



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

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	1	0/1	1Cpl
3rd LAR	0	0/0	
1st Tank	1	1/0	1Cpl
3rd AABN	0	0/0	
MWSS-374	2	2/0	1 Pfc/1LCpl
CLB-7	0	0/0	
VMU-1	0	0/0	
MCCES	2	2/0	1Pfc/1LCpl
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	11		

DUI / DWI Update

The total number of Marine-related DUI's 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://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs73drinkcostchart.htm>

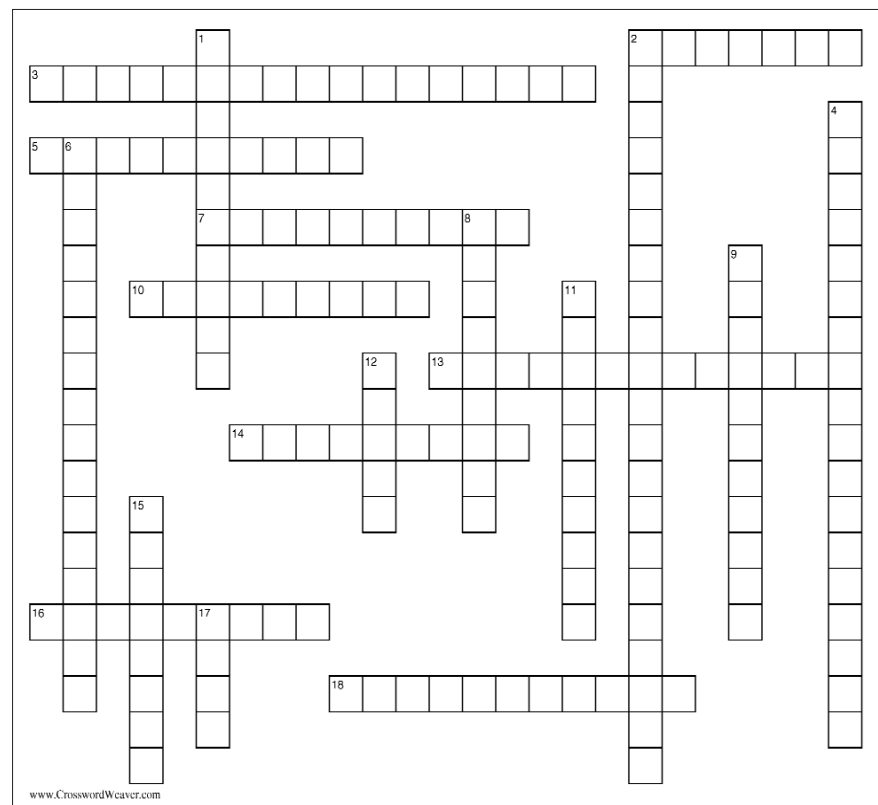
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

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 830-4561 or 830-6094.



NINTENDO 64 GAMES



ACROSS

- Forest animals flying through space saving the galaxy
- The original unrealistic skating game
- It's impossible to wreck your car
- Worst flying game ever
- Fun with go-karts without having to go anywhere
- Why we all know what an Ocarina is
- Why we wanted a waverunner as children
- The only bomber who's a good guy
- Complete rip-off of Goldeneye

DOWN

- The only party you can have when you have no friends
- "Nice shot Luke!"
- Classic Nintendo characters battle royale
- Based on every old school Godzilla/King Kong movie
- Started the multi-player/1st person shooter revolution
- Where else can you spend hours photographing imaginary animals
- Imagine collecting bananas on an island without taking any hard drugs
- The only dinosaur hunter we know
- The most unrealistic football game ever
- It's impossible not to wreck your car!

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

If you could relive any moment you've had in the Marine Corps, what would it be?

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



PFC WILLIAM BAKER
3/7 WEAPONS COMPANY

"Weapons training because I love blowing stuff up."



GUNNERY SGT. JERMAINE K. FIZER
HQBN, A COMPANY

"My first deployment to Iraq because I really felt like a part of that dagon legacy at the time."

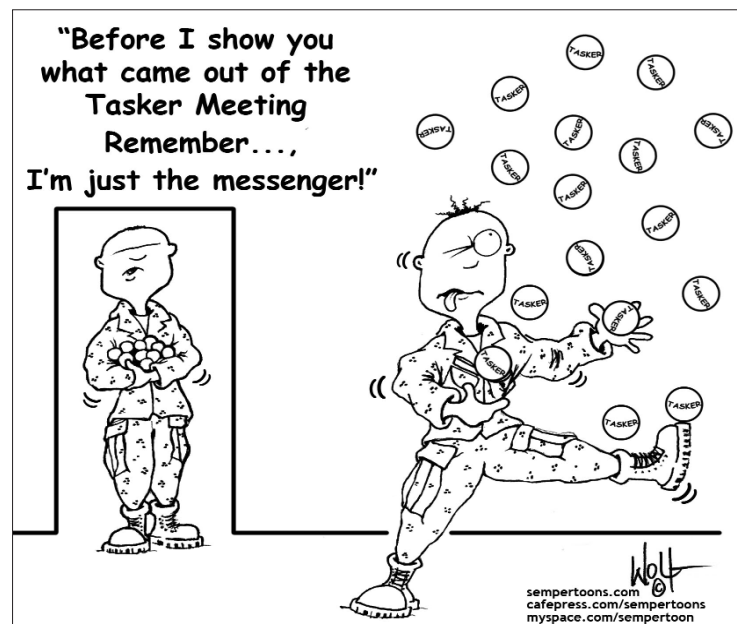


SGT. MAJ. MARK M. GELETKO
HQBN

"Drill instructor duty from 1991-1993 and from 1998-2001."

