

OBSERVATION POST

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 37

CMC visits Combat Center, tours Mojave Viper

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

wartime conduct and the Marine Corps Community Services budget.

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

The visit began with the arrival of Conway, his wife, Annette, and his staff at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Airfield Monday evening.

Following their arrival, the entourage went to the Officer's Club for a social steak night hosted by Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, and his wife, Filomena.

Tuesday morning, Conway held an installation-wide town hall meeting with Marines and Sailors from various units at the Sunset Cinema, touching on Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and new changes being made in the Marine Corps.

Some of the changes highlighted by Conway were the length of deployments for Marines, new gear being introduced to the battlefield,

Another issue addressed was the need for Marines to deploy, especially as individual augments from non-deployable units. Conway said he feels strongly about the subject and that every Marine should be sent to the fight.

Increasing the manpower in the Marine Corps was also a hot topic. Conway stated the rising troop levels would allow Marines to be in garrison longer in between deployments, which will increase the number of Marines who can be deployed overseas.

Conway said the rise in troop strength will also allow Marines in garrison more time to receive a variety of training that will make Marines more efficient in a number of combat environments.

After Conway's opening speech, the floor was open to questions from Marines attending the meeting. A variety of questions were brought to Conway's attention regarding many current events and issues related to the Marine



Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, addresses Marines and sailors from various Combat Center units in a town hall meeting at the Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

Corps.

The attending Marines and sailors voiced their questions and concerns to Conway regarding topics like the increase in manpower, training and funding for Iraqi forces

and the Marine Corps, re-enlistment incentives and small unit leadership.

On the topic of bonuses for Marines to re-enlist, Conway said he wants to work on offering non-monetary incentives to

get Marines to stay in the Marine Corps.

"Quality of life is the key to keeping the Marines happy," said Conway.

Conway said he plans to improve the quality of life of

the barracks, make the barracks themselves more tolerable, provide basic allowance for housing to single Marines on a case-by-case basis and create

See CMC, A10

2/7 recognizes, remembers their fallen warriors

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

recent deployment with a memorial service at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Sept. 6.

The Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, honored fallen Marines from their

Families, friends and fellow Marines were in attendance to show respect for those who

lost their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The eight Marines who were killed in action were recognized individually after the opening prayer:

Lance Cpl. Blake Howey, rifleman, Golf Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, Feb. 18.

Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Windsor, rifleman, Golf

Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, March 11.

Lance Cpl. Harry Timberman, rifleman, Golf Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, March 17.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Olsen, rifleman, Fox Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, April 2.

Lance Cpl. Jesse Delatorre, assaultman, Headquarters and Service Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, April 16.

Lance Cpl. Johnny Strong, mortarman, Mobile Assault Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, June 12.

Lance Cpl. Juan Garciaschill, administrative clerk, H&S Company, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, July 1.

1st Lt. Shaun Blue, platoon commander, MAC, 2/7, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq, April 16.

Following the recognition of the Marines, Lt. Col. Joseph A. L'Etoile, commanding officer, 2/7, spoke on their behalf.

"Each of the Marines we honor tonight was an honest, selfless man," said L'Etoile.

"They volunteered to serve their country and place themselves between the murderers and the innocent."

L'Etoile extended 2/7's deepest thanks to the families of the fallen Marines for the impact they and their fellow Marines had on Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to L'Etoile, 2/7's influence in Iraq spanned more than 200 square kilometers when they first arrived. Because of the sacrifices made and goals accomplished by the Marines in the battalion, their influence covered approximately 800 square kilometers by the time they left.

"These men were proud of their nation," said L'Etoile. "They were proud to be Marines, and they were proud to serve in Iraq. God bless these Marines."

Everyone in attendance stood in silence as Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett, 2/7 sergeant major, conducted the roll call.

Following the playing of taps, family, friends and fellow Marines approached the inverted rifles and portraits to honor, remember and say their final goodbyes to their fallen Marines.



The Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, salute and pay respect to their fallen warriors during their memorial ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 6.

Weekend Weather

Friday  96/71
Mostly Sunny

Saturday  98/71
Mostly Sunny

Sunday  98/71
Mostly Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: Combat Center Challenge
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- A8: OSC holds "Welcome Aboard Meeting"

Observations



Combat Center Band wows Colorado

This Day in Marine Corps History

— Sept. 14, 1942 —
Japanese on Guadalcanal's "Bloody Ridge" were shredded by Edson's Raiders.

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention



Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

**COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING
THE PROACTIVE VOICE OF CRIME PREVENTION
PRESENTED BY THE PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE
CRIME PREVENTION SECTION**

DO you know what your children, spouse, or even sister or brother are doing with their spare time. Whether it be hanging out with friends or just by themselves. Drug use and abuse is becoming more and more popular. Here are some Stats to show you.

1. Trends in the percentage of persons reporting any illicit drug use: From 1979 to 2001

Age of respondent and recency of drug use:	1979	1985	1988	1990	1993	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001
12-17										
Ever	31.8%	27.4%	22.8%	20.9%	16.4%	22.1%	21.3%	27.6%	26.9%	28.4%
Past Year	24.3	20.7	14.9	14.1	11.9	16.7	16.4	19.8	18.6	20.8
Past 30 days	16.3	13.2	8.1	7.1	5.7	9.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	10.8
18-25										
Ever	69.0%	62.9%	58.1%	54.9%	50.2%	48.0%	48.1%	52.6%	51.2%	55.6%
Past year	45.5	37.4	29.1	26.1	24.2	26.8	27.4	29.1	27.9	31.9
Past 30 days	38.0	25.3	17.9	15.0	13.6	15.6	16.1	16.4	15.9	18.8
26-34										
Ever	49.0%	59.5%	61.2%	59.8%	58.2%	53.1%	50.6%	53.2%	50.9%	53.3%
Past year	23.0	26.2	19.1	18.4	14.6	14.6	12.7	13.5	13.4	16.1
Past 30 days	20.8	23.1	14.7	10.9	9.5	8.4	7.0	6.8	7.8	8.8
35 and older										
Ever	11.8%	18.1%	20.0%	22.5%	26.1%	29.0%	31.8%	35.7%	35.5%	38.4%
Past year	3.9	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.3
Past 30 days	2.8	3.9	2.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.5
All (ages 12 and other)										
Ever	31.3%	34.4%	34.0%	34.2%	34.2%	34.8%	35.8%	39.7%	38.9%	41.7%
Past year	17.5	16.3	12.4	11.7	10.3	10.8	10.6	11.5	11.0	12.6
Past 30 days	14.1	12.1	7.7	6.7	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	7.1

Note: Any illicit drug use includes use of marijuana, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, heroin, or nonmedical use of sedatives, tranquilizers, stimulants, or analgesics. Prior to 1979, data were not totaled for overall drug use and instead were published by specific drug type only.

Data Break: Changes made to the design and execution of NHSDA in 1999 make the 1999, 2000, and 2001 data incomparable to previous years. However, the 1999, 2000, and 2001 data are comparable to each other.

Source: National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. For information on Signs and symptoms go to website: http://www.helpguide.org/mental/drug_substance_abuse_addiction_signs_effects_treatment.htm#signssymptoms. For more information of the statistics of drug use go to website: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/factsht/druguse/>.

