

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 13, 2007 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 50 ISSUE 27

CG presents MCAGCC with Installation Excellence Award

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's commanding general presented the 2007 Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award to personnel aboard the Combat Center at the base flagpole following morning colors Monday.

The Department of Defense chose the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center as the Marine Corps' winner of the award because of the exceptional job the Marines and civilian employees have done in supporting and maintaining the base over the past year.

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese addressed the formation and those who attended after the award trophy was presented and the Installation Excellence Award Flag was raised.

"I want to congratulate everyone here for showing up to work everyday and working hard," said Spiese.

Spiese said the Combat Center has done an outstanding job to better serve the DoD and support the Marine Corps' mission, especially during a time of war.

"The performance of the Marines, sailors and civilians on base these past few years has been nothing but spectacular," said Spiese.

The Installation Excellence competition has been a tradition of the DoD for 22 years.

On January 22, 1985, President Ronald Reagan challenged the DoD to find installations where personnel have done the best job possible to support their missions.

"I am confident that this search for excellence and innovations will yield many new and better ways of accomplishing our mission and at the same time honor those whose dedication has produced the best defense organization in the world," said President Reagan about the reason for the Installation Excellence Award.



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, Combat Center sergeant major, stand at attention behind the Installation Excellence Award trophy as the Installation Excellence Award Flag is raised at the base flagpole Monday. The flag will fly every day under the national flag until next year's winner is announced.

Every year since 1985, the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force have chosen a winner for the award within each of their own services every year.

Each service, along with the Defense Logistics Agency, annually identifies an installation which has done the best job with its resources to sustain their mission, increase the workforce's productivity, and improve the quality of life for all who live

and work at the installation.

The Installation Excellence Package submitted by the Installation and Logistics Directorate here was an important factor in the selection of the Combat Center for the award.

"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 2007 Installation Excellence Award trophy is on display in the commanding general's office for anyone who wishes to see it.

The Installation Excellence Award Flag will be displayed alongside the national flag on the base flagpole so it is visible to everyone on base for the remainder of the year.

CMC visits Combat Center, tours Mojave Viper



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, is escorted through a crowded market in Wadi al Sahara by Mojave Viper instructors and role players.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, visited the Combat Center Monday and Tuesday.

The purpose of the visit was to tour Mojave Viper training areas as well as meet with service members and spouses at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel.

The tour began when the Commandant and his staff arrived at the Expeditionary Air Field Monday and were greeted by Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, the commanding general of the Combat Center, and his wife Filomena.

Conway and his staff were taken to the Combat Center's Range 215 Tuesday morning to observe the Marines of 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, participate in their final exercise of Mojave Viper Training. He began the tour at the battalion combat operations center.


"What we're showing the commandant is how a battalion combat operations center has transformed in just a few short years with all its capabilities," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Rabert, battalion gunner for Task Force 1/8. Rabert was in charge of Conway's security while at Wadi al Sahara. "He'll also witness a meeting with the mayor and the local sheikhs, but due to security reasons, the sheikhs won't be informed until a half hour prior to the commandant's arrival," said Rabert in reference to the notional training scenario.


Rabert stated that the tour is also beneficial to the Marines undergoing the Mojave Viper training.


"This is a good dry rehearsal for escorting VIPs," he said. "VIPs come into area all the time. We allow them to see what they want to see while protecting them at the same time. We learn how to lock down an area without giving the enemy the perception of it being locked down."

See CMC VISIT, A8

Weekend Weather

Friday  102/75
Sunny

Saturday  102/79
Sunny

Sunday  107/79
Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: SMP, CPSC send care packages
- A6: YATO goes patriotic for 4th of July
- A9: 5th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps passes away

Observations



MCAGCC celebrates Independence Day

JULY 13

BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life July 13 at the Combat Center Fire Station from 8 am to noon. see **A3, Hot Topics** for more details.

C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Molestation Prevention

Now that children are out of school, there are chances that they are left alone at home with a babysitter because both parents work or that they are babysitting for extra money. Here is what you can do to help your children be safe:

- Listen to your children and pay attention if they don't want to be with someone or go somewhere with that person.
 - Take the time to talk to your children and teach them that open communication is okay and to learn to be a good listener.
 - Pay attention when someone is paying unusual attention to one or all of your children, for example bringing them gifts for no reason.
 - Teach your children that they can say no to any unwanted, uncomfortable, or confusing touch or actions by others. Explain to them that if this touching happens to tell someone immediately.
 - Screen babysitters and caregivers. Most states have a registry that allows parents to check out individuals for prior offences.
 - Be involved in your children's activities. Being there with them enables you to see how other adults interact with your children.
 - Supervise your children on the computers, keeping them from chat rooms or displaying too much information in emails or Myspace.
- Here are some basic safety rules for your children:
- Teach your child that if they are in a public place and get separated from the rest of the family, to go to a security office or checkout counter and tell the person that they have lost their family. **DO NOT WONDER AROUND.**
 - **DO NOT** get into the car of another person unless told to do so by their parents, grandparents or guardians.
 - Tell them that if someone is following them on foot or in a car, to stay away from them, there is no reason for them to go near them.
 - If someone is trying to take them away, teach them to yell, kick and scream that this person is not related to them.
 - Teach them to never go anywhere by themselves.

