

# OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 24, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 43

## Combat Center Marines rise to Challenge

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT FOREIGN

The Combat Center hosted its sixth annual Combat Center Challenge at Victory Field Oct. 17.

Eleven Combat Center units participated in the challenge competing in various events to win the first-place trophy and a \$500 prize for the unit's individual MCCA fund.

1st Tank Battalion took home the trophy this year for the fifth time since the initiation of the CCC in 2002.

3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion followed closely on Tanks' heels throughout the challenge but lost by only three points after the final heated tug-of-war event that determined the overall winner, said Doug Dougwillo, the Marine Corps Community Services fitness and wellness branch chief.

Many of the events this year are traditional in the CCC such as: the volleyball championship

See **CHALLENGE, A14**



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

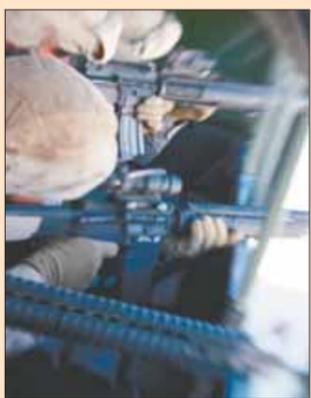
Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, dig their heels in the sand as they compete with Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 7 in the tug-of-war event at the sixth annual Combat Center Challenge at Victory Field Friday. 1/7 won this bout but then lost to 1st Tank Battalion in their next run.



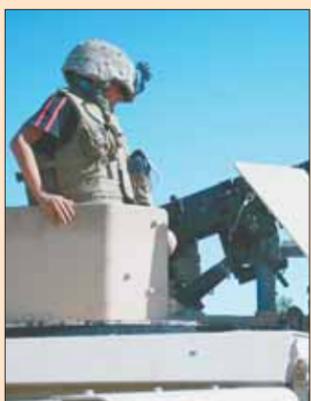
**3** Combat Center welcomes fall



**6** Fight Club 29 taps out competition



**7** 8th ESB rolls out on convoy training



**9** 1/7 shows family appreciation

## Local community, MCAGCC celebrate Pioneer Days



**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
Carnival patrons ride the giant slide during a day of fun at the Pioneer Days carnival Oct. 17 at Luckie Park. The carnival had many rides, including a children's rollercoaster and games where participants had a chance to win prizes that included goldfish, stuffed animals and paintings.

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center Marines, sailors, their families and the Twentynine Palms community had the chance to participate in four days of fun during the 72nd annual Pioneer Days Oct. 16 through Sunday.

Pioneer Days, which was founded in 1937 as a community May Day, encom-



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Boy Scouts march the Pioneer Days Parade banner down Highway 62 Oct. 17.

passes nearly a dozen separate events including a parade, children's carnival, honorary judge and sheriff contest, skateboard contest, arm wrestling tournament, Rotary Club Poker Run, hot chicken wing eating contest, haunted house, sidewalk art contest, pancake breakfast, chili dinner and dance, concerts from

See **PIONEER, A15**

## Combat Center spins new wheel for safety



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Officer Raymond Camacho, traffic motor officer and a member of the major accident investigation team with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, talks to more than 30 Combat Center motorcycle riders about the importance of being safe while riding during a motorcycle safety brief Oct. 17.

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, sailors and Department of Defense employees from the Combat Center who ride, or are interested in riding motorcycles, participated in a safety brief at the base theater Oct. 17.

After the brief, more than 30 riders visited a crash site of a Marine who was killed in a motorcycle accident in Yucca Valley, Calif., to show them the importance of being safe while riding.

During the brief, guest speakers from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the Palm Springs Police Department spoke about the hazards of riding and the best safety precautions

See **SAFETY, A15**

## This Day in Marine Corps History

-Oct. 24, 1915-

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot was moved from Norfolk, Va., and established at Parris Island, S.C.

# CG addresses Combat Center personnel at Town Hall Meeting

The Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, invites all Marines, sailors and their families to attend a town hall meeting on Nov. 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Sunset Cinema. This is your opportunity to address any questions and concerns with Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus. Free childcare will be provided, with more detailed information to follow. For any questions, please contact Capt. Jennifer Raymond at 830-7617.

# Break the silence, break the cycle, end domestic violence

Every year prevention specialists, victim's advocates and Family Advocacy staff all over the world seek to find effective ways to educate service members and their families about the services that are available to them and help reduce the risk of domestic violence.

In each article that is published it is stated that domestic abuse is incompatible with readiness, the maintenance of high standards of performance, and military discipline, yet interpersonal violence continues. Here at the Marine and Family Services Family Advocacy Program Branch, we understand that it takes more than a few carefully worded speeches to make an impact on Marines and sailors that have witnessed violence in combat that is beyond what most of us here at home could imagine. Marine Corps Community Services Marine and Family Services Division wants to help military families enjoy the limited time they spend together.

The Family Advocacy Program offers classes, workshops and seminars on a wide-variety of topics relevant to supporting the command role and strengthening military families. The leadership role is critical in establishing organizational climate. Bringing family advocacy programs into the units can be a powerful tool in preventing problems that interfere with mission readiness.

For more information on programs and services provided by The Family Advocacy Program Branch, please contact Prevention and Education at 830-4950.

# Bus Stops for the 'Somebody Loves You' event

Busses will make runs between housing and Victory Field from 4 to 6 p.m. and begin return trips from Victory Field to housing at 8 p.m. until needed.

### Look for event signs at the following:

- Adobe Flats / Marine Palms
- Corner of Sandhill Ave. & Rainbow Canyon Rd.
- Corner of Plant St. & Elm Ave.

### Joshua Heights / Shadow Mountain / Condor Housing

- Corner of Smoke Tree Ave. & Desert View Ct.
- Corner of Smoke Tree Ave. & Cholla St.
- Corner of Bullion Ave. & Saddle Back Rd.
- Corner of Bullion Ave. & Gate Hill Rd.
- Corner of Gate Hill Rd. & Cottontail Ave.

### Ocotillo Housing

- In front of Ocotillo Exchange
- Corner of Upshur Ave. & Daly St.
- Corner of Ashurst St. & Lejeune Circle
- Corner of Lejeune Circle & Berkley St.

# Employee Spotlight

**Name:** Shirley Russell  
**Hometown:** Rushville, Ind.  
**Job Title:** Information Assurance Manager  
**Job Duties:** The protection of the Marine Corps network and information  
**Hobbies:** Softball, racquetball, going to the gym, bowling, being involved with her grandchildren  
**Significant Achievements:** Several medals for the Steven's Walk, \$1,000 award for best Marine Corps network in 2002, several time-off awards.  
**Favorite Part About Job:** "It's a great challenge, and I like challenges. I also like the people I work with."  
**Military Service:** No, but husband is a retired Marine.  
**Time at the Combat Center:** 32 years



# RING JOB

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
17					18							19		
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55					56		57		58					
59					60		61					62	63	64
65					66						67			
68					69						70			

### ACROSS

1. Artist Chagall
5. Dogie snaggers
11. Compadre of Fidel
14. Kitchen tubful
15. Just about
16. You can take it or beat it
17. Place for a napkin ring
19. Hoppy brew
20. Signs over
21. Sage one
23. Cop's stunner
26. Fraternity P
28. Blows to smithereens
29. Haight-Ashbury crowd of yore
31. Slow down
33. Scenery chewer
34. Steno's group
35. \$200 Monopoly squares: Abbr.
38. Suffix with go or two
39. High tailed it

41. Bastille Day's mo.
42. Vietnamese holiday'
43. Celebration suffix
44. Go over the wall
47. Noted Big Apple restaurateur
49. Strong-armed
50. Wolfgang Puck's eatery
52. Poker champ Ungar
54. Movie shots
55. PTA part
57. Most Al Jazeera viewers
59. St. crosser
60. Place for the Tweed Ring
65. Thieves' hideout
66. Cosby's "fat" guy
67. Buffalo's lake
68. Period to remember
69. Some car deals
70. Shoulder muscle, briefly

### DOWN

1. Snappy dresser, in the '60s
2. 2001 Will Smith biopic
3. Toon Chihuahua
4. Ad campaign start
5. Kitchen fat
6. Takes in or lets out
7. Broadway success
8. Cry hard
9. Capital on a fjord
10. Of the breast bone
11. Place for a decoder ring
12. Berry of "Monster's Ball"
13. Olympics blades
18. Like Stephen King novels
22. Diving bird
23. Grand \_\_ auto
24. Anouk of film
25. Place for a boxing ring
27. Bassoon's cousin

30. Pulled a boner
32. Glitzy Beverly Hills Drive
34. Int. rate
36. Delhi bread
37. Flexible Flyers, e.g.
40. Without guarantees
43. \_\_ lobe (brainpart)
45. Save for future use
46. Attended without invitation
48. The big 4-0, for example
49. Arrow poison
50. Sleuth Sam
51. One of a roadcrew
53. Breaks at the ranch
56. Suspicious story
58. Colonial bugs
61. Wharton deg
62. "\_\_ you nuts?"
63. Al Capp diminutive
64. Tennis do-over

[Solutions on A12]

# Centerspeak

If there were 25 hours in a day and you couldn't use the extra hour for sleep, what would you use it for?

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



PVT. ROBERT BOARTS  
COMPANY A, MCCES

"Right now, I would use it to study."



CAPT. ALLEN MCBROOM  
TTECG, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"Rock climbing."



CPL. GREYSON J. ESCARENO  
T AND S COMPANY, CLB-7

"More personal time. Going to the gym or being with friends. It would be another hour to relax."

