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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

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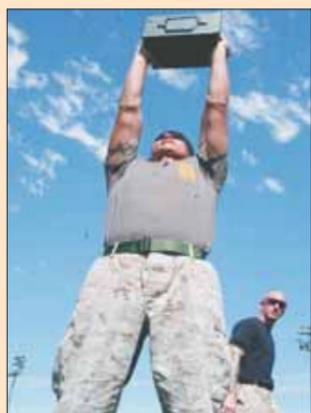
VOL. 51 ISSUE 36



3 Deep 6 debuts



6 Cadiz Ranch stores water and grows raisins



8 Fitness Roadshow visits Combat Center



13 Artillery battalion fires for effect

This Day in Marine Corps History

-September 5, 1918-

U.S. Marines paraded with Royal Marines in Rosyth, Scotland.

Eye in the sky

VMU-1 wraps final training before deployment

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 completed their last training exercise, before deploying to Iraq, with

the RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle at the Expeditionary Airfield Aug. 27.

The upcoming deployment will be the second time VMU-1, call sign "The Watchdogs,"

See VMU-1, A16



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Lance Cpl. Corey D'Angelo, an unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic with VMU-1, goes through post flight mechanical checks on the RQ-7 Shadow UAV Aug. 27 at the Expeditionary Airfield during the squadron's last training exercise before deploying to Iraq.

New base projects compliment 'Grow the Force'

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat will see many infrastructure and recreational facility upgrades in the near future that will impact single service members, families, training and off-duty activities available on base.

These changes were initiated by President George W. Bush's union address in January 2007 which called for an increase of personnel in the Marine Corps from 180,000 to 202,000, said Leon Bowling, Public Works Division planner and Twentynine Palms, Calif., native.

This proposal, called "Grow the Force," or 202K, is intended to

increase the Corps' strength and help reduce the deployment tempo.

The Combat Center itself can expect up to 2,150 Marines and family members moving on base between now and 2012, he added.

Gwyn Sadlier, Public Works Division planning officer, explained further.

"The Combat Center is currently programmed for 45 military construction projects estimated at approximately \$1 billion over the next three to six years in support of 'Grow the Force,'" said Sadlier.

The funding for MILCON projects comes from Congressional

See PROJECTS, A12



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Construction of the Heritage Memorial Park is only one of several recreational and facilities improvement projects scheduled to take place in the next few years in correlation with "Grow the Force."



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Children and group leaders of the Kid's L.I.N.K.S. blue team write a poem about friendship at the Kid's L.I.N.K.S. building Aug. 27.

New L.I.N.K.S. bring smiles, support to military children

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Family Team Building recently initiated a new program for military children called L.I.N.K.S. for Kid's, a new extension of the L.I.N.K.S. program that was originally only for military spouses.

L.I.N.K.S., which stands for Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills, is a program that was started by a group of military spouses at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in

1996, said Amber Bilderain, L.I.N.K.S. trainer.

This was the first L.I.N.K.S. for Kid's session and marks the beginning of an entirely new series of L.I.N.K.S. programs aimed not only at spouses, but also at children, parents of service members and service members themselves, said Bilderain.

"The L.I.N.K.S. sessions are used to provide family readiness at all levels of the family," said Bilderain, an Albuquerque, N.M.,

See KIDS, A10

CFC reps available near you!

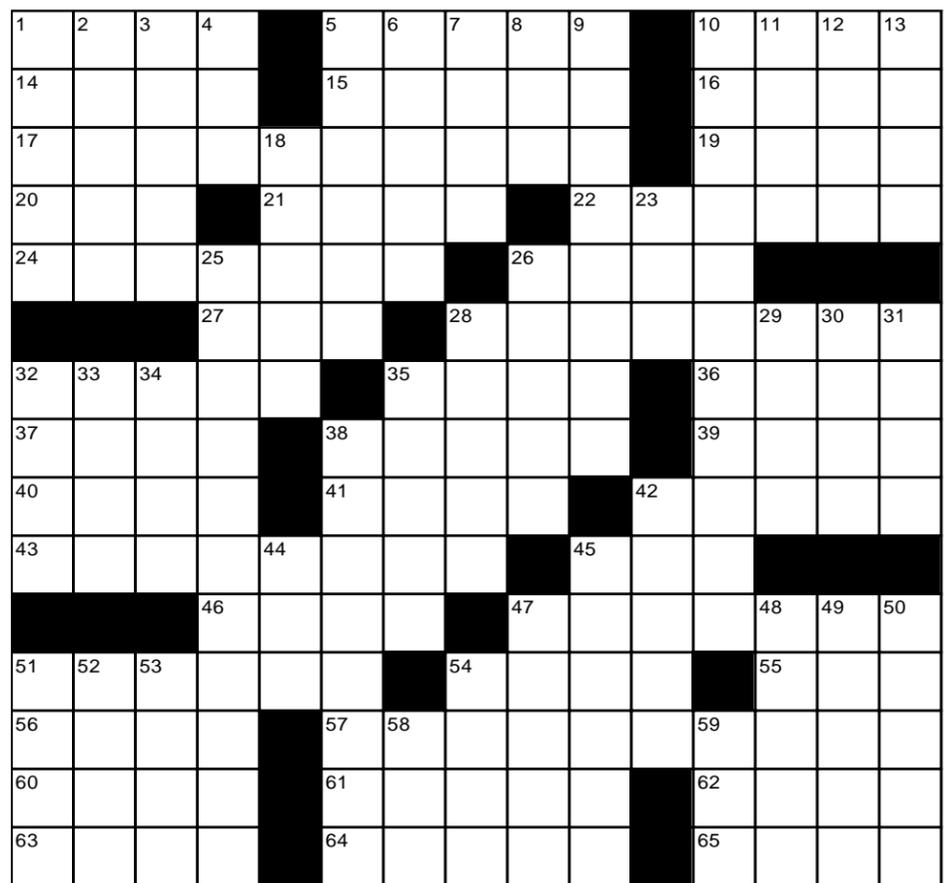
The Combined Federal Campaign is a worldwide campaign for U.S. federal employees that allows the donor to dictate which charity will obtain his or her donations. There are more than 350 national and international charities to donate to. Contact your unit's CFC representative to make your contribution, or to learn more.



CFC REPRESENTATIVES

NAME	UNIT	PHONE Work
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Mr. Charles T. Restifo	AC/S G-3	830 6819
GySgt. Ben Suter	Sgt's Course	830-0269
Maj. Milton J. Clausen	AC/S G-4	830-5674
Ms. Kristina L. Streeter	AC/S G-5	830-3765
SSgt. David Edmiston	AC/S G-6	830-4293/7356
SSgt. Joseph E. Evans,	AC/S G-7	830-4239
William E. Sowers	AC/S G-8	830-6580
Ms. Jo Rosbough	BPO	830-1186
GySgt. Herrick A. Ross	Command Inspector	830-4567
	General Office	
Ms. Lindy W. Seto	MCCS	830-8106
Mrs. Carrie L. Winchester	HRO	830-7696
Mrs. Wendy L. Latimore-Ferrell	SJA	830-6785
GySgt. Sylvester Harris	TTECG	830-7403
SSgt. Joseph C. Bowman	MCTOG	830-3624
SSgt. Heroides Aguirre	ATG	830-0512
SSgt. Ramiro Delgado	MCCES	830-6917
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2nd Lt. Daniel H. Whitt	1st Tank Bn.	830-7681
1st Lt. Dustin M. Damon	3rd LAR	830-5970
2nd Lt. Ryan A. Nace	3rdBn, 11th Mar	830-5523
WO Martin A. Lopez,	3rd AAVs	830-6590
SSgt. David A. Bruce	CLB-7	830-4806
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HMC Gill McGillivray	NHTP	830-2635
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Mr. Ron P. Genet	CFC Chairman	830.8692

TYPE B PERSONS



ACROSS

- Smoking, to some
- Kegler's pick up
- Speak ill of
- Not working
- Sweater synthetic
- Woody's boy
- Legendary Crimson Tide coach
- "Keep it ___!"
- Mr. Potato Head piece
- Laundry item
- Buyer's incentive
- Need a bib
- Vena ___ (main vein)
- Under the weather
- Crank out
- Out-of-date
- "Java" trumpeter
- Explorer Tasman
- ___ of Sandwich
- Blacktops, say
- Pooch's plaything
- Corn holder

DOWN

- Hampton's instrument
- Having no draw backs
- Mild smoke
- Suffix with chariot
- Horse color
- Richard of "Bustin' Loose"
- Actor Bates
- Author/vet Kovic
- Ones in a race
- "Mission: Impossible" actress
- Plane measure
- Bed frame piece
- Links target
- Book to swear on
- Time of anticipation
- Hoopster-turned-senator
- A dwarf planet
- Like a first name
- Simple rhyme scheme

