

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 24, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 34

Marines, family ride in honor of fallen Master Gunnery Sgt. Formosa

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A sense of overwhelming sadness was felt at the memorial service for Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa at the Combat Center's Base Theater Aug. 17.

Friends, family, and fellow Marines attended the ceremony to show their respect and gratitude for Formosa and all he has accomplished.

The ceremony, led by Navy Lt. Karen J. Rector, Headquarters Battalion chaplain, paid respect to Formosa through the expressions and feelings of those who knew him.

"Master guns was a very colorful character," said Lt. Col. Michael S. Bodkin, Headquarters Bn. commanding officer. "His untimely death is a great loss to the Marine Corps and everyone who was fortunate enough to know him."

Formosa was referred to many times during the ceremony as someone who was always more than happy to share his experiences and pass on his knowledge to everyone he met, even if it took all day.

"He was like a brother, a father and, in some cases, a grandfather to all of us here," said Bodkin.

Formosa was always open to

every Marine who approached him, whether they had been enlisted for 20 months or 20 years.

"He treated everyone with the respect and dignity they deserved," said Staff Sgt. Frank A. Villaverde, Battle Simulations combat instructor.

Formosa not only mentored the Marines he met in his illustrious career, he befriended them as well.

"He was a good Marine, a great man, and an even better friend," said Villaverde.

After the ceremony, a memorial motorcycle ride led by Sgt. Maj. Nicholas J. Bourikas, Headquarters Bn. sergeant major, went to Camp Wilson and back to the Base Theater in memory of Formosa, and the drive he made everyday on his motorcycle, regardless of the weather conditions.

"In death, people are often remembered for the good they've done or the mistakes they've made," said Rector. "The good that he has done far outweighs any mistakes he made."

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,



Sgt. Maj. Nicholas J. Bourikas, Headquarters Battalion sergeant major, leads the memorial motorcycle ride in honor of Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa to Camp Wilson and back to the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Friday.

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.

2/7 War Dogs come back from Iraq!



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Sgt. Jeff Christian, a sniper with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, runs into the arms of his wife, Jennifer, after returning from a seven-month deployment. Christian returned with more than 300 fellow Marines and sailors Wednesday.

The remaining parties from 2/7 will continue to return over the course of the weekend. Base officials will release public information about 2/7's return via local Morongo Basin radio stations 92.1, 96.6, and 107.7 FM, as it becomes available.

NREA protect natural, environmental resources

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs has been protecting and restoring the natural and environmental aspects of the base for many years.

NREA consists of two divisions, environmental affairs and natural resources. Environmental affairs cover the air and water elements on the base.

"The main thing we do for the air side is ensure that all external combustion engines and other equipment on the installation are permitted by Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District," said Phil Chambers, the air resource manager for NREA. "We are always on the lookout for ways to eliminate harmful things."

The NREA works around the clock to make sure that they help the Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center train to their full extent.

"If there is anything that can harm the troops, we need to be able to prevent it," said Chambers.

The air element in the NREA has

worked to reduce the Respiratory Crystalline Silica, which works similar to asbestos and damages the respiratory system.

NREA has sent out workers to take soil samples throughout the entire base, and is starting a project to sample the air for RCA.

The water aspect of NREA works along side of the city of Twentynine Palms. They conduct studies on the waste management produced from the base, and the bases water treatment plant.

The natural resource side of the NREA is split into two sections, the natural resources section and the cultural resources section.

"Our biggest purpose is to make sure the Marine Corps air Ground Combat Center is in compliance with federal and state law, and are within regulations of Marine Corps orders," said Brent Husung, NREA natural resource specialist.

The entire Marine Corps must work with the Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and the Marine Corps must work within the Sikes Act that requires the Department of Defense to

develop and use an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan aboard all military installations in the United States.

The Marine Corps must be in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act, which requires the Marine Corps to integrate environmental values into their decision making process by considering the environmental impacts of proposed actions. After looking into these impacts, NREA will advise the Marine Corps to different alternatives.

The NREA must also advise the Marine Corps on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is one of the oldest federal laws that protect migratory birds. This act ensures that a bird's natural habitats are not being destroyed. Only 10 are allowed to be removed from its original place per year.

The cultural resource section in NREA works to reserve and manage all cultural areas, archeological sites, historic structures and paleontology studies. The cultural side of NREA uses three phases to work.

See NREA, A8

Weekend Weather

Friday  103/78
Sunny

Saturday  100/81
Partly Cloudy

Sunday  98/75
Partly Cloudy

Inside this issue

- A5: Wolfpack completes Mojave Viper
- A8: Former base sergeant major memorialized
- A10: Ending barracks larcenies

Observations



Observing Women's Equality Day

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1814 —

114 Marines helped defend Washington, D.C., in the battle of Bladensburg.

Adult medical care clinic

PREVENTIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCESS

To comply with DOD 6200.4 and OPNAVINST 6120.3, all permanent party active duty members of Headquarters Battalion and MCCES must schedule a Preventive Health Assessment (PHA) with the Adult Medical Care Clinic (AMCC) during their birth month. The PHA process takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Adult Medical Care Clinic maintains a database of PHAs performed and provides reporting of monthly compliance to unit commanders. To schedule a PHA, call 830-2621, email Bradley.Wiens@med.navy.mil, or stop by the clinic. PHAs are not performed on Thursdays.

C.O.P. Corner

Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Drinking and driving can cost you

With Labor Day approaching, service members can look forward to an upcoming 96 hour liberty. Some people may choose to stay at home and barbecue with family, while others may choose to go drink to have a good time.

With drinking comes a lot of responsibility, such as obeying the legal drinking age of 21 and not letting anyone under age drink, as well as not drinking and driving. Drinking and driving can cost you a lot of money, wasted time, and possibly your career.

Did you know that the penalties for DUI or DWI in California (Maximum), are:

1st offence = 6 months in jail, up to \$1,800 fine and license suspended for 120 days.

2nd offence = 1 year in jail, \$1,000 fine and license suspended for one year.

3rd offence = 1 year in jail, \$1,000 fine and license suspended for three years.

These are just the punishments and along with that you also have the cost of everything else.

