, quicker breathing and heart beat, and dilated pupils, and then your sight and hearing become more alert.

Stress Checklist

PHYSICAL	MENTAL
Headaches	Forgetfulness
Teeth grinding	Poor concentration
Fatigue	Low productivity
Insomnia	Negative attitude
Back aches	Confusion
Stomach problems	No new ideas
Colds	Lethargy
Neck aches	Boredom
Shoulder pains	Irritability
Increased use of drugs	
EMOTIONAL	SOCIAL
Anxiety	Isolation
Nervousness	Loneliness
Depression	Lashing out
Worrying	Clamming up
Tension	Lowered sex drive
Mood Swings	Nagging
Easily discouraged	Less interaction with friends
Crying spells	Using people
Frustration	
Irritability	

Some things to do when you think you are stressed:

1. Breathe! Breathing right can help improve your posture and lung capacity, as well as your peace of mind.
2. Express yourself! Keeping your emotions inside feeds stress. Let it out.
3. Stretch! Stretching helps relieve body tensions.
4. Change your diet! High caffeinated foods and drinks only provide fuel for your stress.
5. Get outside! Nature will help to get your mind off things.

For more information on what is stress and how to relieve it, go to the following Web sites, <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd>, <http://www.essortment.com>, and <http://www.about.com>.

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

"I've been there baby ... even won a Navy Cross with gold "V" cluster. But I can't talk about it ... it's classified."



How to spot a phoney

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Are you interested in filling an operational billet with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command?

If so, contact the MARSOC Recruiting, Screening, Assessment, & Selection team at Marine Special Operations School, or go to the MARSOC Web site at www.marsoc.usmc.mil, or send an email to msosa&s@usmc.mil and you will be contacted.

We are looking for the following MOS's:

- Ground Combat Arms Officers, (2nd Lt.-Maj.)
- 02xx enlisted and officer, (1st Lt.-Capt.)
- 0311, 0331, 0341, 0351 (Lance Cpl.-Sgt.)
- 0369, (SSgt-Gunnery Sgt.)
- 0621, (Lance Cpl.-Sgt.)

Prerequisites:

- You must be a volunteer.
- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must have a minimum GT score of 105 (may be waived for exceptionally qualified personnel).
- You must be medically and physically qualified for duty.
- You must score a 1st class PFT for your age group.
- You must have a minimum of 36 months obligated service upon reporting to MARSOC.
- You must be eligible to possess a security clearance.
- You must be eligible to receive orders, (minimum of two deployments with your present unit or three years on station, or any first term Marine within 12 months of re-enlistment)

Disqualifiers:

- NO Courts martial convictions.
- NO NJP within the last 12 months or more than two in service.
- NO derogative Page 11 entries within last 12 months (may be waived).
- NO drug incidents.
- NO alcohol related incidents within last 12 months or more than two in service.
- NO adverse fitness reports within last 12 months (may be waived).

Process for application:

1. If you do not have an e-mail account, call the following numbers: (910) 450-2722/2759/2760/2762
2. If you have an e-mail account (.mil or civilian) you may go to the MARSOC Web site (www.marsoc.usmc.mil), and click on the recruiting link or send an e-mail to msosa&s@usmc.mil. One of our RSAS team members will forward you a Command Screening Checklist.

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Marines, Sailors, and cad drivers: MARSOC will reimburse any licensed cab company for transportation to the Main Gate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, drivers, please legally record information from your fare & 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. TRAVEL FOR DRINKING RESPONSIBILITY.

Centerspeak

“What’s the best April Fool’s joke you’ve heard of?”

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



CAPT. ZACK P. CURRY
EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE SCHOOL, QUANTICO, VA.



CPL. CHRIS S. LYTLE
CLB-7



LANCE CPL. DANIEL FRIENDSON
COMPANY B, 3RD LAR

“We palletized one of the major’s cars. We took off his wheels, put them in his car, then put his car on a pallet so he couldn’t get it.”

“We played a prank on my neighbor when he asked to borrow our skis. After he returned them, my dad called him and asked them why the skis had been thrown through his window. The neighbor freaked out.”

“One of my buddies was born on April Fool’s Day, so no one believed his mom was in labor.”

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 830-5472

Or e-mail to: evan.eagan@usmc.mil

OBSERVATION POST

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HOT TOPICS

HQMC OFFICERS/ ENLISTED PROMOTIONS BRANCH VISIT

Headquarters Marine Corps Officer and Enlisted Promotions branch will visit the Combat Center today. The visit is to assist Marines to better prepare themselves for their respective promotion boards and to gain a better understanding of their Official Military Personnel Files and their Fitness Reports. All briefs will be at the Combat Center Auditorium. Officers Promotion Brief: 8 - 8:45 a.m.; Fitness Report/Master Brief Sheet (Sgt and above): 9 - 9:50 a.m.; Enlisted Promotion Brief (E-5 - E-9): 10-11 a.m.

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.

MARINE OnLINE PASSWORD RESET

Effective March 5, Marine OnLine users are required to change their individual user passwords. The password reset is for every MOL user account throughout the Corps (civilian accounts included). Users who have not changed their Marine OnLine passwords since March 5 must do so using the following password criteria:

1. 16 characters in length.
2. Contain a minimum of two uppercase letters.
3. Contain a minimum of two special characters.
4. Contain a minimum of two numeric characters.

Marine OnLine role control agents and commanders no longer have the ability to reset Marine OnLine pass-

words. Per MARADMIN 155-06, Par 4D(5), only a system administrator may perform this function: Those Marines and civilians having difficulty resetting their Marine OnLine passwords can call their servicing MISSOs. MISSO analysts will be asking each user a series of security questions to confirm the user's identity before resetting the password.

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 paid 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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY CELEBRATION

The season of Lent began Feb. 21 with Ash Wednesday and ends in April with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, or Resurrection Sunday.

In remembrance of Jesus' celebration of the Passover meal with his disciples, please join us for a meal and communion on Maundy Thursday April 5 here at Christ Chapel. The Maundy Thursday meal and communion will begin at 12 p.m. Please arrive at 11:45 a.m., for seating. Because food will

be provided, please RSVP by calling 830-6464.

TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMISSARY WILL BE CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

The Twentynine Palms Commissary will be closed April 8 in observance of Easter Sunday. It will reopen April 10 for normal business hours.

MESSHALL HOURS FOR EASTER LIBERTY WEEKEND

Both Phelps and Littleton Hall will run holiday meal hours during the Easter weekend. The hours will be as follows:

Phelps Hall
Breakfast Brunch
8 - 11 a.m.
Dinner Brunch
3 - 5 p.m.

Littleton Hall
Breakfast Brunch
8 - 11 a.m.
Dinner Brunch
3 - 6 p.m.

RIDGE RUN 2007

In the spring of each year, Range 100 springs to life, bringing with it both anticipation and anxiety. These emotions are felt by many more than 250 people who show up for one of the largest sporting events the

Combat Center holds annually. Hosted by the Naval Hospital, the 21st Annual Ridge Run will take place April 27, with registration starting at 6 a.m. The event offers a modest 5k course, which is mostly flat, as well as a rugged and challenging 8k course. The 8k course will take runners over, around, and through the ridges and peaks that serve as a backdrop for the Naval Hospital. Squads and individuals are welcome to register for either of the courses. The participation fees range from \$5 to \$15, depending on your category and whether or not you want a T-shirt. Those interested, or needing more information, should contact Lt. j.g. Tom Nelson at 830-2029 or Lt. j.g. Thida Buttke at 830-2474.

