

OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 8, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 32



3 Combat Center band to close summer music fest



5 3/11 builds training tool



6 It's the playoffs!



7 Tanks go head-to-head at field meet

This Day in Marine Corps History -August 8, 1942-

First Marine Division conducts first day of operations against Japanese forces on Guadalcanal.



MICHELLE SHUBERT
Marines and their humvee waded to the rescue of a van stuck in the water on Adobe Road just south of Raymond Drive Monday when rain flooded Twentynine Palms roads.

KURT SCHAUPPNER
SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVATION POST

TWENTYNINE PALMS — A violent rainstorm ripped through Twentynine Palms Monday afternoon, closing roads, stranding vehicles, prompting at least one swift-water rescue, knocking out power to hundreds of residents, and flooding downtown apartments and homes throughout the city.

As much as four inches of rain fell in a two-hour period, according to the National Weather Service.

Michael Tree, city manager and director of emergency services for the city of Twentynine Palms, signed a resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency.

"It's certainly more than a 100-year flood event," Tree said Tuesday.

The Hansen tract got hit really hard, as did the city's north end, Tree said. As of presstime, Adobe Road north of Amboy Road and south of Raymond Way remained closed.

Traffic on the city's main

north-south thoroughfare was diverted to Mesquite Springs Road, making it a high priority for city cleanup crews.

Tree said his emergency resolution will go to local, regional and state agencies to facilitate interagency assistance and potential funding resources to offset the cost of the cleanup, estimated by the city Public Works Department to be at least \$150,000.

On Tuesday morning, Public Works crews were all over the city, working from a prioritized list to clear streets after the rains. They

were getting help from the town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County Public Works and from several local construction firms, Tree said.

About an hour into the deluge, at least three vehicles, including a van and an SUV, were stranded on Adobe Road south of Raymond Way when waist-high flood waters raged across the road.

Specifics weren't available, but the Twentynine Palms fire department reported a swift-

See FLOOD, A10

NREA releases birds back to natural habitat



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Steve Selser, Natural Resources Environmental Affairs biological sciences technician, holds a Red-tailed Hawk before it is released back into the wild July 30.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Natural Resources Environmental Affairs office rehabilitated and released four birds back into the wild behind the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course July 30.

The birds, which included a Cowbird, Red-tailed Hawk and three Great Horned Owls, were captured from various areas aboard the base and surrounding community to ensure their safety from vehicles and humans.

Two of the owls were found in

Landers, Calif., and were given to NREA to be released aboard the base, which is closer to their natural habitat and safer for them to nest.

The third owl was found June 16 behind the house of the Combat Center's commanding general. The owl fledged too early and fell out of the nest. NREA ensured it was cared for until it was old enough to fly and feed itself.

The Red-tailed Hawk was captured June 13 at the Combat Center's golf course after it was hit by a golf ball and injured by the impact. NREA took it to the

See RELEASE, A11

CFC season back in full bloom



The Combined Federal Campaign, a worldwide campaign benefiting federal employees and provides donors with the option of choosing which charity they would like to contribute to.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A year can be measured by its seasons. Now, the Combined Federal Campaign season is at hand.

The CFC is a worldwide campaign for U.S. federal employees that allows the donor to dictate which charity will obtain his or her donations, according to the San Diego CFC Web site, <http://www.cfc-sandiego.org>.

The CFC was given its name in 1964 when federal agencies and organizations combined all federal fund drives under one solicitation as an experiment, according to the US Office of personal management Web site

<http://www.opm.gov>.

The result was an increased income from 20 percent to 125 percent. This increase, combined with a more convenient system of dealing with hosting one fund raiser a year, solidified the concept of having a single solicitation.

Currently, more than 20,000 national and international charities have joined the CFC.

Ron Genet, Combat Center CFC Chairman and member of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Coachella Valley and Twentynine Palms area, said it is his duty to get the word out about this year's CFC and provide training to educate

See CFC, A8

Feeding wildlife prohibited aboard the Combat Center

STEVE SELSER

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TECHNICIAN, NREA

Recently, the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division has received a large number of calls regarding coyotes as well as snakes and other wildlife. Coyotes are a familiar sight across southern California and the Mojave Desert, but they usually avoid approaching humans. However, when coyotes associate human activity with food, they can become a nuisance or a threat, and will frequent housing areas and approach humans.

Steve Martarano, spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Game, stated, "When you have a lot of coyotes centralized in one area, and as food sources decrease, that's when problems may occur with coyotes feeding on pets and pet food that has been left out. They become accustomed to humans."

See <http://www.keepmewild.org> to learn more about preventing wildlife dependency on humans.

According to the Combat Center Order 5090.1C, "The feeding of wildlife aboard MCAGCC is prohibited. Unauthorized feeding of desert wildlife creates an imbalance in the food chain and reduces the animals' natural fear of humans, which places both humans and domestic pets at risk." Feeding wildlife is also illegal in California, including birds by means of birdfeeders. Feeding any type of wildlife will create unforeseen problems. For instance, if you have a bird feeder in your yard, you may attract more than birds. The seeds fall to the ground and attract rodents; the rodents in turn attract predators such as coyotes and snakes. It is possible that you may feed wildlife inadvertently; an example is when you feed your pets outside. Your pet might not eat all of their food, which attracts other undesirable critters.

