

# OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JANUARY 30, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 5

## HOT TOPICS

### NUMBERS THAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR SPEED DIAL

Cellular phone and voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone reporting is critical information – please pass the following to all.

- Hard Line Phones dial 9-1-1
- Cell Phones, VOIP Phones \* 760-830-3333
- \* 760-830-3334 or
- \* 760-830-3473 (FIRE)

When reporting an emergency stay on the line with the dispatcher until the dispatcher ends the call. Calls via cellular and VOIP 9-1-1 DO NOT route to the Base Emergency Dispatch Center and may cause a significant delay in getting help to you or your family. Don't wait for an emergency to program your cell phone or VOIP phone - do it now!!! Please pass this information to all personnel in your command or section and remind them routinely. For more information, call the Combat Center Fire Department Fire at 830-5239 or 830-6871.

### PREVENTIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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

### BASKETBALL AND SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

Varsity men/women basketball tryouts are ongoing. Varsity men's softball tryouts begin Feb. 12 at Felix Field from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. They will continue on Tuesday and Thursday until further notice. Contact Mr. Skip Best at 830-4092 for more information.

## Maj. Gen. Davis checks on MOBCOM



STAFF SGT. DUSTAN A. JOHNSON

Maj. Gen. Andrew B. Davis, commanding general of Marine Corps Mobilization Command, Kansas City, Mo., talks to a group of Individual Ready Reserve Marines at the Combat Center rifle range Wednesday.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The commanding general of Marine Corps Mobilization Command, Kansas City, Mo., visited the Combat Center Jan. 23 to see his unit's training first-hand.

Maj. Gen. Andrew B. Davis, who has been the MOBCOM commanding general since August 2007, visited the Combat Center to see a unit of Individual Ready Reserve Marines who were activated 2 months ago.

Davis, along with Sgt. Maj. John R. Jennings, MOBCOM sergeant major, visited the Marines to make sure they were receiving the training they need before deploying to Iraq.

IRR, which is the largest

See MAJ. GEN., A4

## 3rd LAR platoon returns from MEU deployment

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance

Battalion, returned to the Combat Center Jan. 18 after a year-long deployment to the Western Pacific attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The platoon was welcomed

home with open arms by friends and family at the Combat Center's Victory Field upon their return.

While deployed with the MEU, 1st Platoon participated in numerous training operations

in the Republic of Korea, Australia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Cambodia.

"While we were over there, we were cross-training with

See 3RD LAR, A8

## Mad Ghosts bring Mayhem from the Heartland to Iraq



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Lance Cpl. Kyle Christenson, rifleman, Fox Company, 2/24, loads his gear into the undercarriage of a bus before departing the Combat Center.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, also known as the "Mad Ghosts," joined the ranks of activated reserve units when they deployed to Iraq from the Combat Center Jan. 21 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion first came to the Combat Center in September 2007 to participate in the 30-day pre-deployment

See GHOSTS, A4



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. David Padilla, vehicle commander, 1st platoon, Delta Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, holds his 2-year-old daughter, Rianny, in his arms when he arrived at the Combat Center's Victory Field Jan. 18 after a year-long deployment to Okinawa, Japan, with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

### This Day in Marine Corps History

-January 30, 1943:-

Marines participated in the Battle of Rennell Island.



5 Vista Del Sol housing, safety first



6 MCCES sergeant major retires



7 Desert Winds Golf Course opens to the public



9 Youth sports teaches children fundamentals of living





# C.O.P. Corner Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention • Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office, Crime Prevention Section  
Information current as of Jan. 6.



## Larcenies aboard MCAGCC

Larcenies have always been a big problem across the U.S. There has been an increasing problem of thefts aboard the base and especially in the barracks, which is an issue we have to strongly look at and find a way to address.

Out of the 6 larcenies, almost all of them could have been prevented or been easier to solve if the person would have secured the items properly, kept receipts of merchandise or marked or engraved their property for identification purposes. Also ensure that you write down and keep a record of all serial numbers and other identifiers of merchandise and keep that list in a secure location. Most pawn shops will not take property that has engraving markings on them.

Unit	Larcenies
7th Mar	1
1/7	1
2/7	0
3/7	0
3/4	2
3/11	0
3rd LAR	0
1st Tank Bn	0
3rd AABN	0
MWSS-374	0
CLB-7	2
VMU-1	0
MCCES	0
HQBN	0
NAV HOSP	0
23rd Dental	0
Staff Housing	0
Other	0
Grand Total	6

## DUI / DWI Update

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

Unit	Totals	On Base/Off Base	Ranks
7th Mar	0	0/0	
1/7	0	0/0	
2/7	1	0/1	1LCpl
3/7	1	1/0	1Cpl
3/4	0	0/0	
3/11	0	0/0	
3rd LAR	0	0/0	
1st Tank	1	1/0	1Cpl
3rd AABN	0	0/0	
MWSS-374	1	1/0	1 Pfc
CLB-7	0	0/0	
VMU-1	0	0/0	
MCCES	0	0/0	
HQBN	2	2/0	1LCpl/1Cpl
Nav Hosp	0	0/0	
23rd Dental	0	0/0	
Other Mil	0	0/0	
Mil Dep	0	0/0	
DOD Civ	0	0/0	
Other	1	1/0	1Sp4
Grand Total	7		

The total number of Marine-related DUIs so far this year are 7, through Jan. 6.

All of them have lost or will lose their driving privileges for a minimum of one year.

