

OCTOBER 10, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 41



1st Tanks roll over blood drive record



Fire Prevention Week 5 sparks children's interest



Kids look into future at 7 technology showcase



1/7 takes on Combat Center's MOUT town

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, concluded a 10-day battalion-level field exercise Oct. 3 at the military operations in urban terrain facility at Range 215.

The exercise began in the early morning with Weapons Company forming a security perimeter around the town before Companies A, B, and C pushed through the area while observing for simulated improvised explosive devices, engaging enemy role players with small-arms fire and interacting with

civilians and Iraqi police. Capt. Ty Moore, the com-manding officer of Company A, said the exercise was a kind of miniature Mojave Viper, a predeployment training package, and was intended to teach counterinsurgency, or "COIN" skills. Moore, a native of Wasilla,

See MOUT, A13



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA Marines and sailors from Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, participate in a battalion clear of the Combat Center's military operations in urban terrain facility at Range 215 Oct. 2 as the culmination of the battalion's 10-day field exercise.

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA Cpl. Walter Pilkington, a radio operator with Company A, 1/7, prepares his radio in the morning hours of Oct. 2 before taking part in a battalion clear of the Combat Center's MOUT facility.

\$1 million awarded for wearable power source **CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

Combat Correspondent

The first, second and third place winners of the 2008 Director of Defense Research and Engineering's Wearable Power Prize competition were announced in an open-gate award ceremony at Del Valle Field Saturday.

The following six prize-eligible teams lasted through the initial 92hour bench test Sept. 28 and earned a place in the final fourhour, nine-station static bench test dubbed the Power Pack Wear Off:

- AMI
 - Jenny 600S
 - Ultracell Corps
 - Ultralife
 - Rayovac

After WPP staff met and debated for several hours on the final contestants, checks were written for the three teams with the lightestweight power systems and presented in an award ceremony hosted by Dr. William S. Rees Jr., the deputy undersecretary of Defense for Laboratories and Basic Sciences.

The third-place winner of



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE AMI, the second place winning team of the 2008 Directory Defense

 DuPont/SFC Smart Fuel Cell M-25

\$250,000 was team Jenny 600S. The award was accepted by team

See WEARABLE, A4

Research and Engineering's Wearable Power Prize competition, receives a check for \$500,000 from Dr. William S. Rees, Jr., deputy undersecretary of defense for Laboratory and Basic Sciences, during the award ceremony at Del Valle Field Saturday.

This Day in Marine Corps History -1968-

1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing receive Presidential Unit Citation; Da Nang, Vietnam.

Marine father, soldier son reunite in Iraq

SGT. TRENT M. LOWRY

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Army Sgt. Shane M. White, 22, an information systems specialist with 4th Psychological Operations Group, based in Fallujah, Iraq, recently reunited with his father, 1st Sgt. Joseph C. Gray, company first sergeant of Team Tank, Regimental Combat Team 1 during a combat-marksmanship program shoot Al Asad Air Base Sept. 26.

The soldier and his Marine dad reunited for three days while both are deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was the first time in more than a year the two service members, and family members, have seen each other.

'The last time I saw my son was last September, for one day, at his wedding," said Gray, who has been in Iraq since April, his second deployment here. "It's hard trying to find time for us to take leave at the same time," explained White, here on his first deployment.

Gray has been a Marine for more than 18 years and is currently stationed with Alpha Company, 1st Tank Battalion, at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. While deployed, Alpha Co. goes by the moniker Team Tank. White is in his third year as a soldier, based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Though the news that White had joined the Army came as a surprise to Gray and his wife Gina, it wasn't as much for his choice of service, but his decision to leave his studies at the

See REUNION, A10



SGT. TRENT M. LOWRY

Army Sgt. Shane M. White, an information systems specialist with 4th Psychological Operations Group, and 1st Sgt. Joseph C. Gray, company first sergeant, Team Tank, Regimental Combat Team 1, visit at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Sept. 25.

"SORRY, NO OPENINGS"

Thank you Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and Combat Center

The care and devotion that the sailors and the Marines of the Combat Center took in presenting this year's tribute at the National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action cere-



mony on Sept. 19 was deeply appreciated. I am honored to have been a part of it. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I think I speak for Cmdr. J. B. Souder as well. The men and women we spoke to at the hospital and in the field exhibited the high esprit de corps that all units hope for yet few attain. It was a pleasure to rub elbows with people like that once again. I am sure that my words do not do justice to the time I spent at Twentynine Palms or the people who train there but it was obvious that all of you were doing a fine job! Thank you.

Bill Bailey,

Commander United States Navy (Retired)

Domestic violence awareness month recognizing "The Purple Ribbon"

During the month of October, government and civilian organizations, churches, schools, workplaces and communities commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month through a variety of activities and events. A common observance by many supporters is the wearing of a Purple Ribbon. For more than two decades, the Purple Ribbon has become a recognized symbol that highlights the issue of domestic abuse, while also representing the many forces of advocacy committed to ending domestic violence. Despite the common awareness of the symbol, little is known about its origin.

Twenty-two years ago, The Battered Women's Movement designated the Purple Ribbon as the emblem that signifies the countless lives lost to domestic violence and the goal of making the world a better and safer place for children and adult victims of violence. The majority of the founding members were incest and rape survivors, but also included medical professionals, therapists, law enforcement, and caring members of the town. Explanations of why this color was chosen and when the formal use of the ribbon became so commonly accepted differ. However, one narration, believed by many, is this:

"There was a woman from the Midwest in the 1980's, who had left her abusive relationship and had worked her way to being a director of the battered women's program in her community. Her batterer was in jail, but he had been released on a temporary furlough. During his release, he crossed state lines and found her and killed her in her home. The woman's name was Lisa Bianco, and she was loved and sorely missed by those who knew her. Her friends and family wanted to remember the life of this beloved woman and chose to wear her favorite color in her honor- the color purple."

This tragic and unfortunate incident led to the Purple Ribbon's unofficial use by domestic violence advocates before any awareness campaign ever existed. The ribbon symbolically represents the commitment of victims, survivors, family members, and all concerned persons determined to not allow those deaths and abuses continue. From this small beginning, countless efforts have been initiated. The widespread use of the Purple Ribbon has propelled the visibility of the movement to end domestic violence into every corner and segment of our society and into an international network of victim advocacy.