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

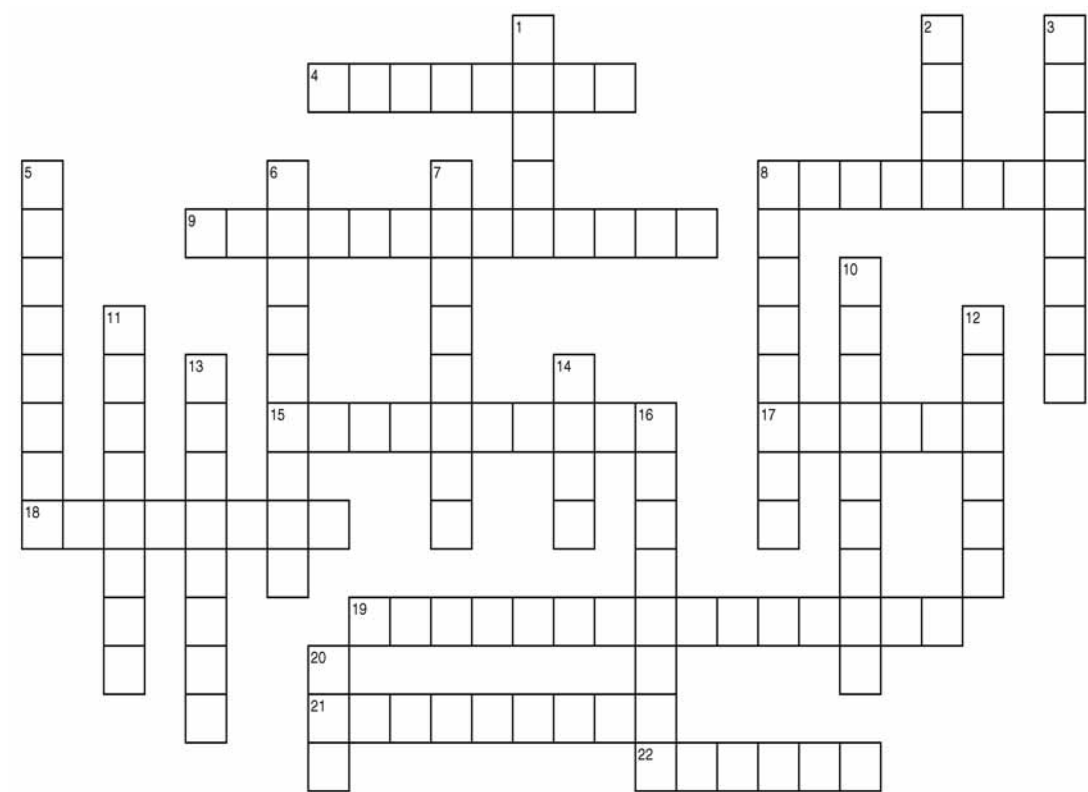
Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



sempertoons.com
cafeappress.com/sempertoons
myspace.com/semperton

SLOGANS



ACROSS

- 4. Get Full
- 8. Mmm mmm good
- 9. Got a little captain in you?
- 15. Have it your way
- 17. Because I'm worth it
- 18. Taste the rainbow
- 19. Don't leave home without it
- 21. Billions served daily
- 22. Eat fresh!

DOWN

- 1. So Easy a caveman could do it
- 2. Just do it
- 3. You're in good hands
- 5. It's in the game
- 6. Eatin' good in the neighborhood
- 7. It satisfies
- 8. Raising the bar
- 10. Keeps going and going and going
- 11. Always worth it
- 12. Ancient Chinese secret, huh?
- 13. Just for the taste of it
- 14. It's everywhere you want to be
- 16. Brilliant!
- 20. Melts in your mouth, not in your hand

[Solutions on A8]

Centerspeak

If you could ask the Commandant of the Marine Corps any question, what would it be?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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



LANCE CPL. PEEPEE MOEVEVE
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION



SGT. JAMES HARROLD
3RD BATTALION, 23RD MARINE REGIMENT



PFC. JAMES DOLAN
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

“Why does it take so long to get TAD orders to deploy?”

“I would ask for more up-tempo training for line platoons.”

“I would ask how he feels about the drinking age being lowered once people enlist active duty.”

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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LIBERTY CALL

COMBAT CENTER OFFICERS' CLUB presents:

MONGOLIAN BBQ

Friday, September 14 • 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Feed your **WARRIOR APPETITE!**

For O'Club & SNCO Club Patrons.

Enjoy delicious mongolian meat and vegetables barbecued to your liking. \$4.60 per ounce for members and \$7.75 for non-members. A children's chicken platter is also available.

MCCS
www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED, PLEASE CALL 830-6610.

COMBAT CENTER OFFICERS' CLUB BLDG 1573 • BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH ST.

IT'S TIME FOR... ...BUNKO

All Hands Spouses' TUESDAY, SEPT. 18

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS!

It's a Night of strategy & good times at the Combat Center Officers' Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$10 BUY-IN. Games will be from 7-9 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment.

CHILD CARE from 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$10 per child. (Minimum of 15 children needed) Call 830.3227 ext. 272. Call for reservations and location.

Sign up at the Officers' Club by Friday, Sept. 14.
Details, 830.6610
www.mccs29palms.com

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

SMP EVENTS

September 14 - 20

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

Friday, September 28, 29 & 30

Return on the 30th
Depart the Zone at 10 a.m.

Viva Las VEGAS

WEEKEND SMP TRIP

See: **Blue Man Group at The Venetian**

• Fremont Street • Shopping & More

LIMITED SPACE! RESERVE TODAY!

Cost is \$160.00 per person

Call 830-4767
mccs29palms.com

GLOW BALL

Golf Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 15

Showtime: 4:30 p.m.
Tee time: 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per person
Includes: glowball, cart, greens fee, prizes & food

Four person scramble
Pick-team or sign-up individually.

Call 830-4094

DESERT WINDS GOLF COURSE

mccs29palms.com

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

The Brave One (R) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Dragon Wars (PG-13) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	3:10 To Yuma (R) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
Knocked Up (R) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Coming Sept. 21 • Resident Evil: Extinction	ALL SHOWS BEFORE 8:00 PM \$8.00 • ADULTS \$10.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.cinema6.com

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

Ball Gown

Trunk show

ENTER TO WIN A GOWN BY JESSICA McCLINTOCKI
Winner will be announced at the beginning of the event.

16th Annual Ball Gown Trunk Show
Friday, September 14th
4 to 8 p.m.

Main Exchange
20% discount on all
Ball Gowns, Accessories,
Evening Purses & Shoes
Refreshments provided

Sale will run from 4 to 8 p.m., September 14th ONLY!

Friday, September 14

MCCS
MEX

Exercise Your Brain.

Read The Newspaper.

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.
Your Community Newspapers
Working to Serve You Better!

Music & Bowling Moonlight Style

MOONLIGHT BOWLING

Sunday, September 16th
5:00pm to 8:00pm

Yucca Bowl

Max. 6 people per lane
shoe rental \$2 person
\$12 hour per lane

58146 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley
760.365.7678

5th annual Combat Center Challenge brings units together

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 5th annual Combat Center Challenge, which is sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services, took place at Victory Field Sept. 7, hosting seven teams who competed for the CCC rotating trophy and \$500 to go toward their unit's Marine Corps Ball fund.

This year's winning team with 57 points was 1st Tank Battalion, beating last year's winning team, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, by 17 points, who took second place this year.

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 came in third place with 34 points. Other participating teams like Headquarters Battalion took home 31 points, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital scored 27 points, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School ended the day with five and finally, Dental Clinic rounded up three points from the day's challenge.

Some of the CCC events included the M16A2 service rifle assembly race, volleyball tournament, water polo with flak jackets, hummer pull, tug of war, ironman and woman physical fitness test, corpsman event, basketball tournament, king of the hill, dummy grenade toss and First to Fight videogame tournament.

Although the basketball and videogame tournament took place prior to the official CCC date, both played part in adding points toward the final scores to determine overall placement in this year's challenge.

In addition to field events,



Privates first class Charles London and William Parks, 1st Tank Battalion, battle against each other in the inflatable gladiator ring Sept. 7 at Victory Field during the Combat Center Challenge.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

the CCC also sponsored several information booths including the Los Angeles Police Department featuring its own Bearcat tactical vehicle, and a blood drive trailer for blood donations.

A local radio station, Z107.7, took on the role of disc jockey and played requested songs throughout the event.

Pvt. Kenneth D.

McCummings, Alpha Company, MCCES, volunteered to coordinate one of the CCC events.

"I volunteered because I'm a new student," said McCummings. "It gave me the opportunity to meet the field Marines and those currently in operating forces. It also gives them a break from their stressful jobs."

Pvt. Richard Kelly, Bravo Company, MCCES, agreed "I felt like getting out for a little while and helping set things up and see what was going on," said Kelly, who arrived at the Combat Center less than two weeks ago. "[New Marines] should come to these things because it gives you a chance to meet higher-ups and see what's on base."

Although the CCC had a profound influence on the newer Marines, service members of every age and rank could be found participating on the field that day.

The CCC offers Marines and sailors an opportunity to make connections and take a break from daily routine, said 2nd Lt. Saba Safiari, CLB-7.

"This is about camaraderie,

building unit morale, and most importantly, realizing that we're all still humans," said Safiari.

Although the CCC takes place only once a year, there are numerous other events made available to families and single Marines aboard the Combat Center through MCCS, Defense Commissary Agency, Red Cross and other organizations year-round.

September Fix Up Special!

