

# OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 15, 2008

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VOL. 51 ISSUE 33



5 Kids PFT is family fun time



5 2/7 families gather for pep rally



7 Headquarters Battalion preps for football season



9 Remember the five D's of dodgeball?

## This Day in Marine Corps History -August 15, 1934-

The 1st Marine Brigade departed Haiti ending 19 years of U.S. occupation for the island nation.

## VMU-1 welcomes new sergeant major



PFC. MICHAEL NERL  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Lt. Col. Richard E. Jordan, Sgt. Maj. Williams P. Toves and Sgt. Maj. Patrick A. Prose watch the pass-in-review during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony Aug. 8, at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. Prose was replaced by Toves as the sergeant major of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1.

PFC. MICHAEL NERL  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sgt. Maj. Patrick A. Prose was relieved as Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's sergeant major after four and a half years by Sgt. Maj. William P. Toves during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Aug. 8.

Prose, a native of Shakopee, Minn., was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his performance as the squadron sergeant major in combat and garrison over nearly half a decade and during the squadron's rapid transition between different operating systems.

Prose said that his successor will be joining a good group of people after he assumes his post.

"Sgt. Maj. Toves will do well with

See VMU-1, A11

## Combat Center hosts local teachers for conference



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Nancy Lewis, assistant principle at La Contenta Middle School in Yucca Valley, Calif., takes part in a group activity during the Exploring Military Culture course Tuesday at the Combat Center's building 1707. Lewis, a native of Woodstown, N.J., was taking part in the Teacher2Teacher workshops sponsored by the Department's of Education and Defense Education Activity in collaboration with the Morongo Unified School District.

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In collaboration with the Morongo Unified School District, the Departments of Education and Defense Education Activity hosted Teacher2Teacher workshops for practicing California educators Monday and Tuesday at the Combat Center's building 1707.

Anne Muse, chief of partnership development, DoDEA Partnership Branch, said in the early months of last year Marine Corps leadership approached DoDEA and asked them to work with the

Combat Center and MUSD.

The Department of Education spearheaded this opportunity which is aligned to the purpose of a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding developed between the Departments of Defense and Education. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for collaboration to address quality educational opportunities for children of military families and to assist communities and local education agencies as they prepare for projected increases in military dependent students.

Before the workshop began,

See TEACHERS, A10

## Marine takes duty to new level



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Danny E. Pilgrim stands in front of the Provost Marshal's Office Wednesday. Pilgrim is the only Marine currently participating in the Auxiliary Marine Program with PMO. Pilgrim has been an Auxiliary Marine since 1997, when he was a corporal stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office trains a different type of military policeman: the Auxiliary Marine.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Danny E. Pilgrim is the only Marine currently participating in the Auxiliary Marine Program with PMO. During the day he is the 7th Marine Regiment Ordnance Officer but on the weekend he is a military policeman. He has the same duties and requirements of all military police, but chooses his own work schedule.

The Auxiliary Marine Program is run by PMO, which takes vol-

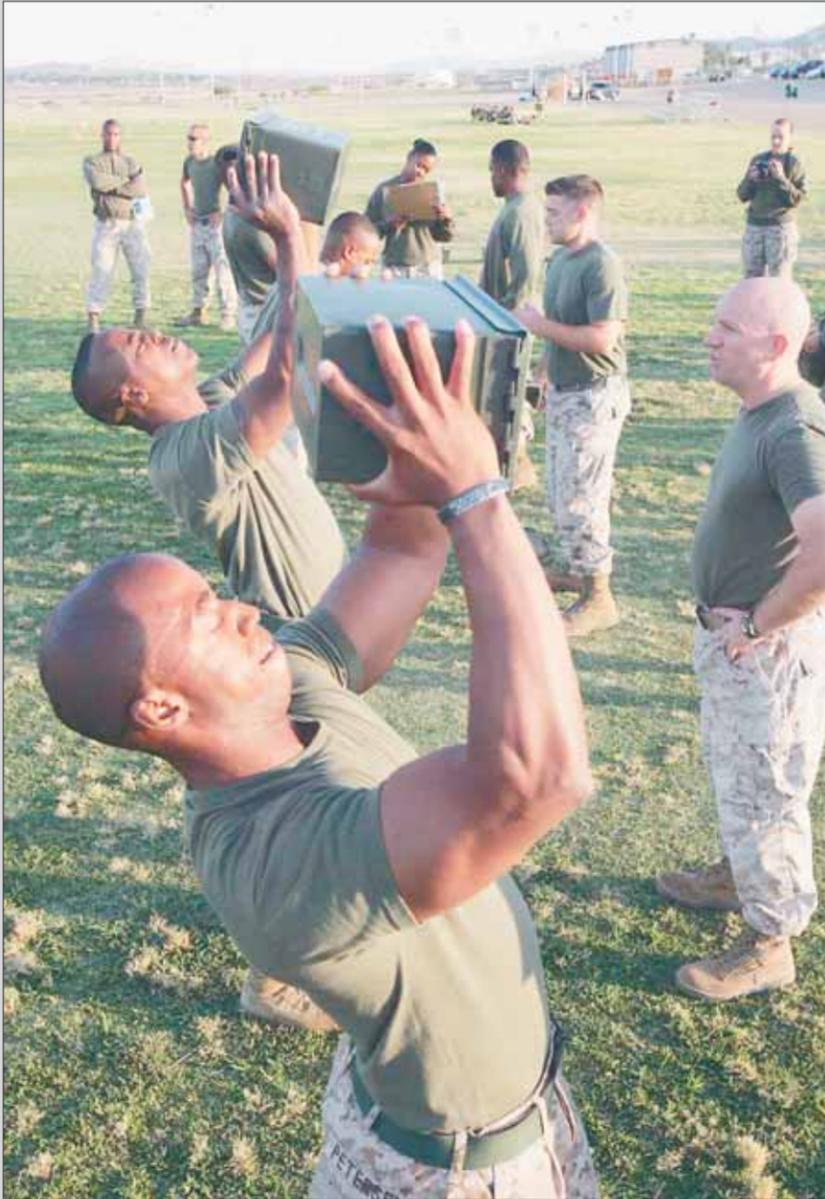
unteering active duty Marines and sailors from around the base and trains them as reserve military policemen. The program lets participants decide when to work only having to work 24 hours a month to maintain their status.