Vehicle towing	\$150
Storage	\$50 per day
Booking, fingerprinting, and photo fee	\$156
Drivers license reinstatement fee	\$125
Car insurance increase	
(3-year mandatory insurance requirements)	\$1,000 per year
1st offense DUI fine	\$1,400 to \$1,800
Assessment for the court system	\$816
Community service fee	\$150
DUI victims fund	\$100
Alcohol abuse education fund	\$50
DUI classes	\$550
DUI Victims' Impact sessions	\$20
Time payment charge	\$35
Public transportation for one year	\$500 to \$800
Minimum total fees, fines, and assessments	\$8,240*

* If you use an attorney, the initial consultation could range from \$750 to \$1,000

After these charges you will also be subject to punishment under the UCMJ, which may include loss of pay or pay grade. Be smart and don't drink and drive.

For more information go to the Web site www.dmv.ca or <http://www.dui-help.com>.

The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through Crime Prevention: literature, briefs, education, crime assessments, safety tips, the Stranger Danger program, McGruff the Crime Dog, the Officer Friendly program, the Property Marking program, and the Child Identification and Fingerprinting program. For more information call Crime Prevention, 830-6094/5457.

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



Uniform Regulations

- No eccentric hair, facial hair, make-up, jewelry or eyeglasses
- No smoking, chewing, drinking while walking in uniform or in formation
- No wearing visible phones, pens, personal backpacks, excessive jewelry, tobacco or key chains while in uniform
- No non-issued bags cannot be worn in uniform
- Only one ring may be worn on each hand, and no rings on thumbs
- Necklaces will not be visible in uniform
- Males cannot wear earrings in uniform and civilian attire
- Females can only wear one earring per ear in uniform and civilian attire
- No removable dental devices shall be worn unless prescribed by a dentist
- No eccentric eyeglasses can be worn in uniform
- Contact lenses must imitate natural eye colors
- Religious apparel must not be visible in uniform
- Male hair shall not exceed 3 in. on the top and 1/8 in. on the sides and it must fade/blend together
- Sideburns will not extend past the orifice of the ear
- No horseshoe, Mohawk, low regulation cuts or teardrop haircuts are allowed
- Hair color must appear natural
- Mustaches are the only acceptable facial hair for males
- Male fingernails shall not exceed past the fingertips
- Female Marines must not have shorter hair than ? in.
- Only conservative cosmetics are allowed for females in uniform
- Female fingernails must be no more than ? in. past the fingertips
- Only French manicures are allowed for females in uniform
- Lipstick must be in shades of red
- Mascara must be black or brown
- Excessively revealing clothing is unacceptable for civilian attire
- Clothing not specifically designed to be headgear is prohibited for civilian attire

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



Centerspeak

What does Labor Day mean to you?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

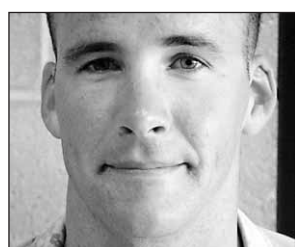
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2ND LT. KRISTOPHER KNOBEL
OPERATIONS OFFICER PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE



MASTER SGT. CRIS COWAN
BATTALION OPERATIONS CHIEF 3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT



SGT. JONATHAN RUSH
TANK CREWMAN COMPANY D, 1ST TANK BATTALION

"It's a good time at the end of summer to hang out with your friends."

"A day where we celebrate the worker and the last official weekend of summer for the kids to enjoy."

"A day to take a break from the real world and relax or hang out with friends and family."

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.

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LIBERTY CALL

Free Children's Matinee Tomorrow 11 a.m.



WALT DISNEY PICTURES
chicken little
This time the sky really is falling

COMBAT CENTER BAND
Last Concert of Summer



Tues. Sept. 11 @ 7:30 p.m.
at Sunrise Park, Palm Springs
For more info call: 830-6635

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

Friday I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry 6 p.m. (PG-13) Transformers 9 p.m. (PG-13)	Hairspray 6 p.m. (PG) Sunshine 9 p.m. (R) Sunday Ratatouille 2 p.m. (G) A Mighty Heart 6 p.m. (R) I Know Who Killed Me 9 p.m. (R)	Monday Evan Almighty - 7 p.m. (PG) Tuesday License to Wed 7 p.m. (PG-13) Wednesday Hairspray 6 p.m. (PG) Thursday Sunshine 9 p.m. (R)
Saturday Free Chicken Little Matinee 11 a.m. Harry Potter Order of the Phoenix 2 p.m. (PG-13)		

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM



SMP EVENTS
August 24 - 30



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

SATURDAY SMP Trip to Magic Mountain Depart The Zone @ 7 a.m. Cost: \$20	SATURDAY Lonestar Concert at Spotlight 29 Casino, Palm Springs Depart The Zone @ 6 p.m. Cost: \$5	TUESDAY SMP Checkers Tournament @ The Zone, 6 p.m. FREE!
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LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

SMP makes splash at Barracks Bash

Sgt. Maj. Nicholas J. Bourikas, Headquarters Battalion sergeant major, sits on the dunk tank and lets Marines take a chance at dousing him at the Single Marines Program's Barracks' Bash at building 1467 Tuesday.

MCCS
MARINE CORPS Community Services 29 Palms

Cinema 6
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633 Showtimes Effective 8/24/07 - 8-30-07

War (R) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Superbad (R) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Bourne Ultimatum (PG 13) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
The Invasion (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 6:30 Mon-Tues: 4:30	Rush Hour 3 (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 4:00, 9:00 Mon-Tues: 2:00, 7:00	Starts 8/29 Balls of Fury W-Thur: 2:43, 7:00 Coming 8/31 Halloween (2007) www.Cinema6theatre.com

U-HAUL RENTALS 29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley 361-7141

