

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 6, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 26

3/11's departure from Combat Center brings tears to family, friends

PFC. MONICA ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Tears streaked the faces of family and friends who gathered at the Combat Center, June 29, to watch more than 100 Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Kilo Battery, load their gear onto a truck and climb into buses for their seven-month deployment to Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Kilo Battery will be working outside their military occupational specialties, with their main mission focusing on provisional security operations for 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. They will be setting up vehicle check points, convoy security, forward operation base security and tower watch during their deployment.

"We are going to be shadowing an Army National Guard unit to observe how they are running everything," said Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Greene, a motor transportation operator. "We will add what we think is necessary for our battery, and then relieve the soldiers so they have a chance to go home to their loved ones."

The Marines and sailors of Kilo Battery will be working side-by-side with Iraqi military personnel and Iraqi citizens throughout their deployment.

"It is important to show the Iraqi citizens that Americans are helpful and friendly people. Hopefully that will spread through Iraq, and show the Iraqi people that they don't want terrorists in their country," said Greene.



A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Kilo Battery, hugs an official hugger before loading the bus to deploy to Al Anbar province, Iraq, June 29.

PFC. MONICA ERICKSON

See 3/11, A5

CG to present MCAGCC with presidential award



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, will present the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award to personnel aboard the Combat Center following morning colors Monday.

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award presentation is scheduled to take place 8 a.m. at the base flagpole at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Memorial Field July 9.

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, will present the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award to the Combat Center following morning colors.

The award presentation is for everyone aboard the Combat Center to be recognized for the outstanding job they did for the installation in 2006.

The Combat Center was named in March as the Marine Corps' Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence winner by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

One base from each of the four military service branches, and one Defense Logistics Facility, is selected annually to recognize the exceptional efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations.

The recipients of this highly competitive presidential award are selected annually for their support of Department of Defense missions.

"The Combat Center did a fantastic job of working together as a team to effectively showcase the outstanding work being done on behalf of the thousands of Marines, sailors and their family members," said Maj. Paul Davis, I&L project coordinator for the Installation Excellence Package.

"The Marines, sailors and civilian employees of the Combat Center work vigorously to maintain this national asset while also fulfilling their responsibility to support the Department of Defense," he said.

For earning this honor, the Combat Center received a trophy with the President's seal displayed on it, an Installation Excellence flag, a congratulatory letter signed by the President and special recognition certificates signed by the Secretary of Defense.

The presentation is open to all personnel on base and the uniform for the ceremony is the uniform of the day.

Weekend Weather

Friday  113/80
Sunny

Saturday  108/75
Sunny

Sunday  104/73
Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: Marine gets N/MCAM award
- A6: Marine saves drowning child
- A9: Part III: History of the DHCC

Observations



Sergeant Course physical training changes

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1990 —

The A-4 Skyhawk retired from the Corps' active aviation structure after over 30 years of service.

Independence Day 2007

GEN. PETER PACE
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- July 4, 2007 marks our nation's 231st year of independence. Traditionally, America celebrates the Fourth of July with family picnics, community parades, patriotic concerts, and colorful fireworks. This year, as you commemorate the birthday of our great nation, I would ask that each of you in uniform pause and consider the personal role you – and the generations before you – have played in America's freedom.

As our nation celebrates Independence Day, many of you will miss the family gatherings and hometown parades. You stand guard protecting the freedoms we all cherish. With a full understanding of exactly what service to this nation means, you continue to serve with exceptional courage and selflessness. Many of you face deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan for a second, third or even fourth time – yet you remain committed to making a difference.

To you – and to your families who sacrifice and serve as well as anyone in uniform – you have my heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a happy and safe Independence Day.

The Joint Chiefs and I are privileged to serve along side you and we are forever grateful for your commitment that this holiday honors.

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. – Lt. 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_Readin_g_List.xls

Relocation Assistance Program

Are you new to MCAGCC? Or are you preparing to PCS? Whether you're coming or going, the Relocation Assistance Program has a workshop to fit your needs. Join us on one of the following dates to learn more!

Welcome Aboard Brief: Are you new to the High Desert? Come and discover what MCAGCC and the High Desert have to offer you. Families are strongly encouraged to attend. Dates for this event are July 25 and Oct. 18.

Coast-to-Coast Connection: PCS-ing soon? If you're moving within the Continental United States (CONUS), this is an excellent opportunity for you to ensure you have a smooth move to your next duty station. Come and get moving tips, learn about relocation and travel entitlements, and get information about your new base and community. Dates for this event are Sep. 19 and Dec. 19.

Overseas Connection: Moving to Japan? Are you worried about living in a foreign country? Let us ease your concerns. Come learn about Japanese culture and customs, pet importation, overseas entitlements and much more. The dates for this event are Aug. 23 and Nov. 14.

Seating for these workshops is limited, please call to reserve your spot. For more information contact the Relocation Assistance Program at 830-4028

Centerspeak

“If you could ask the Commandant any question, what would it be?”

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



2ND LT. RALPH REY
COMPANY B, 1/7



SGT. MORGAN TAYLOR
HMH-465 IN MIRAMAR, CALIF.



PFC. ALEXANDER FRANCO
COMPANY B, MCCES

“How prepared does he feel the Marine Corps is in its current mission of bolstering the Iraqi Security Forces?”

“Are living conditions for Marines in BEQ going to improve?”

“How much longer do you think we'll be in Iraq?”

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

Does someone close to you have a Drug or Alcohol Problem?

Have you noticed behavior changes? Are they moody, short-tempered, hostile or “spaced out”? Are they suddenly failing courses, late for work, problems with work performance, and/or hanging out with people you don't trust? Stop and think about it. They may have an alcohol or drug problem.

Here are some signs of alcohol or drug abuse:

Increased interest in alcohol or other drugs, such as talking about them or talking about buying them

Spends majority of free time going to bars or clubs

Owning drug paraphernalia, such as pipes, hypodermic needles, or rolling papers

Having large amounts of cash on their person

Drastic change in weight

Slurred or incoherent speech

Withdrawal from others, frequent lying, depression, or paranoia

If you observe any of these signs, they may have an alcohol or drug problem. You need to compare these behavior signs to behaviors in the past. It's better to say something and be wrong then to say nothing and have them get into serious trouble.

For more information regarding alcohol or drug abuse contact the Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator for the base at 830-6986.

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 at 830-6094/5457.

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

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.

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

ARRIVE ALIVE

A Combat Center Car Company 367-7433
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In acknowledgment of the sponsor's support, the Department of Defense will reimburse the cost of the taxi fare.