Because of the Purple Ribbon, the silence that supported the continuation of domestic abuse, child abuse and all violence in society has been broken. Today, as twenty-years ago, we continue to wear the Purple Ribbon to acknowledge the horrific scourge domestic violence plagues on our society and to declare ever louder the cry to 'Break the Silence - End the Cycle'. End Domestic Violence. For information on specific Domestic Violence Awareness Month programs and events, contact your installation Marine Corps Community Services Prevention and Education Office at: 760 830-4950

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How do you feel about Rifle Combat Optics being authorized for use during rifle qualifications?

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



Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconvaissance



Remain Behind Element, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment



MCCES INSTRUCTOR, COMPANY A

66 T think that if we're going to

Employee Spotlight

Name: Greg Wright Job Title: Automotive mechanic Unit: Southwest Regional Fleet Transportation Hometown: Cleveland

Job Duties: Maintaining the Combat Center's commercial equipment – from fire trucks to tractor trailers.

Hobbies: Camping, buying property, and preparing for retirement

Significant Achievements: Vietnam veteran, at one point in time had four children serving actively

in the armed forces, and currently has one son in Iraq and one son in Afghanistan.

Military Service: 2 years in the Marine Corps **Time at the Combat Center:** 23 years



L takes skill to use an RCO but what happens if fight. You st	's a good idea. train like you have to use the nentals."	bat then
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Observation Post

Commanding General

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FRI. 10/10	FRI. 10/10	FRI. 10/10 - SUN. 10/12	SAT. 10/11 & SUN. 10/12	SAT. 10/11
Boz Scaggs at McCallum Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS or visit http://www.mccallum theatre.com	Open Studio Art Tours Kickoff Party Time: 6 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Retreat Center, 59700 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 365-8371 or visit http://www.jtrcc.org	Music Festival "Clean Air Clean Stars" Time: All day event Where: Pappy & Harriet's, 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown. For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www. pappyandharriets.com	Weekend Time: All day event Find programs at the Public Affairs Office, building 1417 or the 29 Palms Art Gallery	Park, Oasis Visitor Center, 74485 National Park Dr., 29 Palms
SAT. 10/4 & SUN. 10/5	SAT. 10/11 & SUN. 10/12	SAT. 10/4	SAT. 10/4	SAT. 10/18
Dinner in the Canyons Gala with singer Andrea Menard Time: 5:30 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, 471 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs. For more info call 778-1079 or visit http://www.accmuseum.org	Public Sound Baths Time: 12 p.m. Where: Integratron 2477 Belfield Blvd., Landers For more info visit http://www.integratron.com	Concert: APO Hiking Society & Ara Mina Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon. For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasino resort.com		Coachella Valley Heart Walk Time: Registration, 7 a.m. Opening ceremony, 8 a.m. Walk starts, 8:30 a.m. Where: Palm Desert Civic Center Park, 73-510 Fred Waring Dr. For more info call 346-8109 or visit http://www.cvheartwalk.com

Commissary introduces new sushi bar to patrons

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Combat Correspondent

The Combat Center's Commissary recently added a new addition to its ever-growing list of features provided for customer satisfaction. As of Oct. 1, a new sushi bar is available in the front of the commissary, providing fresh, madeto-order sushi to store patrons.

"The chefs can make anything you want on the spot, or if you see something you want that's already made in the case, you can just grab it and go," said Cyndy Fults, the store director.

The Defense Commissary Agency has partnered with the Military Deli and Bakery Services to provide this service to the Combat Center, which has already become a popular stop for shoppers in its first week of business.

The new sushi counter at the commissary offers a variety of options to its customers. DeCA is still looking at ways to expand the sushi bar's customer appeal and merchandise, said Fults.

The new sushi bar will be open during regular commissary hours, providing fresh sushi to the store's patrons.

For more information about the sushi bar or the commissary, call (760) 830-7572.



A display case of sushi, which holds a variety of styles, sits in front of the new sushi bar at the commissary, which opened Oct. 1. Store patrons can either custom order their sushi, or choose from an assortment of pre-made selections.







LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN Htein Aung, a chef at the commissary's new sushi bar, slices up California Rolls for store patrons. Aung, 27, has been a sushi chef for nearly three years.



Since the sushi bar opened Oct. 1, it has become a popular stop for Combat Center Commissary's shoppers.

Cincina 6 Showtimes MOVIE TIMES 365-9633 (Showtimes Effective 10/10/08 - 10/16/08								
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*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.								
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1st Tank Battalion gives 117 pints of blood

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors of 1st Tank Battalion broke a base record Friday.

More than 160 tankers registered to donate blood to the Community Blood Bank in what was the largest bulk-donation group the blood blank had ever seen on base, said Kathy Schilling, the charge nurse of the blood drive.

After initial screening was done within the battalion to weed out any service members who had been deployed in the last 12 months, a total of 117 pints of blood were donated.

This was the first time 1st Tanks had held a battalion-wide drive, said Lt. Col. Thomas Gordon, the battalion commanding officer.

This is a worthy cause," said Gordon, a Boston native. "If we can't send all our Marines over there at the same time, the least

we can do is send our blood." Doug Dougwillo, the Marine

Corps Community Services fitness and wellness branch chief, said in addition to helping those who need blood, the participation in the drive is a good way to earn points for the Combat Center Challenge and a monetary prize.

Units who donate blood make themselves eligible to receive a first place prize of \$125 or a second place prize of \$75 for their unit fund, said Dougwillo, a Lynn, Mass., native.

"This is an additional element we've added to the Combat Center Challenge this year," he said.

Sgt. Maj. Conrad Potts, the battalion sergeant major, said he feels optimistic about the help that may be given by the gift of blood donations, as well as earning the CCC trophy for the sixth time.

We won the trophy in '03 '04 and '05, but then we lost it to 3/4[3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment] in 2006," said Potts, a Louisville, Ky., native. "Then we won it again in '07 and hope to win it again this year."

Pfc. Okan M. Cetinbag, a logistics vehicle system operator with Headquarters and Services Company, 1st Tanks, said he is a regular blood donor.

"I put myself in their shoes," said the Chicago native about reasons for donating. "For some person, I can be the guy to give them blood. Or I might be the guy who needs blood in the future.

The battalion will continue donations by having a secondary blood drive today at building 1710 and expect an additional 120 pints of blood to be collected, said Dougwillo.