FREE MOVIES AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Free materials and food are available after each movie.

- Thursday at 6 p.m.: The Jesus Film: Highlights of Jesus' ministry, according to the gospel of Luke.

- April 6 at 5 p.m.: The Passion: Focused on the last 12 hours of Jesus' life.

- April 7 at 10 a.m.: The Miracle Maker: A great movie for children and adults. Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Felix Field at noon following the movie.

1/3 Marines conduct Mojave Viper checkpoints



CPL. RICK NELSON

Cpl. Josedejesus B. Juarez, squad leader, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, watches an Iraqi role player detainee while other Marines search his vehicle for weapons and improvised explosive device-making materials.

CPL. RICK NELSON
MCB HAWAII

Whether on patrol or at the forward operating base in Iraq, Marines are often in harm's way from indirect fire, small-arms fire, and improvised explosive devices. When conducting vehicle checkpoints, these enemy tactics are things service members should look for.

Marines assigned to Combined Anti-Armor Team 1, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, began the final exercise of their Mojave Viper training last week by setting up a VCP in the middle of the fictitious villages of Khalidiyah and Wadi al Sahara at the Urban Warfare Training Facility.

"Our main objective was to set up a VCP on

Texas Road," said Sgt. Jorge G. Salzar, section leader, Section 2, CAAT-1. "We had one lane of the road blocked off for civilian automobiles to be searched and the other lane for military, Iraqi police and Iraqi army vehicles. At the other end of the road was a mirror image VCP with Marines checking vehicles from that end."

Salzar, a native of Laredo, Texas, said Marines at the checkpoints were looking for suspicious people with IED-making materials, cell phones, passive infrared, weapons, high-volume targets, and vehicles matching the "be-on-the-look-out-for" list.

"At the checkpoints, we use the acronym NIDD," said the 30-year-old. "NIDD means we notify the vehicle with a sign of the checkpoint before it pulls in. After that, we impede the vehi-

cle with some kind of blockade," he explained.

"If the vehicle continues to drive through without stopping, we then disable the vehicle with a designated marksman who will fire a well-aimed shot to the engine, tires or the vehicle."

If the vehicle continues to drive through once it has been disabled, as a last resort, the unit will then destroy the vehicle using heavy machine-gun fire.

"Our biggest threat is vehicle-born IED's, which is why we use NIDD," said Cpl. Jason A. Rowell, squad leader.

Rowell, who deployed with 1/3 to Iraq in 2004, said doing the checkpoint training will help them identify their mistakes and fix them before they deploy.

"The best part about this training is having

the instructor controllers, or 'coyotes,' out here monitoring us and telling us what is done right and wrong and what we need to change before we get into (Iraq)," said the native of Byron, Ill. "This is the best training a Marine can have because the role players make it seem very lifelike."

While deployed to Iraq, Marines assigned to CAAT-1 will provide VCPs, mounted and dismounted convoys, and support other units, said Rowell.

"When I went to Iraq with 1/3 in 2004, I didn't know nearly as much as the junior Marines do now," admitted the 22-year-old. "In my opinion 1/3 has done a great job training us, and there's not a doubt in my mind that CAAT-1 is 100 percent ready for our deployment."

SIM CENTER from A1

designed for combined arms staffs primarily for the battalion level and higher," said Yates. "The simulations we had prior to 2004 really didn't offer relevant training for units below the company level in the tactical decision making skills

needed for current operational deployments."

Simulators such as the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer offer a virtually unlimited variety of tactical scenarios that include challenges such as improvised explosive device detonations and identification, inclement

weather conditions, employment of tactical communications equipment to request close air support or casualty evacuation and other elements of command, control, and communication.

"Personal computer training programs, such as the Tactical Iraqi Language

Trainer, provide non-kinetic scenarios which allow for Marines to develop positive rapport and relationships with Iraqis" said Yates. "Marines progress in the language and culture training at their own pace."

"Not only do the Marines learn proper vocabulary and

language, but they also learn the necessary customs and courtesies which allow for immersible interaction," said Yates. "And everyone does this at their own pace."

The Forward Observer Personal Computer Simulation is a procedural trainer to teach Marines the correct techniques

for requesting artillery or mortar fires, said Yates.

"The FOPCSIM software was created by Marines and, like many other simulation training applications, is available on installation disks to be used on Marines' personally owned computers."

"Twentynine Palms was the first location in the Marine Corps to receive some virtual environment simulators," added Yates.

Simulation based training is not a replacement for live training, but it does give Marines the opportunity to learn the basics and rehearse for training in the field without expending the fuel, ammunition and energy required of live training, said Yates.

"Training with simulations also has the potential to save time and provide useful training when formal school seats are not available," said Yates.

For more information about the Battle Simulation Center or to request training, call Yates at 830-8439.

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

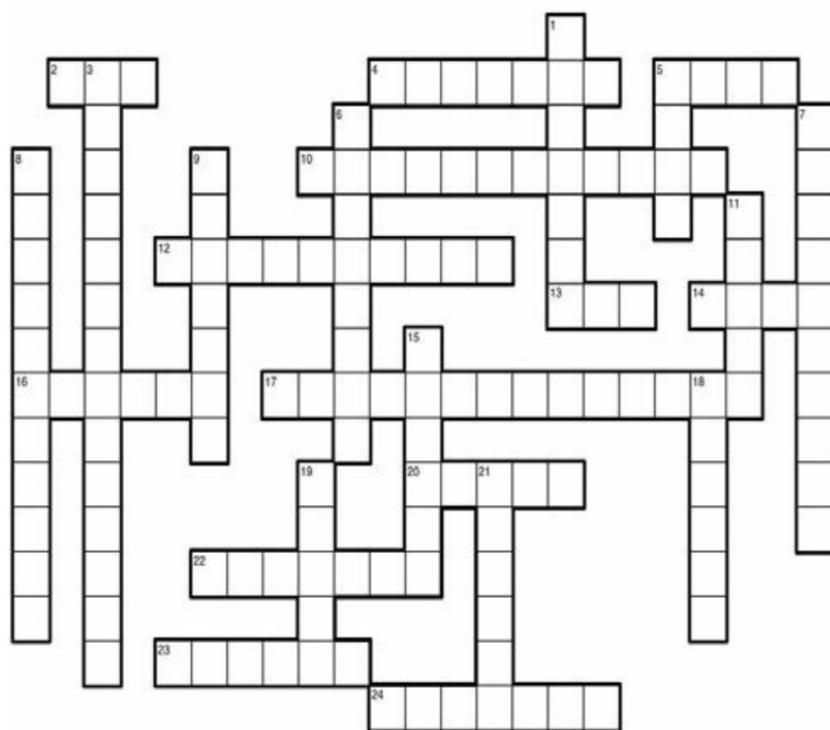
*Indicates Child Care Provided

+Appointments can be made for

Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646

Resumes Fall 2006

BASEBALL



ACROSS

2. Wooden stick
4. Sticky substance used for better grip (2 words)
5. An infield hit where the hitter doesn't swing the bat
10. A fly ball that is caught, but scores a run (2 words)
12. Area over the plate between the knee and torso (2 words)
13. Run batted in
14. Ball hit out of play
16. 1st base hit
17. This league was founded in the 1870s (2 words)
20. Three white bags on field
22. One player bunts, the other steals home
23. 3rd base hit
24. Round tripper (2 words)

