



Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, former Combat Center Commanding General, transfers command to Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, during a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Thursday. Berger will go on to assume command of I Marine Expeditionary Force.

All hands welcome new Combat Center Commanding General

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez

All hands aboard the Combat Center gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field to witness a historic moment in Combat Center history as Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, former Combat Center Commanding General, formally relinquished his command to Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, in a change of command ceremony, Thursday.

Distinguished guests from outside of the Combat Center's gates were in attendance, including general officers and sergeants major from other Marine Corps installations, as well as retirees that are affiliated with the Combat Center.

Unit commanders from Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, and Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group lead their Marines in the formation and pass and review. The 1st Marine Division Band provided ceremonial music.

Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center sergeant major, brought forth the colors to Berger, who then passed them, and the authority of the installation they represent, to Craparotta.

Berger extended gratitude to the civilian employees aboard the base, the retiree community, supporting organizations throughout the area, and the Marines and sailors currently serving.

"There are many organizations at the top and bottom of the hill that take us into their homes on Thanksgiving, and take care of our families when we need it, and they don't ask for anything in return," Berger said. "They really support us in what we do, year-round. I'm thankful."

Under Berger's leadership, which began Jan. 11, 2013, the Combat Center was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award for the fifth consecutive time in a row, a distinction unmatched by any other United States military installation.

"All of my peers helped shape the way that I lead," Berger said. "I'm grateful for all of your continued bearing."

Berger has been nominated by President Obama for appointment to lieutenant general and command of I Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Craparotta's previous assignment was as Director of Operations, U.S. Northern Command.

"For me, it's clear," Craparotta said. "I have to carry

All of my peers helped shape the way that I lead. I'm grateful for all of your continued bearing.

- Maj. Gen. David H. Berger

See **COMMANDING GENERAL**, page A7

Marines featured in soccer game

Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
 Combat Correspondent

CARSON, Calif. – Approximately 40 Combat Center Marines started their Fourth of July weekend by attending a Los Angeles Galaxy and Portland Timbers soccer game at the Stubhub Center in Carson, Calif., July 4.

The trip was made possible by the Combat Center's Single Marine Program, which sponsors monthly trips throughout Southern California for the benefit of service members seeking recreation.

"We have certain partnerships with different organizations," said Lovetta Scipio, program coordinator, SMP. "They love to find ways to provide for the military."

A convoy of three vehicles rolled out to make the drive to the Los Angeles area, with the Marines anticipating their appearance at the

It felt good to be appreciated by the people here.

- Pfc. Daewon Min

soccer game.

"We were able to fill up three buses of Marines with 40 tickets," Scipio said. "We just had to provide transportation."

The Marines were invited to don their dress blue bravo uniforms, or civilian attire featuring Marine Corps emblems and symbols.

Before the game, the Marines wearing their dress blue bravo uniforms presented the American flag on the field, receiving applause and verbal compliments by a crowd of thousands for their appearance. The Marines stood in place as the national anthem played.

Afterward, they joined the crowd in watching the game. After 90 minutes of high-speed soccer, the match ended in a tie score of 2-2.

"It was an honor getting free tickets to the [and] game to be out here," said Pfc. Daewon Min, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "I've never been to a soc-

See **SOCCER** page A7

Marines celebrate Independence Day

Cpl. Charles Santamaria
 Combat Correspondent

The first firework jets through the darkness as the Twentynine Palms community watches in anticipation from lawn chairs, vehicle rooftops, and grassy areas of Luckie Park. The firework explodes and color fizzes into the night sky marking the beginning of the fireworks show a proud, traditional, celebration of independence and freedom.

The city of Twentynine Palms hosted a 4th of July celebration at Luckie Park, July 4.

I'm an American citizen and I love the freedom we have living in this country. Independence Day celebrates that.

- Larry Bowden

The event featured a band with the Rodeo Revival country music group, static displays of Marine Corps vehicles, face painting, a water park, and fireworks to end the celebration.

"It makes me feel good to be able to make some kids smile by showing them the vehicles and giving them a chance to experience it," said Pvt. David Anderson, motor transportation operator,

See **PARK** page A7

Scout Sniper Platoon mourns loss of fallen Marine

Cpl. Joseph Scanlan
 Combat Correspondent

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Nearly four months into their combat deployment, Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, experienced a heartbreaking loss.

Sgt. Thomas Z. Spitzer, team leader, Scout Sniper Platoon, 1/7, was killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 25.

Spitzer, a 23-year-old native of New Braunfels, Texas, was born Feb. 28, 1991. He began his Marine Corps career Aug. 21, 2009, when he underwent recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. He graduated from recruit training Nov. 13, 2009, and then reported to the School of Infantry aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. After a grueling three-month training evolution, he earned the military occupational specialty of 0341, infantry mortarman.

Spitzer was assigned to 81mm Mortar Section, Weapons Company, 1/7, upon completion of SOI. During July 2010, he deployed in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and during March 2012, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After being a mortarman for four years, Spitzer decided to take on a new challenge and volunteered to attend a scout sniper platoon screener.