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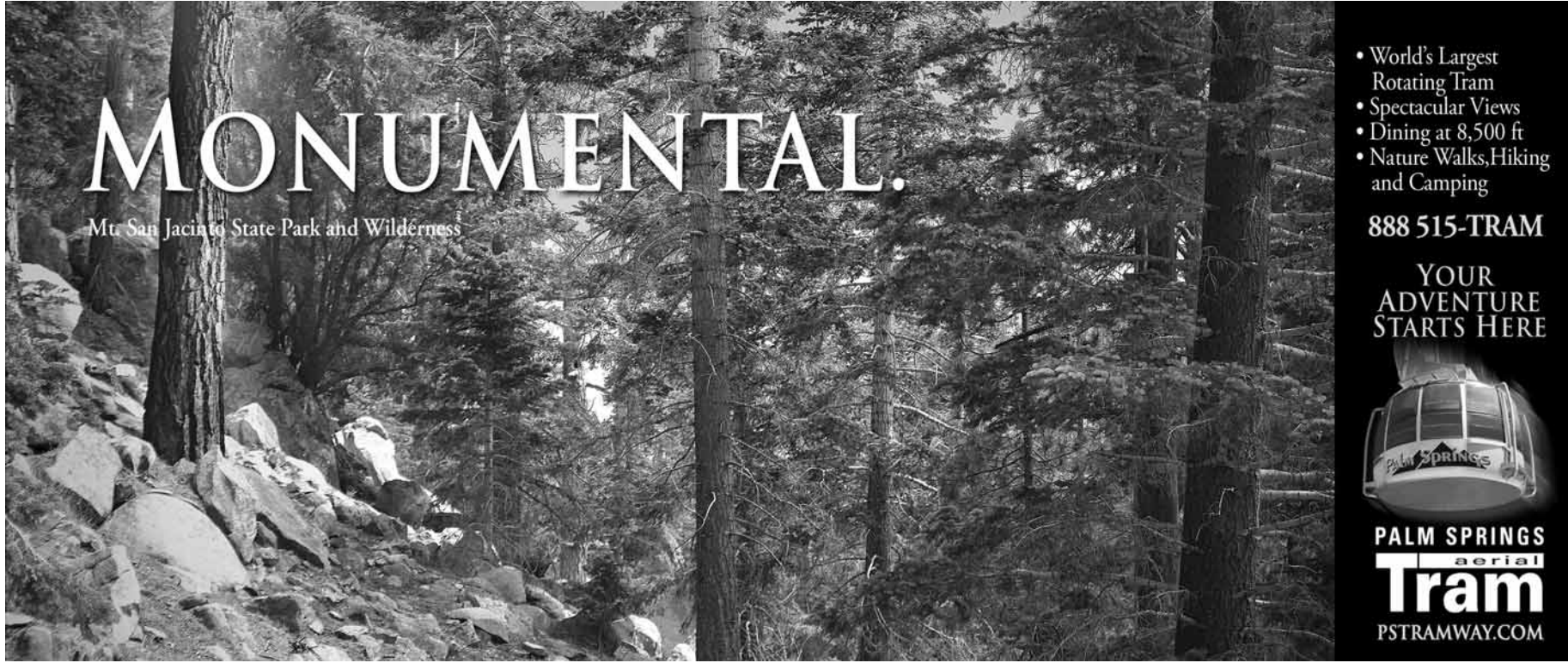
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HOT TOPICS

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.

MARINE CORPS COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ACCEPTING ENROLLMENTS NOW!

The Marine Corps College of Continuing Education <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce/> is the center for advancing Expeditionary

Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education Programs DEP. In addition to conducting seminars for EWS and CSC, the regional coordinators provide support to students who are completing these courses independently. CCE seminar program academic year runs October through May and consists of a two-hour seminar that meets once a week. Seminars for all courses will be available again this year at Camp Pendleton beginning in October. Enrollments are being accepted now. If you have questions about officer professional military education requirements, or if you need more information about enrollment or seminar schedules, contact the Camp Pendleton Regional Coordinator, Mr. Jeffrey Willis at (760) 725-8400(DSN 365,) or by email at jwillis@cot.s.com

NEW HOURS FOR WEST GYM

The West Gym's new hours are:
Monday - Friday: 4:30 a.m. -9 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: 8 a.m. -8 p.m.
Holidays: 10 a.m. -4 p.m.
For more information, call the West gym at 830-6451.

NEW HOURS FOR NAVAL HOSPITAL

The outpatient clinics and some ancillary services in the Laboratory, Radiology and Pharmacy will now

open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will continue with some exceptions. Starting Oct. 1 the first appointment will be 8 a.m., and the last appointment of the morning at 11:40. The first appointment in the afternoon will be 1, and the last appointment for the day at 4. The hospital's practice of closing clinics on Wednesday afternoons will move to Thursday mornings until 9 a.m. Appointments will also increase from 15 to 20 minutes in length. The Emergency Medicine Department will remain open 24-hours a day, and our inpatient care in Desert Beginnings and Multi-Service wards is always open. For further information or to schedule an appointment, call Central Appointments at 830-2752.

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

Due to Del Valle Road reopening, the Ocotillo Gate will open at 6 a.m. vice 5 a.m.

LEISURE ITEMS

LONESTAR AT SPOTLIGHT 29 CASINO THIS SATURDAY NIGHT!

The country superstar band Lonestar is performing at the Spotlight 29 Casino Saturday night, August 25. Single Marine Program will take you there for only \$5.00,

leaving at 1800. We still have plenty of room on the bus! Sign up at the Zone. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy quality entertainment for less than the cost of the gas to go! We can take up to 80 people! A LIVE concert at a casino, some things are a no brainer! POC is Susan Davis at 830-4767.

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.

NOW-OCTOBER 30: TWILIGHT TUESDAY'S AT DESERT WINDS GOLF COURSE

Desert Winds Golf Course is offering Twilight Tuesday's where \$15 buys you golf, cart and prizes. Golf league will run from July 31 thru October 30 beginning at 5 p.m. Format of play will vary from week to week. For more information, call 830-6132.

YOUTH SPORTS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

Youth Sports needs volunteer Soccer Coaches for ages 4 to 14. The season starts Monday and runs through November. For more information, call 830-8421/3910.

Diana Durr Chuck Caplinger
Hospice of Morongo Basin
 Cordially invites you to a preview showing of 50 hand painted Tortoises by local artists
 Anne Lear Cheryl Kandel
Wednesday, August 29
 10 am - 7 pm
 at the Hospice Office
 61675 29-Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree
366-1308

Community Center, club houses welcome family, friends

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lincoln Military Housing aboard the Combat Center has recently opened the Ocotillo Community Center and two club houses to their residents.

The two club houses, named Desert View Club House and Adobe Flats Club House, are an ideal place to hold parties. Both buildings are

equipped with a swimming pool, kitchen and a small living room with a television.

