

## Combat Center commanding general says bittersweet farewell

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Maj. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, commanding general of the Combat Center, relinquished his command to Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese in a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.

Stone was promoted to his current rank in a frocking ceremony held at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group classroom earlier in the morning, where he was promoted by Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“We get promoted not for anything we have done in the past,” said Stone. “We get promoted because the Corps thinks they have something they want us to step up to in the future.”

It is now Speise’s turn to step up as commanding general of the Combat Center, which was recently named the winner of the 2006 Commander In Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence.

Prior to his arrival at the Combat Center, Spiese served as the Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy and Assessments at U.S. European Command. He also served as the Assistance Operations Officer and Ground Combat

See COC, A6



Maj. Gen. Douglas M. Stone hands over the Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command colors to Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese in the change of command ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.

## Artilleryman awarded Purple Heart

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Cpl. Sean B. Debuhr, an artilleryman with Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, was awarded a Purple Heart Medal Tuesday for wounds he suffered while attached to Regimental Combat Team 7 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When RCT-7 arrived in Iraq in January 2006, Ripper Black, Debuhr’s humvee section, was initially assigned to a personal security detail. However, as the conflict changed, so did the mission.

“We did everything from sniper observation posts to counter-IED observation posts,” said Debuhr.

On May 10, while driving from Hit to Al Asad, Iraq, Ripper Black came across some abandoned concrete barriers on the side of the road - one of the textbook tactics for insurgents to hide improvised explosive devices near.

“Right after I thought about the possibility of a threat, a good-sized IED

exploded on my left side,” said Debuhr. “Everyone in the vehicle blacked out for a second. I received shrapnel in my right leg, the right side of my face and abrasions on my neck. My driver received shrapnel in his left arm.”

“The IED was made of three 120-millimeter artillery shells and two propane tanks,” he described. “It was designed to be a kill IED, which means it’s designed to disable a vehicle. It stops the convoy and provides the enemy with opportunities to attack.”

Debuhr’s humvee was rigged to be towed and the casualties were ground-medevaced to their destination, Al Asad, which was approximately 20 minutes away.

Despite his wounds, Debuhr said he returned to work several days after the blast occurred.

“You have to keep the operations tempo up,” said Debuhr. “In combat, you have to suck it up a lot. Most people only take a day or two off and then go back to work.”

“The operations tempo was very fast-

paced for RCT-7,” he added. “We conducted more than 250 missions, the longest lasting about 12 days. Out of the 365 days we spent in Iraq, more than 300 of them were spent outside the wire.”

Ripper Black was hit by a second IED later that year, but there were no significant casualties because the humvees were equipped with heavy armor modifications.

“We were a pretty lucky platoon,” he said. “During our entire deployment, we had no KIAs.”

Debuhr returned from his deployment in January. Since his return, he has had to go through several balance tests at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Naval hospital.

For about two weeks, I couldn’t walk straight at all,” he said, explaining the effects of his injuries. “I guess a lot of people who have been hit by IEDs have problems afterward.”

Debuhr is currently scheduled to undergo more testing to ensure a full recovery.



Cpl. Sean B. Debuhr receives a Purple Heart Medal from Col. William B. Crowe, the commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team 7 at the time Debuhr was wounded.

### Weekend Weather

Friday		88/58 Mostly Sunny
Saturday		90/62 Sunny
Sunday		86/60 Sunny & Breezy

### Inside this issue

- A5: Team Tank keeps Hit insurgent-free
- A8: USMC School of Infantry
- A8: Funeral detail Marines honor fallen warriors

### Observations



3/7 wins Intramural basketball championship

### This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1776 —  
Continental Marines on the USS Alfred participated in the first U.S. Naval engagement.



# To the Wonderful Members of our Community

On the United States Marine Corps' Birthday, November 10th, 2005, I assumed command of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms.

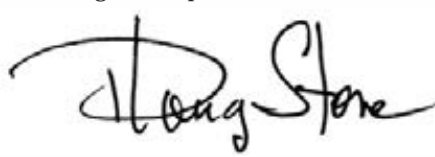
Over the past many months my family and I have been privileged to be a part of your community and to share with you all the many enchanting aspects that life in the desert has to offer. Although we have treasured the seasons, the culture, and the environment, it has been the people of this community themselves who have touched our hearts and given us wonderful memories to cherish through the many years to come.

We want to thank you for your unwavering support for our Marine Corps family, and for our Marines — those tough fighters who carry our Nation's flag into far off locations across the globe — and on behalf of the many thousands of family members who remain behind to carry on with the daily chores of life. You have been welcoming, understanding and supportive, and they will never be able to express the myriad of ways in which you touched their lives, but we see it, we hear it from them, and we can't thank you enough for your silent strength, generous hearts and sincere patriotism. This base would only be a temporary training stop were it not that you make it a home and community for our Marine Corps family.

As the years ahead continue to challenge our Nation, to bring it new threats and, at the same time, new opportunities to learn about our diverse world and its peaceful potential, it seems to me that the manner in which you treat our families, the goodness that you exhibit, and the care for our diverse service members is perhaps a perfect role model for our greater national citizenry. Our base has been the recipient of your citizenship ethic, and I thank you for the partnership it has forged.

I depart this week for an assignment in Iraq. I leave with a strong sense of appreciation and respect for a community whose inner beauty, like the desert where it thrives, shows a strength of character which we who call ourselves Marines, understand as part of our own ethos of honor, courage and commitment. Thank you for the role model you are to our service families. Kathy and I thank you for all that you have done, continue to do, and will do in the future for our Marines and their families.

With great respect,



Doug Stone  
Major General, USMC  
Commanding General  
Marine Air Ground Combat Center  
Twentynine Palms, California

## Residents of Military Housing:

This week you should be receiving an envelope from MIG, Inc., in the mail. Enclosed in this envelope is a Parks and Recreation survey being conducted by the City of Twentynine Palms.

Why is this important to our families in housing?

Residents aboard MCAGCC account for a large portion of the population of the City of Twentynine Palms. Many of our active duty Marines, sailors and

their family members play in various sports leagues out in town, as well as take advantage of recreation opportunities offered by the city. Taking a moment to complete that survey will help ensure that both your family and future military families continue to have fun, entertaining and supportive Parks and Recreation opportunities.

So again please take a moment and help shape the future.

## MCI-West quarterly regional off-limits and areas of caution for military personnel

Per the information contained in the references, this message establishes and updates MCI-West off-limit areas and areas of caution for military personnel. This information is based on input from installation commanders and commander Navy Region Southwest, and will be updated and published on a quarterly basis. This information should be disseminated through all available means, to include, command briefings, pods, installation newspapers, and command bulletin boards.