For more information on how to prevent molestation go to website www.missingkids.com.

The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the crime prevention section:

Literature, Briefings, Education, Crime Assessments, Safety Tips, Stranger Danger Program, McGruff the Crime Dog, Officer Friendly Program, Operation Identification (Property Identification), Child Identification and Fingerprinting

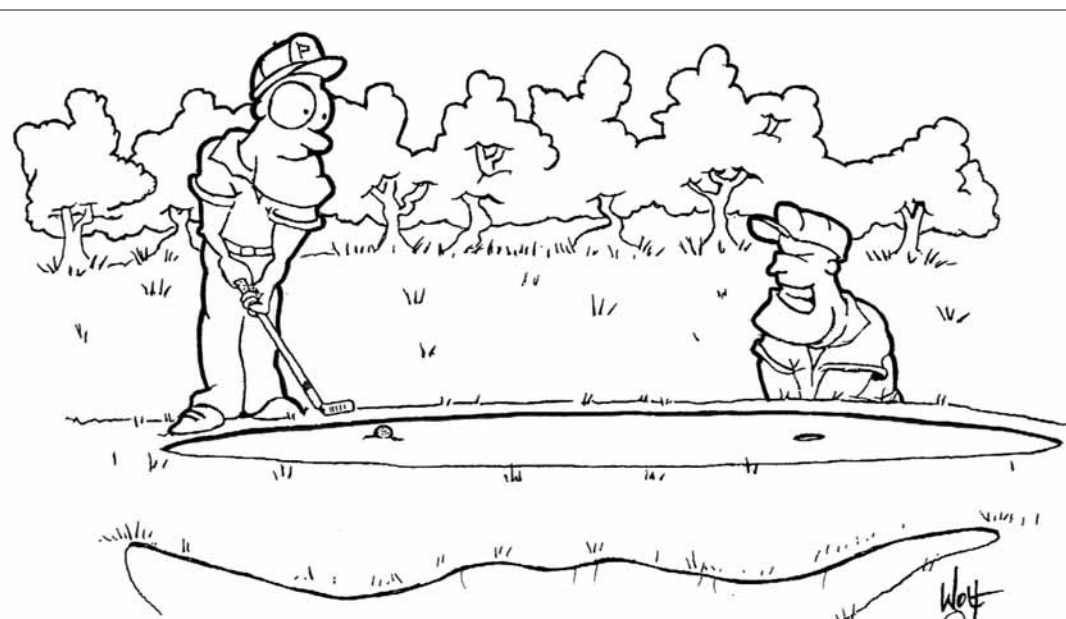
For more information about the above services, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Section at 830-6094/5457.

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

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



"LET'S MAKE THIS A TEAM EFFORT! YOU PUTT THE MAIN ASSAULT AND I'LL CHIP THE BASE OF FIRE, ONE OF US WILL SECURE THE OBJECTIVE AND BOTH OF US WILL PAR THE HOLE!!!"

sempertoons.com
cafepress.com/sempertoons
myspace.com/sempertoons

FREE OBEDIENCE CLASSES



The combat center military working dog handlers are offering free obedience classes to pet owners.

July 21 at Felix Field

Classes start at 7:30 am and last until 10:30 am

All dogs are welcome, young or old, big or small, trained or untrained. You don't need to bring a dog to attend or have to own a dog to come out. If you have a dog with some "bad" behaviors that you need a little help with please bring them out around 9:00.

All owners and dogs will be given personal attention. We will have some obstacles (hurdles, tunnels, stairs and an "A" frame) set up if you want to let your dog play on them.

All dogs must be maintained on a leash at all times.

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.

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Centerspeak

"Who is your favorite movie character"

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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



2ND LT. ROBERT YANEZ
2ND SUPPLY BATTALION



GUNNERY SGT. MACK WARE
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION



CPL. ROBERT MITCHELL
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE

"I like Buzz Lightyear from Toy Story, because he's always optimistic and he's always looking forward."

"Gunny Erme in Full Metal Jacket, because he's the best."

"Keyser Soze from The Usual Suspects, because he shows you that nothing is as it seems."

What's on your mind?

