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President praises military efforts in Global War on Terrorism, urges resolve

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush praised the sacrifices U.S. service members are making to protect the country and urged the American people to stay the course in the war on terror during his annual State of the Union address Jan. 31 at the U.S. Capitol.

Bush heralded democratic advances in Afghanistan and Iraq, where U.S. troops are helping bring newfound freedoms to millions of people who once lived in fear and repression and forming solid partnerships as they fight terrorism. These successes have come through the skill and spirit of

the U.S. military, he said. "Our men and women in uniform are making sacrifices, and showing a sense of duty stronger than all fear," the president said. "They know what it is like to fight house to house in a maze of streets, to wear heavy gear in the desert heat, to see a comrade killed by a roadside bomb. And those who know the costs also know the stakes."

Among them was Marine Staff Sgt. Dan Clay, who was killed Dec. 1 while fighting the enemy in Fallujah, Iraq. As Clay's widow and parents looked on, Bush read to the assembly a letter the fallen Marine left to his family but that the president said could just as well be addressed to every American.

"I know what honor is," Clay wrote. "It has been an honor to protect and serve all of you. I faced death with the secure knowledge that you would not have to. Never falter! Don't hesitate to honor and support those of us who have the honor of protecting that which is worth protecting."

"Our nation is grateful to the fallen, who live in the memory of our country," Bush said to thunderous applause. "We are grateful to all who volunteer to wear our nation's uniform. And as we

honor our brave troops, let us never forget the sacrifices of America's military families."

While honoring these sacrifices, Bush emphasized, the United States can't lose its resolve and cut its mission short in Iraq. Referring to Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and his henchman in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Bush said abandoning Iraq to the terrorists would be the wrong thing to do. "A sudden withdrawal of our forces from Iraq would abandon our Iraqi allies to death and prison,

put men like bin Laden and Zarqawi in charge of a strategic country, and show that a pledge from America means little," he said.

Bush urged members of Congress to put aside their past disagreements and debate and support the country's only option. "We must keep our word, defeat our enemies and stand behind the American military in its vital mission," he said.

"The road of victory is the road that will take our troops home," the president said. But he emphasized that progress on the ground and recommendations of commanders there, not politicians, must drive decisions

See MILITARY page 11A



President Bush

Hamma, Chang praised for bravery ...



Cpl. Matthew K. Hacker

Camp Lejeune, N.C.: Second Marine Expeditionary Force's commanding general, Lt. Gen. James F. Amos, presented Cpl. Justin D. Hamma, a dog handler with 2nd Military Police Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, with a Purple Heart Medal for wound sustained in Iraq outside the Military Working Dog Kennels Jan. 30. Amos also presented Hamma's Military Working Dog, Chang, with a Certificate of Commendation for saving Hamma's life and making sure he was there to accept his medal.

65th Anniversary marked by combat operations in Iraq

Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Edwards
2nd Marine Division (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — The 2nd Marine Division's 65th Anniversary is marked by yet another milestone in its illustrious career: a successful, year-long combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The division assumed control of the Al Anbar province in March 2005 and has aggressively pursued and rooted out insurgent activity throughout the region. Combat operations such as Rivergate and Steel Curtain liberated outlying cities and towns from the grip of the insurgency's campaigns of murder and intimidation, freeing the people to live free, productive lives.

This freedom allowed for two successful national votes. The Constitutional Referendum in October followed by the National Election in December showed a solid foundation for democracy.

"This year your impressive combat record in Iraq adds another lustrous chapter to your celebrated heritage," said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, in a message dated Jan. 26.

See IRAQ page 11A

'Follow Me' Division to celebrate birthday

Cpl. Mike Escobar
2nd Marine Division

The 2nd Marine Division will celebrate its 65th birthday here Feb. 3.

Members from the 2nd Marine Division Association will be on hand to commemorate the occasion alongside the unit's Marines and sailors, along with rendering honors to warriors past and present.

The "Follow Me" Division, formerly known as the 2nd Marine Brigade, was officially organized Feb. 1, 1941 in San Diego, Calif., by this change of designation.

During the World War II years, division personnel participated in campaigns across the central Pacific including the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Saipan. In their battle for the Tarawa atoll, the Marines suffered approximately 1,100 deaths in combat. However, of the 4,700 Japanese defending the islets, only 17 survived the relentless leathernecks' assault.

In later decades, elements within the unit comprised parts of a multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon (1982-1984)

See BIRTHDAY page 11A

Bush: Iran cannot gain nuclear weapons

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The world cannot allow Iran to gain nuclear weapons, President George W. Bush said on CBS's "Face the Nation" program yesterday. He also discussed coalition efforts in Iraq and the terrorist surveillance program.

Worldwide diplomatic efforts are concentrating on getting Iran to end its nuclear program, Bush said. "Our strategy is to present and hold together a united front to say to the Iranians, 'Your designs to have a nuclear weapon or your desire to have the capability of making a nuclear weapon is unacceptable,'" he said.

Bush said the world's message to Iran is to become part of the family of nations and give up nuclear weapons ambitions. Bush said precautions over Iran's nuclear program are necessary because Iran has a "non-transparent government" and because the leader of Iran has openly stated his desire to destroy Israel.

The president de-emphasized any U.S. military option in Iraq but said the option "should be on the table" as a last resort.

Bush also spoke about public sup-

port for operations in Iraq. He said it's important to highlight U.S. efforts in Iraq because "people saw death on the TV screens without a sense that we're making progress."

"I made the decision to listen to phone calls of Al-Qaida or suspected al Qaeda from outside the country coming in or inside the country going out because the people, our operators, told me that this is one of the best ways to protect the American people."

President George W. Bush

Referring to the terrorist surveillance program, Bush said the question really is to what extent a president during war can exercise author-

ities to protect the American people. "I made the decision to listen to phone calls of Al-Qaida or suspected al Qaeda from outside the country coming in or inside the country going out because the people, our operators, told me that this is one of the best ways to protect the American people," he said.

"It is important that this program go on. I understand the debate, and I understand the need to make sure people discuss and debate whether or not I've got the authority to do it," he said. "But as I told the American people, ... if somebody's talking to Al-Qaida inside the United States, we need to know why. And that's what this program is aimed to do."

Mainside s Week

Marine Boxing
Marine Boxing bouts are winding up as the team gears up for the Armed Forces Tournament at the Ventura County, Calif. 6-11. Qualifying bouts are among the team's most esteemed boxing programs, of conditioning and more on page

Marine Expeditionary
Consolidated Issue has a few tips to help you get ready for Marines returning from Iraq. Read more on

Marines
at Camp Lejeune Young Marines are looking for a few more volunteers. Turn to page 1D to learn more about the program and the benefits of volunteering.

News Watch

Warriors
Carlos Lopez, 22, of San Diego, and Lance Corporal Dewey, 20, of Joaquin, Calif., were killed in action Jan. 20 from a suicide-bombing of an improvised explosive device conducting combat operations in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. Lt. Lewis T. D. Amos, 21, of Waipahu, Hawaii, and Lance Cpl. A. Scott, 24, of Hill, Ga., died Jan. 20 in a non-hostile accident near Al Fumrah, Iraq. The accident is currently under investigation; Sgt. Sean Lee, 28, of Chesapeake, Va., was killed in action Jan. 24 from a small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Karbala, Iraq; Lance Corporal Brixey Jr., Ferriday, La., died Jan. 7 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, from wounds sustained as a result of an improvised explosive device while traveling in a vehicle in Afghanistan.

Force staff
structures to move joint ops, communication
The Air Force will begin its staff restructuring throughout the week to bring more on line with the other military services and joint commands so it can operate effectively with them in support of warfighters. Major Air Force command will implement it by 1, Brig. Gen. Sabol, director of power, organization resources, told the American Forces Press Service.
The concept is similar to already in place in the Navy, Marine Corps, the Joint Staff and combatant commands, and duties and responsibilities by functional areas, Sabol said.

defenselink.mil/news/2006 for the full story.

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Man on the street

How are you going to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday?



"I plan on staying as far away from anything to do with football as possible. Football is not really my thing."

Pvt. Ciera M. Miranda
Combat Videographer
Bravo Co., HQSPT Bn., MCB
Milwaukee, Wis.

"I missed last year's Super Bowl because I was on deployment. This year, I'm going to spend time with my friends and family."



Lt. Col. Russ E. Jamison Jr.
Director of Range Control
HQSPT Bn., MCB
Washington

"I'm going to a buddy's house to watch the game. I want to enjoy the time I have before deploying again in March."



Cpl. Paul S. Kozlowski
Combat Engineer
Alpha Co., 2nd CEB
2nd MarDiv
Bowie, Md.

"I'm just going to hang out at the house, cook some food and watch the game."



Seaman Apprentice Rodolfo C. Gomez
Corpsman
Weapons Co., 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine
Regiment, 2nd MarDiv
San Antonio, Texas

"I'm going to get together with some of my buddies and celebrate their promotions to staff sergeant."



Staff Sgt. Samuel D. Deoda
Assistant Operations Chief
6th Marine Regiment
2nd MarDiv
Howland, Maine

"My roommates and I are going to hang out at the house and watch the game."



Sgt. Craig A. McGill
Intelligence Analyst
HQ and Service Co., 2nd Recon. Bn.
2nd MarDiv
Tunisia

Armed Services Blood Donor Center reopens

Guest Commentary
Lt. Col. Annita Best

My first experience with donating blood was as a 17-year-old high school student. The only motivation at that time was the fact that anyone who donated blood could be excused for the rest of the day.

The next time I donated blood my motivation for donating was that I had heard that when you donate blood, your own blood regenerates and you end up with newer blood and more energy. I'm not sure how true that is, but obviously, I was self-centered and my motivations weren't at all altruistic.

As I have matured, my reasons for donating blood have also matured. Instead of doing it solely for personal reasons I've started to donate blood for its benefit to others. I imagine I've probably given around three gallons of blood over the years, and I have also imagined that some of my blood may have been used to save a life once or twice.

Until this past week, I've only donated through the American Red Cross. That's a fine organization and one that has helped people too numerous to mention in ways too numerous to mention. However, I recently found out about the reopening of the Armed Services Blood Donor Center here at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital.

The main difference between the two is that all the blood donated to the Armed Services Blood Program Donor Center is used to directly support the operational forces.

Additionally, the ASBP is providing blood to be prepositioned for future operations, according to Lt. Aaron Harding, of the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital Blood Donor Center.

"There is a 10-year shelf life of

prepositioned frozen blood and we have a 14-day shelf life of the blood once it has been thawed," he said.

One of the best things about donating blood to the ASBP here is that within 10 days of donating your blood is on its way to Iraq to support our fellow Marines and sailors there. Approximately 60 units of blood are sent to theatre per week.

In order to meet the requirements for sending blood into the theater of operation, for patient care and for freezing, the Blood Donor Center must collect at least 150 units of blood per week. Holidays and summertime seem to be the most difficult collection periods, but most of the time the needed amounts are collected except for O negative and AB blood types.

Daily, the most needed blood types are O negative and AB because they are universal blood types, the red cells and the plasma, respectively—meaning it can be used for a patient with any other blood type. Only seven percent of the population has O negative and four percent has AB blood, but 100 percent of the population can utilize that blood type.

To donate blood you can call the BDC and make an appointment at 450-3458, or you can call and make arrangements for the blood mobile to come to your unit and collect at 450-4628.

All military members and family members who aren't deferred for any of the numerous reasons are eligible to donate at the Naval Hospital.

An individual must be at least 17 years old and 110 pounds. He or she must be in good general health. International travel since 1980 is evaluated. Namely, any malarial countries—to include Iraq—visited in the last 12 months will be reason for a temporary deferral. Acquiring a tattoo within the past 12 months is a reason for a temporary deferral. Anyone who has lived

in or traveled England or Europe between 1980-1990 is indefinitely deferred. According to the reason for that is the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Eventually there will be anyone who may have been exposed to the disease, but until individuals may not donate.

In addition to military and their dependents, reservists, and government and contract employees are able to donate blood and blood drive for them every month; there is a blood drive at the Marston Pavilion on Feb. 10 from 0900 to 1400.

Because of the availability of the Blood Donor Center at the Hospital, the American Red Cross is not eligible to conduct blood drives aboard Camp Lejeune. Therefore, the ASBP cannot conduct blood drives off base. However, anyone who wants to get aboard Base may donate to the ASBP and strongly support the Jacksonville community and the ARC blood drives, according to Harding.

"Because of the various reasons and the fact that most of them here have either been to Iraq or gotten tattoos within the past few months, our pool of potential donors isn't as large as we would like. We are on the training commands at the School of Infantry."

Even though O negative and AB blood types are particularly needed, anyone with blood of any type is appreciated as a donor as long as they aren't deferred.

Those of us who remain in the States seem to always be looking for ways to support our brothers and sisters who are in harm's way. Blood is such a beneficial gift that—it's the gift that keeps

Sempertoons

by Staff Sgt. Wolf



Where there's smoke, there's fire

Guest Commentary
Staff Sgt. A.C. Mink

It can take a mere second for spark to become flame. Sounds like the lyrics to an 80s power ballad doesn't it?

However, when I saw the cigarette butt fly from the vehicle—thrown by the hand of an individual in our very own desert digis—I learned different. In the time it took me to wait for several cars to pass, and pull through my stop sign on Birch Street, the ground cover next to the tents set up for training, was already smoldering and flames had popped up in several spots.

Ignorantly, I like many others, assumed that uncontrolled fires don't occur that often in winter. I mean, it's cold, right? The reality is that by Jan. 29, 2006, more than 320 fires burned more than 650 acres in the state of North Carolina—not counting controlled burns and unreported blazes, according to the Division of Forest Resources.

By the time I could pull my vehicle over and jump out with water bottles in hand, the fire was knee high some places and spread out in an eight-foot arch. Even with more than a gallon of water, and the assistance of Sgt. Michael Wissmeyer, ground sensor operator, 2nd Ground

Sensor Platoon, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, digging up moist soil with our boots, the wind fanned the flames into moving so quickly toward the tents and power lines, that it didn't seem we could stop them quick enough.

"The cold doesn't matter," emphasized both Fire Capt. Adam Matas and Lt. David Hemby of the Fire and Emergency Services Division, Camp Lejeune, who were driving by and saw the smoke and commotion.

With the shovels they pulled from their fire truck, the two were able to make quick work of extinguishing the fire.

Thinking that I was onto a big story of the week, and thinking I already knew the answer, I asked what we could do to prevent fires like this.

"Not much, this is the fifth we've responded to today," said Hemby. "The wind dries the top layer, and it becomes fuel. Eighty to ninety percent of the fires we deal with on Lejeune are from pop-up flares and tracers—it doesn't take much to set it off."

Alerted by training and safety personnel, these fires are dealt with quickly and safely—a true example of the cooperation of the training Marines and the installation personnel.

Hemby and Matas took their leave, off to wait for the next bell.

Wissmeyer, still standing beside me,

shook his head.

"This one, wasn't set off by training or flares, was it," asked Wissmeyer, who is from DeRidder, La. "This was just carelessness."

Combining the years 1970 to 2004, the third leading cause of wildfire in North Carolina was smoking, according to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Web site.

Wissmeyer and I kicked around the soil and burned pine needles and unearthed more than a dozen cigarette butts.

"There's no way to tell which one, is there," said the ground sensor platoon Marine, who is currently attached to 24th MEU, taking part in the training in that area.

So... I learned three important lessons last week, number one, our digi cammies and boots are flame retardant; number two, that doesn't help one put the fire out any quicker; and number three—and most important—fires can happen at any time, and a cigarette, thrown by a careless person, could have cost thousands in training equipment, and the most priceless of all—lives.

For more information about fire control in North Carolina visit: http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/fire_control/wildfire_statistics.htm

THE GLOBE

Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East
Maj. Gen. Robert C. Dickerson

Marine Corps Installations East
Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Annita Best

Features & Layout Editor
Ena Bravo
enabravo@militarynews.com

Marine Corps Installations East
Public Affairs Chief
Staff Sgt. Michael Mink

Sports Editor
Brian Berger
brian.berger@militarynews.com

Marine Corps Installations East
Press Chief, Military Editor
Sgt. G.S. Thomas
gregory.s.thomas@usmc.mil
451-7423

Carolina Living Staff Writer
Jennifer Moore
jennifermoore@militarynews.com

Publisher
James M. Connors
347-9624 ext. 109

Distribution Manager
Dennis Fusco
347-9624 ext. 107

Managing Editor
Wendy Kelly
wendy.kelly@militarynews.com
451-7406

Classified/Trader Ad
Becky Walker
347-9624 ext. 101

Sales personnel
347-9624 ext 103

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Motorcycles: Safety first

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Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

range: A shotgun can be a Marine's best friend, especially in a room-clearing scenario, which is what the Marines from the MARFORPAC Security Augmentation Force trained for Jan. 17-18. Corporal Jonathan E. Knight, a member of the SAF, fires a few rounds to familiarize himself with the weapon before running the room breaching course.

Puuloa range: Gunnery Sgt. Todd D. Nicodemus, a member of the Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Security Augmentation Force sends rounds down range, while qualifying with the M-1014 Combat Shotgun at Puuloa range Jan. 17-18.

Security Force ups their arsenal Marines hone combat pistol skills at Puuloa range

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Marine Forces Pacific

ing fire with his shotgun, while the other engaged targets with his pistol.

bat. "After this training, I know that I am a better shot, and I know I would be comfortable using these weapons in combat," said Cpl. Jonathan E. Knight, a SAF member. "Not to mention, I have fun doing it."

As fun as the training may be, it serves a very important purpose.

"This training comes with a price Marines," added Nale. "Just know that if this base comes under attack, a natural disaster strikes or anything else happens which requires the SAF, you are going to get a call."

The SAF Marines train quarterly, in an effort to constantly improve their ability to respond in an emergency situation.

"I've said it a hundred times, every Marine should continue to train like they were going to combat tomorrow," said Nale. "That's what I am hoping to continue to do with these Marines here."

After several successful runs, the Marines were allowed to come up with their own strategy for clearing the course.

"There are multiple ways to complete this course, but like Sgt. Nale taught us, speed and accuracy are what counts," said Staff Sgt. William K. Screws, a member of the SAF.

After the shotguns shells were gone, the Marines found themselves with close to 1,000 9mm rounds still to be fired. They continued to enhance the obstacles, increasing difficulty to clear them quickly, accurately and safely.

"We have a great opportunity to come out here and conduct some pretty high speed training. I'm glad to see these Marines taking advantage of it," said Nale.

According to Nale, regardless of any Marine's job, they should take every opportunity to prepare themselves for com-

MARINE CORPS PACIFIC, CAMP SMITH, Hawaii — Marines from the Marine Forces, Pacific Security Augmentation Force sent rounds down range as they honed their combat skills and qualified the M-1014 Combat Shotgun at Puuloa range Jan.

This training is to prepare for combat; that's what it's all about, said Sgt. Edward E. Nale, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the SAF. "Combat is what Marines are made for."

The Marines spent the first day learning the function of the M-1014, which is a gas operated, 12 round magazine fed, semi-automatic shot-

gun. To qualify, the Marines not only had to disassemble, assemble and conduct basic maintenance on the weapon. The Marines were able to fire off a few rounds on the range, but the second day is when the metal met the target. The Marines paired off in groups of two and simulated a room-clearing scenario. After breaching a plank wood door, the Marines rushed to the near barrier for cover. The Marines who breached the door, had to lay down cover-

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Cpl. Tom Sloan

Exercise Iron Fist: A Japanese Ground Self Defense soldier puts on a fin and prepares to enter the San Diego Bay during a training exercise Jan. 13. A company of 125 soldiers from the "Land of the Rising Sun" conducted Exercise Iron Fist alongside 30 Marines and sailors with Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Jan. 9 - 27. The joint venture focused on amphibious warfare and was designed to improve the Japanese soldiers' ability to move from ship to shore.

Allies in every clime, place

Cpl. Tom Sloan

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, CORONADO, Calif. — Thirty Marines and sailors with Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and a company of 125 Japanese Ground Self Defense soldiers with the Western Army Infantry Regiment conducted Exercise Iron Fist Jan. 9 - 27.

The troops from the "Land of the Rising Sun" received training from the U.S. service members during the joint exercise. According to I MEF spokesperson Capt. K. D. Robbins, the training was

designed to make them more lethal amphibious warriors.

Traditionally a ground combat force, the Japanese soldiers trained to move a company-sized element from ship to shore more effectively, explained Robbins, 32, of State College, Pa.

