

# OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 11, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 28



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## MCAGCC posts, relieves senior enlisted Marines

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center welcomed a new senior enlisted Marine and bid farewell to their previous one Wednesday at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Sgt. Maj. William Johnson Jr., the Combat Center's sergeant major since 2006, passed the sword of office to Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, who arrived from Marine Wing Support Group 27 out of Cherry Point,

See SGTS. MAJ., A8



PHOTO BY CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Sgt. Maj. William Johnson Jr., former sergeant major of the Combat Center, stands with his successor, Sgt. Major Susan M. Bellis, and Combat Center commanding general, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, during the post and relief ceremony Wednesday.

## 2/7 bites back at Taliban

NAVY LT. JENNIFER CRAGG

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2008 – The Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, are disrupting the Taliban's freedom of movement in Afghanistan's Helmand and Farah provinces, the battalion's commander said today.

"We expected that we were going to experience a lot of friction by the enemy, Lt. Col. Richard D. Hall told online journalists and bloggers in a teleconference, noting that until 1st Marine Division arrived, Taliban operatives and other militants could operate as they pleased.

"We're disrupting that, and they don't like it," Hall said, "They've been trying to come after us because of that."

He praised his Marines' fighting spirit, calling them "some of the very best of America."

"Their heart is absolutely unbelievable," Hall said. "When I have gone to the hospital to visit some of the wounded with the intent of cheering them up, bolstering their confidence, the exact

opposite occurred. Their spirit was so great that I had shivers going through me after talking to these men. Their primary concern was 'how are the guys doing?' and 'when can I get back?'"

Hall acknowledged that local police hadn't been effective, but said the focused district development training program under way in Afghanistan will turn that around.

"What we're currently experiencing right now is a lot of change, and it's a good change," he said. "In a lot of 2/7's districts, we have some positive things going on where previously they had relatively well-trained police – but not mentored and certainly under the influence of corruption – now about to be replaced with trained and respectable police."

Focused district development is an Afghan Interior Ministry initiative designed to improve policing in the country, district by district. It was developed by Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan officials to address issues of inadequate

See 2/7, A5

## Combat Center, local community celebrate Independence Day



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, sailors and family members gathered with civilians from communities surrounding the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center to

celebrate Independence Day here July 4.

Entertainment for the event included inflatable rides such as slides and obstacle courses. There was also food along with

See FIREWORKS, A6

### This Day in Marine Corps History -July 11, 1798-

President John Adams signs act establishing the U.S. Marine Corps.

During the week of July 14-18, the Combat Center will be participating in a "Full Scale Exercise." This exercise will involve a mock terrorist attack and will simulate explosions and shooting scenarios. All residents who live and work aboard the Combat Center are expected to cooperate or participate when and if directed to do so. There may be some minor delays in traffic at various locations. We ask that everyone please be patient while this valuable training is conducted.



# Arrive Alive Program

## INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

You do not have to be belligerently drunk to need an Arrive Alive card. Only 41 Arrive Alive cards were used last year, yet we had 65 DUIs. Like they say, "buzzed driving is drunk driving!" Anybody who needs cards can get them from their unit's Substance Abuse Counseling Officer.

Has anybody ever told you how the Arrive Alive program works? "It's so easy, a caveman can do it!" As long as you are within 75 miles of the Combat Center and are an active duty service member, you are eligible. All you have to do is call one of the taxi services on the front of your card, fill out the back for the driver and pay Marine Corps Community Services within 30 days after you have used it. As long as you pay the debt off on time, it is confidential.

Where is your Arrive Alive card? You should keep it with your driver's license. It is a lot cheaper to use that card than to lose your license to a DUI. The typical DUI costs at least \$10,000, assuming you do not hurt anybody or hit anything. Do you know anybody who can afford this?

Would you ever want to be next to somebody who is firing a weapon while they are intoxicated? When you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, you are arming yourself with a weapon. In the state of California, approximately 40 percent of DUIs are fatal. Do not be the one to think you are okay to drive!

# Immigration information available

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The Legal Assistance Office assists all active duty service members with their naturalization process. There is no fee to apply, just pick up a forms packet at the Legal Assistance Office and schedule an appointment with the paralegal after following instructions and completing all forms. Beginning October 1, a new, more difficult test will be given at your interview. Do not procrastinate in submitting your paperwork or you will be studying for the harder test.

A military outreach will also be scheduled for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist family members twice a year. The next scheduled outreach date will be in October. The immigration officers will assist with all types of immigration issues, including naturalization, permanent resident status, visas, petitions, applications, completing immigration forms, and answering questions. For more information, please call the Legal Assistance Office at 830-6111.

# Red Cross accepting new volunteers

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross Summer Youth Program is currently accepting youth volunteers. It is running consecutively with the new Red Cross Club LET-N-Tomorrow and will be held year-round. The ages to be a member of the club are 10 through 18. Youths will have the opportunity to gain skills in many areas surrounding and supporting the Red Cross mission and initiatives. Some will also have the opportunity to travel to other Red Cross clubs in California to attend workshops. If youths are visiting for the summer, they are welcome to attend as well. The American Red Cross is also looking for volunteers to fill the positions of Hospital Chair, Casework Chair, and Office Assistant. There are other positions available, ranging from volunteering in the hospital to casework. Childcare is provided. For further information, please call the American Red Cross at 830-6685.

