

OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 4, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 23

1/2 uses technology to save lives, fight insurgency

LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

2ND MARINE DIVISION COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, recently participated in a Counter to Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device and Electronic Warfare or CREW system class here.

The battalion is the first to go through Mojave Viper training with the newly revised course.

The revised course offers more hands on and visual learning, allowing Marines to "hear, see and

See CREW, A9



LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

Marines with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, learn how to use the Counter to Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device and Electronic Warfare systems using computer simulations here May 3. The battalion is the first battalion going through Mojave Viper trained with the newly revised course.



3 Prepare for your outdoor adventure



6 Mountain Warfare Marines complete CFT



LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

Marines use a remote control device, which controls the Chameleon system here, The Chameleon is one of three jamming systems the Marine Corps is using.



7 Rescue facility reaches out to abused horses



CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

Lance Cpl. Bobby J. Jordan, 20, rifleman with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, from Tyler, Texas, shakes hands with an Iraqi child during a census patrol May 21. Marines with Company K patrolled through the city of Bani Dahir, Iraq, to become more familiar with the local populace. Marines said the community's sentiment towards Marines and the Iraqi Police was positive.

3/4 Marines embrace new image

CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

BANI DAHIR, Iraq — Marines have always had a reputation as a force to be feared. In Bani Dahir, Iraq, Marines with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, have changed that sentiment towards them.

Marines with 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company K, 3/4, conducted a census patrol through the city to gauge the feelings the Iraqi locals have concerning Marines and the Iraqi Police.

"The objective of the patrol was to gather intelligence about the local populace," said Cpl. Roland L. Ramirez, 22, a team

leader with Company K from Mission, Texas. "We want to make sure the people in town are safe."

The squad, which is a part of the only platoon in the city, traveled to multiple locations during their patrol.

"They let us know what the attitude in town is toward Marines and the IP," Ramirez said. "They let us know if we are doing things right."

They were greeted warmly at the first house they visited. Two Marines in the patrol asked the Iraqi an array of questions to properly weigh the mood of the

See IMAGE, A8

Combat Center celebrates Memorial Day with traditional 21 gun salute

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J.

NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center celebrated Memorial Day with a 21-gun salute at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 26.

The ceremony was presided over by command Sgt. Maj. William Johnson who opened the event with a brief explanation about the history of the 21-gun salute and its role in naval traditions.

The National Ensign was raised to half-mast during morning colors in honor of the holiday.

At noon the firing party, which consisted of a noncommissioned

officer with an NCO sword and seven rifle men equipped with M16A2 service rifles, rendered the salute.

Called to attention by Sgt. Robert H. Lorrison, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the logistics capabilities center, the Marines firing the salute snapped to the position of attention and shouldered their weapons.

After receiving a second command from Lorrison, a native of Hampton, Va., the Marines fired three consecutive volleys into the air before returning to parade rest.

Once the salute ended a color guard raised the flag all the way up

See MEMORIAL, A11



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Marines serving as the firing party during the Combat Center's Memorial Day 21-gun salute stand at parade rest near the flag pole located at the Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 26.

This Day in Marine Corps History

June 2, 1918-

When German 28th division attacked American troops at the axis of Paris-Metz road, Marines handed the German troops a setback, which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood.

Speed costs lives, money

APRIL PHILLIPS

NAVAL SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For most of us, a speeding ticket is little more than an annoyance – a hundred bucks or more down the drain for fines and court costs, and higher insurance rates down the road. However, each and every summer, Sailors and Marines are killed on the highways and the number one reason for their fatal crashes is excessive speed.

Speed is considered one of the “fatal four” factors that lead to traffic fatalities, said Dan Dray, a traffic safety specialist at the Naval Safety Center.

“Our number one killer of Sailors and Marines each summer is personal motor vehicle mishaps, and the biggest reason those fatalities occur is speed,” Dray said.

He said that for every single mile per hour driven over the speed limit, the risk of being in an accident increases by five percent.

Statistics prove that slowing down is an effective way to reduce the risk of traffic accidents this summer. Not only does reduced speed reduce the potential severity of an accident that does occur, it also gives you a better opportunity to avoid accidents altogether. Slowing down gives you more time to react to hazards such as highway debris and unexpected actions by other drivers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety report that single-vehicle crashes, such as cars that run off the road or hit an embankment, are most likely to occur at speeds in excess of 70 miles per hour. The risk of injury with all types of crashes increases with speed. Studies have shown that the risk of injury is lowest when the driver is going at or just below the posted speed limit and the risk increases exponentially at higher speeds.

However, Dray said there’s another reason to slow down. Speed can hit Sailors and Marines where it hurts – their wallets.

“I urge people to take the rising gas prices into consideration,” he said. “The faster you drive, the higher your fuel consumption rate, lowering your overall fuel economy.”

Translation: Speed equals more money at the gas pump.

Summer is a great time to practice risk management skills by reducing speed, Dray said.

“School’s out and kids are out playing. We all need to be more mindful when we’re driving,” he said.

For more information on speeding and other traffic safety topics, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

The Naval Safety Center’s website has tools and resources to help you and your command reduce motor-vehicle mishaps, visit us at: <http://www.safety-center.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle>.