The training could prove valuable for the soldiers, making them a well-rounded fighting force capable of conducting successful amphibious landings and storming the beaches, Robbins said.

On the fifth training day, 20 of the soldiers donned fins and slung M-16s on their backs and swam more than 4,000 meters in the chilly waters of the San Diego Bay,

applying the skills they'd spent the past several days learning and perfecting.

The exercise, which culminated with a nighttime beach assault at Camp Pendleton, benefited the Japanese soldiers, said Japanese Maj. Toshihiro Ibe, the Japanese Ground Self Defense spokesperson.

"We have a good time with Marines," he said. "We gained skills and know-how from them (Marines) because they have lots of experience," said Ibe.

"The opportunity to work with our Japanese allies is invaluable," Robbins said. "They're professional warriors, and we can learn from each other." ■

Future leaders show initiative

Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier
2nd Marine Corps Logistics Group

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq — More than 25 Marines from different sections within 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) received their Corporals Course certificates Jan. 25.

At garrison bases, Corporals Course takes place over a two week period and is comprised of uniform inspections, sword manual, drill, physical training and numerous hours of academic instruction.

It is not much different in Iraq, according to Gunnery Sgt. Thomas E. Clough, 8th Engineer Communications Detachment commander and chief instructor for the Corporals Course.

"We do the same things here," Clough said. "Except here we don't have the same uniform inspections because all we have are our [camouflage utilities]."

Other minor differences include drill, PT and the length of the course, according to Clough.

"It is hard to get Marines away from their shops," Clough admitted. "We shortened the course from 14 to eight days because we all have demanding jobs that directly support our mission here."

Although the schedule was shortened, this did not mean all the materials pertinent to the course were not covered, according to Cpl. Roy G. White, data network specialist with Marine Wing Communication Squadron-38, 2nd MLG (Fwd), and Corporals Course graduate.

"We were here everyday from [7 a.m. - 8 p.m.]. Although the schedule was intense, I learned a lot," White said. "There is a lot that goes into this course than what I originally thought."

In the rear, uniform inspections are part of the schedule, where Marines are judged their attention to detail. Here, there are few changes to the uniform inspections, according to Sgt.



Cpl. Heidi I

Corporals Course: Marines stand idle in formation during a Corporals Course Jan. 24. More than 25 Marines from different sections within 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) received their Corporals Course certificates Jan. 25. The course took place over a period of eight days and was comprised of uniform inspections, manual, drill, physical training and numerous hours of academic instruction.

Matthew A. Phelps, who was one of three squad instructors working with the junior Marines during the course.

"We don't have the [service A uniforms] here," Phelps said. "All we have are our cammies, which we have been wearing everyday since we have been here. And because we wear them all day, we don't try to focus as much attention on uniforms compared to other things such as drill or periods of instruction."

Some Marines, like Cpl.

Richard S. Jackel, believe class here will benefit in Iraq and when they return to the states.

"Because we are in Iraq we not only learned to become leaders in the field but also learned time management," Jackel, who is an instructor with MWCS-38, 2nd (Fwd). "Corporals Course is vital to becoming a leader. Setting the example through conduct is the best thing some of us have learned here." ■

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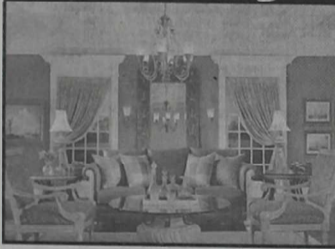
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Cpl. Will Lathrop
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

Guam: Lance Cpl. Adam Penn, a 20-year-old Joplin, Missouri native and squad automatic weapon gunner with 3rd Platoon, G Co., 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, lies in wait for "enemy combatants" Jan. 26 during an ambush patrol conducted on the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Guam. The battalion is part of the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is conducting its Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise as part of its special operations capable qualification.

31st MEU grunts learn ambush techniques

Cpl. Will Lathrop
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATION, GUAM — Marines and sailors with G Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, conducted jungle ambush patrols Jan. 26 as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's MEU Exercise being conducted on the island of Guam.

The patrol involved members of 3rd Platoon with an attached machine gun section tactically entering the dense jungle and establishing a solid position from which to engage and destroy the enemy.

"We've been doing more of these patrols, because we need to be ready if we go to war in the jungle," said Lance Cpl. Jose Angulo, a 20-year-old San Francisco native and a fire team leader. "But a lot of these skills apply to urban combat, too."

The platoon followed a trail into the jungle, disappearing into the foliage as they made their way to their objective rally point.

"We use the ORP to plan

the ambush," said Cpl. Kenneth Oelrich, a 22-year-old Gainesville, Fla. native and squad leader. "We already know where everyone is supposed to go when we step off for the patrol, but when we finally get on scene, we take a little time to establish precise positions."

After arriving at the ambush location, the Marines moved into their assigned positions, concealed from observation by heavy vegetation.

"The big key to an ambush is discipline," Angulo said. "Noise, movement, light, these are all things that can give you away to the enemy."

Thirty minutes later, four Marines, acting as an enemy reconnaissance patrol, ventured down the trail. Oelrich initiated the attack as soon as the center of the enemy patrol entered the kill zone.

Shouts from the ambush force could be barely heard over the overwhelming volume of rifle and machine gun fire.

"The contact should last no more than 15-20 seconds," Oelrich said. "Especially if your intelli-

gence was accurate and you brought more firepower than the enemy."

Contact was broken almost as soon as it started, with 3rd Platoon sustaining one casualty, who was assessed as walking wounded.

The enemy patrol sustained three casualties and the other member being detained for follow-on interrogation.

The egress followed a different route than the one taken into the ambush site, in order to throw off anyone who had tracked them and set up a counter-ambush along their approach route.

"This patrol went really well, which is good for the new guys to see," Angulo said. "They've practiced a lot of conventional warfare tactics, so it was great training for them to try some unconventional methods."

The Marines and sailors of 2nd Bn., 5th Marines are currently serving as the battalion landing team for the MEU. The MEU is currently in Guam enhancing its capabilities and working toward its special operations capable certification before it continues its tour of the Asia-Pacific Region. ■

Logistics units endure cold snow during convoy training

Lance Cpl. Terence L. Yancey
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

CAMP FUJI, Japan — More than 150 service members with 3rd Marine Logistics Group endured the cold on Camp Fuji Jan. 11-29, for Exercise Materiel Warrior, a three-week convoy operations exercise.

The objective of the exercise was to increase the combat readiness of augmentments from the group's 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, as well as detachments from Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3rd Transportation Support Battalion and 9th Engineer Support Battalion, in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to Col. R.R. Ruark, 3rd MRB's commanding officer.

Throughout the three weeks the Marines and sailors trained and lived together, building teamwork along with their combat skills.

"The training has really built confidence and camaraderie within the unit," said Lance Cpl. Stuart Dipaolo, an automotive organizational mechanic with 3rd MRB.

Along with convoy operations, the Marines and sailors received training in advanced marksmanship, crew served weapons, first aid and identifying and reacting to improvised explosive devices.

A tight training schedule, the cold weather and being away from Okinawa increased the difficulty and stress level of the training.

"Being here at Camp Fuji is the opposite of being in Okinawa," said Lance Cpl. Omari Livingston, an automotive organizational mechanic with 3rd MRB, 3rd MLG. "Things are harder to do in the snow, but motivation remains high because everyone is out here to train so we all can come back (from Iraq) alive."

The Marines and sailors received slide show presentations and classes from Marine instructors who served in OIF.

"(The Iraq stories) put relevance into the training," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Black, an electrical equipment repair specialist with 9th ESB, 3rd MLG. "Something from the heart will help (the students) feel the emotion and understand why they're receiving the class."



Lance Cpl. Terence L. Yancey
Camp Fuji: Pfc. Ralph Perez the manifest for the vehicle he riding on during convoy operation training Jan. 25 at Camp Detachments from 3rd MRB, 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, 9th Engineer Support Battalion and Headquarters and Service Battalion, all of which are part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, began convoy operations training Jan. 11 for exercise Materiel Warrior.

On the final day of training, the members loaded onto their tactical vehicles and went out on a convoy through Camp Fuji. They were tested on everything they learned and were confronted with a real-world tactical convoy scenarios instructors. ■

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Iraq soldiers, U.S. Marines take insurgents by storm

Lance Cpl. Peter R. Miller
Marine Expeditionary Unit

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HIT, Iraq

Trudging through the muddy riverbanks of the Euphrates, Lance Cpl. Hugh J. Murphy battled terrain, physical exhaustion and constant enemy threat to reach the insurgent arsenal cache at a time.

After a kind of enduring vigilance, the Marines were rewarded. During Operation Koa Canyon, the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit's forward operating base was hit by Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Infantry Division and Murphy's fellow infantrymen of Alpha Co., 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, discovered weapons caches and caught men intending to use them.

"We've definitely made it worse for them to fight us," said Murphy, a native of the rain-soaked onion field beside his counterparts. "It's obvious the insurgents are." "They made their way through the fields, often Marines would happen upon freshly-turned earth prompting the call for combat

engineers. Much of the artillery, mortar, and other weapon caches were uncovered because of the engineers and their mine detectors.

"Being a former combat engineer, I was in heaven," said 1st Sgt. Anthony Cruz. "The caches were unbelievable. We'd set up security on one and have to keep moving because we were finding so much."

"For every rocket and mortar we found, that's one less person killed," adds the Bronx, N.Y., native. "One less IED, one less American dead, one more innocent Iraqi saved. That's how I look at the numbers."

By remaining watchful near one such cache, the Marines of Alpha Co., caught a man attempting to retrieve his deadly booty.

Lance Cpl. Andrew L. Cave, of Cherokee Village, Ark., explained, "We stayed up all night in the rain. None of us really got any sleep, but that morning it was all worth it. We got him."

"We could have found all of the explosives in Iraq, but if we didn't catch the bad guys, they

would just get more," he added.

Throughout the next eight days and nights, the Marines and Iraqi soldiers dutifully battled sandstorms, numbing cold and rain, and the ever-present enemy threat. Nearing the completion of their mission, one Marine's situational awareness prevented a potentially deadly attack.

"We had a vehicle checkpoint set up and Sgt. [Mark S.] Grimm spotted a rocket tube on the hillside near our position," said platoon commander 2nd Lt. William H. Strom, of Tallahassee, Fla.

When the Marines shot the azimuth, it was pointed directly at Forward Operating Base Hit, added Cruz. That base had already been hit a few times by indirect fire. These insurgents weren't going to get another chance.

After finding the rocket tube, Iraqi soldiers enthusiastically searched the surrounding hillside and apprehended two men for questioning. The two men were later released, but the IA soldiers showed the Marines they were serious about battling the insurgency.

"It got emotional watching them catch those two guys," said Cruz. "It means that we're one step closer to ending this war. The bad guys are still out there, and we still have work to do here; not much, but we're getting closer."

After scouring 43 miles between Baghdadi and Hit during the ten-day task with three Iraqi soldiers in his fire team, rifleman Lance Cpl. Earnest K. Hannah, of Williamson, W.V., attests to the muscle of Iraqi soldiers.

"The IAs [Iraqi Army soldiers] were pretty good for the past ten days. If they had a little more training and leadership, I know they could be better, but they were good to go," said the Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. "They get better every year."

In addition to Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, the 22nd MEU (SOC) consists of its Command Element, MSSG-22, and HMM-261 (Rein), and is conducting counter-insurgency operations with an Iraqi Army battalion, under the tactical control of the 2nd Marine Division.



Lance Cpl. Peter R. Miller of Cherokee Village, Ark., an artillery forward observer with Alpha Co., Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), carefully sorts mortars discovered in a weapons cache near the Euphrates River during Operation Koa Canyon Jan. 22. The 22nd MEU (SOC) is conducting counterinsurgency operations in Al Anbar province alongside an Iraqi infantry battalion, collectively under the tactical control of the 2nd Marine Division.



Operation Koa Canyon: Marines of Alpha Co., Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), shift left while on a foot patrol with Iraqi soldiers near a palm tree during Operation Koa Canyon Jan. 24. The 22nd MEU (SOC) is conducting counterinsurgency operations in Al Anbar province alongside an Iraqi infantry battalion, collectively under the tactical control of the 2nd Marine Division.



Operation Koa Canyon: Seaman Max C. Elia, a corpsman attached to Alpha Co., Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), cleans the infected face of an Iraqi child as his father holds him while on patrol during Operation Koa Canyon Jan. 22. The 22nd MEU (SOC) is conducting counterinsurgency operations in Al Anbar province alongside an Iraqi infantry battalion, collectively under the tactical control of the 2nd Marine Division.

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Department of the Navy invites public comment

Press Release
Department of the Navy

The Department of the Navy (DoN) invites public comment on the Proposed Remedial Action Plans (PRAPs) for Operable Unit (OU) 16, Site 93 and OU 18, Site 94, the PCX Service Station (Building 1613), located on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. The PRAPs identify and discuss the preferred alternatives for groundwater at Sites 93 and 94.

In accordance with 40 CFR 300.430(f)(2), the assessment of risk information as related to both human health and the environment is detailed in the PRAPs for Sites 93 and 94. The PRAPs include a summary of the preferred remedial alternative for Sites 93 and 94. In situ chemical oxidation using permanganate and Land Use Controls are the preferred alternatives at Site 93. No Action is the preferred alternative at Site 94 because there are no unacceptable human health or ecological risks attributable to Site 94. Rather, the groundwater identified as posing unacceptable risks/hazards will be addressed under the Site 78 groundwater remediation program.

The PRAPs are based upon the findings of previous site-related documents contained in the DoN's Administrative Record for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. The Administrative Record can provide you with important background and site investigation information about

Sites 93 and 94. Background documentation and the PRAPs are located for public review on the internet at http://bakerenv.com/camp/jeune_irp/default_frameset.htm. The Web site can also be accessed at the following location during normal business hours: Onslow County Public Library, 58 Doris Avenue East, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540. For more information, call (910) 455-7350.

Please provide written comments on the Site 93 PRAP from February 16 through March 16, and provide written comments on the Site 94 PRAP from February 1 through March 3. Send all written comments on or before (postmark by) March 16 (for Site 93) and March 3 (for Site 94) to the following address: Mr. Daniel Hood, Attn: Matt Louth, 5700 Cleveland Street, Suite 101, Virginia Beach, Va. 23462. For additional information, call (757) 322-4630, fax (757) 322-4805 or email daniel.r.hood@navy.mil.

In addition, you are invited to a public meeting regarding Sites 93 and 94, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Representatives from the DoN will report on the status of Sites 93 and 94 and the DoN's preferred alternatives. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Coastal Carolina Community College, Room CB-121 on 444 Western Blvd., Jacksonville, N.C. 28546. ■

VA increases home loan guaranty

Cpl. Susan Smith
Marine Corps Base Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — "There's no place like home." That's easy for Dorothy to say. She doesn't pay the bills, buy the groceries and feel the increase of gas prices. For those who don't have an Uncle Henry and Auntie Em to foot the bill, home ownership can be a dream that seems "somewhere over the rainbow."

But for veterans across the nation, the prospect for realizing their dream is promising. Effective Jan. 1, an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs home loan guaranty enables veterans to get "no down payment" loans up to \$417,000 — up from \$359,650.

"For more than 60 years, VA has assisted our veterans to become home owners," the secretary of the VA, James Nicholson, states in a press release. "This increase is another example of our commitment to ensure VA benefits keep pace with the needs of our veterans in today's housing market."

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 attached VA guaranty

increases to boost in the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's conforming loan limit. When the FHLMC's limit goes up, so does the VA guaranty.

The first step in applying for the VA home loan guaranty is to establish basic eligibility.

Veterans no longer in the military must submit a copy of their DD 214, the official Defense Department document of military separation, while active duty service members must submit a statement of service from their commanding officer. Once submitted and verified, the VA will issue the applicant a certificate of eligibility. The next step is to start house hunting.

The veteran must find a lending institution which will handle the rest of the process.

Last year, 165,000 home buyers took advantage of the loan, at an estimated value of more than \$25 million.

Another VA housing benefit, Specially Adapted Housing Program, is extended to severely disabled veterans.

"This program is separate from the home loan," said Keith Pedigo, director of the VA home loan guaranty. "It pro-

vides grants up to \$50,000 for severely disabled — who lost one or both legs as a result of military injury."

The purpose of the grant is special adaptations to a home to provide a barrier-free living environment for the veteran. Adaptations include ramps, wider hallways and wheelchair-friendly restrooms, showers, and lower cabinets to afford the disabled veterans a more independent living they may normally have.

According to Pedigo, because the accommodations is an intensive process, the VA provides veterans with hands-on care. The vets find a contractor and plans for the renovation. To ensure quality job, the VA does not build until the project is completed and passed inspection.

The VA has seen an increase in applications for the SAH Program in recent years, which Pedigo said is attributed "in part" to an increasing number of injured service members returning from the Global War on Terrorism. ■

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MARINES

Marines, sailors set in-depth convoy operations training

Lance Cpl. Terence L. Yancey
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines and sailors with the Transition Team, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, performed a operations field training exercise at the Central Training Area Jan. 19 and 20. The two-day exercise served as a test to the service members understood the complex aspects of convoy operations. The Transition Team, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, tested throughout the training, ensuring they met the necessary training requirements in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Iraq. During their tour in Iraq, they will be responsible for training and assisting the Iraqi border police.

To the exercise, the BTT trained for weeks in order to give the service members the opportunity to learn and practice several real-world scenarios.

During the exercise, the Explosive Disposal Team from 9th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, gave the BTT detailed instruction on the dangers of improvised explosive devices and trained them on how to detect and what to do after one is identified. Following the class, BTT walked through a here 19 simulated IEDs were set up. Technicians demonstrated how to spot and follow proper procedures after identifying and identifying a device.

After learning the basics, the Marines took the convoy out on the road and applied the elements of operating a convoy. Following the route, the service members got a chance to identify IEDs. The EOD teams set up simulated IEDs creating an

obstacle course for the trainees. To add to the realism of the training, the IEDs were rigged to make a loud sound and set off smoke when triggered.

"It was great to do IED training with EOD looking over our shoulders to tell us what we did wrong," said Cpl. Lissay Ly, a mobile multi-channel equipment operator with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd MarDiv. "It's great to be able to practice in a controlled environment that's so realistic."

The convoy drills also included a mock ambush. As the convoy pulled into the Central Training Area's Combat Town, service members, role-playing as insurgents, met them in a vehicle containing IEDs. The convoy was forced to react and combine their urban combat techniques with IED detection.

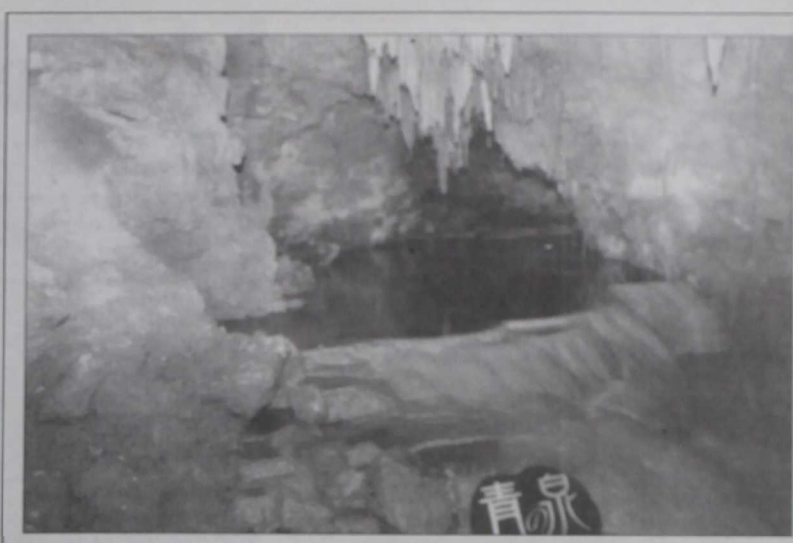
Throughout the day, the members of the opposing force made frequent appearances, keeping the members of the convoy on their toes.

"Playing a member of the opposing force gave us a lot of insight into what it's like dealing with insurgents," said Lance, Cpl. Russell Sosa, a mobile multi-channel equipment operator with 4th Marines, 3rd MarDiv.

The training exercise peaked during the second day, after the Marines and sailors spent a night in combat town. The service members were confronted with one final scenario, which encompassed all of the training.

The Marines performed in a textbook manner, said Gunnery Sgt. Justin Martone, the EOD team leader, in BTT's debriefing.

