

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 8, 2007 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 50 ISSUE 22

Safety first saves lives, careers



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Driver Lance Cpl. Buck Freeman, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, buckles his seat belt as shotgun passenger Cpl. Matt Christensen and backseat passenger Cpl. Drew Norris, both with 3/4, sit buckled up before heading on the road Wednesday.

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

To lose a Marine on the battlefield is one thing. To lose a Marine to a careless safety hazard is another. So, what can you as a Marine do in regards to safety aboard the base?

There are several key safety factors to take into consideration. Whether it is making sure your fellow Marine buckles up, or slows down on the roadway, it could ultimately mean the difference between life and death.

"When it comes down to it, the biggest safety problem aboard the base seems to be Marines simply not following regulations," said Michael Wells-Smith, the Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command safety manager. "Whether it's traffic infractions that can potentially be life threatening, to unsafe alcohol consumption."

Although the base has strict regulations and guidelines in reference to cell phone use, seatbelt use, speeding and motorcycle safety and gear, the base traffic court still

has Marines appear for these infractions.

Combat Center Order P1630.8C states the use of a cell phone while operating a government vehicle or privately owned vehicle aboard the Combat Center is not authorized, unless a hands free device is utilized.

The citation for disobeying the order is a mandatory traffic court appearance. A first offence will result in a 30-day suspension of all driving privileges aboard base and a second offense will earn a 90-suspension, according to the order.

The order also states that any operator or occupants in a government vehicle or privately owned vehicle must be restrained properly with a seatbelt. The citation for disobeying this order will result in a seven-day suspension of driving privileges aboard base for the vehicles driver and a second offence will earn a one-month suspension.

"Currently we have a remedial driving course that goes every other Wednesday," said Master Sgt. Anthony Brenner, from the center safety office. "The course is a remediation and is not

a punishment. It covers seatbelt safety, cell phone use, drunk driving and the use of over the counter medicine while operating a vehicle."

The base also offers a beginners motorcycle safety course and an experienced rider's course that cover several different aspects of safe riding. It also addresses proper gear and base rules.

"Last year we taught a total of 137 students in the beginner's course and we had a six month wait for more riders," said Brenner. "This year, 230 people went through the course, and we had a backup of a month-and-a-half for more riders."

Marine Corps Base Order 5100-19E also states that riders are required to have helmets, gloves with full fingers, secure footwear, a reflective vest, eye-wear, or a helmet with a visor, and long sleeve tops and long pants.

The safety also lies on the riders shoulders and it is up to them to make sure they do all they can to ensure they remain safe on the roadways.

See SAFETY, A8

Marine Corps Safety Policy

Warrior preservation is a vital element of force preservation and force assurance. Our combat readiness and cohesion are affected when Marines are lost or injured due to mishaps.

Although Marines are working to improve Marine Corps safety, we can and must do better. We must change the culture across our Corps to positively influence behavior and reduce mishaps on- and off-duty, during operations, training and recreation - especially for government and private motor vehicles, including motorcycles.

Marines at every level will understand:

A. **Safety is the responsibility of every Marine.** Every Marine must actively mitigate on- and off-duty risks and hazards to maintain individual readiness.

B. **Safety is also a leadership responsibility.** Noncommissioned officers and company grade officers provide the institutional foundation for safety - reinforcing individual and unit safety measures. Remember, "Marines take care of their own."

C. **Commanders positively influence safe behavior** by setting the example, training and education enforcement, intervention, and accountability - fully integrating force preservation principles into training, operations, and off-duty events.

D. **Headquarters Marine Corps will provide the policies, training, and education** to reinforce a Marine Corps culture that embraces force preservation.

Safety programs will never replace leadership. Leadership is key to preventing accidental deaths and injuries that directly affect the readiness and combat capability of our force. Together we must set the foundation of safe practices to preserve our Marines and sailors and the equipment they operate.

Semper Fidelis,
James T. Conway,
General, U.S. Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks to Marines and sailors in Al Qa'im, Iraq, April 6.

HEAT CONDITION FLAG COLORS

All unit PT must have water available

For current Heat Condition Flag status, call 830-2190.

*According to the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature index

GREEN
80° – 84.9°*

Exercise can be conducted and discretion is required for all heavy exercise unless acclimatized to desert conditions.

RED
88° – 89.9°*

Strenuous exercise must be halted or reduced for Marines and Sailors who haven't had up to 12 weeks to acclimatize.

YELLOW
85° – 87.9°*

Strenuous exercise and activity must be reduced for new, un-acclimatized personnel during the first three weeks of heat exposure. Avoid outside classes.

BLACK
90°* – ABOVE

All outdoor activities and training must be suspended. Weather conditions are too dangerous for exercise or movement outside.

Weekend Weather

Friday ☀️ 89/59 Sunny
Saturday ☀️ 92/64 Sunny
Sunday ☀️ 94/67 Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: 7th Marines Change of Command
- A5: HQBN barracks break-ins
- A6: Osprey spreads its' wings over Combat Center

Observations



EOD robots a blast at science fair

Misfire

Last week Col. Ron Baczkowski was misquoted as saying Marines learn interrogation tactics at Mojave Viper, however it should have read learn tactical questioning.

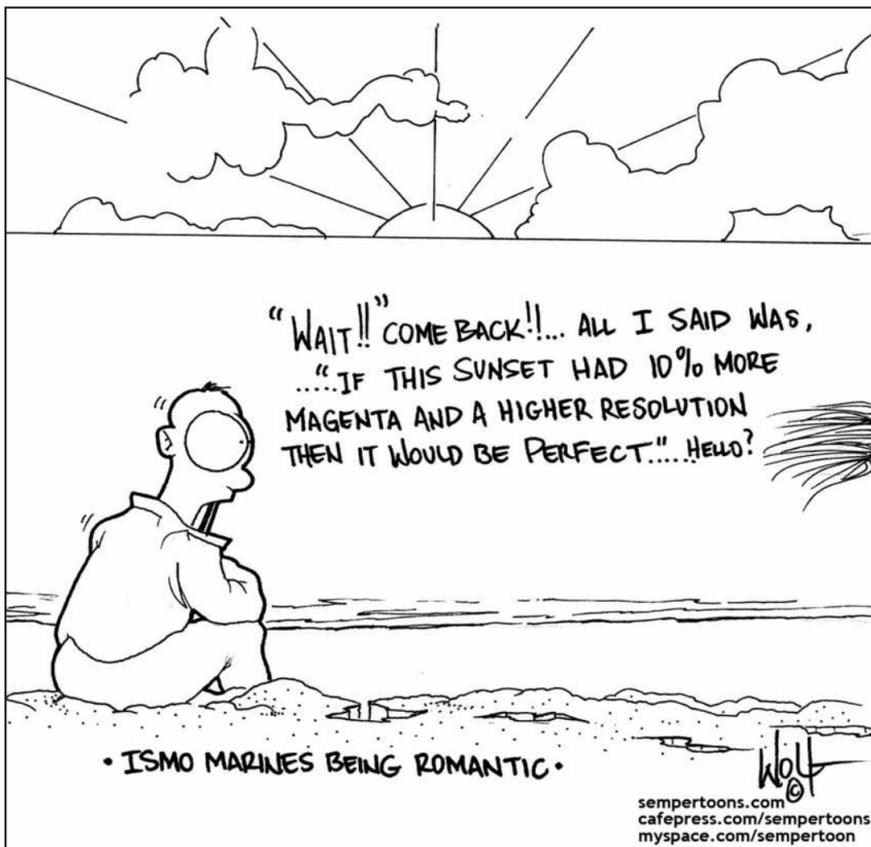
Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Today 6 p.m. Firehouse Dog (PG) 9 p.m. In The Land Of Women (PG-13)</p> <p>Saturday 2 p.m. Are We Done Yet? (PG) 6 p.m. Disturbia (PG-13) 9 p.m. Perfect Stranger (R)</p> <p>Sunday 2 p.m. No Movie 6 p.m. Firehouse Dog (PG) 9 p.m. Disturbia (PG-13)</p> | <p>Monday 7 p.m. Are We Done Yet? (PG)</p> <p>Tuesday 7 p.m. Perfect Stranger (R)</p> <p>Wednesday 7 p.m. Firehouse Dog (PG)</p> <p>Thursday 7 p.m. Are We Done Yet? (PG)</p> |
|--|---|



Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



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.

C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Minimizing theft

To date there have been 35 larcenies in 2007. There is a constant problem with thefts. It can range from a high dollar item, such as a motorcycle, to a minute thing, such as a pack of cigarettes.

There are so many ways to put a stop to, or at least minimize, the number of thefts. One way is to mark all your personal belongings. However, that still may not be enough to stop criminals, therefore, you can also write the item description and serial number along with distinct markings in a notebook.

Providing police with the above information gives them a much better chance of returning your property. Military police use this information in reports and check local pawn shops or trading posts for any of the items that may have been stolen. It is also your responsibility to keep track of the things you use and leave out.

You wouldn't leave your bicycle out all night, nor would you leave your garage open for a criminal to rummage through your stuff. Not all people are lucky enough to get their belongings back to them in a timely manner.

These are just a few ideas to help keep your belongings safe, and to aid law enforcement in the timely recovery of your property in case it does become stolen.

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

Marines, Sailors, and cab drivers:
MCJCS will reimburse ANY licensed cab company for transportation to the Main Gate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. Drivers: please legibly record information from your fare's military I.D. card.
Thank you for participating.

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Top's Taxi 361-6748

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MCJCS ARRIVE ALIVE
An endorsement of the program is provided by the United States Government or the JROTC.

Signature _____
Customer _____
Date/Time _____
Driver _____
Total fee _____
Destination _____
Pick up at _____
ID # _____
Name _____

Centerspeak

"What are you looking forward to this summer?"

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense.



SGT. PHILLIP BELCHER
MALS-16



PFC. TERENCE SCOTT
COMPANY A., MCCES



WENDY VILLAREAL
SPOUSE

"Gas prices going down. We'll see what happens."

"Going home in July and being on Bourbon Street."

"An opportunity to get off the base and travel."

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

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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. 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
 12:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

VILLAGE CENTER
 Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women*

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN SERVICE

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

PROTESTANT LITURGICAL SERVICE

Christ Chapel
 Sun 11 a.m. Worship

LAY-LED INDEPENDENT BAPTIST SERVICE

Christ Chapel
 Sun 11 a.m. Worship

LAY-LED GOSPEL SERVICE

Christ Chapel
 Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

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)
 6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month

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

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

DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

Christ Chapel
 9 a.m. June 19, July 17, & August 21

LEGEND

*Indicates Child Care Provided
 +Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646

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 is open

from 5 a.m. until 8 p.m. during the Del Valle Road repaving project.

TRAFFIC CITATIONS FOR CELL PHONE USE

Effective July 1 traffic citations issued on base for cell phone use without a hands-free device while operating a vehicle will require a mandatory appearance in the Combat Center traffic court. First offense violators will receive a 30-day on-base driving suspension and a second offense will earn a 90-day suspension. If you think you'll be using your cell phone while driving on base, be prepared with a blue-tooth, an earbud or a speaker-phone hands free device.

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.



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7th Marines receives new commander

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Col. William B. Crowe relinquished command of the 7th Marine Regiment to Col. Bryan P. McCoy, in a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 1.

With three tours in the ranks of 7th Marines, first as a captain, then lieutenant colonel and most recently as a colonel, Crowe said it is a sad day for the Crowe family and he will miss the regiment.

"This is my third tour with 7th Marines," said Crowe. "My current tour as regimental commander began July 7, 2005."

Crowe's previous command tours were as commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, from

May 2000 to May 2002 and was operations officer and CO of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, from June 1989 to June 1991.

Crowe will now take command of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., a position selected directly by the commandant of the Marine Corps. This will be Crowe's second "colonel-level command," which he says is a unique honor.

Crowe began his career in the Marine Corps when he was commissioned a second lieutenant on August 14, 1981, and was designated an infantry officer. Crowe speaks highly of his time in the Corps and of 7th Marines.

"Prepare to March," said Crowe, reciting 7th Marines' slogan. "Prepare to march is not a bumper sticker, it implies that this regiment and

its four infantry battalions are ready to deploy combat ready forces at a moment's notice in support of our nation," said Crowe. "If the Marine Corps' is America's 911 force then 7th Marines is the Marine Corps lead, quick response regiment."

Crowe said he enjoyed his time with 7th Marines and reflected on what he learned from his junior Marines, and from being the commanding officer.

"I have learned that the Marine Corps as an institution is strong," said Crowe. "I have been very impressed with the officers, Staff NCOs [staff noncommissioned officers], and Marines assigned to the regiment and its battalions. They are among our best and brightest."

"I have enjoyed watching our Marines and sailors do amazing things every day, 24/7 in Iraq," he added. "We have four outstanding battalions, not a weak one in the pack. Each one is unique, but all are top rated units in their own right."

As Crowe passed the command to McCoy, he commented that he was getting an outstanding regiment and that he was sad to leave his home. With an

emotional goodbye, Crowe, his wife, Lynn, and two daughters, Caitlin, 19, and Amanda, 18, prepare to make their trip to D.C.

"Who would have ever thought 16 years ago that I would be given the privilege, honor and awesome responsibility to lead such a historic regiment?" said Crowe. "This is my home. This is where my heart is. Prepare to march!"

McCoy started his tour in the Marine Corps when he received a commission in May 1984. His most recent assignment was CO of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment with which he served two combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the ceremony McCoy made a promise to the regiment and shared his thoughts on taking command.

"Marines and sailors, I couldn't be more proud than to be among your ranks again," said McCoy. "I promise you as your CO I will give you my very best every day."

As both Marines assume command of different units, they both said that they were ready to take command and serve their junior Marines.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
Col. William B. Crowe relinquishes command of the 7th Marine Regiment to Col. Bryan P. McCoy in a change of Command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 1.



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Stay Marine

HQBN barracks put on lockdown after recent increase in break-ins

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines do not lie, cheat or steal. At least, that is what they are taught from the first days of boot camp.

Despite these ethics that are instilled in every Marine, several Marines of Company A, Headquarters Battalion barracks have been victims of breaking and entering over the past month and a half, said Company A gunnery sergeant, Gunnery Sgt. Christine B. Britt.

"My fear is that this is going to continue," said Britt. "That puts Marines living in these barracks in harm's way. It makes those Marines work even harder to protect their home."

