

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 22, 2007 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 50 ISSUE 24

Republic of Korea Commandant of Marine Corps visits Combat Center

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Commandant of the Republic of Korea visited the Combat Center June 13 to learn more about operations and training of the United States Marine Corps.

Lt. Gen. Sang Ro Lee, Col. Joo Choel Lee, the military assistant, and their families touched down on the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field at Camp Wilson where they were greeted by Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, commanding general of the Combat Center, and his wife, Filomena.

The reason for the Korean Commandant's visit was to build on the relationship between the U.S. and R.O.K. Marine Corps, as well as provide Lee with a better understanding of training and concepts used by their American counterpart.

After being greeted, the ROK Marines and their escorts loaded into several vehicles and headed to the Headquarters Battle Command Center.

There, Lee and his fellow ROK Marines were briefed on the extensive training programs used aboard the base to prepare U.S. Marines to fight overseas.

The Korean Commandant and his party learned about battle simulation programs for operating several types of tactical vehicles, computer programs that teach proper communication skills with Iraqi citizens, the



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, commanding general of the Combat Center, salutes Lt. Gen. Sang Ro Lee, commandant of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, as he steps foot aboard the Expeditionary Air Field at Camp Wilson June 13.

See ROK, A6

1st Tanks completes FINEX of Summer Heat 2007

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

First Tank Battalion completed the final exercise of Summer Heat 2007 Saturday after spending 17 days in the Combat Center's sun drenched Lead Mountain training area.

The final exercise featured situations similar to what Marines have encountered in Iraq so they can prepare themselves for what to expect when they deploy.

First Tanks does not deploy as a battalion which prevents them from going through Mojave Viper, the Marine Corps' pre-deployment training for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Because of this, the companies of 1st Tanks participate in Summer Heat as an alternate training venue.

The 72-hour final exercise was primarily aimed at training Company C, who is set to

deploy later this year.

Company C has spent the last few months transitioning from tank missions to humvee missions.

The Marines of 3rd Platoon, Company D also participated in the final exercise to assist in the training of Company C.

"For pre-deployment training, they put a lot of time and effort into this," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Formella, platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon, Company D.

Contractors made up in part by Iraqi Americans from Defense Training Systems were hired to create realistic reactions to the actions the Marines took in different situations.

"The objective is to create a realistic scenario so Marines can effectively practice their standard operating procedures," said Danny O'Brien,

product manager for Defense Training Systems.

The Marines of Company A, who recently returned from Iraq, took part in the final exercise as role players to recreate scenarios similar to experiences they encountered in Iraq.

They assumed the positions of Iraqi Police, the Iraqi Army, Iraqi civilians and insurgents during the final exercise.

By also utilizing the Marines of Company A as role players, the training remained up to date and provided Company C with a more realistic environment.

"By using role players and battlefield effects, we tried to recreate scenarios that currently take place in Iraq," said Capt. Peter L. Schnurr, Company A commander.

"We had a lot of good feedback from the compa-

nies in training," said Schnurr. "We were pleased with the realism and intensity of the training."

Although the battalion completed its version of pre-deployment training, Company C will continue

preparing for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom later this year.



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Marines of Company C, 1st Tank Bn., try to calm a hostile crowd of Iraqi civilian roleplayers during the final exercise of Summer Heat 2007.

Weekend Weather

Friday  104/74 Sunny

Saturday  102/72 Sunny

Sunday  101/69 Sunny

Inside this issue

• A4: CLB-7 stands up new company

• A6: DHCC helps Marines cope

• A10: WebridesTV.com films 1st Tanks

Observations



Laughter: The best medicine

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1954 —

President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the use of the first official Marine Corps seal.

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



Commander publishes reading list for Marine Warriors

MARCENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, CENTRAL COMMAND, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla. — Lieutenant Gen. James N. Mattis, commander, Marine Corps Forces, Central Command, has recently published the COMUSMARCENT Reading List to help Marines and sailors better prepare for the long road ahead in the Global War on Terrorism.

The MARCENT Reading List is a collection of books, newspaper and magazine articles, and Marine Corps publications to be read by Marines and sailors deploying into the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

The CENTCOM AOR is comprised of 27 countries, an estimated 522 million people, seven major languages and hundreds of dialects, more than 12 major religious groups, and 18 ethnic groups.

“The Global War on Terrorism is a long war, and as such we need to continue our preparation

to be engaged in all aspects of this war,” said Lt. Gen. Mattis, who commands all Marine forces serving within the CENTCOM AOR. His intent is to prepare Marines and sailors for the operational, tactical, cultural and environmental factors in which they may be confronted.

The COMUSMARCENT Reading List is not all inclusive, and local commands may additionally require their Marines and sailors to accomplish other tasks in preparation for deployment. According to Lt. Gen. Mattis, these actions will ensure the Marine Corps deploys educated, well-trained and properly prepared Marines and sailors into the fight.

The COMUSMARCENT Reading List is separated into specific regions within the CENTCOM AOR. The list notes what readings are appropriate, dependent on the individual’s pay grade and length of time before deploying. The COMUSMARCENT Reading List can be found at the following link: https://www.marcent.usmc.mil/nipr/NIPR_Web_Reading_List.xls

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.

Centerspeak

“What was your favorite part about the ‘80’s?”

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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



MASTER SGT. ANTHONY K. MCWILLIAMS
EXERCISE SUPPORT DIVISION, COMPANY B

“I liked the music...stuff I like Ozzy Osborne and the Scorpions.”



GUNNERY SGT. DAYL L. CLARK
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, COMPANY A

“I loved Whitney Houston. I also graduated high school and joined the Marine Corps in ‘87.”



STAFF SGT. DAVID T. YOUNG
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONIC SCHOOL, COMPANY B

“I liked the stupid, ‘cheesy’ movies like ‘Weird Science’ and ‘Better Off Dead.’”

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

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal’s Office Crime Prevention Section

What is your child doing?

Did you know that in this past month an estimated 6.2 million American children age 12 and over are binge drinkers, which is defined as drinking five or more drinks in one sitting, and an estimated 2.6 million American children, 12 years of age and over, are currently using illegal drugs.

Does your child know what drugs and alcohol can do to them and ways to stay away from them?

In today’s world more and more drugs are getting introduced into school, and drinking starts at young ages. Here are some tips to help you and your child discuss drugs and alcohol.

Kindergarten to third grade is when to begin explaining what alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are. Also explain that some people use them even though they are harmful, and the consequences of using them.

- Discuss how anything that is not food or prescribed by the doctor can be extremely harmful.
 - Tell them drugs interfere with the way our bodies work, can make a person very sick, or even cause them to die.
 - Explain the addiction and that drug use can become a very bad habit that is hard to stop.
- Children in grades four through six should know:
- The immediate effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on different parts of the body, including risks of coma or fatal overdose;
 - The long-term results of addiction and the loss of control over their lives users experience;
 - The reasons why drugs are especially dangerous for growing bodies;
 - The problems that alcohol and other illegal drugs cause not only to the user, but also to the user’s family and world.