DOWN

1. Player who teams up with the pitcher on every play
3. Younger of the two leagues (2 words)
5. Not a strike; the other half of base_____
6. The Great Bambino (2 words)
7. Getting two outs in succession (2 words)
8. The best teams from each league playing for the championship (2 words)
9. Cy Young
11. The tool used by players in the field
15. 2nd base hit
18. The man behind the catcher
19. Ricky Henderson was known for this baseball play
21. Not a ball (pitch)

[Solutions on A10]

Scrappers: An ever-present problem, danger

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Over the 54 years Marines have operated at the Combat Center scrap metal theft by civilians in the training center has been a problem and the need to stop that problem is as important as it has ever been.

The Combat Center, along with San Bernardino and Riverside counties, has been seeing an increase in scrap metal theft over the past few years. These scrappers sneak onto the Combat Center's ranges to collect scrap metal and unexploded ordnance to sell at recycling centers or keep in their homes.

"It's been going on for a long time," said Edward Michener, a range safety officer at the Combat Center. "It has always been a problem, at least since I've been here. Sometimes we have to call EOD to retrieve what these people take from the ranges." Michener has been working at the Combat Center since 1987.

The most recent arrest occurred March 11 in training area Acorn. Ray L. Stankewitz, a resident of Victorville, Calif., was apprehended by the Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team while illegally gathering scrap metal. Stankewitz was arrested for trespassing and larceny of government property. Following his apprehension, Stankewitz was turned over to the San

Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"It really affects the Marine Corps mission when we have to stop training in an area and get people out of the ranges," said Michener. "We must ensure that the area is safe. It could be a hot area, and people could get hurt or killed."

"We're just trying to keep people out of harm's way," added Andy Chatelin, the range control officer at the Combat Center. "Not only is it a safety concern, we also have to divert assets from other areas to find these people."

"The scrap metal is also very profitable for the base," said Mike Quintana, the Range Residue Processing Station facility supervisor. "Last year, the base made more than \$1 million by selling scrap metal through the Range Residue program. It takes away from the base's profit when people steal it."

Despite numerous signs along the borders of the ranges, metal scrappers disregard them. Some of the signs have even been run over or shot at by trespassers, confirmed Michener.

The Combat Center is not the only place experiencing a scrapping problem. San Bernardino County has also had this problem for a long time.

"We are recognizing that this is an increasing problem," said Arden Wiltshire, a public information officer for the San



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The various pieces of scrap metal inside this bin are prized items for scrappers, who trespass on to the Combat Center ranges despite the dangers of being on a live range and handling unexploded ordnance.

Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Morongo Basin Station. "People around here see it as an easy way to get quick cash."

Approximately four years ago, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department created the Metal Theft Task Force, which is a team devoted to stopping the theft of scrap metal.

"We've been cooperating with recycling and salvage centers to try and combat the theft," said Wiltshire.

The primary targets for scrap metal thieves in the area are rural cabins and construction sites. Abandoned military installations and power plants have also been targeted. In some cases, people have stripped guard rails off the road and attempted to sell them, added Wiltshire.

Since the MTTF's creation, numerous arrests have been made throughout San Bernardino County and have recovered hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of copper wire and scrap metal.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has also

recently developed a program similar to MTTF. Since the creation of their MTTF, they have also made a multitude of arrests in the San Jacinto Valley area.

The theft of scrap metal is still a very serious problem for the Combat Center and the local area. However,

many measures are being taken to prevent, and someday stop, the theft.

For more information about the arrests made by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's MTTF, log on to <http://www.riversidesheriff.org/press/07080061.htm>

The dangers of unauthorized scrap metal collection aboard MCAGCC

- Scrappers can get hurt or killed if they wander into a live-fire impact area accidentally.
- Scrappers can receive fines and jail time by the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department.
- The desert can kill a person if their vehicle breaks down in a remote area and no one knows their location.

Marine Corps inks new tattoo policy

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

What makes a Marine a Marine? Is it discipline, faithfulness, respect, decisiveness or professionalism? How about that huge eagle, globe and anchor or bulldog depicted on their arm to show their motivation and dedication to the Corps? If you're considering finally getting that eagle, globe and anchor or a bulldog on your arm, time may be running out.

On March 19, Marine Administrative Message 198/07 was signed regarding the policies and regulations surrounding tattoos in the Marine Corps. Replacing the previous policy in paragraph C of Marine Corps Order P1020.34G, the new policy leaves little room for interpretation.

The new policy states, tattoos or brands on the head and neck or sleeve tattoos are prohibited. A sleeve tattoo is a very large tattoo or 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 physical training gear (t-shirt and shorts) are likewise prohibited. A half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoo is defined as a very large tattoo, or collection of smaller tattoos that cover, 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. This describes any tattoo that is sexist, racist, vulgar, anti-American, anti-social, gang related, or extremist group or organization related.

With the new policy, which goes into effect April 1, Marines who have tattoos that violate the new order must have their tattoos grandfathered in their service record books by July 1. Grandfathering includes having current tattoo size, location, photograph and date documented on a page 11 signed by them in their service record book.

"Marines who fail to have their sleeve tattoos 'grandfathered,' or cannot prove they had their sleeve tattoos prior to April 1, may be subjected to being in violation of the uniform regulations and subjected to the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rob Dombroski, officer in charge, personnel management branch.

Although many Marines are disgruntled by the new policy, it will still go into effect and will be up to the commands digression to enforce it.

"The Marine Corps wants to make tattoo regulations because it is not the same anymore," said Cpl. Michael Haas, an assaultman from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who has an eagle, globe and anchor on his forearm memorializing a fallen friend. "The Marine Corps is taking on a much softer image. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm pretty sure the Marine Corps was founded by a group of guys in a tavern drinking beer, not in a Starbucks drinking coffee."

While some disagree with the policy, some see why it may be important to set new regulations.

"The new policy is about professionalism, and I think it's necessary and prudent," said Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Cortez, operations officer. "Marines are big on appearance and the image we portray. It's unprofessional for Marines to have tattoos on their neck of any kind and of course, racist or gang related tattoos have no place in our ranks. Prohibiting questionable tattoos or tattoos placed in inappropriate areas, or sleeves is a small price to pay to be part of the world's finest."

The new policy will go into effect for all who seek to join the Corps after April 1, and will be a topic of discussion for most billets. Any tattoo issue involving retention or special duty assignment will be reviewed by the deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

"Marines are going overboard with tattoos covering areas of their bodies, which are inappropriate, such as the neck area," said Cortez. "In addition, gang members are starting to infiltrate our ranks. If we don't draw the line somewhere, what's next? USMC on their foreheads?"