There have been five recorded break-ins in the past 30 days, three of which took place during working hours.

"There were three break-ins in the same two rooms," said Britt.

Cpl. Aaron Gordon, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, Company A, Headquarters Battalion, was one of the victims of the recent break-ins.

Gordon said he and his roommate, Cpl. Lonnie J. Astle, also with TTECG, had a stereo stolen, dishes broke, a guitar busted and brand new mattresses cut open.

"The whole break-in thing makes me really angry," said Astle.

Gordon said he felt the same way.

"I think it's wrong," said Gordon about the break-ins. "It's Marines stealing from Marines. Whatever happened to integrity and looking out for your boys?"

Cpl. Bryan D. Istre, Combat Camera, Company A, Headquarters Battalion, is roomed next to Astel and Gordon, and said his room was broken into twice during a temporary barracks move.

"Somewhere between the mandatory key turn-in and the PMO [Provost Marshal's Office] investigation of the first break in, my room was broken into again," he explained. "Both of my roommates were gone, so when I returned to my old room to pick something up around seven the next morning, I noticed the door was slightly open and saw that two of the mattresses were cut open. Also, my roommate's belongs were thrown about. Somewhere in there we also had a laptop that was stolen."

Company A staff non-commissioned officers and officers are taking steps to rectify this problem.

"Whoever is doing this should be maxed out with punishment," said Britt. "They have lost the trust of their fellow Marines."

Although the purpose for a Marine on duty is to maintain good order and conduct, Capt. Wayne W. Mai, Company A commanding officer, explained that no matter how locked-on a Marine on duty is, he or she may only be in one spot at a time, opening opportunities for a perpetrator to roam undetected. That is, unless Marines who live in the barracks help by keeping their eyes open.

As of now, steps to prevent more break-ins include an additional assistant duty noncommissioned officer, for a total of three Marines on duty, having a non-sleeping, 24-hour post, and installing metal bars and plates on the doors. There is also talk of adding security cameras on the catwalks and passageways.

"The cameras are not going to be a violation of privacy," said Mai. "Their

intent is to deter from further break-ins and assault issues and be used for safety purposes. I believe the additional security measures will pay dividends later on down the road, as long as they are executed properly."

Mai continued to say that the break-ins are not necessarily due to carelessness on behalf of the victims, but because the state of the barracks doesn't allow for top quality security.

"There are doors around here that my 4-year-old son could bust through," said Mai. "Some of the rooms have air conditioning and plumbing that doesn't work, and that skips security and goes right to a health issue."

Mai said he believes following a simple Marine combat law could be the end-all solution to this appalling problem.

"We need to make ourselves hard targets," said Mai. "If we appear to be soft targets, we will continue to see these problems. Eventually the Marines will get in their heads that this is their home and they need to protect themselves."

1st Sgt. Michael J. Templeton, Company B first sergeant, said although his barracks have not had the same issue, he agrees with the security precautions Company A Marines are taking.

"I just can't believe Marines would do this sort of thing to other Marines," said Templeton, who said his company experienced one assault issue in the last two weeks, but no records of any break-ins.

He added that although

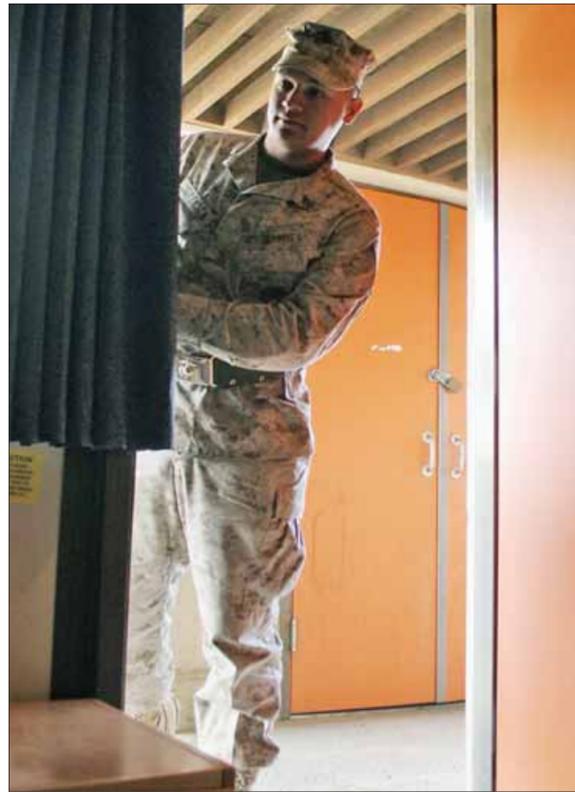
Marines have an outstanding reputation as a respectable group of men and women in society, there are still adrenaline junkies and bad apples floating around in the Corps.

"The best things Marines can do to keep from having their possessions stolen, is to keep them locked away with padlocks when they're not being used," said Templeton.

Mai and Templeton agree that the condition of the barracks is less than desirable, making an unsafe situation for the Marines, their security and their quality of life.

"Headquarters Marines realize that they have to live in that same building for two or three years, so they will take care of it differently than a grunt who lives there for seven months," said Mai.

Until Company A Marines are provided with more effective elements of security, they are reminded to keep their eyes open for strangers and suspicious behavior.



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Cpl. Jacob C. Sorenson with Company A, Headquarters Battalion, peeks into a room as he makes his rounds on duty Wednesday morning at the Company A barracks.

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Cpl. Aaron Gordon
Company A
Headquarters Battalion

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CAPT. CHAD WALTON

Marines carry a simulated casualty to an MV-22 Osprey during an air evacuation exercise May 30 at Range 200.



CAPT. CHAD WALTON

An MV-22 Osprey sits idle as another prepares to land May 30 near Range 200.

Osprey debuts at Mojave Viper lane training

CAPT. CHAD WALTON
TACTICAL TRAINING AND EXERCISE
CONTROL GROUP

Marines at Exercise Mojave Viper welcomed a newcomer to the training cycle May 30 when aircrews from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 flew the MV-22 Osprey

to the Urban Assault Support Lane at Range 200. These two MV-22s made the day trip from Marine Corps Airstation Yuma, Az., where the squadron is participating in Exercise Desert Talon, the aviation equivalent of Mojave Viper.

Exercise Mojave Viper

provides multi-echelon training for infantry and combat service support Marines during the 30-day training cycle and provides unique opportunities for them to do things they cannot do at their home station — like coordinating landing zones with crews of the Marine Corps' newest air platform.

"Marine units that are about to deploy, both the squadron and the battalions, were able to practice the tactics, techniques and procedures they will use in Iraq if a unit suffers casualties," said Major Keith Darby,

Senior Air Representative at the Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group that facilitates pre-deployment training at Mojave Viper. "Marines on the ground see that there are Marines in the cockpit to take care of them in the same way other aircrews have in the past."

The Marines of 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and Combat Logistics Battalion-4 took full advantage to become familiar with the MV-22 when they received an aircraft brief from the crew and then were able to walk

through the MV-22 from the loading ramp to the side door.

The aircraft then departed and the exercise force conducted patrols through range 200 until they were fired upon by insurgent role-players and a simulated casualty was assessed. From the point of injury, units then practiced correct treatment before moving the simulated casualty to the vicinity of the landing zone where they used the radio to request an air evacuation. Once the air request was approved, the ground unit radio operator guided the aircraft into a designated landing zone where the aid and litter team rushed the Marine onto the aircraft.

