

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JANUARY 16, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 2

Combat Center Marines get reality check

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

On a Friday night at approximately 9:50 p.m., two Marines are having drinks at a bar when they receive a call from a friend who lives in the Vista Del Sol housing area. The friend had gotten in a fight with his wife and she had left the house, taking the only car. He asks the two Marines if they would like to come over for drinks.

At the same time, a family of four is driving home from a night out at the movies. The mother and father are discussing upcoming holiday plans.

Meanwhile, the two Marines decide to go pick up their friend, despite the fact they had been drinking for more than an hour and a half. As both vehicles near their desired destinations, the lives



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Combat Center firefighters attempt to remove the roof of a wrecked van to extricate its trapped victims during a mock car accident at the Combat Center's Victory Field Wednesday.

See REALITY, A6

It's official. No texting while driving

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As of Jan. 1 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's policy amending the bill making it illegal to talk on the cell phone without a hands free device while driving has been extended to writing, reading and sending text messages while operating a motor vehicle.

The new bill is not uniform throughout the Department of Defense, but military installations within the state of California must adhere to it. One difference, however, is that the penalty for being caught on base will be more severe

See TEXTING, A4

Service members rehearse 56th Presidential Inauguration



SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Marine Corps participants in the 56th Presidential Inaugural Rehearsal march in front of the Capitol Jan. 11 during a walkthrough of the inauguration ceremony.

SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON — From providing musical performances to acting as key personnel during the swearing-in process, hundreds of service members were on hand on Jan. 11 around the nation's Capitol to support the 56th Presidential Inauguration rehearsal.

Each branch of service played a key role in working out potential issues before the inauguration, said Howard Gantman, staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on

Inaugural Ceremonies.

The rehearsal started promptly at 5:30 a.m., with a rough walk-through, followed by the placement of military bands and joint-service cordon personnel.

Army Staff Sgt. Derrick Brooks, who serves with 741st Military Intelligence at Fort George G. Meade, Md., took a position of honor as he stood in for President-elect Barack Obama. Brooks' speech consisted of nothing more than, "My fellow Americans.

See INAUGURATION, A8

Marine Corps legend 'Brute' Krulak passes away at age 95

LANCE CPL. RYAN RHOLES
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Service members from across the country

gathered Jan. 8 to say goodbye to a legend who helped set the standard of the Corps today and remember the life of Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, a Marine who established himself as an integral part of Marine Corps history.

More than 400 people paid their respects to the legendary Marine. The funeral service was conducted by Krulak's son, the Rev. Victor Krulak Jr., a former

See BRUTE, A5



LANCE CPL. MANUEL GUERRERO

Casket bearers carry the remains of Lt. Gen. Victor Krulak during a funeral ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Chapel, Jan. 8. More than 400 people gathered to remember the legendary Marine, who passed away Dec. 29.

New commanding officer takes charge of Rhinos

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the sun set on the Combat Center Jan. 9, Lt. Col. Walter T. Anderson relieved Lt. Col. Timothy B. Seamon as commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, during a change-of-command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Seamon, a native of Economy Borough, Pa., is moving on to Marine Corps Engineer School at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he will serve

as the school's executive officer.

Anderson takes command after serving as the command inspector general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Once the transfer of command had taken place, Seamon took time to extend praise to his Marines and sailors, as well as say thank you to comrades, friends and family.

Seamon began by thanking the Marines and sailors under his command for their hard work and sacrifice.

"You're the best Americans in my mind," said Seamon.

The former commanding offi-

cer of the Rhinos also thanked the commanding general, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the squadron's and combat center's personnel, God, and family in particularly his wife Dana.

The squadron's sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Rocquemore, said he was disappointed to see Seamon leave because the two had built a solid partnership both professionally and socially.

However, Rocquemore was happy for Seamon because he was returning to Camp Lejeune where he would no longer be a geographical bachelor and be able to be with his wife.

Rocquemore was also pleased to welcome his new commanding officer.

"Having a new CO brings in new direction and a new look on things," said Rocquemore.

He said when he first saw Anderson's biography, and the numerous and wide variety of billets Anderson has held, he felt a bit intimidated.

However, Rocquemore said he found solace in the biography as well because he knew a Marine with such an exceptional professional record had to be squared

See RHINOS, A8



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Lt. Col. Timothy B. Seamon passes Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 colors to Lt. Col. Walter T. Anderson, the new commanding officer of MWSS-374, during the squadron's change of command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Jan. 9.



Battling avalanches
See Page 3



Disabled children strive with horsepower
See Page 6



Dodge Ball teams aim low
See Page B1



Fight Club 29 smothers competition
See Page B1

Operating a private organization aboard the Combat Center

RANDY MEYER, MCCS
MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS & CONTROL

Throughout the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, private organizations operate to improve the quality of life for our Marines, sailors and their families.

Private organization such as, but not limited to, the Boy and Girl Scouts, Officer's Spouses Club, Chief Petty Officers Association, Combat Center Golf Association and the Family Child Care Providers Club are not government organizations. Rather, they are groups of individuals who meet and operate aboard the Combat Center for their mutual enjoyment and benefit. Private organizations are neither non-appropriated instrumentalities, nor are their activities officially tied to those of Department of Defense personnel who are members or participants.

Compliance with Combat Center Order 5760.1C is a must for private organizations. This ordinance requires that each organization be formally recognized and authorized to operate aboard the Combat Center. This Combat Center order is available under the base website; www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/adj/ccotoc.asp. Under the order, each private organization shall request from the commanding general authorization to operate or continue to operate aboard MCAGCC no later than Feb. 1 of each year, or within 30 days of establishment. Failure to reapply for authorization by Feb. 1 of each year can be cause for revocation of authority to operate aboard MCAGCC.

In order to operate aboard MCAGCC, an organization must submit the following documents along with their request for authorization: a copy of their most recent certified adopted constitution and bylaws, a description of membership eligibility, and documentation governing liabilities, disestablishment, management/officer's responsibilities, insurance (if applicable), correspondence address, roster of organization's officers and a calendar of scheduled events or activities for the calendar year. Sample documents are provided in the CCO 5760.1C.

For more information, contact MCCS management analyst Randy Meyer at meyerra@usmc-mccs.org or 830-8107.



U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (MARSOC)

INFORMATION AND SCREENING BRIEF

Location: MCB 29 PALMS BLDG 1707 RM A
Date: JANUARY 26th & 27th 2009
Time: 0800-1100
(R&S Team will be on deck from 0730-1700)

The purpose of this brief is to educate all available Marines and Navy Corpsmen about MARSOC. For those that are interested in volunteering for possible assignment, we will conduct preliminary screenings.

MARSOC has Special Operations Force (SOF) Critical Skills Operator Billets available for all MOS's* as well as Direct Combat Support MOS's. MARSOC in total has 132 various MOS's to include these billets. MARSOC Recruiting and Screening will be available to Screen and Qualify Marines for Orders** to these Billets as well as scheduling Marines for Assessment and Selection for assignment as:
(SOF) Critical Skills Operator Billets.

All Marines and Sailors are encouraged to attend these briefs to educate themselves about MARSOC. Recruiters will be available after the briefs to answer any questions.



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*With Approval from MANPOWER MANAGEMENT

**If PCS/PCA Eligible

Hot Topics

ATMS DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE

Fort Sill National Bank automated teller machines on the Combat Center will be down for maintenance from 6:30 p.m. Saturday until 6:30 a.m. Sunday. FSNB will reimburse fees associated with FSNB customer use of other ATMs during this period. Service notices will be posted on all FSNB ATM's.

JAN. 26, 27, 28: DEERS CLOSURE

The DEERS Office will be completely closed Jan. 26-28 for the installation of hardware upgrades. Please plan accordingly, as ID card

operations will be unavailable. For more information, call 830-5365.

JAN. 26, 27: MMEA TO VISIT COMBAT CENTER

The Headquarters Marine Corps Marine Manpower Enlisted Assignments Branch will visit the Combat Center Jan. 26 to 27 to afford enlisted Marines the opportunity to have direct personal communication with their respective occupational field monitor for potential future assignments. Opportunities for FTAP 2009 and STAP 2009

Marines to receive on-the-spot assignments and reenlistment authority will also be provided by the MMEA visit. For more information, refer to MARADMIN 413/08.

FEB. 19: RECRUITER SCREENING TEAM TO VISIT COMBAT CENTER

The Headquarters Marine Corps Recruiter Screening Team will visit the Combat Center Feb. 19 to screen pre-designated enlisted Marines for potential future assignment on recruiting duty.

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Lisa Leonard
Organization: Armed Services YMCA

Job Title: Facilitator for the association's Tiny Tots, Kinder Ready and Kinder Time programs

Job Duties: Preparing children for kindergarten

What Do You Like Most About Your Job: Watching the children as they start to understand and learn things.

