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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 25, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 26

Joint Chiefs Chairman visits Combat Center



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4 Cathedral City kids tour the base



5 2/1 trains for casualty evacuation in Bridgeport, Calif.



6 & 7 Reservists train big at MCAGCC

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, visited the Combat Center as part of a tour of West Coast military installations June 17.

Mullen, a native of Los Angeles and the 17th chairman of the joint chiefs, assumed the military's highest ranking office in October 2007, when he replaced Gen. Peter Pace.

Maj. Judy J. Yoder, the Chairman's aide-de-camp, explained Mullen spends the majority of his time in Washington and therefore looks forward to trips abroad because they give him the opportunity to see if the information he reads in his daily briefs is accurate.

The Chairman's tour of the base began at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal training facility, where he and Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Combat Center

See CHIEF, A8



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, shakes hands with Marines and sailors from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group, at the Combat Center's Range 215 June 17.

Watchdogs get new boss

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lt. Col. Geoffrey H. Field relinquished command of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 to Lt. Col. Richard E. Jordan in a change-of-command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Friday.

Field, a Goshen, N.Y., native, also retired after 24 years of service in the Corps that day.

He said he plans on moving to Sandford, Fla., to work as the deputy director of operations for Cambata Aviation International, a private aviation company.

Before Field was commissioned as a Marine lieutenant in 1989, he served as a Navy corpsman for four years with Marine Wing Support Group 47.

In 1993, Field deployed with

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, as a squadron S-4 officer to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope and to Bosnia-Herzegovina for Operation Provide Comfort.

Between 1998 and 2005, Field was assigned as the battalion air officer for 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and to Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, the presidential helicopter squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Quantico, Va.

He also worked in the expeditionary operations department of II Marine Expeditionary Force before reporting to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 2006.

In his speech to the crowd, Field said at the end of his 24-year career in the Corps, he has



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Col. Matthew Redfern, chief of staff for Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, hands Lt. Col. Geoffrey H. Field an American flag during a change-of-command and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Friday.

nothing but positive memories and wishes the same fortune upon the on-coming commander.

Jordan, a Houston native, was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1990.

After completing The Basic School at Quantico, he reported to the Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Fla., and was named a

See WATCHDOGS, A12



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Marines and sailors from the Combat Center meet up with volunteers from Run for the Fallen at Two Mile Road to run through Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.

Runners take dedication, homage to a whole new level

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A group of 10 runners have dedicated their entire summer to run across America to pay respect to every single service member that has fallen in the line of duty since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The group of runners began their 10-week, 4,090-mile trek, dubbed Run for the Fallen, on

Flag Day, June 14, near Fort Irwin, Calif., and began meandering toward Barstow, Calif.

Leading the team is the founder and director of Run for the Fallen, Jon Bellona, who also works to keep the team motivated throughout the trek.

"Day-to-day he is the one that the team looks to for guidance," said Shauna Sweet, a member of Run for the Fallen. "He is strong runner

See RUNNERS, A10

This Day in Marine Corps History

-June 25, 1950-

Korean War began.

Wearing seat belts still saves lives

APRIL PHILLIPS

NAVAL SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For most of us, buckling up is a force of habit – something we’ve been doing for so long that it almost seems to happen automatically before we even put the key in the ignition. However, despite the widely-known fact that seat belts save lives, there are still sailors and Marines who won’t use them during the Critical Days of Summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day. These people are violating a direct order.

“All sailors and Marines are required to wear their seat belts, whether they are on or off the military installation,” said Dan Dray, a traffic safety specialist at the Naval Safety Center.

Failure to use seat belts is one of the “fatal four” factors in automobile fatalities. The others include alcohol impairment, fatigue, and speed.

Drivers are responsible for ensuring that all passengers are buckled in, and that children are restrained in booster or child safety seats, Dray added. He said statistics show how important seat belt usage is in terms of saving lives in a crash.

“About 50 percent of sailors and Marines who are killed in car and light truck accidents weren’t wearing their seat belts,” Dray said. Many of them could have been saved if they had not been ejected from their vehicles or slammed into a steering wheel or windshield.

With all the data showing how something as simple as buckling up can drastically improve the chances of surviving an accident, why are there still people who don’t? The current national seat belt usage rates are 82 percent, but that still means nearly 20 percent of the population doesn’t take two seconds to perform one of the most important risk management behaviors associated with driving. In order to combat this, every summer state and local law enforcement agencies across the country and at military installations across the globe team up for Click It Or Ticket.

Click It Or Ticket is an enforcement program targeting unrestrained drivers and passengers. Cops will be cracking down day and night from May 19 through June 1 and they hope the inconvenience of a ticket will remind drivers to buckle up – and ensure all their passengers are buckled up – each and every time they get in the car.

“It may seem like a small thing,” Dray said, “but it’s a small thing that can make the biggest difference in keeping you alive to see your family and friends if you’re involved in an accident.

For more information on motor vehicle safety during the Critical Days of Summer, visit <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle>.

SIXTIES DANCE PARTY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
20				21				22		23			
			24					25		26			
27	28	29				30	31						
32						33				34		35 36	
37				38	39				40		41		
42			43		44				45	46			
		47		48				49					
50	51							52					
53				54		55	56				57	58	59
60			61			62				63			
64						65				66			
67						68				69			

