

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

FEBRUARY 13, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 6

In transition: ATG trains teams for new mission

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Advisor Training Group, which operates out of the Combat Center's Camp Wilson, provides pre-deployment training to Marines

and Sailors to teach them how to advise and train foreign security forces.

Seven types of transition teams are currently trained by ATG; 96 teams were trained here last year. ATG also supported 2nd Battalion,

7th Marine Regiment, and 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment pre-deployment training last year, said Col. Eugene N. Apicella, the director of ATG and a native of

See ATG, A9



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Staff Sgt. Sam Overton fires a Dragunov Sniper Rifle during the foreign weapons training, which is part of what the Advisor Training Group instructs Marines on before they deploy. Training with foreign weapons is part of what the Advisor Training Group does to help train Marines before they deploy.

Combat Center infantry battalion departs to hit the sands of Al Asad

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As the chill of the crisp, desert air swept by the neatly-aligned packs of Marines and sailors from Companies B and C 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, friends and families bid farewell to their loved ones in uniform near the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Monday night before they departed for Al Asad, Iraq.

With 1/7's fifth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Marines' mission will be much different than their previous deployments, said Staff Sgt. James Hammock, a platoon commander with Baker Company.

"The mission of this deployment is to help Iraqi police with patrolling and getting them ready to take back their country so we can push out [of Iraq]," Hammock said.

Some of the battalion's combat veterans, with multiple deployments under their belts, agree the mission in Iraq has drastically altered from previous years.

"This will be an interesting deployment because a lot of things are changing in Iraq," said Sgt. Abel Loreda, a platoon sergeant with Baker



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Lance Cpl. Brandon Renshaw, a vehicle commander with Weapons Platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, helps zip up his girlfriend's jacket to keep her warm before he departs for Al Asad, Iraq, Monday night across from the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Company. "But the main goal is to make sure all my Marines come back alive."

Although there is still a threat of firefights and being hit by improvised explosive

devices, the fight is much different now then in 2004, Hammock said. Before the mission was to eliminate the

See DEPLOY, A7

New suits in the running



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER TIRADO

Commandant Gen. James Conway unveils the new running suit prototype to Marines in Iraq.

LANCE CPL. JACQUELYN M. WHITE
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON — Marine officials recently announced the new physical training uniform will be issued to all active duty Marines free of charge.

The running suits, first revealed to Marines in Iraq Nov. 7, 2007, started arriving in bulk at Marine Corps installations in January, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Conway said. The mandatory possession date is Oct. 1.

According to Marine Administrative

Message 015/09, released Jan. 9, commanders must ensure each Marine receives the running suit and record it in each service record book. The message also states every Marine is responsible for maintaining and retaining their gear.

Distribution Phase III, also known as the "all hands issue," is already underway, said Lt. Col. A. J. Pasagian, program manager of Infantry Combat Equipment, Marine Corps Systems Command.

Marine Forces Reserve has been

See PT GEAR, A9

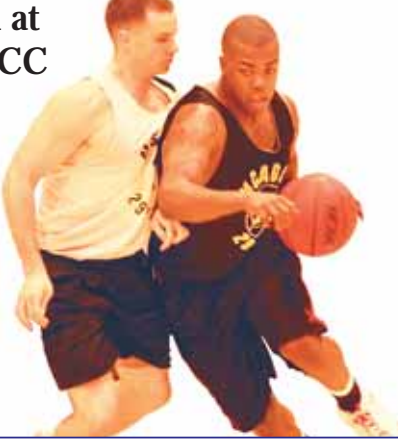


Dreams become reality; reflections for African-American History Month - See A3

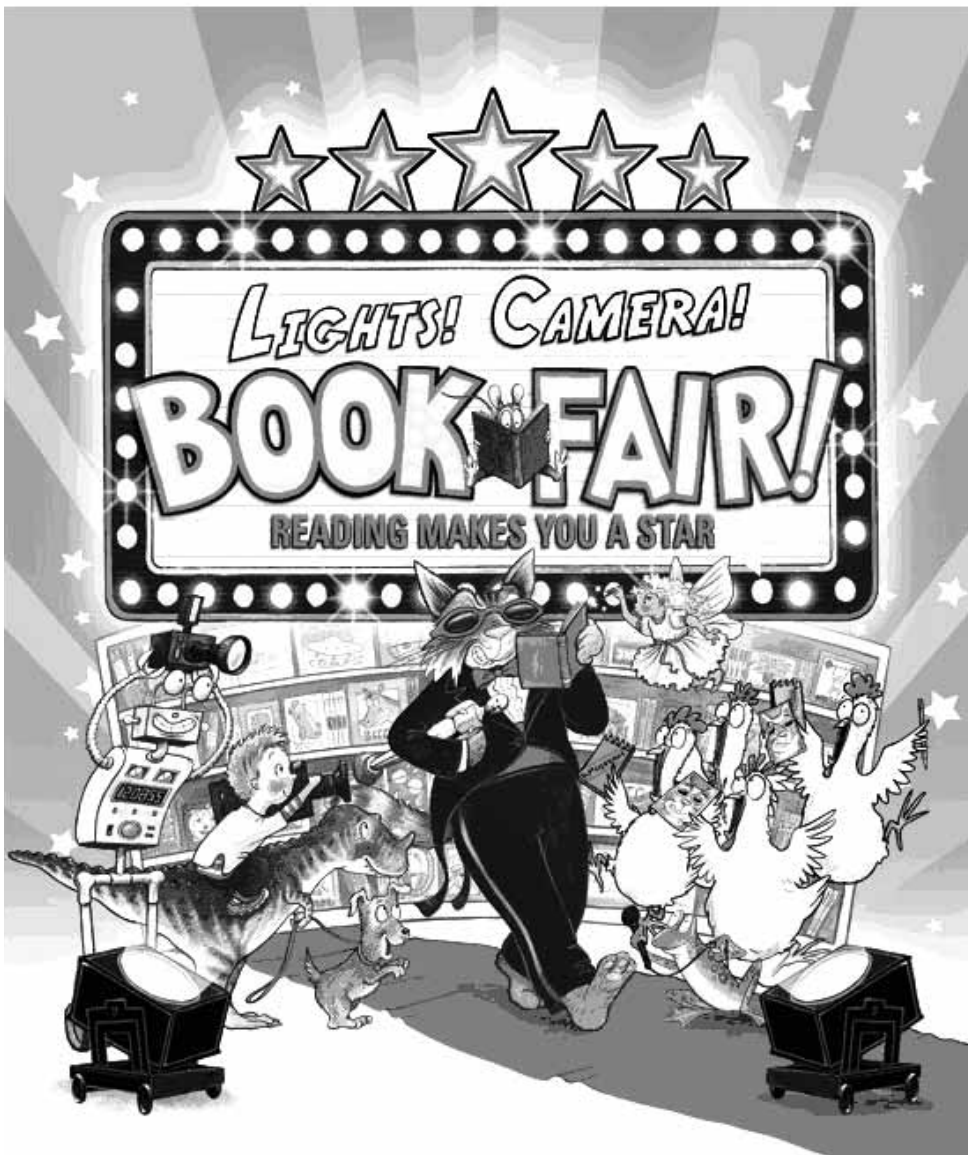


One step at a time with 7th Marines HQ - See A8

A Look at MCAGCC hoops See B1



Signs and designs at Wood Hobby Shop - See B1



LIGHTS! CAMERA!
BOOK FAIR!
READING MAKES YOU A STAR

Condor Elementary PTO Spring Book Fair

Family Reading Night

with Condor Community

March 5, Connections 4-6:30 p.m.
March 9, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
March 10, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Muffins for Moms/Guardians morning

March 11, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (open at 7:30 a.m.)
March 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (open at 7:30 a.m.)

Donuts for Dads/Guardians morning

March 13, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (open at 7:30 a.m.)

Condor Elementary
2551 Condor Road, Twentynine Palms
<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/condor29palms>

X MARKS THE SPOT

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | 33 | | | | | | 34 | 35 | 36 | |
| 37 | | | | | | 38 | | | | | 39 | 40 | | | |
| 41 | | | | | | 42 | | | | | 43 | | | | |
| | | | | 44 | 45 | | | | | 46 | | | | | |
| 47 | 48 | 49 | | | | | | 50 | 51 | | | | | | |
| 52 | | | | | | | | | 53 | | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 |
| 59 | | | | | | 60 | 61 | 62 | | | | | | | |
| 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | | 65 | | | | |
| 66 | | | | | | 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | |

American Profile Hometown Content 01/25/2009

ACROSS

1. Lacking spirit
6. Screen symbol
10. “Woe ___”
14. Without support
15. Went like heck
16. For men only
17. X is the symbol for this
20. Walks feebly
21. Place to hit a bucket of balls
22. Pewter, in part
24. Like many wedding tuxes
25. Duller of the senses
30. Turn topsy-turvy
32. Pop’s Ronstadt
33. Well-worn pencil
34. Massage locale
37. X indicates one
41. To the ___ degree
42. Hellenic H’s
43. Top-tier invitees
44. “No bid,” in bridge
46. Lacking consistency

47. Eliot’s Silas
50. Guessed-at fig.
52. “Kiss my grits!” sitcom
53. Two-deck game
59. X signifies this
63. “___ a Lady” (Tom Jones hit)
64. Closely related
65. Celery piece
66. “Slung” dish
67. Lady’s escort
68. Drum accompanying a sitar

DOWN

1. Seemingly boundless
2. Doo-wop voice
3. Cruise stopover
4. “What’s ___ for me?”
5. Rink fake
6. Reply to “Who’s there?”
7. Voting “nay”
8. Sun or moon
9. Prefix with natal
10. Cuba or Aruba
11. Time on the job
12. Mutt’s woe
13. Pelted on Halloween
18. One-named artist
19. Small warbler
23. Whack job
24. Country’s McEntire
25. Lena of “Chocolat”
26. Guinness serving
27. Ruler division
28. Commotion
29. Pit goo

31. ___ down (criticizes)
33. Movie studio sights
34. Loretta of “M*A*S*H”
35. Mole, to a gardener
36. Pseudo-cultured
38. Caboose’s place
39. Fabric fuzz
40. ___-mo replay
44. One way to pay
45. Hammer end
46. Walk of Fame implant
47. Cattail’s locale
48. Hilo hello
49. Frosty coatings
51. Bloodhound’s lead
54. Boss Tweed lampooner
55. Utah ski resort
56. Wild guess
57. Spill the beans
58. “Diana” singer Paul
60. Has-been horse
61. Luau strings
62. Hr. fragment

[puzzle Solutions on A4]

Combat Center Spotlight

Employee: Malori Harris
Organization: Jasmine’s Espresso Cafe
Job title: Barista
Job Duties: handle the money, make coffee, inventory supplies, and train new workers.
Hometown: Silverdale, Wash.
Hobbies: Snowboarding, riding dirtbikes, shopping and visiting Laughlin and Vegas with my girls.
What I like most about my job: I like interacting with the customers, especially the regulars.
Significant achievements since aboard MCAGCC: I became a manager after four months of working here.
Any military services: No, my husband is a lance corporal with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.
Time employed at MCAGCC: 8 months.



