

OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 50 ISSUE 39

Sounds of Freedom rocks Combat Center

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services Sounds of Freedom Music Festival gave everyone aboard the Combat Center a chance to enjoy fun, food and music at the base theater and Victory Field Saturday.

More than 1,000 Marines, sailors and family members attended the first festival of its kind at the Combat Center.

Due to possible inclement weather, the musical performances were moved from the scheduled destination on Victory Field to the base theater.

The festivities on Victory Field included rock climbing, face painting and multiple vendors for people of all ages to enjoy.

The Combat Center Band opened the stage for the day early in the afternoon and set the tone for the rest of the performers.

The first musical guest featured the up-and-coming pop group LAX, which included 16-year-old Jamie Spradley,



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Thomas Martinez and his band entertain country music fans at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema during the Sounds of Freedom Music Festival Saturday.

daughter of Gunnery Sgt. John Bass, Phelps Hall regimental assistant mess manager.

Brianna Cara, 17, Cristina Ballestro, 15, and Spradley of LAX opened up the festival

with their new hit song, "Forget You."

"It was a different experience for us to perform here in front of an all Marine audience," said

Ballestro. "Everyone's been really supportive."

The group based out of Los Angeles received a lot of support from the Combat Center audience, especially supporters

of Bass and his daughter.

"I feel like a teenage fan every time I see them on stage," said Bass. "It's a really great feeling."

The release of LAX's

album in the United States is expected in the early months of 2008.

The rest of the afternoon

See MUSIC, A10

ATFP enhances marksmanship skill, prepares for call to duty

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen Marines from Headquarters Battalion the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Platoon received the opportu-

nity to practice their marksmanship with the rifle and pistol at the rifle range Sept. 19.

"The primary function of the Headquarters Battalion ATFP Platoon is to act as a crisis management force to provide enhanced security for

the Combat Center in the event of an emergency," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruffo, ATFP officer. "In concurrence with other units aboard the Combat Center, the ATFP Platoon will augment the Provost Marshals Office during a designated enhanced security posture."

Sgt. Amy Long, 1st Platoon squad leader, kicked off the monthly training exercise by briefing the days training.

The Marines were scored on their control and hammer pairs, failure to stop, and box drills. They practiced these drills stationary, and again while moving, firing at an opponent, from the 25 yard line to the five yard line while practicing close-quarters combat.

They also conducted familiarization firing drills with the pistol, learning how to draw and fire their pistol safely.

According to the Marine Corps order 3302.1B all Marine Corps personnel, military and civilian, must be aware of the terrorist threat. Furthermore, all Marine Corps personnel must possess the knowledge to detect signs of terrorism, and to defend against its impact.

The platoon is prepared to



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpl. Anthony Morales, base supply, fires a hammer pair into his target from the 5 yard line during the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection exercise Sept. 19.

assist PMO if the Combat Center reaches Force Protection Bravo. The Combat Center is currently at Force Protection Alpha with minimal terrorist threat. There are five different force protections, ranging from normal, meaning

no current terrorist threat, to delta, where a terrorist attack is taking place or just occurred.

To ensure the Combat Center's safety and readiness for a terrorist attack, the platoon meets once or twice a month for training. Their training was put to use once this

year when they augmented PMO for a base-wide lockdown and vehicle search in July.

Since the size of the platoon is small, the hierarchy inside the platoon is slightly different than a normal platoon.

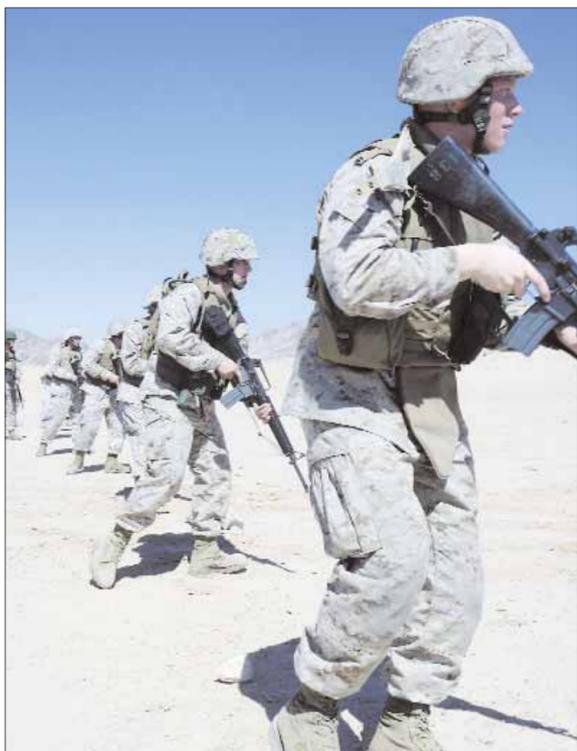
"We have a platoon commander which may be either a staff noncommissioned officer or an officer who will oversee the training and the execution of the platoon tactics in time of a crisis," said Ruffo. "The platoon members are broken down into three squads with squad leaders, and three teams

assigned to each squad. Each team consists of three to four Marines."

Their monthly training also consists of classes that teach the Marines what to do in case of a contamination, and how to work along side of other units aboard the base, including the Combat Center fire department.

They will also learn the proper technique of room clearing, house searching and patrolling.

For more information about ATFP, contact Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruffo at 830-7087.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Pfc. William Griffin, from Installation Personnel Administration Center, waits for the command to fire during the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection exercise Sept. 19 at the Combat Center Rifle Range.

Weekend Weather

Friday  84/55
Partly Cloudy

Saturday  83/56
Sunny

Sunday  87/58
Sunny

Inside this issue

- A4: Phelps Hall preps for national competition
- A5: New! MCCS free courtesy shuttle route
- A8: MISTC provides important COC training

Observations



Headquarters Battalion and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School

This Day in Marine Corps History

— Sept. 28, 1900 —

Marines withdrew from Peking after the Boxer Rebellion.

C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing



The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office, Crime Prevention Section

DUIS/DWIS ARE BECOMING A BIG PROBLEM ACROSS THE U.S.

Drinking and driving will cost you a lot more than the money you spent getting drink in a whole month. If you are convicted of a DUI/DWI in the State of California, here is what it will cost you on average:

ITEM	Cost
Vehicle towing	\$150
Storage	\$50 per day
Booking, fingerprinting, and photo fee	\$156
Driver license reinstatement fee	\$125
Car insurance increase	
(3-year mandatory insurance requirements)	\$1,000 per year
1st offense DUI fine	\$1,588
Assessment for the court system	\$816
Community service fee	\$150
DUI victims fund	\$100
Alcohol abuse education fund	\$50
DUI classes	\$550
DUI Victims' Impact sessions	\$20
Time payment charge	\$35
Public transportation for one year	\$500 to \$800
Minimum total fees, fines, and assessments	\$8,240*
* If you use an attorney, the initial consultation could range from	\$750 to \$1,000

If you are active duty and get a DUI/DWI in the state of California, not only will all of these penalties apply, but you also have to face the Uniform Code of Military Justice's charges: Non-judicial punishment or court martial, loss of half of your pay and suspension of your license from all states, which means, loss of driving privileges aboard base.

Here are the stats on how many DUIs/DWIs that we have had aboard MCAGCC and off the installation:

Unit	Totals	Base:	On-Off	Ranks	Month/Total
DUI/DWI					
7th Mar	6	2/4	5	Cpls/1PO3	Jan/9
1/7	11	7/4	2	PFC/7 /1Cpl/1Sgt	Feb/14
2/7	4	4/0	1	Pvt/1PFC/1Cpl/1Sgt	Mar/12
3/7	5	1/4	1	PFC/1Lcpl/2Cpl/1HN	Apr/14
3/4	14	4/10	1	PVT/2PFC/8Lcpl/1Cpl/1Sgt/1HN	May/20
3/11	8	4/4	1	PVT/1PFC/1Lcpl/3Cpl/1Sgt/1HM3	Jun/15
3rd LAR	10	8/2	1	PVT/1PFC/4Lcpl/2Cpl/2Sgt	Jul/17
1st Tnk Bn	4	3/1	2	Lcpl/2Cpl	Aug/15
3rd AABN	2	1/1	1	PVT/1Lcpl	Sept/8(To date)
MWSS-374	9	4/5	2	PFC/2Lcpl/2Cpl/2Sgt/1SSgt	
CLB-7	11	3/8	1	PVT/3PFC/2Lcpl/4Cpl/1PO3	
VMU-1	1	0/1	1	Lcpl	
MCCES	6	0/6	1	PFC/1Lcpl/1Cpl/1Sgt/1MSgt/1SSgt	
HQBN	19	8/11	1	PVT/11Lcpl/5Cpl/1GySgt/1Capt	
NAV HOSP	0	0/0			
23rd Dental	0	0/0			
Other Mil	5	1/4	2	Cpl/2Sgt/1GySgt	
Mil Dep	7	7/0	6	Wifes/1Husband	
DOD Civ	0	0/0			
Other	1	1/0	1	Civilian-NMA	

Grand Total, so far this year: 123. Out of the 123 DUIs/DWIs, all of them have lost or will lose their driving privileges.

