

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 31, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 35

## Units leave, return to Combat Center

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, departed here Aug. 24 - Sunday while 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, returned during that time frame.

The service members of 1/7 left for Iraq for seven months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Embarkation for 1/7 began August 24 at the Combat Center's Unit Muster Area with the departure of Company C, 1/7, otherwise known as "Suicide Charlie." Friends and family of Suicide Charlie said their final goodbyes to the deploying Marines and sailors before the company boarded the buses and began the first leg of their journey to Iraq.

"It's not good for my friends and family, but I'm not too worried about this," said Pfc. Steven Leahy, rifleman, 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1/7. "After all, somebody's got to do it."

Leahy's parents traveled from Whitefish, Mont., to see their son one last time before he left for Iraq. This is Leahy's first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I just want him to be safe and I want him to come home," said Bonnie, Leahy's mother.

Elements of 1/7 departed several other times last weekend. A second

party left Aug. 24, a third on the following morning. The final departure took place Sunday morning.

"This is my first time deploying and leaving a family behind," said Lance Cpl. Joseph B. Orozco, rifleman and radio operator for Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/7. "I want to go, but I don't want to leave them."

Orozco's wife, Alisha, and 13-month-old son, Riley, were there to see him depart. Alisha stated she was very proud of what her husband is doing.

Despite the somber mood during their departure, spirits were lifted by the return of 2/7. Elements of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who were attached to 2/7 also returned home. A crowd of friends and family anxiously awaited the return of their loved ones at the Combat Center's Victory Field.

"I'm happy and excited," said Lisa Long, wife of Lance Cpl. Jonah Long, rifleman, Weapons Company, 2/7. "Seven months is a long time and it's good to have him home."

Long's wife, along with his mother, father and brother, traveled from Salt Lake City to welcome him home.

"I'm so relieved," said Tana Johnson, Long's mother. "The hardest thing a mother can do is send her son over there."

Retired Master Sgt. Roger Akins,



The family of Cpl. Jason Brown, a TOW gunner for Weapons Company, 2/7, holds up a banner they made to welcome him home at Victory Field Friday. IMG\_8012 - The family of Cpl. Jason Brown, a TOW gunner for Weapons Company, 2/7, holds up a banner they made to welcome him home at Victory Field Aug. 24.

Vietnam veteran and resident of Twentynine Palms, Calif., stood tall and proud in his dress blue uniform awaiting the arrival of 2/7 Friday.

"My friends are coming home - a lot of young Marines," said Akins. "I

promised if they came home, I'd wear my blues for them."

For some of the Marines who returned home, like Cpl. David Carnes, machine gunner, Weapons Company, 2/7, there were new addi-

tions to their families waiting to meet them for the first time. Carnes held his two-month-old daughter, Ashlyn, for the first time Aug. 24. He was also

See UNITS, A8

## Combat Center gears up for annual challenge



CPL REGINA N. ORTIZ

Marines from Headquarters Battalion take part in the tug of war against the Naval Hospital in the Combat Center Challenge 2006. Headquarters Bn. won.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The annual Combat Center Challenge draws nearer every day. This year's event will take place at Victory Field from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 7.

The Combat Center Challenge's mission is to educate and inform attendees of the harmful impacts of drug and alcohol abuse, according to the July, August and September editions of the Stomping Ground magazine.

"There will be many prevention booths set up on the field for the event," said Dougwillo. "This is a great chance for commanders to put a check in a box for prevention programs."

Some of the booths include the Los Angeles Police Department, Drug Demand Reduction, and health promotions sponsored by the Naval Hospital.

In addition to information booths, patrons will have the opportunity to donate blood at the Red Cross blood drive.

"Since blood banks are low in this area, I suggest Marines and sailors get out there and donate blood," said Dougwillo.

The events this year are very similar to last year with a few exceptions.

"We'll be holding a water polo competition this year," said Dougwillo. "It didn't happen last year because the training tank was closed."

The competition will take place at the training tank near the Sunset Cinema Base Theater.

There will also be a First to Fight videogame tournament held at The Zone during lunch hours.

"The point system is a little different this year,"

said Dougwillo. "This year, the humvee pull is counted as double points. The tug-of-war, which I'd say is the most popular, counts as triple points."

Each event will give its first and second place winners Marine Corps Exchange gift certificates and T-shirts, said Dougwillo.

"The competition will help further the Marines' and sailors' skill development and provide valuable information on programs like the Drug Demand Reduction," said Dougwillo.

"This year the Combat Center Challenge is wide open since 3/7 [3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment] is not here to defend their title," said Dougwillo. "The more teams a unit puts in the better chances they have at winning the title."

In the case two or more teams tie, a basketball tournament will be held at the east Gym Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. as a last challenge to determine the winner.

It was 3/7's victory in the basketball tournament last year that named them the Combat Center Challenge champions against the previously undefeated 1st Tank Battalion, according to the Stomping Ground magazine.

The local radio station Z107.7 will be there to make announcements and a disc jockey will play music.

Kevyn Major Howard, professional photographer and actor, will also make an appearance with his Marine Memorial Race Cars to show his support of military service members and their families.

This Combat Center tradition offers Marines and sailors a chance to pull together as a team, test their limits and earn a year's worth of bragging rights.

For more information about the Combat Center Challenge, call the sports office at 830-6857 or Dougwillo at 830-5386.

### Weekend Weather

Friday  102/79  
Sunny

Saturday  103/82  
Partly Cloudy

Sunday  106/81  
Mostly Sunny

### Inside this issue

- A5: 3rd LAR leader takes on many roles
- A8: Retired Sgt. Maj. joins LAPD
- A10: Employee spotlight

### Observations



Appreciation sent from Iraq from 3/7

### This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1950 —

North Koreans swarmed across Naktong River against the 1st Marine Brigade.

# C.O.P. Corner



## Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

### What is your child doing?

Did you know that in this past year an estimated 6.2 million American children age 12 years old and over are binge drinkers, which is drinking 5 or more drinks in one sitting, and an estimated 2.6 million American children, 12 years of age and over, are currently using illicit drugs. Does your child know what drugs and alcohol can do to them and ways to stay away from them?

In today's world more and more drugs are getting introduced into school and drinking starts at younger ages. Here are some tips to help you and your child discuss drugs and alcohol.

Kindergarten to 3rd Grade is when to begin to explain what alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are. Also how some people use them even though they are harmful, and the consequences of using them.

- Discuss how anything that is not food or prescribed by the doctor can be extremely harmful.
- Tell them that drugs interfere with the way our bodies work, can make a person very sick, or even cause them to die.
- Explain the idea of addiction-that drug use can become a very bad habit that is hard to stop.

Grades Four through Six (ages 9-11 years old) your child should know:

- the immediate effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on different parts of the body, including risks of coma or fatal overdose;
- the long-term results of addiction and the loss of control over their lives that users experience;
- the reasons why drugs are especially dangerous for growing bodies;
- the problems that alcohol and other illegal drugs cause not only to the user, but also to the user's family and world.

Grades Seven through Nine (12-14 years old) is the adolescence stage and can often be a confusing and stressful time. As teens struggle to figure out whom they are and how to fit in, while establishing their own identities. Parents may not realize that their young teens feel surrounded by drug use. Nearly 9 out of 10 teens agree "it seems

like marijuana is everywhere these days." Teens are twice as likely to be using marijuana as parents believe they are, and teens are getting high in the places that parents think are safe havens, such as around school, at home, and at friend's houses. Parents profoundly shape the choices their children make about drugs.