The Community Blood Bank visits the base several times each month, giving plenty of opportunities to those interested in donating, said Kathleen Johnson, a registered nurse with the blood bank.

Units who wish to earn points for this year's CCC may do so by



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE Staff Sgt. John Parker, a tank mechanic with Headquarters and Support Company, 1st Tanks, waits his turn to give blood at a Community Blood Bank drive at the West Gym Friday Oct. 3.

donating blood Oct. 17 at Victory Field. For more information call 830-5386.

WEARABLE, from A1

leader James Stephens, a Capitol Connections, LLC consultant to the fuel cell, power and defense industries.

The final weight of the third place winning wearable power system was 135 ounces.

The second-place prize of \$500,000 went to team AMI from Ann Arbor, Mich., and was accepted by team leader Miguel Tovar for their system with the final weight of 133 ounces.

The first-place prize of \$1 million went to team DuPont/SFC Smart Fuel Cell M-25 and was accepted by team leader Dennis Kountz for their 132 ounce system.

"To be honest, as of a month ago, we weren't so sure we were going to make it," said Kountz.

Kountz added he believes the materials the team used gave them an advantage over other competitors.

"I think we've got great material that's been evolving over the years," he said. "I think the materials really made a difference."

The winning prototype was a hybrid between a direct methanol fuel system and lithium ion batteries, said Mark S. Baunchalk, the DuPont global strategic planning manager and a DuPont teammate. Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, the Combat Center sergeant major, made an appearance at Del Valle Field, along with special guest John J. Young Jr., the undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. It is inventions like the wearable power systems that fall under Young's department of advising

the secretary and deputy secretary of defense on all matters relating

to research, development, testing

and evaluation of advanced mili-

or patents on the wearable power systems, some of them may be

referred to when creating ground-

breaking technologies for the

modern-age warfighter, said David

Edwards, a special assistant to the

Although DoD owns no rights

tary technology.

DUSDLABS.

HOT TOPICS

OCTOBER TOBACCO **CESSATION CLASS SCHEDULED**

Kick the habit and learn to become tobacco free! The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Health Promotions Program offers tobacco cessation classes in the hospital. Classes start Tuesday and are offered at two convenient times of noon and 5:30 p.m. To sign up, call 830-2814.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENT DEADLINE

If you have not filed your 2007 tax return and qualify for the ESP, do not procrastinate. The deadline to file is Wednesday to receive your ESP this year. Eligible individuals may qualify for \$300-\$600 based on a min-imum of \$3,000 in qualifying income, having a valid social security number and that you are not a dependent or eligible to be a dependent on someone else's federal tax return. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is currently closed. VITA will reopen approximately Jan. 20 for 2008 tax returns and begin preparing 2007, amendments and returns with itemized deductions on Feb. 16. If you have not filed your 2007 tax return and your adjusted gross income was \$54,000 or less in 2007, you can use Free File at irs.gov to pre-pare and e-file your taxes online. For service members who have returned from a combat zone after VITA closed, you have an extension of at least 180 days after you left the combat zone. The legal assistance office, building 1514, has more information.

MCCES FUN RUN

The sixth consecutive MCCES Fun Run is scheduled for 7 a.m., Oct. 31. This event will include a 5K Halloween costume contest fun run, a 10K race, an individual half marathon, and a 5person team half marathon. The start/finish line is located in front of MCCES Building 1831. Register in advance and receive a T-shirt. The registration tent will open at 5:30 a.m., Oct. 31. Prizes for the best Halloween costumes. Medals will go to the top three overall and age group male and female finishers for the 5K, 10K and individual half marathon. Also, medals will go to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place 5-member team half marathon competition. Finisher certificates to all finish-



Point contact is Capt. Roberts at 830-6786.

FALL FESTIVAL AT THE PROTESTANT CHAPEL

Oct. 31– Nov. 2 at 5:30 p.m. the Protestant Chapel will be holding a Fall Festival. Throughout the three days there will be a host of activities for young Marines, teenagers, school age and pre-school kids. Games, prizes, a movie and refresh-ments will also be offered during this event. On Saturday, Nov. I at 4:30 p.m. Guest artist from surrounding cities will be per-forming during the Praise expose', 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 11 a.m. will be church service and highlights of the weekend. For more information, Please contact Gunnery Sgt. Jeffery Davidson at 830-5811 or e-mail at jeffery.david son@usmc.mil.



Zachariah Sawyer, a second-grade student at Twentynine Palms Elementary School, turns on a fire department water hose while firefighter Jason Swift holds on to the nozzle during the school's fire prevention field trip to the Combat Center Fire Department Tuesday.

Combat Center firefighters honor fire prevention week

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Combat Correspondent

Monday marked the beginning of a nationally-recognized event, Fire Prevention Week, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Each year, the NFPA selects a theme for fire prevention. This year, it is preventing home fires.

Combat Center firefighters tackled the topic head-on by educating children from four local elementary schools on fire safety and inviting them to the fire department for an open house event Tuesday.

Throughout the week, students from Condor, Oasis, Twentynine Palms, and Palm Vista Elementary Schools were greeted by fire safety mascots Smokey the Bear and Sparky the fire dog as their school buses pulled into the firehouse garage.

The children got off the buses and gathered in front of firefighter Mark Aid, who presented a slide show and talked to the students about safety maneuvers and emergency plans in case of home fires. Aid told the children about installing and testing smoke detectors, making fire escape plans the whole family can remember, always using adult supervision when around fire, and what do to if their clothes catch on fire.

Fire Prevention Week has been a nationally-recognized event since the Boston Fire in 1711, said Darlene Hull, Combat Center Fire Department assistant chief of fire prevention.

"Most fire departments have an open house event like this," said Hull, a South Lake Tahoe, Calif., native. "We're giving a big push to get in contact with second-grade-aged kids. We've tailored the theme for them, but the message of fire prevention remains the same."

Along with celebrating fire prevention week, the Combat Center Fire Department also celebrates its 11th annual chili lunch and open house at the firehouse today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We've incorporated the chili lunch with fire prevention week to wrap it all up," said Ken Seymour, Combat Center Fire Department inspector. "It seems to just keep growing every year. The more units that come in, the more support we get."