Multiple landings and take-offs provided the Marines and aircrews opportunities to practice their coordination in a desert environment.

This is the first time the Osprey has participated in Mojave Viper training and the squadron that flew Thursday will also be the first tilt-rotor squadron to deploy to Iraq.

"Some of the Marines on the ground who communicated with the aircrews may very likely be speaking to the same people a few months from now in Iraq," said Darby. "That can only help them when a real emergency arrives."

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| <p>Church of Christ Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm Ladies' Bible Classes 11am Wed. Wed. Bible Study 5pm 7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215</p> | <p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p> | <p>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church 56750 Mountain View Trail Yucca Valley • 365-6331 Worship Service 10:00 A.M. Child Care, Bible Studies, Youth, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p> | <p>EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Nursery and Children's Church Adult Bible Study Wed. 6:30 PM 6804 Mohawk Tr., Yucca Valley (760) 228-1747</p> | <p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm</p> |
| <p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church Just the Best place to get Married Father Ian Hanley Sunday School, Holy Eucharist 11:30 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p> | <p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p> | <p>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 8415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Sunday Services 10:30am & 6:30pm call (760)366-7420 • Office (760) 366-7422 Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p> | <p>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road - 367-7338 Sun. Worship Service at 9:30 AM - Child Care Available Sun. School: Adults 8:30am - Child & Youth 8:45 am A welcoming and inclusive Christ-oriented community Beth Glass, Pastor</p> | |
| <p>Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671 The United Methodist Church Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM (Child Care Available) Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM</p> | <p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p> | <p>Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene 9:45 am Morning Worship 8:30 am Sunday School (All ages) 6:00 pm Evening Service 56248 Buena Vista, 365-7819 www.yvnazarene.com</p> | <p>First Southern Baptist Church Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm Sun. Bible Study 9:30am Wed. Potluck 6:00pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm 6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p> | <p>Calvary Christian Fellowship Tye Bridges - Pastor Services Times: Sun 9:30am • Wed 7:00pm 3133 Balsa, Yucca Mesa Community Center Ph: 760.364.1990 E-mail: tbridges@verizon.net</p> |

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Joint Organization trains troops to defeat IEDs

JENNIE HASKAMP

WASHINGTON — Service members need to learn the techniques, tactics and procedures for defeating improvised explosive devices before they deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, according to officials with the Joint IED Defeat Organization.

"IEDs are the number one killer on the battlefield," said Army Brig. Gen. Robert W. Cone, director of Joint IED Defeat Organization's Joint Center of Excellence at Fort Irwin, Calif. "I don't think we're doing enough to address that at home stations."

"Our training audience is typically on their way to Iraq for the third time," said Cone, a Manchester, N.H., native and 1979 West Point graduate. "Our customers want to train here to attack the network — we can't give them the basics and expect them to learn the rest in theater."

The Joint IED Defeat Organization, known as JIEDDO, is attacking the IED threat using a balance of intelligence, training and technology. Originally formed as the Army's IED Task Force, the group has transformed into a combined joint service, interagency, multi-national program designed to leverage all available resources and technologies in a coordinated campaign to defeat the IED threat, according to the organization's mission statement.

JIEDDO officials have set up four training centers, known as Joint Centers of Excellence, one for each branch of service. The centers ensure troops have a

chance to train before deployment with the equipment they will use in the IED fight and in conditions that more closely mirror theater situations, JIEDDO officials said. Training centers are located on the Marine base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., a Navy facility in Indian Head, Md., Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and the Army's Fort Irwin, Calif.

JIEDDO hosted an IED Defeat Seminar May 26 at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin. The four-day seminar was designed to identify gaps in counter-IED training as well as make participants aware of training JIEDDO now provides for units heading to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his opening remarks at the seminar, Cone emphasized three important counter-IED training issues and encouraged the audience to make the training more of a priority in pre-deployment work-ups. He spoke of the need for better integration of technology onto the battlefield, the need to increase home station training and the importance of tailoring all counter-IED training to fit the audience.

Cone asked the leaders and trainers to start evaluating where changes can be made in home-station training. Then, shifting from training to communicating, he challenged leaders to share information at home and while forward deployed.

"We are a community of practice," he said. "If you're not participating in these VTCs (video teleconfer-

ences) we have, then you're a day late and a dollar short."

He said a breakdown in communication and information sharing is the leaders' fault and the troops lose as a result.

"We need to share information and ideas," Cone said. "Shame on us if we're doing something here at NTC that they're not doing at the Joint Readiness Training Center (on Fort Polk, La.)"

Switching back to training, Cone addressed JIEDDO's role in home-station training. He reminded leaders to take advantage of JIEDDO and the training centers' resources all the while recognizing their own responsibilities.

"We need to take an appetite suppressant when we talk of what JIEDDO can do for us," he said. "JIEDDO is a great asset, but ultimately, the responsibility of training soldiers and Marines lies with the commander."

Opening a two-hour panel discussion, Army Brig. Gen. Joe E. Ramirez Jr., deputy commanding general, Combined Arms Training Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, likened the IED fight to a game of chess.

"For every move we make, the enemy makes three," said Ramirez, a Houston native. "Multi-National Corp Iraq told me the enemy changes Techniques, Tactics and Procedures every two to three weeks."

Ramirez, who served as deputy chief of staff for U.S. Central Command before being stationed at Fort

Leavenworth, Kansas, echoed Cone's thoughts on information sharing.

"You can't rely on the last time you were there," he stressed to the audience. "If you haven't been to theater in the last four months—you're not up to date. Our biggest task is staying current and relevant."

Ramirez reminded the leaders and trainers of bi-monthly virtual teleconferences available to units all around the world. He said the feedback he receives from theater relates specifically to training and TTPs.

He urged the leaders and trainers at the seminar to place more emphasis on battle staff training.

"They need to address defeating not only the IEDs, but the network, the bomb maker and the financier," he said. "We need to assess how we train our battle staff."

Ramirez emphasized home station training needs to be more of a priority for reserve and active-duty units. He suggested changing the mobilization process to allow

for pre-deployment training.

"The tip of the spear is absolutely the priority," said Ramirez, using a moniker commonly applied to forward deployed units. "We need to work harder to prepare them here to be the tip of the spear over there."

Another panel member, Marine Col. Niel E. Nelson, commanding officer of the Marine Corps' Engineer School located on Camp Lejeune, N.C., spoke of the importance of training troops at entry-level service schools.

"It's easier to form a habit than break one," Nelson said. "We get the kids right out of boot camp and the young lieutenants straight from The Basic School—and start teaching counter-IED techniques right then."

Nelson said instructors at the Marine Corps Engineer School teach that every movement is a route clearance movement.

"Teach that early enough," the 1984 graduate of San Diego State University said, "and they'll take it to theater with them

whenever they deploy."

Nelson encouraged units across the Corps to conduct counter-IED training prior to attending Mojave Viper, the Marine Corps' premiere, live-fire pre-deployment training in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Nelson's closing statement was met with a volley of "hooahs" from the Army, "oorahs" from the Marines and a scattering of applause from the audience.

