

# OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 2, 2008

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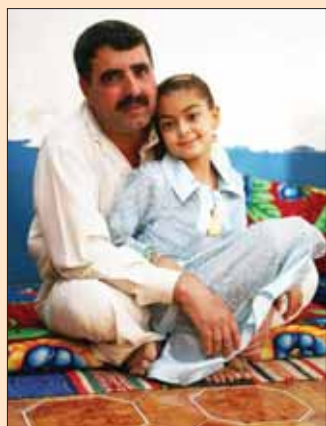
VOL. 51 ISSUE 27



**3** Summer hiking options in the Southern California area



**5** Marines remain vigilant in Hit, Iraq



**6** Iraqi Girl returns home after heart surgery



**10** Helpful tips for the new puppy owner

## ***This Day in Marine Corps History*** **-July 4, 1801-**

President Thomas Jefferson viewed a performance of the Marine Band on the White House lawn during the nation's 25th anniversary.

## **First sergeant makes final jump, is laid to rest**

**JENNIE HASKAMP**

*PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER*

The crowd spilled out into the parking lot of England Family Mortuary in Temecula, Calif., Friday where Marines, Riverside County Sherriff's Deputies and hundreds of friends and family gathered to celebrate the life of Richard Alvin Schindler.

Schindler, a 39-year-old Riverside County Sherriff's deputy and Lake Elsinore, Calif., resident who died in an off-duty sky diving accident June 21st, retired as a first sergeant from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines' Headquarters Battery last August.

As his friend and former sergeant major, Jan Miller, paid tribute, laughter frequently replaced the weeping from the crowd.

"Rick, Rich, first sergeant, deputy or Shindig," started Miller, "No matter what you called him, you loved him."

Miller said he always had a gleam in his eye when he spoke of his wife, Setsuko, and frequently



**JENNIE HASKAMP**

Members of Elsinore Equinox a skydive team based in Lake Elsinore, Calif., land after a sunset memorial jump in honor of Richard Schindler Friday. The team jumped over the Lake Elsinore drop zone and scattered his ashes on their descent. Schindler, a 20 year veteran of the Marine Corps and avid sky diver, was killed in a diving accident June 21.

brought his oldest son Gage to work.

"He'd walk around with him and say, 'Can you believe how big he's getting?'" said Miller, a smile crossing his face. "I'd always tell him it would be hard to tell them

apart if Gage got any taller."

The crowd erupted in laughter and Miller took a moment to steady his emotions before he continued.

He described the former drill instructor, reconnaissance Marine, freefall instructor, national sky

dive champion, father, husband, son, brother and friend as someone who epitomized fairness, love and discipline.

"Marines loved him, officers

**See JUMP, A13**

## ***Eyes in the sky broaden view of Mojave Viper***



**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Combat Center's Mojave Viper pre-deployment training evolution recently received a helping hand from California and Oregon Army National Guard units June 23.

Joint operations among soldiers of California's 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Oregon's 41st IBCT were administered with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group and 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stationed out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, to put a new spin on pre-deployment training.

The 40th IBCT provided three Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems, the newest type of unmanned aerial vehicle available in the Department of Defense, to assist 1/3 in reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

UAV's are also used for target location and identification, convoy security, improvised explosive device intelligence, and enemy combatant intelligence, said Army Capt. Jason J. Faler, 41st IBCT military intelligence company commander.

"When the Battalion needs eyes in the sky, that's what it is for," said

**See VIPER, A12**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel A. Shemenski, 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team aviation operations and safety officer, performs an after-flight check on one of the Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System vehicles June 23.

## **First Team gets new commanding officer**

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Dill relinquished command of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, to Lt. Col. Scott G. Fosdal in a change-of-command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Friday.

Dill, an Orange, N.J., native, will move on to attend the National War College in Arlington, Va., as a student after a year as 1/7's commanding officer.

"The best thing about working for Lt. Col. Dill

was the fact you knew exactly where you stood with him," said 1st Lt. James Searels, 1/7's acting executive officer. "There was no guessing about his intent when he gave you an order."

Dill joined the Marine Corps after graduating from Seton Hall University in New Jersey and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1990.

After completing the Infantry Officer's Course, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton,

Calif., as a rifle platoon commander. After two deployments with 1/1, Dill was given command of the unit's Headquarters and Service Company.

In 1998, Dill was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and assumed command of Fox Company. As the company commander, he deployed to locations throughout the world including the Republic of Panama, New York and Kosovo.

In 2000, Dill was promoted to major, and

**See COMMAND, A11**



**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**



# Keeping the pain out of all-terrain

APRIL PHILLIPS  
*NAVAL SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

Last summer, a young third class petty officer was enjoying a big bite of adrenaline as she sped across the West Virginia countryside on her all-terrain vehicle. That adrenaline turned to shock when she snagged one of her sandals on a tree branch and looked down to see her knee and her leg going in two different directions. When the shock wore off, severe pain was there to take its place. Experienced riders may be wondering: Why was she wearing sandals on an ATV in the first place? She'd learned a tough lesson about the importance of personal protective equipment by the time she got her leg screwed on straight again.

According to Derek Nelson, who writes the weekly Summary of Mishaps for the Naval Safety Center, ATV crashes are a big part of what keeps him in business.

"If I had a nickel for every time sailors and Marines injure themselves on ATVs, I could buy myself a brand new ATV," he said.

According to the ATV Safety Institute, protective gear is a no-brainer. Proper PPE includes a helmet, eye protection, gloves, long pants, a long sleeved shirt or jacket, and boots – not sandals or flip-flops. The helmet is the single most important piece of PPE, because it can help prevent a serious head injury in the event of a crash. Your helmet should fit snugly and fasten securely.

The ATV Safety Institute isn't out to spoil anyone's good time. They know ATVs can be a lot of fun. However, nothing can ruin a great ride like an accident. That's why it's important to understand that ATVs are different from other vehicles, and individual ATVs are different from each other. Most have front and rear brakes, while some may have linked brakes. Make sure to learn the recommended stopping techniques for your machine. Most throttles are controlled by pushing a thumb lever next to the handgrip. Others may be controlled by twisting the hand grip. These are just a few of the differences between machines. Get to know yours well before you tackle the tough trails.

Part of getting to know your machine means an inspection before each and every ride. This minimizes the chances of being injured or stranded and ensures the best and longest performance of your ATV. Check tires and wheels, controls, lights and switches, oil and fuel, and the chain/driveshaft and chassis.

When it's time to hit the trails, make sure to ride within your limits and plan your ride in advance. Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back. Ride in groups of two or more – it's more fun and safer – and keep track of each other. Never ride impaired by drugs and alcohol, or when you're tired.

For tips, drills, exercises, and lots more information about how to operate your ATV safely and successfully, visit the ATV Safety Institute at <http://www.atvsafety.org/asi.cfm>.

## Admin Corner

**SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP):** In accordance with MCO 1741.11C, all members are required to receive a SBP counseling at the 18th year of service. If you have reached 18 years of service and have not completed the SBP, you must report to the Installation Personnel Administration Center Separations Office. SBP affects pay entitlements upon retirement. Retirement pay will be offset based upon the SBP election.

**NEW JOINS:** For service members who return from a period of TAD/TDY in excess of 30 days away from Twentynine Palms, you will need to come to the IPAC (New Joins Section) and conduct a From TAD Audit and possible Travel Claim. You must complete this within three days of returning to your parent command. This will help assist in ensuring that you are in receipt of appropriate entitlements and avoid any possible pay related checkages.

**SGLI PREMIUM RATE DECREASE:** Effective July 1, the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits issued a memo, dated March 13, decreasing the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) premium rate from the current level of \$0.07 per \$1,000 of coverage to \$0.065 per \$1,000 of coverage. For example, \$400,000 of coverage will now cost \$26 a month vice \$28 a month. (\$400,000 divided by \$1,000 x .065 = \$26). For additional rates, please refer to <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/>. Reference: PAAN 17-08 and RPAAN 13-08

**AWARDS:** Personnel assigned to the following units or participating in the following operations, during the listed dates, may be eligible for unit award(s) in accordance with MARADMIN 227/08:

- (1) Hq, Task Force 134, Baghdad, Iraq (16Dec05-31Dec06)
  - (2) Hq, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Baghdad (15Dec06-18Feb08)
  - (3) Hq, Iraq Assistance Group, Baghdad; Taji, Iraq; and Camp Beuhring, Kuwait (16May06-15May07)
  - (4) Hq, Combined Joint Task Force Troy, Camp Victory, Baghdad (17Dec05-07Dec06)
  - (5) Hq, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, Baghdad (01May06-30Apr07)
  - (6) Joint Area Support Group-Central, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad (01Jul07-28Feb08)
  - (7) Joint Staff, Pentagon, Va (12Sep03-17Sep07)
  - (8) Hq, U.S. Strategic Command Offutt AFB, NE (10Jul04-15Jul07)
  - (9) U.S. Marine Forces Central Command (15Oct01-05Jun03)
  - (10) Peru Earthquake Relief Operation (16Aug07-12Sep07)
  - (11) Hurricane Felix Operation in Nicaragua (05Sep07-18Sep07)
  - (12) Philippine Mudslide Relief Operation (17Feb06-28Feb06)
- If you believe you are eligible for, please contact your respective S-1 office.

