

# OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

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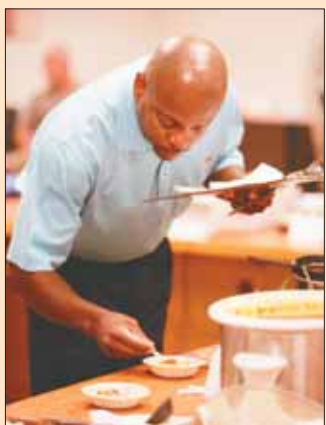
6 Marine wives walk the catwalk



7 Young Marines execute Operation DVD

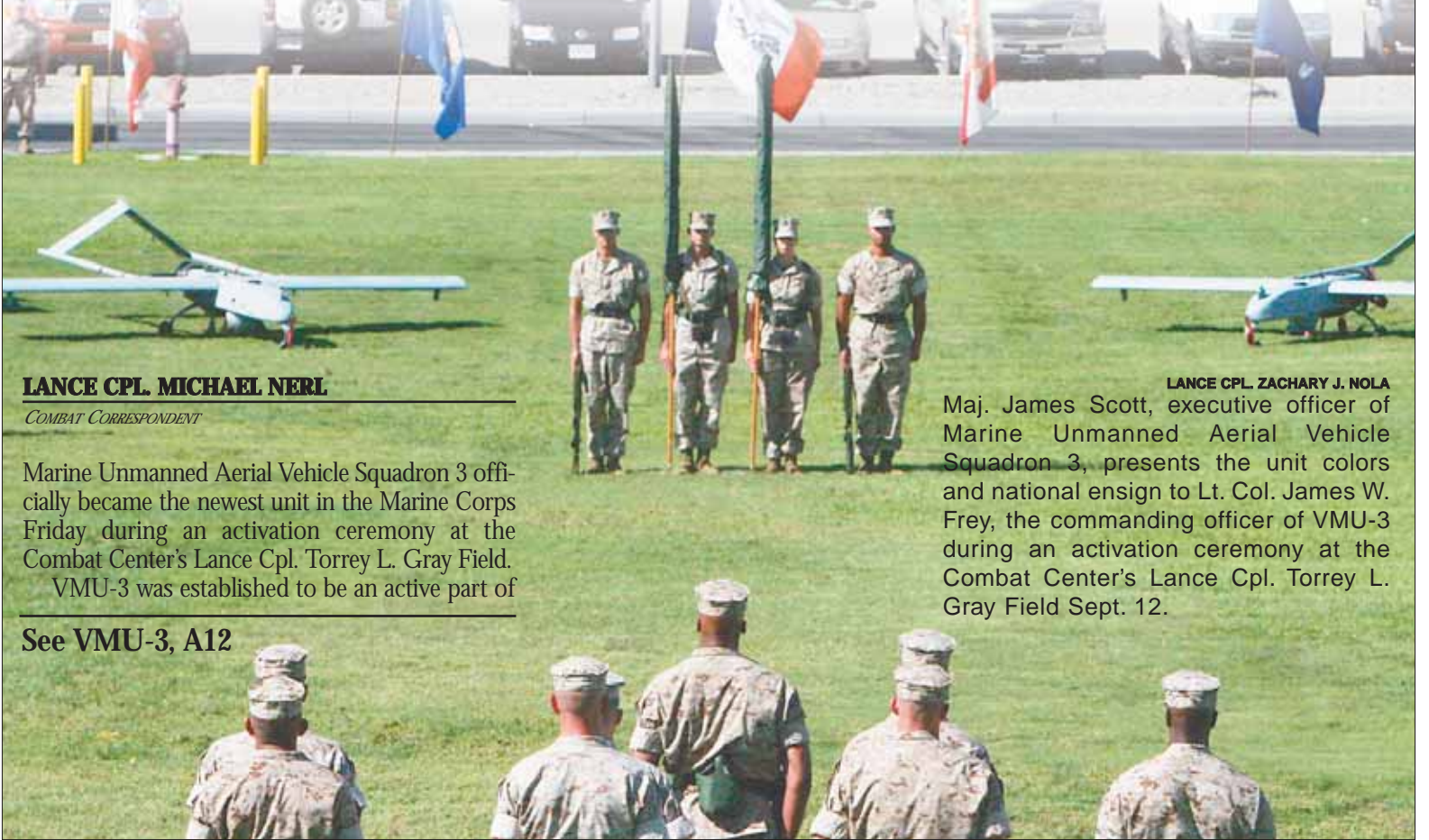


9 VMGR-234, MWSS-374 drop chow off a plane



11 Charity chili and chocolate challenge

## Corps welcomes newest unit



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 officially became the newest unit in the Marine Corps Friday during an activation ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. VMU-3 was established to be an active part of

See VMU-3, A12

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Maj. James Scott, executive officer of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, presents the unit colors and national ensign to Lt. Col. James W. Frey, the commanding officer of VMU-3 during an activation ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Sept. 12.

## Wingers, grunts, engineers given warm home greetings

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, have been returning to the Combat Center from Iraq all this week.

Each unit had deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, for approximately seven months in support of the Global War on the Radical Islamic Movement. MWSS-374 and 3/4 deployed in February while CEB followed suit in April.

More than 1,200 service members will have returned home after the final wave from 3/4

arrives this weekend.

3rd CEB was reactivated as a fully-operational unit in November after about a 12-year stall, said 1st Sgt. Manuel Colon, Company A first sergeant, 3rd CEB, in an article written in the Observation Post Nov. 5.

The unit, which is currently only made up of a single company until it fully stands up, focuses mainly on mobility and counter-mobility, and has added humanitarian assistance, civic action operations and disaster relief to its list since its reactivation, according to the article.

3/4 was replaced by 3rd

See HOME, A15



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Nick Bertrand, vehicle commander with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, shares a moment with his wife, Felicity, during the 3/4, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 homecoming at Victory Field Tuesday.

## 2/7's medical assistance for Afghans tips scales



CPL. STEVE CUSHMAN

Seaman Oscar Medrano, a corpsman assigned to Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, examines an Afghan patient during a medical capabilities health cooperative Aug. 24.

CPL. STEVE CUSHMAN

2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

FARAH PROVINCE, DELARAM, Afghanistan — Local Afghans recently flocked to a renovated boys' school here seeking help for a variety of ailments.

Providing care to more than 180 patients, Marines and sailors assigned to Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, hosted the third major Medical Capabilities, or MedCap, health cooperative to reach out to

Afghan residents requiring medical and dental care.

As infantrymen assigned to Company G provided security on the outside of the school, Marines and sailors from 3rd Civil Affairs Group and the Battalion Aid Station, respectively, were inside administering examinations and handing out medications.

Because the civil affairs team cannot provide a normal clinic setting where they can regularly follow-up with their Afghan patients, they focus on

See MEDICAL, A15

### This Day in Marine Corps History

-September 20, 1994-

1,900 Marines land in Haiti.

# New TRICARE prime fee payment process

**TIFFANY ANDERSON**  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

TRICARE rules are expected to change regarding how your TRICARE Prime enrollment fees are paid.

As early as 2010, Prime beneficiaries will need to begin making their enrollment fee payments via electronic means. However, not everyone pays enrollment fees, so please note whether this applies to you:

- You DO pay fees if you are enrolled in TRICARE Prime as a retired service member, the family of a retired service member, a survivor or an eligible former spouse.
- You DO NOT pay fees if you are enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote as an active duty service member, the family of an active duty service member or a transitional survivor of an active duty service member. There are also no fees associated with standard coverage.

These changes to payment of enrollment fees mean that those TRICARE enrollees who pay enrollment fees will be required to pay them by one of the following methods:

- Allotment from the sponsor's retired military pay; or
- Electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your financial institution established directly to TriWest; or
- Recurring credit card (Visa® or MasterCard®).

When these changes become effective, the only time a check payment will be accepted is for the first payment to cover the next quarterly period while an allotment or other electronic means of payment is being processed.

If you are currently making your TRICARE Prime enrollment fee payments electronically, no action is needed, unless you are signed up for an online bill pay with your bank. This may mean that a physical check is being cut from your bank and mailed to TriWest, and a change such as an EFT is needed to become compliant with TRICARE's electronic requirement.

Luckily, it's easy to register and get started. To begin, simply log on to <http://www.triwest.com/epay>. Paying online has several positive features. For example:

1. Security. TriWest uses a secure Web site, certified through the Defense Information Security Accreditation Program, leaving you the peace of mind that comes with secured access while managing your family's health care.
2. Convenience. At a glance, view payment history, claims status or receive instant updates through QuickAlert e-mails notifying you when an authorization or specialty referral has been processed.
3. Timely payments. Save yourself the worry of writing and mailing checks, therefore helping to eliminate risk of missing payments, which could result in disenrollment from Prime.
4. Less relocation worries. When your payments are electronic, you'll have one less stop to make on your move so you can concentrate on what matters most.
5. Automatic payments. Automated payments take one more worry off your plate each month.

To start your electronic payments:

**Online:**

Registered users can log on to [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com). Non-registered users can create an account at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) and receive a password within minutes. Click "Online Payment" and provide the information required for your payment option (allotment, EFT, or credit card).

