

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 10, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 31

## Palm Springs mayor and city councilman tour Combat Center



LANCE CPL. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The mayor of the city of Palm Springs and a city councilman paid a visit to the Combat Center for a base tour Tuesday.

Mayor Ron Oden, who was elected to his position Nov. 2003, and City Councilmember Chris Mills were given invitations to a Combat Center base tour, which they graciously accepted to gain a better understanding of the training which prepares men and women in service for the war overseas.

"I've received invitations in the past, but my schedule never allowed for me to make the trip," said Oden. "I was determined to make it this time, and I am so glad I did."

Before Oden and Mills began their tour, they received a brief from Brian D. Catlin, G-3 director, explaining the numerous and continuous training operations aboard the Combat Center, including battle and vehicle operations simulators, language and cultural education computer programs and other relevant preparation programs.

After the brief, Oden and Mills loaded a roomy government vehicle, whereupon Jim Ricker, G-5 director, gave them a tour of mainside.

After Oden and Mills had a thorough tour of places such as the Lincoln Military housing area, the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School student barracks and the motorized solar panel plant, they continued to Combat Center Range 215, home of Mojave Viper.

The Iraqi Village at Range 215 requires company-sized units of Marines and sailors to adapt and integrate with Iraqi citizens and realistic battle situations by means of communication with Iraqi role players.

Upon arriving at the range, the role-playing Iraqi Mayor invited the guests into his residence for refreshments and a chance to discuss the training taking place right outside his door.

The Iraqi Mayor, his assistant and his translator

"I have the utmost confidence in our men and women in service."

- Mayor Ron Oden

explained the tact and manner that Marines and sailors must use when dealing with Iraq citizens.

The group then visited the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, where they were given a tour displaying the many types of improvised explosive devices and the techniques insurgents use to hide them.

Oden and Mills then met Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Speise, commanding general, at Littleton chow hall on mainside to discuss their impressions of what they had seen.

"I have the utmost confidence in our men and women in service," said Oden. "I am so appreciative of the level of training they receive so they have what it takes to survive."

Mills agreed, saying he was also impressed and comforted by seeing the quality of training Marines endure.

"This is the type of thing which the average person has no idea about," said Mills, a city official of 6 years. "It's certainly encouraging to see how the Marine Corps has adapted to the arena they are in now."

Oden said he is glad he will be able to explain to others the dangers service members face in everyday tasks.

"Seeing all this was amazing," said Oden about the tour. "You can watch TV and read and watch all those specials, but by being here, you really see what our young men and women are doing."

Due to the Combat Center acting as an essential training element during a time of war, patrons can expect increased interest from outside officials as service members prepare to fight and serve overseas.

## Public Affairs Marine receives award for hard work, dedication



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Speise, Combat Center commanding general, presented the Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award to Cpl. Brian A. Tuthill, Public Affairs broadcaster, Aug. 1.

The award recognizes military journalists and broadcasters for going above and beyond required instructions and bettering themselves as journalists and broadcasters.

Every March, broadcasters and combat correspondents all around the Marine Corps gather their best work and submit it to the Marine Corps Division Public Affairs Merit Awards.

The United States Marine

Corps Combat Correspondent Association will go through all the work submitted and choose the best of the Marine Corps for all categories. They will choose based on creativity, best usage of available equipment and a clear command information for the audience.

The two groups that are judged are units and personal works. Units can be awarded for their radio, television, websites, newspapers and magazines. The personal side is a writer's best news story, feature, sports story and photos.

Tuthill won three awards: third place for Print Journalist of the Year, second place for Stand Alone Photo and first place for Outstanding New Writer. Lance

See AWARD, A4

Free Children's Matinee every Saturday 11 a.m. Tomorrow's Matinee



For more movie info see A3

### Weekend Weather

Friday  99/74 Sunny

Saturday  101/79 Mostly Sunny

Sunday  105/79 Sunny

### Inside this issue

- A4: ASYMCA
- A7: Company donates free eyewear
- A9: Volunteers help community

### Observations



### This Day in Marine Corps History

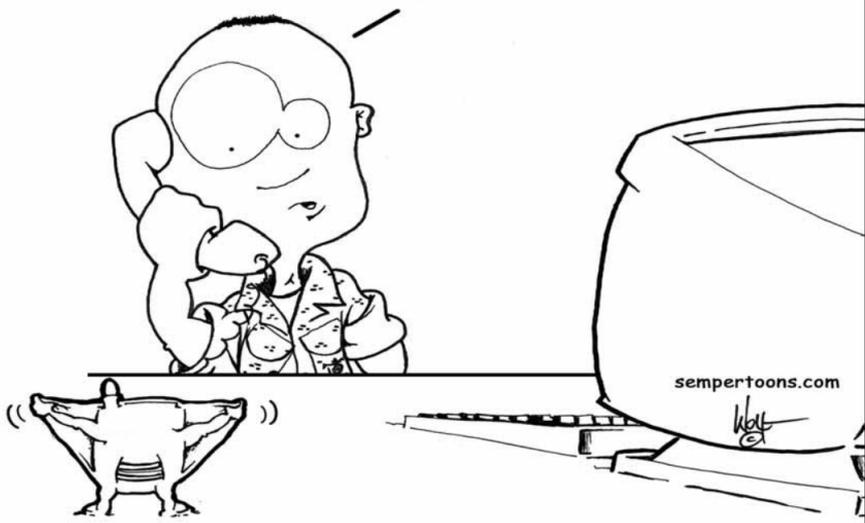
— 1942 —

With the Guadalcanal airstrip secure, 1st Engineer Battalion commenced work on the runway using captured equipment. Three days later, the first plane landed on Henderson Field. Nearly 3,000 wounded Marines would be evacuated during the battle.

# Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

"Ahhh...hello, Help Desk?, This might sound weird, but... My Crackberry is flashing me."



Crazy comments found in the Help Desk Log Book

# Misfire

Last week we attributed the wrong rank to Kenneth Rocquemore Jr. He was promoted to sergeant major.



KENNETH ROCQUEMORE JR

# Quick Alert fact sheet

What is Quick Alert?

- On August 15, 2007, TriWest Healthcare Alliance is launching "Quick Alert" – a new service for West Region TRICARE beneficiaries registered on www.triwest.com.
- TriWest's Quick Alert service provides beneficiaries with a fast, convenient, and secure notification when their new authorization or referral has been processed.
- Quick Alert provides faster notifications for beneficiaries, allowing them to access information online 24 hours a day, seven days a week at a time that is convenient to them.
- How does Quick Alert work?
- With Quick Alert, beneficiaries who have registered at www.triwest.com will receive an e-mail from TriWest Healthcare Alliance whenever a new authorization or referral is processed in their

name.

- To protect beneficiary privacy, the Quick Alert email notification does not include any confidential or personal health information.
  - Registered beneficiaries must login to www.triwest.com to review the authorization or referral.
  - Only one Quick Alert will be generated to a registered beneficiary per authorization or referral.
  - Beneficiaries may unsubscribe anytime from the Quick Alert system by simply clicking on the "unsubscribe" link in their Quick Alert notification and following the prompts.
  - Beneficiaries will continue to receive a printed copy of their authorization and referral notifications through the mail.
- Quick Alert is another value-added service provided by TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Beneficiaries are encouraged to take advantage of other convenient online resources available at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com).

- Find a health care provider
- Download forms
- Pay enrollment fees
- Check claims status
- Track out-of-pocket costs
- Establish automatic payments
- Read TRICARE news
- Verify eligibility
- Update personal information

Note: TriWest's Web sites are not intended for use by children under the age of 13 and TriWest does not knowingly collect personal information from children under the age of 13 on the site. If TriWest becomes aware that we have inadvertently received personal information from a visitor under the age of 13 on the site, we will delete the information from our records.

# C.O.P. Corner

## Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

# Robbery/Burglary Prevention

It is the vacation time and we all like to go boating, camping or just take a couple of days off. Whether you live in the barracks or in housing, vacations provide burglars with plenty of time to enter your residence. They have enough time to remove large items and search leisurely for hidden valuables.

