

OBSERVATION Post

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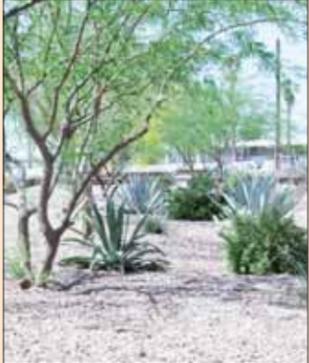
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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 23, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

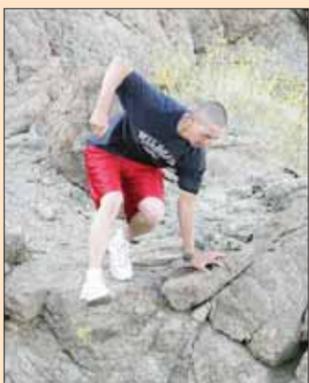
VOL. 51 ISSUE 17



4 New landscaping at the Combat Center



5 Combat Center's first Kids Play and Fun Time



6 22nd Annual Naval Hospital's Ridge Run



9 Intramural softball kicks off with tourney

This Day in Marine Corps History

-April 23, 1914-

The 3rd Marine Regiment joined in a show of force at Vera Cruz, Mexico, after an insult to the American flag.

Neal McCoy shakes up Combat Center

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center Marines, sailors and their families gathered at the base's Sunset Cinema as country music singer Neal McCoy lit up the night with a Spirit of America Tour concert April 15.

The Spirit of America Tour has arranged and sponsored more than 90 concerts for stateside military installations since 9/11.

"The most important people in our shows are the service members," said Kathy Gurley, national liaison, Spirit of America Tour. "We put these shows together to support our military men and women the best way we know how."

McCoy played several of his greatest hits like "Billy's Got His Beer

See CONCERT, A7

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Neal McCoy lights up the crowd with a performance during a Spirit of America Tour concert at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema April 15.



MCCS expands Family Team Building programs

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Community Services has been providing services to Marines, sailors and their families for eight years, ranging from the Marine Corps Exchange, to many small eateries aboard bases, to counseling and other family services.

One MCCS program, Marine Corps Family Team Building, has expanded vastly in recent months to accommodate families and help them face the challenges of

deployment commonly seen on the home front.

"Marine Corps Family Team Building has experienced a lot of changes over the last six months," said Perry Ford, MCFTB director. "One of the changes has been an increase in our budget Marine Corps-wide.

"One of our most exciting changes is we now have more paid staff than before," he added. "We used to be a volunteer-based organization."

Ford said the advantage to

See FAMILY, A8



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

The Lifestyle Insight Networking Knowledge Skills program is one of the programs Marine Corps Family Team Building hosts to educate and assist military families.

Lautenberg Amendment: How 10 Seconds of Anger Could Cost You Your Career

CAPT E. L. MARCH
LEGAL ASST OIC

The story is often the same.

"It was a momentary lapse in judgment."

"I just lost my temper. It will never happen again."

But for service members across the country, those moments could lead to a career ending conviction for domestic abuse. The Lautenberg Amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968, effective September 30, 1996, makes it a felony for those convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence to ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms or ammunition. The Amendment also makes it a felony to transfer a firearm or ammunition to an individual known, or reasonably believed, to have such a conviction. Military service does not exempt you from the Lautenberg Amendment.

How is Lautenberg triggered?

Substantiated instances of abuse through base family advocacy programs, summary court-martial convictions, nonjudicial punishment under Article 15, UCMJ, and deferred prosecutions in civilian court do not constitute qualifying convictions within the meaning of the Lautenberg Amendment. A qualifying conviction does not stop a service member from operating major weapons systems or crew served weapons such as tanks, missiles, and aircraft, but it will keep Marines from complying with yearly rifle qualifications. Marines who are unable to do their job will likely be administratively separated from the Marine Corps.

All service members known to have, or service members whom commanders have reasonable cause to believe have, a conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic are non-deployable for missions that require possession of firearms or ammunition. Service members affected by the Lautenberg Amendment are not eligible for overseas assignment. However, service members who are based outside the continental United States (OCONUS) and/or are in a deployed status will continue to comply with their assignment instructions, to include carrying weapons, for safety reasons.

Affected service members barred from reenlistment based on a Lautenberg qualifying conviction occurring after September 30, 1996 may not extend their enlistment. However, such service members must be given a reasonable time to seek removal of the conviction or a pardon. Officers are subject to the provisions of the Lautenberg Amendment like any other service member.

What can be done?

Many factors contribute to domestic violence. By identifying and preventing these factors from being a part of your relationships, domestic violence can be avoided. Services dealing with substance abuse, anger management, financial planning, new parent support, and others are available on base.

Whether you are a victim, offender, or just recognize that help is needed, please call 830-6345 to get assistance today.

Important information about your drinking water

MCAGCC has levels of coliform bacteria above the drinking water standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 44 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during March. Five of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month/5.0 percent of samples may do so.

How does it affect me?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What was done?

All affected areas were flushed and a resample was taken within 24 hours of the initial positive result. All resamples taken have come back negative for coliform.

For more information, please contact Chris Elliott at 830-7883 or chris.elliott@usmc.mil.

