

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JANUARY 30, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 4

Wolfpack reports to NTC Fort Irwin

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 875 Marines and sailors from the Combat Center's 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion traveled to Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 18, to participate in a two-week training exercise at the Army's National Training Center.

The training evolution 3rd LAR is participating in is comparable to the Combat Center's Mojave Viper training, a 30-day pre-deployment training evolution all Marines non-aviation units must go through at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center before deploying in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Wolfpack is slated for its fifth deployment to Iraq this spring, and the battalion's executive officer, Maj. Russ Speigle, believes NTC will prepare his Marines and sailors for anything they may

See WOLFPACK, A4



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines and sailors from 3rd LAR arrived at the Army's National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 18 to conduct pre-deployment training. The training at NTC is tough, realistic joint and combined arms training across the full spectrum of conflict set in a contemporary operating environment. The battalion will spend two weeks honing their skills before their fifth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom this spring.

G-6: Keeping the military safe one computer at a time

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

You still have an hour left at work with nothing to do, so you begin to search the internet to kill time. Before you know it, your hour is up, so you shut down your computer and head home. But someone, somewhere is still hard at work, gaining access to your computer through the malicious spyware you inadvertently downloaded by visiting unsecured Web sites.

If you have access to training records or any other files that record Marines' information on your computer, the hacker just got his hands on every social security number and any other piece of valuable personal information he can use to further his agenda.

The Combat Center's G-6, the Communications Electronics Division, has been cracking down on Department of Defense employees aboard the base who disregard rules regulations about Navy and Marine Corps Intranet

See G-6, A6

3/4 welcomes 2/7 OEF vet as new sergeant major



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Col. Martin F. Wetterauer, 3/4's commanding officer, hands a noncommissioned officer's sword to Sgt. Maj. Jonathon R. Cagle, who became the battalion sergeant major during a relief and appointment ceremony Jan. 23 at Sunset Cinema.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A relief and appointment ceremony was held at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Jan. 23 where Sgt. Maj. Jonathon R. Cagle relieved Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh as 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment's battalion sergeant major.

Walsh, who has been the sergeant major of 3/4 since September 2007, transferred across mainside to 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion to be their Battalion Sergeant Major.

"I have had a great time

here at the Darkside," said Walsh, a Rochester, N.Y., native. "I can tell that nothing will surpass the experiences I have had while in this battalion."

Once the ceremony was over, Walsh addressed the battalion, saying he would miss his time serving the Marines and sailors of 3/4.

"Today is a dark day for me," he said. "I never wanted to leave Darkside. I gave what I could to this battalion, and I know Sgt. Maj. Cagle will take it far and beyond what I could."

To depart the battalion on a good note, Walsh

called Gunnery Sgt. Brad E. Walker, the company gunnery sergeant for Company K, to the stage and promoted him to master sergeant.

"I enjoy the fact that I got to promote a deserving Marine," said Walsh, who had promoted another Marine in the battalion earlier the same day. "Two promotions is a good way for me to go out."

Walsh then thanked the entire battalion for their hard work and dedication during his tenure, which helped him do his job

See SGT. MAJ., A5

3/7 Marine receives Bronze Star, moves on to future

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sgt. Wayne Dekorte, a platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, recently left the Marine Corps after his enlistment came to an end. Part of his enlistment was receiving a Bronze Star medal for his accomplishments overseas.

Dekorte received the award during a ceremony Jan. 23 at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Col. Randall P. Newman, the commanding officer of 7th Marine Regiment, presented

Dekorte with the award for his leadership of a Police Transition Team while deployed to Iraq.

Dekorte, who comes from Redmond, Ore., gave his thanks for his achievements not to his own actions, but to God and his fellow Marines.

"I want to thank Jesus Christ for keeping us alive while we were over there," said Dekorte. "He protected us the entire time we were overseas. It's a great thing for anybody to go on a deployment and not lose a single Marine the entire time."

"As for what I did, I was just doing my job the best way I knew how to. I did

hold the billet normally reserved for a lieutenant, but my command gave me the job, feeling I was qualified. I, thanks to all the Marines and the corpsman I worked with, was able to accomplish the mission.

"All that I did was what I think my battalion commander would have done in my situation," he said. "My Marines are the ones who did all the hard work, and I owe this to them."

The regimental commanding officer praised Dekorte for his efforts and accomplishments.

"Sgt. Dekorte is what success is," said Newman,

See FUTURE, A3



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Wayne Dekorte, a platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Service Company, stands at attention after receiving a Bronze Star medal Jan. 23. Dekorte ended his active service in the Marine Corps and was recognized for his superior performance while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Shoplifting becoming harder at MCX
See Page A5



Fight Club 29
See Page B1



Fun with science
See Page B1

Recipes for your Super Bowl Party

Chili Bruschetta Pizza

Enjoy chili in a new way; in a bruschetta-style pizza! Made with the convenience of canned vegetarian chili, this flavorful pizza gives you another way to get the health benefits of fiber-rich beans and the combination of hearty chili, melted cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, olives and fresh herbs turns this recipe into a true crowd pleaser!

Ingredients:

- 1 unbaked (12 inch), pizza crust
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 can (15 ounces) vegetarian chili*
- 1/3 cup chopped, sun-dried tomatoes
- 1/3 cup shredded, part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 3 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 can (4 ounces) sliced black olives, optional
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves



COURTESY OF MEALTIME.ORG
Chili Bruschetta Pizza

Preparation:

Heat oven to 425°F. Put pizza crust on a baking sheet or pizza pan. Brush olive oil evenly over crust. Spread chili and tomatoes on top. Combine mozzarella, Parmesan, garlic, oregano and black olives, if desired; sprinkle over pizza. Bake 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Garnish with basil. Servings: 5

Mango Tango Black Bean Salsa

Ingredients:

- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) mango slices, cut into cubes
- 1 can (7 ounces) corn with peppers, drained
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin



COURTESY OF MEALTIME.ORG
Mango Tango Black Bean Salsa

Preparation:

Combine the beans, mango, corn, onion and cilantro in a medium bowl. Stir in lime juice, garlic salt and cumin. Servings: 8

Picadillo Chili Dip

Cuban inspired, this hearty chili dip gets its signature flavor from its chilies, cinnamon spice, sweet pineapple and raisins – a great way to fit in vitamin-C rich fruit. Its name “picadillo” means “minced meat,” a common ingredient in chili. Serve this flavorful dip with baked tortilla chips or crusty bread.

Ingredients:

- 1 can (15 ounces) no-beans chili*
- 1 can (8 ounces) unsweetened pineapple bits, drained
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles
- 1 package (8 ounces) reduced-fat cream cheese
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup toasted, slivered almonds

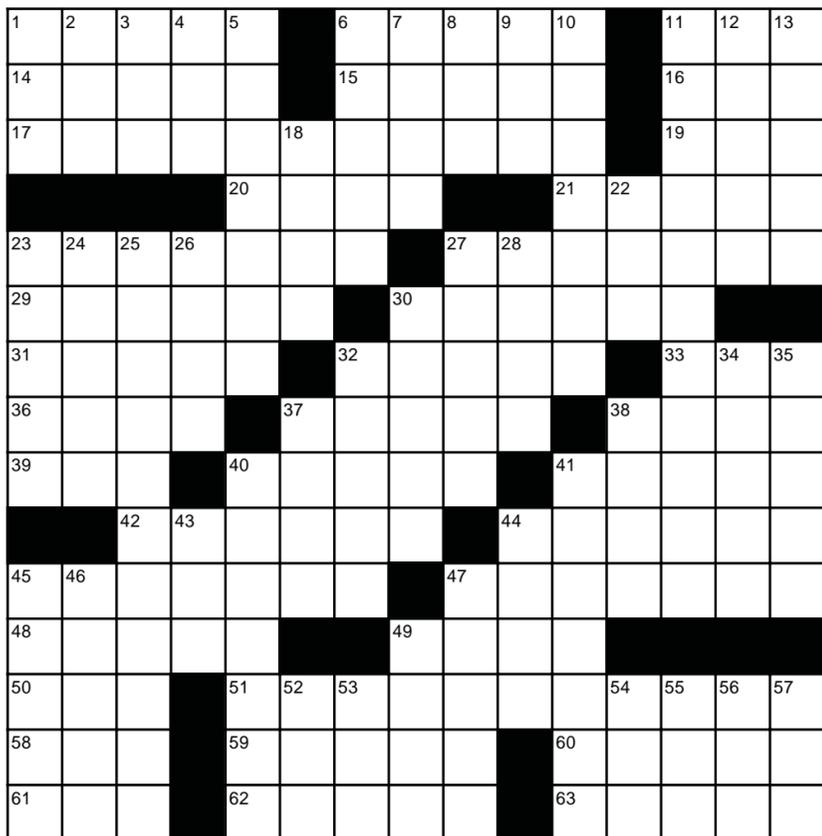


COURTESY OF MEALTIME.ORG
Picadillo Chili Dip

Preparation:

In a medium saucepan, combine chili, pineapple, chilies, cream cheese, raisins, chili powder and cinnamon; mix well. Heat until cream cheese melts, stirring continuously. Mix in almonds.