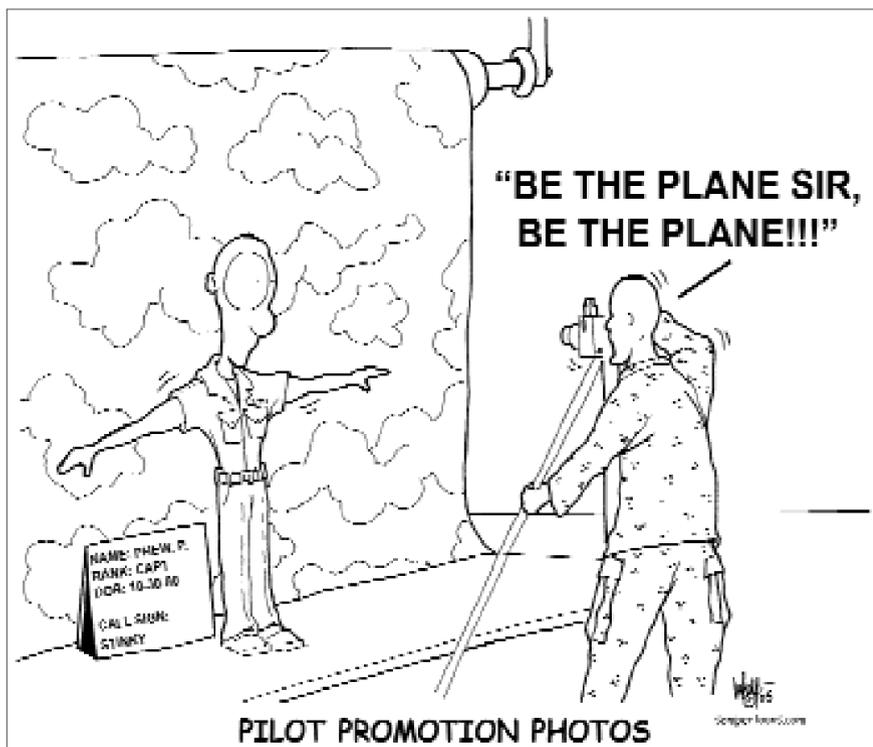
For more information on DUI/DWI and convictions go to Web site: http://www.criminal-law.freeadvice.com/drunken_driving/california- DUI.htm; <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs73drinkcostchart.htm>. The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

Literature, Briefings, Education, Crime Assessments, Safety Tips, Stranger Danger Program, McGruff the Crime Dog, Officer Friendly Program, Operation Identification(Property Identification), Child Identification and Fingerprinting.

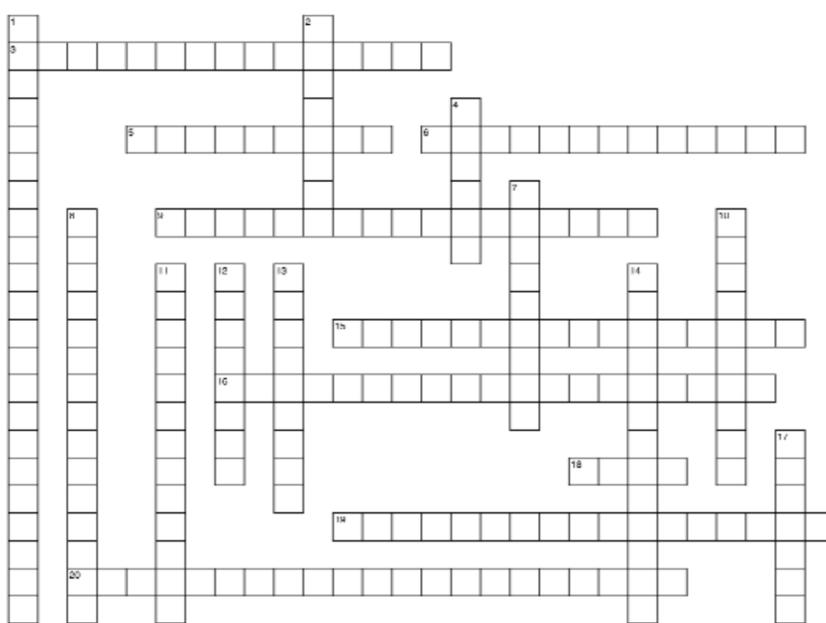
For more information about the above services, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Section at (760) 830 4561/6094.

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



FAMOUS SITCOMS



ACROSS

- "It's tool time!"
- Bob Saget on his best behavior
- Neal Patrick Harris co-stars
- John Ritter's last performance
- Starting point of Will Smith's acting career
- Horses really can talk
- Roundhouse kicks galore
- A funny version of marriage that only lasts 22 minutes.

DOWN

- Texas tea
- Firefighters with issues
- Where everybody knows your name
- "Dynamite!"
- "What you talkin bout', Willis?"
- Superman hits puberty
- "Did I do that!?"
- Show about nothing
- "You've got some 'splaning to do!"
- They moved on up to the East side, to a deluxe apartment in the sky
- "Oh, smelly cat."

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

What would be a good incentive for Marines considering re-enlistment?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak

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



LANCE CPL. EDWIN CATHEY
3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT



CPL. PHILIP SCHMIDT
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION



CAPT. BILL TRAQUAIR
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"I think more Marines would re-enlist for more money and if there were shorter contracts available."

"The option to change commands after six months would be a good incentive."

"The love of the Corps should be a good enough incentive for anyone to re-enlist."

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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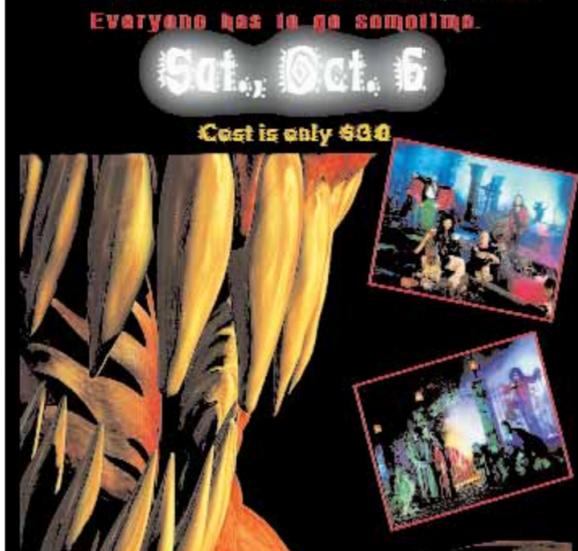
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LIBERTY CALL

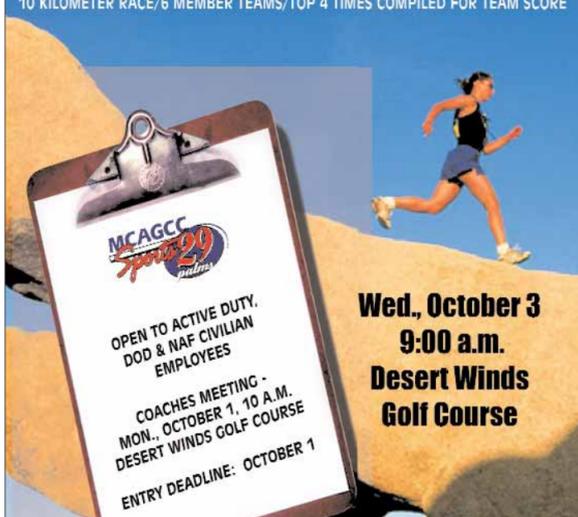


Knott's Scary Farm
HALLOWEEN HAUNT
at Knott's Berry Farm Buena Park
Everyone has to go sometime.
Sat., Oct. 6
Cost is only \$30



departing the Zone at 3 p.m. **SIGN UP NOW!** sponsored by AFAP
For more information call 830-4767.