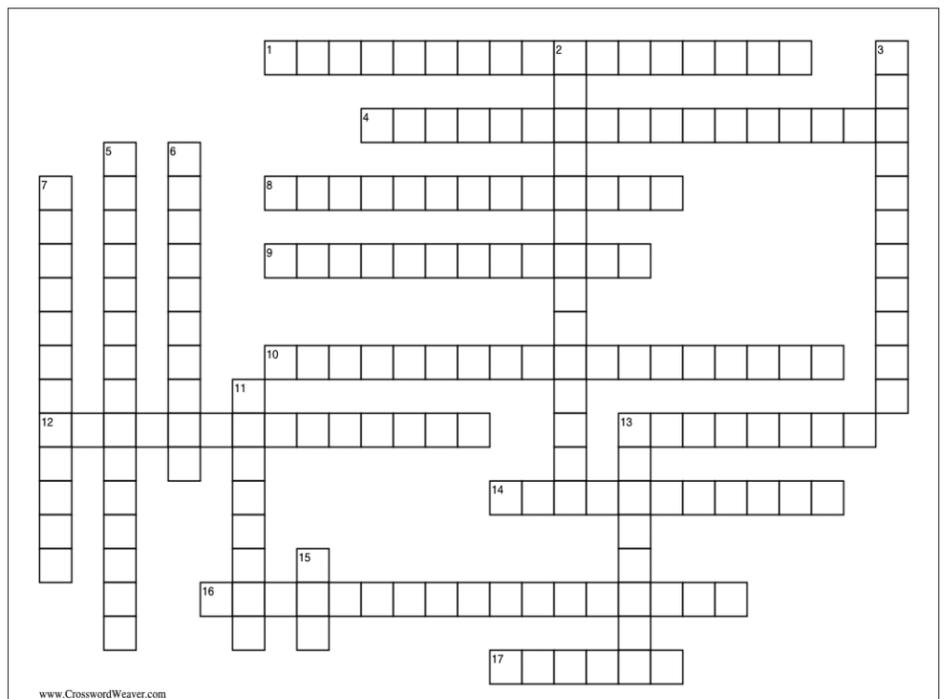
Secondary Notification Requirements:

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by MCAGCC Natural Resources Environmental Affairs Division.

TOM HANKS MOVIES



ACROSS

- "There's no crying in baseball"
- Topped the Soviet Union
- What men have right before they get married
- Based on the novel by Stephen King
- His first romantic comedy with Meg Ryan
- About the nastiest, most aggressive dog you have to love
- "There's a snake in my boot!"
- About a foreigner stuck in a New York airport terminal
- One of the biggest WWII films of the 90's
- We've all had that "fell in love with a mermaid" phase, right?

DOWN

- Based on the famous novel about Jesus' bloodline
- "I just felt like running."
- Tom Hanks can play a gangster too
- Caused many accidents for young children with wagons
- When everyone still had AOL
- Stranded on an island
- All the neighborhood men investigate the creepy new neighbors
- Don't you wish you had a giant piano to play on?

[Solutions on A11]

Centerspeak

What kind of musical talent would you like to see come to MCAGCC?

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



PFC. MICHAEL YEH
STUDENT, BRAVO COMPANY, MCCES

"I would like to see a rock band like The Killers or The Shins"



LANCE CPL. JONATHAN WALKER
LAV MECHANIC, H&S, 3RD LAR

"Joe Budden"



STAFF SGT. CORY FRANKLIN
INSTRUCTOR, ALPHA COMPANY, MCCES

"Elvis Crespo, or a Emerengue band, because it would bring a lot of dancing."

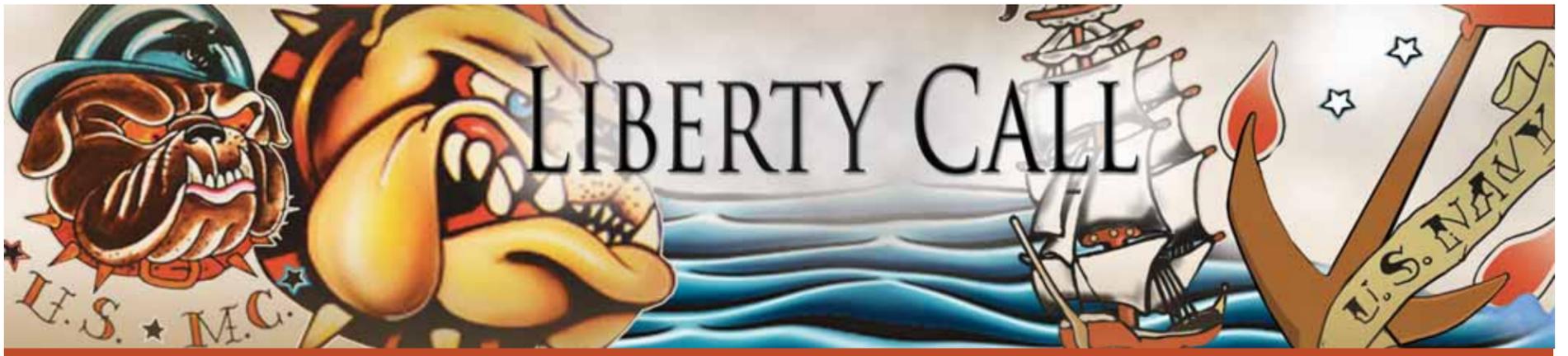
OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. M.G. Spiese

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	<p>TONIGHT, 4/23</p> <p>Sinatra Sings Again featuring Vic Leon: All-Star Big Band Time: 7 p.m. Where: Annenberg Theater 101 Museum Dr. Palm Springs For more info call 325-4490</p>	<p>THURS. 4/24 & FRI. 4/25</p> <p>Beauty and the Beast, from the Palm Springs High School of the Performing Arts Time: 7 p.m. Where: Palm Springs High School 2401 E. Baristo Rd. Palm Springs For more info call 778-0419</p>	<p>FRI. 4/25 & SAT. 4/26</p> <p>Open Call Amateur Talent Competition Time: Friday, 7 p.m. and Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS</p>	<p>FRI. 4/25 – MON. 4/27</p> <p>Coachella Valley Music Festival Time: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Empire Polo Field 81800 Ave. 51, Indio For more info call (800) 528-4257</p>
<p>SAT. 4/26</p> <p>The Few, The Proud, The Xtreme! Time: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Where: Victory Field MCAGCC Twentynine Palms For more info call 830-5086</p>	<p>SAT. 4/26</p> <p>Marshall Tucker Time: 8 p.m. Where: Casino Morongo Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800)252-4499</p>	<p>SAT. 4/26 & SUN. 4/27</p> <p>Relay for Life, participate in the fight against cancer Time: Saturday 9 a.m.- Sunday 9 a.m. Where: Yucca Valley High School Athletic Field 7600 Sage Yucca Valley For more info call 365-2275</p>	<p>SUN. 4/27</p> <p>2008 California Date Chef Competition Time: 2-4:30 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info call 347-4510</p>	<p>SUN. 4/27</p> <p>Concerts on the Lawn Time: 3-5 p.m. Where: Lawn, Old town La Quinta 78100 Main St. La Quinta For more info call 777-1770</p>