While many may disagree, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James T. Conway, wants to make clear that the policy is in place to uphold the standards of the Marine Corps.

"Recently, I have become concerned over the growing trend of tattooing in our Corps," Conway said in All Marine Message 014/07. "I understand many tattoos are in good taste, and many represent pride for our Corps or remembrance of fallen comrades. However, I believe tattoos of an excessive nature do not represent our traditional values."



Tattoos like these on Lance Cpl. Michael Heidbreder's arms will have to be documented in his service record book by July 1, according to MARADMIN 198/07.



Cpl. Jesse Maynard displays a tattoo on his calf that will require a submission into his service record book according to the new Marine Administrative Message 198/07.



Lance Cpl. Michael Heidbreder, legal service specialist, crosses his arm to show his ink on his forearms.

Stay Marine

Suicide prevention: reaching out to those that hurt

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In 2006, 24 Marines lost their lives. They didn't lose their lives to bullets from insurgents or roadside bombs. Instead, they took matters into their own hands by committing suicide.

Suicide is defined as the deliberate act of killing oneself. There are suicidal attempts: the person takes actions that are dangerous or potentially lethal with the intention to die; gestures: non-lethal behaviors which show one's frustration or other intense emotions, such as making motions like one is cutting his or her wrists or taking a small amount of a prescription drug. The person has no intention of dying by making the gesture, but the gestures draw some attention; and suicidal thoughts: vague to organized thinking about suicide, but no action taken.

While no one can predict whether someone will take their own life, it is important to look out for certain signs which may indicate someone is contemplating suicide.

"Some potential warning signs that someone is contemplating suicide are mood changes, suicidal statements, giving away prized possessions, preoccupation with

death, trouble eating or sleeping and excessive alcohol or substance abuse."

Some factors that increase personal risk of suicidal behavior are: being abused as a child, depression, family history of suicide, financial problems, relationship problems, legal problems, and being in the age range of 18 to 24 years old, said Perry Ford, a combat center prevention and education specialist.

If someone suspects a co-worker or loved one is considering taking their own life, they should take immediate action using the acronym A.I.D. L.I.F.E.

The first thing to do is ask. Do not be afraid to ask, "Are you thinking about hurting yourself?" or "Are you thinking about suicide?"

Next, intervene immediately. Take action. Listen and let the person know he or she is not alone.

Don't keep it a secret. Don't agree to keep anything a secret. You may need help to save your co-worker's or loved one's life.

Locate help. Seek out the Officer on Duty, chaplain, physician, corpsman, friend, family member, crisis line worker, or emergency room staff.

Inform the chain of command. The chain of command can secure necessary assistance resources for the

long term. Suicide risk does not get better with quick solutions. Effective problem-solving takes time, and the chain of command can monitor progress to help avert future difficulties.

Find someone. Find someone to stay with the person now. Don't leave the person alone. Expedite. Get help now. An at-risk person needs immediate attention from professional caregivers, according to the Suicide Reference Library Web site, <http://www.suicidereferencelibrary.com/test4~id~1384.php>.

Military personnel who are having problems, whether it be from deployments, family or financial problems, should know help is available through the military.

"Someone who is talking about suicide or has attempted suicide would be referred to the chaplain, mental health, or counseling services depending upon the nature or severity of the situation the person is dealing with," said Ford. "Marines who attempt suicide are usually seen by mental health and a determination is made then as to what course of action to take."

With the topic of suicide comes many myths. It doesn't matter what race, gender, age, or pay grade someone is. While suicide can be more



COURTESY PHOTO

The Marine Corps lost 21 Marines to suicide in 2006. While no one can predict whether someone will take their own life, it is important to know the signs which may indicate someone is contemplating suicide.

prevalent among certain age groups or genders, it is important to intervene when anyone talks about taking their own life.

Among the 24 suicide deaths in 2006, all were males. Nineteen were Caucasian, one was African American and one was Asian. Fifteen of the suicides fell in the age group 18-24, four fell in the age group 25-29 and two in the age group 40-49. Fifteen of the Marines were in the pay

grade E-1 to E-3, six were E-4 to E-6, one was E-7 to E-9 and two were O-1 to O-6, according to the United States Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program Web site, <http://www.usmc.mccs.org/suicideprevent/downloads/USMC%20Suicide%20Update%202006.ppt>.

"What we can do to help prevent suicide and aid people who are thinking about suicide, is to try and reduce the stigma of suicide," said Ford.

"Take threats serious, answer cries for help, don't be judgmental, be a listener, be direct with the question, 'Have you thought about hurting or killing yourself?' If so, 'Do you have a plan or means to do so?' and get them help."

If you have suspicions that someone is considering harming themselves, there are plenty of resources available. To report someone who maybe suicidal, contact the provost marshal's office at 830-6800, emergency room at 830-2354, mental health at 830-2935, duty chaplain at 830-2139, counseling services at 830-6345, the San Bernardino suicide hotline at 1-800-832-9119 or the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-784-2433. For more information about suicide prevention contact the Prevention and Education Office at 830-4950.



Desert Hot Springs High School seeks JROTC instructor

The Marine Corps is seeking a recently retired, or soon-to-be retired, staff noncommissioned officer to teach Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students at Desert Hot Springs High School in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., starting this summer. Applicants for this full-time position must enjoy working with teens and have a desire to develop the leadership potential of his or her students. Retirees looking to "take it easy" should look elsewhere. MCJROTC Instructors dedicate extensive time and effort to the mentorship of America's youth.

Basic qualifications include: retired SNCO, within the past three years, with at least 20 years of active duty service, a high school diploma, a minimum GT score of 100 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, a competitive military record, and be physically qualified according to Marine Corps standards. A complete list of requirements, applications, application procedures and background information on the program can be located on the internet at <http://www.mcjrotc.org>. Interested parties should contact retired Lt. Col. Lewke, the Desert Hot Springs senior Marine Instructor at 288-7088 for more details about the position.