Significant Achievements: Her 8-year-old son Matthew and a Certificate of Commendation for her services at the YMCA and for the programs and services she has implemented throughout her five years with the association.

Hobbies: Reading and swimming

Military Service: None, wife of retired Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Leonard

Time At The Combat Center: Since April of '97



Centerspeak

Who is going to win the AFC championship?

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



PFC. JONATHAN HOWELL
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"The Ravens, because they're my favorite team."



CPL. CHAD BILZING
MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 374

"The Ravens, because my buddy is a hard core Steelers fan, but he is not even from Pittsburgh."



SGT. KESHIA TORO
MARINE COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 4

"The Steelers are going to win cause they're awesome."

SUDOKU

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THE FICKLE FINGER

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ACROSS

- Sow's mate
- Fellers' needs
- Daisy's cousin
- Mrs. Krabappel of "The Simpsons"
- Rock's ZZ Top, e.g.
- Battleship in 1898 news
- Home sites
- Sorry situations
- Ghana's capital
- __ economics (Reaganomics term)
- Keystone lawman
- Kitchen pests
- Pastoral poems
- Tapped trees
- Traffic-stopping event
- IRA-establishing legislation
- Trevi Fountaincity
- Put the pedal to the metal
- [not my mistake]
- Most profound

DOWN

- Boxer's prize
- Sign of decay
- Prefix with climax
- Spanky, Alfalfa and gang
- Clown's props
- City where Van Gogh painted
- Like jokers, some times
- Only fair
- "Syriana" actress Peet
- Cul-de-__
- Please greatly
- Sign up
- Hauls in
- Do a pizzeria chore
- Cellular phones' lack
- Gridiron distances: Abbr.
- State of chaos
- Bocelli delivery
- Morsel on a fast-food burger
- Benedict XVI etal.

[Solutions on A5]

OBSERVATION POST

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Marines get educated on dangers of avalanches

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – In the James Bond movie “The World is Not Enough,” Bond saves his life and the life of Elektra, his female counterpart, by using a clever ski jacket that inflates into a giant bubble after an avalanche has been triggered on their side of the mountain.

Because the average American couldn't possibly afford Hollywood-manifested gimmicks and gizmos such as this, a degree of precaution when traversing snow-covered peaks is the next best bet for avoiding a dire avalanche situation.

Formal Marine Corps school instructors of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center learned to do just that in an annual American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education course, or AIARE, at the Leavitt Lake training area Jan. 6 to 9.

The course is divided into three levels; Avalanche Level 1, Avalanche Level 2, and Avalanche Instructor Level 1, and is provided by Alpine Skills International, a civilian contracting company that aims to educate and train those interested in becoming

mountain experts, according to the ASI Web site, <http://www.alpineskills.com>.

Gary Bard, an ASI employee and leader of the AIARE course, said ASI has trained hundreds of instructors across the nation with a notable percentage of those being Marine Corps instructors.

“What we do for the Marine Corps is train the mountain leaders Level 1 Instructor class so they can train their Marines in Avalanche Level 1,” said Bard. “We provided Avalanche Level 2 to the instructors this year. This is so they will know how to move through snowy mountain terrain safely.”

Bard continued, saying mountain leaders who have proper training in maneuvering across unpredictable winter mountain terrain take these following elements into account before walking a path: preparation of the group, size of the unit, weather conditions, terrain observation and elevation

“This way, a leader can ask himself ‘what terrain can I select to travel through safely?’” added Bard.

Sgt. Ed Linsley, a Mountain Leaders Course instructor, said the AIARE training is a vital bit of knowledge to have as an instructor.

“As a mountain leader, we'll be leading Marines through mountainous terrain and we need to know which slopes will be safe for travel,” said Linsley, a Mount Vernon, Ohio, native.

Linsley continued, explaining the process of the Avalanche Level 1 training involves transceiver searching, digging, probing and medical assistance.

“The course taught us how to dig out an avalanche victim and the proper medical procedures to take once we get them out,” added Linsley. “It's medical steps that normally include prevention of hypothermia and shock.”

Capt. Patrick E. Kinser, officer-in-charge of MWTC formal schools, has completed the Avalanche Level 2 training and said he believes this type of education is important for all Marines to learn, not just those at MWTC.

“The course is important due to the fact that we often operate in terrain that is



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgts. Jacob Kelly and Joseph Miller, formal school instructors at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., are given the final examination of their snow pit and snow analysis by course leader Gary Bard, an Alpine Skills International instructor, during the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education Level 2 Course at the Leavitt Lake training area Jan. 9.

prone to avalanche activity,” said Kinser, native of Jonesville, Va., about Marine Corps units. “By learning how to observe, predict and mitigate the chances of avalanche occurrence, we can more effectively increase our ability to kill the enemy.”

Kinser explained terrain that is north-facing or on a degree greater than 20 degrees are examples of landscapes especially prone to avalanches. Having knowledge like this is critical to effective operations in mountainous terrain.

Despite the fact the Marine Corps budget may not be able to afford science fiction creations like anti-gravity belts or anti-avalanche ski jackets, their chances of survival in the instance of an avalanche swell like Donald Trump's pocket book thanks to training like AIARE.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marine Corps Formal School instructors of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., use an untouched slope of snow off their ski path to test for tell-tale signs of potential avalanche occurrence at the Leavitt Lake training area Jan. 9.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. Tony Powers, an instructor for the Mountain Scout Sniper Course at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., digs out a snow pit for testing avalanche activity during the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education Level 2 Course at the Leavitt Lake training area Jan. 9.

Cinema 6
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633
Showtimes Effective 1/16/09 - 1/22/09

Hotel For Dogs (PG) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Gran Torino (R) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	COMING SOON Ink Heart Jan. 23th. Underworld 3 Jan. 23th.	• ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 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	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45
15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*					
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

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FINRA visits Combat Center, teaches Marines about finances, saving

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority visited the Combat Center and held a four-hour seminar for base personnel at the Protestant Chapel Jan. 9 explaining how to manage money by investing and saving for their future.

Each attendee received a folder full of brochures and booklets that give information and tips on different ways to invest money, how to avoid scams and what to do when a problem arises from investing and saving.

The seminar began with Col. Robert Abblitt, the Combat Center's chief of staff, and Lance Cpl. Charles Bailey, a driver at the command suite, who spoke about the importance of finding new ways to save money each paycheck by changing the way people live

when they are young, which they said can include cutting their own hair, and driving the same car, as Abblitt did since 1983.

As the two Marines stepped down, Francis H. Dong, the associate director of FINRA, began to speak to the listeners about what FINRA is, and how the company can help military members become millionaires.

"Knowledge is power," said Dong, a New York City native. "People have to understand the basics of finance and take charge of their finances. You can live well, but you need to protect your future."

Dong also explained different ways companies will try to trick people through predatory lending, especially those who target military members because of their steady paychecks.

"Payday loans, car title loans, tax refund anticipation

loan — they're all ways companies try to take your money," said Dong. "Try talking to a financial counselor who will help you understand where your money needs to be going."

Dong continued to give ways on how to get out of debt, establishing and maintaining good credit, and what makes up a credit score.

"It was interesting to learn different ways to get out of debt," said Lance Cpl. Sara Justice, a combat photographer. "The way he explained it made it seem possible for people who are in a rut."

As Dong finished his class, Geraldine Walsh, the vice president of FINRA, began her class on Investing 101.

"The first thing people should know is the difference from saving and investing," said Walsh, a Washington D.C. native. "Saving is simply putting money aside, investing is



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Geraldine Walsh, the vice president of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, speaks to service members and Department of Defense employees during a four-hour financial planning seminar at the Protestant Chapel Jan. 9.

making that money grow."

Walsh made it clear that every service member could retire with a large amount of money to keep them happy. She continued by describing the different ways to invest money through the Thrift Savings Plan, since it is the easiest place for Marines to start

investing for their retirement.

Walsh also discussed different investing plans, which included savings accounts, mutual funds, Traditional Roths and Roth IRAs.

As the seminar came to a close, Combat Center personnel left the chapel knowing FINRA is only a call or click

away with the knowledge and tools to help as they begin to build their financial security.

For more information regarding financial management, contact the Combat Center's financial management office at 830-7342 or visit the FINRA Web site at <http://saveandinvest.org>.

TEXTING, from A1

than when service members are caught out in town, said Lt. James Daly, a civilian traffic chief with the Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office.

"The new restrictions on base are harsher than the ones in California," said Daly, who comes from Penrose, Colo. "If it were to happen to a Marine out in town their only consequence would be a \$20 fine for

the first infraction. When drivers are caught doing that afterwards it is a \$50 fine. People caught texting on base are subject to a two-week loss of driving privileges aboard the base the first time. After that, suspensions are a month long for every time you are caught."

Daly added he believes the state may possibly take further actions if people are caught multiple times texting while driving, but because the offense is a misdemeanor, it

may not reach that.

