

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 1, 2007 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 50 ISSUE 21

Secretary of Defense experiences training aboard Combat Center

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Honorable Robert M. Gates, secretary of defense, visited the Combat Center to observe combat training on Range 215 and receive an overview of the Marine Corps pre-deployment training program Tuesday.

His stop at the Combat Center was just one of many tours to different military installations over the past three weeks. The purpose of his visits was to experience firsthand the capabilities of the armed services in combat.

From the moment he arrived at a Forward Operating Base near Range 215, Marines involved in Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment training package, briefed Gates on everything involved in training the Marines for a deployment.

Nevertheless, Gates came prepared with questions regarding future pre-deployment training operations not only with Mojave Viper but also joint combat operations.

"The future of training on this base is joint training," he said. "We never fight as just the Marine Corps, we always fight as a joint force."

Combat training is constantly evolving and the future of training at the Combat Center lies in how we can bring a joint capability but still do service level training, said Brian Catlin, G-3 director.

Marines and sailors learn interrogation tactics during Mojave Viper. But it doesn't end there. They also learn how to collect evidence



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

See SECDEF, A6 Lt. Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, director of urban warfare, escorts Robert Gates, secretary of defense, through the market district of Range 215 Tuesday.

Fallen heroes remembered on Memorial Day



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

The Combat Center color guard renders a salute as a 21-gun salute is fired at a Memorial Day service held at the flag pole on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Monday.

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

What began as national "Decoration Day" on May 5, 1868, has grown and evolved to be a day where many come together across the United States to memorialize those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

On Monday, in honor of Memorial Day a traditional Memorial Day Salute was performed at the flagpole on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

During the ceremony the National Ensign was raised from half-mast, where it was placed earlier in the morning to honor fallen service members, and a 21-gun salute was performed by a saluting detail under the command of the commanding general, Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese. At the end of the ceremony, there was a moment of silence as Taps was played.

Although many traditions are performed on Memorial Day, it extends beyond color guards, ceremonies and rifle salutes, hitting close to home for many who serve in the United States military and many who have lost a fellow Marine in combat.

"If the American people were to not memorialize these sacrifices, it would be as if they were made in vain," said Lance Cpl. Russell Spicher, a 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines assaultman, who has served three tours in Iraq. "It would be saying that these men and

women are fighting and dying for nothing. That is absolutely unacceptable. For this reason it is of the utmost importance that we all remember those who have fought and died for our country. They fought and died for everybody regardless of race, gender, religious or political beliefs."

Many who performed the ceremony, took pride in their role and walked away with a sense of honor.

"I was proud and honored to be part of the ceremony," said Lance Cpl. William Mitchell, who was part of the color guard. "You take away a new sense of pride and understanding for traditions and what it means to be a member of the armed forces."

Lance Cpl. Brandon Dion, also part of the color guard agreed. "Being a part of the Memorial Day ceremony of remembering our fallen troops and our troops serving now was a great honor," he said. "Knowing that I represent people that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country leaves me with a reputation that I must fulfill and respect with the best of my abilities."

Memorial Day, which falls on the last Monday of May every year, is a great reminder of all who have come before us. It not only represents the Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen we have lost in the current war, but also the service members in previous wars.

See MEMORIAL, A6

Stricter penalties for using cell phone while driving

Effective July 1, traffic citations issued for cell phone use while operating a vehicle will be a mandatory appearance in traffic court. First offense violations will receive a 30-day suspension of base driving privileges. All second offense violators will receive a 90-day suspension of base driving privileges.

The prohibition against cell phone use does not apply when a microphone or speaker device is used, leaving the driver's hands free to drive.



Weekend Weather

Friday		100/68 Sunny
Saturday		99/68 Sunny
Sunday		99/72 Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: Body armor best for combat
- A5: 3/11 Korean War Vets reunite with battalion
- A7: Special occasions merit 18-year-old drinking age

Observations



Warrior Club reopens after renovations

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1918 —

"Retreat Hell! We just got here," said the 5th Marine Regiment in France.

Third Party Citations Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

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:

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



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MASTER SGT. DAVID E. SUTTON

Master Sgt. David E. Sutton's memorial will be held Saturday, at 10 a.m. at the Protestant Chapel. If you have any questions, the point of contact is either Gunnery Sgt. Crawford or Sgt. Francisco. They can be reached at 830-6885.

Desert Hot Springs High School seeks JROTC instructor

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

Basic qualifications include: retired

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

Birth announcements



NATALIA MONTSERRAT TOBIAS
Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Mario Tobias
Born May 1, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

SEAN AIDEN HUESTIS
Son of Seaman and Mr. Erika Abarca
Born May 2, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 19.3 inches.

JETT MCGEE JONES
Son of Sgt. and Mrs. James M. Jones
Born May 3, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19.2 inches.

GABRIELLE ALEXIS HARDY
Son of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Jeffrey Hardy
Born May 5, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

OWEN WILLIAM TYEE GIFFORD
Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Robert Gifford
Born May 7, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

BRITNEY REGAN NORMAN
Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. James Norman
Born May 7, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches.

AVA LEANN OLSON RASMUSSEN
Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Michael Rasmussen
Born May 7, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 18.7 inches.

NAYBI DUNGAN DYE
Son of Seaman and Mrs. Joseph Dye
Born May 8, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches.

IZABELLA MARIE JUAREZ

Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Devin Ali Juarez

Born April 24, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 19.6 inches.

NATHANIEL ADRIAN PEREZ RUIZ

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Christian Perez Ruiz

Born April 24, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19.6 inches.

JOSEPH L. GOMEZ

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Joseph T. Savage Gomez

Born April 25, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches.

MALAKI JAMES EDWARD PEOPLES

Son of 1st Lt. and Mrs. James Peoples

Born April 26, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

BRAEDON MICHAEL RUDISILE

Son of Lt. Cmdr. and Mrs. Mike Rudisile

Born April 28, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

LYLE LINCOLN STIFFARM JR.

Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Lyle L. Stiffarm

Born April 29, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

BRAYDEN JAMES BEADLE

Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Kyle J. Beadle

Born May 1, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 19.1 inches.

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Centerspeak

"If you could lateral move into any MOS, what would it be?"