Hot Topics

VARSITY MEN’S SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

The Varsity Men’s Softball team will begin holding tryouts on Thursday, 6 p.m. at the Felix Softball Field. Tryouts will continue on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Please contact Debra or Skip at the Sports Department at 830-6857 for more information.

NEW GYM HOURS

Effective Tuesday, the East and West Gym/Fitness Centers new hours of operation will be 4:30 a.m. – 10 p.m., seven days a week.

THURSDAY: RECRUITER SCREENING TEAM TO VISIT COMBAT CENTER

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

VICTIM ADVOCATE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Marine Corps Community Services Counseling Services Victim Advocacy Program is currently looking for volunteers to assist military families in our community. If you are interested in spending a couple of days per month to help families affected by domestic violence, and have experience or want to learn more about keeping military families safe, contact Michelle Shotwell at michelle.shotwell.ctr @usmc.mil or call 830-4314 for more information. Training will be provided.


SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| | 5 | 2 | | | | 6 | | |
| 7 | | | 5 | | | | 8 | |
| 6 | | | | 1 | | 5 | | |
| | 2 | 1 | 8 | | 7 | 3 | 6 | |
| | | 9 | | 2 | | | | 4 |
| | 8 | | | | 1 | | | 6 |
| | | 4 | | | | 1 | 9 | |
| | | | 3 | 6 | 5 | | 2 | |

Centerspeak


What are you going to spend your tax return money on?

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




PFC. ADDISON LUNA
3RD COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION,
SUPPORT CO.

“I’m going to use it on my wife and little girl by getting them new furniture.”



LANCE CPL. JEREMY GOODWIN
2ND BATTALION, 23RD MARINE REGIMENT, 4TH
COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, CO. C

“I’m going to invest it in real estate property.”



STAFF SGT. ROBERT WELLS
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT,
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.

“I’m going to finish some tattoos I have.”

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is prepared by the Public Affairs Office, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92278. All photos, unless otherwise indicated are Official USMC Photos. Questions can be directed to the Public Affairs Office, located in building 1417, during normal working hours at (760) 830-6213 or FAX (760) 830-5474. The Observation Post is made with 60 percent recycled paper.

This Day in Marine Corps History

Feb. 13, 1943

U.S. Marine Corps Women’s Reserve formed.

African-American History Month recognizes vital heritage

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Being the first African-American president of the United States, Barack Obama has helped put into perspective how far this country has come together to put aside prejudices of ethnicity.

With the celebration of African-American History Month this month, it is not only a time to reflect about what African-Americans have overcome throughout America's history, but also how this country as a whole has progressed into a nation of unity.

Although there are many events throughout our history that have made this country what it is today, there are a few of note that merit reflection.

Every American culture has put its stamp on our country's history, but African-American history has altered

our society as a whole.

One of the first significant events was the establishment of the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln officially passed it in 1863. It stated that all slaves within any state or designated part of a state

shall be forever free.

As time progressed, laws for segregation grew more numerous in the first half of the 20th century, but great leaders and African-American role models of hope rose in the face of that adversity.

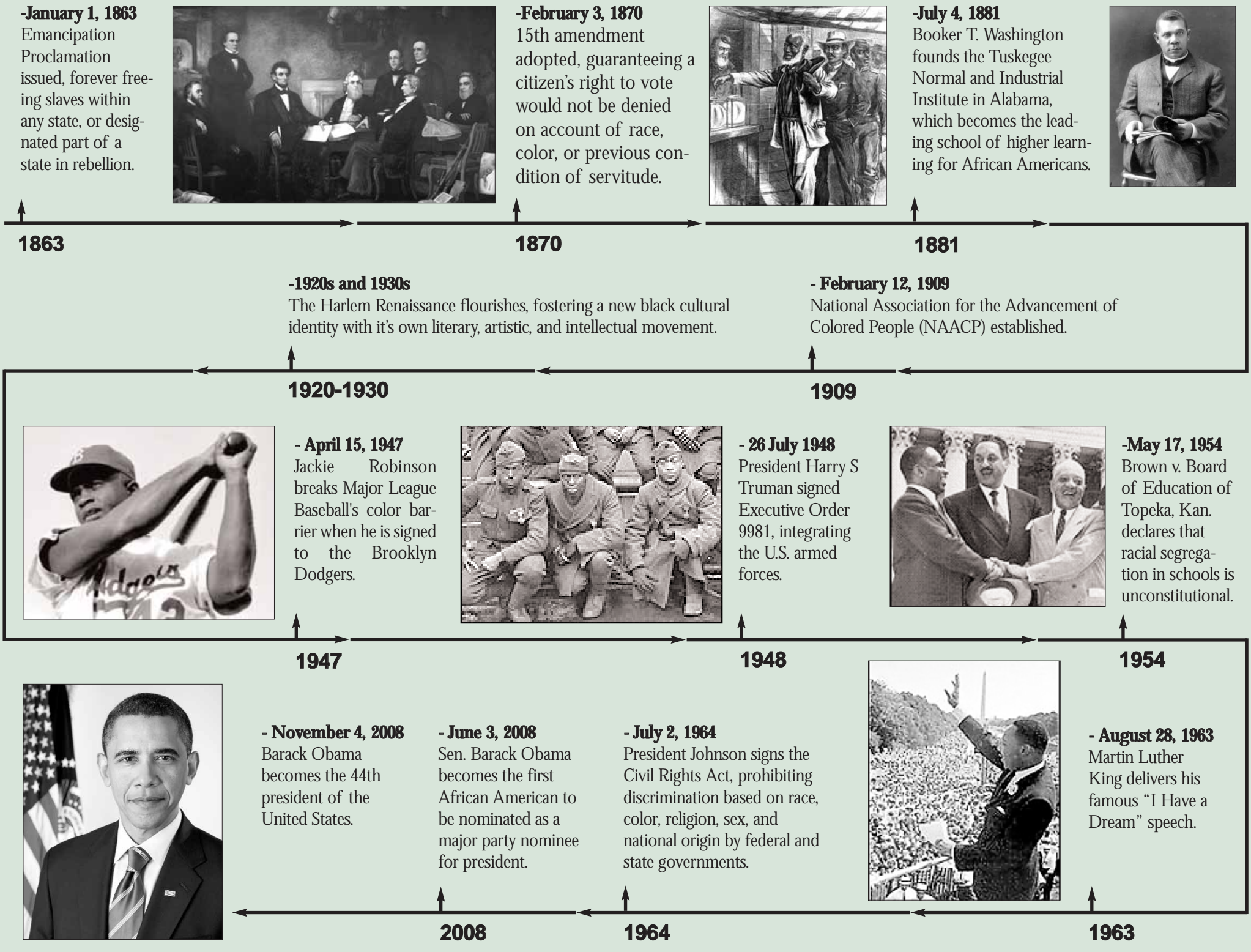
At the beginning of the 20th century, Booker T. Washington,

George Washington Carver and W.E.B. Du Bois helped stress the importance of industry and higher education to African-Americans.

African-Americans have made great strides in other areas as well. The Tuskegee

See HISTORY, A7

Significant events in African-American history



On Valentine's Day and always...

cherish

THE ONE YOU LOVE

Gift ideas for her or him!

Where to wine and dine or just have fun!

Do it, Girl!

Glamour Photos

Make your man proud! Get that photo he'll want to see again and again when he thinks of you. Totally sexy but discreet. Local experienced husband-wife photo team. You own the photos. Sorry, no nudity, just you... tastefully, sizzling hot. Call for rates or to book.

Call Now!
Merrill & Martha
367-4002
Smile gorgeous!

10% OFF

A New Set of Tires
for that
Special
Valentine

• Wheel Alignments
• Nitrogen
• Custom Wheels

Roy's

4082-B Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, CA 92277
(760) 367-0222

TIRES & WHEELS

Faces Day Spa

A Holistic Health Spa

Couples, Half-Day & Full Day Packages

Natural, organic, & live Enzyme edible products combined with holistic service equals health, relaxation, mental awareness and inner peace.

~ 361-7546 ~

www.Faces-Day-Spa.com 73554 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, CA

The Rib Co. celebrates lovers on Valentine's Day

Lovers Menu

Show them they are special with a lovely dinner for two...

A Flavorful Favorite...

Prime Rib & Dessert

Send flowers ahead to make your evening more memorable, we are happy to put them at your reserved table, give us a call.

Reservations recommended

The Rib Co.

365-1663 367-1663
56193 29 Palms Hwy. ~ 72183 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley 29 Palms

Friday Special for Seafood Lovers
Shrimp, Salmon, Halibut & Lobster

Young Marines prepare for 50th anniversary

JANELLE JOHNSEN
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON—Young Marines have an important milestone to look forward to in April 2009 - their 50th anniversary.

Since the program's humble beginnings in 1959 with a handful of boys in Waterbury, Conn., the Young Marines has grown into an international program currently serving 14,000 boys and girls ages 8 through completion of high school.

In 1959, members of the Brass City Memorial Detachment of the Marine Corps League formed the very first Young Marine unit, the Young Marines of Waterbury Connecticut. By 1960, the Waterbury unit's membership had grown to over 300 boys and 20 adult instructors.

By 1975, membership was extended to females

and in 1980, the Internal Revenue Service granted the Young Marines status as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 youth educational organization.

