

# OBSERVATION Post

WWW.29PALMS.USMC.MIL

WWW.OP29ONLINE.COM

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MARCH 19, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

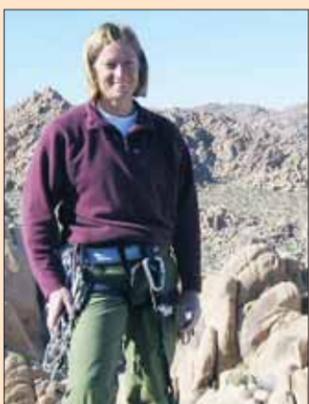
VOL. 51 ISSUE 12



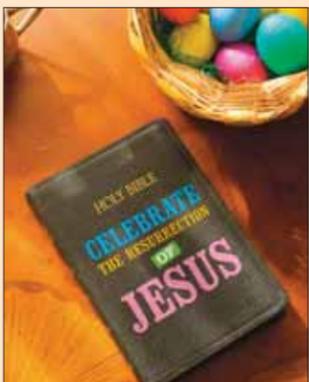
6 Marines floor it at the California Speedway



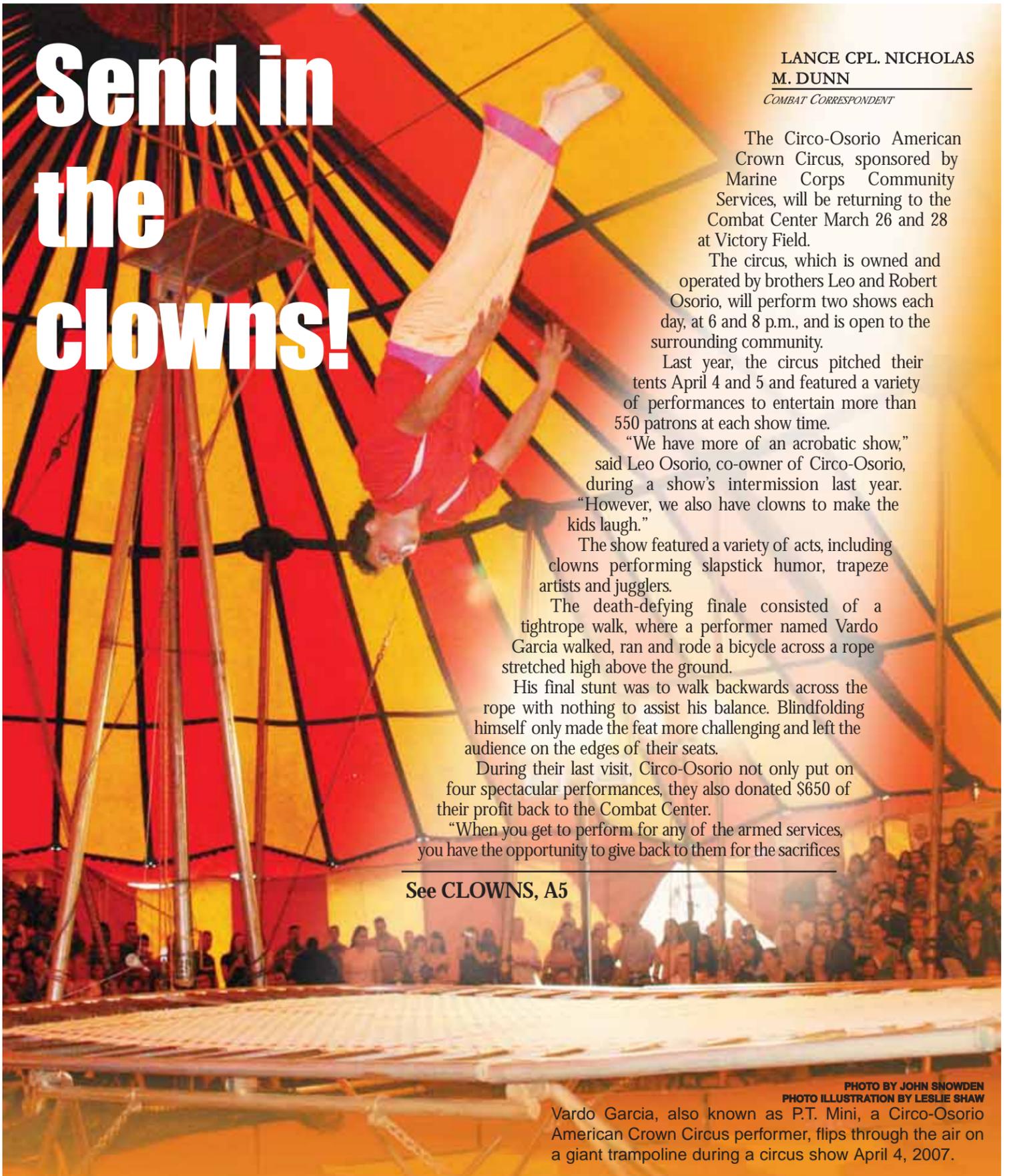
7 Advisors become "shadows"



8 Marine climbs to new heights



13 Easter Services



## Send in the clowns!

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Circo-Osorio American Crown Circus, sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services, will be returning to the Combat Center March 26 and 28 at Victory Field.

The circus, which is owned and operated by brothers Leo and Robert Osorio, will perform two shows each day, at 6 and 8 p.m., and is open to the surrounding community.

Last year, the circus pitched their tents April 4 and 5 and featured a variety of performances to entertain more than 550 patrons at each show time.

"We have more of an acrobatic show," said Leo Osorio, co-owner of Circo-Osorio, during a show's intermission last year. "However, we also have clowns to make the kids laugh."

The show featured a variety of acts, including clowns performing slapstick humor, trapeze artists and jugglers.

The death-defying finale consisted of a tightrope walk, where a performer named Vardo Garcia walked, ran and rode a bicycle across a rope stretched high above the ground.

His final stunt was to walk backwards across the rope with nothing to assist his balance. Blindfolding himself only made the feat more challenging and left the audience on the edges of their seats.

During their last visit, Circo-Osorio not only put on four spectacular performances, they also donated \$650 of their profit back to the Combat Center.

"When you get to perform for any of the armed services, you have the opportunity to give back to them for the sacrifices

See CLOWNS, A5

PHOTO BY JOHN SNOWDEN  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Vardo Garcia, also known as P.T. Mini, a Circo-Osorio American Crown Circus performer, flips through the air on a giant trampoline during a circus show April 4, 2007.

## Historical monument finds new home at PFT course

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A historical monument dedicated to the Combat Center's Condor Field by the Historical Order of E Clampus Vitus, Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069, was relocated to Condor Field March 5.

The Condor Field monument was previously located on private property just outside the main gate, but with the help of Marines from the Exercise Support Division it is now located next to the start and finish

line of the physical fitness test course.

Condor Field was used as an Army Air Corps glider training base during World War II. Glider planes were used to drop troops and equipment behind enemy lines.

ECV is a fraternal historical society that was formed for miners in 1845 and transitioned to become a historical society in the 1930's. Today, there are 43 chapters and over 50,000 members.

ECV was founded in West

See HISTORICAL, A12



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

A historical monument dedicated to Condor Field sits in its final resting place after being moved to the start of the PFT course March 5. Condor field was used as an Army Air Corps glider training base during World War II.

### This Day in Marine Corps History

-March 19, 2003-

The beginning of the war in Iraq got under way when the U.S. launched Operation Iraqi Freedom.



# 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 March 12.



## 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 15 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	2
2/7	1
3/7	0
3/4	6
3/11	0
3rd LAR	0
1st Tank Bn	0
3rd AABN	0
MWSS-374	2
CLB-7	2
VMU-1	0
MCCES	1
HQBN	0
NAV HOSP	0
23rd Dental	0
Staff Housing	0
Other	0
Grand Total	15

## DUI / DWI Update

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

Unit	Totals	On Base/Off Base	Ranks
7th Mar	1	0/1	1Sgt
1/7	0	0/0	
2/7	3	0/3	1Pfc/1LCpl/1Cpl
3/7	5	2/3	2LCpl/3Cpl
3/4	1	0/1	1Cpl
3/11	3	1/2	1Seaman/2Cpl
3rd LAR	2	1/1	1Pvt/1Cpl
1st Tank	3	3/0	1LCpl/2Cpl
3rd AABN	3	2/1	1LCpl/1Cpl/1Sgt
MWSS-374	5	2/3	1Pfc/1LCpl/3Cpl
CLB-7	1	1/0	1Pvt
VMU-1	0	0/0	
MCCES	4	4/0	2Pfc/1LCpl/1GySgt
HQBN	8	3/5	1Pvt/2LCpl/3Cpl/2CWO2
Nav Hosp	0	0/0	
23rd Dental	0	0/0	
Other Mil	1	0/1	1GySgt
Mil Dep	0	0/0	
DOD Civ	0	0/0	
Other	2	2/0	1Sp4, 1unknown
Grand Total	42		

The total number of Marine-related DUIs so far this year are 42, through March 12.

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-duc.htm](http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/drunken_driving/california-duc.htm)
- <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs73drinkcostchart.htm>

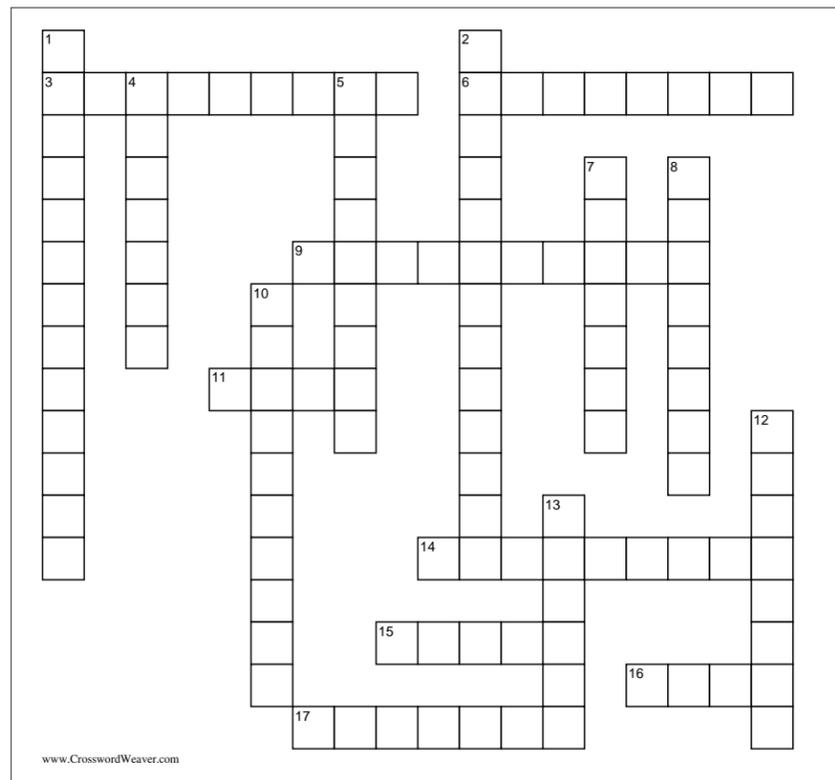
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

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.



