

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

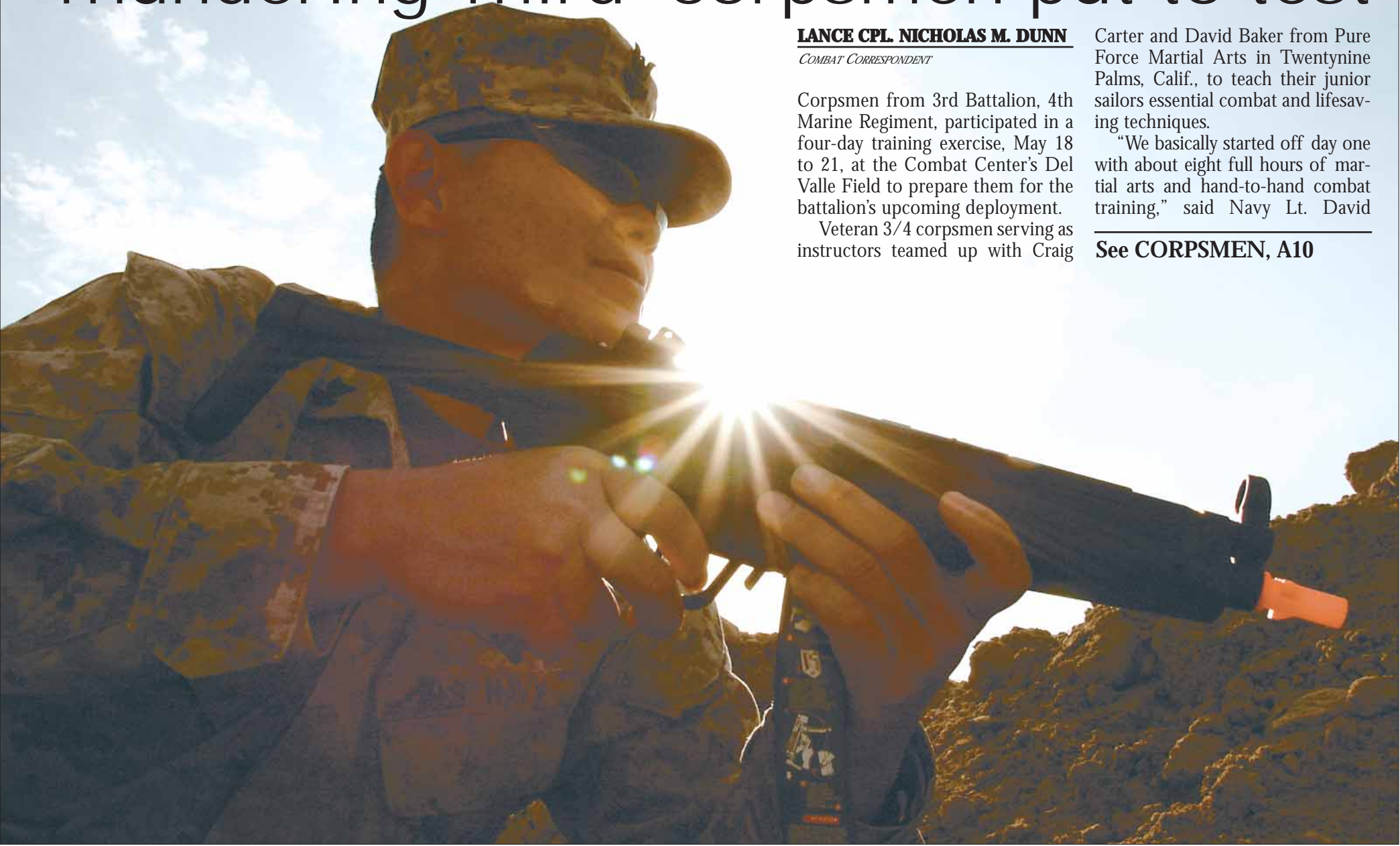
MAY 29, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 21

‘Thundering Third’ corpsmen put to test

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Corpsmen from 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, participated in a four-day training exercise, May 18 to 21, at the Combat Center’s Del Valle Field to prepare them for the battalion’s upcoming deployment. Veteran 3/4 corpsmen serving as instructors teamed up with Craig

Carter and David Baker from Pure Force Martial Arts in Twentynine Palms, Calif., to teach their junior sailors essential combat and lifesaving techniques. “We basically started off day one with about eight full hours of martial arts and hand-to-hand combat training,” said Navy Lt. David
See CORPSMEN, A10



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Petty Officer 2nd Class Francis Marquez, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, fires on patrolling corpsmen with an airsoft gun while acting as an enemy aggressor during their four-day combat training exercise at the Combat Center’s Del Valle Field May 21.



CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

Casket bearers remove the burial flag during a group repatriation service May 14. A throng of family members and Marine veterans gathered to remember the service and sacrifice of six Vietnam War casualties whose remains had recently been identified and repatriated.

Repatriation service honors six Vietnam War casualties

CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

ARLINGTON, Va. — A throng of family members and Marine veterans gathered amidst the white grave markers of Arlington National Cemetery to remember the service and sacrifice of six Vietnam War casualties May 14. After 41 years, the remains of the six Marines killed in Vietnam have been identified and repatriated. Lance Cpls. Kurt LaPlant,

Luis Palacios, Ralph L. Harper, Felix Flores and Pfc. Catarino Morelos Jr. and Jose Ramon Sanchez died while serving in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam on June 6, 1968. According to Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Affairs officials, a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter was attempting an emergency extraction of Marines with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, then engaged with hostile forces. The aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire,

crashed and rolled down a steep hillside, killing 12 of the 23 crewmen and passengers on board. Initially, the remains of eight Marines, including Morelos and Flores, were recovered and identified leaving only four Marines unaccounted for and presumed dead. From June 20 to July 15, 2006, a joint U.S. and Vietnam investigation team began excavating the suspected crash site and recovered
See VIETNAM, A10

Leaving Iraq in their tracks

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, arrived home to the sounds of cheering loved ones and motorcycle horns Monday night at the Amphibious Assault Vehicle ramp when they returned to the Combat Center from their third deployment to Iraq. The returning 149 Marines and sailors departed the Combat Center in October to support operations in Iraq’s Al Anbar

Province. While in Iraq, Co. D was responsible for several different tasks structured around security in the region. “One of our main missions over there was to be part of the Multi National Force – West Quick Reaction Force,” said Master Sgt. Donald Vick, the company’s operations chief and a Frankenmoth, Mich., native. “We worked in Operating Environment Rutbah, a town in western Iraq near the Jordanian – Syrian border. “We basically controlled that operating environment,

coordinating with other units working in that area to enable them to conduct operations,” he said. “We also provided watch, security and oversight of Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police operations.” The company also conducted leadership engagements, working with the mayor, city council and local sheikhs of Rutbah to create peace and stability in the region, Vick said. When the Marines and sailors returned to the Combat Center after a long seven months, they
See IRAQ, A5



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines and sailors from Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, gather their gear at the Amphibious Assault Vehicle ramp after returning from their third deployment to Iraq Monday night.