Grades seven through nine is the adolescence stage and can often be a confusing and stressful time. Teens struggle to figure out who they are and how to fit in, while establishing their own identities. Parents may not realize their young teens feel surrounded by drug use. Nearly nine out of 10 teens agree “it seems like marijuana is everywhere these days.” Teens are twice as likely to be using marijuana as parents believe they are, and teens are getting high in the places that parents think are safe havens, such as around school, at home, and at friend’s houses. Parents profoundly shape the choices their children make about drugs.

Teens need to know the immediate, distasteful consequences of tobacco and marijuana use, for example, that smoking causes bad breath and stained teeth and makes clothes and hair smell. As a parent you should discuss drugs’ long-term effects:

- The lack of crucial social and emotional skills ordinarily learned during adolescence;
- The risk of lung cancer and emphysema from smoking;

Grades ten through twelve is when your child needs to understand how to resist peer pressure. Teens need more than a general message not to use drugs. They need to hear from a parent that anyone can become a chronic user or an addict and that even non-habitual use can have serious permanent consequences.

- Most high school students are future-oriented so they are more likely to listen to discussions.
- Discuss how drugs can ruin chances of getting into a good college or being hired for a job.
- Talk about how fatal or crippling car accidents and liver damage are some of the causes from heavy drinking;
- Let them know that addiction, brain damage, memory loss, coma, and death are the consequences of heavy drug and alcohol use.

For more information on how to discuss related topics with your child, go to <http://www.yic.gov/drugfree/childknow.html> or <http://www.safestate.org>

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

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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.

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 bluetooth, an earbud or a speakerphone 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:

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

BOOTS AND UTES ALLOWED TO BE WORN IN WEST GYM WEIGHT ROOM

Effective Friday boots and utes are authorized workout attire in the West Gym weight room, Bldg. 1519. Marines and sailors must remove blouse, web belt and empty pockets for safety and to protect the equipment. Please use the lockers with a lock to secure belongings. If you have any questions contact Charles Dougwillow, the Fitness and Wellness Director, by calling 830-5386.



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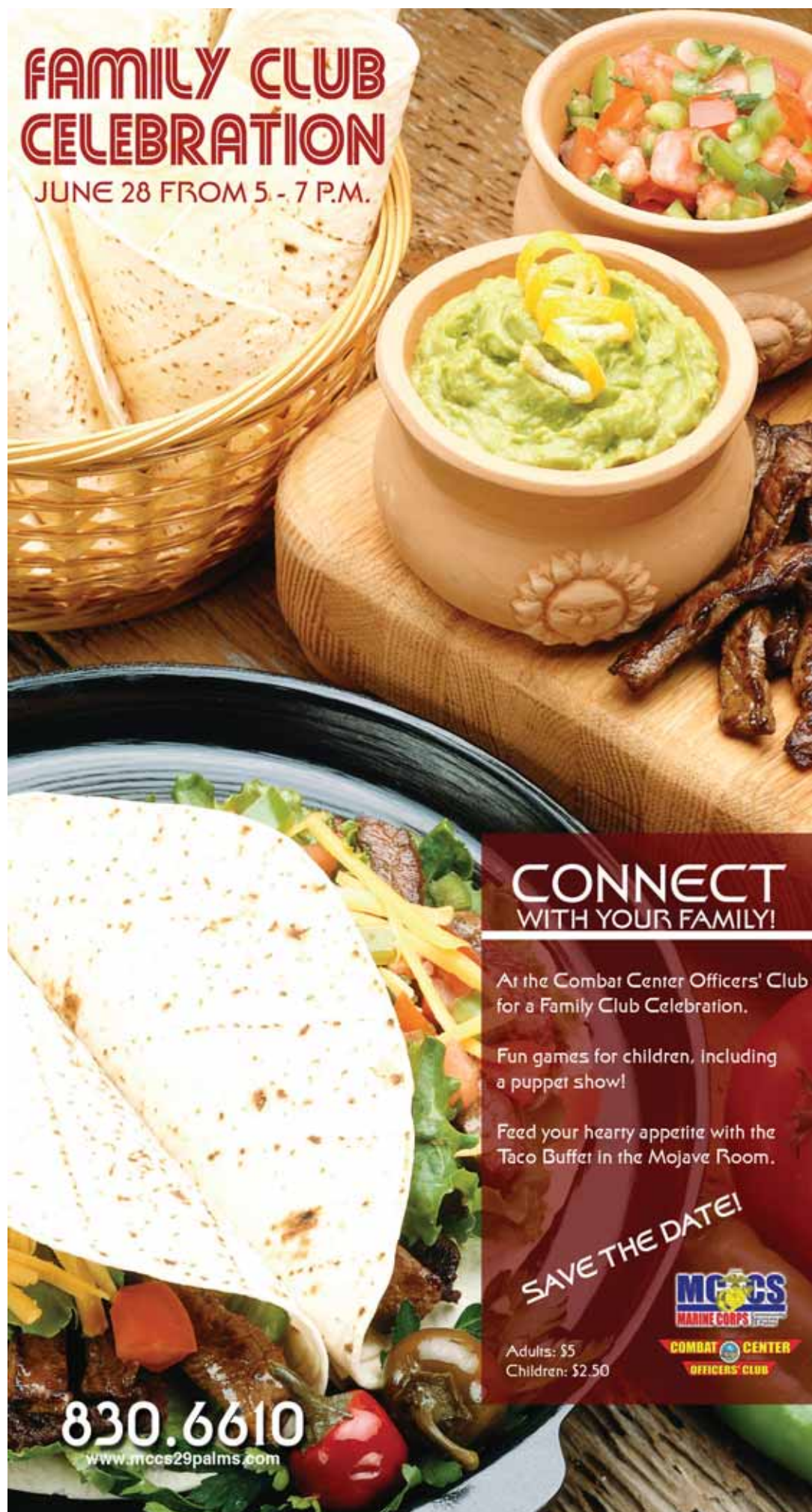
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FAMILY CLUB CELEBRATION

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CLB-7 activates Motor T Company

CPL. REGINA ORTIZ
CORRESPONDENT

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 officially activated their Motor Transport Company during a ceremony at the Combat Center June 15.

Talks of standing up a motor transport company have been in the air at the battalion for a few years, but the process to actually create a new company began after the unit's latest deployment last year, said the company first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Bill Wiseman.

Capt. Spencer Szewczyk was appointed as the new company commanding officer and Wiseman was appointed as the company first sergeant by the battalion's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Steven A. Simmons, during the activation ceremony.

CLB-7's Motor Transport Company is comprised of 109 Marines in military

occupational specialties ranging from landing support and motor transportation to engineering and logistics vehicle systems, he added.

CLB-7 provides combat service support to I Marine Expeditionary Force units based at the Combat Center and other Marine Corps units training here. This includes inspect, diagnose, classify, and repair equipment during training evolutions and at forward sites, vehicle recovery and evacuation, and convoy operations.

Throughout the Marine Corps, most logistics support units have three to four companies, including a motor transport company. During CLB-7's recent deployments, they would have to augment such a company to be full force while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Wiseman explained.