# OBSERVATION POST

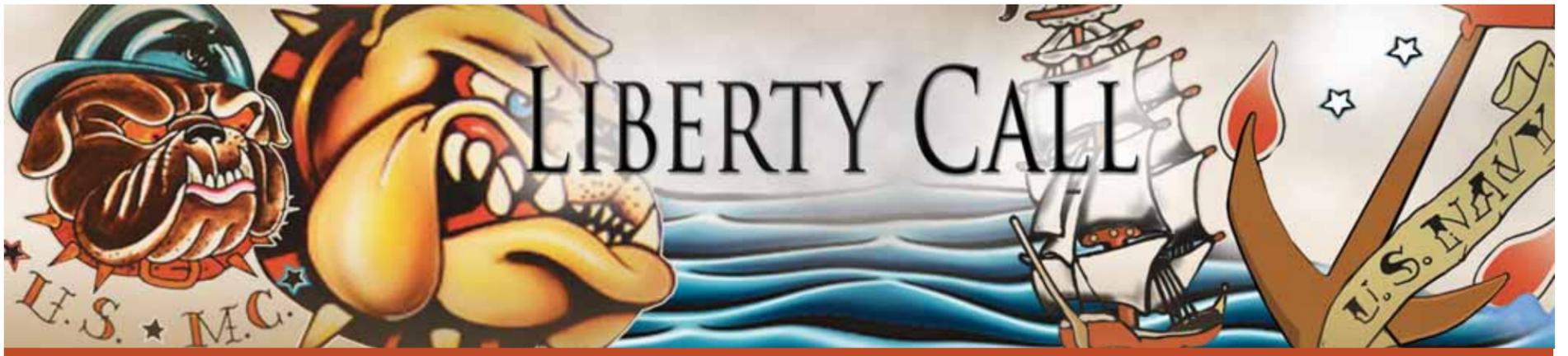
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<b>FRI. 10/24</b> <b>Big Time Boxing</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinoresort.com">http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</a> or call (800) 252-4499	<b>FRI. 10/24</b> <b>Concert: Fergie</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info visit <a href="http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com">http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</a> or call (800) 827-2946	<b>FRI. 10/24</b> <b>Mike Stinson Weekend</b> Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's For more info call 365-5956 or visit <a href="http://www.pappyandharriets.com">http://www.pappyandharriets.com</a>	<b>FRI. 10/24 &amp; SAT. 10/25</b> <b>Theater: Lysistrata</b> Time: Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 7 p.m. Where: Blak Box Theater 61231 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree. For more info call 366-3777 or visit <a href="http://www.hidesertculturalcenter.com">http://www.hidesertculturalcenter.com</a>	<b>FRI. 10/24</b> <b>Margaret Cho at McCallum</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For more info call 340-2787 or visit <a href="http://www.mccallumtheatre.com">http://www.mccallumtheatre.com</a>
<b>SAT. 10/25</b> <b>Viscosity Monotypes printmaking class</b> Time: 10 a.m. Where: 29 Palms Creative Center & Gallery 6847 Adobe Rd., 29 Palms For more info call 361-1805 or visit <a href="http://www.29palmscreativecenter.com">http://www.29palmscreativecenter.com</a>	<b>SAT. 10/25</b> <b>Edible Desert Plants class</b> Time: 9 a.m. - evening Where: Black Rock Visitor Center, Joshua Tree Natl. Park 9800 Black Rock Rd., Yucca Valley For more info call 367-5535 or visit <a href="http://www.joshuatree.org">http://www.joshuatree.org</a>	<b>SAT. 10/25</b> <b>Public concert: Somebody Loves You MCAGCC</b> Time: 4:30 p.m. Where: MCAGCC at Victory Field For more info visit <a href="http://www.mccs29palms.com">http://www.mccs29palms.com</a>	<b>SAT. 10/25</b> <b>Concert: Foreigner</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinoresort.com">http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</a> or call (800) 252-4499	<b>SUN. 10/26</b> <b>Sunset Sundays Party</b> Time: 4-8 p.m. Where: Blu Ember at Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa 41000 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage For more info call 863-5227 or 568-2727

# Family Fall Festival is tonight

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Child Care Centers are inviting Marines, sailors and family members of all ages to the annual Family Fall Festival tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The free event will be held at New Horizons, Bright Beginnings and the Youth and Teen Oasis buildings and their parking lots. Participants are invited to dress up in costumes and enjoy the night.

"This is a great alternative for parents to let their children

experience Halloween while they are in a safe environment," said Mae Ford, an administrator with the Children, Youth and Teen Programs. "It also gives parents a chance to enjoy a family fun night, and the parents don't have to pay a penny."

Yvonne Risper, the CYTP director, agreed with Ford, saying parents won't have to worry about their children during the holiday.

"You always hear the horror stories and the dangers on Halloween," said Risper, a St. Louis native. "Parents don't have to worry when they celebrate

here because it is completely base-regulated."

Outside festivities include a pony ride, petting zoo, hay ride, Jupiter Jumps and a cake and pumpkin walk with an entire cake or a large pumpkin being rewarded to the winners.

"We have been doing these festivals for over 10 years, and each year it gets bigger and better," said Ford, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native.

Tables will also be set up outside where participants will be able to get a variety of different snack foods, including

**See FALL FEST, A4**



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Sgt. Jack Ramson, 1st Tank Battalion, holds his 2-year-old son, Alex, as he reaches into a giant pumpkin filled with sticky gel and prizes at last year's Fall Festival Oct. 26, 2007.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Denhere Mack, 8, decorates a hat during last year's Family Fall Festival Oct. 26. This year's Fall Fest is scheduled for tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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Stay Marine

## Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 10/24/08 - 10/30/08

Saw V (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00		
Max Payne (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Quarantine (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$6.00 • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 <a href="http://www.cinema6theatre.com">www.cinema6theatre.com</a>	

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# Strengthen your marriage through PREP

**LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation will be hosting a Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program workshop Oct. 30 and 31 at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel.

Chief Petty Officer Jeffrey A. Schadler, a religious program manager with the Religious Ministries Directorate, said CREDO provides active duty Marines, sailors and their dependents with a non-military environment while helping them with issues ranging from personal growth and spiritual development, to marriage enrichment.

"CREDO and PREP are geared to provide avenues for creating and maintaining basic life skills at home or in home management," he explained. "Not all programs are taught for religious needs or spiritual reformation."

Schadler, a native of Covington, Ky., said the PREP class is aimed at building healthier relationships between engaged and married couples, while teaching those couples better communication skills and a better understanding of their roles as a spouse.

"It's to help couples find satisfaction in their marriage," said Lt.

Terry L. Moran, a battalion chaplain with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School who served as the Combat Center's PREP coordinator for 13 months, and has three years experience working with military couples in marriage enrichment.

Lt. Chris Hester, also a battalion chaplain with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School and the current PREP coordinator, said in the upcoming course couples can expect to learn the consequences of inappropriate expectations, how to be proactive, and communication skills, as well as other tools that will be helpful in preventing divorce, enhancing existing relationships, and creating a happier and more satisfying marriage.

"PREP is considered one of the premium services of today," said Hester, native of LaGrange, Ga. "They can expect to learn some things that will help them in their marriage."

Hester, who holds a master's degree in human services with a concentration in marriage and family counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., also said participants will learn the speaker-listener technique, which is aimed at helping couples cool down arguments so both spouses understand what the other is saying so they can move toward solv-

ing the problem together.

Hester also said the class, which is taught through power point slide shows, videos, lectures, and practical application, is not intended for marriages in crisis, but more to prevent crisis, and couples contemplating attending the class should not hesitate to attend.

"It's a statement that your marriage means something to you," said Hester, who is also a board certified pastoral counselor.

At the end of the course, grad-

uates receive a certificate of completion as well as a chance to evaluate the course.

Hester and Moran, said they have both seen positive and encouraging remarks on course evaluation sheets, and encourage both new and old couples, of both the enlisted and officer community to attend.

For more information and for registration visit the Protestant Chapel in building 1541 or call 830-6464.

## Topics covered in PREP

- Problem solving.
- Building fun and friendship into your relationship.
- How to handle difficult issues in an effective way.
- Sensual/sexual enhancement.
- Steps in forgiveness.
- How to identify and handle expectations.
- How to raise concerns constructively.
- The speaker/listener technique to gain and maintain a safe environment to talk about sensitive subjects.

# NCIS says just reacting to crime is not enough

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service office has initiated a new Department of the Navy-wide program aboard the Combat Center called the Crime Reduction Program.

Although many DoN services and organizations work to educate prevention of crime, there are simply too many varied points of view being thrown at its military audience, according to a written program introduction letter published by the DoN.

NCIS has combined forces with the Family Advocacy Team

Building Program and Criminal Investigative Division to gather statistics, get the word out to families and bring the program to where it needs to be, said Krystofor Proev, an NCIS special agent.

"Although the formal recognition of the NCIS crime prevention program is a new implementation, the partnership between Family Advocacy and NCIS aboard MCAGCC is long-standing," said Peter Morris, Family Advocacy Program branch manager. "In a program where each part of the team plays an important role, coordinated efforts by NCIS and DoN components are imperative."

The DoN program, which was

initiated about a week ago, will target one issue quarterly and will change DoN-wide, added Proev. This quarter, the theme is domestic violence.

"We want to start taking a proactive approach to preventing crimes like domestic violence," said Proev, a New York native.

Mari Nash, NCIS supervisory special agent, agreed, saying waiting for reports of domestic violence is not enough.

"Domestic violence ultimately affects combat readiness," said Nash, a Yuma, Ariz., native. "It goes beyond impacting the nuclear family and these impacts are certainly devastating."

The program works by providing informative presentations on various aspects of domestic violence, such as signs, preventative measures, how to report it and how it affects its victims, said Proev.

"Our main goal here is to prevent harm and increase awareness," he said. "It's important to look at the people on base here and help them as much as we can."

Units may request domestic violence presentation material to share with their Marines and sailors.

To learn more about the Crime Reduction Program or schedule a presentation call 830-6275.

## FALL FEST, from A3

candy, popcorn, funnel cakes, caramel apples, cotton candy, water and soda.

"We're excited to try this new machine that makes funnel cakes," said Michelle Minatrea-Teo, a United States Department

of Agriculture training technician who is in charge of all the food being served at the festival. "We're trying to make this a memorable event for all who are coming."

The New Horizon and Bright Beginning buildings will be used for games and trick-or-treating

Each classroom will have various games such as a ring toss, fish in a bucket, basketball free-throws and digging through pumpkin



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Abigail Spittler, 6, fishes for a prize during last year's Family Fall Festival Oct. 26. This year's Fall Fest is scheduled for tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

slime to find toys. Staff will also be dressed in costumes as they monitor the games and pass out candy to each child as they enter and leave the room.