2. The following areas are off-limits to military personnel at all times.

A. Advanced Services of San Diego, the focus point, and or any other photo finishing business located at 849 4th Avenue, San Diego.

B. Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave, San Diego.

C. Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth Street, San Diego.

D. Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave, National City.

E. Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd., San Diego.

F. Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego.

G. Vulcan Baths, 805 West Cedar Street, San Diego.

H. Joshua Tree Saloon, 61835 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, Calif.

3. The following are off-limit areas at the times specified:

A. The 2600 to 3600 block of Main Street, including the McDonalds and Burger King parking lots on 28th St., San Diego, from 1 until 5 a.m. on Wednesdays.

B. South Mission Beach parking lot located at South Mission Beach Park, 600 San Diego place (to include the sidewalk, grass, and beach areas immediately adjacent to the parking lot) is off-limits between the hours of 12 and 10 p.m., every Sunday, from May to October.

4. The following areas are off-limits from sunset to sunrise:

A. Otay Mesa - the undeveloped property in South San Diego, bordered on the West by Interstate 805, on the south by State Highway 905 and Otay Mesa Road, on the north by Otay Valley Road, and on the east by Otay Valley Road and Heritage Road, except while traveling to, from, or remaining at any private residence or licensed business within the described area.

B. Willie Henderson Park/San Diego City Park at 45th St. and Logan Avenue, San Diego. **This message constitutes a lawful general order, and violation by U.S. Military personnel is punishable under Article 92 of the UCMJ.**

5. Areas of caution are areas or establishments that have not been put off-limits by installation or regional Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Boards. These areas or establishments however pose a potential risk to service members and therefore military personnel are advised to exercise caution when frequenting the areas listed or using the services of listed establishments.

A. Naval Base San Diego perimeter area. The external perimeter area of Naval Base San Diego remains a potentially dangerous location, especially during darkness. This area should be avoided.

B. Use caution or avoid during the hours of darkness, the area outside the San Luis Rey gate of Camp Pendleton, around Vandegrift and North River Drive, and the adjoining neighborhoods, due to high gang activity, frequency of armed robberies at the Eribertos Restaurant and the 7-11 gas station, as well as the recent gang related shooting of an Oceanside Police officer.

C. Trolley stations. Many trolley stations become potentially dangerous areas after trolley services secure, especially at Palomar Street and San Ysidro. Personnel should familiarize themselves with trolley operating hours.

D. Tijuana. Service members who continue to experience problems in Tijuana do so late at night. The majority of those victimized are intoxicated and separated from friends, reconfirming the importance

of good judgment, the buddy system, sobriety, and liberty operational risk management.

(1) Recent assessments of violent crime in the Tijuana area show that criminal activity is focused in three specific areas:

(a) Libertad (south of Tijuana Airport)

(b) Camino Verde (south of city center)

(c) Mariano Matamoros (southeast of city center)

Marines and sailors visiting Tijuana should avoid the above areas.

(2) All commanders are reminded that references b and c require the following for all Marines and sailors, E-3 and below:

(a) Must obtain advance permission from their chain of command to visit Tijuana.

(b) Must obtain a briefing on the liberty pitfalls in Mexico.

(c) Must use the buddy system (at least one other service member or adult).

(d) Must carry a special request chit, signed by the chain of command, while in the Mexico border area.

(3) There is no status of forces agreement with Mexico. U.S. Military personnel should understand their military status gives them no special rights or protections beyond that of an ordinary American tourist in Mexico.

(4) when driving into Mexico, obtaining Mexican automobile insurance coverage is strongly recommended. Without proof of Mexican insurance, or other immediate financial resources, persons involved in traffic accidents may be held in jail indefinitely until issues of criminal and civil liability are resolved.

(5) Personnel who use automated teller machines, especially late at night, are often targeted as victims of robbery, assault, or extortion.

(6) Personnel should not resist lawful arrest or attempt to settle disputes by offering or giving money to police. Payment of money should only be done before a proper court official.

(7) All liberty incidents occurring in Mexico should be reported to the Border Shore Patrol immediately, especially incidents involving allegations of extortion or assault by Mexican police or uniformed private security personnel (such as club bouncers).

(8) **The BSP is located on the ground floor of the customs building on the U.S. side of the San Ysidro border crossing. The telephone number from the U.S. is (619) 428-2427 or 1318.** If calling from Mexico, use the long distance operator who will then make the connection to the BSP. Collect calls will be accepted.

(9) BSP makes frequent visits to all Tijuana area jails. If arrested by Mexican authorities, U.S. Military personnel should immediately identify themselves and cooperate. Most Tijuana jails will allow U.S. Military personnel to telephone the BSP. In addition to the BSP, employees of the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, U.S. Customs Service, and the U.S. Border Patrol will assist military personnel.

E. Predatory lenders. As indicated in reference e, there has been an alarming number of sailors and Marines who unwisely turn to predatory lenders, charging exorbitant interest rates, to solve financial difficulties. By pushing service members deeper into debt, this practice is having a strong negative impact on military personnel, their families, and overall command readiness. In addition to jeopardizing their careers, service members are putting their personal and financial well-being at great risk. Everyone who needs financial help should know how to obtain it legitimately, by starting with their chain of command and, if necessary, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The local legal assistance offices are a great resource in reviewing loan agreements and can assist Marines and sailors on exercising their legal rights as consumers. Marines and sailors should utilize existing financial institutions such as installation credit unions or banks to avoid the pitfalls involved in signing exorbitant pay day loans. Commanders are reminded that education and a dedicated effort across the entire chain of command is paramount to protect Marines and sailors from predatory lenders.

6. This message remains effective until cancelled or superseded.

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## Centerspeak “What are your plans for Easter?”

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



STAFF SGT. DAVID EDMISTON  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

“We’re going to the Easter Egg Hunt on base and we’ll probably do some egg coloring at home.”



HM3 CHRISTIAN PEREZRUIZ  
1ST BATTALION, 7TH REGIMENT

“I’m going home and going to church. Then we have an Easter Egg Hunt and a barbecue.”



PFC. JUSTIN KNAPP  
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

“We invite everyone over, have an Easter Egg Hunt and eat a big dinner.”

