

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 17, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 32

MGySgt Formosa memorial service today

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A memorial service for Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa will be held at the base theater today at 9 a.m.

The uniform of the day and appropriate civilian attire is acceptable for the ceremony being held by Headquarters Battalion.

Formosa, a South Philadelphia, Pa. native and staff noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of Battle Simulations aboard the Combat Center, died in a motorcycle accident on Highway 62, July 27.

Formosa was born August 18, 1951, and graduated from Bishop Neumann High School in 1969. He joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1970 during the Vietnam War.

Formosa has served in all four Marine Corps Divisions over the course of his 37-year career.

He has served in the Vietnam War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and two deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At age 55, Formosa was one of the oldest and longest-serving active-duty Marines in the Marine Corps.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Christina, and his son, Nicholas C. Formosa, 26.



COURTESY PHOTO
Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa served the Marine Corps for 37 years.

India Battery tests new arty tech



LANCE CPL. DANIEL ANGEL

Capt. Stephen Ford (left), commanding officer India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, looks on as his Marines fire multiple artillery rounds during training at Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma Ariz., June 12. The Cannon Cockers are scheduled to be the first Marines to use a new precision-guided round in theater, bringing artillery into the fight in urban terrain.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines of India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, became the first combat unit to conduct testing of the M982 Excalibur artillery round July 6-14 at Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma, Ariz.

The Excalibur, a fire-and-forget round guided by a global positioning system will provide a new role for artillery units in urban warfare with its ability to guide itself to tar-

gets previously unreachable by other artillery rounds.

The new round also increases the effective range of the M777A2 howitzer from 30km to 40km and can strike within 10m of its target. If the round strays more than 30m away from its target, it will automatically become inert to minimize collateral damage.

"The way it works is by aiming the howitzer's tubes at a high angle," said Cpl. Kevin Collins, artillery cannoneer, India Battery. "The round acquires GPS signals from satellites once it reaches its peak height, then begins

dropping. As it drops, stabilizing fins pop out of the round and it glides down, guiding itself toward its target."

The Excalibur is designed to cooperate with the recently adopted Digital Fire Control System, which allows firing data to be relayed digitally, decreasing the possibility of human error via radio transmissions.

"We fire this new round digitally, which means my computer in the fire direction center talks to the guns, which in turn, talk to the round itself," said Sgt. Jonathan Smith, India Battery assistant ops chief.

The efficiency and accuracy of the Excalibur is expected to save both time and Marines on the battlefield.

"Instead of risking the lives of Marines to capture previously unreachable targets, we can now fire the Excalibur and take out those targets," said Sgt. Emmanuel Mireles, section chief, India Battery. "The main reason we have this round is to hit enemy targets without the possibility of collateral damage."

"One thing that's really great about

See EXCALIBUR, A7

Band sergeant volunteers for new world

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Have you ever wanted to do something out of the ordinary? Have you ever been caught by the urge to stray from the normal walk of life and run with something extraordinary?

Sgt. Regan A. Young, an Arlington, Va. native stationed at the Combat Center, wanted just that.

Young was assigned to the Combat Center Band for almost three years before he was granted temporary assigned duty with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

"I want to be a part of what the Marine Corps is involved in," said Young. "I want to be able to see things for myself."

Because of Young's inability

to deploy while in the band, he requested to be assigned to an infantry unit so his aspiring hopes to go to Iraq could be made possible.

"I wasn't really getting the exposure I wanted," said Young about his experience with the band.

Because Marines from the band don't typically go to infantry battalions, it was a challenging task for Young to accomplish his plans.

Young constantly monitored his paperwork to ensure that his request would go through the right channels.

"If you want something, you have to go for it," he said. "If I didn't have that mentality, I'd never step foot in Iraq."

Although the band members were supportive of Young, it was difficult for them to lose a valued member of their ensemble.

"It was a tremendous impact on the band to lose Sgt. Young because he played a specialized instrument," said Staff Sgt. Joe Streeter, drum major, Combat Center Band.

Young participated in the band by playing both the saxophone and the oboe. His decision to leave the band was difficult because of the unique musical abilities he learned his whole life.

"If I were in a higher position in the band, it would be tough to watch one of my Marines go," said Young.

Almost six months after submitting his request, he had the approval of his chain of command to deploy with the Marines of 1/7.

"Once I was attached to 1/7, I was not only new, but completely out of my element," he said. "It was the complete opposite end of the



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Sgt. Regan A. Young, a member of the Combat Center Band was granted temporary assigned duty to Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, for their next deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

spectrum."

Young said that his first few months with H&S Company were hard to establish himself in any authoritative position because he was not as knowledgeable as the

Marines below him.

"Most transitions in life are hard, but this was a completely different world," said Young.

See YOUNG, A5

Weekend Weather

Friday

102/81
Sunny

Saturday

103/74
Sunny

Sunday

104/72
Sunny

Inside this issue

• A4: Marine wins \$10,000

• A7: Motivational speaker

• A9: New bus stops in effect

Observations



Football season kicks-off

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1942 —

The 2nd Marine Raider Battalion under Lt. Col Evans F. Carlson landed on Makin Island from the submarines. The Marines left the island after destroying a seaplane base, two radio stations, a supply warehouse, and killing about 100 Japanese soldiers.

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



Paid-up SBP status now available

PRESS RELEASE 0707-0002
DFAS

Arlington, Va. (31 July 2007) – Participants in the Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for retired military members now have a new milestone to mark on their calendars.

Effective October 1, 2008, SBP participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in "Paid-up SBP" status.

Paid-up SBP provisions were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 1999. The law also established a paid-up status, also beginning on October 1, 2008, for participants in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan once they reach 70 years of age.

No action is required of SBP participants to be placed in Paid-up SBP status. Once the eligibility criteria has been met, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will automatically stop deducting premiums from qualifying military retired pay accounts.

The law establishing Paid-up SBP does not allow for refunds of premiums paid prior to October 1, 2008, even though a retiree may have

reached 70 years of age and made 360 or more premium payments.

DFAS is currently developing changes to the military retiree pay systems that will monitor the number of SBP premiums paid and the age of the participant. The system updates are targeted for a May 2008 completion date. At that time, SBP participants who will be eligible for Paid-up SBP status on October 1, 2008, or will meet eligibility within a short time of the implementation date, will be notified by mail of their impending Paid-up status.

Those military retirees who become eligible for Paid-up SBP status after the initial group will be notified of their SBP status on their December 2008 annual Retiree Account Statements (RAS) that will note the number of premiums paid to date. Each RAS issued after December 2008, whether annually or as a result of a pay change, will include the Paid-up SBP premium "counter," based on DFAS records, to help retirees monitor their eligibility status.

More information on Paid-up SBP, including frequently asked questions and news updates, should be available at the DFAS Web site (www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html) within the next several months.

