

The Globe

Memorial honors fallen brothers | 9A

Comics

Marine brings super heroes to Iraq | 8A



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News Watch

Iraqi forces
Law praise for
stage rescue
Defense Department officials praised Iraq's security forces for yesterday's rescue of U.S. journalist Richard Butler, who was kidnapped in February. The operation showed great initiative and demonstrated the increasing capability of Iraqi security forces to take on the terrorists and extremists who are trying to derail the progress in Iraq," said Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell at a news conference. Butler was kidnapped while on assignment as a cameraman in Basra. The Iraqi soldiers acted on a tip and raided a house outside of Basra where Butler was held. One terrorist was captured. The [Iraqi] military still has a long way to go, however it is slowly but surely becoming a professional fighting force," Morrell said. In the news conference, Morrell fielded questions ranging from troop presence in Afghanistan to April 15's car bombings in Iraq and how long it will take to select a new commander for U.S. Central Command. Morrell called the bombings "tragic," but said he does not believe violence is getting worse in Iraq. "All the statistics, everything that we monitor, in terms of violence, civilian deaths, sectarian killings, all the trend lines are pointing down. They have been for months. They continue to trend that way," Morrell said. "At this point I have heard no one in any position of authority pronounce any concern the progress we have made security-wise is unraveling or trending in the wrong direction." Morrell also fielded questions about how long the U.S. will have a troop presence in Afghanistan. A commander there was reported to have said that U.S. troops will serve there until at least 2011. To read the complete story visit www.defenselink.mil.

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit hones skills at Fort Pickett



Lance Cpl. Joseph Lourenco clears a room during a portion of the urban assault course at Fort Pickett, Va., April 4. The live-fire training was held to prepare Battalion Landing Team 2/6's Company E for their upcoming deployment this fall. To read more on the 26th MEU, turn to page 7A. Cpl. Jason D. Mills

Local Iraqi court now in session

Cpl. Billy Hall
Regimental Combat Team 5

AL QA'IM, Iraq — Having a fully-functional legal system is essential in maintaining stability and justice. With the gradual return of stability to al-Qa'im, Iraq, justice now has the opportunity to take a seat at the forefront of society.

The Court of al-Qa'im in Husaybah, Iraq, is undergoing a transformation intended to ensure the law of the land stands to protect its people.

With the assistance of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, the recently revamped Court of al-Qa'im is now running more efficiently and effectively.

"The goal was to make the courthouse more professional and modernized by bringing them electricity, internet, furniture, copy machines and filing cabinets," said Capt. Korvin Kraics, staff judge advocate for 3rd Bn., 2nd Marines. "Everything was written by hand. They had no filing system. They had nothing that we in a modern legal system are used to."

The courthouse has a 13-person staff, including five judges and they have been steadily increasing their workload with all the recent improvements.

"Now we're able to get much more work done," said Judge Ausamah Abd Alrazak. "The Coalition forces have helped us more than

anyone else."

A year ago, the Court of al-Qa'im was barely operational, but now the local judges and staff are ready to reclaim order in the region.

"Most of all, I think we're seeing improvements from a time a year ago when the judges weren't willing to work," said Kraics.

An additional focus of the renovations was to allow the judges the ability to see cases in a functioning courtroom.

"The judges were working cases out of their own office; so literally, the citizens were piled outside of the offices waiting to be the next in line," said Kraics. "What we wanted to do was give them a public forum, so the judges could use their offices as a private working area."

The dedication of the local judges in their pursuit of justice will be the determining factor for the future of the region's legal system.

"My hope is that rule of law dictates," said Kraics. "It is natural in the Iraqi system to allow tribalism to take over and I'm hoping that the power of law will begin to shape the local environment."

As the pieces of the puzzle come together for the Court of al-Qa'im, the local judges seem ready to stand their ground against corruption and injustice.

"I have high hopes for the future," said Alrazak. "I am a judge and I will continue to do my duty. To me, a judge is the shadow of God here on Earth."

Marines, IPs work together

Cpl. Erik Villagran
Regimental Combat Team 5

HIT, Iraq — Marines know it's important to get Iraqi forces involved in stopping insurgent activity. Recently, they showed that knowledge by getting Iraqi policemen involved in their patrol.

Marines with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, recently conducted a patrol through Hit, Iraq, and along the way picked up assistance from the Iraqi police.

"We were doing a security patrol," said Lance Cpl. Ray E. Alvarado, 21, a rifleman with Co. I from Anaheim, Calif. "We hooked up with the IP to integrate them into our squad so they could do their part in keeping Hit safe."

Marines arrived at the IP station here and arranged for four policemen to join them as part of their patrol through the city. Within minutes, Iraqi policemen were ready to join them.

"They seemed, pretty excited," said Lance Cpl. Austin L. Barnhill, 23, a rifleman with Co. I, from Riverside, Calif. "None of them were disappointed or had a bad attitude about going out with us."

The Iraqi policemen impressed Marines in the squad during the patrol.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Barnes, 21, a team leader with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, patrols through the city of Hit, Iraq, April 9. Cpl. Erik Villagran

They took it very seriously and performed well, Barnhill said.

"They were very cooperative," Alvarado said. "Because of the language barrier and us not having an interpreter, we couldn't direct them as well as we liked, but it looked like they knew what they were doing."

As the patrol ended, Marines were invited to stay and interact with the policemen before they carried on with the rest of their patrol. They obliged and spent around 30 minutes attempting to communicate with the policemen through broken English. They spent the better part of the half hour showing policemen their gear or joking with them and also took photos with some of the policemen.

Marines know that patrols with the Iraqi Security Forces not only help build trust between them,

but show the people of Hit that Marines are attempting to work with the local security.

"I think patrols like this make it easier on us because the locals see that we want to work with the local police," Barnhill said. "They see we're not doing our own thing, but that it's a group effort to maintain security."

The Marines said they were satisfied with how the patrol turned out and how willing the policemen were to participate in their patrol, and they were so pleased with the patrol that they agreed to return to the police station again to conduct more integrated patrols.

"The patrol was very smooth," Barnhill said. "We didn't run into any problems. There was a language barrier, but we managed to get through that and have a good patrol."

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Intramural softball

The crack of the bat, the sharp smell of freshly-conditioned leather and the comforting sound of friendly dugout chatter. Intramural softball aboard Camp Lejeune has begun. Read about the first game on 1B.



Welcome home

Behind each welcome home sign which lines the chain-link fences of Highway 24, there is a story. Read about one of them on 1D.



Civilian Law Enforcement coming

When driving on base you're expecting to be stopped by a military police officer for proof of identification. Read about who is going to be helping check that identification in the future on 1C.



MAN on the street

What do you do to stretch your money?

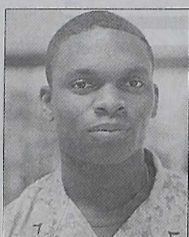
April is Financial Awareness Month. Go to the MCCA Web site www.mccalejeune.com/health/healthfinance.html to learn more.



"Each paycheck, I put a certain amount of money into my savings account and try not to spend it. I also try to only spend a little money each paycheck."

Lance Cpl. Jessica Roybal
8 Comm. Field Radio Operator
Los Alamos, NM

"I try to put more money into my savings and only buy things I need. I eat at the chowhall to save money as well."



Pfc. Josh Williams
8 Comm. Field Radio Operator
Courland, Va

"I try to spend less money. I spend more time at home with my son or we go to the park. I try not to drive that often because gas is so expensive."



Sgt. Nicole Dehoyos
Marine Corps Installations East, Protocol
Noncommissioned Officer
Houston

"I add up my outgoing money and my incoming money and make sure you have higher incoming than outgoing. To compensate for the high gas prices, I have two cars and I drive the one that gets better gas mileage."

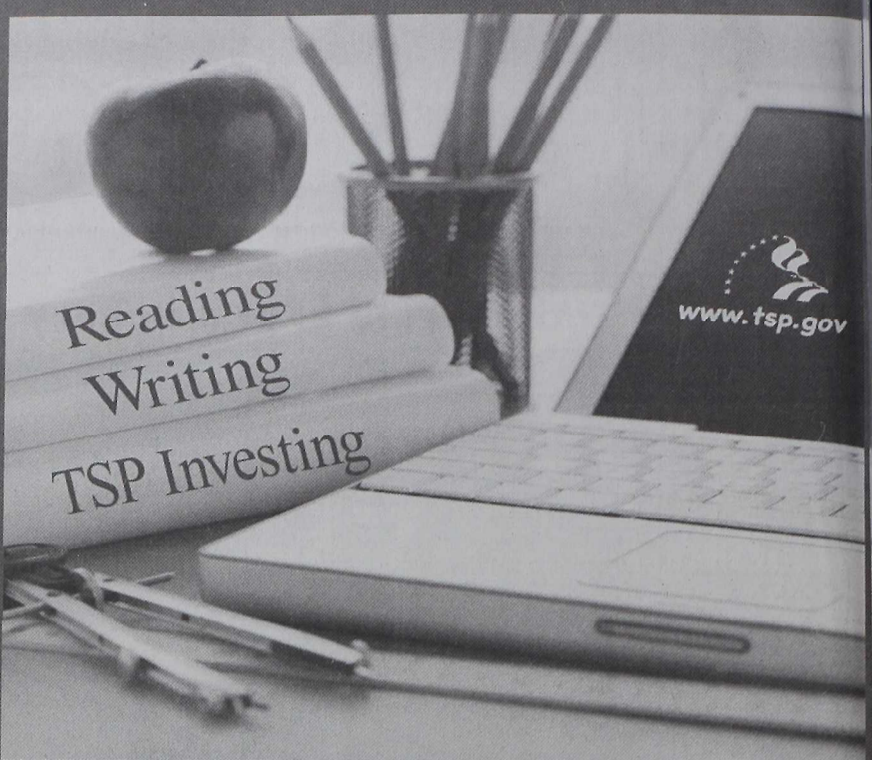


John Clifton
Hadnot Point "C" Store
Bellefontaine, Ohio

"I have allotments for all of my bills set up and I am starting up a savings account with my bank. I live in the barracks so it makes it easier."



Lance Cpl. Robert Agu
1/8, Infantryman
Oklahoma City, Okla.



April is Financial Literacy Month

Stripes was right to let service branches disagree in print

Dave Mazzarella
Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes' letters page has been spiced by a couple of interlocking controversies lately. The umbrella theme: interservice pride — or rivalry, if you prefer. In the end, Stripes itself came in for criticism.

It all started with a letter from Army Sgt. Erik Wacker, from Illesheim, Germany. He was irked by an American Forces Network television spot about the Air Force's Airman's Creed, specifically a passage in the creed that states, "I will never leave a fallen airman behind." To the sergeant, that sounded as if the Air Force was being too stingy with its rescue operations. He argued that the Army's Soldier's Creed is less restrictive. It says, "I will never leave a fallen comrade."

Three Air Force members quickly wrote in to assure readers that all members of their service — among them Jolly Greens, U.S. Air Force combat search and rescue helicopter crews and para-rescue — would rescue anyone. Air Force Staff Sgt. Travis Peterson, writing from Iraq, said that "not only do the members of the Air Force take care of their own by not leaving anyone behind, we also will not allow any of our sister services or civilians to be left

behind either."

Striking the same note, Tech. Sgt. Marlene Booth of Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, wrote: "We are all soldiers no matter what branch of the service we are in." That set off another argument. Two retired Marines wrote to remind readers: Never call a Marine a soldier. Staff Sgt. Richard Rutledge (retired) from Camp Taji, Iraq, said: "Calling a Marine a soldier is telling that Marine he is not Marine material and is an insult to that Marine."

That statement smacked of an "elitist mentality," wrote an Air Force man from Kabul, Afghanistan, Senior Master Sgt. Robert B. Jackson. "When your loyalty to your service exceeds your loyalty to your nation, it's time to evaluate your priorities," he said.

Then came the knock on Stripes — from letter writer 1st Lt. Carlos De Castro Pretelt, from Camp Speicher, Iraq. He took the Air Force members' side, accusing the retired Marines of "insulting or demeaning" other services. But he reserved his strongest criticism for Stripes. He said the paper was irresponsible for having printed "such blatant exclamations." He said if a better letters page was desired, "please choose different subjects" and "do not let your

newspaper become the idiots by

subjects for their letters page course; the letter writers do. the lieutenant's criticism points a question worth examining: Why do the editors decide to edit or not a letter?

Brooks E. Bowers, who together with the opinion pages of Stripes in Washington, criticized the paper's letters policy, which is occasionally. It says: "We reserve the right to edit for taste, clarity and length. ... If a letter is potentially libelous, slanderous or appears to have been written with malice or harmful intent, it will be edited or rejected." The paper says it will allow letters that are "valid without malice."

Bowers' assessment of the basis of the creeds and of the soldiers' Marine titles: "To me, the initial letters met this criterion of 'valid without malice' and he [Pretelt] has assurance that Stripes will uphold those standards."

I would have come to the same conclusion, chiefly because the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps members who wrote in were outspoken in their views but stopped short of flinging real mud.

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Why we serve: Marine captain talks about Corps pride

Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Marine Capt. John Sand knows what it takes to be a good college student: go to class, read the book and take good notes. And, for him, first spend four years in the Marine Corps.

This realization came after Sand spent a few years as a not-so-good college student after high school, he said.

"I had a 0.8 grade point average for the semester when I left school. That's very hard to do. I pretty much flunked everything and didn't really care much about school," Sand said.

Sand grew up in the small Illinois town of Ottawa. Both of his parents were career educators; his father was a counselor and his mother a grade-school teacher. After high school graduation in 1988, Sand accepted an Army ROTC scholarship to attend college. But after a few years, both Sand and his parents accepted that he needed to do something different.