ACROSS

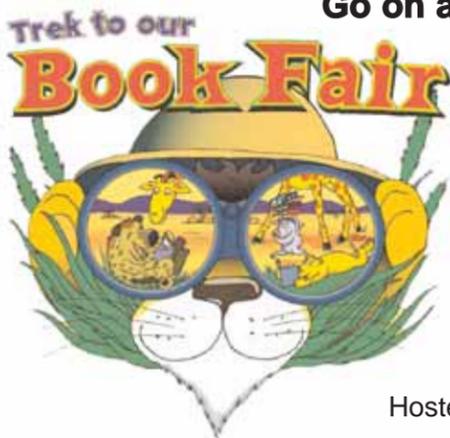
- Some Monopoly properties: Abbr.
- Alternative to dish
- Unwrap in a hurry
- ___ Lanka
- Yemeni port
- Hindered, as growth
- Eloper's need
- Grin from ear to ear
- Without further___"
- Stone for many Libras
- Longtime Giants lugger
- Philosopher Descartes
- Bit of wisdom
- Sedgwick or McClurg
- All tensed up
- Like many exclusive communities
- Some whiskeys

- Spill the beans
- Reese's "Legally Blonde" role
- Sunnis, e.g.
- Scale button
- Opera highlight
- Place of refuge
- Lunch holder, maybe
- Cake bit
- Poem of Sappho
- Hung around
- Twilled material
- Jessica of "Driving Miss Daisy"
- Dog on "Frasier"
- Prescribed amounts
- Tribal tales
- Did a take off on
- "Drat!"
- Rotten little kid
- Abbr. on a toothpaste box
- Not 'neath

[Solutions on A12]

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Sept. 15
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Centerspeak

What is your fantasy job and why?

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



PFC. MARQUICE BOWMAN
S-3, 1ST TANKS

"I would want to be an astronaut, there's no other feeling than doing stuff others can't do. They go to space and very few people can do that."



SGT. JOSHUA TACKETT
CREW CHIEF, DELTA CO., 3RD AABN.

"I would want to just be retired, or work at a bowling alley, it would be chill for a retired job, and give me something to do."



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JAMES MUHLENBRUCK
CORPSMAN, G CO. - 225,

"I would love to be a professional golfer, you get to see a lot of nice places, have an easy job and make lots of money."

Employee Spotlight

Name: Diana Seniguar
Job Title: Accounting technician
Organization: Marine Corps Community Services accounting office
Job Duties: All accounting procedures in the accounting department, primarily banking.
Hometown: Simi Valley, Calif.
Hobbies: Hanging out with friends, attending church functions, being with family.
What do you like most about your job: I like being able to support the Marines and sailors. I'm very honored to do that.
Significant Achievements: I'm very proud of being a single mother.
Military Service: none
Time employed at the Combat Center: 21 years



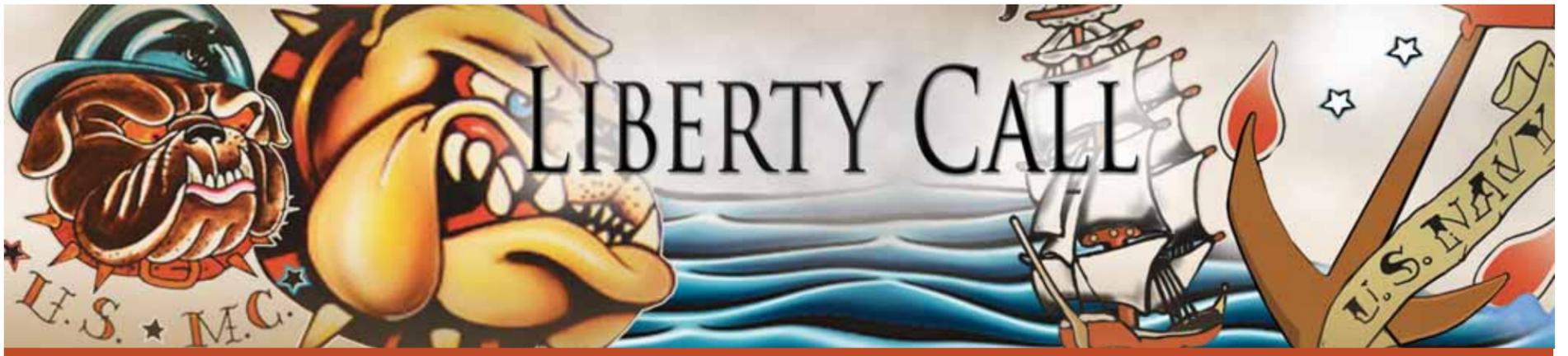
OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

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<p>FRI. 9/5</p> <p>Theatre 29: Camelot Opening Night Time: 7 p.m. Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Rd., 29 Palms For more info call 361-4151 or visit http://www.theatre29.com</p>	<p>SAT. 9/6</p> <p>Mojave Desert Tours Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Where: Harvey House, 681 N. First Ave., Barstow For more info call 256-8617 or visit http://www.barstowchamber.com/bkrr</p>	<p>SAT. 9/6</p> <p>Native American Program Time: 10 a.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7212 or visit http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org</p>	<p>SAT. 9/6</p> <p>Art Opening: Red Arrow Time: 7 p.m. Where: The Red Arrow Gallery, 61010 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-2519 or visit http://www.theredarrowgallery.com</p>	<p>SAT. 9/6</p> <p>Art Opening: True World Time: 7-10 p.m. True World Gallery, 61740 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-2300 or visit http://www.trueworldgallery.com</p>
<p>SUN. 9/7</p> <p>Art Reception: Whytock, Jacobsen Time: 12-3 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Art Gallery, 74055 Cottonwood Dr. For more info call 367-7819 or visit http://www.29palmsartgallery.com</p>	<p>TUES. 9/9</p> <p>Line Dance Classes Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Rd., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-8415</p>	<p>WED. 9/10</p> <p>PINT & DALE Acoustic Duo ASYMCA Benefit Time: 6 p.m. Where: Art Queen, 61855 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call The Sun Runner at 366-2700 or visit http://www.pintndale.com</p>	<p>WED. 9/10</p> <p>Stone Temple Pilots Time: 8 p.m. Where: Moronogo Casino Resort & Spa, 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon, Calif. For more info visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</p>	<p>THURS. 9/11</p> <p>Life Drawing Classes Time: 6:30 p.m. every Thurs. in September Where: Joshua Tree Retreat & Event Center, 59700 29 Palms Hwy. For more info call 365-8371 or visit http://www.jtrcc.org</p>

New Combat Center band passes muster

LANCE CPL. COREY A BLODGETT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

Eight local Marines and civilians recently found some common ground in music and decided to form a band that is building a dedicated following and has started playing local, live shows.

The members of the band, Deep 6, are all somehow related to the Marine Corps and got together in August through mutual friends just to have some fun and to "fill a void in their lives," according to Dan Claire, the original guitarist in the band.

"Music has always been a big part of all of our lives and it was just time to start a band," said Claire, who is manager of the Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange. "So we said, 'let's buy some equipment and do it,' and we did. I know it's filled a big hole in most of our lives, who until now, only had our iPods and karaoke."

Joe Becker, vocals for the band, said all the members play off each other extremely well and

use their diverse musical backgrounds to play their music, which they consider to have a rock foundation with a popular "Top 40's kind of lineup."

"We basically play all genres of rock pretty much from classic to alternative and even a little hip-hop thrown in," said Becker, an electronics and air traffic control maintenance technician with the Combat Center's Communication and Data Directorate. "What we're going for now is trying to get into more recent top 40 kind of music."

The way the members come together during practice continually opens new doors for the

musical direction of the band, Claire said, citing how the band's keyboardist, Victor Diaz, a member of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band, is "bringing hip-hop to the table."

"Right now we're based in rock and roll, but we're experimenting a little bit with some hip-hop stuff because of Victor," Claire said. "He's just a character, man. I've always worked with guys who were into rock and he's into hip-hop, so he brings so much to the table. He's just phenomenal with the keyboard too, so the chemistry is pretty balanced in the band."

Becker said from the first practice, he liked where the band was headed.

"When we all got together it was a little rough at first, but the

Marines that came from the Marine Corps Band were able to pick up what we were doing very

See BAND, A11



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Babylon A.D. (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Disaster Movie (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	ALL SHOWS • ADULTS \$8.00 BEFORE • SENIORS \$6.00 6:00 PM \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.Cinema6theatre.com

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Combat Center welcomes Academic Resource Center

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center welcomed the addition of a new Academic Resource Center at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange Aug. 29.

The center, developed with parents and children in mind, sells basic school supplies, such as markers, pencils and paper, and will also provide Combat Center families with the necessary tools needed to complete big school projects and supplies to support after-school activities, said Lance Lennon, divisional sales manager at the Marine Corps Exchange.

Lennon, a native of Houston, said the idea for the center was conceived at a meeting held by the family readiness officers of the Combat Center, and the process of solidifying the center's creation was aided by Lt. Col. Michael P. Hubbard, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment.

"We're currently looking for input from people," said Lennon. "If they come here and don't see what they want, I want to hear about it."