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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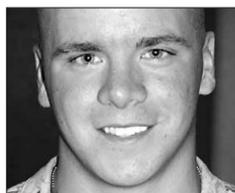
STAFF SGT. JONATHAN MCCLARY
CLB-4

"I wouldn't move from my job. I am a combat engineer, it's a flexible job that I like too much to change."



CPL. JONATHAN COLOBONG
3RD LAR

"I would move to be a light armored vehicle crewman, because I want to learn how to operate one."



PFC. NIKOLAS BROWN
3RD LAR

"I would make a lateral move to be a scout sniper, because that's what I've always wanted to be since I was a little kid."

OBSERVATION POST

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What's on your mind?

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

Call Cpl. Evan M. Eagan at
830-5472

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

HOT TOPICS

STOP SIGNS 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 have been removed to decrease 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.

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 CLOSED PERMANENTLY

The Twentynine Palms Finance Office closed permanently May 31. IPAC is now 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

PROTESTANT LITURGICAL SERVICE AT CHRIST CHAPEL

We are pleased to announce a Liturgical service on Sundays, beginning Sunday at 11a.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 NOW OPEN FOR MORNING LAP SWIM

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

MILITARY CLOTHING SALES STORE WILL BE CLOSED

The Military Clothing Sales Store will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday and be closed all day Thursday and Friday due to renovations. Management accommodate emergency requests during this period. The store will reopen, June 11 for normal operations. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH ADVENTURE PARKS

Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks is offering complimentary admission for active duty military representing all five service branches, active members of a reserve or National Guard unit, and up to three direct dependants. Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio or Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Penn. or Sesame Place or Water Country USA or Adventure Island. This offer is valid through Dec. 31. Operating days and hours vary by park. Please check with each specific park for current operating schedule.

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
contact 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
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SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE

Marines with Security Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, adjust Lance Cpl. Andrew Best's Modular Tactical Vest before vest trainers inspect configuration.

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MAY 26-27	Bear Country Fair
JUNE 23	Sentinel Day
JULY 7-8	Zoocasion
AUG 11	Music in the Zoo
AUG 25-26	Native American Arts Festival
SEPT 1	Ice Cream Safari
SEPT 8	Run for the Grizzlies
SEPT 22 - OCT 27	Flashlight Safari every Saturday night
OCT 20	Wolf Awareness Day
OCT 31	"Boo!" in the Zoo

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FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO — Building Tomorrow's Zoo

Issued body armor is best available for combat

MARINE CORPS NEWS

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS — The Marine Corps wants its Marines and sailors to know that the body armor it issues is the best available for combat despite recent inquiries concerning replacement gear.

The armor the Marine Corps issues has met government test standards, and in many cases, the standards exceed civilian testing, said Maj. Bradford W. Tippett, infantry advocate for Headquarters Marine Corps.

Recent media attention has painted commercial

body armor with the notion of being an alternative to the gear already being issued, but such armor is not required to meet government test standards and, therefore, does not necessarily provide the same level of protection to the Marine, said Tippett.

"Don't believe everything you see on TV or the Internet," said Tippett. "We have a great group of Marines and civilians whose only job is to ensure that we have the right requirements for our armor that truly meet the standards we require."

The Corps' department for plans, policy and operation published in April the policy on wear and purchase of personal protective equip-

ment. It states that Marines and sailors may not replace issued armor with commercial protective equipment; however, commanders may authorize the use of commercial armor if it doesn't interfere with the functionality of the issued gear.

However, more armor could be a hindrance on, for instance, a foot patrol with a full battle load and temperatures reaching up to 115 degrees in some operational zones.

Moreover, commanders are also not authorized to use unit funds to purchase commercial items that do not meet government test standards. Marines can buy their own equipment, but they will not be reimbursed.



SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE

The Modular Tactical Vest comes with several components that Marines have to carefully configure and maintain.

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Korean War cannon cockers reunite with 3/11

CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Two retired lieutenant colonels were welcomed by 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, for a special visit to the Combat Center May 18.

William McReynolds and Thomas Vetter spoke with the Marines and sailors of 3/11 about their experiences in past major U.S. conflicts while serving in the Marine Corps.

McReynolds, an 88-year-old recipient of the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and the Legion of Merit Award, led Marines as an artillery officer in some of the Marine Corps' epic battles of World War II and the Korean War, said Lt. Col. Mark Tull, 3/11 commanding officer.

"Lieutenant Colonel. McReynolds is famous in the battalion because his picture hangs in our command post," he explained. "He posed with Maj. Gen. Gerald Thomas, the then commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, with the 250,000th artillery round fired by 3/11 in the Korean War."

McReynolds described details and shared photos with 3/11 troops of the milestone event in the unit's history during the visit.

In the battle known as "Bloody Ridge," 3/11 was supporting the 36th Republic of Korea Army Regiment, when the troops ran into a strong resistance from Chinese Communist Forces. To bolster the attack, 3/11 put out as much fire as they could, that would end in more than 10,000 artillery rounds fired that day, explained McReynolds.

These days, the battalion fires a little more than 10,000 rounds per year, said Tull.

The 10,000 rounds in Bloody Ridge would mark the first 250,000 rounds fired in the Korean War, and a proud

moment for McReynolds as the commanding officer, he explained in his speech to the troops.

The 36th ROK, along with 3/11, eventually took over the ridge after that day of heavy battle, added McReynolds, who received the Silver Star for his actions that day.

After McReynolds' speech, Tull urged his troops to compare the variants in combat they face today with those McReynolds faced when he was on the front lines.

"There was never a great shortage of equipment," said McReynolds. "But the equipment of today is tremendous compared to then."

"The training of today more carefully prepares each Marine for his duties," he added.

McReynolds resides in San Clemente, Calif., with his wife, Sidonia. Together, the couple runs a non-profit organization to help Marines in need. For more information about his organization, log on to <http://www.marines-america-finest.com>.

Vetter, a good friend of McReynolds, also helps the organization, donating his time and hands to Marines.

The 72-year-old native of Independence, Mo., served 33 years in the Marine Corps on active and reserve duty, as well as 39 years in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. He also served as the president of the 1st Marine Division Association.

