

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 17, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 28

## Putting the pieces in their place

### ■ Cpl. Dunham's legacy lives on

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – "It all started because the lawnmower ran out of gas," said Maj. Trent A. Gibson, the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, with a chuckle. "If the lawnmower hadn't run out of gas, I would have never heard the phone ring."

The voice he heard upon answering was that of a Marine recruiter, explaining what the Marine Corps had to offer the young man from Piedmont, Okla. Neither could imagine the future that Gibson would experience as he enlisted to become one of the few, the proud and the brave.

After twenty-two years as one of the few, Gibson experienced true pride in having served among the undeniably brave.

In the dangerous city of Karabilah, Iraq on April 14, 2004, Gibson, then a captain and the commander of Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines, went on patrol with his men of 2nd Squad, 4th Platoon.

The carefully chosen squad leader for 2nd Squad was a 22-year-old corporal from the small town of Scio, N.Y., by the name of Jason Dunham.

"Cpl. Dunham was the quintessential Marine," Gibson said. "He was the square-jawed, muscular all-American man you

See LEGACY, A8



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

For the first time in more than five years, Sgt. Mark Dean, one of Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Jason Dunham's close friends, and Maj. Trent A. Gibson, Dunham's former company commander, carefully sort out the pieces of the Kevlar helmet Dunham used to help absorb the blast of a grenade in the streets of Iraq in 2004. The pair delivered the helmet to the National Museum of the Marine Corps July 9 to be displayed in the coming years.

## 3rd CEB Marines remembered

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As Marines filed into the Combat Center's Catholic Chapel, the overhead lanterns' dim glow set a somber mood as a pianist played softly, providing a feeling of comfort for the Marines, sailors, families and friends joined together.

However, the chapel was not a place of worship the afternoon of July 10, it was a place to honor two 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion Marines who lost their lives over Fourth of July weekend.

Lance Cpl. Julio Galvan, a 21-year-old automotive diesel

mechanic with 3rd CEB, and a Maywood, Ill., native, Pfc. Isidro Godinez, a 19-year-old automotive diesel mechanic with 3rd CEB, and a Calexico, Calif., native, were remembered after a motor vehicle accident took their lives July 3.

The National Anthem played as Marines and families stood to pay respects to not only the country, but also a tribute to the two men who signed up to fight for it.

Navy Capt. Conrad Targonski, the director of the Combat Center's Religious Ministries Directorate, and a Chicago native, opened the

See MEMORIAL, A7



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Marines pay their respects to the families of Lance Cpl. Julio Galvan, a 21-year-old automotive diesel mechanic with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, and Maywood, Ill., native, and Pfc. Isidro Godinez, a 19-year-old automotive diesel mechanic with 3rd CEB, and a Calexico, Calif., native, during the battalion's memorial service for the Marines at the Combat Center's Catholic Chapel July 10.

## NSPS Organizations Continue Operations

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. – Recent information conveyed through news media and the workplace about the National Security Personnel System has raised questions from some civilian Marines. As a result, the Department of the Navy asks leaders and employees throughout the Navy and Marine Corps to note that the proposed language in the House and Senate Armed Services Committees' National Defense Authorization Act for 2010 is not an approved law.

Although the proposed changes referenced the date of June 16, there is no impact on current practice or procedures. NSPS-covered organizations and employees will continue to operate as usual under current NSPS policies, regulations and procedures.

Routine personnel actions for individual employees moving into existing, reclassified and new positions in organizations already under NSPS will continue to be processed under the NSPS rules. Routine actions include reassignments,

See NSPS, A6

## EOD technicians make ranges safer places to train

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"Digging right!" yells out an

Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician while shoveling out an unexploded 60mm mortar round while sweeping for mortars rounds and pro-

jectiles at Combat Center Range 401 Tuesday.

When the Combat Center's EOD technicians are not deployed, they can be

found on the ranges searching the desert for dangerous munitions left behind by units training for war.

Sgt. Aaron S. Rogers, an

EOD technician and native of Lehi, Utah, said their work aboard the base is an important factor for training Marines.

By keeping the ranges cleared of unexploded devices, units training aboard the Combat Center can receive the maximum affect the ranges have to offer, he said. Clearing a range can take up to an entire day depending on the weather and type of ordnance being cleared.

"There is certain ordnance out there that is so sensitive we can't be out there if the wind is blowing more than 10 miles per hour," Rogers said.

The Combat Center's Range/Training Areas Maintenance Branch also depends

See EOD, A3



Sgts. Aaron Rogers (left) and Thomas Nguyen, both Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, begin setting up Composition 4 plastic explosive blocks on top of the unexploded munitions during a range sweep of Combat Center Range 401 Tuesday. The following explosion is the result of a controlled detonation to safely remove the ordnance from the ranges.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON



Securing a legacy  
See A3



Beat the heat  
See A4



The champs camp  
See B1



All-Star Wednesday  
See B1

## There Are No Old, Bold Pilots

**JOHN FLEMING**

A buddy of mine, who was an F-18 pilot, told me once, "There are bold pilots, and there are old pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots." Of course the implication is that a risk-taker will reap consequences. And the same concept applies to motorcyclists.

Inherently, motorcycling involves a certain amount of risk. And just like a good pilot who always checks the weather before taking off, a good motorcyclist will always assess the risk before starting out on a ride. Some of the risk factors to be considered include:

- The weather and temperature: Is your riding gear suitable? Is there a likelihood of ice on the roads? Will you get caught in a downpour, or a severe windstorm?
- The time of day: Perhaps a short wait will allow traffic to thin out. Or an earlier departure might reduce glare from the sun.
- Road conditions: An alternate route might enable you to avoid a construction zone. Or a less heavily-traveled route might be less congested.
- Your emotional state: After a particularly stressful day, it might be a good idea to take a few moments to relax before starting for home. Taking out your frustration on other motorists can be deadly.

These, and a host of other factors, play a large part in managing risk. Effective risk management can determine whether you'll be a bold pilot or an old pilot. Trust me, old is better.

John Fleming is a rider coach with Cape Fox Professional Services, providing motorcycle safety training for Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center. To submit your comments or contributions about motorcycling, his email is michael.j.fleming@usmc.mil

## I ride a motorcycle... I don't have to follow regulations!

**MASTER SGT. CRIS D. COWAN**

COMMENTARY

One would think that with the modification of Marine Corps Order 5100.19E, which eliminates the need to wear a high-visibility vest, or a bright upper garment with reflective properties, Marines would embrace this by ensuring they follow the remainder of the requirements that are still in effect – you would think.

But, no, it seems that they as a group still feel they don't need to follow any order that pertains to the riding of motorcycles. Everyday it seems I am either correcting a rider or witnessing a violation on or off base. From junior enlisted to staff noncommissioned officers to officers, or riders of high performance bikes to cruisers; it's not isolated to one particular group or type.

Some of the more common violations I have seen are riders wearing sneakers instead of hard-soled shoes or not wearing long sleeve shirts while riding off base. Another, that is very common this time of the year, is being out of uniform while riding by putting a long sleeve shirt over their uniform. MCO P1020.34G allows a protective jacket designed for safety to be worn with the utility uniform. Nowhere does it mention anything about throwing on a long sleeve shirt/sweatshirt over the uniform for convenience sake because you don't want to roll the sleeves down on your blouse or because it's too hot for a jacket.

Another that bears mentioning is the wearing of unapproved "novelty" helmets. This last one is usually with the cruiser styled motorcycle riders and, more often than not, by SNCOs. I have had SNCOs, active and retired, curse me, tell me where I can stick it, and call me a helmet Nazi and other colorful names when I bring to their attention they are violating Marine Corps policy. These aren't young Marines trying to pull a fast one by claiming ignorance, they are senior Marines who do know better but still decide to say "to hell with the regulations."

I have noticed many Marines try to live up to a perceived image of what a rider should look and act like. It doesn't matter that I remind them that, at their rank, they have made a conscious decision to make the Marine Corps a career and therefore, they are Marines first and foremost, then a "biker" or whatever, second. As senior Marines it's not only our duty to instruct and enforce regulations, but to also set the example for all others to emulate. When your lifestyle is more important than being a Marine, then it's time to get out so you can freely pursue that lifestyle.