Commanding General's Intramural
CROSS COUNTRY
10 KILOMETER RACE/6 MEMBER TEAMS/TOP 4 TIMES COMPILED FOR TEAM SCORE

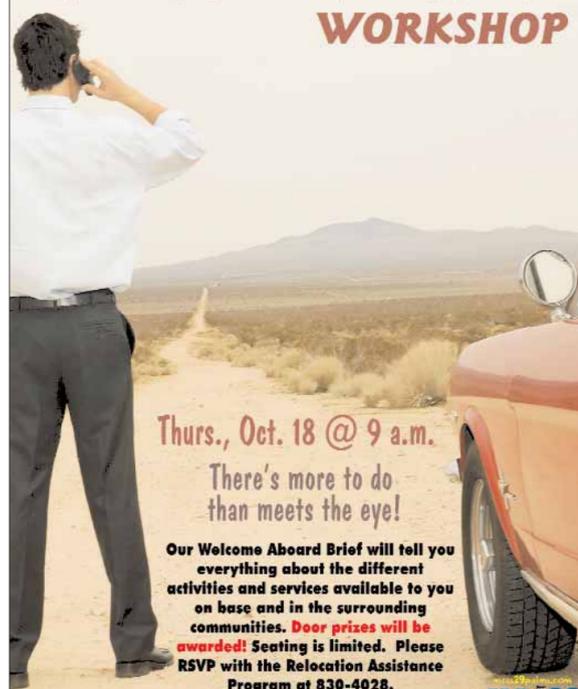


Wed., October 3
9:00 a.m.
Desert Winds Golf Course

MCAGCC Sports 29
OPEN TO ACTIVE DUTY, DOD & NAF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES
COACHES MEETING - MON., OCTOBER 1, 10 A.M. DESERT WINDS GOLF COURSE
ENTRY DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1

For more information, call Sports at 830-4092.

FREE! **MCAGCC WELCOME ABOARD WORKSHOP**



Thurs., Oct. 18 @ 9 a.m.
There's more to do than meets the eye!

Our Welcome Aboard Brief will tell you everything about the different activities and services available to you on base and in the surrounding communities. **Door prizes will be awarded!** Seating is limited. Please RSVP with the Relocation Assistance Program at 830-4028.

Building 1707 • 830-4028

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM
SMP EVENTS
September 14-20

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

October 6th SMP Trip to Knott's Halloween Haunt Depart the Zone 3 p.m. - Cost: \$30	October 3rd SMP FREE Bowling & Pizza Night at Sandy Hill Lanes 7 - 10 p.m.	October 13th SMP Trip to <i>Magic Mountain</i> Depart the Zone 8 a.m. - Cost: \$20 Sign up NOW!
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Cinema 6
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

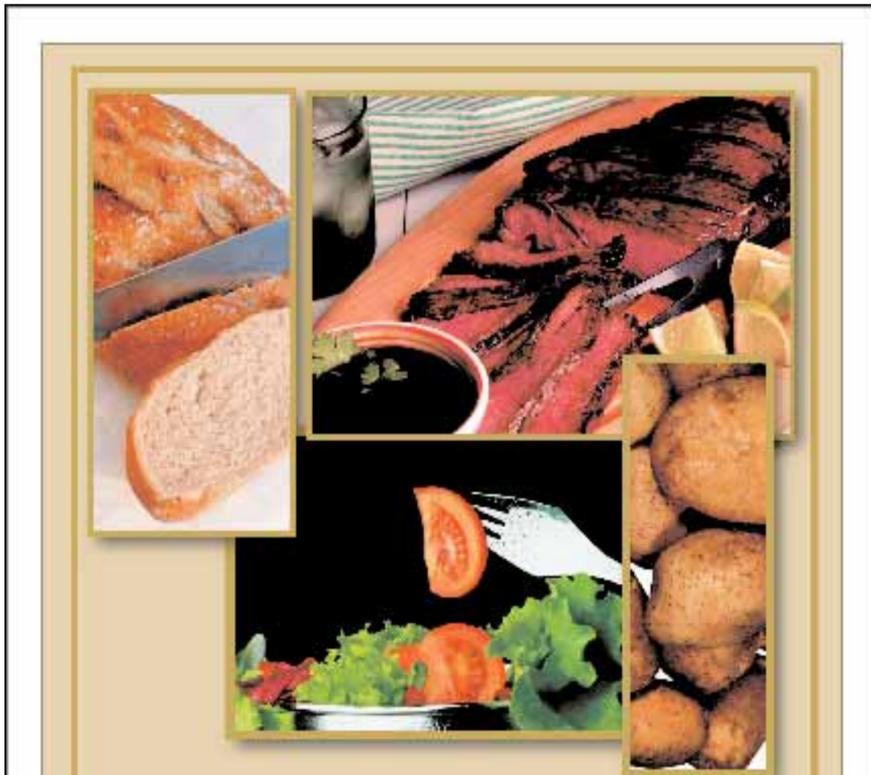
The Kingdom (R) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	The Game Plan (PG) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
Resident Evil: Extinction (R) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00	Good Luck Chuck (R) Fri-Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00

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Yucca Valley:
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Sept. 29th • 5-8 p.m.
at Desert Winds Golf Course

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- Children's menu available

Adults \$12.95 • Children's Menu \$3.95
Reservations are encouraged. Call 336-6132.
www.mcsc29palms.com

Duffer's **MCSS**

MCI West updates off-limit areas

BY LANCE CPL. MICHAEL R. STEVENS
MCAS MIRAMAR

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. (Sept. 21, 2007) -- Marine Corps Installations West recently announced updated off-limit areas and areas of caution for the service members who fall under its command.

Many of the areas announced in previous MarAdmin's remain off-limits permanently and during specific times with the following changes.

In San Diego, Sports Auto Sales located at 1112 National City Blvd is off-limits to all military personnel at all times.

Marines are reminded that areas in Otay Mesa and Willie Henderson Park remain off-

limits from sunset to sunrise.

To visit Tijuana, Marines and sailors must obtain permission from their chain of command, receive a briefing on the liberty pitfalls of Mexico, be with at least one other service member or adult and must carry a special request chit, signed by the chain of command, while in the Mexico Border Area.

"The majority of those vic-

timized [in Tijuana] are intoxicated and separated from friends, reconfirming the importance of good judgment, the buddy system sobriety and liberty operation risk management," reads the message.

It is reminded that the message released constitutes a lawful general order and if violated is punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Career fair offers promising futures to out-going Marines



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Robert E. Hinojosa, senior border patrol agent, and a fellow agent with a K-9 dog, talk to Sgt. Shaun J. Burkes, Headquarters and Support Company, 1st Tank Battalion, about duties of a border patrol agent at an annual career fair held at the base Community Center Wednesday.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9 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 Tues. 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

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.
Morning Services.....8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.

Military Welcome!

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• DON'T MISS "From Calvary with Love", Sunday 10 a.m. on Channel 6
• Home of Calvary Baptist Church School K-12

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Stay Marine

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship 9:45
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

(760) 361-2450
4751 Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, Ca. 92277

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EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
Senior Pastor Bill Wilcox, Youth Pastor Marcus McDaniel

Sundays:
Bible Study 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM
Nursery & Children's Church Available

Mondays: Youth Group 6:30 PM

Wednesdays:
Adult Bible Study & Youth Awana 6:30 PM
Awana during school schedule only

6804 Mohawk Trail, YV 760-228-1747
www.evfreeyuccavally.com

GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
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Begin Your Week With Pastor T. K. & Gerra Washington

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- Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.
- Wednesday Night Church in Action 7 P.M.
- Friday Night Intercessory Prayer - 7 P.M.

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Wednesdays: 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Servicio en Espanol
Sundays 10:40 AM Wednesday 7:00 PM

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Basin Wide Opportunities for Praise!

This Week's Spotlight Church

29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST
72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)
Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
367-9400 FREE CHURCH RIDES

29 Palms Church of the Nazarene
WELCOMES YOU!
72603 Jarama Drive • 367-7025
Morning Service 10:00 am
Children's Church during AM Service
Nursery provided

29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST
72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)
Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
367-9400 FREE CHURCH RIDES

DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Call for free van ride
Sunday 10:00 AM - Worship
Children's Bible School - Hrs Available
Visitors Welcome
Sunday Concert Series • Call for info
29 Palms • 3688 Sunrise Drive • 361-8086

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 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms
www.stmartininschurch29.org

United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms
6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338
Sunday School: 8:30am • Worship 9:30am
(Call for details)
Pastor Beth Glass
"open hearts, open minds, open doors"

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014
SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am
Worship.....10:45am
WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm

Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science
Healing Lives & Fulfiling Dreams
Reverend Ron Scott
Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10AM
7434 Baranock Trail, Yucca Valley
365-2205
YUCVA.ORG

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church
56750 Mountain View Trail
Yucca Valley • 365-6331
Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Child Care, Bible Studies, Youth, Choir
A Friendly and Loving Congregation!

JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER
Calvary Chapel Fellowship
Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph
6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree
Sunday Services 8am, 10am & 7pm
call (760) 966-7421 • Cell (604) 566-7422
Website: JHOPCC.ORG

First Southern Baptist Church
6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211
Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm
Sun. Bible Study 9:30am
Wed. Potluck 6:00pm
Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm

READY FOR A CHANGE? CHECK OUT ONE EIGHTY
Come Join us for a change of worship with a coffee house atmosphere
Sundays 10:30 a.m.
366-8429 / OneEighty.com

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms
Service Times
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am
367-7812
www.oasiscommunitychurch.com

Hi-Desert Missionary Baptist Church
Interim Pastor Charles Ellis
Come Worship As A Family
Wed. Night Bible Study 7:00 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
61960 Mt. View Cir. • Joshua Tree 366-7938

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

EVERLASTING GOSPEL CHURCH
Sunday Service: 10:30am
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
1000 E. 1st St. • Joshua Tree • 366-8429
366-8429 / OneEighty.com

Assembly of God Church
Pastor Frank Fernandez
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm
Wed. Worship 7:00 pm
73331 Sullivan Road, 29 Palms • 367-9973

Come Pray With Us.

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CLB-7's Motor T Company defines mechanized patrol

LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For many who aren't trained or familiar with the ways of combat, the words convoy and mechanized patrol could mean the same thing, but to the Marines of Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, convoy and mechanized patrol mean the difference between life and death.

Motor Transport Company was stood up June 15 to spread the load of the Marine Logistics Group's capabilities throughout the MLG. Ready to test the company's abilities, and see what they had to work with, the company headed to the field.

"When we activated the company, Capt. Sczewcyk (company commander, Motor Transport Company) and I immediately took the company to the field so we could see what we were up against," said 1st Sgt. William W. Wiseman II, company first sergeant.

"So far the company has conducted one company field operation and two battalion field exercises," he continued. "They have also conducted machine gun shots with the M240G (medium machine

gun), .50 cal. (M2 .50-caliber machine gun), as well as the Mark 19 (MK19 40 mm machine gun). The company received classes on how to employ crew served weapons, first aid classes, communication classes, call for fire exercises and have also conducted a CMP shoot."

The company is comprised of about 120 Marines who are receiving training in preparation of their deployment early next year.

Through the training, the Marines are taught how to conduct mechanized patrols and not convoys. If you ask any Marine of the company, they will tell you they are fully aware of the difference.

"A convoy is point A to point B," said Sgt. Joshua Pettine, motor transport operator. "Picking up in one place and dropping off in another."

The definition of a convoy is vague to many of the Marines, whereas the definition of mechanized patrol is very clear.

"During a mechanized patrol you conduct route sweeping and reconnaissance; checking everything out so that the patrol can operate safely," said Cpl. Richard Weichman, utilities chief.

Lance Cpl. David Woomer,

logistics vehicle system operator, agrees.

"During a mechanized patrol there is way more communication going on," he said. "I don't even call it a convoy anymore, I call it a mechanized patrol because we are taught that everything in between point A and point B can get you killed."

As the company continues to train, the senior leadership continues to instill the seriousness of two simple words: mechanized patrol.

"Since words have meaning, I felt the need to change the language so the Marines of CLB-7, Motor Transport Company, will have a more intimate understanding of what they will be doing once they get to Iraq," said Wiseman. "We know that a convoy is to pick up at point A and drop off at point B, but in Iraq everything in between can get you killed."

"In an effort to combat this, I wanted the Marines in the mind set of being on a patrol," he continued.

With a mission at hand, the company trains for the fight. Next month, the company, who is deploying separately from the battalion, will conduct Mojave Viper, the month-long predeployment training exercise.



LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER
Marines from Motor Transport Company, CLB-7 receive training on M2 .50 caliber machine gun and MK19 40 mm machine gun as predeployment training at Range 113, Sept. 14.

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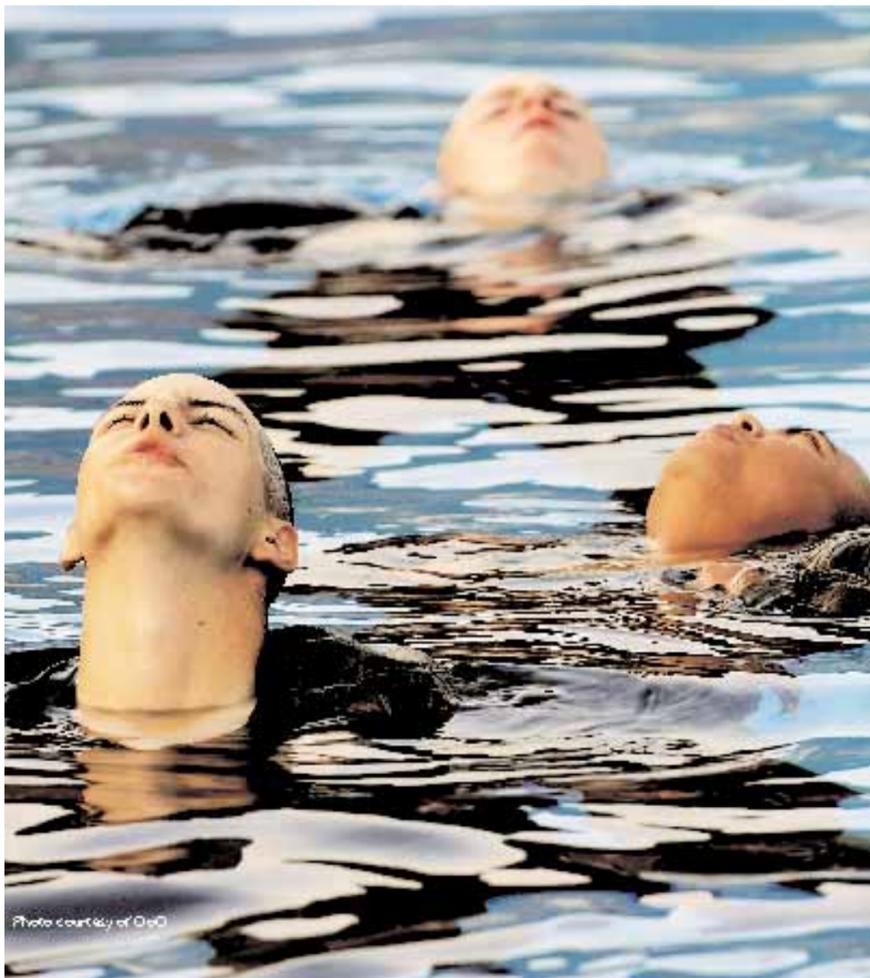


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MISTC provides COC training

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Whenever a unit deploys to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a combat operations center is the hub of their support for the digital collection, processing and dissemination of tactical data.

The Marine Air Ground Task Force Integrated Systems Training Center provides Marines the necessary training to manage and operate a COC.

"We stood up the MISTC here the 27th of August," said Gary Leon Horn, Combat Center MISTC site lead. "Since that date, we've trained approximately 100 Marines

from various units. Before the MISTC was established at the Combat Center, three other installations housed the program - Marine Corps Bases Camp Pendleton, Calif., Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. A fifth MISTC is currently being established at MCB Quantico, Va.

The role of MISTC takes on several different forms. They are responsible for training units based at the Combat Center as well as transient units participating in Mojave Viper pre-deployment training. They also act as support for Tactical Training Exercise Control Group and Mojave Viper.

MISTC offers a number

of courses to all Marines who need it based on what they need to learn and how long it will take to train them, said Horn. The training center runs classes that span from one to five days, depending on the needs of units.

"We teach the Marines how to operate in the digital COC and the basic courses provide instruction on how to operate those systems," said Horn.

Some of the classes taught at MISTC are: Command and Control Personal Computer Watch Officer/Chief's Course, C2PC Basic User's Course, Blue Force Tracker Course and

See MISTC, A9

Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society

GUNNERY SGT HERRICK ROSS
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR

Sept. 17, 1968, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution requesting that President Lyndon B. Johnson issue a proclamation designating the week of Sept. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Week.

After 21 years, including almost two years of lobbying Congress by Hispanic activists, the bill to change Hispanic Heritage Week to a month became effective Jan. 1, 1989.

In 1960, the Bureau of the Census defined the Hispanic-American population as "white persons of Spanish surname." In this day and age, such a reference seems ludicrous.

