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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

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SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

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14 EOD keeping ranges safe

K9s take a bite out of insurgents

CPL. SEAN P. CUMMINS

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

RAWAH, Iraq — Dogs have accompanied warriors into combat since the Romans outfitted large mastiffs with armored collars. The large dogs would attack the legs of their opponents, forcing them to lower their shields and expose the rest of their body to the lethal thrusts of the Roman legionaries.

The uses for dogs in combat, though, have since evolved from armored beasts to fine-tuned tools capable of seeking out bomb-making materials, running down fleeing insurgents or tracking bad guys miles away.

Their extraordinary bite and keen senses make dogs a valuable resource when searching for improvised explosive devices and tracking down the

See K9, A12



CPL. SEAN P. CUMMINS

Lance Cpl. Trevor M. Smith, a 20-year-old combat tracker dog handler from Myrtle Beach, S.C., with II Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, taunts Grek, a military working dog, who replies with intimidating snarls.

Lake Bandini: Soon, the sweet smell of nothing

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The potent smell carried throughout mainside on a hot, windy day will be a distant memory aboard the Combat Center after the next few years.

The Public Works Division is in

the designing phase of projects to help improve the water treatment plant, or as Marines and sailors refer to it, Lake Bandini. The projects will help minimize smell, irrigate more areas and improve the overall water treatment system.

Donald Clark, the deputy for the Public Works Division,

expects the design to be finished in the spring and construction to start in the late summer, as soon as Headquarters Marine Corps provides funding for the projects.

"This takes time," Clark said. "The process to get funding can take two or three years, and even though technology has improved, a

lot of the processes that will work in cooler climates won't work here."

One project idea will be to enclose the headworks, where the sewage enters the plant, Clark said. Some of the smell comes from this, so enclosing the area

See LAKE, A15



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Clarifier one and two, a step to turn waste water into reusable water, are situated near all three ponds of the Waste Water Treatment Facility. The clarifiers are planned to be eliminated from the process to make the water recycling program more natural.

This Day in Marine Corps History

-Dec. 12, 1944-

United States Marines participated in the Luzon Operation in the Philippines during World War II.

Beat the Holiday Blues

DIANE MAYER

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

The holiday season can bring with it many feelings, ranging from excitement and wonder to sadness and disappointment. Anxiety about separations or losses can be intensified during the holidays. Uncertainty about the length of deployments and mission dangers can add to the stress of separation.

Here are some suggestions to help reduce holiday stress:

1. Set realistic expectations. It is easy to focus on how things used to be. Sit down with family members and discuss what is important to each of you right now. Look for new activities that could become new family traditions.

2. Make a calendar with specific holiday goals. Once a holiday goal like buying all the gifts or baking all the cookies is reached, reward yourself.

3. Establish a realistic budget. Overspending can result in year-round stress and the material aspects of the holidays can be overwhelming. Many times a home-made gift can be more meaningful. Coupons for services throughout the year can provide friends and family with happiness that outlasts the holiday season.

4. Buy gifts from catalogues or online. This can be an amazing time saver. Many companies offer gift-wrapping and delivery directly to the recipient. It is a great way to avoid crowded stores and long lines at the Post Office. Use the time you saved to spend time doing things you enjoy.

5. Take care of yourself. In order to take care of others, you must first take care of yourself. Eat healthy meals at regular times. Get plenty of sleep and exercise. Even on your busiest days, schedule time for yourself. Think about activities in which you can participate and choose only those that will be enjoyable.

6. Emphasize family ties. Spend extra time with your children to make them feel safe and secure. Maintain established routines, including family dinners and bedtimes. Create an online photo scrapbook for a loved one who is deployed, to share holiday images with them during or after their deployment.

7. Reach out to others. Share activities and help others in your community. Participate in community activities that bring you in contact with others.

Life is full of changes – some good, some bad – and it can be difficult to adjust. Identify what is important and good in your life right now and focus on the future. TriWest is here to help you make it though the holidays. Visit <http://www.triwest.com>>Beneficiary>Behaviorial Health for tips and resources.

You can also save time during the busy holiday season by registering on <http://www.triwest.com> to manage your health care online, anytime from anywhere with an Internet connection.



Misfire:

Last week, the Observation Post printed an article titled “NREA tracks, monitors endangered species.” The article named desert tortoises as being endangered, while in fact they are actually a threatened species, protected by the Endangered Species Act, and a quote said, “The tortoise has been living in this area for more than 1.3 billion years,” but the correct statistic is 1.3 million years.

Employee Spotlight

Name: Robert Clinton
Hometown: Monroe, La.
Organization: Combat Center Recycle Center
Job Title: Work leader

Job Duties: Overseeing operations

What Do You Like Most About Your Job? It's a challenge making sure the base gets back through recycling some of the money it has invested.

Significant Achievements: Proud of saving companies and units money by having cheap necessary equipment such as office and barracks furniture readily available.

Hobbies: Tinkering around on old cars.

Military Service: Retired as a Master Sergeant after 24 years in the United States Marine Corps.

Time at the Combat Center: over 15 years



FOWL PLAY

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		
61							62					63		
64							65					66		

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ACROSS

1. Terry item
5. Puts on a long face
10. Payroll limits
14. Harry and William's school
15. __ garde
16. Neglect to name
17. Alka-Seltzer sound
18. Yorba __, Calif.
19. Make like
20. Ruin a person's plans, perhaps
23. Suffix with butyl
24. Fed. property manager
25. Alcatraz inmate of the 1930s
29. Assist larcenously
31. Have hat in hand
34. Stress, so it's said
35. Gaming pioneer
36. Tin Man's tool
37. Like an Olympic skater, say

41. Suffix with chariot
42. Geometry calculations
43. Vogue rival
44. __ Rio, Tex.
45. Hands on deck
46. Uses TNT
48. Wine bottle word
49. Sedona automaker
50. Joe Penner catch phrase
57. Mafia bigwig
58. Hungarian-born financier George
59. Gipp, to Reagan
61. Ham word
62. Give a lift to
63. High spirits
64. Fit snugly
65. Flight school achievements
66. Place of bliss

