

OBSERVATION Post

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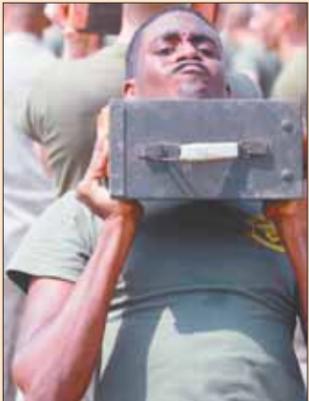
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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 22, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

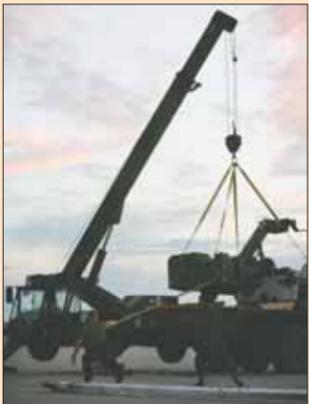
VOL. 51 ISSUE 34



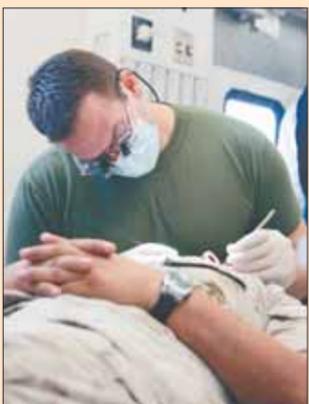
4 Fitness Road Show coming to Combat Center



5 Vacation Bible School at the chapel



8 F/A-18D Hornet makes emergency landing



9 A unit for the dentist on-the-go

This Day in Marine Corps History

-August 21, 1968-

Pfc. James Anderson Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam. He was the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor.

The American dream; faster American citizenship easier, faster for service members



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Indonesian native Lance Cpl. Hero Dengah (formally Wenur), a rifleman with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, recites the "Oath of Allegiance" with 23 other Marines and sailors from 16 different, originating countries during the first ever naturalization ceremony held on base, at the Combat Center's Officer's Club Tuesday.

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four Marines and sailors from 16 different, originating countries became U.S. citizens during the first ever naturalization ceremony held at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Monday.

The event was the first of many ceremonies to be held on military installations throughout the country as part of a new initiative from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to help service members obtain citizenship easier and faster.

"What we want to do is to bring our services to the troops," said Jane Arellano, the district director of Los Angeles for USCIS. "We find this to be exceedingly important. We realize that their services and their mission is very important, and we want them to go to their place of duty, wherever that might be, as citizens of the United States."

The process to become a U.S. citizen was simplified in July 2002 when President George W. Bush signed the Expedited Naturalization Executive Order calling for the accelerated naturalization of non-citizens serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Global War on Terrorism. The Executive Order allows active

See CITIZENSHIP, A10

2/24 makes stop at Combat Center after deployment

2/24 honors their fallen comrades



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Cpl. David Bertram, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, pays his respects to his fellow comrades that didn't come back from their deployment to Iraq in a memorial service Tuesday at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A somber gathering of Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, paid final respects to two of their own in a memorial service at Lance

Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Tuesday.

Cpl. Richard J. Nelson, a rifleman, and Lance Cpl. Dean D. Opicka, motorman, were killed in action April 14 during combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

See MEMORIAL, A14



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpl. Jeremy Burnside, a reserve Marine from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, is hugged by an Official Hugger while he steps off the bus at the Combat Center Saturday.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 1,000 Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment arrived to the Combat Center Friday and Saturday after a seven-month deployment to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During their deployment,

2/24 combined their efforts with Iraqi Security Forces and conducted combined security, stability and supported operations in the Fallujah-Ramadi corridor to neutralize insurgents, which enabled a legitimate, self-reliant and secure government to exist, said Maj. Jeffrey D. Strey, 2/24's battalion executive officer.

The reserve unit from the

See 2/24, A15

Admin Corner

PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION AND ASSIGNMENT:

It is imperative that the Transfer Data Sheet, for a Marine preparing to execute permanent change of station or assignment orders be completed and submitted to the Installation Personnel Administration Center at least 90 days prior to the requested detach date. The TDS indicates the Marine's desire for specific entitlements, which may be affected if the TDS is not submitted on time.

If you are newly arriving (PCS) to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, and have not visited IPAC to conduct your New Join Audit and Travel Claim, please do so now. You will need to update your Basic Allowance for Housing entitlements and other duty station allowances. Completing this requirement could entitle you to receive extra money and prevent you from unnecessarily being checked pay and travel advances received during your PCS move.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN:

All members are required to receive a Survivor Benefit Plan counseling at the 18th year of service. If you have reached 18 years of service and have not received a counseling (Page 11 entry) pertaining to Survivor Benefit Plan, report to the IPAC Separations Office. SBP affects pay entitlements upon retirement. Retirement pay is offset based upon your SBP election. Reference: MCO 1741.11C.

TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

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

SGLI PREMIUM RATE DECREASE:

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

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (YOUR MONEY)

You must report if you...	to IPAC at the...	No later than...
- Return from a location outside the U.S.	Deployment Office	within 5 days upon return
- Return from outside the U.S. on emergency leave	Deployment Office	within 5 days upon return
- Visit a Medical Treatment Facility (Hospital)	Deployment Office	within 5 days upon return
- If you are going on Terminal Leave	Separations Office	10 days prior to leave
- Receive notification of orders (PCS or PCA)	Orders Office	immediately upon notification
- Add or lose a dependent (spouse, child, etc.)	Customer Svc Office	within 5 days of change
- Transfer units on base (PCA, TAD, or FAP)	New Joins Office	within 5 days of reporting
- Transfer units from off base (PCS)	New Joins Office	within 5 days of reporting
- Are a MCCES student with an admin issue	HMB (with pass)	within 5 days

... in order to complete and update your information and receive your entitlements

SCOUTS' OPEN HOUSE

On Sept. 5 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 78, Boy Scout Troop 78, and the Girl Scout Troop will be hosting an open house at the Scout Hut, Building 478 across from Carl's Jr. There will be crafts, displays, a slideshow, information on Scouting and light refreshments.

For more information contact:

Clint Blaul at 660-3091 Boy Scouts

Wendy Hodge at 408-0020 Cub Scouts

Melissa Young at 975-6971 Girl Scouts

Employee Spotlight

Name: Lance Barlow

Organization: Public Works Division Planning

Job Duties: Facility restoration, military construction projects, training and supporting combat engineers

Hobbies: Fishing, camping, and family get-togethers

What do you like most about your job?: I've learned a lot about the Marine Corps.

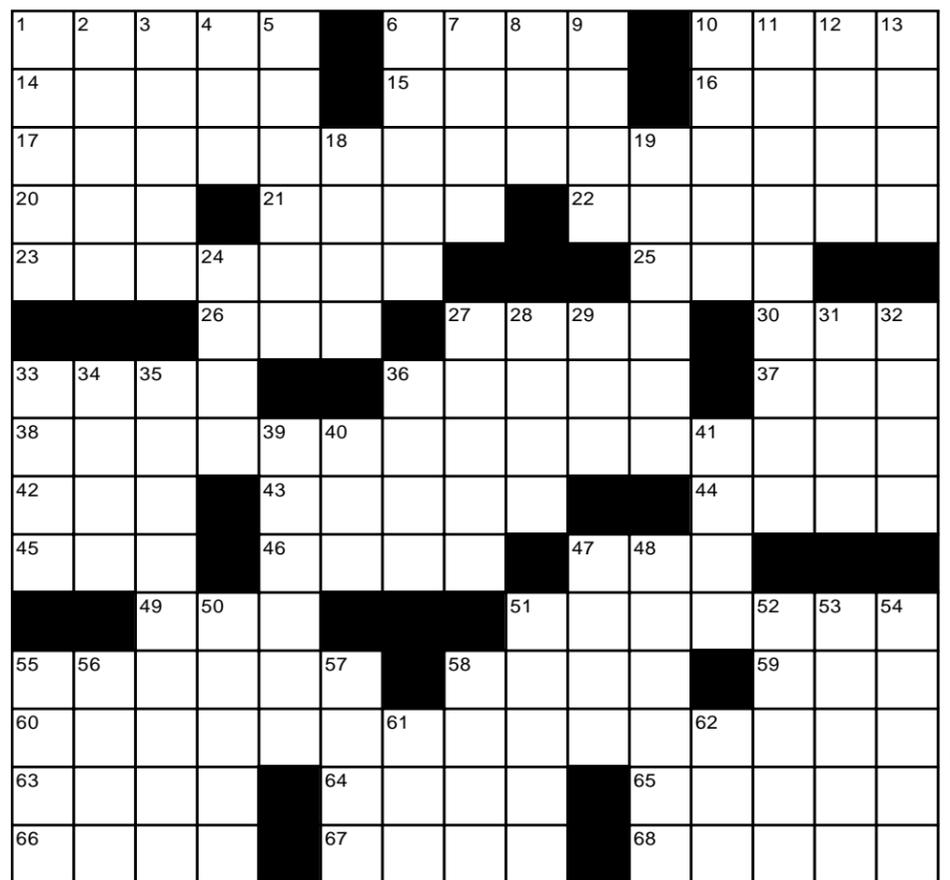
Significant Achievements: Learning about the Marines and their type of infrastructure and training

Military Service: none

Time employed at the Combat Center: 12 years



AT THE TRACK



© MacNamara's Band, Inc.