Joshua Tree Lake: For the young and young at heart

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Looking for a nice, quiet place to fish, camp and simply enjoy some time away from the fast-paced hustle and bustle of Highway 62? Well, look no further, because Joshua Tree Lake in Joshua Tree, Calif., can not only provide such a retreat, but it's also not far of a drive.

Joshua Tree Lake is a quiet, scenic getaway, set near the hills five miles north of Highway 62 on Sunfair Road, which offers a variety of activities the whole family can enjoy.

"This is a nice place for people to just come and relax," said Ken Jayes, owner of Joshua Tree Lake. "We have a nice, family-oriented campground here."

Some of the features include a recreational vehicle park with 44 electricity hookup sites, hot showers, a small, but scenic fishing pond, and a bait and tackle shop, which sells firewood, offers fishing pole rentals and other campground supplies.

There are also horseshoe pits, a children's playground and access to off-roading trails.

Fishing, an attraction seldom seen in the Mojave Desert, is one of the biggest attractions Joshua Tree Lake has to offer.

The fishing pond is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the summer and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter.

Visitors of Joshua Tree Lake enjoy visiting the campground for a variety of reasons.

"Joshua Tree Lake has excellent recreation for both young and old," said Joe McName,

FISHING PASSES
 12 visits \$50
 Military receives 10 percent discount

FISHING
 Adults \$7.50
 Children 12 and younger \$4
 Children 5 and younger FREE

CATCH AND KEEP
 Catfish \$3/lb.
 Bluegil \$1.50
 Bass CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY

owner of the Combat Center's JT Automotive. "The fishing is excellent. It's a small pond, but the fishing is still good."

"I think its ideal for Marines and their families to go out there and have fun," he added. "They have nice facilities and nice people there. It's a great place to sit, relax and have peace and quiet."

McName said he visits the pond at least once a month to relax, fish and escape the distractions of an otherwise busy life.

Although having only been to Joshua Tree once before, John Flaherty, an avid hiker and rock climber from San Luis Obispo

County, Calif., said he really enjoyed his time at Joshua Tree Lake.

"I'm here right now doing a little hiking and camping, and some rock climbing down at Joshua Tree National Park," he said, while buying camping supplies at the bait and tackle shop. "I love it out here. I've wanted to come back since I visited a few years ago."

"Everyone out here is very nice and helpful, too," he added.

Joshua Tree Lake is also preparing to host the Joshua Tree Music Festival May 16-18. The event will feature more than 20 bands from the local area.

"This event is huge," said Jayes. "Every time we host it, we usually get somewhere around 2,000 people out here to see it."

If you're looking for a local place to fish, or just want to get away for the weekend, then Joshua Tree Lake is the place for you.

"Everybody just wants a place to go and get away," said Jayes. "Joshua Tree Lake was established for the enjoyment of all - young and young at heart."

For more information about Joshua Tree Lake, you can visit <http://www.jtlake.com> or call Jayes at 366-1213.



COURTESY PHOTO
 Joe McName, owner of the Combat Center's JT Automotive, casts out a line at Joshua Tree Lake.

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LMH to improve residential landscaping

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In a conscious effort to conserve water aboard the Combat Center, Lincoln Military Housing will be changing the landscaping of the Shadow Mountain and Ocotillo housing areas.

The primary change will be the introduction of a landscaping practice known as xeriscaping to the two residential blocks.

Xeriscaping is a style of landscaping designed to conserve water by introducing alternative ways to decorate a landscape, such as using gravel, large rocks and drought-tolerant plants, which require significantly less water.

"Water conservation is a big issue, not just at the Combat Center, but pretty much anywhere because water is a resource we continue to need," said Chris Elliott, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division

water resources manager. "One way to help conserve water is by going to xeriscape instead of using grass in the housing areas."

The Combat Center has already experimented with xeriscaping by transforming the area in front of the command deck from patches of grass to gravel, strategically placed rocks and terraced plant life to create a more welcoming environment.

Tia Gonzalez, Lincoln Military Housing manager, stated that converting the lawns of the two housing areas to xeriscape will not only significantly reduce the amount of water used in those areas, but will also provide several other advantages to the residents as well as the areas themselves.

"The new xeriscape will reduce the maintenance and upkeep of the yards," she said. "Residents will no longer have to water and mow their front and side lawns."

"The xeriscape project will also bring more curb appeal to



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The xeriscaping project at the command deck provides a more welcoming view to visitors. Similar projects will be completed at the Shadow Mountain and Ocotillo housing areas within the next 3-6 months.

the housing areas," added Gonzalez. "We can add color to the areas using different colored rocks and gravel to make the houses appear more inviting."

Gonzalez also said another investment Lincoln Military Housing is looking into is the use

of artificial grass, although plans have not been fully established.