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ACROSS

- 1. Picketer's replacement
- 5. Chess board ending
- 9. Cozumel cash
- 14. River of Pisa
- 15. Settled down
- 16. Nile dam site
- 17. Jared of "PanicRoom"
- 18. Flabby
- 19. Volleyball smash
- 20. Ironic event
- 23. Hamm of soccer
- 24. Jamboree setup
- 25. Went bad
- 27. Some whip welders
- 30. Beer, after a shot
- 32. Spiff up
- 33. Panty ___
- 34. Antacid brand
- 37. Pewter component
- 38. Small bit
- 41. Rugrat's break
- 42. Signs, as a contract
- 44. Cool treats
- 45. "___-Tikki-Tavi"
- 47. Egg hunt time
- 49. Ted of "Cheers"
- 50. Beautician's appliance
- 52. Blood: Prefix
- 53. Semi part
- 54. Short-lived mail system
- 60. In pieces
- 62. Quitter's word
- 63. Osso ___
- 64. Lash of oaters
- 65. ___ of Cleves
- 66. Dr. Seuss's "If ___ the Zoo"
- 67. Good thing
- 68. Petri dish filler
- 69. Grab with pincers

DOWN

- 1. A dash, maybe
- 2. Coxswain's bunch
- 3. Voting no on
- 4. Athletic supporter?
- 5. Stone workers
- 6. Up in the air
- 7. Petty quarrel
- 8. Singer James or Jones
- 9. Promenades
- 10. Eerie ability
- 11. Beach wear
- 12. Jack, master of the double-take
- 13. Golf's "Slammin' Sammy"
- 21. Gull relatives
- 22. Play the market
- 26. Vietnamese holiday
- 27. Jacques of "Mon Oncle"
- 28. Score after deuce
- 29. Playground apparatus
- 30. Playful prank
- 31. Elvis swiveled his
- 33. Red beans go-with
- 35. Powerful shark
- 36. Board game turn, maybe
- 39. Explosive stuff, for short
- 40. Chaplin persona
- 43. Erie Canal mule
- 46. Like a satellite
- 48. Disney's dwarfs, e.g.
- 49. Michael C. Hallserial drama
- 50. La ___ (operahouse)
- 51. Spanish appetizers
- 52. Salon shade
- 55. March Madness org.
- 56. Yin's complement
- 57. Cash on the Continent
- 58. Read the barcode of
- 59. Billboard chartentry
- 61. Regret bitterly

[Solutions on A9]

Cellular phone laws takes effect July 1

PUBLISHING & ONLINE INFORMATION BRANCH

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General information on New Cellular Phone Laws that go into effect July 1.

Minors (under 18 years of age)

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

Exceptions:

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

The fines for both laws are:

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

Drivers 18 years of age or older

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

Exceptions:

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

Ocotillo Gate hours changed: 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Centerspeak

How have the gas prices affected you?

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



SGT. ANTONIO DEANS
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

“I sold my Mustang and went for a cheaper car because I commute to work from Riverside. I also went through my entire financial plan.”



STAFF SGT. RICHARD WILLIAMS
2ND BATTALION, 10TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I have to drive around a lot, especially to work, so I had to cut back on the recreational driving I used to do.”



1ST LT. AUSTIN MURNANE
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

“I have a long drive to work every morning, and I’m spending so much on gas.”

Employee Spotlight

Employee: Rebecca A. Pinkstaff
Organization: MAGTFTC Security Manager's Office
Job Title: Security Specialist

Job duties: Ensuring all base personnel have the appropriate eligibility for their positions. Also ensuring those that require access have the appropriate access requirements in place. Assist the MAGTFTC Security Manager as requested/needed with the management of the Information and Personnel Security Programs.

Hometown: Eminence, Ind.

Hobbies: Spending time with my friends and family, going to Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel, and doing word search puzzles.

What I like most about my job: “I enjoy everything about my job from my co-workers to our customers.”

Significant achievement since aboard MCAGCC: “Requesting three re-adjudications in two years because I believe the Marine had met all requirements for clearance. Third times the charm they say. Now he is making a career out of the Corps. Glad I was able to assist.”

Any military service?: Dependent wife for four years, Marine Corps Civilian for nine years and Navy Civilian for 12 years.

Time employed at MCAGCC: 21 years and six months.