Following the upcoming July 4 holiday, the battalion is scheduled to conduct field operations implementing the new Motor Transport Company.

"Our focus during this training is making the company capable of going outside the wire in Iraq," said Wiseman. "We're going to be increasing our intensity out there and taking it serious in preparation of our upcoming deployment in February."

CLB-7 has been a key part of pre-deployment training since their activation in 1976. Always ready to move and act as fast as they can to keep training going as smoothly as possible. Now, the unit is more capable of the task at hand, with their own Motor Transport Company.



CPL. REGINA ORTIZ
1st Sgt. Bill Wiseman, newly appointed Motor Transport Co. first sergeant, salutes CLB-7 commanding officer, Lt. Col. Steven Simmons, while battalion sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Larry B. Barnard, stands at attention during the Motor Transport Company's activation ceremony.



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MWTC firefighters help save housing complex

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

COLEVILLE, Calif. — A smoldering wildfire which began near here June 1 from a lightning strike reignited June 5 from gale-force winds and has grown to seven times its original size, threatening the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center's off-base housing units in its path.

As of June 6, the Larson Fire had consumed more than 1,432 acres with continuing high winds threatening more damage.

As the fire was approaching the housing complex located approximately 30 miles north of MWTC Tuesday morning, families who lived there were told to evacuate their homes. At the same time, six Marine volunteer firefighters and six federal MWTC firefighters were called to the scene.

More than 70 MWTC housing residents received the evacuation order shortly after 11 a.m. and were relocated to the Topaz Lodge a few miles up the highway where an American Red Cross disaster relief center had been established. The Red Cross provided food, drinks, childcare items and beds for anyone displaced by the fires.

The Marine volunteer crew and base firefighters cleared brush from three 25-foot propane storage tanks at the housing area with the help of three of the base firefighters, in addition to creating a firebreak behind homes using a bulldozer to clear the 500-foot-long path which would slow the fire down if it came near any structures. They used chainsaws, axes and shovels to clear the firebreak of whatever could burn and potentially send a hot ember flying toward homes or dry vegetation. It was at this time from the top of a nearby hill that they saw

the fire being blown by 70-mile-per-hour gusts directly toward them.

The three other base firefighters went to the fire's frontlines where the fire moved erratically and even jumped a highway as the winds continued to change. They are credited for helping protect structures in harm's way, including a Walker, Calif., historical school site, said local fire officials.

Fire crews contained but did not entirely extinguish the original Larson Fire over the weekend at about 200 acres burned, but it's likely smoldering vegetation was the source of this blaze, said Cpl. Randell L. Adams, a 22-year-old Houston native and an MWTC volunteer firefighter who has helped with other area fires in the past.

According to the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center, the main fuel of the fire is grass, sagebrush and pinyon pines which are plentiful along the mountainsides and valleys in this region but are very dry with minimal snowfall and rain here over this year's winter and spring months. To make matters worse for the 600 local, state and federal firefighters on the ground, helicopters and firefighting tanker planes were grounded June 5 due to the strong and erratic winds.

One Walker resident watching the fire close in on a home said watching the smoke and flames was "like staring the devil in the eyes."

As winds shifted and the fire slowed its movement toward housing, the Marines and other firefighters could only wait for what some thought could be a hellish firestorm.

"If the wind had kept blowing in our direction like it was, it would have reached housing easily," said Adams who joined the fire crew last year. "Then it

would have just been straight structural protection which means we wouldn't be dealing with vegetation, but just putting out any fire which started on the buildings.

"The worst part of it all was the waiting," said Adams, who spent nearly six hours waiting with his crewmates until they got the message the fire had changed direction. He said they drove by the fire to get a closer look and saw several hundred charred acres with firefighters still trying to get a foothold on the blaze.

By nightfall, the hills above Walker and Coleville glowed red-orange where the earth had been charred and firefighters continued to battle spreading flames. The winds which had whipped the fire into an inferno earlier had calmed and the National Weather Service said light rain was expected in the area as well as 37-degree overnight temperatures.

On the morning of June 6, the fire still threatened a number of homes and structures in the area, but no major structural losses or injuries had been reported. A 40-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 395 was shut down, but by Wednesday afternoon local residents were allowed back to their homes. With calmer winds, firefighting aircraft were also able to join the fight that morning.

Marine families living in MWTC housing were allowed to return to their homes at 8 a.m. June 6.

The Larson Fire was 25% contained June 6, but there was no estimate of full containment.

Although Marine volunteer and base firefighters went home, they were put on standby in case they needed to return and make another stand in the path of an inferno.



Working together to clear a log from a 500-foot firebreak, Cpl. Randell L. Adams, Pfc. Luis F. Abundis and Lance Cpl. Jack Poteet, all volunteer firefighters from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., fortify their defense of MWTC's base housing units in the path of the Larson Fire June 5.



The hillsides above Coleville glow red-orange as fires and hot embers continue to blacken more than 1,430 acres of earth throughout the night June 5.

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Marine Corps Mountain Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., federal firefighters and MWTC Marine volunteer firefighters plan their defense of MWTC's housing complex as the Larson Fire approached June 5.

Stay Marine

Ed Thornton
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ROK from A1

numerous training areas and ranges made available to units, as well as training in authentic battle scenarios.

After the brief, Lee and Spiese held a gift exchange where baseball caps and coins were traded.

The group then made their way to the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group building, where Col. Ronald M. Baczowski, director of TTECG, and Tim Leany, deputy director of TTECG, briefed the ROK Marines on the Combined Arms Command and Control Training Upgrade System.

The CACCTUS is a computerized program enabling Marines to rehearse procedures, including aircraft and artillery operations, the way their command would like to see them done on the training fields and in battle.

The group then traveled to Explosive Ordnance Disposal, where they were informed of the several types of improvised explosive devices used by insurgents,

indicators of roadside bombs, common strategies used for planting roadside bombs or vehicle-borne IED's, common behavior signs of suicide bombers, and the robotic technology used to defuse and dispose of IED's.

After Lee presented gifts to the EOD Marines, the ROK group continued on to Forward Observation Base 3 and Range 215.

There, they took a tour of the grounds as Baczowski explained the purposes behind the authentic layout of the training area, as well as the various types of scenarios TTECG implements to assure Marines' total preparation for battle.

The ROK Marines finished their day with an evening social held at Roughley Manor, followed by executive time with Spiese the following morning before their departure.

After more than a day at the Combat Center, the Korean Commandant and his party left with a better understanding of the U.S. Marine Corps and a stronger relationship with the nation.

Combat Center Gunny, Retired Colonel highlight Chamber of Commerce event

CAPT NEAL V. FISHER II Dir., MCAGCC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. -- Service, community and commitment to both, were the focus at the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Directors event at the Elks Lodge here, June 16.

The awards dinner and installation of new directors is an annual event, bringing together the social and business leaders, and concerned citizens of not only Twentynine Palms but the entire Morongo Basin community. As such, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and its Marines, active and retired, shined brightly at this year's event.