"Having EOD out here was absolutely invaluable," said 1st Lt. Taylor Buff, executive officer, Headquarters Co., 3rd MarDiv. "There is no better source out there. Being prepared to respond to these situations is going to save lives." ■



Lance Cpl. C. Lindsay
Gyokusendo Cave: An underground stream runs through the Gyokusendo Cave at Okinawa World Jan. 25. Gyokusendo cave is filled with hundreds of thousands of stalagmites and stalactites, which are formed when calcium deposits made by calcium-laden water drip through the ceiling onto the cave floor. The water evaporates, and leaves calcium deposits behind. These calcium deposits are formed in two ways: a stalactite forms like an icicle-like cone hanging from the cave roof, and when the calcium water drips to the floor and the deposit builds upward, a stalagmite is formed.

Okinawa World highlights ancient, beautiful Okinawa

Lance Cpl. C. Lindsay
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

GYOKUSENDO, OKINAWA, Japan — Okinawa World, also known as the Culture Kingdom Gyokusendo or the Gyokusendo cave, is the largest Okinawan culture theme park on the island.

Okinawa World is located about 40 minutes south of Naha and has 10 main attractions, including tropical orchards, traditional crafts village, Ryukyu glass blowing, crafts and pottery kiln, large shopping center, Habu snake museum and show, a Habu Awamori brewery, a traditional Okinawan restaurant and the largest attraction, the Gyokusendo cave.

The Gyokusendo cave is more than 300,000 years old and is the second largest in Japan. The cave is five kilometers long, with 890 meters open to the public. The cave, which claims to have the greatest stalactites and stalagmites in Asia, features many unique stalactite and stalagmite formations, including the Spared Ceiling, which has more than 20,000 stalactites hanging from the ceiling like a forest of stone icicles.

Asia's Grand Hall is a giant underground room lined with countless stalagmites. The Grand Hall is 20 meters wide and 80 meters deep, large enough to encompass a six-story building. The Gyokusendo cave also has many naturally blue-tinted streams and waterfalls.

After exiting the cave, visitors will be on the opposite end of the park by the beautiful tropical orchards filled with indigenous fruit trees and flower gardens. The gardens boast more than 450 tropical trees and produce 100 different fruits such as papaya, mango and durian. Many of the fruits are available at food stands throughout the park.

After the gardens, visitors will end up at the beginning of the traditional Ryukyu village. In the village, visitors have the opportunity to participate in glass blowing and pottery classes. If making the crafts by hand is too arduous, the glass shop and crafts center both have shopping areas where guests can buy a multitude of handcrafted items.

In the Ryukyu village, sightseers will walk through a traditional Okinawan village scene. Inside the different structures, workers, in period costumes, craft items made from snake skins and on looms. The village also has a brown sugar factory, museum, silver factory and brewery where Habu Awamori, known as Okinawa's health liquor, is made from scratch.

Near village exit is a pavilion where Eisa dancers perform with large Taiko drums. The performers scream, dance and perform martial arts moves. The performers invite crowd members to come onto the stage and participate and take pictures at the end of the show.

The park is also home to the Habu Park, named after the infamous, poisonous, local Habu snake. The park consists of a snake museum, a small zoological garden and a snake show, where visitors have to opportunity to hold a python, see a live cobra and watch a Habu race a mongoose.

To get to Okinawa World by bus from the Naha bus terminal, visitors should take bus lines 54 and 83 directly to Okinawa World. The trip takes about one hour. Get off at the "Gyokusendo-mae" bus stop, which is in front of the park. There are about 12 round trips per day.

By car, visitors should go south on Highway 58, which will eventually turn into Highway 331. Follow the signs to Peace Prayer Park. About two miles after Peace Prayer Park there will be signs for Gyokusendo Cave.

The park is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from November to March and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April to October. For more information call 998-949-7421 or call Marine Corps Community Services Tours Plus at 646-3502. ■



Lance Cpl. C. Lindsay
Training Area: Marines and sailors set up security around their convoy after it is forced because of a suspected improvised explosive device during a convoy operations field exercise at the Central Training Area Jan. 19. The two-day exercise served as a test to the service members understand the many complex aspects of convoy operations. Headquarters Company, 3rd MarDiv, hosted the Border Transition Team throughout the training, ensuring they met all the training requirements in order to prepare them for an upcoming deployment to Iraq. During their tour in Iraq, the team will be responsible for training and assisting Iraqi border police.

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MCI East affects senior enlisted ranks

Arrick replaces Brown, Brown replaces Tucker

Staff Sgt. Micheal Mink
Marine Corps Base

With the creation of Marine Corps Installations East, not only did the commanding general and commanding officer of Marine Corps Base change, but the winds of change affected the senior enlisted ranks as well.

Sergeant Maj. Charles E. Tucker took position as the sergeant major for Marine Corps Installations East. He was relieved as the base sergeant major by Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Brown, who had recently been the sergeant major for Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Brown was relieved recently by Sgt. Maj. Charles M. Arrick, who comes here from being the Weapons Training Battalion, MCB, sergeant major.

"I have spent 17 months with the battalion," Brown said, a native of Waldorf, Md. "Sergeant Maj. Tucker did a great job, and I will be working with him closely to make sure I carry on what he has created."

Brown added that the job of supporting all the Major Subordinate Commands aboard this base is important and supporting those service members and civilians in those MSCs is more important so they can complete their mission.

A relationship Brown feels is extremely important is the relationship between Camp

Lejeune's service members and the local community.

"I believe the relationship between Marines, sailors and civilians and the community is great, and if I can further improve it, I will."

Brown added that relationships between the United Service Organizations, Military Affairs Committee, retirees clubs, the Montford Point Marine Association, the various local areas chambers of commerce and the base is extremely important to him.

"My philosophy is those organizations take care of the Marines, sailors and their families, and we need to do more to take care of those organizations," said Brown, who has more than 29 years in the Marine Corps.

Arrick's philosophy for his newly acquired battalion is very simple.

"I plan to continue to take care of this battalion's Marines, sailors and their families, be the senior enlisted for this battalion and talk to the Marine to find out what I can do to take this battalion to the next level," said the Paterson, N.J., native and more than 28 year veteran or the Corps.

Arrick added he is going to make a big push to get his Marines to their respective Professional Military Education.

"All I really plan to do is build on the strong foundation Sgt. Maj. Brown has created," Arrick said. ■



Post and relief ceremony: Sergeant Maj. Charles E. Tucker presents Maj. Gen. Robert C. Dickerson with the monial sword during a post and relief ceremony Jan. 23. Tucker became the sergeant major for Marine Installations East and was replaced by Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Brown as the Marine Corps Base sergeant major



Post and relief ceremony: Sergeant Maj. Michael A. Brown assumed duties as the base sergeant major during a post and relief ceremony here Jan. 23.



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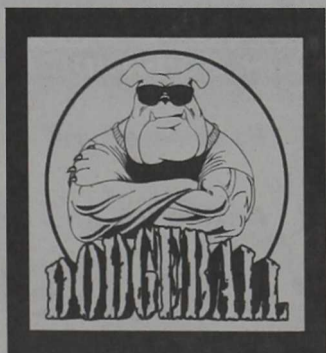
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Training resumes at Corps' Jungle Warfare Center

Cpl. Warren Peace
Corps Base Camp Butler

JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, WA, Japan — After four months of training, the Jungle Warfare Center became operational Jan. 16 as it hosted a rotation of more than 100 Marines and sailors. The center is now operational and looking to the future with its commander, Lt. Col. A Sanchez, according to Sgt. Kingsley A. the chief instructor for

"JWTC will continue to provide expert instruction and training in order to prepare personnel and units to operate in a jungle environment," Pryce said. "Additionally, we control the usage of expeditionary campsites and diversified training areas in order to allow Marine and joint forces to conduct independent operations and combat exercises, from squad to regiment size within a dense jungle environment." Established in 1958, JWTC was originally called the Northern Training Area and was designed as a counter-guerilla school to aid in the training of service members during the Vietnam War. Since the Jungle Operation Training Center at Fort Sherman, Panama, closed in 1999, the 17,230-acre JWTC

here has been the only U.S. operated jungle training facility in existence. JWTC has extreme terrain and harsh weather and is one of the toughest training environments around, according to Sanchez. Jungle Skills Course, Military Tracking Course and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course are the current lessons available for units and also provides a 3.8 mile Jungle Endurance Course. Located in the Yambura forest of northern Okinawa, units can also utilize the facility for independent operations. There are training areas featuring facilities like fast rope towers, ship-to-shore operation areas and 23 helicopter landing zones in the double-canopy jungle. The center plans to get

validated by the Marine Corps Training and Education Command, Sanchez explained. Being validated by TECOM will allow units from other branches and areas of the world to utilize the center. This would put them in the company of other Marine Corps training facilities, like the Mountain Warfare Training Center, near Bridgeport, Calif. Jungle Warfare Course, Jungle Leader's Course and the Jungle Training Course will also be available in the future. JWTC also received six new instructors and is prepared to train infantry and non-infantry units. "If (units) can operate here, they can operate just about anywhere else," Sanchez said. ■

IRAQ CONTINUED FROM IA

Elements of the division still at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., also faced the challenges of assisting in the relief efforts following the landfalls of two hurricanes. "Elements of the division moved swiftly to rescue and aid our fellow Americans in their time of need after the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita," said Hagee. "Second Marine Division's versatility at home and deadly effectiveness abroad mirrors the division's legacy of action that reaches back to World War II, repeatedly creating stability in an unstable world. "As we commemorate this milestone, it is fitting to pause to honor those who have gone before us, handing down the mantle of war fighting excellence from generation to generation of Marines." February 1, 1941 the 2nd Marine Brigade was re-designated as the 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. Since those beginnings, the division has continued to add accolade after accolade to their growing list of accomplishments. Since its birth in 1941, the division personnel has participated in major battles of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Desert Shield and now Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The division also conducted numerous humanitarian and peace keeping missions across the globe. "Since 1941, the division has been a pillar of our Corps' war fighting heritage. From the sandy beaches of Tarawa and Saipan to the dust and grime of Iraq and Afghanistan, the 'Follow Me' division has consistently answered the nation's call to arms with professionalism, selfless sacrifice and courage under fire," said Hagee. "All Marines take pride in your accomplishments and offer you a heartfelt 'Job Well Done.' Semper Fidelis and keep attacking," concluded Hagee. ■

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mittee will contact the principals of potential candidates to obtain additional information - excluding this information will result in disqualification of the nominee - it would be in candidate's best interest for the person making the nomination to inform the principal of this process. To obtain an American Stars of Teaching Nomination Form, please visit the US Department of Education Web site. <http://www.teacherquality.us/TeacherToTeacher/AmericanStars.asp>. ■

MILITARY CONTINUED FROM IA

about troop reductions. "Our own generation is in a long war against a determined enemy - a war that will be fought by presidents of both parties, who will need steady bipartisan support from the Congress," Bush said. "And tonight I ask for yours.

Together, let us protect our country, support the men and women who defend us and lead this world toward freedom." During the address, five service members, representing all the military services, were honored to sit with first lady Laura Bush overlooking the gallery floor during the address. They were Sgt. Nicholas Graff, Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Jamie Dana and Army Sgt. Wasim Khan, all service members wounded in Iraq; Navy Cmdr. Kimberly Evans, the first female Navy officer to command a provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan; and Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Joel Sayers, who rescued 167 Hurricane Katrina survivors in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast. ■

BIRTHDAY CONTINUED FROM IA

and participated in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991) and missions in Somalia (1992-1994). The 2nd Marine Division is currently serving as the ground combat element for Marine forces in western Iraq's turbulent Al Anbar province while continuing to support counterinsurgency and humanitarian missions in Afghanistan. ■

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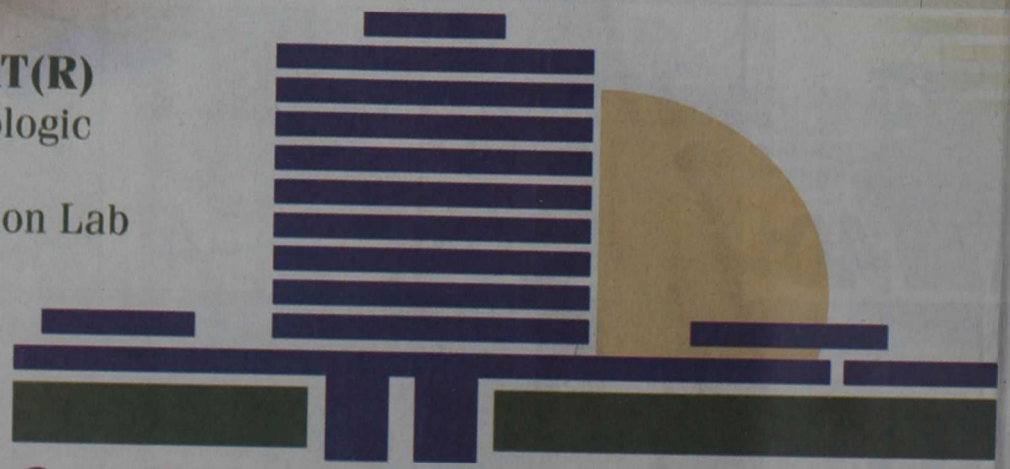
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Sports

Marine volleyball
Fit Sports is seeking resumes for head coaches and assistant coaches for the 2006 All-Marines and All-Males volleyball teams. Resumes are open to all active-duty Marines and civilian employees. Resumes must contain coaching experience and a coaching philosophy. The deadline is Feb. 1. Applications can be found at www.usmc.org/sports. For more information, contact Rautmann at 332-10.

Basketball
Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department will be offering open play basketball clinics for ages 19-34, and 1-over, at Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex from 7-9 p.m. Participants must register at the Athletic Office in Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex and pay a \$20 non-city resident fee. For more information, please call 332-3338 or 938-2538, weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Onslow Senior Games
The Onslow County Heritage Arts and Crafts Fair is accepting applications for the Visual Arts Program. Applicants must be 55 years of age or older as of Aug. 1. Applications can be picked up at the Onslow County Recreation Department, Onslow Senior Services Center, Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department. For more information, please call 332-3338 or visit www.onslowcounty.com/parks.

Volunteer for the 2006 Summer Olympics
The Onslow County Recreation Department & Cheerleading is seeking volunteers for the 2006 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, with friend and Army boxing coach Basheer Abdullah. In the past, the Marine Corps has produced legendary boxers Carmen Basilio, Ken Norton,

Armed Forces Wrestling
The 2006 Armed Forces Wrestling Tournament is being held at Camp Lejeune from Feb. 21 through 26. For more information, please call Melody at 332-3338.

Fastpitch clinic
Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department is offering a girl's fastpitch softball clinic from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Jacksonville Commons Recreation Center. The clinic for girls 7 and older is free. Registration deadline is Feb. 8. For more information, please call Melody at 332-3338.

Recreational water
Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department is offering an indoor pool and recreational water activities from 6-8 p.m. The activity is open to authorized patrons. The experience is necessary. Water polo is a strategy and work that will help improve your overall skills by developing strength, stamina and flexibility.



All-Marine Boxing Team: Matt Monick lands a body blow to Lenwood Dozier of Goldsboro during Saturday's fight at the National Guard Armory in Wilmington.

Busy schedule ahead as All-Marine Boxing Team gears for 2006 season

Story and photos
Brian Berger
Lejeune Sports Editor

For the past several weeks, aspiring members of the All-Marine Boxing Team, among the most esteemed amateur programs in the United States, have been hard at work at Lejeune's Boxing gymnasium. On a daily basis, current team members and those who seek to qualify for the team run, spar and cycle through the assortment of punching bags on the gym floor. Often times, this regimen is repeated several times throughout the day.

Boxers workout under the tutelage of coach Robert Michael, who took up as coach of the Marine Boxing Team in 2002 and has continued the successes of the Marine Corps' program. He also coached the United States boxing team at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, with friend and Army boxing coach Basheer Abdullah.

In the past, the Marine Corps has produced legendary boxers Carmen Basilio, Ken Norton,

Leon Spinks, Gene Tunney and boxing officials Mills Lane and Richard Steele.

That tradition is not lost on newcomers like Matt Monick of 2nd Maintenance Battalion who has spent the past month trying to earn a place on the team and the opportunity to train full-time as a member of the All-Marine Team.

Monick, 23, began fighting in Albany, N.Y. before joining the Marines, and is hoping to show enough potential to earn a spot on the squad.

"I'm learning some new moves," Monick said, "and kicking off some of the rust."

That rust was hard to detect in a match Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Wilmington, N.C., where Monick cruised to victory in a three-round match against Lenwood Dozier of Goldsboro, N.C. In a particularly aggressive third round, both fighters landed a lot of hard shots. Although distracted by a bloody nose, Monick nevertheless punched his way to victory.

"I was pretty happy with the outcome," Monick said after

the fight. "I'm just hoping I get a spot on the team."

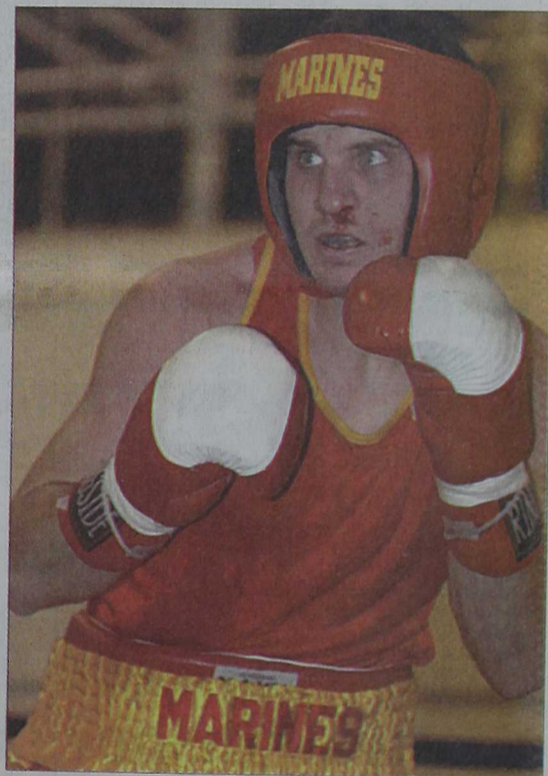
A handful of All-Marine boxers will represent the Corps at the Armed Forces Boxing Tournament at Naval Base Ventura County, Calif. Feb. 6 through 11. Among them is Super Heavyweight Jackie Saye, who won his division in last year's Armed Forces Tournament and went on to win a silver medal at the CISM World Military Boxing Championship in Pretoria, South Africa.

Saye knows he will be a marked-man at this year's tournament, as his opponents will have the added motivation that comes with competing against the reigning champion.

"I'm not quite sure what the Army has this year, but I'm keeping a level-head," Saye said. "It's a little added pressure, but I'm looking forward to it."

Joining Saye at the Armed Forces Tournament will be Hugo Ramirez, Todd Dekinveren, Eric Canales,

See **BOXING** page 4B



All-Marine Boxing Team: Matt Monick lines up opponent Lenwood Dozier after knocking him off balance. Monick went on to win the fight, part of his effort to qualify for the All-Marine Boxing Team.

Lacrosse clinic ...



Michelle Leonard
Onslow Youth Lacrosse hosted a second lacrosse clinic. Fifty-seven girls and boys participated at the clinic. The players were divided by age and the groups attended different stations, which taught the skills necessary to play lacrosse. The Jan. 21 clinic then ended with a game of lacrosse played by the clinic participants. The players learned how to scoop, catch and pass the ball to another player, along with other skills needed to play lacrosse. The next clinic is scheduled for Feb. 11 from 1-3 p.m. at the Williamsburg Plantation field. Additional information can be found online at www.onslowyouthlacrosse.org. The league is also in the middle of registration for the spring season, which will run from the beginning of March through May.

All-ranks club welcomes fans for Big Game

Lance Cpl. Drew W. Barker
Marine Corps Base

It's finally here. The day sports fanatics and commercial enthusiasts around the world have been waiting months for. A day anticipated by millions of Americans more than any other day of the year.

It's Big Game Sunday, and it's one of the biggest party days of the year. Nearly 20 million pounds of potato and tortilla chips will be eaten, tens of millions of dollars will be spent on beverages and the sales of pizza will almost double that of any other day of the year. As a matter of fact, Big Game Sunday is the second-most popular in-home party date, and that's no different here aboard Camp Lejeune.

Heroz, the new all-ranks club inside the Ball Center, is inviting everyone age 18 and up to enjoy free snacks, a fully stocked bar, prizes and gifts and the company of the Miller Light girls during the game, which will be broadcast on all 16 of the club's televisions, including 11 high definition monitors.