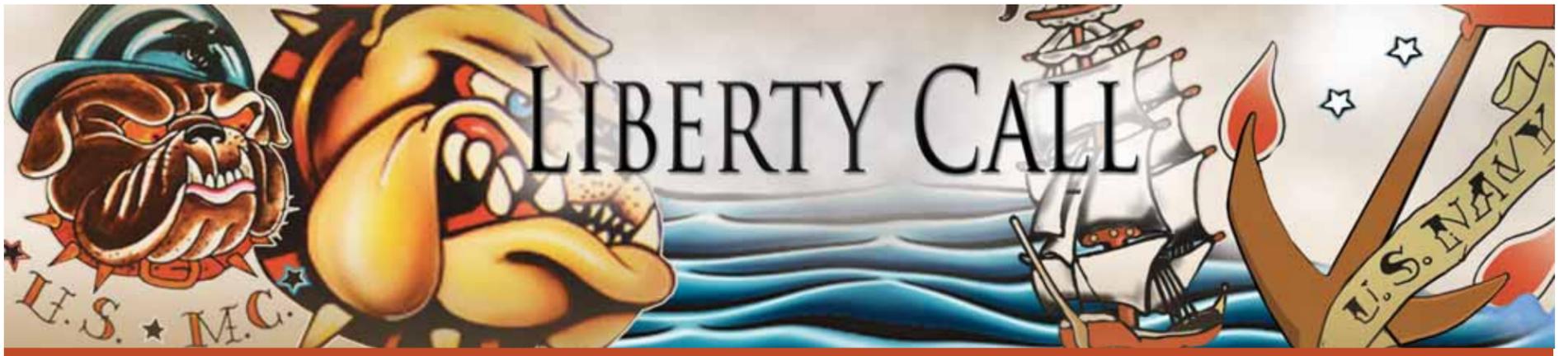
OBSERVATION POST

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<p>WED. 6/25</p> <p>Open Mic Night at McElhaney's Time: 8 p.m. Where: McElhaney's, 57045 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-0160 or visit www.myspace.com/mcelhaneysv</p>	<p>THURS. 6/26</p> <p>Hafler Duo & Open Mic Time: Hafler Duo at 8 p.m. Open mic at 9 p.m. Where: The Palms, 83131 Amboy Rd., Wonder Valley For more info call 361-2810</p>	<p>THURS. 6/26</p> <p>Global Lens 2008, a FREE summer foreign film series "All For Free", Croatia 2006 Time: 6 p.m. Where: Annenberg Theater at Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs For more info call 322-4800 or 322-4814 or visit www.psmuseum.org</p>	<p>THURS. 6/26</p> <p>Summer movies at Luckie Park "THE GOONIES" Time: As soon as it's dark Where: Luckie Park, field at north side of racquet ball courts, Utah Trail, 29 Palms For more info call 29 Palms Recreation Dept. 367-7562</p>	<p>FRI. 6/27</p> <p>Big Time Boxing Night Abner Mares vs Nestor Rocha Time: First bout at 4:30 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino, 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call 951-755-5391 or visit http://www.moronogocasinosort.com</p>
<p>FRI. 6/27</p> <p>Art Exhibit: Sky is Falling Time: 5-8 p.m. Where: The Red Arrow Gallery, 61010 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-2519 or visit http://www.theredarrowgallery.com</p>	<p>FRI. 6/27</p> <p>JB Beverley & The Wayward Drifters Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's, 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown. For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com</p>	<p>SAT. 6/28</p> <p>Golf, Wine and Dine Time: 5-8 p.m. Where: Desert Winds Golf Course MCAGCC, 29 Palms For more info call 830-6132</p>	<p>SAT. 6/28</p> <p>YV Summer Music Festival "The Silverados" Country/Bluegrass 7 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211</p>	<p>SUN. 6/29</p> <p>The Thriftstore Allstars band Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's, 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com</p>

Lifelong Learning Library reading programs kick off at Combat Center

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Lifelong Learning Library offers weekly reading programs for Marines, sailors, and their families throughout the week at the Combat Center's building 1528.

The library is scheduled to hold sessions every Friday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for children in first to sixth grade.

The theme for this year's program is "Catch the Reading Bug" and will highlight bugs and insects.

Tara Drummond, the Lifelong Learning Library program coordinator, said the library sponsors summer reading programs in order to help children retain the information they learned throughout the school year.

Participation in the program requires children to check books out from the Lifelong Learning Library and maintain a reading log, tracking the hours they spend reading.

At the weekly meetings participants learn from subject matter experts and take part in group activities.

The program will conclude Aug. 1 when participants are awarded prizes for the number of hours they spent reading throughout the summer.

For adults, the library currently holds a book discussion group on the second Thursday of each month from noon until 1 p.m.

Drummond, a native of Tucson, Ariz., said anyone who has time is encouraged to attend and recommend titles for future meetings.

Drummond said books slated for the group include Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson, and "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel.

Kay Emerson, a library technician who has participated in the discussion group since its creation last November, said it's a great way to collect different views on the books you are reading.

"You explain what you under-

stood from the book and it broadens your scope of what the book is about," said Emerson, a native of Greenville, Penn.

Other family programs currently being offered at the library include story time every Tuesday

from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 3-5, and every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. for ages 0-2. Parent must accompany their children at these events.

Activities include stories, songs, finger plays and arts and crafts.

Every Wednesday evening the library hosts "Chess Night" for single Marines and sailors from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information about programs offered at the Lifelong Learning Library call 830-6881.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Nadia Horowitz, participates in "Story Time" with Lilianna Quintana at the Combat Center's Lifelong Learning Library June 3. Story time is held at the library every Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 3-5.

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15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday					
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*					
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

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Ellie Kay visits 'heroes at home' to support spouses

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Bestselling author Ellie Kay hosted a book signing seminar and social period at the Combat Center Officer's Club June 17.

The seminar started at 6:30 p.m. and provided attendees a chance to personally speak with Kay while they enjoyed complimentary appetizers, gift bags, desserts and door prizes.

Although Kay is the author of 11 bestselling books, she focused her attention on only one during her visit.

Her fifth book called "Heroes at Home" offers words of encouragement and strength to those undergoing the trials and hardships of having a deployed family member.

Kay said she wrote the book because she believes there was a need to be met.

"When I originally wrote this book, there was a gap in the market for books for military spouses," said Kay. "I wanted to help military families cope with the different lifestyle, especially during war and various conflicts."

Kay, a Fort Worth, Texas, native, travels the globe speaking at various conventions, military conferences and financial seminars. She has even been a substitute guest speaker for Laura Bush at the National Guard Annual Convention, according to her Web site, <http://www.ellielay.com>.

Kay is not only an author, spokesperson, public speaker, military wife and mother of seven, she is also the owner of her own finance company, America's Family Financial Expert.

Despite the fact her financial seminars attract crowds numbering in the thousands, Kay claims her favorite audience is a few



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Author and public Speaker Ellie Kay talks to Combat Center spouses about maintaining healthy lifestyles and attitudes during their spouse's deployment at her seminar at the Officer's Club Wednesday.

hundred service members and their families.

"I so believe in what the family and service members are doing," said Kay. "It is truly an

honor to give back in this way."

Even if Kay is not standing in front of a massive crowd, she

See ELLIE KAY, A12



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Students from Landau Elementary School poke their heads out of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle at Exercise Support Division's static display during a tour of the Combat Center June 18.

Cathedral City children tour base

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Students from Landau Elementary School in Cathedral City, Calif., visited the Combat Center June 18 to explore types of job fields in the military.

The group of 29 children visited the Natural Resource and Environmental Affairs' Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center, a static display of military vehicles at Exercise Support Division, the Battle Simulation Center, and Phelps Hall.

The children also donated goodie bags to the Combat Center's Single Marine Program to be sent to deployed Marines and sailors. The bags were filled with useful items Marines and family members have requested through the Web site, <http://www.give2thetroops.com>. The bags were shipped later that day to Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, currently serving in Afghanistan.