Children will have the opportunity to have their face painted, decorate their own hat and pumpkin inside the two buildings.

Families can sit down and enjoy a free meal that includes hotdogs, nachos and hot cider inside the Youth and Teen Oasis building.

Throughout the night, raffle drawings will also be held and participants have a chance to win prizes, Risper said. Last year's prizes included a Nintendo DS, a Nintendo Wii and an iPod Nano.

"More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the event," said Risper. "We had 600 children show up last year and that is not including their parents."

For more information regarding the Family Fall Festival contact Risper at 830-3227, extension 284.

## HOT TOPICS

### FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL SERVICE

In loving memory and remembrance of our Fallen Marines and Sailors from Twentynine Palms, the Base Community cordially invites you to the 4th Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Service on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. at the Base Theatre. Light refreshments will be provided immediately following the service outside the theater next to Brown Street.

### YOUNG MARINES NEEDS YOUR HELP

The new Young Marines unit here in Twentynine Palms, the Mojave Vipers, are seeking donated items such as used Marine Corps utilities, covers, enlisted chevrons and ribbon bars. Drop off any donations to the ASYMCA office, building 192. Please label donated items for Young Marines. For a receipt of the donation, volunteer, get your child involved or wish to make a cash donation, please contact Daniel Montague, Mojave Vipers' commanding officer, by e-mailing ymmontague@yahoo.com.

### 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 5-person 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 finishers. Point contact is Capt. Roberts at 830-6786.

### ANNUAL FLU VACCINE SCHEDULE FOR NAVAL HOSPITAL TWENTYNINE PALMS

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms will be holding the annual satellite flu clinic from Monday, through Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Family Medicine Clinic. All children under the age of 2 can receive their shots from the immunization clinic between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., in the Family Immunization Clinic. The flu vaccination can be given to children as early as 6 months of age. Hospital staff members will receive their flu vaccination in the preventive medicine clinic. Active duty Marines should visit their assigned Battalion Aid Station for the shot. Everyone able to receive the flu vaccine is highly encouraged to get the immunization. Flu shots should be received each season in order to keep up a healthy immune system. For any questions or concerns feel free to contact your family health care provider.

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# Combat Center remembers those who have fallen

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center is hosting the fourth annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Service in memory of the Twenty-nine Palms Marines

and sailors who have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan Oct. 31 at the Sunset Cinema.

The memorial service was created four years ago by Capt. Conrad Targonski, who wanted to create a way to recognize the Marines he served with.

The service, which is open to all personnel aboard the Combat Center, is a chance to recognize and pay tribute to Marines and sailors who sacrificed their life while engaged in the war on terrorism, said Lt. Cmdr. Steven E. Hicks, the Combat Center's

catholic chaplain.

"These are people we know," said Hicks. "These are our friends and co-workers that have died in this war. It is going to be an emotional day for a lot of those who are coming."

This year the event had to be moved from the Catholic Chapel to Sunset Cinema to accommodate the growing number of attendees and make the event more open to nonreligious personnel.

"We used to hold the event as a catholic service," said Hicks, a St. Angelo, Texas, native. "This year we decided to move it to the theater to make it more of a base-wide event."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Arp, a religious program specialist at the Catholic Chapel, thought moving the event was a good idea to make it more accessible for those wishing to attend.

"This is not just for catholics, it is for everybody who knew someone who was killed in the war," said Arp. "Not everybody is catholic, and not all the fallen service members were catholic, so we moved it to the theater."

The service will be held at 1 p.m. and will have chaplains from

every unit read out the names of 137 service members. Each name will be followed by a ring of a bell and a moment of silence.

As each name is read, a picture of the Marine or sailor will be presented on a slideshow with his rank, name and unit.

"This is a great way to teach people to never forget those who have fallen," said Arp, a San Bernardino, Calif., native. "I know Marines naturally have an extremely tight bond between themselves, but I want to make sure they know that we care for their fallen brothers too."

In support of the memorial service, the Combat Center Band will be providing a brass quintet and a bugle for taps. Maj. Sean Smith, with Mojave Viper, will also play "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipes.

As the service comes to a close, a procession of Marines and sailors carrying 15 candles will move to the front of the theater to represent the 15 units from the base that have service members presently deployed, or have deployed in support of the war.

Light refreshments will be available after the ceremony. For more information contact Hicks or Alice-Ann Patu at 830-4490.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

The Knights of Columbus stand at the back of the Catholic Chapel placing their chapeaus on their shoulder during the Fallen Heroes Memorial Service Mass Nov. 1.

## Red Cross gives tips on disaster preparedness

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The American Red Cross has provided facilities, equipment and assistance to military service members, their families and victims of natural disasters since its establishment in 1881.

Staff members and volunteers of the Combat Center American Red Cross are only a small portion of the total number of Americans who volunteer their time and efforts to continue that relationship and to provide aid and disaster relief after tornados, hurricanes, fires, floods and other disasters.

Nikki McBain, the Combat Center's American Red Cross station manager, said disaster relief does not always have to come after a catastrophe has already happened.

"It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when a disaster will strike this base," said

McBain, a Jensen Beach, Fla., native. "We want to make sure everyone is prepared. One way to make sure that happens is to help families be prepared."

McBain said the Combat Center's Red Cross has partnered with the American Red Cross Morongo Basin Chapter and Marine Corps Family Team Building to ensure families know proper pre-disaster measures.

"A lot of the measures families can take are easy and inexpensive," said McBain.

Some of these measures include installing locks on refrigerator doors to prevent spillage of food during an earthquake, strapping down water heaters and keeping a gas wrench on hand to manually turn off gas if needed.

"Our society has become very complacent," said McBain. "It's sad to think that it's not until post-disaster time that we find people are getting interested in being prepared."

Brandy Hunter, the Combat Center American Red Cross records chair, agreed.

"People get so wrapped up with their routine and their lives," said Hunter, a Boise, Idaho, native. "Then you have this huge event happen and it opens their eyes when they see what happened to others."

Candace Fritz, the executive director of the Morongo basin Chapter, said there are three steps every family needs to follow to be prepared for a disaster.

The first step is to build an emergency disaster kit equipped with items the entire family will need such as a first aid kit, medications, flashlights, blankets, food, water, clean clothes, flares, and important documents.

The second step is to make a plan and practice it.

"What do you do if a disaster happens and your cell phone and phone lines are



**American Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

down?" said Fritz. "What if you can't go anywhere and your kids are in school? These are the things you need to think about when you make a plan."

The final step is to stay informed. Know where the nearest Red Cross shelter is, how you will be in communication with others

**See RED CROSS, A9**

## Local youths display patriotism in ASYMCA Parade

**LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Young citizens of the town of Twentynine Palms and the Combat Center showed their patriotism by riding their bicycles around Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms, Calif., during the Armed Services YMCA's annual Red, White, and Blue Bike Parade Oct. 18.

Anita Neu-Fultz, the executive director of the Armed Services YMCA, said the parade was held so children 12 and under, who do not have the endurance to participate in the official parade of the Twentynine Palms Pioneer Days celebration, have the opportunity to participate in the event.

Neu-Fultz, a native of Albuquerque, N.M., said last year the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce reached out to the ASYMCA and asked the association for ideas on how to make

Pioneer Days even better.

The ASYMCA came up with the idea of a parade for those children, many of whom have never participated in a parade, who may not be able to complete the two-mile parade which is held earlier in the day.

Participants were encouraged to decorate their bikes, tricycles, wagons, strollers, wheelchairs or non-motorized vehicles in red, white, and blue, using crepe paper, balloons, flags and streamers to display their patriotism.

"If it's got wheels, they can decorate it and bring it," said Neu-Fultz before the event began.

To start the parade, participants showed off their wheeled vehicles to members of the Joshua Tree Veterans of Foreign Wars association who judged the bikes on their creativity, originality, appeal, and display of Red, White, and Blue.

Jennifer Booth, the mother of Anna Kirk, who shared first place

with Isaiah Harrison in the judging contest, said Anna saw a poster for the event in the ASYMCA, and after learning how to ride a new bike because her old one had technical problems, she decorated the new bike to her liking.

"She took her allowance money, bought the stuff, and decorated it," said Booth, who is the wife of Gunnery Sgt. Michael Booth, a platoon sergeant with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion.

Thomas Richard "Walkingdeer" Horta, a VFW member and judge at the event, said he was pleased to see young kids participating, enthusiastic, and patriotic.

"I thought they put on a good show," said Horta, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Army for 15 years.

Horta, a native of Yucca Valley, was also happy with the imagination and originality put into the bikes by the participants.

"They were cool," said Horta,



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Parents and young children of the town of Twentynine Palms and the Combat Center show their patriotism by riding their bikes around Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms, Calif., during the Armed Services YMCA's annual Red, White, and Blue Bike Parade Oct. 18.

who said participants in next year's parade should consider putting baseball cards in their wheel spokes in order to catch the eye of the older judges.

Today and tomorrow the ASYMCA will see another aimed at young children, when they

host the Make a Plate Project, where from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. children can make decorative plates for friends and family members, at Joshua Heights Community Center.

For more information about the event call 830-7481.

# Fight Club 29 grapples in quarter's final tournament

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Fight Club 29 competed in this quarter's final Grapplers Extreme Tournament at the Army National Guard 40th Infantry Brigade armory in San Diego Saturday.

A total of 13 Fight Club 29 members competed with fight teams from across southern California in the competition, taking away one silver and three gold medals.