Firefighter Jason Swift, who has been with the department for five and a half years, said the fire prevention education program is running more smoothly since the incorporation of the chili lunch with Fire Prevention Week.

"The program presentation has gotten a lot better," said Swift, a Hesperia, Calif., native about the children's prevention presentation.

Seymour said he alone has sold more than 600 tickets since Sept. 1, and other firefighters in the department have sold as many as 900 individually.

Tickets for the chili lunch are \$3 at the door for either a bowl of chili or hot dog. The mobile Community Blood Bank vehicle will be out front for willing donors and a Jupiter jump house will be set up for children. For more information call 830-6871.

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Marine Corp Base 29 Palms Community Center, Building #1004

Police Officer I

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Market Sirth Announcements , Market States

SERENITY LEXUS GALINDO Daughter of Cpl. Ricardo Galindo and wife, Megan Galindo. Born Aug. 28, weighing 7 pounds, 1.1 ounces and measuring 19 inches. MASON KEITH SISSON Son of Pfc. Brandon Sisson and wife, Mary Sisson. Born Aug. 31, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 19.3 inches. JANELLE EMMA ESQUIVEL Daughter of Sgt. Jose Esquivel and wife, Desirea Esquivel. Born Sept. 2, weighing 7 pounds, 4.8 ounces and measuring 18.6 inches. ISAAC CHRISTOPHER FAIRCLOTH

Son of Lance Cpl. Mykal Faircloth and wife, Katherine Faircloth. Born Sept. 2, weighing 8 pounds, 4.9 ounces and measuring 21.3 inches. TAYLOR ANN ADKINS

Daughter of Cpl. Craig Adkins and wife, Jessica Adkins. Born Sept. 3, weighing 6 pounds, 15.4 ounces and measuring 19.3 inches. NATHANIEL DAVID BARTHOLIC

Son of Lance Cpl. David Bartholic and wife, Angela Bartholic. Born Sept. 5, weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 19 inches.

ABIGAIL FLORENCE MARTIN

Daughter of Pvt. Daniel Martin and wife, Clarissa Martin. Born Sept. 6, weighing 6 pounds, 10

ounces and measuring 21 inches. **TORI MARIE BENTLEY**

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Justin Bentley and wife, Tonya Bentley.

Born Sept. 7, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 20 inches. LANDYN ISAIAH DAVIS

Son of Sgt. Bryan Davis and wife, Cpl. Felicia Davis. Born Sept. 7, weighing 6 pounds, 9

ounces and measuring 19 inches.

EVALYN SUSAN-JAMES FULLER

Daughter of Sgt. Aaron Fuller and wife, Liz Fuller. Born Sept. 7, weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 19 inches. **KHLOE MARIE FURLONG**

Daughter of Pvt. Cameron Furlong and wife, Brooke Furlong. Born Sept. 7, weighing 6 pounds, 11.9 ounces and measuring 19.8 inches.

SILAS AVERY

SCHELLENGER Son of Cpl. Richard Schellenger and wife, Carrie Schellenger.

Born Sept. 8, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 20.7 inches.

ZACHERY PHILIP BENTZ

Son of Capt. Jeff Bentz and wife, Alison Bentz.

Born Sept. 9, weighing 7 pounds, 11.2 ounces and measuring 20.2 inches.

BENJAMIN JOHN BROWN

Son of Sgt. Dewey Brown and wife, Sarah Brown.

Born Sept. 9, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 21 inches. LUCAS JONAH BOND

Son of Staff Sgt. Christopher Bond and wife, Leah Bond.

Born Sept. 11, weighing 7 pounds, 6.2 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

ELIZIBETH JUNE CARLYLE

Daughter of Cpl. Dustin Carlyle and wife, Emily Carlyle. Born Sept.11, weighing 8 pounds, 1

ounce and measuring 22 inches. LILY MAY SAXMAN

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Larry Saxman and wife, Melissa Saxman.

Born Sept. 11, weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 19.9 inches.

HANNAH GRACE BECKRING

Daughter of Cpl. Samuel Beckring and wife, Cassidy Beckring. Born Sept. 13, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

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WPP Kids' day Science, engineering made fun for future innovators

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Combat Correspondent

The 2008 Director of Defense Research and Engineering's Wearable Power Prize competition hosted a kid's day at Del Valle Field Oct. 3.

More than 300 children and teenagers from Twentynine Palms High School, Condor Elementary School and Palm Vista Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, Calif., immersed themselves in demonstrations of the newest, cutting-edge technology for today's warfighters.

The idea of the kid's day came from Karen Burrows, DDR&E program manager.

"It's important that we do an outreach program for kids to introduce them to science and engineering to get them interested," said Burrows, a Fort Washington, Md., native. "If it wasn't for outreach programs, I wouldn't have gotten interested and become an engineer myself. We need to make sure we sustain the population of scientists and engineers in the years to come."

After students got settled on the Del Valle Field bleachers, Dr. William S. Rees Jr., deputy under secretary of Defense for Laboratories and Basic Sciences, gave an overview of the intent behind the development of the technologies students would see that day.

After the brief, students were divided into groups and spread throughout the field to look at the technology showcase demonstrations.

Among the demonstrations, students learned about devices such as the portable ventilator, a medical tool that delivers consistent air flow to the lungs of a non-breathing patient.

Students also learned about heating and cooling clothing that regulates the temperature of the

wearer, propelled robots that operate underwater, optic visual devices that connect to helmets, and reenforced computers that can withstand the elements in the field.

Static displays of two uparmored humvees, a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, a 7-ton truck and a light armored vehicle were present to grant students a chance to climb aboard and explore the interiors of the vehicles.

Midway through the day, the students gathered under a tent to eat lunch and received Meals, Ready-to-Eat as souvenirs.

Amanda Gonzalez, an 11thgrader at Twentynine Palms High School, said her favorite display in the showcase was the temperature-regulating clothing.

"I think the heated vest was really cool," said the Austin, Texas, native. "It calibrates to your body's heat without pressing any buttons,



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Zack Nelson, a second-grader at Palm Vista Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, Calif., peers down the assistant driver's hatch during the Wearable Power Prize competition's technology showcase and kid's day at Del Valle Field Friday.

and it doesn't get too hot."

Sabrina Olsen, a fellow 11thgrader at the high school, said she found the cooling vests even more interesting.