## Employee Spotlight

**Employee:** DeAnne Russell  
**Employer:** Combat Center Fire Department  
**Job Title:** Administrative assistant

**Job Duties:** Assist in time keeping, completing TAD orders, settling TAD claims, reviewing documents, receiving mail, typing purchase orders, taking meeting minutes, printing CPR cards, data entry, submitting and requesting personnel actions, and keeping track of the fire chief and making sure everyone is happy.

**Hometown:** Twentynine Palms, Calif.

**Hobbies:** Camping, going to the beach, traveling, and site seeing.

**What do you like most about your job:** Everything. I love my job.

**Significant Achievements:** Time-off awards, cash awards when employed by the Naval Hospital, Installations and Logistics Directorate certificate of appreciation.

**Military service:** None, husband is in the Army National Guard.

**Time on base:** 15 years.



## THREE OUTS

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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51				52	53	54	55				56	57	58	59
60			61		62					63				
64					65					66				
67					68						69			

### ACROSS

- 1. Drano target
- 5. London rainwear
- 9. Mark for life
- 13. Pie chart lines
- 15. "I \_\_ all over!"
- 16. "Not that!"
- 17. Pakistani, e.g.
- 18. Walk like a 9-Down
- 19. VCR successor
- 20. "Never!"
- 23. Towel word
- 24. Center of Napoleon's palindrome
- 25. X-rated
- 27. Shark hanger-on
- 31. Nogales's state
- 34. Arcade game pioneer
- 35. Explorer Cabezade \_\_
- 36. Canton's home
- 39. Standard of goodness
- 42. Perturbed state
- 43. Many microbrews
- 44. Give joy to
- 45. A whole bunch
- 47. Snares at therodeo
- 48. Sci-Fi or Romance
- 50. Tic \_\_ (mint)
- 51. Get mellow
- 52. Cigarette brand that sponsored Jack Benny
- 60. Old Harper's Bazaar illustrator
- 62. Shipping option
- 63. Atelier prop
- 64. "Why don't we?"
- 65. Prefix with bellum
- 66. Shirley Temple, for one
- 67. Something to watch
- 68. Wolfish look
- 69. Pantry pests

### DOWN

- 1. Stick in one's \_\_
- 2. Whipping unit
- 3. Jim Davis pooch
- 4. Composer \_\_ Carlo Menotti
- 5. Blue-haired Simpson
- 6. "Bullets," in poker
- 7. Dish designer
- 8. Unload, in a way
- 9. Pink-elephants sighter
- 10. "Teacup" dogs
- 11. Smithy's block
- 12. Parrot's perch
- 14. At risk
- 21. Glass of public radio
- 22. Hoopster \_\_ Ming
- 26. Needs a bib
- 27. Hits head-on
- 28. Harrow rival
- 29. Pinocchio was one
- 30. Keynote deliverer
- 31. Wise old heads
- 32. Protest singer Phil
- 33. Chronic complainer
- 35. Awful-tasting
- 37. A huge fan of
- 38. Horatian works
- 40. Film producer Roach
- 41. Flinched, for example
- 46. \_\_ Rio, Tex.
- 47. "Viva \_\_ Vegas"
- 48. Some Celts
- 49. Source of plumes
- 50. Tippecanoe's mate
- 53. River to the Caspian
- 54. Christmas candy shape
- 55. Franklin flew one
- 56. \_\_ avis
- 57. "The doctor \_\_"
- 58. "Mild-mannered" TV character
- 59. Bugling beasts
- 61. Psychic's skill

[Solutions on A7]

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

## Centerspeak

What was the most imaginative/creative thing you did as a child?

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



PFC. TAQUANN MCBRIDE  
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"One time I dressed up like Peter Pan and jumped out of a tree."



LANCE CPL. JOHN BRANNAKA  
7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"I took a car hood and hooked it up to a 4-wheeler and rode it around in the snow."



SGT. JOSHUA BOYER  
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"I pretended I was the terminator running around and shooting people with my little gun."

## OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

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<b>WED. 7/2</b> <b>Open Mic Night at McElhaney's</b> Time: 8 pm Where: McElhaney's, 57045 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-0160 <a href="http://www.myspace.com/mcelhaneysyv">http://www.myspace.com/mcelhaneysyv</a>	<b>WED. 7/2</b> <b>Art Exhibit, Jacobsen</b> Time: M-Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5-9 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5-9 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Inn, 73950 Inn Ave., 29 Palms For more info call 367-3505 Or visit <a href="http://www.29palmsinn.com">http://www.29palmsinn.com</a>	<b>THURS. 7/3</b> <b>Summer Movies in Luckie Park "Bee Movie"</b> 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 367-7562	<b>FRI. 7/4</b> <b>Friday Night Folk</b> Time: 7 – 9 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., Yucca Valley's Live Music Cafe 55844 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 365-7771	<b>FRI. 7/4</b> <b>Baseball &amp; Fireworks Show Power vs Air Force</b> Time: Gates open at 6:05 p.m., Fireworks at 9 p.m. Where: Palm Spring Stadium, 1901 E. Baristo Rd., Palm Springs Tickets FREE to military For more info call 323-8272
<b>FRI. 7/4</b> <b>The largest Fireworks show in the Morongo Valley July 4th celebration '08</b> Time: 6-9:30 p.m. Where: MCAGCC at Victory Field For more info visit <a href="http://www.mccs29palms.com">http://www.mccs29palms.com</a>	<b>SAT. 7/5</b> <b>Yucca Valley Summer Music Festival, "The Ravelers" - Oldies Rock &amp; Roll</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211	<b>SUN. 7/6</b> <b>Photos of Frida Kahlo, by Nikolas Muray special Happy B-Day Frida family day activities</b> Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs For more info call 332-4800 or visit <a href="http://www.psmuseum.org">http://www.psmuseum.org</a>	<b>MON. 7/7</b> <b>Yoga For Bereaved Persons</b> Time: 5:30-7 p.m. Where: Hospice of Morongo Basin, 61675 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call Kevin Wong 366-1308	<b>TUES. 7/8</b> <b>Line Dance Classes</b> Time: 6:- 8:30 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Rd., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-8415

# Top ten hiking trails in Southern California

FROM  
[HTTP://WWW.LA.COM](http://www.la.com)

1. **Franklin Canyon Park**  
A nice respite from the frivolity of Beverly Hills, Franklin Canyon Park offers more than five miles of trails. The Discovery Trail is .3 miles, the Berman Trail clocks in at a mile and the Hastain Trail measures 2.3 miles. Don't be a wuss. Take the Hastain.
2. **Griffith Park**  
The mack daddy of city parks (only Topanga, a state park, is larger; see below), Griffith boasts approximately 53 miles of hiking glory. Those who are feeling adventurous (and camera-happy) can hike all the way to the top of Mount Hollywood (Griffith's highest point), where the views are panoramic to say the least.
3. **Elysian Park**  
The oldest park in the city, Elysian Park is a popular destination for barbecuing and volleyball playing, but serious minded hikers will also enjoy this urban "paradise": The historic six-mile Portola Trail snakes all the way to the outskirts of Chinatown and back.
4. **Runyon Canyon**  
Located smack in the middle of Hollywood, Runyon Canyon offers more than 100 acres of wildlife in which the idea of proper hiking attire is liberally interpreted. (Seriously? Diesel jeans and lip-

- stick?) We've seen J. Lo, Jake Gyllenhaal and Orlando Bloom.
5. **Malibu Creek State Park**  
A popular filming location, this state park is also well liked among the hiker-biker set for its miles and miles of trails. The relatively easy Rock Pool Trail, three and a half miles round-trip, takes hikers past volcanic rock and a lake.
6. **Temescal Gateway Park**  
Perched atop Sunset Boulevard in Pacific Palisades, this park is always a good bet. Even when a poor rainy season has turned the waterfalls into waterdribbles, the ocean breezes and sigh-worthy ("Ah, nature") scenery make for a great hike.
7. **Solstice Canyon**  
Located off Pacific Coast Highway, Solstice Canyon offers a paved, relatively easy hiking trail featuring lush greenery, tropical plants, a waterfall and "ruins," kinda. (Hikers can see the remains of the Roberts' Home, a well-known modernist enclave designed by Paul Williams that burnt down in 1982.)
8. **Will Rogers State Historic Park**  
The former stomping ground of actor Will Rogers, this state park is home to Rogers' ranch and a polo club. The park's three-mile trail loops around the ranch; make sure to stop at Inspiration Point for views of the city that make the spot's cheesy name entirely plausible.
9. **Topanga State Park**




COURTESY PHOTO

Griffith Park offers approximately 53 miles of hiking glory where the views are panoramic. The adventurous can hike all the way to the top of Mount Hollywood, Griffith's highest point.

With 36 miles of trails spanning 11,000 acres, Topanga is the largest state park that exists within the boundaries of a major city.

10. **Charmlee Wilderness Park**  
True to its name, Charmlee's three-mile loop trail features some rather charming scenery that includes wildflowers (during the spring) and ocean views (when the fog has cleared). Those who don't want to go it alone can join a full moon or twilight group hike.