COURTESY PHOTO

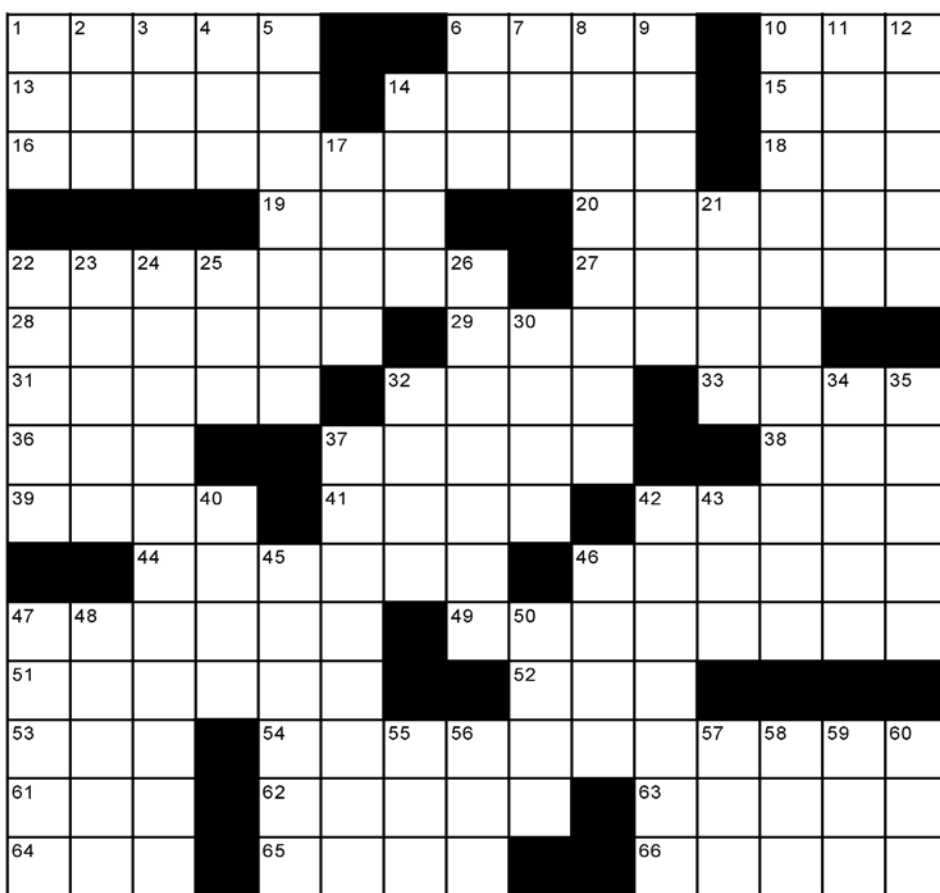
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety report that single-vehicle crashes, such as cars that run off the road or hit an embankment, are most likely to occur at speeds in excess of 70 miles per hour.

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Ruellyn Benedict
Employer: Marine Corps Community Services
Job Title: Clothing sales supervisor
Job Duties: Helping Marines with uniform items and ordering uniform items
Hometown: Moses Lake, Wash.
Hobbies: Reading, crocheting, counter-cross stitch embroidering
What do you like most about your job: I like being able to help our Marines
Significant achievements since coming to the MCAGCC: Was a Navy Relief volunteer with about 2,000 volunteer hours
Military Service: No, wife of retired Staff Sgt. Michael Benedict
Time On Base: 25 years

IT RHYMES



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ACROSS

1. Rhea’s “Cheers” role
6. Have a few too many
10. Spare tire substance
13. Elementary school quintet
14. Androcles’ extraction
15. “_____ had it!”
16. “Cats,” for one
18. Scrammed
19. Saturn model
20. Midlife _____
22. Toss a monkey wrench into
27. Stovetop vessel
28. Dealt in stocks
29. Lead ore
31. Dog-____ (shabby)
32. It may be cracked
33. Way to smooth
36. Flow back
37. Shlepped

DOWN

1. Urban ride
2. _____Lingus
3. Brazilian hot spot
4. Mauna_____
5. Took for no credit
6. Quaker pronoun
7. World of awe
8. Caused a tingling sensation in
9. Menu offering
10. Glove compartment item
11. Be of use to
12. All wound up
14. Tart taste
17. Blue dye
21. “Pay_____mind”
22. Joust’s mount
23. Sheik’s home of song
24. Place to cook ribs
25. Horatian work
26. Swellhead

30. Mideast’s Gulf of_____
32. Mrs. Dithers
34. Africa’s Sierra _____
35. Acted the toady
37. Moved unsteadily
40. Rapper Snoop _____
42. Printer’s primary color
43. Hoppy brew
45. Statue material
46. Mex. miss
47. Influential sort
48. Greek salad morsel
50. Comic Russian actor Mischa
55. Bon _____(cleanser brand)
56. Drop from the rooster
57. Comfy room
58. Halloween flier
59. Prefix with metric
60. X in Rome

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

What would you do with a million dollars?

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



LANCE CPL. JONATHAN CHANG
 2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I would give it to my family and friends and the rest to myself.”



STAFF SGT. DONALD HERRING
 1ST TANK BATTALION

“I would get out of this area, stay in the Marine Corps and finish my contract then invest it.”



1ST LT. FORD SHAW
 1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I would pay my lance corporal team leaders the corporal pay they deserve.”

