

MAY 21, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 21



President commends Combat Center spouse



"We salute you, 2008"



Counterintelligence is 8 looking for you

Charlie Company Tanks rolls home, reunite with family and friends

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Approximately 85 Marines and sailors from Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, returned to the Combat Center May 12 and May 13th after a sevenmonth deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Friends, family members, and fellow Marines greeted Charlie Company with cheers, banners, hugs and kisses as soon as they stepped off the bus at the Combat Center's Victory Field.

Gustavo Duran, who traveled from Santa Fe, N.M., found it hard to explain the emotion he was feeling as he awaited the return of his son Lance Cpl. Gustavo A. Duran, a tank crewman.

"I have no words to explain it, it's a beautiful feeling," said Duran. "I am so proud of my son and all of [Charlie Company]."

The homecoming was especially sweet for Duran because it was also his son's twentieth birthday.



Cpl. Wenceslao Martinez, combat tank repairer, Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, meets his son Dominic Wen Martinez for the first time on the evening of May 14 at Victory Field.

Duran.

Corporal Jacob L. Vela's mother, Gina, had to fight back tears as she waited for her son to return.

"It's the hardest thing I have "It's a beautiful gift for him ever had to deal with," said operator.

Vela traveled from Phoenix, Ariz., to welcome home her son and was grateful her son had access to the internet and phone use. Vela credited those opportunities with helping

to come back home," said Vela, whose son is a radio her through her son's first deployment.

"I'm very grateful that he was allowed to make phone calls and have e-mail access," said Vela. "I just waited for his

See TANKS, A10

Heritage Park will have something for everyone

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. **ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Want a place to get out of the hot summer sun? Looking for a place to socialize your dog? Craving that perfect rock-less ground to play a game of pick-up Valle road and Victory Field.

Heritage Park will consist of a memorial walkway, an open enjoyment area with picnic benches and a stage, a street hockey rink, a skateboard park, small and large dog parks, and a children's water spray park. The existing tennis courts and Dinosaur Park Tots

Lehman, chief of the engineering branch for the Public Works Department. "It was designed for everyone - single Marines to families. It will have sidewalks and give the base a more community feel."

The memorial walkway will have the history of the Twentynine Palms, Calif., area, dating back to the local Native Americans, gold miners and homesteaders through the establishment of our present base. Each decade of the bases' mili-

tary history will be inscribed on granite pillars that will also have an account of the base's home units and campaigns they have participated in.

"We will recognize all the units that have been here," said Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese, Combat Centers commanding general. "People who come will learn about the campaigns we have been in and everything we have



Varsity softball getting 12 warmed up

This Day in Marine **Corps History** -May 22, 1912-

1st Lt. Alfred Cunningham is first Marine Aviator.



All that, and much more will be built as part of Heritage Park, a new park coming soon to the Combat Center between Del

Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese

Lot will also be incorporated into Heritage Park.

"After we designed the memorial walkway we began developing this whole area," said Bob

See PARK, A7

Commanding general change-of-command tomorrow



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Combat Center will welcome aboard a new commanding general at a change-of-command ceremony scheduled for Thursday at 9 a.m. at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese will relinquish the command to Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, former assistant division commander, 2nd Marine Division.

As the assistant division commander, Gurganus served as the ground combat element commander, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, from February 2007 to February of this year.

Spiese has been the commanding general of the Combat Center since April 2007 and will continue his Marine Corps career as the commanding general of the Training Education Command, Quantico, Va.

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus



5 misconceptions about behavioral health

KRISTEN WARD

TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

No one is immune to the effects of deployments. However, deployment may increase the intensity of the experience for you, your spouse or child, resulting in some form of behavioral health issues. These issues can range from anxiety, depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse and may even lead to thoughts of suicide.

Common misconceptions

With May being "Mental Health Awareness Month," it is the perfect time to learn the truth about some of common behavioral health myths.

Myth: Behavioral health issues only affect a small population of certain groups. **Fact:** Approximately one in five adults struggle with a behavioral health disorder of varying degrees, making this more common than cancer, heart and lung disease combined. One in four families will be effected, whether it is the children, the adults or a combination of both who are suffering. Behavioral health issues do not discriminate - problems can impact anyone regardless of ethnicity, age or sex.

Myth: I don't have a behavioral health problem, I just need something to help me relax.

Fact: Often, people self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. Since alcohol is a depressant, it can lead to an increase in behavioral health symptoms and addiction problems. Feeling a "high" while on alcohol or drugs is temporary and when it's over, it can lead to more cravings, increased depression or other symptoms.

Myth: My TRICARE benefits won't cover behavioral health care.

Fact: TRICARE covers mental and behavioral health care that is medically or psychologically necessary. Arrange a screening with your primary care manager (PCM), who can then help you decide whether to seek additional treatments if symptoms are found. If you do pursue treatment, TRICARE covers up to eight behavioral health visits with a network provider without an authorization.

Active duty Service members (ADSM) must receive a referral from their PCM or military treatment facility (MTF) in order to seek treatment outside of the MTF. Active duty family members (ADFM) do not need preauthorization for the first eight therapy visits with a network provider. For treatment beyond the initial eight therapy visits, beneficiaries are required to receive authorization.