## What’s on your mind?

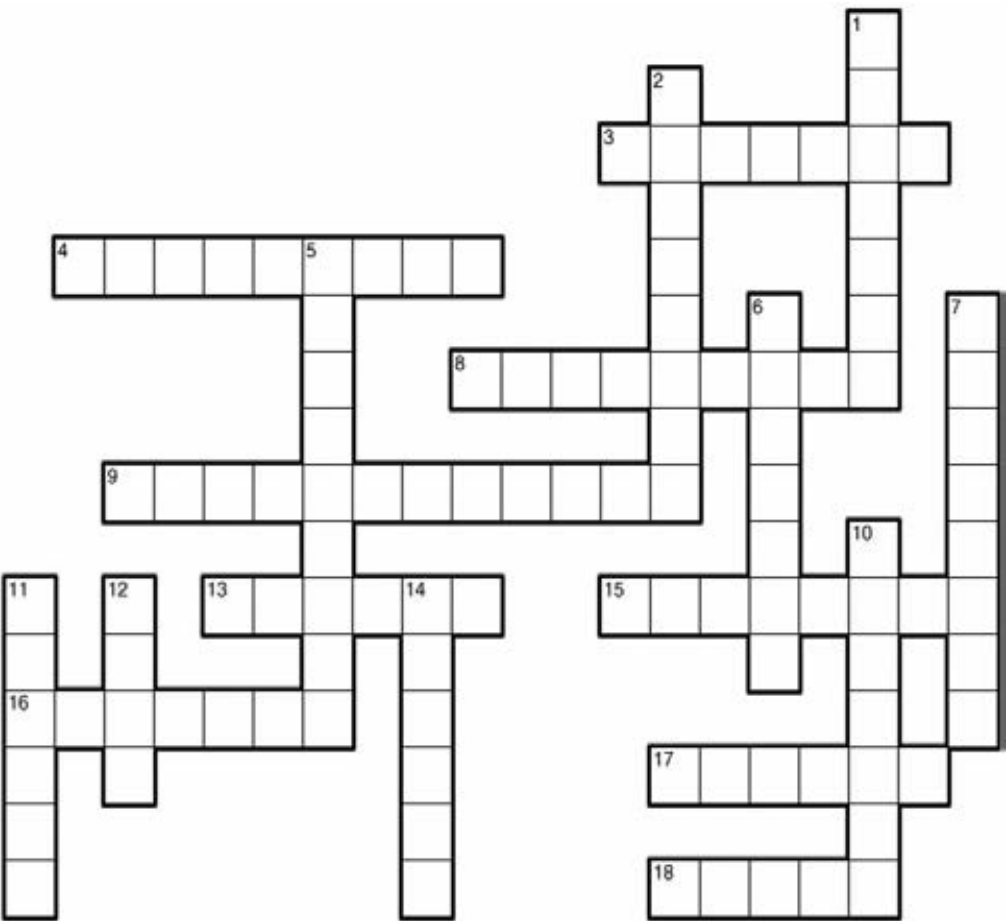
Centerspeak welcomes questions or submissions from service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

Call Cpl. Evan M. Eagan at 830-5472

Or e-mail to: [evan.eagan@usmc.mil](mailto:evan.eagan@usmc.mil)



# MLB TRIVIA



## ACROSS

- 3. This team has won the most World Series trophies.
- 4. The 2006 World Series champ.
- 8. This team played the Giants in the World Series known as the Battle of the Bay.
- 9. This team is named for a reptile that slithers across the desert.
- 13. Barry Bonds plays for this team.
- 15. This Canadian team is the only one to win back-to-back championships.
- 16. Tommy Lasorda used to be the skipper of this ball club.
- 17. This team made it to the World Series five times in the 90s, but won only once.
- 18. This team used to play in Canada, but no longer exists.

## DOWN

- 1. This team was named for its city's infatuation with suds.
- 2. Ken Griffey jr. played for this team, who has never won a World Series.
- 5. This team calls the nation's capital home.
- 6. Capt. Jack Sparrow would fit in on this team.
- 7. The last American League team to win a World Series.
- 10. This Texas based team has never even made it to the World Series.
- 11. This team's name is a Spanish word meaning fathers.
- 12. Pete Rose played, coached and bet on this team.
- 14. This team was tamed in the 2006 World Series.

[Solutions on A8]

# 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 (Bldg 1551)  
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

# Hot Topics

## NEW HOURS FOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION/ VISITORS CENTER

The vehicle registration and visitor's center, building 901, will be changing its hours of operation from its current schedule to the following: Monday – Thursday 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. These new hours will be put

into effect on April 15.

## TAX CENTER UPDATE

Location: Village Center, Bldg. 1551  
Hours: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Phone: 830-4829  
Friday - Close at 12 p.m.  
Monday - Closed  
Tuesday Re-open at 8 a.m.  
April 17 – last official day of the tax season  
April 20 – Tax Center closes for the season at 3:30 p.m.  
No children are allowed at the tax center. Please make arrangements for day care. If you prefer a direct deposit of

your refund, please bring in proof of your bank account such as a MyPay print out or blank check showing your bank routing number and account number. A joint tax return refund must be deposited into a joint banking account.  
If you need tax preparation assistance after the tax center closes on April 20, your options available online are: TaxCut Basic Online by H&R Block at <http://www.military-onesource.com> is available for active duty, guard, reserve (regardless of activation status), and family members. There is no income limit. This

tax program will prepare and e-file one federal and one state return per military member. If there are additional states you may prepare and then mail those in. A toll free number is available for tax questions. The number is 800-730-3802. IRS.gov lists free file services that are limited to taxpayers with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$52,000 or less. Some services have age limitations, i.e. if you are age 50 or under. Some companies offer free state tax return preparation and e-filing and others may charge fees. Visit IRS.gov and click on 2007 Free File for more information.

## ROAD CLOSURES

Del Valle Road will be repaved from Sixth to Tenth Streets beginning around Monday. 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 passwords. 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.

## TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMISSARY WILL BE CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

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

## MESS HALL 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.

## FREE MOVIES AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Free materials and food are available after each movie.  
- Today at 5 p.m.: The Passion: Focused on the last 12 hours of Jesus' life.  
- Saturday at 10 a.m.: The Miracle Maker: A great movie for children and adults. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Felix Field at noon following the movie.

## BASE EASTER EGG HUNT AND BARBECUE AT FELIX FIELD

The base Easter egg hunt and barbecue at Felix Field for children up to 12 years of age will be held Saturday from 12 – 3 p.m.. Participate in an egg decorating contest. Bring the egg decorated and the judges will give a prize to the winner. Other events include a dunk tank and Jupiter jump from Outdoor Adventures. Bring family and friends for a good time and free food. The point of contact for this event is Chaplain Terry Moran and he can be reached at 830-2429.