For more information on DUI/DWI and convictions go to:

- [http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/drunken\\_driving/california-dui.htm](http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/drunken_driving/california-dui.htm)
- <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs73drunkcostchart.htm>

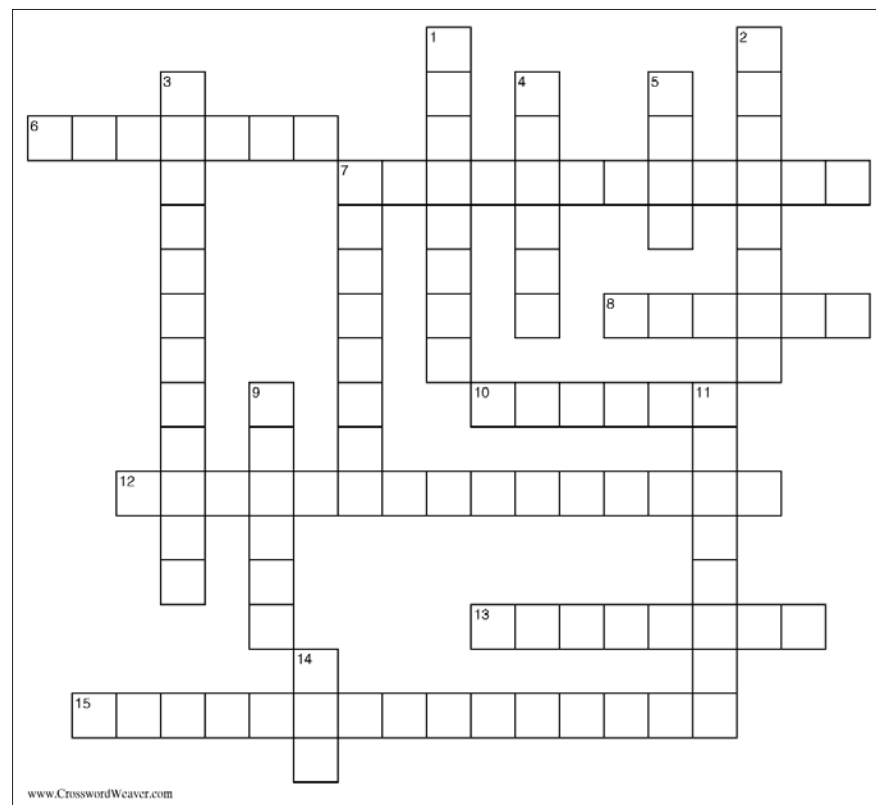
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

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 830-4561 or 830-6094.



## CANDY AND SWEETS



### ACROSS

- They're curiously strong
- What someone has when they can't catch
- Didn't make the cut for snap, crackle & pop
- The freshmaker!
- What you call something when you can't remember the name of it.
- The traditional chocolate bar
- Before there was four of them

### DOWN

- Taste the rainbow
- If only you had this much money
- Another name for a happy farmer
- Peanut butter cups...sounds funny when you think about it
- Need a minute?
- The candy bar not named after the baseball player
- Give me a break, really
- Hungry? Grab a \_\_\_\_\_
- They melt in you mouth, not in your.....you already know

[Solutions on A11]

## Centerspeak

**What is your favorite pas-time activity when you get off work?**

*Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense.*



LANCE CPL. KRISTIE SCINTO  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I like to press my charlies."



CPL. NYGEL IRVIN  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
FSL

"Just hanging out with people in my work section"



LT. KAREN RECTOR  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
CHAPLAIN

"I like to ride my motorcycle and do everything with my dog."

## Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



## OBSERVATION POST

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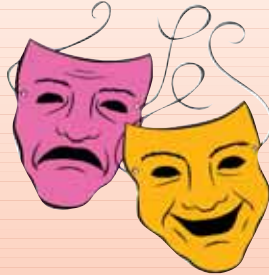
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**THURSDAY**

**"Bye, Bye, Birdie"**  
 Where: Yucca Valley High School multi-purpose room; 7600 Sage Ave.  
 Time: 6 p.m.  
 For more info. call 365-3391



**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**Theater 29 is currently presenting Neil Simon's comedic hit "Rumors"**  
 Where: 73637 Sullivan Rd., 29 Palms  
 Fri. & Sat. 7 p.m. until Feb. 2  
 For info. call 361-4151



**SATURDAY**

**Healthy Hearts 5K Run & Health Walk**  
 Registration forms are avail. at the Yucca Valley Community Center or on-line at <http://www.yucca-valley.org>  
 Where: Machris Park  
 Reg. Time: 7-7:45 a.m.  
 Race Time: 8 a.m.  
 Cost: \$25 includes T-shirt



**TUESDAY**

**Mardi Gras Dance Party**  
 Where: At Los Amigos Family Restaurant 50648 29 Palms Hwy., Morongo Valley  
 Time: 6 - 10 p.m.  
 For info. call 808-3839



Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

**WEDNESDAY**  
 Charlie Wilson's War 7 p.m. - R

**THURSDAY**  
 No Country for Old Men 7 p.m. - R

**FRIDAY**  
 National Treasure: Book of Secrets - 6 p.m. - PG  
 I Am Legend 9 p.m. - PG-13  
 Charlie Wilson's War Midnight - R

**SATURDAY**  
 TBA - FREE 11 a.m. - G  
 The Golden Compass 2 p.m. - PG-13  
 I Am Legend 6 p.m. - PG  
 No Country for Old Men 9 p.m. - R  
 Charlie Wilson's War Midnight - R

**SUNDAY**  
 SUPER BOWL PARTY!  
 1 p.m. - \$5 - No Movies

**MONDAY**  
 The Golden Compass 7 p.m. - PG-13

**TUESDAY**  
 Alvin & The Chipmunks 7 p.m. - PG

MCCS Presents: **COMBAT COMICS LIVE** at Sunset Cinema

One Night... Three Comedians, **NO COVER CHARGE!**  
 Wednesday, February 6th • 7 - 9 p.m.  
 (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Open only to authorized patrons. Due to adult content of show, must be 18 or older or have an active duty military ID card. Babies in carriers will not be admitted.

