

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 9, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 40



Cpl. Clinton R. Smith, a welder with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, embraces his 3-year-old daughter, Maddison, for the first time in more than six months during 3rd LAR's homecoming Wednesday. More than 80 Marines and sailors, returned to the Combat Center from their deployment to Ninawa province in the northwest corner of Iraq. While deployed, the battalion performed security and counter insurgency operations, smuggler interdictions, as well as mentoring and working alongside Iraqi Security Forces. 3rd LAR also had the unique task of being the last light armored reconnaissance battalion planned to deploy to Iraq.

CPL COREY A. BLODGETT



CPL NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Marines from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, say goodbye to their families at Victory Field before leaving for Afghanistan Monday. While deployed, the battalion will be responsible for maintaining security in the country as well as helping to build infrastructure for the local populous.

3/4, 3rd CEB depart for Afghanistan, Iraq

CPL NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In the early hours of Monday morning, elements of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, bid farewell to their families, friends and fellow service members before departing for deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Approximately 320 Marines and sailors from Company I and Weapons Company, 3/4, gathered on Victory Field before heading to Afghanistan. Other elements of the battalion departed for the region last week. The 'Thundering Third' is the second Combat Center battalion to deploy in force to Afghanistan since 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, spearheaded the return of Marines to the country in April 2008.

"We're going to be split between three different provinces in Afghanistan under 7th Marine Regiment," said Capt. Ryan Benson, the commander of Co. I. "Our mission is to provide security and build infrastructure for the local populous." Benson, who led Marines in Iraq in 2004, said the battalion has been training for this deployment for almost a year, including a month-long stint at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif. "I expect them to perform exactly how they were trained," said the Lake Villa, Ill., native. "Everything they trained for in [Enhanced] Mojave Viper was for this fight. The Marines are very well prepared for anything they are going to come into

See DEPLOY, A9



CPL NICHOLAS M. DUNN

After a long day of clearing trails at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley, Calif., Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 head back up a boardwalk trail at the preserve Wednesday.

Marines, sailors volunteer in local community

CPL NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MORONGO VALLEY, Calif. – When Marines and sailors are not training or on liberty, many take the time to volunteer in the local community cleaning up trash and tidying up the area's parks. On Wednesday, 19 Marines and three sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 ventured to the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley, Calif., to help the caretakers clear the hiking trails for local residents and other travelers to enjoy. "I took a class at National University about a month ago and it was part of a field trip that we came out here," said Staff Sgt. Rocco Possemato, the training chief for CLB-7. "That's when Betty asked us if we had any volunteers who could help

See VOLUNTEER, A10

Lava Dogs complete Viper

SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
1ST BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT

The Lava Dogs of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, concluded the second phase of the Clear, Hold, Build Exercise here Monday after five days of combined arms urban operations. Companies A, B and C of 1/3, along with attachments from Weapons Company and other reinforcements, each cycled through Combat Center Range 210 for two days as part of their Enhanced Mojave Viper pre-deployment training. Having already completed the platoon-level CHB-1 exercise, CHB-2 tested each company as a whole. Marines conducted a live-fire assault toward the town using amphibious assault vehicles to transport Marines, M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks to push through and blast away enemy positions, and artillery and mortars to hit objectives from a distance. Once the company's

assault element reached the city streets, three platoons of Marines poured from the AAVs to clear each building of enemy targets and force the enemy to fight or flee. Next, the Marines dug in for the night for the "hold" portion of the exercise, creating a secure perimeter and maintaining control of the town's buildings. After sunset, "Coyote" exercise controllers from the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group announced an enemy counterattack to take back the town. Marines tore away at targets in the distance from their positions with machine gun, rocket and individual rifle fire. As enemy vehicles were sighted ahead of them, the Lava Dogs pummeled them with 81 mm mortar fire and intense machine gun fire. Illumination flares lit the night sky with a dull yellow glow as they floated over the targets, giving Marines an advantage in the dark while red tracer

See VIPER, A3



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

An 81mm mortar round shoots into the night sky as six mortar teams from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fire away to pum-mel simulated enemy forces counterattacking their positions at Combat Center Range 210 Sept. 27.



Student body bigger and better~ See A4



Airborne to be wild~ See B1



Run 'fore' it~ See B1



Beer, food and sports~ See B1

Semper Moto

Gobs of power and comfort to boot

JOHN FLEMING

The motorcyclists that usually enroll in the safety courses offered to Marines and sailors usually fall into one of three categories: cruisers, sport bike riders, and dual-sport riders.

However, a growing segment of motorcyclists are beginning to discover the unique attributes of sport touring motorcycles. These high-end machines are designed to offer the kind of handling and power that sport bikes are known for. But unlike sport bikes, these machines are designed to carry a rider and passenger in superb comfort, cross country.


Most of the major manufacturers offer sport touring models. Honda's ST 1300, Yamaha's FJR 1300 and Kawasaki's Concours 14 all meet the criteria. BMW offers two models – the R1200 RT and the K1300 GT. Most of these machines offer a long list of comfort, safety and convenience features including anti-lock brakes, cruise control, electrically adjustable windshields and integrated luggage. Some of them offer optional heated seats and handgrips (great on chilly mornings), multi-function audio systems for music and communication. And a few even offer sophisticated traction control systems and electronically controlled suspension adjustments for varying riding conditions and pace.

As you would imagine, these machines aren't cheap. They range in price from \$14,000 to nearly \$24,000 for a new model. However, the prudent shopper can find used models, often in mint condition (their owners tend to baby their bikes) for a lot less money.

Certainly sport touring motorcycles are not everyone's cup of tea. But for the experienced rider who likes to cover the miles in superb comfort, without sacrificing the handling attributes of a sport bike, a sport tourer deserves serious consideration.

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.

School Liaison Information



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SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Terry Mayes

Job Title: Multi-media specialist

Job description: Gather footage and still photos for video media played on the base


What do you like most about your job? “Create different things using after effects and editing software.”

Significant achievements: “Commercial photography of wild animals.”

Hobbies: Photography, rock climbing and working with computers.

Military Service: Served in the Army for three years

Time at the Combat Center: Nine years



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Hot Topics

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHILI LUNCH

Tickets are now on sale for the Combat Center Fire Department's 12th annual Chili Lunch. This year's lunch will be held Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$2 and are good for your choice of a hot dog or a bowl of chili. The Blood Mobile will be on site and those who donate a pint of blood will receive a free ticket. Call 830-5239 to request tickets.

MCCES FUN RUN

The next MCCES Fun Run is scheduled for Oct 30 at 7 a.m. This event will include: a Halloween Costume Contest, 5K race, a 10K race, an individual half marathon, a 5-person team half marathon, and a new event for this year; a 5K “strut your mutt” dog race - leashes required. The registration tent will open at 5:30 a.m. Runners are eligible for multiple awards. Finishers certificates available upon request. For more information call Don Tolbert at 830-5581.

VARSITY BASKETBALL TRYOUTS:

The Marine Corps Community Services Sports Department is hosting tryouts for the base Women's and Men's Varsity Basketball Teams Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m. respectively at the East Gym. For more information contact Skip best at 830-4092.

MMOA TEAM VISIT

An informational officer PME will be given by the Manpower management Officer Assignments Team Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. for all company and field grade officers in the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group auditorium. Appointment-based interviews will be conducted at the Officers' Club beginning at 3 p.m. For more information or to register, call 830-7348, 830-7088 or 830-1402.

Marine Corps History

Oct. 9, 1917

The 8th Marines was activated at Quantico, Va. During World War II, the regiment was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division and earned three Presidential Unit Citations.

SANDWICH BOARD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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ACROSS

1. Scarlett's surname
6. Azalea or spirea
- 11.Coin-__ (candy machines, e.g.)
- 14.Quinn of “Crusoe”
- 15.Tibet's capital
- 16.Handle clumsily
- 17.Lame brain
- 19.“Able was I ___.”
- 20.Filled with resolve
- 21.Like a 17-Across
- 23.Right on the map
- 25.Words before “Go!”
- 26.Fancy neckwear
- 30.Journalist Greeley
- 32.Turns bad
- 33.Hell of a guy?
- 34.__ Dhabi
- 37.Hamburg's river
- 38.Like a first name
- 39.Clearance sale caveat
- 40.Critic __ Louise Huxtable
- 41.Calvin of fashion
- 42.Really go for
- 43.Brand X
- 45.Makes improvements to
- 46.Ohio city named for a mathematician
- 48.“What's up __ that?”
- 50.Recoils from fright
- 51.Some short plays
- 56.Harbor craft
- 57.Excessive admiration
- 61.Bull pen stat
- 62.Hit musical set in Argentina
- 63.Perform superbly
- 64.Mr. Potato Head piece
- 65.__ Hall University
- 66.Pounded a keyboard


DOWN

1. Squirrels' homes
2. Charades gesture, e.g.
3. Together, musically
4. Tour de France, for one
5. Short socks
6. Iditarod lineup
7. LBJ's VP
8. “Norma __” (Sally Field movie)
9. World Baseball Classic team
- 10.Buyer's mistake
- 11.Prime time for hunters
- 12.Analyze grammatically
- 13.Like dessert wines
- 18.Places to graze
- 22.“The list goes on,” briefly
- 24.Barbara Walters talk show
- 25.Cheshire cat's expression
- 26.On the briny
- 27.Auctioneer's cry
- 28.Hard-to-get smoke, in the US
- 29.Smelter input
- 31.Place to use Easy-Off
- 33.Per __ (by the day)
- 35.Rhea or emu
- 36.Plays for a sap
- 38.Tickled pink
- 39.Sidewalk stand quaff
- 41.Stuffed deli snacks
- 42.Massachusetts college or its town
- 44.Soccer stadium cheer
- 45.Periodic table fig
- 46.Lauder of cosmetics
- 47.“Star Trek” lieutenant
- 49.Hawkeye State native
- 52.Pasty-faced
- 53.Short shot on the links
- 54.Pitchfork prong
- 55.Risked a ticket
- 58.Party time, maybe
- 59.Slowing, in mus.
- 60.Ear: Prefix

Centerspeak


What would you want your mark on history be?

