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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 2, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 14



4 Three MCAGCC units deploy



6 Titanium welding to become valuable MCAGCC asset



7 Marines stride out at 5th MCCES Fun Run



9 Commandant of Mexican Marine Corps visits Combat Center

This Day in Marine Corps History

-April 2, 2003-

Marines from 1st MEF gain control of Nasiriya, Iraq.

2/7 Marine earns Silver Star for combat valor

CPL. RAY LEWIS

1ST MARINE DIVISION

Any Marine would brave enemy fire to rescue a wounded comrade when you have friends that "got your back."

Cpl. Ian M. Dollard exemplified that sense of brotherhood when he risked his life to save a fellow Marine.

For his actions while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dollard received the Silver Star — the nation's third highest award for combat heroism.

His former company commander, Maj. George D. Hasseltine, pinned the award on Dollard during a ceremony on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field here March 21.

The date was June 24, 2007. While checking a vehicle, Dollard and his men were attacked by automatic machine gun fire.

According to the award citation, Dollard promptly returned fire with his weapon so his Marines could come to the aid of a Marine who was wounded in the attack. Then Dollard and his men started receiving automatic machine gun fire from a second position, which inflicted two gunshot wounds to his platoon commander.

Dollard wasn't going to let the enemy get away with that. He said adrenaline and suppressive fire from his Marines helped him run to

See **SILVER STAR**, A5

Cpl. Ian M. Dollard, rifleman, wears the Silver Star Medal he received on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center March 21. Dollard braved enemy bullets to rescue his platoon commander from an enemy ambush during his deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

PHOTO BY CPL. RAY LEWIS
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Partnering on educational pathways for MUSD students

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center, Morongo Unified School District and the Department of Defense Education Activity are teaming up to improve educational opportunities for students throughout the Morongo Basin.

A meeting was held March 25 at the Battle Command Center aboard the base with Congressman Jerry Lewis, representative from California's 41st District, MUSD and Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, the Combat Center commanding general, to discuss plans to better prepare MUSD students for post secondary education.

Although there were many topics in the briefing, the main

focus for Lewis and Spiese were the elements of educational partnership.

"Education is a primary concern for the commandant and the commanding general," said Alex Pacheco, director of the base's Business Performance Office. "With this leadership, along with our current chief of staff, we are creating and educational community and a partnership with Morongo Unified School District to identify educational needs.

"With that strong relationship with Morongo United School District, we can forge a path for all children," added Pacheco.

Some of the topics the partnership will focus on improving are advanced placement courses,

See **MUSD**, A10



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, and Congressman Jerry Lewis, representative for California's 41st District, discuss an overview of partnership opportunities between the installation and surrounding communities at the base's Battle Command Center during the congressman's visit March 25.



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 31.



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 22 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	2
1/7	2
2/7	3
3/7	1
3/4	8
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	1
NAV HOSP	0
23rd Dental	0
Staff Housing	0
Other	0
Grand Total	22

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	3	0/3	1/Pfc/1LCpl/1Sgt
1/7	2	1/1	2 Pfc
2/7	4	0/4	1Pfc/1LCpl/1Cpl/1SSgt
3/7	7	3/4	1Seaman/3LCpl/3Cpl
3/4	1	0/1	1Cpl
3/11	4	2/2	1Seaman/3Cpl
3rd LAR	5	2/3	1Seaman/1Pvt/1Cpl/1Sgt/1?
1st Tank	2	1/1	1LCpl/1Cpl
3rd AABN	3	2/1	1LCpl/1Cpl/1Sgt
MWSS-374	4	3/1	2Pfc/1LCpl/1Cpl
CLB-7	1	1/0	1Pvt
VMU-1	0	0/0	
MCCES	7	4/3	2Pfc/1LCpl/2Cpl/1GySgt
HQBN	11	5/6	2Pfc/2LCpl/5Cpl/1SSgt/1CWO2
Nav Hosp	1	1/0	1Seaman
23rd Dental	0	0/0	
Other Mil	2	1/1	1Sp4/1GySgt
Mil Dep	0	0/0	
DOD Civ	0	0/0	
Other	1	1/0	1Civ
Grand Total	58		

The total number of Marine-related DUIs so far this year are 58, through March 31.

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

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

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

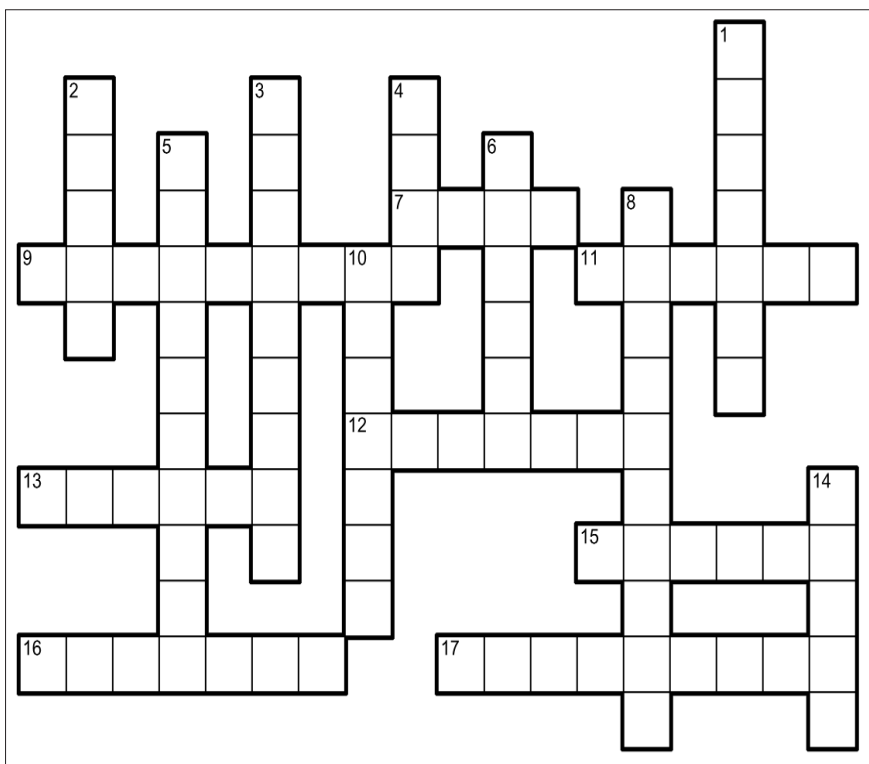
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

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

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



UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS



[Solutions on A11]

ACROSS

7. Won the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1976, but lost the election to his Democratic opponent, former Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia.
9. "Teddy"
11. In 1917 he proclaimed American entrance into World War I a crusade to make the world "safe for democracy."
12. During his administration, the U.S. enjoyed more peace and economic well being than at any time in its history.
13. "The Gipper"
15. He declared war on France in 1940
16. He was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.
17. Wrote his own epitaph without mentioning that he served as president of the U.S.

DOWN

1. During the War of 1812, he became a hero when he defeated the British at New Orleans.
2. "I am not a crook."
3. The only president to serve 2 nonconsecutive terms. The Baby Ruth candy bar was named after his daughter, Ruth.
4. 27th president
5. The first president of the U.S.
6. "Give 'em hell Harry"
8. "Ike"
10. "With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds..."
14. 50 dollar bill

Centerspeak

Most is the most embarrassing thing your parents have ever done to you.