The living room comes with furniture to allow for comfort when watching television.

The two club houses come with the usual appliances like microwaves, refrigerators and dishwashers. The kitchen can be used to make birthday cakes, finger foods and dinner for big parties.

"Families can have more of a community feel since they are not cramped inside their own home," said Tia M. Vargas,

LMH district manager. "The community center and club houses can accommodate more people than residents houses can."

Vargas also explained that residents enjoy using the club houses opposed to their own houses for parties because they don't have to worry about cleaning their house and furnishing it before the party.

With few places to hold parties in Twentynine Palms, families have taken advantage of Ocotillo Community Center, holding birthday parties

and family get-togethers.

"We get reservations from families for birthday parties to Super Bowl parties," said Vargas.

The community center can be reserved for military unit functions as well, such as family days, holiday gatherings and sporting events.

Military spouses and families have used the community center to hold parties or have their children use it to make posters and signs for their fathers who are deployed. It has a gym big enough to play indoor sports or have inflatable jungle-gyms for children.

Ocotillo Community Center is in building 4000, Desert View Club House is in building 6900 and Adobe Flats Club House is in building 8100.

For more information about the community center and club houses, please contact Tia Vargas at (760) 368-4500.

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Wolf Pack completes Mojave Viper, maintains stability in Wadi al Sahara

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, also known as the "Wolf Pack," completed the month-long Mojave Viper pre-deployment training at Combat Center Range 215 Aug. 16.

Their training concluded with a 60-hour final exercise that took place in the mock town of Wadi al Sahara at Range 215.

"We spent the first week and a half in classes at Camp Wilson," said Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Hampton, company gunnery sergeant, Comanche Company, 3rd LAR. "After that, we spent about a week learning combined arms warfare, then spent another week learning urban warfare."

The FINEX kicked off at 6 p.m. Aug. 13. The Wolf Pack and supporting elements of Company C, 1st Tank Battalion and 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion from Camp Lejeune, N.C., occupied Wadi al Sahara and began setting up operations, establishing a presence in the town and sending patrols out every other hour.

"Every cause will have an effect here later on," said Hampton. "If you're nice to the people, the situation will be calm, but if you're being mean to them, they'll respond with sniper fire and improvised explosive devices."

In addition to the Marines being a security force in Wadi al Sahara, they also established both police and military training teams who worked side-by-side with Iraqi police and Iraqi Army units in the town.

"It's an honor for me to work with the Marines," said Hassan, Wadi al Sahara police chief. "I want the help of the Marines to clear the insurgents out of the country to have freedom once and for all. With your technology, your help and your training, day by day, my men get better and better."

Since many of the patrols were made up of both Marine and Iraqi forces, it also gave the Marines the opportunity to learn from the Iraqis.

"This is their country so they'll always have an advantage over us," said Lance Cpl. Moses Moore, rifleman, 3rd Platoon, Comanche Company. "They speak the language, know the customs and traditions, and know the day-to-day routine of their land."

The patrols not only provided security for the town, but they also provided the Wolf Pack with a means of interacting with the local population. They have been taught how to say many phrases in Iraqi Arabic and have even learned from the Iraqi police officers.

"We need to learn how to not be afraid of the people here," said Lance Cpl. David Young, rifleman, 3rd Platoon, Comanche Company. "We need to learn how to communicate with these people. Basic communication is key."

Throughout the FINEX, the Wolf Pack encountered many different scenarios, such as wedding and funeral processions, insurgent attacks and raids. During the second night of the FINEX, a Marine was captured and held hostage by insur-



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines from Comanche Company and Iraqi Police patrol the streets of Wadi al Sahara at Combat Center Range 215 Aug. 15.

gents for approximately two hours. Patrols scoured the dark, gloomy streets of Wadi al Sahara in search of information. Once they determined the missing Marine's location, the Wolf Pack set out on the war path, conducting a raid that not only successfully recovered the Marine, but also did not result in any casualties.

In addition to keeping the streets of Wadi al Sahara safe, the construction of a new water treatment facility was completed. Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiess, Combat Center commanding general, visited Wadi al Sahara to commemorate the opening of the facility that brought fresh water and new jobs to the town.

After the FINEX ended at 6 a.m. Aug. 17, the Marines and sailors of the Wolf Pack returned to Camp Wilson for a debriefing from Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, commanding general, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command and I Marine Expeditionary Force and their battalion commander. The following day, the Wolf Pack celebrated their completion of Mojave Viper with a barbecue at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

Now that they have completed Mojave Viper, the Wolf Pack will deploy to Iraq in September in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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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

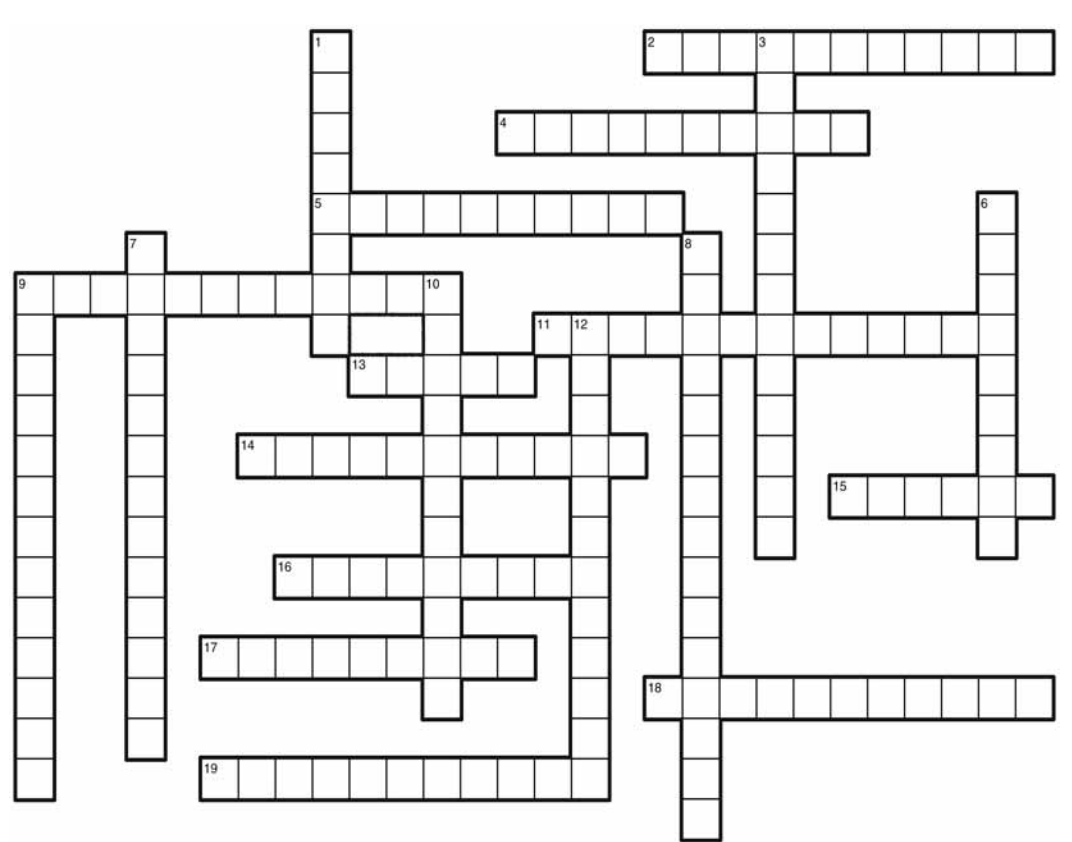
WEDNESDAY
Village Center
 11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187
Christ Chapel
 5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship
 7:00 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Service