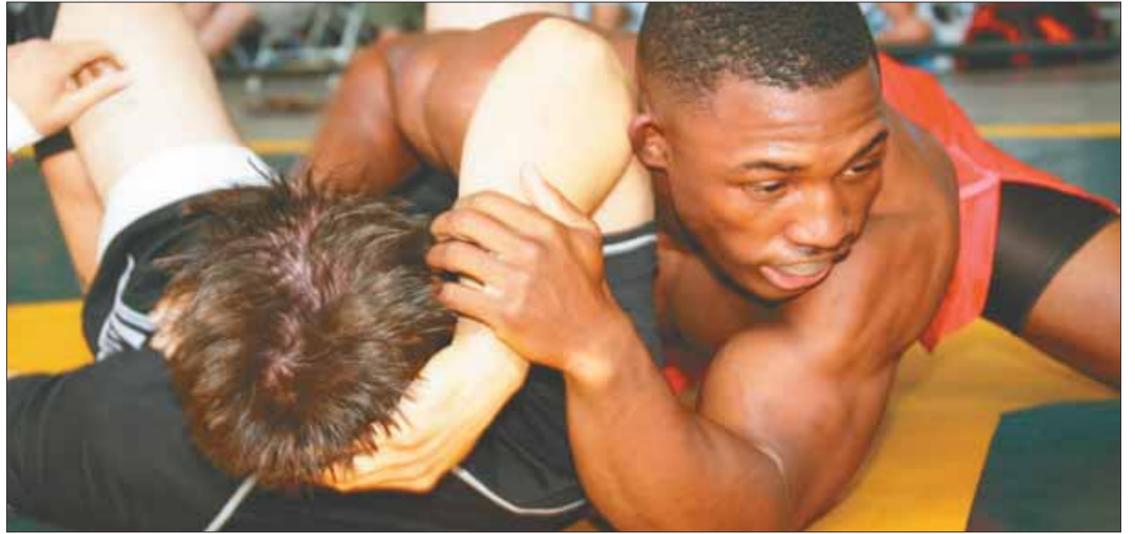
Three fighters, James Clark, Tyler Mouge and Andrew Tesnow, fought in the intermediate level tournament. Clark, along with fighters David Dew and Dominique Waters,

brought home the gold.

Jay Demetrulius, a beginning grappler who fought in a grappling tournament for the first time that day, was presented with a silver medal after his fight.

Fight Club 29 members are looking forward to competing in the 2008 U.S. Pankration National Championships Nov. 9, which will play a part in determining who will be eligible for the U.S. team for the 2009 World Pankration Tournament in the Republic of Lithuania.

The 2008 U.S. Pankration National Championships will be the fight club's first Pankration tournament this quarter, said Mark M. Geletko, the fight club head coach.

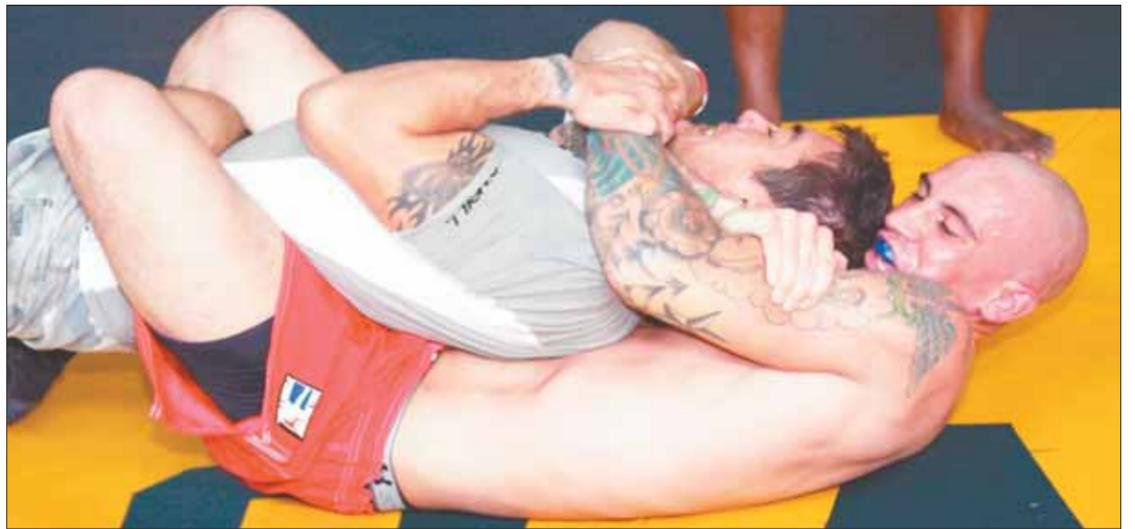


David Dew, lightweight fighter in the Combat Center's Fight Club 29, works to get a side choke on an opponent during the Grapplers Extreme Tournament at the Army National Guard 40th Infantry Brigade armory Saturday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Fight Club 29 members Jay Demetrulius, David Dew, James Clark and Dominique Waters pose with their medals after completing the Grapplers Extreme Tournament at the Army National Guard 40th Infantry Brigade armory Saturday.



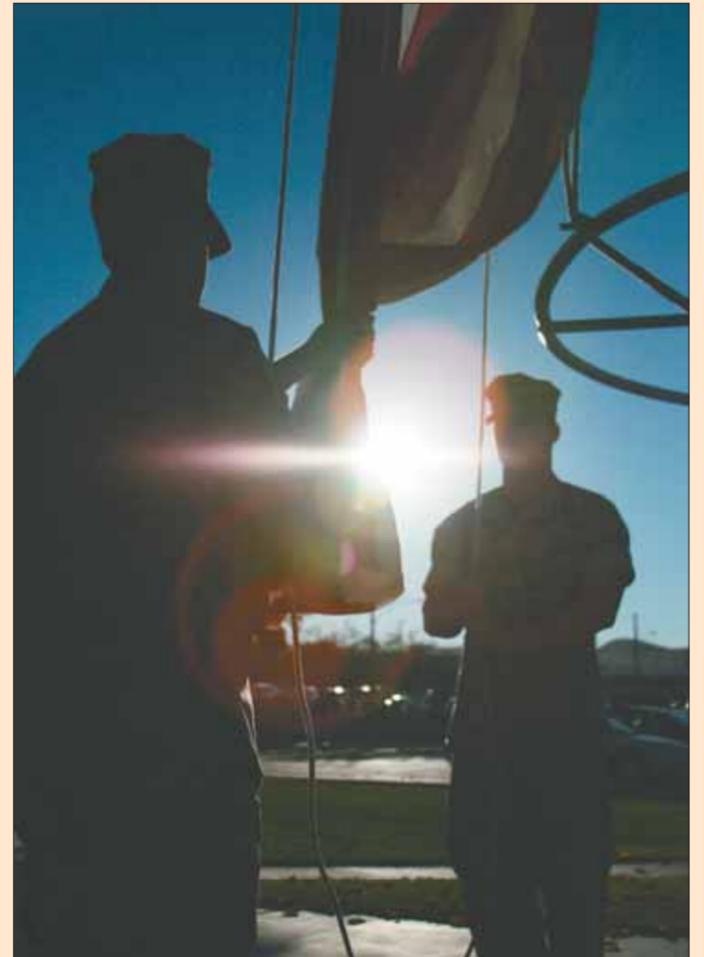
CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Jay Demetrulius, a fighter with Fight Club 29, defeats an opponent with a rear choke during the Grapplers Extreme Tournament at the Army National Guard 40th Infantry Brigade armory Saturday.

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## A tragedy not forgotten



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Lance Cpl. Etai Pickney, an aviation radar repairman with Company C, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School; Lance Cpl. Matthew York, a rifleman with the Provost Marshal's Office; and Lance Cpl. Jonathon J. Boland, a PMO dog handler; raise the morning colors at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday. Immediately after the colors had risen, taps was played after a moment of silence in remembrance of the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Thursday marked the 25th anniversary of the attack, which claimed the lives of 241 Marines, sailors and soldiers, and wounded more than 100 other military personnel.

## 8th ESB engages pre-deployment training

**LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., hit the dirt roads of the Combat Center's training area during live-fire convoy operations Saturday as part of exercise Sidewinder, a pre-deployment training exercise for the battalion's upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The training had the battalion's Heavy Equipment, Motor Transportation and Security Platoons drive through a predetermined route in a nine-vehicle convoy with multiple scenarios involving enemy contact and simulated improvised explosive devices set up along the way.

"We basically just gave a brief

before we took off to make sure everyone knew the route, went over our immediate action drills, and then we executed the range," said 2nd Lt. John North, the Motor Transportation Platoon commander. "While on route, we hit several obstacles, like a near ambush, a far ambush and an IED strike."

The Marines conducted the training with the mindset that even though the battalion's mission will be demilitarization, route repair and general engineering operations during their deployment; enemy engagement and hostile fire is inevitable once in theater.

"It's important for the Marines to know that we are going to dismount from a convoy in a combat area, and we will at certain times have to do what we were training for today," said Lance Cpl. Lukas Pence, a heavy equipment opera-

tor with HE Platoon and an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. "This training is important because that's usually where HE Marines are anyway, in the back of a 7-ton [truck], and we usually have to do a lot of dismounts like we did today."

Sgt. Judd Belford, the HE Platoon sergeant, said the type of training the Marines went through is vital in making sure their reactions to those expected situations is second nature.

"The biggest thing I want the Marines to take away from this training today is to know that some action at the time is better than no action," said the Savannah, Mo., native. "With this we can evaluate our Marines and train on our deficiencies, that way when we get into country we don't have to worry about how our Marines are going to be reacting; it is



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines with Heavy Equipment Platoon, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, dismount from their 7-ton truck after spotting a simulated improvised explosive device during a live-fire convoy operation in the Combat Center's training area Saturday.

going to be automatic for them."

Pence said another aspect of the day's training was to get the Marines newer to the battalion some "trigger time" and guidance from the more experienced Marines.

"The purpose of today is to get the new guys a good head on their shoulders about what's going on, and how to do the

See TRAINING, A12

## SAF keeps military police ranks strong

**LANCE CPL. M.C. NERI**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Security Augmentation Force Marines were trained on deadly force procedures Oct. 17, at the Provost Marshal's Office classroom.

Military police and Combat Center civilian law enforcement instructors train SAF Marines on tactics and procedures using shortened versions of training real MP's receive in their military occupational school.

"The SAF Marines are not actual MP's," said Sgt. Justin Wells, training chief with PMO and a native of Phoenix. "The augment Marines are trained so they have a basic understanding of how MP's go about their job. When we need them, they are activated to make our numbers greater for a given task which would not be possible to handle with our normal numbers."

SAF Marines are volunteers from resident units who train and stand duties as military police. The SAF exists to increase PMO's numbers in time of need, said Wells.