If you are planning a vacation, take precautions to protect your residence while you are away. The key here is to create an illusion of everyday activity.

Stop mail and newspaper deliveries, or have a trusted friend collect them while you are away so that they do not accumulate. Make sure to have a trusted friend remove any advertising flyers that are deposited in your mailbox or around your door, driveway or lawn and check your home inside and out each day.

Secure all doors, windows, pet entrances and garage doors.

Place timers on indoor lamps and appliances to illuminate your home at night, and set timers to turn on radios and televisions randomly during the day.

Check that no bulbs are burned out on your indoor lamps, outdoor lighting fixtures or low voltage lighting system.

Remove messages from your telephone answering machine daily so that the "beep" is always short. And don't indicate on your message that you are on vacation

For more information on burglar proofing your home go to web sites: <http://phoenix.gov/POLICE/burgt1.html>; <http://phoenix.gov/POLICE/robdt1.html>; <http://www.burglaryprevention.org/diy10.htm>.

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

# Centerspeak

What do you think about the changes to the uniform regulations?

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



SGT. AMIRH PHILLIP  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION



LANCE CPL. DANIELLE BRINKMAN  
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL



PFC. TOM PETERSON  
3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

"I think cell phones should be allowed to be worn on belts because it prevents them from falling out of your pockets."

"The uniform regulations make sense. It makes Marines look less eccentric and more professional."

"I don't think all pants need belts if they're tight enough. They still look presentable."

# What's on your mind?

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

Call the Public Affairs Office at 830-5472 or 830-6213

Or go to: [www.29palms.usmc.mil/dtis/pao](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dtis/pao)

# Fisher-Price recalls licensed character toys due to lead poisoning hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – (August 2) The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firms named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The Name of Product: Sesame Street, Dora the Explorer, and other children's toys (about 967,000 toys)

The importer of the toys is: Fisher-Price Inc., of East Aurora, N.Y.

- Hazard: Surface paints on the toys could contain excessive levels of lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.
- Description: The recalled involves various figures and toys that were manufactured between April 19, 2007 and July 6, 2007 and were sold alone or as part of sets. The model names and product numbers for the recalled toys, which are all marked with "Fisher-Price," are listed in their notice found on their company's website. The toys may have a date code between 109-7LF and 187-7LF marked on the product or packaging.
- Sold at: Retail stores nationwide from May 2007 through August 2007 for between \$5 and \$40.
- Manufactured in: China
- Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled toys away from children and contact Fisher-Price. Consumers will need to return the product.

Consumer Contact: For additional information contact Fisher-Price at (800) 916-4498 anytime or visit the firm's Web site at [www.service.mattel.com](http://www.service.mattel.com)

# OBSERVATION POST

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# LIBERTY CALL

AUGUST 10, 2007

## Weekend Community Events

Friday August 10	Saturday August 11	Sunday August 12
<p><b>Ranch Camp for Children, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</b> Aug. 13-17 at the Thornton Ranch; call 365-2269 for information.</p> <p><b>Line dancing class with Jim Jory, 10 a.m.</b> at the Yucca Valley Elks Lodge; 55946 Yucca Trail, 365-2314.</p> <p><b>Hi-Desert Nature Museum exhibit: "Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16;</b> open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212.</p> <p><b>Bingo, 5:30 p.m.</b> at Blessed Sacrament School; 6555 Sage Avenue, Twentynine Palms, 367-3341.</p> <p><b>Bicycle motocross racing, 6 to 7 p.m.</b> at Coyote BMX, corner of Sage and Sunnyslope in Yucca Valley, 228-1299.</p> <p><b>Jeffery Hafler, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.</b> at Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.</p> <p><b>July 27-Aug. 18: "High School Musical," 7 p.m.</b> at Theatre 29; 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, 361-4151.</p> <p><b>Matchless, 7 p.m.</b> at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.</p>	<p><b>Farmer's Market, 8 a.m. to noon</b> at the Yucca Valley Park and Ride; Kickapoo Trail and Twentynine Palms Highway.</p> <p><b>Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.;</b> Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999.</p> <p><b>Hi-Desert Nature Museum exhibit: "Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16;</b> open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212.</p> <p><b>Morongo Basin Old Car Club Cruise Night, 2 p.m.</b> second Saturdays at Auto Zone in Yucca Valley.</p> <p><b>Pioneer Poise Old West shows, 2:30 p.m.</b> on Mane Street in Pioneertown.</p> <p><b>"High School Musical," 7 p.m.</b> at Theatre 29; 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, 361-4151.</p> <p><b>Beverly Derby and Bill Church, 7 to 10 p.m.</b> at the Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.</p> <p><b>Star party, 8 p.m.</b> at the Hidden Valley Picnic Area in Joshua Tree National Park.</p> <p><b>Tim Jones and Friends, 7 p.m.</b> at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.</p> <p><b>Summer Music Festival, 7 p.m.</b> on the Yucca Valley Community Center field; 369-7211.</p>	<p><b>Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m.</b> at the Joshua Tree VFW Post; 6402 Veterans Way, 366-2717.</p> <p><b>Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.;</b> on Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999.</p> <p><b>Hi-Desert Nature Museum exhibit: "Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16;</b> open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212.</p> <p><b>Callan, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Chris Walters, 6:30 p.m.</b> at Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.</p> <p><b>"High School Musical," 2:30 p.m.</b> at Theatre 29; 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, 361-4151.</p> <p><b>JT Sportsman's Club Bingo, early birds at 5:30 p.m., others at 6 p.m.,</b> at the Sportsman's Club; 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree, 366-2915.</p> <p><b>Thrift Store Allstars, 7 p.m.</b> at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.</p>

## MCCS Activities

• Lifelong Learning Library will host Craft Time today from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and join us for a day of crafts and friends. Craft materials will be provided. Appropriate for all ages, all children under the age of 12 years old must be supervised by an adult at all times. For more information, call 830-6875.

• Desert Winds Golf Course is hosting a Glow Ball Tournament on tomorrow-starting at 5:30 p.m. Participate in a 4-person scramble or be placed with a team. Cart, food and prizes are all included for \$30. For more details, call 830-6132.

• Hashmarks SNCO Club will host a Warrior Night Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. SNCOs are allowed to invite warriors of any rank into the club to enjoy the free food and camaraderie. Don't miss out on this rare event. For details call 830-6610.

• Combat Center Officers' Club is hosting Seafood Night on August 17 from 5-7:30 p.m. with a wonderful array of sea food. Adults: members- \$18, non-members - \$23; Children: members - \$5.50, non-members - \$6.50. Children's menu will be available. For more details, call 830-6610.

• MCX is hosting the OEF event Fall Family Fun Festival at the Main Exchange August 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. Free refreshments are available, and prizes will be awarded along with a puppet show, a character artists, a clown and a face painter. For more information, call 830-6163.

• Club Silver Screen is hosting "Bike Night" Thursday to show their support for the Troops of 29 Palms with the help of local Marines in the street bike scene. This event is a way of giving back to those who fight for our freedom every day while raising awareness of the importance of quality riding gear and safe riding formations. It will also provide rider networking and a safe venue to see professional stunt riders at work, wearing and using quality products.

### NEW! Saturday Morning MOVIE MATINEE

**FREE**

**11 AM**

Call or go online for schedule!