Can’t you hear that Rolling Thunder? ~ See A3



OSC serves up scholarships See A7




Let’s get critical See B1



Marines, sailors are ballin’ See B1

BUS SCHEDULE			
Morning Route	1st Run	2nd Run	
Two Mile Rd. - Two Mile Rd.	5:15 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	
Two Mile Rd. - Desert Knoll Ave.	5:17 a.m.	6:32 a.m.	
Desert Knoll Ave. - Joe Davis Dr.	5:20 a.m.	6:35 a.m.	
Joe Davis Dr. - Luckie Ave.	5:25 a.m.	6:40 a.m.	
Condor Rd. - Argos Rd.	5:30 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	
Condor Rd. - Rainbow Canyon	5:32 a.m.	6:47 a.m.	
Condor Rd. - Saddleback	5:35 a.m.	6:50 a.m.	
Agate Rd. - Desert Ave.	5:38 a.m.	6:53 a.m.	
Plant St. - Cactus Dr.	5:40 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	
De Valle - 3rd St.	5:45 a.m.	7 a.m.	
De Valle - 12th St.	5:50 a.m.	7:05 a.m.	
De Valle - 11th St.	5:55 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	
Griffin Rd. - 10th St.	6 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 7th St.	6:05 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 5th St.	6:07 a.m.	7:22 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 3rd St.	6:08 a.m.	7:23 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 1st St.	6:10 a.m.	7:25 a.m.	
Afternoon Route	1st Run	2nd Run	3rd Run
De Valle - 3rd St.	3:15 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
De Valle - 12th St.	3:17 p.m.	4:32 p.m.	5:47 p.m.
De Valle - 11th St.	3:20 p.m.	4:35 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
Griffin Rd. - 10th St.	3:25 p.m.	4:40 p.m.	5:55 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 7th St.	3:30 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	6 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 5th St.	3:32 p.m.	4:47 p.m.	6:02 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 3rd St.	3:35 p.m.	4:50 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 1st St.	3:38 p.m.	4:53 p.m.	6:08 p.m.
Two Mile Rd. - Two Mile Rd.	3:40 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Two Mile - Desert Knoll Ave.	3:45 p.m.	5 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
Desert Knoll - Joe Davis Dr.	3:50 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
Joe Davis Dr. - Luckie Ave.	3:55 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	6:25 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Argos Rd.	4 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Rainbow Cny.	4:05 p.m.	5:20 p.m.	6:35 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Saddleback	4:07 p.m.	5:22 p.m.	6:37 p.m.
Agate Rd. - Desert Ave.	4:08 p.m.	5:23 p.m.	6:38 p.m.
Plant St. - Cactus Dr.	4:10 p.m.	5:25 p.m.	6:40 p.m.


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Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Gunner John Whiting

Job Title: Tactical Training Exercise Control Group Gunner

Job Duties: Validate surface danger zones in conjunction with all live-fire events, act as the safety back-stop controller, and update and edit the Mojave Viper safety handout.

What do you like most about your job? “I’m outdoors and it gives me the ability to interact with every infantry battalion that deploys.”

Significant Achievements: “We recently validated Ranges 401 and 410 with the help of the TTECG and Range Safety support staffs, which will allow us to train two infantry battalions at the same time.”

Hobbies: Yard work, landscaping

Military service: “Just shy of 24 years.”

Time at the Combat Center: Since 2003





OBSERVATION POST	
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Deputy Public Affairs Officer	1st Lt. Doy Demsick
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez
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Hot Topics

CORRECTION
In last week's Observation Post article, titled School's out - local care options available, it read that the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert provides free child care services during the summer, when in fact summer rates still apply. The rates are \$5 per day early bird from 7 to 10 a.m., \$30 per week or \$10 per day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The teen center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a \$50 summer membership fee. For more information contact the club at 365-5437.

REENLISTMENT BONUS ENDING
Per Marine Administrative message May 3, the fiscal year 2009 Selective Reenlistment Bonus will end effective June 8. The only exception to this policy is for the nine military occupational specialties listed, regardless of reenlistment zone: 0211, 0231, 0261, 0321, 0431, 0861, 2336, 2671, and 2834. Only eligible fiscal year 2009 or 2010 Marines who reenlist in these MOS's will receive the SRB until June 30 at which time all fiscal year 2009 SRB's will be suspended. See your unit Career Retention Specialist for further guidance and reenlistment opportunities. Releasing agent is the Base Career Retention Specialist office at 830-6171 or 7242.

Centerspeak

What is your favorite summer memory and why?

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



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
CAPT. JACOB COSTELLO
TTECG, Co. A, HEADQUARTERS
BATTALION



PFC. LEE DEXTER
Co. E, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH REGIMENT



GUNNERY SGT. JAMES WELLS
MARINE CORPS TRAINING AND ADVISORY
GROUP

This Day in
Marine Corps History

May 29, 1991

Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130s, and landing-craft in Operation Sea Angel.

SUDOKU #1430

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[puzzle Solutions on A7]

" BGL!"

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62						63					64			

American Profile Hometown Content

05/24/2009

ACROSS

1. Pounds with rocks

6. Hydrotherapy sites

10. WWII-era female enlistee

13. Israel's Sharon

14. Proper's partner

15. "Cold one"

16. Lily variety

17. Tilt-A-Whirl, e.g.

18. Nobelist Wiesel

19. Sailor's favorite baked good

21. Soothing stuff

22. Day care attendee

23. Attempts to score on a fly

25. Fried one's heart out

29. Peachy-keen

31. For all to hear

32. Rants and raves

36. Pug's work place

37. Charles' princedom

38. Sponge opening

39. Shelf support, perhaps

41. Cooks too long

42. Comic DeGeneres

43. Disney's dwarfs, e.g.

44. Serene

47. "The Ice Storm" director Lee

48. ___ avis

49. Word game with a 25-cube grid

55. Santana's "___ Ways"

56. Housemate of Garfield

57. Tourist mecca off Venezuela's coast

59. Use wax on, perhaps

60. Bit of pond scum

61. Extreme hardship

62. Many prom goers: Abbr.

63. ___ out (scold severely)