If you encounter a coyote around Mainside or Camp Wilson, scare it away by clapping your hands and making a lot of noise. Stand your ground, present a formidable pose, even move toward the animal to show that it is your territory and not theirs. Continued encounters with humans who appear threatening, and removal of food or water sources, will ultimately discourage the animals from returning to that area. Do not attempt to capture any animal or put yourself at risk. If there is a nuisance animal in your area, telephone PMO at 830-6800 or NREA at 830-7396, and a professional will deal with the animal.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Feeding wildlife, including birds, is illegal in California. It creates an imbalance in the food chain, endangering humans and pets at the Combat Center and surrounding community.

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Tom Connors
Organization: NREA
Job title: Abatement Chief
Job Duties: If there is a spill on base, like a HAZMAT or rollover, I am in charge of responding to those incidents and cleaning them up.
Hometown: Oceanside, Calif.
Hobbies: Riding dirt bikes, shooting guns and going to the lake.
What I like most about my job: It gets me out of the office, which makes it easy.
Significant achievements since aboard

MCAGCC: I have never had any reportable releases to the county which means I am doing my job right.

Any military services: No

Time employed at MCAGCC: Since 2000.

SUITS ME

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

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ACROSS

- 1. Crazy Horse, for one
- 6. Police jacket letters
- 10. "___ 18" (Uris novel)
- 14. "Amazing" magician
- 15. Andean land
- 16. ___-Eaters (shoe inserts)
- 17. Something to look for in clothes
- 19. Infamous "fiddler"
- 20. Banned insecticide
- 21. Con votes
- 22. Turkey's capital
- 24. Does some lumbering
- 25. Pew attachment
- 26. Take charge
- 29. Bad guy
- 30. Like Peary's explorations
- 31. Lacto-___-vegetarian
- 32. K.T. of country music
- 36. Grid coach Mangini
- 37. Indy 500 locale
- 38. Radiator attachment
- 39. Shrivel up
- 41. ___Tafari (Haile Selassie)
- 42. Bran provides it
- 43. White House architect James
- 45. Made taut
- 46. Fastest land animal
- 49. Dog treat
- 50. Send again
- 51. January 1 song word
- 52. Suppositions
- 55. Workbook segment
- 56. Movie stand-in, perhaps
- 59. Roger Bannister event
- 60. Move like the Blob
- 61. "Molly Sweeney" playwright Brian
- 62. Pretzels go-with music
- 63. Mimicking sort
- 64. Che cohort

DOWN

- 1. Filthy deposit
- 2. Two pairs, e.g.
- 3. "What's ___ for me?"
- 4. Tokyo, formerly
- 5. Like to Helsinki-Vantaa Airport
- 6. Neuters
- 7. Fly catchers
- 8. "___ we there yet?"
- 9. New Orleans school
- 10. Playful prank
- 11. Model of excellence
- 12. Mr. Moto player
- 13. Loud, like acrowd
- 18. Croquet area
- 23. Nautilus skipper
- 24. Portable source of warmth
- 25. Granny, Windsor, etc.
- 26. Eject, as lava
- 27. Actress Spelling
- 28. Monarch crowned in 1953: Abbr.
- 29. Bottled water brand
- 31. First name in daytime TV talk
- 33. Soft tosses
- 34. "That's clear"
- 35. Social goof ball
- 40. Words of denial
- 42. Repel, as an attack
- 44. Stallone's fictional boxer
- 45. Spilled the beans
- 46. Biscuit bit
- 47. Actress-skater Sonja
- 48. Writer Zola
- 49. Part of an eBay transaction
- 51. Wood-dressing tool
- 52. Footnote abbr.
- 53. Run for it
- 54. ___ out (turn traitor)
- 57. Caveman Alley
- 58. Mentalist Geller

[Solutions on A8]

Centerspeak

If you could have a job other than being in the Marine Corps, what would that be?

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



PFC. RON CARBONI

SUPPLY, 1/7

"I would go back to selling cars because it was a lot of fun."



GUNNERY SGT. ROBERT MAWSON

INSTRUCTOR, COMPANY B, MCCES

"I would be a history teacher, because all my role models growing up were teachers and I love history."



1ST LT. PAUL B. KOZICK

PLATOON COMMANDER - COMPANY B
2ND TANK BATTALION, 2ND MARINE DIVISION

"I would be a marketing analyst, because that was what I majored in when I was in college."