ACROSS

- Many an October baby
- Easily split mineral
- Gymnasts' perfections
- Celestial hunter
- MBA's subj.
- Run __ (go wild)
- Take most of the electoral votes
- Language suffix
- Ready for business
- Round about routes
- Following closely
- Long distance hauler
- Joey with the Starliners
- Have a pulse
- Dash terminus
- A judge may throw it at you
- Sharply hit baseball
- __-bitsy
- Female porkers
- Tinker-Chance link
- Starts another hitch

DOWN

- Mooed
- Maya Angelou's "Still __"
- Stanford-__ IQ test
- Stick up
- "__ for tennis?"
- Free-for-all
- Words of confidence
- Pull a fast one on
- Added stipulations
- Shire of "The Godfather"
- Name in etiquette
- Junction point
- Depot posting, for short
- Many NYC dwellings
- Buffalo skaters
- Corp. bigwig
- "Where's __?" (George Segal movie)
- Sounds of satisfaction
- An ex of Frank and Mickey

ACROSS

- Proofreader's "leave it"
- Gel amount
- Pond scum organism
- AOL rival
- Jukebox contents
- Round about routes
- Following closely
- Long distance hauler
- Joey with the Starliners
- Have a pulse
- Dash terminus
- A judge may throw it at you
- Sharply hit baseball
- __-bitsy
- Female porkers
- Tinker-Chance link
- Starts another hitch

DOWN

- Succulent house plant
- Took off
- Ignored the limit
- Earthenware crock
- Dish served with mint jelly
- Self-righteous
- Obliterates
- Sushi fish
- "Money __ object"
- Message that may start with "re:"
- Squelch
- Loser to Truman
- Newsroom array
- City NE of Venice
- Send, as to a specialist
- Crystal ball users
- Italian bubbly
- "Don't touch __ dial!"
- Ad-__ (improvises)
- Pre-cable woe
- Icky stuff
- Tyler of "Armageddon"

[Solutions on A15]

Centerspeak

If you could do anything in the world without paying for it or fear of death, what would you do?

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



PFC. CHARLES HULBERT
2ND ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BATTALION

"I would skateboard with bulls in Barcelona, Spain."



SGT. DANIEL HERNANDEZ
2ND BATTALION, 24TH MARINE REGIMENT

"I'd like to fly to outer space and back."



STAFF SGT. SAYKU DUDLEY
COMBAT ASSAULT RAPID DISTRIBUTION FACILITY, ALBANY, GA.

"I would get in a space shuttle and go to Mars."

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp

Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox

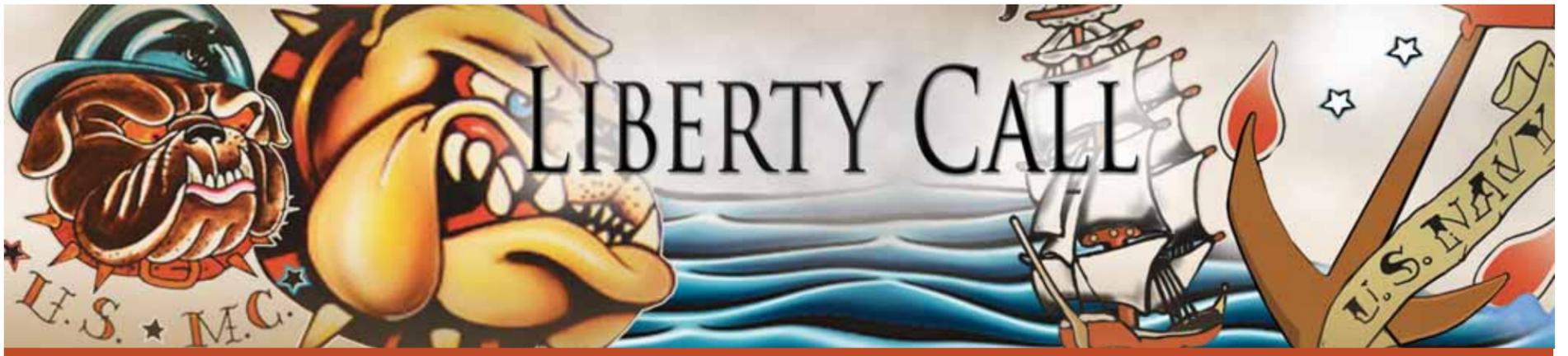
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<p>FRI. 8/22</p> <p>Palm Springs International Shortfest & Short Film Market (All day or non-timed event) Where: Camelot Theatres, 2300 E. Baristo Rd., Palm Spring. For more info call (800)778-8979 or visit http://www.psfilmfest.com</p>	<p>FRI. 8/22</p> <p>Bethany Owens at Copykatz Time: 8 p.m. Where: CopyKatz Club, 200 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs For more info call the Box Office 864-9293 or visit http://www.copykatzps.com</p>	<p>FRI. 8/22</p> <p>Art: Livingston, Unger, Lynch, Montieth Open: M-F 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Where: A Roadside Attraction, 69197 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms On the hwy. in the Indian Cove area. For more info call 362-4100</p>	<p>SAT. 8/23</p> <p>Desert Landscaping Workshop "Soil, Mulch, and Planting" Time: 10 a.m. Where: Hi-Desert Water District Offices For more info call 365-8333 or E-mail: jennifer@hdwd.com</p>	<p>SAT. 8/23</p> <p>Idyllwild Jazz in the Pines Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Where: Idyllwild Jazz in the Pines, 52500 Temecula Road, Idyllwild For more info call 951-313-3361 or visit http://www.idyllwildjazz.com</p>
<p>MON. 8/25</p> <p>Yoga For Bereaved Persons Time: 5:30 p.m. Where: Hospice of Morongo Basin, 61675 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-1308</p>	<p>MON. 8/25</p> <p>Art: Barbara Matheny Time: M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Where: Tumbleweed Art Gallery, 57490 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 365-0661</p>	<p>TUES. 8/26</p> <p>Chris Walters on guitar, dobro Time: 7 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Inn, 73950 Inn Ave. For more info call 367-3505 or visit http://www.29palmsinn.com</p>	<p>TUES. 8/26</p> <p>Art: Marlana Moench (All day or non-timed event) Where: Crossroads Café, 61715 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-5414 or visit http://www.crossroadscafeandtavern.com</p>	<p>WED. 8/27</p> <p>Square Dance Classes Time: 7 to 9 p.m. Where: The Elks Lodge, 6501 Elks Trail Dr., 29 Palms For more info call 367-7061</p>

Local restaurant, SMP provide free chow

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors at the Combat Center were treated to a free Italian meal Tuesday at The Zone thanks to Mario's Italian Cafe of Rancho Mirage and the Single Marine Program.

According to the SMP Web site, the program is intended to improve total force readiness, job performance and retention by contributing to the improvement of the quality of life, morale and well being of all single Marines.

Before the meal commenced Lt. Chris E. Hester, chaplain, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, thanked Mario's, the SMP, and said a prayer for all of those in attendance.

After the prayer, the Marines and sailors who had been waiting eagerly formed a line and were served baked mustaccioli, garden salad with Italian dressing and fresh baked rolls.

Carl Schoch, owner of Mario's Italian Café, said Mario's is frequently visited by Marines and sailors from the Combat Center and he wanted to show them he appreciates them, too.

"I'm so supportive," said Schuch, a native of Bermuda Dunes, Calif.

Schuch, who served in the Army for eight years, was joined Tuesday night by his wife, Delia, and daughters, Tina, Teresa, and Renee, who also help him run the family business.