In addition to remodeling the housing landscapes, plans are in motion to create new community areas for Combat Center residents

See LANDSCAPE, A11

Combat Center welcomes local scout troops

PFC. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

On the evening of April 18, nearly 90 Boy Scouts from the local district converged on the Combat Center for their annual Camporee which lasted until



PFC. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Daniel J. Magennis, 2nd Class Scout, and Shane Robinson, 1st Class Scout, Troop 180 from Yucca Valley, participate in a stretcher carry during the scout's annual Camporee April 19.

April 20.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to help mold young Americans into responsible, citizens and leaders who make ethically and morally correct choices. The Camporee allows the molding process to occur at a larger level than usual.

Troops from all over the Sunrise District, which includes the Coachella Valley and High Desert areas, participated in competitive events meant to restore troops' knowledge of the basics skills.

"Usually troops camp by themselves. A couple of times a year we get a chance to get together, make new friends, have some spirited competition, and learn new skills," said Clinton K. Blaul, an instructor at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and Scoutmaster for Troop 78 located here at the Combat Center.

The theme of this year's Camporee was "Back to the Basics," and focused on land navigation, pioneering, knot tying, fire starting and safety, and first aid.

"This is not so much a teach-

ing evolution as it is a refresher," said Blaul.

One of the most popular events was the fire starting event.

"[The fire starting] was the most challenging and you really had to work as team," said Chase Hadden, a Star Scout, from Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

Another highlight of this year's Camporee was the induction of 15 Scouts into The Order of the Arrow, the national honor camper society of the BSOA.

"[The Order of the Arrow] exists to bestow recognition on Scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives," said Blaul.

Due to the large size of the district the Camporee is usually held in different areas so that all troops may participate. The Combat Center provides the troops with a unique environment well suited for this year's theme.

Corpsman, from the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, taught classes on first aid, CPR, and emergency care, and volunteers from the Natural

Resources and Environmental Activities branch will teach classes on the history of the local area as well as classes on identifying local flora and fauna.

"They're learning field skills, teamwork, patriotism and camaraderie. It's an excellent phase for any young man," said Col. Wes Weston, assistant chief of staff, G-4 logistics who attended the two day event with his sons, Shane, 11 and Zachary, 8.

Range 102, the site where the event was held, added to the Scouts' experience and provided an excellent atmosphere for Scout Masters to stress survival basics such as need for proper hydration.

"Since the scouts will be occupying a non-live fire range area, they will receive the same desert survival briefs and environmental briefs that the Marines who train here receive," said Blaul.

Marine fathers of boy scouts from the hosting Twentynine Palms Troop 78 also helped organize and lead some of the training events at this year's Camporee.

All in all this year's annual Camporee was a tremendous success. Important skills were reviewed and a lot of fun was had. This was the first time the Combat Center has hosted the event since 2001, and the base hopes to host again in the future.

HOT TOPICS

2008 MILITARY HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

These handbooks, written specifically for military service members, include a variety of information about pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military. To receive your own copies of these handbooks, simply go to our Web site - www.militaryhandbooks.com. Books available include: 2008 Base Installation Directory, 2008 U.S. Military Retired Handbook, 2008 Getting Uncle Sam to Pay for your College Degree, 2008 Benefits for Veterans and Dependents Handbook, 2008 Military Children's Scholarship Handbook.

WE SALUTE YOU CONCERT VIDEO TRIBUTE

Marine Corps Community Services Marketing would like to invite you to be a part of "Heroism at Home and Abroad," a video tribute to be played at the We Salute You Celebration on May 10. We are asking Marines, sailors and their families to submit pictures and/or video footage from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as homecomings. Entries must be submitted on disc to the Marketing Department, building 1024, behind the Home Store, by May 1. Help us appropriately honor you by participating in the video tribute. For more information, please call 830-5051.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Our theme this year is "Prevent Sexual Assault: Ask! Act! Intervene!" Key prevention items are to ask friends if they need help, then act when they do and intervene when you see trouble. Create healthy environments for all Marines, sailors and civilians. Do your part in preventing the crime of sexual assault by asking, acting and intervening. Confidential reporting options are available. Information on reporting options and confidentiality may be obtained from your local counseling services office, 830-6345, individual unit's sexual assault response coordinator, or un-informed victim advocate.

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Kids PFT kicks off to great start

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The first Kids Play and Fun Time was hosted at the Combat Center's East Fitness Center, April 20.

The Kids PFT was created to help children cope with life issues, and give them a positive male role model while their fathers are deployed, said Laura Cary Simmons, creator of the Kids PFT program.

"It started when my husband moved to [camp] Pendleton, [Calif.], my sons started following men around in the neighborhood, the commissary and anywhere else we went."

More than 40 children showed up to the fitness center and 33 Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Marines volunteered to play and interact with the children.

Pfc. Dave Flores, volunteer and MCCES Marine said the program will help children by giving them a positive role model to look up to while taking their mind off their deployed father.

The gym was filled with basketballs, soccer balls, beach balls, board games, giant fire engines and trains, and balance balls open to all the children.

"It is so important for children to play and get exercise," said Simmons. "Sometimes a mom is just too tired after her day to throw a ball or play tag, but now the kids are able to play with these young Marines who are in

shape and willing to throw a ball and run around."

If a child wanted to learn a specific sport, they were asked to bring the ball needed to play so a volunteering Marine could teach the child.

"It is really hard when their dads are away and a child wants to learn a new sport," said Simmons. "Sometimes, as a mother, you don't know or understand anything about that sport. This program gives kids a chance to interact with someone who may be able to teach them."

The program is designed to keep as little structure as possible, giving the children free reign of the gym.

"I feel the kids are always told what they can and cannot do," said Simmons. "In school, in sports, everywhere they go these kids have to follow strict rules. Here, they just come in and play. There are no stations they have to go to in order, there are no restrictions. It is a free-play type of situation."

The program gave mothers a chance to meet new people going through the same situation during their husband's deployment.