SUNSET Cinema 830-7269 • Bldg. 1510

## SMP EVENTS

August 10 - 16

**You're here. You're single. You're in.**

SATURDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><b>SMP Trip to Universal Studios</b> Depart the Zone @ 7 a.m. Cost: \$35</p>	<p><b>SMP Committee Meeting</b> 9 a.m. @ The Zone</p>	<p><b>Desert Mail Call</b> 4 p.m. Donate Cds, DVDs, Batteries &amp; more! (volunteers needed)</p>

## Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

<p><b>Friday</b> Nancy Drew - 6 p.m. (PG) Waitress - 9 p.m. (PG-13)</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> Ratatouille - 2 p.m. (G) Nancy Drew - 6 p.m. (PG) A Mighty Heart - 9 p.m. (R)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> Live Free or Die Hard - 7 p.m. (PG-13)</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> Ratatouille - 2 p.m. (G) Surfs Up - 6 p.m. (PG) A Mighty Heart - 9 p.m. (R)</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> Surfs Up - 7 p.m. (PG)</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b> Evan Almighty - 7 p.m. (PG)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer - 7 p.m. (PG)</p>		

For more information go to <http://www.mccs29palms.com>

### SMP TRIP

**MAGIC MOUNTAIN**  
THE GREAT AMERICAN SCREAM MACHINE

**SAT., Aug. 25**

Departing from The Zone at 7 a.m.

### Paintball

Departing August 24th  
Departing the Zone at 7 a.m.

## Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 8/10/07 - 8-16-07

365-9633

Rush Hour 3 (PG-13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	The Simpsons (PG-13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Bourne Ultimatum (PG-13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Under Dog (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 6:30	Hot Rod (PG-13) Everyday: 4:00, 9:00	COMING AUG. 17TH • SUPERBAD • • INVASION • www.Cinema6theatre.com

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00 • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00

29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley 361-7141

**WOULD YOU SMOKE THE TAILPIPE OF YOUR HUMVEE?**

Then why even think about lighting up?

Cigarette smoke contains 10 times more pollutants than the exhaust from a diesel engine.

For more information on how to stop smoking or dipping: Call Health Promotions at 830-2814 or 1-800-NO-BUTTS or 1-800-844-CHEW

## Gecko Gift Shop

57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley 369-7212

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

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

Plush Stuffed DESERT ANIMALS

## CONCERT LINE-UP

### SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2007

**AUG. 11**  
Golden Hill Ramblers (Western Swing/Jazz/Acoustic)

Western Swing is, first and foremost a fusion of country music, several and styles of jazz, pop music and blues aimed at dancers. San Diego based Golden Hill Ramblers blend a unique western swing sound with intense finger picking and slide steel guitar. The four-piece group's dedicated to authenticity to the music in their musicality and detail. The Golden Hill Ramblers have performed at various venues throughout the San Diego area.

**AUG. 18**  
Marine Corp Band 29 Palms (Patriotic)

In 1798, President John Quincy Adams approved a bill that authorized the Marine Corps to enlist a drum major, one fife major, and 32 drummers and fifers (a type of flute). These musicians were used to form the famous United States Marine Band, the oldest organization of its kind in the country. The 51-member band from Twentynine Palms travels throughout the United States and plays at venues including the New Orleans Mardi Gras Parade, the annual Tournament of Roses Parade, and the Long's Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival in Colorado.

## FREE GREEN FEE'S ALL MONTH LONG

at the Spectacular Cimarron Golf Resort & Woodhaven Country Club (this is not a misprint)

### Hi-Desert Appreciation Month

For the Entire Month of August, Hi-Desert Residents are invited to enjoy unlimited golf with NO GREEN FEE'S at the beautiful Cimarron Golf Resort & Woodhaven Country Club (Cart fee not applicable).

Come Enjoy Beautifully Manicured Courses, The best Greens in the Valley, Spectacular Views and Sunny Skies!!!

Just a short drive away, down the hill and to the right. Both courses just minutes off I-10

**FREE GREEN FEE'S So Get on the Tee Today**  
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Play anytime Mon - Fri, Sat - Sun after 9:30 am  
Promotion valid through August 31, 2007



# Artist Creates Giant Purple Heart Medal

SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — When Gen. George Washington created the Purple Heart Medal in 1782, he probably never envisioned it would be

so huge. Literally.

Artist Roger Baker mowed a 1,000-foot long rendition of the medal, covering 850,000 square feet, into a field at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Hamtonburgh, N.Y., near the town where the first awards

were presented to Revolutionary War soldiers. Baker said his creation is a "gift of art" to the American public.

The art work was unveiled Aug. 5, two days before the medal's 75th anniversary. The park is in the same county as The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, near where the medal was initially established.

"I've never dealt with the emotions involved with loss and tragedy associated with war," Baker said. "This forced me to think about it, and I couldn't stop thinking about it, and it brought up some feelings and I had to pursue those feelings."

Baker said the project happened after a chance meeting with a Military Order of the Purple Heart official. A quick series of local meetings with officials of The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and the Orange County Commission of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and it was a done deal.

The gently sloping field -- a mixture of grass and purple clover, which lends the design its signature color -- will last for another six to 10 days without

any touch-ups, Baker said. His hope is he will be allowed to maintain the artwork until Veterans Day.

"Because of the nature of what it is and what it stands for, (we'd like) to allow as many people as possible -- the American public, veterans -- to be able to come out and experience it," he said. "If we get the green light to keep this maintained up until Veterans Day, that means by that time ... the first-frost picture of it will be unbelievable."

"Then we wait for the first light snow," he added. "The snow lands on the low-cut areas. It disappears on the high-cut areas ... (making) it look like it was etched into alabaster."

Baker's field art portraiture, which ranges from 500,000 to 1 million-square feet, has been featured on CNN and NBC's "Today Show," and in the New York Times. He has mowed likenesses of the Statue of Liberty, Elvis Presley, Albert Einstein and Jimi Hendrix into fields.

Washington established the "Badge of Military Merit," as the Purple Heart Medal was

originally known, in a nearby New York town on Aug. 7, 1782. It was awarded to three soldiers during the Revolutionary War before falling into disuse.

Its use wasn't again proposed until World War I, when then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Pelot Summerall requested Congress revive the medal. That movement died in 1928, but three years later, his successor, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, quietly requested the medal's design be retooled.

On the observance of George Washington's 200th birthday, under general orders of the War Department, the medal was revived with a new design and a new name.

However, it still was thought of as an Army decoration; it wasn't until 1942 that President Franklin D. Roosevelt extended the medal to those serving in other services who were wounded in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman carried that action a step further, retroactively granting the medal to any qualified service member back to April 5, 1917.

The newspaper will provide the names of Marines who have earned the Purple Heart in a future edition



ANTHONY M. PUOPOLO

Field artist Roger Baker mowed this representation of a modern Purple Heart Medal into a field in Orange County, N.Y.

## ASYMCA overcomes storm damage

ANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Armed Services YMCA closure July 27 has affected more than 80 Combat Center families.

A leak in the ceiling over two of the classrooms caught the attention of ASYMCA staff, who filed a trouble sheet with the base fire department.

When the fire department investigated the leaking ceiling June 27, it was discovered that those leaks were a result of major structural malfunctions, the worst being above classroom number three.

The wooden beams which supported the ceiling had settled upon the frail metal tile frames, causing them to buckle and crack in some corners of the building.

In other areas, the wooden support beams had actually sawed through the metal frames, but it was not until

Fire Inspector Mark Aid removed the tiles that the problem was visible.

"The problem was not immediately apparent," said Anita Neu-Fultz, ASYMCA executive director. "The firefighter investigators' training allowed them to notice a problem we didn't see. It's a very good thing that they identified this problem before it turned into a catastrophe."

After a thorough inspection deemed the building structurally unsound, the department advised the center to close immediately.

"The staff and parents were immediately notified of the issue," said Neu-Fultz. "We told them the center would be closed until the problem was resolved."

Although the building has been condemned, several base organizations like Marine Corps Community Services and Facilities Maintenance Division have given assistance

to ASYMCA by trying to establish new locations for the classes.

"The community center offered us space for storage," said Neu-Fultz. "The community has shown us so much support, and we are very appreciative."

As wonderful as it is to see the Combat Center pull resources together for the ASYMCA, the loss of the facility is felt by more than the staff or instructors of the center.

"This whole thing has had sort of a domino effect, and it's more than just us," said Neu-Fultz. "We have parent-child interactive activities here. For some parents and children, it's their only way of getting out of the house and getting involved with the community. It's those programs which are being affected the most by this."