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

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FRI. 8/8 - SAT. 8/9 Theatre 29: Grease Time: 7 p.m. Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Rd., 29 Palms For more info call 361-4151 http://www.theatre29.com	FRI. 8/8 - SUN. 8/10 Wet Spot Pool Party Time: 3-6 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info call 342-5000 http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com	FRI. 8/8 - 9/1 Art Show: Shirley James Time: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues.-Sun., closed Mon. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7212 http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org	SAT. 8/9 YV Summer Music Festival "Chico" Salsa music Time: 7 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy. For more info call 369-7211 or visit http://www.yucca-valley.org	SAT. 8/9 Mollie Gross Comedy Show Time: 6-8 p.m. Where: Combat Center Officer's Club For more info call 830-5086 or visit http://www.mccs29palms.com
SAT. 8/9 Cattle Sorting MBHA Time: 5-9 p.m. Morongo Basin Horsemen's Association Arena Behind Yucca Mesa Community Center 3133 Balsa Ave., Yucca Valley For more info call 366-2459 or visit http://www.mbha.us	MON. 8/11 Ted Quinn's Reality Show Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's, 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com	TUES. 8/12 Woodcarving Classes Time: 6-9 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy. Cost: \$1 For more info call 369-7211 or visit http://www.yucca-valley.org	WED. 8/13 Cabaret Zoso Show Time: Happy hour 5-8 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. Where: Hotel Zoso, 150 South Indian Canyon Dr., Palm Springs For more info call 969-6699	THURS. 8/14 Songwriting Poetry and Rhythm Club Time: 7 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., 55844 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 365-7771 or visit http://www.myspace.com/watercanyon

Local music festival shakes up last weeks of summer

Combat Center Band set to close summer of music

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the desert sun slid behind the mountains, crowds carrying lawn chairs, blankets and coolers gathered on the grass in front of a large stage where musicians strummed and tuned their instruments.

The town of Yucca Valley, Calif., hosted the eighth of its 10-week Summer Music Festival at the Yucca Valley Community Center Ball Field Saturday.

The Summer Music Festival has been a Yucca Valley tradition for 14 years, said Candy Drake, town recreation coordinator.

Drake said this annual event is important to the town because it brings the desert community together.

Frank Sheckler, town recre-

ation supervisor, agreed.

"Everyone loves music," said Sheckler. "This is an event where everyone can come together as a community, get outside once the sun goes down and appreciate good entertainment. I think it also exposes people to new styles of music."

Sheckler estimated around 1,500 attendees appeared at Saturday's festival, and more than 2,500 attended two weeks ago.

The featured band Saturday was a five-man Reggae band from Los Angeles called Upstream.

Previous acts included music styles like country, doo wop, oldies rock, classic rock, swing and others.

This Saturday, the featured band will be "Chico," a salsa-style band with seven musicians gifted in Caribbean, Latin and African style salsa music.

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band is scheduled to close the summer festival Aug. 16 with a performance beginning at 7 p.m.

Aside from offering attendees a chance to unfold lawn chairs in the grass and enjoy the cooler temperatures of the desert, families may also bring pets, picnic food and other recreational items to pass the time.

"It's pretty neat because some people come here every year and sit in the same spot," said Sheckler. "People start to get to know the others around them."

Jessica Calver and Amanda Lewis, two Yucca Valley natives



Community members gather in front of a stage while a Reggae band plays music during the Summer Music Festival at the Yucca Valley Community Center Ball Field Saturday. This concert marked the eighth of the 10-week event which has been taking place in Yucca Valley since 1994.

and students at Copper Mountain College, said they have attended the concert and sat in the same spot near the stage for three years.

"I like this because Yucca Valley doesn't usually have something that brings people together like this," said Calver. "I like watching the entertainment and people dance."

Lewis agreed, saying she uses this time to connect with her niece, dance in front of the stage and have a good time.

For more information about the festival, call the Town of Yucca Valley at 369-7207.



Children sit and play with bubbles in front of a stage during the Summer Music Festival at the Yucca Valley Community Center Ball Field Saturday.



Concert goes line up for Hawaii style flavored ice from a concession truck at the Summer Music Festival at the Yucca Valley Community Center Ball Field Saturday. Attendees at the festival brought refreshments, blankets and folding chairs to enjoy the free live music and mild evening temperatures.

Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 8/8/08 - 8/14/08

The Mummy: Tomb Of The Dragon Emperor (PG-13) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Pineapple Express (R) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	The Dark Knight (PG-13) Everyday 1:30, 6:00, 9:00
Journey To The Center Of The Earth (PG) Fri - Tues 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Tropic Thunder (R) Wed - Thurs 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Coming Soon 8/15: Star Wars: The Clone Wars www.cinema6theatre.com

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Long road to quit smoking starts with single step

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Second only to alcohol, the Department of Defense has named smoking, and use of smokeless tobacco products, as one of the leading health concerns for service members, particularly Marines, with 70 percent using some type of tobacco product, according to the booklet given out in the month-long smoking cessation classes offered at the hospital.

The Combat Center's Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital holds a month-long smoking cessation class for those who want to learn more about kicking the habit.

At a recent class, Martha Hunt, the hospital's health promotion and wellness coordinator, presented a list of diseases commonly found in smokers and those who breathe second-hand smoke, as well as danger hazards and statistics of numerous other issues caused from smoking.

"One to two milligrams of a cigarette is smoked, the other seven to eight milligrams are burnt off into the air. Those chemicals burned off linger in the air or stick to your clothes, the walls and whatever else it comes into contact with," said Hunt a Pontiac, Mich., native. "The dangers of this lingering smoke not only affect those who are smoking the cigarette, but those who are around them. Chemicals in cigarettes are still lethal when they are stuck to surfaces around you from smoking. The chemicals can

be taken into a human body simply by contact with bodily fluids, like children putting their hands in their mouth after touching a contaminated surface."

There are, however, many options for someone to quit. Hunt said smokers have such options as nicotine patches, gum, lozenges and medications.