DOWN

1. TKO caller
2. Ear-related
3. Classic TV clown
4. Automaker Ferrari
5. "Cheers" bartender Sam __
6. Sheep-like
7. Glazier's unit
8. Pulls the plug on
9. Walks like a toss pot
10. Drink with marshmallows
11. Andy's TV and radio pal
12. Prop for Santa
13. Sloppy digs
21. Barbie's beau
22. Port of old Rome
25. Like many zoo animals
26. Be of one mind
27. Diver's prize
28. Tolkien beast
29. Almanac section

30. Cries from the flock
31. Bursts into tears
32. Speak highly of
33. Trait carriers
35. Violinist Leopoldor actor Mischka
38. Worm-_(decrepit)
39. Knock-down-drag-out affairs
40. Neptune's realm
46. Skewed views
47. Young fellow
48. Bull's sound
49. Japanese cultural center
50. Surfer's "catch"
51. Chimps, orangset al.
52. String tie
53. Russia's _Mountains
54. Strong motivation
55. Faucet word
56. "Twittering Machine" artist Paul
57. Voting "nay"
60. Bard's nightfall

[Solutions on A4]

Centerspeak

What is your favorite holiday memory?

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



PFC. ANDREW AUMEND
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT,
Co. I

“The first Christmas with my wife, because it was the first Christmas we got to spend together which made us into a family.”



SGT. JOSEPH FRANCE
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE
REGIMENT, Co. G

“The first Christmas with my family after my second deployment.”



CPL. JONATHON GONZALEZ
7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“Three years ago, because it was the last one I had with my family, and it was more of a celebration before I went to boot camp.”

OBSERVATION POST

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FRI. 12/12 A Weekend Holiday Party with The Hot Rods Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown. For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com	FRI. 12/12 - SUN. 12/14 12th Annual Winter Gathering POW WOW Time: Fri. 5 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison St., Coachella For info call (800) 585-3737 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com	SAT. 12/13 Brian Culbertson's A Soulful Christmas Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert. For more info call 340-ARTS or visit http://www.mccallumtheatre.com	SAT. 12/13 Light Up a Life '08 - Hospice of Morongo Basin's 23rd Annual Holiday Remembrance Program Time: 4:30 p.m. Where: Copper Mountain College 6162 Rotary Way Joshua Tree	SAT. 12/13 The Battle for Wake Island The Marines' First Defeat Since 1775 Time: 1 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Air Museum 745 N. Gene Autry Trl. Palm Springs. For more info call 778-6262 or visit http://www.palmspringsairmuseum.org
SAT. 12/13 Kids Craft Program Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum 57090 29 Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley. For more info call 369-7212 or visit http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org	SAT. 12/13 Boxing: Klitschko vs Rahman Time: 7 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio. For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com	SAT. 12/13 Morongo Valley Art Colony Winter Show Time: All day event Where: Morongo Valley Art Colony 11165 Vale Dr. (Covington Park), Morongo Valley For more info call 329-6812	SUN. 12/14 Wynonna: A Classic Christmas Time: 7 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS or visit http://www.mccallumtheatre.com	TUES. 12/16 The Nutcracker - Moscow Ballet Time: 7 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS or visit http://www.mccallumtheatre.com

First snow means beginning of winter activities

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

There are dozens of Christmas songs that summarize the cliché expectations we all hope to experience during the snowy season. These songs jingle about winter wonderlands, never-ceasing snow storms and taking sleigh rides through the countryside. Although residents of the desert may feel excluded from enjoying these winter pleasures being described on the radio, there are plenty of opportunities for Morongo Basin locals to get their share of fun in the snow.

California ski and snowboarding resorts are scattered throughout the state with several conveniently located a drive away from



COURTESY PHOTO

The winter season opens an entire avenue of activities and sports for Combat Center and Morongo Basin residents.

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the Combat Center. "We usually get passes for Big Bear Mountain in December and January," said Beverly Miller, a leisure travel assistant with the Information, Tickets and Tours center here, about skiing and snowboarding opportunities. "We get passes for Big Bear every year and sometimes we'll get some for other places further away like Mammoth Mountain." Big Bear City, which is roughly a two-hour drive from the Combat Center, contains two skiing and snowboarding resorts called Snow Summit and Bear Mountain. Both resorts overshadow

an array of lodging locations that offer military discounts upon registration and presentation of a valid military ID, according to the Big Bear Cabins Web site, <http://www.bigbearcabins.com> The Combat Center Outdoor Adventures location rents out winter gear like skis, snowboards, boots, suits and more for an inexpensive price, said Clyde Valentine, an Outdoor Adventures recreation assistant. Skis, which come in both parabolic and straight edge styles, and snowboard gear that are rented out on a Friday are charged for one day's use, said Valentine, a

Coshocton, Ohio, native. The inexpensive pricing for rental items including grills, coolers, sports equipment, and camping gear is kept at a low price to accommodate young service members' incomes.

"That's the main reason we're here is to support the Marines," said Valentine. "They'll pay a lot more for gear if they go up to the resorts for rentals than they

See WINTER, A8

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Showtimes Effective 12/12/08 - 12/18/08

Day The Earth Stood Still PG13 Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Transporter 3 (PG13) Fri-Sun: 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 7:00	Punisher (R) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30 Mon-Thurs: 4:45
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	COMING Yes Man Dec. 19th. Bedtime Stories Dec. 25th. Marley & Me Dec. 25th. Valkyrie Dec. 25th. www.cinema6theatre.com

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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 4:00	10:25 4:25	10:30 4:30	10:40 *4:40	10:45 *4:45	11:00 *5:00	11:10 *5:10	11:45 *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 *6:00	12:10 *6:10	12:15 *6:15	12:50 *6:50	1:35 *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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Darkside devil dog awarded Marine of the Year

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

There are numerous occurrences in the Marine Corps that serve as milestones to Marines; a promotion, a deployment, a rifle score or an award. While these achievements may hold great value to those who earn them, the honor of "Marine of the Year" is one not many Marines can claim.