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



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL SETO
1ST TANKS BATTALION, H&S COMPANY

"When I was a freshman in high school, my mom set me up to go to prom with a really fat girl. She picked me up, and we went to Burger King. All my friends saw me there with her. They made fun of me for years."



CPL. LONNIE ASTLE
TTECG

"When I was 4 years old I pooped my pants at church."



STAFF SGT. JUNIOR HAMILTON
3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT, MIKE BATTERY

"I was on the phone with my girl friend, and my mother kept yelling at me in her shrilly voice to get off the phone, and my girlfriend heard her yelling."

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



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	Tina Tuttle	Press Chief	Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz

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	<p>TODAY Digital Mixed Media Magic I Time: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Art Museum 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs For more info call 325-7186</p>	<p>THURSDAY Art Walk in Palm Desert Time: 5-9 p.m. Where: El Paseo District Off Highway 111, between Monterrey and Portola Palm Desert For more info call 346-8885</p>	<p>FRIDAY “Another Day in Baghdad,” a play by Maj. David A. Tucker Time: 8 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Cultural Center 61231 29 Palms Highway Joshua Tree For more info call 366-3777</p>	<p>FRIDAY–SUNDAY Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival, April 4–6 Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center 74485 National Park Drive Twentynine Palms For more info call 367-5537</p>
<p>SATURDAY Pioneertown Posse Old West Re-enactment Troupe Time: 2:30 p.m. Where: Pioneertown Mane Street, in front of Pioneer Bowl For more info call 364-3544</p>	<p>SATURDAY Joss Stone Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indian Springs Pkwy. For more info call 342-5000</p>	<p>SUNDAY Rick Springfield Time: 7 p.m. Where: Casino Morongo Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr. Cabazon For more info call (800)252-4499</p>	<p>SUNDAY Reptiles of the Desert Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Where: Oasis Visitor Center 74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms For more info call 367-5537</p>	<p>MONDAY “Get Rich BEFORE you Retire,” financial lecture Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Public Library 300 S. Sunrise Way Palm Springs For more info call 322-READ</p>

Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

WEDNESDAY
 There Will Be Blood 7 p.m. - R

THURSDAY
 The Eye 6 p.m. - PG-13

FRIDAY
 Over Her Dead Body 6 p.m. - PG-13
 Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins 9 p.m. - PG-13
 The Eye Midnight - PG-13

SATURDAY
 FREE Matinee Ice Age 2 11 a.m. - PG
 Jumper 2 p.m. - PG-13
 Definitely, Maybe 6 p.m. - PG-13
 Step-Up 2 9 p.m. - PG-13
 Untraceable Midnight - R

SUNDAY
 Fool's Gold 2 p.m. - PG-13
 Vantage Point 6 p.m. - PG-13
 Witless Protection 9 p.m. - PG-13

MONDAY
 Over Her Dead Body 7 p.m. - PG-13

TUESDAY
 Untraceable 7 p.m. - R

A guide to LA's top museums' free admission days

Art Now: Contemporary art doesn't have to be a head-scratching experience. But a head massage never hurts.

1. Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Grand Avenue. The museum houses abstract expressionist pieces to pop art to recent works by young artists. Admission is free 5–8 p.m. on Thursdays.

2. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. This converted warehouse is where “too large for the California Plaza” installation art finds a home. Admission is free 5–8 p.m. on Thursdays.

3. MOCA Pacific Design Center. This MOCA outpost has rotating exhibits of architecture, design and photography. Admission is always free.

4. Museum of Neon Art. The museum saves these pieces of contemporary art from being overlooked on the highway. Admission is free every second Thursday of the month from 5–8 p.m.

The Classics: Everyone can appreciate the masters of art. Well, if not, everyone can appreciate a free cultural experience.

1. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). After seeing Mary Cassatt's “Mother About to Wash Her Sleepy Child,” visitors can also see the plaza where Steve Martin roller-skated in L.A. Story. Admission to the museum's galleries is free every day after 5 p.m., and all day on the second Tuesday of every month.

2. Norton Simon Museum. Raphael, Botticelli, Rembrandt, Renoir, Monet, Degas, Picasso and Van Gogh—they're all here. Admission is free the first Friday of every month from 6–9 p.m.

3. Hammer Museum. Occidental Petroleum founder Armand Hammer left his collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, including work from Monet, van Gogh and Pissarro, to the general public. Admission is free every Thursday.

4. The Getty Center. Reasons to visit include Claude Monet, Andy Warhol, Walker Evans, Eugène Atget, Edmund Teske and Weegee. Admission to the Getty is always free.

5. Getty Villa. Modeled after a Roman villa, this branch of Getty's collection focuses on ancient Greek and Roman art. Admission to the Getty Villa is always free.

Natural Wonders: Evolution versus creationism? Let's not go there. Just look at the stuffed animals and flowers. Pretty flowers.

1. Natural History Museum. This popular museum houses dinosaurs, bugs and dioramas about African and North American mammals. Admission is free every first Tuesday of the month.

2. George C. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. Saber-tooth tigers, woolly mammoths and giant sloths. Who knew taxidermy was so cool? Admission is free every first Tuesday of the month.

3. Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. The 150 acres include the Rose Garden, with its 1,200-plus varieties; the Japanese and Zen Gardens; and the surreal Desert Garden. Admission is free on the first Thursday of every month.

4. Los Angeles County Arboretum. A sort of lesser-known cousin to the Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens, the Arboretum makes up for its #2 stature with a plethora of classes and tours.

5. California Science Center. The center is an innovative, hands-on “edutainment” museum. The permanent gallery is always free.

For more log on to <http://www.la.com>.

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Three MCAGCC units deploy over weekend

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Elements from three Combat Center units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Saturday and Sunday.

More than 100 Marines and sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, 16 Marines and sailors from Alpha Company, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion and 150 service members from Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, departed for separate deployments to various parts of Iraq.

MWSS-374 loaded their gear and boarded buses to join the rest

of their Marines for a seven-month deployment to Southern Al Anbar Province.

The Marines conducted multiple exercises aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., throughout the last year to prepare for this deployment.

"We went through multiple training exercises to prepare for this deployment," said Capt. Lisa O'Brien, company commander and communications officer. "We aced all our training, including WTI [Weapons Tactics Instructors course], Desert Talon and convoy training."

O'Brien, a Minneapolis native, expressed her confidence in the squadron's abilities due to the constant training they had accom-

plished throughout the year.

The Marines and sailors of MWSS-374 will be supporting air fields and recovering downed aircraft during their seven-month deployment.

While MWSS-374 loaded into their buses, 16 Marines and sailors from Alpha Company, 3rd CEB, departed the Combat Center for their deployment.

The 138 Marines and sailors from the company have been activated for their first combat deployment since Operation Desert Storm. They will be deployed in support of Regimental Combat Team 5 from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"This is a pivotal moment for the

See DEPLOY, A8



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines from Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, say goodbye to their wives before deploying with Alpha Company, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Saturday. Six Marines from TOW Platoon deployed with Alpha Company, 3rd CEB, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Cpl. Khalee Oshea, Nuclear Biologic Chemical Noncommissioned Officer, Headquarters Company, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, laughs with her husband, Rian Oshea before she leaves for a seven-month deployment to Al Anbar Province Saturday.