"This isn't a Marine Corps thing or an Army thing," said the Bethpage, N.Y. native. "We might have different words and different uniforms, but we have the same mission — keep people alive, keep them aware and keep them going forward."



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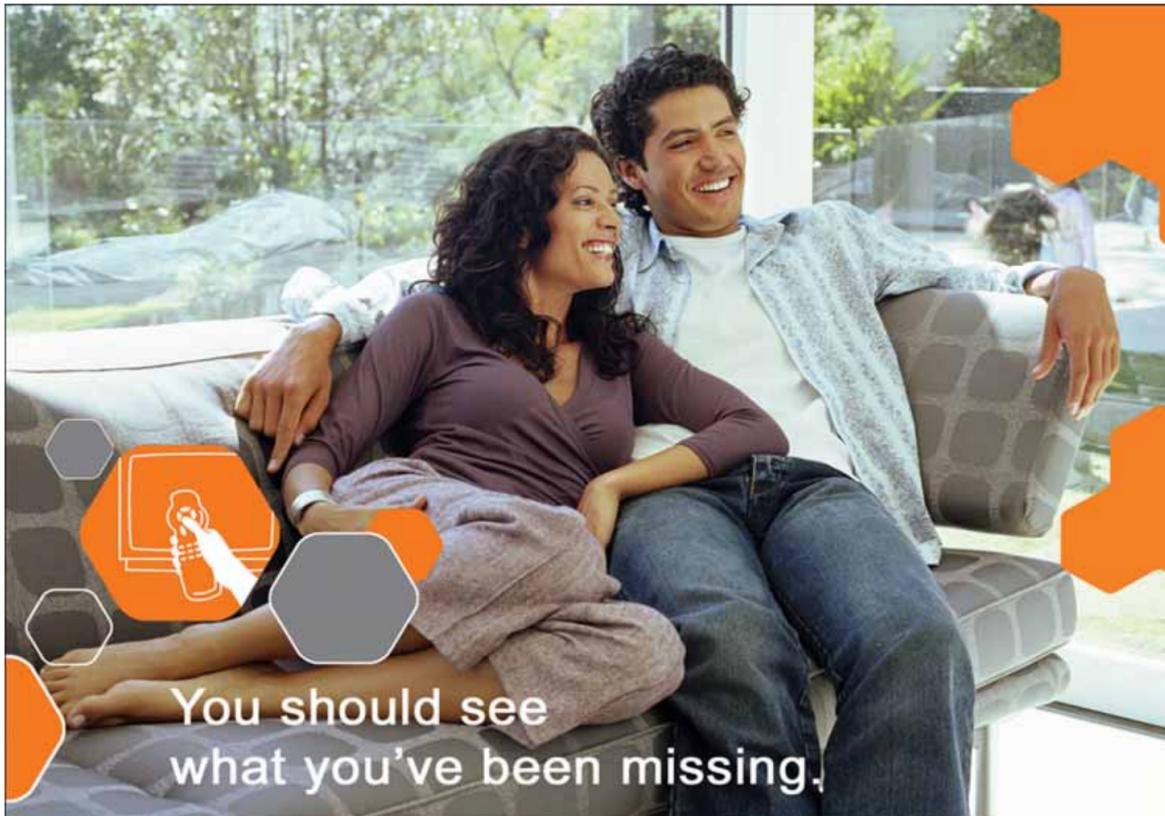
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“Other than wearing the normal personal protective equipment, I also wear a spine protector under my leather jacket,” said Cpl. Jacob Friesen, sergeants course. “Before I ride I always check my tires and chain to make sure they are in good working order. Crotch rocket riders already have a bad reputation. The only thing we can do to get rid of that is set the example to other riders by following the rules and keeping all the fun stuff and speed on the track.”

Another topic addressed in the Combat Center Order P1630.8C is driving under the influence of alcohol. For a DUI, the repercussions include a one-year suspension of driving privileges and punishment from the Marines’ unit. The DUI will also be reported by the military police to the California DMV and the offender will face more penalties.

“It seems like some Marines just take their packs off,” said Wells-Smith.

With Marines waiting to deploy and returning from deployment, they have a different mindset than those who have been stateside for longer periods of time, said Wells-Smith.

“Then, when they get back, some of them keep the mindset that it won’t happen to me,

and drive recklessly and drink to much and it ends up in someone’s life being at stake.”

Along with vehicle safety and motorcycle safety, heat is a huge concern as the summer months approach. As a safety precaution the base places heat flags around base to indicate what level of physical activity units can participate in.

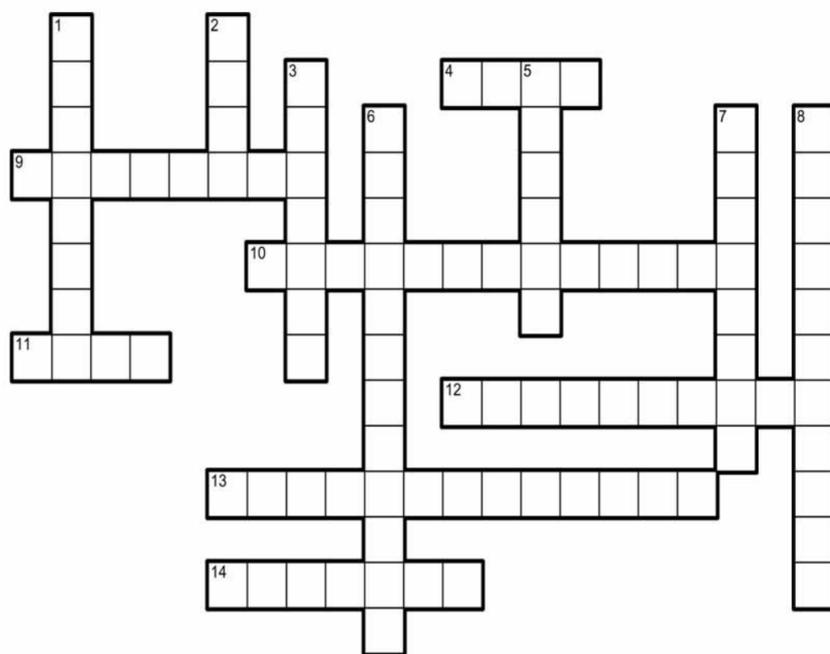
There are three general types of heat illnesses starting with heat cramps, then heat exhaustion, followed by the most severe: heat stroke.

“Heat illnesses are the result of elevated body temperatures due to the inability to dissipate the body’s heat and decreased fluid level,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Byron D. Jensen, leading Petty Officer Directorate of Public Health Services. “Remember that the mildest heat injury can potentially turn into a severe life threatening emergency if not treated properly and quickly.”

It’s important that as temperatures continue to rise as it heads into summer, that you know how to prevent heat injuries, recognize the symptoms of heat injuries and how to treat heat injuries. It could result in saving someone’s life.

So, as the summer months come, keep in mind key safety factors when preparing for a weekend trip or simply hanging out at the barracks with friends.

JUNE HISTORY



ACROSS

- 4. The U.S. ____ was founded June 14, 1775.
- 9. Benjamin ____ proved that lightning is electricity June 15, 1752.
- 10. Alabama Governor, ____ blocked black students from entering the University of Alabama June 11, 1963.
- 11. __-__, the invasion of Europe, occurred June 6, 1944.
- 12. The Jefferson Memorial was created in ____ D.C. June 26, 1934.
- 13. ____ was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, from Newfoundland to Wales June 17, 1928.
- 14. ____ was outlawed in United States Territories June 19, 1862.