Sgt. John Slawinski, a section leader with Assault Weapons Platoon, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, was named this year's 1st Marine Division Marine of the Year during a ceremony at the 3/4 command post Tuesday.

He was nominated by fellow Marines of his unit and then screened by a board made of previous Marines of the Year, according to the National Marine of the Year Society Web site, <http://www.mcl-moy.org>.

Slawinski said he heard he was the recipient of the award about three weeks ago and felt honored and humbled at the news.

Although he admitted that keeping an open mind got him where he is today, he attributed his success to his chain of command and quality of their leadership.

"More than anything, I took lessons from the Marines who came before me and those who've mentored me in my chain



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. John Slawinski, a section leader with assault weapons platoon, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stands prepared to receive a Navy Achievement Medal from Maj. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, commanding general of 1st Marine Division, and Sgt. Maj. Randall Carter, 1st Marine Division sergeant major, at the 3/4 headquarters building Tuesday.

of command," said Slawinski, a San Jose, Calif., native. "I'm sure there are many more Marines out there who are as equally deserving as I am. I really don't have a big head about this, and I am more or less accepting this on behalf of all the Marines of India Company and 3/4."

Lt. Col. Martin Wetterauer, the

3/4 battalion commanding officer, had a similar opinion.

"We are extremely proud of our Marine," said Wetterauer. "He has shown dedication to the training he's received here from his company commander and is leading Marines with the great effort he puts forth. This really is a reflection on how well the squad is working."

Wetterauer said he also felt honored to have the 1st Marine Division commanding general, Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, attend the ceremony and present Slawinski with a Navy Achievement Medal.

"We are very grateful that the division has taken time out of their schedule to do this," said Wetterauer, a Fredericksburg, Va., native. "It's very important to recognize this young sergeant for the work he puts into training his Marines."

During the ceremony, Waldhauser said he believes Slawinski is a "classy example" of a young volunteer who signed his name on the dotted line of a government contract post-Sept. 11.

He added he always feels a deep sense of pride when Marines like Slawinski reflect a positive image of the division.

"You should all be proud that a Marine from your ranks has been given this high honor," said Waldhauser.

Waldhauser, along with Sgt. Maj. Randall Carter, the 1st Marine Division sergeant major, shook hands with and congratulated Slawinski, his wife Emilie, and his chain of command after the ceremony.

Carter said in light of the impressive service Slawinski has provided to his Corps and country in only four years, there is no doubt in his mind that Slawinski is worthy of the award.

"He is a Marine who stands head and shoulders above his peers in the 1st Marine Division," said Carter, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native. "Coming from being a competitive lance corporal last year to earning meritorious sergeant this year is a really great thing. There is no better feeling than knowing those are the kind of Marines who are making things happen."

A Marine who earns the Marine of the Year award is honored at the annual National Convention Grand Banquet according to the Web site.

Although Slawinski said he does not plan on re-enlisting, those in his chain of command agree he will continue to be successful in whatever future he pursues.

"You will be successful no matter where you go," said Waldhauser. "Whether you stay in for four years or for 34 years, we applaud your service."



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. John Slawinski stands with Maj. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, commanding general of 1st Marine Division, and Sgt. Maj. Randall Carter, 1st Marine Division sergeant major, at the 3/4 headquarters building Tuesday after receiving a Navy Achievement Medal for being the Marine of the Year.

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HOT TOPICS

FINRA MILITARY FINANCIAL EDUCATION FORUMS

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority will be hosting Military Financial Education Forums at the Protestant Chapel from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. for all Marines, sailors, family and Department of Defense personnel. FINRA is the largest non-governmental regulator for all securities firms doing business in the U.S. Federal law gives FINRA the authority to discipline those that violate the rules. They are considered unbiased educators for the consumer/investor. A few of the topics that they disseminated information on are: Mutual Funds, Educational Plans, Savings for Retirement, and Scams. This foundation does not sell anything; it is solely an educational service.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE CLOSURE FOR HOLIDAYS

The Legal Assistance Office will be closed during the holiday season on the following dates: 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 05, Close at 12 p.m., Jan 16 and reopen at 12 p.m., Jan 20. Due to the holiday hours, Notary and Will Executions will be Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m.: Nov 24-28, Dec 22-26, and Dec 29-Jan 2.

PROVOST MARSHAL OFFICE CLOSURE

The Vehicle Registration Office will close at midnight on Dec. 24 and reopen at 8 p.m. on Dec. 27 for the Christmas holiday. Visitor Passes will be issued at the Main Gate.

COYOTES BECOMING A BIGGER PROBLEM

Recently, more and more coyotes have been spotted in housing areas on and off base scavenging for food. This poses a threat to both the coyotes and the residents. We must remember they were here first and extra precautions must be taken to avoid harmful or threatening situations to humans and wildlife. Coyotes are clever and dangerous animals; some of them are carrying rabies. For tips on how to keep the coyotes away from your homes, log on to <http://www.keepmewild.org>.

DEERS OFFICE CLOSURE FOR HOLIDAYS

The DEERS office will be closed during the holiday season on the following dates: 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, e-mail bradley.wiens@med.navy.mil, or stop by the clinic. PHAs are not performed on Thursdays.

SOLUTIONS

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Combat Center volunteer community recognized

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society recognized the hard work of their volunteer staff during an awards luncheon Dec. 5 at the Rib Co. in

Yucca Valley, Calif. "The Christmas awards ceremony is held every year as a holiday party in combination with volunteer recognition," said Jenny Gonzalez, the NMCRS chair of volunteers. "Twice a year, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Twenty-nine Palms holds

bi-annual ceremonies to recognize the hard work and dedication our volunteers contribute to our programs."