Teens need to know the immediate, distasteful consequences of tobacco and marijuana use--for example, that smoking causes bad breath and stained teeth and makes clothes and hair smell. As a parent you should discuss drugs' long-term effects:

- The lack of crucial social and emotional skills ordinarily learned during adolescence;
- The risk of lung cancer and emphysema from smoking;

Grades Ten through Twelve (ages 15-17 years old) is when you child needs to understand how to resist peer pressure. Teens need more than a general message not to use drugs. They need to hear from a parent that anyone can become a chronic user or an addict and that even non-addicted use can have serious permanent consequences.

Most high school students are future-oriented so they are more likely to listen to discussions.

- Discuss how drugs can ruin chances of getting into a good college or being hired for a job.
- Talk about how fatal or crippling car accidents and liver damage are some of the causes from heavy drinking;
- Let them know that addiction, brain damage, memory loss, coma, and death are the consequences from heavy drug and alcohol use.

For more information on how to discuss related topics with your child, go to <http://www.yic.gov/drugfree/childknow.html> or [www.safestate.org](http://www.safestate.org).

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

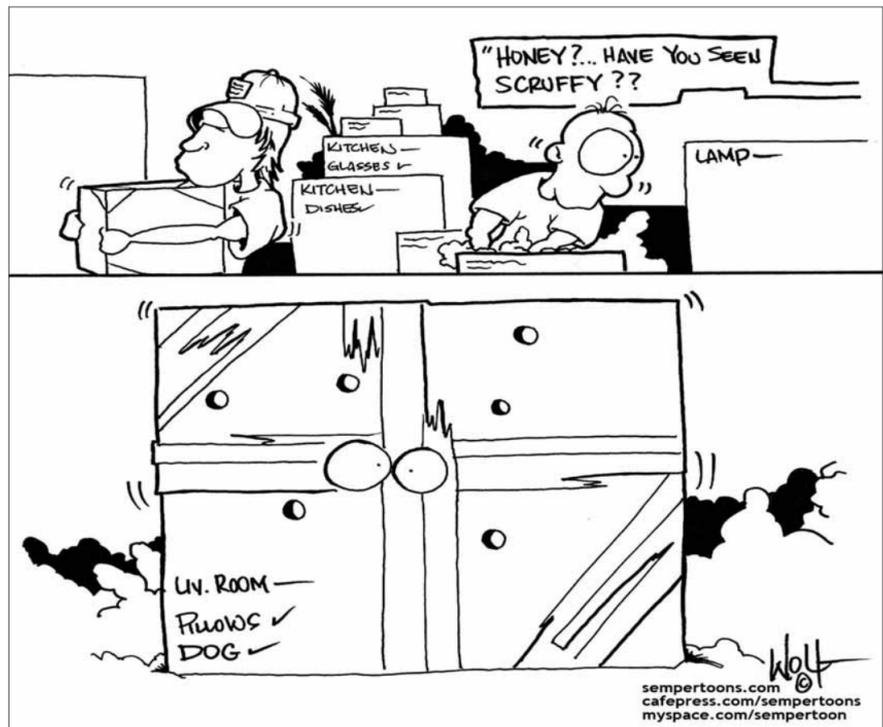
- Literature, Briefings, Education, Crime Assessments, Safety Tips, Operation Identification( Property Identification), Child Identification and Fingerprinting.

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



## IRS warns of new e-mail scam offering cash for participation in "Member Satisfaction Survey"

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
PRESS RELEASE

SAN DIEGO – The Internal Revenue Service today issued a consumer alert regarding a new, two-step e-mail scam that falsely promises recipients they will receive \$80 for participating in an online survey.

In the scam, an unsuspecting taxpayer receives an unsolicited e-mail that appears to come from the IRS. The e-mail contains a URL linking to an online "Member Satisfaction Survey."

"We have seen many e-mail scams using the IRS name," IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support Linda Stiff said. "The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail. Taxpayers should always use caution when they receive unsolicited e-mails."

In this case, the e-mail notifies the recipient that he or she has been randomly selected to participate in a survey. In return, the IRS will credit \$80 to the taxpayer's account. There are references to the IRS in the "from" line and the "subject" line of the e-mail. The link to the survey and a copyright statement at the bottom of the e-mail also reference the IRS. The survey form features the IRS logo.

In addition to standard customer satisfaction survey questions, the survey requests the name and phone number of the participant and also asks for credit card information. Once the fraudsters have a name and phone number, they will presumably call and attempt to retrieve other financial information.

The apparent objectives of this scam are the participant's name and financial data to withdraw funds from the taxpayer's bank account, run up charges on a credit card or take out loans in the taxpayer's name.

Taxpayers should be aware that the IRS does not send unsolicited e-mail, nor does the agency ask for PINs, passwords or similar secret access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the e-mail. Instead, the e-mail should be deleted or forwarded to [phishin@irs.gov](mailto:phishin@irs.gov).

## 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](mailto:Bradley.Wiens@med.navy.mil), or stop by the clinic. PHAs are not performed on Thursdays.

## Centerspeak

### What are you doing for Labor Day?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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



GUNNERY SGT. J.K. FIZER

COMPANY B, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION



CPL. GERMAINE MAXWELL

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION



LANCE CPL. RILEY IVERSON

COMPANY A, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"I'm going to enjoy the holiday with my family and friends."

"I'm going to sit at my house, go for a couple of bike rides, barbecue and spend some time with my family."

"I'm going to Lake Havasu."

## 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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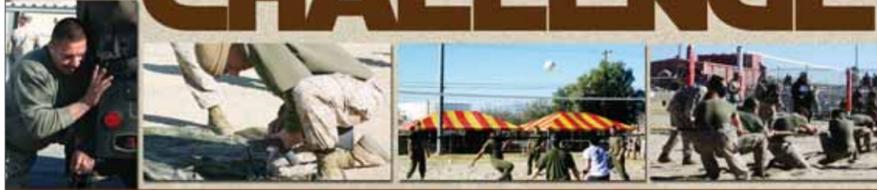
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# LIBERTY CALL

5th Annual  
**COMBAT CENTER CHALLENGE**



**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?**

West Gym & Victory Field • Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you are **ACTIVE DUTY** personnel

Participate in this annual event to prove your units abilities. Feed your appetite with a Barbeque from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., while listening to a live D.J. Award ceremony is at 2 p.m.

Both MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and the Marine Corps "Memorial Car" will be in attendance; stop by for a visit.



Contact the Sports Office, 830.4092, to sign up

- Climbing Wall
- Jousting
- Big Glove Boxing
- Inflatable Games
- Sand Volleyball
- M16 Rifle Assembly
- Biathlon
- Hummer Pull
- Impaired Goggles w/Tricycles
- Football Toss
- Tug of War
- Basketball Tournament
- Corpsmen Relay
- Ironman/woman PFT
- Water Polo
- Blood Bank
- Dummy Grenade Toss