"We started with about 20 Marines in that screener," said Petty Officer Third Class Jordan Lowe, corpsman, Scout Sniper Platoon. "We only ended up taking four of them because at the end of the first day 16 had dropped."

In the searing heat of the Combat Center he proved to his leadership that his determination and skill far exceeded anybody's expectations for those trying out for a spot in the platoon. He was immediately regarded by others as a Marine who represented much more than



[Right] Sgt. Thomas Z. Spitzer, professionally instructed gunman, Scout Sniper Platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, poses for a photo shortly after arriving in Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 20. Spitzer, a 23-year-old native of New Braunfels, Texas, was killed while conducting combat operations, June 25.

being just physically and mentally tough. He was also extremely intelligent, humble and had a hunger for success like no one else.

Once he earned his spot in the platoon, he underwent rigorous predeployment training in preparation for his second OEF deployment to Afghanistan. He quickly grasped the concepts of advanced marksman-

See **SPITZER**, page A6

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post
dated
July 16, 2004
Vol. 50, Issue No. 27

The boys are back in town

Story by Lance Cpl. Heidi E. Loredo

Nearly 1,000 Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, returned this week from a seven-month tour of duty overseas as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

The battalion, half of them OIF 1 veterans, departed the Combat Center under the Unit Deployment Program with 3rd Marine Division to Okinawa, Japan, two weeks before Christmas. In February, the unit set out to Iraq for a five-month deployment and is the first large group to return to the Combat Center since the beginning of OIF 2.

“Headquarters Marine Corps directed that an additional two battalions be added to the initial force structure,” said Maj. Andrew J. Petrucci, executive officer, Headquarters and Service Company. “3/4 and 1/5 were identified to be those two battalions. This was the logical choice since both battalions had already made preparations to deploy to Okinawa and were close to completion in personnel and training requirements.

Prior to their departure to Iraq, the battalion focused on security and stability operations that allowed them to practice procedures such as con-

voy operations, mounted patrols, vehicle patrols, medical evacuations communications exercises, and behavioral scenarios.

Petrucci said due to the last minute notification that the battalion was going to participate in OIF 2, the were forced to conduct SASO training while in Okinawa.

“Working closely with 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., we developed a comprehensive and challenging training package that prepared Marines for some of the most unique challenges associated with SASO,” said Petrucci.

“Being geographically separated from 1st Marine Division did present some challenges, but we recieved tremendous support from 4th Marine Regiment in Okinawa that allowed us to complete the training.”

Once 3/4 arived in Iraq, the battalion conducted patrolling operations throughout western Al Anbar Province and Fallujah.

“SASO prepared Marines for the different types of missions they would undertake,” said 1st Lt. Sean W. Barnes, platoon commander, Lima Company, 3/4. “The training was as realistic as possible and good tactical habits were being ingrained. By the time we executed the missions in Iraq, the Marines had done it before and were good at it.”

The battalion did not come back complete. Four Marines belonging to 3/4 were killed in action during the deployment to Iraq.



MCTOG bids farewell to operations Gunny

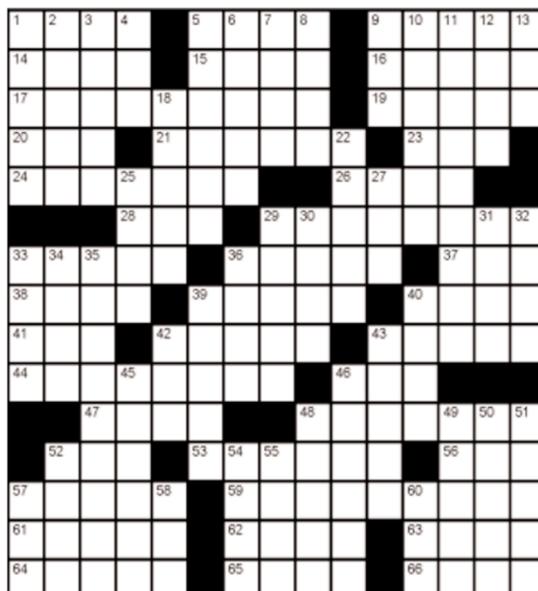
Photo by Cpl. Charles Santamaria

Col. Craig Wonson, commanding officer, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, pins a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal onto the uniform of Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Maxwell, former information operations officer, MCTOG, during a retirement ceremony at the Protestant Chapel, July 8. Maxwell retired from the Marine Corps after 20 years of service.