"Not a day has gone by that I have not wanted to go to work the next day," said Pilgrim, a San Antonio, Texas native. "I enjoy every aspect of working in the armory and at PMO."

Pilgrim has been an Auxiliary Marine since 1997, when he was a corporal stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. In 2006 he was stationed aboard the Combat Center and in

See DUTY, A8

# Road show coming to MCAGCC



GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX

Sgt. LaVon Petersen, and other Company B Marines, press up their sand-filled ammo cans during the Combat Center Headquarters Battalion familiarization Combat Fitness Test June 20 near the Del Valle PFT course. Headquarters Marine Corps Training and Education Command will be leading The Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program Roadshow that includes details and a demonstration of the CFT stopping at various installations around the Corps. The roadshow is scheduled to stop at the Combat Center Aug. 28 to speak to as many Marines as possible about the new standards of the MCPFP, the Military Appearance Program and the CFT. Look for full details in next week's Observation Post.

## Vacation Bible School at Christ Chapel



For pre-K through 12 years old.  
August 18 – 22 ; 9 a.m. to Noon  
The theme this year will be  
The Friendship Trek  
focusing on Jesus, our Forever Friend.

Buses are available to on-base housing  
and the Youth Centers  
Call 830-6464 for more information or to  
register.

## Employee Spotlight

**Name:** Sandra Griesmeyer  
**Organization:** Christ Chapel's Director of Religious Ministries  
**Duties in job:** Making schedules for events in the church, scheduling church programs, and assisting with bible study and Sunday school.  
**Hobbies:** Reading and RV touring  
**What do you like most about your job?:** Working with people, and every day there is something different.  
**Significant achievements:** I have never felt unappreciated. I feel I have made a difference in many people's lives.  
**Military service:** None  
**How long employed at the Combat Center?:** 10 years



## PAY UP

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14						15						16			
17						18						19			
20										21	22				
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48								49				50	51	52	53
54					55	56	57								
58					59							60			
61					62							63			

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### ACROSS

- 1. Truman's Missouri birth place
- 6. Terrible twos, e.g.
- 11. Euro fractions: Abbr.
- 14. Wipe clean
- 15. Edmonton skater
- 16. Go bad
- 17. Cost of a marten?
- 19. Tram load
- 20. Deleted
- 21. Tricky pool shot
- 23. Brewpub fixture
- 24. Clip with shears
- 26. "Shoot!"
- 30. Radio problem
- 31. Like an oboe's sound
- 32. "The Sopranos" creator David
- 33. Greedy one
- 36. Compass doodles
- 37. Held up

### DOWN

- 38. Building blockbrand
- 39. Kauai keepsake
- 40. Lent support to
- 41. PC timesaver
- 42. Made dirty
- 44. Peddled
- 45. Trained with a pug
- 47. In place
- 48. Answerer's word
- 49. Manages
- 54. Tolkien creature
- 55. Cost of a bovine?
- 58. Santa \_\_ winds
- 59. At full speed, at sea
- 60. "M\*A\*S\*H" extra
- 61. One of Lee's boys
- 62. Bite-sized pastries
- 63. Knight's mount

### DOWN

- 1. Hightailed it
- 2. Met tune
- 3. Goalie's need
- 4. Tennis's Arthur
- 5. Shuttle flight return
- 6. Easy chance on the diamond
- 7. "Java" trumpeter
- 8. Boxer played by Smith
- 9. Dry, to a vintner
- 10. Religious recluse
- 11. Cost of a religious symbol?
- 12. Sculpted form
- 13. Take the helm
- 18. Horse coloring
- 22. "... far \_\_ can see"
- 24. Christmas treeholder
- 25. Beer bash buy
- 26. Like Sabin vaccine
- 27. Roll-call yell

- 28. Cost of a kind of fraction?
- 29. Much spam
- 30. Reduce to confetti
- 32. In secret language
- 34. Cruel dude
- 35. Well-behaved
- 37. City messenger's transport
- 38. Murphy's \_\_
- 40. Tightrope walker, e.g.
- 41. Dignified women
- 43. Bookmarked addr.
- 44. Crusty end of a loaf
- 45. Clip wool from
- 46. Tubular pasta
- 47. Reaches across
- 49. "Think nothing\_\_!"
- 50. Touch on
- 51. Poop out
- 52. Ultimatum ender
- 53. Iditarod vehicle
- 56. Filmom's Thurman
- 57. Not at hand

[Solutions on A8]

## Centerspeak

### Which is better, Myspace or Facebook?

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



SEAMAN QUINTON WILLIAMS  
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Myspace because it is more global, and I don't have a Facebook."



CPL. RUDY FRESCAS

3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION  
"Myspace is better because everybody has it."



STAFF SGT. JOY WEEKS  
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"Neither because I'm not a computer person, and I've had bad experiences."