"They could actually sit down and relax without worrying about their children," said Simmons. "It is a free time almost no mother will get during their husbands' deployments."

The program is still in the beginning stages and details will be announced in speedcall, channel 6 and the Observation Post when they're available.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

9-month-old Briana Johnson is held by Sgt. Ivory Taylor, with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, Headquarters Maintenance during the first Kids PFT at the Combat Center's East Fitness Center April 20. Taylor is the first man to hold and play with Briana since her father deployed to Afghanistan.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Pfc. Elton King, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, holds 18-month-old Drew Driscoll as he walks across balance balls during the Kids PFT.

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Nice 3 bed, 2 ba home in Chocolate Drop area of 29 Palms-priced to sell, this would make a great first time buyer or investment, rental property. Back yard is fully fenced. The seller is in the process of doing some repairs, come see it while it is still available! \$130,000

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LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Tyrone Matheny climbs his way to the top of the Combat Center's "sugar-cookie," a soft, sandy slope behind the obstacle course, during the 22nd Annual Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's Ridge Run April 18.



LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Runners take off from the starting line during the 22nd Annual Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's Ridge Run April 18. The event included of a 5K and 8K run that tested each participant's will and endurance with challenging, sandy slopes and rugged terrain.

Run to the hills

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 125 Marines, sailors and family members participated in the Combat Center's 22nd Annual Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's Ridge Run April 18.

Runners trekked through the rugged hills and ridges behind the base hospital during both 5K and 8K events.

"We hold this event every year around this time not only to raise money, but to promote a healthy lifestyle for Marines and sailors," said Tom Nelson, race director. "I think we had a really good turnout this year."

Runners were allowed to register five or more people teams into the race, and prizes were awarded to the top finishers in both races.

"We gave the teams a discounted price to run in the race," added Nelson. "We really wanted to promote teamwork."

As the racers crossed the finish line, the crowd cheered in support of a job well done.

Todd Skrzypek finished first overall in the 5K race, coming in at 00:22:47. Carlos Reyes came in a while after at 00:30:08, followed by Jerry Rice at 00:31:14.

Lacy Richey came in first for the female's 5K, with a time of 00:30:03. Sairlyn Ogumoru and Kameryn Lopez finished out the other top spots.

The Captain's Cup is awarded to the top team to finish the 8K, explained Nelson.

"Usually either the [Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School] or Naval Hospital squad wins the cup," he continued.

This year was different. Five members from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance squad came out of nowhere and surprised everyone by winning the cup and bragging rights until next year's Ridge Run with an average time of 00:54:48.

Ironically, The MCCES and Naval Hospital's team tied with an average time of 1:00:30.

"It was a good course," said Justin Sharpe, runner for 3rd LAR. This is the first time I've run this course and there are a lot of sandy hills on that ridge."

Keith Wilson finished the dreaded 8K race first with a time of 00:47:04, followed by Daniel Thornton at 00:51:13, and David Lopez at 00:51:49.

Fabiola Pamatz brought home first place for the females, finishing the 8K at 00:55:36. Rachel Sandlin and Jennifer Cohen filled the second and third place slots.

After every competitor finished the run, an awards ceremony was held to congratulate everyone who participated.

Planning for next year's ridge run will begin soon.

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CONCERT, from A1

Goggles On" and "Shake."

During the concert, McCoy interacted with the crowd, telling stories and jokes, keeping the fans laughing and entertained. McCoy took requests from the audience and played some of his favorite songs from his adolescent years.

McCoy has played several concerts with the Spirit of America Tour and has also traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan with the United Services Organization to perform for service members deployed.

"It's a wonderful thing to have been as lucky as I have to get the chance to see different places around

the world and perform for our military," said McCoy. "It's something I love to do and it's a real honor."

Hours before the concert McCoy and his band members met up with Brig. Gen. M.G. Spiese, base commanding general, at the Combat Center's Officer's Club for a pre-show meal.

During the meal some of the band members commented on McCoy's personality and love for music.

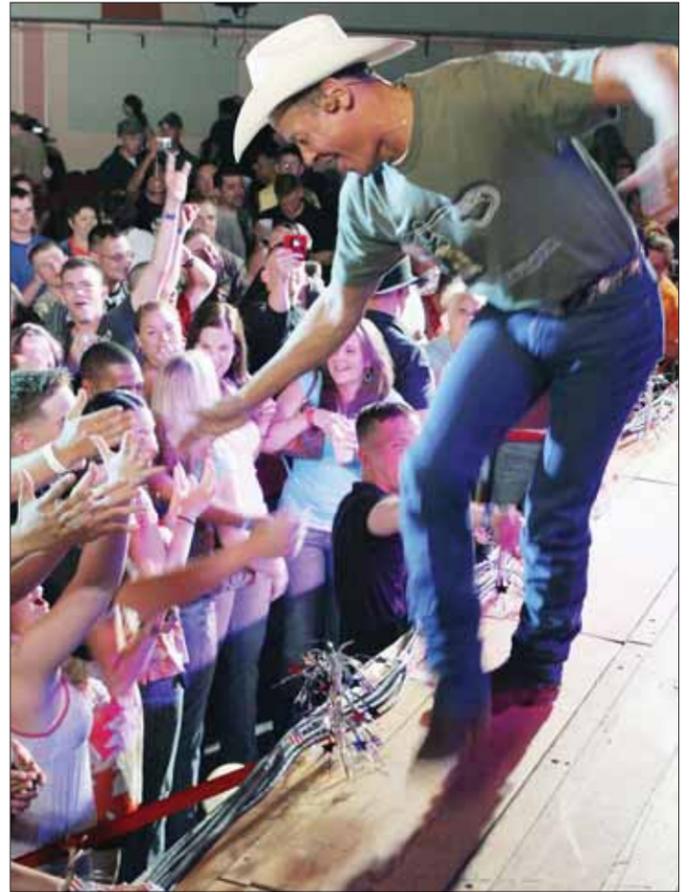
"Neal's a true performer, it's what he loves to do," said David Varnado, fiddle player. "He performs 24 hours a day even when he's off the stage. He eats, sleeps and breathes music."