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



OBSERVATION POST

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	<p>TONIGHT</p> <p>"Make a Scene" workshop for young actors. \$25 per month. First Class FREE! Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley Time: 4-6 p.m. For info. call 322-4000</p>	<p>TONIGHT</p> <p>Square Dance Classes Where: The Elks lodge in 29 Palms. Time: 7-9 p.m. For more info. call 367-7061</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Art Walk in Palm Desert in the El Paseo District Where: El Paseo Dr., Palm Desert Just off Hwy. 111 between Monterrey and Portola. Time: 5-9 p.m. For info. call 346-8885</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>FREE community evenings at the Palms Springs Art Museum Where: 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs Time: 4-8 p.m. For info. call 322-4000</p>
<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Art Laboe's Super Love Jam Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46200 Harrison St., Coachella Time: 8 p.m. For more info. call 800-585-3737 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Saturday night music showcase. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., Yucca Valley's live music café. 55844 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley Time: 8-10 p.m. For info. call 365-7771</p>	<p>MONDAY</p> <p>Tommy Paul Flamenco Guitar Where: 29 Palms Inn, 73950 Inn Ave., 29 Palms Time: 6:30 p.m. For info. call 367-3505</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Line Dance Classes Where: Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Rd., Joshua Tree Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more info. call 366-8415</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Indio Old Town Street Fest, The fair offers food, fun, art, entertainment, festivities & a farmer's market. When: The 2nd Tuesday of each month from Dec. 11-May 13. Where: Along Miles Ave. beginning at Smurr Stree Old Town Indio. Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</p>

Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

WEDNESDAY
LIVE COMEDY SHOW!
FREE SHOW @ 7 p.m.
No Movies

THURSDAY
P.S. I Love You
7 p.m. - PG-13

FRIDAY
National Treasure: Book of Secrets - 6 p.m. - PG

I Am Legend
9 p.m. - PG-13

Walk Hard
Midnight - R

SATURDAY
Under Dog - FREE
11 a.m. - PG

Water Horse
2 p.m. - PG-13

P.S. I Love You
6 p.m. - PG-13

Walk Hard
9 p.m. - R

Charlie Wilson's War
Midnight - R

SUNDAY
The Kite Runner
2 p.m. - PG-13

MONDAY
I am Legend
7 p.m. - PG-13

TUESDAY
No Country for Old Men
7 p.m. - R

3rd Annual Lunar New Year Tet Festival

The "Tet" is a celebration of the Lunar New Year and is the most observed holiday of Vietnamese descent. From Feb. 8-10, the "Year of the Rat" will be celebrated with ancestral homage ritual, games, carnival rides, food, music, and costumed performances. Come and indulge in Vietnamese culture! The festivities begin at 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. at Balboa Park (lawn and parking lot areas at Park Blvd. and President's Way). Admission is \$5 for general admission, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and FREE for children 5 and younger.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

SMP EVENTS

November 2-8

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

TONIGHT
SMP BOWLING & PIZZA NIGHT
7 p.m. - At Sandy Hill Lanes
Cost: FREE

FRIDAY
SMP SPADES NIGHT
7 p.m. @ The Zone

SATURDAY
SMP TRIP TO
K1 GoCarts &
North County Fair Mall
Departs The Zone @ 7 a.m.
Cost: \$35 • Call 830-4SMP for info.

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- SENIORS \$6.00
- CHILDREN \$6.00

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SMMC: 'Baby NCOs' story an insult to junior Marines

SGT. MAJ. CARLTON W. KENT
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS MEDIA

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS - "I am an NCO dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old. I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire him to the highest standards possible. I will strive to be patient, understanding, just, and firm. I will commend the deserving and encourage the wayward.

I will never forget that I am responsible to my Commanding Officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my men. Their performance will reflect an image of me."

(Noncommissioned Officers Creed, Headquarters Marine Corps Promotions Branch)

I can remember the day I got promoted to NCO like it was yesterday. Pinning on that extra stripe didn't just mean extra pay or privileges, it meant I'd achieved

a rank that is not taken lightly and is highly respected by all throughout the Marine Corps. That promotion will always be one of the proudest moments in my career.

I have no doubt that getting promoted to NCO is as momentous an occasion for junior Marines nowadays as it was for me back when I got promoted. It was for that reason alone that I felt just as insulted as all of the NCOs around the Corps when I read the "Baby NCOs" story in the Marine Corps Times a couple months ago.

Regardless of the story subject, there will never be a time and a place that the words "baby NCO" could be used to accurately describe junior Marines - never!

Getting promoted to any rank in the Marine Corps is an accomplishment and to insinuate that the Corps' new batch of NCOs is going to be any less deserving than their predecessors is absurd. If anything, Marines of this day and age are just as combat hard-

ened and have as great a responsibility as their predecessors.

Undeniably the Marine Corps Times supported its story with a memo from the Center for Naval Analyses, but even the analysis didn't show the reader the complete Marine.

About half of the Marine Corps is made up of Marines in the ranks of private through corporal; nearly 70,000 Marines are ages 21 and below. It's these young, junior Marines - through the mentorship of the Corps' great staff noncommissioned officers - who will be carving out the future of the Marine Corps for all to follow.

As the senior enlisted Marine in the Corps, I have witnessed the great things the Corps' small-unit leaders are doing both on and off the battlefield.

