

OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

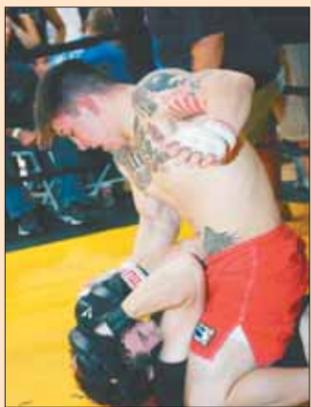
NOVEMBER 28, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 48



4 Kick drugs to the curb!



6 Fight Club 29 beats down competition



7 Warrior recognized for Afghanistan action



13 Headquarters are champions again

Darkside welcomes new commander

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lt. Col. Martin F. Wetterauer relieved Lt. Col. William A. Visted as commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, during a change-of-command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 20.

Visted, a native of Pearl City, Hawaii, assumed command in September 2007 and is moving on to 7th Marine Regiment, where he will serve as the regiment's executive officer.

Wetterauer takes command after serving as 7th Marine Regiment's operations officer since April.

Once the passage of command had taken place, Vincent addressed the audience and admitted it was going to be hard to leave the Marines and sailors of the battalion behind.

"It's been a long day coming and one I haven't been looking forward to," said Visted.

"Leading this organization we call the Darkside has been a tremendous experience."

Visted then thanked the Marines, sailors, and civilian personnel of the Combat Center, and after talking about the accomplishments of the Marines and sailors of 3/4, which included a recent deployment to Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he asked for all those in attendance to give the battalion's warfighters a round of applause.

Once the applause ceased, Visted told those in attendance he was truly blessed with a superb command team, which included his senior enlisted advisor, Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh; his executive officer, Maj. Kevin A. Norton; and his wife, Sheri.

Before handing over the microphone to his successor, Visted wished Wetterauer the best of luck and told him commanding 3/4 would be the best time of his career, before addressing the

See DARKSIDE, A12



PFC. JEREMIAH HANDELAND

Lt. Col. Martin F. Wetterauer relieves Lt. Col. William A. Visted as commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, during a change-of-command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 20.

23rd Dental trains for new environment

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's 23rd Dental Company completed a dental field equipment test Nov. 17-21 behind the Adult Medical Care Clinic.

The goal was not only to test the new dental systems, but also to train the sailors how to treat patients in a mobile operational environment.

"Navy dentistry has a long-standing tradition of delivering quality service in the field to forward deployed Marines and

sailors," said Cmdr. Kurt J. Brockman, the 23rd Dental Company commander. "As we shift our Global War on Terrorism focus to Afghanistan, 23rd Dental will need to be ready to serve in that country."

"In order to do this, the brick and mortar facilities utilized in Iraq will need to be replaced with tents," added the Newport Beach, Calif., native. "Dental units will need to be mobile and dental services will need to be delivered

See DENTAL, A10



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sailors from 23rd Dental Company treat patients during the dental field equipment test exercise behind the Adult Medical Care Clinic Nov. 20.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

People walk through the new Heritage Memorial Park after a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday. The park's structure describes the history of the land from Native Americans to the present day Combat Center.

New Heritage Memorial Park gives glimpse of MCAGCC's past

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Heritage Memorial Park, located between Del Valle road and Victory Field, opened Monday with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a glimpse back into time to view the Combat Center's history.

The ceremony began with the Combat Center band playing a variety of songs including "America the Beautiful," as viewers found their seats.

After the invocation, Brig.

Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center commanding general, spoke about the building of Heritage Memorial Park and also spoke about the history of the base from when the Army inhabited it as a glider base, to when the Marine Corps took it over in the 1950's.

Bob Lehman, the chief engineer and architect with Public Works Division, also spoke regarding the building of the memorial and the rest of the

See HERITAGE, A15

This Day in Marine Corps History

-Nov. 28, 1812-

Marines participated in the Battle of Red House in Canada.

Boatspaces 'sailing off' quickly

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL ATCHUE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – First-term Marines approaching their End of Active Service in fiscal 2009, must speak with their career planner as soon as possible because of changes in fiscal 2008 and 2009 re-enlistment options.

Master Sgt. Patrick E. Whitaker, career planner, Marine Corps Installations West, explained why Marines EAS'ing this year must act quickly.

What changes can first-term Marines expect? In fiscal 2009, the Marine Corps is bringing back what is known as "boatspaces." Boatspaces limit the number of Marines who can re-enlist in each Military Occupational Specialty, as determined by Headquarters Marine Corps.

How does that affect me? The Marine Corps has accomplished more than 60 percent of their re-enlistment goal for first-term Marines, which means boatspaces are filling fast. Once an MOS reaches its quota on boatspaces, the MOS is closed out and a bonus for that job field is no longer offered.

What if my MOS is closed out? If a Marine's MOS is closed out, that Marine will need to decide whether to EAS from the Marine Corps or lateral move into a new MOS.

Could I still get a bonus if I lateral move? Marine Administrative Message 370/08 establishes which MOS's rate a bonus and how much they are worth. Marines who lateral move into a new job field will receive the bonus once they finish the training at their new MOS school.

What if I'm unsure about re-enlisting? If you are unsure about re-enlisting in the active-duty force, the best thing to do is to go to a career planner and submit the re-enlistment package. At that point, you will have 10 days before you must re-enlist and take the oath. What other benefits are there for re-enlisting? The Marine Corps wants to retain first-term Marines because they have the experience and skills of a Marine instilled in them. Besides receiving a possible bonus, Marines who re-enlist are guaranteed a preferred duty station, earn 60 promotion points if they are a lance corporal or corporal, continue receiving medical and dental benefits, leave and job security by re-enlisting.

What if I EAS and decide to come back in later? If a Marine separates, they must speak with a prior service recruiter. They will have no guaranteed duty station and may be unable to retain the same MOS. If a bonus is offered in the MOS they re-enlist to, the full bonus will be given within 90 days of their EAS date; 80 percent is given between 91 and 365 days; and 60 percent between 366 days and four years. Bonuses are not offered if they wait longer than four years.