Before one starts thinking, "I'm an anti-motorcycle jerk who thinks all riders are criminals," let me state that I have been riding motorcycle since I was 11, bought my first Harley in 1979, have owned and ridden motorcycles since then, and currently own four motorcycles and three scooters. I have been in three accidents while riding my motorcycles; weather was a factor in one, other drivers were the cause of the other two. I enjoy riding and plan on pursuing a career in the motorcycle industry when I retire next year after 24 years of serving in the Marine Corps.

The current proper protective equipment regulations are very liberal and will not take away from your "individuality" or keep you from expressing yourself. The Marine Corps could have gone the other way when they revised the order and made it more restrictive, especially with all the negative motorcycle coverage due to the high rate of injuries and fatalities, but it didn't. It's up to us as riders to show our appreciation by adhering to the order and enforcing it.

## Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** Jany Wasdin  
**Unit:** 1st Tank Battalion, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion

**Job title:** Family Readiness Officer

**Job description:** To provide support to Marines, sailors and their families through proactive outreach and intervention in the form of official command communication, information and referral, and Marine and family readiness and deployment support.

**What you like most about your job?:**

"The most rewarding part of my job is being that conduit between the command and the families, providing that ear to listen, a heart to empathize and being a communication lifeline."

**Hobbies:** "Gardening, reading, and spending time with my family."

**Time spent at the Combat Center:** "I came to Twentynine Palms in January 1971."

**Hometown:** Wiscasset, Maine



## OBSERVATION POST

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## Misfire

Last week's article "Early out for Marines to pursue education" contained information specific to an individual case. For general information contact the Education Office at 830-6881

## Hot Topics

### HOSPITAL APPOINTMENT LINE IN TESTING PHASE

The long-promised new appointment telephone system at the hospital has now been installed and is currently in the pilot phase. If you are still having difficulty reaching an appointment clerk, contact the Quarterdeck at 830-2190. The Walk-In Appointment Desk on the first floor near the TRICARE Service Center is still available from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The customer relations officer is also available during normal working hours from 830-2475, and is available to listen and address your concerns regarding any issue you may have. TRICARE Online <http://www.tricareonline.com> is another appointment option. Bob Knight, the TRICARE template manager, can be reached at 830-2590 for registration difficulties. You also have the option of contacting the outpatient business manager, Cmdr. Sharon Kingsberry at 830-2942.

### COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS PUMP OUT OF ORDER

The high side (3600 psi) Compressed Natural Gas pump located near the Condor Gate is out of service until further notice. The low side (3000 psi) is still operational at this time. For questions or more information, contact Al Fairweather at 830-8444.

### OFFICERS' CLUB CLOSURE

The Officers' Club will be closed Aug. 1 for Pool Food, and Aug. 2 for Sunday Brunch and Pool Food, due to a scheduled water outage.

## This Day in Marine Corps History

July 18, 1918

Marines participating in a vast Allied counter-offensive meet the German army south of Soissons, France.

## Centerspeak

### What is the one thing you want to do before you die?

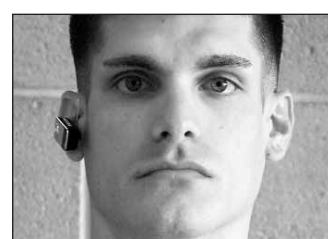
Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



SGT. HENRY TORRES

MOTOR TRANSPORT INSTRUCTION COMPANY  
MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT FORT  
LEONARD WOOD, MO.

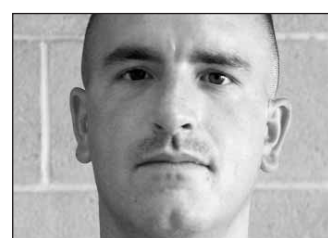
"Hike through the mountains in Nepal. I've done a lot of rock climbing and that's one place where I want to do it."



LANCE CPL. THOR A. MARTIN

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, COMPANY B

"Retire and own my own tiki bar restaurant on the beach."



STAFF SGT. JOE WRIGHT

3RD BATTALION, 6TH MARINE REGIMENT,  
COMPANY K

"Win the lottery."

SUDOKU #1481

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

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## ANT FARM

[puzzle Solutions on A6]

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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20				21					22	23				
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37						38					39	40		
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			48						49			50	51	52
53	54	55						56				57		
58						59	60					61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

### ACROSS

- Mustachioed surrealist
- TAs' bosses
- Do some telemarketing
- Classic lab assistant
- Moon valley
- Twistable treat
- Pre-Civil War
- Word before bust or belly
- Tennis official's call
- On the briny
- "Christian Soldiers"
- Fainted dead away
- Natural soother
- Slip preventer
- Features of some motel rooms
- Rimes of Country
- Sonny Corleone
- Off the sauce
- Flak producer
- "O Sole \_\_\_"
- Scout's doing
- Loyal subject
- "The Man Who Knew Too Much" actress
- Rolodex no.
- Saw boneses
- One of the Redgraves
- Any of the Ivies
- "Stupid me!"
- Flat hat
- In the \_\_\_ (informed)
- 1958 Rosalind Russell comedy
- Oodles
- Daytona entry
- Bell-ringing company
- \_\_\_ down (frisks)
- Fancy jugs
- Try for a role

### DOWN

- Uses a rotary phone
- Vice president who resigned
- Scratch-off ticket game
- Angry feeling
- Car radio button
- All worked up
- Stew pot, or its contents
- Winter bug
- Wheat for pasta
- Halloween decoration
- Field of study
- Lecher's look
- Man of the manor
- One of a bunch
- Alternative to smoking?
- Prefix with potent
- Oscar or Tony
- "Be silent," in music
- Add a fringe to
- Knock out, in away
- 1/1 song word
- Poor, as excuses go
- Geraint's woman
- "This must weigh \_\_\_!"
- Salad green
- "My goodness!"
- Defat, whaler-style
- Shuttle-protecting piece
- Takes as one's own
- "You stink!"
- Fleshy-snouted beasts
- Lever pulled, perhaps
- Barrel part
- Margaret Mead study site
- Modify, as a law
- Three Stooges assault
- Fast-food drink
- Show derision
- Fable opener
- Detroit org
- Put a scuff on

# Enclosing Cpl. Dunham's story in history

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

BATH IRON WORKS, Maine - Mast stepping, or the process of putting coins in the mast of a newly constructed ship, is a tradition dating back to the ancient Greek civilizations.

Legend has it that in the times of the ancient Greeks, enough money was placed in the mast to make sure that each of the crew could afford the trip into the afterlife should the ship sink, said Lt. Cmdr. Tim Phelps, the executive officer of the USS Jason Dunham, as he started the July 11 mast stepping ceremony for the USS Jason Dunham.

The U.S. Navy, steeped in customs and traditions, continues the ritual to this day, he explained. However, the coins now symbolize aspects of the ship's heritage and remain forever welded in the iron masts of

today's warships.

The USS Jason Dunham is no different.

The guided missile destroyer bears the name of the only Marine to receive the Medal of Honor in the Global War on Terrorism and carries with it the legacy of the man who gave his life to save the lives of his fellow Marines.

Cmdr. Scott Sciretta, the ship's commanding officer, continued the ceremony, speaking about the significance of the name, Jason Dunham, each member of the destroyer's crew will wear as part of their uniform.

"I received a call from my detailer telling me I was being offered to take command of the USS Jason Dunham," he said. "I had heard the story behind the man, but didn't know the details. When I looked it up, and saw the significance of the name, I told him I'd do it. He asked me if I

needed to talk to my wife, and I told him no, I was going to do it."

He then called his wife, Sharon Sciretta, and directed her to the Jason Dunham memorial website and when she asked why he was showing her the site; he told her he was offered to command the ship bearing his name.

She asked him when they would start packing.

Maj. Trent A. Gibson, the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Cpl. Dunham's former company commander with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, followed Sciretta's speech with one of his own. Gibson stressed to each of the members of the crew they should feel honored to be working on a ship bearing his Marine's name.

"This ship represents the man who laid down his life for his fellow Marines," said the Piedmont, Okla., native. "Remember that selfless

devotion to duty as you work and live on this ship."

He then showed the audience the scrap of Dunham's Kevlar helmet that is now forever encapsulated in the ship's mast, reminding the sailors the history is real - it lives on with them.

Deb Dunham also spoke, sharing with the audience how significant it was to have everyone attend the ceremony for the destroyer named after her son.

A small group, including Sciretta and his family, Dan and Deb Dunham, Gibson and Phelps then made their way to the ship's mast where they placed a small package containing items such as the last letter Cpl. Dunham wrote home, a set of his dog tags, a Purple Heart Medal and the guidon for Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines into a small medal box inside of the warship's mast.