“ QUIET IN THERE ”



ACROSS

- 1. In pursuit of
- 6. Macbeth or Macduff
- 11. Sci-fi invaders
- 14. Gem State capital
- 15. Brings on board
- 16. Bring home
- 17. Fighter pilot's wear
- 19. Dean's list fig.
- 20. Old World coin
- 21. Suez canal vessel
- 23. Handling's partner
- 27. Enthusiast
- 29. Aim high
- 30. Feels sorry for
- 31. Flips through
- 32. Italian cheese city
- 33. Shoot from the ___
- 36. Powdered drink brand
- 37. Code name?
- 38. Hammer-wielding god
- 39. "Exodus" hero
- 40. Judge Judy's milieu
- 41. River of Lyon
- 42. Gyrocompass inventor
- 44. Numerical array

DOWN

- 45. Apple gadgets
- 47. Strength, as of a drug
- 48. Like seven Nolan Ryan games
- 49. A util.
- 50. Eight ball requirement
- 51. Place for refuse
- 58. Get 100 on
- 59. Like most people
- 60. Powerful ray
- 61. Vezina Trophy org.
- 62. Off one's rocker
- 63. Like days of yore

DOWN

- 1. First-grader's trio
- 2. “___ crying out-loud!”
- 3. ___ Maria (liqueur)
- 4. Snaky shape
- 5. Tries again
- 6. “It's done!”
- 7. Aloha State city
- 8. ___-twist (exert pressure)
- 9. Alumna bio word
- 10. One of the Baltics
- 11. Bassoon kin
- 12. Conical abode
- 13. One of the Fab Four
- 18. Humongous
- 22. Treatment for a sprain
- 23. Carbing-up fare
- 24. Muppet in a trash can
- 25. Women's shoe style
- 26. Triangle tone
- 27. In front
- 28. “You lookin' ___?”
- 30. Fencer's defense

- 32. Serves the java
- 34. Word before bond or order
- 35. Chief exec
- 37. “Encore!”
- 38. ___ Modern (London gallery)
- 40. Like some air conditioning
- 41. Armstrong moniker
- 43. Luau fare
- 44. Bar frequented by Homer Simpson
- 45. Of ancient Peru
- 46. Young marsupial's place
- 47. “The Elder” of Rome
- 49. Abba of Israel
- 52. GI-entertaining gp.
- 53. Class with a lab
- 54. Renegade computer in “2001”
- 55. Phase out
- 56. Did brunch
- 57. Review of a flop

[puzzle Solutions on A5]

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Chris Robert Wagner
Hometown: Yucca Valley, Calif.
Organization: Combat Center Protestant Chapel
Job Title: Youth Pastor
Job Duties: Running the youth group, Sunday school and extracurricular activities
What do you like Best about Your Job? Investing in the lives of youths and teaching them valuable information through God's work
Hobbies: Graphic design
Significant Achievements: Helping the youth group grow in strength since its conception in January 2008
Military Service: None
Time at the Combat Center: Just over one year

Hot Topics

JAN. 12 – MARCH 9: WATER OUTAGES

Between now and March 8, at different times, buildings aboard the installation will experience a water loss of a short duration, no more than five or 10 minutes. The water loss is a result of a required inspection and certification of all water backflow preventers. If any repairs to the backflows are required, a longer duration of water loss may be experienced. If a repair is required, notification to the building occupants will be made.

FEB. 10: MEDICAL CARE FORUM

Lt. Gen. Ronald S. Coleman, the deputy commander for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, M.D. U.S. Army, the deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity, will be at the Combat Center Feb. 10 at a forum to address your medical care issues. Information tables will also be set up to highlight services offered. The forum will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in building 1707. For more information, call 830-6807.

FEB. 16 EAST/WEST GYM HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The East Gym will be open 24/7, but will be closed on holidays. The West Gym will still be open on holidays. For President's Day on Feb. 16, the West Gym will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The East Gym will be closed.

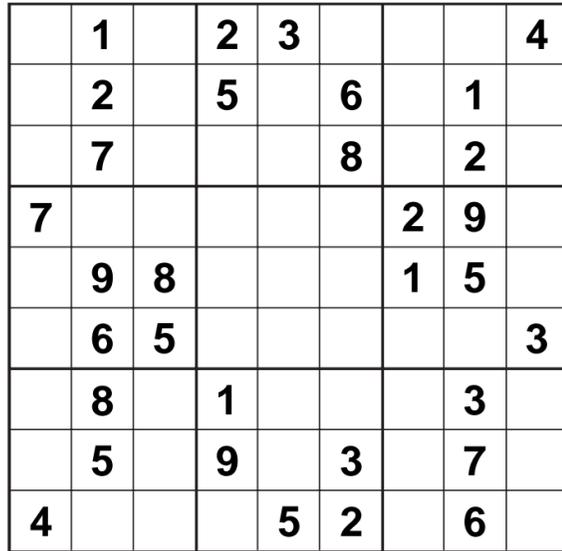
FEB. 19: RECRUITER SCREENING TEAM TO VISIT COMBAT CENTER

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

This Day in Marine Corps History

Jan. 31, 1968

Viet Cong attacked the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and held it until repulsed by American troops.



SUDOKU

Centerspeak

What are your plans for the Super Bowl?

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



PFC. ASHLEY BELENSKI
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL, Co. B

“I’m going to be watching it in the lounge with a lot of my friends from our platoon.”



STAFF SGT. BRADFORD WINEMAN
MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY, HISTORY DIVISION, MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VA.

“I’m boycotting the Super Bowl this year because the Eagles lost.”



1ST LT. JON WILKINS
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT, WEAPONS CO.

“I’m going to Torrance for a Super Bowl party with my family.”

OBSERVATION POST

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4th LAR brushes up on skills, tactics

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A Marine Corps convoy rolls down a street on its way to a rendezvous with another unit. Everything seems normal. The sound of music and children can be heard as neighborhood residents go about their daily routines. Out of nowhere, a deafening explosion hurls the community into chaos and the convoy into

action. However, this isn't Iraq or Afghanistan, it's the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

This scenario was played out for the reserve Marines and sailors from Company E, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during a platoon-level casualty evacuation exercise at NTC's Medina Wasl urban training site Jan. 20.

Each platoon's mission

during the exercise was to enter a town and provide security for a Military Training Team due to a high concentration of insurgents in the area. As they entered the city, a simulated improvised explosive device detonated, wounding the MTT team as well as some Iraqi civilians.

After the scene was set by the small detonation, the Marines' and sailors' objective quickly changed from provid-

ing security to providing first-responder medical attention, and extracting the dead and wounded while simultaneously securing the area. Random enemy gunfire and pyrotechnic explosions kept the Marines on their toes as they attempted to evacuate the area as quickly as possible.

"It was definitely the most diverse training I've ever experienced," said Lance Cpl. Mark Debruyne, rifleman, Company E, 4th LAR. "Most of us haven't deployed and, as we are a reserve unit, we rarely get the opportunity to experience training like this."

The Gowand, N.Y., native also said the training showed him just how fast a situation can take a turn for the worse.

At times the Marines and sailors would become too focused on assisting the wounded, and their communication skills were put to the test. The longer it took the platoons to get each casualty into their Light Armored Vehicles, the more danger they put themselves in with the hostile insurgents.

"We got hit hard out there today," explained 2nd Lt. Joe Hodges, platoon commander, Company E, 4th LAR. "You really have to have tough skin



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

An explosion erupts as Iraqi role players trigger a small-scale improvised explosive device Jan. 20, at Medina Wasl, an urban training site at the Army's National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

An Iraqi policeman role player protects civilians from mock insurgent attacks Jan. 20, at Medina Wasl, an urban training site at the Army's National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The role players provide an accurate social environment for units who are gearing up to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan.

FUTURE, from A1

a Economy, Ind., native. "He is what it is like to see NCOs [non-commissioned officers] acting above and beyond their call of duty."

Newman elaborated on how Dekorte's success working with Iraqi police contributed to giving the Marine Corps its professional image.

"Marines like Sgt. Dekorte will help us win anywhere," he said. "He recognized what needed to be done and he did it. He made the country of Iraq a better place after he left by the work he had done. Also, it is a privilege for all of us to serve beside

Marines like him and we should all exemplify your service. He goes to show why every day is an opportunity for us to make the best of.

"There is no greater respect I would have for someone in this spot than for Sgt. Dekorte," he said. "He may be getting out and going down a different road, but he has done a great job as a war fighter in our Corps."

Cpl. David Alm, a rifleman with H&S Co., 3/7, said he knows Dekorte well, and spoke highly of his friend and fellow Marine.

"He's a very religious guy. He cares tremendously for everyone he works with and for," said the Chicago native, who

served with Dekorte in Iraq. "Being the senior Marine in charge of a Ramadi police station, he really was able to improve the Iraqi people's security by training their police along with helping to improve their standard of living. I know he put forth his best efforts at all times and really did care about everyone around him."

Dekorte has decided to leave the Marine Corps and will return to Oregon to continue his education at Central Oregon Community College.

His fellow Marines and sailors in 3/7 are currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Wayne Dekorte, a platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Service Company, stands at attention while Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Kufchack, 7th Marine Regiment's sergeant major, reads the citation for Dekorte's Bronze Star medal.

Medical Care Forum

February 10th 6 - 7:30 P.M. Bldg. 1707



Come out and let your voice be heard by a panel of experts here to address your medical care issues: Lieutenant General Ronald S. Coleman; Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Major General Elder Granger, M.D. US Army; Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity



Information tables will also be available to highlight services offered.

For more information, please call 830-6807

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Combat Center mourns former Wolfpack Marine

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Family, friends, and the Combat Center community paid their respect to a beloved family member and brother-in-arms during a memorial service for Cpl. Daniel Graham Kirkpatrick at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Sunday.

Kirkpatrick, a native of Cottage Grove, Ore., passed away Jan. 13 after succumbing to injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident in Salton City, Calif., while riding between his duty station at Marine Corps Air Station

Yuma, Ariz., and the Combat Center.