I have seen Marine NCOs serving in combat in billets one, two, even three ranks higher than their rank dictates - and in some cases, officer billets. I've wit-

nessed junior Marines barely old enough to vote and definitely not old enough to drink, make split-second decisions on the battlefield that saved the lives of many of their fellow Marines.

I've read countless award summaries describing heroic acts by Marines wearing the very rank the Marine Corps Times insulted.

I've seen severely wounded Marines more concerned with not letting their fellow Marines down by leaving the battlefield, than they were with receiving life-saving medical treatment. I've visited numerous hospitals where Marine NCOs struggled to rehabilitate themselves in order to simply walk 10 feet after surviving an IED blast in Iraq.

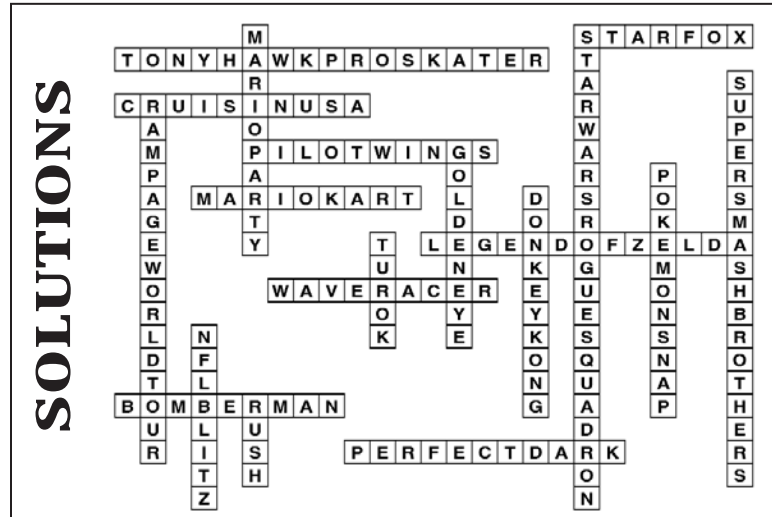
And sadly enough, I've said a silent prayer for the more than 300 Marine NCOs who have given their lives during Operations Iraqi/Enduring Freedom.

I'm confident that in five, 10 or 15 years, it will be Medal of

Honor recipient Cpl. Jason Dunham or the more than 30 junior Marines who have received either the Navy Cross or Silver Star who will grace the pages of Marine Corps history books. These are the kinds of Marines that are going to be filling the future ranks of the Marine Corps, regardless of what some reporter wants to imply.

So when I read a story that mentions anything but praise for the thousands of Marine NCOs around the globe, I feel it is my duty to speak out - it is the right thing to do. I will never sit idle and let anyone speak negatively about the Marines serving in the Corps.

The Corps is extremely proud of the Marines serving today and I'm especially proud of the junior Marines who, as I once did, strive to achieve the rank of NCO - one of the best ranks in the Marine Corps. I trust that when promoted, each new NCO will take the NCO Creed to heart and will never let the Corps down.



Responses from MCAGCC leaders...



-Master Gunnery Sgt. Kelly J. Scanlon, Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy director

"Sgt. Maj. Kent is absolutely right. Marine NCOs are out there doing some amazing things. Whatever this article wants to say about NCOs being 'babies' is absolutely garbage. It's all about young Marines stepping up to the plate, taking on a lot of responsibility and doing a fantastic job. Even here, I have five NCOs, all under the age of 24, each in charge of their own section; an armory of more than 200 weapons, a warehouse with half-a-million dollars worth of equipment, a budget of more than \$200,000, the administration of more than 500 personnel annually and accountability of thousands of rounds of ammunition. When I was growing up as a young NCO, we didn't get nearly as much responsibility as NCOs are getting now."



-Staff Sgt. Robert Ferguson, battalion radio chief, Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment

"I do agree with the sergeant major as far as the Marine Corps Times dramatizing things that happen in the Marine Corps. It is unfair to call NCOs 'babies,' because they are all adult men and women. However, I do think promotions are too accelerated and we are losing experience in our ranks."

-First Sgt. Manuel Colon, Alpha Company first sergeant, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion

"I think the sergeant major is right on point. Our 'baby NCOs' are dealing with challenges that prior Marine NCOs have faced in the past and are operating just as effectively, if not, more so. When I was in Fallujah with 3/5, I saw young Marine corporals, even lance corporals, execute their duties flawlessly. I can walk down the street and run into a corporal with a Navy Cross or a sergeant with a Silver Star. Go ahead and try to tell me those Marines are babies. They are grown men and women in my eyes."

Bush signs fiscal 2008 Defense budget

DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 2008 - President Bush signed the long-delayed and sometimes-contentious fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act into law today.

The Senate passed a \$696 billion 2008 defense authorization bill Jan. 22. It includes a 3.5 percent military pay raise and provisions to improve health care and benefits for wounded troops and veterans.

"Today, I have signed into law H.R. 4986, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008," Bush said in a statement released by the White House. "The act authorizes funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, for military construction, and for national security-related energy programs."

The fiscal 2008 defense budget has been laden with challenges, from Congress' inclusion of non-defense-related earmarks to its insertion of controversial language regarding Iraq. Bush announced Dec. 28 that he wouldn't sign the bill until it was revised.

Instead, the president signed an executive order authorizing a 3 percent military pay raise. The amount was 0.5 percent lower than the 3.5 percent rate provided for in the authorization act, but took effect Jan. 1.

All pays and incentives included in the authorization act will be retroactive to Jan. 1, a defense official said.

White House Press Secretary Dana Perino told reporters today Bush was gratified that Congress moved forward with the budget bill.

