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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

NOVEMBER 7, 2008

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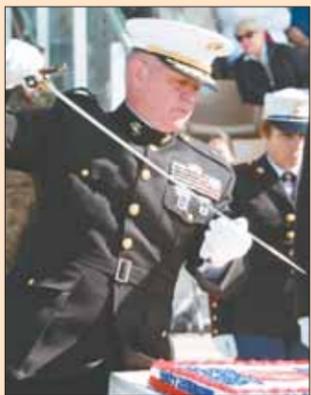
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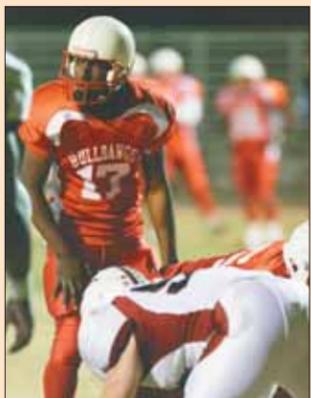
5 CG addresses families at Town Hall



7 1st Tanks celebrates 67 years



8 MCAGCC celebrates Marine Corps Birthday



9 Headquarters squashes MCCES' undefeated record

This Day in Marine Corps History

-Nov. 7, 1941

The Marine Corps Reserve of 23 battalions completed its mobilization.

MCCES puts on a Safety Show

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The second Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Safety Fair, was hosted by the MCCES safety office and various other organizations at Victory Field Oct. 30.

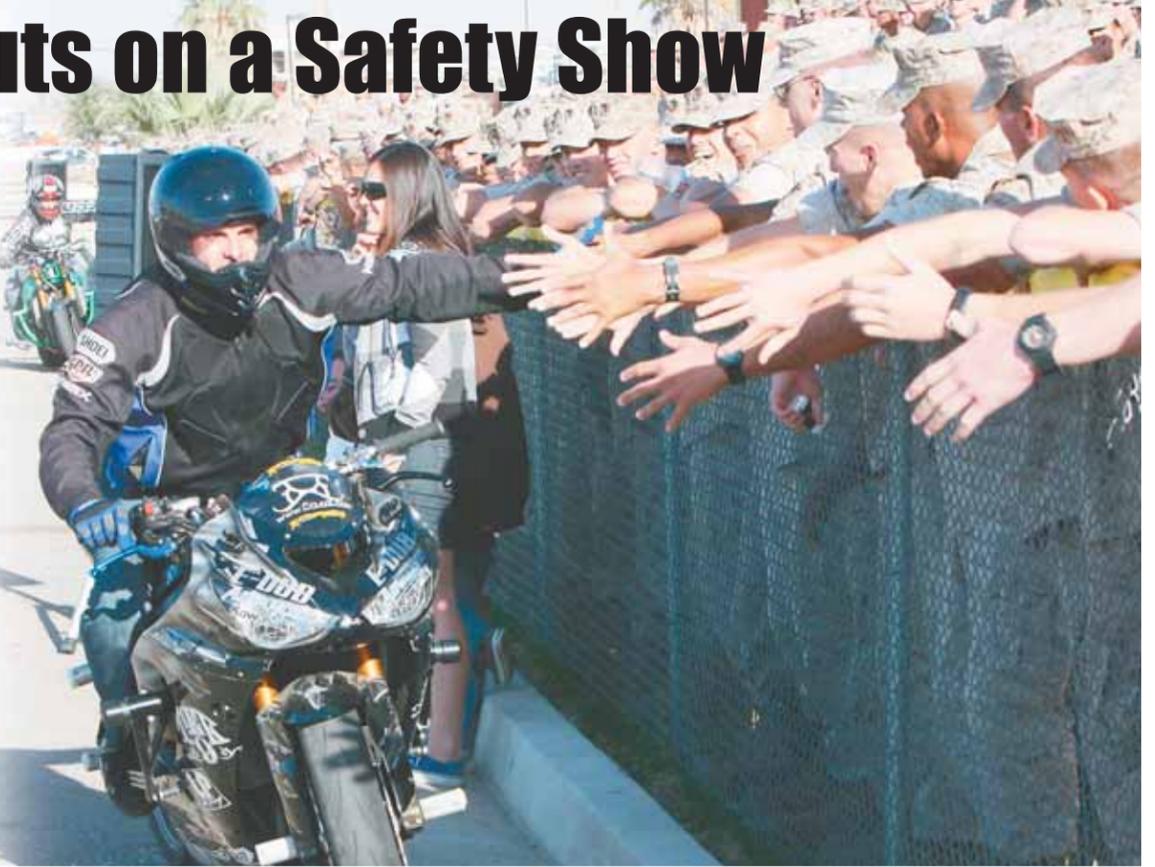
MCCES held the fair to ensure their students completed annual safety requirements while also enjoying motorcycle stunt shows and booth exhibits from various organizations.

The students and MCCES staff were the primary body of attendees at the event, but it was also open to all personnel aboard the base, said Dr. Joyce Teters, the safety manager for MCCES and a native of Sioux Falls, S.D.

Training was also done on suicide prevention and many other topics aside from motorcycle and vehicle safety.

Aside from training, many

See SAFETY, A4



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Eric "E-dub" Whitcomb rides alongside the fence and mingles with the crowd of attendees at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Second Safety Fair at Victory Field Oct. 30. The fair featured riders, along with safety training and exhibits from various organizations.

Combat Center community remembers fallen warriors

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Tears were shed, hearts were uplifted, and even a few smiles were cracked Oct. 31 when, in loving memory and remembrance, Marines and sailors from the Combat Center who have made the ultimate sacrifice were honored during the 4th Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Service at the Sunset Cinema.

"It was to remember and honor those individuals from this base that didn't come home and

gave their lives for this country," said Lt. Terry L. Moran, a battalion chaplain with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School.

The ceremony opened with the playing of the Marines' Hymn and the marching on of the colors before an opening prayer led by Lt. Cmdr. Emile G. Moured, the deputy director of the Religious Ministries Directorate.

After the prayer concluded, Alex Pacheco, the director of the Combat Center's Business

See HEROES, A10



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Marines and sailors of the Combat Center sit in silence and watch as the names and photos of Marines and sailors who have made the ultimate sacrifice are displayed on the screen of the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema during the 4th Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Service Oct. 31.

Marine Corps honors 27th commandant

CPL. FRANS E. LABRANCHE

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La. - Hundreds of people huddled beneath massive oak trees next to Grace Episcopal Church Nov. 3 to pay their last respects to Gen. Robert H. Barrow, 27th commandant of the Marine Corps.

"Gen. Barrow really focused on people, he believed that it wasn't so important how many people became Marines, but their quality," said Lt. Gen. Jack Bergman, commander of Marine Forces Reserve. "He knew that the quality of his Marines would help overcome the challenges facing the Corps."

Another Marine at the cere-

mony said Barrow's belief and dedication to the Corps may only have been rivaled by the Marines' determination to honor him one last time.

"He deserves everything we can do for him," said Gunnery Sgt. William Dixon, Marine Corps funeral director. "It's nothing for us to dedicate this time and work to a man that worked for more than 40 years for the Marine Corps."

Barrow's family, who has been a part of the St. Francisville community even before the Civil War, is well known throughout the town. Many residents also consider him somewhat of a legend.

"I think that it's really inspiring to know that an American hero

lives in your town," said Dorothy Hammond, a neighbor and local shop owner. "Even in his death, Gen. Barrow has brought something beautiful (the ceremony) to this sleepy town."

Gen. James Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Gen. Carl Mundy, former commandant of the Marine Corps from 1991-1995, participated in the ceremony by delivering the eulogy and presenting the burial colors to Barrow's next of kin.

According to an article published in the Advocate (La.) newspaper, Conway praised Barrow for his many initiatives ranging

See 27TH CMC, A15



COURTESY PHOTO

Gen. Robert H. Barrow, 27th commandant of the Marine Corps was honored at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville, La., Nov. 3.



COMMANDING GENERAL
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA

23 October 2008

As we celebrate the 233rd anniversary of service to our Nation and our fellow Americans, you can be justifiably proud of the contributions you have made in defending the principles and ideals of freedom. It is the unfailing commitment of our Marines, sailors, civilian Marines, and families that keep our Corps and the Combat Center strong. Americans sleep better at night because of your selfless commitment.