Lennon said comments from the Combat Center community



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Amy Young, daughter of Seaman Stephen Young, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is entertained by Jiffy the Clown at the opening ceremony of the Combat Center's new Academic Resource Center located at the Marine Corps Exchange Aug. 29.

will help him collaborate with Headquarters Marine Corps' buying office in order to stock the center with new and additional education tools.

"This center will grow, but only with the help and input of our customers," said Lennon.

Tricia McElhinney, wife of Pfc. Donald McElhinney, a radio operator with Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, said the center's convenient location is helpful.

"I think it's a good idea because with the price of gas it's too expensive even to go to Wal-Mart," said McElhinney, a native of McBain, Mich. "Also a lot of families who just moved here don't know where everything is located so this is a great benefit for them."

Yaniria Martinez, who arrived at the Combat Center last week with her husband, Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Martinez an administrative chief at the Combat Center's Installation Personnel Administration Center, said it is nice to see educational tools such as the Academic Resource Center here on base.

"It's nice to come to an area and see that there will be opportunities for my kids' education," said Martinez.

While Lennon admitted the center is still in its introductory phase, he also said space has been reserved in the Main Exchange

for the academic center to expand.

"This is just scratching the surface," said Lennon.

However, Lennon said he needs creative ideas and comments from the local community in order to ensure the center continues to provide families with up-to-date educational tools.

For information about the Academic Resource Center or to place a comment, contact Lennon at 830-6163, ext. 410, or place a comment on the Interactive Customer Evaluation message board.



Lance Lennon, divisional sales manager for the Marine Corps Exchange, and Audrey Rutten, a.k.a. Jiffy the Clown, celebrate the opening of the new Academic Resource Center with a cake cutting ceremony Aug. 29.

Small clinic, big heart

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Throughout the years, many people have found ways to show their gratitude toward American service members for their contributions and sacrifices to defend the nation's freedom.

The Scar Treatment Center of the Desert, Inc., in Palm Desert, Calif., is one of hundreds of businesses, large and small, who have decided to make an effort to give back to the military.

"We want to offer a service to the men and women who serve, and have fought for us," said Guadalupe Ponte, D.M.P., president and chief executive officer of The Scar Treatment Center. "We're designing this program for the wounded veterans who have fought for us in battle."

The clinic is looking at donating two Saturdays every month as well as extended evening hours to facilitate the needs of wounded war veterans, added the Tucson, Ariz., native.

Ponte began her work in 1981 as a registered nurse working for various plastic surgeons and opened her own clinic in 1992. In 2000, The Scar Treatment Center went corporate and became dedicated solely to scar revision.

She said one form of treatment the clinic uses is called the raque technique, which scrapes the scar flat and helps restore collagen to the skin. They also use LightWave, a machine designed to shock the skin to promote new cellular growth and detoxify the scar, diminishing its appearance.

"As a result of using LightWave, we can reduce the appearance of scars by up to 80 percent," said Ponte. "Using other machines, we can diminish the appearance almost 100 percent."

According to the Web site, the clinic treats many types of scars, burns and skin disorders, like vitiligo, a malady which causes the skin to lose its pigmentation and make it appear blotchy.

One issue Ponte feels she is tackling is not just the physical appearance of a scar on a patient's skin, but the emotional pain associated with the scar.

"Bad memories are just one of the negative ways that scars

may affect someone," said Ponte in an April 30 press release about the clinic. "Self esteem can be affected if the person is self-conscious about how they look."

"Time's have changed since the 'tough guy' mentality of the past," she added. "When people feel good about their appearance, their self esteem is going to be better."

The clinic's Web site is not only home to information about The Scar Treatment Center, but to testimonials of people who have been helped by Ponte and her staff. One testimonial came from the clinic's press release.

"I felt pretty bad when I looked at my scar," said former Gunnery Sgt. Arturo Escobedo in the press release. "I felt like my scar was growing every day."

"I feel a lot better now," he added. "Since coming to The Scar Treatment Center, little by little, my scar is becoming invisible."

Ponte has eight scar treatment specialists working on staff at the clinic and, as a state board certified instructor, has trained many more people.

"I try to make a difference by training my students to want to help people," she said. "I think some people get into this line of work to make a ton of money, but it shouldn't be about that."

"Every scar has a story and you really get to know your patients throughout the treatment process - you form a bond with them," added Ponte. "You learn all about what happened to them. I think that's what keeps us growing as professionals and as people. We never know what stories might come through our door."

Ponte said she and the clinic have been working to publish a book about scar revision by the end of 2009.

"I think it will be a great informational resource for people who want to learn about scar revision," she said. "They can read about the procedures and look at pictures to see the improvements made by them."

Ponte added she will also be looking at more ways for the clinic to donate to wounded war veterans in the future as well.

For more information about The Scar Treatment Center, log on to <http://www.scarsgone.com> or call (760) 340-1136.

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HOT TOPICS

CG'S INTRAMURAL RIFLE MATCHES

The Combat Center Marksmanship Training Unit would like to invite teams to compete in the Commanding General's Intramural Rifle and Pistol Matches. Teams will consist of four shooters to include at least one staff noncommissioned officer or officer. Classes will begin on Sept. 29 at 7 a.m. at the MTU. All participants are required to attend. The opening ceremony first shot will be at 7 a.m. Oct. 2 and the closing ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Oct. 17 followed by a barbecue for all shooters. All participants are required to use the M16A2/A4/M4 Service Rifle and the M9 Service Pistol and required to attend all marksmanship classes. Military retirees are also invited to compete. For more information please contact MTU at 830-6700.

EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE SCHOOL, COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE SEMINAR PROGRAMS START

The Marine Corps College of Continuing Education is the center for advancing Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education Programs (DEP). The College of Continuing Education seminar program academic year runs Sept. 29 through June 1, 2009. Command and Staff may only be taken by seminar, either onsite or online. This is designed to be a two year program and there is no longer an independent guided study option for officers to complete at their own pace. Expeditionary Warfare School seminars are available onsite only. Enrollments are being accepted now. Students should enroll as soon as possible to ensure there is room available. For more information about enrollment or seminar schedules, contact the Camp Pendleton Regional Coordinator, Jeffrey Willis at 725-8400 (DSN 365), or by e-mail at jwillis@cotcs.com.

MEN'S BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Men's basketball tryouts will be held on Sept. 16 and 18 at 7 p.m., at the West Gym. Only active duty personnel are eligible to participate. Call 830-4092/6857 for further information.

Red Cross manager gives her all to the troops

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 and to this day is the largest volunteer organization in America that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief and education. Certain areas of the organization work closely with the armed forces, providing emergency and non-emergency services to the military.

Niki McBain, Combat Center's American Red Cross station manager who just returned from a six-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, has been volunteering her time to the American Red Cross since she was 13 years old.

"I can recall when I became a volunteer nearly down to the exact

minute," said McBain, a Jensen Beach, Fla., native. "August 24, 1992 – my family and I were evacuated from Florida to Georgia during Hurricane Andrew."

After they were evacuated, McBain and her mother were driving toward their destination when Andrew hit Georgia. As her mother pulled into an underpass to avoid any hazards and commented they should go to the American Red Cross for assistance, McBain said she didn't want to be considered homeless.

"My mom told me that I could work there instead," said McBain. "After I started volunteering there, it turned my life around."

After years of volunteering with the American Red Cross,

See RED CROSS, A10



COURTESY PHOTO

Niki McBain, Combat Center American Red Cross station manager, stands in front of the house where the Ba'ath Party records were found during her deployment to Camp Liberty, Baghdad.

Sounds of Freedom concert headed to Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Community Services here is inviting Marines, sailors and their families to the second annual Sounds of Freedom music concert Sept. 13 at Victory Field starting at 5 p.m.

The free concert is scheduled to have the Combat Center Band open for country singer Pat Green, and the eccentric country band Jypsi.

Jypsi is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m., and Pat Green will take the stage around 9 p.m.

Pat Green is a country singer who originated from Texas and has sold out entire stadiums in his home state, such as the Houston Astrodome and the Dallas Smirnoff Center, according to his biography posted on the William Morris Agency Web site, <http://www.wma.com>.

"I grew up near Fort Hood, Texas, and in doing so I gained a great respect for not only the soldiers, but the families who support them," said Green. "It's an honor for me to be a part of this event. The band and I are really looking forward to this show."

Jypsi, which also has their biography posted on the William Morris Agency Web site, is a band that consists of four siblings that all play their own instruments. Their biography describes them as a band where attitude, fashion, fun and personal expression makes them unique.

Kelly Cox, daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Dave Hatch, com-

pany gunnery sergeant,

Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, will be taking her 4-month-old daughter to the concert, hoping she can make her baby a country music fan early in life.

"I am always excited to hear new music," said Cox, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native. "I think these concerts really show the Marines that they are cared for. It is not just the families and friends that appreciate them, but celebrities coming on the base to play for them to show they are thankful for all they have done for this country."

The Sounds of Freedom concert was created last year to honor the Marines, sailors and their families who have gone through a deployment. The concert is considered a smaller version of the We Salute You concert, said Kelly Coe, MCCA special events program manager.