"He appreciates the cooperation of both House and Senate leaders to quickly address the concerns raised by the president over the Christmas holiday," she said at the White House. "Congress passed the legislation swiftly, and that is a very good thing for our troops and the Iraqi people."

The bill became law just a week before the next budget cycle begins as Bush sends his fiscal 2009 request to Capitol Hill. That budget proposal, along with a requested \$70 billion in emergency war spending, is expected to be delivered to Congress Feb. 4.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters today the president plans to ask for \$70 billion to fund the global war on terror, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, for the first months of fiscal 2009.

Ping Pong Anyone?
2nd Annual Ping Pong Competition
February 24 - 12:00 pm
at the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert
Public Invited - Double Elimination Format

Intense table tennis captured above is from the first annual *Forest Gump Invitational* on August 25, 2007 held at the Schoenborn residence. In the 30 person tournament, last year's winners were: 3rd place - Dylan Budd; 2nd place - Robby Schoenborn; 1st place - Cory Hamilton.

We are calling out all ping-pong enthusiasts to knock the dust from their paddles and take their chances come February 24! All skill levels are welcome. \$10 entry fee - Pre-registration recommended. Pick up your registration forms at the Hi-Desert Star or call number below.

Competitive Ping Pong - Prize Money plus ... Help the Boys and Girls Club
Call for more information: after 5pm (760) 799-8159

Veteran firefighter promoted for performance, dedication

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Hard work, skill, professionalism, dedication and love for the job are traits the entire Combat Center Fire Department displays daily, willing to risk life and limb to keep the personnel aboard the installation safe.

Dan Stanifer, Center Fire lieutenant, was promoted to his current rank Jan. 19 for his exemplary performance in all aspects of his profession.

Born Dec. 14, 1961, in Ridgecrest, Calif., Stanifer was raised near China Lake Weapons Research Facility. He said he grew up as an outdoorsman; fishing, hunting, shooting and practicing archery.

In 1980, he graduated from Apple Valley High School in Apple Valley, Calif. From there, he began finished carpentry work and held other odd jobs while

continuing his education. Stanifer studied fire technology and criminal justice at Victor Valley College and Barstow Community College.

Although Stanifer said he had never considered being a career firefighter while he was going through school, he decided to look into the possibility.

"A friend of mine from high school called me up one day and told me he was going to the fire department to check it out," said Stanifer. "At the time, I was looking at a career in law enforcement, but I thought it'd be a hoot, so I went with him. I loved it from the very beginning. It's where my heart took me."

Stanifer, a 22-year veteran of the fire service, began his firefighting career in 1985 when he took a job with the Bureau of Land Management in Apple Valley as a seasonal wildland firefighter. During this time, he also

See **FIREFIGHTER, A12**



Dan Stanifer, Center Fire Lieutenant, enjoys Thanksgiving dinner with family members at Center Fire Station 1, Nov. 22, 2007.

Community Center and club houses welcome LMH family, friends

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lincoln Military Housing aboard the Combat Center has the Ocotillo Community Center, Desert View Club House and Adobe Flats Club House to offer for residents wanting to hold parties, get-togethers, meetings and small intimate family functions.

All three buildings are completely furnished with a full kitchen, restroom, flat screen televisions, a foosball table and furniture.

Furnished with the usual appliances such as microwaves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers, the kitchen can be used to make

birthday cakes, finger foods and dinner for big parties.

"Families can have more of a community feel since they are not cramped inside their own home," said Tia M. Gonzalez, the district manager of Lincoln Military Housing. "The community center and club houses can accommodate more guests than the average size of a resident's home."

Both the club houses and community center's dining facility hold a maximum capacity of 39 patrons inside at one time.

Gonzalez also explained that residents enjoy using the club houses rather than their own houses for parties because they don't have to worry about cleaning their house and furnishing it to

accommodate the party.

"We get reservations from family birthday parties to command meetings," said Gonzalez. "As long as one service member in the meeting lives in housing they can reserve it."

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

The community center is a

popular place for parents wanting to utilize the workout room while their children are inside the Xbox 360™ room, where multiple Xbox 360's™ line the room hooked up to individual flat screen TV's with lounge chairs for the gamers.

Military spouses and families have used the community center to hold Operation Enduring Families or Key Volunteer Network gatherings where children make posters and signs to be

sent to their fathers that are currently deployed.

Ocotillo Community Center is in building 4000 on Falcon Street, Desert View Club House is in building 6900 on Smoketree Avenue and Adobe Flats Club House is in building 8100 on Maumee St.

For more information, contact the district office main side at 368-4500 or Ocotillo office at 368-4021.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

The club house has a full kitchen, foosball table, a big-screen television, and furniture for Lincoln Military Housing residents wishing to rent out the club house for parties, meetings or unit functions.

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Fit 4 Kids program teaches children about exercise, nutrition

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit offers a program called the Fit 4 Kids every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday that educates children about the benefits of eating healthy foods and exercising regularly.

The program began Jan. 22 and is an eight-week course that is split into three classes to accommodate different age groups.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
Luke Yarbrough, 4, jumps into the yellow hoop while playing musical hoops during the Fit 4 Kids class Jan. 29 at the Combat Center's Community Center.

Children ages 3 to 5 meet every Tuesday, children ages 6 to 8 meet every Wednesday, and children ages 9 to 12 meet every Thursday.

"When the program ran during the summer, all the age groups were lumped together," explained Amber Moschetto, mother of 5-year-old Kaitlyn Moschetto who attends the class. "The little kids lost a lot of the games, but now that the ages are split up they all have a chance to win and have fun."