HOT TOPICS

TAKE-OUT SERVICE CHOW

Phelps Hall, building 1460, will be offering Take-Out Service starting April 1. The service will start after the breakfast meal at 8:30 a.m. and end prior to the lunch meal at 10:30 a.m. This is a four to six month trial period. Making the service permanent will depend on the amount of business during the trial period. Any questions can be directed to Master Sgt. Marco L. Barnes at 830-8023 or 830-6632.

NAVAL HOSPITAL RIDGE RUN

The annual Ridge Run sponsored by Naval Hospital MWR will be held April 18. The race course will be the same as last year at Range 100. The start and finish line will be behind the Naval Hospital. Race 1 will consist of a 5K run through the trails above the hospital. This race should be relatively flat. Race 2 will be a strenuous 8K run, through sand, up and down hills. Get ready for a challenge. The race will begin at 7 a.m. Race day registration will begin at 6 a.m. The cost is \$10 for individuals signing up for the run before April 11, \$13 for individuals signing up after April 11, and \$5 for squad runners (5 or more per squad). All runners will receive a commemorative engraved Dog Tag. For more information please contact Dan Barber at 830-2362.

KIDS PFT: PLAY AND FUN TIME

Are you a Marine or sailor that can kick a soccer ball, play chase (tag), or throw a football with children of those forward deployed? If so, we need you on April 20 at 2 p.m. at the East Gym Basketball Court. For more information please e-mail kidspftpalms@live.com.

BEGINNERS RIDER COURSE

The Safety Center is now conducting a Beginners Rider Course on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you have completed the classroom portion of the BRC and have your own motorcycle, come in and get signed up for range time. The weather is starting to warm up and the ranges are going to be filling up soon. To sign up, come to building 1447. If you have any questions, contact Bob Piirainen at 830-6154.

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Suicide prevention and awareness

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death of Marines and sailors. There are however, steps you can take to prevent your loved ones from becoming a statistic.

If you suspect a friend or loved one is contemplating suicide do not be afraid to confront them about it. Clarify the details and find out if they have a plan and means to carry it out. Also do not leave the person alone and be willing to listen.

Never be sworn to secrecy and do not act shocked at the fact a friend or loved one is experiencing suicidal behavior.

"Some warning signs of suicidal behavior are lost interest in personal appearance, self destructive marks, increased use of alcohol or drugs and the giving away of prized possessions," said Tanya Stuckey, prevention and education specialist, Marine Corps Community Services,

Family Advocacy Program.

If a friend or loved one is suicidal do not lecture them on the value of life and do not debate whether suicide is right or wrong. Be open and allow them to express their feelings.

There are several risk factors that can contribute to suicide such as mental health problems like depression or substance abuse, suicidal thoughts and a history of suicidal behavior, added Stuckey.

The Combat Center takes several steps toward suicide prevention and awareness.

"One thing the base does to try to prevent suicides is that MCCS Marine & Family Services provides support for the annual Suicide Awareness training requirement," said Peter Morris, Family Advocacy Program Branch Head, Marine & Family Services Division.

An individual contemplating suicide may provide subtle clues to fellow Marines, friends or family that something is not right in

their life. With heightened awareness of the signs and symptoms of suicidal behavior, those friends and family members may be able to intervene before an irrevocable action is taken, added Morris.

According to Master Sgt. John Humbertson, operations officer, Provost Marshal's Office, the majority of interventions PMO is involved with result from phone calls from friends and loved ones.

More than 30,000 Americans commit suicide every year.

Research shows a connection between Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and suicide. Traumatic events such as sexual abuse, domestic violence and combat-related trauma generally increase one's suicide risk.

Just remember you can save the life of a friend or loved one by simply showing that you care and taking action.

For more information about suicide prevention and awareness visit <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent/index.cfm>.



COURTESY PHOTO

The steps friends family members take can greatly help to prevent their loved ones from committing suicide.

Counseling services for suicide prevention

MCCS Counseling Services hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

On Mondays MCCS provides "open door" counseling from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Building 1438.

SILVER STAR, from A1

the sound of the enemy's gunfire.

Without regard for his personal well-being, Dollard narrowly avoided enemy bullets to reach his commander. He then shielded his commander from danger, only to get struck himself, taking two rounds to his upper torso body armor.

He was dazed but still persisted to provide first aid to his commander. Then he dragged the lieutenant 25 meters and continued to provide first aid. Seconds later, Dollard was struck in the leg by small arms fire. He refused medical care, then directed his fire team to tend to his commander's wounds.

Even after a vehicle arrived to the Marines' rescue, Dollard still refused medical attention until his wounded Marines were treated first.

Dollard's parents are extremely proud of their son's accomplishments.

"Ever since he was born I knew he was going to be special," said Judy Dollard, mother of Cpl. Dollard, of Pleasant, Calif. "It was something that I just felt. He always was that kind of guy that stood up for his friends."

Cpl. Dollard's father said he didn't expect anything like this.

"I know he worked hard in Iraq," said Todd Dollard, father of the Silver Star Medal recipient. "It's nice to have something like this to focus it all. Everybody we've talked to about this [has] been supportive of this."

Cpl. Dollard's former company commander flew here from Arizona to be a part of the ceremony.

"I wanted to recognize his achievement and the achievements of the company," said Hasseltine, Company F's commander during the time of Dollard's heroic actions.

Dollard was grateful for the award, but humble.

"I don't know what to say; it feels good," he said. "It was a lot of adrenaline. I know I had machine guns doing their job, so I felt safer."

Dollard currently works as a lifeguard at one of the recreational swimming facilities here and will do so until his Marine Corps contract expires in September.

Meanwhile, Dollard's former unit will become the first battalion-sized Marine unit to support the Afghan National Police in

Afghanistan since 2006 when they deploy this spring.

2/7 will follow in the footsteps of freedom fighters from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment ; 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and 1st Battalion; 3rd Marine Regiment.

Resources available for those in need

- Naval Hospital Emergency Room 830-2354
- San Bernardino Suicide Hotline (800) 832-9119
- Naval Hospital Mental Health Center 830-2935
- Catholic Chaplain 830-6456
- Protestant Chaplain 830-6464
- Duty Chaplain 830-2190
- CLB – 7 Chaplain 830-6703
- Headquarters Battalion 830-4571
- MCCES Chaplain 830-6489
- MWSS-374 Chaplain 830-7494
- 7th Marine Regiment Chaplain 830-4106
- 1st Tanks Battalion Chaplain 830-6789
- 1/7 Chaplain 830-5905
- 2/7 Chaplain 830-5865
- 3rd LAR Chaplain 830-6057
- 3/4 Chaplain 830-8667
- 3/7 Chaplain 830-7268
- 3/11 Chaplain 830-5540
- PMO 830-6800



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Titanium welding to become valuable MCAGCC asset

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A new capability was adopted by the Combat Center March 21 when three Exercise Support Division welders and one Facilities Maintenance Branch welder took the final test to qualify as certified titanium welders.

For the Combat Center, having titanium welders aboard the installation will reduce the cost and time-consuming process of repairing military equipment that is made out of titanium.

