

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MARCH 5, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 9



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Maj. David Lee Jones, the Combat Center's new provost marshal, plans to focus on community friendly policing.

There's a new sheriff in town

JENNIE HASKAMP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Combat Center has a new provost marshal, and we decided the best way to find out who he is, where he's from and what he has planned for the military police officers here was to ask him.

Maj. David Lee Jones, who was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1998 after spending four years as an enlisted sailor, took the time to answer the questions we thought you'd like to know.

PAO: Where are you from? Are you married? Did your family come to Twentynine Palms with you?

DLJ: My wife Susan and I are both from Nashville, Tenn., and she and my sons, Zachary, 10 and Dutch, 8, all moved out here with me.

PAO: Were they excited when they found out you had orders to Twentynine Palms? What was your first impression? What do they think now that they're here?

DLJ: She loves to move around, loves new places, and within a week of receiving the orders she'd found a position at the Naval Hospital. As my wife says, "as long as we're together, and our essential needs are met, we could be in hell and we'd be happy." *The temperatures here reach triple digits; it's a dry heat.*

PAO: Where did you go to school and what did you study?

DLJ: I graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1998 with a degree in criminal justice. I met my wife while she attended Vanderbilt University – I know where the smart girls are.

Jones' last duty station was Marine Corps Air Station New River, N. C. That tour was cut short when he was selected to train with 2nd Marine Logistics Group and subsequently deploy for a year. It was a week after this deployment (the first half spent as the provost marshal and the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection officer at Camp Taqaddum until he was asked to serve as the advisor to the governor and chief of police of Al Anbar Province) he was asked if he would accept orders to be the provost marshal of Twentynine Palms. He quickly accepted and a few weeks later the family moved west.

PAO: What is one of your pet peeves?

DLJ: I strongly believe the MPs at the gate and the staff at the Visitors Center are the first impression for the entire Combat Center. I hope to improve the facilities and processing efficiency in both locations to ensure people enjoy the best commute possible and have a positive experience while using our services.

PAO: Is there anything about the Combat Center's law enforcement you're going to change, and how?

DLJ: I plan on implementing community friendly policing. *What is that?* I'm going to teach my officers, both military and civilian; they need to be nice until it hurts. You'll know when it's time to use force to enforce the law but leave the sarcasm at home. Treat people with respect – it's cliché, but we're here to protect AND serve.

I plan on continuing to develop a competent, well trained police force. I want the MCAGCC Provost Marshal's Office to be viewed as the premier police department in the Marine Corps. I believe we can achieve that through addressing internal affairs. *IA?* I want to promote a healthy, blended internal force of Marines and civilian officers moving in the direction of meeting and surpassing the Marine Corps standard for law enforcement.

Also new to the law enforcement leadership team is the deputy provost marshal, Mr. Frank Atkins. Frank, Maj. Jones explained, has "wasta" as they say in Iraq where the two served together. Contributing to that is 22 years spent in civilian law enforcement, three tours to Iraq as a law enforcement advisor and, let's not leave out the fact Mr. Atkins walked among the ranks of Marines with sergeant chevrons on his collar. Jones said "Frank brings a lot to the fight."

With their arrival we're looking forward to changes here at the Combat Center and you should too – things like community policing programs and quarterly town hall meetings for residents to interact with law enforcement leadership.

The moral of this story, as Jones says, is to do the right things for the right reasons.

Afghanistan-bound Marines use assets to engage IEDs



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN CRILLY

The "Buffalo," a category three Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, uses its modified arm to uncover an improvised explosive device threat during a night route clearance patrol Feb. 24. The Buffalo has a "V" shaped monohull chassis designed to direct the force of blasts away from the occupants while conducting ordnance disposal missions.

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN CRILLY

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat engineers and a company of attached tankers with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion wrapped up a week-long mission rehearsal exercise here Sunday.

The self-sustained exercise marked the first battalion-level field exercise since the unit was reactivated in 2009, and the final stages of

training for their upcoming deployment this spring.

"The MRX enables the Marines of 3d CEB to train to and be evaluated on their core engineer functions of mobility, counter mobility and survivability in support of the MAGTF," said 1st Lt. Craig A. Zoellner, the adjutant for 3rd CEB.

The training was focused to support two main tasks, Route Reconnaissance and Clearance [R2C] and mechanized breach-

ing operations. In theatre these tasks will be essential to ensure the freedom of movement for friendly forces within an area of operation.

One enabler utilized in the R2C mission are dogs. The dogs, which began their service during World War II, possess a keen sense of smell which enables Marines to safely search for and locate IEDs in both larger and more complex areas in a shorter amount of time.

The dogs are used to detect the device by literally using their noses to hunt down the IEDs, explained 2nd Lt. Marcelo Garcia, 3rd CEB's counter-IED officer, and a native of Severna Park, Md.

"Having dogs internal to CEB helps the mission a lot because the dogs can smell small things we may have missed or where [Husky Towing, Mine Detection

See IEDs, A8

Marines help save child's life

SGT. MONIQUE WALLACE

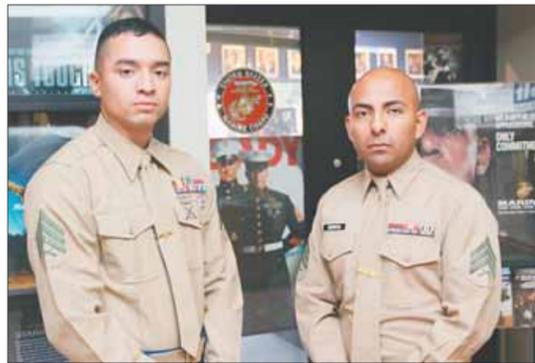
12TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT

LOS ANGELES – Two Marines currently assigned to Recruiting Station Los Angeles rushed to the aid of an 11-month-old child Feb. 23.

Sgts. Raphie Mercado, a 24-year-old native of Harbor City, Calif., and Natividad Herrera Jr., a 28-year-old native of Dallas, exited the Permanent Contact Station

in East Los Angeles where they both work after seeing a frantic couple outside of their window.

"An SUV pulled up outside our window and a woman jumped out and pulled open the backdoor and then a man jumped out," Herrera, a canvassing recruiter, recalled. "I didn't know if the guy was trying to take the baby, so we went outside to see what was going on and the lady started yelling to us for help."



SGT. MONIQUE WALLACE

Sergeants Raphie Mercado (left) and Natividad Herrera Jr., both currently assigned to Recruiting Station Los Angeles as recruiter assistants, helped a family and their 11-month-old son Feb. 23 when they realized the child wasn't breathing, and acted instinctively to aid in the child's recovery.

"They were both hysterical and then the mom said 'se esta ahogando'" explained Mercado, an artillery section chief with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who is temporarily attached to RS Los Angeles as a recruiter assistant. "Ahogando means drowning, but I understood what she meant. She just kept screaming he's drowning and he's going to die right here."

Acting instinctively, Mercado began helping the child while Herrera dialed 9-1-1 and calmed the parents.

"I grabbed the baby and then swept the airway," Mercado said. "I felt something, so I did it again and he threw up a bunch of mucus and the parents started to really calm down."

"At first the baby was turning purple, but after he threw up, he started to gain his color back," Herrera added.

Shortly after the child began breathing, paramedics arrived to take over.

"When we arrived, the baby was in good condition," said Capt. Frank Cornejo of Fire Station 2C, Los Angeles Fire Department. "The baby

See LIFE, A3

MARSOC seeks effective, intelligent warriors

GUNNERY SGT. SERGIO JIMENEZ

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

The Marine Corps Special Operations Command Recruiting Team came to town knowing they had a tough job ahead of them. Mainly, how to convince a group of physically-fit, problem-solving, brilliant-at-the-basics warriors who've been there, done that, and have the T-shirt to prove it, there just may be one more challenge worth taking, one more title worth earning.

Gunnery Sgt. Joshua A. Chmielewski, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of the West Coast recruiting team from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., was not subtle when addressing a group of nearly 500 Marines and sailors from all military occupational specialties during two orientation briefs in the 4th Tank Battalion classroom here Tuesday. With a heavy

See MARSOC, A7



Making leaders ~ See A3



USC goes USMC ~ See A5



Diff'rent brush strokes ~ See B1



Not in my house! ~ See B3

Tax Tips

Five important facts about your unemployment benefits IRS TAX TIP 2010, #29

Taxpayers who received unemployment benefits in 2009 are entitled to a special tax break when they file their 2009 federal tax returns. This tax break is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Here are five important facts the Internal Revenue Service wants you to know about your unemployment benefits.

1. Unemployment compensation generally includes any amounts received under the unemployment compensation laws of the United States or of a specific state. It includes state unemployment insurance benefits, railroad unemployment compensation benefits and benefits paid to you by a state or the District of Columbia from the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund. It does not include worker's compensation.
2. Normally, unemployment benefits are taxable; however, under the Recovery Act, every person who receives unemployment benefits during 2009 is eligible to exclude the first \$2,400 of these benefits when they file their federal tax return.
3. For a married couple, if each spouse received unemployment compensation then each is eligible to exclude the first \$2,400 of benefits.
4. You should receive a Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments, which shows the total unemployment compensation paid to you in 2009 in box 1.
5. You must subtract \$2,400 from the amount in box 1 of Form 1099-G to figure how much of your unemployment compensation is taxable and must be reported on your federal tax return. Do not enter less than zero.