"Those dedicated Marines in Waterbury, Conn., nearly

50 years ago saw a chance to share with the youth in their community some of those values that, to them, were worthy values to pass along," says Michael Kessler, National Executive Director of the Young

Marines. "It isn't clear how significant they thought their actions would become or whether they knew that their vision would manifest itself into the program we have today."

As the 50th anniversary

of the Young Marines approaches, some of the original members of the very first unit in Waterbury, now members of the Brass City Detachment of the Marine Corps League are hosting

an anniversary celebration April 24-26, 2009, for the Young Marines where it all began.

Joe Ganavage, member of the Brass City

See 50TH, A7



LANCIE CPL. MONICA G. ERICKSON
Young Marines lay in the prone position at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer during their visit to the Combat Center in May of 2007.

NMCRS to raise more funds, give back to service members

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society starts its annual active duty fund drive aboard the Combat Center March 1.

The drive is conducted each year at Navy and Marine Corps installations to collect money so the non-profit charitable organization can continue to help Marines and sailors who are in need of financial assistance.

"Virtually 100 percent of the funds raised goes back to the sailors and Marines," said Raymond Caldwell, the direc-

tor for NMCRS Twentynine Palms.

Last year, the drive collected \$74,205 in donations, Caldwell said. The goal is to exceed last year's donated funds so NMCRS can continue to help even more service members with financial hardships.

"We would like to have contact with every active duty person on base so they know where to turn when they have an emergency," Caldwell said.

Active duty Marines and sailors can donate to the fund by contacting their unit coordinator to give a one-time

cash donation or set up a military allotment, he added.

"We want to raise as much funds as possible so we can keep assisting Marines and sailors," said Michele Cutrer, the chair volunteer for NMCRS Twentynine Palms.

NMCRS offers assistance in a variety of different areas, including Quick Assist Loans up to \$300, developing spending plans, interest-free loans or grants to help with emergencies, and education loans for spouses of active duty service members.

"If you think you have a financial need, come to us first, especially before you get

into poor financial situations," Caldwell said.

The society for Twentynine Palms rendered loan assistance to 1,624 service members and grant assistance to 217 last year.

"They are there to help the Marines in a time of need," said Denise Cullum, the 7th Marine Regiment family readiness officer.

"When Marines deploy, the spouses have the ability to access a source of money in case of an emergency."

For more information, assistance or to donate, contact NMCRS Twentynine Palms at 830-6323.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

| Sunday | Weekday Events |
|---|---|
| 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 | 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 Evening service at 7 p.m. - Protestant Chapel west wing 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) |

to protect and to serve...
LAPD is Hiring Heroes! APPLY NOW!

Take The LAPD Written Test

Wednesday, February 18 at 1630 hrs.

Marine Corp Base 29 Palms

Community Center, Building #1004

Police Officer I
\$56,522 to \$75,878*

*Starting salary based on Education, Military and prior Law Enforcement experience. Visit JoinLAPD.com for more details.

Higher Starting Pay for Military Experience with Honorable Discharge:

- 2 years Start at \$58,798
- 4 years Start at \$61,095
- 6 years Start at \$64,519

LAPD Supports Our Troops Benefits:

- Receive GI Bill benefits during academy training , if eligible
- Military Reserve friendly employer
- Expedited testing available
- Full pay and benefits while in the academy
- Compressed work schedule (3/12's or 4/10's)
- Veterans may be eligible for military bonus points
- Multiple Financial Bonuses available, including:
 - Hazard and Special Pay, Markmanship, and Bilingual Skills

JOINLAPD.COM • 866.444.LAPD

An Equal Opportunity Employer Committed to Diversity

Fraud, waste, abuse:

A rising problem in the Marine Corps

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Every night, government issued laptops are taken home to complete unfinished work, however, some people use their laptops to indulge in the games programmed on the machine. When issued gear, like the laptop, is being misused, it is considered Fraud, Waste and Abuse, which makes the user a criminal in the eyes of the United States government.

By definition, Fraud, Waste and Abuse is any willful means of taking or attempting to take unfair advantage of the government; careless or needless use of government funds; or the theft or misuse of government assets, said Master Sgt. T. Tice, the inspector chief at the Command

Inspector General's Office.

During an informal survey, 26 out of 30 junior Marines had never heard of the term "Fraud, Waste and Abuse." Two had heard of it, but didn't know any details about what it was, and two others had a vague idea of the concept and the criminal acts that fell under it.

Tice said he wants to get the word out to everyone aboard the Combat Center on what Fraud, Waste and Abuse is and why it is important for everyone to understand that misusing government assets is against the law, and can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"These definitions attempt to cover every avenue of self-benefiting criminal activity for which the Command Inspector General's Office handles investigations into those

reported," Tice said.

So what does that mean? To put it simply, anyone who takes advantage of the government, or anything owned by the government, through misuse, theft and carelessness is considered a criminal and is punishable under the UCMJ.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse is important for Marines to be aware of, especially at the Combat Center, due to the large amount of training equipment that is used throughout a unit's time in Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment exercise units come to the Combat Center before deploying.

"Fraud, Waste and Abuse-related improprieties, such as theft or misuse of government resources, are serious matters which can significantly increase the operating costs and reduce available resources

needed to support the Marine Corps operating Forces," said Tom Gardner, an investigator for the Inspector General's Office.

"This can greatly impact the Combat Center with respect to all the training conducted here; personnel, equipment, Government resources and so forth."

Lance Cpl. Clay Newberry, an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently going through Mojave Viper agreed with Gardner, saying it was important to ensure proper use of government issued gear, especially during training.

"A misuse of a weapon or a laptop should have punishable consequences," said Newberry, a St. Louis, native. "I understand it is needed for the important things, but if you look at it, who decides what is important and what isn't?"

Fraud, Waste and Abuse posters have been posted throughout the Combat Center, and every building should have one, Tice said.

The posters display a hotline where people can call and report cases of Fraud, Waste and Abuse anonymously. If a building does not have a copy of this poster, contact the Inspector General's Office at 830-4268. To report a case of Fraud, Waste and Abuse, contact their hotline at 830-7749.

Most common fraud, waste and abuse cases

- Government vehicles: using for non-official business
- Mess halls: receiving food fraudulently
- Issued equipment: black-marketing issued gear
- Government Computers: utilizing for personal use



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

Bill Wilcox, Senior Pastor Marcus McDaniel, Youth Pastor

Sundays: Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM
Nursery and Children's Church Available

Wednesday: Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:00 PM
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
Refinery (young adults) Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM

6804 Mohawk Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 (760) 228-1747



GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

Christian Center Church

"Developing Disciples For Christ"

Begin Your Week With Pastor T. K. & Gerri Washington

- Sunday School - 10 A.M.
- Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.
- Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
- Friday Night Intercessory Prayer - 7 P.M.

Don't Just Be...
760.361.6510
5898 Adobe Rd. Twentynine Palms, CA
www.gfcc.org

...LIVE!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATALIE MARIE SMITH
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Aaron Smith and wife, Jamie. Born on Dec. 11, weighing 8 lbs., 9 oz and measuring 21 inches.

ELIZABETH RAVEN DE LA ROSA
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Juan A. De La Rosa and wife, Julie. Born on Jan. 26, weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz and measuring 19.4 inches.

JOSHUA ALEXANDER HILL
Son of Cpl. Vanessa J. Hill and husband, Austin. Born Jan. 7, weighing 8 lbs., 15 oz and measuring 20 inches.

ALEXANDER KEITH RINALDI
Son of Sgt. Keith Rinaldi and wife, Julie. Born Jan. 8, weighing 7.2 lbs. and measuring 19.5 inches.

CORY DUPREE TRIBBLE JR.
Son of Sgt. Cory D. Tribble and wife, Roxanna. Born Jan. 9, weighing 7 lbs., 7.8 oz and measuring 20.4 inches.

JOHNATHAN JAMES ARSENAULT
Son of Cpl. Albert Arsenault and wife, Anita. Born Jan. 11, weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz and measuring 19.7 inches.

ISAIAH LUIS GARCIA
Son of Lance Cpl. Jose Garcia and wife, Laura. Born Jan. 12, weighing 6 lbs., 9.2 oz and measuring 19.1 inches.

SILAM DIVINA MAGRA
Daughter of Lt. Cmdr. Errika Walker-Magra and husband, Placido. Born Jan. 12, weighing 5 lbs., 15 oz and measuring 18.8 inches.

DOMINIC "DJ." GENOVESE
Son of Sgt. Justin Genovese and wife, Tara. Born Jan. 14, weighing 7 lbs., 3.5 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

MARISSA FAITH MEJIA
Daughter of Sgt. Jesse Mejia and wife, Rachel. Born Jan. 21, weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz and measuring 20 inches.

SABRIYA MARIE BENNET
Daughter of Staff Sgt. Verice W. Bennett and wife, Amanda. Born Jan. 21, weighing 8 lbs., 2.5 oz and measuring 20.8 inches.

LYLA ANN LERMA
Daughter of Cpl. Reyes Lerma and wife, Ashley. Born Jan. 21, weighing 6.6 lbs., and measuring 19.1 inches.

BRAYDEN CARTER GRIGGS
Son of Lance Cpl. Corey Griggs and wife, Michelle. Born Jan. 23, weighing 8 lbs., 4.2 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

CONNOR MICHAEL BROWN
Son of Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Brown and wife, Shaina. Born Jan. 23, weighing 7 lbs., 3.5 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.

JOSLYN ROSE PETERSON
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Kyle S. Peterson and wife, Christina. Born Jan. 24, weighing 6 lbs., 13 oz and measuring 19.4 inches.

JOSEPH MICHAEL CHRUSCH
Son of Cpl. Ryan Chrusch and wife, Julie. Born Jan. 24, weighing 5 lbs., 11 oz and measuring 18.8 inches.

CANDICE DAWN MORRIS
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Shaun T. Morris and wife, April. Born Jan. 24, weighing 6 lbs., 8 oz and measuring 20 inches.

CHEYANNE MARIE HEWTON
Daughter of Cpl. Macy Hewton and wife, Ashley. Born Jan. 26, weighing 6 lbs., 14 oz and measuring 19.4 inches.

ALFREDO THOMAS FRANCO II
Son of Staff Sgt. Alfredo T. Franco I and wife, Sgt. Kristy J. Franco. Born Jan. 26, weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz and measuring 21.5 inches.