Daly said he likes the bill because it helps to control one of the causes of accidents while commuters are on the road.

"The cause, hopefully, of the bill will be that it helps reduce the amounts of accidents," he said. "By keeping drivers' attention on the road and both their hands on the steering wheel it should just help cut down on the distractions for fear of being ticketed."

The actual bill summarized in a press release from the office of the governor of California says that California State Bill 28, "Specifically bans the use of an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication while driving a motor vehicle."

Aboard the Combat Center, measures are being taken to help get the word out about the new legislation, said Dave Horn, the safety director

aboard the base.

"Back in the Saddle is a program all the units must have completed by Friday, Jan. 16," said Horn, a Chicago native. "The program is meant to educate all the service members aboard the base about the new law. Hopefully by spreading the word Marines will know what to do and go by the rules to avoid the trouble."

Horn continued, explaining the process of getting the information out has been an ongoing process since before the Christmas holiday.

"Since mid-December we have been getting together with all the units aboard the base," said Horn. "We had them establish and present us with a plan of how they would brief their Marines on what all

the changes have been in traffic laws."

Horn said while the Back in the Saddle program does cover new texting laws, it also elaborates on safety measures every service member is trained on throughout their military careers.

"The program is meant to educate the younger people on all the laws, many of which have changed," said Horn. "Texting is part of the changes, but there was also the earlier law concerning hands-free devices for operating a phone while driving."

With the laws now in effect, it has been put on the units, in conjunction with presentations from the Safety Office, to educate and inform the service members by today.

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AWANA (during school year) 6:15-8:00 PM
Youth Groups:
Jr High Wednesday 6:30-8:00 PM
High School Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM
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<p>Church of Christ Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm Ladies' Bible Classes 11am Wed. Wed. Bible Study 5pm 7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bamcock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>	<p>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Sunday Services 9am, 10:30am & 7:00pm call (760)366-7420 Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p>	<p>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road Phone: 367-7338 Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. - Worship: 9:30 a.m. (Child Care Provided) Pastor Beth Glass "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7135 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>
<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church Where Seniors Really Matter Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 5977 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church 56750 Mountain View Trail Yucca Valley • 365-6331 1st Service 9:30 AM w/Sunday School 2nd Service 11:00 AM w/Adult Bible Study Bible Studies, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p>	<p>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Sunday Services 9am, 10:30am & 7:00pm call (760)366-7420 Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am</p>
<p>READY FOR A CHANGE? CHECK OUT ONE EQUITY Same Jesus, Same Message, Different Attitude Worship with a coffee house atmosphere Sundays 10:30 a.m. 366-8429 / One80@hotmail.com</p>	<p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p><i>The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.</i></p>	<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am, Morning Worship 10:30 am. Evening Service 6:00 pm. Wednesday Services Prayer Bible Study 6:30 pm. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm. www.fbc29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	<p>Wonder Valley Community Church 82575 Amboy Road (at Kuhns Road) Office: 367-0279 Bible studies: 9:15AM Sun., 10:00AM Wed. Worship: 5:30PM Sat., 10:30AM Sunday Pastor: Rex Shaver Youth Pastor: Michael Taber</p>

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Iraqi Police assume control of parolees

LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

RAWAH, Iraq — Iraqi Police in Rawah assumed responsibility for the parole of nine former Coalition Force detainees Dec. 28.

Marines with 4th Platoon, Company C, Task Force 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, provided overwatch for this Iraqi Police-run operation and said the Iraqis proved themselves to be capable and professional during the transfer.

"We were tasked with security in order to ensure the safe and proper release of detainees. Iraqi authorities are here to gather information and see these men off into the community," explained 1stLt. Robert Paulus, 25, 4th Plt. commander. "Our time in Iraq is finite and this is their country. With our efforts to develop (Iraqi Security Forces), one of the key indicators is their ability to parole and reintegrate former detainees."

The release is a priority for the Iraqi government and came days before the U.S.-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) took effect. The SOFA establishes legal standing for U.S. troops in Iraq and their departure from the country by December 2011.

"We are completely capable with our security and our judicial system to take on the challenge of these detainees," said Capt. Fil Amer Abdrazq, an Iraqi Police officer in Rawah. "Like any judicial process, these men have served their sentence and are being processed through our stations before they return to the community and their families."

As the detainees left the hands of their Marine escorts, they were welcomed by Iraqi Police and government officials.

"As soon as we made the transfer, (Iraqi Police) removed the hand cuffs and blind folds and welcomed the (former) detainees," said Sgt.



LANCE CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

Iraqi authorities cut the handcuffs from one of the nine former Coalition Force detainees released to Iraqi authorities here Dec. 28.

Jeffery Rapp, 26, a squad leader with 4th Platoon. "The police invited families, and compared to other releases, Iraqis welcomed the men back to the community. It is now up to the Iraqi Police to protect and keep an eye on the men."

"We are sufficiently able to handle investigations, interrogations, intelligence and the judicial process when handling the detainees," Abdrazq conveyed through an interpreter.

These skills are critical to the community's security and governance process and help to legitimize the independence Iraqis have assumed from the Coalition Forces in the area.

"It is vital that (Iraqis) develop these skills now while we are still here with all the necessary advice and guidance," explained Paulus, a

Hudson, Ohio native. "We take a back seat to their handling of former detainees, increasing their ability to be self-sufficient."

Rawah authorities' lead role in security of the former detainees demonstrated their control of the judicial and security services in their community. "The process is working," said Rapp, a native of Norwood, Mass. "Rawah is secure and peaceful, which results from the efforts of the (Iraqi Police)."

Coalition Forces have confidence in the Iraqi Police in the area, and the Iraqi Police have confidence in themselves.

"We are confident," commented Abdrazq, "that the release of the detainees is not detrimental to the successes we've had over the last couple of years."

BRUTE, from A1

Navy chaplain.

Robert Coram, a military historian and long-time friend of the Krulak family, gave the eulogy. He spoke of Krulak's integrity and dedication to the Corps. He told the assembled mourners that Krulak was a giant in the Marines, and that through the Corps, his legacy would never fade away.

"The Marines who guard heaven's streets had best be squared away," said Coram.

Krulak was born Jan. 7, 1913, in Denver, and was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy May 31, 1934. During his early years, he served aboard the USS Arizona, with the 4th Marines in China, the 1st Marine Brigade, and at the U.S. Naval Academy.

At the beginning of World War II, while serving as aide to Gen. Holland A. Smith, Krulak volunteered for parachute training. After becoming a paramarine, Krulak was ordered to the Pacific where he served as commander of 2nd Parachute Battalion, 1st Marine Amphibious Corps.

In the fall of 1943, while serving as a lieutenant colonel, Krulak earned both a Navy Cross and a Purple Heart for actions while serving with the paramarines on Choiseul Island, where his battalion conducted a week-long diversionary raid as cover for the Bougainville invasion. Krulak also served in the Okinawa campaign where he earned a Legion of Merit with valor device and a Bronze Star.

Once the war ended, Krulak returned to the U.S. where he eventually served as the regimental commander of the 5th Marines until the Korean conflict erupted where he served as chief of staff for the 1st



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Victor Krulak inspects Marines from First Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company in Hawaii, April 1965. Krulak, a legend in the Marine Corps, passed away Dec. 29 at the age of 95.

Marine Division. Krulak again earned a Legion of Merit with valor device and an Air Medal.

After the war, Krulak served as the assistant commander of the 3rd Marine Division. Later, he was promoted to major general and assumed command of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

When the United States began combat operations in Vietnam, Krulak was appointed responsible for all Fleet Marine Force units in the Pacific, which included more than 50 trips into the Vietnam theater.

Having proven himself

competent as a leader while in combat and during peace time, Krulak ended his long and prestigious career by retiring June 1, 1968.

Krulak's medals and decorations include: the Navy Cross, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with combat distinguishing device and two Gold Stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Purple Heart, and a plethora of campaign medals, victory medals, occupation medals and unit citations. Krulak's legacy continued when his son, Charles C. Krulak, became the 31st Marine commandant.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Roman Catholic Services
 8 a.m. Faith Formation / CCD
 Sept. - May building 1551
 8:45 a.m. Confessions+
 9 a.m. Rosary
 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass*
 9:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
 4:15 p.m. Confessions+
 4 p.m. Choir Practice
 4:30 p.m. Rosary
 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
 Lay-Led Independent Baptist
 Breakfast, 8 a.m. West Wing
Non-Denominational Christian Service
 9 a.m. Worship*
 9 a.m. Children's Church
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School*
 6 p.m. Youth Group
Lay-led Gospel Service
 11:30 a.m. Worship
 building 1707, Room G
Pastor-led Assemblies of God Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship
Legend
 * Indicates Child Care Provided
 + Appointments can be for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m.
 Catholic Mass
 (except holidays)

Monday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m.
 Catholic Mass
 (except holidays)

Tuesday

Christ Chapel

9 a.m. Christian Women's Fellowship*
 Sept. through May

Immaculate Heart of Mary

4-5:30 p.m. Children's RCIA
 5-8 p.m. Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday each month)
 6-7:30 p.m. Baptism Class (First Tuesday each month)

Wednesday

Christ Chapel

6 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. Food/Fellowship

7 p.m. Non-Denomination Bible Study
 7 p.m. Lay-led Gospel Bible Study

Immaculate Heart of Mary

9:30 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women*
 Sept. to May
 6 p.m. Youth Teen
 7 p.m. Knights of Columbus (1st Wednesday each month)

Thursday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

6-7:30 p.m. RCIA Resumes Sept 11
 C&E Barracks building 1666
 11:30 a.m. Bible Study
 Chaplain Moran 830-6187

Friday

Christ Chapel

5 p.m. Gospel Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary

12:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m. Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (First Friday each month)

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Horses help disabled children flourish

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A smile brightens a young boy's face as he clenches the horn of a western saddle. The sun softly beats down as a light breeze hits the back of his neck, he feels the rhythmic movement. It is only him and his horse.