Wells added the influx of new Marines in the SAF requires this kind of refresher training throughout their education process, which is to be given monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Marines such as Cpl. J.B. Davis, a squad leader with SAF, participate regularly in the training.

"The augmentation force is made up by mostly, if not completely, Marines assigned to Headquarters Battalion," said the Vincennes, Ind., native.

Davis added the Marines in SAF are all eager to volunteer and undergo their training for the program.

"All the Marines we have in SAF are really motivated to get their training and be part of the augmentation force," he said.

Davis added even though the SAF Marines do stand watch at the gates like normal MP's, they are also trained to be utilized in many different scenarios.

"Aspects of their training teach them how to handle things like a large riot, or even a natural disaster or terrorist attack," he

explained. "Training them to be used during heightened security times is important. Catastrophic events or any disaster that would require large numbers from PMO are what they're trained for, of course along with their duties of standing at the gates."

Russell Elswick, a Homeland Security Solutions Inc. instructor and a native of Beaumont, Calif., was one of the instructors who trained SAF Marines Oct. 17.

The most important points Elswick tried to drive home to the Marines were the pre-conditions and actions of a suspect when you attempt to use deadly force, and the main types of suspects a Marine on patrol may encounter when on duty.

"Deadly force is a force which causes serious bodily harm or death," Elswick said. "Warning shots are not authorized, especially when you are standing duty at the gate."

Elswick named off traits patrolmen on duty should be familiar with when they encounter suspects.

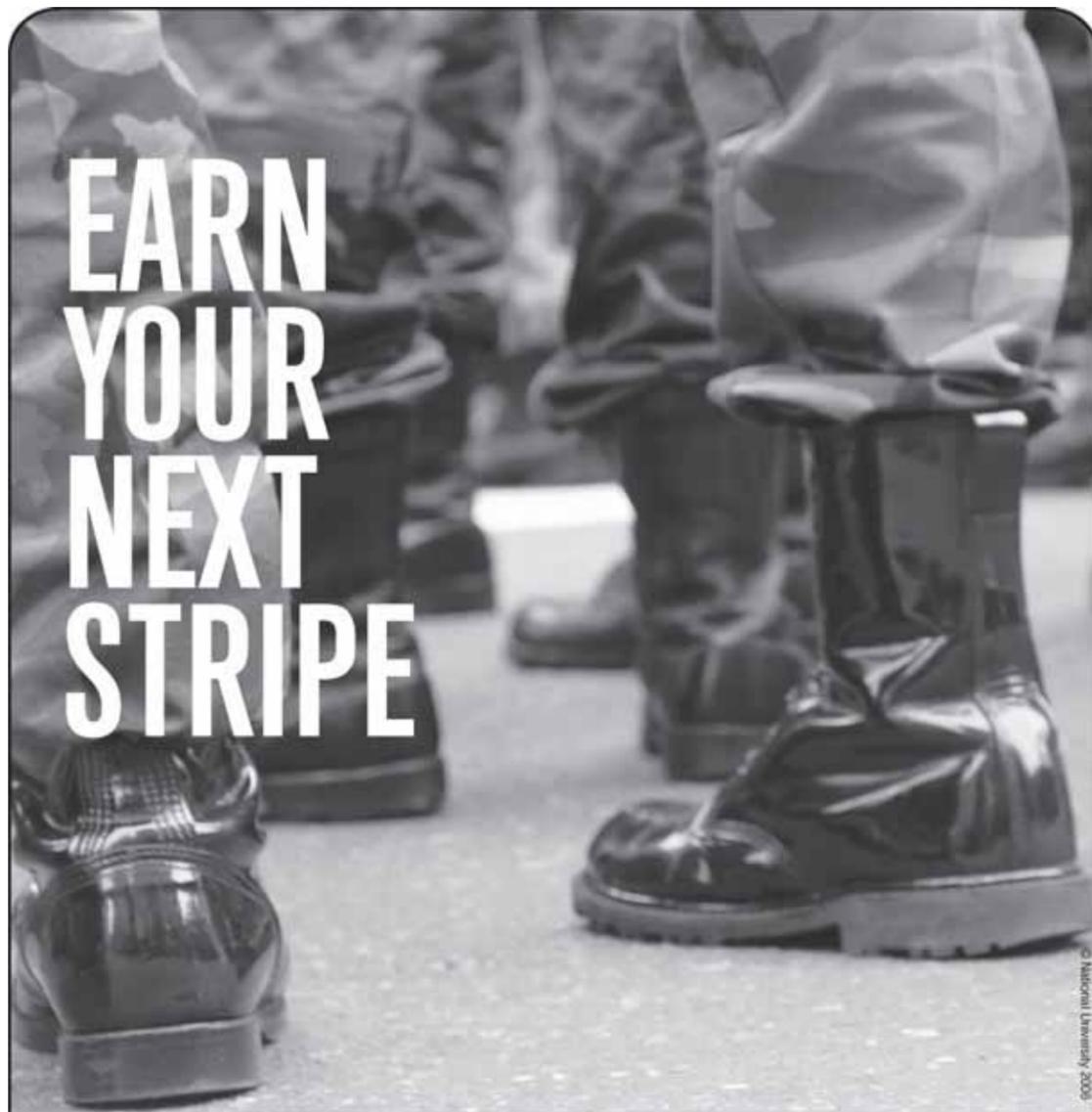
"Most all criminals fall into several categories of resisters," he told the class. "The easiest to work with are those who are what we call compliant. They listen to the commands you give them and they never attack you in a verbal or physical manner."

Elswick continued with passive resisters, who are the next step up in the level of aggression. Passive resisters do not listen to verbal commands, they verbally attack whoever is trying to apprehend them, but not physically. Active resisters are the second most difficult to deal with, Elswick said. They don't listen to verbal commands. They physically resist during apprehension, but do not try to harm anyone. They're just trying to escape.

Elswick finished with the worst type of suspect one can encounter -- the assailant. They do not listen to what they are told, and they physically attack. This is where a patrolman may need to use non-lethal weapons.

Much time is spent in a training environment for the SAF

See SAF, A12



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# 1/7 celebrates family unity

**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The family readiness program, along with the battalion command, of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, hosted its family day at the Combat Center's Victory Field Oct. 18.

The event was held to promote unit cohesion between the families and friends of the 1/7 Marines and sailors and to continue to highlight the growth of the family readiness program, said Lt. Col. Scott Fosdal, the battalion's commander and a native of Rockdale, Wis.

"First of all I'm very pleased with how the family readiness program has made progress," said Fosdal. "We have very good participation from all of 1/7. I'm really pleased with the leadership of the battalion; that's what makes what we're doing so successful."

Fosdal added he feels that family readiness is not only essential before a unit goes overseas, it is essential at all times to build a cohesive unit.

"About two weeks after I took over command, we held our first function with the family readiness program," Fosdal said. "I've always thought it was important not only while we were deployed, but also while they are home for a more solid community. We hope to keep it a continuous effort. The family readiness program also will help out when we deploy

more so because it will hopefully have that strong foundation and spouses will be more likely to stay at Twentynine Palms when their husbands deploy because they have a good network here."

During the gathering, Fosdal took time to speak to the Marines and sailors as they ate and enjoyed time with their families. He thanked everyone who was able to attend and said they are planning to have more events where they can bring everyone together and build a strong network of families.

The family day included a variety of entertainment, such as the children's costume contest, and humvees on display with Marines showing off flack jackets and Kevlar helmets for children and spouses, said Ruby Zunino, the 1/7 family readiness officer and a native of Brighton, England.

The event was viewed positively by the command of 1/7 as one of their first steps towards having a strong family readiness program.

"This is our coming out party," said Sgt. Maj. Paron A. Lewis, the battalion sergeant major and a native of Mount Vernon, N.Y. "Events like this where we can bring everyone together really help to solidify our transformation from the key volunteer program to the family readiness program, and it is working out really well for us."

At the end of the day, Mellisa Garcia, daughter of Bonnie Garcia, State of California



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Children of service members with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, jump around in the Jupiter Jump during 1/7's family day, at the Victory Field Oct. 18.

Assembly Woman, Assembly District 80, presented 7th Marine Regiment commanding officer, Col. Randall Newman with a proclamation praising the regiment for their performance over

time and commemorating their honorable history.

The proclamation was signed by Garcia, along with Paul Cook of the 65th district, and Senator James Battin Jr. of the

37th senatorial district.

The battalion is currently scheduled to deploy this winter, and has not yet scheduled the next event for the families, but are hoping it will be as big a success as the last one.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Tony Fregoso, son of Juan Fregoso, a Chief Engineer with Ayres Hotel and a native of Santa Ana, Calif., wears a Kevlar and flack jacket while standing in the turret of a .50-caliber machine gun.

## RED CROSS, from A5

and where to find that information if you don't know, said Fritz.

This summer, California was impacted by several disasters including a wildfire in June, an earthquake in July, and a flood in Twentynine Palms in August.

"We [Red Cross] actually spend more time responding to smaller disasters than big ones," said Fritz. But any disaster is huge when it's happening to you. The services Red Cross provides are made possible by the volunteers and financial support from the

generosity of the American people and those in the Morongo Basin. They're here to help what I call our neighbors."

Marine Corps Family Team Building will host a family preparedness and individual safety brief at the Village Center Tuesday to educate families on what they can do before a disaster to ensure the family's safety and wellbeing.

For those interested in learning how to become an American Red Cross disaster response volunteer, a brief will be held at the Red Cross station Nov. 6. For more information call 830-6685.



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# Base soccer team kicks up the heat

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's base soccer team has been practicing hard in preparation for their upcoming season, which will give team members the opportunity to be scouted and possibly play for the All-Marine Male Soccer Team.

The team, which is still open for players, practices every Tuesday and Wednesday at Victory Field.

"The benefit of being on the team is that you will have the opportunity to play at a higher level of com-

petition," said Jose Hernandez, the head coach for the base team.

The season starts Nov. 1 when the base team will battle against teams from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The games will be taking place at MCAS Yuma.

The team will also participate in a tournament Jan. 4-9 where they will play against eight other teams from around the Marine Corps, which includes teams from MCAS Miramar, Calif.; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; MCB Hawaii; and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

"I know we're going to do fine during the tournament," said Marcos Madrid, offense man for the base team and a Juarez, Mexico, native. "I know we're going to get at least second place. We have played against these teams before so we're going to be prepared when we get in there."