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# Flying Space ‘A’ for alternative travel option

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It is no secret that gas prices are reaching an all-time high. As prices at the pump swell, so does debate about the pros and cons of flying versus driving, according to the Web site, <http://www.smartertravel.com>. But for military, dependants and Department of Defense employees, there is a second choice: flying space available on air mobility command.

Flying Space ‘A’ may sound like

a desperate measure or inconvenience to some, but for those with flexible travel plans, space is an inexpensive alternative. Space available flights, which used to be common in high-traffic airports like Los Angeles International Airport, were discontinued and moved to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., in 2005, said Michael Teilmann, executive director of the Bob Hope Hollywood United Service Organization at LAX. Since the LAX space available

terminal headquarters were moved to Travis Air Force Base, military bases have become the primary means of gaining access to space available flights. These flights are most ideal for travelers with flexibility and time to spare since flights can be postponed or even canceled, according to the Okinawa Marine Web site, <http://www.okinawa.usmc.mil>. March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif., and Travis Air Force Base have frequent mission

departures within and outside the country, which are made available to eligible passengers. These passengers, who can sign up for flights up to 60 days in advance, include active duty military on emergency leave, active duty and DoD employees on annual leave, dependants, reservists and retired military, said John Haire, chief of media relations at the public affairs office at Edward Air Force Base, Calif. Haire added there is a set system used when accepting space available flight requests to assure mission troops are the first to receive seats. “After them, young troops with verifiable red cross messages are next on the list,” said Haire. He explained that after service members with Red Cross messages, active duty on annual leave is next, followed by dependants. Last in line are retirees and reserve service members.

There is no fee for personnel who travel in a government aircraft, but passengers can expect to pay a fee if flying space available on a commercial carrier, if they want food aboard a military aircraft, and in some cases, paying an in-country customs fee, said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Pedro Gonzalez, air transportation craftsman for 452nd Aerial Port Support Flight in March Air Reserve Base.

Senior Airman David Flaherty, public affairs representative of 452nd Air Mobile Wing at March Air Reserve Base, said he has flown on missions with space available passengers who have said flying space available is a huge convenience. “We were on a mission flight to the Czech Republic and there was a man on the flight who was flying to Germany for a week,” said Flaherty. “He also knew when the flight was gong back to the Czech Republic, so he got a \$2,000 trip for less than \$30.”

To be eligible for space available, visit the March Air Force Base Web site, <http://www.march.afrc.af.mil>, select the questions tab, proceed to the space available link and follow the instructions to downloading and filling out the AMC Form 140 and faxing it to (951) 655-2959. Eligibility forms and information are also on hand on the Travis Air Force Base Web site, <http://www.travis.af.mil>.

For more information about flying space available, visit the Military Living Web site <http://www.spacea.info> or space available base operations Web site <http://www.baseops.net/spacea> travel.



## A message from the I Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, Lt. Gen. S.T. Hellend:

As we celebrate the birth of our great nation this Independence Day, I want to emphasize the absolute necessity for all hands to practice safety in all their activities during this upcoming holiday weekend.

There will always be some level of risk involved in our everyday activities, but let’s make sure we do things smartly, take proper precautions, and plan ahead so we avoid injury and needless loss of life. Commanders, ensure that your personnel receive a comprehensive holiday safety brief before sounding liberty for this holiday and every liberty period. I task all hands to re-familiarize themselves with CMC White Letter 02-08, and continue to emphasize and evaluate NCO leadership as our NCOs take the lead in mitigating liberty risks and reducing motor vehicle accidents. Mentor and hold NCOs accountable; confirm they know their personnel and their plans. NCOs, go beyond the same old liberty brief - show the same level of planning, attention to detail, and personal involvement to prevent injury and death while in garrison as you so impressively exhibit in combat. Safety is not a buzzword nor is it merely a program or collection of statistics. Safety is a function and responsibility of leadership.

As we approach the midway point of this summer season, let’s maintain focused attention on recreation and motor vehicle safety. All hands review and understand the dangers and consequences of drinking while operating any motor vehicle, aggressive driving, and operating any vehicle or boat while fatigued or beyond the capability of the operator. 4th of July activities often involve water recreation and fireworks. Review common sense precautions for these activities and remember alcohol impairs your judgment, slows your reaction time, dehydrates you, and reduces your endurance. Enjoy the beaches, but remember ocean waves and currents can be very unforgiving if not respected.

The example each of us sets is seen by and influences those around us whether they are senior or junior, military or dependent, friend or neighbor. Honor those who have gone before us to secure our liberty by always setting a professional example. Never forget that Marines and sailors have an obligation to look out for one another. Have fun and be safe.

Semper Fidelis,  
S.T. Helland, Lt. Gen, CG I MEF

## HOT TOPICS

### WOMEN'S DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT SLATED FOR AUG.

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](mailto:hustedr@usmc-mccs.org) or call 830-4092.

### CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE RANK CHANGES

MARADMIN 3/28/08 “Policy for the standardization of electronic mail (email) and global address list (GAL) naming conventions” was released June 4, 2008. The message promulgates policy for the uniform active directory naming conventions and GAL display naming standards throughout the Marine Corps. Use of pay grade to identify government civilian employees in the GAL display is no longer authorized. Although paragraph ‘T’ states that C4 will initiate an Enterprise MAC to accomplish this task, to date none has been done. To ensure compliance by the due-date, Civilians may individually send an email to the NMCI Service Desk. We have clarified with C4 that the designator for Civilian and Contractor will be ALL CAPS-- ‘CIV’ and ‘CTR’ respectively. You may submit your request to change your GAL Display via email to the NMCI Service Desk at: [ServiceDesk\\_USMC@nmci.usmc.mil](mailto:ServiceDesk_USMC@nmci.usmc.mil). They have asked that you include: your name, your telephone number, asset tag number or workstation name. Please change pay grade from Yxxx/GSxx/ WGxx to CIV (change this line appropriately) Ensure your email request has been digitally signed before sending. POC is the AC/S G-6 Help Desk at 830-7141.

### FREE EVENT FOR MILITARY IN TEMECULA

Vail Lake, Temecula, is hosting an event for all military and family members July 5. Admission is free when you show a military I.D. BBQ, beer and wine are available for purchase. Sundance, and the Michael Austin and the Law Band will be playing. There will be a fireworks display over the lake. Vail Lake is located at 38000 Hwy 79 South in Temecula. [www.vailakeresort.com](http://www.vailakeresort.com). Please RSVP by July 1st; send email to [Juliana.mercer@med.navy.mil](mailto:Juliana.mercer@med.navy.mil) with the number of guests. No phone calls please.

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DAWN JONKER





CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

Lance Cpl. Edwin S. Contreras, 19, an assaultman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, flexi-cuffs a known insurgent in Hit, Iraq, June 21. Marines with Company I detained four known insurgents during an intelligence raid in the Hit area. The detainment of the four insurgents helped make the area of Hit safer for Coalition forces and the local Iraqi population.

# 3/4 remains vigilant in Hit, Iraq

CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

HIT, Iraq — Marines here played the role of policemen by following one lead to another to bring down criminals and make the area safer for everyone.

Marines with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team, 5 apprehended four known insurgents during an operation here June 21.

“We were doing an intelligence-driven raid,” said Sgt. Rick D. Burke, 22, a squad leader with Company I from Vancouver, Wash. “We have a target list we’re going after. All the individuals we’re looking for are known insurgents, so we’re trying to round them up one at a time.”

Marines began the day in search of one of the individuals on their list. With the help of intelligence, they were able to identify the area where they could find their target.

As Marines made their way through the roads in Iraq, they encountered a disabled vehicle. They identified the driver as one of the men on their list.

“We did a snap (vehicle check-

point),” Burke said. “Once we confirmed he was our man, we detained him.”

The luck Marines had on finding their first target foreshadowed the day the Marines were going to have.

Once they had him detained, Marines called the Iraqi Police for assistance in interviewing the detainee. The police obliged and arrived shortly after.

“They were very helpful because they know the area better and crowd control is easier if we have (Iraqi policemen) out there,” Burke said. “With their help, we were able to pull more information from the detainee which led us to more guys.”

Marines raced to another location after the detainee gave them information about the whereabouts of other insurgents. Although Marines found nothing at the first home, they were not dissuaded. They again received information from the detainee about another home and they were off to the races again.

At the second home, their quick reaction was rewarded. Marines carefully searched each room for weapons, ammunition, improvised explosive device-making materials and other contraband.

“We found an AK-47, a bunch of loaded magazines, a shotgun and loose rounds for other weapons,” said Lance Cpl. Sean W. Ward, 23, a team leader with Company I from Hoffman Estates, Ill.

The Marines documented everything they found in the home and snapped photos of all the evidence they found. The procedures Marines followed will be pivotal when the detainees are taken to court.

While Marines in the home collected evidence, other Marines identified three more known insurgents who were taken out of the home. They too were detained on a day that began with one target and ended with a total of four insurgents detained.

“I was surprised with the turnaround time,” Burke said. “Usually we go out and grab one guy. This time we got four.”

Marines were happy with how well things turned out. They accomplished their mission quickly and proficiently and helped make Iraq safer.

“The squad feels good because we have a defined mission and were going out, executing and getting positive results,” said Burke.