Neu-Fultz also said she has received many letters about

when the center will be reopened from parents of children ranging from six months to 5 years old.

"We hope to be up and running and back on track as soon as humanly possible," said Neu-Fultz.

She added that if any Combat Center patrons have questions or possible solutions, the main ASYMCA office is still open and can be reached at 830-7481.

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# CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

## ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

### Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary  
 Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass\*  
 Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)  
 Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+  
 Sun 10 a.m. Rosary  
 Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass  
 Sun 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word  
 Sun 4 p.m. Choir Practice  
 Sun 4 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Group  
 Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary  
 Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass  
 Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group  
 18-35 years of age married or single (3rd Sunday of the month)  
 Fri 12:15 - 4:30 p.m. Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)

### Holy Days of Obligation Masses

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

### VILLAGE CENTER

Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women\*

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN SERVICE

#### Christ Chapel

Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School\*

Sun 9 a.m. Worship\*

Wed 7 p.m. Praise & Worship\*

### PROTESTANT LITURGICAL SERVICE

#### Christ Chapel

Sun 11 a.m. Worship

### LAY-LED INDEPENDENT BAPTIST SERVICE

#### Christ Chapel

Sun 11 a.m. Worship

## LAY-LED GOSPEL SERVICE

### Christ Chapel

Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

## MID-WEEK EVENTS

### MONDAY

#### Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass

### TUESDAY

#### Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

5 - 7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)  
 6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month

#### C&E Mess Hall Bldg 1660

11:30 a.m. Bible Study

Chaplain Flint 830-6187

### WEDNESDAY

#### Village Center

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187

#### Christ Chapel

5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship

7:00 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Service

### 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

7 p.m. Knights of Columbus

### DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

#### Christ Chapel

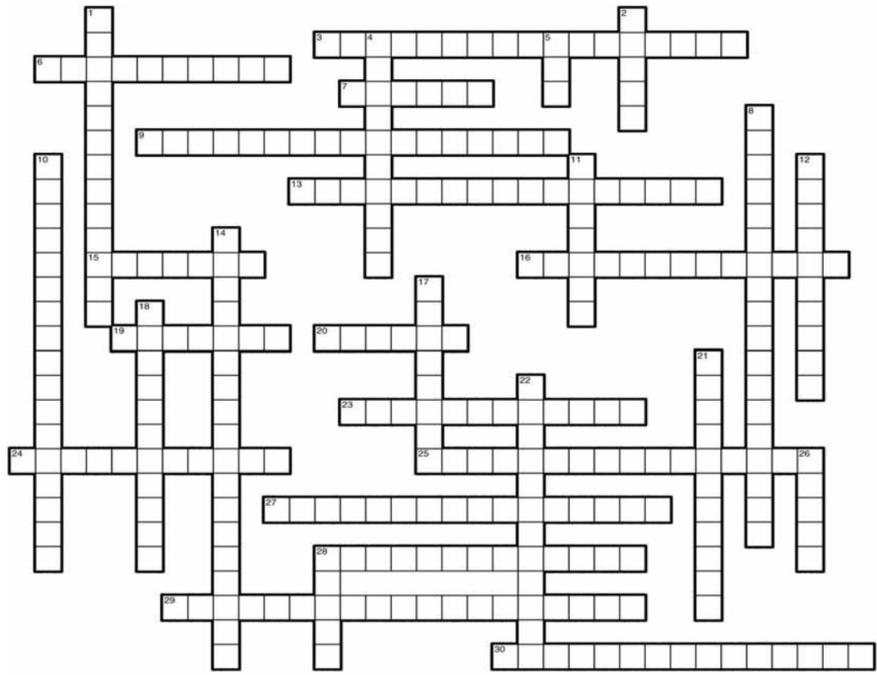
9 a.m. June 19, July 17, & August 21

## LEGEND

\*Indicates Child Care Provided

+Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646

# HARRY POTTER



## ACROSS

3. Special group of birds
6. 1st year hat
7. Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot, \_\_\_\_\_
9. 6th year liquid magic teacher
13. Turned to stone
15. Non-Wizards
16. Bathroom haunting
19. \_\_\_\_\_ go underground and search for gold.
20. 8-legged in the Chamber of Secrets
23. Anti-Hermione
24. Anger-seeing professor
25. Defeated Wagga Wagga Werewolf
27. Broken witch's pot
28. Robbed by wizards
29. Tourney of 3
30. Daughter of dentists

## DOWN

1. Shows who's where
2. Professor for Harry's O.W.L. testing
4. School for the Dark Arts
5. George lost it in the Deathly Hollows
8. Killer of Sirius Black
10. Animagus tabby cat
11. Hides in the dark and takes the form of your worst fear
12. Owner of the elder wand
14. Not quite beheaded
17. Harry's first crush
18. Misquoting journalist
21. Hermione's feline
22. Defense against the Dark Arts
26. Lupin's spouse
28. Hagrid's "giant" brother

[Solutions on A11]

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- Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
- Friday Night Intercessory Prayer - 7 P.M.

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 Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.

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 Pastor

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 spirit\_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com

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<p><b>Church of Christ</b>                  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><b>Victory Christian Center</b>                  Shaking the hi-desert...reaching the world!                  (760) 365-4302                  Sunday Morning 10:00 AM                  Wednesday 7:00 PM                  57889 Pueblo Trail, Y.V.                  Hwy. 82 go South on Warren Vista (Starbucks)                  Go left on Yucca Trail, Right on Chula Vista to Pueblo Trl.</p>	<p><b>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church</b>                  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><b>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b>                  Call for free van ride                  Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship                  Children's Bible School - Rides Available                  Visitors Welcome                  Sunday Concert Series • Call for info                  29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086</p>	<p><b>St. Martin-in-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b>                  Sunday School 9:00 am • Holy Eucharist 9:00 am                  Sunday Bible Study After Service                  We're Here for Everyone                  Phone (760) 367-7133                  72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms                  www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>
<p><b>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church</b>                  Just the Best place to get Married  <b>Father Ian Hanley</b>                  Sunday School, Holy Eucharist 11:30 A.M.                  Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p><b>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science</b>                  Healing Lives &amp; Building Dreams                  Reverend Ron Scott                  Sunday Celebration &amp; Junior Church 10 AM                  7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley                  365-2205                  yvcrs.org</p>	<p><b>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER</b>  <b>Calvary Chapel Fellowship</b>                  Pastor Joey &amp; Carol Joseph                  8415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree                  Sunday Services 10:30am &amp; 6:30pm                  call (760)366-7420 • Office (760) 366-7422                  Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b>                  Sunday Worship 10:00 AM                  Sunday School 9:00 AM                  Nursery and Children's Church                  Adult Bible Study Wed. 6:30 PM                  6804 Mohawk Tr.,                  Yucca Valley (760) 228-1747</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>                  365-4014</p> <p><b>SUNDAY</b>                  Bible School.....9:30am                  Worship.....10:45am</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b>                  Bible Study.....7pm</p> <p>Sage Buena Vista Cholla                  Pioneer Town Buena Vista HWY 62</p>
<p>Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671  <b>The United Methodist Church</b></p> <p>Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:30 AM                  Worship 10:30 AM (Child Care Available)                  Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>God Shepherd Lutheran Church</b>                  (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 &amp; Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p><b>Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene</b>                  9:45 am Morning Worship                  8:30 am Sunday School (All ages)                  6:00 pm Evening Service                  56248 Buena Vista, 365-7819                  www.yvnazarene.com</p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms</b>                  6250 Mesquite Springs Road - 367-7338                  Sun. Worship Service at 9:30 AM - Child Care Available                  Sun. School: Adults 8:30am - Child &amp; Youth 8:45 am                  A welcoming and inclusive Christ-oriented community  <b>Beth Glass, Pastor</b></p>	<p><b>First Southern Baptist Church</b>                  Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm                  Sun. Bible Study 9:30am                  Wed. Potluck 6:00pm                  Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm                  6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p>

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# Company donates free protective eyewear to Combat Center Marines for use overseas

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, received a donation at Barger Harley Davidson in Canoga Park, Calif., July 28.