The class runs from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. where Shenette Slaughter, MCCS personal trainer and recreation specialist, keeps up to 20 children active by playing games and teaching classes about nutritional foods and keeping the body healthy by regular exercise.

"Last week I handed out a My Pyramid for Kids," said Slaughter. "We went over what fruits and vegetables are and why they are good for your body."

Slaughter also reviews different types of drinks with the children, explaining to them what is healthy and what is bad for their body.

"It is great," said Moschetto. "Someone else saying fruits and vegetables are good for her and my daughter actually lis-



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
4-year-old Nathan Meza stretches before exercising during the Fit 4 Kids course Jan. 29 at the Combat Center's Community Center.

tens. She comes home and chooses bananas over cookies for dessert.

"She says she wants carrots for her eyes, milk for her bones and corn for her hair," continued Moschetto.

The children are given homework once a week where they may have to fill out a chart of all the fruits and vegetables they have eaten for the past week, or

come in to the class and describe a brand new vegetable they have eaten.

"At this age they come home and don't stop talking about what they did that day," said Kelly Yarbrough, mother of 4-year-old Luke Yarbrough who attends the class. "So after this class he comes in and won't stop talking about the fruits and vegetables they have to eat for homework. When I was a kid we never had this, it is a good thing for him because they'll all grow up healthy."

The children play different types of games that help enhance their motor and cognitive skills.

"We dance a lot," said Luke

Yarbrough. "My teacher keeps us moving."

Some of those games are musical hoops, zoo animals or just walking around the gym balancing a beanbag on different parts of their body starting at their head and ending on their toes.

"I always tell parents that they can leave the gym area and go get a work out for an hour in the community center, that way both the parent and the child get a full work out and the parent doesn't have to worry about where their child is," said Slaughter.

For more information about the Fit 4 Kids program, contact Slaughter at 830-6440.

IT'S TIME FOR...
All Hands Spouses'
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
...BUNKO
TRY YOUR LUCK AT
SOME GREAT PRIZES!

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

CHILD CARE will be available from 6:30-9:30 p.m., at \$10 per child. Call Tina Schmitz at 830.3227 ext. 272 for reservations and location by February 7th.



Details, 830.6610
www.mccs29palms.com



Employee Spotlight



Name: Tinker Rector

Organization: USN Chaplain Corps affiliated

Job Title: HQBN Mascot

Hometown: Oakland, Kentucky

Hobbies: Running, digging, fetching, and chewing up my mommies shoe strings

Job details: Motivator and entertainer of Marines aboard MCAGCC/MAGTFTC

Greatest achievement accomplished since been aboard the Combat Center? I can sit, lay down, and low crawl

Any military experience? Not formally, but I have run the PFT course a couple of times and I'm pretty good at barking orders! Woof!

Time employed on base? 6 weeks. I get paid in treats and belly rubs.

MCCES runs the floor to start B-ball season

LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League started with a few exciting finishes to the beginning of a long season at the West Gym Jan. 28.

The Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School teams came out to make a statement about where they stand on the court this year.

The MCCES A team jumped out the gate against 3rd Battalion,

7th Marine Regiment, in the first game to a commanding 24 -11 first half lead.

Their solid teamwork and depth on the bench overpowered 3/7's short roster on the defensive end the entire game.

MCCES A ended the game in double figures for steals and points off turnovers with a 45-30 win.

"All of the MCCES teams are based around defense," said Miguel Bridges, MCCES A and B head coach, and MCCES staff non-commissioned officer team guard. "Offense will come, but

defense wins basketball games."

Bridges carried his MCCES B team into the next game against the Dental Clinic, brimming with confidence from his last win.

The game started out fast, with both teams playing good defense and hustling to the ball.

The Dental Clinic stayed on top 20-19 to end the first half, displaying more quality in their short roster than MCCES B's quantity in two interchangeable five-man teams.

MCCES B rallied late in the second half and put the Dental Clinic in a must-foul situation.

Perfect free throw shooting and smart shot selection led MCCES B to a 44-38 win in a very close game. Jeremy Johns, MCCES B center, was the high man of the night with 22 points in a defense-centered game.

The MCCES SNCO team was up next, and they were determined to keep their school record unblemished against Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

Neither offense was very active the beginning half, ending with MCCES SNCO up 13-12.

Despite multiple personal fouls, MCCES SNCO Derrick Eddie and his powerful defense hung on to win 35-30.

"I think it was our age, experience and our composure that



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER

Andre Humphrey, Dental Clinic shooting guard, flies past his opponents and skies to the basket at the West Gym Jan. 28.



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER

Derrick Eddie, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School staff non-commissioned officer center, takes it up strong to the basket at the West Gym Jan. 28.

RIDE, from A1

about him coming out. It brings more attention to Twentynine Palms and this area and more riders and more people want to join [MSAP]."

The Marines and stunt riders drove from the Combat Center through Joshua Tree National Park, Calif., and stopped at the Keys View Lookout and other various places throughout the National Park. After the ride, the motorcyclists stopped at Denny's® for dinner.

"I thought the ride was pretty incredible," said Britton. "We started out from the base rode up through the mountains and ended up at this incredible lookout."

Many Marines riding with MSAP were from different battalion or units, most have never been in contact with each other before meeting during the rides MSAP has hosted.

"These rides bring camaraderie to the Marines and gives each Marine from each battalion or each regiment something they have in common with each other," said Jones. "I would have never met that staff sergeant from MCCES [Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School]. Tanks and MCCES don't usually interact that much, which is the same for a lot of battalions, we don't interact that often because of our jobs.