"I flushed a scholarship away, basically. I wasn't paying for school. I was having a little too much fun. I

needed to get some discipline and more control over where I wanted to go," Sand said.

His father, once in the Navy, suggested the Marines and Sand agreed.

In 1991, Sand enlisted as a Morse code interceptor. He said he did indeed learn self-discipline and that he enjoyed his tour, which took him twice to Somalia on deployments. But Sand had promised his parents that at the end of his enlistment he would return to college.

He made good on that promise and returned to study criminal justice.

"It was a complete 180 from my experience the first time at college. Four years in the Marine Corps made coming back to college kind of ... simple," Sand said.

The former dropout then made the dean's list and played tennis competitively. In the 60 credit hours he amassed to finish his degree, Sand received nearly perfect grades.

Still, he missed the Corps, Sand said. After graduation, he returned to the Marines as an officer.

"When I enlisted in 1991, did I think I'd be doing this in 2008? No, I didn't, but it

led me down that road, and I really enjoy it," Sand said.

Now Sand, as part of the Defense Department's "Why We Serve" public-outreach program, is traveling the country, telling his story to community, business and veterans group audiences and at other gatherings. Fresh from a deployment to Iraq, Sand said he hopes to convey the efforts of service members there.

"It's important what we're doing in the Global War on Terrorism. I think it's important that they hear it from the service member's perspective," Sand said. "In Iraq, there's a lot more to it than guns and tanks. There's a lot of humanitarian assistance. There's a lot of nation building. We definitely do a lot of work for the Iraqi people, alongside the Iraqi people, to better their lives."

Sand served as an artillery battery commander in Iraq, returning in October. His battery provided a regimental combat team with artillery fire in support of operations in and around Fallujah. They also performed nonstandard missions such as providing security for explosives technicians who cleared the roads

of bombs. His battery went on more than 500 combat patrols.

"I like to talk about my Marines a lot. I'm very proud of what my Marines did in Iraq and I think that there's a really good story there," Sand said. "It's hard work over there. A lot of times they are out for long patrols. They don't get a lot of sleep. They don't get a lot of time off. But they do their job, and they're proud of what they do."

During his tour, Sand said, he saw the tangible signs of progress.

"Things got better while we were there. When we initially showed up, we were shooting quite a bit. By the time we were leaving ... we might go a week or more without ever pulling the lanyard on a howitzer," Sand said. "If we're not shooting as much, to me that's a sign that things are better there."

As a father of three children, being around the Iraqi children sometimes made him homesick, but also served as reminder for why he was there, Sand said.

"Seeing the little kids playing soccer, it's like

The Globe

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24th MEU sharpens sights in Afghanistan

Cpl. Alex C. Guerra
24th MEU

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit tested the new Target Location, Designation, Hand-off System, called the StrikeLink, outside friendly lines here, April 12. This marks the first time a Marine Expeditionary Unit, and only the second time ever a unit has used this device in a combat environment.

StrikeLink is a digital targeting system, which provides forward air controllers, forward operators and reconnaissance teams the ability to observe and quickly acquire battlefield targets for indirect fire and close air support in almost any weather condition.

"The Marine Corps determined they needed a digital fire-support capability," said Maj. Brian J. Newbold, liaison officer, Marine Corps Systems Command. "SYSCOM hired Stauder Technologies to develop and build the system. [For more than a year] it went through testing and safety inspections. After waiting for it to be validated as a legitimate piece of gear, we are at the last step in the process — field testing."

The 24th MEU (along with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment) seemed ideal to receive and employ the system because of their upcoming combat operations in Afghanistan, said Maj. Philip A. Williams, air officer, 24th MEU, NATO-International Security Assistance Force.

Stauder Technologies dispatched technicians to Afghanistan to teach Marines about operation and maintenance of the system for use in upcoming missions.

"I want to see StrikeLink utilized by Marines as effectively and efficiently as it was designed to, which is to take out the enemy," said Jim J. Davey, training instructor, Stauder Technologies.

The hands-off system

allows observers and controllers to paint a better picture of the battlefield than the human eye alone ever allowed.

Compared to what was used in the past, it's night and day," said Capt. Ryan B. Ward, AV-8B weapons tactics instructor, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (Reinforced), 24th MEU, International Security Assistance Force. "In the past, we were using binoculars, compasses and maps to plot out a target and then send the coordinates via radio. That method really hasn't changed since the Vietnam War."

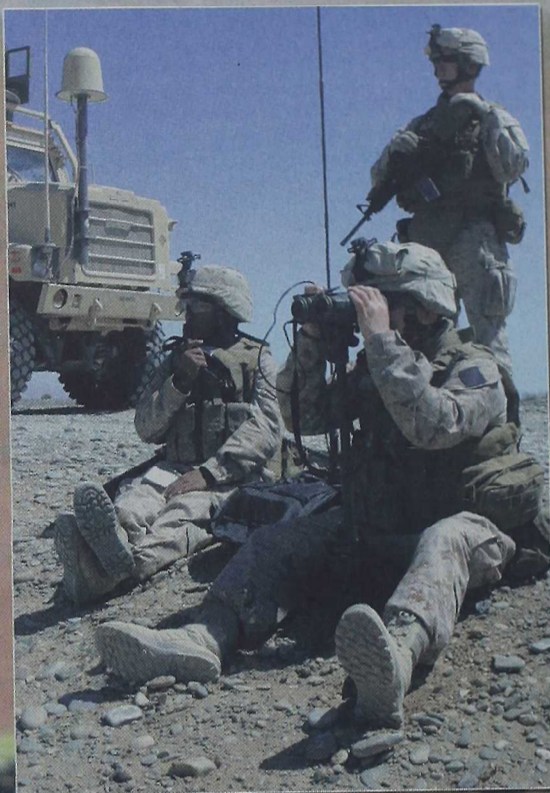
"Now, we use digital binoculars that give the distance and range of a target and transmits that information through StrikeLink directly to aircraft or artillery batteries," said Newbold, an AV-8B Harrier pilot by trade. "The system completely reduces human error and time."

In addition to being an efficient communication tool, the system is able to side-step some of the enemy's countermeasures. "In an environment where we could have an enemy trying to jam our signal or listen into our transmission, this process is all done in a manner where the enemy can't listen to what we are doing and has no idea of what is going on," said Ward.

Among the host of new features the StrikeLink offers, scout observers never lose sight of what matters most.

"This piece of gear is to support the ground troops," Staff Sgt. David S. Baldock, artillery liaison chief, Headquarters Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/6, 24th MEU, NATO-ISAF. "When an infantryman is taking fire, he needs that support fast. We're not talking about minutes to get that support; we're talking seconds he wants that support."

"Anytime I can save minutes on the battlefield, it is lives saved," he said.



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Planning the needs of the Corps, no small task

Cpl. Jason D. Mills
26th MEU Public Affairs

Alexander the Great said, "My logisticians are a humorless lot. They know if my campaign fails, they're the first ones I'll slay."

Centuries later, warfare has changed, but the needs of troops have proven logistics is as important as ever. Moving approximately 2000 Marines and sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Fort Picket, Va., is no small task, but it is an important one.

Oftentimes people take for granted some of the things they use on a daily basis such as food, water, vehicles, toilet paper, computers and even electricity. This is the job of logisticians; they make sure everything required to effectively run a unit is where it needs to be when it needs to be there. That is no small task and one that requires practice.

"You get better by training," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael Tellis, the MEU's logistics chief. The Fort Picket exercise is the first unit-wide training evolution for the 26th MEU since it formed Feb. 15. The MEU will train throughout the summer before its deployment this fall.

"We are here to train as a (Marine Air Ground Task Force)," Tellis said, "to come together as a command element, as a battalion landing team, as a combat logistics battalion and as an air combat element. We need to come here and work out our kinks and establish working relationships with each other and we have to practice and we have to get it right and get it right - here, so when we head out on this upcoming deployment for real, we'll have our game faces on and have our stuff together. So, essentially, we come here to practice, so we can execute for the float."

According to Tellis, without this in-

dispensable training, it would be impossible to adequately train and prepare for missions the MEU could be called upon to execute.

"Some of the headaches that you tend to go through, especially when you take tactical vehicles, and you convoy up - you have vehicles that break down," he said. "You have Marines, or you have bus operators that take wrong turns or people who wander away. Some of those little things cause a big ripple."

Although some of these exercises are somewhat redundant, they are important practice for the real thing, Tellis said, because without it, it would be impossible to know whether or not the logistical needs of the MAGTF were being met.

"This is important practice for the logistical Marines here because we have to be able to ensure that the MAGTF, as a whole, is getting the support that it needs" he said. "If you don't practice it here you'll get it wrong out there and the bottom line is that, that's our mission, to provide support to the MAGTF. Ensuring that the Battalion Landing Team has its fuel, has its chow, make sure that the vehicles are up and running, make sure that the maintenance is getting done. We work through these issues here, practice it here, so when it comes time to do this for real if we get called into some foreign country to have to do this, we know what we're doing. We go through the muscle memory of practicing this stuff, rehearsing, training and training, so when we get there we're not stumbling over ourselves."

During their time here some of the logisticians will be ensuring everyone's vehicles are being maintained and others will be providing maintenance support,

See TASK, 9A

Dozens train to react environmental threat

Lance Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa, Japan — Members from the Coast Guard's National Strike Force, Pacific Strike Team, travel to Marine Corps bases in Japan once a year to train volunteers as first responders during emergencies — particularly emergencies involving chemical hazards.

The course addresses the basics of safety and health issues encountered in hazardous waste spills and the possible effects on the environment. Other elements of the course include the wear and use of personal protective equipment, laws and regulations relating to hazardous materials management, handling and decontamination.

The team, which specializes in reducing the effects of chemical and oil spills and natural disasters, taught two courses March 17-21 and 24-28 and two one-day refresher courses March 31 and April 1 for volunteers who had taken the course before.

The team trains military and civilian personnel to make Marine Corps Bases Japan more self-sufficient in dealing with chemical emergencies, said Coast Guard Ensign Chris M. Kimrey, training officer for the course. Graduates of the course can be called upon to respond if an incident ever occurs here.



A student in the Waste Operators and Emergency Response Course monitors a 300-foot perimeter around a mock spill site on Camp Foster March 21. Sgt. Rudolfo Torres

The first trained personnel to arrive at the scene of an incident are firefighters, but it is important to have trained volunteers to augment the first responders, Kimrey said.

In the final two days of training, students suited up in fully encapsulated protective suits. The suits protect wearers from harmful elements while providing an oxygen supply.

The students spent many hours learning how to function in the suits. Instructors had them throw footballs and Frisbees to one another to help them become comfortable in the suits. Students put their knowledge and training to the test during an exercise that tested their ability to respond to an emergency situation. They dealt with a hazardous materials incident. Kimrey said the training helped establish a mental force capable of assisting emergency response agencies on Okinawa in hazardous materials scenarios.

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All Heroes at Home. 2008 Military Spouse Award Nominees will receive an invitation to the Luncheon Awards Ceremony in the next few weeks. Watch for the invitation in your mailbox and please reply promptly.

Nominee	Nominator	Nominee	Nominator
Balacy, Gay Therese Leilani Muniz	Rivera, Eric Muniz	McCaleb, Sandra E.	McCaleb, Robert E.
Bartels, Joyce R	Bartels, EE	McCarroll, Sarah	McCarroll, Mark
Beck, Melissa	Beck, Kyle	Migliori, LeAnne	Light, Carmen
Betancourt, Esther	Betancourt, Gary	Miller, Brooke	Minton, Jennifer
Bibona, LeighAnn	Bibona, Andrew J	Miller, LaTisha	Smalls, Natasha
Boyd, Tammy	Boyd, Scott J	Miller, LaTisha	Miller, LaTisha
Brady, Michelle	Brady	Mitchell, Shauna	Miller, Kate
Bristow, Andrew Warren, JR.	Bristow, Robin	Monette, Cheryl	Cline, Matt
Brown, Kathleen	Bown, Zachary	Moore, Dahanae	Thompson, Ana
Butts, Crysta	Butts, Matthew	Moore, Susan	Davis, LaShell
Cano, Leigh Ann	Van Trump, Pamela	Mouton, Robin	Mouton, Kennet
Chartier, Rebecca M.	Chartier, Jim	Neff, Suzanne	Jahr, Bettina
Clendenning, Ruby B.	Clendenning, Carl	Nelson, Lauren	Nelson, Thomas M.
Corry, Nichole	Corry, Michael	Nichols, Shannon	Crossley, Carolyn
Craft, Lisa	Dollar, Nikkia	Notine, Patricia	Notine, James
Crossley, Carolyn	Baker, Peggy	Parker, Joan	Parker, T.M.
Dunaway, Amy	Dunaway, Anthony	Perreault-Ormoski, Ashley L.	Ormoski, Thomas
Eddleman, Samantha	Eddleman, James	Popp, Katrina	Donahue, Sherri
English, Amanda Ruth	English, Daniel T.	Rawlings, Angela M.	Rawlins III, Glendon
Ford, Maïlda C.	McCaleb, Robert E. III	Rhoads, Lorrie	Allen, Amy
Gossin, Anne	Gossin, Andrew T	Robinson, Janice	Robinson, Byron
Gutierrez, Joe	Roland, Cassidy	Roland, Cassad	Gutierrez, Joe
Hammond-Wilonsky, Holly	Wilonsky, Mike	Rollins, Bonny Betsy-Ross	Rollins, Nathan
Harris, Jerusha	Silvester, Michelle	Sangster, Colleen	Green, Brandie
Hesson, Stacy	Hesson, Scott	Secoy, Heather	Chestnut, Pam
Howard, Laurie Lee	Howard, Scott M.	Seybert, Emily Kathleen	Seybert, Christopher Mictel
Lattimore, Star	Hargrove, Chastity/Kelsey, Elizabeth	Sokoloski, Jane	Collins, Adele
Leandre, Michel J. JR.	Leandre, Stacey L.	Stanton, Manda	Stanton, Christopherr
Leifer, Jodie	Trent, Bethanie	Strommer, Shamanece	Campbell, Rebekah
Logan, Alexis	Dunlap, Rhonda	Suggs, Julia Jolly	Suggs, James R. Jr.
Lucas, Sara Dawn	Lucas, Anthony	Thacker, Vicki	Haga, Geri
Luna, Rebecca	Luna, Louis	Todd, Jada	Todd, David L.
Lusk, Michelle	Green, Linda M.	Valdez, Alisha	Osborne, Dora
Magner, Jocelyn	Magner, Stephen	Wiley, Anne-Marie	Wiley, Patrick
Marlow, Allison	Wehrle, Rachelle	Wright, Jennifer	Wright, Justin

Thank you! and Congratulations on being nominated.