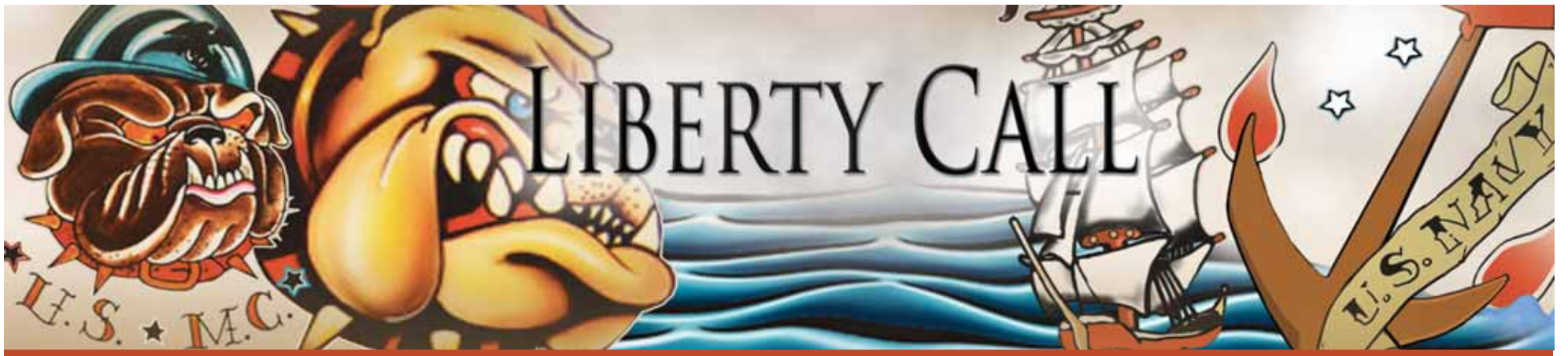
OBSERVATION POST

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<p>WED. 6/4</p> <p>Brian Goodlander on piano Time: 7 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Inn, 73950 Inn Avenue 29 Palms For more info call 367-3505 Or visit http://www.29palmsinn.com</p>	<p>THURS. 6/5</p> <p>Free Community Evenings at the Palm Springs Art Museum Time: 4-8 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Drive Palm Springs For more info call 322-4000 Or http://www.psmuseum.org</p>	<p>FRI. 6/6</p> <p>Soap Box Derby Time: 4:30 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce, 73660 Civic Center Dr., 29 Palms For more info call 367-3445 Or visit http://www.29chamber.com</p>	<p>FRI. 6/6</p> <p>Street Fair & Car Show Time: 6 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce, 73660 Civic Center Dr., 29 Palms For more info call 367-3445 Or visit http://www.29chamber.com</p>	<p>FRI. 6/6</p> <p>"Volunteer Jam" Featuring the Charlie Daniels Band and .38 Special Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio For more info call 342-5000 Or http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</p>
<p>SAT. 6/7</p> <p>Mojave Desert Tours Where: Harvey House 681 N. First Ave., Barstow For more info call 219-4916 Or visit http://www.barstowchamber.com/bkrr</p>	<p>SAT. 6/7</p> <p>4th JTDC Golf Tourney Time: 7 a.m. Where: Roadrunner Dunes Golf Course, 4733 Desert Knoll Drive, 29 Palms For more info call 367-5770</p>	<p>SAT. 6/7</p> <p>Shadow Mountain Band Time: 5 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace, 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 Or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com</p>	<p>SAT. 5/31</p> <p>Saturday Night Music Showcase Time: 8 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., 55844 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley For more info call 365-7771</p>	<p>SUN. 6/8</p> <p>Art Opening: Shea Dunn Time: 7 p.m. Where: True World Gallery, 61740 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree For more info call 366-2300 Or visit http://www.trueworldgallery.com</p>

Outdoor Adventures caters to summer activities

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Summer is just around the corner, and the Marine Corps Community Services Outdoor Adventures is prepared with virtually all the gear and equipment required to make the summer months enjoyable.

Open to active duty military, their families, base employees and retired military, Outdoor Adventures rents out everything from party and picnic necessities to gardening tools.

"The biggest thing we rent out during the summer is the camping equipment and tents," said John Murdock, Outdoor Adventure manager. "We made packages that give them everything they need for camping except the sleeping bag."

The camping set, depending on the number of people, includes a small or large tent, lanterns, a cooler and cooking gear. Other camping equipment available through the center is backpacks or day-packs, binoculars, grills, cots, folding saw and shovel, hatchets and mattress pads.

"We basically have whatever a family needs for outdoor activities," said Virginia Amador, recreation attendant. "We help them pass their time in a fun way."

Outdoor Adventures also rents fishing gear which is a big hit with Marines traveling to Lake Havasu, said Murdock. Kayaks and canoes are also available to rent out along with life vests and water skis.

"We make it economical for them to try a broad range of activities," said Murdock. "They're going to be more apt to step up and try."

The center also carries a wide range of sports equipment, including special sets that will



Sean Price, Outdoor Adventures recreation attendant, checks and restocks camping gear and equipment May 30. Outdoor Adventures rents out a range of items from sports equipment to gardening supplies.

provide enough equipment for an entire team.

Customers also rent out bicycles to take to Joshua Tree National Park to exercise and enjoy the scenery, said Murdock.

Supplies and games for parties are also available. Tables, chairs and beverage buckets along with canopies are part of the party supplies available. Games include

bean bag toss, checkerboard rug, crazy leg stilts, hula hoops, and jump ropes, ring toss, frisbee disc catcher and the parachute.

"We rent a lot of tables and chairs to families during Thanksgiving," said Murdock. "A lot of these people take the single Marines home with them during the holidays."

Outdoor Adventure also

works hard to provide supplies to the units aboard the Combat Center by providing inflatable jumpers, canopies, tables and chairs and anything else the units may need for a homecoming, departure or unit functions.

For more information contact Outdoor Adventures at 830-7235.

Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

<p>WEDNESDAY 6/4</p> <p>Stop Loss 7 p.m. - R</p>
<p>THURSDAY 6/5</p> <p>Leatherheads 7 p.m. - PG-13</p>
<p>FRIDAY 6/6</p> <p>Prom Night 6 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p>Forgetting Sarah Marshall 9 p.m. - R</p> <p>The Ruins Midnight - R</p>
<p>SATURDAY 6/7</p> <p>FREE Matinee Daddy Day Camp 11 a.m. - PG</p> <p>Nim's Island 2 p.m. - PG</p> <p>Forbidden Kingdom 6 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p>Smart People 9 p.m. - R</p> <p>88 Minutes Midnight - R</p>
<p>SUNDAY 6/8</p> <p>TBA 2 p.m. - TBA</p> <p>Baby Mama 6 p.m. - PG-13</p> <p>Street Kings 9 p.m. - R</p>
<p>MONDAY 6/9</p> <p>The Ruins Midnight - R</p>
<p>TUESDAY 6/10</p> <p>Leatherheads 7 p.m. - PG-13</p>

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Officers' Spouses' Club honors scholarship recipients, says goodbye to President

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Officers' Spouses' Club recognized recipients of the club's annual academic scholarships and bid farewell to their president at a luncheon held at the 29 Palms Inn May 29.

"We are just delighted to give out this money," said Tami L. Roleff, the club's scholarship chair and wife of Maj. Keith Roleff, commanding officer of Charlie Company at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "Our whole purpose in being is to give scholarships and grants to local non-profits."