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
<p><b>Farmer's Market, 8 a.m. to noon:</b> Kickapoo Trail and Twentynine Palms Highway.</p> <p><b>Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.:</b> Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999.</p> <p><b>First Saturday Breakfast, 8:30 to 11 a.m.:</b> at the Copper Mountain Mesa Community Association; 65430 Winters Road, Copper Mountain Mesa.</p> <p><b>Jazzercise, 9 a.m.:</b> at the Yucca Valley Community Center; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 363-7461.</p> <p><b>"Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16:</b> at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.</p> <p><b>Pioneer Posa Old West shows, 2:30 p.m.:</b> on Mane Street in Pioneertown.</p> <p><b>"Romeo and Juliet," 7 p.m.:</b> at Luckie Park soccer field; Utah Trail, Twentynine Palms, 367-7562.</p> <p><b>Beverly Derby and Bill Church, 7 to 10 p.m.:</b> at the Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.</p> <p><b>Mindgrip with special guests Ultralord Arbitrator, 8 p.m.:</b> at McEhane's; 57045 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley.</p> <p><b>Kingszamyba, 7:30 p.m.:</b> at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.</p>	<p><b>September 1</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m.:</b> at the Joshua Tree VFW Post; 6402 Veterans Way, 366-2717.</p> <p><b>Sky Village Marketplace and Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.:</b> on Old Woman Springs Road, behind Barr Lumber, 365-8999.</p> <p><b>"Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16:</b> at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212.</p> <p><b>Callan, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Chris Walters, 6:30 p.m.:</b> at Twentynine Palms Inn; 367-3505.</p> <p><b>JT Sportsman's Club Bingo, early birds at 5:30 p.m., others at 6 p.m.:</b> at the Sportsman's Club; 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Josh Tree, 366-2915.</p> <p><b>"Julius Caesar," 7 p.m.:</b> Luckie Park soccer field; Utah Trail and Joe Davis Road, Twentynine Palms, 367-7562.</p> <p><b>Thrift Store Alistars, 7 p.m.:</b> at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown; 365-5956.</p>	<p><b>September 2</b></p> <p><b>September 3</b></p> <p><b>September 4</b></p> <p><b>Jazzercise, 5:45 p.m.:</b> at the Yucca Valley Community Center; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 363-7461.</p> <p><b>"Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home" through Sept. 16:</b> at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway, 369-7212.</p> <p>Nathaniel Stanton plays the title role in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" performed by the IndependANT Players at 7 p.m. Sunday in Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms.</p>

**SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM**

**SMP EVENTS**

August 31 - September 6

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

SATURDAY	MONDAY	SIGN UP NOW
<p>SMP Trip to K1 GoCarts &amp; North County San Diego Shopping</p> <p>Depart The Zone @ 8 a.m.</p> <p>Cost: \$38</p>	<p>SMP Trip to Ontario Mills Mall</p> <p>Depart The Zone @ 9 a.m.</p> <p>Cost: \$5</p>	<p>September 28-30 SMP Trip to Las Vegas</p> <p>Depart the Zone @ 9 a.m.</p> <p>Cost: \$160</p>

**ONTARIO MILLS MALL TRIP**

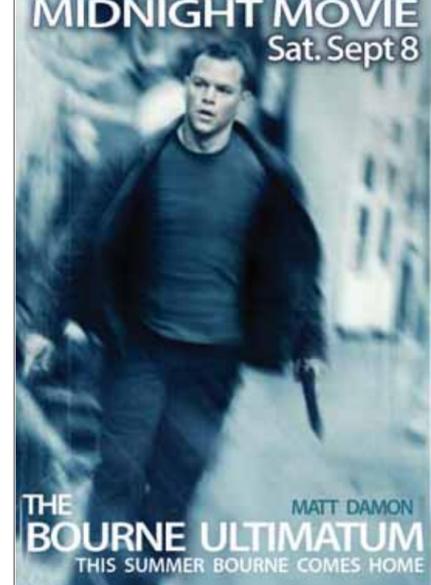
**MON., SEPT. 3**



**9 a.m. \$5**

**MIDNIGHT MOVIE**

Sat. Sept 8



**THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM**

MATT DAMON

THIS SUMMER BOURNE COMES HOME

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

<p><b>Friday</b></p> <p>I Now Pronounce You Chuck &amp; Larry 6 p.m. (PG-13)</p> <p>I Know Who Killed Me 9 p.m. (R)</p> <p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p>Free Matinee Meet the Robinsons 11 a.m. (G)</p> <p>Harry Potter Order of the Phoenix 2 p.m. (PG-13)</p> <p>License To Wed 6 p.m. (PG-13)</p>	<p>Transformers 9 p.m. (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p>Underdog 2 p.m. (PG)</p> <p>No Reservations 6 p.m. (PG)</p> <p>The Simpsons Movie 9 p.m. (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Monday</b></p> <p>The Simpsons Movie 2 p.m. (PG-13)</p> <p>Chuck &amp; Larry 6 p.m. (PG-13)</p>	<p>I Know Who Killed Me 9 p.m. (R)</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p>No Reservations 7 p.m. (PG)</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p>Hairspray 7 p.m. (PG)</p> <p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p>Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix 7 p.m. (PG-13)</p>
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**Cinema 6**

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Halloween (2007) (R) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Balls Of Fury (PG 13) 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
War (R) Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Coming Sept. 8 • 3:10 to Yuma •	ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.Cinema6theatre.com

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# Hospital increases outpatient services

DAN BARBER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL

To maintain high quality medical care and increase the business efficiency of delivering care to patients, the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital will be changing its hours of service in ancillary care and increasing the number of available appointments.

How is that possible, you ask, when the hospital is already open 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, 365-days a year? It's true some sections of the hospital never close such as the Emergency Medicine Department and the Inpatient Care wards; however, there are services which are open only during the normal working hours for routine service, such as the outpatient clinics and some ancillary services



in the Laboratory, Radiology and Pharmacy. The hours of these services will now begin at 7:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m.

When the namesake of this hospital, Robert E. Bush, was starting out in business, following his military service, he and his partner decided that they needed to add an additional day to their already 7-day work week... According to Bush, they accomplished this seemingly impossible task by each taking turns one day a week of working a 24-hour shift. It worked for them, but for the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, we don't have to take such drastic measures and our new working hours will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will continue with some exceptions.

The Emergency Medicine Department will remain open 24-hours a day, 7-days a week with supporting ancillary services from the duty sections of Radiology and Pharmacy services. Our inpatient care in the Desert Beginnings, and Multi-Service wards are always open.

Starting Oct. 1, the first appointment in all outpatient clinics will be offered beginning at 8 a.m. The last appointment offered in the morning will be at 11:40 a.m. The first appointment in the afternoon will start at 1 p.m., and the last appointment for the day will be available at 4 p.m.

The hospital's practice of closing clinics

on Wednesday afternoons for training and meetings will be discontinued. That training and meeting time will now be reserved for Thursday mornings up to 9 a.m. when the first appointments for the day will begin.

Also, normal appointments will increase from 15 minutes to 20 minutes.

To schedule an appointment at the hospital, call Central Appointments at 830-2752, during normal working hours. The hospital is not a walk-in clinic. The clinics are run on an appointment basis, and try to stay on schedule. If you wake up feeling ill, in most cases, you can call the appointment line and obtain a same-day appointment. Please call 830-2752 to cancel appointments if you know you won't be able to make it, so the appointment can be scheduled for someone else.

For after hour's non-emergent medical information, call 830-2190 and a duty physician will return the call. For medical emergencies, on base 830-3333/3334 or 911.

The staff at the hospital are very proud of their accomplishments to date, but during the year they are constantly reviewing the internal processes to improve overall patient satisfaction. If you have suggestions on improving hospital services, contact one of the Customer Services representatives available to you in each clinic of the hospital or call 830-2475.

## How to get an appointment at the hospital

To avoid the peak calling time at the Naval Hospital's appointment line, the best time to call for an appointment is after 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. If possible, avoid calling in the early morning when the phone lines are the busiest.

When the number of callers in the queue exceed the maximum number allowed, other callers trying to get through will hear a busy signal or get disconnected.