Although there are numerous types of welding, titanium welding is the least common.

Having this additional capability

at the Combat Center will reduce the cost of shipping equipment to other bases. It will also allow titanium-based equipment to be prepared more quickly so it can be returned to the fight.

"When the Marine Corps finds out we have a group here who can weld titanium, we're going to be getting equipment from back east," said Michael Urteaga, an ESD welder. "As of right now, we're one of the bases shipping our equipment out to get repaired."

One piece of titanium equipment used by the Combat Center and the Marine Corps is the M777 ultralightweight howitzer, said Master Sgt. Rocky Bennett, ESD ordnance chief. Before, 3/11 had

to ship its howitzers to other bases, sometimes even overseas, to repair any damages.

Now, the ESD welders will be able to fix them here aboard the installation.

Some of the benefits of titanium are it is more readily available, has more strength than steel with one-third the weight, and does not rust or corrode.

However, there are two factors which may inhibit the growth of titanium welding with the Marine Corps, the cost and ability to produce the metal.

The first problem is the cost of titanium. Although it may be lighter and stronger than steel, high quality products seldom comes without a high price tag.

According to an article published in the March 2008 issue of "Inside Business" magazine, titanium is going to become the premiere metal for the military. However, titanium may be more high quality than steel or aluminum, but it is not as cost-effective.

Titanium is very expensive and the use of this metal as opposed to steel will triple the cost, said Charles Clark, Defense Metals Technology Center executive director for North Canton, Ohio, in the article.

Instead of the traditional heat and pressure process used to produce steel, titanium involves a more complicated chemical process, making it much more expensive.

The second factor causing titanium to be overlooked as an alternative to steel is the complication of the welding process.

"Titanium is much more difficult and exotic to weld," said Leslie Hundley, an ESD welder. "Unlike steel and aluminum, the conditions have to be just right in order to weld titanium. If you let any impurities from the air get to your titanium weld, it can become brittle."

Despite these two factors, titanium has numerous advantages over steel and aluminum, and is still being looked at as the pre-



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The heat and pressure from the torch fuse two pieces of titanium pipe together.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Michael Urteaga, an Exercise Support Division welder, fuses two pieces of titanium pipe together Friday at the ESD welding shop during his final test to become certified as a titanium welder.

miere metal for the military. The Army has already begun to build up-armor for their vehicles out of titanium and the Navy has changed several types of ships and submarines into titanium vessels.

Henry Jackson, owner of Vocational Training International, Inc., came to the Combat Center Friday to test the skills of the four welders and certify them as titanium welders.

"In our field, there are only a handful of people qualified to weld titanium," he said. "This is a first for this base, and it'll be a good thing for these guys to be able to repair these guns and any other titanium equipment they may have in the future."

The titanium welding course, which is normally four to six weeks long, was completed by the four Combat Center welders in 32 hours, added Jackson.

Jackson spent 20 years in the Navy as a welder, where he earned his titanium welding certification. He now provides training through his own company, VTI, and is a full-time welding professor at Riverside Community College, Riverside, Calif.

Urteaga also gave credit to the machine shop at ESD for preparing and cutting the piping needed for the welders to test.

Without their help, we would not be able to test today, he said.

With this new capability, the Combat Center will now be able to repair its own howitzers as well as equipment from other installations which lack titanium welders.

As the future of military metal may move toward titanium, the Combat Center will be able to adjust to the change and keep the Marine Corps running smoothly.



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Marines stride out at 5th MCCES Fun Run



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Runners sprint toward the finish line at the 5th annual MCCES Fun Run March 21, at the Combat Center's Building 1831. The event is held twice a year to raise money for the MCCES Marine Corps Ball.

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 230 Marines, sailors, their dependents and civilians participated in the fifth biannual MCCES Fun Run March 21, at the Combat Center's Building 1831.

The event was open to the public and included a 5-kilometer St. Patrick's Day costume contest run, a 10K run, a half-marathon and a five-member team half-marathon.

MCCES holds this event every March and October in order to raise money for the Marine Corps birthday ball, said Col. Kevin Nally, MCCES commanding officer.

As each runner crossed the finish line, Capt. Jason Roberts, MCCES Fun Run officer-in-charge, announced their time and congratulated them on a run well done. Food and drinks were waiting for each runner.

Amy Fauls, owner of Tropical Massage in Yucca Valley, and her staff offered free massages to each runner as well.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three St. Patrick's Day costumes.

Medals were awarded to the top three runners in each race as well as the best runners in each age group.

Vincent Camilo was the



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Master Sgt. Juan Lizalde, supply staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Headquarters Company, MCCES, sprints toward the finish line with his dog.

first male to finish the 5K at 00:20:32, followed by Steven Smith at 00:21:12 and Spencer Felder at 00:21:29.

Rachel Robinson finished the 5K race first for the females coming in at

00:21:35. Lindsay Gonzalez came in second with a time of 00:24:59, followed by Lacy Richey at 00:26:16.

The first male to finish the

See RUN, A8

2/7 rules the night at NUMOC



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Two Marines from Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, carry a casualty to an evacuation vehicle during the Night Urban Motorized Operations Course at Combat Center Range 215 Thursday. Log on to <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil> for the full story.

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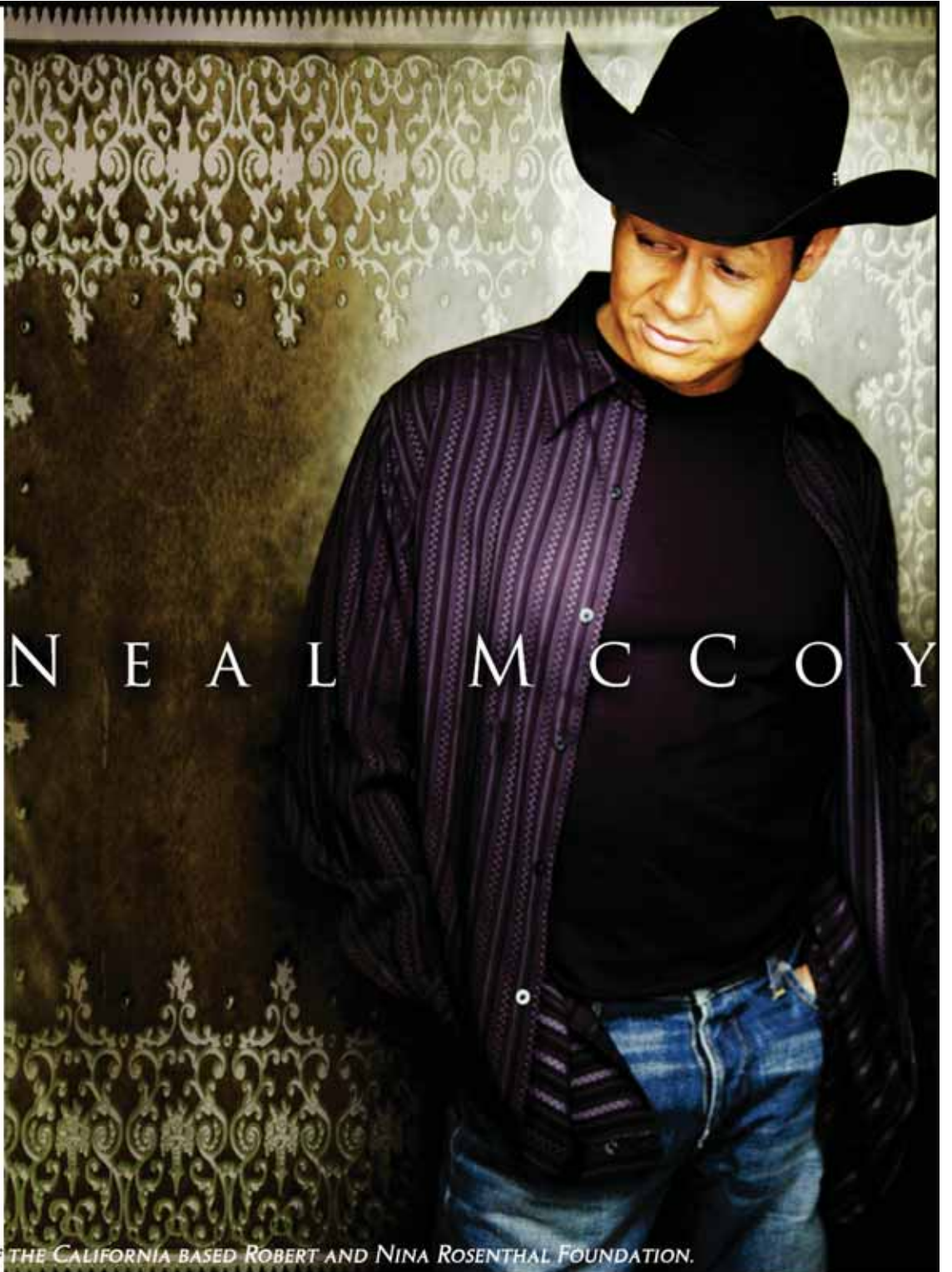
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RUN, from A7