**By mail:**

Go to <http://www.triwest.com> and select "Find A Form" from the Quick Links section to download and print an allotment or EFT/Recurring Credit Card form. Complete the applicable form, sign and mail it with your initial fee payment to:

**TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp.**

P.O. Box 43590  
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3590

Learn more about making your electronic payments by logging on to <http://www.triwest.com/epay> or calling 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. A representative will answer any questions and better inform you about online Web registration or help you establish an electronic fee payment.

## VOWEL SHIFT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15					16					
17								18					
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37				38	39	40			41		42		
43			44		45				46	47			
48				49				50					
			51				52						
53	54	55				56	57			58	59	60	61
62					63		64			65			
66							67						
68							69					70	

© MacNamara's Band, Inc.

**ACROSS**

1. It's left on the table
4. \_\_\_ B'rith
8. Review harshly
14. Seafood bucketful
16. Supporter of the arts
17. First Lady, 1969-74
18. Go to
19. Smelter's waste
20. "So long!"
22. Boxcars pair, in dice
23. Abbr. on a phone
25. Ill-humored
27. Star-related
30. Personal vexation
34. Sandal part
35. \_\_\_ for (choose)
36. Skirt feature
37. Clamp shape
38. Refueling break
42. Volcano spew
43. Part of AD
45. \_\_\_ tai cocktail
46. Sine or cosine

**DOWN**

48. "Yankee" dish
50. Catlike carnivores
51. Soft shot, in tennis
52. \_\_\_ duck
53. Defame, in a way
56. Huge expanses
58. Speakeasy risk
62. Portugal's peninsula
64. Save for later
66. Defeating, in chess
67. Applied, as a patch
68. Roy G. Biv part
69. Links ride
70. English cathedral city

**DOWN**

1. Dosage amts.
2. Slanted: Abbr.
3. "Fur is dead" org.
4. Tune smiths' org.
5. Name in cell phones
6. Loud, as a crowd
7. "\_\_\_ She Lovely" (Stevie Wonder hit)
8. Rest-cure site
9. Fries go-with
10. Decks out
11. "Jurassic Park" predator, for short
12. Put an edge on
13. Reaches the coda
15. Fur-bearing goat
21. Highly capable
24. "Hair" producer Joseph
26. Conductor Klemperer
27. Tune smiths' org.

28. Short hand pro
29. 16th-century council site
30. Assume as fact
31. Send sky-high
32. Drop in on
33. Cultural mores
39. "\_\_\_ old cowhand..."
40. To-do list items
41. Proper partner
44. Call for a pie, say
47. Disinclined
49. Lubing
50. Pollux's twin
52. Designer Ashley
53. Car for a star
54. Construction beam
55. \_\_\_-carotene
57. "Ben Hur," e.g.
59. Right-hand man
60. Object of reverence
61. Plead innocent to
63. Ripen, like cheese
65. Picnic pest

[Solutions on A5]

## Centerspeak

### What is the most romantic thing you've ever done for someone?

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



LANCE CPL. JAMERA JORDAN  
POST OFFICE, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I bought them a birthday card with those big 'I love you' balloons and a teddy bear."



CPL. BEN BRASHEAR  
3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

"The night I proposed to my wife was really romantic. I'd just returned to Tennessee from Iraq. I decorated the hotel room with rose petals and candles and took her out for dinner. Then I arranged for a horse and carriage to take us around Nashville, and I proposed at the Symphony Center."



SGT. CHRIS RODRIGUEZ  
G-4, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I ran up Sand Hill with a girl I was dating and gave her a really good kiss."

## Employee Spotlight

**Name:** Amanda Martinez  
**Job Title:** Recreation Assistant  
**Organization:** Marine Corps Community Services Community Center



**Job Duties:** All administrative work, building reservations, liaison to all other facilities, budgeting, employee training, oversees adherence to safety requirements and training as the collateral duty safety officer.

**Hometown:** Freeland, Mich.

**Hobbies:** Scrap booking, playing the piano, playing with my dog

**What Do You Like Most About Your Job:** The people I get to meet every day, and the friends I have made.

**Significant Achievements:** Broadening the responsibilities and duties of the position.

**Military Service:** None, wife of Cpl. Daniel Martinez, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

**Time At The Combat Center:** Two years

## OBSERVATION POST

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

- |                        |                           |                |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Public Affairs Officer | Jennie E. Haskamp         | Editor         | Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes |
| Public Affairs Chief   | Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Cox | Press Chief    | Cpl. Regina N. Ortiz      |
|                        |                           | Layout, Design | Leslie Shaw               |

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<b>FRI. 9/19</b> <b>"Taste of Morongo Basin" Art Fundraiser</b> Time: 5:30 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Rd. For more info call 366-8415	<b>FRI. 9/19</b> <b>Kid Rock at Fantasy Springs</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info call 342-5000 or visit <a href="http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com">http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</a>	<b>NOW THRU 10/4</b> <b>Theatre 29: Camelot</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Rd., 29 Palms For more info call 361-4151 or visit <a href="http://www.theatre29.com">http://www.theatre29.com</a>	<b>SAT. 9/20</b> <b>Sun Runner &amp; Studio Godot Grand Opening</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: The Sun Runner Magazine, 61855 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree For more info call 366-2700 or visit <a href="http://www.thesunrunner.com">http://www.thesunrunner.com</a>	<b>SAT. 9/20</b> <b>Groves Cabin Theater: 12 Angry Men</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Groves Cabin Theatre, 8768 Desert Willow Trl., Morongo Valley For more info call 365-4523
<b>SAT. 9/20 &amp; SUN. 9/21</b> <b>Public Sound Baths</b> Time: 12 p.m. Where: Integratron 2477 Belfield Blvd., Landers For more info visit <a href="http://www.integratron.com">http://www.integratron.com</a> or e-mail: <a href="mailto:integratron@gmail.com">integratron@gmail.com</a>	<b>TUES. 9/23</b> <b>Golden Age of Radio</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Rancho Mirage Public Library, 71-100 Hwy. 111 Free to the public For more info call 341-7323 or visit <a href="http://www.rancho Mirage library.org">http://www.rancho Mirage library.org</a>	<b>THURS. 9/25</b> <b>Boxing: Williams vs Kalle &amp; Arreola vs Garcia</b> Time: 6 p.m. Where: Soboba Arena, 23333 Soboba Rd. San Jacinto For more info call (866) 476-2622 or visit <a href="http://www.soboba.com">http://www.soboba.com</a>	<b>THURS. 9/25</b> <b>City of Palm Springs Free Fall Concert Series</b> Jazz concert featuring-The Chris Compton Project Time: 7 - 8:30 p.m. Where: Sunrise Park, 401 S. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs For more info call 323-8272	<b>THURS. 9/25</b> <b>Concert: Alejandro Fernandez</b> Time: 8:30 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort, 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (888) 667-6646 or visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinoresort.com">http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</a>

# Somebody Loves You in October

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Somebody Loves You, an evangelist ministry, is scheduled to visit the Combat Center Oct. 25 at Victory Field for Marines, sailors, their families and surrounding community for a free public event to spread the word of God.

The event will be led by Raul Ries, the featured guest speaker of Somebody Loves You. Ries is a Marine veteran from Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who served in Vietnam. He is now the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Golden Springs, in Diamond Bar, Calif.

"Ries has a special place in his heart for military personnel and their families," said Charlene Voelkl, a project coordinator with Somebody Loves You. "As a veteran, he vividly recalls his deployment to Vietnam and the many memories he brought back with him"

The event is also scheduled to have a barbeque, a motocross exhibition, and a concert with Darryl Worley and the Christian rock band, Disciple.

The motocross exhibition is scheduled to have a demonstration from the motorcycle group Riders for Christ. There will be two shows, 30 minutes each, where the riders will perform various stunts and jumps.

With the motocross demonstration, more than 100 motorcyclists from different motorcycle clubs throughout San Bernardino County will show up to give their support, said Dave Ford, director of the Somebody Loves You event.

"They are going to show up double file and very patriotic," said Ford, a Diamond Bar, Calif., native. "Word spread we were coming and they wanted to be there and show their support for us and for the Marines."

Darryl Worley is a country singer who wrote "Have We Forgotten" in remembrance of the 9/11 terrorist attack. He has also shown his support to the United States military by traveling to Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq to perform for deployed service members.

Disciple is made up of a group of high school friends formed in 1992. They have received two Gospel Music Association Dove Awards and won the Inspirational Life Award of 2001 from their song "By God."

Face painting and balloon animal booths will also be set up for children attending the event. Members from the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel will be volunteering and handling differ-

ent activities throughout the day.

"I'm really looking forward to volunteering at the Somebody Loves You outreach ministry," said Laura Simmons, a volunteer at the Protestant Chapel. "I feel like it is a privilege and responsibility to share my love for Jesus."

Voelkl said Somebody Loves You is coming to the base to deliver a message of hope and to show that Jesus Christ loves everyone.

"Everybody goes through trials - especially service members," said Voelkl. "We're just trying to show people that these trials can be a lot easier when God is giving you strength."

The gates will open to the public at 4 p.m. For more information contact the Protestant Chapel at 830-6464.