Jamal Brown, commercial sponsorship coordinator for MCCS, said the event came about due to Schuch's initiative and contact with the base.

"They wanted to support the Marines and come up and give a meal to the Marine community," said Brown, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Brown added the idea of a free meal in collaboration with The

See CHOW, A13



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Carl Schuch, the owner of Mario's Italian Cafe in Rancho Mirage, Calif., and his wife, Delia, serve baked Mustaccioli, garden salad and fresh baked rolls to Marines and sailors of the Combat Center at The Zone Tuesday night. Schuch, a native of Bermuda Dunes, Calif., hosted the event in collaboration with the Combat Center's Single Marine Program.

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TECOM Fitness Road Show comes to Combat Center

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A detachment from the Marine Corps Training and Education Command is slated to visit the Combat Center to spread word about the revised orders on the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program Thursday.

The goal of the visit, dubbed the Fitness Roadshow, is to inform as many command leaders as possible about the new Combat Fitness Test, Marine Corps Body Composition and Military Appearance Program orders.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway said it is his intent to elevate knowledge of these changes to as many Marines as possible.

Marines of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Sergeant's Course aboard the Combat Center have been selected to demonstrate the CFT process during the roadshow visit.

A brief at the base theater will take place before the demonstrations, which will be performed twice at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Victory Field.

The demonstration will show base command leaders how to properly execute and monitor the CFT, said Master Sgt. Scott Peterson, director of the Staff NCO academy course here.

"The intent behind this is to get as many command leaders to come ... as possible," said Peterson, a Chicago native. "The more representatives we get, the better."

Peterson added he is privileged his students have been selected to demonstrate the CFT on behalf of the roadshow.

"I don't think there is a better unit aboard any base to demonstrate this than the academies," he said. "They are at the forefront of training and leadership and it's great they will be out there setting the example."

According to Marine Corps Order 6100.13, the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program, which was revised Aug. 1, the Marine Corps will develop a comprehensive combat conditioning program that promotes health and fitness in order to ensure the combat readiness of all Marines.

The CFT is designed to challenge Marines' anaerobic bursts and endurance in combat-related fitness through three elements: movement to contact, ammunition lift and maneuver under fire, said Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Ruffo, Headquarters Battalion operations chief.

The movement to contact requires Marines to run 880 yards in cammies with no blouse, according to the order. The ammo lift involves lifting a 30-pound ammunition can for a designated number of repetitions for score determined by gender and age.

Finally, the 300-yard maneuver under fire exercise involves low crawling, ammunition resupply, a body drag, a casualty carry and a dummy grenade toss, according to ALMAR 032/08.

"The test is really a complement to the PFT [Physical Fitness Test]," said Ruffo, a Tucson, Ariz., native. "It not only tests anaerobic conditioning and strength, but it tests the agility and coordination ability of each Marine as well."

Sgt. Jeremy A. Meadows, training chief with Marine Aviation Training Support Group 23 based



SGT. ALEC KLEINSMITH

Cpl. David A. Claypool, a field radio operator with Battery A, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, swiftly moves through the dynamic entry portion of the Combat Fitness Test at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 14. The CFT consists of exercises that closely resemble the rigors of combat, from carrying a battlefield casualty to maneuvering under fire.

out of Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., is a student in the current Staff NCO academy here.

Meadows, a Lubbock, Texas native, said he ran the CFT four times, and administered at least two as an instructor in Marine Corps Martial Arts Program courses.

"I think it's very beneficial," said Meadows about the CFT. "It keeps Marines combat-ready. You

won't have the same person do the best in all three events. That goes to show this is made for everyone."

For more information on the changes in the MCPFP, MAP, CFT or Marine Corps Body Composition Standards, refer to ALMAR 032/08. For more information about the CFT demonstration call 830-6265.

School liaison now part of the Combat Center team

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In mid-June the Combat Center welcomed Tina Paulson as its school liaison in an effort to provide necessary support to both families and the local school district to solve any issues that may arise and impact the education of the children living in the local area.

The position works in conjunction with the Combat Center's command staff, Marine Corps Community Services' Marine and Family Division, and

the local community schools to address educational issues involving military children.

Dave Price, director of student services at Morongo Unified School District, said Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Combat Center commanding general; Col. Robert J. Abblitt, Combat Center chief of staff, and former Combat Center commanding general, Brig. Gen. M.G. Spiese, worked hard to improve communications with the district, and the MUSD is excited about having a direct point-of-contact at the Combat Center.

"The district was very pleased

to hear that the Combat Center hired a school liaison," said Price. "The school liaison will be able to assist Marine families moving into the area with school issues and placement problems."

Price, a native of San Bernardino, Calif., said he has found Paulson understanding, knowledgeable, capable of relating to families on base, and willing to work hard to achieve what is in the best interest of military families.

"Ms. Paulson brings experience in every aspect of the position," said Price. "She is a trained classroom teacher, military spouse, and military child."

Tom Baumgarten, assistant

superintendent of instructional services at the MUSD said he also believes Paulson's experience as an educator and military spouse gives her unique insight to both organizations.

"Ms. Paulson will be a key partner in our growing partnership to providing the highest quality education for our students," said Baumgarten. "We also hope to utilize Ms. Paulson to share her understanding of military culture and to assist new families as they acclimate to the Morongo Basin."

Paulson, whose professional education includes a Bachelor of Arts in English from

See SCHOOL, A13



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

In mid-June the Combat Center welcomed Tina Paulson as its school liaison in an effort to provide the necessary support to both families and the local school district to problem solve any issues that may arise and impact the education of the children living in the local area.

HOT TOPICS

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. Youth will have the opportunity to gain skills in many areas surrounding and supporting the Red Cross mission and initiatives. Some youth will also have the opportunity to travel to other Red Cross Clubs in California to attend workshops. 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 ranging from volunteering in the hospital to casework. Childcare is provided. For further information please call 830-6685.

LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE

Legal Aid will assist active duty service members, retirees, dependents, and Department of Defense and contract employees who have access to the base with legal matters the third Wednesday of every month. If you have a legal matter and are not able to get an appointment at the Legal Assistance Office due to your work schedule, it is not a subject the LAO handles, there is a conflict or you do not qualify for their services, Legal Aid may be able to help! Call (909) 381-4633 to schedule appointments in advance. Appointments are now available. They begin at 11 a.m. at building 1707, classroom A.

SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS E-MAIL

As a reminder, effective July 2, the Vehicle Registration office will no longer accept sponsorship requests over the telephone. All sponsorship requests for family members and/or guests should be sent to the Vehicle Registration e-mail address. This request will be good for a one day visitor pass. If a longer pass is required, the sponsor will be required to meet the guests in person at the Visitor Center. The Vehicle Registration e-mail address can be found in the GAL: SMB PLMS PMO Vehicle Regs. Request will only be accepted from @usmc.mil or @navy.mil e-mail accounts.

Job duties of the Combat Center's School Liason include

- Promoting the educational needs of children.
- To ensure all necessary paperwork for transition to or from local community schools is complete and filed.
- To get a clear understanding about issues covered at school board meetings
- To help children who may have missed athletic tryouts get audition tapes to necessary coaches.
- For help in addressing educational issues for kindergarten through grade 12.
- To identify and develop solutions to barriers of quality education that military children may face or are facing.
- To connect with those who can support and assist families who have educational needs.
- To promote and educate the command structure, other parents, the local community and schools.

Annual Vacation Bible School kicks off new school year

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Protestant Chapel hosted their annual week-long Vacation Bible School for more than 120 children ages 4 to 13 Monday through today.

This program provides base community children a chance to settle back into a routine in anticipation of a new school year while also granting parents a week-long vacation, said Sandra Griesmeyer, Protestant program coordinator.

The Bible school program, which focused on the theme of friendship, provided buses to transport children from both the Ocotillo and Joshua Heights base housing areas to the Protestant Chapel.

In the first hour of the program, the children were separated into 10 troops, each with its own troop leader. The troop leaders guided the groups in discussion of the gospel and asked interactive questions to keep the children involved.

Groups then participated in arts and crafts, followed by snack time.

The curriculum for the program is non-denominational and was authorized by the Combat Center's Religious Ministries Directorate before made final, said Del Fant, Protestant religious education director.

"It's really good as long as the people involved stay focused on the theme of the lesson," said Fant, a Franklin, La., native about the Bible school. "If you are interested in getting your child involved in the church, this would be the place to start. It can act like a stepping stone for those kids who haven't attended church on Sundays."