Aided by a master welder, Deb, Dan, Sciretta and his two sons, James and

Adam, and Gibson welded the box closed, permanently sealing the items in the mast of the ship.

Cpl. Dunham's dress blue uniform will be displayed in a case on the

destroyer's quarterdeck for the crew to see. The warship's seal also represents Cpl. Dunham's legacy.

The USS Jason Dunham is slated to be christened Aug. 1 and commissioned in 2010.

## Items placed in the mast stepping box

- Commandant of the Marine Corps coin
- Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps coin
- 7th Marine Regiment coin
- Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines coin
- Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines OIF 2 coin
- Purple Heart Medal
- Scrap of Cpl. Jason Dunham's kevlar helmet
- Dog tag set bearing the name of Cpl. Dunham
- USS Jason Dunham Command coin
- USS Jason Dunham mast stepping program
- Last letter Cpl. Dunham sent home
- Three United States quarters to represent:
  - Year Cpl. Dunham was born (1981)
  - Cpl. Dunham's home state of New York
  - Year Cpl. Dunham earned the Medal of Honor (2004)
- Two United States dimes to represent the lives he saved:
  - Pfc. Kelly Miller's year of birth (1983)
  - Lance Cpl. William Hampton's year of birth (1982)
- Two United States nickels to represent:
  - The year 7th Marines was formed (1917)
  - The year Cpl. Dunham entered the Marine Corps (2001)
- Four United States pennies to represent each of Cpl. Dunham's years in the Marine Corps (2001-2004)
- The sum of all the coins is 109 cents, representing the destroyer's hull number
- U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division patch from Vietnam veteran Mark Pitman, who helped build the destroyer



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Dan and Deb Dunham gaze at the guided missile destroyer which bears the name of their son, Cpl. Jason Dunham, Saturday morning following the mast stepping ceremony at Bath Iron Works, Maine, where the ship is under construction. Cpl. Dunham was awarded the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice on the battlefields of Iraq in 2004. The destroyer is slated to be christened Aug. 1 and commissioned in 2010.

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## EOD, from A1

on the work EOD does when clearing the ranges.

"RTAMS comes in after us and rebuilds the ranges after they have been bombed by training units," said Sgt. Thomas Nguyen, an EOD technician, and native of Highland, Calif.

Nguyen said it was important for all the unexploded ordnance to be picked up so RTAMS doesn't come in contact with them while operating heavy machinery.

While sweeping the range, the technicians have developed an easy way to make sure they find and dispose of any dangerous mortars or projectiles: Walk in a police call formation and detonate all the ordnance they find.

Rogers said EOD technicians aboard the Combat Center and at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., learn more about their jobs and different ordnance due to the amount of training and range sweeps they do.

EOD also works closely with the San Bernardino and Riverside County Sheriff Departments responding to calls out in town if the need arises.

"We get calls from the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department every so often after they raid someone's house," Rogers said. "A lot of scappers, or even retired Marines, will keep 'souvenirs' that just happen to be explosives.

"We go out there, make sure it is safe enough for us to move it and then go destroy it," he continued. When they move the explosive, they bring it back on

base and detonate it on one of the ranges.

Along with the sheriff's departments, the EOD technicians have also trained closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to receive the maximum amount of knowledge, and are constantly holding the EOD Response and Operations Course for

Marines who are preparing for deployment.

Rogers said other than working with explosives, the best thing about his job is always having something new to do and the job possibilities working with EOD has opened up for him and his fellow Marines for when they get out of the Marine Corps.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Sgt. Aaron S. Rogers, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, digs around a buried 60mm mortar round to determine if it is still active during a range sweep of Combat Center Range 401 Tuesday.

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## MARINE CORPS CIVILIAN POLICE TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA



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# Survive summer in sweltering sun

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The car sputters and coughs its last breath. First you're angry—you were on your way to Las Vegas—but now you're stuck in the middle of nowhere. Suddenly it hits and you realize you are in the middle of a desert, in the middle of the day during one of the summer months. Are you prepared?

The Combat Center has been urging people to stay hydrated, especially during the summer months, but what else should people take into account to keep them safe if an emergency arises?

Angel Rios, an occupational safety and health specialist for the Combat Center's Safety Office, says the number one thing a person should do if stranded in the desert is to stay put.

"Never walk or hike during the daytime," said Rios, a Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, native. "Sometimes [a location] looks one mile away, but it is actually six."

If someone needs to leave the road for some reason they should create signals, make arrows out of rocks or use large branches to point rescuers in the direction they traveled. If stranded in the desert, people should travel during the morning hours, or during the late afternoons or early evenings to preserve energy.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Staying hydrated is key to staying healthy during the summer months. With lack of drinking water, a person can become dehydrated and develop hyponatremia, a deficiency of sodium in the blood. People can become heat casualties and suffer from heat cramps, exhaustion and stroke. Studies recommend drinking at least a half-gallon per day.

Bob Piirainen, the traffic safety program manager for the Safety Office, agreed with Rios and said people should never walk at night when in the desert because it is easy to get lost.

According to <http://www.yucca-valley.org>, the

Morongo Basin Search and Rescue Team advises people to pack at least one gallon of water per person in the vehicle. Piirainen, a Lake Charles, La., native, also said people should pack dry food and plastic bags to catch condensation from leaves if the situation becomes dire.

"Don't conserve your water supply," Piirainen said.

"Drink what you need when you need it."

Before traveling, car owners should check their vehicles for any problems and ensure their gas tank is full. Cars should also be packed with an emergency kit, spare tire and tools necessary to do a hasty fix of common car problems. People should also have a

supply of sunscreen no less than sun protection factor 30 through 45.

Travelers should ensure they have a wide-brimmed hat to keep their face shaded from the sun and they should wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

Knowing and understanding the signs of a heat injury and how to prevent a heat casualty is also necessary when dealing with the desert.

Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the three main medical problems caused by dehydration and sun exposure. People do not have to be stranded in the middle of nowhere to become a heat casualty.

Heat cramps cause heavy sweating and painful spasms in the leg or abdomen muscles. People suffering from heat cramps should find shade and drink cool water.

Heat exhaustion is more severe and causes nausea, dizziness, weakness, headache, pale and moist skin, heavy perspiration, normal or low body temperature, weak pulse, dilated pupils, disorientation and fainting spells.

Someone suffering from heat exhaustion should be provided water immediately and kept in the shade. Their legs should be elevated above their heart and medical attention is required immediately so their symptoms do not turn into heat stroke.

Heat stroke is similar to exhaustion where a person will experience headaches, dizziness and confusion, but unlike exhaustion, they will have a rapid pulse with hot and dry skin along with a body temperature of 106 degrees or higher. Heat stroke can cause vascular collapse, coma and death.

If someone is suffering from heat stroke, they need to be moved to a shaded area immediately soaked with cool water and be fanned to help lower their body temperature. Their feet should be elevated. Heat stroke is considered a medical emergency and medical attention should be sought immediately.

For more information regarding desert survival and precautions to take during the summer months, contact Piirainen at 830-6154.

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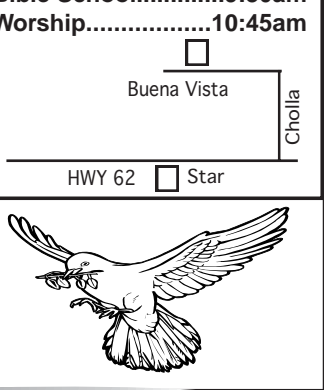
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# 2008 water quality report addendum

Substance (Unit of Measure)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	MCAGCC Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source
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## Source Wells

Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	<.05	ND-0.11	2008	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.67	0.5-1.1	2008	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha Particle (pCi/L)	15	0	1.8	1.13-2.10	2008	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0.019	0.011	0.05-1.32	2008	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> ) (ppm)	45	45	4	3.7-5.5	2008	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Methyl tert-butyl ether (ppb)	13	13	<3	ND-13	2008	No	Leaking Underground Storage
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	1	ND-1	2008	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Chromium, Total (ppb)	50	100	5	ND-16	2008	No	Leaching from Natural Deposits