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Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
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Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese
Capt. Neal V. Fisher
Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox
Patrick Brink
Sgt. Robert L. Fisher III
Cpl. Evan M. Eagan
Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes
Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz
Cpl. Brian A. Tuthill
Lance Cpl. Nicholas M. Dunn
Lance Cpl. Katelyn A. Knauer
Lance Cpl. Nicole A. LaVine
Pfc. Jared J. Butler
Pfc. Monica C. Erickson

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HOT TOPICS

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

Reporting emergencies that occur on-base by calling from a cell phone should be reported by calling (760)830-3333, (760)830-3334 or (760)830. Failure to report an emergency at MCAGCC from your cell phone using one of the dedicated emergency lines may result in an unnecessary delay of emergency response due to long distance routing of cellular 9-1-1 calls.

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.

DEL VALLE ROAD REPAVING PROJECT

Del Valle Road will be closed from Adobe Road to Tenth Street for an additional two weeks beyond the original completion date due to the limited availability of the special rubberized asphalt plant equipment. Del Valle is now scheduled to re-open August 3. Please be attentive to all traffic control signs.

Reminder 1: POV traffic should utilize Brown Road to get across Mainside.

Reminder 2: The temporary dirt road from Adobe Road to Bourke Road detour is intended for semi-trailers.

Del Valle Road has long needed a facelift due to load damage from heavy vehicles. This construction project will repave Del Valle from Adobe to Tenth Street, and the project includes a special rubberized asphalt overlay manufactured from recycled tires to reduce cracking, reduce noise, and increase pavement life. Traffic lights will also be installed at the Third Street and Fifth Street intersections to assist with left turns onto Del Valle during lunch and at the end of the workday.

RECRUITING SCREENING TEAM VISIT

The Headquarters Marine Corps Recruiting Screening Team is coming to the Combat Center July 20. The team will be screening all pre-designated Marines for this demanding special duty assignment. The screening will be at the Protestant Chapel from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All Marines pre-selected per CMC MSG 021647Z JUN 07 will report in the Service "C" uniform for the informational briefing at 8 a.m. and subsequent screening sessions. Marines not pre-selected for screening but interested in assignment to recruiting duty should see their unit career retention specialist for screening prior to the visit. All Marines to be screened should have a completed Commanding Officer's

Recruiting Duty Screening Check-list and Financial Worksheet. For more information, contact the Combat Center CRS Gunnery Sgt. McAllister at 830-6171 or see your unit CRS.

JULY 20: RECRUITING SCREENING TEAM VISIT

The Headquarters Marine Corps Recruiting screening team is coming to the Combat Center July 20. The will be at the Protestant Chapel from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Marines not pre-selected for screening but interested in assignment to Recruiting Duty should see their unit Career Retention Specialist for screening prior to the visit. All Marines to be screened should have a completed Commanding Officer's Recruiting Duty Screening Check-list and Financial Worksheet. For more information, contact the Combat Center CRS GySgt McAllister at 830-6171 or see your unit CRS.

LEISURE ITEMS

JULY 10-13: CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

CISM is now becoming a "standard of care" in many

school districts, communities and organizations. If you would like to register and be trained in CISM from 10-13 July, please call Mr. Hilary Valdez, CISM training coordinator at 830-6376/6905, Substance Abuse Counseling Center.

OCOTILLO GATE NOW OPEN AT 0500

To assist with traffic flow during the Del Valle construction project, the Ocotillo gate will now be open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

OFFICERS CLUB POOL OPEN FOR LAP SWIM

The Officer's Club is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. for morning lap swim. For more information please call the aquatics program manager at 830-6212.

BOOTS AND UTES ALLOWED IN WEST GYM WEIGHT ROOM

Boots and utes are now 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, at 830-5386.

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



Spaghetti Dinner
Friday, July 20th from 5-7:30 p.m.

Bring your appetite to an "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Dinner at the Combat Center Officers' Club. Menu includes pasta, meatballs, Italian sausage, salad and an ice cream sundae bar with homemade cookies. Members: \$7.50 & Non-members: \$9.50.

COMBAT CENTER OFFICERS' CLUB **MCGRS MARINE CORPS**

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TTECG works to prevent training mishaps

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines of Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group work together, directed by guidelines and procedures, to ensure safety for all Marines taking part in Mojave Viper.

Every Instructor-Controller, commonly referred to as a Coyote, goes through various training sessions to establish the widest variety of emergencies they can respond to in order to preserve safety for everyone in the training area.

"Constant remediation and training on safety subjects and procedures, such as first aid, is imperative so Marines can avoid injuring themselves and their fellow Marines during training," said Staff Sgt. William Ward, Logistics Coyote, TTECG.

Marines of TTECG carry standard operating procedure booklets and safety handouts with them at all times to ensure the correct procedures are followed to prevent, prepare and act upon training mishaps.

"The safety procedures are in place to teach units situational awareness and to prevent fratricide," said Ward.

Every Marine that goes through Mojave Viper begins their pre-deployment training with a series of safety briefs, classes and courses to establish the importance of safety before participating in live-fire exercises.

"Prior to all live-fire training, a safety brief will be given to all individuals participating in that training by the designated exercise force range safety officer or the commanding officer/ officer in charge conducting the training," according to the TTECG safety handout.

The Marines of TTECG will continue to constantly study and follow safety procedures to ensure the health and safety of all the Marines participating in Mojave Viper and all other training exercises on the Combat Center Ranges.

Marine saves life, gets N/MCAM at Mojave Viper



Brig. Gen. David Berger congratulates Lance Cpl. Jason Morris after awarding him a Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal June 28 at Range 500. Morris received the award for giving first-aid to a Marine injured during Mojave Viper June 20.

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lance Cpl. Jason R. Morris with Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group aboard the Combat Center was awarded a Navy

Achievement Medal June 28 at Range 500, from Brig. Gen. David H. Berger, regimental commander, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, for administering first-aid to a fellow Marine during a training mishap.

Morris, an instructor-controller, Team One, Urban Warfare Training Section, provided proper life-saving steps in the heat of the moment to save the life of an injured Marine.

As a part of Mojave Viper training cycle 11-07, Morris

was preparing for lane training the morning of June 20, when he distinctively heard a gunshot in the vicinity of the training area.

He began to assess the situation by scanning the area for possible hazards and casualties when he saw the Marine holding his chest.

Morris sprang to action, running to the wounded Marine and immediately began applying the proper life-saving techniques.

With no corpsman in sight, Morris continued to apply first aid until the proper medical staff arrived to transport the injured Marine to a local area hospital.

"Lance Cpl. Morris did exactly what every Marine should do in an emergency," said Berger. "He took action."

Berger said the ability of Morris to keep his composure was important. Marines should follow his example to be prepared for any situation that presents itself.

WIVES SOCIAL

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At The Main Exchange

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NCIS still looking for missing rifle

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

An M16A2 service rifle, with the serial number 6023593, fell off the back of an Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, 7-ton truck, at the Combat Center, June 4, between 2-3 p.m., while on a re-supply route with 1st Tanks Battalion.