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAMS



### ACROSS

- Where last year's #1 NBA draft pick came from
- Lost only to Ohio State and UNC in 2005
- Where Patrick Ewing's son plays
- The school that calls their gym Coach K Court
- Bob Knight retired from this school
- Where the 2007 college b-ball player of the year played
- The last team to ever go unbeaten
- The team to stay unbeaten the longest in 2008

### DOWN

- Home to many great players, including Michael Jordan
- Where Jason Richardson played
- Bob Knight found great success here
- Known more for their women's b-ball program
- Won titles in 2006 and 2007
- The true blue colors of the SEC
- The team Rick Patino coaches
- Where the infamous Fab Five played
- Had a surprising football season with a BCS win

[Solutions on A14]

## Centerspeak

### What do you think of the new running suits?

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



PFC. TIMOTHY PITSCHE  
DATA NETWORK SPECIALIST STUDENT,  
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-  
ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"I think they look really sharp. I know I'll like wearing it."



SGT. OSCAR MARTINEZ  
3RD SQUAD LEADER, FOX COMPANY,  
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

"I think it's a good way to motivate Marines. Looking good will make them feel good."



SSGT. ZELLARD LEMON  
COMBAT ENGINEER, BRAVO COMPANY,  
3RD COMBAT ENGINEERING BATTALION

"I think it's hard to develop a functional opinion on the new suits. I'll have to test them out before I decide whether or not I like them."

## Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

"We met on Friday, dated on Saturday, got married on Sunday! She's a dancer dreaming of Broadway, her kids call me their Cool 3rd Daddy, I also bought a camper/house with a new used car with my pre-approved credit card. I'm all good and totally in love!"



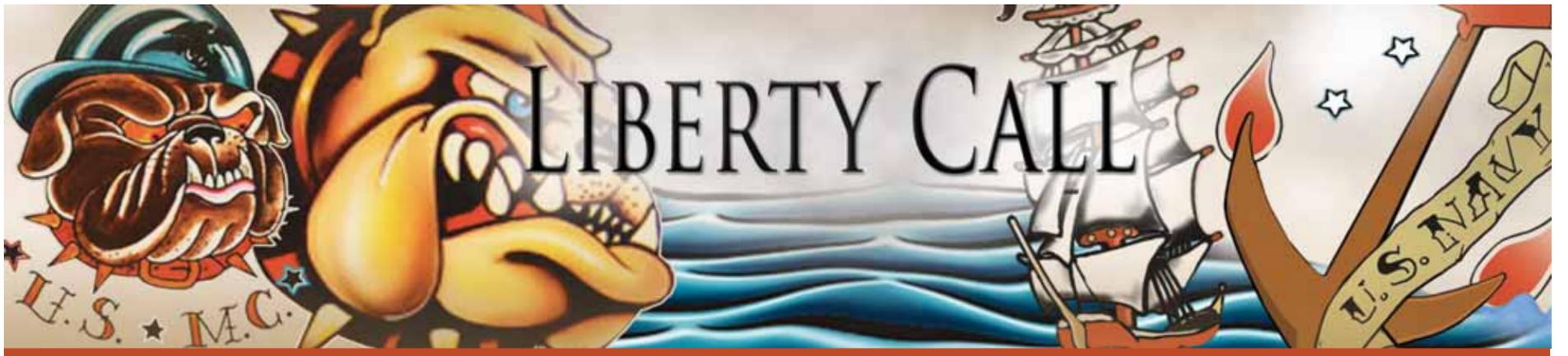
WHY WE DREAD MONDAY MORNINGS

## OBSERVATION POST

	Commanding General	Brig. Gen. M.G. Spiese	
Public Affairs Officer	Capt. Neal V. Fisher	Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox
Advertising Sales Manager	Wendy Jones	Layout and Design	Leslie Shaw
Editor	Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes	Press Chief	Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz

The Observation Post is published by Hi-Desert Publishing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the Observation Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the DoD, or the United States Marine Corps. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Hi-Desert Publishing of the services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is prepared by the Public Affairs Office, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92278. All photos, unless otherwise indicated are Official USMC Photos. Questions can be directed to the Public Affairs Office, located in building 1417, during normal working hours at (760) 830-6213 or FAX (760) 830-5474. The Observation Post is made with 60-percent recycled paper.



	<p><b>TONIGHT</b>  <b>Big Happy Dance featuring rock and variety music</b>                  Time: 8:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.                  Where: Spa Resort Casino Cascade Lounge                  401 E Amado Rd., Palm Springs                  For more info call (888) 999-1995</p>	<p><b>TONIGHT</b>  <b>A Fresh Look at Traditional Native Foods</b>                  Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.                  Where: Mizell Senior Center                  480 S Sunrise Way Palm Springs                  For more info log onto <a href="http://www.accmuseum.org">http://www.accmuseum.org</a></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</b>  <b>The Rock Yard outdoor music venue</b>                  Time: 7 p.m.                  Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino                  84245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio                  For more info call 342-5000</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY - SUNDAY</b>  <b>Lake Havasu Tattoo Show</b>                  Where: Nautical Inn                  1000 McCulloch Blvd. Lake Havasu City, Ariz.                  For more info call (928) 855-2141</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY</b>  <b>Commanding General's Easter Egg Hunt</b>                  Time: 12 p.m.                  Where: Felix Field                  For more info call 830-6187</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b>  <b>Easter Bunny</b>                  Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.                  Where: The Gardens on El Paseo                  73545 El Paseo Palm Desert</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b>  <b>Erin and Casey's Old School 3 featuring Mary Jane Girls, Tone Loc, Coolio, Lisa Lisa and more</b>                  Time: 8 p.m.                  Where: Spotlight 29 Casino                  46200 Harrison Pl. Coachella                  For more info call 775-5566</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b>  <b>Easter Sunrise Service at the Aerial Tramway</b>                  Time: 6 a.m.                  Where: Aerial Tramway One Tramway Rd. Palm Springs                  For more info call (888) 515-8186</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b>  <b>Black Grace Dance Company</b>                  Time: 8 p.m.                  Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts                  73000 Fred Waring Dr Palm Desert                  For more info call 340-ARTS</p>

Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b>                  First Sunday                  7 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b>                  Mad Money                  7 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b>                  27 Dresses                  6 p.m. - PG-13</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b>                  FREE Matinee                  Barnyard                  11 a.m. - PG</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b>                  TBA</p> <p><b>MONDAY</b>                  TBA</p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b>                  TBA</p>	<p><b>Meet the Spartans</b>                  9 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p><b>Cloverfield</b>                  Midnight - PG-13</p> <p><b>Over Her Dead Body</b>                  2 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p><b>The Eye</b>                  6 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p><b>Untraceable</b>                  9 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p><b>Rambo</b>                  Midnight - R</p>
--	--	--	--

**Cinema 6**

**MOVIE TIMES**  
**365-9633**  
[www.cinema6theatre.com](http://www.cinema6theatre.com)

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00

- ADULTS \$8.00
- SENIORS \$6.00
- CHILDREN \$6.00

It's not HD without FREE HD service from Time Warner Cable

To truly get the most from your high-definition television, you need HD service with Digital Cable from the **Home of Free HD** — Time Warner Cable. Enjoy HD programming on prime time and cable networks, all in true HD. Experience the incredible clarity of HDTV by upgrading to HD service at no additional cost to Digital Cable subscribers!

**Digital Cable with FREE HD, Road Runner High Speed Online, & Unlimited Calling** to the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico for just

**Call now to order! 866-871-2632** **\$99** per month for 12 months

THE POWER OF YOU™ TIME WARNER CABLE

Offer expires 03/31/08. To receive all services, Digital Cable, remote and lease of an HD or HD DVR set-top box are required. To receive HD channels, subscription to standard definitions channel is required. Some services are not available to CableCARD™ customers. Not all equipment supports all services. HDTV set required for HD service. \$99 price point applies to Digital Cable Intro, Digital Phone Unlimited Nationwide and Road Runner Basic. New residential customers in the Desert Cities system only. The promotional period is 12 months. Standard service price applies after the promotional period. Services and offer not available in all areas. Unless stated above, prices exclude converter charge, installation fees and applicable taxes. Some restrictions apply. © 2008 Time Warner Cable, Inc. All Rights Reserved. TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc. (s08) All services may not be available in all areas. Subject to change without notice. Some restrictions apply. "The power of you" is a trademark of Time Warner Cable Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2008 Time Warner Cable Inc. All rights reserved.

# Cellular Phone Laws Questions and Answers

PUBLISHING & ONLINE INFORMATION BRANCH • COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS DIVISION • © 2007 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This bulletin provides general information to assist you in responding to questions regarding the: New Cellular Phone Laws that go into effect July 1.

## Minors (under 18 years of age)

**Prohibited** from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, including a hands-free device, and/or a mobile service device (pagers, texting devices, laptops, etc).

**Exceptions:**

- emergency situations, for example: calls to law enforcement, health care provider, fire department, etc.
- while operating a vehicle on private property.

**The fines for both laws are:**

- \$20, first offense plus administrative fees.
- \$50, second or subsequent offenses plus administrative fees.

## Drivers 18 years of age or older

**Prohibited** from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless a hands-free device is used.

**Exceptions:**

- emergency situations, for example: calls to law enforcement, health care provider, fire department, etc.
- emergency service providers operating an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment.
- while operating a vehicle on private property.
- a person operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle, school bus, transit vehicle, or tow truck, if using a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature that does not require the device to be close to the ear.

## Drivers Under 18 Years of Age

Q: May I use a cellular phone with a hands-free device if I am under 18?

A: No. You cannot use a wireless telephone to speak or text, even if it is equipped with a hands-free device or speaker-phone feature if you are under the age of 18. You are also prohibited from using any other type of mobile service devices, for example, specialized mobile radios, broadband personal communication devices, handheld devices or laptop computers, pagers, or two-way messaging, and texting devices. Exception: Permitted in emergency situations.

Q: If I am under 18, can a peace officer stop me if he/she suspects I am using a cellular phone or other mobile service device?

A: A law enforcement officer may pull you over if he/she observes or determines you are using a cellular phone.

Q: Why is the law stricter for provisional drivers?

A: Statistics show that teen drivers are more likely than older drivers to be involved in accidents because they lack driving experience and tend to take greater risks. Distractions, such as talking with passengers, eating or drinking, and talking on cellular phones or texting increase the chance you will be involved in a serious accident.

Q: Can my parents give me permission to allow me to use my cellular phone when driving?

A: No. The only exception is an emergency situation that requires you to call a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department or other emergency entity.

Q: If I am emancipated, does the restriction apply to me?

A: Yes, the restriction applies to all holders of an instruction permit and all licensed drivers under the age 18.

Q: If I have my parent(s) or someone age 25 years or older in the car with me, may I use my cellular phone while driving?

A: No. You may only use a cellular phone or mobile service device in an emergency situation.

Q: Will the restriction appear on my provisional license?

A: No.

Q: If my car has a built in hands-free phone feature, may I use it while driving?

A: No. The law prohibits anyone under 18 years of old from using any type of wireless device while driving, except in certain emergency situations.

References CVC §§23123, 23124, 12810.3

## Drivers 18 Years and Older

Q: When do the new cellular phone laws take effect?

A: The new law takes effect July 1, 2008.

Q: What if I need to use my phone during an emergency and I do not have a hands-free device?

A: The law allows a driver using a wireless telephone to make emergency calls, including, but not limited to, calls to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department, or other emergency services agency.

Q: What are the fine(s) if I am convicted?

A: The base fine for a first offense is \$20, and \$50 for each subsequent conviction. The courts will impose additional administrative fees.

Q: Will I receive a point on my driving record if I am convicted for a violation of the cellular phone law?

A: No. The violation is a reportable offense; however, DMV will not assign a violation point.