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

Call Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes at 830-5472

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

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General	Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese
Public Affairs Officer	Capt. Neal V. Fisher
Public Affairs Chief (FWD)	Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox
Layout and Design	Patrick Brink
Operations Chief	Sgt. Robert L. Fisher III
Editor/Press Chief	Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes
Combat Correspondent	Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz
Combat Correspondent	Cpl. Brian A. Tuthill
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Nicholas M. Dunn
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Katelyn A. Knauer
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Nicole A. LaVine
Combat Correspondent	Pfc. Jared J. Butler
Combat Correspondent	Pfc. Monica C. Erickson

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HOT TOPICS

MCCES CHANGE OF COMMAND

Colonel Marshall I. Considine III will relinquish command of the Marine Corps Communication - Electronics School to Colonel Kevin J. Nally at a Change of Command/ Retirement Ceremony to be held at the Lance Corporal Torrey Gray Field on Friday, July 20, at 9 a.m. The uniform for spectators is the combat utility uniform with garrison cover or appropriate civilian attire.

JT SALOON NO LONGER OFF-LIMITS

The armed forces disciplinary control board announced last week that the Joshua Tree Saloon is no longer off-limits to military personnel. The board based its July 3 decision to lift the restriction mostly on the owner's efforts to improve safety and security at the saloon.

JULY 13 BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life July 13 at the Combat Center Fire Station from 8 am to noon. All are welcome to come and donate. There is a giveaway for discounts, free tickets to Knott's Soak City, and a pair of free baseball tickets to the Palm Springs Power baseball game.

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.

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.

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.

MSG SCREENING TEAM VISIT

The Marine Corps Security Guard Screening Team is coming to the Combat Center on July 26th. The

team will be screening qualified Marines for this demanding special duty assignment. The screening will be at Bldg 1707 Classroom A from 0800 to 1630 and begin with an introductory brief on MSG Duty. All Marines who are in receipt of orders to MSG school must attend and have their SRB, Health Record and a current BIR/BTR. Marines who desire to be screened must have a completed and signed Commanding Officer's Screening Checklist (Phase 1 and Financial Checklist) and have initiated an NACLAC investigation to obtain a Secret Security Clearance. For more information, contact the Combat Center Career Retention Specialist, GySgt McAllister at 830-6171 or see your unit CRS.

LEISURE ITEMS

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

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633 Showtimes Effective 7/13/07 - 7-19-07

<p style="text-align: center;">Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG13) Everyday: 2:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Transformers (PG 13) Everyday: 2:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Captivity (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00 6:30, 9:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ratatouille (G) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00 6:30, 9:00</p>	<p>ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00</p> <p>*ADULTS \$8.00 *SENIORS \$6.00 *CHILDREN \$6.00</p> <p style="font-size: small;">www.Cinema6theatre.com</p>



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FOURTH ANNUAL

FULL MOON

5K RUN

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2007

8:00 PM START

RACE DAY Friday, July 27, 2007 - rain or shine.
Registration - 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Start at 8:00 PM.

LOCATION Start and finish at Machris Park:
59100 Santa Barbara Drive, Yucca Valley, CA.

INFORMATION Visit the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department located at: 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy. in Yucca Valley, CA. www.yucca-valley.org.

PHONE (760) 369-7211

WEB SITE Register online at www.yucca-valley.org



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
Lance Cpl. James E. Owens III, an assault amphibian crewman assigned to 3rd platoon, Company D, 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion, sits with children attending Camp Palm Springs for Children July 6.

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SMP, CPSC send care packages to troops

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Single Marine Program and Camp Palm Springs for Children combined efforts July 6 to donate care packages to troops deployed overseas in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The two programs estimated total of \$2,900 worth of goods was raised through donations.

"There were lots of food items donated by the children," said Susan Davis, recreation assistant for the Single Marine Program. "There was

also a lot of sports equipment, such as balls."

In addition to the donations, the children and staff members of CPSC also created a patriotic banner and a canvas of handprints to show their support for the troops.

The gifts and donations were presented to four volunteers from the Single Marine Program July 6 at the Leisure Center in Palm Springs, Calif. One student from each grade also presented the Marines with a letter to the troops from their respective grade.

"These guys are their heroes, and we see that when the Marines go to schools or events like this," said LaVonne Lessard,

SMP coordinator. "That sentiment comes through the cards and letters they send to the troops. The deployed troops really appreciate the letters and pictures that get sent along with the care packages."

After the ceremony, the Marine volunteers, who are assigned to the 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion, ate a barbecue-style lunch with the children. The children swarmed the Marines, showing their praise and admiration, and asked them for their autographs.

After the lunch, the Marines were asked to be the judges for a cake-baking contest. Each grade baked a cake decorated with a patriotic theme. The fourth-graders cake won first place.

The children and staff of CPSC appreciate everything the troops do and are always excited when an opportunity arises to support them.