Born Sept. 25, 1979, to Thomas Andrew and Judy Therese Moore, he attended elementary school and high school in Cottage Grove, then attended ITT Technical Institute in Vancouver, Wash., and Shoreline Community College in Shoreline, Wash.

Kirkpatrick, who enjoyed restoring automobiles and motorcycles, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2003, attending recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., before attending the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.,

and Marine Corps Combat Service Support School at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During his Marine Corps career, he served and deployed to Iraq with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, as well as serving and working with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

The member of Desert Congregational Church, who also enjoyed working with computers, is survived by his wife Patthanna, son Samuel James, parents, three brothers, and two sisters.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Marines salute as a funeral detail prepares to escort the body of Cpl. Daniel Graham Kirkpatrick into the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel before his family, friends and comrades memorialize him during his funeral service Sunday.

MCAGCC Marines meet career field monitors



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Monitors from different career fields visited the Combat Center Monday and Tuesday to sit down and speak with Marines from their fields.

"The goal of the monitors is to help Marines with their careers," said Master Sgt. Otto E. Hecht, a Marine Corps Special Operations Command career retention specialist. "We're here to get the job done. We want to help Marines and accomplish the Marine Corps mission."

Hecht said while he only advises and reenlists junior Marines, the job of a CRS is to advise career Marines as well.

Hecht said he feels the pride of being a Marine for four more years is the most important.

"You have the opportunity to stay in the Marine Corps another term," said Hecht. "Sure there are bonuses, that's why some do it. But a lot of Marines stay in because this is what they love."

WOLFPACK, from A1

experience while they are deployed.

"All of our training here at NTC is based on Operation Iraqi Freedom scenarios," said Speigle, a Mason, Ohio, native. "Our Marines are conducting counter-insurgency training operations, standard [IED] training, insurgents among the populous training and are also partnering with Iraqi Security Forces played by Iraqi role players."

Speigle also said getting the Wolfpack out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., will provide an even greater training environment because the Marines and sailors are in an unfamiliar location.

"Our mantra is 'train like you fight, fight like you train,'" added Speigle. "These Marines are in completely different terrain and they don't know where anything is."

Wolfpack reports to Fort Irwin for NTC

To make the training more realistic, 3rd LAR Marines and sailors are being equipped with

Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System gear to use throughout the training evolution. The equipment is similar to the game of laser tag, but with more serious implications.

Each Wolfpack member has a harness with disc-shaped sensors he wears on their Kevlar helmets and flak jackets. They also have a laser attached to the front sight assembly of their service rifles that shoots a pulse at enemy role players. If a laser pulse crosses paths with one of the sensors, the resulting beeping sound from the harness lets the enemy or service member know that he has been shot.

The Marines and sailors of Company E, 4th LAR, are also attached to the Wolfpack and are slated to deploy with the Twentynine Palms battalion. The reserve company, also known by its call sign "Grapplers," is based out of Syracuse, N.Y.

For more news, photos and updates on the Wolfpack's training at Fort Irwin, visit <http://www.marines.mil>.

Compañerismo de Creyentes en Cristo
 FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST
 (meets at Little Church of the Desert)
 6079 Adobe Road
 Twentynine Palms, California 92277
 SUNDAY/DOMINGO: 1:00 P.M.
 Albert L. Perez, Pastor (760) 819-9669
 E-mail: creyente-y-siervo@verizon.net

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
 Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor
 Service Times:
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:45
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 (760) 361-2450
 4751 Adobe Rd.
 29 Palms, Ca. 92277
 spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com

Evangelical Free Church
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 Youth Groups:
 Jr High Wednesday 6:30-8:00 PM
 High School Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM
 Refinery (young adults) Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014
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 Worship.....10:45am

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 Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM
 7434 Bamock Trail, Yucca Valley
 365-2205
 yvcrs.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM
 LIVING UNDER THE SON
 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley
 CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590

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!

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

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

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.

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

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

St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church
 God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child.
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M.
 Onaga at Church St., Y.V.
 365-7133

Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671
The United Methodist Church
 Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM (Child Care Available)
 Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM

READY FOR A CHANGE? CHECK OUT ONE EIGHTY
 Same Jesus, Same Message, Different Attitude
 Worship with a coffee house atmosphere
 Sundays 10:30 a.m.
 Located directly across from the JT Saloon on Hwy. 62 and Center St. in the heart of Joshua Tree
 366-8429 / One80jt@hotmail.com

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MCX stops thieves in their tracks

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange, in response to the actions of both service members and civilians who have made the decision to shoplift, has stepped up its security measures to cut down and deter criminal behavior.

Walter E. Edwards, the asset protection manager for Marine Corps Community Services, said MCCS recently purchased a new surveillance system. Along with other programs in place, such as Eyes Wide Open, they are hoping to cut down on thievery.

"We have a new camera system. It's very sophisticated and much more useful than the old one," the New Orleans native said. "We have a multitude of cameras inside of the PX [MCX]. There are very few things going on that I can't see. It's almost like I can see

you from the front gate to Camp Wilson."

Edwards added the system is a huge improvement over the old one, and it is much easier to operate.

"We have more capabilities with the new system. It is far superior to our old one," Edwards said. "You can view all the cameras on two massive screens. We have controls for our operators to control individually each camera and follow suspicious people. It's a lot easier to view footage now because it is all digital, as opposed to before when everything was on a little screen and on video tapes."

Edwards added thievery here is lower than the national average, which he learned from the National Retail Security Survey.

"We may be below the national average, but the punishments Marines receive are much more severe than those given to civilians," he said. "It is up to their units to

deliver a sentence of non-judicial punishment to them or not, but every time you are caught stealing there's the \$200 charge from MCCS that comes with the price of what you steal, if it is damaged or taken out of the box even, which we consider damaging. The charge comes whether it is a candy bar or an Xbox you're stealing."

Edwards elaborated on penalties for dependants and civilians versus those of Marines.

"There is the \$200 due to damaged items given to anyone who is caught here," he said. "MCCS always puts the fine along with the cost of a damaged object on whoever steals. Marines may receive harsher punishments from their units on top of the charge they receive from MCCS. Civilians can be retained by security and turned over to the sheriff out in town from there."

Patrick J. Rooney, the head of retail for MCCS,

said among other security measures, all the employees at the MCX are taught how to spot shoplifters in the Eyes Wide Open program.

"Eyes Wide Open is a program to help educate all the sales people and others on what to look for and how to prevent theft," said Rooney, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native. "We all know the customer service we provide here is one of the biggest deterrents possible to shoplifting. When you are in the store, there are always people trying to help you, walking around, and keeping an eye out."

Edwards said he believes someone who is caught stealing is not a bad person; it is simply a poor choice they made at the time.

Regardless of the circumstances leading up to that poor choice, potential shoplifters on base now have another reason to think twice before slipping a hot item into their pocket.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

People caught shoplifting at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange can expect a \$200 fine on top of the price of whatever they steal.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Col. Martin F. Wetterauer, 3/4's commanding officer; Sgt. Maj. Jonathon R. Cagle, 3/4's new battalion sergeant major; and Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh, 3/4's outgoing battalion sergeant major, stand together during a relief and appointment ceremony Jan. 23 at Sunset Cinema.

SGT. MAJ., from A1

thoroughly.

Walsh came to 3/4 in 2006, where he served as the company first sergeant for Company L. In September 2007 he assumed duties as the battalion sergeant major and was promoted to his current rank in November 2007.

"I have been lucky to have you," said Lt. Col. Martin F. Wetterauer, 3/4's commanding officer, during the ceremony. "Although, it is great to welcome aboard a new member of the Darkside."

Cagle, a Lexington, Tenn., native, enlisted in the Marine Corps in October of 1988, and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Cagle has deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Afghanistan last year with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Regiment, in sup-

port of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cagle, wished his wife, Kaylene, and two daughters, Madison, 6, and Katelynn, 16 months, would have been there to see the ceremony, and said he was looking forward to his time with 3/4 and making new memories with his new unit.

"You have no idea how much pride I have for staying in 7th Marine Regiment," said Cagle, who had served as the first sergeant of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, "I'm excited to get to know everyone better and begin working with everyone."

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)

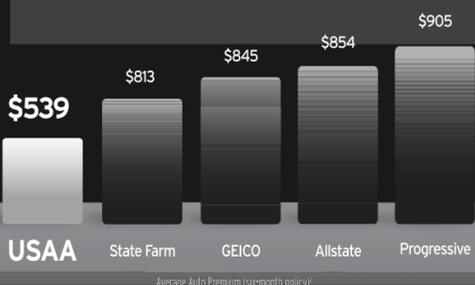
Tuesday
Christ Chapel
9 a.m. Christian Women's Fellowship* Sept. to May
Immaculate Heart of Mary
4-5:30 p.m. Children's RCIA
5-8 p.m. Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday each month)
6-7:30 p.m. Baptism Class (First Tuesday each month)

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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9	7	3	4	1	8	6	2	5
7	4	1	3	8	5	2	9	6
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¹As of 8/31/08. Does not apply in CA, HI, MI, ME and MA. Premium comparison for Progressive not included for AK, WV, WY; GEICO not included for IA, SD, WY; State Farm not included for RI; Allstate not included for MT, ND, SD and WI.

²Competitor Average Auto Premium is based upon countrywide survey of premiums reported by USAA customers from 12/01/06 through 11/30/07, and not provided by the competitor. Savings do not apply in NJ and MA. USAA is not affiliated with other insurance companies listed and does not have permission to use their names.

³A++ (Superior) from A.M. Best Co., highest of 16 possible ratings; Aaa (Exceptional) from Moody's Investors Service, highest of 21 possible ratings; AAA (Extremely Strong) from Standard & Poor's, highest of 21 possible ratings.

