

OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

NOVEMBER 14, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 46

Desert cities unite in honoring vets



6 Injured warrior presents unit painting



7 1st Tanks treads home



11 "Is that Jane Wayne?"



13 Flu season is here



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE,
LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

Marines and sailors of the Combat Center showed their support for military veterans by participating in the 12th annual Palms Springs Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs, Calif.,

and the eighth annual Morongo Basin Veterans Day Tribute in Yucca Valley, Calif., Tuesday.

Both parades are one of the cities' traditions showing gratitude and giving honor to those who have served and those still fighting today.

The city of Yucca Valley, which rotates responsibility of hosting

the annual event with the city of Twentynine Palms, hosted the Morongo Basin event this year.

"The town really comes together for the parade," said Lesley Copeland, an administrative assistant with community services of

See VETERANS, A9

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Cpl. Andrew Newby leads the Combat Center band down the street during the eighth annual Veterans Day parade in Yucca Valley, Calif., Tuesday.

Marine Corps growing faster than expected



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Reenlistment for Marines has become competitive since the Marine Corps campaign to grow the force neared its goal of 202,000 Marines quicker than expected.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In December 2006, the Marine Corps announced it was growing in strength to 202,000 Marines. Expected to reach this goal by fiscal year 2011, the Marine Corps has already grown to more than 198,000, and must guard from exceeding the desired amount of Marines.

According to the Marine

Administrative Message 596/08 the fiscal year 2009 First Term Alignment Plan season, which began July 1, has had an increase of reenlistments and boat spaces for many military occupational specialties that have been filling rapidly.

Sgt. Alfred Leduc, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System center staff noncommissioned officer in charge, recently

See GROWING, A15

MCAGCC awarded for energy conservation



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYA ADVERTISING

The Honorable Mr. B. J. Penn, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Col. Wes A. Weston, the Combat Center's G-4 director, Gary Morrissett, the Public Works Division energy manager, and Bill Taylor, the Navy's energy program manager, pose for a photo Oct. 21 at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center in Washington, D.C.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center was presented with the Secretary of the Navy 2008 Energy and Water Management Award Oct. 21 at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center in Washington, D.C., for reducing

energy usage base-wide by 22 percent since the start of an energy conservation initiative in fiscal year 2003.

The Department of the Navy recognized six Navy and Marine Corps installations for their achievements in energy reduction after Congress and the

See AWARD, A12

This Day in Marine Corps History

-Nov. 14, 1966

First four-year Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit is commissioned.

Accessing the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital by phone

DAN BARBER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Outpatient Services clerks handle, on average, over 3,000 monthly requests for appointments, cancellations, hospital information, and telephone consults to primary care managers.

These clerks work directly with clinical services and routinely communicate with clinic staff regarding unique situations that require administrative or nursing intervention. Beneficiaries' needs are managed in real time through the Composite Health Care System. PCM's and clinic nurses are notified immediately regarding hospital beneficiaries concerns and maintain a standard of responding within 72 hours to each telephone consult.

The best time to call Outpatient Services for routine concerns is in the morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and in the afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at 830-2752.

Using a land line is better than cell phones because there are fewer points for the land lines to access before connecting to the appointment line.

There is an Outpatient Services Customer Service Desk that is available from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., located in front of the TRICARE Service Center. If visiting the hospital, or are nearby, beneficiaries can stop by to make an appointment instead of calling.

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital quarterdeck can be reached at 830-2190 for medical advice after normal working hours and during holidays and weekends. Our on-call medical officer will provide advice if needed. If you feel you are in urgent need of medical attention, contact 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

TWO BADGERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15						16	
17					18						19	
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57					58			59		60		
61				62			63				64	65
67				68					69			
70				71					72			

ACROSS

- 1. Sparty Mazda
- 6. Fat-avoiding Jack
- 11. Urban grid components: Abbr.
- 14. An inert gas
- 15. Computer mishap
- 16. Luau fare
- 17. Chocolate bar?
- 19. Slip up
- 20. MGM cofounder Marcus
- 21. Baseball broadcaster's "Strike!"
- 23. Longish skirt
- 26. Stick in the fridge
- 28. "Funeral Blues" poet W.H. ___
- 29. Offers a view
- 31. ___ up (bungled)
- 33. Assigns "PG" to, say
- 34. Hothead's emotion
- 35. JV player, perhaps
- 38. Social bug
- 39. Have some pull
- 43. Baby syllable
- 44. Places down
- 46. Fin. planner's suggestion
- 47. Famous Philbin
- 49. Assaults
- 51. Gary of "CSI: NY"
- 52. French compact of old
- 54. Patricia of "Hud"
- 56. Trough filler
- 57. Indigenous folks
- 59. Just okay
- 61. Word of surprise
- 62. 747 jetsam?
- 67. Opposite of paleo-
- 68. Brit's petrol quantity
- 69. Common sound during allergy season
- 70. The whole she bang
- 71. Printer brand
- 72. Strike back, e.g. [Solutions on A10]

DOWN

- 1. Shelley's fairy queen
- 2. Discount rack abbr.
- 3. In the past
- 4. Tug's rope
- 5. Cornerstone word
- 6. Dark expression
- 7. NFLer or NBAer
- 8. Pre-TV time
- 9. A ___ "apple"
- 10. Fraternity letters
- 11. Racing greyhound?
- 12. Girardi's Yankees predecessor
- 13. Femme fatale
- 18. Trackers and Prizms, once
- 22. Roy G. Biv septet
- 23. Fable's end
- 24. Bucky Beaver's toothpaste brand
- 25. Jingle writers' training center?
- 27. Dubai, for one
- 30. Conductor ___ Pekka Salonen
- 32. Brief moment, briefly
- 36. Model's asset
- 37. Cheated, slangily
- 40. "___ the season..."
- 41. Passes across
- 42. Hexa- halved
- 45. Bean or Penn
- 48. Carry out, as a law
- 50. Paltry matter
- 51. Place for a tab
- 52. Hotelier Helmsley
- 53. Lucy's sitcom pal
- 55. Pasty-looking
- 58. Hair holder
- 60. Walk of Fame item
- 63. Miracle-___ (garden products brand)
- 64. See 61-Across
- 65. Liberal arts maj.
- 66. Like much Cajun cuisine

THANKSGIVING GATHERING

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines
Thanksgiving Feast

November 22nd

2-4 p.m. at the Community Center

Come and join in on some crafts for your Thanksgiving Day!!!