Healing Horses Therapeutic Riding Center, located in Indio, Calif., gives children with disabilities confidence to grow, learn and flourish by gradually teaching them different stages of horseback riding.

According to the riding center's program overview, the first scientific study that related horseback riding as a therapeutic method was by French physician Cassaign in 1875. Cassaign concluded that riding was helpful in treating certain kinds of neurological disorders by improving posture, balance, joint movement and

psychological improvements. Since April 15, the riding center owners and volunteers personally see how horses can provide therapy for disabled children of all ages.

"Children are more compliant, they sleep better and they can pay attention more," said Marcia Levine, a co-owner of the center with an autistic child. "But each child gets something different out of this."

The therapeutic approach helps influence positive changes in critical physiological areas, including core muscle strength, improved balance, speech and vocalizations, positive behavior, self-esteem, visual motor and spatial skills, said Levine.

Aracely Valdivia, the mother of an autistic son who rides at the center, has noticed her son's improvements after only riding for a month.

"My son is more outgoing,

and has better communication and social skills," Valdivia said. "Seeing my son grow is one of the biggest benefits I can have."

April Acker, a mother of a 2-year-old girl who was diagnosed with Down's syndrome, also saw improvements from her daughter.

"Makenna wasn't walking seven months ago," Acker said. "I really believe the horseback riding has improved her balance to help enable her to walk."

The center offers western, english or bareback riding and will start each child at their own individual level and graduate to a new one, said Levine. The overall goal is to work them up to where each child can be in a class with their peers.

"I think this is a great program," Acker said. "It gives them something they can be good at, something they can

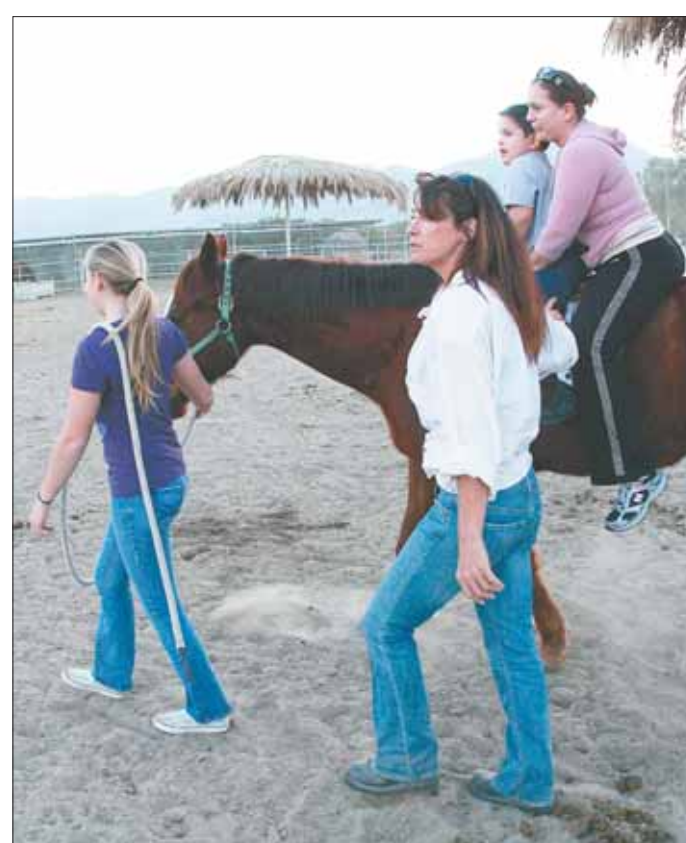
specialize in when other children are outside playing baseball or soccer."

Although the riding center cannot facilitate children in wheelchairs at this time, Pegasus Riding Academy For the Handicapped, located in Palm Desert, Calif., has the capabilities to support them, said Levine.

Currently, the riding center does charge a \$20 co-pay for each lesson, but with help from grants, individuals and being vendorized in April, the center is expected to provide their services to disabled children and their families soon at no cost, said Levine.

Classes are available Mondays, and Wednesdays and on weekends. There is a limit of six children in each class.

For a schedule of times or for more information call the riding center at 449-4883 or access their Web site <http://www.healinghorsescv.com>



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Aracely Valdivia and her son diagnosed with autism are escorted around the ring at the Healing Horses Therapeutic Riding Center, Indio, Calif., Wednesday. Valdivia has seen social improvements with her son since they started a month ago.

REALITY, from A1

of everyone involved would soon come crashing together.

This set the scene of a simulation put on by the Combat Center's Safety Office Wednesday at Victory Field from 9 to 10 a.m. as part of the Fiscal Year 2009 Post Holiday Back in the Saddle Stand Down.

In a joint effort with the Combat Center Fire Department, Provost Marshal's Office and Inspector General, the goal of the simulation was to show the harsh reality of what can happen to people involved in an alcohol-related car accident.

"Back in the Saddle" is an operational pause for everyone coming off holiday to spend some quality time and

consider the safety message before going back to supporting the Marine Corps," said Dave Horn, the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Safety Division director. "We've invited everyone on the installation as a joint effort to reach out to all the commands. Safety is everybody's responsibility."

Last year, Combat Center personnel racked up a total of 2,830 traffic violations, including speeding, seatbelt, parking and cellular phone infractions. Out of these statistics, 138 of the incidents were alcohol related.

During the simulation, to wrecked vehicles were staged in front of the bleachers for the assembled crowd, and volunteers from PMO's Military Working Dog section played the roles of the two

drivers, both of whom survived the mock crash. When first responders from PMO and Center Fire arrived on the scene, the drunk-driving Marine was stumbling and limping around, screaming "Help me! Somebody call 911!" repeatedly at the top of his lungs. His buddy, played by a rescue training mannequin, was unconscious in the passenger seat with severe head trauma.

In the van carrying the family, the "father" was trapped, his hysterical cries for help barely audible from inside the vehicle. His wife, who was played by another mannequin in the passenger seat, and 6-year-old child, another dummy, were "killed" on impact. The 3-year-old child, also played by a dummy, was unhurt, but also

trapped inside.

The fire and ambulance crews navigated through the twisted metal of the wreckage to rescue the trapped passengers while military police interviewed the injured Marine. When they determined the Marine was intoxicated, he was promptly arrested.

Once the rest of the mock victims were extracted from what was left of the vehicles and carted away in ambulances, a military funeral procession walked on to the field. Four Marines clad in dress blues carried a casket in front of the audience. An American flag was draped over the lid, signifying one potential outcome of a DUI—a military funeral.

Taps were played as the flag was folded and a 21-gun salute was fired in honor of the deceased Marine. Once the flag was folded, a member of the funeral detail presented it to a member of the audience. The casket was loaded into the back of a hearse and driven off the field.

A crash survivor's tragic tale:

At this point, Lance Cpl. David Delk, a Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, rifleman, stepped onto the field. Delk was involved in a high-speed car accident April 21. He thanked the audience for coming to the presentation, then began

to tell his story.

The Dallas native described the fateful night, saying he and two friends were returning from a liberty period, which they spent in Phoenix with the family of the driver, Lance Cpl. Scott Bailey.

They left Phoenix at approximately 7 p.m. the night before they were due back at the Combat Center. Although it was getting late, the three Marines had plenty of time to spare.

Once they reached Highway 177, Bailey brought the vehicle to speeds exceeding 120 miles per hour. By the time the trio reached Highway 62, Delk had warned Bailey several times about the high rate of speed.

"I kept telling him to slow down," said Delk. "I told him 'there's no need to speed.'"

Despite numerous warnings from Delk, Bailey continued traveling fast. Somewhere along the road, Bailey lost control of the vehicle. The car flew off the side of the highway and rolled six times into a ditch.

Although Bailey was tragically killed in the crash, Delk and the other Marine survived, but suffered severe injuries. Thankfully, everyone was still wearing their seatbelts.