Vetter also served during the Korean War and spoke with the troops of the lessons he learned through those experiences — lessons that can be related to today's Global War on the Radical Islamic Movement, he said.

"I wanted to press the importance of being furious and victorious in battle, as well as reiterate the message of Gen. Conway: 'to also win



Sgt. Nazeeh Yaktin, a fire direction controlman with Kilo Battery, 3/11, receives an autograph from retired Lt. Col. William McReynolds, after he spoke with 3/11 Marines and sailors about his experience in the Marine Corps during WWII and the Korean War.

the hearts and minds of the people," Vetter explained. "While we're over there, moving around country, wave and smile. Let the people know we're there to help."

Vetter was 19 when he served in the Korean War. At that time, he didn't expect the small gifts and kindness he gave as a young corporal to make a difference in the lives of the Koreans after the war, he said.

He told a story of an elderly lady from South Korea he had met recently who remembered the good deeds his generation of Marines and sailors had done in the Korean War.

"When she was told I fought with the 1st Marine Division in Korea, she started crying, kissed my hand and held it to her face and said, 'Thank you, freedom,'" Vetter said during his speech to the troops.

"It's the tradition of our

Corps: fighters, warriors and winning hearts," he added.

Two years ago, Vetter visited South Korea with a group of Korean War veterans to see the transformation of what it has become.

"They have the 16th largest economy in the world now," he explained. "They are prosperous and are a great democracy and people. They love us and treat us like heroes for keeping them free."

"Marines and sailors now need to remember this for what they're doing now. They are the newest and greatest generation and we're passing on to them the baton to carry in providing security

of this country, and even the world," he added.

After the two veterans concluded their speeches, the troops walked over to per-

sonally meet and thank them.

"We're just a couple of old breeds taking care of the young breed," said Vetter. "We love them and our Corps."

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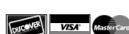
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SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Robert Gates, secretary of defense, talks to a Navy officer and a corpsman at the casualty house on Range 215 during his visit to the Combat Center Tuesday.

SECDEF from A1

and evaluate forensics to link a possible terrorist to the crime. Instead of just defeating an improvised explosive device, Marines learn how to decipher how it was created and the events leading up to the placement of that IED, said Col. Ron Baczkowski, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group director.

"The Marine Corps is really leading in this way," Army Lt.

Gen. Peter Chiarelli, senior military assistant to the secretary of defense, explained to Gates. "What they teach them here is absolutely critical."

Gates started his journey at Joint Readiness Training Center Fort Polk, La. After seeing how the Army trained logistically, he wanted to see how the Marines trained, said Catlin.

He also wanted to take a close look at the role players at both bases.

He expressed his admiration

of the extensive acting of the role players and wonderment at the realism during mock combat scenarios at Fort Polk.

"A female role player was holding this severed hand, I confess it took me back," he said. "And the guy with the stump was standing next to her."

Baczkowski explained how the role players at the Combat Center have evolved based on Fort Polk's example.

"We try making it as realistic as possible and we've taken some lessons from Fort Polk," he said. "These role players are every bit as an instructor as our instructors are."

Gates thanked many of the role players for making the choice to help the Marine Corps better teach the languages and cultures of Iraq.

Their sacrifice to teach the military is very important and "I appreciate what you do," he said.

He also came with a purpose beyond experiencing Range 215 – he wanted to meet Marines face-to-face. He stopped several times to greet the Marines who were taking a break in their training and wish them well on their upcoming deployment.

The officers who accompanied Gates expressed their approval and pleasure at experiencing Range 215 firsthand.

"The most important thing is the integration of what's really happening, and you're doing just that," said Army Maj. Stephen Smith, military assistant to the secretary of defense. "I liked it."

After seeing how the Army conducted business at Fort Polk, and the Marines here, Gates departed the Combat Center armed with a ready knowledge of the Corps' capability in preparing for and executing a combat deployment.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

A Combat Center saluting detail performs a 21-gun salute at a Memorial Day service held at the flag pole on Lance Cpl. Torrey L Gray Field Monday.

MEMORIAL from A1

"All who have been killed in action gave their lives for something other than themselves," said Spicher "They fought, and ultimately died for our country and those in it. Many question war, and those of the past. For the infantry Marine or soldier on the ground, politics goes as far as the enemy shooting at him."

"They have to leave behind their family, friends, wives and girlfriends," he continued. "The sacrifices made are enormous."

As the flag was raised and the shots were fired, a solemn silence could be observed. While it was a simple ceremony it held a deeper meaning and a representation of those who have fought for the United States of America.

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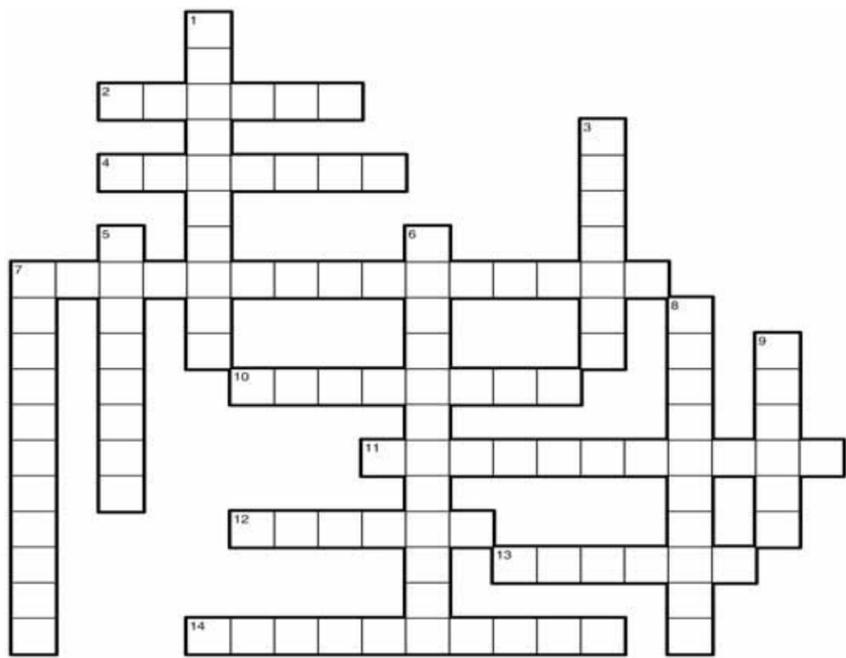
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HISTORIC BATTLES