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




LANCE CPL. ERIC ENNIS
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
COMPANY B

“End the fight between the extremists and the west.”



CPL. MATTHEW TRI
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
COMPANY B

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8		6			1			
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			2		8	6		
7			9	1	5			

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

[puzzle Solutions on A9]

Sierra Nevada is second home to UTG Marines

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It takes a special group of Marines to administer and oversee the training of fighting forces from all around the Marine Corps and even the world.

The Marines with the Unit Training Group are the men behind the scenes who provide what many consider some of the best and most overlooked training the Corps has to offer. From water purification, to surviving in cold weather and mountainous environments, UTG Marines are experts in their trade and pass their knowledge on to each company, battalion and foreign military unit that travels to the training center.

"At UTG our instructors shadow company and platoon commanders to provide tactical advice and feedback about operations in complex, compartmentalized, mountainous terrains," said Capt. "Doug" Ferreira, the executive officer for UTG. "They also conduct debriefs after company and platoon training events based on specific [standard operating procedures] that battalions identify as mission essential tasks."

As with all things related to the Marine Corps, safety is paramount, so instructors work very closely with unit personnel to minimize accidents.

"A battalion training here sustains many more routine and priority casualties in the field



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Staff Sgt. Michael P. Hutton, a mountain warfare instructor with the Unit Training Group, gives a signaling class to Marines and sailors of 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, based out of the Combat Center during the battalion's pre-environmental training Aug. 18.

compared to exercises aboard other training centers," said Ferreira, of Charlotte, Vt. "While battalions are responsible for executing their

See UTG, A8



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Sgt. Zachary J. Pemberton, an instructor with the Unit Training Group, inspects Marines' newly learned knot-tying skills during a class at the Leavitt Training Area at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., Aug. 20. Thanks to UTG Marines, units have the opportunity to learn important mountain skills they would not likely receive elsewhere.

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VIPER, from A1

rounds streaked from machine guns and sparks flew from the metal targets when hit.

As the fight progressed, close air support was called in and the roar of an FA-18 Hornet was heard overhead as it released a joint direct attack munitions bomb onto the enemy position, lighting up the desert with its fireball and shaking the concrete structures with the blast.

Minutes later, the "thwop-thwop" of an AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter was heard closing in. It released multiple Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missiles at the enemy; glowing-hot shrapnel exploded dozens of feet into the night like fireworks. On each pass, the Cobra delivered a punishing dose of gun fire on the vehicles, each round streaking through the sky from above with red tracers.

Once the fight was won, Marines settled in for the night, maintaining their posts and occupying the town. When dawn came, Pashtu-speaking role players approached the town to speak to the Marines.

This "build" portion of the exercise tested each company's ability to interact successfully with the city's key leadership and residents with respect to their language, cultural and civil needs.

Marines worked through their assigned

SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Cpl. Jerrid Mangham is carried by his platoon mates to a medical evacuation vehicle after becoming a simulated casualty during the assault at Combat Center Range 210 Sept. 25.

linguists to help rebuild infrastructure of the town and return control to its rightful inhabitants.

The Lava Dogs will soon begin the CHB-3 exercise and test their skills operating at the battalion level.

SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Lance Cpl. Andrew L. Maxwell, a forward air controller radio operator attached to Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, performs a radio check on his equipment as Marines occupy Combat Center Range 210 Sept. 27.

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MCCES classrooms swell as lat movers, students file in

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

There is strength in numbers. This year, an influx in the number of students attending the Combat Center's Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School promises an increase in the strength and capabilities of the Marine Corps.

To accommodate the increase in Marines, the MCCES staff and command have had to make changes in their course schedules and operations.

More than 30 Military Occupational Specialties are taught at the Combat Center's schoolhouse. These jobs include tactical communication, communications-electronics maintenance, aviation electronics, field radio operations, data and computer programming, information assurance and management, and other industry-certification courses.

Although statistics show that the student body has increased by at least 2,500 students since 2008, the exact number is difficult to pinpoint since many of those new Marines are taking multiple classes to train on new Marine Corps technology.

Where as students used to stick with their respective courses, more cross-training is taking place to certify MCCES Marines for Cisco and Microsoft industries, said Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael McGraw, the communications training continuum manager.

In 2006, Companies A, B and C completed a total of 56 courses at MCCES under the watchful eyes and hands of 350 instructors. This fis-

cal year, students completed 76 courses.

Although the number of courses has dramatically increased, instructor strength has remained the same. This means they must take shifts to rotate their limited staff.

To address challenges such as the increase of students and operational tempo, school administrators have added night courses. Placing new or "pipeline" students in the evening classes allows NCOs and reservists on orders the right-of-way for day courses, and eases the classroom storage.

The increase in numbers happens because MCCES acts as a net, catching a large majority of the Marine Corps' electrical field open contract Marines with basic electrical scores higher than 80 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, the military services' primary educational assessment tool.

Having such a spike in students may sound like a great challenge, but McGraw said these are the numbers MCCES should have been bringing in all along.

In the past, MCCES would open a few of their barracks buildings to other



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. Daniel Sudmeier, an instructor with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, teaches a course at the MCCES main building Tuesday. Instructors, who once numbered two or three to a class, have been distributed since the influx in class sizes last year.

units who needed the space since the school rarely met their manning levels.

"We started bringing in the numbers we're supposed to have in 2008," said

McGraw, a native of Riverside, Calif. "In order to accommodate the students, we did things like get rid of the troop handlers and turn them into instructors. Now those Marines mentor their students on and off duty."

Sgt. Andrew Morris, a field radio operator instructor with Company B, said he noticed only minor changes in the classroom after the influx of students.

"When I first got here about a year-and-a-half ago, we'd have three instructors to a classroom, and now we have an average of two," said Morris, a native of Davie, Fla.

Depending on the company, students can expect to spend between 40 to 45 days in class, or up to five months. This does not include a student's time spent in the school's holding platoon, which can number between

50 and 500 Marines at a time, said McGraw.

"This base relies heavily on the MCCES MAT [Marines awaiting training] platoon," he said. "We fill all of the requests we get for working parties."

Staff Sgt. Stephen Bazzle, a data systems technician course instructor with Company B, said since the increase, Marines in the MAT platoon have also received opportunities for additional training by acting as "guinea pigs" for new training curriculum.

Field radio operator students, who need an ASVAB electrical test score of at least 80, were inserted into other courses which required higher scores to see if a general technical score has an impact on the student's ability to comprehend the data, he said.

"Some of these students learn an equivalent of two years worth of college in 73 days," said Bazzle, a native of

Orlando, Fla.

Lance Cpl. William Stevern, a data network specialist, has already graduated and is awaiting orders to the operational forces. Stevern, who picked up classes twice here, said he was assigned as class commander his first time around since there were no NCOs in his class.

"When I picked up the second time, I had eight NCOs and a staff sergeant in my class," said Stevern, a native of Baltimore.

It is becoming more common to see NCOs and Staff NCOs in MCCES classrooms since many Marines today perform lateral moves to the electronics-communications MOSs, Bazzle explained.

As MCCES makes shifts in its schedules to accommodate instructors and students, it increases the manpower of Marines armed with communications-electronics knowledge to help continue the Marine Corps Mission.

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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Pfc. Philip Bryant, a student at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, follows along on his computer during a course Tuesday. Some class sizes have almost doubled since 2008 due to an increase in the number of MCCES students.



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CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Pfc. Anthony Smith, a tank mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, rakes out loose brush from the side of a trail as part of a volunteer project at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley, Calif., Wednesday.

VOLUTEER, from A1

clean up the preserve.”

Betty Zeller, one of the on-site hosts and administrators of the preserve, said most everything in the preserve is done by volunteers from the Combat Center and the local communi-

ty. The staff and volunteers at the preserve are able to handle small jobs by themselves, but require additional resources for more large-scale clean-ups.