For more on your benefits, visit the "Beneficiary Services" page on http://www.triwest.com, select "Handbooks and Brochures" and "Behavioral Health Care Benefits" or call (888) 284-3743. You can also Visit the "Mental Health and Behavior" section at http://www.tricare.mil for specific coverage and associated costs.

Myth: Behavioral health disorders are untreatable.

Fact: The majority of people with behavioral health disorders improve when they receive appropriate treatment. Types of treatment depend on your diagnosis, severity of symptoms and preference. A variety of treatments, including medications and short-term psychotherapies, have proven effective. Once you or your loved one is feeling better, treatment may need to be continued for several months—and in some cases, indefinitely—to prevent a relapse.

Myth: Seeing a provider is my only option for help.

Fact: Several options are available for assistance in learning and dealing with behavioral health related issues. These include:

"Help From Home" video series features military families who have faced the challenges of deployment and reintegration. This and other tools are available on the Behavioral Health portal of http://www.triwest.com.

TriWest also provides a 24/7 telephone access and crisis intervention services. Service members and their families in the TRICARE 21-state West Region can request assistance with a mental health crisis or with simple requests for behavioral health information by calling (866) 284–3743.

MilitaryOneSource.com has articles, booklets, audio CDs and other interactive tools to help you learn more about behavioral health issues.

Final Truth

If you still have questions about behavioral health, such as signs and symptoms, contact your health care provider for the real story, and to find the help needed when stress or depression, or emotional challenges that come with life are not resolving over time.



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



SGT. STEVEN REPPEL

TACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP



1st Light Armored Reconnaissance



2ND LT. RALPH REY 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

FDA Recalls Heart Medication

DAN BARBER

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Public Affairs Officer

Naval Hospital Pharmacists have discovered on the FDA Web site that Actavis Totowa LCC, a United States manufacturing division of the international generic pharmaceutical company Actavis Group, initiated a nationwide voluntary recall for the heart medication Digoxin tablets which may have twice the approved level of the active ingredient in the medication.

This product is distributed by Mylan Pharmaceuticals under a "Bertek" label and by UDL Laboratories under a "UDL" label. It is uncertain which lots of Digoxin made by UDL labs were affected.

Patients obtaining this medication through one of the TriWest network pharmacies or with the TRICARE Mail Order pharmacy should immediately discontinue use and contact their physician or pharmacist.

Double strength tablets pose a risk of digitalis toxicity in patients with renal failure. Possible symptoms are nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood pressure, cardiac instability and bradycardia. Death can also result from excessive digitalis intake.

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms pharmacists have already notified patients of the Hospital who have been prescribed this medication. No patient of the hospital noted a difference in pill size. "A Chili's because the only other restaurant around here is Applebees and it is an hour away."

"A nice paved track." Starbucks because A everybody above the rank of sergeant drinks coffee.'

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. M.G. Spiese

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Public Affairs OfficerJennie E. HaskampPublic Affairs ChiefGunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox

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FRI. 5/23 - SUN. 5/25	SAT. 5/24	SAT. 5/24 - SUN. 5/25	SAT. 5/24	SUN. 5/25		
Tribute Fest Weekend Time: 7 p.m. Where: The Rock Yard, Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indian Spring Pkwy Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946	Grubstake Days Parade and Community Fair Time: 10 a.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center Complex 57090 29 Palms Hwy Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211	Abbacadabra Time: 8 p.m. Where: Casino Morongo Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr. Cabazon For more info call (800)252-4499	acadabraPitbulla: 8 p.m.Time: 8 p.m.b: c 2 sino Morongo ResortWhere: Morongo CasinoSpaResort and Spa20 Seminole Dr.49500 Seminole Dr.azonCabazonmore info callFor more info call			
MON. 5/26	MON. 5/26	MON. 5/26	MON. 5/26	TUES. 5/27		
Memorial Day Observance Time: 11 a.m. Where: Joshua Tree Memorial Park 60121 29 Palms Hwy Joshua Tree For more info call 366-9210	MafiaMemorialMusicFestivalTime: 12 p.m.Where: Joshua TreeMemorial Park60121 29 Palms HwyJoshua TreeFor more info call 366-9210	Memorial Day Flower Drop, 1,500 red and white carnations will be dropped from a B-25 Time: 1-2 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Air Museum, 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs For more info call 778-6262	MCAGCC Memorial Day Salute Time: 12 p.m. Where: CG's Flag Pole On Base	Auditions for "Grease" Time: 7 p.m. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Rd. Twentynine Palms For more info call 361-4151		

Aerobics marathon shows off classes available to base personnel

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit hosted an aerobics marathon May 14 at the Community Center to showcase the classes available to Marines, sailors and their families.

The marathon ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., holding different classes every 45 minutes with 15 minute breaks between each class.

Participants who stayed and took part in all the classes received recognition and a prize for their hard work.

Classes included the bosu ball, pilates, stability ball, abs workout, step and yoga.

"I have never done this before," said Valerie Aguirre, a



Harlingen, Texas, native, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Heroides Aguirre is with the Advisor Training Group. "I normally do more simple aerobics.

"I'm trying to start working out again and this is like my kick start," Aguirre continued.

A table was also set up with healthy foods like grapes, oranges, bananas and bagels to give participants something to eat during a break.