Q: Will a conviction appear on my driving record?

A: Yes, but a violation point will not be added.

Q: I drive a commercial vehicle and my phone has a "push-to-talk" feature that does not require me to place the phone to my ear, will I still be required to use a hands-free device?

A: No, only class "A" or "B" licensee operating a truck tractor as defined in Vehicle Code (VC) §655 or a motor truck as defined in VC §410 are allowed to use a "push to talk" feature.

Q: I drive a commercial pickup truck, may I use a two-way radio while driving?

A: No. The exemption does not apply to drivers of pickup trucks with commercial plates, even if the pickup truck is used for commercial purposes, for example, a contractor, landscaper, or other business.

Q: May I use a speaker-phone feature and hold the phone in my hand, but not next to my ear?

A: No. The law requires you use a hands-free device with your phone, a "push to talk" feature is not allowed.

Q: My car has a built-in hands-free mobile phone feature. Is this adequate or do I have to buy additional equipment?

A: No. You do not need to purchase additional equipment. You may use your vehicle's hands-free mobile phone feature.

Q: Can I send a text message on my phone or Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) while driving?

A: No.

Q: Are passengers covered by this law?

A: No, this law applies to the persons driving a motor vehicle.

## HOT TOPICS

### ADULT MEDICAL CARE CLINIC: PREVENTIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCESS

To comply with DOD 6200.4 and OPNAVINST 6120.3, all permanent party active duty members of Headquarters Battalion and Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School must schedule a Preventative Health Assessment with the Adult Medical Care Clinic 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.

### SECRET SHOPPER SCAM

Employment frauds typically prey upon the gullible or the desperate whose desire to secure work blinds them to the scams. Here's how it works: You are sent an employment package typically containing a variety of items, including a training assignment and a cashier's check made out for a largish amount, typically a few thousand dollars. The assignment explains that the "shopper" is to pose as an ordinary bank customer (either at a particular named bank of his own), cash the check there, and then wire the funds he receives from the teller to an address that has been supplied in the information package. Generally they are asked to wire via Western Union or Money Gram, which is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of a payment system to one of their agents. The "shopper" will also typically be told it is imperative he complete the task with two days, or else he will not be paid for his work or hired again. The pressure is put upon him to get the check cashed and the monies from it shipped off within two days works to keep him from discovering that the check is counterfeit. Once this information comes to light (as it eventually does), our hapless "mystery shopper" is left on the hook with the bank for the value of the rubber check. For more information regarding this scam you can contact the MCCS Personal Financial Management Office located in the Village Center, 830-7342 or to go to [www.snopes.com/fraud/employment/shopper.asp](http://www.snopes.com/fraud/employment/shopper.asp).

## Dividend Plus Checking



**2.25% APY\***



Anyone Can Join.

800-736-4500  
[www.pmcu.com](http://www.pmcu.com)

- No monthly service fee on balances of \$2,500 or more
- Service fee WAIVED for members 55 years of age or older with no minimum balance required
- FREE checks (one box per month)
- Two FREE money orders per month
- FREE VISA check card and/or ATM card

If you're open to discovering just how good a financial institution can be - stop by the nearest Pacific Marine Credit Union branch office today.



THINK OUTSIDE THE BANK



\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Members less than 55 years of age will be subject to a \$5.00 monthly maintenance fee if your account balance falls below \$2,500 anytime during the month. The dividend rate and annual percentage yield may change at any time, as determined by the credit union Board of Directors. Dividends are calculated using the daily balance method which applies a daily periodic rate to the balance in the account each day. Dividends will be compounded and credited to your account every month. Fees may affect actual earnings.



## Local Auto Glass Specialist



- In Shop Or Free Mobile Service
- Home Or Business
- Insurance Claims Welcome
- Rock Chip Repair
- The Auto Glass Experts

We come to you @ your convenience!

56530 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley  
Mon. - Fri. 8-5 • Sat. by appt.



**760-369-2122**



# Preventing vandalism aboard the Combat Center

## COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION SECTION

Vandalism is willful or malicious destruction or defacement of public or private property.

If it does not belong to you and you deface, destroy, or damage it, you have committed the crime of vandalism.

California, in particular, prosecutes vandals to the fullest extent of the law. This can mean big consequences and prison time for vandals.

Since 2001, vandalism offenses have been consistently the highest category of property crime. Since January of this year, there have been more than 17 cases of vandalism aboard MCAGCC, ranging from cut

sunshades, cut chain link fencing, graffiti, slashed tires, slashed convertible tops and keyed cars.

The Provost Marshal's Office has stepped up their patrols to look specifically for people vandalizing and destroying the property of others.

When caught, the vandal and their family may be evicted from housing at the discretion of Lincoln Military Housing and the commanding general. Dependents, to include minors, who are caught, may be turned over to the custody of civil authorities. The military sponsor of a vandal will be held accountable by their command, and possibly the San Bernardino County District Attorney in the cases of minors.

Vandalism is punishable by up to one year imprisonment

and a possible fine of \$1,000 to \$50,000, and is prosecuted as a felony for damage over \$400.

For more information go to the Web site <http://www.fbi.gov> and look for the Uniform Crime Report table numbers 55 and 61.

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 child fingerprinting.

For more information about the above services, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Section at 830-4561 or 830-6094.

## Lincoln Military Housing Community Center's swimming pools need lifeguards

Want Money? Need A Tan?

Take the plunge and work for Lincoln Military Housing as a Certified Pool Lifeguard at one of our many beautiful community center swimming pools.

- Become lifeguard certified and save a life.
- Seasonal employment to earn extra money (pools will be open from May 1, through late fall, weather permitting).
- Work as few or as many hours as desired, seven days a week.
- Lifeguards must pass background checks and drug testing and will become a Lincoln Military Housing employee.
- Training costs will be paid by Lincoln Military Housing.
- Must be 16 years of age or older (have a work permit if under 18), have reliable transportation, and pass lifeguard certification, CPR for the Professional, and Title 22 First Aid.

Contact Tia at [tvargas@lpsi.com](mailto:tvargas@lpsi.com) call 368-4553 for more information and for directions to the tryouts.

Tryouts will be held April 12 at 9 a.m. at the Ocotillo Office, 4000 Falcon Street, Twentynine Palms, Calif., 92278. Come prepared to swim and for an interview!!!



## CLOWNS, from A1

they make," said Robert Osorio, co-owner of Circus-Osorio after one of the shows last year. "That's what makes this country great."

The gesture was also greatly appreciated by MCCA, which uses the funds to provide the Combat Center with more entertainment services and special events.

"The American Crown Circus actually contributed a portion of their profits made in 2007 back to MCCA," said Kelley M. Coe, MCCA special events coordinator. "Their father was at Twentynine Palms many years ago and worked with another circus. He vowed that he would come back and do another show for the Marines when he started his own circus. Last year was his first chance to do that.

"He was so overwhelmed with the response that he and his sons made the decision to contribute back to MCCA," she added.

Patrons of last year's show were grateful for the entertainment and thought the circus was a great event for the children.

"It was his first circus," said Cpl. Casey Bezner, a rifleman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, while looking at his 2-year-old son Nathan after last year's performance. "We came for him. He enjoyed it, and we enjoyed it too."

The Las Vegas-based traveling circus tours the West Coast for more than 30 weeks each year and performs as far east as Chicago.

Tickets available at the tent the days of the show will be \$5 for children ages 12 and under, and \$12 for adults and children ages 13 and older.

Advance tickets are also available for purchase at a lower cost. For more information, you can see the MCCA flyer on the Web at <http://www.mcca29palms.com/1CurrentEvents/circus.html>. Additional MCCA flyers about upcoming events can also be viewed at <http://www.mcca29palms.com/>.



**YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON YOUR MIND THAN CAR INSURANCE. WE'LL HELP KEEP IT THAT WAY.**

Sudden deployments can be difficult on a military family. But worrying about your car insurance won't be an added burden. At GEICO, we offer our military customers car insurance that's second to none: 24-hour service, simple payment plans, money-saving discounts, and storage options, whether you store the vehicle yourself or on base. For seventy years, GEICO has been serving the special needs of the special people who serve our country. We're ready to do it for you. Call us anytime.

**GEICO**  
geico.com

**1-800-MILITARY** (1-800-645-4827)  
AUTO \* HOME \* RENTERS \* MOTORCYCLE \* BOAT

Homeowners, renters, and boat coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through Insurance Counselors Inc., the GEICO Property Agency. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. Military discounts not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. • Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. • These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO auto insurance is not available in Mass. GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2007 GEICO

# 'If you're not first, you're last'

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The sounds of engines revving and tires screeching fill the air as the smell of smoke, burnt tires and gasoline permeate off of the pavement. This is drag racing.

Staff Sgts. Lawrence Salcido, Mike Battery gunnery sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and Christopher Frye, communications officer and chief, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, are all too familiar

with the sights and sounds of drag racing.

Salcido, a Coos Bay, Ore., native, participated in the Street Legal Drags at the Auto Club Speedway of Southern California, Fontana, March 8.

The Street Legal Drags is an open event where racers compete as many times as they want, said Salcido.

"This is my first time racing at this track," he added. "This race is held about once a month."

Racing is not as easy as just starting the car and flooring the

gas, said Salcido.

"It takes about two hours for me to get my car ready," he explained. "I have to change the tires, make sure the nitrous tanks are filled, take out the old gas and put in 112 octane fuel, and make any last minute changes to the car. When it comes to racing, I have to make sure the timing is perfect and my RPM is where it needs to be when I take off."

Salcido has invested countless hours of work and thousands of dollars to get his 1991 5.7 liter Ford Mustang to where it is today.



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Racers burn some rubber before pulling up to the starting line at the Auto Club Speedway of Southern California's Street Legal Drags March 8. Racers reached speeds over 120 mph on the quarter-mile track in a matter of seconds. Any registered, street legal vehicle was allowed in the race.

"I started working on the car about 11 years ago," said Salcido. "It's a never-ending project. There's always something to fix or add to the car. New parts come out all the time."

Salcido's work paid off.

His Mustang puts out 498 horse power to the rear tires, and with nitrous, it puts out a whopping 525 horse power.

Frye's pony is a 2003 Ford Mustang SVT Cobra that kicks out 461 horse power to the rear tires.

"I wouldn't say drag racing is my life, but I do pretty much what I can with it," said Frye, a Sunnyvale, Calif., native.

There are not too many places to drag race in Southern California, he added.

"Drag racing is a huge thing to a lot of people in Southern California," continued Frye.

"The thing that is frustrating is there is only one reliable quarter-mile track that is open, and that's Fontana. There are several eighth-of-a-mile tracks but those are boring. There is one other track in Bakersfield that I heard was really good and I'd like to go there."

Salcido spent three years drag racing in Virginia Beach, Va., he said.

"I love the adrenaline rush you get while drag racing," said Salcido. "You learn from your mistakes as well as the mistakes of others."

Salcido plans to form a "Mustang Club" aboard the Combat Center and is holding a meeting Friday, at 8 p.m., at the Blue Monkey in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

For more information about the club, call Salcido at 830-5523.



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Staff Sgt. Lawrence Salcido, Mike Battery gunnery sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, gets ready to put the pedal to the metal at the Auto Club Speedway of Southern California's Street Legal Drags March 8. Salcido, a Coos Bay, Ore., native, reached speeds over 120 mph on the quarter-mile track.