Varnado has been playing with the band for nearly three years and said he enjoys every minute of it.

"For me, going over to Iraq and seeing the looks on the soldiers' faces when we were performing put me in awe," added Varnado. "We went there to support them while they keep the bad guys off our front steps, and playing a show is only a tear drop in the ocean, but it helps."

As the concert came to a close, Spiese and Gurley joined McCoy on stage to present him with a framed poster of the Combat Center.

The next stop for McCoy and the Spirit of America Tour is Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., April 21.



LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Country music singer Neal McCoy slaps the hands of several fans during the Spirit of America Tour at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema April 15. Hundreds of Marines, sailors and their families showed up for the knee-slapping "hoot-nanny." McCoy has volunteered several times for the Spirit of America Tour and has played multiple concerts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Spirit of America Tour has arranged and sponsored more than 90 free concerts aboard stateside military installations since 9/11.

Spirit of America Tour: Boosting stateside moral

The Spirit of America Tour was founded in 2002 by Robert Rosenthal to bring headline entertainers to America's stateside military bases and boost the morale of service members.

Rosenthal, president of the Spirit of America Tour, retired as a lawyer in 2000 and expected to spend the rest of his life going to movies, staying active in the community and relaxing until 9/11 happened.

He noticed the United Services Organization was providing entertainment to service members deployed overseas, but there were no organizations providing stateside entertainment to the men and women of the armed forces.

The Spirit of America Tour filled that position.

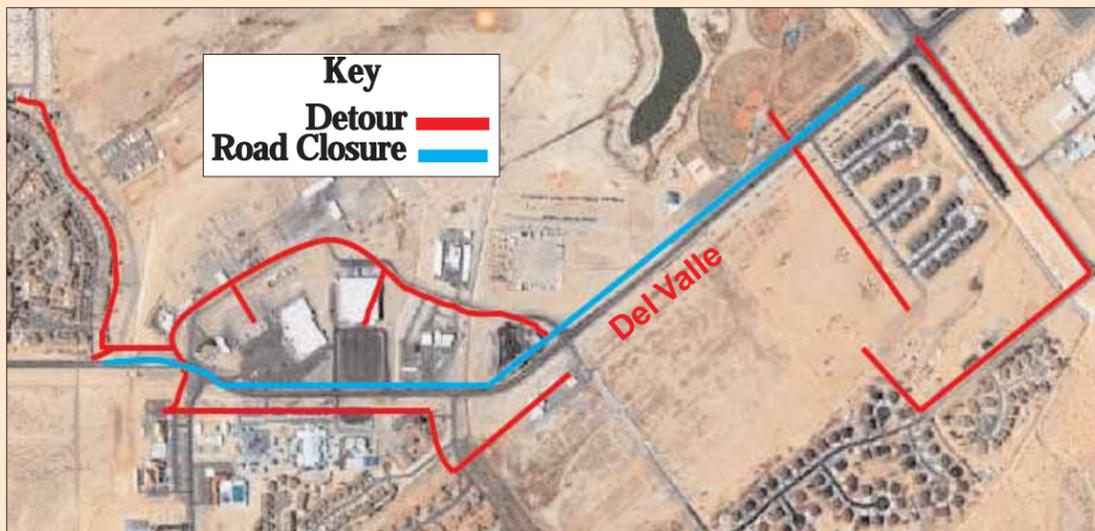
Since 9/11, the tour has arranged and organized more than 90 shows featuring artists like Diamond Rio, Billy Bob Thornton and the Charlie Daniels Band.

"It's vitally important for Marines and sailors to know that celebrities care greatly about the military," said Rosenthal.

Though all of the artists donate their time to play shows at America's military bases, the Spirit of America Tour pays their expenses so the entertainers are not out of pocket.

For more information about the Spirit of America Tour, visit <http://www.spiritofamericatour.org>.

Phase IV Road closures and construction



Work Description - Demolish and rebuild Del Valle Rd. from the Adobe Rd. intersection to an area south of Cottontail Rd.
Scheduled Dates - April 28 to June 19

Detour Description - Access to Marine Palms housing and the ball fields will be via Smoketree Ave. and an access road to Plant St. Access to the mini-mart and points South will be by Smoketree Ave. to the access road across old Marine Palms to Mineral St. The intersection at Agate and Del Valle Rd. will be open for traffic to follow Agate Rd. to Calcite Rd. with a crossing at Cottontail Rd. Traffic flow into the gas station will be from Agate road with a circular flow around JT Automotive. Access to Adobe Flats and the RV park will be through Condor Gate and by a dirt access road parallel to Del Valle Rd. To gain access to the Temporary Lodging Facility and all Child Development Center buildings, a one way road will be created from Mineral St., passing behind building 193 to Saddleback Ave., then through the TLF parking lot into the CDC parking lots. The exit for the CDC and TLF area will be onto Cottontail Rd. which can then be followed across Del Valle Rd. to Calcite.

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FAMILY, from A1

having paid staff to operate MCFTB significantly reduces the work load of volunteers. Before, volunteers were spread thin and had to accomplish the MCFTB mission with limited resources.

"Having paid staff allows us to do more than before," said Ford.

"We're here to provide educational resources and services to foster personal growth and enhance readiness and Marines' and sailors' families."

There are several programs within MCFTB designed to help facilitate the needs of military families. One such program is the Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge, Skills program,

which is designed to help Marine Corps spouses adapt to the challenges the military life often presents.