# Employee Spotlight

**Employee:** Vida Gomez  
**Employer:** Armed Services YMCA

**Job Title:** Sales assistant

**Job Duties:** Sorting donations, taking care of customers and the thrift store.

**Hometown:** Tracy, Calif.

**Hobbies:** Graphic design, photography and taking care of my son.

**What Do You Like Most About Your Job:** I like the fact that the money we get goes back to the ASYMCA.

**Significant Achievements:** Giving birth to my son at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

**Military Service:** None, wife of Cpl. Joseph Gomez, Advisor Training Group instructor.

**Time On Base:** 1 1/2 years



# SPLIT ENDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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51	52	53				54				55		
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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### ACROSS

- 1. Coarse file
- 5. Seemingly limitless
- 9. On the tail of
- 14. Commedia dell'arte
- 15. Raines of film
- 16. Boxing legend Archie
- 17. Cool cocktails
- 20. Whole bunch
- 21. Crock pot concoction
- 22. Go-ahead
- 23. Make more palatable, perhaps
- 25. Editor's "leave it"
- 26. "Awesome!"
- 27. Huge expanses
- 28. Nine-digit ID
- 31. T-man Ness
- 34. Something good to shoot
- 35. Get into the game
- 36. Apple variety

### DOWN

- 40. Having there sources
- 41. Motorists' org.
- 42. It may be acute
- 43. Hairstylists' creations
- 44. Recipe direction
- 45. \_\_\_-mo replay
- 46. Important work
- 47. Protection against a kick
- 51. Show producer
- 54. 24-hr. breakfast place
- 55. "\_\_\_ matter of fact"
- 56. Actress twice married to George C. Scott
- 59. Chipped in
- 60. Skelton's Kadiddle hopper
- 61. \_\_\_-Ball (arcade game)
- 62. Market pessimists
- 63. Lacoste of tennis
- 64. D.C. baseballers

### DOWN

- 1. Rapids boats
- 2. Directional sign
- 3. Sculptor's medium
- 4. Dispenser candy
- 5. Discharged, as gases
- 6. Mayflower Pilgrim John
- 7. Barbecue side
- 8. \_\_\_ chi (exercise system)
- 9. Gets a smile out of
- 10. Pass off as genuine
- 11. Ran like mad
- 12. March 17 sloganword
- 13. Take a siesta
- 18. Fancy digs
- 19. Saudi's neighbor
- 24. Chip away at
- 25. Circus horn-honker
- 27. Asparagus piece
- 28. Plod along
- 29. Author Bellow

- 30. Wall St. letters
- 31. "Zounds!"
- 32. Timber wolf
- 33. Causes of misery
- 35. Assign, as blame
- 37. Word with Mother or human
- 38. Orator's spot
- 39. Ottoman leader
- 44. Risks a ticket
- 45. "\_\_\_ the money!"
- 46. Lustful looker
- 47. Lusterware feature
- 48. Skier's outer wear
- 49. Strong point
- 50. Takes to dinner, say
- 51. Strike defier
- 52. \_\_\_ down (subdue)
- 53. Utah ski resort
- 54. Just sitting around
- 57. ATM-making co.
- 58. "Anchors Aweigh" branch: Abbr.

[Solutions on A7]

# Centerspeak

## If you could have any wish granted, what would it be?

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



LANCE CPL. OMAR ASKEW  
 ALPHA COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I would be the president so I could make changes in the military."



MASTER SGT. NATHAN AUCOIN  
 HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"World peace."



1ST LT. KASISI HARRIS  
 HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 25TH MARINE REGIMENT

"That my family will be taken care of for life."

# OBSERVATION POST

**Commanding General** Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

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<b>FRI. 7/11</b> <b>Desert Winds Golf Course 9 Hole Scramble</b> Time: 5 p.m. Where: Desert Winds Golf Course, MCAGCC For more info call 830-6132 or visit <a href="http://www.mccs29palms.com">http://www.mccs29palms.com</a>	<b>SAT. 7/12</b> <b>The music of Alice &amp; Albert</b> Time: 6 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., 55844 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 365-7771 or visit <a href="http://www.myspace.com/watercanyon">http://www.myspace.com/watercanyon</a>	<b>SAT. 7/12</b> <b>Summer music festival "The Versatiles"</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley Free Admission For more info call 369-7211	<b>SAT. 7/12</b> <b>Shannon Graham Jazz Brunch</b> Time: 11 a.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., 55844 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 365-7771 or visit <a href="http://www.myspace.com/watercanyon">http://www.myspace.com/watercanyon</a>	<b>SAT. 7/12</b> <b>"Art Goes Pop!" art party</b> Time: 6 – 11 p.m. Where: IncredibleArtist.com Gallery, 333 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 101A, Palm Springs For more info call 325-5917 or visit <a href="http://www.IncredibleArtist.com">http://www.IncredibleArtist.com</a>
<b>SAT. 7/12</b> <b>Foghat and Leon Russell Concert</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino, 46-200 Harrison St., Coachella For more info call 800-585-3737 or visit <a href="http://www.spotlight29.com">http://www.spotlight29.com</a>	<b>SUN. 7/13</b> <b>Town of Yucca Valley's 5th annual Full Moon 5K Run</b> Time: Registration 6:30-7:45 p.m. race begins at 8 p.m. Where: Machris Park, 59100 Santa Barbara Dr., Yucca Valley For More info call 369-7211	<b>SUN. 7/13</b> <b>The Thriftstore Allstars</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's, 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit <a href="http://www.pappyandharriets.com">http://www.pappyandharriets.com</a>	<b>MON. 7/14</b> <b>Ted Quinn's Reality Show</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's, 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit <a href="http://www.pappyandharriets.com">http://www.pappyandharriets.com</a>	<b>WED. 7/16</b> <b>Sizzlin' Summer Fun "Clowns &amp; face painting"</b> Time: 10 a.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley Free Admission For more info call 369-7211