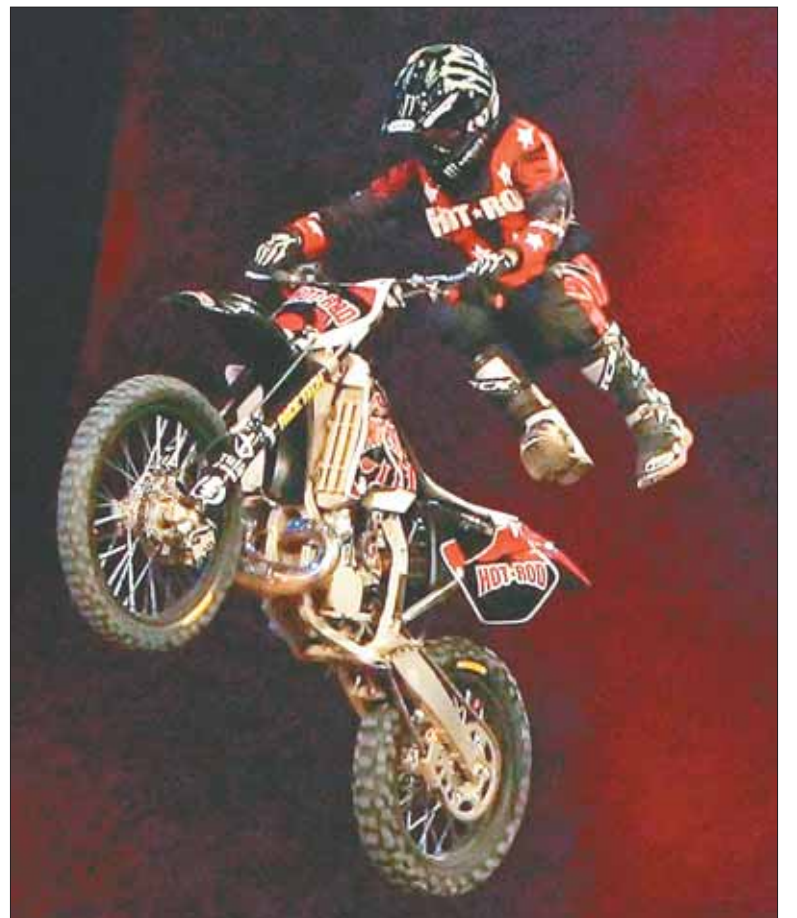
**Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema**

<b>FRIDAY 9/19</b> <b>Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2</b> 6 p.m. - PG-13 <b>X-Files: I Want To Believe</b> 9 p.m. - PG-13 <b>Step Brothers</b> Midnight - R	<b>The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor</b> 6 p.m. - PG-13 <b>Swing Vote</b> 9 p.m. - PG-13 <b>Pineapple Express</b> Midnight - R	<b>MONDAY 9/22</b> <b>Tropic Thunder</b> 7 p.m. - R <b>TUESDAY 9/23</b> <b>No Movie</b> <b>WEDNESDAY 9/24</b> <b>X-Files: I Want To Believe</b> 7 p.m. - PG-13 <b>THURSDAY 9/25</b> <b>Step Brothers</b> 7 p.m. - R
<b>SATURDAY 9/20</b> <b>FREE Matinee</b> <b>Ice Age 2: The Melt Down</b> 11 a.m. - PG <b>Star Wars: The Clone Wars</b> 2 p.m. - PG	<b>SUNDAY 9/21</b> <b>No Movie at 2 p.m.</b> <b>Unit Function</b> <b>Sneak Preview</b> 6 p.m. - PG-13 <b>Step Brothers</b> 9 p.m. - R	

**Cinema 6**  
Showtimes Effective 9/19/08 - 9/25/08  
365-9633

<b>My Best Friends Girl</b> (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	<b>Burn After Reading</b> (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	<b>Righteous Kill</b> (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
<b>House Bunny</b> (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	<b>COMING SOON 9/26</b> <b>Eagle Eye 10/3</b> <b>Beverly Hills Chihuahua</b>	<b>ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00</b> • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 <a href="http://www.cinema6theatre.com">www.cinema6theatre.com</a>

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COURTESY PHOTO

Kyle Loza, an Evangelical freestyle Motocross rider with Riders 4 Christ, flies angelically while performing stunts during X Games 13 in Los Angeles. Riders 4 Christ will be performing during the Somebody Loves You event Oct. 25 at Victory Field.

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**COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

# American Red Cross messages keep Marines in touch during hard times

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's American Red Cross Chapter helps keep service members informed when they are stationed away from home in the event of a birth, death or a serious or critical illness in their immediate family.

For decades the Red Cross has kept families informed by relaying family emergency messages to the service members. This valuable service offers peace-of-mind when military men and women need it most – when family members back home need them due to medical reasons or natural disasters that impact their families. Although there are certain requirements before a message can be sent however.

The Red Cross can only send messages to service members regarding someone in their immediate family, which includes the service member's spouse, children, parents, grandparents or grandchildren.

"There are always exceptions to this rule," said Niki McBain, the Combat Center's American Red Cross station manager. "We have had a case where we sent a message to a Marine because his

cousin died. Normally we wouldn't do that, but this specific Marine grew up in the same house with his cousin, which made the cousin part of the Marine's immediate family."

The American Red Cross also needs to speak to the sender of the message to ensure they want to notify the service member. When the service member is notified they are capable of taking emergency leave to visit their family member in need.

"We have to verify a message before it is sent," said McBain. "If the message is not verified when sent, it is up to the Marine's command if they want to send them on emergency leave."

The only reason an American Red Cross emergency message will not be verified is if it is from a different country that does not have a Red Cross station, continued McBain.

When a family member is injured or ill, the American Red Cross must speak with the hospital or doctor treating the family member to find out the diagnosis, prognosis, life expectancy and the doctor's recommendation for the service member's presence before sending a message.

Gunnery Sgt. Randall

McMillon, with the Marksmanship Training Unit, had to go home on emergency leave after receiving a Red Cross message stating his parents had fallen ill from old age.

"The Red Cross was very timely getting the message to me," said McMillon, a Dayton, Tenn., native. "As soon as the message posted I was notified and was able to take emergency leave."

Messages can also be sent to service members if they are the victim of sexual battery and at risk for a sexually transmitted disease.

"In the case of informing a service member about their blood work and a possible STD, we will leave a message with the duty officer for that specific service member to call us back so it doesn't become general knowledge," said McBain.

The organization has also stopped sending health and welfare messages, which were sent to service members if their family was trying to get ahold of them and were unable to for an extended period of time.

"We stopped sending those because of today's technology," said McBain, a Jensen Beach, Fla., native. "If a Marine wants to stay in contact with his family, he can very easily stay in contact with them without our help."



## HOT TOPICS

### NMCRS VOLUNTEER REFRESHMENT EVENT

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is hosting a Volunteer Refreshment event to provide information to those interested in volunteering for NMCRS at the Community Center today from 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. There will be food, games and prizes with a free demonstration by Kindermusik.

### PREP WORKSHOP THURSDAY AND SEPT. 25

Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program is a two-day workshop teaching communication skills, ground rules for handling conflict and promoting intimacy for married or engaged couples. The program's aim is to prevent marital problems before they become too great to handle. PREP workshops are offered at the Protestant Chapel at no cost. Problem solving, building fun and friendship into your relationship, sensual/sexual enhancement, steps in forgiveness, how to handle expectations, and money matters are just a few of the topics. Child care is provided at no cost to those who need it. The next PREP workshop is Oct. 30 - 31. Call 830-6464 for information to enroll.

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS COMING

Pre-sale tickets are now on sale for the 11th Annual Chili Lunch at Combat Center Fire Department on Oct. 10. Tickets are discounted at \$2 each (\$3 at the door) and are good for a bowl of firehouse chili or a hot dog - all proceeds are donated to charity via the annual Combined Federal Campaign. For tickets contact your fire inspector or call the Fire Administration Office at 830-5239.

### 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.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

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

# Military Council of Catholic Women talk about faith

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Military Council of Catholic Women is an international organization that has many chapters throughout the world. The Combat Center is home to one of those chapters.

The Combat Center's MCCW holds meeting every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at the base's Catholic Chapel giving the women a chance to learn different aspects of their religion and study the bible.

"[MCCW] gives me time to dedicate more to my spiritual life," said Laure Nichols, MCCW member. "It also helps me give more time to strengthen my relationship with God."

The group has studied various books within the Bible and how to apply the teaching to their life. The group of women also began learning the timeline of the bible, educating themselves on Jesus' life and death and will begin to



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Women who have joined the Combat Center's Military Council of Catholic Women sit together and discuss the timeline of the Bible during a meeting at the Catholic Chapel Wednesday.

study the rosary, and the importance of prayer.

"MCCW strengthens my faith and teaches me more about my religion," said Beth DeSelms, MCCW's co-treasurer. "It is a place of fellowship for women

with like-minded ideas."

The organization currently has 15 members and is open to any active duty, reserve, and retired catholic female military members or a catholic military family member.

"We have women of all ages and ranks," said Sue Cruz, MCCW's president. "It is a very varied group with loads of experience and knowledge in their catholic faith. They are able to show us a different point of view, and we always learn something new every week."

They have also pledged a service commitment to the Hi-Desert Right-to-Life crisis pregnancy center in Yucca Valley, Calif., where they visit the center and volunteer their time to the women there.