"We hold the Sounds of Freedom for those who weren't here for the Salute," said Coe, a Brooks, Ga., native. "Hopefully those who were deployed are back now so they can enjoy a free concert."

During the concert, inflatable games will be set up around the field. The games include the rock wall, three-point kick, the scramble slide, the bungee run and Cameron the Caterpillar. All the games are free.

"We have a lot more games than last year's event," said Coe. "The games are free, and are for all ages."

The Rib Co. and Grills Gone Wild will be selling a variety of grilled food that includes ribs,

chicken wings, hamburgers and hotdogs. The Provost Marshal's Office will also have a grill set up. They will be selling hotdogs and hamburgers, to raise money for their Marine Corps ball.

Ice cream, Sno-Cones, popcorn and cotton candy will also be available through vendors at Victory Field.

MCCA requests that no bottles, outside alcohol, coolers, backpacks or weapons be brought to the concert.



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER

Thomas Martinez and his band entertain country music fans at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema during last year's Sounds of Freedom Music Festival Sept. 22, 2007.

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Cadiz Ranch sweetens community

CPL. KATELYN LOPEZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A walk through the overgrown lemon trees and grape vines of Cadiz Ranch could leave one thinking we're no longer in the desert of Southern California. Cadiz Ranch, which is located in San Bernardino County about 70 miles from the Combat Center, is a publicly held land and water resource development company that imitates green fertile land in a barren desert.



CPL. KATELYN LOPEZ

Cadiz Ranch water storage and supply program could provide Southern California with as much as 150,000 acre-feet per year of water during droughts, emergencies or other periods of need.

The three main activities of Cadiz Ranch include development of the Cadiz Valley Dry-year Supply Project, which is a proposed underground water storage and supply program; management of over 45,000 acres of desert land; and ongoing agricultural operations, according to the Cadiz Ranch Web site <http://www.cadiz-inc.com>.

Out of the 45,000 acres of desert land, 1,600 acres are currently developed for agricultural production.

"We have 240 acres of Lisbon lemons, 20 acres of Eureka lemons, 160 acres of seedless red flame and seedless black grapes certified organic by the CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers)," said Lesley Thornburg, operations manager, Cadiz Incorporated and chairperson of the Economic Development Task Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif. "The grapes are a table grape variety, but were farmed to be dried-on-the-vine raisins this year."

In addition to the lemons and grapes, Cadiz Ranch seasonally grows seedless watermelon, cantaloupes, radicchio and romaine lettuce varieties, specialty tomatoes, bell peppers, corn and a variety of citrus and stone fruits.

"We sell to commercial packing houses who handle the marketing of our product," said Thornburg. "The product can be sold nationally and internationally but primarily is sold as California Grown."

Michael King, the community coordinator for the Combat Center, attended a recent tour of Cadiz Ranch led by Thornburg. This was a unique opportunity for the Combat Center personnel because Cadiz Ranch is privately owned and does not usually offer tours, said King.

"My favorite part of the tour was find-



CPL. KATELYN LOPEZ

Cadiz Ranch grape vines are waiting to be harvested for the season as dried-on-the-vine raisins. The Ranch has more than 160 acres of two variations of grapes.

ing an oasis-like area in the middle of the desert that produces lemons as well as grapes and raisins, with the ability to bring in new produce in the near future," said King. "I think it is important to use land that is being overlooked as a resource to help fill shortfalls from other areas of the region."

The ranch, which has been in existence since 1983, not only benefits the local area but the economy as well.

"The ranch benefits the local area from its pristine environment and remote location, which aids us in farming organically," said Thornburg. "We try to purchase or use local businesses as much as possible. Many local businesses have tailored their stock and parts to carry many items that we use, items they would not usually carry."

In addition to the land being a resource for agricultural production, it also is a resource for water conservation.

The Cadiz Valley Dry-year Supply Project is designed to provide Southern California with an increase in water supply during droughts, emergencies, or other periods of need, according to the Cadiz, Inc. Web site.

"During the tour, I learned that 22 percent of the water in the Lake Havasu reservoir gets evaporated every year," said Sean T. Campbell, who also attended the tour. "I think it's important to store the extra water in an effort to avoid evaporation as well as balancing out the water tables and putting back as much or more than we use."

Southern California's population is expected to grow 35 percent to nearly 50 million people by the year 2030 and without additional water, the demand for water in many Southern California communities will exceed supply. The project proposed by Cadiz offers a unique solution to growing water supply problems in the state.




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Marine snipers training to wage war on enemy minds

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A quick flash catches the eye of the Marine as he gazes through the sights of his Winchester Model 70 .30-06 Sniper Rifle at a cluster of bushes on the opposite side of a hill. He zeroes in on the target, releases a breath and takes his shot. The round explodes from his rifle and penetrates the scope of the hidden sniper's rifle, killing the enemy instantly.

This is not the plot of a high-action film. This is the true story of a legendary former Marine Corps scout sniper named Gunnery Sgt. Carlos N. Hathcock, who holds a service record of 93 confirmed kills and more than 300 probable kills during the Vietnam War.

Sgt. Jeremiah B. Johnson, chief scout sniper of Scout Sniper Platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said he believes legendary Marine Corps snipers like Hathcock blazed a path on which all Marine Corps snipers strive to tread on.

"When you look at Marine

Corps snipers, you see they're well known in history for their skills," said Johnson, a Hemet, Calif., native. "We live off those legends and hope to become those ourselves. People come into scout sniper platoons for multiple reasons — they are one of the most elite services, are held at such an incredibly high standard and hold the utmost level of responsibility."

The definition of a Marine Corps scout sniper outlines the most sacred role of a sniper: "A Marine highly skilled in field craft and marksmanship who delivers long-range, precision fire at selected targets from concealed positions in support of combat operations."

What this definition does not reveal is the level of training Marines endure before they are even eligible to step foot on the ground of one of the four scout sniper schools in the Marine Corps.

In addition to being proficient in the swim qualification, physical fitness test and firing an expert score in the known-distance rifle range, Marines pulling for a position in a scout sniper platoon need to show

mental fortitude, patience and a whole lot of heart, said Johnson.

Although many weapon and technology systems today use assistance elements like GPS, Marine snipers are given only what they need to survive when tasked with a mission, he added.

"We take our Marines back to the days of bows and arrows," he said. "For instance, when they do their land nav [navigation], we give them a map, a compass and a mission. Then we start the time on our watches and say 'go.'"

Sniper training can be summed up in five categories; stalking, or moving tactically toward a target, the shooting package, observation, range estimation, and academics, added Johnson.

Those Marines who attend a scout sniper school are dubbed Hunters of Gunmen, or HOGs, while Marines being trained in scout sniper platoons prior to receiving school instruction are called Professionally Instructed Gunmen, or PIGs, said Johnson.

1st Sgt. Roger F. Griffith, Company A first sergeant, 1/7,



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Daniel Hillin, scout with Scout Sniper Platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Lance Cpl. Brandon Padilla, his spotter, show how a sniper and spotter work together to select and engage a target outside the 7th Marines armory at the Combat Center Thursday.

who served four years as a scout sniper with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, said being selected to train with a sniper platoon is in itself a tremendous accomplishment.

"The company submits a list of names of Marines who volunteer to be in a sniper platoon,"

explained Griffith. "As the training carries out, Marines are weeded out and narrowed down to those who really want to be there. By the end of the training, you have the cream of the crop."

From that small group, individual Marines are selected to

See SNIPERS, A11

3/4 Marines, LEP working together

CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

HIT, Iraq — Marines with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 and the battalion's law enforcement professional is working closely to prosecute criminals in Iraq.

Roger Parrino, the battalion's LEP, serves as the criminal investigator for the battalion and uses his background in law enforcement to assist Coalition forces. His 21 years in the New York Police Department helped him prepare for the job. He retired as the commanding officer of the Manhattan North Homicide Squad.

Prior to the battalion's combat deployment, Parrino joined the unit in September 2007 and assisted the Marines by giving classes on sensitive-site exploitation, tactical questioning, the rule of law, detainee handling and patrol observations. He has continued to advise Marines during their combat deployment.

"When we take the LEP out, he teaches us questioning techniques and how to read people's body language to see if they're being forthright," said Sgt. Jay J. Richardson, 29, a section leader with 3/4, from Midland, Mich.

He has spent the deployment assisting 3/4 by questioning Iraqi locals about shootings in town, building evidence against insurgents and appearing in Iraqi courts to testify. He's also been mentoring the National Intelligence and Investigation Agency, which is similar to the FBI.

"The (LEP) program was designed to bring someone in from law enforcement to help in the counter insurgency environment," said Parrino, 47, who is from New York City.

So far, Marines have noticed his presence in Iraq. They've realized that he conducts his investigations in a different manner than they would.

"He does his job and approaches it differently than we do," said Sgt. Josh W. Huskey, 27, a platoon sergeant with 3/4 from Buda, Ill. "The biggest difference between us is the way he handles sensitive-site exploitation and tactical questioning. The questions we don't have, he does."