One of the hospital's largest problems with the phone system is that some callers are being disconnected once connected to a clerk. This problem is compounded by callers using a cell phone instead of a land line to make the call. When cell phone reception experiences fluctuation in signal strength, calls are more likely to be disconnected.

Patients also have the option of making an appointment in person at the central appointments desk in the hospital Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

When connected to the hospital's telephone system please enter the correct information when prompted by the phone system. For example, enter the sponsor's full social security number.

## Hot Topics

### COMMISSARY BACK TO SCHOOL SIDEWALK SALE.

Today from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Lunch box items will be on sale!

### HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS  
6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.  
Sept. 11-25

"Come & See What Makes Hospice So Special!"

Hospice of Morongo Basin  
61675 29 Palms Hwy  
366-1308

### IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR THE MILITARY

Stars and Stripes reports that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has launched a military-specific hot line to help troops and their families better navigate the agency's paperwork and processes. The telephone number is (877) 247-4645 and is toll-free for stateside callers. The staff of the hot line have been trained in military-specific immigration issues. Also, the agency has launched a military-specific website where troops will be able to e-mail questions to those same experts. <http://www.uscis.gov/military>

### SUPPORT THE BATTERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY:

The Battered Women's Shelter is in desperate need of canned goods and non-perishable food items, as well as toiletries for women and clean clothing, disposable diapers, and good toys for the children / toddlers. Items are being collect-

ed at the Catholic Chapel. For more information contact Petty Officer 2nd Class Demario Davis at 830-6456 ([demario.w.davis@usmc.mil](mailto:demario.w.davis@usmc.mil)) or Alice-Ann Patu at 830-6482 ([alice-ann.patu.ctr@usmc.mil](mailto:alice-ann.patu.ctr@usmc.mil)).

### MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT STUDY

The RAND Corporation is conducting research for the Department of Defense to study the occupational choices of military spouses and recommend actions to support military spouse employment. RAND is conducting interviews with military spouses who are female, at least 18 years old, married to an Active Duty Enlisted Service Member, currently residing in the U.S., and currently employed in one of the following career fields: Nursing (e.g. RNs, LPNs, home health aides, nursing aides) Education (e.g. teachers, teacher aides, professors, lecturers) Financial/Accounting (e.g. accountants, bookkeepers, auditors) Information Technology (e.g. computer programmers, software technicians) If you are interested in participating, please visit

<https://milspouse.rand.org/milspousestudy.php> for more information.

### CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WELCOME BRUNCH

The Religious Ministries Directorate and the Christian Women's Fellowship invite women to their annual "Welcome Brunch" to be held Sept. 11 from 9 -11:30 a.m. in the West Wing of the Protestant Chapel. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with other Christian women, discover all the exciting things in CWF's Fall schedule, and enjoy a delicious brunch. Christian Women's Fellowship meets regularly on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Protestant Chapel. Free childcare is provided for all CWF events. For more information, call 830-6464.

### 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, Jeffrey Willis at (760) 725-8400 or by email at [jwillis@cots.com](mailto:jwillis@cots.com).

### 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.

**WEST GYM OPEN 24/7**  
The West Gym will be open 24 hours, 7 days a week starting Sept. 7. For more information, call 830-6451.

## LEISURE ITEMS

### FAMILY SPLASH NIGHT

The Combat Centers Officers' Club is hosting "Family Splash Night" at the SNCO/Officers Pool Sept. 7 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. This pool party is for the entire family! BBQ chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and all the fixings. The bar will be available on the patio. Cost is \$5 for members and \$6 for all others. Officers', SNCO and equivalent are invited to bring your families. For more information, call 830-6610.

### WARRIOR BURGER COOK-OFF

Sandy Hill Lanes will host a Warrior Burger Cook-Off Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Show off your culinary skills. Create a winning recipe for a burger and side item. Product/supplies, grills, coolers and cleaning supplies will be provided by Sandy Hill Lanes for your use. Great prizes will be given out! Get your "Grill Team" together. Visit the bowling center for the rules list and application. For more details, call 830-6422.

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# Leader takes on new roles, motivates Marines

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Part of being a Marine is being able to rise to any challenge no matter how overwhelming the odds are against you.

For 1st Lt. Michael C. Petit, communications platoon commander, Headquarters and Support Company, 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, rising to challenges is a part of his life.

Petit decided to enlist in the Marine Corps as a ground radio repairman instead of going back to school after recovering from a serious illness. He enlisted in July 1999 and left for recruit training one month later.

"I was attracted to the idea of being part of an organization that is still very idealistic," reasoned Petit. "Virtues the Marine Corps holds aren't really talked about in other organizations. Not only do I get a chance to see the rest of the world, I can also grow as a person."

The Hartford, N.Y., native was born Nov. 7, 1979. He spent his early years in his hometown, but attended a boarding school in Kansas from eighth through 10th grade. After boarding school, he returned to New York to finish high school, where he played soccer, baseball and football.

In the fall of 1998, Petit began attending Boston College in Massachusetts. One week after he left for college, he contracted viral meningitis and was forced to take a medical leave of absence from school.

Petit was stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., following recruit training and Marine Combat Training, where he was assigned to Systems Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Intelligence Battalion. Soon after reaching Camp Pendleton, Petit said he began to have other ideas for his career.

"I was there for about a year before 9/11 and I decided I wanted to stay in the Marine Corps, but play a larger role," he said. "I applied to a Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at a civilian college to become an officer."

Once he was re-enrolled at Boston College, Petit was released from active duty in September 2001, approximately one week before the September 11 attacks.

"It was kind of weird coming off of active duty and being in college when your country is being attacked," he recalled. "I was just starting school and everyone I knew was going to Afghanistan."

Even though his friends were deploying to Afghanistan, Petit pressed on in school and attended Officer



1st Lt. Michael C. Petit, communications platoon commander and Police Training Team officer-in-charge for Communications Platoon, H and S Company, 3rd LAR is a 27-year-old Hartford, N.Y., native.

Candidate School in 2004. He graduated from Boston College in May 2005 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and was commissioned as a Marine Corps officer. He attended The Basic School at Camp Barrett, Va., from November 2005 to June 2006, was selected to be a communications officer and attended the Communications Officer School at Quantico, Va., from June to December 2006.

After graduating, Petit was again stationed at Camp Pendleton with the 1st Marine Division. He received Temporary Assigned Duty orders to the Combat Center in May 2007 to 3rd LAR in order to bolster their numbers for their

upcoming deployment in September.

Since he arrived here, Petit has distinguished himself as an effective and responsible leader amongst both his superiors and his junior Marines. He was also recently tasked with being the leader of 3rd LAR's Police Training Team when the unit deploys to Iraq next month.

"It's a tough position they put him in," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 David M. Jones, communications-elec-

tronics management officer, 3rd LAR. "He came straight from Camp Pendleton and just started getting acquainted with Twentynine Palms when they told him he was going to be the PTT team leader. Every lieutenant has to be proficient as an infantry platoon leader and he serves that billet very well."

Petit said he feels his leadership style was greatly affected by his study of philosophy while he was in college.

"As an enlisted Marine, I

was sort of swept off my feet by the whole 'my way or the highway' mentality," he said. "I feel you have to find ways to make people want to achieve their goals."

"The drill instructor style can work in a hierarchal society like the military, but I think my style was molded mostly through my experiences in the civilian world and in my academic studies," he added.

His leadership style is also admired by his peers and jun-

iors in his platoon that he interacts with daily.

"He is outstanding on all accounts," said 1st Lt. William Gibbs, S-6 officer, 3rd LAR. "He really epitomizes the whole Marine concept."