"We need to take care of our soldiers," said Rosa Roma, the unit director of CPSC and a teacher at Harry S. Truman Elementary School in La Quinta, Calif. "We want the kids to have a true understanding of what freedom really is. It really matters to them, which is good to see. It really meant a lot to them."

Roma said the children have donated to other programs before, such as Toys for Tots and Hugs not Drugs, but this is the first time they have sent care packages to the troops.

"Once they see it all coming together, they get very excited to help out," said Roma.

The care packages donated by CPSC will be sent to and distributed amongst troops deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The banner and canvas will be displayed at the Combat Center's Zone in Bldg 1531.

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| ⊗ Decreased coordination | ⊗ Increased risk of upper respiratory infections in children |
| ⊗ Decreased stamina | ⊗ Increased risk of ear infection in children |
| ⊗ Decreased lung capacity | |
| ⊗ Increased need for water | |

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YATO goes patriotic for the 4th of July



ELAINE LEWIS
YOUTH OBSERVATIONS

The children here did many different crafts and played a variety of games at the Combat Center's Youth and

Teen Oasis (YATO).

"There is usually a theme for every week," said Dawn Fowler, a program assistant at the Youth Center. "During the week of July 2 to July 6, the theme was American Patriotism. One of the crafts the children created were flags made out of tissue paper. They also did a red, white and blue marble painting and created a Betsy Ross Information board."

Along with the crafts, the children enjoyed the Statue of Liberty Run, which is

a relay race where the runners pass a torch instead of a baton.

One of the biggest hits was the support ribbon made by the children. Since many of the children have at least one active duty service member in their family, it seemed to mean a lot to them, they said.

The children are encouraged to constantly write letters and draw pictures for the Marines and sailors deployed in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"In the art room we did paintings of famous people in America," said 9-year-old Gabriel Sutton. Nine-year old Andres Rodriguez, said he enjoyed, "playing games about America and drawing pictures of the flag."

Iraqi Army prove command, control capability in Al Anbar



Sgt. David Collins, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Company, Task Force 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, discusses findings during a search on an abandoned house in northwest Al Anbar Province, Iraq July 12.

CPL. ERIC C. SCHWARTZ
2ND MARINE DIVISION

IBRAHIMIYAH PENINSULA, Iraq (July 12, 2007) – The small towns in the Ibrahimiyah Peninsula arose early morning to the Iraqi Army and Marines with Weapons Company, Task Force 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, searching the area for signs of insurgent activity.

"The Iraqi Army planned everything," said Sgt. David Collins, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Company, TF 1/4. "The operation was their idea and concept."

Two Iraqi Army battalions, along with help from coalition forces, completely planned the operation, demonstrating their capability for future success in their country.

"The IA 3rd Brigade put together all elements in command and control of the operation – planning, coordinating and executing the whole mission," said Capt. Jeff Dyal, the operations officer for TF 1/4.

Marines from Task Force 1/4 worked alongside the IA searching homes for weapons, contraband, improvised explosive devices' materials and known insurgents.

"We followed the IA to each city and were there to provide cover if they needed the help," Collins said.

The operation spanned the Ibrahimiyah Peninsula consisting of small, scattered towns normally unreachable because of their remote location.

Although Iraqi Army planned operations aren't new, the sheer size of this operation was a relatively uncharted territory.

"The smaller operations in the past have been well organized, but the size of this one went well," Collins said.

Each home was thoroughly searched in each of the four towns visited, and it was all done in one day.

"They could interact with the people entering the houses much easier because these people are like themselves," Dyal said.

"The IA moved pretty fast through the towns," said Cpl. Christian Whitehead, a tow-gunner with Weapons Company, TF 1/4.

The organization of the IA made the movement between towns' fluid and fast while the buildings were searched completely through.

"The IA's officers had good accountability of their soldiers," said Cpl. Jesse Trumble, a rifleman with the Military Transition Team attached to TF 1/4. "The jundi, or soldiers, could search quickly and thoroughly, since everyone knew where everyone was supposed to be."

The IA, along with the Marines, collected all of the intelligence found during the mission along with one possible insurgent.

Operation Justice Reach stretched out to the normally unchecked Ibrahimiyah Peninsula that day, showing the townspeople the IA haven't

forgotten about their security.

"They really have the basics down perfectly," Collins said. "The IA used good vehicle dispersion, cordon and searches were smooth and fast, and they seemed to have an overall control of the mission."