ALL ITEMS DISCOUNTED
Saturday Sept. 15th
10% Off All Day
Early Birds 7:00-10:00
Extra 5% Off

\$1000 GIFT CERTIFICATE DRAWING AT 4PM
 MUST REGISTER AT THE DOOR
 NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.
 (Merchandise only)

IN STORE RAFFLES THRU-OUT THE DAY!
RAFFLE TIMES:
8 - 10 - 12 - 2
 (Must be present to win)

Yucca Valley
7054 Old Woman Springs Rd.
365-2359
 Mon - Fri 6-5:30 Sat 7-5 Sun 7:30-4

Two locations to serve you!
 Merchandise may be different per store.
 Excludes existing quotes & contracts.
 Delivery fee not included.
 Must register at door for prizes
 (1 per customer).
 Subject to stock on hand

Twentynine Palms
6854 Adobe Rd.
367-7581
 Mon - Fri 6-6:00 Sat 7:30-5 Sun 8-4

You Asked For It: MCCS brought it

MAGGIE JONES
MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

Marine Corps Community Services provides quality of life services to Marines, sailors and their family members aboard the Combat Center.

The mission of MCCS to provide entertainment, recreation and quality shopping opportunities available throughout the year.

Recently, MCCS received suggestions from their patrons to increase service in two of their most popular facilities.

The Sunset Cinema added a Free Children's Matinee to its Saturday morning schedule. The 11 a.m. showing has been incredibly popular with family members.

The theater also added Midnight Madness showing popular features Fridays and Saturdays at midnight. The first weekend of these Friday

and Saturday night shows were incredibly popular, particularly the Saturday midnight showing of The Bourne Ultimatum, which attracted more than 200 patrons. The Combat Center is looking forward to the midnight show of Rush Hour 3 Saturday, and new hits in the weeks to come.

The West Gym and Fitness Center are now open 24 hours, 7 days a week to accommodate workouts and recreation. The fitness center features a full weight room, with personal trainers on-staff. The West Gym has a full array of exercise equipment and a basketball court. Patrons will now be able to work out before their shifts in the morning, and late into the night when their schedule permits.

In upcoming months, MCCS will be responding to suggestions from patrons for

more enhanced and expanded services. Patrons who would like to suggest opportunities for better quality of life programs and events are invited to make comments through the Interactive Customer Evaluation online at <http://www.mccs29palms.com> or write to the Director of MCCS at MCCS, Bldg. 1522, MCAGCC, 92278 or call 830-7318.

Marine Corps Community Services is here to serve.

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

Friday

Hairspray
6 p.m. (PG)

Stardust
9 p.m. (PG-13)

I Know Who Killed Me
Midnight (R)

Saturday

Free Matinee
The Wild
11 a.m. (PG-13)

The Simpson's Movie
2 p.m. (PG-13)

Rush Hour 3
6 p.m. (PG-13)

Hot Rod
9 p.m. (PG-13)

Rush Hour 3
Midnight (PG-13)

Sunday

Daddy Day Camp
2 p.m. (PG)

Hairspray
6 p.m. (PG)

I Know Who Killed Me
9 p.m. (R)

Monday

Sunshine
7 p.m. (R)

Tuesday

Rescue Dawn
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Wednesday

Hot Rod
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Thursday

Stardust
7 p.m. (PG-13)

HOT TOPICS

COMMISSARY CASE LOT SALE THIS WEEKEND

Hours are today and tomorrow 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

COMMANDING GENERAL'S CFC KICK OFF TODAY

The Commanding General will kick off the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign at Victory Field, today, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be food and beverage served. Local charitable agencies will have tables displaying their services to our Marines, family members, and the local community. There will be items raffled off during the ceremony.

EXOTIC ANIMAL DISPLAY TODAY

Youth and Teen Oasis will be hosting an Exotic Animal Display featuring the Animal Guys Inc. from Altadena, Calif., today from 2 to 5 p.m. in building 692. The event is open to all youth and teen program members. For more information, contact Tina Schmitz at 830-3227, extension 272. MCCS Youth Teen Oasis offers children ages 6 through 12 a fun place to go Saturdays. From crafts and sport to camping and movies, there is always a special project, field trip, or special event planned. YATO is next to the Sleeping Tortoise lodge on Del Valle Rd.

PREP WORKSHOP: SEPT. 26 TO SEPT. 28
Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program is a 3-day workshop teaching communication skills, ground

rules for handling conflict and promoting intimacy for married or engaged couples. The program's aim is to prevent marital problems before they become too great to handle. PREP workshops are offered at the Protestant Chapel at no cost. Problem solving, building fun and friendship into your relationship, sensual/sexual enhancement, steps in forgiveness, how to handle expectations and money matters are just a few of the topics covered in the workshop. The next PREP workshop is scheduled for Jan. 23 to 25. Call 830-6464 for more information or to enroll in a workshop.

MASP OPENINGS

Copper Mountain College has openings for the upcoming Military Academic Skills Program beginning Sept. 17. MASP offers remedial instruction in both Math

and English. Many Marines and sailors take part in MASP to improve their ASVAB scores as well as prepare for the college classroom. There is no cost. MASP runs for four weeks, Monday through Friday. It is split into two sessions: Math from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and English, writing, vocabulary from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Classes are taught by credentialed instructors. For more information, please contact, Copper Mountain College - Base Programs at 830-6133. Open to family members on a space-available basis.

TRAINING TANK HOURS FOR REMAINDER OF SUMMER

Training Tank will remain open through Oct. 28 for recreational swimming. Monday-Friday 1-6 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

NEW! Saturday Morning MOVIE MATINEE



FREE

11 AM

SUNSET Cinema 830-7269

MCCS MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICE

MIDNIGHT movies dollar admission

Saturday @ Midnight Friday @ Midnight




SUNSET Cinema 830-7269

Bldg. 1510, ACROSS FROM THE MAIN EXCHANGE

MOVIE SCHEDULE ONLINE: mccs29palms.com

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- Divorce
- Notary Public

JANET M. STOUT
(12 year resident of Morongo Basin & 15 years legal exp.)
Legal Document Assistant, Reg#133 SB City
P.O. Box 2654, Yucca Valley, CA 92286-2654

I am not an attorney. I can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

Your Mission. Your Way.
See it. Buy it. Get it.



Safety Helmets

Toolbelts

Safety Goggles

Ladders

Your mission changes every day. And you need a convenient, compliant way to acquire the essential supplies you need to get it done. CSA Global Supply offers a vast selection of the products the Marines need to function - in war time and all others. Gain access to our products with your government purchase card or DoDAAC, browse our product offerings and order directly from CSA Global Supply by phone, fax or our web site. Or, you may order GSA Global Supply products through GSA Advantage!, DOD EMALL, or electronically via MILSTRIP requisition. Should your mission require an item that GSA Global Supply doesn't currently offer, our procurement experts are available to help you locate it. Whenever you order from GSA Global Supply, you can order with confidence - knowing that you're adhering to FAR, JWOD, socioeconomic and environmental mandates. Most importantly, GSA Global Supply allows you to purchase more of what you need through a more streamlined, easy-to-navigate, fully supported process. For more information or to place an order, visit www.GSAGlobalSupply.gsa.gov. Or call our customer service representatives at 1-800-595-8097.



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 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (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

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
 6 p.m. RCIA (Bldg. 1551,
Christ Chapel
 5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
 6 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
 6 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship
 7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study
 7 p.m. Praise & Worship Service

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

LEGEND
 *Indicates Child Care Provided
 +Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6646

Toys for Tots asks for donors to screen toys

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

QUANTICO, Va. -- Marine Toys for Tots Foundation announced today the actions being taken to prevent the distribution of unsafe toys. In response to recent events within the toy industry regarding unsafe toys manufactured in China, and in preparation for the 2007 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign, Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is taking this opportunity to enlist the assistance of the millions of caring Americans who support the annual Toys for Tots Campaign.

We are asking our loyal supporters to help us by identifying and screening toys prior to purchase to ensure that only safe toys are donated to the Toys for Tots Campaign and distributed to America's needy children.

The toys identified to date as potentially unsafe can be found at the below listed website links:

Mattel toy recall list: <http://www.mattel.com/safety/us/>

Detailed SKU's: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/08/14/fyi/main3166371.shtml>

Added 8/23/07: <http://children.webmd.com/news/20070823/more-toy-recalls-due-to-lead-paint>

Added 9/5/07: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/manufacturing/2007-09-04-mattel-toy-recall-lead_N.htm

Marine Toys for Tots Foundation does not purchase any toys directly from overseas vendors or manufacturers. All toy purchases are from reputable, well established U.S. companies that are working diligently to ensure that none

of the toys identified in the above links are included in Marine Toys for Tots Foundation purchases.