For more information, visit IRS.gov/recovery.

Centerspeak

Do you have a budget and a financial goal to go with it?

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



LANCE CPL. MIKE KLOSTERMAN
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“Yes, I am saving money for college, a house and living expenses.”



CPL. CLIFTON STOKES
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.

“Yes, I am saving my deployment money for when I get out to find a place to live.”



STAFF SGT. MICHAEL BOCK
3RD COMBAT ENGINEERING BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.

“Yes, saving up for a down payment on a house and starting a college fund for my kid.”

Hot Topics

GATE TIMES CHANGE

Due to ongoing road construction near the Combat Center's Main Gate, Ocotillo and Condor gates will open one hour early. The new gate hours are 4:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. These adjusted hours will remain in effect until construction is completed. Weekend hours are still 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

MEN'S VARSITY SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

The Men's Varsity Softball Team is currently holding tryouts Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Felix Field for all active duty males aboard the Combat Center. For more information, call 830-4092 or 830-6857.

YOUNG MARINES NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Mojave Vipers, the Combat Center's Young Marines detachment, is looking for a few good volunteers. There is no military experience required to become a registered volunteer. For more information or to volunteer, call 830-3650 or 830-6520, or log on to <http://www.29palmsyoungmarines.webs.com>

HI DESERT PONY LEAGUE

The Hi Desert Pony League signups for baseball and softball are currently underway at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. Evaluations will be held March 6 at Luckie Park. Call 910-546-6475 or 901-787-2175, or log on to <http://www.pony29palms.com> for more information.

Marine Corps History

March 6, 1932

John Philip Sousa, the composer of Semper Fidelis, dies at age 79 in Reading, Pa.



Eagle Eyes

Report any suspicious activity immediately which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

1. Surveillance
2. Suspicious questioning
3. Tests of security
4. Acquiring supplies
5. Suspicious persons
6. Trial runs
7. Deploying assets

830-3937



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

SUDOKU #1739

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4				1	6	7			

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT



School Liaison Information

Question: How will I know if my child is ready for kindergarten?

Answer: Gauge your child's skill level – here are some of the more important things to consider:

- a) How is your child's self esteem?
- b) Does your child show an interest in making friends or does he/she seem overly anxious about separation from you?
- c) Can you child choose an activity and stick with it for short periods of time?
- d) Does your child enjoy books? Can he/she sit and listen to a story without interruption?
- e) Can your child manage his/her bathroom needs?

The most important thing to remember is you are the expert! You know your own children and their needs best!

For more information, please contact smbplmsmccsschooliaison@usmc.mil or call 830-1574.

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Ann Denslow
Hometown: Portland, Mich.
Unit: Naval Hospital Supply Division.
Job title: Supervisor for Supply Division.
What do you like most about your job? “The opportunity to talk to all the different people whether they are military, civilian or contractors.”
Significant achievements: Nominated last quarter as Senior Civilian of the Quarter and Senior Civilian of the Year for 2009.
Hobbies: Embroidery, volunteer at the national park, reading and camping.
Time at Combat Center: 22 years

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

[puzzle Solutions on A5]

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ACROSS

1. Diamond thefts
6. Commuters' towns, for short
11. Gentle ___ lamb
14. Dance partner for Fred
15. Dizzying display
16. Taker of vows
17. Friars Club host
19. Oater "Scram!"
20. Ritz homes
21. Piece of legislation
23. "I'm game!"
25. Combined, in a way
26. Short sock
30. Sylvester's would-be prey
33. Got on the ump
34. Fern leaf
35. Shale extract
38. Place for a stud
39. Sang the blues
40. Charlie of commercials
41. ___ out (barely make)
42. Meat and potatoes, e.g
43. Molds and mildews
44. Goren's game
46. Hang around
47. Record holder before Bonds
49. Source of roe
51. Airport porters
54. Do business
59. Glass of public radio
60. Hotel lobby's locale, often
62. Put on
63. ___ up (spoil)
64. Meriting a 10
65. Oscope user, for short
66. Op-ed piece, e.g
67. "My bad!"

DOWN

1. Without a stitch
2. Hubbubs
3. Trousers part
4. Super model Benitez
5. Avoided court
6. Blowhard's words
7. DHL competitor
8. Hamelin victims
9. One of the baseball Boones
10. Attacked from the air
11. Knickers-clad AC/DC guitarist
12. High-end hotel option
13. Fed the kitty
18. Partner of greet
22. King discovered by Howard Carter
24. Big steps
26. Fit for duty
27. Place for a dinette
28. NBA star signed at age 17
29. Jeans brand
31. Sad sack's list
32. Draw the curtain on
34. Tadpole, eventually
36. "Picnic" playwright
37. Place of refuge
39. New England catch
40. Winery cask
42. Get by trickery
43. "Semper ___" (Marines motto)
45. Fabulous flier
46. "Dragnet" force, for short
47. "All kidding ___"
48. Ohio rubber center
50. Food that doesn't easily spoil
52. "Aye" voters
53. ___-chef (kitchen #2)
55. Give a fresh look to
56. State firmly
57. Mad dash
58. ___ May Clampett
61. World Baseball Classic team

OBSERVATION POST

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Instructors and students of Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Corporals Leadership Course perform pushups during combat conditioning Feb. 19.

CLB-7 trains new leaders at Corporals Course

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN
CRILLY**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Corporals Leadership Course graduated at the Protestant Chapel Feb. 26. The graduation of Class 11-10 marked the conclusion of the first iteration of the new course, which began Feb. 8.

"CLB-7 has many newly promoted corporals, and we do not receive many quotas to send them to Camp Pendleton's course," said Gunnery Sgt. Steven F. Bilderein, the chief instructor for the course. "So the battalion decided to establish a corporals course which would not only develop young corporals, but also strengthen the battalion's noncommissioned officer core."

The course began with 40

corporals representing more than 15 military occupational specialties within the battalion and lasted for 14 training days.

Throughout the training cycle, the students gained insight on key facets of their grade and responsibilities to be prepared to take on future leadership challenges during the course, including combat conditioning, classroom instruction, practical application, student outlines, and personal examples and experiences given by the instructors.

"The material used in the course is standardized throughout the Marine Corps through the Enlisted Professional Military Education branch," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael A. Prince, the staff NCO in charge for the course.

In June, the Training and Education Command released the materials for command-sponsored corporals courses,

gearing them toward small-unit combat leadership rather than Marine Corps traditions.

"From what I have heard and seen, this new curriculum for corporals course is a lot more combat related than the old one," said Cpl. Juan P. Moronta, a squad leader in the course, and native of Salt Lake City. "Today we had improvised explosive device classes, and will be going through unit tactics, techniques and procedures, which is definitely important since we are a logistics battalion and encounter a lot of those things when we conduct convoys in country."

According to the TECOM curriculum, the CLC is designed to emphasize to newly promoted corporals that promotion to their new rank not only identifies them as small-unit leaders within their commands, but as leaders of Marines. This intent does not only apply to the newly promoted corporals, but also the corporals who have held the rank for more than a year.

"I have been a corporal for almost two years and there's things that I just don't know, things that I was never taught which they teach you in corporals course," said Cpl. Deryk R. Elder, a fire team leader in the course, and a native of Holly Springs, N.C. "Things like sword manual and the expectations Marines have of corporals have always been brought up but never been taught to me before now."

CLC is defined by TECOM as a professional military education program for corporals, which places emphasis on basic leadership skills.

"Leadership starts at the NCO, corporal, level," said Prince, a native of Cedar City, Utah. "To deny corporals the opportunity to attend a PME because of a lack of time, lack of room at another course or operational commitments are not excuses for getting Marines trained."

"As for the mission of CLB-7, this course will enhance the small-unit leadership that is sometimes lacking at the lower levels in a unit," Prince added.

To more effectively demonstrate leadership to the students, the course was taught by the SNCOs of CLB-7 who have lead small-units and volunteered their time away from their work sections to help develop our young NCOs, said Staff Sgt. Peter A. Cruz, the company gunnery sergeant for the course.

"The most important thing students should take from this course is confi-

dence in themselves and the moral courage to carry our long standing traditions of leadership," added Cruz, a native of Chicago.

The skills and knowledge corporals gain from the course is not only important to their success in and outside of the Marine Corps, but also to CLB-7 and the Marine Corps as a whole.

"The success and future of the Marine Corps relies on

this generation of Marines," said Bilderein, a native of Fontana, Calif.

Prince said the frequency of the CLB-7 corporals course has not yet been determined, but Bilderein hopes it takes place at least twice a year.

For units which would like to start their own Corporals Leadership Course, the course material can be obtained at <https://www.intranet.tecom.usmc.mil/sites/epme/corporals/default.aspx>, a Common Access Card-enabled Web site, and checked quarterly for course updates. Units' sergeants major or senior enlisted leaders should contact Gunnery Sgt. Christopher O. Gold, the Enlisted Professional Military Education branch corporals course coordinator, at 432-5290 to obtain testing materials and graduation certificates.