BEER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE! Budweiser SHINRY 800-7287 MCCS MAIN CORP. 361-4151 mcs29palms.com

**Cinema 6**

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- ADULTS \$8.00
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**RIDE MBTA**

<b>15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday</b>							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00
<b>15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday</b>							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
<b>15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*</b>							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00 4:00	10:25 4:25	10:30 4:30	10:40 *4:40	10:45 *4:45	11:00 *5:00	11:10 *5:10	11:45 *5:45
<b>15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*</b>							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
12:00 *6:00	12:10 *6:10	12:15 *6:15	12:50 *6:50	1:35 *7:35			

**SMP EVENTS**

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**FRIDAY**  
 SMP CHESS TOURNAMENT 7 P.M. @ THE ZONE

**SUNDAY**  
 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!  
 See the game at Sunset Cinema  
 See ad on page 6 - Cost: \$5

**TUESDAY**  
 SMP POOL TOURNAMENT 7 P.M. @ THE ZONE COST: \$5

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## A letter from the Commanding General



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MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND  
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER  
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MCAGCC Family Quarters Residents:

Jan. 23, 2008

The Combat Center offers both recently renovated and newly constructed family housing and modernized recreational facilities, including; family swimming pools and playgrounds in the Lincoln Family Housing common areas and a newly renovated Desert Winds Golf Course adjacent to Ocotillo Housing. These improvements are provided to enhance the quality of life for our residents and their registered guests, and reflect a genuine commitment on my part to make Twentynine Palms an exceptional installation to live and raise a family.

Recently within the MCAGCC Community, we have witnessed disrespect for government property through wanton acts of vandalism. This is disappointing and cannot be overlooked. This deference to good order and discipline will not be tolerated and we are committed to ensuring this ceases. The military sponsor is directly responsible to ensure government property is respected and preserved, and responsible for the conduct of their family members and registered guests while they are aboard the Combat Center.

Any sponsor of family member found to have violated the Combat Center Order P11101.12K (Instructions for the Residents of Family Housing), or found guilty of acts of theft or vandalism by the Federal Magistrate, per Combat Center Order 5800.11A (Procedures for the Combat Center Magistrate) are subject to penalties, up to and including, the forfeiture of base privileges, termination of government quarters, and debarment from all Marine Corps Installations within the legal jurisdiction of Marine Corps Installations, West.

It is up to all of us to provide the necessary oversight over the conduct of our family members and their registered guests while aboard the Combat Center. All military members, regardless of housing area or rank are responsible. I expect each of you to enforce those orders and regulations that govern our conduct and to "Do the right thing!"

Sincerely,

M. G. SPIESE

## Marine Corps clubs continuing the tradition

**BRYAN DRIVER**

*PLANS, POLICY & ANALYSIS, PERSONAL & FAMILY READINESS DIVISION*

HQMC (MR), QUANTICO, Va. – Effective Jan. 1, membership dues for Marine Corps officer and SNCO clubs will be eliminated. All active duty, reservists, and retired Marines and Civilian Marines will automatically become a member of their respective club without having to pay dues as a requirement of membership.

Marine Corps clubs are an integral part of the history, cul-

ture, tradition, and very fabric of our Corps. For more than 230 years, Marines have frequently gathered for camaraderie and fellowship at clubs around the world. Marine Corps clubs will remain a fundamental part of the Marine Corps infrastructure and a distinctive location for the gathering of Marines to share in their culture, history, tradition, and heritage.

Letters announcing the free membership are being sent to every current club member. Current members with the Marine Corps Club Membership Card issued by Chase Bank

USA, N.A., may retain their MasterCard after dues are eliminated. This competitive card will continue to offer Platinum MasterCard benefits along with the valuable Military Free Cash Rewards and Blue Star programs. Members having the Private Label membership card may continue to use their cards in clubs until Jun. 30, 2008. All Prepaid Membership Cards expired on Dec. 31, 2007 and will not need to be renewed.

For more information contact your local club manager or go to [www.onecorpsclub.com](http://www.onecorpsclub.com).

## GHOSTS from, A1

training package, dubbed Mojave Viper. After building basic infantry skills on the Combat Center ranges, they began Mojave Viper in late November of that year.

Upon completion of Mojave Viper Dec. 21, 2007, 2/24 took a well-deserved period of block leave to see their families one last time before their deployment. When the battalion returned in early January of this year, they sent their advanced party to Iraq to prepare for their deployment.

Now, the entire battalion has deployed to Iraq. The majority of the Marines and sailors departed the Combat Center Jan. 21. The rest of the battalion left later that week. This is their second deployment to Iraq since their mobilization in June 2004.