Money they raise from fundraisers is also donated to various charitable organizations and

programs throughout the surrounding community, said DeSelms, a Phoenix, native.

"We are currently selling a cookbook we put together as one of our fundraisers," continued DeSelms.

The organization also acts as a women's support group, giving members a group of positive friends to help them through any issues and problem they may have, said Cruz.

"We are not as well-known as the Christian Women's Fellowship, but our small group experiences such great support from one another," said Cruz, a West Palm Beach, Fla., native. "It is very enriching to know we are there for each other, but it also helps us grow in our faith."

For more information regarding Military Council of Catholic Women, call Cruz at (910) 330 2908.

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# Tattoo policy change affects assignments, retention

**SGT. JAMES GREEN**

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

In March 2007, Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, stated in an all Marine message that he was concerned about the appearance on the Marine Corps and implemented a new tattoo policy.

Conway stated he was concerned about the growing trend of tattoos in the Marine Corps. He was, however, aware that many of the tattoos were in good taste and portrayed pride in the Marine Corps or represented fallen comrades, but still felt that excessive tattoos do not represent the traditional values of the Marine Corps.

As a result of the excessive tattooing, the commandant warned Marines that excessive tattoos could jeopardize chances of retention and assignment to special duties.

Recently, on Sept. 8, a change to the tattoo policy was made focusing on Marines looking to be assigned to a specific special duty assignment.

Marine Administrative Message 494/08 states that those Marines who were grandfathered for sleeve tattoos per the references are not authorized to serve as recruiters or Marine security guards.

The reason given for this change was recruiters and Marine security guards have a significant impact on public perception as they routinely interact with civilians, both home and abroad, in the daily performance of their duties.

However, the new guideline states that these Marines are still authorized to serve as Marine combat instructors, drill instructors and Marine Corps security forces.

"Numbers in special duty assignments are going to go down," said Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzalez, Career retention specialist, Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCRD San Diego. "We already have a lot of Marines with sleeve tattoos or excessive tattoos that show in uniform and physical training attire, and in the long run it is going to hurt us in retention and special duty assignment placement."

Those Marines who are currently on recruiting duty or MSG duty who have been grandfa-

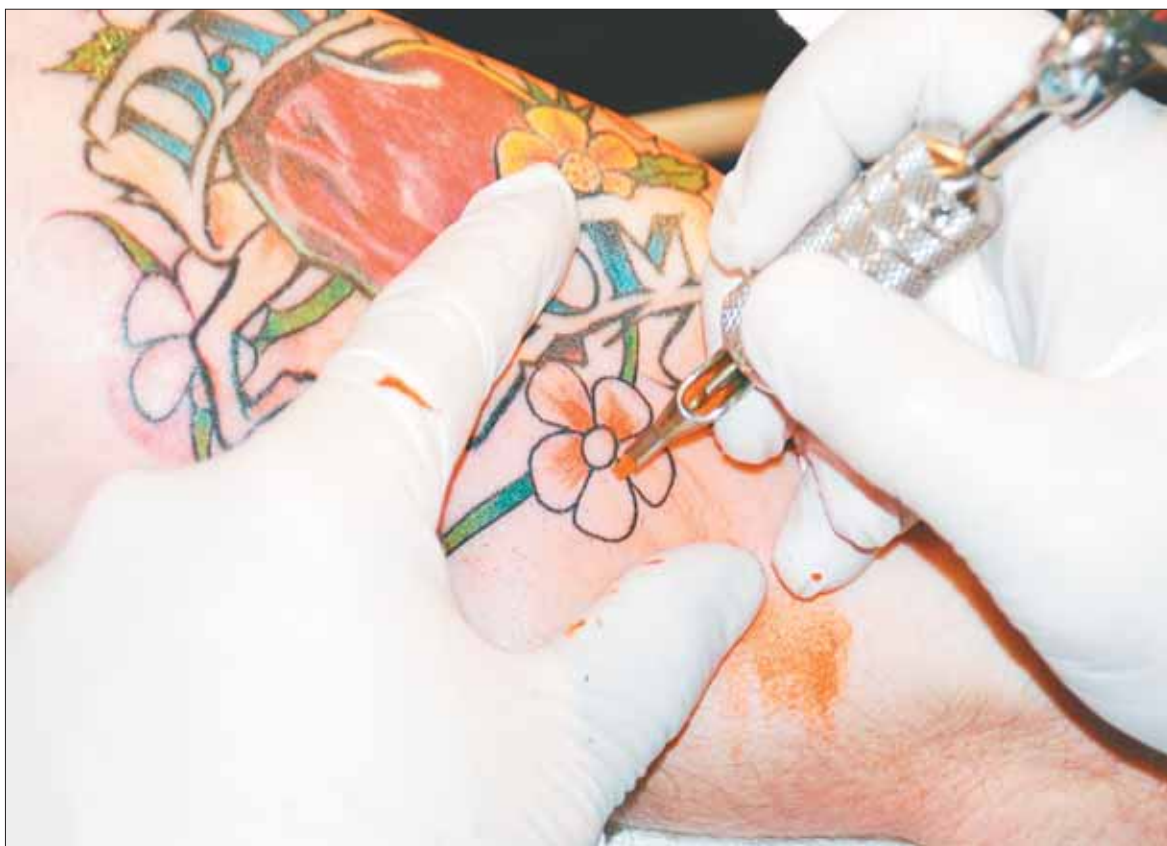
thered are authorized to remain on that duty until completion of their assignment.

As for those who request extensions in their billet, but have sleeve tattoos, their requests will be forwarded on for final adjudication, but not viewed favorably by the board.

All other provisions of the tattoo policy remain in effect and will continue to be looked at to determine whether or not they are considered contrary to professional demeanor. This means they cannot be portrayed as, but not limited to, sexist, racist, anti-American, anti-social, gang-related or affiliated with any extremist group.

The deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs is the adjudicating authority for tattoo issues involving special duty assignments and retention.

More information can be found on the tattoo policy by visiting <http://www.usmc.mil> under MarAdmin 198/07.



COURTESY PHOTO

A change to the tattoo policy was made Sept. 8 focusing on Marines looking to be assigned to a specific special duty assignment, such as recruiting and Marine Security Guard duty.



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**Stay Marine**

# Ball season kicks off with fashion show

**LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Exchange hosted the first Ball Gown Fashion Show Sept. 12 at the Combat Center's Main Exchange.

The show featured gowns, shoes, jewelry, and handbags modeled by the wives of 7th Marine Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine

Regiment, Marines and sailors. "The goal of the fashion show is to give a preview of the gowns that the central buying office in Quantico, Va., has selected for our exchange," said Lance Lennon, divisional sales manager at the Main Exchange, before the show. "The show will give our customers an excellent overview of the types and styles of gowns available, along with the accessories that are avail-

able to compliment gowns." The show incorporated music by keyboardist Harry Taylor, fashion commentary and singing by Rebecca McWilliams-Havely, guest speakers from military clothing sales and the Family Readiness Program, and prizes which included a free gown of the winner's choice.

Lennon, a native of Houston, said the show was part of the exchange's efforts to become more responsive to their customer's needs and to support the activities of Denise Cullum, the family readiness officer for the 7th Marine Regiment, Headquarters Company.

"One of the requests that she made was to have a fashion show using the wives of the 7th Marines," said Lennon. "I thought it was a wonderful idea, as we have not had a true fashion show in a number of years."

Lennon said the fashion show



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Len Wade, wife of Navy Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Wade, chaplain with Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, models gowns during the Ball Gown Fashion Show Sept. 12 at the Combat Center's Main Exchange.

was to aid the 15th Annual Ball Gown Trunk Show, which was held directly after the fashion show, by showing prospective ball attendees some of the gowns being offered at the trunk show.

"This is the first time that our customers will get to see a preview of the gowns before they are officially unveiled," said Lennon.

McWilliams-Havely, visual merchandiser in the design and display department, said even though the models had no prior modeling experience, their inexperience made the show more personal because those in attendance did not see unapproachable supermodels, but woman who were just like them.

"They're all so sweet and kind - they've all been great," said

McWilliams, a native of Saginaw, Mich. "I hope this becomes an annual tradition."

Donna Miller, manager of the Combat Center's military clothing sales store and one of the show's guest speakers, addressed the crowd and specifically targeted spouses and significant others who will be attending their first ball this year.

Miller stressed to the men and women in attendance the importance of bringing in their Marine's uniform to the tailor in order to ensure a proper fit and said the ball was a great way of welcoming people into the Marine Corps community.

"You ladies have a treat ahead of you if this is your first ball," said Miller.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Sony Avalos, marketing assistant for Marine Corps Community Services and wife of Sgt. Pablo Avalos, small arms technician, Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, walks down the runway during the Ball Gown Fashion Show Sept. 12 at the Combat Center's Main Exchange.

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# Young Marines support service members with Operation DVD

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

On the morning of Aug. 27 the Temecula Valley Young Marines of Temecula, Calif., braved early morning hours and cool temperatures at the Combat Center's Unit Marshaling Area to show their support for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who were deploying to Iraq by distributing free DVDs to the Marines and sailors.