Active Duty Fund Drive aims to surpass last year's goal

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The month of March kicks off the annual Active Duty Fund Drive to help raise money for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

To get word to all the Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center, briefs will be held for each individual unit throughout the month to inform them about the drive and the mission of NMCRS.

"We want everyone to understand how the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society works," said Maj. Jessica Acosta, the Combat Center's Active Duty Fund Drive coordinator. "The Society can only help as much as is given in donations."

Ray Caldwell, the installation's NMCRS director, said they had a few goals they wanted to reach by the end of the drive.

"We want to have 100 percent contact with the active duty members on base," said Caldwell, a Xena, Ohio native. "We want to educate the active duty Marines and sailors about the Society and we want to reach or surpass the donations we received last year."

The Combat Center's NMCRS received \$238,526 last year during the Fund Drive, but donated \$1,625,580 to service members and eligible family members through loans and grants.

"Without the donations, the Society would not be able to sustain itself and would have to shut down within four years," Caldwell said. "One hundred percent of all donations we receive will be turned around and given back to the Marines and sailors."

Michele Cutrer, the Combat Center's NMCRS chair of volunteers, said every

donation, no matter how small, will help the society reach its goal.

"We take the small bit of money and put it into a large pot," said Cutrer, a Houston native. "That money in the pot accumulates, which then can provide large assistance to the Marines and sailors."

Acosta, a Tehachapi, Calif., native, said it was interesting to look back and see how the organization has helped the Marine Corps and Navy, and how it has evolved with the military to continue to help the service members.

"It is a great, worthy organization that has not only been there in the past, but continues to be there in the future," she said.

For more information, call your unit representative or the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society at 830-6323, or visit the NMCRS Web site at <http://www.NMCRS.org>.

2009 Twentynine Palms NMCRS stats

3,131 clients seen.
4,237 cases worked.
345 non-financial cases.
276 denied cases.
1,530 cases regarding transportation.
485 cases regarding family and medical emergencies.
\$1.6 million given to service members through loans and grants
\$238,526 donated to NMCRS during Fund Drive



Corporals practice sword manual during the practical application portion of Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Corporals Leadership Course at the Protestant Chapel Feb. 12. The course included garrison training, such as sword and guidon manual, but also taught the students to be leaders while deployed or in field environments.

LIFE, from A1

had been choking on its own saliva, but when we arrived the baby had color and was in pretty good condition. We just took the vitals and transported them."

According to the Marines, the parents were unsure of what to do once they realized their son wasn't breathing. Mercado credits the knowledge he used to the Combat Lifesavers Course.

"My Combat Lifesavers skills kicked in right away," Mercado said. "I've done the course about six times so it's branded into me. The Marine Corps needs to continue to stress that course because you never know when you'll use it."

Both Herrera and Mercado insist they weren't out to become heroes, they were just doing the right thing.

"That's a scary situation to be in if you're the parents," Herrera said. "I'm just glad we could help."

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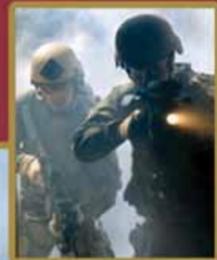
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Mountain Warfare Training Center dedicates classroom to fallen Marine

GUNNERY SGT. SERGIO JIMENEZ

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – A very special Marine is gone but not forgotten. This was the message Marines and sailors made clear to his family and friends at the dedication ceremony of the Sgt. Phillip A. Bocks Mountain Leaders Classroom at the multi-purpose building here Tuesday.

Bocks, a 28-year-old former Mountain Leaders Course instructor stationed here, was killed during combat operations Nov. 9, 2007. His platoon was hit with direct fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from multiple positions during an enemy ambush while returning from a meeting with village elders in Afghanistan's Nuristan Province, according to the official casualty report.

A Michigan native and Truckee, NV, resident, Bocks moved with his family to Nevada when he was in the seventh grade. He attended Truckee schools until the 11th grade, then returned to Michigan where he graduated high school.

Long-time friend and neighbor, Gary R. Schroeder, knew Bocks for 17 years. He said he remembers Bocks as both the young boy who was looking for direction in life and as the man who later found it in the Corps. The transformation was evident, said Schroeder. "He took to the Marine Corps like a water dog to the river. The Marine Corps was very good for him."

Just how good is evident by the plaque that now hangs over the doorway of the room where Bocks spent so much time, first as a student, then as an instructor.

It reads: "As a Mountain Leader, Pack Master, and Embedded Training Team Advisor, Sgt. Bocks epitomized the ethos and dedication of a Mountain Warrior."

Bocks' journey to MWTC began when he enlisted in the Marine Corps May 9, 2000. That same year, he graduated from basic training at Marine



GUNNERY SGT. SERGIO JIMENEZ

Sgt. Maj. Douglas E. Power, the sergeant major of Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., (left), Col. Norman L. Cooling, the commanding officer of MWTC, Marines and family members observe a moment of prayer at the dedication ceremony of the Sgt. Phillip A. Bocks Mountain Leaders Classroom at MWTC's multi-purpose building Feb. 22.

Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He then reported to the School of Infantry East at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he graduated and became a Marine Corps rifleman. He later served with Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where he deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch from Sept. 1, 2001 to Feb. 3, 2002. Sgt. Bocks then deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from May 5 to Aug. 15, 2003, according to his service record book.

He arrived at MWTC in 2004, where he completed the Summer Mountain Leaders Course and the Winter Mountain Leaders Course, before becoming a Mountain Leader and an instructor.

"I just think the classroom dedication is such an honor," said Kent A. Bocks, his father, after the ceremony. "In coming here to the Mountain Warfare Training Center, he fell into the most perfect situation a Marine could ever want to have. He loved it here. He loved the outdoors. He was a hiker, he was a skier and loved everything to do with snow," said Mr. Bocks. "He loved animals. He loved dogs, cats, and was just wonderful with them."

So it was no surprise to Mr.

Bocks when his son volunteered to train to become a "Mule Pack Master," who teaches Marine Corps units alternative methods for transporting crew served weapons, ammunition, supplies and wounded personnel to and from rugged and inaccessible areas using mules.

"All the things he could ever want in life, he had here. He was as happy as I've ever seen him. The friends that he had here were just the best friends a young man could ever ask for."

But it wasn't perfect. Friends said Bocks yearned to return to Afghanistan to practice what he was teaching and make a difference in the war.

This was the type of Marine Bocks was, said Gunnery Sgt. Charles M. Evers, a good friend from 3rd Platoon, Company B, Anti-terrorism Battalion, Reno, Nev.

"It's a well-deserved recognition that couldn't bear a better name. I know he loved this place and I know he loved what he did up here," said Evers, who first met Bocks when Evers was as an instructor and he was a student at the Summer Mountain Leaders Course in 2004. "After he became an instructor, we became good friends and worked and played together for about a year and a half."

Evers remembers Bocks as a Marine who always had a

smile on his face and never let anything get him down. "He was a clown, a good clown, and someone who was always there for you no matter what. He was a good man, just a good dude all-around."

In a solemn speech outside Bocks' classroom, Col. Norm Cooling, commanding officer of MWTC, expressed the gratitude Marines and the nation feel for Bocks' service.

"The ultimate sacrifice, in my mind, quite honestly, was not made by Sgt. Bocks. It's made by you, his family members and those who knew, worked with and remember him," said Cooling. "You will always have that piece missing in your lives...his service, his love for you."

Cooling told family members and those present what most Marines believe: Bocks is now serving in a better place. Then he paraphrased the closing stanza from the Marine's Hymn, "If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes; They will find the streets are guarded By United States Marines."

In his short life, Sgt. Bocks contributed more to his fellow man, fellow comrades-at-arms, and to the units he served in, said Cooling. "He touched more people in more ways than many of us could in a lifetime," he said. "The evidence of that is why we are all here today."

Combat Center holds two financial seminars for base personnel

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center ended Marine Corps Savings Week with two seminars from Peter Bielagus, the Young America's financial coach, at the Protestant Chapel Monday.

The purpose of Savings Week is to help military personnel and their families get out of debt and financially on track.

Bielagus, a Boston native, began his seminar with his number one piece of advice: "Start before you need to start." Bielagus, along with other savings experts and Web sites like <http://www.saveandinvest.org>, all suggest

keeping a "rainy day fund" for emergency financial situations.

"Aim for at least one month [preferably three to six months] of your current salary in an insured savings account," according to saveandinvest.org. They suggest a bank or credit union savings account that provides some return on a deposit, where funds can be withdrawn at any time without penalty.

After talking about the "rainy day funds" Bielagus spent most of the seminar talking about credit scores.

"Your credit score is your adult grade in life,"

See SEMINAR, A7



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Peter Bielagus, the Young America's financial coach, answers budget and credit management questions from Cpl. Tomas Ponczoch, a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, after a seminar at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Monday. The seminar taught listeners the importance of their credit scores and how it affects their lives.

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Sergeants Course hosts USC business students, teaches them leadership skills

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As a bus full of students from the University of Southern California rolled through the Combat Center's front gate, a Marine jumped aboard and quickly took charge, yelling at the students to put their heads down, not speak, or even make eye contact as the Marshall School of Business Leadership Challenge began Feb. 26.

