

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MAY 25, 2007 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 50 ISSUE 20

## 'We Salute You' Tour a 'barn burner'



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Big and Rich lit up the Combat Center sky Saturday during the We Salute You 2007 concert at Victory Field. See B1 for full story and photos.

## District County Supervisor visits Combat Center



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. Johnnylee W. Francisco, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, explains the different ways insurgents can hide improvised explosive devices in abandoned vehicles to San Bernardino District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt May 17.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The San Bernardino First District County Supervisor visited the Combat Center May 17.

Brad Mitzelfelt visited with the Combat Center commanding general, Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, and was briefed on current military operations and training programs here that prepare Marines and sailors in support of the Global War on the Radical Islamic Movement.

Mitzelfelt was elected Jan. 10 as the First District Supervisor to serve the remaining two years of the four-year position when the previous supervisor was appointed as the County Assessor.

Mitzelfelt, who is up for re-election in 2008 served active duty time as a Marine in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991.

Mitzelfelt said he was pleased to have a chance to sit down with the

commanding general and learn more about how the Marine Corps has come since his days in the service.

"I was invited by the general for an office call and was so happy that we could get acquainted," said Mitzelfelt, adding that the visit will help communication and coordination between the base and the community.

By holding Marine Corps values and standards in high regards, Mitzelfelt said he has plans for improving the quality of life in the San Bernardino County by calling attention to several issues in the community.

He has created specific strategies for repairing major community troubles, including improvement of roads and transportation infrastructure, wiping out identification theft, increasing public safety, omitting vandalism, getting rid of illegal dumping, ousting gang activity and establishing long-term county fire departments.

See SUPERVISOR, A7

### Weekend Weather

Friday		93/64 Sunny
Saturday		96/67 Sunny
Sunday		96/67 Sunny

### Inside this issue

- A4: Mountain Viper ETT's pushed to extremes
- A6: Rifle range experiences set backs
- A6: Young Marines volunteer at concert

### Observations



B3: Marine Corps Male and Female Athlete of The Year

### This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1775 —

Eight Marines escorted payroll. This was the first recorded action of the Continental Marines.

# Third Party Citations

Effective immediately, staff noncommissioned officers and officers wishing to write a third party citation can access the form on the Combat Center's homepage at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil>.

After downloading and filling out the form, the third party must bring the form to the Provost Marshal's Office at Bldg. 1408 for filing. The form will be reviewed by the traffic court clerks and any questions regarding the incident will be clarified. The services officer or chief will have the final say regarding any third party citation.

Once the alleged offender is identified, they will be issued a traffic citation by the Provost Marshal's Office. The complainant will be notified of the assigned traffic court date and will be required to appear and provide testimony. Personal information of the alleged violation will not be provided to the complainant. Individuals should not violate any traffic regulations in order to obtain the

information required to fill out a third party citation, nor should they confront the violator. Collection of the required information and reporting the incident via the Third Party Citation form is the most expedient means of handling the incident. In the near future, the reporting party will be able to send the form to the traffic court clerks via e-mail from the homepage.

Third party citations will normally be written only at the request of SNCOs and officers, however, the PMO services officer or chief may authorize third party citations at the request of civilian employees, dependent spouses and sergeants and below on a case by case basis.

Third party Citations will only be written for significant violations such as:

- a. Speeding
- b. Reckless Driving
- c. Failure to wear protective clothing or safety equipment while on a motorcycle, or
- d. Failure to wear a seatbelt.

# Protecting the Homefront: DOD Death Benefits

The good news is that while on active duty, Uncle Sam has substantial benefits in place for survivors. However, a thorough knowledge of these benefits is required as most will have to be applied for by survivors. This knowledge will allow you to know your family is protected even in these times of great uncertainty.

For example, if an E-6 with 10 years of service dies in the line of duty and leaves behind a widow and two small children, what monthly income would that family be eligible to receive? The answer is approximately \$3,751 per month or \$45,012 in the first year. A large portion of this income is tax-exempt and all of the income is subject to annual cost-of-living increases. If this surprises you, then read the rest of this article to educate yourself on your survivor benefits.

**Important Reminder:** Your survivors must apply

for most of these benefits. **Meaning:** No application - No benefits!

**Message:** The entire family must also understand these important benefits.

For an active-duty death, benefits are received from three principle sources: the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Social Security Administration. All benefit amounts are increased yearly and current benefits are always posted on the Navy Mutual Aid Association's website (click on Services, then click on Federal Benefits Information).

Department of Defense: Immediate financial support. In the event of death on active duty, a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer will be assigned to assist the family. The CACO will facilitate the procurement of a check for \$100,000, the fallen hero's compensation, to help with immediate financial needs. This amount is totally

tax exempt and is normally provided within 24 to 72 hours after death.

Additional benefits provided by the Department of Defense are housing and medical. If the family is living in government quarters at the time of death, they may remain there for 180 days rent free. After that, it is up to the base commander's discretion whether to allow the family to remain in housing for an additional short period of time. However, after 180 days, the family will be charged fair market rent. If not in government quarters, the family will receive a lump sum equal to 180 days worth of Basic Allowance for Housing.

The family continues to receive medical and dental services in an active-duty dependent status for three years. After that they can elect to enroll in the TRICARE system just like a retiree's family.

# C.O.P. Corner

## Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

# Holiday travel

With a holiday weekend coming up, there will be many people going home to spend time with family and friends, or just to get off base to hang out.

With so many people leaving, traffic will increase on the roadway. Are you prepared for the weekend getaway? Is your vehicle stocked with the proper protective equipment?

Here is a little list of some of the things you should keep in your vehicle in case of an accident or a break down.

1. First aid kit
2. Road side flares
3. Jumper cables
4. Blanket
5. Flashlights
6. Rain poncho
7. Fire extinguisher
8. Packaged food

Preparing for the worst puts your mind at ease so you can have a safe and enjoyable holiday. Ensure you check your supplies at least yearly for any damage or replacement it may need. For more information about vehicle safety you can check out the Web site: [http://familyfun.go.com/parenting/child/health/checklist/dony119hea\\_lists/](http://familyfun.go.com/parenting/child/health/checklist/dony119hea_lists/)

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

"It's also known as your Pie Hole, Cookie Cruncher, Biscuit Basher or Taco Trash Can!"



## Marine Kids in School

# Centerspeak

"How are you honoring Memorial Day"

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



NAVY LT. CHRIS E. HESTER  
7TH MARINE REG.