During subsequent attempts to save his life, Delk lost four feet of intestine. He also broke almost every rib on

his right side, fractured two vertebrae in his lumbar spine and both his lungs were collapsed. He was put in a medically-induced coma for 12 days and lost nearly 60 pounds throughout the course of his six-week hospital stay.

Delk continues to mourn his friend Bailey, despite the accident.

"Bailey was a great guy," said Delk. "Nobody ever had a problem with him. He's the kind of guy you remember for the rest of your life. Now he's dead because he did something stupid."

"He's dead and two Marines were injured," he added. "We'll probably have problems for the rest of our lives. Worst of all, his family wakes up every day, still in disbelief."

Even though Delk survived the accident, he said he feels as though he will never be the same again.

"It's a challenge every day," said the 19-year-old victim. "I can't begin to describe to you the emotional and mental problems I've faced. I can only tell you my story — my experience."

"I'm not trying to scare any of you," he added. "I just hope you can take something from what happened to me and make the right decisions in the future."

Horn, a Chicago native, also hopes the audience will be able to draw from Delk's tragic experience and make smart choices when they're out on the road.

"This doesn't just involve drinking and driving," he said. "This could happen in any situation. People can never really understand it unless they've been there. Hopefully we can make these people more aware than they already are."

"Our commanding general and chief of staff are truly concerned for the safety and well-being of everyone on the installation," added Horn. "With this presentation, hopefully we can get through to someone so they don't become a statistic."

After Delk's speech, Lt. James Daly, a civilian traffic chief with PMO, demonstrated the effectiveness of seatbelts using a crash simulator, which is designed to recreate a 30-mile-per-hour collision. Two Marines from the audience volunteered to be the "crash dummies." The test proved wearing a seatbelt during a car crash greatly reduces the risk of injury or death.

"We just want to show you that seatbelts can save lives," said Daly, a Penrose, Colo., native. "These things really do work."

After seeing first-hand the effects irresponsible decision making can have on safe driving, one must make a choice. With another holiday weekend merely a few hours away, what choice will you make? Will you return to work safe and sound, or will you become another story?

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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.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



KIERA JADE LEA

Daughter of Sgt. Dennis Lea and Paula Lea, born Oct. 31, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

JONATHAN DAVID JANOWSKI

Son of Sgt. Sean P. Janowski and Tera Janowski, born Nov. 1, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

SETH MICHAEL MAUK

Son of Cpl. Andrew Eric Mauk and Kelly Mauk, born Nov. 1, weighing 8 pounds, 4.5 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

DONDRE LASALLE LYRAE RANSOM JR.

Son of Cpl. Dondre Lasalle Ransom and Jessica Ann Ransom, born Nov. 1, weighing 7.78 pounds and measuring 20.4 inches.

EVAN M. BAKKE

Son of Master Sgt. Blair A. Bakke and Namiko Bakke, born Nov. 2, weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces.

STANLEY BRANDON BARNES

Son of Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Barnes and Katrina Barnes, born Nov. 3, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

DELANEY NICOL CONRAD

Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Conrad and Jennifer Conrad, born Nov. 3, weighing 8 pounds, .8 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

DESTINY COLLETTE RASMUSSEN

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Nicolas Rasmussen and Faith Rasmussen, born Nov. 5, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 19 inches.

ADRIANNA MARIE SEBERGER

Daughter of Capt. Dennis Seberger and Melinda Seberger, born Nov. 7, weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

MOISES ALVARO MERAZ

Son of Gunnery Sgt. Ildegaro Meraz and Norma Meraz, born Nov. 8, weighing 8 pounds, 1.5 ounces and measuring 20.7 inches.

JOSHUA LELAND WOOD

Son of Cpl. Michael C. Wood and Missy Wood, born Nov. 9, weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 18.2 inches.

PAIGE ORBRITTON MAE LOVE

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Patrick Love and Krisheena Love, born Nov. 10, weighing 5 pounds and 6 ounces and measuring 18.4 inches.

CALEE DON VON RAESFELD

Daughter of Sgt. Timothy Von Raesfeld and Shirley Von Raesfeld, born Nov. 12, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 19.3 inches.

REBECCA JOANN WALKER

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Michael Walker and April Walker, born Nov. 12, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 20.6 inches.



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INAUGURATION, from A1

God bless America," but event coordinators said his role was critical.

Other service members stood in for Vice President-elect Joe Biden and the Obama and Biden families. Navy Seaman LaSean McCray played the role of Michelle Obama. Army Spc. Nicholas Ruppel stood in for Biden and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Karen Lowden acted as Jill Biden.

Two military children stood in as the Obama girls. Dominique Sewell, the 14-year-old daughter of Army Sgt. 1st Class Natalie Sewell-Johnson, stood in as Malia. Ten-year-old Gianna Justice Samora-Nixon, daughter of Navy Chief Petty Officer Kenneth Nixon, was Sasha.

All were selected based on height, weight, gender and ethnicity similarities, explained Air Force Maj. Andra Higgs, an action officer with the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

The military's involvement in the presiden-

tial inauguration is a centuries-old tradition, which honors the commander in chief, recognizes civilian control of the military and celebrates democracy, Higgs said.

More than 5,000 servicemembers will participate in the Jan. 20 event and provide ceremonial assistance.

"It's an honor for them to be center stage," Higgs said. "We're very glad to have been provided with such world-class support."

Today's rehearsal gave members of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee a sense of what they can expect next week, when 240,000 ticketed guests and potentially millions of spectators gather in Washington to see Obama become the 44th U.S. president.

"It's an honor and a privilege to take part in this [rehearsal]," said Navy Lt. Marcus Jones, who stood in as an Obama family member. "Beside the birth of my children and my marriage, this will be one of the most memorable days of my life."



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Dana Seamon, wife of Lt. Col. Timothy B. Seamon, former commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, receives flowers, during the squadron's change of command ceremony at the Combat Center's Torrey L. Gray Field Jan. 9.



LANCE CPL. JACQUELYN M. WHITE

The U.S. Army Brass Band performs while marching down Pennsylvania Ave. NW during the 56th Presidential Inaugural Parade Rehearsal Jan. 11.

RHINO, from A1

away and up to the task of leading the squadron to great success.

"I'm very happy to have the opportunity to lead Marines and sailors at the squadron level," said Anderson, who has held port operations officer, platoon commander, material management officer, and executive officer billets since his commissioning in 1988. "To be at this level is professionally rewarding."

The native of Honolulu,

Hawaii, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, N.C., said his immediate goals

are to instill in his Marines and sailors an expeditionary mindset, to ensure that all his Marines and sailors are mission capable at both the individual and unit level, and to encourage a sense of mutual respect amongst all members of the squadron.

Anderson, whose personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious

Service Medal and Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, wasted no time tackling these goals, putting the squadron through a safety stand down Tuesday.

Anderson initiated the stand down after the squadron returned from an extended weekend, because in appreciation for the Rhino's service to Corps and country, Anderson's first directive as commanding officer was for the squadron to take Monday off.

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SPORTS AND LEISURE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

Fight Club 29 dominates again

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Multiple fighters from the Combat Center's Fight Club 29 participated in the Grapplers Experience tournament at Fight Lab, a civilian mixed martial arts facility in Thousand Palms, Calif., Saturday where they beat the competition, literally, to earn awards for their performances.

The tournament included both pankration and submission grappling in which multiple fighters from the club took first place, said Mark M. Geletko, the club's coach.

"Nate Wolf, James Clark, Trevor Scelso and Joey Yeampierre all went gold in their pankration matches," said Geletko, a Pittsburgh native. "Pankration is more fighting on your feet where kicks and punches are allowed, as well as ground fighting. We

also sent two fighters to the grappling part of the tournament as well."

Alex Hollings and James Fehr both represented the club in the grappling portion at the tournament.

"Hollings and Fehr are our only two grappling today," said Geletko prior to their matches. "They should have a good showing and perform well because of the conditioning they have been put through in our training."

Hollings, a Torrington, Conn., native competed in the ground fighting portion and took first place.

"In the first fight it was touch and go a little bit, but I was able to hang in there for a while longer than the other guy," said Hollings. "We're well-rounded fighters and get good training in different aspects and the conditioning we're put through definitely helps."

Geletko added the fighters owe their success in the ring to the training process they go through.

"During the training process we have a high focus on our conditioning," he said. "There is a whole lot of work spent on equalizing training for their technique. We want to make them well-rounded fighters. We do a lot of ground work during the training to get them more proficient in grappling."

Geletko added those in Fight Club 29 have a noticeable advantage over their opponents due to the physical readiness the fighters are in.

"There is a huge advantage to the shape all our fighters are in, they have energy late in the matches," he said. "You can really see it when a fight goes through all the rounds and our fighters are still moving around quick. They have a decided advantage because of

the shape they're in. Even though they may be up against someone who has better technique or more skill, they still win out because of the fact they can keep pushing themselves late in the match."