This kind gesture was part of the Young Marines' newest missions, Operation DVD and Operation Helping Hands, which work in conjunction with each other to gather donated DVDs, and distribute them to service members in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as to those who are about to deploy.

Michael Guiles, TVYM commanding officer, said the Young Marines, whose program is modeled after the Marine Corps, are a youth organization with units setup throughout the United States and overseas, with each unit educating their young chargers on such Corps principles as leadership and discipline, as well as Marine Corps history, customs and courtesies.

Units are commanded by active duty and former Marines, and staffed by active and former military personnel and civilians who share their life experiences and knowledge with the Young Marines, added Guiles, a native of San Diego.

"We promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle, combined with community service, personal growth,

and higher learning," said Theresa Aguilar, TVYM executive officer. "The Young Marines gives children a direction for their future."

Steve Hallaway, co-founder of Operation DVD, said the program of gathering DVDs for entertainment, started in November 2005 after a conversation with a friend who served as a minister in Kansas.

When a parishioner at his church who was home on leave from duty in Iraq, asked the minister and other parishioners to help donate DVDs to service members, the minister contacted Hallaway saying the service member told him that the troops could not even play baseball due to snipers.

"The next day Operation DVD was started," said Hallaway.

In June 2006, the TVYM was contacted by Hallaway, and after he and the Young Marines National Executive Director, retired Lt. Col. Michael Kessler, expressed their belief that the Young Marines should be involved with the program, Young Marine units quickly got into the fight.

"The Young Marine units took full charge and marched forward into Operation DVD," said Guiles.

He said all Young Marine units have sent DVDs to one of the 11 sorting centers throughout the country, with the TVYM sending over 12,500 DVDs, CDs and PS2 games, along with DVD players and 10,000 books to service members in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"On 10 September 2008 Temecula sent 30,000 DVDs to the East Coast for packaging and shipment to the troops in Iraq



Marines from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, look through a selection of DVDs offered by the Temecula Valley Young Marines Aug. 27 at the Combat Center's Field Marshaling Area before deploying to Iraq.

and Afghanistan," added Guiles.

Aguilar, a native of Temecula, said the program operates with people collecting DVDs and sending them directly to the TVYM or other Young Marine units, where the donated goods are sorted, labeled, and boxed up. Once the process is complete, all that remains is a call from a deploying unit asking for support from the Young Marines.

"Operation DVD survives by the kind donations of movies sent in by those wishing to help the troops," said Guiles. "The response to Operation DVD has been overwhelming, we have gotten new and used DVDs from all over the country, and once I

received DVDs from a couple in Canada with a simple note 'God bless our troops.'"

While Operation DVD needs donations to survive, it also needs the effort and hard work put forth by the Young Marines and their comrades, who fight the weather, late hours, long days, and sacrifice their own free time to support America's finest.

"There have been many early mornings for the kids, but they do not mind," said Aguilar, whose son, Lance Cpl. Brian Aguilar, is a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment stationed at the Combat Center. "There was a unit that deployed four days after Christmas 2007 from Camp

Pendleton, and about 10 Young Marines took time out of their Christmas vacation to help out."

Guiles said on Aug. 27 the TVYM, whose median age is 12 years old and whose alumni have moved onto the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., and the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., met at 1:30 a.m. in order to support 3/7's departure from the Combat Center.

"Countless hours go into Operation DVD but the end product is what is most gratifying and a huge lesson for the Young Marines," said Guiles. "When

See DVD, A10

## MRAP simulator brings driving practice into new age

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

One of the leading causes of death for service members in Operation Iraqi Freedom has been vehicle roll-overs, and new simulators at the Combat Center are being put to work to give drivers more practice without putting them in harm's way.

The tactical vehicle simulations are computer-generated, low-risk, maneuver trainers that provide realistic vehicle operations training to Marines without leaving the simulator building.

The fidelity of the simulators are keeping pace with the Marine Corps as they constantly

improved their tactical vehicles.

Simulators for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, as well as humvees and 7-tons, are maintained at the Combat Center's Battle Simulation Center to give Marines a feel for driving tactical vehicles without the huge expenditures in fuel, maintenance and repairs.

The cost of upkeep and repairs on the simulators is very low compared to the actual vehicles and there haven't been any problems in almost three years, said Douglas Percy, an operator and maintainer at the BSC. Problems caused by driver inexperience due to a lack of road time have been whittled down with the introduction

of simulation technology. Percy teaches Marines about the machines and guides them through the various exercises.

The simulator has the ability to change various conditions at the trainer's will to include weather, traffic and other aspects of driving while the Marines are going through the system, said Percy, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"The best part of these simulators is that we are able to run Marines through training without

See MRAP, A10



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

Lance Cpl. Richard D. Smith, a motor transportation operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, partakes in a simulated convoy in a virtual Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

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# New L.I.N.K.S. training turns things around

**LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERI**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Lifestyle Insights Networking Knowledge Skills program, normally offered to families of Marines, is now offered to Marines to learn about how their career, deployments and changes affect not only them but their families.

L.I.N.K.S. is normally offered to spouses to learn more about the military in general, but specifically the Marine Corps. It changed to help Marines and families better understand and cope with changes posed with a Marine's career, said Amber Bilderain, a L.I.N.K.S. trainer and a native of Albuquerque, N.M.

"This class is a modified version given to Marines," said Bilderain. "It answers questions on specific things only a Marine would really know about, but also covers information they do not ask about the majority of the time. It offers another perspective on all of the issues a military family faces."

Bilderain said the new version was given to the L.I.N.K.S. team from

Headquarters Marine Corps and they started teaching it at the Combat Center Sept. 12. Bilderain provided instruction during multiple areas of the class, citing her experience as a former Marine.

"One of the biggest hassles for a family in the Marine Corps is changing duty station. Moving is a big hassle," said Bilderain. "The Marine Corps helps you with your PCS [permanent change of station], moving into housing if you're leaving the barracks, and EAS [end of active service] moves."

Different periods of instruction were provided from several different people. Some, like Bilderain are former Marines and some are family members of Marines.

Classes were provided on handling a deployment from a Marine coping with it and helping their family get through it.

"Family readiness for a deployment is one of the most crucial things a Marine has to deal with," said Denise Cullum, 7th Marine Regiment family readiness officer and a native of

Buffalo, N.Y. "People, particularly spouses and children, have cycles of emotions they must deal with when a loved one is gone for an extended period of time. It affects the families of unmarried Marines, mothers also feel anxiety and worry for their sons or daughters when they are deployed."

One important thing all Marines should remember, regardless of whether or not you're going to stay in, is that you should 'stay Marine,'" said Danny Cole, a LifeSkills trainer and a native of New Orleans.

"I decided to make a career out of being a Marine," said Cole. "That may not be everyone's decision, but it was mine, and I can show you how to make it work for yourself."

The key is to have a plan and stick to it, Cole said.

"There are many different paths you can take in the Marine Corps," said Cole. "You should make a career path and stick to it. But we all know, things change quite often however, there are

See L.I.N.K.S., A15



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERI

Danny Cole, a life skills trainer gives a class during the new L.I.N.K.S. program for Marines. The new program is offered at the Combat Center's L.I.N.K.S. center and educates Marines to help their families.

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# VMGR-234 and MWSS-374 team up to support Mojave Viper

**CPL. NICOLE LAVINE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 performed an aerial delivery operation in support of Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment training evolution, here Monday.

VMGR-234, a reserve Marine KC-130 squadron based out of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, operating out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., air dropped Meals, Ready-to-Eat to Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, a Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., -based battalion, training here, said Lt. Col. Doug D. Stumpf, VMGR-234 executive officer and aircraft commander for the mission.

The remain behind element of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 also supported the Marines of VMGR-234 during the operation, said Capt. John M. Bussard, MWSS-374 RBE officer-in-charge.

Marines of MWSS-374 provided personnel support, forklifts to load and unload the cargo, fuel for the aircraft, and use of the Expeditionary Air Field, added Bussard.

"MWSS heavy equipment and airfield services were instrumental in the Rangers [VMGR-234] being able to get aloft and deliver the payload that the aerial delivery Marines prepared," said Bussard, a Ringoes, N.J., native.

The load operation, which lasted two days, was the first container delivery system aerial re-supply drop performed in support of Mojave Viper for VMGR-234, said Stumpf, an Aledo, Texas, native.

"This is the first re-supply operation we have done to support Mojave Viper, but we've done many aerial tanking operations in the desert before," he said, referring to in-flight refueling operations for aircraft like F/A-18 Hornet Jets and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters.

Stumpf continued, explaining the 1,200-pound load of MREs was a daytime drop in a combat scenario where the loads were deployed from the back of the aircraft with parachutes at Lead Mountain Range aboard the Combat Center training area.

Supplies and equipment are usually delivered to training and deployed units by truck instead of by air, said Staff Sgt. Brendan C.



CPL. NICOLE LAVINE

Marines with the Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Squadron 234 load a 1,200-pound supply of Meals, Ready-to-Eat at the Expeditionary Air Field Monday. The MREs were delivered to Marines and sailors training in Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment training evolution.

Johnson, VMGR-234 load master.

"If a unit is in a remote location or it's too dangerous for convoys, that's the time when we use aerial delivery," said Johnson, a Fort Worth, Texas, native.