Fant added she is grateful for the help given by base volunteers.

"The Marines play a big part in the volunteering," she said. "They always come out and help us."

Pvt. Johnathon D. Walsh, Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, said he felt fortunate to work with children in such a positive light.

"They're at a point now where they are easily molded," said Walsh, a Milwaukee native. "You need to spend time with them, guide them and teach them how to do things. It pays off in the end to spend time with them now instead of sticking them in front of a T.V. [television]. Interaction is a very big part of childhood."

Other volunteers, like Dana Teague, wife of Maj. Christopher Teague, logistics officer for Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, is a mother of two daughters in the program.

"Children's programs are really important to me in the church," said Teague. "It makes me feel good knowing we are teaching them God's word. This is where it all starts."

Teague's 12-year-old daughter, Brooke, said she would recommend the program to fellow military children who have not experienced it before.

"It's really fun and we get to do arts and crafts," said Teague. "I made friends with Benjamin, and the groups get to see who can yell the loudest. It's fun."

Although sign-ups for the Bible school are recommended, walk-ins are also welcome, said Fant.

"Bible study is an essential part of the church, evangelism and the youth programs," said Griesmeyer who has been a coordinator for 12 years. "It also gives kids who came here during the summer a chance to make friends."



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Susan Leblanc, volunteer troop leader for Vacation Bible School at the Combat Center, talks to military children about friendship and Christianity at the base Protestant Chapel Monday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sydney Leblanc, 7-year-old daughter of volunteer troop leader Susan Leblanc, uses markers to color a burlap backpack during arts and crafts time at Vacation Bible School at the Combat Center Protestant Chapel Monday.

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Iraqi soldiers train with Marines to keep roads safe

CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

CAMP MEJID, Iraq — Protecting Coalition forces from hazards on the roads in Iraq is an enormous task that is undertaken everyday, but now it has become a little easier.

Marines with Route Clearance Platoon, Company A, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion and Iraqi army 7th Infantry Division Military Transition Team have been training Iraqi army engineer soldiers to effectively conduct independent route clearance missions throughout Iraq.

The culmination of approximately five months of training has yielded a mission-ready platoon of Iraqi army route clearance soldiers prepared to comb the vast desert of Iraq, helping

keep the roads safe.

“It (the IA Route Clearance Platoon) takes a lot of pressure off our shoulders,” said Sgt. Xiong Yang, 23, a combat engineer, from Aurora, Ill. “We can (potentially) concentrate on coalition patrol areas and they can concentrate on their own patrol areas.”

This platoon of IA route clearance soldiers can now apply knowledge gained in previous courses with the abilities they learned from the Marines here to perform their mission with a high degree of skill.

“The 7th Infantry Division Engineers are performing well,” said Iraq Army Maj. Ihssan Jabar Murhish, engineer deputy director for the 7th ID. “In the last six months, they have conducted operations in Ninewah,

Nasiriyah, Diyala, and Basrah, while supporting the units in Anbar.

“The unit has increased in size from a company to a regiment, and as more soldiers join the unit they will be able to support more operations,” added Ihssan. “This instruction (taught by Company A, 3rd CEB) has been good for the soldiers because the soldiers have been going out and applying all they have learned in the previous courses.”

Throughout the course, the Marine trainers prepared practical application scenarios to test the IA soldiers on their ability to react to unexpected situations.

“The practical application the Marines provided ties in all the previous training, and once

the equipment arrives we will have the resident knowledge and ability to train on our own,” said Ihssan. “I have to observe a mission..., but I am confident in the IA engineers’ ability to accomplish whatever task they are given.”

Although the soldiers have undertaken many hours of hands-on training and practical application, they still are awaiting equipment of their own to begin operations.

“The (Iraqi soldiers) are mission capable and can start (missions) once they receive their own

vehicles,” said 1st Lt. Thomas J. Felts, 26, engineer officer for Iraqi army 7th Infantry Military Transition Team here.

The Iraqi soldiers are proud of what they have accomplished and are ready to offer their support on the roads of Anbar province once their equipment arrives.

“I’ll be very proud when we start patrolling and the people know what we are doing here,” said Iraqi army Pfc. Waisam Rashash Mohammed, 22, an explosive ordnance technician with three years experience in the army, through an interpreter.



CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN

[Above] Iraqi soldiers, while awaiting their vehicles, conduct a simulated vehicle patrol that has just encountered a possible hazard in the road at Camp Mejid, Iraq, Aug. 5. Iraqi army 7th Infantry Division Route Clearance Platoon has worked with Marines of Route Clearance Platoon, Company A, 3rd Combat Engineer Company and Marines with Iraqi army 7th Infantry Division Military Transition Team. The Marines prepared the Iraqis to conduct their own independent route clearance missions.



CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN

Sgt. Xiong Yang, 23, a combat engineer from Aurora, Ill., (left, on vehicle) watches as Iraqi Army soldier Pfc. Wessam Yaqub, 28, a heavy vehicle operator, operates “the arm” during a training exercise at Camp Mejid, Iraq, Aug. 4.

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Marines bring honor to Corps, families, fallen

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For many past and present military service members, the sound of Taps playing and the image of a folded American flag being presented to a family member are a few American military traditions that spring to mind when honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The Combat Center funeral detail is one group of Marines who are not strangers to these traditions.

Sgt. Robert H. Lorrison, an Automated Message Handling System technician, Company B, Headquarters Battalion, is the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the funeral detail.

He gained responsibility as the senior Marine about two years ago, and was honored to take charge of a detail that represents the entire Marine Corps, he said.

"That is what the detail is," said Lorrison, a Hampton, Va., native about representing the Corps. "We honor Marines, whether they were in for four years or for 30. Even though the families and the loved ones are there, you wouldn't be if it didn't mean laying that military member to rest. Some of these Marines we remember had been retired for decades. For the families, we may be the first contact they have had with military members in a long time."

Lorrison said he remembers the emotion he felt the first time he gave a folded flag to the widow of a retired Marine.

"It's not something you ever get used to," he said about the personal connection with families. "It's something you learn to cope with. When you are there firing the three volley salute or folding the flag, you are part of the service. But when you present the flag, it almost feels like you are the service because all eyes are on you. It's the hardest part of the job."

Cpl. Alfred J. LeDuc, center personnel administration assistant noncommissioned officer, served three years on the funeral detail until this month, he said.

LeDuc, a Dallas native, said he joined the detail because he was told it would be a great experience for him as a young Marine.

"People said it would keep me busy," said LeDuc. "I get to see the people's faces and go places."

LeDuc added aside from meeting California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the assistant Secretary of the Navy and a Medal of Honor recipient, he also received several letters of appreciation, certificates of accommodation and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

"It's definitely unforgettable," said LeDuc about his experiences. "The rewards definitely outweigh the negatives of what I do. It shows the dignity of what I do, and everyone is extremely grateful. You get to see how Marines are appreciated once you branch off the Twentynine Palms area."

Jimmy Biggerstaff, a journalist and photographer for the Hi Desert Star Newspaper, had firsthand experience with the detail during his father's funeral ceremony in September.

"Overall it was a sense of satisfaction, which seems a strange and inadequate description," said Biggerstaff about the detail's presence at his father's funeral. "By way of explanation, the presence of the detail and their actions helped add the necessary feeling of finality to Dad's life."

Biggerstaff added although he does not recall the name of the Marine who handed him a folded flag, he believes his name was less important than the fact he represented the history and traditions of the Corps.

The funeral detail is still on the lookout for more Marines interested in joining. For more information call 830-4293.



COURTESY PHOTO

Marines render a salute to honor a fallen Marine during a funeral ceremony. The presenting of a folded flag to next of kin, the playing of Taps and the final salute are only a few military funeral honors which are rendered to all eligible past and present service members.



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F/A-18D makes emergency landing at EAF

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

An F/A-18D Hornet jet from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., had to make an emergency landing at the Expeditionary Airfield aboard the Combat Center Aug. 13.

Two F/A-18D's from VMFA-225 were performing aerial-refueling and inert bombing missions in the area when one of the jet's emergency Dual Bleed Air Nozzle emergency indicator-light turned on.

"Basically, that means that there is a possible fire somewhere in the aft section of the F-18," said Sgt. Sean Redmond, the air traffic controller on duty during the emergency, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. "That is a serious situation with not much time to react. Once that light is on, they have about 30 seconds to take action."