“Rocco came out here and volunteered, which was wonderful,” said the Bryon, Ohio, native. “We have a handful of



CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Robert Black, a volunteer at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley, Calif., cuts down overgrown grass on the side of a boardwalk trail at the preserve Wednesday. Black, an Oregon native who regularly volunteers his time at the preserve, was aided by 19 Marines and three sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

volunteers here, but many of us are older and can’t always complete these big jobs.”

The CLB-7 volunteers started early. After arriving at the preserve around 7 a.m., they almost immediately began working. Many of the trails were so overgrown it was hard for hikers to traverse them, which meant there was a lot of work to be done.

“We conducted a site survey last week and found there was at least a mile of trails that needed to be cleared out,” said Possemato, a Northlake, Ill., native. “We recognized there was a lot of work to do, but we worked hard to get the job done.”

By 2 p.m., the Marines and sailors had cleared out nearly a mile’s worth of trails and trimmed the tall grass and shrubs surrounding the bird observation deck. The work was hard and the hours were long, but the CLB-7 volunteers recognized what they had

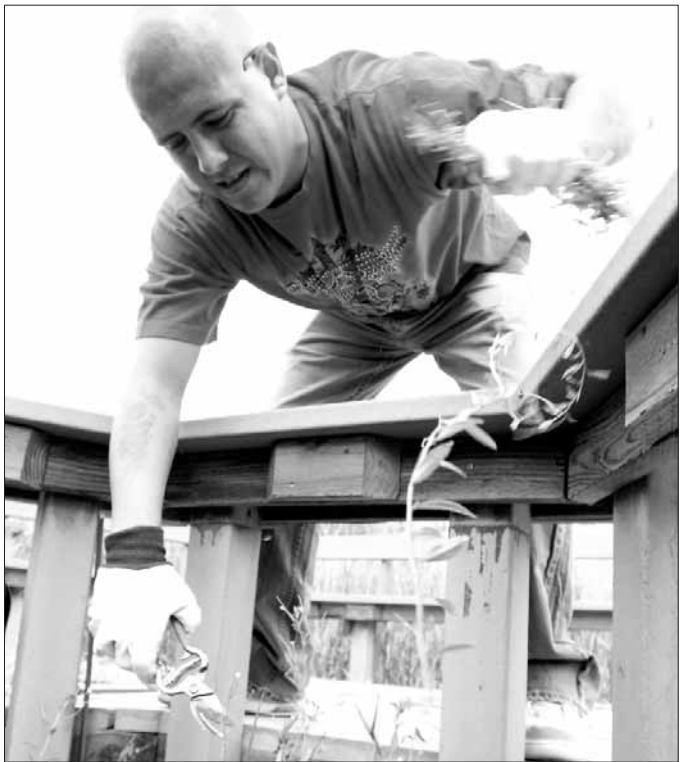
accomplished.

“Coming out here today was a great experience,” said Pfc. Anthony Smith, a tank mechanic with CLB-7, and native of Claiborne County, Tenn. “It was great to come out here and help out, see something new and break away from our day-to-day work.”

The Marines and sailors of CLB-7 plan to conduct volunteer work in the community at least once a month – a gesture the staff at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve appreciates.


“We’re very thankful for all the work you guys put in today,” said Dee Zeller, one of the on-site hosts of the preserve. “Please know you are welcome here any time, and if you come here for recreation, you can always stop by and say hello.”

For more information about the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, call 363-7190 or visit <http://www.bigmorongo.org>



CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. Angel Vega, the platoon sergeant from Combat Logistics Battalion 7, trims tall grass growing in the center of the bird observation deck at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley, Calif., Wednesday as part of a volunteer project.



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Marines, Afghan soldiers conduct Operation Gator Crawl

CPL. DANIEL FLYNN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 3

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – When many people think about the U.S. Marine Corps, generations of fierce warriors come to mind. When measured against the Marines’ activities here today, it is a stereotype that still holds true in many circumstances. Modern Marines here are more than warriors though. More often than not, they are also diplomats.

The Marines of Regimental Combat Team 3’s Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle Company, parts of the regiment’s headquarters, and Afghan National Army soldiers conducted Operation Gator Crawl – a rolling patrol near here Sept. 23 through 25.

Operation Gator Crawl allowed the Marines and ANA soldiers to visit villages in Nawa District where NATO or Afghan government forces had not been in years. This operation was a chance to gauge atmospherics, gain a little understanding about an area in which very little was known and positively interact with the people living there.

MRAP Co. often conducts patrols on their own,



CPL. DANIEL A. FLYNN

Lt.Col. Leonard J. DeFrancisci, civil affairs detachment commander, participates in a key leader engagement Sept. 23, 2009, during operation Gator Crawl in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

but for this mission they had the additional support of civil affairs, intelligence, a female engagement team and an ANA detachment. The patrol was broken up into smaller sections allowing the force to spread out over a greater distance and interact in different villages simultaneously.

“Our mission during this

operation was to provide security,” said Staff Sgt. Justin Andrew Park, section leader with MRAP Co. But they also got the chance to interact with the local populace alongside the ANA during the mission.

According to Park, they talked with the locals and assured them they and the ANA were there to provide

security and assistance.

During the two days the Marines patrolled through the villages, they spoke to the men and women they encountered in an attempt to determine their concerns. What topped the list were clean water and education.

“We were there to do several different things,” said Lt.Col. Leonard J.

DeFrancisci, 4th Civil Affairs Group detachment commander. The CAG Marines were focused on establishing relationships with the locals, identifying key leaders in the villages and researching what problems the people are facing – like whether education, clean water or security is the highest priority.

One of the other objec-

tives was to bolster the image and confidence of the ANA, according to DeFrancisci. To help reinforce this, the Afghan soldiers distributed supplies to the locals.

Also, the evening of the first full day of the operation, the Marines, ANA and other attachments found an abandoned, rundown compound where they planned to spend the night. The locals did not like this idea because it positioned the Marines too close to the village. When the elders came to confront them about this issue, it was the ANA who spoke with the elders and made the call to move to a different location.

DeFrancisci said, “We could have stepped in, but we wanted it to be an Afghan answer to an Afghan problem.”

As the convoy was preparing to depart the area and return here, all thoughts of making it back before dinner were forgotten as insurgents opened fire with AK-47s on what they thought was only a small group of Marines they saw on one side of the last village.

“I heard a couple of pops, and at first I thought it was just some of the local

See GATOR, A10

Domestic animal control; MCO 11000.22 CH 6

CHAPTER 5

5000. Purpose. To provide Marine Corps policy on the control of domestic animals aboard Marine Corps installations.

5001. Applicability.
1. Animals. This policy only to privately owned animals (hereafter referred to as “pets”), specifically those pet cats and dogs, owned by service members and/or their dependants, and is not intended to address control of Department of Defense-owned (DOC-owned) animals, Government-owned (non Department of Defense) animals, or Nonappropriated Fund-owned animals (NAF-owned animals) such as horses, aboard Marine Corps installations. Control of all other types of household pets (hamsters, guinea pigs, aquarium fish, etc.) should be addressed via local policy as required. Nondomesticated (“wild”) animals and farm animals are prohibited in family housing and as such are not addressed in this policy. This policy does not address feral animals,

which are covered under installation pest management plans.

2. Family Housing. This policy pertains to all Marine Corps property where Public Private Venture privatized housing areas are located or accessed via the Marine Corps installation. In the case of off-base privatized housing serving marine Corps families, where the Department of the Navy is a partner, this policy is applicable to the greatest extent possible and will be fully implemented in the next PPV business agreement revision. For those Marine Corps installations where another service exercises executive agency responsibility for housing (specifically, Marine Corp Base Camp Butler, Japan, and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California), this policy will apply to the greatest extent possible. Local installation commanders will work collaboratively with other services exercising executive agency responsibility to ensure compliance by Marines and their families.

3. Bachelor Housing. Residents of Bachelor

Housing are prohibited from keeping cats or dogs in Bachelor Housing.

5002. Background information. Pet ownership for those service members and their families residing in government-owned or PPV family housing provides a real and tangible benefit, and contributes to Quality of Life for resident families. However, the rise in ownership of large dog breeds with a predisposition toward aggressive or dangerous behavior, coupled with the increased risk of tragic incidents involving these dogs, necessitates a uniform policy to provide for the health, safety and tranquility of all residents of family housing areas.

5003. Prohibited dog breeds. Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, canid/wolf hybrids, or any other canine breed with dominant traits of aggression present an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of personnel in family housing areas. Consequently, full or mixed breeds of Pit Bills, Rottweilers or canid/wolf hybrids are prohibited aboard Marine Corps installations. In the absence of formal breed identification (e.g., certification by a civilian organization such as the American Kennel Club) a determination of “majority breed” will be made by a Veterinary Corps Officer or a civilian veterinarian.