## Distribution System

Arsenic (ppb)	10	4	2.3	ND-12	2008	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	4	NA	0.78	8.9-33	2008	No	Drinking Water Disinfectant Added for treatment
Copper 90th Percentile (ppb)	1300	170	22	ND-31	2006	No	Plumbing Corrosion
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	80	NA	6.5	ND-7.4	2008	No	By-Product of System Chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	60	60	ND	ND-8.1	2008	No	By-Product of System Chlorination
Lead 90th Percentile (ppb)	15	2	<1	ND-12	2006	No	Plumbing Corrosion
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	5	ND-1	2008	Yes	Naturally Present in the Environment
Iron (ppb)	300	NA	76	<100-1100	2008	No	Leaching from Natural Deposits

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations - 2 (UCMR 2)

NDBA (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.004	ND-0.004	2008	No	The Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended in 1996, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish criteria for a program to monitor unregulated contaminants and to identify no more than 30 contaminants to be monitored every five years.  The purpose of monitoring for unregulated contaminants in drinking water is to provide data to support the EPA administrator's decisions concerning whether or not to regulate these contaminants in the future for the protection of public health.
NDEA (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.005	ND-0.005	2008	No	
NDMA (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.002	ND-0.002	2008	No	
NDPA (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.007	ND-0.007	2008	No	
NMEA (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.003	ND-0.003	2008	No	
NPYR (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.002	ND-0.002	2008	No	
245-HBB (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.7	ND-0.7	2008	No	
BDE-100 (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.5	ND-0.5	2008	No	
BDE-153 (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.8	ND-0.8	2008	No	
BDE-47 (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.3	ND-0.3	2008	No	
BDE-99 (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.4	ND-0.4	2008	No	
Dimethoate (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.7	ND-0.8	2008	No	
Terbufos Sulfone (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.4	ND-0.4	2008	No	
RDX (ppb)	NA	NA	<1	ND-1	2008	No	
TNT (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.8	ND-0.8	2008	No	
1,3-Dinitrobenzene (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.8	ND-0.8	2008	No	
Acetochlor (ppb)	NA	NA	<2	ND-2	2008	No	
Acetochlor ESA (ppb)	NA	NA	<1	ND-1	2008	No	
Acetochlor OA (ppb)	NA	NA	<2	ND-2	2008	No	
Alachlor (ppb)	NA	NA	<2	ND-2	2008	No	
Alachlor ESA (ppb)	NA	NA	<1	ND-1	2008	No	
Alachlor OA (ppb)	NA	NA	<2	ND-2	2008	No	
Metolachlor (ppb)	NA	NA	<1	ND-1	2008	No	
Metolachlor ESA (ppb)	NA	NA	<1	ND-1	2008	No	
Metolachlor OA (ppb)	NA	NA	<2	ND-2	2008	No	

## Total Coliform Bacteria:

During routine sampling of the Combat Center distribution system, analytical results indicated the presence of total coliform bacteria. Notification was made and the resampling was conducted per state requirements. Resampling showed no total coliform bacteria in the system.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as indicators that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Table Definitions

**ND** (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**Unit:** Standard unit of measurement for this constituent

**pCi/L** (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity

**NA:** Not applicable

**ppm** (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter)

**MCL** (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

**PHG** (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

**ppb** (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter)

## Where does my water come from?

All domestic water supplied to the Combat Center is groundwater from the Surprise Springs subaquifer of the Twentynine Palms Ground Water Basin. This water is extracted by 11 production wells at a depth between 500 and 700 feet located in a protected area of the Sand Hill Training Area.

This water has consistently been of such high quality in nature that it routinely meets or exceeds all Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Public Health Services primary and secondary drinking water standards without any treatment required (other than basic disinfection) before distribution. Basic disinfection is required by California Department of Health Services as a safeguard against possible microbial contamination due to repairs or maintenance of the system.



## TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

The other morning my friend Derwood telephoned to inform me that he and his wife Stephanie were going through an emotional crisis because their beloved cat Bubba of 14 years had been killed by coyotes.

A few weeks ago my friend Claudia telephoned from Reno asking me to pray with her because her precious dog Shadow had died of a heart attack on the way to the veterinarian.

And just this week my friend R. J. spent a number of anxious hours in a local veterinary hospital at the side of her much loved cocker spaniel Buddy who had been bitten by a rattlesnake. (He will recover.)

We may be tough minded optimists but we love our pets. They became family. My wife Patty and I have three dogs and two cats and we treasure our special relationships with each of them. We love them. That is an appropriate word. To love any living thing is to sincerely desire that which is in the best interest of the object of our love.

Nobody ever said it better than my fellow clergyman and college professor the late Dr. S. Parker Cadman who put it like this:

"Personally, I would not give a fig for any man's religion whose horse, cat and dog do not feel its benefits. Life in any form is our perpetual responsibility."

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**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — Throughout the Marine Corps it is understood mission accomplishment is always the priority. Two Marines at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., take their mission of supporting training and those who support the training to a whole new level by filling the jobs normally done by many Marines.

Sgt. Mark D. Wade, a bulk fuel specialist from Ocean City, Md., and Lance Cpl. Mark Trullinger, a personnel clerk at MWTC's administrative center are two of the many Marines throughout the Marine Corps who shoulder their own responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities of many others to ensure MWTC contin-

ues to function. "We're obviously really, really isolated up here in the mountains," said Wade, who is the only bulk fuel specialist aboard the base. "We don't get a lot of new Marines very often, but there's still a lot of training that goes on that we need to support."

"It's mostly stuff I was school-trained to do, but during the last two-and-a-half years I've been the only one working in fuels on the base," he said.

Wade said his duties cover normal bulk fuel jobs, as well as supporting civilian agencies.

"On top of what I normally do as a bulk fueler, I have to support the search and rescue missions in the eastern Sierra Nevadas," he said. "We are the only fuel point and airfield for miles, so we are required to support everything that came through here. Usually it means a search and rescue mission for lost hikers or kids."

Wade said while

being on call all day every day to perform his duties as a bulk fuel specialist at the fuel station and the expeditionary airfield on the other side of the base, he has had only one major search and rescue mission.

Aside from the jobs associated with his military occupational specialty, Wade has multiple other responsibilities aboard the base far from what he was originally trained for.

"At one point in time I was doing a whole lot besides just working at the gas station," he said. "I have also filled in as the colors sergeant, the supply platoon sergeant, and when I finished the Formal Schools Instructor Course, I became an instructor for the Animal Packers Course too."

"I do a lot here," he said. "It's a small command and we have to make due with what we have."

Wade has proven himself to be flexible



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Mark Trullinger, a Marine stationed at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., focuses on a subject while taking a promotion photo Wednesday. Trullinger is a personnel clerk at MWTC who is learning how to do Combat Camera tasks on top of his current duties.

enough to adapt and make changes as the Marine Corps throws different challenges his way, but another Marine, Lance Cpl. Mark Trullinger, is just learning the meaning of being always flexible.

Trullinger, who is now the company clerk for the headquarters company aboard the base, takes on many duties outside his MOS.

"Anything you could think of I've done it here," the San Luis Obispo, Calif., native said. "I do every part of administration except for separations when I work at the S-1."

Trullinger's time on station has been spent doing his job and learning other jobs, which he takes over when other personnel are not present.

"I'm kind of a jack of all trades," Trullinger said. "I'm the company clerk too, which means I monitor and administrate the PFT [physical fitness test] and the CFT

[combat fitness test] and run the remedial PT [physical training] and BCP [body composition program]."

Trullinger said in addition to administration and being the company clerk, he is learning another trade as the combat photographer for MWTC.

"I have no photo experience at all," he said. "I'm just learning the basics of taking promotion photos of Marines and photographing events aboard the base. I can learn anything. All I need to do is get told whatever it is and I'll figure it out."

Trullinger and Wade will continue to work hard until their End of Active Service dates, which will both occur by the end of the year. They are just two examples of the many Marines at MWTC and throughout the Marine Corps who are frequently called upon to perform tasks and fill billets not described under their normal duties.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Mark D. Wade tests the fuel aboard the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Tuesday before opening the fuel station. Wade is stationed at MWTC, and is the only trained bulk fuel specialist aboard the base.

## NSPS, from A1

promotions, transfers and placements, and hiring actions for individual employees. Neither bargaining unit positions nor employees can be converted into NSPS.

Currently, an independent review of NSPS is being conducted by a joint Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management task group. When the Deputy Secretary of Defense announced the

review in March 2009, the DoD delayed conversions of additional organizations to NSPS pending completion of that review. The review is ongoing and the task group has not yet issued its findings or recommendations. A final report is expected later this summer.