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

[Above and below] Children dance and sing at the foot of the stage while the Sesame Street characters perform multiple songs and dance to entertain the children during the Sesame Street Experience for Military Families United Service Organizations tour at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

## Elmo, friends shake up the Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Sesame Workshop, creators of the popular television show Sesame Street, partnered with the United Services Organizations to create The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families, which visited the Combat Center and performed at Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

As the stage went dark in anticipation of the upcoming concert, the children began to chant Elmo repeatedly, anticipating their beloved Sesame Street character. Not wanting to keep their fans waiting, Elmo and his fellow life-size Sesame Street characters poured onto the stage

dancing and laughing at the wild cheers the children produced.

"My boys absolutely loved the show," said Laura Cary Simmons, mother of Alden and William, 4-year-old twins, who were the first to rush the stage in excitement. "As soon as they saw the signs for the show, they had to come see Elmo."

Alden tried to make Cookie

Monster appear before the beginning of the show by prompting his mother to open a pack of cookies she brought hoping the familiar, fuzzy, blue celebrity would smell the cookies and come out.

The Sesame Street characters

See ELMO, A5



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

### Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 7/11/08 - 7/17/08

<b>Hell Boy 2</b> (PG-13) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>Meet Dave</b> (PG) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>Wall-e</b> (G) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
<b>Hancock</b> (PG-13) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>Coming Soon</b> <b>The Dark Knight (PG-13)</b> Thurs 7/17 Midnight Show 7/18 - Mamma Mia	ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 <a href="http://www.cinema6theatre.com">www.cinema6theatre.com</a>

**U-HAUL RENTALS** 29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley 361-7141

## Get To Palm Springs!

# RIDE MBTA

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 4:00	10:25 4:25	10:30 4:30	10:40 *4:40	10:45 *4:45	11:00 *5:00	11:10 *5:10	11:45 *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 *6:00	12:10 *6:10	12:15 *6:15	12:50 *6:50	1:35 *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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# Education center to host fair, kick off new school year

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Marine Corps Community Services Lifelong Learning education center is scheduled to host an education fair Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marine Corps Exchange for all base personnel.

The fair is to host approximately 20 military-friendly colleges, said Katrina Chlebik, Lifelong Learning Education services specialist.

Both regionally and nationally accredited schools are invited to the fair in order to give maximum options to anyone interested in continuing their education, she added.

For those interested in working toward a specific career path instead of pursuing academics, Chlebik suggests attending or taking classes from a trade school.

Trade schools usually build upon a specific skill to create professionals in one area, but are not guaranteed to transfer all college credits.

"Not everyone is cut out for the four-year school," said Chlebik. "Trade schools are a good alternative for people who want a stepping stone to a career path once they get out of the military."

Service members and dependents do not have to



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

The Combat Center Marine Corps Community Services Lifelong Learning center is scheduled to host an all-hands education fair at the Marine Corps Exchange Aug. 6. All military service members and dependants are welcome to attend. No transcripts or schedules are required to take part in the fair.

wait until life after active duty to pursue their academic goals, said Jeff Fourier, Lifelong Learning branch head.

"I feel like this is a good time for Marines and sailors to start thinking about school," said Fourier, a Newport, Ore., native. "The new academic year starts in August. That can heighten interest to this opportunity."

Tuition assistance is also

available to all active duty personnel with a General Technical score of 110 or higher on the Armed Forces Classification Test and does not deduct funds from a service member's Montgomery GI Bill.

For those with a lower GT score, taking and passing the Test for Adult Basic Education presents eligibility to receive TA, which can be as much as \$4,500

each fiscal year for school.

Although family members do not have access to TA, they may apply for grants or funds using a similar program called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or for grants.

Dr. Jim Arneson, Copper Mountain College associate dean of base programs, said the education fair will be an excellent way for base personnel to explore options.

"We are certainly trying to inform active duty and families about the educational opportunities on base," said Arneson, a Yucca Valley, Calif., native. "We can even tell them how to apply to colleges. There is no reason you need to postpone your education while in the military."

Fourier agreed about the importance of pursuing individual education.

"We encourage everyone on base to go to the fair to learn about what educational and academic programs are available to them on base and in a distance format," said Fourier.

Distance format is another term for online classes, which are ideal for individuals with limited schedules and internet access, he added.

Copper Mountain College and National University, two California-based colleges with education centers aboard the base, are two of the schools that are slated to attend the fair.

Both schools offer classes at their campuses, online and aboard the base, although each also presents different course choices.