Mobile Maintenance Team goes on the road to assist reservists

Lt. Caleb Eames
 Affairs Officer, MCLB Albany

ALBANY, Ga. — The Mobile Maintenance Team dedicated to support Marine Forces Reserve out of Maintenance Center Albany Monday in support of a new mission and later capabilities. This Proof of Principle run, providing preventive maintenance support reserve sites in Hialeah, St. Palm Beach, Tampa, and Orlando, Fla., could lead to Logistics Command supporting Marine Forces Reserve nation-wide, if it determined that this program would be beneficial. "It is all about posturing maintenance capability far forward as we can in order to best support our Marines. We're providing forward deployed maintenance support to our Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. We're pushing our innovative maintenance capability forward in support of II Marine Expeditionary Force, and now Maintenance Center Albany Mobile is on the move. This is a win for the Marines and consistent with Marine Corps LOGCOM's strategic vision of providing added capability and value to the Marines we support," Col. Daniel J. Gillan, MCA commander, commented.

"We are looking forward to this PoP. We are going to make sure that it is not only good for the Marine Corps and Marine Forces Reserve, but more importantly good for the individual Marine on the ground," Capt. Shawn Daley, MARFORRES G-4 Maintenance Officer noted. "Maintenance is normally performed by minimally staffed inspector/instructors and their reserve Marine counterparts. With only a limited number of training days a year, the amount of time eliminated on performing routine preventative maintenance will allow the Marines to focus on training, fault isolation, and trouble-shooting, thus providing more highly skilled mechanics to the total force and extending the total life cycle of our equipment," Daley continued.

The PoP will determine if it is cost effective and mission enhancing to have the maintainers come from Maintenance Center Albany and perform maintenance on equipment at the reserve sites.

"After you return home from a deployment, your gear is going to be there, either fixed or with corrective maintenance problems identified, waiting for you. You can go right back to training, without any down time needed," Daley commented, regarding the Marine Reservists who would benefit from the program.

In January, Daley identified a requirement for MARFORRES to increase the maintenance capability for Marine Forces Reserve. He solicited LOGCOM, based at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, to assist MARFORRES in finding solutions for maintenance on their ground equipment. The team will do maintenance on both wheeled and tracked vehicles.

Once MARFORRES requirements were identified, Daley and his maintenance branch worked closely with CWO-3 Eric Gilmer, head of the MMT, and his team to develop a mobile maintenance capability solution. Gilmer and his team then developed a product in-house to meet that need. "And in only a couple months we're ready to go on the road. We started from

scratch with things here, we fixed it up, purchased some stuff and built it ourselves," Gilmer observed. His crew outfitted two semi trucks with a parts container and mobile tool room, then built a mobile lubrication delivery system, and finally provided two vans for passenger transportation.

MARFORRES asked that the maintenance team be transparent to the unit, meaning it be a seamless event that doesn't impact the reservists training time.

"It's because there's very little wrench-turning time at the reserve site. So they are asking us to bring our



Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Kratz, Mobile Maintenance Team Leader, introduces his team to the local media here Friday. The team traveled Monday to the first of four reserve sites to assist with maintenance of ground combat equipment.
 Cynthia Johnson

expertise to their situation," said Gilmer. "They are asking us to assist them, to take that rock out of their pack,

to add to their capabilities." "The reservists need to do other things besides turn wrenches on their ve-

hicles, and this will help phenomenally. The MMT will get in there while they are out doing their training, and they'll come back to see their vehicles fixed." Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Kratz, MMT Leader, pointed out.

MARFORRES, LOGCOM, and MCA worked closely together to make this happen. "We briefed the requirements for this team to LOGCOM in January, and together we've come up with solution sets on how to make this happen in just a few months. This takes nothing away from the Marines, it only enhances MARFORRES capabilities," Daley remarked.

With the MMT are two Marines and 10 civilian-Marines who are committed to enhancing the reservist's ability to focus more on warfighting and less on turning wrenches.

"I'm ready to go, I think it's going to be a wonderful help for the reserve units," Cary Murray, heavy mobile mechanic said. "I'm proud to support the Marines. That's what I'm on this team for, to do my part as a civilian to support them."

After the PoP, if they find it proves cost effective, LOGCOM may provide multiple MMTs across the U.S.

See RESERVISTS, 9A

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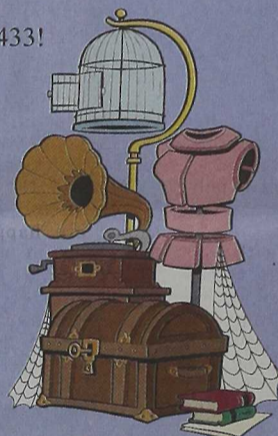
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Corpsman Nicole M. Beckwith, a corpsman with Combat Logistics Battalion-26, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, tends to a simulated casualty during a mass casualty evacuation exercise at Fort Pickett, Va. April 12. The unit's training is the overall MEU exercise in the six-month pre-deployment training cycle. Cpl. Aaron J. Rock

26th MEU Marines conduct mass-casualty exercise

L. Aaron Rock
MEU Public Affairs

FORT PICKETT, Va. Marines and sailors from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Combat Logistics Battalion-26, Amphibious Landing Team 3 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 worked to perfect their mass casualty evacuation operation skills here over a three-day period. The Marines and Navy corpsmen worked on perfecting their execution of a complex process with series of increasingly difficult scenarios which tested them in every aspect of the exercise. From taking off at the mass casualty scene and treating the simulated casualties, to evacuating them involved back to the launch point, every aspect of the evolution was monitored and critiqued by instructors from the II Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group. A mass casualty happens when the amount of wounded overwhelms the amount of medical care immediately available. This can occur in a number of circumstances MEU might encounter, such as natural disasters, accidents, combat or terrorist attacks. Hospitalman Michael J. Price, SOTG instructor in charge of the training, said the mass casualty evacuation scenario is an essential part of the training MEUs must assimilate.

"It's important because part of a MEU's mission is to respond to a [mass casualty scenario]; this gives them the best ability to respond to, plan and execute a mission," he said. Price explained that the total mission package involves much more than just getting off of a helicopter and treating the wounded. "This deals with not only the response of the corpsmen but also the security of the landing zone and site," he said, adding, "They also need to be able to respond not only to U.S. personnel, but also civilians and insurgents who may be injured." Price said mass casualty scenarios are often a part of other missions with which the MEU may be tasked. "Going by real-world events, mass casualty situations are the norm," he said, adding that often the mass casualties are in conjunction with other missions like a noncombatant evacuation operation or a humanitarian assistance operation. Lt. Col. John Giltz, commanding officer of CLB-26, said the mass casualty scenario is important because, "This is one of those things we could be called on to do; we have to be able to respond quickly, assess the casualties and return them safely home." Giltz explained that being proficient in this mission is especially important for the morale of units who may be subject to attack, ambush or casualties.

"They have to know we can get to a scene of a mass casualty, recover them and get them back to the rear," he said. The MEU's mission makes it especially well-suited to being able to do these types of missions explained Giltz. "Most of the things a MEU does are because bad things are happening in bad places, or we have to do good things for people who happen to be in bad situation," he said. In addition, he said because the MEU is a complete Marine Air Ground Task Force, it can plan, carry out and complete these types of missions without any outside assistance. Giltz said that happens because "there is not a single mission that a single element [of the MEU] can do; they require the cooperation of all the elements and the assistance of the Navy." The 26th MEU is at Fort Pickett to do the first MEU-wide training exercise of the six-month pre-deployment training period. This means the units inside the MEU are working to build unit cohesion with team-building exercises. The MEU begins complex training evolutions, such as mass casualty exercises, noncombatant evacuation operations and humanitarian assistance operations so early in the training cycle because many of the pieces inside the elements came together recently. This means they need

time to build the team and personal skills necessary to perform missions smoothly, said Giltz. "I have gotten 200 Marines new to the CLB in the last seven weeks and we have to get to know each other and learn to work together," he said. CWO 3 Todd McAllister, maintenance officer for CLB-26 and marshaling area coordinating officer for the CLB-26 mass casualty team, agreed it is essential to start training for these types of missions at the beginning of the training cycle. "There are so many Marines from different [military occupational specialties] involved in this and it is such a complex operation that you have to start training for it now," he said. Giltz explained that throughout the course of the training period Marines will assimilate all the skills necessary for the upcoming deployment. "Simple things are hard right now, but the hard things will become simple by the end of the pre-deployment training period," he said. The training at Fort Pickett is only the first step in the pre-deployment training process, which will take the disparate elements of the MEU and form them into a cohesive, versatile unit able to quickly respond to any mission it may be tasked with when it leaves on its upcoming, scheduled deployment in late fall.



Staff Sgt. Erick A. Horsley, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion armory, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, inspects an MK-11 sniper rifle. Armors who work in the 2nd MSOB armory work with weapons they would not usually be exposed to outside of U.S. Special Operations Command units. Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson

SOF weapons go hard Corps

Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson
MARSOC Public Affairs

Inside the confines of the armory of 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command are a group of dedicated Marines, working hard to learn the intricacies and maintenance of the Special Operations Forces specific weapons used by their fellow Marines and sailors of the battalion. These weapons are used by service members who deploy to conduct special operations missions requiring exceptional amount of skill and precision. The missions are often highly sensitive and of great strategic importance. The weapons used by these special operators are the tools they trust to save each other on the battlefield. The armors of 2nd MSOB know this all too well and remind themselves of it daily, as they work to keep these weapons in the best condition possible. "Those weapons are their primary line of defense," said Staff Sgt. Erick A. Horsley, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the 2nd MSOB armory. "If you don't have them running, the operators have no way to fight back." When armors enter the Marine Corps, they do their initial military occupational specialty training at the small arms repair course in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Once armors come to 2nd MSOB and other U.S. Special Operations Command units, they have the ability to attend the Joint Armors Course in Crane, Ind., where they spend two weeks learning about the SOF weapons they will be charged with maintaining. "It was an enjoyable course because you get a lot of knowledge from very good instructors," said Horsley. "I got to learn about weapons I had never even seen before." According to Horsley, he frequently holds presentations on weapons in the armory to keep his Marines knowledgeable and up to date on new additions. The presentations also serve to refresh their knowledge of equipment they have used for a longer time. Much of the presentations and course material which Horsley used while attending the Joint Armors Course is now used to help teach his Marines. "We're here to keep those weapons running so they can save their life or somebody else's life while in battle," said Horsley. Upon getting orders to come to 2nd MSOB, Horsley said he was excited that he would be able to work with weapons that were exclusive to USSOCOM units, and to learn more about his MOS. "I have always liked working with weapons," explained Horsley. "I like working with SOF weapons because they're new and genuinely fun to work with." According to Horsley, he is proud of the Marines he works with and the important work that they do. The weapons they employ require a particular amount of care and knowledge, and he is confident the Marines who work in the armory have the skills and dedication to ensure the operators will get the tools they need to be successful on the battlefield. Active-duty Marines and sailors interested in joining MARSOC can contact the Marine Special Operations School at 451-0099/3349 (DSN 750-3349/3123).

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Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152's new aircraft makes refueling efficient

Lance Cpl. Ryan Wicks
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan — To ensure readiness, Marines from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 conducted a fixed wing aerial refuel training mission April 7 off the west coast of Okinawa with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242.

VMGR-152, also known as the Sumos, utilized the newest KC-130J in its inventory during the three hour mission, refueling two F/A-18D Hornets from VMFA(AW)-242.

Normally the mission would have taken a little longer because the older model planes weren't as easy to maneuver.

"The new plane is state of the art," said Maj. Constantinos Koutsoukos, an aircraft commander with VMGR-152. "All we do is give it the information that we have gathered, and it basically takes over. It is a fully automated plane. I could even sit there with my arms crossed the whole mission and have hardly have to do anything."

As advanced as the system is, however, there is still much to be done beforehand by pilots and crew to ensure a successful mission.

Crews must first gather detailed data such as weather conditions, cargo and crew weight, fuel re-

quirements and mission timeline, Koutsoukos said. Then the execution phase begins by preparing the aircraft's internal operating system.

For the April 7 mission, Koutsoukos, pilot 1st Lt. Joseph Leno and crew chief Master Sgt. Ian Kubicki took all the data they gathered and entered it into the plane's computer. The plane's operating system used that information to adjust in-flight settings according to the variables such as weight and weather.

Besides having a better "brain," the KC-130J also has more brawn, according to Koutsoukos.