Sgt. Derek Evans, radio supervisor, 3rd LAR, added that Petit is very dedicated to his Marines.

Petit will deploy to Iraq in September with 3rd LAR in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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# CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

## 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

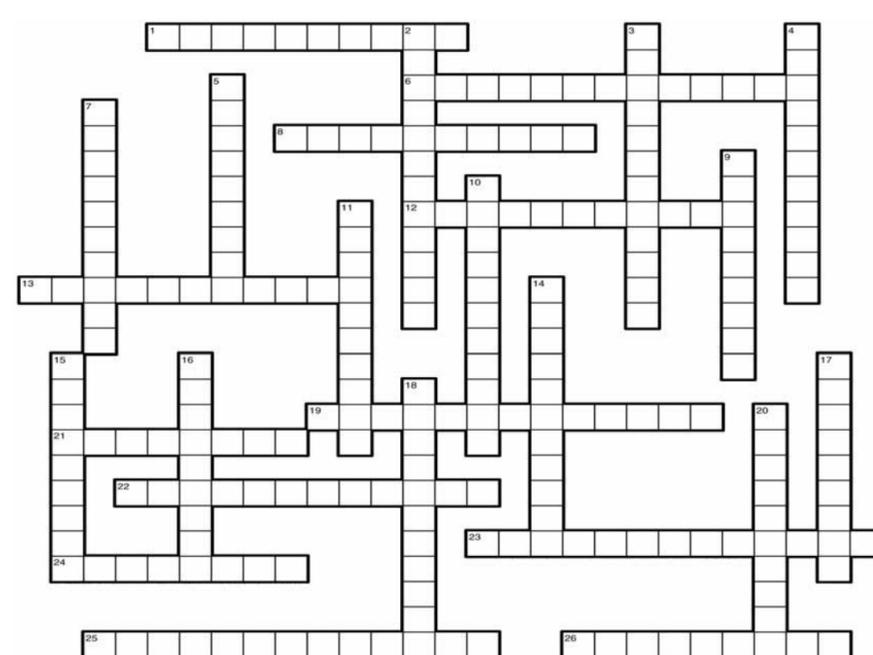
9 a.m. June 19, July 17, & August 21

## LEGEND

\*Indicates Child Care Provided

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

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  - Reigning Superbowl Champ
  - Star LB for Ravens
  - Back to back Steelers MVP QB
  - "Broadway Joe"
- DOWN**
- Star RB for Broncos
  - Led Steelers to first title
  - Only Redskins RB to win Superbowl MVP
  - Led Chiefs to only title
  - Star Cowboys QB in the 90's
  - QB who won back to back titles in '98 & '99
  - Played for "Da Bears"
  - Led St. Louis to only Superbowl win
  - 1st defensive player to win Superbowl MVP
  - 1st and 2-time Superbowl MVP
  - 49ers star WR
  - 1st WR to win Superbowl MVP
  - NFL's all-time rushing leader
  - Only player to win Superbowl MVP 3 times

[Solutions on A8]

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# Sisters take home fond memories of Camp Purple



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**YOUTH OBSERVATIONS**

I arrived at Wilderness Ranch in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., to attend Operation Purple Summer Camp July 15th. It was open to all military kids who had a family member deployed in the last year. It lasted five days with campers between the ages of 14-18.

My mom first told me about the camp earlier this year and asked me if I wanted to go. I wasn't too eager to go live with a bunch of strangers for five days, but I said yes so I could get out of the house. I am 14 years old so I was kind of nervous about being one of the youngest campers, but my worries melted away when I arrived. Out of the 13 campers four of them were 14 so I had plenty of kids to hang out with. Altogether, there were four male campers and nine female campers. I was sure glad I had decided to go.

Operation Purple took place this year at Wilderness Ranch and mainly focused on horseback riding. Dave "Gonzo" Gonzalez, camp director, as well as all four of the counselors were professional riders. So, the first two days of camp were spent teaching the new campers how to handle, lead, feed, harness and approach a horse. We also had short classes about a horse's body parts and how they function. When we proved that we could successfully manage a horse in every aspect of leading them around and caring for them, we finally got to saddle up!

By the end of the third day, we were expected to know the names of all 11 horses. It was pretty easy because after we spent a little time with each one of the horses we saw that they each had their own personality. They also had very distinct markings. The counselors encouraged us to talk to

and interact with our horses, so that's exactly what everyone did. At first, I couldn't believe that a bunch of teenagers, even the older ones, were talking to their horse out loud. But soon I realized that these kids, many of whom were returning campers, really loved these horses. It was great to watch and even participate. I personally fell in love with a gentle, reddish-brown horse named Red Moon.

The next few days were spent on horseback riding in circles inside a pen. Along with riding we also had to clean up the stalls, feed, water and brush the horses, but it was all worth it. Before attending Operation Purple, I didn't really care for horses all that much. But now, I have a sincere appreciation for them. They really are magnificent animals. Aside from riding and caring for the horses, we also did lots of other things. On most of the days we woke up between 6 and 7 a.m. We ate a delicious, healthy, well-balanced breakfast at 8 a.m. Then, after we had finished cleaning the chow hall, washing the dishes and tidying the campsite, we usually went to take care of the horses and spent most of the day with them. At noon, we ate a scrumptious lunch and after our chores had once again been completed, we swam in the pool from 1 - 4 p.m. The sun was always hot, so the large pool was very refreshing. We engaged in playful water fights and just relaxed, floating atop of giant tubes.

After a filling dinner, we usually went on an incredible, sight-seeing hike through the beautiful mountains of California, lasting usually 2 miles or more. One of the hikes even led to a candy store where we happily indulged ourselves! We returned just as it got dark every night, which

is when the games began. We played manhunt, which is hide and seek in the dark, and played capture the flag by the light of the moon.

After the games, we gratefully settled down around a blazing campfire and talked about what it's like to be in a military family, told stories, jokes and just talked about life in general, things that kids have in common. It was really great to listen to teenagers my age giving advice to other kids and sharing things that only a teenager would be able to relate to.

At night, we slept with one other roommate in huge canvas tents, each with our own comfortable bed. We got to shower whenever we had free time in a very nice cabin-style bathroom. We were never bored.

In my opinion, the best part of this camp was the people. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. Gonzo was always trying to make us laugh, and he taught us history about the horses and helped us perfect our riding skills. The counselors, who were in their early twenties, were very friendly, and they seemed to fit right in with us younger people. The other campers were also very nice. The older and returning campers helped the juniors, but they also included us too, so that felt really great.

During four days of the camp we also had two very special guests. Amy and Kevin Cartright flew from New York to volunteer their time and talk to us kids. Amy we later found out will be this year's Miss New York in the United Kingdom's pageant! She took us girls one night and we all had an exclusive "girl's only" talk. It was really awesome because if we had any questions, which we did, she answered them as best she could. She also told us about



Campers, ages 14-18, take a break from Camp Purple activities for a photo.

COURTESY PHOTO

her childhood, teenage years and experiences that she's had. It was really special. After that talk, she became known to us as "Auntie Amy." She was a great mentor and role model. We all promised to watch her on television in August when she will compete for Mrs. America!

It was very sad when she and her husband had to leave

us. The five days I spent attending Operation Purple Camp were amazing. The scenery was beautiful. The air was fresh and pure. The horses became a special part of my life, as well as the people I met. Because of Operation Purple, I have acquired some experience with horses, practiced my teamwork and leadership skills and had a blast

hanging out with kids my age on an amazing ranch. Most of us are all keeping touch with each other and have enthusiastically promised to go back next year. I am very grateful to have gotten the chance to go to this awesome camp!