DOWN

- 1. ____ Marshall became the first black justice on the United States Supreme Court June 13, 1967.
- 2. The Great ____ of the United States was adopted June 20, 1782.
- 3. Senator Robert F. ____ was shot and mortally wounded in Los Angeles June 5, 1968.
- 5. Battle of ____ began June 4, 1942, during WWII.
- 6. The ____ and ____ was adopted as the American Flag June 14, 1777.
- 7. ____, also known as the Great Bambino, played his last game June 2, 1935.
- 8. U.S. ____ was granted to all Native Americans June 2, 1924.

[Solutions on A10]



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

New Combat Center Order P1630.8C levies stricter penalties for anyone talking on their cell phone while driving on base, unless a hands free device is used.

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2006 Annual Drinking Water Confidence Report

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the MAGTFTC MCAGCC domestic water distribution system to resident and transient consumers aboard the Training Center. Under the "Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule" of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, community water systems are required to report this water quality information to the consuming public annually.

Presented in this report is information on the sources of drinking water (general), the source of MAGTFTC MCAGCC water, its constituents, and health risks associated with contaminants identified.

This report was compiled by the MAGTFTC MCAGCC Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division Water Resources Office. If you have any questions about your drinking water or this report, please contact Nesmith 830-7883.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

While your drinking water meets the current EPA stan-

dard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California Department of Health Services continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Contaminants that may be present in source waters include:

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

- Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All water supplied to the MAGTFTC MCAGCC domestic water service area is ground water produced from the Surprise Spring sub aquifer of the Twentynine Palms Groundwater Basin. This water is extracted by 11 500 to 700 foot deep production wells located in a protected portion of the Sand Hill Training Area, approximately 10 miles northwest of the Mainside Area. This water has consistently been of such a high quality in nature that it routinely meets all EPA and Department primary and secondary drinking water standards without any treatment required (other than basic chlorinating) before distribution. Basic chlorinating is required by the Department as a safeguard against possible microbial contamination due to repairs to or maintenance of the distribution system.

Due to the isolation and protection of our source water area, contaminants such as Organic Chemicals (including Synthetic and Volatile Organic chemicals), Pesticides, Herbicides, or the microbial Cryptosporidium, Fecal coliform and E.coli have never been identified as being present in MAGTFTC MCAGCC source water.

As required by regulation MCAGCC completed and submitted all required analytical data for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, MCAGCC submitted all UCMR data to the Environmental Protection Agency Central Data Exchange to include perchlorate, which was not detected in MCAGCC source wells sampled.

The MAGTFTC MCAGCC domestic water

| PRIMARY STANDARD SOURCE WELLS | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | MCAGCC WATER | Range of Detection | Sample Date | Violation (Yes/No) | Typical Source |
|--|---------|------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| Nitrate (as NO ₃) (ppm) | 45 | 45 | 4.4 | 3.7-5.5 | 3/16/2006 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 10 | 4 | 5.4 | ND - 12 | 2/05-2/06 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Aluminum (ppm) | 1 | 0.6 | 0.029 | ND - 0.11 | 3/9/2005 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Chromium, Total (ppb) | 50 | 100 | 5 | ND - 16 | 3/9/2005 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Fluoride | 2 | 1 | 0.75 | 0.5 - 1.1 | 3/9/2005 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| RADIOCLIDES | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Particle (pCi/L) | 15 | 0 | 1.52 | 1.13-2.10 | 3/06-12/06 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Radium 228 | | | 0.68 | 0.05-1.32 | 3/06-12/06 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | 1 | 0 | 0 | ND - 1 | 2006 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| SECONDARY STANDARD SOURCE WELLS | | | | | | | |
| Methyl-tert-butyl ether (MTBE) | 13 | 13 | ND | ND | 3/9/2005 | No | Leaking underground storage |
| Chloride (ppm) | 500 | N/A | <1 | 8.9 - 33 | 10/6 - 12/6 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Turbidity | 5 Units | 5 Units | 1.46 | <0.2-5.6 | 3/9/2005 | No | Soil runoff |
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 1,000 | 1,000 | 170 | 150-180 | 12/15/2005 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Iron (ppb) | 300 | N/A | 100 | ND - 850 | 9/14/2006 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Sodium (ppm) | N/A | N/A | 48.3 | 39 - 65 | 3/9/2005 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Sulfate (ppm) | 500 | 500 | 24.4 | 0.5 - 42 | 3/9/2005 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT | | | | | | | |
| Vanadium (ppb) | N/A | 50 | 20.1 | 0.3 - 1 | 1/02-12/02 | NA | Natural deposit erosion |
| 1,2,3-Trichloropropane | N/A | 0.005 | <0.02 | ND - .50 | 1/02-12/02 | NA | Chemical used primarily as a solvent & extractive agent |
| Chromium, Hexavalent (Cr6) | N/A | N/A | 9.3 | ND - 18 | 1/02-12/02 | NA | A dissolved heavy metal that is or has been used in industrial processes |
| Perchlorate (ppb) | N/A | 6 | ND | ND-4 | 1/02-12/02 | NA | Man-made and naturally occurring compound |
| DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 10 | 4 | 2.7 | ND - 12 | 2006 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | 1 | 0 | *1 | 0 - 1 | 10/26/2006 | No | System repairs |
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 1000 | 1000 | 206 | 185-245 | 2006 | No | Natural deposit erosion |
| Maximum Total Trihalomethane Potential (ppb) | 80 | N/A | 0.7 | ND - 7.4 | 3/13/2007 | No | By-product of system chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids (ppb) | 60 | N/A | 11 | ND-8.1 | 3/14/2007 | No | By-product of system chlorination |
| Lead [90th Percentile] (ppb) | 15 | 2 | <1 | ND - 12 | 7/28/2006 | No | Plumbing corrosion |
| Copper [90th Percentile] (ppb) | 1300 | 170 | 22 | ND - 31 | 7/28/2006 | No | Plumbing corrosion |

(*1) Total Coliform Bacteria during routine sampling of the MCAGCC distribution system and source wells analytical results indicated the presence of total coliform. Notification was made and resampling was conducted per state requirements. All repeat samples were negative indicating no total coliform in the system.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

system provides water service to all housing and workspaces within the confines of the base with the exception of the Condor Elementary School, which receives its water service from the Twentynine Palms Water District. The Vista Del Sol housing area located on Two Mile Road in Twentynine Palms also receives its water service from the Twentynine Palms Water District.

In accordance with drinking water regulations, the table for this report lists all the drinking water contaminants detected by the most recent MAGTFTC MCAGCC source and distribution system water quality tests performed, shown in relation to the latest EPA and Department drinking water standards.

During 2006 more than 1,000 tests for drinking water contaminants were conducted on water samples drawn from MAGTFTC MCAGCC source wells and the distribution system. A State of California accredited laboratory, employing certified personnel, accomplished all the reported drinking water sampling and testing using EPA approved laboratory analytical methods and procedures.