"We can go higher and move faster than before, which makes it much easier for the jets to refuel and allows them to get back to the fight faster." And getting the fighters back in the fight is the "bread and butter" of the squadron, he said.

"The majority of our missions in battle consist of aerial refueling, so we must master that skill," he said.

Lenox also emphasized the importance of efficient refueling missions.

"In Iraq, for example, the jets provide air support for troops on the ground," he said. "If (the jets) had to go back to base every time they ran low on gas, it would waste time, fuel and potentially lives."

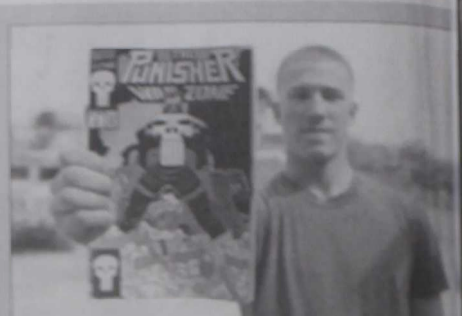
With that type of focus, personnel of VMGR-152 conducted the refueling exercise as if it were the real thing.



An F/A-18D Hornet from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 is refueled by the state of the art KC-130J April 7. The refueling was part of a training mission conducted by Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152. Lance Cpl. Ryan Wicks

"Everything was run as if we were in Iraq and fighter planes needed refueling support," Koutsoukos said. "The only difference is that we did not wear any [personal] protective gear or armor."

The exercise concluded with two Hornets topped off with fuel and a Sumo crew more confident than ever in their aircraft's ability to save lives on the battlefield.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Barnes, 21, a team leader from Fairbanks, Ala., assigned to Company I, Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, holds out one of the comic books that Marines pass out to Iraqi children at Camp Iraq. Cpl. Erik Villagran

Marine brings super heroes to Iraq

Cpl. Erik Villagran
Regimental Combat Team 5

HIT, Iraq — Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Barnes is a Marine who grew up reading comic books and idolizing the super heroes in them. His passion for comics continues, and he's sharing it with the children of Hit, Iraq.

Barnes, 21, a team leader with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, from Fairbanks, Alaska, and the Marines in his team have been passing out comics to lucky kids during their foot patrols through the city. The mission, which they've labeled Operation Bringing Iraq Super Heroes, wouldn't have been possible without Barnes' family.

"My uncle and mom

sent me a bunch of comic books because I like them," Barnes said. "They bought them in bulk and there's a bunch I don't like, so I figured I'd pass them out to the kids. Who doesn't like comic books?"

Early into their operation, Marines have found a child who doesn't want a comic. When they patrol through the city, kids approach them and are quickly drawn to the colorful covers of the comics. They take the books without hesitation.

"At first they were what the comics are because it isn't candy," said Lance Cpl. Miguel F. Alvarez, 20, a rifleman from La Habra, Calif. "Can they look at the pictures?"

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Memorial honors fallen brothers

Eric C. Schwartz
Marine Division

Family, friends, loved ones and fellow service members paid respect to their fallen fellow service members during the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 memorial service held here, April 11.

Commanders from 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Air Wing, 1st Marine Logistics Group and Army's 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division spoke to families, friends and fellow service members about their fallen loved ones' bravery.

"These warriors we have lost are special people," said the division's commanding general, Brig. Gen. W. E. Gaskin.

The memories of the fallen remained fresh in the hearts and minds of those present.

"They will not be forgotten and still serve as an inspiration to us all," said Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the division's deputy commanding general.

Navy Capt. Michael Langston, the division chaplain, said although they served in a time of conflict, these men and women died for peace and not for war.

"Peacemaking is a divine work," Langston said. "They were active participants of peace in a country of conflict. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are the children of God."

These men and women represented their separate branches respectfully but fought as one common cause, to strive for peace.

"They were a part of the Marine Corps legacy that has always answered our nation's call and now they stand with God," said Langston.



Helmets rest on the butt-stock of M16A4 service rifles, adorned with identification tags of every II Marine Expeditionary Force (IIMEF) service member killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. Marines, soldiers, and sailors paid respect to their fallen fellow service members during the IIMEF (IIMEF) memorial service held here, April 11. Cpl. Erik C. Schwartz

OES, from 8A

...gh, they get excited." ...nd that is exactly the reaction ...es wanted. He hands out comic ...s so the kids could have some- ...g to hold on to. They still hand ...ndy, but the kids seem to enjoy ...comics just as much, if not more. ...think they're a little better than ...ly because they actually can ...p it to look (again)," said Barnes. ...ey'll be able to look at it and re- ...mber the Marine who gave it to ...m."

Marines in Barnes' team said they

agree with the idea of giving the kids something to look at for a long time. They know the children can't read the books, but will still enjoy flipping through the pages.

"I think it's cool to give them stuff like this," Alvarez said. "I know they don't all have televisions to see cartoons, so we give them something to look at. Since the pages are cartoons, you know they are going to like them."

Occasionally, after Marines handed a kid a comic book, the child's parents called their child over to see what Marines had handed them. This didn't

bother Barnes because he had already taken precautions prior to handing out the comics. "We look through the comics to make sure there is nothing (offensive to) their culture in them," Barnes said.

Barnes' efforts have illustrated a little about his character and his willingness to bring joy to Iraqi children.

"It's great that he's not selfish," Alvarez said. "He gives something to kids who have nothing just so they can be happy."

And now, children in Hit, like Barnes once did, may dream of growing up to become super heroes.

TASK, from 4A

if needed, to the MAGTF, along with ensuring everyone who needs a special vehicle license gets one, so the CLB, BLT and the ACE have the required drives they need to support their missions.

"I'm the maintenance management chief for the command element, which means all the readiness issues, as far as, if we have a weapons system go down or if we have a truck go down, whatever it may be, it really impacts on the logistics side of the house," said Sgt. James Gilliam. "It's a lot of moving parts; you actually get to see everything come

together as one."

While working in logistics Gilliam said that he has learned how imperative it is that even the smallest detail is accounted for. "You actually see how much one piece of gear can mean, especially weapons systems," he said.

"If you don't have logistics then you can't fight, you can't train, you can't do anything. If we are providing timely support to the MEU as a whole then the MEU can train and become more lethal war-fighters. The less they have to think about our job the more they can concentrate on getting stronger at theirs; there should never be any doubt about your logistical support."

RIDE, from 2A

...ow, I miss spending the time with ...y kids," Sand said. "On the other ...nd, it makes you feel like we're do- ...g something good over there. The ...miles, the little conversations — ...r kicking a ball around, that makes ...u feel good that day."

Sand said he also hopes to convey that service members are typical people, Sand said.

"Military people are your average people," he said. We do a lot of the same things. I'm a husband. I'm a father. I'm also a Marine."

In fact, his family is a big part of

why he continues to serve in the Marine Corps, Sand said.

"That's very important to me. I want them to grow up in a country where they (continue to) have the freedoms that we enjoy," Sand said. "And so I'm willing to serve to ensure that they grow up in a place where they don't have to worry. I want to ensure that they have a good childhood experience and continue to reap the benefits of the country that we live in."

Sand continues his service also because of the sense of camaraderie he feels for his fellow service members and the sacrifices of those who have fought before him.

"I think that's a big deal. You keep doing it because the guy next to you is counting on you," the captain said.

He is in awe for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country, Sand said.

"It's just amazing to think that I'm part of that organization that would have somebody of that character. That makes you want to stay," he said.

"I serve because I'm proud to wear the uniform. I'm proud to be a Marine, and I want to get that message out there — that it's a very honorable service and that we're proud to serve the American people," Sand said. "That's why I do what I do."

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Slow Sports Club

The Onslow Sports Club will hold its regular monthly meeting April 17 at the Jacksonville Country Club. The guest speaker will be Aiden Hiney, mens soccer coach at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. For more information, call Greg Cooper at 455-3752.

European Cross Country 10K

The Marine Corps Grand Prix Series continues with the Camp Devil Dog European Cross Country 10K Trail/Mud Run and Healthy Heart Walk, scheduled April 17. The race is open to everyone who registers until start time. The challenging course begins and ends at Camp Devil Dog in Beaufort, N.C., located 10 miles south of the Marine Corps Air Station New River Main Gate on Hwy. 17. It is designed to test strength, stamina and endurance of beginners and elite athletes alike. Points will be awarded to all finishers competing in the Grand Prix Series — a variety of racing events spaced throughout the year. Individual awards will be given to top finishers in several age divisions for both men and women. For more information, call Grand Prix Series Coordinator Mike Marion at 451-092.

Fun for the Warriors

The third annual Run for the Warriors 10K, 5K and one-mile fun run has been scheduled for May 17. The event, sponsored by Hope for the Warriors, is a leg on the 2008 Marine Corps Grand Prix Series. For more information, call Amy Koury at 910-938-1817 or check out www.hopeforthewarriors.org.

Military Appreciation Night in Kinston

The Minor League Kinston Indians will show their appreciation for military personnel this season by extending free admission to active-duty, retired service members and their families at every home Wednesday game. At all other home games throughout the season, military members enjoy reserved seating for \$4. The Kinston Indians begin their 2008 Carolina League campaign Friday. For more information, call 252-527-9111 or go to their Web site at www.kinstonindians.com.

Baseball players sought

The Coastal Carolina Baseball Federation is open to players 19 years and older. Players and coaches are needed to fill out the Camp Lejeune team. For more information, call Christopher Smith at 252-622-4201 or e-mail him at gonehuntin@ec.rr.com.

Softball season starts with a bang

Story and photos
Jamie Cameron
Assistant managing editor

The crack of the bat, the sharp smell of freshly-conditioned leather and the comforting sound of friendly dugout chatter; there's no denying it — spring is back and with it, the intramural softball season has begun aboard Camp Lejeune.

Among the first slated games during Opening Night Monday, 2nd Marine Division's 9th Communications Battalion took the field against the Storm Chasers.

As is the case with most slow-pitch softball leagues across America, the game showcased plenty of offense and more than a few defensive gaffs. In the end, the Storm Chasers were able to hold off 2/9 by the score of 7-6.

In the top of the first inning, Kevin Weems got the Storm Chasers' offense going with his two-out double, which scored Elvin Ortega. Three more outfield errors allowed the Storm Chasers to collect four runs in the first.

The batters from 2/9 struck next in their half of the first. Patrick Mullally, the Storm Chasers' starting pitcher, had control problems early on and walked his first two batters. Warren Stevens, 2/9's flashy first baseman took advantage of the situation and ripped a one-out single to score Razy Molina. Chris Fritz, the Storm Chasers' first baseman, showed his range around the bag and got the out to end the inning.

In the second, the Storm Chasers scored a run when Ryan Webster scooted under the tag of 2/9 catcher Anthony Paulo. In their half of the bracket, 2/9 got things going with Paulo's single to put runners at the corners. Two infield errors later and 2/9 had cut the score to 5-4.

The Storm Chasers continued to chip away at the plate, bringing home a run on Keith Baker's one-out single and helped along by two walks issued by 2/9's Matthew Quinton.

2/9 climbed right back into the game, started off with Baron Fontanella's one-out double and a subsequent walk. The Storm Chasers limited the damage, thanks in large part to leftfielder John Paszkiet's terrific throw to the plate, which ended in a tag-out by catcher Brian Arndall.

With the score tied at six going into the fourth inning, the Storm Chasers got all the runs they needed with Hollis Versyp's RBI single.

Neither team scored in the final inning and a half and the Storm Chasers' thin lead held up for their first win of the 2008 season.

For more photos from the game, go online to www.camplejeuneglobe.com.

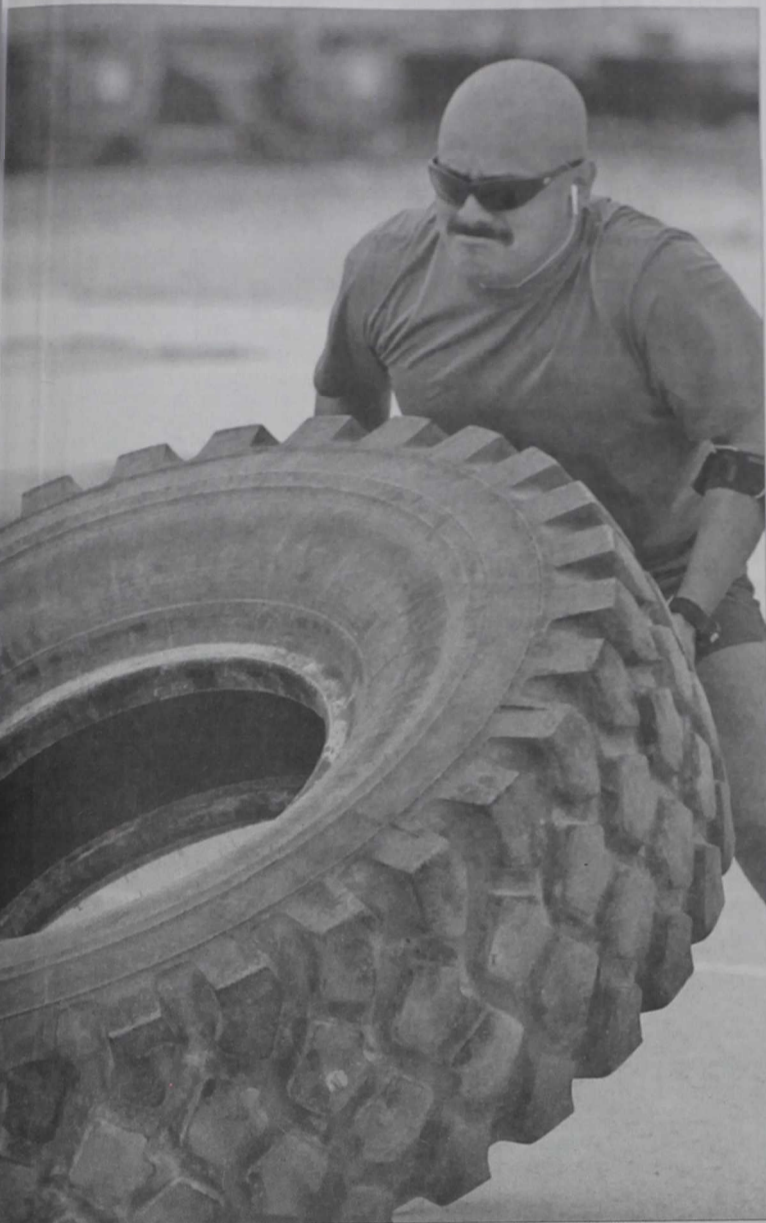


Pitcher Matthew Quinton of 2nd Marine Division's 9th Communications Battalion winds up an offering in Monday's intramural softball against the Storm Chasers.