# Springing Into Spring

Social

hosted by MCX

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 FROM 2 - 4 P.M.  
AT THE MAIN EXCHANGE

PREVIEW THE NEW SPRING FASHION FOR:  
• WOMEN • CHILDREN

GUEST SPEAKERS \* LIGHT PARTY FOOD \* BEVERAGES

DRAWINGS FOR (2) \$100 GIFT CARDS, AND COACH BAG!!!

• FREE FOOD

• PRIZE GIVEAWAYS  
(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)



# Advisor Training Group's students 'become shadows on a cloudy day'

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Advisor Training Group is teaching Marines and sailors how to effectively train foreign security forces and military units to stand on their own while at the same time, learning their languages and cultures.

According to ATG's mission statement, the purpose of ATG is to train Marine Corps advisor teams to advise, mentor, and train foreign military, police, and border units in operational techniques and procedures to combat terrorism and counterinsurgency.

Advisor teams are made up of groups of Marines and sailors who deploy to foreign countries and embed with their military. Each Marine or sailor is tasked with specific roles in that unit, and while deployed, they live and fight alongside the foreign military units they are assigned to train.

"The role of an advisor is mostly non-kinetic," said Lt. Col. Richard Warmbold, ATG operations officer and Park City, Utah, native. "It's all about establishing rapport and building relationships. These Marines are learning

how to let someone else take point."

After the advisor teams are formed, they undergo a 19-day training evolution to help them learn to let go of the reins and play the instructor role. The training also provides language and cultural training and refreshes the advisor teams on many aspects of combat, including motorized operations, communications, field medicine and improvised explosive devices.

The training wraps up with a three-day military readiness exercise, which takes place at Combat Center Range 220A, designed to assess and evaluate what the teams learned during the training.

"One of the first things the teams do here is a 'meet and greet' with the IPs [Iraqi Police] and IA [Iraqi Army] to learn about the town and the situations they may encounter," said Staff Sgt. James Robertson, ATG instructor and liaison officer. "The mood set here by the role players is generally friendly, but still uncertain. It's designed to mimic a typical Iraqi town."

During the meeting between Police Training Team 3, an advi-

sor team based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the exercise's Iraqi Police chief March 7, the police compound was bombarded with several simulated mortar rounds. PTT 3 and the Iraqi Police moved quickly to ensure no military, police or civilian personnel had been killed or wounded in the brief attack.

"For this type of training, we are evaluating the reactions of the teams to combat situations," explained Robertson. "We want to see how they integrate the Iraqis as well as the actions the Marines take in combat."

According to another portion of their mission statement, part of ATG's philosophy is that the most effective advisor is like a shadow on a mostly cloudy day, meaning the advisor is neither seen nor heard.

For instance, instead of taking charge of the Iraqi Police during and after the mortar attack, the advisor will show the Iraqis how to take proper action instead.

The best way to become an advisor, not a leader, is for the teams to build a strong rela-

See SHADOWS, A11



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. Ramon Wells, Police Transition Team 3, coordinates casualty evacuations through his radio after insurgent role players attacked and wounded two mock civilians during the Advisor Training Group military readiness exercise at Combat Center Range 220A March 7. Wells, a Yonkers, N.Y. native, is originally assigned to 2nd Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

# Scammers use arrest warrants as scare tactics

FBI PRESS RELEASE

The following is a description of a jury duty scam that was first published on the FBI Web site last summer. The public must be both alert and skeptical when asked to "verify" information, whether over the phone or through the internet.

The phone rings, you pick it up, and the caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He says you failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You say you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some information for "verification purposes"-your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number. This is when you should hang up the phone. It is a scam.

Jury scams have been around for years, but have seen a resurgence in recent months. Communities in more than a dozen states have issued public warnings about cold calls from people claiming to be court officials seeking personal information. As a rule, court officers never ask for confidential information over the phone; they generally correspond with prospective jurors through mail.

The scam's bold simplicity may be what makes it so effective. Facing the unexpected threat of arrest, victims are caught off guard and may be quick to part with some information to defuse the situation.

"They get you scared first," said a special agent in the Minneapolis field office who has heard the complaints. "They get people saying, 'Oh my gosh, I'm not a criminal. What's going on?'"

That's when the scammer dangles a solution - a fine, payable by credit card, that will clear up the problem.

With enough information, scammers can assume your identity and empty your bank accounts.

"It seems like a very simple scam," the agent added. "The trick is putting people on the defensive, then reeling them back in with the promise of a clean slate. It's kind of ingenious. It's social engineering."

In recent months, communities in Florida, New York, Minnesota, Illinois, Colorado, Oregon, California, Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Hampshire reported scams or posted warnings or press releases on their local Web sites. In August, the federal court system issued a warning about this scam and urged people to call their local District Court office if they receive suspicious calls.

In September, the FBI issued a press release about jury scams and suggested victims also contact their local FBI field office.

In March, USA.gov, the federal government's information Web site, posted details about jury scams in their "Frequently Asked Questions" area. The site reported scores of queries on the subject from Web site visitors and callers seeking information.

The jury scam is a simple variation of the identity-theft ploys that have proliferated in recent years as personal information and good credit have become thieves' preferred prey, particularly on the Internet. Scammers might tap your information to make a purchase on your credit card, but could just as easily sell your information to the highest bidder on the internet's black market.

Protecting yourself is the key: Never give out personal information when you receive an unsolicited phone call.



*Faces Day Spa*

A Holistic Health Spa

*Spring into Health*

**Spring Break Special - 25% OFF  
All Treatments for Teachers**

~ 361-7546 ~

www.Faces-day-Spa.com 73554 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, CA

## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 23  
PROGRAM STARTS 6:00 AM

FIRST CAR UP AT 5:00am

REDUCED TRAM ADMISSION

5:00am - 7:30am

\$14.00 Adults / \$11.00 Children (3-12)

Inspirational Message: Pastor Art Popp  
Music by: "Voices of Song"

EASTER  
RIDE 'N' BREAKFAST  
IN PINES CAFE

\$21.95 Adults

\$14.95 Children

Available until 7:30am

EASTER DINNER  
Noon to 8:30pm at Pines Cafe

760 325-1391

YOUR ADVENTURE  
STARTS HERE



PALM SPRINGS  
aerial  
**Tram**  
PSTRAMWAY.COM

# Marine inspired to new heights

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Many people from around the world visit Joshua Tree National Park just for the chance to climb one of the enormous rocks the park offers to rock climbing enthusiasts.

According to the Joshua Tree National Park Hiking Guide Web site, more than a million people visit the national park each year to rock climb and visit the well-known hiking trails.

But for Maj. Rhesa J. Ashbacher, Combat Center Staff Judge Advocate and avid rock climber, rock climbing in Joshua Tree National Park became a

chance for her to exercise and be outside without fear of injuring her back.

"I have had a chronic back problem for a number of years," said Ashbacher, a 39-year-old Waukon, Iowa, native. "I was ecstatic when I tried rock climbing and it didn't hurt my back."

Ashbacher's sister and her husband, who are also devoted rock climbers, were the motivation behind Ashbacher's love of climbing.

"When I got stationed in Twentynine Palms, [Calif.] my sister and her husband were so happy to have a house to stay in while climbing," said Ashbacher. "That is when I decided to try climbing with them.

"They weren't very kind," Ashbacher continued jokingly. "They gave me no breaks and made me go on the hard stuff with them, and I had to foil around until I got the hang of it."

Joshua Tree National Park offers visitors endless opportunities of exploring and discovering hundreds of giant rocks and trails for guests who love the outdoors.

The park is home to more than 400 climbing formations and 8,000 climbing routes that vary from easy to challenging climbs.

Ashbacher, who stands at 5 feet 10 inches tall with a muscular build, has been climbing for more than a year and a half. She frequently challenges herself nearly every weekend, attempting risky new heights and different climbing areas.

"She has a natural gift of being athletic," said Capt. Erin March, SJA's legal assistant attorney. "She will muscle through things where other people will normally give up."

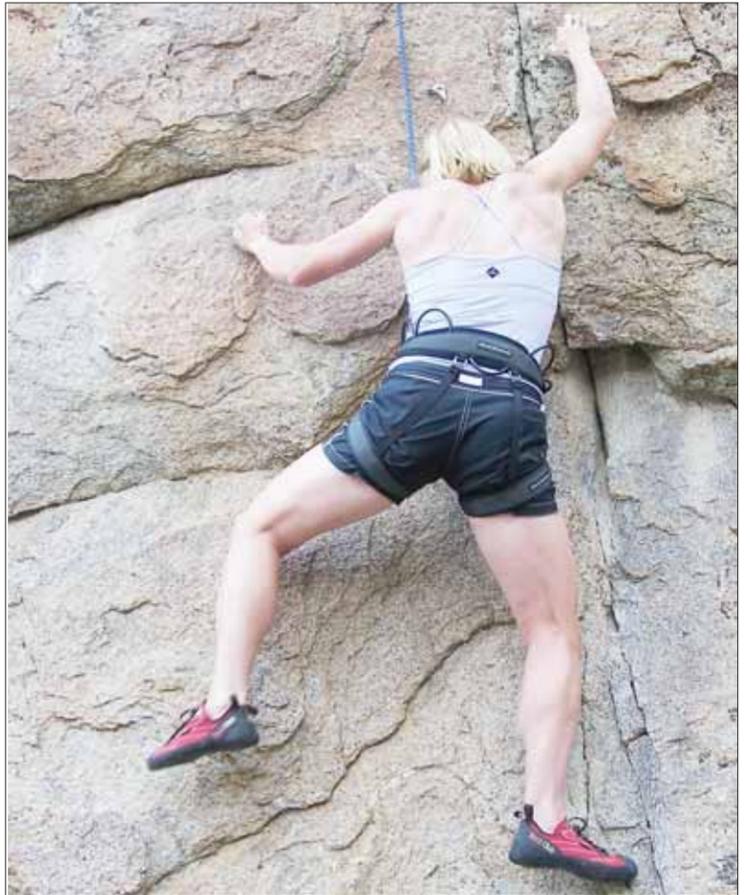
Ashbacher has taken many Marines, including March, to Joshua Tree National Park and New Jack City, a canyon area near Barstow, Calif.

"I take other Marines with me to introduce them into rock climbing so they can experience the sport and hopefully want to come back and try it for a second time," said Ashbacher.



COURTESY PHOTO

Using another rock to prop herself up to a handhold, Maj. Rhesa Ashbacher, Combat Center Staff Judge Advocate, climbs a rock at Joshua Tree National Park.



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Rhesa Ashbacher, Combat Center Staff Judge Advocate, reaches for a handhold while climbing an enormous boulder at Joshua Tree National Park. More than a million people visit the national park each year to rock climb and visit the well-known hiking trails. The park is home to more than 400 climbing formations and 8,000 climbing routes that vary from easy to challenging climbs.