The installation's Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy opened its doors to more than 40 USC business students who volunteered to participate in a unique two-day leadership experience no classroom could provide, said Aren Nazarians, a Masters of Business Administration student at USC, and member of the Marshall Military Veteran's Association. The MMVA is comprised of MBA students who have previously served in the armed forces.

"We came and went through this last year," said Nazarians, a Glendale, Calif., native. "It went really well last year, but this year it has gone above and beyond our expectations. The Marines have done an amazing job."

Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Suter, the deputy director of the Combat Center's Sergeants Course, said they gave the students a taste of "boot camp" when they first arrived to shock them out of their comfort zones and force them to



Nathan Montgomery, a University of Southern California student, low crawls underneath rope during the final event of the Marshall School of Business Leadership Challenge at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School obstacle course Feb. 26-27.

work together as a team.

The students' first opportunity to show leadership and teamwork skills came when they had to make their own beds before going to sleep. After they sat through a 'rack-making class,' they were given two sheets, a blanket, a pillow and three minutes to make their beds exactly as they were shown - with faculty advisors yelling and getting in the way.

When the advisors saw the students not working together, or making their beds wrong, they pulled all the sheets to the floor and made them restart. It took the students more than 45 minutes

to complete the basic task.

The next morning, the students woke early to begin their leadership challenge. As the faculty advisors tried to get account for the students, they asked for four volunteers. The four students who showed initiative and jumped up first were designated as squad leaders and put in charge of the other students.

They were taken to the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer at the Combat Center's Marksmanship Training Unit and taught how to shoot a wide variety of weapons in the Corps' arsenal.

While one squad fired, the other squads received classes on equal opportunity, ethical decision making, mentors in violence prevention, and the importance of leadership throughout the Marine Corps.

Although the students still showed respect by standing when speaking and providing a 'sir' or 'ma'am' after they spoke, the atmosphere became more relaxed than the night before, and they were able to ask the Marines questions about their jobs and military life in general.

"I'm glad to be one of the few people to get this experience and see what the Marine Corps is all about," said Ted Evans, a USC student who participated in the challenge. "There is absolutely no possible way I would be able to do this for a living. This is hard-

core stuff, but it really makes me proud to have these guys defending this country."

The students' final challenge encompassed physical fitness, mental fortitude and leadership - running the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School obstacle course. After running the course, the students were given four metal poles, three tires, strings and rope, and a barrel filled with sand. Without rolling the heavy barrel or letting it touch the ground, the students had to find a way to move it one mile to another obstacle course.

First squad quickly took the lead, creating a stretcher with the poles and string. With 2nd and 3rd squads quickly closing in, 1st Squad pushed through

their fatigue and pain and crossed the finish line first. With pinched bleeding fingers, and one busted lip ignored, the

faculty advisors pushed the squad to maneuver through the final obstacle course.

"I have been on retreats where we had to work as a team, but it has never been with a 500-pound barrel," said Evans, a Los Angeles native. "What we just accomplished was teamwork to the max. If even one of us had given up, all of us would have failed."

Suter, a Hutchinson, Kan., native, agreed with Evans, saying the students did exceptionally well by working together and applying what they learned.

"Their true colors showed when they completed the task," Suter said. "They were extremely motivated as they moved toward accomplishing their mission."

Suter said the students left the Combat Center knowing they achieved the leadership skills they were looking for, and hopes they will apply what they have learned to further the future of America.



Robert Kalutkiewicz, a University of Southern California student, helps a squad member, Jessica Runnels, over a wooden log while racing against other USC students.



Franky Handra (left) and Farid "Fred" Aframain, University of Southern California students participating in the Marshall School of Business Leadership Challenge, help carry sand filled barrels as part of a team building exercise.

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B	A	S	E	S	B	U	R	B	S	A	S	A
A	D	E	L	E	O	P	A	R	T	N	U	N
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8	6	1	2	3	7	5	9	4
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7	9	3	5	4	1	6	8	2
3	2	7	4	6	9	8	1	5
1	8	6	7	2	5	9	4	3
9	5	4	1	8	3	2	6	7
2	7	9	8	5	4	1	3	6
6	1	8	3	7	2	4	5	9
4	3	5	9	1	6	7	2	8

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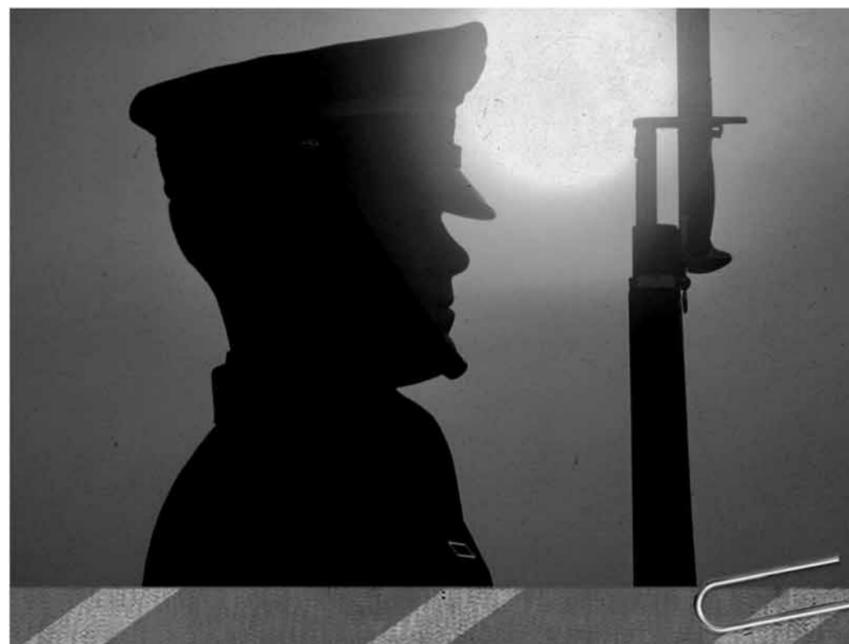
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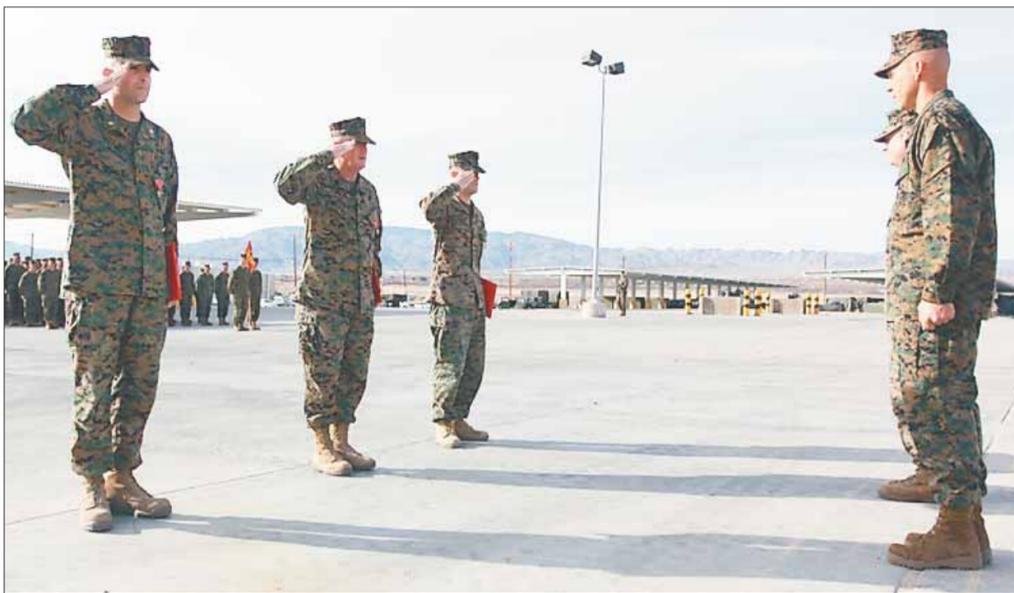
Artillery Marines prove their 'medal'

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE**
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Maj. Christopher B. McArthur, the operations officer for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and Master Gunnery Sgt. David M. Jacobs, the battalion's operations chief, were awarded the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony at the battalion's gun park Monday.

"I am honored and deeply humbled to be able to present the Bronze Star to both Master Gunnery Sgt. Jacobs and Maj. McArthur in recognition of their exceptional performance while the battalion deployed and fought in Helmand Province, Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Eduardo A. Abisellan, the battalion's commanding officer. "Their dedication, professionalism and unyielding commitment to their Marines and the mission enabled the battalion to perform its primary artillery mission in a very austere and hostile environment – the first artillery battalion to do so in Afghanistan."

McArthur, a Phoenix native, was awarded the medal for his actions as the battalion's operations and logistics officer from April to November.



Marines with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, salute Sgt. Maj. Maximino Torres III, the battalion's sergeant major, and Lt. Col. Eduardo A. Abisellan, the commanding officer of the battalion, after receiving their awards during a morning colors ceremony at the battalion's gun ramp Monday.

"His technical and tactical insight ensured the battalion was able to provide timely and effective artillery fire to support infantry units as well as be able to conduct independent operations within the battalion's own battle space," Abisellan said.