Storm Chasers' catcher Brian Arndall takes his eye off the throw-in as Juan Toledo of 2nd Marine Division's 9th Communications Battalion crosses the plate. The Storm Chasers were able to hold off their first opponents of the season by the score of 7-6.

Power to persevere: Service members take on Endurance Challenge



Cpl. Billy Hall
Regimental Combat Team 5

AL QA'IM, Iraq — Enduring a deployment is a true testament to the physical and mental stamina innate in service members who have long taken pride in the completion of obstacles set before them.

Holding firm to this mentality, Marines, soldiers and sailors from Task Force 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 undertook the Endurance Challenge, hosted by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at Camp Al Qa'im, Iraq, March 30.

The crowd of service members arrived at the event willing to put it all on the line and conquer any obstacle in their path.

The timed course began with a set of suicide sprints and the completion of a high-step tire obstacle. Competitors were then required to carry a 100-pound weight 75 yards until they reached the 7-ton truck tire, in which they flipped roughly 10 times to reach the next station.

With the feeling of fatigue apparent in the faces of the challengers, they then took on a grueling 30 box jumps. The final portion of the course was to carry 15 sand bags to the finish line. Determined competitors chose to carry three at a time as they staggered to complete the event.

"It was definitely an eye-opener, both mentally and physically," said Anthony Inman, the engineer chief for Task Force 3rd Bn., 2nd Marines. "You use similar muscle groups from station to station, so you have to fight through the urge to stop."

After several competitors lumbered

through the course, a sandstorm crept over the horizon, but service members meet the adverse conditions as an added challenge.

"We were considering shutting down the event, but everyone was motivated to finish, so we pushed through it," said Bryan Bradford, an MWR coordinator. "You could barely see in front of you, but these guys were still going."

The event was the first of its kind for service members at Camp Al Qa'im.

"We promoted this event for a while because we knew [service members] would enjoy it," said Bradford. "We had done some speed and strength drills in the past, but we came up with the idea to link them together."

At day's end, most who accepted the Endurance Challenge were physically worn down, but their spirits were high.

"We got a good challenge out of it, and we were able to find out what our limits were," said Inman. "It was just a good opportunity to break out of the monotony of our normal routines and meet some new faces."

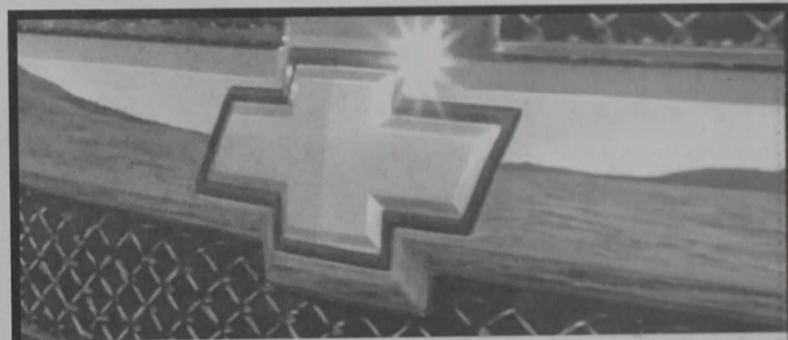
Having their fellow service members at their side cheering them on was an undeniable force in fighting through the fatigue.

"I think these types of events really help build camaraderie, especially when your buddies are pushing you on through the pain," said Bradford.

The fastest time for the course was by Adam Greene with a time of 5 minutes, 17 seconds.

As members of Task Force 3rd Bn., 2nd Marines proudly endure through their deployment to Iraq, they continue to find the power within to persevere through any new challenge.

Joel Rivas, a riverine with Rivron Squadron 2, Detachment 1, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, flips a 7-ton truck tire during the Endurance Challenge hosted by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at Camp Al Qa'im, Iraq, March 30. Cpl. Billy Hall



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Devilpups drop non-conference contest



Lejeune High School starting pitcher Mike Tagliabue was solid against the visiting White Oak High School Vikings' lineup. Lejeune made a late rally, but fell short in its bid to upset the division 3A Vikings.

Story and photos
Jamie Cameron
 Assistant managing editor

The Lejeune High School baseball team took on division 3A White Oak for the second time in a week Friday and still could not figure out a way to beat the Vikings.

Though the Devilpups lost 11-7, their furious five-run rally in the bottom of the seventh inning made the non-conference game exciting for the home players and fans.

Lejeune's starting pitcher Mike Tagliabue gave a good account of himself over seven innings, tallying three strikeouts and allowing four earned runs.

After letting the Vikings jump out to a 4-0 lead after three innings, the Devilpups got on the board, thanks to a one-out double by Drew Dubbs. Dubbs advanced to third on a fielder's choice and trotted home on a clutch single from Tagliabue.

The Devilpups had trouble putting together the hits they needed through the middle innings. Mikey Elkins' lead-off double in the second went for naught, as did D.J. Marshburn's one-out single in the fourth and Dubbs' second hit of the game — a one-out single in the fifth.

Trailing 8-1 going into the bottom of the sixth inning, the Devilpups' line-up started to stir. Elkins hit a single with one out, followed by Marshburn's nifty piece of hitting as he sat on an off-speed offering and collected his second hit of the game. With two men on, second baseman Angel Aranda hit a line drive down the third base line to score Elkins and cut the lead to six.

White Oak struck back in the top



Drew Dubbs is in perfect position to tag out a White Oak baserunner in Friday's non-conference match-up.

of the seventh with three runs of their own and appeared to be well on their way to an easy victory, but the Devilpups made them sweat it out all the way to the last out in the game.

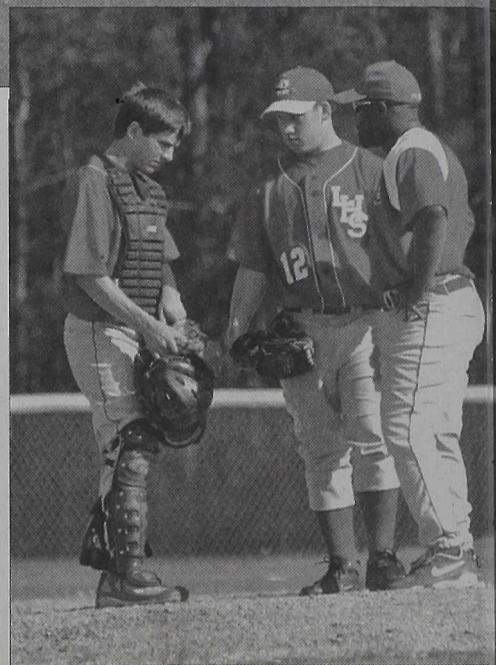
Dubbs continued to swing a hot bat, scorching a lead-off double. Sam Gallagher pushed the lead runner to third base with an infield hit. Gallagher quickly stole second to set the table for Tagliabue in his last at-bat. The Devilpup starter didn't disappoint, with a no-out single that

scored two to make the tally 11-4. Quinton Mason came to the plate with two men on and still no outs. The rangy shortstop drilled a pitch into centerfield, scoring two more.

The Devilpups scored one more run before White Oak was able to secure the final out and the game they were once in complete control of.

Lejeune's next match-up will be a home game against Topsail High School Friday at 4 p.m.

For more pictures from the game, go online to www.camplejeuneglobe.com.



Head coach Chad Fonville (right) talks to his pitcher, Mike Tagliabue (middle) and catcher, Drew Dubbs.

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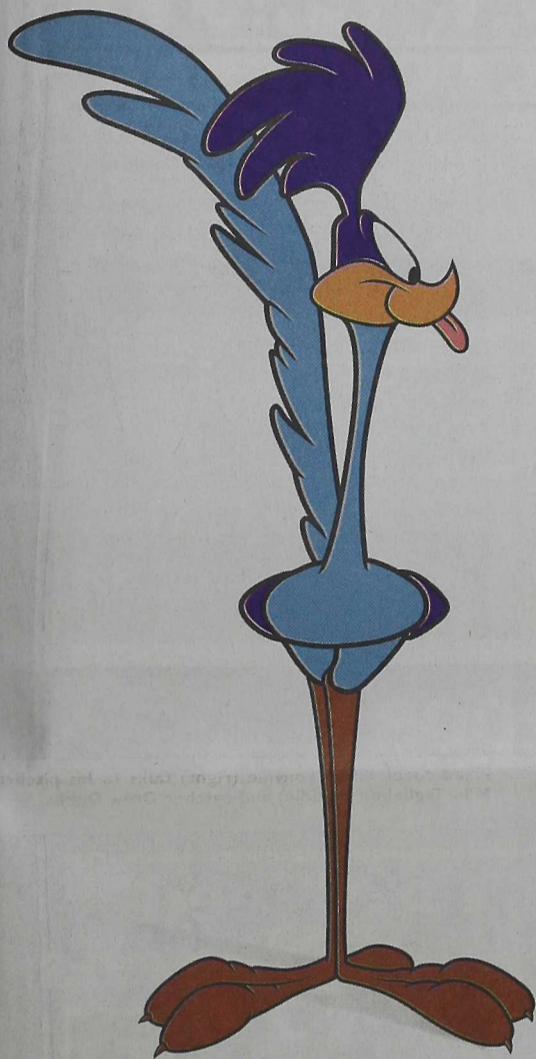
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U.S. should consider sitting out Beijing Olympics



In the Batter's Box
By Jamie Cameron

It is appropriate for sports fans to have an opinion on the upcoming Summer Olympic Games hosted by China. With a storyline of possible boycotts, terrorist plots and unhealthy levels of air pollution in Beijing, there's a lot to consider.

A lot of what I've read has come from true sports fans who feel the Games should be kept separate from any political influence. They want the Olympics to be about the athletes and the spirit of competition and sportsmanship.

That's a nice thought and, up until recently, I would have agreed, but then I heard someone bring up the fact that there are around 125 democratic countries in the world and about 70 dictatorships. Why would the International Olympic Committee select one of the dictatorships to host the 2008 Summer Games?

What's done is done and Beijing is the place. How could anyone not expect some na-

tions to at least threaten to boycott? I would love to believe the Olympics were truly about fellowship and goodwill among the greatest athletes of the world and nothing more, but that is pie-in-the-sky thinking. The Olympic Games have a long and storied history of boycotts and exclusions, starting with the 1952 Games in Helsinki, Finland.

At the height of the Cold War, the Soviet Union trotted out with many Warsaw Pact nations, including the newly-formed East German contingent. East Germany was not allowed to compete as a separate team from West Germany, though the West Germans were allowed to participate in all of the events.

In Melbourne Australia in 1956, China itself started its 24-year Olympic boycott over the IOC's recognition of Taiwan. That same year, Switzerland, Spain and the Netherlands boycotted in protest of the Soviet Union crackdown on political and social freedom in Hungary.

Of course there was the famous U.S. boy-

cott of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow in protest over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. China, Japan, West Germany and Canada joined the U.S. and sat out. And there was the equally-famous "eye-for-an-eye" Soviet Block boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics — take that, you capitalist pigs.

So if you can agree that we have established a long track record of political influence on who shows up at the Olympics, the question remains; do the democratic, freedom-loving nations of the world have a case to take a pass in Beijing?

China has refused to exert any pressure on Sudan to solve the humanitarian crisis in Darfur; is in the middle of a social and political crackdown in Ti-

bet (which, admittedly, was an independence-seeking Tibetian who saw the opportunity to draw global community's attention to his plight); and has pursued a court of industrialization that has left around the host city of Beijing unbreathable. In fact, I believe people who argue that "let 'em play, less of China's obvious shortcomings as a world power are more- in hearing the "Star Spangled" being played at the podium than are in social justice. We Americans winning and we're good at it. Why incentive to make a stand in Beijing any greater if Team U.S.A. would do poorly? I bet it would.

So, as much as I'd like to see Phelps win seven gold medals, pool and the track and field teammate, I have to ask myself the "If not now ... when?"