I am asking each one of you to pause on our Birthday and reflect on our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Then, ask yourself if are you doing all you can to make our community and our corner of the Corps better for those around you and those that will follow you. Let's take a fresh look at our responsibilities to our Nation, our Corps, and to each other and then, rededicate ourselves to being, "Always Faithful." Wear our Eagle, Globe, and Anchor with pride—you have earned it.

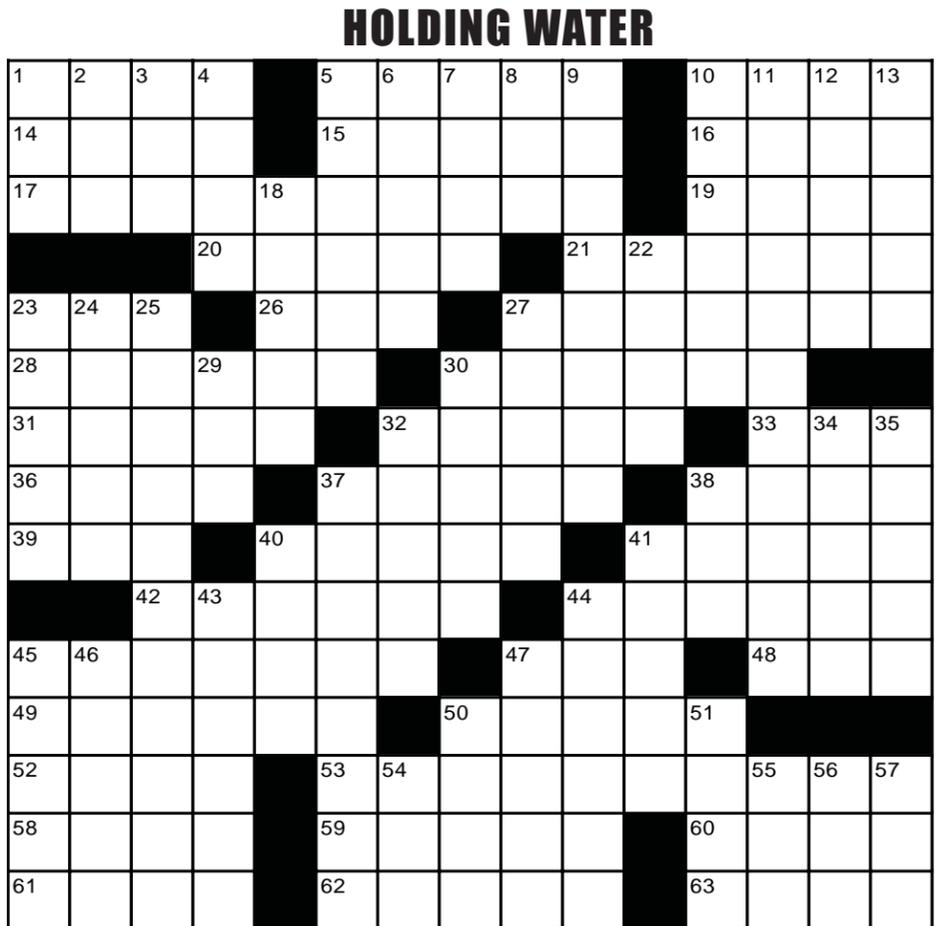
I would also ask that we take the time on this day to offer a special thanks to our spouses, parents, and families. Without the unwavering support they provide to us every day, we could not focus on the challenges that face our Corps and our Nation.

Today is a day to remember all Marines that stand in harm's way and their families as well. Our thoughts and prayers make a difference as we make the daily sacrifices required of our profession.

Happy Birthday and again, thank you for what you do as a Marine and as a member of the Twentynine Palms community.

Semper Fidelis,

C. M. GURGANUS
Brigadier General, USMC



© MacNamara's Band, Inc.

ACROSS

- 1. Major composition
- 5. Out of kilter
- 10. Some roll call votes
- 14. Goat cheese
- 15. Alfalfa's "Our Gang" heart throb
- 16. Donuts, mathematically
- 17. Mellow brass
- 19. Bean grown for sprouts
- 20. Metallic quality
- 21. "Yer dern ___!"
- 23. XXX part
- 26. LAX posting
- 27. Locales for sedges and reeds
- 28. Temptress's asset
- 30. The haves have it
- 31. Like an epee's point
- 32. Shrewd
- 33. Gave a thumbs-up to
- 36. Reply to "Shall we?"
- 37. Bulgaria's capital
- 38. On the briny

DOWN

- 39. SASE, e.g.
- 40. Bird in a Poe classic
- 41. Bishop's topper
- 42. One with a cure
- 44. Instigate
- 45. Dry as a desert
- 47. Bert Bobbsey's twin
- 48. Guitar innovator Paul
- 49. Was gaga over
- 50. Burger unit
- 52. Rhet Butler's last word
- 53. Vacation spot on the shore
- 58. James, winner of a posthumous Pulitzer
- 59. Houston pro
- 60. Pipe problem
- 61. The Virgin Is., e.g.
- 62. Make even shorter, say
- 63. MacLachlan of "Twin Peaks"

DOWN

- 1. On vacation
- 2. ___ capita income
- 3. Beehive State tribesman
- 4. ___ serif
- 5. Stick like glue
- 6. Bill, host of "RealTime"
- 7. One of a set of clubs
- 8. Camera type, briefly
- 9. ___ winds (California phenomenon)
- 10. Maximally
- 11. Lodging for young travelers
- 12. Banks in Cooperstown
- 13. Coaches give them
- 18. Visual aid in a presentation
- 22. Paris Airport
- 23. Postpone, as a motion
- 24. Partner of Burns
- 25. Bobby Thomson's 1951 blast, notably
- 27. "___ Black" (1997 sci-fi spoof)

- 29. Young ___ (tykes)
- 30. Piece of Necco candy
- 32. Witches' group
- 34. New Hampshire college town
- 35. Feathered missiles
- 37. Restaurant area with a sneeze guard
- 38. Align the crosshairs
- 40. Like proverbial hen's teeth
- 41. Billing period, often
- 43. One bringing home the bacon
- 44. Sailor's measure of depth
- 45. Nobelist with Begin
- 46. Pithy saying
- 47. Mollusk shell material
- 50. Garden walkway
- 51. The "sun" in "sunnyside up"
- 54. Language suffix
- 55. One-eighty
- 56. ___ ammoniac
- 57. ___ out (barely make)

[Solutions on A14]

Admin Corner

IPAC

MCAGCC

MCAGCC MUC: Per Marine Administrative Message 602/08, Headquarters Battalion, is the only unit to receive the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period of Oct. 1, 2005 – Sept. 30, 2006

Special Leave Accrual (SLA):

Effective Oct. 1, all Marines with leave balances in excess of 75 days automatically had their leave balances reduced to 75 days, in accordance with Marine Corps Order P1050.3H with changes 1-4.

If you lost leave due to this automatic fiscal year reduction, report to your respective S-1 office in order to complete a request for leave restoration. Leave restoration is based upon the Eligibility Criteria listed in paragraph 2008.1 of MCO P1050.3H with changes 1-4.

Do not report to or submit requests for leave restoration to the Installation Personnel

Administration Center. All requests must be submitted through your respective chain of command for approving authority.

USMC Captain Recognition Bonus

Many captains and captains select may be eligible to rate a \$4,000 bonus. If you are an active component captain or captain select with a designed Military Occupational Specialty contained in MARADMIN 611/08.

You must execute a written agreement to continue serving on active duty and agree to extent your period of active duty for 12 months beyond your current obligated service. This agreement can be done with your battalion or squadron S-1 or the IPAC pay section.

To ensure payment is received by no later than Dec. 15 as scheduled in MARADMIN 611/08, all agreements must be provided to the IPAC pay section no later than Dec. 2. This will ensure timely processing.

Restricted Officers will be addressed in a follow-on MARADMIN.

Centerspeak

What do you think will change the most under the Obama Administration?

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



PFC. ANTHONY BLANEY
COMBAT ENGINEER, 3RD CEB

"I think gas prices are going to start to go down and the war might not go on for too much longer."



STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY DEFOOR
LAV CREWMAN, 3RD LAR

"I think military spending is going to get increasingly downgraded."



2ND LT. NICK MORENO
PLATOON COMMANDER, Co. B, 1/7

"I think we'll focus more on Afghanistan and see increased health benefits for veterans."

Employee Spotlight



Name: Norwilyn Ault
Job Title: Retail Operation Assistant
Organization: Combat Center Home Store
Job Duties: Customer service, closing and opening the store, and fulfilling managerial tasks when the manager is not here.
Hometown: Philippines.
Hobbies: Martial arts, stick fighting, and off-roading in the desert
Significant Achievements: Just promoted to current position at the Home Store.

Military Service: Wife of Gunnery Sgt. Anthony L. Ault, an expeditionary air-field operations chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374.

To at the Combat Center: 2 years.

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

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First of its kind K-9 training program launched

LANCE CPL. RANDY LITTLE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The first service dog trained by inmates at the Camp Lejeune Brig was officially presented to a wounded warrior Oct. 17.

Rocio, an 18-month-old Labrador retriever mix was presented to Cpl. Christopher Gray fully trained to assist his owner by retrieving the phone, turning the light on and off and picking up items dropped on the ground or between furniture.

Although Rocio is able to aid Gray physically, he provides his new master with another useful attribute; serving as a companion to the injured Marine.

"It's always great to have someone next to you," said Gray.

Gray was patrolling in Fallujah, Iraq, Feb. 17, 2007, when his Abrams tank was struck by two rocket-propelled grenades. One pierced the top of the tank, igniting the bulk of the ammunition, causing it to explode directly behind him.

Everyone inside suffered serve burns, however, Gray and the tank commander got the worst of it. He sustained third-degree burns on more than 50 percent of his body and since

then he has been through multiple surgeries, including a cornea transplant.

Gray can no longer perform everyday tasks which once would have been simple. He can't squat. To help him carry out these tasks, Gray was assigned Rocio to help in his recovery efforts.

Rocio was trained to assist Gray by inmates at the Camp Lejeune Brig. The program, which enables the inmates to train assistance dogs, was developed by Carolina Canines and began 10 months ago. The initial effort started with six dogs and is the first program of its kind in the country.

A select few inmates, based on their status and time left in the brig, train the dogs to perform tasks such as picking up objects and loading and unloading the washer and dryer.

Because the inmates train the animals, the program doesn't cost the taxpayers anything, said Rick Hairston, president and chief executive officer of Carolina Canines. Normally one service dog would cost \$38,000.

Although the program was designed to aide wounded service members, inmates at the brig are able to benefit from the program as well.



LANCE CPL. RANDY LITTLE

Cpl. Christopher Gray praises Rocio, his newly trained assistance dog, for a job well done. Rocio is one of the first dogs to graduate from a unique program at the base brig.

Training the dogs gives the inmates an opportunity to make-up for the mistakes they've made, said Rep. Walter Jones, state representative.

"Everybody makes mistakes," said Gray, who appreciates the work put forth by the inmates as well. "But what they're doing right now is awesome."

SAFETY, from A1

exhibits were offered. The Provost Marshal's Office hosted a water tank to dunk police in to raise money for their Marine Corps Ball. The Fire Department was also present with an earthquake house exhibit to show people what it is like in a house on fire and filled with smoke.

Teters said the MCCES students are allowed to own a motor vehicle based on what class and phase they are in. Students in Company A, for example, rate housing if they are married, and vehicles because of their ability to rate housing because their military occupational specialty schooling takes almost a year to complete.

Staff Sgt. Gene H. Smith, a Marine who suffered from an alcohol-related motorcycle accident and a native of Decatur, Ala., gave his point of view and story behind where he is in life right now in hopes it would change people's perspectives on motorcycle safety and how they make decisions when riding.

"If I even impact the life of

one Marine, sailor, anybody, I consider it a success," Smith said. "The pain and money I went through because of this situation were enormous. I broke my left ankle, fractured my left hip and broke my left wrist. Along with that, I lost 80 percent of my skin from my waist down, and slid anywhere between 150-170 feet."

Smith continued explaining why he feels education on motorcycles is valuable.

"When you cross the road, what do you think of?" said Smith. "Everyone says check for cars, they look for two headlights. People don't typically think of motorcycles as a huge problem when they want to cross the road, and that is precisely why they are so dangerous."

"We're trying to promote general safety," said Teters. "But, we're starting to heighten the value of motorcycle safety. We're losing lots of Marines because of accidents involving motorcycles, and nobody wants that."

Teters said the tragedy of the 71 Marines the Marine Corps has lost in vehicle accidents in fiscal year 2008 is too much, and every

day service members need to concentrate on what everyone does when they are involved on, or know someone who operates, a motorcycle.

MCCES is not new to the practices of a large, recognized, safety campaign.

"We've been recognized for the Geico Motor Vehicle Award for the military," Teters said.

Jeff Groff, an independent stunt performer and a native of Elmira, N.Y., is a civilian who does stunts for movies and television, who performed at the fair. Groff, Eric "E-dub" Whitcomb and Kyle "Crazy Kyle" Rapport, all performed for the crowd during the MCCES Safety Fair.

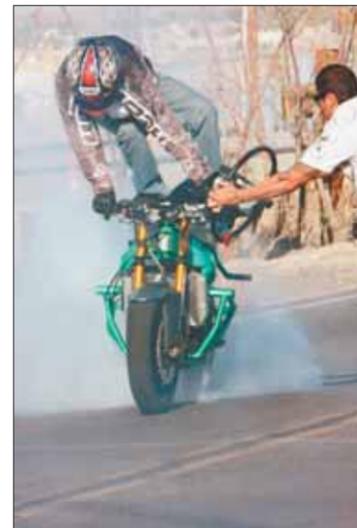
"We love doing shows for the Marines," Groff said.

He continued that performing stunts on bikes is a lot of fun, but takes years of practice. Also, if you're not sober, even if you are a professional, it's best to not try performing stunts.

Groff continued that they love to do shows for the military because they get the feeling of returning something to the service members.

"We really appreciate everything the military does for us," he said. "If it wasn't for Marines and the other branches, we wouldn't be free to ride and do our thing like this."

After the motorcycle show was



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Kyle "Crazy Kyle" Rapport, a rider with H6 Productions, does various tricks while the air is thick with smoke. H6 Productions featured a stunt show, which went along with safety training and exhibits from various organizations at the second Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Safety Fair Oct. 30 at the Combat Center's Victory Field.

finished, the attendees were released to check out the numerous booths and retailers who had displays.

Teters said her reasoning behind hosting having the fair was so the students could appreciate bike safety, learn something from a person who has been there, and also learn in a fun way by seeing the shows along with briefings.

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HOT TOPICS

WOMEN'S VARSITY BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Women's varsity basketball tryouts will be conducted on Nov. 17 and 19 at 6 p.m. at the East Gym. This is open to all active duty, civilian employees and dependents 18 years of age and older. Point of contact is Skip Best at 830-4092. Practices will run every Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.

EAST GYM NOW OPEN 24/7

Effective immediately, the East Gym is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week while the West Gym is under renovation. This is temporary until the West Gym reopens full time.

TOYS FOR TOTS DISTRIBUTION

From Dec. 1 - 12 military families can contact the following numbers to request toys from the program: 830-8936, 830-8878, 830-8879, 830-7921.

STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR TAX YEAR 2009

The States of Connecticut (not living in the barracks), Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey (not living in the barracks), New York (not living in the barracks), Oregon, West Virginia do not tax service members claiming legal residence in those states if they meet certain conditions specific to each state. Please refer to this link for the conditions: <https://www.missa.manpower.usmc.mil/elibrary/prium/default.aspx?show=P8.6.8>

Installation Personnel Administration Center instructions are as follow: Marines who are currently state tax exempted for Calendar Year 2008 must come to the IPAC, customer service section, as soon as possible to update their state tax exemption forms. This must be done no later than Dec. 28 in order to maintain a state tax exempt status through Calendar Year 2009. New exemption: Eligible Marines who wish to be exempted from paying state taxes for Calendar Year 2009 must come to the IPAC no later than Nov. 27 to fill out a DD Form 2058-1 and W-4 Form. Note: The IPAC is required to remove all state tax exemptions on members who do have the required documentation, and retroactive adjustments cannot be made. For any questions or concerns regarding State Tax exemptions is Staff Sgt. Adrian D Farmer, Customer Service, IPAC 830-1818, extension 160.