Because your children are our children too

BOB ECKERT
MATTTEL INC. CHAIRMAN / CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Many of us at Mattel are parents ourselves. And like you, we know that nothing is more important than the safety of our children. As you may know, Mattel has recently voluntarily recalled some products for two different reasons: impermissible use of lead paint and risks associated with small, high-powered magnets.

We want to ensure that every parent is aware of these issues, returns affected products to us and knows that we have already taken significant actions to further ensure the safety of our toys.

We hope that we don't have to recall any more products, but if we do, we pledge to address the matter promptly and to inform you quickly.

Our long record of safety at Mattel is why we're one of the most trusted names with parents. And it is our sincere hope that the actions we are taking now will maintain that trust in the future.

Thank you for your continued trust.
Why are these recalls happening?

While we have some of the most rigorous quality and safety testing procedures in the toy industry, no system can be perfect. If mistakes are made, we fix them. If new standards are set, we apply them.

What is Mattel doing to address this situation?

Regarding our manufacturing processes, we immediately strengthened them with a three-point check system. First, we're requiring that only paint from certified suppliers be used, and we're requiring that every single batch of paint at every single vendor be tested. If it doesn't pass, it doesn't get used. Second, we are tighten-

ing controls throughout the production process at vendor facilities and increasing unannounced random inspections. Third, we're testing every production run of finished toys to ensure compliance before they reach our customer. We've met with vendors to ensure they understand our tightened procedures and our absolute requirement of strict adherence to them.

What can I do, as a parent, to ensure my child's safety?

We want to ensure that every parent hears about these issues quickly and returns recalled toys to us as soon as possible. With other toys, always read the packaging for age grading and always monitor your child's play. If you have any doubts at all, please check with a pediatrician or other qualified medical professional.

Will there be more recalls?
We are in the middle of an extremely detailed and wide-ranging investigation. The fact that we were able to identify a specific part of one product as problematic is indicative of how painstaking this analysis is. We hope that we don't have to recall any more products, but if we do, we will address the matter promptly and inform you quickly.

How can I trust that Mattel toys are safe?

Our priority is the safety of the children who play with our toys. Mattel's philosophy is that every employee is responsible for the quality and safety of our products. Mattel has an organization of more than 1,500 people worldwide solely dedicated to the safety, quality and overall integrity of our toys, including more than 400 highly-trained engineers, technicians, auditors and managers who strive to meet the company's safety vision of providing "Quality and Value the World Can Trust." We are working around the clock to improve our system and have already taken significant actions to do so.

C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

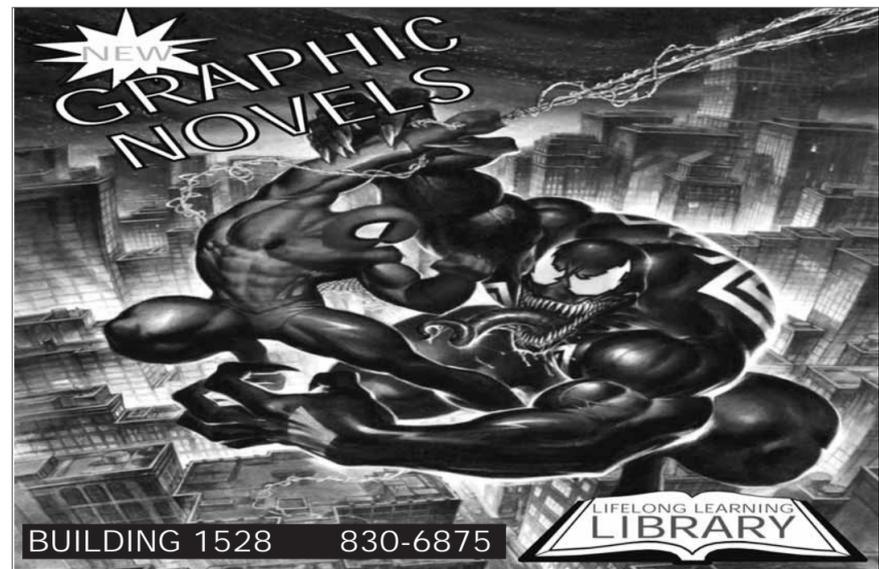
Register your weapons!

According to CCO P1630.6E, chapter 4, all weapons introduced to the Combat Center must be registered with the Provost Marshal's Office and conform to all California regulations for transport. Weapons can be registered at The Vehicle Registration Office located at the front gate Bldg 901. Personnel do not need to bring their weapon to the front gate only the serial number. Rifles, shotguns, pistols, bows, bb/pellet guns, paintball guns, air soft guns, swords, spears, and knives with a blade of over 4 inches are all considered weapons and must be registered. Additionally, you may obtain a free gun safety lock for your firearms at Vehicle Registration at any time. Failure to register weapons may result in punitive action and/or the confiscation of the weapon.

If you have any questions call the Vehicle Registration office at 830-6794.

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

Who is your favorite football team?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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



STAFF SGT. CHET SMITH

ASSAULT AMPHIBIOUS SCHOOL BATTALION

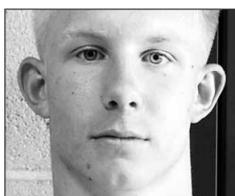
"Chicago Bears. It's just something I grew up with. It was that entire father and son bond."



SGT. AARON JEFFERSON

3RD BATTALION, 10TH MARINE REGIMENT, SIERRA COMPANY

"Red Skins because that is what I grew up on."



PFC. DANIEL CRONK

3RD BATTALION, 10TH MARINE REGIMENT, SIERRA COMPANY

"Detroit Lions since they are the under-dogs."

Attention writers

The OP is looking for newspaper stringers. Once you get the "scoop" on a story inform the post newspaper editor. Either the OP can send a reporter, or you can write it yourself. The submission deadline is Friday the week prior to the next publication. For more information, call (760) 830-5472.

OBSERVATION POST

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Operations Chief
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LIBERTY CALL

AUGUST 17, 2007

operation enduring families

end of summer Pool party

Saturday, August 18 from 3 - 6 p.m.

Join us for a great time at the Family Pool! Games! Free Food! Prices! Open to all eligible patrons.

Call Kristin, 368.0318 for more details! Sponsored by 1/7 Key Volunteers & AFAP.

MCCS Activities

- Combat Center Officers' Club is hosting Seafood Night on Aug. 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.
- The Combat Center Officers' Club is hosting Right Hand Man Night Wednesday from 4:30 - 8 p.m. Keep the tradition! Invite your right hand man to join you at the pub!! Call 830-6610 for more details.

SMP EVENTS

August 17 - 23

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

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
SMP Pool Tournament @ The Zone 6 p.m. \$5 entry fee	SMP Trip to Pirates Dinner Theater Depart The Zone @ 1 p.m. Cost: \$35	SMP Trip to Ontario Mills Mall Depart The Zone @ 10 a.m. Cost: \$5	FREE Barracks Bash! 6 p.m Barracks 1462-1467	Deal or No Deal Free sign up now Depart The Zone @11 a.m.