Gunnery Sgt Chris W. Cox, Combat Center public affairs chief, was honored as this year's recipient of the Chamber of Commerce President's Award.

Cox was selected for his passionate and dedicated work over the past year in bridging the information gap between the Combat Center and its surrounding community.

Laughter swept the room as Cox

acknowledged in accepting the award that this was probably the first time the usually sociable Marine was at a loss for words.

He recognized that his work as the public affairs representative for the Combat Center brought him into contact with not only the people of Twentynine Palms, but the entire Morongo Basin. He said, "The Marine Corps base shares the name of our town, and we all share the concerns of this region, we are one community."

As the keynote speaker, Paul Cook, California state assemblyman and retired Marine Corps colonel, enlightened those in attendance of the rigors of working for the people of the 65th District, as their representative in Sacramento. He explained that just as in the Chamber of Commerce, an open mind and willingness to reach across the aisle is crucial to getting things accomplished. Cook added that he is always interested in hearing from the great people of this region, and that if anyone is ever in Sacramento, his office is easy to find. "It's the one with the Marine Corps flag on the door," he said.

The Combat Center's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese and his wife Filomena looked on with pride

as three of the four individual awards were presented to active and retired Marines. Having taken notice of the amount of Marine involvement and support for this year's event, one attendee commented that even the Pledge of Allegiance to start the evening was lead by former Combat Center sergeant major, Jim Ricker. Melvyn Berlin, who was relieved as chamber president by Oasis Elementary School Principal, Dr. Cindy McVay, stated, "It's great to see the Marines so involved and supportive of events like this."

Chamber of Commerce Annual award recipients for this year are as follows: Business of the Year - Bar-Sto Precision Machine

Pillar of the Community - Basin Wide Foundation

Lifetime Achievement - Master Gunnery Sgt. Bob "Ski" Bronski, USMC, Retired

Volunteer of the Year - Capt. Dick Moran, USMC, Retired

At Your Service Award - Linda McNeely, Desert Trail Newspaper

President's Award - Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox, USMC.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE Lt. Gen. Sang Ro Lee, commandant of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, talks to Combat Center Chief of Staff, Col. James R. Braden in the Battle Command Center June 13.

Deployment Health Clinical Center treats war's silent injuries

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Deployment Health Clinical Center is a service directed to military members returning from deployment to ensure they have the healthcare they need. They specialize in the physical, mental and spiritual health issues related to deployment.

"Ninety to 180 days after deployment is when issues usually start to show up," said Christine C. Stevens, DHCC registered nurse. "We need to get rid of these issues before it becomes a problem."

Some issues service mem-

bers experience after deployment are sleep problems like insomnia and nightmares, and they may have a decreased interest in activities and withdrawal from family and friends.

The DHCC is located at every installation that deploys troops. They can work directly with the military members' battalion aid station to ensure access to the help they require.

The Post Deployment Health Clinic at MCAGCC's Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, one of the many DHCC's, has a medical assistant, licensed clinical social worker, physician, clinical psychologist and a

registered nurse.

Their work hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., which gives Marines and sailors a chance to receive the help they need without going through their chain of command.

"Somebody is here to take care of whoever needs taking care of," said Stevens. "What goes on here stays here."

Three health surveys are given to military members who are expected to deploy or are returning from deployment to guarantee they are physically, mentally and spiritually healthy.

One survey is administered before the deployment, to make sure service members are prepared to deploy.

The second survey is given to military members right

before their deployment is over and they are preparing to return home. This will monitor the service member's mental stability.

The third test is given to military members after returning from deployment. This is the most crucial test since most of the problems occur after service members arrive home.

"You can't go into combat and not change," Steven said. "There is going to be a difference. My goal is to set a person back to being whole again."

The DHCC was set up to assist service members. The centers are constantly expanding in order to ensure military members receive the help they need.

Gospel Fellowship Outreach Worship Center Church "Developing Disciples for Christ" Pastor T.K. & Pastor Gerri Washington Sunday School.....10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship.....11:30 AM Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 PM (Church in Action) 5898 Adobe Rd. • 29 Palms, CA 361-6510

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Services.....8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Military Welcome! Rob D. Watkins Pastor 57175 Crestview Drive, Yucca Valley, CA., 92284 760-365-9731

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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

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Afghan vet helps prepare his Marines for war

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

HAWTHORNE ARMY AMMUNITION DEPOT, Nev. — In the rugged mountains and vast expanses of Afghanistan, where an entire people have struggled with war for more than a quarter century, the fledgling Afghan National Army is still growing and developing in a newly democratic country to become a legitimate fighting force in its own right to defend their people.

This process is slow and has been steadily progressing for years since Afghanistan's liberation from the Taliban regime in 2001, seeming to happen under the radar of the worldwide media, and only with the

help of U.S. and NATO forces who guide and mentor the ANA as they grow.

In the middle of all of this, one Marine has much on his mind.

Gunnery Sgt. Shawn R. Workman, a 34-year-old Seth, W. Va., native, is the only Marine of 3rd Marine Division's seven Afghanistan-bound embedded trainer teams who has experience as a prior ETT member in Afghanistan. As his team prepares to deploy, he must make sure they are fully prepared to handle the complexities and challenges which will confront them overseas.

Workman cleaned his M-4 carbine rifle as he explained how he spent more than seven months in Afghanistan with another ETT from

November 2005 to June 2006, conducting the same mission he will face when his current team, ETT 2-5, deploys for nine months in June.

All of the ETTs preparing to deploy and embed with the ANA recently completed "Mountain Viper," a new month-long training program which builds from the success of the Mojave Viper Iraq pre-deployment training at Twentynine Palms, Calif. Mountain Viper, centered in Hawthorne, Nev., comes complete with Afghan role-players, cultural immersion, rough terrain driving and live-fire convoy training, and mountain survival — all in terrain which

some say is as "close to Kabul as you can get without actually going there."

Although many Marines and sailors with the ETTs have deployed previously to Iraq, Workman said they must adapt to working with a different culture and with a different mission than they have previously experienced.

"Our job as an ETT is to advise and train the Afghan National Army to become a better army," said Workman, who is serving as his team's staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge during the deployment. "The biggest difference is the people and the soldiers. They are warriors and

they want freedom for their country and they want to fight for an independent and free country. That's probably the biggest difference I see." As training progressed for the ETTs at Mountain Viper, Workman said one of the biggest challenges for him was running through a scenario with his team knowing in some cases things may be done differently in Afghanistan, but still encouraging his Marines and sailors to learn the fundamental ideas being taught by the Mountain Viper instructors and mentors.

"Basically everything that's being taught to the team members, he's able to add that real-

ism," said 1st Sgt. Shawn Ellis about Workman's unique insight into their training. "He knows what's going on in Afghanistan as an ETT and has been invaluable to the team. He's been an outstanding asset, and he's worth his weight in gold to us."

Back on the homefront, Workman, like many service members, leaves his wife of 11 years, and his 6- and 9-year old sons, who to him are a great source of personal strength and inspiration. But despite the separation, Workman says he and his family understand the purpose behind his mission.