## Mrs. Goodman looks to improve quality of life for families

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The wife of the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, visited the Combat Center with her husband during their last tour of West Coast Marine installations June 24 before he retires in August.

Gayle Goodman, the wife of Lt. Gen. John F. Goodman, the commander of MARFOR-PAC, toured the base with Lisa Dill, wife of Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Dill, former commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who pointed out the main components of the base important to family members’ lives.

Goodman has been married for 41 years, dealing with deployments to Vietnam when her husband was an Army private, and moving 24 times throughout the world during their time in the Marine Corps. She raised three sons, one who attended three different high schools in three different countries. Two of her sons have joined the Marine Corps and the third is in college.

Goodman knows firsthand the lack of family support while her husband was deployed. She recalled being kicked out of housing during one of her husband’s first deployment. The rule then was the housing was for the service member, not the family.

With decades as a Marine spouse, she has taken it into her own hands to improve the quality of life for the rest of the families throughout the Corps.

“I am acting as another set of ears and eyes for my husband,” said Goodman. “I am predominantly focusing on the quality of life issues like housing, education and family team building.”

Goodman walked through Vista del Sol Housing with Teresa Williams, the housing manager who highlighted recent improvements. The improvements include portable air conditioners, ceiling fans installed in every bedroom and new carpeting and appliances.

“I have been here for two years and have noticed huge changes in the housing since I arrived,” said Dill. “We have everything that you want for a family.”

As a key volunteer advisor and working through her husband, Goodman is trying to get rid of two-bedroom houses throughout the Marine Corps because they do not accommodate military families as well as larger houses.

Goodman said she was impressed with the base housing status, especially everything the Combat Center has done to give family members a place to relax such as playgrounds, dog parks, picnic tables and a basketball court in the neighborhood.

After her visit to Vista del Sol, Goodman sat down and spoke with spouses of Marines who are sergeants or below at the Combat Center’s Community Center. Many were trained as Key Volunteers and were able to discuss the network and what



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Gen. John F. Goodman, commander of Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and his wife, Gayle Goodman, are greeted by Brig. Gen. Charles Gurganus, his wife, Janet, and Lisa Dill, wife of Lt. Col. J.J. Dill, former commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, at the Combat Center’s expeditionary airfield June 24.

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# Navy doctor welcomes girl back

CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

HADITHA, Iraq (June 12, 2008) – Basima Zalaan, 7, may be a young girl, but she knows she has Marines and a Navy doctor to

thank for her new life. Basima recently returned here after traveling to Jordan for heart surgery. Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, and Iraqi Policemen

escorted Navy Lt. Benjamin D. Wind, the surgeon with 3/4, to her residence to welcome her home June 12.

“The purpose of the visit was to welcome her and her father back, to show our concern and respect for their well being and to establish a medical follow up,” said Wind. “It was also to pass word of her health to the many people back in the United States who helped raise funding needed for her surgery.”

When Wind and the Marines arrived at her home, they were greeted by Basima’s father, Zalaan Mohsin Rafea, and a very happy family. Zalaan invited them in and immediately thanked Wind for his efforts. Before long, Basima was brought into the room.

She entered wearing her best dress and smiling at everyone in the room. She sat with her father and was initially timid but relaxed and enjoyed the attention she was receiving.

Her father has already noticed huge changes in her since the surgery. He says she can breathe easier now.

“She has been feeling very good since the surgery,” Zalaan said. “You can really see her beauty now. The color in her face is back. Her face used to look blue.”

The operation has allowed Basima to enjoy a much more normal life. She is the third child in the area who has received surgery to correct a heart defect.



CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

Navy Lt. Benjamin D. Wind, the battalion surgeon for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, explains the importance of a medication to Zalaan Mohsin Rafea. Rafea is the father of a young girl, Basima, who recently returned from Jordan after having surgery to correct a congenital heart defect. Marines assisted in getting Basima treatment for the heart defect.

Basima’s case stands out from the other two in the fact that she only had to travel to Jordan to receive the surgical procedure. The first two children to receive the procedure traveled to the United States.

Wind was happy Basima was able to get the operation from a country nearby.

“The new goal is to reach out to the surrounding countries with medical resources capable of performing these procedures and ask for their assistance,” Wind said. “This will have enormous logistical advantages of geography and funding, as well as encouraging the Iraqi population to utilize their local resources rather than traveling thousands of miles away from their

friends and family support system.”

The continued support Marines have provided for the local populace have made them popular in the community.

“I wish the Marines could stay,” said Zalaan. “They were able to take my daughter to a hospital to get treatment. They are doing good here.”

Although Basima doesn’t understand how important the operation she received is to building relations with countries in the region, she plans on enjoying the benefits nevertheless.

“Now that I’m better, I’m going to school,” said Basima. “I want to go to school and become a doctor.”



CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

Basima sits with her father Zalaan Mohsin Rafea during a visit from Marines with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5. Basima was the third child in the area to travel out of Iraq to receive surgery to correct a congenital heart defect known as Tetralogy of Fallot.



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## Playing it safe



**LANCE CPL. NICOLAS M. DUNN**

Capt. Daymian P. Brown, Alpha Company commander, Headquarters Battalion, shows off his proper motorcycle protective equipment in front of Alpha Company's barracks Monday. Combat Center Order 1630.8D has been revised to reflect new requirements for motorcycle PPE. The most notable revision is the requirement for a reflective vest to be worn at all times, both on and off base. The PPE requirements for motorcycles are as follows: Snell Memorial Foundation, American National Standards Institute, or U.S. Department of Transportation approved helmet; impact resistant goggles or face shield; mesh or fabric vest, that is bright yellow, international orange, or lime green, with two one-and-a-half to two-inch inch reflective strips both front and back, hard soled shoes with heels; long sleeves, full length trousers, and full finger gloves. For more information, call the Provost Marshal's Office at 830-6800.



# JACKS – A Single Knowledge Center for the CBRN Community

**LEN GULDENPFENNIG**  
*CHIEF, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS TEAM*  
**KATIE ADAMS**  
*STRATEGIC PLANNER, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS TEAM, EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CENTER, MD*

The Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) equipment plays a vital role in the Department of Defense’s mission to defend our nation and Warfighters against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Through the procurement of CBRN detection, analytical and protective equipment and training this mission is accomplished. To facilitate distribution of current and relevant CBRN equipment information, a powerful tool has been created.

The JPEO-CBD Director for Knowledge Management, Mrs. Brenda Besore and Lead for Web-based Systems, Mrs. Patricia Estep, established the Joint Acquisition Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Knowledge System, also known as JACKS, in support of DoD’s mission. JACKS is a Web-based knowledge management system that provides information for the CBRN defense community, regardless of the agency, equipment manager or data owner. The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Information & Technology Solutions Team at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., developed and maintains JACKS.

The DoD employs a large number of CBRN-supporting websites, systems and databases, typically aligned with an organization or office. A key characteristic of JACKS is that it accesses these multiple DoD databases and systems, pulling CBRN-oriented information into one focused resource to support the CBRN community. This is commonly referred to as a data federation.

JACKS Overarching Concept

JACKS is a key repository of CBRN-oriented data sets. For example, it serves as an information source to such systems as the CBRN Research Development Acquisition Detector database effort between Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and United States (AUSCANUKUS). These modules provide users clear, accurate and maintained sources of CBRN information in one easy to navigate system.

Unlike many unofficial systems that do not receive the maintenance and updating necessary to be reliable, JACKS uses official System of Record data sources. For example, the Federal Logistics Information System is accessed weekly to update information on more than 100,000 National Stock Numbers (NSN). The DoD Demilitarization Program database is the source for demilitarization code “F” instructions that JACKS uses.

JACKS’ CBRN Shelf Life Information System is an example of both a CBRN data repository and an official system of record. This JACKS system hosts and displays CBRN Shelf Life expiration, extension and condemnation information by NSN and lot number, as well as other required surveillance information. CBRN Shelf Life extending and condemning actions are the responsibility of the technical expert engineering agencies that have the authority to make such decisions.

An archive of CBRN-oriented advisory messages is maintained within JACKS. Multiple Maintenance, Logistical, Supply, Safety of Use and other advisory messages are included in the archive, regardless of the agency or command that originated the message. If a message is

CBRN-oriented and targeted to the DoD community, it will be archived into JACKS.

The Joint Equipment Assessment Program (JEAP) utilizes JACKS to provide current and accurate shelf life information and updates. This close relationship between JEAP and JACKS ensures essential information is available and accessible. Several agencies provide background database connections and data feeds to maintain current data updates directly into JACKS. Regardless of the agency that is responsible for data, it is available in JACKS for Warfighters and other consumers to use at their discretion.

The information within JACKS is unclassified, but considered sensitive. While JACKS provides anyone who can access the site with 24/7 Chemical-Biological Defense support, major parts of the system are accessible only to DoD personnel with a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital identity certificate or an Army Knowledge Online (AKO) or Defense Knowledge Online (DKO) account. Support for multiple levels of permissions is a useful tool many users of JACKS utilize.

Complete access control exists within the system, allowing the user to grant access to entire areas or just certain sections. This function permits the exchange of

information while also maintaining permission control. This is usually associated with a Common Access Card (CAC) or Army Knowledge Online account JACKS is accessible to more than 90 percent of DoD’s military and civilian personnel worldwide.