"I volunteered to come out of IRR [Individual Ready Reserve] status to deploy with 2/24, so I'm really excited to go," said Lance Cpl. Dan Schramm, squad automatic weapon gunner, Fox Company, 2/24. "I'm a patriot and I came back because I feel I have a moral obligation to serve my nation."

Schramm added that Iraq is in a crucial period of their history, and he feels the American military presence there providing security is a necessity for Iraqi leaders to be able to make appropriate decisions for their country to stand up on its own.

During their first deployment to Iraq, the battalion operated in the North Babil Province of Iraq and was successful in capturing more than 1,000 insurgents during the first democratic elections in Iraq, keeping true to their motto "Mayhem from the Heartland." They were distinguished as the first Marine Forces Reserve battalion to operate independently in Iraq. Their commanders feel they will have similar success on this deployment.

"I think reserve units bring unique capabilities to the fight we're in," said Maj. Guillermo Rosales, Fox Company commander, 2/24. "Our Marines are professionals in the outside world – everything from police officers to carpenters. They're all in the right mindset, but also have additional skills they can bring to the deployment and help us to be successful."

Rosales also feels Mojave Viper effectively trained his Marines for their deployment and the training will add to the battalion's success.

"Mojave Viper is a great training program," he said. "It exercises every individual rifleman, small-unit leader and commander. The Marine Corps has done it right to prepare us for the rigors of deployment."

Overall, the battalion seemed excited as they prepared for their deployment to Iraq, despite the dangers of a hostile environment.

"I'm eager to return to Iraq to see the positive changes that have occurred since our last deployment," said Schramm.

The Marines and sailors of 2/24 departed for the seven-month deployment to Iraq and will serve the Marine Corps supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The battalion is expected to return in August 2008.

## MAJ. GEN. from, A1

command in the Marine Corps with about 60,000 Marines on any given day, will be activated for the next year, said Staff Sgt. Dustan A. Johnson, MOBCOM public affairs chief.

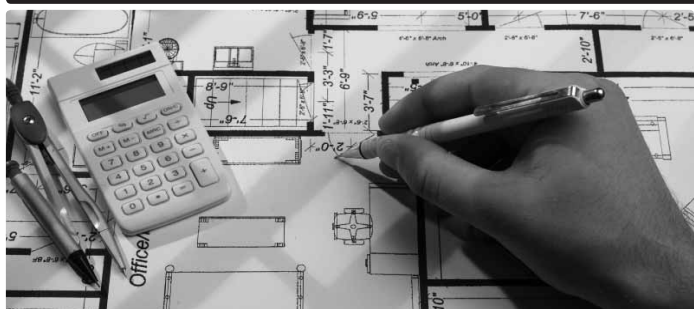
IRR Marines help active duty forces by relieving them of the stress and dangers by replacing them in battle. These Marines are not assigned to a unit and do not partake in standard drills. However, they can be recalled to active duty due to their original contractual agreement which binds them to an additional four years of inactive service after their first four-year term.

Some of the Marines who were activated had been out of the Marine Corps and heavily involved in school, work and family for years when they were recalled, said some IRR Marines.

During their visit on base, Davis, a Arlington, Va., native, and Jennings, a native of Greenville, S.C., spoke with numerous IRR Marines about family, deployment and preparation.

During a breakfast meeting at the Camp Wilson chowhall, Jennings expressed his pride and gratitude for their commitment to duty. "This is a huge sacrifice...Remember that America is thankful for it."

## Home Equity Lines-of-Credit



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\*\* The loan fees, which generally total between \$300-\$600, will be waived provided the line-of-credit is not closed within 3 years. Borrowers may be subject to incidental third party fees related to the subordination of any existing liens. If you pay this in full, and close the line-of-credit, you will be required to pay any fees waived in addition to any fees required to reconvey the security on the loan. Other restrictions may apply. Rates, terms, and conditions may change without notice.



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## Vista del Sol Housing: Safety first

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Although Vista del Sol housing is located outside of the guarded gates at the Combat Center, residents can rest assured measures are taken by the base to make the neighborhoods as safe as on-base housing.

The Provost Marshal's Office has a vehicle patrolling the streets 24 hours a day at Vista del Sol housing to ensure the safety and security of the three neighborhoods: Aztec, Two Mile, and Joe Davis.

The patrolling men and women have developed a keen eye, and have been able to catch unusual occurrences that most people might pass over without second thought.

"We recognize a lot of the peo-

ple living in that housing area," said Cpl. Janna Marrinier, PMO patrolman. "We will stop people if we don't recognize them, we will ask to see identification, and if they don't belong in the area we will send them on their way out of the neighborhood."

The patrolmen are able to catch certain types of trends due to their constant patrolling and familiarization with the neighborhoods.

"Because we are patrolling 24 hours we really get to know the place," said Master Sgt. John P. Humberston, PMO operations chief. "It is a lot easier to spot something out of the ordinary when you know the place like we do."

"The units have more contact with people," continued Humberston. "They are more likely to get to know the people who live in the housing."

Due to the constant patrols, response times to emergencies have been minimized to mere minutes.

Vista del Sol housing has their own housing office, so if a homeowner breaks a window or has a security issue, it will get fixed promptly, said Humberston.

The patrolmen will also walk throughout random parts of the neighborhood, where they are more likely to find smaller discrepancies, said Marrinier.

"A patrolling unit that walks through random parts of the neighborhood is more likely to find that side window that has been broken that isn't in view while patrolling on the street," said Humberston.