10K race was David O'Neil at 00:42:47 followed by Carlos Garcia, Russell Penolan and Jimmy Pineda at 00:44:20. Lizette Hernandez finished the 10K first for the females at 48:38:00. Delilah Carden came in second at 57:55:00 followed by Leslie Aguilar at 58:42:00.

"This event is a celebration of physical fitness and endurance," said Don Tolbert, race director and logistics specialist for MCCES. "We have fun out here." Tolbert, a Canton, Ohio, native, retired from the Marine Corps as a lieutenant colonel and participates as a triathlon athlete. He was the first to finish the

half-marathon with a time of 1:33:42. Eduardo Segueria finished with 1:37:38 and Edgar Caballero at 1:38:36. Fabiola Pamatz was the top runner for the females in the half-marathon at 1:37:36, followed by Melisa Dowd at 1:55:23 and Darcy Passol at 1:58:48.

The run not only raised money for the unit's Marine Corps Ball, it motivated the participants. "This event is good for morale and enhances physical training," said Nally, a Troy, Ohio, native. "It gives the Marines something fun to do instead of running three miles in formation." The next MCCES Fun Run is scheduled for Oct. 31, featuring Halloween "Ghost Run" costume contest event.

DEPLOY, from A4

battalion," said First Sgt. Manuel Colon, Alpha Company first sergeant. "We're ready to conduct operations in theater and bring everybody home safely. Our flag is officially flying forward." The battalion was officially reactivated Oct. 30 when the colors were passed to Alpha Company after being deactivated in 1995. Now, after only five months of preparation, Alpha Company is ready to deploy. In addition to the Alpha Company Marines from TOW Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, are also deploying to support Alpha Company. Due to the nature of CEB

deployments, Alpha Company will be broken up by platoons to support multiple infantry battalions deployed overseas. "This deployment is kind of a unique challenge for us," said Capt. John C. Morgan, Alpha Company commander. "We're sending lots of different elements in different directions. Our company is compiled from two different duty stations - here and Camp Pendleton." Elements of the company are currently deployed supporting 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. More Marines and sailors from Alpha Company, 3rd CEB, will deploy later this month in support of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. While MWSS-374 and 3rd CEB were well on their way to Iraq, Mike Battery, 3/11, loaded their buses and bid farewell to friends and families the next morning for their deployment. Mike Battery deployed as an artillery battery, yet will also be conducting provisional missions such as vehicle checkpoints and convoy security.

"This is what they have been training to do for the last four months," said Lt. Col. James C. Lewis, 3/11 Battalion Commander. "I am confident the training they went through prepared them for this deployment." Mike Battery is the second unit from 11th Marine Regiment, and second battery from 3/11 to deploy with the M777A2 Howitzer.

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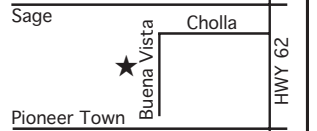
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Commandant of Mexican Marine Corps visits the Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center hosted the Commandant of the Mexican Marine Corps and other Mexican Navy staff March 26 to 28.

As the Mexican military looks to build training facilities in support of their war on drug trafficking, it was the Combat Center they looked to for inspiration.

"I will be taking back to my country the importance and benefits of having a training facility that prepares units and individuals to complete real world missions," said Rear Adm. Pedro Garcia Valerio, Commandant of the Mexican Marine Corps,

through a translator.

Valerio toured the Expeditionary Airfield; Military Operations in Urban Terrain facilities and Camp Wilson, the staging area for pre-deployment training, with his staff to gather ideas to design more than a dozen similar training facilities throughout Mexico.

"They are going to be building 17 battalion sized bases in 17 coastal states," said Ronald J. Cruz, director of Government Programs and Relations and translator for the Mexican Marines. "They are building to add additional support for their tactical support of the Mexican war on drugs [Counter Drug Effort]."

The commandant said it became apparent that the real

success of any armed force is the preparedness for that time their training must be put to use in a hostile environment.

Capt. John Bussard, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 airfield company commander, provided the commandant and his staff information about how the EAF works, how many aircraft it can maintain, how the runways were built, and what material was used.

Speaking through a translator, Cmdr. Marco Antonio Martinez Tenorio, Mexican Navy General Staff, expressed his amazement regarding the EAF.

"I am impressed with the EAF, in particular the runway," said Tenorio. "The fast technology used permits rapid construction and utilization of tactical fields for real world missions."

After touring the EAF, Valerio and his Marines stopped by Camp



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Ronald J. Cruz, director of Government Programs and Relations translates for Rear Adm. Pedro Garcia Valerio, Commandant of the Mexican Marine Corps, as Capt. John Bussard, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 airfield company commander, explains how the Expeditionary Airfield works, how many aircraft it can maintain and how the runways are built at the Combat Center's EAF March 26.

Wilson for the second part of their tour.

A slideshow was presented to the commandant to explain how Camp Wilson is run. The information presented ranged from food services to the position of

Camp Commandant.

"I was especially impressed with the logistical support in place for the units that come through here," said Cruz, translating for Cmdr. Javier

See MEXICO, A12

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+
Sun 10 a.m. Rosary
Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sun 4 p.m. Choir Practice
Sun 4 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Grp.
Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary
Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group age 18-35, married or single (3rd Sunday of the month)
Fri 12:15 - 4:30 p.m. Exposition/ Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)

Holy Days of Obligation Masses

12:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Non-denominational Christian Service Christ Chapel

Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School*
Sun 9 a.m. Worship*
Wed 7 p.m. Praise & Worship*

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.