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, to volunteer, get your child involved or if you wish to make a cash donation, please contact Daniel Montague, Mojave Vipers' commanding officer, by e-mailing ymmontague@yahoo.com.

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Combat Center families play 20 questions with the Commanding General

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The commanding general of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, hosted a town hall meeting for all military families Monday night at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema.

At the three-hour forum, those in attendance were given a chance to address needs and concerns regarding the Combat Center with Gurganus and other Marines, sailors and civilians who are charged with keeping MCAGCC and its community operational.

Gurganus said the main goal of the event was to hear from local residents not what he is doing right, but what he is doing wrong.

"What I want to know is, what we're not doing for you," said Gurganus. "I need you guys to be blatantly honest with me about what you need."

As part of the question and answer session, Gurganus took questions on the availability of military housing for families with more than two children, making Del Valle Drive safer to cross, Lake Bandini, getting more money for sports and recreation, gate access and hours, base security, and basic allowance for housing.

For some questions, Gurganus turned to his subject matter experts, like Alex Pacheco of the Business Performance Office who answered questions concerning childcare, and Navy Capt. Don Cenon B. Albia, the commanding officer of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, who answered questions regarding making the appointment process at the hospital easier.

While Gurganus admitted he did not have answers for all questions and that the response to some questions would take time to implement, the overall feeling amongst the crowd was that the town hall meeting greatly benefited the Combat Center community.

"I think it's very helpful," said Valentina Ruth, the wife of Senior Chief Petty Officer Rodney Ruth, a hospital corpsman.

Ruth, who was attending her first town hall, did not come with questions or concerns of her own, but found hearing the concerns of other community members helpful and the responses to

those concerns informative.

Ruth said she was particularly thankful for the clarification of third-party traffic citations by Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, the Combat Center sergeant major.

When the concern was raised that community members are not complying with roads signs and new laws pertaining to cell phone use, Bellis was quick to respond.

"If you see it, cite it," said Bellis. "It has to come to traffic court."

Bellis informed those in attendance to be thorough when filling out a citation, either at the Combat Center Web site, <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil>, or at the Provost Marshal's Office in building 1407, and include vehicle make, color, license plate number and state of origin in order to ensure the guilty party is found and corrected.

Both Gurganus and Bellis were quick to inform the crowd that PMO was doing a great job at enforcing necessary laws and ensuring the overall safety of the Combat Center, even though they are currently faced with a manpower crunch.

Kathleen Schmidt, wife of Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Schmidt, a chief instructor with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, said she was excited to see so many people in attendance, and she had come to get resources for herself and for the families she serves as the family readiness officer for Headquarters Battalion.

Schmidt, a native of New Orleans, La., who had questions about repairs to base housing and base security, said she felt better after talking to Gurganus and hearing what he had to say.

"He's the general of the base, and he cares," said Schmidt. "It makes me feel more connected."

Schmidt said residents shouldn't complain if they haven't attended a town hall, and encourages others to make the meetings a priority.

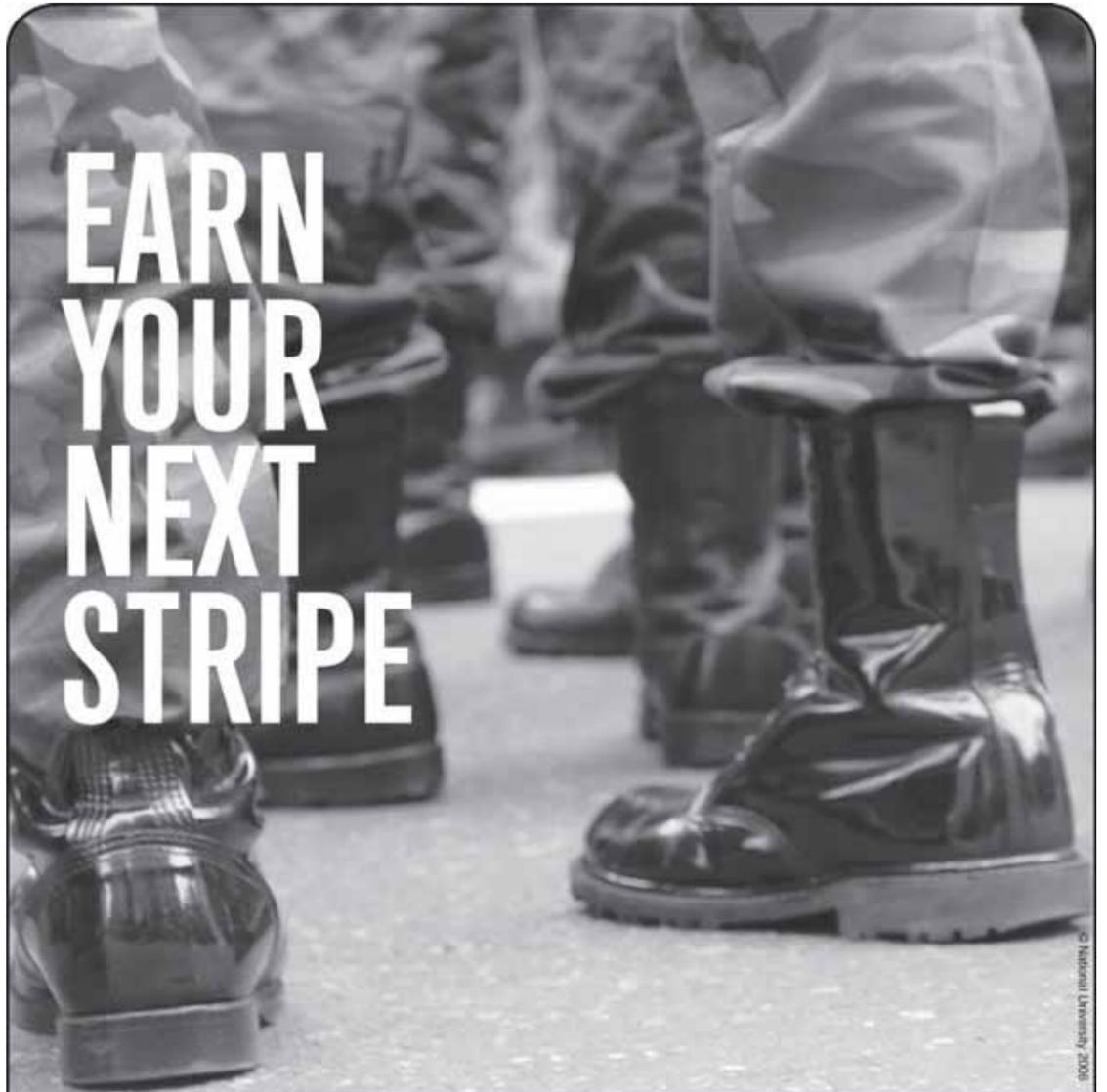
"I think it should be one of those things you put on your schedule and flag it red," said Schmidt.

Once the official meeting had concluded, Gurganus, Bellis, Albia, as well as family readiness officers, stayed behind to clarify questions and responses, answer new or unanswered concerns, and to get to know the Combat Center community on a more personal level.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

The commanding general of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, responds to questions and concerns voiced by Marines, sailors, and their family members during a town hall meeting for all military families Monday night at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema.



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MCCES, Combat Center personnel run for fun

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With his heart pumping and his lungs burning, Pfc. Hungjun Wang was fighting against the pain to finish the race — until he looked down and realized he was wearing an obnoxiously pink outfit complete with blonde wig and a stuffed unicorn wrapped around his waist — and remembered he was in a “Fun Run.”

The Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School hosted the sixth biannual Fun Run in front of the MCCES schoolhouse Oct. 31, which brought in more participants than any of the previous fun runs in the event’s three-year history.