## SMP DISNEYLAND TRIP

The Single Marine Program will be taking a day trip to Disneyland Saturday. This is your opportunity to enjoy a day in a fun-filled adventure park. From riding rollercoasters, to enjoying edible treats, to shopping at the Disney District, there is something for everyone. The cost is \$65 per person. The bus will be departing from the Zone promptly at 7 a.m. For more information, please call 830-4767.

## SMP PRICE IS RIGHT TRIP

The Single Marine Program will be taking a trip to Hollywood and the Price Is Right to meet the famous Mr. Bob Barker. Join in on the fun April 18. This is a uniform only event. No civilian attire will be permitted. Departure will be 6 a.m. from the Zone. For further information, contact your SMP Coordinator at 830-4767.

## 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.

# CindyHagerman Went Home

Cindy Kay Hagerman went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 30, 2007.

Cindy was a bright light of joy and laughter wherever she went. She was born on July 26, 1955 in Larned, Kansas, the only daughter of Bill and Jean Gross. She graduated from Larned High School and attended Emporia State University majoring in music.

Cindy married Jerel Hagerman on May 15, 1976 in Larned, Kansas. From 1977 to 1981 Cindy and Jerel attended Bible College at Sky Valley Desert Retreat Center in Desert Hot Springs, California. They helped found Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel in Yucca Valley in 1978. From 1981 to 1990 they went to pastor at Macksville Christian Church in Macksville, Kansas. They moved to Yucca Valley to pastor Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel in 1990 till present. Cindy was an anointed Bible teacher and she was the head of the Women's Ministry.

The joy of her life was raising their four children: Israel, Lydia, Isaac and Isaiah. Cindy helped start Joshua Springs Christian School in Yucca Valley where all four of their children graduated. Cindy's favorite Bible verse is from I Corinthians 13 "Love never fails" it was the motto of her life.

Cindy fought a courageous battle with cancer for nearly a year. She is survived by her husband of 31 years Jerel of Yucca Valley; her son Israel and wife Lucia and children Joey and Jamie all of Yucca Valley; her daughter Lydia and husband Chris Begnaud and children Luke, Nathan and Caleb all of Yucca Valley; her son Isaac and wife Deanna and children Jesse, Jordan and Jadon all of Yucca Valley and her son Isaiah Hagerman of Redlands and his girlfriend Kate Hanley of Redlands; her parents Bill and Jean Gross of Larned, Kansas and brother Steve and wife Brenda Gross of Larned, Kansas; her mother-in-law Evelyn Hagerman of Eufaula, Oklahoma and a host of friends and family.

Cindy Kay Hagerman was a disciple of Jesus Christ and touched and changed the lives of 1000s of people.

A celebration of life service will be held at Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel on Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers there will be a Cindy Hagerman scholarship set up at the Joshua Springs Christian School for the college bound graduating senior that has a bright and shining personality. Donations may also be given in Cindy's name for the Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel Memorial Prayer Garden. All donations can be made to Joshua Springs and put in the memo Cindy Hagerman scholarship or Memorial Garden.  
I would like to thank our community for all the love and prayers that have been bestowed upon Cindy, I and our family.

Sincerely, Pastor Jerel





# Team Tank works together to keep Hit insurgent-free

CPL. ADAM JOHNSTON  
*2ND MARINE DIVISION*

HIT, Iraq — Thirteen Marines and one Navy corpsman stand shoulder-to-shoulder. Upon receiving the command, they spread out on-line and push forward into the palm grove. A police call, one of the Marine Corps’ oldest traditions, is underway.

Leaving no stone unturned, the group is vigilant – looking behind every bush and blade of grass for anything unusual. Along the way, they find numerous candy wrappers and other pieces of litter. But rather than police-up the garbage, they simply disregard and keep on walking.

Why? Because on this particular day, picking up trash is the least of their worries. Needless to say, this counterinsurgency battle won’t win itself.

Team Tank, which included Regimental Combat Team 2 Marines from various units, recently returned from a 36-hour operation approximately 10 km north of Hit, Iraq.

“Our objective was to disrupt any insurgent activity in the area,” said 1st Lt. Danny James, the executive officer of Alpha Company, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division. “We achieved this by keeping the enemy on their heels through a series of offensive operations.”

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, the commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq, recently discussed ongoing security operations in Iraq during a press briefing March 8.

“I should point out that although the focus, the priority, clearly is Baghdad, anyone who knows about securing the capital knows that you must also secure its surrounding areas,” Petraeus said. According to James, the same theme rings true for the city of Hit.

Team Tank was comprised of Marines from Mobile Assault Platoon, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel platoon and 4th Combat Engineer Battalion.

“Tanks are limited to what they can do by themselves,” James explained. “We can’t just blow every house apart and expect to win this fight. That’s where the dismount teams come in.”

Sgt. Nate W.R. Jones, a combat engineer with Bravo Company, 4th CEB, 4th Marine Division, was one of



Team Tank, which included Regimental Combat Team 2 Marines from various units, recently completed a 36-hour operation north of Hit, Iraq. They successfully disrupted insurgent activity in the area.

the dismounts for Team Tank. Using metal detectors, his squad swept along the riverbanks and through the palm groves; searching for weapons caches and other illegal paraphernalia.

“Insurgents like to hide weapons by the river because it’s easier to move them from one side to the other,” said Jones, a native of West Chester, Pa. “Palm groves are also good hiding spots because, unlike the open desert, palm trees can mark the spot for any hidden caches.”

As a direct result of the operation, more than 50 pieces of various-sized ordnance was uncovered. Though the majority of artillery and mortar rounds found contained no explosives, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit was still notified of the situation and brought on-scene to do what they do best.

“The enemy could easily repack the ordnance with (high explosives) and use it against us,” Jones said. “Or they could dump it on the side of the road somewhere, using it to lure coalition forces into an (improvised explosive device) attack.”

In addition to going after the enemy, this operation

also gave one corpsman the opportunity for some hands-on experience in a real-life situation.

“After searching this house, one of the guys called me over to look at this kid with a nasty cut over his eye,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael J. Fuchs, a corpsman with Alpha Company, 1st Tank Battalion. “It was pretty bad. There was all sorts of puss and nastiness coming from the wound.”

Since arriving in-country in October, Fuchs hasn’t been on many foot patrols. Much to his dismay, most of the tank operations to date have been sans dismounts.

“I cleaned the area, applied some antibiotics and redressed the wound,” Fuchs said. “I also gave the parents

some spare gauze to change the dressing with. If left untreated much longer, an injury like that could cost someone their eye.”