The Dual Bleed Air Nozzle monitors the air temperature of auxiliary equipment, such as the jet's oxygen. A seal had broken on the equipment causing the nozzle to detect hot air, which could mean a fire.

The aircraft were several miles from the airfield when the pilot received the emergency indicator and called in the situation at approximately 6 p.m. to arrange

an emergency landing, said Sgt. Dolan Oneill, the airfield's communications and operations chief with MWSS-374.

Because of the type of emergency on board, the aircraft had to make an arrested landing, which is when a line of emergency arresting gear lays on the runway to catch a hook on the jet's tail for a more abrupt stop.

"Because of the situation, you want to get the plane on the deck as fast as possible and an arrested landing is the way to do that," said Oneill, a native of Folsom, Calif. "Without the arresting gear the aircraft could coast for up to five minutes, but with the arrested landing it'll stop dead in five seconds."

The airfield's crew and fire, crash and rescue teams were ready and in place before the F/A-18D was in the control towers airspace because Redmond had been listening to the pilots' radios from the control tower since their take off 20 minutes before.

"They originally were talking with the BEARMAT (Range Control) because they were out of our airspace, but I was listening to their frequency, so I knew what was going on, and I notified all of our emergency crew before the aircraft was even around," said Redmond, a Denver native. "So we were prepared and ready."

From the time the pilot called, it only took the airfield's crew 17 minutes to prepare for the emer-

gency, land the aircraft and end the emergency situation.

"The way everyone handled it was absolutely amazing," Redmond said. "The whole thing went very smoothly. Everyone did their job and we were able to handle the situation very quickly and with no injuries."

A recovery crew with VMFA-225 came from Miramar on Aug. 14 to move the jet off runway, repair any damages and find out what caused the incident.

"They did a great job also," Oneill said. "They got here, replaced the seal, turned the jet on and it flew out of here that same night — emergency over."



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines from a recovery crew with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., unload equipment Aug. 14 to remove an F/A-18D Hornet that had made an emergency landing at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Airfield Aug. 13.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 and a recovery crew with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., remove an F/A-18D Hornet that had made an emergency landing at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Airfield Aug. 13.

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Fight Club 29 competes in grappling tourney



LANCE CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Klaus Springer, Alvaro Perez, Dominic Waters, and Omar Askew, members of the Combat Center's Mixed Martial Arts fighting team, Fight Club 29, display their medals at the Grappling X Submission Grappling Tournament Aug. 9 in Escondido, Calif. Fight Club 29 continued their success at the tournament when Perez placed first overall in the 225-pound weight class, Springer took the top spot in the 205-pound weight class, and Waters and Askew dominated the 185-pound class finishing first and third. Most of the fighters in Fight Club 29 have less than a year of experience, are considered novices in the sport and compete at the beginner level. The fighters plan to continue to train and better themselves to one day compete in the intermediate and eventually open tournaments where they would fight against MMA fighters with several years of experience, said Mark M. Geletko, Fight Club 29 coach.

Mobile Dental Unit leading the fight against cavities

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the sun rose on the morning of Aug. 13, Marines and sailors at the Combat Center's Camp Wilson began forming a line outside the Combat Center's Mobile Dental Unit with their dental records in hand.

While none of the Marines looked anxious to be told to take a seat in the dental chair, the MDU was there to ensure the Marines got the dental treatment they needed as quick and as easy as possible.

"The MDU is a \$250,000 mobile dental clinic designed to bring healthcare support to the active duty unit that has limited access to the main branch dental clinic," said Cmdr. Kurt J. Brockman, 23rd Dental Company Commander. "It is manned by one dental officer and a hospital corpsman to deliver dental service as required for optimum operational readiness."

In addition to servicing the Marines and sailors of the Combat Center, the MDUs are often used for humanitarian and civil service operations.

Brockman said 23rd Dental Company, which is part of 1st Dental Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., operates the MDU for the Combat Center. MDUs have been part of the Dental Corps for 16 years.

Seaman Mark Arceneaux, hospital corpsman, said the Combat Center's MDU is an all-around dental office on wheels.

The objective of the MDU is to bring the dental clinic to the Combat Center's Marines and sailors in an attempt to keep the

main dental clinic from becoming too congested, added Arceneaux, a native of Houston.

The unit provides dental technicians with the ability to perform dental examinations, x-rays, cleanings and even operative work in a clean and safe environment which mirrors a traditional dental office.

The unit often supports 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; and often makes trips to Camp Wilson to service the Marines and sailors participating in Exercise Mojave Viper, a pre-deployment training evolution.

The MDU allows units to be more time efficient while also allowing them to get the proper medical care they need, added Arceneaux.

"The key is to get the Marines back to their training as quickly as possible," said Arceneaux.

Sgt. Dennis Bailey, chief cook, Camp Wilson Mess Hall, said the best way to describe the MDU is convenient.

Bailey, a native of Long Island, N.Y., said he arrived at work on the morning of Aug. 13 and was told he had a dental appointment. The MDU arrived at Camp Wilson, shortly after, helped him fill out the necessary paperwork, examined him and had him on his way in very little time.

Brockman added the 23rd Dental Company has always had one MDU, but has recently added another that will be fully operational as soon as dental technicians and vehicle operators becomes readily available.

For more information about the Mobile Dental Unit or to schedule a visit for your unit, contact Lt. Cmdr. Nancy Osborne at 830-7054.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Marines participating in Mojave Viper, a pre-deployment training evolution, wait outside 23rd Dental Company's Mobile Dental Unit Aug. 13 at Camp Wilson. The objective of the MDU is to return Marines and sailors to their training as quickly as possible while providing them with necessary dental care.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Seaman Mark Arceneaux, hospital corpsman, prepares, Sgt. Dennis Bailey, chief cook, A Watch, Camp Wilson Mess Hall, for an x-ray Aug. 13 while on board 23rd Dental Company's Mobile Dental Unit at Camp Wilson. The MDU is designed to bring healthcare support to the active duty unit that has limited access to the main branch dental clinic.

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photographs courtesy of the Lance or camp wall

CITIZENSHIP, from A1

duty personnel serving on or after Sept. 11, 2001, to immediately file for citizenship. Before the order, a military service member had to complete one year of honorable

service before qualifying to file for citizenship.

Since the order was signed, tens of thousands of American service members have become U.S. citizens.

"That order was a significant

help to our service members trying to obtain a rightful citizenship," said Caroline D'Angelo, an adjudications officer with USCIS. "Along with the immediate filing, it waived all fees involved, which was a considerable amount. Now we're trying to follow suit and make it easier on our service members.

They would have had to go all the way to Los Angeles if the ceremony was not performed on base, for example."

D'Angelo said most of the Marines and sailors who applied for citizenship would have had scheduling conflicts for such trips due to pre-deployment training and the fact that more than half are

reservists from areas such as the Northeast region, already on deployment here.

During the ceremony, Arellano explained to the Marines and sailors the importance of the new initiative.

"You're fighting for us, you're defending us, you should be citizens as quickly as we can get to you," Arellano said. "If I or my staff could not have come here today it would have been at least a year or more, since most of you are deploying soon, before you could have had this chance, and that wouldn't have been acceptable. So our bosses in Washington have told us to get into the field and make sure we set up a time and date that is convenient for you."

Lance Cpl. Kevin Wint, a Jamaica native who became a U.S. citizen during the ceremony, said that he appreciated the eagerness of those willing to help and the overall ease of becoming a citizen of the country he serves.

"The whole process was really easy," said Wint, a supply administrator with Headquarters and Services Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment. "I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I feel that becoming a citizen has definitely opened up a lot of doors for me. Now, I have the benefits as a citizen right before I head to Iraq, and I know I'm going there and earning those benefits and serving my country."

Arellano said that the whole process at the Combat Center was an immense success and the USCIS looks forward to continuing to serve those who serve their future - country.

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<p>READY FOR A CHANGE? CHECK OUT ONE EIGHTY Borne Jesus, Borne Message, Different Attitude Worship with a coffee house atmosphere Sundays 10:30 a.m. 366-8429 / Church@oneeighty.com</p>	<p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p><i>"The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you."</i></p>	<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Children Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6:00 pm Wednesday Services Prayer Bible Study 6:30 pm Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm www.fbc29.org 644 Sola Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 92037-1561</p>	<p>Assembly of God Church Pastor Frank Ferrandini Sunday School 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm Wed. Service 7:00 pm 73331 Sallinas Road, 29 Palms • 367-9573</p>	<p>Wonder Valley Community Church 82575 Arroyo Road (at Kofers Road) Office: 367-0279 Bible studies: 9:15AM Sun., 10:00AM Wed. Worship: 9:30PM Sat., 10:30AM Sunday Pastor Rex Shaver Youth Pastor: Michael Taber</p>

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Headquarters Battalion new soccer league champions

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Headquarters Battalion battled 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in two games for the Commanding General's Intramural

Soccer League Championship Aug. 13 and 14 at Felix Field.

