

The Globe

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Model Parent

Parenthood instills vital traits
in 1st CEB Marine | 9A



Early Iraq pullout would imperil GWOT

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — An early withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq would endanger the United States and imperil The Global War on Terrorism, Vice President Richard B. Cheney told members of a pro-Israel advocacy group here Monday.

The United States and Israel "are the prime targets of a terror movement that is global in nature and, yes, global in its ambitions," Cheney told American-Israel Public Affairs Committee members at a group conference meeting.

"The leaders of this movement speak openly and specifically of building a totalitarian empire covering the Middle East, extending into Europe and reaching across to the islands of Indonesia, one that would impose a narrow, radical vision of Islam that rejects tolerance, suppresses dissent, brutalizes women and has one of its foremost objectives the destruction of Israel," Cheney said.

Terrorists "wage war by stealth and murder," Cheney pointed out, noting their employment of suicide bombers ignores the rules of warfare and targets the innocent.

"Civilized, decent societies will never fully understand the kind of mind-set that drives men to strap on bombs or fly airplanes into buildings, all for the purpose of killing unsuspecting men, women and children who they have never met and who have done them no wrong, but that is the very kind of blind, prideful hatred we're up against," he said.

The terrorists want to obtain chemical, biological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction to impose their demands through more spectacular attacks or blackmail, Cheney said.

See IRAQ page 3A



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy L. Grisham

Kenyan military exercise: Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenneth Russell takes the temperature of a small child during a Medical Civil Assistance Project at Barigoni School as part of the bilateral exercise Edged Mallet '07.

Medical care Marines, sailors aid Kenyan community

Lance Cpl. Aaron J. Rock
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

BARGONI, Kenya — Marines and sailors from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Bataan Strike group, along with Kenyan medical personnel, held a medical clinic for Kenyans here, March 7-8.

The bilateral Medical Civil Assistance Project, was held next door to the Bargoni Primary School, which was under renovation by elements of the 26th MEU and Kenyan army, and was intended to provide care for residents of the approximately 15-square-mile area surrounding Bargoni.

Navy Lt. Kyle E. Kee, Medical Service Corps, United States Navy, and medical planner for the 26th MEU, said the clinic would provide care the residents ordinarily would have difficulty getting access to.

"We're here to provide Level-One medical care for the Kenyan citizens of Bargoni and the neighboring area," he said. "We want to provide care they themselves can sustain."

Over the course of the two-day clinic, the medical personnel saw 261 local Kenyans.

Petty Officer 1st Class (FMF,

See MEDICAL page 11A



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy L. Grisham

MEDCAP: Kenyan army Capt. P. K. Koros gives medicine to a young child during a Medical Civil Assistance Project as part of the bilateral exercise Edged Mallet '07.

Cradle-to-grave

Corps adds SNCO ranks to light armored vehicle field

Sgt. Salju K. Thomas
Marine Corps Base

Marines in the military occupational specialty 0313, light armor vehicle crewman, can now stay in their field for their entire career.

Under the current system, the MOS only consists of privates through sergeants. When a crewman is promoted to staff sergeant, he becomes an infantry unit leader or 0369. Headquarters Marine Corps is now looking for staff noncommissioned officers with light armored reconnaissance experience to convert to 0313.

The change is based on the difficulty the Marine Corps is having staffing LAR-experienced

Marines to the LAR battalions.

"With all the training, education and the additional knowledge a LAR staff NCO must know such as vehicle maintenance, employment, and gunnery, the Marine Corps is at a great loss because the community rarely retains the Marine for more than one tour," said Capt. Paul Gillikin, manpower analyst at Plans, Policies and Operations. "The LAR community cannot recoup its investment; an 0369 can be sent to a regular infantry battalion, which greatly outnumber LAR battalions."

The conversion is open to all prior LAV crewmen as well as to those who have served in an LAR battalion as a Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided

missileman, 0352, mortarman, 0341, or as a rifleman/scout 0311. Reservist in the MOS 1812, tankman, and 1833, amphibious assault vehicle crewman, who are drilling with 4th LAR battalion can also convert.

Marines who convert are projected to promote faster. "The average 0313 will be promoted about a year and a half before the average 0369 to master gunnery sergeant, 2 years earlier for master sergeant, a year and a half earlier for gunnery sergeant, and a few months earlier for staff sergeant," said Gillikin.

Those who are interested should apply through their career retention specialist. The application deadline is March 27. ■



Sgt. Salju K. Thomas

Cradle to grave: Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalions are looking for qualified staff noncommissioned officers with prior LAR experience to convert their military occupational specialty.

WEDNESDAY
March 15, 2007

Volume 69
Edition 11

Inside This Week

Training Team

Marine Corps training camp has led the team is likely to go forth and testlers for future. Turn to 1B to more.

Tragic
Qua A. Bailey lost in a recent training accident aboard Camp Lejeune. Find out 1C.

Locked!
And tacky pink flamingos on your is month, you may of a covert operation raise money for For the story, turn

News Watch

Warriors
Cpl. Dennis J. J., 20, of Jessup, Pa., arch 9 from wounds while conducting operations in Al province, Iraq, was assigned to Forces Reserve's Wing Support on 472, Marine Support Group 47, Marine Aircraft Wing, ng, Pa.

Up Lejeune wins environmental awards

Lejeune has received the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for its contribution to the environment and Natural Resources for fiscal year in the large installation category. Camp Lejeune received the Environmental

award for its development and maintenance of three remediation programs ensuring effective and timely up of varying types of contamination making

of the leading Department of Defense facilities. The Natural Resources award was for Camp Lejeune's annual work to balance

operational capabilities in the conservation of environment and protected species. One key to

was Camp Lejeune's Conservation Volunteer Program.

Volunteers assisted in

ing 20,000 sea oats

for dune stabilization

planted native

plants and herbaceous

and vegetation within

claimed borrow area

repaired, replaced

maintained 80 blue-

bird nesting boxes.

Having won the fiscal

year 2006 Secretary of the

Navy awards, Lejeune

will be competing against

the best installations in

the DoD for the Secretary

of Defense Environmental

Award for FY 2006.

Awards ceremony will

be held in Washington,

July 7 for both awards.

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Lejeune Sports 1B
Marine Side 1C
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MAN on the street

"What are your plans for St. Patrick's Day?"



"I'm going to have a get together with my friends and neighbors and celebrate the holiday."

Lance Cpl. Ryan C. Carrico
Tank operator
2nd Marine Division
Omaha, Neb.

"I'll be getting together with Marines in my unit and have a barbeque."



Pfc. Shahan D. Moses
Heavy equipment operator
2nd Marine Logistics Group
Loganville, Ga.

"I'll probably go to a club or have a cook out, relax and take it easy."



Pfc. Nicholas G. Gussis
Motor transportation operator
2nd Marine Logistics Group
Hunterdon, N.J.

"I'm going out of town to visit my girlfriend to celebrate our one year anniversary and I plan to take her on a boat out on the lake."



Lance Cpl. James J. Redmond
Rifleman
2nd Marine Division
Frederick, Md.

"I'm going to take a taxi into Jacksonville, looking for a hotspot."



Pfc. Rodolfo Burnias
Student
Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools
Brownsville, Texas

Understanding Marine Corps customs, courtesies

Lt. Col. Mark A. Werth
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing
Family Readiness Officer

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. — Have you ever wondered why your Marine stands at attention during the playing of the National Anthem when you are at a sporting event? You might ask, "Why don't you put your hand over your heart?" or, "Why are you so stiff?" I know I have received those questions. Lots of military customs and courtesies go unknown to a significant portion of this nation's population, particularly when members of our Corps silently obey those time-honored traditions while in civilian clothes. Here is a short list of things you may or may not know:

The National Anthem

When played, the service member will stand at attention. If covered while in uniform, the service member will salute the National Ensign (our flag). It is also appropriate for the service member to turn and face the flag during the playing of the National Anthem. The appropriate civilian action is to place your right hand over your heart and stand still while facing the flag.

Passing of the national ensign

It is fitting to render proper honors to the nation's symbol by standing when the flag passes. You will see this at parades or during a Command Review. For Marines in uniform and covered, rendering a salute is also proper.

The salute

Its history dates back a long way and there are several versions of why it exists. All theories agree on one thing: it is a courtesy that is offered when two individuals pass, similar to the tipping of a hat to acknowledge the presence of a lady. In the military, the salute is a greeting between an officer and an enlisted member or between a junior officer and senior officer. All services, to include the Coast Guard, recognize saluting procedures. Some services apply different constraints on when a salute is rendered. For example, in the Marine Corps, a member will only salute while wearing a cover. In the Army, saluting in Physical Training clothing is appropriate although no cover exists. For all services, the salute begins with the junior rendering the salute and the senior returning the salute. The

appropriate civilian action is to simply say good morning or good evening. This is also the appropriate military greeting for when not covered.

Service songs

Service songs are as the service itself military members take pride in hearing them played. For Marines, the song "Marine's Hymn" is a song that tells of the Marine's pride in their service. For most, it makes sense to have pride when wearing the Marine's uniform. Accordingly, we stand when it is played. The Department of the Navy and therefore find it appropriate to render the same honor. "Anchors Aweigh," a song that tells of the Marine's pride in their service, is also played in formal settings such as a Change of Command ceremony. Appropriate action during a service is to sit and listen with respect. We'd love to stand beside us and know you too are probably up with pride for the your Marine.

I hope this letter has helped you understand just a couple of the customs and courtesies of our Corps. Semper Paratus.

Automobile and Motorcycle Fatalities

March 11 At 5:29 a.m., a lieutenant from Naval Hospital Guam lost control of his car on the way to his condominium. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

March 10 A lieutenant wrecked his motorcycle near Emporia, Va. He was on his way home from buying the motorcycle. He died later at a hospital.

Semper Safe

Safety for Material Handling Equipment

Industrial forklifts, a type of Material Handling Equipment, are a common tool used in various workplaces to make lifting heavy and large items easier for many daily tasks. As such, the training for operators of this MHE has never been more critical. Many federal regulations are in place that make it essential that operators are properly certified. The certification records are required to be kept three years and include the name of the operator, date of training, date of evaluation and the identity of the person who conducted the training.

All MHE operators must be in compliance with Occupational Health & Safety Administration requirements. These requirements, found in 29 CFR 1910.178, apply to powered industrial truck operators in all industries. This means all MHE operators require certified forklift

safety training. The same goes for the Marine Corps personnel. Additional guidance can be found in MCO P11240.106B for standard forklift operations and in NAVSEA SW023-AH-WHM-010 for forklift operations involving ammunition and explosives.

Mishaps lead to downtime that in-turn hurts productivity — whether it's caused when equipment is damaged by an operator or when an equipment operator is injured. Also, mishaps can result in personnel lost duty time and civilian lost time cases, making for a hefty pay out for worker compensation for those injured. Applying the following tips will help avoid such incidents.

Ensure your license is current and that you have it on you while operating the MHE.

Ensure a daily pre-oper-

ational check is performed and documented.

Look to ensure an Annual Condition Inspection Certification Sticker is affixed to the MHE. Look for a current Load Test Certification date if applicable. If the date on the certification is expired or the ACI sticker is missing, remove the MHE from service immediately. Contact the Base Motor Transport Office for re-certification.

If there are any safety discrepancies or hazards identified during the inspection of MHE or identified at anytime during use, remove it from service immediately.

Be sure to always use your PPE: steel-toe shoes, hardhats and seatbelt.

Slow down! Always drive at a safe speed, especially around personnel and fixed objects.

Ensure the load your carrying is stable and secured to prevent it from

falling off.

Remember, if your driving view is obstructed, drive backwards and use ground guides.

Always apply operational risk management, especially in unusual situations, oversized loads, night operations or during inclement weather.

Report mishaps resulting in damaged property, MHE or personal injuries immediately.

Leaders and Supervisors: It is your responsibility to make certain that personnel operating MHE handling boxes of explosive materials are properly trained. For more information, contact your unit safety officer or base safety representative. A "Leaders Guide" is available at the Camp Lejeune, Safety Division Web site at: <https://intranet.mcieast.usmc.mil/C8/Documents/default.aspx>.

As Marines and sailors, we live by our ethos. ■

The Globe

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Explosive Ordnance Marines blow cache

Staff Sgt. Tracie G. Kessler
2nd Marine Division

CAMP ELLIS, Iraq — Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines attached to the California-based Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Marines, 4th Marine Regiment have supported current operations in the Barwanah area by disposing of weapons and explosives found in caches throughout the area.

To date, EOD has disposed of more than 2,000 pounds of weapons and explosives since operations began here in late November.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Aaron M. Salyi, EOD chief from Combat Logistics Battalion 15 attached to BLT 2/4, the weeks in Barwanah have not slowed much since the beginning of operations.

Though the weapons caches have become smaller due to the efforts of Marines on sweeping operations, calls still come in on a daily basis, keeping Salyi and his Marines busy.

Even though the caches being found are smaller, they are new, Salyi explained. What this means for Marines working in the area is the amount of weapons and explosives that would be used by anti-Iraqi forces are being depleted.

"I'd say overall the weeks haven't really slowed down for us. The quantity of calls we've done has declined, but we still go out nearly every day. Usually the stuff that we find is minimal now. But it is new, meaning it has recently been brought into this area," said Salyi, a San Diego, native.

A typical cache usually consists of some type of ammunition, usually for an AK-47 assault rifle, the most commonly used weapon of AIF. Aside from ammunition, rifles and munitions such as mortar and artillery rounds are typically found, said Salyi.

Long-range cordless phones are another item that has been found in several of the caches throughout the area. These give insurgents the ability to detonate improvised explosive devices from remote locations, he said.

Though IEDs and weapons caches are common, the way the weapons are being employed has changed dramatically, Salyi said. Believing that the AIFs surplus of weapons are being used up and with the IED builders being captured or leaving the area, many of the items being found recently have been imported into the region by new AIF personnel.

"This area has matured greatly in the planning and ability to employ IEDs. Now, they don't have the ordnance left or the people to manufacture them. But what they are getting into this area of operations and what they are able to do has changed dramatically," said Salyi.

"We have found IEDs that were wired to accept two forms of initiation, electric blasting caps for pressure plate [IEDs] and a tail of detonating cord primed in to the nose, so they could use that in conjunction with a land mine to enhance the explosion. The part that makes this significant is that no one has seen those here before," said Salyi.

The average size cache here, according to Staff Sgt. Daniel Thibeault, an EOD Marine with CLB-15 in support of BLT 2/4, is typically about 100 pounds of explosives or ordnance.

"The biggest one we've [destroyed] was about 1,100 pounds which was located south [of here] and with the high explosive we put on it, it was about a 1,400 pound shot," he said.

Having been on more than 80 calls, Thibeault

See CACHE page 11A



Motor-T: Cpl. Michael Sawatzky, a 24-year-old motor transport operator from Aberdeen, S.D., binds down a damaged humvee. Marines from the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion lifted onto his vehicle, Feb. 24. Motor-T provides transportation for food, fuel and other supplies to Marines throughout this area of the Al Anbar Province, about 150 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq.

Motor-T provides critical link for Marines in Al Anbar

Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Sapp
2nd Marine Division

RAWAH, Iraq — Far up the beaten dirt road, the front of the 10-vehicle motor transport convoy was barely visible through the fog-like sand hanging in the air.

The Marines had already been driving for about eight hours. Their route took them to three cities in the Al Anbar Province, about 150 miles northwest of Baghdad, bringing supplies to Marines separated from the majority of the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

"Pretty much every day we're on the road," said Cpl. Ronald Lewis, a 22-year-old motor transport operator. "We bring out supplies, food, drinks, ammo and equipment."

By 4 p.m., they had been working for eight hours and already completed what the majority of Americans would consider a normal work day. But, they weren't done yet.

While conducting a patrol in armored humvees around Anah, a city of roughly 20,000 where the 'Motor-T' convoy had just resupplied about 120 Marines, a team of combat engineers had run over a hidden improvised explosive device which destroyed the front of their vehicle.

No one was seriously injured, but the Motor-T Marines were now responsible for transporting the destroyed vehicle.

Several hours later, after they used their equipment to load up the damaged humvee and were set to head back "home," another call to move a vehicle came in.

"Well, sometimes that's what happens," said Lewis, a Clinton, Tenn., native. "You just have to be able to work around the clock."

They might have long, busy days, but the team of

roughly 40 motor transport Marines here seem to take certain pride in their job.

Motor-T is the link between the infantry Marine conduct daily security operations and the rest of the battalion. While some U.S. Forces in Iraq enjoy access to military stores to buy goods, internet access and "mail call," in this remote part of the Al Anbar Province many infantry Marines go weeks at a time without luxuries.

Through their constant convoys, Motor-T helps do legwork that takes care of their Marines who live in the field.

But the responsibility comes with its risks.

"Obviously, when you're on the road, you're going susceptible to IED attacks and small arms fire," said Lt. Jose Guevara, the 30-year-old motor transport operator. "But, dealing with all the heavy equipment, we also have to supervise and make sure that everyone's safe."

Maintaining safety and completing their job could be a difficult business, said Guevara, a Victoria, Texas, native. However, the job runs smoothly due to the help of his enlisted noncommissioned officers, many of whom are on their second deployment and his junior Marines who, he says, "have really stepped up and taken on a lot of responsibility."

Their hard work and attention to detail is important, Guevara said, because as cliché as the term "complain kills" might have become to service members in Iraq, the truth is...

"We know what to expect and we're prepared for it," said Guevara. "It's almost the same thing over and over but you can't let your guard down."

"Every time you leave the wire, you have to act like it's the first time," he said. ■

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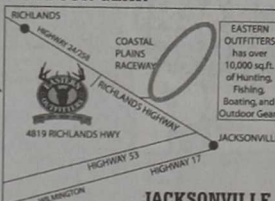
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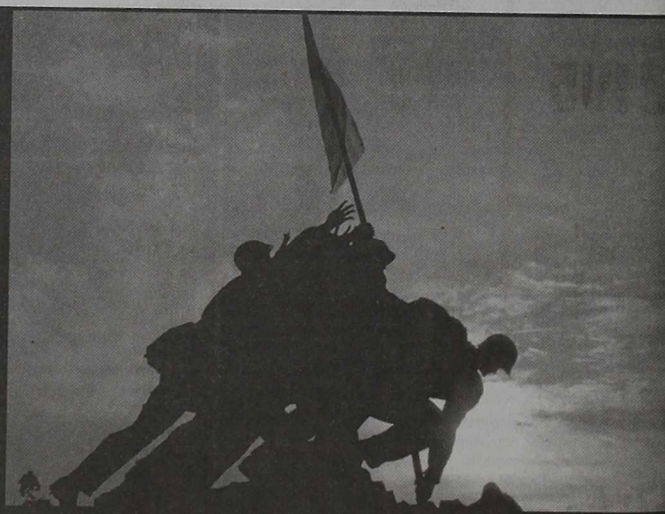
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Camp Lejeune's Marines lend helping hand to Iraqi nationals

Cpl. Nathaniel Sapp
Marine Division

BAH, Iraq — In a on the Euphrates 50 miles north of Baghdad, two stood calmly as a local Iraqi men led them.

Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Light Armored Vehicle Battalion stood security up in the street in the roughly 30,000 people for any situation.

Sean Quinlan's weren't anywhere own weapon. ad, his hands were those of the elderly around him in greeting. Mostly school teachers, Quinlan told Quinlan, commanding officer of Company D, "exactly what I do for them to their city better."

helping out a 3-year-old girl, daughter to Iraqi elders. She's ago, in her curiosity, she a pot of boiling liquid from the stove. s remember ushering the family's vehicle through check-

to get the child to a hospital to treat her

severe burns.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Derek Parker, a 25-year-old Navy corpsman from Morris, Okla., joined Quinlan and the rest of the group to see how he could help with the girl's constant pain.

At the time, Parker didn't have any ointment or medication that could help the girl, so Quinlan made a promise to the men. Several hours later, that promise was fulfilled when the Outlaws returned with supplies.

"Her father put his hand over his heart, looked me in the eye and shook my hand," said Parker, who has children of his own. "The family was very happy with us; they really seemed to like that we cared so much about them."

The majority of the people in Rawah don't want to hurt Marines, said Quinlan. In fact, it seems as though the vast majority of the population are good people who want to live a calm, normal life, he said.

"It's all about random acts of kindness," Quinlan reiterated to his Marines after the patrol. "It's not all about fighting the insurgents; we need to show the people that we care."

Actions speak louder



Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Sapp

Road block: Cpl. Robert Vales, a 22-year-old Light Armored Vehicle crewman from LaGuardia, N.Y., takes concertina off his vehicle, March 1, to set up a roadblock as Marines talk with locals.

than words and although most Marines aren't anywhere near fluent in Arabic, their generosity is a language local people can understand.

After a chance encounter with a family of 12 who live away from the city in a tent tending a farm, Marines found themselves wanting to "go the extra mile" to help improve their living conditions.

The "Outlaws" arrived at the remote farm with bunk beds, mattresses, blankets and toys.

Local Iraqi Police, who work side-by-side with the Marines, brought clothes to the family.

"Little things like that really help us win over the people," said Parker. "When people see us trying to help them, they try

to help us."

Recently, Marines were warned by locals of an improvised explosive device that could have wounded or killed several of them.

The instances of insurgency in the area are growing less and less frequent, the Marines say. This is partially due to locals questioning outsiders extensively when they move into their neighborhoods, deterring insurgents from other parts of the country.