The 7-ton that was carrying the rifle was part of a three-truck convoy. When the rifle was noticed missing, the Provost Marshals Office was notified, and search parties began to look for the missing rifle.

Whoever is found with the rifle can get the maximum sentence of five years in prison with a dishonorable discharge.

"If you know about something, and don't report it, you can be charged as an accessory and receive the same punishment as if you had the rifle all along," said Patterson.

Since an M16A2 is a full automatic service rifle, the only people allowed to possess one is the U.S. government. Since it is banned everywhere else, the person found with the rifle could face charges in federal court.

If anyone has any information concerning the missing rifle please contact Special Agent David Patterson, NCIS, at 830-6275.

"Who ever gets caught with this rifle will be charged with larceny," said Special Agent David L. Patterson, with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. "If they received the rifle from someone else, they will be charged with possession of stolen property."



PFC. MONICA ERICKSON

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Kilo Battery, prepare to deploy June 29.

3/11 from A1

Kilo Battery went through many months of rigorous training. They trained with Iraqi role players, working on communication and cultural relations skills. Through field training, they sharpened their skills in convoy and patrolling operations, and security check point procedures.

"These Marines are trained to the best of their ability," said Staff Sgt. Justin Booker, 1st platoon sergeant. "They have been training for a long time. They know what they are doing"

Many of the Marines

from Kilo Battery have deployed multiple times, each time returning with new experiences.

"This deployment is going to go well. We have great lead-

ers who know what is going on, and what needs to be done," said Booker. "We also have great Marines under us, who trust us, and do their job to the best of their ability."

Cinema 6			
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633			Showtimes Effective 7/6/07 - 7-12-07
Transformers (PG 13) Everyday: 2:00, 6:00, 9:00	Ratatouille (G) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Live Free or Die Hard (PG13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	
Evan Almighty (PG) Fri. - Tues.: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG13) *Opens Wed., July 11th 2:00, 6:00, 9:00	Coming July 13th *Captivity	ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00 • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.Cinema6theatre.com

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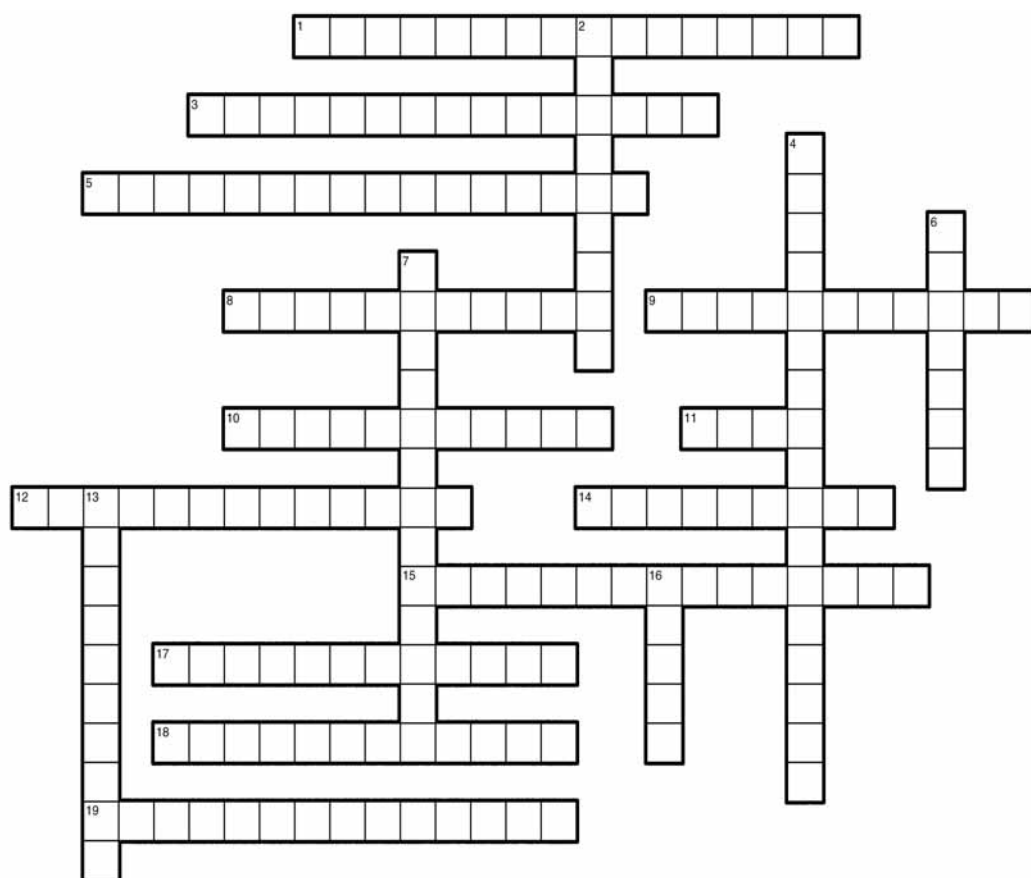
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ACROSS

- Brendan Fraiser's dad
- Father of Leonardo DiCaprio
- Robot wives
- The gold watch
- Plays the angel Gabriel
- Ping pong
- Co-stars with Ben Stiller and Jack Black
- Help create Catwoman
- Co-stars with Denzel Washington
- Secretary of the treasury
- Headless horseman
- Former mob boss
- Wayne's competition

DOWN

- Exterminator
- More cowbell
- The janitor
- Drug lord
- Villian against The Rock
- The guy with the remote

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NC author debuts 'Band of Sisters': Book chronicles combat history of military women in Iraq

CPL. JEFFREY A. COSOLA
MCAS NEW RIVER

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C. (June 28, 2007) -- On June 28, local writer Kristen Holmstedt will debut her new book at the Jacksonville Country Club titled "Band of Sisters," a sweeping non-fiction work that seeks to explore the lives of more than a dozen women who have served in combat in Iraq. While the debate rages on -- in the television news, court rooms and in congress -- whether women should serve in combat roles, Holmstedt has crossed over the verbal quagmire and controversy to show women serving with honor under the most difficult of circumstances.

While often stigmatized and forced to overcome obstacles to participate in combat, Holmstedt sheds light on the sacrifice, tragedy and triumphs of these modern day warriors who have, until now, done their jobs with quiet professionalism far from center stage. In her own words, she talks about the motivation for writing and what the book means to her and the women she wrote it for.

C: Where did the idea for this book come from?

H: "I was hearing all of the news about the military going off to war and I was hearing about women and I was seeing them -- they were my

neighbors; women I saw at the grocery store and at the coffee shop; they were women I saw here, students of the college and I saw them going off to war.

During the spring and summer you'd hear about women over there but I never was satisfied with what I heard; the sound bytes on T.V. and on the radio, I always wanted to know more about them. Part of it is because I am a woman and I don't care if you say I'm 43 and a little old to be serving, but definitely wondering if I was their age, would I have enlisted after 9/11?