64. Medical blockage reliever

DOWN

1. Source of DC funding

2. Chapters of history

3. Oscar winner Kedrova

4. Archer of legend

5. Like a louver

6. Lean eater of rhyme

7. Goody-goody

8. Man Friday, e.g.

9. Ore processors

10. Features of oases

11. Facetious quintet?

12. Move sneakily

15. Snoopy, as a youngster

20. Physique, in slang

24. Boxer Laila

25. ___ Lee cakes

26. Lena of "Chocolat"

27. Peeling sound

28. Reveille or taps

29. Place for a tan

30. Small songbird

32. Give a hoot

33. Alphabetize, say

34. Caen's river

35. Place to brood

37. Tusked critter

40. Quarterback Manning

41. Hat-in-hand sorts

43. ___-Cone (cool treat)

44. Tool used on garlic

45. Aussie tennis great Rod

46. Divas' show-stoppers

47. Crosswise, on a ship

50. Twiddling one's thumbs

51. Prefix with byte

52. Abrasive stuff

53. Winter Olympics event

54. Black, in verse

58. Sculptures, oils, etc.

Veterans keep traditions alive as Rolling Thunder XXII roars through Washington



CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

A relentless sea of chrome, and red, white and blue patriotism congregated in the Pentagon's north parking lot May 24 for the 22nd annual Rolling Thunder. This year, police officials who were directing traffic estimated nearly half a million people participated in the event.

CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON — A relentless sea of chrome, and red, white and blue patriotism roared up Constitution Avenue toward the National Mall May 24 as thousands of veterans rode in the 22nd annual Rolling Thunder.

This year, police officials who were directing traffic estimated nearly half a million people participated in the event.

As noon approached, the Rolling Thunder procession crossed the Memorial Bridge and throngs of supporters lined the streets, shouting words of encouragement and rendering honors to POW/MIA flags. From start to finish, it took all of the motorcyclists nearly four hours to make their way through the city.

Robert L. Seltz, a Marine Veteran who served in Vietnam from October 1970 – April 1972, explained that, “The first time I road I considered it my homecoming. We didn't receive a very good welcome then but it's a mixed feeling of nostalgia and pride when I come over that hill now and see the crowd. I ride to draw attention and let the government know we haven't forgotten our brothers from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq and Afghanistan.”

The ride is an emotional event for veterans, said Bo McCormick, a former Army Green Beret and founder of the Special Forces Motorcycle Club.

McCormick said he has a passion for everything military. “I will walk down (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall) and salute each and every name” he said. “We are willing to go the extra mile

just to show that respect.”

Since its inception in 1987, Rolling Thunder has continued to incorporate new generations of veterans. An excerpt from the official Rolling Thunder Web site explains the significance of this tradition by stating “It might have started out as a limited engagement to focus attention on those unaccounted for after Vietnam,

but it's become much, much more. Rolling Thunder picked up the banner of accountability...and carries it with pride and honor into the 21st century.”

Though a common phrase heard on Memorial

Day is “happy Memorial Day,” McCormick stressed that Memorial Day is not a celebration, but a day to mourn, reflect and show respect.

“Everyone enjoying our everyday freedoms, which

we may sometimes take for granted,” McCormick continued, “should remember those freedoms are a direct result of those men and women who gave their lives and continue to give their lives.”

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Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle shows off capabilities

SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Workers from the General Dynamics Corporation saw the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, one of their own products, put to the test May 12.

Marines from the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and from the EFV Program Office in Woodbridge, Va., demonstrated the capabilities of the EFV aboard Quantico's testing ranges.

The demonstration evaluated water maneuvering tests and a gunnery test, which must take place before an EFV can proceed to field testing in the fleet, said Manny Pacheco, public affairs officer for the EFV Program Office.

"Quantico provides an environment and terrain perfect for training and testing [the EFVs], and at the same time can demonstrate its capabilities to Marine Corps, DoD (Department of Defense), and Congressional leadership," Pacheco said.

The EFV cruised through the Potomac River training area just off the Quantico shoreline and fired its MK44 Bushmaster and M240 machine guns.

Marines with the EFV program say they are excited to have such a vehicle coming to them and compare it with the Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

"The vehicle is faster, has more firepower and better armor — it's an investment



SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

An Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, operated by Marines with the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., whips through the Potomac River training area just off the Quantico shoreline in a testing evolution May 12.

Marines need," said Cpl. Jordan Alleman, a developmental tester with the AVTB in Camp Pendleton and a native of Lafayette, La.

Col. Brian Buckles, commander of AVTB in Camp Pendleton, agrees and said if the Corps doesn't have the EFV, it will not be able to support future Marine Corps concepts and operations.

"The EFV will increase survivability, firepower, and mobility," said Buckles, a Boulder, Mont., native.

Even though some government officials have questioned the vehicle's cost and requirements, including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway

stands firm behind the EFV initiative.

In an article published April 29 on www.AviationWeek.com, Conway said he's "unequivocal on the requirement" for fast, forcible entry of Marines from 25 miles off shore, adding that no other manufacturer has been able to offer what General Dynamics has in the EFV.

According to the EFV Program Office, the vision of the EFV program is to field and support the world's most capable expeditionary fighting vehicle that Marines value and enemies fear, with a mission to deliver and support an operationally effective and suitable EFV — on time and at an acceptable cost.

The personnel variant of the EFV is manned by Marines and can execute amphibious

operations from 20-25 miles over the horizon and transport 17 combat-equipped Marines to inland objectives. In comparison to the AAV, the EFV can travel up to 25 knots on water, whereas the AAV can only reach 6 knots.

Alleman also said the EFV has "insane firepower," with

its 30 mm Bushmaster automatic cannon. Furthermore, repairs will cost less because the vehicle is plated in sections, which makes replacing damaged armor plates easier and quicker. And as a test driver for the vehicle, Alleman said the EFV hydraulic system absorbs more shock and

bumps than the AAV.

"It's like the Jaguar of armored vehicles," he said, referring to the relatively smooth and comfort Marines will have when traveling through rough terrain.

For more information on the EFV, visit <http://www.efv.usmc.mil>.



SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Personnel from the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle Program Office stand next to an EFV as it fires 30 mm rounds from its MK44 Bushmaster automatic cannon during a testing evolution May 12.

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Website: JHOPCC.ORG

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Personal Financial Management Program helps service members avoid debt

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a financial informa-

tion presentation in collaboration with Fort Sill National Bank, Tuesday at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel from 6 to 7 p.m.

The FSNB branch manager, Tonia Ross, will give a

presentation to clarify debt information and answer questions.

"It's concentrated on how to improve credit, how to avoid scams, explain terms and fine print, and identify

lenders you should avoid," said Ross.

The presentation is designed to educate Marines, sailors and their spouses to be financially savvy, she added.

According to Experian, a national score index, the five top most common areas that are considered in your credit score are:

- Payment history. Have your payments been on time? Do you have any judgments or collection items? Have you declared bankruptcy?
- Outstanding debt. How much do you owe on different accounts, such as credit cards or installment loans?
- Credit history. How long have you been building a credit history and how long since you used each account?
- Pursuit of new credit. How many times and how recently have you applied for a new credit card or auto loan?
- Types of credit in use. How many bank cards, entertainment cards, department store cards,

installment loans, and mortgages do you have?