SGT. ROGER L. PETERSEN  
AVTB (AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLE TEST BRANCH)



LANCE CPL. ROBERT GARNICA  
3/5 PENDLETON

"Remembering those who served, and praying for those who are serving. And attending church."

"I'm bringing my family up to Twentynine Palms since I have one day off."

"Hanging out with friends and remembering those who have gone before us."

# 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)

# OBSERVATION POST

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# 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. Life Teen/Youth Group  
 Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary  
 Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass  
 Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group  
 18-35 years of age married or single  
 (3rd Sunday of the month)  
 Fri 12:15 - 4:30 p.m. Exposition/ Adoration Most Blessed  
 Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)  
*Holy Days of Obligation Masses*

11:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel  
 11:30 a.m. Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital

### VILLAGE CENTER

Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women\*  
 Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN SERVICE

### Christ Chapel

Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School\*  
 Sun 9 a.m. Worship\*  
 Wed 7 p.m. Praise & 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

## 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  
 Chaplain Flint 830-6187

## WEDNESDAY

### Village Center

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room  
 Chaplain Flint 830-6187

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

### Christ Chapel

5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal  
 6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship  
 7:00 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study  
 7:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Service

## 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

7 p.m. Knights of Columbus

## LEGEND

\*Indicates Child Care Provided

+Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646

# Resumes Fall 2006

## HOT TOPICS

### DEADLINE TO COMPLETE VISTA DEL SOL HOUSING SURVEY

Vista del Sol Resident Surveys have been mailed. Let us know how we are doing and how we can do better. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it no later than May 31.

### STOP SIGN CHANGED AT BOURKE AND BROWN

The number of stop signs on Brown Road has been decreased to improve traffic flow across Mainside during the Del Valle Road repaving project. The stop signs at the First, Third, Fourth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Street intersections of Brown Road will be removed to decrease the stop and go traffic. The four-way stop signs will remain at the intersections of Fifth and Sixth Streets in the vicinity of the Marine Corps Exchange. Stop signs have been added at the intersections of Bourke and First, Third, and Fifth Streets to stop East and West traffic and allow thru traffic in the North and South direction. Please be attentive to all traffic control signs.

### CALL 830-3333/3334 OR 830-FIRE FROM YOUR CELL PHONE TO REPORT EMERGENCIES ON BASE

There has been an increase in personnel reporting emergencies at the Combat Center by dialing 9-1-1 from their cell phones. This is a reminder that reporting emergencies occur on base from a cell phone should be reported by calling 830-3333, 830-3334 or 830-FIRE. These are dedicated emergency reporting lines that are processed in the same way

as a 9-1-1 call. Failure to report an emergency at MCAGCC from your cell phone using one of the dedicated emergency lines may result in an unnecessary delay of emergency response due to long distance routing of cellular 9-1-1 calls. Please post this information in all Combat Center working and living spaces. To report an emergency from a traditional hard line phone you should still call 9-1-1.

### TRICARE REMINDER: AVOID UNNECESSARY HEALTH CARE COSTS

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital beneficiaries are required to call 830-2752 during normal working hours or 830-2190 after hours to request authorization for treatment at an out of the area hospital or urgent care center. Failure to follow this procedure could cause the patient to be financially responsible for the point of service costs.

### NEW HOURS FOR OCOTILLO GATE

The Ocotillo Gate will be open from 5 a.m. until 8 p.m. during the Del Valle Road repaving project.

### MCAGCC FINANCE OFFICE CLOSES PERMANENTLY

The Twentynine Palms Finance Office will close permanently May 31. IPAC will be the point of contact for all active duty questions. The DTS Help Desk and Collection Services Counter will remain open and accessible through the hatch on the Fifth Street side of Bldg. 1521. The hatch is marked DTS Help Desk.

The points of contact are Grace Lebda, 830-3796, Maria King, 830-8608, Suzanna Hatter, 830-3130 and Cpl. Russo 830-3130.

- All active duty inquiries should be directed to IPAC.
- MyPay PIN's can be obtained at IPAC from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- All civilian travel inquiries should be directed to the DTS Help Desk.
- All collections should be turned in at the DTS Help Desk.
- All Montgomery G.I. Bill buy-ups should be turned in at the DTS Help Desk.

## LEISURE ITEMS

### NEW GYM HOURS

Mon-Fri 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Sat-Sun 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
 Holidays 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
 Changes were made to weekend and holiday hours. We will be open two hours later than before.

### DRMO CLOSED

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service/Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office located at Bldg. 1102-T1 will be closed through May 29. The office will re-open May 30.

### PROTESTANT LITURGICAL SERVICE AT CHRIST CHAPEL

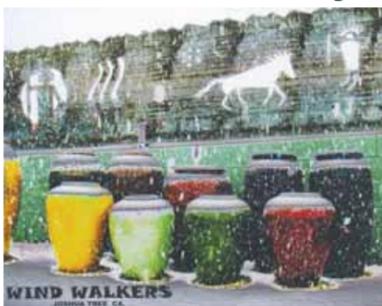
We are pleased to announce a Liturgical service on Sundays, beginning June 3 at



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11:00 a.m. in the East Wing of Christ Chapel. Pastor Gerald Garrett will lead the service, which will include familiar Scriptural liturgy, songs, and lessons applied to life's situations. If you have questions, please contact the RMD at 830-6304.

### OFFICER AND SNCO POOL BY THE OFFICERS CLUB WILL NOW BE OPEN FOR MORNING LAP SWIM

The officer and staff noncommissioned officer pool by the Officer's Club is open for morning lap swim from 6 to 8 a.m., Monday through Friday. For any question please call the Aquatics Program Manager at 830-6212.



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# Mountain Viper ETTs pushed to extreme during Rough Terrain Driving Course

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

HAWTHORNE ARMY AMMUNITION DEPOT, Nev. – Marines and sailors with Embedded Trainer Teams from 3rd Marine Division taking part in Mountain Viper Afghanistan predeployment training received first-hand experience pushing their humvees to the physical limits as part of the Rough Terrain Driving Course here.

All seven ETTs spend three days with Back Country Driving School instructors in the rugged, rocky mountains above Hawthorne, Nev., which many say mimics as closely as possible the various environments of Afghanistan. BCDS employs the crawl, walk, run philosophy by beginning in small sand dunes the first day and culminating with near-rollover angles over uneven rocky trails, said Will Leaman, a trainer and president of BCDS who has more than 20 years of off-road driving experience.

Over three days, the Marines and sailors learn to maintain their vehicles, perform emergency and routine repairs, recover stuck vehicles, drive at night with the aid of night vision goggles, and get behind the wheel of the same armored vehicles they will drive while overseas.