"They're working with us," said Parker. "I think us being here and the way we act, has influenced them to take more pride in their community, in their city." ■

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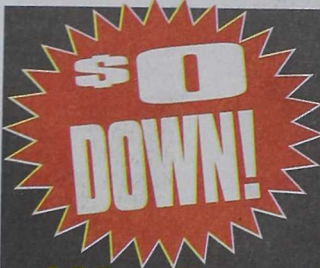


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	KELLEY BLUE BOOK PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
'01 PONTIAC TRANS AM, BLACK, 52K MILES, #M86396	\$16,140	\$1,000	\$15,140
'03 FORD MUSTANG GT, BLACK, 53K MILES, #M86336	\$15,565	\$1,000	\$14,565
'06 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GS, SILVER, 6K MILES, #M86362	\$20,750	\$3,000	\$17,750
'04 FORD MUSTANG GT CONVERTIBLE, WHITE, 46K MILES, #C86202	\$20,050	\$2,000	\$18,050
'04 PONTIAC GTO, 6-SPEED, YELLOW, 18K MILES #M86452	\$23,785	\$1,000	\$22,785
'06 FORD MUSTANG GT, GREEN, 18K MILES, #C86357A	\$26,870	\$3,000	\$23,870
'04 INFINITI G35 COUPE, SILVER, 42K MILES #M86447	\$29,250	\$3,000	\$26,250
'03 BMW 530i, WHITE, 42K MILES, #C86126	\$31,340	\$5,000	\$26,340
'02 FORD MUSTANG SALEEN CONVERTIBLE, WHITE, 20K MILES, #M86320A	\$33,900	\$5,000	\$28,900
'05 NISSAN 350Z, TOURING EDITION, SILVER, 11K MILES #M86461	\$33,245	\$3,500	\$29,745

LUXURY CARS

	KELLEY BLUE BOOK PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
'05 SAAB 9.3 TURBO, GRAY, 54K MILES #M86449	\$19,765	\$3,000	\$16,765
'03 MERCEDES BENZ C230 COUPE, BLACK, 56K MILES #M86460	\$18,450	\$1,000	\$17,450
'04 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE, COUPE, BLACK, 18K MILES, #M86333	\$22,450	\$4,000	\$18,450
'05 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE, COUPE, LIMITED, WHITE, 23K MILES, #C86348	\$24,475	\$4,000	\$20,475
'03 BMW 325, GRAY, 68K MILES #M86451	\$22,300	\$1,500	\$20,800
'04 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5 SL, BLACK, 49K MILES #M86444	\$22,335	\$1,500	\$20,835
'05 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE, COUPE, LIMITED, GRAY, 5K MILES, #C86377	\$25,000	\$4,000	\$21,000
'02 MINI COOPER, BLUE, 56K MILES, #M86180	\$17,275	\$2,000	\$15,275
'04 MINI COOPER, WHITE, 38K MILES, #67089A	\$21,970	\$2,000	\$19,970
'01 BMW 325 CONVERTIBLE, SILVER, 45K MILES, #M86328	\$25,115	\$2,000	\$23,115
'03 MERCEDES C320 4-MATIC AWD, PEWTER, 52K MILES #M86446	\$25,825	\$2,000	\$23,825
'03 JAGUAR S-TYPE, SILVER, 35K MILES #M86458	\$24,930	\$1,000	\$23,930
'05 LEXUS IS300, SILVER, 58K MILES #M86459	\$26,800	\$2,000	\$24,800
'03 BMW 530i, WHITE, 42K MILES, #C86126	\$31,340	\$5,000	\$26,340
'06 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING, BLACK, 11K MILES, #C86433A	\$26,755	\$3,000	\$26,755
'04 BMW 325 COUPE, BLUE, 28K MILES #M86441	\$28,775	\$2,000	\$26,775
'07 CADILLAC CTS, PLATINUM, 14K MILES, #M86419	\$33,840	\$7,000	\$26,840

POWER BUYS

'06 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING SEDANS V6, Automatic Transmission, A/C, Stereo Cd, Power Windows, Mirrors And Door Locks, Tilt Steering, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry, 17" Alloy Wheels 10 To Choose From!	 30 MPG Kelley Blue Book: \$16,040 Now Starting At: \$12,988	'06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER TOURING SEDANS Automatic Transmission, A/C, Stereo Cd, Power Windows, Mirrors And Door Locks, Remote Keyless Entry, Tilt Steering 6 To Choose From!	 Kelley Blue Book: \$15,505 Now Starting At: \$12,488
'06 DODGE STRATUS SXT Automatic Transmission, A/C, Stereo Cd, Power Windows, Mirrors And Door Locks, Remote Keyless Entry, 16" Alloy Wheels 6 To Choose From!	 30 MPG Kelley Blue Book: \$13,965 Now Starting At: \$10,865	'06 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING CONVERTIBLES V6, Automatic Transmission, A/C, Stereo Cd, Power Windows, Mirrors And Door Locks, Tilt Steering, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry, 17" Alloy Wheels 8 To Choose From!	 30 MPG Kelley Blue Book: \$20,540 Now Starting At: \$15,988

VANS

	RETAIL PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
'06 FORD FREESTAR SE, SILVER, 37K MILES, #M86423	\$17,025	\$3,000	\$14,025
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE, SILVER, 28K MILES, DVD SYS., #C86461	\$18,435	\$2,500	\$15,935
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE, BEIGE, 26K MILES, #C86468	\$18,135	\$2,500	\$15,635
'05 DODGE CARAVAN SXT, WHITE, 20K MILES, #C86477	\$19,410	\$4,000	\$15,410
'06 DODGE CARAVAN SXT, GREEN, 28K MILES, #C86401	\$19,085	\$3,000	\$16,085
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE, SILVER, 18K MILES, #C86393	\$19,185	\$2,500	\$16,685
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE, BLUE, 16K MILES, #C86392	\$19,300	\$2,500	\$16,800
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE, SILVER, 19K MILES, #C86395	\$19,185	\$2,500	\$16,685
'06 DODGE CARAVAN SXT, BLUE, 19K MILES, #C86399	\$19,670	\$3,000	\$16,670
'06 DODGE CARAVAN SXT, GREEN, 20K MILES, #C86400	\$19,745	\$3,000	\$16,745
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT, SILVER, 17K MILES, #C86455	\$19,725	\$2,000	\$17,725
'07 FORD FREESTAR SE, SILVER, 19K MILES, #M86409	\$22,900	\$5,000	\$17,900

2007 PAM

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'07 SATURN ION2, SILVER, 2	\$16,900
'07 DODGE CALIBER SE,	\$17,800
'07 DODGE CALIBER SXT	\$19,600
'07 FORD TAURUS SE, SILV	\$19,700
'07 PONTIAC G6, WHITE, 17K	\$20,900
'07 PONTIAC G6, V6, BLACK,	\$22,900
'07 BUICK LACROSSE CX	\$21,700
'07 DODGE CHARGER, SILV	\$22,900
'07 JEEP GRAND CHERO	\$26,900
'07 GMC ENVOY SLE, BLUE	\$26,900
'07 DODGE DAKOTA EXT CAE	\$25,800
'07 DODGE MAGNUM, GRV	\$24,900
'07 DODGE RAM QUAD C	\$26,800
'07 DODGE DURANGO SI	\$28,900
'07 FORD EXPLORER XLT	\$27,800
'07 FORD F-150 CREW C	\$29,900
'07 NISSAN MAXIMA SE,	\$29,900
'07 CHEVY SUBURBAN LS	\$36,900

GAS SAVING

'05 SUZUKI FORENZA S, BLUE	\$10,440
'05 PONTIAC SUNFIRE, RED, 2	\$11,970
'05 DODGE NEON SXT, WHITE	\$12,240
'05 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS	\$12,320
'06 KIA RIO LX, BEIGE, 11K MILES, #	\$13,980
'06 FORD FOCUS ZX3, SILVER,	\$14,040
'07 SATURN ION 2, SILVER, 24K M	\$16,900
'07 FORD FOCUS SE, BLACK, 20	\$15,900
'05 TOYOTA COROLLA CD, BE	\$13,010
'07 CHEVROLET COBALT, WH	\$15,900
'07 DODGE CALIBER SE, WHIT	\$17,800

DEALS OF THE WEEK

'06 CHRYSLER SEBRING, BLUE,	\$1
'04 VW BEETLE, BLACK, 63K MILES, #M	\$1
'06 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING	\$1
'05 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER CONVERTIBLE	\$1
'06 FORD 500SE, SILVER, 39K MILES, #	\$1
'03 VW JETTA GLS TURBO, GRAY,	\$1
'06 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT, WH	\$1
'05 NISSAN ALTIMA S, SILVER, 22K	\$1
'06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER, RC	\$1
'06 MAZDA 6 S, WHITE, 16K MILES, #M	\$1
'07 FORD 500SEL, BEIGE, 16K MILES,	\$1
'06 NISSAN ALTIMA S, BEIGE, 16K M	\$1
'04 HONDA ACCORD EX-V6, WH	\$1
'06 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOUR	\$1



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RETAIL PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
\$16,900	\$5,000	\$11,900
\$17,800	\$4,000	\$13,800
\$19,600	\$5,000	\$14,600
\$19,700	\$5,000	\$14,700
\$20,900	\$6,000	\$14,900
\$22,900	\$7,000	\$15,900
\$21,700	\$4,000	\$17,700
\$22,900	\$4,000	\$18,900
\$26,900	\$7,000	\$19,900
\$26,900	\$7,000	\$19,900
\$25,800	\$6,000	\$19,800
\$24,900	\$5,000	\$19,900
\$26,800	\$6,000	\$20,900
\$28,900	\$8,000	\$20,900
\$27,800	\$6,000	\$21,800
\$29,900	\$6,000	\$23,900
\$29,900	\$6,000	\$23,900
\$36,900	\$8,000	\$28,900

RETAIL PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
\$10,440	\$1,000	\$9,440
\$11,970	\$2,000	\$9,970
\$12,240	\$2,000	\$10,240
\$12,325	\$1,500	\$10,825
\$13,980	\$2,500	\$11,480
\$14,040	\$2,500	\$11,540
\$16,900	\$5,000	\$11,900
\$15,900	\$4,000	\$11,900
\$13,015	\$1,000	\$12,015
\$15,900	\$3,000	\$12,900
\$17,800	\$4,000	\$13,800

RETAIL PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
\$13,665	\$2,000	\$11,665
\$13,970	\$1,000	\$12,970
\$16,040	\$3,052	\$12,988
\$14,940	\$1,500	\$13,440
\$16,650	\$2,000	\$14,650
\$15,950	\$1,000	\$14,950
\$17,275	\$2,000	\$15,275
\$18,150	\$2,500	\$15,650
\$16,765	\$1,000	\$15,765
\$19,200	\$2,500	\$16,700
\$21,900	\$4,000	\$17,900
\$18,965	\$1,500	\$17,465
\$20,275	\$2,000	\$18,275
\$21,790	\$3,000	\$18,790

TRUCKS

	KELLEY BLUE BOOK PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
'02 FORD RANGER XL, V6, RED, 74K MILES, #M86285	\$7670	\$1,000	\$6,670
'03 FORD RANGER XL, RED, 55K MILES, #M86281	\$8755	\$1,000	\$7,755
'03 NISSAN FRONTIER KING CAB XE, BLACK, 47K MILES, #M86399	\$13,050	\$2,000	\$11,050
'03 CHEVROLET S-10 EXT CAB 4X4, BLACK, 59K MILES, #C86370	\$14,710	\$2,000	\$12,710
'06 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB SLT, WHITE, 23K MILES, #C86454	\$21,125	\$3,500	\$17,625
'06 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB SLT, WHITE, 29K MILES, #RE8N86	\$21,765	\$2,500	\$19,265
'06 FORD F-150 CREW CAB XLT, RED, 27K MILES, #RE5M63	\$25,230	\$3,000	\$22,230
'05 CHEVY SILVERADO Z-71 EXT CAB, GREEN, 24K MILES, #67116A	\$26,270	\$2,500	\$23,770
'05 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SLT, DAYTONA, SILVER, 13K MILES, #M86457	\$26,900	\$1,500	\$25,400
'07 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW CAB LS, 4X2, SILVER, 17K MILES, #M86422	\$27,900	\$5,100	\$22,800
'05 CHEVY SILVERADO LT EXT CAB, DIESEL, 4X4, DUALY, WHITE 29K MILES	\$36,825	\$2,000	\$34,825

Jeep

'07 GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO

V6, Automatic Transmission, A/C, Stereo Cd, Power Windows, Mirrors And Door Locks, Power Driver's Seat, Tilt Steering, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry, 17" Alloy Wheels



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	KELLEY BLUE BOOK PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
'06 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 4X4, SILVER, 28K MILES, #203413	\$19,550	\$3,000	\$16,550
'05 JEEP WRANGLER X, SILVER, 26K MILES, #M86434A	\$18,970	\$1,000	\$17,970
'06 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO, SILVER, 24K MILES, #C86421	\$22,710	\$4,000	\$18,710
'03 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON, BLACK, 43K MILES, #C86509	\$18,900	\$1,000	\$17,900
'07 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, BLACK, 16K MILES, #C86479	\$24,980	\$5,000	\$19,980
'06 JEEP LIBERTY LIMITED 4X4, BLUE, 16K MILES, #C86508	\$24,425	\$4,000	\$20,425
'06 JEEP COMMANDER 4X2, V8, SILVER, 20K MILES, #C86495	\$23,420	\$2,500	\$20,920
'04 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON, BLUE, 30K MILES, #M86455	\$21,975	\$1,000	\$20,975
'06 JEEP COMMANDER LIMITED 4X4, BURGANDY, 27K MILES, #C86428	\$25,795	\$2,000	\$23,795
'06 JEEP COMMANDER 4X2, BLUE, 16K MILES, #C86503	\$32,400	\$8,000	\$24,400
'06 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED, BLACK, 13K MILES, #C86479	\$30,045	\$5,000	\$25,045
'06 JEEP COMMANDER LIMITED HEMI, BLUE, 32K MILES, #C86459	\$30,400	\$4,000	\$26,400

SPORT UTILITIES

	KELLEY BLUE BOOK PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
'05 PONTIAC AZTEK, RALLY EDITION, SILVER, 32K MILES, #M86415	\$13,915	\$1,000	\$12,915
'05 PONTIAC VIBE, GRAY, 24K MILES, #M86412	\$14,695	\$1,000	\$13,695
'02 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR-5, BURGANDY, 54K MILES, #C86309A	\$17,735	\$2,000	\$15,735
'06 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING, WHITE, 25K MILES, #C86496	\$20,065	\$2,500	\$17,565
'06 CHRYSLER PACIFICA, SILVER, 13K MILES, #C86493	\$19,740	\$2,000	\$17,740
'06 MITSUBISHI ENDEAVOR LS 4X4, BLUE, 24K MILES	\$22,950	\$4,000	\$18,950
'05 NISSAN XTERRA S 4X4, GRAPHITE, 29K MILES, #C8641A	\$21,105	\$2,000	\$19,105
'03 LINCOLN AVIATOR 4X4, WHITE, 60K MILES, #M86454	\$23,355	\$3,500	\$19,855
'07 GMC ENVOY SLE, BLUE, 14K MILES, #PE2011	\$26,900	\$7,000	\$19,900
'07 DODGE DURANGO SLT, V8 BEIGE 16K MILES, #PE2006	\$28,900	\$8,000	\$20,900
'06 HUMMER H3, ADVENTURE RED, 20K MILES, #M86388	\$29,190	\$1,000	\$28,190
'07 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LS, SILVER, 22K MILES, #M86421	\$36,900	\$8,000	\$28,900
'03 HUMMER H2, BRONZE, 72K MILES, #M86435	\$33,205	\$4,000	\$29,205

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If It Has Our Name On It, You Have Our Word On It!

Marines, family go through two years of consecutive deployments

Cpl. Zachary Dyer
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward)

AL ASAD, Iraq — In a time where deployments and operational tempos have increased, days spent with friends and family members can be few and far between. One Philadelphia family knows this better than most, dealing with consecutive deployments for the last two years.

Two of those family members, Corporals John and Sheila Brooks, are serving concurrently at Al Asad, Iraq.

John, a tactical networking data specialist with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, is preparing to return to the states, while his sister, a combat cameraman with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2, just started her year-long deployment.

Their younger brother Bryan, a former Marine, started the chain when he deployed to Iraq at the end of 2004. Sheila deployed for the first time shortly after Bryan returned. Soon after Sheila's return, John left on his current deployment to Al Asad.

"By the time Sheila gets back, it'll be three years straight that my mom will have someone in Iraq," said John.

Despite the constant deployments, both Marines say their family has dealt relatively well with the situation.

"Our family deals with [deployments] the same way as any other family. They've just had to deal with it constantly," said John. "All the stuff in the news is how Army troops and Marines are re-deploying a lot quicker than they thought, but they are still having a year or so in between."

Both Marines try to call home at least once a week, in addition to sending e-mails to their family members as often as they can, said John.

The Brooks family is no stranger to life in the military, the two Marines come from a long line of military service.

"My grandfather was in the Navy and my father joined the Marine Corps," said John. "I have an uncle on my father's side that was in the Navy, and I have another uncle on my mother's side that was in the Marine Corps."

John, a reservist, said he joined the Marines because he needed some direction and discipline in his life.

Sheila, who recently re-enlisted for her second tour, said she joined the military for the same reasons, but chose the Corps for different reasons.

"I guess you could say I did follow in my brothers' and my dad's footsteps," said Sheila. "They tried to get me to go into something like the Air Force, something that wouldn't be so demanding. But, being myself, I wanted to be with the best. I didn't want them to be Marines, and then I go into the Air Force and be the odd man out."

Because of conflicting schedules, the two Marines have found it difficult to spend time with each other while deployed, said Sheila.

"He works different hours than I do," said Sheila. "He works nights and I work days, so it's hard for us to be able to spend a lot of time together. The first day I got here I went over in the morning and saw him. We've had lunch together one time. On Sundays, I try to go over to his unit and they have steaks."

Although both Marines say that having a sibling nearby on deployment has its advantages, they also agree that family time is better spent at home.

"I like the fact that on Sundays I can go over and see him," added Sheila. "I look forward to those days. I love the fact that he's here, but I'm happy that he gets to go home." ■

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Effective immediately, all stray animals picked up by Military Police or Domestic Animal Control will be held three business days after capture. Unclaimed animals will be euthanized. Please ensure your pets are properly tagged, micro-chipped, and restrained.

If your pet is lost, call Animal Control Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 451-2695 or 451-5143. Call PMO Desk Sergeant Monday - Friday after hours and on weekends at 451-2555.

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Mar 18 JMP
Saturday - FREE BBQ
April 8 Cow Branch
April 28 Moto X Park East
May 11-12 Myrtle Beach MX Park
Carolina Extreme Mini Olympics
(Bike Week) (Either day will count for series eligibility)
May 19-20 JMP
Carolina Extreme Mini Olympics
(Either day will count for series eligibility)
May 26-27 Cow Branch
Carolina Extreme Mini Olympics
(Either day will count for series eligibility)
June 2 Moto X Park East
June 16-17 Myrtle Beach MX Park
Carolina Extreme Mini Olympics
(Either day will count for series eligibility)

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Practice 8:30 am
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Cpl. Wayne Edmiston

Course: An Iraqi student asks a question during the Iraqi army's Wheeled Vehicles Mechanics Course March 7. The course is taught by senior Iraqi mechanics and civilian contractors to soldiers of the 1st Motor Transportation Regiment, 1st Iraqi Army Division. It teaches them everything they need to know to fix the vehicles used by the growing Iraqi fighting force.

everything possible," said Lionell Smith, a master trainer for the course. "They can do everything from replacing an engine to

body work."

The commitment these soldiers show during this course, which can last up to six months, is evident in

their work, Smith said.

"They are so excited to learn. Many will work an entire night of duty and still be at class the next day," the Amite, La.,

native explained.

This training was created to serve as an advanced course for the soldiers.

"It helps that a lot of

these guys come from mechanical back grounds," said Ed Ellazar, the site manager for the maintenance facility. "A lot of the time, it's a matter of familiarizing them with the equipment."

According to the course syllabus, the students learn to repair humvees, motorcycles, water trucks, generators, large trucks and recovery vehicles.

The instructors take note of their students' desire to learn and eagerness to apply the mechanical knowledge they possess.

"They work hard and are very motivated," said Ellazar, a Honolulu native. "They pick up very quickly on what we teach them. The MTR now has enough trained mechanics that we really only work in a supervisory role."

Ellazar believes the course helps bring the Iraqi army one step closer to being an even more logistically self-sufficient military.

"The faster we can train them, the faster they can get to work and we can go home," Ellazar said. ■

Renthood stills vital traits in 1st EB Marine

Lance Cpl. Randall Little
Regimental Combat Team-6

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marine at some point in his military career is asked if they decided to become a member of "America's 911 Force."

There are many answers to that question, and every person who makes the decision to stand with "The Few" has their own story. For one Marine currently serving with Company C, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, his revolves around his daughter.

Lance Cpl. Daniel S. Phillips, a 23-year-old father of two from Texas, made the decision to list into the Marines after the birth of his first daughter, an, two years ago.

Phillips's childhood and life before high school was nothing spectacular to say the least, but like most parents, Phillips didn't want his daughters to grow up like he did. He wanted his daughters to be prepared for the future.

"Growing up was rough for me," Phillips, a heavy equipment operator and welder with the battalion, explained. "I don't want my daughters to have the same childhood I had. I want everything I can to make sure they don't."



Lance Cpl. Randall Little

Vital traits: Lance Cpl. Daniel S. Phillips, a 23-year-old heavy equipment operator with Company C, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, and father of two from Athens, Texas, stands on a D7G bulldozer. Phillips joined the Marines to make life easier for his wife and daughters. "Whatever I have to do for them to have a comfortable life, I'll do," he said.

Before joining the Corps, Phillips worked a few welding jobs around the Dallas area. He also worked on an oilrig until he began to grow tired of living paycheck-to-paycheck. When he discovered he could maintain a steady job and paycheck while serving his country in the Marines, Phillips decided it would be the best thing for his family, he said.

"It was too rough bouncing back and forth with jobs," Phillips explained. "When we had Morgan it just got rougher. I knew I had to find a solution."

Phillips enlisted for a job as an engineer in order to put his skills with welding and operating heavy machinery to use. All along he was thinking of the benefits his daughters could reap in the future.

Phillips said he plans to stay in the Corps for around 10 years. He doesn't know if he'll stay in any longer, but he knows the longer he stays in the more benefits he

will be able to reap. The shadow of a life of struggle looms large in the back of his mind.

"I don't want to be stuck with nothing four or five years after I get out," He explained. "If one day my girls want to go on a vacation somewhere, I want to be able to just pack up and take them."

Phillips's fellow Marines said he shows how dedicated he is to supporting his family through his work and attitude.

"Phillips is not only outstanding at his job operating the 'dozer,'" explained Sgt. Arnold J. Nass, Company C's 27-year-old heavy equipment operations chief. "He also goes beyond that and gets jobs done that have nothing to do with his."

Phillips said he is successful at what he does because of traits he learned from his daughters.

"Having kids teaches you patience," Phillips explained. "They also teach you to take responsibility. I don't know where I would be without them." ■

Son hopes to return gift of life

Cpl. Andrew Kalwitz
2nd Marine Logistics Group

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq — If anyone crosses paths with Staff Sgt. John W. Johnson at the Camp Taqaddum Surgical Detachment, they may assume he's just there for a regular checkup. However, the Raleigh, Miss., native is probably there out of concern for someone else's health.

Johnson, the food service staff noncommissioned officer with Headquarters Company, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), has been preparing to make a sacrifice for his mother - Joann J. Turner.

"She's got kidney failure," said Johnson. "I'll do whatever I can to give her one of mine."

Johnson had his blood drawn and sent to the University of Alabama, where tests will determine his compatibility as a donor. He won't know if he can donate one of his kidneys until 13 days after the university receives the blood sample.

"Even if I'm not able to do it, she's overwhelmed to see I'm going through the process to do it," said Johnson. "I figured she gave me life and I'll do whatever I need to do to help her stay alive. If I can continue to give her life, that's what I'll do."

Johnson said if everything develops as he hopes, he will be flown to Alabama and he and his mother will undergo a transplant oper-

ation at the university. He will have a two-week recovery period before returning to Al Taqaddum, Iraq to resume his deployment.

"As long as I'm able to come back, I'll be back," said Johnson.

Turner stumbled over her words during a telephone interview as she expressed her appreciation for what her son is doing, saying she cries when she thinks about it.

"When he found out he said 'I'll be there for you. I'll give you a kidney,'" she said. "It's just meaning so much to me that my youngest child wants to do that for me."

Johnson explained if he is unable to donate, his brother, a prior-enlisted soldier, will try instead.

Turner said she feels very blessed knowing two of her sons are willing to donate.

"It's more than I can fathom," she said.

The corpsman who drew Johnson's blood said this is not a usual scenario.

"This is the first I've ever heard of anything like this," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald E. Mash, a corpsman with Battalion Aid Station and Personal Security Detachment, Headquarters Company, 2nd MLG (Fwd).

Mash, a Philadelphia native, said he thinks there is something special about Johnson's willingness to donate.

"He genuinely wants to

See LIFE page 10A

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Virtual lessons save lives: Task Force 1/ integrates virtual reality, convoy training

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Eric C.
Schwartz
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — The three-vehicle convoy slowly passed through the crowded streets of Fallujah, Iraq. The tension rose as the citizens milled around the vehicles carelessly. A celebratory event was taking place at a nearby mosque, adding an uneasy alertness to the Marines in the convoy who knew crowded areas hide insurgents and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices. The Marines' daily patrol turned into absolute chaos when an IED exploded 100 meters ahead of the last vehicle.

The convoy halted instantly, dust kicked around the vehicles, while two Marines stepped out of one of the vehicles, rifles at the ready, assessing the situation. The Marines checked under their vehicle for possible IEDs and found none. The Marines were ordered to quickly come back inside the humvee to move the convoy along. They jumped back into the vehicle and after driving another 50 meters, the city instantly disappeared. The buildings, roads, citizens and endless landscape were instantly replaced by white screens surrounding them in a full circle.