ACROSS

- 2. Short engagement between the United States and Spain during the Spanish-American War.
- 4. Battle during the Vietnam War. The North Vietnamese moved major forces into the area during the fall and winter, leaving the ground constantly bombarded by artillery.
- 7. Korean battle nicknamed "Frozen Chosen" where Chinese troops surrounded U.N. troops in a frozen climate.
- 10. Part of the Maryland campaign in the American Civil War to take place on Northern soil.
- 11. WWII battle. Fighting took place in the air, land and sea. The battle took place in the southern Solomon Islands. It was the first major offensive by the Allied forces against the Japanese.
- 12. Major battle in the American Civil War. The battle was fought in Tennessee. The Union was pushed back until reinforcements arrived forcing the confederates to retreat.
- 13. Pivotal Naval battle in WWII where the United States Navy defeated a Japanese attack and destroyed many Japanese ships.
- 14. A battle during the American Civil War. Took Place in Pennsylvania and had the largest number of casualties.

DOWN

- 1. American Revolutionary War battle that took place on a hill June 17, 1775.
- 3. WWII battle on an island of Japan where five Marines and one Navy corpsman raised the American Flag.
- 5. American Civil War battle where the Union met the Confederate Army. The Union Army probed the enemy's line and slowly pushed them back.
- 6. WWI battle. Took place in France where U.S. Marines and soldiers fought off German soldiers in the woods near France's capital.
- 7. Mexican-American War. U.S. forces had driven Mexicans from guarding Mexico City.
- 8. American Revolutionary War battle. Also known as the Battle of the Virginia Capes. The French Navy defeated British fleets preventing provisions to enemy troops in Yorktown, Va.
- 9. WWII battle with three days of heavy fighting on an island. Marines secured the island in need to set up an airbase.

[Solutions on A8]

Special occasions merit a beer at 18

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A new Marine Administration Order, which was released April 7, addresses the possibility of lowering the drinking age of Marines in a professional, controlled environment.

MarAdmin 266/07 states that even though the drinking age of service members aboard Marine Corps installations will remain at the legal age of 21, except during certain traditional and historic military gatherings and functions.

The MarAdmin states:

"The commander of a United States Marine Corps installation may waive the drinking age 21 requirement but not below 18 years of age, if such commander determines that the exemption is justified by special circumstances. Special circumstances are those infrequent, non-routine military occasions when an entire unit, as a group, marks at a military installation a uniquely military occasion such as the conclusion of arduous military duty or the anniversary of the establishment of a military service or organization. The event must be held on a military installation. The commander shall ensure that appropriate controls are in place to prevent endangering military service members or the surrounding community."

The key phrase to the layout of this new policy is the state-

ment of the exceptions being "non-routine military occasions" hosted on a military installation, under the supervision of the commander himself.

The MarAdmin clearly states that although the drinking age is being lowered for certain occasions, the authority to drink at age 18 is not a right. It is a privilege.

This privilege is one which will be granted to those responsible enough to partake in the occasion on a rare basis, not an every-weekend event, said Dr. Stephan Mann, branch head at the Substance Abuse Counseling Center on base.

"This authority shall be administered by the commander based on his assessment of each Marine's maturity and ability to responsibly execute," according to the MarAdmin.

Mann said he did not foresee a MarAdmin like this to come along in the Marine Corps.

He said it is still too soon to assume the outcome of military functions and gatherings after the application of the MarAdmin.

"We do not have any 18-year-old clients here," said Mann. He said he would like to keep it that way.

Mann added that the MarAdmin may provide more opportunity for younger Marines to feel like they fit in more.

"A 19-year-old could drink at a function with a 30-year-old staff sergeant," said Mann. "The change may give Marines the opportunity to

feel included with their peers in such activities as warranted by their commanders."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dale E. Board, lead Marine Administration Officer in the Staff Judge Advocate's Office, said he thought the MarAdmin was an attempt to follow more closely with Navy policies.

"The Navy has a policy like this one, and I think we are changing it in order to be more in line with their policies," said Board.

Some may see the new policy as a lighted fuse, whereas others may see it as a well-earned privilege after serving our country during a time of war.