Jacobs received his medal for his superior performance as the battalion's motor transportation chief throughout the deployment.

"Master Gunnery Sgt. Jacobs' actions enabled the battalion to maintain its rolling stock in a high state of operational readiness," said Abisellan, a Miami native. "His experience and courage enabled the battalion to quickly assist and recover vehicles that would frequently strike improvised explosive devices."

Jacobs, a native of Massillon, Ohio, said the deployment made a lasting impression on him.

"I have never worked with a more professional group of Marines in my last 25 years in the Marines," Jacobs said. "They were not just trained well and motivated, they were truly up and ready for any task that was handed them. It will always be the most remarkable deployment I have done."

McArthur said the award truly belongs to his Marines.

"It is nice to be recognized for the work I did for the battalion, but the award really reflects the work of the Marines in the logistics and operations shops, and the work the

Marines in the battalion as a whole did while deployed," he said. "No unit success rests on the work of just one Marine, and I think this award is more about the team than anything I did."

Jacobs agreed with McArthur.

"I had the best [motor transportation] Marines I have ever seen," he said. "They were the ones that really deserved the award, and I will never get that fact or them."

McArthur said his Marines' motivation made his job easy.

"The unit was extremely excited and proud to be the first Marine artillery battalion to deploy to Afghanistan in its traditional role," he said. "The battalion was the first unit across the [line of departure] during Operation Khanjari, fired the most Excalibur rounds of any Marine artillery unit and conducted the first combat [helicopter] lift of the M777 howitzer."

"More than that, they demonstrated the versatility of an artillery unit and what an immense asset they are to the [Regimental Combat Team]," he added. "The battalion repaired bridges and roads, built multiple firebases, conducted key leader engagements, trained and partnered with Afghan forces, helped secure a key main supply route, provided motor transport support to almost every unit in the RCT, and earned the trust and friendship of the locals. For me, it is how much the battalion did with limited resources and time that shows me they still are the king of battle."



Lt. Col. Eduardo A. Abisellan, the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, congratulates Master Gunnery Sgt. David M. Jacobs, the battalion's operations chief, during a ceremony at the unit's gun ramp Monday.



Maj. Christopher B. McArthur, the operations officer for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, stands before Sgt. Maj. Maximino Torres III, the battalion's sergeant major, during a ceremony at the battalion's gun ramp Monday.

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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Peter Bielagus, the Young America's financial coach, and Sandra Little, the Marine Corps Community Services financial specialist, tell Combat Center personnel of all the resources available to them during a seminar at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Monday.

MARSOC, from A1

metal-laced video montage presentation of Marines training and operating in harsh environments, he seemed to ask, "Do you have what it takes?"

Capt. Thomas J. Burgett, the officer in charge of the West Coast MARSOC recruiting team, said his team travels to installations across the west coast screening and assessing applicants to help fill MARSOC's ranks.

MARSOC operates as small, self-sustained, specialized 12 to 14-man units and take part in direct and indirect military actions focused on strategic or operational objectives. The force structure is composed of a headquarters element, a Marine Special Operations Regiment, a Marine Special Operations School and a Marine Special Operations Support Group. The regiment has three battalions, a training cell and a detachment, and each battalion has four companies, each composed of four training teams.

The MSO School has a training battalion composed of an individual training course and advanced course and education, language, and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape training components. The MSO Support Group is composed of a headquarters company, intelligence battalion and a support company, according to <http://www.marsoc.usmc.mil>.

Officially, MARSOC is the

Corps' first foray into the SOCOM community, but Chmielewski, an Allentown, Pa. native, notes Marines have conducted special ops throughout their history. Chmielewski points to 2nd Lt. Presley O'Bannon's raid on Tripoli during the Barbary Pirates War in 1805. Another example is Edson's Raiders, an elite, light infantry Marine Corps unit known to be the first United States Special Operations Forces, that conducted amphibious raids behind enemy lines during World War II.

Today, MARSOC is the newest and smallest kid on the block. The 2,618 Marines, sailors, and civilians make up just five percent of the total SOCOM force, which includes Army, Air Force and Navy special warfare forces. Despite this, MARSOC conducted 19 percent of the special ops combat missions around the world last year, Burgett said.

Modern MARSOC missions still include traditional ones, like kicking down doors and taking out bad guys in small-scale direct action missions, or conducting special reconnaissance and surveillance operations in hostile, denied, or politically-sensitive environments.

"We're not a one-trick pony folks. We do more than cordon operations. We do more than seize and search, a lot more than that," Chmielewski said during his brief. MARSOC prevents, deters, and responds to terrorism, and assists allied

nations to defeat insurgencies and stabilize countries.

One of MARSOC's most important missions is Foreign Internal Defense. "This is SOCOM's bread and butter," Chmielewski said. MARSOC helps organize, train, advise and assist partner nation forces to help free and protect their societies from subversion, lawlessness, and prevent insurgencies, he said. "Makes sense right? Prevent the fight from ever happening, right?"

Burgett, a Tucson, Ariz., native, said these specialized missions require not necessarily the best, but the "right" type of Marine. MARSOC needs applicants who not only possess many leadership traits, but also demonstrate effective intelligence and a mental agility to solve complex problems under stress. Since MARSOC often operates in austere and remote environments and comes in contact with people of different cultures; adaptability, determination, physical ability, interpersonal skills, and

SEMINAR, from A4

said Sandra Little, the Marine Corps Community Services financial specialist here. Banks and car dealerships check credit scores before a loan can be approved, and some employers will check before they hire a potential employee.

Bielagus gave his audience five simple ways to increase their credit scores and keep them up: fix mistakes on report, pay off credit card debt, establish a payment history, stop applying for credit cards and do not cancel old credit cards.

working well in a team, are also key.

Cpl. Joshua S. Mouridian, radio operator with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, said he thinks he has what it takes to be a MARSOC Marine. Mouridian, a Black River Falls, Wis., native, said he loves his job and being a Marine. Being able to do his job in the high-speed pace of the special operation forces is what attracts and motivates him to join MARSOC.

Chmielewski and Burgett said their visits are providing Marines like Mouridian with more career opportunities, highlighting the benefits of MARSOC and dispelling false rumors and misperceptions. There is one in particular he makes a point in addressing, Chmielewski makes it very clear that individual leaders and units cannot disqualify a Marine from MARSOC. "Only MARSOC can disqualify a Marine."

Marines asked if an assignment to MARSOC will negatively affect their promotion and retention in the Marine

Both Little and Bielagus suggest people check their credit reports at least once a year for errors which could harm their credit. They also said in order to have a rainy day fund and good credit, people need to have a good budget.

"First write down three lists: a list of what you want, what you don't want and what you are doing right now," said Bielagus.

The reason most people's budgets don't work is because they write it in 'La La Land' which means not using all the right facts or forgetting to add the little

things such as buying a newspaper, cup of coffee and snack foods, said the financial coach.

"In closing, think about this - when you are about to buy something, are you buying it for you or so that other people will see that you have it?" he said. It could mean instead of driving down the street with a Ferrari, an economical car may be more logical.

For more information on money management or help with your financial situation, contact Sandra Little at 830-7342 or e-mail her at sandra.little@usmc.mil.

Corps. The clear answer is no. On the contrary, the training and experience Marines get in MARSOC will make them highly competitive for promotion and retention. Others have asked if MARSOC is open only to infantry or combat arms MOSs. Again, the answer is no. Assessment and selection to MARSOC is open to all MOSs, especially data Marines, he said. "You are coveted individuals right now," he told a communications Marine.

The assessment and selection process is held every year in April, May and September. Although the selection process and follow-on training are tough to complete,

they are not impossible, Chmielewski said. The first step is to contact a recruiter to learn the requirements and to start the process. Those who complete the training will join a unique group of people and become members of a tight-knit family few choose to leave.

Chmielewski said the team plans to visit the Combat Center every month to give their brief and help applicants complete their packages. To learn more about what it takes to be a MARSOC operator, contact the MSO School at 910-450-3349/3123 (DSN-750-3349/3123) or visit them online at <http://www.marsoc.usmc.mil/recruiting>.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I thoroughly enjoy writing this column each week. I not only express my views on many topics but as I travel around our High Desert I meet wonderful people and get to introduce you to them via this column.

For better than 15 months now, thanks to the good people of Hi-Desert Publishing, I have had the opportunity to also earn money for my non-profit projects. Everything seems to be going well. I get good feedback. The people I write about are pleased, and I anticipate continuing to share my thoughts and experiences with you as the weeks go by.

I am especially grateful to the good people of Hi-Desert Publishing, including publisher Cindy Melland, sales representative Wendy Jones, graphics manager Ben Kane, and two wonderful editors Stacy Moore and Kurt Schappner. (How fortunate we all are to have them both.)

Among the fine people I will be introducing you to in coming weeks are my long time friends Gene and Leslie Rotstein of Cactus Mart in Morongo Valley, my new friend, and a great guy Dr. Harry Hart, who has just opened a dental practice in Yucca Valley, the delightful Susan King and her little dog Maddy, Margarita Brown of Brown's Music and Janet Wilkenson of MacKenzie's Gifts.