See AFGHAN VET, A9



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Gunnery Sgt. Shawn R. Workman, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge for embedded trainer team 2-5, watches his Marines conduct a vehicle inspection during a Mountain Viper Afghanistan predeployment training scenario.

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Mountain Viper Marines resurrect WWII watering hole



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

The Viper Pit, a World War II-era bar refurbished by Mountain Viper Marines, is a nightly hotspot for Marines in the high Sierra.

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps training is tough. It's no secret. But when rigorous training combines with high altitudes, hikes and drives through rough terrain, cultural training, live fire exercises, ear-splitting explosions and no

weekends off, Marines need a time and place to relax.

For Marines and sailors of 3rd Marine Division's embedded trainer teams taking part in Mountain Viper Afghanistan predeployment training here, the Viper Pit offers them exactly that.

Located in the basement of

a building at the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, Nev., this former World War II watering hole was resurrected from nearly 17 years of neglect after it was discovered in early April.

A handful of Marines volunteered many hours to return the storage room back

to its former glory, said Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael C. Williams, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for Mountain Viper who headed the three-and-a-half-week restoration and put in requests for commodities for the Marines.

"There is music, drinks,

games, a movie theater, library, everything," said Lance Cpl. Amanda Johnson, who also helped clean the Viper Pit up. "I like that the bar is so old and is still standing. The whole thing is underground and when we first went down there, it was like a blast from the past. It looked like something out of

a western, but we cleaned it up, and now it's great."

Each night, with Williams behind the bar, Marines and sailors from the ETTs, 3rd Marine Division, and Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport,

See VIPER PIT, A9

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VIPER PIT from A8

Calif., come together for a good time.

With coordination from Marine Corps Community Services from MWTC and 3rd Marine Division, the Viper Pit boasts a 1,000-book library of New York Times bestsellers, a projector movie theater, original wood dance floor, MP3 player as a jukebox or live bands, a mobile exchange and barber shop, dozens of games and DVDs to borrow and the newly-restored wooden bar.

During the day, the adjacent exchange sells basic hygiene items as well as snacks, drinks, magazines, uniform items and field gear for Marines.

Williams said he became aware of the facility in passing, but was not sure what it actually was because of the piles of stored material inside. He asked the base's leaders to use the basement for Mountain Viper Marines who were on their way to begin their training in May. Hawthorne agreed and a slow but steady clean up project began.

"As we hauled all the trash and junk out it started to emerge," said Williams, who spent many late nights with other Marines cleaning. "There were about seven truckloads of trash. You could not make out anything in the mirrors from the black dirt, the red carpet was white with dust, there were water leaks, none of the plumbing in the head worked, doors would not open and the lights didn't work.

"It was basically just a storage dungeon down there which hadn't been used since 1991," Williams said. "So with a little bit of effort it turned out OK."

"OK" is putting it lightly according to some Marines, who hail the Viper Pit as an oasis to gather, share good times and keep themselves out of trouble.

"Two of the main reasons the Viper Pit is great is that it provides the Marines, sailors, soldiers and civilians an opportunity to keep their people compartmentalized in a small town where there is not much else to do but get in trouble,"

said Williams about the town of just over 3,000 residents. "By having it here on base, having the bar, games, movies, exchange and visiting bands – everything they could find out in town they have down here in a safe environment."

Although Mountain Viper ended May 27, Williams was still striving to make the Viper Pit a better place for future Marine Corps units who come to train at Hawthorne.

"This entire post used to belong to the Navy, and my goal is replace the bell installed in the Viper Pit with the original one from the base," said Williams. "It's just sitting in Building 1 and the base commander has agreed to give it to us. I'd love to install that down here and keep our Naval traditions.

"I think once the owner replaces the carpet, wallpaper and does some remodeling with the exception of the bar itself, it will take off tremendously," Williams added. "The exchange and barber shop areas have already been established, and they have agreed to put mirrors in the barber shop."

When Pendleton Marines arrive at Hawthorne in coming months, they will find more support for the Viper Pit thanks to Williams. Both the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office of Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., and MWTC's MCCA will provide exchange services and entertainment for future leathernecks.

Before Williams' return to Okinawa, Japan, June 1, he presented the profits of the Viper Pit to the Hawthorne Elementary School Booster Club with a check for \$500.

"I hope that we think outside the box during a deployment," Williams said. "If you can't get MWR or MCCA support, the command can think about what is available to them instead of just opening the flood gates. You can make a recreation center in anything, whether it be in 20-foot containers or on a hillside. It's just a place Marines can call their own that really enhances their pride. We don't need much to make Marines happy."

AFGHAN VET from A8

"It's hard being away from family," said Workman, whose family lives with him in Okinawa, Japan. "I miss being away from my family just like any other Marine, but it's a job we've got to do. I'd rather be with my family, but freedom for our country and our way of life comes first.

"They understand the big picture of us deploying to help them be able to defend their country and provide a more secure America in the long run," he said.

Both on and off the job, Workman, whose last name describes his devotion to Corps, country and family very well, is always seen leading from the front and teaching his Marines all he can to prepare them for combat, fellow Marines say.

"He's a Marine's Marine," said Ellis. "A true leader of Marines. He brings 100 percent game face all day, every day and he pushes that on his Marines

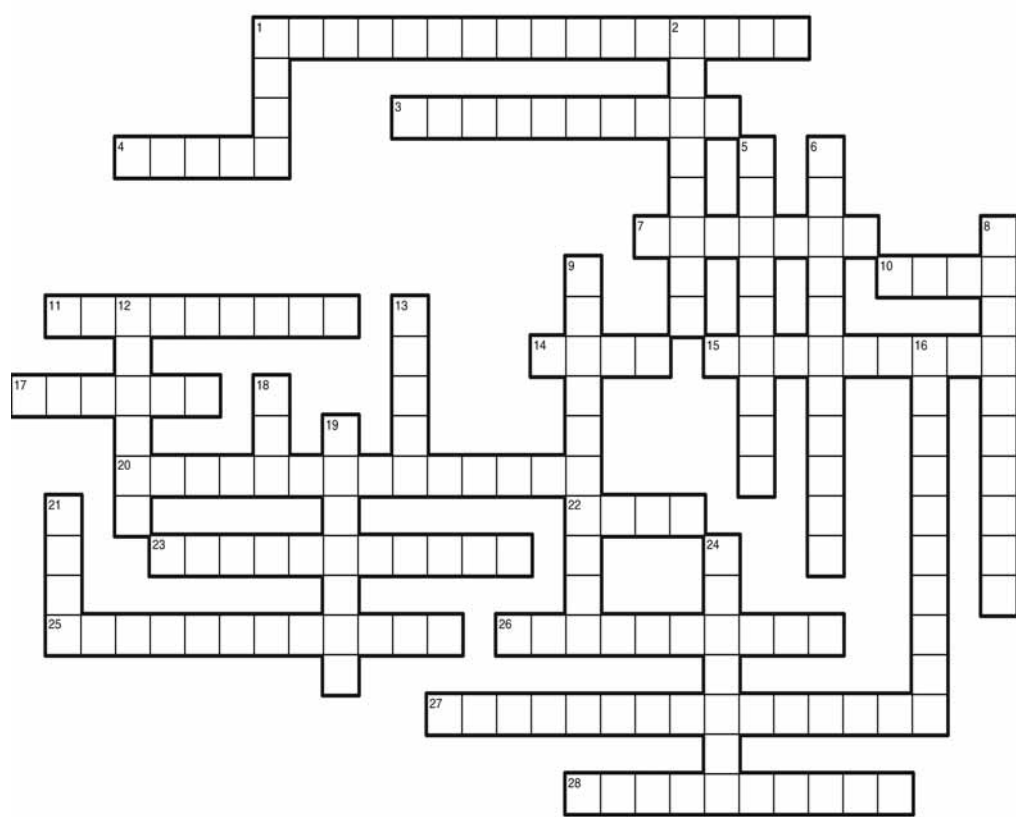
and the rest of the teams."