According to the NMCRS Web site, NMCRS is a private, non-profit, charitable organization sponsored by the Department of the Navy which offers financial assistance, budget counseling services, food lockers, thrift shops, and visiting nurse services at Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the world.

At the Dec. 5 ceremony, NMCRS invited their entire volunteer staff, including sewing circles, quilters, speakers, and office staff, and presented them with awards distinguishing how many volunteer hours they've worked, small gifts of appreciation, and a free lunch courtesy of the Rib Co.

To open the ceremony, the Combat Center commanding general, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, addressed the volun-

teers and thanked them for their service.

"I just want to say thanks for what you do every day," said Gurganus, who attended the event with his wife, Janet, the society's honorary chair of volunteers. "You make more of a difference than you know."

The Combat Center sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, also thanked the volunteers for the difference they make and for being part of the Combat Center community.

"Thank you very, very much for being part of our team, a very important part of our team," said Bellis.

Juanita Daniel, who sews quilts for the society's infant layettes, said she appreciated the recognition, but the real reward is knowing what she does is helping other families.

"It's just a wonderful experience," said Daniel, a native of Yucca Valley. "When you're a volunteer, you get more than you give."



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
Volunteers of the Combat Center's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society open their gifts after taking part in a gift exchange during an awards ceremony where their hard work and contributions to the Combat Center were recognized Dec. 5 at the Rib Co. in Yucca Valley, Calif.

Daniel, whose husband served in the Army, said she feels a real sense of patriotism living

See VOLUNTEER, A15

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Toys for Tots, Palm Springs residents bring holiday cheer

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine volunteers from the Toys for Tots Foundation and members of the Food In Need of Distribution organization held a donation drive Tuesday night at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, Calif., to help give needy families a better Christmas with food and toys.

The Combat Center Band also put on a holiday music concert to entertain the hundreds of Palm Springs residents who attended the event.

"Tonight is one of the biggest events of the year for us," said Maj. Brian Manifor, the Combat

Center's Toys for Tots program regional director. "These events are critical due to the nature of the economy now. Without the generosity of the surrounding community, some kids wouldn't have a very good Christmas."

According to the Toys for Tots Web site, <http://www.toysfortots.org>, the program has been providing families with the means to have a merry Christmas since 1947, when William L. Hendricks, a retired Marine Corps Reserve colonel, and his wife came up with the idea. That year, they collected and distributed more than 5,000 toys in the Los Angeles area.

The following year, the Marine Corps adopted the official Toys for Tots program and

has been running successful campaigns nationwide ever since. Toys for Tots is found in all 50 states and has distributed more than 370 million toys to more than 173 million needy children since its creation.

Manifor, a Nevada City, Calif., native, said in 2007, the Combat Center's Toys for Tots program collected approximately 35,000 toys, which were distributed to 32,000 children in need. This year, the program has collected nearly 20,000 toys so far.

"Our Toys for Tots program is a little different because we're so geographically spread out," said Manifor. "We provide toys to children in 12 cities over 7,000 square miles. All toys donated in the Coachella Valley stay in the Coachella Valley, and all toys from the Morongo Basin go to needy families on base and in the other cities in the High Desert."

"We only have seven full-time Marines who are on orders from September through January, so one of our biggest sources helping us achieve our mission is MCCES [Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School]," he added. "Our mission is also accomplished with help from volunteers from the Officers' Spouses Club, the [Robert E. Bush] Naval Hospital and active-duty Marines who help augment the force."

The Food In Need of Distribution organization, which is the Coachella Valley's local food bank, was also at the concert accepting donations of nonper-



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Cpl. Cesar Alvarado Miranda and Lance Cpl. John Torres Perez, Combat Center Toys for Tots Foundation representatives, receive donations from Palms Springs, Calif., residents at the Palm Springs Convention Center Tuesday. Toys for Tots teamed up with the Food In Need of Distribution food bank and the Combat Center Band to help make the holidays brighter for needy families.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Members of the Combat Center Band perform a series of Christmas and Hanukkah songs for Palm Springs, Calif., residents who attended the Toys for Tots and Food In Need of Distribution toy and food drive at the Palm Springs Convention Center Tuesday.

ishable food items.

"We're here tonight to continue our food drive," said Joanne Vilardi, FIND's chief operations officer. "We have more than 95 agencies in the Coachella Valley and the High Desert, including the USO [United Services Organization], that work year-round to collect food for needy families."

Vilardi added FIND collected more than 7,000 pounds of food Tuesday night, which was much more than predicted. On average, the organization feeds more than 110,000 people every month.

"It's a great honor to be working with the Marines," said the Saddle Brook, N.J., native. "We enjoy being included with them because we help make the chil-

dren and parents happy by putting food on the table."

To wrap up the evening, the Combat Center band put on a holiday music concert, featuring a number of Christmas and Hanukkah songs. Their performance captivated the audience, who sang along to several of the well-known holiday classics.

The Toys for Tots Foundation is continuing its donation drive through Dec. 19. All the donations will be distributed to families in need this holiday season. For more information, log on to the Toys for Tots Web site or the Combat Center Web site, <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil>, then click the Toys for Tots link on the right side of the page.

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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With the help of volunteer forces from Marines, sailors and civilians from the base and local areas, the Twentynine Palms Fire Department, which recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, is continuing to operate.

“The base has always been very involved in our operations during our 50 years,” said Jim Thompson, a TPFD fire chief and a native of Hockessin, Del. “We have trained and frequently worked with the base fire department and with Marines and sailors who volunteer.”

In his tenure at the department he has had nothing but positive interactions with the Combat Center, added Thompson.

“In the 20 years I’ve been here out of the 50 the department has existed, we’ve had nothing but support from the Marines and

sailors on the base,” he said.

The department’s chaplain, Craig Walker, who came to the department the same time as Thompson, said more volunteers support the department than actual permanent personnel.