BELLA MARIE HOOD
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Douglas Hood and wife, Anna. Born Jan. 27, weighing 7 lbs., 6.9 oz and measuring 20 inches.

EAMMAH JEAN LANDERS
Daughter of Cpl. Matthew Landers and wife, Amber. Born on Jan. 28, weighing 7 lbs., 4.2 oz and measuring 20 inches.

NATALIE SAMANTHA DURRETTE
Daughter of 1st Lt. Jeremy Durrette and wife, Natasha. Born Jan. 28, weighing 6 lbs., 3 oz and measuring 18 inches.

TRIXIE LISA TERRY
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Terry and wife, Amber. Jan. 29, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz and measuring 18.5 inches.

ZOE MARIE DANOS
Daughter of Cpl. Joshua Danos and wife, Kendra. Born Jan. 30, weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz and measuring 20.1 inches.

LOGAN HART THOMAS
Son of Cpl. Anthony Thomas and wife, Cpl. Angelica Thomas. Born on Jan. 31, weighing 6 lbs., 12 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
SUN. SERVICE & SUN. SCHOOL... 10 AM
WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM
READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs. 12-3 PM
Sat. 9-Noon (Except Holidays)
56039 Santa Fe Trail • 365-4185
Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley

Skyview Chapel
Church of God
Worship Service
10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree
Pastor Abe Casiano
Church (760) 366-9119

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

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 1000 S. Highway 62, 2nd Floor, Suite 100, Yucca Valley, CA 92284
366-8429 / One80t@hotmail.com

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

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

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 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services
Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm
Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm.
www.bbc29.org
6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561

29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST
72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)
Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
367-9400 FREE CHURCH RIDES

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) 367-7153
72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms
www.stmartinschurch29.org

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
365-4014
SUNDAY
Bible School.....9:30am
Worship.....10:45am

Sage Buena Vista Cholla
Pioneer Town HWY 62

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

Come Pray With Us

JOIN US IN WORSHIP IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:
VALLEY INDEPENDENT PRINTING - COPIES, COLOR COPIES, COMMERCIAL PRINTING AND MORE!
7333 Apache Trail, Yucca Valley • 365-6967 • Military and Church Discounts Available

50TH, from A5

Memorial Detachment of the Marine Corps League and former member of the very first Young Marine unit says that a celebration for the Young Marines 50th anniversary is in order.

“Sam Beamon State commandant and a Young Marine from 1960 came up with the idea of an anniversary for the Young Marines and I loved it. So I said let’s have a party,” said Ganavage.


The official anniversary celebration will take place right where the Young Marines got their start, in Waterbury, Conn., April 24-25, 2009. The festivities will include a parade, the unveiling of a street in Waterbury dedicated to the Young Marines, a monument devoted to the founding of the Young Marines and a Marine Corps ball-style banquet.

HISTORY, from A3

Airmen, the first all-black military aviators, were war heroes during World War II. They flew over 3,000 missions and were credited with shooting down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft



COURTESY OF U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
 Martin Luther King Jr., one of the forefront leaders in the fight for racial equality in the 1950's and 1960's, is most recognized for his legendary speech "I have a dream." He helped impel the government to pass the Civil Rights Act in 1964. It is the most far-reaching act of legislation supporting racial equality in American History.

Stay Proud

Stay Marine

The Young Marines and the Brass City Memorial Detachment of the Marine Corps League are seeking stories, editorial contributions and photos from past and present members of the Young Marines so that they can compose a document about the organization's history for future generations of the Young Marines to learn from and enjoy. In addition to the historical document, the Young Marines will place some of the contributions in a time capsule for Young Marine members to open in the year 2059. All contributions are welcome and can be sent to: 50years@youngmarines.com or contact Young Marines National HQs at (800) 717-0060.

Former and current members of the Young Marines are also invited to attend the anniversary celebration in April 2009.



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 at the Combat Center Jan. 23.

sports and was signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, becoming the first African-American Major League Baseball player since 1889.

With time, came the slow desegregation of schools, bus companies and other means of separating ethnicities. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled most instances as unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, which was ratified on July 9, 1868.

The Civil Rights Movement, with one of its most prominent figures Martin Luther King Jr., helped push the government to pass new civil rights legislation. The Civil Rights Act was signed into law in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson. It is the most far-

reaching act of legislation supporting racial equality in American history.

From Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm, and Jesse Jackson to Oprah Winfrey, Colin Powell, Halle Berry, and President Obama; all had their effects on bringing equality to this country not only for African-Americans, but for all people regardless of ethnicity.

African-American History Month is a time to celebrate how far this country has come since its establishment over two centuries ago. Although it is concentrated on the heritage of African-Americans, this month's call to reflection is relevant to every American because it has influenced how we raise our children today.

STORAGE
 WITH 24 HOUR "REAL TIME" SECURITY
 State Of The Art Security Control With Full Time Resident Managers Household Storage, RV, Boat & Auto

 • Ground Level Units
 • Controlled Gate Access
 • Large Moving Truck Friendly
 • Month-to-Month Rentals
SPECIAL MILITARY PRICING ON ALL UNITS!
367-2510
 5020 Adobe Rd • 29 Palms
ATLAS SELF STORAGE

As a Federal Employee, your retirement is important to us at Kirk Financial Group
 Learn how *your* Federal Employee Benefits Plan works and how to make the best choices for you and your family. We have the answers you're looking for:
 • Retirement Eligibility for CSRS and FERS Employees
 • Military Buy Back
 • Survivor Benefits
 • Federal Employees Group Life (FEGLI)
 • Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
 • Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
 • Pension Offset
 • Social Security
Get a FREE analysis of your federal employee benefits plans by calling us for more information at 760-255-2776. We can help you today!
 James Kirk, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF
 Owner
 tel (760) 255-2776
 fax (760) 256-8261

 222 E. Main, Suite 205
 Bastow, California 92311
 james.kirk@nextfinancial.com
 www.kirkfinancialgroup.com

DEPLOY, from A1

enemy, now we must concentrate on training and preparing to turn things over to help prepare their country for a better future.

As friends and families spent their last few moments with their loved ones for the final time until they return from the deployment, many hugged, kissed and joked around. Others expressed concern for their safety, and how they will dearly miss their Marine or sailor.

“I’m nervous on every deployment, but I’m not as scared on this one because he will be in an MRAP [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected] vehicle,” said Patti Redmond, the step-mother of Cpl. Matthew Redmond, who is on his third deployment. “But we pray every day and for every one of these Marines.”

With the gear ready to go and the Marines on the bus, the Marines and sailors

from the battalion headed out to do their jobs and help bring peace to Iraq.

“I expect many good things to come from 1/7,” Hammock said. “We will make a positive impact on the country before we leave.”



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
 Sgt. Robert Creedon, a section leader with Weapons Platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, poses for a photo with his son Gavin, 7, before he departs for Al Asad, Iraq, Monday night.



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Valentines Day is Saturday and I will be officiating in at least one wedding and possibly more. I love participating in joyous ceremonies when couples make solemn vows with the promise to love each other forever. I officiated in my first wedding in 1947 and have conducted better than 3,500 ceremonies since then. I still officiate in several weddings a month in the High Desert and I enjoy each one.

I have learned a few things over the years as I have prepared people for weddings and counseled literally hundreds of families with special problems.

The primary thing I have learned is that all great relationships require patience, forgiveness and commitment.

I like an anonymous writer's description of commitment:

“Commitment means we take the worst of each other, the best of each other and the in-between of each other. Stirring it all together we say with loyalty and gentle understanding, ‘I love and totally accept the mixture of you.’”

Eric Fromm in his master piece “The Art of Loving” said it best:

”To love somebody is not just a strong feeling—it is a decision, it is a judgment, it is a promise. If love were only a feeling, there would be no basis for the promise to love forever. Feelings come and go, but love, which is a judgment and a decision, should go on forever

This message sponsored by:
Marian with Joshua Tree National Park Assoc.
 Dr. Lou can be reached at **760-367-4627**
800-995-1620

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE
2004 FORD F150 XLT 2X4, Excellent condition, 45,000 miles. Asking \$11,000. Cell 401-7315. 2/6/09
2000 PORSCHE BOXTER 3, Excellent condition, see for details. \$23,000. Sell lemon lot. Cell 401-7315. 2/6/09
2005 YAMAHA V-STAR 650, 1,700 miles, covered and garage kept. Excellent condition. Black. \$3,500. Call Bill Smith at (340) 332-5074. 2/6/09
2003 CHEVY BLAZER ZR2 EDITION, 68,000 miles, 4x4, lots of extras, great truck. \$11,900 OBO. Call Ricky 865-0077. 2/6/09

2001 MITSUBISHI GALANTE, Excellent condition. Replaced engine, new tires, new brakes, new windshield and new radiator. Home phone (951) 845-1941. Cell phone 208-0002. \$5,500. 1/23/09
2005 HONDA S2000 CONVERTIBLE 19" wheels, new tires, low mileage. Asking \$21,800. See Lemon Lot. 696-7181. 1/16/09
1990 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Tourquoise show truck with gold flames. \$7500 OBO. Call Tim 367-7183. 1/16/09

2007 HONDA ACCORD EX. Excellent condition only 34,071 miles! Sunroof, automatic transmission, alloy wheels. Asking \$17,500. (410) 279-2477. 11/28/08
2005 HONDA ACCORD SE. Moon window power 6 Cylinder \$16,500. Leave message 367-3326. 11/28/08
TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK BED DIVIDER. Fits 2005-2008 models. Excellent condition. Asking \$200. Contact 835-4178. 11/28/08

MISC.
COCKER SPANIEL PUPPY, Blond female, 4 mo. old. House broken. All shots. \$200 OBO. 364-1133. 2/6/09
KITTEN, 2 mo. old male. Very cute. Tabby and white. Perfect for Valentine's Day. \$10 Call 362-4131. 2/6/09
LARGE BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET. Modern style, oak finish. 4 glass doors, silverware drawers, storage below, and glass shelves. Excellent condition. \$300. Call Stephen at 567-7921. 2/6/09

1,000'S OF COLLECTIBLE BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, & STAR TREK AND STAR WARS Many dollars below appraised value. Call Stephen at 567-7921. 2/6/09
2 MALE CHIHUAHUAS, Young and cute. 2 for \$250 or \$150 each. 2 years old. Please call 361-3509. 1/30/09
CHILD'S LOFT BED With ladder and slide. \$50. 367-1630. 1/23/09
OVER 600 UNOPENED DVD'S Brand new. Many still in plastic. \$5 a movie, package deals are negotiable. Call Tim 367-7183. 1/16/09

30", 14 KARAT GOLD CHAIN, Italian cut, with 14 CT. gold cross. Paid \$1100 just for chain. \$800 OBO. Call Tim 367-7183. 1/16/09
14 KARAT GOLD MEN'S RING 3 diamonds, total weight 1CT. appraised at \$3800 Asking \$600 OBO. Call Tim 367-7183. 1/16/09
EASTON 8 FT CARBON AIR HOCKEY TABLE. Model X6896, two years old. \$400. Call 865-0168. 12/5/08
HARTMAN LUGGAGE FOR SALE. Two suitcases, one carry-on. Tweed, \$500 set. Bose 3-2-1 system, older model, \$500. Call 660-9153 after 6 p.m. 11/28/08

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.

