

H&S Bn., took on Camp Johnson in the tackle football championship. Page 1B

Marines and sailors learned the effects of alcohol first hand, without ever taking a sip. Page 1C

Single Marine Program service members visit Myrtle Beach. Page 1D

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 2008

HADITHA DAM, IRAQ

Dam straight Marines turn over Haditha Dam to Iraqi Forces

LANCE CPL. PAUL TORRES
Regimental Combat Team 5

Marines with Regimental Combat Team 5 finished the final demilitarization of the Haditha Dam located along the Euphrates River.

Maj. Gen. Martin Post, deputy commanding general for Multi National Force-West, signed over the dam Dec. 3 to Iraqi government officials and thereby capped the turnover of dam operations and security.

Al-Kumanji Mawafek Mohammed, director of real estate, and several other members of the Iraqi government, along with representatives from the Iraqi Police and Iraqi army, attended on behalf of the Iraqi government to sign the final paperwork.

"I just want to say thank you to all of the Marines who have been here over the years and say how much (coalition forces) appreciated the leadership of the gentlemen who have been here the entire time running this facility and coordinating with the Marines and coalition forces. They have done just a wonderful job during tough times to keep this facility up and running," said Maj. Gen. Post.

Coalition forces have been responsible for the dam since 2003, and during that time, the dam housed thousands of military personnel.

"The dam was a piece of key terrain because of its position on the river and also because it provides around one-third of Iraq's electricity," said Master Sgt. Joe Lopez, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Haditha Dam Mayors Cell, RCT-5. "Our presence here has also acted as a deterrent for people trying to smuggle things down the river."

SEE DAM A10 ▶

Return to TARAWA

A young child walks along the barrel of an 8-inch coastal defense gun used by Japanese defenders during the Battle of Tarawa. The guns have long been decommissioned, but are still visible at several locations throughout the island and are now not much more than tourist attractions.

TARAWA ATOLL, JAPAN

Service members visit island for memorial service

Story and photos

STAFF SGT. BRIAN J. GRIFFIN
III Marine Expeditionary Force

More than six decades have passed since Roy Robinson first set foot on the sandy beaches of Betio in the Republic of Kiribati, part of the Tarawa Atoll. Today, Betio bears little resemblance to what it used to be, or what it was to Robinson 65 years ago.

Just past his 18th birthday, Pfc. Robinson, a rifleman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was on one of the many Higgins Boats that landed on Red Beach Two in 1943. All Robinson remembers about Betio's landscape are the Japanese fortifications that once lined the coast.

"I can't believe this is Tarawa," Robinson said with a grin. "We've got to be on the wrong island. Because the only thing here last time was sand, trees and pill boxes."

Robinson's memory, along with his hearing, has faded a bit over the last 65 years, but the former Marine's thoughts



A Marine Corps Color Guard renders honors Nov. 20 during a joint ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa.

drifted back to a place described by him in three simple words.

"It was Hell," he said. "All we could think about was what the hell are we doing here and how do we get off this place."

Thinking back, Robinson said

there were a few things he knows helped him through the battle.

"Brotherhood and camaraderie helped to get us through it," Robinson said. "We had to pay attention to our left, right and front, but I knew they had my back," Robinson said,

referring to the Marines charging forward from the rear.

Robinson was one of 35,000 Marines, sailors and soldiers who stormed the shores of Betio Nov. 20, 1943. Exactly 65 years later, the Marines once again landed on Betio.

More than 30 Marines and sailors from the III Marine Expeditionary Force traveled to Betio, to pay tribute to the service members who battled there many years ago.

A ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa was held Nov. 20 at a small memorial standing in a nondescript field near the shores of Betio.

Nearly 1,000 local villagers, mainly children, flocked to see what all the pomp and circumstance was about as more than 100 distinguished visitors attended the ceremony.

Republic of Tarawa President Anote Tong, Adm. Timothy Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, commanding general for III MEF and Marine Corps Bases Japan, were among the guests in attendance.

SEE TARAWA A10 ▶

MIDDLE EAST

Two nations, one goal

MEU conducts training, supports Maritime Security Operations

CPL. JASON D. MILLS
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

More than 90 Marines and sailors from Company G, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, participated in bilateral infantry training with a Middle Eastern nation, from Nov. 18-24.

"We were able to integrate with them and provide feedback on how they can improve their training and best utilize the weapons systems they currently have organic to their units," said Capt. Anthony Johnston, the company's commanding officer. "In the time that was available, we were able to work in our own sustainment training as the motorized company conducted mounted operations on the ranges that were avail-

able. Both the U.S. Marines and (the Middle Eastern military members) were able to demonstrate their capabilities and exchange ideas at the tactical level, which was an incredibly positive experience."

The bilateral training began with squad attacks and escalated to a full-on live fire exercise.

Even though there was a variety of training events, the Marines' exercise focused on squad attacks and teamwork. The platoons also participated in dismounted platoon attacks with the Middle Eastern platoons.

"We were able to run a platoon motorized attack," said Johnston. The platoon established control of the company's area of operations, which had been a site of previous 'enemy' activity. Upon receiving a report on the current 'enemy' activity, the pla-



Photo by Cpl. Jason D. Mills

Marines and sailors from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Company G participated in bilateral infantry training with a Middle Eastern nation Nov. 18-24.

toon executed a deliberate attack and cleared the objective.

The Marines also ran scenarios of contact with a deliberate in-stride breach,

which is where a squad of engineer from Company F, BLT 2nd Battalion

SEE GOAL A10 ▶

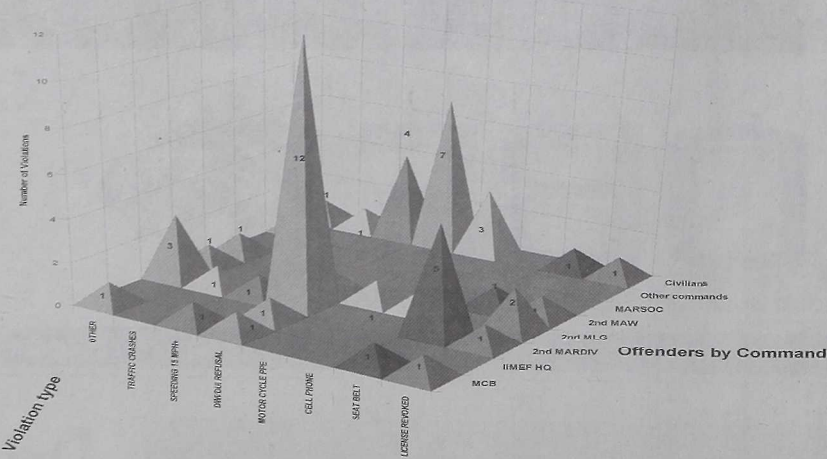
INSIDE THE GLOBE



MARINES COMPLETE
JUNGLE WARFARE
TRAINING PAGE 6A

LEJEUNE SPORTS 1B
INSIDE LEJEUNE 1C
CLASSIFIEDS 4C
CAROLINA LIVING 1D

Traffic violations aboard Camp Lejeune



This graph represents traffic violations and Driving While Intoxicated / Driving Under the Influence refusals for Camp Lejeune during the week of Nov. 23 through Saturday. Traffic violations are defined as: driving while license revoked, speeding in excess of 15 mph or over, traffic crashes, seatbelt, cellular telephone and motorcycle personal protective equipment violations.

Source: Command Inspector General's Office for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Semper Safe

BY MARINE CORPS SAFETY DIVISION

Focus on fire safety this holiday season

December marks the beginning of the holiday season, which includes Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve. Using data that was reported to the United States Fire Administration from 2002 to 2004, the yearly national fire loss for December is estimated at \$990 million. During this three-year period, these losses result from an estimated 128,700 fires that occurred in December and required a fire department response resulting in approximately 1,650 injuries and 415 fatalities. The difference between life and death can result from following basic fire safety tips and warnings set forth by fire departments across the United States.

Cooking is the leading cause of residential building fires in December, accounting for 41 percent of fires, followed by heating fires at 28 percent, open flame fires at 9 percent, and incendiary/suspicious fires at percent. There is also more focus placed on the preparation of the perfect holiday meal by even the most experienced. Cooks in the kitchen may find themselves distracted with holiday guests, entertaining, and last-minute details. Unfortunately, these distractions can turn into fire hazards all too quickly. Cooking fires routinely start to increase around Thanksgiving and peak

in December.

Holiday rituals traditionally use candles to create a festive and warm atmosphere and are an open flame source that can lead to holiday tragedies when not monitored properly. Children and pets are attracted to candles which can be especially dangerous during the holidays when candle use increases. Three percent of all residential building fires during the holidays and winter months involve candles as the initial heat source. In most cases, candles lead to residential building fires when they are left unattended or ignite nearby combustibles, resulting in more candle-related fire incidents in December than in any other month. Consider the following recommendations for candle fire safety during the December and winter months:

- Never use candles to decorate a Christmas tree.
- Keep candles inside a 1-foot circle, free from decorations and other combustible materials.
- Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip over easily and are large enough to collect candle wax.
- Keep candles up high and out of reach of children and pets.
- Extinguish candles after use.
- Do not leave candles unattended.

As a reminder, the use of any type of open flame device for aromatic purposes, to include all candles and incense, is prohibited without prior approval from the Fire & Emergency Services Division per Base Order 11320.1L. The following are the only exceptions for candle and incense use: clubs and dining facilities if properly arranged, by permit for ceremonial purposes, and in the family housing area. Questions can be directed to Assistant Chief Zurek at 451-3320.

Choosing the right Christmas tree has also become a tradition with many families. This choice begins by selecting an artificial or a freshly cut Christmas tree. If the choice is an artificial tree, ensure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant. If you prefer a freshly cut tree, ensure the green needles do not fall off when touched and before placing it in the tree stand cut off one to two inches from the base of the trunk. Freshly cut trees need extra attention to ensure it gets watered daily. No matter what type of Christmas tree is selected placement should be at least three feet away from any heat source such as fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights and your Christmas tree should not be blocking any exit.

Once the Christmas tree has been properly set up, it is time to

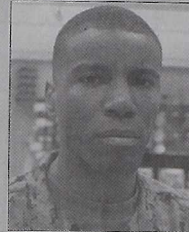
add the lights and decorations. There are many fire safety considerations to consider, especially with the lights. Only use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Never use lit candles to decorate your Christmas tree and always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After the holiday season has passed, Christmas trees should be disposed of as soon as possible. When the Christmas tree begins dropping many needles, it is an indication that the Christmas tree has dried. Dried-out Christmas trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Also, ensure you bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent future electrical and fire hazards at the same time increasing their life span.

From all of us at the Fire and Emergency Services Division, we wish you and your families a happy and fire safe holiday season.

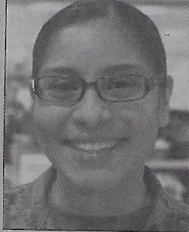
MAN ON THE STREET

What is your favorite holiday and why?



Gunnery Sgt. Randy R. Radford
1st Battalion 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division
Atlanta

"I would say Christmas because it is the time of year where we get to pay homage to Jesus Christ."



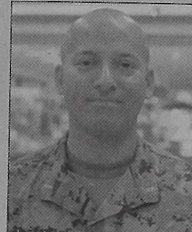
Cpl. Jasmine Robinson
II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, II MEF
Los Angeles

"Thanksgiving, because like all the food and time with my family, friends back home and grateful for everything we have in life."



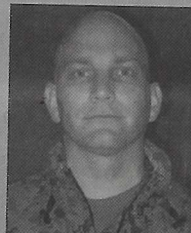
Cpl. Kimberly Kwoka
Buffalo, N.Y.

"Halloween because get to dress up and anybody you want to be a superhero or anybody you want to be."



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Celstino Perales
Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division
Houston

"It's Christmas because we get to see the kids and the whole family."



Petty Officer 1st Class Zachary A. McDonald
CLB 24, CLR 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group
Tacoma, Wash.

"I guess it would be Christmas, because it seems to be a time when people set aside their differences and are less selfish."

News Watch

Retired Military Breakfast

A breakfast for retired and active duty military is scheduled at the Ball Center aboard Camp Lejeune, Saturday. Social Hour begins at 7 a.m., breakfast at 8 a.m. For information, call retired Sgt. Maj. George Meyer at 938-1610.

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SINJAR, IRAQ

TASK FORCE NINEWA

Marines pound ground in northern Iraq to take down Al Qaeda

DEAN DAVIS
National Force - West

On ground that was little more than a strip of cement surrounded by desert, a veritable camp now stands, built and manned by Marines of Task Force Ninewa, who are here to hunt foreign fighters and terrorists near the Syrian border.



Photo by Cpl. Dean Davis

A Marine from Task Force Ninewa stays watchful of terrorists near the Syrian Border. The Marines with TFN are working closely with Iraqi Security Forces to detect terrorist and deny infiltration routes as well as identifying terrorist safe havens.

ing here and preparing for our mission included some hurdles, but our presence here is a huge deterrent for those out there wanting to do crimes, either against us or the Iraqis," said Villasana. "As the battalion master gunner and having trained these Marines, I am very confident that whatever arises, we will be ready to respond."

Task Force Ninewa's mission is something its Marines are happy to accept, a sentiment that extends to the people they are here to help, said Leonard.

"The warm response from the people is a sign Marines are winning the war in Iraq and definitely shows we've come a long way in the last five years," Leonard said. "The Marines of Task Force Ninewa are here to support the Iraqi people, their government and their rule of law. There is no better friend than us, and we are concerned with their welfare and the safety of their families."

With the Iraqi people in good hands, criminals in the area should beware of the task force's other purpose and the men who fight from its ranks, explained Leonard.

"We will be diligent in hunting them, going everywhere they believe they can hide, and we will deny them any opportunity to do harm to the (Iraqi peoples') interests," he said.

ments together and establishing the camp's infrastructure presented a mission all in itself. But, as Marines have done throughout the Corps' history, overcoming these types of obstacles was all in a day's work, explained Leonard.

"We moved the entire task force from western Iraq all the way here in less than two weeks, while at the same time bringing in the other units with whom we have never operated or trained, which presented some unique challenges," said Leonard. "But, that just highlights the strength of the Marine Corps where you can take various units, mix them up and create an effective fighting force from different types of units."

Of those units, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, is one that, like the Highlanders, is assisting in providing security to Iraq's border and increased safety to its people, said Gunnery Sgt. Jason L. Villasana, a tank crewman with the company.

"The logistics of get-

WASHINGTON

Corpsman earns Navy Cross, recalls firefight

SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
American Forces Press Service

As the Marines in first platoon, Company A, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, advanced to secure the northern bridge in Nasiriyah, Iraq, March 23, 2003, it seemed to then-Seaman Apprentice Luis Fonseca, a corpsman, that all hell had broken loose.

"As we came up and over the bridge, we ran right into an ambush," he said from his current assignment aboard the USS Bataan. "They threw all they had at us — small-arms fire, heavy machine-gun fire, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and artillery rounds."

That's when Fonseca got the call from Gunnery Sgt. David Myers, asking him to check on the Marines in one of the vehicles that had been hit.

Trading his communications helmet for Kevlar, the corpsman on his first deployment grabbed his medical bag and headed for the vehicle, which by then was in flames. Five Marines had suffered at least shrapnel wounds.

"I noticed I had two patients with par-

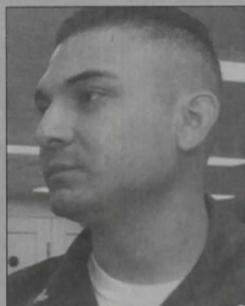
tial lower-leg amputations, one with flash burns to his eyes, and all had shrapnel wounds," Fonseca said. "I applied tourniquets on the two Marines with the partial leg amputations and instructed the other Marines around to apply battle dressings on the others who were wounded."

Fonseca decided to move the wounded Marines to his vehicle to get them out of the middle of what became a six-and-a-half-hour firefight. After reassessing wounds and administering morphine to the two troops with partial leg amputations, Fonseca got a call that another vehicle had been hit.

Normally, the column is lined up in numerical order. In the midst of the firefight, as the vehicles maneuvered to gain an advantage, they got out of order.

Fonseca couldn't find one of the vehicles and returned to his own just as the enemy got what he described as four lucky hits.

"Two of them were on our right side. One was on our center top hatch. All three were 122mm mortar rounds," he said. "The fourth and final round that disabled the truck was a recoilless rifle round that blew up our transmission."



Fonseca

When the smoke cleared, all the wounded Marines were transferred to another vehicle and moved out of the area, all but one.

"I picked up the last Marine ... and carried him to a ditch," Fonseca said. "The Marine and I sat in the ditch for about 30 minutes before I could get another vehicle to pick us up and drive us out of there."

When Fonseca had gotten all his patients to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment's corpsman, he turned around and headed back to the fight, where he rejoined his platoon.

"We lost about 18 Marines that day," he said. "Fifteen others were wounded and left the battlefield, and about 10 others (who

were wounded stayed."

Fonseca, now a petty officer second class, treated a dozen Marines during that firefight, and as far as he knows, all of them survived their injuries. He was determined not to let them down. "As long as I was alive, I would keep working, even if it meant my life," he said.

Fonseca was awarded the Navy Cross for his efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the Marines under his care during the battle of Nasiriyah.

Though he was honored to have received it, he said he doesn't feel the medal truly belongs to him.

"The Navy Cross means to me honor, sacrifice and loyalty," Fonseca said. "Honor because it is my honor to wear the Navy Cross for my brothers who gave their lives in that fight. So, it's my honor to wear their Navy Cross that honors them. A lot of men sacrificed that day. Unfortunately, some families and friends had to sacrifice their loved ones."

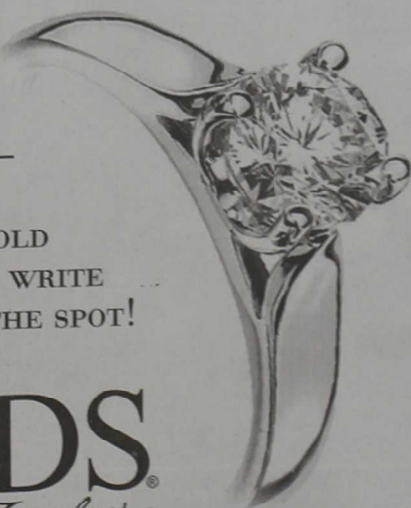
Since that first tour in Iraq, Fonseca has been back to Iraq once more, and has served a tour in Afghanistan. He is married, and has two sons.

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USS IWO JIMA, PERSIAN GULF

Recon reaches out

CPL. JASON D. MILLS
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

Recruit training teaches every Marine he is a rifleman. No matter what their everyday jobs, they are first and foremost Marines.

However, for many Marines who are not infantrymen, it can sometimes be difficult to get out of the office and into the field.

Knowing this, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Recon platoon conducted a static helicopter rope suspension technique training exercise and opened it to all parts of the MEU aboard the USS Iwo Jima, Dec. 4.

"Training in all aspects of the Marine Corps prepares our Marines and sailors to conduct these missions by developing new talents and refreshing old skills, enabling them to be a more effective and efficient fighting force," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert Langlois, the recon platoon sergeant.

For the exercise, MEU Marines positioned a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter over the lowered elevator of the Iwo Jima's flight deck. Suspending the rope from the aft of the chained down aircraft, the HRST masters conducted the training in a safe environment while simulating fast roping from an airborne helicopter, similar to what Marines do in combat.

The fast roping class was conducted to maintain proficiency for the recon platoon's qualified HRST Masters and provide initial training to MEU command element personnel; some of whom had never fast roped prior to the exercise.

"(Command Element) Marines were invited to participate to provide static fast rope training to Marines and sailors who very rarely get the opportunity to conduct HRST training," Langlois said. "Most Marines and sailors within the CE

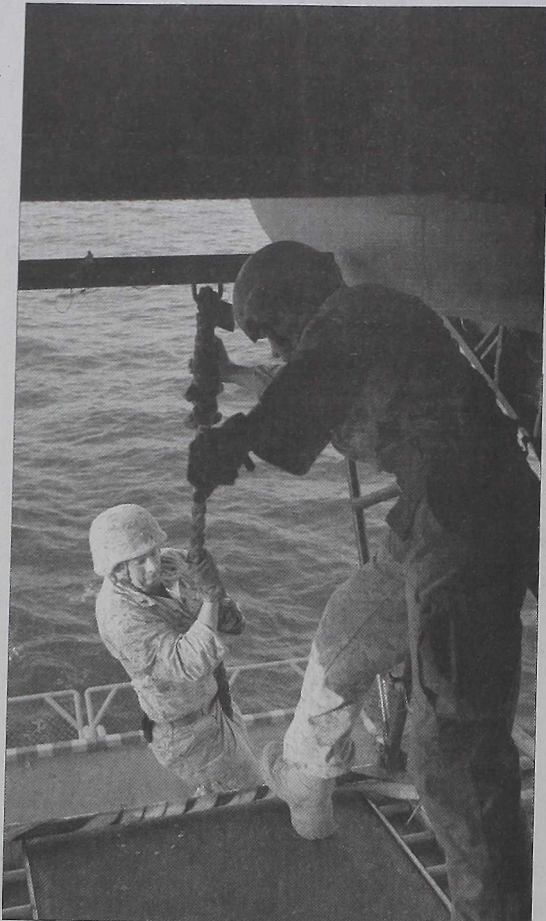


Photo by Cpl. Patrick M. Johnson-Campbell
Cpl. Ricardo Monterrosa fast ropes out the back of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter aboard USS Iwo Jima, Dec. 4. Both are members of the Command Element of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

are limited to the amount of training they can receive due to the rigorous duty schedules they must fill on a day-to-day basis. The training provided these Marines and sailors the opportunity to participate in a training event that breaks up the monotony of their schedules and have a little fun while doing it."