Another fighter, Trevor Scelso, won the gold medal in his weight class for pankration.

"I did lose the first match but after that I got back on top and won out the rest of the way," said Scelso, who comes from Sierra Vista, Ariz. "I performed well, like the other fighters, because I was still moving way faster than the competition. We've worked hard and it feels good to see everyone else succeed."

After dominating in local matches, the club will seek out a much larger challenge during the considerably larger competition known as the Gracie Nationals in Los Angeles later this month.



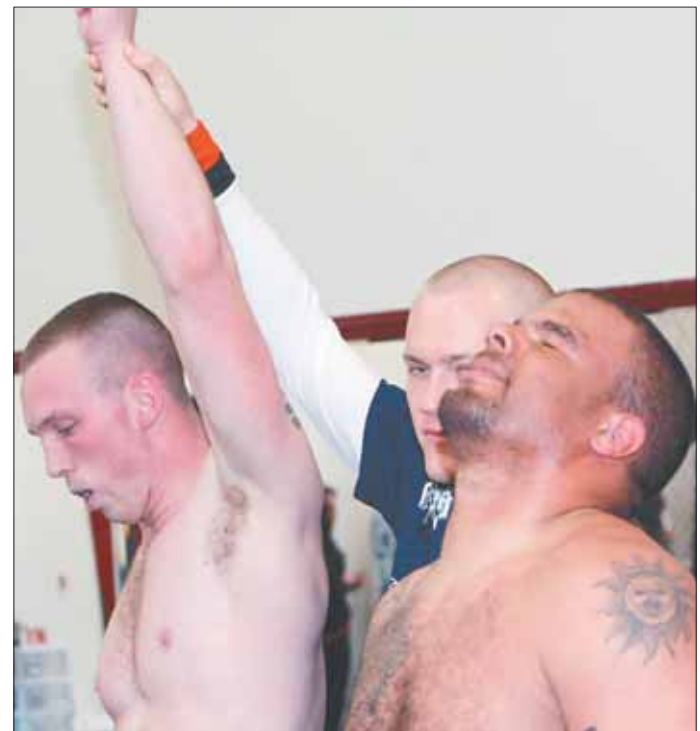
LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Nate Wolf pounds his opponent into submission during his final fight in which he earned a gold medal for his weight class. Wolf and the rest of the participants in the pankration matches beat out the competition for the whole team to win place first.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Trevor Scelso continues thrashing his opponent during his second match Saturday. Scelso came back in the end to win his last two of three matches after losing in the beginning. Scelso, like the rest of the participants with Fight Club 29, took the gold medal for his weight class.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Alex Hollings is announced the winner after a long match. Hollings and James Fehr represented Fight Club 29 in grappling, which is fighting purely on the ground.

Dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's sports scene started off the new year with some fun Monday night when the Intramural Dodgeball League officially began.

"This is the first year the Combat Center has hosted a dodge ball league," said Randy Husted, a sports specialist with Marine Corps Community Services. "We have 10 units play a single round robin, with the top six teams playing in a double elimination tournament at the end of

the league to crown the first dodgeball league champions."

The Combat Center has hosted five dodge ball tournaments in the past couple of years, and due to great participation in those events and popular demand, the decision was made to establish a league, said Husted.

Husted added that last week's preseason practice games were very competitive matches, with many games going into a tie-breaking fifth game.

However, this was not the case with Monday night's inaugural action.

All five victorious teams recorded

lopsided 3-0 victories, with Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Company A, A-Team, team Sapper, the Jive Turkeys, and the Fainting Goats, all dominating their opponents and ending games before the opposing team even realized the game had started.

Some teams, such as the Fainting Goats, relied on their adrenaline, team spirit, and enthusiasm to defeat team Dental, while other teams like A-Team and the Jive Turkeys relied on powerful

See DODGE, B4



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

A member of team Dental gets low to avoid being hit during intramural dodgeball action Tuesday at the Combat Center's East Gym. Dental lost the match 3-0 to the Fainting Goats.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

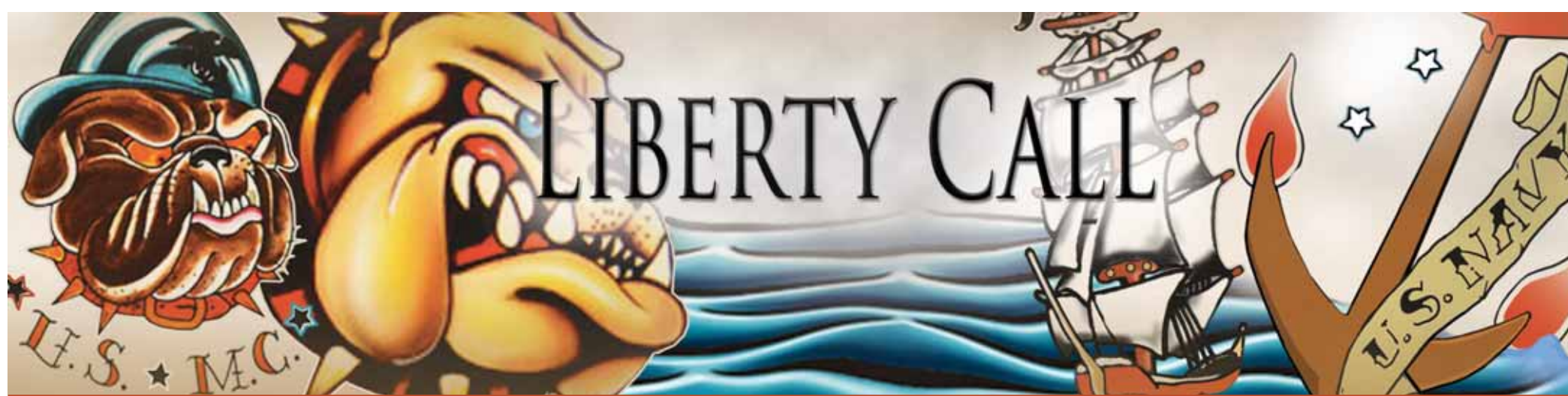
Members from A-Team and Hospital converge on the center line and begin their intramural dodgeball matchup that would end up 3-0 in favor of A-Team, Jan. 13 at the Combat Center's East Gym.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

A member of the Marksmanship Training Unit's intramural dodgeball team unleashes a powerful shot against an opposing player during his team's 3-0 loss to MCCES A Co. Tuesday.

Game 1: MTU	0	MCCES A Co.	3
Game 2: UNPREDICTABLES	0	SAPPER	3
Game 3: A-TEAM	3	HOSPITAL	0
Game 4: TANKS #4	0	JIVE TURKEYS	3
Game 5: DENTAL	0	FAINTING GOATS	3



<p>FRI. 1/16</p> <p>Blues after Hours Time: 5-9 p.m. Where: Café Potpourri at the Carriage Inn 901 N. China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest For more info call 446-7910</p>	<p>FRI.. 1/16 & SAT. 1/17</p> <p>DJs Lady Kate, Amara & Leslie at the Velvet Palm Night Club Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info log onto http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</p>	<p>FRI.. 1/16 & SAT. 1/17</p> <p>James Stephens III at the Improv Comedy Club Time: 8 and 10 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info log onto http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</p>	<p>FRI.. 1/16 & SAT. 1/17</p> <p>Arctic Heat performs Time: 8, 10 p.m. and 12 a.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or log on to http://www.morongocasinosort.com</p>	<p>SAT. 1/17</p> <p>Texas Hold 'Em Time: 2 p.m. Where: Hashmarks SNCO Club MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms For more info call 830-6608</p>
<p>SAT. 1/17</p> <p>Boxing: Andre Berto vs. Luis Collazo Time: 6:45 p.m. Where: Fantasy Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info log onto http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</p>	<p>SAT. 1/17</p> <p>Explore 29 Palms Tours Time: 11 a.m. Where: 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce 73660 Civic Center Dr. Twentynine Palms For more info call 367-3445</p>	<p>SAT. 1/17</p> <p>Ledisi Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS or log onto http://www.mccallumtheatre.com</p>	<p>SAT. 1/17</p> <p>Michael McDonald Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr. Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or log on to http://www.morongocasinosort.com</p>	<p>TUES. 1/20</p> <p>The Best of Doo Wop Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS or log onto http://mccallumtheatre.com</p>

Dog lovers will love 'Marley & Me'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Marley & Me - Rated PG
Starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston

If this movie were a dog, it'd be a mongrel—a mixed breed romping through several Hollywood bloodlines.

For starters, it's a pooch picture about a rambunctious, misbehaving Labrador. It's also a domestic drama about a cute yuppie couple, played by Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston, and the ups, downs and in-betweens of their rela-

tionship over the years. There's also a newsroom subplot about the husband's career in journalism, into which his dog, Marley, comes to play an important part.