"We're going to open up at 3 p.m., and I hope a lot of people come out and enjoy this wonderful new facility," said Cindy Eby, manager of Heroz. "We have the most televisions, and we're going to have the most fun."

For officers seeking a more exclusive celebration with friends and family, the Paradise Point Officers' Club will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the championship game. There is a \$3 cover charge

See **FUN** page 4D

Decorated Marine Garretson played, coached football

John Gunn
Once A Marine

Brig. Gen. Frank E. Garretson USMC-ret., who died Jan. 23, was a highly decorated and accomplished Marine.

Among his many decorations were The Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two Gold Stars in lieu of second and third awards; Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; Purple Heart with one Gold Star; Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four bronze stars; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star; Korean Service Medal with one silver star, denoting five campaigns; Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars; United Nations Service Medal; Korean Presidential Unit Citation and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Frank Edmund Garretson was born in Salem, Iowa, on February 27, 1918. He attended schools in Iowa, California, Illinois and Washington, prior to graduating from the University of Washington in 1940. He was a member of the varsity football team at UW.

Garretson, a guard on the football team, lettered at Washington in 1938 and '39. He was an assistant coach of the Maui (Hawaii) Marines in 1944 that had a 5-0-1 record: 0-0 Aiea Barracks, 12-6 Kaneohe Clippers, 19-0 Transient Center, 34-0 Ford Island, 48-0 Barber's Point and 51-0 Seabees. They outscored opponents, 164-6, and won Central Pacific Armed Forces League title.

After enlisting in the Marine Corps in October 1940, he was assigned to the first class for WW II Officer Candidates and was commissioned a second lieutenant in February 1941. Upon graduation from the 4th Reserve Officers Class, Lt. Garretson became a guard company officer and the rifle range officer at Marine Barracks, Bremerton, Wash. He was promoted to Captain August 7, 1942, and assigned as Company Commander of the Range Company at Camp Elliot, San Diego, shortly thereafter.

May 1943 found Capt. Garretson assigned to the 2d Battalion, 24th Marines. As a rifle company commander, he led his unit through the Marshall Islands, was twice wounded and was awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry at Roi-Namur. From the

Marshalls, he led his unit in the invasion of Saipan as Battalion Executive Officer.

In July 1944, prior to the landings on Tinian, Maj. Garretson was given temporary command of the left assault battalion, which he led ashore. He was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptional performance of duties as Company Commander and Battalion Commander.

Maj. Garretson next saw combat at Iwo Jima, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for distinguishing himself in action against the enemy. In October 1945, he brought the 3d Battalion, 24th Marines home to the United States for deactivation.

Upon his return to the U.S., he was assigned as Executive Officer of the Guard Battalion at Camp Pendleton. He later became the Commanding Officer.

September 1946 through June 1947 found Maj. Garretson attending The Infantry School, Advanced Course #1, at Fort Benning, Ga., followed by assignment to the Staff of the Marine Corps Schools Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course, at Quantico, an instructor in Infantry Tactics and Quantico and later in the Combined Arms Section.

In June 1950, Maj. Garretson became the Senior Marine Officer and Marine Assistant Operations and Plans Officer for the Commander of Amphibious Group 3 during operations in Korea. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January 1951.

In April 1952, Lt. Col. Garretson became head of the Officer Ground Control Unit, Personnel Branch, Headquarters Marine Corps -- a job he held till August 1953, when he became Officer Coordinator of the Detail Branch. In August 1953, he was assigned as Executive Officer of the 4th Marines Regiment (Reinforced), and served in that capacity until August 1956, when he became Assistant Chief of Staff G-4 for the 1st Marine Brigade at the MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

In June 1958, Lt. Col. Garretson was graduated from the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and was ordered to Quantico as an instructor at the Senior School. On July 1, 1959, he was promoted to Colonel and became Senior Instructor at Senior School, Quantico, until July 1960, when he was made

Assistant Director. Shortly after being appointed Director of Senior School, he was assigned in June 1961 to HqMC as Secretary of the General Staff, Office of the Chief of Staff.

In June 1964, Col. Garretson completed the National War College in Washington, D. C., and also received a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University. Assigned to the 3d Marine Division in the Far East, Col. Garretson served as Commanding Officer of the 9th Marine Regiment from August 1964 - August 1965.

During this time, he was Commanding Officer of a Regimental Landing Team participating with Task Force 76 the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in the South China Sea during the Tonkin Gulf crisis. During July 1965, he landed the 9th Regimental Landing Team in South Vietnam where his regiment operated against the Viet Cong in the Da Nang area. For this action, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Legion of Merit with Combat "V".



Gunn

In September 1965, upon return to the U.S., he became the Marine Liaison Officer to the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, and on January 3, 1966, was promoted to Brigadier General. For his service as Director of Information, HqMC from April 1966-August 1968, Gen. Garretson earned a Gold Star in lieu of a third Legion of Merit.

Returning to Vietnam later in August 1968, he served concurrently as Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Marine Division and Commanding General, Task Force Hotel. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for meritorious service during this assignment.

After his detachment in April 1969, he reported to Okinawa for duty as Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp S. D. Butler/Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (Forward) / Commander, Marine Corps Bases (Forward), and served in this capacity until he returned to the U.S. in September 1969. He retired June 30, 1970 while serving as Deputy Commanding General, MCB Camp Pendleton.

Gunn is an independent journalist and retired intelligence officer who wrote two books about Marines and their significance in football.

roundup

national sports news

NASCAR

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kurt Busch would rather not talk about his November run-in with the Phoenix police.

But there's no anger or embarrassment in his manner, only a determination to concentrate on the future and leave the past behind. "We're moving forward," he said. "There's been so many things that I've been involved with with this team already, it's not hard to look forward. It's real easy to get motivated."

Busch spent the first five full years of his NASCAR Nextel Cup career with Roush Racing, winning 14 races and the 2004 championship. But, midway through last season, he signed a contract with Penske Racing South for the 2007 season, a move that did not sit well with team owner Jack Roush.

Eventually, though, a deal was worked out to let Busch leave to replace retiring Rusty Wallace in Penske's No. 2 Dodge in 2006.

Busch was stopped by police for running a stop sign the night before the Phoenix race. Although it was later proven he was not driving under the influence of alcohol, there were rumors after the traffic stop that he was. Adding to the problem, Busch became belligerent with the police and was briefly detained.

Roush, already unhappy with the driver, sat him down for the final two races of the season, a humiliating way for Busch to end his reign as champion.

But Roger Penske, his new team owner, stood firmly by Busch's side, saying publicly after the driver was taken out of the Roush car that his new driver's status had not changed and that Busch would still be a welcome addition to his team.

"It was the absolutely most important thing that could happen at that time," Busch said Wednesday night during a stop on the NASCAR Nextel Media Tour. "Roger came to my support because it needed to come out and he did that for me. I was just humbled by the way that we started together."

"It was like pushing the primer button on a weed eater. We were going into a mess and it was tough to have that start. But we've put it behind us. A fresh start with a new sponsor, a new car owner, a new crew chief, a new team, all of the things I've been looking forward to are falling into place. I'm not looking back, that's for sure."

Busch has been working with new crew chief Roy McCauley, making the transition from Roush's Fords to Penske's Dodges.

"We've been on the gas," he said. "We've been to Lakeland (Fla.), Atlanta with the tire test, Daytona. We hit Nashville and we're going to go to Kentucky after [the NASCAR open test in] Vegas just so I can use to the Charger and the team. The more time we spend with one another at the track, that's the best medicine."

— Mike Harris, Associated Press

Soccer

CARY, N.C. (AP) — A New York-based ownership group intends to bring an expansion franchise of the country's top minor league to the soccer stadium of this Raleigh suburb.

Cary's town council on Thursday night approved an agreement with Triangle Professional Soccer, a company owned primarily by operators of the Rochester Raging Rhinos of the United Soccer League.

The Cary-based team would play in the league's First Division, which includes teams in Montreal and Miami, Vancouver and Virginia Beach, Va. It is the highest level of professional soccer in the United States below Major League Soccer.

The team would hold a public naming contest for the franchise, said Chris Economides, general manager of the Rhinos and managing majority partner of the North Carolina franchise.

The new team would play six to 10 exhibition matches in Cary this summer and pay \$25,000 in rent for SAS Soccer Park. It would begin play in 2007 with at least 16 home matches and exhibition games and pay \$70,000 a year in rent.

A July exhibition game in Cary between the Rhinos and D.C. United of the MLS drew a standing-room crowd of 8,374.

— Associated Press

Olympics

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michelle Kwan smiled, gave a small salute and then stepped onto the ice.

After four years, her Olympic hopes had come to this. A session in her home rink, in front of judges who would decide whether she was healthy enough, good enough, to go to the Turin Olympics.

The answer was a resounding yes. "It is truly the opinion of this monitoring team that Michelle could win the Olympics," said Bob Horen, chairman of U.S. Figure Skating's international committee. "We really believe that, and she skated that way. We really do believe she's skating very well."

Kwan sealed her spot on the Olympic team Friday, showing a five-person monitoring committee with jumps, spins and those majestic spirals what she said two weeks ago: She'll be healthy enough to make another run at that elusive gold medal in Turin.

She performed both her long and short programs in less than 12 minutes, a quick practice session, and did every one of her jumps except the triple loop. She even did two of those pesky double axels, the jump on which she pulled her groin last month.

"One of the reasons why I put in the petition is that I do have a shot," the five-time world and nine-time U.S. champion said. "I can't tell you the percentage. I will take advantage of that shot and do my best. As of now I'm right

on schedule."

In Turin, she'll join Sasha Cohen, in her first national title earlier this month. 16-year-old Kimmie Meissner on the team. Emily Hughes, younger sister of Olympic champion Sarah Hughes and medalist at nationals, will be the alternate case one of the three is injured before the petition begins Feb. 19.

Kwan has been the face of figure skating a decade. But there's one huge hole in her impressive resume: the Olympic gold medal.

She went to Nagano and Salt Lake City, the favorite, only to be beaten by Americans who skated with the joy and don that used to be her trademark. Kwan the silver in 1998 and the bronze in 2002. Now 25, she stuck around four more to seek gold one more time.

"I have a lot to work on," she said, "I'm going to try my very best to skate my heart."

First, though, she had to prove she could go.

Dressed in a black sweat shirt and pants, with her hair pulled back into a ponytail, Kwan was all business when she stepped onto the ice at 11:02 a.m.

"I was thinking this is not a normal session," she said.

Not with the monitoring committee, technical controller Charlie Cyr, world judge Paula Naughton; international judge L. Parker; and athlete representative L. Bottoms, standing behind the boards with hockey benches would be. And a half U.S. Figure Skating and U.S. Olympic Committee officials on the other side of the rink with two pool reporters.

"Today wasn't the Olympics, so I was 'Hey, go through my jumps, do everything by step,'" she said.

She did three triple jumps, a salchow and a lutz, before doing a double-double combination and a spin. Then she did a triple loop-double toe loop-double toe loop combination that earned applause from coach Arutunian. After the spirals that have become her trademark, she finished the program with a double lutz.

That's a quick turnaround for a skater, especially one who is still healing. She fell on the double axel, a jump she just resumed Thursday, but got right back up and landed a triple lutz-double toe combination. She wore a big smile and a look of relief when she finished the second program.

And as the committee looked over its work, Kwan tried the double axel and did it perfectly. Then she did it perfectly again.

"I'm pushing myself every day and trying to be the best skater I can be," she said. "Whether people think I'm the favorite, or not, it doesn't matter because you know your heart you tried your best."

After spending a few minutes analyzing elements of her short program with the committee, the group took about a 45-minute break. When they returned, she and the monitors evaluated the elements in her long program. The focus was on her footwork, and spirals, which have specific difficulties under figure skating's new judging system.

The session ended shortly after, and she curtisied to the committee. She then went to await the decision.

"Nothing is ever certain," she said. "I finish skating, that is all you can do, and wait and see."

She needn't have worried. Though the committee met for about an hour, Horen said the decision was unanimous.

"Thinking gold is good," Kwan said, staying positive, feeling good. I'm injured. So right now, it's just going for it."

— Nancy Armour, Associated Press

National Football League

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre says he not yet made a decision on whether to return next season, but would lean toward retiring if he had to decide right now.

"I wish I knew," he said in an interview aired Sunday on ESPN. "I still know I can't still love to play. But there's just so much more to it than that now. I never thought it would be complicated, never thought I would give up mentally before I did physically."

"If I had to pick right now and make a decision, I would say I'm not coming back."

The 36-year-old Favre threw a career-high 29 interceptions this season and failed to throw for more than 200 touchdowns for only the second time since 1993 as the Packers finished 12 for their first losing season since he joined the team in 1992.

"There's days I wake up and say, 'I don't know what I can't retire. Don't be stupid. What will I do?'" Favre said. "There's a lot of days, I go, 'What if it's crunch time, 2 minutes left, do you want the ball?' I don't know if I want it."

"If I was to come back and play, I would hope that I would be totally committed to the team, because I've always been that type of player."

Favre said the Packers need to know soon whether they will properly prepare for the NFL draft and offseason personnel decisions. He said he is fine and that "my arm is as good today as it was 10 years ago."

"I'd like to wait 'til training camp," Favre said with a laugh. "But I know I have to make the decision in the next month for their sake."

Favre met last week with Packers general manager Ted Thompson and new coach Mike McCarthy and said he was honest about his mixed feelings.

"I love the team, I love the Packers, and not about me, it's about everyone involved. I want to make the right decision for everyone involved," he said.

Favre said he told Thompson if the team doesn't want to wait for him to commit to either playing the 2006 season or retiring, he should be "cut loose."

"When you sit down and tell a GM, 'I don't know if I can give you everything' and I know that's usually the first ticket out of town," Favre said.

Thompson told The Associated Press Monday morning that Favre's comments do not sound dramatically different from what he said when they met last week.

"That's a decision Brett has to make for his family," Thompson said. "They'll get worked out."

— Associated Press

Seattle, Pittsburgh heads to Detroit, Super Bowl XL

Erick Yohe
Grandstanding, The Blog

Well there you have it. Super Bowl XL: The Seattle Seahawks vs. the Pittsburgh Steelers. Starbucks vs. Iron City. Biscotti vs. pierogies. Grunge vs. Polka. Microsoft vs. The Terrible Towel. Well? You get the point. Two distinctly different cultures are heading to Detroit. The only thing these two cities have in common is the little known fact that Franco Harris played his final game of his career as a Seattle Seahawk. Franco's Italian Army was never the same.

I am psyched for Seattle. The roar of the crowd with the final seconds of the game ticking away said it all. Not even Joe Buck could steal a moment like that. The Seahawks played a fantastic game. I was hoping for more out of the Carolina Panthers, but it was over when Steve Smith was doing his best Terrell Owens impression. Not the Super Bowl T.O., but the finger pointing T.O.

Next Question. I don't know much, but what I do know is if players are yelling at coaches, players aren't listening to coaches and players aren't making the adjustments that need to be made when they are getting beat. It was an unfortunate moment because Steve Smith had a great play-off run which was only to be ruined by a bad

attitude. Dissension will break a team every time. Just ask Chad Johnson.

Oh Yes! The Blame Game. Peyton Manning blamed his offensive line. The city of Denver blamed Jake Plummer. Tom Brady blamed his hair stylist. I don't know about you, but I think the NFL should require that a team picture of the losing team be set up for post game press conferences. They can hand the star player of that team a giant foam finger so he point out the people that couldn't help him play better. The only people that were not blamed in the past month were the Pittsburgh Steelers and Joey Porter.

Troy Polamalu couldn't let Big Ben Roethlisberger have THE tackle of the play-offs. He one up-ed him with that crazy "falling on his back tackle" and another, "almost a safety". If he keeps that business up, I predict long hair will be outlawed and go the way of pine tar and the head slap in the NFL. It just isn't fair.

But I am glad that two classy teams are playing this year. Good offense. Good defense. Good coaching. Now if they could only move the Super Bowl to Tiger Stadium.

Erick Yohe is a native of Pittsburgh, and writes a blog focusing on the pride of "Iron City," the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pittsburgh Penguins. His blog can be viewed at <http://blogs.foxsports.com/Grandstanding>

Stay Tuned for the latest news



Allen had Seahawks soaring happily to the Super Bowl XL

Gregg Bell
Associated Press

ARBORN, Mich. — It's Super having crossoft co-founder as am owner.

Seattle Seahawks d the 2,350 miles to first Super Bowl in Allen-style Sunday, ed out in the charter bought for them years 'lenty of oversized, ass seats for every-

course, other teams d similar rides. But do so have a satellite tel- receiver on board? s flight, it was picking mong other things, and an Arkansas-ky college basketball that Florence, Ky., Shaun Alexander d when the Wildcats out a narrow win. do have it tough," wks coach Mike ren said with a wry

tough, they have to not one, but four players. is is the best I've ever d," said defensive end Fisher, a former Air officer and member of . Louis Rams. "We're cked in like cattle." ong the team's movie s for the trip to play Pittsburgh Steelers: ding Crashers," le & Flow" and ... ing to America"? 1988 comedy starring Murphy as an African visiting New York s a personal favorite of nder, the league MVP. it has become a per- favorite of all wks on the road. er all, why argue with

seeing Prince Akeem discover- ing America for the ninth time in five months when you are 15-3 and in the Super Bowl, and the appased Alexander is the NFL rushing king with 1,880 yards and a league-record 28 touchdowns?

"We were really enjoying the laughs," Alexander said. "All that is part of this experience."

The Steelers planned to arrive in Detroit on Monday, a day later than most Super Bowl teams have done in the past.

During an early morning fan rally Sunday in front of Seattle's Qwest Field, many Seahawks such as defensive back Jimmy Williams filmed the scene and each other with video cameras.

And last week, 13th-year veteran Mack Strong began writing in a diary, "uh, a journal," the rugged fullback corrected, about his first and perhaps last Super Bowl experiences.

"We know this is one of those things where it could be like Dan Marino and you're only here once," he said.

The entire franchise is taking that approach.

The team invited every employee in its Kirkland, Wash., headquarters to the Super Bowl. The Seahawks also left 75 percent of their 17.5-percent Super Bowl ticket allotment, over 11,000 seats, for season-ticket holders to purchase.

The players' families arrive Thursday.

"Everyone's coming," vice president of administration and longtime NFL Super Bowl coordinator Gary Wright said last week. "We're doing this the right

way." That everyone included the "12th Man." The blue flag with a "12" in white, block numbers representing Seattle's rabid, title-starved fans was draped across the front of the team plane Sunday. And when the players arrived at their hotel 20 minutes west of Ford Field late in the afternoon, the "12th Man" flag was flying out front.

The colorful Sunday will yield to a normal work week for the Seahawks on Monday, at least on the field.

Holmgren said he will put his team through a light workout at the Detroit Lions' team facility at near-by Allen Park. Tuesday, a normal players' day off, he will not work them out before or after the circus-like Media Day at Ford Field.

Holmgren said the last time he had a team in the Super Bowl, Green Bay in 1998, "I practiced them hard on Tuesday. And I am not sure that was the right thing to do."

His Packers lost five days later to the underdog Denver Broncos.

Wednesday and Thursday are regular, full practices and Friday is a light workout, per the Seahawks' norm.

"Trying to keep them on somewhat of an even keel, given the surroundings," Holmgren said.