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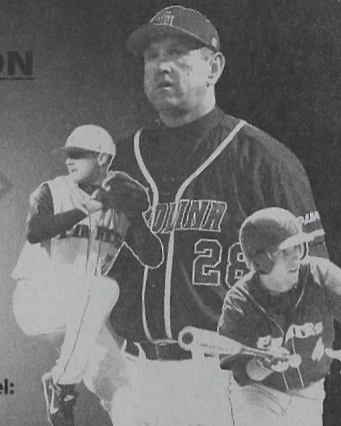
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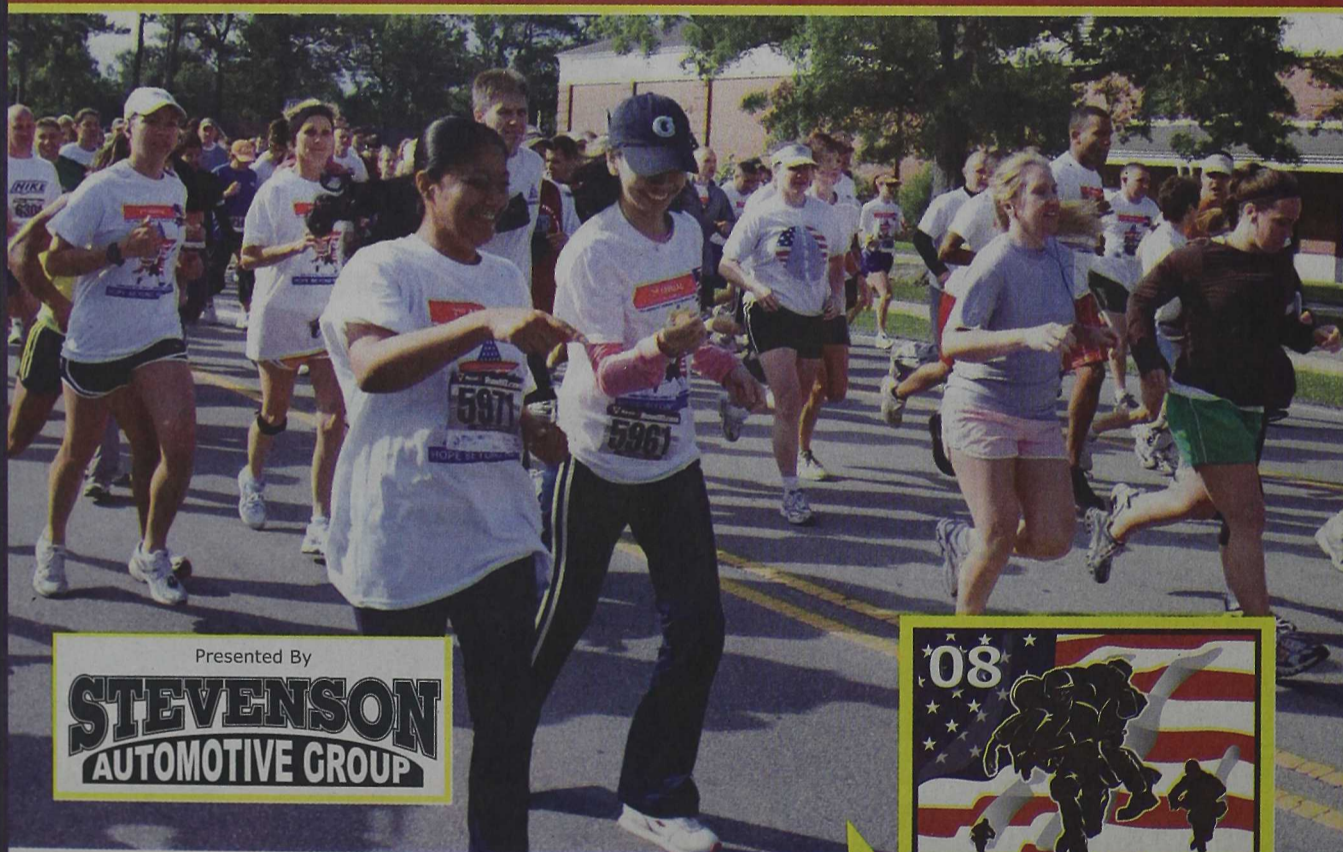
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WeightWise: The first step on the road to good health



Food For Thought
By CDR Vickie Weaver
Community Health Nurse

Are you tired of failed diets and want to look and feel better? The staff at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Health Promotion and Wellness Department is dedicated to helping individuals stay healthy and fit, but in order to be healthy and stay fit, an individual has to commit to

making lifestyle changes. Those changes include the development of good nutritional and exercise habits. However, without support, this is easier said than done.

Studies have shown that 60 percent of the people living in the United States are overweight and 30 percent of those are considered obese.

There are many factors that contribute to this problem, but two of the biggest culprits are simply bad eating habits and a lack of exercise — both of which put the individual at risk for developing diabetes, increased blood pressure, increased cholesterol and heart disease in addition to many other health risks.

Are you one of the individuals whose health is at risk due to bad eating habits or a lack of exercise? If you are and your goal is to lose weight or if you just want to feel healthier, here are some tips that can help you get started:

- Always begin your day by eating a healthy breakfast. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It helps fuel your body and gives you energy. By eating breakfast you burn five percent more calories throughout the day and are less likely to overeat at other meals.

- Don't skip meals. When you deprive yourself of food your body reacts by slowing down your metabolism. It's your body's way of conserving energy. Your body works harder to preserve the food it gets



Eating your recommended daily dose of fruits and vegetables can decrease your risk of weight gain, heart attack, diabetes and other weight-related illnesses. Jamie Cameron

by storing it as fat. That's why people who regularly diet have higher percentages of body fat than non-dieters do. Therefore, it is better to limit your fat and sugar intake than it is to count calories.

- Limit your amounts of excess fats and sugars in products such as regular soda, candy bars, ice cream and potato chips. Instead, look for the healthier alternatives such as granola bars, pretzels, graham crackers, rice cakes and diet soda.

- Water intake is essential for good health. The average person needs 6 to 8 full glasses of water per day to maintain proper hydration. Drinking adequate amounts of water can help you feel full so you avoid excess snacking and overeating.

- Eat slowly and when you start to feel full, stop eating! It is not necessary to finish every item on your plate. Save the extra food and eat it later as leftovers.

- Set realistic goals. Losing more than two pounds per week is unhealthy. Weight is not put on overnight and it shouldn't come off overnight. Studies have shown that those individuals who lose weight slowly are more likely to succeed at keeping it off.

- Make small changes in your eating habits. If you try to change everything all at once, it will be hard to maintain. You are more likely to succeed if you make one change at a time, like switching from regular soda to diet soda.

- When eating out, look for the healthier items on the menu. Many restaurants are now offering healthier choices such as grilled chicken or salads and other low-fat alternatives. Be sure to use a reduced fat or calorie dressing as well. You may even want to consider asking for your dressing on the side, as opposed to them putting huge amounts of fat on your salad.

A meat portion should be no bigger than a deck of cards. Raw vegetable portions can be a cup full, but when cooked, should be about half of that. Choose leaner cuts of meat. Consider having chicken more often than beef and cut the fat off your meat before you eat it. In addition, you might want to try ordering a child's portion, taking part of your home for later, or better yet, sharing portions with a friend.

- Limit alcohol intake. Alcohol is 160 calories per ounce. Try substituting alcohol with water or diet soft drinks.

- Above all get out and get moving. Good exercise can be fun and healthy and is extremely important for maintaining a healthy heart and weight control. The exercise program you choose should last approximately 30 to 60 minutes, 5 times per week, remembering to include a warm-up, stretch and cool down following exercise periods. A good fast-paced walk or slow jog is good for the heart. Remember being active is safe for most people. However, those with pre-existing health conditions may want to check with their physician before beginning an exercise program.

The Naval Health Promotion and Wellness Department is available to assist with your goal of getting healthier and staying fit. If you are interested in learning more about healthy eating and to get off the diet rollercoaster, the "Weight Wise" offered at Health Promotion in building 4. It is a multi-dimensional weight management program designed to teach participants good eating and exercise habits, how to change eating behaviors, and the keys to long-term weight management success. Participants are required for one-hour a week for four consecutive weeks. For more information or to register for a class call Health Promotion Wellness at 451-3712. While you're here you may want to take advantage of the other health programs offered: Diabetes Management, Healthy Heart and Tobacco Cessation.

Football players visit Wounded Warriors

Lance Cpl. Katie Mathison
II Marine Expeditionary Force

Twelve members of the Wolfpack football team out of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., Tom O'Brien, the head coach and several Wolfpack staff members ate dinner with the Marines of Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Wounded Warrior Regiment, Manpower and Reserve Affairs April 7.

At the beginning of the event, Ray Baronie, the battalion's executive officer, gave a speech thanking the football players for their visit.

"We appreciate athletes like you coming down here," Baronie said. "You guys are all heroes in our book."

The Marines shook hands with the athletes and spoke to them about their experiences in the Marine Corps.

Some of the athletes got a closer look at the barracks. Bobby Joseph, a wounded warrior, took a few of the players to his room to show them photos from Iraq.

"I showed them pictures of my

injury and talked about the foot patrol I was on when I got hurt," Joseph said. "It gave them a better understanding of what we have gone through."

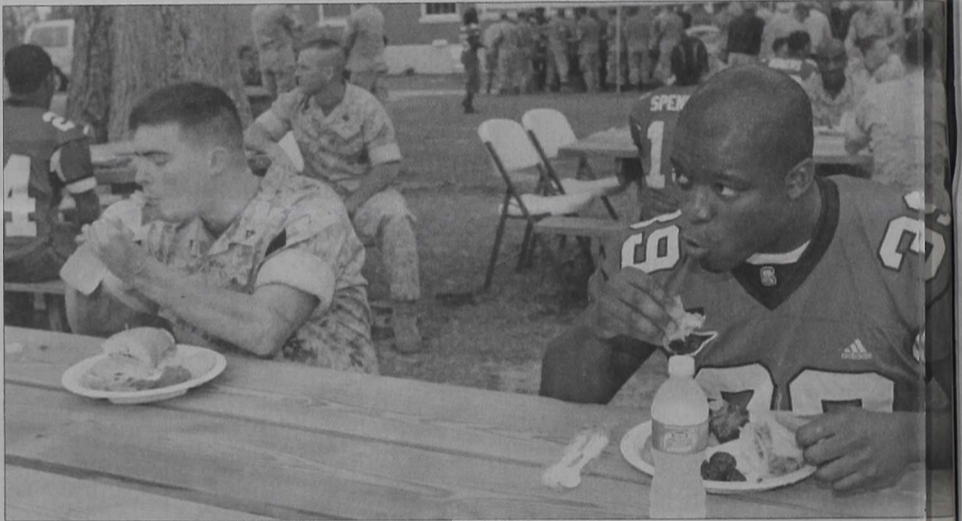
The Marines enjoyed the players visit to the barracks.

"It was a lot of fun," said Terrence James, the 2nd squad leader. "The players coming to the barracks showed they actually cared and volunteered, but it would have been nice if they could have spent the whole day instead of a couple hours."

The Marines appreciated the support of the players.

"It's always nice to get with the community," said Kimani Boyea, a wounded warrior. "This is a great opportunity to see people are supporting what we do."

When the gathering came to an end, the players loaded onto their team bus, but they left the Marines a N.C. State banner, signed by all the players, and a promise from the coach. O'Brien, a Marine veteran, told the Marines he would give them free tickets to attend any of the team's games.



Derrick White, a fullback with the Wolfpack football team, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., and Lance Cpl. Anson Roberts, a wounded warrior with the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Wounded Warrior Regiment, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, enjoy dinner together April 7. Lance Cpl. Katie Mathison

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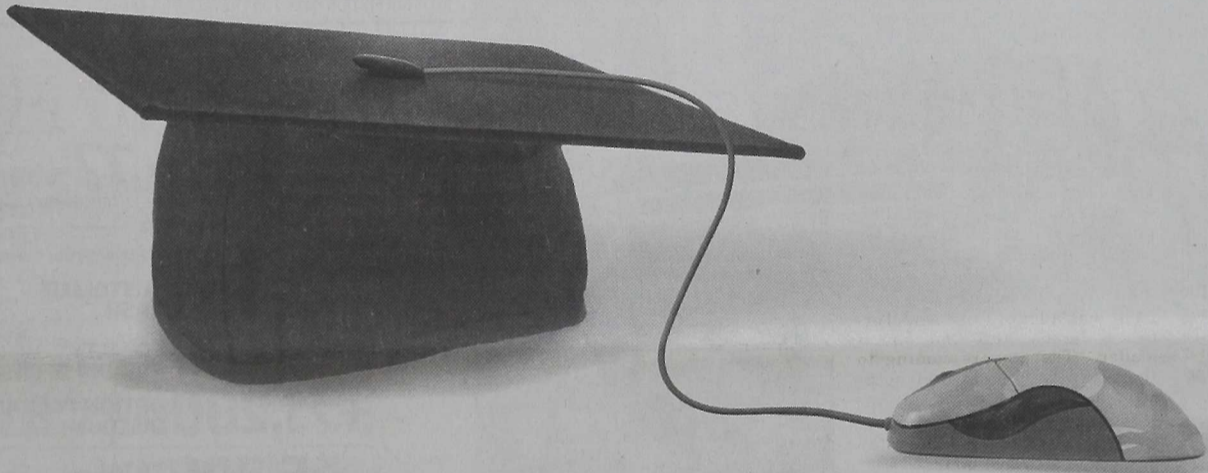
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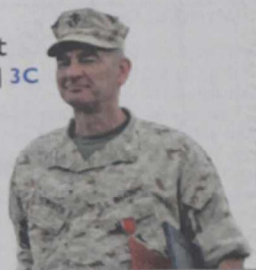
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Quick Shots

Bridge closure
The slow Beach Bridge will be closed for repairs May 1 through June 30. Vehicles and pedestrians will not be permitted on the beach. A beach access ferry and shuttle service on each side will be operating daily, 7 a.m.- 9 p.m. for official business and 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. for authorized persons and guests.

Road closure
Combat Logistics Regiment-25 is scheduled to hold a Change of Command ceremony Friday morning aboard Camp Lejeune. Traffic will be blocked off from H Street to H Street and from the traffic circle around building 2 from 3:30- 3 p.m.