Local Toys for Tots coordinators will be accepting, inspecting, and sorting millions of toys in preparation for distribution during the 2007 Toys for Tots campaign. With the combined efforts of our toy vendors, the watchful eyes of our donors, and the careful inspection by our Toys for Tots coordinators, we will strive to distribute only safe gifts to America's needy children.



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

An abundance of toys donated by golfers overflow from barrels used at the Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament Nov. 18, 2005 at Desert Winds Golf Course. Through the tournament, Installation and Logistics Directorate raise money and toys for Toys for Tots.

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<p>Church of Christ Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm Ladies' Bible Classes 11 am Wed. Wed. Bible Study 5pm 7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215</p>	<p>Victory Christian Center <i>Shaking the heavens, reaching the world!</i> (760) 365-4302 Sunday Morning, 10:00 AM Wednesday 7:00 PM 57889 Pueblo Trail, Y.V. Hwy. 62 on South on Warner Vln (Starbucks) Go left on Jones Trail, Right on Glade Vista on Pueblo Tr.</p>	<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church Just the Best place to get Married Father Ian Hanley Sunday School, Holy Eucharist 11:30 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Call for free van ride Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship Children's Bible School - Hrs. Available Visitors Welcome Sunday Concert Series • Call for info 29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-6086</p>	<p>St. Martin-in-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study After Service We're Here for Everyone Phone: (760) 367-7133 72548 Llama Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartininchurch29.org</p>
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<p>Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671 The United Methodist Church Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM (Child Care Available) Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church WORSHIP SERVICES 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WEDNESDAY CHRIST AWANA 5807 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH 365-2348 Fax 365-4185</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene 9:45 am Morning Worship 8:30 am Sunday School (All ages) 6:00 pm Evening Service 56248 Buena Vista, 365-7819 www.yvnazarene.com</p>	<p>First Southern Baptist Church Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm Sun. Bible Study 9:30am Wed. Potluck 6:00pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm 6086 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p>	<p>STARTING SUNDAY OCT 7TH • 9 AM JTNP at Jumbo Rocks Amphitheater www.churchattherocks.com can't attend any worship see us on vimeo.com and family friendly, campfire and more!</p>
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2/7 CO retires, new CO takes his place

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lt. Col. Joseph A. L'Etoile, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment commanding officer, relinquished the command of 2/7 to Lt. Col. Richard D. Hall in a change of command ceremony and retirement at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 7.

The ceremony gave the Marines of 2/7 a chance to not only welcome their new commanding officer, but bid farewell to L'Etoile as he retired from active duty in the Marine Corps after 20 years of faithful service as a commissioned officer.

After serving as a speech writer for the 32nd and 33rd Commandants of the Marine Corps, L'Etoile came to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and took command of 2/7 in

February 2004.

"The last 28 months have been the biggest privilege of my life," said L'Etoile. "And I wouldn't trade a single day of my time here because I got to spend it with the best Marines and sailors in the Marine Corps."

L'Etoile's history with 2/7 extends past the time he spent as the commanding officer of the battalion, for he served as company commander of Weapons Company, 2/7, from 1995 to 1997.

"I felt like I hit the jackpot when I came back to take command of 2/7," said L'Etoile. "This is truly the proudest moment of my life."

Hall shares the same familiarity of 2/7 when he served as the commanding officer of Fox Company, 2/7.

"The Marine Corps picked one of the best officers to

replace me," said L'Etoile. "They also picked one of my best friends."

Hall did not only take charge of his former battalion, but headed down the same path as his friend and fellow Marine, L'Etoile.

"I couldn't be happier to follow in Lieutenant Colonel L'Etoile's footsteps," said Hall. "I am in awe of the position I'm in today."

L'Etoile sent his thanks to 2/7's officers and staff non-commissioned officers and Hall congratulated them for the hard work they have accomplished the past 28 months.

"The officers, staff non-commissioned officers and I will do our best to ensure every Marine is well taken care of, every day," said Hall.

Hall, a former executive officer of 7th Marines, served as the commanding officer of



Lt. Col. Joseph A. L'Etoile passes the flag and relinquishes command of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, to Lt. Col. Richard D. Hall at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 7. L'Etoile retired from active duty after 20 years of faithful service as a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps.

the Marine Detachment in Fort Benning, GA, before being assigned to 2/7.

"This is, in my opinion, the

best battalion in the Marine Corps," said Hall. "It is a privilege to take the helm of 2/7."

Hall will continue his 28-

year Marine Corps career and his history with 2/7 as the battalion's commanding officer for many months to come.

"Maintenance Mafia" keeps 3rd LAR in the fight

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion has proven itself time and again as an effective mobile infantry unit.

However, no combat unit can operate proficiently without motor transport and logistical support.

The support 3rd LAR receives comes in many different forms. Each section of the support element, the self-proclaimed "Maintenance Mafia," has its own unique role to perform in order to keep everything moving smoothly.

"Basically, we're here to support anyone with vehicles from 3rd LAR or any attached units," said Staff Sgt. Jason L. Dollahan, motor transport maintenance chief, 3rd LAR. "The battalion could have anywhere between 70-75 pieces of gear operating at any given time and they all need operational and maintenance support."

Since there can be convoys operating both day and night, there is always a dispatcher ready to answer the radio from the supply convoys, Dollahan explained.

"The logistics packs are probably our most important assets," said Dollahan. "Each log pack will operate once or twice at any given time each day because resupply times vary."

The motor transport section also has approximately seven maintenance personnel standing by. Every time a log pack goes on a mission, at least one Marine from maintenance goes with them. If there are more than 10 vehicles in the convoy, additional

maintenance personnel are sent to provide the best possible support.

Dollahan said, recently, sergeants have been placed in charge of the log packs, which is normally a responsibility reserved for staff non-commissioned officers.

"Recently, our commanding officer has been stressing the importance of our non-commissioned officers," said 1st Lt. Jake Sandmeyer, public affairs officer, 3rd LAR. "These convoys will drive an average of 14,000-15,000 miles on a six-month deployment, so enforcing leadership at a lower level enhances the proficiency of the Marines."

Although logistics convoys provide an invaluable service, even they need support. Teams of mechanics, engineers and welders also work to make sure convoys continue to run by providing recovery, maintenance, electrical and heavy equipment support.

The recovery crew is responsible for supporting the

line companies, as well as the resupply and maintenance vehicles. Their job is to recover vehicles that have been damaged or have broken down and return them to a safe location where they can be repaired by the mechanics and welders.

The welders repair damaged or broken vehicles that are brought back by the recovery team. Each company also has a welder embedded with it so vehicles can be repaired on-scene.

The engineers primarily provide electrical support to the battalion. Generators are used in the forward operating bases to give much-needed light and air conditioning to the command centers, and the medical and berthing tents.

The engineers also provide heavy equipment to the battalion, which is mainly used for construction purposes. However, their primary job is to keep the electrical units running.

Without the support from

each individual cell of the Maintenance Mafia, 3rd LAR would be dead in the water.

"Any heavy vehicle unit is going to be more maintenance-intensive," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott A. Manlick, battalion maintenance officer, 3rd LAR. "We're here to support in any way possible to keep the fighters fighting. If it's broken, we fix it."

The Maintenance Mafia continues to support 3rd LAR on and off the battlefield. They will deploy to Iraq with the rest of the battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom this week.



Pfc. Robert J. Davidson, motor transport mechanic, Headquarters and Support Company, 3rd LAR, performs a maintenance check on a humvee at 3rd LAR's motor pool Wednesday.

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OSC holds annual Welcome Aboard

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Officer's Spouses Club held their annual Welcome Aboard meeting Sept. 6 at Quarters 1 in the Ocotillo Heights housing area of the Combat Center.

The Welcome Aboard kicked off with an ice-breaker raffle game designed to acquaint OSC members with the spouses who are new to the Combat Center.

"We're here to welcome all the ladies back and welcome all the new ones to the area," said Rachel Abelson, the outgoing

first vice president of OSC. "We want everyone to get to know the fellow officer wives, and get information on the base and surrounding area. This is sort of a mix and mingle type of thing."

Following the raffle game, opening statements were made by Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, and Trenea Wolfenbarger, OSC president. Spiese began by welcoming the OSC to his home, thanked them for all their hard work and support throughout the years and congratulated them on all their success.