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
License to Wed - 6 p.m. (PG-13) Transformers - 9 p.m. (PG-13)	Finding Nemo - 11 a.m. (G) FREE Ratatouille - 2 p.m. (G) Surfs Up - 6 p.m. (PG) A Mighty Heart - 9 p.m. (R)	Harry Potter & Order of the Phoenix - 2 p.m. (PG-13) Sneak Preview - 6 p.m. (PG-13) Waitress - 9 p.m. (PG-13)	Evan Almighty - 7 p.m. (PG)	Live Free or Die Hard - 7 p.m. (PG-13)	Free Live Comedy Show - 7 p.m. doors open at 6:30 p.m. Must be 18 to enter	License to Wed - 7 p.m. (PG-13)

Friday August 17	Saturday August 18	Sunday August 19
Ranch Camp for Children, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 13-17 at the Thornton Ranch; call 365-2269 for information. Line dancing class with Jim Jory, 10 a.m. at the Yucca Valley Elks Lodge; 55946 Yucca Trail, 365-2314. Hi-Desert Nature Museum exhibit: "Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212. Bingo, 5:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament School; 6555 Sage Avenue, Twentynine Palms, 367-3341. Bicycle motocross racing, 6 to 7 p.m. at Coyote BMX, corner of Sage and Sunnyslope in Yucca Valley, 228-1299. Jeffery Heffer, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505. July 27-Aug. 18: "High School Musical," 7 p.m. at Theatre 29; 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, 361-4151. 007 and The Souls, 7 p.m. at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.	Farmer's Market, 8 a.m. to noon at the Yucca Valley Park and Ride; Kickapoo Trail and Twentynine Palms Highway. Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999. Hi-Desert Nature Museum exhibit: "Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212. Pioneer Poese Old West shows, 2:30 p.m. on Mane Street in Pioneertown. Parents' Night Out (child care), 5 to 8 p.m. at One Eighty Ministries; 6484 Center Street, Joshua Tree, 366-8429 (reservations required). "High School Musical," 7 p.m. at Theatre 29; 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, 361-4151. Beverly Derby and Bill Church, 7 to 10 p.m. at the Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505. Jackie Young and Friends, 8 p.m. at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956. Summer Music Festival, 7 p.m. on the Yucca Valley Community Center field; 369-7211.	Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. at the Joshua Tree VFW Post; 6402 Veterans Way, 366-2717. Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; on Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999. Hi-Desert Nature Museum exhibit: "Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212. Callan, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Chris Walters, 6:30 p.m. at Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505. JT Sportsman's Club Bingo, early birds at 5:30 p.m., others at 6 p.m., at the Sportsman's Club; 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree, 366-2915. Thrift Store Allstars, 7 p.m. at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.

CONCERT LINE-UP

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2007

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.

Logos for: United States Marine Corps, Hi-Desert Publishing Co., 2107.7 FM, TIME WARNER CABLE THE POWER OF YOU, MBTA.

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Cinema 6

Movie Times 365-9633 Showtimes Effective 8/17/07 - 8-23-07

The Invasion (PG-13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Superbad (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Rush Hour 3 (PG-13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Bourne Ultimatum (PG 13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	COMING AUG. 24TH • WAR •	ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00 • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.Cinema6theatre.com

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JULIAN GRAPE STOMP FESTA

September 1 2007

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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

Marine wins \$10,000



Nick Carone, Bid4Prizes vice president, awards Lance Cpl. Raymond Stone, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, a check for \$10,000 Aug. 8.

KAREN STRICKHOLM
New Motion Inc.

IRVINE, CA -- Lance Cpl Raymond Stone, 23-year old Marine with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, after completing his second tour of duty in Iraq, won \$10,000 from the innovative reverse auction game site Bid4Prizes.

Stone, who is based at Twentynine Palms, Calif., until his discharge next month, was presented with his winnings this week and was ferried with 20 friends and family members by limousine to celebrate in Palm Springs.

The Durham, Conn., native plans to use his winnings, won from the arcade portion of the site, to help pay for college costs. Additionally, last month Stone bid on and won a \$500 gift certificate to Tiffany's, which he will be using to buy a gift for his mother.

He plans to attend the Art Institute of Santa Monica in Santa Monica, Calif., to study graphic design.

"We are always excited for our Bid4Prizes members when they win our prizes," said Burton Katz, New Motion Inc. chief executive officer. "But it is especially heartwarming when someone like Lance Cpl. Stone, who has served our country, is a big winner. We wish him the best of luck as he pursues his interests in civilian life, and we are delighted to be a part of making that transition extra noteworthy for him."

Stone said, "This was absolutely perfect timing. Money is really tight when you are leaving the military and preparing to start college. I will be able to pay off my debts and pay for a portion of my tuition with these winnings, a reality that was a distant dream just a few days ago."

Career Resource Officer allows Marines to "TAP" into success

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

California Marines are responsible for 25 percent, or \$4 million of the unemployment rate given to Marines, said Virginia Sulick, Career Resources manager.

This staggering rate of money is taken directly out of the Marine Corps' training budget, said Sulick.

She explained that the Transition Assistance Program plays a direct and crucial role in preserving training money, as well as preparing Marines to re-enter the corporate world.

TAP is only the class portion of the entire Transition Assistance Management Program process, added Sulick.

The TAP process begins when an active service member meets with their unit's career retention specialist at various points throughout their enlistment. When the service member draws near the end of their active service and decides not to reenlist, he or she must then sign up for pre-separation counseling. If the service member decides to continue down the path of non-reenlistment, he or she then attends a pre-separation

brief held twice a month.

At the brief, guest speakers from various organizations including the Traffic Management Office, TRICARE Insurance, the California Employee Development Department, Veteran's Affairs and the Personal Finance Management Program brief the service members on aspects of getting out of the armed services.

"The subject matter experts come in and talk about what to expect during the process," said Sulick.

The next step is to attend the three-day course, commonly referred to as TAPs.

"When most service members enlist, they have not been initiated in the ways of the real adult world or the corporate market," said Sulick.

It is for this reason that the All-Marine Message 1700.24B was created.

The message states that all end-of-service Marines are required to attend TAP prior to their end-of-active-service date, per Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The TAP course assists Marines in achieving success outside the Marine Corps through means of career field identification, resume-writing classes, job searching tech-

niques and many more.

"We highly encourage spouses to attend these classes, as well," said Sulick. "They are making a big transition, too."

Programs like the Family Member Employment Assistance Program are specifically designed to help dependents the same way TAP helps active duty service members.

"We are not just limited to this program," said Sulick about the Career Resource Office's role in TAP. "We have many programs and classes like the dress for success class, which we offer on an as-needed basis through TAMPS."

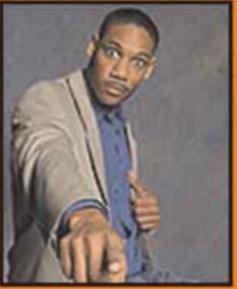
Dennis Warren, TAP coordinator, agreed, saying the purpose of TAP is to ensure successful connections are made during the course of the training.