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

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

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 - The thunder from down under
 - Tommy
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 - From Guns n' Roses to Velvet Revolver
 - Played the Star Spangled Banner at Woodstock
 - 15 "Beale Street Blues Boy"
 - Was an "Iron Man"
 - Used a violin bow on his guitar in "Dazed and Confused"
 - "the father of Chicago Blues"
 - Carolina's in his mind
- DOWN**
- Life's been good to him so far
 - Grammy Award-winning artist from Mexico
 - He's got "Cat Scratch Fever"
 - Was a rolling stone 8 _____ and Double Trouble
 - Famous for making his guitar "talk"
 - Was born a ramblin' man
 - Played on the dark side of the moon

[Solutions on A8]

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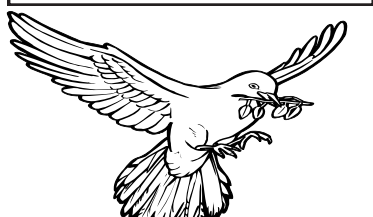
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 WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM
 READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs.-Sat. 12-3 PM (Except Holidays)
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 Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley

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 Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm
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 Wed. Potluck 6:00pm
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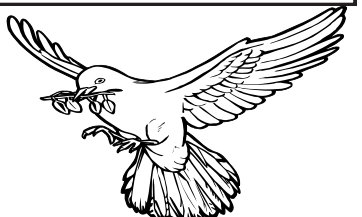
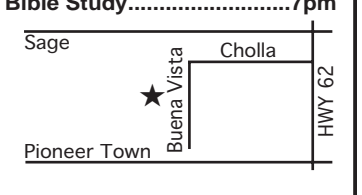
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Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program kicks off second year

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program for Headquarters Battalion had the first meeting of their second year running aboard the Combat Center Tuesday at the Sunset Cinema.

The program is open to military and civilian riders living near or aboard the Combat Center.

During the first year of running, MSAP only had five active members. This year

they hope to have more than 100 active members riding with them.

"We did pretty good last year but we want to do better," said Sgt. Jody Bridges, MSAP president. "The most important thing to me is that this does not die off when I leave."

The program holds safety and training rides monthly. It also holds monthly classes to remind riders of the hazards they may find on the road, and what to look out for while riding. It provides junior riders a chance to talk

to and learn from senior riders who have been riding for 20 or more years.

"I think that people who get any type of training and riding awareness is very critical and very important," said Roger Green, Preservation, Packaging, and Packing employee. "Riders should be able to learn a lesson through conversation rather than hard painful experience."

MSAP is the only program on base with Motorcycle Safety Foundation-trained rider coaches, which gives MSAP the ability to train

without safety instructors, and command approval.

MSF has internationally recognized standards of excellence in motorcycle rider education and training. MSF works with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, state governments, military and many other organizations to help improve the knowledge about motorcycle safety.

MSF actively participates in government relations, research and public awareness. It also works alongside other motorcycling and pub-

lic organizations to help make streets and highways safe for motorcycles.

"MSAP is great because it gives riders a network of friends and events for them to participate in," said Bridges. "It gives them something to do, and someone to ride with."

Green agreed with Bridges.

"I think once people start hearing about it, and the command gets involved, more people will start showing up," he said. "A lot of these riders want to belong

in a group and experience the ride, comradeship and adventure."

MSAP riders will take a weekend off and ride to predestined areas. This year they are hoping to make it out to places such as Joshua Tree National Park and Big Bear.

The group will also participate in rides to help with charity and the community. Some of these events are Run for the Troops and Toys for Tots Poker Run.

For more information on MSAP contact Sgt. Jody Bridges at 830-3000.