The representatives who accepted the gift were 2nd Lt. Hamilton N. Ashworth, platoon commander, and Cpl. Jeremy M. McDonald, the battery's Marine Corps Integrated Material Management System clerk.

The two companies donated 28 pairs of Warrior V-Zero Ballistic glasses developed by Panoptx, a company that produces eyewear for outdoor recreation.

"We kind of collaborated with Harley Davidson on this project," said Dave Jones, Panoptx representative. "Once the glasses were developed, we called around to all the dealerships and this one said they wanted to help out."

Jones said he originally got the idea from his friend's son, a member of the U.S. Army's Charlie Company, 2nd Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, Stryker Brigade Combat Team, who is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Chris told me the glasses saved his eyesight when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle," said Jones. "A piece of shrapnel hit the lens and left a huge gouge in it. Without the glasses, he probably would've lost his eye."

Jones credits the design of the glasses for saving his friend's eyesight. The lenses are made of a material called NXT, which Jones said was originally designed to protect the pilots of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.

"The material is kind of like Kevlar," he said. "It absorbs impact energy. They're made of a urethane-based material, which makes them self healing. The nature of the product is

that it can't shatter."

Aside from the lens technology, some other features of the glasses, including day/night lenses, an anti-fog coating inside the lenses, fire-resistant foam padding around the eye-pieces and adjustable frames, make the eyewear ideal for a combat environment.

"This really is remarkable stuff," said Jones.

The day of the donation also marked Barger Harley Davidson's 30th anniversary. Prior to July 28, the dealership sponsored a special deal to help raise money for the donation.

"Dave sent us an email saying his glasses saved his friend's eyesight and he asked us if any of the dealers would be willing to send some to the troops deploying to Iraq," said Loretta Barger-Hanson, co-owner of Barger Harley Davidson. "Anytime a customer spent more than \$300 at our store, we would furnish a pair of the glasses."

Ashworth said the donation was greatly appreciated by the



Lance Cpl. Tyler Ledbetter, Cpl. Matthew Beaudin and Lance Cpl. Dawson Williams model the Warrior V-Zero Ballistic glasses donated by Panoptx and Barger Harley Davidson in Canoga Park, Calif. Aug. 28.

battery and the artillery community at the Combat Center.

"It's really a great deal for us," he said. "It's nice to see the support of people and organizations that don't have a direct tie to the military."

"We hope to do more of this in the future because it helps us out," he added. "We hope to find a way to help them out in the future as well."

The glasses will be given to members of Battery I when

they deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom this fall, and will augment the issued protective eyewear that they received from the Combat Center's Consolidated Issue Facility (CIF)

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# Lands interchange between MWTC and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest



CPL. REGINA ORTIZ

The Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., plans to interchange lands with Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

CPL. REGINA ORTIZ  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

An interchange of lands between the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest was proposed this year to better facilitate both organizations.

The interchange includes 200 acres of Department of Defense land and 308 acres of the National Forest land, on which the base's infrastructure is located, said Melanie Bengtson, MWTC environmental manager.

MWTC has been interested in obtaining the land where

the base stands since permanent facilities were built during the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2004, the 200 acres located within MWTC's training area was purchased by the Department of the Navy to ensure development wouldn't be made on the private property that would impact training.

This prompted the basis for the interchange, Bengtson explained.

In 2005, MWTC proposed the interchange to the National Forest.

This will prove beneficial to both parties. MWTC will obtain management authority for the land where the base is located, and the National Forest will be relieved of an administrative burden.

"MCMWTC personnel will be able to mitigate force protection deficiencies and provide timely land management and environmental compliance," Bengtson explained. "Presently, the Forest Service must approve all repair and construction projects in the base camp area, including environmental analysis of impacts."

"The interchange will allow the Forest Service to focus on their primary mission, which is forest management. The former private inholding can be integrated into the Forest Service's management activities," she continued.

A memorandum of agreement has been drafted on the details of the roles and respon-

sibilities of the two parties.

Although the MOA has very little restriction on the land MWTC will be receiving, this will have no impact on the surrounding communities. The public will continue to have access to the public lands where MWTC trains.

"The Marine Corps will be able to manage the base camp land as they do any Marine Corps installation, assuring compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws," said Bengtson. "However, continued access to the public lands on which MWTC trains must be provided."

The Marine Corps is responsible for any land damage or waste discovered on the land acquired by the National Forest in the interchange. Before the land was purchased, an environmental baseline survey was completed that indicated no evidence of contamination or damage at the time of the purchase, she explained.

Regardless of the lengthy process, MWTC and the National Forest have agreed and will pursue the final measures. A few environmental surveys and analyses must be completed. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Installations and Facilities, must sign the final agreement, and once Congress is notified, they have 45 days to comment.

Then, the interchange will be published in the Federal Register, making it official.

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# HOT TOPICS

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MGYSGT FORMOSA

Headquarters Battalion will hold a memorial service for Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas Formosa August 17 at 9 a.m. at the base theater. The uniform of the day is prescribed for all service members or appropriate civilian equivalent is requested. The battalion sergeant major will lead a memorial motorcycle ride in honor of Formosa and his love for riding to Camp Wilson and back immediately following the service. For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Christine B. Britt or 1st Sgt. Lociendo Ferrer at 830-6294/5418.

be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, the Chaparral Artists will have cards and small items available for purchase, and Kristina Quigley will be announcing and singing from the stage. All participants in the games and activities will be given a chance to win one of three MP3 players.

## AUGUST SMOKING CESSATION CLASS SCHEDULED

Kick the habit and learn to become tobacco free! The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Health Promotions Program offers tobacco cessation classes in the Naval Hospital. Classes are offered at two convenient times of noon and 5:30 p.m. To sign up, call Health Promotions at 830-2814. The next set of tobacco cessation classes will start August 14. Call now before it all goes up in smoke.

## AUXILIARY MILITARY POLICE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTIVE DUTY

The Provost Marshal's Office is looking for Outstanding Marines and Sailors to become part of the Auxiliary Military Police. Volunteers will receive on the job training as a Military Police Patrolman. Duties will include traffic

enforcement, DUI detection, criminal incident response and investigations. Volunteers are required to attend a one-week pre-service course to study basic law enforcement techniques and tactics. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Kristopher J. Knobel at 830-5456.

## WELCOME HOME PURPLE HEARTS

America's Heroes Foundation is hosting the Welcome Home Purple Hearts for all Purple Heart recipients and their families to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Purple Heart. The event will take place at Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley tomorrow at 10 a.m. They are anticipating 1500 in attendance including representatives from the military along with state and local leaders. Call Steven H. Dell of the Military Order of the Purple Heart at (760) 361-7203.

## 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, or (760)830-3334.

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.

## STUDENTS, WE WANT YOU!

Are you a good student with at least a "C" average? Looking for a job? Motivated? If so, call 830-7572 x3003 and find out how you can apply as a student hire at the Commissary.

## LEISURE ITEMS

### FREE MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY

Sunset Cinema is offering free Children's Matinee every Saturday at 11 a.m. Tomorrow's matinee is "Cars." For more information, call 830-7269.

**AUGUST 11 & 18: HI-DESERT CULTURAL CENTER TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR 07-08 SEASON**  
Celebrating over 40 years of theatre,

the Hi-Desert Cultural Center will hold auditions Saturday, August 11th and Saturday, August 18th for its 2007-2008 upcoming theatrical season. This will be a season unlike any other, said Jarrod Radnich, Hi-Desert Cultural Center resident. It will mark the beginning of the Center's new direction to provide only the finest professional theatre to residents of Southern California. Those interested in auditioning should contact Craig Knudsen at (760) 861-5599 to schedule an appointment.