Various functions within JACKS are access-controlled; and are managed via permissions based upon the specific function and the user’s need to know. For example, customers attempting to go to the CBRN Shelf Life update area log into the same JACKS web site that all users access. Since certain personnel are identified as members of the technical community and have been given additional permissions with their CAC PKI certificate, they have access to additional links and options in JACKS that provide access to the Shelf Life update forms.

The capabilities and functions of JACKS are expanding based on user feedback and CBRN community information requirements. It is an evolutionary system that is constantly being improved to meet the demands of the CBRN community. Points-of-contact for recommendations, suggestions and questions can be accessed on JACKS. Widely available and a highly valuable

CBRN information resource, JACKS adds value to the warfighter and the CBRN community. As the system continues to develop and evolve, even more data marts or doorways of information will be shared with warfighters and the CBRN community. JACKS has been developed under an ISO 9001-2000 certified quality management system that promotes, facilitates and enables consistency and continual improvements.

JACKS can be accessed at <https://jacks.jpeocbd.osd.mil>. Users are encouraged to submit suggestions for improvement. The JPEO-CBD goals of focusing less on organizational structure and more on supporting the CBRN defense community and warfighters continue to be the primary focus of JACKS. By providing portals to the vast amounts of critical information, JACKS brings the CBRN community closer together.

For more information on JACKS or inquiries regarding information technology support, contact the Knowledge Management Division of JPEO-CBD. Commercial: (703) 681-9600, DSN: 761-9600, webmaster@jpeocbd.osd.mil, or the CBRN Information Resource Center at (800) 831-4408 or [cbrn@conus.army.mil](mailto:cbrn@conus.army.mil).

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With its moderate changes in elevation, this 5K run course (3.1 miles) offers a challenging yet beautiful trek through one of Yucca Valley's most scenic residential areas, all under a high desert full moon!

RACE DAY

Sunday, July 13, 2008 – rain or shine. Registration – 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Start at 8:00 PM.

LOCATION

Start and finish at Machris Park: 59100 Santa Barbara Drive, Yucca Valley, CA.

INFO

Visit the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department : 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley

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247

YUCCA VALLEY

MAP NOT TO SCALE

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TO 29 PALMS →

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SAN ANDREAS RD.

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START & FINISH

MACHRIS PARK

BLACK ROCK CANYON CAMPGROUND

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

5K RUN

247

YUCCA VALLEY

MAP NOT TO SCALE

← TO PALM SPRINGS

TWENTYNINE PALMS HWY 62

TO 29 PALMS →

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## PMO creates easier way to sponsor guests aboard Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C.  
ERICKSON

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*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Provost Marshal's Office has opened a new e-mail account to help service members and civil service employees sponsor visitors to gain access aboard the Combat Center.

The e-mail account, SMB PLMS PMO VEHICLE REGS@usmc.mil, allows service members to e-mail PMO's Visitor Center with their information for a visitor's pass. The e-mail account gives service members another option instead of driving to the Combat Center's Visitor Center to get passes.

The information required

to allow a visitor aboard the base is the sponsors rank, name, unit and contact number, and the visitors name, relationship or company they work for, when they will arrive, and how long they will be on base.

Once sent, their e-mail will be sent to all personnel at the Visitor Center to ensure the information is processed and the visitors can gain access to the base.

To help keep the base more secure, the center will only allow e-mail requests from NMCI accounts and walk-ins to sponsor a visitor aboard the base. Phone requests are no longer accepted.

For more information,  
contact the visitor center at  
830-5284.



**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

There is a new e-mail account to help service members and civil service employees sponsor visitors to gain access aboard the Combat Center. The e-mail account gives service members another option instead of driving to the Combat Center's Visitor Center to get base access passes.

## ***Do-It-Yourself Move Program can be a good choice for service members***

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE

The DITY (Do-it-Yourself) Move Program is often considered to be a good alternative when executing a household goods move. Service members choose the program for a variety of reasons: Greater control over when the move occurs, improved sense of security with regard to potential loss or damage, personal property is available immediate-

ly upon arrival at the new location, and opportunity for a monetary incentive.

By choosing the DITY Move Program, service members have much greater control over when their move occurs. During the peak military move season – generally between May and September – commercial carriers report “black out” days when their scheduled workload reaches full capacity. Also, the first and last few days of each month

are busiest since this is frequently when rental agreements expire. Scheduling a commercially-contracted household goods move during these periods often requires significant planning flexibility, but with the DITY Move Program neither issue are factors.

Perhaps the most difficult phase of a commercially-contracted household goods move is releasing your personal property to a moving company for safe-

guarding while in transit. As soon as the truck pulls away from your home the uncertainty begins. There are countless stories of nightmarish experiences related to military household goods moves; however, the fact is the vast majority of these moves occur without any reported loss or damage. Nonetheless, if you're frequently inclined to use the adage, "If you want it done right, you have to do it yourself," the DITY Move Program could be the best choice for you.

Another benefit of the DITY Move Program is your property is immediately available when you arrive at your destination. If you require temporary storage you may be reimbursed up to the amount the government would have paid for storage. (Storage is limited to 90 days, unless an additional 90 days is authorized by the destination Traffic Management Office.) If you need to establish a temporary residence until a permanent residence is available, you'll have unlimited access to the property you placed in storage. And, you may be entitled to an additional short-distance (i.e., local) DITY move from the pre-authorized storage facility to your permanent residence.

Annual costs for the military's household goods move programs are substantial and involve contracts with commercial household goods carriers worth millions of dollars. In an effort to reduce costs for these programs, the government offers service members a monetary incentive to move their personal property themselves. Incentives are calculated based on 95 percent of what the government would pay a commercial carrier to move the personal property, and an advance operating allowance of up to 60 percent may be authorized. (However, Marine Corps advances are limited to 50 percent).

Prior to making arrangements to execute any move, service members must first contact the TMO for entitlement counseling and document preparation. All DITY moves require a pre-approval from the TMO. If approved, a TMO representative

will schedule an appointment to prepare documents needed to arrange an advance operating allowance, explain the program in detail, and describe the procedures for submitting a settlement claim for the final incentive payment.

The benefits of the DITY Move Program are numerous and using the program is relatively simple:

- Obtain prior approval from the TMO.

- Accurately estimate the weight of the personal property to be moved.

- Schedule an appointment to prepare documents for an advance operating allowance.

- Obtain a certified tare (empty) weight ticket at origin.

- Load and transport the property to the destination.

- Obtain a certified gross (full) weight ticket at destination.

- Offload the property.

- Submit both weight tickets and other supporting documents (i.e., rental agreements, gas receipts, record of expenses, and documents provided by the origin TMO) to the address provided by the TMO.


Your final incentive settlement will be calculated based on actual weight moved. Be sure to submit your settlement claim within 45 days of the start of your move if you received an advance operating allowance. If you don't, actions may be taken to recoup any advance operating allowance.

To protect the integrity of the DITY Move Program, effective Aug.1, only the tare weight ticket will be obtained at the origin PDS (Permanent Duty Station). The gross weight ticket must be obtained at the destination PDS. For short-distance moves, each authorized privately-owned conveyance (to include trailers) will be restricted to one tare and one gross weight ticket submitted with a final settlement claim. These stipulations afford greater control over the program and are intended solely in the best interest of the government.

For questions regarding the DITY Move Program contact TMO at 830-6119.

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# CLB-5 mans turrets, trains for war

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Logistics Battalion 5 based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., attended Mojave Viper pre-deployment training evolution before their deployment to Iraq this summer.

The unit partook in various training evolutions included in the standard Mojave Viper package, including convey training, medical evacuation, weapon employment, detainment of prisoners of war, urban patrolling drills, use of Iraqi translators and much more.

Class 12-08 began their training here May 26 and was fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of two new training blocks called the Vehicle Crew Served Weapons Live Fire Exercise and the Motorized Fire and Maneuver Exercise.

The first of these evolutions, which CLB 5 performed June 1, provided a basic concept for employment and weapons familiarization, said Larry Adams, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group academic coordi-

nator.

"It refines the ability to employ medium and heavy machine guns off a vehicle turret mount in a stationary condition," said Adams. "We identified a gap in the pre-deployment training, and this is how we fill that gap and bridge that task."

The second of these evolutions, which took place June 4, gave CLB-5 practice at performing suppressive machine gun fire so other vehicles could close with any kind of threat, said Adams.

Lt. Col. Matthew E. Travis, CLB-5 battalion commanding officer, said he believes this training plays a huge part in preparing Marines and sailors for a successful deployment.

"It's excellent," said Travis. "It's very detailed, comprehensive and it has allowed us to put emphasis on scenarios they may see in battle."

Travis, an Etha, Calif., native, added TTECG training officials let unit and small unit leaders know when training was not at its standard.

"They are essentially another

pair of eyes that have an objective assessment of how we are doing," he said. "Mojave Viper allows us the chance to be mentored, taught and coached. It's humbling to see where our short falls are."

Travis said he was very proud of the battalion and the degree of professional endurance and teamwork it took on.

"The Marines are enduring the heat, have been very disciplined and have given themselves to the training as a team," said Travis. "Tangible cohesion is difficult to achieve so I'm glad they have come together."