Unlike Pittsburgh, the Seahawks got much of their planning and implementation of the game plan done over four practice days last week at home. The Steelers were off for three days after winning the AFC and did not return to practice until Thursday. ■

Youth football standings

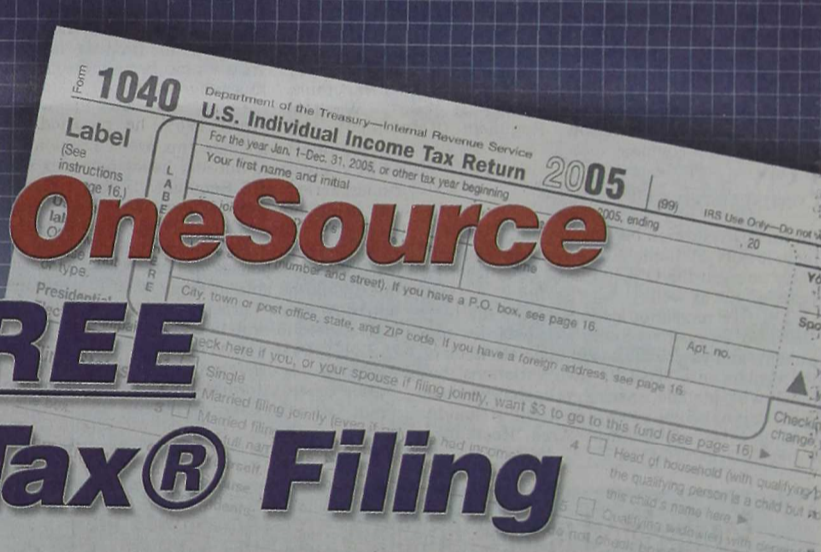
Minor Girls	Overall	Conference
Liberty	0-2	
Sting	1-0	
S.O.L.	1-0	
Minor Boys-East		
Blazers	1-1	1-0
Hornets	0-1	0-0
Jazz	0-2	0-1
Magic	0-2	0-1
Warriors	1-1	1-0
Minor Boys-Central		
Bucks	2-0	1-0
Hawks	1-1	0-1
Lakers	0-2	0-1
Pistons	2-0	1-0
Suns	2-0	0-0
Minor Boys-West		
Celtics	1-1	0-1
Knicks	1-1	0-1
Raptors	2-0	1-0
Rockets	0-1	0-0
Sonics	1-1	1-0
Major Boys-East		
Celtics	0-2	0-1
Hawks	1-1	0-1
Magic	1-1	0-1
Rockets	0-2	0-1
Major Boys-West		
Bulls	1-1	0-1
Jazz	0-1	0-1
Lakers	2-0	1-0
Pistons	2-0	1-0
Suns	1-0	0-0



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Miller suggests Bonds, Armstrong were drug cheats

Erica Bulman
Associated Press

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Here we go again with Bode Miller.

Just as the brash World Cup champion skier decided to skip this weekend's events to rest up for the Turin Games and get away from media scrutiny, Miller suggested in an interview with Rolling Stone that Barry Bonds and Lance Armstrong took performance-enhancing drugs.

"Right now, if you want to cheat, you can: Barry Bonds and those guys are just knowingly cheating, but there's all sorts of loopholes," he told the magazine. "If you say it has to be 'knowingly,' you do what Lance [Armstrong] and all those guys do, where every morning their doctor gives them a box of pills and they don't ask anything, they just take the pills."

Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris, declined to respond to Miller's comments. Telephone and email messages left with Armstrong representatives were not immediately returned Thursday.

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association spokesman Tom Kelly said the organization had no response.

Miller, who competed in 136 straight World Cup races and last missed a race in March 2002, will skip the downhill and super-G this weekend. The U.S. Ski Team hopes Miller's short vacation, during which he plans to rest and play golf with younger brother Chelone, will help him focus before next month's Olympics.

"It might be a good way for him to ground himself a bit," U.S. speed coach John McBride said. "I think it's

great he's with his brother. Not only getting away from the sports but putting everything in perspective."

Chelone Miller suffered severe head injuries in a motorcycle crash three months ago in New Hampshire.

Miller, who loathes excessive media attention, has been the object of intense scrutiny all season — much of it brought on by candid comments made to the press. In the Rolling Stone interview, which hits newsstands Friday, Miller reiterates his disdain for the current state of drug testing.

"The drug-regulation system is a weird, bad system, and all I'm asking is that we talk about it," he said.

Bonds told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he used substances given to him by a trainer who was later indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn't know they were steroids, according to a newspaper report. Armstrong has long been dogged by doping rumors, including a French newspaper's claims to have evidence, but the seven-time Tour de France winner has always maintained that he is clean and has never tested positive.

Miller told Rolling Stone that he's worried someone will try and frame him for substance abuse. In October, he infuriated officials by calling for liberalized doping, and was fined last month for refusing to take a routine boot test after a World Cup slalom race.

Miller made more headlines by suggesting in an interview with "60 Minutes" that he had raced while under the influence of alcohol.

He apologized for those comments in Wengen,

Switzerland, but was fined the following day for completing a slalom despite straddling a gate. That night, Miller skipped the mandatory bib draw ceremony in the town square, prompting officials to give him a later start number for the next day's downhill.

Though he still shows signs of greatness, Miller hasn't enjoyed the same success as last season when he became the first American to win the overall World Cup title in 22 years.

At this point last year, Miller had six wins and four other podium finishes. So far this season, he has one victory and four other top-three finishes. Adding to the frustration, Miller has only completed two of seven slaloms.

"We haven't had the slalom training needed to get his equipment tested and his knee is a bit of an issue," McBride said.

Miller is currently fourth in the overall standings and trails overall leader Benjamin Raich by 264 points. Raich has 952 points, followed by Michael Walchhofer with 704 and Daron Rahlves with 689.

"The whole thing with [the TV interview] bothered him. I think maybe a little time off will help him gain perspective on the whole thing and why he does it and how important it is to him. What he's capable of achieving," McBride said. "Right now the important thing is for him to come into the Olympics on top of his game."

Miller plans to compete in all five events at the Olympics and is expected to race in Chamonix, France, on Feb. 3-4 — the final World Cup men's race before the Turin Games.

Thrashers goalie withdraws from Finland's team

Paul Newberry
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Thrashers goalie Kari Lehtonen withdrew from Finland's Olympic team on Thursday, saying he hasn't fully recovered from a groin injury that kept him out of 35 games.

Lehtonen, who was injured in the season opener, returned to the Atlanta lineup in late December and helped the Thrashers climb back into playoff contention. But his groin is still hurting, making it difficult to practice and impossible to play on back-to-back nights.

"It's definitely the hardest decision of my life," Lehtonen said after a 5-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes. "But I had to face facts. I can't handle 10 games in two weeks, or whatever it would be."

The team's medical staff agreed, advising Lehtonen to use the 21/2-week Olympic break to strengthen his groin. The goalie telephoned Jari Kurri, the former NHL star serving as Finland's general

manager, with the decision Thursday morning.

"It's the only thing I can do right now," Lehtonen said. "I don't want to go over there and hurt myself. It would be a tough two weeks."

Lehtonen was the No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 entry draft, but has yet to play a full season in the NHL. His withdrawal leaves Finland with two goalies: Miikka Kiprusoff of the Calgary Flames and Fredrik Norrena, who plays for Linkoping in the Swedish league.

Finland will be able to name a replacement for Lehtonen. Among the likely candidates: NHL goalies Antero Niittymaki of Philadelphia, Jussi Markkanen of Edmonton, Vesa Toskala of San Jose and Hannu Toivonen of Boston.

"To represent your country is something you always dream of," Thrashers coach Bob Hartley said. "He's good enough to play, but we see him in there every day working with the elastic bands, just trying to survive."

The Thrashers will definitely

ly need Lehtonen to stretch. The team is still locked in a tight final playoff spot.

Atlanta general manager Don Waddell, who serves as GM of the Olympic team, said he first approached the Thrashers about withdrawing about a few days before the 22-year-old goalie's official announcement.

"His injury is hurting the endurance part so fast," Waddell said. "He's been sore after every year."

Before Thursday, Waddell got a chance to talk with the U.S. coach, Peter Laviolette. "I discussed logistical issues possible replacement couple of injured players," Waddell said.

American staff has a DVD for the players on their way to Turin. "When they get there, they'll know the system, they'll know the system, they'll know the system," he said.

not be all new to them.

BOXING

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Raymond Malvonado, Jorge Arjona, Terry Green and Jacob Garretson.

Canales, like Saye, won his division in last year's Armed Forces Boxing Tournament and has competed at CISM for the past two years representing the United States. He won a silver medal at the 2004 CISM. Garretson represented the Marine Corps at the Armed Forces Tournament for several years before being

deployed to Iraq.

Winners of the Armed Forces Tournament go on to represent the United States Forces at the CISM World Military Championship, scheduled for Sept. 1-7 in Warendorf, Germany.

The other big tournament on tap is the All-Marine Boxing Team in the months is the National Championship, 4-11 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The team will focus on that tournament after finalizing the roster and going toe-to-toe with California.

FUN

CONTINUED FROM 1B

for this party, which begins at 4 p.m., and will include lots of food, drinks and door prizes. Party goes at the O' Club must be at least 18 years of age as well.

The five recreation centers across the base will also be hosting Super Bowl parties this Sunday, and you're invited to them all. Each of the centers may have its own variations, but most will include snacks, refreshments and some sort of prizes, according to Bill Bennight, manager of the Central Area Recreation Center.

"We're getting geared up, and we hope a lot of Marines come out and have some fun and camaraderie," said Bennight. "There are centers in French Creek, Courthouse Bay, Camp Johnson, Camp Geiger and here next to Andy's. There's no reason not to come."

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Keith Parsons
Associated Press

WEIGH, N.C.

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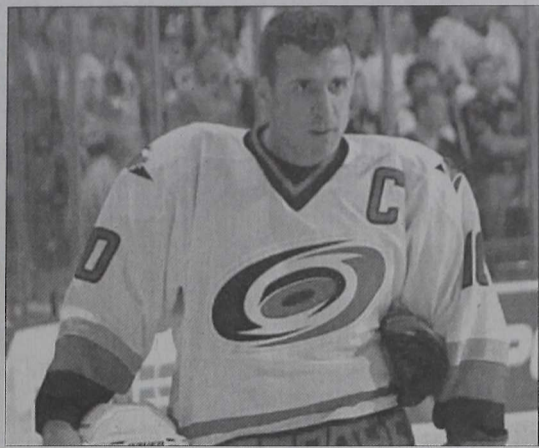
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Hurricanes retire No. 10 worn by Francis during six-year run

Ceith Parsons
Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — Ron Francis donned the familiar No. 10 on Saturday night before beating the Atlanta Thrashers 4-1. The Hurricanes retired Francis' No. 10 on Saturday night before beating the Atlanta Thrashers 4-1. The end of his 23-year career officially came in September, when he announced he wasn't coming back following the lockout. Francis returned to the Hurricanes in 1998. He retired in September.



Carolina Hurricanes

Ron Francis: The Hurricanes retired Francis' No. 10 on Saturday night before beating the Atlanta Thrashers 4-1. The end of his 23-year career officially came in September, when he announced he wasn't coming back following the lockout. Francis returned to the Hurricanes in 1998. He retired in September.

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resented, it's truly phenomenal," Bettman said. "He deserves the recognition that he's getting."

Francis began his career as the fourth overall pick of the Hartford Whalers before getting traded to Pittsburgh, where he helped the Penguins win back-to-back Stanley Cups. He returned to his original franchise as a free agent in 1998, only to be located in North Carolina and was called the Hurricanes.

He still makes his home in the area. "I've been very happy with the decision I made," Francis said a day before the ceremony. "I hate when guys just say it's the money has nothing to do with it, certainly the money had something to do with it. I'm glad when I got down here and started living in this community, it was everything I hoped it would be."

When Francis stepped away from the game, he was second to Wayne Gretzky with 1,249 assists, and ranked among the NHL's career leaders with 1,731 games (third), 549 goals (19th) and 1,798 points (fourth).

Perhaps just as important as those numbers were the impact he had on the sport in a nontraditional market such as Raleigh. He led Carolina to the Stanley Cup finals in 2002, and even losing to the

Detroit Red Wings in five games hardly silenced the buzz about the team from Tobacco Road.

It's back this season, the Hurricanes entered Saturday with the most points in the league, along with an 18-point lead in the Southeast Division.

"Like a lot of people, I think this is the deepest team that's ever been in Carolina," Francis said. "I honestly thought they could win the division at the start of the year. Quite honestly, I wasn't expecting them to be challenging for the overall lead."

None of the current members of the team were worried about losing their focus because of the ceremony.

"I think it's the furthest thing from a distraction, I think it brings an excitement," said center Kevyn Adams, an alternate captain. "We've played a lot of games in a short stretch here, and this should certainly be something that brings out a spark in us, no doubt about it."

A standing-room only crowd didn't hurt, either.

"Unfortunately, it cost me a lot of money to fill up the building," Francis quipped. "For me, it's been a great time here. I enjoyed my time on the ice, and I've enjoyed seeing more and more people get interested in the game of hockey." ■

Wolfpack beats Clemson in double overtime

Pete Iacobelli
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — As happy as North Carolina State coach Herb Sendek was to beat Clemson in double overtime, he couldn't help feeling for the Tigers in their disappointment.

"As a coach, your mind immediately races to the other team, because Clemson deserved to win today too," Sendek said Sunday. "You're in it long enough, you're on both sides of these kinds of games."

Sendek and the 15th-ranked Wolfpack (16-4, 5-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) were glad to get out of Littlejohn Coliseum on the winning side with their 94-85 victory Sunday.

Not that it was easy. North Carolina State needed Cameron Bennerman's 3-pointer at the end of regulation to tie things, then Ilian Evtimov to score 11 of his 22 points in the extra periods to avoid a second-straight loss.

"I was extremely proud of their grit, of their determination...really showed tremendous resolve," Sendek said. "At the end of day, we had guys step up and make plays."

Evtimov and Bennerman certainly did. After Cliff Hammonds missed a foul shot that would've given Clemson a four-point lead with 9.9 seconds left, Bennerman hit a 3 to tie things at 72-all. Then Evtimov took over.

He started the first overtime with two foul shots and had a bucket to put the Wolfpack up 77-75. He put things away for good in the second OT period, hitting four straight foul shots. When Bennerman followed with the Wolfpack's season-high 15th 3-pointer, they were up 86-79 with 2:18 left in the second extra period.

"Just down the stretch we had to make some plays," Evtimov said. "I posted up a few times and got some free throws out of that and a reverse layup, doing things to make sure we win."

That was especially important following an 83-65 home loss to Seton Hall this past Wednesday. The Wolfpack hadn't lost two straight all season and didn't want a streak to start now.

"It was a real gutcheck for us. We couldn't leave here with a with a loss," Evtimov said. "Obviously losing at home to Seton Hall was a hard-learned lesson. We can't let that repeat itself."

Bennerman said he never wondered about his tying shot going in. "If you have any doubt, you're probably going to miss it," he said. "I had all the confidence in the world. My teammate found me and I was able to knock it down."

Evtimov added: "It takes a real man to make that type of shot in that situation."

Poor foul shooting cost Clemson (14-6, 3-4) this season. Earlier this month, the Tigers were 6-of-21 from the foul line in a 10-point loss to Duke. Besides Hammonds' chance to put North Carolina State away at the end of regulation, Sam Perry could have extended Clemson's 79-78 lead with two foul shots at the end of the first overtime. Instead, Perry missed both and that allowed North Carolina State to force a second OT on Cedric Simmons' free throw.

Clemson was only 21 of 37 on foul shots, including 7 of 12 in the two overtimes. The Tigers were 14 of 25 from the line in regulation, the same as North Carolina State was on 3-pointers in the first 40 minutes.

"It's disappointing that you don't get the job done when you had the chance in your hands," said Clemson coach Oliver Purnell.

Purnell says he and his staff have tried to improve his team's free-throw shooting, a problem which the coach admitted was probably as much mental as it was technique at this point.

"It's a conversation we've had before," Purnell said.

Shawan Robinson led Clemson with 22 points, surpassing 1,000 points for his career.

Bennerman and Engin Atsur each had 17 points and each hit four 3-pointers for North Carolina State, whose total surpassed the 14 hit in a win over The Citadel this past November.

Evtimov added three 3-pointers, along with 10 rebounds. Tony Bethel had three 3-pointers as well for the Wolfpack for 14 points. ■

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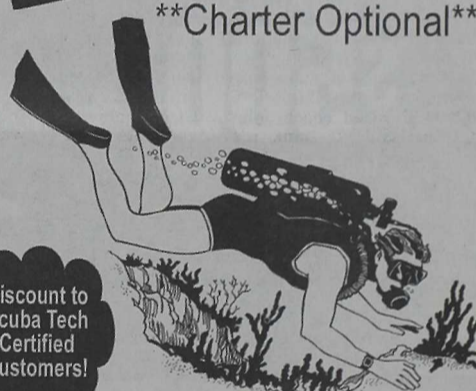


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Main Side

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Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Bauman

SMTC: Members of the II Marine Expeditionary Force Dam Security Unit, formed from Company B, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, conduct their final exercise on the Cape Fear River.

Marines graduate from riverine courses

Petty Officer 1st Class
Charles Bauman
Special Missions Training Center

Members of the II MEF Dam Security Unit, formed from Company B, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, recently graduated from two Coast Guard Special Missions Training Center Courses. Company B, which is attached to Second Amphibious Assault Battalion, participated in courses (taught by SMTC's Marine Detachment), designed to enhance skills the unit will soon be utilizing in Iraq. Twenty-three members graduated from the Marine Corps Small Unit Riverine Coxswain's Course, 12 of those went on to attend the Marine Corps Small Unit Riverine Captain's Course.

The final exercise for both classes was a combined operation in which students and instructors traveled by Small Unit Riverine Craft from



Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Bauman

SMTC: Twenty-three members of the II MEF Dam Security Unit graduated from the Marine Corps Small Unit Riverine Coxswain's Course recently.

Courthouse Bay to a forward operating base on the Cape Fear River. According to SMTC Instructor Staff Sgt. Joshua Iversen (a veteran of two combat tours in Iraq and extensive Riverine Craft experience in the jungles of South America) it was no coincidence this river was chosen for the exercise.

"The Cape Fear's geographic features are remarkably similar to those found on the rivers of Iraq. It provides a realistic environment that will prepare the students for conditions they will encounter in-theatre."

Each day, the students were assigned warning orders for specific missions. It was their responsibility to plan and execute the operational order necessary to carry out the mission, utilizing available resources.

The SMTC instructor staff operated as the opposing force, staging ambushes and creating unique challenges that tested student's skills.

The tempo was intense — there was little time for sleep between missions. An extensive amount of work was necessary to ensure execution of each operating order was precisely planned and strategy and tactics to be employed were thoroughly communicated to all operatives. Finally, the students had to carry out the operating order, just as they would an actual mission.

According to Iversen, the FINEX was designed to test several diverse but essential skills, including mission planning, incorporation of artillery and close air support (from both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft) and tactical communications, including satellite communications and Blue Force Tracker.

Other objectives were to increase proficiency in insertion/extraction techniques, high

See RIVERINE page 2C

Marines unleash firestorm

Lance Cpl. Zachary W.
Lester
2nd Marine Division

As the week began Jan. 23, Marines were rolling out to start Exercise Firestorm.

Marines from 2nd Marine Division conducted the operation against simulated terrorist activity in the town of Impact City in the made-up country of Katruna, in reality, a training facility here.

"The purpose of Exercise Firestorm was to get us back in the artillery mindset," said Maj. Kevin J. Keating, 10th Marine Regiment's assistant operations officer.

For many of the Marines, this was the first exercise in which they practiced their primary military occupational specialty.

"A lot of our units have been going to Iraq as provisional infantry battalions, doing everything but artillery," Keating said.

Cpl. Ryan P. Pedroza, assistant firing chief, F Battery, had to adjust to being an artilleryman again after spending seven months in Iraq in a provisional infantry battalion doing convoy operations.

"At first, it was cool to change and to do a different job, but it is always nice to be able to come back and do your original job," Pedroza said.

An exercise of this type hasn't been done since the middle of 2003.

"This is the first time we've had two battalions on deck in a long time that were able to fire artillery," Keating said.

Along with other battalions and regimental combat teams, personnel from the 10th Marine Regiment all displayed their own specialties.

The regiment's mission was to provide accurate, timely, massed cannon fires

and fire support for the 2nd Marine Division in order to disrupt and destroy the enemy in Impact City.

"We came up with a scenario that was similar to the things going on in Iraq," Keating said. "We set it up to fight them how we would fight as a regiment."

Upon arriving to their destination in the training area, Headquarters Battery quickly set up to start giving direction to the artillery batteries.

"We ran fire support for the grunts," stated Staff Sgt. Jack O. Hendrix, fire chief, F Battery. "Anytime they got in trouble, we came out and provided fire for them. We also destroyed any hard targets they couldn't get to."

The artillery Marines rode in seven-ton trucks to the site of the exercise, pulling the massive 155mm Howitzer cannons behind them.

"The seven-ton took us to our position, where we set up the gun and started the process," Hendrix said.

Running the huge weapon seemed like a daunting task, but the Marines of the regiment appeared to do it with timeliness and ease.

"To run the gun, you need one section chief and six men, but the more, the merrier," Hendrix said.

On Hendrix's team, there was a gunner, assistant gunner, recorder, an ammo team and a plugger.

The ammo team deals with the rounds and the propellant, preparing them to be fired and loading them into the tube. The gunner and assistant gunner make sure the cannon is firing on target, while the recorder takes note of all the information taking place.