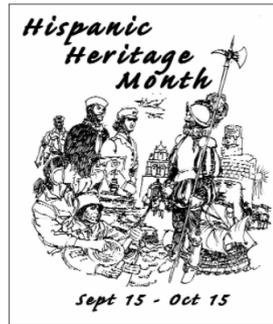
How then should we define the Hispanic population? Should Hispanics be lumped into one group such as "those who speak Spanish," "those with Spanish surnames," or "those who come from Spain or Latin America"?

It must be remembered that Hispanics may be of any race and have multi-cultural ethnic identities.

The United States of America is a "land of immigrants." The struggles of these groups of immigrants with economic hardship, ethnic stereotyping, and blatant discrimination, and clashes between new and old world

values are well documented segments in our history.

Within the last several decades, new immigrations have permanently changed both the racial and ethnic composition of this country. The immigration from Mexico and Central and South American countries, coupled with a relatively high birth rate, is increasing Hispanic population in this



country so rapidly that it is predicted that by the year 2020, this group will become the U.S.'s largest cultural minority, accounting for approximately 15 percent of the population.

Why is it important to know about Hispanic Americans?

First, Hispanic Americans are often labeled as "one kind of people." That perception is stereotypical and is simply not a fact. American Hispanics are not a single looking group. Although united by a common language and origin in Spanish colonization, they maintain distinct ethnic groups.

Each sub-group has its own proud and unique heritage; may be White, Black, Indian, or a mixture of races; has its own religion such as Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, African, or Indian spiritualist; reflects its own folklore, myths, holiday celebrations, artistic expressions, culinary specialties, style of dress, and social structure.

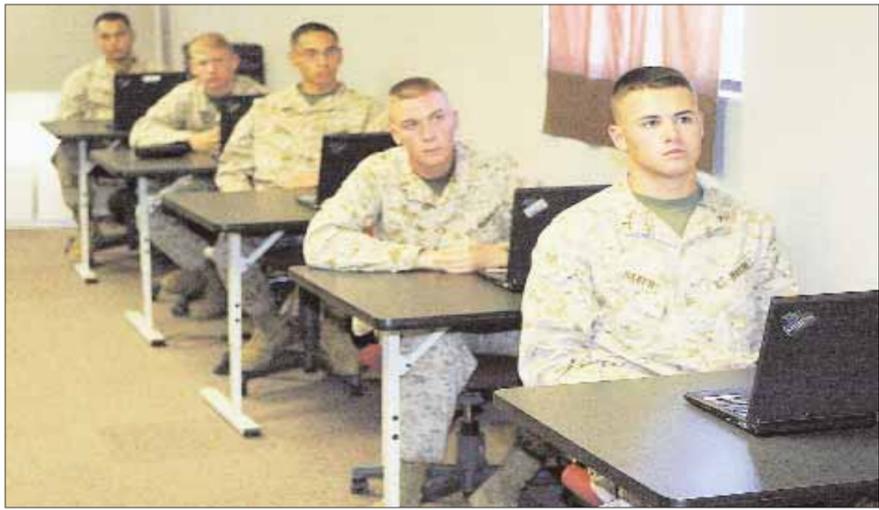
Second, Hispanic-Americans should be understood as they really are and for the valuable contributions--people, places, and things--of lasting historical and cultural significance they continue to offer American culture.

In addition, knowing something about the Hispanic culture is necessary if some level of true understanding, acceptance, and appreciation is to develop. Because of California's close proximity to Mexico, the most dominant Hispanic culture here is the Mexican American.

Mexican Americans are the largest and oldest of the Hispanic groups in America. Except for Native Americans, no other ethnic group can claim longer residence in America, accounting for over four centuries.

There are many distinctions within this group, but what ties bind them and give them common identity and purpose? Pride in being of Mexican heritage is a unifying factor maintained through educational organizations. This pride in background receives further support through Spanish-language radio and television programs, newspapers, and magazines as well as Mexican-American political organizations. Maintaining a sense of belonging and cultural identity through these various influences also provides a way to assimilate new cultural influences from Mexico. Thus, they may preserve their rich culture.

Many Americans have not had the opportunity to give proper recognition and credit to the ancestors of contemporary Mexican-Americans. The list of cultural contributions of Mexican-Americans and their ancestors is long, yet their contributions have often been lost



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Combat Center Marines attend a class at the MAGTF Integrated Systems Training Center Tuesday.



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Mary Clay
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Memorial Service 10a.m. Saturday, 9/29 at Church of Pioneertown

Mary Longo
Graveside Service, 11 a.m. Tuesday, 10/23. Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Duane Samuels
Graveside Service, 1 p.m. Saturday, 10/20. Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Shirley Bohanan
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Stewart Denny
Memorial Service 11 a.m. Tuesday, 10/2 at St. Christopher's of the Desert Graveside Service follows at Joshua Tree Memorial Park

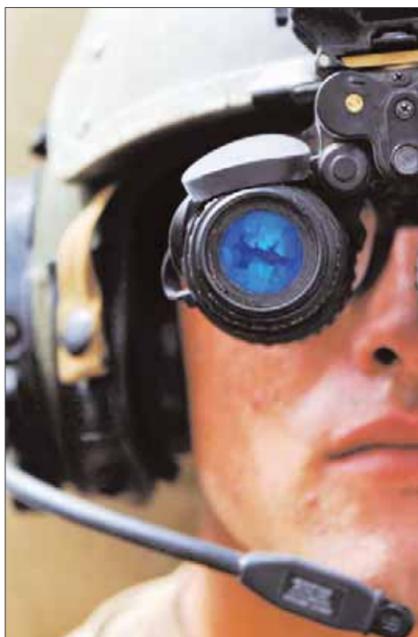
Navy's MIO joins Corps in ground combat operations

CPL. RYAN C. HEISER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT, 2ND MARINE DIVISION

HADITHAH DAM, Iraq (Sept. 26, 2007) -- For decades, Marines have protected and fought for the United States and her allies on the ground, utilizing stealth and skill to become known as one of the world's most elite fighting forces. Now, the U.S. Navy is striving toward that goal in the Corps' footsteps with their new riverine force.

The Navy officially stood up the



MC2 HERNANDEZ

HADITHAH DAM, Iraq-- A sailor with Riverine Squadron 1, Riverine Group 1, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, in support of Regimental Combat Team 2, does an operational check on his night-vision goggles before setting off on a night patrol through Iraq's waterways. As the first deployed Navy riverine unit since the Vietnam War, the squadron had the responsibility to not only accomplish the mission, but to also pave the way for future riverine forces.

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, responsible for fielding a new Riverine force in Iraq, Jan. 13, 2006, in Little Creek, Va. Sailors in the new command began training

June 2006, in preparation for their upcoming deployment. Less than a year later, during March 2007, Riverine Squadron 1, Riverine Group 1, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, deployed to Iraq's waterways in support of Regimental Combat Team 2, in Al Anbar Province.

The numerous islands, wadis (oases), inlets and coves throughout Iraq's waterways posed a problem to the naval patrol unit, but they were prepared. The squadron has a Maritime Interdiction Operations Team attached to each of its three detachments as support for ground combat operations.

"Basically, our team covers anything within range of the boat's crew-served weapons," said Petty Officer 1st Class Garrick A. Bowles, the lead petty officer with the MIO team attached to Detachment 3. "Our purpose is to deny enemy access to the shoreline and islands, find and destroy caches, and search and sweep buildings near or on the coastline."

To prepare for the deployment, the Navy sent all the sailors in the squadron to special schools to train in what would usually be considered infantry roles. Every riverine attended the Marine Corps School of Infantry East, in North Carolina. Boat captains and crewmen attended Special Missions Training Command, to learn more about the watercraft. Gunners went through the Marine machine gunners course, and select sailors even attended the Defense Language Institute for an Iraqi immersion course.

Riverines assigned to MIO teams went through specialized training provided by a civilian security organization. In addition, most of the riverines also completed a combat life-



MC2 HERNANDEZ

HADITHAH DAM, Iraq-- A sailor with Riverine Squadron 1, Riverine Group 1, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, in support of Regimental Combat Team 2, performs a batteries release using a GAU-17 machine gun during a crew served weapons re-qualification. To prepare for the deployment, the Navy sent all the sailors in the squadron to special schools to train in what would usually be considered as infantry roles.

saver course.

"We're proud to carry on the tradition of riverine warfare. The last time the Navy had this type of specialized unit, other than the Seals, was during Vietnam, but we're hoping it sticks around for a while this time," said Bowles, a Virginia Beach, Va., native.

When the riverines began operations along the Euphrates River, their huge level of success was a surprise even for those within the unit.

"Those guys found so much stuff it was incredible," said Chief Petty Officer Michael E. Bennett, a boat captain with the detachment. "They got a lot of weapons, huge caches with anti-aircraft guns, arty shells and a lot of dangerous stuff."