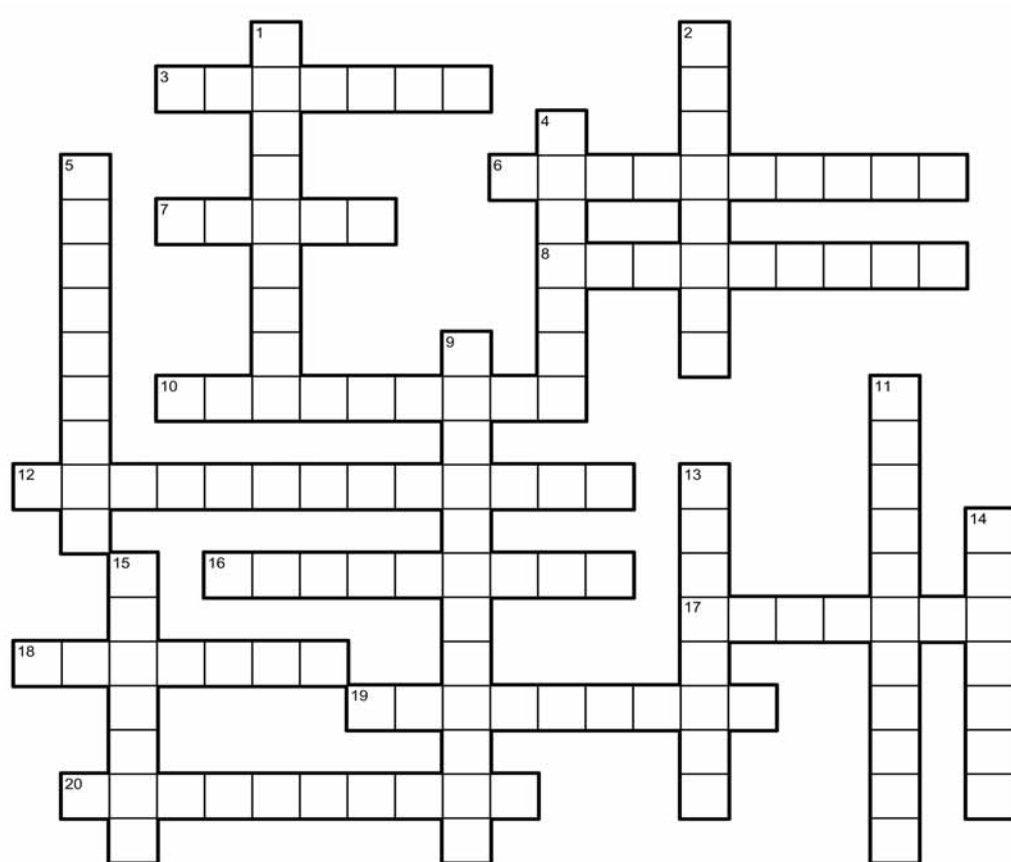
With each successful IA mission, the IA's prove themselves capable of taking responsibility for larger areas.

"It's a transition of responsibility we're working on giving to the IA," Dyal said.

"This is the first step in transitioning battle space and allowing the Marines to move into an over-watch position," Dyal said.

The IA proved their capability of command and control during Operation Justice Reach and will eventually be given control of the area.

SPELL CHECK



ACROSS

- Located away from one's native country. Conducted or involved with other nations or governments; not domestic.
- A place where meals are served to the public.
- Of a strikingly odd or unusual character; strange.
- Humiliate. To cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; disconcert.
- Categorization of a group of people according to ability or status.
- A form containing a set of questions, specially one addressed to a statistically significant number of subjects as a way of gathering information for a survey.
- Occurring at once; instant.
- To have faith, confidence, or trust.
- A person who engages in an art, science, study, or athletic activity as a pastime rather than as a profession.
- A promise or an assurance, especially one given in writing, that attests to the quality or durability of a product or service.
- Evident; observable.

DOWN

- A special advantage, immunity, permission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste.
- To set or keep apart; disunite.
- Ornaments, such as bracelets, necklaces, or rings, made of precious metals set with gems or imitation gems.
- Having an awareness of one's environment and one's own existence, sensations, and thoughts; wake.
- Now and then; from time to time.
- The work of keeping something in proper condition; upkeep.
- A weight consisting of a short bar with a metal ball or disk at each end that is lifted for muscular development and exercise.
- Tenth, eleventh ...
- An instance or a means of communication between different groups or units of an organization, especially in the armed forces. A close relationship, connection, or link.

[Solutions on A9]

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ATLAS SELF STORAGE

Anbar leaders celebrate awakening



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH D. DAY

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin dances with some Iraqi citizens during the celebration. The event had speeches, dancing and food for all who were present.

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH D. DAY AND SPC. RICARDO BRANCH
2ND MARINE DIVISION (FWD)

RAMADI, Iraq (July 8) -- Along the banks of the Euphrates River, 400 municipal leaders and local professionals gathered July 7 for the "Promise of the People" conference in Ramadi.

Attendees included both Shiite and Sunni leaders from across various provinces including Baghdad, Salahuddin and Karbala. The Alwani Tribe of Ramadi planned the conference to build cohesiveness and celebrate the unity with coalition and government forces, while denouncing insurgent activities.