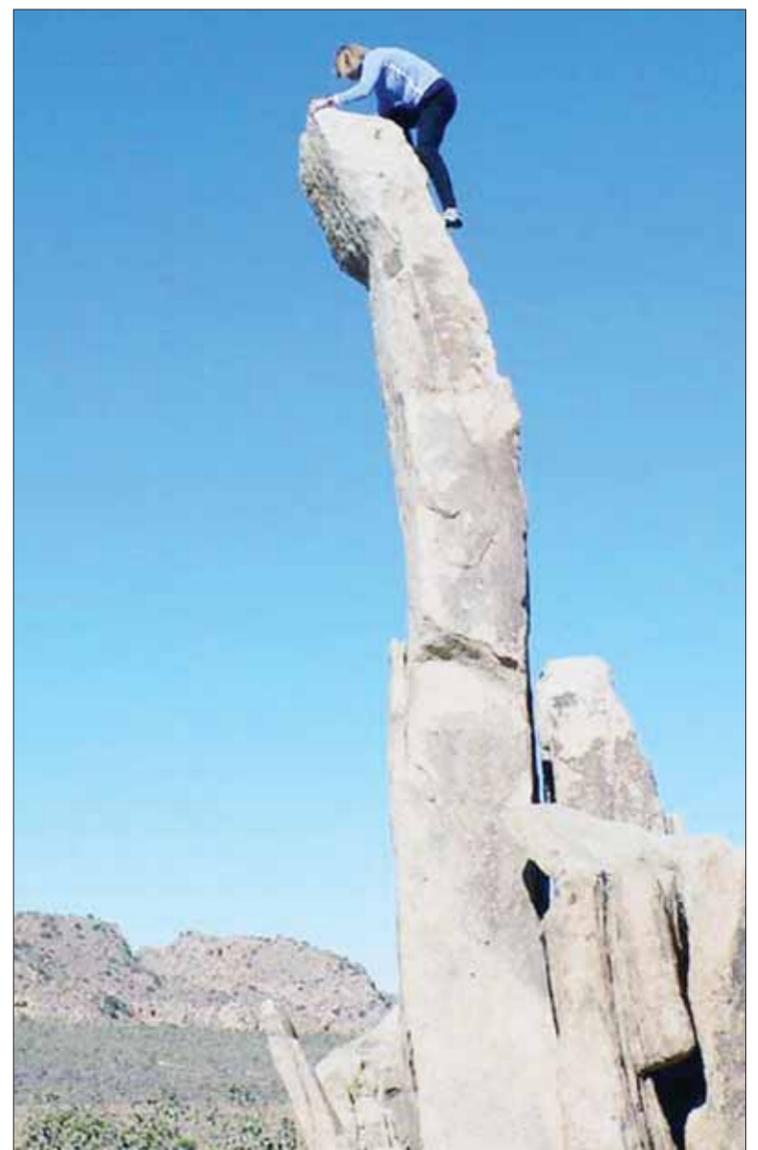
New Jack City is a favorable place for beginners to climb due to the wide range of rocks from easy to hard, giving climbers a chance to improve and advance to harder rocks.

"She has unbelievable patience," said March, a York, Penn., native. "I have learned so much about rock climbing just by watching her on one of our office outings to Joshua Tree."

When Ashbacher is not climbing death-defying rock formations, she is hiking throughout the national park. Her favorite places

to visit are Carey's Castle, a house built by a miner in the 1930's that stands between two boulders, and Samuelson's Rocks, which were made by John Samuelson, a homesteader who carved political sayings in the rocks surrounding his house in 1927.

"There are some really cool hikes in the park," said Ashbacher. "When you are out there in the middle of nowhere and you come across something, like a house built between two giant rocks, it shows you never really know what is out there."



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Rhesa Ashbacher, Combat Center Staff Judge Advocate, reaches the top of a protruding rock at Joshua Tree National Park.

**The Combat Center Officers' Club**  
Coridally Invites All Ranks & Their Families to...

# Easter brunch

**Sunday, March 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Enjoy Easter Brunch at the Officers' Club

**Brunch will include: Omelet Station, Waffle Station, Carved Meats, Breads, Seafood and Desserts.**

**Reservations are requested, call 830-6610**  
[www.mccs29palms.com](http://www.mccs29palms.com)

**Adults - \$15<sup>95</sup> • Children (13 & under) - \$8<sup>95</sup>**

# Council on Foreign Relations takes in new MCAGCC view

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Council on Foreign Relations, a New York-based group which has concentrated its efforts toward educating America about worldwide current events since 1921, toured the Combat Center March 12 to learn more about the capabilities of the installation and the Marine Corps.

Col. Paul E. Greenwood, CFR Marine Corps Fellow, and other prominent CFR members were given the opportunity to view several of the installation's training facilities to see how efficient the Marine Corps has become in its training endeavors.

To display the level and progression of Marine Corps training, the attending members of CFR were led to Combat Center Range 215 to observe 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, a Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based battalion, undergo the final exercise [FINEX] of the 30-day pre-deployment training package known as Mojave Viper.

The touring CFR members were first introduced to how a forward operating base works. There, the party was shown how a battalion aid station, a combat operations center and a detention center function.

"The very first step in the detention process is medical screening," said Capt. Andrew M. Wallace, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group operational law instructor and staff judge advocate, while explaining the role of the detention center. "We have to ensure detainees have no medical problems that require immediate attention, whether it be a gunshot wound or tuberculosis."

Wallace went into detail about the detention process, citing how much work is involved as well as the importance of medical documentation and proper treatment of prisoners.

While at Range 215, the CFR party was able to walk the streets of Wadi al Sahara, one of two mock Iraqi towns set up at the range, to get a feel for the training environment Marines and sailors going through Mojave Viper experience while they are not at the FOB.

During CFR's stroll through Wadi al Sahara, Lt. Col. Mark D. Dietz, TTECG operations officer, and Maj. Scott M. Conway, Urban Warfare Training Section deputy

officer-in-charge, explained in full detail the different phases of Mojave Viper training to the group.

"Once they've completed all their lane training and mission rehearsals, they enter their final exercise," said Conway a Myrtle Creek, Ore., native. "When they arrive, we give them a partial picture to the overall situation in the towns. From there, they are able to execute 24/7 counterinsurgency operations as they see fit."

Conway added that everything they do during their final exercise is scrutinized by the instructors and counts as part of the unit's overall grade.

The CFR group also had the opportunity to meet with the role-playing mayor of Wadi al Sahara at his home on the edge of the town. The mayor gave them an in-depth understanding to the situations occurring in the mock town to help them grasp a better understanding of what Marine Corps units encounter during the tenure of the FINEX.

After the meeting with the mayor and a Meal, Ready-to-Eat lunch with the Marines and sailors of 2/2 at FOB 3, CFR proceeded to the Expeditionary Airfield to witness the capabilities of Marine Corps air assets and support elements aboard the Combat Center.

Capt. John Bussard, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 airfield company commander, provided CFR with information about how the EAF operates. The Ringoes, N.J., native, explained the seemingly primitive nature of the EAF is designed to simulate an airfield similar to those used in Iraq.

Following the EAF visit, the group was given a chance to experience Marine Corps marksmanship training with a hands-on approach. At the Marksmanship Training Unit, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Fredrick T. Keeney, MTU range officer, spoke to the CFR representatives about the fundamentals of marksmanship, the rifle qualification scoring system and the numerous ranges MTU manages.

"The bottom line of Marine Corps marksmanship is this - one shot, one kill," said Keeney, a Spring Hill, Kan., native. "Every time a Marine presses that trigger, someone dies. That's just what we do and that's what we're here to teach."

MTU provided the CFR with a chance to fire a variety of weapons used by the Marine

See COUNCIL, A15



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Capt. Andrew M. Wallace, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group operational law instructor and staff judge advocate, discusses the operation of a detention center to members of the Council on Foreign Relations at Combat Center Range 215 Forward Operating Base 3 during CFR's tour of MCAGCC March 12.

## NOW OPEN



### Best Western Yucca Valley Hotel & Suites

56525 29 Palms Hwy.  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284



BREAKFAST

POOL  
SPA

FITNESS  
CENTER

HI-SPEED FREE LOCAL  
INTERNET CALLS

BUSINESS  
CENTER

ENTERTAINMENT  
LCD TV/HD TV  
XM/HBO/ESPN

GUEST  
LAUNDRY

Phone: **760-365-3555**

Toll Free: **800-528-1234**

Web: [www.Bestwestern.com](http://www.Bestwestern.com)



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Lt Col. Mark D. Dietz, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group operations officer, and Lt. Col. Mark Horowitz, Urban Warfare Training Section officer-in-charge, describe the extent of Mojave Viper pre-deployment training to Col. Paul E. Greenwood, Council of Foreign Affairs Marine Corps Fellow.

### Special Thanks to:

Town of Yucca Valley, Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce, All the local businesses and individuals for their help and assistance.

# MCCS to host spring spouse social

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Community Services is hosting the Swinging into Spring Spouse Social at the Main Exchange for family members of Marines and sailors stationed aboard the Combat Center Friday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Spouse socials are held biannually and give spouses an opportunity to meet others and win prizes.

“It is our way of saying thank you to the spouses for supporting their military husbands,” said Lance Lenon, Main Exchange division sales manager. “We are extending a hand of fellowship and friendship.”

The social will have guest speakers to inform spouses about different programs and features available aboard the base.

“We want them to be aware of

everything that is available to them,” said Lenon. “That way they don’t miss anything.”

Services offered aboard the Combat Center include the beauty salon and dry cleaners. Janet New, MCCS service operations manager, will inform the family members about the locations and advantages of using the beauty salons and dry cleaners on base.

Personnel from the East and West fitness centers will speak about different programs offered through the gyms, including the use of a personal trainer.

Kelly Coe, MCCS special events coordinator will discuss upcoming events happening on or around the base.

The social will also feature a fashion presentation that will inform spouses about the 1775 private clothing label made by Headquarters Marine Corps and offered at Exchanges throughout the Marine Corps.

“1775 clothing label was made to give every family member a chance to purchase something even if they have a low income,” said Glenda Menard, Main



MCCS COURTESY PHOTO

A guest speaker informs family members about programs and services offered aboard the Combat Center during last year’s Marine Corps Community Services spouse social at the Main Exchange.



MCCS COURTESY PHOTO

A Hilary Duff fragrance set is given away as a small prize during last year’s Marine Corps Community Services spouse social at the Main Exchange. Spouse socials are held biannually and give wives an opportunity to meet others and win prizes.

Exchange division sales manager. “We’re trying to inform the Marines and spouses about the line since the clothing is in fashion yet low in price.”

Between every speaker, family members receive chances to win prizes with ticket drawings.

“We have a very nice Coach purse and a \$100 gift certificate we are going to give away,” said Lenon. “We are also going to give away some smaller prizes that were specially chosen to ensure they aren’t crummy gifts, such as electronics and fragrance sets.”

Foods available at the social

include sandwiches, finger foods, dips and an assortment of beverages throughout the event.

“This is the only base that has anything remotely like [spouse socials],” said Lenon. “It gives the spouses a chance to forget everything that they missed in their last home.”

The Swinging into Spring Spouse Social is a chance for spouses to get out of the house, meet new people, win cool prizes and be appreciated for all they have done for their husbands.

For more information contact MCCS at 830-6296.

# IPAC clarifies myths and facts of basic allowance for housing

## What is BAH?

An allowance to assist members in defraying housing expenses, when a member is authorized to reside on the economy. The purpose of this allowance is to provide members accurate and equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets, and is payable when government quarters are not provided.

## What is the reference?

The reference for Basic Allowance for Housing is the Joint Federal Travel Regulation VOL I Chap 10.

## Who is eligible for it?

A member on permanent duty within the 50 United States, who is not occupying government family housing, is eligible for Basic Allowance for Housing, based on the member’s dependency status, at the rate established for the permanent duty station’s ZIP Code (Check your Local BAH Rates).

## Got Spouse (Dependent Addition)? What do I need to do?

Report to the Customer Service Section of the Installation Personnel Administration Center with the following documents:

- \* Certified true copy or duplicate original of Marriage Certificate (If in foreign language, a translated copy. If translation will not be available within a reasonable period of time - one week - call us)

- \* New spouse’s birth certificate, social security card and a photo I.D.