Prescription drugs such as Chantix and Zyban are offered at the classes for those who wish to quit. Hunt said that they are both effective medications, as long as one sticks to their routine dosage, follows guidelines of use, and most importantly, stays away from alcohol as well as tobacco.

"Alcohol and tobacco are two substances linked by the abuse of one or the other, or both," said Hunt. "Both substances set off endorphins in the brain, which makes people become addicted and enjoy them. However, they cause serious damage to the body. Alcohol, if mixed with either of the medications has the chance of causing seizures and is particularly dangerous for someone to mix more than one drink with either drug."

Marines such as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert Magnus, a former smoker and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., are advocates of smoking cessation because of personal experience and knowledge of smoking's dangers.

"Particularly the use of tobacco impairs your health," said Magnus in a video where he spoke



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

According to a Department of Defense study, 70 percent of Marines smoke or use smokeless tobacco which raises their risk of illness and impacts their physical fitness. The Combat Center's Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital offers classes to help service members quit.

about the dangers of smoking. "The use of tobacco endangers children's image of Marines, because it is not the right example to set with a Marine's behavior."

A booklet, compiled by the hospital's health promotions office is given out at the classes. The booklet is filled with information on how to quit including different methods, medications, and guidelines of usage along with pointers to make things easier for the quitter along their journey.

Also in the book are many of the hazards of smoking that all tobacco users should be educated on because of their severity.

Information in the "Health Issues" section of the book states that over 4,000 chemicals are in

tobacco, some naturally occurring, and others are added throughout the tobacco's processing. Chemicals are added to the tobacco in its paper to make it more addictive, these are ammonia, urea and acetaldehyde. The addition of the three certain chemicals makes nicotine (the addictive drug in cigarettes) get into your blood, and brain quicker.

The book also sites several Web sites, such as <http://www.ucanquit2.org>, and <http://www.zyban.com>, which is available for information on the medication.

If you have any questions regarding class times, schedules or changes, contact the Health Promotion and Wellness Coordinator at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital at 830-2814.

Men's varsity softball gets ready to take on West Coast

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's men's varsity softball team is practicing to compete in the West Coast Men's Regional Tournament at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., August 13.

The round-robin tournament will feature teams from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., MCB Hawaii, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and MCAS Yuma, Ariz., to compete for the regional championship title.

"Since April the team has been practicing and learning to play together," said T.C. Gray, the coach for the Combat Center's men's varsity softball team, who was born in Cleveland, and raised in Jacksonville, Ala. "We've started

off building on our raw talent from the younger guys, who themselves have been drawing from the experience of the older players."

The team feels good about their chances in the tournament based on their victory over the team from Miramar, said Daniel Sullivan, outfielder and a team captain.

"We can play with any of these teams, and we know that from a recent tournament where we beat Miramar, and they've won the regional the past several years in a row," added Sullivan, who comes from Columbus, Ohio.

The team does have concerns, not about the individual players, but only what may happen during play, said Sullivan.

"Things like a pulled hamstring, or maybe some old injuries we've not seen anything from yet, that's our concern," said Sullivan. "We're the only ones who can



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

T.C. Gray, varsity softball catcher and coach, born in Cleveland, and raised in Jacksonville, Ala., takes a swing during batting practice at Felix field.

beat ourselves, we believe, and with that said we'll have to watch out for our injuries right now."

The team expects to do well, and hopes to keep their hitting up at the same level their defensive play is at, added Sullivan.

The team has been focusing on their offensive play to make themselves more dangerous as a whole, added Steven Bilderain, second baseman and team captain, from Fontana, Calif.

"There's excitement and confidence in each player on the team," said Bilderain. "All we have to worry about is freak injuries. Other than that we will do fine."

The team has come together, and is working on making adjust-

ments to smaller parts of their game in order to get it just right, said Bilderain.

"We all have a high level of confidence in each other," he said. "If one guy slips up, there's 14 others there to help them up, and that's what we've been doing in practice. Helping each other out and working on our weaknesses, which for the most part we've smoothed out now after working so hard on our batting. If we can continue to do that we'll win."

"We expect to do pretty well in the tournament, as long as our spirits stay high and we concentrate on the game, we'll do very well," added Bilderain.

HOT TOPICS

FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Federal Voting Assistance Program has announced an update feature to their Web site – an automated Voter Registration/Ballot Delivery tool. This feature will provide voters with greater access to timely and accurate absentee voting information and provide an electronic alternative to the current mailing process. This update is designed to expedite the absentee voting process and facilitate communication between local election offices and voters. Voters can now complete the Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form online using only the specific information needed for their state. The user-friendly site has state-specific instruction for voting absentee and will provide military and overseas voters an easier way to register and request absentee ballots. Click on link "Register to Vote" on the Marine Corps Voting Web page under the "External Links" banner located at <http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting> to get started. For any additional information, please contact the Installation Voting Assistance Officer at 830-1818 ext. 125.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The schedule of re-paving Sturgis Rd. from Adobe to Third St. is set for Aug. 11-27. The work is divided into two phases to ensure proper access to the hospital for patients, PMO, the fire department, and the helicopter landing zone. Phase 1 includes repaving from Adobe to the hospital patient parking lot entrance. Phase 2 includes repaving from Third St. back to that parking lot.