"We are trying to wake them up," said Warren about transitioning Marines. "We want them to understand that what we are showing them is very important. The commandant thinks these Marines should all have an opportunity for TAP. It's a gift of time to prepare for the rest of their lives."

For more information about TAP, contact Sulick or Warren at the Career Resource Office at 830-7225.

FREEE LIVE COMEDY

COMBAT COMICS LIVE



Sadiki Fuller

WED., AUG. 22

7-9 p.m.



Cain Lopez



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830-5086

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
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Must be **18** or have an active duty military ID.
(No infants or babies in carriers allowed.)

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Marines honor 65th anniversary of aquatic landing at Guadalcanal

CPL. ANTONIO ROSAS
MCB CAMP PENDLETON

HONIARA, Solomon Islands -- U.S. service members, soldiers from various South Pacific countries, World War II veterans, government officials and Solomon Islanders gathered Aug. 7 to honor the 65th anniversary of the battle of Guadalcanal.

The ceremony was held at the Guadalcanal American Memorial, which overlooks the South-Pacific Ocean as well as the vast jungle terrain where more than 7,000 Americans and 30,000 Japanese lost their lives during WWII.

The Guadalcanal campaign in 1942 was the first major American Pacific campaign in WWII, and the first time the 1st Marine Division conducted combat operations as a division.

"I'm walking on hallowed ground here and I'm honored to have the opportunity to be here today," said Brig. Gen. John A. Toolan Jr, principal director for the Office of the Deputy under Secretary of Defense. "As a United States Marine, you can imagine this is very special to me."

Various government officials from the U.S., Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, New Guinea and the United Kingdom were also in attendance and laid wreaths at the memorial in remembrance of the fallen warriors.

"We wish to commemorate the unselfish sacrifice of those who brought peace to our shores and let us not forget those who are still serving in other dangerous parts of the world," said Solomon Islands Prime Minister Hon M. Sogavare. "We are forever grateful and determined to



Brig. Gen. John A. Toolan Jr, principal director for the Office of the Deputy under the Secretary of Defense salutes the colors during the memorial ceremony for the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal, in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Aug. 7

keep their memory alive."

Before World War II, not many people knew about the small island of Guadalcanal near the Australian coast, but after the six-month battle, Americans became very familiar with the events that unfolded here from Aug. 7, 1942, to Feb. 9, 1943, said U.S. Ambassador to the Solomon Islands Leslie Rowe.

Several people in attendance were WWII veterans who served in the day-to-day fighting which took place there. They crossed thousands of miles of the South Pacific Ocean to pay their respects and visit some of the battlefield memorials and reconnect with other veterans.

"I'm more scared here addressing you all than I was out in the bush in 1942," said Owen 'Buz' Miller, U.S. Army veteran who served with the 147th Infantry Regiment. Miller was chosen to speak on behalf of the countless war

veterans who could not make the long trip. "On behalf of all the veterans, I thank you for remembering us all. You have our most profound thanks."

Solomon Island veterans, who served the U.S. and her allies as 'coast watchers' and scouts were also recognized at the memorial. Warriors such as Sgt. Maj. Vouza, who was made an honorary sergeant major by General Vandegrift and who earned both a Marine Corps Legion of Merit medal and a Silver Star medal, were acknowledged for their support against the Japanese in a separate ceremony following the main ceremony.

The memorial observance was attended by the 53-year-old Toolan, who led Regimental Combat Team 1 through Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II.

"General Vandegrift said about 45 years ago that the scouts saved Guadalcanal and Guadalcanal saved the Pacific," said Toolan, from Brooklyn, N.Y. "I feel honored to remember those who served here sixty-five years ago."

The day was also an opportunity to honor another fallen warrior at a dedication ceremony later that day.

See LANDING, A9

YOUNG from A1

Because of the many noncommissioned officers in the band and junior Marines in 1/7, Young was in a position with much more responsibility than he had ever been in before.

"I still learn from privates first class and lance corporals because most of them have deployed, and I haven't," said Young.

He was placed in an environment within H&S Company that allowed him to learn everything he needs to know from those above and below him.

"With the right attitude, the senior Marine has the ability to effectively learn and train," said Streater about Young's transition to a different job field.

Young said he felt more comfortable with 1/7 after their Mojave Viper training because he had been given the opportunity to learn his job first hand and develop relationships with the Marines in the company.

"We were surprised by his demeanor and his ability to do so well," said 1st Sgt. Billy Davidson, H&S Company first sergeant, 1/7.

The physical training Young experienced in the band was completely different from 1/7's rigorous PT schedule.

"I discovered that I was not as conditioned as I thought I was during my first PT session with the battalion," said Young.

Young plans to continue pushing himself to ensure he is just as fit as his fellow Marines.

"Sgt. Young is doing extremely well," said Davidson. "He's a very motivated, quick learner."

Young now works directly with the Company H&S first sergeant facilitating and networking within the company.

Once the company is comfortable with Young's progress, he may have the opportunity to be a patrol leader for his company in Iraq.

"Sgt. Young has proven that a Marine is a Marine, regardless of their background or military occupational specialty," said Davidson.

Young decided being a part of this deployment was a major factor that will affect his decision to re-enlist when his current contract ends.

"This is the kind of experience I wish for any Marine, whether it's going from the band to infantry or from a combat unit to a non-combat unit," said Young. "The best way to get the big picture of the Marine Corps is by witnessing all of the different moving parts."

Sgt. Young and the Marines of 1/7 deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at the end of August.



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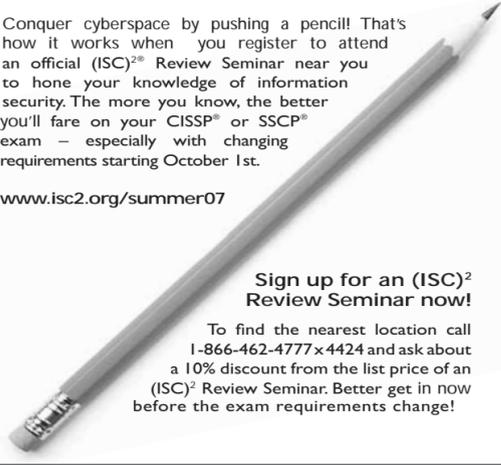
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ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chape
 Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
 Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
 Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)
 Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+
 Sun 10 a.m. Rosary
 Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
 Sun 10:30 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