"The book is really all about getting myself and civilian women to put themselves in these combat boots and to find out what women are doing over there, the extraordinary things that they're doing; their accomplishments and their sacrifices. Getting to know them as moms and daughters, sisters and what they're doing over there. They're firing missiles, they're nurses holding the hands of Marines wounded and dying, they're medics running to the rescue, they're MPs.

"Up to this book, every book that was written about women in combat has been about the debate on women in combat. They're telling about women in combat, not showing them in combat. I wanted to take the debate off Capitol Hill and put it on the battle-

field, and show how this experiment with the largest 'band of sisters' in history played out."

C: How has women's role on the battlefield changed?

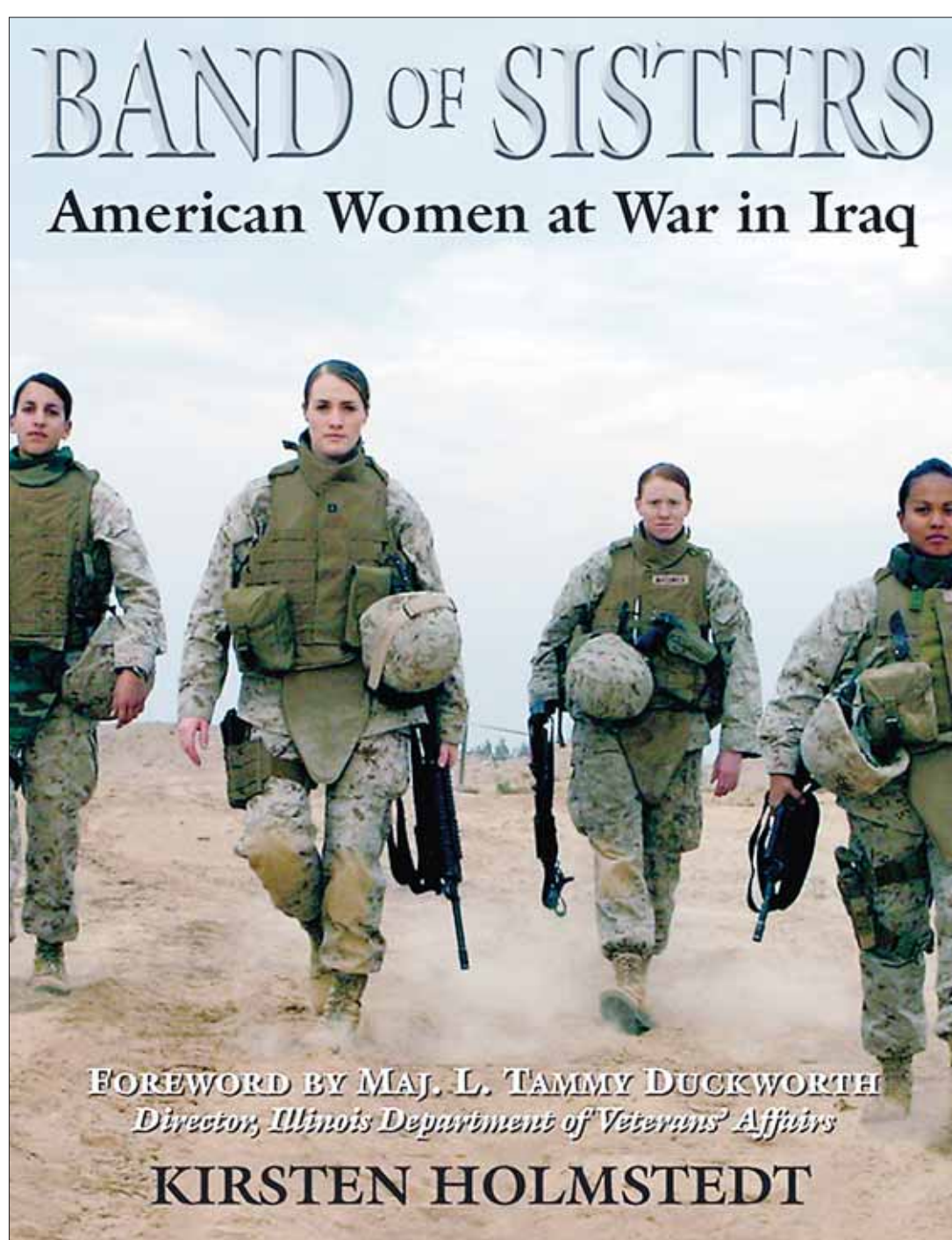
H: "I think there's been a real change in women. I think there are more opportunities for women and that's why you see them serving in so many different roles. Women are definitely making history all over the battlefield which is really exciting. In my book, I talk about the first black female pilot in combat. In the book I talk about the first female to be shot down and survive. I wanted to show women in different roles and in different branches of the armed forces. I wanted women of different ages; I wanted moms; I wanted single women, married women. There are officers and enlisted. I wanted to run the gamut. There's something for everyone."

C: Do you think this book will stir up controversy?

H: "I know there are some guys that will never accept women in combat. But, on a recent call-in radio show, I expected some controversy, but the guys who called in were all like 'Ooh-rah' and 'thank you' and 'what you're doing is great.' So I wonder how controversial this book is going to be in the long run. Maybe it isn't going to be. I know women aren't fully integrated, but they're getting there."

C: What do you hope people take away from this book?

H: "I want people to see just how brave and courageous the women are who are serving in combat and to understand the sacrifices that they're making over there. I really want this book to educate people on what



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of female Marines are featured on the cover of Kirsten Holmstedt's 'Band of Sisters' book. The book details the combat histories of more than a dozen women.

women are doing in Iraq, because I don't think we have any idea. My mom read this book and she was like 'my gosh, if there was a draft I'd have to go to Canada, because I can't do any of this stuff.' My mom was amazed, she was like 'women

are doing all of that over there? I just don't think people have any idea. It's really to elevate women. People have always written about men in combat, as they should, because men have always been in combat. Now women are in combat so let's hear their stories."

C: What do you take away from this experience?

H: "What I take away is a huge appreciation for these women. I feel like they have a lot of courage and strength and inner strength in what they do. It is still a man's world, the battlefield and the military. With all the obstacles they're up against and to really do their job, and do it well, I think is amazing."

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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>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 6415 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>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>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>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>
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2007 Summer Music Festival

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Yucca Valley Community Center
Saturday evenings at 7pm

Reno Jones puts soul back into soul music

YUCCA VALLEY — Reno Jones, a rhythm and blues band, will perform at the Yucca Valley Summer Music Festival 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday on the Yucca Valley Community Center ball field.

Bring a blanket and a lawn chair and enjoy the show. All ages are welcome to attend and admission is free.

By incorporating the writing and performing strengths of four rhythm instrumentalists, four horn players and an outstanding female vocalist, this band puts soul back in music.