## EAST GYM'S BASKETBALL COURTS

The East Gym's basketball courts will be closed until 21 Aug. for resurfacing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## GLOWBALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

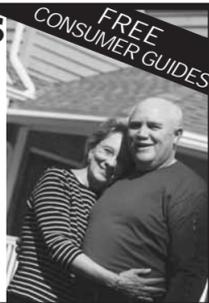
The course is hosting a Glow Ball Tournament tomorrow starting at 5:30 p.m. Participate in a 4-person scramble with nine holes at twilight and nine holes of glowball. Cart, food and prizes are all included for \$30. For more information on any of the activities call 830-6132.

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**Thur., Aug. 16 12 - 5 p.m.**

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# VMU-1 sergeant named Maintenance Marine of the Year by Marine Corps

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Showing extensive knowledge and work ethic, Sgt. Ryan Roberthon, a Marine with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, received the Marine Corps 2007 Aviation Award, Willie D. Sproule Maintenance Marine of the Year.

The award is given annually to an enlisted Marine serving in a maintenance billet on either active or reserve duty.

Roberthon, a 25-year-old Marine from Breaux Bridge, La., has been in the Marine Corps more than four years and serves as the quality assurance chief.

His job consists of inspecting maintenance, ensuring overall safety for the department and providing technical assistance to the work centers. He is also assigned as the emergency reclamation team leader in charge of assembling a recover team and retrieving aircraft after a crash.

"It's a huge honor," said Roberthon on get-

ting the award. "It's nice to get recognized, and I'm happy to represent VMU-1."

Currently with VMU-1 transitioning between two unarmed aerial vehicles, Roberthon is busy working on both the Pioneer RQ-2B and the new Shadow RQ-7B UAVs. He said things have been hectic because of the UAV transition.

"We are taking an aircraft and system that is flown by the Army ground side and we have to get everything in compliance with the Naval Aviation Maintenance Program," he said.

Roberthon, who has been in the same military occupational specialty his whole career, has filled several different billets and says there are things he likes about his job and things he struggles with.

"I like the challenges that I face from time to time," said Roberthon. "The one thing I enjoy the most about my job is knowing that every Marine in my section knows that I am someone they can come to for help with anything."

"There is so much involved with being in

quality assurance you are always learning something and discovering new and better ways to do certain things," he continued.

While Roberthon proves that he is excellent at his job, he also is favored by many of his subordinates and senior Marines.

"If I had to rate Sgt. Roberthon on a scale from one to ten, ten being top notch, I would give him that ten," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Powell, database administrator. "He is a reliable, level-headed Marine. He thinks outside of the box, coming up with better ways of getting things done."

Cpl. Andrew Aittama, quality assurance representative, agrees.

"He is hard working and task oriented," Aittama said. "He's really good about assisting anyone that needs help or has questions."

Roberthon, who has served on three deployments with VMU-1 since July 2004, will attend a banquet and award ceremony for the 2007 Aviation Awards in October. Then he plans on catching up to his unit in Iraq.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER  
Sgt. Ryan Roberthon Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1.

# Marine from 1/7 stands tall amongst peers

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Many people have discrepancies and limitations that can diminish their performance. Sometimes it takes an indomitable will to overcome these obstacles to be productive.

According to the Marines of Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the burdens Lance Cpl. Lang Vang has endured are insignificant compared to his unselfish and willing attitude to be successful and help others.

Vang, a 5-foot-1-inch rifleman with 2nd Platoon,

Company C, 1/7, is regarded by his fellow Marines in Company C as "the smallest guy in the company with the biggest heart in the company."

"Vang gives 100 percent of himself, 100 percent of the time," said Cpl. Justin Kerns, squad leader, 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1/7.

The fact that Vang scored a perfect score on his physical fitness test clearly exemplifies his hard work ethic and determination.

At age 18, Vang is one of the youngest Marines in the company, but his inexperience only pushes him harder to learn what he doesn't know. "Vang's willingness to learn excels beyond most Marines," said Sgt. Josh Lyons, a squad leader for 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1/7. "I wish more Marines had the heart and initiative that he has."

Although he may be the shortest Marine in the company, Vang's optimistic attitude allows him to stand tall and stand out amongst his fellow Marines.

Vang's size limits him to

carry the smaller M4 weapons system instead of the larger M16A4, but the rifle being carried is nothing without a great rifleman to employ it.

"He's always the first to volunteer and he never gives up," said Lance Cpl. Marlon D. Silva, friend and fellow Marine of Vang's. "He's a natural leader."

Vang works to better himself as well as those around him. He befriends and helps his fellow Marines in any way he can.

"Vang's got the biggest heart in the company," said Silva. "He always helps his friends before himself."

The great attitude Vang possesses allows him to motivate his fellow Marines and keep the morale of his platoon high.

"He's never in a bad mood," said Lance Cpl. Beau Wetherington, Vang's team leader. "He takes everything

with a lot of enthusiasm."

The Marines of Company C regard Vang as a "quiet leader" who respectfully leads by example.

"Whenever something needs to be done, I do it as fast as I can and try to think of ways to do it better," said Vang. "I just want to help my platoon."

He said he joined the Marine Corps so that he would be in a position to help out his family. He loves them and wants to assist them any way he can.

Although his family never asks for Vang's help, he

unselfishly continues to send them money because he knows they need it.

Vang, who recently married, is preparing for his first deployment and is scheduled to deploy with 1/7 to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom at the end of this month.

The Marines of Company C know that Vang's outstanding leadership will serve as a great asset to him when he deploys and for the rest of his Marine Corps career.



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER  
Lance Cpl. Lang Vang Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

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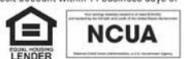
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# MWSS-374 volunteers, Reach Out Morongo Basin give back to community

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS  
M. DUNN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 collaborated with Reach Out Morongo Basin in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 3 to volunteer their time and effort to give back to the surrounding community.

The six volunteers were tasked with assisting an elderly resident of Joshua Tree, Calif., by cleaning up his property for insurance purposes. Due to a physical handicap, the man could not complete the task himself.

"We were at work one day and Pvt. [Jon] Collingsworth mentioned that we should do something to help out the community," said Cpl. James R. Cowan, chemical biological radiological nuclear noncommissioned officer, MWSS-374. "After he said that, we did some research and found Reach Out Morongo Basin."

Collingsworth, CBRN specialist, MWSS-374, said he felt it was necessary for them to volunteer.

"Marines, especially in Twentynine Palms, sometimes get a bum rep," he said. "It seems like all we do is take. We wanted to do something to give back to the community and show our thanks for their support."

The volunteers met the morning of Aug. 3 at Reach Out Morongo Basin and traveled to the elderly man's house. When they arrived, Cowan and Sgt. Michael D. Rice, another volunteer and CBRN defense chief for MWSS-374, introduced themselves to the man and let him know they were there to help. The man told them what needed to be done and the Marines got to work.

They spent several hours cleaning everything out from underneath a lean-to in the man's yard.

"When we got there, all we saw was junk," said Cowan. "Once we started cleaning up, we found stuff that really said something about this guy's life. It just goes to show that a lot of people get written off, but once you dig deeper, you uncover who they really were."

After the volunteers sorted through everything and prepared it to be hauled, Cowan informed the elderly man they would return another day to finish taking everything away. The man thanked Cowan by shaking his hand and giving him a thumbs-up as the volunteers departed the house.

Despite the heat, none of the volunteers regret going out to help and said they would gladly do it again.

"I'm proud of Collingsworth for coming up with the idea, and the rest of the guys who came and volunteered their time to go out and help the community," said Rice. "I also want to thank the squadron for allowing us to take time out of our busy work-up schedule to go help out."

Cowan said he was also proud of the job and feels it was his duty as a Marine and as a member of the community to help out.

"One thing our commanding officer has etched in our brains since he arrived is that we are Marines 24/7 and what we do in the community not only reflects on us individually, but on the Marine Corps as a whole," he said.