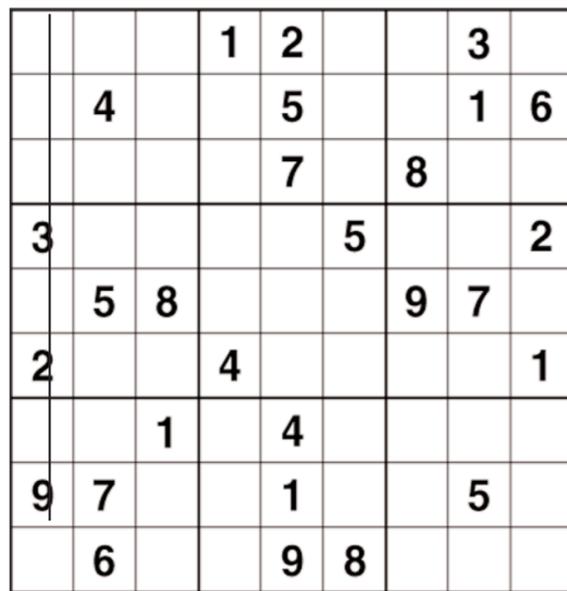
“SHARE THIS CROSSWORD”

See answers on page A3

- Across**
- 1 Person in charge at work
 - 5 Celebrity
 - 9 Paper written in school
 - 14 ___ Spumante (sparkling wine)
 - 15 Crazy
 - 16 The Twist or the Macarena
 - 17 Frighten off
 - 19 False fronts
 - 20 Consume
 - 21 Having a strong dislike
 - 23 “___ you kidding me?”
 - 24 Piece of furniture in the bedroom
 - 26 Still pink, as a steak
 - 28 “___ So Shy”
 - 29 Party game
 - 33 Ford that flopped
 - 36 Word after hope or cedar
 - 37 Mouse’s cousin
 - 38 ___ and pans
 - 39 Disgrace
 - 40 Surrounding glow
 - 41 Tax shelter of a sort
 - 42 Potato ___ (snack food)
 - 43 How some hallways are lit
 - 44 What little kids ride in
 - 46 Slugger Williams or actor Knight
 - 47 Monetary field of study
 - 48 Naps
 - 52 “Much ___ About Nothing”
 - 53 Allowed under Jewish law
 - 56 Tear
 - 57 Flying solo
 - 59 Fifth wheel
 - 61 Button on a television
 - 62 Roll call response
 - 63 Cain’s brother
 - 64 Nervous
 - 65 Dangerous liquid
 - 66 Top of the line
- Down**
- 1 “___ on a true story”
 - 2 Academy Award
 - 3 Wyoming or Wisconsin
 - 4 Not madam
 - 5 Lincoln freed them
 - 6 Eiffel ___
 - 7 Rent-___
 - 8 Rogers and Orbison
 - 9 Bradley and Asner
 - 10 World’s largest desert
 - 11 Orchestra instrument
 - 12 High point
 - 13 Not no
 - 18 Painting holder
 - 22 Use one end of a pencil
 - 25 “___ the One”
 - 27 Picasso’s stuff
 - 29 Cowboys wear them
 - 30 Works on a skirt
 - 31 James ___ Jones
 - 32 Remain
 - 33 Amazing
 - 34 “___ the Explorer”
 - 35 Intimidate successfully
 - 36 IOU
 - 39 Lamb portion
 - 40 Helps
 - 42 Head of a company
 - 43 John ___ (tractor brand)
 - 45 Breakfast items
 - 46 Having several levels, as a wedding cake
 - 48 Harry Belafonte’s daughter
 - 49 Apache or Sioux
 - 50 Buenos ___, Argentina
 - 51 Recently popular grain
 - 52 Soothing plant
 - 54 Govt. arm involved in the workplace
 - 55 On ___ (without a contract)
 - 57 Fitting
 - 58 Before, in poems
 - 60 Bill at a bar



SUDOKU 3319 D



Whatever you’re looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified section**



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OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

- In Oceanside:**
- Angelo’s Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
 - Angelo’s Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
- In San Diego:**
- Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
 - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
- In National City:**
- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

- In Twentynine Palms:**
- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
- In Yucca Valley:**
- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
 - Puff’s Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
- In Palm Springs:**
- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
 - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center’s official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Mark Emil DUMDIE

Fort Hood, Texas, fire inspector, Combat Center Fire Department, 43

DUMDIE BEGAN HIS CAREER OF FIREFIGHTING AS AN AIRCRAFT RESCUE MARINE AND SERVED MORE THAN 24 YEARS. HE PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION TOMADACHI OR (OPERATION FRIEND) TO ADD TO THE RELIEF EFFORT IN JAPAN IN 2011.

>I graduated June 2nd and June 5th I was getting yelled at by drill instructors aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

>I was actually open contract and that's what they put me in. I was curious about the job and thought it was interesting.

>I stayed in the Marine Corps for 24 years and retired as a Master Sergeant aboard the Combat Center.

>I stayed in the MOS and stayed in the firefighting field because I feel like it is a great career field.

>As a Marine, I deployed in support of both Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

>I served with the Chemical Biological Emergency Response Force in Maryland for three years.

>I got the opportunity to work as the Staff NCOIC for the technical platoon and also worked for the development and coordination department.