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ATLAS SELF STORAGE

MCAGCC hosts 50th hoops tourney

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center hosted the 50th Annual Boy's Basketball Tournament at the East and West fitness centers from March 28 to 30.

The open gate event consisted of 60 boy's basketball teams from around the surrounding areas from ages eight to 14.

The Barstow B-Town Ballers defeated the Redondo Beach Youth Basketball All-Stars 33-31 for third place overall in the fifth and sixth grade "A" Division March 30.

Valley Wide Cordoba got first place in the tournament and Valley Wide Murrietta placed second overall. Both teams are from the Hemet and San Jacinto, Calif., area.

The game started out even as both teams scored six points each in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Ballers outplayed the All-stars and took a 15-13 lead at the end of the half.

The second half started out fast-paced and full of intensity from both teams as the crowd cheered.

Both teams were hammering on a full-court press the entire game.

The Ballers extended their lead late in the third quarter to 19-15 with 2:38 left on the clock, but the All-stars battled back and cut the lead to 21-19 at the end of the quarter.

The coaches gave their teams one final inspiring pep talk before they headed back out on the court to play the final quarter.

The Ballers struck first in the fourth extending their lead to 23-19 with 5:35 left to go in the game.

The All-stars would not go down without a fight and tied the game for the first time since the first quarter at 25 with only 2:31 left to play.

As the clock quickly wound down, the All-stars were down 33-31 with only three seconds left on the clock and had one final chance to force the game into overtime.

On the inbound pass the All-stars missed



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Players from the Redondo Beach Youth Basketball All-stars and the Barstow B-town Ballers fight for the ball during the 50th Annual Boy's Basketball Tournament March 30. The tournament welcomed 60 teams from the surrounding areas to the Combat Center and city of Twentynine Palms, Calif., for the three-day event.



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Ballers power forward Gino Silva throws up a shot during the 50th Annual Boy's Basketball Tournament March 30.

See **TOURNEY, A12**

MUSD, from A1

which are more accelerated than standard school courses, Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, which is a program designed to help underachieving students succeed in college, and special education programs, for students who require additional teaching for special needs.

One of the most important things the Combat Center is doing to facilitate an increase in quality education is to hire a school liaison officer, said Pacheco. This new position will work directly with Col. Robert J. Abblitt, the Combat Center chief of staff, in order to assist the schools with their educational needs.

Due to limited resources, DoDEA's educational focus lies solely with military dependents attending school. However, the Combat Center is committed not only to the children of military families, but to all children within the school district.

"We will be using DoD assets so we can improve the quality of life within the Morongo Unified School District," said James Ricker, G-5 assistant chief of staff. "All entities here within the Morongo Basin should be look-

ing at any way to partner with the Morongo Unified School District because they have the very daunting task of preparing our children to be the leaders of this country in the future."

One way Spiese proposed to increase educational opportunities aboard the installation is through the Lifelong Learning Center and Education Office. Although both amenities are useful to Combat Center personnel, they are currently limited.

Plans are in motion for a Lifelong Learning Center with benefits open to the entire community as well. Spiese mentioned the educational importance of both locations and the potential impact they have on students, especially those enrolled in advanced placement classes.

The gears began turning for the education projects last fall when representatives from MCAGCC, MUSD and DoDEA met at the 2007 National Association for Impacted Schools Conference in Washington, D.C.

The conference established a relationship between the Combat Center and DoDEA, and also helped both parties achieve an understanding of challenges the school district faces.

"A big part of the problem is

moving," said Pacheco. "When you PCS [Permanent Change of Station] and uproot your family, it can create a lot of stress. We want to provide a smooth transition in the schools to families to reduce the stress of moving from one place to another.

"The Morongo Unified School District knows the diffi-

"This is a fabulous and wonderful opportunity here, judging by the attitude toward education," said Congressman Jerry Lewis, addressing the attending MUSD members. "I'm frankly pleased you're on top of the questions people will want to ask."

culties of having to move your children and the stress involved, which also helps build our relationship," he added.

In February, another meeting took place, which gave DoDEA and MUSD the opportunity to directly partner up and identify the needs of the school district. Also present were representatives from Marine Corps Installations West and Marine Forces Pacific Hawaii.

Vehicle thefts, inside and out

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING, THE PROACTIVE VOICE OF CRIME PREVENTION

PRESENTED BY THE PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION SECTION

Anytime you park your vehicle and walk away, your vehicle is a target!

Depending on how you leave it, secured or unsecured, could result in the theft of the vehicle or items within.

Several major reasons for thefts of cars includes; joyriding and export or "chopping" (disassembling cars for spare parts). Youth joyriding makes up the largest group of these types of offenses and is usually recovered quickly. Often when vehicles are stolen, they are taken to "chop" shops and broke down for the value of the parts which are sometimes more profitable than selling the vehicle outright or the vehicles get shipped to various countries depending on their value. Victims of stolen vehicles report the theft to their insurance companies which in turn makes insurance rates go up not just for themselves but for everyone.

Theft of property from vehicles makes up approximately 85 percent of all vehicle related thefts in the United States. This is due to the fact that vehicles are not secured when the owners walk away. Windows and sunroofs are left open, doors are left unlocked, and all with valuables left out in plain sight. When you fail to secure your vehicle, you are asking for someone to come and take your belongings.

Common items stolen are CDs, DVD players, MP 3 players, money and keys because

they are easy to grab and go. All these items can be sold quickly and easily, and without any identifiable markings there is nothing to tie these items back to the rightful owner.

There are things that can be done to prevent your vehicle from being an easy target for thieves by locking your car up before walking away. Putting valuables out of sight before leaving and being aware of your surroundings before walking away from the car.

Aboard MCAGCC there have been about 19 thefts of or from vehicles in the past year. Please remember to secure your vehicles at all times, even if all you are doing is running up to your barracks room or into the house for a moment. If you have left the car unlocked with money or any other valuables in plain sight, you have created an opportunity. By being aware of your surroundings, securing your property, you can lower the chances of becoming a victim. Also, marking or engraving valuables like portable DVD players and MP3 players can aid in identification if they are stolen when checks are conducted at pawn shops.

The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section: Literature, Briefings, Education, Crime Assessments, Safety Tips, Stranger Danger Program, McGruff the Crime Dog, Officer Friendly Program, Operation Identification (Property Identification), Child Identification and Fingerprinting.

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

"We want this to be a win/win situation for everybody," said Pacheco. "The base will share its successes and lessons learned from the program with MCI West and MARFORPAC Hawaii.

"DoDEA has limited resources, so we are fortunate to have been selected to spearhead the charge," he added.

Another way the Combat Center will be helping DoDEA and MUSD is by offering to host future meetings between the two groups.

After the meeting March 25, the Congressman was impressed with the idea and more than happy to contribute.

"This is a fabulous and wonderful opportunity here, judging by the attitude toward education," he said, addressing the attending MUSD members. "I'm frankly pleased you're on top of the questions people will want to ask."

"With that spirit, I ask you to go forward with it and I'll try to help you any way I can," added Lewis.

The Combat Center is playing a crucial role in facilitating meetings between DoDEA and MUSD to ensure the schools can provide the necessary education for their students.