Copper Mountain College offers hybrid classes, which involve both online work and real classroom time.

National University will offer a master's program in business administration in September, said Gretchen Peshoff, National University admissions advisor.

To learn more about the education fair or for other education related questions, call Lifelong Learning center at 830-6881.

## HOT TOPICS

### CONSERVE ENERGY, REDUCE POWER CONSUMPTION

Due to extreme base power usage, it is requested all units reduce power consumption to a minimum extent possible. If the consumption continues to rise, Public Works Division will have to begin involuntary shut down of cooling systems, and other power distribution circuits to avoid a base-wide outage. Thank you for your cooperation and conservation. If you have any questions please call 830-6384.

### TO ALL SPEC EMPLOYEES AND MANAGERS

On June 17, 2008, the President signed HR 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act, of 2008. The bill is popularly known as the HEART Act, and provides various benefits to military personnel and veterans. Many of you received inquiries about one of the bill's provisions that relates to Economic Stimulus Payments. The Economic Stimulus Act had barred stimulus payments to individuals whose tax returns did not include valid social security numbers. The HEART Act removes that bar for joint returns where at least one spouse was a member of the armed forces at any time during the year. For affected married couples who have already filed a joint return, no further action is necessary. Those who have not yet filed, including members of the military who received nontaxable combat pay, should do so as soon as possible. Married couples filing joint returns who are now eligible for stimulus payments under the new law will receive a notice from the Internal Revenue Service, telling them the amount of their payment and the date it will be issued. Stimulus payments will be made in November for qualifying military families.

### PMO RELEASE

Effective immediately, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol will cite and process for concealed weapons. Also, window tint is not authorized in the state of California, so if your current state allows it but you're stationed here then you need to conform to California law. This also includes no logos on the rear windows. If you have either of these on your vehicle now, you need to take them off or the local authorities will cite you for it. The last issue that needs to be addressed is cell phone use while driving. As of July 1, it is not authorized at all for operators driving under the age of 17, and only with a Bluetooth or hands free device for everyone over the age of 17. If you have any questions concerning this update please contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 830-6800.

## FIFTH ANNUAL FULL MOON RUN

5K SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2008 8:00 PM START

# Run to the moon!

The Town of Yucca Valley invites you to its 5th Annual Full Moon 5K Run!

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

**PHONE** (760) 369-7211

**WEB SITE** www.yucca-valley.org



<b>ADULTS</b>	\$20 with a T-Shirt \$15 without a T-Shirt	<b>CHILDREN (under 12)</b>	\$18 with a T-Shirt \$13 without a T-Shirt	<b>SENIORS (60 and over)</b>	\$18 with a T-Shirt \$13 without a T-Shirt
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PLEASE ADD \$5 PER REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 7, 2008.





**2/7, from A1**

training, poor equipment and corruption, which made it difficult for the police to provide public safety and internal security.

"We have a couple of districts that are going through the transfusion of previously untrained police, sending them to a six- or eight-week training package and then reinserting them back into their district as trained and mentored police," Hall said. "We have several of our districts that are well under way. We have almost 300 police that are currently undergoing training right now, and we have another district that's about to receive its first group of trained police back into the district and to swap out with the placeholders there."

Highly trained Afghan national civil order police work in the districts while the local police are trained at regional centers. When the local police return, mentoring teams help them apply their training.

The increase in violence in their area is tied primarily to the Marines' operations, Hall said, explaining that that the

Taliban aren't so much increasing their level of activity as much as the Marines are interdicting and disrupting their operation.

"Whether they're been trained and mentored for some time or they've just recently returned to their district, we are showing [the Afghan police] that we are standing shoulder to shoulder with them," Hall said. "That has given them a lot of confidence."

He added that the Taliban are ostracizing themselves in the villages where 2/7 operates.

"[They] are separating themselves from the people, because they are indiscriminately killing innocents," he said. "And they've shown that multiple times, with their suicide bombing right in the midst of the civilian population at a tremendous toll to civilians, not just our Marines."

The 2/7 has lost 10 men since assuming its current mission. Hall noted that one of those 10 was his interpreter, whom he considered one of his men.

"Although they're Afghans, they're still my people, so I feel the same about them since we work side by side and we are here for them," he said.

**ELMO, from A3**

sang and danced on the stage, inviting the children to dance with them. The characters also walked through the seating area during songs, shaking hands and greeting children farther back from the stage.

"I thought it was great how the characters came down from the stage," said Simmons. "This is something my children will never forget, and I always want to help brighten their day when their dad is away."

Simmons' husband, Lt. Col. Steven Simmons, is currently serving on a deployment to Iraq with 1st Marine Logistics Group.

As the show went on, children rushed to the front of the stage, dancing with each other and prompting Sesame Street characters to join them in their wild dances.

The tour is part of

Sesame's Workshop (Talk, Listen, Connect) initiative, which is a program that reaches out to military families and provides support. The program also presents resources for military families and young children who have experienced deployments or changes in a family due to a family member having a combat related injury.

"This is the first time we have had the opportunity to create a show exclusively for military families," said Jim Waters, senior vice president of production and producer of Vee Corporation, which is part of the Sesame Workshop. "We give them that opportunity to be together in an entertaining situation that uses TLC."