Raffle tickets were passed out at the beginning of each class. The winner of each raffle could choose from a table of prizes. The prizes revolved around exercising and staying in shape. The prizes included two pedometers, a Reebok stayball kit, a Reebok core strength kit, two nylon jump ropes, a yoga block strap, two roll up exercise mats and a balance ball.

As the classes began, the instructors made sure the participants knew the workout technique before beginning to ensure the best possible results without injury.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Veronika Gibson, aerobics trainer, works out on the bosu ball during the aerobics marathon at the Community Center May 14. Classes given at the marathon included the bosa ball, pilates, stability ball, abs workout, step and yoga.

LANCE CPL MONICA C. ERICKSON April Erhardt, aerobics instructor, leads a class on the bosu ball during the aerobics marathon at the Community Center May 14. The marathon showcased all the aerobics classes available to base personnel. "It's good to find a different way to exercise," said Yvonne Warfield, aerobics coordinator. "Not everyone wants to go to the gym and some people don't like to run."

The classes showcased in the marathon are offered every week, along with other aerobics classes.

Spinning, kickboxing, yoga

fusion, core strength, circuit course and cardio yoga are also offered every week.

"We have a new schedule every month that is at the East and West gym and the community center," said Warfield, a Northridge, Calif., native. "The aerobics classes are open to all authorized patrons." Warfield continued to explain that to participate in the classes people only need to show up before the classes begin.

"The classes are all different and hopefully appeal to many different people," said Warfield.

Unit physical fitness is accessible to units wishing to participate

in an aerobics class.

"The unit can request any kind of aerobics class that we have to offer at a time that might be better for the unit," said Warfield.

For more information regarding the aerobics classes please contact the Warfield at 830-3381.

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President Bush recognizes Combat Center spouse

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Correspondent

On May 6, President George W. Bush celebrated Military Spouse Appreciation Day by commemorating military spouses that have contributed their time and effort to their country and the military by presenting to them each a President's Volunteer Service Award.

In 1984, former President Ronald Reagan announced Military Spouse Day to be held the Friday before Mother's Day, to acknowledge the spouses who play an essential role in the nation's military.

One Marine spouse being recognized, D. Kaprece James, was presented the President's Call to Service Award, which is only given to people who have volunteered 4,000 or more hours throughout their life.

"I have volunteered since I was 7 years old," said James, a Conway, S.C., native. "If I wasn't out helping people I don't know what I would be doing."

When her husband, 2nd Lt. Rodney James, with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, was stationed aboard the Combat Center, James immediately began volunteering at the American Red Cross and worked her way up to becoming the Key Volunteer Coordinator for 3/4's Headquarters and Service Company.

During his speech, Bush mentioned how James helped with more than 40 Red Cross communications messages that have provided deployed service members with notice or aid in emergency situations. "It was an honor," said James about meeting the President of the United States. "I was the youngest to receive the award that day."

James also founded the first year-round Youth Leadership Program for the Combat Center to help children learn professional leadership and interviewing skills that will prepare them for their future.

James received a grant from the American Red Cross for this program that will give children a chance to make and distribute more than 500 disaster kits for enlisted service members and their families.

"She helps spouses by keeping them informed by letting them know what is available to them aboard the base," said Staff Sgt. Edward A. Little, 3/4's family readiness officer. "If a spouse has a problem, she knows where to direct them."

Little, a Tucson, Ariz., native, continued by saying how James puts all the family days together and conducts KV meetings for the volunteers.

In her free time, she volunteers as a cheerleading coach for the children of the Combat Center.

Her love of volunteering and helping people comes from her great grandmother, who always taught her to get out in the world and do something with her life, she said.

"She had to stop going to school to take care of her family," said James. "So she always told me to go get an education and do something good with my life."

James continues to serve her community,



Kaprece James, American Red Cross volunteer from the Combat Center, stands in front of the White House for the Military Spouse Appreciation Day where President George W. Bush commemorated one spouse from every branch of the military with the President's Volunteer Service Award May 6.

country and the Marine Corps by volunteering her time to helping those around the Combat Center, and the Marines and sailors currently deployed.

College graduates commended for hard work

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Correspondent

The fifth annual Graduate Recognition Ceremony commended 26 students from the onbase colleges who will be graduating during this school year at the Protestant Chapel May 15.

Graduates attended on-base institutions, Copper Mountain College and National University, as well as several other colleges and universities from around the United States through their distance learning programs.

The welcoming statement was made by Jeff Fourier, the Education Services Officer of the Lifelong Learning Branch.

Fourier commented on the dedication of the students and the sacrifices they all had to make to accomplish their dreams.

"It is always exciting to watch people who are achieving their goals," said Fourier, a Newport, Oregon, native. "They are planning for their future and the future of their families."

Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese, Combat Center's commanding general and keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony, addressed the students during the ceremony.

"Education is not something you talk about," said Spiese during his speech. "It is what you do. You need to be proud of yourselves, you have done something many other people have chosen not to do."

Each student received an award and was personally congratulated by the deans of the respected colleges, Spiese and Fourier.

Ebonee Sifuentes, a student who received her associates' degree in economics at CMC, experienced many hardships and difficulties while obtaining her degree. Her hardships, having to transfer from three different institutions, changing her major, dealing with her husband's deployment, and taking care of her twins on her own, didn't stop her from reaching her dreams. "I didn't give up because it is worth it," said Sifuentes, a White Settlement, Texas, native. "It is indescribable."