A number of support

organizations from both the base and the surrounding community also attended the Welcome Aboard to provide information.

They included: the American Red Cross; the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society; Gyms and Aerobics; the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce; Child, Youth and Teen Programs; the Child Development Center, the Career Resource Office; the Armed Services YMCA; the Christian Women's Fellowship; and Family Team Building, which consists of Lifestyle,



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
Members of the Officer's Spouses Club socialize at the annual Welcome Aboard meeting at Quarters 1 Sept. 6.

See OSC, A11

Change in Naval Hospital hours:

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.

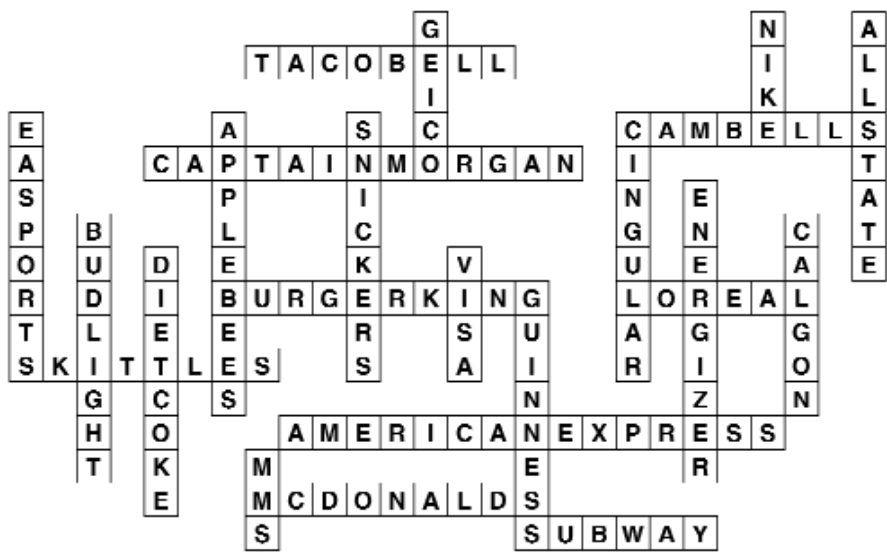
Also, normal appointments will increase from 15 minutes to 20 minutes.

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.

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

SOLUTIONS



Chili and chocolate: The recipe for fun!



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER

The Combat Center holds the G-3 Second Annual Best Chili Recipe and Death by Chocolate contest Sept. 7 at the Battle Command Center. One recipe from each category was awarded a plaque commemorating their victory. The categories were Best Mild Chili, Best Exotic Chili, Best Hot Chili and Best Death by Chocolate.

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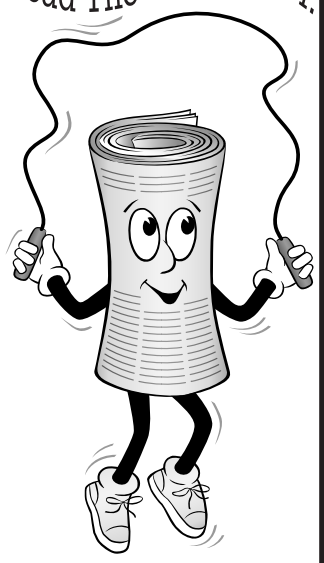


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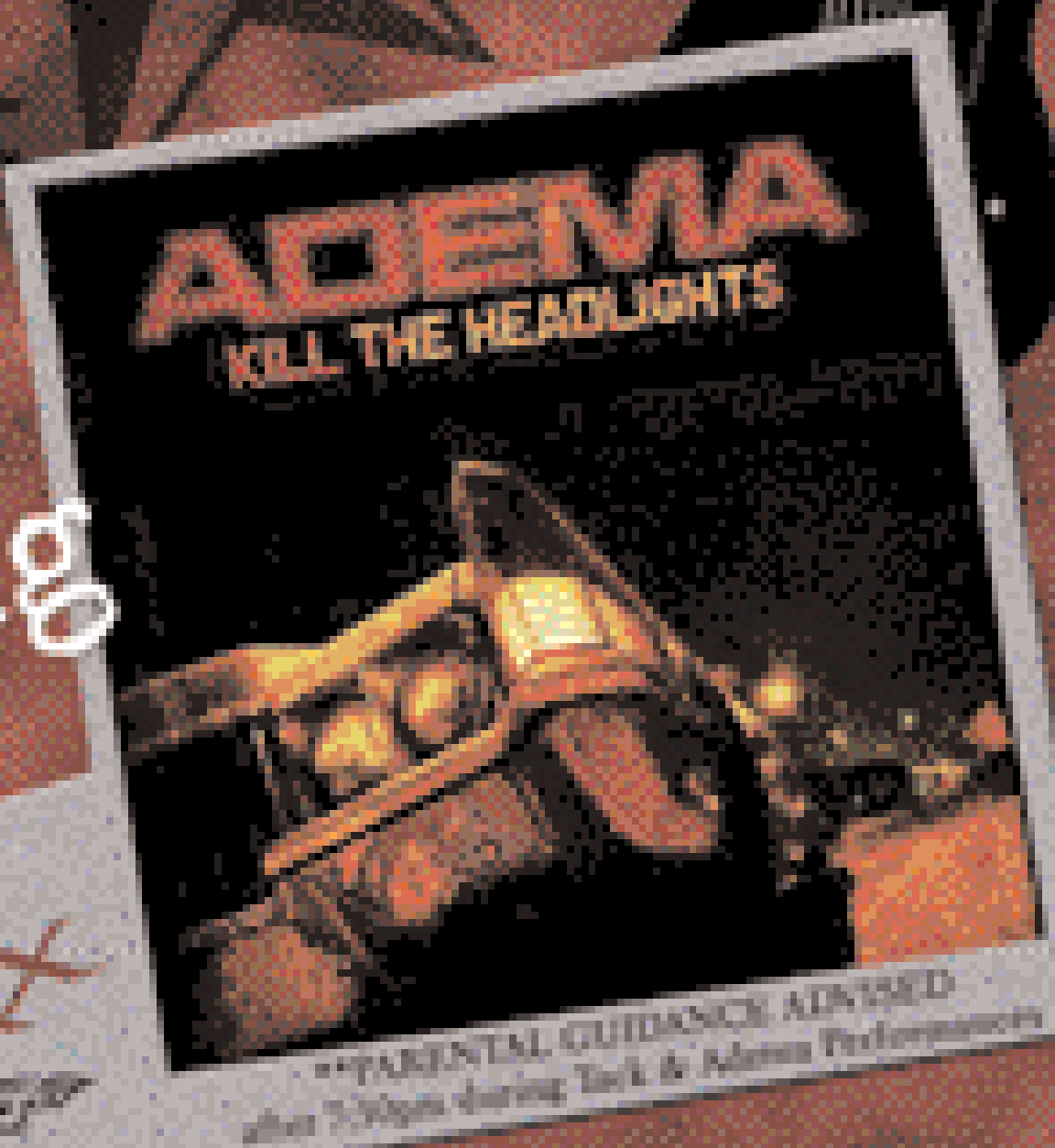
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CMC from A1

more programs for single Marines.

Conway said he also has strong feelings regarding the idea of small unit leadership in the Marine Corps.

"It is a squad leader's battle in Iraq," he said. "Tactical leadership training is a very important aspect of being a non-commissioned officer."

He also expressed his feelings for the need to have the same style of leadership in a garrison environment.

"We have a great, young cadre of NCOs yearning for the opportunity to lead and we should let them have it," said Conway.

Following the town hall meeting, Annette Conway visited with the staff of Armed Services YMCA to discuss educational benefits the organization can offer to children aboard the Combat Center.

Conway was interested to learn about the camps and side organizations ASYMCA offers the children.

"The ASYMCA will adopt a unit currently deployed and the children will write the Marines letters through the program," said Anita Neu-Fultz, ASYMCA executive director.

Conway was also concerned about the damages the ASYMCA building had taken during the desert storms in July, disrupting the classes ASYMCA offers until an alternate location was designated. Neu-Fultz explained classes were able to continue when the community centers aboard base opened their facilities to ASYMCA.

The last topic discussed with the staff of ASYMCA was the availability to the children housed in 801 hous-

ing off base. Conway noticed it is difficult for children residing off base to experience and be introduced to the ASYMCA. Mrs. Conway suggested a bus or 15-passenger van to help taxi the children and family members on and off base for the classes and featured programs the ASYMCA hosts throughout the year.