“Throughout the years we’ve had many volunteers, as well as trained with the crash fire rescue Marines aboard the base, and also Navy corpsmen who helped us out as well,” said Walker, who comes from Whittier, Calif. “All the Marines and sailors have volunteered have gone out with us on calls.”

In order to keep their numbers strong and keep the department rolling, they have classes and volunteer programs in conjunction with Copper Mountain College, said Capt. Jesse Quinalty, the department’s captain.

“The department runs off volunteer work, of course, but also we have programs with

Copper Mountain,” said Quinalty. “The program runs a half semester for those who wish to get experience and start their certification in the state of California. After the classes are completed, the student has about half the requirements completed to become a firefighter in California.”

Quinalty added the students can go from either the city fire department to Yucca Valley, or to the base fire department aboard the Combat Center.

Those who want more information about the fire department can contact the Twentynine Palms Fire Department at 367-7524.

Even though the official 50th anniversary of the Twentynine Palms department has passed, they are still attempting to keep their heritage strong by restoring the department’s first engine ever purchased.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Captain Jesse Quinalty stands next to the Twentynine Palms Fire Department’s newest engine with two other firefighters at the department. The department’s staff is made up of volunteer firefighters and official employees. Some are Marines and sailors from the Combat Center.

With the department continuing their hard work of fighting fires, the firefighters look backward to see where the department has been, and cherish the memory of a job well done.



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WINTER, from A3

would with us.”
Lance Cpl. Timothy P. Benoit, a range supervisor with Company B, Headquarters Battalion, said he made several trips to Big Bear last winter.
“It was a short but eventful drive and an overall memorable experience on a great mountain,” said Benoit, a Washington

D.C., native. “We stayed at some really nice lodging and rented really good gear. I would definitely recommend it. It’s close, it’s convenient, and it’s a world class resort. Why wouldn’t you go?”
For more information on Big Bear and Snow Summit passes and hours of operation, visit the Web site <http://www.bearmountain.com>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ski and snowboard buffs can once again celebrate the winter season and pull their gear out of those dusty storage closets. Bear Mountain and Snow Summit, two resorts located at Big Bear City, are the closest resorts to the Combat Center.

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MCCES runs with Toys for Tots

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School kicked off its 13th annual Toys for Tots Run aboard the Combat Center Dec. 5. MCCES Marines gathered outside their school, the majority with toy in hand, to prepare for a motivational run to donate their toys.

“It’s a chance for the whole battalion to get together, get exercise and give back to the community,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Ted Drennan, the operations chief for MCCES. From the start of the formation run to the commanding general’s building, the Marines’ voices carried motivational running cadences throughout the base. As the formation came

around the bend, Lt. Col. Charles Carroll, the MCCES executive officer, handed the first toy to Brig. Gen. Charles Gurganus, the Combat Center’s commanding general, to signify the passing of donation of toys to the base. Marines in their dress blue uniforms stood in front of the collection trucks, while others stood in six truck beds receiving the toys. As each company

of MCCES Marines ran by, the pile of toys in the trucks grew. “It was a great feeling to be able to donate a toy,” said Sgt. Brittany Bucklew, a MCCES student. After the final Marines ran by, the toys were rearranged on the trucks to ensure they were safe for transport to the Combat Center’s Reserve Support Unit for drop off. “Our goal is to teach Marines to give to the community as much as possible,” said Drennan.

The total donation from MCCES Marines this year was between 1,100 and 1,200 toys, helping to bring this area’s Toys for Tots donations to 9,694 toys as of Monday, said Sgt. Nixon DeJesus, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Toys for Tots in the area. The MCCES Toys for Tots Run is one of the single biggest donations every year, DeJesus said. The toys will be distributed to children in the Hi-Desert area throughout next week. For more information on how to donate a toy, or to apply for your child to receive one, call the Combat Center’s Reserve Support Unit at 830-6861.



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
A Marine readjusts toys donated by MCCES Marines in the back of a flat bed truck during the 13th annual MCCES Toys for Tots Run aboard the Combat Center Dec. 5. The total donation from MCCES Marines this year was between 1,100 and 1,200 toys.



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
Marines with Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School run in formation while holding their toys to donate during the 13th annual MCCES Toys for Tots Run aboard the Combat Center Dec. 5. The MCCES Toys for Tots Run is one of the single biggest donations every year, said Sgt. Nixon DeJesus, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Toys for Tots in the area.



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
MCCES Marines stand in formation while holding their toys to donate before the 13th annual MCCES Toys for Tots Run aboard the Combat Center Dec. 5.

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Commanding General's Holiday Concert brings holiday spirit

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The annual Commanding General's Holiday Concert featuring the Combat Center Band was held Sunday evening at the Sunset

Cinema to bring in the season with holiday cheer. The concert began with the playing of the National Anthem and a variety of Christmas classics from "Sleigh Ride" to "The Nutcracker Suite."

"My favorite song every year is when the band performs Sleigh Ride," said Janice Grady, a former Marine spouse who has attended the concert for multiple years. After the band played "Polar Express" from the movie "The