Reno Jones has opened shows for Ray Charles,

James Harmon, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, the Four Tops and Three Dog Night and has performed at the House of Blues in Anaheim and the Monterey Bay Blues Festival as well as at county fairs, festivals and city concerts.

It will be the headliner and host band at the blues stage at the Los Angeles County Fair this September.

Reno Jones consists of Jerri-Sue Dawson on lead vocals, Doug Chapline on guitar and lead vocals, Mike Burnham on the bass, Larry Paschall on drums, David Jones on keyboards, Roger Ehrn-

man on tenor sax, Chris Searight on baritone sax, Mike Crandall on trombone and vocals and K.O. Skinsnes on trumpet and flugelhorn.

Visit the band's Web site at www.renojones.com.

Festival sponsors for the Town of Yucca Valley Summer Music Festival are Z107.7 FM, Hi-Desert Publishing Company, Time Warner Cable and the Morongo Basin Transit Authority.

The Summer Music Festival is held every Saturday night through Aug. 18. For information, call the community services department at 369-7211.



R&B band Reno Jones will perform Saturday.

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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

Directors: Apply for stage time for next season at Theatre 29

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Theatre 29 is beginning the process of selecting plays — comedies, dramas and musicals — for its 2008 season. Theatrical directors are invited to submit suggested plays for consideration. The deadline is July 31.

Directors can request a particular time slot, but are not guaranteed their requested time frame will be available.

The Theatre 29 play selection committee will review all requests and submit a recommended 2008 season lineup to the board of directors for review; the directors will make the final determination.

Directors are reminded that Theatre 29 is dedicated to producing plays that are family-oriented and will attract a general audience.

All directors, performers, back-

stage crew members and theater staff are unpaid volunteers. Musicals are allowed a stipend budget for musicians.

Theatre 29 will present seven or eight productions during the 2008 calendar year. Each play will run 12 performances over five weeks, including a Thursday performance the third week and a matinee the fourth week. Matinees may be on Satur-

days or Sundays at the discretion of the director. This schedule allows for a seven-week rehearsal cycle.

Directors may submit their requests to Theatre 29 Play selection committee, c/o Gary Daigneault, 6448 Hallee Road No. 5, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.

For details and a schedule, call Theatre 29 Board President Gary Daigneault at 366-8471.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY

Sizzling Summer Fun for ages 5 to 10, 10 a.m. at the Yucca Valley Community Center; 369-7211.

Tacos plus, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Joshua Tree VFW Post; 6402 Veterans Way, 366-2717.

Fourth of July celebration, 4 p.m. on Victory Field at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

Rotary Club Fourth of July celebration, 5:30 p.m. at the Yucca Valley High School stadium.

Fourth of July swim party, 7 to 10 p.m. at the Yucca Valley High School swimming pool.

Live music, 7 p.m. at Kokopelli's Kantina in Yucca Valley; 369-6660.

Ceramics class, 7 to 10 p.m.; call Judy at 365-7434.

Open Mike Nite, 8 p.m. to midnight at the Joshua Tree Beatnik Cafe; 366-2090.

THURSDAY

Tacos Plus, 5 to 7 p.m. at Fraternal Order of Eagles; 6 7 3 3 0 Twentynine Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms, 362-4112.

Intermediate line-dance class, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Community Center; 6171 Sunburst Avenue.

Beverly Derby and Bill Church, 7 to 10 p.m. at the Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.

Songwriting, Poetry and Rhythm Club, 7 to 9 p.m. at Water Canyon Coffee Co.; 365-7771.

Biker Larry's Rock Show, 7 p.m. at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.

Karaoke Night, 8:30 p.m. at Kokopelli's Kantina in Yucca Valley; 369-6660.

Family Night, 8 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Beatnik Cafe; 366-2090.

FRIDAY

Line dancing class with Jim Jory, 10 a.m. at the Yucca Valley Elks Lodge; 55946 Yucca Trail, 365-2314.

Bingo, 5:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament School; 6555 Sage Avenue, Twentynine Palms, 367-3341.

Lino Vazquez group, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Las Palmas Restaurant in Yucca Valley; 369-7164.

"Clean Air, Clean Stars," 2 p.m. at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.

Bugs Salcido, 7 to 9 p.m. at Water Canyon in Yucca Valley.

Live music with Dennis, 7 to 10 p.m. at The Rib Co. in Yucca Valley; 365-1663.

Jeffery Hafer, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.

Friday Dance Night, 7 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Beatnik Cafe; 366-2090.

Crossfire Band, 9 p.m. to closing at Kokopelli's Kantina in Yucca Valley; 369-6660.

New bands, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Wine and Roses Cocktail Lounge in Yucca Valley; 365-0055.

Dance, hip hop and R&B at Club Silver Screen in Twentynine Palms; 361-7661.

SATURDAY

Farmer's Market, 8 a.m. to noon at the Yucca Valley Park and Ride; Kickapoo Trail and Twentynine Palms Highway.

Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999.

Brunch set with Tommy Paul, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Barbara Buckland, 8 to 10 p.m. at Water Canyon Coffee Co. in Yucca Valley; 365-7771.

Pioneer Posse Old West shows, 2:30 p.m. on Mane Street in Pioneertown.

"Clean Air, Clean Stars," 2 p.m. at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.

Beverly Derby and Bill Church, 7 to 10 p.m. at the 29 Palms Inn; 367-3505.

Summer Music Festival: Reno Jones, 7 p.m. on the Yucca Valley Community Center field; 369-7211.

Sean's acoustic rock, 8 to 10 p.m. at The Rib Co. in Yucca Valley; 365-1663.

Live music and dancing, 8:30 p.m. at Kokopelli's Kantina in Yucca Valley.

New bands, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Wine and Roses Cocktail Lounge in Yucca Valley; 365-0055.

SUNDAY

Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. at the Joshua Tree VFW Post; 6402 Veterans Way, 366-2717.

Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; on Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999.

Callan, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Chris Walters, 6:30 p.m. at the Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.

Lino Vazquez group, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Las Palmas Restaurant in Yucca Valley; 369-7164.

Morongo Basin Old Car Club Cruise Night, 5:30 p.m. at Applebees; 57796 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, 369-2451.

The Thrift Store All Stars, 7 p.m.; at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.

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JT rentals to host artists

JOSHUA TREE — Joshua Tree Highlands Houses, vacation rentals in Joshua Tree, will host four artists in residency programs in July and August.

The residency's goal is to give artists the time and opportunity to create new works of art. The Red Arrow Gallery in Joshua Tree exhibit the artists' work in August.

Sariah Ha of Diamond Bar will spend two months in one of the houses. One-month residencies were given to John Westmark of Gainesville, Fla., Amy Bouse of Santa Monica and Helene Fischman of Oakland, Ca.