"The night drive was the hardest part out here for me," said Seaman Ernesto Cano, a hospital corpsman with ETT 4-2 and a 20-year-old San

Antonio native who on day three did not seem phased by tilting his vehicle sideways nearly 30 degrees while driving. "Using night vision goggles, your vision is reduced to a pinhole, your depth perception goes out the window, and you have to be much more prepared mentally."

Leaman's 12-man training team instructs two ETTs at a time during the course, with one instructor in each vehicle. No Marine or sailor is spared the white-knuckle experiences of getting behind the wheel here.

"A lot of people get nervous their first time when all they can see is hood and sky in front of them," said Leaman. "We are mostly hoping to give them familiarity behind the wheel to learn the hands-on characteristics, to learn the capabilities and limitations of the vehicles, the mechanical limitations to avoid breakdowns, and the handling limitations to avoid rollovers."

In only three days of behind-the-wheel training, Leaman said he and his team of off-roading professionals always see major improvements in the confidence and abilities of their students. Those in a vehicle learn to work together, where the gunner in the turret often becomes the eyes of the driver when the angle of travel is too extreme or a space is impossibly close on either side of the humvee.

Leaman's BCDS team also trained Marine ETTs last year

before they deployed to support the Afghan National Army. Last year the teams came to the school's headquarters in Virginia, but he said here at Hawthorne there is a dramatic improvement in realism for the units.

"Last year the ANA teams came to us," Leaman said. "Last year we didn't have access to humvees, so we used civilian SUV's instead. Now with Mountain Viper it's so much better because they are in the vehicle they will be driving there in the same type of terrain."

With the new M1114 up-armored humvees, more weight is put on the original chassis than before. In Afghanistan, avoiding accidents and breakdowns by properly dealing with the added weight can make the difference between mission accomplishment or becoming a target on the road.

"The words 'gentle' and 'fragile' are not typically in a Marine's vocabulary, but these trucks are fragile because they weigh so much and you have to be gentle with them or you can break them," said James S. Asti, vice president and director of training for BCDS. "And if you break them, you're a target."

But with the training the ETTs have received from BCDS, Marines and sailors like Cano can accomplish their mission with the skills, knowledge and confidence to drive and thrive nearly anywhere on Earth in almost any terrain.



A vehicle with Embedded Training Team 4-2 drives through tough mountain trails Tuesday as part of the Mountain Viper rough-terrain driving course. The ETTs practiced pushing their armored humvees to the physical limit while driving in terrain very similar to what they will experience while deployed to Afghanistan.

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

By day,  
accountant.



By night,  
punk rocker.

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Vehicles with Embedded Training Team 4-2 drive up rough trails Tuesday as part of the Mountain Viper rough-terrain driving course.

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

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NCUA



# Rifle Range experiences a few setbacks during practice range

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"With a magazine of 10 rounds load," echoed from the speakers at the rifle range May 7 as the first group of Marines prepared to shoot the course of fire on the newly renovated range.

The range had been closed down since Nov. 10, due to a \$3.2 million modification and improvement project.

"The primary focus was supportability of the new Marine Corps Combat Marksmanship program," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clint Bickle, officer-in-charge at the range. "The Marine Corps Combat Marksmanship program calls for live fire from the 100- and 25-yard lines for table II (Basic Combat Marksmanship). These yard lines didn't exist, but now they do."

Along with the new 25- and 100-yard lines, the range also resurfaced all firing berms from the 200- to the 1,000-yard line. The range also received a new public announcement system on the telephone poles, which also serve as range flag poles, new carriages for the targets in the pit area and asphalt access roads on both sides of the range going to the pits, an area where Marines mark shots on targets safely behind a berm.

While this was the first range in months, the range personnel and shooters did have some setbacks.

"The range ran a little longer than we expected," said Cpl. Ryan Brase, pistol line tower noncommissioned officer. "Since it was the first range it went a little rough. We have a lot of new guys coaching who need to get into the groove of how things work."

Sgt. David Rohrich, combat marksmanship instructor, agrees.

"We had a lot of Marines out there for the first time due to the range being closed down for so long. The new crew will have to learn how things run now, but they will develop quickly," he said.

Along with the range running longer, shooters also had to deal with unforeseen problems both in the pits with the new target carriages and at the 500 yard line with the new black asphalt.

The range was a little unorganized and confusing in the beginning to some Marines, such as Lance Cpl. Nataly Salguero, a combat illustrator.

"The first day, the carriages were almost impossible to move with the new chains and the wind. They got gradually better as the range went on," she said about her experience as a member of this first range detail. "Along with confusion and the carriages, the 500-yard line slow fire went horrible because it involved lying in the prone position after the black

asphalt had baked all day in the desert sun."

While black top may not seem like an ideal surface in the desert, range personnel say they have their reasons for it being used versus lighter cements.

"Black top will alleviate any serious wind and rain erosion," said Bickle. "Additionally, black top allows for distinct markings of firing points, ready lines and firing lines."

To alleviate problems the range encountered with the black top, rubberized pads in desert colors are being affixed to each firing point. These four by six foot pads will be poured in place so they adhere to the blacktop. Their design is meant to displace heat magnified by the black surface.

Along with the black top, the target carriers were difficult at first to maneuver, but are "state of the art" compared to the old ones, said Bickle.

The old ones had a series of links, as the chains to maneuver them, which posed a safety hazard because sometimes links would pop off. The new target carriages are maneuvered by chains and have counter balances to make sure the target remains in the air until it is pulled down.

Headquarters Marine Corps is currently searching for an automated system with scoring sensors to replace the current manually operated system. When one is finally adopted, the Combat Center, along with other Marine Corps bases, will move toward outfitting the ranges with the new equipment.

"The old carriages were not only obsolete, they were inoperable," said Bickle. "The manual carriages we have are state of the art with robust sprockets and chains. They are made specifically for the purpose intended and will operate excellent in desert operations."

Although the first range detail this year had problems, the more ranges that are completed the smoother personnel anticipate things to become.

Currently the range is scheduled to support up to 30 range details each year with as many as 300 rifle shooters and 150 pistol shooters.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, commanding general of the Combat Center, cuts the ribbon signifying the official opening of the new rifle range near range 215 May 11.