The MCCS Personal Financial Management Program coordinates with financial institutions on and off base and sets up presentations for service members and their spouses to supply them with the knowledge to get their finances in order and better prepare their futures.

"I'm seeing a lot of people come in with credit card debt," said Sandra Little, the personal financial management specialist with MCCS. "This will provide information to help prevent that. We

try to arrange financial presentations to help inform and stop negative financial trends."

More presentations will be scheduled throughout the year concerning a variety of financial issues, Little added.

"We are providing this information for pure knowledge," Little said. "We are not trying to sell or sign anyone up for anything."

Childcare is provided during the presentation.

For more information contact the Personal Financial Management Program at 830-7342.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Before cutting up credit cards, attend a financial information presentation hosted by the Personal Financial Management Program in collaboration with Fort Sill National Bank Tuesday at the base's Protestant Chapel from 6 to 7 p.m. Getting out of credit card debt can be accomplished with the right knowledge.

IRAQ, from A1

received an outpouring of support from the surrounding community.

Approximately 35 Patriot Guard motorcycle riders escorted the company back to the Combat Center from Riverside, Calif., to show their support for the troops.

"Our primary mission is to pay our respects to the country's fallen heroes by escorting the funeral details, but this is one of those happier times when we don't have to do that," said Billy "Hawkeye" Mathews, who led the motorcycle procession Monday night. "We just want to be able to show our support for you guys and let you know there are people out there who appreciate your service."

One of the riders, Ted Anderson of Wendell, Idaho, felt a special connection to the returning Marines and sailors, His son, Sgt. Tyler Anderson, an

AAV mechanic with Co. D, 3rd AAB, was returning home with them.

"They let me ride as the second bike in the formation," he said. "I got to escort my son halfway the last time he came home, but this time I rode the whole distance."

Anderson, who also participates in Patriot Guard rides in his home state of Idaho, said he was glad to see his son again, especially having two other children recently return from deployments.

"Tyler is my oldest child," he said. "He has a younger sister in the Navy who just got back last month, and has a younger brother who's also in the Navy. I'm just glad he's home now."

The Marines and sailors of Co. D, 3rd AAB, will soon take some time off to spend with their loved ones before they continue their training in preparation for their next deployment.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Patriot Guard riders line up at the Amphibious Assault Vehicle ramp to show their support to the 149 Marines and sailors from Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, who returned from their third deployment to Iraq Monday night.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sundays

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services

8 a.m.-Faith Formation/CCD
September through 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
8:30 a.m.-West Wing
Non-denominational:
Calvary Chapel-AGC
9 a.m.-Worship*
9 a.m.-Children's Church
10:30 a.m.-Sunday School*
6 p.m.-Youth Group

Lay-led Gospel Service

11:30 a.m.-Worship

building 1707

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 made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Monday-Friday

Immaculate Heart of Mary
11:45 a.m.-Catholic Mass (except holidays)

Tuesday

Christ Chapel
9 a.m.-Christian Women's Fellowship*
September through May

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

Wednesday

Christ Chapel
7 p.m.-Lay-led Gospel Bible Study

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

Thursday

Christ Chapel
6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal
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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June is safety month; teen driving week

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The National Safety Council has dubbed June as safety month to warn American citizens about common safety dangers – dangers that can be potentially experienced by all Combat Center personnel.

The week of June 1 to 7 is “Teen Driving Week” and specifically targets the dangers associated with new, young drivers on the road.

Traffic accidents are attributed to 38 percent of teen fatalities, according to the National Safety Council Web site, <http://www.nsc.org>. There are several elements that contribute to teen crashes including inexperience, speed, alcohol

consumption and texting and cell phone use.

Marine Corps police officer Lt. James Daly, the Provost Marshals Office traffic chief, reminds teens about the California Department of Motor Vehicles Code 23123, which states all drivers ages 18 and older may use hands-free cell phone devices when driving. However, California Code 23124 states that all drivers under the age of 18 are not permitted to use cell phones or hands-free devices of any kind, or text message while driving a motor vehicle.

Drivers ages 16 to 19-years-old are the most dangerous demographics on the road today in terms of accident percentage, said Daly, a

Penrose, Colo., native.

“Out of every 100 teen drivers, 38.9 percent have received citations,” he said. “Almost half of those citations, 52.7 percent, are for speeding.”

Vehicular crashes are also highest among 16-year-olds at 61.4 percent and drop down to 45.4 percent by the age of 18.

Daly said a dangerous combination of the need-for-speed itch with young teens, and their inexperience behind the wheel, can yield devastating and expensive consequences.

“They absolutely need to be educated,” he said. “They’ve spent a limited amount of time behind the

See SAFETY, A9



COURTESY PHOTO

A recent report by AAA approximated the annual cost of crashes involving 15 to 17-year-olds to be about \$34 billion. Vehicle accidents are most common among 16-year-olds, who average 61 percent of citations for moving violations. This week, the National Safety Council has targeted teen drivers in hopes to increase awareness and education.

An equal opportunity for Marines to be Marines

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

One proud tradition for which the Marine Corps is known is taking care of its own, but in order to do that, discrimination and harassment cannot be tolerated.

To help reduce discrimination and harassment within the ranks, equal opportunity

advisors are assigned to major Marine Corps commands to assist unit commanders in executing the Marine Corps’ equal opportunity program.

“Any form of discrimination in the workspace undermines morale, reduces combat readiness, and prevents maximum utilization and development of the Marine Corps’ most valuable asset –

its people,” said Master Sgt. Al Rose, the Combat Center’s equal opportunity advisor.

As the Combat Center’s

equal opportunity advisor, Rose is tasked with protecting the rights of every Marine – regardless of age,

race, religion, gender, color or national origin– by teaching them about equal opportunity through annual train-

ing, advice, senior leadership workshops and by using the Informal Resolution System.

“The chain of command and the Informal Resolution System are a few of our tools to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible,” said Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center’s commanding general, in his policy statement on equal opportunity. “Those who report discrimination have my assurance that every complaint will be fully investigated.”

“Any member of the Combat Center who engages in inappropriate or discriminatory activities such as hazing; racial, ethnic, religious or gender-related jokes; illegal use of electronic mail to send disrespectful or inappropriate comments, will be subject to administrative and disciplinary actions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice,” he said.

Gurganus’ policy not only reflects the attitude toward discrimination and harassment aboard the base, but it aligns with the commandant’s policy as well, Rose said. The Marine Corps’ stance on discrimination and harassment charges leaders with the responsibility of educating and guiding their Marines.