"I think the cooling vest is a great idea, especially out in the desert where it's hot," said the Twentynine Palms native. "All you needed to do was add a little water and it got surprisingly cold."

Rees expressed gratitude in being able to reach out to young people and possibly ignite inspiration in a few of them.

"For most of you, we look at you and see ourselves 10, 15 or 20 years ago," Dr. Rees said to students. "Maybe some of you will look at us and see yourselves in 10, 15 or 20 years from now. That's why we brought you here today.'

Young Marines fall in to new ur

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. **ERICKSON**

Combat Correspondent

Eight-year-olds to twelfth graders now have the opportunity to join the Mojave Vipers, the newest unit in the Young Marine Program, which has just started in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

To join the program, children must be enrolled in a school certified by the state, including homeschooled children. They also must be an overall good student at the school. Special needs children are also welcome to join the new unit.

More than 25 children have already signed up to participate in the year-long program, said Staff Sgt. Daniel Montague, the Mojave Vipers' commanding officer who expects to get even more children signed up during the parent orientation meeting Oct. 18 at Twentynine Palms Elementary School.

"This program is designed to teach them to resist drugs and peer pressure," said Montague, a Redwood City, Calif., native. "It also gives a lot of these children a support group for when their own parents deploy."

According to a Young Marine Program pamphlet, the overall mission is to impact America's future by providing quality youth developmental programs that will help develop its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Leading Young Marines is a mixture of 10 civilians and active duty service members from the surrounding community.

The unit will begin meeting in November, and before joining the ranks as Young Marines, each child must complete recruit training. Throughout the training the children learn general subjects, such as Young Marine and Marine Corps history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, and military rank structure.

Cpl. Lance Jones, a drill instructor for the Mojave Vipers, will experience being a leader for the Young Marine Program for the first time and has high hopes for the new program.

"I first heard about the program when I was overseas," said Jones, a Coleman, Texas, native. "When I heard about the Mojave Vipers, I automatically wanted to help out."

Recruit training is a minimum

See NEW UNIT, A11



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Tiny dancer collects donations for Make-a-Wish Foundation



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE Tatiana Zamora, the 10-year-old daughter of Tara and Master Sgt. Rogelio Zamora, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 operations chief, dances in her ballet class at the Twentynine Palms Sports and Recreation Center Sept. 24.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Combat Correspondent

Tatiana Zamora, the 10-year-old daughter of Tara and Master Sgt. Rogelio Zamora, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 operations chief, is a fifth-grade student at Oasis Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, Calif., and an avid dancer with a generous goal in mind.

Tatiana said she wants to help ill children by collecting donations and participating in the 2008 Junior Charger Girls event for the San Diego Chargers Football game Nov. 9 sponsoring the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

The Make-a-Wish Foundation is a nonprofit organization that funds expenses to grant wishes of terminally ill children.

The 2008 Junior Charger Girls event will allow 7- to 15-year-old girls a chance to stand on the sidelines with the Chargers' cheerleading team during the halftime show, said Tara.

All young participants need to raise at least \$175 individually in sponsor pledges before Oct. 27 to be eligible, according to the Chargers' Web site, http://www.chargers .com. Participants who raise at least \$1,000 will receive an invitation to have a sleep over party with the Chargers girls.

Tara added her daughter is excited to learn new dance moves from the professional cheerleaders.

"I love dancing," said Tatiana, who has been dancing since she was 3. "It expresses me."

Andrea Williams, Tatiana's dance instructor, said she has worked with Tatiana for

See DANCER, A14



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Eddie Benitez, a fitter and tailor for the Marine Corps Community Services Dry Cleaners and Tailor Shop, fits on an ornamentation sleeve to a Marine Officer's Evening Dress Uniform Oct. 7.

Squared away for the Marine Corps Ball?

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Birthday Ball is just around the corner, and Marine Corps Community Services' Military Clothing Sales store, Dry Cleaners and Tailor Shop want to make sure every Marine has their uniform squared away before it is too late.

When a Marine waits until the last minute to check their uniform, they run the risk of having an unserviceable uniform or the clothing store running out of their size.

"The Marine Corps Ball is when all the Marines are really publicized," said Lance Cpl. Geoff Rapp, a mechanic with Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, who got his uniform dry-cleaned early. "It is important to take time and make sure everything is correct so you don't show up to the ball looking like crap."

Donna Miller, the Military Clothing Sales store manager, who has been working there since 1984, says she tries to urge Marines to get their uniforms prepared before it is too late, but normally notices Marines in the store trying to buy their entire uniform 10 days before the actual ball.

"Marines should be checking their uniform at least 30 days before they have to wear it," said Miller, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native. "That way if they find out they're missing something or their uniform doesn't fit, they have time to fix it." The Military Clothing Sales store is already running low on men's enlisted dress blue blouses, staff noncommissioned officer and officer's evening dress uniform. They have also begun mounting medals, which takes seven to 10 days to complete. "It is hard to accommodate the latecomers," Miller said. "I will call all around the Marine Corps from Barstow [Calif.,] to Hawaii to see if anyone has the item they need, but it is nearly impossible to get it in their size

if they come in too late."

Marines can also take their uniform items to the Military Clothing Sales store or Dry Cleaners and Tailor Shop to ensure they fit properly.

Kyle Smith, a dry cleaning leader at the Dry Cleaners and Tailor Shop, says they are already beginning to get overloaded with ball items.

"It can take up to three weeks for us to complete a uniform depending on what was needed," said Smith, a Renton, Wash., native.

Although the time is constantly changing, it takes approximately three days to put chevrons or blood stripes on a uniform, around two weeks for dry cleaning, and three weeks for tailoring and dry cleaning.

"We always try to stress to the Marines to get their uniforms in early," Smith said. "As soon as October hits we are slammed. Marines end up going to the ball in their alpha's because they didn't get their dress blues into us on time."

Miller constantly gives tips to Marines and sailors' regarding uniform preparation to ensure their ball goes as smoothly as possible.

"I tell the Marines to make a checklist of everything they need for the ball," Miller said. "Especially if the ball is far away. You would be surprised how many Marines called our office from Las Vegas last year to see if anybody could take them something they forgot." It is important for Marines, who are going to the ball, to square away their uniform and look their best as they celebrate the birth of the Marine Corps. It's a Night of strategy & good times at the Combat Center Officers' Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$10 BUY-IN. Games will be from 7-9 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment.