Treena K. Wolfenbarger, OSC president and wife of Maj. Craig

A. Wolfenbarger, executive officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said spouses and children of active duty, retired, and deceased service members were eligible for the scholarships which were awarded based on personal merits and grades.

Wolfenbarger, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., said the OSC works year round to raise the money, and this year the club's hard work ensured all individuals who were nominated for a scholarship received one.

"The OSC is filled with such a diverse mix of women there was always a new idea," said Wolfenbarger. "Overall the year was just fantastic."

Roleff said she believed the 22 scholarships awarded set an OSC



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Members of the Officers' Spouses' Club dine at the OCS scholarship luncheon at the 29 Palms Inn May 29. The luncheon was held in honor of individuals who were awarded academic scholarships because of their achievements in the classroom and personal merits.

record, with eight scholarships going to children, and 14 going to spouses.

This year's recipients ranged from recent high school graduates to individuals in their 40's, with some scheduled to attend

nearby Copper Mountain Community College and others traveling as far as Georgia State University, Atlanta, said Roleff, a native of Minneapolis, Minn.

Degrees being pursued by recipients include nursing, business management, political science and culinary arts.

The ceremony also marked the end of Wolfenbarger's tenure as the club's president.

Wolfenbarger, who is moving to Fort Story, Va., with her husband, was a good communicator and managed to keep the club's operations running smoothly, said Shiloh K. Hand, club treasurer and wife of Maj. Mark Hand, logistics officer with Headquarters Battalion's ATG.

Shiloh, a native of Murphys, Calif., also said that Wolfenbarger's ability to work with the Combat Center community enabled the club to operate more efficiently.

Those who were able to attend the luncheon were presented with certificates and a free lunch, but most importantly they received help with the rising costs associated with higher education.

"It's money well spent," said Kyla Cook, a recent graduate of Twentynine Palms High School who will study journalism at Northern Iowa Area Community College, Mason City, Iowa.

Shaquanta L. Caldwell, another recent graduate of Twentynine Palms High School and daughter of Sgt. Maj. Robert Caldwell, said she was looking forward to attending Georgia State University where she will major in marketing and accounting with a minor in business management.

After years of traveling from one duty station to the next, Caldwell is looking forward to making her return to the South, and her OSC scholarship will help make that happen.

HOT TOPICS

ASYMCA SOAPBOX DERBY

It is time once again for the ASYMCA Soapbox Derby being held Friday. The race will also be kicking off the Twentynine Palms Street Fair and Car Show. Entry fee for the race is \$25 per child. Space is limited to the first 50 sign ups. Sign ups are still open to all entries.

Categories are:

5 to 8 years old - Stock Division (no prior Soapbox experience)

9 to 14 years old - Stock Division (no prior Soapbox experience)

5 to 8 years old - Super Stock Division (previous experience)

9 to 14 years old - Super Stock Division (previous experience)

We provide the Derby kit and you provide the imagination! *Kit does not include tools. Adult supervision is required.*

Where to register: Armed Services YMCA, Building 192

Race Day: Pit opens 3 p.m.

Inspection 4 p.m.

Race starts at 4:30 p.m.

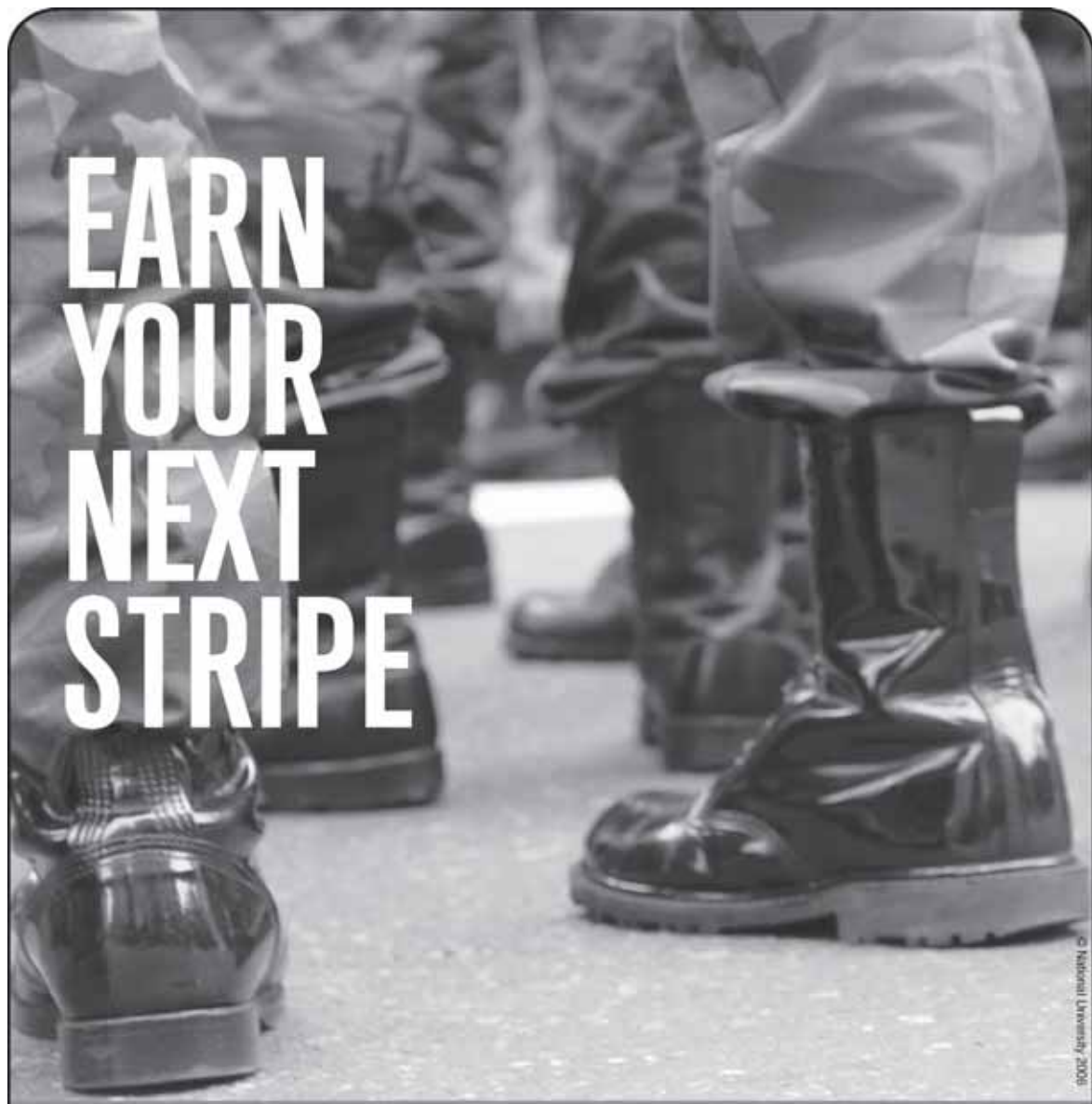
Please call Jodi Bennett at 830-7481 for more information or e-mail to henryasymca@roadrunner.com.