>I also got the opportunity to participate in Operation Tomadachi for disaster relief in Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

>I was stationed aboard the Combat Center from 2004 to 2009 before going to CBERF. I returned to the Combat Center in December 2012 and retired December 2013. I was hired with the fire department March 2014.

>One of the most humbling things about being a Marine firefighter is getting the opportunity to work with civilian firefighters. One of those experiences was with the New York City Fire Department. The amount of expertise and knowledge and education, the amount of expertise and professionalism I saw not just in New York, but all over the country is tremendous.

>I also got the opportunity to attend Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy and worked approximately three years as a reserve deputy sheriff.

>At one time I thought I wanted to be a police officer but I changed my mind because I enjoyed the firefighting career field.

>I brought a lot of experience with me, everything from fire science to it's behavior to training and work ethics. Now with fire prevention in the Combat Center Fire Department I've learned so much.

>It goes to show that no matter how long you've been doing something you can always learn more from somebody else.

>I think that's the mentality Marines should have as they transition out of the military and get new jobs. You're the new guy and you're there to learn. It's the mentality I had when I went into fire prevention and it's served me well.

>The fire department here has a really great team, everyone I talk to has a great attitude. They enjoy working for the Marine Corps and enjoy being around the Marines, that's the biggest thing.

>When it comes to safety, you can never do too much. Safety is continuous.

>I like to ride motorcycles and I've been riding for a long time. I have many friends who were injured or killed in motorcycle accidents so I'm also big on motorcycle safety from a 'fellow rider's' perspective.

>I've been riding motorcycles since I was 15 years old, so about 30 years.

>My dad gave me my first motorcycle. He used to ride it back-and-forth and he went back to school so I asked him if I could ride it. I got my hardship license at 15 to drive to work and I've been riding ever since.

>I knew I didn't want to stay in a small town and work at the local grocery store; I wanted to do something bigger.

>In high school, I worked on a ranch and I enjoyed working there but it wasn't a career I wanted. My boss on that ranch was a Marine and he talked to me a lot about the Marine Corps. He was a Vietnam veteran and a lot of the things he had to say about the Corps were good things.

>I got interested, but I didn't know what I wanted to do so I decided to try it for a few years and I enlisted in 1989.

>In the Marine Corps, I learned a lot from other people's experiences. The Marine Corps is tough and challenging, and I wanted that; I wanted more. I didn't want an easy life and I learned how to deal with hardships in the Marine Corps. That helped me learn how to deal with challenges and hardships in the civilian world as well.



Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Charles Santamaria, June 30, 2014

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

B	O	S	S		S	T	A	R		E	S	S	A	Y	
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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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



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3D 9:30

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Age Of Extinction (PG13)**
2D 1:30 6:00
3D 9:30

Tammy (R)
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Drought continues need to conserve

2013 Consumer Confidence Report MCAGTFTC/MCAGCC

CCR and You!

Under the "Consumer Confidence Rule" (CCR) of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), community water systems are required to report water quality information to the consuming public on an annual basis.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is proud to present our 2013 Consumer Confidence Report. This edition covers all drinking water testing completed from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. We are pleased to report that our compliance with all State and Federal drinking water laws and standards remains exemplary.

As always, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water to all personnel aboard MAGTFTC, MCAGCC. Through continued vigilance we meet the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while ensuring the needs of all our water users are met.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is committed to the sustainment and protection of the environment; this report is printed on 100% recycled paper to help reduce waste and minimize impact on the environment while meeting the Marine Corps' mission.

*****Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*****

This report was compiled by the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) Water Resources Office. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Chris Elliott, Water Resources Manager, at (760) 830-7883 or e-mail chris.elliott@usmc.mil.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants In My Drinking Water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminates that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Conservation

The need for water conservation at MAGTFTC, MCAGCC has never been greater, due to the current drought conditions facing not only California but the entire southwestern United States. Record low amounts of snow and rain in Southern California will have a direct impact upon future water supplies at the Base, since our groundwater resource is recharged by these sources.

The Governor of California officially has declared that drought conditions exist and urges an immediate 20% reduction in water usage. His "call to all Californians to take a thoughtful approach to water usage and conservation" applies to all military personnel and civilians at MAGTFTC, MCAGCC.

Conservation measures are actively being pursued under Base initiatives for sustainability. Directives require a 26% reduction (relative to the amount of water used in 2007) in the consumption of potable water (drinking quality water) by the year 2020. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is aggressively working towards achieving this goal and relies upon you to meet it.