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89865-0109

Kids Care Club gives back to Marines, community

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Children crowded around a lunch table at Condor Elementary School aboard the Combat Center Jan. 23 to exercise their artistic talents making Valentine's Day cards and decorations.

The Kids Care Club, a program hosted by the Armed Services YMCA, was organized to teach children how to give back to the community through volunteering and creating different art projects such as Valentine's Day cards and sun catchers for wounded service members and stuffing comfort pillows for cancer patients.

"We are showing the students how to give a part of themselves and how important it is to give to those less fortunate than us," said Debra Nealy, an Operation Hero and Kids Care Club facilitator. "We will continue to push it until we're done with our mission."

Children are eligible to join Kids Care Club after they have graduated from Operation Hero, a 10-week program designed to help children deal with the emotional hardship of having a military parent.

"Once they are capable of dealing with their own personal issues that arise from having a mom or dad in the military, we switch focus to the needs and issues of others around us," said Chloe McGinley, the ASYMCA Operation Hero and Kids Care Club coordinator. "They learn about the art of giving and how nice it feels to give back to the community."

Kids Care Club meets every Friday, alternating between Condor Elementary School and Twentynine Palms Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, Calif., where they work on different projects they will send to people throughout America who are in need of support.

They are currently working

on a Valentine's Day project that will be sent to the Marines and sailors at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., who are recovering from severe wounds they received while deployed.

"I really like making things for the Marines," said Couy Harrington, an 8-year-old KCC participant. "I like how we always visit the Marines and give them gifts."

The next project the children will be working on is called Picture Pillows, where they will be able to stuff and decorate individual pillows for cancer patients at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif. The pillows have a clear opening in the front for the recipients to place pictures or other paper memorabilia they wish to keep close.

"There are such huge differences in the way the students react while doing crafts and wanting to share while participating in the Kids Care Club,"



Couy Harrington, 8, a Kids Care Club participant, paints a sun catcher during a Kids Care Club meeting Jan. 23 at Condor Elementary School on base.

said Nealy. "Normally children are rambunctious, but here they want to do what they are doing because they are helping someone and it makes them feel good about themselves."

The Kids Care Club is willing to reach out to anyone in need; be it the elderly, poor, injured or sick. The children aboard the Combat Center are willing to let them know they

are not alone, said Nealy. For more information regarding the Kids Care Club or how to get involved, contact Nealy or McGinley at 830-7481.

G-6, from A1

computer security.

"That is how the enemy is going to get a hold of us," said Debra Cox, an information assurance officer for G-6. "It's like opening up a hole that allows hackers to get in."

Shirley Russell, the IA manager, is responsible for ensuring every employee aboard the base has completed their annual IA training so they are aware of the dangers of misusing an NMCI computer.

"When they take the training they have to pay attention to what is being told," said Russell, a Rushville, Ind., native. "It is very important for people to realize the risk they pose to the base."

To find out who is misusing their privileges, the G-6 section aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., will run daily scans throughout the entire NMCI system, searching for illegal software, spyware, rogue machines and viruses. When they discover a computer that is out of regulation, they will send a ticket

request to the NMCI employees who work aboard the base with the infected machine.

NMCI and G-6 personnel will then go together to confiscate the computer and search for what was found during the scan.

Aboard the Combat Center lately, there has been a rising number of computers that are being confiscated due to security issues, said Russell. One example of violations occurring recently is not only an IA violation, but also a security breach.

"We are looking for classified information on an unclassified machine," said Russell. "It happens a lot when Marines get back from a deployment and all their information from the deployment is still on their laptop. They don't realize that they are not allowed to carry that information on an unclassified machine."

When classified information is found on an unclassified computer, G-6 personnel must report it through their chain of command at Quantico, which will initiate an investigation and determine if they have to declassify

the information.

Russell explained that downgrading information is a long process.

"We have to track the information back to the originator for [the originator] to determine if the information is still considered classified," she said.

If the information cannot be downgraded, G-6 personnel must wipe the computer clean of all information before it is returned to its user.

DoD employees must also be aware of what is not allowed to be sent through NMCI e-mail accounts.

"Chainmail is definitely not allowed," said Russell. "Chainmail is bogging down our network. We end up following the chainmail up the line to who originated it, and inform all the commands of who sent it out or who continued it."

Rodney Wyss, another MCAGCC IA officer, also warns against opening attachments from unknown senders since they could be malicious spyware.

"These computers are supposed to be used for business or work relat-

ed surfing only," said Wyss. "Anything beyond that, they should not be doing it on their work computer."

Wyss, a Beloit, Wis., native, also advises to pay attention to a Web site extension, even when surfing the internet for work-related information. A Web site extension is the last four digits of a web address. An example would be .gov. When accessing a Web site hosted by a foreign country, there will be a different extension, such as .com.jn, which would be from Japan.

"When someone doesn't know what they are doing, they could very easily end up on a Web site hosted by China or some foreign country, which isn't allowed," he said. "If you're not sure, ask a supervisor."

For more information regarding information assurance, contact G-6 at 830-7141. The annual required training is located at our base Web site at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil>, under the training tab. Service members must complete the DISA training, and civilians must complete the TWMS training.



Service members and civilian Department of Defence employees may find themselves in trouble if they don't know how to or choose not to comply with DoD information assurance and computer network use regulations.

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Let your loved one know how you feel with a "Love Note" in our Special Happy Valentine's Day Page!

Drop by, call or send in your Love Note along with payment to our Hi-Desert Star or the Desert Trail office. You can add a photo for just \$5.00 more! Send as many Love Notes as you would like, grandparents, kids, wives, husbands, sweeties or friends. Please limit each to 15 words or less. Don't forget our guys in the military, this will publish in our Observation Post that is sent to all the Marines and their families!
Final Deadline: February 6, 2009 at 5pm - Published in Feb 14th Star, 13th OP, and 12th Trail publications!
Only \$30 ea. Love Note or \$35 with photo

Hi-Desert Star
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Yucca Valley, CA 92284
365-3315

Love Notes
PO Box 880
Yucca Valley, CA 92286

Photo Enclosed

The Desert Trail
6396 Adobe Road
29 Palms, CA 92277
367-3577

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ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____
Message (15 words or less, please) _____

PAYMENT METHOD

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Young Marines graduate boot camp, march to their future

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen children who made up the first class of the Twentynine Palms, Calif., Young Marines, the Mojave Vipers, ended their recruit training with a graduation ceremony at Twentynine Palms Elementary School Jan. 23.

Similar to Marine Corps standards, after a child completes their recruit training, they can then rise through the ranks of the Young Marines, by earning medals and ribbons for demonstrating their Marine Corps knowledge and leadership, and helping out in the community through volunteer service with their unit.

At the graduation, as each child stood to be handed their certificate, four children who excelled above their peers were promoted to private first class, giving their parents an opportunity to pin on their first rank.

"It was a lot of fun, but really hard work," said Anna Sammel, a 14-year-old who

was the honor graduate of the Mojave Vipers, and was promoted to private first class. "It felt really great knowing the ones who put out 150 percent were recognized, showing all the hard work they put into our unit during our training."

During their recruit training, the children, ranging from 8 to 14 years of age, met every Friday for three months attending a variety of classes, performing modified physical fitness tests and learning close order drill.

"They had to complete 56 hours of boot camp to graduate," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Montague, the Mojave Vipers commanding officer. "We even had them standing one-hour fire watch when we did over-nighters."

For their physical fitness test, the children had to complete a set amount of sit-ups in one minute. The number of sit-ups varied depending on the age of the child. They had to complete two separate stretch routines, a 30-foot shuttle run, their choice of pull-ups, push-ups or a flexed arm

hang, and a one mile run. Children aged 8 and 9 had to run half a mile.

When the group could not meet at the elementary school, the children would hold classes at the Elks Lodge in Twentynine Palms.

"It was vigorous for them," said Holly Byrne, the executive officer of the Mojave Vipers and a former Marine. "From the beginning to the end you see a drastic improvement ranging from their knowledge, to their drill movements and bearing."

The classes they attended included customs and courtesies, Young Marine and Marine Corps history, the military rank structure, drug awareness and reduction class, land navigation, first aid, and desert survival.

"When I first saw these kids, they were weak and shy," said Staff Sgt. Trevor Jennings, the training officer for the Mojave Vipers. "Now I see them and they're full of confidence, moving around sure of themselves."

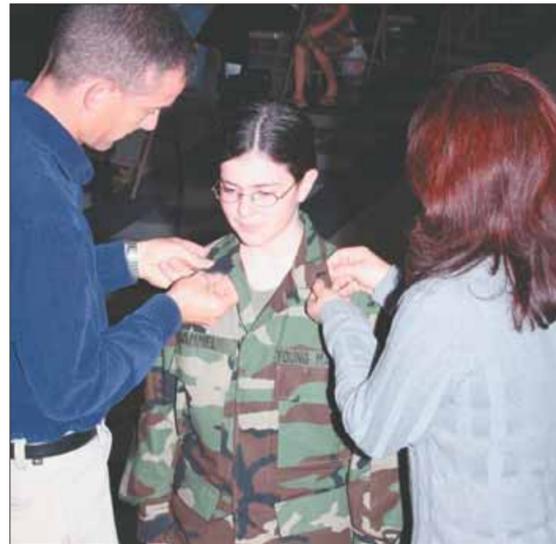
The Young Marine Program was created in 1959

with the overall mission to impact America's future by providing quality youth programs that help develop its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

"They're little kids growing right before your eyes," said Byrne, a Pearland, Texas native. "It is very motivating for me to see them excel."