"They have such a huge appreciation for the military and how it protects our freedom," said Michelle Patton, Landau Elementary School fifth-grade teacher about the students.

During the tour of the cura-

tion center John Hale, an NREA archeologist, spoke about the history of the land and its inhabitants from the Native Americans to when the Army trained glider pilots on Condor Field during World War II.

The children learned Condor Field was named after the giant birds that roam the desert and the rock art that is spread throughout the base's mountain ranges.

At ESD, the students and their teacher and chaperones explored a range of military vehicles, including the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, a Light Armored Vehicle, and an up-armored humvee. While the children pretended to be Marines popping their heads out of the gun turrets, Marines from ESD explained the purpose of every vehicle, and how its features help protect the Marines and sailors riding in them.

"These are the things that will broaden their spectrum of what they can do," said Patton, a Cathedral City, Calif., native, about the static display.

After the static display, the students went to the Battle Simulation Center where they had to work together to find and eliminate an enemy on a virtual training tool.

"It was really fun being able to go to the Battle Simulation Center," said student Savannah Alaniz. "It was interesting and we got to learn how to maneuver all the troops."

The children learned the simulation center effectively prepares Marines to work together as a team while moving through situations they may encounter while deployed.

After the simulation center, the children relaxed inside away from the desert heat during their lunch break at Phelps Hall.

After lunch, the children were told the story of how Phelps Hall was named after Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who gave his life in Iraq to save his fellow Marines.

At the end of their tour of the Combat Center, the children left with posters and opportunities they can consider when they begin to create their own life path and career.

Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino is announcing a new time and day for free legal services.

Beginning June 1st, 2008 Legal Aid will be held at 11:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree, CA.

Legal Aid provides consultations and preparation of legal documents on Family Law, including custody, visitation, child support, spousal support, divorce, parentage, unlawful detainer (eviction), conservatorship, guardianship, and advance medical directives. Bring all documents if there is existing case. Please do not bring children.

Consultations are available on other issues.

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MCX Complex

Oceanside/Fire Mountain

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Oceanside/Rancho Del Oro

4140 Oceanside Blvd., Ste. 155

Temecula

26490 Ynez Rd., #K

29 Palms

Bldg. 1515, MCAGCC

Vista

550 Hacienda Drive, #102

Yucca Valley

57402 29 Palms Highway, Ste. 6

San Diego

MCRD, Bldg. 9,

P.O. Box 400144

San Marcos

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HOT TOPICS

U.S. CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR ALL JUNE 26

The Legal Assistance Office, building 1514, assists all active duty service members with their naturalization process. 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. on June 26. 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. Please call the LAO at 830-6111 to schedule an appointment with an immigration officer or for more information.

SUMMER HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

In small ways and in just a few hours a month, you can make a difference! You can offer practical help and emotional support to terminally ill people and their families. Summer classes to become a volunteer for the Hospice of Morongo Basin will be held Wednesday and Friday mornings, through July 2, and on July 8. Call 366-1308 for information or to register. There is no charge for training.

WOMEN'S DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST

All females 16 years old or older aboard the Combat Center are invited to participate in the Summer Slam Dodgeball Tournament in August. Women's sports and activities has increased in the past five years since the base started the Operation Enduring Freedom Program which provided spouses and family members the opportunity to participate in various sporting events which include volleyball, basketball, softball, bowling, and now dodgeball. Teams are made up of four players per team. Sign your team up now or you may sign up as an individual if you don't have a team. Please give us a call to provide the best time for your team to play. Point of contact is Randy Husted and can be reached via e-mail at hustedr@usmc-mccs.org or call 830-4092.

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LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Capt. Matthew J. Bauman, air officer for 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., listens on the radio as a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 lands at the Mountain Warfare Training Center Expeditionary Airfield June 16.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines and sailors load their mock casualty into the helicopter. The FEX began June 17 and will last eight days, sending Marines deep into the mountains and down to Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, Nev.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, a Marine Corps Reserve helicopter squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., takes off at the Mountain Warfare Training Center Expeditionary Airfield June 16. The aircraft and crew came to the MWTC to support 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., as they prepared for the final exercise of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Operations course. The FEX began June 17 and lasted eight days, sending Marines deep into the mountains and down to Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, Nev.

2/1 takes to the skies, prepare for FEX

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — The deep rumbling of helicopter rotors roars in the distance as a lone CH-46E Sea Knight closes in on the Mountain Warfare Training Center's Expeditionary Airfield.

The helicopter crew from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, a Marine Corps Reserve helicopter squadron from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., took flight June 16 to support the Marines and sailors undergoing Marine Air Ground Task Force operations training here.

Two companies from 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., used the helicopters to conduct aerial reconnaissance of two landing zones in the MWTC training areas.

"Echo and Fox [Companies] are using the CH-46 to get a good look at the areas they'll be working in during their final exercise," said Capt. Matthew J. Bauman, 2/1 air officer. "There are several Afghan villages set up; one at LZ [Landing Zone] Falcon and one at LZ Hawk."

Each company sent six Marines, mainly platoon sergeants and platoon leaders, to overlook the landing zones from the aircraft in preparation for their FEX.

After the two aerial reconnaissance drills, the battalion's medical staff practiced casualty evacuation, or "cherry picker," drills at the EAF using the helicopter. Five teams of Marines and corpsmen rehearsed carrying wounded Marines by stretcher from the Battalion Aid Station to the aircraft.

"Our goal today is to get the Marines and corpsmen experienced in helicopter operations," said Bauman, a 30-year-old native of Portage, Wis. "The battalion is getting ready for the FEX. This is the first major exercise 2/1 has done since we returned from Okinawa in January."

The MAGTF Operations course's eight-day FEX began June 17 for 2/1. Echo and Fox Companies ventured to the landing zones while Golf and Weapons Companies traveled to Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, Nev.