5004. Requests for waiver and grandfather clause.

1. Grandfather waiver request. residents of government-owned or PPV-owned family housing currently in

possession of properly registered dogs meeting the prohibited breed or mixed breeds noted in paragraph 5003 above, may keep their pet dog in family housing provided the following “grandfather” provisions are met:

(a.) Pet owner residents submit for waiver to this policy and receive approval of waiver from the local installation commander. Dogs to be waived under this policy must pass a nationally-recognized temperament test, administered and interpreted by individual(s) who have been certified in the technique and evaluation of the test results, at the service member resident’s expense. Such tests include Canine Good Citizen (AKC) and the Delta Test (Delta Society). These animals will be required to certify every two years. Questionable animals may be referred to a board certified veterinary behaviorist. At no time waiver authority for purposes of “grandfathering” be delegated below the O-6 level.

(b.) Pet Owner residents comply with all provisions of this order as well as applicable local, state and installation directives for their registered dog(s) to remain in government-owned or PPV family housing.

(c.) Prior waiver approval at a previous duty station expires upon vacating family housing at the previous duty station, or at the end of the grandfather period of 31 December 2011, whichever is soonest.

(d.) Waiver approval for a pet dog will be terminated upon determination that the dog is found to be a dangerous or vicious dog per the following criteria:

(1.) The term “dangerous

dog” means any canine or canine crossbreed that has attacked and bitten, or inflicted injury on a person or another animal, or killed another animal.

(2.) The term “vicious dog” means a canine or canine crossbreed that has (i) killed a person, (ii) inflicted serious injury to a person, including multiple bites, serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, or serious impairment of a bodily function; or (iii) continued to exhibit the behavior(s) which have been previously determined by a designated competent authority that the animal is a dangerous dog.

(e.) Installation commanders are highly encouraged to engage their special staff (local VCO, family housing director, staff judge advocate, Base Inspector, Provost Marshal, and Animal Control Officer) to validate a pet dog’s prior behavior, demeanor and suitability when considering approval of a grandfather waiver request under this policy.

(f.) Dangerous and vicious animals represent an unacceptable risk to the safety and tranquility of Marine Corps installations and their personnel. When a domestic animal is deemed dangerous or vicious, it will be prohibited from Marine Corps installations. Installation commanders will establish local policies which address investigation or complaints against dangerous or vicious animals and determination of whether an animal fits the stated criteria above, and direct expeditious disposition of such animals. Failure to comply with the procedures and guidelines contained in this policy consti-

tutes grounds for eviction from family housing.

2. New housing application waiver requests. New applicants screened for assignment to government-owned family housing, or screened prior to referral to the APPVL for assignment to PPV housing, will be advised of the breed prohibition contained in this order. New applicants may submit for a waiver to this policy but should expect favorable consideration only when under the most extreme circumstances waivers will be forwarded to the installation commander for determination.

3. Visitors, sponsors and their dependents will not bring prohibited canine breeds, as defined in paragraph 2003, aboard any Marine Corps installation, at anytime. In every case, sponsors are fully responsible for their visitors’ pet dogs while aboard Marine Corps installations. However, no provision of this order in intended to limited authorized patrons with pets that are otherwise prohibited access aboard Marine Corps installations under this order will be for the sole purpose to obtain care, involving travel immediately to and from the veterinary treatment facility only, with no other stops aboard the installation authorized.

4. Should local installation commanders desire relief form this policy, a formal request for waiver to policy will be submitted via the chain of command to HQMC (Code LFF) for consideration.

5005. Registration, vaccination, identification and control of pets. All dogs and cats must be registered with the local Veterinary Treatment Facility, and proof of registration submitted to the local family Housing Office, prior to entry to family housing units. Proof of registration will consist of civilian or military veterinarian certification of required vaccinations and a functioning microchip identification device. Vaccination and identification services offered by VTFs will be in accordance with the SECNAVINST 6401.1B.

1. Vaccinations and microchip implantation services will be procured at the owners’ expense at the local VTF of via commercial veterinary medical service providers, but certification must be made by the Veterinary Treatment Facility. Microchips will be ISO compatible to help facilitate overseas travel.

2. Dogs and cats will be vaccinated at the owners’

See PET, A9

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The Reappearance of Christ

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CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller [right], an instructor with the Unit Training Group, demonstrates to Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., a technique used to cross small rivers and streams during a training exercise at the Leavitt Training Area at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Aug. 20.

UTG, from A3

own casualty plans, our instructors provide advice to the on-scene commanders regarding route selection, link-up points, and [landing zones] to aide in casualty evacuation when requested.”

Sgt. Jeremy Kanitz, an instructor with UTG, said the Marines around him make his job the most fun.

“There are a lot of good guys here,” said the Olney, Ill., native. “This area, the guys I work with and the mountains make this place an awesome place to be stationed.”

However, becoming an instructor with UTG is no easy task, Ferreira said. To become qualified, Marines must go through several courses aboard the training center, and it can take up to three years to reach the unit’s highest rank of Mountain Warfare Instructor III.

“Our fully qualified instructors, called ‘red hats,’ have the same requirements as instructors at Formal Schools,” Ferreira said. “In fact, Marines frequently move between UTG and Formal

Schools,” he said. “After completing both Summer and Winter Mountain Leaders Courses, our instructors are required to attend additional rock, alpine and ski clinics taught by the master trainers for advancement.”

Staff Sgt. Steve Dunn, an instructor with UTG, joined the unit in May and attested to the difficulty of the training.

“It’s fun training, but it’s physically challenging at the same time,” said the St. Louis, Mo., native. “I’ve just finished some of the instructor training and I’m looking forward to getting out in the field to start training units.”

While conducting the center’s Mountain Warrior Exercise, a three-week course designed to teach navigation, combat and survival skills, instructors commonly spend the entire time in the field.

“Every platoon and company headquarters element has an instructor assigned to them,” Ferreira said about the exercise. “It is not uncommon for instructors to spend 18 to 21 days in the field, 24 hours per day, with a unit. There is usually a five-

day gap between battalions when our Marines conduct teach-backs and annual training, so the hours they work are long.”

Ferreira added that being in the field for extended periods of time is what his instructors enjoy most.

“We’re grunts doing grunt things, and that’s what keeps us going,” he said. “This isn’t a B-billet where Marines ride a desk or get to spend a lot of time with their families. They are staying in their [military occupational specialty], increasing proficiency and are harder men when they leave here.”

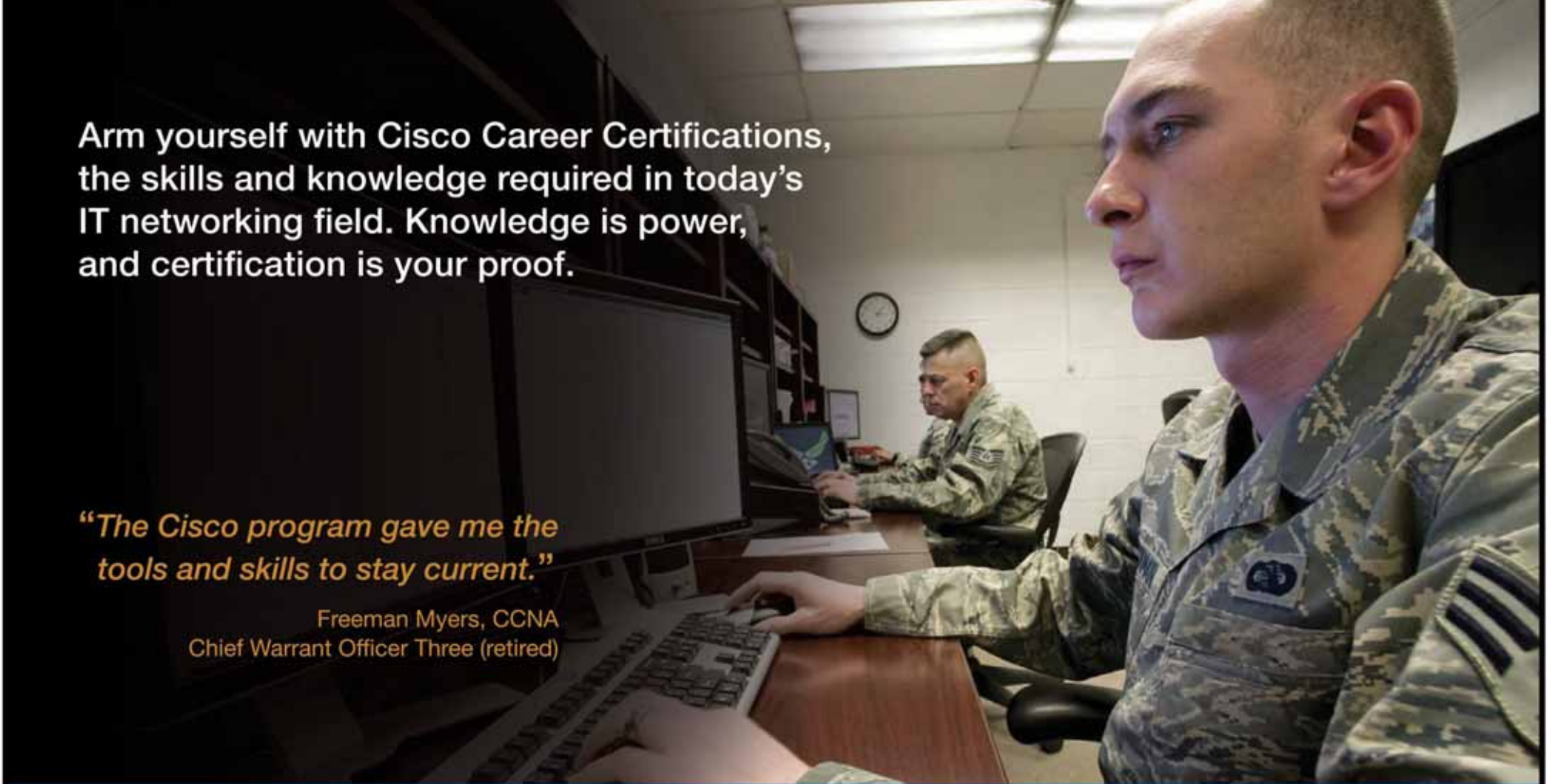
The instructors recently completed a training evolution for members of 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and will see a break in their training schedule. However, even though UTG only has one more Mountain Warrior Exercise for the rest of the calendar year, the instructors do not plan to sit back and relax. The unit plans to use that time for instructor and annual training