“Many problems are caused by a difference in perception,” said the Montgomery, Ala., native. “Being in the Marine Corps, we are surrounded by other Marines who come from different backgrounds and cultures. What is acceptable to some people where they are from may not always be acceptable to another Marine.”

“The way I see it, if you wouldn’t say it in front of the commanding officer, then don’t say it. If you wouldn’t do it in front of the commanding officer, then don’t do it,” he said. “Equal opportunity stems from basic leadership and doing what is right. As long as we remain professional at all times, we will never have to worry about violating equal opportunity policy, or more importantly, our fellow Marines.”

In addition to command policies and equal opportunity advisors, every Marine Corps unit is also assigned an equal opportunity representative, who not only assists and advises commanders in equal opportunity issues, but also helps Marines if a problem arises.

“I think it’s important to have equal opportunity representatives at every level because many Marines don’t know who we are or what we’re here for,” said Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Davalos, the Headquarters Battalion equal opportunity representative. “To have a non-biased person available to help you out in whatever situation or problem you’re in can help



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Master Sgt. Al Rose, the Combat Center’s equal opportunity advisor, along with individual unit equal opportunity representatives, is available to give assistance and advice for problems concerning discrimination or harassment.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Dean DeMorrow of Twentynine Palms is a tough minded optimist who served for 21 years in the Marine Corps before retiring in 1981 with the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.

Dean served with great distinction throughout his military career, especially while enduring the challenges of Vietnam.

When Dean retired he immediately went to work for the Marine Corps Air Combat Center’s fire department where he was an extremely dedicated and hard working fireman for eight years. During those happy years, Dean, his wife Barbara, and their two children lived with joy in our Basin. Now the family has grown to include nine grandchildren and one great grandchild, with more to come. Isn’t life great?

In 1988 with the assistance of the Veterans’ Administration Dean enrolled in the new Gemology Institute of America and was a graduate of the Institute’s first class. He was now a jeweler!

DeMorrow’s Jewelry and Repair is located in Twentynine Palms and Dean is the extremely enthusiastic proprietor. He loves his profession. “The people who enter my shop are friends first and customers second” he proudly tells all who will listen. And he really means it, too!

There are thousands of Marines who read this column in the Observation Post aboard the Marine Base each week and I hope this column will remind them that after military service, they, too, may experience a new and wonderful adventure.

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OSC gives military families head start on educations

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center spouses and children gathered at the Officers' Club for the Officers' Spouses Club annual Scholarship and Grant Committee luncheon May 22.

The OSC sponsored a presentation luncheon for scholarship fund recipients for their college educations.

Applicants for the scholarship funds must be military spouses or children of active, retired or deceased



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Zachary Palmer, a senior at Yucca Valley High School, was one of the recipients of the Officers' Spouses Club Scholarship and Grant Committee's college grants, and was recognized at the annual OSC Scholarship and Grant Committee luncheon at the Officers' Club May 22.

service members, said Tami Roleff, the OSC second vice president, and president of the OSC Scholarship and Grant Committee.

Roleff said the Scholarship and Grant Committee reviews applications at the beginning of each year to decide who receives grants or scholarships, and exactly how much is given.

"Applicants must be living in the Morongo Basin at the time of the application," Roleff said about requirements for scholarship and grant approval. "We start sending out the application forms in January, and the decision is made in March on who gets it and how much they get."

This year, a total of \$37,000 in grants and scholarships were handed out to approved applicants; \$10,000 in scholarship funds and the remaining \$27,000 in grants, Roleff said.

The scholarship and grant funds are raised through various OSC events such as the "Roll out the Barrel" wine tasting event, Mardi Gras auction, book clubs and more, she said.

Tyler Erickson, the son of a retired Navy commander and Joshua Springs Christian High School senior, received \$7,500 in scholarship funds to assist him in getting his associates degree in business at Northern Arizona University.

"I think it's really cool to give kids a chance to not



(Left to right) Norma Baz, Sarah Snow, Tyler Erickson, Zachery Palmer and Victoria Perez were five of the seven Officers' Spouses Club Scholarship and Grant Committee recipients for 2009. Each received a portion of the \$10,000 grant collected by the OSC through various hosted events hosted in 2008.

have to pay as much for college," he said.

Norma Baz, the wife of Sgt. Christopher Baz, an instructor with Company B, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, received a \$500 scholarship to help her pursue her dream of becoming a registered nurse through the RN program

at Copper Mountain College.

"This is the first community college I've attended and my first scholarship," Baz said. "The nursing program is really competitive and this will help out a lot."

Dawn Rowe, a field representative from the office of Assemblyman Paul Cook

of the 65th district in California, attended the luncheon on Cook's behalf to show his support for both military service and education.

"As a retired Marine colonel, any combination of military and education is where [Cook's] heart is," she

said. "He is very pleased with the Officers' Spouses Club and how they are helping spouses with scholarships, as well as the graduating seniors."

Applications for 2010 scholarship and grant funds will be handed out by OSC in January.

EQUAL, from A6

you feel comfortable in your environment and excel to your full potential.

"Since Marines may feel more comfortable talking to their individual leadership, I feel that, as leaders, they should all be considered equal opportunity representatives so they can help their Marines resolve issues," said the El Paso, Texas, native.

Senior leaders workshops are also held several times a year to educate leaders in effectively assisting and guiding their Marines toward an equal opportunity mindset, Rose said. The next senior leaders workshop will be held July 21 through 23 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

For more information about equal opportunity, refer to Marine Corps Order P5354.1D, consult your unit's equal opportunity representative or contact Rose at 830-4567.

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Yucca Valley's 59th Grubstake Days Parade



Grubstake Days Parade Grand Marshal Bob Dunn and wife Marie make their tractors sit up and hum.



Miss Joshua Tree Preteen and Junior Miss Joshua Tree and their courts. Miss Preteen is Courtney McNeil, first princess is Ashley Priest and second princess is Paige Dyer. Snuggled in with the trio is Junior Miss Joshua Tree Shaina Landers.



A young miner with a wheelbarrow full of gold nears the parade judges.

More photos at www.hidesertstar.com



One of the sponsors of this year's Grubstake Days Parade is Liberty Tax Service, which shows off its float in this year's celebration.



The San Bernardino Sheriff's Department Morongo Basin Mounted Search and Rescue is commanded by Gavin Jordan. Sheriff's Capt. Donnie Miller, commander of the Morongo Basin Station, rode with the group.



The Pioneertown Posse and Morongo Basin Historical Society entry offers free jail service. Below, a horseman struts his stuff.



Miss Yucca Valley London Rohatsch, First Princess Mariya Swella, Second Princess Emily Wilson and Third Princess Brea Polos ride with another royal lady.



"Mining the Gold" of our community was the theme of Hi-Desert Publishing's first-place entry in this year's parade.