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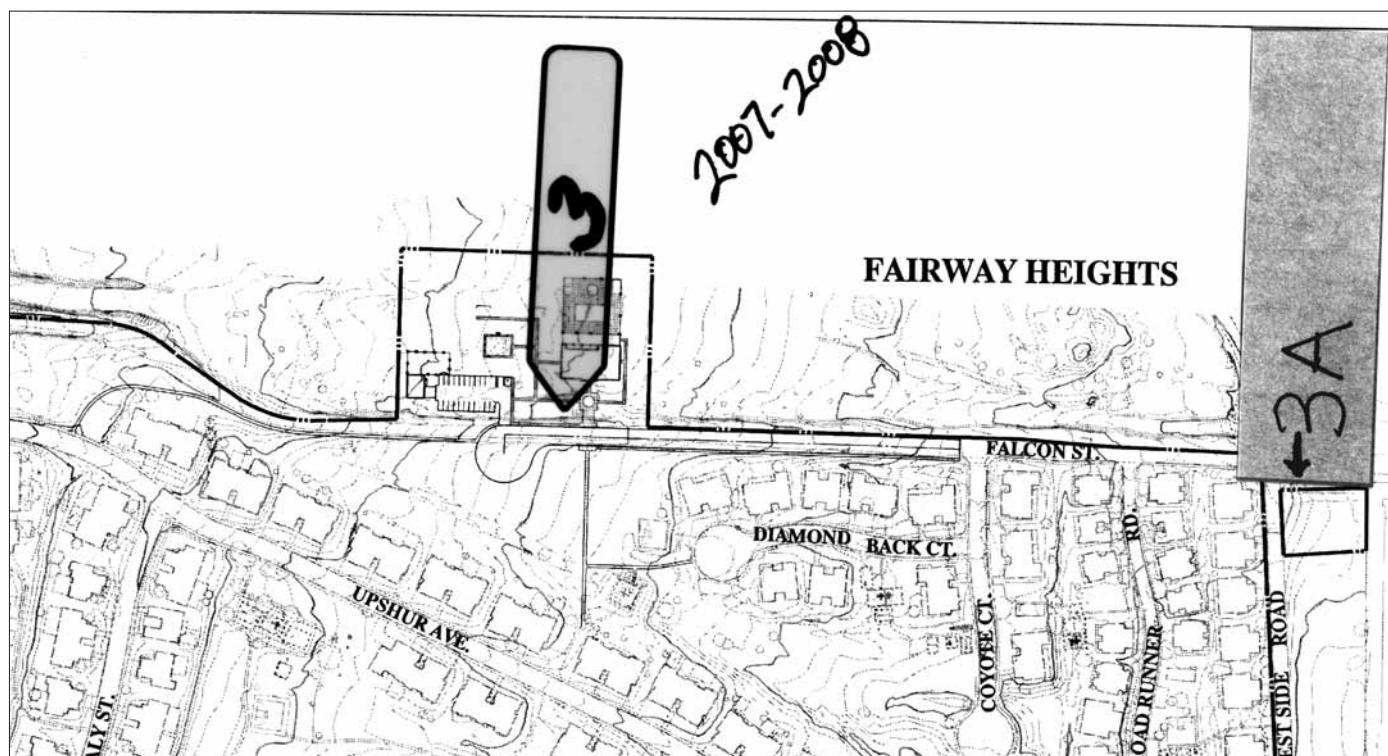
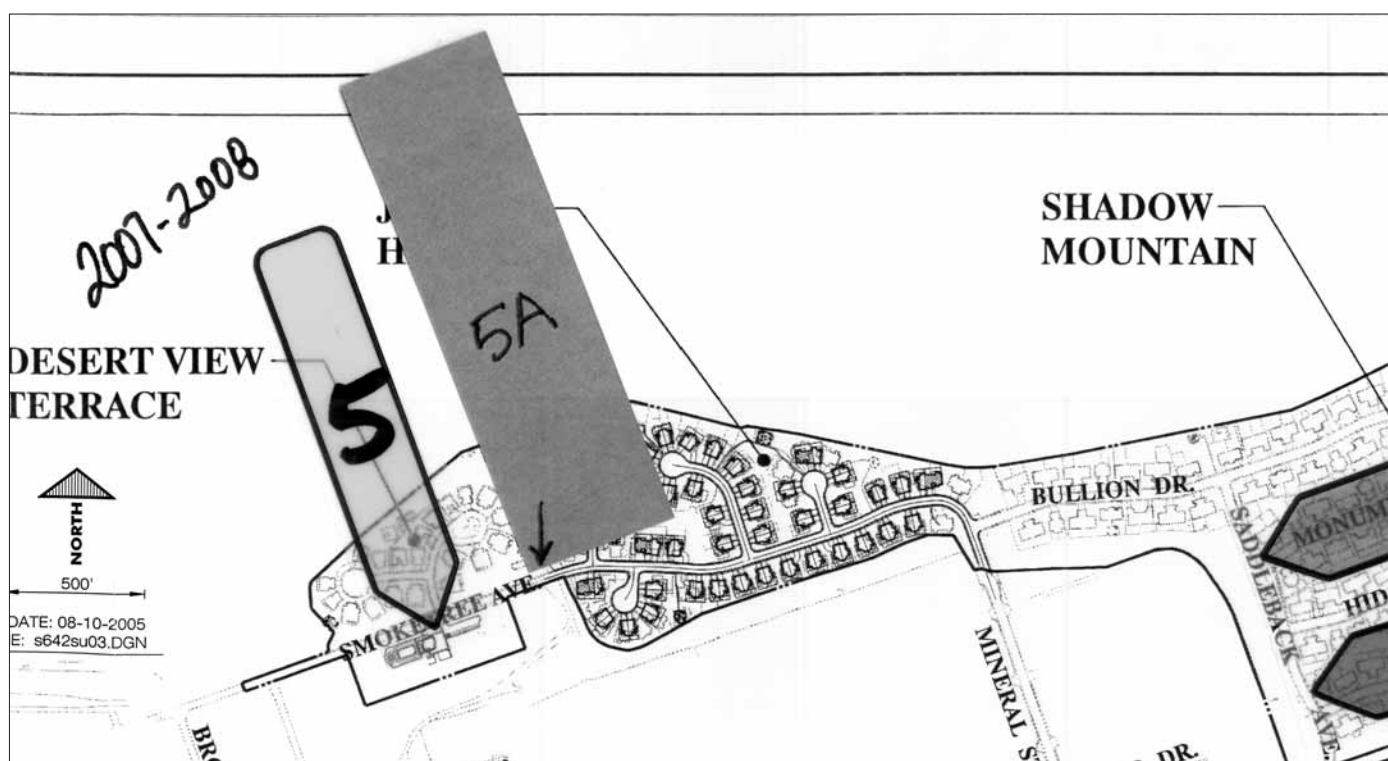


New school bus stops in effect

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.



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Memorial Park

Roland Warren
Burial at Crestlawn
Memorial Park

Deborah Gonzales
Memorial Service, Aug
24, Fri., 3 PM at United
Methodist Church

Morongo Basin Sexual Assault Services hosts Vert fundraiser

Morongo Basin Sexual Assault Services would like you to join us between 6 and 8:30 p.m for a complete dinner at the Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel August 31. Dinner will be a \$15.00 donation and includes salad, spaghetti, garlic bread and dessert. Coffee and/or tea will be provided by the Yucca Valley Starbucks. Tickets are limited so please make your purchase early. Please join us as we celebrate Kristy Vert's life and rejoice in the survival of Tina Vert. The goal is to secure housing for a year for this displaced family of four.