Finally, there's the it-happened-like-this faithfulness to the true story on which the movie is based, as recounted in the 2005 bestseller of the same title by former newspaper columnist John Grogan.

Wilson, as Grogan, is typically laid-back, which doesn't particularly help in this role, as his character rides over a bumpy rollercoaster track of marriage, career transitions,

parenthood and the heart-break of a failed pregnancy. Aniston is more dramatically nuanced, especially in one terrific scene where her simmering stay-at-home-mom frustrations finally explode in a burst of emotional shrapnel.

But neither Wilson nor Aniston appear to age—at all!—over a course of some 13 years. And Aniston's beautiful, bronzed-to-perfection glow begins to look a little out-of-place in certain situations, like when she rolls out of the hospital in a wheelchair, radiant and camera-ready, with baby number three.

Ultimately, "Marley" bites down—hard—with a sniff-orama tearjerker of an ending you see coming about 20 minutes before it gets there.

It's shaggy and scattered, but give "Marley" a biscuit for its realistic depiction of



COURTESY PHOTO

Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston star in "Marley and Me."

how powerful can be the bond between dogs and their "people." Even if you're not a dog person,

you'll come away with a better understanding of just how completely a canine can integrate into an owner's life.

But if you are a dog person, it'll really set your tail to wagging—and you'll wish you had a dog like Marley.



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

As we look forward to observing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day next Monday, I would remind you that Dr. King was a tough minded optimist.

I met Dr. King in 1961 when he was the guest of honor at a reception and dinner in our church in Seattle. He spoke to us that night in a way that made us feel that he was totally committed to a course of action that would ultimately prevail but only after an extremely difficult struggle that would require heroic sacrifices by many people.

Listen to these words spoken only hours before he was shot and killed: "We've got some difficult days ahead but it really doesn't matter with me now because I've been to the mountaintop. I won't mind. Like anybody I would like to live a long time—longevity has its place—but I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will and he's allowed me to go up the mountain and I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight and I'm not fearing any man—mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

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Adam Sandler hits familiar comedy notes in 'Bedtime Stories'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Bedtime Stories

Starring Adam Sandler and Keri Russell
Rated PG

Comedian Adam Sandler plays a hotel handyman who stumbles upon a way to make his dreams come true in "Bedtime Stories," Disney's live-action entry in this holiday season's box-office sweepstakes.

Babysitting his niece and nephew, Skeeter Bronson (Sandler) discovers his tuck-in stories become reality when the kids add their own nonsensical touches to the tales. So he spins colorful yarns of chariot races, damsels in distress, rugged cowboys and futuristic space duels, all the while trying to manipulate the stories to shape the outcomes of things he'd like to see happen in real life.

Specifically, he wants to

win the affections of a sexy, spoiled, Paris Hilton-like hotel heiress, and he yearns for a plum spot in resort management, a position for which he's competing against the heiress' haughty boyfriend.

That's a solid enough launching pad. But "Bedtime Stories" fails to blast off into the flight of imagination you might expect from such an imaginative-sounding premise.

We never learn where the story-time magic comes from, or how it works. Skeeter's epiphany that his "damsel" is actually his sister's pretty schoolteacher friend (Russell), not the hotel hottie, comes with zero surprise. And there's nothing fresh in Sandler's role that you haven't seen in almost every movie he's ever done. It's the same mumbly, underachieverschlub notes he's been hitting for years, only taken down a notch for his first PG-rated comedy.



TRACY BENNETT

Adam Sandler and Teresa Palmer star in Disney's new release "Bedtime Stories" © Disney Enterprises, Inc. all rights reserved.

British funnyman Russell Brand, the randy rock star in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," has a more kid-centric role here as a loopy room-service waiter. Richard Griffiths, Uncle Vernon from the

"Harry Potter" movies, is a stuffy, germaphobic hotel magnate who'll stop at nothing to expand his empire. Lucy Lawless, best known as TV's "Xena, the Warrior Princess," plays a snooty desk clerk.

Much of the laughs, however, are for Bugsy, a hamster with outrageous, impossibly large eyes. When the movie needs a chuckle, it cuts to Bugsy, typically doing things hamsters don't typically do—working out on a treadmill, eating a hamburger, showing off his new hair braids. It's silly, but it's also a troubling sign: You know an Adam Sandler comedy is in trouble when it keeps returning to a bug-eyed, computer-generated rodent for laughs.

Twentynine Palms Little League Baseball, Softball starts

Spring is just around the corner, which means that it is time again to sign up for Twentynine Palms Little League Baseball/Softball. Families can register at the Stater Brothers Supermarket on Highway 62 in Twentynine Palms from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday until Feb. 1, and at the Luckie Park Snack Shop on Feb. 7 and 8. Fee for single-player registration is \$80, and includes uniform pants, shirt, hat, and trophy. Family Discounts are available. Volunteers who wish to help out by coaching, umpiring, or working in the snack shop are more than welcome, and are encouraged to register along with the players. All children from ages 5-16 are welcome. Any and all questions about Twentynine Palms Little League Baseball/Softball can be directed to either Tim Cook at 458-5610, or Steve Raines at 953-6412 or <http://www.29palmsll.org>.

Intramural basketball ramps up competition for 2009

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Intramural basketball kicked off the 2009 Commanding General's Trophy Competition at the Combat Center's East Gymnasium Wednesday night.

The Commanding General's Trophy Competition is an annual event where base units battle it out in various sporting events throughout the year to receive the winning trophy and bragging rights for that year.

The gym was scheduled to hold three games for the evening, but the first was a no show forfeit by Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School's team Party giving a win to Marine Wing Support Squadron 374's team Alpha.

The first played game of the night was played by 1st Tank Battalion and Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

To start off the game, Tanks won the tip off, put the first points on the board and started the tempo for the first half.

Throughout the half, Tanks maintained the lead for the majority of the 20 minutes, but CLB-7 was close behind and pulled out a 26-19 lead by halftime.

"Everyone was pretty rusty, but it's also the first game of the year," said Greyson Escareno, a player on the CLB-7 team.

In the start of the second half, CLB-7 stepped up their game and penetrated the ball into the paint, while Tanks dropped to a 17-point deficit 42-25 with 12 minutes remaining in the game.

Tanks answered back with fresh substitutes and put more points on the board. They slowly started to beat down the deficit, but it wasn't enough to pull ahead. CLB-7 won the game 55-44.

"We have a lot of skilled players and one of the deepest rosters in the league," said Brett Baatrup, a player on the Tanks team. "We played well, but laxidascal."

The final game of the

evening between Installation Personnel Administration Center and 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment started off slow. Neither teams shots would drop, but 1/7 kept hold of the lead, 12-6, after eight minutes into the first half.

The tempo continued throughout the half with 1/7 maintaining the lead with a halftime score 22-13.

The intensity picked up in the second when more points started to rack up on the board, but 1/7 held their lead, 35-23, with only 12 minutes remaining in the game.

Although IPAC started to foul and stop the clock, their fate was sealed with a 14-point deficit and less than two minutes remaining in the game. 1/7 starts the season with a 50-32 win and a 1-0 record.

As the basketball season continues, the teams can change or add players at any time, but only 15 can suit up each game, said Skip Best, the athletics director for



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

A basketball player with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 takes the ball to the hoop during an intramural basketball game Wednesday night at the Combat Center East Gym. Basketball kicks off the Commanding General's Trophy Competition every year.

Marine Corps Community Services. eight teams will go to the January through April play-offs." For more information contact MCCA Semper Fit Division at 830-4092.

"There are 12 teams this season," Best said. "The top Monday and Wednesday from



COURTESY PHOTO

Marines in the Martial Arts Instructor course evacuate a mock casualty through the Combat Center's obstacle course during their final exercise. The MAI course is a three-week course to train Marines to be MAIs in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Martial arts instructors needed

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School is preparing to host a program available to all units aboard the base. The goal of the program is to teach Marines who meet the requirements to be martial arts instructors in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

The MAI program, which is commonly called the green belt instructor course, is a 15-day training evolution pre-screened Marines are sent to on Temporary Additional Duty to complete, said Staff Sgt. Joel Daniel, a black belt instructor with Headquarters Battalion.

"The school is three weeks of training," said Daniels, who comes from Hermosa Beach, Calif. "The minimum

requirements are that the Marine has a first class PFT [Physical Fitness Test], a grey belt or higher and have the proper PME [Professional Military Education] completed."

"The minimum rank for the class is corporal or higher and they must be able to negotiate the o'course [obstacle course] once when the class begins," he added. "After all the requirements are met they have to be medically screened. They cannot have a shoulder injury within the last two years and they are not eligible if the applicant has suffered a concussion in the last six months."

Daniel said the training is very important to individual Marines not only because of what they will achieve physically and how it will benefit their career,

See MAI, B4

Combat Center Marines get a kick at making All-Marine Soccer Team roster

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Last week at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., the Combat Center's Varsity Soccer Team competed in the 2008 West Coast Regional Soccer Championship and placed a respectable fifth place.