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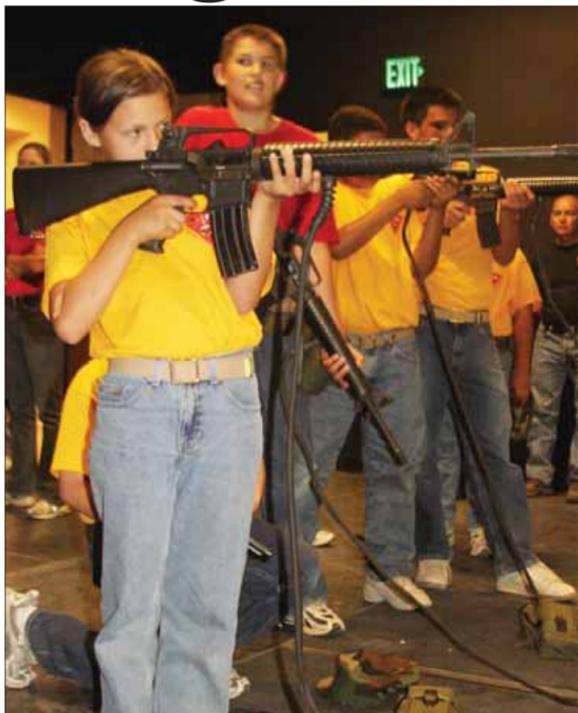
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# Young Marines learn ropes, volunteer at concert



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Rozelle Dominguez, Young Marine, shoots the M-16A2 service rifle at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, Saturday.



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Young Marines lay in the prone position at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer Saturday during their visit to the Combat Center.

**PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-eight Young Marines, ranging from ages 8 to 18, arrived on base May 18 to help serve food during the We Salute You 2007 concert Saturday.

"The Young Marines came here to get the whole Marine experience and help support the Marines on this base during the Salute," said Gunnery Sgt. Mackey D. Ware, the base coordinator for the Young Marines.

According to the Young Marines Web site, <http://www.youngmarines.com>, the

Young Marines program has been around since 1958 and growing across the world. They are now a crucial part of the Marine Corps' youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts, and many units of Young Marines have helped in disaster relief and restoration projects around the world. The Young Marines program also has a foreign exchange program with Canada, Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom and Sweden. They also have been attending events at the Combat Center for many years.

The group of Young Marines from Tustin, Calif., who came to the base started their Marine Corps experience Saturday morning when they woke up early for physical training.

By mid-morning, they

were set up at Del Valle Field for an Explosive Ordnance Disposal demonstration. The Young Marines experimented with remote controlled robots used in Iraq to remove explosive devices and examine certain situations with mounted cameras.

Some of the Young Marines were given the chance to dress in a bomb suit and experience what it is like for EOD personnel.

After the EOD demonstration, the children marched over to the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer where they were taught the rudimentary rules of handling and being safe with weapons before they were allowed to shoot on the simulated screen.

The children were given the opportunity to shoot the ISMT using M-16A2 service rifles, M249 Squad Automatic Weapons, M4 carbines and

M9 9mm service pistols.

In the afternoon, the Young Marines served lunch and dinner to Marines, sailors, family members and friends before the concert began.

"They served chow for three to four hours," said Ware. "I thought it was an outstanding experience. I'm glad everyone supported them."

While the children were here they also had the chance to talk to several Marines from private all the way through sergeant major, and ask questions about life in the Corps.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," said Ware. "It is important that these children can understand the Marine Corps and appreciate our way of living and working," he continued.

"It is a great way to motivate young people and teach them about the Marine Corps," Ware said.



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Recruit Munoz Omar, Young Marine, is dressed in a bomb suit during an Explosive Ordnance Disposal demonstration Saturday at the Del Valle Field.

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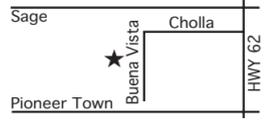
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# 'Freedom Is Not Free' provides 'Jets for Vets'

## MARINE CORPS PRESS RELEASE

Freedom Is Not Free is partnering with Executive Wings on a program called Jets for Vets in order to ease the burden of the cost of transportation for wounded military personnel and their families. The program enables volunteers to make would-be empty travel seats available on private jets to those wounded while serving. "Non-conforming" relatives such as fiancés, best friends, grandparents, and significant others who do not qualify for Department of Defense travel benefits may also take advantage of the program.

Jets for Vets is a charitable initiative of the Executive Wings alliance, made up of the world's top pre-owned business jet dealers and brokers. Its members recognize the sacrifice of those who serve and recognize the additional strain placed on those who require medical treatments or physical therapy as a result of injuries suffered while serving. They also recognize the tremendous benefit that can come as a result of having loved ones present during the recovery process. However, realizing that substantial financial burdens are often a side-effect, Jets for Vets donors seek to alleviate at least one obstacle for wounded troops and their families.

Through the FINF Web site, those in need of transportation may submit a request detailing their travel needs. FINF will work with Jets for Vets to seek a solution. Launched in March, the initiative has already garnered several volunteers who have generously donated their private planes for the program and looks forward to building an extensive database that will allow FINF and Jets for Vets to assist as many of our military personnel as possible.

The initiative has also received a positive reception from the start, as shown by retired Army general, Colin L. Powell, who thanked Jets for Vets founder Tony Smith, saying "I am sure this will be appreciated by many of our troops who have served us so nobly."

Please visit the FINF Web site at <http://www.FreedomIsNotFree.com> for more information or to request a flight through the Jets for Vets program.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa shows San Bernardino First District County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer during his tour of the base May 17.

### SUPERVISOR from A1

"I want to further develop the work force in the county," said Mitzelfelt. "We are going to work on everything from infrastructure to mutual aid to fire and police agencies."

Mitzelfelt said one of his main goals is to fix the unemployment problem in Twentynine Palms by attracting more employers to the county.