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NREA works to keep wildlife wild

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Combat Correspondent

As the idea of manifest destiny began to unfold in the United States in the 19th century, and the country became more populated and began to grow industrially, environmental encroachment became more of a dominant issue.

This also holds true for the Combat Center, which is built on the former habitat of many desert species, including coyotes.

With the ever-increasing human population in the region, the wild environment has blended into the urban environment, causing dangers for both people and the pre-existing ecosystem.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division has taken the initiative to protect the base's human population and the wildlife from each other. One way is the "catch and release program" for coyotes and other desert-dwelling species.

"In general, NREA's function is to support the Marine Corps' mission by helping to maintain the environment and by minimizing the risks pertaining to the wildlife," said Dr. Brian Henen, an NREA ecologist. "Mostly we're protecting the animals from humans, but we also help to maintain the ecosystem and the integrity of the base."

The Vista, Calif., native added the dangers of what is known as urban wildlife can upset the balance of the ecosystem if wild creatures become inadvertently dependent on humans to exist.

Currently in California, we have a huge problem with wildlife becoming integrated with the urban environment we live in," he said. "As communities grow, they begin to encroach on the environment. Over time, species learn to adapt to that encroachment."

One recent and frequent example of "urban wildlife" is the sightings of coyotes in the Combat Center's housing areas.

"Coyotes are a great example of

urban wildlife," said Brent Husung, an NREA natural resources specialist. "They're a very opportunistic species. Coyotes in our area are not threatened by us anymore, so they take to foraging for food in our trash, eating pet food, and seeking other nourishment not native to their survival.

"One thing people here need to realize is that the base was built on their habitat, so we need to adjust and deal with wildlife in a delicate manner," he added. "One thing we want to encourage here is that residents need to be aware of their actions."

Husung referred specifically to things such as residents controlling their trash as opposed to leaving it out overnight and throwing it away in the morning. Coyotes will smell the trash, wander into the housing areas and pick through the unattended trash bags.

He also mentioned people leaving pet food in their yards. Although it is acceptable for pets to eat outside, if the food is left in the yard, coyotes will eat it. If coyotes and other wildlife are given the opportu-



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

A coyote that was trapped by Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs in the Ocotillo Heights housing area Oct. 3 stalks around a cage at the Sand Hill training area shortly before its release. As of Aug. 1, NREA natural resources specialists began an initiative to track coyotes entering the Combat Center's residential areas foraging for food. This animal was the second to be trapped, the first having been captured Sept. 27.

nity to feed on residents' trash, they will become dependent on it for survival and will continue to roam the housing areas in search of a free meal.

Husung said there were several coyote attacks on people in San Bernardino County last year, all of

See COYOTE, A12



REUNION, from A1

University of South Florida, in Tampa, Fla.

"I've never pressured him to be a Marine," Gray said. "Did I want him to be a Marine? Not as much as I wanted him to be happy."

What makes White happy is working with computers, and though he considered the Marines, he said the only service that would guarantee a military occupational specialty in the computer field was the Army.

'There has been someone in

my family at least three generations back who has enlisted in an armed service," White said. "I grew up thinking I would enlist at some point, and I was just ready."

The two men's units prepared for deployments at different times, which made it difficult for father and son to see each other. According to Gray, the two have seen each other about four days in the past four years.

White's unit learned of the brief window of opportunity he had to see his father – since Team Tank is always on the move – and graciously allowed the soldier a short break from his duties to fly to Al Asad. Gray served as the event planner for this visit, taking his son out to the CMP shoot, and then the next day, letting him fire a round from a tank's main gun.

'We don't get a lot of exposure to weapons," White said, referring to his computer MOS with the Army. "We don't get combat-arms missions; (we are) combat support."

'Which is how his mom prefers it," Gray added.

Team Tank operates in austere conditions and is based in Fallujah, but is never in a forwardoperating base or combat outpost for more than a few weeks at a time. Their mission, to help rid the country of foreign fighters a-lifetime thing, in that neither one from organizations like Al Qaeda in Iraq by sweeping in remote areas outside of populated areas, calls for the nomadic unit to often of us here at the same time."

live out of their vehicles.

Army Staff Sgt. Edward L. Fourquet, 27, communications section non-commissioned officer-incharge with 4th Psychological Operations Group, noted that White has earned numerous Soldier of the Month awards from various command levels and has been consistently promoted of the soldiers in his grade.

Gray said that his son hasn't just made an impression on the Army, but has also inspired other young people.

"He's had a huge impact on all (his siblings') lives as a big broth-er," said Gray. "They all admire him immensely.

According to Gray, despite his popularity at home, White rarely hears a "hoo-ah," the Army's motivational cry. His younger siblings -Skylinn, 18, Richard, 13, and Emma, 11 – prefer the "ooh rah" of their father's service. Emma also tells White his hair is too long.

The two service members have now gone their separate ways, planning to rejoin as a family in California after the new year. But this short visit was something that father and son will always remember.

"This visit has been memorable, l we're hoping that it's a once-inof us returns to Iraq (at the same time)," Gray said. "There's enough stress on his mother to have both



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NEW UNIT, from A7

of 26 hours where each child must complete a modified physical fitness test and pass tests on all the curriculum taught throughout the training.

"If the child fails boot camp, [they] will be recycled to the next recruit training or will be discharged," Montague said. "Although, every effort will be made to help the child pass."

After completing recruit training, the new Young Marines will perform close order drill every Friday and participate in various community services and fundraisers throughout the community. Each child must complete 240 hours of community service every year and the money they raise will help pay for their Marine Corps Ball trip to Hawaii this year.

If a Young Marine reaches the rank of sergeant in the program and decides to enlist in the armed services, they are contracted to be promoted to E-2 within any branch after successful completion of basic training.

As the Young Marines participate in different events and complete different training they will receive badges and ribbons to show their dedication and hard work during their time in the program.

"These children are learning values they can use throughout the rest of their life," said Staff Sgt. Fred Mancuso, a Mojave Vipers adult staff and instructor. "We worked hard to put this organization together for the children. Our goal is to give these kids guidance and leadership."

For more information regarding the Young Marine Program contact Montague at ymmontague@yahoo.com.





COYOTE, from A10

which were carried out by the urban wildlife.

"Usually, a coyote can be scared off by making noise and throwing rocks," he said. "However, these urban coyotes do not fear humans and will attack them in order to survive."