## OBSERVATION POST

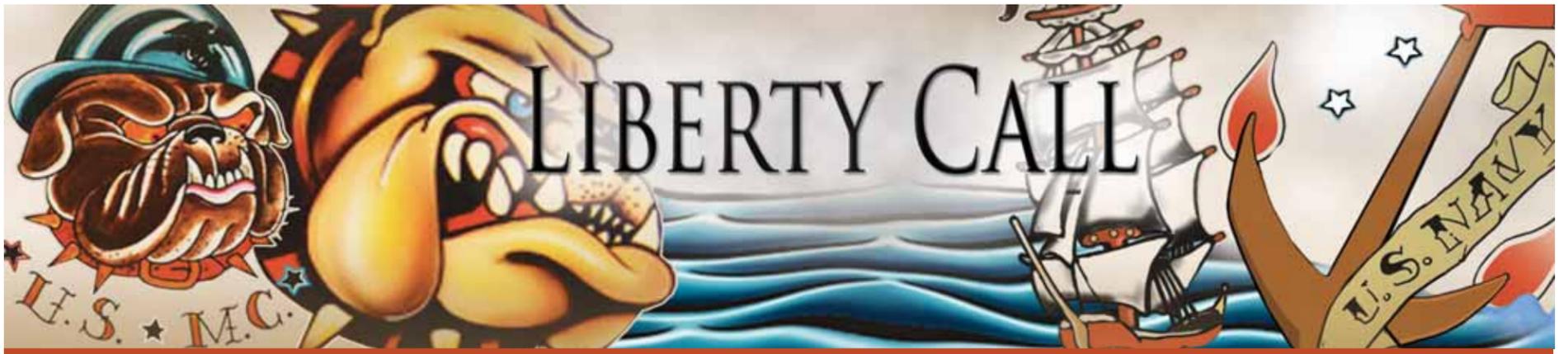
### Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp  
Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox

Editor Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes  
Press Chief Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz  
Layout, Design Leslie Shaw

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<b>AUG. 11 – SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Idyllwild Music Festival</b> Time: All day event Where: Idyllwild Arts Academy 52500 Temecula Rd. Idyllwild For more info call (951)659-2171	<b>FRI. 8/15 &amp; SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Art, Culture, and Nightlife in Old Town La Quinta</b> Time: 5-9 p.m. Where: Old Town La Quinta 78015 Main St. La Quinta For more info call 564-1244	<b>SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Elvis Tribute Day</b> Time: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Where: Elvis Presley Estate 1350 Ladera Circle Palm Springs For more info call 322-1192	<b>SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Sunset Jazz in the Vines</b> Time: 6-10 p.m. Where: Wilson Creek Winery 35960 Rancho California Rd. Temecula For more info call (951)699-9463	<b>SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Texas Hold 'em Tournament</b> Time: 2 p.m. Where: Hashmarks SNCO Club For more info call 830-6608
<b>SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Yucca Valley Music Festival with the Combat Center Band</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center Complex 57090 29 Palms Highway For more info call 369-7211	<b>SAT. 8/16</b> <b>Jethro Tull Concert</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy. For more info call 342-5000	<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b> <b>Hot August Nights</b> Time: 7 p.m., every Sunday until Aug. 31 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info call 342-5000	<b>TUES. 8/19</b> <b>BUNKO</b> Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Combat Center Officer's Club For more info call 830-6610	<b>WED. 8/20</b> <b>Open Mic Night at McElhaney's</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: McElhaney's 57045 29 Palms Hwy Yucca Valley For more info call 369-0160

# Combat Center recognizes, shares importance of volunteering

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"We make a living by what we do. We make a life by what we give." This quote by Winston Churchill creates a still frame of the importance of those who dedicate their time to volunteering.

The Combat Center provides many opportunities for military family and service members to become actively involved in the base and local community through volunteering.

One of the more popular volunteer programs on base is the American Red Cross, which keeps records of open volunteering options in base organizations, said Susan Harz, American Red Cross youth leadership chair.

"We have 20 volunteers we're using right now who are between the ages of 10 and 18," said Harz. "They get to choose where they want to volunteer from a list of places we've made previous arrangements with."

Some of the organizations open to Red Cross volunteers are the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 working dog unit, the Public Affairs Office and the Armed Services YMCA.

Not all on-base volunteering programs are initiated through the Red Cross however.

"About once every month, some of the Marines in Alpha Company go down to volunteer with the kids at the Community Center," said 1st Sgt. Howard H. McKenzie, Company A 1st sergeant, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School. "Most of their dads are deployed, so it gives the kids a chance to get that male interaction."

Other Marines like Lance Cpl. Shane M. Mason, communication maintenance technician,

Company A, MCCES, spend time with children at the Lifelong Learning Library on base.

"I helped the kids at the library with their reading program," said Mason, a Boise, Idaho, native.

"Last time I went there, we helped the kids paint hats, do arts and crafts and make sure they did their assignments."

One of the off-base volunteer programs used by Combat

Center units is called "Reach Out Morongo" and is a Christian fellowship and volunteer program which used to be called Reach Out 29 before it expanded, said Sandy Fleck, program executive director.

work with area congregations and partnership with local agencies to provide support, assistance, education and referral services to people in the Morongo Basin, according to the

The program is designed to **See VOLUNTEER, A9**



LAURA SIMMONS

A Kid's PFT volunteer lets McKenna Wells, 6-year-old daughter of 1st Sgt Charlie Wells, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, paint his face at the base Community Center July 13.