L.I.N.K.S. holds classes for military families to give them a better understanding of the Marine Corps way of life, as well as how to cope with day-to-day life while their loved ones are deployed.

Pre-deployment and post-deployment classes have always been available for military families to help them grasp the concepts of deployment. Now, L.I.N.K.S. also offers what is known as "Beyond the Brief," a series of classes which can be taken during the deployment.

"In between when someone's

spouse deploys and comes home, life is still happening," said Ford. "The bottom line is families are important. If a Marine can deploy knowing his family will be ready for anything while they are gone, they can be put at ease."

L.I.N.K.S., which was originally created by spouses for spouses, is also expanding to encompass other military family members as well.

"Families in the Marine Corps aren't just husbands, wives and children," said Kathrine A. Catlin, MCCS director. "Now we have a lot of Marines wanting to include other family members, like mothers and fathers."

"The program is a lot bigger than what it used to be," she

added.

MCFTB also offers life skills programs, which conducts classes about parenting, elder care and other daily situations military family members may encounter while their loved ones are deployed.

The program also provides Key Volunteer and Family Readiness Officer training to families members and Marines in a unit's Remain-Behind Element, respectively. The Key Volunteer Network and FROs keep military family updated with information about their units while they are deployed and work to build a sense of community within the unit.

MCFTB has also joined forces with the chaplains in each unit to create the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program. P.R.E.P. is designed to help service members and their spouses or significant others build or enhance their relationships.

The Marine and Family Services Division, MCFTB's parent organization, also offers a variety of services to assist military family members.

"We are the service organization for the Marines, sailors and their families," said Cynthia Tompkins, Marine and Family Services Division head. "We're here and we have a lot to offer. Our whole reason for being here is to serve those who serve us."

For more information regarding MCFTB, you can log on to <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/mcftb/>.

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 Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor
 Service Times:
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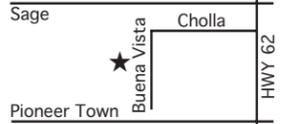
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Pre-season softball a hit

PFC. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commanding General's Intramural Softball League kicked off April 15 with a pre-season 16-team single elimination tournament at Felix Field.

The league consists of 23 teams with all teams scheduled to play 22 games in a single round robin format. At the end of the season, the top eight teams will compete in a double elimination tournament for the league's championship trophy.

Last year's champion, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, hopes to retain the title and is amongst the favorites to be crowned champions this year.

Before the start of the season sport specialist Randy S. Husted, the league's umpire-in-charge and head coach of the All-Marine Woman's Softball Team, expressed his enthusiasm about the league's commencement.

"I always get excited when our units begin playing softball," said Husted. "The league is great for unit morale and teamwork."

The first round of games saw 1st Tank Battalion team take on the Provost Marshal's Office Vandals and the Amphibious Assault Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion Team 3 (AAV3) go head-to-head with the team from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

MCCES won comfortably with a 12-2 win over AAV3 and the Vandals came out on top 26-15.

Tanks started off strong and led 4-2 after one inning played. The Vandals rallied in the second, taking advantage of messy play by Tanks, and continued to string together hits inning after inning.

Never panicking, Tanks took advantage of sloppy pitching by PMO and started to put runs on the score sheet late in the game. However, the Vandals' lead was too much to overcome and the game ended 26-15 in favor of the PMO Vandals.

Second night action saw the Mobilization Training Unit facing AAV2 and the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group square off against the Exercise Support Division.

The game between AAV2 and MTU was an extra-inning affair



PFC. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Brandon J. Fellows, catcher on the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team 1, applies a tag at home plate during intramural softball action April 16.

that ended 16-15 in favor of MTU. The game between MCTOG and ESD was relatively quick with ESD coming out on top 12-2.

The meeting between MTU vs. AAV2 started off with both teams batting well but at times struggling on the defensive end. As the night progressed and both teams settled their defensive issues, the game became a battle of the bats. Both teams were able to mount strong offensive fronts by stringing together multiple base hits.

Near the end of regulation play AAV2 found themselves down but not out. Rescued by their reliable line up, they mounted a strong come back and took the game into extra innings. In the first extra inning AAV2 completed their rally by taking home the win 16-15.

After a well-played round robin the championship game arrived on April 17 and featured the teams from 3/11 and MCCES.

Much like the rest of the tournament the championship was an entertaining game between two very strong teams.

Both teams came out swinging and after a fast paced three innings, MCCES led 14-10.

However, as the game progressed towards its conclusion, the bats of

3/11 seemed to go away. MCCES took advantage of their opponents hitting drought and built an 18-12 lead going into the seventh and final inning.

The game looked out of reach for 3/11 and many heads on the 3/11 bench began to drop. However, after some motivating words from first baseman Daniel Rodriguez, 3/11's heads began to rise and their bats came alive.

The result was a nail biting seventh inning in which 3/11 rallied and managed to put 10 runs on the score card thanks to some superb hitting. MCCES mounted their own rally in the bottom of the seventh and managed to score three runs with two outs. However, MCCES came up one run short and the pre-season tournament was won by the team from 3/11.

After the game 3/11 first baseman, Daniel Rodriguez, said that the team's success in the pre-season tournament was a taste of what fans can expect from the MCCES team.

"We can control the game and we can control the tempo of any team we play," said Rodriguez.

For more information about the intramural softball league please contact Mr. Randy Husted at 830-4092.



PFC. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Glenn R. Schott, shortstop for Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team 1, tags a runner at second base during intramural softball action April 16.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

CHRISTIAN PREP

Christian Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program is based on widely accepted Christian truth and sound research, focusing on biblical principles and strategies for helping couples have strong, joyful, lasting marriages. If you are an engaged or married couple and would like to know more about Christian PREP or sign up for the April 24-25 seminar, please call 830-6464.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 1 there will be a Prayer Luncheon in the Mesa Room at the Officers' Club from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. This year the theme is: "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield: 'The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.' Psalm 28:7." Come hear inspiring music, testimonies, and be inspired to pray. Each participant at each table will be given time for personal and/or corporate prayer. Family members are welcome to this all-hands event.