CAUTION WHEN USING O-COURSE ROPES

Safety Division requests that Marines not "fast rope" when using the Obstacle Course due to safety concerns with the ropes there. This technique causes premature fraying of the ropes creating a requirement for them to be replaced, which then causes the O-Course to be shut down for undetermined periods awaiting the replacement ropes.

NEXT KID'S PFT

The next Kids' PFT is scheduled for Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at the Community Center. This program matches children of those forward deployed with Marines and sailors to provide positive role models, establish community ties, and promote physical activity through free play. For more information or to sign up, please e-mail kidsaft29palms@live.com or call the Protestant Chapel at 830-6464. For pictures from previous events and helpful hints, please visit <http://kidsaft29palms.blogspot.com>.

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3/11 goes back to the basics

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, built a large sand table behind their headquarters here at the Combat Center in order to use as a tool in training for their primary mission, supporting maneuver with timely and accurate predicted fires.

Last week, the battalion constructed a 24-foot by 48-foot sand table to use in training for field operations and future deployments. The sand table was designed larger than most to provide a more realistic view of the battlefield and allow the Marines to better understand the art of their profession as artillerymen.

"It's the largest sand table that I've ever seen," said Capt. Darryl Hammonds, battalion executive officer and Big Springs, Texas, native. "We're building it large enough so each square foot in the table is the equivalent to a grid square on our maps. This allows us to get a better look in terms of distances for the guns we use."

The table allows the Marines to experience realistic fire support training while still in garrison.

"One of the purposes is to allow our forward observers to hone their target location skills, as well as developing their ability to better advise the maneuver commander on the employment of ground based fires," said Capt. Stephen Ford, the

operations officer for 3/11.

"The battalion as a whole has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to perform ILO (in-lieu-of) missions such as infantry missions or military police operations," said Ford, a Gage, Okla., native. "The unit has, however, deployed three firing batteries as just that, firing batteries. These batteries end up performing provisional infantry missions along with firing battery missions once in theater."

While continuing to support ILO missions, the battalion wants to be better trained and experienced in what they're meant to do as artillerymen, said Hammonds.

"The table is being built to get us back on track as artillery," said Pfc. Thomas R. Arnett, a scout with Headquarters Battery, 3/11, and a native of Xenia, Ohio, who helped excavate the site for the table.

The battalion will use the sand table and other changes to training such as technical education for junior officers and practicing it in the field to help them become more experienced in the art of using artillery.

"We aren't just building this to have a huge sand table, it is for other units such as infantry units, and whoever else may need us as part of a combined arms exercise," said Hammonds. "We want to advertise that we still are artillery, we can do our job as well as we can do other things that the Corps has needed us to do."

The table fits the needs of the battalion



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Pfc. Thomas R. Arnett spreads the sand while Lance Cpl. Michael Avilla and Pfc. Kyle Woods with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, dump out sand and spread it evenly to make the unit's new sand table. The sand table was built last week by 3/11 to use as a tool for their training as artillerymen.

in terms of training and provides a realistic scale model of the terrain they will be operating on, he added.

"The table looks pretty impressive, and should be useful for the battalion to use in training exercises to shift the focus back to artillery, and away from infantry missions," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Roberts, a cannoner with Kilo Battery, 3/11, and a native of St. Louis, Mo.

Hammonds said the Desert Winds Golf

Course helped with the actual building process.

The golf course provided the equipment necessary to remove the grass from the designated areas and also provided sand to fill the table.

The battalion intends to dedicate the training aid to an artilleryman, however they are still in the process of selecting and confirming which Marine they will be naming it after, and will dedicate it at a later date.

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1st Tanks wins first round of soccer playoffs, 4-3



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Gerardo Rapeta, 1st Tank Battalion forward, tries to feint left as Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital defender Cody Thorton tries to stop him from scoring during the first playoff game for the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League Tuesday at Felix Field.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The first game of the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer playoffs kicked off Tuesday as 1st Tank Battalion battled against Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

1st Tanks emerged the victor with a 4-3 victory, taking them one step closer to winning the championship.

"We started a little rough but we came together at the end," said Diego Maltes, 1st Tanks team member. "Our constant practicing really helped us win this game."

The match began at 7 p.m. with Hospital in possession of the ball, making their advance on 1st Tanks at the beginning of the whistle.

Tanks forwards quickly took domination over the field, stealing the ball from unsuspecting Hospital defender Cody Thorton. Although Tanks forward Gerardo Rapeta eased his way in between Hospital's defensemen, Zackary Cox, Hospital's goalkeeper

became a brick wall and stopped all of Rapeta's shots.

As Edwin Reed, Hospital's forward, whizzed through the field, Cox threw the ball right to his waiting feet. Reed showed off his foot skills as he sped past Tanks players, which put him face-to-face with defending goalkeeper, Steven Yackel. Reed feinted to the left and sank the ball deep into the right pocket of the goal, scoring the first point of the game.

In response to being scored on, 1st Tanks rolled back in full force, carrying the ball up the field. After some nice passes to and from his fellow teammate, Rapeta went head-to-head against Cox, this time kicking the ball past him, tying the score 1-1.