Marines are called upon often to conduct a variety of missions throughout the world, which is why it's important for Marines of every military oc-

cupational specialty to get this kind of training, explained Cpl. Carlos E. Royes Thomas, a command element Marine.

"As Marines, training is what we do," he said, "And no matter what our job is (as long) as it makes us more efficient and mission capable, it is important."

The 26th MEU is currently deployed aboard the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group in the Persian Gulf in support of Maritime Security operations.



Photo by Cpl. Jason D. Mills
Marines with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, Company G, post security during a live fire exercise.

MIDDLE EAST

Training all over the world

26th MEU participates in bilateral training in the Middle East

CPL. JASON D. MILLS
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

Nearly 300 Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit debarked the USS Iwo Jima for a weeklong training exercise with a Middle Eastern nation, Nov. 18-24.

The purpose of the exercise was to build a rapport with the host nation, explained Lt. Col. Andrew Kostic, the commanding officer of Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, the Ground Combat Element of the 26th MEU.

"The more countries we have good relations with, the better off we are as a nation and as a military," he said.

The exercise was a bilateral training exercise with a company of U.S. Marines and a company

of host nation Marines, Kostic explained.

The majority of the Marines participating in the exercise were from Company G, BLT 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, who's Marines took part in a variety of training events including mechanized squad attacks and team building exercises. Later in the week, the platoons had the chance to join in dismounted platoon attacks with the Middle Eastern platoons.

Cpl. Luis Hernandez said he felt the training benefited Marines of both nations.

"It was good training for us and the (host nation) Marines," said the Co. G squad leader. "It was good to get some training in."

The MEU's 81mm mortar platoon also had the opportunity to train with the host nation Marines.

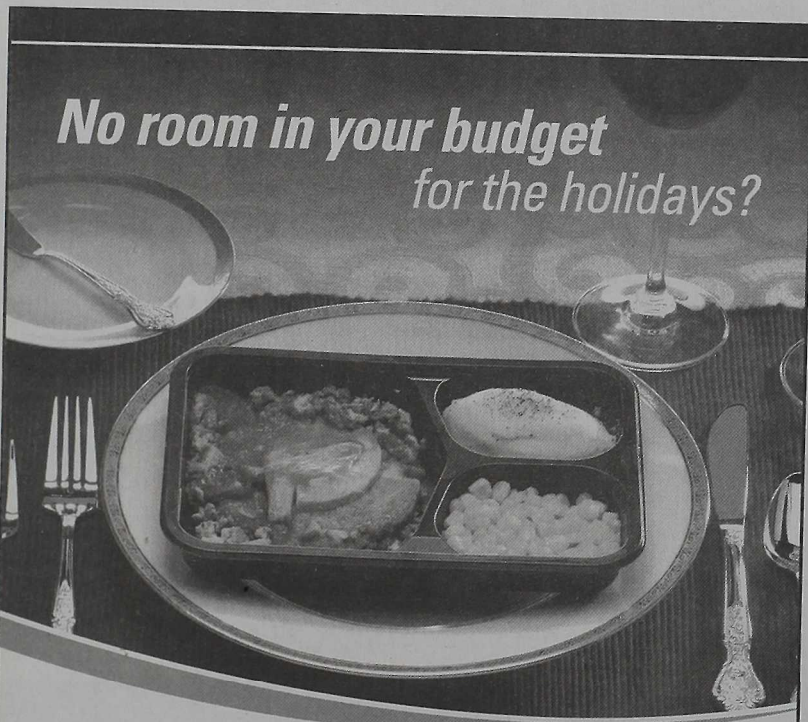
The U.S. Marines shared the same gun line and occasionally had the opportunity to combine efforts.

"The mortars integrated extremely well," the battalion commander said. "They integrated mortars squads. A couple of Marines from each squad went down and interacted with the (host nation) Marines."

Despite a few minor setbacks the operation was resounding success, Kostic.

"(It was a) good demonstration of interaction the bilateral training with the Marines from Co. G, 81s and the (host nation) Marines," he said.

The 26th MEU is currently deployed aboard the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group in the Persian Gulf in support of local operations.



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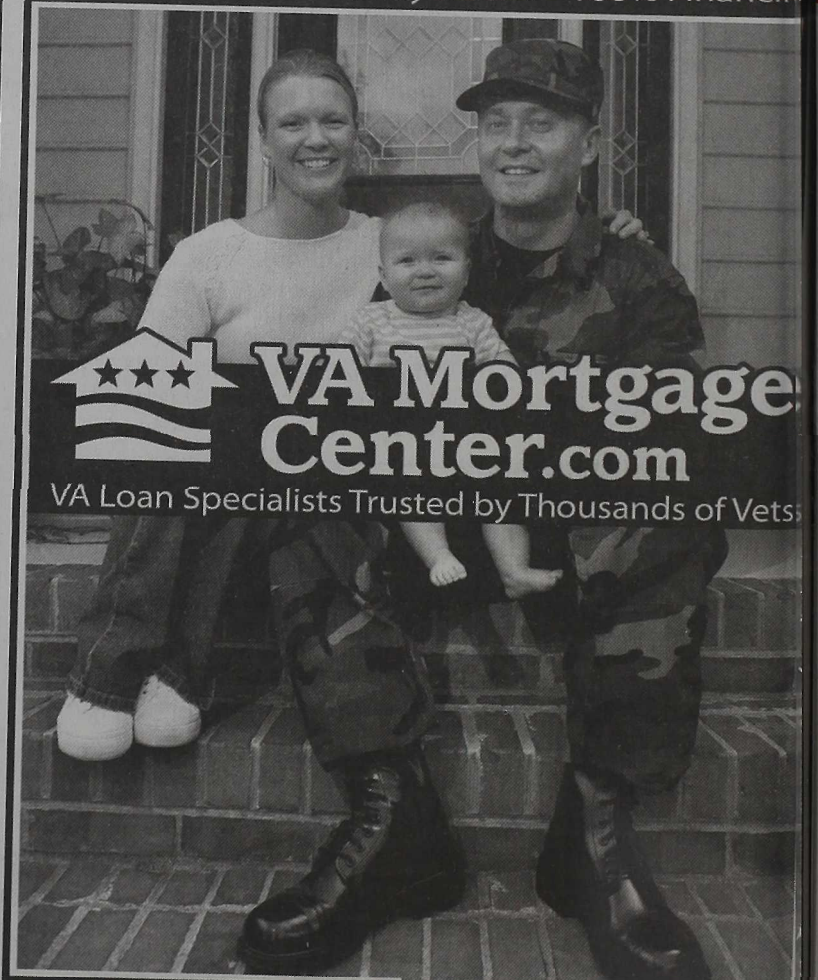
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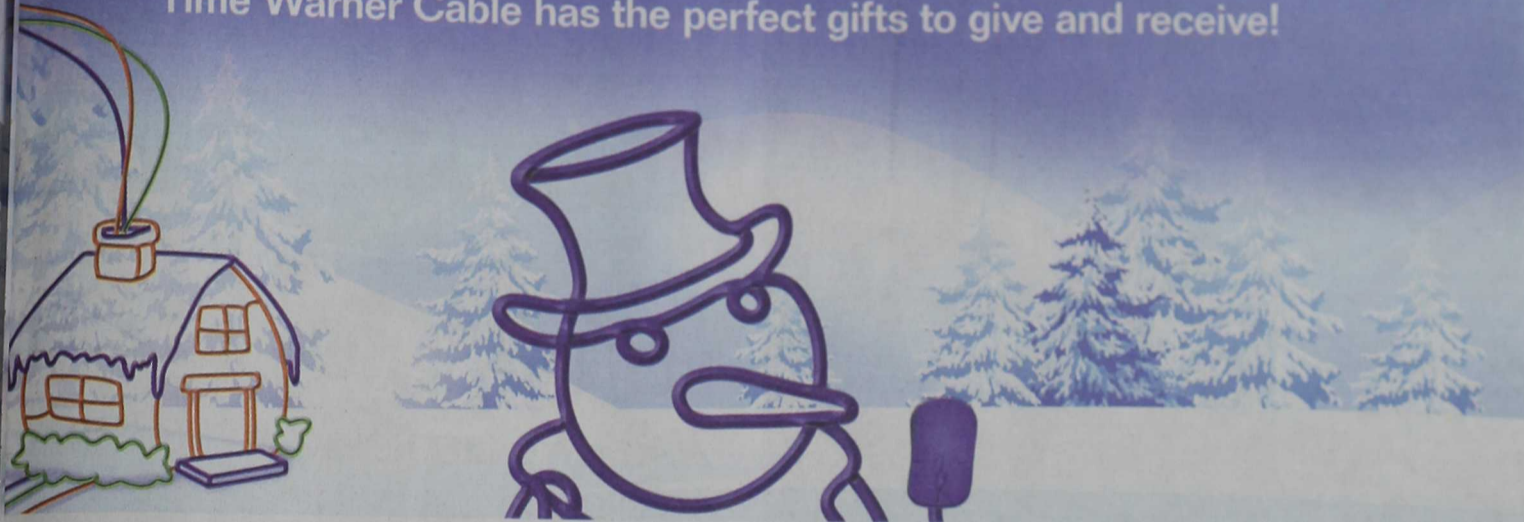


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Marines with 3rd Intelligence Battalion conduct training exercises during the Jungle Warfare endurance course.

3rd Intelligence Battalion Marines complete

JUNGLE WARFARE

TRAINING

CAMP GONSALVES, OKINAWA, JAPAN

Story and photos by

LANCE CPL. TYLER J. HLAVAC
III Marine Expeditionary Force

Marines from ground sensor platoon, 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, proved they can survive the jungle when they completed the Jungle Survival Skills course Nov. 19, and Jungle Skills course Nov. 21 at Camp Gonsalves.

During the Jungle Warfare Training Center's survival course, the 19 Marines spent their first two days in the classroom learning how to find food and shelter in the jungle. Instructors also taught the Marines how to find water, build a fire, make shelters and catch, skin and clean wild game such as rabbits and chickens.

The survival course culminated with a practical application of the skills they had learned and the added bonus of going 24 hours without eating to teach them about dealing with hunger in the jungle.

Sgt. David Phillips, a ground sensor operator with the platoon, said the survival course taught the Marines how to deal with stress and helped them develop an "I can" mindset.

"This course has been a great training experience for us, particularly for our junior Marines," Phillips said. "As ground sensor Marines, our job involves us going out into enemy territory to install information gathering sensors, which could potentially lead to a situation in which we would be stuck out in the jungle alone and have to survive."

After completing the survival course, the Marines immediately tackled the Jungle Skills course. The course consists of a day of classroom training and a day of practical application, and is designed to teach the Marines how to conduct combat operations in the jungle.

The practical application kicked off early Nov. 21 as the Marines ran through the timed endurance course portion of the Jungle Skills course, which tests

everything the Marines learned in the classroom. The endurance course began with the Marines racing across hasty rope bridges and rappelling down steep hills. The Marines then swam through underwater culverts and navigated their way through barbed wire obstacles.

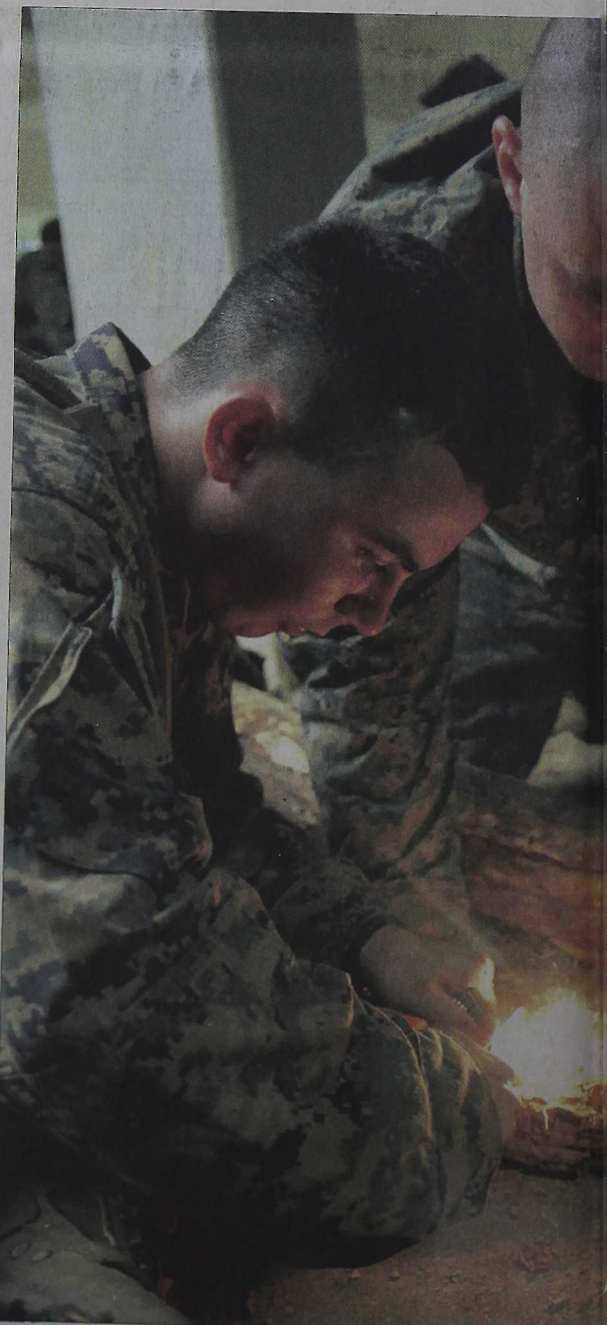
Near the end of the course, the Marines had to carry a simulated casualty on a stretcher made of camouflaged uniform blouses through thick mud and up steep hills. The Marines finished the course in four hours and 30 minutes, which is considered a fast time, especially since the Marines completed both the survival and skills classes back to back, which no unit has done before.

"They had a really great time out there," said 1st Lt. Mark Patridge, assistant director for the JWTC. "Considering these Marines had done the survival course and gone without food days prior, we had expected them to finish in about six hours, as most units who do the course normally finish within a five to six-hour mark. They had the guts to finish this course strongly."

The Marines attributed their quick finish to a strong sense of camaraderie and the number of junior Marines within the unit who took charge, both of which were the result of training at the JWTC together.

"This training was really great for us as we came together as a unit and learned how to push ourselves," said Lance Cpl. Caleb Armstrong, a ground sensor operator who also functioned as a unit team leader during the training. "We got rained on a lot, were constantly cold and went without food, but no one in the unit argued or fought. This was a great morale builder for us, and we are definitely going to come out here again in the future and beat our course time."

The two courses are offered by the 3rd Marine Division's JWTC as a way of teaching service members not only the tactics of jungle fighting, but how to survive in the jungle if they are ever lost or separated from their unit.



Lance Cpl. Michael Velasco, left, and Pvt. Shane Johnson, ground sensor operators, use flint and magnesium strips to light a fire.

Pfc. Jonathan Bolden with ground sensor operators during the Jungle Warfare Training Center's survival course.



...han Bold... for with ground sensor platoon, 3rd Marine Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, stops to catch his breath after carrying a simulated casualty through the Jungle Warfare Training Center.



Marines with ground sensor platoon, 3rd Marine Intelligence Battalion, struggle to carry a simulated casualty during the Jungle Warfare Training Center's endurance course.



Marines with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, slog their way through a muddy trench.

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W Regiment focuses on leadership, taking care of wounded Marines

By FRED W. BAKER III
on Forces Press

System of Care

The regiment's headquarters at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Va., is just a short drive from the Pentagon, and military healthcare facilities such as the NNMC at Bethesda, Md., and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Some staff are wounded Marines who are working through their own recoveries.

While the headquarters is temporary billeting now, it is for a new headquarters building with construction beginning this year. Before they move in, they will have to outgrow it, said

the regiment consists of 20 companies here, another at Pendleton, Calif., and one company in Hawaii. Each company covers for Marines recovering in their area. The east and west battalions divide their coverage of the United States by the Mississippi River, while the Hawaii company covers those recovering in the Pacific.

The battalion here has the same structure for two companies, but only one is active. There are about 100 Marines in the company now, and has oversight for more than 300. A new \$27 million barracks complex is under construction that will move Marines closer to the hospital and other treatment facilities on base.

ilities on base.

The West Coast battalion has oversight of about 200 Marines and has a similar barracks construction project planned.

In the units, Marines spend their days concentrating on healing and transitioning to the next phase of their lives, whether that means recovering and staying on active duty or leaving the service.

For those not reporting directly to the units, Marine patient affairs teams reach out to all major medical facilities. And, Marines are based in each of the Veterans Administration polytrauma centers in California, Florida, Minnesota and Virginia.

Also, the Marines have based 30 "super case managers" across the country in support cells to manage some of its most difficult cases. The case managers are based in communities where there is a large demographic of Marines recovering from their wounds. They work out of their homes, or out of borrowed office space. But their primary job is to be out meeting with Marines face-to-face to establish personal relationships, Boyle said.

To further extend its reach into the communities where former and current Marines are recovering close to home, the Corps enlisted active-duty representatives stationed at its 186 reserve sites across the country. These Marines are responsible for the training and readiness of the reserve units to which they are



DoD photo by Fred W. Baker III
Capt. Ray Baronie, commander of Company A, Wounded Warrior Battalion East, walks through his barracks inspecting renovations. Baronie was injured when an antitank round struck his vehicle in Iraq during 2005.

assigned, but they also are tasked with checking on recovering Marines at hospitals and at home, including being on-call for help. Such calls sometimes come from family and friends when a Marine begins having difficulties coping with stress or a brain injury whose symptoms crop up months after their release from service.

Topping it off, the Marines have more than 100 "hometown links," or reservists, who spend their part-time duty helping former Marines find jobs, talking to civic groups, working with the media and other community relations work. They also can make house-calls, Boyle said.

"Within in a couple of hours, we can have a Marine standing on a Marine's doorstep, helping with his problem," Boyle said. "This really does allow us the ability

to reach out and touch. It is nice to be able to not just sit here and talk to a Marine on the phone. Sometimes he may respond or may not respond, but if somebody shows up at his door, sits down in his living room -- that makes a huge difference."

The cross-country network is tied together by a massive computer tracking system launched this year. The Web-based system allows leaders to track a Marine as he moves through his recovery process. This is backed by a full-time operations center, also based at Quantico. Designed much like a combat operations center, it monitors every case within the regiment.

Most unique to the Marine Corps' program is its 24-hour per day, seven-day-per-week call center on Quantico. The other services have call centers, but the Marine's center

on Quantico made a commitment last summer to begin calling some 8,000 former Marines who were injured since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan but have since left the service.

In the past, "We'd meet them at the door, we'd shake their hand and hand them a (record of their service) and say 'Have a good life,'" Boyle said. "We don't do that any more. It's Marine for life. We take care of them when they leave the service. For as long as they are out there, we are going to be here to help them and address their needs."

Of the center's 20 employees, 18 are retired Marines. The other two are Marine spouses. They started calling the most seriously injured first and, so far, have reached more than 5,000 of the Marines.

Many of the contact numbers on file are old and no longer valid so it takes some research and effort for the team. The team likes to talk to family members as they track down the Marine.

"We like to talk to moms and dads and wives, because Marines don't always tell us what's really going on. But moms and dads and wives do. We've fixed a lot of problems out there," Boyle said.

Call centers will be added to each of the wounded warrior battalions, and plans are to staff them with medical personnel for assessments and referrals.

The center also receives calls from Vietnam veterans

and helps when they can, Boyle said.

Looking Forward

Taking care of wounded Marines now is no longer "business as usual," said Boyle.

As senior leaders work through the bureaucracy of changing a decades-old system, Boyle and his staff are on the front line of policy change for wounded warrior care. There has been some "push back" Boyle said, but, for the most part, his opinion is "everything is waiverable."

"It's not law. It's policy. They will waive policy, they will rewrite policy," Boyle said.

And, to date, many changes have been made to the policies that were most obviously in contradiction to the service's commitment to caring for Marines, he said.

But lasting, permanent change is needed within many systems to mold a single system that has the care of the Marine at its core, Boyle said.

"We've got to make sure that the wounded warriors are the priority. This is our one chance to fix it and fix it right," Boyle said. "If we do that now, we'll be much better off in the next conflict down the road."


As it is, Boyle said, the service is proving itself "100 times better" than it was a year ago at taking care of its Marines.


Editor's note: This article is the second part of a two-part series installment.