Make a Christmas card for your Marine/sailor!!!! We will supply the picture and supplies!!!

Fun games for all ages to participate in!!!!

It is a POTLUCK...Bring your favorite side or dessert dish to add to the turkey and refreshments!!

Share your recipe with us and we will create a 3/7 cookbook for all to have!!!!

Contact Lori Rogers for more info 830-6638

Centerspeak

What is the most bizarre reason you were injured or hospitalized?

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



LANCE CPL. CLINT BROWN
3RD COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

"I got my finger smashed in the end of a claw hammer by my roommate back home."



SGT. JASON CROCKETT
1ST COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

"When I was 11, I severed the top of my finger after trying to remove rust from my mom's car."



STAFF SGT. ROBERT LEATHERMAN
MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 374

"I was dragged on the ground while I was SPIE rigging."

Employee Spotlight



Name: Stephanie Stoller
Hometown: La Grande, Ore.
Job Title: Automation clerk
Organization: Combat Center Officer's Club
Job Duties: Customer service and administrative duties
What Do You Like About Your Job: Working with the Marines and taking care of them.
Hobbies: Walking, reading and work
Significant Achievements: Promoted to current position after serving as a cashier at the O'Club.

Military Service: None, wife of Cpl. Daniel Stoller, a training noncommissioned officer with Delta Co., 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion.

Time at the Combat Center: Since September 2007.

OBSERVATION POST

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FRI. 11/14 Staged reading of Charles Evered's new play "Class" Time: 6 p.m. Where: UC Riverside Ext. Palm Desert Campus 75-080 Frank Sinatra Dr., Palm Desert. Free event. For info call 574-1858	FRI. 11/14 Best of AFI Fest 2008 Time: All day event Where: Camelot Theatres 2300 E. Baristo Rd. Palm Springs For info call 325-6565 or visit http://www.camelotheatres.com	FRI. 11/14 Mick Fleetwood Wine Dinner Time: 6 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison St. Coachella For info visit http://www.spotlight29.com or call (800) 585-3737	SAT. 11/15 Mick Fleetwood's Island Rumours Band Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison St. Coachella For info call (800) 585-3737 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com	SAT. 11/15 Aeromynth, a tribute to Aerosmith Time: 9 to 11 p.m. Where: Aqua Caliente Casino 32250 Bob Hope Dr. Rancho Mirage. For info call (888) 999-1995
SAT. 11/15 Bookmaking Class Time: 10 a.m. Where: 29 Palms Creative Center 6847 Adobe Rd., 29 Palms For info visit http://www.29palmscreativecenter.com or call 361-1805	SAT. 11/15 Cady Mountains Day Hike from Afton Canyon Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Meet in Barstow at the Starbucks 1620 E Main St. For info call (909) 260-8833 or visit http://www.calwild.org	SUN. 11/16 Auditions for "Into the Woods, Jr." Time: 5 p.m. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Rd., 29 Palms For info call 799-7820 or visit http://www.theatre29.com	SUN. 11/16 Watercolor Painting in JTNP Time: 9:30 am Where: Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center 6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree For info call 367-5500 or visit http://www.nps.gov.jotr	MON. 11/17 Keyboard Conversations: Basking in Beethoven Time: 7 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For info call 340-ARTS or visit http://www.mccallumtheatre.com .

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation bundles up for holiday season

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Toys for Tots program is warming up for yet another season of holiday giving at the Combat Center.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation began in 1947 when the wife of reserve Marine Maj. William L. Hendricks wanted to donate a handmade doll to a needy child in Los Angeles, according to the Toys for Tots Web site, <http://www.toysfortots.org>.

To this day, offering joy and hope to needy children through the gift of giving has remained the sole focus of the program.

Toys for Tots works to collect unwrapped toys throughout the months of October, November and December in hopes of granting underprivileged children the joy of opening gifts on Christmas day, and play an active role in the development of the American

nation, according to the Web site. Last year, the Combat Center provided toys to more than 24,700 underprivileged children, according to a 2007 Toys for Tots after-action report.

Sgt. Nixon DeJesus, a Toys for Tots coordinator from New York,

said he first participated in the Toys for Tots program as a reservist in the 6th Communications Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, in 2003.

"Participating in Toys for Tots is great for me because you can always see how much everyone

appreciates your efforts and you know that some families will be a little happier this holiday season," said DeJesus, a New York City native.

DeJesus continued, saying he believes other Marines should get involved with the program.

"Toys for Tots reaches across to so many people from different backgrounds and has everyone identify with one purpose, which is getting toys to kids," he said.

Master Sgt. Joseph Kappus, the

See TOYS, A4



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

The 2008 Toys for Tots campaign is underway, collecting toys to distribute to underprivileged children this Christmas.

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S.E. Corner
Expires December 6, 2008

Get To Palm Springs!

RIDE MBTA

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

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Secretary of Defense establishes Warrior Care Month

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In past years the media has portrayed medical care for service members to be under par. More recently the government is starting to take measures to give wounded, injured or ill service members as much support as possible including establishing service-unique health care systems.

The secretary of defense has designated November as Warrior Care Month to convey the Department of Defense's commitment to quality care for service members and their families.

"They deserve our respect and gratitude and the very best that our great country can provide. We owe this to them, and we must deliver. I am totally committed to doing so," said Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as quoted in a March 2007 message to the troops.