The new Young Marines will continue that mission and participate in various community services and fundraisers. Each Young Marine must complete 240 hours of community service throughout the year.

The Mojave Vipers' next recruit training is scheduled to begin in the summer. For more information on how to get involved, contact Montague at ymmontague@yahoo.com.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Sabrina Sammel, a participant in the Young Marines Program, is promoted to private first class by her parents during the graduation ceremony Jan. 23 at the Twentynine Palms Elementary School, in Twentynine Palms, Calif. Three other children were also promoted to private first class during the ceremony.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAH REAGAN ANDREWS
Daughter of Capt. Kyle T. Andrews and wife, Lauren.
Born on Dec. 15, weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz and measuring 20 inches.

DOMINIC JAMES BERGEOUX
Son of Staff Sgt. Jeff Bergeaux and wife, Jodee.
Born on Dec. 17.

ROZLYNN AVELINA CHAVEZ
Daughter of Sgt. Dominic Chavez and wife, Clorinda.
Born on Dec. 17, weighing 6 lbs., 12 oz and measuring 18.6 inches.

SVEN ENRIQUE GEORGE
Son of Petty Officer 3rd Class Derrill M. George and wife, Lizett.
Born on Dec. 17, weighing 7 lbs., 4 oz and measuring 18 inches.

KATIE ANNE HURST
Daughter of Sgt. Jacob Hurst and wife, Nichole.
Born on Dec. 17, weighing 6 lbs., 9 oz and measuring 18.7 inches.

JAMES ALLEN MICHAEL CICHETTI
Son of Lance Cpl. Steven Cichetti and wife, Jennifer.
Born on Dec. 18, weighing 9 lbs., 6 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

DAVEY LEIGH MARIE GEORGE
Daughter of Master Sgt. Christopher George and wife, Sara.
Born on Dec. 18, weighing 7 lbs., 4 oz and measuring 19.8 inches.

JACQUELINE MINERVA MACIEL
Daughter of Cpl. Jesus Maciel and wife, Giang.
Born on Dec. 18, weighing 8 lbs., 6 oz and measuring 20.6 inches.

ROXANNE PAIGE JORGENSEN
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Thomas Jorgensen and wife, Misty.
Born on Dec. 19, weighing 6 lbs., 9 oz and measuring 19.4 inches.

ALEXANDER PAUL BAILEY
Son of Sgt. Duane A. Bailey and wife, Valerie.
Born on Dec. 20, weighing 6 lbs., 5.9 oz and weighing 18.9 inches.

MAYSA AMARIS SABELLA FLORES
Daughter of Martin Flores and wife, Samara.
Born on Dec. 23, weighing 5 lbs., 5.9 oz and measuring 17.4 inches.

NICHOLAS JACOB DELGADILLO
Son of Staff Sgt. Jorge Delgadillo and wife, Stacy.
Born on Dec. 24, weighing 7 lbs., 2 oz and measuring 20.7 inches.

JULIAN JOVANI SHARPE
Son of 1st Lt. Justin M. Sharpe and wife, Maribel.
Born on Dec. 24, weighing 6 lbs., 13 oz and measuring 19 inches.

MCKENZIE GRACE VINCENT
Daughter of Cpl. Stuart Vincent and wife, Ashley.
Born on Dec. 24, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz and measuring 20.6 inches.

COLE DOUGLAS PARKISON JR.
Son of Cpl. Cole Douglas Parkison and wife, Elizabeth.
Born on Dec. 26, weighing 6 lbs., 14.4 oz and measuring 19.8 inches.

RILEY MICHELLE WILLIAMSON
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Williamson and wife, Melissa.
Born on Dec. 26, weighing 6 lbs., 4 oz and measuring 19 inches.

ASHER HENRY HOPKINS
Son of Staff Sgt. Robert Hopkins and wife, Katie.
Born on Dec. 30, weighing 8 lbs., 11.8 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

ANNE CATHERINE GEORGIA
Daughter of Sgt. Matthew C. Georgia and wife, Erin.
Born on Dec. 31, weighing 6 lbs., 5 oz and measuring 18.5 inches.

KAI JERIC POPOWSKI
Son of Capt. Jason Popowski and wife, Annalee.
Born on Dec. 31, weighing 6 lbs., 6.9 oz and measuring 18.8 inches.

JESLYNN MCKENZIE SEBRING
Daughter of Cpl. William Z. Sebring and wife, Heather.
Born on Dec. 31, weighing 8 lbs., .5 oz and measuring 19.5 inches.

RYLIE LYNN HOUSE
Son of Lance Cpl. Nicole House and husband, Joseph.
Born on Jan. 2, weighing 8 lbs., 7.3 oz and measuring 20.8 inches.

REESE NOELLE NELSON
Daughter of Lt. j.g. David Nelson and wife, Tonya.
Born on Jan. 2, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz and measuring 22.3 inches.

GAVIN MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
Son of Staff Sgt. Brendan Fitzpatrick and wife, April.
Born on Jan. 3, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz and measuring 20.6 inches.

AARON TOWNSEND DOUGLAS
Son of Capt. Craig T. Douglas and wife, Laura.
Born on Jan. 6, weighing 9 lbs., 3 oz and measuring 21.3 inches.

MALARAI LEE CASTLE HERR
Daughter of Sgt. Christopher Herr and wife, Candice.
Born on Jan. 7, weighing 7 lbs., 7.3 oz and measuring 18.83 inches.

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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.

Huskies help Marines lead the way in Afghanistan

LANCE CPL. MONTY BURTON

SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE
AFGHANISTAN

CAMP BARBER, Afghanistan — Marines are employing a unique piece of equipment that's helping lower the threat of improvised explosive devices in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Operation Gateway III, which involved the clearing of southern Afghanistan's IED-laden Route 515, marked the first time the Route Clearance Platoon of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), used the Husky tactical support vehicle in combat operations.

The Husky, equipped with an Interim Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector to detect hidden metallic explosives, is similar in construction to the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle, also known as the MRAP, with a V-shaped undercarriage to direct the blast away from the vehicle and protect its driver. Its single-operator cockpit is fitted with armored steel, ballistic windows and an on-board automatic fire extinguisher. The vehicle detects IEDs with its IVMMMD, which employs both metal detection and ground penetrating radar sensors.

"This is a very safe vehicle," said Andrew Jorgensen, the lead field service representative of the Husky. "There have been a lot of safety upgrades to ensure the operator is well protected. I have known operators to have had an explosive detonate underneath this vehicle, and then 15 minutes later they are outside tak-



CPL. PETE THIBODEAU

The Husky tactical support vehicle is an important tool in defeating improvised explosive devices used by insurgents against allied forces in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Huskies were successful in finding numerous IEDs during Operation Gateway III, a strategically planned operation in which Marines of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), cleared southern Afghanistan's Route 515. The route was notorious for IEDs; however, with the help of the Huskies, Marines defeated the IEDs and provided safer travel for local Afghans and allied forces.

ing pictures with the vehicle."

First Lt. Samuel Murray, the Route Clearance Platoon commander, said his Marines feel very secure in the Husky.

"This is an overall better vehicle than previous models," Murray said. "If a mine

were to detonate underneath the vehicle, I am sure the operator would come out of it just fine."

During Operation Gateway III, the upgraded Huskies proved to be effective after encountering pressure-plate IEDs that deto-

nated beneath the vehicles. Reports confirmed the vehicles sustained mostly minimal damage that did not require outside assistance to repair and no injuries were reported. In most cases, the vehicles were back on the road in less than two hours.

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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