## Divorced (Dependent Loss)? What do I need to do?

Immediately upon start of divorce proceeding report to the Customer Service Section of the IPAC with your divorce/legal separation paperwork. This will prevent overpayment of Family Separation Allowance.

After divorce is finalized report to the Customer Service Section of the IPAC with the following documents:

- \* Certified true copy or duplicate original of Divorce Decree. Ensure you bring all documentation pertaining to child custody and support to ensure proper payment of BAH entitlement (if applicable).

- \* Failure to report change in dependent status may result in potential pay checkage.

## Request BAH own right at

## Twentynine Palms.

Combat Center Order 11012.II contains all the necessary direction and guidance regarding requesting BAH O/R.

- All personnel in the grade of E-6 and above have the option to receive BAH “own right” to reside off the installation. Personnel in the grade of E-5 and below may be authorized BAH only under certain circumstances; therefore, specific written approval is required from the Commanding General (Bachelor Housing).

- Member married to another service member, without dependents, who are geographically separated are required to apply for BAH.

- Notes for BAH O/R: Once divorce proceedings have begun, and you are residing in the local economy, we recommend you begin the process for a 90 day extension of BAH O/R. Timely submission of an approval of your request will provide a smooth transition from BAH with/depn to BAH Own Right.

**BAH difference; What is it?**  
BAH-DIFF is a BAH entitlement to assist Marines who are obligated to pay child support.

## Who is entitled to it?

Members who become entitled to BAH based solely on their payment of child support (i.e., member does not have physical custody of the dependent) are entitled to BAH-DIFF provided their child support payments are equal to or greater than the BAH-DIFF rate for the member’s pay grade (BAH-DIFF CHART) <http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay/militarypaytables.html>. Members are not entitled to BAH-DIFF based solely on the fact that he/she has a dependent. If the member resides on the local economy, he may, if otherwise entitled, be eligible to receive BAH-With.

## When is it payable?

The entitlement to BAH-DIFF begins when the divorce is final and child support is directed or when a member starts making the appropriate child support payments for a child born out of wedlock (i.e., effective date of allotment), not the day the child is born. It is important to note that in order to be entitled to BAH-DIFF, proof of adequate support payments must be provided. Of course, an allotment to the physical custodian is the best method of achieving this requirement. In the absence of an allotment, cancelled checks, money order receipts must be provided, or an

affidavit of support signed by the physical custodian. When provided, this documentation will be affixed to the member’s BAH Application and maintained on file in his service record.

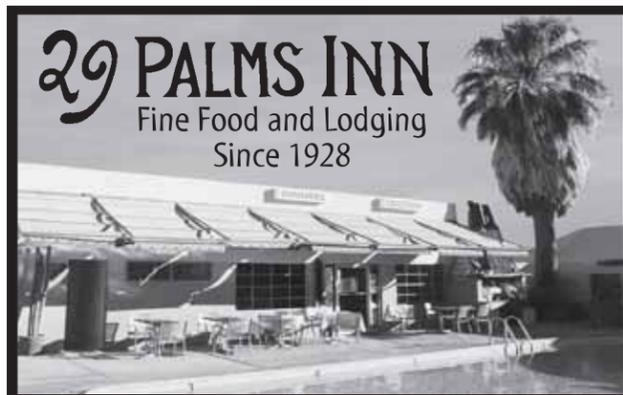
## What if I miss any child support payments?

If a member fails to pay adequate child support (amount equal to or greater than the member’s BAH-DIFF entitlement) for any given month then he is not entitled to BAH-DIFF for that month. The subsequent payment of back child support will not entitle the member to retroactive BAH-DIFF for a period of non-support or inadequate support.

## What if my BAH rates change?

It is important to note that members are required to increase their support payments when changes to BAH rates may create a new (higher) BAH-DIFF amount. Normally, these changes involve promotions or yearly pay increases. However, an increase in the BAH-DIFF amount may occur when a member is reduced. Currently, this will only occur when a reduction occurs from E-3 to E-2 however, member’s in

See BAH MYTHS, A12



**29 PALMS INN**  
Fine Food and Lodging  
Since 1928

73950 Inn Avenue  
Twentynine Palms, California  
760-367-3505  
[www.29palmsinn.com](http://www.29palmsinn.com)

**Luncheon • Dinner  
Cocktails • Sunday Brunch  
Entertainment Nightly**

- Charming Adobe Bungalows with Fireplaces
- Heated Swimming Pool
- Available for Special Events



**STORAGE**  
WITH 24 HOUR “REAL TIME” SECURITY

State Of The Art Security Control With Full Time Resident Managers Household Storage, RV, Boat & Auto



- Ground Level Units
- Controlled Gate Access
- Large Moving Truck Friendly
- Month-to-Month Rentals

**SPECIAL MILITARY PRICING ON ALL UNITS!**

**367-2510**  
5020 Adobe Rd • 29 Palms

**ATLAS SELF STORAGE**

# Combat Center potential Land acquisition study continues

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Combat Center officials continue to study areas along its boundaries for potential acquisition to meet Marine Corps training requirements. They stressed that no decision has been made on which areas would be most appropriate to the Combat Center's training mission.

Once this internal analysis is complete, the Marine Corps will publicly release the proposed alternatives and study them in full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Marine Corps is looking at areas contiguous to the base, including Johnson Valley, but no final decisions have been made regarding what alternatives will be pursued and analyzed through NEPA. When the alternatives are finalized, the public will be informed.

The NEPA study process includes soliciting the public's input on alternatives and issues during a public "scoping meeting" and then undertaking the environmental review and assessment, a process that will involve a great deal of input from the local community and the wide range of stakeholders. The NEPA process is expected to take several years.

As reported by the base last summer, the Office of the Secretary of Defense granted approval for the Marine Corps to proceed with a study to analyze land contiguous to the installation's boundaries for potential acquisition, as well as to study any air-space requirements needed to support

training in any new areas. Since then, the Marine Corps has carefully studied potential alternatives that could meet their training requirements.

Once completed, a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement will be published with identified alternatives. The NOI formally begins scoping for the EIS. At this time, the public will be invited to identify and determine the scope of significant issues to be analyzed, and to potentially identify other reasonable alternatives.

Those involved with this lengthy undertaking urge patience as this process of simply figuring out what land the base might actually need to meet the Marine Corps training requirements and how it affects other interests could take anywhere from three to five years, said Jim Ricker, assistant chief of staff, G-5.

It is imperative that Marines receive the most realistic training before deploying into a combat environment that demands split-second life or death decisions. The potential land parcel additions would allow Marines to "train as they fight" as a large-scale Marine Air Ground Task Force, in particular a Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Currently there is no training facility in the nation that can support this training requirement.

For additional questions please contact the Combat Center G-5 Community Plans and Public Affairs Office, SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil or call 830-3738.

## SHADOWS, from A7

counterparts, said Robertson. Establishing rapport and instilling a sense of friendship – or even brotherhood – between the advisors and the foreign military is key. The Iraqis are more apt to listen to and heed advice, rather than obey orders barked at them by a Marine in an advisor role.

During the MRX, part of the role players' job is to help the advisor teams achieve a better understanding of their mission while they are deployed. Bonding with them and learning from them is the advisor's first step toward success.

"This is good training for the Marines to learn how to work with the people of Iraq," said Frank Mikho, an Iraqi language interpreter role player at Combat Center Range 220A. "Sometimes it's hard for Marines to go to a different country and learn the language and culture.

"We teach them how to talk to people, shake hands and build a relationship," added Mikho. "They make mistakes here, but it's better to learn from those mistakes now than to make them over in Iraq."

Assaad Mohamed, Iraqi Police chief role player at Combat Center Range 220A, said he feels the more he helps train Marine Corps advisor teams, the safer Iraq will become because of the knowledge the Marines will have while they are there.

"This training is very important," said Mikho. "I wish every Marine could go through this training before they go to Iraq."

The Marines and sailors of the advisor teams also understand the value of the training they go through.

"This is the best pre-deployment training I've had," said Petty Officer 2nd Class David Tinoco, PTT 3 corpsman. "I've been to Iraq before, and this training is

dead-on. All the istructors are very knowledgeable and are able to pass that knowledge on to us.

"It gives those who haven't deployed before a chance to get the full experience of what it's going to be like for us over there," he added. "What we're doing now is putting our role over there into perspective."

This will be Tinoco's second deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although currently a member of an advisor team, the San José, Calif., native is originally assigned to Beaufort Naval Hospital at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

ATG continues to support the Marine Corps by training and preparing advisor teams to pass their knowledge along to foreign military personnel.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Petty Officer 2nd Class David Tinoco, a corpsman with Police Transition Team 3, teaches an Iraqi Police role player how to properly fasten a tourniquet during the Advisor Training Group military readiness exercise at Combat Center Range 220A March 7.

Marine Corps Community Services Presents:

# AMERICAN CROWN

# CIRCUS

ACROBATIC

March 26 - March 28

**Advanced Ticket Purchase Locations/ Prices**

- ITT
- Twentynine Palms: Curves • Laura's Cafe
- Yucca Valley: Curves • Aarons
- Available at All Locations until Thurs., March 27
- \$10 for Adults ages 13 & Older
- Two Children Admitted Free with Each Paying Adult (Additional Child Ticket \$5)

**Day of Show Ticket Prices**

- Tickets available at Circus Box Office Only on Show Days
- \$5 for Children ages 12 & under
- \$12 for Adults ages 13 & Older

**Seating Availability**

- Seating is Limited for ALL Shows
- First Come First Served Basis For All Tickets
- Tickets are not Date Specific

## OPEN GATE EVENT!

Aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center



www.mccs29palms.com

**Concessions Available!**

 **Hi-Desert Star**

 **Desert Trail**

 **OBSERVATION POST**

 **Aaron's**

 **Curves**

 **Laura's CAFE**

 **KO92**

 **KX96 HOT COUNTRY**

 **Sprint**

NO ENDORSEMENT OF THE SPONSOR IS INTENDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR THE USMC.

**HISTORICAL from, A1**

Virginia by Ephraim Bee, but moved west with the California Gold Rush of 1849.

"Early ECV members were known for taking their brotherhood seriously," said Greg Herring, training systems engineer, program manager for training systems, Marine Corps

Systems Command. "When a member became sick or injured, the group would collect food or money to help him out.

"They frequently trekked through the vastness of the Sierra Nevada to reach lonely miners who otherwise would have had no Christmas celebration. The society was also careful to help out the widows and orphans of

fallen members."

All the chapters of ECV do their part to serve the community.

"The Billy Holcomb Chapter was formed in 1969," added Herring a Pioneertown, Calif., native. "Since then we've built approximately 120 monuments."

All the monuments we built by ECV are funded by its members, added John Ziagos, ECV member and Pioneertown, Calif., native. It costs about \$2,500 to build a single monument.

Money is no matter to the members of ECV. Friendship is, continued Ziagos.

"ECV is all about building camaraderie with its members," added Herring. "When we build a monument we usually camp out at the site over the weekend.

"Every monument we build is special," he continued. "We usually put things in the concrete part of the monuments. We put a small gold nugget and three golf clubs in the Condor Field monument. We also included a martini glass as a memoriam to a passed Clamper."

Helping the community is not an obligation to ECV, it is a privilege, explained Herring.

"We love to help our community in any way we can," added Ziagos. "We have a lot of fun during the process."