Program Spotlight

Natural Resources Environmental Affairs (NREA) Air Resources Program pro-

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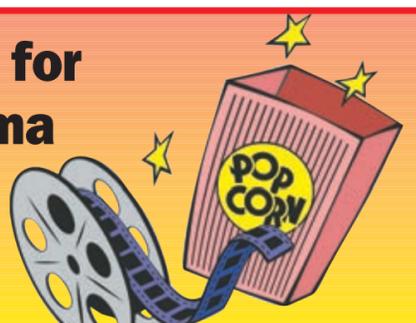
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*Based on 2013 U.S. News & World Report's Best Franchise 500. Franchise 500 is a ranking of the top 500 franchises in the United States. Franchise 500 is based on a variety of factors, including financial performance, growth, and customer satisfaction. Franchise 500 is published annually in the Franchise 500 magazine. © 2013 U.S. News & World Report. All rights reserved.

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movie
schedule**



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(760) 365-3315

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vides air quality management for the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (Combat Center). The Air Resources Program is responsible for the oversight of all activities that have the potential to emit air contaminants. The Combat Center is continually taking steps to lower our emissions and improve our air quality, which allows the Combat Center to fulfill its mission of training Marines without interruption.

The Air Resources Program has developed several initiatives to ensure air quality and reduce greenhouse gases through data analysis and monitoring. By setting high standards for engines, we ensure that harmful diesel pollution is minimized. More than half of our air pollution and greenhouse gases are emitted from burning fossil fuel, therefore alternative energy sources are utilized Base-wide, such as burning cleaner natural gas for electricity production, utilizing solar energy, and using ethanol fuel blends in automobiles.

The Combat Center has several Air Monitoring Stations that continuously monitor the air quality across the Base. This continuous measurement of the air quality shows consistently clean air and even improvement in our air quality. You can find the monitoring data for the Combat Center at the following website: <http://www.airqualitydata.org/ozonemap/twe.htm>.

Water Come From?

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

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC's drinking water system consists of 11 potable water

wells and multiple reservoirs that serve the military and civilian work force through a series of pipelines that extend over 84.2 miles of service area.

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

Investing In Our Future

Challenges facing MAGTFTC, MCAGCC utilities are similar to those faced by other utilities in the area: water supply, aging infrastructure, and population growth. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC issued multiple contracts to repair and improve the quality of the water system.

No Drugs Down The Drain

Pharmaceutical waste remains a threat to water supplies. One way to reduce this threat is to dispose of all over-the-counter drugs and prescriptions properly. **DO NOT FLUSH DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN.**

Old medicines can be taken to the San Bernardino County Community Household Waste Collection Center located at 62499 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree. The hours of operation are the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on proper disposal of unwanted medicines please visit www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org.

Types of Water Usage	Average Water Usage		Conservation Usage		
	GALS. USED	METHOD	GALS. USED	METHOD	SAVINGS
Shower (10 min)	50	Showerhead running continuously	25	Shorter showers (5 min) or	50%
			25	Low flow showerhead (10 min) or	50%
			12.5	Low flow showerhead (5 min)	75%
Tub Bath	36	Standard tub, full	18	Standard tub, half full	50%
Toilet Flushing	5-7	Depends on tank size	4-6	Use a displacement bag or milk jug in tank reservoir or	20%
			1.6		73%
Washing Hands	5	With tap running continuously	1	Replace with low flow toilet	80%
Brushing Teeth	10	With tap running continuously	1	Fill a standard basin	90%
Shaving	20	With tap running continuously	1	Wet brush with brief rinses	95%
Washing Dishes	30	With tap running continuously	10	Fill a standard basin	66%
Dishwasher	16	Full cycle	7	Wash and rinse with a half-full standard sink	56%
Washing Machine	60	Full cycle, highest water level	27	Short cycle	55%



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It's all right here.

[Right] Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment conduct a 21-gun salute during a memorial ceremony for Sgt. Spitzer aboard Camp Leatherneck, July 2. Marines also paid respects to a battlefield cross constructed in honor of Spitzer.

[Below] Petty Officer Third Class Jordan Lowe, corpsman, Scout Sniper Platoon, 1/7, pays his respects to Sgt. Thomas Z. Spitzer during a memorial ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, July 2. The memorial was in honor of Spitzer, who was killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.



SPITZER, from A1



CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN

ship, scouting and observing. He continuously studied, asked questions and gave 100 percent effort during every training exercise in which he participated.

“What truly made Spitzer unique was not necessarily that he was such a quick learner, it was that he put everything else aside to ensure those around him grasped the same concepts,” said Capt. John Dove, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Company, 1/7. “He took it as his personal responsibility to ensure others succeeded and he perfectly displayed what is expected of strong noncommissioned officers.”

Spitzer’s drive and care for others continued with the battalion’s mission in Afghanistan. He conducted multiple operations in support of Bravo and Weapons companies with a cheerful heart, always leading from the front.

“About two weeks ago I was told that I was to take the jump section and establish a coordination point with the 3rd (Brigade Advisor Team) to liaise with the Afghan National Army in support of the Provincial Support Platform-South retrograde,” Dove said. “The coordination point was to be established on a small ANA outpost off of Highway 1 in an area known for kinetics. Security remained a concern; however, due to their availability that week, I quickly jumped at the opportunity to have the professionals of the sniper platoon to provide our security.”