PMO encourages Vista del Sol residents to report anything out of the ordinary. "Anytime they call us, we will make a note about it," said



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

A Provost Marshal's Office vehicle patrols through Aztec, a Vista del Sol neighborhood. The constant patrol will ensure the safety of the neighborhood by watching for any unusual occurrences and quickly responding to an emergency call.

Humberston. "It helps us find any trends taking place."

PMO has a good relationship with the Twentynine Palms Sheriff's Department. Whenever PMO is called into the Vista del Sol housing, the Sheriff's Department is almost always called in as well.

"A basic proven law enforce-

ment method is visible deterrence," said Humberston. "If they see us constantly, or know MP's [military police] are in the area they are less likely do something."

PMO statistics have shown Vista del Sol housing has a lower incident rate compared to on-base housing due to the constant patrols and diligent patrolmen.

## Honoring Marines by educating their children;

### Deadlines for Spring 2008 Approaching Fast

THE MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION  
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for academic college scholarships to the children of Marines or Navy Corpsmen serving with Marines. Last year, these awards amounted to a record-setting 1,044 scholarships representing nearly \$3.5 million. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed over 21,000 scholarships and educational bonds valued at over \$34.5 million.

Why is this work so urgent:

For nearly 50 years, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has helped accomplish what many Marines cannot by enabling their children to pursue dreams of higher education. The Foundation provides academic needs-based scholarships to upstanding and deserving sons and daughters of our Marines and Navy Corpsmen, with particular attention given to children whose parent was killed or wounded in action. These awards provide life-altering opportunities for these students in communities across the country. The urgent nature of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation's work is in the numbers. The average combined household income of the Foundation's scholarship recipients is under \$41,000, almost 60% below their maximum income level, which is annually adjusted to the base pay of a sergeant major.

Requirements: The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation employs a strict application process that all applicants must follow. To be eligible to apply, a student must be the child of a current U.S.

Marine or the child of a former Marine (living or deceased), exhibit academic success, community service, and have an adjusted family income of less than \$77,000 (the Marine rank of Sergeant Major). If siblings apply, then there is an additional income allowance of \$10,000 for each child in college. Students may reapply each year for up to 4 years of undergraduate study. Children whose parent is participating or has participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom may qualify for additional scholarship funding.

How: Students may download the scholarship application from the Foundation's Web site [www.mcsf.org](http://www.mcsf.org). The Foundation will also mail the application upon written or telephone request. The toll-free number for scholarship applicants is 1-800-292-7777. Students must submit their completed application form, DD214, IRS1040, a transcript of grades, their Federal Student Aid Report, and a 500-word essay.

- The deadline for Graduating High School Seniors and First Time College Freshmen:

Application Submission Deadline: March 3, 2008

- All Other Students:

Application Submission Deadline: April 15, 2008

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation:

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is a private, nonprofit scholarship organization and is not affiliated with the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Government. To learn more about their scholarship programs or to support their efforts, visit their web site at <http://www.mcsf.org>.

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# MCCES sergeant major relinquishes post, retires

LANCE CPL.  
NICHOLAS M. DUNN  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School bid farewell to a former leader and welcomed a new addition to its ranks during a post-and-relief ceremony Jan. 18, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Sgt. Maj. Eddie Reid relinquished the MCCES sergeant major post to Sgt. Maj. Michael B. Gray and retired from 30 years of dedicated service to the Marine Corps.

Reid, having served as the MCCES sergeant major since October 2006, addressed the attending guests and Marines of MCCES one last time.

"It's been a long road for me," he said. "I always knew I was going to be a Marine, somehow, some way. The Marine Corps has been very good to me."

"Never forget who you are, Marines," added Reid. "You can walk tall wherever you go. You are the future of our Corps."

Take that banner and run with it."

Col. Kevin J. Nally, MCCES commanding officer, also addressed the crowd, saying a few final words about Reid.

"Sgt. Maj. Reid has been dedicated for 30 years and it's never been about him," he said. "Words will never be enough to explain it, but you know in your heart and your Marine soul that you'll always be my sergeant major."

"As for Sergeant Major Gray, we look forward to having you in our school looking after us," added Nally.

Gray also had the opportunity to address the attendees of the ceremony, first saying a few words about Reid, then a few more to the Marines of MCCES.

"Today is not so much a post-and-relief ceremony as it is about honoring Sergeant Major Reid's time in the Marine Corps," said Gray. "I'm proud of the Marines at this school, I'm a very proud alumni and I'm glad to be back."



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Col. Kevin J. Nally, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School commanding officer, presents Sgt. Maj. Eddie Reid, former MCCES sergeant major, with a Legion of Merit medal Jan. 18 for 30 years of exemplary service to the Marine Corps.

"These Marines standing here today are also representing the majority of the Marines who are in school training right now," he added, referring to the formation behind him.

During the ceremony,

Reid was also awarded a Legion of Merit medal for his dedicated service during his extensive Marine Corps career. Nally presented Reid with the medal, as well as a folded American flag, signifying

Reid's retirement. Reid's wife, Mary, was presented a certificate from the president of the United States, in recognition of her years as a Marine Corps spouse.

The Marine Corps Communication-Electronics

School, one of the largest military occupational specialty schools in the Marine Corps, will continue to train Marines and prepare them for the challenges they will face throughout their military careers.

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# Desert Winds Golf Course opens to the public

LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course is now open for the public to use and is attracting a larger audience.

Civilians with access to the base are allowed on the course, as well as civilians without access to the base.