SIGN-UPS FOR JUNIOR ALL-AMERICAN FOOTBALL OF SOUTHERN CALIF.

Sign-up will be held June 7 and June 14 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. Regular sign-ups begin June 30 and end July 31, or until teams are filled. Teams include; Micros ages 8-10, Junior Pee Wee ages 9-12, Pee Wee ages 10-13 and Midget ages 11-14. Registration packets are available at the following locations: 4 Sports & More, The Desert Trail, His Creation and Big 5 Sporting Goods.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE

The Legal Assistance Office, building 1514, assists all active duty service members with their naturalization process. There is no fee to apply. Pick up a forms packet and schedule an appointment with the paralegal after following instructions and completing all forms. Effective October 1, 2008, a new test will be given interviews. For family members, a military outreach is scheduled for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist family members with naturalization, permanent resident status, VISAs, etc. The immigration officers will assist with general information on all types of immigration issues, petitions and applications, completing immigration forms, checking status of cases, and answering questions. Forms are available at the LAO. The date of this event is June 12, by appointment only. Please call the LAO at 830-6111 to schedule an appointment with an immigration officer or for more information.



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Got talent? MCAGCC does

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 200 Marines, sailors and family members gathered at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema May 24 for the first Single Marines Program and Drug Demand Reduction Talent Show.

Ten contestants took the stage, displaying their talents like singing and playing musical instruments, and vied for a spot in the top three where cash prizes were awarded.

The contestants were judged based on their overall talent, crowd participation and first impression.

Local rap group De2our emceed the talent show and started off the event by performing some of their latest songs for the audience and passing out CDs. De2our is comprised of Lance Cpl. Darius Dixon, embark specialist, 1st Tank Battalion and San Jose, Calif., native and Staff Sgt. Xavisus Gayden, career retention specialist, H Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and Houston, native.

Lavonne Lessard, SMP coordinator, manned a shirt-launcher after the last contestant exited the stage, blasting SMP T-

shirts to the audience while they waited for the judges' decision.

Petty Officer 1st Class David Toston, preventive medicine technician, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, took third place in the competition, winning \$100 with a stellar singing performance of the National Anthem.

Toston said he enjoyed performing in front of a large crowd.

"It felt natural," said Toston, a Los Angeles native. "I sing at all of the retirement ceremonies at the hospital so this wasn't really that hard."

Guitarist and singer Lance Cpl. Daphne Bowles, travel clerk, Installation Personnel Administration Center, Alpha Company, Headquarters Battalion, captivated the crowd with a song she wrote and performed for her mother to bring home second place and a \$300 prize.

"I'm a very shy person and it was really hard for me to get up in front of all those people," said Bowles, an American Samoa native.

Pfc. Mathew Fleek, student, Marine Corps Communication Electronics School, took first place and the \$500 grand prize with his performance with bagpipes.



LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines, sailors and family members watch on as guitarist and singer Mark Goff performs country music star Tim McGraw's "If You're Reading This," during the first Single Marines Program and Drug Demand Reduction Talent Show at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema May 24. Contestants vied for the top three spots that awarded cash prizes. Local rap group De2our announced the event and also performed for the audience. SMP and DDR plan to make the talent show an annual event.

Fleek, a Portland, Ore., native, performed a Scottish march and ended with the Marines Hymn that had everyone on their feet.

"I feel like I performed really well," said Fleek. "I did my part without messing up so I felt really good about it."

Fleek said he has played the bagpipes for about seven years and plans to keep up the hard work.

The talent show was the first SMP and

See TALENT, A12

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LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. Maj. Michael W. Redmyer, MWTC sergeant major, drags 1st Sgt. Raymond R. Clark, Mountain Warfare Training Center S-1 first sergeant, through the hail and the mud during the Combat Fitness Test May 28. The buddy-drag was part of the third portion of the CFT, known as the maneuver-under-fire event. The test was conducted on the football field at Coleville High School in Coleville, Calif.

MWTC Marines take on new CFT

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – The Marine Corps Training and Education Command at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., has been developing a new Combat Fitness Test, which replicates actions experienced during combat and is designed to analyze a Marine's overall physical fitness.

So far, testing of the CFT has occurred at 12 military installations worldwide. TECOM representatives made their thirteenth stop at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center May 28.

More than 75 Marines from MWTC participated in the CFT, which was held on Coleville High School's football field in Coleville, Calif.

According to White Letter 05-07, written by Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Physical Fitness Test is no longer enough to test a Marine's physical capacity for all physical skills a Marine may need to succeed on the battlefield.

"Tasks that make up the CFT will have linkage to Marine common combat skills," said Col. Brian McGuire, TECOM's Physical Readiness Programs officer. "Additionally, CFT



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines from the Mountain Warfare Training Center perform the ammunition can lift during the Combat Fitness Test May 28. The ammunition cans weigh approximately 30 pounds apiece and must be lifted from shoulder-height to overhead as many times as possible within two minutes.

events will have a low degree of technicality such that it will be more of a fitness test than it is of acquired skill.