The section arrived at Patrol Base Yakchal during the evening of June 24 and set in. That night, the Marines began taking a high volume of grenade attacks and automatic fire. Spitzer quickly identified the enemy location and directed his vehicle gunner to engage the enemy in a nearby tree line. This fire allowed for other Marines to maneuver to positions of advantage on rooftop posts, forcing the enemy to withdraw.

“The next day, we had a strong feeling that the enemy would be coming back to fire from the same general area at the same general time,” Dove said.

Knowing that, Spitzer volunteered to man an M240B medium machine gun covering the sector most likely to receive enemy contact. The position overlooked a tree line with thick vegetation that would allow the enemy to come undetected in close proximity of the patrol base.

Spitzer was defending his fellow Marines and sailors, his brothers, when he was struck by small-arms fire. Lowe was immediately on the scene to treat Spitzer.

“Any corpsman that is in a division has gone through so much training and

has had a lot of exposure to certain things like this, but you never know exactly what it’s going to be like until it happens,” Lowe said. “For the most part, the training kicks in and your body starts working, but mentally your mind is just in shock. It sucks to lose somebody, especially somebody that’s the same age as you. I think about if I was in that position, having to leave my family, parents, wife and kid behind, and it really gets to me.”

Spitzer gave his life defending a position that enabled coordination between coalition and Afghan forces, coordination that was vital for the safe retrograde of logistics and advisor personnel from their position in Lashkar Gah along a dangerous route back to Camp Leatherneck.

Cpl. Matthew Kearney, a professionally instructed gunman on Spitzer’s team, was aboard Camp Leatherneck that evening when he heard what had happened.

“I was preparing for our next mission and was waiting to hear about my next orders,” Kearney said. “When I found out, I got on my bike and rode that thing like a madman to get to the hospital. He was such a tough guy; I had never seen him in pain because he never showed it. I just can’t believe he’s gone. Part of me just expects that he’s going to kick open my door.”

The battalion honored his sacrifice during a memorial ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, July 2. Several Marines spoke of the memories they shared and the legacy he left behind before the ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute and the playing of “Taps” by a fellow Marine with a bugle.

Taps is a simple melody. It is a mere 24 notes, but holds more than 150 years of tradition. It can express gratitude when words fail. It honors the men and women who have laid down their lives and have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

Spitzer’s sacrifice is measured by the success of a mission that ensured the eventual safe return of those Marines and sailors to their loved ones. Beyond the measure of his sacrifice, the measure of his life is the people he impacted through his example, his leadership and his love.

“I just want his family to know how incredibly sorry I am,” Kearney said. “They raised an incredible man. He was one of those guys who I look up to, both in my personal life and in my career.”

Spitzer is survived by his parents John and Jean Spitzer, his brother Nicholas Spitzer and his fiancé Casey Neef.

They raised an incredible man. He was one of those guys who I look up to, both in my personal life and in my career.”

— Cpl. Matthew Kearney

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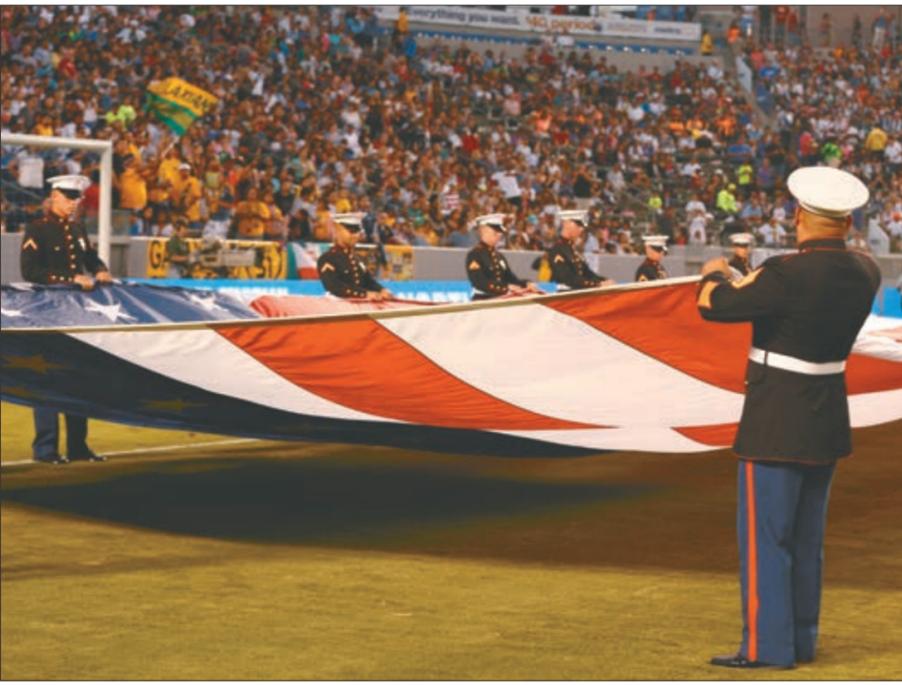
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SOCCER, from A1



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

[Above] Combat Center Marines display the American flag on the Stubhub Center field in Carson, Calif., before a Los Angeles Galaxy and Portland Timbers game, July 4. Approximately 40 Marines attended the game, with their tickets and transportation provided by the Single Marine Program.

cer game so it was a lot of fun.”