Another student, Staff Sgt. Kirk Oestreich, an instructor for Marine Corps Communications-Electronic School, was able to overcome the difficulty of going to college while working full time as an active duty Marine by listening to his brother and mentors throughout his college experience.

Oestreich, a Riverside, Calif., native, joined the Marine Corps right after high school, he said. It took most of his Marine Corps career to realize education opens doors of opportunities.

"When I got here to MCCES I had a lot of powerful mentors," said Oestreich. "I started to understand what education was about."

One of his biggest mentors was his brother, Eric Oestreich, who is currently a full time student at Southern Illinois University, Riverside.

"He endured everything possi-



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON Staff Sgt. Kirk Oestreich, Marine Corps Communications-Electronic School and Southern Illinois University, Riverside Calif., graduate and student speaker, talks about the importance of earning an education during the Graduate Recognition Ceremony May 15 at the Protestant Chapel.

ble," said Eric, a Riverside, Calif., native. "He overcame every obstacle and challenge preventing him from pursuing an education."

Many of the students who will be graduating during this school year will be receiving a degree for the first time in their lives. "They're fulfilling a dream," said Fourier. "They can now pursue careers they have always dreamed of doing."

HOT TOPICS

MOTORCYCLE RANGE OPEN

The new motorcycle range is now in operation. Directions are as follows: Take Del Valle Rd. to Rifle Range Rd. Turn right and proceed 1 1/2 miles. The new range will be on your left hand side. Follow the paved road. It will lead you to the range. For more information please call the traffic safety program manager at 830-6154.

RED CROSS YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The American Red Cross is in the process of developing a Youth Leadership Program and is looking for youth ages 12-18 to get involved. There is an opportunity for three particpants to travel to St. Louis May 31 - June 1 to represent 29 Palms Red Cross Club at the National Youth Institute. For more information please call Kaprece James at 830-8409.

KIDS PFT

The next Kids' PFT will be held June 1 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Community Center near the commissary. Please register by sending names of children and their ages to kidspft29palms@ live.com or by calling the Protestant Chapel at 830-6464. See photos from first event at http://kidspft29 palms.blogspot.com.

ASYMCA FREE SUMMER CAMP

Armed Services YMCA Twentynine Palms will serve the children of active duty personnel by offering a FREE week of summer camp June 21 – 28 at Camp Oakes, Big Bear, Calif. Pick-up and drop-off will be at the ASYMCA building 192. The deadline for sign-up is June 13. This camp-ing trip is for children of active duty service members who are 8 to 14 years old. Registration will be limited to the first 86 children – first come, first serve. There are 56 slots for children between the ages of 8-11 (28 slots for boys, 28 slots for girls). There are 30 slots for children between the ages of 12-14 (15 slots for boys, 15 slots for girls). The registration form can be attained at the ASYMCA building and must be brought by the parent or legal guardian when submitting it to the ASYMCA Twentynine Palms office. Registration hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call the ASYMCA office at 830-7481. The campsite's Web site is www.campoakes.org. Chaperones are needed.

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PMO is looking for a few good civilians



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON Michelle Mills, a Marine Corps Police Academy cadet, takes notes during a class on terrorism awareness during their third week of training at building 1707 May 16.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Correspondent

In an attempt to increase the military police force throughout Marine Corps bases in the United States, Headquarters Marine Corps has given the go-ahead to add civilian police officers to the non-deployable military police departments.

The civilian police officers will help rotate military police back to Iraq and Afghanistan without leaving their department low on manpower.

The Combat Center will add nearly 70 civilian police officers until fiscal year 2011. There will be a 50 percent conversion to civilian police officers by fiscal year 2011, said 1st Lt. Kristopher Knobel, deputy provost marshal.

Every civilian applying for a police officer position must complete the Marine Corps Police Academy.

The first Marine Corps Police Academy for the Combat Center began May 5, where three civilians and one Marine began the training. The academy will be reviewed with the help of Master Gunnery Sgt. David Gomez, provost sergeant, who is enrolled in the academy to become a civilian police officer once he retires from the Marine

cer for the base.

"Individuals can be hired between the grades GS-5 and GS-13 depending on the position," said Rory Weston, hiring coordinator for the Combat Center's program. "They are going to be from the bottom all the way to the top. They will be fully integrated with the Marines."

Before being admitted to the academy, the candidates must complete a physical fitness test, pass a medical and physical exam and pass a psychological test. They must also have at least one year of law enforcement or security experience.

The nine week course consists of physical training three days a week, and classes that cover everything from the uniform code of military justice to physical fitness and nutrition.

"The academy will instill military discipline in the civilian police officers," said Knobel. "We will continue to hold all of PMO at the highest level of discipline even as the civilians begin transferring in."

Upon completion of the course, the officers will have all the same duties as the Marines working at PMO. To continue their services they must pass a physical fitness test twice a year.

The physical fitness test consists of a 300 meter sprint in 71

Ladies duke it out on the football field



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital powder puff football team pushes through the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team at Felix Field May 13. The Naval Hospital hosted the game as a fundraiser for the Corpsman Ball June 27. The Naval Hospital sold popcorn, icees, and nachos and cheese.