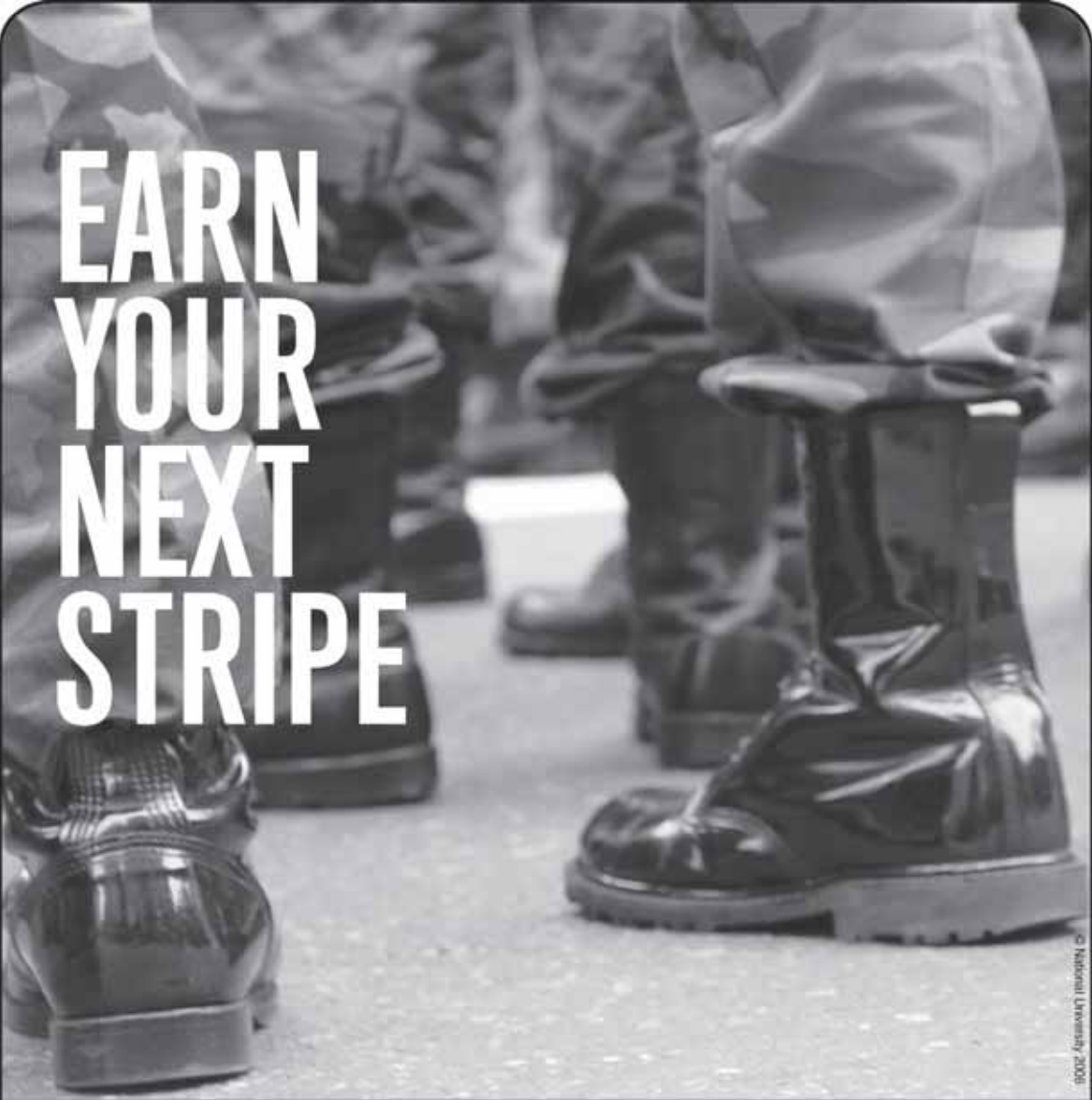
CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

The Combat Center Band plays "I Love the Lord" while local church choir members sing along during the annual Commanding General's Holiday Concert Sunday evening at the Sunset Cinema. During the song, a projection screen showed photos of service members during the holiday season, many of which showed how they spend the holidays while deployed.

polar Express," choir members from local churches were invited to the stage. "We wanted to reach out to the community, so we asked local church choirs to join us," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Giove, the band officer and conductor, while talking to the audience between songs. "This is a first for us, so I hope you all enjoy it." The audience was also invited to sing during the "Christmas Sing Along," a mixture of shortened holiday classics rolled into one. "Chief Warrant Officer 2 Giove is really good about interacting with the crowd," Grady said. The next song, "I Love the Lord," allowed band members to put down their instruments and join the choir in a song. During the song, a projection screen showed photos of service members during the holiday season, many of which showed how they spend the holidays while deployed. When the song finished, the choir walked off stage and the band continued with two traditional songs, "Carol of the Bells" and "Portraits of Christmas."

The concert changed tone with the next song "Twelve Days After Christmas" with Gunnery Sgt. Richard Nunley, the enlisted conductor, as the vocalist. The song is a comic parody to the classic Christmas song "Twelve Days of Christmas."

The band continued with eclectic music with a jazz rendition to "Merry Christmas Baby" with Cpl. Brittany Kallash, a clarinet player, as the vocalist and a comic country song "Christmas Cookies" sung by Giove. The band ended the evening with the classic story "The Night Before Christmas." Gunnery Sgt. Sean Schmidlin, the band drum major, narrated the story while the band played background music. With the closing of the story and music, Santa Claus and one of his elves walked on stage to greet all the children and gave them candy canes to end the evening with smiles. "This really brings out the true meaning of Christmas," said Ray Wilburn, a retired sergeant major who attends the concert every year.



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For the Tots



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE


The Combat Center Toys for Tots program hyped up their collection of unused toys and Christmas gifts by having a shopping spree at the Marine Corps Exchange Dec. 5. Toys for Tots Marines gathered bags and grocery carts of merchandise they purchased with Marine Corps Community Services "Santa Silver dollars." For every \$10 spent at the PX, one Santa Silver dollar is earned. This year, the Toys for Tots program earned more than 21,900 Silver Santa dollars, around 1,000 more than the average amount earned in the past. The Toys for Tots team will continue to gather merchandise for Christmas presents in anticipation of the holiday this month.



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Combat Center Winter Festival kicks off Holiday event season

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sunshine and cool air welcomed families to the 5th Annual Winter Festival on Saturday morning at the Combat Center's Community Center.

The event, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, offered free food, games, face painting, prize giveaways, arts and crafts, and the opportunity to meet and have their photo taken with Santa Claus.