Service Times:

Sunday Morning Worship 9:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

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Many coyotes have been spotted in the Combat Center's training and housing areas. On Aug. I, the NREA natural resources specialists set up a trap in the Ocotillo Heights housing area after a resident called the Provost Marshal's Office and reported a coyote skulking around a playground,

Spirit and Truth Worship Center

which could be potentially harmful to children.

The first coyote was trapped Sept. 27, said Husung. NREA retrieved the animal, marked it and released it in the Combat Center's Sand Hill training area, several miles west of Camp Wilson.

On the morning of Oct. 1, a second coyote was captured in Ocotillo Heights. This coyote was also marked by NREA and subsequently released into the Sand Hill training area. While the coyote was in NREA custody, Henen was able to analyze what it had been eating recently by examining its feces.

"Čoyotes are omnivores, meaning they eat all sorts of things," said Henen. "They eat a lot of lizards and rodents, but also eat berries and other plants as well.

"Because there is an absence of evidence indicating it has been maintaining its natural diet, we can assume this animal has been eating processed food, most likely pet food," he added. "If it were following its regular diet, we would be able to find traces of hair, scales, bones or plants in the feces, but we can't."

Through further analysis, Henen was able to determine the coyote was, in fact, eating processed pet food, most likely dog food.

According to California state law and Combat Center Order 5090.1C, feeding wildlife is not only dangerous, but also illegal. Killing wildlife is also illegal. The California Fish and Game Web site, http://www.keepmewild.org, provides information for many types of desert-dwelling creatures

and how to avoid encroaching on their habitats.

Another danger facing Combat Center residents is the possibility of contracting rabies, said Husung. Coyotes and other desert wildlife have been known to carry rabies, and coming into contact with the animals can be hazardous to humans, especially children.

Henen and Husung both agree educating people about local wildlife is paramount. It not only raises awareness among Combat Center residents, but also provides them with knowledge about what to do if the encounter any wildlife.

'Education is extremely important to help maintain natural resources," said Henen. "The best approach is to be a good scientist, which is someone who is observant, knows about the animals, and knows not to interfere. We can't have wildlife becoming dependent on people -- it's just too dangerous.'

For more information about wildlife preservation, call NREA at 830-7396, or log on to the California Fish and Game

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MOUT from, A1

Alaska, said as part of their COIN training, the Marines and sailors of 1/7 were educated in tank and infantry integration, mechanized vehicle and infantry integration, and entry control points.

He said the Marines and sailors also learned census patrols, which are everyday occurrences in Iraq, and involve patrolling and going house-to-house in order to gain a better knowledge of the local community and surroundings.

In addition to census patrols, 1/7 also worked on honing their skills in "precision violence," said Moore.

'The idea is that you isolate a threat and deal with that threat, specifically minimizing collateral damage," said Moore. Once the exercise was fin-

ished, Moore said he was very satisfied with how the training went and how his Marines and sailors performed.

"I was very pleased with the Marines' performance," said Moore. "The battalion clear with all the pyrotechnics really gave a sense of realism to the Marines."

During the patrol, Moore said Company A found every IED threat, did not injure or kill any civilians, worked well with the Iraqi Police, and even impressed the role players.

At the debriefing immediately following the exercise, a role player addressed the company and told



Marines and sailors from Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, prepare to maneuver through the Combat Center's military operations in urban terrain facility at Range 215 during a battalion clear of the town Oct. 2.

the Marines personally that their effort was the best he had seen because it was accurate and the civilian population and homes of the mock-village were respected.

1st Lt. Christopher W. Simpson, the executive officer of Company A, was also satisfied with the company's effort and while he admitted there will always be room for improvement, he was pleased to see the company further along in its training than expected.

Simpson, a native of Rochester, N.Y., said the exercise showed that the company has grown closer over the past few

months, and he is proud to watch the Marines grow as individuals and as a company.

Cpl. Walter Pilkington, a field radio operator with Company A, shared the same feeling as his executive officer.

"There is always room from improvement," said Pilkington, a native of Fort Collins, Colo. "But I think we came together as a group and are working better together.'

After hiking an estimated three miles back from the field, 1/7worked to get things in order before getting some well-earned rest and relaxation.

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-Demominational 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 Čhapel 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. **Immaculate Heart of Mary** Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12:15-4:30 p.m. (First Friday each month)

plus get

Cash



Marines from Company A, 1/7, provide security as their fellow riflemen gain entrance to a building through the window during a battalion clear of the Combat Center's MOUT facility at range 215 Oct. 2. During the 10-day battalion field exercise the Marines and sailors of 1/7 were educated in tank and infantry integration, mechanized vehicle and infantry integration, entry control points, and census patrols.



Combat Center Trader 408

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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

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Web site at: http://www.29 palms.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

GUITAR Volume, treble knobs, one bridge humbucker pick-up. \$150 OBO. 888-7100 or 830-5138. 10/3/08

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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.

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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

DANCER, from A8

more than two years at her dance studio.

Tatiana started dancing in Williams' studio after working hard to earn a scholarship, and therefore has more expected of her, said Williams, a Perris, Calif., native.

"She is a lot more focused than other girls her age," said Williams. "She actually makes corrections when given them, and she will be the first to try the more challenging version of a dance even if there is an easier version. She's very quiet, but very passionate about dancing."

Tara said she is proud of her daughter's talent and initiative in helping others.

"It's a great experience to see my daughter grow in this way," said the Oceanside, Calif., native. "She reviewed the Make-A-Wish Foundation Web site and saw the wishes the kids had. She immediately wanted to raise as much money as she could to help. As a mom, I am so proud of her and what she wants to do."

Tatiana's father said he feels the same way about his daughter's aspirations.

"I couldn't be more proud of her," said the El Paso, Texas, native. "She's been putting in so much effort and talking to our family and friends about making her goal. She's working hard and will see the results of her efforts at the end of this."

Tara said she believes this opportunity will build her daughter's confidence by having her dance in front a crowd estimated to be more than 65,000 strong, as well as show her how it feels to do good things for those in need.

To date, more than 161,000

wishes of terminally ill children have been granted through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, according to the official foundation Web site http://wish.org.

The foundation may collect donations under the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign. To learn more about the foundation, visit the Web site. For more information on the Chargers' girls event, visit the Web site http://www.chargers.com.