"Two of our companies are going to Hawthorne for live-fire lane training and two of them will stay here to learn patrolling techniques," said Capt. Brett McGinley, 2/1 operations officer. "This is a huge opportunity

for us to incorporate live-fire training into a larger-scale exercise scenario."

Golf and Weapons Companies will spend the first four days of the FEX holding known and unknown distance firing ranges with light and medium machine guns at Hawthorne, he added. They will also conduct fire team and squad movements, as well as reactive shooting and combat marksmanship drills.

During that time, Echo and Fox Companies will advance to Landing Zones Falcon and Hawk to rehearse patrolling techniques in the mountains. An opposing force comprised of the 2/1 Marines attending the Animal Packers course will be acting as both civilian and insurgent role players in the villages at each landing zone.

The objective is for each group of Marines to spend four days in their respective training areas, then reverse roles to maximize the amount of training the battalion will receive.

The Marines and sailors of 2/1 will continue to train to fight in every clime and place, preparing for their upcoming deployment early next year. Although the battalion's destination is unknown, the training they receive at MWTC and other installations will help them adapt to any challenges they may face.

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6th Motor T gets down, dirty with Combat Center's mechanics

LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 80 Marine Reservists from 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, traveled to the Combat Center June 13 through Saturday, for a unique and educational training experience with mechanics from 1st Tank Battalion and Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

During the week-long training evolution, the Marines from 6th Motor Transport Battalion assisted active-duty mechanics aboard the Combat Center with the reparation and upkeep of several tactical vehicles.

The Marines' job consisted of more than just fixing vehicles at the unit's motor pools. During

the week, the Marines were called out to the Combat Center's training ranges, where they were also needed for their mechanical expertise.

The reservists also had to stand radio and fire watch in addition to their garage duties during the eight-day evolution.

"Those Marines worked hard all day long," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Isaac, maintenance chief instructor, 6th Motor Transport Battalion. "They ended up working anywhere from 12 to 15 hours a day and slept in two-man tents."

Even though the days were long and hot, the Marines from 6th Motor Transport Battalion did not seem to mind because of all the experience they gained.

"I really enjoyed the training," said Lance Cpl. Kevin Corr,

motor transport mechanic, 6th Motor Transport Battalion. "I'd definitely do it again."

Corr, a Las Vegas native, also said the Combat Center Marines have a great work environment and did not hesitate to teach the reservists new tips and tricks.

At the end of the week, the reservists working at 1st Tanks closed out about 25 Equipment Repair Orders, added Isaac, a Stacyville, Iowa, native.

The reservists at CLB-7 closed 13 EROs and replaced an MK 48/14 Logistics Vehicle System engine. They were also called up for five wrecker operations, where they went out to a disabled vehicle and either repaired or towed it back to main side.

One Marine who had deployed



LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Cpl. David Hausvater, motor transport mechanic, fixes a MK48/14 Logistics Vehicle System Friday, at the Combat Center's Combat Logistics Battalion-7 maintenance bay.

in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom thought her fellow Marines really benefited from their week aboard the Combat Center.

Lance Cpl. Alise Gaitan, motor transport mechanic, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, was in charge of over-dispatching, where she monitored and kept accountability of each vehicle coming in and going out of CLB-7.

"We really learned a lot here," said Gaitan, a Lamesa, Texas, native. "The first time I deployed I didn't really know a whole lot, but now I can go away from this training with a lot of confidence in my work."

The long hours and hard work the reservists put in not only paid off in experience.

Once the Marines had cleaned their work stations last Friday, they all met at 1st Tanks where they received a letter of appreciation for their dedication and willingness to learn. They also received a hearty thank you for their good work.

The reservists then loaded up on a 37-vehicle convoy that took them back to Las Vegas.

Isaac said he plans on visiting the Combat Center again soon so his Marines can receive more "good training."



Loucinda Ablin

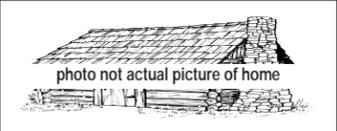
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Reservists train first responders during two-week training requirement

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Company West worked long hours at the Combat Center for a week to train as first responders June 13 through Saturday.

As first responders, Marines and sailors are trained to stabilize their injured comrades for the first critical minutes before they can be transported to the Shock Trauma Platoon.

CLC West is made up of Marines and sailors from 6th Motor Transport Battalion, out of Red Bank, N.J., and 4th Medical Battalion, out of San Diego. All of 6th Motor Transport Battalion was renamed Combat Logistics Battalion 41 during their training scenario, Operation Olympic Thrust.

Operation Olympic Thrust was created by 4th Marine Logistics Group to train the reserve Marines and sailors, and ensure they are fully prepared if they become activated and deploy.

Military members from 4th Medical Bn. set up a Shock Trauma Platoon where corpsmen conducted classes and training scenarios for the Marines in 6th Motor Transport Bn. training to become first responders.

"So far we have instructed over 100 Marines in the combat life-saving [course]," said Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Robert, the STP's assisting officer-in-charge. "We are working directly with 6th Motors, training them as

they are training us."

The STP is designed to work as a mobile emergency room where a group of corpsmen and Marines moving behind the line of fire provide medical support to wounded service members.

"The training is crucial," said Master Chief Donald Clark who was maintaining the battalion aid station for CLC West. Clark had his corpsmen attend the STP first response training. "When they deploy for the first time they can get out there and start saving lives."

STP held classes throughout the week that included how to insert breathing and nasal tubes, set a bone fracture, apply a tourniquet, insert an intravenous line, stabilize a gunshot or improvised explosive device wound and medically evacuate patients.

While training with the STP, 6th Motor Transport Battalion Marines also supported units currently undergoing Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment training exercise. The Marines convoyed from Range 102 to Ranges 200 and 215 twice a day to deliver supplies and equipment such as water, fuel and ice to their fellow Marines.