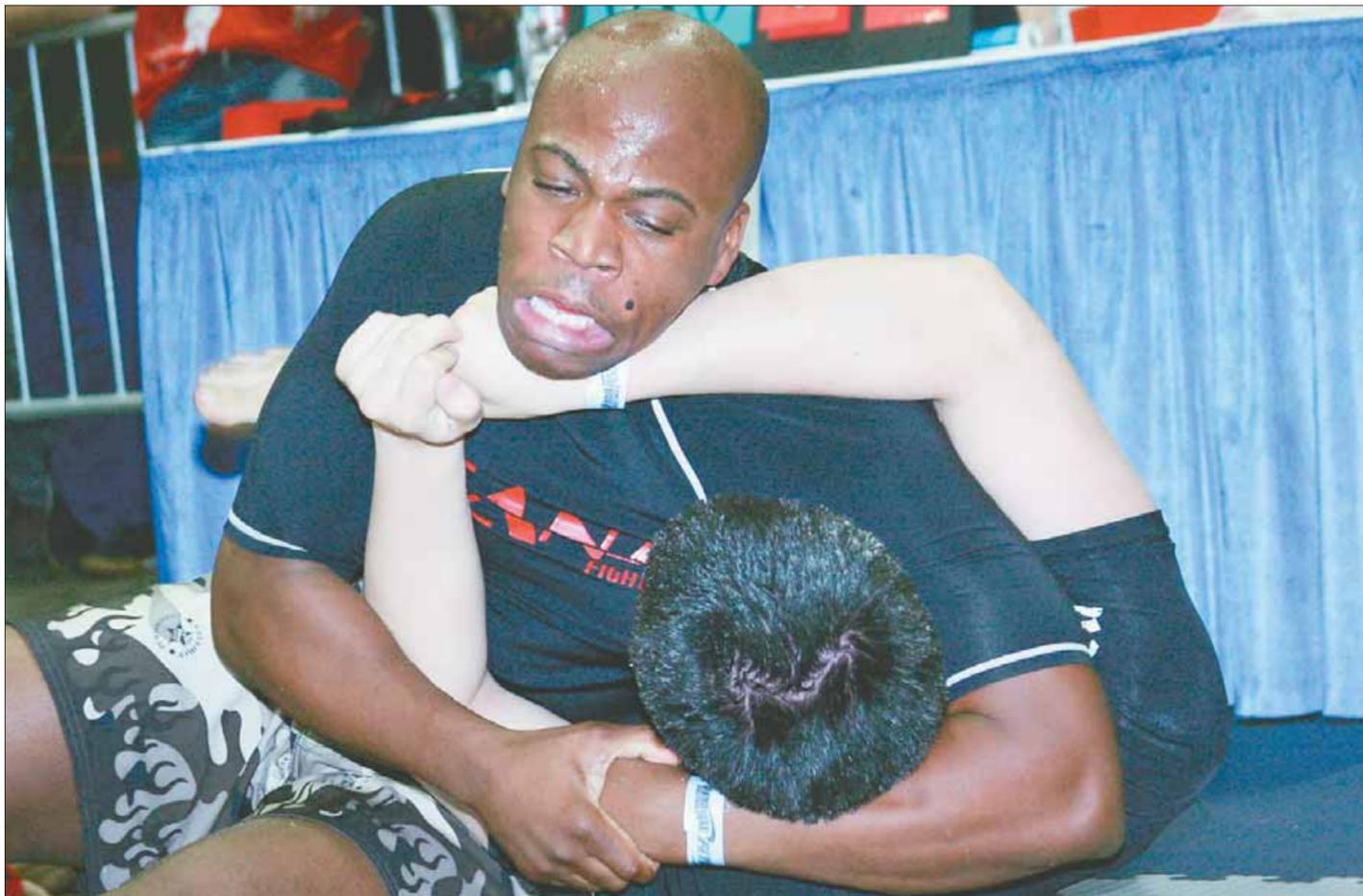
Multiple fighters from the Combat Center's Fight Club 29 participated in the Gracie Nationals Submission Grappling Tournament held at the Los Angeles Convention Center Sunday, standing toe-to-toe with some stalwart adversaries, but taking home several awards.

The competition hosted martial arts schools from eight states west of the Mississippi River and a team from Rosarito, Mexico, said Mark M. Geletko, the head coach of Fight Club 29.

"We had stiff competition, but we did well," said Geletko, a Pittsburgh native. "We had three out of five fighters take medals in their divisions. The showing we had at the competition was excellent; it shows how far along our club has come. Our three fighters that medaled were considered beginners still. Beginner fighters are those with less than one year of experience in the sport."

Geletko added that he believes the club competed well in such a large competition, especially for it being their first time in a competition of that magnitude.

The fighter who earned a gold medal for his performance in the 135-pound weight class was James Fehr,



Omar Askew, a fighter with Fight Club 29, feels the pain as his opponent tries to throw him off. Fight Club 29 fought in a much larger venue Sunday when they traveled to Los Angeles to participate in the Gracie Nationals Submission Grappling Tournament.

who is also one of the newest fighters in the club.

"I really just wanted to thank the other guys in the club for helping me so much

in practice," said Fehr, a San Manuel, Ariz., native. "It was a pretty good competition. It's one of the bigger ones that we go to, and I think the

club takes a lot out of this. We had a few guys medal pretty high, along with me, so I think we all did good."

Other fight club smack

down artists earned silver medals in their weight classes. Dominic Waters and Nate Wolf both earned the silver in the 175 and 220-

pound weight classes.

Wolf, a Jefferson, Wis., native, in the 220 weight

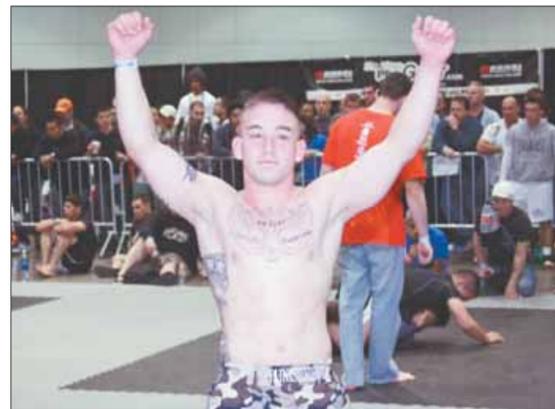
See FIGHT CLUB, B4



James Fehr, a fighter with Fight Club 29, takes on one of his early opponents during the Gracie Nationals Submission Grappling Tournament.



James Fehr, a fighter with Fight Club 29, chokes out one of his opponents during the Gracie Nationals Submission Grappling Tournament.



James Fehr, a fighter with Fight Club 29, celebrates after his first victory in the Gracie Nationals Submission Grappling Tournament.

Kids learn cool concoctions at library

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Lifelong Learning Library's annual Fun with Science Night Jan. 22 had children crowding tables throughout the building learning cool experiments and one particular lesson that will make them excited about going to school. They learned science can be fun.

The night began at 6 p.m. with Janice Holbrook, the science coordinator at Twentynine Palms Elementary School in Twentynine Palms, Calif., explaining the difference between a science experiment and a science project, while getting the children excited about the upcoming science fair at the school Feb. 26.

"When kids think of science, they think 'ew' and when parents think of a science project, they think 'double ew,'" said Holbrook, who is also a sixth-grade teacher for the school. "When children come to an event like this they get to realize they can do something fun, and parents realize science isn't always messy or a long process. It gets them thinking about science, not as a class in school, but something interesting to do."

Holbrook, a Finley, Ohio, native, continued her introduction by conducting an

experiment for children to do at home. Using an iodine and water mixture which turns a dark purple when in contact with starch, she put a few drops on different foods like an apple, sugar, flour and a potato, and let the children guess which food contains the most starch.

"We hold this event to let the children have fun," said Tara Drummond, a library technician for the Lifelong Learning Library. "They get to realize the library is not just here to check out books. It is a place to go for fun as well."

After Holbrook's presentation, the children were able to move throughout five different science tables where they could conduct their own science experiments and projects.

At the first table, the children were shown how to make their own rock candy using warm water, sugar, a glass jar and some rough string. Children were able mix food coloring in the water mixture to make their rock candy different colors.

"Many kids are surprised because they had no idea that rock candy had anything to do with science," said Drummond, a Tuscan, Ariz., native. "This is a great activity to do at home too. It is extremely easy and not messy at all."

The second table was



Spencer Walton, 9, builds a house out of gumdrops and toothpicks during Fun with Science Night 2009 at the Lifelong Learning Library Jan 22.

called "Geodesic Gumdrops," where children used gumdrops and toothpicks to construct different shaped buildings, while experimenting to find out which shape was the

most structurally strong. Spencer Walton, a 9-year-old attendee who spoke about this part of his science night

See SCIENCE, B4

Youth sports hits, kicks, shoots spring into gear

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It's that time of year again! Registration for the Combat Center's Youth Sports Program is under way for the spring season.

All active-duty, reserve, or retired military members, government employees, and Marine Corps Community Services employees are able to enroll their children in the coed programs throughout

the year.

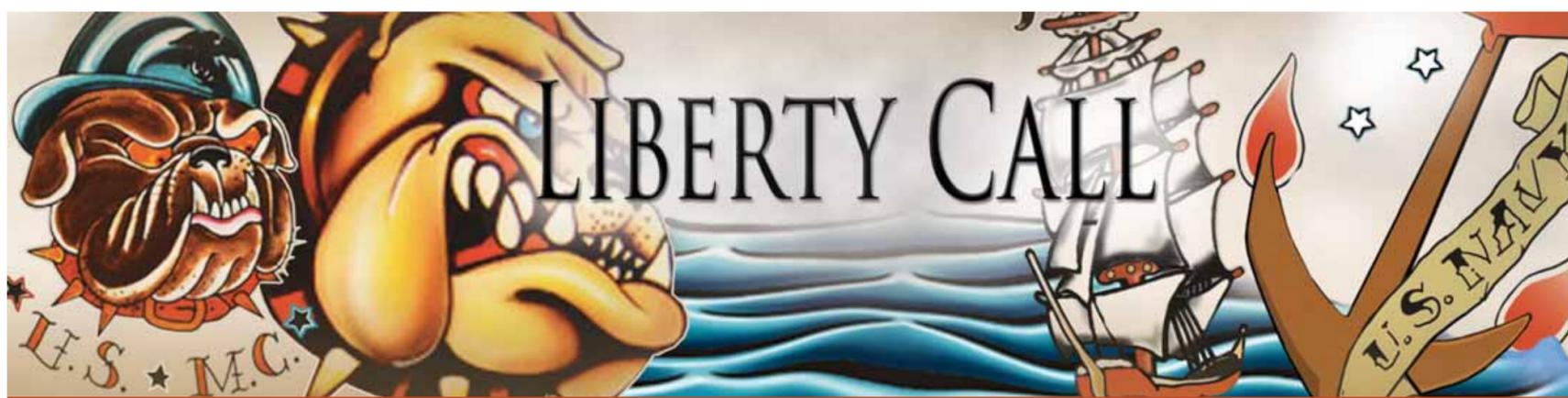
This spring, many sports are offered to youngsters of all ages and skill levels to include track and field, tee ball, coach-pitch baseball, tennis, junior golf league, and Start Smart baseball and tennis. Start Smart is a six-week program designed for younger children, typically 3 to 5 years old, to introduce them to the world of

See YOUTH, B4



A girl runs to hit a tennis ball during a Youth Sports Program last spring aboard the Combat Center. A pilot program for Start Smart tennis is available in the spring for children ages 5 to 7.