"Even though a lot of these guys are leaving for Officer Candidate School soon, we still want to put together another trip some-



The six volunteers from MWSS-374 pose for a photo after helping an elderly resident of Joshua Tree, Calif. clear out a portion of his yard Aug. 3.

time at the beginning of next month to go back and finish the job," he added. "Hopefully we'll have more people come with us next time. Now that the rest of the squadron knows about it, they want to

get involved."

The efforts of the six volunteers was also greatly appreciated by the staff of Reach Out Morongo Basin.

"Reach Out Morongo Basin is proud of its relation-

ship with volunteers from both the Marines and sailors stationed aboard the base," said Carla Nelson, program manager for Reach Out Morongo Basin. "We appreciate the volunteers and their

willingness to share their time and talents with our neighbors in the Morongo Basin."

Despite hectic schedules and sometimes overwhelming circumstances, the Combat Center's Marines and sailors

continue to make great efforts to give back to their community. The volunteers from MWSS-374 have set a great example and have made their mark through their endeavors.



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# Importance of Marines, physical therapy

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps and Navy has used physical therapy to help rebuild broken service members back to full duty. The physical therapy technicians twist, prod and pull pained ligaments and muscles, to find the weakest link. After the spot is found, the technicians work the troubled area. Slowly monitoring the progress the Marine makes while attending physical therapy, healing the Marine back to full duty.

Some areas of the body physical therapists can manage are back and neck pain, spinal and joint conditions, biomechanical problems and muscular control, heart, lung and neurological conditions.

"We can use an electrical stimulator, like an ultra sound, and regular workouts with some heat and ice," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Clifford Salviejo, physical therapy technician. "We try to build up strength and restore movement and function throughout all of our sessions."

The electric stimulator manipulates the muscles, ligaments and tendons inside the human body, loosening

up tight and bruised areas when applied directly to the pained area.

Along with the electric stimulator, physical therapy offers many different exercises. Stationary bikes, and elliptical's are offered to patients, along with a stair-master, thick rubber bands for resistance, medicinal, and exercise balls and a full cooler of ice packs and heat wraps for almost every known body part.

The exercises usually continue for two or three weeks depending on the seriousness of the injury or how fast the patient heals.

"We get approximately 40 patients a day, only around three are from car accidents and somewhere around four or five are from sports, the rest result in training accidents," said Salviejo.

When a new patient is referred to physical therapy, they are evaluated through prior medical history and current pain scale. The therapist then determines what type of exercises are necessary to stimulate the healing process. They are given a treatment plan to follow during every session. They will attend physical therapy for a few weeks while therapists and technicians monitor the progress



ELAINE LEWIS

Lance Cpl. John Buxkemper, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, is treated with Russian Electrical Stimulation during a physical therapy session at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

made on their set workout schedule. The patient will then have a follow-up and be evaluated for progress in strength and range of motion.

After the follow-up, techni-

cians and therapists modify the treatment plan and determine if the patient is a good candidate for aqua therapy. The patient can also be referred to the gym for any

special protocol including knee or back school.

"All our technicians are outstanding," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher White, physical therapist tech-

nician. "We are fully manned. We're here to cover everyone on this base, even people attached to units on this base but are not originally from here."

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# OBSERVATIONS

AUGUST 10, 2007

## Uniform regulation changes in effect

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Gen. James D. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, approved changes to the Marine Corps uniform regulations effective July 11.

The revisions provide clarification to the Marine Corps uniform regulations to ensure standards are not misinterpreted.

The regulations are established to ensure that every Marine maintains a professional military appearance.

"I agree with the new uniform regulations," said Cpl. Wendy Chavez, Installation Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters Battalion. "We're in the military and should set the example by respectfully representing the armed services and the Marine Corps."

Regulations regarding the wearing of cellular phones, the use of pockets and wearing non-issued bags in uniform are just a few of the topics clarified in the new regulations.

Cell phones must now be carried in pockets and not on belts. The ability to walk and talk on a cell phone in uniform is also prohibited, even with an earpiece.

Marines may not have their hands in their pockets while in garrison.

Any non-issued bags can no longer be worn in uniform. Instead, these bags must be carried by hand.

To ensure no regulation is overlooked, grooming standards are also covered.

Now, male haircuts once considered by some to be motivational, like the Mohawk, teardrop and horse-shoe, are no longer allowed.

As a response to some female Marines shaving their heads, the regulations mandate that females must have hair at least a quarter-inch long to ensure male and female Marines remain distinguishable.

The wearing of jewelry was also addressed in the new release to include rings and earrings. Marines are only allowed to wear one ring per hand, and rings are not permitted to be worn on thumbs.

Although the ability of male Marines to wear earrings was not specified in the last set of regulations, the changes clear up any misunderstandings. It clearly states that males may not wear earrings in uniform or civilian attire.

To eliminate the possibility of piercings becoming excessive, females are only allowed to have one earring in each ear while in uniform and in civilian attire.

"Projecting a professional appearance is what Marines have been taught since basic training," said Gunnery Sgt. Christine Britt, Company A gunnery sergeant, Headquarters Battalion. "The new regulations officially establish what Marines should already know."

The regulations set out to ensure Marines look as professional out of uniform as they do in uniform.

While in civilian clothing, Marines must wear belts with trousers that have belt loops and may not wear civilian attire that shows an excessive amount of skin or cleavage.

"Marines are supposed to look professional and be Marines 24/7," said 1st Lt. James Peoples, Company A commander, Headquarters Battalion. "The focus of Marines should be on the Marine Corps mission, not the way they would like to dress."

Circumstances regarding uniform regulations that might have been questionable are no longer an issue. The rules have been set in place and what was once grey is now black and white.

For further information, refer to the Marine Corps Uniform Board Web site at <http://marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/sites/mcub>.

### 10 Major Changes to Uniform Reg

- Hands aren't allowed in pockets of the uniform while in garrison
- Cell phones can't be worn on belts while in uniform
- Non-issued bags can't be worn in uniform
- The horseshoe, teardrop and Mohawk haircuts are no longer allowed
- Female Marines can't shave their heads
- Only one ring can be worn on each hand; no thumb rings
- Females can only wear one earring per ear in uniform and civilian attire
- Belts must be worn with civilian trousers that have belt loops
- Civilian attire must not show excessive amounts of skin or cleavage
- Males can't wear earrings in uniform and civilian attire



# August officer promotions



DARSEY JIMMY W  
 GOODMAN GREGORY W  
 LAW ANDREW K  
 LEBERTON DENIS  
 MATHENY TYRONE E  
 MOOR JR GARRY W  
 RAMNATH KIRTH R  
 SUAREZ LUIS A  
 SZEWCZYK JOSEPH R  
 WIECZOREK MATTHEW P



DOWDEN MATTHEW A  
 MEADS JORDAN A  
 WELLES BRYAN C  
 YEAGER IV CHARLES W



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AGUILAR HOLLY T

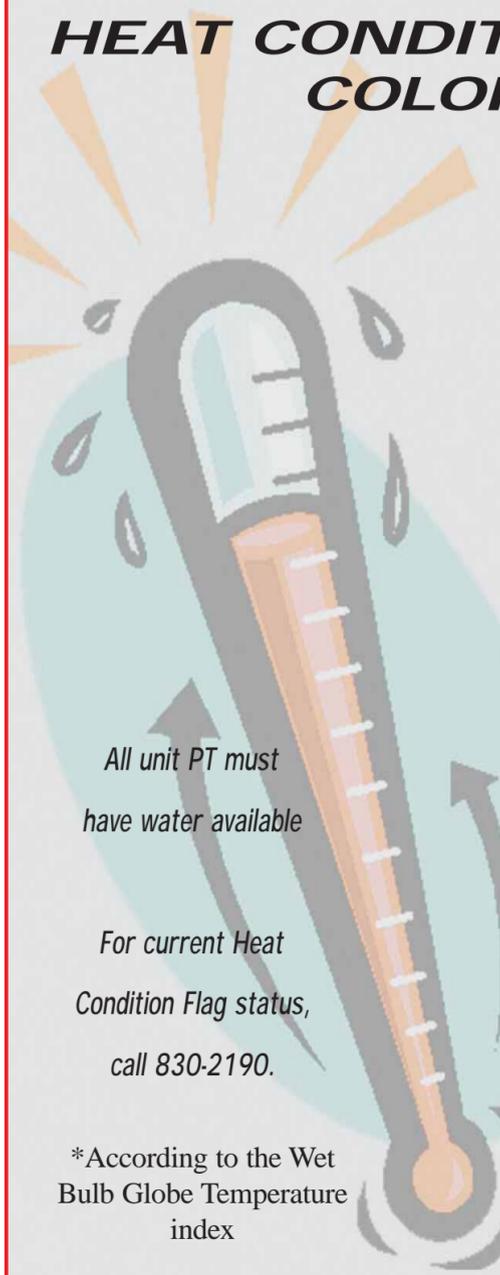


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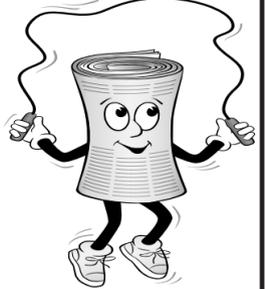
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# Survival tips for Mojave Desert residents