"The number one man, or plugger, puts the gun powder in after the ammo team loads the round into the tube,"

See ARTILLERY page 2C



Cpl. Rose A. Muth

MOLLE: Sagrario Cienfuegos (right), store clerk, II Marine Expeditionary Force Consolidated Issue Facility, shows Sgt. Robert S. Wyatt, motor transport, 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, how to take apart a Modular Lightweight Load carrying equipment.

CIF gear turn in made easy

Cpl. Rose A. Muth
II Marine Expeditionary Force

Dirty, cracked, missing or broken gear is the last thing on the mind of a Marine returning from Iraq. The II Marine Expeditionary Force Consolidated Issue Facility has a few-tips to help smooth the return process.

"We have developed a standard operating procedure to help Marines know what they need to do when they are turning in all their gear," said Bob Graham, eastern regional manager for the CIF. "It will make the check out procedure go faster, and Marines won't have to turn around and come back because they didn't know cer-

tain things they were supposed to do or bring in the first place."

The gear at the CIF is used by all major commands aboard Camp Lejeune, so upkeep is important.

"The gear must be cleaned before turning it into the CIF," Carroll explained. "The only thing about cleaning the gear is that Marines are taking the flak jackets apart and drying them in a dryer. The problem with that is that the outer shell will shrink so it's harder to get the SAPI [Small Arms Protective Inserts] plates back into them. If you wash it you have to let the outer shell air dry."

The CIF personnel take into

See GEAR page 2C

II MEF Homecoming ...



Cpl. Rose A. Muth

Homecoming: A Marine from II Marine Headquarters Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force hugs his family members during the II MEF homecoming ceremony Jan. 24. Marines from II MEF, who served as long as a year in Iraq, were deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

II MEF gets shooters back in the black

Sgt. Tracee L. Jackson
II Marine Expeditionary Force

In the beginning, every recruit becomes a rifleman as they become a Marine. Once the title is claimed, it remains throughout a career along with the skill of marksmanship.

All Marines are required to re-qualify on the M-16 A2 service rifle each year. For Marines with military occupational specialties that orient around the rifle, annual re-qualification is another day in the office. However, for war fighters whose "daily" weapons are items like pens, computers and radios, qualifying on the range may take some extra preparation.

"The fundamentals of marksmanship, breath and trigger control, sight alignment and sight picture,

can slip away," said Lance Cpl. Michael Fowler, of the 8th Communications Battalion's Communications Service Company. Fowler spends more time behind communication equipment than behind a rifle and is revisiting the range for the first time since boot camp.

"Yesterday, I wasn't hitting anything, but today I'm walking to the 300 yard-line with a lot more points," said the 21-year-old Marine.

His rifle coach, Lance Cpl. Frederick Tschirgi, guided the difference in Fowler's performance. Tschirgi, a signals intelligence analyst, has taken on the additional billet of pistol and rifle coach, a critical billet which serves as guardian to the Marines' reputation as accomplished shooters. ■



Camp Lejeune: Lance Cpl. Frederick Tschirgi, a rifle coach for the II Marine Expeditionary Force and signals intelligence analyst, inspects the front sight tip of one of his student's rifle. Rotating the down can bring low or high shots into the black.



Annual rifle qualification: A Marine pauses on the firing line to mark his shot during a "slow fire" portion of annual rifle qualification. By tracking each shot and examining groups, Marines can make necessary windage adjustments.

Cpl. Heidi E. Loreda

GEAR

CONTINUED FROM 1C

account the weather factors and gear exchange that can occur in theatre during deployment.

"If a Marine turns in a piece of gear that's a different color or size than the one that was issued it isn't a problem," said Reggie Washington, line supervisor, II MEF CIF. "As long as the Marine doesn't turn in a different generation of gear then what they were issued, we will accept the gear. For example, someone can't turn in an old MARPAT [Marine Pattern] Gortex jacket when they were issued a new digital camouflage Gortex jacket. It's two different generations of gear."

Although some gear may be lost or destroyed while deployed overseas, filing paperwork for the items has become easier for commanders and troops.

"When units come back they usually do an inventory of what gear they have and what is damaged or missing. When a unit comes in to check out, they need to have a missing or damaged gear statement stamped certified or true copied by their commanding officer," Graham said. "They get to have the statement done within 90 days of return. Instead of having the CO sign 30 missing or damaged gear statements, the unit only has to make one letter, which the CO signs, and attach the other Marines' statements along with it."

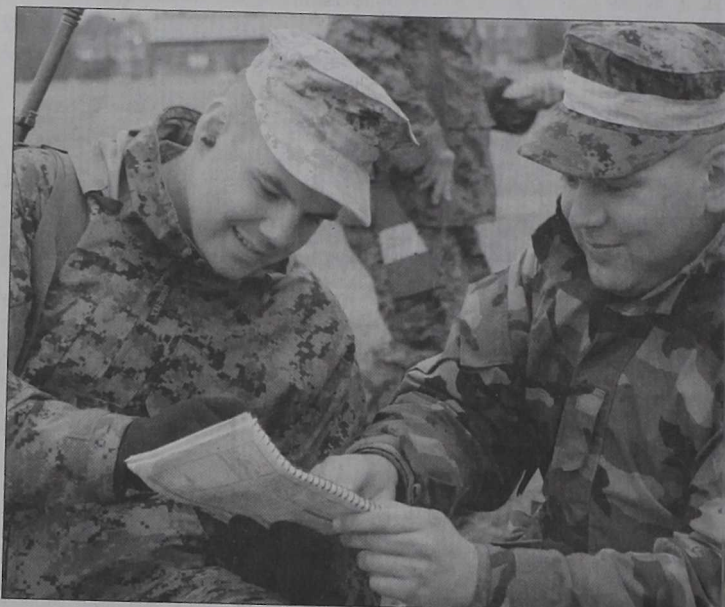
When Marines arrive at CIF to turn in

gear, having the proper paperwork to check out is also necessary and helps smooth the checkout process.

"The biggest hold up for Marines is a check in or out sheet," Washington explained. "We have to make sure that we are giving Marines the right gear since different units require different issues. When a Marine is finished turning in their gear they have to get their paperwork signed and make sure their data is erased off the computer. If a Marine [permanent change of station] moves to Okinawa and shows up to check in at the CIF there and it still shows they have issued gear here, they can't check in. We run off the same database system, so it will catch up to you."

Although the CIF tends to get really busy, the check in or out process for a large group can be an easier evolution if the unit schedules an appointment ahead of time.

"One of the biggest issues is units tending to show up all at one time without an appointment to turn in gear," said Marc Carroll, manager, II Marine Expeditionary Force CIF. "Since we didn't know that they were going to show up with a platoon of people, they have to wait around for their turn, and that depends on how many people were in line in front of them. If there is a group of 20 or more, the parent unit should call and set up an appointment so we know ahead of time and can get kits already set up so when they show up most of their gear will already be ready. We try to dedicate a group of workers to help assist when units are checking gear in or out so it goes faster."



Marksmanship: Sgt. Robert Wilson from the 8th Communications Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, evaluates his shot groups with his rifle coach, Lance Cpl. Frederick Tschirgi, a rifle coach for the II Marine Expeditionary Force and signals intelligence analyst. Rifle coaches provide guidance to individual shooters during rifle qualifications to help them uphold the Marine Corps' marksmanship reputation.

ARTILLERY

CONTINUED FROM 1C

Hendrix said. "He then closes the breach, puts the primer inside the hole, pulls the lanyard and shoots the gun."

The cannons are extremely accurate, sending rounds to a distance of up to 18 miles.

Hendrix looks forward to the near future when the Marines will be working with a new gun, the M-777 ultra-light-weight field howitzer.

"They are smaller and it takes less Marines to man them," Hendrix said. "It

shoots the same size round the same distance."

The Marines worked hard to complete their exercise.

"It turned out better than expected," Keating said. "I know what I have on to make it quicker paced for the battalion. This exercise is a stepping stone toward our next exercise."

During the week-long field exercise, the Marines were able to go out and complete the mission assigned to them. Training will help the Marines in preparation for upcoming deployment to Okinawa and in fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

RIVERINE

CONTINUED FROM 1C

value target raids, casualty extraction and weapons and explosives sweeps.

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Scudder (the Senior SMTC Instructor for the courses and a veteran of two combat tours in Iraq) felt the exercise was a very realistic and effective learning tool. "In order to succeed, the students must rely on their boat crews and their own abilities. They must be able to think clearly and execute while they are tired, cold and sometimes wet. Better to endure pain in training than bleeding in-theatre."

The most valuable asset the students had at their

disposal, aside from their own skills, was the platform. It employs state of the art technology.

The end result is a light weight, high speed, highly maneuverable boat that far exceeds its size. Its troop transport capabilities, coupled with its extensive arsenal of on board weapons, make it suited for conventional or special missions.

Company B has been tasked with protecting Hadithah Dam located on the Euphrates River. The high value asset generates one-third of Iraq's power and is a critical component for flood control efforts in Central Iraq.

Extensive relevant training, the SURF's remarkable "can-do" spirit of Company B will make them a fierce enemy for insurgents to face in-theatre.

Camp Lejeune Retiree/Professional Luncheon

The Marine Corps Association will host a Retiree/Professional Luncheon. Retirees, active duty, spouses, guests and friends of the Marine Corps are welcome to attend.

March 22

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Paradise Point O'Club, Camp Lejeune

Cost is \$14 per person.

Guest Speaker

Major Gen. (sel) Dennis Hejlik, commanding general, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

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ational forest offers recreational opportunities

Cpl. Brandon R. Holgerson
Marine Corps Base

the vast resources for available to Marines, and family members a few minutes down and can offer a great recreational activities. Croatan National Forest has more than 100,000 acres of land which can be used for from backpacking to

orest offers camp fishing, backpacking, kayaking and beaching and fishing are under state regulations, state limits and the Carolina Wildlife Commission for regulations.

campgrounds must be and have some fees, campgrounds usually facilities such as show-lectrical hook ups for al vehicles and tents. s that include fees and ns are: Cedar Point, nt, Neuse River and Point campgrounds. camping is allowed of these established

orest also has several wind through its vari-ecosystems, which pocosins, which are l depressions covered shrubs and small trees, hes, pine forests and aches.

The longest backpacking trail of the forest is the Neusiok Trail, which stretches from the Pine Cliff recreation area to the Oyster Point campground. The 21-mile trail crosses several paved roads and has two open-front shelters along the trail for campers, but primitive camping is permitted anywhere on the trail.

Winter months from October to May are preferred for hiking the trail because the insects, snakes and alligators will be greatly reduced or not present. The trail is marked with white blazes and aluminum tags, but some of the trail can be tricky due to hurricane damage, which has knocked over some trees and made the path difficult in places.

Boardwalks are scattered along the trail for backpackers and hikers to navigate the marshes and swampy areas but waterproof boots are recommended because parts of the trail may be wet or covered in water.

Another prominent trail is the Saltwater Adventure Trail. The trail is a water-based trail that displays the unique ecosystems and history of the eastern coastal tidelands. The approximately 100-mile trail nearly circles the entire forest and can take seven days to complete.

To make reservations at campgrounds or for more information on the forest, visit www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/ or call (252) 638-5628. ■



Lance Cpl. Brandon R. Holgerson

Croatan National Forest: The Croatan National Forest has more than 100,000 acres of land, which can be used for activities such as camping, fishing, backpacking, hunting, kayaking and swimming.



Lance Cpl. Brandon R. Holgerson

Croatan National Forest: The Croatan National Forest contains sandy beaches, pine forests, swamps and salt marshes.



Lance Cpl. Brandon R. Holgerson

Croatan National Forest: In the Croatan National Forest hunting and fishing are allowed under state regulations, but check state limits and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for licenses and regulations.

Base buses provide free transportation

Lance Cpl. Adam Johnston
Marine Corps Base

since the first of its kind was introduced in 1827, buses have become instrumental in transporting children to and from school. In the United States alone, approximately 440,000 public school buses travel more than 4 billion miles daily and transport 10 million children. Without the bus, many school-age children aren't the only ones who find themselves stranded at home.

Mode of transportation. Marines live in barracks with no personally owned vehicles, often find themselves in this very situation. After all, Camp Lejeune is the largest Marine Corps base on the East Coast at 246-square miles. That's where the Base Bus System comes in.

"The buses are open to all military ID card holders," said Roy Cornell, the operations manager for base motor transport. "At no cost to the Marines, we make regular stops at the medical, dental and a variety of locations on base."

During the week, there are two buses that Base Bus #1 travels to and from Courthouse Bay while Base Bus #2 travels to Camp Geiger and Camp Johnson. On weekends and holidays, Base Bus #3 travels to and from all three of these places.

The drivers keep track of how many people are on the bus at each stop," said Cornell. "If the numbers are high enough to sustain the route, then the bus will continue to stop."

In order to get a stop added to the existing schedule, Marines need to lobby their commanding officer to submit a letter, justifying the need for the addition, according to Johnston.

"All requests will be taken into consideration and forwarded up the proper chain of command," said Cornell.



Lance Cpl. Adam Johnston

Base Bus: Lee C. Williams, a retired master sergeant who has been driving the base bus for more than 10 years, opens the door to allow passengers on. The Base Bus is open to all military ID card holders.

Ultimately, the base bus system is just another example of how Camp Lejeune takes care of its Marines.

"Save your money," said Cornell. "Calling a taxi might be more convenient, but 10 bucks here and there can add up quickly."

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can e-mail Cornell at Roy.Cornell@usmc.mil. For a copy of the base bus schedule, go online to the Camp Lejeune Web site at <http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcb/baseBusSchedule.asp>. ■

New facilities at Courthouse Bay...



PA1 Chuck Banman

Special Missions Training Center – Construction is well underway on six new facilities for the Special Missions Training Center and joint use at Courthouse Bay. The buildings, scheduled for completion later this year or the beginning of next, will greatly increase the capabilities of the SMTC in carrying out its joint maritime training mission.

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 '04 HYUNDAI SANTE FE LX 25K MILES #C86021 LIST PRICE: \$19,900 BLOW-OUT PRICE \$17,800	 '02 FORD SALEEN MUSTANG SUPERCHARGED 33K MILES #C86062A LIST PRICE: \$32,900 BLOW-OUT PRICE \$28,900
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YELLOW LAB/BLUE TICK HOUND MIX-2 yrs. old, gold color, sweet & loving. Free to good home. Needs to be only dog in house. 265-8823.

Wanted

3BR HOUSE TO RENT-Small clean military family of 3. Needed June 1st. Have section 8 voucher, max. \$650/mo. 630-830-6470.

BABY CLOTHING-In very good condition, girl's or boy's, any ages, \$10 for a full paper bag. 346-9270.

HUNTING AND/OR FISHING LAND-For Responsible Swansboro native. No hunt clubs. 330-4038.

PATIO FURNITURE-Good condition & very reasonable price. 353-7521.

ROOMMATE-Close to base. New Hunters Creek. Separate bed & bath. Must like dogs. 539-8585 1/m.

ROOMMATE-For 2 furn. rms, avail. now. Utilities, cable, internet access, w/d, & unlimited long distance incl. \$400/mo. No dep. or lease req. No pets, smoking. Cardinal village area. 934-0483.

ROOMMATE-For 3br/2ba. Full house use, hot tub outdoor & indoor fireplace, big screen, incl. everything. \$500. 382-2084.

ROOMMATE-Male to share 3BR/2BA house 20 mins from base, \$350/mo. + 1/3 utilities. 265-9941.

ROOMMATE-To share 3BR/2BA house in Hubert. Full sz. bed & dressers. \$300/mo. (incl. elec., water, & phone). No smoking. 326-4623.

SLEEPER SOFA-Must be in excellent condition. 455-3798 or 554-9644.

Auto Miscellaneous

ASSORTED-1 complete set of 93 Z71 rims, 93 Z71 Hydramatic trans. & transfer case. Ran when removed from truck. \$600/obo. Will separate. 526-1014.

ASSORTED-Protective front covers, for Chrysler T&C Van & Ford Explorer. \$75 ea. Rear cargo area tray for Chrysler T&C Van. \$25. 252-393-2723.

AUDIO SYSTEM-15 in. Kicker L7 Square Solobaric subwoofer & directed 11000D amp in truck box. Used very little. \$500. 760-590-9909.

ENCLOSED TRAILER-6X14', V nose, ramp door, side door, heavy duty frame, like new. \$3400. 381-5407.

FRONT FENDERS-Inner & outer. For 77-80 Chevy C/K pick-up. Brand new. Primed black. Used core support in good shape. 938-4904.

HEADS-Off 2.2 Honda w/100 mi., on them. Asking \$125/obo. 353-3199.

LOW RIDER KIT-For Chevy S 10 truck/Blazer. 577-4144, after 6 pm.

PICK-UP CAB-For 1977-1980 Chevy C/K, w/front & rear glass. 938-4904.

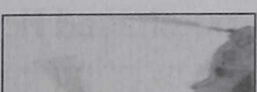
RIMS & TIRES-20" chrome. Excellent

Auto Miscellaneous

condition. Used on Ford Explorer, Eddie Bauer, must see. \$1200. 353-3224.

RIMS & TIRES-From Dodge Ram 1500, 177 w/Michelin LTX 245/70 R17 tires. Rims in excellent shape incl. center caps. \$300/obo. 330-6435.

RIMS (4)-15X7 6 lug, Toyota, steel grey w/lug nuts & center caps. \$45/obo. 353-3199.



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RIMS (4)-22", brand new, never used. Silver painted w/weather coating. \$1,200/obo. 704-308-1570.

RIMS (4)-Factory, from Nissan Maxima. \$400/obo. 353-3974.

RIMS-22", Ice Metal w/nitro 404 305/40/22, 90% tread left. Chrome fits Chevy & Dodge. \$2000/obo. 1 yr. old. 938-7780.

RIMS-Stock 2003 Chevy Tahoe LS wheels. Complete set \$350, w/tires, \$600. 455-6641.

SPEAKERS-2 12" Rockford Fosgate subs in bandpass, 2-10" Kicker compVR in truck box, 1-kicker 150watt amp. \$150 ea. 324-6301.

STOCK TRAILER-Gooseneck, 2 horse, Needs work. \$1000. 368-482.

SUBWOOFER STEALTH BOX-GM rear under seat for 2 10"s. Came out of 2000 Silverado ext. cab. Floor facing, carpeted. Very nice shape. \$75. 265-8823.

SUBWOOFERS-2 12", Kenwood Excelon, \$350/obo. 1 qlogic box. 757-593-4566.

TIRES & WHEELS (4)-Goodyear 265/75R16's on alum. wheels. Tires have about 12,000 mi. Both came off 2001 Dodge Ram. \$400. 785-554-2791.

TIRES-265/70 R16. Only 8k mi., off Chevy Tahoe, will fit SUV or pickups. Complete set (4) only \$350. 455-6641.

TIRES-New, from Toyota Corolla 185/70R13 Firestone 865 M+S (FR380) (3). \$20/obo ea. 324-7587.

TIRES-Used, set of 4. Michelin Cross Terrain P275 60R 17, \$120/obo. Michelin MX V4 P205 60R 16, \$200/obo. 252-393-2723.

TRAILER HITCH-Drawite pn 36122 class II 3500 wc box size 1.25X1.25, like new, all hardware. \$100. 355-3558.

TRANSMISSION & TORQUE CONVERTER-Chevy T-350 for 4X4 (short). Make offer. 938-4904.

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1963 MERCURY COMET-Restored, new in/out. Orig eng., 74K mi. Everything works, current insp. & tags, runs great. \$9,500/obo. 340-6504.

1993 MERCURY CAPRI CONVERTIBLE-5 spd, ac, cruise, windows. Mag wheels (1) top on car is ripped. Interior is fantastic. Runs good. Cash \$950. 389-5719.

1994 CHEVY CAMARO Z28-Only 86K mi., w/LT1 6spd. Car runs strong & body is straight. New tires & other mods. \$5,000/obo. 381-6649.

1995 ACURA INTEGRA GSR-w/B18C Engine. \$4000/obo. 376-1667.

1995 DODGE RAM 3500-Diesel truck single cab, pw, pl, tilt, cruise, am/fm/cd, 5 spd, new tires, new headliner, 175K mi. \$9000. 455-2430.

1995 DODGE RAM-Lots of extras. Lift kit, 35" super swampters, pw, pl, auto, tool box, tow pkg. 4X4, V8, am/fm, cd. 381-5487.