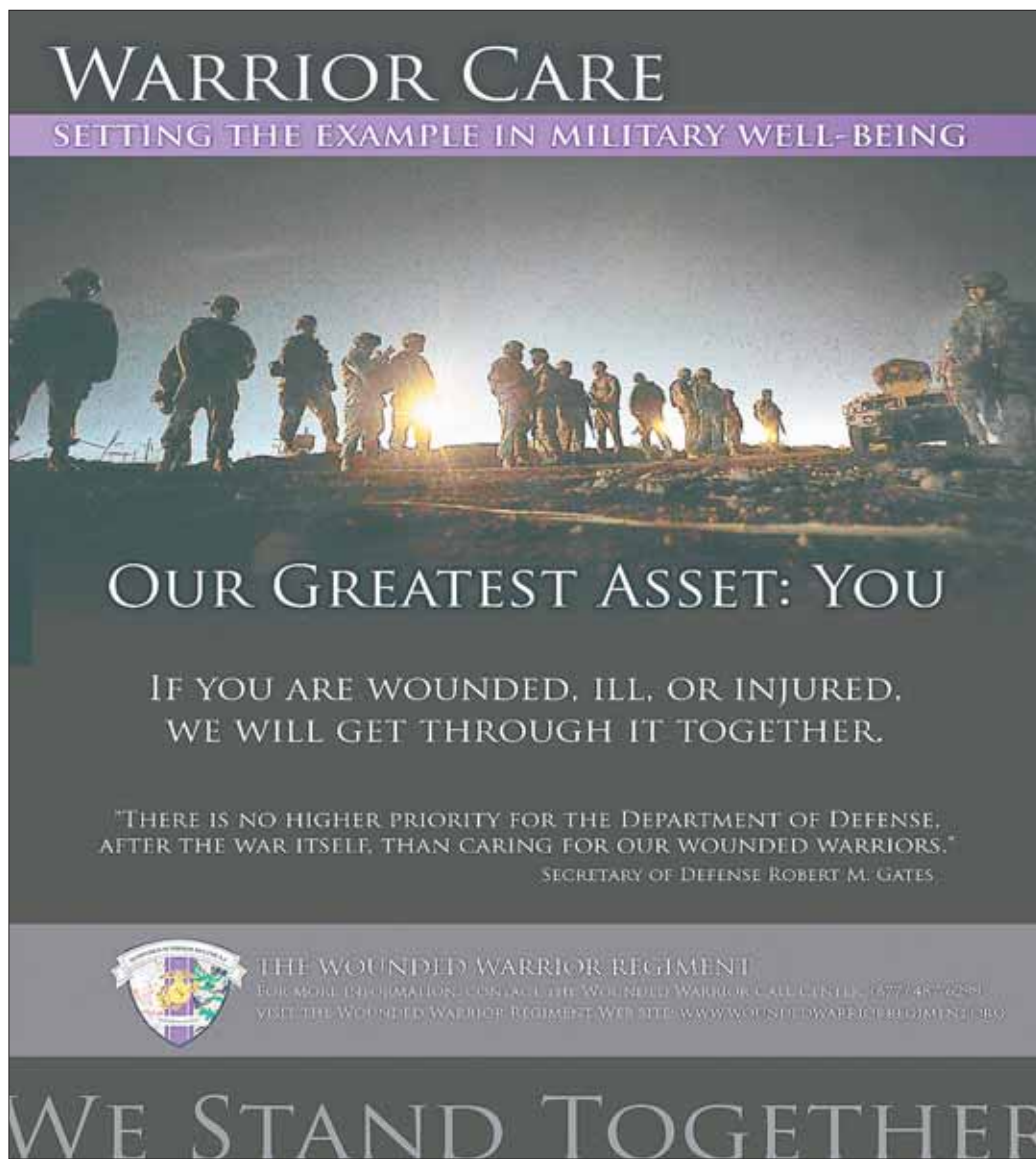
Warrior Care Month was established to increase awareness of programs and resources available to wounded, injured and ill service members, their families and those who care about them, said Col. Gregory Boyle, the commanding officer of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, Quantico, Va.

Throughout November, the department will internally discuss ways to improve the system of care currently implemented, explain to service members how to access resources, tell service members what to do if the system fails, and reassure service members that the government and their service will assist those in need.

In April 2007, the official establishment of the Wounded Warrior Regiment allowed the U.S. Marine Corps to take care of its Wounded Warriors and their families.

The Wounded Warrior Regiment's mission is to provide and facilitate assistance to wounded, ill and injured Marines and sailors attached to or in support of Marine units and their family members throughout the phases of recovery - regardless of geographic location.

"Just as every Marine makes a commitment to the Corps when they earn the title Marine, the Corps makes an enduring commitment to every Marine and an enduring commitment to their family," said Gen. James Conway, the 34th commandant of the Marine Corps, in his



2006 planning guidance to establish the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

Though the Marine Corps is taking care of its own and has made vast improvements, Warrior Care Month will allow all services to communicate, so each branch can continue to improve and find better ways to meet service members' needs, according to information released by the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

"The Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment has maintained tight coordination with the other Services' Wounded Warrior Programs," said Boyle. "These contacts are vital as they allow us to share best practices, vet proposals and issues in a holistic way, and

chart the best path forward for America's wounded, ill, and injured."

The declaration of Warrior Care Month helps put the care of the wounded, ill and injured to the forefront of the priorities of the DoD. Although the department has made enormous strides in the past few years, the work they have set out to do will never be finished until every Wounded Warrior is cared for in the best possible way, according to information released by the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

For assistance, information or referral services, contact the Wounded Warrior Regiment Call Center at 1-877-4USMCWW or visit <http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org>.

HOT TOPICS

WOMEN'S VARSITY BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Women's varsity basketball tryouts will be conducted on Monday and Wednesday 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.

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 yymontague@yahoo.com.

Cinema 6		
Showtimes Effective 11/14/08 - 11/20/08		
Quantum Of Solace (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Madagascar 2: Escape To Africa (PG) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Role Models (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
Igor (PG) Fri-Tues: 2:15, 4:30 Wed-Thurs: 4:45	W. (PG13) Fri-Tues: 6:45, 9:00 Wed-Thurs: 2:30, 7:00	Coming 11-21 • Bolt • Twilight www.cinema6theatre.com
U-HAUL RENTALS 29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley 361-7141		

TOYS, from A3

motor transportation chief with Exercise Support Division, Company B, Headquarters Battalion, has also done his part for the Toys for Tots program since 1988 and has been a coordinator for the program five times.

While participating in the program, Kappus went as far as hand-delivering toys to children's hospitals on Christmas morning, he said.

"The main reason I got involved is due to it being a great program for underprivileged children across the United States," said Kappus, a Sacramento, Calif., native. "I take great pleasure in seeing the family's reactions as they pick up toys from the warehouse knowing they are going to make their child happy that Christmas Day."

Kappus added he recommends Marines contribute to the program at least once.

"I would recommend that Marines get involved as much as they can," he said. "It is a great public relations event for any base or unit and it lets the towns know you are there for more than just what they see on TV."