As their goal pumped adrenaline into the players, 1st Tanks continued their rampage, breaking through Hospital's defense, smashing the ball past Cox's out-reached hands and bringing 1st Tanks the lead, 2-1.

As the clock ticked down with seconds left in the half, Hospital and 1st Tanks butted heads, neither gaining any advantage until the referee blew his whistle.

As the second half began, 1st Tanks doubled their efforts against their opponent, dribbling the ball past the tired defense. In

an effort to save a goal, Cox left the keepers box with a slide tackle which resulted in a penalty kick.

1st Tanks midfielder Maycol Arzapalo took the penalty kick scoring a goal, which brought the score to 3-1.

With the heightened excitement, 1st Tanks forward Kyle Wheatley came back again scoring their fourth goal against Hospital.

With nearly 20 minutes left in the game, Hospital began working together in an attempt to come back. They scored two goals back-to-back before the whistle blew to signal the end of the game, leaving 1st Tanks victorious with the end score of 4-3.

"Both teams played really hard out there," said 1st Tanks player Matt Brandon. "We were just more practiced, or more prepared. They are a really good team, and it was a close match."

Although Hospital lost, they were able to look back on the game and highlight what they needed to work on for next year.

"We are going to practice a lot more to prepare ourselves for next season," said Cox.

The championship game will be held Aug. 13, where the two remaining teams will go head-to-head to determine the Combat Center's best team.

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LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

1st Tank Battalion midfielder Maycol Arzapalo, battles against a defending Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital player during the first playoff game for the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League Tuesday at Felix Field.

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1st Tanks builds camaraderie at field meet, family day

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Spirits were high as more than 700 Marines, sailors and their families from 1st Tank Battalion gathered at Victory Field for a day of fun with a field meet and family day Aug. 1.

The events were a way for the men and their families to get to know their new battalion commander and for the command to say thank you to the families supporting the Marines every day, said Sgt. Maj. Conrad E. Potts, battalion sergeant major.

The field meet gave the Marines and sailors a chance to build camaraderie within the battalion, while tightening the already close-knit bonds between the companies and platoons.

During the field meet each company battled against the others in various competitions including a hummer pull, road-wheel relay, ammo-round relay, ammo-can lift, king-of-the-ring, pull-ups, softball and tug-of-war.

"This battalion has been driving hard every day," said Lt. Col. Thomas J. Gordon, 1st Tanks battalion commander. "I expect my Marines to go out and play just as hard as they work."

The Marines of 1st Tanks proved Gordon right as they

competed with determination and motivation, urging their teammates on and not letting each other give up. Constant hollering and cheering kept the adrenaline going as the companies battled against each other during the king-of-the-ring match. The event pitted five Marines from different companies inside a designated ring. The company with the last remaining Marine in the circle won the round and moved that team on to the next round against a different company. Using a combination of Marine Corps Martial Arts and old school wrestling, the company with the last Marine in the squared circle at the end of the day became the kings of the ring.

"It gives them a chance to have some friendly competition amongst each other plus bragging rights for the company that wins," said Potts. "It also gives them a break, and a chance to blow off some steam from the everyday grind of work on the hogs."

Marines from Delta Company ignored their bloody noses, bruised ribs and scraped knuckles as they were declared the winners of the field meet.

"It felt good winning first place," said Lance Cpl. Apalo Kenfort, 2nd Platoon, Delta Company. "We all work pretty hard in Delta Company, so this is well earned for all of us."



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Marines from 1st Tank Battalion battle against each other during a tug-of-war at their field meet Aug. 1 at Victory Field.

To show his appreciation for his battalion, Gordon issued 72 hours of special liberty for all the companies.

As the field meet came to an end, Marines began setting up tables and games for the families attending the second half of the day.

Parents were able to relax under shaded cabanas while their children played in the Jupiter Jump and at the dunking machine. Guests also had

access to the training tank across the street.

Stationed around the field were static displays of vehicles used by 1st Tankers which included the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, and a humvee. Family members were able to explore inside the vehicles and get an understanding of what their Marine or sailor does at work.

"This is the best opportunity

for all of us to get together," said Sherri Hietpas, wife of 1st Lt. Andrew Hietpas. "It's a good time for us to relax with our families with them not being in uniform."

The event gave the Marines and sailors of 1st Tanks a chance to have fun and relax with their friends and family, while meeting new people and tightening the bonds that have grown through deployments and shared challenges.



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unit representatives.

"The CFC does not provide organizations and charities to military personnel and their families which can enhance not only the

quality of life, but also educate them on achieving a better lifestyle," said Genet.

The CFC is a campaign that is highly supported by the military, added Genet.

"One reason it is supported by

the Marine Corps is the CFC supports many national and international organizations which allow our Marines, sailors and federal employees the opportunity to select from thousands to contribute to," Genet explained.

The consolidated list of charitable organizations compiled by the CFC is one convenient way to learn about their background and the causes they support.

He continued, saying many service members and federal employees have personal connections to a great deal of CFC organizations through loved ones or friends who have experienced medical or health problems.

One of those people is

Gunnery Sgt. Pamela Perry, company gunnery sergeant for Company B, Headquarters Battalion.