However, civilians without access to the base must call the golf course management in advance to play on a specific date.

Guest rates apply to these new

patrons, including \$25 green fees and \$15 cart rentals, although two golfers can use the same cart.

The public may purchase daily consumption items, such as food and drinks, but only at the golf course.

"Allowing the public to play on base will increase the number of rounds played," said Todd Wade, general manager and head golf professional, Desert Winds Golf Course. "We haven't been able to utilize the course as much as we could have until now."

Increased use of the course will also raise more money to support

it and provide more funding to be used toward other base programs.

The Marine Corps Community Services marketing department is working to attract more golfers from the region and let them know the course is available.

MCCS has also advertised Desert Winds in various golf magazines to attract traveling players on vacation from across the country.

To ensure safety aboard the Combat Center, the Provost Marshal's Office enforces a simple set of rules and regulations that golf course patrons without

regular access to the base must follow.

Golfers who have no affiliation with the base must have a driver's license, registration and proof of insurance to receive a pass to get on base.

They are only allowed to enter, exit, sign in and sign out through the Octillo gate because of its relative position to the golf course.

These patrons must visit only the golf course and not stray to other areas of the base.

"We want to make it as easy and efficient as possible for people to come on and off the base

to play golf," said Master Sgt. John Humbertson, operations chief, PMO.

PMO keeps track of all passes handed out to golfers and ensures they arrive and leave in a safe and timely manner.

The Desert Winds staff and the Combat Center are also working together to provide tank, artillery and aircraft displays to personalize the course with military scenery.

The first displays are scheduled to be set up in March and will continue to be featured on the course in the future.



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER

Capt. Russ Cromley, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, sinks his putt at the first hole of the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course.



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER

The Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course is now open for the public to use and is attracting a larger audience.



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**3RD LAR from, A1**

various foreign militaries," said Sgt. Andrew Witzel, vehicle commander, 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd LAR. "We got an opportunity to teach

them some of the things we know to help them in their fight. We also got to learn from them as well."

Witzel explained the vast differences he noticed between the Marine Corps and the mili-

taries of the countries the platoon visited.

"In the Philippines, we learned a lot about jungle warfare and survival," he said. "They taught us all kinds of stuff. When we trained with the ROK Marines, it was another great opportunity for some good training on the

U.S. Army facilities that are over there. The Australian military did things pretty similar to us, but it was still a good experience to train with them."

Originally, the platoon was only supposed to be attached to the MEU for six months, but they were extended to one year while

they were on their deployment. However, being gone for an entire year seemed to make it all the better for the Marines and sailors when they finally returned to their loved ones.

"I feel good right now," said Sgt. Rolando Magdaleno, master gunner, 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd LAR. "It's been over a year, so I'm really excited to be back. It's also great to finally see signs I can read."

Magdaleno was greeted at Victory Field by his sister, Marcy Adame; brother-in-law, Luis Adame; cousin, Ignacio Amezola; and friend, Alex Torres. The four visitors drove from Santa Ana, Calif., to welcome Magdaleno home.

"It's been a long time," said Luis Adame. "We're just glad to have him home."

Another 1st Platoon vehicle commander, Sgt. David Padilla, was greeted by his wife, Robyn, and daughters Angel, 7, and Riany, 2.

"I'm happy my daddy's home," said Angel. "I missed him a lot. It's fun when he's home."

Padilla's mother and father also drove from San Leandro, Calif., to welcome him home when he returned to the Combat Center.

After a well-deserved period of leave, the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon will continue to train and prepare for their next deployment.

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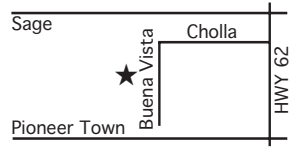
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# People of the Year, Quarter honored at Naval Hospital

DAN BARBER  
NHPP

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital recently celebrated the selection of its People of the Year for 2007 and the People of the Quarter for the period from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007.

Lt. Thomas Nelson, MSC, Department Head and Staff Industrial Hygiene Officer,

Public Health Department, was selected as the Officer of the Year for 2007.

Petty Officer 1st Class David Toston, leading petty officer, Preventive Medicine, has been selected as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter for the period of Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007 and Senior Sailor of the Year for 2007.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Cody

Thornton, laboratory technician, Laboratory Department, was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Year for 2007.

Dawn Schadegg, coding supervisor, has been selected as Senior Civilian of the Year for 2007.

Feliciano Cesa, Pharmacy supply technician, has been named Junior Civilian of the Year for 2007, and Junior Civilian of the

Quarter for the period of Oct. 1, through Dec. 31, 2007.

Ensign Cheryl Castro, Maternal Infant Nursing Department, has been picked as the Officer of the Quarter for the period of Oct. 1, through Dec. 31, 2007.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Rebeca Wolfe, Family Medicine Clinic, was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the period

Oct. 1, through Dec. 31, 2007.

Lori Parker, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Branch Clinic, China Lake, as been selected as the Senior Civilian of the Quarter for the period of Oct. 1, through Dec. 31, 2007.

Hospitalman Kyle Young, Pediatric Clinic Staff, has been selected as the Bluejacket Sailor of the Quarter for the period of Oct. 1, through Dec. 31, 2007.

## Youth Sports teaches children fundamentals of life, living

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A blur of multicolored jerseys rushes around the court as sneakers squeak against the hardwood floor. A swoosh of a basketball flying perfectly through the net is droned out by the cheers of the children playing and their parents enjoying the game from the bleachers.

The Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports Program located at the Community Center has more than 20 coed sports to offer to children ranging from 3 to 18 years old.

The Start Smart programs are used in a few sports where children from age 3 to 5 learn the

fundamentals of the sport.

"It is absolutely fun to watch these children learn a new sport," said Helen Hubbard, MCCS recreation attendant. "I love watching them learn how to coordinate using both their feet at the same time."

In Start Smart, no score is kept, and the children have 30 minutes to practice and then 30 minutes to play a game. Softer balls are used, and in certain sports nets are lowered and smaller.

"It is great watching the games a few weeks in when you get the girls who realize, 'Hey, I can grab that ball from that boy' and then they steal the ball and they score," said Joe Rosselli, MCCS youth sports coordinator. "They learn the transitions and how to play

offense and defense."

Soccer, basketball and cheer camps, challenge golf league, Start Smart golf and-hook-a-kid-on-golf are the summer programs, camps and leagues where age groups fluctuate depending on the sport.

Spring programs consist of track and field, two tee ball leagues for different age groups, Start Smart baseball, coach pitch and tennis.

Sports played during the fall program include soccer exchange with, Start Smart soccer, cheer-leading and flag football.

Winter sports consist of basketball, Start Smart basketball, cheer-dance and wrestling.

"We have had so many chil-



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Children in Start Smart Soccer practice controlling the balls before starting a game.

dren sign up for cheerleading we started something what we call junior cheer-dance," said Rosselli. "We will teach them sideline chants and a short music routine."

The numbers have grown in youth sports in 2007 by 300 due to sponsorship by American

See YOUTH, A10

## 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 Grp.  
Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary  
Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass  
Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group age 18-35, 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

### Midweek 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 (2nd Tues. of the month)  
6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month

**Wednesday  
Village Center**  
11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187  
6 p.m. RCIA, building 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, call 830-6456/6646

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**RACE DAY** Saturday, February 2, 2008 - rain or shine.  
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**LOCATION** Start and finish at Machris Park:  
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**INFORMATION** Visit the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department located at 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy. in Yucca Valley.

**PHONE** (760) 369-7211

**WEB SITE** [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org)



## Admin. Corner..

**PAY:** W-2s are available on MyPay. Per MARADMIN 355/05, "All Marines are required to establish a My Pay Personal Identification Number (PIN) no later than 30 September 2005." In order to create or reset your MyPay PIN click on the "New PIN" button on the MyPay Web Site at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

**LES:** All Marines are advised to review their LES each month. Marines in possession of a meal card are responsible for ensuring they are receiving a DMR deduction. Marines in Privatized Housing or Gov. Quarters are responsible for ensuring they are receiving a complete BAH deduction.

**PROMOTIONS:** The April Promotion Quarter cutoff for submitting composite score related information is Feb. 20. Information submitted after Feb. 20 will not count toward your composite score until the following promotion quarter.

**IPAC:** (Buildings 1450 and 1459 on 4th Street) - Phone Number 830-1818

Office	Ext.	Office	Ext.
- HMB	108	Separations	113
- Orders	116	Customer Svc.	115
- New Joins	174	Travel Claim	170
- Legal	128	Promotions	164
- Pay	161	Deployment	127

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (YOUR MONEY)

If you...	You must report to the...	No later than...
- Return from a location outside the U.S.	Deployment Office	within 5 days upon return
- Visit a Medical Treatment Facility (Hospital)	Deployment Office	within 5 days upon return
- If you are going on Terminal Leave	Separations Office	10 days prior to leave
- Receive notification of orders (PCS or PCA)	Orders Office	immediately upon notification
- Add or lose a dependent (spouse, child, etc.)	Customer Service Office	within 5 days of change
- Transfer units on base (PCA, TAD, or FAP)	New Joins Office	within 5 days of reporting
- Transfer units from off base (PCS)	New Joins Office	within 5 days of reporting
- Are a MCCES student with an admin issue	HMB	within 5 days

...in order to complete your information and receive your entitlements.

## YOUTH from, A9

Friends of our Armed Forces.

"Their sponsorship lowered our registration fee," said Rosselli. "We have never had 300 children participate in one year. That's like a 20 percent increase of children taking part in youth sports."

The increase of children called for an increase in certified volunteer coaches and referees.

"We do background checks on all the coaches," said Rosselli. "We try to place the coaches with a team and age group the matches their skills in the sport they are playing. We also have videos and DVD's that can teach coaches how to set up practices and better teach the children."

MCCS youth sports is an ever-growing program that provides safe, positive and fun recreation.

For more information regarding MCCS youth sports, contact Rosselli at 830-3380.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Children enjoy a baseball game sponsored by the Combat Center's Youth Sports Program.



# Birth announcements

### CODY JOHN FRANCISCO

Son of Sgt. John Francisco and his wife, Diana. Born on Dec. 12, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 9.4 oz and measuring 21.1 inches.

### TREVIN FRANCIS COOKE

Son of Staff Sgt. Paul Cooke and his wife, Lara. Born on Dec. 17, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 14.4 oz and measuring 19 inches.

### JUSTIN RYAN DUKE

Son of Lance Cpl. Jay Duke and his wife, Julie. Born on Dec. 18, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 3.9 oz and measuring 20.4 inches.