Operation Purple Camp is sponsored by National Military Family Association. To learn how you can join next summer,

## Hunter's favorite: The Ultimate

HUNTER GALLEGOS, AGE 10

**YOUTH OBSERVATIONS**

This summer, I went to Operation Purple Summer Camp. It was a lot of fun. I loved the food and eating dessert twice a day! I had a blast doing all the activities. We rode horses, went hiking, played in a HUGE mud pit, went swimming, had a luau at the beach where we went boogie-boarding, and danced at a 70's dance. We



had a night called the "Ultimate," where we stayed up until midnight and played capture the flag. If we got caught, we had to wait two minutes until we could start again. That night was my favorite because I had the

most fun. We also had a gathering where we sang fun songs about Jesus and God. I made some new friends and had lots of fun during that week. I'm glad I got to go to Operation Purple.

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# Former 3/11 sergeant major remembers love of Corps, continues to serve community

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Company, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan.

For those who may be skeptical about whether the Corps equips its Marines with the tools for success they need only to look in the Transition Assistance Management Program archives.

He re-enlisted September 1986 as a corporal and received his first post assignment orders to Marine security guard to Islamabad, Pakistan, that October.

There, one can find endless success stories about Marines, like Jan Robert Miller Jr., a former 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment sergeant major who now serves as an officer in the Los Angeles Police Department.

It was there that Miller met his future wife, Kim, the daughter of a Defense Attaché Officer working in the American Embassy there.

After Miller left Pakistan in March 1988, he resumed his duties as an MSG in San Jose, Costa Rica, until his tour ended June 1989.

Miller said his three sons, ages 18, 16 and 14, were a major reason he decided to retire.

He made several deployments overseas with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C., including a tour in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"My sons were reaching a critical point in their adult lives, and I wanted to make sure I was around to make sure they made good decisions," said Miller. "They are all good boys."

Miller also spent three years as a drill instructor aboard the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., from February 1992 to June 1995.

Prior to Miller's retirement in June 2006, he had built an impressive resume.

In 1997, he received orders to the University of Arizona as assistance Marine officer instructor for the Naval Recruit Officer Training Candidate unit in the university. It was there Miller earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in geography and minored in history.

He served his first permanent assignment as a gunner and squad leader in Bravo

The degree gave Miller the chance and inspiration to teach, he said.

"I wanted to coach football and be a high school teacher," said Miller. "Then



Jan Robert Miller Jr., retired sergeant major, stands proudly in the 6-06 graduation class formation June 26



someone gave me the idea of being an LAPD officer. At first, I said 'no.'"

Miller said he was nervous when he thought about having to compete with younger men at the academy.

"I figured I was going to be up against young, physically fit recruits," he said. "When I thought of young men, I still automatically thought about Marines. That's the level and mindset I was used to. But I was not up against Marines, so it was pretty easy."

Aside from keeping up with his younger counterparts

during training, Miller was also appointed as a class leader and graduated at the top of Class 6-06, June 26.

Miller now works as an officer for the Rampart Division in Los Angeles. He is slated to be transferred to another division this December.

He said the transfer does not concern him because the Marine Corps has helped him adjust to moving from location to location.

"Being a Marine, the transfer is only mildly interesting," said Miller.

Kim said she and their sons are very proud of his accomplishments as a Marine, police officer, husband and father.

"I am so proud of him," said Kim. "He always gives 110 percent. I am very proud to even be his wife."

Kim added that, although she knows her husband is happy with his decision, she also knows he gets a little heart-sick when he steps foot

on any Marine base.

"He misses it a lot," said Kim. "He loves the Marine Corps."

Cpl. Nam L. Nguyen, administration clerk, Headquarters Battery, 3/11, and native of Seattle, Wash., said Miller was the man who got him promoted.

"He loves his Marines," said Nguyen. "He left the Marines to do their own decision-making. He wanted to develop NCO [noncommissioned officer] leadership. He was just awesome."

Miller said he owes everything he is today to the Marine Corps and wishes to enlighten other Marines on the opportunities available to them.

"I don't think Marines really realize how much they are respected by civilians," said Miller. "I understand that it's scary to transition into the real world, but their maturity, discipline, respect, outlook on

life and experiences are years ahead of their civilian counterparts. The civilian world wants and needs them."

LAPD is always keeping their eyes open for service members who are not re-enlisting or retiring. They are a prior military and reservist friendly employer who pays incentive bonuses for military experience.

The academy holds a new class every month with an average of 50 to 70 recruits.

To learn more, contact an LAPD military recruiter at (213) 485-0668, or the LAPD hotline at (866) 444-LAPD, or online at [www.joinlapd.com](http://www.joinlapd.com).

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# Employee Spotlight



**Employee:** Larry E. Stratton  
**Organization:** Marine Corps Family Building Team  
**Billet:** Personal readiness and community support branch head and Marine Corps Family Building Team director  
**Job Duties:** to improve the quality of life for our service members, their families and the military retired community by providing reliable, high quality programs and services that promote healthy lifestyles and improve morale, unit, personal, deployment readiness and retention.  
**Hometown:** Marysville, Calif.  
**Hobbies:** Golf, Spending time with his wife and traveling  
**What I like most about my job:** I still get to interact with the Corps and take care of Marines. I really enjoy working for MCCS.  
**One of the most significant achievements since you've been here:** Was the Marine recipient of the GEICO Military Service Award for Substance Abuse Prevention and Education in 1994.  
**Have you ever served in the military?** Retired Marine master sergeant  
**Time in military service:** 21 years  
**Time employed at MCAGCC:** 17 years

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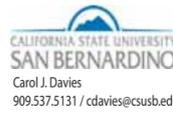
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# OBSERVATIONS

AUGUST 31, 2007

## AWANA BBQ brings children, religion together



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Twin hula hoopers, Amber and Holly Diaz, enjoy the laid back atmosphere and fun games at the AWANA barbeque Saturday at Felix Field.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Parents and children gathered together for a day of fun at the Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed Registration Barbeque Saturday at Felix Field from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

AWANA normally meets Wednesdays at the Palms Baptist Church, but was given the chance to come aboard the Combat Center.

The Religious Ministry on base has joined with the community-wide AWANA program and will be paying the registration fee this year for military families aboard the Combat Center.

"I think that the AWANA program is a good way to change kid's lives," said Cheryl J. Hyde, the AWANA

Spark. "It is another tool to help give our youth a good solid moral foundation and principles for life."

Children will be introduced to biblical teaching appropriate to their age and experiences. They will have an adult leader helping and guiding them throughout the AWANA program.

"It's so amazing how we not only teach the kids, but they teach us also," said Hyde.

Around 12,000 churches in the United States and more than 4,000 churches overseas offer the AWANA program, making it the leading ministry to help local churches reach children with the Gospel and train them to know, love and serve Christ.

Children registered with AWANA are given a handbook to help with their studies

throughout the program. The difficulty of the handbook is determined by the child's age.

The AWANA program continues throughout the school year, starting when school begins and ends on or near the last day of school.

"Our youth are faced with so many challenges and influences today, so if this program can touch one heart of just one child, that one can make a difference in the world," said Hyde.

Children interested in joining the program can sign up on Wednesday's at Palm Baptist Church or by contacting the Religious Ministries Directorate at 830-6464.

For more information, contact Spencer Felder at 830-3076, or contact his email [SpencerFelder@hotmail.com](mailto:SpencerFelder@hotmail.com).