The night had one more feature for those at the stadium. An evocative display of fireworks lit the sky as all stood in awe at the traditional celebration for American Independence Day.

“It felt good to be appreciated by the people here,” Min said. “It was my first trip with SMP, but I’ll definitely go again in the future.”

For Min and many of the Marines who participate in SMP activities, getting involved the program permits a way to have fun and build camaraderie.

“SMP allows us to take our minds off of whatever is happening on base,” Min said. “It’s a break from the barracks and a good feeling. They help keep morale up for junior Marines.”

Trips and recreational competitions, such as ping pong and poker, are scheduled later this summer, according to Scipio.

“[SMP] builds morale by allowing [Marines] to associate with each other,” Scipio said. “[MCCES] students often meet fleet Marines and find a mentor. It builds encouragement and strength amongst the Marines.”

The 5th Street Zone is open to all service members aboard the Combat Center. To get involved with monthly trips and activities, visit their building on 5th Street or call 830-4767.

PARK, from A1

Combat Logistics Battalion 7. “It shows the community we have a kind heart and care about our relationship with them.”

The event was open for anyone to enjoy the festivities. The success of the event brings more people each year.

“About three years ago, the city took over management for the event,” said Larry Bowden, recreation super intendant, city of Twentynine Palms, Calif. “Our city council gave us the money for the fireworks and other parts of the ceremony. The first year brought in approximately 3,000 people, the next year was about 5,000, and this year we don’t know what to expect.”

The final fireworks show lasted approximately 15 minutes, concluding the event. As the event grows in attendance, the showing gets bigger and more extravagant.

“We have a really great fireworks show and the people who coordinate them go above and beyond with what they give us,” Bowden said.

Combat Center Marines volunteered to give people of all ages tours of the

military vehicles, allowing them to enter the driver’s seat, operate some of the parts, and start the engines.

“As the day gets cooler the kids always want to go down and see the military vehicles and the Marines who come down love talking to the children about it,” Bowden said. “There are some who may think there’s a big difference between the city and the Marine Corps base and I spent my whole high school years on a Marine Corps base. For me it’s just one big community. Events like this bring everyone together.”

Although Independence Day is celebrated through fireworks, barbecues, and music, the day represents what our ancestors fought and died for more than 200 years ago.

“I’ve had a great life and I’ve been able to do what I wanted,” Bowden said. “I’m an American citizen and I love the freedoms I have living in this country; Independence Day celebrates that.”

COMMANDING GENERAL, from A1



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

[Above] Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, former Combat Center Commanding General, makes outgoing remarks during a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Thursday. Berger extended gratitude to the civilian employees aboard the base, the retiree community, supporting organizations throughout the area, and the Marines and sailors currently serving.

out the vision and priorities that were set by Maj. Gen. Berger and I have to sustain the facilities, resources and services that make the Combat Center run smoothly. I look forward to doing all of these, and I promise you all 100% effort for as long as I am afforded the privilege of command.”

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“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



Here we go again. I want to re-introduce you to a tremendous lady who is the epitome of what it is to be a positive thinker. In other words, a tough minded optimist.

Her name is Frieda Burdette and I have had the joy of knowing her almost 18 years. She is a wonderful person who has a genuine concern for the welfare of others.

Frieda is truly an amazing person. She is 75 years old and has earned a well deserved reputation for her leadership in sharing the beauties of our incredible world with her well publicized and documented group titled “Frieda’s Happy Hoofers.”

“Frieda’s Happy Hoofers” have been hiking together since 2008 and they have visited many areas of great interest.

Frieda invites anyone and everyone of any age, Ethnicity, sexual orientation, church membership, political affiliation, etc. to join the group and simply enjoy. No pledge of regular participation is required. Why not give it a try.

Here is Frieda’s invitation:
“For July we will be hiking in Big Bear. First hike, Monday July 14, Pedal Path along Big Bear Lake. Hike about an hour, then return for lunch.

Second hike, Monday July 28, Pacific Crest Trail towards Mexico. Hike for about an hour, then return to lunch.

Lunch for both hikes will be at Boo Bear’s Den or the Log Cabin Restaurant.

For both hikes – Meet at the parking lot between Carl Jr. and O’Reilly’s Auto Parts, on the corner of Old Woman Springs Rd and Hwy 62 at 8 AM. Please let me know if you plan to come.”

Frieda’s telephone number is 1-760-364-2872 or hennyen5@hotmail.com.