I am 84 years old and I am enjoying each and every day in our High Desert. Why? Because I know deep in my heart that all is really well and all things work together to serve the purpose of the Creator.

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The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.

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 830-6213.

IEDs, from A1

Vehicle and Mounted Detection Systems] can't get to," said Lance Cpl. Chad M. Specht, a dog handler and machine gunner with 2nd Platoon, Company A, 3rd CEB, and a native of Cheyenne, Wyo. "Having the dogs makes us more effective in route clearance."

In addition to handling the dogs, the route clearance patrols ensure surveillance and security for the roads, Garcia said.

"Route clearance is important in our Afghanistan mission because we are the lead element to allow follow on forces to reach their objective; we provide road security so logistics trains can get from point A to point B," said 1st Lt. David A. Sierleja, 2nd Platoon's commander. "We have to be able to detect the presence of IEDs and be able to neutralize those IEDs while eliminating all enemy threats located around the routes we are going to clear."

The Mentor, Ohio native, went on to explain the engineers did that by employing the Huskies to detect the threat, then using a category three Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle with a modified arm, dubbed a "Buffalo," to interrogate the threat. Once a threat has been determined to be an IED, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams embedded with the battalion neutralize and exploit it.

"The idea of route clearance has been around and isn't new to CEB, but at this level with this many pla-

toons working exclusively and independently to clear routes, it's a whole new mission for us," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert D. Ogle, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Plt., Co. A, 3rd CEB, and a native of Sevierville, Tenn.

First Tank Battalion reinforced 3rd CEB with tank crewmen and mechanics in order to establish an Assault Breacher Vehicle platoon.

ABVs are a modified version of the M1-A1 Main Battle Tank, which carry and launch two line charges. Each linear charge contains 1,750 pounds of Composite Four explosives attached to a rocket used to breach proof and mark complex obstacles, said 2nd Lt. Matt D. Humiston, the platoon commander for ABV platoon, 3rd CEB, and a native of Kennedale, Texas.

"The ABV is comprised of two separate fields, the bottom is tank specific and the upper part is engineer specific," said Staff Sgt. Shawn M. Hicks, the ABV section leader. "It's important for us to work together because the engineers are teaching tankers how to operate the line charge and breach, while we are teaching them how to tactically employ and maintain tracked vehicles."

"Being a part of this MRX is also important because the battalion needs to learn how to support track vehicles before we get into country," added the Kingsman, Ariz., native.

"We have different tools to tackle and sort out any IED related



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN CRILLY

Assault breacher vehicles wait to conduct a breaching operation during the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion's mission rehearsal exercise Feb. 26. ABVs are a modified version of the M1-A1 Main Battle Tank which carries and launches two line charges. Each charge tub contains 1,750 pounds of Composite Four explosives attached to a rocket.

problem that the enemy throws at us," Garcia concluded.

The MRX also allowed battalion staff to control units effectively and exercised the support staff of those units, whether it be in the same training area or as if we were in country, said 1st Lt. Sergio L.

Sandoval, the 3rd CEB assistant operations officer.

"The operation allows for interoperability between all of the engineer, EOD and tanker assets in the battalion," said Sandoval, a native of Pico Rivera, Calif. "Which is how they will be used in country."

With the operability gained, the knowledge learned and the implementation of the skills taught, 3rd CEB will be better able to conduct safe and successful route clearance when they deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



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B1



Lily Stockman, a local artist and wife of 1st Lt. Pete Brooks, a special projects officer for the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, operations section, will display her art at the Red Arrow Gallery in Joshua Tree Saturday at 6:30 p.m.



Stockman only uses oil-based paint when creating her art.

Strokes of success

'First Team' wife to premier at Red Arrow art gallery

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. – Too often Marine spouses move to the Hi-Desert and fail to ever see the hidden opportunities scattered throughout the local communities. For artist Lily Stockman, that wasn't the case.

Stockman, the wife of 1st Lt. Pete Brooks, a special projects officer for the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, operations section, will present seven oil paintings at the Red Arrow Gallery in Joshua Tree Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

The premier is part of the "From There, From Here" art series the gallery is hosting throughout the summer. The series highlights artists from the local communities as well as artists from abroad. Kay Tuttle, a Denver artist, will serve as Stockman's counterpart during the second installment of the five-part series.

Katie Shaw, the Red Arrow Gallery's curator, said she and Stockman met by chance.

"Lily and I met in the gallery right when she moved to the area, said Shaw, a native of Columbus, Ohio. "We started talking, and then I saw her Web site and really was impressed by her work.

"I'm really excited for Lily. She has a lot of big

pieces that will fit nicely in the gallery," she added.

Stockman, 27, grew up on a farm in Princeton, N.J., and said her past strongly influences her work. Each of the seven paintings premiering at the Red Arrow represents an endangered species of livestock like the Cotton Patch Goose and the Randall Lineback Cow.

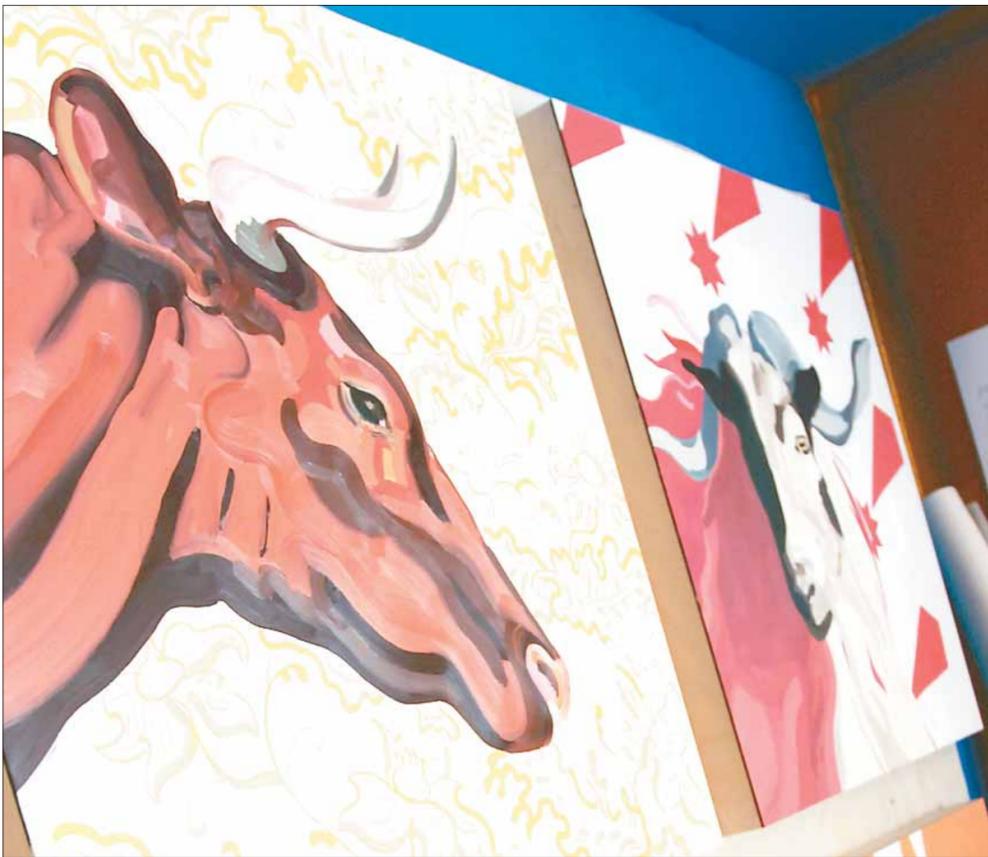
"There's nothing particularly hip about farm animals, but they're such a part of my childhood I keep finding myself painting them more than I paint people," she said. "I've also done a lot of homesteads since I've been out here, and recently had a show in [Bakersfield, Calif.]."

In 2004, Stockman traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where she spent five months studying thangka paintings – silk paintings with embroidery which usually depict a Buddhist deity or famous scene of some sort.

Stockman graduated Harvard University's Visual and Environmental Studies department with a summa cum laude thesis in painting in 2006. While at Harvard, she also had the opportunity to meet and study under several practicing contemporary artists like Maureen Gallace, George Condo and Sue Williams.

After graduating Harvard, Stockman returned to

See ART, B4



Stockman grew up on a farm in Princeton, N.J., and said her past strongly influences her work. Each of the seven paintings Stockman will premier at the Red Arrow represent an endangered species of livestock like the Cotton Patch Goose and the Randall Lineback Cow.