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Sat., June 9 at 4:00pm

Aaliyah M. Vidal
Services are Private

Maxine Pierce
Services are Private

Mountain Valley Memorial Park would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the Memorial Day Observance Event on May 28. For those who missed the Memorial Day Observance, Live Music and Free Community BBQ, please make an effort to join us next year in honor of those who have served.

All monitoring results of the MAGTFTC MCAGCC domestic tap water system are on file and available for review, by appointment, at the Water Resources Office, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, Building 1451.

The table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2006 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables are results of testing done January 1 through December 31, 2006. The Department requires the MAGTFTC MCAGCC to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these

contaminants are not expected to be present or to vary significantly from year to year. Some of this data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & abbreviations used:

- Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to Public Health Goals as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the smell, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency sets MCLGs.

- Public Health Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California Environmental Protection Agency sets PHGs.

- Primary Drinking Water Standard. MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

- N/A: not applicable
- ND: not detectable at testing limit

- ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

- ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

- Unit: Standard unit of measurement for this constituent.

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Mountain Viper Marines visit local school

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

HAWTHORNE, Nev. – Hawthorne Elementary School received a surprise visit in their classrooms May 22 from Mountain Viper Marines who volunteered their time to read to the young students.

The eight Marines are from 3rd Marine Division's support detachment for Mountain Viper, a new Afghanistan predeployment training program for the division's embedded trainer teams.

The Marines spent nearly two hours rotating through classrooms individually reading children's books and answering wide-ranging questions about their careers and personal lives.

"It was wonderful having the Marines here," said Taralynn Musselman, a kindergarten teacher at the school. "The kids loved it. It was a very nice surprise to see the Marines because the kids can see there is more to serving the community besides postal workers or policemen."

The visit to the school came shortly after the local Armed Forces Day parade the previous weekend, where Marines took center stage in the reviewing stand as well as rolling down Main Street

with nearly all of the city's 3,000 residents lining the streets.

Hawthorne is host to the Army Ammunition Depot, the world's largest ammunition storage facility, where Mountain Viper is currently taking place. But because of contracting, the only soldier on the post is the base commander, so seeing and interacting with Marines both on and off duty is a great source of pride and patriotism for residents of Hawthorne, Nev., which hails itself as "America's patriotic home."

"Our teachers were really excited as well to have readers but especially to have the Marines," said Michelle Caramella, the school's acting principle who usually teaches kindergarten. "We're trying to show what the kids can be in the future and that Marines, and any military branch, isn't just about war, but they are part of the community as well. They were really excited to see anybody in the military so I'm sure they enjoyed it."

"It was a lot of fun," said Lance Cpl. David C. Polson, 20, a mechanic and a Bennettsville, S.C. native. "One class gave me and [Lance Cpl. Christopher M.] Sadoski a big group hug to thank us."

Some Marines received a barrage of questions from the younger stu-



Lance Cpl. Kerry S. Warren, a 20-year-old motor transport mechanic from Puyallup, Wash., volunteers his time from supporting Mountain Viper to read to first grade students at Hawthorne Elementary School May 22.

dents, which caught some Marines like Lance Cpl. Mark A. Attridge off guard.

"They asked some of the strangest questions," said Attridge, a

19-year-old Las Vegas native. "I didn't even know how to begin to answer some of them. But they're just kids, so it was OK."

Although the trip was relatively

short, both the Marines and school's faculty hopes the visit will help the children see service members in a new light and leave a lasting, positive impact on them.

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OBSERVATIONS

JUNE 8, 2007

EOD Marines blow up the spot at fair



CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

An explosive ordnance disposal Marine from the Combat Center explains to a group of students from the Twentynine Palms Elementary School how the robots they use to deal with explosives operate.

CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from the Combat Center Explosive Ordnance Disposal team participated in the Twentynine Palms Elementary School's first Science Day June 1.

Maj. Michael Glass, Sgt. Jake Wimer, Sgt. Samuel Denning and Sgt. Johnylee Francisco, along with six robotic systems, spent the morning until early afternoon, with more than 650 students, demonstrating and talking about the robots they use to deal with explosives.

The students, grades kindergarten to sixth, were

rotated through stations of different science exhibits planted throughout the school grounds for their first Science Day planned by the Parent Organization, a group of parents who plan special events and projects for TPES' students, said Michelle Bergey, fifth grade teacher.

At the EOD station, at the far end of the playground, the EOD Marines explained the uses of each robot, giving examples of various scenarios, as well as the differences and costs.

They emphasized safety precautions they enforce when working with the equipment, and focused on the science aspects of the robots.

"It's very informative to have the EOD Marines here today," said Bergey. "The students are able to see how math and science is used in real life careers. Its a career that hits close to home, because a lot of their parents are in the military."

After giving background information and demonstrating how to control each robot, along with explaining the safety rules, the Marines let the students take control.

With the remotes and help of the EOD Marines, the students practiced picking up empty plastic bottles and rocks with the robots' claws and dropping the objects off

in a specific landing spot.

William Godoy, 12, successfully directed a robot to pick up an empty bottle and return it to Francisco, who was helping the students practice with the robots.

"That was cool!" said Godoy. "I can't believe it was that easy. It's like a cool toy and it helps saves lives!"

Wimer, EOD technician, enjoyed educating and spending time with the students, he said.

"Its always a great opportunity to step out into the community and inform people of what we do," he explained. "Especially with these kids, who are mostly children of

Marines and already are curious about this stuff.

"But also it's great for those who don't have parents in the military, they get to see things they never knew about," he added.

Terry Bergey, sixth grade teacher, agreed.

"All these students have a lot of questions about this kind of stuff, and it's a rare and awesome experience to have Marines come and explain everything," he said.

After 40 minutes with each class, the Marines answered questions from the students. Questions ranged from 'do you name your robots?' and 'how much

weight can that robot pick up?'

Francisco was more than happy to answer the questions and interact with the students, he said.

"It's always good for kids to be exposed to new things," he said. "I'd want my child to be exposed to as much education as possible. The more they know, the more goals and dreams they build to shoot and aim for. They get more confidence planted inside them to do anything they set their minds to."

The first Science Day will definitely not be the last. It was a great success with the help of the Marines, said TPES teachers, the Bergey's.

Soap Box Derby races through Twentynine Palms

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The crowded street bustled with excitement as Marines, their families and other Twentynine Palms, Calif. residents cheered for their children at the Soap Box Derby, June 1.

Children spent many months with their parents or guardians building race cars for the Soap Box Derby event that took place in the city of Twentynine Palms.

"Events like these are important because it brings the family together," said Anita Neu-Fultz, executive director of Armed Services YMCA. "It shows these children that Marines value family."

Children ranging from ages 5 to 14 participated in the derby and raced according to age and experience.

"They're all winners," said Neu-Fultz. "They get to do

something fun. It's a family night out."

The children were divided into two groups: stock and super stock. The inexperienced racers were placed into the stock group, and the experienced racers were placed into the super stock group.

Awards were given out to children with the fastest times. Among those awards, three children were chosen for the General's choice, Mayor's choice and ASYMCA choice awards.

Brig Gen. Melvin G. Spiess, the Combat Center commanding general, chose Zachary Ishee for the General's choice award. Jacob Masterson was chosen for the Mayor's choice award, and Abigail Gulick was picked for the ASYMCA choice award.