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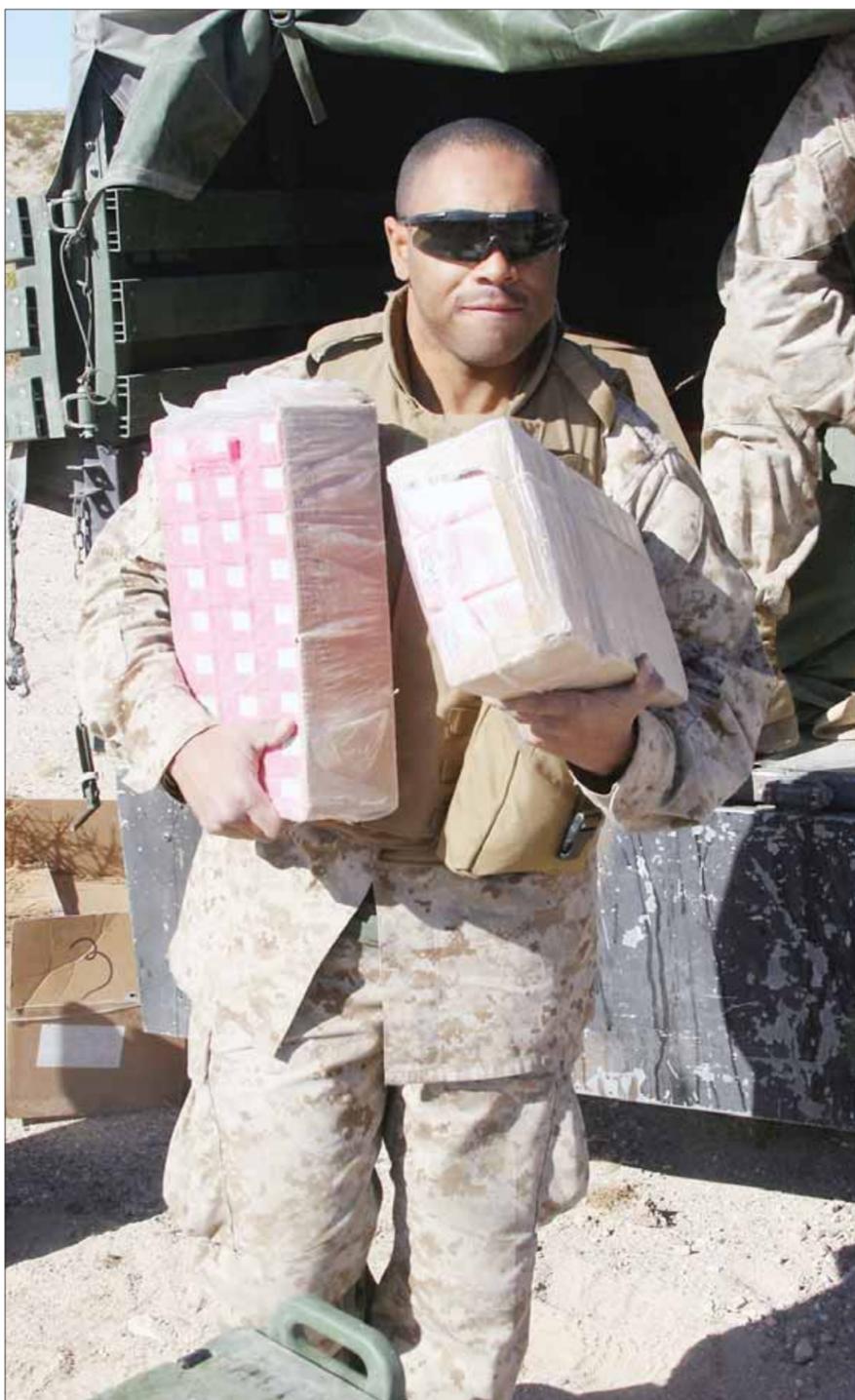
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Combat cooks keep Marines fed and fighting



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Lance Cpl. Edwin Cathey Jr., unloads juice boxes in preparation for morning chow at the Quackenbush training area May 2.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Since its establishment in 1775, the Marine Corps has earned a reputation for being the most effective fighting force in the world that rises to every challenge and accomplishes every mission assigned to them.

However, Marines still need to eat and combat cooks provide them with that essential service.

"Whenever a unit goes to the field or gets deployed, at least two cooks are assigned to them," said Lance Cpl. Eric G. Dennis, a food service specialist assigned to Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

Dennis also serves as the food mess noncommissioned officer for 3/11. He deployed with Battery I to Okinawa in July and will soon deploy with the battery again to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This particular chow truck has two cooks and a driver,"

added Pfc. Edwin L. Cathey, a food service specialist assigned to Battery I, 3/11.

Cathey works at the Combat Center's Phelps Hall when he is not serving a unit in the field.

"Our driver also serves as a messman," he added. "He helps us set up, serve the chow and clean up when we're done."

Whenever a chow truck is assigned to a unit in the field, they remain with the unit the entire time, said Dennis. All of the food and supplies are brought out with the rest of the battery on a seven-ton truck.

"We get up at 4:30 a.m. every day to prepare breakfast," said Dennis. "Breakfast is usually served between 6 and 6:30 a.m., but the battery can request it at any time. After every Marine and sailor is fed, we clean up and start preparing dinner, which is usually served between 4 and 5 p.m."

Dennis says the job is repetitive, but he knows it is necessary, and he enjoys doing it.

"It's a pretty easy job,"

said Dennis. "The only time it really gets tough is when we deploy. When we're deployed we work nonstop."

Cathey has not deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom yet, but anticipates the battery's upcoming tour.

"Even though I'll be away from my family, I want to deploy with the battery," he said. "It will be hard, but it will also be a good opportunity for me."

The purpose of attaching food service specialists to deploying units and training units is to reduce the amount of Meals Ready to Eat by the Marines and sailors. It also provides them with a hot meal.

Without combat cooks like Dennis and Cathey, Marines and sailors deployed to combat or training in the field would have to eat MREs for every meal. The service provided by the chow trucks changes the routine by providing a hot, nutritious meal, which boosts morale for units in the field and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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OBSERVATIONS

JUNE 1, 2007

Big changes for Warriors Club \$1.2 mil. spent to accommodate more service members



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, and Col. Ronald Anderson, commanding officer of Mojave Viper Support Detachment cut a ribbon to unveil the recently renovated Warrior Club May 14.

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Warrior Club at Camp Wilson reopened May 14 after undergoing a period of construction that enhanced the dining facilities and com-

fort level of the club.

The Warrior Club was originally opened in August 1990. The club is used to provide food and beverages in support of Mojave Viper exercise forces based at Camp Wilson.

In 2002, a Central

Construction Fund project was submitted and approved for funding in 2004 for the expansion of the Warrior's Club. On August 15, 2006, the Warrior's Club was closed down for the renovation to begin.

The initial funding for the

project was \$460,000, but due to electrical and environment compliances, the project funding ended at \$1.2 million.

The Combat Center received \$1 million from Headquarters Marine Corps' Central Construction Fund

to help pay for expenses of the construction, said Maj. Paul F. Davis, deputy director of Marine Corps Community Services.

The club is a relief to Marines and sailors who participate in the demanding training

of Mojave Viper. Before the expansion, the Warrior's Club could hold a maximum of 299 people. After the expansion, the maximum holding capacity doubled, including the kitchen

See WARRIORS, B4

MCCS employees serve overseas tours

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Whether it's here in the United States or overseas in Iraq, Marine Corps Community Service's employees continue to support the Marine Corps and their mission of providing vital services to the Marines.

Not only are MCCS employees afforded the opportunity to deploy, they are given the choice to do it on a completely voluntary basis.

"They must submit an application that is screened locally, and if endorsed, forwarded to Personal and Family Readiness Division Headquarters Marine Corps for consideration," said Maggie Jones, MCCS head of business operations. "They assist Marine Corps Exchange Marines in operating Marine Corps Exchange Tactical Field Exchanges in Al Asad, Taqaddum, Al Fallujah and Ar Ramadi."