You help defend our country. We'll help you build your future.

Corps. The reviews will ensure it has everything needed to train the cadets properly.

"There will be some growing pains in the initial phases," said Maj. Pietro P. Scarselli, Combat Center's provost marshal. "We're going to work through those pains and use our foresight as best as possible and not let anything get in the way of our mission of hiring 20 employees this year, and 15 employees per year for the next two years."

The fully integrated officers will be civil service employees under both the General Schedule and National Security Personnel System pay methods which gives former Marines, family members and community members who meet all requirements the opportunity to be hired as a police offi-

seconds, 25 sit-ups in 1 minute, 20 push-ups in 2 minutes, a mile-and-a-half run in 16 minutes, and a dummy drag, where the civilians must drag a 165pound dummy for 25 feet without stopping.

"In the end, even though it may be somewhat painful to get through the initial process of having to get used to the new partnership, it is going to be a great program that will help us and the community," said Scarselli. "PMO is a family and I am excited to fully accept these GS police as part of our family, embrace them, and work together to accomplish our mission."

For more information visit www.usmccle.com or contact Weston at rory.weston.ctr@usmc .mil.

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Montgomery Gentry 'salutes' the Combat Center



Troy Gentry, country music singer, performs for thousands of Marines, sailors and family members during the Combat Center's We Salute You 2008 event at Victory Field May 10.

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN

KYLE

Combat Correspondent

Thousands of Marines, sailors and their families gathered at the Combat Center's Victory Field for the We Salute You 2008 event May 10, where country music band Montgomery Gentry blew the crowd away with a ground-shaking performance.

The band played some of its greatest hits like "Daddy Won't Sell the Farm," and "Speed." They also played some of their new songs like "Lucky Man," and tracks from the album scheduled to hit stores June 10.



Troy Gentry and Eddie Montgomery perform for thousands of Marines, sailors and their families during the We Salute You 2008 event at the Combat Center's Victory Field May 10. Several activities were provided like rock climbing walls, bounce houses, a mechanical bull and a dunking booth. The Combat Center's Band performed before the concert, playing several patriotic songs including the Marines Hymn. Several Combat Center Marines also demonstrated a reenactment of the Iwo Jima Memorial at the end of the hymn.

We Salute You is an annual Marine Corps Community Services event which takes place aboard the Combat Center to thank Marines, sailors and their family members for their dedicated service to the military and the United States.

The California Barbecue Association provided free food to the several thousand guests. Children and teenagers with the Tustin Young Marines Program helped serve the barbecue.

There were several activities for both children and adults to participate in, including a rockclimbing wall, mechanical bull, dunking booth, bounce houses and a water slide to keep the crowd occupied until the band hit the stage at 8 p.m.

Kevyn Major Howard, a photographer well-known for his role as "Rafterman" in the 1984 movie "Full Metal Jacket," brought his 1963 and 1966 Chevy Nova Fueled by the Fallen memorial cars that list the names of every Marine that has lost their life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As guests paid tribute to the names on the cars of the Fueled by the Fallen, Kelly Coe, special events coordinator. MCCS, had the honor of placing 1st Lt. Shaun Blue's name on one of the cars.

Blue, former member of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, was killed during combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq April 16, 2007, in support of OIF.

"[Blue] was one of my best friends and having the opportunity to put his name on the car made me really happy," said Coe. "The Marine Corps lost a true Marine when they lost him."

Howard said he plans to

make another car to remember troops that died in support of **Operation Enduring Freedom** as well.

Before the concert, Brig. Gen. M. G. Spiese, base commanding general, met with the band backstage and presented them a Combat Center coin and, surprisingly, received a Montgomery Gentry coin in return.

The Combat Center band also performed before the concert and concluded with the Marines Hymn. During the Marines Hymn, a reenactment of the Iwo Jima Memorial was performed by Combat Center Marines.

Just before Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry went on stage, they commented on their excitement and anticipation to play for the audience.

"It's an honor and a pleasure to be around America's finest," said Gentry, a Lexington, Ky., native. "I can't wait to play for all these guys that risk everything for our country."

All the lights went out on Victory Field and the crowd knew their wait was over. The band began playing behind a curtain as the crowd erupted in cheer and only got louder when it finally dropped.

When the band played their last song after nearly two hours of performing, the audience demanded an encore.

Montgomery Gentry gladly obliged and played two more songs to finish out the night.

As the crowd dispersed and headed for the exits, smiles filled their faces.

"The concert was awesome," said Lance Cpl. Tim Benoit, range control operator, BEARMAT Range Control Unit. "I can't remember the last time I had this much fun.'

FD1393



11:00am Joshua Tree Memorial Park 60121 29 Palms Hwy Joshua Tree, California



Free Community Event! Memorial Day Observance **BBQ & Live Music** Come Join Us!

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PARK from, A1

done for the Marine Corps."

The history pillars will surround an 18-foot granite center where visitors can view a map of the base in relation to California. The walkway will be surrounded by palm trees and rolling terrain to provide sense of privacy to visitors.

Construction for the memorial

walkway is slated to begin this month and is scheduled to be completed by November, said Marc Dell'Ario, project manager of Roy Mohammad Associates Land Construction.