Headquarters walked away with both victories and the season trophy. Game one ended with the score 3-0, and the second ended 6-0.

"It was an important game for

us to win," said Headquarters player Alvaro Pineda after the second victory. "We worked hard through our season and it paid off tonight."

During the first game, 3rd LAR had plenty of shots on net, but Headquarters goal keeper Joe Geletko refused to let a single ball in.

Headquarters midfielder Alvaro Pineda stepped up in the first half of the game, showing off his creative foot skills as he feinted around defenders and kicked the ball right past 3rd LAR's goal keeper Nick Pierce, scoring the only goal of the half.

Minutes after the second half began, Headquarters coach and player Jose Hernandez took a well-placed shot from half field. The ball soared over Pierce's stretching fingers and landed in the goal, bringing the score to 2-0.

Headquarters' team was then awarded a penalty kick after 3rd LAR fouled one of their forwards in the goal box.

Pineda took the shot, firing the ball past the keeper, and ending the first game with a

Headquarters win, 3-0.

"It feels great to take this victory," said Hernandez between games. "We played a good team. We made them pull out of their box and space them out so it is easier for us to play around them."

3rd LAR kept their heads high on the break though, knowing they still had a chance to win the championship.

"We made a few mistakes and they scored on us," said 3rd LAR's coach Hector Torres, after the first game. "We are even teams, and I know we can beat them if we work harder."

The second game began with Headquarters quickly dominating the field, running circles around 3rd LAR. Within minutes Headquarters forward Daniel Martinez scored the first goal. Quickly after, Headquarters' Timothy Smith scored, bringing the score to 2-0.

The first half ended with Headquarters feeling secure in their pending victory. As the second half began, Pierce dove to the ground, trying to stop a bouncing kick. Seeing an opportunity, Headquarters midfielder

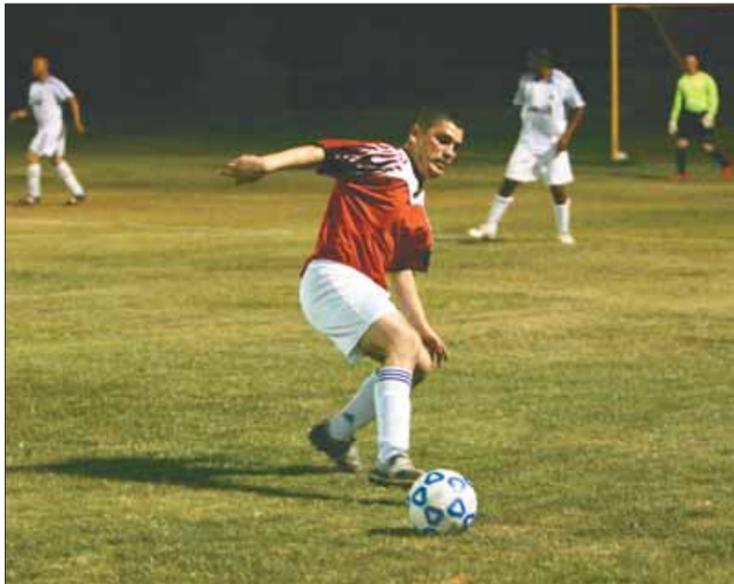
Marcos Garcia Lopez jumped over Pierce smashing the ball into the back of the net while in mid-air, bringing the score to 3-0.

Smith then came back with 29 minutes left in the match, kicking the ball in with a banana curve just out of Pierce's reach - raising Headquarters' lead 4-0.

Headquarters players Mario Gausho and Garcia Lopez tricked Pierce with a fake free-kick. Gausho rushed the ball, pretending to kick while Garcia Lopez shadowed his movements. At the last minute Gausho jumped to the side, having Garcia Lopez kick the ball past Pierce, raising the score 5-0.

Trying to keep Headquarters from scoring again, 3rd LAR player Garcia Ibrahim slide-tackled Pineda inside the goalie's box, which resulted in a penalty kick. Pineda took the shot with ease, driving the ball past Pierce, ending the game with Headquarters victorious, 6-0.

"This is a very emotional win for all of us," said Pineda. "Many of us are very passionate about the game, and it feels amazing to win."



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jose Hernandez, Headquarters Battalion coach, tries to turn the ball toward 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion goal during the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League Championship soccer game Aug. 14 at Felix Field.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Faith Formation/CCD-8 a.m.
Confessions+ - 8:45 a.m.
Rosary - 9 a.m.
Catholic Mass* - 9:30 a.m.
Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:30 a.m.
Confessions+ - 4:15 p.m.
Choir Practice - 4 p.m.
Rosary - 4:30 p.m.
Catholic Mass - 5 p.m.

Protestant Services Christ Chapel

Lay-Led Independent Baptist
Breakfast, West Wing - 8:30 a.m.
Non-Denominational Christian
Service
Worship - 9 a.m.
Children's Church - 9 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.
Youth Group 6 p.m.

Pastor-Led Lutheran Worship

Worship (NHTP Chapel) -
11:15 a.m.

Lay-Led Gospel Service

Worship - 11:30 a.m.

Legend

* Indicates Child Care Provided
+Appointments can be made
for Confessions by calling
830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic Mass Mon-Fri - 11:45
a.m. (except holidays)

Monday Christ Chapel

Praise & Worship Rehearsal -
4 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Catholic Mass, Mon-Fri -
11:45 a.m. (except holidays)

Tuesday

Christ Chapel

Christian Women's Fellowship*
- 9 a.m., (September - May)

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Children's RCIA - 4-5:30 p.m.
Catechist Meeting - 5-8 p.m.
(Second Tuesday each month)
Baptism Class - 6-7:30 p.m.
(First Tuesday each month)

C&E Barracks Building 1666

Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
Chaplain Hester 830-6187

Wednesday

Christ Chapel

Praise Band Rehearsal - 6 p.m.
Food/Fellowship - 6:30 p.m.
Non-Denomination Bible Study
- 7 p.m.
Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study -
7 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Military Council of Catholic
Women* - 9:30 a.m.
(September - May)
Youth Teen - 6 p.m.
Knights of Columbus - 7 p.m.
(1st Wednesday each month)

Thursday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

RCIA - 6-7:30 p.m. (Resumes
September 11)

C&E Barracks Building 1666

Bible Study - 11:30 a.m.,
Chaplain Moran 830-6187

Friday

Christ Chapel

Gospel Rehearsal - 5 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Exposition/Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament - 12:15 -
4:30 p.m. (First Friday each
month)



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

The Headquarters Battalion team poses for a team photo after winning the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League Championship Aug. 14 at Felix Field.



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Your vote counts: How to prepare for the upcoming elections



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2008 elections are drawing near. Make your vote count by being properly registered.

1. Am I registered to vote?

To check the status of your voter registration, contact your State or Local Election Office. The Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site has a listing of all the State Election Office's Web sites. Simply visit our Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov> and select the State Election Site. Once at this homepage, you'll find a great deal of election information including how to contact your local election office.

Seven states, as well as the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, allow you to check your voter registration status online. The states providing this online service are: Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia. Visit this website for more specific information on registering in these states: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/stregissites.html>.

2. Where am I registered to vote?

In order to determine where you are currently registered to vote, contact the election office where you last resided in the United States. If you are unsure of the county you live in, visit <http://www.fvap.gov> and select "What is My County."

3. How do I change where I'm registered to vote?

In order to change the jurisdiction where you are registered to vote, you must change your residency. Changing one's residency requires that you are physically present in that location and have the intent to remain a resident. Whenever you move into a new county or state, you should always contact the Local Election Office to inform them that you have changed your address. Communicating with your Local Election Office is the best way to help them

help you. You can also signify that you have a new address by filling out block 6 in the Federal Post Card Application. If you have previously registered to vote in a jurisdiction other than the one in which you are applying, indicate "previously registered in (location)." In order to obtain more information regarding this procedure you can visit www.fvap.gov and select "State by State Instructions."

4. What do I do if I haven't received my ballot but I sent my FPCA in on time?

One of the best ways to check on the status of your FPCA is to contact your Local Election Office. Any questions regarding FPCA status should be addressed to them. To find out when your state mails out ballots, refer to the 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide (found online at <http://www.fvap.gov>, select "State by State Instructions"). If election day is drawing near, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote.