Del Valle paving project gets underway

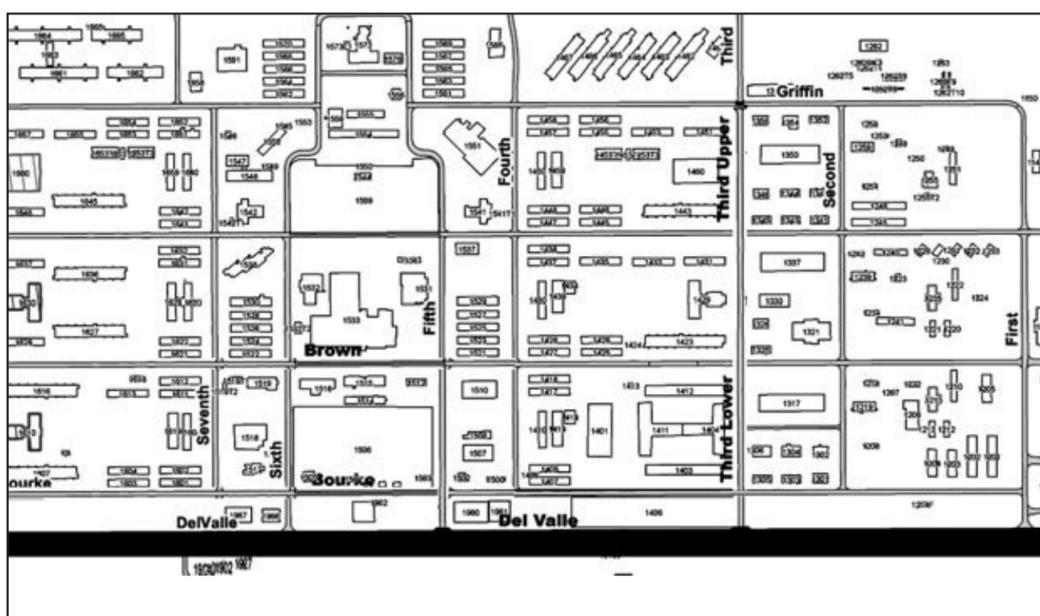
ENSIGN MATTHEW LENZER
ROICC OFFICE

Beginning April 9, your short driving trips around the Combat Center will become challenging once again as the Del Valle paving project gets underway between Adobe Road and Tenth Street. This project is a portion of more than \$13 million worth of road infrastructure repair work funded and executed by the Facilities Management Division and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction team over the last two years.

The Del Valle portion of the Mainside paving projects will be split into two phases. The first phase will be from Sixth Street to the tank crossing at Tenth Street. The second phase will be from Sixth Street to an area near Building 1107. During construction, the detours will be clearly marked to make getting around as painless as possible. The completion of this project will see new traffic lights at Third and Fifth Streets, new access to the racquetball courts and exercise field, and a smoother ride down Del Valle Road. The estimated time for completion of this project is six months.

Why does paving take so long? CalTrans can pave five miles of highway in one day. This is a question and a somewhat exaggerated statement that personnel in the ROICC office hear every so often. It is true that some of the CalTrans paving projects in the Morongo Basin only take a few days. However, the scope of paving repair work completed at the Combat Center cannot be compared to these projects.

For many paving projects in town, the work only consists of a one-step asphalt overlay on an existing road.



This is a map of road construction for the Del Valle paving project that will begin April 9.

Little preparation is needed and the work moves as quickly as material shows up at the job site. The Combat Center roads are subjected to much more heavy-vehicle traffic than most of the roads in town, and major work consisting of nine separate steps is required to repair the damage caused by our vehicle traffic. The Combat Center paving projects typically require removal of the old road by grinding and then either stockpiling or disposing of the grindings. About six inches of the native soil is then removed through excavation. During this excavation process, the contractor must watch for underground utility lines such as potable water, electrical, gas, sewer, and phone lines, which may be buried under the road. The Combat Center was established more than 50 years ago, and the location of some of

these utility lines is unknown. Taking extra time at the excavation phase to look for unknown utility lines prevents the base from losing power, water, gas, sewage, or phones.

The soil is then thoroughly compacted to a uniform density. Roadbase material, which is essentially a mixture of rocks and rock dust, or the asphalt grindings mentioned above, is trucked in to fill the six-inch excavation in the road. This base material must then be correctly graded to create the profile of the new road, accounting for proper drainage runoff. Following the grading phase, the base material is then compacted to provide an even more solid foundation.

The new asphalt overlay can be placed only after completion of the six steps previously described. The project work is still not complete, however,

after the asphalt is placed. The various utility line valve cans, the 8"-12" circles you see in the street, and manholes in the street must be raised and have concrete collars placed around them. The road is then striped and reopened to traffic. While the road may look completed, it is kept closed for the safety of the workers, and to ensure a quality final product.

This paving process is much more in-depth than a one-step asphalt overlay, but the lengthy process is required to correctly repair the extensive vehicle damage to our roads. Please also keep in mind that cold weather and wind may impact the scheduled completion of certain elements of any paving project. If you have questions on the Del Valle Road paving project, please contact Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Norton at the ROICC office at 830-7402.

Chaplain's Corner: Islam, Christianity, Judaism

CHAPLAIN (FR.) TOM HALL
CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

I have always been a religious buff. From my childhood days growing up in the cultural and religious smorgasbord of Los Angeles I have been curious about the religious beliefs of others. Following Desert Storm I was assigned to the staff of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in the Arabian Gulf. My three years in the Gulf gave me ample opportunity to befriend more Muslims than I had ever met in my life previously.

The desert regions of the Middle East gave birth to monotheism, the belief in a single deity. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all find their historic and theological roots in the arid sands of neighboring lands now called Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.

For centuries adherents of these great religions have cherry-picked passages from their respective scriptures to justify violence, terrorism and war. Some adherents of each

religion have established themselves as morally superior to those who believe or worship differently. History has been bloodied by wars fought by, against, and among adherents of the three great monotheistic faiths. None the less, I have long believed that the masters of these great belief systems have more in common than do their disciples credit them.

I suspect that if I were to ask Moses to identify the key to his spirituality, he might answer something like this: "The Lord God has given me a code by which to live. It is called the Ten Commandments. So, the key to my spirituality is to submit to the will of the Lord God."

If I were to ask Jesus the same question, what is the key to his spirituality, I suspect he would say something like this: "My heavenly Father has sent me into the world to do his will. So, the key to my spirituality is not to do my will, but rather to submit to the will of the one who sent me."

And, if I were to ask Muhammad to give me the key to his spirituality, I suspect he would sum it up with a single word, "Islam." Islam is the Arabic word which means submit.

I would hope that it is more by divine design than mere coincidence that Jews celebrate Passover, Christians celebrate Easter, and Muslims celebrate the birth of the prophet Muhammad within ten days of one another.

It is my hope that in the centuries of history to come that the adherents of these great

monotheistic religions humbly seek God's will in their lives and submit to that will. Likewise, may religious leaders yet unborn learn that there is more uniting these great religions at their foundations than separating them through their history.

Chaplain Hall is a Catholic Chaplain, ordained by the Paulist Fathers, and has been serving as a United States Navy chaplain for 21 years. He presently serves aboard MCA GCC 29 Palms at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel.

DUNHAM from A1

Jason is the Marine Corps' first Medal of Honor recipient since Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first Medal of Honor recipient to have a ship named after him since the Iraq war began four years ago.

The Secretary of the Navy has the final authority of approving names for ships that date back to 1819, according to the Navy Historical Center.

"There is a long tradition in the United States Navy of naming our war ships after heroes," said Winter. "The hero would no longer be with us, but his name would live on."

Winter said when the time came to name the newest destroyer, he had no problem coming up with a fitting namesake.

"It seemed appropriate, when the time came to name DDG 109, that we name that great ship after our newest Medal of Honor recipient," said Winter. "This is the first time we've had a chance to recognize a Marine from this generation, and particularly a Marine who served so well and sacrificed his life on behalf of our nation in the Global War on Terror."

The Navy currently has six destroyers named after Marine Medal of Honor recipients. Secretary Winter expects the USS Jason Dunham to serve the fleet well for many years to come.

"I fully expect that this ship will be in the fleet for 30, 40 years, or maybe even more," he said.

The USS Jason Dunham will be christened in 2009 and commissioned in 2010.