"As we have riding in com-

mon, we start to get to know new people aboard the base," continued Jones.

MSAP, during the first year of running had five active participants. Now over 60 riders show up for monthly meetings and safety rides throughout the surrounding areas around the Combat Center.

"We get everyone together once a month and have a good time," said Bridges. "You get the Marines out of their work environment and try to get them out on the road because that is how they are going to learn, being out there and doing it."

MSAP is the only program on base with Motorcycle Safety Foundation trained rider coaches and command approval. MSF trained rider coaches gives MSAP the ability to train without safety instructors.

"We definitely want our primary focus to be on safety," said Bridges. "We do that by giving shows and explaining and showing why the stunt riders are better than some lance corporal just getting back from Iraq. These stunt riders practice this, it is their job."

Along with inviting stunt riders and famous motorcyclists aboard the base to ride with, MSAP also rides for charity events happening in the surrounding community.

For more information regarding MSAP call Jody Bridges at 830-3000.



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HOSTS, from A1

allows Marine Corps combat elements to stay a step ahead of the enemy threat and makes them more prepared for combat.”

MCTOG is intended to focus training on the battalion and regi-

ment levels of unit structure, as opposed to schools that train at the company level and below. Since MCTOG is a newly-developed program, Robison also added ideas to help the program stand up effectively.

“When working with all coali-

tion forces, you may not necessarily be working at the regimental level,” said Robison. “You often interact with coalition partners at the company level, sometimes lower. Working with coalition forces at all levels is a constant theme that needs to be running through all our nation’s training curriculums.”

At the end of the brief, Killion

brought Robison and his staff to the MCTOG classrooms to show them the environment MCTOG students will be working in. The group seemed to be impressed with how quickly and efficiently MCTOG has been developing.

Robison was brought to the Battle Simulation Center after the MCTOG brief to learn about the

Marine Air Ground Task Force Tactical Warfare Simulation, which simulates a combat environment from a commander’s view and the Deployable Virtual Training Environment, which features a number of simulations, including a virtual perspective of a Marine rifle squad.

Both applications allow Marines to train in a virtual classroom and are capable of demonstrating everything that can be performed in a combat environment.

The DVTE also has a virtual language training program that teaches Marines how to properly speak and understand Iraqi Arabic, Pashto, Persian Dari and Creole French.

Robison seemed to find the training programs he viewed Jan. 24 and 25 both fascinating and advanced.

“I’m very impressed,” he said. “It’s amazing how all of this is moving along so rapidly.”


Another unique aspect of Robison’s tenure at Camp Pendleton and the Combat Center was the fact that it was his first time visiting installations on the West Coast.

“I’ve really enjoyed coming here,” said Robison. “It’s been a busy week, but we all got to see a lot of Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms.”

After his tour of the Battle Simulation Center, Robison and his staff once again dined at the Officer’s Club before departing the Combat Center for Palm Springs Airport in Palm Springs, Calif.

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Celebrity status: Is it really that important?

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Why is it that whenever I watch the news or log on to the internet, the top headline is always about some celebrity overdosing on pills or getting publicity for doing something scandalous?

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm sick and tired of seeing

that sort of thing taking precedence above much bigger issues.

First of all, in case people may have forgotten, the U.S. is fighting a war on two fronts right now. This country, as well as the rest of the coalition forces, have troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, Paris Hilton getting into trouble has more media coverage than a helicopter crash in Afghanistan or an American service member receiving

a Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor.

Another major problem in the world is poverty. Even in this country, millions of people are living well below the "poverty line." Some struggle to make ends meet, and provide for themselves and their families, while others are homeless and have absolutely no income. Instead of worrying about how many annulled mar-

riages Britney Spears has under

her belt, maybe we should concentrate on providing food and shelter to needy people in this nation and worldwide.

What disgusts me the most is the lack of punishment inflicted on celebrities when they commit crimes. Lindsay Lohan was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and was also charged with possession of narcotics. How much time did she spend in jail? None. They just sent her to rehab with a judicial slap on the wrist. If the average American was arrested for the very same charges, they would be serving prison time and monetary fines. I see an extremely low amount of

fairness in that and it makes me sick. Another horrifying detail, in my opinion, is how grossly overpaid these celebrities are. Again, I'd like to address the issue of poverty. So many people in the world have no money, no jobs, no shelter, and little or no possessions, but an actor is paid millions of dollars for playing the lead role in one movie.

Does this country really value entertainment so much we allow that to happen? I'm paid bi-monthly, can afford to eat when I'm hungry and have a roof over my head, and I'm disgusted by this. I can only imagine how someone less fortunate would feel about this. There are people who work 60 to 70 hours every week just to pay the bills and put supper on the table, but professional athletes sign multi-million-dollar contracts just to play a sport on television.

Celebrity status is one thing about reality that really makes me angry. I could rant for hours about it and cite a million reasons why I think it's ridiculous. Being a baseball fan and avid viewer of TV and movies, I understand the entertainment value, but being an entertainer shouldn't mean you own six homes around the world while there are millions of people who don't even have one.

I especially feel that being a

celebrity shouldn't put you above

the law. These people are role

models for millions of Americans,

especially children. What child

doesn't want to grow up to be a

movie or rock star, or a profession-

al athlete? These are the people

who should be setting a good

example, not getting away scot-

free for drug charges or domestic

violence. If anything, I think they

ought to receive harsher punish-

ments to teach the public a lesson

about doing the wrong thing

One final thing I should mention

is that I don't feel this way about

all celebrities. Many Hollywood

stars and athletes take a lot of

time from their personal lives to

help people in need. Most celebrities

donate to

charities for a wide variety of causes. Some even volunteer time to help the needy and give them hope by setting a positive example for them to follow.