At the top of the Grubstake Days Parade is the Yucca Valley High School marching band and color guard directed by Bill Barrett.

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SAFETY, from A6

wheel. If we as parents don't educate our kids, we can't expect them to know all the rules and regulations; it's why they get into accidents.

"The bottom line is teen driving is not a necessity," he said. "They must earn that right by showing they can handle driving a deadly weapon, since that is ultimately what a car is."

The NSC Web site also emphasizes parenting by displaying a poster that encourages parents not only to inform their driving teens of the rules and laws, but to also spend time in the car with their kids and teach them with hands-on experience.

Sgt. Maj. Mark M. Geletko, the Headquarters Battalion sergeant major, said he does just that with his 19-year-old son.

"I told him to watch his speed and gave him the ins

and outs of defensive driving; especially on the [Highway] 62," said the Pittsburgh native about his son's first driving lessons. "I tell my kids about the relevance of all the accidents that happen out here. The roads out here are some of the most dangerous I have ever driven on, and I have driven all across the country."

Geletko said he also tells his son to watch out for motorcyclists, be cautious during low-light times of the day and avoid driving while fatigued.

"There are crazy drivers out there," he said. "It's scary knowing they are out there and even if your child is doing everything right, they could still get hurt by those that aren't. I tell my son to look out for that other guy all the time."

For more information about Teen Driving Week, visit the NSC Web site at <http://www.nsc.org>.



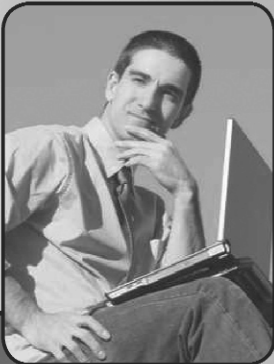
COURTESY PHOTO

Vehicle accidents are most common among 16-year-olds, who are three times more likely to die in accidents than older drivers. The National Traffic Safety Administration estimates the economic impact of accidents among 15 to 20 year-olds at more than \$40 billion.

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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.

CORPSMEN, from A1

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Seaman Apprentice David Shepardson, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, drags a simulated casualty to a hasty casualty collection point so the appointed corpsmen can begin a triage.

The new corpsmen will soon be pushed out to the line companies to begin working with the Marines more closely. The entire battalion will continue to train for an upcoming deployment.



CPL. SCOTT SCHMIDT

Casket bearers remove a casket from its escort vehicle during a group repatriation service May 14.

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B1

Kickin' it up a notch

MCCES demolishes NHTP

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Anthony Lamere of MCCES (background) fights to keep control of the ball from Eduardo Achay, with NHTP, during a soccer game at Felix Field for the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League, May 27. MCCES defeated NHTP 8-3.

See B3 for current standings and more photos



Marines, sailors prepare for 101 Critical Days of Summer

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Memorial Day officially kicked off the 101 Critical Days of Summer and many families are making their way to the beaches, mountains, lakes and other vacation destinations to cool down, escape the desert heat and relax during these hot months.

With the excitement of traveling, outdoor recreation and social gatherings, along comes the added risk of serious injuries or death.

"This is the time of the season when people want to go out and enjoy themselves," said Dave Horn, the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command safety director.

101 Critical Days of Summer is a safety campaign specifically geared toward traffic safety, but it also places emphasis on sports, water recreation and alcohol safety, he said.

The Combat Center is taking a stance in the area that takes the most fatalities—motorcycle accidents.

"If the next 101 days are like those of the past six years, 21 Marines will die as a result of excess alcohol consumption and unsafe handling of motorcycles," said Gen. James Conway, the 34th commandant of the Marine Corps, in his Memorial Day safety message May 21. "While Marines practice operational risk management in training as well as in combat, they often fail to do so off-duty. A review of off-duty mishaps leading to injuries and deaths reveals

that ORM is key to prevention."

Currently, everyone who lives or works on base that rides a bike must complete the Basic Riders Course or the Advanced Riders Course. In addition to current courses, sport bike riders must attend the Sport Bike Course, Horn said.

The goal every year is to reduce or eliminate severe mishaps and fatalities, said Horn.

For those who travel to their destinations safely, it does not mean they are not at risk for potentially harmful situations.

Outdoor sports and recreation are a big attraction during the summer months. Whether it is playing volleyball on the beach or something more extreme, such as sky diving, they all have their risks.

When playing sports, hydration is a key factor in staying safe, said Skip Best, the base's Marine Corps Community Services athletic director.

During games, use the best safety equipment available and maintain serviceability of safety gear, he said. When not playing, stay out of the heat and in the shade when possible and limit participation during the heat of the day.

For those who are looking for the uncompetitive recreational sports, know the risks associated with it, whether it is in the water or on a mountain.

"We provide life vests and helmets for all canoes and kayaks we rent, and helmets and reflective vests for bicyclists" said John Murdock, the

MCCS Outdoor Adventures manager.

Safety gear is an important factor for all at-risk activities. Recreational enthusiasts should learn what to avoid and what to do in certain situations with their equipment, Murdock said.

With the sun nearing its full effect, water recreation is one of the few escapes people have from the heat. Water can be very dangerous, but there are ways to enjoy the water and stay safe.

"Always make sure there is a life guard on duty and never swim alone in the ocean," said Wes Geduld, an aquatics recreation specialist with MCCS. "Always wear sunscreen and

See SUMMER, B4



LANCE CPL. KELSEY J. GREEN

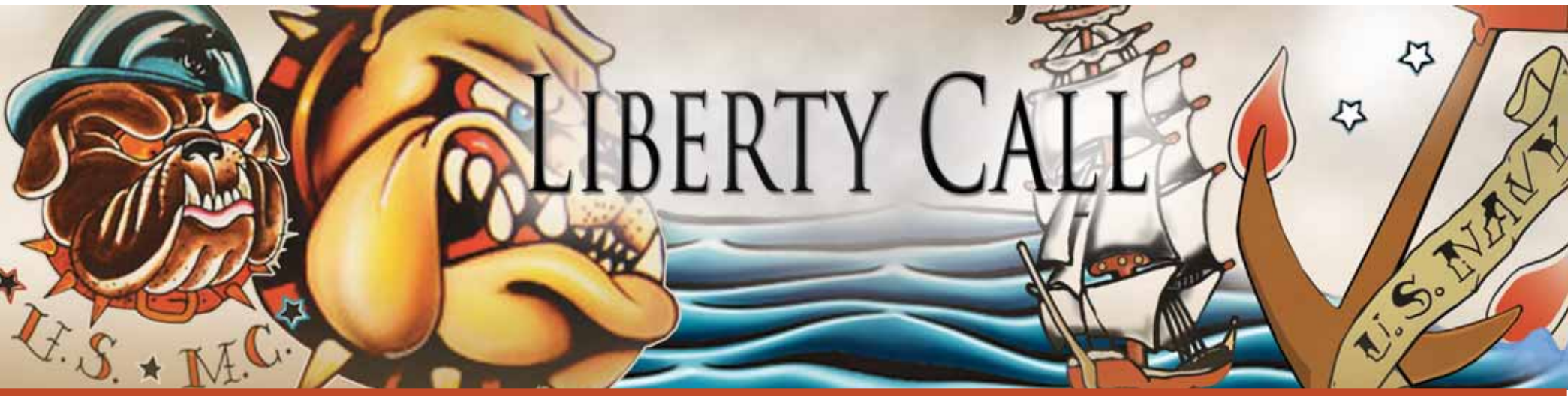
Riders wait in line for a circuit course during a Military Sportbike Rider's Course aboard the Combat Center April. 13. The course is just one way the Combat Center prepares its service members for 101 Critical Days of Summer.