## Cinema 6

**MOVIE TIMES 365-9633** Showtimes Effective 8/15/08 - 8/21/08

<b>Star Wars:</b> The Clone Wars (PG) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>Mirrors</b> (R) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>Tropic Thunder</b> (R) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
<b>Pineapple Express</b> (R) Everyday 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>COMING SOON</b> 8/22: Death Race 8/29: Babylon A.D.	<b>ALL SHOWS</b> BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00 • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.cinema6theatre.com

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# 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	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

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

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

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# Corps receives new enlisted PME deputy from 29 Palms



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Master Gunnery Sgt. Kelly J. Scanlon, former director of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Sergeant's Course aboard the Combat Center, encourages Marines of his final class after a physical fitness test at Del Valle Field March 21. Scanlon is now the deputy director of Enlisted Professional Military Education at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

He stands out from a massive cluster of Marines in green-on-green physical training gear. But it is more than the fact he is the only one wearing his coyote brown Flak jacket over his PT gear. He stands at 6 feet tall with a hefty build, thick neck and white strip through his salt-and-pepper hair. No tattoos can be seen on his arms, but a raised scar on his right jaw speaks louder about his experiences than any ink could. His baritone voice is the only exterior trait that is rougher than his bone-deep tan.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Kelly J. Scanlon, who was the director of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy aboard the Combat Center for three years, supervised his final Sergeant's Course from April 14 to May 30 before moving on to his new duties in Quantico, Va., as deputy director of Enlisted Professional Military Education for the entire Marine Corps.

His new billet has put him in charge of the development and evolution of all enlisted professional military education and six staff noncommissioned officer academies around the world.

Master Sgt. Scott R. Peterson, new director of the Combat Center SNCO academy, said Scanlon has had the greatest impact on him of all staff NCOs he has ever worked with.

"He's the type of leader who talks the talk and walks the walk

365 days a year," he said.

Peterson, a Chicago native, said he has worked with Scanlon for two years and has always been impressed with his "leadership by example" when he does things like finishing a run with the last Marine in.

Students have also been influenced no less than his staff.

Sergeants Damian Chacon and Rafael Chacon, brothers from Los Angeles in the course, said his leadership has inspired them to be the finest NCOs they can be.

"He has demanded the type of leadership I try to apply every day," said Rafael, a drill instructor for 1st Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. "He is still holding the standard as a senior enlisted staff NCO."

Damian, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, agreed, saying he believes Scanlon's motivation is the primary reason Marines come out of the course "hard-charging."

"You can tell just by the product he puts out," said Damian. "You see some senior enlisted staff NCOs who are really relaxed. But he demands nothing but perfection from his sergeants."

Scanlon said he achieves great satisfaction doing what he does and intends to get the same results from Marines in Quantico as he did here.

"I've had the greatest job in the Marine Corps," he said. "I've had the ability to come into work every day and lead, train and mentor over 1,000 Marine sergeants. I have learned as much from them as they have from me."

Scanlon attributes the high quality of Marines who have graduated from the course to his staff.

"They run the place," he said. "I've got a highly professional staff. They're highly qualified, very demanding and every one of them is outstanding mentors to the students."

Staff and students alike claim they will always remember his impact on their lives.

"I'd like to thank that man for the rest of my days for setting the example I will always look to for every situation," said Peterson. "I've never had a more dedicated, firm and fair leader than this man."

Since Scanlon is 28 years deep in his 30-year enlistment, he has already made plans for retirement.

He is married, has a 21-year-old son and a 14-year-old daughter, and plans on moving back to Minneapolis where his family resides.

If he could offer words of advice to NCOs everywhere, especially to his students, Scanlon would say, set the ultimate standard.

"Lead by example, and your Marine's performance and conduct will reflect an image of you," said Scanlon.

In the case of the Corps' newest PME developer, the reflection of Marines around the world will soon have the shadow of a six-foot Marine wearing a coyote-brown flak jacket staring back at them.

## HOT TOPICS

### MSG VISIT

The Marine Security Guard screening team will be aboard the Combat Center on Wednesday to screen and interview all interested Marines for potential assignment to Embassy Duty. See your unit Career Retention Specialist for checklists and eligibility requirements. Contact the Base Career Retention Specialist, Gunnery Sgt. Daniel L. Mintz at 830-6171 for additional information.

### 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 will provide an electronic alternative to the current mailing process. Voters can now complete the Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form online using only the specific information needed for their state. Click on link "Register to Vote" on the Marine Corps Voting Web page under the "External Links" banner located at [www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting](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 3rd St. is set for Aug. 11-27. The work is divided into phases (1 and 2) to ensure proper access to the hospital for patients, PMO, fire department, ambulances, and the helicopter landing zone. Phase 1 includes repaving from Adobe to the hospital patient parking lot entrance. Phase 2 includes repaving from 3rd St. back to that parking lot. We have a traffic control plan in place to ensure proper access and signage for the hospital and other organizations located along Sturgis.

### RED CROSS VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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. The ages to be a member of the club are 10-18. This club is a year-round club. If youth are visiting for the summer they are welcome to attend as well. American Red Cross is also looking for volunteers to fill the position of Hospital Chair, Casework Chair, and Office Assistant. There are other positions available as well. Childcare is provided. For further information please call 830-6685.

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## Kids PFT makes leaps, bounds to success



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Pfc. Forrest Breese, a Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School student, lets 7-year-old Tristan Johnson paint his entire face, neck and back of the head during the Kid's Play and Fun Time at the Combat Center's Community Center Sunday.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Volunteering Marines, mothers and their children gathered at the Combat Center's Community Center for the fifth Kid's Play and Fun Time Aug. 10.