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Pendleton Marine saves drowning child

CPL. ERIN F. MCKNIGHT
MCB CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP PENDLETON,
Calif. (June 28, 2007) -- A
three-year-old boy lied life-
less beside a swimming pool

on Father's Day, his body
blue and eyes closed. After
hearing cries from across the
street to call 911, Sgt. John P.
Leiva ran inside, grabbed his
phone, threw it to his wife
and scaled a fence to reach
the boy.

"Does anyone know
CPR?" he yelled.

No response.
Leiva told everyone to
back up and began per-
forming vital chest com-
pressions and breathing for
the boy, which were met

with coughing as his body
rejected the water that had
filled his lungs.

"I don't remember how
many breaths or how many
compressions I did, I was just
doing it," Leiva said. "My
body was doing it by itself.

My brain was on autopilot; I
was just along for the ride."

Leiva, a squad leader with
Battery A, 1st Battalion,
11th Marine Regiment and
his wife Heather have a two-
and-a-half-year-old daugh-
ter, which Heather said
made the incident even more
horrifying.

"It hit home for sure,"
said the 28-year-old, original-
ly from Temecula. "You real-
ize how fragile life really is,
and it can just end in a matter
of moments."

Once Leiva resuscitated
the boy, he simply walked
away from the scene, saying
he was in a state of shock.

"It's really kind of nerve-
wracking to see a little kid
like that," he said. "You know
you're that kid's chance; you
don't want to screw up."

Leiva downplayed the
event when he mentioned it
to his chain of command,
according to 2nd Lt.
Alexander R. Diener, Leiva's
platoon commander.

"When he told me about
it, he said, 'You know those
times when you go to those
classes where they teach you
CPR, and you think you'll
never end up using it? Well I
saved this kid's life.'" Diener
explained. "The way he
talked about it, he just con-
sidered it to be a normal
event. That's just the kind of

guy he is -- if he sees a prob-
lem, he wants to help. He's
extremely selfless."

Heather said saving the
boy's life was the most hero-
ic thing she's ever actually
been able to witness her hus-
band do.

"He does stuff with the
military, but it's different, you
know?" she said. "I've never
seen him do what he's actual-
ly trained to do."

As a sign of appreciation
for Leiva's actions, his battery
held an awards ceremony
Tuesday afternoon, during
which his senior leadership
and Don McKinney present-
ed him with a plaque on
behalf of Rep. Darrell Issa, a
member of the 49th
Congressional District of
California.

"The CO gave a statement
about being a Marine 24-
hours-a-day, seven-days-a-
week, and how I lived up to
the expectations and stuff,
but man, I hope I never have
to do that again," said Leiva,
originally from Pleasanton.

Diener expressed that
Leiva wasn't acting out-of-
character the day he rescued
the drowning victim. Leiva
always sets a good example
for his Marines to follow.

"He's one of my best
Marines. He's got a positive
attitude. Whenever you give
him a task, he takes it and
runs with it," Diener said.
"He's one of those guys
who's constantly doing what-
ever he can to make a situa-
tion better."

The child spent several
days in the hospital, but he
and his father were able to
pay the Leiva family a visit
Saturday to show their
appreciation.

"His son was in the car
seat, and it was such a relief.
I was stressing out about the
kid, wondering if he was
going to be OK or not. He
was all happy, a cute kid,"
Leiva said. "I was thankful I
was able to be there. It was
the most humbling experi-
ence I've ever had, to save
somebody's life. It's just
amazing that it all worked out
for that kid."

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Memorial Service to be held
Fri., 7/6, at 7 p.m. at
Evangelical Free Church,
Yucca Valley

Yuko Downey
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follows in Joshua Tree
Memorial Park

Richard Long
Services Pending

Harold Rhodes
Services at Riverside
National Cemetery
Thursday, July 12th
at 10:00 a.m.

We will be closed
Wednesday July 4th!
Have a Safe Independence Day!

The leadership of the DHCC: Part three

PFC. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Deployment Health Clinic Center at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital consists of many job titles, diligent workers, and devoted leaders. One of those leaders is Senior Chief Rodney S. Ruth, the department head for the DHCC.

Senior Chief Ruth acts as a liaison between the DHCC providers and the individual service member's chain of command, battalion surgeon and battalion aid station.

"As an Independent Duty Corpsman, I can augment the DHCC providers when they go out to units

to do a Post Deployment Health Assessment screening," said Ruth.

During the PDHA screening is when Senior Chief Ruth gets a chance to interact with service members that may have referred themselves to the DHCC.

"It is important that history does not repeat itself. We have generations of people from World War II, Korea and Vietnam that have needlessly been overlooked for their mental health treatment needs based on lack of education and training concerning Post Traumatic Stress Disorder," said Ruth. "We have been given a unique opportunity to help sailors and Marines returning from the fight to

re-adjust to everyday life without the stigma or worry of being treated for a very serious condition."

The DHCC is a new clinic, mandated by the Department of Defense, which is available to every installation that deploys troops.


"I see the Deployment Health Clinic being around for as long as there is one sailor or Marine that needs us. We have received our funding for Fiscal Year 2008 and authorization to expand our team by an additional clinical psychologist and physician's assistant," said Ruth.

As the DHCC expands, more service members have that opportunity to receive the help they require after a deployment.

The normal standard is to observe the service members who have deployed within the last two years, but the standing policy at the Combat Center's DHCC is if you are experiencing any problems from any deployment, then you are eligible to seek assistance from the DHCC.

For more information about the DHCC, please contact Senior Chief Ruth at 830-2675.