Do boatspaces affect Marines who are not in their first-term? No, boatspaces only affect Marines in their first-term. Once a Marine is on their second term, they are considered a "career Marine." Boatspaces do not affect their re-enlistment options, including MOS and bonuses.

What if my EAS is not until later in the year? The Marine Corps has reached more than 60 percent of its re-enlistment goal and boatspaces are on a first come, first serve basis. If a Marine waits until August 2009 to re-enlist, there is no guarantee they will receive a bonus or continue in their current MOS.

Where can I get more information? More information can be found by visiting your unit's career planner. Additionally, Whitaker is available to answer questions at 763-1949.

GREETINGS FROM LONG ISLAND

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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68						69					70			
71						72					73			

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ACROSS

- Source of Italian bubbly
- Serb or Croat
- Bubbly drinks
- Give notice to
- Sillily imitative
- Port of Algeria
- Satanic
- Coca-Cola Co. brand
- Gem with an intense blue color
- Comics bark
- One of a Navy elite
- Audible range
- Bleachers cry
- Auto parts giant
- Assenting vote
- "Das Boot" craft
- Line to Ben-Gurion
- Union collection
- "The Last Supper" painter

- Sundance's gal, ___ Place
- Queens, NY tennis stadium
- Streisand title role
- TGIF part
- Prefix with lock or knock
- Starting numbers under "RHE"
- Radio buttons
- Mil or mile
- Actor McKellen
- Italian sports car
- Word before basin or wave
- Bring home
- Air force hotshots
- Out of the way
- Cooties
- Designer Wang
- ___ Wences
- Wart giver of folklore
- Guitarist Duane ___ [Solutions on A7]

DOWN

- MP's quarry
- ___ Lee cakes
- Go for clay pigeons
- Lint-collecting navel
- "A Streetcar Named Desire" woman
- Pelee spew
- 48th state: Abbr.
- Hold dear
- "On Language" columnist William
- ___-Locka, Fla.
- "Alice in Wonderland" cat
- Roger Clemens, for three seasons
- Give a raw deal to
- Year-end temp
- Clapton classic
- ___ Hawkins Day
- Occupy the throne
- "Wanna make ___?"
- Brand of lowsocks
- Islands greeting

- Diarist Nin
- Arabia's Gulf of ___
- Out of sight
- Opposite of endo-
- Fodder storage site
- Jamaican in dreadlocks, for short
- In competition
- Penn's partner
- Went sour
- Pocket breads
- Poker tactic
- ___ a tie (require overtime)
- Silvery fish
- "___ a dream"
- Scott of "Happy Days"
- Black and white predator
- Social goofball
- Words to an "old chap"
- "Without further ___ ..."



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The Annual Commanding General's Holiday Concert
Featuring
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Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Sunset Cinema
With a special appearance by Santa Claus



Centerspeak

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

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



AMY HARRIS
JASMINE'S ESPRESSO CAFE

"I love green bean casserole during Thanksgiving."



SGT. HARLEY THOMAS
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"I like the leftovers because everything tastes better the day after, like turkey sandwiches and turkey soup."



GUNNERY SGT. HERRICK ROSS
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"My favorite dish is pepper pot, which is a Caribbean soup."

Employee Spotlight



Name: Michael Devine
Hometown: Outdoor Adventures
Job Title: Laborer
Job Duties: Repairing and maintaining equipment.
What Do You Like Most About Your Job: Being able to give something back to the Marines.
Hobbies: Collecting coins and antiques.
Significant Achievements: Just the fact that I take my job seriously and show up to work on time.
Military Service: Five years in the United States Marine Corps.
Time at Combat Center: Six years

OBSERVATION POST

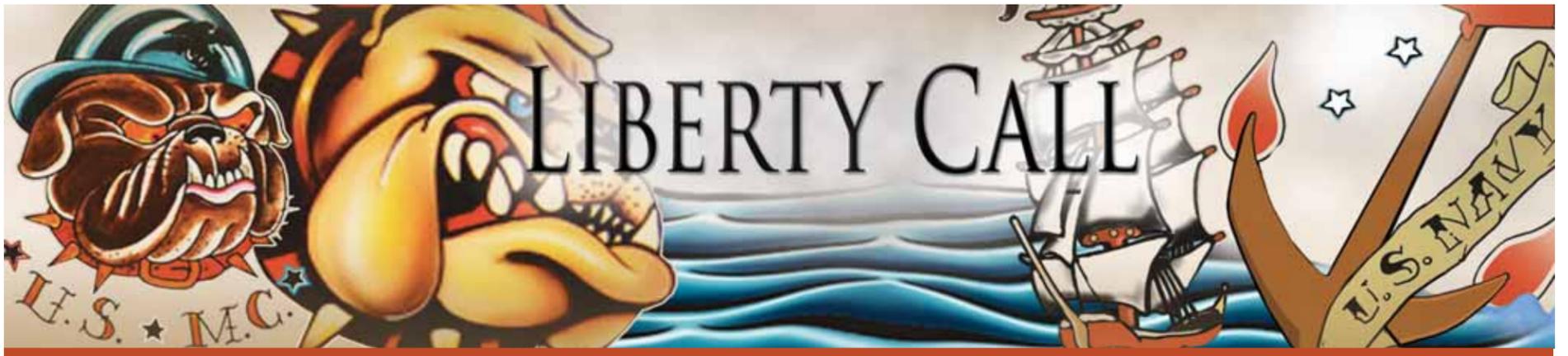
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FRI. 11/28 Wild Lights at the Living Desert Time: 6-9 p.m. Where: The Living Desert 47-900 Portola Ave. Palm Desert For more info call 346-5694	FRI. 11/28 – SUN. 11/30 Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Powwow Time: 5-7 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Spring Pkwy. Indio For more info call 238-5770	FRI. 11/28 – SUN. 11/30 Desert Art Festival Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Where: Frances Stevens Park 538 N. Palm Canyon Dr. Palm Springs For more info call (818) 709-2907	FRI. 11/28 – SUN. 11/30 Mountain Christmas Boutique Time: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Where: Big Bear Lake Convention Center 630 Bartlett Road Big Bear Lake For more info call (909) 585-3000	SAT. 11/29 Bret Michaels Rock of Love Tour 2008 Time: 8-10 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr. Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499
SAT. 11/29 Salvation Army and Marine Corps kick off Holiday Season at the Gardens Time: 12-4 p.m. Where: The Gardens on El Paseo 73545 El Paseo, Palm Desert For more info call 324-2275	SUN. 11/30 Desert Art Center's Miniature Show Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Where: Desert Art Center 550 North Palm Canyon Drive Palm Springs For more info call 323-7973	MON. 12/1 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Time: 5 p.m. Where: Mercado Mall 222 E Main St. Barstow For more info call 256-8617	WED. 12/3 Holiday Bazaar Time: 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Medical Center's Continuing Care Center 6601 White Feather Road Joshua Tree For more info call 366-3711	THURS. 12/4 Free Evenings at Palm Springs Art Museum Time: 4-8 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Art Museum 101 Museum Drive Palm Springs For more info call 325-7186