As the attendees approached the waterfront, they were greeted by children waving small Iraqi flags. Tents were lined with streamers and signs in support of this historic day, with phrases praising the civic progress being made within the city.

"This conference is about Iraq's era and fighting insurgents and standing next to each other against this insurgency, which has demolished infrastructure and killed innocent Iraqis," said Arif Mukhaibir Sayad Al Alwane, assistant chairmen to the Ramadi district council.

Among those present were members of the Al Anbar Awakening, which formed in August 2006, by Sunni sheiks who said the group would

become a national party. Its platform includes opposition to Al Qaeda and cooperation with the Iraqi government in Baghdad.

The Al Anbar Awakening is the call to all of Iraq to stand up with people from all tribes, and all religions to stop insurgents from causing fear throughout their land. The speeches asked for everyone to join together and bring peace and prosperity to all of Iraq.

Lt. Col. Salah Arak Al Alwani, the Al Jameah Police Station commander, cited the present as the moment for all Iraqis to come together. He said, "Catholics, Muslims, Sunnis and Shiites act as one, work as one to rid the country of terror and fear."

The day was filled with live music, dancing and food. Iraqi Police were holding hands and dancing with Marine and Army generals. Col. Ahmed Hamed Sharqi, the Shaheed Salam Police Station commander, was carried around the field as the crowd chanted and yelled in celebration of their new beginning, and out of thanks for the security the police provided.

"To all the attendees and by the name of God, the merciful God, it's an honor and gives me great pride to have the sons of Al-Anbar gather here today," said Ma'Mun Sami Rashid, Al Anbar provincial governor. "We're here to defend ourselves against insurgents and

bring back the honor and pride of the Iraqi people. Anbarians have established this with God's blessing and have been defending themselves from the insurgents, who wanted to bring shame to our nation."

At the end of the meeting, the participants issued a statement stating that they have agreed to "stand in one line against the terrorism and defeat it" and work united to return life to normal in the province, to build the governmental institutions and to provide services to the citizens.

"This conference is going to form councils that are going to lead us and advise us to better improvements," Al Alwane said. "Everyone is happy with the way this meeting is turning out because it's going to represent the first results for eliminating this insurgency."

Coalition forces were also present at the conference and provided exterior security for the event.

"We've seen events like this all over the province," said Brig. Gen. John Allen, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) deputy commanding general. "These are the signals that the people here are beginning to emerge from a period of conflict into a future that has some promise for them. People really do have hope now that we're emerging ... and that the future is wide open to them."

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America's roots are showing in Shadow Mountain

YUCCA VALLEY — The Shadow Mountain Band will perform Americana style music from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday on the Yucca Valley Community Center field.

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

Americana is American roots music based on the traditions of country. Americana music combines traditional country sounds with influences of rock, blues, bluegrass, folk music and beyond. The Shadow Mountain Band specializes in mountain-style harmonies with lively acoustic backup. They feature traditional Americana and mountain music, hillbilly gospels (think "Oh Brother, Where art Thou") and bluegrass, along with eclectic originals.

In its 13-year history, the Town of 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 friends and

family to gather.

Festival sponsors for the Town of Yucca Valley Summer Music Festival are Z107.7 FM, Hi-Desert Pub-

lishing Company, Time Warner Cable, and the Morongo Basin Transit Authority.

The band sponsor for

this concert is Better Sound Audiology.

The Summer Music Festival is held every Saturday night through Aug. 18. For

information, call the community services department at 369-7211 or visit the Town's Web site at www.yucca-valley.org.



The Shadow Mountain Band frequently plays at Pappy and Harriet's, and was a popular act at Grubstake Days.

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

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Conway addresses service members and spouses in a town hall meeting at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel.

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CMC VISIT from A1

"Plus, it's also a pick-me-up for the boys to meet the commandant," he added. "It's good for their morale."

As the commandant and his staff toured Wadi al Sahara, Marines patrolled the streets alongside them, keeping role players at bay. Local merchants attempted to sell their wares to them as they toured the streets of the city. The threat of insurgents and improvised explosive devices was also present, though there were no attacks made.

Colonel Ronald F. Baczkowski, director of Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, said it was also important for the commandant to see how Mojave Viper is run.

"The commandant is responsible for providing trained and equipped forces to the war and Mojave Viper is the exercise that helps put the finishing touches on forces that are headed for Iraq," he said. "It was a great opportunity for him to see firsthand how we help him carry out his responsibilities as commandant."

"He has been to Twentynine Palms before and toured the facilities, but never during a final exercise," added Baczkowski. "This time, he got to see how everything is put together, the physical features of the range, the exercise force, the intelligence injects, the role players, and how the role players interact with the exercise force. He saw the entire exercise in full swing."

While Conway's visit was not expected by the Marines of 1/8, it was easily incorporated into the training scenario.