Workman says his constant flow of motivation is simply a top-down view of leadership and knowing the actions of senior team leaders can make the biggest impact on those under him. With that in mind, he says all he does is "take care of his Marines" and do what he must to give them his complete support.

"I hope that we all go there and we all come home together," Workman said, pausing for a moment from cleaning his rifle. "I hope they have a good experience like I did last time. It was one of the most rewarding duties I've ever done.

"To take an Afghan soldier who doesn't have anything and just wants to make his country better and to help him out to where he can fight with better gear and quality of life is very rewarding," Workman continued. "I hope we get a chance to do the same thing and make their life better."

80'S MUSIC PART 1



ACROSS

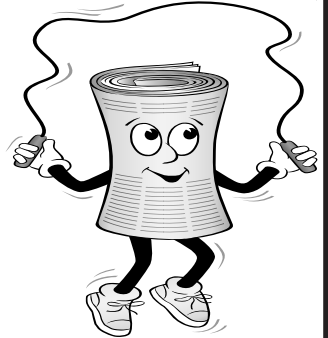
1. He was born in the U.S.A.
3. First music video
4. They had the beat
7. The Virgin Mary
10. Wore bright red plant pots as hats
11. 4
14. A river in Greek mythology
15. Famous for spiky, platinum-blond hair
17. The artist formerly known as...
20. Had the funk of 40,000 years
22. Electrical currents
23. Famous for a top hat-wearing guitarist
25. Lip-sync phenoms
26. Hungry like a wolf
27. A doctor in General Hospital
28. Married Whitney Houston

DOWN

1. Beehives and rock lobsters
2. ...of the Titans
5. Rocked like a hurricane
6. Wanted girls to have fun
8. Got their own Sega pinball game in the 90s
9. Hit her with your best shot
12. Did hip-hop duet with Aerosmith
13. First hand-drawn music video
16. They're hot, sticky and sweet
18. First "gangsta" rap group
19. Named after her hair color
21. Wake them up before you go go
24. Taking a long trek

[Solutions on A10]

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Barbara Aloisio
Memorial Mass service to be held Tuesday, 6/26, 12:00 p.m. at Wiefels Funeral Chapel in Yucca Valley.

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Celebration of Life Service 4:00 pm Sunday, June 24, Calvary Chapel (Landers)

Beverly Davis
Thursday 6/21, 1-5pm Visitation, Wiefels and Son, Yucca Valley, Friday 6/22, 10:15am services St. Mary's Catholic Church, Graveside Service 2:00pm, Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Hazel Clements
Private Interment at Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Howard Edge
Funeral Service, 11:00am Thursday, 6/21, Graveside Service to follow Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Richard Long
Services are Pending

John Hartly
Memorial Service, 11:30am Monday, 6/25, Graveside Service to follow Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Sarah King
Graveside Service 10:00am, Friday 6/22, Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Margaret Hannan
Services are Pending

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1st Tanks shows WebridesTV.com their ride

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A video crew from WebridesTV.com went with Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, to the Combat Center's northeastern region of the training area, June 12 and produced a video of the M1A1 Abrams Tank.

WebridesTV.com, a Web site for car enthusiasts, features more than 300 videos of cars, trucks and various other automobiles.

The video crew from Culver City, Calif., traveled to the Combat Center to make the first video involving military vehicles in WebridesTV.com's nine-month history.

"I've never been on a Marine base before," said Zak Kauffman, a production coordinator for WebridesTV.com. "What you guys do out here is pretty intense."

The six members of the WebridesTV.com crew capitalized on every opportunity to see four of the tanks in action.

The Marines of Company D provided the video crew with all the information they needed and wanted to know about the tank.

The WebridesTV.com crew was able to get the full experience for their video by conducting interviews and recording the tanks in action as they fired multiple training rounds.

The video crew did not delay in accepting the invitation offered by the Marines to ride in the tanks on the way to the range.

"It was a lot of fun, and it's definitely been a different experience for all of us," said Kellie Infante, the producer of the M1A1 Abrams tank video and lead production coordinator for WebridesTV.com.

The video crew was very impressed with how helpful the Marines of Company D were with the production of the video.

"We have enough footage to make a five minute video, which is an eternity in internet videos," Infante said.

The video shoot gave the



The Marines of Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, pose for a photo with the WebridesTV.com crew at the Combat Center's northeast training area June 12.

Marines a break from their normal schedule to have some fun and be informative at the same time.

They took advantage of the chance to teach the video crew about their jobs and life in the field.

"It was nice for the Marines to be able to show people what they do for a living, especially when these people had no idea how any of the equipment worked," said 2nd Lt. Matthew Kelly, 1st Tanks unit information officer. "They were definitely very excited."

The video of the M1A1 Abrams Tank and the Marines of Company D can be found at WebridesTV.com.



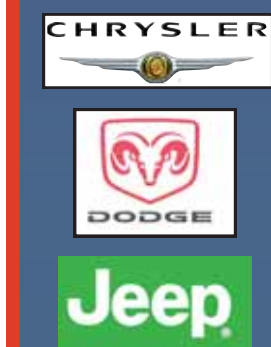
WebridesTV.com's Alison Sorenson interviews Cpl. Patrick Allen about the M1A1 Abrams Tank at the Combat Center June 12.

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OBSERVATIONS

JUNE 22, 2007

MWSS-374 defeats TTECG, 3-2



PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Michael Rice, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 player, carries the ball away from Tactical Training Exercise Control Group player Devin Black, during the soccer game at Felix Field, Wednesday.

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Tactical Training Exercise Control Group battled Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 in a soccer game at Felix Field Wednesday. The game started at 6:30 p.m. with TTECG taking control of the ball.

MWSS-374 held with great defense. MWSS-374 player, Marcus Morales zipped by TTECG players and crossed the ball only to be shut down by Saimnesh Singh, a TTECG defenseman.

The teams fought for control of the ball for several minutes until Morales gained possession. Morales used fancy foot work, faking TTECG defensemen and driving the ball past TTECG's goalkeeper, Alejandro Arauzarios, and into the back of the net,

scoring the first goal of the game.