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A15 OCTOBER 10, 2008

MCCES rolls over another opponent

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School has become a force to be reckoned with during the 2008 season of the General's Commanding Intramural Football League. They continued their undefeated season Oct. 1 beating Headquarters Battalion at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

MCCES followed their week two 21-6 blowout of 1st Tank Battalion with their bout against last year's base champions, Headquarters. Immediately after the Tanks' victory, MCCES began preparing for its game against Headquarters, who are also Best in the West Champions.

"We feel good about the game we played," said MCCES' head coach Glenn Schott, a native of Brentwood, N.Y., after their week two victory over Tanks. "We have lots of room for improvement before next week, and with our work ethic we'll get there."

When the game began, Headquarters received the opening kickoff. After punting on a three-and-out on their initial possession, Headquarters recovered a MCCES fumble inside their 50 and returned the ball for a touchdown and followed by a two-point conversion.

The first quarter closed out 8-0 in favor of Headquarters after a MCCES defensive stand in their own red zone.

quarter of the game strong, driving downfield right away to score, but lost the extra point when the kick was blocked.

proved inconsistent again when — the final touchdown of the

they turned over the ball at the MCCES 12-yard line on a fumble, on which MCCES failed to capitalize.

The first half drew to an end with a score of 8-6, still in favor of Headquarters.

At halftime the MCCES coach motivated and reassured his players that the game would end in their favor if they continued to play the way they were.

"We're dominating them," said Schott, "They can't stop us on either side of the ball and our defense is looking strong. They can't cover us on offense. We can run and pass on them all night. It's over, we're done playing around."

The MCCES team chanted and yelled all together, and got fired up for the second half as they prepared to take the field again. However, MCCES started off the second half with the ball, but failed to score.

Headquarters drove from midfield to the MCCES red zone only to be stopped short when their pass was intercepted by MCCES in the end zone.

Headquarters made the next score of the game, when a high snap on a punt in the MCCES end zone resulted in punter Tobias Sheers scrambling to kick the ball out of bounds, resulting in a safety in favor of Headquarters.

The third quarter remained a tug-of-war between the two teams for points with numerous failing drives.

The defensive stand went MCCES began the second late into the fourth quarter when MCCES quarterback Russell, Anthony а Warrenton, N.C., native, lead his team to a crucial touch-The Headquarters offense down inside of two minutes

game that put MCCES up by two.

Headquarters' responding drive was pushed back by the MCCES defense, and the clock wound down to zero with a score of 12-10 in favor of MCCES.

The MCCES team was overjoyed with their victory of the perceived best team on base.

The head coach congratulated his players on their night's performance.

"I've got two syllables for you - de-fense," said Schott. "It's been a long time coming, and we finally beat the mythical gods of Headquarters, we made mistakes, but we overcame them.'

Headquarters coach Daymian Brown, who is a native of Abdington, Pa., said after the game the team needs to begin making position changes and get back to what they're good at.

"We need to change people around to better suit the team concept," Brown said. "We tended to get away from it [the running game], and use our receivers more. The more passes, the more interceptions. The only people in a game who like interceptions are the other team's defenses."

Headquarters players such as Tony Hall, the center and a native of Tyler, Texas, believe changes and hard work will pay off for the team.

"We're progressing, and working very hard at it," Hall said. "We're learning from out mistakes. All we need to do is put up more points and keep improving on our defense."

Hall added with work done on the team's offense winning will become regular again for them.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL NERL

Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School running back Quran Douglas Greene breaks through Headquarters Battalion defensive players to gain a first down. Headquarters fell to 1 and 2 following their 12-10 loss to MCCES Oct. 1 at the Combat Center's Felix Field.



Headquarters Battalion guarterback Charles Jefferson scans the defense before he calls the play. MCCES remains the only undefeated team in the league as of week three with a record of 3-0.



Headquarters Battalion quarterback Charles Jefferson evades MCCES defensive players as the passing pocket collapses around him.

Drama Killers dominates Dental Pain, 18-8

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Co-ed Winter Softball League hit off its third game night of the season when Drama Killers performed a root canal on Dental Pain with a final score 18-8 Oct. 2 at Felix Field.

and Combat Center older children a chance to play regardless of skill level.

It gives a chance for husbands and wives to play together, and it's not nearly as competitive as the other leagues. It's mostly for fun," said Debra Sullivan, the Drama Killers' coach. The game started rough for Dental Pain, leading off in the first with no hits and playing two short in the field. Drama Killers took advantage of the lack of field coverage and ended the inning 3-0. We were missing a female so we had to play two down in the field," said Hartvig Holmberg, an outfielder and pitcher for Dental Pain. "I was hoping for two more players during the first inning." The league has rules to make sure all players get a fair chance to play. For every male in the field there must also be a female, so if a team is short one female player they must pull a male player out of the game. With a late arrival in the second inning and a full team out in the field, Dental Pain launched a comeback in the top of the third with a hitting streak, allowing five runners to score and bringing

them within four points of Drama Killers with a tally of 11-7.

Drama Killers ended Dental Pain's scoring and held them to only one run in the remaining innings. Drama Killers added seven additional runs to the board in the fourth and fifth ending the game prematurely due to a 10-run lead. Drama Killers' left center fielder Daniel "Sulli" Sullivan had the heaviest bat knocking in two home runs and six RBIs. Sullivan helped carry Drama Killers' record to 2-0 as of Oct. 2. Even with a loss, Holmberg was still proud of his team increasing their skills from the pervious game. "Some of the players on the team hadn't played before," said Holmberg. "They have improved so much on hitting that their hard work paid off; it really showed." Win or lose, the league is really for those who just enjoy playing, said Randy Husted, a sports specialist with Marine Corps Community Services. It also allows the teams to play together to gain more experience so they are better prepared for tournaments in the area. The next scheduled games are Thursday at 6:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Felix Field.



The league is in its eighth consecutive year aboard the base and allows Marines, sailors, spouses



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES Drama Killers' outfielder Dawn Edwards swings during her first at bat Oct. 2 at Felix Field.

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Drama Killers' first baseman T.C. Gray prepares to field a throw as a player with Dental Pain runs through first base in the top of the third inning Oct. 2 at Felix Field.



(800) 945-1866 55189 29 PALMS HWY., YUCCA VALLEY

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