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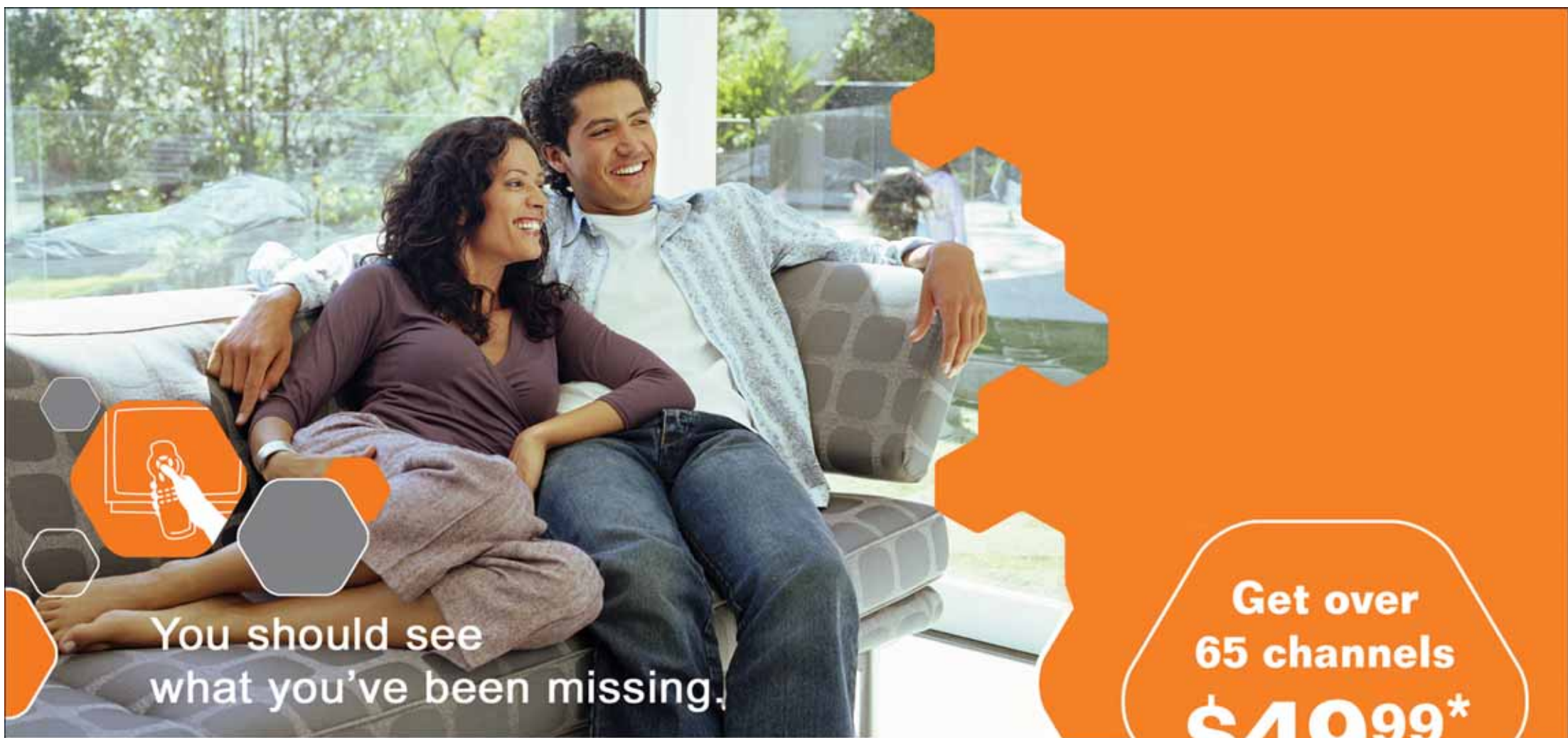
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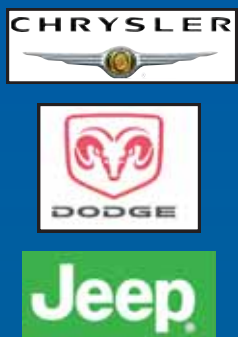
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OBSERVATIONS

JULY 6, 2007

Looking for a PT challenge?



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines enrolled in Sergeant's Course class 5-07 do crunches as part of their morning PT session.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy is resetting the bar when it comes to physical training.

Instead of running the same PT sessions day after day, they have developed ways to break up the monotony of the average workout routine.

"We try to be creative with our PT instead of doing the old three-mile run around the block," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Kelly Scanlon, director of the Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy. "We like to mix it up here."

The Sergeant's Course PT is run three mornings every week, said Scanlon. It will generally last several hours and consists of stretching exercises, warm-up exercises, car-

diovascular training – such as running or swimming – and upper-body workout, a mid-section workout, a lower-body workout and cool-down exercises.

"Our PT is strenuous, but the instructors do everything with the students," he added. "We would never ask the Marines to do something that we wouldn't do ourselves. Although we don't consider ourselves a PT academy, our overall goal here is to have every sergeant enrolled in the course running a first class PFT."

One unique part of the Sergeant's Course PT sessions is that it is run almost entirely by the students. Once the instructors have shown the students how to run a PT session correctly, it is up to them to run it.

"The goal is not only to enhance their PT ability, it is also designed to show the Marines how to properly conduct a PT ses-

sion," said Scanlon.

"Unit appearance is also paramount," he added. "If you notice, every single one of the Marines is wearing the proper uniform. They all have their shirts tucked in and have glow belts. Everyone has a fresh haircut and is clean-shaven. Whenever you see Sergeant's Course running around the base in formation, you can tell it's us because of our appearance."

In addition to maintaining physical fitness and learning the basics of how to run a PT session, the school also stresses other aspects of physical discipline.

"Along with the PT program, we teach classes on nutrition and hydration," said Scanlon. "With a proper diet, PT can enhance both physical and mental discipline, which leads to overall class motivation and enthusiasm."

Scanlon feels that this type of training, as

a unit, is extremely important for the unit itself, but still believes strongly in individual PT as well.

"Unit PT helps to build cohesion, teamwork, unity, unit discipline and leadership by example," he said. "If you have a good, solid PT program, it will enhance your unit's overall performance. Overall, our students have been gaining 50 points from their initial PFT to their final PFT as a class average."

"Despite the unit PT sessions we run, you'll still see instructors taking time out of their day to go for a run or hit the gym," he added.

Physical training, individually or as a unit, is an important part of being a Marine. Whether you want to improve your PFT score, enhance your physical and mental discipline, or build teamwork and leadership within your unit, PT will help raise the bar for success.

Protestant Chapel holds Eagle Express for children

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Religious Ministries Directorate hosted a Vacation Bible Study school June 25 through 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Protestant Chapel.

Children in preschool to sixth grade were invited to attend, regardless of religious preference.

More than 100 kids and 36 volunteers attended the program this year. The volunteers consisted of civilians, active-duty military personnel and Marines awaiting training at Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

"We had a good turnout this year," said Del Fant, the director of religious education for the Protestant Chapel. "We had a lot of kids show up. Of course, the program would not be such a success without the volunteers

who donated their time to help out."

Pvt. Daniel Pannell, a student awaiting training at MCCES, was one of the volunteers. He ran an outdoor arts and crafts station called "The Garden of Eden," where kids made paper hearts and decorated them with different colors.

"This is good, and I'm glad it's happening," said Pannell. "I feel like I'm really giving back to the community."

The program runs every year and has a new theme each year, said Fant. This year's theme is "Eagle Express: Jesus is our pilot," and it revolves around air travel. The program opens every morning with prayer and a religious lesson. After the lesson, the children are separated into 10 groups, and each group is assigned a commandment from the Bible. At the end of the week, each group presented their com-

mandment to the rest of the class, describing what the commandment means.

There are five stations, each with a different arts and crafts activity for the children to do. Every 15 minutes, Fant blew a wooden whistle prompting the children to change stations. The children eagerly followed their teachers to the next station at the sound of the whistle blow.

At 11 a.m., the groups gathered outside for a snack of water, juice, crackers and popcorn. Once snack time was over, the class went back inside the chapel to finish the day with another prayer.