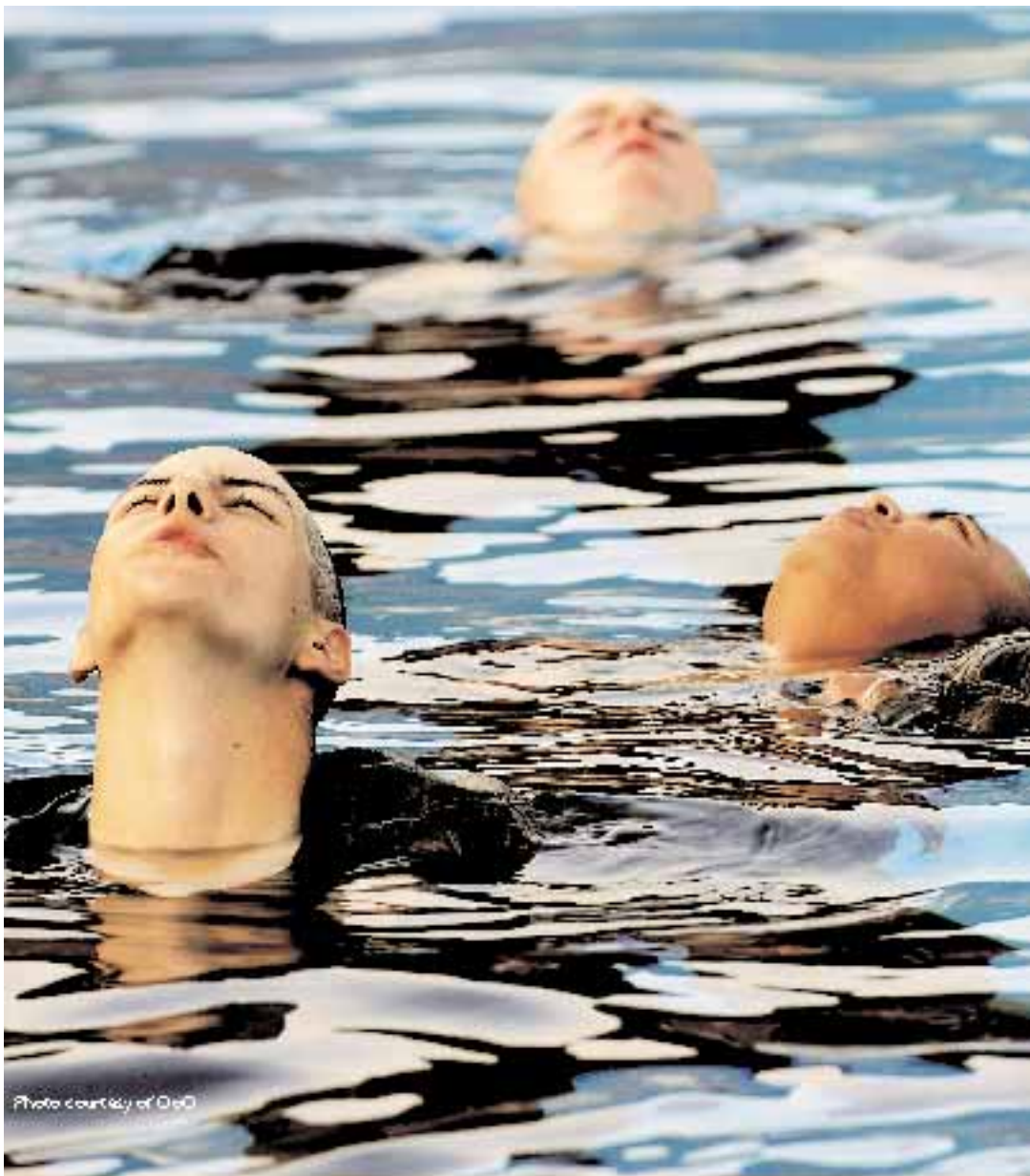
While Mrs. Conway attended the ASYMCA meeting, Conway was observing the final exercise of 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment's,

month-long Mojave Viper pre-deployment training. He toured Combat Center Range 215, Camp Wilson and Range 220. While at Camp Wilson, Conway conducted a re-enlistment ceremony for Gunnery Sgt. Jason S. Williams, Mojave Viper Support Detachment first sergeant.

After touring the Mojave Viper training areas, Conway and his entourage returned to the EAF and departed the Combat Center. Their next stop will be Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.



Gen. James T. Conway speaks about current Marine Corps issues at the Sunset Cinema Tuesday.



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For refreshment, Cpl. Brian D. Carrier, the commanding general's aide, prepared an array of appetizers for the party guests. Menu items included spinach and artichoke squares, sun-dried tomato bruschetta, mushroom tarts and a chocolate fountain.

Not only was the OSC welcoming new spouses to the Combat Center, they were also accepting memberships. The supporting groups were also accepting memberships.

The guests seemed to have a great time at the Welcome

Aboard and everyone was pleased with the number of people who showed up.

"It's been a wonderful evening spending time with Navy and Marine Corps spouses," said Kerry Boman, the Hospital and Dental's coffee representative and an OSC member. "We had a really good turnout."

Boman explained that a coffee representative's responsibility is to be a spokesman for their assigned unit and to keep other spouses informed of what is going on in the community.

"This was a great opportunity to meet women from all over the base," said Sherry Hietpas, a new member of

the OSC.

Hietpas and her husband arrived at the Combat Center in March 2007. She joined the OSC the night of the Welcome Aboard.

"I'm just glad to be here to share my love for Twentynine Palms with the rest of the spouses," said Filomena Spiese, the commanding general's wife and hostess of the Welcome Aboard. "I'm really enjoying my desert experience."

The Officer's Spouses Club will continue to support the Navy and Marine Corps spouses of the base and the surrounding community through fundraisers and other social events.

Marines obligated to fulfill civic duty

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from the Combat Center are regularly summoned to serve jury duty in the local community.

The question is: do they have to comply?

The answer is yes.

"If a Marine gets pulled for jury duty in San Bernardino County, not only are they required by law to serve, but it's also their civic duty," said Maj. Lisa B. Muscari, the military justice officer at the Staff Judge Advocate office. "I feel that Marines owe it to their community. Plus, Marines have strong ideals, making them good for the job."

According to Secretary Navy Instruction 5822.2, there is an automatic State Court exemption for all general/flag officers and commanding officers, and all personnel assigned to the operating forces; in a training status; and those stationed outside the United States are exempt from serving on state juries. In addition, there is a discretionary exemption given to all special court-martial convening authorities, who may make a determination to exempt members from state and local juries, if jury duty would unreasonably interfere with the performance of their duties, or adversely affect the readiness of the command as a whole.

"Marines make up a large population in this area," said Jessica Brown, an administra-

tive assistant at the Joshua Tree Courthouse. "We need them to serve jury duties. They are called up just as often as the general population."

"Unfortunately, Marines try to get out of jury duty almost every time they're called up," added Brown.

"What Marines don't know is that you can't excuse yourself from jury duty," said Mascari. "Only their battalion commander or commanding general can excuse Marines. If you have issues, you must consult your chain of command."

There are other ways of being excused from jury duty, said Brown. You are only required to serve once every year, so if you have already served that year, you can be excused. Also, if a Marine is preparing to deploy, currently deployed, has just returned home from deployment or is on block leave, they can also be excused.

Brown added that Marines get paid a certain amount of money to serve on juries, depending on how many days of work they miss.

"Most cases last approximately one week, but some may take as little as three days to complete."

"I think it's important for Marines to remember that when they stand jury duty, they are representing the base and the Marine Corps," said Muscari. "They should feel obligated to perform those duties for their community. Plus it could be an interesting learning experience for them."

Now, Marines can be

armed with the knowledge that unless special circumstances apply, they are required by law to serve on a jury when summoned.

For more information regarding jury duty, or legal advice, contact the Legal Assistance office at 830-6111.