The Combat Center Toys for Tots program is still setting up drop-off bins for interested donors at various locations around the installation and in town. The Combat Center Toys for Tots hotline is also scheduled to run from Dec. 1-12. For details call 830-6861.

COMING THIS MONTH!

FALL 2008

MUSD Student SPOTLIGHT

MORONGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The all **NEW** Student Spotlight See what your children & teachers are doing.

To advertise in this quarterly publication call the Hi-Desert Star 365-3315 The Desert Trail 367-3577

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DAV expands services to aid disabled veterans

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization, has recently expanded their services to further facilitate the needs of veterans who have suffered a disability while on active duty.

The DAV is the premier organization for veterans to get the benefits they deserve, said Allen Pagdilao, the DAV transition service officer for the Morongo Basin.

"Now that we have a VA [Veteran's Affairs] representative working here with us, we have really become the advocate for veterans to file their claims and get assistance with the claims process," he said. "Now we truly are a one-stop shop for veterans' benefits in the area."

The representative from the

VA is available at the Village Center, building 1551, Mondays and Thursdays.

Since the DAV moved into the Village Center April 17, their business has nearly tripled, said Pagdilao. Customers come from all over the high desert and 85-90 percent of those are still on active duty or planning to leave the military soon.

According to <http://www.dav.org>, the DAV began shortly after World War I, when more than 200,000 wounded veterans returned home from the trench fighting on the war torn Western Front. Following the war, many veterans experienced difficulty finding jobs, ultimately ending up unemployed and homeless.

In 1920, the Disabled American Veterans of the World War was established by Capt. Robert S. Marx, a wounded World War I veteran and Cincinnati



lawyer. The following year, Marx organized a caucus of wounded veterans nationwide. The caucus led to the creation of state and local DAV chapters.

With the newly expanded assistance now available to disabled veterans, the DAV can now provide better help to Marines and sailors who are being reviewed by a medical board. The VA can also now process claims in a more timely manner.

The DAV has even extended

its services to families of disabled veterans, said Pagdilao. Although the DAV can't directly provide support or benefits to veterans' dependents, they are still more than willing to help with any questions they might have and point them in the right direction for the answers they need.

"Unfortunately, we can't give them the specific services they need, but with our guidance, they will get the help they need," said Pagdilao, a Pinili, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, native.

The DAV has also gone mobile in recent months. In August, a van was added to their list of assets, which is available to transport disabled veterans to their medical appointments if they need assistance.

The DAV van was featured in the Yucca Valley, Calif., Veteran's Day parade. All van drivers are volunteers, and Pagdilao said there is always room for more help.

"I welcome anyone who would like to volunteer to drive

See DAV, A10

Birth announcements

ASHLYN GRACE CORRELL

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Shannon Correll and Nicole Correll, born Oct. 7, weighing 7 pounds, 1.4 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

LILLIAN MARIE GRAMS

Daughter of Seaman Apprentice Michael Grams and Diana Grams, born Oct. 7, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

CORRIE ELEANORE

BURTON-BOEHM

Daughter of Pfc. Chelsea Burton and Chandler R. Boehm, born Oct. 8, weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

GRAESEN LEIGH COVERT

Daughter of Sgt. Brad A. Covert and Corrina Covert, born Oct. 8, weighing 6 pounds, 12.4 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

AYDEN MARSHALL RUSSELL

Son of Cpl. Nathan Russell and Emily Russell, born Oct. 8, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

KILEY ANNA MASSON

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Gerald Masson and Heidi Masson, born Oct. 9, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

SABIAN ISAAC ALEXANDER NOVASKY

Son of Sgt. Bruce Novasky and Shawna Novasky, born Oct. 11, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

KYLIE FAITH ALLEN

Daughter of Sgt. Michael Allen and Jacqueline Allen, born Oct. 12, weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

TOBIAS LEON LLYOD

Son of Cpl. Kyle D. Lloyd and Ashley Lloyd, born Oct. 16, weighing 7 pounds, 7.4 ounces and measuring 20.9 inches.

CHARLOTTE ROSE

BRANDON

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Matthew Brandon and Danielle Brandon, born Oct. 18, weighing 7 pounds, .2 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

TRUIT LEE ELWELL

Son of Sgt. David N. Elwell and Katie Elwell, born Oct. 20, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

SHAYDEN NICOLE BOOTH

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Bryant Booth and Sharmae Booth, born Oct. 21, weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

CODY RAY WALKER JR.

Son of Sgt. Cody Walker and Crystal Walker, born Oct. 21, weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 19 inches.