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DAM FROM AI

The turnover of the dam comes as little surprise as coalition forces continue to assume an overwatch role and the Iraqis continue to take control of security throughout the country.

"While the Marines and coalition forces occupied the dam, we were only able to send workers in for the day shift," said Hassan Yahyah Hassan, who is a representative for the Ministry of Electricity as well as the overall director of the dam. "The removal of coalition forces will facilitate the technical crew's movement within the dam. We only have around 100 personnel, but now we will be able to fill three shifts that will employ 460 personnel and will keep the dam running 24-hours a day."

Security for the facility, once a responsibility of coalition forces, is now in the hands of the Iraqi army and the police. The turnover of responsibility is a huge step for Iraqis and military members alike because it signified the increasing self-sufficiency of Iraq.



Roy Robinson speaks with Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer about what he experienced 65 years ago, when he landed on Red Beach Two in a Higgins landing craft. Zilmer, the commanding general of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and commander of Marine Corps Bases Japan, traveled to Beŕio Island in the Republic of Tarawa, to attend the ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of the battle Nov. 20.

TARAWA FROM

"What began oning only 65 years lasted for 76 terrible is what brings us here today," said Zilmer. "Today here to commemorate the sacrifices, and those gallant young men who braved the horrors of modern day combat come an enemy equipped to victory."

Near the end of the ceremony, wreaths were placed on the memorial and Tonga by thanking the veterans who fought for his people.

"I salute those young men who served that time," he said. "We are indeed honored to be part of this commemoration of the memories of the men and to pay our respects to their courage and sacrifice for the people of Tarawa and humanity."

After the ceremony, Zilmer departed to walk along the same sandy shores of Red Beach Two. "The beach was different now. There was no machine gun fire placed with the sound of breaking along the shore. There were no more weapons of war there. The beach had reclaimed its beauty once dominated by pillboxes and machine gun emplacements."

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GOAL FROM AI

from Company F, BLT 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines was utilized to clear an obstacle.

"The objective was to open the axis for the battalion attack, which had been blocked by the enemy," Johnston said. "The full spectrum of supporting arms was incorporated, which allowed the company fire support team to support breaching operations."

Despite the number of training events, none of them would have been possible if it were not for the range that was made available to the Marines.

"The range facility was great and allowed us to conduct both dismounted and mounted combined arms operations," Johnston said. "You are really only limited by your imagination when you have ranges like this."

And of course, none of the training would have been possible if it had not been for the hospitality of the host nation.

"The Middle Eastern military was very cooperative and enjoyed the cultural exchange with the U.S. Marines throughout the exercise," Johnston said. "I think the capabilities of both forces (were) demonstrated during the final exercise. Between the ability of the two nations' staffs to plan, coordinate and execute an amphibious assault from ship to shore was a testament to the professionalism and willingness to work together from both countries."

The 26th MEU is currently deployed aboard the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group in the Persian Gulf in support of local operations.



In preparation for the day's training, Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines Company G, raise a radio antenna.

Retired Military Breakfast

There is a breakfast scheduled for retired and active-duty military at the Ball Center aboard Camp Lejeune, Saturday.

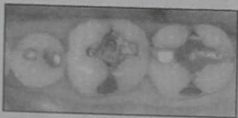
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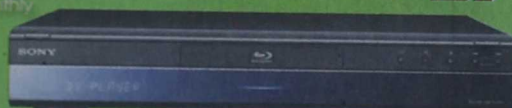


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RAIDERS DEFEND TITLE

Headquarters and Support Battalion tops Camp Johnson 14-9 in final



ry and photos
MIE CAMERON
Assistant managing editor

For the last two years, there have been three things certain in life: death, taxes and the Headquarters and Support Battalion Raiders winning football games.

The Raiders completed their second-straight undefeated season in Camp Lejeune's intramural football league Dec. 4 with a 14-9 win over Camp Johnson in the championship game.

"Our defense was key to keeping us ahead," said Coach Christopher Hamilton, who also started at defensive back for the Raiders. "(Camp Johnson has) a very good quarterback and we needed to put the pressure on him to force mistakes."

Camp Johnson led early thanks to an interception returned for a touchdown on the Raider's first possession of the game, and later held a 9-6 advantage thanks to James Johnson's 36-yard field goal.

The Raiders rallied behind the nifty running of halfback Lewis Shao. Shao came off the bench to replace their starting tailback, who suffered an ankle sprain early in the game.

With two minutes remaining in the first half, Raiders' quarterback Sanford James dove over the goal line from a yard out to take the lead. James followed up his touchdown with another quarterback keeper, this time for the 2-point conversion and the 14-9 advantage.

Camp Johnson did not go into halftime without giving the Raiders their best shot downfield. Justin Fierro hauled in a 46-yard pass from quarterback Wayne Mann to get Camp Johnson to the Raiders' 23-yard line with 20 seconds left. Penalties and a stiffening Raiders defense quashed the drive and the teams went to opposite ends of the field for the break.

As the air temperature plummeted, so too did the offenses of both sides in the second half.

Camp Johnson returned the opening kickoff of the second half just past midfield, but again ran into the Raiders' immovable defense, often led by linemen Billy Good and Scott Bauer. For the rest of the third quarter, the teams traded turnovers, with neither side able to generate any offensive traction.

The fourth quarter saw Camp Johnson make another serious threat against the Raiders' goal; this time going down to the 24-yard line before handing the ball back on downs. The Raiders quickly returned the favor, with James throwing an ill-advised pass that was picked off and returned all the way down to the 11-yard line.

After trying to move the ball through the air on three consecutive downs, Camp Johnson decided to settle for another Johnson field goal, but this time, the kick was blocked.

The Raiders punted with two minutes to play in the game, but iced the victory when Justin Keith intercepted Mann at midfield.

"(Camp Johnson) beat Cherry Point twice this season, so obviously they were doing something right," commended Hamilton after the game. "They had a great defense and it took everything we had tonight to win."

The Raiders will look to add to their 18-game winning streak when the 2009 intramural football season begins next fall.

“Our defense was key to keeping us ahead ... it took everything we had tonight to win.”

— Christopher Hamilton, Raiders' coach



(Top) Headquarters and Support Battalion quarterback, Sanford James, makes contact with the Camp Johnson defense. Above, Camp Johnson wide receiver, Justin Fierro, No. 24, goes up for a pass against a Headquarters and Support Bn. defender.

Bear attack reawakens respect for fellow predators



Lejeune Outdoors

With Jamie Cameron

Just when you thought it was safe to go into the woods, a bear hunter in Jones County is attacked by the very quarry he sought. I can't speak to the details of the story, other than what I've seen and read in the local media outlet; the man was attacked after his hunting party had shot and wounded the bear Monday. He was airlifted to receive medical treatment for severe injuries to his leg.

The irony of this story is quite obvious to hunters and non-hunters alike, sort of a "mess with the bull and you'll get the horns" situation.

I am not a bear hunter, but I don't begrudge anyone who pursues them in a legal manner. I certainly hope the man who was attacked recovers from his injuries and, in a way, I hope the bear does too.

For people who have not lived in eastern North Carolina for more than a year or two, it may come as a shock to know we live among some of the largest black bears on the face of the planet. The Coastal Plain region has the perfect mixture of agricultural resources, thick pocosin swamps and the gene pool to produce bears of exceptional size.

The world record black bear was killed by a hunter in Craven County in 1999. The big bear was aged by wildlife biologists at more than 10 years and weighed an astounding 880 pounds.

Most of the bears in our area are quite a bit smaller than that. The average adult male weighs around 300 pounds and mature females tip the scales at around 150 pounds. These are not inconsequential animals. A big black bear is a sight to behold, but the idea of meeting one in the woods should not keep anyone from pursuing their favorite outdoor activities. The Web search I made suggested there have been 36 fatal black bear attacks over the last century in the United States. Compare that to the annual average

of 62 victims of lightning strikes and you get the idea.

Over the years, I have had my fair share of black bear encounters, probably because I go into the places where bears like to be. I have never felt threatened by any of the 20 or so bears I have intruded upon, but it may have something to do with my healthy respect for the animals and basic knowledge of their behavior.

If you should happen to cross paths with a black bear, the first thing you should do is just stop. Nine times out of 10, the bear will run away as fast as it can once it knows you're there. Bears have excellent senses of smell and hearing, but their eyesight is poor. If the bear hears or smells you before you walk into view, you will never see the bear; it will retreat. If you approach from downwind, the bear will be relying on its eyes to detect you and

you may have to give it some additional encouragement to skedaddle. I have spoken conversationally to bears that didn't know I was there and this has always had the desired result; the bear turns tail and runs to the next county.

There can be exceptions to these rules of normal bear/human interaction. Female bears with small cubs should never be pressed, especially if you find yourself between Momma and her babes. Should that happen, back away slowly and keep your attention on the sow. Give her room to reunite with her cubs and the family will amble off with no harm done. Bears that have been fed by humans can be trouble. Like dogs, black bears will never turn down a meal, and if they start associating human beings with free handouts, they quickly lose their natural fear and their behavior changes. If you are faced with a bear that doesn't back down, or even approaches you, chances are good someone has been feeding it. As with mothers and cubs,

back away slowly and talk to the bear. If that doesn't work, yell at the bear. As a last resort, climb a tree. Never run at or away from a bear that seems more than curious. Once the bear leaves you in peace, call the local authorities and let them know where you had the encounter. Depending on the situation, wildlife officers may be dispatched to trap the animal and relocate it or at least canvas the area to find out who has been feeding it and get them to stop.

The great outdoors come with a fair share of risks, but black bears are pretty low on the list of things you should be worried about. I'm more concerned with doing a thorough tick check when I get home from the field than I am of what I'm going to do the next time I meet a bear in the woods.

For me, a day with a bear sighting is always a good day. It reminds me that humans aren't the only big predators roaming around.

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to the last segment of waterfowl season. Good luck out there.



Have you been on an outdoor adventure lately? Share your photos, send them to jamie.cameron@militarynews.com



Photo by Brian Degan

Eastern North Carolina is home to a healthy population of black bears, but that is no reason for anyone not to participate in their favorite outdoor activities. In the event of an encounter with a bear, follow a policy of respect and slow retreat.

SAN FRANCISCO

Giants make Renteria new shortstop

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP SPORTS WRITER

Edgar Renteria is back in the National League, where he thinks he best belongs.

Renteria became the second free agent to join the San Francisco Giants in two days, receiving an \$18.5 million, two-year contract Dec. 4 to replace 11-time Gold Glove shortstop Omar Vizquel.

A five-time NL All-Star, Renteria has spent 11 of his 13 major league seasons in the National League. He won a World Series ring with the 1997 Florida Marlins and a pennant in 2004 with St. Louis, but struggled during a pair of one-season stints in the AL, with Boston in 2005 and Detroit this year.

"I played good in the National League. I feel real comfortable," Renteria said on a conference call. "Maybe I know more of the game in the National League. It's my type of league. I like to play the game. The American League is different — you have to go for the home run and wait for hitting. That's no excuse for what happened in the American League, but it might be why I'm so excited to get back to the National League."

Renteria receives a \$2 million signing bonus, \$7 million next year and \$9 million in 2010. The Giants have a \$9.5 million option for 2011 with a \$500,000 buyout. If he is traded before the end of the 2010 season, Renteria can void the team option and still receive the buyout.

Giants general manager Brian Sabean has had a busy week, signing right-handed reliever Bobby Howry to a one-year contract Wednesday and

following that up by securing Renteria. The sides had all but finalized a deal during a meeting Dec. 3.

Renteria, a career .290 hitter, was back in Miami Dec. 4 after a quick visit to San Francisco.

"We really appreciate his interest and look forward to a relationship that's going to be fruitful on both sides. I don't think Edgar needs any introduction," Sabean said. "We're just thrilled to put him in our No. 2 spot in the lineup and at shortstop and move on to other business."

The Tigers declined to offer Renteria salary arbitration. While he was being pursued by three or four teams, Renteria said the Giants' strong interest meant a lot to him in making the decision.

"I want to go where the people want me to go. I don't go where they don't want me," he said. "The Giants were interested in signing me. That's a great city to play baseball."

Renteria will be looking to have a better year in 2009. He batted .270 with 10 homers and 55 RBIs this season for the Tigers, who afterward declined their \$11 million option and gave him a \$3 million buyout.

Sabean isn't concerned about Renteria, especially considering he had a better second half.

"We have no reservations of him being a shortstop and what he's going to do for our offense," the GM said. "It's an upgrade."

The Giants haven't reached the playoffs since 2003 and were in a rebuilding phase last season, going 72-90 while using many young players in key roles. Having a veteran shortstop will be a big help considering Vizquel

provided that kind of stability during his four years with the club.

"To get somebody with his resume is huge for our ballclub. He's a winner," manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's versatile as far as hitting in the batting order. He helps solidify our defense up the middle. This is a very great sign for us and I couldn't be more excited to have a player of his caliber."

Sabean said after the 2008 season there was "zero" chance the Giants would bring back the 41-year-old Vizquel despite his popularity and still-reliable defense in the middle of the infield.

"Everybody knows Omar is one of the best shortstops in the game," said the Colombian-born Renteria. "Two Latin guys, All-Stars. To replace Omar, for me that's an honor."

San Francisco also had been interested in Rafael Furcal, but the 33-year-old Renteria certainly became less of a medical risk considering Furcal — also being courted by the Oakland Athletics — was sidelined for all but 36 games last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers because of back problems that required surgery.

With the acquisition of Renteria, Sabean now might look to trade talented prospect Emmanuel Burriss — or give Burriss more time to develop and perhaps even use him as second base. The 23-year-old Burriss, selected by San Francisco in the first round of the 2006 draft, played 95 games last season as a rookie.

Sabean said he and his staff would discuss not only Burriss but also infielders Kevin Frandsen and Eugenio Velez during the winter meetings in Las Vegas.

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National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

THURSDAY		
High tide	5:46 a.m.	6:03 p.m.
Low tide	12:20 p.m.	11:59 p.m.
FRIDAY		
High tide	6:39 a.m.	6:57 p.m.
Low tide		1:14 p.m.
SATURDAY		
High tide	7:32 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Low tide	12:53 a.m.	2:06 p.m.
SUNDAY		
High tide	8:25 a.m.	8:46 p.m.
Low tide	1:48 a.m.	2:58 p.m.
MONDAY		
High tide	9:19 a.m.	9:43 p.m.
Low tide	2:45 a.m.	3:51 p.m.
TUESDAY		
High tide	10:13 a.m.	10:43 p.m.
Low tide	3:43 a.m.	4:44 p.m.
WEDNESDAY		
High tide	11:09 a.m.	11:45 p.m.
Low tide	4:44 a.m.	5:37 p.m.

SPORTS ON STATION

Intramural indoor soccer league sign ups

The Camp Lejeune indoor soccer league is scheduled to begin Jan. 17 and run through Feb. 28. Games will be played Saturdays inside Goeltge Memorial Field House. The league is open to all active duty, retired, family members and DoD civilian employees aboard Camp Lejeune and New River. A mandatory coaches' meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9. Letters of intent and team rosters must be turned in by Jan. 8. For more information, call the Intramural Sports Office at 451-2061.

Intramural basketball league sign-ups

The Camp Lejeune basketball league is scheduled to begin Jan. 12 and run through March 5. Games will be played Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Goeltge Memorial Field House. The league is open to all active duty, retired, family members and DoD civilian employees aboard Camp Lejeune and New River. A mandatory coaches' meeting is scheduled for Dec. 18. Letters of intent and team rosters must be turned in by Dec. 18. For more information, call the Intramural Sports Office at 451-2061.

Lejeune Lions Wrestling Club

The Lejeune Lions Youth Wrestling Club, coached by All-Marine Wrestling Team head coach Daniel Hicks, is looking for participants. Camp Lejeune family members enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 are welcome to join. Sessions are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Area 5 Gym aboard Camp Lejeune. For more information, call 451-3762.

Women's varsity basketball tryouts

The varsity women's basketball team is looking for players. Any female Marine with high school, intramural or college experience is asked to contact Coach Lee Williams at 330-4716.

Regional Soccer Team tryouts

The Marine Corps' Regional Soccer Team will conduct tryouts Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Camp Johnson Soccer Field through December. For more information, call Head Coach Antonio Wamer at 451-2061.

Winter Tennis Clinics

The Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department is offering winter tennis clinics with local expert, Tony Pereira. Classes are scheduled for Monday and Friday each week, from 1-2:30 p.m. The clinics will run Jan. 12 through March 27. No registration is required; drop-ins are welcome. For more information, call Brittany Wood at (252)-354-6350 or e-mail her at bwod@emeraldisle-nc.org.

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Postseason contenders step to forefront

After leading the Philadelphia Eagles to a solid victory over the New York Giants, I am convinced Donovan McNabb has the shortest memory in the National Football League. It was just two weeks ago when Philly head coach Andy Reid inexplicably benched his All-Pro quarterback with time left in the first half against the Baltimore Ravens. McNabb certainly wasn't playing well, but

Reid further insulted the nine-year veteran by having his quarterbacks coach do the dirty deed. The Eagles lost the game 36-7 and set the league abuzz with talk of McNabb's imminent demise. Reid must have realized the ways. Last week, McNabb had one of his best games against the Arizona Cardinals and this looked like he was in complete control against the Colts. Who knows, maybe there's a method to Coach Reid's madness, but I doubt it. I think McNabb is a professional who just goes out and tries to get the job done no matter what the turmoil that surrounds him or his team on any given week.

game of the season and it was at home to boot, but I still like their chances to repeat as Super Bowl champions. Every good team has an off-day or two during the season. As fans, all you can hope for is it doesn't happen when something important is on the line (I just stuffed a little remembering the Patriots' Super Bowl performance last season). If I were a G-man backer, I wouldn't be worried in the least.

The American Football Conference East is a three-way race between the New York Jets, Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots, and for the life of me, I can't tell which of the three is going to pull it out. Each team is capable of great performances and embarrassing efforts. I guess I'll go with the Pats at this juncture, if for nothing more than their past history. At least they know how to win big games.

Many football fans were frightened early during the Detroit Lions' game against Minnesota, but lucky for all of us, the Lions blew it again. I know I can't be the only one rooting for a winless season in Detroit. It's not that I have any feelings against the Lions or their fans; I'm just fascinated by the improbability of it all. The Lions play out their woeful season against Indianapolis, New Orleans and Green Bay, so I like our chances.

After posting another 1-2 record last week, my season total stands at 10-23 with no chance to get even close to respectability. Maybe if I can go 9-0 for the rest of the schedule you will forgive and forget by the time next year rolls around. Here goes ...

Detroit (0-13) at Indianapolis (9-4)

Come on, you knew I'd do it eventually. This isn't a story of how bad the Lions are; it's a story of the resurgence of the Colts. For the first half of the season, the Colts were a no-show. Peyton Manning was hurt. Marvin Harrison was hurt. Jeff

Saturday was hurt. It just seemed like an unfortunate three-way season for the league's most dynamic offense. Somewhere along the way, the Colts found their form and have been winning ever since. Will it be enough to make the playoffs as a wild card? I don't know, but NFL teams certainly realize by now the door has closed on the chance for an easy win over Indianapolis. The Lions have no shot. Pick: Indianapolis.

Minnesota (8-5) at Arizona (8-5)

Two NFC teams with playoff aspirations, but little hope for much more than that. I like the Cardinals because I like watching the dynamic duo of Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald terrorizing opposing secondaries. Arizona QB Kurt Warner looks like he could play forever as long as he has the likes of Boldin and Fitzgerald to throw to. In Minnesota, it's the Adrian Peterson running show, but who will be the starting quarterback? Gus Frerone hurt his back against Detroit and Tavaris Jackson took over, but that is really a running team. In the end, the Minnesota defense will have too much to think about, covering two All-Star receivers. Pick: Arizona.

San Francisco (5-8) at Miami (8-5)

Can the 49ers take down another AFC East powerhouse? Why not? None of the current 8-5 teams in the East are very good. Miami is perhaps the most impressive of the three because they have come so far since last season. Chad Pennington gives the Dolphins confidence at the most important position and has the ability to win games with his arm. The Dolphins are a running team first, however, with Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams toting the load. San Francisco will ask running back Frank Gore to do most of the work and Miami can focus their defensive scheme on stopping him. Pick: Miami.



RIDIRON GURU

with Jamie Cameron

abb's imminent demise. Reid must have realized the ways. Last week, McNabb had one of his best games against the Arizona Cardinals and this looked like he was in complete control against the Colts. Who knows, maybe there's a method to Coach Reid's madness, but I doubt it. I think McNabb is a professional who just goes out and tries to get the job done no matter what the turmoil that surrounds him or his team on any given week.

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Naval Academy fullback Eric Kettani runs for a first down during the 109th playing of the Army-Navy football game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia Saturday. The Mids extended their winning streak to seven with a 34-0 win over the Black Knights. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad [Name obscured]

NAVY BEATS ARMY

Mids sink Black Knights 34-0 at 109th meeting

NEWS REPORT
The Associated Press

Army's cool new dress code resulted in the same old loss against Navy. With President George W. Bush in attendance, Shun White ran for 147 yards and scored two touchdowns to lead bowl-bound Navy 34-0 over Army Saturday for its seventh straight win in the storied rivalry between service academies.