Currently two MCCS employees, Carrie Williams, a retail area manager, and Lutia T. Moala, a procurement clerk, were awarded the MCCS Deployed Service Award.

Carrie Williams deployed in December 2005 to Taqaddum, Iraq, and returned in December 2006 after requesting an extension after three months in country. Lutia T. Moala deployed in September 2006 to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, and returned in April 2007.

Both women are proud of their deployments.

"It was my very first time in a foreign country and my very first time to associate and deal with a combat zone, but it was an adventurous, scary, and interesting deployment," said Moala. "I am glad I went."

Williams, who spent a year deployed, said she went looking for something different.

"I went seeking adventure, and that is exactly what I got," she said. "It was an experience of a lifetime. While I was there I got the chance to

travel to Greece and Ethiopia. I met a lot of exciting people that I still stay in contact with."

Along with Williams and Moala are several other employees who have deployed with MCCS, or who are awaiting upcoming deployments.

Jim Knight, a material handler in the exchange warehouse, and Jamie Dollahan, an inventory control assistant, have also served tours at overseas bases.

Knight did a six month deployment in Al Asad, Iraq, last year, returned to the states for six months and went back for a second deployment to Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

Dollahan did a six month deployment to Fallujah, Iraq, and currently is awaiting a response on her request to deploy once again.

Knight, who spent 17 years in the Marine Corps, has several reasons for requesting deployments.

"Well, I could name off a bunch of different reasons why I choose to deploy," said Knight. "The first of course is patriotism. On top of that I'm going to say the pay really helped, too. Another reason is I spent time in the Marine Corps and never had the chance to deploy, and this was my chance to experience something different."

Dollahan's reason for deploying struck close to home.

"I've wanted to help since the war started," she said. "My husband is active duty, and I wanted a better understanding of what he is going through. It was a great experience and an even better insight to what the guys in our military are doing."

As long as the military continues to fight the Global War on the Radical Islamic Movement, MCCS will continue to provide support at overseas bases.

"My deployment was a life changing experience," said Williams. "I'm glad to be an American. After a year of being gone, I appreciate familiar places and faces, and I appreciate what I have here."



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Jim Knight a material handler handles merchandise at the MCCS warehouse. Knight has done two six month deployments with MCCS to Iraq.

OSC helps spouses, dependants



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Officers' Spouses Club scholarship recipients pose for a photo at the Twentynine Palms Inn May 27 during a luncheon in which the club donated \$18,000 to spouses and dependents of officers stationed at the Combat Center.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Officer's Spouses Club hosted a scholarship luncheon at the Twentynine Palms Inn May 17.

At the luncheon, a total of \$18,000 in scholarships was awarded to 14 applicants, who were all spouses or dependants of officers stationed at the Combat Center.

"The Scholarship Committee chose these applicants for the scholarships based on certain criteria," said Dana Teague, the scholarship chairperson for the OSC. "Most of the criteria revolved around their grade point averages and educational goals."

In addition to the scholarships, the OSC also handed out approximately \$20,000 in grants to local charities, clubs and other organizations.

"We spend all year making

money through fundraisers," said Teague. "At the end of the year, we give it out in the form of scholarships and grants like these."

"One of our biggest fundraisers is the Mardi Gras Charity Auction we hold every February," she added. "We host a number of events, but the auction brings in more profit than any of them."

At the luncheon, the scholarships were awarded to their recipients during a brief ceremony. Each recipient's school, area of study and future educational goals were highlighted when they rose to receive their hard-earned rewards.

"I just want to thank the organization for their effort and support to the military wives who want to fulfill their professional goals by continuing their education," said Elida Santana, one of the military spouses who received a scholarship.

Santana has been attending Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, Calif. for the past two years and is currently pursuing a degree in liberal arts. She always wished to pursue a career as a registered nurse.

"I'm lucky to have won this award," said Robert Wills, a graduate of Joshua Springs Christian School in Yucca Valley, Calif. "I worked hard, and they liked the effort I put in."

"We really appreciate everything that they've done here," he added. "They've been very helpful to us all." Wills plans to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where he will major in psychology. He hopes to obtain a bachelor's degree in psychiatry.

The scholarship luncheon is the OSC's final event of the year. Their schedule will begin again in the fall.

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

Today
6 p.m.
Blades of Glory (PG-13)
9 p.m.
The Reaping (R)

Saturday
2 p.m.
Are We Done Yet? (PG)
6 p.m.
Firehouse Dog (PG)
9 p.m.
Perfect Stranger (R)

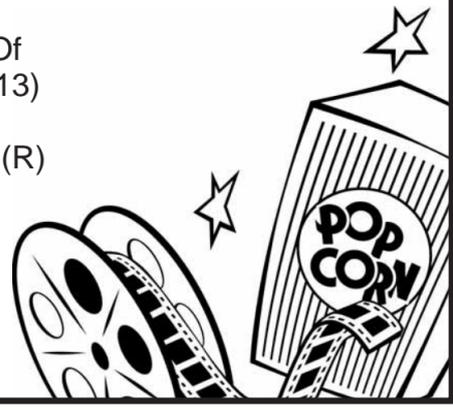
Sunday
2 p.m.
Meet The Robinsons (G)
6 p.m.
In The Land Of Women (PG-13)
9 p.m.
The Reaping (R)

Monday
7 p.m.
Blades Of Glory (PG-13)

Tuesday
7 p.m.
Are We Done Yet? (PG)

Wednesday
7 p.m.
Disturbia (PG-13)

Thursday
7 p.m.
Blades Of Glory (PG-13)