It's not your average slideshow



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

After reaching second base safely, Bandits catcher Michael Hipp is forced out at third by VMU pitcher Christopher Petty during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League play Wednesday night at Felix Field. The Bandits played two games Wednesday night. After a close loss against ESD Warriors, the Bandits recovered and trounced VMU 21-14.



FRI. 5/29 - SUN. 5/31 Palm Springs Film Noir Festival Time: All Weekend Where: Camelot Theaters, 2300 E. Baristo Road Palm Springs For more information call 325-6565	SUN. 5/31 - FRI. 6/19 Palm Springs Restaurant Week Time: 20 days Where: Palm Springs to Indio Taste the finest culinary restaurants in the valley at discount prices. For more information call 200-4235	TUES. 6/2 Chris Walters acoustic old school blues Time: 7 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Inn 73950 Inn Avenue, Twentynine Palms For more information call 367-3505 or visit www.29palmsinn.com	WED. 6/3 Open Mic Night Tehachapi Time: 7 p.m. Where: Mama Hillybeans 426 E. Tehachapi Boulevard Tehachapi For more information call (760) 822-BEAN	FRI. 6/5 Twentynine Palms Street Fair & Car Show Time: All day event Where: Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce 73660 Civic Center Drive Twentynine Palms. For more information call 367-3445
FRI. 6/5 Blues after hours Time: 5-9 p.m. Where: Cafe Potpourri at the Carriage Inn 901 N. China Lake Boulevard Ridgecrest. For more information call 446-7910 or visit http://www.carriageinn.biz	SUN. 6/7 Eagles of Death Metal with Head Lite View concert Time: 8 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road Pioneertown. For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com	FRI. 6/12 Jay Leno Show Time: 8 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Casino 32250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more information call (888) 999-1995	FRI. 6/12 Mark & Brian Bongo at Morongo feat. Dave Mason Time: 8:00 P.M. Tickets: \$25 Where: Morongo Casino 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more information call (888) MORONGO	FRI. 6/19 Big & Rich concert Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Casino 401 East Amado Road Palm Springs For more information call (888) 999-1995

Tom Hanks races to save the Vatican in ‘Angels & Demons’

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AMERICAN PROFILE

Angels & Demons
Starring Tom Hanks
Rated PG-13

A follow-up to “The Da Vinci Code,” the 2006 multiplex hit based on the Dan Brown fictional bestseller, “Angels & Demons” finds Tom Hanks reprising his role as Harvard scholar Robert Langdon, this time racing to prevent Vatican City from being blown to kingdom come.

As “Da Vinci” fans will recall, Langdon is a “symbolologist,” a specialist in deciphering hidden messages in ancient art, sculp-

ture and writing. Although the events of “The Da Vinci Code” are never referenced, it becomes clear that his work—particularly nosing around in some of Catholicism’s deepest, darkest secrets—hasn’t exactly endeared him to the faithful.

Nonetheless, he’s the go-to guy when four Vatican cardinals are kidnapped after the death of the pope, a glob of highly unstable anti-matter is stolen from a laboratory, and an ominous clue is planted pointing to the Illuminati, a super-secret group with a holy axe to grind. Langdon is summoned to the Vatican to put together the pieces of

the papal puzzle before time runs out.

Director Ron Howard, who also directed “Da Vinci,” keeps things moving at a brisk clip as Langdon and his as-fate-would-have-it partner, a beautiful female scientist (Israeli actress Ayelet Zurer), rip across Rome to prevent the catastrophe, piecing together the clues as they go. Meanwhile, the abducted priests are being killed one at a time, in gruesomely graphic fashion. And signs begin to suggest that—gasp!—the whole thing may be an inside job.

Hank’s character talks a lot—because he has to. The plot of “Angels & Demons” is so dense with detail, the poor moviegoer would be lost without Langdon’s running commentary as he cracks one clue after another, explaining this and decoding that. But all the blah-blah-blah about history, science, religion and art becomes a spew of impossible-to-keep-up blather as the plot progresses from implausible to ridiculous, culminating in a preposterous scene involving a helicopter, a parachuting pontiff and a mile-high explosion that clears St. Peter’s Square like a heavenly leaf-blower.

“Angels & Demons” isn’t as combustively controversial as its predecessor, which made a bunch of Catholics more than just a little hot under the collar. But when the movie ultimately tries to smooth



COURTESY PHOTO

Langdon’s habit of nosing around some of Catholicism’s deepest, darkest secrets, hasn’t exactly endeared him to the faithful. Never-the-less, Langdon is the go-to guy when four Vatican cardinals are kidnapped after the death of the pope.

over the age-old friction between science and faith with a simplistic note of reconciliation, it comes across as artificially sweet Hollywood sugarcoating on a rancorous, real-life issue that continues to divide.

Fans of Dan Brown’s rabble-raising brand of thriller fiction will probably roll up their sleeves and dig right in to “Angels & Demons.” But for those not as immersed in the author’s cryptic, connect-the-dots world of Catholic traditions, hidden clues and buried secrets, it’s going to feel a lot like being a sideline spectator at someone else’s scavenger hunt.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Hanks reprising his role as Harvard scholar Robert Langdon, this time racing to prevent Vatican City from being blown to kingdom come.

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7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			

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10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

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

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LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Bandits catcher Michael Hipp slides to safety before the tag by VMU second base-
man Christopher Jones during league play Wednesday night at Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Robert Dubord, ESD Warriors right-
centerfielder, cracks a long ball to
center field during league play
Wednesday night at Felix Field.