Even taking the good things celebrities do into account, I still feel strongly that we should re-evaluate our priorities as a nation. There are much bigger problems facing this country and the rest of the world than another washed-up female singer having a "wardrobe malfunction" during a Super Bowl halftime show.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Some celebrities who have made the top headlines of national news for their "scandalous" activities.

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Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
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6 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
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7 p.m. Praise & Worship Service.

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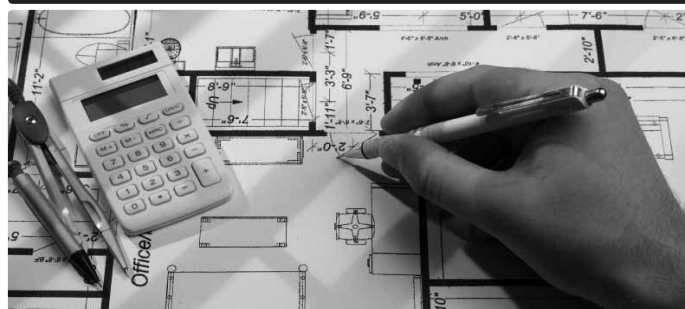
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riages Britney Spears has under her belt, maybe we should concentrate on providing food and shelter to needy people in this nation and worldwide.

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NARANJO DANIEL
NASTALI JOHN E
NESSEN TYLER J
NGUYEN VINH D
NGUYEN ANDY V
NOBLE JR DAVID A
NORRED JR THEODORE J
NOWACK SONDRAM
NOWORYTA EDWARD J
NUNAMAKER PHILIP D
OBRIEN NICHOLAS W
OWENS CODY L
PALERMO MATTHEW J
PANETTIERE VINCENT J
PARK THEODORE H
PATTERSON II JOHN M
PELKEY RYAN S
PEREZ JUAN S
PIERCE JR MARK D
PIETRZAK SHAWN A
PRA MICHAEL P
PRADO JOSE A
PUCKETT JR STEPHEN D
QUINONEZ
 ALEJANDRO M
QUIROS ANTHONY F
QUISPE PERCY B
RAYBURN KYLE A
REED ADAM M
REEL ALEX S
REID COLIN J
RETTICH III DOUGLAS A
RIERSON JOHN A
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RIVERA JR SALVADOR
ROBACH DANIEL E
RODAS DANIEL E
RODRIGUEZ RAY
ROGERS JONATHON R
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RUDLOFF STEVE M
SAECHAO PAUL F
SAKELLARIS MATHEW M
SANCHEZ JUSTIN C
SANCHEZ FELICIANO

SANCHEZ JR JUAN
SARTAIN DANIEL G
SCHMITZ RICHARD E
SCOTT JACOB F
SEAVECKI NATHANIEL L
SECTION CHRISTOPHER D
SHELDON ROBERT M
SHORES JAMES R
SIMMONS TIMOTHY J
SLACH MICHAEL L
SLAIN SEAN P
SMITH NATHAN E
SOLVEN JERRETT A
SPENCER DESMOND T
SPRINGER ROBERT I
STARLING DEVAN M
STEVENS JOSHUA E
STEVENSON DEREK A
STEVENSON KYTHAN R
STOKES JR KENNY
STRICKLIN RYAN P
STROTHERS MICHAEL A
SUDOL JEREMY D
SWANSON TYLER J
SWIDER MICHAEL T
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CROSS JUSTIN A
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DENKINS CHRISTOPHER M
DEPALMO DAREN J
DEROSE GILEAD E
DIMAS DANIEL
DIRKS BRYCE R
DOLAN DANIEL J
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ELNOUR MOHAMED E
EWING NATHANAEL K
FANNIN ANDREW M
FLINKSTROM HARLEY R
FLORES EDGARDO
FOSTER JACOB W
FOUST TRISTAN T
FRENCH DAVID R
FREY DUSTIN R
FRIEDLY GARRACK W
GEIHL WADE M
GEORGE SARAH L
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GORDON JEFFERY S
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GWYNN DEMIEN E
HALL LAKEETHA D
HARLESS ROBERT A
HAUGE MAX G
HEISSE WILLIAM D
HERNANDEZ DOMANIC L
HERNANDEZAMBRIZ
 ALVARO L
HIGGINS MATTHEW S
HILD DARYL R
HOHMAN BENJAMIN P
HORTON BENJAMIN A
HOUSEMAN JESSE F
HUSTED MICHAEL A
JACKETT JUSTIN
JOHANNECK DEAN A
JOHNSTON TIMOTHY C
JONES MATTHEW P
KAHELIN ZAKERY A
KELLER ISAIAH A
KEMFORT APALO H
KENTOPP JR JAMES M
KERR DANIEL J
KESTER ALBERT L
KING MICHAEL A
KING DANIEL C
KNIGHT ALLAN A
KOTYNSKI ERIC W
KUCHAR TRENT W
KUNZMAN THOMAS K
LADD JOSEPH C
LANNING KRISTEN L
LARA BRANDON T
LAY TIMOTHY B
LEIFHEIT CODY A
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Combat Center Trader Ads

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black on black. 103-inch balanced motor. many extras. \$13,000 OBO. Call (808) 225-2473 1/30/08

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65,400 miles. GREAT condition interior/exterior. Runs great! \$8,800. Call (760) 992-4570. 1/30/08

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Pink and Green Cammo, \$400each. 495 KTM Dirt Bike \$750. '04 Blaster 200cc \$2200 OBO. Helmets included. Call (760) 368-7098. 1/30/08