5. Do I need a notary on my FPCA?

Out of the 50 states, the four U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, 50 do not require a notary on the FPCA. The five that DO require a notary on the FPCA are: American Samoa, Michigan (only applies to civilians), Minnesota, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. In order to check the status of your state's rules regarding notary requirements go to: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/notaryreqts.html>.

6. Can I be registered in two different states?

Voting rights for the state you claim apply when you can provide proof of residence, ie: driver's license, water or gas bill, etc. (Each state's requirements are different, check with your state's election board to see what they require). You may only have one legal residence at a time, but Uniformed Service personnel and their family members may change residency each time they are transferred to a new location. If you continue to receive voting materials from your old county, notify the election board to remove you from their local voter list.

7. What are the implications for registering where I'm stationed?

Exercising your right to vote in elections for federal offices only does not affect the determination of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under federal, state or local law. Voting in an election for federal offices only may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purposes of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state as your residence and have other ties with that state in addition to voting, then you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon that particular state law. Consult your legal counsel for specific questions or situations.

8. How do I get information about voting and upcoming elections?

If you have questions about where or how to vote, what forms to use or state specific regulations, consult the Voting Assistance Guide available in print form from FVAP or your Voting Assistance Officer, or its online version available at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

FVAP also offers the Voting Information Center that provides information on elections and recorded messages from U.S. senators, U.S. representatives and state governors. Callers may connect directly to the office of U.S. senators, U.S. representative, governor or their chief state election official through the VIC. The VIC also provides direct access to Service Voting Action Officers during normal business hours in the U.S. Telephone numbers:

- Commercial 1-800-438-VOTE (Collect calls not accepted).
- DSN 425-1343. DSN use is authorized for all military and family members.
- Toll free numbers are available for over 60 countries (Consult the Voting Assistance Guide or <http://www.fvap.gov> for a full listing)

9. How do I get a Federal Post Card Application?

In Person: You can obtain a cardstock version of the FPCA through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies or consulates.

Electronic: There is an online version of the FPCA, and it is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam. The form is available on the FVAP's Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpc.html> in PDF format and can be filled in on-line, printed out, signed, dated, placed in an envelope with proper postage and then mailed to the appropriate Local Election Official. The form requires Acrobat Reader 6 or higher.

Unit Voting Officers

Unit	Phone #
HQBN	830-7083
7th Marines	830-5800
1/7	830-5777
2/7	830-6410
3/7	830-7497
3/4	830-8524
3/11	830-5535
3rd LAR	830-4897
1st Tanks	830-7885
VMU-1	830-6034
MWSS-374	830-7329
CLB-7	830-5021
D Co. 3rd AABn	830-7196
Naval Hospital	830-2903
MCCES	830-6786
Dental Clinic	830-7054



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Marines: What to do after tying the knot

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When a bride thinks about getting married, her thoughts normally stray to a pearly white wedding gown, walking down the aisle, and locking eyes with the one man she truly loves.

What she maybe overlooking is the paperwork that has to be filed to change her name, address, credit cards, social security card and a handful of other things that might be required.

The first thing a Marine, male or female, should do after getting married is go to the Installation Personnel Administration Center, said Lance Cpl. Amanda Branch who works in the customer service section at IPAC.

When a Marine is married to a civilian, he or she needs to bring a copy of the spouse's identification card and marriage certificate so IPAC can put the spouse in their system and Marine Online. The Marine may also need a vacancy letter from his or her company stating the Marine is no longer maintaining a room in the barracks.

IPAC will then change the Marine's address and entitlements, and begin the process to start basic housing allowance and fam-

ily separation allowance if needed. "You rate [family separation allowance] if your spouse is living more than 50 miles away from where you are stationed and you do not drive home to see her every day," said Lance Cpl. Walther Gonzales, a help desk clerk at IPAC.

When the spouse is recognized in IPAC's system and Marine Online, they can visit the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System to receive a Department of Defense identification card if they are not already in the military.

When a Marine is married to another Marine and stationed at the same duty station they must both go to IPAC with both of their military identification cards and copy of the marriage certificate. If one of the Marines is stationed in a different location, then their spouse will have to have a front and back copy of their military identification card.

IPAC will also give the Marine a dependency application if they are planning on moving into on-base housing. The Marine must present the form to Lincoln Military Housing before the new couple can be put on a waiting list to receive the house.

"On-base housing will automatically take your BAH out of

your paycheck," said Branch. "It helps since you don't have to remember to pay rent and bills every month."

Also if the spouse is non-military and would like to apply for healthcare they need to go to the TRICARE office at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. After filling out request forms, TRICARE will send the spouse's new health insurance card in the mail.

If the wife is also a Marine and is changing her last name, she must submit an Administrative Action form, also referred to as a NAVMC 10274, with a copy of her marriage certificate to her officer-in-charge to begin the process of changing her name in the Marine Corps.

"You have to fill [the AA form] out electronically before you print it out," said Cpl. Carmen Pilman, administration clerk for Headquarters Battalion. "It can take up to a week before you get the approved copy back."

When her name is changed, she must visit DEERS with two forms of identification and the approved AA form to get a new identification card. She must also get nametapes with her new name sewn on her uniforms.

For more information regarding steps needed to take after marriage contact IPAC at 830-1818.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

One of the many administrative steps for newly married female Marines is requesting a name change with a form like the one being signed here, an Administrative Action Form or NAVMC 10274. After getting married, the first thing a Marine should do is go to the Installation Personnel Administration Center with their military identification and a copy of their marriage certificate.

SCHOOL, from A4

Washington State University and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Phoenix, confirmed that her drive to help military children comes from her own experiences as a military child and a want to minimize the unknowns.

"I remember how hard it was to go to a new school every couple of years," said Paulson who came to the Combat Center from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego with her husband Capt. Todd Paulson, company commander, Motor Transportation Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

Paulson, who has six years of classroom teaching experience, said as the school liaison she will work with MUSD in order to help military families as they transition into and out of the Combat Center's education community.

"The mission is to be a bridge between the military community and the school district," said Paulson, a native of Tucson, Ariz. "We don't want it to be an unpleasant experience for their children to go to school here."

Baumgarten shares Paulson's belief and believes the school liaison provides the support to both families and the district to problem solve any issues which may arise which impact the education of children living in the local area.

"We also strive to utilize Ms. Paulson as a bridge to foster a strong partnership between Marine Corps families and our schools," said Baumgarten. "The school district would also like to utilize Ms. Paulson to assist our school staff in understanding the unique needs of our military families that often include issues involving coping with the stress of deployment."

which has existed for an estimated ten years, but only Marine Corps installations in Japan had acting liaisons onboard until this year, said Paulson.

During the 2008 Exceptional Family Member Program Functionality Assessment by Headquarters Marine Corps, it was determined that the education and welfare of school age children is a quality of life issue.

This is in response to Marine Corps wide challenges experienced with reciprocity and quality of education location to location.

To assist parents and commanders in interacting with local schools and in responding to transition and academic issues which are unique to the military lifestyle, HQMC recommended that a school liaison position be provided as appropriate at each Marine Corps installation.

The presence of Paulson, at the Combat Center has already produced results.

Price said such programs as the Teacher2Teacher Workshop and Drug Abuse Resistance Education at the elementary level are in full implementation, while Advanced Placement courses at high schools, Student On-line Resources, and Advancement Via Individual Determination support are other programs in various stages of training or discussion.

"The greatest achievement has been the open communication between the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and the Morongo Unified School District," said Price.

For additional information about the school liaison or to voice comments, questions or concerns, please contact Paulson at 830-1574 or visit the school liaison Web site at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil/visit/schooliaison/>.

CHOW, from A3

Zone was a good idea and SMP was glad to host the event.

"We just wanted to get the Marines out, get them a hot meal and let them know the community supports them and what they are doing," said Brown.

Trena Vogel, SMP administrative assistant, said the door is always open to those, like Mario's Italian Café who want to show their support.

"We'll never say no to someone who wants to bring the Marines free food," said Vogel.

Pfc. Jesse Kluge, electrician with Support Company, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, said he thought the food was good, and it was nice of Mario's to provide the Marines and sailors with a rare alternative to the mess hall.