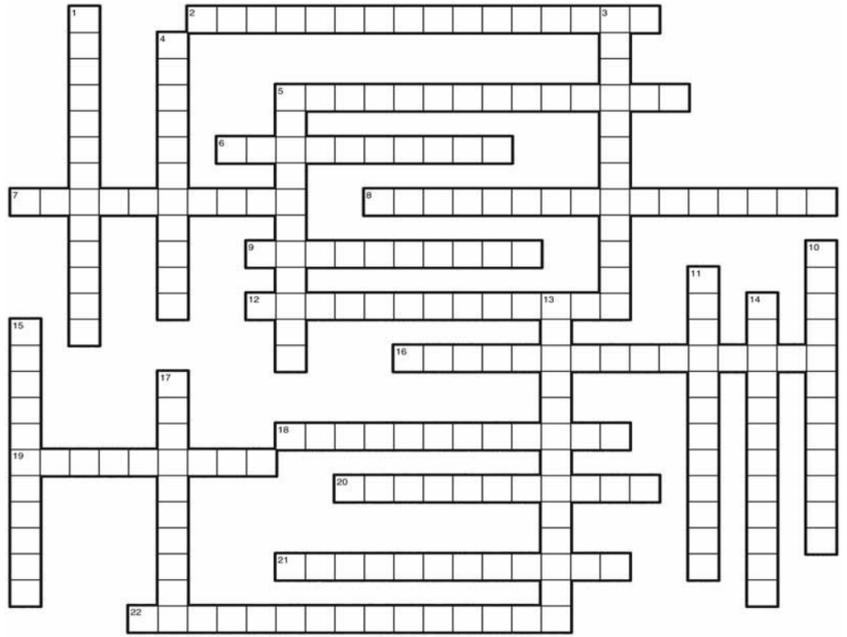
WEDNESDAY
Village Center
 11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187
Christ Chapel
 5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship
 7:00 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Service

1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH
 7 p.m. Knights of Columbus

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LEGEND
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- 5. The Big Aristotle
- 6. Flash
- 7. The Glove
- 8. The Human Highlight Reel
- 9. The Mailman
- 12. His Airness
- 16. Rip
- 18. The Glide
- 19. Mr. Fundamental
- 20. The King
- 21. Dr. J
- 22. Mr. Big Shot

DOWN

- 1. The Tractor
- 3. The Answer
- 4. 1/2 Man 1/2 Amazing
- 5. The Matrix
- 10. The Big Ticket
- 11. Magic
- 13. Chocolate Thunder
- 14. The Pistol
- 15. Mr. Clutch
- 17. The Jet
- 22. Defense against the Dark Arts
- 26. Lupin's spouse
- 28. Hagrid's "giant" brother

[Solutions on A12]

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SERE instructor teaches, motivates deploying Marines



Lt. Col. Chris Ross, Advisor Training Group operations officer, gives a high risk and capture training brief to Marines from 1st Tank Battalion who will deploy later this year.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Before a unit deploys in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, they must receive a three-hour training session called a high risk and capture brief. What makes these briefs so special is not the training itself but how its taught.

Lt. Col. Chris Ross, Advisor Training Group operations officer, travels from base to base giving deploying units their HRC briefs. However, it's not just the information he presents that keeps the Marine's attention; it's the way he presents it. Ross is a highly motivated, highly animated speaker who brings reality into every presentation, but with his own style of humor and entertainment.

"I try to put as much energy as possible into my instruction because I think Marines deserve the best presentation they can get," said Ross. "I cover a very serious subject, but it doesn't have to be painful to sit through the training. If I have to be animated to emphasize my point, then

that's what I'll do."

Ross said he cannot stress enough how important of a subject this training is to the Marines being deployed to hostile environments.

"A big part of this training is how to resist interrogations, how to avoid giving up tactical information to the enemy and how to avoid being exploited by the enemy for propaganda purposes," he said. "The key piece of the training is preventing isolation on the battlefield and capture to begin with by having good, solid combat actions."

Ross said he has been conducting HRC briefs for the past three years. He has presented nearly 200 briefs to more than 55,000 Marines.

"It's really been a privilege to train these Marines," he said. "They're ready to go into harm's way for us, and the material I cover is some very serious stuff. A lot of times, I'll lose my voice, but at the end of the day that doesn't matter because I know I put my best effort forward for them."

"I put a lot of energy into my briefs and a lot of the guys in the front row get covered in spit and sweat because of it," he added jokingly.

Ross not only provides HRC briefs to deploying Marines, he also doubles as a civilian instructor at the Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Atlantic, Brunswick, Maine, where he teaches Survive, Evade, Resist and Escape training.

"I feel that my experience as a SERE instructor has helped me develop my own style for presenting these briefs," said Ross. "I also feel fortunate to work up there because it's about a half-hour drive from my hometown."

The Westbrook, Maine, native stated he joined the Marine Corps for the challenge. He had grown up in a very physical environment, playing football, basketball and baseball for his high school.

After high school, he attended the University of Maine campus in Orono, Maine, where he studied business management. In 1984, he joined the Marine Corps as a reserve infantry officer through the Platoon Leader's Course program.

During his Marine Corps career, Ross said he has been to Iraq several times, which gives him an added apprecia-

tion for the Marines he briefs.

"One of the things that means the most to me is when a young Marine approaches me at the end of a brief and tells me how much he appreciated the training," he said. "I find it very humbling because I have an easy job compared to these guys. When a young lance corporal who's doing all the hard work on the battlefield, I really want to be thanking him. That's my motivation for doing the best job I can to train him for his mission."

Ross will be returning to his duties as a SERE instructor in September where he hopes to continue to support deploying Marines.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL ANGEL
Sgt. Emmanuel Mireles, India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, section chief, arms the fuse and sets the Global Positioning Satellite coordinates on an Excalibur round during training at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz., June 12.

EXCALIBUR from A1

to provide precision-guided fire into an urban area with minimal collateral damage," said Capt. Stephen Ford, India Battery commanding officer. "It makes artillery relevant in theater again. It's always an honor to be on the cutting edge of technology."

India Battery will be the first artillery unit to field the Excalibur round when they deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom this fall.

"It gives us the capability

to provide precision-guided fire into an urban area with minimal collateral damage," said Capt. Stephen Ford, India Battery commanding officer. "It makes artillery relevant in theater again. It's always an honor to be on the cutting edge of technology."