Army (3-9) debuted camouflage helmets, pants and uniform numbers, and the backs of their jerseys had the words "Duty, Honor, Country."

The Black Knights' makeover was sharper than their play. Navy (8-4) got a 65-yard touchdown run from White on the third play of the game and improved to 53-49-7 overall against Army for its biggest lead in a series that began in 1890.

Navy has won 13 straight times against Air Force and Army since 2002, outscoring the programs 441-205 during the streak. The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy remains docked with Navy.

Eric Kettani rushed for 131 yards and a TD for Navy and linebacker Ram Vela returned an interception 68 yards for a touchdown with 31 seconds left.

The Mids have already accepted a bid to play in the inaugural EagleBank Bowl on Dec. 20 in Washington, their sixth straight bowl game.

Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo didn't

skip a beat in his first year leading the Mids since Paul Johnson left for Georgia Tech. Niumatalolo became the second service academy coach to win the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy in his first year, joining Navy's George Welsh in 1973.

Some Navy fans held a sign that read: "Congress, bail out Army!"

Army's Collin Mooney gained 1 yard on the final carry of the game to finish with 55 yards rushing and set the program's single-season rushing record with 1,339 yards.

Army scored only three points in last year's 38-3 loss in Baltimore and was shut out in the patriotic series for the first time since a 28-0 loss in 1978.

The series has become increasingly lopsided, often making the pregame pageantry the most memorable part of the day.

Bush was mostly cheered by the crowd of 69,144 at Lincoln Financial Field and heard chants of "USA! USA! USA!" as he walked to midfield for the ceremonial coin toss. On his way, he stopped to kick a football on a tee. The playful boot went about 15 yards.

Bush, attending his third Army-Navy game, gave both teams pep talks and watched each half from a different side in support of both service academies.

No matter the angle, White put on quite a show. The game's most valuable player quickly put Navy ahead, sprinting 65 yards down Navy's sideline for a 7-0 lead.

Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada connected with Tyree Barnes on a 34-yard reception that set up a 23-yard field goal by Matt Harmon for a 10-0 lead.

White was wide open and caught the pass from Kaheaku-Enhada around the 10, then coasted into the end zone for an 18-yard TD catch that made it 17-0 at halftime.

White, 5-foot-9, 190 pounds, rushed for 138 yards in the first half and went over the 1,000-yard rushing mark on the season.

Army's seniors talked all week about how much it would mean to end their careers with at least one win against Navy. This is easily the most important game for each team every season — more meaningful than any bowl game. With fighter jets roaring over the stadium before kickoff, and cadets and mids standing, bouncing and cheering on a chilly day, it was easy to see how much this rivalry means to both sides.

When Kettani scored on a 5-yard run in the third quarter to make it 24-0, the game was all but over. Harmon added a 36-yard field goal in the fourth.

The Black Knights missed two prime chances in the first half to score. The first came after a bad snap and punt from the Mids gave Army the ball on their own 46. Army only gained 3 yards, though, and punted.

Then Pat Mealy broke a pair of tackles and returned a kick 72 yards down to Navy's 27 that electrified the crowd. Again, Army couldn't convert and got nothing on a fake field goal attempt.

Navy played without cornerback Rashawn King, who returned home to Raleigh, following the death of his father. Drexel King had a heart attack Dec. 4 and the Mids played with a "DK" sticker on the back of their helmets.

Navy to play sixth straight bowl game

PRESS RELEASE
U.S. Naval Academy Public Affairs

The Naval Academy has formally accepted an invitation to play in the inaugural EagleBank Bowl Dec. 20 at RFK Stadium in Washington. They will play against Wake Forest.

The bowl bid is a landmark achievement for the Midshipmen, marking the first time Navy has gone to six straight bowl games. The game will be televised nationally by ESPN, and game time is tentatively set for 11 a.m.

Naval Academy Director of Athletics Chet Gladchuk is hoping for a strong Navy showing. "Our goal is to bring the majority of the Brigade of Midshipmen, and we want more than 30,000 Navy fans in the stands," said Gladchuk. "If you can't make it to the game, we ask that Navy fans buy tickets for our Midshipmen, enlisted personnel and their families, which will allow us to create our usual electric Navy atmosphere."

Tickets for the EagleBank Bowl are on sale now at www.navy.com or by calling 1-800-US4-NAVY.

Fans who are unable to attend can purchase tickets to sponsor a Midshipman or enlisted personnel and their families for \$35. Donated tickets will be administered through the Naval Academy Athletic Association ticket office.

"We strongly encourage Navy fans to buy their own tickets from the Naval Academy Athletic Association," said Gladchuk. "Ticket donations for our military and their families through the Naval Academy Athletic Association ticket office are 100 percent deductible."

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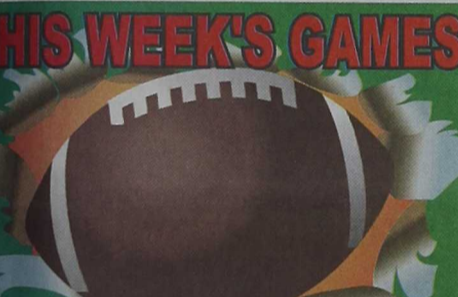
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LONDON

Youth becomes knight of rectangular table

CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP Sports Writer

In the rough-and-tumble world of inner-city life, a youngster needs to find an outlet for his aggression.

Table tennis may not be the typical form of therapy for an urban kid in London, but Darius Knight took that route and is making the most of it. Now ranked No. 2 in England, he expects to be playing for Britain at the London Olympics in 2012.

"Definitely," the 18-year-old Knight said. "Just got to keep my head down. Keep working."

Knight started training seriously when he was 10, quit school at 15 and recently moved to Sheffield to train at the English Institute of Sport. He spent years playing around the country, first under the tutelage of amateur coach Gideon Ashison and now with England's national team under Liu Jia Yi.

But it wasn't that easy to get there for a black kid from Battersea, an area of southwest London that borders on the River Thames.

"I used to hang out with the boys my age — playing football, riding bikes. Things boys do," Knight said. "And table tennis was in fashion, so we all played."

The 15 or so friends all took up the sport and played at a local club, where they met Ashison. As the months passed, more and more of the kids got bored and dropped away, but the left-hander stayed with it — if only to prove he was good enough after starting out as one of the worst among his friends.

The breakup of his parents also fueled his desire to play.

"I could be angry hitting the ball and not hurt anyone," said Knight, who recently lost a friend when he was stabbed to death in gang-related violence. "I wouldn't say I was unhappy, but it was a way to get my anger out."

To Ashison, Knight really proved his desire when he was 10 and decided to skip a family vacation to Jamaica to stay in London and train — traveling far across town to do it.

"That was how I could see he really wanted it," said Ashison, who has since become a professional table tennis coach. "That's when I took him serious. He could have fallen into bad company because of the area he lived in. All the kids there have nothing to look forward to."

Knight's career soon took off, winning youth and junior championships around the country and world after being recruited to play for England. Despite all his success and hours of daily practice, however, he's still the second-ranked senior player in England and the second-ranked junior.

That's because doubles partner, friend and rival Paul Drinkhall is ranked No. 1.

"We're like double destruction," said Knight, who heads to Madrid, Spain, for the junior worlds. "No. 1 and No. 2, juniors and seniors."

At the senior level, Knight is only ranked No. 314 as of last month's list, but that's mainly because he doesn't regularly compete at that level. That

will likely change after Madrid, which is to be his last tournament as a junior.

Knight's success led to a sponsorship deal with British clothing maker Fred Perry, named after the last British man to win the singles title at Wimbledon in 1936 and also a world table tennis champion in 1929.

At the company's Urban Cup in London Dec. 13, Knight will be there to talk to other inner-city kids who want to play table tennis, and maybe even take them on in a game.

That's something Knight would certainly be happy with, because he's ready to show his skill.

"I'm so fast, so powerful, so quick," he said.

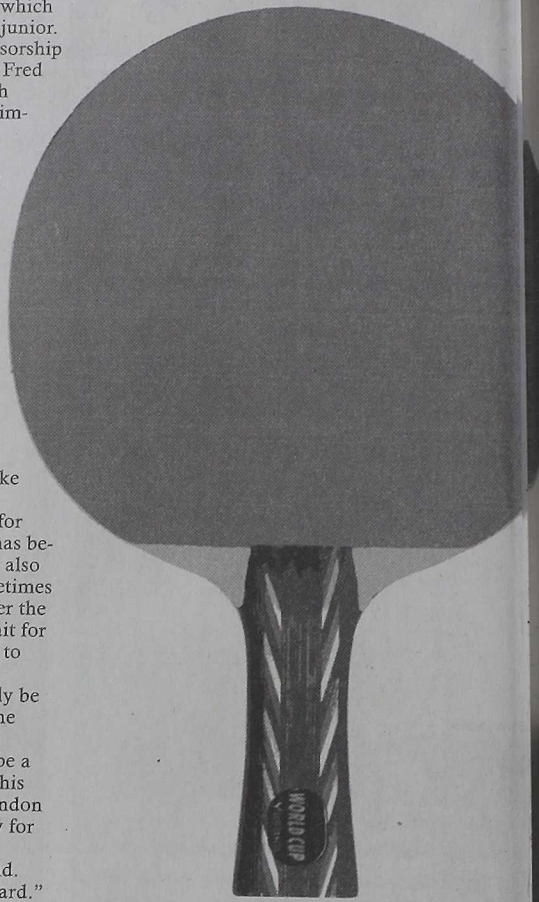
Ashison, however, thinks there's something else about Knight that will "definitely" make him an Olympian.

"He's very offensive. He goes for everything," said Ashison, who has become like family to Knight but is also one of his harshest critics. "Sometimes when he's on his own he goes over the top. He doesn't know when to wait for things and when is the right time to pass."

During 2010, Knight will likely be going to New Delhi, India, for the Commonwealth Games.

"If I get a medal there, that'll be a good indication," Knight said of his chances to win a medal at the London Olympics, where he'd love to play for his country in his hometown.

"The city I grew up in," he said. "My first Olympics in my back yard."



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Intramural Sports builds morale, commitment, leadership

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
Headquarters Marine Corps

Mankind has thrived on competition since the beginning of time. In sports, man can force his competitive will upon an opponent to see who will win in the test of physicality, mentality and drive.

The Marine Corps has used intramural sports for years to allow Marines and sailors to unleash that fighting spirit in positive ways through friendly competition while allowing them to relieve stress and build camaraderie.

"Intramural sports are a part of life in the Marine Corps," said Skip Best, Marine Corps Community Services athletics director. "It helps increase morale and Marine Corps esprit de corps."

Sports benefit Marines and sailors primarily through physical training and staying healthy while having fun. It also

provides an outlet for unleashing pent-up stress and aggression.

"It builds morale for the units," said Randy Husted, MCCS sports coordinator. "They get to play as a unit and build camaraderie. They get to take time off of work and do something besides going out and fighting a war. It gets their minds off what's going on in the outside world. They stay healthy and keep fit, and this goes hand in hand with the mission."

People play sports for a variety of reasons, but not all of them are limited to the physical aspect. Sports participants can also pick up team skills and leadership traits.

"It's a leadership opportunity," said Roy E. Cheeks, 1st Tank Battalion intramural football team coach. "A lance corporal can teach a gunnery sergeant. On the playing field, it's wide open. There's no rank on the field. It's a bonding experience."

There are some who've never picked up a ball before, others who dabbled in some sport in their backyard as a child and some who've spent their whole lives immersed in the world of sports. For those who know the sport, it's their opportunity to take the reigns of leadership and teach those who do not.

Without intramural sports, Marines may look for other avenues to fulfill their passion for challenge. Some of these paths could prove dangerous for the Marine as well as the Corps.

"We need intramural sports. It's a stress reliever," said Brian Davis, Headquarters Battalion, Installation Personnel Administration Center. "It's something to do to take up time and keep Marines out of trouble."

While the Marine Corps will survive without it, those who need a healthy outlet

for stress and aggression may suffer for loss.

"The Marine Corps could survive without intramural sports, but it gives Marines something to do in their off-duty other than going out and getting drunk," said Robert Payer, 1st Tank Bn.

In Davis' 14 years of Corps life, he's been involved in several sports. He has coached youth flag football and the defensive line for the Headquarters Battalion intramural football team. It's made him a "better team player" and shown him how to look at the "whole team concept."

Having a team concept, a commitment to the team, is paramount in being a Marine as well as its core values.

Intramural sports will continue to exist in the Marine Corps, for the enjoyment of the Marines and sailors and in molding future leaders.

THE GLOBE

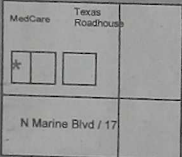
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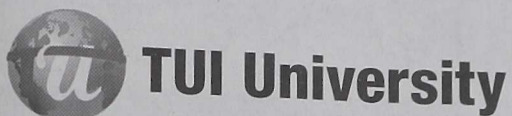
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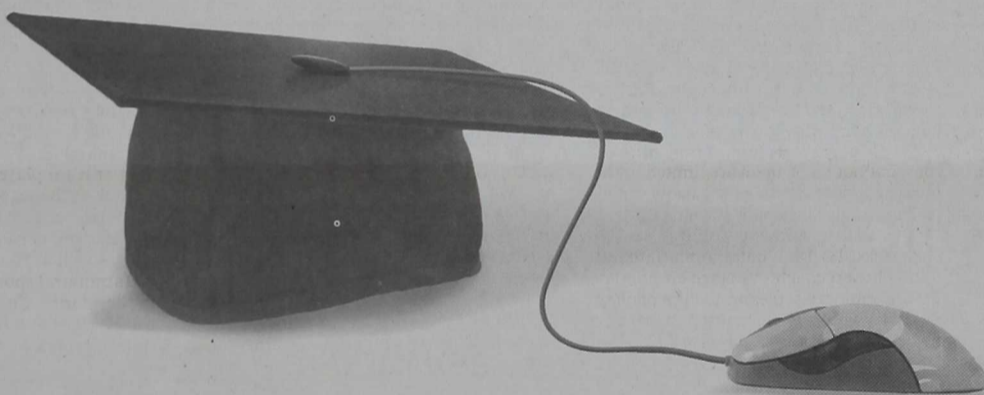
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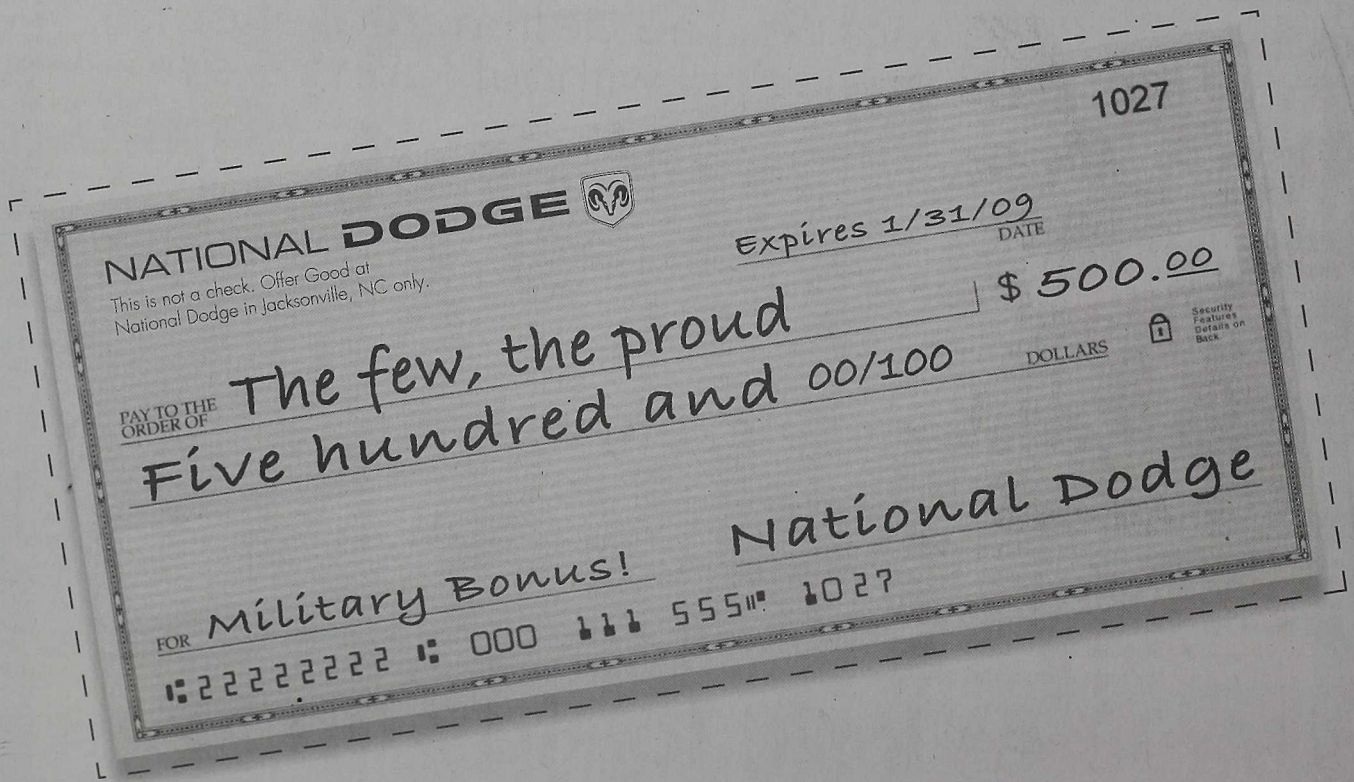
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 2008

CBRN Marine motivates juniors to excel, passes on knowledge

Attention to detail serves future Marines well

OSHUA MURRAY
Marine Division

While thoroughly preparing for a promotion to detail serves future Marines well, Lance Cpl. Justin Burkett, a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense specialist with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, has successfully outshined his peers during his career by training and mentoring his Marines. He partially accredits his achievements to his organized and disciplined childhood.

"I was raised in a very structured environment," he said. "It's something I have at home and something I really appreciate."

For service members' youngsters, childhood may not always be the easiest or most enjoyable experience. The military requires service members to move frequently

and wherever they go, their families follow.

Burkett began his life journey in Tyler, Texas, and soon after his birth, his father began a 9-year stint in the Navy. Four relocations and many years later Burkett found himself back in Texas, attending Abilene Christian University. Work and school were his main priorities, but he didn't truly enjoy the lifestyle he was leading.

"It takes more than money to motivate me," said Burkett, referring to his job working at a car dealership. "The money was good, but I was tired of not being happy with the work I was doing. You don't get a chance to build relationships with the people you work with."

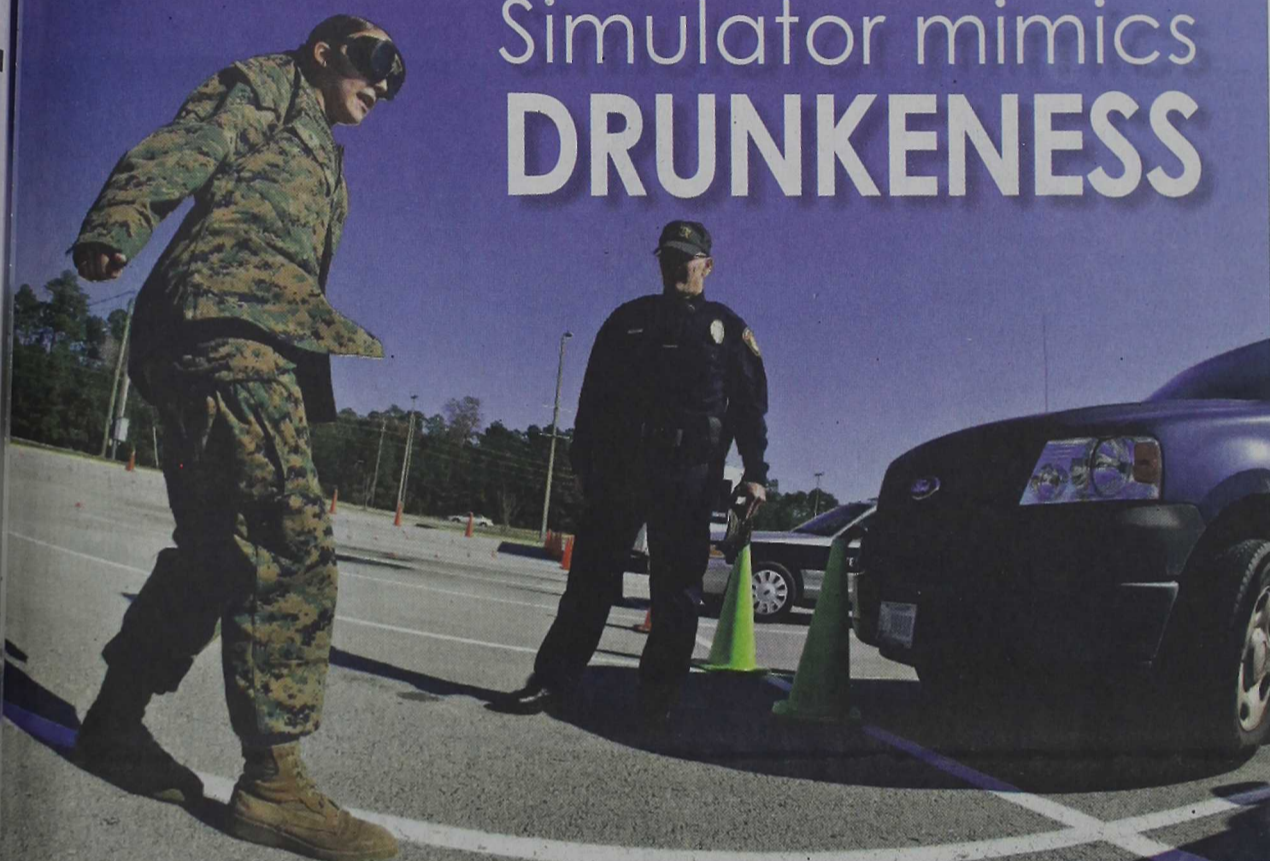
In searching for his niche in society, he decided the Marine Corps would be a good fit.