In addition to providing food for Marines and sailors in the field, the operation also offered the reserve Marines training on navigation of drop zones, proper loading and unloading of supply crates, air-to-ground coordination and communication, and making sure crew members are familiar with applicable check lists, added Johnson.

"We come out to Twentynine Palms about twice a month to support training," he said, noting it usually involves aerial tanking.

After the drop operation was completed Wednesday, the VMGR-234 crew reported to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., for pilot proficiency training before returning to Fort Worth Thursday, said Stumpf.



CPL. NICOLE LAVINE

Marines of Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Squadron 234 pull a crate of Meals, Ready-to-Eat onto a KC-130T Hercules Aircraft in preparation for a re-supply operation supporting service members training in Mojave Viper Monday.

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# Career Fair

# Counter, human intel MOS opens to female Marines

**LANCE CPL. STEFANIE C. PUPKIEWICZ, III**

*MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE*

The counterintelligence and human intelligence military occupational specialty has opened to female Marines.

The MOS was formerly closed to females because CI/HUMINT specialists were embedded directly with combat units, but changes in warfare and strategy have made the exclusion of females obsolete.

"There is no real reason to keep them out," said the Okinawa CI recruiting officer-in-charge. "We can work it so they don't have to do that combat mission."

The opening of the MOS has been talked about and coordinated for a year. It was only last month that the field opened officially, said the recruiter.

The field will support a nine

percent female workforce, according to the OIC.

CI specialists interrogate detainees and suspected terrorists and secure evidence within conflict areas so it can be used later in court, he said.

Females will have most of the responsibilities as male CI specialists except males will embed with infantry units, the CI recruiter said.

Marines can enter the field from any MOS if they meet the requirements, he said.

Marines interested in becoming a CI specialist must be 21 years old by the end of the CI school and be a corporal, sergeant or staff sergeant. A staff sergeant cannot have completed more than two tours of duty.

Marines need to have a level of maturity to be in counterintelligence because they deal with highly classified material and play

a vital role in the war theater, the CI recruiter said.

Personality is a large part of working in counterintelligence, he added. Applicants need to be personable and able to speak easily to people. They also need to be accepting of other cultural views because they will be dealing with people from different cultures.

Other requirements include U.S. citizenship and a minimum general technical score of 110 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, said the CI recruiter.

After the requirements are met and a preliminary background screening is completed, the Marine will go before a formal board to determine the Marine's suitability for the MOS.

Typically, the Marine will receive orders and familiarize themselves with their unit before



LANCE CPL. STEFANIE C. PUPKIEWICZ, III

The counter intelligence and human intelligence military occupational specialty officially opened to female Marines in August. All Marines attempting to enter the MOS must be assessed by a board to determine their suitability for the CI/HUMINT field.

attending a 17-week school, said the recruiter.

After school, specialists can expect to attach to teams heading

to Iraq and Afghanistan as there is no real substitute for the operational experience, said the CI recruiting OIC.

## Keeping kids healthy in daycare

**LIFELINES.USMC.MIL**

For many parents, dropping children off at daycare or preschool produces both relief and dread; relief that they can go to work, dread that they've left their child in other people's hands.

As many parents realize, bringing together small children builds character and social skills, while also spreading germs.

But parents can protect their families against the colds and viruses that young children may bring home along with their arts and crafts. Clean hands help stop germs from spreading, so parents should insist that children wash their hands when they come home and before they eat.

Children should use soap and scrub carefully, making sure to

clean the backs of their hands, their wrists and between their fingers for at least 30 seconds. To make sure children wash their hands long enough, parents can ask them to sing a song like "Happy Birthday" or "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Parents should make sure their children's toys are clean. If a child insists that a toy go to preschool, where other children might handle it, that toy should be washed that night. If parents notice children mouthing toys, they should separate those toys into plastic bags until they can be cleaned.

Parents should always keep their children home if they start to look sick or have symptoms like stomach pain, headache or fever. Of course, taking a fussy preschooler's temperature can be

difficult. However, an infrared thermometer can take children's temperatures without ever touching their bodies.

With the Thermofocus 5-in-1, parents can take temperatures without waking sleeping tots from naps. A parent simply points the thermometer's safe, infrared light at their child's forehead to receive an accurate temperature reading.

Because the Thermofocus 5-in-1 never touches skin, it's more hygienic than other thermometers. It can also be used to test bottles, room temperature, food and bathwater, making it a useful around-the-home tool.

Whether used by parents or at daycare centers or preschools, the Thermofocus can help caregivers detect illness before it spreads.



COURTESY PHOTO

Many families rely on daycare for their children while they are at work. Daycare is also a popular hangout for germs. Teaching children to consistently wash their hands before meals is one of many good habits to establish early on to help fight bad germs.

## MRAP from, A7

damaging vehicles or having to spend tons of money on them," said Peercy.

Peercy said the training teaches similar lessons, but it does not add up for licenses as real driving would for tactical vehicles.

Peercy added there are far fewer accidents involving real vehicles because all he has to do is press "reset" on his control consol and the vehicle is back on the road in the simulator.

The towing winch alone on one MRAP variant, nicknamed the Cougar, is 5,000 pounds, said Peercy. If one of these were to flip over then the Marines would need either a 7-ton truck or a tank recovery vehicle to get them back on the road, which aren't always brought along on convoys, said Peercy.

"These vehicles can be flipped fairly easily, and very few Marines have experience driving these new machines," Peercy added. "It's a logistical nightmare if a Cougar gets turned over. The average Class One weighs around 40,000 pounds depending on what modifications are on it.

Dirt roads in particular are dangerous for these vehicles. They're made to travel on hardball [paved surfaces]," he explained. "The suspension of these vehicles is made so they easily come apart if there is an explosion underneath the vehicle. The cast iron suspension is not independent. It's all anchored to the frame of the vehicle and has very little flexibility, which adds up to trouble for an inexperienced driver."

Peercy guided two Marines from 1st Tank Battalion through the MRAP simulator Monday.

"I've never actually driven an MRAP before," said Lance Cpl. Richard D. Smith, a motor transportation

operator with Headquarters and Service Company and a native of Nashville, Tenn. "I normally drive a 7-ton, and it's similar to this in a lot of ways with the really limited visibility and how high the center of gravity is. I look forward to driving one of these in reality."

The other Marine practicing on the simulator also had little experience with the MRAP vehicle.

"I've never driven one either," said Sgt. Mike Trotter, a motor transportation mechanic with Headquarters and Service Company. "I'm not even a driver so I'm still learning some about the other vehicles, and I hope that getting extra practice like this will really help me be more skilled in that area."

You can contact Peercy for information, or to schedule training in the BSC at (734)-972-9365, or by e-mail at dpeercy@faac.com.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

Douglas Peercy, the operator and maintainer of the Combat Center's Battle Simulation Center guides two Marines from 1st Tank Battalion through one of the simulations while they operate a virtual Mine Resistant Armor Protected vehicle.

## DVD, from A7

they get to see the troops deploy and say good-bye to their loved ones it makes them feel a great deal more respect for our Marines and sailors."

In addition to Operation DVD the TVYM have been aiding the nation non-stop since the units conception in 2002, with such missions as "Operation Guardian Angel," which aided victims of Hurricane Katrina; "Operation Pages," which collected 10,000 books for service members in Iraq and Afghanistan; and "Operation Provide Comfort," which helped set up aid stations when firestorms struck California last year.

"I have asked the Young Marines why they would get up so early to do this, and other than the 'because you asked for volunteers sir,' I receive the same answer from all of them 'because our troops give so much to our country and so much is taken away from them, at least we get to help them remember there are a lot of Americans that will be there for them,'" said Guiles. "Young Marines are like Marines,

they never forget their Navy/Marine Corps brothers and sisters."

For more information about the Temecula Valley Young Marines or Operation DVD, contact Michael Guiles at (951) 553-3519 or tvymco@tvym.us, or the unit's adjutant at tvymad-jutant@tvym.us.



MICHAEL GUILLES

In addition to Operation DVD, the Temecula Valley Young Marines have also aided victims of Hurricane Katrina, sent donated books to service members overseas and helped set up aid stations when fire storms struck California last year.

# Jypsi and Pat Green rock Combat Center's Sounds of Freedom

**LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center hosted the second annual Sounds of Freedom Concert Saturday at the Combat Center's Victory Field.

The event was free to Marines and sailors along with their families, and included performances from the Combat Center Band, followed by the country music group Jypsi and country music performer Pat Green.

The event's crowd swelled to approximately 3,000 people during the course of the concert, said Kelly M. Coe, the Marine Corps Community Services special events program manager and a native of Brooks, Ga.

The Combat Center Band was first on the stage, opening for the country band Jypsi, a Nashville, Tenn., - based band. Then the headliner, Pat Green from Texas took the stage.

The Combat Center Band began the night's performances with a forming set, followed by the national anthem and the Armed Forces Medley.

Jypsi took the stage and received a framed photo of the Combat Center from Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the commanding general of the Combat Center and a native of Wilmington, N.C.

Gurganus thanked them for their appearance and also gave his thanks to the Marines and sailors of the Combat Center for their hard work and wished them a good time.