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Parents at the front line against kids' obesity

SHARI LOPATIN

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According to the Journal of American Medicine, nearly 32 percent of American children between two and 19 need to lose weight to avoid chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

Military families aren't exempt; a 2005 survey reported that nearly 20 percent of Department of Defense teenagers are obese. Obesity means an individual is more than 20 percent above his or her ideal weight.

Keep in mind the causes of obesity in children: diets high in fatty foods and calories, inactivity, easy access to salty and sweet snacks at home, and even a child's emotional well-being. So how can parents combat poor eating habits early, especially when obese children are likely to carry their weight into adulthood?

Be a role model. It's true, kids watch their parents in action. If mom and dad eat right and exercise enough, most likely,

junior will too. Here are a few helpful starting points:

- Pack their school lunches. While most schools have hired a registered dietitian for school meals, not all options are the healthiest. Parents who pack their kids' lunches and snacks take away the choice of pizza over a tuna sandwich with whole grain bread. Just give them the sandwich. Visit <http://www.mypyrmaid.gov> for some interactive nutrition guidance for both kids and parents.
- Know your calories. Which has more calories: a 3 oz. rib eye steak, broiled, with 0 inches trim, or a donut with chocolate icing? The answer is the donut, with 258 calories, versus 210 calories packed with healthy protein and iron from the steak. Read up on different food choices to help you make the best nutritional decisions for yourself and your child.
- Choose the healthier food when eating out. Next time, ask for dressing and sauces on the side and choose

broiled or baked foods over fried. Find more great ideas on <http://www.triwest.com/eathealthy>.

- Play ball and have fun. Parents can take away couch time and make it a family fun day, encouraging physical activity. Run through the sprinklers; toss a Frisbee in the park or do an art project. Do whatever it takes to get the kids moving.
- Eat your greens. Try to set an example by eating plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables every day. Parents can also practice portion control as a family, including the children in this behavior by using smaller plates.

Doctors can provide information about the healthy weight ranges for kids and offer advice on proper diet and exercise plans. It's a good idea to discuss this with your child's doctor before starting a new routine.

Remember, one healthy choice a week adds up, whether it's adding more vegetables or turning off the TV for an extra hour. Start today by visiting <http://www.triwest.com/eathealthy>.



CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

A family watches their loved one board a bus along with other Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, at Victory Field Monday. Company I and Weapons Co. are deploying to Afghanistan.

DEPLOY, from A1

contact with over there."

Despite the brisk temperature of the early morning air, morale among the Marines and sailors was high; they all felt like they were prepared for this deployment. Lance Cpl. Matthew Baker, a Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missile gunner with Weapons Co., summed his feelings up in one word.

"Ready," said the Baton Rouge, La., native.

For Baker, along with many of his fellow Marines, this is his first combat deployment. He said he has been preparing for this fight since he joined the Marine Corps.

"Afghanistan is where all of our [School of Infantry] instructors told us we'd probably be going," he said. "Most of the training I've done has revolved around operations we'll be conducting in Afghanistan."

ducting in Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, at the 3rd CEB headquarters building, roughly 130 Marines and sailors from Company B, 3rd CEB were also saying goodbye to their friends and loved ones before departing the Combat Center for operations in Iraq.

While deployed to Iraq, Co. B will be responsible for building infrastructure and deconstructing the forward operating bases previously used by Marines, said 2nd Lt. Craig Zoellner, the adjutant for 3rd CEB.

As a result of the shift from troops in Iraq to Afghanistan, Co. B may be one of the last Marine Corps units to deploy to Iraq, said the St. Louis, Mo., native.

The rest of 3rd CEB is currently training for their upcoming deployment in support of combat operations to Afghanistan next year, Zoellner said.

PETS, from A6

expense against rabies every one to three years depending upon age, vaccination history and local laws and installation regulations. All owners must furnish proof of current rabies vaccination to VTF at the time of registration. In the case of pets that are less than four months of age, this information will be furnished before the animal reaches the age of five months.

3. There is no requirement that dogs or cats be spayed or neutered, but owners are encouraged to pursue this procedure for their pet. Owners of pets which have reproductive organs intact must maintain awareness of the risks of unwanted pet pregnancy. Pets which are "in heat" can induce unwanted behavior in other pets including increase aggression, and produce unwanted animals that are often abandoned or worse, are subjected to inhumane treatment. The choice to spay or neuter a pet is a responsible and prudent measure which ultimately

benefits all residents.

4. All dogs and cats must wear a collar at all times with a valid, current rabies vaccination tag attached to the collar. Upon assignment to family housing, owners will ensure an additional tag with the current address of owner is attached within one month of occupancy in family housing.

5. Owners are responsible at all times for controlling the behavior of their pets. No animal will be allowed to roam free at any time. Failure to comply with local guidelines (including installation regulations and PPV lease agreement restrictions) relating to control of pets may be ground for eviction.

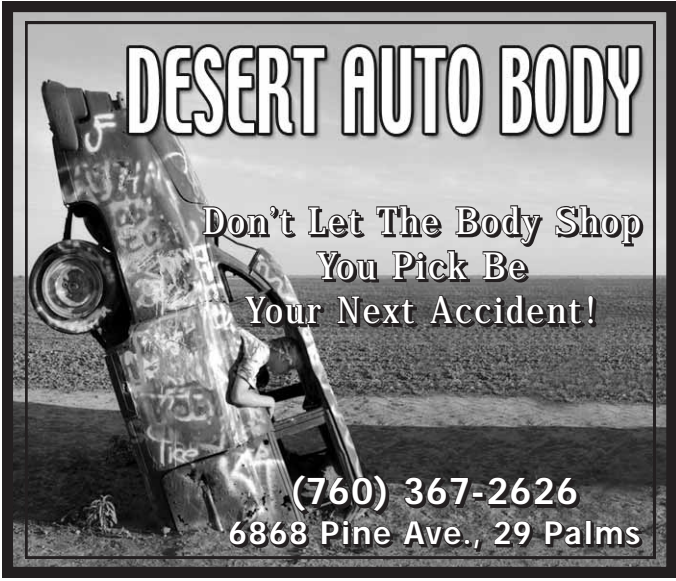
5006. Breeding of pets. Commercial breeding or kenneling of pets in government-owned of PPV family housing is expressly prohibited aboard Marine Corps installations.

5007. Number of pets allowed. Presidents of family housing will be limited to no more than two dogs, two cats, or one cat and one dog.

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Infant Tylenol oral suspension products recalled

ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL

Certain Children's and Infants' Tylenol products have been recalled as a precaution because of potential manufacturing problems. The recalled oral suspension products were distributed between March and May 2008. See McNeil Consumer Healthcare's Web site for the full list of recalled products and their lot numbers.

The raw materials used to manufacture the products may have been contaminated by Burkholderia cepacia. Once the contamination was discovered, the raw product was removed from the production line.

The recall was done as a precaution, as no bacteria have been detected in the finished products to date. There have been no reports of illnesses in the general population caused by the recalled product. According to the Center for Disease Control, this bacterium poses little medical risk to healthy people. However, people who have certain health problems like weakened immune systems or chronic lung diseases, particularly cystic fibrosis, may be more susceptible to infections. The Naval Hospital here did not have any of the recalled lots stocked.

Customer Care Center for McNeil Pharmaceuticals can be reached at 800-962-5357.