Though he wished he could’ve gotten there sooner, Fuchs was just glad to do what he could to help.

“It’s not like they’ve got medicare or a health system over here,” Fuchs said. “It’s nice to be able to do my part – winning the hearts and minds. This is probably the best thing I’ve done the entire deployment.”

According to James, the Team Tank concept is an old one. But it hasn’t been used this tour as much as he would’ve liked. Considering its effectiveness, James hopes to see more units jump on the Team Tank

bandwagon in the near future.

“Teaming up with dismounts is equally beneficial for both sides involved,” James said. “Through the sheer intimidation factor, tanks provide the dismounts

with an unparalleled level of security. And on the flip side, the dismounts can do what tanks can’t – interact with the locals and do detailed searches. It’s a win-win situation for everyone.”



Cpl. Lowell B. Williams keeps an eye out for anything suspicious during a recent security patrol.

Assistance for Wounded Veterans

The Iraq Star Foundation, Inc., dedicated to providing reconstructive surgery by Beverly Hills finest surgeons to wounded Iraq veterans, is seeking interviews with veterans to discuss aesthetic surgical needs. If you have disfiguring shrapnel or burn scars that are not being addressed by the military, please fax needs to 760 340-2687 or email [IraqStarinfo@AOL.com](mailto:IraqStarinfo@AOL.com). Thank you. Maggie Lockridge, President/Founder



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ID #	_____
Pick up at	_____
Destination	_____
Total fee	_____
Driver	_____
Data/Time	_____
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\*Arrival: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for 1996)  
 \*Departure: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for 1996)



# Easter Worship Services



**JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
**Calvary Chapel Fellowship**  
Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph

**Come Join Us in Celebration**  
Good Friday, April 6th 6:00pm  
Easter Sunrise Service 6:00am • Easter Worship 10:30am

New - 29 Palms Outreach & Bible Study every Sat. Evening 6:30pm call for directions  
(760)366-7420 • Office (760) 366-7422  
6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Website: JHOPFOOD.ORG



Discover  
**HOPE**  
this Easter

**Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene**  
56248 Buena Visa Drive  
365-7819 [www.yvnazarene](http://www.yvnazarene)

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.    Worship at 9:45 a.m.



*All Are Welcome ...*

**St. Joseph and St. Martin Easter Week Celebrations**

*Palm Sunday Services 9:00 am & 11:30 am  
Wednesday, April 4th 7:00 pm • Stations of the Cross  
Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm • Last Supper & Foot Washing  
Good Friday Noon • Reflections of the Cross  
Holy Saturday 8:00 pm • Mass Renewal of Baptismal Vows  
Lighting of New Fire, 1st Mass of Easter*

*Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service 6:00 am  
High Mass with Incense and Choir 9:00 am  
Easter Mass 11:30 am*

*Please Call Fr. Ian Hanley for locations and directions  
760-401-0608*



## Calvary Baptist Church

Invites You To Celebrate the Resurrection

6:00 ~ Sunrise Service  
7:30 ~ Easter Breakfast  
10:30 ~ Worship Service

Special Choral Presentation: *Centurian*

Nursery Care Available (On Hwy. 247 across from Yucca Valley Airport)  
57175 Crestview Dr. (760) 365-9731

Pastor Rob D. Watkins 



**St. Mary of the Valley Catholic Community**  
7495 Church St. Yucca Valley  
(760) 365-2287

1st	10am	Holy Week
4th	7pm	Palm Sunday Mass
5th	7pm	Taizé ~ Prayer Around the Cross
6th	7pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
6th	12 noon	Good Friday ~ Lord's Passion
	6pm	Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis)
7th	8pm	Easter Schedule
8th	10am	Easter Vigil Mass
		Easter Sunday Mass



**Sky View Chapel Church of God**  
Invites You to Join Us

7475 Sunny Vista, Rd.  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252  
760-366-9119  
Pastor Abe Casiano

Special Good Friday Service  
6:30-7:45 pm  
“Last Sayings of Christ on the Cross”

Outdoor Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:00 am,  
Concert Style Worship, Followed by a Free Breakfast  
Celebration Service 10:30am in Our Sanctuary with  
a Presentation of Charlie Daniels “The Trilogy”  
Special Message by Pastor Abe Casiano



**Yucca Valley United Methodist Church**  
57273 Onaga Trail at Joshua Lane 365-3671

Holy Saturday, April 7, 2:30 pm  
“Music of Holy Week” Free Concert  
Performed by 25-member Chancel Choir & our famed Bell Choir

**Easter Sunday, April 8**

- Sunrise Service at 6:30 am (outdoors, weather permitting—dress warmly)
- Easter Breakfast following Sunrise Service
- Easter Resurrection Service at 10:30 am
- Fellowship & refreshments following Worship



**Evangelical Free Church of Yucca Valley**  
6804 Mohawk Trail 760-228-1747  
(Corner of Mohawk & Sunnyslope)

**Easter Services**

6am Sunrise Service in Amphitheater  
7am Pancake Breakfast - FREE  
9am Sunday School for all ages  
10am Worship Service



**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Holy Week Service Times**

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm  
Good Friday, April 6, 7:00 pm  
Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 6:00am  
Breakfast (freewill offering) 7:00-8:45am  
Resurrection Service, April 8, 9:00am

59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley  
(760) 365-2548



**Joshua Springs CALVARY CHAPEL**  
Pastor Jerel Hagerman  
57373 Joshua Lane  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
[www.joshuasprings.org](http://www.joshuasprings.org)  
365-0769

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Experience a New Easter Production with  
choir, drama, multimedia and a special message by  
Pastor Jerel Hagerman

**Wed. April 4th & Friday April 6th at 7:00 pm**

**Easter Sunrise Service - April 8th 6:30 am**  
On the Joshua Springs Football Field with live worship and special message  
**Easter Morning Celebration Services**  
7:30, 9:00 & 10:40 am



# USMC School of Infantry comes to Iraq

CPL. ADAM JOHNSTON  
*2ND MARINE DIVISION*

CAMP YASSIR, AL ASAD, Iraq — Like anything in life worth having, the title of Marine is hard earned. Recruits

must endure a grueling 13-week training program before earning their eagle, globe and anchor. If successful, these few will graduate – becoming part of an elite group that accounts for less than 2 percent of the

American populace. Recruit training teaches these men and women the basics of being a Marine. By no means, however, has it prepared them for the rigors of war. To assume so would not only be foolish, it'd be dangerous.

Likewise, Iraqi Army soldiers need more than just the basics before being thrust into battle. And yet, this is exactly what was in-store for them after boot camp – that is, until now.