Desiree Johnson, wife of Pfc. Colins Johnson, a field radio operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, who attended the event with the couple's children, said she was surprised at the amount of free items given away, and the



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Leila Mussone, daughter of Lt. David G. Mussone, a dentist with the 23rd Dental Company, meets Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer with her mother, Alisa, during the Combat Center's Winter Festival at the Community Center Dec. 6.

event was a great experience for her children, since their father is currently participating in training

out in the field.

"I think it's really great," said Johnson. "We just moved here from Virginia, so it's a chance for them to play and see new things."

Many of the toys given away during the festival were donated by the student body of JSerra Catholic High School in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Trevor Cutler, a junior at the school who helped pass out toys that morning, said even with only one week to work with, the school's student and faculty bodies came together with the help of flyers and word of mouth, and were able to support the event.

Cutler said this is the first time the school has sent toys to the Combat Center because even



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Eric Ellsworth Jr., son of Lance Cpl. Eric Ellsworth, a motor transport mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, gets to meet Frosty the Snowman with his mother, Katelyn, during the Combat Center's Winter Festival at the Community Center Dec. 6.

See FESTIVAL, A15

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We get so much help from local businesses.

That's what Mike Walker, assistant superintendent of business services for Morongo Unified School District, says. Businesses give money to help pay for a bus to take students to an event. Fast food restaurants host special nights in which school staff cook and a portion of food sales is donated to a school, club or team. The local bowling alley sets up alleys for special-education students to play. Businesses set up internships, sponsor after-school and extracurricular activities ... and the list goes on.

\$2,500 for Snow Day

The city of Twentynine Palms uses business sponsorships to help children and adults play on team sports throughout the year — soccer, basketball, flag football, volleyball and arena soccer. Concerts, children's movies in the parks and other special events all get a boost from businesses, who are able to support these programs because of your locally spent dollars — like the businesses that just gave the city \$2,500 for the children's snow play day. Overall, the city gets \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year from sponsorships.

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TRAINING, from A7

insurgents who made them.

Each dog on a military working dog team has its own skill set that lends itself to different roles within a mission. Patrol dogs are used to find the location of an IED or the spot where an insurgent fired rockets or mortars. Combat tracker dogs are then used to track the culpable insurgents.

“Say someone planted an IED on the side of the road, my dog tracks wherever (the insurgents) might have gone to,” said Cpl.

Austin T. French, 21, a patrol dog handler from Claremore, Okla., with II Marine Expeditionary Force working in support of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5. “They provide good intelligence to see where the insurgents keep going day after day so we can find these guys and actually shut down their cells.”

Once the combat tracker dogs locate the general vicinity of the insurgents’ whereabouts, a specialized search dog can help check houses or building.

“I can send the dog into a building, and the dog can systematically search all the rooms. By the response the dog gives when it comes back out, I can tell if there’s something in there,” said Cpl. Elbert R. Kennon, 23, a specialized search dog trainer and instructor from Bismarck, Mo.

Though the dogs are highly trained and react to the commands of their handlers, the team stresses that they are still military working dogs and should be treated as another weapon or tool for finding insurgents.

“I don’t think people know what our capabilities are. They look at our dogs and they think it’s a (recre-

ational) tool, like we’re here to let the dogs run around and be pets, and that’s not what we’re here for,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Thompson, a master at arms and kennel master from Sidnaw, Mich., attached to 3/7. “We’re here to save lives, and we need to be utilized.”

The dog handlers work with their dogs daily to maintain the high level of proficiency that is required to keep them in the fleet, knowing the lives of their fellow Marines and sailors may one day be saved by their dogs.

“They cannot mimic what these dogs do with a machine,” said Thompson. “(They are) more cost effective, they save

man hours and they’re great assets to have. Hopefully they’ll never take dogs out of the military.”



CPL. SEAN P. CUMMINS

A military working dog runs toward Lance Cpl. Trevor M. Smith (left), a 20-year-old combat tracker dog handler from Myrtle Beach, S.C., as he tries to escape the custody of Cpl. Austin T. French, a 21-year-old patrol dog handler from Claremore, Okla., while demonstrating the capabilities of military working dogs at Combat Outpost Rawah, Iraq, Dec. 3.

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Explosive Ordnance Disposal keeps ranges clear, safe for training

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit performs sweeps of the training areas where various ammunitions



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the Combat Center's EOD prepare multiple types of unexploded or unused ordnance recovered during a sweep at one of the base's training areas Dec. 4.

are used, to dispose of unexploded or unused ordnance.

All of the training areas aboard the base are swept by EOD, said an EOD technician. The clearing process is usually conducted between training exercises when

ranges are not in use, he added.

For security purposes, all the technicians do not reveal their names or faces due to past threats and incidences involving opposing forces.

"Sweeps can go frequently on ranges, it really depends on how each range is used," he said. "Areas where infantry fires mortars, then rushes in the same spot, can be a rough spot because unexploded mortars, grenades and other things could hurt Marines when they move into the impact zones."

Other than doing regular sweeps of ranges, EOD also gets calls to go out to the field while training is going on if something is uncovered, or a mishap occurs during the training, another EOD technician said.

"In peacetime, it's EOD's job to keep training areas clean," he said. "We also get calls to go out to almost every training area because

of something that happened during training. We have a lot of ways to fix what the problem is, usually it involves either moving the explosives or doing [detonating] it in place because they cannot be moved."

While they do get many calls, a lot of them can be for small things that do not always require their full support, he added.

The technician said the amount of C-4 explosives they use to destroy the ordnance can change from time to time.

"It goes by how much there is, what type of ammunition it is, and its state," he said. "You even have to handle mortars differently, some can be in a sensitive position, with exposed explosives or missing parts that can make it a lot more dangerous. Illumination rounds we usually do not move, because they are usually armed and can go off without warning."

He continued, the unit's jurisdiction is not limited only to the Combat Center, it stretches as far as Palm Springs, Calif., which is

approximately an hour away.