"It is a great opportunity for the Marines here that have been activated to pass down their knowledge," said 2nd Lt. Curt Favinger, 6th Motor Transport Bn., 1st platoon commander. "It's giving these Marines hands-on training with combat convoys."

The battalions worked together to give the Marines and sailors the extra training they need to stabilize an injured comrade on the battlefield until more help arrives.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Gunnery Sgt. George Allen, 6th Motor Transport Battalion's operations chief, works under steady hands as he sticks an intravenous line into his partner, Staff Sgt. Richard Amos, the 6th Motor Transport Battalion's shop chief, during a Shock Trauma Platoon training scenario June 19.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Cmdr. Gordon Mankins, Shock Trauma Platoon's physician assistant, explains to a group of Marines how to insert a breathing tube June 19 during their two week training exercise at the Combat Center's range 102.

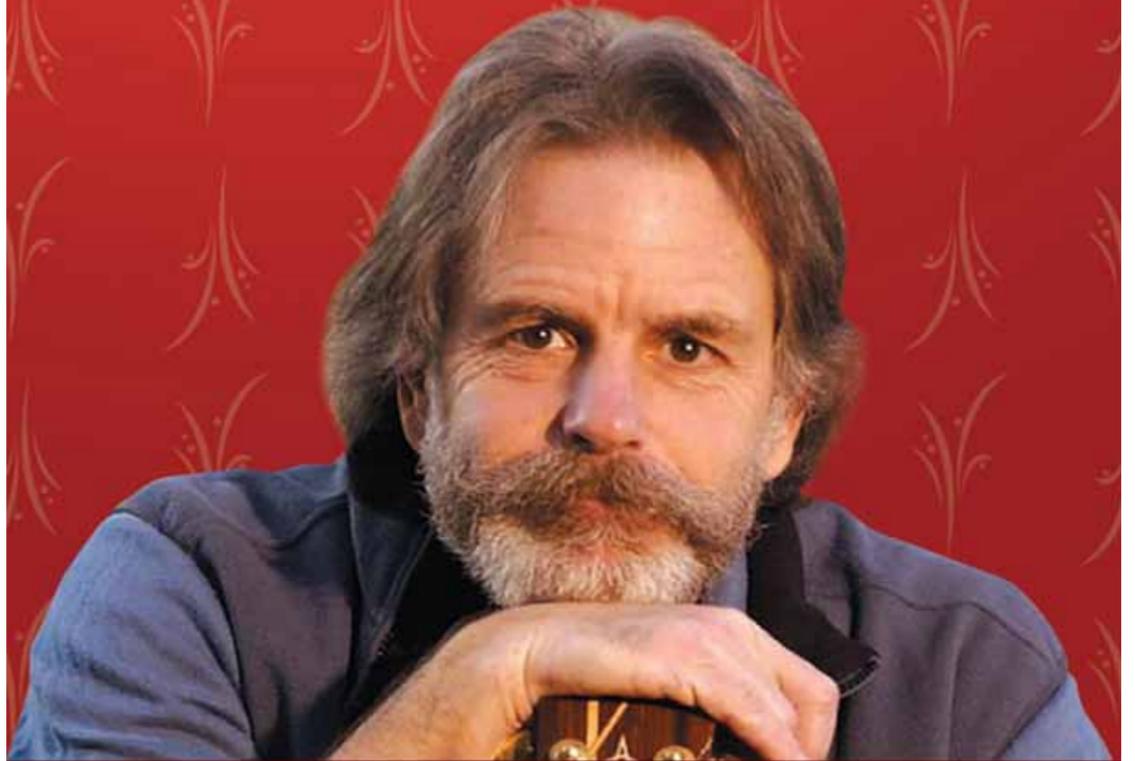
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commanding general, ate lunch and spoke with EOD Marines.

During the question and answer session, Mullen asked the EOD technicians their opinion of where the military stood in terms of fighting improvised explosive devices, and spoke about the military's past and present effort to combat IEDs.

Mullen said the fight against IEDs has not been easy, but because of EOD technicians coalition forces have been able to apply pressure to the enemy.

"What you're doing is saving lives," said Mullen.

When asked if he saw a large scale deployment to Iraq in the

future, Mullen said the deployment decision would depend on the country's level of violence, economy, and political reconciliation.

He said he hopes to see a troop reduction in the fall, and voiced his concern about Marines not having enough time in between deployments to spend with their families.

Mullen said the current deployment routine of seven months deployed and seven months home only gives Marines and sailors an estimated 30 days at home with their loved ones before they return to training.

He said his goal is to increase the deployed to non-deployed ration to 1-2, so after seven months

abroad service members can look forward to 14 months stateside.

Once the session concluded, Mullen visited Range 051 where he observed EOD route clearance vehicles, walked a simulated IED lane, discussed current EOD robotics, and toured a homemade explosives lab.

From there, the Chairman made his way to Forward Operating Base 3 at Range 215 where he received an overview of the Mojave Viper Exercise. While there he toured the exercise's company-level operations center and detention facility, and discussed detainee operations, before moving on to the course's Government Center.

There, Mullen, walked through many simulations, including replications of Iraqi Army and Police Compounds where partnering

with Iraqi soldiers and police was discussed.

Mullen himself took part in a simulation when he met with the center's mayor, role player Frank Matti. Matti and other role players met Mullen in-character and later described to him the engagement training which Mojave Viper provides.

Matti, a native of Baghdad who currently calls Las Vegas home, told Mullen the role-players take their job seriously because it allows them to fix mistakes made by service members before they make the same mistakes in country and possibly pay for them with their lives.

After the discussion Mullen said he was impressed with the training's level of detail and authenticity, and thanked the many role players for their contri-

but ion and effort.

Before leaving the range, Mullen addressed members of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

In his speech to the Marines and sailors, Mullen spoke about the Marine Corps' growth and retention plans, but more importantly thanked those in attendance for their sacrifice and for the sacrifices their families have made.