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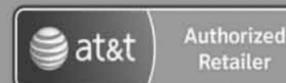
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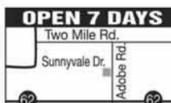
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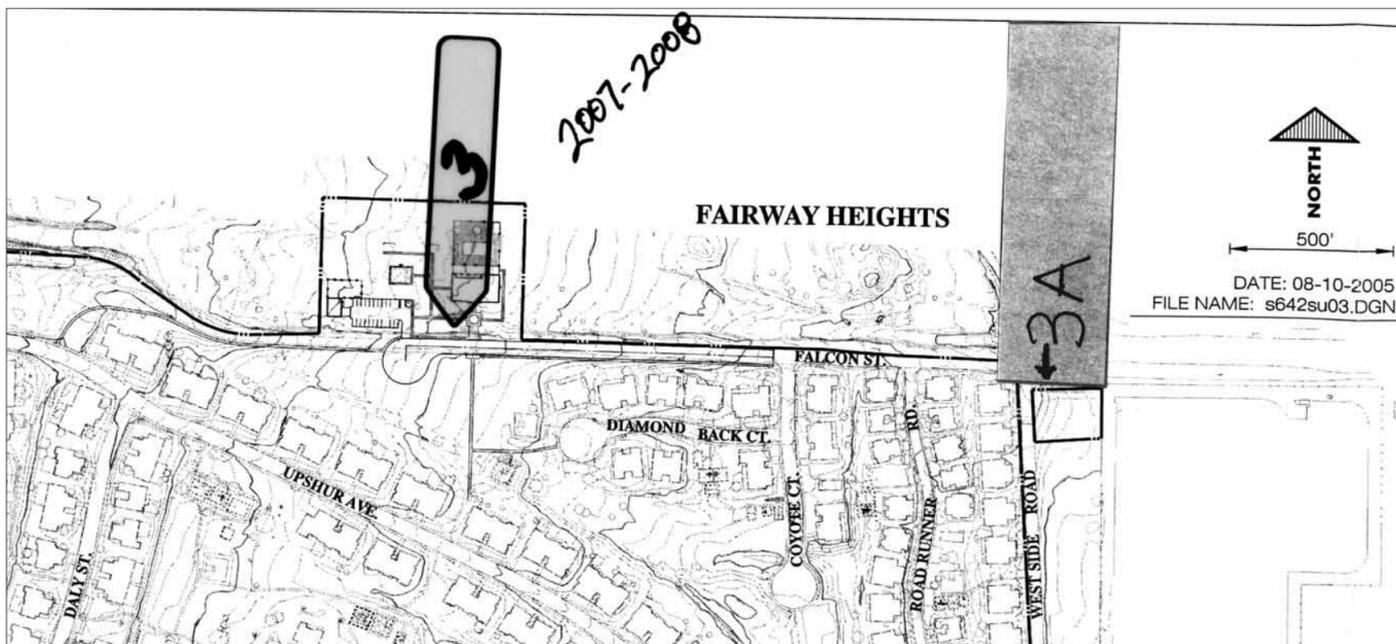
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New school bus stops in effect

Two bus stops have changed for this year's school season. Please refer to the maps on the right to locate them. The two stops are: 3A, located on Westside Rd. in Fairway Heights, has been relocated to 3, in front of the new Ocotillo Community Center on Falcon Street; and 5A, located on the east side of Smoketree just outside of Joshua Heights, has been relocated to 5, in front of the Club Houses on the west side of Smoketree and in front of the Desert View Housing area entrance.

The relocation of the bus stop signs and notifications impacted by these changes should happen soon. All remaining bus stop locations remain the same. All bus stops now have covered shelter for our kids.

For more information contact Ray Zapata at 830-1702.



LANDING from A5

A beachside memorial was constructed to honor U.S. Coastguard Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas A. Munro, who posthumously received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest medal for combat, for his actions during the Guadalcanal campaign.

Several Marines from the Camp Pendleton-based 1st Marine Division and the Hawaii-based Marine Forces Pacific Band made the voyage out to the remote island to provide support and represent the division with the official Marine colors.

"It is an honor for me to be here at this memorial where so many Marines fought viciously and died for their country," said Cpl. Joshua L. Vee, motor transport operator 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who served as a colors bearer for the ceremony. "I don't know any other Marine who has gotten the opportunity to come to this historic place for the Marine Corps. I will remember this for the rest of my life."

The island became a day of remembrance for numerous veterans from many different countries and branches of service who participated in the battle of Guadalcanal.

Every year there is an observance for the anniversary of the Marines landing at Guadalcanal, although the last one of this size and level of support was 15 years ago during the 50th anniversary of the Marines landing here, according to local government officials.

As the Marine Forces Pacific Band played 'Taps' in honor of the countless lives lost in battle, Marines like Vee fought back tears. The ceremony closed with the playing of the Marines' Hymn.

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HOT TOPICS

VACCINE TO PREVENT HERPES ZOSTER OUTBREAKS OR SHINGLES

Vaccine to prevent Herpes Zoster outbreaks or Shingles is now available at the base hospital. ZOSTAVAX is a live virus vaccination that is given to patients in order to prevent Herpes Zoster outbreaks (Shingles.) The vaccine can be given to those who are 60 years of age or older if they are TRICARE Prime. The vaccine should not be given to anyone who has had a significant allergic reaction to gelatin or neomycin. These reactions would include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of tongue/lips/throat. Also the vaccine should not be given to anyone who is pregnant, of child bearing age, or immunosuppressed. Please talk to your doctor if you think this vaccination may be beneficial for you.

REGISTER YOUR WEAPONS. IT'S EASY!!!

According to CCO P1630.6E, chapter 4, all weapons introduced to the Combat Center must be registered with the Provost Marshal's Office and conform to all California regulations for transport. Weapons can be registered at the Vehicle Registration

Office located at the front gate Building 901. Personnel do not need to bring their weapon to the front gate, only the serial number. Rifles, shot-guns, pistols, bows, bb/pellet guns, paintball guns, air soft guns, swords, spears, and knives with a blade more than 4 inches are all considered weapons and must be registered. Additionally, you may obtain a free gun safety lock for your firearms at Vehicle Registration at any time. Failure to register weapons may result in punitive action and/or the confiscation of the weapon. If you have any questions call the Vehicle Registration office at 830-6794.

MONDAY: DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Religious Ministries Directorate is sponsoring its final Deployment Support Group of the summer. All wives of deployed Marines and Sailors are invited to the Protestant Chapel Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. A Massage Therapist will be our guest speaker and will teach simple massage techniques, and one lucky wife will be selected to be her model! Free childcare will be available in the Village Center beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, please contact Sandra Griesmeyer at 830-6464 or Evangelina Cates at ecates007@hotmail.com.

TOOTHPASTE RECALL:
NOTE: This toothpaste has also been distributed in BOQs
Gilchrist said Monday it was recalling toothpaste made in China that it had distributed to hotels in more than a dozen countries after discovering the product contained a chemical used to make automobile antifreeze. Independent tests showed some samples contained diethylene glycol, a kidney and liver toxin and a central nervous system depressant. The recall involves 0.65-ounce tubes of toothpaste made in China by Ming Fai Enterprises International Co. Ltd. and distributed under the Gilchrist & Soames name. The FDA has posted a list of toothpastes found to contain diethylene glycol at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tootHPaste.html>.

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.

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.

OCOTILLO GATE OPENING AT 0600

As of 17 Aug., due to Del Valle Road reopening, the Ocotillo Gate will open at 6 a.m. vice 5 a.m.

LEISURE ITEMS

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2007

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band will perform at

the Summer Music Festival 2007 at Yucca Valley Community Center ball field tomorrow at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (760) 369-7211.