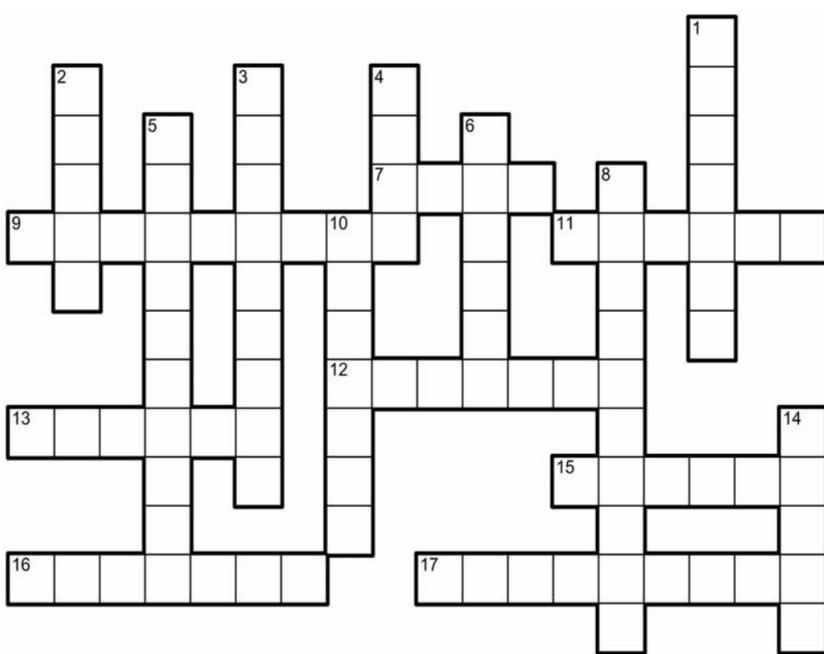
Mitzelfelt said he felt the Marines Corps equipped him with the necessary tools to

make his journey to success.

"There are four very important things the Marine Corps gave me," said Mitzelfelt. "Number one, discipline. Number two, confidence. Number three, endurance, and number four, great leadership training. Those are the most valuable attributes I left with which I owe thanks to Marine Corps service and training."

Mitzelfelt's remarkable success and political influence are hallmark examples of the type of men and women the Marine Corps produces on a regular basis.

# AMERICAN PRESIDENTS



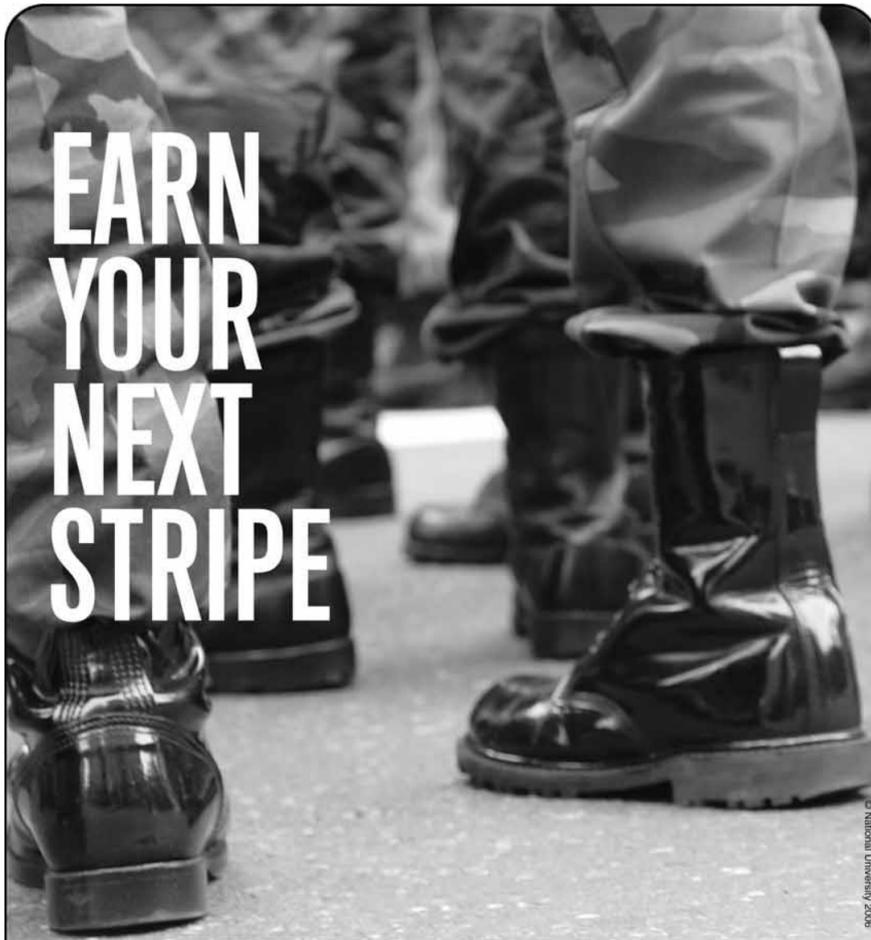
### ACROSS

- 7. He won the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1976, but lost the election to his Democratic opponent, former Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia.
- 9. "Teddy"
- 11. In 1917 he proclaimed American entrance into World War I a crusade to make the world "safe for democracy."
- 12. During his administration, the U.S. enjoyed more peace and economic well being than at any time in its history.
- 13. "The Gipper"
- 15. He declared war on France in 1940.
- 16. He was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.
- 17. He wrote his own epitaph without mentioning that he served as president of the United States.

### DOWN

- 1. As a major general in the War of 1812, he became a national hero when he defeated the British at New Orleans.
- 2. "I am not a crook."
- 3. He is the only president to serve two nonconsecutive terms. The Baby Ruth candy bar was named after his baby daughter, Ruth.
- 4. 27th president
- 5. The first president of the United States.
- 6. "Give 'em hell Harry"
- 8. "Ike"
- 10. "With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds..."
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[Solutions on A9]



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COL. JEFF HAYNES

# A convoy to cheer for

Nearly 3,000 residents cheered on Marines of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, driving down Main Street in Hawthorne, Nev., as part of the 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade here Saturday. The Marines are participating in the Mountain Viper pre-deployment training program to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan as embedded trainer teams with the Afghan National Army.

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Memorial Park

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**Odella Sandow**  
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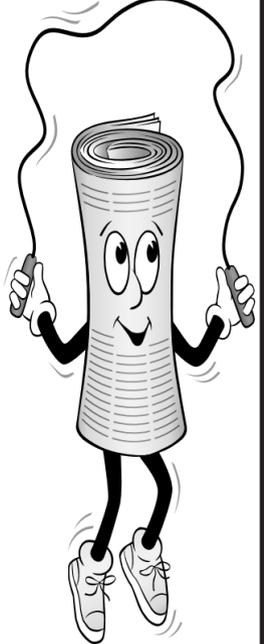
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# Military working dogs make for Marine's best friend

CPL. RYAN C. HEISER,  
2ND MARINE DIVISION

**COMBAT OUTPOST RAWAH, Iraq** -- The room looks like every average Marine's: one bunk-bed against the corner, a desk and chair on the opposite wall, very little dirt in sight, but dog hair blankets the room.

Cpl. Patrick L. Whitlatch says he does his best to keep the room spotless, but his roommate is somewhat less than accommodating. He spills water on the floor, leaves personal items all over, and never cleans up after himself. Rex might be smart, even outstanding among his peers, but there is only so much a military working dog can be expected to do.