"You have made a difference. Iraq is a better place," he said. "Thanks for being the Marines you are."

The tour concluded with a visit to the Combat Center's Camp Wilson where Mullen observed the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer, HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer, USMC Operator Driver Simulator (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Variant), before holding an informal talk with Advisor Training Group Transition Teams.

"I've been incredibly impressed with what I've seen," said Mullen.

In addition to given praise to the training at the Combat Center, he reaffirmed his commitment to helping the Marine Corps evolve as America's force in readiness.

Mullen thanked the Marines and sailors for putting on the uniform, told them to thank their families for their efforts and sacrifice and to continue to lead the fight.

"This is the best military we have had, and it is because of you," he said.

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Assembly of God Church. Pastor Frank Ferrandini; Sunday School 9:30 am; Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am; Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm; Wed. Service 7:00 pm; 73331 Sullivan Road, 29 Palms • 367-9973.

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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Retired lieutenant colonel George T. Hoagland speaks with Cpl. Marco A. Aguirre, Kilo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, during a retiree reunion outside the 3/11 headquarters building June 8.

New artillery Marines connect with the old

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, held a reunion social at their headquarters to honor retired artillery Marines June 8.

The retired Marines were invited to the reunion by Lt. Col. James C. Lewis, battalion commanding officer, said Capt. Darryl G. Hammonds, battalion executive officer.

"We wanted to extend an invitation to all the local retired artillery Marines," said Hammonds. "We wanted to show them the new gear and get a connection with the Marine Corps going."

Hammonds added this is the first time the unit has held a function like this and, if it was not for the high-tempo of deployments, a reunion may have become a traditional event.

At the beginning of the event, Hammond gave a PowerPoint presentation to the retirees about how artillery has evolved since their days

in the Corps.

He explained how the newest artillery weapons like the M-777A1 Lightweight 155mm Howitzer and the 155mm Excalibur round are on the sharpest cutting edge of digital warfare in the entire Department of Defense.

Many of the retirees were fascinated by the statistics of accuracy and range of the weapons.

Retired colonel Edwin S. Schick, a Yucca Valley, Calif., native, said he found the interaction with the younger Marines to be educational and interesting.

"It was outstanding," said Schick, a three-time war veteran. "It was a great improvement on the way they handle the weapon and in their manner of employment."

He added he was surprised by the rate of evolution the howitzers have undergone since he retired 33 years ago.

Schick brought original photographs of his in the field while he was stationed in Twentynine Palms, Calif., in 1953.

Other retirees like retired master sergeant Cleveland Spaight and retired lieutenant colonel George T. Hoagland, told Marines and sailors how 3/11 used to be called 1st 155 Howitzer Battalion.

Many young Marines and sailors gathered around the veterans as they told stories about their time in the fight.

Cpl. Michael J. Devier, howitzer section chief, India Battery, 3/11, said he thought the interaction with older Marines was time well spent.

"This is a good chance to learn and hear about their experiences," said Devier, a Vancouver, Wash., native. "We can show them what we do now."

America has documented the achievements of 3/11 in the pages of history since the unit's activation in 1943, according to the unit Web site <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/11mar/3bn>. Although those pages may tell the stories of battle in black and white, it is the men who served in that time who truly bring history to life.

All clear: Route Clearance Platoon on duty



CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN

Lance Cpl. Enoch E. Chavarria, 21, a combat engineer with Route Clearance Platoon, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, visually inspects a tire on a vehicle in Rawah, Iraq, June 12. The platoon travels RCT-5's area of operations to clear the roadways of any dangers that may cause harm to Coalition forces and Iraqi civilians.

CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq — Nomadic tribes once drifted aimlessly throughout the Iraqi desert to find food and water, now, the Marines of route clearance platoon wander the same desert not for food or water, but to find and clear improvised explosive devices.

Marines with Route Clearance Platoon, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, travel the span of RCT-5's area of operations to conduct route clearance missions to keep Coalition forces safe while they conduct their various operations.

"Typically, Route Clearances Platoon's main mission is to ensure the mobility of any of the units in the area," said 1st Lt. Mark D. Tucher, 24, platoon commander, Route Clearance Platoon. "We're looking to clear

the roads for any IEDs that are in place against Coalition forces and Iraqi civilians."

Searching for IEDs is only one mission assigned to Route Clearance Platoon. The Marines also provide security for convoys and aid the infantry battalions in patrolling throughout RCT-5's area of operations, which is about the size of South Carolina.

"We're out their just showing the Iraqis that we are on the ground patrolling, and making sure everything is good," said Tucher, who is from Belton, Texas.

In the near future, an Iraqi route clearance team may be utilized to assist the Marines on missions.

"The Iraqi Army route clear-

ance team is still in the process of the initial training phase," said Tucher. "We're going to train the Iraqis to do what they need to do, it's ultimately their country and they are going to have to take ownership and responsibility for their area of operations."

Until then, the Marines here are continuing their mission to aid Coalition and Iraqi Forces traveling the roads of Iraq.

"Many people put in a hard days work for different reasons, but I know that my hard work makes everyone's lives a little easier and safer," said Lance Cpl. Enoch E. Chavarria, 21, a combat engineer with Route Clearance Platoon, who is from San Pedro, Calif.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

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

Holy Days of Obligation Masses

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

Non-denominational Christian Service

Christ Chapel
Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School*
Sun 9 a.m. Worship*
Wed 7 p.m. Praise & Worship*
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Protestant Liturgical Service

Christ Chapel
Sun 11 a.m. Worship
Lay-Led Independent Baptist Service Christ Chapel
Sun 11 a.m. Worship

Lay-Led Gospel Service Christ Chapel

Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

Midweek Events Monday

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass

Tuesday Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

5-7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (2nd Tues. of the month)
6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month

Wednesday Village Center

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

Christ Chapel

5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
6 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
6 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship

7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study

7 p.m. Praise & Worship Service.