The enjoyment area will include grills, picnic tables and benches. Artificial grass will be laid down to provide a park-like environment, and canopies will

HERITAGE PARK CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AREA

be placed over a few of the picnic tables to provide families shade from the sun. A stage will be built to give base personnel a chance to hold staged events.

"Our goal is to give them a destination for outdoor activities," said Spiese. "I want to give them a place to play and gather." The street hockey rink and

skateboard park will give enthusi-

asts a place to practice and play without having to worry about cars or obstacles.

Dog owners can socialize their pet by taking them to either a small or large dog park. The two parks will keep dogs segregated by size. The dog parks will have agility courses to give the dogs some exercise.

The children's outdoor water

spray park will give children a chance to play outside without a parent having to worry about heat exhaustion and sunburn during the hotter months, said Lehman.

Heritage Park is being constructed to provide the Combat Center community a fun place to relax and hang out with friends and family. Read the Observation Post for updates on the park's progress.

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OBSERVATION POST

A helping hand; 3rd CEB aids in turning school over to Baghdadi children

CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

BAGHDADI, Iraq — A the local children. schoolhouse once used as an

is now being transformed back into a school house for May 2 marked the begin-



Marines with Support Platoon, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, move an old guard post used by Iragi Army in Baghdadi, May 4. The Marines are demilitarizing a schoolhouse which the IA now occupy and are building a new traffic control point across the street. The schoolhouse is scheduled to be complete in August, one month prior to the beginning of the new school year.

Iraqi Army headquarters here ning of the demilitarization process of the school along with the ground-breaking for a new traffic control point headquarters buildings directly across the street from the existing schoolhouse. The new traffic control point will allow the IA to continue to provide security to the Baghdadi area and give the school back to the children.

Support Platoon, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, worked around the clock over the past few days to complete the extensive mission of building the TCP.

Even though the Marines are putting in exhausting hours to complete their objectives here, they have high hopes for the

See 3RD CEB, A10



Quality NCOs wanted for Counterintelligence

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J.

NOLA

Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps is currently seeking out intelligent, motivated, and ambitious first-term corporals and sergeants for lateral moves into the 0211 field, counterintelligence/human intelligence (CI/HUMINT) specialist military occupational specialty.

"We are currently looking for motivated Marines that have initiative, can think on their feet and work with limited supervision on their own," said Staff Sgt. Caleb D. King, CI/HUMINT specialist.

CI/HUMINT specialist is a new MOS in the intelligence field which combines counterintelligence specialist and interrogatortranslator.

The two fields were first combined in 1998 and the resulting 0211 MOS has been in high demand ever since.

"To fill our numbers has always been a challenge for us," said King. "We're in real high demand [in Iraq] and everywhere else."

There are two primary missions that CI/HUMINT Marines conduct for the Marine Corps.

"First, we are responsible for detecting, locating and neutralizing threats to coalition forces from terrorism, espionage, sabotage, and subversion (TESS)," said Staff Sgt. Lucas A. Helms, CI/HUMINT specialist. "Second, every CI/HUMINT Marine is responsible for collecting information from human sources in order to provide timely information regarding the battle space to their supported command."

According to the CI/HUMINT Company, 1st

Intelligence Battalion Web site, CI/HUMINT Marines accomplish this mission by collecting tactical information, analyzing intelligence, translating documents, conducting interrogations and strategic briefings, as well as producing finished intelligence products on TESS.

To earn the title of CI/HUMINT Marine applicants must first attend the Marine Air Ground Task Force Counterintelligence Specialist Course, Navy Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Dam Neck, Va.

King said the 90-day course is broken down into several phases of formal training in such subjects as basic intelligence, surveillance, report writing, briefing and tactical communications.

"The first several weeks will focus on how the intelligence community functions, and how Marine Corps CI/HUMINT fits into the big picture," said Helms. "The following weeks will focus on developing the skills necessary to be successful in the CI/HUMINT field."

King also said the course's practical applications and continuous evaluations will allow CI/HUMINT candidates to develop the confidence and knowledge necessary to conduct CI/HUMINT operations.

"The school culminates with a lengthy final exercise, which will test the Marines on all aspects of the course's curriculum," said Helms.

King said in addition to basic training, CI/HUMINT Marines can expect to take part in additional specialized training.

Examples of additional training include foreign language training at the Defense Language Institute,

See CI/HUMINT, A11



1st





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proficient in combat arms-related skills as they are required to operate proficiently while integrated with the infantry.



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A busy week of golf swings through Combat Center

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Golfers from throughout the Twentynine Palms, Calif., area took to the greens and fairways of the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course last week as both the intramural and commanding general's golf tournaments took place May 12 thorough May 16.

The intramural golf tournament kicked off May 12 with two teams from the Marine Corps **Communication**-Electronics School, three teams from Headquarters Battalion, and one team from Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, competing for first place.

The MCCES A team came won the event after four days of competitive play and were crowned champions May 15.

The Provost Marshal's Office put together a strong effort and finished second.

Individual awards went to Graham Murdock, MCCES A, and Mark Carrington, HQBN 1, who claimed first and second place in the low individual score competition. Murdock won with a score of 303, and Carrington with a score of 324 claimed second place after beating out Carl Levering on the second hole of a sudden death playoff.

Carrington and with Samuel Paulk from MCCES A, each won one of the tournaments two closest to the pin competitions.