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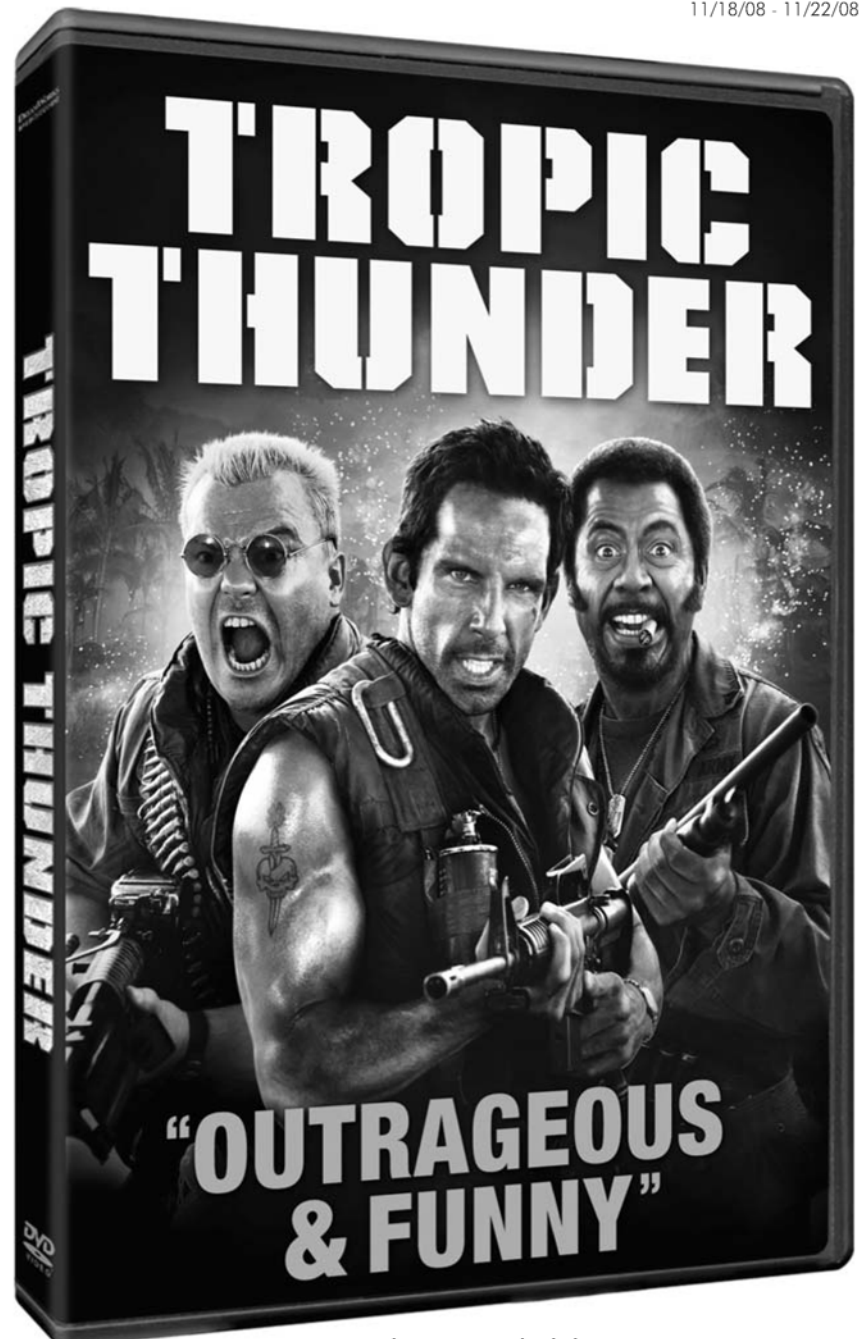


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Wounded warrior pays tribute to brothers-in-arms

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Esprit de Corps is defined as the common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

A recovering Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance

Marine who was injured in combat operations in 2005 expressed his own Esprit de Corps in a manner all Marines of 3rd LAR could witness and appreciate.

Cpl. Isaac Gallegos became a member of the Wounded Warrior Battalion (East) after he was badly burned while conducting operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He used his physical therapy

time spent in Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, to bring dexterity back to his hands while also showing unit loyalty by painting a new 3rd LAR emblem.

"Cpl. Gallegos epitomizes courage," said Lt. Col. Ken Kassner, the 3rd LAR commanding officer. "He represents everything great about the Marine Corps and demon-

strates the Corps values on a daily basis."

Gallegos, a Pico Rivera, Calif., native, said his idea for the emblem was one he originally thought of in 2005 when the unit discussed creating a new emblem before they deployed.

But during the unit's deployment, Gallegos sustained his injuries and never got to see his design go further than scratch paper.

While Gallegos was recovering, his father, a retired Marine staff sergeant, and uncle got to work and put the design on a T-shirt.

The unit then took on Gallegos' design, made a couple modifications, and dubbed the design the new official unit emblem, said Gallegos.

After almost a year in patient recovery, Gallegos had finally acquired the tools and equipment necessary to start painting the image he manifested so long ago.

After about a month's work, the painting was completed.

Gallegos then coordinated with his parents and the leaders of 3rd LAR to personally bring the painting to the unit.

The painting was revealed to the Marines of 3rd LAR Oct. 23. Although Gallegos claimed his experience with art only went as far as doing a few pastel drawings in college, Marines expressed their satisfaction of the end product with vocal praises and applause.

After the unit was dismissed from their formation, swarms of men surrounded Gallegos to shake his hand, give him hugs and congratulate him.

"I did this for the unit," said Gallegos. "It's something new and unique for them. This unit does a great job of looking out for their wounded and for the families. They're all good at staying in touch. I'd say they are the heart of the Marine Corps."

Gallegos' father and mother, Phil and Nely, left San Antonio three days prior to be there for the event.

"We always thought he was born to be a Marine," said Phil. "We knew it was only a matter of time."

Phil said he believes in addition to helping Gallegos regain use of his hands, the painting project also gave his son peace of mind and motivation.

"The unit means a lot to him," added Phil. "He just wanted to show his Marines support as much as he could in any way he could."

Gallegos has several more surgeries to go before he is fully recovered, but claims his next plan is to visit Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and gather details on becoming a Marine Corps training instructor.

In the meantime, an empty spot on the wall in the battalion headquarters building has been filled with the painting for all to see.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Isaac Gallegos, an injured Marine currently serving with the Wounded Warrior Battalion (East), stands with his former commanding officer and fellow Marines of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Oct. 23.

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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion congratulate Cpl. Isaac Gallegos, on a painting he did in honor of the unit. The painting was revealed to the battalion Oct. 23 at the unit motorpool.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Isaac Gallegos, an injured Marine currently serving with the Wounded Warrior Battalion (East), stands with his former battalion commander, Lt. Col. Ken Kassner, after revealing a painting he created in honor of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Oct. 23.

Tankers tread home over holiday weekend

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It wasn't all parades and barbecues this Veterans Day weekend, it was also an opportunity for the Combat Center to welcome home some of its own returning veterans.

The Marines and sailors of Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, and the battalion's Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missile Platoon were welcomed home by their loved ones at Victory Field after a seven-month

deployment to Iraq.

"The Marines were up there in the security zone [in northern Al Anbar Province] supporting Task Force Mameluke, and it was a very successful deployment," said Lt. Col. Thomas Gordon, the 1st Tanks battalion commander. "They uncovered a lot of big weapons caches.

"They were off the FOBs [Forward Operating Bases] living off their tanks for weeks on end," added the Boston native. "It was a very challenging deployment."

Gordon said the company was running interdiction operations

along Iraq's northern border. They were also adjusting to the new optics of the upgraded tanks' fire control system.

Both the returning elements of 1st Tanks left for their deployment in April. The TOW Platoon returned to Victory Field Saturday evening. Co. A followed suit Tuesday night, arriving at Victory Field shortly before midnight.

The returning Marines and sailors were greeted by the ecstatic tears and cheers of their loved ones, as well as their fellow service members.