## SMP donations appreciated by deployed 3/7 Marines



COURTESY PHOTO

Chief Petty Officer Melvin Harris, corpsman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, hands out soccer balls that were donated to the unit from the Combat Center's Single Marine Program.

CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Part of the Single Marine Program's mission is to improve the quality of life for Marines and sailors by boosting morale, whether aboard an installation or deployed to different parts of the country.

A heartfelt thank you letter was sent to SMP coordinator, LaVonne Lessard, from 1st Sgt. Mike Lanpolean, Weapons Company first sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, currently deployed in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, for the program's donations sent to his unit.

SMP's Desert Mail Call collects donations of non-perishable food, hygiene and recreational items, along with letters of appreciation, to send to deployed units.

Donations are received from individuals, local churches,

schools and other goodwill organizations.

School children write thank you letters and draw pictures to show their gratitude for the Marines and sailors.

Lanpolean described the appreciation he and his Marines felt for SMP's efforts and support. All items were put to good use and spread many smiles, he stated in the letter.

"The number one requested item from the field is letters," said Lessard. "They love letters of appreciation and paintings from children. They can't seem to get enough of those things!"

The program continues to collect items for deployed Marines, sending monthly care packages and many letters.

Due to facility issues, SMP requests food and non-food items be segregated from each other for storage purposes.

For more information about the SMP's Desert Mail Call program or to donate, call 830-4767.

Single Marine Program Coordinator  
LaVonne Lessard  
Box 788150 (Bldg 1531)  
Twentynine Palms, Ca 92278  
[LESSARDLR@USMC-MCCS.ORG](mailto:LESSARDLR@USMC-MCCS.ORG)

Ms. Lessard,

Thank you so much for your continuing support of our Marines and Sailors deploy all over the world. Your efforts and considerations is greatly appreciated. It is this kind of support that keeps the Marines Motivated and proud to serve our country.

The items you sent were needed and all put to use by our Marines. Some items are taken on patrols to help us with our civil military operations. It is great seeing the smiles on the kids whenever we go out of the wire and have stuff to hand out. I really feel that we are making a difference here and the Marines are embracing the concept of no better friend and no worse enemy.

Please know that your support have significantly raised the morale of our Marines and have put smiles on many Iraqis. It would be great if we could get more golf balls. We have plenty of golf clubs but ran out of the balls. Thanks again for your thoughts and consideration.

Sincerely and SemperFi,  
1stSgt Mike Lanpolsaen  
Weapons Co.  
Hurricane Point, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

## Jamboree football games kick-off season

Marines from Marine Corps Communications Electronics School battle through a wall of 1st Tanks Battalion defensive players in the Commanding Generals Tackle Football league.

The Jamboree football game brought four teams together to participate in the MCCES Headquarters Battalion, Combat logistics Battalion 7, 1st Tanks, and MCCES all took turns playing against each other.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON



# Honoring heroes with touch of a pencil

**CPL. LUCIAN FRIEL**  
2ND MARINE DIVISION

EDMONDS, Wash. — It's about two in the morning on the West Coast. While many people are just going to bed or have been asleep for a few hours now, one man, with coffee on the pot and the sounds of the '60s echoing in the background of his den, is setting up his drawing board and pencils preparing to start the day's work. He knows he has a lot to accomplish today.

His job is one that not too many people have the heart or the skill to do. The work he does is non-profit in the monetary sense. Instead, the reward for his efforts is a phone call or a letter from a person whose loved one made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country, thanking him for giving them a lasting memory of their brave hero.

Three and a half years ago, veteran Marine Cpl. Michael Reagan, 60, from Seattle, dedicated his life to draw portraits free of charge for any family of

a fallen service member.

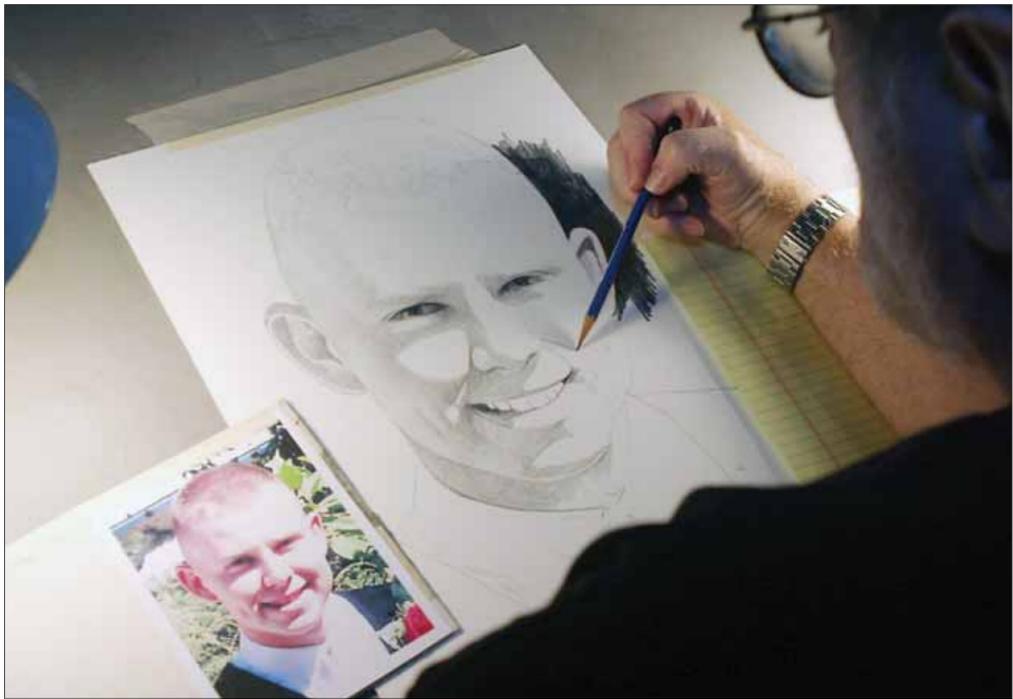
Reagan has produced more than 800 portraits of these heroes and continues to touch more lives than he ever thought possible and could ever comprehend.

"This is something that I have to do," Reagan explained. "I have to do it. These portraits are doing something incredible when they get back to their families and that's wonderful."

Reagan, who is no stranger to combat himself, joined the Marine Corps in 1966 and deployed to Vietnam with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, in 1967. He spent the majority of his time close to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the area near Con Thien.

During his tour there, he spent a lot of his downtime drawing portraits of some of the other Marines deployed in the fight with him.

"(Drawing) is something I've always enjoyed doing," he said. "In



CPL. LUCIAN FRIEL  
Michael Reagan, 60, a Seattle native, sketches a portrait of Army Pfc. Jeffrey A. Avery, a soldier who died while serving in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The former Marine and Vietnam veteran has drawn more than 800 portraits free of charge for the families of fallen service members.

See PORTRAITS, B3

## MCCS weekly CONNECTION AUG 31, 2007

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WEEKLY MOVIE SCHEDULE

31 Friday	1 Saturday	2 Sunday	3 Monday	4 Tuesday	5 Wednesday	6 Thursday
CHUCK & LARRY 6 p.m. 115 min. PG-13	MEET THE ROBINSONS FREE @ 11 a.m. G HARRY POTTER: THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX 2 p.m. 138 min. PG-13	UNDERDOG 2 p.m. 84 min. PG	THE SIMPSONS MOVIE 2 p.m. 87 min. PG-13	NO RESERVATIONS 7 p.m. 104 min. PG	HAIRSPRAY 7 p.m. 117 min. PG	HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX 7 p.m. 138 min. PG-13
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 9 p.m. 106 min. R	LICENSE TO WED 6 p.m. 91 min. PG-13 TRANSFORMERS 9 p.m. 144 min. PG-13	NO RESERVATIONS 6 p.m. 104 min. PG	CHUCK & LARRY 6 p.m. 115 min. PG-13	NO RESERVATIONS 7 p.m. 104 min. PG		
		THE SIMPSONS MOVIE 9 p.m. 87 min. PG-13	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 9 p.m. 106 min. R			

Bldg. 1510, across from the Main Exchange • R-rated movies require proper ID. Must be 17 or older, no exceptions. • 830-7269



PORTRAITS from B2

school I was always the guy who got in trouble for drawing on the desks."