"This is going to sound unbelievable," explained Bowles, "but we probably destroyed over a ton of

weapons and ordinance, literally a ton. We searched over 150 clicks (about 94 miles) of islands and shoreline, all the way from the (Hadithah) dam to the Syrian border."

As the first deployed Navy riverine unit since the Vietnam War, the squadron had the responsibility to not only accomplish the mission, but to also pave the way for future riverine forces.

"Although we got rid of weapons and did the usual ground combat thing, we also created (standard operating procedures) to help the guys who come along after we leave," said Bowles, who is serving on his fifth deployment.

While conducting operations along the waterway, the sailors got the opportunity to interact with Iraqi civilians, something they

weren't used to doing while serving on a larger ship.

"It feels great to meet the locals and interact," said Bennett, a Sequin, Texas, native. "We're letting the civilians know we care about them. We received a lot of help from them, and its starting to give the country more hope. We made a network of friends and that enabled us to ensure the safety of the waterways, and help out other guys in the regiment. I feel like we've done an awesome job."

The squadron is currently wrapping up operations and turning over their area of responsibility in preparation for returning home to Virginia Beach, Va.

For more information on riverines or their history visit <http://www.mrf.org> or <http://www.navy.com>.

HERITAGE from A8

or omitted in the pages of history books.

One such example is it is rarely mentioned that almost everything that the cowboy used, including utensils, methods, and equipment, was adapted from the Mexican cowboy, vaquero. Some of the many examples include lasso, chaps, stirrup tips, rope halter, ranches, rodeo, ten gallon hat, roping, and horse breaking techniques.

Even the branding and registration of cattle is of Mexican origin and developed before the first permanent

English settlement in Jamestown.

Another interesting and important contribution, which has aided the rights of women for years, is the right of community property, based on Spanish/Mexican law. This legacy of the Southwest, which recognizes the economic contributions of a wife during a marriage, has been called "one of the most important landmarks of Spanish civilization in America."

In addition to the groups previously discussed, a number of other Hispanic groups exist, which share common elements, yet are distinct in their

own ways. The Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, El Salvadorians are just an additional few that continuously contribute to the unprecedented growth in the Hispanic or Latino communities.

Hispanics have always challenged the future. They did it in the past when they set sail on an uncharted sea. They did it in their many countries of origin exploring and building nations and they continue to do so in the present.

As this country steps into the 21st century it will find Hispanics keeping in step, and in some cases, leading the way.

The future is now. The chal-

lenge given to this generation of Americans is to forge a unified nation out of the fountain of diversity. To survive the next century and the next millennium, we must allow all of our parts to work for us.

Hispanics, like all Americans, look to the future with great expectations. There is a word that best characterizes the Latino outlook for the future. It is a word that we all can share as we as a nation challenge the future. That word is adelante, meaning "forward."

MISTC from A8

Biometric Automated Toolset Course. These courses vary in length and class size, but can be adjusted to fit each unit commander's needs.

Each of the courses taught at MISTC cover a different aspect of the COC. The Watch Officer/Chief's Course teaches COC staff how to manage and use the digital COC systems currently being fielded. The Basic's Course teaches Marines how to operate the COC. The BFT Course provides the knowledge to operate BFT products that track friendly troop movements to eliminate the "fog of war." The BAT Course shows Marines how to operate the BAT systems, which is being used in Iraq and Afghanistan to keep a database of the local populations and detainees.

Horn said even though space is limited in the classroom, the size and location of the class is flexible.

"The training facility here can accommodate up to 12 students per class, but can be changed," he said. "We can open a second classroom at a

different location, or, if need be, we can go to the individual units and train them where they're at."

Horn said the training is very important. Marines working in the COC must have this knowledge so they can effectively complete their mission in an operational environment.

"Ideally, the Marines would receive this training prior to Mojave Viper," he said. "They

can come here to get that training because they will be utilizing it in theater. We're basically a commander's tool they can use to get their Marines trained on how to operate in a COC."

MISTC has been open for business for approximately one month and will readily accept Marines who require COC training before deploying in support of current operations.

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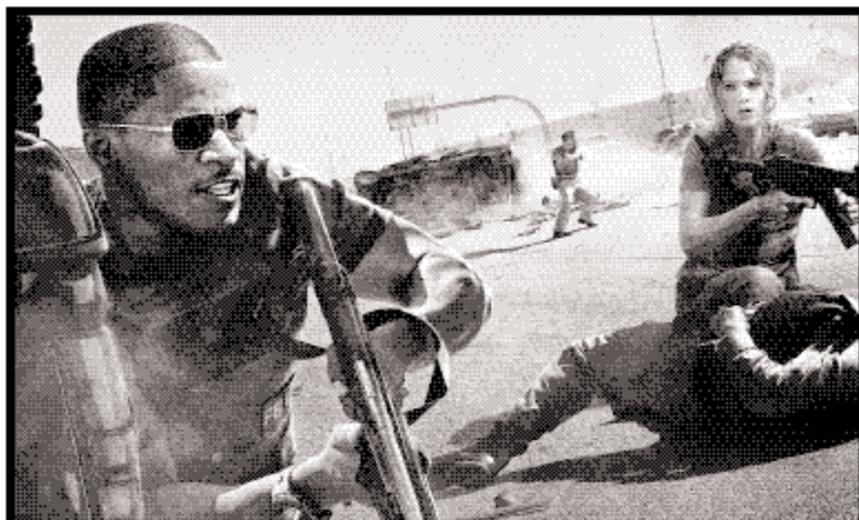
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PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

The up and coming pop group, LAX, performs for the audience in the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema during the Sounds of Freedom Music Festival Saturday.

MUSIC from A1

consisted of a performance by rhythm and blues sensation, Cincere, and another set of songs by LAX.

Thomas Martinez and his band took the stage to start the evening as they entertained country music fans in the theatre.

The festival audience grew

as the night continued with the arrival of the Budweiser girls and supplies of the vendors on Victory field depleted.

Rock fans began to muster at the theatre with the performance of metal band, Tack.

As Tack finished up their set on the stage, the anticipation of the fans grew for the arrival of the main event, rock band, Adema.

Adema rocked the house with a show that attracted the biggest audience of the day.

Amidst all the crowd surfing, yelling and cheering, Adema ended the festival on a positive note and gave the Combat Center fans a concert to remember.

"I really liked the variety of music they had there," said Cpl. Darcy Dassow, administration

clerk, Installation Personnel Administration Center, who had attended multiple performances. "I hope they have another one next year!"

MCCS and the Combat Center plan to host another Sounds of Freedom Music Festival September 2008, until then the annual We Salute You Concert is scheduled for May 17, 2008.

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Bobbie Marshall
Organization: Sodexo Services
Billet: Production Manager
Job Duties: Order food, create menus, and culinary planning
Hometown: Yucca Valley, Calif.
Hobbies: Softball, bowling and Bingo.
What I like most about my job: The Marines. I just love working with them.
One of the most significant achievements since you've been here: I've learned how the military works, how to do food production, handle finances and do inventory. I've learned so much in my job here.
Have you ever served in the military: No
Lessons learned while working with your company: I've seen how well civilians and military work so well together
Time employed at MCAGCC: 7 years

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OBSERVATIONS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Monday night football: HQBN wins, 32-26



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Victor Runsewe, Headquarters Battalion wide receiver, turns his reception into a first down by powering past two Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School defenders at Felix Field Monday night. HQBN went on to win the game by a touchdown, 32-26.

PFC. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Week four of the Commanding General's Intramural Football League featured a close match-up between Headquarters Battalion and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School at Felix Field Monday night.

Headquarters Bn. aimed to keep their unblemished season in-tact while MCCES tried

bad snap lost them the ball and gave MCCES a first down on the one-yard line.

Daniel Pannell, MCCES starting quarterback, took full advantage of their field position by sneaking the ball for six points and narrowing the deficit to 2 points.

MCCES's sudden burst of momentum didn't last long as Jay Kwentua, Headquarters Bn. running back, returned the following kick off for an 80-yard touchdown.

Kwentua got the call again and ended the quarter with a successful conversion that put Headquarters Bn. on top of MCCES, 16-6.

The second quarter started out slow until Pannell launched a 70-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Dobbs, MCCES running back, and brought them a little closer.

Headquarters Bn. planned to close out the half with the lead until they fumbled the ball with just over a minute remaining in the second quarter.

Pannell put his team deep in Headquarters Bn. territory with a 20-yard pass to Dion Rosado, MCCES tight end.

Ladarrius Robinson, MCCES middle linebacker, finished the scoring drive with a four-yard touchdown run to give his team the lead.

Pannell connected with Rosado for two points and ended the half ahead of Headquarters Bn., 20-16.