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It is a common plot seen on television or in movies: a lone person is stranded in the desert, left with minimal recourse for survival. Although it may be an appealing story line, it's also a realistic danger which can happen to anyone living in a desert area. Especially areas as vast as Twentynine Palms.

Temperatures in Twentynine Palms may rise as high as 130 degrees in the shade in the summer, with as little as 2 percent humidity, according to the Combat Center Handbook on Desert Environment and Survival.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremiah Dorn, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, advises locals to always stay put in case they become lost.

"If you can see a road from where you are and you can get to it, go to it," said Dorn. "If there aren't any roads around, find the highest peak around you and stay there. That's why it's important for [service members] to carry their signal mirrors with them everywhere they go. Those mirrors can be seen as high as two miles up in the air."

Dorn added that one should avoid moving around during the day, but if that is not a possibility, to stay in shaded areas as much as one can.

Chief Petty Officer John M. Pellior, leading chief petty officer at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group Logistics Training Section, agreed.

"Do what the desert creatures do," said Pellior. "Be most active in the early morning or at night and rest during the day."

Pellior added that although staying still during the day may not be optimal for certain training units, many parenting units aboard the Combat Center train at night, said Pellior.

"When you're out in the sun during the day, keep your skin covered because direct sun exposure dehydrates you" said Pellior. "Also avoid eating

large meals. You should just snack because most foods have the proper amount of sodium to keep you going."

Dorn agreed, saying that the body uses water when it digests food.

"You don't want to eat any more than you need to," he said.

There are many reptiles, insects and animals in the desert which could pose threats to humans who act carelessly.

For example, the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, usually brown colored with diamond markings on its back and white and black rings on its tail, is notorious for being bold against potential predators and its potency of venom, according to the handbook.

To avoid snake bites, watch where you step because most snakes blend in well with surrounding rocks and shrubs.

Take extra caution when in shaded areas, and make no sudden movements when placing your hands or feet near an area where a snake may be hiding.

If bitten by a snake, kill it if possible. Proper identification of the snake will assist in treatment of the bite.

A significantly venomous spider in the desert is the



Ensure you always have the proper gear handy for desert survival.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

female black widow, a black spider with a red hour-glass shape on its underside. Black widow spiders prefer dark and dry secluded places such as garage corners, sheds, under rocks and under seat pits of toilets. Although this bite is rarely fatal, it is usually very painful, according to the handbook.

The Brown Recluse, another extremely venomous spider, is brown-colored with a violin shape on its back. They usually hide in dark, cool areas like woodpiles. The venom of a bite can be deadly and actually rots skin away. It is the most dangerous spider in the country.

Bats, which are common

flying mammals in the desert, must drink fresh water daily and are therefore good water indicators.

If you are low on water, do not try to ration out the water to the extreme of dehydration. Instead, sipping water bits at a time and storing it in your body keeps you better hydrated, accord-

ing to the handbook.

For more information on desert survival, refer to the Combat Center Handbook of Desert Environment and Survival, the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital information desk at 830-2190 or contact the Joshua Tree National Park Ranger Station at 367-5500.

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# Camp Purple free to children of deployed military



COURTESY PHOTO

**COREY MCQUAY YARBROUGH**  
YOUTH OBSERVATIONS

the mountains about 17 miles north of Santa Barbara (about a 600 mile round trip from MCAGCC). One hundred military kids attended from all over California representing all of the military branches. The campers ranged from first grade to twelfth grade.

We spent our first day of camp getting kids sorted into their cabins. Once campers arrived they were led to their cabins by their counselors to drop off their luggage. We were then taken to the Sunset Bowl. This was an area where the American Flag was raised and lowered. Campers were then dismissed by cabin number and regrouped at the dining hall for dinner.

The food was prepared by Chef Fabio. The first night we dined on meatloaf with some tomato soup, salad followed by cookies for dessert. After the meal, we went back to the Sunset Bowl for a campfire. The counselors performed skits for us before rushing us off to

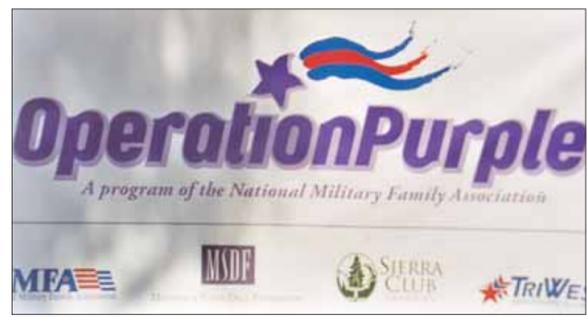
bed. Lights out was 9:30 p.m. for the younger campers and 10:00 p.m. for the rest.

Each day's activities were different for each cabin. All campers started each day with breakfast usually consisting of cereal, bacon or sausage, fruit, eggs, and pancakes or waffles. Then campers had three periods before lunch. Periods would consist of archery, arts and crafts, drama, swimming or climbing the rock wall. After lunch, campers would have more activities like rock wall, a rope course and cabin free time.

After those four periods in the afternoon, there was always a "special" period. Monday was designated "Military Day". Members from the Army and Coast Guard came and explained what they do. They showed the campers some military gear including gas masks, a humvee and MREs! Tuesday was "Zoo To You Day" where the campers learned about different types of animals from the Rain Forest and how they

keep the Rain Forest working. Wednesday was "Carnival Day". The counselors set up several carnival games including PIE YOUR COUNSELOR (the favorite game), the ring toss, the beanbag toss and the milk bottle target game. There was also face painting, balloon animals and snacks. On Thursday, a group of therapy dogs and their trainers talked to the campers about how they felt about their parent(s) being deployed. The campers were able to pet all of the dogs and were sad to see them go.

After the special period, the counselors lowered the American Flag and then dismissed the campers for supper. After supper the campers went to their cabins and got ready for bed. The exception was Friday evening or "Reward Night," as the counselors called it. Each cabin received a special reward depending upon how well behaved and neat each cabin had been throughout the week. For cabins 1, 3, 5 and 7, it was



COURTESY PHOTO

Camp Operation Purple is a week-long camp for military children whose parents have been deployed.

Macho Nacho Night. The campers got to make their own nachos and watch movies.

When Saturday came, it was time to say good-bye to the friends that were made and all the counselors. The campers regrouped with their families as they arrived and told them about all the wonderful events that had happened at Operation Purple.

Camp Operation Purple was a great experience for all those who attended and it made all of the campers feel good being

around other military kids who were in the same situation of having a deployed family member. I highly recommend signing your military kids up for this free camp next summer! OOH-RAH!

For more information on Camp Purple call 1-800-260-0218 or e-mail families@nmfa.org

This is the first in a series of articles on Camp Purple

www.mccs29palms.com

## MCCS weekly CONNECTION AUG 10, 2007



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