"After I joined the Marine Corps I was much more satisfied," said Burkett with a smile on his face. "The standards and our way of life as Marines is something I try to surround myself with."

His hard work and dedication soon paid off when company leaders began looking for Marines to compete

SEE CBRN 2C ▶

Simulator mimics DRUNKENNESS



Lance Cpl. Lisandra Rosario-Valentin, 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, attempts to walk the line with .10 BAC, while Cpl. Anthony A. Bronkema, PMO, ensures her safety at the Camp Lejeune exchange parking lot, Nov. 6.

Marines see detrimental effects of alcohol without taking a sip

Story and photos
CPL. JIN HYUN LEE
Marine Corps Base

Colorful bursts of bright orange cones flew through the air, as Marines and civilians received an opportunity to drive under the influence, with beer goggles that is, at the Camp Lejeune exchange parking lot recently.

Driving a golf cart and walking a straight line wearing beer goggles, computerized driving simulations, all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle safety, were just a few demonstrations available at the base safety fair.

"We hold this event four times a year," said John F. Baran, an occupational safety and health specialist for Camp

Lejeune's Department of Public Safety. "These safety fairs are absolutely helpful. It creates awareness by having people here to physically show them the different arenas of safety and to demonstrate what safety is all about."

Many people who attended were walking by and stopped to see what the fair was about.

"We were in the area and figured we should check out the fair," said Petty Officer 1st Class Toby D. Cooper, a corpsman with Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment. "I think they picked a good location to promote safety."

Motorcycle vendors, state troopers, wildlife officers, the provost marshal's office, the fire department, family services, and occu-

pational health hearing and industrial hygiene were on hand to satisfy the variety of daredevils and speed demons on base.

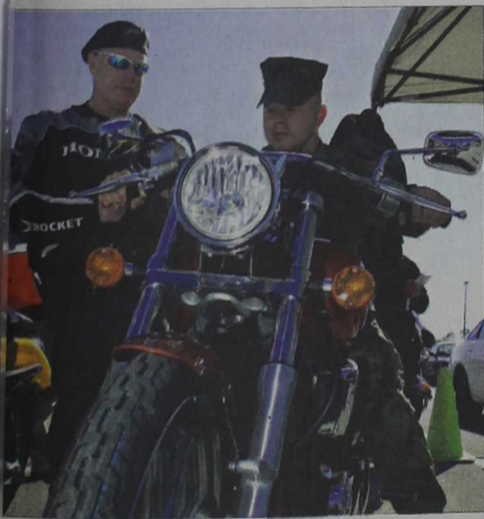
"It feels like someone is pulling my arm to the left and to the right," said Lance Cpl. Lisandra Rosario-Valentin, with 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Trying to walk a straight line wearing beer goggles, which simulate .10 blood alcohol content, was like watching a crawling baby taking its first wobbly steps.

Driving a golf cart with .25 BAC was worse than watching a first-timer on a stick shift.

"Trying to drive with the goggles on felt like trying to

SEE DRIVING 2C ▶



Staff Sgt. Brandon B. Baumgardener, Headquarters and Support Battalion, receives a lesson on motorcycle safety from David W. Lynch, a Lejeune Honda dealer and certified motorcycle safety officer at the Camp Lejeune exchange, Nov. 6.

8th Marines train to stay on top

Warfighting skills heightened by live fire

CPL. THOMAS J. HERMESMAN
2nd Marine Division

To preserve the tradition of a force in readiness, Marines of 2nd Marine Division constantly train and review necessary warfighting skills.

Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, spent a few days on Camp Lejeune ranges reviewing and practicing platoon attacks and squad movements in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

The men of Company A, 1st Bn., 8th Marines, were on a platoon assault range Nov. 19 conducting live fire bunker-busting, which was a review of training recently carried out at Fort Pickett, Va.

Lance Cpl. Sean Haggard, a team leader with the battalion, said it's always good for them to keep up on their training so nothing is forgotten.

"This is just a refresher course for us, it is just to provide upkeep on our skills," he said. "These are the basic skills that always need practice."

The battalion has been training for a more expeditionary style of warfare, going back to basic knowledge used before OIF. Although they're scheduled to deploy to Iraq, their training includes scenarios they may face if deployed to Afghanistan.

Second Lt. Timothy Kudo, 3rd platoon commander, Co. A, said the training will be useful no matter where they deploy.

"This training is more conventional and although it is more geared toward a deployment to a combat environment like Afghanistan, I can see it taking its role in situations such as moving from mountain areas directly into villages," said Kudo. "Although it's not all urban, it will still be useful in Iraq."



Photo by Cpl. Thomas J. Hermesman
Cpl. William McManigle, a platoon sergeant with Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, practices platoon attacks during an exercise Nov. 19.

SEE TRAINS 2C ▶

Tarawa Day: Remembrance for bloodiest battle

Veterans honored with memorial service aboard base

LANCE CPL. CASEY JONES
2nd Marine Division

During autumn 1943, Marines and sailors from 2nd Marine Division (Reinforced), stormed the shores of an island named Tarawa.

Located in the central Pacific Ocean, the tiny island became the battle site where 1,020 Marines made the ultimate sacrifice and more than 2,200 were wounded in a span of 76 hours.

Those three bloody days became known as "The Battle of Tarawa," one of the fiercest and most vicious battles of World War II.

Veterans of the Battle of Tarawa, active duty service members and families, gathered here to commemorate and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the battle, Nov. 20.

The veterans attended a memorial service, viewed a nonlethal weapons demonstration and fired pistols and rifles.

"Shooting the rifles brought back some memories," said Henry C. Norman, a veteran of the battle. "We first had the M-1 rifle, and then they gave us the carbines, so it was very interesting to shoot the M-16 rifle."

The veterans were greeted and escorted throughout the day by active duty Marines dressed in Service A uniform. The veterans said they were taken aback by the amount of attention they were given and the tremendous amount of respect paid to them by 2nd Marine Regiment, who hosted them.

"The way they treated us here was amazing," said Bill E. Crumacker, who fought during the Battle of Tarawa. "I never thought anybody would treat us like that. We only did what we were supposed to do. We did not do anything special, but we're being treated like kings around here and we aren't kings; we are just one of the boys."

Many of the veterans were astonished that 65 years later their sacrifices and effort were still being recognized.

"It's amazing that a three day battle during World War II is still being remembered," Norman said. "But, I think it's very important for American to remember the past and to honor those who have sacrificed for their country."

Crumacker took time during the event to recall his thoughts of the battle.

SEE TARAWA 3C ▶

Division band gears up to spread holiday cheer

CPL. THOMAS J. HERMESMAN
2nd Marine Division

It's hard to miss all the holiday cheer around base — houses are lighting up with Christmas decorations, Hanukkah candles and other ornaments. And thanks to two performances by the 2nd Marine Division Band, Camp Lejeune will soon be filled with holiday music as well.

The band will be playing traditional holiday music at a free concert here Sunday, and the evening of December 18th they will be caroling around the enlisted housing area.

"Each year in December, the 2nd Marine Division Band hosts their Annual Holiday Concert. True to the season, the band will be performing a wide variety of pieces that embody the holiday spirit," said Sgt. Nina Goralski, a member of the 2nd Marine Division Band. "Although classic medleys, sing-alongs and childhood favorites will be played, the audience can also expect traditional music from a variety of cultures such as Imani, a unique piece which celebrates the African-American tradition of Kwanzaa."

Certainly an experience anyone can enjoy, the band is excited to share their talents and music in celebration of the holiday season.

"It's going to be a great concert and we're really excited for people to see it," stated Cpl. Steven Rothwell, a Marine with the band. "I've already had people inquiring about it."

The division band is the only musical unit aboard Camp Lejeune and provides musical support for the five major commands here. "The Division's Own" also performs in numerous parades, concerts and ceremonies throughout eastern North Carolina and the eastern United States.

Marine Corps bands are known for their excellent sound and precise drill movements, as well as their proficiency

as Marines while depicting that reputation behind the vision band is proud of the "musical ambassadors" at Lejeune and the Marine Corps. The concert is scheduled Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Lejeune Base Theater. Carols commence at 6 p.m. and be made at Berkeley Manor Terrace. For information on concert or any other 2nd Marine Division Band events, call 451-5903.

Be smart with alcohol this holiday season

LANCE CPL. RANDALL LITTLE
Marine Corps Base

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's is not only known for family gatherings, but for parties and drinking.

"We want Marines and sailors to be aware of the risks of drinking too much and take precautions to prevent them," said John Swett, a health educator for the health promotions office on base. "Service members need to use common sense to protect themselves and their fellow Marines and sailors."

One of the biggest issues with alcohol is driving after consuming alcoholic beverages. During 2007, 12,998 people in the U.S. died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. In fiscal year 2007, there were 21 alcohol-related deaths out of 57 personal motor vehicle fatalities in the Marine Corps, according to the Navy Safety Center.

Between fiscal year 2002 and 2008 the Marine Corps lost 97 of its own — the

equivalent of two platoons — to alcohol-related vehicle mishaps.

"Marines should never consider driving drunk," said Swett. "If they go somewhere and know they will be drinking, they should take a cab or leave their keys with someone and spend the night."

Another form of transportation service members should use when they have been drinking is the Arrive Alive program.

The program allows Marines and sailors to take a cab back to base where the Headquarters and Support Battalion officer of the day will pay the fare.

Personnel who use this service will repay the OOD for the total cost within three days after use, but the price of a cab is better than poor decisions costing service members their lives or career.

"There are a lot of options for service members other than drunk driving," said Swett. "There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking. Although drunk driving is one of the

biggest concerns during the holiday season, underage drinking is another issue Marines need to take into consideration.

Under N.C. law, anyone younger than 21 who purchases or attempts to purchase alcohol will face penalties including fines and court costs. Additionally, if someone older than 21 buys alcohol for someone younger than the legal drinking age, they could be fined and face jail time.

Another concern of drinking is the effect alcohol has on service members' judgment. "When Marines get drunk, some of them see themselves as ladies' men," said Swett. "As a result, a lot of the sexual assault cases you see in the area involve alcohol."

To prevent poor decisions, Marines need to have a plan, said Swett. If they plan ahead, they can make their holiday season enjoyable.

For more information about alcohol abuse prevention, visit the Web site at www.nmcpch.med.navy.mil or www.thatguy.com.

CBRN FROM 1C

in a meritorious sergeant board. Burkett's leadership decided he would be the one to represent their section.

Generally, 15 Marines compete for a meritorious promotion at the company level. After a detailed review of the Marines' service record book, five move on to compete at battalion level.

"The day began with a (physical fitness test), and a uniform inspection afterward," he said. "I also had to drill a platoon of 21 Marines."

Sgt. Maj. Robert Beith, battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, resided on the board alongside the company first sergeants.

"Bearing is the number one thing," he said. "Everything we do, we look for attention to detail and bearing. If you lose your bearing, you lose all credibility."

A question and answer portion based on common Marine Corps basic knowledge questions followed the PFT, uniform inspections and close order drill examinations.

"It's strictly basic skills test questions," Beith said, referring to an examination Marines are required to pass annually. "I will ask one opinionated question as well. Give an answer and be confident. Marines always get nervous in front of the board, but I always tell them to relax and just answer the questions."

Following the questions, the Marines competing waited for the board members' decision. At the announcement of the winner, Burkett was momentarily disappointed with the results.

"I'll tell ya what, when they announced my name it took me about two seconds to realize they pronounced



Photo by Staff Sgt. Juan Vara
Sgt. Justin Burkett, a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense specialist with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, beat out keen competition at a meritorious sergeant board to earn his current rank. Burkett now uses his experience to prepare Marines in his section for successful careers

it wrong," Burkett said. "I can't explain how excited I was."

Burkett, who beat out keen competition to earn his current rank meritoriously, uses his experience

to prepare the Marines in his section. Mapping out his future success, he wants to re-enlist and transfer to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to teach the up-and-coming CBRN defense specialists.

DRIVING FROM 1C

drive a standard while taking directions from a backseat driver," said Pfc. Anna-Marie C. Johnson, with 2nd Intel Bn, II MEF.

Cpl. Anthony A. Bronkema, a civilian accident investigator with PMO, was supervising the beer goggle station. He was getting a good laugh while ensuring Rosario-Valentin's safety.

"On Saturday morning, a Marine crashed his car in New River," said Bronkema. "He blew a .20 BAC. I've been in this field for 14 years and seen a lot of accidents. The 'oh crap' factor hits them when they've had too much to drink, they drive, then they get caught, and it's not fun anymore."

The safety fair had a successful turnout. Marines and civilians received many helpful tips and advice while getting some good old fashion hands-on training.

"The safety fair is more informative than doing only a safety brief, and I think it's more fun for the Marines as well," said Bronkema.

Third party ticketing on or off base

Active-duty officers and staff noncommissioned officers who observe unsafe driving by suspected Marines or sailors may report such behavior using the following guidelines:

1. Do not commit unsafe or unlawful acts get license plate or vehicle description, to include speeding to catch up to a vehicle. For your safety, do not attempt to confront suspect drivers.
2. Record the suspect vehicle license plate, state, vehicle description, driver description, alleged traffic offense, time and location.
3. Use the following Web site to submit your complaint: www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcb/3rdparty.pdf. Complainants may also submit intractions in person at Bldg 43. The point of contact for all traffic complaints is the PMO Operations Division at 451-5702 or 451-4316. For PMO Dispatch, please call 451-3004/3005.
4. For on-base complaints submitted by active-duty officers and SNCOs, PMO will write a DD1408 citation and notify the suspected Marine of their traffic court date.

The complainant will be required to be present at traffic court to describe the offense. For off-base complaints, PMO will obtain the suspect's information from law enforcement data bases. PMO will then contact the suspect Marine's command and notify them of the alleged offense.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in ensuring base safety.

TRAINS FROM 1C

Integrating training of more conventional tactics and warfare helps the Marines prepare for both possible the Lance Cpl. Kyle Temple, a squad leader with the pany, said the training keeps his Marines fresh and ready whatever comes their way.

"This training is very important, and it is perishable we have to keep up on it and be prepared for entering theater," he said.

Like the other infantry battalions here, 1st Bn., 8th Marines, will train right up to the day when they board the and head off to wherever the Corps sends them. The rent training schedule will have them ready, willing and to support ongoing operations in the Middle East.

Staff Academy Graduation Date

Sergeant's Course I-09
Dec. 17 Base Theater 10 a.m.

Career Course I-09
Dec. 18 Base Theater 10 a.m.

Advance Course I-09
Dec. 19 Base Theater 10 a.m.

Corporal's Course 2-09
Dec. 23 Base Theater 10 a.m.

AroundBase

New programs for military families

The Armed Services YMCA has partnered with the Department of Defense to provide eligible military families and active duty personnel membership to YMCAs nationwide. Membership fees will be underwritten by the DoD and administered through Military OneSource. More information about the ASYMCA/DoD outreach initiative can be found at www.asymca.org.

Meeting driver improvement requirements

Service members age 26 and younger are required to participate in the National Safety Council Driver Improvement Course on base. For more information on how to sign up, call 451-5903/2776.

No Show Rate increases

From July 1 through Sept. 30, 6,091 patients did not show up for their scheduled appointments at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. If you are a person who feels you no longer need your scheduled medical appointment, call 450-HELP to cancel. Doing so will allow the hospital staff enough time to offer the slot to another patient in need.

CourtsMartial

Sgt. Theodore A. Bayer, of 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was convicted of violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: Article 92 (inappropriate use of government computer) and Article 134 (possession of child pornography). He was sentenced to confinement for 14 months, total forfeitures, reduction to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge.

Lance Cpl. Nathan P. McDonough, of 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was convicted of violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: Article 86 (unauthorized absence) and Article 92 (violation of a general order). He was sentenced to confinement for 100 days, forfeiture of \$898 of pay per month for a period of four months and reduction to E-1.

Cpl. William R. Hazelwood Jr., of 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, was convicted of violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: Article 112a (wrongful use of marijuana). He was sentenced to reduction to E-2 and 60 days restriction to duty, billet, worship, and mess.

MOU prepares Marines for worst case scenario

CPL DAVID A. WEIKLE
Marine Division

Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, conducted a weeklong battalion exercise at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility aboard base recently. The training included cord searches, vehicle points and required interactions with the Iraqi role-players. During the snap VCP, Marines patrolled the parts of the city receiving intelligence of a possible attack. On the look out for a red pickup truck," Cpl. Gillispie, a squad leader, to his Marines after receiving a notional radio transmission detailing the vehicle. The men ran toward the building, they maintained proper dispersion and cleared the area for anything suspicious. Secure positions established at the avenue of approach and the

men began searching pedestrians and vehicles for weapons, improvised explosive devices and any other suspicious materials.

A few of the Marines had been taught basic Arabic language skills and put their training to the test.

"We need to search your vehicle," the Marines told each man in Arabic and English. "We are doing this to keep your neighborhood safe."

Several vehicles passed through without incident before a man tried to pass through the VCP on his way to work. After a quick and thorough search, the man prepared to leave when the vehicle in question was spotted, heading straight for the Marines. As the truck continued to speed toward the checkpoint, the men dropped into carefully practiced reaction drills.

"Get out of here!" the men yelled at the civilian, clearing the way for him to pass through. As the truck continued its approach, the Marines opened fire.

The simulated vehicle-borne IED detonated and was followed with a drive-by shooting. Following the attack, the Marines assessed their casualties and reinforced the checkpoint. Then they immediately started casualty evacuation.

Lance Cpl. Andrew Czuba, a mortarman with the battalion, acting as an observer for the exercise, spoke about how the course was tailored to each squad.

"When the call goes out for a BOLO, the Marines set up a snap VCP to stop the attack," said Czuba. "We send some pedestrians and vehicles through to judge the Marines' security stance before deciding when to attack. If they don't search a vehicle, we make sure another one comes through with an IED. It helps to maintain a combat mindset."

The training the men received at MOU will be used during 1st Bn., 8th Marines' upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David A. Weikle
Lance Cpl. Mikal MacDonald, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, posts security at a vehicle checkpoint at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility. MOU was used as part of a weeklong battalion field exercise in preparation for the battalion's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

New York Firefighters deliver Christmas early to Wounded Warriors

KATIE MATHISON
Marine Expeditionary Force

During these hard times, Christmas seems like a daunting time. To the sagging economy, many people are forced to cut back on Christmas.

Fortunately for Marines and sailors with Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, they didn't have to skimp Christmas, and it came early. Firefighters from the New York Fire Department came to visit the battalion here Dec. 5 and brought plenty of gifts with them.

The New York firefighters and several local firefighters pulled up the barracks with several vans and trailers that read "Operation Wounded Warrior" followed closely by a large moving truck.

Firefighters lined up from the moving truck to the barracks garage. An assembly line was quickly formed and boxes were handed down. The boxes were piled in the lounge until the last firefighter came in from the truck.

The excitement level in the room was as the firefighters stood in the middle, opening boxes as Marines crowded around. The fire-



Photo by Cpl. Katie Mathison
Firefighters from New York pass boxes of gifts into the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East here Dec. 5. The firefighters donated \$72,000 worth of gifts to wounded service members. This was the second year the firefighters brought gifts to the battalion.

fighters would yell out the contents of their boxes like a vendor trying to sell his wares. Clothing items, hygiene products, books, candy and MP3 players were just a few of the items launched into the air to Marines who were too far back to

reach the firefighter who had what they needed.

For Cpl. Matthew Nelson, the firefighters' gifts and kindness far exceeded his expectations.

"I use a cane to get around, and I came late to the event," he

said. "One of the firefighters saw me and dumped out everything he had in a box he was giving to the Marines. He took the box and went around and collected things for me because I couldn't carry them and walk. That meant a lot because he didn't have to do it. I didn't even ask him to do it."

Lt. Col. Thomas Siebenthal, the battalion's commanding officer, stood on a chair amid the crowd of firefighters and Marines and took a moment to thank the firefighters for the gifts and support.