Eager to get the lead back, Headquarters Bn. put a scoring drive together on their first possession of the second half that earned Kwentua his second touchdown of the game.

The remainder of the third quarter was quiet, and Headquarters Bn. held onto their 24-20 lead entering the final quarter.

Headquarters Bn. managed to put MCCES in a tight spot early in the fourth with a touchdown drive led by Ryan Kennelly, Headquarters Bn. running back.

Down 32-20 with less than four minutes to play in regulation, MCCES needed to score immediately.

Dobbs supported his team's cause with a 60-yard kickoff return that made a comeback possible for MCCES.

Pannell recognized the urgency needed and threw a lob pass to Justin Simmons, MCCES wide receiver, that closed the gap, 32-26.



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Willie Campbell, Headquarters Battalion running back, slides through the grip of the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School defense for positive yardage at Felix Field Monday night. HQBN's running game played a major role in their 32-26 win over MCCES.



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Charles Jefferson, Headquarters Battalion starting quarterback, scrambles to the sideline and prepares to throw on third down at Felix Field Monday night. HQBN came out on top of the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, 32-26.

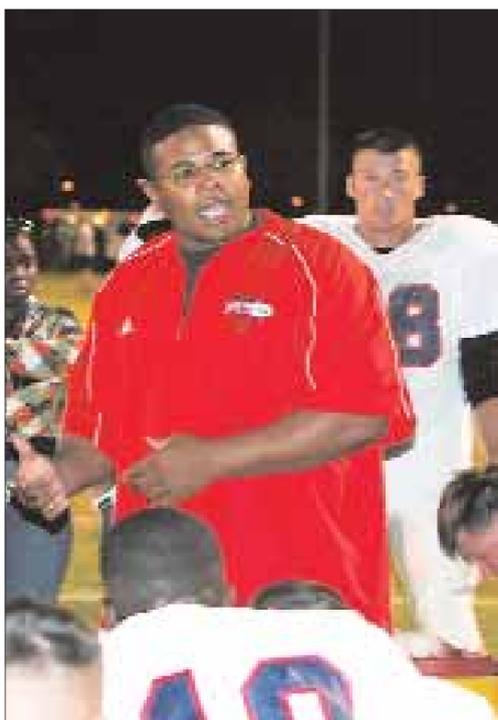
Headquarters Bn.'s bench held their breath as MCCES's successful on-side kick put the outcome of the game in jeopardy.

MCCES tried desperately to start another drive, but came up short after four downs. Headquarters Bn. ran the clock down in the last minutes by holding onto the ball and, more importantly, the 32-26 win.

"MCCES came out and played us hard in the

first half," said Johnnie Sanders, Headquarters Bn. defensive coach. "It was a test that we needed. We made some adjustments in the second half and realized the number of weapons we have on this team."

Headquarters Bn. continues to lead the CG's intramural football league with the best record, and plans to stand unbeaten at the season's end.



PFC. JARED J. BUTLER

Johnnie Sanders, Headquarters Battalion defensive coach, gives his team a motivating halftime speech to his team when they were down by four points at Felix Field Monday night. HQBN came back in the second half to beat the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, 32-26.

to redeem themselves from a tough loss their previous meeting.

Charles Jefferson, Headquarters Bn. starting quarterback, wasted no time putting points on the board as he threw a 52-yard bomb to the end zone on the second play of the game.

The successful two-point conversion gave Headquarters Bn. an 8-0 advantage that would lead to another possession early in the first quarter.

After going three and out, Headquarters Bn. prepared to punt in their own territory when a

Birth announcements



SAVANNAH KRISTAN MARIN
 Daughter of HM1 Christopher and Mrs. Marin
 Born on Jan. 1, 2007, weighing 6 lbs 8 oz and measuring 19.5 inches

TATIANNA MARIE AGUILERA
 Daughter of Sgt and Mrs. Erik Aguilera
 Born on Aug. 21, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 1 oz and measuring 19.5 inches

CATHERINE SERENITY HUSTON
 Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Joseph Huston
 Born on Aug. 22, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 6.5 oz and measuring 19.3 inches

KEESHAWN TYRIQUE COLLINS
 Son of SSgt and Mrs. Collins
 Born on Aug. 22, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 5 oz and measuring 18.8 inches

JOHN ROLAND WARBOLD
 Son of Lt Col and Mrs. John Warbold
 Born on Aug. 23, 2007, weighing 6 lbs 15 oz and measuring 19 inches

TYLER CHARLES BOUDREAU
 Son of Gy Sgt and Mrs. David Boudreau
 Born on Aug. 23, 2007, weighing 7 lbs 6.5 oz and measuring 19.5 inches

ANTHONY AGUILERA BARRIOS
 Son of Sgt and Mrs. Mark Barrios
 Born on Aug. 24, 2007, weighing 8 lbs 11 oz and measuring 20.6 inches

ANTHONY DE JESUS PADILLA
 Son of LCpl and Mrs. Jose Padilla
 Born on Aug. 24, 2007, weighing 8 lbs 2 oz and measuring 20 inches

ALISSA CLAUDIA HENNING
 Daughter of LCpl and Mrs. Steven Henning
 Born on Aug. 27, 2007, weighing 7 lbs 8.9 oz and measuring 19.1 inches

JAIDEN LEE HAZELWOOD
 Son of Cpl and Mrs. Aaron Hazelwood
 Born on Aug. 29, 2007, weighing 8 lbs and measuring 20 inches

RYAN CHRISTOPHER ANKLE
 Son of LCpl and Mrs. Christopher Ankle
 Born on Aug. 31, 2007, weighing 6.13 lbs and measuring 18.8 inches

SAMANTHA KAILYN ROPER
 Daughter of Capt and Mrs. Jeffery Roper
 Born on Sep. 1, 2007, weighing 7 lbs 14 oz and measuring 20.4 inches

MATTALYNN ROSE HENDRICKSON
 Daughter of Cpl and Mrs. Daniel Hendrickson
 Born on Sep. 3, 2007, weighing 7 lbs 6 oz and measuring 19.5 inches

VALERIE M TRIPP
 Daughter of SSgt. and Mrs. Chris Tripp
 Born on Sep. 5, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 2.8 oz and measuring 19 inches

DAMIEN COLE GOLEMBIEWSKI BIDWELL
 Son of LCpl and Mrs. Golembiewski
 Born Sep. 7, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 1 oz and measuring 20.3 inches

CARMEN JEE VALENTIN
 Daughter of HM2 and Mrs. Christopher Valentin
 Born Sep. 7, 2007, weighing 7 lbs and 2.8 oz and measuring 19.1 inches

RILEY BRENNAN FERRILL
 Son of HM3 and Mrs. Ferrill
 Born Sep. 7, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 2 oz and measuring 20.7 inches

GABRIELLA GRACE MOURED
 Daughter of Lt. Cmdr and Mrs. Emile Moured
 Born Sep. 8, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 2 oz and measuring 19.7 inches

GIAVANNA THERESA STEFAN
 Daughter of Brandon and Mrs. Stefan
 Born Sep. 8, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 13 oz and measuring 20.8 inches

NEAMIAH JOSEPH RANDALL
 Son of Cpl and Mrs. Kyle Randall
 Born on Sep. 9, 2007, weighing 6 lbs 11 oz and measuring 19.5 inches

ELIZABETH MORGAN MOSCHETTO
 Daughter of SSgt and Mrs. Kyle Moschetto
 Born on Sep. 11, 2007, weighing 7 lbs and 19.5 inches

JOHANCE DENEAL OLIVER
 Son of Pfc and Mrs. Oliver
 Born Sep. 12, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 6 oz and measuring 19.1 inches

CHRISTIAN CHARLES MILLER
 Son of LCpl and Mrs. Miller
 Born Sep. 13, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 6 oz and measuring 20.3 inches

LUKE HEINER
 Son of LCpl and Mrs. Derrick Heiner
 Born Sep. 14, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 12 oz and measuring 19.8 inches

LONDON LEE RIEDEL
 Son of LCpl and Mrs. Riedel
 Born Sep. 14, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 2 oz and measuring 19.5 inches



Red Ribbon Week raises awareness at Combat Center

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Substance Abuse Counseling Center will be sponsoring a Red Ribbon Week Oct. 20th-26th through a series of events aboard the installation and in the community.

The purpose of the events is to raise awareness of the Marine Corps' stance on drug and alcohol abuse.

"We need to advocate a no-tolerance drug policy to drug users within the Marine Corps ranks," said Beth Ayash, the drug demand reduction coordinator for SACC. "Drug abuse affects the morale of the Marines. Drug abusers have a negative impact on everyone around them."