"We just feel great," said Robert Sanchez, grandfather to Cpl. Marcus Sanchez, a tank crewman with Co. A. "We're glad he's home and out of harm's way, and we're thankful to God that he is."

Sanchez, a 23-year-old Albuquerque, N.M., native, also got to see his 8-month-old son, Dominic, who was born shortly before the company's departure to Iraq.

"It feels awesome to be home," he said. "I love being back on U.S. soil."

Sgt. Marcos Serda, a ground communications organizational repairer with Co. A, expressed similar feelings when he arrived at Victory Field.

"I feel outstanding," said the 25-year-old San Antonio native. "When you're gone, you miss a lot, but these homecomings make it all worthwhile."

After taking time off to spend with their friends and families, the newly-returned tankers will continue to train hard in preparation for future deployments.



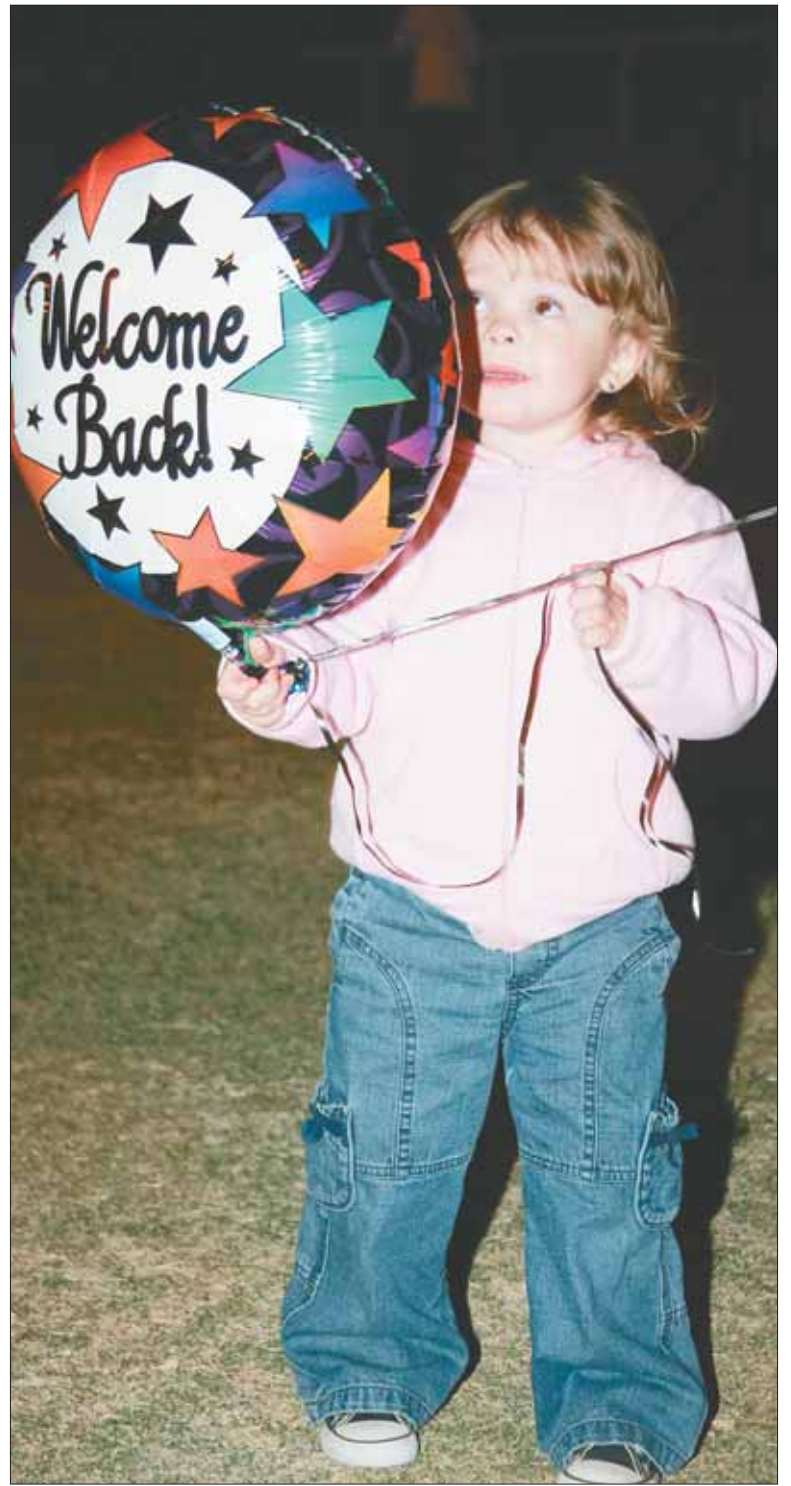
LANCE CPL. NICOLAS M. DUNN

Cpl. Marcus Sanchez, a tank crewman with Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, holds his 8-month-old son Dominic after arriving at Victory Field Tuesday. The Albuquerque, N.M., native's son was born shortly before Co. A's departure to Iraq in April.



LANCE CPL. NICOLAS M. DUNN

Gunnery Sgt. Orpheus Brown, a platoon sergeant with Co. A, 1st Tank Battalion, is greeted by his 6-year-old daughter De'Asin, and 2-year-old son Kahmari, after he arrived at Victory Field Tuesday. The Snow Hill, N.C., native was also welcomed home by his wife, Montia, and 10-year-old son Julian.



LANCE CPL. NICOLAS M. DUNN

Morgan Phillips, the 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Randy Phillips, a tank leader with Co. A, 1st Tank Battalion, clings to a balloon while waiting for her father's return at Victory Field Tuesday.

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VETERANS from, A1

Yucca Valley. "It can be difficult to organize the parade, but many people give their support, and all the organizations out in town are very willing to put in entries."

The Combat Center Band performed in both parades while Marines of 1st Tank Battalion and 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion provided an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank and a light armored vehicle

for the Palm Springs parade.

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, not only attended both parades, but also spoke in Yucca Valley.