Many of the players say they are confident in their team's ability to defeat the other base teams and dominate throughout the tournament.

"I know we're going to do well," said Daniel Martinez, a striker for the base team from El Paso, Texas. "We have been training really hard, and the players are getting to know each other very well. There is no doubt in my mind we will do well during the upcoming games."

"The team is looking great, we have a lot of new people, and we have a great coach," continued Martinez.

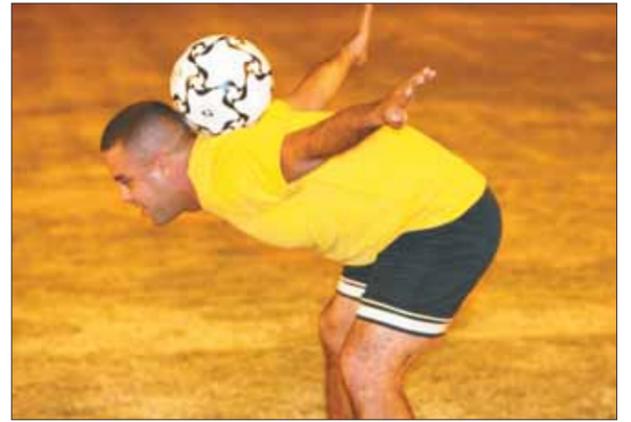
At the tournament, scouts from the All Marine Soccer Team will be watching the games and searching for Marines talented enough to try out for the teams.

Scouts from the Armed Forces Team, which plays against soccer teams from around the world, will also be looking for talented soccer players to join their group of players.

Tryouts for the All-Marine Team begin after the tournament, said Hernandez, a Brownsville, Texas, native.

"Tryouts are not easy. You start with physical conditioning in the morning, which is a lot of running, and you finish with passing drills and shooting drills in the afternoon," Hernandez said. "[Every week] they have cuts on the team."

The team will continue to practice to solidify their chances to win and be noticed by the Marine Corps, giving its members a chance at playing at a higher level with the All-Marine or Armed Forces Team.



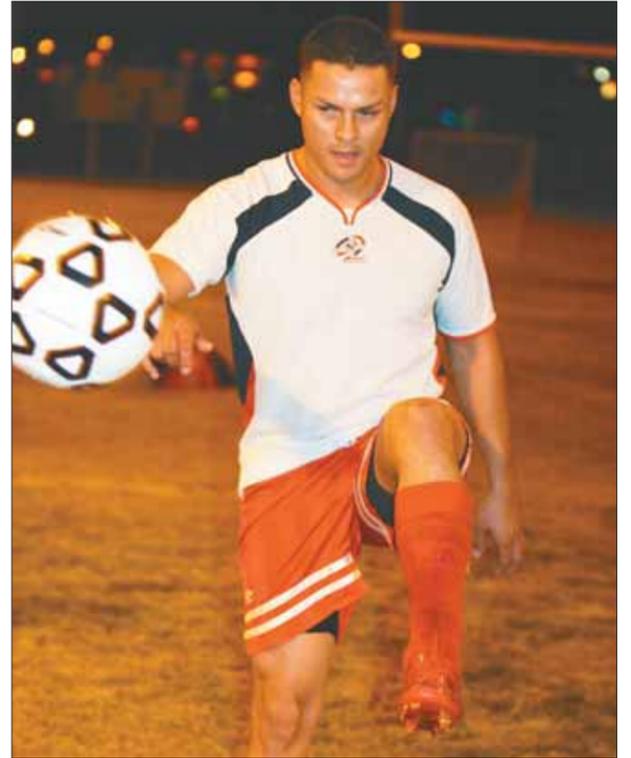
LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Alvaro Pineda, a player with the base soccer team, shows off his skill while balancing the soccer ball between his shoulder blades during a quick break at their soccer practice Oct. 15 at the Combat Center's Victory Field.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Julian Rosemond, a player with the base soccer team, traps the ball on his chest during soccer practice Oct. 15 at the Combat Center's Victory Field.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Daniel Martinez, a player with the base soccer team, demonstrates passing the soccer ball while it is in the air during a practice at the Combat Center's Victory Field Oct. 15.

## Oakland Raiders give back to military

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Oakland Raiders are inviting active duty, retired military members and their families to a military salute game against the Carolina Panthers Nov. 9 at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum in Oakland, Calif.

The first 1,000 armed service personnel, family, friends, or veterans to purchase a ticket for the Oakland Raiders military salute game will receive a free limited-edition camouflage Oakland Raiders hat when purchasing tickets through the Raiders directly or by going to <http://www.Raiders.com/MilitarySalute>.

"It's an honor for the Raiders to host a military salute game," said Jarrod Dillon, director of ticket sales for the Oakland Raiders. "The Raider Nation is made up of fans all over the world, and nowhere is this more evident than our military."

"The organization receives thousands of letters, e-mails and photos from Raiders fans serving our country all over the world," continued Dillon, a Healdsburg, Calif., native. "The Raiders truly appreciate all of the men and women serving our nation and it's an honor for us to salute to them."

Groups of 20 or more purchasing tickets through the Raiders for the Military Salute Game receive special benefits, such as being recognized during the game by having their group name on the scoreboard and a price savings with group seating.

"Our goal is to sell out the stadium with service members," said Paula-Sue Silva, premium seating sales manager for the

Oakland Raiders. "This is our chance to give back to our military and say thank you for all they do."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Placencia, a corpsman with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, has already begun gathering a group of friends together.

"I have been a Raiders fan my whole life," said Placencia, a San Bernardino County, Calif., native. "This is a way to boost our morale and save money while going to a good football game."

The group, which is made up of six service members from the Combat Center and various military bases in close proximity to Twentynine Palms, Calif., is still looking for service members interested in joining their group to receive the benefits.

The military pricing, which is available for family members and friends of active duty, veteran and retired military personnel, is \$26 for third level visitor side seating, \$36 third level end zone seating, \$46 for third level end zone seating and \$61 for first or second level home side end zone seating.

"There is a \$10 price savings and they get a hat," said Silva, a Hayward, Calif., native. "There have been so many times, especially right now that we need to step up and say thank you and show we care for those who are serving or have served."

For more information contact either Paula-Sue Silva (800) RAIDERS extension 3201 or Tamra Appiano (800) RAIDERS extension 3228 at the Oakland Raiders to book your tickets today. To join the Combat Center's group, contact Placencia at (951) 334-3069 or go to 3rd LAR's battalion aid station at building 1631.

## Youth flag football kicks off in November

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services coed youth flag football and cheerleading programs are accepting applications for children ages 5 through 14 to participate.

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

"I'm really nervous because I have never played before," said Cassidy Campbell, an 11-year-old participating in flag football and a Monroe, La., native. "But I'm ready to learn how to play."

Start Smart flag football is being offered for the first time here, which is available for children ages 5 to 7. Start Smart is open to 20 children, where they will have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of football such as throwing, kicking, positions and rules.

"Although Start Smart does not have the children play in any games, they will learn the basics of flag football," said Courtney Chambers, MCCS Youth Sports recreation assistant. "It prepares them for when they begin playing in a more competitive league."

Chambers, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native, said she will put together the teams and schedules for all the age groups. Chambers will be present, along with other recreation attendants, at every practice and game to ensure the safety of all the children.

Flag football has four leagues that are divided up by the ages of the children participating. There are eight teams for children 7 to 9, six teams for children 10 to 12 and two teams for children 13 and 14.

Flag football has a \$20 registration fee, and every child will receive an NFL-style jersey and a trophy at the end of the season.

MCCS Youth cheerleading is accepting registrations from children ages 5 to 14 until registrations are full. Cheerleading runs consecutively with flag football and the children participating in cheerleading will cheer every week at the football games.

"There is a \$10 registration fee that covers the use of the uniform and a trophy at the end of the season," said Amanda Martinez, a community center recreation assistant and cheerleading coach from Freeland, Mich.

Before flag football games begin, the cheerleaders will practice every Tuesday and Thursday at the Community Center.

Cheerleading is split into different age groups of 5- and 6-year-olds, 7- to 9-year-olds and 10- to 14-year-olds, and they will cheer within these squads at the football game, said Chambers, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native.

The children participating in cheerleading will perform cheers at the flag football games in the end zone and a half-time show.

Registrations for flag football and cheerleading end Oct. 31. For more information contact Chambers at 830-8421.

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SAF, from A7

Marines. Knowledge is helpful in any situation, and Elswick drove home the point that if they are better trained and mentally prepared they will be able to duplicate the success of full time military police and do their part in keeping the streets safe.

TRAINING, from A7

things we learned today," he said. "We corrected them whenever we saw any issues, and our platoon is pretty equal with experienced Marines who have been in theater and new Marines, so there was a lot of good

direction going on."

Along with the skills necessary to properly react and deal with the situations the Marines might face during their deployment, the knowledge that they know they can deal with anything thrown at them is imperative, said North, an Alpharetta, Ga., native.

"I really just want them to have the piece of mind that comes with knowing that whatever situation that they run in to — we've got an answer for it," he said. "And I want to make sure they're empowered with all the knowledge they can get, to stay alive and stay safe when we go over there."



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines with Heavy Equipment Platoon, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, engage enemy targets after receiving simulated hostile fire while in the back of a 7-ton truck during a live-fire convoy operation in the Combat Center's training area Saturday as part of exercise Sidewinder, a pre-deployment training exercise for the battalion's upcoming deployment to Iraq.

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# Support the life saving mission

**LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As part of the Combat Center Challenge Oct. 17 at Victory Field, the Marines, sailors, civilian personnel, and families of the Combat Center not only competed for the first place trophy and the \$500 unit gift, but also supported the life saving mission of donating blood.

Michelle Azevedo, a blood drive account representative with the Community Blood Bank of Rancho Mirage, Calif., said the need for blood stems from the fact that there is no way to tell when emergencies requiring large amounts of blood may occur, and therefore blood supplies must always be kept at a constant level.