The Arleigh Burke (DD51) class of ships are fast warships and can work independently or as part of carrier battle groups or amphibious ready groups conducting offensive or defensive missions.

Utilizing a gas turbine propulsion system, the ship can operate independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups, and underway replenishment groups. The ship's combat systems center on the Aegis combat system and the SPY-Ld (V) multifunction phased array radar. The ship uses a combination of Aegis, the vertical launching system, an advanced anti-submarine warfare system, advanced anti-aircraft missiles and Tomahawk cruise missile

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.

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SOLUTIONS



COURTESY OF MCCS

Sign of the times

If you want to know what Marine Corps Community Services events are going on aboard the Combat Center, take a look at the new electronic message board located on the corner of Fifth and Brown Streets. In this great location for both foot and vehicle traffic, MCCS will better be able to get the word out to you, our MCAGCC family. Standing beside the new marquee, MCCS Director, Daisy Dedeaux noted, "We were extremely fortunate to have great command support in making this marquee possible." So, the next time you're in the vicinity, take a glance at the screen to learn what's happening on base.

OBSERVATIONS

MARCH 30, 2007

Combat Center warms-up for 2007 Intramural softball season



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Willie Campbell keeps his eye on the ball as he swings for the fences during softball practice at Del Valle Field Thursday.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 2007 Commanding General's Intramural Softball League will be in full swing April 24, with teams already practicing to get ready for the upcoming season.

Games will take place at the Felix Field softball diamonds on Tuesday and Thursday nights, with the first game taking place at 5:30 p.m., the second game at 6:45 p.m., and the final game at 8 p.m., said Randy Husted, sports specialist and head umpire for the softball league.

Each team can expect to play once or twice a week, he said.

"There are 17 teams this season," he added. "For the past five years, we've had between 16 and 20 teams."

"At the end of the season in July, the top eight teams will

compete for the championship in a double-elimination challenge," said Husted. "How the teams play during the regular season determines if they will get a seeding in the double-elimination challenge."

Last season's champion was the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team, with 16 victories and one loss. Right behind them was the Combat Logistics Battalion 7 team with 14 wins and three losses.

Staff Sgt. Gregory M. Herr, MCCES coach, said he looks forward to the 2007 season.

"We had a really great team last year," said Herr. "We lost a lot of players from last year, but we will still be competitive for this year's season."

Herr attributes the MCCES championship to their tremendous teamwork and lack of solo-efforts.

"We look forward to having a great season with the other

teams on base in about a month," said Herr.

Herr said he strongly encourages support from family members and unit members for their unit's teams this year.

"Without that support, you don't feel like you have that backing behind you," he said.

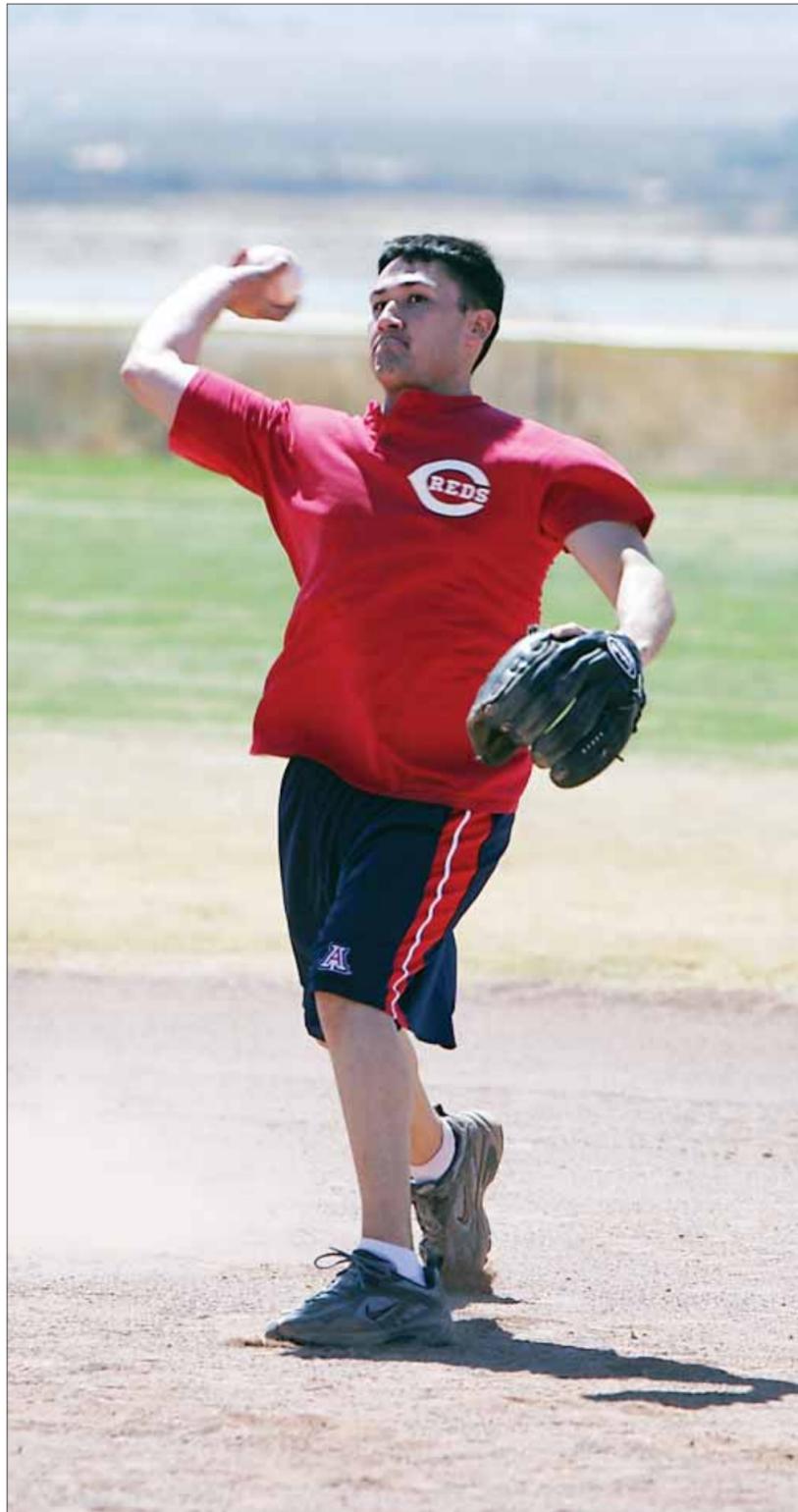
Herr expressed confidence in the abilities of all the teams he has seen so far this year.

"I think every team can fine-tune what they need to in order to try and take home the championship for their unit," said Herr.

Although Herr praised the abilities of the other teams, he holds an even greater confidence in his own team.