The Kid's PFT was created in April to give children a positive male role model while coping with their father's deployments.

Laura Cary Simmons, creator of the Kid's PFT program, said she started the program after her husband moved to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and her children began shadowing men around the Combat Center.

In the last five months the number of children attending the event rose from 30 children to 48. More Marines from various units aboard the base have been volunteering as well, with the first Kid's PFT at 33 Marines, and the last event with 55.

"They get male bonding that they don't receive when their dad is deployed," said Nancy Anderson, mother of two children who attend every Kid's PFT. "I look forward to the Kid's PFT every month, and I love coming here and seeing the Marines here always having smiles on their faces and [being] so energetic."

The Community Center gym was filled with soccer balls, nerf balls, footballs, tennis balls and basketballs. In the corner of the gym, Marines were serving flavored Sno-Cones. If a child

wished to learn a specific sport, they were asked to bring the ball needed so a volunteer Marine could teach the child.

"It is so important for children to play and get exercise," said Simmons. "Sometimes a mom is just too tired after her day to throw a ball or play tag, but now the kids are able to play with these young Marines who are in shape and willing to throw a ball and run around."

Outside the gym children were able to play board games and face-paint their favorite Marines.

"I just sat down out here and got attacked by paint," said Pfc. Forrest Breese, a volunteer from the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School who had his entire face, hair, back of the head and neck painted by 7-year-old Tristan Johnson and her sister, 4-year-old Justice Johnson.

The program was designed to have as little structure as possible, giving children free reign of what they wanted to do, when they wanted to do it, said Simmons.

"I feel the kids are always told what they can and cannot do," she said. "In school, in sports, everywhere they go these kids have to follow strict rules. Here, they just come in and play. There are no stations they have to go to in order, there are no restrictions. It is a free-play type of situation."

The program also gave mothers a chance to meet new people going through the same

situation during their husbands' deployment.

"They could actually sit down and relax without worrying about their children," said Simmons. "It is a free time almost no mother will get during their husbands' deployments."

Although the program is still adapting to the needs of all the children and parents, it is something many children and mothers aboard the Combat Center are able to attend for a chance to exercise and interact with positive role models.

## 2/7 families gather for pep rally

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Spouses, children and other loved ones of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Marines and sailors gathered at the Combat Center Community Center for a pep rally Monday.

The pep rally was designed to bring wives closer to their husbands by sharing information about their husbands' duties while in country, as well as bringing them closer to fellow military wives for support, said Sue Cruz, 2/7 key volunteer coordinator.

A room with a popcorn

machine and two Jupiter Jumpers kept the children entertained while spouses sat in another room, listened to guest speakers and watched a presentation expressing the importance of supportive wives.

Cruz said the pep rally is not an annual tradition, but rather a mid-deployment special event to give spouses motivation.

Amy Hall, wife of Lt. Col. Richard D. Hall, 2/7 battalion commander, read a letter from her husband to the spouses and introduced the special guests; Cpl. Sean Kasper, Lt. Col.

See RALLY, A12



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Tim Struble, Lance Cpl. Jonathan Chang and Pvt. Cameron Derosier, Marines with the Remain Behind Element, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, play with military children during the 2/7 pep rally at the Combat Center Community Center Friday.

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# Seattle welcomes Marines to Seafair 2008

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors from 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., took part in Seattle's Fleetweek at the city's downtown waterfront Pier 90 July 30 - Aug. 3.

Fleetweek is an annual event held each year in correlation with Seattle's Summer Celebration Seafair and welcomes the men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Canadian Navy to the city's Elliott Bay waterfront.

2nd Lt. Justin Kosar, AAV platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, 3rd AABn., said the Marines participating in the event were chosen because they were the most prepared, and because some of his Marines have participated in back-to-back Mojave Viper exercises and warranted a break.

Kosar added, fleetweek also provided his Marines with an opportunity to experience life aboard a ship.

"It gets the Marines used to being on ship because this is

how the Marines will get in the fight," said Kosar, a native of Albany, Ga.

As part of Fleetweek the Marines showed off their AAV's as well as the vehicle's gear and weaponry on Pier 90 to the fair's many civilian visitors and also to a few of their fellow service members.

All service members attending Fleetweek were also given a choice of activities and shows to attend ranging from a Shriners golf tournament, hydroplane races, Seattle Mariners baseball game and an air show by the Navy's Blue Angles.

Lance Cpl. Patrick Tunney, AAV crewman, 3rd Platoon, Bravo Co., said he enjoyed Fleetweek because it allowed the Marines to show visitors what the platoon and their vehicles do.

"The best part was teaching the civilians about the vehicles and getting to talk to with them," said Tunney, a native of Westmont, Ill.

Tunney's Fleetweek was made extra memorable when he was promoted to his current rank on the flight deck of the U.S.S. Germantown, the ship where 3rd



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Marines and sailors aboard the U.S.S. Germantown salute the city of Seattle July 30 as they participate in Fleetweek which is part of the city's summer Seafair celebration.

Platoon made their quarters.

"It's something I'm always going to remember," said Tunney.

Jason Tenorio, AAV crewman, 3rd Platoon, Bravo Co., said in addition to the opportunity to interact with Seattle's civilian population, Fleetweek also provided the Marines with an opportunity to get to know each other better.

"You get to talk to your buddy more, so you get to know them a lot better," said Tenorio, a native of the Bronx, N.Y.