"The object of the program is for the kids to hear the word of God," said Fant. "All the activities they do revolve around the day's lesson. It's kind of like an expanded Sunday school."

Not only were the lessons taught beneficial, the children really seemed to



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Pvt. Daniel Pannell teaches children enrolled in the Vacation Bible School how to do an arts and crafts activity.

enjoy the activities.

"I think it's very cool," said Nicole Thorpe, a third-grader at Condor Elementary School. "It's a very nice place and has good snacks. My

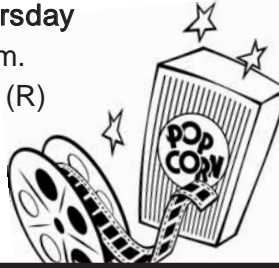
favorite part is the crafts."

Emma Driscoll, a preschooler at Little School in the Desert, said she really enjoyed VBS. "It's a fun school. My favorite part is the artwork."

The Vacation Bible Study will be offered again next year, sometime after the end of the regular school year. If you wish to volunteer, contact the Protestant Chapel at 830-6464.

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

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		Thursday 7 p.m. Bug (R)



Competition heats up at Sandy Hills Lanes

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS
M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League is nearing the end of its season at the Combat Center's Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Alley.

The league, which is held every year, runs an average of 16 to 17 weeks. This year, 16 teams have been battling their way to the top. Each team can have as many as four players and can be mixed any way the teams desire.

"We usually get a good turnout every year," said Kent West, a bowling equipment worker and the league coordinator. "They are mostly Navy and Marine Corps teams, but this year, there have been several Marine Corps Community Service teams as well."

"They've been doing this as long as I've been here, and I've been here for five years," added West. "It's been around a lot longer than that

though. We have trophies here from the mid-80s."

The league meets every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Each team plays three games per week and receives a point for each win. At the end of the season, the top two teams will compete in the championship game.

"We usually have about eight or nine teams show up every week," said Matt Decker, a retired staff sergeant assigned to Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School supply. "We started out strong, but it seems like less people are showing up." Decker plays for the team "They Hate Us," which is one of three MCCES supply teams competing in the league.

"When more teams show up, it makes it more competitive," said Sgt. Chris Pazos, another member of They Hate Us. "It's not only harder to win the tournament, it's also more competitive to see how players on the other teams bowl.

You see what they're doing wrong and you learn from it to make sure you don't make the same mistakes.

"It's really entertaining too," he added. "We have a lot of fun doing this. This is my first year on the team and it's been great."

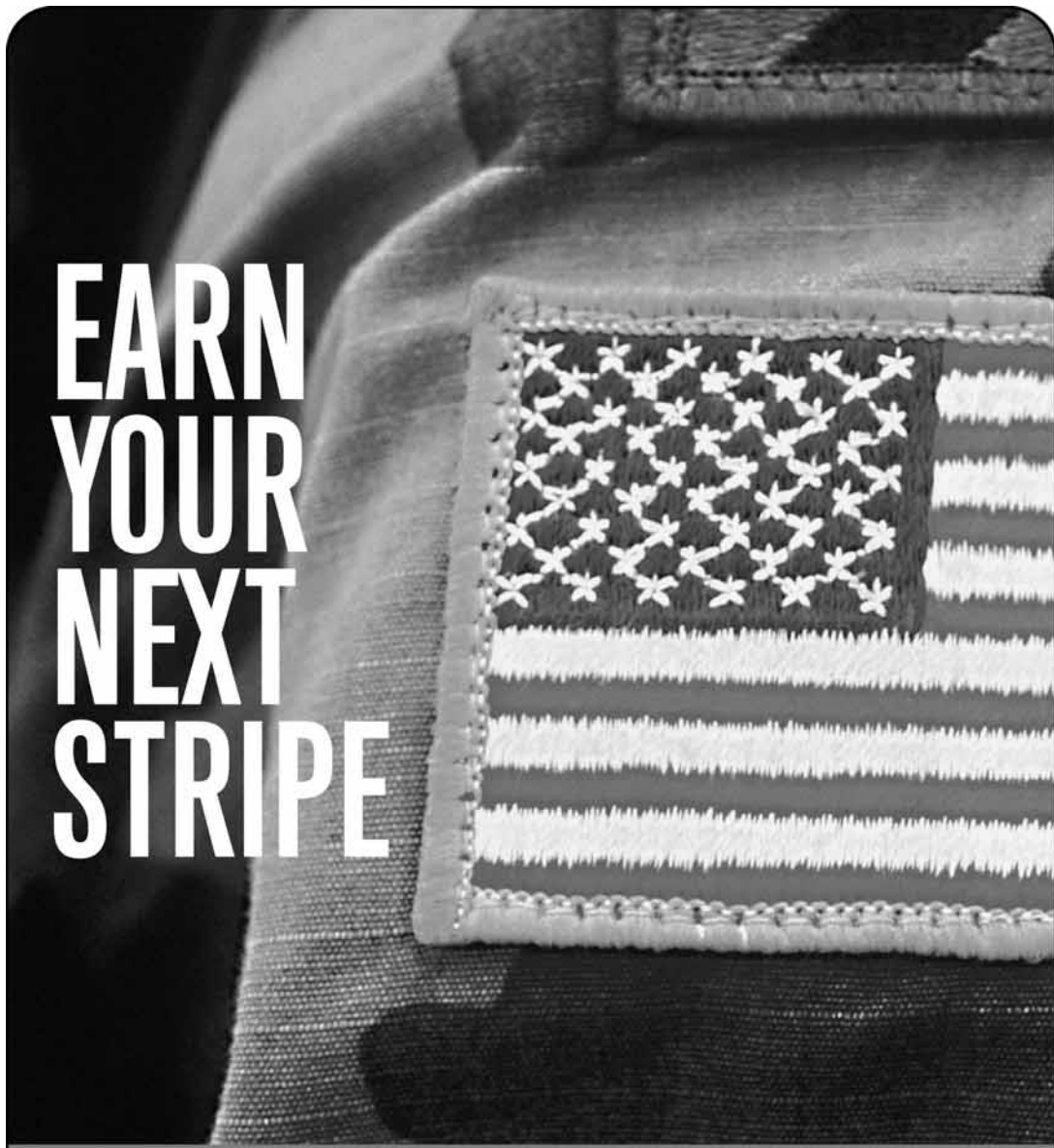
Pazos and Decker admit that playing the game and competing with the other teams isn't the only thing that makes the league entertaining.

"The staff here is great," he said. "They make bowling a lot more fun for us. You can't get any better than the folks who work here."

"Everyone here knows who we are and what we're all about," said Decker. "The guy at the snack counter already knows exactly what we want and has it waiting for us when we come in. They also bring our food to us a lot of the time."

The league's season is drawing to a close, with the championship game being held July 11.

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