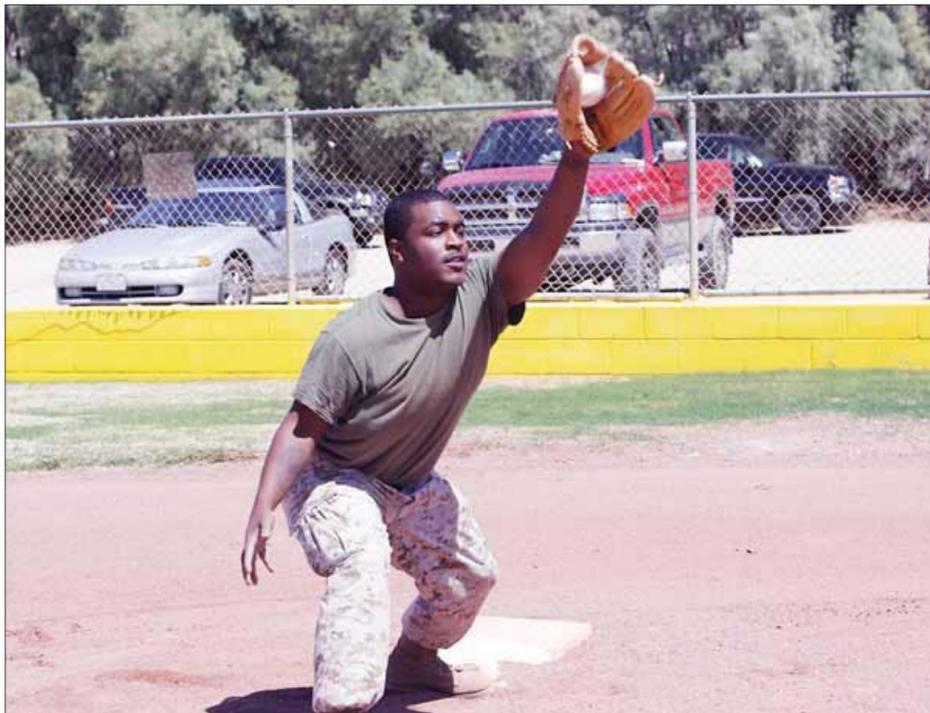
"We are looking forward to taking home the trophy again and defending our title," said Herr.

For more information about the up-coming softball season, call Randy Husted at 830-4092



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Fermin Lopez throws to first base during softball practice at Del Valle Field Thursday.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Willie Campbell stretches to make a catch at first base during softball practice Thursday at Del Valle Field.



CAROL VONEIDA

Jerry Watkins jr. from Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Team A soars to the rim during a game in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League.

2007 Intramural Basketball Playoffs

Playoff Results

March 26		March 27		March 28	
MCCES A	57	Hospital	54	I&L	71
Hospital	51	TTECG	74	MCCES A	67
TTECG	50	MWSS-374	39	TTECG	61
Tanks	64	I&L	54	MCCES B	44
MWSS-374	38	Tanks	58	3/7	53
MCCES B	57	MCCES A	52	Tanks	52
I&L	42	3/7	60	I&L	66
3/7	64	MCCES B	38	TTECG	70

Check back next week for the 2007 Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League champion.

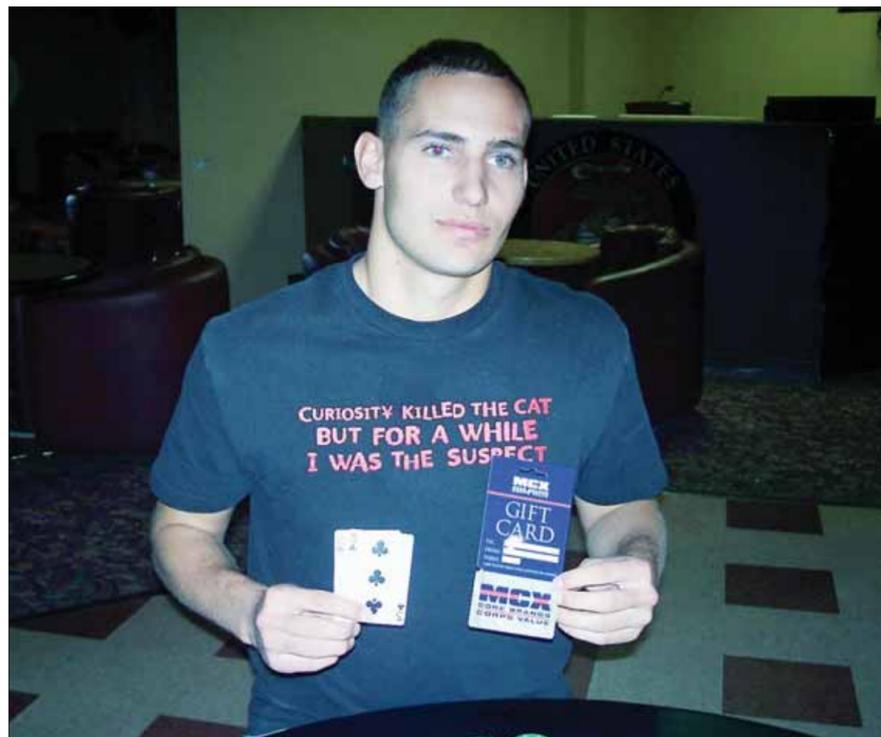
Two more weeks to go for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive

Raised to date: \$50,475
 Raised last year: \$103,768.32

MCCS	\$420
23d Dental	\$180
HQBN	\$1,044
MCCES	\$13,842
7th Mar HQ	\$0
MVSD	\$0
2/7	\$0 (Deployed)
3/7	\$0
1/7	\$0
1st Tanks	\$0
3d LAR	\$3,703
3/11	\$11,233
D. Co. AAV	\$0 (Deployed)
MWSS-374	\$4,492
VMU-1	\$480 (Deployed)
CLB-7	\$1,627
Hospital	\$5,628
Band	\$0
C&D	\$245
Comptroller	\$1,275
I&L	\$1,159
G-3	\$569
PAO	\$420
PMO	\$0
IPAC	\$0
SJA	\$193
TTECG	\$3,986
3/4	\$0 (Deployed)

Goal: 100% contact!

Hashmarks hosts Texas Hold'em No-Limit Tournament



STAFF SGT. GREGORY M. HERR

Sgt. Richard Betts holds up his winning hand and the \$500 Marine Corps Exchange gift card he won after beating out the competition in the Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club Texas Hold'em No-Limit Poker Tournament Saturday.

STAFF SGT. GREGORY M. HERR

On Saturday, Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club hosted a Texas Hold'em No-Limit Poker Tournament. Sixty-four people came to play and had their eye on the first place prize, a \$500 Marine Corps exchange gift card. After the first hour there were still 56 players left, but this number would gradually shrink throughout the afternoon and into the early evening.

As play continued, Sgt. Richard Betts from Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School emerged as the chip leader. Betts took every opportunity he could to gain more chips throughout the tournament, and when he sat down at the

final table he was determined to win it all.

It did not take long for Betts to knock other players out at the final table. When the final hand of the tournament was dealt Betts was victorious.

Betts enjoyed the competition and camaraderie the tournament provided the players. "There was some tough competition between NCO's, Staff NCO's, officer's, and civilians," he said. "It was a change of pace for everyday life, and I was glad to have played with such great people."

It was a great showing for all poker players, and everybody had a great time. When the next Texas Hold'em No-Limit Poker Tournament comes around, you too can make history just like Betts did.

Sesame Street special - when parents are deployed

HQMC (MR), QUANTICO, Va. — The Sesame Street Special “When Parents are Deployed” will be re-broadcast April 9, 2007 on PBS stations across the country.