Once Fleetweek concluded, 3rd Platoon wasted no time getting back to work. On their return trip to Camp Pendleton aboard the Germantown the Marines of 3rd Platoon cleaned weapons, serviced their vehicles and even found time to promote some of the platoon's Marines to grey belts in the Marine Corps' Martial Arts Program.

After four days at sea, the platoon practiced off loading their AAVs from the Germantown a mile from shore and safely navigating them back to Del Mar Beach at Camp Pendleton where they concluded their two week trip to and from Fleetweek.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Pfc. Travis A. Thomas, AAV mechanic and Lance Cpl. Keo A. Sok, AAV crewman, both 3rd Platoon, Bravo Co., 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., participate in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program on the flight deck of the U.S.S. Germantown. Sok, a native of Modesto, Calif., and Thomas, a native of Georgetown, Ohio, were returning from Seattle, where they participated in the Seattle Seafair's Fleetweek July 30 through Aug 3.

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# Headquarters Battalion gears up for football season

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of the Headquarters Battalion football team are preparing for one of America's favorite sports, football.

Headquarters Battalion, the 2007 base and Best in the West champs, has already started their preseason practices, breaking in new players and welcoming back the old.

"We have good athletes in all our players, and we're going to work them hard," said Mark M. Geletko, the defensive coach, and a native of Pittsburgh. "We're coming into our third week of practice and we're moving along well."

The team hopes to continue their success of last year, with a good core of returning players from the champion team, and new talent, said Geletko.

"We've got a good solid core of returning players," said Geletko. "This is my first season with this team, but not my first coaching. I

know a strong team when I see one, and we definitely have one here."

The team has a full roster, with good depth at all positions and talent to go around.

The team also has returning leaders, figures such as Daymian Brown, the head coach.

"This is my second year coaching the team," said Brown, a native of Abington, Pa. "I played two years ago as a fullback, and now I've been coaching for last year and this one."

Brown also has his own theory about how the team will perform and an optimistic outlook on their postseason chances.

"We're looking forward to being a smash mouth running team again this year," said Brown. "We're looking strong for it being early in the season. I'm trying not to think only about the playoffs, but you know, we really want a championship the third year in a row."

The team also is looking forward to playing against some of their best opponents from last year.

"Tanks and MCCES (Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School) are typically our two best games," said Brown. "There's good talent on both teams, and of course it's always a fun game to watch when it's a good match up."

New players, such as Mario Goode, a first year safety, have seen the chemistry of the team, and think they will play together well.

"If we keep up our intensity like we do out here, we won't lose many games I think," said the Santa Maria, Calif., native. "We're making daily improvements when we do practice, and I think right now we've got another good shot to be base champs again."

Players feel good about their abilities as a whole, not just about the power of their running game on offense.

"We're strong on both sides of the ball," said Goode. "Our running game is still as good as it was



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Daymian Brown, head coach, gets up close and personal with players during a warm-up drill meant to get them ready for hitting. The team has been practicing for three weeks in preparation for the Commanding General's Intramural Football League, beginning in September.

last year. Defense though, that's our best part right now, our strong point is with our D-line-men, and our linebackers."

The team is optimistic and

working hard on their game, and looks forward to competing not only with base teams, but also with others from other West Coast installations to re-claim their titles.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Dwayne McGeachy, an auxiliary player on the team's offense, and a native of Charlotte, N.C., practices his passing during the team's practices Tuesday night. The team has been practicing for three weeks in preparation for the Commanding General's Intramural Football League, beginning in September.



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**DUTY, from A1**

February, he volunteered for the program again, working the night shift every weekend.

The program gives participants experience in law enforcement, which gives them an advantage when trying to find jobs as a police officer after getting out of

the military, said Pilgrim.

"It is a great program that exposes you to certain elements of law enforcement that are similar to civilian law enforcement," said Pilgrim, who plans on becoming a police officer in Waco, Texas. "The Marine Corps is the first chapter of my life, when I retire I will be mov-

ing on to the next chapter from serving my country to serving my community."

When a Marine applies to the program they must have approval from their own command. Then they must pass a screening consisting of a medical and criminal record check. Upon completion of the screen-

ing the Marine will be scheduled to complete several classes in which they will be trained on gate procedures, how to arrest someone, using handcuffs, how to respond to certain calls and patrolling the streets.

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field training officer. While under supervision the Marine is issued all gear required to include a pistol and badge and are placed where they are needed, whether on gate duty or patrolling the streets.

"The checklist goes through everything they are required to learn," said Master Gunnery Sgt. David Gomez, PMO's provost sergeant. "So when they first handcuff someone, their field training officer will check that off the list."

After completing the checklist and showing a sense of responsibility and maturity, a board consisting of several PMO members will convene and make a determination whether the Auxiliary Marine should be upgraded to level I. Level I gives the Auxiliary Marine the responsibility of being able to work alone.

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# Dodge ball ends with a hard-fought victory for MCCES

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School triumphed over Center Magazine Area in the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League Championship game at the Combat Center's West Gym Aug. 7.

The two teams had played earlier in the tournament, with MCCES losing to CMA, however the tournament was a double-elimination, with each game con-

sisting of five five-minute skirmishes, this gave MCCES the chance to play another day.

The first of five skirmishes was won by CMA, and in the second match they appeared to be out on top as they had been in the previous game. MCCES came back, however, to win the next three skirmishes, giving them the win in the first game, making the next game a sudden death between the two teams.

One of the MCCES players, William Harrington, commented

on the situation of his team.

"If we let CMA beat us three out of five in this next game, that's it, game over," said the Condon, Ore., native. "We've got to play well, us older guys will have to represent for everyone else at MCCES."