A few helpful tips to get you home for the holidays

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the holidays draw closer, Combat Center Marines, sailors and their families are beginning to make their travel plans to visit their friends and family throughout the world.

Whether the path to visit friends or family is on the ground or in the air, it is beneficial to plan and practice safety precautions to ensure a safe and timely arrival for the holidays.

If driving home, don't get sidetracked by thinking of home-cooked meals and heaps of presents. Instead, make sure the vehicle making the trip is in good working condition.

Double check engine fluids, including windshield wiper fluid, and make sure tires are properly filled with air. While packing the vehicle, ensure the rearview window is clear of all luggage and pack an extra blanket, flashlight, food and first aid kit in case of a roadside emergency.

David Horn, the Combat Center's security director, says the number one risk while driving long distances is fatigue.

Getting a healthy amount of sleep the night before the trip will help keep drivers alert of their surroundings, said Horn. Waking up early enough grants enough time to get to their destination on time without the rush. Big meals are also cautioned against since

they may cause drowsiness.

"Fatigue is an impairment like drugs or alcohol," he continued. "Stop driving and either find a place to sleep for the night, or find a safe place to take a 15 to 20 minute nap."

Safe driving habits should also be implemented, which include wearing safety belts, maintaining a safe distance between vehicles, using proper turn signals, and not

drinking and driving.

Before travelling, people should prepare their homes to help prevent break-ins or emergencies. Staff Sgt. Anthony Fox, the Provost Marshal's Office physical security chief, advises home owners to stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a neighbor collect them daily.

Leaving shades in a normal position, and putting a radio and

at least two lights on an automatic timer, will make a house look like it is being occupied, which will dissuade burglars. Have a neighbor place trashcans at the curb of the unoccupied house, and park a car in the driveway occasionally.

"Ask your police department if it has a 'vacation check' program," said Fox. "You should indicate the dates of your departure and return, as well as

See HOLIDAYS, A8

Cinema 6
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633 Showtimes Effective 11/28/08 - 12/4/08

Bolt (PG) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Twilight (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
Four Christmases (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Quantum Of Solace (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs 2:30, 4:45, 7:00

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Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway
5:00	5:25	5:30
29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.
5:40	5:45	6:00
Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport	
7:10	7:15	7:00

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
7:00	7:10	7:15
Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC	
7:50	8:30	

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway
10:00	10:25	10:30
29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.
10:40	10:45	11:00
Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport	
*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)
12:00	12:10	12:15
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15
Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC	
*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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PMO, MUSD help keep kids off drugs

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office has partnered with the Morongo Unified School District to educate fifth-graders on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse.

Throughout the school year, representatives from PMO's Physical Security and Crime Prevention Branch are visiting 11 elementary schools as part of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, which has been running since 1983.

"We're here to teach about alcohol, drug and tobacco facts instead of the misconceptions about those substances," said Dana Fisher, a PMO D.A.R.E. officer. "We also teach them how to be better kids and make the

right choices.

"Hopefully the kids will keep these skills for the rest of their lives," added the Oakland, Calif., native. "Our primary goal is to teach them a positive attitude. Keeping a positive attitude is half the battle."

Before the 10-week program begins, all the children are asked to sign a student participation letter, said Carey McElroy, a PMO D.A.R.E. officer. The letter ensures the children know what they will be learning and what is expected of them throughout the course.

In order to graduate, the students must complete all their work, have good attendance, demonstrate good behavior, stay free of drugs, write a D.A.R.E. report, and pledge to make good decisions about alcohol, tobacco and drugs, added the Delta, Ohio, native. Failure to complete any of



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

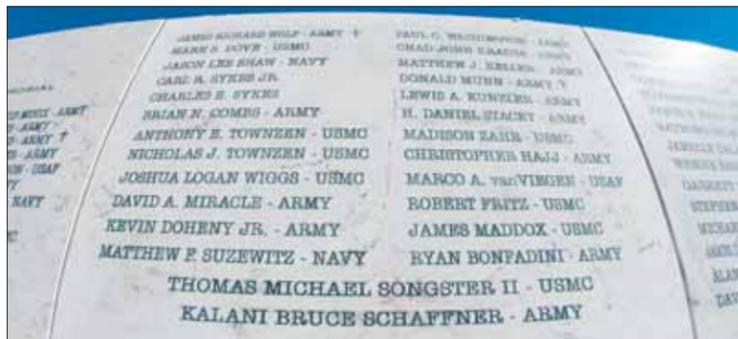
Armond Riley, a fifth-grade Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program student at Oasis Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, speaks to an audience of peers and special guests at the D.A.R.E. graduation Nov. 20 in the school's cafeteria.

these requirements will result in a failure of the D.A.R.E. program.

So far, PMO has visited five MUSD elementary schools in the

Twentynine Palms area. The classes at all the schools graduated the

See D.A.R.E., A15



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Names of active service members are engraved on one of the granite plaques mounted on the Defenders of Freedom Wall at the General Patton Memorial Museum in Chiriaco Summit, Calif. Oct. 29.

Wall recognizes active duty service members

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

On the other side of Joshua Tree National Park, in Chiriaco Summit, Calif., the General Patton Memorial Museum does more than honor the three-star

general and his beloved Army.

The museum, which is located just off Exit 173 on Interstate 10, has erected the Defenders of Freedom Wall, which is the museum's way of showing respect for the men and women who are fighting for this country's freedom, said Jacque Schindewolf, the museum's conservator.