Additional information about NSPS and the Defense Business Board Task Group can be found at: <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html/>.

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Photos courtesy of Department of Defense

# Desert visitor praises Marines

**Editor's note:** The author recently returned to her native Phoenix from Twentynine Palms and wanted to express her gratitude toward the Marines

**PATRICIA PARISH**  
COMMENTARY

By four in the afternoon I'd had my fill of windbaggy in a group I would inevitably be dining, wine-ing, and spending the weekend with. We were in the tiny town of Twentynine Palms, gateway to the Mojave Desert and a place so barren, desolate and rugged the U.S. Marines send their combat troops here to make them meaner. Although it was 90 degrees in the shade and the wind was gusting a full nine on the Beaufort scale, I tied my sun-hat firmly in place, excused myself and went for a walk.

Beyond the two blocks of downtown, people who live and work in Twentynine Palms like at least an acre between their buildings, regardless of whether they are commercial, residential or religious. This leaves plenty of room for scrubby bushes with leaves that are evolving into thorns, cactus whose leaves have already evolved into thorns, brittle straw-like tufts of grass and prickly seed cases that cling to one's socks.

Standing still among the zillion anthills is out of the question, nor is there shade for anything larger than a very skinny lizard. Relentless wind decorates the scrubby bushes and cactus with plastic bags in various stages of being shredded to ribbons. Remains of spring wildflowers have dried and become fiercely sharp - like the young men who are toughened into combat troops at the base across the highway.

The previous evening, I had seen those Twentynine Palms Marines celebrating their graduation from combat school at the best restaurant in Twentynine Palms, a ribs joint whose outdoor grill you can smell clear across town. We arrived simultaneously with two young men who held the door open for us and insisted we enter before them. It was but one of several small courtesies that evening that showed me an unexpected code of behavior in which Marines address you as sir or ma'am and hold doors open as if it really is their pleasure to do so.

Once inside the ribs joint, all of the booths except ours were filled with Marines and their families. I looked at the confident and calm faces of these men, brimming with resolve - there was strength and purpose in their chiseled features, though they were scarcely more than boys. It was easy to imagine their toughness against an enemy, although as they talked quietly with their wives and children, it was equally easy to imagine them being genuinely kind to widows and orphans in the chaos that is Iraq.

Later in the evening I chanced upon a video shot from the back seat of a humvee in Iraq. As a viewer, you ride slowly down a dusty road and into a ten-hovel village. One block ahead of you, an old station wagon sticks its nose from between shacks, rolls into the middle of the road, and explodes into flames and clouds of smoke. Someone in your humvee yells, "holy shit!" which is exactly what you are thinking, but the humvee driver doesn't miss a beat or change his slow steady pace. He drives steadily toward and through the burning wreck of the car bomb because putting his life on the line is a Marine's job.

I thought about the Hummers I'm accustomed to seeing at home - shiny, air-conditioned, canary-yellow Hummers driven by pretty blondes with soft, manicured hands, and filled with children and groceries - and I thought about gritty camouflaged humvees in Iraq driven by battle-hardened men with calloused hands and filled with tools of war.

I reflected on the young Marines in the ribs joint and I realized how lucky I am to be an American. Thanks to these unfailingly polite and respectful men and women who sign up to protect us even if we are exuberant and disorderly. I have the privilege of choosing to visit this hostile, barren desert and go home. They will go to the hostile country of Iraq, and can only hope to get home in one piece.

As I prepared to turn in for the evening in my air-conditioned room at Motel 6, my oasis in the desert, cool water washed over my sweaty, grimy body and I thought about next week. I'll be home with dinner and a cold beer, while those Marines will be halfway around the world keeping me safe.

## MEMORIAL, from A1

service by reading the invocation, a passage from the bible and said his reflections of the young men.

"This afternoon we honor these Marines," said Targonski, as he talked about the honor all service members experience.

The Engineer Support Company commander for the battalion, 1st Lt. Sergio Sandoval, paid his respects to the families of both Marines as he spoke English and Spanish, and opened up the floor for those who knew the two young men best.

"We stuck together through hard times," said Lance Cpl. Alvin Julaton, an automotive diesel mechanic with the battalion, as he talks about Godinez. "I feel sorry for those who never knew him because he was someone special.

"If he [Galvan] were here, I would tell him I looked up to him," he said.

Lance Cpl. Eric Morant, an automotive diesel mechanic with the battalion, also reflected on the character of his friends and what they meant to him.

"They always gave their all," he said. "They always lead from the front and never



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Memorabilia and photos are displayed of Lance Cpl. Julio Galvan and Pfc. Isidro Godinez, in the Combat Center's Catholic Chapel July 10 during their memorial service.

from the rear. They were truly my best friends."

As each of the close friends of the men stood up and said a few words, many of the reflections were sad, but the families listened and cherished what their loved one's friends thought of them.

After the final reflections, the Marines' Prayer and cere-

monial role call were read.

Initially, several Marines names were called and they answered. Then the names of the fallen were yelled out. After both names were called, they were only met with silence.

Taps played after the role call as the fellow Marines and family members fought back tears of grief. Targonski read

the benediction and the congregation joined in a hymn before the Marines paid respects to the families of their brothers-in-arms.

As each Marine shook the hands of the family members, it left an imprint on their hearts of how much their son, brother, cousin or nephew, was truly loved by his fellow Marines.



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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.

**LEGACY, from A1**

envision when someone says Marine. He had the character to back up his looks, too. There wasn't a mean bone in his body."

He earned respect from his men by example, not by intimidation, Gibson said of his leadership style.

"Cpl. Dunham was the kind of guy you would want your daughter to bring home," he added.

During the patrol, their battalion commander's convoy was ambushed nearby. Dunham led his Marines

south of the ambushed convoy when vehicles began to flee the scene. As the Marines prepared to stop the vehicles, an Iraqi clad in black jumped from a white sport utility vehicle and attempted to choke Dunham. During the scuffle that ensued, the Iraqi dropped a hand grenade.

Cpl. Dunham didn't falter. In his last conscious act he threw his Kevlar helmet - then himself - on the grenade, absorbing the blast and saving the lives of his fellow Marines who were nearby.

When the smoke cleared, Dunham lay unconscious on

the hard dirt road. His Kevlar ripped into two major pieces and countless shreds by the explosion.

When Gibson arrived on scene, he inspected the small cache of weapons retrieved from the vehicles and noticed a piece of Dunham's Kevlar leaning against the wall of a nearby building. Once he realized what exactly he had found, he and the Marines in the area scoured the street for any scraps of the Kevlar they could find.

Five years have passed since Dunham's selfless sacrifice to save the lives of his fellow

Marines earned him the Medal of Honor and a Navy destroyer bearing his name.

For five years the pieces of Dunham's Kevlar were stored within the 7th Marine Regiment until Gibson began collaborating with Deb and Dan Dunham, Cpl. Dunham's parents, on the proper way to preserve the history of the helmet.

The three of them had to decide either to donate the helmet to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va., to display the helmet on the quarterdeck of the USS Jason Dunham along with his dress blue uniform, seal them in the destroyer's mast or simply to bury it.

"At first we were a little uneasy about the notion of displaying it, due to the graphic nature of the object," Gibson said. "But I mainly didn't want the significance of the helmet to become lost. It isn't just Marine Corps property; it was spiritually transformed to a part of the Marine Corps' living history."

Eventually they concluded the best way to ensure the legacy of the Kevlar and the history it represents was to donate most of the helmet to the museum, but to save a single shred to be forever sealed in the mast of the ship that bears Dunham's name.

Gibson contacted Lin Ezell, the director of the National

Museum of the Marine Corps, and coordinated to deliver the helmet to the museum during the same weekend the ship's Mast-Stepping ceremony was being held.

As Gibson made his way from the Combat Center to the Marine Corps Museum, he carried with him a simple, locked black case with the combination 0-4-2 which represented Cpl. Dunham's radio call sign of Kilo 4-2.

The case, which was never out of Gibson's sight, attracted the attention of curious passengers throughout the trip. Gibson left each inquiring commuter with a new memory as he told them the story of what the case held.

Within the first hour of arriving in Washington, D.C. July 9, Gibson made his way to the Marine Corps War Memorial and spent more than an hour sitting on the steps carefully examining the fragments of Dunham's helmet-pieces he helped collect from the streets of Karabilah.