Marines and sailors of the unit said they learned much from the guidance given by TTECG "coyotes" and the authenticity of the training.

Lance Cpl. Caleb T. Adcock, a Logistics Vehicle System operator with CLB-5, said he particularly enjoyed the interaction with Iraqi role players.

"The humanity of the training really puts it in perspective," said Adcock, a Joplin, Miss., native. "The Iraqi role players make it



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 5 emerge from the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, one that trains Marines and sailors how to escape a turned-over vehicle turn-over while maintaining security and evacuating casualties at Camp Wilson June 18.

really realistic."

Cpl. James J. Eugene, a motor transportation operator with CLB-5, said since this is his and many other Marines' first time experiencing this training, he hopes all aspects of Mojave Viper were taken advantage of.

"I hope every Marine is given the chance to get the essential

training that will get us ready for the fight," said Eugene, a Farmingdale, N.Y., native. "We get new reserve Marines in every day and we do our best to train them in the minimum amount of time we have."

CLB-5 ended their training here June 27 before their scheduled departure in Iraq in mid August.

# New amendment benefits California military service members

LANCE CPL. SHAWN DICKENS  
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO — On January 1, an amendment to the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act took effect. The act, also known as the "Lemon Law," was changed so that it now protects all military personnel stationed in California.

The Lemon Law protects consumers who buy or lease a motor vehicle that is still under manufacturer's warranty. If the vehicle has recurring problems affecting the use, value or safety of the vehicle and the vehicle manufacturer is unable to fix the

problem, the Lemon Law requires the manufacturer to either repurchase or replace the vehicle at the consumer's option.

Prior to January 2008, the California Lemon Law only protected consumers who purchased vehicles in California. The new amendment however, allows military service members to qualify for relief using the California Lemon Law even if their vehicle was purchased in a different state.

Service members can file a claim if the vehicle manufacturer sells vehicles in California, and the service member is stationed in California at the time of the vehicle purchase or at the time in which the Lemon Law action is filed.



COURTESY PHOTO  
The Lemon Law protects consumers who buy or lease a motor vehicle that is still under manufacturer's warranty.

Eenie. Meeny. Miny.

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# Tips for the new puppy owner

CPT CYNDIE FACCIOLLA,  
D.V.M.  
*U.S. ARMY VETERINARY CORPS*

Anytime is a great time to adopt a new puppy. Unfortunately, we are seeing a lot of cases of canine disease in the High Desert this year. This guide is designed to help you understand these diseases and how to protect your puppy.  
ABOUT PARVO AND DISTEMPER:

Parvo, or Canine Parvovirus (CPV), is a highly contagious viral infection of dogs. All dogs are susceptible to the disease if they have not been properly vaccinated against it. Puppies are especially sensitive to infection because their immune systems are immature and they often come from crowded shelters, pet stores, or breeding kennels where the virus is more likely to spread.

Parvovirus is a potentially fatal disease that causes vomiting, diarrhea (sometimes with blood or mucous), fever, abdominal pain, lethargy and depression. When dogs are infected with Parvo, they often don't show clinical signs for 5-10 days after infection. This means infected dogs can shed virus and infect other dogs before they appear sick.

Susceptible dogs become infected by ingesting the virus. It takes a microscopic amount of fecal matter to infect a dog. Unlike most other viruses, CPV is stable in the environment and is resistant to the effects of heat, detergents, alcohol, and many disinfectants. It can live in the soil for months to years!! A 1:30 bleach solution will destroy the infective virus. CPV has been recovered from surfaces contaminated with dog feces even after three months at room temperature. Due to its stability, the virus is easily transmitted via the hair or feet of infected dogs, contaminated shoes, clothes, and other objects or areas contaminated by infected feces. Direct contact between dogs is not

required to spread the virus. Some dogs will shed the virus for months after they have recovered from the disease.

The mortality rate of CPV in dogs is about 30 percent. There is no cure for Parvo; treatment is focused on supportive care. Early diagnosis improves survival.

Distemper, or Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), is another common disease seen in dogs. CDV also infects other animals such as ferrets, skunks and raccoons. It is a contagious, incurable, often fatal, multi-systemic viral disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems. The symptoms include gooey eye and nose discharge, fever, poor appetite, coughing, and sometimes abnormal behavior or other neurologic signs like twitching or salivating.

Unlike Parvo, Distemper is not hardy in the environment. The virus is mostly spread by direct dog-to-dog contact but also can be spread a few feet airborne through coughing and sneezing, or by direct contact with fresh (30 minutes or less) respiratory secretions. All dogs can be infected but, like Parvo, it is most common in puppies under six months of age. The mortality rate is over 50 percent.

Neither Parvo nor Distemper is infective to people.  
PREVENTION:

**1) Vaccination:**

The best prevention for Canine Parvo and Distemper viruses is to have your dog vaccinated. If a dog is properly vaccinated, the risk of contracting one of these viral diseases drops to nearly zero.

Puppies should have at least three vaccines after eight weeks of age, spaced 3-4 weeks apart, and then boosted one year later. At the Twentynine Palms Veterinary Treatment Facility we recommend pups be vaccinated at eight, 12, and 16 weeks, with one booster a year later. Subsequent vaccinations are done on adult dogs at three year intervals.

Adult dogs with an unknown or spotty vaccine history should have at least two vaccines spaced

apart by three to four weeks, then one a year later, and every three years thereafter.

**2) Isolation:**

We STRONGLY recommend that you keep your new dog isolated to your home and yard until it has been fully vaccinated. Ask your neighbor if their dogs are vaccinated. Everyone wants to show off a new puppy in the neighborhood, or have puppy "play-dates," but this can have devastating consequences. Several dogs in the area have contracted Parvo and Distemper so far this year; many of these have been from base.

If you must take your puppy to a public place, try to minimize the time you are there and exposure to other dogs. Carry your puppy if you can. Wash your hands prior to handling your puppy if you have been around other dogs. Ask your friends wash their hands before playing with your puppy.

**3) Disinfection:**

Clean dirty or potentially contaminated areas with dilute bleach (one part bleach to thirty parts water). If you just moved into housing, clean off patio areas and other concrete with bleach and water before letting your unvaccinated dog have access.

**More Questions?**

Please contact the Twentynine Palms VTF at 830-6896 for more information or to schedule a vaccination appointment for your dog or cat. Distemper/Parvo vaccines are currently \$10 and Rabies vaccinations are \$15.



COURTESY PHOTO

This is a popular season to adopt a new puppy. Unfortunately, we are seeing a lot of cases of canine disease in the High Desert this year. New pet owners need to follow some very basic safety rules.



COURTESY PHOTO

Isolating your new puppy until it's had all it's vaccines is the best way to avoid disease. If you must take your puppy to a public place, try to minimize the time you are there and exposure to other dogs.



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# Combat Center's rules of the road

## MARFORPAC SAFETY

### 4204. PEDESTRIANS AND MARCHING TROOPS

Troops in a formation within populated areas shall be marched in a column of threes using the sidewalks where they exist. When it is necessary to march on the road, the formation shall be marched with vehicular traffic on the right side of the road. At no time will troops in formation interfere with traffic flow in both directions.

Troop formations shall be formed halted and dismissed in an area where the formation will not interfere with vehicular traffic.

Formations of any size, marching on roads or involved in physical training, will have road guards wearing reflective vests to assist in warning and guiding oncoming vehicular traffic. When crossing intersections, these road guards from the formation shall be assigned to stop traffic approaching me from each flank. During periods of reduced visibility, normally sunset to sunrise, these road guards will be equipped with reflective vests and flashlights for use in traffic control. Additionally, each individual in the formation must have on his or her own reflective belt.

Formation runs will not be conducted on Del Valle Road at anytime due to heavy traffic. Crossing Del Valle Road in route to the "Ponds" or the PT field is permitted provided adequate road guards are provided. Extreme caution must be exercised to ensure safe passage of the formation and all stragglers. Running, jogging or walking along Del Valle Road by anyone between the main gate and 10th Street is prohibited.

### 4205. BICYCLES

Bicycles shall observe the same traffic rules

and regulations required of motorists and will ride on the right edge of the road with the flow of traffic in single file only. No more than one rider is permitted unless the bicycle is provided with seats for more.

All skaters, skateboarders, rollerblades and operators or passengers of bicycles who ride on installation streets or roadways, to include off base military housing, shall not ride unless wearing bicycle helmets which are properly fitted and secured and are approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI 290.4 - Bicycle Standards) or of the Snell Memorial Foundation (SNELL) type used for bicycling.

Bicycles shall not be operated during hours of darkness unless equipped with illuminated headlights and rear reflectors or lights as defined below:

- With a head lamp emitting a white visible beam from a distance of 300 feet in front and from the sides of the bicycle
- With a red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of a vehicle with its upper beam headlamps on.
- With a white or yellow reflector on each pedal visible form the front and rear of the bicycle from a distance of 200 feet.
- With a white or yellow reflector on each side of the forward center of the bicycle, and with a white or red reflector on each side to the rear center of the bicycle.
- The rider is required to wear a reflective vest during the hours of darkness.