This wasn't a scene from a Hollywood movie, but an actual simulation for the Marines of Weapons Company, Task Force 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment who participated in the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer course.

"It was really great," said Cpl. Adam Bosley, a vehicle commander with Weapons Company. "It was probably the best videogame I've ever played."

The VCCT places Marines in a convoy where they can view the battlefield in a 360-degree interface during a real-time scenario. The program looks like a virtual-reality game found in some higher-end arcades but it is meant to train Marines for patrolling in Iraq.

"The communication was really stressed here because vehicle commanders couldn't just yell at one another," said Pfc. Michael Vanderen, an assaultman with Weapons Company.

The vehicle command-



Training: Cpl. Adam Bosley, a vehicle commander with Weapons Company, Task Force, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment searches the Virtual Convoy Combat Trainer screens programmed into the system. The VCCT allows Marines to learn from their mistakes before entering a combat environment.

ers, were able to see the other vehicles in the convoy on screen but weren't able to physically view them because each vehicle was in its separate building connected through a local area network system. The VCs only form of communication was through a headset similar to the communication systems used in regular Humvees.

The simulation Humvees looked similar to regular Humvees with tan-coated bodies and a similar shape. There was a turret in place for a gunner and four seats for a driver, VC and two dismounts. The frame was aluminum and the wheels were stationary. Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer weapons, or ISMT weapons, replaced the traditional rifles and machine-guns found in today's combat environment.

Marines normally complete IED awareness drills, in controlled environments without citizens or IEDs. The platoon commander normally sits in a VC position and sends information over his radio system as to

where they are taking fire from or which vehicle was hit by an IED. The Marines then respond to the role-play in turn, shooting at an invisible enemy.

"Normally I have to tell my Marines where the fire is coming from," said 2nd Lt. Patrick Vanhorne, a platoon commander with Weapons Company. "The VCCT forces them to react to a situation instead of me dictating the situation to them."

The Marines become more alert because the area on screen is new, whereas the normal training areas are on familiar Camp Pendleton, Calif. roads.

"My Marines know Camp Pendleton like the back of their hand," Vanhorne said. "We're fighting in Iraq — not Pendleton, so this is more geared to where we're going."

"Marines can really feel the situation and participate a lot more because there are actual objects to shoot and they will shoot back at you," said retired

Master Sgt. Randy Stevens, a field service representative and advisor for Lockheed Martin.

Each scenario is tweaked individually to each unit's select mission.

"We input the scenarios into the system that the unit commander tells us his Marines need to improve upon," Stevens said.

This type of selective training gives Marines the training needed in much shorter time and in a more interactive way.

"A one day event here is like a week of training in the field," Stevens said.

The platoon commander can view the convoy in the command center equally critiquing everyone during the exercise.

"I can see all four vehicles in the convoy instead of only seeing the one in front of me and relying on what the VCs said happened during the after-action report," Vanhorne said.

The Marine Corps needed a way for Marines to train in real-life scenarios without real-life consequences made from mis-



Simulator: Marines view a real-time topical map of a virtual Iraq. The Virtual Convoy Combat Trainer allows commanders what is happening with their entire convoy during this training through a multitude of monitors.

takes, and the VCCT provides them with just that.

"The Marines pay for their mistakes in a real environment, but in a simulated one they can learn from it and try again," Stevens said.

Gunners and VCs agree this system works but for some, there is nothing as good as the real thing.

"It's a great tool for leaders and gunners but for scouts and drivers, there's no substitution for being on

an actual road," said.

The session at Vanhorne gave Marines the after-report explaining takes were made the convoy and those mistakes.

Every Marine away unscathed virtual IED explosion day and the learned will help during their deployment. ■



Survival, evasion, resistance and escape training

A Marine with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, Foreign Military Training Unit constructs a shelter to provide cover and concealment in the wild. FMTU conducted survival, evasion, resistance and escape training here late January. During the nine-day training exercise, the Marines learned how to trap and kill game, prepare meals and survive on limited supplies for extended periods behind enemy lines. FMTU now includes 11 operational teams. More teams are forming now and MARSOC is looking for qualified volunteers to take on the challenge of Marine Special Operations missions. Active-duty Marines and Navy Corpsmen interested in joining MARSOC are encouraged to contact the Marine Special Operations School at 450-2722/2762 or visit www.marsoc.usmc.mil.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph R. Stalman

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SSgt. Tracie G. Kessler

Staff Sgt. Daniel Thibeault (right), an explosive ordnance disposal Marine from Combat Logistics Battalion attached to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, demonstrates to Marines the proper way to prepare ordnance for disposal. EOD performs various functions for the battalion such as disposal of improvised explosive devices, weapons and post blast analysis.

MEDICAL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

dards of living," he said.

In addition to helping the Kenyans, the medical staff considered the project good training.

Linares said it gave the Americans a chance to diagnose and treat things they may not see very often.

"It was a good experience," he said, "We got to see some stuff we don't normally see in the U.S., and at the same time we got to train the junior corpsmen."

For many of the younger service members, this was their first time in an area such as Kenya.

Petty Officer 3rd Class (FMF) Jonathan R. Underberg, a corpsman in CLB-26, said he never dreamed he would be doing this when he joined the Navy.

"When I saw the recruiter's poster I knew I would be on the ocean," he said,

"but I never thought I would be in Africa doing a clinic."

Underberg said he was proud he got a chance to help.

The 26th MEU is comprised of the Command Element; the Ground Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team 2/2; the Logistics Combat Element, Combat Logistics Battalion-26; and the Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 (Reinforced).

The 26th MEU, along with the ships of the Bataan Strike Group, USS Bataan, USS Oak Hill, USS Shreveport, USS Nitze, USS Vella Gulf, USS Underwood and USS Scranton, deployed in early January on a routine, scheduled deployment.

For more information, news, and video, please visit www.usmc.mil/26thmeu. ■

CACHE

CONTINUED FROM 4A

explained, the first weeks were busy. But due to their arduous work, a sizeable dent has been made in the amount of weapons and explosives being found.

"We've done four or five missions in one day, but it just depends on the day (that dictates) how busy you are," said Thibeault, a Lewiston, Maine, native. "I mean, whenever the phone rings we're wondering, 'are we going or not.'"

The EOD carries an array of tools to ensure the job gets done right and done safely, explained Thibeault. The team has several options on hand to deal with each situation as necessary.

For Thibeault, the job is relatively safe approximately 50 percent of the time. Most of the time when he and the rest of the team are called out, it is simply to destroy a cache of weapons. It's not until the occasional IED is found that the job becomes tricky.

"The scary part is when it comes to IEDs; I'm not going to lie, I don't like going on the IED calls much. But as long as we get there and do a thorough search of our area, then it's a relatively safe environment because anything we do to that IED is going to be done remotely," said Thibeault.

BLT 2/4 is currently deployed to Iraq as part of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and has been operating in the Barwanah area since late November. ■

Retired Military Professional Dinner

March 21

All military are invited

Social hour starts at 5, dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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Attire: Coat and tie

For more information, call Retired Sgt. Maj. Meyer at 938-1610 or Retired Sgt. Maj. Frank McNeive at 353-4937.

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Contact: Dennis Rautmann, 910-451-2710 • rautmann@usmc-mccs.org

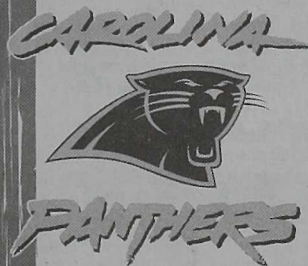


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Sports shorts

Football shoot
The Marine Corps Community Services is sponsoring a paintball tournament for active duty members March 10 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person and includes 500 rounds of paint, gear. Interested members may register at the recreation center to March 30. The tournament will be held at the paintball facility on the 10th Avenue Road at Camp Lejeune.

Tournament
The Camp Lejeune Scholarship Foundation is sponsoring a 10-hole golf tournament April 6 at Paradise Golf Course. Tee off at 9 a.m. Cost is \$65 per person and \$260 per team. The cost includes 18 holes, cart, prizes and food. Teams may consist of one player with a handicap. Registration is available for \$20 per person. Interested parties may register online at www.clejeunescholarship.com/golf.php or may call Lisa Beavers at 451-2244. The Camp Lejeune Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit organization.

Fastpitch ball clinic
The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department will conduct a girls' fastpitch ball clinic April 14 from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. for girls ages 7-17. The event will take place at the Jacksonville Commons Youth Fields. The registration fee is \$30 and will include a week of instruction at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information, call 938-2538.

Ch, Hit and Run
The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department's Onslow County Parks and Recreation presents the Pepsi Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run Event April 26 from 5:15 p.m. through 6 p.m. at the Jacksonville Commons Youth Field. Pitch, Hit and Run provides youngsters across the country the opportunity to participate in an exciting baseball skills competition. There is no admission fee. Boys and girls compete in four different age groups: 7-8, 9-11, 12 and 13-14. For more information, call 938-5303 or 347-5122.

Run for the Warriors
The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring the Run for the Warriors 10K, 5K and 1-mile Fun Run May 19. The Run for the Warriors is part of the Marine Corps Grand Prix Series, and all participants are eligible for Marine Corps and Prix points. The race will start at the Goettge Memorial Field House at Camp Lejeune. Wheelchair categories are available. For more information regarding the race, log on to www.hopeforthewarriors.com.

All-Marine Wrestling Team: Warriors on the road to glory

Story and Photos by
Heather Owens
Staff reporter

All of the building blocks are there for the Marine Corps to once again take the crown of victory from the Army. With some perseverance and time it will happen, says Dan Hicks, All-Marine Corps wrestling coach.

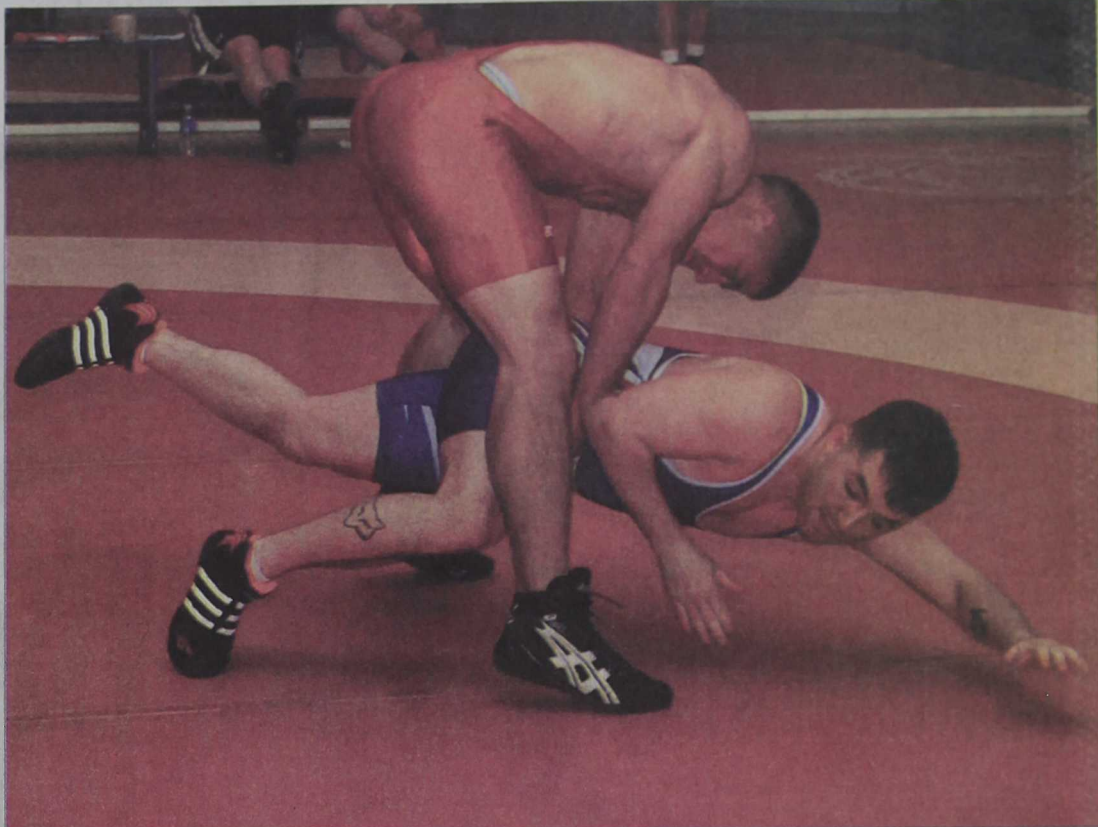
"We're trying to get the team back to the glory days of the '80s when the Marine Corps won 11 national titles in a row. I think that we're moving in the right direction," says Hicks.

"We have the proper support, we have the facilities, we have a great gym and we have great support from the athletic department here. The base has been great. Things are starting to come into place so that we actually could get back to those glory days of the '80s," he continues.

The All-Marine Corps wrestling trial camp has ended and Hicks, himself a Naval Academy graduate and former elite wrestler, sees great potential in his new recruits, as well as the seasoned veterans.

There have been some setbacks on this road to glory. Hicks said that he had "a stable full of stallions" in the earlier part of this decade but many have gone off to war.

"At least half of my roster of guys have been to Iraq. Not one of the Army guys that we are competing



Off the hook: Robert Thompson (standing) wrestles Matthew Goodman during the Greco-Roman trials at the Area 5 gymnasium Friday.

against has been deployed to Iraq. So our guys are Marines first. They're out there doing their job when they're not wrestling," says Hicks.

That's not to say that he is using the war as an excuse — far from it. Hicks says the fact that they have been deployed to Iraq only

makes his team have more to be proud of — especially when a formerly deployed Marine beats a soldier that has only been training during the same period.

"Marines are superior war-fighters, and wrestling is a battle. We're better at battles than they are. They [the Army] are occupiers

and we're fighters. My guys are trained as Marines and they are warriors," says Hicks.

Hicks says that, since his team is in a rebuilding mode for now, the Marine Corps likely will not be victorious over Army this year or perhaps even the next year. However, he

believes that his Marines have the heart, strength and talent to beat Army at the All-Armed Forces Tournament possibly in three years.

That also doesn't mean that he is shying away from self-described "lofty" goals

See WRESTLING page 8B

All-Marine women's basketball team forms to go for gold

Heather Owens
Staff reporter

They gathered from the country's four corners for a mission: to form the best possible All-Marine women's basketball team. Oh, and to win a gold medal in the process.

The 2007 All-Marine women's basketball trial camp recently finished up aboard Camp Lejeune with the selection of the team. In recent interviews, team members said that their goals for this season were to beat Army and to bring home the Gold for the Marine Corps.

Meet your 2007 All-Marine women's basketball team:

Carlotta Moore

Team Co-Captain/Assistant Coach
16th year All-Marine Team
Billet: Administration chief
Station: Tampa, Fla.
Position: power forward

In her words: "This is my 16th year making the team. I've been in 20 years, and I took two years off to have my daughters Paris and London and two years off for duty stations that wouldn't let me come. I also made the inter-service team 13 times. I am like the grandma of All-Marine women's basketball."

Karen Walker

Team Co-Captain
7th year All-Marine Team
Billet: Navy ROTC officer instructor at University of New Mexico
Station: Albuquerque, N.M.
Position: shooting guard/small forward

In her words: "It's just the only time where you can just be passionate about the sport and play it at this level which is pretty much like a pro-level and then compete against the other services ... It's just a lot of pride in being a Marine competing as Marines."

Lisa Lawrence

2nd year All-Marine Team
Billet: Student aviator, Marine Aviation Training Support Group-22
Station: Corpus Christi, Texas
Position: point guard/shooting guard

In her words: "I've been playing basketball for about 18 years now. It was a way to express myself both on and off the court. I had to do something to keep myself out of trouble. It was extra motivation for going to school and to college and just being successful. Basketball has always been there as a stress-reliever and something to give me motiva-



Heather Owens

All-Marine squad: The team poses for a picture on the steps of Goettge Memorial Field House. The team is: (back row from left to right): Co-captain and Assistant Coach Carlotta Moore, Jennifer Ross, Tangie Phair, Jesabel Pichardo, Zenita Green, Tiffany Lebarre, Coach Lee Williams. (Middle row from left to right): Jessica O'Reilly, Chiquita Jackson, Lisa Lawrence. (First row from left to right): Karen Walker, Nicole Torres and Nicole Wells.

tion for me to continue on with what I need to do."

Tangie Phair

4th year All-Marine
Billet: Personnel officer, Marine Corps Cryptologic Support Battalion
Station: Fort Meade, Md.
Position: forward

In her words: "The camaraderie, being able to gel with the other young ladies and see the talent that we all have and share. Each one of us is unique in what we have to provide in the role that we play. It's just amazing to come in here and realize that either we're going to be champions, we are going to claim the victory or we are going to do the best that we can."

Jennifer Ross

7th year All-Marine
Billet: Computer technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-16
Station: Miramar, Calif.
Position: strong forward/center

In her words: "This team has a lot of talent. A lot of times, you can go to the bench for one or two players where you might have seven strong players and five okay players. This year we have an awesome bench and everybody is interchangeable and that's a big plus. It's going to be a wonderful team this year."

Chiquita Jackson

First Time All-Marine
Billet: Generator mechanic, Combat Logistics Company-23
Station: Beaufort, S.C.
Position: forward

In her words: "I have been coaching guy's teams for the last seven years in Okinawa and then down in Beaufort. I tried out mainly because I got tired of my husband pushing me and saying, 'Why don't you go and play with some more females?' Because I'm usually out there playing with the guys at lunch or what have you."

See BASKETBALL page 11B

Camp Lejeune archers hit the mark in recent tournament

Patrick Covert
Special to *The Globe*

The Camp Lejeune archers held their first 3-D tournament of the year Feb. 24 off Parachute Tower Road aboard Camp Lejeune.

With an unprecedented number of participants, the camaraderie and competition amongst the shooters was outstanding.

The exciting 20-target course included an alligator, velociraptor, and Corsican ram just to name a few.

Special thanks are given to Sid Meyerson and Tamela Davis at Marine Corps Community Services for their continued support.

The next club shoot will be March 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The following are the top shooters in all categories:

Pee-Wee
Elizabeth Paul; 174
Julianna Paul; 139
Kenan Burkett; 100

Cubs
Austin Green; 206
Zack Van Cooney; 43
Jessie Sackett; 40

Youth
Taylor Barton; 179
Ruben Carreras Jr.; 157

Young Adult
Adam Brand; 194
Matthew Eaton; 190
Joey Monette; 177

Ladies Open
Vicki Paul; 165

Ladies Bow Hunter
Melissa Burkett; 185
Brittany Owen; 80

Men's Bow Hunter
Worlise Knowles; 206
Travis Pearson; 202
Jason Cole; 202

Men's Open
Joe Monette; 205
Jessie Madrid; 205
Mike Figgins; 177

Seniors
Frank Monette; 186

Outlaw
Eric Burkett; 206
William Roberts; 200

Traditional
Wes Barton; 181
Don Bahen; 178
Don Osterder; 172 ■



Straight shooter: Patrick Covert takes a shot at a standing deer target during the recent archery tournament held aboard Camp Lejeune.

How accurate is the USMC tape measuring method in estimating body fat



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This seems to be a frustrating issue for many Marines in body composition improvement programs. Actually, the tape measuring method is not as accurate at measuring body fat as using body fat calipers performed by an experienced health professional, bio-impedance, hand-held bio-impedance, infrared light or the gold standard, hydrostatic weighing, but the equipment to perform these superior methods is expensive to purchase and time consuming to administer and train individuals on proper test protocol.

Waist and neck circumference measuring, the method used by the Marine Corps, was developed from research to develop an accurate and simple technique for estimating total body fat and lean body weight from anthropometric (human body) measurements which in turn could be used to predict ideal body weight. The original data were gathered from 297 male

Marines randomly selected from the total population of Marines at Marine Corps Development and Education Command Quantico, Va. (1)

This research, done in 1973, was then reviewed in 1981 for accuracy. The research concluded that the best equation for measurement of percent body fat of men in a field situation is one utilizing abdomen and neck circumference. The researcher's conclusion does state, "It should be realized that considerable error can be expected if one uses a lean body mass equation to predict through a transformation procedure." Translation: It's fast, easy and cheap and yes there is a potential for error with this method. For those leaders who would like to "brush-up" on their tape measuring technique, visit the Marine Corps Order. www.usmc.mil/directiv.nsf/0dce83e13c9c8aa635256cd004aeac1?OpenDocument

In defense of the tape measurement method of estimating body fat, it is a consistent testing method backed by scientific research; it is field friendly and is simple to administer anywhere. It is also inexpensive and consistent if proper protocol is followed every time. It's the humans that are oftentimes inconsistent. Human error is usually the cause of almost all errors in any measuring process.

Tape measuring method also provides accurate information on your risk for disease. Through waist circumference (belly

size) you can measure different health risks. There is a plethora of evidence stating that women with a waist measurement of more than 35 inches or men with a waist measurement of more than 40 inches may have a higher disease risk than people with smaller waist measurements because of where their fat lies. To measure your waist circumference, place a tape measure around your bare abdomen just above your hip bone. Be sure that the tape is snug, but does not compress your skin, and is parallel to the floor. Relax, exhale, and measure your waist. (2) This is usually at the thinnest part of the belly area.

Another excellent measurement to detect health risk is waist to hip ratio (belly size compared to hip size). To measure this, first measure your waist the same way as described above then measure your hips. To measure your hips, place the tape horizontally at the widest point of your hips and buttocks. Do not pull the tape too tightly. Write down the value to the nearest 1/4 inch. Now divide your hip measurement into your waist measurement. Men want to be below 1.0 and women want to be below 0.8. Example: Male: 40 inch waist and 38 inch hip. Divide 38 into 40 which equal a waist to hip ratio of 1.05. 1.05 is considered a high risk for several different obesity related diseases.

To use an internet calculator to compute these numbers, go to www.health-status.com/calculate/whr or use a chart

at <http://jaxmed.com/articles/tion/bct.htm>.

So for those who feel the tape measurement method used by the Marine Corps is "no good," you're wrong. It's actually pretty good. It's not perfect, but it's a good guideline to follow. Now are Marines and sailors who do so "tape high." This is unfortunate and important for these individuals to achieve a first class PFT/A and to their measurements via waist and to hip ratio. These guides will help you get a clearer picture of your health. Maybe there is a need to decrease size.

For a more accurate measurement of your health status, feel free to stop by the French Creek Fitness Center or the Fitness Center to have your body fat checked via body fat calipers and a personal trainer. Also, check the Fit Health Promotion Web site for information and other health related information. www.mccslejeune.com/HealthCoverage

1 Wright HF, Dorson CO, Davis J. Simple Technique for Measurement of Percent Body Fat in Man. *Professional Medicine*. Volume 72:23-27. May 1981

2 <http://win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/tools.htm#circumf>

Chris Halagarda is the Senior Health Promotion Dietitian and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. He can be reached at GARDACJ@usmc-mccs.org. ■

THE WILD WORLD OF LEJEUNE SPORTS

St. Patrick's 5K Fun Run

Tomorrow

Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base will host the St. Patrick's Day Fun Run, starting at Molly Pitcher Field at 10 a.m. The cost to enter is \$5 per runner and there will be a free gift for the first 200 entries. Proceeds will go to the 2007 Marine Corps Ball. The race is open to all Headquarters and Support Battalion personnel. Call Heidi Anastasia at 451-3399 for more information.

Cherry Point Half Marathon

Saturday

The public is invited to participate in one of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's premiere athletic events, encompassing a 13.1-mile course through scenic areas aboard the air station as well as into the town of Havelock March 17. The running course will be held on flat terrain and presents an opportunity to compete with respective fitness levels from beginner to advanced competitor. Note that this event is now a part of the "Grand Prix Series" athletic events in coordination with Camp Lejeune. All participants will receive a medal at the

finish line, commemorative T-shirt and light refreshments. Check-in is at 6:30 a.m. at Sunset Park with a 7:30 start. For more information, call 451-0092.