This column sponsored by:

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WeekINPhotos

Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-South



PHOTOS BY CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN



[Right] Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-South practice riot control formations as part of less than lethal training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 30. The training was only a portion of the Marines' preparation to join sailors aboard the USS AMERICA for her maiden voyage which departed this week. [Top, left] Sgt. Jacey Marks, platoon sergeant, SPMAGTF-South, practices riot control formations aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 30. [Bottom, left] Marines with SPMAGTF-South throw flash grenades during less than lethal training aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 30.

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Chasing a Dream

Cultures unite, play through love of sport

Story by
Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

“It is not just a game, it is a way of life. There are few places you will go where the game is not celebrated. It goes by many names; soccer, futbol, football, but no matter what the people around you call it, it is beautiful. If you make the ball happy, I promise you, no matter what, you and the people around you, will be happy.”

Those were the words my father repeated to me. I will never forget them because of the way he said it. There was such passion and enthusiasm in his eyes each time he told me, but to this day, he has yet to be proven wrong.

Throughout my life, I have grown up playing, watching and studying the game. Everywhere I have gone, soccer has opened doors for me, entertained me and allowed me to meet people from around the world. Even now, I gather with friends to watch and play the game. Whether it is watching the World Cup or just going out into the street, we are together, laughing, and appreciating what we love most. Soccer.

The Beginning

When I was growing up, I naturally looked up to my father. I wanted to be a part of everything he did. If he was working in the yard, I was working in the yard. If he was training, I was training. That’s just how it was. But when it came time for me to lace up my shoes and go out to the yard to play with the soccer ball he was different.

I kicked my first soccer ball at 2. At 4 years old, I was on my first soccer team. I played with kids who were a few years older than me but my dad looked at that as “good training.”

What was first just a game became an obsession for me. I fell in love with the sport and it became a matter of familial pride. I wanted to follow in my father’s footsteps.

My dad started playing professional soccer at the age of 17 and everyone knew him for that. He knew what it took to get to that level. He is known as “Diablo” by his friends and even family members. The nickname was given to him because of his veracity and superior skill and nobody wanted to play against him.



[Top] Cpl. Jose Saucedo, combat engineer, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, walks on the court as a game of street soccer begins during a series of pick-up games held at the hockey rink near the main exchange, Tuesday.

[Above] Pfc. Ulises Ortiz, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, kicks the soccer ball toward the goal net during a series of pick-up games held at the hockey rink near the main exchange, Tuesday.

[Right] Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya, combat correspondent, Headquarters Battalion, dribbles the soccer ball to get passed Cpl. Jose Saucedo, combat engineer, 3rd CEB, who is defending during a series of pick-up games held at the hockey rink next to the main exchange, Tuesday.



PHOTOS BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

From 4 to 17 years old my life was dedicated to following my dream of being like my dad. All throughout that period I met people from across the globe. No matter where we were from or the color of our skin, we would instantly get along because we were united through the game. We may have lived completely different lifestyles or have different views on the world but in that moment, we were alike.

After spending my entire life chasing a dream, I had to make a decision that would forever change me and at that time, in my mind, that decision would end that dream.

Proof of the Lifestyle

When I graduated high school, I decided I wanted to join the Marine Corps. I knew I would be happy after I joined but I felt as if I was turning my back on the sport that had guided me through my life.

The time came for me to confront my parents. I knew they would support me no matter what but I had a strong feeling they would be silently disappointed in me. In this moment, I thought I would lose the strong relationship I had with my dad, who practically groomed me to become a soccer player, and with my number one cheerleader, my mom.

Once I finally broke the news to them, the both smiled and simply told me how proud they were. Instead of disapproving of not continuing to pursue soccer, my dad hugged me, smiled and said, “I am not worried because remember what I said, there are few places where the sport is not celebrated.”

Throughout my Marine Corps career, I have met even more people and made even more friends through soccer. Between recreational, regional and national soccer leagues, I now have teammates who have diverse backgrounds and different cultures, just as I did when I was growing up. We all have jobs to do during the week but any chance we get, we play or watch soccer.

I also have had the opportunity to coach children who like to play. I try to pass on the knowledge I have gained from soccer to the younger players each chance I get. To me, it is an opportunity to maybe spark the dream that I always strive for.

There are so many precious moments I have had because of soccer. It has made me who I am today. It has led me to have a simple way of looking at life. I am not be afraid to meet new people, strive to excel at what I am doing, or gather with the ones around me and find a reason to smile.

I can honestly say my dream has come true. I now know that, for my dad, it wasn’t about being professional, the nicknames, or any of the glory that comes with the sport. It was about the joy it gave him and the others around him.

When people ask me, “how can you love a game so much?” I look at them, with a grin on my face, and say, “It is not just a game, it is a way of life. There are few places you will go where the game is not celebrated. It goes by many names; soccer, futbol, football, but no matter what the people around you call it, it is beautiful. If you make the ball happy, I promise you, no matter what, you and the people around you, will be happy.”



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