The Combat Center was the first stop for the tour, which plans to visit 43 military installations across the country.

Although the concert was designed for young children,

parents were able to leave with Sesame Street packets, DVD's, and resourceful letters to help them prepare their family for upcoming deployments and the possibility of a loved one sustaining a combat-related injury.

"This is our chance to help families cope with the issues of deployments and changes," said Lynn Chwatsky, senior director of the Sesame Workshop. "This was the next phase. We wanted to bring the muppets to our military families across the country."

We wanted to bring them to as many kids as possible."

Sesame Street's final song ended with the muppets and children dancing and singing together. Their show and interaction with the children will give them a lasting memory of their new fuzzy friends and remembrance of their time together whenever they turn on a television to watch their show.



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PFC. MICHAEL NERL

People wait in line to climb the rock climbing wall during the Combat Center's Fourth of July celebration at Victory Field Friday. Marines, sailors and family members gathered with civilians from communities surrounding the base and enjoyed the largest fireworks display in the Morongo Basin.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

The Combat Center Band plays as the color guard marches on the colors at the Fourth of July celebration held at Victory Field Friday night.

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### FIREWORKS from, A1

musical performances by The John Stanley King Band, whose members come from different parts of Southern California, who were followed by the Combat Center Band.

The John Stanley King Band entertained the crowd with a combination of their original music and covers of Stevie Ray Vaughn, Santana and The Beatles.

"It was a great pleasure to be out here and play for the Marines and their families," said John Stanley King, the band's lead singer and guitar player, and a native of Indio, Calif.

The Combat Center Band was next to take the stage and performed renditions of the armed Armed Forces Medley and the national anthem.

While the band played the

Marching of the Colors, the colors were presented on stage by the color guard.

"We love playing for our own," said Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, Combat Center band officer, and a native of Hollywood, Fla. Giove also said it is one of their favorite performances to give when the band is playing for service members along with their families.

MCCS spent an entire year planning this event, their 10th annual Fourth of July celebration. An attendance rate of approximately 8,000 people was 3,000 more than expected, said Kelley M. Coe, special events manager, and a native of Brooks, Ga.

"The games and the rides are a lot of fun," said Pfc. Kevin Moore, a motor transportation operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and a native of Salt Lake City. "My wife and I are having a great time here."

Moore and his wife, Sarah, both said they enjoyed the rides more than anything, particularly the inflatable water slide.

While the crowd was enjoying the celebration, others watched over everyone's safety. Corpsermen were present in a medical tent and roving around keeping watch for any injuries that may have occurred, or to help get people to a hospital if it was required, said Seaman Corbin McGraw, a corpsman at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, and a native of Lake Charles, La.

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center commanding general, spoke at the event and wished the service members and installation guests a happy Independence Day.

Gurganus thanked the service members, families and civilian employees of the Combat Center for their hard work.

The Fourth of July celebration also has one of the most popular attractions – the fireworks display, which is free to the general public, said Coe. She said while this is one of the more popular events with the community, it continues to grow every year with new attractions and activities as well as attendance.

The Combat Center band left the stage after their last song as the lights on stage and lights on the field were turned off and the fireworks display began. The fireworks ended the night, and gave Marines, sailors and their families something impressive to watch as the celebration drew to a close.

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# Softball All-Stars shine

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The National League claimed victory Tuesday night defeating the American League 11 to 10 in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-Star Game at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

Randy Husted, sports specialist and the league's umpire-in-charge, said coaches from the league's 23 teams were asked to nominate players whom they deemed worthy of a place on one of the all-star rosters.

Once nominations were submitted, Husted and other league officials got together and selected the final rosters based on the player's performance throughout the season.

The American League jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead but quickly found themselves down 2-1 in the third inning after some solid hitting by the National League, led by Dexter

Parrish, left-center fielder and member of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, team during the regular season.

Parrish and the rest of the NL roster came alive in the fourth inning and were able to claim a 7-1 lead after putting together a string of hits backed by excellent defensive play.

The American League failed to put many runs on the score board throughout the next couple innings and looked down and out heading into the seventh and final inning.

The AL faced a 10-6 deficit, but mustered a strong comeback led by the steady hitting of shortstop Ray Wren, who represented the Exercise Support Division.

While the AL managed to tie the game 10-10 going into the bottom of the seventh, their effort was not enough to overcome the NL.

The NL continued to have success with their bats and after a



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Derrick Parrish, left-center fielder for the National League, slides safely into home plate during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-Star game Tuesday night at the Combat Center's Felix Field. Parrish, who played for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during the regular season, was recognized as the National League's most valuable player after the game.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Ray Wren, American League shortstop, fields a hard hit ground ball during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-Star Game Tuesday night at the Combat Center's Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Derrick Eddie of the National League and representative of the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Team 1, connects with the ball during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-star Game Tuesday.

couple of base hits managed to claim a 11-10 win.

After the game, Bret Baker, AL outfielder and representative of the Provost Marshal's Office team, said while the game was spirited, it was a good break from the regular season and a good way for him to prepare for PMO's post-season run.

"Both teams made it competitive," said Baker, who has competed in all three all-star games, "It was a chance to get a couple of cuts, a couple of fly balls and get ready for the playoffs tomorrow."