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

Not too long ago a young lady in Joshua Tree told me that she wanted to attend Copper Mountain College and then transfer to Cal State Davis so that she could become a veterinarian. She loves animals, birds, and all living creatures and feels called to be a healer in a challenging profession.

I think that is absolutely wonderful and I am encouraging her and supporting her in her pursuit to be a servant of God in an important field.

Since I first wrote about my love of our own pets I have received many telephone calls, e-mails, and personal comments on the matter.

One of the people I admire and respect the most in every aspect of her life, including her devotion to her beloved peacocks is my friend, Randee Nelson of Nelson Heating and Air.

Randee is totally focused on providing tender loving care to every peacock, dog, horse, and cat in her life. Randee is my kind of woman!

Recently, Randee had to "put down" a beloved tiny peacock that had never really been healthy since birth. Dinky was unable to survive. Randee reported that her friend, a Hi-Desert veterinarian, came to the Nelson home to do what had to be done in the most loving way possible.

Randee then wrapped the small bird in a comfortable blanket, put a note inside the wrapping giving the name of the bird, offered a prayer, and then had her husband Gene put him in a concrete crypt designed for that purpose.

And so it is

This message sponsored by:

High Desert Animal Hospital of Twentynine Palms
70513 Twentynine Palms Hwy.
Twentynine Palms, Ca 92277
760-367-9511

Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627
800-995-1620
res19mxc@verizon.net

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

1995 SUZUKI SAVAGE CRUISER MOTORCYCLE. \$2,000. If interested call Heather at 490-2687. 10/2/09

1990 FORD F350 TRUCK. Diesel, 90,000 on re-built engine, new turbo and clutch, stretch with 60" sleeper, 5 speed. Drives but needs tranny work. \$4,000. Call 447-0499. 10/2/09

1987 FORD F250 TRUCK. Extra cab, diesel, four speed with overdrive. Set up for gooseneck or fifth wheel. \$2,850 OBO. Call 447-0499. 10/2/09

2005 KAZUMA 110CC ATV. Runs good, new battery, \$600 OBO. Call Chris 362-5293. 9/25/09

1916 BUICK D-45. Needs complete restoration. Many additional hard-to-find parts to help with the project. Call 367-3326 for more info. \$6,700. 9/11/09

1989 JEEP WRANGLER. New rebuilt engine, new head, new fuel pump, new seats, new tires. Call 367-3326 for more info. \$5,500 OBO. 9/11/09

2002 32-FOOT FIFTH WHEEL. \$10,500. one superslide and one bedroom slide. Immaculate shape, sleeps four, two TV's, stereo, microwave, oven, dining table and chairs. Two rockers. Located on lemon lot on base, call Bo 819-1677. 8/14/09

MISC.

PUPPY FOUND, pit or pit mix, female, two to four-months-old. Rusty brown with white star on chest. Found at the corner of Amboy and Adobe Roads. Call Stephen 567-7921. 10/9/09

PURE SILVER MARINE CORPS COIN SET. 35 years old. Asking only \$1,000. Marine Corps challenge coins, different prices. Olympic coins. Large entertainment center. Oak. Must sell. \$100. 367-6030. 10/2/09

WANTED-PISTOL. 45 Caliber, military. 367-6030. 10/2/09

FRENCH POODLE. Active medium-sized (18 pounds). Looking for permanent adoption/placement at no cost. All shots are current, good health, very active, obeys commands/orders. Please call Norbert between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., 7 days a week at 322-9277. 9/25/09

HP PHOTOSMART C4680 PRINTER-COPIER-SCANNER. Brand new, in box, never opened. \$90 OBO. 361-9426. 9/25/09

19" LCD FLAT PANEL MONITOR. Black, VGA/SXGA, 1280 x 1024, non-glare. \$75 OBO. 361-9426. 9/25/09

SNCO EVENING MESS DRESS WITH GUNNERY SGT. CHEVRONS 42R. Trousers 34, all accessories included. Like new; worn only twice, half-price \$400 OBO. Blues jacket 41R anodized buttons. Two trousers one 33R/30L. \$50 for all three. Call 208-899-3021. 9/4/09

SEARS KENMORE REFRIGERATOR. 2001 white. \$300. 369-7306. 9/4/09

BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET. Oak finish. four glass doors, silverware drawer. \$300. 32" TV in entertainment cabinet \$50. Oak veneer coffee table on casters \$15. Leave message 567-7921. 8/14/09

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.

Family Fall Festival



October 23

6:30-8:30pm

Come dressed in your favorite non-scary costume and enjoy a night of indoor and outdoor activities; Cake Walk, Petting Zoo, Pony and Hay Rides, Pumpkin Toss and lots of food and trick and treats.

at the CYTP buildings 692, 693 and 694
(across from the Home Store)

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CHILDREN, YOUTH AND TEEN PROGRAMS
MCCS
MARINE CORPS
29 PALMS, CA

GATOR, from A6

kids playing,” said Cpl. Justin Lee Lail, MRAP Co., vehicle commander. “Then I heard the pops again, and that is when I realized it was small arms fire.”

Within seconds two other MRAPs and more Marines rounded a corner to add their firepower to the fight. Two of the insurgents were observed running away. One was killed. None of the friendly forces or civilians were hurt.

“The reason the movement to fire went so well is because of small unit leadership, good corporals,” added Lial, a 28-year-old Chillicothe, Ohio, native. “I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

Pride in their performance under fire is one obvious way to recognize these Marines’ and Afghan soldiers’ accomplishment. This operation can’t be labeled a complete success, however, until the next group of ANA and Marines visit. How cooperative and receptive the villagers are next time will be the measure of achievement for these few days on the road.



CPL. DANIEL A. FLYNN

Sgt. Joseph Bria, with Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle Company, and Master Sgt. Christopher Burrell, company master sergeant with MRAP Co., post security after a firefight Sept. 23 during Operation Gator Crawl. Regimental Combat Team 3’s MRAP Co. executed the three-day patrol, in partnership with Afghan National Army soldiers, to villages in Nawa District which hadn’t seen NATO, U.S. or Afghan government forces in years.

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Your Monthly Rent Pays The Mortgage!

MCCS & the ASYMCA present

From Her Closet to Yours

a Ball Gown Exchange



Donate

your gently worn and clean ball gowns to the ASYMCA from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The deadline to donate gowns is Wednesday, October 14th.

This event’s success is determined by the number of gowns donated, so clean out your closet and donate!

Shop

for free at the Ball Gown Exchange on Saturday, October 17th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Community Center.

First Come, First Served.
Two gowns per customer.

☛ Complimentary Refreshments ☛
☛ Door Prizes ☛





For more information, please call 830-5086.



SPORTS AND LEISURE

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Metal Mulisha burns up Car and Bike Show

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center personnel and residents of the local community spent Saturday scoping out hot cars and bikes, eating fatty foods and watching a freestyle motocross bike show during the first Car and Bike Show hosted by the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services at the corner of Fifth and Brown.

"Marines and sailors have been asking us if we will do a car and bike show forever, so it makes us happy that we can finally do it," said Kelley Coe, the Combat Center's special events program manager.

The event, which lasted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., drew more than 60 cars and bikes, with makes and models ranging from a 1971 Ford Mustang Mach 1 to a Hummer H3. The total number of cars and bikes filled up Fifth Street

See SHOW, B3



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Jimmy Fitzpatrick, a rider with Metal Mulisha, executes an Indian Air during the Car and Bike Show at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Saturday.

More than 140 Marines race across golf course

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Just after sunrise and as most Marines made their way to work, more than 140 Marines gathered at the Desert Winds Golf course for the annual Commanding General's Intramural Cross-Country Race Wednesday.

"This is the first year that this event has had more than 100 Marines participate," said George Schadeegg, a sports specialist for the Combat Center. "It's mainly thanks to [3rd Combat Engineer Battalion]."

Many of the participants came from that unit, he said.

The contestants formed groups of four to six-man teams. The combined time of the fastest four times made up the team's overall time. The course stretched around the back nine holes to the start line, then around the front nine to the finish line near the club house's back patio.

ish line near the club house's back patio.

"We have been doing four to nine-mile runs Tuesdays and Thursdays for a while to help build up our endurance," said Steve Shaw before the race. "The runs were challenging, but we should do well today because of them."

To make the course "Marine proof," the sports department marked the route with a white line so no Marine would get lost during the run.

At 8 a.m., all the runners lined up on the starting line by the first hole, muscles tense and ready to start the race.

After a false start and a good laugh due to a faulty horn, the runners took off.

Once around the first green the runners had spaced out enough where people could tell who the fastest and slowest groups would be. The gaps

See RACE, B4



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Runners sprint out of the starting line during the Commanding General's Intramural Cross-Country Race Wednesday at the Desert Winds Golf Course.

NCO Club offers networking, relaxation for Marines

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center has several unique elements that set it apart from other Marine Corps installations. One of these is that it is the only base or station with a club non-commissioned officers can call their own.