Tickets are available for purchase at the following locations: Hi-desert star, Z107.7, Route 62 Art & Antiques, Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel, Fit For a Lady Fitness Center, Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, Morongo Basin Sexual Assault Services, Coachella Valley Sexual Assault Services, and Steve's Office supply in Twentynine Palms. Please call Catherine DeBlicke with any questions or concerns you may have or if you would like to make a donation of any other kind: (760) 369-3353

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Lock it up! Put an end to barracks larcenies

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

There has been an increase in the number of larcenies in the barracks over the past three months aboard the Combat Center.

Televisions, laptops, video game systems and games, portable music devices and cell phones have been reported stolen by Marines residing in the barracks.

The majority of the victims have been Marines on leave, in the field, or away from their rooms for long periods of time.

"It is important to secure your room and everything in it," said Master Sgt. John Humbertson, operations chief, Provost Marshal's Office. "You can't assume all of your stuff is safe because you live in the barracks."

Thieves can readily identify people who habitually leave their rooms unlocked, said Humbertson. This easily allows them to take advantage of unsecured property.

Marines should always be alert and watch out for not only themselves, but their fellow Marines. PMO highly encourages Marines to report suspicious activity in the barracks as soon as they identify it.

"The individual has the most power to prevent larcenies by taking the right safety precautions," said Humbertson.

There are many measures Marines can take to account for their belongings and prevent larcenies.

To effectively recover lost items and

prevent any further losses, Marines should immediately report anything once it is missing or stolen, especially credit and debit cards.

If credit and debit cards are lost and have not been located by PMO, the owner should immediately call their provider and cancel them.

All valuables should be marked with names or initials, and serial numbers of expensive items are advised to be documented.

The owner of a recovered item cannot be identified unless the item is marked or its serial numbers have been recorded.

"Always lock your door when you leave the room, even if it's for a few minutes," said Cpl. Diane Hammers, physical security inspector, Physical Security/Crime Prevention Office.

To keep anyone from entering a secured room, Marines should report all missing keys as soon as they are lost to prevent anyone from stealing anything from their rooms.

In security checks by PS/CPO aboard the Combat Center, nearly eight out of ten barracks rooms are unsecured.

The barracks larcenies have been identified by PMO as a major threat to individual Marines who live in the barracks. To protect their possessions, they must always stay safe, alert and, above all, secure.

If you have any question, please call Cpl. Hammers with the Physical Security/Crime Prevention Office at (760)-830-4561.



Marines and sailors should take extra precaution to ensure they have properly secured their room and personal property due to the recent increase in reports of larceny across the Combat Center.

Protect Your Property

- Keep your room locked at all times
- Lock up belongings every time you leave your room
- Secure your windows
- Mark valuables with your initials or your name
- Document serial numbers of expensive items
- Report lost keys immediately
- Report suspicious activity in the barracks immediately
- Cancel lost credit and debit cards immediately
- Don't flaunt precious items around the barracks

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OBSERVATIONS

AUGUST 24, 2007

Women, inspiring hope and possibility

GUNNERY SGT. HERRICK ROSS
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR

On August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, was ratified. This was the culmination of the long struggle by women searching for the right to vote.

In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment and to celebrate women's continuing efforts toward equality.

Today, the U.S. Armed Forces have adapted a whole new attitude concerning the role of women. Women have come a long way from the days of World War I and II when they had to beg to be accepted.

Now women are entering almost every field, in every branch of the military. But it did take a long time for women to arrive at their present position.

After the Vietnam War and the establishment of an all-volunteer force, the role of women started to change.

Once the military could not rely on men being conscripted, women took on a new importance. The ceiling on the number of women in the military and their promotions was removed.

Today, just as the size of the military has been increasing, the percentage of women in uniform has been on the rise as well.

In Operation Desert Storm, women earned new respect. Operation Desert Shield would be the first major U.S. deployment since Vietnam, and the largest deployment of military women in U.S. history.

There were 40,793 American female service members in the Persian Gulf War; 30,855 Army, 4,246 Air Force, 4,449 Navy, 1,232 Marines, and 11 Coast Guard. Seventeen women gave their lives, and the three-day war was the first time the American public began to realize that women had become an integral and significant part of the new military, serving side-by-side with the men in the field, doing the tough, dirty, risky jobs of war.

During the operation, American military women did just about everything on land, at sea, and in the air except engage in the actual fighting and, even then, the line was often blurred.

Retired General Jeanne Holm remembers: "(Women) piloted and

crewed planes and helicopters over the battle area, serviced combat jets, and loaded laser-guided bombs on F-117 Stealths for raids on targets in Baghdad.

"They directed and launched Patriot missiles, drove trucks and heavy equipment, and operated all kinds of high-tech equipment. They manned .50 caliber machine guns, guarded bases from terrorist attack, and ran Prisoner of War facilities," she continued.

"They repaired and refueled M1A1 tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, and earth-moving equipment. Navy women served on naval replenishment and repair ships, fleet oilers offshore and at facilities ashore, all the while, Coast Guard women were involved in harbor security."

"Other women commanded brigades, battalions, companies, and platoons that provided support and services to the troops in the field. They staffed medical facilities ashore and afloat to receive, treat, and evacuate casualties," Holm said.

Women took on roles that many never thought that they could handle. They rid the Army of almost all of its distinctions between male and female work.

An Air Force chaplain with two years of experience in the Civil Rights Movement and nine years of ministry in a church stated, "It's a tragedy that we have to train anyone in how to kill. But, I take pride that women have chosen to say that there are responsibilities that come with citizenship, and I will bear the responsibilities, and I will take my share of the burden."

Because of the Nation's laws governing women in combat, women in the Marines and Army were not supposed to serve in the front lines or in direct combat units. However, it was clear from the first encounter that the front lines were not what they use to be.

There were no clear positions and "the front" changed hourly. It was quickly apparent that, with new long-range artillery, the rear combat support and combat service support units would be taking casualties as well.

The Iraqi missiles were unisex weapons that did not distinguish between combat and support troops.

Women in all of the services had to deal with some sort of job limitations.