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Fred B. Bryant Jr.
Organization: Exercise Support Division
Billet: Deputy
Job duties: Assists in the daily operations of ESD by providing support to personnel, facilities, supervisors, and other ESD projects.
Hometown: Rolla, Missouri
Hobbies: Golf, pen & ink and charcoal drawing
What you like most about your job: Being able to provide support to civilians and

Marines to ensure they can provide maximum support to the Mojave Viper Pre-Deployment Training Program.
One of the most significant achievements since you've been here: When ESD was awarded the Marine Corp Logistical Unit of the Year in 2005.
Have you ever served in the military? Served as a tank officer during Vietnam and with 3rd Tank Battalion
If so, how long? Served 12 years.
Time employed on MCAGCC: 25 years

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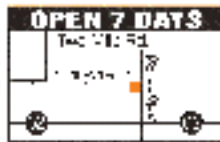
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OBSERVATIONS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

Combat Center Band steals show in Colorado



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

The Combat Center Band, led by drum major Staff Sgt. Joe Streeter, marches the band down the streets of Estes Park during a 1.5-mile parade Saturday at the 31st Annual Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival. The Marines were followed by a local Young Marines unit and color guard.

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ESTES PARK, Colo. -- The Marines of the Combat Center Band performed for more than 200,000 people over five days and nights here at the 31st Annual Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival in Estes Park, Colo.

The band, now on its eighth consecutive year attending the festival, is the only musical organization in the world to be invited back for more than two years. They travel more than 2,000 miles round trip each year to form the core

foundation of the entire opening ceremonies and evening "Tattoo" concerts.

They combined with elite bagpipe and drum units from Canada and Scotland each day and night to form the "mass bands", playing various traditional highland music such as "Scotland the Brave," "The Black Bear," and "No Awa Tae Bide Awa" during the daily opening ceremonies.

The Marines then played their own show during the opening ceremonies with songs such as "Bourbon Street," "Malaguena," and "Semper Fidelis."

The Combat Center Band also took part in a 1.5-mile parade Saturday, where thousands upon thousands of festival-goers and town residents stood and cheered as they lined the streets of Estes Park.

The most complex performance for the band was their field show performed nightly at the evening Tattoo concerts. The Marines moved with precision across a dirt field in front of a large audience while playing, singing and dancing.

For many of the Marines, this was their first trip to Estes Park. Before coming to Colorado, the band practiced the field show for hours on end, daily, for weeks, said Staff Sgt. Joe Streeter, band drum major.

"Other bands who do a field show have painted intervals on the ground of either their own or on football field ... even the 'Commandant's Own' has them out there. These guys don't," said Streeter. "They do this in the dirt and have to create all these perfect intervals and arcs, and that means eating a lot of dust in the sun back in Twentynine Palms preparing for this."

One of the signature segments for the Marines during the Tattoo is the playing of the Nation's service songs to especially recognize veterans in the audience. This year they added a surprise twist by recognizing an Iwo Jima Marine, a Combat Center Marine, and four Young Marines in the audience.

Warrant Officer Steven B. Giove, director of the band, introduced the Young Marines who represent the future of the Marine Corps and the Nation. He introduced Sgt. Jose Grajeda, assistant drum major for the band and who has attended the trip to Estes Park for the past seven years as the representative of the Corps.

He then told the audience of the staggering numbers of American casualties and the struggles during the battle for Iwo Jima before introducing 85-year-old Max E. Brown, a former Marine sergeant who landed on Iwo Jima with the 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, in 1945.

All of those recognized on the field were given a handful of sand from Iwo Jima to spread on the field, unofficially christening the festival grounds as the audience watched in staunch silence. They left the field to thunderous applause as the Marines began to play the "Marine's Hymn." As they played, five Marines and a sailor in camouflage utilities, field gear and carrying a long pole with an American flag, ran and planted the pole in the spot where they had spread the coarse black sand, recreating the iconic image from atop Mt. Suribachi.

The audience cried, clapped and cheered wildly on their feet for minutes.

"To be in the presence and perform for a true American hero, Sgt. Max E. Brown, an Iwo Jima Marine, was a tremendous honor," said Giove about the impromptu ceremony. "It was a privilege to share this honor with the audience and our Marines who understand the magnitude of this Marine's contribution to freedom and in turn, gave him a well-deserved standing ovation showing their gratitude."

Following the band's performances, the festival saw actor Kevyn Major Howard and his "Fueled by the Fallen" memorial race cars which bears the names of all Marines killed in action in Iraq. Howard played "Rafterman" in the legendary movie "Full Metal Jacket," and teamed with the Combat Center Band during the festi-

val to help raise funds for injured Marines and the families of those killed in action.

Throughout the trip, the Marines were welcomed warmly wherever they went and received nearly overwhelming support from the community and festival, said Streeter, for whom this is his fifth and final trip to Estes Park before he retires in April.

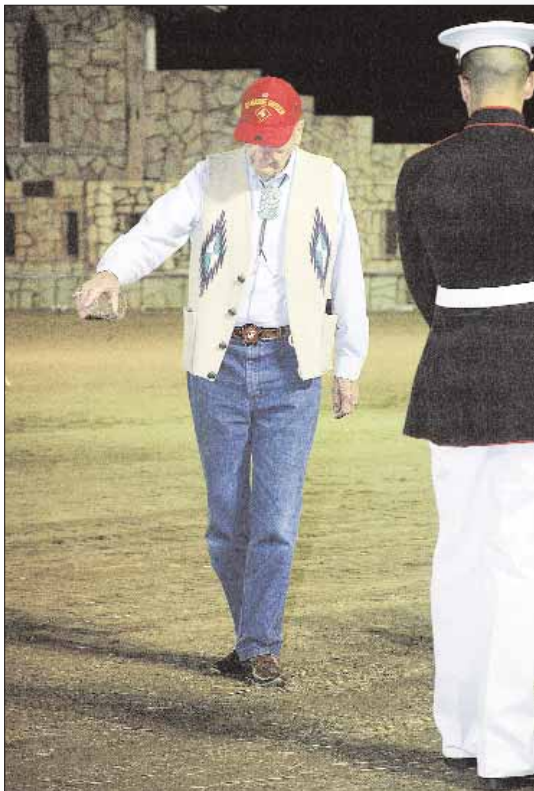
"Here at the festival, I have truly seen the love for the Marines here grow over the years. There is so much anticipation for us that when they see a Marine, they go ballistic," he said. "Musical organizations are not invited back for more than two years, that's the rule, except for us. They want us back here because we are Marines. Plain and simple."

"The bands are extremely important for these people because we are their only chance to meet a real Marine and reach out and touch them or look them in the eye," Streeter continued. "We have the opportunity here to push politics aside and show them that these are young men and women."

Streeter and the rest of the Marines agreed the days spent performing here were taxing. But swollen feet, aching shins, knees and backs, raw necks and fatigue did not stop the Marines from giving every concert their all, sometimes practicing up until the minute they go on to perfect every detail.

"Everything we do is a lot of work but it's worth it when you get to meet the different people," said Lance Cpl. Aaron L. Jackson, a 21-year-old saxophone player from Houston. "I came from a very secluded area and didn't get to see a whole lot. This was great because I got to meet the Scots and Irish and share their culture and start new friendships. It's been a great opportunity."

As the Marines returned to the Combat Center late Monday night, many breathed a sigh of relief that their adventure was over but could not help but think of what lay in store for them on next year's trek.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Former Marine Sgt. Max E. Brown, who landed with the 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, on Iwo Jima in 1945, sprinkles black volcanic sand from Iwo on the festival grounds at the 31st Annual Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival, unofficially "christening" it.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

The Combat Center Band and bagpipers and drummers from the York Police Department in Canada and the Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band from Edinburgh, Scotland, join together to form the "Mass Bands" during the evening tattoo concerts at the 31st Annual Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

The Combat Center Band's drumline performs a solo performance during their field show at the festival.

Armed Services YMCA provides services to local community



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTTILL

Marin McCarthy prepares to throw a ball as Israel Flores and Gabriela Miagany play behind her at the Community Center as part of the Armed Services YMCA's Fitness and Fun program that allows infants and toddlers to be watched while parents exercise.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association has been aboard the Combat Center serving service members and their families since 1992.

"All service members and federal employees stationed aboard MCAGCC regardless of geographic residence may avail themselves of our services," said Anita Neu-Fultz, executive Director of the ASYMCA. "The majority of our participants reside in the Morongo Basin including the Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Morongo Valley."

Due to some unexpected desert thunderstorms July 25, the trailers the ASYMCA uses as classrooms were damaged.

"The base fire department conducted an inspection and closed the classrooms to the parents and children because of roof damage in addition to the ceiling tile damage," said Neu-Fultz.

All classes were halted until the Marine Corps Community Services community center and the Ocotillo community center opened their doors for the ASYMCA to hold their classes inside while the ASYMCA searches for a permanent classroom that can

hold its customers.