While the team may not have claimed the title, competing in the tournament showcased two outstanding talents in Jorge Hernandez and Edwin Contreras who were selected to attend the All Marine Soccer Team camp trial in the coming months.

Walter Sosinski, the athletic director at MCAS Yuma, said Mario Morales, the assistant coach of the All Marine Soccer Team, attended the tournament to scout for the Corps' top soccer talent.

"He was looking for the skills, attitude and abilities to perform at the All Marine camp," said Sosinski.

Morales was so pleased with the talent the tournament offered, he called Headquarters Marine Corps and requested authorization to select 15 players for the camp, instead of the usual 10, said Sosinski.

Contreras, an assaultman with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Hernandez, a motor transport operator with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, are currently participating in the camp at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C., with about 40 other Marines from throughout the Corps.

Contreras said his parents, who are big fans of the sport, got him into the sport when he was 6 and have supported his love of the game since.

"It's been a passion of mine since I was little," said Contreras, who also has experience with Club de Futbol Pachuca, a professional team that competes in Mexico's top league.

Hernandez, a native of San Diego, said he too began playing the sport as a child and has com-

peted at the high school level and participated in adult leagues.

Contreras explained that the camp is currently split into morning and afternoon sessions, with morning session concentrating on cardiovascular exercise and the afternoon session focusing more on ball skills, shooting and scrimmages against local civilian and military teams.

The native of Pico Rivera, Calif., who said he had faith in

his ability to make the team, was also quick to praise the skills of his fellow Marines and believes the deciding factor in who makes the All Marine team will be more mental than physical.

"Everybody has skills. It's just who really wants it and who puts out a little extra," said Contreras.

While there is stiff competition during each session, liberty hours provide those in

attendance with the opportunity to socialize and talk with each other, said Hernandez.

Both Contreras and Hernandez said they're proud to be representing the Combat Center and Marine Corps in such a positive light.

"To be able to go out there and represent them at something that I'm good at is a great feeling," said Contreras.

Both players expressed their happiness with being

able to play the sport they love, and Contreras is even using the opportunity to revitalize his playing career.

He said attending the camp has given him confidence that he can play at the college level when he leaves the Corps to further his education.

If Hernandez and Contreras are selected to the All Marine Team they will travel to Dyess Air Force Base in Texas for the Armed Forces Tournament,

slated for Feb. 1 through 9, where the team will compete against the other services.

"From there another 18 to 20 will be selected to the Armed Forces Team," said Sosinski. "The Armed Forces Team will stay at Dyess Air Force Base and play other countries."

Contreras said he estimates the All Marine roster will be finalized in late January or early February.

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DODGE, from B1

and well aimed shots, which allowed them to suppress opposing players.

Erik Amezcua, captain of MCCES A Co. said since his team consists of older players, they rely on strategy to defeat their younger opponents.

When asked what that strategy was, Amezcua, who led MCCES A Co., to victory in last year's dodgeball tournament, said he and his teammates keep it top secret.

While competitiveness was through the roof Monday night, all those who participated stressed that the league was more about having fun.

Roderick R. Beachum, a player on team Unpredictables, said he was using the league as a way to build camaraderie and get himself out of the barracks.

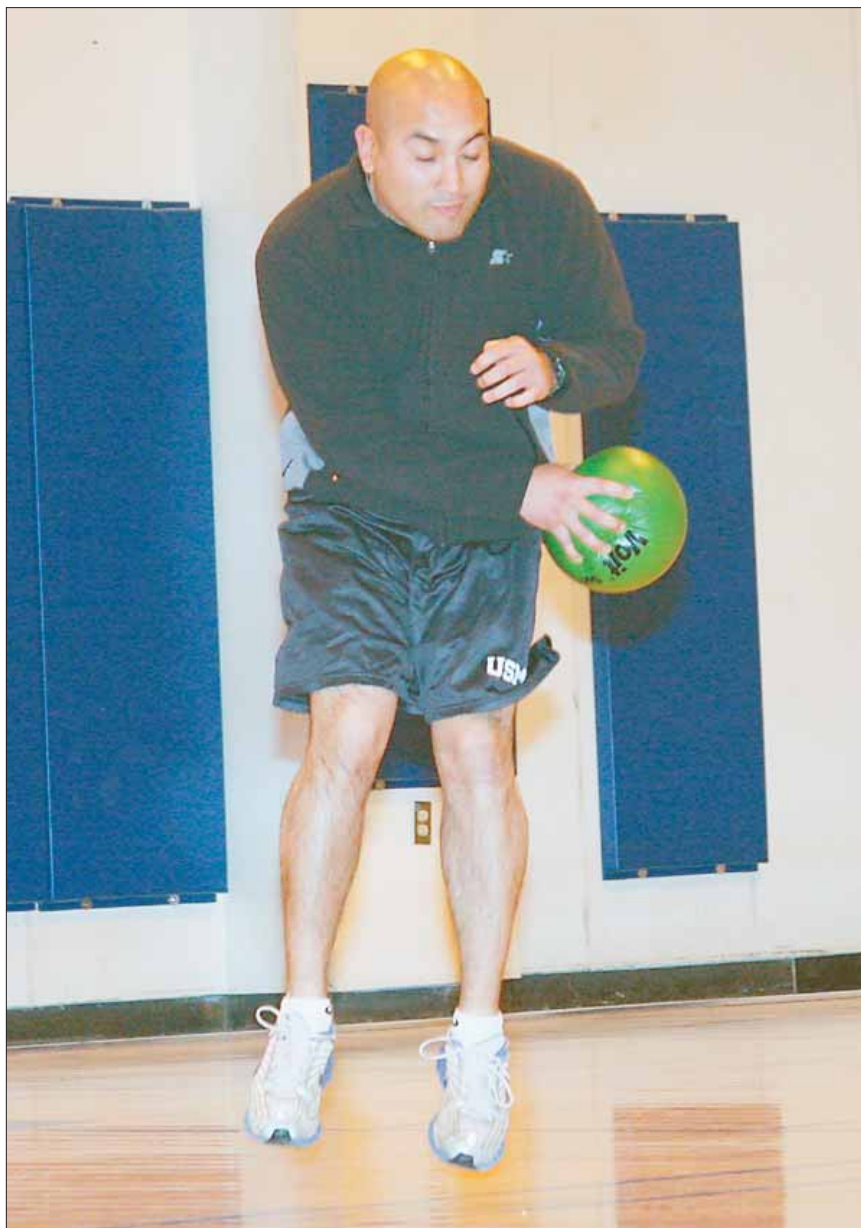
He added the friendly competition served as a good stress reliever and was faithful that his team, who suffered defeat at the hands of team Sapper, would bounce back since it was only the team's second game.

Amezcua agreed with Beachum and said it's fun to get outside and participate in extracurricular activities not only for enjoyment of the game or competition, but because it can help break up the monotony that sometimes comes with work.

"We had a blast," said Amezcua, whose team consists of MCCES instructors. "It's fun to get out here."

Games take place in the Combat Center's East Gym, every Monday evening starting a 6 p.m.

For more information, call Randy Husted at 830-4092.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
A member of the A-Team evades a shot during intramural dodgeball action Jan. 13 at the Combat Center's East Gym. The A-Team would go on to win the match 3-0.

MAI, from B3

but, more importantly, because it does more to benefit their fellow service members.

"They teach all three of the disciplines during the class," he said. "They teach physical, of course, mental and character disciplines. Along with those, they teach the teacher how to teach. After they are qualified they will be giving instruction and teaching other Marines after they complete the course."

Marines who actually teach the course, such as Gunnery Sgt. Nick Ivey, who is a black belt instructor-trainer, know much about misconceptions of the class and what truly goes on during its execution.

"The dropout rate is nearly 60 percent in the course run here at the satellite school," said the Kite, Ga., native.

Ivey added the dropouts are not mostly because of injuries like some would think, many of the students have issues with the mental and academic issues as well.

"Unforeseen problems come because the course is mentally challenging as well," added Ivey. "There are a lot of hours of classroom instruction and learning that go into the certifica-

tion for the MAI course. We lose people to that now and then because they are not able to give classes or speak in front of others and instruct them properly."

Gunnery Sgt. Kevin E. Graham, who teaches the classes with Ivey, said one of the many important parts of the classes is so Marines aboard the base better themselves and their units by completing the course.

"It is important for Marines to go through these courses; they learn a lot and they can go back to their units and help train our fighting forces better," said Graham, a Hebron, Ind., native. "Units don't always spare the Marines because they lose them on TAD for three weeks."

He added units will understand more when their Marines return from the training more of a well-rounded Marine. They will be better prepared, more experienced in many ways, and an overall better leader of marines. The new instructors will also be fully capable to pass on knowledge to others around them.

The next course, which is hosted by MCCES will begin Jan. 26. For more information call 830-6240.

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