After ensuring all the pieces were accounted for, he changed into his desert utility uniform and drove to Marine Corps Base Quantico to pick up Sgt. Mark Dean, one of Cpl. Dunham's close friends, who is now a student in the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Officer Program, and an Owasso, Okla., native, and they made the final leg of the jour-

ney to the museum together.

As they entered, they were greeted by Ezell and Owen Conner, the uniforms curator at the museum, and escorted upstairs to complete the exchange. Once upstairs, Gibson recounted the story and shared with the small audience the importance the helmet carried with it.

Once Gibson showed what each piece was and how the puzzle fit together, Gibson and Dean deliberated on which piece of the helmet would be appropriate to bring to the USS Jason Dunham to be forever capsulated in the destroyer's mast.

After ensuring the helmet was in competent hands, the history would be displayed for generations to come, and an appropriate piece had been set aside, the group went to the museum's "Tun Tavern" and shared a toast.

"It's been a while," Dean said emotionally.

"It's been five damn years," Gibson replied. "Five damn years."

After their glasses were drained and their stories shared, Gibson and Dean parted ways once again with promises of reunions to come. They parted with the Kevlar that Cpl. Jason Dunham used to selflessly save his fellow Marines' lives - but not with Dunham. He will live with them forever in spirit and history.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Maj. Trent A. Gibson sits in front of the Marine Corps War Memorial July 9 in Washington, D.C., carefully examining the pieces of the Kevlar helmet Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Jason Dunham used to selflessly save the lives of his fellow Marines in 2004.

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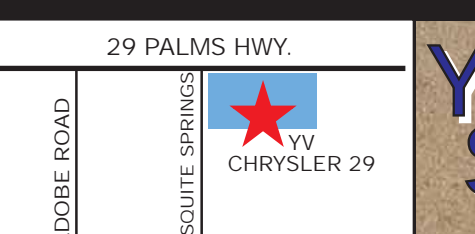
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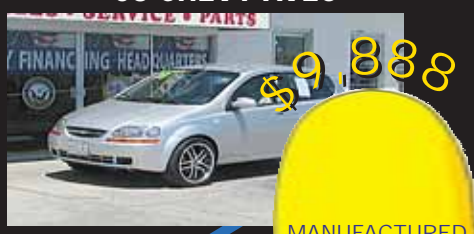


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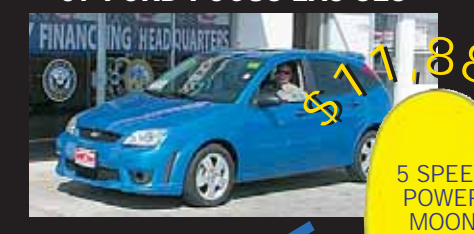
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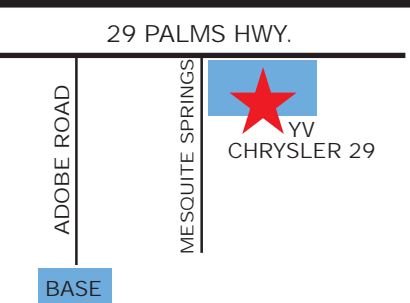


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B1

## Former Super Bowl champion teaches football to Combat Center kids

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A football celebrity visited the Combat Center this week to spend time with children during a Youth Sport program and to learn about a lifestyle very foreign to him; the lifestyle of the active duty Marine and sailor.

Tuesday through Thursday, former Green Bay Packers Super Bowl XXXI champion Chris Hayes opened the eyes of Combat Center children ages 7 through 18 to the possibilities in athletic careers through a Youth Sports-sponsored football program called Coaches Solution Innovations at Felix Field. Meanwhile, Hayes' own eyes were opened to the realities every deploying Marine and sailor experiences.

Hayes, who had never set foot on a military installation before, said he has gained a deeper respect for the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

"People need to see what these people do on a day-to-day basis," said Hayes, a San Bernardino, Calif., native. "I'm not talking about the



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Chris Hayes, a former safety for the Green Bay Packers and Super Bowl XXXI champion, mentored children ages 7 through 18 for three days at Felix Field Wednesday in a football program called Coaches Solution Innovations.

See NFL, B2



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

The home team left centerfielder, Mike Muller, slides into third base after hitting an RBI triple during the All-Star Game Wednesday night at Felix Field. The All-Star Game was held after the coaches from all teams chose their top players and two teams were born.

For more photos and final regular season standings see B3

## All-Stars slide into playoffs

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The sound of softball bats cracking and fans cheering rose from the Combat Center's Felix Field Wednesday night as the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League's best players took to the field during the season's double-header All-Star Game.

The coaches from each of the 20 teams had to choose at least one player to represent their unit for the seven-inning or hour-and-ten-minute game, said Randy Husted, the Combat Center sports coordinator.

The names are then sent to an All-Star committee so they can divide the teams as fairly as possible, he explained.

"We want the teams to be balanced and competitive," Husted said. "So if there are two good shortstops, we try and split them up between the teams."

Unfortunately for the home team, the away team had far more power at the plate and won the first, game 20-15. The second game looked to be going the same way, especially when the away team scored nine runs in the first inning. The trend continued as they powered past the home team's defense and pushed the score to 20-7 in the top of the fifth inning.

The time wound down and the home team had only one more chance to score 13 runs and tie the game.

First at bat was Justin Seaman, the home team's second baseman, who hit a line drive into the outfield for an in-the-park home run.

Not to be outdone, Jack McNellie, the third baseman for the home team, slammed another into the outfield for a one-run triple, followed by Mike Muller, the left centerfielder for the home team, who hit a three-run inside the park home run.

As the hitters cycled through and scored more runs, McNellie stepped up to the plate once more, this time knocking the ball out of the park, scoring two runs and bringing the score to 20-19. Unfortunately, one point from tying the game, the away team snagged a fly ball and ended the game.

Josh Randall, the shortstop on the away team who hit two home runs in the first game and never struck out in either game, said this is his first year playing intramural softball and it's a lot of fun.

"I play and practice five to six times a week," he said. "It's a great way to pass the time and have fun."

The intramural softball playoffs started Thursday will end Wednesday when the winning team is crowned champions.

## Children 'tumble' into Youth Sports

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of children were rolling around the Combat Center's Community Center's gymnasium for the new Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports tumbling class Saturday.

Tumbling, a beginner's version of gymnastics, was designed to introduce children to the fundamentals of the sport while helping them find their balance and keep them active throughout the summer, said Jolene Kullberg, a 22-year-old recreation assistance at the Community Center and the lead tumbling instructor.

"These children are at level one—a basic introduction to tumbling," Kullberg said. "It provides the children the building blocks they need to move onto more difficult tricks."

The children, ages 3 to 12, were split into three participating classes based on age and skills of those participating. The classes run every Saturday for one month. Each class is 45 minutes to an hour long.

The first class primarily focused on the forward roll. Kullberg provided a guiding hand to each child so they didn't roll off the mat or hurt them-

selves and ensured every child performed the roll correctly, showing them how to place their hands on the mat, bend their knees and tuck their chin.

As the classes progress, the children will learn and practice other forms including back bends, cartwheels, handstands and headstands.

"This is great for the kids," said Staff Sgt. John Koger Jr., a Chicago native, and an ammunition chief for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, whose 4-year-old twins, John and Janiya, are in the class. "They love it. I mean, this is the stuff all 4-year-olds do at home, so why not encourage them to be more active."

Kullberg, an Anchorage, Ala., native, agreed with Koger, saying the class shows children the correct way to do the tricks they love to do at home.