The Commanding General's Golf Tournament kicked off bright and early May 16 with 36



18-hole scramble.

Tim Connolly, assistant operations manager at the Desert Winds Golf Course, said in a scramble each player tees off on each hole. The best tee shot is then decided on and all players play their second from that spot. This format continues until a ball is holed. The team with the lowest score after 18 holes of golf wins.

Participants in this year's tournament were treated to range balls, a continental breakfast and steak lunch, beverages and raffle prizes.

In addition to the scramble, golfers competed in putting, longest drive and closest to the pin contests.

The Bud Girls were on hand for photos after the 18th hole and prizes awarded to contest winners included club sets, drivers, and USMC embroidered golf bags.

The tournament was won late

four-man teams competing in the in the afternoon by Team 6A which featured George Schadegg, sport specialist at the Combat Center, and Carrington.

All in all, Connolly said he believed the tournament was a success and all those who participated or were in attendance had the opportunity to relax and have a good time.

"It's been very good," said Connolly a Twentynine Palms native. "Great weather, a great showing, and the weather was excellent.'

After completing the last hole of the Commanding General's Golf Tournament, first time participant Jonathan Lazzeroni, summed up the week with a beer and a smile.

"It was awesome," said Lazzeroni, a native of San Jose, Calif. "I'm having a blast. I'm here with my father and it's Friday, so it doesn't get better than this.'



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOL

Brig. Gen. M.G. Spiese, Combat Center commanding general, chips his way onto the green on the final hole.



Laura Ellsworth chips onto the green during the Commanding

General's Golf Tournament at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course May 16.



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LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA Marion G. Villescas drives down the middle of the fairway at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course May 16. Villescas, a native of Calexico, Calif., was taking part in the Commanding General's Golf Tournament hosted by Marine Corps Community Services.

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TANKS, from A1

phone calls, and once I heard his voice I was happy all day."

Two highlights from the evening of May 13 were the introductions of two Marines to their children, whom they had never met before.

Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

Service Times:

"It's pretty cool," said Sgt. arms. Andy M. Rogers, tank crewman, as he cradled his daughter Dixie Joe.

Rogers said he had big plans for the two of them, but for the time being he was content shielding Dixie Joe from the slight breeze as she slept in his

Spirit and Truth Worship Center

After most of the Marines and sailors of Charlie Company left Victory Field with their friends and families, Cpl. Wenceslao Martinez, Tank repairman, was just getting to know his son Dominic Wen Martinez as they sat together at Victory Field's picnic area.

"It's very overwhelming," said Teresa Ibanez, Martinez's wife. "It's also very exciting too because he just met the baby."

After enjoying some well deserved time off with their for their next deployment.



Sgt. Andy M. Rogers, tank crewman, Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, holds his daughter Dixie Joe for the first

OBSERVATION POST

3RD CEB, from A8

local residents' future.

"It's going to give the IA a better chance to watch over the community and to ensure that the children have a safer environment," said Sgt. Jay. S. Calles, 23, a motor transportation operator attached to 3rd CEB.

'This (project) will let the children concentrate on their education instead of everything else that is going on in the country," said Calles, who is from Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.

The schoolhouse is scheduled to be complete in August, one month prior to the beginning of the new school year here.

The Marines have been aiding the Iraqi people in improving the area for some time now.

'It gives me a good feeling that kids can start going back to school in the schoolhouse and the IA are moving across the street to the new TCP," said Cpl. Luis A. Alvarez, 22, a motor transportation operator, 3rd CEB, who is from Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

A growing and persistent friendship is apparent between the residents of Baghdadi and the Coalition forces that inhabit the area around them.

'We want to show the Baghdadi residents how much the Marine Corps cares and how much they take care of the Iraqi people," said Alvarez.

10 :00AM

5:00PM

6:00PM



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CI/HUMINT, from A8

Foreign Language Center, United States Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., U.S. Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, Ga., and Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape training at either Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine., or at Navy Remote Training Site, Warner Springs, Calif.

"A Marine assigned to support an infantry battalion will probably spend more time in courses designed to further develop their tactical skills, for example shooting packages, tactical driving courses, etc.," said Helms.

Helms also said Marines not looking forward to deployments should not consider the CI/HUMINT MOS.

"Currently, CI/HUMINT Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton with 1st CI/HUMINT Company spend approximately eight to nine months out of the year either deployed, or in a [temporarily assigned duty] status," said Helms.

Despite what many Marines may think, lateral moves into the CI/HUMINT MOS are not intended for grunts only.

"We want Marines with combat deployments, but we have Marines from every MOS," said King.

While Marines for all MOS fields are encouraged to apply, applicants should be proficient in infantry knowledge.

"If not already tactically proficient in combat arms-related skills, applicants are expected to learn basic squad tactics as they will be required to operate proficiently while integrated with the infantry as a member of a HUMINT Exploitation Team (HET)," said Helms.

There are no formal physical criteria for CI/HUMINT applicants. However, candidates are expected to be in excellent physical condition.

"Marines should run at minimum a 1st class [physical fitness test]," said Helms. "When attached to an infantry unit, CI/HUMINT Marines will be expected to carry their own load, and keep up with the rest of the unit throughout their operations."