7th Marines' HQ logs road time with hike

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Before Marines deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan, they must prepare themselves by training both physically and mentally for the rigors of combat.

As part of their pre-deployment training, the Marines and sailors of Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, undertook a nine-mile conditioning hike in the morning hours of Feb. 5, beginning at their communications headquarters, which took them slightly into the training grounds of the Combat Center to improve their physical fitness and endurance.

The company conducted the training to help develop their combat efficiency and prepare for their upcoming deployments, said 1st Sgt. Luis Hernandez, the company first sergeant and a native of Syracuse, N.Y.

"This was designed to get the Marines of Headquarters Company, who are primarily

not infantry Marines, into a combat mindset," Hernandez said. "This should be a good wake-up for them. The hike will push them and their bodies to the extreme, and give them a small taste of what they could experience on a deployment."

Hernandez said the hike was only one part of what the regiment will be doing to improve their state of combat readiness.

Pre-deployment Training Programs differ, even for Marines who are all part of the same unit. Headquarters in 7th Marines is part of an infantry unit, but they are not infantry Marines themselves, and must train when they can to better adapt to their place.

"As part of your PTP training, which occurs on a regular basis, we made this week the conditioning hike," he said. "The company is preparing to better fit into the infantry regiment they're in. Every week we work on something. It could be anything from marksmanship to



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Marines and sailors with Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, march during their nine-mile hike Feb. 5. The training hike was meant to get the Marines of Headquarters Company prepared for the physical and mental strains they may face on an overseas deployment.

conditioning like this, to any number of things."

The training hike began early in the morning so the Marines could finish early

and work through the rest of the day.

"It was an early morning, but at least we got done with it early," said Pfc. Justin McCrory, a switchboard operator with the company and a Denver native.

"It wasn't really that hard," he added. "Sometimes you

wish you didn't even take breaks, it would make it go even faster."

McCrory and another Marine, Lance Cpl. Brandon Stockellburg, were among those who performed road guard duties throughout the hike.

As road guards, McCrory

and Stockellburg marched at the front of the formation to stop traffic for the other Marines as they moved across areas of vehicle traffic.

Pfc. Angel Toledo, a data network specialist with the company, who is from Woodbridge, N.J., was chosen out of the crowd to carry the company's guidon.

"I'm pretty confident that I won't, but if I fell out that would look pretty bad," Toledo said before the hike began.

"The guidon is just one more thing to carry. It's like having two rifles and that'd be something good to have in Iraq," Toledo added, when giving his opinion on the guidon being a weapon and not a stick.

After the hike was over, the Marines and sailors of the company stretched out and carried out their work for the rest of the day while recuperating from the training.



11th Annual Art Auction

Saturday, February 28, 2009 6:00 p.m.
Helen Gray Center

Live Music
Hor d'oeuvres
No Host Bar
Free Admission
\$10 to Bid

Register early
or Donate Art
online at
www.theCMCF.org


COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

For more information call:
760-366-5296

Proceeds benefit CMC Scholarships & Art Programs, The Boys & Girls Club.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Pfc. Justin McCrory, a switchboard operator with Headquarters Company, 7th Marine Regiment, strains under the weight of his pack as he guards the road for the rest of the company.

Operation Pacifier

BABY SHOWER


MARINE CORPS Community Service Program
MCCS29PALMS.COM

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19TH
1 TO 4 P.M.
COMMUNITY
CENTER



MCCS would like to invite all expectant mothers to a baby shower!
There will be games, hor' devours, prizes and special guest speakers.
This FREE event has limited seating, please call 830-5086 to reserve your seat today!

DIAPER CAKES & HOODED TOWELS



BY SHANNON FRAZIER

ATG, from A1

Tiffin, Ohio.

“We train multiple types of training-teams here,” Apicella said. “The Marines who train with and work with, foreign security forces, military, border patrol, and police are all instructed by our people here.”

ATG’s updated training plan gives the newly formed teams a few more days at home station to work on their Marine skills before they arrive at ATG and focus on their Advisor skills.

“We have a new 16-day schedule to allow Marines more time to gel as a team at the MEF level,” Apicella said. “These Marines are taken from their original units and put together. Most have never worked together before, and at the MEF level they are put formed as a team about 120 days before deployment. Our old schedule was a three days longer than this one.

“By giving them more time to work together and get to know each other in the MEF stage, they should arrive better prepared to focus on being Advisors because they have their Marine move, communicate, plan, and shoot skills down as a team. Our new schedule increases their immersion with role-players earlier in the program and gives them better practice while supporting continued team building.”

In addition to a change in their schedule, ATG is planning to have their compound expanded to give Marines a better training environment.

“We are going to expand our compound here and have a small FOB [Forward Operating Base],” said Dr. Herbert E. Peterson, the academics officer for ATG and a native of Munich, Germany. “We want total immersion while the teams are going through their training cycle. We want to

eliminate all distractions and give them the most realistic experience possible before they are down range.”

Peterson elaborated on why it is so important for Marines to have the most in-depth training possible.

“If we give them the best experience now, then they will be able to better comprehend and learn from their small mistakes here,” Peterson said. “They have the ability for remediation here, and that goes a great deal towards helping them do their job better.”

The new schedule also enables the Marines attending the ATG package to request time to further train themselves in areas where they believe they need additional work. Communications equipment, motorized operations, medical are a few examples, he said.

“If a team is struggling in one specific area, they can request extra supported instruction and training during designated times in the training plan we have for them,” Peterson said.

“Its not what Marines are used to doing, they don’t usually stand off to the side and instruct others on what to do,” he said. “It is an effective method of fighting a war. You instruct the partner nation security forces of that country and you let them police or fight their battle after you have helped them out.”

The success of the advisor teams sent overseas can be attributed to the way they prepare themselves for the different nature of advising vice doing, coordinating vice commanding, influencing vice directing the latter all of which Marines and Sailors are intimate experts.

ATG trains Marines and sailors in accordance with their motto.

“An effective advisor is like a shadow on a mostly cloudy day,” Peterson said.



Kalin Tobin, an instructor with Advisor Training Group, teaches a class on loading foreign weapons.



Maj. Andrew J. Nelson and Seaman Danish Shariff fire an automatic burst from their Russian-made Ruchnuy Pulemyot Kalashnikova machine gun.

PT GEAR, from A1

provided guidance on how to order individual running suits for their Marines.

Once the order has been placed, units can expect deliveries within 3-4 days. However, Marines will not be able to purchase the new suits at the exchange until after the Corps-wide distribution.

Uniforms will be ordered electronically through the Kentucky Logistics Operations Center and individually shipped to units. When ordering uniforms, each Marine must know their inseam, waist and hip measurements. If a Marine is due to change duty stations, they should order the running suit when they reach their new location.

Conway initiated the development of the new running suit to provide a quality and durable physical training uniform to be worn in various climates. The expectation was that the running suit would be dis-

JACKET

Front view

Rear view

PANTS

Front view

Rear view

COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

An added safety feature is the silver vertical reflective stripes running along the sides and back of the running suit.

tinctive like other Marine uniforms, all of which say “Marine” when worn, Pasagian said.

“I think they are a great improvement,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas A. Soares, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

They are more comfortable, practical, durable and breathable in comparison with the sweats, he added.

The running suits are made with silver vertical reflective stripes running

along the sides and one across the back. The jackets have the Marine Corps emblem on the front, with “MARINES” displayed transversely along the back. The trousers have “USMC” running down the bottom outside the right pant leg.

Regulations pertaining to the running suit were published in All Marine Message 019/08. For more information on the new PT uniform, call (703) 432-3313.

Exercise Your Brain.

Read The Newspaper.

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

Your Community Newspapers Working to Serve You Better!

1 877 228 9815

30% OFF CAR AUDIO!

UNTIL APRIL 1ST

Wheels-Lights-4 Links-Body Drops Custom Body Work-Electrical Custom Fab and Air Ride Installs Car audio-Lift Kits-Lowering Kits

Lifetime weld guarantee! We'll match internet prices!

29 PALMS MARINE BASE PREMIER CUSTOM SHOP!

55666 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley, CA, 92256

WWW.MYSpace.COM/FREELANDCUSTOMZ

EARN YOUR NEXT STRIPE

You help defend our country. We'll help you build your future.

National University has been educating the military since 1971 and offers relevant, career-focused classes at military bases throughout California.


With reduced tuition for classes on base and online for military personnel and dependents, National University makes it easy – and affordable – to earn your degree.

1.800.NAT.UNIV
The University of Values

www.nu.edu/military

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Love Notes



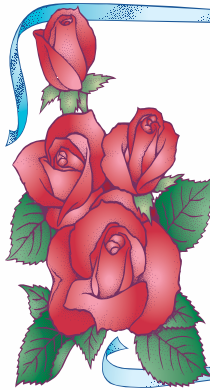
Dear Marty,
My Valentine of
59 years.
I Love You,
Gene



Happy
Valentine's Day
Baby!

Quack!

Will,
Life, love, joy all these
have you given me for
all my days.
Kurt



Pat from Brian
Roses are red,
Violets are blue
This is supposed
to rhyme,
I'll say
I love you!