"The Defenders of Freedom Wall is a tribute to all that protect this country," said Schindewolf, a native of Ely, Minn. "This wall is a way of saying thank you; we honor what you do for us."

Schindewolf said any service member who has served since September 11, 2001, to present day can have their name placed on the wall. Border patrol officials, customs workers, police officers, sheriffs, and firemen are also eligible to have their name placed on the wall.

"Our goal is to honor all who keep us safe and protect our freedoms," said Schindewolf.

In order to have a named placed on the wall the museum requests the honoree's name and service, a \$10 check or money order, and while proof of service is not required the museum does recommend it.

Once the process is complete, the name of the honored service member will be engraved in black lettering on one of the granite plaques mounted on the wall's cement frame.

Liz Kepner, a museum staff member, said she thinks the wall is great way to honor those service members who are currently serving this country.

"I think it's great," said Kepner, a native of Desert Center, Calif. "I think it's fantastic that people can come by and see their names on the wall."

Kepner said it is an honor to recognize those who are currently serving this country and that it has been a joy to see the facial expressions of the people whose names are on the wall when they see it for themselves.

While Kepner has no family

See WALL, A15

WHY GO TO 2 MEDICARE INFORMATION MEETINGS WHEN YOU CAN JUST COME TO 1?

<p>Tuesday, Dec. 2 & Tuesday, Dec. 9 12:30 p.m. Yucca Valley Community Services 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley</p>	<p>Tuesday, Dec. 9 11:00 a.m. Twenty-nine Palms Senior Center 6539 Adobe Rd. Twenty-nine Palms</p>
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HOT TOPICS

TOYS FOR TOTS MOTORCYCLE RUN

The 5th annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run, co-sponsored by Hutchins Motor Sports and Z107-7 radio in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms, will begin at 10 a.m. Dec. 6 at the Hutchins Harley-Davidson location at 55405 State Route 62 in Yucca Valley and make its way east through the Morongo Basin to Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. The entry fee is a new, unwrapped toy worth at least \$10 (please, no stuffed animals.) All makes and models of motorcycles are welcome to participate. Riders of any type of motorcycle can register on line at www.hutchins-motorsports.com or sign up at Hutchins starting a 8 a.m. For more information contact Alethia at Hutchins Motor Sports, 365-6311 or Gary Daigneault at 366-8471.

TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION AT OFFICERS' CLUB

All Combat Center military, civilian, and contractor personnel are invited to attend the technology exhibition for free at the Officers' Club Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exhibition will demonstrate over 25 samples of the latest technological advances in audio & visual integration, radio monitoring & radiolocation, digital imaging systems, disaster recovery software, data indexing, telecom distribution software, encryption software, transport solutions, broadband networking and much more. The event is hosted by G-6 and refreshments will be provided. For more information contact Lacey Livingston at (301) 596-8899, ext. 237 or preregister at <http://www.federalevents.com>

DEERS OFFICE CLOSURE FOR HOLIDAYS

The DEERS Office will be closed during the holiday season on the following dates: Close at 12 p.m., Nov. 26 and reopen at 12 p.m., Dec. 1, Close at 12 p.m., Dec. 24, and reopen at 12 p.m., Dec. 29, Close at 12 p.m., Dec. 31, and reopen at 12 p.m., Jan. 5.

ADULT MEDICAL CARE CLINIC: PHA PROCESS

To comply with DOD 6200.4 and OPNAVINST 6120.3, all permanent party active duty members of Headquarters Battalion and MCCES must schedule a Preventive Health Assessment with the Adult Medical Care Clinic during their birth month. The PHA process takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Adult Medical Care Clinic maintains a database of PHAs performed and provides reporting of monthly compliance to unit commanders. To schedule a PHA, call 830-2621, email Bradley.Wiens@med.navy.mil, or stop by the clinic. PHAs are not performed on Thursdays.

NRA opens fire at the Combat Center's rifle range

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The National Rifle Association hosted their 49th annual Twentynine Palms Long Range Regional at the Combat Center's Marksmanship Training Unit from Nov. 20 to Sunday.

The matches this year were

open to not only NRA members and service members, but also to anyone who wished to participate, said Jack Edmonson an NRA member and a native of Bethany, Conn.

Edmonson added changes have been made to the tournament itself this year.

"This year of course changes

ranging from participant eligibility to weapons used have been instituted," Edmonson said. "Those not in the NRA can now compete and we are now allowing the use of Palma rifles for the first time. Palma rifles are those of a .308 caliber, and are in their own class of competition. Also the use of bipods has been instituted.

Although their use is allowed they have slightly smaller targets for those using a bipod, and all weapons must be registered with any attachments and round sizes before competition."

Edmonson said paid target pullers were available on Nov. 19 for hire so shooters could have a day of practice at the 1,000-yard line before the competition began.

The next three days to follow were filled with expert civilian shooters and service members sending rounds down range, said Edmonson.

"Shooters have individual competition and team competitions to compete in," he said. "Shooters will be shooting long range, rapid fire and slow fire, ranging from The 200-yard line shooting up to 1,000 yards."

Experienced shooters at the Combat Center, such as Rich Vedvick, an NRA member from Concrete, Wash., who has competed 14 times in the competition still comes because he says he is an enthusiast and loves competition shooting.

"I've been at this competition every year since 1994 with the exception of 2001," said Vedvick, during the competition Saturday. "I won three of the 1,000-yard matches Thursday and Friday, but I'm not shooting as well today. I love coming down to Twentynine Palms for this,

because of the blue sky and sunshine you get out here. It's a great place to shoot and the weather is much better than where I am coming from."

Shooters at the competition included regular members of the NRA along with notably famous former service members who enjoy shooting as a hobby.

Retired Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermey, the host of the new History Channel show *Lock and Load*, also participated in the events with his partner Dennis Demille, who competes with Ermey to make the *Hornety Over the Hill Team*.

"Me and Dennis shoot together. He's a friend of mine and a two-time national champion," Ermey said. "This is the first time I've been to Twentynine Palms to fire on the range. I've been here countless times for other things, but this is one of the nicest ranges I have ever fired on."