Perry said she has donated to the CFC consistently since 1994 to various organizations including those supporting cancer patients, Christian organizations and women's groups.

"Unlike another organization that I was donating to, I actually see my money helping those less fortunate than I," said Perry, a North Randall, Ohio, native. "As long as I know I can give a small amount of money and it can assist in a big way, I'm all for it."

Another donator, Joseph

Streeter, communication and engagement specialist for an environmental consultant company called Marstel-Day, said he donated to the CFC for almost 20 years before retiring from the Corps in June.

"I donated to a lot of Catholic charities because I remember as a kid seeing how catholic charities would use the donations to help the needy," said Streeter, who hails from Visalia, Calif. "I know for a fact that if I donate to those charities, that the money will go back to assisting those in need."

This year, it is the Combat Center's goal to reach 100 percent contact and education of base personnel as well as reaching a monetary goal once it has been set, said Genet.

The CFC will officially kick off this year on Sept. 19 during a barbecue at Victory field beginning at 11:30 a.m.

To learn more about the CFC, contact your unit CFC representative or visit the Web site <http://www.opm.gov/CFC>.

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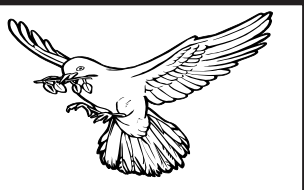


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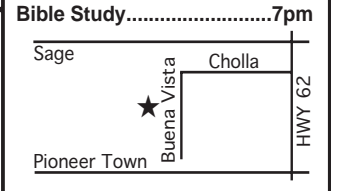
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ATLAS SELF STORAGE

FLOOD, from A1

water rescue in the area at noon. Another, smaller river stopped traffic on Twentynine Palms Highway just west of Utah Trail, which was reported flooded from the highway to Baseline Road.

Twentynine Palms Highway was closed in the Indian Cove area and in front of Copper Mountain College.

Flood-control gates, designed to keep vehicles from crossing flooded washes, were closed at Ocotillo Avenue and elsewhere. The main flood control channel running through Twentynine Palms was flowing as were others. Those roads, and the floodgates, were open by Tuesday.

The storm hit the far west side of Twentynine Palms first, moving east and hitting downtown Twentynine Palms about noon. By 2 p.m. it had moved out of the city, but its aftermath was in full swing, with sheriff's deputies and Citizen Patrol turning motorists away from closed streets.

Large branches were broken from several trees at Luckie Park as well as at homes throughout the city.

Firefighters from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center lent a hand to Twentynine Palms firefighters. Responding to reports of flooded units at the Sagewood Apartments, TPFD Capt. Jesse Quinalty said the department received so many storm-related calls that he lost count of the number.

Sheriff's deputies were kept busy both during and after the storm, Services Specialist Anita Baker said.

"We had to go out on a lot of vehicles stuck in the mud," she said.

They also responded to reports of downed power lines, she said, noting that at least five poles remained down Tuesday morning on Utah Trail between Amboy and Valle Vista.

A car on Bullion between Raymond Way and Mesa was stranded between downed lines outside a home. No power line-

related injuries were reported, Baker said.

Joshua Tree National Park Chief of Interpretation Joe Zarki said a section of road just inside the Twentynine Palms entrance to the park was washed away by rainwater. Park crews reconstructed the road using fill dirt and the entrance was reopened at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Brian Green said the CHP closed Twentynine Palms Highway from Rotary Way in Joshua Tree to Lear Avenue in Twentynine Palms for about two hours on Monday "because of extensive mudslide is at various dirt roads between those two locations."

There were no official detours, Green said, which meant stranded drivers had to wait out the road closure.

"Locals used dirt roads north and south to circumvent the road closures, which we do not recommend and do not condone," Green said.

Many of those drivers, he said, were stopped by patrol officers.



KURT SCHAUPPNER

Vehicles are stranded in the middle of a river running across Adobe Road south of Raymond Drive Monday afternoon as a Twentynine Palms fire station employee stands almost waist-deep in muddy water.

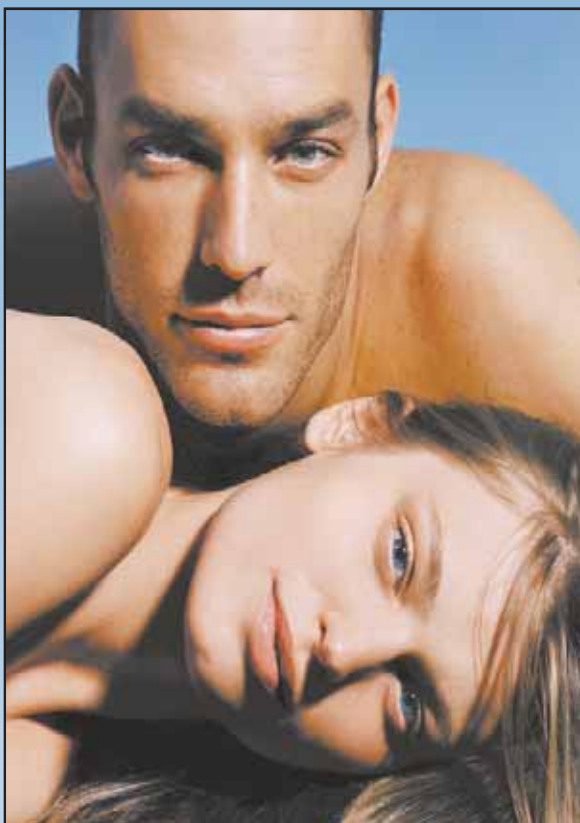
"CHP requests that motorists comply with the road closures," he said. "Please do not seek out alternate routes. Wait for the road to reopen. We're doing it for their safety because the road is impassible."