COURTESY PHOTO



SAT. 1/31 Mötley Crüe Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info, call 342-5000 or log on to http://www.fantasyresort.com	WED. 2/4 Cooking with Chefs Time: 3-4:30 p.m. Where: Hotel Zoso 150 South Indian Canyon Dr. Palm Springs For more info, call 365-9676 or 322-7323	FRI. 2/6 Apocalypse Cage Fights Time: All day event Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison St. Coachella For more info, call (800) 585-3737 or log on to http://www.spotlight29.com	FRI. 2/6 Blues After Hours Time: 5-9 p.m. Where: Cafe Potpourri at the Carriage Inn 901 N. China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest For more info, call 446-7910 or log on to http://www.carriageinn.biz	SAT. 2/7 Explore 29 Palms Tour Time: 11 a.m. Where: Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce 73660 Civic Center Dr. Twentynine Palms For more info, call 367-3445 or log on to http://www.29chamber.com
SUN. 2/8 Heart Time: 7 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr. Cabazon For more info, call (951) 849-3080 or log on to http://www.morongocasinosort.com	FRI. 2/13 Sweetheart Luncheon Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Where: Little Church of the Desert 6079 Adobe Rd. Twentynine Palms For more info, call 367-4322 or 367-1673	FRI. 2/13 Verizon Tour de Palm Springs Bike Event Time: All day event Where: Palm Springs Convention Center 277 N. Avenida Caballeros Palm Springs For more info, call 568-2800	FRI. 2/20 Brooks & Dunn Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info, call 342-5000 or log on to http://www.fantasyresort.com	FRI. 2/20 Chicago Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa 32-250 Bob Hope Dr. Rancho Mirage For more info, call (866) 923-7244 or visit http://www.hotwatercasino.com/TheShow/

One Square Mile of Hell: Review

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In his book, One Square Mile of Hell: The Battle for Tarawa, author John Wukovits uses participants' letters and diaries and first-hand interviews with survivors, to paint for readers a picture of one the Corps' finest, yet bloodiest victories over an extremely devoted Japanese enemy.

Wonderfully put together, the personal memories of the Marines and sailors of the 2nd Marine Division describe in detail how a battle that began with opposing sides hurling shells at each

other from a mile's distance ended in bitter and savage hand-to-hand combat.

The book can be broken down into three parts with the first detailing how young men, most of whom had never even heard of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, rushed to recruiting stations, leaving behind pitch forks, college books, jobs, girlfriends, and families in order to avenge what they considered to be a cowardly attack by the Japanese empire.

The second part of the novel deals with the actual battle, which began with some of the heaviest Naval bombardment of the war, before moving on to the

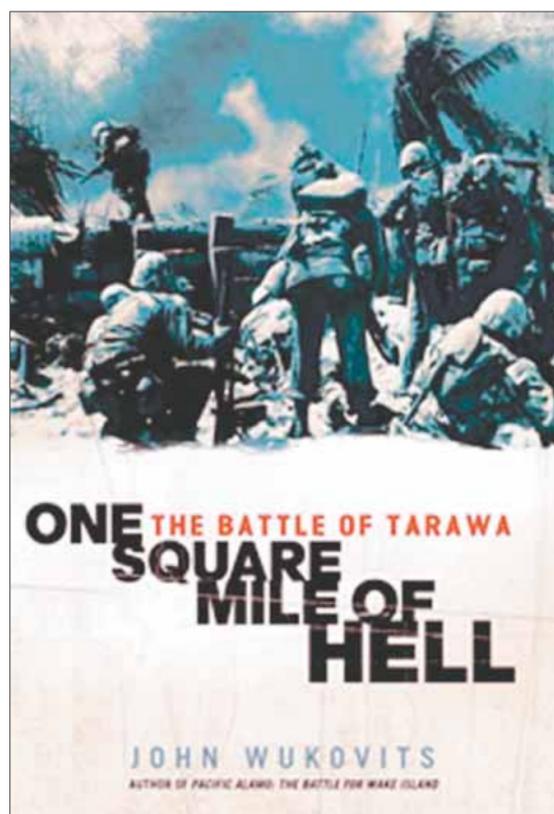
bloody assault of the heavily fortified island of Betio. From there the book describes the intense close quarters combat as Marines slowly conquer the island and the rest of the atoll.

Three exhausting days after the assault on Betio begins, Wukovits explains how Marines and sailors get a chance to pause for chow and to bandage wounds before they start the painful search of murky water, burnt-out amtracs, and blood stained sand for comrades and, in some, cases family members.

The final section of the book is devoted to the campaign's aftermath. Young boys are now men, who are still ready and willing to fight, but no longer eager to take a life. Young girls are now women moving on after accepting the fact that their high school sweetheart is not coming back. Parents, having not heard from their sons in some time, prepare themselves for bad news. Unlike many other books

of its kind, One Square Mile of Hell also captures what some would call the less than honorable, but all too real aspects of combat. The lieutenant who rushed an enemy machine gun only to see that his men, all frozen with fear, did not follow and abandoned him under fire. The officer, who hunkered down behind an amtrac caught on the reef, while his Marines waded through churning water only to be gunned down upon reaching the beach. These incidents, and other unfortunate parts of combat, including casualties from friendly fire, are remembered, and only help explain the madness that is war to those who have never been there and lived it.

While the darker side of warfare is addressed, the true honor, courage and commitment of the Marines and sailors who fought in the Tarawa campaign shines throughout the book. A private first class who rescued fellow Marines by bayonet-



COURTESY PHOTO

One Square Mile of Hell: The Battle for Tarawa by John Wukovits

ing three Japanese soldiers before being cut down by an enemy saber and a corpsman who rushed through enemy fire to rescue every Marine is a rifleman when they rush to fill gaps in the line during a Japanese counterattack, and a scout sniper who destroyed machine gun after machine gun and apologized to his comrades shortly before dying of wounds suffered during the attack, for leaving them while still engaged with the enemy are also told. Every story exhibits the

bravery and honor these Marines demonstrated during this important piece of Corps history.

With books like One Square Mile of Hell, it is hard to imagine why the Tarawa campaign is not as well-known as other World War II campaigns. When the incorporation of amphibious assaults in World War II is mentioned, the first names that come to mind are the D-Day invasion, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima.

While these struggles were of great importance, Tarawa was just as significant in the effort to reclaim the Pacific. Retreat was not an option because there was nowhere to retreat to. As the book states, there were only two things to do on Tarawa: fight or die.



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

On July 28 the late Joe Gordon, who played second base for the New York Yankees and the Cleveland Indians, will be inducted into major league baseball's Hall of Fame, at Cooperstown, New York. It will be a long overdue recognition of a great baseball player, a fine gentleman, and a tough minded optimist.

In 1942 Joe Gordon made more errors than any player in the American League. He struck out more times than any player in the league. He hit into more double plays than any player in the league. What a seemingly dismal record it was. And yet, unbelievable as it may seem, he was voted the most valuable player in the entire league!

Why?

Joe Gordon never stopped believing in himself and in his ability to improve. Joe Gordon never stopped believing in the possibilities of his teammates and personally encouraged them over and over again in every game. Joe Gordon never stopped believing in the possibilities of his team winning the pennant. Many doubted, some laughed, but, believe it or not, they won the championship!

Later, the team owner, the manager, coaches, and all the players gave Joe Gordon the credit. They all agreed it was his tough minded optimism that spurred them on to their triumphant season.

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4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45			
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Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)		Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC					
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*6:00	*6:10	*6:15		*6:50	*7:35					

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Hoffman & Thompson Find Love in 'Harvey'

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

Last Chance Harvey,
Rated PG-13

Starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson

Cupid's arrows zing Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson in "Last Chance Harvey," in which a rumples American and a buttoned-up Brit find each other and slowly start to heal their bruised hearts.

Hoffman plays Harvey Shine, a divorced, middle-aged New York composer of commercial jingles who flies to London to attend the wedding of his estranged daughter—who jolts him with the news that she wants her stepfather, not Harvey, to give her away.

Thompson is Kate Walker, a census taker at Heathrow Airport who's given up on finding Mr. Right

after one failed blind-date setup after another.

Sparks don't fly when Harvey and Kate first meet, but things get a little warmer on their second encounter in an airport bar after Harvey misses his flight home. Kate convinces Harvey to stay in London for the wedding dinner, which Harvey has decided to skip. He says he will, but only if she'll accompany him.

But what about the make-or-break business meeting Harvey's got waiting for him back in New York? What's up with Kate's mum, who's convinced her next-door neighbor is a mass murderer? What's going to happen about Harvey's chronic heart condition, for which he forgot his medication?

There's not much in "Last Chance Harvey," a light-touch romance sprinkled with bittersweet comedy, that

you haven't seen somewhere before. But Hoffman and Thompson are charming and disarming, and these two top-notch, Oscar-winning actors elevate everything by settling naturally into their roles and making every line they deliver sound like something their characters would actually say. You not only feel the long, lean years of disappointment and dejection Harvey and Kate both bring to their budding relationship, you see it—in their body language, in their faces, even in the way they wear their clothes.

"Harvey" is a movie for grown-ups. To fully appreciate it, you need to be on playing-field level with Harvey and Kate. You need some miles on the love odometer. You need to have experienced, if not firsthand then by observation, that happily-ever-afters don't always work out that way



COURTESY PHOTO

Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson star in "Last Chance Harvey."

and that the road that runs through adulthood is often pocked with emotional pot-holes.

When the movie closes,

the camera tracks upward and holds on a skyline shot of lush green tree leaves moving in the breeze. You know romance is in bloom.

It's not a surprise ending, by any stretch. But it is a hopeful and uplifting one, for hearts of any age and love in any stage.