Ermey said even though it is his first time shooting his rifle here, he really has enjoyed his experience at the Combat Center's range, which included having a watermelon on a stick put in place of a target for him to shoot.

"I love to shoot just like any of the other competitors out here," he said. "It's a beautiful range and a fun competition, with what little wind there is right now its been a great time for us."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Retired Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermey loads a new magazine into his rifle during the 49th Annual National Rifle Association's Long Range Regional. The tournament was held at the Combat Center's Marksmanship Training Unit from Nov. 20 to Sunday.



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MCCS will provide transportation to and from the event, leaving the Base Theatre at 3 p.m.

A gratuity of \$5 (cash only please) for dinner will be collected as you board the bus.

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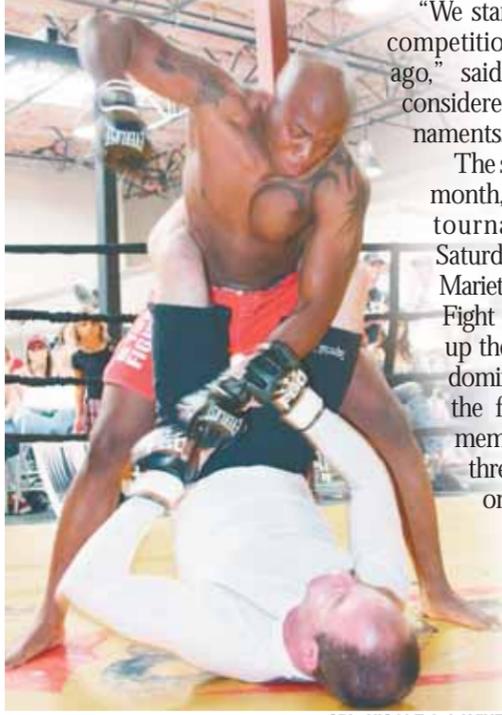
Fight Club 29 takes first place at Grappling X Tournament

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Fight Club 29 closed its best month of fighting since the beginning of the year, Saturday.

The Fight Club members began their winning streak when they participated in the Pankration Nationals in Santa Ana, Calif., Nov. 9, where they achieved the second place posi-



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Omar Askew, a middle weight fighter for Fight Club 29, unleashes a series of body strikes to an opponent during the Grapplers Extreme tournament hosted Saturday by Fight Lab in Marietta, Calif.

tion out of 12 competing teams.

The team which took first place, Team Apex out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., brought 16 fighters to compete while Fight Club 29 brought only seven. Six of the seven fight club members earned medals; two gold, two silver and two bronze.

Sean Fowler, owner of the Grapplers Extreme show, said he tries to host a circuit tournament at least once a month.

"We started doing actual fight competitions about six years ago," said Fowler. "These are considered pre-armature tournaments."

The second competition this month, Grapplers Extreme tournament, hosted Saturday by Fight Lab in Marietta, Calif., allowed the Fight Club 29 team to crank up the competitive spirit and dominate the tournament as the first place team. Every member earned a medal — three gold, one silver and one bronze.

The silver medalist in the 165-pound class, Brian Perez, lost the gold in a split decision to his fellow teammate, James Clark, after cruising through the competition and meeting in the final.

Nate Wolf, one of the team's gold



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Nate Wolf, a heavyweight fighter in Fight Club 29, strikes his opponent's face with an open hand during the Grapplers Extreme tournament hosted Saturday by Fight Lab in Marietta, Calif. Open-hand face strikes were one of the rules enforced during the competition.

medalists, fought in a tournament with the team for the first time that day. Wolf, who claims folk wrestling as his original fighting style, weighs in at more than 220 pounds and dominated every one of his opponents with powerful body strikes, quick counter movements and solid ground technique.

Wolf attributed his success on the mat to the training and conditioning he underwent with fellow teammates under the supervision of Fight Club 29 head coach, Mark M. Geletko.

"I was a little nervous before hand, but I think I was more anxious than actually nervous," said Wolf about his first fight. "I did really well by the third fight because my nerves went away."

Wolf added he believes after continuing his conditioning and training, he will be faster and stronger by his next tournament.

Geletko said he looks forward to honing the fighters' skills even further in anticipation of the next tournament.

"I was really pleased with how

we did, especially this being the first Pankration tournament for a majority of our fighters," said Geletko, a Pittsburgh, native. "I think our conditioning really kicked in at the end of the fights. That's what gives us our edge. We usually win in the final minutes because we have more gas."

Geletko said as the fight club looks toward a month-long break, it will offer the team an opportunity to bring on more members and train them for tournaments beginning January 10.

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HOLIDAYS, from A3

which rooms have timed lights and which neighbor has a key.”
If the journey home involves airfares and hotels, make sure to book flights and reservations as early as possible to save time and money.

Flights should be booked two to three weeks prior to departure for best possible fares, said Jonid

Castillo, a traveler counselor with traveler and transaction services, Military and Government Markets CWT-SatoTravel. The best days to travel are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Travellers should also get to the airport at least one hour before take off since most flights will cut off checked baggage 45 minutes before take off. Checking in two hours

before departure is recommended in case of long lines.

People should research ahead of time what they can and cannot bring. The Transportation Security Administration Web site, <http://www.tsa.com>, has many good tips on travelling.

TSA has a 3-1-1 rule, which allows three-ounce bottles of liquid or less, and one, one quart plastic ziplock bag per customer

to carry on the plane. The ziplock bag must be available for screening at a checkpoint.

“To avoid extra security screening, have all loose items such as jewelry, keys and wallets in a carry-on bag to process,” said Castillo. “Be aware of weather conditions, not only at the final destination, but also at connecting stops; therefore if possible avoid flights that go through cities

that normally have bad weather.”

When collecting baggage, it is important to check for missing items because you don't want to get home to file a claim with the airline.

By planning properly and traveling smartly, the holiday season can be inexpensive, timely and safe for everybody trying to get home to spend time with their loved ones.