St. Patrick's Festival 8K Road Race

Saturday

An 8K road race sponsored by Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Eastern Ocean Regional Access at 2701 Emerald Drive. The course follows a simple out-and-back route from the access, briefly down Highway 58, and then along scenic Ocean Drive. Pre-registration and information for the race are available online at www.emeraldisle-nc.org or by contacting Dena Julius at 252-354-6350 or djulius@emeraldisle-nc.org. The first 100 entrants will receive a free T-shirt and awards will be presented to participants in seven different age categories.

Viking Wrestling Club

Monday

The Viking Wrestling Club is about to start up again. The purpose of this club is to provide any student an

opportunity to learn and enjoy the sport of wrestling. Instruction will be on the basic fundamentals of freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. Registration is on-going and students may sign up on any practice day. Instructional skills are provided by the White Oak varsity wrestling coaches and wrestlers. For more information, call Head Varsity Coach Ray Bruno at 455-1541.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society 5K Fund Drive Fun Run

March 23

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society will hold a Fund Drive 5K Fun Run March 23 at 8 a.m. The race will start at the Goettge Memorial Field House. Pre-registration runs through March 22 at Building 22. For more information, call 451-3212, ext. 227.

10K Road Race

April 14

The Jacksonville Trails and Greenways Commission and the City of Jacksonville present a 10K Road Race and a One-Mile Fun Run April 14 at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex. Prior to April 6, the entry fee for the 10K race is \$16 and the Fun Run is \$12. The family fee is \$50 and includes a maximum of four T-shirts. Awards will be presented to the top three male and female overall finishers and to the top two male and female finishers in each of the 14 age categories. The top overall finishers are not eligible for age group awards. Wheelchair racers are invited to participate. Make checks

payable to Jacksonville Recreation and Park Department and drop off at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Center. For additional information, contact 938-5313/5304.

European Cross Country Mud Run

April 28

The Marine Corps Grand Prix Series presents the European Cross Country 10K Trail/Mud Run April 28 at Molly Pitcher Field on Virginia Dare Road. The entry fee is \$20 and includes a T-shirt. Late entry is \$25. For more information, call 451-0092.

Greater Wilmington Sports Hall of Fame

May 6

The Greater Wilmington Sports Hall of Fame will induct its second class of locally-bred sports heroes May 6 at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside. The 2007 class of legends includes Brooks, who is credited with establishing the University of North Carolina-Wilmington athletics program. Jap Davis, who played and coached at the Duke University football program, Tommy Greene, who pitched in the Major Leagues from 1989-1997, Jack Holley, who played on four state champion football teams at New Hanover High School and went on to coach high school for 44 years, Althea Gibson, who became the first black woman to win Wimbledon singles title in 1957 and went on to win five Grand Slam crowns and Bill Curry, who is a well-known college football analyst for ESPN. For more information on this event, call Susan Sullivan at 620-3906 or e-mail her at susan@ecr.com.

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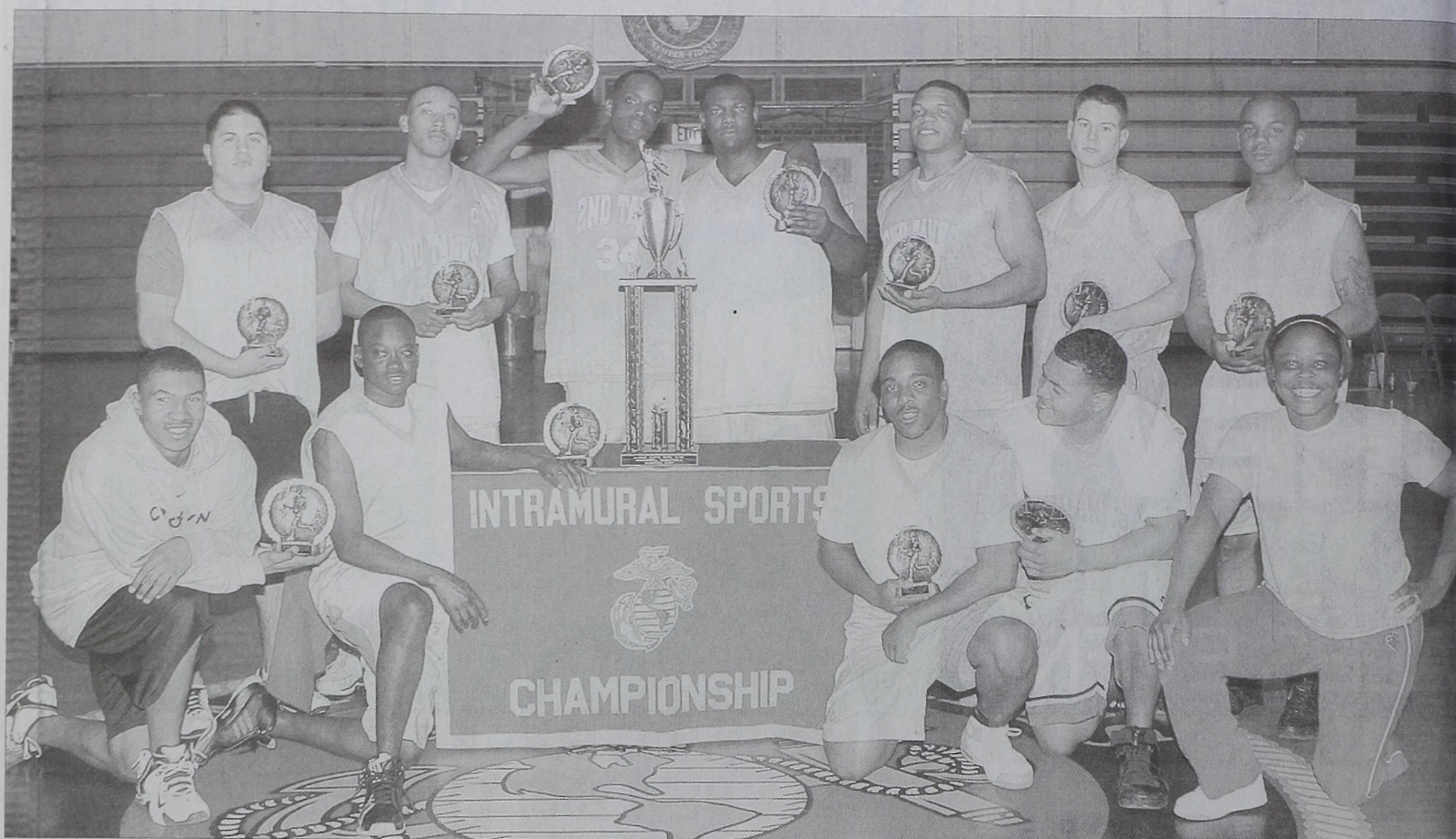
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COMING SOON TO THEATRES EVERYWHERE

2nd Tank Battalion takes the intramural basketball championship



The Champs: The 2nd Tank Battalion basketball team celebrates its win in the intramural basketball championships Friday. The team is (top from left to right): Coach Razy Molina, Marcus Shaw, Quincy Sampson, Jeremy Carr, Mario Bankston, R.P. Carter. The first row (left to right): Ronald Hart, Brandon Mitchell, Nicholas Todd, Albert Laddie, Amanuel Bradberry and scorekeeper Courtney Sampson.

Heather Owens
Staff writer

To a man, the 2nd Tank Battalion team was on fire Friday evening as they won the intramural basketball tournament and took home the championship cup.

Though the score was 44-28 in favor of the 2nd Tank Battalion at the half, the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune was able to whittle down the deficit to 10 points

by the end of the game. Yet the effort was not enough to beat the energetic tankers, who ended up winning the game 70-60.

Coach Razy Molina of the 2nd Tank Bn. was enthusiastically proud of his team's performance. "Pretty much everyone on the team did their part, contributed in some way during every game. So I want to thank all of the players," he said.

Getting detailed, he added, "We start-

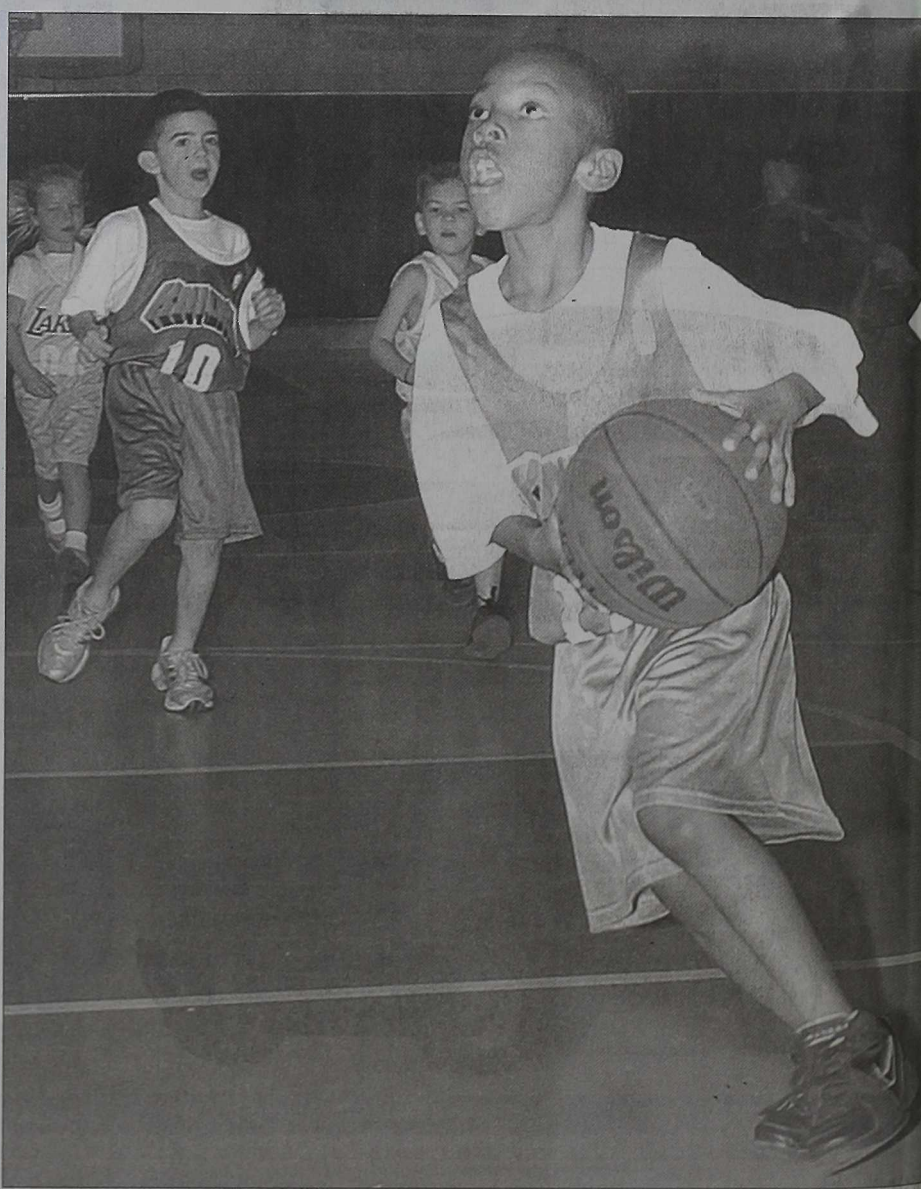
ed off early with Brandon Mitchell, one of our shooting guards. He lit it up early in the game and got the tempo started. We had Quincy Sampson come in during the second half making a couple of threes, getting it started for us in the second half. Also we had Marcus Shaw come up with the free-throws at the end. Jeremy Carr got rebounds the whole game and set that up for us. So it was an all-around team effort."

Coach Valerie Middleton of NHCL

praised her team for their efforts. "The team is a wonderful team. They all hard," she said. Speaking about championship title in regards to team, she said, "It just wasn't meant to be."

"It was a good season overall. There was a lot of pressure. We had a lot of players going out to the field missing a few games, but overall we had a few people who stepped up during the season and made it happen." ■

Practicing the fundamentals



Young guns: Basketball is fun for all age levels, especially when you're first starting out like these youngsters in the ages 6-10 Youth Sports league aboard Camp Lejeune. Above left, Referee William Gagnon blows the whistle while Brody Daniel of the Heat in-bounds the ball as Corey Jones Jr., of the Rockets defends during a game at the Stone Street Youth Pavilion Saturday. Above, Quentin Griffen of the Knicks drives to the hoop. At left, Miciah Johnson of the Lakers looks for an open passing lane while Andrew Ochoa and Quentin Griffen of the Knicks defend.

Photos by Heather Owens

March MARKDOWN Madness

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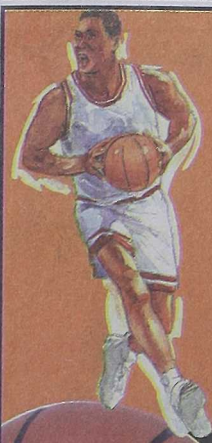
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March 15 - 16

SECONDRound
March 17 - 18

REGIONALS
March 22 to 25

SEMIFINALS
March 31

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMIFINALS
March 31

REGIONALS
March 22 to 25

SECOND
March

1 - Florida

16 - Jackson State

8 - Arizona

9 - Purdue

5 - Butler

12 - Old Dominion

4 - Maryland

13 - Davidson

6 - Notre Dame

11 - Winthrop

3 - Oregon

14 - Miami (OH)

7 - UNLV

10 - Georgia Tech

2 - Wisconsin

15 - Texas A&M-CC

1 - Kansas

16 - Fla. A&M/Niagra

8 - Kentucky

9 - Villanova

5 - Virginia Tech

12 - Illinois

4 - Southern Illinois

13 - Holy Cross

6 - Duke

11 - VCU

3 - Pittsburgh

14 - Wright State

7 - Indiana

10 - Gonzaga

2 - UCLA

15 - Weber State

Division I Men's Bracket

Opening Round Game - March 15

MIDWEST
St. Louis

EAST
East Rutherford

Atlanta, GA
March 31

Atlanta, GA
April 2

Atlanta, GA
March 31

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Marine Corps Base

Finally. We can stop with Bracket Busters, Bubble Teams and Bracketology. Granted, we do have to deal with Diaper Dandies, Cinderellas and the vaunted 5-12 upset, but for three weeks of what might be the most exciting event in sports; it's most definitely worth it.

Aside from the massive amount of gambling and loss of productivity, the best part of the tournament is abundance of buzzer-beating, last-second, "I-can't-believe-I-just-saw-that" endings to games. For the first week and half of the tournament, it's pretty much a guarantee that we will see at least one great, down-to-the-wire game a day.

Before getting into the preview, a disclaimer: I never, ever win the office pool. Which means I am due for a good year ... Of course, those are also the last words of many a degenerate gambler.

The Midwest Region

The obvious choice here is reigning national champion Florida. They return all their starters from last year, have peaked at the right time and have a comparatively weak region to deal with. However, no team has repeated as national champs since 1992 – and even that Duke team needed a miracle shot to beat Kentucky and advance. Florida is going to make the Elite Eight by default, not because they are necessarily better than everyone else, but because they aren't going to face any real competition until then.

Wisconsin is a good team, but the Gators are head and shoulders better than them. They seem to have trouble scoring points, which shouldn't be a problem until the Sweet 16. Led by Alondo Tucker, they have the leadership and toughness to go far into the tournament – unless they meet Ohio State whom they have lost to three times this year.

The three seed is the Oregon Ducks, who start five guards and haven't won a first-round game in their last three appearances. They also have one of the worst graduation rates in the country. Let's just say these guys are ripe for an upset.

Maryland is always a threat because of Gary

Williams' coaching, but their talent level is much lower than in previous years. Teams like this are always tough to predict because of their name recognition, you want to pick them to win, but in reality they just aren't that good.

The East Region

Top-seeded North Carolina is the toughest team in the tournament to predict. They easily have enough talent to win the whole thing, but are so young and unfocused; they could also be the first top seed to fall out of the tournament. Led by Roy Williams, this group just doesn't seem to have the intangible "Wow" factor that some of the other teams in the tournament have.

Georgetown is another team that is very hit-or-miss. If they can cut down on the turnovers and manage to play smart basketball, this team has the talent and coaching to make a serious run at the final four.

The most surprising team of the year, Washington State pulls a great draw early in the tournament, almost assuring them of a berth in the Sweet 16. I probably just jinxed them and they will now lose in the first round. Sorry, Cougar Nation.

Is it wrong to just call them "Kevin Durant and those other guys from Texas?" Because let's face facts here, he is the most dynamic player in the country and is entirely capable of replaying Carmelo Anthony's freshman run to the championship. Except for one thing – their head coach, Rick Barnes. He has done a remarkable job of coaching such a young team, but he has no idea how to utilize Durant's talents, and that could be their downfall.

The West Region

Kansas has an excellent chance to walk away with the title. They have solid guard play (single most important factor in winning in March) solid posts and good coaching. The only problem is they have a tough region. The winner of the West might be too worn out to come out of the Final Four.

Until a couple of late-season losses, UCLA was a lot of people's favorite to win the title. They are an older team, with tournament experience, good

coaching and a ton of talent. I think the end of the year was sign of a team saving it for when it matters, not a sign of disarray. Look for the Bruins to go deep into the tournament.

For some reason, Pittsburgh is another one of the teams that just doesn't have the "Wow" factor to them. They play good, consistent basketball, however they just don't seem to have athleticism to be a threat.

Along with having a team name that's fun to say, the Southern Illinois Salukis are this year's Gonzaga. They have had some success the last couple of years and seem poised to break through this year, except they can't score points and aren't deep enough to defend the premier teams in the country.

The South Region

Ohio State: Yes, they have the best big-man in the country. Yes, they haven't lost in two months, and yes, I am not picking them to win the whole thing. They just don't seem fast enough to keep up with Kansas and UNC. I know Greg Oden is a stud, but guards are the key to winning in March.

Memphis is fast, athletic and can score almost at will. They just don't play defense. Good for regular season, bad for the postseason.

Both Texas A&M and Virginia seem to be forgotten teams, they both have good all-around teams, play smart ball and have strong play from the perimeter. Both of these teams could make a serious run this year.

Elite Eight:

Florida vs. Wisconsin
Kansas vs. UCLA
North Carolina vs. Georgetown
Ohio State vs. Memphis

Final Four:

Wisconsin vs. Kansas
Georgetown vs. Ohio State

Final:

Kansas defeats Georgetown 73 -65.

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WRESTLING

CONTINUED FROM 1B

as well. His goals for the near future are to have five team members compete at the Armed Forces Championship, have two wrestlers medal at the World Team competition, to prepare two Marines to become Olympians in 2008 and three Marines to be Olympians in 2012.

"Those are lofty goals considering that we haven't had an Olympian since '92 in the Marines Corps. We've had alternates, but we haven't had guys on the team. We can do it, though. It can be done," says Hicks. "These guys on the team, they can do it. It just takes a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication and a little time."

Hicks predicts a promising future for the All-Marine Corps wrestling team. "Our guys have big hearts and they'll fight until the end. If we can just get them trained up a little bit, anything can happen with these guys," says Hicks.

2007 All-Marine Freestyle results

55 kilograms - Andrew Hogan receives forfeit

60 kg. - Donavan DePatto defeats Jeremy McLean 2-0

66 kg. - James Shillow defeats Robert Thompson 2-0

74 kg. - Steven Forrest defeats Juan Ramos 2-0

84 kg. - Elijah Jackson defeats Roy Knapp 2-0

(Jackson will wrestle Jacob Clark this week to decide the weight class.)

96 kg. - Jeremy Pederson defeats Joe Sanches 2-0

120 kg. - Christopher Biggs receives forfeit

2007 All-Marine Greco-Roman results

55 kg. - Hogan receives forfeit

60 kg. - McLean defeats Depatto 2-0

66 kg. - Shillow defeats Matthew Goodman 2-0

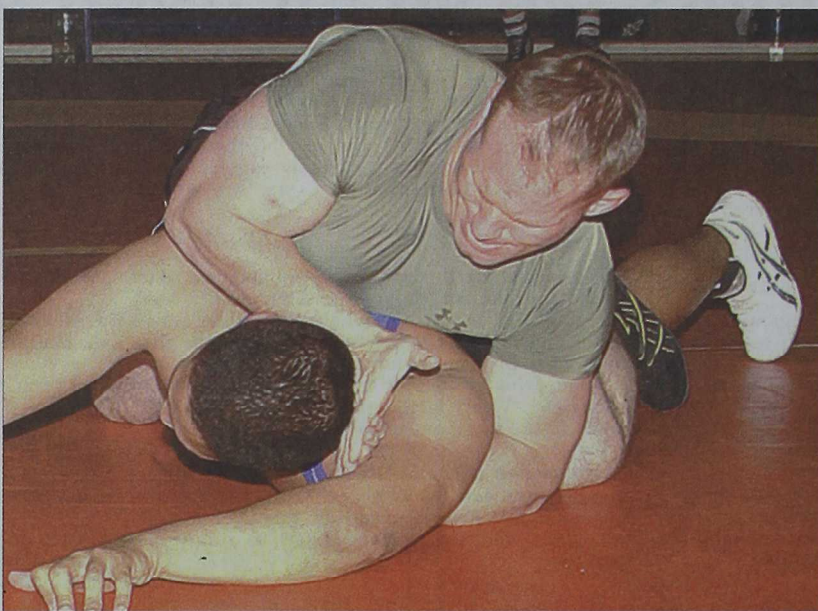
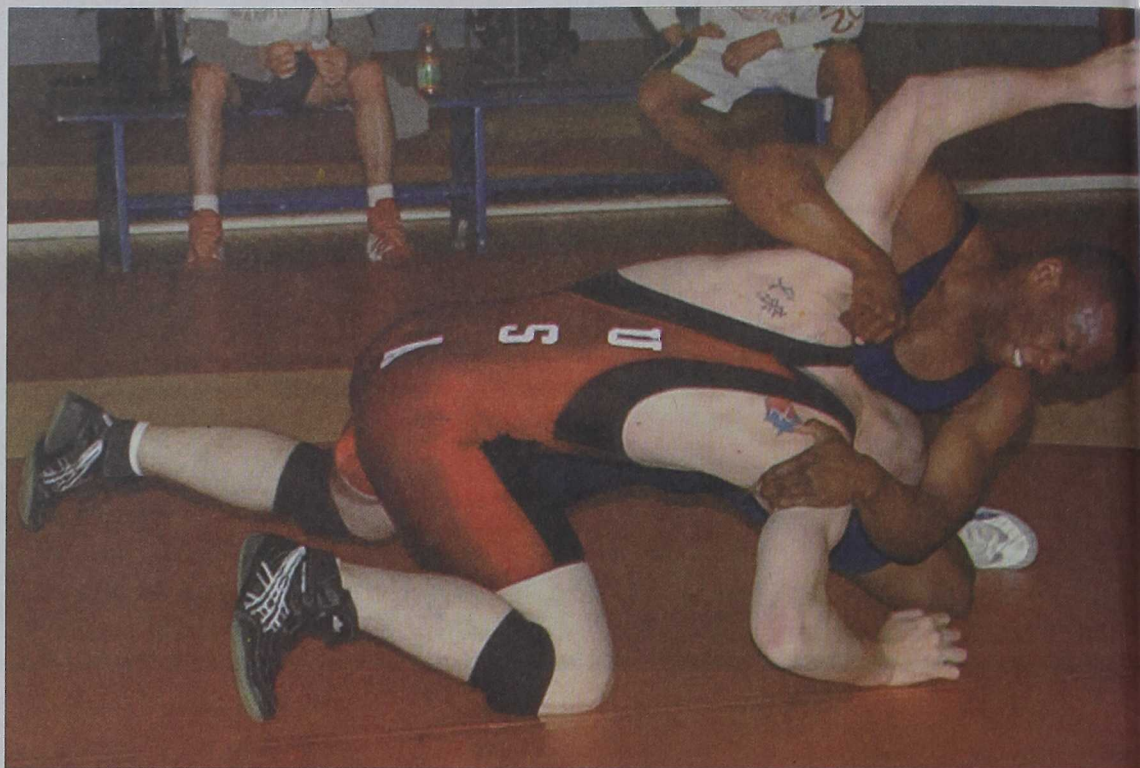
74 kg. - Forrest defeats Frank Jachetta 2-0

84 kg. - Jackson defeats Knapp 2-0

(Jackson will wrestle Clark in a best of three series to decide the championship.)