"The Marines were sur-

prised to see the commandant show up in their COC, but they quickly accommodated him by showing him the tools they've learned and taken on and are ready to apply when they go to Iraq," said Baczkowski. "What the commandant got to see was what we typically do in every Mojave Viper and he got a good sampling of how we prepare Marines for their combat mission in a realistic environment that does a better job than any other place to get Marines ready for combat."

Following Conway's tour of Wadi al Sahara, he and his wife, Annette, held a town hall meeting at the Protestant Chapel here where they addressed service members and spouses about current issues in the Marine Corps.

"It's all about talking to the spouses and families of Marines," said Conway in his opening speech. "I'm here to hear you and learn about your issues."

Conway made several remarks regarding deployments, equipment, and progress in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The Marines and sailors in the Al Anbar Province are doing an outstanding job right now," he said. "It's a much more positive place right now. The morale is high when Marines see that they're making a difference."

After the initial address, Conway and his wife fielded questions asked by service members and spouses. His presence and his guidance was met with relief and appreciation by those in attendance.

Shortly after the interview, the commandant and his staff were transported to the Expeditionary Air Field and departed the Combat Center.

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5th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps passes away

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The fifth and oldest formerly living sergeant major of the Marine Corps passed away at the age of 90 in Newport Beach, Calif., July 5.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Joseph W. Dailey, the most decorated sergeant major of the Marine Corps, died of natural causes according to the Daily Pilot of Newport Beach.

Dailey's prestigious collection of awards and medals include the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device and Combat Action Ribbon.

"He is by far the most decorated of all the sergeants major of the Marine Corps," said retired Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, 15th sergeant major of the

Marine Corps, in a previous interview with the Marine Corps Times. "[He served in] three wars: World War II, Korea and Vietnam."

Born Feb. 17, 1917, in Black Mountain, Arkansas, Dailey enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1941 and graduated recruit training from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

Dailey took part in combat operations in Eastern New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Western Caroline Islands and Okinawa during World War II.

He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his actions during battle in Okinawa, May 3, 1945, while serving as the Acting Gunnery Sergeant, Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.

Dailey earned the Navy Cross, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart while serving with 1st Marine Division

in Korea in 1953.

He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his actions as sergeant major of 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam in November 1969.

Dailey served as the fifth Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps from August 1, 1969, until he retired from active duty in the Marine Corps January 31, 1973.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

"There is only a small group of Marines that can say they fought in three wars and earned the decorations that Sgt. Maj. Dailey has," said Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, during the memorial service in Newport Beach, Calif., July 9. "He always led by example and is one of those Marines who we will read about in history books for years to come."



Sgt. Maj. Joseph W. Dailey (1917--2007) 5th Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps. Sgt. Maj. Dailey served in World War II, Vietnam and Korea.



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- '07 FORD FOCUS VIN# 1FAFP31N77W181371

- '02 DODGE CARAVAN VIN# 1B4GP25362B546203
- '04 FORD ESCAPE VIN# 1FMYU93154KA47272
- '03 JEEP WRANGLER VIN# 1J4FA49S83P367978
- '05 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY VIN# 1C4GP45R35B388054
- '03 FORD RANGER VIN# 1FTYR44V03PB43662
- '04 FORD F150 VIN# 1FTPX14544NB62096
- '06 DODGE RAM 150 VIN# 1D7HA16K96J125327
- '04 JEEP CHEROKEE VIN# 1J4GW48S94C154697
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- '05 FORD ESCAPE VIN# 1FMYU03135KB30258
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4TH OF JULY BLAST

MCAGCC celebrates Independence Day

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 7,000 service members and their families attended the Combat Center's 10th annual Fourth of July celebration at Victory Field from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

In addition to military personnel and their families, the entire Morongo Basin was invited to attend the open-gate celebration.

The event featured a number of forms of entertainment, such as live music, food stands and a game zone for children, which included a rock-climbing wall, said Kelley Coe, the special event coordinator for Marine Corps Community Services.

A row of food stands lined one side of the field, many of these vendors were volunteers from some of the Combat Center's tenant units and organizations. The goal of the volunteers was to raise money for their unit's Marine Corps Ball this year. Several outside businesses and organizations, such as Jamba Juice, The Rib Co., Jasmine Coffee and the American Red Cross, were also selling refreshments.

The musical entertainment was provided by the San Diego-based Bill Magee Blues Band, the Los Angeles-based Dead Rebels and the Combat Center Band.

"This is our first time on the base and we really want to support as often as we can," said Lance Palmer, the songwriter and lead singer for The Dead Rebels. "We support the folks fighting for us whether we support the war or not. You have to."

"It's especially cool to be playing for the military on an occasion like the Fourth of July," he added.