Intramural Softball League

Standings as of Wednesday

Team	Wins	Losses
CLB-7	8	3
MWSS-374	7	0
Scrappers	7	0
ESD Warriors	7	3
Tanks	6	3
Ripper	6	3
3rd CEB	5	3
MCCES HQBN	5	5
VMU-3	5	5
IPAC	4	4
3/11	4	4
PMO	4	4
Hospital	4	5
CMA	3	4
G-6	3	4
NAVPERS	3	5
ESD	3	6
Dirty Dozen	2	6
2/7	2	6
Red Rockets	2	7
Dental	0	8



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

VMU pitcher Christopher Petty runs to safety after a base hit, beating Bandits first base-
man Matthew McCaskill to the bag during league play Wednesday night at Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

George Velasquez, a NHTP defenseman maintains control of the ball despite their
opponents' attempts to steal it away during a Commanding General's Intramural
Soccer League game, May 27 at Felix Field.

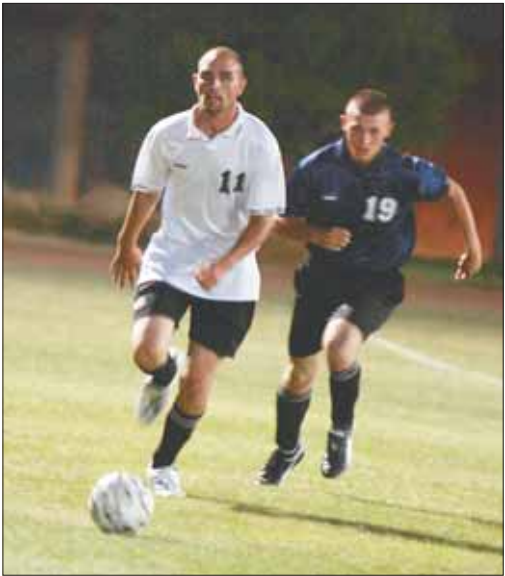
Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League

Team	Wins	Losses
MWSS-374	1	0
HQBN	1	0
3rd CEB	1	0
MCCES	1	1
1st Tanks	0	1
NHTP	0	2



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Anthony Lamere, a player for the Marine
Corps Communications-Electronics
School, dribbles the ball through the
Naval Hospital's defense.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Zack Cox, a forward for the Naval Hospital
team, and Joseph Feldbruegge, a
defenseman for MCCES sprint to the ball.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Zack Cox, a forward for the Naval
Hospital's soccer team, fights to pass
MCCES' defense.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lorenza Alford, a midfielder for NHTP, (left) runs neck-and-neck with Casey Chang, a
MCCES player, while trying to keep control of the ball.

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SUMMER, from B1

never swim while you're tired or while drinking alcohol.”

For those who are 21 years and older, and drink, “be responsible and know your limit,” said Horn. Mixing alcohol with outdoor recreation can be a deadly situation.

“We want to get to that younger Marine and open his eyes,” he added. “Be a defensive driver, resist the urge to do potentially dangerous things and stay hydrated this summer.”

Fluid Replacement Guidelines For Warm Weather Training							
Flag Condition	WBGT/ F WET-BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE INDEX	Easy Work		Moderate Work		Strenuous Work	
		Work/*Rest	Water Per Hour	Work/*Rest	Water Per Hour	Work/*Rest	Water Per Hour
Green	80 - 84.9	No Limit	1/2 Qt	50/10	3/4 Qt	40/20	1 Qt
Yellow	85 - 87.9	No Limit	3/4 Qt	40/20	3/4 Qt	30/30	1 Qt
Red	88 - 89.9	No Limit	3/4 Qt	30/30	3/4 Qt	20/40	1 Qt
Black	90 & >	50/10	1 Qt	20/40	1 Qt	10/50	1 Qt

Rest means minimal physical activity (sitting or standing) and should be accomplished in the shade if possible.

Note 1: For MOPP gear, PPE, or body armor, ADD 10°F to the WBGT Index.

Note 2: Work/rest times and fluid replacement volumes will sustain performance and hydration for at least 4 hours of work in the specified heat category. Individual water needs will vary +/- ¼ quart per hour.

Physiological Factors

Predisposing factors which may adversely effect heat injury prevention are:

1. Illness: Personnel suffering from or recovering from an acute or chronic disease.
2. Previous history: Personnel who have a history of heat illness (exhaustion, stroke or cramps).
3. Skin trauma: Personnel suffering from sunburn, heat rash or other dermatologic malady. The body's heat regulatory mechanism is hampered at the skin surface.
4. Dehydration: Individual's fluid output is greater than fluid intake. Causes include vomiting, diarrhea and insufficient water intake.
5. Fatigue: Physical and mental weariness can cause a lack of concern and result in a failure to take proper precautions against heat injuries.
6. Obesity: Body fat will interfere with the heat regulatory mechanism, cause the

individual to expend more energy to accomplish a given amount of work and could be an indicator of poor physical conditioning.

7. Poor physical conditioning.
8. Alcohol and drug use: Alcohol and certain medications, including immunizing agents, decongestants and allergy remedies interfere with the body's heat regulatory mechanism. Alcohol should not be consumed for 24 hours prior to heat stress.
9. Sickle cell trait: Sickling of blood cells impairs circulation and increases risk of injury. Persons with sickle cell trait should be advised of their risks and preventive methods.

Types of Heat Injuries

Heat Cramps: Symptoms include: muscle cramps of the arms, legs, and/or stomach and excessive sweating.

Treatment: Move individual to a cool shady

area or improvise shade; loosen clothing. Monitor the individual and give water as tolerated; should slowly drink at least one full canteen.

Heat Exhaustion: Symptoms include; heavy sweating with pale, moist, cool skin; headache, weakness, dizziness, and/or loss of appetite, heat cramps, nausea with or without vomiting, chills or goose bumps, rapid breathing, change in mental status, confusion, and tingling of the arms and/or feet. Core temperature is 104 degrees or less.

Treatment: Move individual to a cool shady area or improvise shade; loosen or remove clothing. Monitor the individual and give water as tolerated; should slowly drink at least one full canteen. Spray or pour water on individual and fan to cause a cooling effect. Urgent medical evaluation is indicated, especially if there are mental status changes. If you have ice packs, use them. Put them in arms, armpits, and neck.

Heatstroke: Symptoms include; the individual

stops sweating — hot, dry skin. They first may experience headache, dizziness, nausea, fast pulse and respiration, seizures and mental confusion.

They may collapse and suddenly become unconscious. Core temperature is greater than 104 degrees, typically around 108 degrees, although it may be as low as 102 degrees. THIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

Treatment: Heat stroke is a life-threatening medical emergency. Move the individual to a cool shady area or improvise shade; loosen or remove clothing. Start cooling the individual immediately. Spray or pour water on individual and fan. Elevate legs. If you have ice packs, use them. Put them in arms, armpits, and neck. If conscious, individual should slowly drink at least one cup of cool water every 20 minutes.

Do not force water if abdominal discomfort occurs. Treatment must be administered within minutes or irreversible damage or death will occur.

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