Before the evening concluded and as he was still serving Marines and sailors, Schuch said his final thoughts about the night were simple.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Carl Schuch and his wife, Delia, pose for a picture at the Combat Center's The Zone Tuesday night. Schuch, the owner of Mario's Italian Café in Rancho Mirage, Calif., in collaboration with the Combat Center's Single Marine Program hosted a free Italian dinner for Marines and sailors of the Combat Center.

"I just hope they eat well," said Schuch.

Vogel said upcoming events in the month of September sponsored by the SMP include a trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain Sept. 6, a trip to see the Price is Right Sept. 16, a trip

to Ontario Mills Mall Sept. 20 and a trip to Las Vegas Sept. 26 through 28.

For information about the SMP call 830-8454 or refer to the following address <http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/gymsRec/smp.html>.

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MEMORIAL, from A1

when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

The event began with 10 Marines marching onto the field to the slow beat of the "Marines Hymn" carrying the fallen Marines' framed picture, boots, helmet, dog tags and rifle with a bayonet attached. The Marines then created two memorial stands with the rifle stuck bayonet first into a sandbag with the boots in front, helmet on top and dog tags hanging from the pistol grip for their fallen comrades.

Lt. Col. Frank W. Charlonis, 2/24's battalion commander, spoke to his troops about the meaning of sacrifice and how it affects everyone in his battalion.

"These two warriors made the ultimate sacrifice," said Charlonis. "They made an impact on every Marine in this battalion, including me."

Nelson was a 23-year-old Kenosha, Wis., native who was serving his second deployment with Company F. According to friends, he was planning on going home after

the deployment to start a family with his wife, Kristen, and become an elementary school teacher.

"He loved kids. He wanted to come home, start a family and become a teacher," said Kristen, in an article published on <http://www.usmc.mil>, May 5. "Teaching kids would have been perfect for him because they seemed to be the only ones who could keep up with him."

During the ceremony, Sgt. David Lewandowski spoke about Nelson's constant support and cheer.

"People will always remember Nelson for his constant smile and positive attitude," he told the assembled crowd. "He was always there for everyone, especially when we needed him."

Opicka was a 29-year-old Waukesha, Wis., native, who was serving his first deployment with Company F. Opicka graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha in 2002 with a double major in psychology and history. In 2003 he returned to Carroll College and completed a teaching certificate.

He joined the Marine Corps

Reserves in 2005, and was planning on returning to his alma mater as a teacher.

"He was a good Marine and a better friend," said Lance Cpl. Adam Hotchkiss, a motorman with Company F and close friend of Opicka. "He will be missed by his Fox Company brothers."

Hotchkiss spoke about how Opicka, loved the Marine Corps and was always motivated. He ended his speech by thanking Opicka for all the memories they had shared.

As the ceremony came to a close, the Marines and sailors were given the opportunity to approach the memorial stands and pay their last respects to Nelson and Opicka.

As the Marines and sailors of Company F came in front of each memorial, they saluted and sank to their knees, many removing their cover and bowing their heads. Some held or simply touched the dog tags hanging from the rifle.

As the memorial came to an end, the Marines and sailors dispersed from the field to continue their post-deployment time aboard the Combat Center.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpl. Jason Altmann hangs Cpl. Richard Nelson's dog tags on a memorial during a service Tuesday at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field. Nelson was killed April 14 in Iraq when he and Lance Cpl. Dean Opicka were in a vehicle struck by an improvised explosive device.

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2005 SIERRA SPORT TOY HAULER, 37', to much to list, excellent condition. \$30,500 OBO. Call 285-2301. 8/8/08

'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

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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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KENMORE WASHER, DRYER, refrigerator, all working. Free to a Marine family. Call 367-7210. 8/22/08

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2000 CHAPARRAL SPORT BOAT, 19.6 SSI, open bow, 5.7 mercruiser, volvopenta outdrive and more. \$15,000. Call Jim, 285-2301. 8/15/08

HOME FOR SALE, \$165K, 3 bed, 2 bath, 1256 sq. ft., 2 car garage, central air., built 2004, .5 acre lot. Call 819-1025. 8/15/08

AKC PAPILLON PUPPIES, males and females, tri-color and sable. \$1,000. Call Michelle at 285-2302. 8/8/08

KENMORE WASHER & DRYER for sale. \$300. Both like new, work great! For more info call (423)504-6926 8/8/08

3/2 MOBILE HOME 1536 sq ft - 25k - keep BAH, free util, on base, active duty. (760) 333-3823. 8/1/08

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

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.

2/24, from A1

Midwestern United States was welcomed back by Official Huggers at every bus, greeting and hugging everyone who wanted a hug.

"I feel it is important for [Official Huggers] to be here for these Marines," said Toinette Ishee, a volunteer Official Hugger. "They don't have the support from seeing their family and friends when they return like active duty Marines have."

Family members wait until the service members fly back to their home state to welcome them home.

"The Marines and sailors of 2/24 executed a difficult counterinsurgency mission and were very successful," said Strey, a Madison, Wis., native. "Across the board, 2/24 earned the respect and confidence of all who come into contact with them.

"This includes both Coalition forces and Iraqi Security Forces in addition to the Iraqi people," he continued.

As soon as the Marines got off the buses they were placed in formation and told to turn in all serialized gear, such as weapons, flak jackets and their small arms protective insert, body armor plates.

"All of this serialized gear gets sent back to the Midwest to our home training centers by way of bonded cargo," said Strey. "This eliminates the transportation and security concerns as the different companies arrive at the different airports and are greeted by their families.

"They are able to go straight home once secured and not back to the drill center for hours and



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, stand in line to turn in their issued weapons and gear after returning to the Combat Center from a seven month deployment to Iraq Saturday. 2/24 is a reserve unit that had more that 1,000 Marines deployed for seven months to Al Anbar, Province. The reserve unit's home base is Chicago.

hours of weapons turn-in and accountability," he added.

As the Marines and sailors stood in line to turn in gear they talked about what they were going to do when they got home. Many of them were excited to eat at a favorite restaurant or go to a certain bar, but Cpl. Andrew Evenson, Company G team leader, had a different yet simple plan for when he got home.

"I don't care what we do," said Evenson, a Fort Atkinson, Wis., native. "As long as I spend time with my friends and family I will be happy to be home."

2/24 is based out of Chicago,

although all the companies have different Home Training Centers in different states. Headquarters and Service Company is stationed in Chicago; Company G is from Madison, Wis.; Company F is from Milwaukee; Company E is stationed in Des Moines, Iowa; and Weapons Company is stationed in Waukegan, Ill.

The reservists will stay aboard the Combat Center until Saturday when they will return to their home state.

"The battalion will take a few days to rest and recover with family before returning to their respective Home Training Centers," said Strey.

SOLUTIONS

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Birth announcements

DYLAN ALEXANDER FOX
Son of Cpl. David A. Fox and wife, Jane.
Born July 17, weighing 7 pounds, 9.6 ounces and measuring 19.8 inches.

ANTONINA MARIAH AYDELOTTE
Daughter of Sgt. Michael V. Aydelotte and wife, Kaitlyn.
Born July 18, weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 18.6 inches.

GAVIN WARREN SHANNON
Son of Chief Petty Officer James Shannon and wife, Meg.
Born July 21, weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 19.6 inches.

CECILIA GWENDALYNN LINDMAN
Daughter of Cpl. Eric Lindman and wife, Brandi.
Born July 22, weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 19.5 inches.

JAELYN NICOLE SUAZO
Daughter of Seaman Apprentice Johhan Suazo and wife, Jennifer.
Born July 22, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 20.2 inches.

SEBASTIAN SCOTT NAVARETTE
Son of Staff Sgt. Mark A. Navarette and wife, Jody.
Born July 23, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

JADEN LYNN WOLFE
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Daniel Rey Wolfe and wife, Crystal.
Born July 25, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19.9 inches.

MICHAEL ANTHONY ACOSTA
Son of Petty Officer 2nd Class Israel M. Acosta and wife, Holly.
Born July 28, weighing 6 pounds, 14.6 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

HANNAH MICHELLE HOLCOMBE
Daughter of Staff Sgt. Edward Holcombe and wife, Toni.
Born July 28, weighing 6 pounds, 13.2 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

ANTHONY JOSEPH RYTLEWSKI III
Son of Sgt. Anthony Rytlewski, Jr., and wife, Jamie-Jo.
Born July 28, weighing 9 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 20.2 inches.

KADENCE RYLEE BURNS
Daughter of Sgt. Jon K. Burns and wife, Melanie.
Born July 29, weighing 7 pounds, 11.2 ounces and measuring 19.9 inches.

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