Derrick Eddie, who played for

the NL and represented the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Team 1, said the game was a good time and well organized.

Eddie also recognized the fact that while the game was competitive, it was also another chance to reaffirm the togetherness of the Combat Center's softball community.

Eddie, a veteran of previous all-star games, said the players build bonds during the regular season, and the all-star game helps increase that camaraderie.

With the game finished, players,

families and friends were treated to pizza while both teams' most valuable players were recognized. Ricardo Sotelo, catcher for the AL and representative of 1st Tank Battalion team and Parrish, both received Adidas wind jackets for their MVP performances.

The all-star game kicked off a busy week of softball here at the Combat Center, with the league's playoffs beginning Wednesday night a Felix Field.

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

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CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Sgt. Maj. William Johnson Jr., retiring Combat Center sergeant major, congratulates his successor, Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, at the end of the post, relief and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Wednesday.

**SGTS. MAJ., from A1**

N.C. to take her new billet. During his career, Johnson, a Georgetown, S.C., native, served numerous and varied duties ranging from Marine Security Guard, drill instructor, career planner, to his final post as the command sergeant major of the Combat Center. Johnson, now at the end of his career, said he plans to move to Columbia, S.C., and settle with his wife while continuing his education.

After 30 years, Johnson said that he will miss the Marine Corps as he goes about his plans for retirement. He also said he will miss the friendship of his fellow Marines and the

challenges in the Marine Corps.

"The younger Marines challenge you - that is the best part of leading them," said Johnson.

"You never know what blessings you will be to someone, or what someone will be to you," added Johnson during his comments at Wednesday's ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command and MCAGCC commanding general, also played a role in the morning's relief and appointment and gave thanks to the sergeant major and his wife, Daisy, for her show of support throughout her husband's 30-year career.

"Thousands of Marines after serving 30 years have benefitted from his love and friendship," said Gurganus, a native of Wilmington, N.C. Gurganus also said Johnson will be missed for his companionship and leadership.

"You can't have a better counselor or friend," said Gurganus to the assembled crowd. "That's what I got from Sgt. Maj. Johnson."

Gurganus also spoke about Johnson's influence on the Marine Corps itself during his time in.

"You have made a difference because you were part of it, and the Marine Corps is better because of it," said Gurganus. He mentioned Johnson's contribution to building a better relationship between the Combat Center and the community with his friendly attitude.

Bellis, a native of Boston, said that she was ready and eager to get to work with the Marines and sailors here.

"It matters not what I've done in the past; it's what I will do for these Marines and sailors," said Bellis.

She said it is her personal goal to reach out to everyone at the Combat Center so they know she is giving her best efforts.

Bellis said it is her privilege and honor to lead the Marines and sailors of the Combat Center. She pledged she would do her best for every service member under her.

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# New motorcycle range, courses educate riders

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

To help fight against the rise in motorcycle accidents, the Combat Center's Safety Office is helping to educate the base's motorcycle riders by providing basic and experienced riders courses with a new motorcycle range.

According to the safety office's motorcycle safety Web site, operators of government or privately owned motorcycles, mopeds, motor scooters, or all-terrain vehicles must successfully complete a motorcycle safety rider or operator course prior to operation on any Department of Defense installation. The training must be completed by all active duty Marines and sailors operating a motorcycle whether on or off base.

Bob Piirainen, traffic safety program manager and rider coach, said the new range, which opened in May, accommodates a full class of 12 riders with two coaches and

provides an uninterrupted learning environment for students of the Basic Riders Course or Experienced Riders Course.

Both courses are also open to family members said Piirainen, a native of Palmdale, Calif.

"Family members may take advantage of the courses," said Piirainen. "For minor children, they must have a valid driver's license and parental consent."

Piirainen said the BRC is not meant to teach riders how to ride a motorcycle, but is instead intended to build a rider's self-confidence in their own ability as riders as well as the ability of their motorcycles. The combination of the two could help save lives out on the street.

"The range is a place that offers new motorcycle riders a safe place to ride, under supervision, so they may begin to gain the confidence and skills to be a proficient rider," said Piirainen. "The

See RIDERS, A11



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Bob Piirainen, traffic safety program manager and Basic Riders Course coach, watches as Basic Riders Course students practice properly mounting their bikes at the Combat Center's new motorcycle range July 1.

## PMO graduates first class of civilian police

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The first class to complete the Combat Center Marine Corps Police Academy, sponsored by the Provost Marshal's Office, advanced into the police officer ranks and received their badges during a graduation ceremony at the Protestant Chapel Tuesday.

During the ceremony, Geoffrey Cooper, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputy and retired Marine Corps colonel, spoke as the guest speaker to the new police officers about their jobs and gave them a few tips

that will help them stay on top of their game.

"Always remember to keep a sense of humor," said Cooper, a native of Joshua Tree, Calif. "You will hear every excuse in the book, and you must always remain professional."

Family members made their way to the front of the chapel to pin their loved one's badges on their chest signifying the support they will provide while they continue their careers in law enforcement.

"I'm just happy to be back with a badge," said Michelle Mills, who used to be a military police officer while serving in the Marine Corps. She waited two years after hearing

about the academy until she was accepted into the program. "It is great to finally be here after waiting so long."