The Bloodstripes NCO Club here is the only NCO club left in the Marine Corps, said Dawn Boyd, an automated clerk and the acting manager of the Excursions Enlisted Club and NCO Club.

"This is the last NCO Club in the Marine Corps," said Boyd, a native of New Brunswick, N.J. "Why not make it history?"

Boyd said the club staff does their best to put suggestions given by Marines into

action through the NCO Club advisory board, which meets every month. The board makes decisions on changes in renovation, accommodations and other aspects of the facility.

"They just repainted it and made some other small changes," Boyd said. "We're working on getting more furniture in here, as well, so it'll be more appealing for the NCOs and encourage them to utilize their club."

Many Marines who spend their evenings at the club said they were unaware the building they socialized in was the last of its kind.

"I didn't even know this was the last one," said Sgt. Gino Tristan, a tank technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and native of Sugar Land, Texas. Tristan has served aboard the

Combat Center the better part of three years, but admits he only recently started spending time at the club.

"Knowing that this is the last one makes me want to keep it," he said.

Sgt. Paul Gallieo, a light armored vehicle technician with CLB-7, joined Tristan at a circular table covered with glasses and uneaten bites of free chilidogs, which are offered every week during Monday night football.

"Our first sergeant encourages us to come hang out here," said Gallieo, a native of Vindor, Texas. "He highly recommends that we support this place since it's our club. We encourage other [NCOs] to do the same."

Cpl. Nick Zamagni, an instructor trainer with the

See NCO, B4



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Matthew Tri (left), a mortarman with 7th Marine Regiment, and Cpl. Jordan Anderson, a data noncommissioned officer with 1st Marines, 12th Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, enjoy the Vikings/Packers game at the Combat Center's Bloodstripes NCO Club Monday.



Local Events

Joshua Tree Music Festival
Description: Music, artworks and starry nights
When: A three day event 6 p.m. till midnight on Friday, 11 a.m. till past midnight on Saturday and 11 a.m. till 8 p.m. on Sunday
Where: Joshua Tree Lake, five miles north of Twentynine Palms Highway on Sunfair, Joshua Tree
For more information call 877-327-6265 or visit <http://www.joshuatreemusicfestival.com>.

Horseshoes tournament
Description: This is a double elimination tournament
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday
Where: The Yucca Valley Community Center 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
For more information call 369-7211.

The Shadow Mountain Band, followed by Kingsizemaybe & The Neighborhood Bullies
When: First bands starts at 5 p.m., the second band starts at 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Pappy and Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>

Guitar Class
Description: Beginning classes. Ages 14 and over
When: 7 to 8 p.m., Tuesday
Where: Yucca Valley Community Center 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
For more information call 369-7211.

Twentynine Palms 72nd annual Pioneer Days
Description: A four-day festival, starting with a carnival opening on Thursday
When: 4 to 10 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15
3 to 10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16
6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18
Where: Most events are at Luckie Park
For more information call 367-3445 or visit <http://www.29chamber.com>

Willie Boy "The Last Posse"
Description: A play with a historical perspective introduction
When: 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16
Where: Twentynine Palms Junior High School 5798 Utah Trail, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-9183 or visit <http://www.29palmshistorical.com>

Lower Desert

Joe and Mustard Improv Comedy Shows
When: 7:30 p.m. on Friday , 7 p.m. on Sunday
Where: Dezart One Gallery 2688 S. Cherokee Way Palm Springs
To learn more, call the gallery at 328-1440, or Scott Brassart at 799-9030.

Art: Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass
Description: The works of the renaissance revisited
When: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12-8 p.m.
Where: Palm Springs Art Museum 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs
For more information, call 322-4800 or visit <http://www.psmuseum.org>.

Music: Alice Cooper
Description: The original "shock rocker"
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 9
6 p.m. – Post Grad, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Time Traveler's Wife, Rated PG-13
Midnight – District 9, Rate R

Saturday, Oct. 10
11 a.m. Free Matinee – Night at the Museum, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Shorts, Rated PG
6 p.m. – 500 Days of Summer, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Goods, Rated R
Midnight – Final Destination, Rated R

Sunday, Oct. 11
2 p.m. – Julie and Julia, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Inglorious Bastards, Rated R
9 p.m. – Gamer, Rated R

Monday, Oct. 12
2 p.m. – Shorts, PG
7 p.m. – Post Grad, PG-13
9 p.m. – District 9, Rated R

Tuesday, Oct. 13
7 p.m. – The Time Traveler's Wife, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, Oct. 14
7 p.m. – The Goods, Rated R

Thursday, Oct. 15
7 p.m. – The Final Destination, Rated R

Greed meets craziness in 'The Informant'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

The Informant!
Matt Damon and Scott Bakula
Rated R

A globetrotting executive with the Illinois-based food-processing giant Archer Daniel Midland, Mark Whitacre snitched about an international price-fixing conspiracy and ultimately took down the management of his company in the 1990s.

There's definitely Hollywood juice in this true tale of high-level corporate malfeasance (based on a well-researched book by "New York Times" reporter Kurt Eichenwald), especially as Whitacre's increasingly bizarre behavior leads the F.B.I. down a rabbit hole of lies, surprises and shocks—and the revelation that the whistle-blower was himself a crook with his hand deep, deep, deep in the corporate cookie jar.

Acclaimed director Stephen Soderbergh takes Eichenwald's book, adds a punchy exclamation mark to the title and drills away into the dark humor of a white-collar tattletale, his ever-widening web of deceit and a scrambled criminal mind with a couple of screws loose.

Matt Damon put on 30 pounds and a toupee to play Whitacre, whom Soderbergh depicts as a doughy corporate go-getter whose loony thoughts (which we hear as voiceovers) reveal a troubling detachment from reality. When his inner voice prattles on, about such banalities as neckties or



COURTESY PHOTO

Mark Whitacre, a corporate executive with some bona fide mental problems, is convincingly played by Matt Damon. He ends up leading the FBI down a rabbit hole of corruption, lies and surprises.

indoor swimming-pool steam, we chuckle...then come to realize that Whitacre has some bona fide mental problems. (A psychiatrist in the film suggests he's bipolar.)

Whitacre really gets into the cloak-and-dagger business of being an informant for the F.B.I., wearing a "wire" to record meetings and reporting to a couple of agents (Scott Bakula and Joel McHale from TV's "The Soup" and the new NBC series "Community") who sense they're onto something big. He sees himself living out scenes from a Tom Clancy spy novel or a James Bond movie, even calling himself "double-O fourteen" because he thinks he's twice as good as 007.

Movie composer Marvin Hamlisch provides the

soundtrack for the movie's spreading shades of crazy, punctuating the humor with jaunty, perky instrumental snippets that put a jovial spin on top of whatever we're seeing unfold onscreen (even when it doesn't otherwise seem funny).

Watch closely for appearances by Tom and Dick Smothers, suggesting a nod from the movie to the wicked, wacky wit of the brothers' groundbreaking '60s TV comedy series. Melanie Lynskey (Rose from TV's "Two and a Half Men") does a wonderful job as Whitacre's supportive wife, whose eventual

breakdown under the crushing weight of her husband's self-delusion finally helps bring closure to his cycle of lies.

But the movie belongs to Damon, who crawls inside his role and doesn't come up for air. He's not playing a hero, by any stretch, but you can't help but be fascinated by his portrayal of Whitacre, the highest-ranking whistle-blower in the history of corporate America. His story isn't exactly a barrel of laughs, but "The Informant" makes this true tale of craziness and corporate greed go down with a corrosive chuckle.



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Informant!" is a true story about the highest-ranking whistle-blower in the history of corporate America.


Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Showtimes Effective 10/9/09 - 10/15/09

Couples Retreat (PG13) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	Informant (R) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	Zombieland (R) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs (PG) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	Coming Oct. 16th Where The Wild Things Are Law Abiding Citizen	ADULTS \$8.00 SENIORS \$6.00 CHILDREN \$6.00 www.cinemaththeatre.com

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	5:45	6:00
		6:10
		7:00
15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
7:00	7:10	7:15
		7:50
		8:30
15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway 29 Palms Community Center
10:00	10:25	10:30
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)
12:00	12:10	12:15
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15
		*6:50
		*7:35