Fashioned after the Marine Corps' version, the IA School of Infantry is a 10-day course designed to train new soldiers in a variety of advanced infantry tactics.

“Before this course, the IA's were going straight to their battalions after boot camp,” said Staff Sgt. Aslan Altan, the IA SOI head instructor and founder. “They need this training to survive out there. Without it, it'd be suicide.”

Altan, a scout sniper by trade, has been with the II Marine Expeditionary Force military transition team here since October.

The MiTT is comprised of

Marines who imbed and train with Iraqi Army units. It's their responsibility to make the Iraqi soldiers a self sustaining force; one that's capable of taking control of their area of operation.

He initially wanted the IA SOI to mirror the Marine Corps' in length (39 training days), but the current money situation wouldn't allow it.

“The IA's work for 20 days and go on leave for 10,” explained Altan, a native of Steenbergen, Netherlands. “Right now, the only way of getting money back to their families is by hand-delivering it themselves.”

Material covered in the 10-day course included: convoy operations, foot patrols, escalation-of-force procedures, raids, personnel and vehicle searches, AK-47 and PKC Machinegun live-fire ranges and first aid techniques.

“The first time we did this, I taught all the classes while the IA instructors shadowed me,” Altan said. “Some of these guys were in the old Republican Guard for more than 15 years. But at the same

time, they don't know much about sharing knowledge with the younger troops – culturally, it's a pride thing.”

Case in point, Warrant Officer Ali Kadhmi. He served 18 years in the military under Saddam Hussein's regime. Now, as the assistant chief instructor, he's working to build a better army by teaching the new guys from personal experience.

“They only learn the basics in boot camp,” Ali said. “Here, we can teach them more about the area they'll be operating out of.”

As of right now, this training package is only for Iraqi soldiers headed to 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division. Within the Al Anbar Province, 2-7 IA's area of operation, there are three battalions: 1st Battalion in Hit, 2nd Battalion in Haditha and 3rd Battalion in Baghdadi.

“It's great to have the Marines here,” Ali said. “They truly care about us and want to see us succeed. But I've been doing this job for a long time. We know how to deal with our own soldiers – it's our responsibility to take over the training and do it ourselves.”

In contrast, Pvt. Mohammed Hamid is a mere two months out of basic

training. Like most Iraqi soldiers, he's in it to serve his country and protect his family from terrorists.

“I knew the dangers involved before I joined,” Hamid said. “Maybe I'll die, but I'm not afraid. The cause we're fighting for is worth the sacrifice.”

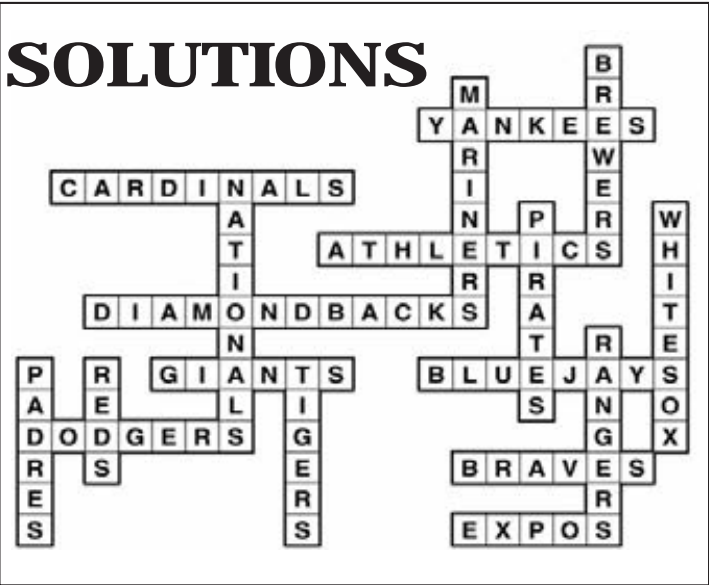
Hamid chose the Iraqi Army over the Iraqi Police because it affords him the opportunity to see other parts of the country that, otherwise, he wouldn't be able to.

“This course goes much more in-depth than the stuff we were taught in boot camp,” Hamid said. “I learned a lot here.”

Ultimately, this training program is yet another step towards Iraqi sovereignty.

“The U.S. has been pumping money into this war since 2003,” Altan said. “The American people want to see some results. Training the trainers so we can go home – this is what it's all about. This is a huge step in the right direction.”

The MiTT aboard Camp Yassir is part of Regimental Combat Team 2, a Marine Corps command responsible for more than 25,000 square miles and 5,500 Marines, Soldiers and Sailors in Iraq's Al Anbar Province.





# Funeral detail Marines honor fallen warriors

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Marines involved with the Combat Center funeral detail carry both the burden and honor of their duties.

During a recent funeral held at the Twentynine Palms Cemetery March 30 for retired Sgt. Maj. Gayle R. Heitman, Marines in the funeral detail were afforded another opportunity to display their disciplined marching and drilling skills for the family of the retired Marine.

Philomena Heitman, wife of Gayle, said having the detail there for her husband's funeral was an honor.

Toward the end of the burial ceremony, and after three rifle volleys were fired, the American flag draped over Gayle's coffin was folded into a triangle.

When the flag was presented to Heitman by a kneeling Marine who thanked her for her husband's service, she took it with shaking hands and tear-filled eyes.

"It was so touching," said Heitman. "They did such a beautiful job."

All men and women who are retired, veterans, active duty, or reservists are eligible for an honor burial program called "Honoring Those Who Served," according to the Web site [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil).

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This April, the Department of Defense takes a concerted stand against sexual assault as it observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme for SAAM is Stand Up Against Sexual Assault...Make a Difference, which encompasses an attitude toward prevention of this violent crime, reminding us that each of us – leaders, peers and subordinates – can make differences through our actions.

Sexual assault is one of the most underreported violent crimes in America today. Since the military is not impervious to this trend, the Department of Defense strives to ensure that service members are aware that sexual assault crimes are not tolerated. To combat sexual assault, DoD has implemented the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, which incorporates a comprehensive policy that reinforces a culture of prevention, response and accountability. The goal of the SAPR Program is to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of all members of the Armed Forces through training and education programs, treatment and support of victims.

Since 2004, advancements in reporting options have helped create a climate of confidence in reporting. One of the policies implemented in 2005 was the restricted reporting option, which enables victims to come forward without triggering the investigative process, yet still receive the care that they deserve. Sixty-five percent of the increase in sexual assault reports involving members of the service can be attributed to the restricted reporting option that began in June 2005. This alternate choice, coupled with enhanced awareness of sexual assault and vigorous training, has encouraged more victims to take a stand against their assailant.