1st Thursday each month 7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Legend

*Indicates Child Care Provided
+Appointments can be made for Confessions, call 830-6456 or 830-6646

Faith Lessons at Lunch

A DVD series titled "Faith Lessons" on the Promised Land. For more information call 830-6187

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RUNNERS, from A1

and a strong leader. He somehow finds 25 hours in a 24 hour day and keeps his sense of humor."

The team passed through Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday and hope to finish their run August 24 at Arlington Heights National Cemetery, Va., with a closing ceremony and final day event.

The run began when a group of friends began running together to help ease the pain of losing their best friend, Army 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Cleary, who was killed in action December 20, 2005.

Shannon Cleary, Michael's sister, is one of the eight core runners participating in Run for the Fallen.

"We started this because we wanted to feel the healing power of running," said Cleary. "I just had this feeling to get up and start running, and to just run across the country."

Cleary's idea to run across the country morphed into running in honor of every single service member, dedicating each mile to an individual military member.

Every mile, the runners will stop and place a flag and a sign card on a tree, fence or in the ground with a specific service member's name, picture and short biography about him or her.

"You always see it on the news with the numbers rising," said Cleary, a San Diego, Calif., native. "We wanted to put a name and face to all those numbers and recognize those who have fought and died for our country."

The placards will be placed in the order the service members have fallen during the war.

The group also encourages others to join them while they continue their journey across the

United States.

"Running miles for a soldier, Marine or sailor that has died gives us a chance to give back," said Rowland Boateng, one of the core runners, and Michael Cleary's friend during college. "It is such an honor for us to be able to do this and recognize what they have done for us and our country."

The final day of the event, August 24, when the runners will be finishing their trek at the national cemetery, the group's goal is when they are finishing their event is to have runners from across the United States running at least one mile in their home state in dedication for all the service members that have fallen in the war.

"This is so incredible," said Boateng. "I will continue to run, and won't stop until we get this done and accomplish our goal."

For more information about Run for the Fallen, visit their Web site at <http://www.runforthefallen.org>.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

A volunteer with Run for the Fallen sets up the first flag of the day as the runners began their trek through Joshua Tree, Calif., and Twentynine Palms, Calif., Friday.

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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

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ELLIE KAY, from A4

continues to give guidance through radio and television events in order to feel she is maximizing her efforts, she said.

Kay added she usually turns down nine of 10 speaking requests in order to keep her professional and personal life balanced.

"I won't leave my family more than two times a month," she said.

She added she was especially excited to speak at the Combat Center because it was within driving distance from her home in Palmdale, Calif., and she could bring her husband and one of her sons with her.

Kay's husband, Bob, is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and F-117A Nighthawk

Stealth Fighter pilot.

Kay's 19-year-old son, Robert Phillip Kay Jr., said he intends to pursue a military life of his own.

He recently finished his first year at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and is striving to be commissioned as a Marine Corps lieutenant.

"I saw the green and knew that's where I wanted to be," he said.

He added his mother taught him how to be an articulate public speaker, how to save money and how to truly appreciate military families.

Elaine Taylor, wife of Navy Lt. Michael A. Taylor, chaplain, deployed with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, said the seminar was very helpful to her.

"It gave me a lot of reaffirmation of what I have already learned," said Taylor, a Bremerton, Wash., native. "She put it into clear communication. I would like to see what she said communicated to all spouses one way or another."

In the closing of her seminar, Kay looked out at the faces of the spouses and said there are only three things they need to tell their husbands when they call.

"I love you, I'm proud of you and I'm going to be okay," she said.

She added as long as families continue to be courageous, faithful, independent, flexible and maintain a sense of humor, they can all be heroes at home.

To find a full list of Kay's best-selling books and articles, visit her Web site.

WATCHDOGS, from A1

Naval aviator in 1993.

Jordon completed two tours in Okinawa, Japan, under the Unit Deployed Program, with MAG 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 1994.

From 1999 to 2005, Jordon was a UH-1N instructor and division head in the Assault Support Department for Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 in Yuma, Ariz., and deployed to Okinawa with MAG-39 as the operations officer.

Before arriving at MCAGCC, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 and served as the I MEF operations officer and Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for the Tactical Training Control Group.

"I think he is the right man at the right time for this squadron," said Field about Jordon. "He comes with a wealth of experience and I think he will continue to bring the squadron to new heights."

Jordon said he is looking forward to taking charge of the unit.

"Those are big shoes to fill," said Jordon. "I could not be prouder of our UAV [unmanned aerial vehicle] units at a time that's so important to the Marine Corps."

Field agreed.

He said he has seen incredible success with the great men and women he has worked with since his arrival here.

"I learned they accomplish the mission on their own if you just give them the tools," said Field.

He added there are many things he will miss about the Corps.

"I'm going to miss the ready room banter and watching the Marines accomplish they way they do," he said. "It's a bitter-sweet day. I'm leaving the Corps, the camaraderie and everything that goes along with it."

Field's wife, Phyllis, said she would miss the other wives and military lifestyle, but believes her husband will never be officially out of the Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Patrick A. Prose, squadron sergeant major, said Field is a great example of a solid leader with integrity and compassion, and believes Jordon will follow suit.

"He is going to be an outstanding leader, as well," said Prose about Jordon. "He won't miss a beat."

Jordan said he has already established several short-term, mid-term and long-term goals for the unit and for Marine Corps aviation, including establishing a connection with VMU-3 in order to gain a better deployment ratio.

He said his first and foremost goal, however, is to train and prepare for deployment.

As Field continues his duties as a pilot outside the Marine Corps family, Jordon steps in with confidence in the unit Field has parted with.



CPL NICOLE A. LAVINE

Ellie Kay, public speaker and author of "Heroes at Home", visited military spouses at the Combat Center Officer's Club for a book signing seminar June 17.



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