Sugardaddy


It's been 20 yrs.
and you're still the
King of my heart.

Love,
Desert Goddess

Ralph & Julian,
Thank you for
blessing me with
your love each and
everyday.
Tuesday



Bo-P,
Be My Valentine?
I love and adore you - just because.
Michael B



OUT OF ALL THE
VALENTINES IN THE
WHOLE WORLD,
GOD GAVE ME THE
BEST ONE.
Happy BIRTHDAY,
Zach!
LOVE, MOM



Bonnie,
We love you in
all ways and
forever.
Happy
Valentines Day
John

Richard

I Love You
These three words have my life in them.

Happy Valentines Day

Michele



18 yrs. ago
God gave
me the best
valentine
gift—you!
Happy
Valentine-
Birthday
Son!
• Mom •



1991 2009



"BDD,
20 years later
and I love you
more today than
I even knew
possible then.
My best friend,
my partner in
crime, my
everything."
D.C.D.I.S.

Danny

Happy
Valentine's Day

We Love You!
Love, Teresa, Zach,
Nicky & Reco

I am blessed to have
such a wonderful
son —
Happy
Valentine's
Day
Love,
Mom





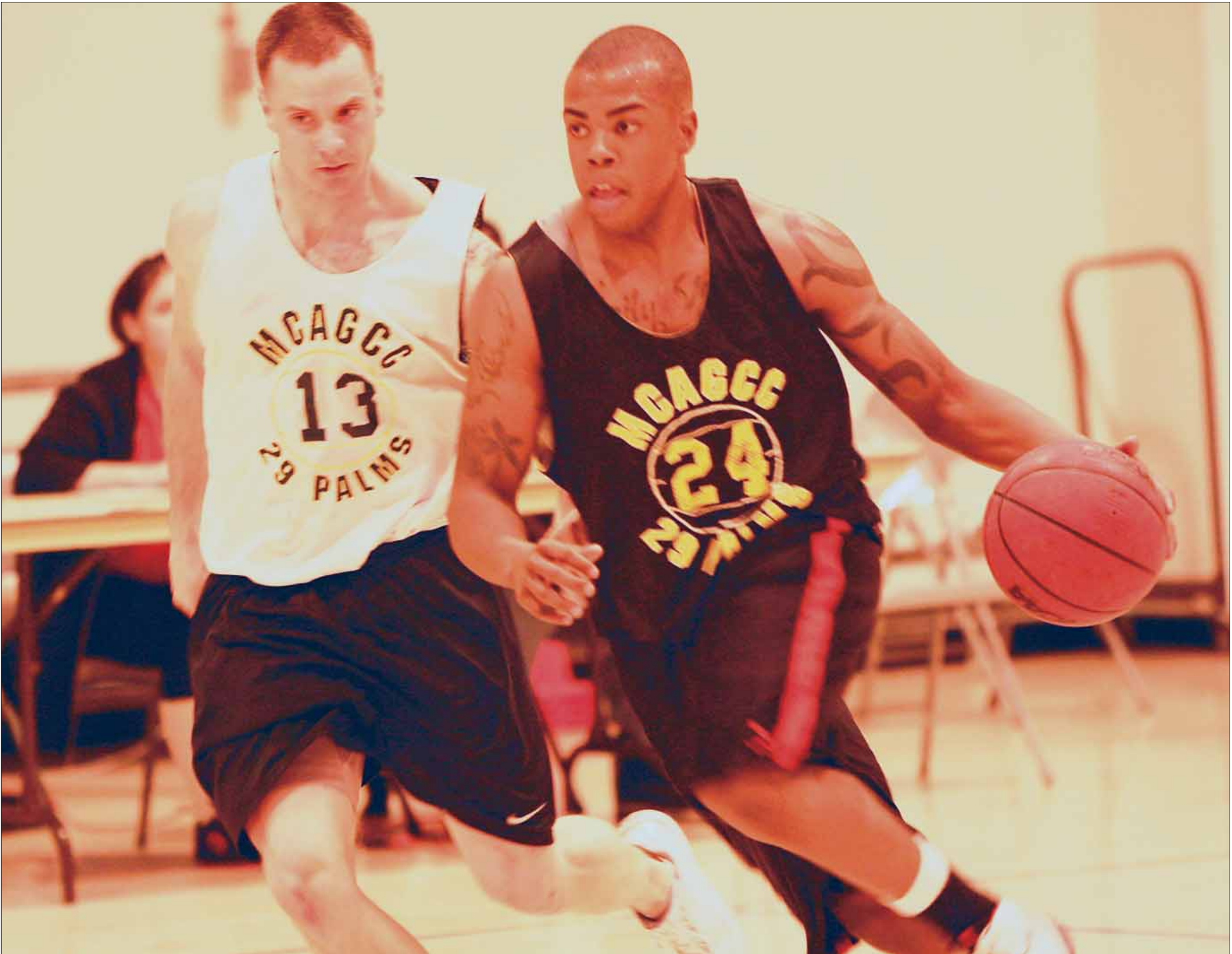
Happy
Valentine's
Day!
Shawn & Cole
We love you!
Mom & Dad

SPORTS AND LEISURE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

FEBRUARY 13, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 B1

Hoopin' it up with MCAGCC



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Centel Redmond, [right] a small forward with 1st Tanks, blows through the opposition as he makes his way down court to score. Tanks played two games Wednesday night and won both, even without a coach. — See B3 for current standings

Get hands-on experience at Wood Hobby Shop



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Sgt. Stephen Foster, an assaultman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Don Miller, the manager for the Wood Hobby Shop, work on building furniture for Foster's children's bedroom.

LANCE CPL. M.C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In the old days, when you wanted a table, you couldn't make a run to the Home Store, lay down some cash and drive it home. You had to put your hands to work before the family had a household surface to eat off of.

Nowadays, woodworking is more of a layman's art form, and the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, located in building 1342 on Sturgis Road is the place where even someone who has never whittled a stick can build plaques, picture

frames and yes, even a table.

The Wood Hobby Shop offers affordable prices on wood, tools to check out, laser engraving services, and a wide variety of knowledge and experience for service members interested in the art of working with wood.

The shop is open from Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tools are available, said Don Miller, the manager for the Wood Hobby Shop. The only requirements are a few short safety

See WOOD SHOP, B3

Valentine's Day ideas for the non-romantic

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Every year on Valentine's Day, couples throughout the world bombard each other with flowers, love cards and chocolate, but what if they want something more than a carnation and heart-shaped card that reads 'I love you?' This year, amaze your significant other with an idea that goes above and beyond and shows how much you love

one another.

When looking at a Valentine's Day gift, think of items that a loved one would actually hold an interest in their hobbies or life. From tickets to their favorite sports team to a complete art set, full of drawing markers, pencils and charcoal. If a gift comes from the heart and actually relates to a loved one's interests, you're golden.

This year, Valentine's Day falls on President's Day

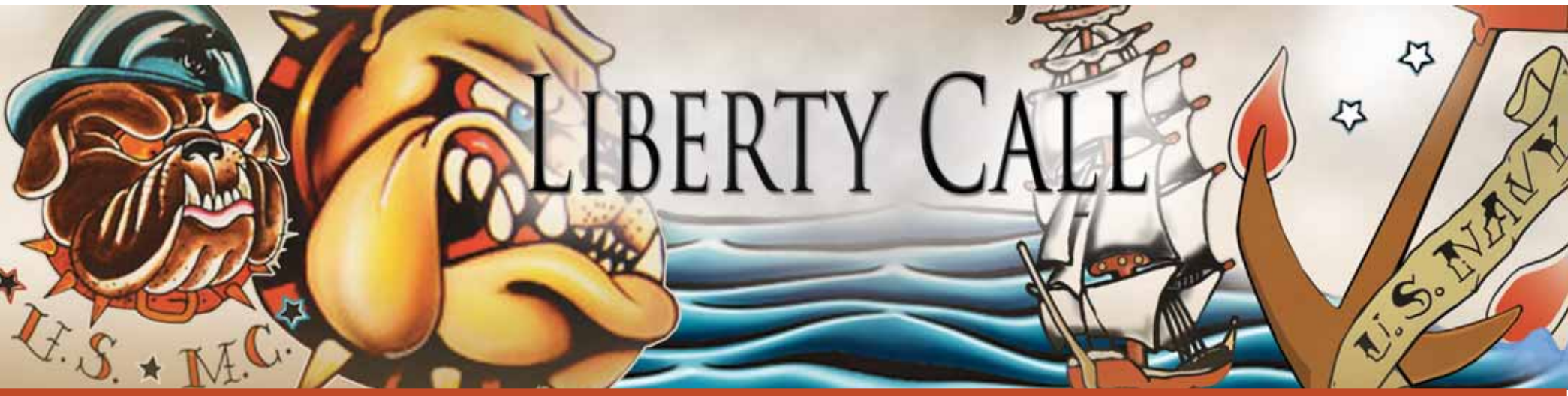
weekend, which gives most people a chance to extend their gift to a weekend getaway. San Diego is only a few hours away, and is home to various parks and attractions including Sea World, the Wild Animal Park and the zoo, all fun places to go especially if your loved one is also an animal lover.