96 kg. - Pederson defeats Sanches 2-0

120 kg. - Biggs receives forfeit. ■



Tough moves: The All-Marine Corps Trial Camp recently finished up at Camp Lejeune with the wrestle-off tournament and Friday. During the wrestle-off, camp were able to show their mettle and fought spots on the All-Marine Corps Team. In the photo above, Elijah Jackson, Chicago, Ill., wrestles Roy Knapp, Masxoutah, Ill., in the freestyle tournament. In the photo to the left, Tyron Morissette, Lancaster, N.H., wrestles Joe Sanches, Austin, Texas, also in the freestyle Thursday.

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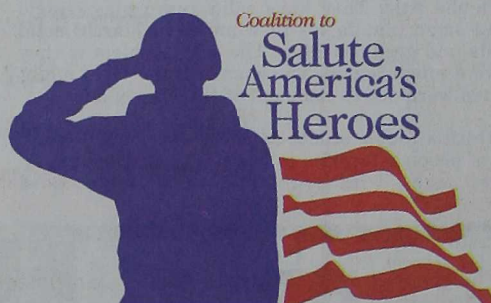
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Hook Line & Sinker

um continue along the beach



Hook Line
& Sinker
with

Jamie
Cameron

temperatures in the surf are in the mid to and rising and that's good news for those of for the real start of the spring fishing season. nately, mid to upper-50s isn't quite enough much more than dogfish and skates into eding.

But, take heart o' ye of little faith — soon the sea mullet and pufferfish will be running and fresh fish dinners will be on the menu for all those who carry the rod and the reel.

According to Richard Ehrenkauf, a.k.a. Dr. Bogus, the obliging red drum that have everyone busy for most of the winter months have finally slowed their feeding frenzy to an on-again, off-again, once-in-a-while snack. Speckled trout seem to have gone on a similar diet. They will start up again soon when they make their springtime ocean run.

Far offshore, the yellowfin tuna are biting in 68- to 72-degree water out in 40 fathoms. Closer in, bottom fishing for black sea bass has been good around the nearshore artificial reefs and rock piles.

In case you haven't picked up your 2007 Coastal Recreational Fishing License, (now required to fish in North Carolina's saltwater environs) you can purchase the year-long permit at Onslow Beach. The new rule has been in effect since Jan. 1, so state marine enforcement officers are less and less likely to be lenient if you are caught fishing without a license.

Now is the perfect time to enroll in fishing classes at the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. You can learn the most effective ways to catch your favorite species, with instruction from local guides and experts. For information and registration, call 252-247-4003, ext. 257, or go online to www.ncaquariums.com.

Stay with me, people. The column is going to get more and more interesting as the season progresses, I promise.

Cameron is an enthusiastic, but seldom-successful angler who finds it easier to write about other peoples' great fish than to actually catch them himself. ■

er Navy football coach on ballot College Football Hall of Fame

Staff report

www.NavySports.com

LIS, Md. — Wayne Hardin, is head football coach at Navy 4 and is the school's third all-gest coach, is one of eight ne 2007 Division I-A ballot for o the College Football Hall of

ho compiled a 38-22-2 record was 118-74-5 in his collegiate he head coach of two of Navy's ns.

led the Midshipmen to a 9-2 a berth in the Orange Bowl ouri thanks to the running of ophy winner Joe Bellino. In

1963, it was the arm of Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach that led the Mids to a 9-2 record and a No. 2 national ranking. The Mids lost in the National Championship game to No. 1 Texas, 28-6.

Hardin was the head coach at Temple from 1970-82 and compiled an 80-52-3 record, making him the winningest Owl coach in school history.

The Hall of Fame Class will be announced at a press conference in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria May 9 and inducted at The National Football Foundation's 50th Award Dinner Dec. 4 at the Wadof-Astoria in New York City. They will be officially enshrined at the Hall in South Bend, Ind. in the summer of 2008. ■



plungers cool off for Special Olympics



Courtesy photo

New River: The 2007 Polar Plunge, hosted by the Morehead City Police Department, eloc the Morehead City Visitor's Center March 3. "Team New River" (from left to right), Matthew Ruelas, Capt. Rennie Givens, Cpl. Josh Seitz, Sgt. Jason Thomas, Kathy Zerba, rrrison and Bianca Klein, participated and raised nearly \$1,000 to benefit the Special piof North Carolina.

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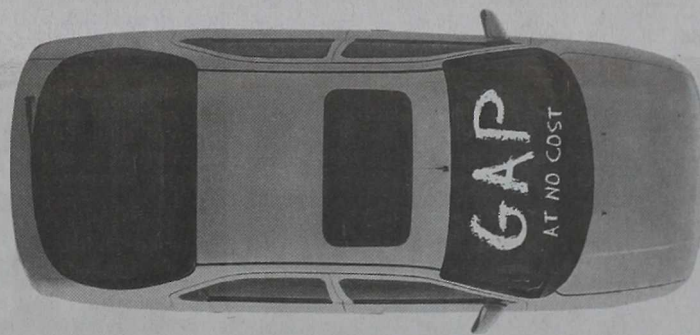
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Tide tables for New River Inlet

National Oceanographic and
Atmospheric Administration

Today		
High tide	5:07 a.m.	5:27 p.m.
Low tide	11:39 a.m.	11:29 p.m.
Friday		
High tide	6:01 a.m.	6:21 p.m.
Low tide		12:25 p.m.
Saturday		
High tide	6:51 a.m.	7:12 p.m.
Low tide	12:28 a.m.	1:09 p.m.
Sunday		
High tide	7:39 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
Low tide	1:23 a.m.	1:51 p.m.
Monday		
High tide	8:25 a.m.	8:49 p.m.
Low tide	2:16 a.m.	2:34 p.m.
Tuesday		
High tide	9:12 a.m.	9:39 p.m.
Low tide	3:09 a.m.	3:17 p.m.
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High tide	10:00 a.m.	10:29 p.m.
Low tide	4:02 a.m.	4:02 p.m.

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Quantico's Butler Stadium a tribute to the Marine athlete

Cpl. Susan Smith
MCB Quantico Sentry

QUANTICO, Va. — Some know it as the place to meet before physical training, others call it the field behind the gym and most have heard the rumor that it was dug by Marines using their e-tools. Despite how it is known, there is no doubt about its origin.

Butler Stadium began as an ambitious plan in Gen. Smedley Butler's head, sparked by his passion for the new "Quantico Marines" football team, which was formed in 1919. He believed the team deserved its own stadium at Quantico and the faithful fans, who showed immense support for their team, deserved a home field to watch the Marines.

When Butler voiced his plans for the stadium, he was told there was no extra funding available for the construction. This did not stop Butler from pushing forward with his plans to build what he referred

to as "the world's largest stadium," which he envisioned to be capable of seating 30,000 spectators. Butler managed to pull together a budget of \$5,000 for the entire project. With this modest budget, Butler could not go out and buy the materials for the project; he had to be resourceful.

The iron needed for the project was salvaged from World War I bases that had closed, and the sand and gravel was donated by generous local contractors. Butler even convinced the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad into giving Quantico used rails for the steel needed to reinforce the concrete bleachers.

Cheap — better yet, free — labor was even easier for Butler to find. Quantico Marines provided all of the labor needed to complete the project. This was no small task as Butler chose a small forest located on a hillside as the site for the stadium. However, the

rumor that Marines dug the stadium with their e-tools is not true. The Marines did use steam shovels, trucks, picks and shovels to complete the manual labor.

Alexander A. Vandegrift, a young officer at Quantico in 1921, wrote of the work it took to carve the stadium out of the forest, rock and earth:

"... We had to excavate a large quantity of earth with old-fashioned steam shovels. Together with about 150 men from my battalion we worked some 80 days on the stadium. A fitness report of mine detailed our accomplishment: we moved 19,307 cubic yards of earth, 200 excavations for concrete pillars were dug, 197 pillars were poured, 30 rails were laid, 381 concrete slabs were placed, and concrete footings were poured for all stone walls. Grass seed was planted over the sanded field, and the field was leveled from side to base wall."

The Marines also solved

the problem of a stream running through the site by installing a six-foot concrete pipe to divert the water's route and carry it out of the playing field.

Butler made sure the construction of the stadium was a true team effort; all Marines at Quantico, to include all levels of enlisted and officer, himself as well, worked on the project.

One example of Butler's persistence in including all ranks in construction was when he observed a gunnery sergeant watching his Marines as they worked and he asked him what he was doing. The Marine told Butler that he was supervising. This was not the answer Butler was looking for.

"You were supervising, private," Butler replied.

Another, more well-known story attached to the building of Butler Stadium is one about the Quantico Marine Corps Band.

The band griped that the hard labor involved with building the stadium would

roughen and damage their hands. Although Butler agreed, he found another way for the band to contribute to the endeavor.

"But henceforth, if a single man is working on this stadium there will be a band playing music to improve his morale," Butler decreed.

From that day forward, if even one Marine was laboring on the stadium, the band was there to play music to motivate him.

Although Butler and the Marines were dedicated to the project's completion, they remained dutiful to their responsibilities as Marines. Construction was paused several times for training and various military obligations. Because of the unavoidable interruptions, Butler did not live to see the completion of his stadium, although it was used for sporting events before it was totally finished after World War II.

Over the years, Butler Stadium has been used for a variety of events besides

sports, such as and ceremonies a twilight ceremony to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial.

For nearly a century, Butler Stadium has served as the home of the Quantico Marines. It has been one of the largest stadiums in the world, and it has been a place where many Marines have competed in various sports, including football, basketball, and baseball.

Plans were made to replace the stadium with an all-weather stadium, but the high cost of the plans from the military has prevented this from happening.

Although Butler Stadium is not the largest stadium in the world, it serves as a Marine Corps team, the dedication of the Marines, and the fact that it has been a place where many Marines have competed in various sports, including football, basketball, and baseball.

Halsey takes step backward

News Report

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Left-hander Brad Halsey understands his margin of error is slim if he wants to earn the final spot in the Oakland Athletics' starting rotation.

That's what makes games like Saturday all the more frustrating.

"Results are an important thing for me and I didn't get it done today," Halsey said after allowing nine runs — six earned — on nine hits in 2-2/3 innings in a 10-6 loss to the Chicago White Sox. "I take every outing with the utmost seriousness. Once we're in the regular season, spring training doesn't mean anything. But it is a deciding factor on whose going to do what and at what level."

Halsey and left-hander Joe Kennedy are the front-runners in a battle for the fifth spot in the rotation, with right-handers Jason Windsor and Shane Komine on the edge of the competition. Kennedy appears to be ahead of the all the others and Halsey knows he has to make an impression to be considered.

"Everybody is aware of what people are doing," Halsey said. "The only thing I focus on is what I'm doing. Am I getting results? Am I doing what I need to do? The last two starts I haven't."

After 10 days of games, no one has stepped up to claim the job. Halsey owns a 10.79 ERA after three starts and six 2-3 innings. He also has five strikeouts.

Windsor pitched two shutout innings against the White Sox on Saturday to lower his spring ERA to 10.29 (from 19.29). He has yet to start a game, while Komine will be making his first start after two relief stints.

"Last spring training I was in a similar situation and I did this; the same thing I'm doing now," Halsey said. "I see myself as a major league starter. You can look at my numbers with Arizona [8-12, 4.61 in 26 starts with the Diamondbacks in 2005] as a full-time starter. They're not great, but they are OK. I know I can do it."

Halsey, who gave up Barry Bonds' 714th home run last May 20, was acquired by the A's in the final week of spring training last March. The Diamondbacks looked at him as a starter. The A's wanted him in the bullpen.

Halsey did make seven starts for the A's, six in May and one in August. He was 1-4 as a starter.

His frustration with his pitching also led to a fielding miscue during a three-run third.

After giving up a leadoff single to Brian Anderson, Halsey got Ryan Sweeney to hit a comebacker to the mound. Halsey fielded it cleanly but threw the ball away, which opened the doors. He failed to communicate with his infielders beforehand. ■

Phillies' Bourn hops his speed carries him

News Report

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — If Michael Bourn earns a big-league job, it'll be his feet that carry him there.

The 24-year-old Bourn is a speedster — and at the moment a minor league outfielder in the Philadelphia Phillies' system.

Bourn has stolen 163 bases in 397 minor-league games, including 45 in 50 attempts between Double-A and Triple-A last season.

Bourn likely will start 2007 with Triple-A Ottawa. The Phillies would like to see him get a little more polished at the plate, and at the moment they are well stocked in the outfield with Pat Burrell, Aaron Rowand, Shane Victorino and Jayson Werth.

However, Burrell and Rowand have been the subject of trade rumors over the last several months. If one is sent elsewhere, it could signal that Bourn's time has arrived.

When and if Bourn earns a big-league job, it's likely he would enter the Phillies' stacked lineup near the bottom of the order. But if he rises to the occasion at the plate, his skills are a natural for the leadoff spot.

On Saturday, the Phillies got a glimpse of what Bourn could provide.

Bourn stepped into the batter's box with Jimmy Rollins on first base. He hit a sharp two-hopper up the middle to the shortstop. For almost every other baseball player, it would have gone in the books as a double play.

Bourn isn't most players. Somehow, the Phillies' outfielder blazed down the line and beat the relay throw from second. Then, Chase Utley lined a hard single to right field. Bourn didn't think about stopping at second base. He turned on the jets and beat the throw to third, which allowed Utley to advance to second.

Rollins, one of the game's most efficient base stealers, doesn't need to engage Bourn in a race to admit that he would finish second.

"He's definitely much faster than I am," Rollins said.

"There is no doubt about that. There's no such thing as [a sure double-play] for those guys who fly."

Rollins has been an effective leadoff hitter for the Phillies. He scored a career-high 127 runs in 2006, including him second in the National League and played the league's top three for the third straight year. He stole 36 bases in 40 attempts. However, he was seventh in the N.L. with 79 extra-base hits, behind only Alfonso Soriano from the leadoff position (82) and Matt Kemp (79).

Those production numbers could make Bourn appealing as a No. 2 hitter, provided the Phillies find someone with the tools to take over at the top of the lineup.

Bourn has a chance to make that happen. "With a guy like [Bourn], it probably would be a situation where he could be the leadoff hitter and No. 2," Rollins said. "I've been able to drive in runs in that situation comes, it could be a good situation."

In the clubhouse, Rollins and Bourn have a rapport, and that creates a natural mentor/protégé relationship for the two.

"He's the energy. You can tell," Bourn said. "When you get to the park, he's always there to guys like that. When he gives advice, you listen to his mind and try to put it in your play."

Saturday's game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays marked the first time this spring that Rollins and Bourn were in the starting lineup together. Rollins bled off, with Bourn behind him. But Rollins can't be too far off, with Bourn behind him. But Rollins can't be too far off, with Bourn behind him.

"I haven't seen him play enough," Rollins said. "I can tell that he's more of the prototypical leadoff hitter. I'm always looking for who's going to be the next help us." ■

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First Time All-Marine Billet: Personnel Administration Clerk
Station: Cherry Point, N.C.

In her words: "I think that it is important to have these All-Marine teams because you meet new Marines that you would probably not normally talk with, because we have all different ranks and ages here. I think it's a good way for military members to interact with each other on a different level than on work."

Nicole Wells

First Year All-Marine Billet: Legal Specialist
Station: Parris Island
Position: Guard

In her words: "I started playing basketball in 5th grade. My dad coached the team. My sisters and I were on the team. I have a passion for the sport. I want to keep getting better at it."

Tiffany Lebarre

First Year All-Marine Billet: Administration Clerk
Station: New River, N.C.
Position: Shooting Guard/Small Forward

In her words: "I think that we have a pretty good chance at going pretty far with this team. We're a strong team, we're little, but we're strong. We have a lot of shooters and we rotate really well. We have some people that can play both inside and outside."

The team's first inter-service tournament started Monday in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. The event will wrap-up Sunday. ■

NFL's Buffalo 'Jills' take show to Iraq

Cpl. Adam Johnston
2nd Marine Division

AL ASAD, Iraq — With a record of seven wins and nine losses, the National Football League's Buffalo Bills didn't make it to the playoffs this past year. For the players, next season can't come soon enough. But for their cheerleaders, the Buffalo Jills, there is no off-season.

Eight members of the Buffalo Jills cheerleading squad recently performed in front of a packed house here at the base auditorium.

"From the moment I heard they were coming, I knew I wanted to go," said Lance Cpl. Steven L. Deveglio, a data networking systems specialist with Marine Wing Support Group 27. "I'm not a huge football person, but I'm a big cheerleader fan."

Al Asad was the Jills' last stop on their 10-day tour of military bases in Iraq, which included appearances at Al Qaim, Taqaddum, Hit and Korean Village.

"It's a lot different here than I expected," said Emily A. Shade, a three-year veteran of the Buffalo Jills. "They only show the bad stuff on TV back home. This trip was a real eye-opener."

Shade's boyfriend, an infantryman with the Ohio-based 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, recently returned home from a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Though she's heard stories from him about what it's like over here, seeing it for herself gave Shade a whole new perspective.

"We stayed in one of Saddam's palaces," said Shade, a native of Tonawanda, N.Y. "I was



Big fans: After the show, service members were able to get autographs and have their picture taken with the Buffalo Jills.

shocked to see the difference between how he lived and how his people merely survived. It made me realize just how much they need us here."

Like Shade, this was Deveglio's first time in-country. It's also his first time away from his wife.

"You'd think she wouldn't want me to go," said Deveglio, a native of Bay Shore, N.Y. "But she's been really cool about it. She told me to take some good pictures."

In between dance routines, a select few were lucky enough to participate in a series of mini-games. One of which gave service members the "ultimate" Jills experience. Three words — skirt, wig, and lipstick.

"I've seen their itinerary," Deveglio said. "They've only got a few hours to themselves each day. Knowing the dangers involved, it's awesome that they volunteered to come over here, just to

show us a good time."

Performing in front of 74,000 screaming fans might be exciting for some, but for Shade, it doesn't even compare.

"The fans are there to watch football; but these guys are here for us," explained Shade. "I can't count how many times I've had Marines come up to me, saying that our show had made their day. We just wanted to thank everyone, in person, for their service." ■

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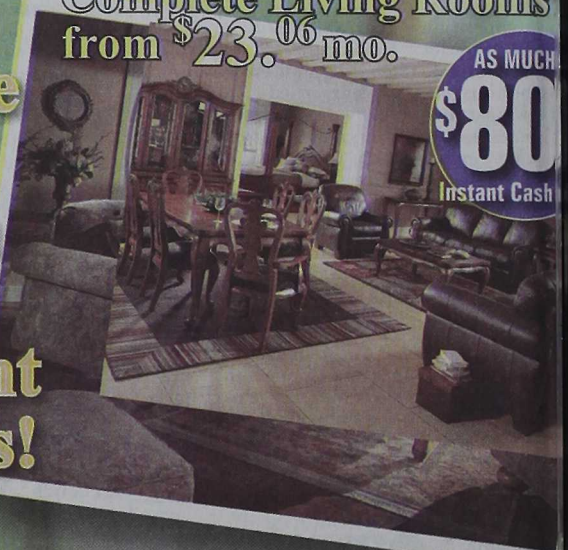
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22nd MEU zeroes in during fire support

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ezekiel R.
Kitandwe

22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit

Throughout military history, superior fire support has often made the difference between who wins or loses a battle.

In keeping with that tradition, Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit fired round after round of high explosive shells into the impact area aboard Camp Lejeune during a Fire Support Interoperability live-fire training exercise Feb. 26-March 2.

Fire support assets organic to the MEU, such as 155 mm howitzers, 81 mm mortars and CH-46E Sea Knights helicopters, blasted ranges aboard the base in an effort to coordinate fires between ground, air and naval guns.

The USS PORTER and U.S. Air Force combat aircraft from Langley Air Force Base added more fire power to the mix, and

a better training opportunity for all involved.

The five-day training exercise focused on the integration and coordination of the multiple supporting arms assets, agencies and platforms within the MEU.

"We ironed out the communication kinks which increased our capabilities for a timely response of fire support and maneuvers," said Capt. Joseph D. Arico, the MEU's fire support officer, who was in charge of the exercise.

While planning and coordination were key elements of the FSIOP, it was the Marines in the field who ensured the exercise ran smoothly.

"All the Marines were outstanding," said Staff Sgt. Michael A. McQueen, a native of Newburgh, N.Y. and the platoon sergeant for Battery B. "Not only were we doing artillery fire, but at the same time

See FIRE page 2C



Concentrated effort: Pfc. Alex Perez, a gunner with 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Battery B, adjusts the M137 panoramic telescope mounted on a M198 155mm Howitzer cannon during a Fire Support Interoperability live-fire training exercise held Feb. 28. The Marines and sailors of Battery B are scheduled to deploy with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit later this year.

Marine's memory honored by unit

Cpl. Lucian Friel
2nd Marine Division

A memorial ceremony was held for Pfc. Joshua A. Bailey, who died Feb. 21 from injuries sustained during a training event aboard the base.

Bailey, a Cullman, Ala., native, was honored by the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, at the base Protestant Chapel March 8.

Bailey, an automotive mechanic with Battery T, joined the Marine Corps May 22, 2006, and attended Marine Corps Recruit Training at Parris Island, S.C.

The young Marine reported to Battery T, Dec. 22, after completion of the Motor Transportation Mechanics Course at Camp Johnson, N.C.

The ceremony was a way for the battalion to remember their fallen brother.

The battalion commanding officer, Lt. Col. Christopher R. McCarthy, gave his remarks and respects to Bailey.

"Today we stop to remember a fellow Marine, a brother and a member of our Marine family," McCarthy said. "I have been told that Pfc. Bailey had a great sense of humor, he was ener-



Cpl. Lucian Friel

Honored warrior: Pfc. Joshua A. Bailey, a Cullman, Ala., native, died on Feb. 21 from injuries sustained during a training event aboard Camp Lejeune.

getic and he was unselfish. And while I did not know him on a personal level, I know one thing for certain; Private First Class Bailey was a United States Marine, and because he was a Marine, he and I share an unbreakable family bond."

The battalion chaplain, Lt. Peter Dietz, also spoke to the battalion during the ceremony.

"Today as we remember Josh

Bailey and mourn his death, the question is not how could God let something like this happen?" Dietz continued. "The question is how will God help us get through the pain?"

Dietz led the battalion in a memorial prayer, and after, the entire battalion said the Marines' prayer in unison.

1st Sgt. Russell A. Strack, the Battery T first sergeant, made the final roll call followed by "TAPS" and the retirement of the colors.

"We remember Private First Class Bailey, United States Marine Corps, your fellow Marine, and we remember the uniqueness that was only Joshua A. Bailey, a brother, a friend, a son and a fiancé," Dietz said. "Today we remember his song as well as the songs he sang with us."

The somber mood of the battalion during the ceremony was a sign that Bailey will be missed by all his brothers-in-arms, and as it came to a close, a photograph of Bailey, a folded flag and a pair of boots underneath a mounted flak jacket and Kevlar helmet remained in the spotlight of the chapel as the Marines filed out, some with tears still in their eyes.