### AVA MARIE GREENWELL

Daughter of Capt. Adam Greenwell and his wife, Jenna. Born on Dec. 18, 2007, weighing 5 lbs, 14 oz and measuring 18.7 inches.

### EMMA ANN GREENWELL

Daughter of Capt. Adam Greenwell and his wife, Jenna. Born on Dec. 18, 2007, weighing 5 lbs, 6 oz and measuring 17.9 inches.

### JEREMIAH HERNANDEZ LUNA

Daughter of Pfc. Michael Luna and his wife, Lucille. Born on Dec. 18, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 1 oz and measuring 19 inches.

### SEVI THIDA BUTTKE

Daughter of Lt. Thida Buttke and her husband, Floyd. Born on Dec. 19, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 7.9 oz and measuring 20.2 inches.

### DYNA YUKI LEA-ANNE GARIBALDI

Daughter of Sgt. William Garibaldi and his wife, Lisa. Born on Dec. 19, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 8 oz and measuring 18.7 inches.

### NICHOLAS DANIEL JONES

Son of Maj. Gregory L. Jones and his wife, Nikki. Born on Dec. 19, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 15 oz and measuring 19.5 inches.

### MIKEL BRANDON KETCHUM II

Son of Lance Cpl. Mikel Brandon Ketchum and his wife, Amanda. Born on Dec. 19, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 6.2 oz and measuring 21.1 inches.

### NICHOLE MARIE CLEVEN

Daughter of Cpl. William Cleven and his wife, Shannon. Born on Dec. 21, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 8 oz and measuring 19.7 inches.

### ISRAEL RUIZ VALDEZ

Son of Sgt. Robert Valdez and his wife, Ashley. Born on Dec. 22, 2007, weighing 6 lbs, 3 oz and measuring 18.7 inches.

### BENJAMIN DANIEL SMITH

Son of Cpl. Benjamin Smith and his wife, Danielle. Born on Dec. 25, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 14 oz and measuring 19.5 inches.

### CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM NEWTON

Son of Petty Officer 3rd Class John Newton and his wife, Debbie.

Born on Dec. 27, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 10 oz and measuring 20.1 inches.

### ASHLIE SKIE BISE

Daughter of Cpl. Amanda Bise and her husband, Dustin.

Born on Dec. 28, 2007, weighing 7 lbs, 4.2 oz and measuring 19.5 inches.

### LEVI MARK SIDNEY WILLIAMS JR.

Son of Sgt. Levi Williams and his wife, Gloria. Born on Dec. 28, 2007, weighing 6 lbs, 8 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.

### SURI SAKURA-LYNN MILES

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Stephen Miles and his wife, Nancy.

Born on Jan. 2, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 4 oz and measuring 18 inches.

### LUKAS PATTERSON OWENS

Son of Pfc. Bradley Owens and his wife, Samantha.

Born on Jan. 2, 2008, weighing 5 lbs, 14 oz and measuring 17.6 inches.

### HAYDIN AUSTIN MYERS

Son of Lance Cpl. Jacob E. Myers and his wife, Leslie.

Born on Jan. 3, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 7.8 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.

### KAELAN MAKENNA SPENCER

Daughter of Sgt. Russell V. Spencer and his wife, Erica. Born on Jan. 4, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 6 oz and measuring 18 inches.

### TYLER MATTHEW STAUFFER

Son of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Stauffer and his wife, Sunshyne.

Born on Jan. 4, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 13 oz and measuring 18.9 inches.

### MADISON ROSE CRITCHFIELD

Daughter of Cpl. Joshua Critchfield and his wife, Rachel.

Born on Jan. 5, 2008, weighing 7 lbs, 4.5 oz and measuring 19 inches.

### REBEKAH MAEL MARTINEZ

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Emmanuel T. Martinez and his wife, Corina.

Born on Jan. 5, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 8 oz and measuring 18.25 inches.

### MAYLEN ADELY PIKE

Daughter of Pfc. Michael A. Pike and his wife, Elisha. Born on Jan. 5, 2008, weighing 7 lbs, 7 oz and measuring 19 inches.

### ASHLINN AVA TUCKER

Daughter of Sgt. Travis Tucker and his wife, Angela. Born on Jan. 5, 2008.

### WILLIAM BENJAMIN WARNER JR.

Son of Lt. Cmdr. William Warner and his wife, Whitney. Born on Jan. 7, 2008, weighing 7 lbs, 11 oz and measuring 18.5 inches.

### FELICITI HOPE ORCUTT

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Andrew Orcutt and his wife, Christina.

Born on Jan. 8, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 14 oz and measuring 18.9 inches.

### WILLIE GRANT CAMPBELL JR.

Son of Petty Officer 3rd Class Willie Grant Campbell and his wife, Melissa.

Born on Jan. 9, 2008, weighing 6 lbs, 4.4 oz and measuring 18.3 inches.

### Y'ARON YA'MIR CAMPBELL

Son of Petty Officer 3rd Class Willie Grant Campbell and his wife, Melissa.

Born on Jan. 9, 2008, weighing 5 lbs, 12.9 oz and measuring 18.1 inches.

### DAKOTA LELAND NORRIS


Son of Sgt. Victor Norris and his wife, Melanie. Born on Jan. 9, 2008, weighing 7 lbs, 15 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.











**YOU ARE  
NOW LEAVING  
THE MARINES**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

If your EAS is on the horizon, then now's the time to act to secure your future as a member of the Army National Guard.

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\*One-year non-deployment tours available in all states. Some states also offer two-year non-deployment tours.

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