Oscar Lopez, a TTECG midfielder, took control of the ball, dominating the field. His determined drive upfield ended when MWSS-374 goalkeeper, Miguel Villalobos, stole the ball from his feet.

Villalobos' strong kick brought the ball to midfield only to be picked up by Horacio Ayala, MWSS-374 forward. With a quick fake to the left, Ayala beat MWSS-374's defense bringing him face-to-face with Arauzarios. Ayala smashed the ball past Arauzarios' reach for MWSS-374's second goal, putting the score at 2-0.

The first half ended with both teams fighting for control of the ball, and MWSS-374 in the lead.

The second half began with MWSS-374 dominating the field, shutting down TTECG's players. TTECG rebelled against

MWSS-374 and fought until Lopez sunk the ball past MWSS-374's defenses and into the back of the net, scoring the first goal for TTECG, making the score 2-1.

The fight resumed, and TTECG seemed rejuvenated after their goal. The constant battle was called to halt when the referee blew his whistle against MWSS-374. TTECG received a penalty kick. Colby Suggs quickly took advantage of the call and blasted the ball into the net, tying the game 2-2.

The game ended with a tie, bringing both teams into a shootout to determine the winner. Five players were picked from each team. The players rotated shooting on the goalies, with MWSS-374 sinking three past Arauzarios. TTECG scored two goals against Villalobos, finishing the game 3-2, and leaving MWSS-374 with the victory.

Comedians visit enlisted club, staff club, to offer laughs

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Comedians Jimmy DellaValle and Tommy Tallarino had the Combat Center in stitches June 15 after provided a free comedy show at Excursions Enlisted Club and Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Club.

First to perform was Tallarino, a native of Santa Monica, Calif. He entertained the crowd with jokes about his wife, children, the Italian life at home, sports, and his failed attempt at skydiving.

Tallarino, who has been a comedian for six years, said this was his second time performing aboard a military installation, but his first time performing for an all-Marine crowd.

"Even though this is my first time on a Marine base, I can tell you guys are doing the real thing here," said Tallarino about the training Marines undergo in preparation for going overseas.

"This crowd was so young," said Tallarino. "I don't think they got all the jokes about having a wife and kids, but they were still really into it. They deserve a show after all the hard work they do. After all, they need to relax; they are regular guys like me."

Tallarino performed in this year's Natural Born Komics in South Beach, Fla., played a role in 'The Big House' TV series in 2004, and has been a story editor for the well-known animated show, 'The Boondocks.'

DellaValle said he has personal ties with military due to a brother serving as a corpsman in the Navy and a father who served in the Korean War.

"I want to thank all of them from the bottom of my heart," said Della Valle about service members. "They are out there fighting and doing what they have to do. I support every one of them 100 percent."

DellaValle, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., has performed at many famous casinos and has performed on Comedy Central, as well as playing roles in shows like "Oz", "The Sopranos", "Sex and the City" and "The Late Night Show with Conan O'Brien." Della Valle also has a CD called "It's Just a Jimmyism."

Sgt. Tim O. Walsh, India Battery, 3rd battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, said he especially enjoyed DellaValle's humor.

"He definitely fed off the crowd," said Walsh about

DellaValle. "One of his strong points was how he based a lot of his jokes on the reaction of the crowd."

Ned Deaver, manager of the enlisted club, said he was happy to sponsor events such as these for young Marines and sailors.

"I really like doing these kinds of things for these guys," said Deaver referring to young enlisted service members. "Everyone in attendance seemed to have enjoyed themselves and the comedians. That's really what this place is for."

Pfc. Casey J. Carraro, Company B, Marine Corps Communication-Electronic School, said he appreciated the attention from outside entertainers.

"It's good to have guys come out here and do these kinds of things for us," said Carraro. "It takes your mind off training."

Pfc. Barry J. Lancaster, Company B, MCCES, agreed.

"This gives us a lot of stress relief," said Lancaster. "The average Marines has a pretty stressful day, and this gives us a separation from what we normally do. It gives us a sense of normalcy and kinds of ties us back with home."



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Comedian Jimmy DellaValle cracks up a crowd as he lets it all hang out at the Excursions Enlisted Club June 15.



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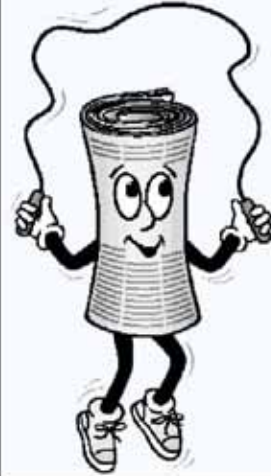
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PGC. JARED J. BUTLER

HQBN wins volleyball title

Headquarters Battalion's Christopher Lynch tries to tap the ball over Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School's Harold Tew to give HQBN the win and a 2-1 series victory in the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball Championship game Wednesday at the East Gym.



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<p>Saturday 2 p.m. The Invisible (PG-13) 6 p.m. Fracture (R) 9 p.m. Hot Fuzz (R)</p>	<p>Tuesday 7 p.m. Vacancy (R)</p>
<p>Sunday 2 p.m. Spiderman 3 (PG) 6 p.m. Next (PG-13) 9 p.m. 28 Weeks Later (R)</p>	<p>Wednesday 7 p.m. Fracture (R)</p> <p>Thursday 7 p.m. Hot Fuzz (R)</p>