More than 600 runners partook in the events, such as the 5-kilometer Halloween costume contest fun run, a 10K race, an individual half-marathon, and a five-person team half-marathon.

“It was just about getting out and having a good time,” said Wang, a MCCES student and the first place winner in the costume contest. “I just went to Wal-Mart, got all the fruitiest stuff I could find, threw it on and came out here for some fun.”

Don Tolbert, the director of the race, said such a big turnout is proof that the Fun Run is living up to its name.

“I think it is a great event and this year proves it because it looks like we drew more than 600 people, so this is the most we’ve got out here and hopefully it will continue to grow,” he said.

The Fun Run was initiated as a way of bringing the Combat Center community together, while building the morale of Marines and sailors, according to Capt. Jason Roberts, the officer-in-charge of the Fun Run.

“The Fun Run is an opportunity for the members of the base, who enjoy running, to compete, because there was like a vacancy — a void — here on the base for that and we challenged that,” he said.

Tolbert said once MCCES Marines had the idea, they wanted to make sure it was available to all Combat Center personnel.

“We wanted to create an event, not only for MCCES, but for the whole base with some challenging terrain on the course, and at the same time, we wanted to try to cater to people from short distance to long distance,” he said. “So we devel-



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Runners of the 5-kilometer portion of the sixth biannual Fun Run, hosted by the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, approach the finish line in front of the MCCES schoolhouse Oct. 31.

oped this as a challenge event with the concept of having multiple races within one venue and we do a springtime one, right around St. Patrick’s Day and fall one for the Halloween contest, to make it as available to everyone as possible.”

Medals went to the top three overall and age group male and female finishers, for the 5K, 10K and individual half-marathon, as well as to the first, second and third place runners of the team half-marathon competition. Gift cards also went to the three costume contest winners.

Lt. Cmdr. Bill Warner, an obstetrician gynecologist at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and the overall winner of the individual half-marathon, said he wanted to give the Fun Run a try as soon as he heard about it.

“I’ve never run a half-marathon before and I wanted to try it,” he explained. “It went really good, my goal was to go under one hour and 30 minutes and I made it. It feels pretty good to finish in first place, having never run one before — it was definitely fun, but I’m tired and glad it’s over.”



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Runners of the 5-kilometer portion of the sixth biannual MCCES Fun Run, approach the finish line in front of the schoolhouse Oct. 31.



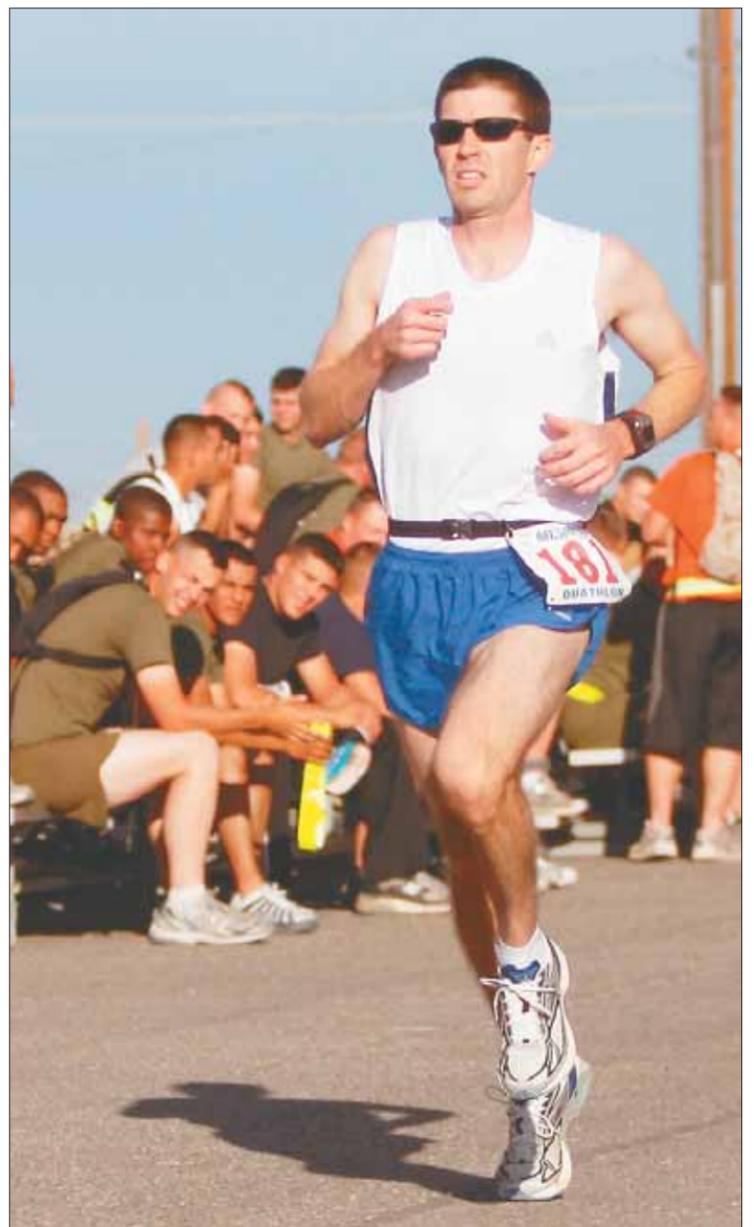
LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines, sailors and family members of the Combat Center wait at the starting line for the Fun Run to kick off in front of the MCCES schoolhouse Oct. 31.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Pfc. Hungjun Wang, MCCES student and the first place winner in the costume contest, stands with the other costume contest winners of the sixth biannual Fun Run Oct. 31.



LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

Lt. Cmdr. Bill Warner, an obstetrician gynecologist at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, crosses the finish line of the sixth biannual Fun Run to become the overall winner of the individual half-marathon portion of the event Oct. 31.

1st Tanks commemorate unit birthday, stellar tankers

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of 1st Tank Battalion celebrated their unit's 67th birthday in a ceremony outside the battalion headquarters Oct. 31.

Tankers, from past and present, gathered to honor their fallen brothers as well as those who received this year's Tanker of the Year award.

The annual award is given to one Marine from each company who has displayed the highest examples of Corps values and personal conduct, said Sgt. Maj. Conrad E. Potts, the 1st Tank Bn.'s sergeant major.

Gene Berbaum, the president of the Marine Corps Tankers Scholarship Foundation and retired 36th commanding officer of 1st Tank Bn., was one of the attendees at the ceremony. He said it was his personal history with the battalion that brings him back to the ceremony every year.

"I served in four tank battal-

ions," said Berbaum, a Vista, Calif., native. "And tanks have always been known to be very tight units. Tankers don't usually lose track of each other after they've gone separate ways. They take care of each other."

Potts explained further on his view of the purpose behind the celebration.

"It's like what was said in the narration," said the Louisville, Ken., native. "We can help the next generation carry on so they may know the freedoms we have today."

Cpl. Adonai Briseno-Jimenez, a welder with Headquarters and Service Company, was one of the recipients of the Tanker of the Year award. Although this was his first time seeing the unit's traditional ceremony, he said he felt honored to play a role in it.

"I feel pretty ... hot not being a tanker and still getting this award," said Briseno-Jimenez, a Round Rock, Texas, native. "I feel pretty proud, and my family at home does, too. It makes me



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Headquarters and Service Company and Companies C and D stand in formation during the 1st Tank Battalion birthday and Tanker of the Year award ceremony outside the battalion headquarters Oct. 31.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines with 1st Tank Battalion roll a cake down the sidewalk ceremonially during the unit's birthday and Tanker of the Year award celebration outside the battalion headquarters Oct. 31.

feel good being able to be here, celebrate with the battalion and be a part of it all."

The other recipients of the Tanker of the Year award were: Sgt. Andy Rogers, Co. C; Cpl. Jerre Stead, Co. B; Sgt. Gerald Lentsch, Co. A; and Cpl. Robert Glace Jr., Co. D.

Lt. Col. Thomas J. Gordon, battalion commanding officer, explained the reason behind celebrating not only the Marine Corps birthday, but the unit's birthday as well.

"This is a time to reflect on the sacrifices and achievements of those who have gone and served before us," said Gordon, a Boston native. "It can give us success for the future from lessons learned and experiences from the past."