"This event is great because these children are given the opportunity to shine like a real race car driver," said Neu-Fultz.

The ASYMCA asked for volunteers from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

"It is important for these Marines to get off the base and be involved in a family event," said Neu-Fultz. "No one was told to come. All these Marines volunteered and wanted to help out with the event."

The MCCES students who volunteered kept an eye out for safety and accountability issues for the drivers. They set up the lanes, guided the children and offered advice. They handed out water to participants and family members, and cleaned up after the races.

"It is good for the community to see Marines are participating and care for children," said Pvt. Brandon Jordan, a MCCES student. "They should have more events like this one. Kids are my life and the future. They deserve to have fun and relax while they



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Experienced racer, Hunter Alderson glances over his shoulder as he speeds past his opponent during the Soap Box Derby, June 1.

are still care-free."

An act of selflessness was shown through MCCES student Pfc. Michael Rodriguez, who took it upon himself to donate \$125 for a child who

showed up at the derby and required a sponsor to participate in the races.

"These children need to have fun too, and it is very rewarding when they are

praised by their parents for doing a job-well-done," said Jordan. "It doesn't matter if they win or lose, these children did their best and that is all that matters."

Cross Country Challenge traverses Combat Center

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Hot air swept over the Combat Center like waves on a beach. The sun shined brilliantly on those who stood beneath it, yet these conditions didn't stop motivated Marines, sailors, other servicemembers and civilians from participating in the Combat Center Cross Country Challenge at the golf course here, Saturday.

Every base on the west coast was challenged to make a cross country race to determine the Best in the West, or the top cross country runner in the West Coast. Twenty runners from around the West Coast participated in the 6.2 mile race at the Combat Center.

"This is the first time the race series has attended the Combat Center," said Skip Best, Combat Center athletic director. "It is very tough for these guys to give up their weekend to go run."

The top female runner was 39-year-old Shinano Hazlett, a Marine spouse. She completed the run in 48 minutes and 50 seconds.

The top male runner was Capt. Chad D. Walton, of Tactical Training and

Exercise Control Group, who completed the run in 31 minutes and 43 seconds.

"Skip Best always marks out a clear course so you just have to follow the white line and run hard," said Walton. "I run on the golf course nearly every day, so it was sort of like I was defending my home field."

Walton said he realized it was going to be a tough race when he got to the start line and recognized Jeremy Brown, a fellow Marine who had been the top Marine runner at the Marine Corps Marathon.

The 6.2 miles wrapped around the golf course. The runners battled on grass, cement and sand, forcing them to adapt to the different types of ground.

"I took the lead a mile or so into the race and it grew until about four miles when I had a pretty good stomach cramp," said Walton

"Fortunately, the lead helped so when the next runner caught and passed me I was able to hold on and then kick him at the finish," he continued.

The next race is scheduled for June 22 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where more men and women will race again. More races



Sgt. Franklin Villanueva of Combat Logistics Battalion-7 and Capt. Michael Keane of Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School battled it out in the last stretch of the Combat Center Cross Country Challenge, Saturday at the Desert Winds golf course.

are scheduled to take place at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.; Marine Corps Base Pendleton, Calif.; Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.; and

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., throughout the summer.

The race ran as smooth as possible, said Best.

"I am very happy that we

didn't have any safety problems and got the first race completed successfully," he said.

The end of the race concluded with the top three male runners, and top three

female runners receiving medals - gold, silver and bronze. The fastest male and female also received a plaque congratulating the runners on their performance.

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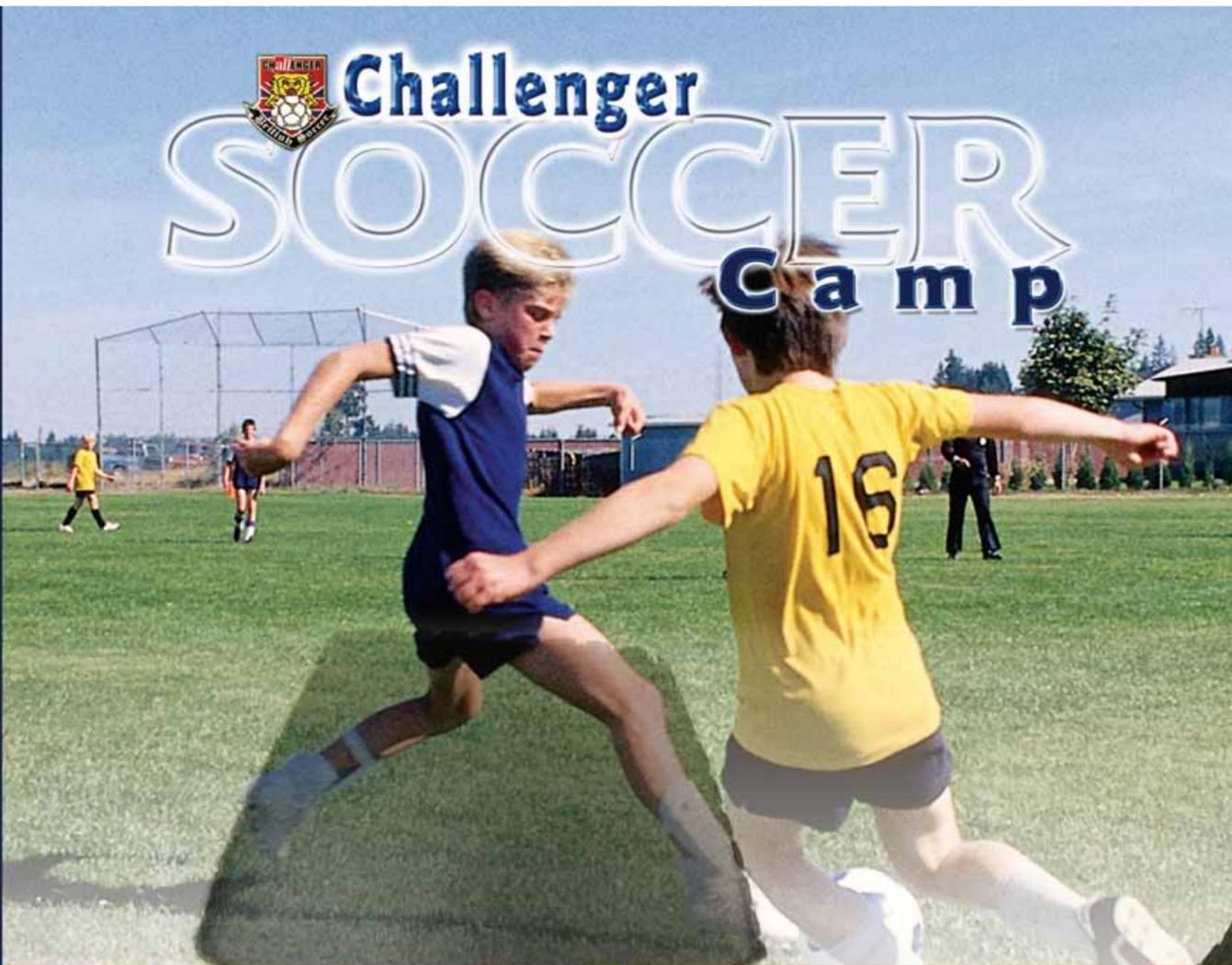
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