1995 FORD ASPIRE 40+mpg, runs great, must sell. \$650/obo. (330) 212-6224.

1996 FORD MUSTANG-Blue w/white vinyl hard top, V8 289 California Car. \$6,500/obo. Moving. 455-2912.

1973 CORVETTE STINGRAY-Maroon, 350 eng-original, auto, T-Tops. Over 17K invested, all recs. avail. Excellent cond. \$12,500/obo. 340-6504, lv msg.

1984 PLYMOUTH HORIZON-4dr, 5spd, w/93,000 ong. mi. New batt., tires, & clutch. 32 mpg. Runs great, needs paint job. \$650. 325-6000 after 5 pm.

1985 CHEVY SCOTTSDALE-Red, 4X4, at, pl, pw, tow package, good paint, no rust. \$3500/obo. 743-0051.

1987 JEEP WRANGLER-Soft top w/suspension & body lifts. Needs some work, \$3500/obo. 554-7334.

1987 NISSAN PATHFINDER-Good condition. New tires. \$700/obo. 545-7644 1/m.

1988 DODGE RAM 4X4-Exc. cond., runs great, new spark plugs, wires, filters, fuel inj., bed liner & cover, excellent int., cd. \$4,500 firm. 539-6356, PCSing soon.

1988 JEEP CHEROKEE-Red in color, 4.0 six cyl., auto trans., 4x4, 4dr, pw, pdl, tow hitch, + 2 parts jeeps & numerous other parts. Deploying. \$3000 for all. 455-3892 or cell 389-4098.

1990 NISSAN PICK-UP SE-V6, King cab, 5-sp, ac, ps, pb, pw, pdl, pm, tw, fiberglass cap, drop in bed liner, mag wheels, 153K miles. Runs strong. \$3500/obo. 358-0061.

1990 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA-Runs great, new starter, tires, great shape, needs heater coil. \$1,000. 355-0349.

1991 CHEVY LUMINA-Cream colored, 4 dr, runs, needs trans., \$700/obo. 353-4292.

1991 CHEVY S-10-Lowered 3/4-beltch. Some body work started, shaved handles. New, rebuilt, 5 spd. needs work, but drives. \$1600/obo. 353-7054.

1991 GMC SIERRA 1500 LS-White, blue int., loaded, tool box, bed rail prot., mag wheels. Exc. cond. (high miles). Trade for small pickup or \$2950 cash. 389-5719.

1991 NISSAN SENTRA-Red, 127,000 miles, 5 speed, new a/c, cruise, am/fm/cassette, new battery, very good condition and good gas mileage. \$2500. 910-389-0527 anytime.

1992 CHEVY BLAZER TAHOE 4wd, towing pkg, 120k mi., good paint, runs good, asking \$2900. 381-5407.

1992 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4 4 cyl., 5 speed, 110,000 mi., new soft top & new clutch. \$4,500/obo. 265-3469 1/m.

1992 JEEP WRANGLER-Blue, 4.0 4" susp. lift, 2" body lift, 35" tires. Solid body, hard top. \$8,000/obo. 324-7017.

1993 FORD THUNDERBIRD-V8, new tires, tune up, oil change, runs great, new cd player, am/fm, heat/ac. \$1,500/obo. 549-7044 1/m.

1993 HONDA ACCORD LX \$2950. 1995 Honda Civic, \$2950. 910-381-0554.

1997 BMW 318ti HATCHBACK-White, 100K mi, runs excellent, cd player, sun roof. \$4,000/obo. 630-361-4230.

1997 FORD F-150 EXT. CAB-113,000 hwy. mi. Excellent cond. Must sell. \$7500/obo. 376-5546.

1997 HONDA PRELUDE SH-All power, black w/black int., 140K mi., runs prefect, serviced every 3500 to 4000 mi. \$5000/obo. 526-1718.

1997 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO-4wd, low mil., new tires, maroon, exc. cond., 2nd owner, pw, pb, a/c lift, pwr locks, cruise. \$6,200/obo. 934-3422.

1998 FORD ZX-2-Fast sporty little car. 33+ mpg. \$3500. 340-3433.

1999 DODGE 1500 QUAD CAB-Auto, CD/cass., ac, ps, pb, pw, pdl, pm, tw, tow pkg., sprayed in bed liner, 133K mi. Beautiful, runs strong \$9500/obo. 358-0061.

1999 FORD TAURUS SHO-Just serviced, 80K mi., fully loaded, leather, Mach 460 stereo, \$7,500/obo. (252)342-5368.

1999 JAGUAR XJ8L-75,580 mi. white, tan leather int., excellent condition, cd player, dual pipes, 16,800 mi. 704-996-3794.

2000 CHEVY MALIBU-\$4000/obo. 376-4897.

2000 CHEVY SILVERADO 271-Ext. cab long bed, white, all pwr, tow/haul pkg., 82K mi., nonsmoker, chrome package, immaculate. \$15000/obo. 545-4811.

2000 CHEVY VENTURE VAN-Fully loaded, seats 7 w/4 capt. chairs. \$7250. 548-1967.

2000 FORD MUSTANG-Torch red, lowered, black graphics, custom dash & gauges, loeman Cold Air Intake, & more. \$9000/obo. 546-7223.

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2000 JEEP WRANGLER SE-Forest green, brand new top & tubular f/r bumpers w/hitch receiver. 82K mi. Nice rims & off-road tires. 10,000/obo. 265-8823.

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1993 HONDA ACCORD LX \$2950. 1995 Honda Civic, \$2950. 910-381-0554.

1997 BMW 318ti HATCHBACK-White, 100K mi, runs excellent, cd player, sun roof. \$4,000/obo. 630-361-4230.

1997 FORD F-150 EXT. CAB-113,000 hwy. mi. Excellent cond. Must sell. \$7500/obo. 376-5546.

1997 HONDA PRELUDE SH-All power, black w/black int., 140K mi., runs prefect, serviced every 3500 to 4000 mi. \$5000/obo. 526-1718.

1997 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO-4wd, low mil., new tires, maroon, exc. cond., 2nd owner, pw, pb, a/c lift, pwr locks, cruise. \$6,200/obo. 934-3422.

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1995 GMC JIMMY 4wd, all power, cd player, new tires, tow pkg., flowmaster exh., cold air intake. \$5000/obo. 546-8451.

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2002 MITSUBISHI MONTERO-Sport. Navy blue/tan, 69k mi., very well maint. \$11,500, deploying, (606) 547-1073.

2002 NISSAN PATHFINDER-4x4, 68K mi., sunroof, BOSE, \$16,000, 910-616-0617.

2002 TOYOTA RAV4-White, 4x4, cd, 1 owner, \$10,500, 910-545-3838.

2003 CHEVY CAVALIER-13K mi., 7 yr./70K mi. warr. Will be back in NC on Feb. 20th. email: mitremc@hotmail.com w/Subject: *2K3 Cavalier*.

2003 CHEVY MALIBU LS-Silver. Good condition, 24,000 mi. PCS in March. \$11,500/obo. 388-0040.

2003 CHEVY SILVERADO-39703 mi. 9261pa. \$13868. National Dodge 347-3777.

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2003 HONDA ACCORD EX-37,579 mi. 31702a. \$18,950. National Dodge 347-3777.

2003 JEEP WRANGLER-4.0L, auto, 4WD, red w/blk hardtop, 32k mi., ps, tw, ac, tow pkg., Freedom Ed., am/fm/cd, chrome whls, \$17,500/obo. 382-8467.

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2003 SATURN L200-53,841 miles. 31916b. \$9,686. National Dodge 347-3777.

2003 SUZUKI XL7-38,000 mi., excellent cond. Sunroof, 6 cd, all leather int., 3 rows of seats, many feat. \$13,000/obo. 376-5546.

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2004 CHEVY AVALANCHE-16,424 mi., 9407p. \$22,950. National Dodge 347-3777.

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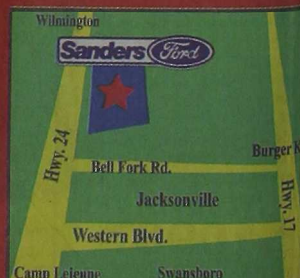
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Globe | Thursday, February 2, 2006 | www.militarynews.com/globe

Young Marines

Program teaches discipline, teamwork, life skills

Story and Photos by
Jennifer Moore
Carolina Living Staff Writer

Clad in camouflage, they stand at attention in straight lines, trying hard to keep their faces expressionless as they prepare for inspection.

Across the gym, the motley band of recruits scrambles into place, as the glaring drill instructor shouts commands.

But there is something a little different about these Marines. For one, most of them are a lot shorter than the average recruit at Parris Island. And when these Young Marines go home tonight, there will still be book reports to finish and math homework to complete.

The Camp Lejeune Young Marines — a group of boys and girls ranging from 8 to 18 years old — meet every Wednesday at the Area 4 gym. The children learn discipline, teamwork, life skills and information about the Marine Corps.

Cassandra Stenberg, a 9-year-old Young Marine, said she enjoys the program because “we basically do everything that the Marines do.”

Stenberg’s favorite thing is the drill card, and she would recommend the program to her friends.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Davila, acting commanding officer of the Camp Lejeune Young Marines, likens the program to a “militarized Boy Scouts.”

“It provides them direction and goals in life; it helps enforce what their teachers teach in school,” Davila said.

The program also gives Young Marines pride in their country and teaches them to pay attention to adults and respect their elders.

At the weekly meetings, Young Marines may do drills, take classes, face inspection or do physical training. They also go on occasional field trips and encampments, host fund-raisers and compete against other Young Marine units.

For Ryan Watts, a 15-year-old sergeant in the Young Marines, “the whole purpose in life is to learn and to lead. Young Marines can help you get a start on leading.”

Watts, who joined the program in 1999, said he most enjoys field trips and going out into the field.

“Most of us want to be like Marines,” he said, so it is fun to be out “running around in the woods” doing training.

New Young Marines go through a “13-week” boot camp — really 13 nights over the course of 13 weeks and two overnight events — learning basic skills.

At the overnight events, they must keep fire watch, wake at 6 a.m. for physical training, eat in the chow hall for breakfast and eat Meals Ready to Eat for lunch.

Army Sgt. Elizabeth Schmitt is the senior drill instructor for the Camp Lejeune Young Marines and has been involved since 1995, after she signed her son up for the program at 8 years old. He is in recruit training at Parris Island now.

“It helped my son a lot” and he really enjoyed it, Schmitt said. “It was like a bug, he got bitten.”

Schmitt’s daughter is also in the program, though Schmitt doubts she will join the military.

The children join Young Marines for a number of reasons. LesleeAnn Watts signed her son up because he “had a lot of energy, a lot of anger.”

Her daughter later signed up because her brother was involved. “My son is 10 times more mellow now,” said Watts, whose son is now 18 and out of the program.

“He can get mad, but he knows there are better ways to deal with it. I personally think if it had not been for Camp Lejeune Young Marines and [Davila], my son would not be such a good kid.”

Brian Carey, the highest ranking Young Marine at Camp Lejeune, said the program is definitely “a good attitude changer.”

“I was a troubled kid,” Carey said, but Young Marines helped him clean up his act.

“My dad was active duty at the time, and I wanted to be like him,” he said.

Still, Watts said, “you can only get out of this program what you put into it. It’s not a program you would send a disobedient kid for discipline.”

Davila, who serves as intelligence chief for 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, said he

See MARINES page 5D



Design by Ena Bravo
Features & Layout Editor

Camp Lejeune: Young Marine sergeants Deven Carey, left and Travis Giampa, center, talk to Staff Sgt. Joseph Davila during a meeting.



Camp Lejeune: New recruits warily stand at attention for their second day of boot camp, waiting for a command from the senior drill instructor. The children must go through 13 weeks of training — including two overnight events — to become Camp Lejeune Young Marines. The new recruits wear gray sweatshirts, blue jeans and white shirts because they have not yet earned their camouflage.



Camp Lejeune: Members of the Camp Lejeune Young Marines stand waiting to be inspected during a weekly meeting. The Young Marines learn the proper way to wear their uniforms and display their ribbons and are tested on those and other skills as part of their training.

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Memoirs brings mysterious world of geisha culture to screen



Memoirs of a Geisha: Ken Watanabe, as the Chairman, runs into Ziyi Zhang, as Nitta Sayuri, after the war has begun.



Memoirs of a Geisha: Ziyi Zhang, left, Michelle Yeoh, center and Gong Li, right, star in this romantic epic, playing now at Camp Lejeune.

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From the Front Row

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG-13)

Based on the internationally acclaimed 1997 novel by Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha* is a sweeping romantic epic set in a mysterious and exotic world that still casts a potent spell today.

The fascinating story centers on a girl from a fishing village who rises through Japanese society as a geisha, surviving cruel treatment from mentors to navigate the worlds of wealth and power at the brink of World War II.

The story begins in the years before WWII, when a poor little Japanese child is torn from her penniless family to work as a servant in a geisha house. Despite a treacherous rival who nearly breaks her spirit, the girl blossoms into the legendary geisha Sayuri. Beautiful and accomplished, Sayuri captivates the most powerful men of her day, but is haunted by her secret love for the one man who is out of her reach.

Ziyi Zhang (*Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers*) stars as Nitta Sayuri, the woman who, after being sold into servitude at age 9, becomes the most famous geisha in Kyoto.

Ken Watanabe (*The Last Samurai*) plays the businessman, known as the Chairman, she longs for but cannot have.

Michelle Yeoh (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) plays her caring veteran mentor, Mameha.

Gong Li (*Raise the Red Lantern*) is Geisha Hatsumomo, her devious rival and spiteful competitor.

Costarring are Koji Yakusho (*Shall We Dance*) as Nobu; Youki Kudoh (*Snow Fallen on Cedars*) as Pumpkin; and Thomas Ikeda as Mr. Bekku, the geisha dresser.

Directed by Rob Marshall (*Chicago*, *Ammie*) and produced by Lucy Fisher, Douglas Wick and Steven Spielberg, this adaptation of the bestselling book delivers mystery and romance and features an all-star international cast.

Marshall created a replica of a geisha town for filming, and had a 20th-century Japanese village built in a field in Ventura, Calif. With the help of choreographer John DeLuca, he meticulously choreographed Japanese dance sequences and sumo wrestling matches with roaring, full-stadium crowds.

DeLuca brings us the most riveting moments in this remarkable film, the Spring Dance. He took his inspiration for the dance solo from an 8-inch photo he once saw, showing a black lacquered platform sandal worn by a courtesan in a Kabuki play.

Zhang is absolutely breathtaking, lovely and captivating in the title role. Costume Designer Colleen Atwood, who won an Oscar for her work in *Chicago*, created the most stunning and colorful kimonos.



Huneycutt

Cinematographer Dion Beebe (also of fame) brings this alluring tale of a secret war screen with skillful artistry and creates one of the most visually breathtaking and gorgeous films ever.

Along with the beautiful music score by Williams, expertly executed by Yo-Yo Ma and Stems, you will be transported into the Far East thoroughly entertained.

Geisha means artist — a woman skilled in such as dancing, singing, music and cooking. There is a rich artistic and social fabric to geisha culture.

Memoirs of a Geisha is a tale, complete with political and forbidden romance.

Now playing at Camp Lejeune

GLORY ROAD (PG)

Glory Road is the inspiring of the underdog Texas Western team, with history's first all-black lineup of players, who took by storm and won the 1966 national championship title.

Josh Lucas (*Stealth*, *Secondhand Lions*) stars as "Bear" Haskins, the passionate,

college basketball coach of Texas Western University of Texas at El Paso, who changed the history of basketball with his team. He took a bunch of African-American players who were rarely seen in Southern college sports and molded them into a national championship team. Note: Don't miss the history of basketball with his team in this time of innocence.

Derek Luke (*Friday Night Lights*, *Antwone Fisher*) stars as star point guard Bobby Joe Hill.

Also starring as some of the talented players are Damaine Radcliffe as Willie "Scoops" Cage; Brooks as Harry Flourney and Schin A. Slatkin.

Costarring are Austin Nichols (*Wimbledon*), Evan Jones (*Jarhead*), Deschanel (*Spider-Man 2*) as Haskins' wife, and Tim Allen (*National Treasure*, *The Matchmaker*) as Adolph Rupp, the University of Kentucky coach.

First-time director James Gartner, with Jerry Bruckheimer and Walt Disney studios, has created a movie that deals with racial issues and sports.

Great performances, a gripping plot and sports storyline make *Glory Road* a feel-good movie to watch.

Glory Road is a true story filled with love and drama; a great sports movie in the class of *Rookie*, *Miracle* and *Remember the Titans*.

Now playing in Jacksonville.

Ms. Huneycutt is the Public Affairs Assistant for the Base Public Affairs Office. ■

Observe Black History Month with Montford Point, Tuskegee

Cpl. Patrick McHugh
LCTV-10

It's time for another week of programming on Lejeune Cable Television-10. Before we get into this week's shows, I want to update you on a little housecleaning we are doing. At LCTV-10, we are undergoing some major changes and will adjust our programming to bring you a bigger, better LCTV-10.

During this time, *The Morning Report* will be on standby, but will be back shortly. We have rescheduled *The Morning Report* to air live at 9 a.m., but will keep the regularly scheduled times in the afternoon and evenings.

In order to bring you more programming and local news from the area, we will no longer air shows from the Pentagon Channel. However, you can tune in at any time to keep up on area happenings with our message screens and tickers. We keep you up-to-date on sports, national, international, business and entertainment news.

This month we will focus on Black History Month, bringing you two great educational videos.

June 25, 1941, Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802, establishing the fair employment practice to begin to erase discrimination in the Armed Forces.

In 1942, Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African-Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African-Americans, from all

states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps in Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego. Instead, black Marines were segregated — experiencing basic training at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune. Approximately 20,000 black Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949. Join us as we get more in-depth with *The Montford Point Marines*.



McHugh

Moving on to our second video, we'll show you *The Face Behind The File* in *Tuskegee Airmen*. This video shows the extent of racial segregation in the United States during World War II.

Because of that segregation, black military aviators — nearly 1,000 in all — were not trained with white aviators, but rather, at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Ala.

Approximately 450 black fighter pilots who trained at the facility served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy with the 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group.

One of the first five graduates of the flight training was Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who later became the first black general in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of Lt. general.

Be sure to tune in to learn more about the *Tuskegee Airmen*.

Also this week, LCTV-10 brings you an in-depth look at the University of Michigan.

U-M is one of the top ranked public universities in the country, offering undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engi-

neering, kinesiology, natural resources and the environment, nursing and pharmacy.

The university also offers a wide range of graduate programs, ranging from dentistry to law, public policy to music.

Located in beautiful Ann Arbor, Mich., University of Michigan offers world-renowned faculty members, a beautiful campus and the opportunity to watch a football game in the largest college stadium in the country.

Be sure to tune in and *Consider! Michigan*.

That concludes our programming for this week, but now it's time to ask you a question.

Do you ever find yourself bored, lonely, or just feeling like you're ready for a new experience? LCTV-10's got the solution to your problems! Our crew of friendly, motivated people will teach you all aspects of the television broadcasting and video production field.

Have you ever dreamed of being in the spotlight or learning the "magic behind the scenes," operating state-of-the-art studio cameras and audio equipment? Working at the television station is a great opportunity for anyone interested in getting into the TV business, searching for a resumé booster, or simply looking to have a good time and make new friends.

LCTV-10 welcomes anyone interested in volunteering. For more information, call 451-1239 or e-mail Cpl. Patrick McHugh at patrick.m.mchugh@usmc.mil.

And remember, if your unit needs information displayed on LCTV-10, please log on to www.lejeune.usmc.mil.

Editors Note: On Wednesdays only, following the *Morning Report*, LCTV-10 will air a *Logistics Modernization* video. ■

LCTV-10 | Guide

8:30 a.m.	Montford Point Marines
9 a.m.	Faulklands Part 1
10:30 a.m.	Faulklands Part 2
11:30 a.m.	The Face Behind the File: Tuskegee Airmen
Noon	Army Newswatch
12:30 p.m.	Consider! Michigan
1 p.m.	Travel View ... Maryland
1:30 p.m.	Montford Point Marines
2 p.m.	Faulklands Part 1
3:30 p.m.	Faulklands Part 2
4:30 p.m.	The Face Behind the File: Tuskegee Airmen
5 p.m.	Army Newswatch
5:30 p.m.	Consider! Michigan
6 p.m.	Travel View ... Maryland
6:30 p.m.	Montford Point Marines
7 p.m.	Faulklands Part 1
8:30 p.m.	Faulklands Part 2
9:30 p.m.	The Face Behind the File: Tuskegee Airmen
10 p.m.	Army Newswatch
10:30 p.m.	Consider! Michigan
11 p.m.	Travel View ... Maryland
11:30 p.m.	Montford Point Marines
midnight	Faulklands Part 1
1:30 a.m.	Faulklands Part 2
2:30 a.m.	The Face Behind the File: Tuskegee Airmen
3 a.m.	Army Newswatch

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FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG-13
Friday 6:30 p.m.