Although this was Gordon's first time celebrating the unit birthday as the commanding officer, he said he will do his best to make sure the tradition continues for all future tankers.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines stand at attention while Lt. Col. Thomas Gordon, 1st Tank Battalion commanding officer, and Gene Berbaum, the president of the Marine Corps Tankers Scholarship Foundation, award and congratulate them on receiving the Tanker of the Year awards during the unit's birthday and Tanker of the Year award ceremony outside the battalion headquarters Oct. 31.

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Combat Center honors past warriors, battles in pageant

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As more than 200 Marines, sailors, retirees and civilians sitting on the bleachers looked out onto the cold field, Marines marched out to take their places near state flags fluttering in the morning breeze. Some held antique government issue rifles with dull, chipped bayonets, while others wore old wool uniforms with shiny brass buttons and coattails. As the Marines, the Combat Center band and the assembled crowd waited, the narrator began speaking.

The Combat Center hosted the 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Wednesday. The annual pageant is an event held at Marine Corps installations worldwide with the purpose of honoring past Marines, battles fought, and an illustrious history, while also recognizing the generation of Marines to come.

Marines and sailors dressed in uniforms of past eras marched from their positions to a point front and center one at a time as a biography was narrated about the era when the uniform

was worn by Marines at the time.

After the pageant, a birthday cake was wheeled out on a cart to celebrate the birthday of the Corps, which is actually Monday.

Pfc. Raleigh Collins, a student in Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, was the youngest Marine present and played a role in the ceremony.

Collins, who was born in 1990, took a piece of cake from the oldest Marine present, Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Knipple, Traffic Management Officer officer-in-charge, who was born in 1957.

"I feel very lucky and honored," said Collins about the ceremony. "I was very glad just to be a part of the ceremony."

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center commanding general, said during the ceremony that this day was about enlisted Marines.

"You heard earlier today that America does not need a Marine Corps, but America wants a Marine Corps," said Gurganus, a Wilmington, N.C., native. "America is still counting on you and you are still delivering Happy birthday, Marines."



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Martin Garcia Jr., a range controller with range safety, Company A, Headquarters Battalion, hands a sword to Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Combat Center commanding general, as Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Knipple, the oldest Marine present, stands nearby during the Combat Center's Marine Corps Birthday Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Wednesday.



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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. James Wiggins Jr., a range scheduling plotter with BEARMAT range safety, Company A, Headquarters Battalion, waits to lead Marines in historical uniforms onto Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field during the Combat Center's 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Pageant Wednesday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Daniel H. Ealy, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, goes to parade rest before the narration of the 1812 Marines is read during the Combat Center's 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Wednesday.

Headquarters knocks down MCCES

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Headquarters Battalion topped the undefeated giant, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, 29-2, and cemented their standings in the playoffs for the Commanding General's Intramural Football League.

Headquarters' biggest win of the season sends them into the postseason preparing for upcoming challenges.

"It's our last game and we're starting to tune-up our team for the postseason," said Mark M. Geletko, the defensive coach for Headquarters and a native of Pittsburgh. "We've only lost by two points in both of our losses this year. We start off with MWSS-374 [Marine Wing Support Squadron 374] first, and we're going to play all the way through to the championship."

Headquarters received the opening kickoff, but were held by MCCES on their opening drive.

The next two possessions by Headquarters followed even worse to start the game when their special teams coughed-up the ball to the hungry MCCES defense.

MCCES failed to capitalize on every one of their possessions and the first quarter transitioned into the second without a score.

Headquarters rolled into the second quarter with possession of the ball and scored within the first three minutes, but failed their two-point conversion.

MCCES got the ball multiple times, but their offense continued to stall and could not push into Headquarters' end zone.

Headquarters scored again late

in the first half and successfully made the two-point conversion to make the end score of the first half 14-0 in their favor.

At halftime, Headquarters' head coach, Daymian Brown, congratulated his team on their early success, but stated they still needed to work on holes in their game.

"I know its 14-0, but we need to be sensible," said Brown, who comes from Abington, Pa. "We need to get the mistakes over with - get it out of our system. We need to raise the score. They'll shut down when we keep pushing them like we are."

The second half opened with MCCES receiving the ball, but failing on a fourth-down attempt when a quarterback-sneak came up short and turned over the ball to the Headquarters defense.

MCCES had Headquarters backed up onto their own goal line after multiple penalties set them back farther and farther. The MCCES defense fought through the line and sacked Headquarters quarterback Charles Jefferson in the end zone for a safety, which made the score 14-2.

MCCES returned the kickoff, but midway through the special teams play they fumbled, and Headquarters rose with a good possession.

The fourth quarter began with Headquarters holding a large lead and a short field ahead of them after the turnover.

Headquarters scored early in the quarter, and along with the extra point kick, the score rose in their favor a crushing 22-2.

Headquarters scored again late in the game to make the final score 29-2. They had ended the unbeaten streak for MCCES, and

raised their record to 4-2.

MCCES head coach Glenn Schott, a native of Brentwood, N.Y., said the team got what was coming to them, and they will be working on what they need to prepare for the next game.

"We need to work hard to get this out of our heads," said Schott. "It's going to be a long bye-week with this taste in our mouths and all we can do is practice and prepare."

The Combat Center will be hosting the playoffs Nov. 19 at the Felix Field, with the league championship to follow Nov. 25.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Headquarters runningback Willie Campbell end runs past MCCES defense for a first down. Headquarters defeated the only undefeated team in the league at the Combat Center's Felix Field Oct. 24.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Headquarters runningback Willie Campbell flies past MCCES defense to get a first down deep in MCCES territory during the last game of the season Oct. 24.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Headquarters quarterback Charles Jefferson gets protection from one of his linemen as he drops back to make a pass. Headquarters had their offense to thank for most of their points in their 29-2 victory over MCCES.

CRAFT FAIR



Saturday
NOV
15



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HEROES, from A1

Performance Office, and 1st Lt. Christopher Motz, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, read passages from the bible before Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Wade, a chaplain with Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment,

presented his pastoral reflection. To begin the reflection Wade opened with a question. "Why are you here?" asked Wade. Wade's advice to those in attendance was to remember that God places people in a time and place for a purpose, and for those who were angry and look-

ing for a resolution, Wade reflected on the words of a Marine who once told his family not to be angry if anything were to happen to him, because it was his decision to serve.

Sgt. Michael Washington, who was one of the many fallen heroes honored at the event, served because of self sacrifice and a want to aid people who couldn't help themselves, said Wade.

"I'm here because I just want to say thanks to the sailors and Marines who we honored here today," said Wade, who ended his reflection by expressing his wish that people leave the memorial no longer angry, but uplifted.

Pacheco, a retired sergeant major, said he was in attendance because it was the least he could do to honor the



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

A memorial stands on the stage of the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema during the 4th Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Service Oct. 31.

Marines who were recognized. "My reason for being there was to recognize their service and sacri-

ifice for our freedoms," said Pacheco, a native of Deming, N.M. Pacheco said he was honored to have known and worked with Sgt. Andy A. Stevens, who was another fallen hero recognized at the event, and believes those Marines who didn't attend the service missed out on a great event.

"They missed a great opportunity to share a common bond with their fellow Marines in honoring their fallen comrades," he said.

Once Wade's reflection ended, those in attendance sat in silence as chaplains from throughout the Combat Center read the names aloud of those Marines and sailors being honored, as their faces were shown on the cinema's main screen.

To end the service, a procession of Marines placed 15 candles on the main stage as "Amazing Grace" was bag piped in remembrance of the Combat Center's finest.

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Combat Center remembers corpsman who risked it all for the Marines he loved

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center service members remembered the life and death of a hero who dutifully performed his job of saving Marines with no regard to his own life as it comes closer to the anniversary of his death Nov. 8, 2005.

Robert E. Bush received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Battle of Okinawa in the midst of World War II.

"If you had the chance to ask him about his heroism, he would tell you he didn't do anything out of the ordinary," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Rodney S. Ruth, the senior enlisted leader and director for medical services, who has researched and heard stories about Bush. "He would say he did what he was trained to do; take care of his Marines, which he did to the best of his abilities."