After the game was tied, both teams took a short break and planned out their course of action for the next five skirmishes.

"We won the first game to keep us here already," said Rudy Davilla, a player with MCCES, and a native of Victoria, Texas. "We've already lost once. We're back in the game and we've got to start playing really hard to pull this one off."

The final game kicked off with a rush, players from both sides launching balls at one another, catching and dodging as they went. CMA was once again victorious in the first skirmish, barely winning as the clock wound down.

The second scrimmage kicked off, with CMA out in front with one victory, they clinched a second win and all hope seemed lost for the underdog MCCES team.

In what possibly may have been the last game, MCCES fought hard to win. With a victory for them, a fourth skirmish took place.

Erik Amezcua, a native of



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Erik Amezcua, and Brant Dowd both attempt to take out players of Center Magazine Area during the final game of the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball Tournament championship Aug. 7.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Eric Deleon, a player with Center Magazine Area, taunts the opposing team during the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball Tournament championship Aug. 7. CMA played well, but lost to Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School.

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Sun 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass  
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## VOLUNTEER, from A3

Web site <http://www.reachout29.org>

Some of these volunteer services include information and referral, light yard work, minor home repairs, personal business help and errand services, according to the Web site.

Fleck said service members who partake in volunteering play a major role in knocking out community projects too large for the average number

of local volunteers to tackle.

"The Marines who come out here with their units and chaplains usually fix the bigger projects in one fell swoop," said Fleck.

Although Marines and sailors may be the first called upon to assist in labor projects, they also have influence on the less physical volunteering programs.

Some service members like Pfc. Duane L. Williams, communication maintenance technician, Company A, MCCES, spend personal time off base volunteering with specific

organizations. In Williams' case, it's his church, the Twentynine Palms Bible Baptist Church.

"We've had car washes to help send the teens from church to Six Flags and the smaller kids to the zoo," said Williams, a Detroit native.

Although most off-base volunteering opportunities are not tracked by base officials, more information regarding volunteer positions is available by calling the base volunteer coordinator Monica McBroom at 830-4163.

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**TEACHERS, from A1**

members from the Department of Education and the MUSD joined forces to decide on which courses would be offered at the two-day event. The MUSD then worked with the Combat Center to provide the conference with a venue.

"It was a team effort starting with Brigadier General Spiese and his staff, and the staff at the Morongo Unified School District," said Dave Price, MUSD's director of student services. "Both organizations realized we're stronger working together than we are working separately."

The Department of Education offered courses in areas such as supporting the emerging writer, science and mathematics strategies for limited English proficient students, building reading fluency, and mastering multiplication and division, while DoDEA offered courses like exploring military culture and the impact and implications for support due to deployment.

"Some courses are interactive,

some are more formal presentations," said Carolyn Snowbarger, director of the Teacher2Teacher initiative at the United States Department of Education. "All are 90-minute sessions which are content based."

Snowbarger said the workshops are taught by practicing teachers and administrators with stellar professional records and who came from Virginia, Washington D.C., Arizona, Oregon, and Maryland.

"America's best teachers are our trainers," said Snowbarger, who has more than 20 years of classroom teaching experience.

While the subject matter ranged from creating a data-driven learning community to writing in the content area, many of the courses focused on mathematics.

"Math is an area that all states are struggling in," said Price, a native of San Bernardino, Calif.

The MUSD chose to make math a major focus in order to fight the math struggle and to make the subject area a higher priority among schools in the MUSD.

Price said state academic stan-

dards in math have already risen and will continue to rise in the near future. The MUSD chose to use the Teacher2Teacher workshops as a preparatory effort to better prepare the district's teacher and student bodies for new standards, which may soon make algebra a required course.

Muse said while the Teacher2Teacher conference hosted at the Combat Center is the eleventh hosted this year; it is only the second to include courses which cover basic military knowledge.

The first was held in Lakewood, Wash., and positive results were seen, added Muse.

"We lit some fires in some teachers and counselors, and they are passionate about doing their part," said Muse. "The teachers appreciated the professional development."

Teachers participating in the two-day conference also had positive things to say about the workshop.

"It's invaluable," said Cynthia Enfinger an English teacher at Twentynine Palms High School and

National University. "This is really valuable because of the military connection and the community."

Enfinger, who has taught for 28 years and is the wife of retired Staff Sgt. Ken Enfinger, said the military culture workshop was very informative for educators with no military experience and provided attendees with a lot of insight.

Yvonne Cosio, a 3rd grade teacher from St. Jeanne De Lestonnac School in Temecula, Calif., said the military knowledge given to those in attendance was very interesting and would be useful at her school because some members of St. Jeanne's student body have parents deployed to Iraq.

"It's good," said Cosio, who has no prior military relationship. "It's been beneficial for sure."

In addition to providing teachers with new information, the workshops also provided educators with the opportunity to share personal experiences, advice and teaching methods so their respective student's may benefit from their cumulative experience.

Learning to use different

strategies will enable teachers to meet the needs of all students and better prepare them for the future, added Muse.

"We look forward to working with the Morongo Unified School District and the leadership here to continue the partnership and look for ways to provide more support," said Muse.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Teachers from southern California school districts participate in the Teacher2Teacher workshops Monday and Tuesday at the Combat Center's building 1707.



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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.

### VMU-1, from A1

the group of people he has under him," Prose said. "He will certainly be able to rely on these Marines and expect a lot from them. There are lots of good resources for him to work with here, all he has to do is

point them in the right direction, which I believe he will."