Single Marine Program hosts third annual Mardi Gras party

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

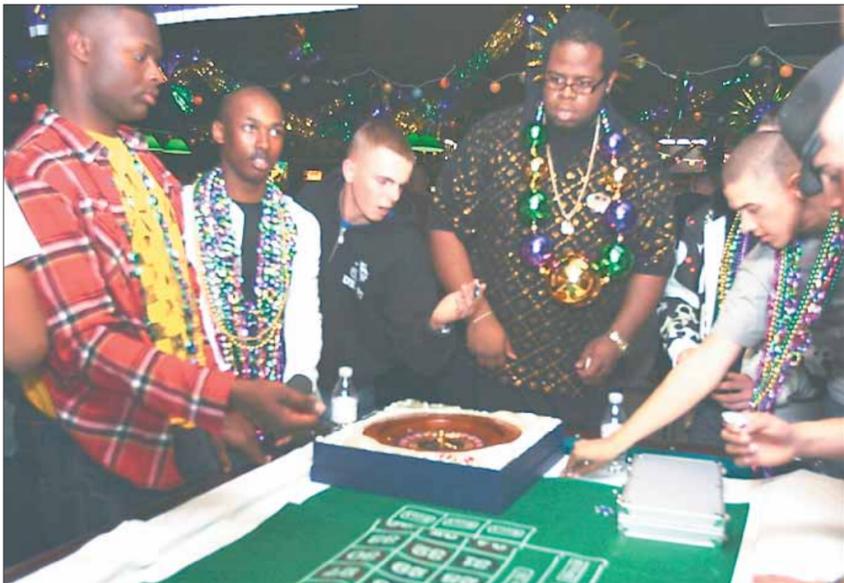
The Single Marine Program hosted its third annual Mardi Gras Party Saturday at The Zone from 7-10 p.m. with

free food, games and prizes.

The games included roulette, Texas Hold'em, dice, black jack and a cake walk, where the players stand on numbers, and if their number is called they receive a free cake.

The event was a big hit, and more than 500 Marines attended throughout the night, said LaVonnie Lessard, the Single Marine Program coordinator. "This event was

See PARTY, B2



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Players gather around the roulette wheel for their chance to win beads during the Mardi Gras party at The Zone Saturday. At the end of the night, participants turned in their beads to be counted for a chance to win prizes.

Commanding general accepts Youth Sports National Excellence Award



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Joe Rosselli, the manager for Youth and Community Recreation, presents Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's recreation general, with a National Excellence Award for the installation's Youth Program at the Combat Center's Community Center Feb. 25. Mitch Albom, a writer and singer, presented the award to Youth Sports in December during the National Alliance for Youth Sports conference in Orlando, Fla. This was the first time the Combat Center has submitted for the award since the program started in 1999, and was the first Marine Corps installation to receive it. "We serve more than 1,600 children with 26 different sports," said Rosselli, a Shenandoah, Pa., native. "It is an honor the base has been given this award."



Liberty Call

Local Events

"The King Of Surf Guitar" Dick Dale

Description: Featuring "Forever Came Calling"
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday

"Whispering Pines"

Description: Featuring "Forever Came Calling"
When: 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Theatre: last chance for "The Purr-joined Parlor"

Description: A comedy by local playwright Wendy Cohen
When: 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2:30 p.m., Sundays
Where: Groves Cabin Theatre
8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
For reservations and information call 365-4523 or visit
<http://www.grovescabintheatre.org>.

Steve Lester's Songwriting, Poetry, and Rhythm Club

Description: Open mic night where musicians and artists get together
When: 7 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays
Where: Rattlesnake Jake's
51572 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
For more information call 363-6513 or visit
<http://www.rattlesnakejakessite.com>.

Lower Desert

The Comedy of Sinbad

Description: The comedian performs stand up
When: 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Boxing: Vic Darchinyan vs Rodrigo Guerrero

Description: Super flyweight championship
When: 3:30 p.m., Saturday
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

The Comedy of Martin Short

Description: TV and movie comic performs stand up
When: 9 p.m., Friday, March 12
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Paul Anka

Description: The pop icon performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 13
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Chicago

Description: Rock ballad legends perform their hits
When: 8 p.m., Friday, March 26
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Melissa Etheridge in Concert

Description: American rock legend performs
When: 8 p.m., Thursday, April 1
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, March 5

6 p.m. – The Spy Next Door, Rated PG
9 p.m. – The Book of Eli, Rated R
Midnight – Legion, Rated R

Saturday, March 6

11 a.m. – Where the Wild Things Are, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Tooth Fairy, Rated PG
6 p.m. – When in Rome, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Up in the Air, Rated R
Midnight – Youth in Revolt, Rated R

Sunday, March 7

2 p.m. – The Spy Next Door, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Edge of Darkness, Rated R
9 p.m. – Legion, Rated R

Monday, March 8

6 p.m. – The Book of Eli, Rated R
9 p.m. – Daybreakers, Rated R

Tuesday, March 9

6 p.m. – The Lovely Bones, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Youth in Revolt, Rated R

Wednesday, March 10

6 p.m. – When in Rome, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Up in the Air, Rated R

Thursday, March 11

6 p.m. – Tooth Fairy, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Leap Year, Rated PG

Sugary 'Valentine's Day' a romantic treat

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

Valentine's Day

Rated PG-13

Like a box of assorted Valentine's chocolates, this movie has something for just about everyone to nibble on.

A diverse, wide-ranging ensemble cast brings heart and humor to this tale of characters whose lives converge in various ways one eventful Valentine's Day in Los Angeles.

Ashton Kutcher and Jennifer Garner get most of the attention, but they're surrounded by dozens of familiar faces and moving through various cross-pollinated plot-lines. Jamie Foxx plays a love-jaded sportscaster sent out for a fluffy man-on-the-street assignment by his brassy producer boss (Kathy Bates). Anne Hathaway comically juggles a moonstruck suitor (Topher Grace) and a moonlighting, make-ends-meet role-playing gig as a phone-sex operator. As a workaholic sports agent and a harried publicist, Queen Latifah and Jessica Biel swing into action when a hunky football superstar (Eric Dane) drops a bombshell.

Country singer Taylor Swift and "Twilight" star Taylor Lautner, romantically linked for a while in real life, play a doozy high-school couple. Shirley MacLaine and Hector Elizondo are lovebird grandparents dealing with an unexpected anniversary crisis. Julia Roberts is a U.S. Army captain on 24-hour leave to visit someone very special. You'll



COURTESY PHOTO

Jennifer Garner and Ashton Kutcher get most of the attention, but are surrounded by several couples whose lives converge on Valentine's Day.

enjoy seeing Patrick Dempsey's double-timing doctor, juggling a wife and a girlfriend, finally get his romantic comeuppance.

Julia Roberts' younger sister, Emma, plays a teenager whose carefully laid plans for lovemaking suffer a hilarious setback before taking a chaste, love-can-wait turn. A precocious grade-schooler (Bryce Robison) plots to let the object of his classroom affection know how he feels. George Lopez is a florist who loves to fish, and Bradley Cooper's charming businessman gets a surprising "reveal" at the end of the movie.

There are several surprises, in fact, that occur as the characters overlap and interact, and watching them spring at just the right moment on screen is one of the movie's charms.

Award-winning director Garry Marshall certainly

knows how to juggle heart-strings and ha-ha's. You've seen his craftwork before with "Pretty Woman," "Runaway Bride," "Beaches," "The Princess Diaries" and TV's "Happy Days," "Mork and Mindy" and "Laverne and Shirley." Here he shifts constantly between the many characters and keeps things moving at a brisk pace, final-

ly bringing the story's numerous loose ends together in a big, schmaltzy roundup of feel-good sentimentality about the power of love--and the importance of having someone to share it with.

It's a lightweight, sugar-coated trifle of a truffle, to be sure. But hey, who doesn't love a little bit of something sweet on Valentine's Day?



COURTESY PHOTO

Country singer Taylor Swift (right) is romantically linked with "Twilight" star Taylor Lautner's character.

PARTY, from B1

a great way for the Marines to get out of the barracks and relieve some stress without having to spend any money."

The winners for each game received small sets of beads to be used for prizes. When patrons received 20 small beads, they could trade them in for large beads. However, Lessard said beads and prizes were not the only hot items of the night.

"The cake walk was our most popular game; the Marines stampeded to the numbers for the cakes," she said.

The game has players walk in a circle with numbers on the floor and when they are told to stop they stop on one of the numbers. Then a random player selects a number from a box and that player standing on the number gets to pick one free cake from the table.

"The cake walk is a good game but I like Texas Hold'em more," said Pfc. David Barber, a Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School student. "I have my eye on the [Playstation 3]."

At the end of the night the Marines and sailors turned in their beads to be counted. The first place winner took home a 20-inch television set with a DVD player and a Playstation 3. Other prizes included an Xbox 360, cooler, computer speakers and a Nerf gun.

"This is a good event because it keeps us out of trouble," said Seth Hunt, a Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School student and native of Mt. Gilead, Ohio. Hunt said the SMP staff picked great games.

For more information on upcoming SMP events, log onto <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Participants play black jack against one another at the Mardi Gras party hosted at The Zone Saturday. The winners of each game received a small set of beads, which could be exchanged for prizes at the end of the night.