The academy began May 5 with three civilians and one Marine, Master Gunnery Sgt. David Gomez, PMO's provost sergeant, who enrolled in the academy to become a civilian police officer at the Combat Center once he retires from the Marine Corps in October.

"We have given them the basic tools they need to start with," said Marshal Palmer, lead instructor for the academy. "They have everything they need to go out and do their job to the highest proficiency."

Palmer listed the classes they had to complete, which included state, federal and local laws, defensive tactics, weapons qualification, physical fitness, nutrition, professional conduct and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The academy was created Marine Corps-wide to add civilian police officers to the non-deployable military police departments to help rotate military police back to Iraq and Afghanistan without

See GRADUATION, A11



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Michelle Mills, a new Combat Center police officer, has her husband pin on her badge during the Combat Center's Marine Corps Police Academy graduation ceremony at the Protestant Chapel Tuesday.

## 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**  
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+Appointments can be made for Confessions, call 830-6456 or 830-6646  
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# Daily Summer Fun

## 29 Palms



**Free Movies in the Park at Luckie Park.** Movies will begin at dark and attendees may bring chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner, or plan to buy food there.

Alcohol and pets are not permitted.

- July 10: "Shrek the Third," sponsored by Lenovo.
- July 17: "Surf's Up," sponsored by DBL Distributing.
- July 24: "Over the Hedge," sponsored by Rotoract
- July 31: "How to Eat Fried Worms," sponsored by LT Electric

## Yucca Valley

**Yucca Valley High School pool.** Fun swims are held 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Family swims are held 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays. Lap swimming at the pool is held noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday, from 6:45 to 7:45 Tuesdays & Thursdays and from 8 to 9 a.m. Friday.

Water aerobics program is held 7 to 7:45 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays for all ages & fitness levels.

**Teen Night at the Pool:** Swimming and dancing from 8 to 11 p.m. for kids in grades 7 to 12. Friday, Aug. 15. A D.J. will provide music; \$3 per person. Call 369-7212.

**Old West show with the Pioneertown Posse.** Held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays on Mane Street across from the Pioneer Bowl in Pioneertown.

**Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert summer schedule.** Weekdays June 16 to Aug. 15. Arts & crafts, movies, computer lab and sports tournaments, "Wet Wednesdays" and other programs. Hours are 10 am to 6 pm with "Early Birds" starting at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$30<sup>00</sup> per week, per child. \$5<sup>00</sup> additional charge for Early Birds. \$10<sup>00</sup> day passes also available. Price includes snack. Lunch may be purchased for under \$3<sup>00</sup> or you can bring your own. Ask about Scholarships. Call 365-5437.

**Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series.** The Hi-Desert Nature Museum Presents the Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series the 2nd and 4th Thursdays starting at Noon July and August. Bring your lunch, bring your friends, or just bring yourself to our Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series. Speakers will present topics of special interest for high desert residents, Free to the Public. Iced Tea will be served.

## Joshua Tree

**Weekdays July 16 to Aug. 15:** Joshua Tree Kids Club. The club provides supervised activities, use of the community center water park, special-interest groups like the Nature Club and Spanish Club, a full breakfast & lunch, literacy tutoring, recreation and arts and crafts. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: July 7 to July 24 and July 25 to Aug. 15. Call 366-0378.

**Daily: Water Play Park.** Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Labor Day weekend at the Joshua Tree Community Center. Call 369-8415

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For activity schedules pick up our activity guide at Yucca Valley Community Center Complex, 57090 29 Palms Hwy, Mon-Fri, 8-5 or visit our website [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org) (760) 369-7211

**Hi-Desert Nature Museum's**  
**FAMILY FUN DAY!**

Saturday, August 2nd  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Admission is FREE

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The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is located in the Yucca Valley Community Center Complex. For more information call (760) 369-7212

Or see our web site at [www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org](http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org)



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# Combat Center Trader Ads

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**2000 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 Z71,** ext'd cab, loaded! Campershell, bed liner, sat radio. \$9,000 OBO. Call 819-1034. 7/11/08

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**1995 LEXUS SC300.** Excellent condition. Dealer maintained. New tires. Blue exterior, sand interior. \$6,500 OBO. Call Mike 218-0450. 6/11/08

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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

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

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

## GRADUATION, from A9

leaving their departments low on manpower.

The Combat Center will add



**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON** Master Gunnery Sgt. David Gomez, Provost Marshal Office's provost sergeant, receives his certificate and badge during the Combat Center's Marine Corps Police Academy graduation ceremony Tuesday.

roughly 67 civilian police officers to PMO's ranks until fiscal year 2011, creating a gradual 50 percent conversion to civilian police officers.

The officers fully integrated in PMO will be considered General Service employees. This gives former Marines and civilians who meet all requirements the opportunity to be hired as a police officer for the base.

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

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

The graduated class will hit the streets and start patrolling the Combat Center with their Marine counterparts Wednesday.

## RIDERS, from A9

range also offers the more experienced rider a place to re-learn some of the basic skills and practice maneuvers they may not do in their normal day-to-day riding."

Erica Horton, wife of Cpl. Anthony Horton, a mortar man with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said the range allows riders to practice maneuvers that are not commonly performed out on the street. "I think it's really helpful," said Horton, a native of Cedarville, Kan., and recent BRC student, "Especially for people who haven't done a lot of street riding."