Bush is remembered by the corpsmen that follow in his footsteps and care for the Marines they serve with. Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital in Twentynine Palms, Calif., was named after the Medal of Honor recipient in 2000.

"Whenever we walk through the front hallway, we see the

pictures of Robert E. Bush and it reminds us of what we strive to be like," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Demetrulias, the career counselor for the hospital.

Bush's story began when he dropped out of high school at age 17 to join the Navy Medical

machine gun fire from hostile positions as he moved from one wounded Marine to another, ending on a ridgetop administering blood plasma to a Marine captain in critical condition.

During this perilous moment, the Japanese launched a counterattack, leaving Bush and the Marine officer exposed during the deadly firefight. Despite the danger, Bush continued to administer the plasma. Lifting the bottle high in one hand, Bush drew his pistol with the other and fired into the advancing enemy ranks until he was out of ammunition. He quickly grabbed a discarded carbine and continued to fire upon enemy ranks. His actions accounted for six enemy deaths.

Disregarding his own injuries, which included a loss of an eye during the counterattack, Bush refused medical attention until he had finished his main mission in evacuating the Marine officer. He collapsed as he tried to walk to the battle aid station.



An old photograph shows when corpsman Robert E. Bush received the Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman Oct. 5, 1945, in Washington, D.C.

Corps, where he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Less than a year later he was partaking in an amphibious assault on Okinawa, Japan, for what later was considered the longest and bloodiest battle in the Pacific theater of World War II.

On May 2, 1945, during the battle of Okinawa, Bush braved surrounding artillery, mortar and



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

The statue of Robert E. Bush, which stands in front of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital depicts him in action during the Battle of Okinawa in the midst of World War II that resulted in his receipt of the Medal of Honor.

"It is the Medal of Honor recipients that we take strength from," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Mata, a health benefits advisor at the hospital. "We look back and see what he did. There was a Marine captain wounded, and without a thought about himself, he killed the enemy and dragged the Marine back into safe territory, completely ignoring his own injuries."

"He shows us how to live our lives the way they should be done, not the convenient way, but the right way," continued the Hialeah, Fla., native.

After the battle he was sent home due to his injuries where he dutifully returned to high school and married his high school sweetheart, Wanda.

Bush enrolled in classes at the

University of Washington and bought a small lumber company where he spent the next 50 years building and spreading his company throughout north western United States.

Several monuments have been built in Bush's honor including a statue of him during the war located in his hometown of South Bend, Washington, a similar statue outside the main doors of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, and the Bush Health Care Clinic, located in Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan, was also named after him.

"He was a hero," said Demetrulias, who met Bush during a corpsman ball years ago. "He is the epitome of what you want a green side corpsman to be."

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.

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

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RCIA-6-7:30 p.m.

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Outkast seizes Coed Winter Softball League Championship

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Coed Winter Softball League held its final games of the season Tuesday night at a cold and windy Felix Field, where Outkast put a stop to the undefeated Drama Killers and took the championship title.

Going into their second game of the night after finishing off the third place South Beach Bodies earlier, Outkast started off the first inning with two RBIs. In the bottom, Drama Killers' outfielder Daniel "Sulli" Sullivan knocked one out of the park bringing in three runs. Drama Killers ended the inning with the five-run limit when left center outfielder Jesse Soto hit an in-the-park home run bringing the score to 5-2.

Outkast started the second inning strong when Outkast catcher Lisa Taylor hit a double,

setting the tempo for the team. Outkast landed hit after hit bringing in five RBIs in the top. Outkast continued their dominance in the field when they shut out Drama Killers allowing no runs.

The third inning brought a turn around for Drama Killers who scored five runs and only allowed Outkast three, bringing the game to a knot in the top of the fourth.

With one run scored in the top of the fourth and bases loaded, Outkast first basemen and slugger Matt McCaskill hit a grand slam over the fence bringing in an additional four. In the bottom, Drama Killers brought in one RBI bringing the game to 15-11.

The next inning Drama Killers stopped Outkast's hitting streak only allowing one run in the top. Drama Killers got one on first base in the bottom before



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Outkast second basemen Stacy Earnest dives to tag out Drama Killers runner Courtney Achterberg during the championship Coed Winter Softball League game Tuesday night at Felix Field. Outkast brought their 'A' game beating number one ranked Drama Killers 32-20.

Sullivan hit a deep fly to left-field giving him a double and putting one RBI on the board before

Outkast ended the inning.

With Outkast only two runs ahead going into the final inning they stepped up a notch and destroyed their opponent bringing in 15 runs before Drama Killers could get the final out.

With the score at 32-15, Drama Killers stayed optimistic in the bottom of the seventh. Though they pulled in five, it wasn't enough to topple Outkast for the 32-20 win.

"It's a good and satisfying feeling to win the championship," said John Coronado, the Outkast coach. "We had some tough losses over the season, but we pulled through in the end. The other team is outstanding and they were the team to beat."

The winners received a championship team trophy and each player received a championship sweat shirt. Drama Killers also received a second place team trophy and each player received a turtle neck.

"We wanted to give the teams something they could wear," said Randy Husted, a sports specialist with Marine Corps Community Services.

Before, during and after the game, besides a little harmless teasing, both teams displayed great sportsmanship.

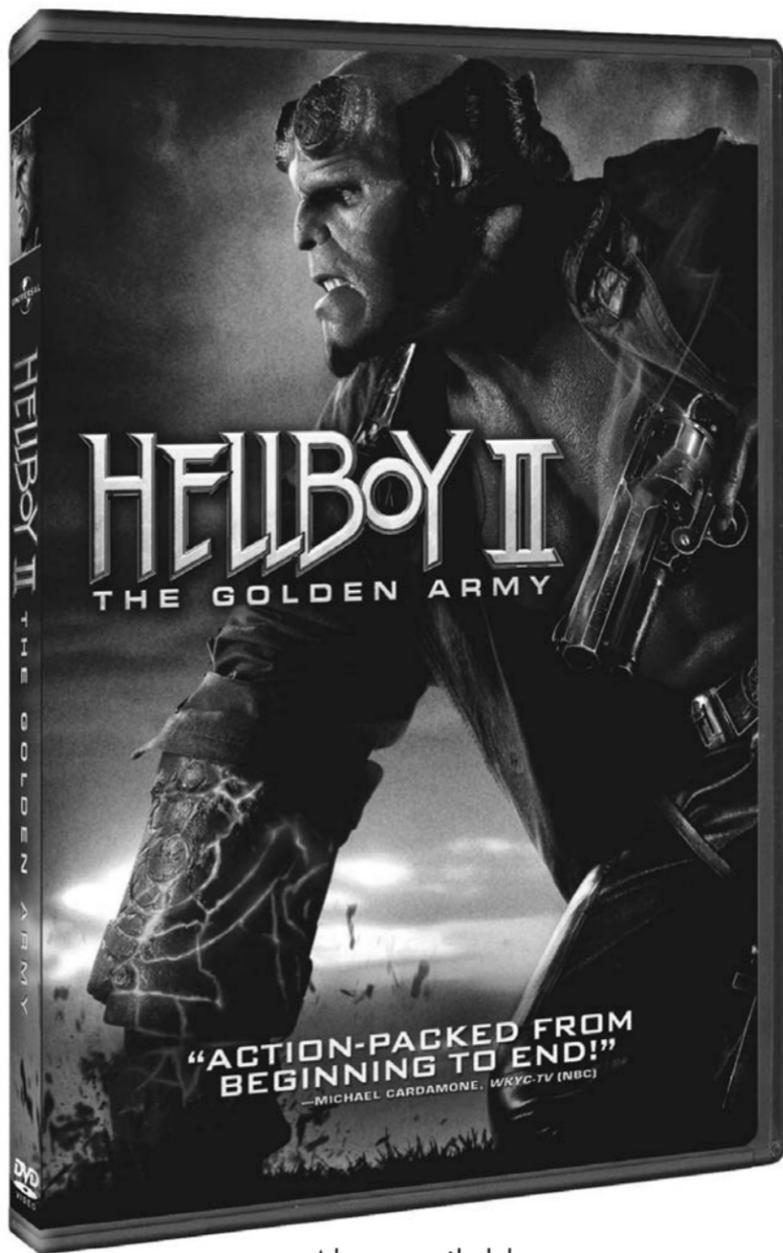
"We just lost our focus in the last inning," said Courtney Achterberg, the third basemen for Drama Killers. "But the other team did a good job."