"Though the PFT is a good general test of overall fitness, the CFT will provide commanders an assessment of a Marine's overall combat conditioning," added the Dover, Del., native. "Practicing for the test is practicing for combat."

The CFT includes an 880-yard run, known as movement to contact, an ammunition lift test and a maneuver-under-fire event.

During the ammunition lift, the Marines will lift a 30-pound ammunition can from shoulder-height to overhead, fully extending their arms each time. They must complete as many repetitions of this exercise as they can within two minutes.

The final portion of the CFT, maneuver-under-fire, requires Marines to travel 300 yards by sprinting, completing a modified high crawl, and weaving through a series of cones designed to simulate barbed wire and other obstacles.

Once they reach the end of the cones, the Marines must evacuate a mock casualty by executing a buddy-drag halfway through the obstacles. Then they must fire-man-carry the casualty back to the ammunition cans.

After the Marines carry the casualty back to the ammunition cans, they must carry the ammunition cans back through the cones to the casualty zone, where they must throw a hand grenade.

If the grenade hits the designated target area, five seconds are deducted from the Marine's time. If the grenade misses, five seconds are added to their overall time. Once the Marines have thrown the grenade, they must pick up the ammunition cans and run back to the starting point.

Inclement weather did not stop the MWTC participants from completing the CFT. Hail began pouring down on the Marines during a portion of the test. Rain also fell, creating a slippery, muddy terrain for the course.

The MWTC Marines who completed the CFT all seemed to



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Cpl. Daniel W. Broussard, a warehouse clerk at the Mountain Warfare Training Center, performs the modified high crawl during the Combat Fitness Test May 28. The high crawl was part of the third portion of the CFT, known as the maneuver-under-fire event.

feel it was a challenging, but important test.

"So many people are good runners, but including other events shows you how much of an athlete you really are," said Sgt. Ashley Coldwell, MWTC S-1 staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Phoenix native. "The buddy portion was the toughest. That's the part that really wears you out."

Sgt. Maj. Michael W. Redmyer, MWTC sergeant major and Richmond, Ind., native, also took part in the CFT testing.

"I think the CFT is a great idea," he said. "It's a much better assessment of how you can perform under the physical stress of combat than the PFT can – it's more about being a Marine."

Redmyer explained he used to train his platoons similarly as a staff NCO. When his Marines would run, they did so with their weapons and other combat gear, which contributed to better performance under increased physical stress.

The CFT is not designed to replace the PFT as a training requirement. Both tests will be conducted once every six months to evaluate the physical fitness of each Marine.

The fourteenth and final stop for testing will be Recruiting Station Nashville in Nashville, Tenn. The CFT is expected to be fully integrated into Marine Corps semi-annual training requirements by the second half of this year.



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Rescue center reaches out to abused, neglected horses

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Jack Auchteronie Memorial Equine Sanctuary (JAMES) is a safe house that rescues and rehabilitates abused and neglected horses throughout Twentynine Palms and surrounding communities.

The rescue center currently has 10 horses under their care. The horses range from heavily abused to just needing slight medical attention and training before being put up for adoption.

One horse, Chance, is the center's worst case. He was a victim of "horse tripping," which is when a horse is forced into a full

gallop while people attempt to lasso its legs and trip the horse, normally resulting in broken legs, neck or teeth. Horses that have been abused by horse tripping normally have scars on their head, shoulders, hips, legs and heels.

"[Chance] tries so hard but there are so many bad memories," said Fran Becker, JAMES president. "He is still a little skittish to trust anybody."

Taking care of horses like Chance takes hours to provide the daily necessities every horse requires. To accomplish all the work at the ranch, Becker and her boyfriend, Steve Fidance, rely on volunteers and donations from the Combat Center and surrounding areas.

"We get a lot of Marines here," said Becker, a Dunfermline, Scotland, native. "But then they disappear, and we end up hearing they are deployed."

Marine spouses and children are also frequent volunteers, giving up their weekends to help maintain the rescue center.

"It's a win-win situation," said Becker. "It frees up our time a little bit and it gives them something to do, and the Marine personnel get to do something in a volunteer form that makes them happy."

Mary Dyk, a JAMES volunteer, said her fiancé, Staff Sgt. Jason Ehlers, plans to bring a group of Marines he instructs at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School to assist with the horses and yard work one weekend.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

A young volunteer stands next to a rescued miniature pony that was abandoned at the rifle range aboard the Combat Center. Marines and worked hard to capture the pony and deliver it to JAMES who was able to find it a good home.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Mary Dyk, a Jack Auchteronie Memorial Equine Sanctuary volunteer, handles Duke, a retired military working horse at JAMES May 23. Dyk has adopted Duke and plans to move him to her ranch when she finishes her fencing.

CG's Intramural Soccer League kicking off soon

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League is searching for talented service members, family members and base employees wishing to play soccer this summer.

The league will run from June 23 through August 15 and will have four to seven teams, competing in a single or double round-robin matches depending on the number of teams signed up.

Third Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and 1st Tank Battalion have submitted teams and began practicing.

"Our main goal is to stay competitive," said Jose Hernandez, Headquarters Battalion head coach. "We always want to be competitive

so if you win a championship you are doing it for your unit.

"It's not routine," continued Hernandez, a Brownsville, Texas, native. "Playing soccer will get their minds off work and daily stress."

Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School sometimes submits two teams due to the large amount of students at MCCES, said Skip Best, Combat Center's athletic director.

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital was not capable of creating a full team this year and therefore was combined with the Headquarters Battalion team.

Marines and sailors must play for the unit they belong to. If that unit does not have a team the service member must have a signed release form from their officer-in-charge allowing them to become free agents and play for any team

See SOCCER, A8



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 battles against 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, during last year's Commanding Generals Intramural Soccer League. This year the league will run from June 23 through August 15. Registration deadline in June 18.