"There is always a need for blood," said Azevedo, a native of Orange County, Calif. "The Community Blood Bank's ideal level is a five to seven day supply of each blood type."

In addition to the uncertainty surrounding the occurrence of medical emergencies, personal medical emergencies in hospitals, and the fact that a unit of blood has a shelf life of only 42 days, are other reasons why blood supplies need to be constantly replenished.

"There is a 24 to 48 hour testing period when the collected blood is not available until the results come back, so what is on the shelf at any given time is what is available for our hospitals," said Azevedo. "A traffic accident could require up to 50 units, so having the shelves full is necessary at all times."

Azevedo also said the blood collected by the CBB benefits patients at the Combat Center's Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, the Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree, Calif., the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, Calif.

"Community Blood Bank also provides a portion of what is collected on the Twenty-nine

Palms Marine Corps Base to the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego," said Azevedo. "When donating blood with Community Blood Bank you'll be helping your neighbors in need."

Azevedo said due to a memorandum of understanding the CBB and the Combat Center have had a successful relationship gathering blood for years, and as part of that understanding the CBB supplies the Naval hospital with blood products free of charge.

"CBB appreciates everything the members of the military as well as the civilians on base do to help save the lives of those who require the services of CBB," said Azevedo. "One donation of a pint of blood can save up to three lives."

At the blood drive Oct. 17, first time donor Kristina Long, wife of 2nd Lt. William Long, a supply officer with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, admitted she was nervous before the donation procedure but said she recommended that all those who are able to, should donate blood.

"I have been wanting to do this, and it was here, so I had no excuse not to," said Long, a native of Chenoa, Ill.

Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Brown, a scout with Headquarters and Supply Company, 1st Tank Battalion, had a different reason for donating.

"I have an identical twin in Iraq with 3/7," said Brown, a native of Sonora, Calif. "I like to think if something happened to him it would be my blood he's getting."

The CBB will host additional blood drives at the Combat Center Nov. 6 at the Protestant Chapel from 12 to 7 p.m.; Nov. 13 and 14 at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Nov. 19 at the Exercise Support Division from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about donating blood to the Community Blood Bank call 773-4190 or toll free at (866) 507-5433.



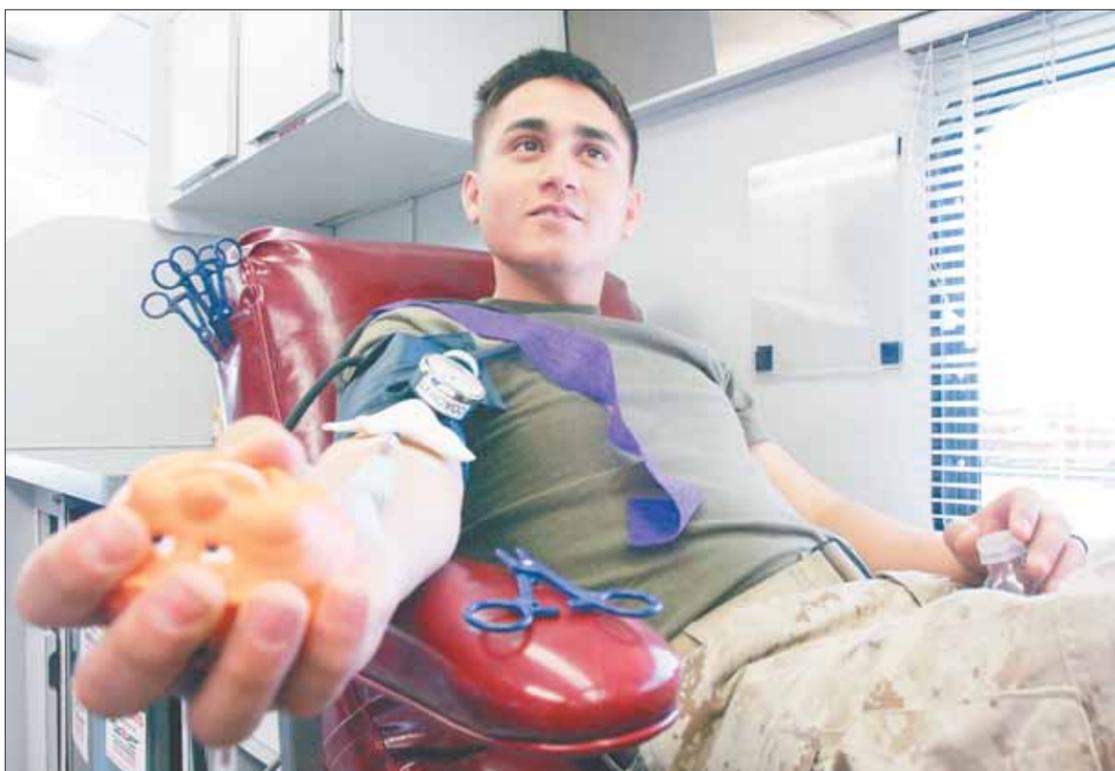
LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Kathleen Johnson, a phlebotomist with the Community Blood Bank of Rancho Mirage, Calif., checks the blood pressure of Lance Cpl. Donald Carrow, a motor transport mechanic with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, before Carrow donates blood to the Community Blood Bank Oct. 17.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Louise Ebenal, a blood packer with the Community Blood Bank of Rancho Mirage Calif., packages blood, in the bank's Bloodmobile, donated by Marines, sailors, civilian personnel, and their families Oct. 17.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Lance Cpl. Donald Carrow, a motor transport mechanic with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, joins fellow Marines, sailors, civilian personnel, and their families to donate blood to the CBB Oct. 17.

## 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

#### "Faith Lessons" Bible Study

Building 1651, at 12 p.m. with  
Chaplains Moran and Hester. For  
more info call 830-6187

### Immaculate Heart of Mary

RCIA-6-7:30 p.m.  
Resumes Sept. 11

### 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)

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# American Gladiators bring fight to Marines

**LANCE CPL. SHAWN CUMMINS**

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

CAMP HIT, Iraq — The American Gladiators paid a visit to the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, to show their support and have some fun Oct. 8. Titan, Militia, Panther, Phoenix and Venom, stars from the television show “American Gladiators,” traveled here to sign autographs and take pictures with

the Marines.

The gladiators arrived early in the day and started by spending time visiting the Marines and sailors with the battalion. One of the gladiators, Venom, even stopped to help Marines fill sand bags. After sitting down for lunch and talking to the Marines, the gladiators tested their strength against some of the Marines with some tug-of-war and a few rounds of “Bull in the Ring.”

“I really didn’t expect them to come out and actually do

(events),” said Lance Cpl. Dillon J. Bob, 21, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Company L, 3/7. “For them to actually come out here, it makes us feel like they actually care.”

Alex Castro, a former Marine who plays Militia on “American Gladiators,” was the first to get things started, jumping in line with some of the larger Marines to take on Co. L’s machine gunners in a match of tug-of-war. After a failed attempt by Militia’s team to take the win, Titan ran up to give them a hand during the second round. Despite their best efforts, the machine gunners won again.

After the tug-of-war, the ground fighting began with a game called “Bull in the Ring,” which is a contest to see who the last man standing is. Two Marines stepped up to take on Militia at once and were tossed beyond the sand bags lining the perimeter of the ring in a matter of seconds.

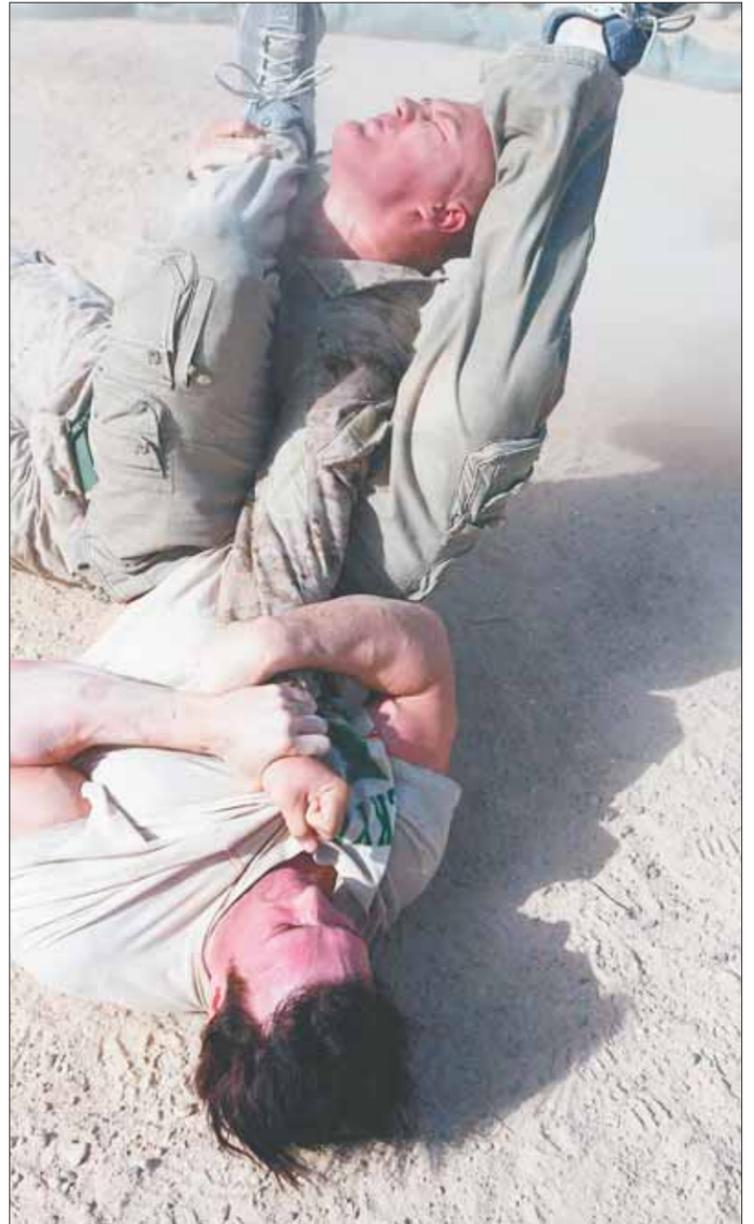
“It was a good time,” said Cpl. Kyle D. Dringman, who stepped into the ring with Militia during the event. “I’m glad we got to do a little tug-of-war and ground fighting. I’m glad they did something with us instead of just coming and taking pictures because we actually got involved with them a little.”