"On behalf of the Marines, I want to thank you for coming down," he said. "There has been a link between the fire department and the Marines since 2001. We truly appreciate what you have done here today."

Edward Tacchi, a volunteer firefighter with the Garden City Park Fire Department and a Marine veteran, said the fundraising projects for wounded service members are held throughout the year. Each department does its own fundraisers, such as car washes, bake sales and raffles.

"We raised \$72,000 for wounded troops," said Doug Stewart, a volunteer firefighter with Stewart

Manor Fire Department. "Our most successful fundraiser was a 50/50 raffle at a New York Islanders game. That is where the winner gets half of the funds raised. We raised \$2,648, which blew the previous record of \$1,200 dollars out of the water."

More important than the gifts was the time the firefighters donated to bring the gifts to the wounded warriors.

"Everyone who came down here for the event was a volunteer," Tacchi said. "They came down on their own time. They had to take a couple days off of their regular jobs to come down here."

Patricia Luger, a firefighter with the Floral Park Fire Department and a fulltime nursing student, said it was an honor and privilege to come to North Carolina, where the firefighters visited Fort Bragg as well.

"It's a great way to thank the Marines and soldiers for all they do for us," she said. "At another of our events, a soldier told me, 'We do pretty much the same thing.' I told him definitely not. He has to leave his family for months at a time and risk his life. It is definitely not even close."

RAWA FROM 1C

"The fighting lasted only three days, and it seemed to end over before it even started," he said. "But I was so young at that time, only 17 years old, so I didn't really know any better. I wasn't really scared or afraid, but when you're only 17 years old, you have a tough time

understanding what's really going on."

The event ended with a brief tour of present-day weapons and vehicles used in the Marine Corps. The World War II leathernecks were delighted with the day's activities, but some in attendance wished veterans of

other battles would be able to take part in their "own day."

"I would hope in the future we can do more to remember some of the other battles," Cmdr. Bill M. Appleton said. "It would be nice to see some of those other veterans come and be recognized in the same way."

Off-limits establishments

The following businesses are designated by the base commander as "off-limits"

Carland	2911 Routs 17/ G.W. Highway Tabb, V.A.
Doll House	Highway 258 West, Jacksonville
Easy Money Catalog Sales	233-F Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Fantasies	4951 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Illusions	Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Jacksonville Speedway Auto Parts	401 Blue Creek Elementary School Road
Playhouse	6568 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Pleasure Palace	Highway 17, Jacksonville
Private Pleasures	5527 Highway 258, Jacksonville
Reflection Photo	353 Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Smitty's R&R	Highway 17, Jacksonville
Talk of the Town II (barbershop is not off limits)	114 Texie Lane, Jacksonville
Tender Touch	Highway 258, Jacksonville
Veterans Affairs Service	La Miranda, Calif. New Bern
Club Classics	
Club Liquid	240 US 70 West, Havelock
Bell Auto Salvage II	136 Abbots Branch Rd., Hubert
Botta Booms	3054 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville
Southern Comfort	2004 Highway 172, Sneads Ferry
Laird's Auto and Truck Repair	1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville
Par Tech	487-A Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Cash-N-Advance	2235 Lejeune Blvd., Jacksonville
Avila's Express	904 Winchester Road, Jacksonville
Joshua Experience/Club Access	200 Golden Oak Court, Virginia Beach, V.A.
Student Assistance Company	244 South Randal Road, Suite III Eglin, I.L.

Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption
 Department of Defense 800-424-9098
 Inspector General, Marine Corps 703-614-1348/1349/1698
 Camp Lejeune (Recorded line) 451-3928
 Hearing impaired 451-2999
 To report business fraud 451-3928

Command readies reservists for deployment

CPL JESSICA L. MARTINEZ
Marine Corps Base

Since 1956, the Deployment Processing Command/Reserve Support Unit on base has been dedicated to providing immediate and precise training to get reserve Navy and Marines in the fight.

The DPC/RSU's mission isn't complicated, rather, it's one that keeps the unit busy. They're responsible for the planning and coordination of logistics and administrative support to reserve units, Marines individually augmented and individual ready reserves, who are conducting monthly, annual and other reserve training on base. The unit also provides full medical and dental support.

"For the most part, we'll help anyone out in need of fulfilling their training requirements," said Staff Sgt. Michael D. Robinson, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program DPC/RSU staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "We have this open door policy, and if we have the slots open and available, we can help other Marines on base get needed training done as well."

The unit has several certified combat marksmanship trainers, humvee egress assistance trainers, range safety officers, range officers in charge, water survival instructors and some of the most proficient Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainers.

The predeployment training program the unit takes, on average, approximately three weeks. During the training, Marines are able to complete Tables I, II and III rifle training, along with pistol and swim qualifications.



Courtesy photo
Reserve Marines practice Marine Corps martial arts training, provided by the Deployment Processing Command/Reserve Support Unit, which is specifically designed to provide training for reserve Marines.

Marines can even attend the gas chamber and progress in MCMAP.

"Marines who come through the unit range from privates first class to colonels," said Master Sgt. Garry L. Schwarzenberger, DPC/RSU operations chief. "It's almost weekly we hear positive feedback from senior officers on how knowledgeable and proficient our staff is at helping them get through the course and brush up on their skills."

The DPC/RSU staff has much to offer fellow Marines who come through for processing. They are responsible for updating Marines' training or deployment preparations, and the majority of the staff has served on a tour to either Iraq or Afghanistan. Being reserve Marines, it's

only natural the Marines who make up the DPC/RSU are from different units and have different jobs, allowing them to add more seasoned experience to their training.

"We've been there and done that," said Schwarzenberger. "We know what these Marines are looking for and can use our experience to better prepare them."

"The unit is able to help everyone with their training, regardless of component, rank, military occupational specialty or unit on Camp Lejeune."

"The unit is here to support Camp Lejeune as well as the reserve community," said Robinson.

For more information about the DPC/RSU, visit their Web site at www.lejeune.usmc.mil/rsu.

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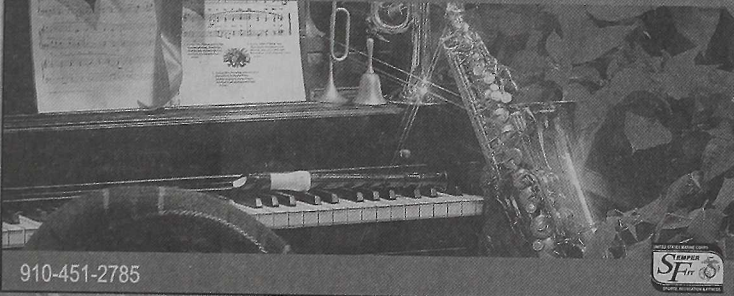
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SAND PIPER SURF SHOP-205 C. Roland Avenue, Surf City. Near the pier. Offering military discounts on apparel with military ID.

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119 Volusia Dr:
3BR, 3BA. New Construction. Jacuzzi tub, walk in closets, ocean and sound views, one sundeck and three covered decks
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3930 River Road:
4BR, 3.5BA. Unfurnished, panoramic views of ocean sound and marsh. Covered parking.
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2113 St. Regis:
2BR, 2BA. Furnished, oceanfront condo, pool, tennis courts. Includes water, sewer, trash, basic cable, fitness center. No smoking.
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184B Singleton:
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Mary Rawls Realty
910-326-5980
245 Youpon Dr-3BR/2BA, Waterfront, \$850, 107 Sea Gull Way-Waterview, 3BR/2.5BA, \$1200.
119 Magnolia Ln-\$1395.
150 Llantia Dr-Waterfront, \$1650
211 Plantation Dr-\$1500, 4BR/3BA
155 Cedar Ln-Cedar Point, 5BR/2BA, Waterfront, \$1500
701 Hummingbird South-Swansboro, 2BR/2BA, No Yardwork! \$1050
785A W Corbett Ave-Swansboro, 1500 sqft office space, \$1500.

RENTALS-Vacation to long term. Ask for Cynthia 910-328-6732. United Beach Rentals. www.UnitedBeachVacations.com.

ST REGIS CONDO-2BR/2BA furnished, 6 months-annual lease. Oceanfront, all

Real Estate For rent

amenities. Call 910-893-5000 or 910-890-4288 (cell).

ABAR RENTAL PROPERTIES, LLC HOMES FOR RENT

Property	BR/BA	Price
264 Easy St.	1/1	\$850
231 Cordell Village	1/1	\$825
134 Morningside Dr #5	2/1	\$800
243A Lakeside Dr	2/1	\$800
1825 Blue Creek #3	2/1.5	\$800
294 Cordell Village	2/2	\$800
833 Sandridge Rd.	2/2	\$800
123 Windsor Ct.	2/2	\$775
1959 Countrywood	2/2	\$750
104 N Ivy Drive #3	2/2	\$700
315 Braker Place	2/2	\$600
209 Faison Lane	2/2	\$525
#16 Maple St.	3/1.5	\$475
105 Morningside #3	3/2	\$800
237 Cordell Village	3/2	\$800
107A Rand St.	3/2	\$800
321 Hyatt Circle	3/2.5	\$800

Other 1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms available
347-4049
Email: aba@bizecr.com
Website: www.abarents.com

WARM & COZY 1BR WATERFRONT CONDO-Near base. Available January 1, 2009. \$675 plus utilities. 910-512-1166

Real Estate For sale

\$150s & UP-Neighborhoods of Holly Ridge, HollyRidgeNewHomes.com. Call Tom at 910-540-4653.

1 ACRE-3 Bed, 2 Bath, \$112,900. NO MONEY DOWN! All closing costs paid by seller. Easy qualifications for military. Call 910-330-7976.

1, 2, 3- IT'S THAT EASY! New 3 bedroom, 2 bath located on large lot. Ready to move in. Call for details. 910-389-2130 or www.NewCenturyHomesNC.com

100 NEWHAN LN-Beautiful home Northside at the Commons 4BR/4BA, 1100 sqft. Hardwood floors, granite, jetted tub to soak all your cares away, walk in shower and walk in closet, 2nd bedroom has a walk in closet, good size 3rd & 4th bedrooms. Kitchen has granite, finished room over the garage with its own half bath! Kitchen has gorgeous black granite counter tops, great counter space and breakfast nook. Enjoy the sprawling front porch, the spacious covered patio tucked within the privacy fenced yard. A corner lot with 2 entry garages and within walking distance to all the schools. Location is key with recreation center, senior center, pool, tennis courts, walking path, Skateboard Park, walk to Toys R Us, Target, Wal-Mart & more. Barbara Canavan Realty, 355-0397.



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1602 PINTAIL CT-Immaculate 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home with fireplace and bonus room above double garage. Located at end of quiet cul-de-sac in lovely Mallard Creek. Minutes to all bases and the fabulous Topsail Island Beaches!! 100% financing for qualified buyers!! Fabulous find at only \$175,000. MLS 97021
Choice Realty 910-330-4481

101 BUR OAKS-Priced to Sell \$199,500. Split floor plan with open, spacious great room. Nice home with very functional floor plan & cozy feel. Large kitchen bar with lots of counter work space. Plenty of room to play in the side yard with privacy fence on the other side. Perfect location from Cherry Point! This one won't last long! Call Bluewater GMAC for more information @ 888-354-2128
www.bluewatergmac.com

164 BLUEBIRD LN-Priced to sell, \$188,900. New construction in Quailwoods Crossing subdivision. Priced to sell home with open Hattaras floor plan including a bonus room over the garage! Great location!! Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 866-467-3106.

Real Estate For rent

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Real Estate For sale

106 HIDDEN CREEK DR-Nice Location, \$110,000!! Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has living room plus a family room with fireplace. On a large lot, approx 3/4 acre with plenty of room for the kids to play, and a nice back deck for BBQs. Great location off Hwy 24, near Swansboro schools and shopping. Easy commute into Camp Lejeune or Jacksonville. On a permanent foundation, so should qualify for VA or low down payment FHA loan. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 800-752-3543.

106 REDHEAD CT-Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home with spacious backyard and deck perfect for entertaining!! Large 1st

Real Estate For sale

floor master bedroom suite! Nestled in a quiet cul-de-sac in lovely Mallard Creek. Minutes to all bases and the fabulous Topsail Island Beaches!! A great buy at \$177,000. Choice Realty 910-330-4481.

Real Estate For rent

Address	BR/BA	Price
101 Wilmington #4	2/1	\$400.00
225 Waterway	2/1	\$600.00
117 Live Oak	2/2	\$725.00
350 Bracken	2/1.5	\$750.00
108 Pete Jones #17	2/2	\$795.00
108 Pete Jones #7	2/2	\$795.00
135 Scott Jenkins	3/2	\$800.00
997 Sandridge	3/1.5	\$825.00
254 Faison	2/2	\$850.00
217 Faison	2/2	\$850.00
2281 Catherine Lake	3/2	\$875.00
123 Waterfall	3/2	\$875.00
221 Winners	2/2.5	\$875.00
308 Winners	2/2.5	\$875.00
701 Timberlake	3/3	\$925.00
124 Mulberry	3/2	\$950.00
731 Queens	3/2	\$950.00
195 Audubon	3/2	\$975.00
223 Gray Fox	3/2	\$975.00
118 Lavedale	3/2	\$995.00
130 Horseshoe	4/2	\$995.00
110 Sewell	4/2	\$1000.00
227 Redberry	3/2	\$1075.00
304 Audubon	3/2	\$1075.00
2809 Northwoods	3/2	\$1175.00
302 Providence	4/2	\$1250.00
124 Jean Circle	4/3	\$1275.00
300 Stagecoach	4/3.5	\$1500.00

629-A Gum Branch Rd, Jacksonville, NC 28540
Office: 910-455-2860
Toll Free: 888-819-7653
Fax: 910-455-0557

Prices Subject To Change Without Notice

Real Estate For sale

108 MANDY LN-Hubert, Rogers Farm subdivision. Newly developed, no home owners fee. Quality built homes with large yards. Several available, this home is 4BR/2.5BA. Master BR downstairs, upgrades, all for only \$209,000. Call for list of homes available. Brass Lantern Realty LLC 252-393-9001.

108 RYAN GLENN-Under \$200,000!! 3 Bedroom/2 bath home, 5 minutes from back gate, close to everything. Privacy fence in back. Ball Park 1 Block away. Wonderful area for your family!! Ask about our Military Benefits! Property located in Swansboro. www.bluewatergmac.com. Call Bluewater GMAC about our Military Advantage Program @ 800-752-3543.

Real Estate For sale

111 PLEASANT CT-Have it all in this exclusive neighborhood! This fabulous 2-story home is just waiting for you to move in. Relax in front of the fireplace in the cozy living room, entertain friends and family in the formal dining room, or enjoy casual meals in the open eat-in kitchen. While your kids are playing in the huge & fenced-in backyard you can kick back in the privacy of the back deck or, at a later hour, discover new stellar constellations while roasting smores at the fire-pit. When you get tired - choose from one of 4 bedrooms to bring the day to a perfect end. Come now and visit this beautiful home with a convenient location close to bases, shopping, dining, and beaches! Barbara Canavan Realty, 910-355-0397.

114 KING ST-Live near the base \$129,900!! Newly renovated 3BR/2BA home. Owners have added covered front porch, large rear deck, garage, decorative front fence. New carpet, paint & new roof too! Open floor plan with great room, kitchen with breakfast bar & all appliances (dishwasher, new side-by-side refrigerator, new smooth-top stove). Large fenced back yard. Great location minutes to the back gate to Camp Lejeune at Hwy 172. Call Bluewater GMAC today @ 888-354-2128.

117 ROLLING HILL DR-Hwy 58N, Well kept home with 1.62 acre located in quiet setting. Has 3BR/2BA with outside storage. Plenty of room to grow. \$245,900, contact Brass Lantern Realty LLC. 252-393-9001.

1500 TO 2000 SQUARE FEET-Available in 2 weeks. 3 or 4 bedrooms. 0 payments for 2 months. 910-330-7976

202 HAYDEN PLACE-This beautiful home is perfect for any size family. Located in an established neighborhood it has all the bells and whistles: a large living room with a cozy wood-burning fireplace, four bedrooms, two full bathrooms, upgraded kitchen appliances and light fixtures, laminate and tile flooring, wiring for a surround-sound speaker system and a privacy fence and sprinkler system in the yard. No matter if you cuddle up in front of the fireplace and listen to the wood crackle or enjoy the sunset on the back-deck, this home is waiting for you!!! Barbara Canavan Realty, 910-355-0397.

209 RIVER REACH DR-Swansboro, beautiful home in River Reach. Corner lot w/established landscaping. \$298,950. Contact Brass Lantern Realty LLC 252-393-9001.

212 WILTSHIRE CT-This beautiful 3 bedroom home with 2.5 bathrooms and a bonus room just invites you to relax; cuddle up in front of the fireplace, enjoy a cool drink in the sunroom, or watch the birds in the backyard while relaxing in the privacy of the back deck. The open kitchen, living room, and formal dining room allow for entertaining any size party and the bonus room upstairs makes for a perfect retreat. Moreover, it features a separate study as well as plenty of closet space. This home is immaculate, offering anything a buyer could want - convenient location with low taxes, quiet neighborhood, open floorplan, lots of space and even more storage! What more can you ask for?

Real Estate For sale

Make your offer now! Barbara Canavan Realty, 910-355-0397.

226 PALOMINO LN-Priced Reduced to \$169,900!! Only 25 minutes from Camp Lejeune, immaculate 3BR/2BA, open floor plan, upgraded stainless steel appliances! 2 car garage a plus. Call Bluewater GMAC for more information @ 888-354-2128. www.bluewatergmac.com

Real Estate For sale

290 RIVER OAKS DR-Priced Right at \$215,000!! This home has been completely remodeled with new doors, flooring, windows, tile, counter tops, and the list goes on. There is also a great view of the White Oak River from the back deck. Short distance to base and Emerald Isle. Call Bluewater GMAC @ 800-752-3543. www.bluewatergmac.com

329 STAR HILL-Great Buy at \$265,000!! Large single story home in

Real Estate For sale

Star Hill North main street well kept with exceptional screened in porch, 2 car bedrooms, walk-in closets including washer, large living area with se fireplace with gas log, Douglas blinds convey, kitchen and baths, Ja Master. A deal for all th Bluewater GMAC about Advantage Program @ 80

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Real Estate For sale

BA-723 Vernon St. Fully d. New roof, privacy fence, carpet, large family room with partial basement, carport. Near schools. 910-526-2109.

A-2000+ sq.ft. 807 Gladwell cksnville. Call Ellen Hough with replace Realty. 910-330-6103.

A-250 Parnell Road, Hubert. Home/office. Call HomeLocator.com. Call #2 910-265-8860. Exit Homeplace

ABIAN LN-Only \$169,900!!! Great home in nice neighborhood only 10 minutes to base and 10 minutes to back gate. Located on large lot with side entrance garage and n. yard. Nice large rooms, split open kitchen and great room is log fireplace, 2 car garage. To sell!! Call Bluewater GMAC @ 4-2128 or visit our website lewatergmac.com

ETHWOOD CT-Richlands. 1650

Real Estate For sale

soft, 1 acre. 0 DOWN AND ALL CLOSING COST PAID BY SELLER! \$119,900. Call 910-330-7976

407 STAR HILL DR-Price Reduced to \$235,000! 20 miles from Camp Lejeune, great 3BR/2BA ranch split plan with partial fenced yard in Star Hill Golf Community. Call Bluewater GMAC for more information on our Military Advantage Program @ 800-752-3543.

450 WOODLAND-Great Price, \$158,314. SELLER WILL PAY \$2000 IN CLOSING COSTS FOR BUYER. New home on almost half acre lot in the newest phase of Hadnot Creek. No city taxes. About 6 miles from the Emerald Isle Bridge and Cape Carter shopping. Location great for either base! Fireplace, single garage, comfortable floor plan and great family area. Community boat ramp. www.bluewatergmac.com Call Bluewater GMAC today @ 888-354-2128.

721 STONEWALL AVE-Spacious 4 bdrm, 2 bath home with double garage, fireplace and privacy fenced yard!! Minutes to the new bypass and all bases. Qualified buyer can move in today!! A steal at only \$155,000!! MLS 94812 Choice Realty 910-330-4481.

936 OLD CHURCH RD-Hwy 58N area. Country home on 1.4 acres. Livestock allowed. Pond on property. \$149,900, contact Brass Lantern Realty LLC. 252-393-9001.

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Farms. 3BR, 2BA, \$199,900. \$5000 closing cost/anything allowance (limited time offer). Call 910-538-3786. Century 21 Sweyer

EMERALD RIDGE RD #226 Sterling Farms. 3BR, 2.5BA, FROG, \$242,900. \$5000 closing cost/anything allowance (limited time offer). Call 910-538-3786. Century 21 Sweyer

FOR SALE BY OWNER-Affordable spacious home 3BR/1.5BA bonus room den & fireplace, 1033 Matthew Rd Brachwood. \$147,200. Call 910-330-5572.

HAMPSTEAD-4BR/3.5BA, 1 block to Intercoastal & HOA pier & dock. Price was \$489,900, now \$379,900 plus get cash back. 910-270-3112.