"We are all here today to pay tribute to the duty and sacrifices of those who have served in our nation's military," Gurganus said. "To those who have died in service to our country, we take pride in what you've given to us."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Veterans with the American Legion post in Joshua Tree salute the reviewing stand as they pass during the Veterans Day parade in Yucca Valley, Calif. The Morongo Basin hosted its eighth annual Veterans Day parade Tuesday in honor of all past and present service members.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

The Combat Center Band kicked off the beginning of the 12th annual Palm Springs Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Tuesday. The band then performed a concert after the parade and before the firework show.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines of the Combat Center color guard led the 12th annual Palm Springs Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Tuesday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Veterans of the Pearl Harbor attack render salutes and wave at military officials as they pass during the 12th annual Palm Springs Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Tuesday.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Combat Center Commanding general, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus gives a speech following the eighth annual Veterans Day parade in Yucca Valley.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Gunnery Sgt. Sean Schmidlin, the Combat Center band drum major, leads the band in the opening of the 12th annual Palm Springs Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Tuesday.

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A photograph of a Santa Claus figure holding a care package. The package has a picture of a family on it.

DAV, from A5

the van and give back to our disabled veterans," he said.

To reach the van, call 367-5714, then leave the patient's name, phone number, and the last four digits of his or her social security number. A driver will call back as soon as possible and figure out the best possible form of assistance.

In addition to all the new programs, the DAV and VA continue to provide their briefs in the Transition Assistance Program classes.

"Right now we're pushing the Vocational Rehabilitation and

Education program," said Robert Davis, the Combat Center's VA representative. "The VRE fits a whole category of people who don't have a desire to attend a four-year college.

"Take a look at all these plumbers and electricians who charge you over \$100 an hour to fix things in your home," he added. "There is money to be made in vocational skills."

Davis said the TAPs classes he teaches focus on different post-military programs, depending on the demographics of each class. If there are more retirees in the classes, he tends to focus more on four-year college educa-

tions and master's degree programs. However, if there is a significant number of people leaving after their first enlistment, he tends to preach a combination of technical and traditional education programs.

Right now, the VA is also putting a lot of emphasis on the Post-9/11 Education Bill, which is supposed to go into effect in August 2009, said Davis. The new education bill, currently known as the Montgomery GI Bill, is considered the "grandchild" of the original GI Bill, which was created after World War II to give service members the opportunity to go to school or buy a house when they returned from overseas.

"Over time, everything must

change," said Davis. "This new bill, in addition to greatly increasing the amount of money given to veterans, will also address issues like vocational schools, giving your GI Bill to your dependents, etc."

Davis added he is currently pitching the new bill to his TAPs classes to get feedback on how well it will work for veterans once it gets passed.

Davis served 30 years in the Army, retiring at the rank of sergeant major. Being a retired veteran himself, he said he takes his service to his fellow veterans seriously.

"I take my work very personally," said Davis. "My position is that they all deserve special treatment.

"I really hate to see veterans like myself fall through the cracks in the system and become forgotten, because it's a lot harder to get help on the outside" he added. "These people need help today, not a year from now."

Pagdilao, who was medically retired from the Navy after 23 years, is also very proud to be giving back to disabled veterans.

"I know what these men and women are going through," he said. "I'm here to assist them because they've done so much for our country.

"Whenever a client leaves my office with a smile on their face, it is very rewarding to me," he added.

Pagdilao and Davis continue to represent their respective organizations at the Combat Center, helping disabled veterans file their benefits claims and transition out of the military.

For more information about the DAV and the VA, contact Pagdilao at 830-4131, or log on to the DAV Web site.

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3rd LAR pulls out the guns for Jane Wayne Day

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion hosted a Jane Wayne Day Nov. 5 in Training Area Prospect aboard the Combat Center.

Jane Wayne Day is an event that gives spouses, mothers and significant others a taste of what their Marines go through out in the field.

"It's an opportunity for wives and relatives of our Marines to share a day in the life of their loved ones," said Lt. Col. Ken Kassner, the commander for 3rd LAR. "They have a day free of everyday distractions while their husbands are at home playing dad."

To start off the day, the wives and others met on main-side to be divided into groups and be briefed on the events for the day. After the brief, they climbed up into the backs of 7-ton trucks and headed out to the training area.

"This is so much fun, and we get to wear our husband's cammies," said Rebekah Defoor, a wife of a 3rd LAR Marine.

Once the ladies arrived on site, 3rd LAR Marines gathered them together for a demonstration on various weapon systems, including firing illumination rounds and mortar shells, launching AT4s, and shooting the M2 .50-cal-



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Sarah Geelhoed, a wife of a 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Marine, holds a spent AT4 while Lance Cpl. Ryan Dachenbach, a SAW gunner for 3rd LAR, teaches her about it during a Jane Wayne Day Nov. 5 in Training Area Prospect aboard the Combat Center. The ladies had a chance to fire a variety of different weapons, handle different gear and get a chance to spend a day in the life of their Marine.

iber machine gun.

Once the demonstration was finished the Marines divided the ladies back into groups and took them around to a variety of stations. From firing the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, M9 pistol and M4 carbine to taking short rides in a Light Armored Vehicle; they had plenty of stations to enjoy.

"My favorite was shooting the SAW," said Maria Arvizu, a mother of a 3rd LAR Marine. "It was my first time shooting

a weapon. It wasn't as nerve racking as I thought."

Once all of the groups rotated through the stations, they took group pictures and had a chance to sit down and enjoy what their Marines enjoy every day in the field - Meals, Ready-to-Eat.

"This whole experience makes me understand what my husband has to go through," said Defoor. "I have more respect for what they do on a

See 3RD LAR, A15

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

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 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

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 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

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)

* Indicates Child Care Provided
 +Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

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AWARD, from A1

Department of Defense mandated a change in energy use policy.

"Energy challenges are everywhere," said B. J. Penn, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, at the conference. "That's why the Department of the Navy has a multilayered approach to energy efficiency, energy security and energy independence.

"I'm personally excited about the opportunities ahead for embracing energy and water efficiency, and increased use of renewable energy," he added.

The purpose of the program is to become compliant with congressional and presidential mandates for energy and water efficiency, said Scott Houldsworth, the Headquarters Marine Corps energy manager.

Between 2002 and 2003, the Combat Center was awarded a \$67.2 million contract with Johnson Controls, who implemented the energy saving meas-

ures, and currently operate and maintain the systems, he said.

"We must ensure a secure and reliable energy and water supply to support the operating forces and their families through the energy and water efficient management of facilities infrastructure," added Houldsworth. "We also need to reduce the life cycle operating costs of the Marine Corps facilities and manage future commodity price volatility."