Lance Cpl. Erik Estrada, a tank mechanic with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, said the BRC has given him more confidence in himself and his bike's abilities.

Estrada, a Littleton, Colo., native, said he expects his increased confidence to make his riding experience more fun and will allow him to increase the overall enjoyment he gets from his motorcycle.

"Both the BRC and ERC help give new and more experienced riders tools that they can use,

whether they have 50 or 100,000 miles in the saddle," said Piirainen.

For more information about the range or the basic rider's course, contact the base safety office at 830-6154 or visit the safety office's motorcycle safety page at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil/base/safety/motorcycle.asp>.

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# Military police forever on the beat

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The sight of a sheriff's cruiser in town usually compels drivers to step on their breaks and make sure they did, in fact,



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Coleman Plummer, military police patrol supervisor, cautions a Marine he pulled over Monday for speeding to drive slower on base. Provost Marshal's Office Marines' jurisdiction includes the entire base and extends to the chain link fence preceding the main gate. PMO works to ensure security and law enforcement aboard the Combat Center, as well as provide support to the local San Bernardino Sheriffs Department.

come to a complete stop at that intersection.

Military police of the Provost Marshal's Office have the same effect here at the Combat Center. Although a first reaction may be to fear the sight of that familiar white truck with lights on top, looking deeper into the life of a military police officer may render different feelings.

Like law enforcement in the civilian world, military law enforcement covers a vast number of duties, said Staff Sgt. James Baker, PMO operations chief.

"Call me biased, but I think being military police is the most versatile MOS [military occupational specialty] in the Marine Corps," said Baker. "Simply put, there are so many options available."

Maj. Pietro P. Scarselli, provost marshal, said on top of the K-9 unit support PMO gives the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, they have recently implemented an arrangement that will allow uniformed Marines to travel with civilian law enforcement officials in town.

"Starting about two weeks ago, we have one or two Marines in charlies, [Service "C" uniform] or in cammies out riding with the sheriffs in their vehicles," said Scarselli about Friday and Saturday night patrols. "They are patrolling hand-in-hand with

the local law enforcement for the first time in over a decade."

PMO Marines patrolling with local law enforcement plays an important role in dealing with any Marine-related issues that sometimes take place off base, added Scarselli, a Flushing Queens, N.Y., native.

Military police officers assist fellow Marines who may be in trouble, in addition to receiving authentic field experience in civilian law enforcement.

PMO also affords non-MOS specific Marines interested in law enforcement an opportunity to experience it through the Auxiliary MP Program without committing to a change in their military occupational specialty, said Scarselli.

"They can become an MP in their off-duty time," he said. "After they train accordingly, they can participate and start putting in their time."

In addition to their involvement in town, PMO Marines work in the accident investigations division, criminal investigations division, K-9 unit, traffic court, dispatch control and may even provide security for special events, added Baker.

"We are committed to this base, the Marines and civilians who come through transient here and the local community," he said.

Marines who work in one of the four traffic sections of PMO rack up a total of



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Coleman Plummer, military police patrol supervisor, completes a traffic report at the Provost Marshal's Office Monday. Traffic reports undergo numerous inspections by PMO officials before being submitted to traffic court. Ensuring obedience to traffic laws is only a small part of PMO's duties.

approximately 300 man hours a day, adding up to more than 2,000 man hours per week, said Staff Sgt. James L. Daly, traffic chief and Penrose, Colo., native.

Sgt. Greg M. Callicutt, watch commander and military police accident investigator, explained is no such thing as a normal day for him.

When working the day shift, Callicutt said he spends most of the day answering calls for support or service.

"Most of our calls during the day involve damaged or stolen property," said Callicutt, a Franklinville, N.C., native. "Some calls can take between three to five hours at a time."

When not on a call, he spends much time doing what he prefers; monitoring day-time traffic and making his rounds on mainside.

Another PMO Marine, Cpl. Coleman J. Plummer, a patrol supervisor and former rifleman with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said he also prefers day shift working hours.

"I like working a 14 to 15 hour day and coming home feeling like I have accomplished something," said Plummer, a Naples, Fla., native who reenlisted to become a military police officer. "When I was deployed, I felt like I was doing my job. But as a grunt, you are only providing security

seven months at a time. Here, if I get called in to do something, I maintain order of that without moving into combat."


Master Sgt. John P. Humbertson, operations officer, said PMO Marines are faced with combat-related circumstances on a regular basis and hold a tremendous amount of responsibility.

"They need to make decisions that could impact the rest of someone's life," said Humbertson, a Fairmont, W.Va., native. "They deal with such a broad group of people ranging from PFCs [Privates First Class], civilians and officers. They need to have maturity, tact, common sense and good judgment. It's a very high-visibility job."

Baker said the duties of PMO are stressed greatly not only due to their obligation to provide security to all base personnel, but also because they are fellow Marines.

"A base is no different than a city," said Baker, a Lexington, Ky., native. "Marines will be Marines and are aggressive by nature. And the nature of the beast for us is to be held at a higher standard because we provide for the nation's finest warfighters."

For more information about the Auxiliary MP Program or other base law enforcement questions, call 830-6820.



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