OFF LIMIT AREAS are in CCO P1630.6C para. 3005. and are the normal housing areas, ranges, impact areas, etc...



# Nighttime construction adds realism to pre-deployment training

PFC. MICHAEL NERL  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

9th Engineer Support Battalion based in Okinawa, Japan, traveled across the world to take part in Mojave Viper, a 28-day pre-deployment training evolution aboard the Combat Center.

More than 400 Alpha Company, are conducting training every night from sundown until approximately 6:30 a.m. The training began June 7 and is scheduled to be completed July 14.

The unit is scheduled to deploy to Taqqadum, Iraq, a month after the training ends, said Master Sgt. Steven Wheelbarger, Alpha Company operations chief and native of Harrisonburg, Va. will relieve 7th ESB battalion, and take over their list of projects and priorities.

“9th ESB is self-sufficient, and can support itself for an extended period of time,” said Wheelbarger.

The battalion has its own water supply, motor transportation, heavy equipment operators and food service, which makes them able to sustain themselves for up to 30 days or more.

The training is done at night mostly due to the temperatures at the Combat Center, and with a full combat load to get Marines used to working with all of their gear, said Cpl. Darrin Russel, a native of

Danbury, Texas, and a supervising noncommissioned officer with Alpha Company.

The Marines have been working on various projects including an eight-and-a-half food lookout tower known as a crow’s nest, two Southwestern Asian huts, and four machine gun bunkers for security. Infantry units will use the assets at the site after the combat engineers are done.

“We have been working in six- and seven-man teams on all the projects,” said Lance Cpl. Rudolph Wilson, a native of Farmington Hills, Mich., an Alpha Co. combat engineer.

The Marines have been working in teams on individual areas to keep the project moving along smoothly.

Combat engineers operating heavy equipment such as D-7 bulldozers have helped to speed up progress in building sites that would take days instead of hours if done by hand, said Sgt. Dustin C. Hanson, a Jacksonville, Fla. native, and HE chief for Alpha Company. HE operators and their supervisors have been coordinating to build burms to make a wall around the compound and build Hesco Barriers. Hesco Barriers are walls made of collapsible wire-mesh and canvas screen filled with dirt.

Some Marines with 9th ESB who have deployed to Korea, Bangladesh, and Iraq with the battalion say this situation is very similar to what



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Marines of Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion work all through the night using generator-powered lights so that they can see during pre-deployment training Thursday night aboard the Combat Center’s training area

they experience on deployment.

“We get actual training in the rear,” said Russel.

Supplies come in short every so often, because the motor

transportation has been re-routed due to firing on other ranges, said Lance Cpl. Adam T. Derr, combat engineer and a native of Randolph, Wis.

“We get conditioned and know

what to expect,” said Derr.

After the 9th ESB is done with their training they will be better prepared and have better knowledge about the desert, said Wheelbarger.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Lance Cpl. Frederick Schuster of 9th ESB cuts a two-by-four to size so it can be used in building Southwestern Asian huts Thursday night.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Cpl. Tyler Goddard and Lance Cpl. Vincent Reynoso dig out a machine gun bunker during 9th ESB’s training on Thursday night.

## COMMAND, from A1

assigned as the operations officer for 2/6.

After a tour on recruiting duty, Dill was reassigned to 2nd Marine Division and deployed to Ramadi, Iraq. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 2005 and returned to the United States in 2006. That same year he was assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7, returning to Iraq before reporting to the Combat Center in 2007.

In his speech, Dill thanked his wife for her never-ending support, the Key Volunteers and family readiness officer and retired 1/7 Marines present in the ceremony that served at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. He also thanked

the Marines he served with for their hard work and dedication to upholding the positive reputation their unit has developed over the years.

“It is bittersweet leaving this battalion,” said Dill. “It was an honor being part of a battalion of this nature with their history and reputation and the high caliber of men. It has been the highlight of my career.”

Fosdal, a Cambridge, Wis., native, agreed with Dill saying the battalion has an incredible history and the current Marines in 1/7 are living up to their past.

“A large part of their success goes to Dill,” said Fosdal. “He had an affection and compassion he showed his men that helps make the battalion what it is today.”

Fosdal was commissioned as a

lieutenant in 1988 after graduating from Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas, on a Marine Corps Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship.

After completing the basic school and Infantry Officer’s Course at Quantico, Va., he reported to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, as the platoon commander where he served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1991.

Fosdal was assigned to 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, and then the newly established 9th Marine Reconnaissance Company in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

In June 2002, Fosdal checked into Headquarters Marine Corps in Arlington, Va., where he served as the Status of Forces officer and

current operations section officer-in-charge.

“I am looking forward to learning from Lt. Col. Fosdal,” said Searels, a Trion, Ga., native. “He was commissioned back in 1988 and has served in almost every gamut of the infantry community to include a significant amount of (reconnaissance) and special operations

experience.”

Before arriving at the Combat Center, Fosdal assumed the duties as commander of 4th Marine Regiment.

“I know [Fosdal] only by reputation,” said Dill. “But I am confident he will take the battalion and improve it and I know the Marines will take his guidance and run with it.”

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VIPER, from A1

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Williams, 41st IBCT platoon sergeant.

UAV operations are in the process of being implemented into Mojave Viper, a month-long training evolution, two or three days per month in order to provide a high rate of realistic combat training, said Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel A. Shemenski, 40th IBCT aviation operations and safety officer.

Operations were made possible by the support given by Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron's 1 and 3 for all logistical needs, said Sgt. Michael Cochran, VMU-3 ground training chief.

"We gave them all the resources they needed to conduct their operations," said Cochran, a St. Louis native. "Once they were in the air and flying, we backed off and let them work with TTECG."

In addition to improving pre-deployment training for some units at the Combat Center, this UAV operation also offered a chance for

hands-on experience flying the vehicles for those soldiers who have less field experience, said Army Sgt. Michael S. O'Reilly, UAV operator with 41st IBCT.

"We don't have our equipment yet and we won't be getting it until October," said O'Reilly, a Salem, Ore., native. "By being here with the California guard, we get flight time, physical experience and training time. Some of these operations are ones soldiers have not been able to do in over a year."

Soldiers of 40th IBCT claim the support they receive from 41st IBCT is equally as important as the support they provide.

"We couldn't have these operation missions without the Oregon Guard's support," said Army Sgt. Jim E. Crawford, 40th IBCT standardization operations instructor and native of Sierra Vista, Ariz. "They have provided us with great experience and manpower. We came together like one unit and we're happy to have the UAV's up and training."

The Shadow, which is valued



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Army Sgt. Billy P. Xayashanh, 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Unmanned Aerial Vehicle mechanic, rolls a Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System vehicle off the runway after a UAV exercise supporting 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during Mojave Viper training June 23.

at more than \$600,000 per vehicle, is a high-range, high-frequency system capable of six hours of flight time at up to 15,000 feet and can land using a Tactical Automatic Landing System, one that is used specifically for land based UAV operations.

Due to its infrared and electro-optical lighting in its camera and video systems, the Shadow is excellent equipment for conducting line or area searches and route reconnaissance, said Spc. Nils G. Becker, 41st IBCT UAV operator.

Faler, a Salem, Ore., native, said UAVs are also a crucial intelligence tool.

"We can see when an IED placement has taken place and call someone in to get rid of it," he said. "Then that's one more IED that won't go off and kill our soldiers. Even if we don't catch the insurgents, we can follow them and establish intel [intelligence] about their associates, about how they manufacture the IEDs and find their safe houses. It's tremendous intelligence."

The Army units completed their final Mojave Viper exercise June 24, and moved on to their home states in anticipation of returning to the Combat Center next month to continue training.

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JUMP, from A1

respected him and the enemy feared him,” said Miller, a retired Marine Corps sergeant major who currently serves with the Los Angeles Police Department.

He shared another memory, telling of a rocket attack on a casualty evacuation center in Ar Ramadi on one of Schindler’s multiple deployments to Iraq.

“When the base took fire, he and I responded and all around us people were just standing around, doing nothing,” he recounted. “An Army doctor came to us after things settled down and apologized for all of the soldiers who stood by and didn’t do anything. Shindig looked right at him and said, ‘they did do something, they stayed out of my damn way.’”

Again, Miller took a moment to steel himself while the crowd laughed at his anecdote.

“There is not another person on this Earth that I respect more than Richard Schindler,” he said.

Miller opened the floor to anyone who wanted to share stories and several Marines and Sherriff’s deputies shared stories of working for or with him.

Each tale shared a common theme. The man known as “Shindig” by his friends was a loving husband, a proud father and a man of integrity and dedication.

After a 21-gun salute, a 3/11 honor guard folded an American flag and 1stSgt Robert Chaney, Headquarters Battery first sergeant, presented it to Schindler’s wife and son.

Miller closed the service but not before inviting everyone to attend a reception at SkyDive Elsinore where Schindler, a part time instructor, was a member of Elsinore Equinox, a skydive team which won a national championship in an inter-

mediate division in 2005.

“God has his hands full because Richard Schindler reported for duty last week and is busy organizing heaven the way he thinks it should be,” said Miller. “No doubt he’s in flip flops and PT gear, his uniform of the day.”