Marines have not only noticed his abilities, they've also seen the thoroughness that goes into Parrino's investigations, and they like it.

"You see him still conducting his investigations three months after an incident occurred," Huskey said "Last

deployment, if you didn't find the guy in three or four days, you'd move on."

For Parrino, it's all part of his job. He says he's appreciated his time with the Marines and enjoys watching them use his training.

"The highlight of the deployment has been when I'm out on patrol and seeing small-unit leaders performing things the way I instructed," Parrino said. "It has been worthwhile, and I would like to do it again."



CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

Roger Parrino, a law enforcement professional with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, questions an Iraqi Aug. 20 in Hit, Iraq, about an incident that occurred in the area.

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Fitness Roadshow visits Combat Center, shows off CFT

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Training and Education Command's Fitness Roadshow stopped at the Combat Center to speak about the changes in the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program and demonstrate

the new Combat Fitness Test at the base's Sunset Cinema and Victory Field Aug. 28.

At this stop on the Marine Corps-wide tour, a detachment from TECOM hosted a presentation inside the theater to inform as many local command leaders as possible about the changes taking place with the new Combat

Fitness Test, Marine Corps Body Composition and Military Appearance Program.

"We want to elevate the knowledge of the changes taking place in the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program," said Col. Brian McGuire, physical readiness programs officer, TECOM. "We are at war, but the commandant of the Marine Corps does not want to use that as an excuse for our appearance. He is not going to loosen our standards."

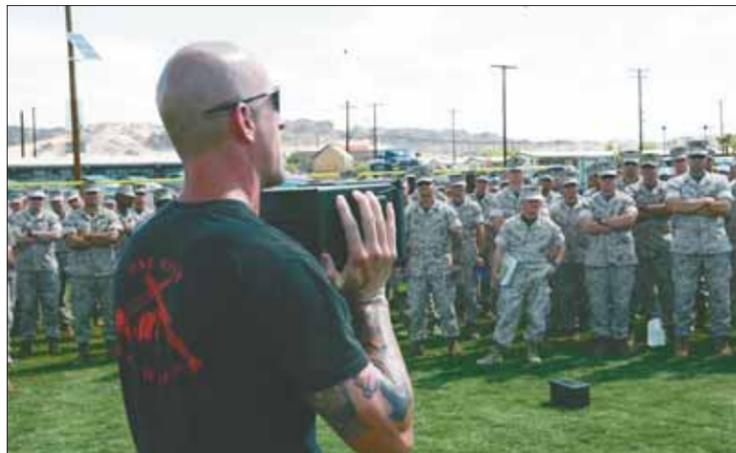
During the brief, McGuire, a Dover, Del., native, went through a slideshow and answered questions. Marines were enthused to learn about the changes.

"The roadshow really clarified all the changes coming up," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert Mawson, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, Company B chief trainer and martial arts instructor-trainer. "The changes better allow the command to have more control to bringing the Marines back into their



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Col. Brian McGuire, physical readiness programs officer, TECOM, speaks to Marines about the new changes for the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program after the Combat Fitness Test demonstration to answer any questions during the Marine Corps Training and Education Command's Fitness Roadshow at Victory Field aboard the Combat Center Aug. 28.



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Sgt. Patrick Kaiser, instructor-trainer at the Martial Arts Center of Excellence, Quantico, Va., demonstrates the ammunition can lift during the Marine Corps Training and Education Command's Fitness Roadshow aboard the Combat Center Aug. 28.

height and weight standards."

The slideshow was made up of key information from Marine Corps Order 6110.3 and All Marine Message 032/08. It showed how to correctly implement the Marine Corps Body Composition and Military Appearance Program within a unit.

According to MCO 6110.3, MCBCMAP is made up of two programs that monitor and evaluate the appearance of Marines while providing support through focused supervision to ensure they fulfill the required body composition and military appearance standards.

The order continued to state that an effective MCBCMAP provides Marines information and assistance in order to modify the attitude and behavior consistent with a healthy lifestyle; contribute to the health and well-being of every Marine through continuous monitoring of weight, body composition and military appearance; motivate Marines to set the example by maintaining an established weight and body composition standard; and to ensure compliance through supervision, remedial conditioning and professional assistance.

After the slideshow, observers made their way to Victory Field where Combat Center Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Sergeant's Course students demonstrated a run-through of the CFT.

During the demonstration, Sgt. Patrick Kaiser, an instructor-trainer at the Martial Arts Center of Excellence, Quantico, Va., explained what takes place at every station, including how far each section was.

"When they demonstrated the CFT it really cleared up a few questions," said Mawson, a Galesburg, Ill., native. "Now we all know the correct way to set it up so there won't be any complications or injuries."

The CFT is comprised of three events: The 880-yard movement to contact, the ammunition lift and 300-yard maneuver under fire.

During the 880-yard movement to contact drill, Marines must run while wearing boots and utilities. The ammunition lift requires the Marine to lift a 30-pound ammo can repetitively for two minutes. The ammo can has to go below the chin, and when the Marine is lifting, he must lock his elbows. When the Marine becomes fatigued they are allowed to dip and drive, which uses the Marine's legs to create momentum to lift the can above their head by squatting and thrusting upward.

The 300-yard maneuver under fire event performs a series of tasks that simulates a combat situation. The tasks include a combat crawl, ammunition re-supply, a body drag, a casualty carry and a grenade throw. Most of the 300-yard maneuver has Marines weaving between cones.

"It may look easy but it is really difficult," said Sgt. Khanh Nguyen, a logistics clerk at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, after finishing the CFT demonstration. "It really shows off a Marine's strengths and weaknesses."

Beginning Oct. 1, 2009, the CFT will be incorporated into composite scores for promotions and a revised fitness report.

"In the Marine Corps we are expected to be the best," said Nguyen. "None of us should be walking around looking all nasty. We are Marines and we should look like Marines."

To find more information regarding the Marine Corps Body Composition and Military Appearance Program, and the CFT visit the TECOM Web site at <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil>, or read MCO 6110.3 and ALMAR 032/08.



CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Sgt. Khanh Nguyen, a logistics clerk for Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, buddy drags Sgt. Salvador Morales-solis, admin chief for Marine Corps base Camp Pendleton.

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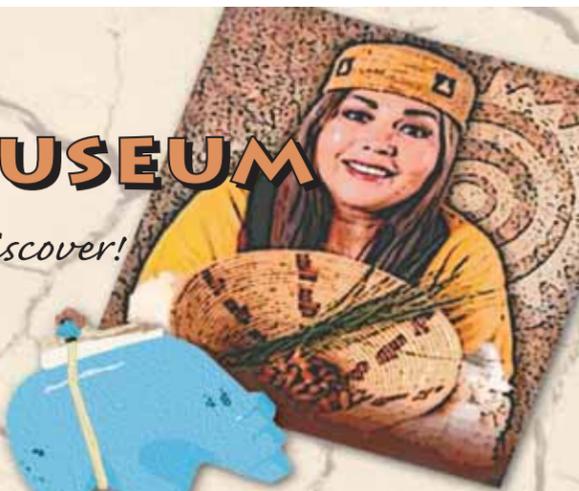
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Youth soccer kicks off on base

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports soccer program began with evaluations and scrimmages last week at Victory and Felix fields.

The children participating in soccer will be able to play against other teams their age and skill level while learning the fundamentals of soccer and improving their proficiency.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

A young soccer player carries the ball up the field during soccer evaluations at Victory Field for the Marine Corps Community Services youth sports soccer program Aug. 25.

During the evaluations and scrimmages, coaches graded the children on their speed, ball control and passing. The children are placed into evenly matched teams determined by their skill level.

"I am very excited for soccer this year," said Annette Mayer, Twentynine Palms, Calif., resident and a mother with three children participating in soccer this year. "My kids absolutely love soccer. This is their chance to meet new kids."

By making the teams even in skill level, the children have a chance to experience winning and losing games, which makes overall good sportsmanship and doesn't have one team dominating over the entire league, said Joe Rosselli, MCCA Youth Sports director.

Courtney Chambers, MCCA Youth Sports recreation assistant, works alongside Rosselli and a few volunteer coaches to put together the teams and schedules for all the age groups. Chambers, along with other recreation assistants, are present at every practice and game to ensure the safety of all the children and to pass on any news about the season to the coaches and parents.

"Being out on the field is the best part of my job," said Chambers, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native. "It's great to watch the kids have fun and learn new things."

The first practices started Wednesday. The teams will practice twice a week until Sept. 25, when they will substitute one practice for a game. The season will end the week of Nov. 7 with every child receiving a trophy for their hard work and dedication throughout the season, said Rosselli.

There are 20 teams for children ages 4 and 5, eight teams for children 6 and 7, six



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Joe Rosselli, Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports director helps a player during evaluations for the youth soccer program at Victory Field Aug. 25.

teams for children 8 to 9, four teams for children 10 and 11, and two teams for children 12 to 14. Start Smart Soccer, which is for 3- and 4-year-olds, is also beginning with 60 children participating and learning the fundamentals of playing soccer.