Those Marines considering a lateral moving in the CI/HUMINT MOS can look forward to an exciting new career in the Marine Corps, and becoming more marketable to civilian employers.

CI/HUMINT Marines become extremely proficient in interviewing, report writing, briefing, and develop confident, outgoing personalities," said Helms.

In addition to learning job skills, CI/HUMINT Marines work with intelligence assets from many different government agencies as well civilian contractors.

"Either way you want to go, it's a good career path," said King.

Marines interested in lat moving to the CI/HUMINT MOS should contact 1st Intelligence Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Bldg. 1441 at (760) 725-6227 / 6872 / 6278.

After a mandatory phone interview, possible applicants will have their information passed onto the Combat Center's CI/HUMINT recruiter.

Once contacted by the CI/HUMINT recruiter Marines can fill out all remaining paper work at the Combat Center, and will only travel to Camp Pendleton for the necessary boards.

For more information about the CI/HUMINT field visit http://www.i-mef .usmc.mil/mhg/intelbn/ci.asp

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11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187 6 p.m. RCIA, building 1551

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To become a CI/HUMINT Marine, you must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be a corporal staff sergeant (lance corporals will be considered on a case-by-case basis).
- b. Possess a GCT of 110 or above.
- c. Be a U.S. citizen.
- d. Have a good performance record.
- e. Be eligible for a Top Secret/SCI clearance.
- Be willing to take the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) and f. Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) if you already have foreign language skill.
- Must re-enlist or extend to have 3 years obligated service upon completion of the 14 week MAGTF CI/HUMINT Basic Course.
- h. Be male and at least 21 years old upon attendance at the CI/HUMINT Basic Course.

Additionally, each applicant must undergo a screening board composed of active duty CI/HUMINT Marines. The purpose of the board is to evaluate the applicants suitability for the 0211 MOS (the board is require by MCO 3850.1J). Upon recommendation by the screening board, further coordination for re-enlistment and lateral move is conducted with the applicant's career retention specialist.



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MCAGCC Varsity Softball Team on deck to face another season

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Combat Correspondent

While many Marines were just waking up or starting physical training, members and prospective members of the Combat Center's varsity softball team commenced another early morning practice May 13 at Felix Field.

The varsity softball team is composed of male Marines who travel the West Coast to play competitively in the Marine Corps' West Coast varsity league.

They also participate in civilian tournaments and draw the best players from the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.

The varsity traveling softball team is the best of the best that the base has to offer from all the units aboard the base," said T.C. Gray, varsity head coach and native of Jacksonville, Ala.

Gray said as part of the varsity league the team competes against Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz., Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

The team also faces Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Calif., when they compete for gold at The West Coast Regional Championship.

Our goal is to be the Men's 2008 West Softball Regional's Coast Team

Champions," said Gray.

Gray is finalizing his roster by holding tryouts during early morning practices every Tuesday and Thursday at Felix Field, and the early hours serve as a way to test player's commitment to the team, he said.

William Beyer, an outfielder hoping to make Gray's final roster, said it was the love of the game that drew him to tryouts.

"I love playing ball," said Beyer, a native of Schoolcraft, Mich., "[The varsity softball team] is a good way to keep playing.

Gray said he felt good about this year's roster and other bases are making a big mistake by looking over this year's team.

Ray Wren, the varsity assistant coach and Abilene, Texas, native said the there are many young players in the lineup this season, but many of older players have ability to bring the younger ones into the fold.

We got a good core of veterans on the team that can help the young ones come along," said Wren, who has baseball experience at both the high school and collegiate levels. "We have a chance of having a good season if we put it all together each game."

Daniel Sullivan, an outfielder and from Columbus, Ohio, said the biggest challenge for the younger players will be getting used to the high level of play.

"They've got to get used to adjusting to the level of play, but they'll be alright because there is a ton of talent on this

team," said Sullivan. "They just gotta get confidence playing at that level."

Those players who had already secured a spot on the final roster shared the opinion that they are strong defensively but need to be more productive at the plate.

"If we hit the ball we're going to be dangerous," said Joshua P. Zeagler, rookie infielder from West Monroe, La.

Sullivan, a veteran varsity player, seemed confident the team's plate production will come around and player's defensive capabilities will help lead them through the early stages of the season.

This team is very, very solid defensively," said Sullivan. "All the fundamental stuff they do solidly and our defense will keep us in games until our bats come around.'

All in all it looks like fans of competitive softball are in for another exciting season of competitive softball. Throws to first base are crisp, communication is locked on, and the team that finished second in league play looks ready to improve on last year's 12-8 record and claim a championship when the they travel to Camp Pendleton for this years regionals.

We'll be good," said Joseph B. Cavins, right fielder and Newport, Mich., native. "It's starting to all gel together now."

For more information about Combat Center's softball programs please contact the sports office at 830-6857.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Tyrone C. Gray, head coach of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Softball Team, hits ground balls to his infielders during the teams practice at the Combat Center's Felix Field May 13. Gray, a native of Jacksonville, Ala., is still finalizing his team's roster for upcoming competitions.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA Ray Wren, assistant coach of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Softball Team, hits fly balls to his outfielders during the teams practice at the Combat Center's Felix Field May 13. Wren, a native of Abilene, TX., who played baseball at both the high school and collegiate level said the team's strength is it's defensive solidarity.



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