TOMORROW: 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 tomorrow for the 2007-2008 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY BBQ

The Protestant Chapel is promoting a Youth Ministry Kickoff/AWANA BBQ Rally Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Felix Field to inform parents, volunteers and children grades pre-K through 6 to sign-up for an exciting Christian ministry.

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Curtis Johnson
Shelter Service Tues.,
8/21, 11:00 a.m., at
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John Welch
Memorial Service to be held Sat., 8/18, 2:00 p.m. at the Protestant Chapel on the Marine Corps Base in 29 Palms

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Gen. Pace applauds all-volunteer force

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

DJIBOUTI – The all-volunteer force is serving the United States extremely well, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told service members at a Town Hall meeting here today.

Gen. Peter Pace spoke of the difference between the conscripted force of his youth and the all-volunteer of today.

When Pace first came in to the Marine Corps in 1967, it was a draftee military, and there were many people serving in the military who didn't want to be there.

Pace said in the conscript military leaders had to spend time motivating people to do the right thing. This is not a problem confronted by commanders with an all-volunteer force, Pace said.

"This is because you have in your heart of hearts the basic knowledge that you volunteered to do this and because you wanted to be there," Pace

told the troops.

"Everybody here either volunteered to serve their initial tour or re-upped while the nation was at war and wanted to do their part," Pace said. "God bless you for that. That motivation factor allows you to have teamwork and train to heights that you could not if you just fundamentally had people who didn't want to be there."

Pace said he thinks that everyone should serve the nation.

"I think it would be good if everyone served the nation in some capacity," he said. "Through an accident of birth we are American citizens. We grew up in an incredible nation that allows us to be literally anything we want. To pay back the opportunity is a price that is worth the nation considering."

Pace said he is not talking about military conscription, "but an opportunity for all young folks to pick from a variety of things to give back to the nation that has given them so much."



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JONATHAN LOVELADY

Marines from the 6th Provisional Security Company stand in line to shake hands and thank Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace (right), U.S. Marine Corps, for visiting Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, on Aug. 14, 2007.

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Birth announcements



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Maritza Weber
Born on June 5, 2007, weighing 7lbs 11 oz. and measuring 20.6 inches.

ASHTON PIERCE STAFFA
Son of Sgt and Mrs. Melissa Staffa
Born on June 7, 2007 weighing

8lbs 3 oz. and measuring 19.6 inches.

ARYANNA MICHELLE VALADEZ
Daughter of E4 Mrs. David Valdez

Born on June 7, 2007 weighing 8lbs 2 oz and measuring 20.2 inches.

KAYDEN LUCAS AFTYKA
Son of Cpl and Mrs. Kyla Aftyka
Born on June 15, 2007, weighing 8lbs 2oz. and measuring 21 3/4 Inches.

OLIVIA LILAN ROSE MCMURDY
Daughter of SPC and Mr. Nathaniel McMurdy
Born on June 15, 2007, weighing 7lbs 2.1 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

ISREYELLE LINDORA LUMPKINS
Daughter of GySgt and Mrs. Giovanda Lumpkins
June 16, 2007, weighing 7.10 lbs and measuring 20 inches.

ELVIS LOUIS PILMAN
Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Ismet Pilman
Born on June 16, 2007, weigh-

ing 6lbs 8 oz. and measuring 19.7 inches.

SHAWN THOMAS ADAMS
Son of Pfc and Mrs Clinton Adams
Born on June 17, 2007, weighing 5lbs 14oz. and measuring 17 Inches.

ZOEY MADISON SULLIVAN
Daughter of Cpl and Mrs. Randi Sullivan
Born June 18, 2007, weighing 8lbs 15.7oz and measuring 21.1 inches

AUBREE LUCETT WILLIAMS
Daughter of Cpl and Mrs Allen Williams
Born on June 19, 2007, weighing 7lbs 6oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

ZOEY MADISON SULLIVAN
Daughter of Cpl and Mrs. Randi Sullivan
Born June 20, 2007, weighing 7lbs. and measuring 21.1 inches

LUIS LUCIFER LANGO
Son of Cpl and Mrs Julio Lango
Born on June 24, 2007 weighing 6lbs 8oz. and measuring 19 inches.

MICHAEL JAMES KLATT
Son of SSgt. and Mrs Andrew Klatt
Born on June 25, 2007, weighing 7lbs 14oz. and measuring 20.8 inches.

CALI LYNN MARS
Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. David Mars
Born on June 26, 2007 weighing 8lbs 13oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

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OBSERVATIONS

AUGUST 17, 2007

Marines kick-off football season 1st Tanks, 3/4, Miramar battle for bragging rights in three-team scrimmage

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 3rd battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; 1st Tanks Battalion; and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.; football team, battled against each other in the first football scrimmage of the 2007 season August 9 at Victory Field.

Although the score was not recorded throughout the scrimmage, all three teams fought for bragging rights and the power to say they were triumphant.

The first game began with 3/4 playing offense and Miramar defending their end zone. Luke McDonnel, 3/4 starting quarterback, relentlessly led his team down the field gaining yardage until Brian Matthews, 3/4 wide receiver, dropped the ball resulting in an incomplete pass.

Ladarrius Robinson, 3/4 halfback, retrieved the ball from McDonnel and rammed through Miramar's defensive line. Miramar finally managed to bring him down after he had gained many yards for 3/4.

Miramar in a wild attempt to stop 3/4 from scoring made an impressive defensive stop bringing 3/4 to a standstill, which forced them to give up the ball.

Miramar's offense proved to be formidable as Tim Cochran, Miramar's running back, ran the ball up the field giving Miramar the ground advantage.

Jeremy Bacon, Miramar's quarterback, then threw a "perfect" spiral to Tyler Malcovich, Miramar's fullback, who twisted around 3/4's defense and dove into the end zone, to score the first goal of the scrimmage.

The teams switched as 1st Tanks ran out onto the field to play against Miramar, giving 3/4 a breather.

First Tanks began on offense attempting to shake Miramar's defense but Miramar held together not leaving any openings.

Chris Ashinhurst, 1st Tanks quarterback, launched the ball down field for Perry King, 1st Tanks wide receiver and offensive captain, only to have the whistle blown for a false start.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Luke McDonnel, starting quarterback for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, throws the ball down field as players from 1st Tanks Battalion close in for a tackle during the first scrimmage of the football season August 9 at Victory Field.

Felipe Gutierrez, 1st Tanks right guard, kept Ashinhurst safe from Miramar's defensive line as Ashinhurst once again threw the ball to King. He caught the ball only to be tackled and brought to his knees in a dog pile.

Miramar reinforced their defensive line to keep 1st Tanks from gaining any more yardage. They successfully stopped Ashinhurst, and were able to keep the team from gaining a first down.

Miramar brought 1st Tanks to fourth down and switched to defense. Miramar, finally able to try their offense against 1st Tanks realized they were fighting against a brick wall.

Jeremy Rykard, Miramar's wide receiver, was stopped countless times

from catching the ball.