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway is also a great place to visit, especially if your

See ROMANTIC, B4



LANCE CPL. COREY BLODGETT
This year on Valentine's Day, try to spice up the gift-giving by dumping the stuffed animals and chocolates and get your loved ones a gift that appeals to their everyday life and interest.



| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 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. 2/13 Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival Time: All day event Where: Riverside County Fairgrounds 82-503 Hwy 111 Indio For more info, call 1 (800) 811-FAIR or log on to http://www.datefest.org | FRI. 2/13 & SAT. 2/14 Pepe Aguilar Time: Fri. – 9 p.m., Sat. – 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino 49500 Seminole Dr Cabazon For more info, call (951) 849-3080 or log on to http://www.morongocasinoresort.com/entertain2.cfm | SAT. 2/14 Morongo Basin Horsemen's Association Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Where: Morongo Basin Horsemen's Association Arena 3133 Balsa Ave Yucca Valley For more info, call 366-2459 or log on to http://www.mbha.us |
| SAT. 2/14 Fairy Tale Family Fun Day Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum 57090 29 Palms Hwy Yucca Valley For more info, call 369-7212 or log on to http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org | SAT. 2/14 Kid's Valentine's Day Dance Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center Complex 57090 29 Palms Hwy Yucca Valley For more info, call 369-7211 | TUES. 2/17 Taking Chance sneak peek Time: 7 p.m. Where: Combat Center Sunset Cinema The true story of Lt. Col. Michael Strobl returning the body of Combat Center Marine Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps to his hometown after he was killed in Iraq. To view the movie trailer, log on to http://www.hbo.com/films/takingchance/ | 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 & SAT. 2/21 Improv Comedy Club Time: 8 p.m. and 10 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 |

HBO's 'Taking Chance' to appear at Sunset Cinema

COURTESY OF HBO
MEDIA RELATIONS

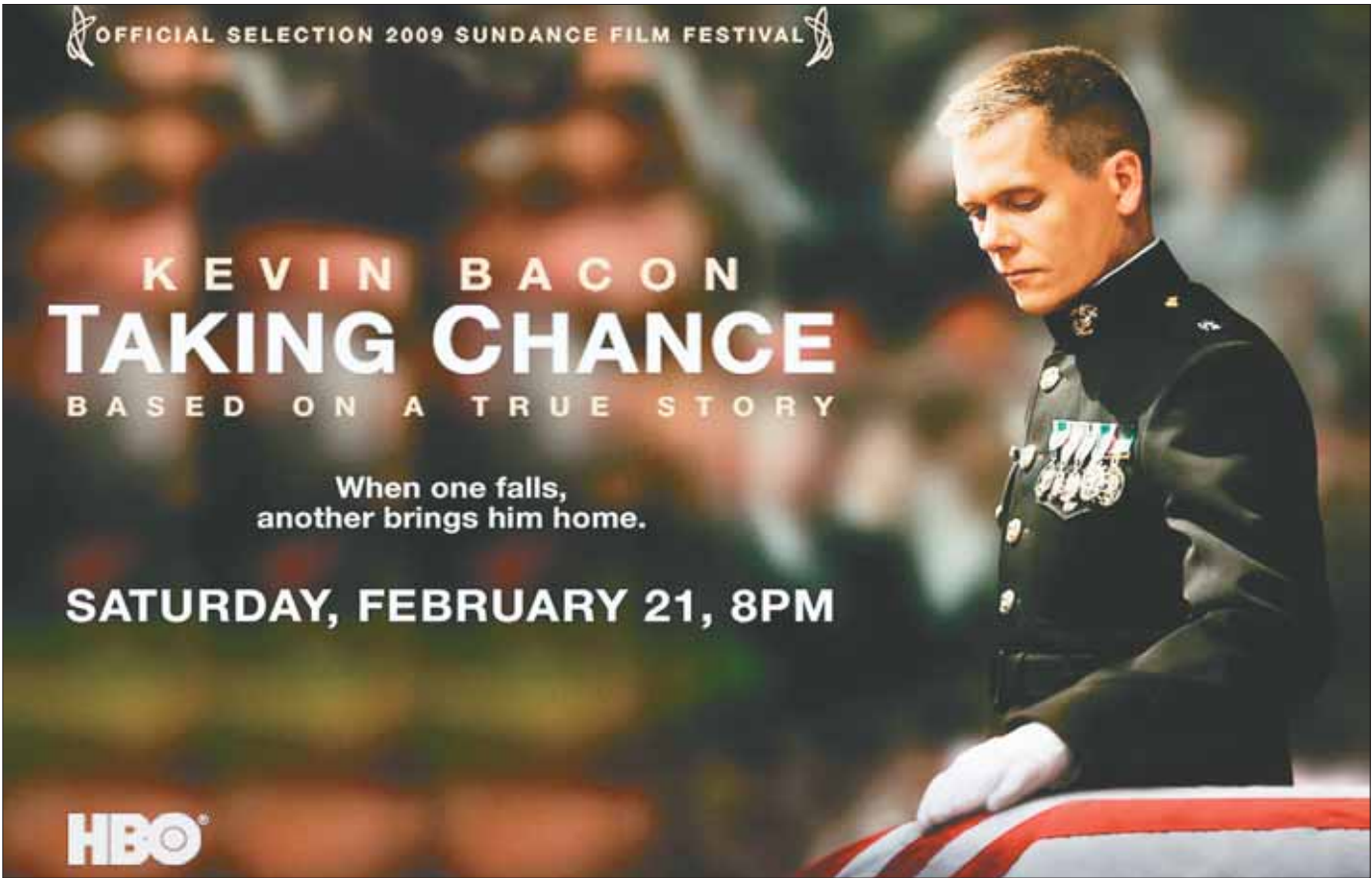
"Taking Chance"

As a special sneak peek, the upcoming HBO film "Taking Chance" will be screened at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Tuesday at 7 p.m. to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps, who was killed April 9, 2004, while deployed to Iraq with Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. Based on Retired Lt. Col. Michael R. Strobl's personal journal of the same name, "Taking Chance" chronicles one of the silent, virtually unseen journeys that take place across the country, bearing witness to the fallen and all those who, literally and figuratively, carry them home. In spring 2004, Lt. Col.

Michael Strobl came across the name of 19-year-old Phelps, a young Marine who had been killed in action in Iraq. Strobl, a Desert Storm veteran with 17 years of military service, requested that he be assigned for military escort duty to accompany Chance's remains to his family in Dubois, Wyo. Strobl, who recently retired after serving 24 years in the Marine Corps, developed the original story with the strong support of Phelps' parents, John Phelps and Gretchen Mack. His first-person account, which began as an official trip report, gives an insight into the military's policy of providing a uniformed escort for all casualties. "The Department of Defense provides a uniformed escort to ensure that the remains of all servicemen

"Chance Phelps was wearing his Saint Christopher medal when he was killed on Good Friday. Eight days later, I handed the medallion to his mother. I didn't know Chance before he died. Today, I miss him."

— Retired Lt. Col. Michael R. Strobl, "Taking Chance"



COURTESY PHOTO

The new release, "Taking Chance" will be screened at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Tuesday at 7 p.m. to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps, who was killed April 9, 2004, while deployed to Iraq.


who have died are transported with proper respect and safeguarded all the way to wherever the loved ones desire the final resting place to be," Strobl said. Very quickly, however, it became apparent to Strobl

that his journey with Phelps was something that transcended any of his expectations. At every step along the way, from the groundskeepers he passed along the road, to the cargo handlers at the airport, he witnessed a spontaneous out-

pouring of support and respect for the fallen Marine. "Beginning in Virginia, and then especially in Dover [Del.] and from there on, I saw how people were reacting

to Chance's sacrifice," Strobl said. "I felt like I really wanted to remember it, and the best way to do that was to capture

See MOVIE, B4



Get To Palm Springs!

RIDE MBTA

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

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 15 | MCAGCC-Palm Springs | Saturday/Sunday* |
| Base Post Exchange | Building 1664 | Subway |
| 10:00 | 10:25 | 10:30 |
| 4:00 | 4:25 | 4:30 |
| 29 Palms Community Center | 29 Palms Staters | Joshua Tree Park Blvd. |
| *4:40 | *4:45 | *5:00 |
| Stater Bros WalMart | Palm Springs Airport | |
| *5:10 | *5:45 | |


| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 15 | MCAGCC-Palm Springs | Saturday/Sunday* |
| Palm Springs Airport | Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino) | Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital) |
| 12:00 | 12:10 | 12:15 |
| *6:00 | *6:10 | *6:15 |
| Stater Bros WalMart | MCAGCC | |
| *6:50 | *7:35 | |

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

Fares from 29 Palms

One-way Regular Fare \$20.00

Round Trip Regular Fare \$25.00



For more information call MBTA Customer Service at 760-366-2395.

The Reliable, Easy and Economical Way to Go!

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Showtimes Effective 2/13/09 - 2/19/09

| | |
|--|---|
| Friday The 13th (R) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 | Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 |
| He's Just Not That Into You (PG13) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 | Taken (PG13) Fri-Mon: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Tues-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 |

ADULTS \$8.00
SENIORS \$6.00
CHILDREN \$6.00

U-HAUL RENTALS 29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley **361-7141**

Enter to Win!

Boys Huffy 20" Rocket Bike & Bell Youth Helmet



Come to the Hi-Desert Star or The Desert Trail to enter



All proceeds go to Relay for Life



Hi-Desert Publishing Co.
Your Community Newspaper
Working to Serve you Better
365-3315 or 367-3577



LANCE CPL. BRYAN G. CARFREY

Retired Lt. Col. Michael R. Strobl stands next to actor Kevin Bacon during a premier showing of HBO's made-for-TV movie 'Taking Chance.' Bacon plays the role of Strobl in the movie as a uniformed military escort bringing home the body of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps who was killed in action April 9, 2004.

Wednesday Evening Ballroom Dances

Palm Springs Pavilion 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Complimentary Group Dance Lessons at 6:30 p.m. with purchase of a ticket

Palm Springs Pavilion - (760) 323-8272 • 401 S. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs, CA. 92262

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Spring 2009 | |
| Feb. 4..... | Milt Rasmussen Band |
| Feb. 11..... | Joe Nutter & His Sophisticated Swing |
| Feb. 18..... | Touch of Class |
| Feb. 25..... | Dick Richards Ensemble |
| March 4.....Milt Rasmussen Band | |
| March 11..... | Touch of Class |
| March 18..... | Joe Nutter & His Sophisticated Swing |
| March 25..... | Milt Rasmussen Band |

Admission Prices: CD Night - \$5/Person
Spring 2009 - \$8/Person

Combat Center sports standings



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Filber Labitad, a point guard with Marine Wing Support Squadron-374, shoots a free throw after being fouled. MWSS-374 was the second team to lose to 1st Tanks Wednesday during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League.

| Intramural Basketball Standings as of Wednesday | | |
|---|------|--------|
| Team | Wins | Losses |
| NHTP | 4 | 0 |
| Ole School Plus | 3 | 0 |
| MCCES All-Stars | 3 | 0 |
| 1/7 | 3 | 1 |
| IPAC | 2 | 2 |
| MCCES A | 1 | 2 |
| MWSS-374 (A) | 2 | 2 |
| MWSS-374 (B) | 2 | 2 |
| 1st Tanks | 2 | 2 |
| 3rd CEB | 0 | 3 |
| CLB-7 | 0 | 3 |
| MCCES Party | 1 | 3 |



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Filber Labitad, a point guard with Marine Wing Support Squadron-374, comes down the court on a breakaway after stealing the ball from the opposing team.