"Because of space limitations, we will start by serving 66 families at these two facilities," said Neu-Fultz. "We have 44 families still on the waiting list, but the ASYMCA is working on accommodating them in the near future."

Since the ASYMCA cannot duplicate any other service provided aboard the base, they partner with others to provide a full spectrum of services for all ASYMCA members.

Other organizations on the base have used classrooms from the ASYMCA for their services.

The ASYMCA has many different programs to offer. Their Interactive Parent/Child Programs will be offered from August to May offering five different classes.

The Playtime with Baby ranges from six months old to two years old. Tiny Tots is for children ages two to three years old. KinderTime is for children three to four years old. This class offers a preschool environment for children. KinderReady is for children four to five years old. This prepares children for kindergarten, teaching them the fundamentals of letters, shapes, colors and seasons.

The last program for the Interactive Parent/Child is the summer program. It runs

through the summer months for children age's three to five.

The ASYMCA also has a community outreach program. They will help military families with Family Assistance, giving families a gift certificate for the commissary or main exchange on base.

Military families can receive help, from programs Holiday Help or a program called Wounded Comrade.

"Wounded Comrade provides family members the opportunity to be able to visit their wounded or injured Marine or Sailor that are attached to units aboard the Combat Center and an inpatient at any hospital that they are receiving care," said Neu-Fultz. "The presence of family is very important in the healing process. Family members include, but are not limited to, stepparents, in-laws, siblings and can be eligible for these funds."

Fallen Hero is another outreach program the ASYMCA provides support for. This program helps pay travel and lodging fees for the family members to attend unit memorials.

Other services the ASYMCA is involved in are the Free Bread Friday and the ASYMCA thrift store.

For more information about the ASYMCA contact Anita Neu-Fultz at 830-7481.

MCCES rolls over Tanks, HQBN remains undefeated



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Brandon Dobbs, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School running back, avoids the 1st Tank Battalion defense as he leads his team down the field with his running game at Felix Field Monday night. MCCES stopped 1st Tanks in their tracks, 19-8, and Headquarters Battalion dominated Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 38-6, in the following game.

STANDINGS

	Wins	-	Losses
HQBN	2	-	0
MCCES	1	-	1
1st Tanks	1	-	1
CLB-7	0	-	2

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MECEP widens horizons for enlisted Marines

PFC. RONALD STAUFFER
AND CPL. R. DREW
HENDRICKS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS, MARINE
FORCES PACIFIC

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii - The Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program has the power to propel enlisted Marines from standing in a formation, to leading the formation - as a commissioned officer.

MECEP is a Marine commissioning program that sends qualified applicants to college with the goal of earning their degree so they may serve in the Corps as officers.

The program is available to both active and reserve Marines who are looking to further their leadership abilities as well as heighten their knowledge in both academics and Marine Corps values.

"I always wanted to get a college degree," said Capt. Eric Henzler, supply officer, here. "Up until the point of being a senior corporal, I wasn't aware of the programs."

After 10 years on the enlisted side as a dispersing clerk, Henzler made a decision.

"A staff non-commissioned officer made me aware of the programs and with no college, MECEP was the best choice," said Henzler.

The program can be beneficial for Marines that have no college experience as well as those who do, added Henzler.

After one year of college, Major Kelly J. Grissom, intelligence officer, HQSVCBN, MARFORPAC, enlisted in the Marine Corps as a combat engineer. During his enlistment, a mentor of his convinced him to become an officer.

"One of my platoon commanders sat me down in the company office, along with my company [executive officer], and told me all about MECEP and they encouraged me to apply," said Grissom.

There are basic eligibility requirements for the program and an application process that must be completed before being accepted.

An applicant must:

- Be at least 20 years of age but less than 26 by July 1 of the year applying. Consideration will be given to waive this requirement based on previous college credit.

- Be ranked in the top 50 percent of his high school class or have a General Equivalency Diploma score of at least 75.

- Have a Scholastic Assessment Test score with a minimum of 1000 or an American College

Test with a minimum of a 22 composite score.

The application and package requirements can be found in Marine Corps Order 1560.15L as well as Marine Administrative message 191/07. Both publications can be found on www.usmc.mil.

If the Marine is accepted, he will attend school at any of the participating schools he chooses. All MECEP participants will be on the roster of the nearest Marine Corps unit.

While attending school, Marines will receive full pay, benefits and allowances in their current grade with promotional opportunities, and will earn normal leave.

Upon receipt of a bachelor's degree, and successful completion of Officer Candidates School and MECEP on-campus training, participants will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps. They will then be required to serve a minimum of four years as



As Marines graduate from MECEP and become commissioned officers, their chevrons fade away and the shine of the new second lieutenant bar glows on their collar.

commissioned officers.

Marines have many different reasons to become an officer.

"Originally I didn't really want to be an officer, but I did want to finish my education," said Grissom. "The Marine Corps had given me the focus and the time to mature. That

allowed me to realize that getting a degree was an important goal to me at that time."

Grissom said he had a phenomenal Marine officer instructor that was so compelling, the degree no longer mattered by the time he graduated. What mattered to him

was becoming an officer.

Henzler and Grissom both agreed that the lure of the officer ranks was an increase in leadership roles in the Marine Corps.

"It's the satisfaction of knowing that you're shaping the lives of young men and

women as well as having a sphere of influence over Marines," said Henzler.

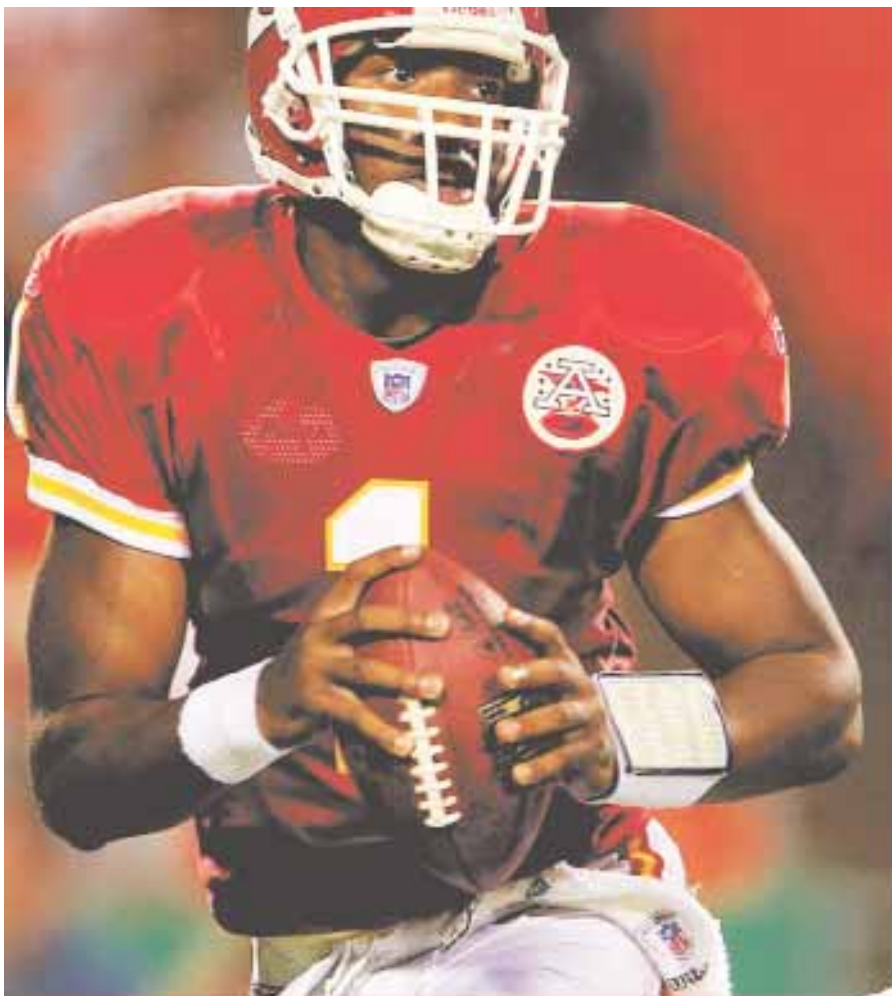
Grissom said another benefit is being given the opportunity to command Marines, especially in combat.

"The rewards of leading a company of Marines simply

cannot be expressed in words," said Grissom. "I think MECEP is one of the best things we

have going for NCOs in the Marine Corps and I would do it again a hundred times over and I highly encourage any Marine

thinking about it to apply for the program."



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