HORSE FARM-Brick home, 1600 sqft on 4.8 acres, 12 stall barn. Lighted riding arena. Equine washroom, 2 pastures. In-ground swimming pool. 25 min to MCAS. \$249,000. 910-298-6154

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MOONSTONE CT #138 Sterling Farms. 3BR, 2.5BA, FROG, \$236,900. \$5000 closing cost/anything allowance (limited time offer). 910-538-3786. Century 21 Sweyer

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OCEANFRONT CONDO-1BR/1BA, \$115,000. Completely renovated. 919-796-2297

PENSKIE-509 Marine Blvd., Jacksonville. 910-346-0922.

SILVER HILLS DR #246-Sterling Farms. 4BR, 2.5BA, FROG, \$251,500. \$5000 closing cost/anything allowance (limited time offer). Call 910-538-3786. Century 21 Sweyer

SILVER HILLS DR #262 Sterling Farms. 3BR, 2BA, \$189,900. \$5000 closing cost/anything allowance (limited time offer). Call 910-538-3786. Century 21 Sweyer

STERLING FARMS-New homes from the 180s, five minutes from Camp Lejeune, move in for little or no money down. \$5000 closing cost/anything allowance (limited time offer). Call 866-750-0194. Century 21 Sweyer

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<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$20,997 Now \$18,376</p> <p>'04 PONTIAC GTO STK#1868-IN LTHR, PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, PREMIUM SOUND, KEYLESS W/SECURITY, 31K</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$10,997 Now \$7,997</p> <p>'03 FORD ESCAPE XLT STK#6237-IU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, ALLOYS, RUNNING BOARDS</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$18,997 Now \$14,997</p> <p>'08 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN STK#6283-OU PW, PL, REAR AC, DVD, BACKUP CAMERA, ALLOYS</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$16,997 Now \$13,62</p> <p>'07 KIA SORENTO LX 4WD STK#6202-OU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS, KEYLESS W/SECURITY, 12H</p>
<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$16,995 Now \$13,995</p> <p>'06 JEEP WRANGLER STK#1853-IN 4WD, AC, PS, PB, 5SPD., ALLOYS, SECURITY</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$16,997 Now \$13,997</p> <p>'07 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT STK#6173-OU 4X4, PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS, KEYLESS W/SECURITY</p>	<p>Was \$15,995 Now \$11,997</p> <p>'03 MITSUBISHI MONTERO STK#5023-2U LIMITED! SUNROOF, LEATHER, PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS</p>	<p>Was \$13,995 Now \$11,995</p> <p>'05 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S STK#6251-IU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD</p>
<p>Was \$25,995 Now \$21,480</p> <p>'07 SUBARU WRX AWD LIMITED STK#4230-IN TURBO, PW, PL, CC, TILT, LTHR, SUNROOF, OVER 3K IN ACCESSORIES</p>	<p>Was \$29,997 Now \$24,997</p> <p>'05 INFINITI FX35 AWD STK#1823-IN TOURING, TECHNOLOGY PKG., NAV, DVD, SUNROOF, STILLER SUPERCHARGER</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$15,997 Now \$13,876</p> <p>'06 TOYOTA SCION XB STK#4352-IN PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$25,997 Now \$22,997</p> <p>'07 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED STK#6279-OU 4 DOOR, HARDTOP PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, 4WD, ALLOYS, CERTIF</p>
<p>Was \$8,990 Now \$6,876</p> <p>'04 CHEVROLET IMPALA STK#1871-IN PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, KEYLESS W/SECURITY</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$24,997 Now \$21,978</p> <p>'07 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SPORT STK#6291-OU 4X4, 20" TIRES, HEMI, PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, HITCH, 16K MILES</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$15,997 Now \$12,976</p> <p>'07 SATURN VUE STK#6090-2U PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS, AM/FM/CD</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$16,997 Now \$14,46</p> <p>'07 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER STK#6206-OU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS</p>
<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$24,997 Now \$20,463</p> <p>'06 JEEP COMMANDER LIMITED STK#6243-OU 4X4, LEATHER, SUNROOF, NAVIGATION, DVD, PW, PL, MEMORY SEATS</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$16,995 Now \$14,876</p> <p>'07 DODGE NITRO SLT STK#8541-IN PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, ALLOYS, KEYLESS</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$17,997 Now \$13,986</p> <p>'07 DODGE MAGNUM SXT STK#6209-OU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, ALLOYS</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$19,997 Now \$15,99</p> <p>'07 DODGE CHARGER SXT STK#6211-OU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS, CERTIFIED 8/80 WARRANTY</p>
<p>Was \$11,997 Now \$8,997</p> <p>'03 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB SLT STK#4314-2N PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, ALLOYS, TONNEAU COVER</p>	<p>Was \$7,995 Now \$5,487</p> <p>'04 FORD TAURUS SES STK#9015-IN PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, ALLOYS</p>	<p>Was \$16,997 Now \$13,997</p> <p>'07 DODGE DURANGO LIMITED STK#6292-OU LEATHER, CHROME WHEELS, PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, REAR AC</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$18,997 Now \$15,99</p> <p>'04 VW TOUAREG STK#6245-IU AWD, PW, PL, CC, TILT, LEATHER, SUNROOF, ALLOYS</p>
<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$29,997 Now \$25,999</p> <p>'06 CHRYSLER 300 SRT-8 LOADED STK#1859-IN 6.1L HEMI, LTHR, SUNROOF, NAV, DVD, 20" RIMS, 25K MILES</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$12,997 Now \$9,997</p> <p>'07 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER STK#6261-OU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD</p>	<p>ONE OWNER</p> <p>Was \$16,997 Now \$12,362</p> <p>'08 DODGE AVENGER SXT STK#6215-OU PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, AM/FM/CD, ALLOYS</p>	<p>Was \$19,997 Now \$15,997</p> <p>'06 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED STK#6190-OU LTHR, DVD, NAV, CHROME WHEELS, PW, PL, CC, TILT, AC, STOW-N</p>

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MATERNITY CLOTHES-Medium & large, summer and winter. Cheap, in good condition. 910-750-0426

PS3 GAME-U.S. Navy Seals SOCOM Confrontation video game. Brand new. \$40/obo. 760-880-6224

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BASSET HOUND-FTGH, male, good with kids and people, not good with other male dogs. Very cute and sociable. 910-467-1267

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BOXER PUPS-CKC registered. Fawn & brindle. Tails docked, dew claws removed. Ready week of Christmas. 979-240-4888.

BULL MASTIFF PUPPY-AKC, red fawn, 12 weeks old, UTD shots. \$750/obo. 910-326-2082.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES-Will be between 2 and 3 lbs. 1st shot, wormed, paper trained. Black & tan, black and white, and sable & white. \$350-\$400. 910-340-2983

ENGLISH BULLDOG-AKC, 2 yr old red & white female, UTD on shots. Great with kids. \$900. 843-478-0246

GERMAN SHORT HAIR POINTER PUPS-AKC, vet cared for, ready to go Christmas week. \$300. 455-3665.

GERMAN SHORT HAIR POINTER-Male, registered, 13 months old, ready for training. \$300. 455-3665.

GOLF CLUBS-Ben Hogan Hybrids. P through 4 iron, grip shafts, new, paid \$750, sell \$275. 910-328-5060.

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Pets & Supplies

GREAT DANE PUPPIES-ARC ready for Christmas. Blacks and marbles, shots, vet check, health guarantee. \$500-\$850 each. 910-938-7815.

GREAT DANE PUPPIES-ARC, just in time for Christmas. 910-581-4028

LABS-ARC, born 9/25/06. 5th litter, same bloodline. Yellow & chocolate females, chocolate males. Dewormed, 1st shots, dew claws removed. Ready 11/14/08. \$400. 389-9135.

MINIATURE DACHSHUNDS 2 female black and tan, 1 male brown. CXC registered, 1st shots, ready by 15 Dec. 910-326-8682 AMM.

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PAPILLON-ARC purebred female, 6 months. White with brown markings. Kennel, food, food storage unit, collar and leash, grooming supplies and puppy bed included. \$600/obo. 910-787-3891.

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Pets & Supplies

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1991 DODGE RAM 1500-Conversion van with 93,000 miles. Excellent condition, power windows, power door locks, towing package, and AM/FM cassette radio. \$11900. 910-326-6978.

Automobiles

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1998 PONTIAC FIREBIRD-Trans Am. Very nice, white, with some mods. Call anytime 518-729-8712. \$9500/obo.

1999 MAZDA MIATA-5 speed, convertible, \$6799. 324-6673.



1999 MAZDA PROTEGE DX-74,000 miles, white, runs and drives good. Good tires, cheap on gas. \$3500/obo. 910-346-6766

Automobiles

2000 HYUNDAI ACCENT-Automatic, \$3999. 455-6011.

2000 PLYMOUTH NEON-Great running engine. Some mechanical and cosmetic problems. \$1800/obo. 760-902-0559.

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2000 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE-Auto, loaded, black. \$7500. 324-6673.

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DIRT BIKE-2007 Yamaha YZ 85. Bike is in great shape. Pro circuit pipe & silencer, wheel rims, many extras. \$1800. 910-787-2285

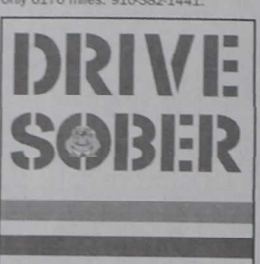
RV-30 foot class A RV (looks like bus).

Boats & Recreation

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Motorcycles

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Motorcycles

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Single Marine Program gets MEDIEVAL ON BROADWAY

Story and photos
CPL. JIN HYUN LEE
Marine Corps Base

What do you do if you are a single Marine stuck at Camp Johnson Personnel Administration School with no place to go? Have no fear, the Single Marine Program is here.

Most of the Marines who go to PA school don't have private vehicles, and instead of digging through their shallow pockets for cab fare to discover the abundant hidden treasures of Jacksonville for yet another weekend, SMP was glad to step in to give 47 Marines a taste of Myrtle Beach Nov. 22.

"The SMP is a great establishment," said Master Sgt. Fernando M. Moreno, acting first sergeant for the school. "SMP gives the students a chance to get out of the barracks and the base, to see things outside Jacksonville. Not to mention, it's a lot cheaper to do things through the SMP."

For \$50, the Marines received roundtrip transportation to Myrtle Beach. The fee included an endless array of activities and stores at Broadway on the Beach and the exciting entertainment dining experience at Medieval Times. It was a deal, considering the dinner and show alone at Medieval Times is \$47.95 without tax, an amount Marines can easily spend in a night at a club in Jacksonville.

Despite its quirky name, Broadway on the Beach was quite entertaining for people of all ages. Broadway resembled an amusement park that would satisfy everyone from singles to families.

"I loved Broadway," said Pvt. Nestor Flores. "It was something totally different with so many different attractions."

Broadway had an abundance of shops to please either the mainstream franchise culture or the die-hard mom-and-pop store fans. Broadway also had rides, miniature golf, an IMAX theater, Ripley's Aquarium and an array of local and well-known restaurants appetizing to even the most cultivated palate.

During the daytime, everyone enjoyed various events and festivities often held on Broadway. But when the sun fell, the adults came out to play and mingled while bar-hopping and dancing the night away. However, partying would have to wait for another night — the Marines had a medieval feast to attend.

The Marines hopped on the bus amped up for the rest of the night's entertainment. It was onward to Medieval Times.

"Welcome to Medieval Times," said a server, clad in period peasant's clothing. "I'm Paige and I will be your food wench for the evening. In case you were wondering why you don't have any utensils, these (indicating her hands) will be your utensils for the evening."

It was already turning out to be an interesting night. The whole crowd was fed a healthy portion of a four-course medieval feast while they watched the spectacle provided by the knights of Medieval Times. The knights not only showed amazing skills of horsemanship, gamesmanship and pageantry, but transported the audience back the world of castles, kings, gore and war, and of course, the tale as old as time, love.

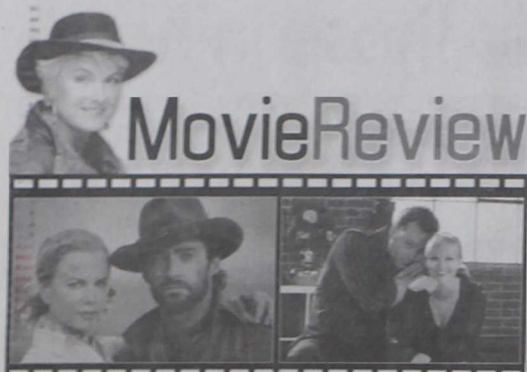
"The show was awesome," said Pvt. Clark O. Stacey. "It was nothing that I expected, and I walked away from it pumped. It's got a great plot, and of course the fight scenes were awesome."

The evening came to a close with the Marines quite satiated both in body and spirit. Those who were of age enjoyed chalices of ale, and the Marines who were not, enjoyed helpings of soft drinks. Echoes of excitement from the aftermath could be heard throughout the bus on the way back to Camp Johnson. The Marines of PA school had a night of good, clean fun, with a little bit of Broadway and Medieval Times mixed in, thanks to the SMP.



Personnel Administration school Marines with the Single Marine Program strike a pose while waiting to depart Broadway on the Beach to Medieval Times Nov. 22.





From the front row with Reinhild Moldenhauer Huneycutt

'Australia:' Epic, WWII love story charms

"AUSTRALIA" (R)
 "Australia" is an epic tale of love set Down Under in the years leading up to World War II. In fact, the story takes the viewer from the end of the 1930s up to the bombing of the tropical northern city of Darwin, Australia. In this tale, we find a couple fighting against the odds in a country on the brink of war. Newcomer Brandon Walters narrates the story and also portrays Nullah, an Aboriginal boy of mixed race. Nicole Kidman ("Moulin Rouge," "Cold Mountain," "Invasion") stars as Lady Sarah Ashley, a refined, prim and slightly uptight English aristocrat who comes all the way to the outback to persuade her husband to sell his cattle station, "Faraway Downs," and come back to England. However, after finding her husband dead, Lady Ashley decides to reclaim the cattle ranch left to her by her dead husband and fulfill the deal he made to deliver the cattle to the military. Hugh Jackman ("X-Men," "Van Helsing," "The Prestige") stars as Drover, a handsome but rough and grizzled Australian cowboy who befriends Lady Sarah Ash-

ley and eventually helps her drive the cattle to Darwin. Sarah soon falls for the country, Drover and for Nullah, the native boy. Together, they embark on a dangerous journey across miles and miles of beautiful but stark and unforgiving terrain. They drive the cattle across the barren landscape and vast territory just in time to experience the bombing of Darwin by Japanese forces. Co-starring are Bryan Brown ("Along Came Polly") as King Carney, the cattle baron who owns much of the land in northern Australia and who has the corner of the cattle market and David Wenham ("300") as Neil Fletcher, the ruthless cattle station manager and right-hand man of Carney, who will stop at nothing to obtain Lady Ashley's property. Jack Thompson ("The Good German") appears as Kipling Flynn, an alcoholic accountant with a great heart. Director Baz Luhrmann and writer ("Moulin Rouge," "Romeo and Juliet," "Strictly Ballroom") draws from the classic old-fashioned movies from yesteryear that delivered romance,

action, drama and comedy ala "Lawrence of Arabia," "Gone With the Wind," and "Out of Africa." Luhrman might have tried a bit too hard to cover all the above mentioned elements in one movie but, with the help of his wife and long-time artistic collaborator, Catherine Martin ("Moulin Rouge"), who again is involved with costumes and set production of this lavish undertaking, the film is a wonderful experience. Luhrman's grand epic presents everything from frontiersmen and fighting men, old-fashioned romantic and family values, and a history lesson in the Aborigine culture. And picking Walters from thousands for the part of Nullah was sheer genius; he practically steals the show. "Australia" is a sprawling romantic epic and a huge adventure set in a gorgeous and breathtaking landscape and beautifully captured with the camera. With its panoramic cattle drives, immense Japanese bomb raids and romantic intimate scenes between the lead actors, it is truly an old Hollywood comeback. **"FOUR CHRISTMASSES" (PG-13)** "Four Christmases" is a romantic comedy about a dysfunctional family. The film tells the story of a couple that avoids spending Christmas with their families. However this year, after their flights are canceled due to the weather, they are forced to partake in four separate family gatherings, the ultimate suffering for the holidays. Reese Witherspoon ("Legally Blonde," "Walk the Line") and Vince Vaughn ("The Wedding Crashers," "Old School") star as Kate Kingsberry and Brad McVie, a young and happily unmarried couple from San Francisco, who think of themselves as modern and void of family traditions. Each with divorced

parents, they do share one special holiday tradition — leaving their crazy families for a relaxing and sun-filled vacation in exotic locations. They sit by the pool and toast the season, happy they once again avoided the chaos and emotional upset of their various family households. However, this year they are trapped at the airport; all flights are cancelled. Due to live television reports, they are caught on camera, revealing their whereabouts to their respective families. Out of excuses, Kate and Brad must now make the rounds at some awful, awkward family holiday parties and put in appearances at four Christmases in one day. The supporting cast is dripping with star power and features Robert Duvall ("We Own the Night") as Howard, Brad's father and Sissy Spacek ("An American Haunting") as Paula, Brad's mother, who is dating a younger man; Jon Voight ("National Treasure") as Kate's dad and Mary Steenburgen ("The Brave One") as Kate's mother, whose beau is Pastor Phil, played by Dwight Yoakam ("Sling Blade"). Jon Favreau ("The Break-Up") and Tim McGraw ("Flicka") appear as Brad's 'fighting brothers, Denver and Dallas and Kristin Chenoweth ("Pink Panther") plays Kate's sister, Courtney. Seth Gordon makes his feature directorial debut with this hilarious look at holiday gatherings with extended and dysfunctional families. "Four Christmases" is a funny take at a lot of family situations the audience can relate to during the holiday season. **Editor's note: Ms. Huneycutt is the Public Affairs Assistant at the Base Public Affairs Office.**

GamingIntel 'Quantum of Solace' Bonding with Wii

BRIAN BOWERS
 Stars and Stripes

The old-school James Bond could always rely on a gadget to save the day. That sort of technical wizardry is just what the Wii version of "Quantum of Solace" needs. Activision's T-rated game offers solid action but it also offers a few technical and control issues that detract from experience. Action jumps to locations around the globe. British secret agent looks for some payback. It's on running, sneaking and shooting, but also features some light puzzle-solving and dexterity challenges. The missions offer a good amount of variety and some fun challenges. It certainly helps that enemies are everywhere from the sewers to the rooftops, aren't exactly brilliant, but they're not idiots, either. The story line is relatively engaging, and it helps to have the film's actors supplying the voices. Aside from aiming and executing melee attacks, the game doesn't force you to make too many gestures with the motion-sensitive remote. That helps it seem much less gimmicky than many other action titles for the Wii. However, the controls still present some challenges. Jumping can be tricky, and the aiming mechanism is sometimes a bit restrictive — a big problem in a game that relies so heavily on shooting. The graphics are okay, with both characters and settings offering enough detail to keep them interesting. However, it's not uncommon to see some stuttering or characters merge into objects. Overall, the game does offer some frustrations but it also offers much more fun than many action games on the Wii. Platforms: Wii, but versions are also available on Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 2, PC. On the Web: www.007thegame.com. **Editor's note: This story is used with permission from Stars and Stripes. Copyright 2008 Stars and Stripes. Please do not reprint.**



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THE PUNISHER 2 R-DLP
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 2:00 4:25 7:10 9:45
TRANSPORTER 3 PG13-DLP
 2:15 4:35 7:15 9:35
AUSTRALIA PG13-DLP
 2:00 5:30 9:00
FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG13-DLP
 1:45 2:10 4:05 4:30 7:00 7:15 9:15 9:30
BOLT 3D PG-DLP • NO DISCOUNTS
 3D SURCHARGE APPLIES
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What's happenin' CAROLINA

For information on concerts, festivals, special events and classes up and down the Carolina coast, check out What's happenin' Carolina each week. To add your event e-mail heather.owens@militarynews.com. Space is limited to availability.

Habitat for Humanity event Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Jacksonville/Onslow Habitat for Humanity is planning a citywide fundraising event for Saturday. For any donation amount, patrons may sign a 2 x 4 board and write a personal message to the next Habitat family. All proceeds benefit the construction of Habitat homes in the county. Volunteers will be asked to staff tables at approximately nine area businesses and will be present to explain the fundraiser and answer questions about the mission of Jacksonville/Onslow Habitat for Humanity. Shifts begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Interested parties can sign up by visiting the Habitat Web site at www.jacksonvilleonslowhabitat.org, and clicking on the link to VolunteerUP.

Holiday Concert featuring the 2nd Marine Division Band Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The event is scheduled to take place at the Base Theater aboard Camp Lejeune. Holiday attire is encouraged.

DAV Christmas Dinner, Party Dec. 20, 6 p.m.
 The Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 16, have scheduled their annual Christmas dinner and party at the chapter hall. Please call the chapter at 455 - 3303 to register.

Christmas skate Dec. 23, 1 - 5 p.m.
 The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Station have scheduled a Christmas skate for Dec. 23. The event is open to the public and begins at 1 p.m. and runs through 5 p.m. The cost is \$4 per person and includes skate rental. A free laser tag game is available to the first 300 children. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 347-5332.