Whitlatch, a military working dog handler with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, and his dog Rex, as well as the battalion's other dogs and handlers, just wrapped up their role in operation Valiant Guardian. In the operation, they were a key part of the battalion's sweep through the western Euphrates River valley in search of insurgent safe-havens, weapons and supply routes.

Whitlatch, a native of Wayland, Mich., has been taking care of and working with Rex every minute of their deployment over the past six and a half months.

"We treat them (the dogs) like brothers," said Army Staff Sgt. Kevin P. Cameron, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the battalion's kennels. "We deploy and redeploy with them. We know they will be there for us and vice versa. We rely on each other for security and safety."

Rex, a five-year old Belgian Malinois, has been working for the military for most of his life.



Cpl. Patrick L. Whitlatch, a military working dog handler with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, watches as Army Staff Sgt. Kevin P. Cameron, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the battalion's kennels, pretends to resist a search during a training exercise with Rex (left) and Nero (right).

"We have worked on foot patrols, cordon and knocks, and cache sweeps," said Whitlatch. "First LAR, and 2nd LAR before them, really integrated us into their unit and we were able to work extensively throughout our area."

Whitlatch and Rex, as well as the kennel's other two military working dogs and handlers, have spent their deployment searching the western Euphrates River valley for weapons and explosives.

"The dogs have detection

capabilities far above human abilities," said Cameron, a native of Sacramento, Calif. "They can provide ambush early warnings; they can clear a room or building. In the end, they are a force multiplier."

The handlers said the dogs can be trained to do nearly anything a regular Marine can do, short of holding a rifle.

"Anytime you can find explosives or do any of a number of things a Marine in combat is expected to do, without actually putting a Marine in danger, it is

an asset," said Whitlatch.

The handlers said the mere presence of the dogs within a village is sometimes enough to keep insurgents from attempting to harm coalition forces.

"The civilians recognize the added protection the dogs provide, and it deters insurgent activity," said Cameron. "Plus they boost morale; after all, who doesn't love seeing a dog around, especially out here in the desert."

The handlers and their dogs spend nearly every waking

moment together while on deployment. They work together, play together, eat together, and sleep merely inches apart.

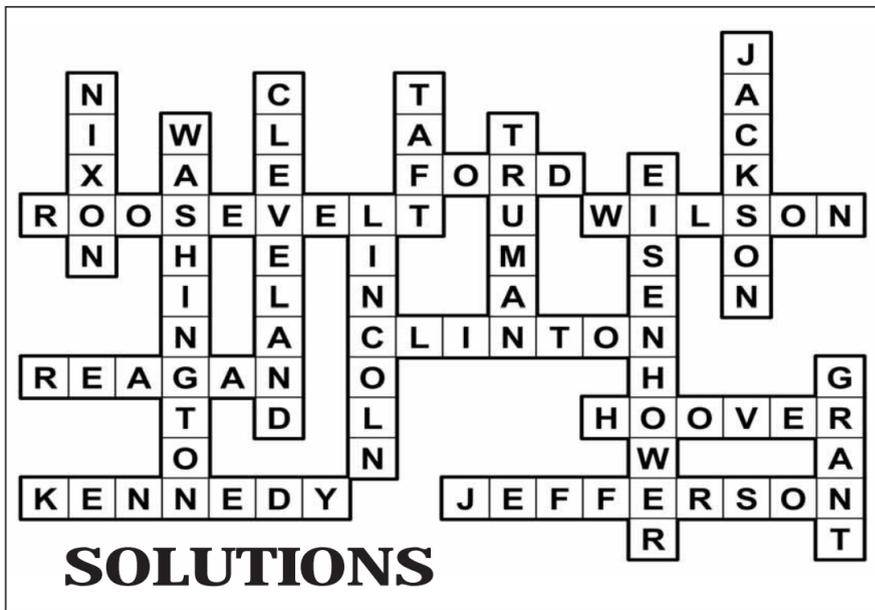
"He is like an extension of me," said Whitlatch. "I don't do anything without him. If something were to happen to him it would be just like my best friend getting hurt."

The handlers say the dogs each have their own personality, just like humans.

"Rex has the best personality I have ever seen in a working

dog. He has a huge sense of humor, and likes to make people smile. We have seen him attack chairs out of boredom, and the more you laugh at him, the more excited he gets," Whitlatch said.

Though Rex, and other military working dogs like him, may not have the strict living standards most Marines share, like constantly cleaning up after themselves, there is no argument they are an asset and a welcome part of day-to-day life in the Iraqi desert.



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# OBSERVATIONS

MAY 25, 2007

## KICKIN' THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

### 'We Salute You 2007' concert lights up the Combat Center



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Big Kenny of the country music band Big and Rich, sings to the crowd during their performance Saturday at Victory Field.



SUSAN CRITTENDEN

John Rich of the country band Big and Rich, rocks the guitar and microphone during their performance at Victory Field Saturday.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The crowd felt vibrations from the stage as the guitars, banjo, violins and drums played their warm-up tunes. Moments later, the stage erupted in flashes of colored light as two figures emerged through the drifting smoke. The crowd went wild.

Country artists Big and Rich and "hick-hop" artist Cowboy Troy rocked and twanged the combat center Saturday on Victory Field as part of the We Salute You 2007 event.

We Salute You is an annual event which takes place aboard the Combat Center to thank service members, Department of Defense employees and their families for their service to the country.

This year, the field opened for patrons at 4 p.m. with Marines at the entrance handing out care packages courtesy of the United Service Organizations.

Free barbecued food and drinks were provided to the crowd by the California Barbeque Association.

Additionally there was a rock-climbing tower set up for all ages, as well as jump houses for the kids.

Kevyn Major Howard, a professional photographer well known for his role as Rafter Man in the movie "Full Metal Jackets," brought with him a 1963 Chevy Nova race car with names of fallen Marines listed on each side and on top of the car, as well as a camouflage-painted 1966 Chevy Nova race car.

Jeff Cochran and Kristen Clayton with the Sucker Punch Sally's motorcycle company brought seven custom-made choppers for display during the event.

Upon Big and Rich's and Cowboy Troy's arrival on base, they were greeted by Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, base commanding general, at the Officer's Club where they and their road crew joined Spiese for lunch.

The band members and crew then loaded a tour bus and made their way to the Exercise Support Division lot, where Marines educated the band and crew members on the purposes and functions of military tactical vehicles such as a 7-ton truck, a humvee, an M1A1 Main Battle Tank, and an amphibious assault vehicle.