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<p>NEW 08 DODGE CALIBER AUTO, A/C</p>  <p>#621195</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$1,872</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$16,760</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">372</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$14,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$16,760	Y.V.C. Dis.	372	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	1,000	\$14,888*		<p>NEW 08 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB</p>  <p>#524409</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$7,177</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$24,065</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,677</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">5,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$16,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$24,065	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,677	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	5,000	\$16,888*		<p>NEW 08 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT FULL POWER</p>  <p>#135469</p> <p>POPULAR EQUIPMENT GROUP</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$3,922</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$22,810</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,422</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">2,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$18,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$22,810	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,422	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	2,000	\$18,888*	
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<p>NEW 08 DODGE MAGNUM</p>  <p>#128521</p> <p>20" WHEELS</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$5,757</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$25,645</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,257</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">4,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$19,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$25,645	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,257	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	4,000	\$19,888*		<p>NEW 08 CHRYSLER 300 FULL POWER</p>  <p>#127319</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$5,412</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$25,300</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,662</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">3,250</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$19,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$25,300	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,662	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	3,250	\$19,888*		<p>NEW 08 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN FULL POWER, STOW AND GO</p>  <p>#145674</p> <p>REAR A/C</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$5,000</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$27,710</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,500</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">3,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$22,710*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$27,710	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,500	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	3,000	\$22,710*	
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<p>NEW 08 DODGE AVENGER R/T LOADED, LOADED</p>  <p>#648986</p> <p>SPORTY R/T</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$5,232</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$28,120</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,732</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">3,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$22,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$28,120	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,732	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	3,000	\$22,888*		<p>NEW 08 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4, FULL POWER</p>  <p>#128521</p> <p>4X4</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$12,000</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$35,835</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">6,500</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">5,000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$23,835*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$35,835	Y.V.C. Dis.	6,500	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	5,000	\$23,835*		<p>NEW 08 JEEP COMMANDER REAR A/C, 3RD. SEAT</p>  <p>#108200</p> <p>7 PASSENGER</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$6,362</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$30,250</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,362</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">4,500</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$23,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$30,250	Y.V.C. Dis.	1,362	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	4,500	\$23,888*	
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<p>NEW 08 DODGE DURANGO</p>  <p>#102445</p> <p>LOADED HEMI ADVENTURER PACKAGE</p> <p>LIFE TIME POWER TRAIN WARRANTY</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$8,002</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$35,890</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">3,002</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">4,500</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$27,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$35,890	Y.V.C. Dis.	3,002	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	4,500	\$27,888*		<p>NEW 08 DODGE 3500 MEGA CAB CUMMINS DIESEL, FULL POWER</p>  <p>#103569</p> <p>CUMMINS DIESEL</p> <p>FULL POWER READY FOR WORK!</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$12,877</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$44,765</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">7,877</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">4,500</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$31,835*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$44,765	Y.V.C. Dis.	7,877	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	4,500	\$31,835*		<p>NEW 08 DODGE RAM 2500 MEGA CAB CUMMINS DIESEL, FULL POWER</p>  <p>#111055</p> <p>4X4</p> <p>CUMMINS DIESEL</p> <p>YOU'LL SAVE \$13,287</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$47,175</td></tr> <tr><td>Y.V.C. Dis.</td><td style="text-align: right;">8,287</td></tr> <tr><td>Military Cash**</td><td style="text-align: right;">500</td></tr> <tr><td>Consumer Cash</td><td style="text-align: right;">4,500</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">\$33,888*</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$47,175	Y.V.C. Dis.	8,287	Military Cash**	500	Consumer Cash	4,500	\$33,888*	
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Where DO your local tax dollars go?

SALES TAX on normal purchases, excluding groceries, is 7 3/4 percent, a portion of which goes back to the city where the purchase was made. Every time you buy \$100 worth of non-grocery items in Twentynine Palms, the city gets \$1. In the current fiscal year, the city of Twentynine Palms is looking to get \$702,000 in general funds from sales-tax revenue.



EVERY TIME you spend a dollar anywhere in San Bernardino County, a half-cent of your sales tax goes into the Measure I fund, which is then redistributed to cities, like Twentynine Palms, based on population. Measure I funds are used to pay for transportation-related expenses, including improvements to existing road.



PROPERTY TAXES are a major source of General Fund revenue for Twentynine Palms and help pay to maintain city parks, such as the newly-dedicated Bucky Bucklin Park. For every dollar you pay in property taxes for property it the city limits 26 cents comes back to the city. In the current fiscal year, this will add \$1,350,000 to the city's General Fund coffers.



PURCHASE GASOLINE anywhere in the state and a portion of the sale is a gasoline tax, which goes to Sacramento before it's redistributed back to cities based on population. During the 2007-08 fiscal year, the city received \$492,775

Story and photos by Kurt Schuppner The Desert Trail

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DENTAL, from A1

in remote areas. What has become established will need to be expeditionary."

The equipment was tested in a field tent, which was modified to accommodate an examination chair, a hygiene chair, a general dentistry chair, and a specialty chair used primarily for oral surgery.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jerry Hughes, a 23rd Dental biomedical equipment repair technician, said approximately 30 people from the clinic were either rotated out to the test site, or were working there during the whole week.

Throughout the test cycle,

more than 80 patients were seen at the site, and were given the same quality care delivered in the clinic, but also experienced dental service in a field environment.

The testing of the new equipment is being evaluated by Marine Corps Systems Command and the Air Force Medical Evaluation Support Activity. The Combat Center was their second test site after the groups visited Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Air Force Lt. Col. Michael W. Henry, the AFMESA director of aeromedical evaluation programs, said the tests will focus on a variety of areas, including how the equipment works in different

environments, temperatures and other forms of weather.

If purchased, the new equipment will replace the Dental Field Treatment and Operational System, which is currently being used Navy- and Marine Corps-wide, said Randy Shanholts, the Marine Corps Systems Command test lead.

Despite the ambiguous results of the testing, sailors at the dental clinic were happy to have received the training.

"I think the testing went really well, and we got a lot of information from it," said Hughes. "Not only did we get a chance to do some testing that will have an impact on Navy field dentistry, but it was also a good opportunity for our sailors to train in a field

environment. It was a very successful training evolution.