Bailey was 18 years old. ■

5/10 Marines deploy

Lance Cpl. Bryce
C.K. Muhlenberg
2nd Marine Division

On March 7, approximately 100 of the 260 Marines from 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, began their journey to Iraq, where they will perform a civil affairs mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion will be the first active-duty artillery unit to carry-out a completely civil affairs-focused deployment while based in Fallujah, Iraq.

"We will be performing civil affairs missions in order to reconstruct the local communities and help the Iraqi people take control of their country," said Maj. Andy L. Dietz, the commander of Detachment Three, 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. "Civil affairs will be a challenge, but it is a key mechanism that will help them get back on their feet, and we are prepared to take on that challenge."

While in Iraq, the civil affairs Marines will be assessing different areas and infrastructures to help make positive improvements with the communities of the Al Anbar province of Iraq. The Marines of the battalion are confident and willing to take on this mission.

"This is my first

See DEPLOY page 2C

Training center provides mission-essential courses

Lance Cpl. Christopher Lyttle
II Marine Expeditionary Force

When Marines complete recruit and combat training, they venture off to begin specific training in their military occupational specialty.

MOS training provides Marines with the tools they need to perform essential duties and become an important asset to their assigned unit, which is invaluable to their mission.

The II Marine Expeditionary Force Communications Training Center recently became a fully operational facility, which retrains service members and civilians in mission-oriented courses. It also introduces them to communication equipment and networking programs used within deployed units.

"The CTC has been in development for more than two years and has recently been staffed with qualified Marine instructors," said Maj. Jeffrey L. Hammond, the officer-in-charge of CTC. "Instructors provide an array of communications, from formal MOS training to job and equipment-specific training, designed to support Marines during pre-deployment preparation and sustainment."

Several courses are aimed at training primarily

See TRAINING page 2C



Lance Cpl. Christopher Lyttle

Can you hear me now?: Sgt. Daniel Kulowiec, a field wireman with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28, Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., demonstrates the operation of an SB-3865 automatic switchboard, which provides telephone connectivity to users. This switchboard, as well as the REDCOM HDX (center), are examples of equipment Marines and communication personnel have the opportunity to revamp their skills on at the now fully operational II Marine Expeditionary Force Communications Training Center.

TRAINING

CONTINUED FROM IC

noncommissioned officers, civilians and other service members supporting the Marine Corps mission, Hammond added.

Marines and personnel who go to CTC training receive intermediate and advanced skill level training that will help them bring more to the fight, as well as make them more valuable in the civilian job market, said Patrick S. McLaughlin, CTC training officer.

McLaughlin, one of the originators of the CTC, said another benefit is the location here, drawing students from all over the eastern region.

Before the CTC's establishment, Marines would have to return to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., which required more time, money and planning.

Hammond explained how the CTC utilizes internal and external sources to make course studies available to students.

"By leveraging existing instructors and contracted vendors, the CTC is able to offer cutting-edge training that merges existing tactics, techniques and procedures with current technology," Hammond said.

Hammond described the CTC's intent to strengthen the role of NCOs by merging their responsibilities from the technical to leadership side.

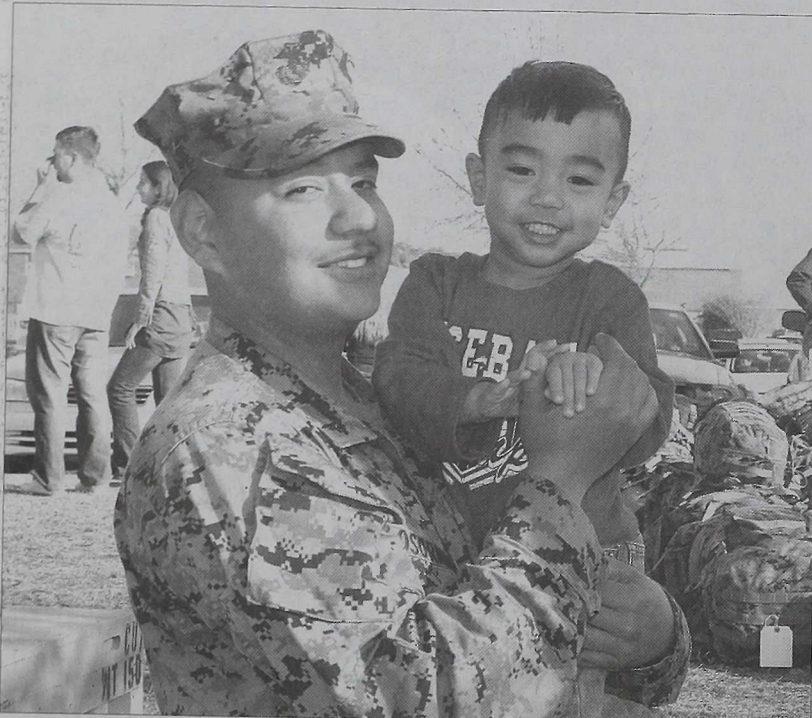
"The CTC's main focus is the communication NCO," Hammond said. "We are working very hard to bridge the gap between entry level training, which is primarily focused on button pushing, and (staff) NCO training, which leans heavily on the planning aspect. NCOs are required to not only know

the equipment and their Marines, but to be able to employ them in accordance with the most current technology and techniques available."

Marines like Sgt. Daniel Kulowiec, a field wireman with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28, Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., are taking part in the wire supervisor course. He said the knowledge he has obtained will help him excel and give him the ability to pass skills down to his junior Marines.

"The course I'm taking helps me revamp my skills as a field wireman, and it gives me a better understanding of the entire spectrum of my field," Kulowiec said.

Personnel inquiring about available classes can contact their command, or call the CTC at 451-2942. ■



Be home soon: A Marine with 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division spends quality time with his son before saying goodbye for deployment, March 7, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.

DEPLOY

CONTINUED FROM IC

deployment, but this is an important mission and my family, friends and I understand that this is what I joined the Marine Corps to do," said Lance Cpl. Spencer J. Schmidt, a civil affairs specialist with detachment three, team two.

The battalion will be performing their mission in Iraq for approximately a year, which can be hard on some Marines and their families.

"Of course it's hard to leave the comfort of my family behind for a whole year," said Schmidt, an Ontario, N.Y. native. "I've never been away for so long, but I'm prepared and want to do well in Iraq and I'm ready to do it." ■

Courts Martial

Lance Cpl. James A. Ervin Jr., 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was convicted of two counts of larceny. He was sentenced to confinement for a period of 12 months, reduction to the pay grade E-1, a fine of \$9,000 and a bad-conduct discharge.

Lance Cpl. John W. Conlee, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was convicted of one count of wrongful use of ecstasy. He was sentenced to confinement for a period of 60 days, forfeiture of \$800 pay per month for a period of two months and a reduction to the pay grade of E-1.

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM COMMAND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Target Audience:
All Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers.

Class Content:
This 8-hour course is designed to educate Officers and SNCOs on the Family Advocacy Program, tools to assist in the intervention of family violence, the involvement of family/civilian authorities, role of the victim advocate, reporting procedures, the function and procedures of the Case Review Committee (CRC), and the role the command plays in the process.

Goals:

- To educate leaders on the Family Advocacy Program.
- To educate leaders on how the Family Advocacy Program functions.
- To inform leaders of the benefits that the Family Advocacy Program offers to the command.
- To provide an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence.
- To increase awareness of the resources available to aid in the intervention of domestic violence/child abuse/neglect.

Class Schedule/Time:
22 Mar, 21 Jun, 20 Sep, 20 Dec
(Additional classes can be provided upon request)
0800-1600
Location:
Bldg. 524, Workforce Learning Center, McHugh Blvd.

Class Size:
Class size is limited. Reservations required two weeks prior to class date.
Reservations and information:
910-451-2864/2876



Outgoing rounds: Marines of the 81mm mortar platoon with Weapons Company, 8th Marine Regiment, fire two red phosphorous, high explosive 81mm rounds at a target during a Fire Support Interoperability live-fire training exercise held Feb. 28. Part of the pre-deployment training package for the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit scheduled to deploy later this year.

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM IC

we were conducting mass casualty drills and other training."

McQueen added that the coordination between the artillery and air support was an important aspect of the training that prepared his Marines for future fights.

"We sometimes have that situation where we have to call for fires ourselves and if we know how to coordinate fires with the air assets, then we have added an important capability," said the seasoned artilleryman, McQueen. "We were able to get a lot of training in those four days."

The 22nd MEU Command Element,

Battalion Landing Helicopter Squadron 3/8, Marine Helicopter Squadron (Reinforced) and Logistics Battalion scheduled to deploy with the USS Kearsarge (LST-1199) Expeditionary Group later this year. For more information about the 22nd MEU's upcoming deployment, visit the Web www.22meu.us

Purple Heart recipients honored



Wounded warriors: (Left to right) Sgt. Robert M. Holzinger Jr., Cpl. Harley L. Herron, and Lance Cpl. Adam J. Turner stand before the crowd after being decorated with Purple Hearts by Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder, commanding general II Marine Expeditionary Force, at Wounded Warrior Barracks March 8.

Off-limits establishments

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

Doll House	Highway 258 West, Jacksonville
Easy Money Catalog Sales	233-F Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Fantasies	4951 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Illusions	Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Jacksonville Speedway Auto Parts	401 Blue Creek Elementary School Road
Playhouse	6568 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Pleasure Palace	Highway 17, Jacksonville
Private Pleasures	5527 Highway 258, Jacksonville
Reflection Photo	353 Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Smitty's R&R	Highway 17, Jacksonville
Talk of the Town II	114 Texie Lane, Jacksonville
Tender Touch	Highway 258, Jacksonville
Veterans Affairs Services	La Miranda, Calif.
Club Classics	New Bern
Club Liquid	240 US 7Q West, Havelock
Bell Auto Salvage II	136 Abbits Branch Rd., Hubert
Botta Booms	3054 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville
Cash-N-Advance	2235 Lejeune Blvd., Jacksonville
Laird's Auto and Truck Repair	1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville
Par Tech	487-A Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Southern Comfort	2004 Highway 172, Sneads Ferry

Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption

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

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career
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for more
information.

Religious Program Specialists train with Marines to counsel Marines

Officer 3rd Class Michael Marie
Special to The Globe

SONVILLE, N.C. — Over the course of simulated artillery rounds, a platoon of Marines in utility uniforms is M-16 down range and orders a fellow sailor to advance on an enemy. "Move, move, move!" shouts the Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Mautino. Members of his first fire platoon to their feet, charge a few steps and then drop to the wet sand as smoke fire erupts from the distant tree line on their stomachs, the first group returns fire while the second fire platoon reforms the line. The simulated rounds explode ahead of the platoon, covering the squad's approach with a series of short bursts. They close in on a field just short of the line when an instructor shouts to the end of the exercise and begins a new assault.

Mautino and six other RPs made up the first class to complete Chaplain and Expeditionary Skills Training — a week-long course aboard Camp Johnson, Camp Lejeune's training areas.

The course covers a wide range of topics, including convoy operations and field exhumation, and preparing a program in a combat zone, teaches chaplains and RPs how to work with Marines and minister to spiritual needs in the Global War on Terror. "It takes us from pushing the platoon triggers," said Mautino, "to pulling triggers." Mautino spent six years in the fleet. He reported to the chaplain's office at Camp Lejeune's training areas.

Upon completion of CREST, the chaplain and the RP to be able to fulfill their mission, they need to be comfortable in the combat environment, said Commander Gregory Todd, a Corps, the officer in charge of the training. "If they're not comfortable, they're not going to be able to take care of their Marines."

In addition to religious support duties, RPs are expected to be in charge of providing support to the Religious Ministry Team, the RP and the chaplain, while in a combat zone. Because of those security requirements, all RPs must earn a tan belt in the

Marine Corps Martial Arts Program as part of their training. In addition, the RP students receive familiarization on both the M-16A2 and the M-9 in preparation for qualification when they report to their unit.

By Navy regulations and the Geneva Convention, chaplains are designated non-combatants and do not carry weapons. The chaplain's focus instead is on leading religious services and providing counsel to the troops, wherever they may be — back at the base headquarters, the battalion aid station and sometimes close to the front lines.

"While we help Marines who are wounded or whose friends are killed, Marines are also very effective warriors, which means they take lives, so we're also here to help them put their job into context and spiritually make sense of it," Todd said.

CREST is offered five times a year, said Religious Program Specialist Chief Terence Newton, one of the school's three instructors. In Fiscal Year 2006, nine chaplains and 89 RPs completed the training, he said. The course is designed for chaplains and RPs on their initial assignment to Marine Corps and Seabee billets, or those identified for individual augmentation.

Naval Reserve RPs can attend the full 7-weeks of CREST or may break it down into two phases to accommodate civilian schedules, Newton said. Reservists must complete both phases within two years.

Petty Officer Mautino, who recently trained alongside a Naval Reserve RP, said the CREST training successfully brings the two components of the Navy together. "We are now required to perform the same exact duties, which will in turn create a closer working relationship between Reserve and active sailors," Mautino said.

Chaplain Todd agreed. "Frankly, a student is a student is a student," he said. "We don't see a difference at all. And if there is any, it's that Reservists bring a broader life experience, a little more maturity. From our viewpoint, we seem to be getting the cream of the crop in regard to the Naval Reserves — chaplains and RPs."

Reservists are activated based on the needs of the Navy, not any particular



RP3 Michael Marie

Learning the ropes: Sailors in the Chaplains and Religious Program Expeditionary Skills Training program learn combat techniques that will help them on the battlefield as they execute their primary mission — to minister and offer spiritual guidance to Marines.

schedule, said Justin Kirby, Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class at COMNAVRESFOR in New Orleans. Currently, there are 277 Reserve chaplains and 159 Reserve RPs, he said. On the active duty side, there are 835 chaplains and 855 RPs.

Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Eric Peak, a Naval Reserve RP, graduated from CREST in 2005 and was activated for the first time in February. He and his chaplain deployed to Iraq, in early March with Combat Logistics Battalion 6.

CREST was invaluable to Peak because it instilled in him the team concept so essential to the Marines as well as the mindset he will need to protect his chaplain when duty calls, he said. And it was the marches in full combat gear and other forms of physical conditioning that pushed Peak to excel in his new unit. "You can't just be a sailor in a Marine uniform," he said. "You have to be with the Marines to be

accepted by them."

Peak's chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Mike Wietecha, is a Naval Reserve chaplain on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq. Active since January 2005, Wietecha completed CREST in 2002. "It was a very positive experience," he said. He particularly enjoyed the physical training, working with corpsmen and conducting a field service that was attended by the entire company, he said.

Master Sgt. Anthony Wright said he can't tell the difference between active duty and Reserve sailors when in the field. Wright is the Senior Military Adviser at Field Medical Service School, which oversees CREST administratively. The training RPs undergo at CREST is foundational — something to build upon, he said. "Here you get the basics. When you get to the fleet, you get hands on and you learn more." ■

Pledging Allegiance: Service members take oath of U.S. Citizenship

Cpl. Lucian Friel
2nd Marine Division

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "Remember, remember always, that all of us, and especially, are descended from immigrants and immigrants' sons."

A statement had a special tie for more than 48 years, sailors and soldiers with II Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations II, who received their United States Citizenship at a ceremony at the Fort Bragg Officer's Club, March 7.

The ceremony started, as many do, with a welcoming reception and continued with a performance by the 2nd Airborne Division Chorus, who sang a number of patriotic songs, including the hymns of the four respective branches of service.

After the performance, the guest of honor, Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps, gave a speech to the newest American citizens. Austin said that each of the service members who took the oath of citizenship will always remember this day. "Our country, as we know it today, was built on the blood, sweat and tears of immigrants."

Service members were sworn in after the general's speech and were presented their naturalization certificates. Service members, like Lance Cpl. Cristian Espinoza, administrative clerk with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, who came to America from Mexico when he was 5 years old, explained how it felt to be recognized as a U.S. citizen.

"It feels great now to have the right to vote and to be an American citizen," explained the Miami native. "I always felt I was a citizen, it just wasn't official yet. This was a process and today was well worth it."

Sgt. Julian Dan, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, expressed his feelings.

"I came to this country in 1998 from Romania, and



Cpl. Lucian Friel

Proud to serve: Sgt. Julian Dan with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, receives his certificate of U.S. Citizenship at the Fort Bragg Officer's Club March 7.

although it was a long process, I'm glad I gained my citizenship here today," said the Cleveland native. "This was a nice ceremony for us."

The ceremony concluded with a reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and refreshments for all the attendees.

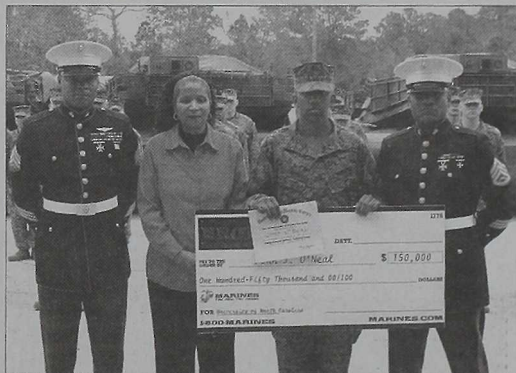
For the Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen who gained their citizenship, most of them felt like they were already American citizens. Otherwise they wouldn't have volunteered to serve in the country's Armed Forces.

Many of them enlisted to show their appreciation to the United States for all it has given them.

"I wanted to be a citizen of a great nation," Dan said. "I wanted to give back to the country that has given me so much — freedom."

By volunteering and sacrificing so much, Dan and the other service members have already repaid that debt. ■

4th Battalion tanker wins full college scholarship



Lance Cpl. Bryce C.K. Muhlenberg

College-bound: Lance Cpl. John S. Oneal, third from left, stands with his mother and recruiters Sgt. Lindsay D. Britt and Staff Sgt. Lloyd E. Jordan.

Lance Cpl. Bryce C.K. Muhlenberg
2nd Marine Division

A deserving Marine was awarded a full scholarship to college with a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program of his choosing March 2, in front of 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division's main staging area.

Lance Cpl. John J. Oneal, a 19-year-old reserve tank crewman with Company F, 4th Tank Battalion, received the NROTC scholarship after being selected by the Department of the Navy.

"This is a very prestigious scholarship and I believe Oneal deserves it," said Capt. Mathew D. Fehmel, the inspector instructor Company F. "To really understand the gravity of the award, you have to understand the Marine Corps has decided to invest around \$150,000 on an individual for at least four years before he will even pin on him the rank of second lieutenant."

The scholarship is available to any high school senior or enlisted member who meets the required criteria, which includes a high score on the Standardized Achievement Test, American College Test or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery; a high Physical Fitness Test; as well as competitive grades in high school.

The Cherry Point, N.C., native, who applied for the program before he graduated high school and went to recruit training in 2005, was humbled when he received the scholarship nearly two years later.

"I am honored to receive this scholarship," said Oneal, adding it took a lot of perseverance to keep his grade point average at 3.6 while still maintaining a full-time job and playing in a band.

"The scholarship was well earned," said Sgt. Lindsay D. Britt, the canvassing recruiter for recruiting sub-stations New Bern and Jacksonville, N.C.

"He was interviewed by the commanding officer and was judged on his appearance, test scores and success in current activities," Britt said. "He was chosen, and I think that really says a lot about him. As many as 1,000 people across the nation may apply, but only 50 get the scholarship and he was one of them."

After graduating college, Oneal will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Marine Corps and hopes to become a Marine Corps aviator. ■

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219 Deer Creek	2/2	\$625
113 Quail Point	2/1	\$625
212 Deer Creek	2/2	\$625
1071 Pueblo	2/2.5	\$680
117 Cranesville	2/2	\$680
1119 Brandymill	2/2.5	\$680
1073 Brandymill	2/2	\$680
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104 Wether	2/1	\$675
1022 Birchwood	2/1	\$675
1142 Pueblo	2/2.5	\$700
227 Bracken	2/2.5	\$700
175 Wena	2/2	\$725
108 Chaslet	2/2	\$725
329 Bracken	2/2	\$725
268 Bracken	2/2	\$725
268 Bracken	2/2	\$725
205 Fairwood	2/2.5	\$725
202 Meadowbrook	2/2	\$750
205 Meadowbrook	2/2.5	\$725
108 Meadowbrook	2/2	\$725
1008 Springwood	2/1.5	\$725
811 Timberlake	2/2.5	\$725
262 Bracken	2/2.5	\$725
1000 Springwood	2/1.5	\$750
1206 Timberlake	2/2.5	\$750
207 Palaca	2/2	\$750
206 Palaca	2/2.5	\$750
11 Pirates Cove	2/2.5	\$765
210 Palaca	2/2	\$775
362 Winners	2/2.5	\$775
6 Dalton	2/2	\$775
151 Pete Jones #4	2/2.5	\$775
108 Pete Jones #6	2/2.5	\$775
341 Winners	2/2.5	\$775
342 Winners	2/2.5	\$775
313 Winners	2/2.5	\$775
216 Chokecherry	2/2	\$795
2008 Windgate	4/2	\$825
3113 Belmont	3/2	\$825
338 Staller	3/2	\$825
1106 Shroyer	3/2	\$850
109 Fountain	3/2	\$850
207 Spring Meadow	3/2	\$850
115 Silverleaf	3/2	\$875
122 Daphne	3/2	\$875
114 Howell	3/2	\$875
1942 Shiner	3/2	\$875
119 Nicole	3/2	\$875
2007 Hunters Ridge	3/2	\$875
111 Howell	3/2	\$885
205 Stag	4/2	\$895
164 Horseshoe	4/2	\$895
181 Copeland	3/2	\$895
101 Ellen	3/2	\$895
402 Summit Way	3/2	\$895
402 Kent Place	3/2	\$895
108 Nicole	3/2	\$895
200 Rose Ct.	3/2	\$900
204 America	3/2	\$900
160 E. Ivybridge	3/2	\$925
835 Mill River	3/2	\$925
143 Lardale	3/2	\$975
124 Lardale	3/2	\$975
33 Jasmine	4/2.5	\$975

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2113 St. Regis
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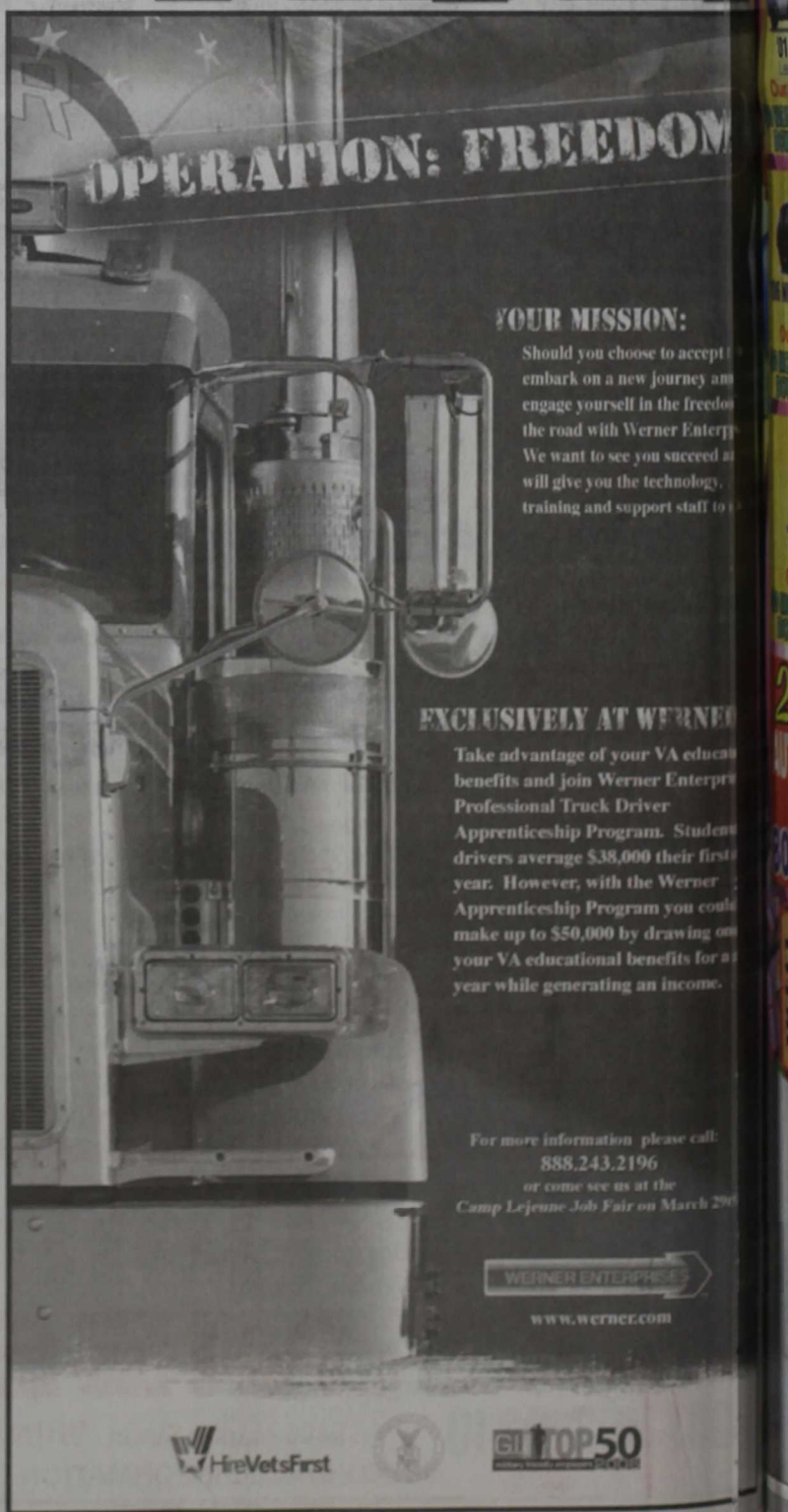
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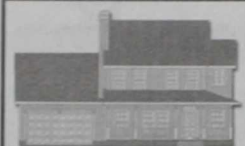
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ASSORTED-Metallic grey stereo cabinet, 2 DVD bookcases, TV stand (holds 32"), \$50. 2 pack & play, \$20/ea. Double jogger stroller, \$30. Folding double stroller, \$10. 478-7091.