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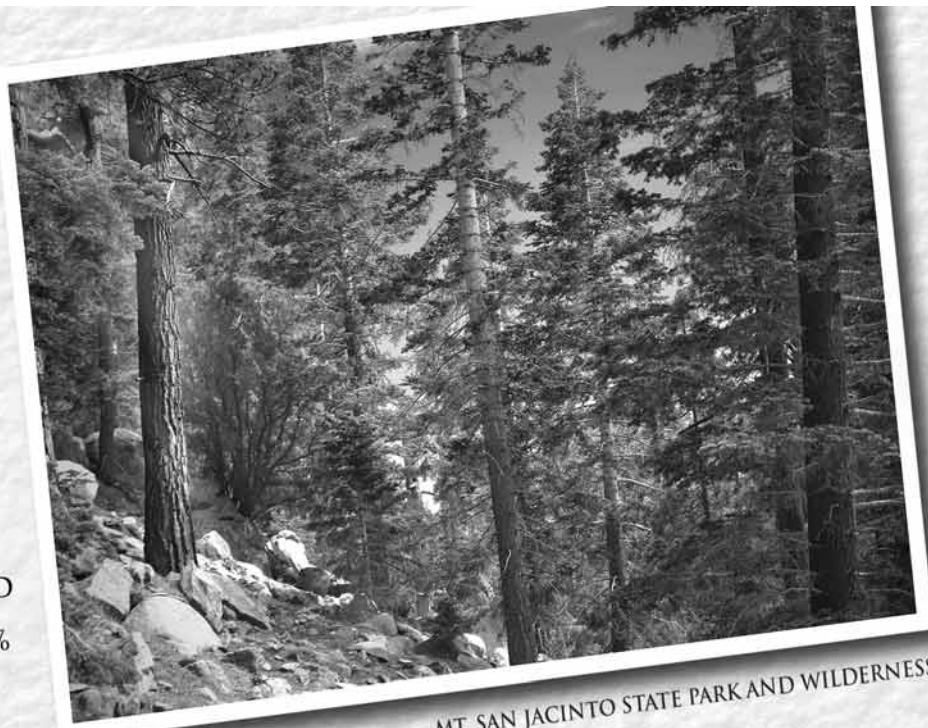
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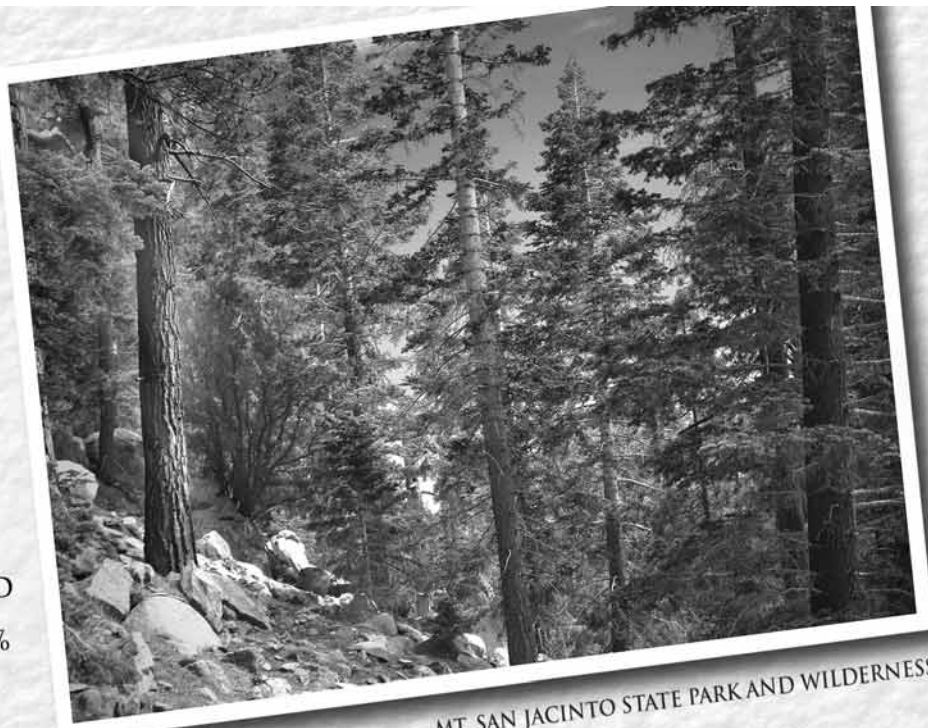
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2007 Summer Music Festival

Sponsored by: 

Yucca Valley Community Center
Saturday evenings
at 7pm

Upstream blends funk, Reggae styles

YUCCA VALLEY — As part of the Summer Music Festival, Upstream, a Reggae-style band, will play from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the Yucca Valley Community Center ballfield. Bring a blanket and a lawn chair and enjoy the show.

All ages are welcome to attend and admission is free.

Upstream, whose members include three sons of the venerable inventor of soca music, the late Ras Shorty, was formed in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the late 1980s.

They have performed all over California, Nevada and Utah at various clubs, func-

tions and festivals and have opened for such well-known bands as R.E.M., the Dave Matthews Band, Jimmy Buffet and many more.

Reggae, techno, funk, hip-hop and soca music influence this high-energy band.

In its 13-year history, the Yucca Valley Summer Music Festival has become a favorite summer activity for residents of the Morongo Basin and surrounding areas. In 2006, an average of 1,500 music lovers enjoyed the Saturday evening concerts on the cool community center grass. The Town of Yucca Valley takes pride in assembling a quality mix of live music in a setting for



BAND PHOTO

Appearing Saturday in Yucca Valley, Upstream was formed in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

friends and family to gather. The festival offers residents and visitors an occasion to take in the Hi-Desert outdoors, and a time to cele-

brate music and community. The Summer Music Festival is held every Saturday night through Aug. 18.

For information, call the

Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department at 369-7211 or visit the Town's Web site at www.yucca-valley.org.



DAVE MILLER / Hi-Desert Star

Town of Yucca Valley officials said a crowd of 1,600 people gathered on the Community Center Field Saturday night to listen to Just Like T.H.A.T.



DAVE MILLER / Hi-Desert Star

Enjoying the music Saturday night as the 13th season of Summer Music Festival opens are Joshua Tree residents Gail Wenzel and Treasure Adams. "Our relatives' relatives are all Marines," Wenzel said.

10 weeks of Music in the Park - under our starry nights!

June 16
40's & 50's
Just Like THAT

June 23
Reggae -Upstream

June 30
Santana Tribute -Savor

July 7
Blues / R & B -Reno Jones

July 14
Americana - Shadow Mountain Band

July 21
World Music -Prince Diabate

July 29
Oldies Rock & Roll- The Ravelers

August 4
Jump Swing - Phat Cat Swinger

August 11
Western Swing - Golden Hill Ramblers

August 18
Marine Corp Band Patriotic

Gecko Gift Shop 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley 369-7212

Here are some of the WONDERFUL CHILDREN'S BOOKS we are carrying. All at REASONABLE PRICES!

"Lizards for Lunch"
"Life in the Slow Lane"
"Counting Little Geckos"

Plush Stuffed DESERT ANIMALS

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum's, Gecko Gift Shop offers Novelties, Apparel, Toys, Jewelry, Gifts, Books, Postcards, Souvenirs, AND MORE!


June 1-30
Thurs. Show - June 14 • Sat. Matinee - June 23
Curtain at 7:00pm sharp

Louisa May Alcott's Classic American Tale **Little Women**

*Effective Jan 2007: New Season Prices
Tickets prices are \$10 General Admission, \$8 Seniors, Military w/ID and DAN Members, \$6 Students. \$1 Student rush is back for the 2007 season

Theatre 29
Twentynine Palms, Sullivan & Adobe
Box Office Phone - 361-4151

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Visit www.hidesertstar.com and look under "Services" or stop by the Star office at 56445 Twentynine Palms Highway in Yucca Valley.

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Thursday, June 21, 2007

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DAVE MILLER / Hi-Desert Star
Just Like T.H.A.T. entertains the audience Saturday.

15th Annual DCAOR **HOE DOWN**

Join us for the fun and benefit these local charities!
Reach Out Morongo Basin & The Boys and Girls Club!

Saturday, June 23rd, 2007
6:30 pm - Cocktail Hour - 7:30 Dinner
Pappy & Harriett's Pioneertown Palace

Tickets - \$30.00, includes dinner & entertainment, tax-deductible!
RAFFLE PRIZES - 50/50 - CONTESTS - FUN!
Best-Dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl Contest
Hoe-Down Idol Contest!!!
TICKETS & INFO CALL 365-1145




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CALL 760.366.0270

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PACIFIC SYMPHONY CONCERT HALL SPRING 2007
The DMF Junior Philharmonic will resume August 20, 2007!



Photo courtesy Vickie Waite

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