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ELLIE KAY

SOCCER, from A7

that requires extra players.

"Soccer guys are unique," said Best. "They deserve the same thing every other sport gets."

The coed teams are also allowing spouses and children of the service members to participate as long as they are 16 years old or older.

Each team can hold a maximum of 18 players, but have a standard of 11 people on the field, including the goal keeper, at one time.

Eight teams can qualify for the playoff tournament, which decides what team is the best on the base. Last year, the combined team of the Naval Hospital and Headquarters Battalion won the tournament and Commanding General's Cup.

After the end of the season, tryouts are held for active duty Marines to decide the base team that will compete in regionals. Last year, the regionals took place at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

Scouts from the All-Marine soccer team attend the games and pick talented Marines from each team to tryout for the All-Marine soccer team.

After setting up the CG's Intramural Soccer League, Best said he became a quick fan of the sport, enjoying following the base team to regionals and taking pride knowing Marines from the Combat Center have tried out for the All-Marine soccer team.

Registration deadline is June 18. For more information contact Best at 830-4092.

IMAGE, from A1

city.

"Life is much better here now," said Muthana Ahmed, a resident here through an interpreter.

Marines providing security passed the time outside the home by interacting with the local children.

"The people are friendly when we come around," Ramirez said. "They are always saying hello and the little kids constantly come up to us to shake our hands."

Sgt. Dennis M. Gildea has recognized the change in the Iraqi populace. The locals know that they can look to Marines for assistance.

"They've realized that we're here to help," said Gildea, 23, a squad leader from St. Louis. "It they have a sick child, they know our doc has no problem treating them if he can."

The next stop the Marines made was to speak with three Iraqi men who were performing yard work. The men were receptive to the Marines as well and had no problem answering the questions Marines asked through an interpreter.

"(The Iraqis) always have something to talk about," Gildea said. "We listen to what they have to say because we're focused on rebuilding their resources."

Marines understand the importance of census patrols. They know they need help from the people to complete their objectives.

"The information they give us is real helpful," Gildea said. "We're going to accomplish more by going out there and talking to the populace compared to conducting patrols that just show force."

Marines questioned more people throughout the patrol and were pleased to find out that the community supports the Marines' efforts. They were also elated to discover that the citizens' confidence in the Iraqi policemen operating in the city was growing.

"The (Iraqi policemen) are starting to embrace their role as police officers and it's showing," Gildea said. "We found out some good information, and we all got back safe so it was a good patrol."

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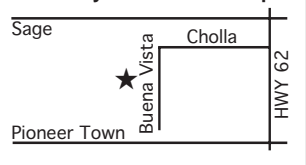
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Challenger Youth Soccer Camp kicks its way into Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services youth sports program is looking for children to participate in the week-long Challenger Youth Soccer Camp at Felix Field June 16 to 20.

For the last eight years, the

camp has offered the children from the base and surrounding community a chance to hone their soccer skills while developing fundamental skills needed to play a team sport.

According to the Challenger Sports Web site, the camp will teach the technical, strategic, physical and psychological requirements of

soccer at each age level while it focuses on a child as an individual and not as just as a player on a team.

The camp coaches the children needed soccer skills within a border of character development based on respect, responsibility, integrity, leadership and sportsmanship.

The camp hires certified coaches from Great Britain to come to the United States to teach more than 100,000 children across the country. The British coaches will stay with local families on the base or in the community.

"It is a nice cultural exchange for the kids," said Joe Rosselli, MCCS youth sports coordinator. "Anyone interested in housing a coach for that week also gets a full rebate on the camp."

Courtney Chambers, youth sports program assistant, helped



JOHN SNOWDEN

Children practice dribbling and other needed soccer skills during the Challenger Soccer Camp at Felix Field. The camp is for children 3 to 16 years old and is open to the youth of the base and community.

CREW, from A1

touch," said Bill Burkhart, a senior product specialist with the company that designs the Chameleon system.

The Chameleon is one of three systems the Marine Corps is using in counter insurgency and counter IED warfare.

The Chameleon and Hunter are vehicle mounted and the Guardian, a device carried by individual Marines, are all saving lives.

"Marines are dying mostly from IED's," said Lance Cpl. Jay Stewart who deployed with the battalion as a squad automatic rifleman last year. "That number has gone significantly down because the CREW systems."

The class presented Marines with in-depth operational knowledge of all three systems, fusing technology with practical application. They were given scenarios and presented their solutions to instructors based on the knowledge learned from the class. Marines learned preventive maintenance, power-up and power-down procedures, and became proficient in the deployment of

the systems.

"The (CREW) systems are an offensive solution to a combat problem," stated Burkhart. "We want Marines to be proficient with their tactical application in the War on Terror."

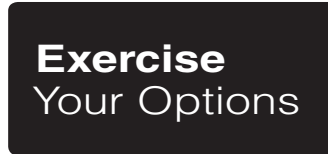
Marines said they left the class with a better grasp of the systems that will save their lives in Iraq.



LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

The new course offers more hands on and visual learning, allowing Marines to "hear, see and touch," said Bill Burkhart, a senior product specialist with the company that designs the Chameleon system.

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Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
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Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass

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6 p.m. RCIA, building 1551

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LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Ted Langevin and Bryan Pond, CalStar flight nurses, secure a Marine posing as a casualty during a casualty evacuation exercise at the Mountain Warfare Training Center May 30. The event marked the first casualty evacuation exercise between MWTC and local civilian rescue services in many years. The base's goal is to conduct a quarterly exercise with CalStar to build a professional training relationship.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. - As several dozen Marines sit along a dusty mountain road, a helicopter can be heard approaching from the north.

The aircraft belongs to CalStar,

a non-profit rescue organization operating eight bases throughout Northern California, and was headed toward the Marines' location to extract a mock casualty.

The exercise was conducted May 30 as part of a refresher course for the Mountain Warfare Training Center's School of Mountain Warfare instructors. They must each maintain their certifications as instructors in

order to train their fellow Marines.