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CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Outkast catcher Lisa Taylor prepares to swing during the championship Coed Winter Softball League game Tuesday night at Felix Field.



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

The Coed Winter Softball League champions pose with their championship trophy Tuesday night at Felix Field. Each player also received a championship sweat shirt for their win.

Littleton Hall in the running for Best in the Corps

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Littleton Hall dining facility is going head-to-head with mess halls throughout the Marine Corps to compete for the annual Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Award for excellence in food service.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Yumiko Neal, a Littleton Hall baker, prepares dishes of butterscotch pudding before the afternoon meal Oct. 31 at Littleton Hall. Three judges evaluated Littleton Hall and will visit other dining facilities throughout the Marine Corps to determine the winner of the award.

Judges from the food services occupational field, Headquarters Marine Corps at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and the National Restaurant Association board of directors are reviewing mess halls throughout the Marine Corps to decide who will be the best of 2008.

On Friday, the judging team toured Littleton Hall, inspecting a

variety of categories; including the freshness of ingredients, methods of food preparation, cleanliness, finances, attitude of employees, and more.

"The most important things to us are freshness and portion control," said Kendrick Griffin, a Littleton Hall chief cook. "I remember when I was a Marine here, I would go to the chow hall to eat, and I didn't like it. You guys are our customers and if you don't like what we're serving, then why are we even here?"

"It's all about quality," added the Chicago, native. "If I can't stand behind it, then I won't even cook it. No one wants to cook somewhere when their name is behind it but it's not adequate."

Steve Johnson, a volunteer judge from the National Restaurant Association board of directors, agreed about ingredient freshness, saying it not only affects the taste of the food, but also raises health concerns.

"The freshness of your ingredients is extremely important," said the Phoenix, native. "The worst thing you could do is get a Marine company sick, especially if they're in the field."



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Audrey Elijah, a Littleton Hall cook, cleans her work station in preparation for the evaluation for the Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Award in excellence for food service Oct. 31 at Littleton Hall. Three judges visited the mess hall and evaluated it on a number of aspects, including ingredient freshness, cleanliness, employee attitude, finances, and more.

During his inspection, Johnson seemed impressed with the way the mess hall staff worked and the methods they used to prepare the food, which Griffin said is a good sign.

"We're very confident that we'll win this award," he said. "He was asking very few ques-

tions, which means our methods are correct and easy to understand. If you look at the extremes we go through to make this food fresh, the questions answer themselves.

"We go through constant

See MESS HALL, A15

IRS seeks to return \$11 million to Southern California taxpayers

IRS MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

SAN DIEGO — The Internal Revenue Service is looking for Southern California taxpayers who are missing more than 10,000 economic stimulus checks totaling about \$6.4 million and 4,980 regular refund checks totaling \$4.7 million that were returned by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors.

"People across the country are missing tax refunds and stimulus checks. We want to get this money into the hands of taxpayers where it belongs," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman.

"We are committed to making the process as easy as possible for taxpayers to update their addresses and get their checks."

All a taxpayer has to do is update his or her address once. The IRS will then send out all checks due. Taxpayers not sure of which type of check they may be due should check on a potential economic stimulus check first because of the Nov. 28 deadline.

Those who may be due to a stimulus check must update their addresses with the IRS by Nov. 28. By law, economic stimulus checks must be sent out by Dec. 31 of this year. The average undelivered economic stimulus check due Southern Californians

is \$617, nationally it's \$583.

The "Where's My Stimulus Payment?" tool on <http://www.irs.gov/> is the quickest and easiest way for a taxpayer to check the status of a stimulus check and receive instructions on how to update his or her address. Taxpayers without internet access should call 1-866-234-2942.

Regular tax refund checks returned back to the IRS from Southern California taxpayers average \$956. These checks are resent as soon as taxpayers update their address.

Taxpayers can update their addresses and check refund status with the "Where's My

Refund?" tool on IRS.gov. A taxpayer must submit his or her social security number, filing status and amount of refund shown on their 2007 return. The tool will provide the status of their refund and in some cases provide instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

Taxpayers checking on a refund by telephone will be given instructions on how to update their addresses. Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

The vast majority of checks mailed out by the IRS reach their rightful owner every year. Only a very small percent are

returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable.

Through September 2008, the government distributed 116 million economic stimulus payments with only about 279,000 checks being undeliverable or about one-quarter of one percent. Meanwhile, the IRS has distributed more than 105 million regular refunds this year with only about 104,000 being undeliverable, or one-tenth of one percent.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to file electronically and choose direct deposit, thus preparing a paperless return. Direct deposit is also, available when filing a paper return. More information is available at www.irs.gov.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MESS HALL, from A13

checks from the general manager to ensure both freshness and quality," added Griffin.

The rest of the judges were also impressed with the quality and cleanliness of the facility after their inspections, but the real test came when Marines and sailors began pouring into the mess hall for lunch.

"The meal period is the best time to see how well the chow halls really work," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Cecilia Henderson, a Headquarters Marine Corps food technician and food service occupational field sponsor. "All the evaluators can kind of take a step back and look at how the whole operation runs.

"The primary concern is patron satisfaction," she added. "That's really the ultimate evaluation - when the patrons are happy. If they're happy, it means the staff are doing their jobs."

Henderson, who primarily judged overall management, finance and employee efficiency, also commented on the design and layout of the mess hall, but added image isn't everything.

"This building is beautiful, but the staff and the management are the ones who really make the place great," she said.

As the cooks began preparing the lunch meal, Griffin said he was satisfied with how well the inspections went and how efficiently his colleagues have been working.

"We may not have all these fancy things hanging down from the ceiling or have ice sculptures out on the floor, but the way we cook our food is top notch," he said.

The winner of the Hill Award will be decided at the end of December. The judges are currently on a hiatus before touring Marine Corps mess halls on the East Coast.

Griffin and the rest of Littleton Hall's employees continue to improve themselves in all aspects of the job. He encourages dissatisfied patrons to fill out an Interactive Customer Evaluation form at <http://www.mccs29palms.com>, so they know what they need to fix to improve their customer satisfaction.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Steve Johnson, a volunteer judge from the National Restaurant Association board of directors, questions Kendrick Griffin, Littleton Hall chief cook, about food preparation methods at Littleton Hall Oct. 31.

27TH CMC, from A1

from recruiting to training.

"He did a lot to enhance our war-fighting capability, and on a strategic level, moved the Corps into the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was a powerful kind of statesman," Conway was quoted as saying.

Conway added "Our country is a safer place and the U.S. Marine Corps a better institution because of Gen. Robert H. Barrow."

Barrow, who died in his sleep Oct. 30, joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and was commissioned in 1943, after which he deployed to the Far East with the 51st Replacement Battalion out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Shortly thereafter, Barrow received the Bronze Star for serving in Japanese-occupied central China. In June 1949, he assumed command of 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.

Barrow led Marines ashore at Inchon in September 1950. He received the Silver Star after fighting in Seoul, Korea, and the Navy Cross for actions during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign in December 1950.

In the early 1950's, Barrow was assigned to a then-classified position in the Far East on an island chain north of Taiwan. Then, in 1968 after serving in several overseas billets, Barrow took command of 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, in South Vietnam. In 1969, he received the

Army Distinguished Service Cross for his valor during Operation Dewey Canyon. Later that year, he was promoted to brigadier general and took command of Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

During his tenure as commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Barrow began a crusade to improve the quality of Marines being recruited into the Corps. He was selected as the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps in 1978.

In 1979, Congress confirmed Barrow as the commandant of the Marine Corps. He was the first Marine to serve a regular four-year tour as a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He continued his leadership in personnel reform, believing that a better quality of recruit led to an increase in performance and retention in an all-volunteer service.

Barrow retired in the summer of 1983 and served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Packard Commission from his home in St. Francisville, La.

Barrow's personal decorations include the Navy Cross, the Army Distinguished Service Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star Medal, three Legions of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Combat V and gold star in lieu of a second award, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

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