Week three of MCAGCC hoops



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

A basketball player with Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School's team, Party, goes up for a shot in the second half of a game against the Installation Personnel Administration Center Wednesday night at the Combat Center's East Gym. Intramural basketball is the first of many sports to count toward earning the coveted Commanding General's Trophy. The Commanding General's Trophy Competition is an annual tournament where base units battle it out in various sporting events to receive the winning trophy and bragging rights.



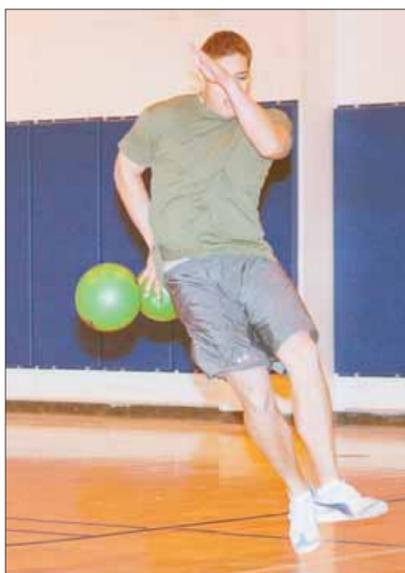
CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

A basketball player with the Installation Personnel Administration Center goes for the layup during an intramural basketball game against Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School's team, Party, Wednesday night at the Combat Center's East Gym.

Current Intramural Basketball Standings

Ranked Team	Wins	Losses
1 NHTP	3	0
1 Ole School Plus	2	0
1 MCCES All-Stars	1	0
4 1/7	3	1
5 1st Tanks	1	1
5 MWSS-374 (A)	1	1
7 IPAC	1	2
8 MCCES A	0	1
8 MWSS-374 (B)	0	1
8 3d CEB	0	1
8 CLB-7	0	1
8 MCCES Party	0	3

Intramural dodgeball rolls on



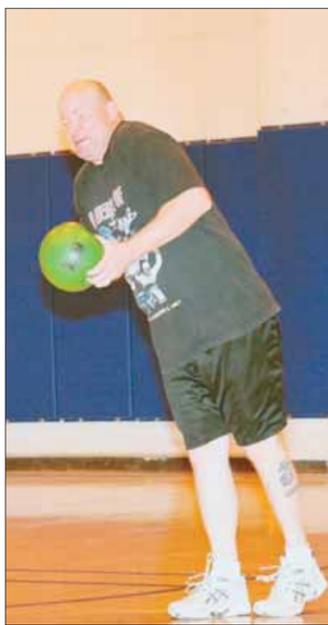
LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

A member of the Dental dodgeball team fails to evade a well thrown shot during intramural dodgeball action at the Combat Center's East Gym Tuesday night. Dental defeated the Hospital 3-1.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

A member of team Sapper's dodgeball team flings himself out of the way of an incoming shot during intramural dodgeball action at the Combat Center's East Gym Tuesday night. Team Sapper lost the game 3-1 to the A-Team.



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

A member MTU's dodgeball team reacts after taking a powerfully-thrown shot to the chest during intramural dodgeball action at the Combat Center's East Gym Tuesday night. MTU claimed their first win of the season Tuesday, defeating the A-Team 3-2.

TUESDAY'S SCORES

Dental	3	Hospital	1
Fainting Goats	3	Sapper	1
Tanks #4	0	MCCES A Co.	3
A-Team	2	MTU	3
Unpredictables	0	Jive Turkeys	3

INTRAMURAL DODGEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS AS OF WEDNESDAY

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Jive Turkeys	3	0
Fainting Goats	3	0
Sapper	2	1
MCCES A Co.	2	1
A-Team	1	2
Hospital	1	2
MTU	1	2
Dental	1	2
Tanks #4	1	2
Unpredictables	0	3

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March 18.....Joe Nutter & His Sophisticated Swing
March 25.....Milt Rasmussen Band

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FIGHT CLUB, from B1

class, said that he enjoyed the tournament, but felt that he should have performed better. The fighters had to fight many fights to make it to the apex of their divisions and compete for the title.

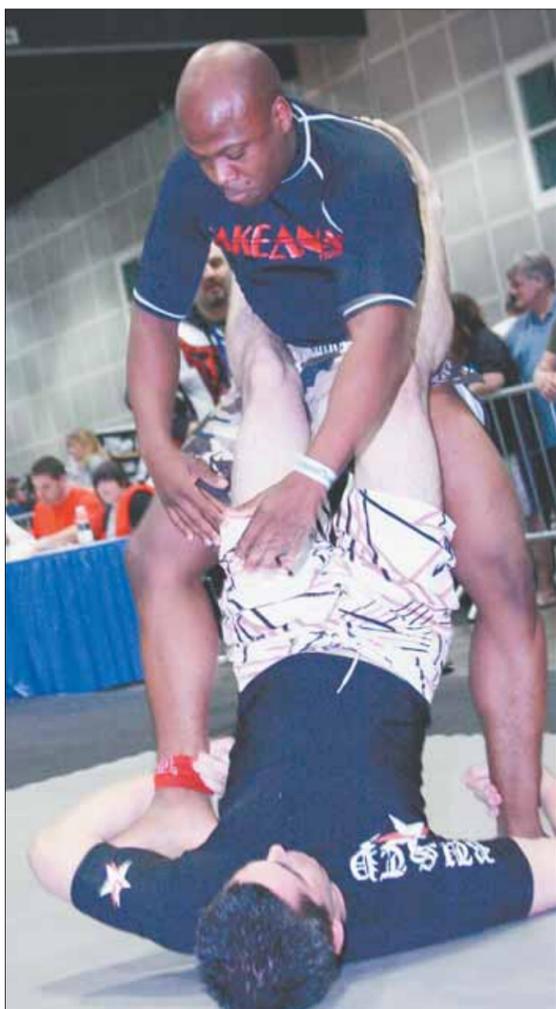
"I did okay but I was somewhat disappointed with my final fight, coming up second place and all," said Wolf. "It's a tough loss after coming that far. Working up to moments like that one is difficult. It almost seems like all the other fights almost don't add up."

Wolf said his plan for the fight did not go his way, but he is going to continue to refine his style and conditioning.

"When you're in a fight like that you try to work in your game plan, but sometimes it just doesn't work out," he said. "There were a lot of good fighters and they gave us good competition. Hopefully we'll have more matches like that."

With the club making an appearance at their biggest tournament yet, they are scheduled to head to the Grappler's Extreme tournament Feb. 21 in San Diego.

"Next month we're going to be in another big venue," said Geletko. "We're all looking forward to it because matches in San Diego always attract large numbers and good fighters."



LANCE CPL. M. G. NERL

Omar Askew, a fighter with Fight Club 29, prepares to drop into his opponent's guard position during his first match of the day. Fight Club 29 fought in their first large venue Sunday when they traveled to Los Angeles to participate in the Gracie Nationals Submission Grappling Tournament.

SCIENCE, from B1

experience while trying to construct a house using the gumdrops and toothpicks.

"This [event] is pretty cool," said Walton, a Twentynine Palms, native. "It helped me realize I can like science if I am doing something that I really like."

At the third table, children were taught how a vortex is created. By using two bottles, one of which is filled with water, and a plastic connector, the children were able to create a tornado in a bottle by swirling the water in the bottle quickly, then letting it drain upside down into the empty bottle.

The fourth table featured a display, which demonstrated what happens when colors are mixed together. By using a cir-

cular sheet of paper and a pencil, children decorated the paper with different colors and punctured the paper in the middle with the pencil. While watching the paper, the children twirled the pencil between their hands and watched as the colors they chose mixed together to create a completely different color.

At the last table set up, the children experimented with static electricity using balloons and cereal hanging from a string. The children could rub the balloon in their hair to create static. After rubbing the balloon through their hair, the children would place it next to the cereal, and watch as the cereal would move toward the balloon, then be repelled by it as the negatively charged electrons jumped from the bal-

loon to the swinging cereal.

"It is great to let the children get a hands-on activity and let them figure out how science works," said Drummond. "This night was also a great way to prepare the children for their upcoming science fair. We just gave them a few ideas to help them get ready."

Competing and winning the elementary school science fair will give children an opportunity to participate in the district science fair and be recognized for their experiment.

Last year, children conducted experiments to find out if wooden tables are dirtier than other tables, and what would preserve an apple the best.

For more information regarding the science fair, contact the elementary school at 367-3545

YOUTH, from B1

sports while they interact with their parents.

"We work right beside the children, so everyone works together," said Mindy Raines, a mother who enrolls her 3-year-old son in Start Smart programs.

All the programs are concentrated on teaching each participant the fundamentals of the sport while having fun, said Joe Rosselli, the MCCS Youth Sports and Community Center manager.

"We are more into teaching than being competi-

tive," said Courtney Chambers, MCCS Youth Sports assistant. "From the first day to the sixth week, you really see the difference in skill."

All coaches are volunteers and are certified with the National Alliance for Youth Sports, Rosselli said. To help explain the state of mind, coaches are encouraged to embrace the saying, "Trophies build egos. Coaches build character."

"We don't do all-stars," Rosselli said. "We incorporate all children, including special needs children. We adapt our rules to them, not

the other way around."

Registration fees range from \$15 to \$25 for each program, Rosselli said. Many programs include a uniform and a participant's medal for the children to keep.

Currently, registration must be done in person at the Community Center, building 1004. However, a Web site is in the works, which will allow parents to download and e-mail the registration forms in the future, Rosselli said.

Registration is limited. For more information, contact MCCS Youth Sports at 830-8421.

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