"The ultimate goal is for the

kids to get a good, quality education to prepare them for post-secondary schools, whether it is a community college or a four-year college," said Pacheco.

The plans being set by DoDEA, MUSD and the Combat Center will not only benefit students from military families, but students throughout the Morongo Basin, said Ricker. Not only will they benefit the students, but they will also solidify the already close-knit ties between the installation and surrounding communities.

"Right now, the professional relationship we have with the Marine Corps base is probably the best it's ever been and I've been on the school board for 20 years," said Mike Walker, the MUSD assistant superintendent for business services.

This relationship is only expected to grow over time as the installation and the communities work together to achieve common goals.

Additional meetings will be held with the Combat Center, DoDEA and MUSD in the coming weeks to work more in depth on providing quality education for all students in the Morongo Basin.

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

MOTOR HOME FOR SALE 1991 PACE ARROW. 35 ft. class A. 460 Ford/Oshkosh many extras. 61,000 miles. \$19,500. OBO. Call Jon at 361-5777. 3/31/08

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

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

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

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

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.prospectorsdepot.com> (760) 366-3333 3/5/08

MISC.

FREE TO GOOD HOME 2 YEAR OLD NEUTERED AKC YELLOW LAB. Male references requested. Affectionate and housebroken. 880-1773 during evenings. 4-2-08

18 X 33 ABOVE GROUND SWIMMING POOL w/ liner/ladder. Free for the taking. Call (760) 285-1603 3/26/08

2 GOLDEN RETRIEVERS. Free to good home: 3 yrs old each. Registered, neutered. Never been apart, love kids! Call (760) 285-1603 3/26/08

FREE 50 GALLON FISH TANK WITH TWO FISH. My office space is shrinking, and the wife won't have it in the house. Call (760) 401-3752. 3/26/08

PATIO FURNITURE. 6 chairs w/table and 2 chairs w/side table. \$100 takes All. (760) 285-1603 3-26-08

PUMP FOR ABOVE GROUND SWIMMING POOL. \$100. Call (760) 285-1603 3/26/08

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for a clean responsible roommate. Located in Twentynine Palms. For more information call Jaime at (310) 425-5445. 3/26/08

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Birth announcements

CHRINA JO BENNETT

Daughter of Sgt. James Bennett and wife, Jeanine. Born on Feb. 25, 2008, weighing 5 lbs, 5 oz and measuring 18 inches.

PURNELL JAMES BENNETT

Son of Sgt. James Bennett and wife, Jeanine. Born on Feb. 25, 2008, weighing 4 lbs, 13 oz and measuring 17.7 inches.

ALEX RAY SHERIDAN

Son of Sgt. Leslie Sheridan and wife, Destiny. Born on Feb. 26, weighing 8 lbs, 2 oz and measuring 22.5 inches.

CAELEIGH JEAN BROWN

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Brown and wife, Amanda. Born on Feb. 28, weighing 7 lbs, 8 oz and measuring 18.2 inches.

NORA LINDA LOTT

Daughter of Cpl. Aaron Lott and wife, Marcella Parker-Lott. Born on Feb. 28, weighing 7 lbs, 12.8 oz and measuring 19.5 inches.

KITANA NICHOLE OSTOS

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Michael Ostos and wife, Ana. Born on March 3, weighing 7 lbs, 4 oz and measuring 18.9 inches.

JOEL JAMES TIMOTHY CHANDLER

Son of Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Chandler and wife, Emily. Born on March 4, weighing 9 lbs, 10 oz and measuring 19.7 inches.

RICHARD JOHN BREESE

Son of Master Sgt. John R. Breese and wife, Ever. Born on March 7, weighing 6 lbs, 7.4 oz and measuring 18.3 inches.

ADRYANNA NOEL ENGLAND

Daughter of Cpl. Kevin A. England and wife, Tara. Born on March 7, weighing 7lbs., 1.2 oz. and measuring 19.9 inches

ELIAS REUBEN SANABRIA

Son of Navy Lt. Michelle Perkins and Eduardo Sanabria. Born on March 7, weighing 7 lbs, 10 oz and measuring 20.4 inches.

HUNTER CHASE ADAMS

Son of Lance Cpl. Robert B. Adams and wife, Jessica. Born on March 11, weighing 5 lbs, 13.6 oz and measuring 18.6 inches.

MADDISON LYNN COLE

Daughter of Cpl. Aaron L. Cole and wife, Morgan. Born on March 11, weighing 6 lbs, 10 oz and measuring 19 inches.

ASPEN LOREN DENLINGER

Daughter of Sgt. Jason Denlinger and wife, Tiffany. Born on March 11, weighing 6 lbs, 10 oz and measuring 17.9 inches.

DAKODA RILEY LARSEN

Daughter of Sgt. Brendan Larsen and wife, Tanisha. Born on March 12, weighing 8 lbs, 3.4 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

CHARLOTTE MAE PRICE

Daughter of Cpl. Ian Price and wife, Jamie. Born on March 12, weighing 7 lbs, 6.5 oz and measuring 19.3 inches.

TRACER CALVIN CLEMENT

Son of Lance Cpl. Calvin Clement and wife, Megan. Born on March 14, weighing 7 lb, 8 oz and measuring 19 inches.



Employee Spotlight



Name: Lindy Seto

Organization: Marine Corps Community Services

Job Title: Area Coordinator

Hometown: Sumrall, Miss.

Hobbies: I am an avid reader, traveling, and I have recently taken up motorcycle riding.

Job details: I serve as a liaison between the commands and MCCS.

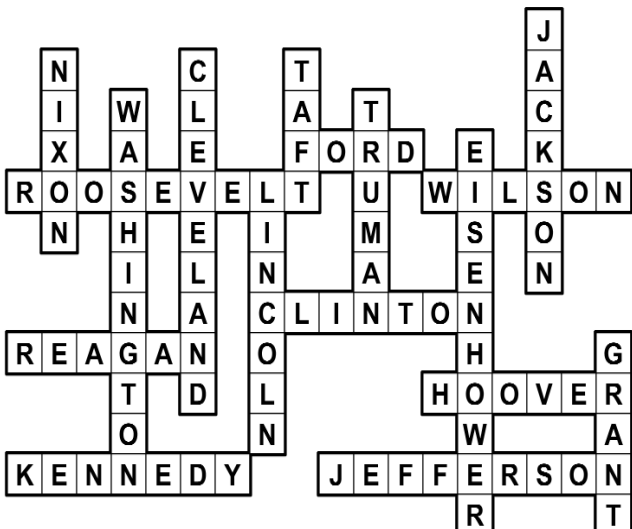
What I like most about my job: Interacting with the military, knowing I make a difference in their quality of life.

Greatest achievement accomplished since been aboard the Combat Center?: Being given the opportunity to help establish the MCCS Area Coordinator position.

Any military experience?: No. My husband is an active duty Marine with 1st Tanks Battalion.

Time employed on base?: Since Jan. 22.

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MEXICO, from A9

Gallardo, Mexican Navy General Staff. "It all comes together and aides the ability to complete the mission given to you."

Col. Thomas Quoss, Mojave Viper Support Detachment officer-in-charge, led the commandant and his staff to many buildings throughout Camp Wilson to give Valerio a chance to inspect the buildings.