After leaving Hit, the American Gladiators traveled to Camp Rawah to visit more Marines with the battalion.



LANCE CPL. SHAWN CUMMINS

Alex Castro, better known as Militia from the TV show “American Gladiators,” stares down the competition after tossing two Marines out of the ring during a round of “Bull in the Ring” with members of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 at Camp Hit, Iraq, Sept. 8. After sitting down for lunch and talking to the Marines, the gladiators tested their strength against some of the Marines with some tug-of-war and a few rounds of “Bull in the Ring.”



LANCE CPL. SHAWN CUMMINS

Mike O’Hearn, known as Titan from “American Gladiators,” wrestles Pfc. Christopher Eardley, 21, a team leader with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, at Camp Hit, Iraq, Oct. 9.

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## CHALLENGE from, A1

tournament, jousting, big-glove boxing, rock wall climb, dummy grenade toss, M-16 A2 service rifle assembly, Iron Man and Woman Physical Fitness Test, water polo, obstacle course, basketball championship tournament, biathlon, hummer pull and First to Fight video game tournament.

Other events, like the unit blood drive and bench press competition and bench press competition, were new additions to the challenge, said Dougwillo, a Lynn, Mass., native.

Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who donated to the blood drive secured their second-place position and received \$75 for their unit fund, added Dougwillo.

1st Tanks took first place in the blood drive and received \$125 for their unit fund on top of the \$500 grand prize.

“This was all about making the Marines feel good,” said Lt. Col.

Thomas J. Gordon, 1st Tanks commanding officer. “They needed this.”

Lance Cpl. Eric Flores, an assaultman in scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tanks, said the battalion’s triumph was a great morale booster.

“The victory of 1st Tanks Battalion is very exhilarating,” said Flores, a Wichita Falls, Texas, native. “This battalion really stresses competition, and it feels good to come out on top.”

In addition to the events, the CCC offered service members an opportunity to donate at the Community Blood Bank-mobile, learn information about the various prevention, education and career booths set up on the field, and enjoy complimentary barbecue and drinks provided by Combat Center food services.

A date for next year’s CCC was unanimously decided in a MCCC meeting Wednesday. For more information, call 830-5386.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Chase Savage, a tank crewman with Headquarters and Service Company, 1 Tank Battalion, throws a football through the center of a tire to win a t-shirt at the sixth annual Combat Center Challenge at Victory Field Friday.

## Combat Center Trader Ads

### AUTOMOTIVE

**MOTORCYCLE VSTAR 1100** For sale by owner. Low miles. \$6,200 Call Alfred 362-2512 10/24/08

**2003 NISSAN SENTRA XE**, one owner, very good condition, \$4,500. Call 285-4311 or 228-1920, leave message. 10/24/08

**1987 GMC TRUCK**, crew cab with 8' flatbed, automatic, set up for gooseneck, \$2,500 OBO. Call 447-0499 10/10/08

**1986 FORD F-250 TRUCK**. Extra-cab, diesel 6.9, 4 speed with overdrive. Set up for gooseneck or 5th wheel. \$3,500 OBO. Call 447-0499. 10/10/08

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

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

**2007 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTAIL DELUXE** Less than 2k miles. Under warranty until 2014 (transferable). Custom pipes, huge saddlebags, windshield, etc. \$19k o.b.o. Serious inquiries only, 401-4708. 9/12/08

### MISC.

**SNCO EVENING DRESS** Mess/w GySgt Chevrons 42R, trousers 34 all accessories included, like new worn only twice \$380 obo. Blues jacket 41R anodized buttons, 2 trousers 1 33R/30L \$50 all 3. Call 408-3505. 10/24/08

**KENMORE WASHER/DRYER** Less than 6 months old excellent cond. Can deliver, \$300. Call 406-2469. 10/24/08

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**2004 EPIPHONE SG-MODEL 40 STRING BASS GUITAR** Volume, treble knobs, one bridge humbucker pick-up. \$150 OBO. 888-7100 or 830-5138. 10/3/08

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.

**CHAIN LINK FENCE** you pull, leather couch, washer and dryer, computer desk, master bedroom set, entertainment center. Everything must go! Call for prices at 368-0472. 10/3/08

**DARK GREY SOFA & LOVESEAT**. \$350 OBO (Looks like new). Please call (928) 920-5614. 10/3/08

**THOUSANDS OF COLLECTIBLE BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, STAR TREK & STAR WARS CARDS** (Also some basketball) Many dollars below appraised value. Call Stephen at 567-0400. 9/26/08

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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

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.

### PIONEER, from A1

local bands and an outhouse race.

"The Rotary Club Poker Run was new this year and did very well," said Jessica Wagner-Schultz, an office manager with the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce. "Sunday afternoon there were motorcycles lined up and down Joe Davis Drive where the event ended."

The carnival, which was held every day of Pioneer Days at Luckie Park had a variety of spinning rides, a children's rollercoaster and carnival games, gave participants a chance to win prizes like

stuffed animals and paintings. Food and drink vendors were also set up throughout the parking lot.

Most of the events took place either at Luckie Park or Theatre 29. One of the major events during Pioneer Days is the annual Pioneer Days Parade where different organizations, programs, schools, events and people are recognized during the hour-long march. The parade began on Highway 62, marched down Adobe Road and ended at Luckie Park.

"This is a great way to let people come together," said Sgt. David S. Dietz, assistant operations chief with the Tactical

Training Exercise Control Group. "People get to meet the people they are sitting around more so than they would on a normal day."

The Combat Center color guard and Band lead the parade of military equipment, classic cars, dignitaries and other sights and sounds that made the assembled crowd applaud and cheer.

"The parade had a lot of good floats," said Dietz, who was attending his first Pioneer Days Parade. "I enjoyed watching the fake prisoners running around getting arrested and put in the carriage."

Next year's Pioneer Days are scheduled for Oct. 15 through 18.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON  
Marines from the Combat Center Band march in the Pioneer Days Parade Saturday.

### SAFETY, from A1

while navigating the winding roads of California.

The beginning of the brief reviewed the required personal protective equipment from Marine Corps Order 5100.19E, such as helmets, long sleeved, and long legged clothes, full fingered gloves, hard-soled boots and a retro reflective vest.

All of the PPE is mandatory for anyone operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle on DoD installations, and for all military personnel regardless of whether they are operating or riding on or off installations, on or off-road and in uniform or civilian attire.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Fulgium, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School motorcycle

safety representative, went over all the required PPE and explained why it was important and how it keeps the riders safe while riding a motorcycle.

"Be careful while buying a helmet," said Fulgium. "There are a lot of novelty helmets out there that will only get imbedded in your head if you crash."

Helmets must meet the standards of Snell Memorial Foundation, the American National Standard Institute or the Department of Transportation.

Fulgium also suggested adding even more retro reflective stripes to riders' arms and bike.

"When you're riding a sport bike you are normally laying on your bike," he said. "People in a car can't see you, since you're covering the stripes. I suggest putting more on the top of

your back and on your arms."

Fulgium also had tips for preferred footwear to help keep riders' feet safe during a crash.

"The shoes are normally the first thing to go when you're in a motorcycle accident," said Fulgium. "That is why people should wear over the ankle boots to keep it from coming off so it protects your feet."

"I also see a lot of Marines wear their issued boots [in civilian attire]," continued Fulgium. "Those boots are definitely better than regular tennis shoes if you're in a crash, but the material will be ripped apart easily in these road conditions."

All Marine Message 014-08, which requires all Marines to notify their command within 48 hours of purchasing a motorcycle, was also discussed at the brief. If a Marine fails to notify their command, they are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Anthony Harrison, with the motor operations section of the Palm Springs Police Department, gave many statistics about motorcycle deaths illustrating how dangerous motorcycle riding can be.

"Your are 35 times more likely to die on a motorcycle than in a car," Harrison told the crowd. "The highest fatality group on motorcycles are people 20 to 29 years old, and there are 11 fatalities a day in California alone."

"When riding a sports bike you are 10 times more likely to die in a crash and an average rider needs 12 seconds to react. Most accidents occur in a split second," he added.

Harrison also spoke to the

group regarding the causes of most motorcycle accidents, which includes lack of riding skills, failure to familiarize themselves with a bike and unaware car drivers.

As the brief came to a close, participants had the opportunity to ask questions regarding motorcycle laws and regulations.

After the brief, Officer Raymond Camacho, traffic motor officer and a member of the major accident investigation team with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, led more than 30 riders from the base on a motorcycle ride to the crash site of a Marine recently killed in a motorcycle accident.

Camacho walked the group throughout the crash site, pointing out different areas of the wreckage, including where the Marine's motorcycle landed more than 240 feet from impact.

He took the group to the curb where the skid mark from the bike was still present in the cement.

"The skid mark on the road has faded, but you can still see a darkened area where he impacted the curb," explained Camacho. "You can also see the sign he hit had to be replaced with a new post."

Camacho then walked the group farther down the road to a

large boulder and tree where the Marine had impacted.

"You can see where he impacted the boulder and pushed it back a few inches," said Camacho, pointing out the fact that the rider had still been travelling at a high rate of speed even though he was distant from the site of the actual crash.

During the tour, participants were able to ask Camacho questions regarding the accident and for tips to stay safer on the streets.

Motorcycle safety is a huge issue in the Marine Corps. Many Marines are dying because of motorcycle accidents. According to ALMAR 014/08, the Marine Corps lost 19 Marines in motorcycle accidents in fiscal year 2007, which is more than at any previous time in Marine Corps history.

The Marine Corps is implementing new safety courses for sport riders, and the Combat Center holds various motorcycle safety briefs and group rides to help promote motorcycle safety throughout the Combat Center.

Riders are strongly encouraged to keep their knowledge, skills and equipment in top condition. It may save your life.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Center motorcycle riders prepare for a group ride to a crash site of a Marine who was killed in a motorcycle accident in Yucca Valley Calif., as part a motorcycle safety brief Oct. 17.

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