Resident survey deadline
The deadline to submit the Atlantic Marine Corps Communities Resident Satisfaction Survey is April 22. Completed surveys will automatically enroll the respondent to win great prizes, including flat-screen television and one month's free rent. Completed surveys should be mailed in to 250 Western Blvd. #L2, MB 109, Jacksonville, N.C., 28546. For more information, call 219-437-437.

Navy Retiree Reunion
The 29th annual Navy Downeaster reunion is scheduled for April 26 at the Jacksonville Moose Lodge. For more information, call Jim Sirmon at 346-6764.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast
A prayer breakfast is scheduled to take place May 1, from 7- 9 a.m. at Marston Pavilion. The guest speaker will be Dr. Edward Williamson, general superintendent of the Evangelical Methodist Church. Military members and civilians are welcome to attend this free event. For more information, call 451-3210.

Base Command Photos
Base Combat Camera conducts command photos Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8 - 11:30 a.m., on a walk-in basis. Appointments receive head-of-line privileges, but personnel attending are advised to be prompt, so as not to have their appointments rescheduled.

NCOA convention
The Noncommissioned Officers Association has scheduled its annual convention and business meeting for July 15-18 at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas. Complete information is available at www.ncoausa.org.

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

Military police to receive helping hand

Civilian cops prepare to augment Marines

Lance Cpl. Ryan Turnage
Marine Corps Base

When driving on base you're usually expecting to be stopped by a military police officer for proof of identification. Soon, that expectation might change with the addition of civilian police officers.

Currently, there are 22 Marine Corps Police Academy candidates conducting advanced training as part of a nine-week course to become police officers aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River and MCAS Cherry Point.

"We will fill the positions of Marines who are unable to work due to special orders, such as Temporary Additional Duty or other reasons," said Tom Biller, the lead instructor for the MCPA.

Most of the candidates involved in the academy are being put to the test mentally and physically. They run physical fitness tests, similar to the Marine Corps' and will be working the same shifts as the Military Police on base.

"These candidates were hired by civil services [a government service in which individuals are hired by use of competitive examinations]," said Biller. "They had full background checks, interviews and had to pass physical fitness requirements."

Candidates will be selected, trained and attached to installations during the next four to five years, explained Biller.

"All of us out here have law enforcement backgrounds, whether it's civilian or military," said Mark Martinez, a retired Marine and MCPA candidate. "We all knew what we were stepping into when we took this opportunity."

Law enforcement officers are necessary to keep the streets safe, or in this case our base and these civilian policemen are here for that reason. They will be patrolling in vehicles, guarding the gates and providing assistance when needed.

Candidate Dan Fandrich peeks through a window in search of any possible threats before he and his partner enter the building during a training exercise. Lance Cpl. Ryan Turnage



Survivors helping survivors

Lance Cpl. Ryan Turnage
Marine Corps Base

Coping with a death during wartime can be a difficult and lonesome experience, but the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors is always ready to help. This nonprofit Veterans Service Organization, based in Washington, D.C., held an adult National Military Survivors Seminar and a Good Grief Camp for children at the Russell Marine and Family Life Center April 12 aboard Camp Lejeune.

"TAPS is bringing together men, women and children who are affected by military death," said Carole Hilton, whose husband died in combat in 2004.

The program is giving these individuals the resources needed to recover from their losses and meet others who are in the same situation. The Good Grief Camp for children is designed to provide a nurturing environment to the child by allowing them to talk and interact with one another with the assistance of a mentor.

"I'm most grateful for what TAPS has done for my kids. They get together with kids of similar age groups who are going through the same situations and realize they aren't the only ones," said Hilton.

Not many people have had to deal with the loss of a loved one in combat and TAPS is a program designed to provide an environment where families

See SURVIVORS, 2C

Nelson leaves Engineer School, Center of Excellence

Christi Prickett
Engineer School Public Affairs



Col. Niel Nelson relinquishes command of Marine Corps Engineer School to Col. David McMiller. Christi Prickett

COURTHOUSE BAY, N.C. — If you were in the Courthouse Bay area April 4, you would have seen a grand display of engineering equipment and an enormous American flag hanging in Ellis Field. The 2nd Marine Division band played energetically, the Marine Corps flag was passed with precision, and Engineer Students were reviewed.

These activities were part of an observance of the Marine Corps Engineer School Change of Command in which Col. Niel Nelson relinquished command to Col. David McMiller as Commanding Officer. Nelson has served a two-year tour before moving onto his new billet as Chief of Staff, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd).

VIPs in attendance were Lt. Gen. John Sattler, Director for

See NELSON, 3C

Lejeune prepares to celebrate Earth Day

Lance Cpl. Randy Little
Marine Corps Base



Blooming dogwoods are just one of the many natural wonders visible aboard Camp Lejeune. Jamie Cameron

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. Today, Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe and this year's observance is again on April 22. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations and regular citizens, what started as a day of national environmental recognition, has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment.

An Environmental Open House and as an Energy Efficiency Fair are scheduled to take place at Marston Pavilion aboard Camp Lejeune April 22 from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Representatives from both Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River's environmental staff, along with supporting contractors will be on-site to discuss their

role in maintaining environmental programs aboard the Base and Air Station. Attendees will learn about how the military manages the environment and protects the health of those living and working aboard the installations and within the surrounding community. Tours for Camp Lejeune Dependent Schools will be provided. In addition to displays and photos related to various program initiatives, actual equipment related to many of the following program areas will also be available for viewing:

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See EARTH DAY, 2C

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Lejeune Happenings

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Wearing a blue ribbon during April, "Child Abuse Prevention Month" is your commitment to educate the public about child abuse, neglect and how each can get involved in prevention. During fiscal year 2006 - 2007, the Department of Social Services received 2,653 reports from concerned citizens about children in the slow community. The protection team calling DSS at 938-200-1111 to report suspected maltreatment of a child.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers for the Warriors Run for the Warriors race being held at Camp Lejeune on April 17. The requirement includes a need for 100 people for May 16 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 70 people for race execution clean up. Potential volunteers may contact Les Broda by phone at 919-451-1714 or by e-mail at les.broda@usmc.mil.

Show tickets

Plans now to enjoy the best seats in the house for North Carolina's largest air show, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Air Show scheduled to land on April 6-8. Advance seats will be available for three shows during the weekend to include Friday evening's night show and both Saturday and Sunday days. Note: Admission, parking are always free and there will be open blanket seat areas available at no charge. Preferred seating is limited and available in three tiers: bleacher seats, box seats and executive pavilion seating. Attendees purchasing air seats in advance will enjoy a discount. For more information, visit the air show Web site www.cherrypointairshow.com or call 888-55-0888 for advance tickets.

Veteran's History Project

Rolling Thunder North Carolina-5 is gathering veterans' interviews and memoirs, which they will send-deliver to the Library of Congress when they ride up for the Rolling Thunder gathering in Washington, D.C., in May. Packages may be submitted to local slow County and base libraries prior to May 1. For more information, call Betty Schiefelbusch at 388-1453.

Loan locker

The Russell Marine and Family Services Center, Bldg. 40 on Newster Boulevard, offers free, 30-day loans of household items to help new families to the base. Loaned items include: baby items, kitchen items and small appliances. They also offer welcome board packages. For more information, call 49-9704 or 451-1055.

Welcome home signs:

The rest of the story



Above, Gunnery Sgt. David Covell stands by his welcome home sign on Route 24 with his wife Amanda and baby Rebecca. Heather Owens. At left, Covell holds Rebecca while posing by another sign which was posted on his house in honor of his recent return from Iraq. Amanda Covell

Heather Owens
Carolina Living editor

They appear like an e-mail message popping into your in-box, yet they take much more thought and preparation from the creator before they make their debut.

Though the welcome home signs which line the chain-link fences of Highway 24, rotate frequently, they may seem like just a part of the landscape after awhile.

Yet behind each sign is a Marine and a family or group of supporters.

For one Marine family, "this is the rest of the story," as radio personality Paul Harvey might say.

Amanda and Gunnery Sgt. David Covell, geospatial chief for topographic platoon, 2nd Intelligence Battalion, have been married about five years. Their first deployment as a married couple came just after they moved to Hawaii at the start of their marriage.

Their second deployment began last September, when their baby girl Rebecca was just one month old, when David and his unit deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq. It ended just a couple of weeks ago.

"It was sad, scary and lonely, but he was going to do the job that he does," says Amanda. "I knew that it would be over eventually and he would be home."

Don't take her comments as a complaint; take them more as a stoic Marine

spouse and proud American.

Amanda's "rule of thumb" when dealing with the long separation from her Marine is "count your blessings." Her advice to new military spouses facing their first deployment, "Be proud to be a Marine Corps wife, be proud of the job your spouse is doing and be proud to be an American."

Though parenting her new baby was one of her highest priorities during her husband's deployment, the other was keeping Rebecca's father apprised of her growth and development. "I really focused on trying to keep Daddy from missing her. I tried to send photos at least every other day via e-mail," says Amanda.

For his part, David says that receiving the photos was great, "It was show and tell [when the photos came in], a proud dad showing pictures of his baby girl."

Her work as an archivist of Rebecca's first year also helped Amanda through the separation. "That was probably what got me through the most, was keeping him up-to-date on what was happening with his daughter; making sure he didn't miss a beat," says Amanda.

When she finally received her one-month window of the unit's homecoming date, Amanda kicked into high gear. "You spend the last month taking care of business, making sure everything is perfect, so they come home to a well-organized and main-

tained home," says Amanda.

Her preparations also turned to the surprise of creating a home coming banner. Amanda had a vision of a couple embracing inside a heart and turned to artistic friend Shelley Myers and her daughter Ember, also members of a Marine family, to make it happen. "I cannot and will not take all of the credit," says Amanda. "It was my vision and they made it happen better than I even expected it to."

"With me doing the signs, it would have taken me probably two months [to complete with having to watch my daughter while I painted]," says Amanda. "With the three of us together, it took about two and a half hours."

In fact, the trio ended up creating two signs, one of a couple embracing for the fence and one of a father and baby which Amanda hung at the house.

Amanda has some advice for military families who wish to make a home coming sign. "Make it heartfelt," she says. "Take some time to put thought into it so that your loved one will feel your emotions by looking at it."

Since the last weeks before a homecoming are busy, Amanda advises people to accept help. "A lot of people out there don't have time to make a sign by themselves, just like I didn't, so recruit help. It's okay," she says.

"Also," adds her husband, the gunny, "keep it tasteful."

For the Covells, the reunion was, indeed, sweet. David says he most remembers "looking through the window on the bus at all of the loved ones out there and spotting my wife and lovely daughter."

It was an emotional moment. "I'm not going to say a big man can't cry," he says, "but it was coming."

"For the record," says his wife, "he didn't [cry]."

And that, is the rest of the story.

Hough: Language guru, proud Heroes at Home judge

Her Owens
Living editor

got to tell you, if there is any person I respect more than my parents and my fellow Marines, it's my wife. I never had to look over my shoulder, I could focus better on my job knowing that my wife was there taking care of the really important things — the family at home," said Joe Hough.

retired master gunnery sergeant, Hough spent 27 years in the Marine Corps with all the training, deployments and separations such a life entails. His last billet before retiring was with II Marine Expeditionary Force. As such, he knows a thing or two about how military families go through during a deployment.

"Sept. 11 really was a watershed," he said. "I really got to see military spouses shine. I think that military spouses these days are

really shining examples of what my parents and grandparents went through in World War II, Korea and Vietnam."

Furthermore, Hough said he respects the young military families today who are taking care of business. "I just have a great deal of awe for these young men and women who watch their spouses go off to Iraq and then be here for them when they come home," said Hough, who is currently a language consultant for Shee Atiká Languages, a professional foreign language services provider.

Recently, Hough's spouse, Ellen, a real estate broker at Exit Home Place Realty in town, asked him if he would be interested in being a Hero at Home judge. She had heard about the initiative at work and thought he might be game.

"For the past few years, Landmark Military Media, the proud civilian publisher of *The Globe* and *RotoVue* has sponsored the Heroes at Home Military Spouse Awards in the Virginia military community to offer service members an opportunity to recognize the unsung heroes in their lives — the military spouse," said Jim Connors, publisher of *The Globe* and *The RotoVue*. "This year we are extending the opportunity for the Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River Marines and other military service members in Eastern North Carolina to recognize their hard-working spouses."



Hough

Hough said he was pleased to become a Hero at Home panel judge because, when it comes to military families, it takes one to know one. "No one can honor these spouses

and know what they go through but another military family," he said.

Currently in the middle of reading through his package of nominees when he was interviewed for this story, Hough said, "Every one [of the nominees] is someone you would want to shake their hand and say, 'You're doing a great job.'"

Editor's note: Nominations for the Heroes at Home Military Spouse Awards were closed as of March 30. Nominations were received from each of the services. The nominees and their spouses will be invited to a luncheon May 15 at the Officers' Club aboard Camp Lejeune where the 2008 Military Spouse of the Year will be revealed. The spouse of the year, who could be a military wife or husband, will receive a 42-inch flat screen television courtesy of USA Discounters. Additionally, more than \$5,000 in prizes will be divided among the finalists.

Administrative professionals to be honored at breakfast, award ceremony

Verett Vaughn
Marine Corps Community Services

Marine Corps Community Services, in cooperation with the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, Coastal Carolina Community College and Jacksonville-Onslow-Lejeune Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals invite you to celebrate the contributions and successes of Onslow County's administrative professionals. The 5th annual Administrative Professionals' Celebration with a breakfast event and special award presentation for the Administrative Professional of the Year is scheduled to take place April 29 at Marston Pavilion aboard Camp Lejeune. This event is sponsored by First Citizens Bank.