ASSORTED-Noah's Ark crib bedding, all in excellent condition, \$40. Boys clothing, sizes newborn-8 yrs. 577-1741.

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Some shine to the ps

Onslow County & Recreation rtment, Onslow y Board of ation and The ie Corps munity Services, River Air Station is to sponsor "Send le Sunshine" r cards. The dead- or turning in the is 5 p.m., esday. The pro- is open to all chil- in Onslow County. rds should be r mailed or dropped Onslow County & Recreation rtment at 1244 ow Pines Rd. in onville. The cards hen be packaged ailed to deployed s. Call 347-5332 for information.

Play group

e developmental group for 2-year- is being offered at Berkeley Manor cal Annex (formerly eley Manor mentary School), Florida Ave., Camp ne, Tuesdays at p.m. The one-hour os are offered by .ducational and .lopmental .vention Services, ul Hospital Camp ne and will be led a educator and a h-language pathol- . The groups will on language and l skills develop- . Parents are d to bring a snack heir child and to in the building e their children ad the play group. egistration and cur- immunization ds are required. 450-4127 to regis- group size is limit- ontinuation of os depends on par- ation.

s-n-employment workshop

ne Corps Family a Building will host workshops for par- and children ages experiencing a mili- separation. Learn to help children with separation role changes while ing how to stay ected to the parent is deployed and the at home. Call 451- to reserve your . Attendees must Brewster Child lopment Center at 2672 for free child- for children 3 years e and under. The tshop will be March : Marston Pavilion 30 p.m. every ay night at 6 p.m.



The Return of the Phantom Flockers

Amy Segreti

Carolina Living Editor

If you've noticed a disturbing trend in your neighbors' outdoor decorating habits, don't fear for their sanity just yet. Those tacky pink plastic flamingos you see adorning their lawns have been put there by rogue fund-raisers who stealthily place 15 flamingos on people's lawns in the middle of the night in an effort to raise money for cancer cures.

More than 10 years ago, the Officers' Wives Club began this fund-raiser as an effort to raise more money for the American Cancer Society and the Onslow Relay for Life.

The covert operation, or "flocking," as the OWC calls it, takes place every night in the month of March in the Paradise Point and Hospital Point base housing areas. There are three teams of six ladies each who "flock" a house, accompanying the flamingos with a sign saying, "You've been flocked!"

"The women on the teams do it in stealth mode, they're secretive. They wear sunglasses, bandannas, necklaces, all sorts of disguises," said Lesley Nevers, co-chair of Team OWC.

The women tape a letter to the door with further instructions — in order to get the flamingos off receiver's lawns, flockees are asked to make a donation of \$25 — but any amount will do, said Pam Silvers, co-chair of Team OWC.

The next night a team goes back to the house, picks up the birds and moves them to the house of the last flockee's choosing.

Donations are tax-deductible and Nevers, a cancer survivor, says that any amount she can help to raise furthers her hope for finding a cure.

"Cancer doesn't discriminate. It doesn't care if you're 5 or 50, if you're a boy or a girl, if you're black or white. Cancer affects everyone, and in this day and age, you can consider yourself fortunate if you don't know someone personally who has been affected by cancer," said Nevers.

The adventurous ladies have taken their nighttime operations even further this year. General's wives have spray-painted Marines' old boots hot pink and put them on the lawns of generals or homes of their choosing with a message to "Give Cancer the Boot."

"This really is an uplifting and fun way to raise money for a good cause," said Silvers.

The fund-raiser coincides with the Relay for Life, the signature fund-raising event of the American Cancer Society, which takes place April 27 and 28 at the Northridge High School track. The opening ceremony begins at 6 p.m. April 27 and after participants circle the track, the closing ceremony takes place at 3 p.m. April 28. Last year the flocking donations represented nearly half of the \$6,200 total dollars raised through the Relay for Life.

For more information, visit www.onslowrelay.com. ■



'Letters From Iwo Jima' a graphic, emotional war drama



From the
front row
with

Reinhild
Moldenhauer
Huneycutt

Now playing at Camp Lejeune

'LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA' (R)

"Letters from Iwo Jima" is a war drama that revisits the battle of Iwo Jima, but this time from the perspective of Japanese soldiers. It is the companion piece to Clint Eastwood's "Flags of Our Fathers".

Sixty-one years ago, U.S. and Japanese armies met on Iwo Jima. Decades later, several hundred letters are unearthed from the stark island's soil. The letters give faces and voices to the men who fought there, as well as the extraordinary general who led them.

Almost 7,000 American servicemen were killed on Iwo Jima and more than 20,000 Japanese troops perished. The black sands of Iwo Jima are stained with their blood, but their sacrifices, their struggles, their courage and their compassion live on in the letters they sent home.

Also known as "Red Sun, Black Sand", this is the story of the battle of Iwo Jima between the United States and Japan during World War II, told from the perspective of Japanese soldiers defending the island against U. S. troops.

It is about two good friends serving in the Japanese forces. The two watch helplessly through various battles as their comrades are killed.

With an all-Japanese cast, Ken Watanabe ("Batman Begins," "The Last Samurai," "Memoirs of a Geisha") stars as General Tadamichi Kuribayashi. His travels to America have revealed to him the hopeless nature of the war, but also given him strategic insight into how to take on the vast American armada streaming in from across the Pacific.

Director Clint Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby," "Mystic River," "Bloodwork") filmed this untold story of the Japanese soldiers and their general who defended them against the invading American forces immediately after finishing "Flags of Our Fathers."

"Letters from Iwo Jima" gives us a more intimate look at the struggles of the soldiers. This war drama is a very graphic and emotional journey as it explores Japan's painful past.

Now playing in Jacksonville

'WILD HOGS' (PG-13)

"Wild Hogs" is a comedy-adventure about a group of suburban, middle-aged friends who decide to hit the road with a free-wheeling motorcycle trip.

When this mismatched, couch-potato foursome set out for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, they encounter an unexpected world.

The frustrated middle-aged friends who hit the road on motorcycles in an attempt to recapture their lost youth are: John Travolta ("Ladder 49") as Woody Stevens, a big shot who has just lost his fortune and his beautiful wife; Tim Allen ("The Santa Clause") as Doug Madsen, a dentist and boring family man; Martin Lawrence ("Black Knight") as Bobby Davis, a hen-picked husband; and William H. Macy ("Thank You For Smoking") as Dudley Frank, a complete computer geek who is single and has trouble connecting with the female species.

Taking a long-dreamed breather from their stressful jobs and family responsibilities, this odd foursome encounter a world that holds more than they ever bargained for.

The trip begins to challenge their wits and luck, especially during a chance meeting with the Del Fuegos, a real-life biker gang who are not amused by the amateur approach of the "vacationers."

As the foursome is looking for adventure, they find that



Photo courtesy of

'Letters from Iwo Jima:' The film revisits the Battle of Iwo Jima from the perspective of the Japanese soldiers.

they have embarked on a journey they will never forget.

Costarring are Ray Liotta ("Smokin' Aces") as Jack, the tough gang leader; Marissa Tomei ("Alfie") as Maggie, Dudley unexpected love interest; Jill Hennessy ("Exit Wounds") as Kelly Madsen, Doug's wife and a special appearance by Peter Fonda ("Easy Rider") as Damien Blade.

Director Walt Becker ("Buying the Cow," "National Lampoon's Van Wilder") delivers this funny and very time appropriate journey.

"Wild Hogs" has some crude and sexual content but also lot of cornball jokes and slapstick humor. It makes for a hilarious and entertaining road trip for the old and young at heart.

'ZODIAC' (R)

"Zodiac" is the story of real-life notorious Zodiac, San Francisco's most infamous serial killer.

In the late 60s, a serial killer in northern California sent letters and bits of evidence to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, claiming responsibility for over 37 victims. However the murders were never solved.

The serial killer terrified the San Francisco Bay area with a string of seemingly random murders and taunted police with his ciphers and letters while investigators in four jurisdictions searched for the murderer.

The case will become an obsession for four men as their lives and careers are built and destroyed by the endless trail of clues.

Jake Gyllenhaal ("Brokeback Mountain," "Jarhead," "Proof") stars as Robert Graysmith, a shy editorial cartoonist who becomes obsessed with the case when trying to unravel the twisty trail of torture.

Robert Downey Jr. ("A Scanner Darkly," "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang," "Gothika") plays Paul Avery, Graysmith's seasoned cynical colleague, who is the star crime reporter on the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Mark Ruffalo ("Just Like Heaven," "Collateral," "Rumor Has It") costars as the San Francisco Police Department's ambitious Homicide Detective David Toschi, who along with his meticulous partner, Inspector William Armstrong, played by Anthony Edwards ("The Forgotten"), investigated the case for years trying to track down the killer.

Also appearing are Chloe Sevigny ("Boys Don't Cry") as Melanie; Ione Skye ("Fever Pitch") as Kathleen John; Elias Koteas ("Crash") as Sgt. Jack Mulanax; and Dermot Mulroney ("Must Love Dogs," "The Family Stone") as Captain Marty Lee.

Brian Cox ("Matchpoint") is brilliant as the defense lawyer Melvin Belli.

John Carroll Lynch ("Gothika") plays Arthur L, the only prime suspect in the case and who died in the real killer was never caught.

Director David Fincher ("Panic Room," "Seven Club," "The Game," "Alien 3") tackles another min with this suspenseful true-life tale of the Zodiac killer. Jamie Vanderbilt ("Basic," "The Rundown," "48") wrote the screenplay based upon the book *Zodiac* by Graysmith. The bestselling author and six-time Price nominee also wrote *Zodiac Unmasked*, *The Lady, The Murder of Bob Crane*, and *Unabomber: to Kill*.

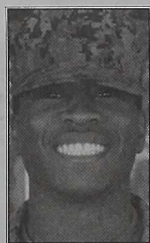
"Zodiac" is an intense and spine-tingling thriller holds the audience in its grip from start to finish.

Ms. Huneycutt is the Public Affairs Assistant at Public Affairs Office. ■

Street Scene



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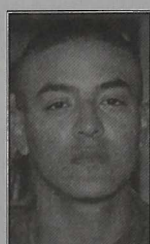


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— Janice Woodward, library director

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DEAD SILENCE R-DLP
1:00 3:10 (5:15) 7:20 9:30

PREMONITION PG-13-DLP
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40 NO DISC TICKETS

FUNNY MONEY PG-13-DLP 6-40
1:00 3:10 (5:20) 7:30 9:40

I LOVE MY WIFE R-DLP
1:00 3:10 (5:20) 7:30 9:40

BECAUSE I SAID SO PG-13-DLP
4:00 7:00 SUN/MON - OPEN CAPTION

300 R-DLP
1:00 1:55 2:30 (4:00 4:45 5:15) 7:00 7:30 8:00 9:45 10:00

ULTIMATE GIFT PG-DLP
(4:30) 9:50

ZODIAC R-DLP 12-45 (4:00) 7:15

WILD HOGS PG-13-DLP
1:30 2:00 (4:00 4:30) 7:00 7:30 9:30 9:50

BLACK SNAKE MOAN R-DLP
NO 1:30 (4:15) SAT/SUN - 7:00

RENO 911 R-DLP
1:45 NO (4:00) 7:15 SUN/MON - 9:20

NUMBER 23 R-DLP
2:00 (4:10) 7:00 9:25

GHOST RIDER PG-13-DLP
1:45 4:15 7:10 9:35

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA PG-DLP
1:30 (3:45) 7:05 9:15

NORBIT PG-13-DLP
1:30 (4:15) 7:00 9:30

HANNIBAL RISING R-1 45 7:10

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE G-DLP
(1:00 3:00 SAT/SUN)

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TODAY
"The Messengers," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
"Norbit," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.;
"Letters from Iwo Jima," R, 9:15 p.m.

SATURDAY
"TMNT," PG, 3:30 p.m. (free premiere)

SUNDAY
"Night at the Museum," PG, 3:30 p.m.;
"Hannibal Rising," R, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY
no movie

TUESDAY
"Stomp the Yard," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
"Dreamgirls," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

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Pets of the Week

Save a life; take home a new friend today



This spayed tortie domestic shorthair's name is Precious. She's about 2 years old and is true to her name. Pet Id #A006625



Chewy is a brown, Labrador-Retriever mix. He's of unknown age, but he'd be happy to make your acquaintance. Pet Id #A006646

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

To see more pictures of pets available for adoption, visit www.petharbor.com

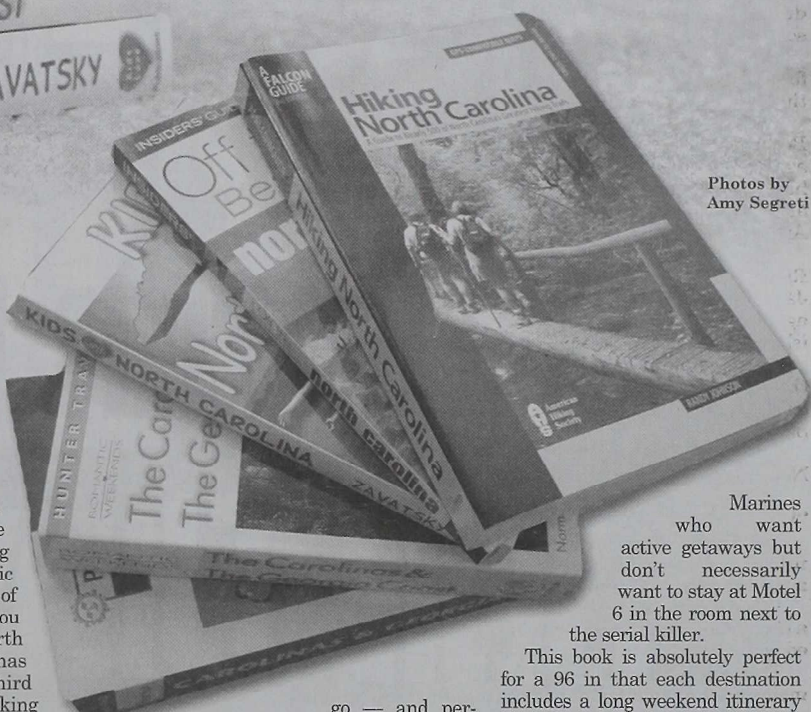
For more information, call the Onslow County Animal Shelter at 455-0182.

Photos courtesy of the animal shelter

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Photos by
Amy Segreti



Marines
who want
active getaways but
don't necessarily
want to stay at Motel
6 in the room next to
the serial killer.

This book is absolutely perfect
for a 96 in that each destination
includes a long weekend itinerary
at the end of the chapter (in addition
to the bountiful information it
offers about each place before-
hand).

Also, each destination includes
phone numbers and hours for
reaching that particular area's
Chamber of Commerce — this is
unique.

The chapters have those gray
boxes I love, with quirky titles such
as, "Savannah, you're so square,"
which lists all the squares that
serve as city parks or places to
watch the world go by.

The book also includes a "Rainy
Day Workout" section that points
to the best gyms in each area
(although the authors could have
gone a step further and found ones
that had free one-day or one-week
passes easily available online,
which I would have done, but they
didn't ask me).

Downfalls: None, other than
that the book was written in
2004, and so you might want to
double-check on some of its
claims. No problem — there are
phone numbers for nearly every-
thing listed.

Overall, this book is very useful

See GUIDEBOOKS page 11D

Carolina Travelogue

with

Amy
Segreti



Being an avid traveler and eager
reader, I have developed a fondness
for travel guidebooks. You might
call it a bit of an obsession. I can
rattle off the names of the most
popular guidebooks series —
Lonely Planet, "Rough Guides,"
Frommers, "Fodor's," "Rick
Steves," "Moon Handbooks,"
Footprint — and tell you the
differences between them and
which ones you should buy
after gathering just a pop-quiz
amount of information about you.

But when I went to India with
my good friend "Lonely Planet" a
few months ago, I realized that
rand names aren't everything.
The author of the particular edition
happened to be using as my bea-
son of light didn't give me any dis-
criminating advice at all — every-
thing was beautiful and life-chang-
ing and had to be seen. This is not
true of India, nor is it true of any
country in the world. This kind of
andy-coated advice isn't the most
helpful for navigating an entirely
foreign land.

I've come to realize that there
are different authors behind not
only every guidebook, but behind
every edition of every guidebook —
the 2006 edition of a particular
guide, though a bit dated, might be
infinitely better than the 2007 edi-
tion, because authors' preferences,
intelligence levels and writing abil-
ities can vary greatly.

Now, when looking for travel
guides available for North
Carolina, the mainstream brands

I've mentioned (save for two or
three) don't really exist, and if they
do, they're very dated.

So you may come across some of
the following books upon browsing
for information for your impending
day trip or 96, with no bearing as to
which one to choose. Read the fol-
lowing reviews to help make your
decision less complicated.

Insider's Guide: Off the Beaten Path North Carolina

2007, Eighth edition by Sara
Pitzer, \$13.95.
Amystars: ***

When it comes to travel infor-
mation about North Carolina, you'll
come across an overwhelming
amount of Insider's guides, each
geared toward various regions of
the state. These guides are very
detailed and usually excellent
resources.

This one, though thinner than
most of their other books, is a good
find for the price, especially if you're
looking for something that covers
the entire state. The fact that it was
updated in 2007 is a plus.

Pitzer starts out with a personal
note that indicates she's very fond
of North Carolina, and remains
personal throughout the guidebook
(including mentioning her husband
dying of Lou Gehrig's disease). If
this turns you off already, stop
reading. But if you can overlook
this or enjoy feeling as though the
author of your book is that guy on
the bus who enjoys telling you inti-
mate details of his personal life
when you ask him for the time, do
continue.

The book is split up into five sec-
tions: Southern Coast and Islands,
Northern Coast and Islands, Upper
Piedmont and Sandhills, Lower
Piedmont and the Mountains.

On pretty much every other
page, Pitzer includes one of those
excellent gray boxes indicating that
a thought entirely unrelated to the

text on the page
is about to daz-
zle us. I wield
no sarcasm
with respect to
the fun I find in
this. I call these
"distraction
boxes" because
they beg me to
look at them
while I'm in the
middle of reading
about historic
Asheville and all of
a sudden — did you
know that North
Carolina has
become the third
busiest filmmaking
state in the United
States? Did you
also know that Spanish moss is neither
Spanish nor moss, but a gray-green
epiphyte, whatever that means?
Her book is reminiscent of the way
we view the internet, with its ran-
dom bits of information at our fin-
gertips, and this is very accessible
for many people.

Downfalls: As I mentioned
before, Pitzer is a bit more opin-
ionated than most travel writers,
who generally write guidebooks as
if they were merely transmitters of
information. If you're sensitive to
this, you might want to steer clear.

Her suggestions, while plentiful
and delightfully thorough in expla-
nation, are lacking any sort of
stand-out text-based arrangement
that many of us are used to in
books such as these, and are mere-
ly laid out in a paragraph-like
arrangement with each destination
bolded and italicized. It's as if she
just printed up her Word docu-
ment; bolded and italicized aren't
really enough.

Finally, a lot of her suggestions
are essentially on the beaten path,
contrary to the book's title. My sug-
gestion? If you use this book at all,
read this one as a primer before you

Play Hard, Rest Easy series: Carolinas & Georgia, The Ultimate Active Getaway Guide

2004 edition by Malcolm Campbell
and Deron Nardo, \$19.95.
Amystars: ****

This book's title fits it perfectly,
and the book follows suit; there are
12 sections in this book including
Savannah, the Outer Banks,
Myrtle Beach, Charleston,
Asheville and Great Smoky
Mountains National Park. From
there, the chapters split into "Play
Hard" and "Rest Easy."

"Play Hard" is split into "Wide
Open" (more active things such as
hiking, mountain biking, skiing
and snowboarding, rock climbing,
horseback riding, rainy day work-
outs, scuba diving, deep sea and fly
fishing) and "Kick Back" (exploring
art galleries, museums, performing
arts and spas). "Rest Easy"
includes reviews of upscale lodging
and gourmet dining.

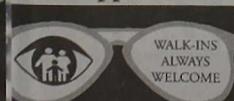
The book really follows a "Who
says playing hard means roughing
it?" concept, which may be appeal-
ing to a lot of people, particularly

"You can never do
enough for the military
and their dependents."