Each person was given the chance to climb

aboard the vehicles and sit behind the driver's or commander's seat of each vehicle, giving them idea of what it is like to be in a Marine's boots.

After the musicians were through exploring the vehicles, Cowboy Troy, Big Kenny and John Rich were each presented with a large recruiting poster that had been signed by Marines and sailors to thank the musicians for their support.

"This is really awesome," said Cowboy Troy about the posters. "We are the ones who should be thanking you all."

The country artists expressed special enthusiasm about performing for a military audience.

"I love performing for a crowd like this because it's a whole different level of respect on our side," said Big Kenny. "They are fighting for our protection and for those all around the world, so I think we feel like we need to step-up the performance on our own."

"I'm expecting a rowdy crowd," said Cowboy Troy before taking the stage. "I'll be happy to play for them. I'm excited just knowing the fact that Americans are devoting their lives to our country. It means a lot to me and my family."

The energy level of the crowd suggested that patrons aboard the Combat Center were no less excited about the concert.

As Big and Rich strutted onto the stage, the crowd exploded with cheers.

Many members of the crowd said they thought it was a tremendous pleasure to have Big and Rich and Cowboy Troy treat the Combat Center with a free show.

"We need good social events because it's good interaction for Marines," said Pfc. Nathan R. Kyle, a radio operator with Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. "I think it's stellar that Big and Rich came to give us all a free concert."

Lance Cpl. Jovan D. Roberts, a mortarman with Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, said he felt the same way.

"It's awesome that big-name people like Big and Rich show up to support our troops. It's especially supportive for those troops about to deploy, like myself," he said.

As the festivities came to an end after the last musical note was played, it left those in the audience wondering what next year's We Salute You tour will bring.



SUSAN CRITTENDEN

Cowboy Troy gets the crowd hootin' and hollerin' during his hick-hop performance at the Combat Center's Victory Field Saturday.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. Jody M. Bridges, Big Kenny, Sgt. Robert L. Fisher III and Sgt. Matthew M. Thomas hold an autographed poster presented to Big and Rich at the Exercise Support Division Saturday.

# Birth announcements



**KIMBERLY ELIZABETH MILLS**

Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Bruce M. Mills  
Born March 3, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches.

**SHELBY RENEE TESSIER**

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Brian Tessier  
Born March 24, 2007, weighing 5 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 18.3 inches.

**MAKALEKA KELLY VANDECAR**

Daughter of SFC. and Mrs. Bart Van DeCar  
Born March 29, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20.2 inches.

**ADDISON ELLYCE ASHBY**

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Robert Ashby  
Born April 1, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 20.3 inches.

**BRYOR GAGE FRANCISCO**

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. David Francisco  
Born April 1, 2007, weighing 9 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 20.1 inches.

**MALAKYE RONDANE BROWN**

Son of Capt. and Mrs. Daymian Brown  
Born April 2, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

**DYLAN TRAMMEL COCHRAN**

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Lewis Cochran  
Born April 3, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

**KALEB ARON PEARSON**

Son of HM1 and Mr. David Francisco  
Born April 3, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 18 inches.

**KIERA DIVINITY GNOTSAVATH**

Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Simon Gnotsavath

Born April 7, 2007, weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 18 inches.

**SIENNA SKIE IZQUIERDO**

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Robert J. Izquierdo  
Born April 7, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

**GREGORIO ISIDRO PADILLA Jr.**

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Gregorio Padilla  
Born April 11, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

**MATHEW JOSHUA WESS**

Son of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Joshua Wess  
Born April 12, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

**JAYDRIAN JORDAN CASTILLO**

Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Justin Castillo  
Born April 12, 2007, weighing 5 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 17.5 inches.

**DERRICK LEE WATSON Jr.**

Son of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Derrick Watson  
Born April 14, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 19.3 inches.

**LILY RAE THOMPSON**

Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Carl Thompson  
Born April 16, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 18.8 inches.

**JENICA ROSE SILVAS**

Daughter of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Jesse Silvas  
Born April 16, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

**DANIEL BRUCE MILLER**

Son of HM3 and Mrs. Darren Miller  
Born April 16, 2007, weighing 9 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20.3 inches.

**RYDER ANDREW RAMSON**

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. John Ramson  
Born April 17, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

## Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

**Today**

6 p.m.  
Reign Over Me (R)  
9 p.m.  
The Reaping (R)

**Saturday**

2 p.m.  
Meet The Robinsons (G)  
6 p.m.  
Blades of Glory (PG-13)  
9 p.m.  
The Reaping (R)

**Sunday**

2 p.m.  
The Last Mimzy (PG)  
6 p.m.  
Are We Done Yet? (PG)  
9 p.m.  
Blades Of Glory (PG-13)

**Monday**

2 p.m.  
Meet The Robinsons (G)  
6 p.m.  
The Reaping (R)  
9 p.m.  
Reign Over Me (R)

**Tuesday**

7 p.m.  
Disturbia (PG-13)

**Wednesday**

7 p.m.  
The Last Mimzy (PG)

**Thursday**

7 p.m.  
Shooter (R)



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## Naval Hospital offers advice on career moves

LT SCOTT A. MOWERY  
NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

The Career Management Symposium team will offer advice on career direction, development, and opportunity. Attendees will have the opportunity to negotiate for orders, discuss community status, and ask questions about career management issues. Detailers from several communities will accompany the Center for Personal and Professional Development Team.

"This is a very good tool for the commands," said CMDMCM(AW) Kenneth Ellenburg, Command Master Chief Liaison for CPPD. "We give a lot of information to the commands and to the sailors on what is available in and out of the Navy."

The team will give briefs each day designed to provide information needed to make an informed career decision. Multiple briefs are given to ensure that all can chance to attend.

The Manpower, Personnel, Training & Education brief targets leadership, to include the commanding officer, executive officer, command master chief, department heads, and command career counselors. Discussions will include "big Navy" concepts, such as enlisted manpower, retention, and the latest policies and programs in place that support the Navy's progress toward its vision of training 21st century leaders.

The Chief Petty Officer Leadership brief is designed to educate these leaders on pay and compensation, retirement issues, and promote effective leadership of junior sailors. CPO's will learn how to help junior sailors with career intentions, development, and management.

The First Line Leadership brief will be held for E-5 and E-6 petty officers. This brief is designed to educate the first line leaders on pay and compensation, retirement issues, and promote effective leadership of junior sailors. The audience is provided with information that can help junior sailors with career intentions, development, and management.