The breakfast celebration will feature motivational speaker Gail Hayes, whose presentation, "Discovering Your Five Points of Power," will direct participants to discover their unique points of power, to celebrate the re-

markable person they are inside and the contributions they make each and every day. Participants are guaranteed to laugh, cry and come to a deeper understanding of their own life's purpose. "This is truly an excellent way to recognize our administrative professionals and thank them for all that they do for their respective work sections and departments," said Maria Brinton, event committee member.

The cost is \$12 per person and includes breakfast. Seating is limited and reservations are first-come-first-served. Registration is currently being accepted by calling 451-2777. Pre-registration is required. Event passes will be available at the Chamber of Commerce for those who need a base pass and register with the Chamber prior to April 23. Those who register after the April 23 and do not have a base sticker, must stop at the main gate for a base pass. Check-in will begin at 8 a.m. on the day of the event. For more information, 451-2777. To nominate a deserving administrative professional, visit www.jacksonvilleonline.org.

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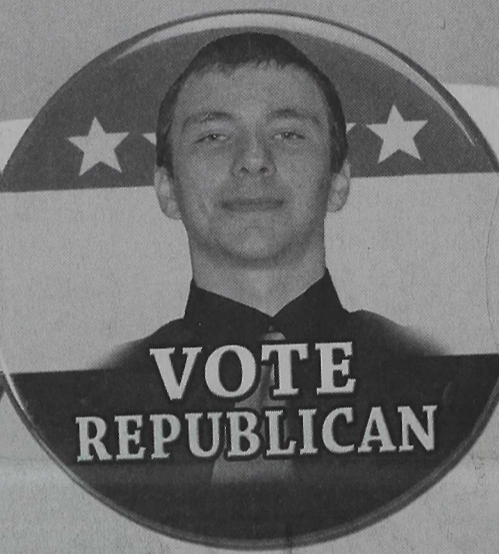
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DEBATE 2008

LHS students study issues of the day



Above, Jane Burgess' Contemporary Issues students at Lejeune High School debate the issues of the 2008 presidential campaign at a recent school mock debate. Each student took on the persona and politics of their favorite candidate.



Story and photos by
Heather Owens
Carolina Living editor

Ladies and gentlemen, we now go live to the Lejeune High School auditorium where 'Debate 2008' is underway.

That's right, students in Jane Burgess' Contemporary Issues class have been studying the election process, the candidates and their issues since January when their semester began.

Last Friday, several of the students took to the podium to try their hand at convincing other students about the merits of their candidate of choice while acting out the part of their favorite candidate.

Meet Britny Sawn, 19, who is playing the part of Green party candidate Ralph Nader.

"I made my speech up - the entire thing. I went online and found out what he stands for and just kind of pieced everything together," she says.

Why does she want to portray Nader during the debate?

"Because I love Nader. At our mock election at our old school, I voted for him because I believe in what he stands for," she says.

Meet Jasmine Mack, 17, who is playing the part of Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

"I went on her Web site and read about what she believes in and I looked at her speeches. Since I was going to be speaking to my school, I put it in language students would understand and I picked issues that mainly affected us at this moment," she says.



At 17, Mack is too young to vote in the upcoming election. Yet she says she would vote for Clinton if given the opportunity. "Most of the things she stands for, I believe in - like pro-choice and immigration and helping schools out and the war," she explains.

Meet Te'Kiah Croskey, 17, who is playing the part of Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

She likes Obama because "he's for everyone." However, she says she learned some interesting things about the other candidates from the students' speeches.

Meet Brian Wright, 17, who is playing the part of Republican candidate John McCain.

"I actually used a part of his speech and I put it in a format of how high school students would best receive the information," Wright says of putting together his McCain speech.

Wright says he benefited from his classroom and special campaign activities. "I've learned a lot about government and about political stuff, mostly about how to make things work," he says.

Meet Kiara Harris, 18, project director for the debate and other election-related activities the students have planned. For now, she is playing the part of moderator.

She gets right down to business. "I really encourage students to register to vote and vote if they are of age when the time comes," she says.

As the moderator, she's not too shy to say who she would like to see win the race. "I really like Barrack Obama, not just because he's African-American, but because of what he stands for."

Enter Jane Burgess, an educator of 35 years, who has master-minded this educational activity. "I have been doing an elections project every four years since I walked into the classroom."

Her reasons for the project are simple. "I

The "candidates" are, above from left to right, Kiara Harris, the project director for the debate and other election-related activities the students have planned; Brian Wright, playing the role of Republican candidate John McCain and Jasmine Mack, playing the role of Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. At left, Britny Sawn poses for the Green party. Sawn played the role of Ralph Nader. At right, Te'Kiah Croskey plays Barack Obama.

think it's very important for students to simulate real life experiences so they can walk into that life as an adult citizen prepared to be involved," she says.

In preparing students for future adult responsibilities, Burgess and her class have planned a mock registration for April 24 - 25 and May 1 - 2. Students and staff will have the opportunity to register to vote in an upcoming LHS mock election which is scheduled to take place, May 6 the day of the real North Carolina primary. Additionally, Rose Whitehurst, director of Onslow County Board of Elections, will be at the high school April 24 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. to register both students and staff over the age of 18 for the November election.

To prepare for the mock election, student candidates will hold separate Democratic and Republican rallies at the school starting a 6 p.m. May 5.

"Gosh, I'd love to see the whole community show up," says Burgess of the event. Students, parents and members of the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune community are invited to the school to participate in the rallies and become excited about the election.

After all, voting is a precious and hard-fought right.

"It's extremely important to vote because if we become truly apathetic as a society we can pay the price in poor leadership. I think it's a necessary responsibility to vote if we want to maintain our freedom," says Burgess, adding, "Our forefathers won that right for us with their blood and our troops right now are doing the same thing."



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Tarawa Terrace I students celebrate Literacy Week



At left, Brig. Gen. James A. Kessler, commanding general of 2nd Marine Logistics Group, reads to children at Tarawa Terrace I Primary School. Kessler, sitting on a camp stool in front of a tent, mesmerized students with his rendition of the camping tales in the book he read. Barbara Mellon, who wears the three hats of media specialist, enrichment coordinator and gifted resource teacher at Tarawa Terrace I, organized the school's Literacy Week. The school typically observes Literacy Week in conjunction with National Library Week. However, that week coincided with the school's spring break this year, so it was celebrated early. "We [celebrate Literacy Week] to show kids how important reading is," said Mellon. "The whole idea is 'literacy is all around us' and any way we can get children motivated and excited about reading, we're going to do it." Marshall White



The school's Literacy Week celebration kicked off last Monday morning with a literacy parade. Students dressed up as or carried books or mementoes of their favorite literary characters. At left, Patricia Carmona Perez, a kindergartner in Rose Guthrie's class, carries a Cat and the Hat doll. Rianna Hughes marches right behind her. Deborah Swain Above, a member of the 2nd Marine Division Band talks with children after the parade. The band, led by conductor Sgt. Mark Giblin, played marching songs for the students during the parade. A color guard, comprised of students from the Lejeune High School Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Course, presented the colors during the ceremony. Barbara Mellon

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*Pulse survey 2007

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WHAT'S HAPPENIN'

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

Reading group
Tuesday, 6 p.m.
 Readers in grades two through five may join a reading group at Harriotte B. Smith Library for a discussion and trivia. The book is "The Tale with Tuck," by Theodore Taylor. Registration is required and may be made by calling 451-3026. The first 20 to sign up receive a free copy of the book (one free per family).

Arts and crafts fair
Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Angels' Voices Speak Up, Inc., a local non-profit organization, has scheduled an Arts and Crafts Fair at the Infant of Prague gymnasium. Vendors are needed and the fee is \$2 per table and 10 percent proceeds from sales go to Angels' Voices. For more information, visit www.angelsvoices.org or call Kay Marks at 455-5242.

Manga Art class
Friday 2 p.m.
 Guitars will be teaching the basic shapes to draw Manga characters at the Camp Lejeune Library. Registration is required by calling 450-0844. Seating is limited, so be sure to call early.

Johnny Cash with the Mustache
Friday, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 The Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce and Entertainment have planned the "Johnny Cash with the Mustache" featuring Don Blalock. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, snacks and dancing until 9 p.m. Ticket price is \$10 and covers both the show and food. For more information, call 382-3840.

Farmer's market
Monday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Onslow County Farmers Market opens Monday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through October 18. The market is located at 4024 Richlands Highway (U.S. 258) on the right hand

side as you head towards Richlands. Vendors include fruits, vegetables, eggs, herbs, mushrooms, baked goods, jam and jellies, plants, flowers and a wide variety of arts and crafts. Live Music on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. For additional information, check out the market's Web page at www.onslowfarmersmarket.com.

Starlight Fridays
April 25, 6:30 p.m.
 The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department has planned Starlight Fridays of the month through June. Festivities will include live entertainment, children's activities, food and outdoor movies. All events will start at 6:30 p.m. with an outdoor movie starting at dusk. For April 25, a movie about an ogre and his donkey with entertainment by Jordan Sutherland is scheduled for the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex. Bring your chair or blanket. For more information check their Web site at www.ci.jacksonville.nc.us or call Susan Baptist at 938-5317.

Legends concert
April 26, 6:30 p.m.
 Eddie's Entertainment presents the Legends Concert featuring Elvis impersonator Pastor Jay Barnes and a Tribute to Johnny Cash with Don Blalock. The show will be held at the Warsaw Middle School in Warsaw, N.C. Tickets are \$10 each. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets are available at the following locations in Warsaw: Piggy Wiggy, Pizza Village, General Auto Parts, Glaspie Cab, Aztlan Mexican Restaurant or by calling 389-3737.

Administrative Professionals Day
April 29, 8 a.m.
 Several local organizations have planned the 5th annual Administrative Professionals' Celebration to take place at Marston Pavilion. Check in starts at 8 a.m. and the program starts at 8:30 a.m. There will be breakfast, door prizes, the presentation of the Administrative Professional of the Year award and an inspirational keynote address by Dr. Gail Hayes. The cost is \$12 and pre-registration is required by calling 347-3141, ext. 235.

Community yard sale
May 3, 6:30 - noon
 Paradise Point Child Care Center is having a huge community yard sale fundraiser, with all proceeds to benefit the center. The sale is scheduled to be held May 3 on the circular driveway in front of the Russell Family Service Center adjacent to PPCCC. The sale will offer great visibility, lots of room and plenty of parking. It will take place rain or shine. To help, you can participate as a yard sale seller or donate items to be sold at the event. To sign up to be a seller, register at the PPCCC front desk. For \$10, sellers will receive a spot and a 60 inch table. Sellers may bring extra tables if they wish. The registration fee goes to PPCCC and any money a seller makes at the sale goes to them. To participate as an item donor, bring in baby/child-related items to PPCCC from Monday through May 2, and volunteers will sell your donated items at the PPCCC sale table. All proceeds will benefit the Center. Set up starts at 6:30 a.m. and the sale starts at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call Bryndis Rubin 577-1578 or contact the PPCCC.

Military Appreciation Day
May 10, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 The Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and Hammocks Beach State Park will host Military Appreciation Day. The event is scheduled to take place at Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro. All active-duty and dependents are welcome. The event will include games, storytellers, park exhibits, free ferry rides and free drinks and hotdogs with all the fixings. For more information contact the Swansboro Chamber of Commerce at 326-1174.

Stroke prevention seminar
May 14, 12:30 p.m.
 Sena Preziosi, health service coordinator for Life Line Screening, is scheduled to present a stroke prevention and aware-

ness program at the Onslow County Department of Social Services Training Center located in the New River Shopping Center. Tickets for the lunch and learn, hosted by Onslow County Community Health Improvement Process, Inc., are \$10 and include registration and box lunch. Seating is limited and a reservation is requested to the Onslow CHIP office at 577-2238 or at e-mail onslowchip@yahoo.com by May 9. Tickets at the door will be \$5 and do not include lunch. The event is open to the public. The mission of Onslow CHIP is to bring together concerned citizens to form partnerships to improve the quality of life in Onslow County. For more information about Onslow CHIP or the lunch and learn, log on to www.onslowchip.org.



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- Midway Park Community Center will have Free child camouflaged dog tags (while supplies last)
- The Wood Hobby Shop will have craft kits for all children who visit. (mini bird house)
- Thu, April 17 - Teen Kayaking through the Creek, 1:00-3:00 PM at Gottschalk Marina
- Sat, April 19 - Youth Sports Hitting Camp (register by April 19) Youth Sports Office, Call 910-451-2177 / 2159 for information.
- Fri, April 25 - Family Movie Night Tarawa Terrace Community Center, 6:30 PM Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, Rated G.
- Sat, April 26 - Teen Job Fair, 9:00 AM - Noon, Tarawa Terrace Youth Pavilion.
- Sat, April 26 - Curious George will be appearing at the Main Marine Corps Exchange, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM.
- Sat, April 26 - Semper Fit Teens Scavenger Hunt, 1:00-4:00 PM, Russell Marine and Family Services Center, Bldg 40.
- Sun, April 27 - Klutz Build-a-Book Workshop, Harriotte B. Smith Library, 2:00-4:00 PM Where kids walk in and authors walk out! Visit the web page for more details.

For a complete and up to date list, visit mccslejeune.com/family

Sat, April 26 - FUNTASTIC! Grand Finale Event 1:00-4:00 PM
 Russell Marine and Family Services Center, Bldg 40.
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April 24, 2008
Volume 70
Edition 17

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Watch

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30 from wound
while
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operations in Al Anbar
province, Iraq, on Mar
14. He was assigned
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