"I'm glad the monument is finally where it belongs," he added. "Now when people come to see it, they'll be able to see the runway the gliders used to take off."

**BAH MYTHS from, A10**

receipt of BAH-DIFF need to be aware of this possibility.

**Is my child entitled to Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System enrollment?**

Children born out of wedlock and not in the custody of the member are not normally entitled to DEERS privileges. The exception is if a court has judicially determined paternity. See MCO P5512.11 for additional information.

**What about Tricare Family Members Dependent Plan?**

Eligibility for Tricare FMDP is based on DEERS enrollment eligibility. Children ineligible for DEERS are also ineligible for Tricare FMDP.

**What is Advance Payment of Basic Allowance for Housing BAH and how do I request it?**

Advance payment of BAH is utilized and made available to assist Marines and their families to defray the initial cost of moving into civilian lodging when authorized to reside on the economy. Members are authorized to draw this advance on their BAH, not to exceed the actual cost of moving in expenses or three months of BAH at the PDS rate, whichever is lower. This advance will be liquidated over a 12 month period. If the member vacates the residence for which the advance was drawn prior to the full liquidation, the remaining balance will be recouped immediately. To process a request, fill out a Request for BAH form or contact the Pay Section of IPAC.

**Spirit and Truth Worship Center**  
 Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor  
 Service Times:  
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:45  
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00  
 (760) 361-2450  
 4751 Adobe Rd.  
 29 Palms, Ca. 92277  
 spirit\_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com



**GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP**  
 Christian Center Church  
 "Developing Disciples For Christ"  
 Begin Your Week With Pastor T. K. & Gerri Washington  
 • Sunday School - 10 A.M.  
 • Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.  
 • Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.  
 • Friday Night Intercessory Prayer - 7 P.M.  
 Don't Just Be...  
 760.361.6510  
 5898 Adobe Rd. Twentynine Palms, CA  
 www.gfccc.org ...LIVE!



57373 Joshua Lane  
 Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
 (760) 365-0769  
 www.JoshuaSprings.org

**Joshua Springs**  
 CALVARY CHAPEL

Sundays 7:30, 9:00, 10:40 AM & 6:00 PM  
 Wednesdays: 4:30 & 7:00 PM  
 Servicio en Espanol  
 Sundays 10:40 AM Wednesday 7:00 PM  
 CHURCH - CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - BIBLE COLLEGE  
**We Believe... You Belong!**  
 KJSM Radio 97.1 fm / www.kjsmradio.com

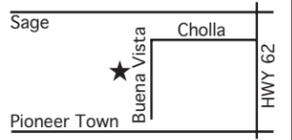


**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.  
 Morning Services.....8:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
 Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.  
 • Nursery Care Available  
 • DON'T MISS "From Calvary with Love",  
 Sunday 10 a.m. on Channel 10  
 • Home of Calvary Baptist Church School K-12  
 Rob D. Watkins  
 Pastor  
 57175 Crestview Drive, Yucca Valley, CA., 92284 760-365-9731  
 (Hwy 247 across from Yucca Valley airport)



**EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
 Senior Pastor Bill Wilcox, Youth Pastor Marcus McDaniel  
 Sundays:  
 Bible Study 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM  
 Nursery & Children's Church Available  
 Mondays: Youth Group 6:30 PM  
 Wednesdays:  
 Adult Bible Study & Youth Awana 6:30 PM  
 Awana during school schedule only  
 6804 Mohawk Trail, YV 760-228-1747  
 www.evfreeyuccavalley.com

**JOIN US IN WORSHIP**  **Basin Wide Opportunities for Praise!**

<p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST</b>                  SUN. SERVICE &amp; SUN. SCHOOL... 10 AM                  WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM                  READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs.-Sat. 12-3 PM                  (Except Holidays)                  56039 Santa Fe Trail • 365-4185                  Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley</p>	<p><b>Skyview Chapel</b>  <b>Church of God</b>                  Worship Service                  10:30 A.M. &amp; 6:30 P.M.                  7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree                  Pastor Abe Casiano                  Church (760) 366-9119</p>	<p><i>This Week's Spotlight Church</i></p> <p><b>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science</b>                  Healing Lives &amp; Building Dreams                  Reverend Ron Scott                  Sunday Celebration &amp; Junior Church 10 AM                  7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley                  365-2205                  yvcrs.org</p>	<p><b>29 Palms Church of the Nazarene</b>                  WELCOMES YOU!                  72603 Juanita Drive • 367-7025                  Morning Service 10:00 am                  Children's Church during AM Service                  Nursery provided</p>	<p><b>29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)                  Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM                  Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM                  Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM                  Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM                  367-9400 FREE CHURCH RIDES</p>	
<p><b>Church of Christ</b>                  Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am                  Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm                  Ladies' Bible Classes 11am Wed.                  Wed. Bible Study 5pm                  7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215</p>	<p><b>Unity Church of Morongo Basin</b>                  Join us for Worship &amp; Celebration                  "New Location"                  Desert Dome                  5420 Border Ave., J.T.                  Church Service - 10:30 AM                  Childrens Church - 10:40 AM                  760-366-4840</p>		<p><b>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b>                  Call for free van ride                  Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship                  Children's Bible School - Rides Available                  Visitors Welcome                  Sunday Concert Series • Call for info                  29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086</p>	<p><b>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b>                  Sunday School 11:30 am • Holy Eucharist 11:30 am                  Sunday Bible Study After Service                  We're Here for Everyone                  Phone (760) 367-7133                  72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms                  www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>	
<p><b>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church</b>                  Just the Best place to get Married  <b>Father Ian Hanley</b>                  Sunday School, Holy Eucharist 9:00 A.M.                  Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p><b>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science</b>                  Healing Lives &amp; Building Dreams                  Reverend Ron Scott                  Sunday Celebration &amp; Junior Church 10 AM                  7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley                  365-2205                  yvcrs.org</p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms</b>                  6250 Mesquite Springs Road                  Phone: 367-7338                  Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. - Worship: 9:30 a.m.                  (Child Care Provided)  <b>Pastor Beth Glass</b>                  "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014</b>                  SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am                  Worship.....10:45am                  WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm</p>		
<p>Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671  <b>The United Methodist Church</b>                  Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:30 AM                  Worship 10:30 AM (Child Care Available)                  Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b>                  (Missouri Synod)                  WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM                  SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM                  WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN                  59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley                  CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool &amp; Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p><b>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church</b>                  56750 Mountain View Trail                  Yucca Valley • 365-6331                  Worship Service 10:00 A.M.                  Child Care, Bible Studies, Youth, Choir                  A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p>	<p><b>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER</b>                  Calvary Chapel Fellowship                  Pastor Joey &amp; Carol Joseph                  6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree                  Sunday Services 9am, 10:30am &amp; 6:00pm                  call (760)366-7420 • Office (760) 366-7422                  Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p>	<p><b>First Southern Baptist Church</b>                  Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm                  Sun. Bible Study 9:30am                  1 st. Wed. Potluck 6:00pm                  Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm                  6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p>	
<p><b>READY FOR A CHANGE? CHECK OUT ONE EIGHTY</b>                  Same Jesus, Same Message, Different Attitude                  Worship with a coffee house atmosphere                  Sundays 10:30 a.m.                  Located directly across from the JT School on Hwy. 62 and Center St. at the South of Joshua Tree                  366-8429 / One80@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>                  6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms                  Service Times                  Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am                  Nursery provided at 9:00am &amp; 11:00am                  367-7812                  www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p><b>Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene</b>                  9:45 am Morning Worship                  8:30 am Sunday School (All ages)                  6:00 pm Evening Service                  56248 Buena Vista, 365-7819                  www.yvnazarene.com</p>	<p><b>Calvary Christian Fellowship</b>                  Tye Bridges - Pastor                  Services Times: Sun 9:30am • Wed 7:00pm                  3133 Balsa, Yucca Mesa Community Center                  Ph: 760.364.1990                  E-mail: tbridges@verizon.net</p>	<p><b>Assembly of God Church</b>                  Pastor Frank Ferrandini                  Sunday School 9:30 am                  Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am                  Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm                  Wed. Service 7:00 pm                  73331 Sullivan Road, 29 Palms • 367-9973</p>	<p><b>Wonder Valley Community Church</b>                  82575 Amboy Road (at Kuhns Road)                  Office: 367-0279                  Bible studies: 9:15AM Sun., 10:00AM Wed.                  Worship: 5:30PM Sat., 10:30AM Sunday                  Pastor: Rex Shaver                  Youth Pastor: Michael Taber</p>

*Come Pray With Us.*

JOIN US IN WORSHIP IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:  
 VALLEY INDEPENDENT PRINTING - COPIES, COLOR COPIES, COMMERCIAL PRINTING AND MORE!  
 7333 Apache Trail, Yucca Valley • 365-6967 • Military and Church Discounts Available

## MCAGCC road paving schedule

**Today:** Continue coating streets with Slurry Seal throughout Adobe Flats, Sunflower Terrace, and Fairway Heights.

**Tomorrow:** Continue coating streets with Slurry Seal throughout Adobe Flats, Sunflower Terrace, and Fairway Heights. Finish final A.C. course overlay at Shadow Mountain.

**Friday:** Finish coating streets with Slurry Seal throughout Adobe Flats, Sunflower Terrace, and Fairway Heights.

**March 24:** Begin adjusting man holes throughout Shadow Mountain and Ocotillo Heights.

**March 25:** Finish adjusting man holes throughout Shadow Mountain and Ocotillo Heights.

**March 26:** Begin striping throughout the project where it's necessary. Begin removal of ground A.C.

**March 27:** Finish striping throughout the project where it's necessary. Continue with removal of ground A.C.

**March 28:** Finish removal of ground A.C.

## The Joshua Tree National Park Volunteers and the Morongo Basin Conservation Association need your help to hold back the mustard!!!

Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) is a non-native plant capable of crowding out native Mojave Desert annuals and creating increased fuel loads and fire danger in local vegetation. This weed is invading Joshua Tree National Park and our communities. It has the potential to do irreversible damage to our landscape if we do nothing to stop it.

Please join a group of volunteers Saturday to pick and bag this invader. Efforts will be concentrated along Hwy. 11 in the Pinto Basin of Joshua Tree National Park. Meanwhile if you see Sahara mustard on your property, please destroy the entire plant including root, blos-

soms and seeds.

When to meet: 8:30 a.m., Saturday

Where to meet: Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center, National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms

What to bring: water, gloves, snacks, hats, sunscreen, pruners/clippers

You can learn more about the "Hold the Mustard" project and see plant photos by going to the Morongo Basin Conservation Association web site at: [http://www.mbconservation.org/index\\_files/Page328.htm](http://www.mbconservation.org/index_files/Page328.htm) For more information about this press release contact Ruth Rieman (760) 364-3455 or [rrieman@riemansculpture.com](mailto:rrieman@riemansculpture.com)

## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### Easter Services

#### Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

**Lenten Penance Service:** Tonight at 5:30 p.m.

**Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
Tomorrow at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday:** Lord's Passion, Friday at 3 p.m.

**Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday Masses:** 8 and 10:30 a.m. only.

**Easter Egg Hunt at the Catholic Chapel grounds:**  
11:45 a.m.

#### Christ Chapel

**Stations of the Cross PT Run:** 6:15 a.m. at 7th Marines parking lot.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** 7 a.m. at Lance Cpl. Gray Field

For more info call 830-6464.

#### 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, mar-  
ried 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\*

Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

#### 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



COURTESY PHOTO

Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), a non-native plant has the potential to do irreversible damage to our landscape if we do nothing to stop it.