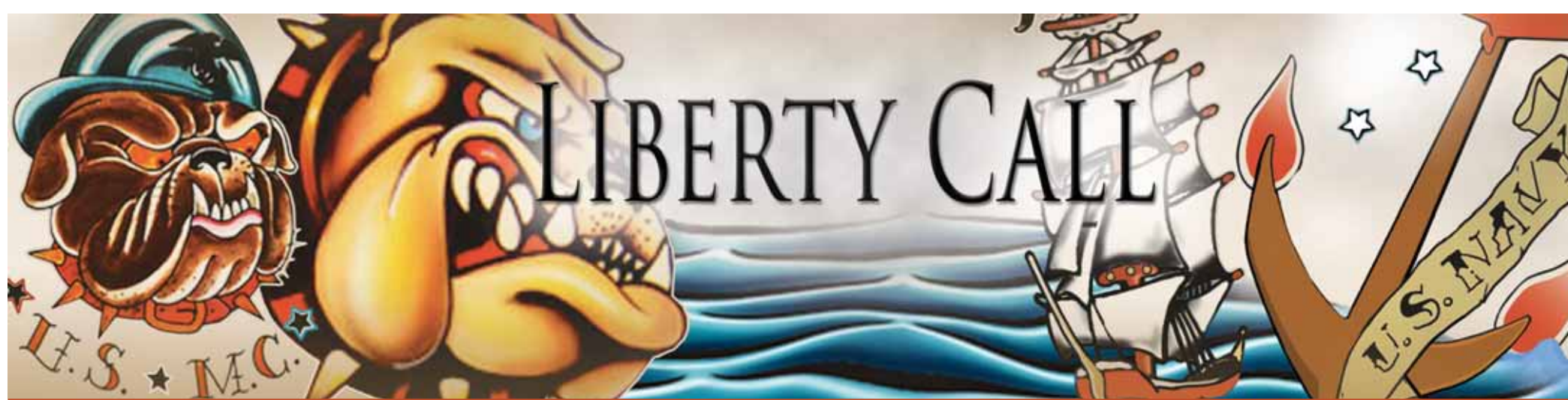
"I really hope they enjoy tumbling and continue to practice even if they move to a different base," Kullberg said. "I hope this is the beginning of a passion for them."

For more information about tumbling classes or other children's athletic opportunities, contact Youth Sports at 830-8421, 830-3910 or log on to <http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/gymsRec/youthSports.html>.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jolene Kullberg, a 22-year-old recreation assistance at the Combat Center's Community Center, and the lead tumbling instructor, holds Itzel Solorio, a 3-year-old Twentynine Palms native, as she performs a front roll during the first day of the new tumbling class at the Community Center Saturday.



<p><b>SAT. 7/18</b></p> <p><b>Pioneertown Posse Old West re-enactment troupe</b> Time: 2:30 p.m. Where: Mane Street at Pioneertown Road Pioneertown For more info call Lloyd Noel 364-3544 or e-mail coyotepines@earthlink.net</p>	<p><b>SAT. 7/18</b></p> <p><b>Liza Minnelli</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive Cabazon. For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinosort.com">http://www.morongocasinosort.com</a></p>	<p><b>SAT. 7/18</b></p> <p><b>Tribute to Journey</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio. For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <a href="http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com">http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</a></p>	<p><b>SUN. 7/19</b></p> <p><b>Pit Bull With LMFAO</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella. For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit <a href="http://www.spotlight29.com">http://www.spotlight29.com</a></p>	<p><b>SAT. 7/25</b></p> <p><b>Ghost Tours in Barstow</b> Time: 8:30 p.m. Where: 831 Barstow Road Barstow For more info call 881-9132 or visit <a href="http://www.hauntedbarstow.com">http://www.hauntedbarstow.com</a> or e-mail <a href="mailto:Info@HauntedBarstow.com">Info@HauntedBarstow.com</a></p>
<p><b>SUN. 7/26</b></p> <p><b>The Thriftstore All Stars</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy &amp; Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit <a href="http://www.pappyandharriets.com">http://www.pappyandharriets.com</a></p>	<p><b>FRI. 7/31</b></p> <p><b>Mel Brooks' "The Producers"</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Road Twentynine Palms For more info call 361-4151 or <a href="http://www.theatre29.com">http://www.theatre29.com</a></p>	<p><b>SAT. 8/1</b></p> <p><b>Timothy Bradley vs Nate Campbell, Jr. Welterweight Fight</b> Time: Doors open at 4 p.m. Undercard begins at 5 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. For more info call (888) 999-1995 or visit <a href="http://www.hotwatercasino.com">http://www.hotwatercasino.com</a></p>	<p><b>SAT. 8/22</b></p> <p><b>An evening with ZZ Top</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more info call (888) 999-1995 or visit <a href="http://www.hotwatercasino.com">http://www.hotwatercasino.com</a></p>	<p><b>FRI. 8/28</b></p> <p><b>Los Tigres Del Norte</b> Time: 9 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive Cabazon. For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinosort.com">http://www.morongocasinosort.com</a></p>

## Johnny Depp plays deadly John Dillinger in 'Public Enemies'

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### Public Enemies

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Johnny Depp is dapper Depression-era desperado John Dillinger in the new bullet-riddled re-telling of the story of America's first "public enemy number one" and the FBI's obsession with bringing him in, dead or alive.

Depp, who's demonstrated his eagerness to slide into some fairly eccentric roles in movies like "Edward Scissorhands," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Pirates of the Caribbean," plays it straight for a change as the stylish 1930s bank robber, who loved the ladies, living on the edge and emptying the vaults of financial institutions across the Midwest.

But Christian Bale plays it even straighter as federal agent Melvin Purvis, the all-business, nose-to-the-grindstone sharpshooter

handpicked by J. Edgar Hoover to put an end to Dillinger's crime spree.

French actress Marion Cotillard is Dillinger's girlfriend, Billie Frenchette, a barely-getting-by coat-check girl who falls for the dashing gangster and his promises of taking her away to a better life. The 1920s hit "Bye, Bye Blackbird" becomes the theme song to their love story.

Director Michael Mann gets all the details just right, from the thunderous rat-a-tat-tat of machine guns to the clattery din of the elevated trains outside Billie's Chicago apartment. He spends a lot of time on the little things that let you know where, and when, you are—the lighted face of a bedside AM radio, the trim on a get-away car, the dial on old rotary pay phone. He completely immerses you in Dillinger's world.

Mann also adheres to the historical facts of Dillinger's well-documented tapestry of brazen day-

light heists, gritty shootouts and improbable jailbreaks, and addresses how Dillinger became a folk hero revered by the much of the working-class public for sticking it to the banks, the institutional villains of the day.

Too bad the movie's fine craftwork is applied on the surface of such a hollow shell. Both Dillinger and Purvis are frustratingly one-dimensional; we're never shown even a glimpse into how—or why—either of these "public enemies" came to be. There's a great story there, but you won't find it here. For a movie about such a bedeviling character and the wild-ride life he led, "Public Enemies" has surprisingly little drive, dramatic tension or emotional heft.

Technically, the movie also hits a few potholes, especially in a chaotic nighttime ambush in which it's impossible to keep track of who's shooting whom, and in several scenes with dialogue that's inaudibly muddy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Johnny Depp plays Depression-era tough guy John Dillinger as America's first "public enemy number one" wanted by the FBI. Dillinger's brazen daylight heists, shootouts and jailbreaks address how Dillinger became a folk hero to the working-class public.

"Public Enemies" won't win any awards. But it's a decent grown-up summer popcorn movie, especially

for females who'd like to spend two hours with Johnny Depp as a bad boy from a bygone cops 'n'

robbers era, one that certainly wasn't anything near as romantic as Hollywood has always made it seem.

### NFL, from B1

watered down stuff you see on the news. I'm talking about the real thing."

Hayes said his experience sitting in the driver's seat of a stationary M1A1 Abrams main battle tank painted a vivid picture for him of

what Marines go through when in country and in war. He also visited injured Marines at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital here.

"I was very humbled by it all," he said. "Sitting in that tank for two minutes changed my life. Knowing that these people do what

they do for my well being and my family, blows my mind. I don't think civilians realize the full impact of what these men and women do until they experience what I have experienced today. I would definitely want a [service member] fighting on my behalf before anyone else."

Hayes continued, saying he was both impressed and humbled by the wounded warriors at the hospital.

One service member in particular, Petty Officer 3rd Class Sonny Lemerande, stood out in Hayes's memory. "Just standing there talking to him, I saw how much discipline he had," Hayes said. "I felt like I was in the presence of such dignity. I asked myself 'how can you obtain such discipline without getting shot at?' If there was another way to get that discipline, I'd sign right up."

Hayes said as a professional athlete, he under-

stands the value of strong discipline. To him, football represents more than one of America's favorite sports. It represents an attitude in life and helps him put his personal principles in motion — principles that promote good work ethic and kind treatment toward others. He said he wishes to share this attitude with youth so they may be inspired to follow their dreams and work hard.

"It has a sense of paying it forward," Hayes said about youth involvement. "Everybody needs somebody. I didn't get where I am without someone pouring back into me. God has shown me my gift [football skills] and I want to pour that into these children."

Joe Rosselli, the youth and community recreational manager here, said Hayes expressed great enthusiasm in furthering professional athletes' participation in

community projects.