The law forbade women in the Air Force to fly on aircraft in-



Women perform their duties while serving in the Women's Army Corps. More than 150,000 American women served in the WAC during World War II. Members of the WAC were the first women other than nurses to serve within the ranks of the United States Army.

involved in combat missions. But, women were at the controls and in the crews of the jet tankers that refueled them in midair during attack missions.

The tankers were easy targets since they were unarmed and contained fuel necessary for the success of the attack missions.

Navy women were banned from any assignments on the carriers off shore. The mission of the carriers and the bases were the same, but the carriers had the protection of the entire fleet.

But it was the women of the Marine Corps that found themselves in a unique situation at the beginning of the war. The Marine Corps deployed to the Middle East without any women.

When the Marines shipped out, the female Marines in the same units were left behind. When the all-male Marine Corps arrived in the Gulf, they quickly realized that they could not function without the women and they sent for the women five days later.

The exemplary performance of

women serving in the Gulf greatly helped women advance in every branch.

The Naval policy has been adjusted so that now all communities in the Navy and Marine Corps are open to women officers with the exception of reconnaissance, submarines and the Navy SEALs. Commissioned and enlisted women are assigned to both combatant and non-combatant ships.

There are no restrictions on women in aviation. Accessions and pipeline selections are gender neutral, and all aviation ratings are open to enlisted women.

Both enlisted and commissioned officer women may be assigned to any type of squadron and embarked on any type of ship.

Women have taken advantage of the new opportunities and have quickly risen up the ranks.

It is on this shoulder of not just women's history but history in general, when Marine Capt. Vernice Armour became the first woman ever to fly combat missions in Iraq. Although modest about her role

in history, she remarked in her Tavis Smiley interview, that if the path had not been made by such predecessors like the Tuskegee Airmen, she would not have accomplished what she has thus far.

As one of the few and the proud, during the start of the war in March 2003, Armour was one of 1,500 female Marines in the Persian Gulf fighting to dismantle the regime of Saddam Hussein in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Armour flew above the deserts of Iraq in her missile-equipped attack helicopter, engaging the enemy and scouting the roads from her cockpit, making sure they were safe for her fellow Marines and soldiers on the ground. She has completed two combat tours of duty in the Gulf since.

In my day to day duties, I bear witness to how far women in the world have come. From my mother's home in Guyana South America to the Commanding General's Office where Marines and civilians like 1st Lt. Jennifer Raymond, Gunnery Sgt. Cheryl Hyde, Jo Rosbough and Lt. Col. Karen Dowling, aide the General and Chief of Staff with their day-to-day operations. Women, like Mrs. Linda Barnes, the Director of Manpower, and Maj. Casey Harmon, the Deputy of Current Operations for MCAGCC/ MAG TFTC, are beacons of admiration and success for all who progress through the ranks to emulate.

These are just a few of the women who lead from the front. However, this installation is full of countless examples of how much women have achieved since the ratification of the 19th Amendment.



COURTESY OF MARIE PROULX

In 1943, Proulx donned her service A uniform and posed for her boot-camp photo. More than 60 years later, the hand painted photograph is one of Proulx's most prize possessions.



COURTESY PHOTO

Women Marines of Company H, 2d Headquarters Battalion, Henderson Hall show off the uniforms women wore during World War II.

Student embraces going back to school



ELAINE LEWIS
YOUTH OBSERVATIONS

I know that school has its ups and downs. A couple downs are homework and tests. Don't worry. Homework isn't to torture; it is to make sure you know everything for the test. If tests freak you out and if you have a hard time studying think of a fun way of doing it. Make up a song or a poem to remember your facts. When you know everything on the test it can make it a lot more manageable.

While there are downs, I can also think of some ups. Back-to-school means back to extracurricular activities. There are bunches of fun activities that can make the school year go by faster. Don't be afraid to join them. You can make new friends and have a great time.

For some of you, homework and tests aren't the worst of things. Some of

you really don't like physical education. I love PE. It can be a quick escape from school and it's a great way to get rid of school stress. There are a lot of sports to try, I'm sure that there is a sport for everyone, no matter your strengths and weaknesses.

If you go into school with a really negative attitude, everything is going to be negative. Keep your mind open about new things and a new school year.

Don't worry about people that might have bugged you last year. Everybody moves on. Just ignore them and everything will be fine.

One thing I learned that really helped me is to ask questions. If you're not sure what something is ask and you'll find out. Homework will be easier if you know what you're doing.

If you're anything like me, you get distracted easily. Try not to let anything distract you. Ignore people that are trying to talk to you.

Take notes and focus, then the school year will be so much better.

I guess what I'm trying to say is don't let anything get in

your way of a good education. Don't push school aside because there are always different things to do to conquer a problem.

Top Ten Environmental Back-To-School Tips

- 1) Before you buy supplies, make sure you don't already have them at home. This can save money and time.
- 2) Keep an eye open for notebooks, backpacks, folders, and other supplies made of recycled materials.
- 3) To save time and gas, shop online or by phone to order backpacks, lunchboxes, etc.
- 4) Look for the FSC label on pencils and paper. That means it came from paper products and wood that were responsibly grown and managed.
- 5) Buy products that have a small amount of packing, so that you have less trash.
- 6) If you pack your lunch, pack it in a reusable lunchbox or a recycled brown paper bag.
- 7) Try to make lunches using local produce; some foods have to come a long way just to get to your lunch box.
- 8) After drinking a bottle of water, instead of throwing it away recycle it.
- 9) When you're not working on your laptop or computer, turn it off. It saves energy.
- 10) Instead of having someone drive you to and from school everyday, minimize pollution by walking, riding your bike, or taking public transportation.

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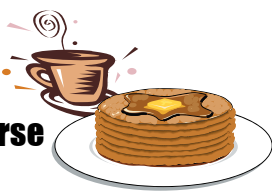
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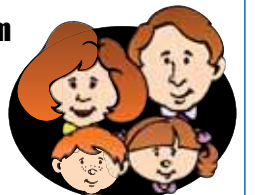


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TRANSFORMERS 9 p.m. 144 min. PG-13	HARRY POTTER: THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX 2 p.m. 138 min. PG-13	A MIGHTY HEART 6 p.m. 102 min. R				
	HAIRSPRAY 6 p.m. 117 min. PG	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 9 p.m. 106 min. R				
	SUNSHINE 9 p.m. 107 min. R					

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