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

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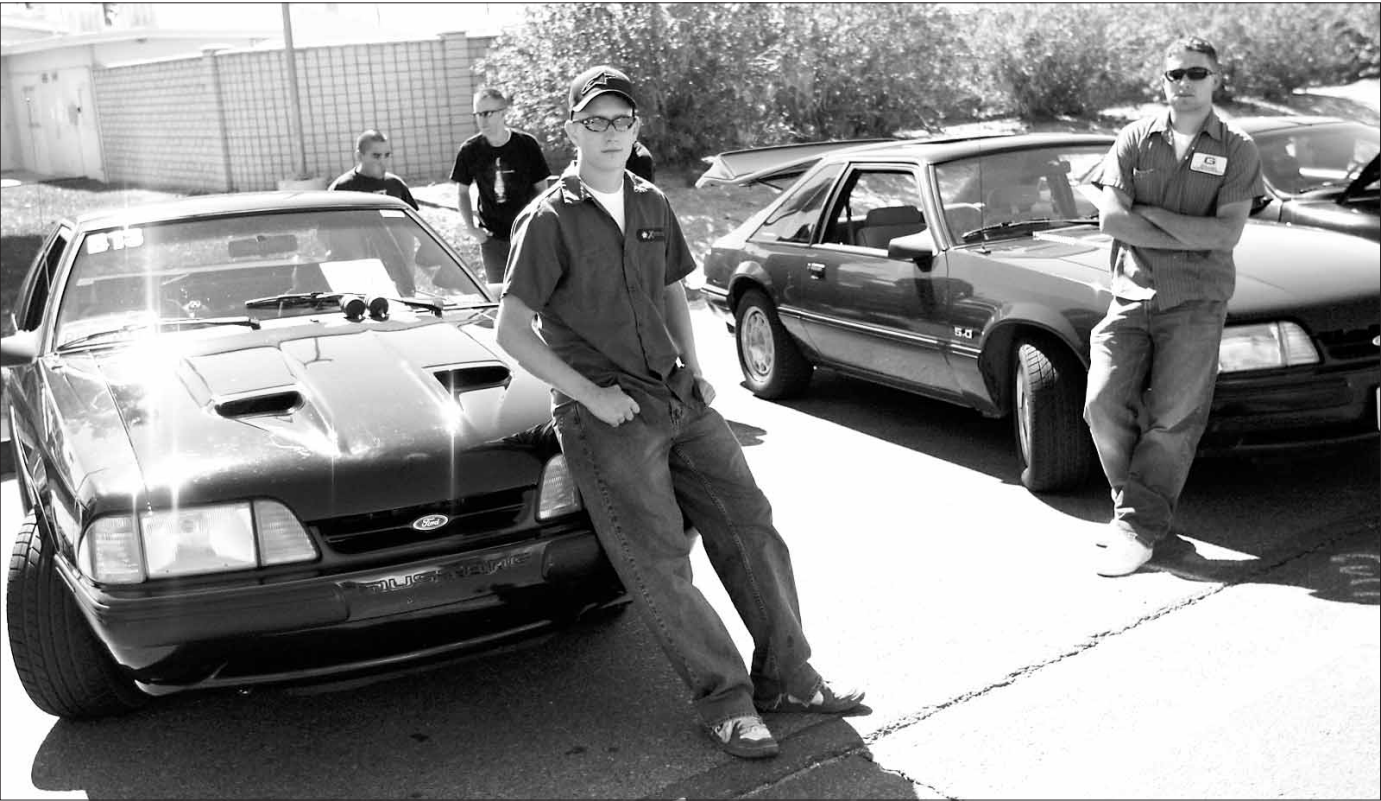
LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Andrew Scruggs, a wide receiver and corner back for CLB-7, returns a kick from MCCES during Wednesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Football League game at Felix Field at 6 p.m. MCCES, dominated CLB-7 28-0 and remains undefeated at 5-0.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

CLB-7 defenders bring down Jamarcus Thomas, the MCCES safety, during Wednesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Football League game at Felix Field at 6 p.m. MCCES, dominated CLB-7 28-0 and now has a 5-0 record.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lance Cpl. Donavon Leeder (left), a machinist with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and Lance Cpl. Blake Schnupp, a heavy equipment mechanic with CLB-7, show off their cars during the Car and Bike Show near Victory Field Saturday.

SHOW, from B1

between Bourke and Brown.

“This is something great to do besides sitting around the barracks all day,” said Lance Cpl. Blake Schnupp, a heavy equipment mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and a Houston native. “It’s also a good chance to see what type of competition I have on base.”

Conditions for stunts were perfect as the Metal Mulisha FMX stunt bike group burned rubber at 11:30 a.m. during their first of three stunt shows. They started with a few simple jumps and increased the crowd’s excitement with every take off. After a couple jumps, each started to do simple tricks like the Superman or using no hands. Gradually the tricks got harder until they were doing flips without touching the bikes and performing stunts with all three bikers in the air at the same time.

As the riders geared up for the second show, the wind started to blow. After performing a few jumps the winds were getting stronger. Soon after, the demonstration was cut short for safety reasons, but not before the riders gave the spectators some good entertainment.

After the second show, Brig. Gen. H. Stacey Clardy, the Combat Center’s commanding general, stood on top of the FMX bike ramp and thanked Metal Mulisha for coming out, performing the shows and signing autographs at no cost to the installation or those watching the show.

“The troops protect us and the country, so it is cool we get to show them our appreciation,” said Darick Garland, a rider for Metal Mulisha. “I’m glad we got to give them at least one good show and the

crowd enjoyed it.”

Clardy then announced the winners of the General’s Choice awards for the best car and bike in the show. Fred Welch won in the best bike category with his 1998 Harley Davidson XL1200. The General’s Choice car award went to David Van Dyke for his 1931 Ford AA Truck. Both winners received trophies and an Xbox 360.

After the second show, while signing autographs, Metal Mulisha riders offered service members who are thinking of pursuing this sport the similar advice. Take it slow. It is an awesome sport, but very dangerous at the same time, they said.

“No matter how slow you go, you will still break a few bones,” said Jimmy Fitzpatrick, a rider with Metal Mulisha.

As the event drew to a close, the cars and motorcycles hit the road. Spectators and members of Metal Mulisha said they were already looking forward to next year’s Car and Bike show at the Combat Center.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Darick Garland, Wes Agee and Jimmy Fitzpatrick, all riders with Metal Mulisha, wave to the cheering crowd after their first show during the Car and Bike Show in the Staff Judge Advocate’s parking lot Saturday.

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Athlete of the Week

Name: Lance Cpl. Russell Dixon
Hometown: Parshall, N.D.
Unit: 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force canine unit
Job title: Canine handler
Recognition: Fastest in cross country race
Major sport accomplishments: More than six track and cross country titles
Favorite aspect of the sport: “Competing with other people.”
Advice for aspiring players: “Start out easy and slow. Listen to what your body is telling you and don’t give up on yourself.”

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24th Annual Run and Walk, October 24, 7am

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RACE, from B1

increased and the race continued until the fastest runner finished at 33:28. The slowest team took just over an hour to complete the race.

"Mile five was the worst because you're tired and can't see the finish line," said Eric Lewis. "When you can see the finish line, it all gets better."

After the times for all the teams were added up, the participants gathered on the back patio of Duffers Retreat and Pro Shop to watch the awards

presentation.

The awards were presented by Schadegg starting with the fastest female runner, Justine Whipple, with a time of 40:07. Because Whipple was not present for the ceremony one of her teammates accepted the trophy on her behalf. Russell Dixon finished with a time of 33:19, making him the fastest runner of the race. Schadegg then presented the award for the second place team, MCAGCC Triathlon team, with Matt Sandlin 34:15, Erik Cortes 34:51, Don Tolbert: 37:05, Adam Bryand 38: 09,

Justine Whipple 40:07 and Thomas Tennison 42:20. With the back patio quietly waiting to find out which team won, Schadegg presented first place team, MCCES #1 with Daniel Haynes 34:05, Noe Pena 35:11, Joshua Mills 35:11, David Fulkerson 36:12, Andrew Washburn 39:05 and Kyle Neubecker 42:17, with the winners trophy.

More races are scheduled for Oct. 30, including the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Fun Run. For more information about the fun run call Don Tolbert at 830-5581.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Rogelio Medina, Floyd Clark and Vicente Sandoval run together during the Commanding General's Intramural Cross-Country Race Wednesday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines gather at the Combat Center's Bloodstripes NCO Club Monday to watch a football game, enjoy free food, and cut loose.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Emmanuel Velasquez, a tank mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, serves himself a chilidog during a televised football game at the Combat Center's Bloodstripes NCO club Monday. Free food is offered to Marines and sailors Sundays and Mondays during the football season.

NCO, from B1

Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, said he spends a couple hours at the club each night, especially during sporting events.

"I come here every day since it's local and within walking distance," said the Milford, Mass., native. "I like the atmosphere - you can just get in [civilian attire] and hang out. It's cheap and it's easy to hang out with other NCOs, and not have to worry about rank. Besides, the food is free."

Aside from offering free "finger food" on football Sundays and Mondays, the club also offers food for special events on Wednesdays and Fridays, Boyd said.

These events include Warrior's Night, previously called Troop Appreciation Night, which grants NCOs a chance to bring their junior Marines in, and Boss's Night, which allows NCOs an opportunity to mingle with their senior leaders at the club in a group setting.

The club hosted its most recent Warrior's Night Wednesday. The next Boss's night is scheduled to take place Oct. 26 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Boyd said she encourages all NCOs to give the club's advisory board suggestions of what they would like to see in their club.

"We can't know exactly what they want unless they give those ideas to us," she said.

To learn more about NCO Club events, call 830-6608. Monday.

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