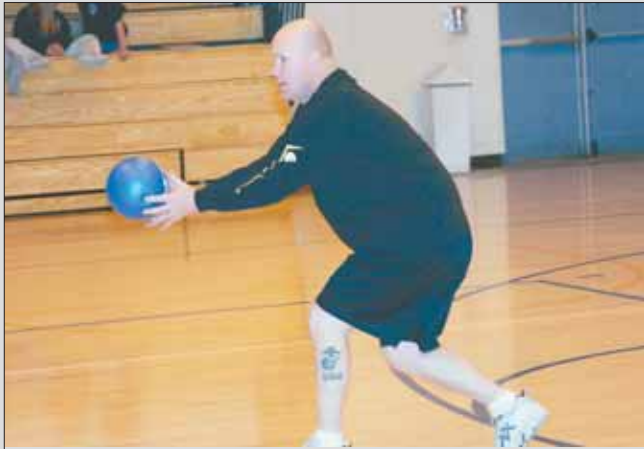
LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Centel Redmond [right], a small forward with 1st Tanks, fights his way past his opponent as he makes his way down court.

Intramural Dodgeball league standings as of Wednesday

| Team | Wins | Losses |
|----------------|------|--------|
| Fainting Goats | 5 | 0 |
| Jive Turkeys | 4 | 1 |
| MCCES A Co. | 4 | 1 |
| Sapper | 3 | 2 |
| MTU | 3 | 2 |
| A-Team | 2 | 3 |
| Tanks #4 | 2 | 3 |
| Dental | 1 | 4 |
| Hospital | 1 | 4 |
| Justice League | 0 | 5 |



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Players with Marksmanship Training Unit rush the court and get the balls for their team. The Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball league meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for play.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Rodney Bolton, a player with Marksmanship Training Unit, catches a ball from one of his teammates before slinging it at the opposition. The Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball league meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for play.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Roderick Beachum, a player with the Unpredictables fights against the odds when his team was outnumbered three to one Tuesday night. The Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball league meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for play.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
A player with the Unpredictables takes a hard hit in a bad place Tuesday night during the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball league. The Unpredictables lost, even with the addition of new players to their team.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Robert Henry, a recreation assistant with the Wood Hobby Shop, inputs information into the laser engraving system they use. Employees of the shop are the only ones authorized to use the engraver, but it is available to anyone for a fee.

WOOD SHOP, from B1

classes given at the shop. "The prices are much lower than anywhere else around here. You can get a day's worth of work done for less than five dollar," said Miller. "Learning wise, all you have to do is ask when you're up here, either myself or my assistant are always eager and willing to help out one of our customers."

Miller, who calls Twentynine Palms, Calif., his home has been an employee at the shop for 20 years, and says the shop is doing well, with approximately 30 to 40 new faces coming in and doing their safety classes per month. With a good base of regular customers, and a healthy body of newcomers the shop is in good shape to keep going.

The majority of patrons work on furniture for their homes, or plaques for their family or unit.

The shop has its own supply of wood, ranging from regular types like Oak and Maple, to exotic woods like koa or cherry. The shop has approximately 20 different types of wood available for purchase.

Other than allowing patrons to make their own projects in the shop, the staff also offers laser engraving services.

Miller and his assistant, Robert Henry, a recreation assistant with the shop, are able to run pictures and other data through the machine and operate it to make designs.

"It's a CO2 laser that cuts the wood, glass -- pretty much anything but metal -- that we put in there," said Henry, who comes from Burbank, Calif. "The laser uses frequencies to make its cuts. Before all the cutting happens, we either take the image that people give us, or we take one from our database, which has almost every unit aboard the base in it. We take whatever picture we have, and enhance it so it is a higher resolution, remove all lines that would just add clutter, then simply run the appropriate sized wood through the engraver."

The shop charges different rates for different laser engraving projects, Henry said. Their photograph engraving set-up fee is \$20 to \$40. The art set-up fee is less than \$20. Their text set-up costs \$2.50 and finally, the Clip Art set-up costs \$3. The fees for laser engraving add one dollar per minute the project takes.

With wood available to purchase, Henry added, a crafter can either make their own plaque or buy one of many pre-made ones.

"We have same-day service," he explained. "The projects can run as short as a half hour, which includes bringing it in and having whatever you want. It is an extremely precise system," Henry said. "It makes designs far more intricately than the human hand can."

Henry continued to elaborate on the detail the laser engraver can perform at.

Henry stated the engraver can also do in-lay work, and color text depending on how much text is put into a project.

Some Marines are fairly new to woodworking and to the shop, like Sgt. Stephen Foster, an assaultman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

Foster said that he has gotten lots of help whenever he needed it, and everything has been very valuable.

"When I've had problems they've been there to walk me through every step of the way," Foster said. "When I'm not asking for help, they let me go about what I do when I'm doing it."

Foster said he is currently working on a bed for his son and it is his first project. Foster continued that he hopes to finish it soon.

For more information on the Wood Hobby Shop, you can contact the manager at 830-7214.

MOVIE, from B2

it in a journal.”

By the time Strobl returned home, he had filled 20 pages of a journal with his observations about the people and experiences he had encountered.

“I walked into my house, and my wife said, ‘How was your trip?’” he said. “I felt so drained I couldn’t even explain it, so I went downstairs and typed up my notes. The next morning, I left the notes on the table and she read them, and I figured while I have these notes, I may as well share them with a few people. So I sent them to about six or seven coworkers and then it kind of exploded after that. The story seemed to really touch people. My innocuous trip report became ‘Taking Chance.’”

The story became an Internet phenomenon when it was widely circulated throughout the military community and eventually reached the mainstream media.

After his death, Phelps was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device and a Purple Heart medal for his heroic actions during the ambush that led to his death.

“I feel the responsibility to Lt. Col. Strobl, his family, and the family of Chance Phelps, to approach the material with as much honesty, integrity – and to approach it with as little vanity – as possible,” said actor Kevin Bacon, who portrays Strobl in the film. “Chance Phelps was a heroic kid who had his whole life in front of him, and hopefully whose spirit and memory will live on through this film. His death was a terrible tragedy and a reality of war.”

“Taking Chance” is set to debut on HBO Feb. 21 at 8 p.m., and was an official selection at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. To view the movie trailer, log on to <http://www.hbo.com/films/takingchance/>.



LANCIE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

This Valentine’s Day, instead of only getting your loved one stuffed animals and chocolate, find something personal that will show your significant other you truly know them from the heart.

ROMANTIC, from B1

loved one misses their snowy home state. The Tramway is low in cost for a pass, \$22.25 for one adult. They are also hosting a special Valentine’s Day dinner at the Peaks Fine Dining Restaurant, located at the mountain station. Dinner per person is \$70, and reservations are required.

If you feel like staying close to home, the Combat Center’s Officers’ Club is also hosting a romantic dinner for lovebirds. The dinner is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

Every woman will receive a rose upon entering the club, and the dinner includes two glasses of champagne, an appetizer, salad, main entrée with a side and a dessert to finish the meal. The entire dinner will cost \$44.95 per couple, and wine will also be available for purchase throughout the dinner.

“It is going to be fantastic,” said Tracy Hatch, the general manager at the Officers’ Club. “We already have a lot of people signed up to enjoy this Hallmark holiday with us, and we are going to make it special for all of them.”

A downside of Valentine’s Day is when a loved one is away, either on

a deployment, or simply on temporary duty across the country.

Spouses who are left alone during the loving holiday should plan a get-together with friends or family, instead of staying home and being sad, said Jennifer Tossetti, the wife of Petty Officer 1st Class Jesse Tossetti, a corpsman with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment who is currently deployed.

“Wives need to make sure they are taking care of themselves,” said Tossetti, a Temple City, Calif., native. “They should plan their own Valentine’s Day and remember they have their own special relationship with their husbands who are still in their hearts, even if they are not home.”

Lindy Seto, the Marine Corps Community Services area coordinator who has dealt with her husband’s constant deployments over Valentine’s Day, agreed with Tossetti saying spouses should have fun on Valentine’s Day, not be depressed.

“Invite some friends over to your house,” Seto said. “Make sure you are having fun, treat yourself to a girls-night-out, and enjoy the time you have to yourself.”

Valentine Deals



Y.V. 29 Palms Chrysler

72878 29 Palms Hwy. • Twentynine Palms
(760) 367-1919 • FAX (760) 367-4430
Sales Open 7 Days a Week • Service Dept. 8am - 5pm Mon. - Fri.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 2000 CHEVY CAMARO  #142865 T-Tops WAS \$14,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$12,888 | 03 HONDA ACCORD  #016666 V6 WAS \$15,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$12,888 | 05 DODGE RAM 1500  #621305 HEMI SLT WAS \$15,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$13,888 | 05 MAZDA M6  #M46203 SPORTY WAS \$17,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$14,888 |
| 05 DODGE DURANGO  #595521 HEMI 3RD ROW LEATHER WAS \$18,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$16,588 | 05 DODGE DURANGO  #592509 LEATHER HEMI 3RD ROW WAS \$18,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$16,588 | 07 FORD EDGE  #A54107 ONLY 30K MILES WAS \$21,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$19,888 | 06 DODGE RAM 2500  #104950 8" LIFT 4X4 HEMI WAS \$22,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$20,888 |
| 07 DODGE DAYTONA R/T  #783523 HEMI 22" WHEELS WAS \$25,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$22,888 | 08 DODGE NITRO  #252730 4X4 WAS \$26,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$22,888 | 08 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING  #267706 LIMITED EDITION WAS \$27,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$22,888 | 08 CHRYSLER SEBRING  #271319 CONVERTIBLE WAS \$27,888 VALENTINE PRICE \$22,988 |

Plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, and any emission charge. Exp. 2-18-09

Y.V. Chrysler 29 Palms Service Department!!



FREE CAR WASH WITH 30-60-90K SERVICE

We service all makes and models

10% MILITARY DISCOUNT

72878 29 Palms Hwy
760-367-1919