The crowd moved to the site in Elsinore where Schindler spent much of his time. There, with many of them having exchanged their uniforms for flip flops and Hawaiian shirts in their friend’s memory, they ate, laughed and shared Shindig stories until evening approached.

As the sun started to set, Richard Schindler made one final jump as members of his sky dive team scattered his ashes over the drop site just as he’d often asked.

Schindler is survived by his wife, Setsuko and sons, Gage and Gavin. A memorial fund has been established in his name at Navy Federal Credit Union c/o Rick Schindler Mem. Fund 39826 Winchester Road. Temecula, CA 92591



JENNIE HASKAMP

Members of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines fold an American flag during a memorial service for Richard Schindler, a retired first sergeant and Riverside County Sherriff’s Deputy.



JENNIE HASKAMP

The England Family Mortuary in Temecula, Calif, was packed with hundreds of friends, family members, Marines and Sherriff’s deputies gathered to celebrate Richard Schindler’s life Friday.

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.

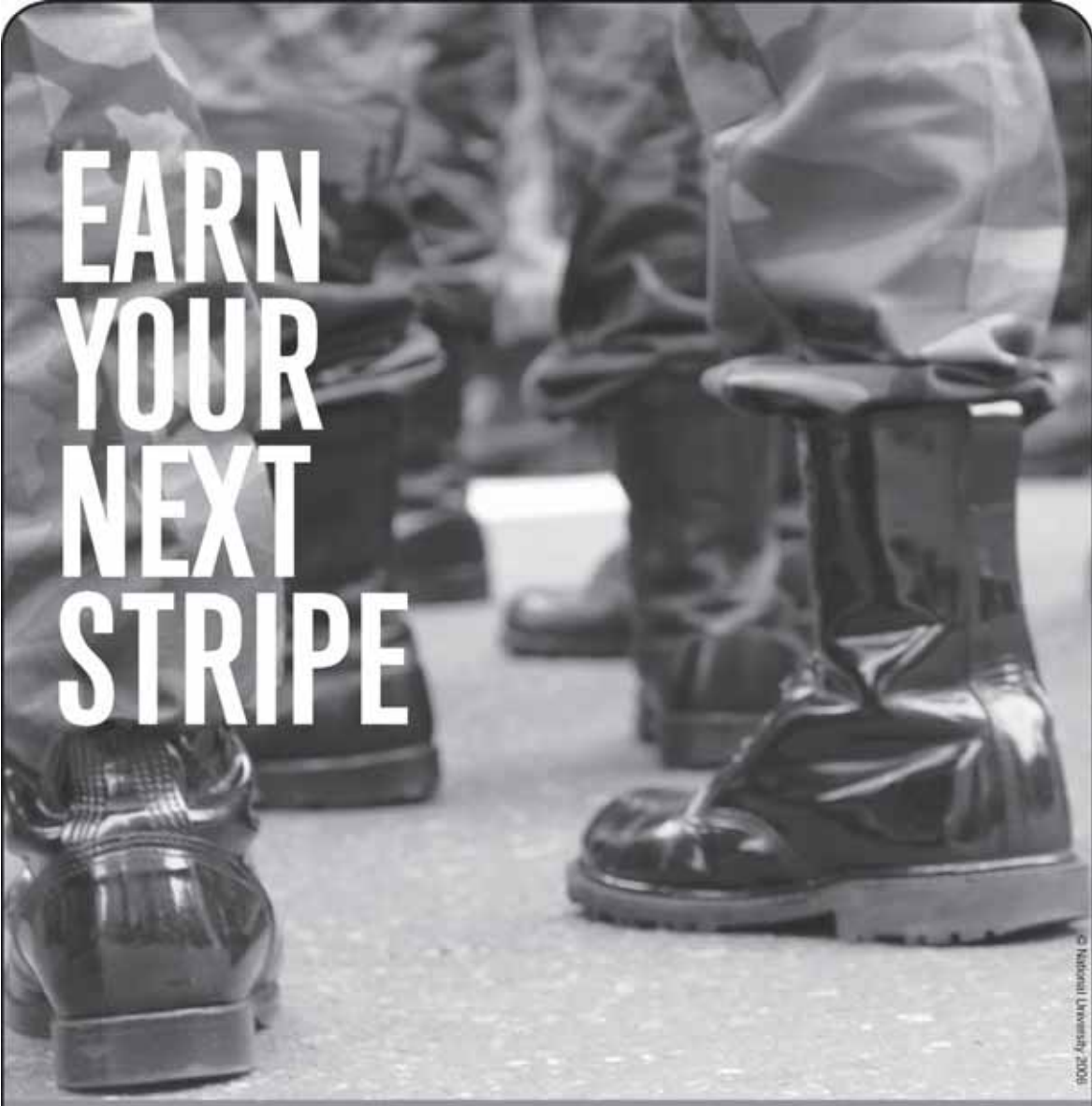
1st Thursday each month  
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus

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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# Department of Labor offers degree alternative to service members

CPL. JUAN D. ALFONSO  
*MARINE FORCES PACIFIC*

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — For some, a college degree is their dream, but many service members don't have the time to pursue it.

The Department of Labor offers an alternative program that doesn't require any after-hours work.

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program offers Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen the opportunity to attain a Journeyman's Certificate if their occupational field is equivalent to a civilian trade.

The certificate is a document stating an individual has achieved a level of expertise in a technical field, such as communications technology or photography, which guarantees better jobs and salaries in the civilian world, said Craig Lockwood, an education specialist with the Joint Education Center, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"The reality of the situation is not everyone needs a degree to make a good amount of money," he said. "A lot of jobs, like mechanics and construction workers, don't ask for a degree. What they want is on-the-job training, and the Department of Labor trusts military training.

"This is probably the easiest (education) program to do. It requires no money, no studying, little time and (lit-

tle) work. All you have to do is track your work hours."

While enrolled in the program, service members track their work hours and divide those hours into specific trade-related categories. Once the minimum number of hours in each category is met, a Journeyman's Certificate is issued.

The only additional requirement is weekly, monthly and semiannual reports apprentices must fill out and have signed by their supervisors, section chiefs and officers in charge, respectively. Each report can be done online and given to an education specialist to submit.

Many service members approached Lockwood in the past, that have worked in a technical field for years, and asked if they could use time already spent toward their apprenticeship. E-4s and above can receive up to half of their required hours in bonus hours, awarded according to time spent working in their occupational field, prior to enrolling in the program.

Service members on deployment also have an opportunity to complete the program much quicker.

"I highly recommend the program, especially if you go (on deployment)," said Sgt. Tracey Mahan, a machinist journeyman and machinist with Combat Service Support Group 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. "If your job's a trade, like welder or diesel mechanic,

you can knock it out fast. Because you're going to be working a lot more than just eight-hour days."

One issue service members should be aware is those who do not submit a report within an 18-month period are removed from the program. They may reclaim their logged hours however, they can't claim any of their bonus hours.

Regardless of what might happen, Lockwood strongly urges all eligible service members to consider an apprenticeship.

"If you're planning to work in the same field when you leave the military, you are cheating yourself by not participating in this program," Lockwood said. "It's a no brainer."

For those that don't plan to continue a similar career in the civilian sector, Mahan still recommends considering an apprenticeship.

"Even if you don't like your job, you will always have your Journeyman's Certificate to fall back on," she said.

More than 51 Military Occupational Specialties are eligible for the program.

To enroll and for more information, service members can visit the USMAP Web site at <https://usmap.cnet.navy.mil> or contact the JEC at 257-2158.

Next week, the Sailor-Marine American Council On Education Registry Transcript program or SMART.



COURTESY PHOTO

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program offers Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen the opportunity to attain a Journeyman's Certificate if their occupational field is equivalent to a civilian trade.



LANCE CPL. MONICA G. ERICKSON

Gayle Goodman, wife of Lt. Gen. John F. Goodman, commander of MARFORPAC, and Lisa Dill, wife of Lt. Col. J.J. Dill, former commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, sit and speak with the families aboard the Combat Center during a tour of the base June 24.

## GOODMAN, from A5

changes might make it even more effective.

"I want them to know that help is on the way, and we are progressing to better programs," said Goodman, who was on the original planning board when MCFTB was created and on the planning committee when it was redesigned as the Marine Corps' "dream program." "I also want them to know that the Marine Corps in the senior levels are listening to them."

After lunch at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course, Goodman sat with the spouses of Marines who are

staff noncommissioned officers and officers at the Ocotillo Community Center.

The spouses told Goodman things they would like to see changed and things they have noticed that were improving. A few issues discussed were moving due to permanent change of station orders, and education provided to their children.

As Goodman spoke with the families, her husband was at the Battle Control Center speaking to the commanding and executive officers of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., and the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport,

Calif., and base directors.

Lt. Gen. Goodman listened to how the bases were doing, and anything that may need improvement. After lunch he spoke to Combat Center's leadership, and addressed any issues aboard the base.

Goodman's visit gave the spouses attending the discussion a chance to talk about positive changes aboard the Combat Center and provide input to further improve the quality of life aboard the base.

Other stops for the MARFORPAC's commander and his wife included Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz., and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

## Combat Center Trader Ads

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**2000 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 Z71**, extd'd cab, loaded! Campershell, bed liner, sat radio. \$10,500 OBO. Call 819-1034. 7/2/08

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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