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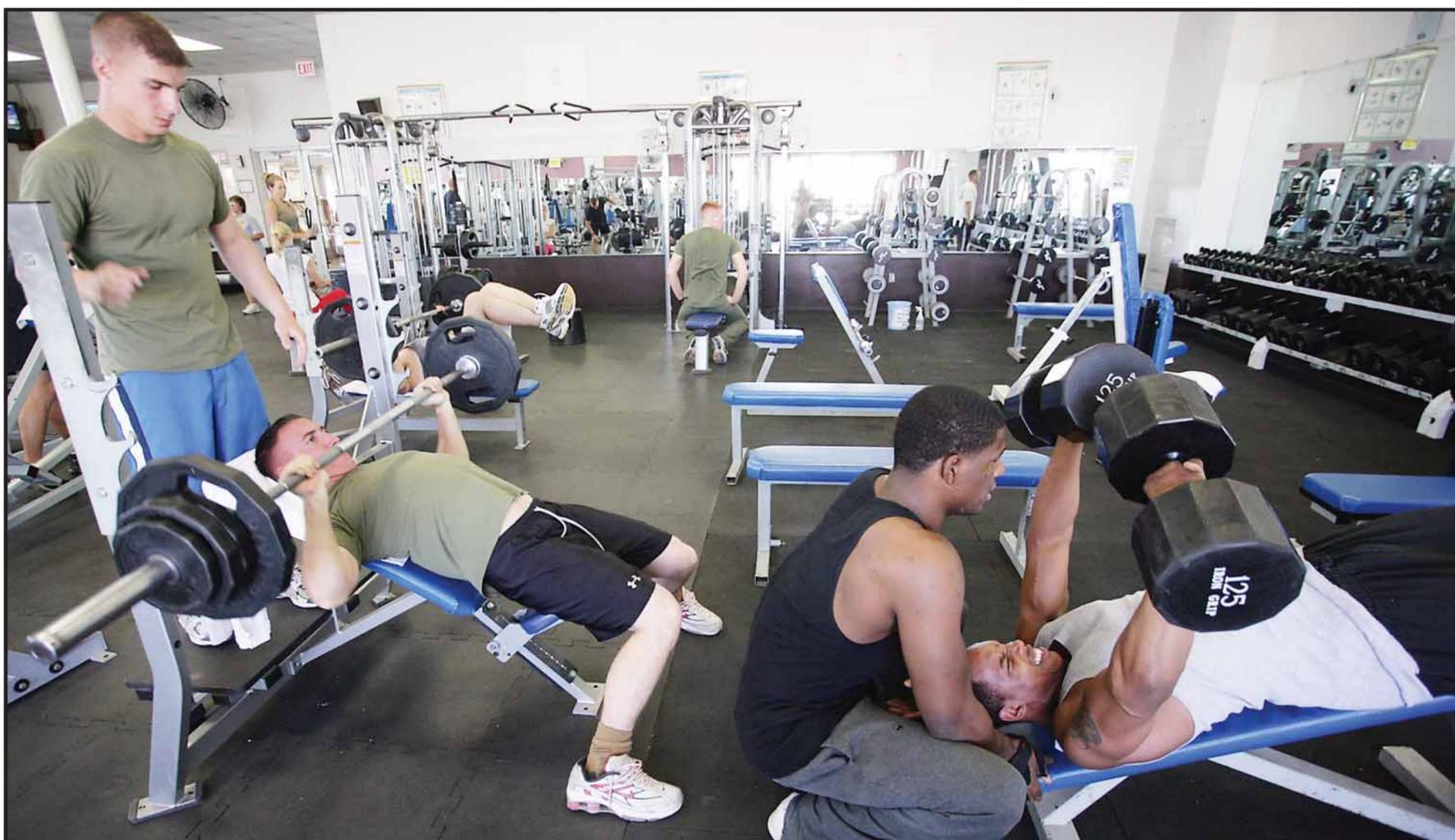
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<p>03 CHEVY MONTE CARLO</p> <p>SHARP</p> <p>#PS148 #433802</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">\$9,995</p>	<p>05 FORD FREESTAR</p> <p>FAMILY VAN</p> <p>#PS113 A37451</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">\$12,995</p>	<p>06 DODGE DURANGO</p> <p>4X4 LOADED</p> <p>PS153 #150036</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">\$21,995</p>		

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CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Pump up the jam, pump it up...

Lance Cpl. Ryan Harvey of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, gets an upper chest workout on the inclined bench press as Lance Cpl. Mark Kosta also with MWSS-374, spots him at the East Gym May 21. In front of the two "wing" Marines is Lance Cpl. Brent Gant from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who's "gettin' some" on the dumbbells with a spot from Lance Cpl. Moise Eugene also with 2/7. The East Gym, located behind the bowling alley, is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekends. The West Gym, located west of Victory Field, is open from 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and closed on weekends.

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Naval Hospital kicks 3/11, 4-1



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Naval Hospital player Cody Thornton guards the ball against aggressive 3/11 players Wednesday at Felix Field.

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

After battling on the field for 80 minutes, relentlessly defending their territory, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital defeated 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, in intramural soccer Wednesday at Felix Field.

The game started at 5:30 p.m. with the Naval Hospital dominating the first half. 3/11 defenseman, Tom A. Medbery, battled with Naval Hospital's

offense throughout the game tirelessly.

3/11 forward, Jeremy M. McDonald, put the ball in the back of the Naval Hospital's net with only six minutes left on the clock in the first half. Their lead did not last long when Hospital player Fred Schmitz maneuvered the ball around 3/11's defense and scored a tying goal, making it a 1-1 game.

Naval Hospital player, Daniel A. Martinez, exhausted 3/11's defensemen by keeping the ball in their end

of the field and in scoring range. After Martinez broke down 3/11's defense, the ball found itself in the feet of forward, Cody Thornton, who shot the ball past 3/11 goalie, Daniel E. Pilgrim.

The end of the first half ended with Naval Hospital leading the game 2-1.

3/11 came back renewed the second half, fighting for control of the ball. With the lack of substitutes, the players of 3/11 grew tired but did not give up. Pilgrim exercised his flexibility by making

dive saves and punching saves during the second half until Naval Hospital's Alvero Pineda buried one past him, putting Naval Hospital ahead, 3-1.

Frustration overwhelmed the minds of 3/11 players after catching break-away runs down the field and missing their shots on goal.

Naval Hospital goal keeper Jose Rodriguez mimicked a stone wall when 3/11 bombarded him with shots during late second half.

Late in the second half, Naval Hospital gained control of the ball running it past 3/11's defensemen.