The program, as provided by law, ensures that an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran must consist of no less than two members of the armed forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the armed service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail is required to perform a ceremony which includes, at minimum, the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of taps, according to the Web site.

Lance Cpl. Laurie B. Middleswarth, an aviation ordnance technician in Company B, Headquarters Battalion, is a proud member of the funeral detail, and said her time sacrificed to perform the funeral honors is well spent.

"It's a high honor being able to give a final farewell," said Middleswarth. "You are not only representing the Marine Corps to the families and friends, you're also honoring the Marine who has passed."

Cpl. Andrew C. Yee, a fellow detail member and legal specialist, agreed.

"To me, being on the funeral detail is rewarding because it gives me a chance to give something back to the Marine Corps and to the Marines who have served before me," said Yee. "The funeral detail is an important element for the Marine Corps to support because it



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
Sgt. Robert L. Fisher III, MCAGCC funeral detail NCOIC, hands a folded flag from late Sgt. Maj. Gayle R Heitman's coffin to the retired sergeant major's wife, Philomena, during his funeral honors at the Twentynine Palms cemetery March 30.

shows families that we are a tight team of brothers and sisters that really support one another, whether you served in the present or the past."

Cpl. Ray T. Garcia, trumpet player for the Combat Center Band, was what the band refers to as the "duty bugler," an extra duty for all trumpet players in the band performed for one

week out of each month.

It was Garcia, a San Bernardino, Calif., native who played Taps on his trumpet after the fire volleys.

"As a trumpet player, this is the most rewarding job you can do," said Garcia about the role of duty bugler. "Those Marines are the ones who wrote the history books and

inspired me to become a Marine," Garcia said about fallen Marines honored in funerals. "It's nice to be able to say thanks to them."

If any active duty Marines are interested in becoming active participants in the Combat Center's funeral detail, contact Sgt. Robert Fisher at 830-6213.









# OBSERVATIONS

APRIL 6, 2007

## 3/7 stops Tanks in tracks

### *Commandeers Intramural title*

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Third Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and 1st Tank Battalion fought to the finish in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League Championship game March 29 at the East Gym.

First Tanks, who entered the playoffs after going 6-4 during the regular season, beat Tactical Training Exercise Control Group 64-50 in the first round, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Team A, who went undefeated during the regular season, in the second round by a score of 58-52, and then lost to 3/7 in the third round by a score of 53-52.

Third Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, went undefeated throughout the playoffs, beating Installations & Logistics 64-42 in the first round, MCCES B 60-38 in the second round and finally beating Tanks in the third round.

Because this was a double-elimination tournament, and all other teams had lost twice, Tanks and 3/7 met in the championship game.

In order for Tanks to win the championship, they needed to beat the undefeated 3/7 twice, while 3/7 only needed to beat Tanks once to take home the trophy.

In the first game, which would prove not to be the deciding game, the teams played each other closely finishing the low-scoring first half with 3/7 leading by a point at 20-19.

The second half was a different story. Tanks came out on fire, going on a 15-4 run, putting them in the lead at 34-24 with little more than 11 minutes left in the game. But 3/7 wasn't finished, and they went on a run of their own throwing 17 on the board to Tanks' six to go up by one point with four-and-a-half minutes remaining.

See CHAMPIONSHIP, B3

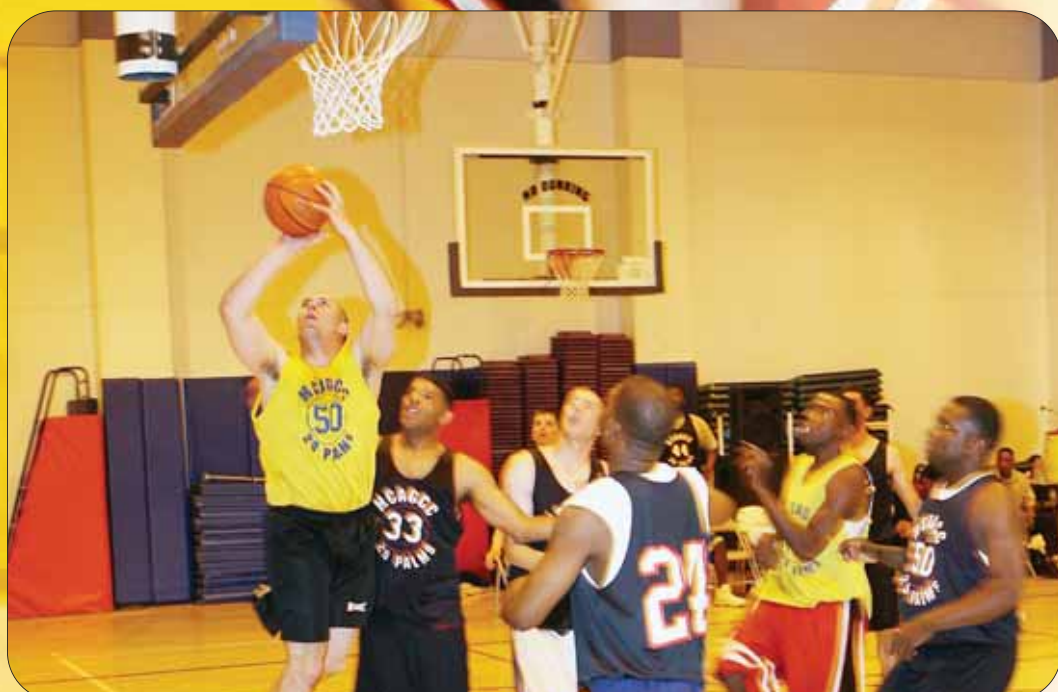
LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
Nathaniel Hovsepian of 1st Tank Battalion goes to the hole for an easy lay-up during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Championship game March 29 at the East Gym.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
Eric Cooke of 1st Tank Battalion backs down a 3/7 defender during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Championship game March 29 at the East Gym.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
Eric Cooke gets a shot off in a sea of 3/7 defenders during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Championship game March 29 at the East Gym.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
Walter Larisey IV of 3/7 gets an uncontested shot during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Championship game March 29 at the East Gym.



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

Raised to date:	\$56,969
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	\$13,369
D. Co. AAV	\$0 (Deployed)
MWSS-374	\$4,492
VMU-1	\$480 (Deployed)
CLB-7	\$1,761
Hospital	\$8,048
Band	\$0
C&D	\$245
Comptroller	\$1,275
I&L	\$1,665
G-3	\$646
PAO	\$420
PMO	\$493
IPAC	\$0
SJA	\$193
TTECG	\$4,693
3/4	\$0 (Deployed)

Goal: 100% contact!