Prose gave thanks to his personal friends and family for attending, the Marines present in the formation and God for his family, the Marine Corps and all the opportunities he had

received during his 26 years of service.

Toves comes to be the sergeant major of VMU-1 from his former position as the first sergeant of inspector-installation staff for November Battery, 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, from Pico Rivera, Calif.

Toves, a native of Long Beach, Calif., gave his thanks to the retiring Prose and the service members of VMU-1.

"Thank you for all the hard work you put forth," Toves said. "You performed well as this squadron's sergeant major for such a long time, and I hope to succeed as much as you have, and maybe even more. To the Marines and sailors of VMU-1, it is an honor to now be your sergeant major. Semper Fidelis."

The former command-

ing officer of VMU-1 also made a speech at the ceremony, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Field, who was the commanding officer for the majority of Prose's tenure, gave a long and heartfelt speech about Prose's achievement as sergeant major.

"I would like to thank you, and more importantly your family for your time in the Corps," said Field, who comes from Sanford, Fla. "You served longer with the squadron than any other sergeant major, and that is a record that won't be broken any time soon, I can tell you that. You've done a great job, and you will be able to look yourself in the mirror the rest of your life and say that you've served you country more than was required of you. You will be missed with your leadership, wit and admirable

character. I wish the best of luck to you and your family. Semper Fidelis."

The current commanding officer of VMU-1, Lt. Col. Richard E. Jordan, a native of Houston, also gave his thanks for Prose's service, and welcomed the new sergeant major.

"I look forward to serving with you as we take these Marines to the field and back again," he said. "To Sgt. Maj. Prose, you will be missed, and thank you for all that you have done for the squadron."

Prose said that he will be retiring back to his hometown and going to work for one of the Fortune 500 companies there in a department of human resources.

"I'm going to utilize the master's degree I got while I was in," said Prose. "I studied human resources, and hope to get a job doing

that when I get home."

The sergeant major also said that he will miss solving his Marines' personal problems, and offering guidance to others when he is out of the Marine Corps.

"There's really no greater satisfaction than taking care of your Marines at the end of the day," said Prose. "That's what makes good staff NCOs and good junior Marines, because of the mentoring and guidance that we've given them."

At the end of the ceremony, Prose thanked everyone again. With tears in his eyes, he said goodbye to the Marines and sailors of the squadron.

"Sgt. Maj. Prose concluded his 27 years in the Marine Corps with an outstanding record, and he will be missed by the Marines of VMU-1," Jordon added.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Lt. Col. Richard E. Jordan prepares to hand the sword of office to the new sergeant major of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1. Sgt. Maj. William P. Toves took his post Aug. 8 at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

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**RALLY, from A5**

Michael P. Hubbard, Sgt. Maj. Randall Carter and Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser.

Kasper, an infantry team leader in Company F, 2/7, was wounded

this past deployment by shrapnel from a Rocket-Propelled Grenade round detonating about 10 feet from him, he said. He assured spouses their husbands are working just as hard as the command says they are.

"Now that I'm back here in the States, I almost feel like a military wife," joked Kasper, an Orland Park, Ill., native, saying he thinks of his fellow Marines and their welfare on a regular basis.

Hubbard, 7th Marine Regiment commander, followed Kasper and commended spouses on their tireless work as temporary single parents, supportive wives and role models to others.

"I know the days are long here and the days are long there," said Hubbard about service members in country. He expressed gratitude to wives who bring their children to school, change a newborn's diapers and even go into labor on their own.

"Wives are a very important part of the team," said Hubbard, a Stanford, Va., native. "Without the support, gifts, cards and phone calls, we couldn't do it. It gives Marines forward a peace of mind. We are moving forward together. What more could you possibly hope for?"

Waldhauser, 1st Marine Division commanding general, spoke next about how American troops are impacting the

lifestyles of those in Afghanistan for the better.

His words of encouragement and first-hand experience reassured many spouses in the audience about their husbands' duties.

Of those who were encouraged was the Combat Center commanding general's wife, Janet Gurganus.

"I'm so glad he came here and spoke," said Gurganus. "Sometimes you forget why we're over there and he reminded us why."

Gurganus said she was happy to attend the rally since she is new at the Combat Center and has not been able to get deeply involved with the community.

"I came to see the families," she said. "I haven't really gotten an opportunity yet to show my support, so this is my first opportunity."

Laure Nichols, wife of Maj. Rory Nichols, 2/7 Headquarters and Support Company operations officer, said she has a better understanding of her role as a key volunteer and as a wife after attending the rally.

"I am very supportive of not only my Marine, but all of them,"

said Nichols. "I guess in the broader picture, I am helping on the home front. I am a very supportive wife."

Cruz then took the stage, explaining how military wives today are similar to the wives of Spartan warriors, World War I and II service members and Vietnam veterans.

The wives of warriors today are no less resilient than the men carrying the weapons, said Cruz.

"I don't need him," said Cruz to wives about military husbands. "I want him. But I don't need him. There is someone else out there in the world who needs him now ... Stay strong and stay positive. Know that your Marines are doing awesome things."

She then made closing statements and displayed a slide show of 2/7 photos taken by Combat Camera Marines.

Spouses were then released to socialize and eat food available in another room. Several took the opportunity to speak with Hubbard, Waldhauser, Kasper, Carter, the 1st Marine Division sergeant major, and each other about their heroes.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lt. Col. Michael Hubbard, 7th Marine Regiment commander, speaks to wives of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Marines and sailors during a pep rally at the Combat Center Community Center Friday. Hubbard, along with Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, 1st Marine Division commanding general, were two of the guest speakers to attend the rally.

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