Another display set up at the event was presented by Fueled by the Fallen. It featured three custom race cars painted with a

desert camouflage pattern. One of the cars listed the name and rank of every Marine who has been killed in action supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"This will be the first mobile memorial in the history of all American wars," said Michael Conley, the president of Conley Communications and Public Relations, and the publicist for Fueled by the Fallen. "This is our national kick-off. Over the next five years, we hope to travel to every state and literally visit the hometowns of all the Marines who have fallen."

"There is poignancy and sentimentality to this tribute, but still keeps the bravado of what the Marines do," he added.

"This is something we've wanted to do for a long time," said Kevyn Major Howard, an actor and photographer who is the primary benefactor for the project. "I want to take these cars over to Iraq and eventually build a memorial in Washington D.C. as well." Howard's character Rafterman in the movie Full Metal Jacket is famous throughout the Marine Corps and is what motivates him to work on the project.

The evening's celebration ended with the largest fireworks display in the Morongo Basin. The crowd was dazzled by the presentation, which lasted for half an hour and set off more than 1,100 fireworks of various sizes.

"It was fantastic," said Larry Callender, a retired law enforcement officer living in Yucca Valley, Calif. "It's a very festive event and I'd like to see it every year."

"I brought my daughter and my grandchild here tonight, and they loved it too," he added.

The Callender family was not alone as nearly all of the 7,000 attendees left Victory Field that night with a renewed sense of patriotism and satisfaction.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Nicholas M. Dunn

(Counterclockwise) The memorial car presented by Fueled by the Fallen is on display at Victory Field July 4. Combat Center guests relax and enjoy live musical entertainment July 4. The Dead Rebels perform live at the Combat Center July 4.



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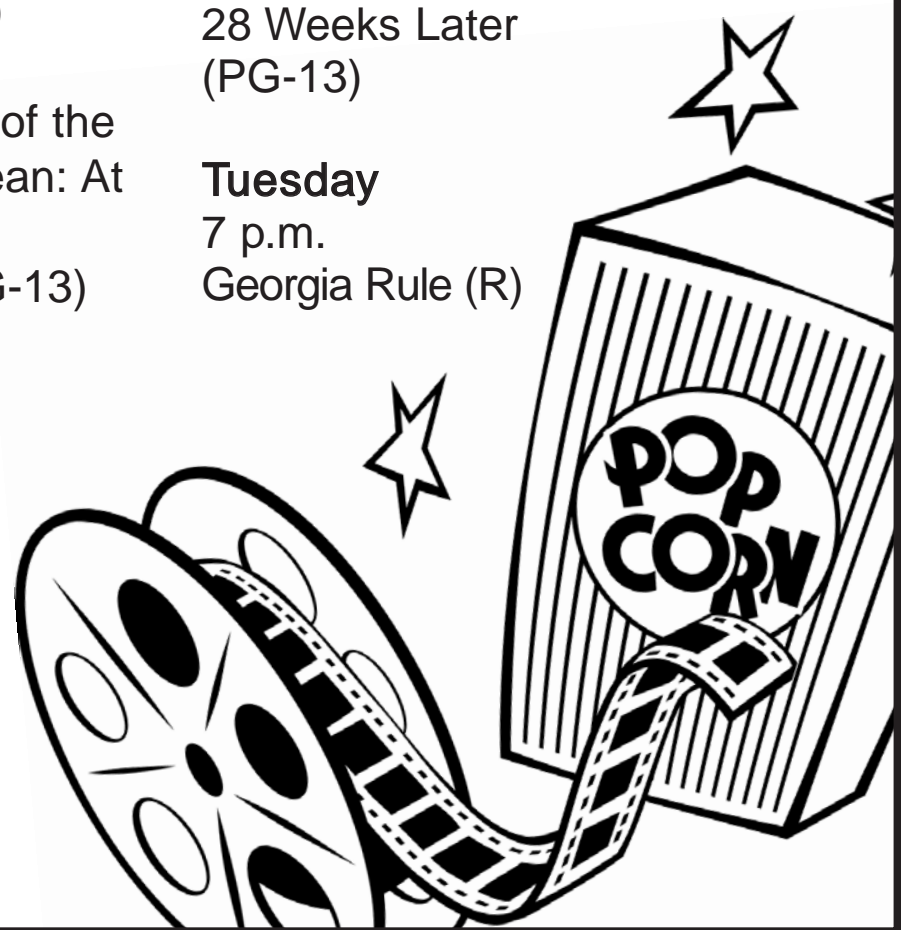


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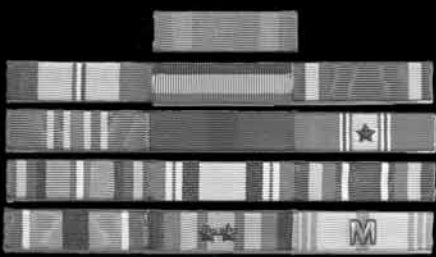
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