"When the kids participate in this program they learn two things: fun and fundamentals," said Rosselli, a Shenandoah, Penn., native. "It is an age-appropriate program where they learn the skills they need to go on to the next level."

Ages 7 and younger participate in a non-competitive league, that instructs the children on the fundamentals of soccer without the children worrying about scoring and winning.

Children in the 10 to 14 age group also play with teams of the same age group

from the Twentynine Palms Park and Recreation soccer program.

Due to sponsorship from American Friends of our Armed Forces, the registration fee has dropped to \$25, and the children receive World Cup-style uniforms that include jersey, soccer shorts and socks.

Since the registration fee has dropped and the base is growing in numbers the soccer program has grown to include an extra 75 children this soccer season, said Rosselli.

Although the season has already begun, the program is still open to volunteers wishing to coach or referee.

For more information regarding youth soccer, contact MCCA youth sports director Rosselli at 830-3380.

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 29 Palms

KIDS, from A1

native. "We are looking at the whole family picture now, and not just the spouses."

During the session, L.I.N.K.S. volunteers and MCFTB staff discussed a variety of topics familiar to military families, such as frequent moves, making new friends, deployments, involvement in the community, recreation activities, internet safety and patriotism.

"I learned that Marines learn that all other Marines are brothers," said Josiah Hall, 9-year-old son of Amy and Lt. Col. Richard D. Hall, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "There are also sisters in the Marines."

Between sessions, children were permitted several snack breaks and group time with other children.

Children were also taught the Marine Corps motto "Semper Fidelis", the Marine's Hymn, the phonetic alphabet and the golden rule of treating

others the way you'd like to be treated.

Perry Ford, Marine Corps Family Team Building director, said he is seeing more participation from family members of units who offered limited involvement in the past.

"The L.I.N.K.S. for Kid's is such a good idea because it allows the kids to feel like they are part of the situation," said Ford, a Houston native. "We help them put into perspective all the places they've been and all the things they've done."

L.I.N.K.S., L.I.N.K.S. for Kid's L.I.N.K.S. for Teens and Parent's L.I.N.K.S. work to educate family members on the family they were born, sworn or married into, said Katrina Pride, L.I.N.K.S. mentor. The L.I.N.K.S. for Marines works in a similar way, only reversed.

"The L.I.N.K.S. for Marines can really help a Marine related to the spouse and kids," said Pride. "It would really help them see what families go through."

Dan Cole, Life Skills trainer, is

a retired chief warrant officer 4 and said even he learned from L.I.N.K.S. sessions.

"I was in the Marine Corps for 24 years, and when I went to L.I.N.K.S., I actually learned things about the Corps I didn't know," said Cole, a New Orleans, La., native.

At the closing of the last L.I.N.K.S. for Kid's session, children stood on a stool in front of the room and gave a speech about what they think of their family and the military.

Hall stood on the stool and set up a folding table in front of him like a podium.

"Marines do all kinds of things to help people," said Hall. "My dad is doing stuff like helping children, building wells and fighting the Taliban. Liberty is very valuable, and we need to keep it strong."

The next L.I.N.K.S. for Kid's is scheduled for Nov. 5 and 6, said Bilderain.

To learn more about L.I.N.K.S. sessions available on base, call 830-1696.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Justin Silvas, son of Staff Sgt. Jesse Silvas, manpower administration chief of Company A, Headquarters Battalion, receives his certificate of completion during the graduation of the first Kid's L.I.N.K.S. class Aug. 27.

RED CROSS, from A5

McBain went to college and became an English teacher for the seventh grade at Forest Grove Middle School in Florida. Two years later she moved to Philadelphia, applying for a job at the American Red Cross office.

While working with the American Red Cross, McBain helped reunite many families separated from disasters, including World War II Holocaust victims.

"She is a valuable asset to the American Red Cross," said Stephanie Jacobson, Combat Center's American Red Cross remote worker at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. "It can be 4:30 [p.m.] and everybody wants to go home but she is still there with a smile on her face. It can be two in the morning and she would still be happy to be at work."

Before she moved to the Combat Center, McBain had helped provide relief from over 100 natural disasters and more than 8,000 single family disasters.

For her hard work, McBain was promoted to Chapter Solutions Manager and

moved to Virginia where she was in charge of managing the American Red Cross budget.

By 2006, McBain was feeling disconnected from the American Red Cross' true meaning since she was not working with clients. Wanting to feel like she was helping again, she decided to work with the military.

"The war had already started, and I felt a need to help out," said McBain. "I told myself 'If I don't do this now I am never going to do it.'"

A year later, the American Red Cross sent McBain to the Combat Center to work as the station manager, train volunteers and assist with emergency messages. She worked closely with volunteers and service members, trying to help as many people as possible.

"The energy in the room is so much higher when she is there," said Brandy Hunter, American Red Cross volunteer records chair. "She encourages everyone to do their best."

Jacobson agreed with Hunter saying McBain inspires others to perform their

best in everything they do.

"She motivates others, it doesn't matter if they are volunteers, managers or an entire organization," said Jacobson. "She is very enthusiastic and very professional, which is a really infectious quality."

In February, McBain, now 30 years old, was told it was her turn to deploy to Iraq with the troops. While deployed she stayed at Camp Liberty in Baghdad. During her six-month deployment, she worked seven days a week, 12 hours a day to ensure every emergency situation was taken care of immediately.

"She came back home and had so much to teach us," said Hunter, a Boise, Idaho, native. "It is great that she was able to experience first-hand what our military goes through every day."

McBain and just three other volunteers managed an area in Iraq north of Baghdad and all of southern Iraq. During her deployment she processed 1,000 emergency messages a week.

"While she was gone she worked so hard for the men and women deployed,"

said Hunter. "She gave the service members a chance to e-mail and call home, and she made it seem easy to deliver emergency messages."

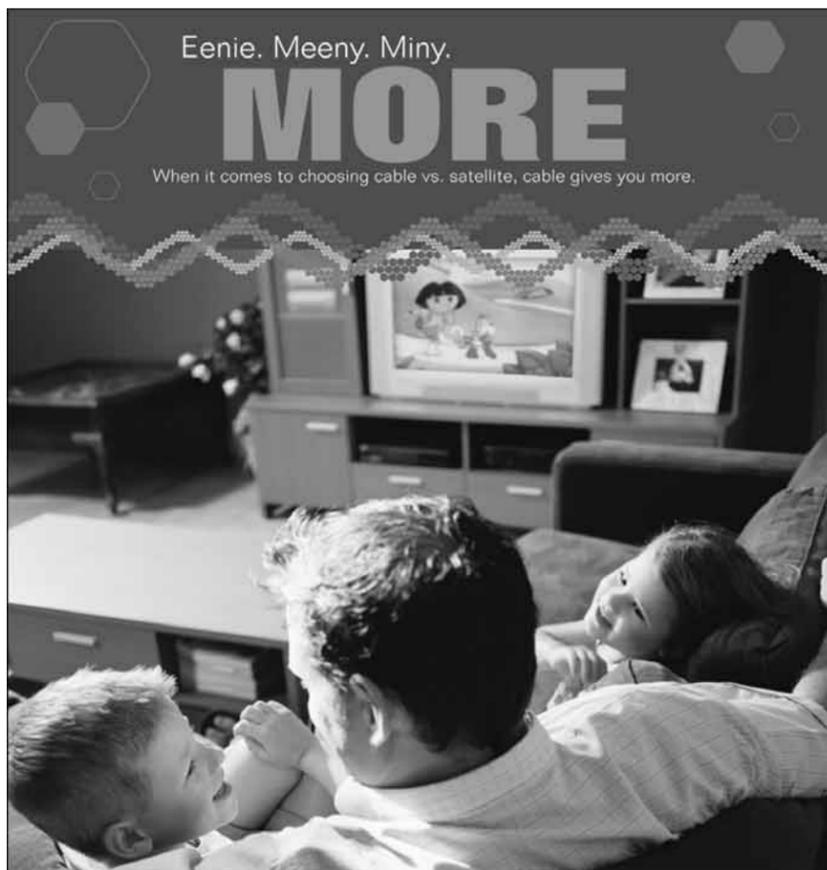
During her deployment she helped create Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in Baghdad. She also helped build an internet café aboard Camp Liberty that is now open to all service members.

"Some of the units had access to the internet but weren't able to give access to the general public," said McBain, who also opened a phone center and handed out free phone cards.

After her deployment, McBain came back to the Combat Center American Red Cross and instructed her volunteers in everything she had learned while deployed.

"It was great to interact with other services," said McBain. "Everything I learned from them, I can come back and train my volunteers and broaden their spectrum in the other services."

McBain said she will continue to serve aboard the Combat Center for the next four years, and is scheduled to deploy again in two.



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BAND, from A3

quick, which helps a lot and we've been moving forward ever since," he said.