"It was an excellent opportunity for us and I think any one of the sailors here would do it again if we could," added the Azle, Texas, native. "We got excellent support from Headquarters Battalion and CLB-7 [Combat Logistics Battalion 7], and even got logistical support from the regimental aid station. To give credit where credit is due, we couldn't have done it without those guys."

Brockman said he thinks the testing is beneficial to his sailors and the field of Navy dentistry.

"The 23rd Dental Company evaluated new field dental equipment designed to deliver quality service in the field to forward deployed Marines and

sailors," he said. "We also had the opportunity to educate the next generation of dental officers and hospital corpsmen on field dental delivery."

Although most of the testing has been completed, it has yet to be determined if the new dental equipment will be purchased by the Navy or the Marine Corps. If the equipment is bought, it also hasn't been said when it will be put into circulation for use.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Navy Lt. Ben Giang, a 23rd Dental Company dentist, works on a patient's teeth during the dental field equipment test exercise behind the Adult Medical Care Clinic Nov. 20. Giang was one of more than 30 personnel from 23rd Dental who participated in the training exercise from Nov. 17-21.

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Coyotes: The bigger our footprint, the bigger the problem

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Despite increased efforts to help quell the number of coyote sightings in the Combat Center's housing areas, the base is still experiencing an increase in activity, which may pose a threat if not handled properly.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division has been taking action through their catch-and-release program since Aug. 1 by trapping coyotes and letting them go in the Sand Hill training area several miles west of Camp Wilson.

"Part of the problem we have is that we all realize this is a problem that will never completely go away, but we can minimize it," said Dr. Brian Henen, an NREA ecologist. "We're never going to get rid of the coyotes, but we can get rid of what draws them in - it just requires participation from everybody on base."

Henen, a Vista, Calif., native, said the biggest problem is people leaving food, water and trash laying around where coyotes and other wildlife can get to it with ease.

"We're in a constant battle with people leaving their trash bins open, or having loose trash just lying around on the ground," he said. "It's just a basic hygiene problem. If we can keep free-standing food and water away, the coyotes aren't going to come around."

"There are thousands of people on this base," added Henen. "If even a tenth of a percent of people leave pet food and trash

out, it supports the coyotes. This happens a lot out in town, too."

Brent Husung, an NREA natural resources specialist, addressed the coyote situation as precarious, referring to them as what he calls "urban wildlife."

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

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

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

He also mentioned people leaving pet food in their yards. Although it is acceptable for pets to eat outside, if the food is left in the yard, coyotes will eat it. If coyotes and other wildlife are given the opportunity to feed on residents' trash, they will become dependent on it for survival and will continue to roam the housing areas in search of a free meal.

Although coyotes are not considered a threat to humans,

if this problem persists, they could become one, said Husung. Some coyotes and other wildlife carry rabies, which poses a danger to people who come in contact with it.

Husung added several attacks were reported in San Bernardino County last year. All the attacks were carried out by urban wildlife.

To help spread the word and make residents aware of this growing problem, NREA will be issuing a letter to Lincoln Military Housing outlining details on how to decrease the surge of wildlife in the residential areas. More information can be found at <http://www.keepmewild.org>, which will give people tips on how to protect themselves without harming the wildlife.

If a base resident spots a coyote or other form of wildlife skulking around, it is imperative



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

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

they call the Provost Marshal's Office at 830-6800, or call NREA at 830-5719 or 830-5728 so a professional can be dispatched to the scene to properly contain the animal.

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CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday

Roman Catholic Services

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Faith Formation/CCD-8 a.m.

Confessions+ - 8:45 a.m.

Rosary - 9 a.m.

Catholic Mass* - 9:30 a.m.

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30 a.m.

Confessions+ - 4:15 p.m.

Choir Practice - 4 p.m.

Rosary - 4:30 p.m.

Catholic Mass - 5 p.m.

Protestant Services

Christ Chapel

Lay-Led Independent Baptist

Breakfast, West Wing - 8:30 a.m.

Non-Denominational Service

Worship - 9 a.m.

Children's Church - 9 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.

Youth Group 6 p.m.

Pastor-Led Lutheran Worship

Worship-NHTP Chapel-11:15 a.m.

Lay-Led Gospel Service

Worship - 11:30 a.m.

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

DARKSIDE, from A1

battalion's warriors.
 "It's been an honor and true privilege to serve you," said Visted. "When you deploy back into harm's way, you will be in my prayers."

After a congratulatory handshake from his predecessor, Wetterauer received the microphone and was quick to thank 7th Marine Regiment commanding officer, Col. Randall P. Newman, for giving him the opportunity of leading 3/4 as

well the families of the battalion for the continued support they give the Darkside.
 Before ending his remarks, Wetterauer, who has previously served with 3/4 as Company L's commanding officer, issued a promise to the Marines and

sailors who were now under his command.
 "I will give you 100 percent devotion and effort every single day I have the privilege of being your commander," said Wetterauer, who has three sons with his wife Elizabeth; Martin,

Hayden, and Logan.
 Once the ceremony concluded Walsh said the battalion lost someone who was totally dedicated to doing what was best for the Marines and sailors of the Darkside, but welcomed home a very experienced leader.

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Headquarters smashes MCCES again

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 2008 season of the Commanding General's Intramural Football League hosted its championship game between the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School and the defending champions, Headquarters Battalion, Tuesday at Felix Field.

Headquarters defeated MCCES a solid 36-8 in the final game and are scheduled to go head-to-head against other West Coast teams in the Best of the West Football tournament at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., in December.

The game began with Headquarters getting a quick score and with a failed two-point conversion they came to a 6-0 lead.

Following the quick score and short offensive spurts from both teams, both defenses looked strong with two back-to-back fumbles, which gave brief hope to both sides.

To begin the second quarter, Headquarters punched the ball in quickly from their lucky position from the end of the first quarter, making the score 12 points to MCCES' nothing.

The second quarter wound up being saturated with points, but sadly for MCCES they all belonged to Headquarters.

A blocked punt gave Headquarters another opportunity to take a six-point jab at MCCES, followed by a two-point conversion, making the score 20-0.

On a drive later in the quarter, Headquarters running back Willie

Campbell smashed through the MCCES defense for another touchdown, giving Headquarters a 28-0 lead.