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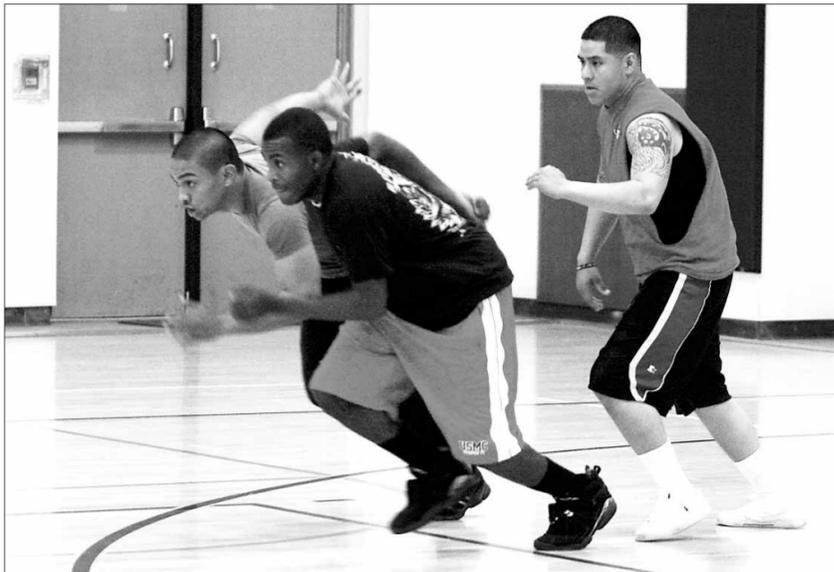
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Combat Center Sports



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Team Plaza Sesamo dashes toward the center line at the start of their game during the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League Tuesday at the East Gym.

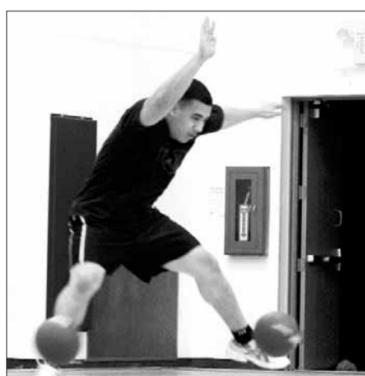


LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Elijah Gonzales, a player for Scrubbs, winds up to throw a ball at the opposing team during an intramural dodgeball match at the East Gym and Fitness Center Tuesday.

Intramural Dodgeball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Red Dot	9	3
Hospital	9	3
Bad Karma	9	3
Cranial Crashers	8	4
Jive Turkeys	7	5
Scrubbs	6	6
Sitting Ducks	5	7
Plaza Sesamo	4	8
Worst	3	9
Lollygaggers	0	12



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Tony Godinez, a player for Scrubbs, tries to avoid being hit during a dodgeball match Tuesday.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Justin Brach, a player with 3rd CEB, tries to knock the ball away from his opponent during a Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League game against the MCCES All-Stars Wednesday night at the East Gym.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

A player with MCCES B, drives to the basket during a Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League game against 3/4 at the East Gym Wednesday.

2010 Intramural Basketball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
MCCES All-Stars	7	0
Tatitlek	6	0
3rd CEB	7	1
Ole School	5	1
1st Tanks	4	2
MCCES A	4	2
IPAC	3	2
CLB-7	3	3
MWSS-374	2	3
NHTP	2	4
MCCES B	2	4
3/4	2	6
VMU-1	1	7
CLD	0	13



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Christopher Wilson, with the MCCES All-Stars, throws up a shot at the East Gym Wednesday.

East Gym hosts Two Ball Tournament

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's East Gym and Fitness Center hosted its fifth annual Two Ball Shooting Tournament Feb. 25 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. for all personnel on the



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Joe Barraza, a competitor in the fifth annual Two Ball Shooting Tournament, shoots for five points during the tournament.

Combat Center.

More than 15 teams of two players from both Men's and Women's divisions competed, all hoping to take the top spot. There were trophies for first and second place, and a complementary prize for third.

Randy Husted, a Marine Corps Community Services Sports coordinator, said the tournaments were double elimination, meaning players took turns shooting within one minute. The players had seven shooting locations to choose from, each spot was worth different point values. If the players took a shot from every shooting position, they received 10 bonus points. If they made a basket from all the positions, they received an additional 15 points.

The Men's Division started the night, playing 15 fast paced games. All of the teams cycled quickly through each position and qualified for the 10 bonus points. They played until it was down to David Carter and David Pruet vs. James Stanley and Edward Copeland.

"This is a fun activity for us to do instead of sitting in our rooms," said Collins Johnson, who participated in the tournament.

After the Men's Division finished the Women's Division wasted no time and powered through their matches until it was down to Jeanette Hogan and Tracy

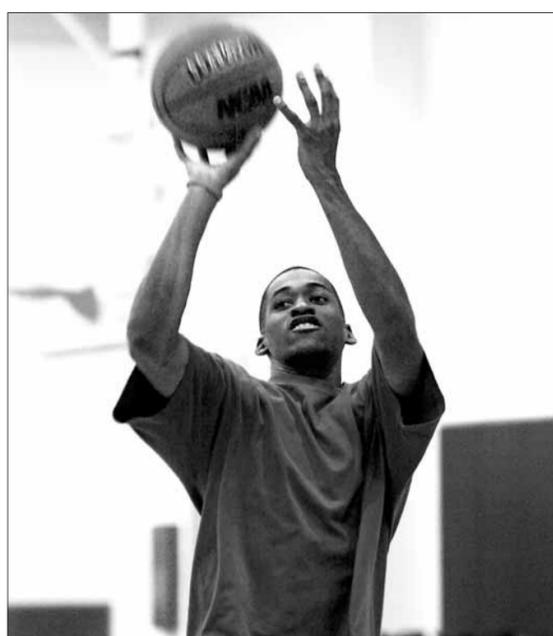
Campese vs. Daphne Leonard and Cendra Shorty.

The finals were the most heated games of the night with all the teams scoring high and making every second count. They ended with Jeanette Hogan and Tracy Campese winning for the Women's and David

Carter and David Pruet for the Men's.

There are already plans for a sixth Two Ball Shooting Tournament next year around the same time, Husted said.

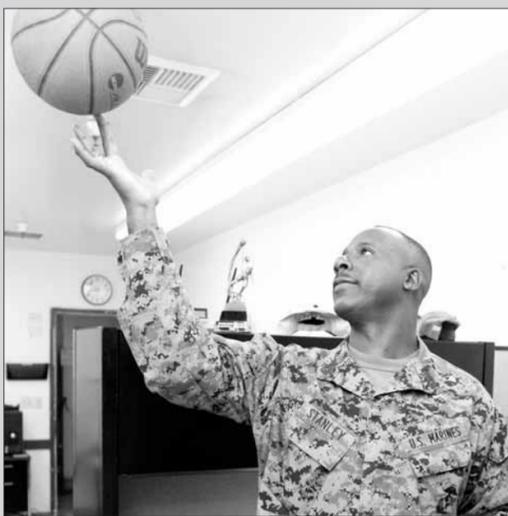
For more information contact the Sports Department at 830-4092.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Debo Garrett, a competitor in the fifth annual Two Ball Shooting Tournament, shoots for five points during the tournament at the East Gym and Fitness Center Feb. 25. The Men's Division had 15 teams participate, with David Carter and David Pruet taking home the top prize.

Athlete of the Week



Name: James Stanley
Hometown: Dublin, Ga.
Unit: Headquarters Battalion
Job title: Engineer equipment chief
Recognition: Second place in Two Ball Tournament.

Favorite aspect of the sport: "The cardio and camaraderie with the team."
Advice for aspiring players: "Set your goals high and try to achieve them."

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CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Lily Stockman, a local artist and wife of 1st Lt. Pete Brooks, a special projects officer for the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, operations section, mixes colors which she refers to as her "alchemy" at her studio in Joshua Tree Tuesday.

ART, from B1

Mongolia and received a grant from the National Geographic Expeditions Council to mount a cross-country horse trek documenting nomadic steppe culture. The expedition turned out to be a "total bust" and involved traveling hundreds of miles with dysentery.

Despite the expedition's shortcomings, Stockman was able to land a job with ABC News in New York City, where she worked for two years before moving to Joshua Tree.

"I started as a lowly minion on the overnight desk with no human rights whatsoever," said Stockman about her early days at ABC. "All of my summer jobs had always been in journalism, but I was totally unqualified when I started working for them. Most of

the people that worked there went through rigorous journalism programs, and I kind of had street smarts and real-life skills that helped. Over time I kind of rose up through the ranks and ended up working as a junior producer on pieces."

After marrying Brooks, Stockman put her career in journalism on hold and made her journey to the Combat Center and the Hi-Desert.

"I didn't know anyone when I first got here, then Pete deployed," Stockman said. "I decided to stay here because the art community was so welcoming. There's so much more to this place than meets the eye."

Brooks said he was unsure how his newlywed would react to moving away from the Big Apple.

"I thought it would be an ordeal to convince her to join me here, but having a hospitable, creative local community made the task far easier," said Brooks, a native of Weston, Mass. "As luck would have it, the New York Times had several arts and travel articles on Joshua Tree and the arts community as a whole right around the time we moved out here, so that helped to convince her."

Brooks also said he admires his wife's fervor for the arts.

"Lily has a passion for her work in a way that few others do," Brooks said. "She is devoted to the craft of oil painting and all that it entails; the mixing of colors - "alchemy" as she calls it - the preparation of the medium, and the final presentation, all indicative of her extensive training in the Renaissance tradition."

"But more importantly, her work reflects an intellectual depth that inspires me. She delves into the subjects of her work with a zeal that is genuine and robust."

For more information about Stockman and her paintings, visit <http://www.lilystockman.com>.



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