Reagan's skill became an asset to his unit as he was able to draw out maps of areas they patrolled on the ever-changing battlefield. Unfortunately, like many service members who served in Vietnam, Reagan continuously engaged the enemy and witnessed fellow service members die next to him. After his return home from the war in April 1968, he did not really understand why he was spared or what his purpose was in life.

"When I came home from Vietnam I believed I was okay, I had no Purple Hearts or scars and I was in the DMZ when a lot of the bad stuff was going on," he explained. "I had no idea why I made it through when the guys to the left and right of me were dying."

He said it wasn't for another 35 years that he would finally discover that purpose.

After honorably serving his country, Reagan got out of the Marine Corps in 1969. He attended the Burnley School of Professional Art in Seattle a year later and graduated with a degree in commercial art in 1972. Shortly after, he got a job with the Seattle School District doing software programming and graphics. Then in 1979, he got a job as the director of trademarks and licensing at the University of Washington, where he worked for the next 27 years.

He continued to draw portraits throughout his career and became a well-respected and successful artist.

"I was voted the most commercial artist in my class," he explained. "I knew how to make money out of rocks, so to speak. I was always working two jobs trying to make a living as an artist."

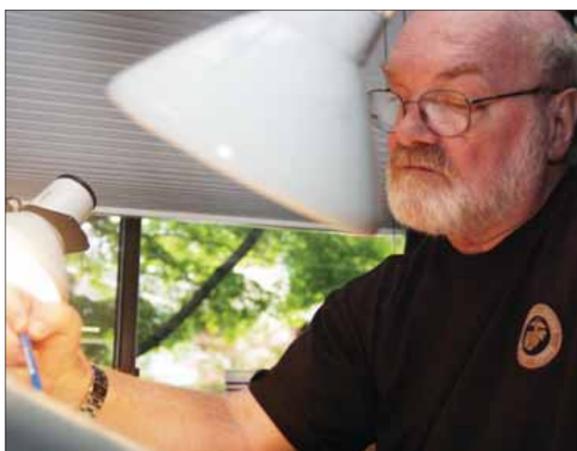
Reagan has drawn more than 1,600 portraits of celebrities and notable personalities including Elizabeth Taylor, Katherine and Audrey Hepburn and Harrison Ford. He has drawn every Heisman Trophy winner and a majority of the National Football League's Hall of Fame members. Almost every portrait is signed by the celebrity and Reagan would have them sign multiple drawing boards so he could sell more. A lot of his profits went to charity organizations. He has raised over 10 million dollars for charities across the country.

He has also drawn portraits of six U.S. presidents, including President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush. Reagan personally presented the original portraits to them in 2002, and they currently hang in the White House.

Reagan knew how to market his work and made a lot of money doing it. He owned a few of his own art studios throughout the Edmonds community. His life was, as he thought at the time, going in the direction he wanted it to be "the" great artist.

But it was an unexpected meeting with a service member's widow a year and a half later that would change Reagan's life forever.

Cherise Johnson, from Boise, Idaho, and wife of Michael Johnson, a soldier who died during the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, heard about



CPL. LUCIAN FRIEL

Michael Reagan sketches a portrait of a service member who died while serving in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reagan's work in an NBC broadcast of the story of Reagan's work with charities. She found his email address through his website and asked him one simple question.

"She asked me 'how much would it cost for you to do a portrait of my husband?'" Reagan explained. "I told her that I would do it for free."

Reagan had found his purpose. Before he knew it, more requests started to come his way.

"I decided that I had to do them all," he said.

As the war continued and word of Reagan's project spread, the requests from families asking for portraits multiplied.

In June 2005, Reagan decided it was time to devote himself to these portraits full-time and retired from his job with the University of Washington.

"There was no way I could do what I was doing and still have time to keep working," he explained. "This is my duty now."

On average, Reagan completes two portraits per day. Each drawing can take up to five hours to finish.

The veteran doesn't just draw a portrait of the service members, he learns about their lives and who they were.

"Their families will send me videos and pictures and tell me stories, and I take this all in before I draw their picture," he said.

As one can imagine, a task like Reagan's can be emotionally draining. So Reagan takes regular walks around his quaint, evergreen-covered neighborhood. The walks help him relax and deal with the raw emotions he endures on a daily basis.

From the time he receives a request until the time he finishes a portrait, Reagan feels the service member's presence with him.

"I'm not a real religious person, but I can feel their energy as soon as I start on their portrait until I put it in the mail to be sent to the family," he said. "When I send a portrait to a family, that person's energy goes with it, and when the family opens that package, it's there with them."

Reagan makes himself available to every family member he speaks with and stays in contact with them even after they receive their portrait.

On May 11, 2007, Marsha Mattek, the mother of Lance Cpl. John Mattek Jr., a 24-year-old Marine with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C., who died in Iraq after wounds received on June 8, 2005, in the Al Anbar Province, sent Reagan a letter after receiving the portrait of her son.

"I just received the portrait of our son, Johnny," she wrote. "There truly are no words to express to you the beauty of this portrait. You

brought out the magic that Johnny held so well in his smile. Instead of tears, when I opened the portrait your beautiful work brought a smile to my face and warmth to my heart, as you truly captured what our son loved doing and that was serving his country."

Reagan said he has received letters similar to Marsha's from almost every family whose loved ones' portrait he has done.

"When somebody says to me 'thanks for bringing my son home' or 'thanks for bringing my husband home,' I know that something special is happening," he said.

He recalled a recent conversation with a mother of a fallen hero.

"I just had a family whose son's coffin came home screwed shut," he explained, becoming slightly choked up. "I know what that means. I know what she is talking about. So the portrait is going to be the next time she sees her son. It allows them to believe a piece of them is still here."

His wife, Cheryl, with tears in her eyes added, "What Mike does starts the healing process for a lot of these families, his portraits give them a place to focus and begin healing."

Reagan credits the beginning years of his art as the stepping stone that needed to be crossed to give him the ability and skill required for this tremendous task.

"All of that happened so I could do this project," he said. "There has never been anything in my life more rewarding than this. I would do it all over again."

The unbelievable amount of love that goes into each portrait is evident by Reagan's unending commitment to the families and to their loved ones.

"I'm a Vietnam veteran Marine doing portraits with every bit of love and respect I have inside of me," he explained. "I will do this as long as I may have to, as long as families keep asking for them."

Throughout his 35 years of drawing, Reagan said the last three and a half have given him back the ability to feel and has changed his outlook on life.

In Vietnam, he served his country when it called upon him. Now he is answering his calling by giving back to those who have suffered and sacrificed so much.

So every morning, for as long as it takes and as long as he can, Reagan's pot of coffee will be brewing. He will sharpen his pencils and set up his illustration boards, preparing to emotionally engage another hero's story and their presence. And as long as he has a breath in his body, the faces of the men and women that give America freedom will never be forgotten.

For more information, visit <http://www.fallenheroesproject.org>.

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