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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5. Instep Flexzone prevents bunching of the sock

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USMC CERTIFIED
Flame Retardant
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Pre-Deployment Sale
20% Off Gear & More*

*Specter, Blackhawk, ESS, GG&G, Covert Threads & PFG

1 - 4 May

29 PALMS MARINE BASE
VICTORY FIELD
04.26.2008



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STREET BIKE STUNTS AND FMX
* X-GAMES PROFESSIONALS SHOW
THEIR BEST THIS APRIL AT THE
29 PALMS MARINE BASE.
AN OPEN GATE EVENT
GATES OPEN AT 9:00A.M.



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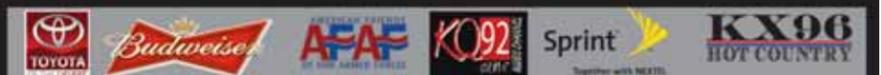
EVENT BEGINS @ 11 A.M.

featuring

Jason Britton,
Tony Carajal,
R4C FMX Team
Eric "E-Dub"
Whitcomb,
Jeff Groff,
Alex Flores

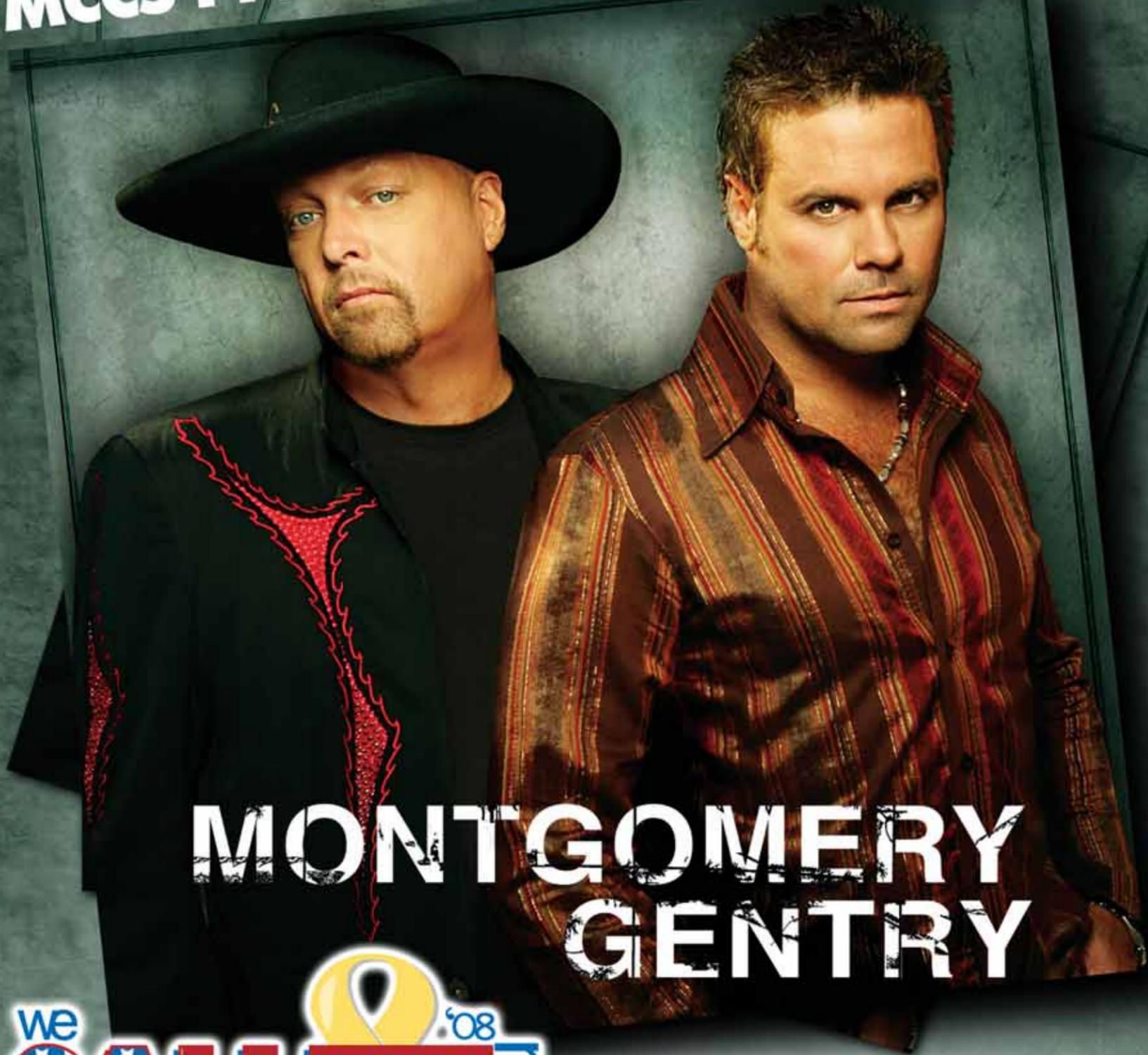


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MCCS Presents a **FREE Concert**



MONTGOMERY GENTRY



Saturday, May 10th
4 - 10 p.m.

VICTORY FIELD

The 2008 We Salute You Celebration, honoring our troops, will provide free food, fun and live entertainment to all **ELIGIBLE PATRONS**. There will also be an event shuttle provided to all base housing areas.

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CLOSED GATE EVENT

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- No outside alcohol • No pets • Bring your lawn chairs • No audio, video or flash photography
- No outside coolers or bottles • Bags are subject to search