## Admin Corner

**TSP:** The Installation Personnel Administration Center Pay Office supports Marines by starting and stopping their Thrift Savings Plan allotments. For all other information and support concerning the TSP, visit the TSP website at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

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

**LEAVE:** What are the differences between annual, convalescent, and emergency leave? Annual and emergency leave are chargeable to a member's leave account, whereas convalescent leave is not chargeable. Annual leave is also referred to as "ordinary leave" and Convalescent Leave as "sick leave." Annual Leave is granted in execution of a command's leave program. Convalescent leave is granted for a period of authorized absence to members under medical care for sickness or wounds and not yet fit for duty, which is part of the treatment prescribed to the member. Emergency leave is granted for a personal or family emergency requiring the Marine's presence. Reference: MCO P1050.3H W/ CH 1-4.

**TRAINING:** Marines should contact their S-1 or S-3 prior to visiting IPAC for training related items to be reported. New enhancements in Marine On-Line allow S-1 or S-3s to report items such as Rifle and PFT scores for their Marines.

**PAY:** 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 Government quarters are responsible for ensuring they are receiving a complete BAH deduction.

#### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (YOUR MONEY)

If you...

- Return from a location outside the U.S.
- Return from outside the U.S. on emergency leave
- Visit a Medical Treatment Facility (Hospital)
- If you are going on Terminal Leave
- Receive notification of orders (PCS or PCA)
- Add or lose a dependent (spouse, child, etc.)
- Transfer units on base (PCA, TAD, or FAP)
- Transfer units from off base (PCS)
- Are a MCCES student with an admin issue

You must report

- to IPAC at the... Deployment Office
- Deployment Office
- Deployment Office
- Separations Office
- Orders Office
- Customer Svc Office
- New Joins Office
- New Joins Office
- HMB Office

No later than...

- 5 days upon return
- 5 days upon return
- 5 days upon return
- 10 days prior to leave
- immediately upon notification
- 5 days of change
- 5 days of reporting
- 5 days of reporting
- 5 days

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



## Combat Center Trader Ads

### AUTOMOTIVE

**FIVE 275/70R18 TIRES** from 2007 F350 4x4. 12,400 miles, great shape, plug in the tread of one. Set of 5 for \$250 OBO. Call (760)799-3045. 3/12/08

**STEPS FROM '07 F350 SUPER CAB 4X4:** Factory chrome steps that drop down 6". Removed when new. Fit F250/350 from 1999-2008 and include brackets and bolts. \$250 for everything. (760)799-3045 3/12/08

**2004 FORD F-250 4X4.** Many extras, lift, 38" tires, 20" rims. Call (760) 220-0749. 3/12/08

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.

**NEW BRAKE ROTORS, FRONT.** Brembo part# 25358. Lexus ES300 92-01. Toyota: Avalon 95-04; Camry V6 92-01; Camry 4-cyl 00-06; Sienna 98-03; Solara 99-03. \$35ea/\$60 both. Call (760) 362-8033 or E-mail jsch99@gmail.com 3/12/08

**2006 MUSTANG V-8 304 GT.** Black convertible. Power everything. 6 disc CD. 12,000 miles. Excellent condition. Ryan (760) 774-0166. 3/12/08

**2001 BUICK LA SABRE.** One owner, well maintained. Under 40K miles. \$8,000. fully loaded. Leather. Call (760) 366-8606. 3/12/08

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

**2003 HARLEY DAVIDSON** Softail Deuce Anniversary Edition; Black. 1450cc with 19,950 miles. Excellent condition with lots of upgrades. \$15,000 firm. More info and pictures can be seen at: <http://www.prospectors-depot.com> (760) 366-3333 3/5/08

**FOR SALE: 2005 KEYSTONE SPRINGDALE,** Travel Trailer. Sleeps 6, 1 Slide, many extras, (601) 329-9896 Located at MCAGCC Twilight Dunes RV Park, # 29. \$18,400. 3/5/08

Web site 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

**'98 HARLEY DAVIDSON ULTRA CLASSIC** Detachable Trunk, true dual exhaust, Real Red, 54K, all maintenance records \$10,500 830-5863 on base (760) 365-1545 2/27/08

**MOTOR HOME FOR SALE 1991 PACE ARROW.** 35ft. Class A. 460 Ford/Oshkosh many extras 61,000 miles. \$25,900 OBO. Call Jon (760) 361-5777. 2/27/08

### MISC.

**PRECOR EFX 546 ELLIPTICAL,** same as in west gym. Bought for \$7,000. Sacrifice for \$3,000. Call (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

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.

**JOGGER STROLLER** excellent condition. \$50. Call (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

**AKC YELLOW LABRADOR** named Charlie. 2 years old. Mommy and daddy are divorcing and I need a new home. \$300. (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

**32-INCH HDTV** flat screen. \$300 OBO (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

**TURTLE FOR SALE.** \$45. Tank and food included. Call (760) 368-9375. NEEDS a good home. 2/27/08

**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

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Looking for a clean responsible roommate. Located in Twentynine Palms. For more information and details, call Lorenzo at (760) 702-0075. 2-13-08

**ROOM FOR RENT:** Two mature Marines seek roommate for a place close to base. All utilities included and garage. \$450/month. Must be clean and responsible. Call (713) 857-7227 for more info. 2-13-08

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

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.

### COUNCIL, from A9

Corps in the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer. The group seemed to enjoy the opportunity to fire the M240 medium machine guns, M249 Squad Automatic Weapons and the M2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun at simulated enemy troops and vehicles.

At the end of the tour, everyone from CFR was impressed with the high standards and steady progression of training Combat Center Marines undergo daily.

"I thought the Mojave Viper training was outstanding," said Greenwood. "Over the past couple of years, it's really come a long way in preparing Marines for what they are going to see in Iraq."

"This was a great opportunity today for the members of the Council on Foreign Relations to see how the Marine Corps is preparing Marines and sailors for deployments to Iraq," added the Quantico, Va., native. "That's really what this whole trip was about."

Other CFR members expressed similar feelings toward what they witnessed throughout the duration of the tour. Gage McAfee, General Electric Asia Pacific Capital managing director and Vietnam veteran, explained how this training is similar to training he went through before deploying to Vietnam.

"It's real easy to go in and kill all the bad guys," said the New York, native. "What's challenging is the aftermath; setting up patrols, searches, establishing relations with the people, etcetera."

"In Vietnam, we had pretty similar training," added McAfee. There was a lot to learn about the language and culture of the Vietnamese people. We also had a lot of weapons training. It was effective then, and it continues to be effective today."

After the tour of the Combat Center, the CFR members lifted off from Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to their next destination, National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif. They will continue to tour training installations in order to achieve a better understanding of the Marine Corps' role in foreign relations.

For more information regarding CFR, you can log on to <http://www.cfr.org> to read about their exploits in providing America with information from around the globe.

## Employee Spotlight

**Employee:** Roseanna E. Speer-Garcia

**Organization:** Copper Mountain College

**Job title:** Admissions and records technician

**Duties:** Register students, answer questions regarding classes and tuition assistance, administer assessment tests and enroll students in the Military Academics Skills Program.

**Hometown:** Jaeger, W. Va.

**Hobbies:** Hiking, photography,

snorkeling, painting and being a movie extra.

**What I like most about my job:** I like helping the military students finish their college degree.

**Most significant achievement aboard MCAGCC:** Encouraging students to come back to finish college and get their degree.

**Have you ever served in the military:** No.

**Time employed at MCAGCC:** Seven months.



# It's TAX TIME

Let these Tax professionals file the best results for you!

**R & A**

**RARICK & ASSOCIATES**

"Serving The High Desert For Over 35 Years"

**Low competitive pricing uncompromising integrity.**

- INDIVIDUAL • CORPORATION
- PARTNERSHIP • OUT-OF-STATE
- FINANCIAL PLANNING
- ENROLLED TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE IRS

"Here Today, Here Tomorrow"

**228-1829**

**57466 29 Palms Hwy., Ste. E**  
Yucca Valley

April 15th is Coming....  
Are you ready?

**How do more Americans know they're getting all they got coming at tax time? People.**

#### H&R Block Maximum Refund Guarantee

When you get people, you don't have to worry. They guarantee you'll get the maximum refund. And they give you options. You can choose where, when and how to get money at tax time. More choices and more control—welcome to life with people.

Stop in to your nearby H&R Block office location listed below. For other locations call 1-800-HRBLOCK or visit [hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com)

**H&R BLOCK**  
"You get people"

**55417 29 Palms Hwy.**  
Yucca Valley  
365-7211

**6260 Adobe Rd.**  
29 Palms  
361-1040

If you discover an H&R Block error on your return which entitles you to a larger refund (or smaller tax liability) than what we calculated, we'll refund your tax preparation fee for that return. Refund claims must be made during calendar year in which tax return is prepared. H&R Block has many options to assist you in obtaining money quickly in connection with tax prep. Restrictions, fees and other charges may apply. ©2007 H&R Block Services, Inc. EHN222

To advertise in this space Call 365-3315 or 367-3577  
IRS forms are getting more and more complicated.  
Tax payers need professional options to file their returns properly.



**Call to reserve your space now!**  
**Hi-Desert Publishing Co.**

*Your Community Newspapers  
Working to Serve You Better!*

# Easter Celebrations

Celebrate  
with the one's  
you love on  
Easter Sunday,  
March 23

760.361.6510  
5898 Adobe Rd.  
Twentynine Palms, CA  
www.gfccc.org

CROSS +  
GRAVE +  
SKY =  
*Victory*  
March 23rd at 11:30 a.m.

GFCCC PRODUCTION PRESENTS:  
**The Champion!**  
A skit reemphasizing that Satan has no victory.  
YOU are invited to come out and enjoy a dynamic message as we  
depict the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

(And that He was buried and that he rose again  
the third day according to the scriptures. Death couldn't  
keep him in the ground. O death where is the sting? O grave  
where is the victory?)  
1 Cor 15:4, 15:55

*Jerry's* **RESTAURANT**  
AND LOUNGE  
Full Service Catering Available

**Easter Dinner Special**  
Delicious Easter Ham  
Au Gratin Potatoes  
Spring Vegetables  
& Fresh Salad  
Sunday March 23rd  
*only \$11.99*  
*Prime Rib & Lobster Available*

365-3460 7499 Kickapoo Trl. Yucca Valley

*Joshua Springs*  
CALVARY CHAPEL

Pastor Jerel Hagerman  
57373 Joshua Lane  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
www.joshuasprings.org  
365-0769

## BELIEVE

Join us for an Easter production  
**Wednesday March 19th 7:00 pm**  
**Good Friday March 21st at 7:00 pm**

**Easter Sunrise Service - Mar. 23rd 6:30 am**  
On the Joshua Springs Football Field with live worship and special message

**Easter Morning Celebration Services**  
7:30, 9:00 & 10:40 am

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Easter Service**

Sunrise Service.....6:00 A.M.  
Breakfast.....7:30 A.M.  
Worship Service  
including Choral  
Presentation.....10:30 A.M.  
Rob D. Watkins  
Pastor

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

• Nursery Care Available  
• DON'T MISS "From Calvary with Love",  
Sunday 10 a.m. on Channel 10  
• Home of Calvary Baptist Church School K-12  
57175 Crestview Drive, Yucca Valley, CA., 92284  
(Hwy 247 across from Yucca Valley airport)  
**760-365-9731**

*Military Welcome!*