The chemistry the band had early on is a great sign for things to come, Claire said.

"It's awesome. I couldn't ask for a better group of individuals," Claire explained. "Everyone seems to get along extremely well. There are not really any huge egos involved. There are some strong personalities, and we don't always agree on everything but it's great to see everybody get together and do the things they do."

Eddie Espinosa, Deep 6's lead guitarist and a member of the Combat Center Band, said his new band was just the thing he was looking for.

"I guess we formed it in the first place just for something to do — something that we love doing," he explained. "And that's exactly what I need right now, especially with my job. I don't really get a choice of what music I have to play, but here I have a little input in what we do and have way more freedom."

The band recently played their first show at a local bowling alley Aug. 29, which turned out better than they had expected, according to Espinosa.

"Our first show went great," he said. "There was a lot more people who came out than I had expected, and I think the crowd really liked it. It just went really well, and I think our only short-coming was we didn't go on for like another hour, because we could have with the crowd like it was."



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Sgt. Lee Sutton, a guitarist with Deep 6, performs with the band live for the first time.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Members of Deep 6, a recently created band consisting of eight Marines and civilians, perform for the first time to a live audience at a local bowling alley Aug. 29.

Becker said he couldn't have been more pleased with playing their first show and the way it turned out.

"I've been waiting to do this for as long as I can remember," he said. "I love to sing and overall it was a great show. We had a lot of people show up. We even got offers for a couple of other gigs. I'd definitely call it a success."

In this early stage of the band, Becker said the attitudes and the way the members interact is a huge determination in how good the band will do.

"When you put so many personalities together in one garage it can tend to be kind of hectic, so with that taken into consideration, we really get along really well," he said. "It's really easy playing together. We play off of each other really well, personality-wise and musically, and when something doesn't quite match we realize it fairly quickly and get back to where we

need to be."

But not everything can run so smoothly when you have eight members, all with numerous other obligations.

"The different schedules — that's got to be the toughest part," Becker said. "A lot of people have sacrificed a lot of things to make this happen."

Espinosa said the sacrifices are worth it though, when it comes to helping out the band.

"A week before the concert we practiced every night, and I was waking up at 4:45 in the morning to go to my gray belt course and then straight to work and straight to practice right after that," he said. "So it's long hours, but you make the sacrifices where you have to."

At this point in time, it's unclear where the band will take everyone involved, Espinosa said. But they're all ready for the ride.

"This is just a lot of fun, that's all I want to do," he said. "Play a couple of gigs and mainly just make sure everyone has a great time, while possibly coining a few dollars on the side."

The next show Deep 6 is scheduled to play is Oct. 18 during the Pioneer Days festival, which Becker said he looks forward to, just like every other time the band gets together.

"It's been more than great. I'd still be working 10 hours a day, then going home and doing not a whole lot of anything," he said. "So I'm really grateful they pulled me into this band. It's really made my life a lot more enjoyable."

Becker said the name Deep 6 comes from a nautical term for throwing everything overboard that you don't need. But he said the way this band is headed it doesn't look like they'll need to be dumping anything anytime soon.

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PROJECTS, from A1

Appropriations for Military Construction, added Sadlier. Until these upcoming projects are complete however, temporary facilities will need to be provided for billeting, warehouses, administration, maintenance and armory for personnel who cannot use the existing that are already filled to capacity. These temporary structures will take the form of trailers and portable armories and will be located throughout the Combat Center.

Aside from accounting for the new bodies scheduled to become residents here, several other quality of life projects are slated to begin

this year and early next year, said Lt. Cmdr. Allen Sullivan, Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction. **These projects include:**

- Installation of a children's water park near the Heritage Memorial Park
- Several dog runs at various locations
- A new gas station with a mini-mart
- Cooling and heating systems at the chow hall facility at Camp Wilson
- Construction of a Marine Corps Training and Education Command complex
- Construction of a new 1st Tank Battalion company facility
- Renovation of The Zone
- Construction of an Armed Services YMCA children's playground
- Safety lighting and sidewalks for pedestrians across base and a new skate park

Several of these projects, like the skate park and water park, have already been awarded contracts from construction companies and are expected to begin this year, said Sullivan, a Rolla, Kan., native.

"The skate park is going to have rails and trick boxes," said Sullivan. "It's still under design so we're not sure of just what will be included yet."

Some Marines say they're excited about the new recreational options they'll have after construction of these projects.

"I think any activity you can do where you can involve your wife and kids and not have to leave base is great," said Sgt. Johnny Francisco, training tank noncommissioned officer-in-charge. Francisco hales from Castro

Valley, Calif., and resides on base housing. "That does two things for you. It allows you to spend quality time with your family and it saves you money; especially with the rise in gas prices."

Other Marines said although they're happy with the new recreational activities being constructed on base, they would also like to see others options offered as well.

"I think the water park is a great idea since it's so hot out," said Pfc. Charlie Bailey, supply warehouse clerk with Consolidated Material Support Center, Headquarters Battalion, and resident of the HQBN barracks. "I think I'd also like to see a mini putt-putt golf course built."

These projects are estimated to cost in an excess of \$750,000,

said Sullivan. The Combat Center Public Works Division is responsible for the planning process of all major base construction projects, while the ROICC executes the plans.

A majority of these projects are slated to be finished by spring, said Sullivan.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

The Combat Center is scheduled to begin several construction projects this year and early next year in link with "Grow the Force," a Marine Corps-wide initiative aimed at expanding force and numbers funded by congressional appropriations for military construction.

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3/11 leads the way in fire and maneuver



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

The Marines of Lima Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, start off a fire mission with the first of 11 rounds during the battalion's support of 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment's Mojave Viper at the Combat Center Aug. 28.

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, performed the traditional role of an artillery battalion for the first time in nearly three years during their support of 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during their Mojave Viper pre-deployment training.

3/11 has been the first unit to return to their primary mission, functioning with battalion-sized strength in support of another unit.

"The core competency of artillery is to shoot and maneuver in support of an infantry or mechanized unit," said Lt. Col. James C. Lewis, 3/11's battalion commander and a native of Lincoln, Neb. "The Marine Corps asked for a unit to perform the mission of fire and maneuver, and we accepted the challenge. The battalion is the first to do so in almost three years."

Lewis said the operation was done to get 3/11 to focus as an artillery unit again.

"We're making a renewed push for artillery skills in our young Marines and officers," said Lewis. "An exercise like this has usually been conducted with the strength of only one battery, but now that we have the entire battalion here, we are able to keep other batteries firing and relocate another. The ability of a battery by itself to fire and maneuver is very poor, there are not enough guns to be effective, but with using the entire battalion we are able to."

Capt. Stephen Ford, battalion operations officer and a native of Gage, Okla., said the battalion is becoming much stronger at their job as artillery thanks to operations such as this one.

"We're getting better, we train in the field more than any other artillery unit in the Marine Corps I think," Ford explained. "You can really see that it is starting to pay off. We move faster when we maneuver, and we are getting better and more accurate at calling in

fire where, when and however the other unit needs it."

Instead of just firing to kill, the battalion uses different types of ammunition when supporting another unit, said Cpl. Omar Pena, a section chief with 3/11 and a native of Alliantec, Neb.

The battalion fired several types of rounds from their M777A2 howitzers, said Pena. High explosive, white phosphorous, and illumination rounds were fired throughout this operation. The HE rounds were used to blow stuff up and the white phosphorous to mark targets for air strikes. Illumination rounds can also be used to mark targets on the ground, or the fuse can be set to explode in the air and allow the round to light an area wherever the Marines calling in for fire may need it.

The battalion was able to properly support the exercise by using all the different rounds they had and assist in calling in air strikes as well.

"We're not just putting rounds

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 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.

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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. Sept. - 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 Sept. 11

C&E Barracks Building 1666

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

Friday

Christ Chapel

Gospel Rehearsal - 5 p.m.

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on the target, we're able to also mark areas for fire from the air with our white phosphorous and illumination rounds," added Pena. "That's like what you'd see overseas and in a normal CAX (combined arms exercise)."

The battalion is growing stronger in their ability to accomplish their mission by fire and

maneuver and is the first one to do so in quite a while, said Lewis.

"Our Marines are doing well out here," said Lewis. "By the time we're deployed we will be able to easily go through fire mission after fire mission without any real issues, and be able to better support the unit that needs us when they need it."

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Marines become provisional Helicopter Support Teams

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 finished training 15 Marines from 7th Marine Regiment's Communications and Motor Transportation platoons to become provisional Helicopter Support Teams with a night external load operation outside the Expeditionary Airfield Aug. 28.

The Marines performed the night operation as a final practical application after participating in classes and training for most of the month.

"These Marines have been going through this training for awhile now," said Cpl. Greyson Escareno, the landing support chief for CLB-7 and the main instructor during the training. "I have taken both the communications and the motor transportation teams out separately to do external load lifts, but since this was their final exercise I brought both the teams out and had them basically in a competition to see who could do better."