"Chris wants to stay involved with this program," Rosselli said. "He has contacts with other NFL players and he's going to bring this message back to them. He's very impressed with the mentality he's seen in these children."

Rosselli said he has received much positive feedback from parents and children about the program thus far.

"The feedback is wonderful," Rosselli said. "The kids are learning and really enjoying it. The coaches are very in tune with the kids — they laugh, they joke and it's very comfortable."

Rosselli recalls one comment he received from a mother who has multiple children in the Youth Sports program.

"She said they're really excited about it," he said. "She said as soon as they get home, they can't wait to come back the next day."

Rosselli and Hayes are coordinating to create a family day aboard the Combat Center which would involve a flag football game between

Combat Center children and a team of NFL players, as well as a barbecue and autograph period.

12-year-old Sam Glass, son of Beth and Maj. Michael R. Glass, the officer in charge of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal here, was one of the children participating in the program.

"I like football because it's a contact sport," said Sam, who has played the sport for more than four years. "And I think it's great that Chris Hayes is out here teaching us everything he knows. It's really, really cool."

Hayes closed out the week with fellow Coaches Solution Innovations coaches, parents and children with a barbecue at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Thursday evening.

Hayes said there are a few key ingredients to being a successful, aspiring athlete and he wants Combat Center children to put them in play.

"Believe in yourself," Hayes said. "Learn how to work hard and be thankful for everything you have."

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# Combat Center sports



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Shawn Tiberio, the third baseman for the home team, crouches out to catch a throw during Wednesday night's All-Star Game held at Felix Field.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

The home team shortstop, Ryan Avena, slams the ball down the field during Wednesday night's All-Star Game at Felix Field. The All-Star Game showcased the talents of the best players from the regular season teams.

## Intramural Softball League

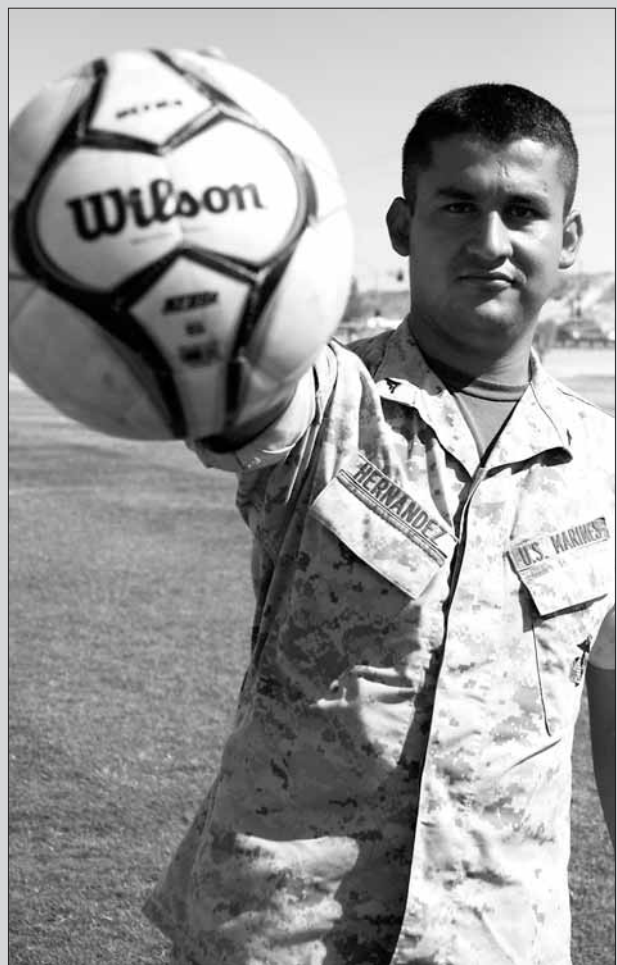
Team	Wins	Losses
Scrappers	18	2
MWSS-374	18	2
ESD Warriors	15	5
VMU-3	15	5
Tanks	14	6
3rd CEB	13	7
CLB-7	13	7
7th Marines	12	8
3/11	12	8
Hospital	11	9
MCCES HQBN	9	11
PMO	8	12
ESD Hooligans	8	12
NAV PERS	8	12
PMO K-9	8	12
IPAC	7	13
G-6	7	13
Dirty Dozen	6	14
CMA	5	15
2/7	3	17
Dental	0	20



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Joshua Goodman, the second baseman with the away team launches the ball to first base during the All-Star Game Wednesday night at Felix Field. The All-Star Game had two teams made of the best players from all regular season teams.

## Athlete of the Week



**Name:** Jorge A. Hernandez

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** San Diego, Calif.

**Job title:** Motor Transport Operator

**Recognition:** Named the most valuable player for the HQBN soccer team this season

**Major sports accomplishment:** Selected for the All-Marine Soccer Team

**Favorite aspect of the sport:** "The physical fitness and tradition in my family."

**Advice for aspiring players:** "Don't get discouraged if you don't get noticed your first season. If you like the sport and your team, do it for the love of playing."

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LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jorge Hernandez, (left) a forward for HQBN, performs a sideways bicycle kick and rockets the ball toward Byron Whisnat, 3rd CEB's coach and defenseman, as he jumps up for a header during the championship soccer game July 9 at the Combat Center's Felix Field. HQBN won the game 5 to 1, but 3rd CEB kept up with HQBN until the very end. The game ended with an awards ceremony where every player on both teams received an individual medal, HQBN received the first place trophy and Hernandez received a plaque for being voted the most valuable player for HQBN.



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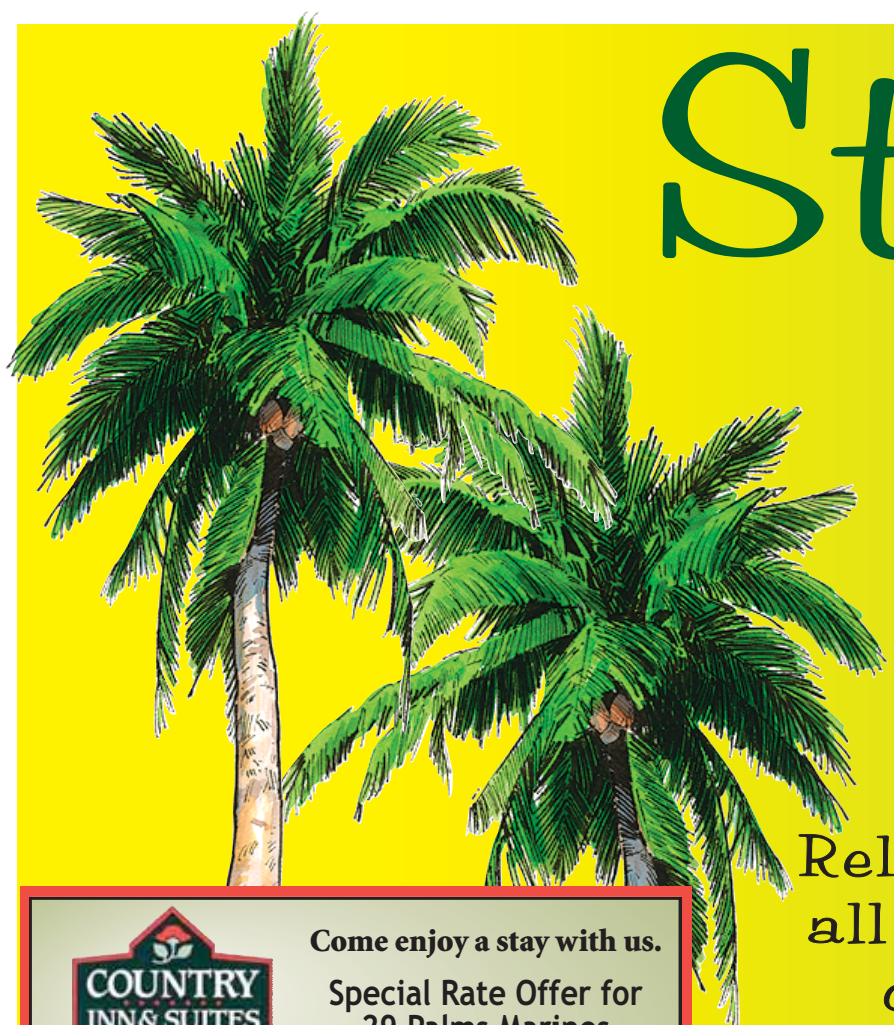
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4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*				
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*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35

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