Jacksonville Socialites Party Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.
 The Jacksonville Socialites, a Meetup group for women in their 20s and 30s, is planning a Christmas Party for Dec. 19. The party is open to members and their significant others, families and friends. Meetup is an online forum which allows people from around the country to meet others with similar interests. To participate in the group, women in their 20s and 30s must pay \$12 in annual dues. The group's events include theater trips, coffee meet and greets, dinners out, movies, and other recreational activities. The group may be found online at www.meetup.com/jacksonvillesocialites.

Holiday concert Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
 The commanding general, 2nd Marine Division, extends an invitation to all Marines, sailors, civilians and their families for a

Pets of the Week

PHOTOS BY KELLI HUFFMAN

This sweet kitten is in need of a new friend. She is a black domestic shorthair and is 2 months old. Take her home today. Pet ID # A022767

This pretty boy has only three legs, but a lot of love to share. He is a black, Shetland sheepdog mix and is 1 year old. Adopt him today. Pet ID# A022593

The Onslow County Animal Shelter is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 7 p.m., Friday from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. To see more photographs of pets available for adoption, visit www.petharbor.com. For more information, call the Onslow County Animal Shelter at 455-0182.

Marines bring joy to those in need

CPL. M. L. MCCOY
Marine Corps Base

The Marine Corps Toys for Tots program has proudly served the nation's children for more than 60 years and area Marines have long been a part of that tradition.

The local campaigns have been going strong, despite the many challenges they have faced this year. "Due to the recent economic conditions, people are not as willing or able to donate, so we've fallen back on our quota," said Sgt. Gerardo D. Ricardez, Camp Lejeune area Toys for Tots coordinator. "Our ultimate goal is 60,000 toys by the end of the campaign, however, at this point, we are about 20,000 short."

Along with the downward spiraling economy, the local campaign has seen an influx of children in need. That, coupled with a decrease in sponsors, has created the biggest challenge to overcome.

"There are a lot of kids out there. We get lists with literally thousands of names on them," he said. "These are kids in addition to those we already have given toys to."

Undeterred, the campaign presses on to meet the needs of the eight counties.

"We are hosting more special events than usual this year," he said. "Marines tend to warm people's hearts so we're trying to get out there more."



Col. Adele E. Hodges, former Camp Lejeune commander, poses with Marines from Company F, 4th Tank Battalion during the 2007 Toys for Tots kick off ceremony.

More than 20 toy and fundraising events are scheduled to be held in the surrounding areas between now and Christmas.

All the money and toys collected at these events will stay in the county where it was collected.

"A lot of people want to help their communities," he said. "The money we collect won't leave their area. If we are short on gifts in a particular county, we can get supplemental toys from the foundation."

Gifts for teenagers and infants tend to be the toys the campaign falls short on. The local campaign can fill this void in two ways. The campaign can request the gifts from

the national foundation and monetary gifts can be used to purchase toys for the age and gender group that is lacking.

The most desirable way to fill these gaps is through private toy donations. In the eight counties covered, there are more than 400 drop sites for people to donate toys.

"We've had great support from the base," he said. "Units have had their own fundraisers and toy drives. But at the end, we're still struggling."

Last year, Camp Lejeune's campaign manned four counties and raised more than 48,000 toys and was able to give each child two gifts

and two stocking stuffers to brighten their Christmas.

"I have kids myself and I don't want to see those kids go without things they need, especially at Christmas," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Caton, a reserve Marine working with Toys for Tots. "It shows the Marine Corps in a positive light and shows we really do care about people both home and abroad."

There are plenty of opportunities to help Toys for Tots through toy and monetary donations and volunteer positions.

For more information or to find out how you can help, call 547-7474 or visit the Toys for Tots Web site at www.toysfortots.org.

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Christmas meal invitation issued

In accordance with MARADMIN 043/08, family members of Marines in grade of corporal and below, military retirees and guests of enlisted Marines and sailors are authorized to partake in the Christmas meal scheduled for dinner Dec. 25 in all mess halls at Camp Lejeune, with the exception of the Rifle Range mess hall (RR-3). The meal price for family members of corporal and below is \$5.40 and for all other personnel the price is \$6.35. The meal will consist of roast turkey, baked ham, roast beef, savoy bread dressing, glazed sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, deviled eggs, shrimp cocktail, vegetables, assorted drinks, pies and candies.

Santa Claus set to visit Jacksonville

PRESS RELEASE
Bettering Our Local Downtown

Bettering Our Local Downtown of Jacksonville is proud to host its second annual Downtown in December open house Tuesday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Historic Train Depot at 421 Court St. Held in partnership with the Onslow Model Railroad Club, this special holiday event is free and open to the public.

As he did last year, Santa will make a special appearance for a photograph opportunity. Families of all ages are invited to

come and have digital group photographs or individual pictures taken with Santa on the back of the caboose. B.O.L.D. is asking for a \$1 donation from all attendees to help continue this tradition for years to come.

While waiting for pictures with Santa, children can stay warm on the moon bounce for a small fee, hosted by Once Upon A Theme. Railroad enthusiasts will love the model railroad display inside and can enjoy a sneak inside the unfinished historic Atlantic Railroad Caboose. With the outside recently restored to historically accurate colors and markings, the inside will

now become the focus of renovations, with the help of the Onslow Model Railroad Club and community donations.

Other activities will include storytelling by the fireplace, old-fashioned caroling, crafts and refreshments for all to enjoy.

B.O.L.D. of Jacksonville Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Downtown Jacksonville, and is supported by the City of Jacksonville and Onslow County. For more information about B.O.L.D., visit the organization's Web site at www.BOLD2000.com or call 937-7222.

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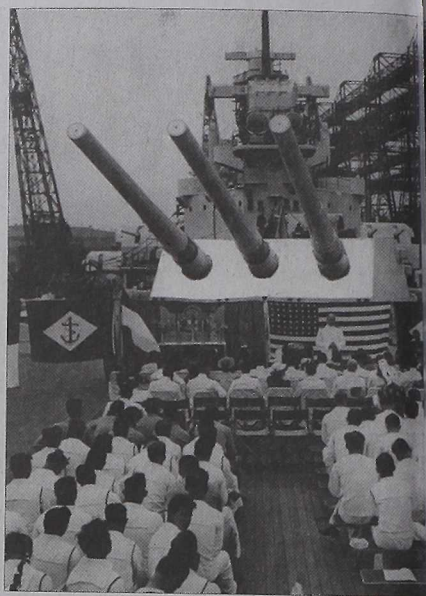
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DECEMBER 12 IN THEATERS AND IMAX



The Battleship North Carolina, a decommissioned naval ship now serving as a museum in Wilmington, hosted a divine service Sunday. Cmdr. Alan Hansen, command chaplain for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, led the service.



This photograph taken in April 1941 shows a divine service aboard the fantail of the Battleship North Carolina. A similar service was recreated aboard the ship Sunday to both provide a feeling of a typical shipboard experience and to honor those who perished Dec. 7, 1941.

Pearl Harbor service held on MOST INFAMOUS DAY

HEATHER M. OWENS
Carolina Living editor

A group of people gathered aboard the Battleship North Carolina Sunday to honor the memory of those affected by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 67 years ago to the day. They did so by re-creating a typical Sunday service which may have taken place aboard the battleship during the 1940s.

Cmdr. Alan Hansen, who is both the command chaplain for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the pastor for the Midway Park Chapel, led the service.

Hansen said he was pleased at the opportunity to honor the sailors of 1941 with a religious service aboard their ship.

"We're very excited about (today's service), because it is a true Navy service like what may have taken place that day," said Hansen.

The divine service, which was attended largely by members of Hansen's Midway Park Chapel and Naval reenactors for the Battleship North Carolina, was held on the fantail under clear skies, but decidedly chilly temperatures.

Attendees wore hats, gloves and heavy coats. Many of the reenactors wore traditional Navy pea coats to block out the cold.

Assisting Hansen were Cmdr. Robert Carpenter, the deputy command chaplain for Marine Corps Base, who gave the invocation and benediction. Lt. Robin Heckathorne, the Camp Johnson schools chaplain, played an antique portable, field pump organ during the

service. Vanessa Childs, who is a lead singer at the Midway Park Chapel, led the music.

Kim Sincox, museum services director for the battleship, organized the service. "I wanted to do something to commemorate Dec. 7, 1941, that would invoke what would have been in (the sailors') minds at that time. We were really trying to recreate what would have happened (aboard the Battleship North Carolina) that day," she said.

In addition to the prayers and music, the service's accoutrements also set the scene. The podium, altar and candlesticks used during the service were original pieces from the battleship.

Sunday's service was the second held aboard the battleship since its decommissioning in June 1947 and the first to be open to the public.

Courtney Vaughn, wife of Sgt. Christopher Vaughn, who is currently deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, said she was happy to have the opportunity to attend Sunday's service aboard the battleship.

"I came to support 'chaps,'" she said using a nickname for military chaplains, "and to remember those who are deployed and those who served before them."

Sailors from the Marine Corps Base chaplain's office, who assisted with the service's preparations, were also pleased at the opportunity to spend time aboard the historic ship.

"It was very interesting (being here). In boot camp, we learned a lot about the 7th of December (1941), but this was a good oppor-

tunity to (learn more)," said Seaman Apprentice Azize King, a religious program specialist for the base chaplain's office.

King's colleague, Seaman Marilyn Napier, who also works as a religious program specialist for Marine Corps Base, agreed. "I can kind of see what it was like then. I know that you can't get the full scope of what it was like being aboard a ship during World War II, but it gives you a pretty good idea," she said.

The Battleship North Carolina was docked near New York City on the "day which would live in infamy," as Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt declared at the time.

The ship's crew was taking a break from its shakedown cruise. Due to the time difference, the attack on Pearl Harbor had not yet happened when the members of the Battleship North Carolina crew gathered for Sunday worship.

"Here were these young men on a ship which was being tested. Christmas was coming up and perhaps they were hopeful. They must have been proud to be on a new ship which was receiving all of this press," she said.

Though the United States was not yet at war that morning, Sincox said she imagines members of the crew may have been a little apprehensive of the escalation of war in Europe.

Though the Battleship North Carolina was anchored in different eras and at different ports on Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 7, 2008, she offered the opportunity for Navy chaplains to bring worship to a congregation.



Photo by Heather M. Owens
Cmdr. Alan Hansen, command chaplain for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, led Sunday's service aboard the Battleship North Carolina.

For more photos of this event, visit The Globe Web site, located at www.camplejeuneglobe.com

Officers' Wives Club announces scholarship program

The Camp Lejeune Officers' Wives Club announces its scholarship applications are now available. To qualify, a senior high school student or spouse applicant's sponsor (of any military rank or service) must meet one of the following criteria:



- Active duty military personnel serving in the Camp Lejeune area.
- Active duty personnel currently fulfilling an unaccompanied permanent change of station tour whose last duty station was in the Camp Lejeune area.
- Retired or deceased military personnel whose last active duty station was in the Camp Lejeune area.

To download a copy of the applications, visit the OWC Web site at www.camplejeuneowc.org. Also, copies can be obtained at Hidden Talents, located near Subway at Hadnot Point. All applications must be postmarked or hand delivered by the close of business directly to a staff member at Hidden Talents, no later than Feb. 20, 2009. Applications postmarked or delivered after this date will not be considered. Selected applicants will be notified during late April 2009. For more information, contact scholarship co-chairs Leasa Wahlgren at wahlgrenkl@gmail.com or Alicia Brindel at aliciadix@hotmail.com.

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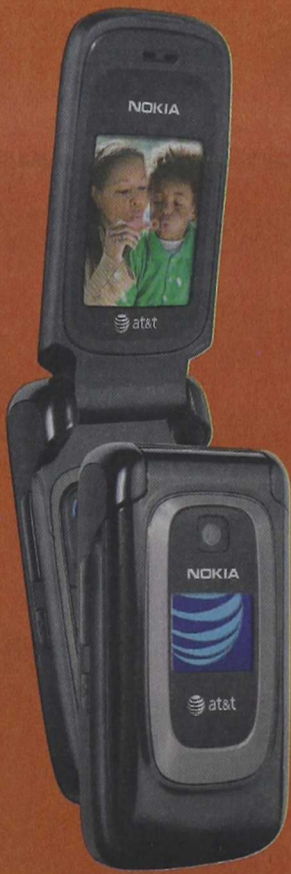


Jubilee brings cheer to Camp Lejeune



Photo by Cpl. Jessica L. Martinez
 Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base hosted its Holiday Jubilee Dec. 4 at Goettge Memorial Field House. The event was for the battalion's military staff and their families. During the evening, a free, full buffet was provided and children had the opportunity to have their faces painted. Additionally, the Lejeune High School jazz band, directed by Tim Tyson, presented a holiday concert. Tables were set up with crafts for children of all ages to create. Clowns were in attendance during the evening's festivities to provide some extra entertainment for children whom they delighted by making balloon animals and toys. Santa and his friends even stopped by to put huge, gleaming smiles on the youngsters' faces. Those who paid Santa a visit could sit on his lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas, and afterward Santa gave each child a bag filled with goodies and a candy cane.

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for the Warriors wins second Artie award

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Sandra Fountain (left), chair of the Tourism Advisory Committee, and Commissioner Lionell Midgett presented the Artie to Hope for the Warriors Marketing Assistant Amanda Scarella.

for the Warriors. More than 2,200 runners ran, walked and rolled their way through the 10K, 5K and one-mile courses to help raise more than \$115,000 for the Hope for the Warriors mission.

Established in 2006 by co-founders and friends Robin Kelleher and Shannon Maxwell, Hope for the Warriors is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring the sacrifices of warriors across military service branches and throughout the United States are not forgotten, nor their needs unmet.



Marine Corps Community Services received Artie awards for best sponsorship packet for SandJam 2008 and best press kit for this year's Independence Day celebration. Kim Oliver, marketing director, accepted on behalf of MCCS.



Courtesy photo
Though the holidays bring joy and delight, pet owners must make precautions to ensure their pet's safety.

Holidays require additional safety measures for pets

CAPT. KAREN WEEKES
Veterinary Treatment Facility

With the Holidays just around the corner, it's time to think about potential holiday hazards for your pets.

Here are a few helpful tips to ensure your pets enjoy a safe holiday season:

Avoid feeding your pets any chocolate treats. Chocolate contains the drug theobromine, a toxic substance to dogs and cats.

Ensure electrical cords for holiday lights are secured so pets can't chew on them and expose themselves to a deadly electrical shock.

Place Christmas tree ornaments at least two feet above the base of the tree. Ornaments placed lower offer an inviting toy for dogs and cats to play with. If swallowed, they can cause an intestinal obstruction requiring emergency surgery.

Avoid using string or yarn on packages or on ornaments placed within pet's reach. These items can also cause intestinal obstruction if swallowed.

Avoid using lead tinsel on Christmas trees or place it high enough where pets cannot reach it. Lead is poisonous to animals as well as humans when ingested. Foil tinsel is not poisonous but, like string, is dangerous if swallowed.

Don't allow pets to eat pine needles or leaves from Poinsettia plants. Both are poisonous to animals.

Aside from holiday hazards, keep in mind the colder weather during this time of year and protect your pets accordingly. You can accomplish this by ensuring your pets have access to plenty of fresh, clean water at all times; keeping them indoors when the outdoor temperature is below freezing and by keeping your pet's coat dry and clean.

For more information on pet safety or health issues, contact the Veterinary Treatment Facility at 450-1920.

Editor's note: Weekes is a veterinarian and the officer in charge of the Camp Lejeune Veterinary Treatment Facility.

ed Cross continues to aid Camp Lejeune after 65 years

ESSICA L. MARTINEZ
Corps Base

more than 65 years, the Amer-
d Cross has been taking care of
Lejeune's service members and
amilies.

American Red Cross has many es
to offer, such as disaster relief,
ational services, volunteering,
services, blood donations and
and safety services.

"e're mainly here for emergency
unification," said Elizabeth
s, senior station manager with the
ican Red Cross branch on Camp
ne. "We run a volunteer program
ffer after-hour assistance with the
-Marine Corps relief program."

nce July, the Red Cross branch
has had 129 volunteers who con-
ted more than 8,868 hours of their
helping service members and
amilies. Volunteers are recruited
the community and include
e duty members, their families,
ses and others from within the lo-
community.

We don't require much of our
nters," said Schirk. "They must
otivated to help in the community.
want them to share the many skills
already possess and be willing to
n new ones."

olunteers with the Red Cross work at
al Hospital Camp Lejeune, the medical
at New River, the dental clinics, the
nded Warrior Battalion and the Red
s office. They help conduct briefs, case-
s and moral support, as well as work in
ous leadership positions.

Each year, the American Red Cross acknowledges the Volunteer of the Quarter in all of the Continental United States. This year, Suzanne Klorig was honored as the first Caseworker of the Quarter for her services to military members which mostly include service members at Camp Lejeune and their families.

"It's exciting to be appreciated for volunteer work that is necessary, but also very fun," said Klorig, military spouse and caseworker with the American Red Cross branch at Camp Lejeune. "The three days a week I volunteer are my opportunity to interact with hundreds of military families in a very personal way. I am extremely lucky to have this opportunity in these challenging times."

Caseworkers are required to complete a Red Cross National Headquarters course in casework and receive thorough on the job training from experienced Red Cross staff. Upon completion, the volunteer is certified as a Red Cross caseworker.

"Our caseworkers provide emergency and regular Red Cross messages, such as a child being born or when a parent is critically ill, between families and their military members, both at home and abroad," said Schirk.

The skills volunteer caseworkers obtain can be used anywhere the Marine Corps takes them and their families. There are also paid positions available.

"I can take my skills anywhere the Red Cross touches and fit right in as a volunteer," said Klorig. "So when we move, the transition will be that much

easier. I can't think of a better 'win-win' situation."

Besides the valuable training Red Cross volunteers receive, it offers a special program for service members and their families who may not be able to meet certain costs in regard to an emergency situation.

"The Casualty Travel Assistance Program assists up to two family members with meeting the costs of travel to a military medical facility, if the family members' presence has been requested by medical authorities and the military member," said Schirk. "We will also assist with lodging expenses for up to six nights for travel to the bedside of a service member injured in a combat zone."

CTAP can also fund up to two family members' travel to attend a military funeral or memorial service for a service member who dies within the Central Command area of responsibility.

CTAP assistance is given in the form of a grant and is not required to be repaid.

The American Red Cross offers many services to the military, their families and the community. Anyone can volunteer, anyone can help.

"Our volunteers share a common thread," said Schirk. "They ask for so little and give so much."

For more information about CTAP or services the American Red Cross offers, get in touch with the local America Red Cross chapter or visit the organization's Web site at www.redcross.org.

Base Holiday Services Schedule

CATHOLIC CHAPEL

St. Francis Xavier Chapel		
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Mass	6 p.m.
	Christmas Carols	11 p.m.
	Christmas Midnight Mass	Midnight
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Mass	10 a.m.
Jan. 1	Holy Day of Obligation	11:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

EASTERN ORTHODOX

Camp Johnson		
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	8 p.m.
Jan. 1	New Year's Service	10 a.m.

JEWISH CHAPEL

Dec. 27	Chanukah Party	7 p.m.
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PROTESTANT CHAPELS

Camp Lejeune		
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21	Advent Services	10 a.m.
Dec. 21	Christmas Cantata	10 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7 p.m.

Tarawa Terrace		
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	7 p.m.

Camp Johnson		
Nov. 23	Reign of Christ (Christ The King)	9 a.m.
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21	Advent Services	10 a.m.
Dec. 24	Nativity of the Lord	7 p.m.

Veterinary Walk-in Clinic

The Base Veterinary Clinic located in Tarawa Terrace, has scheduled a Saturday walk-in clinic called "Santa Paws" from 8 a.m. to noon, Dec. 20. Free rabies and distemper vaccines will be offered while supplies last. No appointment is needed for this walk-in clinic. Services provided will include vaccines, microchips, heartworm tests and feline leukemia tests. No sick calls, please. There will also be discounted photographs with Santa. Bring all previous health records on your pet. Military identification is required for services. Please bring your pet in on a leash or in a carrier. Appointments for vaccinations and sick calls are available by calling 450-1607.



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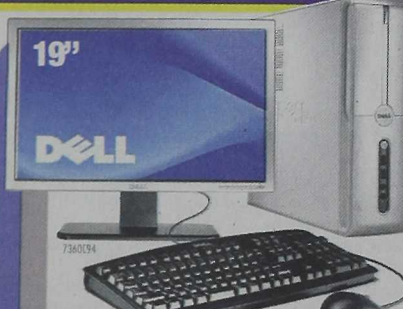
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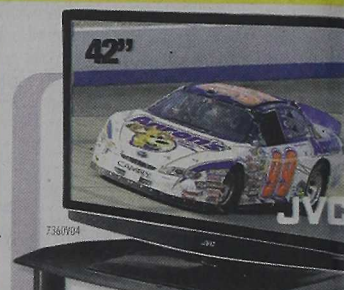
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