While fans enjoyed Jypsi and Pat Green, food was provided by The Rib Co. and Grills Gone Wild, as well as The Provost Marshal's Office also had a grill set up to raise money for their Marine Corps ball.

Inflatable rides were available for children and adults to enjoy at the event as well.

"I really enjoy the music they're playing tonight," said



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

The band Jypsi performs at the Combat Center's Sounds of Freedom Concert Saturday at Victory Field. The concert was open to Marines, sailors, friends and family.

Kevin Rusk, a business owner from Twentynine Palms who attended the concert. "I started listening to Pat Green quite a while ago and Jypsi is also a good band, in my opinion. I'm a former Marine, and it's good to come back and remember the good old days once in a while."

Rusk said he enjoyed the entire atmosphere and particularly the Combat Center Band because he has several friends in the band.

"It's quality stuff that they've got going on here," he said. "They've got stuff for the kids, which makes it family-oriented, and these events always seem very well-controlled. All the people really behave here as well. That makes almost any situation easy to handle."

Some of the attendees were at

the Combat Center for a concert for their first time and said they really enjoyed the entire event.

"Me and my husband are both big fans of country music," said Johanna Kupka, wife of Jason Kupka, a civilian patrolman with the Provost Marshal's Office. Both are natives of Yucaipa, Calif.

"We've listened to both Jypsi and Pat Green before," said Kupka. "Its great that all these other things for the kids are here as well. I think I'll be coming to more events here, mostly because I like the music and it's easy to bring the kids along and have a good time."

Based on the success of the concert, plans for next year's Sounds of Freedom are already underway, said Coe.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

The crowd of Marines, sailors, family and friends gathers to listen to the Combat Center Band at the Sounds of Freedom concert.

## Supporting charity with chili

**LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Bragging rights were awarded Monday when the Operations and Training Directorate (G-3) hosted the third annual Chili Cook-off and Death by Chocolate Contest at the Combat Center's Emergency Operations Center.

Brian Catlin, assistant chief of staff for the operations and training directorate, said G-3 used the event to raise money for the Combined Federal Campaign, a non-profit organization that provides federal employees the opportunity to improve quality of life by promoting and supporting charities.

"We hold this cook-off to raise the first donation for the commanding general's kick-off," said Catlin.

Ron Genet, Combat Center adjutant and CFC chairman, said the cook-off started as a friendly competition between the operations and training, and manpower directorates, and eventually turned into the fundraiser where for \$5, attendees got a bowl and all the chili they could eat.

"This is G-3's little thing that they do to contribute to the CFC," said Genet, a native of San Francisco.

As the judges' quietly sampled and judged each submission, retired Sgt. Maj. Alex Pacheco sat patiently and waited to see if his 3-Beer Chili would allow him to retain his title of the best chili in the hot category.

"This is a fun social function to help support Combined Federal Campaign in addition to getting good food," said Pacheco, director of the Combat Center's business performance office. "It is fun to represent my directorate and support the CFC."

Pacheco, a native of Deming, N.M., admitted his submission is a group effort between him and his wife.

"It's my wife's recipe with special ingredients I don't even know I'm just the taster," said Pacheco, a two-year veteran of the contest.

Allen Hyde, Combat Center adjutant chief with the manpower directorate and chili cook-off judge, said when judging, he and his fellow judges were taking into consideration the submissions' appearance as well as taste. Such things as too watery or too thick were knocks against the submission, as was the over usage of one ingredient in comparison to another.

This year's winners included Combat



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Allen Hyde, Combat Center adjutant chief, Manpower Directorate, Charles Restifo, deputy of current operations, Operations and Training Directorate, and Gunnery Sgt. Charles Benson, services chief with the Provost Marshal's Office, judge submissions to the third annual Chili Cook-Off and Death by Chocolate Contest Monday in the Combat Center's Emergency Operations Center.

Center assistant fire chief Sam Moore in the hot category, Robin Whitten, a deputy with the manpower directorate, in the mild category, and Capt. Jennifer Raymond, staff secretary at the Combat Center command suite, in the chocolate category.

Once the judging was complete those in

attendance grabbed bowls and spoons, and began tasting submissions, while the judges took some time to relax after a hard day's work.

"In terms of getting to taste all of them, I'm full," said Hyde, a native of Springfield, Tenn. "I don't need to eat."



**LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL**  
Lt. Col. James W. Frey introduces the newest unit in the Marine Corps, VMU-3, at the unit's activation ceremony Sept. 12 at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

**VMU-3, from A1**

training at the Combat Center and to become part of the operational Marine Air Ground Task Force, said Lt. Col. James W. Frey, the commanding officer of VMU-3 and a native of Ridgebury, Pa.

"Our mission will be to deploy and support the other units, but for now we're focusing on refresher training," said Frey. "We have the luxury of time. It's going to be about a year before we deploy, and during that time we're planning on building our numbers and continuing to improve the way we work at the Combat Center."

Frey added VMU units are

deployed the most in the Marine Corps due to their small numbers, and the addition of a third will help out greatly.

"With a new unit, we can help to 'standardize' the UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) fleet," Frey said. "UAV units right now are deploying for seven months at a time and spending usually only five back in the states. We're going to help change that once we become fully operational. There just aren't many of us out there, that's why a new UAV squadron is going to be so valuable."

VMU-3 has been at the Combat Center preparing for a while now, said Maj. James Scott, the squadron executive officer and a native of Youngstown, Ohio.

"We've had personnel here for quite a while," said Scott.

"Our initial people were here around early March 2008. During that time, and continuing now, we've been making preparations for the rest of our systems, and the rest of our Marines to get here. We've been setting up our headquarters and establishing infrastructure. All this work has been done by less than 80 Marines so far. Our full operational size is just under 200, but our Marines have done a fabulous job and lots of hard work."

The squadron has also recently received their first UAV system, said Scott. The RQ-7B is the main aircraft flown by VMU-3. The aircraft utilizes the Shadow 200 operating system.

"We've received our first of three systems that we will be utilizing," he said. "With our first one,

for the time being, we'll be doing refresher training and getting all these Marines who haven't even touched one in a while back on track with what we're here to do."

VMU-3 has Marines from their sister unit at the Combat Center, VMU-1, and, Marines from VMU-2, which is based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. New Marines have also come from the schoolhouse, which will give the unit a good mixture of experience and new faces, said Sgt. Maj. Rufino Mendez Jr., the squadron sergeant major and a native of Newark, N.J.

"There are a good percentage of our Marines who came here from VMU-1 and -2," said Mendez. "We've been slowly building up our numbers."

The squadron has a positive outlook on their future and are very eager to do their job, said Mendez.

"We've seen our Marines show plenty of excitement and motivation since we began working here," said Mendez. "All our Marines understand their importance and they're anxious to get into the fight and assist the other two UAV squadrons. Personally I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to set up a new unit in the Marine Corps. Not too many people get this opportunity to do so."

VMU-3 will be supporting 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, in their Mojave Viper pre-deployment training, said Scott. Supporting 3/8 will be their first exercise as a unit.

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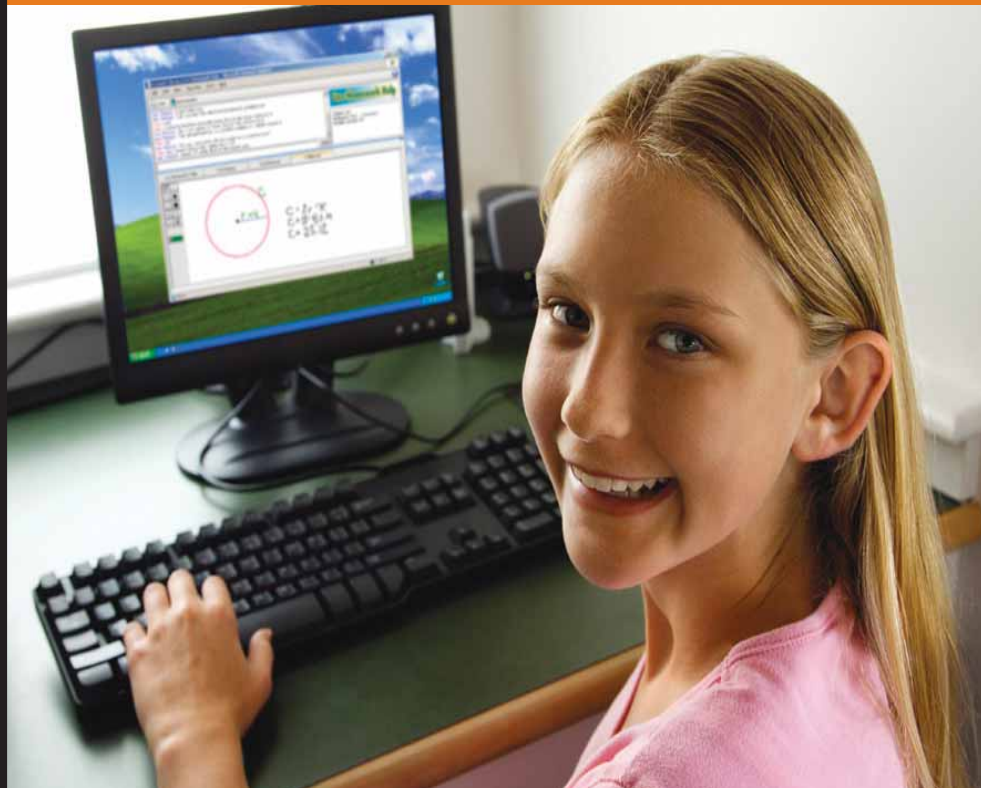
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## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### 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.