"This is the first casualty evacuation exercise the Mountain Warfare Training Center has done in a long time," said Michael Teeuwen, MWTC range safety officer and Gardnerville, Nev., native. "Basically, what we were doing was establishing the base's casualty evacuation [Standard Operating Procedure] working



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines from the Mountain Warfare Training Center's School of Mountain Warfare work with CalStar flight nurses to load a mock casualty onto a helicopter during a casualty evacuation exercise May 30.

with civilian air support while training the mountain warfare instructors."

Dust kicked up all around the area as the aircraft made its descent. A marker placed in the middle of the road designates a landing zone. The pilot skillfully landed the helicopter in the middle of the road.

The rotors slowed as the other two members of the flight crew, the flight nurses, quickly unloaded a stretcher.

Approximately 50 feet from the front of the aircraft, a Marine waited patiently to be extracted by the CalStar crew. They moved

quickly move him to the stretcher. Once he was secure, the flight nurses loaded him into the aircraft with help from some of the other Marines.

The crew took off quickly after the casualty was loaded into the aircraft. As the rest of the instructors hiked off the mountain, the helicopter landed at the MWTC airfield to unload the Marine it was carrying.

Once everyone was off the mountain, the CalStar crew and MWTC personnel met at the airfield. The crew took time to

See RESCUE, A11



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORIAL, from A1

so it flew at top mast for the remainder of the day.

After the ceremony concluded, Johnson thanked all the Marines who participated and was pleased with the noncommissioned officers who were present.

"I'm impressed with the number of sergeants here," said Johnson.

Johnson said it would have been easy for those NCOs who volunteered to participate to pass the responsibility off to junior Marines and instead sleep in or go to the beach.

Lorrison equated his work as the NCOIC of the base funeral detail to the Memorial Day salute.

"I joined the funeral detail because it's the kind of duty I always imagined doing as a Marine," said Lorrison. "Participating in the Memorial Day salute is just a natural extension of that."

Johnson also said the Combat Center was one of the few installations that still honored the 21-gun salute tradition.

"It's not a big ceremony, but for us it is something special," said Johnson. "It is remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice."



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Command Sgt. Maj. William Johnson shakes hands with members of the firing party after they performed a 21-gun salute at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field in honor of Memorial Day May 26.

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Pat Cooper

RESCUE, from A10

answer questions about their jobs and their aircraft.

"Each aircraft has three personnel, a pilot, a primary flight nurse and a secondary nurse," said Bryan Pond, CalStar flight nurse. "The nurses are the ones who take care of the patient during transport. Once we land on scene, the primary nurse handles all the patient care. If the patient is stable, we can care for them in the back of the aircraft on the way to the hospital."

"We generally receive about 350 calls every year," added the South Lake Tahoe, Calif., native. "Some [CalStar] bases receive as many as 600 or more. Most of our patients are trauma patients, but we take them to the most appropriate hospital, depending on their injuries."

Pond has been a CalStar flight nurse for approximately eight years. His crew operates a base in South Lake Tahoe and is responsible for the area within a 100-

mile radius.

Teeuwen said although this was the first casualty evacuation exercise MWTC has conducted in a long time, they hope to make it a regular event.

"Our goal is to conduct a quarterly exercise with local rescue agencies," he said. "We would like to cooperate with the local civilian agencies to build professional training relationships."

"The important thing is that

we have a casualty evacuation plan in place, especially for the type of environment we're in," added Teeuwen. "That way, if the real thing ever happens, it'll be like clockwork."

MWTC and CalStar will continue to work together to support each other both in training in during emergencies. More information about CalStar can be found at <http://www.calstar.org>.

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LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Mathew Fleek plays his bagpipes during the Single Marine Program and Drug Demand Reduction Talent Show at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema May 24. Fleek came prepared for the competition and took home first place and a \$500 grand prize for his performance of a Scottish march and the Marines Hymn.

TALENT, from A5

DDR joint event ever to be held aboard the Combat Center.

"We were asked by headquarters [DDR and SMP] to put together a mutual event at a joint conference in Miramar, said Lessard. "Darius and Xavisus just ran with the idea of this talent show."

Beth Ayash, DDR coordinator, said the event was a good way for service members and their families to have fun without involving themselves with drugs and alcohol.

"We started planning for this event back in October of last year," said Ayash. "This event shows that you don't have to get involved in drugs or alcohol to have fun. We held this event on a holiday weekend at night for a reason."

The Combat Center's SMP and DDR plans to make the talent show an annual event.

KIDS, from A9

set up the camp last year and was able to witness the interaction between the coaches and their teams.

"The kids had a blast out there," said Chambers, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native. "Their knowledge of soccer increased and the coaches gave homework assignments [to the kids] to learn about their countries."

The children participating in the camp will be split into different teams depending on their age and skill.

First Kicks, which is for children 3 and 4 years old, teaches players the basics of soccer through fundamental activities, games and soccer challenges. Parents are encouraged to join their children during the one-hour practices.

Mini-soccer, which is for children 4 to 6 years old, teaches skill building activities. These practices are one-and-a-half hours a

day for five days.

The Web site also states that mini-soccer provides children with a variety of individual and small group practices which helps them learn and develop the fundamental needs to play soccer, such as dribbling, turning, stopping, passing and shooting.

Half-day player developmental camps is for ages 6 to 16 year olds and places an emphasis on skill development and mastery of core techniques through individual and small group practices, and coached games.

Full day player development camp is for children ages 8 through 16 and focuses on game-related techniques, player placement and has coached games and scrimmages throughout the day.

When the children sign up for the camp, they will receive a soccer ball, T-shirt and a week-long instruction, said Rosselli.

To register a child for the soccer camp, visit the Challenger



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Children stand on line waiting to be instructed while practicing last year during the Challenger Soccer Camp at Felix Field. The camp is for children 3 to 16 years old and is open to the youth of the base and community.

sport Web site at <http://www.challengersports.com>. Registration deadline is June 6.

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