Charles Spells, 1st Tanks right tackle, wormed his way through Miramar's offensive line and grabbed hold of Bacon, dragging him to his knees before he could get rid of the ball.

The teams switched again, this time giving Miramar a chance to rest, and bringing 3/4 onto the field to battle against 1st Tanks.

King caught a short pass from Ashinhurst and ran the ball down the left sideline, swerving around 3/4's defense finally getting dragged down a few feet from the end zone.

Rafael Estrada, 1st Tanks running back, took advantage of the short yardage situation. As Ashinhurst pitched the ball to Estrada, he curved around 3/4's defensive line and dove

through a thick wall of bodies into their end zone for a touchdown.

McDonnel started the new set of downs for 3/4 by throwing the ball straight to Joshua Wagner, 3/4's wide receiver, but Wagner's couldn't get a grip and Rv Maggitc, 1st Tanks cornerback, made the interception. With the ball firmly in the crook of his arm Maggitc sprinted through 3/4's offense into their end zone to score 1st Tanks' second touchdown.

The touchdown caused a switch of teams, bringing Miramar out on the field one last time to play against 3/4.

The final plays proved to be strenuous as both teams were exhausted. Neither team moved the ball down the field, bringing the

game to a quick end.

"For the first scrimmage we played very well," said McDonnel. "It is different, having this opportunity to play against a team we have never played before."

All three teams shook hands after the game, bidding Miramar a good game and a safe travel back to their base.

"We thought the sun was going to kill us out here," said Tyler Swanson, Miramar's left tackle. "They should do this more often, it gives us a look at what other teams do, and what we need to work on."

Even though Miramar walked away with a win, all three teams walked away with something to learn and practice for the rest of the season

Combat Center fares well at Pendleton Sprint Triathlon



COURTESY PHOTO

Capt. Chad Walton, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, took fourth place overall at the Camp Pendleton Sprint Triathlon Aug. 11 with a time of 1 hour, 15 minutes, 40 seconds.

MASTER SGT. STEVEN HAZLETT
29 PALMS TRIATHLON TEAM

A calm ocean and cloudy skies greeted 800 tri-athletes during the 2007 Camp Pendleton Sprint Triathlon Aug. 11, consisting of swimming, biking and running. The distance for this race was a 500-yard ocean swim, a 18.5-mile bike ride and finishing with a 3-mile run.

Dominating the military division and finishing fourth overall was Capt. Chad Walton, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. "I have learned to enjoy swimming and the hard work in the pool has paid off. I came out of the water this year much closer to the leaders than I did last year."

Walton set himself up for the win by setting a blistering pace on the bike no one could match. Unchallenged in the run, he easily finished the course in a record time of 1 hour, 15 minutes, 40 seconds.

Another notable team member finish was Capt. David Baril, 1st Marine

Logistics Group, Camp Pendleton, Calif., finishing sixth in the 30-34 age division with a time of 1:29:57.

A great battle took place in the 40-44 age division between Col. Micheal Stahlman, Staff Judge Advocate, and Master Sgt. Steven Hazlett, Company B, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

Stahlman came out of the water eleven seconds behind Hazlett. However, Stahlman quickly caught Hazlett and the two changed positions on the bike nearly fifteen times until the U-turn where Stahlman made a decisive move and powered away into the morning mist out of the sight of Hazlett. Again, once on the run, Hazlett managed to pass Stahlman for the division win.

Complete results can be found by clicking "2007 Results Military" at <http://www.camppendletonraces.com/sprint.html>.

For information about joining the 29 Palms Triathlon Team, contact Master Sgt. Steven Hazlett at 830-4414.

3/7 families celebrate 'A Rainy Day in 29 Palms'

ELAINE LEWIS
YOUTH OBSERVATIONS

Spouses and children from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, met August 8 at the Community Center for their monthly get together.

Anne Lewis, 3/7 Military Transition Team Key Volunteer Network representative, said the whole thing was basically to, "Have the wives and children relax, have fun, hangout, and enjoy the event while meeting new people from the battalion. When the husbands and dads are gone to Iraq, it's these sorts of things that make the deployment a lot easier."

About sixty people came to this very fun event. There were a whole lot of things planned for the children. There were two inflatables, one for the older children and one for the younger children. There were also many crafts. The younger children could make magnetic suns and finger painting.

While the older children deco-

rated hats and painted colorful posters to send out to the MITT because they were the ones hosting the event.

Before they all left the children could grab a gift bag. There were ones for the boys and for the girls. The boys had rockets in theirs and the girls had flip-flop key chains.

Cpl. Anthony Patrini, 3/7 Remain Behind Element, said, "It's our job to make sure that everything back home is running smoothly so that our brothers in combat don't have to. It's a great opportunity for all the families to socialize while their husbands and fathers are in Iraq. I hope they all come home safe."

"It's to boost morale and the wives to socialize and mingle," said Jackie Dudley, 3/7 KVN representative. "It's just going to be fun for the kids."

Overall, the whole event was very fun. The crafts and inflatables were fun, and the food was great. I can't wait for September's event, coordinated by Jackie Dudley.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Elaine Lewis and friends paint pictures for their fathers currently deployed with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment during a monthly get together August 8. The paintings will be laminated and sent to Iraq for their fathers to keep during their deployment.

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1st Tanks starts football season with hard work

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-eight Marines with 1st Tanks Battalion began football practice Aug. 9 at Victory Field in preparation for the scrimmage against 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

The Marines of 1st Tanks put together plays and practiced against each other, with the field split between offense and defense.

"There was a lot of bickering in the beginning, but we came together as a team," said Perry King, 1st Tanks offensive captain. "The other units have received more time to practice together so we need to work extra hard."

Christopher Ashinhurst, 1st Tanks quarterback, also worked the offensive line through multiple plays in preparation for the upcoming season and practiced a "perfect" spiral throw.

The defensive line held well working together at blocking Ashinhurst's attempts to run the ball down field.

"Our primary objective is to go out there and smack them around," said Tyron Scott, 1st Tanks defensive captain. "We have got a lot of strong challenging players on defense."

First Tanks defense set up a tightly packed wall of Marines, securing every play and attempt the offense made to break through.

The offensive and defensive players are brought together by Jerome Hawkins, 1st Tanks coach. He watches over all the players while they practice. During the practices, Hawkins' voice can be heard echoing over the practice, directing his players on what action to take in certain plays.

"I don't think anyone can match us talent-wise," said Hawkins. "It's going to be a great season for 1st Tanks."

Hawkins is excited to be coaching the team through the season, especially the game against 3/4.

"I'm looking forward to the game against 3/4 because I played on the same team with Master Sgt. Michael Harris two years ago," said Hawkins. "I'm looking forward to beating them."

Although 1st Tanks is already playing in the scrimmage against 3/4 and Miramar, they will continue to practice throughout the season to keep their players on their toes and ready for every game.

"It has been about two years since 1st Tanks has won a championship for football," said Hawkins. "It is time we brought it home."

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