Gary Morrissett, the Combat Center's Public Works Division energy manager, said the base has been trying to reduce the amount of energy it uses through construction and renovation projects.

"We're looking at two key things here - quality of life and energy saving," said the Belleville, Ill., native. "When we're able to tie those two things together, we're able to benefit the base in both ways, and hopefully the Marines as well.

"We've been trying to find different projects and different ideas we can incorporate into the energy saving program," he

added. "All the ideas we have in place can either save energy or produce energy."

One example is the replacement of the boilers in the bathroom and shower facilities at Camp Wilson. All the water boilers were replaced with instant-on heaters in order to reduce the amount of propane used to generate hot water in the faucets and showers.

"The old systems we were using required a lot of maintenance and used too much energy," said Morrissett. "Well, we don't want to give the Marines systems that aren't working properly. We got them repaired and upgraded, and back into operational status, which saves a lot of energy."

An instant-on heater works by only being activated when the water is turned on, he added. It's more efficient than trying to use propane to constantly heat the large underground water tanks.

PWD has other ongoing projects designed to reduce energy usage aboard the Combat Center, namely the heating and cooling

systems in the buildings, and the interior and exterior lighting.

"We're trying to convert the rest of the buildings here into using chilled water air systems and install solar tanks to help generate electricity," said Morrissett. "We're also going to be replacing the interior and exterior lighting of all the buildings, converting them into more energy-efficient systems.

"Another big thing we're going to be doing is reducing the amount of light that can be seen from the town by using dark sky-compliant fixtures," he added.

Houldsworth said the importance of energy efficiency at Marine Corps installations comes not only from DoD, state and federal regulations, but also from the projected demand for energy in the future and the need for the Marine Corps to have access to energy and water resources.

"Energy and water resources are essential elements necessary to sustain and enhance the combat readiness of the Marine Corps," he said. "Global demand

for energy is forecast to grow 57 percent over the next 25 years.

"U.S. demand for energy is expected to increase 31 percent within 25 years, with electricity demand expected to grow at least 40 percent by 2032," added Houldsworth.

The overall goal of the Department of the Navy is to reduce energy usage by 30 percent at all Navy and Marine Corps installations and organizations by the year 2015. Although the task may seem daunting, Morrissett has faith.

"I think we'll be where we need to be," he said. "We're working very hard to reduce our light signature and our energy footprint here."

Having already surpassed their fiscal year 2008 goal for energy reduction, PWD will continue their fight to reduce energy usage aboard the Combat Center. They are also exploring ways to work with the local community to employ joint energy saving programs.



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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.

GROWING, from A1

reenlisted and made a lateral move to Marine Corps contracts. He said if he had waited any longer he would not have had the opportunity to reenlist.

"In my original MOS of administration, they are already closed out for FY09," said Leduc. "And there are only two boat spaces remaining in my new MOS."

Because of the quick growth in number, Marines who are capable of reenlisting in fiscal year 2009 are finding it more difficult to reenlist and stay in their same MOS.

"MOS' will be closed once annual boat space requirements are met," said Col. Peter Ferraro, the department head of Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments. "So some Marines will be limited to lateral moves if they desire to stay Marine."

Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Mintz, a career planner for the Combat Center, said he is already feeling the strain of limited reenlistments.

"I can't believe the amount of people who are trying to reenlist," said Mintz. "It is already one month into fiscal year 2009 and MOS' are already closed out for the rest of the year."

For MOS' that are still accepting reenlistments, the Marine Corps implemented the quality reenlistment program, which works much like a promotion board and will compare all the Marines' packages and choose the most qualified Marine

"Marines interested in reenlisting are encouraged to visit their career planner as soon as possible instead of waiting," said Mintz. "The moment their MOS is filled, the only way to stay in the Marine Corps is to lateral move into a different MOS."

Due to the lower demand of Marines and as the remaining boat spaces fill up quickly, the Marine Corps has also lowered reenlistment bonuses since there is less of an incentive for the Marine Corps to get more Marines to reenlist.

As fiscal year 2009 Marines struggle to stay in the Marine Corps, fiscal year 2010 Marines should be taking precautionary measures to make themselves more competitive when their package is submitted to the quality reenlistment program.

"I recommend Marines wanting to reenlist in FY10 have all of their MCI's [Marine Corps Institutes] done, max out their PFT's [physical fitness test] and do everything they can to get promoted," said Mintz. "Page 11's and NJP's [non-judicial punishments] will have a detrimental effect on anyone wanting to reenlist."

FLU, from A13

Vitamin C, will improve the immune system, which fights off the attacking viruses.

Enclosed areas with a lot of people, like classrooms, will normally be a hot spot for viruses looking for a new body to infect, although the best way to keep from getting the influenza virus is to simply stay away from sick people.

"It is a virus, not bacteria, so there is only so much to do to protect yourself from getting sick," said Toston, a Los Angeles native. "When people get the flu they need to go to their healthcare provider so they can receive the necessary medications they need."

The virus spreads the easiest through eyes, nose and mouth, so

people should avoid touching these areas unless they are sure their hands are clean.

When a person is infected with the influenza virus, there are certain guidelines they should follow to ensure they don't get others sick. They should always ensure they cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. The tissue should be thrown in a trashcan after being used.

People should also ensure they wash their hands with soap and water as often as possible, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective at killing the virus.

The Influenza Virus is lurking on nearly everything and everybody. What are you going to do to stay safe during this sickening season?



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Ray Ruckman, an optometrist at the Naval hospital here, makes a face as he sprays the FluMist up his nose Nov. 5 at the hospital.

3RD LAR, from A11

daily basis."

Though the attendees had a chance to understand what their Marines do, it was also an opportunity to bring them closer together.

"This is new to almost all of us, so it gives us a common bond," said Libby Kiino, a wife of a 3rd LAR Marine. "This also gives me the ability to meet wives outside of my husband's circle."

The ladies had a long day

of living the life of a Marine, but at the end of the day everyone had a chance to take away something from their experience.

"I want them to leave with a seabag full of fond memories of their day playing Marine and thank them for being an integral part of the Wolfpack team," said Kassner. "I want them to leave today knowing how grateful I am for their many behind the scenes and unsung activities that they do every day."



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

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