Another touchdown and two-point conversion gave Headquarters their last touchdown of the half, dwarfing MCCES' efforts early in the game with a Headquarters lead, of 36-0.

At halftime the Headquarters team was exuberant, and their coaches offered words of encouragement and caution to the team that played a strong first half.

Head coach, Daymian Brown, told his team to keep moving, but not to forget the team they are playing was the best around besides them.

"I know we've all got that feeling, it's been an awesome first half,"

said Brown, who comes from Abington, Pa. "We've got to keep pouring it on. Let's turn the lights off. Let's end this game now."

The third quarter was relatively uneventful with the exception of a snuffed MCCES punt close to their end zone. Also, the Headquarters quarterback, Charles Jefferson threw an interception which got returned to the Headquarters red zone.

MCCES punched in after a short offensive drive to get their first score of the game, and tacked on a two-point conversion to make it 36-8.

The fourth quarter drew to a close with offenses going nowhere, and with Headquarters running out the clock to end the game and give themselves their third base championship in a row.

Headquarters players were exuberant after their victory, and celebrated as their head coach accepted the trophy.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Head coach Glenn Schott accepts the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School's runner-up trophy. Headquarters defeated MCCES 36-8 during the championship game of the Commanding General's Intramural Football League Tuesday night at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

"It feels good. We started slow and people doubted us in the beginning," said Campbell, a Detroit native. "We had some down spirits, but we fought through the adversity, and we're three-time champions. We're going down to Pendleton to bring the championship home again."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Dwayne McGeachy, a Headquarters wide receiver looks downfield for his target on a trick play late in the game against MCCES.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Headquarters running back Willie Parker blasts through a hole in the MCCES defense, gaining more yards for his already powerful offense.

OWN IT DEC. 9

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- Dec. 17.....CD Night with Steve & Barb
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- Dec. 31.....No Dance - Happy Holidays!

Spring 2009

- Jan. 7.....Milt Rasmussen Band
- Jan. 14.....Joe Nutter & His Sophisticated Swing
- Jan. 21.....Touch of Class
- Jan. 28.....Joe Nutter & His Sophisticated Swing

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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.

D.A.R.E., from A4

week of Nov. 17.

The supervisors for the schools were glad to have the D.A.R.E. program available for their students and were appreciative of PMO reaching out and helping the community.

"I love this program and I think it's great for the kids," said Randy Eigner, the Oasis Elementary School principal. "I think it belongs in every school.

"I really appreciate the officers taking time to come and do this for us," added the Miami native. "The kids really took to them. They were good with the kids, but firm enough to discipline them when they needed it."

Eigner said the children were taught to make the right choices, whether they are about drugs, or about anything else in their lives.

"If they chose to disrupt the class, they were still making a choice like always," he said. "I hope the ability they learned to make the right choices carries with them for the rest of their lives."

Although D.A.R.E. is primarily designed to teach fifth-graders, a safety program is also offered by PMO for kindergarten through fourth grade students, which



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Latasia Benavente Baker, a fifth grade D.A.R.E. student at Oasis Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, Calif., shakes hands with Darin, the D.A.R.E. mascot, after Dana Fisher, a PMO D.A.R.E. officer, presents her with a certificate at the program's graduation in the school's cafeteria Nov. 20.

helps prepare them for D.A.R.E. Beginning in January, Fisher and McElroy will be partnering with six more elementary schools in the Morongo Basin to help educate the students on the effects of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

Grove, Calif. "It's nice knowing that people still care."

For more information about the Defenders of Freedom Wall contact the General Patton Memorial Museum at 227-3483.

HERITAGE, from A1

Heritage Park corridor area that is still being designed and built.

"The park was built to enhance the environment for all the people who live and work on the base," said Lehman. "The park is more about history and promotes interaction with base personnel."

As the ceremony progressed, a description of the base for each decade was read as Marines dressed in period uniforms marched to their designated pillar engraved with a date to show what Marines from that era wore.

As each decade's script was read, Marines and sailors who served, or are serving, aboard the Combat Center were asked to stand to be recognized for their service throughout the years.

"It is wonderful to see how the base has grown exponentially," said M.J. "Mac" Dube, a retired colonel who served aboard the Combat Center as the chief of staff from 1985 through 1989. "I retired 20 years ago, and it amazes me how much the base has gone up since then."

The ceremony closed with Gurganus and Lehman cutting the ribbon, and inviting people to enter the park for the first time.

Heritage Memorial Park consists of 10 pillars that represent each decade of the base. Inscribed on each pillar is a summary of the history of the base during that decade.

Three pillars were left blank to be filled out as the years progress.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Combat Center commanding general and Bob Lehman, chief engineer and architect with Public Works Division, cut a ribbon to Heritage Memorial Park in an opening ceremony Monday. The memorial park includes 10 pillars that are inscribed with a decade of the base's history and an 18-foot granite center encribed with a map of the base.

"It captures the history of the base, yet leaves room for the future," said Dube, who has made Twentynine Palms his home after retirement. "It provides a historical background of the base, not just for Marines, but visitors as well."

The pillars surround an 18-foot granite center where visitors can view a map of the base in relation to California. The walkway is surrounded by palm trees, and brightly colored flowers on a slightly raised hill to help obscure the road. The park is also offset from the road by 45 degrees to

orient in a northern direction.

At the front of the walkway is a fountain that has a short history of the land during the time of the Native Americans and the gold rush of 1848.

As the Heritage Park corridor area continues to grow, an open park area with artificial grass, fire pits, barbeques and an auditorium will be built; along with a large and small dog park, a roller hockey rink, a skateboard park and a children's water park. All of the new additions are scheduled to be complete by the summer of 2009.

WALL, from A4

ties to the military she is proud to see the names of neighbors on the wall and encourages others to come visit the memorial and have a name placed on it.

"I'd be proud to have one of my kids on there," said Kepner.

Cpl. Anthony E. Townzen, a flight equipment technician with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., said he was excited about being on the wall and thought it was nice to be remembered.

Towzen, whose brother, Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Townzen, is also honored on the wall, said it's good to know people are recognizing those who are serving right now.

"It's pretty cool," said Townzen, a native of Garden

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