"Along with training other units at the base, doing our normal job and responding to calls, our job is also done out in town," he said. "For example, if there was a pipe bomb put in front of someone's house, obviously we wouldn't just drive out there and blow it up like we do in the training areas. We have technology and lots of equipment where we can disarm the explosives or dispose of them so that no one gets hurt in the process."

The unit's skills have been seen by others who spend time with them; for example they always have Navy corpsman support when they go out on a mission.

"They're a good group of professionals," said the corpsman attached to the EOD unit. "They all really know their stuff. The team is pretty experienced. That's why there haven't been any accidents with explosives. They're true professionals and really good at what they do."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Multiple types of unexploded or unused ordnance recovered during a sweep of the Combat Center's training area are destroyed using C-4 explosives by the base's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit Dec. 4.

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Kick starting the NFL career



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jalen Harrison, 5, practices punting the ball during Youth Sports flag football practice Tuesday at Felix Field. Harrison, a Colorado Springs, Colo., native, is participating in Start Smart flag football, which is for children 5 to 7 years old and introduces them to the basics of the game, which includes throwing, catching, kicking and rules. After completing Start Smart, children will have the knowledge and understanding of the sport to play in a league.

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

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

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

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.

FESTIVAL, from A11

though the school undertakes the mission of donating toys every year, the proceeds of the school's efforts have in prior years gone to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"We knew this would be an area where we could really make a difference," said Cutler, who is currently thinking about attending one of the nation's military institutes upon graduation.

Esmeralda Chacon, wife of Cpl. Adam Chacon, an infantry weapon repairmen with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, said it was nice to have local entertainment for her children, and the gifts and opportunity to meet Santa were great.

"It's just a great thing to do for everybody here," said

Chacon, who attended the event with the couple's daughters, Jacquelin and Mia.

Johanna Friess, wife of Staff Sgt. Adam W. Friess, a section leader with Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, said she thought the arts and crafts portion of the festival was good for her children and helped ease the stress that comes with her husband being deployed.

"I think it's great that they have this for us since most of us are away from our families," said Friess. "It helps to have things for the kids to do."

Other activities included raffles, Jupiter Jumpers, music, and appearances by Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, the Ginger Bread Man, and Frosty the Snowman, who all helped spread Christmas cheer amongst the Combat Center community.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Jacquelin and Mia Chacon, daughter of Cpl. Adam Chacon, an infantry weapon repairmen with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, pose with Santa Clause during the Combat Center's Winter Festival at the Community Center Dec. 6.

LAKE, from A1

will trap the odor and will not allow it to spread to the open air.

Another idea will be to bypass the headworks all together and send the sewage directly into the first pond, where the sediment will settle to the bottom, and let the liquid irrigate through the second and third pond, said Jerry Phipps, the real property manager of the Facility Maintenance Branch, a part of the Public Works Division.

Another project will be to change the pond configuration, Clark said. Part of the plan will entail digging the largest pond to a deeper depth. This will help to control the algae. Dead algae rise to the top of water during warmer months, which is the main cause of the strong odor.

"As the temperature rises in the summer and the water temperature increases, the bottom comes to the top and the top goes to the bottom," said Phipps. "The theory is if the pond is a deeper

depth, it won't do that."

Turning two of the ponds into wetlands is also an idea to help alleviate the smell of algae and cut out the current process of harvesting algae.

"We would like to go to something more natural," Phipps said. "It would be more like a man made wetlands, where plants would grow and do the job that algae does."

Another project is to improve filtration and the sodium hypochlorite injection system. Sodium hypochlorite is a chemical that disinfects water. Improving this system will help water to go to irrigation sites faster.

"We would make a more reliable system by rearranging distribution of injection sites for the sodium hypochlorite," Phipps said.

The even distribution of the chemical will reduce the risk of treated water to be "hot", a term used when sodium hypochlorite is unevenly distributed and levels are spiked, which will allow the water to be readily used instead of sitting in the water silo until it is properly distributed, Phipps said.

With new planned projects, the water treatment plant will be able to continue irrigating the golf course, but is also expected to irrigate Lance Cpl. Torrey Gray Field and many of the recreational areas, Clark said.

Public Works is trying to do as much as possible to increase efficiency in the water treatment plant and reduce the smell to help make mainside more pleasant, Clark said.

"This will make the base more bearable to be at, and make it a nicer place," said Cpl. Richard Mc Shan, a Marine with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

With the start of the construction right around the corner, Marines will no longer have to endure the scent during the hot summer days.

VOLUNTEER, from A5

near a military base and that she and her fellow quilters are very grateful for the self-sacrifice made by those in uniform.

"We support the military 100 percent and appreciate everything they do," said Daniel.

After the ceremony Ray Caldwell, the director of the Twentynine Palms NMCRS

office, said over the past year, his volunteer staff has been outstanding, and because of their dedication and commitment to the society's mission, NMCRS Twentynine Palms has been better able to serve and aid families of the Combat Center.

For more information about NMCRS call 830-6323 or visit <http://www.nmcrs.org/>.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Volunteers of the Combat Center's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society take part in a gift exchange during an awards ceremony Dec. 5. NMCRS invited their entire volunteer staff, including sewing circles, quilters, speakers, and office staff, and presented them with awards distinguishing how many volunteer hours they've worked, small gifts of appreciation, and a free lunch courtesy of the Rib. Co.



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Waste water enters the headworks, the area where the water first enters into the Waste Water Treatment Facility Dec. 10.

DENTAL, from A13

at either the clinic on base or other clinics out in town," she said. "We make sure every one of our students has the right hands-on training so they can go out in the field of dentistry and be able to perform all the

tasks needed to succeed."

McBain added the Morongo Unified School District offers a similar course sponsored by their Regional Occupational Program, which revolves around a standard school year. For more information, call 365-8831.

The eight students from the

last Dental Assistant Training Program graduated Wednesday evening at the community center on base. Applications for the next course, which will begin Jan. 12, are due by Jan 2. For more information, call the American Red Cross at 830-7191 or 830-6685.



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