#### 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. 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 Building 1651

Faith Lessons Bible Study  
12-1 p.m. Chaplain Hester &  
Moran 830-6187

### Friday

#### Christ Chapel

Gospel Rehearsal - 5 p.m.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
Exposition/Adoration of the  
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## Combat Center Trader Ads

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**2004 KAWASAKI KFX700** V-force, 6 PLY holes hot XCT's, Sand Star Paddles mounted, \$3,200 OBO. Call 819-9353. 8/22/08

**2006 V-6 DARK GREEN TOYOTA TUNDRA** extended king cab. 50,000 original miles with one owner. Regularly serviced. AM/FM/CD Tape and back-up TV camera and monitor. Selling for \$12,750. Call 285-3316. 8/22/08

**JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 1994,** locked, lifted and loaded. Good transportation and great 4x4. \$5,700 OBO. Call 285-2301. 8/8/08

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

### MISC.

**THOUSANDS OF COLLECTIBLE BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, STAR TREK & STAR WARS CARDS** (Also some basketball) Many dollars below appraised value. Call Stephen at 567-0400.

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**XBOX SYSTEM,** w/ 4 controllers and 5 games: Halo 2, Ghost Recon 2, First to Fight, NCAA Football 2005, Tiger Woods PGA 2005. \$175. Call (210) 878-5920.

**LARGE DOG KENNEL.** \$25 o.b.o. Call 910-9300 or 673-9252. 9/12/08

**3-YEAR-OLD PUREBRED WHITE PEKINGESE,** house-broken, shots up to date. \$300 o.b.o. Call (760) 910-9300 or 673-9252. 9/12/08

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**WHITE WROUGHT IRON TRUNDLE DAYBED** w/ two mattresses. \$140. Entertainment center \$50. Call 367-3793. 9/12/08

**LARGE ARMOIRE/COMPUTER DESK.** 72" h x 42" w x 23" d. Cost: \$500, Sell \$150. USMC medallions. 9 pure silver. Some hand painted. All in presentation boxes. All cost \$35-\$40. Sell All \$300. Call Bill 367-6030. 8/29/08

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**LARGE BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET.** Oak finish. \$300. firm. Call Stephen at 567-0400. 8/29/08

**ALPHA COAT 40 R** \$60. S/S Creighton Size M w/Gy Chevrons \$20. L/S Creighton Size 16 1/2-33 w/Gy Chevrons \$20. Alpha Coat 44 R w/Gy Chevrons \$65. Blues Coat 42 R w/Gy Chevrons \$45. Please call 277-5338. 8/29/08

**CHIHUAHUA/TERRIER PUPPIES** 6 wks old 1st set of shots Adorable and Playful \$250 Please call 910-9516. 8/22/08

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

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for

noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

**Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.**

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

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

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

### MEDICAL, from A1

providing preventative health care and symptomatic treatment.

"What we can do is provide cold medicines and pain medications," said Navy Lt. Robert E. Benowicz, a medical officer and Portland, Ore., native. "Because of the high infant mortality rates in the area, we also give the women prenatal vitamins. But, more importantly, we try to educate the locals on the importance of having a good diet and nutrition and also good hygiene practices."

"We also see a lot of malnutrition, so we give the adults multi-vitamins and the children vitamins and iron supplements to fight effects from not eating properly," Benowicz said.

Residents who are financially stable have access to medical care. The vast majority, however, don't have good access.

"The first time, we had so many children who had stomach issues and malnutrition," said Seaman Michael McCarthy, a corpsman assigned to Combined Anti-Armor Team 2 and a Newport, R.I., native. "We've seen some improvements, especially with teaching them to live a little healthier lifestyle. They may not have a lot of access to vegeta-

bles or other nutritious foods, but trying to get them to get a more varied diet is what we've been teaching them. That's probably the best improvement we see."

Many of the people who came to the MedCap don't have a good concept of healthy living. Whether it's as simple as showing the Afghans how to take better care of their teeth and gums, eat healthier foods, or how to take proper care of their wounds, these simple lessons are an important aspect of hosting the MedCaps.

"As far as health is concerned, we try to teach them dental hygiene. They also have a poor concept of how to take care of wounds," McCarthy explained. "They'll cut themselves and the next thing you know, they have some serious infections. Each time they come in with bad infections, we try to teach them that if they have a cut or burn, this is how they need to clean it if they don't want another infection."

The people, some traveling as far as 300 kilometers, seemed quite excited to take advantage of the MedCap. Through radio messages and by word of mouth, news that the Marines would be back to host another MedCap spread quickly.

"We are having greater

turnouts with each major MedCap we host," Benowicz said. "The people are hearing good things about what we're providing to them. They understand the Americans are here to help them. We've been building good relationships with the locals... this is a good way to show that we're here to stay and to help the people out."

The CAG team has hosted several MedCaps, varying in size. While some are much smaller than the ones held here in Delaram, each MedCap has turned into a learning experience for the Marines and sailors supporting the MedCaps. In the first two major MedCaps, it was discovered that most of the people complained of dental pain. Consequently, a dental hygienist was included to help in this area.

"This is the first MedCap with dental support," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ernesto A. Soberano, a registered dental hygienist and Vacaville, Calif., native. "Most of the people have some form of gingivitis or other gum disease. In general, they have bad oral hygiene practices."

As the CAG team examined the Afghan patients, they referred those with either missing or rotten teeth to Soberano. In addition to providing examinations and treatments, Soberano handed out toothbrushes and other oral hygiene supplies.

The MedCaps are one of many civil military operations projects conducted by TF 2/7 reaping immediate success. Despite threats of harm by Taliban forces, more Afghans have come forward to take advantage of the help being offered them.

"My team's job out here is to tip the scales in our favor," said Gunnery Sgt. Omar Palaciosreal, team chief for CAG Team 2 and a Moreno Valley, Calif., native. "People are the center of gravity; we know that. Every day that we do a good deed or show the people that we care and that we want the best for them and their interest, we're tipping the scales in our favor."

### HOME, from A1

Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, in Al Anbar province earlier this month.

One of their last acts in Iraq was to familiarize their replacements with the local operating procedures and introduce them around.

3/4 conducted a patrol this month with Marines and sailors from 3/7 to introduce them to key leaders in the area and promote camaraderie, said Capt. Scott J. Anderson, Company L commander, 3/4.

While serving in Iraq, the mission of 3/4 was to train Iraqi military forces and law enforcement personnel in tactics, techniques and procedures that will allow them to regain control and authority in their country.

MWSS-374, which is one of three 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing units headquartered here, provided aviation ground support to infantry battalions and responded to aircraft and fire emergencies while in country, said Lt. Col. Timothy B. Seamon, squadron commanding officer in a September Key Volunteers letter.

Both the MWSS-374 and 3/4 commanding officers expressed gratitude in each newsletter and KV letter to families and loved ones of service members for their unwavering support.

Many spouses, parents, children, siblings and friends gathered under the shelter at Victory

Field as they awaited the arrival of their service members.

Family members like Venita Doe, mother of Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Doe Jr., a corpsman with Weapons Company, 3/4, and Aleasa Mathews, wife of Lance Cpl. Toby Mathews, Weapons Company, 3/4, said they were joyful just to have their men return home safely with their unit.

Patrick Bell, father of Lance Cpl. Brian Bell, Weapons Company, 3/4, said he was ecstatic to have his son return home from his first deployment.

"It's comforting knowing he was in good hands the whole time," said Bell. "But having him back in our hands personally is going to be better."

Deborah, Bell's wife, agreed, saying she received much comfort from the news made available in the KV Network and commander's newsletters, voicemail services and Web sites.

"This whole experience has really given me a new appreciation for our troops and what they do for this country," said Deborah, a Sheridan, Wyo., native. "We are proud of our Marines."

The last group of MWSS-374 and 3/4 Marines are slated to arrive at Victory Field Saturday. Listen to KCDZ 107.7 FM for updates about their arrival. This homecoming is open to any who wish to show support for these returning Marines and sailors.



CPL. STEVE CUSHMAN

Three stretchers are used as examination tables for a medical capabilities health cooperative held Aug. 24 in Delaram, Afghanistan. Service members of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, provided medical and dental examinations for more than 180 Afghan residents.

### L.I.N.K.S., from A8

many ways the Marine Corps can benefit you. You could finish your college [education] while you're in and either obtain a commission, or be better prepared for life in the outside world."

In addition to being prepared to follow your own path, be prepared for your plans to change, said Cole.

"You can't let negative things slow you down," he said. "I, myself, have had career changes, some seem like a bad thing at the time, but you have to remember

that you can make things work if you apply yourself properly. All a Marine has to do is put their best efforts toward something and they will get positive results."

He added that most importantly, whatever decision you make, make sure you and your family know how it impacts their lives.

The L.I.N.K.S. for Marines program is primarily for Marines who are curious about how deployments will affect them and their families, and so they can better understand the administrative aspects of the Marine Corps.



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