"Marines can't achieve their mission if they're abusing drugs," Ayash added.

Red Ribbon Week was created in 1988 by the National Family Partnership with the help of Nancy Reagan. The Reagan administration acknowledged a need to create a nationwide week of awareness after

the death of Special Agent Enrique Camarena, an undercover agent for the Drug Enforcement Agency three years earlier.

Camarena, a former Marine, was captured by Mexican drug traffickers while undercover and was subsequently tortured and killed because of his identity. Camarena's abduction and murder opened the eyes of the



American public to the violent and dangerous business of drug trafficking.

This tragedy was the spark that lit the fire for the National Red Ribbon Campaign. Every year, in the last week of October, Red Ribbon Week is held to show the solidarity of taking a stand against the drug trade and advocating intolerance toward illegal drugs.

"We must send this message to the communities," said Ayash. "We must show zero tolerance not only for illicit drugs, but also toward the abuse of substances like alcohol, prescription and over-the-counter drugs."

Ayash added that the Combat Center was recently struck with its own tragedy by the death of Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Formosa. Formosa was killed by a vehicle July 27 while riding his motorcycle on Highway 62. The driver was under the influence of both alcohol and drugs.

"This is the exact reason why we need to send this message," she said. "We need to prevent tragedies like that from happening in the future."

This year, SACC and other drug prevention groups aboard the Combat Center will be holding a series of events to raise anti-drug awareness. They will march in the Pioneer Day Parade Oct. 20, distributing red ribbons and drug-free messages to parade observers. They will also set up information booths at the Marine Corps

Exchange and the Combat Center Fire Department Chili Lunch during that week.

Also, in a show of solidarity against drugs, civilians will

be asked to wear some type of red clothing Oct. 25 to symbolize a strong stance against illegal drugs. The Provost Marshal's Office will also be

handing out red ribbons. For more information about drug awareness or Red Ribbon Week, contact Beth Ayash at (760) 830-7501

10 Behavioral Warning Signs of drug use:

1. Eating Habits: Loss of appetite or increase in appetite; noticeable weight loss or gain.
2. Sleep Patterns: Teenagers often complain of tiredness. But is your child awake or asleep at unusual times? Constantly tired? Lethargic?
3. A New Crowd: New friends or hang-out spots; avoiding old friends; unwilling to talk about or introduce new friends.
4. School / Work Performance: Drop in grades at school or performance at work; skipping school or work, or arriving late on a regular basis.
5. Mood Swings: Oversensitivity, temper tantrums, moodiness, irritability, or nervousness.
6. Motivation: General lack of motivation, energy, self-esteem, an "I don't care" attitude. Difficulty paying attention; forgetfulness.
7. Secretiveness: Teens are concerned about privacy. But a child who is excessively secretive may really have something to hide.
8. Dishonesty: Is your child vague about their evening or weekend plans? Coming up with excuses for being late home? Chronic dishonesty can be a sign of substance abuse.
9. Cash Flow: Unexplained need for money; money, alcohol, cigarettes or valuables go missing around the home.
10. Drug Paraphernalia: Look out for evidence of drug use. Common items include pipes, bongs, cigars, rolling papers, butane lighters, roach clips, syringes, tourniquets, burned tinfoil or spoons; as well as products to cover drug odors such as dryer sheets, air freshener, incense, or towels under the door.

Drug use incidents on MCAGCC in 2007:

Drug abuse is everywhere, even at the Combat Center. According to positive test results from urinalysis assessments by unit substance abuse counseling officers.

January- 20	February- 12	March- 7
April- 5	May- 8	June- 5
July- 6	August- 12	
TOTAL- 75		

log onto the Web site, http://www.helpguide.org/mental/drug_substance_abuse_addiction_signs_effects_treatment.htm#signssymptoms.

For more information of the statistics of drug use log on <http://www.whitehouse.drugpolicy.gov/publications/factsheet/druguse/>.

Information was provided by the Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office. For information on signs and symptoms

For more information about the above services, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Section at (760) 830 4561/6094.

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Boy Scouts utilize warehouse as meeting center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

July 25 rains flooded the streets of the Combat Center. Due to heavy rain, many buildings and trailers, including the Armed Services YMCA and building 696, used as the local Boy Scouts' scout hut, were deemed unfit for daily functions and the users had to find a new place to go.

"The ceiling started to cave in," said Clinton Blaul, Boy Scout leader. "The Facilities Maintenance Department started looking for a new place for us to meet immediately after the accident. They found a space and got us hooked up with a warehouse."

The new warehouse, in building 478, was originally used to store the self help and repairs for on-base housing.

"We get half the warehouse and Toys for Tots gets to use the other half," said Blaul.

Many repairs have been made to the warehouse since it has become a Scout Hut. Almost every night more repairs are made and layers of paint are added.

"The building is fully functional, we're just trying to make it look nice," said Blaul.

Twenty-one Cub Scouts and 12 Boy Scouts began utilizing the new warehouse immediately. Every night a pack of Cub Scouts and a troop of Boy Scouts are holding a meeting inside the warehouse.

According to Wendy Hodges, the Cub Scouts leader, the warehouse is much larger than their old building. It is easier to hold functions since it accommodates more people and can hold two group func-

tions at the same time.

"The families and leaders are planning to do a lot of self help projects to make the warehouse safer and more welcoming," said Hodges. "We have been cleaning up pigeon waste, doing bay door sweeps to keep out dirt and pests and painting."

Since the Combat Center no longer has a Reserve Support Unit, the other half of the warehouse is used temporarily now to run the Toys for Tots operations for this Christmas season.

In the past, the Scouts have helped out with the Toys for Tots by answering phones and helping pass out toys.

"Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are a family and community based organization, and this is part of their community service," said Hodges. "This is a win-win situation."



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Two Cub Scouts anticipate the start of a race at the Raingutter Regatta at the new Scout Hut in building 478.

Studio Now launches free movie campaign for military personnel

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
PRESS RELEASE

SAN FRANCISCO--Studio Now, the innovative online video editing company kicked-off a promotion Sept. 25 that will allow U.S. troops serving the country and their families to create free, high-end personal movies to share with each other despite the miles that may separate them. Families and friends can share memorable moments at home, and military personnel can send video diaries and journals to the home front.

"For active-duty personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, we already have created a variety of heart-touching movies, such as a one-year-old child's birthday party for her dad who could not be there, marriage proposals from soldiers to sweethearts

and sons and daughters to their parents, depicting their daily events while defending the country abroad," said David Mason, CEO, StudioNow. "To honor those Americans that are putting their lives on the line for their country, we have decided to offer our service for free to help them create and share memorable events."

StudioNow consumer movies are typically priced between \$25 and \$100. By contributing the first \$5,000 to this program, StudioNow is pledging to make approximately 200+ movies for troops or their families at no charge.

This promotion will continue to be offered to military personnel until all the contributions to the program have been allocated. However, with the help of other companies and organizations, this free video program may continue beyond

StudioNow's initial contribution. Other sponsors are encouraged to donate to the keep the offering going as long as the troops remain abroad. For more information or to submit your project, visit www.studionow.com/military.

How the Service Works:

*At no cost, military personnel and their family members visiting <http://www.studionow.com/military> can drag and drop photos and video content, type a few instructions and select any song desired to create their project.

*Media files are automatically converted, sorted and assigned to a best-fit editor to complete the project.

*When the video is completed, usually within 24-72 hours, an e-mail alerts the customer that the video is ready for preview on the StudioNow Web site.

*All videos/movies are secure for private viewing by default with the option to make public or share with friends and family.

StudioNow has created a new era of video production by directly connecting individual consumers and businesses with expert video/movie editors through the StudioNow Editor Network. This first-ever Web-based community, which includes major-network TV and Hollywood feature-

film professionals, enables customers to transform their digital images, photos and videos easily and affordably rather than investing time and money in complex video-editing solutions. Prices vary based on editing time, experience of editor and amount of material submitted. About StudioNow

Founded in January 2007, StudioNow is the first Web-based, virtual community of freelance video/movie editors

and directors available 24/7 to provide Hollywood filmmaking expertise and editing services to its users. The company transforms digital photos and videos into high-quality, enjoyable content in an efficient and affordable manner. The StudioNow vision is to make life more entertaining, creative and enriching by empowering individuals, artists and businesses. For more information, please go to <http://www.StudioNow.com>.

Local boy earns Eagle Scout through hardwork, dedication



COURTESY PHOTO

William Winn instructs fellow Boy Scouts Jonathan Cambon and John Palmer during their eagle project that consisted of restoring the trail at the Pipes Canyon Preserve in Pioneertown Feb. 17. Winn just recently picked up Eagle Scout.

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