"Any time you close a road and prevent people from getting where they want to go they get upset," he said.

Candace Fritz, executive director of the Morongo Basin chapter of the American Red Cross, said the office sent two two-person Disaster Action Teams to the area to assess damages and to help those in need. Red Cross officials, she said, responded to four or five requests for service, putting up some families in local motels.



Get that Summer Glow



Beautiful

Be Shrewd in the sun

This summer, legs will get longer, skirts shorter and feet barely concealed in tiny ballerina shoes. And for that perfect look, don't forget your tan.

Baking in the sun is definitely not the way to a beautiful tan. Red skin, reminiscent of cooked lobster or patches of peeling skin just aren't stylish. Let caution be your guide.

To help consumers choose the product that is best adapted to each skin type, sunscreen products will soon display new labeling that lists the SPF ratings, and information on the intensity of protection it offers against UVB, the main source of sunburns and UVAs which cause the skin to age prematurely.

However, you should know that according to dermatologists, claims of "total screen" or "sun block" are unrealistic, even when the protection index is very high. It is better to avoid overexposure. Never expose yourself in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and adopt shrewd habits like wearing a hat, sunglasses and a shawl and take refuge in the shade after a few minutes of exposure.

Children are particularly vulnerable and must receive optimal protection. The skin of babies, children and adolescents must be well protected and little ones under one should never be exposed.

Lastly, to be effective, the product should be applied in sufficient quantity, every two hours.

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'98 FORD EXPLORER XLT. V-6 SOHC, Eclipse CD player, 12"Punch P2 Sub w/ MTX 5-channel amp. Asking \$4,000, neg. Contact Lt. Thomas at (404)993-7391 or e-mail thomasmf@uga.edu. 8/1/08

2000 BMW 323CI. \$10,000 OBO. Excellent condition. Smooth ride, great handling, leather interior. Contact Buzz for more info (808) 217-6340. 8/1/08

'05 YAMAHA R1 w/ matching helmet. Dual under-tail Micron exhaust, great on gas, asking \$7,500, neg. Contact Lt. Thomas at (404)993-7391 or e-mail thomasmf@uga.edu. 8/1/08

5X8 UTILITY TRAILER with extra wheel and tire. 1 and 7/8" hitch, lights all work great, adjustable fifth wheel, asking \$450. Contact Lt. Thomas at (404)993-7391 or e-mail thomasmf@uga.edu. 8/1/08

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MAN'S RING size 10. 14k gold. 7.3 grams on yellow gold. 3 diamonds 0.33 grams each. \$1,000 OBO. Call Tim at (760) 367-7183. 7/25/08

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The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, the upcoming Friday's paper. 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: 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.

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 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
 Sun 9:30 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 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. Meets every Thursday in building 1651. For more information call 830-6187



RELEASE, from A1

Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center, where it was nursed back to health before being returned to NREA.

The Cowbird was found July 30 underneath a vehicle. The bird was dehydrated, but healthy enough to be re-released without rehabilitation.

NREA is the only organization aboard the base that is allowed to handle migratory birds. They have a special permit that gives them permission under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to handle and capture migratory birds.

All birds except the House Sparrow, Rock Dove and starlings are protected under the MBTA which means it is illegal to hunt, capture, kill, sell, purchase, transport or receive any migratory bird, part of the bird, nest or egg.

"We have a permit to move these birds," said Brent Husung, NREA's natural resources specialist. "We would hate to have a Marine trying to help out and get caught holding a bird and get in trouble."

MBTA also states that it is illegal to feed wild birds, which NREA explained may cause safety problems, especially in residential areas.

"When people put up bird feeders the birds spill the seeds everywhere," said Brian Henen, NREA's ecologist. "Rodents are attracted to the seeds, and the rodents then attract the bigger predators such as bobcats and snakes. You pretty much create a food chain in your backyard."

The staff working at NREA has become well-educated in the species of birds native to Twentynine Palms, Calif., which gives the bird the best chance of



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Steve Selser, Natural Resources Environmental Affairs biological sciences technician, holds the cage as a Red-tailed Hawk is being released behind the Desert Winds Golf Course July 30.

survival if needed to be captured by NREA.

"Sometimes it is difficult to identify species, which has a big impact on how to handle them," said Steve Selser, NREA's biological sciences technician. "If someone captures a bird but doesn't know what species it is, they can be trying to feed it seeds when its main diet is mice."

NREA urges people to call them if a bird is injured or has become a nuisance aboard the base. Other animals such as snakes, coyotes, foxes, bobcats and mountain lions should be reported quickly to ensure the safety of all personnel aboard the base. To report any of these animals contact NREA at 830-7396 or 830-5720.

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 AUG 30 Ice Cream Safari
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 OCT 31 "Boo!" in the Zoo

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