The visiting Marines had the opportunity to inspect and take pictures of the mess hall, and sleeping quarters, also known as KSPAN buildings.

"I have realized how important it is to select people who can add specific real world experiences to the training of the individual Marine," said Gallardo through a translator. "Good people in training facilities have the organization to support people who can then devel-

op personnel and their facilities to produce a training package to train the Marines coming through."

The commandant and his staff also had the opportunity to speak with personnel working throughout Camp Wilson to get a better understanding of what they do to ensure Marines receive an abundance of training without hindrance.

"I am impressed with the attitude and aptitude of the personnel here," said Lt. Cmdr. Martin Franco, Mexican Navy General Services Staff. "It is very rare that you find both qualities in your military. There is a plain desire to succeed here."

Using the information the commandant and his staff learned at the Combat Center, the Mexican Marine Corps will be able to build more bases to accommodate their growing forces and enhance their capabilities.

Road closures and construction

Work Description - Install new box culvert for the drainage ditch between the gas station and Carl's Jr.

Scheduled Dates - Through April 4.

Detour Description - The detour for this area will be down Agate Road, past the Auto Hobby Shop, behind the Commissary and Home Store onto Calcite Road, then exiting onto Del Valle near Cottontail Road. An access road will allow entrance to the Commissary from the back side between the gas station and Commissary. Del Valle will be open to the work area on both sides but closed to through traffic.



TOURNEY, from A10

the game-tying jump-shot and the Ballers went on to win the game 33-31.

"It feels great to place in the tournament," said Anthony Nolen, Ballers head coach. "We had a few attitudes early in the game but our boys got it together and ended up playing very well together."

The Combat Center was a key player in the tournament.

"This is a great tournament to play in every year," added Nolen. "There were so many teams in this tournament and I don't think it would have been possible without the support of this base."

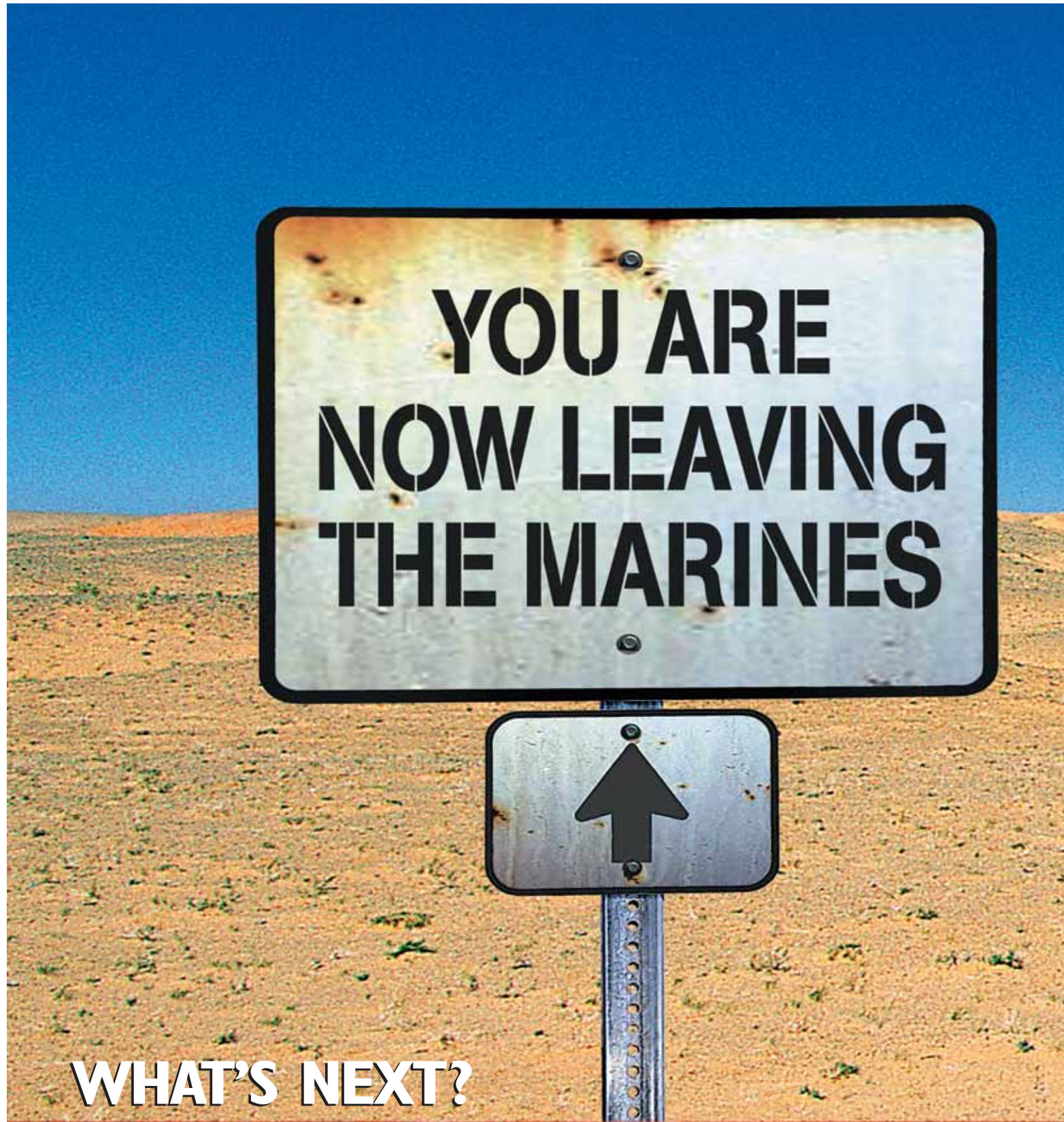
All of the tournaments championship games were held at the Twentynine Palms High School and Junior High.

An awards ceremony was held March 30, at the Twentynine Palms High School that recognized the top three teams from each division.

The Twentynine Palms Recreation Department has held the event at the Combat Center for 47 years.

"The City of Twentynine Palms appreciates all of the help that the Marine base has provided over the years," said Larry Bowden, recreation superintendent, Twentynine Palms Recreation Department. "By allowing us to use their facilities, the base made it much easier on personnel and communications."

Bowden said he looks forward to working with the Combat Center again in the future.



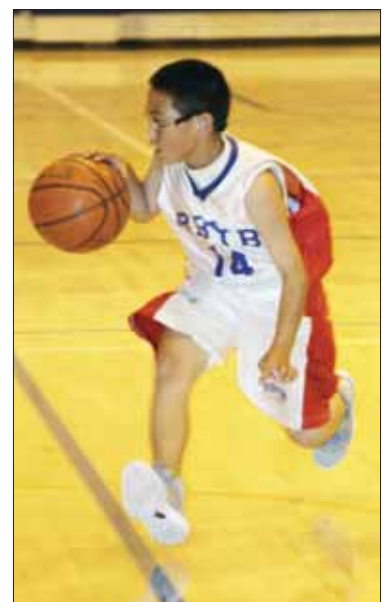
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PFC R. LOGAN KYLE

Redondo Beach Youth Basketball All-stars point guard Chad Harrision drives the ball down the court during the 50th Annual Boy's Basketball Tournament March 30.