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Sleeps 4, great condition. \$6599/obo. Call (760) 219-2184. 1/30/08

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for sale. Complete except wheels, engine and trans. \$2,000 cash. Call (760) 362-5156. 1/30/08

2003 SUZUKI GSXR 1000

Well maintained machine, extras, 7600 miles, no stunts, no racing \$6000 OBO call (760)-221-9601 1/16/08

2000 CHRYSLER LHS

Fully loaded dependable car \$3500 OBO call 760-401-9893. 12/14/07

2005 SUZUKI

Motorcycle, Blvd Cruiser C90 1500 model cost \$12000 selling for \$7,200 OBO call 361-4407. 12/14/07

2001 SUZUKI SV-650

Excellent condition only 4,800 mi \$4000 call 406-1980 or 333-4663. 12/14/07

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ST Selling motorcycle, red w/matching luggage, 8,500 mi, excellent condition \$5,700 call 361-9426. 12/7/07

MISC.

BOWFLEX ULTIMATE

XTLU HOME GYM - 310 pound bars - Excellent condition, \$900/obo. Call (760) 219-2184. 1/30/08

FOR RENT:

4bed/2bath, 29Palms, full garage, fenced backyard. Fenced full lot side yard. Available now. Info call Linda at (760) 367-2700. 1/30/08

FOR RENT:

Spacious 2bd/2ba house, w/ den. Dining room, lg. living rm, w/ frplc, central air/swamp, walk in closets, indoor laundry, att. 2-car gar. Storage shed. No Pets. \$900/mo + dep. Military discount. Steven:(330) 497-0261. 1/30/08

FRONT SIGHT:

Weapons Training Academy. Legacy lifetime membership \$2,000 Call (760) 885-1416 1/30/08

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CHAIR: Six foot diameter foam bag chair! Blue Corduroy cover included. \$225 OBO. (912) 230-3949 1/30/08

DOG NEEDS HOME

Free 2 y/o AKC yellow Lab male, neutered. Affectionate and house-broken. 760-880-1773 Evenings
TREADMILL Schwinn Exercise Bike \$150.00. Both like new, hardly used Call 361-1209 1/9/08

FOR SALE

Soloflex w/ butterfly & leg extension attachments Great condition. \$800 OBO 760-361-0151 1/9/08

BOSE ACOUSTIMASS

SERIES III 5 Dual-direction small speakers w/ 1 sub-woofer. Excellent condition \$535 call 831-917-6663. 12/14/07

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

website at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: there is a 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only

for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.

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MAXWELL JORDAN O
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MCCLESKEY JOSHUA D
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MCDONOUGH SEAN D
MCFARLAND JAMES K
MELOCHE RICHARD J
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MURRAY ANNA J
OROZCORIVERA JESUS A
OSEGUERA SERGIOEDUA M
PALLETT LANCE P
PANIATAAQ TOMAS A
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PORMANES DAVE
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FEHR JAMES M
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FRASURE ANDREW J
GALLAGHER PATRICK J
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GRUE NICHOLAS W
HARDING MICHAEL S
HERRON CHRISTOPHER E
HOLSOME KEVIN A
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IRVIN ZACHARY J
JOLLIFFE BRYAN L
KENNEDY INDIA T
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WEEKS SHAUN D
WRIGHT JAMES R
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CHAPIN JONATHAN A
FRANCO ALFREDO T
GOLD JASON R
GREEN JAMES K
HESS JONATHAN D
HUNSINGER STEVEN M
MENDOZAVASQUEZ

JOSE C
SWAIN LOPAZ E
VANAMAN ERICH A



BOLDING TRACE M
CARLISLE CHRISTOPHER M
COLWELL TODD M
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LILLIE CHRISTOPHE J
TAPIO MYRON D



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**See next weeks
Observation Post for
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ATLAS
SELF STORAGE

FIREFIGHTER, from A5

worked as a paid-on-call firefighter in Apple Valley.

In 1991, Stanifer decided to go full-time with the Bureau of Land Management and was transferred to Yucca Valley, Calif. When not battling wild fires, he spent his time living in northern Idaho. That same year, Stanifer married his wife, Julie, in Idaho. He said he

recalls it as one of the happiest days of his life.

Two years after he transferred to Yucca Valley, Stanifer signed on with the Combat Center Fire Department. Since then, he has served the Combat Center for approximately 15 years.

"Working for the Marine Corps for as long as I have has been a real honor," said Stanifer. "Being able to pro-

tect the Marines here while they do what they do is a privilege for me."

Other firefighters on Stanifer's crew feel his experience and devotion to duty have been a positive influence on the rest of the firefighters.

"Dan Stanifer's been a real asset to the department," said

Robert Moore, Center Fire captain. "I know he will continue to be a valued asset to the other guys in my engine company. His vast knowledge and experience over the years has enhanced our company's overall diversity and I'm happy to have him as my lieutenant."

Not only is Stanifer said to be

a dedicated firefighter, but also a dedicated family man. When not working at the Combat Center, he spends most of his time with his wife, Julie, and two daughters Renée, age 12, and Elijah, age 11.

Stanifer said he plans to retire from Center Fire. He hopes to spend the rest of his time living in either Idaho or Montana.

High winds "raise the roof" right off the building



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The torrential winds experienced at the Combat Center Jan. 28 tore the shingles off the roof of the nuclear, biological and chemical warehouse and scattered them throughout the parking lot, damaging several personal vehicles, however, despite the amount of damage the winds caused, no one was injured.



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[b]



[c]

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