THE FAMILY STONE PG-13
Friday 9:15 p.m.

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 PG
Saturday 3:30 p.m.

FIREWALL PG-13
Saturday 6:30 p.m.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA PG
Sunday 3:30 p.m.

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA PG-13
Sunday 6:30 p.m.

IN GOOD COMPANY PG-13
Monday 11 a.m.

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HOSTEL R 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:20	ANNAPOLIS PG-13 1:30 4:15 7:10 9:45
CAPOTE R 1:55 4:30 7:15 9:45	NANNY MCPHEE PG 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:30
SOMETHING NEW! PG-13 1:45 4:15 7:00 9:30	BIG MAMA'S HOUSE 2 PG-13 1:45 4:30 7:00 9:30
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA PG 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50 Saturday 1:00 4:00 9:50	HOODWINKED PG 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
GOOD NIGHT, GOOD LUCK PG 1:50 4:20 7:20 9:30	FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG-13 1:30 3:45 7:20 9:35
WALK THE LINE PG-13 1:00 7:00	NEW WORLD PG-13 1:00 3:45 7:00 9:45
BIG MAMA'S HOUSE 2 PG-13 3:45 9:30	LAST HOLIDAY PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:15 9:20
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION R 1:10 1:30 2:35 4:15 5:55 7:20 8:20 9:30	SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW OF "BELOW" PG-13 Saturday February 4 6 7 8 9 PM
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS PG-13 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40 No Discount Tickets Until Feb. 27	SPECIAL OPEN CAPTION FILM OF "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE" PG Sat. Feb. 2 8 PM. 1:30, 6:45, 10:00, 12:30 PM

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Movie gossip, rumors & more

Hear Kong roar

Who says King Kong gets no respect? Indeed, with the Cinema Audio Society announces its awards Feb. 25, Peter Jackson and Co. just might proudly accept what is to be one of the only statues the movie will receive this year. *Kong* is up against *Crash*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Walk the Line* and *War of the Worlds* (another big-budget, big-hopes buster that has failed to nab many accolades) for the Society's Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing honor.

Wind star gets stamped

Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American actress to win an Academy Award, gets the official stamp of approval from the U.S. Postal Service with, well, a stamp. The piece of paper unveiled recently in Beverly Hills and available nationwide features the *Gone With the Wind* star wearing the blue dress she wore when she accepted her 1940 Best Supporting Actress Oscar for starring as Scarlett O'Hara's maid in the 1939 Civil War drama. McDaniel, who died in 1952, is the 29th African-American woman honored in the USPS's Black Heritage stamp series.

This column is brought to you by www.movies.com

Digital Valentine carries messages of love, support for troops abroad

Jennifer Moore
Carolina Living staff writer

Valentine's Day, a few groups are up to send a massive message of love to service members overseas. The program — dubbed Operation: Love Our Troops — aims to set a new world record by creating the largest digital Valentine's Day card ever. Supporters can log on to the Valentine's Day website at www.operationloveourtroops.org to send a message of love or support for a service member or service member's family.

Marie Smith, president of Soldiers' Angels, said she hopes Operation: Love Our Troops will remind service members deployed abroad that they are not forgotten.

During times of war and during times of peace, sailors and Marines will serve overseas, she said.

Smith is the daughter of a sailor and said she sends out numerous letters to "any sailor, any soldier or any Marine." "The responses are always so positive," she said, with service members saying it is nice to know someone cares.

"I want to bring awareness to the public," Smith said. Soldiers' Angels is one of many military support groups which allows members of the public to "adopt" a service member and send letters and care packages to that service member while he or she is deployed.

The group is based in Pasadena, Calif., and began in 2003 when Patti Patton-Bader, great grandniece of Gen. George Patton had a son stationed in Iraq.

She realized her care packages could not support his entire company, and sought out volunteers to help her send support and love to the men and women serving in the United States.

Library of Life contacted Soldiers' Angels about the Valentine's Day effort, and Smith said she liked the idea of hav-

ing another way of letting our military know that they are not forgotten."

During Christmas and the holiday season, many people call Soldiers' Angels and other organizations, offering support to deployed troops.

"Then, after the holidays, all this great help kind of wanes down," she said. "We always strive to keep that awareness up."

The digital valentine held more than 7,000 messages by Monday and will continue to grow. Supporters can write a message of any length or record a voice message by telephone.

Messages range from personal: "My oggily woggily bear, I love you sooo much" to general: "Be assured that your sacrifices are recognized, and I (for one), am grateful."

Service members can visit the Web site to see the messages, and Library of Life will send messages addressed to specific service members Feb. 14.

Library of Life and Soldiers' Angels are non-profit organizations.

For more information about Operation: Love Our Troops, visit www.operationloveourtroops.org.

Pets of the week Adopt a Pet

Save a life, these little fellows really need you



Autumn is a female long-haired cat looking for a new home. She is curious and lively. ID # 102227



Lily is a female Weimaraner mixed-breed dog who is very friendly. Meet her today. ID # 102258



Peaches is a male yellow lab looking for a fun new home. He'd love to play with a new friend. ID # 102166



Tiger is a male cat who likes ruling the roost — he is friendly with people, but not other animals. ID # 102269

Photos by Ena Bravo

The Onslow County Animal Shelter is open Monday - Thursday from noon to 7 p.m. Friday from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, 1 to 3 p.m.

To see more pictures of pets available for adoption, visit www.co.onslow.nc.us/animal_control/main/pet_of_the_week.htm

For more information, call the Onslow County Animal Shelter at 455-0182

Chocolate Festival hits the spot

Jennifer Moore
Carolina Living staff writer

Want something sweet? The Carolina Chocolate Festival begins Friday night, when Chef Charles Park will lead a feast of chocolate at Shepard's Point, 913 Arendell St. in Beaufort.

The dinner will raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Carteret County. Tickets are \$100 for a couple, \$75 for an individual.

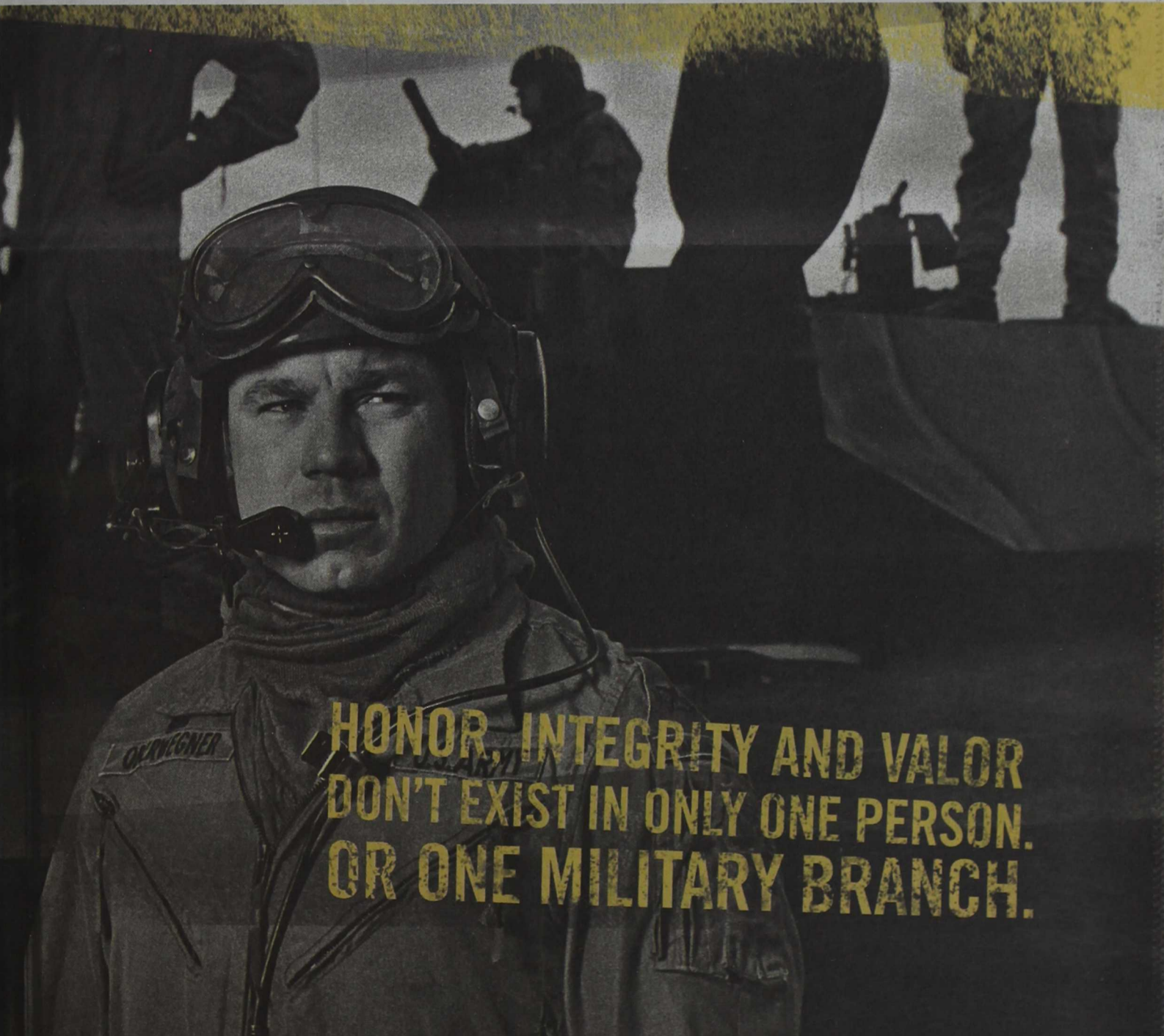
Fourth Annual Chocolate Festival is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Crystal Civic Center.

With 30 delectable displays, the event is a chocoholic's dream. Adult tickets are \$8, which includes a \$1 coupon for purchases inside the festival. Tickets are \$2 for children 5 to 12 years old, and children younger than 5 are admitted free.

The festival will also feature a champagne and truffles party Saturday at 1 p.m. at the civic center. Tickets are \$35 and include admission to the main festival.

If eating chocolate isn't enough, visitors can have a chocolate-dipped spa experience Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. Tickets for the Chocolate Spa Night are \$35.

Proceeds from the chocolate festival will go to the Salvation Army and victims of the 2005 hurricanes, the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program and other charities. For more information, visit www.carolinachocolatefestival.com.



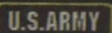
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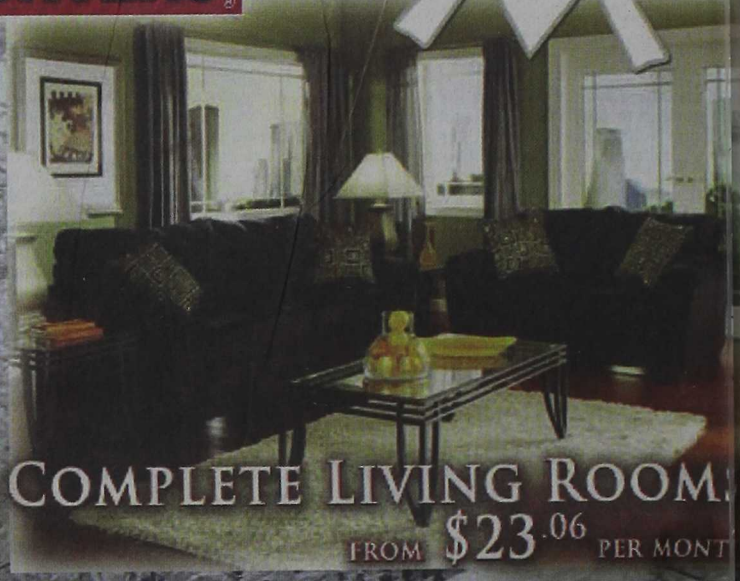
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New insurance benefit covers traumatic injuries

Kelley and Alice
Military Spouse: The Silent Warrior

What is TSGLI? I know my and has SGLI, but what is the difference between the two? Confused about SGLI

We are glad you asked this question, as TSGLI is a brand-new insurance benefit offered by the Service Members Group Insurance Program. The new coverage took effect Dec. 1 and the TSGLI for Traumatic Injury Protection. This new coverage will be appreciated by those individuals who have served one of the great sacrifices of a military family: loved one becoming seriously injured during the Global War on Terrorism. TSGLI is designed to ensure that families of wounded service members who experience lengthy hospital stays for their injuries will not have the financial difficulties as they struggle to be with their loved one during recovery. As you can imagine, if your loved one was seriously injured and

being treated at a medical facility far from your home and family, the expenses of staying in hotels and eating on location could get expensive.

This coverage provides the financial means to assist the service member and their family through the injury recovery period.

What is so great about this program is that the claims for those who are entitled to TSGLI are to be completed expeditiously and accurately, so the service member will receive payments as quickly as possible.

We know you are thinking the words "claim" and "quickly" can't possibly flow together in one sentence, but this program was created with urgency in mind.

The creators of the plan recognized the need for financial support when a Marine or sailor is injured. Often, the arrival of family members at the service member's bedside is crucial in the first couple days of recovery.

Because the program is so new,

we are sure there will be some kinks that need to be worked out, but for the majority of those in need, this financial assistance will help considerably.

A vast amount of injuries qualify for TSGLI. Each eligible traumatic injury has been identified and equated to receive a certain amount, up to \$100,000.

If you would like more detailed information about the injuries covered, the amount of coverage or for claim instructions, call the Office of Service Member's Group Life Insurance at (800) 419-1473, or osgli.claims@prudential.com.

Even if a service member was seriously injured before Dec. 1, he or she could still qualify for TSGLI.

Most service-related injuries that occurred while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom will be given retroactive status.

To answer your question directly: If your husband is covered with

SGLI, he is automatically covered with TSGLI.

Unless a service member makes a valid election to decline SGLI coverage, he or she is covered.

We hope by adequately informing you of the rights and benefits under TSGLI, we can reach all military families in need of this benefit.

Knowledge is priceless - or, in this case, it is worth a considerable amount!

Spread the word to those you know who need it.

Kelley and Alice are mentors for Marine Corps Community Service's L.I.N.K.S., which was

designed to educate Marine wives about the Marine Corps in a fun, interactive, non-rank environment. Kelley has been a Marine wife for four years and Alice for nine years. They have both had babies in the military, experienced deployment, moved to new duty stations and educated themselves on the military lifestyle.

E-mail them at mccslelinks@usmc-mccs.org to ask them a question about military life.



Kelley



Alice

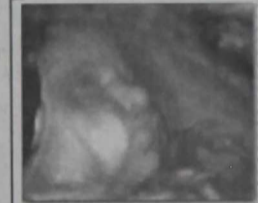
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CRIMINALS

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Working with the Young Marines in his career because he was able to drill and do other things as a lance corporal would not have otherwise been able to.

His skills also helped him when he worked as a drill instructor on Parris Island. He also enjoys working with the Young Marines during his time off because "you get the fruits of your labor," he said. One of the Young Marines who graduated from high school last year is in Marine recruit training now. Another is at the

program accepts children 8 years old to 17 years old, from civilian and military parents.

Camp Lejeune Young Marines also is open for Marines to help with the program, specifically sergeants and below. The group meets for two and a half hours each week and occasionally on the weekends. Volunteers who serve three years are eligible for the outstanding volunteer service award.

Working with the Young Marines is fun, according to Cpl. Edward Torres, platoon commander of the 2nd Platoon for Camp Lejeune Young Marines. A Marine Corps Integrated Management System clerk at the 2nd Force Reconnaissance Battalion, he said. "It's worth it." For more information about the Camp Lejeune Young Marines, call 577-1777. ■



Jennifer Moore

Camp Lejeune: Army Sgt. Elizabeth Schmitt, right, glares at the new Young Marines recruits while Adam Carey, a staff sergeant in the program, conducts roll call.

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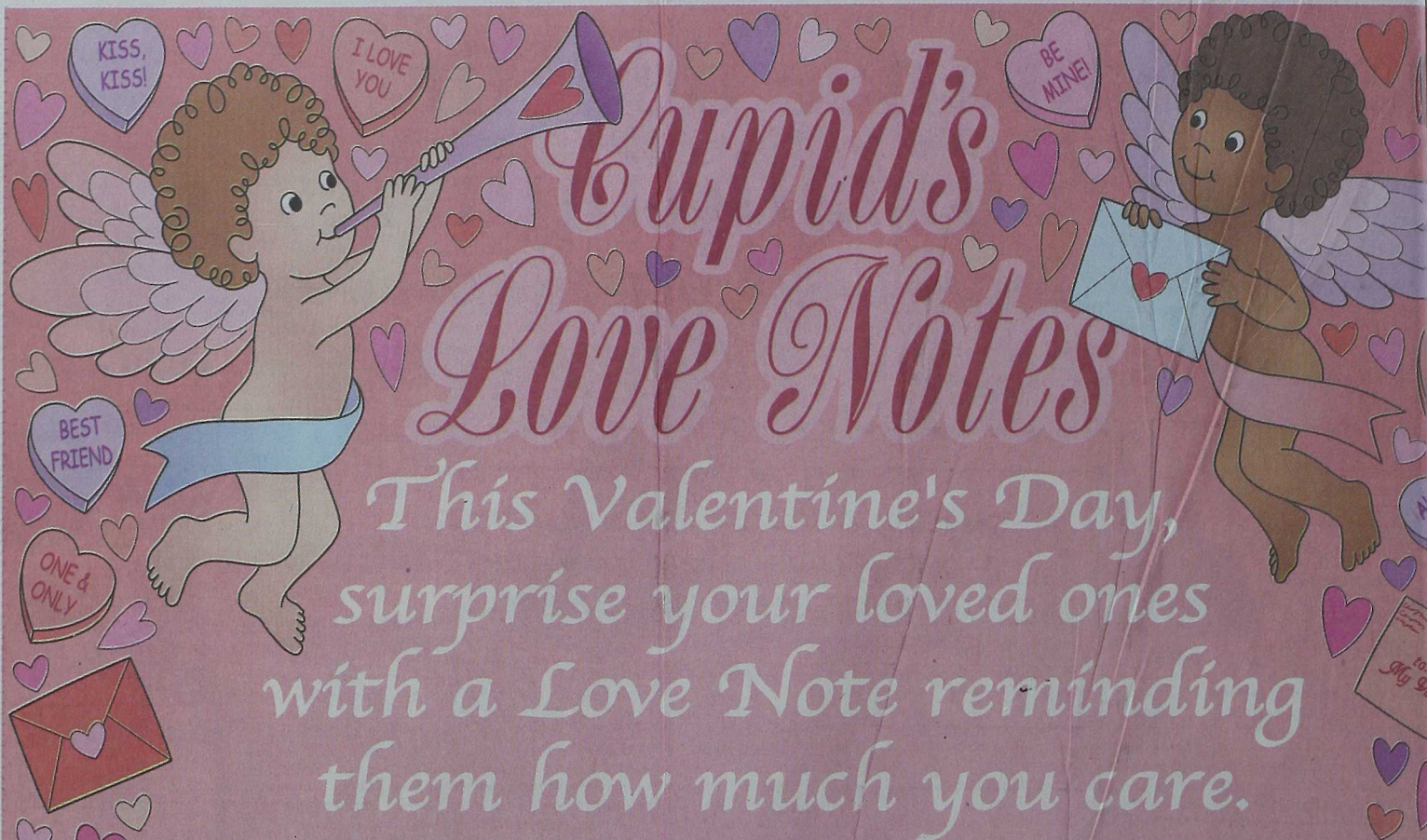
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The Globe
1122 Henderson Dr.
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You may also drop off your form and payment at this address.



Ashley,
 I thank God for you every day. Love Always,
 Tim

Mom,
 Thank you for your love and support. I hope you have a Happy Valentine's Day!
 Steve

Jessica,
 You have been there through so many deployments throughout these years. I am so grateful for your friendship.
 Victoria

Rick,
 We have been married for 30 years. I am so thankful that you have been such a loving husband and father.
 Laura

Entry Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____
 Size of Love Note: _____
 Message: _____

The Globe, 1122 Henderson Dr, Jacksonville NC 28540
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 Entries will be published on Thursday, February 9.

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