With some quick foot skills and a trick move, Pineda scored his second goal and final point of the game.

The match between the Naval Hospital and 3/11 ended in six minutes of tough defense on both sides of the field, but victory was claimed by Naval Hospital at 4-1.

Later that evening, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School defeated Marine Wing Support Squadron-374 in a tight match that ended with a 5-4 victory for MCCES. Samuel Kemp contributed handsomely to MCCES' win by scoring a hat trick.

WARRIORS from B1

space, bringing better service to servicemembers with a drop ceiling and a fire suppressant system.

Mojave Viper board strength will increase up to 6,000 troops during June, so the expanded club will better accommodate the larger number of servicemembers expected for training, said Davis.

The new Warrior's Club installed 11 42-inch flat screen TVs, four brand new pool tables and 10 arcade game machines to provide Marines and sailors a place to unwind and alleviate the stresses of the demanding training they are undergoing.

"Supporting Mojave Viper training with their quality of life is our primary goal," said Maggie Jones, MCCS head of business operations. "It enhances morale with a temperature controlled eating facility."

With the new and improved club, the MCCS goal is closer to being met, said Davis.

"We are now able to provide our warriors with a club that is better suited to meet their needs," he explained.

Thousand of Marines and sailors have been able to pass through the Combat Center before deploying to countries throughout the world in support and defense of our nation. The training and conditions are extremely demanding with temperatures rising above 110 degrees and near freezing temperatures at night, said Davis.

"Marines and sailors definitely need a place where they can break from their grueling training, and that is the purpose of the Camp Wilson Warrior Club," he continued.



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The Bug (R) Fri-Sun: 6:30 Mon-Th: 4:45	28 Weeks Later (R) Fri-Sun: 3:00, 9:30 Mon-Th: 2:30, 7:00	Coming June 8th * Oceans 13 * Surf's Up

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Kids Kidding

SPECIAL KID'S FEATURE

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Cinnamon Popcorn

Makes enough for 8 cups of popped corn

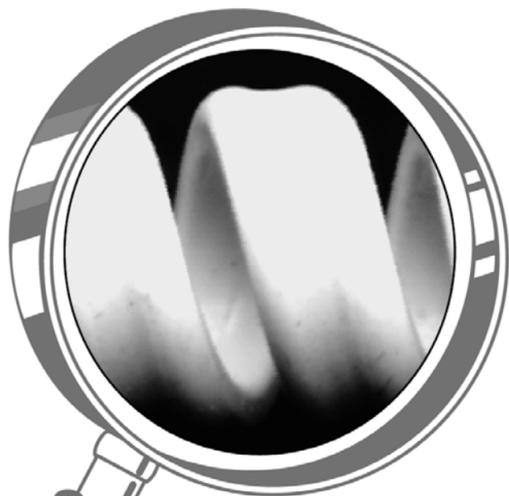
Skill level:

Ingredients

- * 1/4 cup butter, melted
- * 2 tablespoons honey
- * 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- * 10 cups popped corn



Directions
 Melt butter over medium heat. Remove from heat and stir in the honey and cinnamon. Drip slowly over popcorn and toss well.



Up close

The object pictured has been enlarged.
 Can you guess what it is?



1. What do you call a mean-tempered horse?
2. Where do fish sleep?
3. What is a chimp's favorite snack?
4. How does a basketball player keep cool?
5. What is it called when a boy banana and a girl banana don't like each other anymore?

HELP JUNIOR FIND HIS FRIENDS

Start

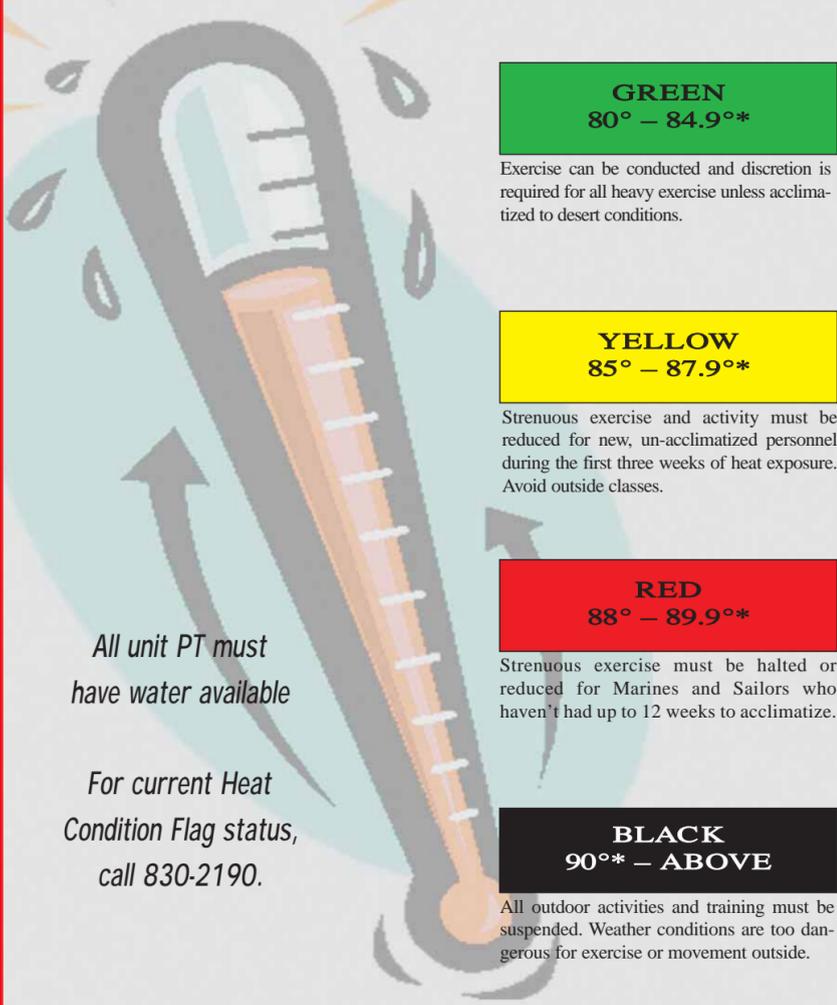
Finish

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