This primetime special, hosted by Cuba Gooding, Jr, reveals candid and intimate moments with the parents, caregivers and children impacted by deployment. They express how they are coping with the daily stress and fears associated with having a parent depart for military duty, and how families deal with that member when they return home after serving their country. The special builds upon Sesame Workshop's recent educational outreach pro-

gram titled, Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families During Military Deployment.

For more information check your local television listings or you can download the program at the Sesame Workshop website <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc>. DVDs and print packages in English and Spanish are available to military parents at no cost through the Military OneSource website www.military-onesource.com. These materials help military families and their young children cope with feelings, challenges, and concerns experienced during the various phases of deployment: pre-deployment, deployment and homecoming.

NFL players pledge to donate to SAT/ACT prep programs

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

PRESS RELEASE

LOS ANGELES — eKnowledge Corporation and a group of NFL players pledge to donate up to \$10 Million in SAT/ACT Test Preparation Programs to military service members and their families in 2007.

Last year, eKnowledge Corporation, a leading supplier of interactive test preparation products for college entrance exams, along with a group of patriotic NFL players, donated \$6.9 million worth of \$200 multimedia SAT/ACT test preparation products to military service members and their families. During 2006, more than 48,000 free SAT/ACT multimedia CD and DVD test preparation programs were donated to service members and their families worldwide.

Over the past several months, eKnowledge and the NFL players have received tens of thousands of letters and e-mails from service members expressing appreciation for these valuable SAT/ACT test preparation products. Based on the tremendous response from service members and their families, eKnowledge and the participating NFL players announced today that they will extend the free SAT/ACT donation program through 2007, with a total financial

commitment of \$10 million.

Following today's press release, Charles P. Beall, CEO of eKnowledge and a Marine Corps veteran, made the following statement:

“We owe our military service members and their families a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for their sacrifice and honorable service to our country. The donation of these eKnowledge products hopefully will demonstrate our deep appreciation and financial commitment to their futures. With these highly effective SAT and ACT Test Preparation products, America's military service members and dependents who dream of pursuing a college education will now have the tools they need to compete on a level playing field.”

eKnowledge has pledged to donate up to \$10 million in free SAT/ACT programs through the end of this year.

Some of the patriotic NFL players who have pledged to support the eKnowledge donation program for 2007 include: Mark Anderson (Chicago Bears), Jon Bradley (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), Scott Young (Philadelphia Eagles), Garrick Jones (Atlanta Falcons), Corey Williams (Green Bay Packers), Jason Radar (Miami Dolphins), and Ahmaad Galloway (San Diego Chargers).

How to request the donated \$200.00 eKnowledge SAT/ACT prep programs:

Active duty, reserve or retired military service members should visit <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil> to confirm their military status through the secure DoD DEERS main database. The website will forward them to the eKnowledge/NFL sponsorship order page where they can request the SAT/ACT programs.

The eKnowledge/NFL sponsorship donation covers the complete \$200.00 standard price for the program. Eligible military service members will pay only for the actual cost of packaging, processing and shipping the donated products anywhere in the world.

To view a flyer that has been developed to assist with the administration of the programs, please go to: <http://sat.eknowledge.com/military.asp>

Questions: Please contact eKnowledge support at support@eknowledge.com (951) 256-4076

One of the NFL players in the coalition is Mark Anderson. Anderson, a rookie defensive tackle for the Chicago Bears, led all rookies in the NFL with 12 quarterback sacks and four forced fumbles. He made important defensive plays in the Bears Divisional game against the Seahawks, the NFC conference championship game against New Orleans and in the Super Bowl against the Colts.

www.OP29online.com

Aerobatic team to fly over the Combat Center and city of Twentynine Palms Friday, Saturday

MCAGCC PAO

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Morongo Basin community is invited to watch an aerial performance by vintage World War II turboprop airplanes and jets at 5 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday.

This collection of T-38 turboprop airplanes and former Czechoslovakian jets will be performing aerial formation maneuvers over the Combat Center on the northern side of Twentynine Palms Highway. Each pass over the area will take place over portions of the City of Twentynine Palms and the southern edge of the Combat Center.

All of the pilots – who belong to a group known as “Children of the Gods” – are formation or lead certified by the Federal Aviation Administration and most are former military pilots. The COGs have been flying together from five to 15 years and wanted to perform here to show their respect and admiration for the Marines and sailors living and working in Twentynine Palms.

Be sure to keep an eye on the sky and enjoy the shows Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.



GLEN ALDERTON

The Children of Gods, an aerobatic team of pilots who fly vintage World War II turboprop airplanes and jets, will be performing aerial formation maneuvers over the Combat Center on the northern side of Twentynine Palms Highway Friday and Saturday.

Dodgeballas take the prize



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Jerry Bowen, Jared Massey, Carlos Flament and Richard Davis proudly display their trophy after winning the Marine Corps Dodgeball Championship March Madness 2007 tournament at the Combat Center's West Gym Tuesday.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's West Gym exploded with competition Tuesday during the 2007 Marine Corps Dodgeball Championship March Madness tournament.

From March 20 through Monday, 14 teams battled it out for a chance to take home the trophy.

The two teams who played in the final game of the championship were the Dodgeballas, ammo technicians from the Central Magazine Area, and the Electronic Maintenance Career Training Section, instructors from the Career Communications School at the Marine Corps Communications and Electronics School.

The rules were simple: four or five players per team. To

win, one team had to win three out of five games. Each game lasted approximately four minutes unless all the players from one team were eliminated. To be eliminated, a player must be hit with a ball or if a player on the other team catches a ball they threw.

The EMCTS team rapidly advanced in the tournament, winning three games to one, which forced the Dodgeballas into a double-elimination match. Fortunately for the Dodgeballas they were able to win the double-elimination match and stay in the fight.

The next round of the tournament was fierce. The two teams launched dodgeballs back and forth as fast as 75 miles per hour, said Randy Husted, the dodgeball coordinator at the West Gym. Husted was also the referee for the championship game.

The crowd cheered as members of their favorite teams eliminated players from the opposing force. After what was described by Husted as a “tooth and nail” demonstration of fearsome dodgeball tactics and skills, the Dodgeballas emerged victorious with a lead of three games to two.

After the match, both teams were awarded trophies based on their placement and their participation in the championship game. The Dodgeballas proudly displayed their trophy. Despite their loss, EMCTS played hard and made the Dodgeballas work for their win.

“We had a good time out there,” said Daniel Sullivan, a member of EMCTS. “We were the old guys out there and the young guys took us out. The guys that won deserve to win.

They played their butts off.”

“I also think this is a good opportunity for Marines to occupy their time,” added Sullivan. “It keeps them out of trouble.”

In addition to trophies for first and second place, an award was also given to the team with the best costume or uniform. The award went to Team Caught 'Em, which was made up of Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. Team Caught 'Em played in their matches dressed up as knights, wearing small plastic helmets and chest plates.

Although this tournament is complete, another tournament will take place April 2 at the East Gym to support the Corpsman Ball. If you are interested in competing, call Petty Officer 3rd Class Cody Thornton at 830-2452.