The Junior Enlisted/Junior Officer brief is broken into two parts; one for the junior enlisted, E-4 and below, and one for junior officers O-4 and below. During each brief, sailors will receive guidance on career management, and will have an opportunity to assess the value of their skills and pay as compared to the civilian job market.

"The individual sailor can see a comparison between what they make in the Navy, and what's available to them on the outside, so they can compare salaries," said CMDMCM Ellenburg. "They will be provided the information to make an informed decision when it comes time to decide whether to stay Navy or not."

The Selection Board Brief will include detailed information regarding advancement and the selection board process, which provides guidance for individual service record review and follow-up on discrepancies.

For more information, contact CMDMCM Kenneth Ellenburg at kenneth.ellenburg@navy.mil or (901) 874-2457.

## 2006 Marine Corps Athletes of the Year Announced



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCS  
Gunnery Sgt. Michael Green attempts a lift during a 2006 powerlifting competition. Green was selected as the 2006 Marine Corps Male Athlete of the Year.

### MCCS PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, QUANTICO, Va. – First Lieutenant Jessica Utter and Gunnery Sgt. Michael Green have been selected as the Marine Corps Female and Male Athletes of the Year for 2006.

The pair will be honored at the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon Ceremony at the Clubs at Quantico in Quantico, Va., on Aug. 17, at 11 a.m.

Utter, an electronic countermeasures officer with Marine Aerial Reconnaissance Squadron 4, an EA-6B Prowler squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry

Point, N.C., is a member of the 2006 All-Marine Triathlon and Ironman Teams and was the eighth overall Service member and first Marine finisher at the Armed Forces Triathlon Championship. Her strong finish earned her a spot on the U.S. Armed Forces team that competed at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Triathlon Championship in Satenas, Sweden, where she placed 5th among the Armed Forces women. She was also the second overall female finisher at the Mt. Rainier Duathlon; the sixth overall finisher (men and women) at the Elma, Wash., Mother's Day Triathlon; and the first female to cross the

line at the Race the Rock Triathlon, Langley, Wash. Finally, in October, Utter also completed the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, with a time of 12:02:07.

Green, an Instructor within the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., is the current Submaster Bench Press World Record Holder in the 220 lbs. weight class. During 2006, Green displayed an incredible feat of strength at the World Association of Bench Pressers and Dead Lifters River Country Record Championships



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCS  
1st Lt. Jessica Utter was chosen as the Marine Corps Female Athlete of the Year.

when he surpassed his own world record of 617.2 pounds on his opening lift, and finished with an impressive final lift of 678 pounds. In November, Green captured his second consecutive WABDL World Championship while lifting 679 pounds in the 220 lbs. weight class. In addition, Green set the Florida State Record in the 242 pound divi-

sion at the Alabama Classic and has lifted over 700 pounds as a guest lifter at non-sanctioned events.

For more information about the Athletes of the Year program or the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame, please contact Steven Dinote, HQMC Semper Fit, 703-784-9542, or email: steven.dinote@usmc.mil.

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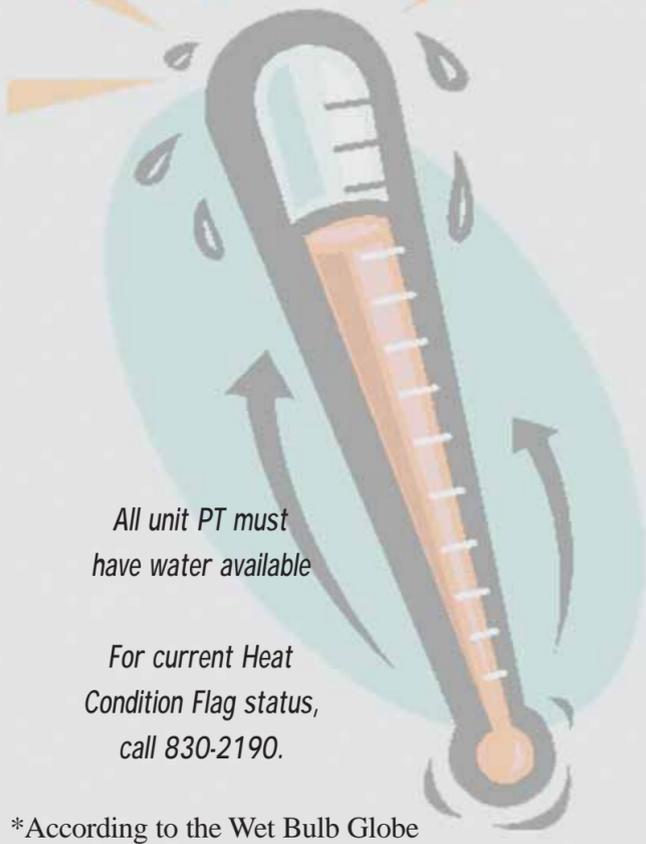
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\*According to the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature index

# First USMC Combat/Operational Stress Control Conference

HQMC (MR), QUANTICO, Va. – The 1st Annual USMC Combat/Operational Stress Control Conference will be held June 18 and 19 at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va. The conference will bring together military and civilian subject matter experts and stakeholders in the COSC process to discuss current and future COSC training, research, policies and programs. Invited speakers include Jonathan Shay, MD, PhD; Charles Figley, PhD; and Brett Litz, PhD, as well as other partners of the Marine Corps COSC effort from across the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain. Topics to be covered will include current research on the prevalence of PTSD and other disorders post-deployment, battlefield ethics and its potential connection to combat/operational stress injuries, current best practices for identifying and

managing traumatic brain injury, the role of chaplains in combat/operational stress control, Operational Stress Control and Readiness in-theater lessons learned and much more.

The conference is open to unit commanders and their representatives, Marines, chaplains, medical and mental health personnel, Marine and Family Service Center counselors, key volunteers, and family members. Conference participation is limited to 400 and those who wish to attend are required to register at [www.manpower.usmc.mil/cosc](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/cosc). Early registration is encouraged. Please note that continuing education units for medical and mental health personnel will not be available this year.

For more information, see MARADMIN 312/07 or check out the conference Web site or contact Carmen Carlisle at 703-432-9544 or via email: [COSC@usmc.mil](mailto:COSC@usmc.mil), or Maj. Adrienne Evertson at 703-432-9199.



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Shrek the Third (PG) Fri-Mon: 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Tues-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Spider-Man 3 (PG 13) Fri-Mon: 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Tues-Th: 2:30, 7:00

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