## 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](mailto:scottgriesbach@gmail.com).

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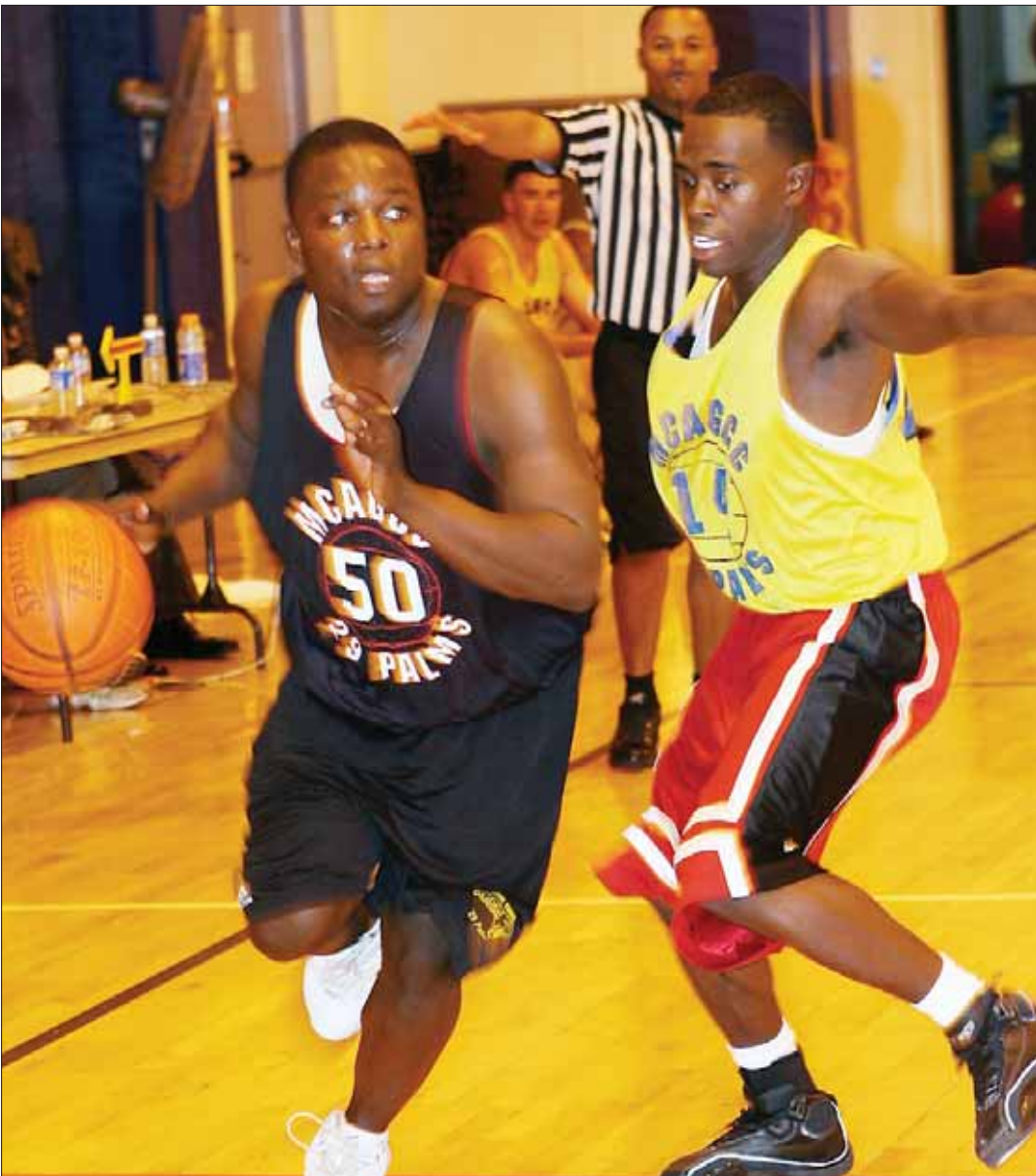
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Combat Center. Drivers: please  
legibly record information from your  
fare's military I.D. card.  
Thank you for participating.





LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Ananias Hawkins of 1st Tank Battalion protects the ball while bringing the ball up court during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball Championship game March 29 at the East Gym.

CHAMPIONSHIP from B1

3/7 would then extend their lead to 47-42 with less than 1:15 left to play. However Tanks used a quick basket and a lucky three-pointer to tie the game at 47 with less than a minute to play.

The rest of the game was decided at the free throw line, with the final score resulting in a Tanks victory, 52-48.

After an hour long break, the two teams met at center court and tipped off the championship game.

3/7 kept Tanks from getting any good looks, and kept them scoreless through the first 10 minutes of the game, but couldn't capitalize, scoring only eight points during that time.

Minutes later Tanks closed the gap to 14-10, but 3/7 broke the game back open with two three-pointers and took the lead, 23-17, at the half.

The second half was more of the same for 3/7 as they used the long range shot to keep Tanks out of striking distance.

Tanks made one final late push bringing the score within eight points at 48-40, after Ananias Hawkins

made back to back three-pointers, but in the end it proved not to be enough. 3/7 prevailed 59-47.

Elvis Tate, a player-coach for 3/7, was pleased with the way his team played.

"3/7 played the game the way it was meant to be played," he said. "We were

unselfish, and we were there for each other defensively and offensively. It was an honor to share the floor with those guys."

With the basketball league championship theirs, 3/7 moves to first place in the race for the Commanding General's Cup trophy.

# Key Volunteer Network Update

If you've never heard from your unit's Key Volunteer, here's why you need to make five minutes to pick up the phone and get in touch.

- If you've heard any rumors about life in Twentynine Palms or the status of your deployed or deploying Marine or sailor, but don't know if it's the truth.
- If you don't feel like a part of the Combat Center family.

The Key Volunteer -

- Is the spouse of a Marine in the unit.
- Must complete Key Volunteer Training.
- Serves as a communication link between the unit and its families.

- Assists in developing and maintaining a sense of community within the unit.
- Is a reliable source of information and referral.

The "Key" in Key Volunteer Network is more than just a name. It's the Key to information and community cooperation.

Get the straight scoop from the Key Volunteer Network.

Call Monica McBroom at 830-4163, or Gunnery Sgt. Tim Perez at 830-6613, to find out how to get your own Key.

Visit <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/kvn/index.cfm> to find out more information.