Helicopter Support Teams perform external load operations where Marines on the ground hook up cargo with a harness to a hovering helicopter, which then extracts the load to the necessary location.

The cargo that HST Marines load can range from food and ammunition, to artillery and

Humvees, and different types of cargo require different amounts of crew, according to Lance Cpl. Mark Williams, a landing support specialist with the battalion. For the training however, the Marines used training blocks.

"The loads we are lifting are 10,000-pound cement slabs with dual-point harnesses, so that means you need more men underneath the helicopter because you have two hooks," he explained. "You need two static men and two hook-up men automatically, instead of single point where you only need one of each."

The hook-up men are the Marines that actually connect the cargo's harness to the helicopter, while the static men serve as an important safety measure.

"The static man has an extremely important job," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Shirley-Flores, a field radio operator with 7th Marines and a participant in the training. "He has to use a grounding hook to make sure the static electricity conducted by the helicopter is grounded. Otherwise it can explode and end up killing a Marine."

A CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, that flew in from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., performed several loading and extracting flights for each of the HSTs training.

Escareno said training Marines with different occupational spe-

cialties to be on an HST is important because any unit can take advantage of their capabilities.

"The capabilities of an HST are being used quite a bit in theater," he said. "Instead of having a convoy of vehicles with security and all the support that goes along with that, to supply units with gear, water or chow, you can just do an HST because you get the same stuff but the helicopter does all the work for you. It's a quicker, faster and more efficient way to get materials to and from places without using convoys with all the dangers, such as IEDs. So training more Marines how to do it will broaden the capabilities of whatever unit the Marines are trained at."

After each team performed their series of external loads, Escareno announced that the motor transportation Marines had a faster time loading the helicopter than the communication Marines, ending the informal competition, but he said no matter what both teams should be proud of their work.

"Neither team did badly. They were both pretty good actually, especially from just getting a class from myself and not actually being in this MOS (military occupational specialty)," he explained.

Escareno said, from what he's seen, he has confidence the Marines he's trained will be able to bring HST capabilities to any unit they serve with.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

A CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 that flew in from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., prepares to begin night external load operations for Marines of 7th Marine Regiment's Motor Transportation and Communication platoons who ended their training to become provisional Helicopter Support Teams Aug. 28 outside the Expeditionary Airfield.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines from 7th Marine Regiment's Communications and Motor Transportation platoons perform nighttime external load operations with a CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., during their final exercise to become a provisional Helicopter Support Team outside the Expeditionary Airfield Aug. 28.

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SNIPERS, from A7

attend a sniper school to enhancing the skills they have already learned, added Griffith.

Johnson agreed, saying basic skills are taken care of long before a Marine is hand-picked to attend a sniper school at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Marine Corps Base Hawaii; or Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Scout snipers are also trained in medical assistance, rules of low visibility, ballistic physics, weapon systems, security, gathering intelligence, target assessment, land navigation, communication and more, added Johnson.

Traditionally, Marine Corps snipers work in two-man teams consisting of a shooter and a spotter, said Johnson. The solitary nature of being a sniper or spotter demands tireless patience and focus.

"Snipers are used to being completely self-contained," he explained. "They can carry as much as 20 quarts of water and an 80-pound full combat load of mission-essential gear on them for a three-day mission."

Griffith also reiterated the

importance of a sniper's individual performance.

"Snipers have to be able to think, react and run quickly," said Griffith. "They don't have that backup an infantry battalion has. The easiest way for a sniper to survive is to not be compromised."

Cpl. Ronald P. Lashley, 1/7 scout sniper, said he takes great pride in his title as a sniper.

"Scout sniper platoons are the only reconnaissance and surveillance asset organic to an infantry battalion," said Lashley, a Great Falls, Mont., native. "I like the small team operations and knowing what we can do to the enemy psychologically. For them it's like fighting an invisible foe. We don't have to kill someone to take them out of the fight."

Hathcock quoted a well-known passage written by President Theodore Roosevelt called "The Man in Arena" that expresses the challenge and valor that comes to those who are brave enough to fight. In these lines, those who have not sacrificed or bled for a cause may understand the motivation that drives courageous men like Hathcock and those who strive to become just as legendary.

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VMU-1 from, A1

have deployed to Iraq with the Shadow—the first being in early 2008, marking the first time the Marine Corps tested the vehicle, which replaced the older Pioneer UAV, in a combat environment.

“The Shadow is head over heels better than any other system we’ve had, and this training just makes sure we know what we’re doing so we’ll be able to use it to its full potential,” said Maj. Lance Arp, the executive officer of VMU-1. “We also wanted to get all of our qualifications completed so when we hit the ground in Iraq we have everything in place to where we can immediately start flying vehicles.”

The Shadow enables Marines to deliver intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support to a multitude of different units, including U.S. Army units, by “providing an eye in the sky” with an electro-optical and infrared camera that relays video in real-time, Arp explained.

“Providing the UAV’s definitely affects the battlefield for both the Marine Corps and its

enemies. It shapes it in our favor,” he said. “For one thing, the enemies we’re facing now do not have anything near this capability, which means we have the high ground that leans the table in our favor 100 percent of the time. As long as the units we’re supporting can see our picture, they’ve got a leg up on the enemy.”

With the ability to fly at an altitude of 15,000 feet, a range of more than 77 miles and a flight time of up to six hours, the Shadow is not only technologically advanced, but practical, said Cpl. Keegan Keith, a UAV operator with VMU-1.

“It’s launched from a rail, which is basically like a sling shot,” he explained. “That means we can launch practically anywhere, and it’s also really easy to maintain — especially compared to the old system.”

During the training, the Watchdogs provided support for 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, while they were conducting their own pre-deployment training.

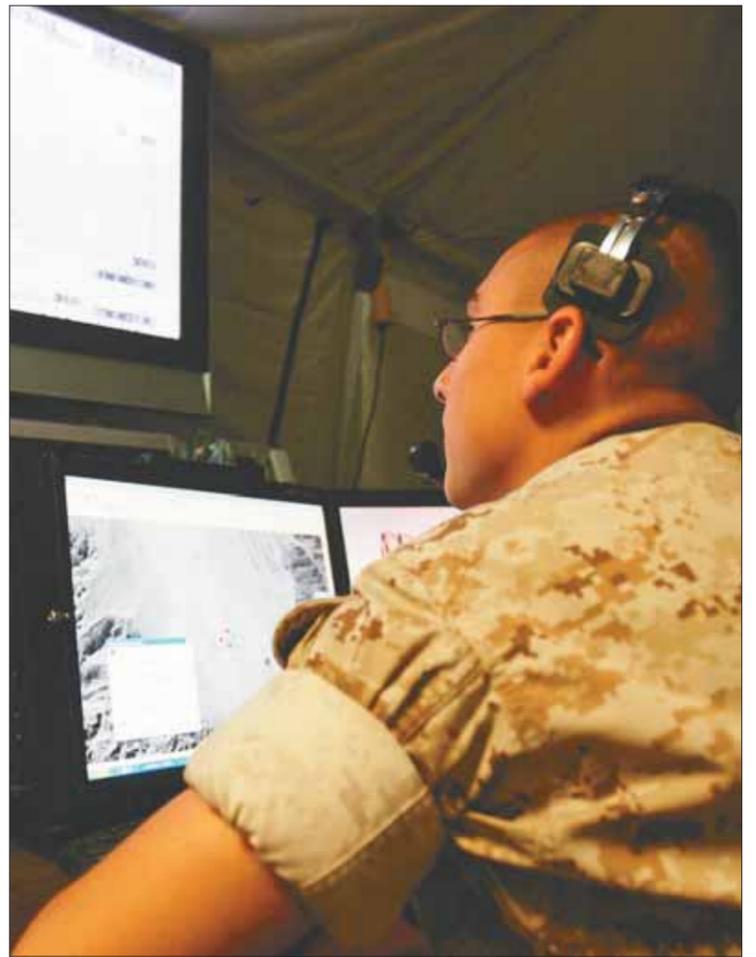
“We’re flying missions for 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, who are in Mojave Viper before

heading to Iraq themselves, and that makes the training for us that much better,” Arp said during the exercise. “If they can get a good, warm and fuzzy feeling with us here before we all get to Iraq, then they can understand that we’re out there and we can help them.”

Cpl. David Baez, a UAV operator with the squadron, said that training alongside units who are also deploying in the near future advances the already extremely successful cohesion between UAV squadrons and other units in combat zones.

“This type of training, along with just having the UAV in theater, has made our combined capabilities extremely tighter with greater success and the war on terrorism easier to complete,” he said. “It’s gotten to the point now that a lot of terrorists these days know that too. When they hear that bird buzzing, they get scared and start scattering to get out of there, real quick.”

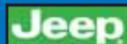
The Watchdogs are scheduled to deploy in the fall for their sixth deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Lance Cpl. Robert Landreth, an intelligence specialist with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, observes the flight path of the RQ-7 Shadow UAV during the squadron’s last training exercise at the Expeditionary Airfield Aug. 27 before deploying to Iraq.

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