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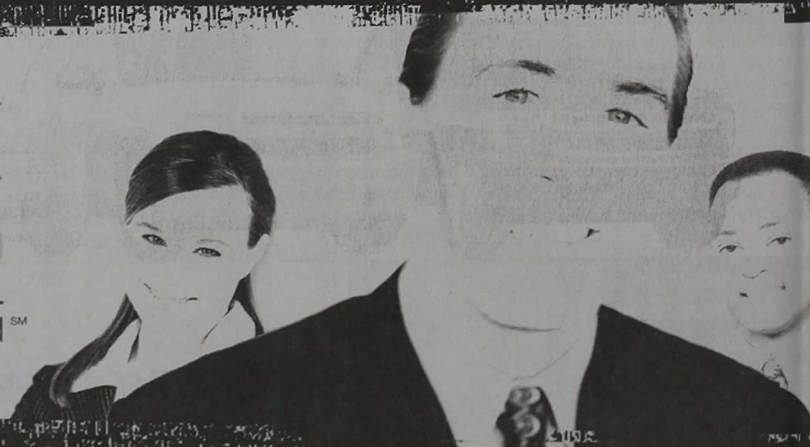
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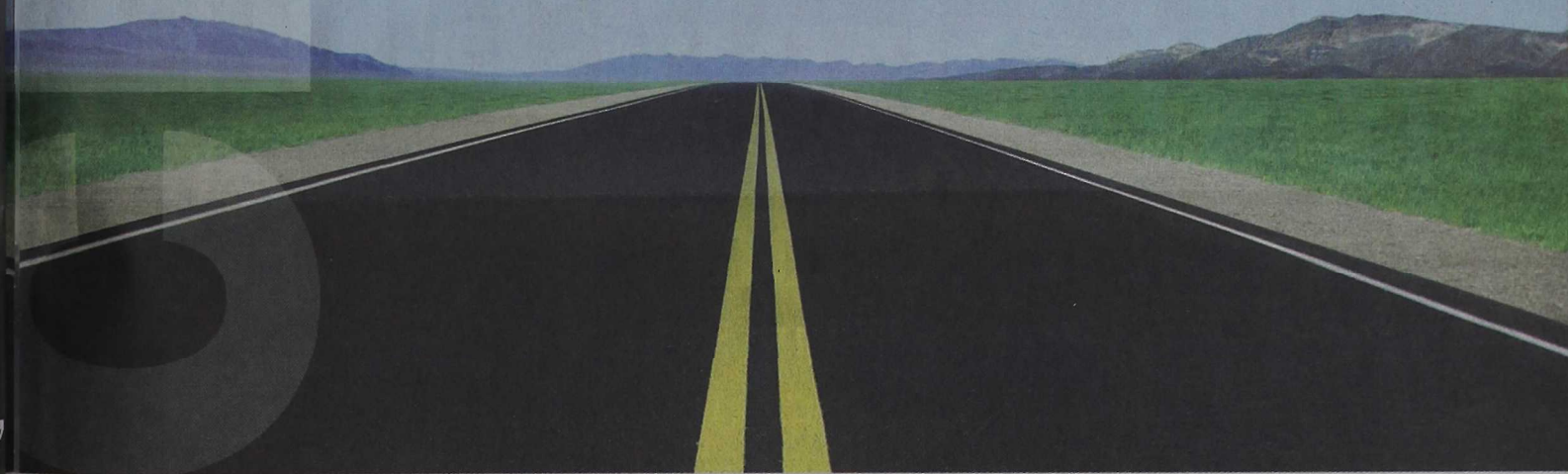


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Online virtual commissary open for business

Bonnie Powell

American Forces Press Service

continue to increase, along with the variety of products," Nixon said.

All products in the gift baskets at Virtual Commissary can be found on the shelves of "brick and mortar" commissaries, but the unique packaging of products into gift and special occasion baskets adds a twist. With titles like "Camouflage," "Drill Sergeant" and "Touch of Home," the baskets offer assortments of crackers, canned cheeses, cookies, candies, beverages and coffee packs.

A secure portal requires customers to provide personal information that verifies they're enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, to verify commissary-shopping eligibility. Military exchanges use a similar method to check for authorization before permitting access to exchange Web sites or online shopping, DeCA officials noted.

But Defense Department civil-

ians stationed overseas who are otherwise authorized to shop at commissaries may not be able to access Virtual Commissary until the Defense Manpower Data Center changes the DEERS database, said DeCA officials. DMDC is targeting completion of the changes for late November.

Virtual Commissary customers can make selections and fill in their payment and shipping information in one easy and secure step before being transferred to the manufacturer's site, where they can get total cost for the product (including shipping) and finalize their purchase. The customer pays for shipping and handling, just as at most other Internet shopping sites and charges will vary depending on the method of shipping selected, location and speed of delivery requested.

Customers can check for availability of delivery to APO and FPO

addresses as well as get more information on what's in the gift baskets by clicking on the image of the gift basket at Virtual Commissary. They can pay for orders with any credit card accepted in commissaries, and DeCA officials said the agency does not archive customer information.

"We're certainly energized by the possibilities offered to our customers through this partnership with industry," Nixon said. "The future of online commissary shopping is unlimited."

Down the road, Virtual Commissary expansion could include making a wide variety of commissary products available, a feature that would allow deployed service members, retirees and other authorized shoppers to order items they want and need at commissary savings — no matter where they live. ■



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2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion honors 65th anniversary

2nd Lt. Geoffry Genna
2nd Marine Division

NEW BERN, N.C. — The Marines and sailors of 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, gathered at the New Bern Convention Center, March 1, to celebrate another successful year for the battalion and its families.

The battalion's 65th anniversary was celebrated as current and former Marines gathered together with their families and fellow comrades, closing out another year and bringing in a new one with their annual "Gator Ball."

"The entire evening was a tremendous success," said Lt. Col. Michael Kuhn, the battalion commanding officer. "As busy as we all are, we cannot afford to miss the opportunity to celebrate important events with our unit's Marines and sailors. The Gator Ball is one of those special events. It brings our current hard chargers together with many of our former amtrackers, leaders and Marines."

The battalion was originally activated March 18, 1942 as 2nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Marine Corps Base, San Diego.

See HONOR page 10D



Anniversary celebration: Marines and their dates stand up to applaud during the 65th annual Gator Ball for the 2nd Combat Engineers Battalion at the Convention Center March 1. Current and former Marines gathered together with their friends and families to celebrate the long history of the battalion with stories of past and present.

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St. Patrick's Day events

You're in luck; military,
local festivities abound

Amy Segreti
Carolina Living Editor

Although St. Patrick's Day is not an official holiday in the United States, it is widely celebrated as such by Irish and non-Irish alike, even if celebrating means just wearing green in honor of Ireland's patron Saint Patrick. Savannah dyes its downtown city fountains green. Chicago even dyes its river green.

While there will be no dyeing of New River, Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville have a substantial number of St. Patrick's Day events intended to honor the day. Take your pick, and be sure to wear your green: those who are caught not wearing green are customarily pinched.

2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m.

What better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than with a bagpiper?

Downtown Jacksonville's festival on New Bridge Street will showcase Loyal Osterlund III, a bagpiper who's been playing the pipes for 30 years and who's performance was one of the deciding factors of holding the event again this year, according to Aileen Green, a festival coordinator.

"People loved him last year," said Green.

"Everyone expects bagpipes on St. Patrick's Day," said Osterlund, who will be performing from 1 - 3 p.m. "The music helps tie everything together on this festive holiday."

The festival is free and food vendors will be selling funnel cake, hot dogs, hamburgers and more. Crimestoppers and a live radio remote from WILFM will be in attendance, and the Jacksonville fire and police department will be bringing the D.A.R.E. car and the fire department's mascot.

"We're hoping the event draws more people back to the area. With the new by-pass, not as many people come down here enough," said Green, speaking of the by-pass connecting N.C. 24 and Highway 17. "We really want to help revitalize downtown Jacksonville."

For more information, call 347-6886.

MARSOC's St. Patrick's Day Pub Night Saturday, 6 p.m. - midnight

Going out to local Irish bars is a popular St. Patrick's Day tradition. This year, do it safely at the pub night hosted by Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command at the Paradise Point Officers' Club at Camp Lejeune.

The event features a cash bar with traditional Irish beverages and an Irish buffet dinner including a corned beef and cabbage stew and Salmon Florentine.

Eire Lingus, a band that originates from the Raleigh-Durham area, will be performing a blend of Celtic tunes dating back to the 1700s from 7 - 11 p.m. The band is made up of Kevin Parnell and Edmund Lavoie, who hail from New York and Boston respectively. They uniquely invite their listeners to participate in their music.

"We're going to sing along and have a grand old time," assured Dawn Jensen, a coordinator of the event.

The event is open to officers and their guests; the cost is \$26 for members and \$32.50 for non-members.

Advance reservation is required. For more information, call 451-2465, ext. 221.

St. Patrick's Day barbecue Saturday, 11 a.m.

Want a free and festive lunch before heading out to celebrate? Military ID holders are invited to a free St. Patrick's Day meal at noon at the United Services Organization in Jacksonville at 9 Tallman St. The lunch includes a pig roast with cole slaw, hush puppies and an Irish dish with potatoes, onions and green peppers.

The bluegrass band Breck Jarman & Friends will begin performing at 11 a.m.

Coordinators expect around 300 people for the event, which is hosted by the Crystal Coast Emergency Rescue team.

For more information, call 455-3411.

St. Patrick's dinner party and band Saturday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

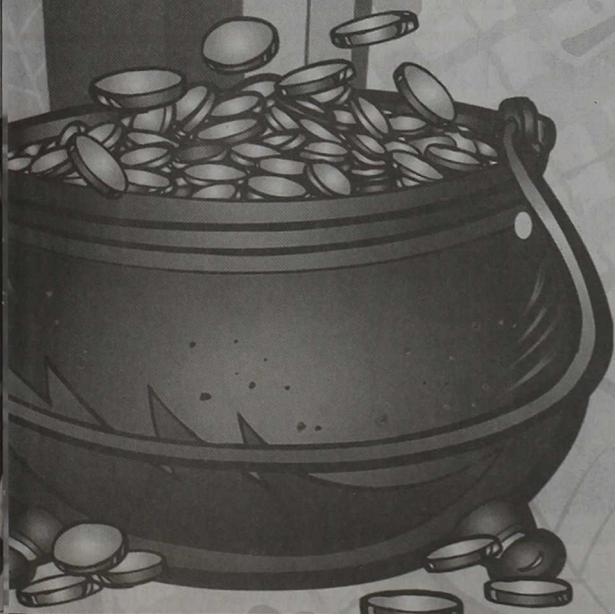
If you're looking for something more low-key in a cozy coffee-house environment, head to Courthouse Caffé at 720 Court St. in Jacksonville for traditional Irish fare and live music by One Lane Bridge.

The meal will include spinach dip, mini reubens, house or Caesar salad, corned beef and cabbage, baked "Shamrock" chicken, beets, peas and bread pudding with whiskey sauce.

One Lane Bridge hails from New Bern and consists of six band members playing traditional instruments such as guitars and drums, to unique ones like the harmonica, cow bell and tambourine.

Dinner will take place at 8 p.m. and the band will play 8 p.m. - midnight. The dinner costs \$15 per person and cover for the band is \$10.

Reservations are suggested. For more information, call 455-6141. ■



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What's happenin'

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

Volunteer to feed baby birds

Today, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Orientation and training sessions are scheduled to teach volunteers how to feed baby birds at the Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary in Hubert, N.C. The sanctuary is recruiting volunteers to help with feedings, particularly those with an interest in native birds who are able to come to the sanctuary on a regular basis. The sanctuary will soon have many mouths to feed — some as often as every 15 minutes for newborns, and older juveniles, which need feeding every hour. Call 326-6432 to register.

'The Gin Game'

Today - Sunday; March 21 - 25

Opera House Theatre Company presents the winner of the 1978 Pulitzer Prize, "The Gin Game" at Thalian Hall on 310 Chestnut St. in Wilmington, N.C. "The Gin Game" uses a game as a metaphor for life. Weller Martin is playing solitaire on the porch of a seedy nursing home. Enter Fonsia Dorsey, a prim, self-righteous lady. They discover they both dislike the home and enjoy gin rummy so they begin to play and to reveal intimate details of their lives. Call 343-3664 or visit www.thalianhall.com for tickets and times.

16th annual St. Patrick's Festival Little Ms. and Mr. Leprechaun contest

Saturday, 11 a.m.

The 16th Annual St. Patrick's Festival will crown a Ms. & Mr. Little Leprechaun as part of the Irish festivities taking place in Emerald Isle at the Emerald Plantation shopping center. The Little Ms. & Mr. Leprechaun Contest will take place on the main stage at 11 a.m. The contest is organized for two age groups: boys and girls ages 2-3 and boys and girls ages 4-5. Each contestant will be judged on the originality and creativity of their costume and overall stage presentation. Contest winners from each age category will receive a \$50 savings bond courtesy of Bank of America and RBC Centura. Each contestant will receive a gift for participating. Contest organizers require pre-registration by noon March 16 and ask that participants be under the main stage's tent by 10:30 a.m. on the day of the event. Entry fee is \$15 per contestant. Please contact Laura Lee Davis at 252-354-6350 or ldavis@emeraldisle-nc.org to register.

National and Health Services Job Fair

March 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Noncommissioned Officers Association will host a National & Health Services Job Fair at the Fort Bragg Officers Club, Building 1-4930 (Armstead & Totten St), Fort Bragg, N.C. All transitioning military personnel and

their family members are encouraged to attend. The job fair is free and open to the public. More than 60 companies will be in attendance. Dress appropriately (military uniform acceptable), bring plenty copies of your resume and be prepared to meet with local and national recruiters who are hiring in all industries. For more information and to view a list of the participating companies, visit www.militaryjobworld.com or call 1-800-662-2620, ext 222.

Artists and crafters guild

March 27, 7 p.m.

The Coastal Carolina Artists and Crafters Guild will hold their meeting at Richlands Public Library, 301 N. Wilmington St., Richlands to network with artists and crafters in the area. Light refreshments will be served and a raffle held. For more information, call 938-7077.

Easter egg hunts

March 31

The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring four Easter egg hunts for Onslow County. The first hunt will be at Richlands/Steed Park beginning at 9 a.m., the second will be at Onslow Pines Park at 11 a.m., the third will be held at Stump Sound park beginning at 1:30 p.m. and the fourth egg hunt will be held at Hubert By-Pass Park beginning at 4 p.m. There will be prizes and candy and even a visit from the Easter Bunny. The program is designed for children 10 years or younger. For more information, call 347-5332 or visit www.co.onslow.nc.us/parks.

'The Fantasticks'

April 27, 28, May 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 8 p.m.

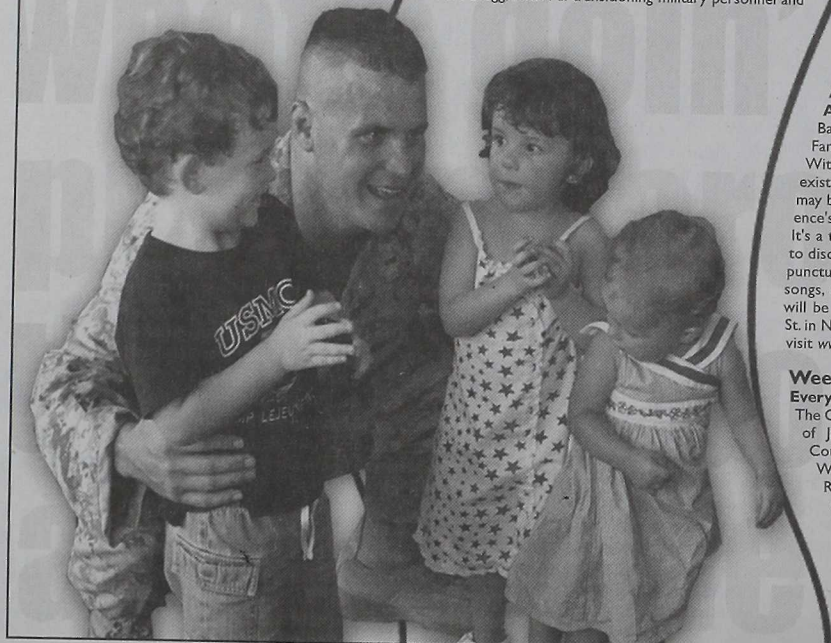
April 29, May 6 at 2 p.m.

Based on Les Romanesques by Edmond Rostand, "The Fantasticks" is the longest running musical in the world. With its minimal costumes, small band and virtually nonexistent set, "The Fantasticks" is an intimate show which may be performed in virtually any space, engaging the audience's imagination and showcasing a strong ensemble cast. It's a tale of young lovers who become disillusioned, only to discover a more mature, meaningful love. The musical is punctuated by a bountiful series of catchy, memorable songs, many of which have become standards. The show will be playing at New Bern Civic Theatre on 414 Pollock St. in New Bern, N.C. For information, call 252-633-0567 or visit www.newberncivictheater.org.

Weekday Walking

Every Friday in March

The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department, City of Jacksonville Wellness Committee and the Onslow County Health Department are sponsoring a Weekday Walking program. Meet every Friday in March at the New River Waterfront Park across from the United Services Organization or City Hall between 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Bring your sneakers and exercise during your lunch hour. Participants who walk four out of the five Fridays will be entered into a drawing for prizes. For more information, call 347-5332 or visit www.co.onslow.nc.us/parks.



HONOR

CONTINUED FROM 8D

On Aug. 10, 1950, after a five-year period of deactivation, the battalion was re-activated at its current home, Camp Lejeune. Over the battalion's 65 year history, it has served with distinction and honor in many of the nation's battles and operations, including Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, Grenada-Carriacou and Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and currently Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of the Marines in attendance fought in the battles and operations of the battalion's rich history.

The ceremony began as the battalion chaplain, Navy Lt. Jeffery Jenkins, delivered the invocation. The colors were posted and the cake cutting ceremony began with pieces of cake served to Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Wilson, the oldest Marine present, as well as the youngest, Lance Cpl. John McKenzie.

"It's good to have the battalion together with the retirees," Wilson explained. "The history represented by these individuals is remarkable; they've been through so many deployments together. These were the individuals who raised me and now I'm in their shoes. It shows how much of a family we truly are."

The guest of honor was Col. Michael S. Bohn, the director of Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity. Bohn, a Pennsylvania native, graduate of the University of Colorado and Amtrack by military occupational specialty, served two tours with the battalion. After completing the Assault Amphibian Officers Course, he first served as a platoon commander and company executive officer and would later return to

serve as a company commander and operations officer.

After the traditional anniversary celebration, Kuhn and Bohn delivered their messages to the guests. The messages spoke of the honor and pride bestowed upon those who serve with the battalion. They also spoke of the illustrious history and path laid down before the battalion by its predecessors, inspiring those of the battalion to continue to define the true amphibious nature of the Marine Corps.

"The Gator Ball was a great opportunity to celebrate the history and heritage of our battalion," Jenkins said. "I was impressed with the number of former battalion members who returned for the ball. Their presence added greatly to the evening."

Kuhn then presented Bohn with a gift in appreciation for his attendance, inspiring words and service. Upon completion of the speeches, those in attendance gave out a loud, motivating, "Yat-Yas," the Amtrac motto.

The evening continued on with Marines and sailors, both retired and active duty, current and former members of the battalion, sharing stories of their experiences in the AAV community.

"It was an honor and a privilege to be the youngest Marine in the finest battalion in the Marine Corps," McKenzie stated.

As the evening progressed, dinner was served, stories continued to be told and the lights dimmed as the music played and the dancing began. The battalion and guests danced away the remainder of the evening, enjoying each other's company and strengthening the bond connecting every Marine and sailor serving in the battalion. It was a memorable night full of laughter, happiness and camaraderie. ■



Gator Ball: Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Michael Kuhn, presents the guest speaker, Col. Michael S. Bohn for his attendance and long service in the Corps.

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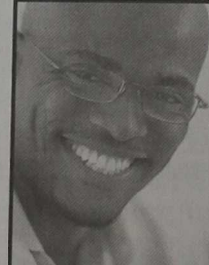
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Falcon Guide's Hiking North Carolina: A Guide to Nearly 500 of North Carolina's Greatest Hiking Trails

2007 edition by Randy Johnson, \$19.95.

Amystars: ***** I picked up this book with high expectations. A quote from CNN.com is printed on the back. It says, "written by top experts and enthusiasts."

It's an official American Hiking Society book.

I expected a lot — and that's what I got.

This book, in short, is amazing. The introduction is lengthy and goes over things you may need, safety information and more. Each trail begins with a one-sentence overview so you can quickly tell if it's not for you, then continues to have easy-to-find points about its general location, detailed information about finding the trailhead, distance, difficulty, best maps, elevation gain or loss, water availability (!!!), and a phone number and Web site link (finally, a guidebook that has realized we entered the 21st century seven years ago and, 9 times out of 10, we want a way to get valuable information without actually speaking to someone).

Following this, each trail features GPS compatible maps and an extremely detailed 1-4 page description of the hike you can take, in addition to pointing out things you might miss along the way (Spanish moss, anyone?) For example: "If you linger over lunch [at the Linville gorge trail] and scan the rock-hewn amphitheater, the start of Linville

Gorge, you can imagine the hemmed-in feeling William Linville and his son must have felt near here in 1766 when confronted by Native Americans — who then scalped them." Wow.

Downfalls: The only con of this book is its title. While I tend to despise the recent trend in the book industry of making titles as long as the books themselves with all sorts of never-before-seen punctuation, it really might be necessary here. People with an interest in walking, trail running, picnicking with their families, educating their children or moving around in any fashion should also pick up this book. The fact that the guide book appears to only encompass hiking may cause many people to skip over it. But take for example the Flat Rock Self-Guiding Loop trail (page 129) near Linville, an educational trail with plant identification signs, inspiring messages and areas to picnic — perfect for a day out with children.

At \$19.95, it's a little steep — but it's worth it if you want to spend any part of your vacation outdoors.

Hunter Travel Guides: Romantic Weekends, The Carolinas & the Georgia Coast

2000 edition by Norman and Kathy Renouf, \$17.95.

Amystars: *** Perhaps your spouse has just come home from a deployment and you're dying for a weekend away, sans children. This book seems to be perfectly geared toward you. Right?

Wrong. This book is more like a general guidebook with no particularly overwhelming romantic overtones to it. With a title such as it has, I was expecting supremely good romantic-gush stuff.

While it appears that the authors merely used this title to differentiate the book from every other guidebook out there, it's very comprehensive, covering such areas as Lake Lure, Maggie Valley, High Country, Lake Norman and

Ocracoke in north Carolina, in addition to low-profile areas in South Carolina and Georgia. This extremely specific chapter coverage of these areas (as opposed to the grouping of them common in other guidebooks) gets the book its 2.5 Amystars.

Downfalls: Everything else. The biggest drawback to this book is the fact that it was written in 2000. This results in an interesting juxtaposition of emotions which cause you to be unsure whether to exclaim, "Wow, I never knew about the Beaufort by the Bay Winefest — exciting!" or "Darn, that probably doesn't exist anymore..." If you do take a look at this guide, make sure you double-check everything is accurate (and, still in existence, for that matter).

But my thought is: why buy a guidebook that will just cause you to Google everything anyway? Skip the middle step by skipping this book.

I will offer one general piece of guidebook advice: the best way to evaluate a guidebook is to take a look at what it says about an area you know extremely well. It's the only way to make sure the authors are on "your page," so to speak. I do this with regard to Wilmington, and my technique hasn't failed me yet.

So the state of North Carolina is rarely explored thoroughly in mainstream guidebooks — so what? There are tons of resources, and if you spend a little time researching at the bookstore (or just cut this column out), you're sure to find one that's got what you're looking for.

Now before I get any more jokes about how I am constantly attempting to write about Wilmington, and how I just now found yet another way to insert the word "Wilmington" into a travel column, I'll be signing off. Look for my next column mid-April and until then — happy arm-chair traveling.

Amy Segreti is the Carolina Living Editor. E-mail your comments to amy.segreti@mil- itarynews.com. ■

Space camp scholarships available for dependents

Press release
Marine Corps Base

MCB QUANTICO, Va. — Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship.

Children of active-duty service members, in grades 6 through 9, can apply for the scholarship, which was created by the Military Child Education Coalition in memory of Bernard Curtis Brown II, the 11-year-old son of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Bernard Curtis Brown, who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001, when the hijacked airliner was crashed into the Pentagon.

Located in Huntsville, Ala., Space Camp offers a unique, hands-on approach to learning outside the classroom. Activities include simulated space shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments and lectures on the past, present and future of space exploration.

The scholarship covers tuition, meals, lodging, program materials and transportation for a five-day program. To apply, students must submit a scholarship application, along with a hand written essay stating why they should be selected and two letters of recommendation from someone other than a relative. Those applying should ensure that their essays include details of patriotism, community service, future goals and "after camp" intentions.

The 2007 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship application can be found by visiting the Military Child Education Website at www.militarychild.org/Scholarship.asp.

The deadline for submission for all materials is April 2. Completed applications should be sent to: Military Child Education Coalition, 108 East FM 2410, Suite D, Harker Heights, Texas 76548.

For more information, call 703-784-9553 or e-mail kathleen.facon@usmc.mil. ■



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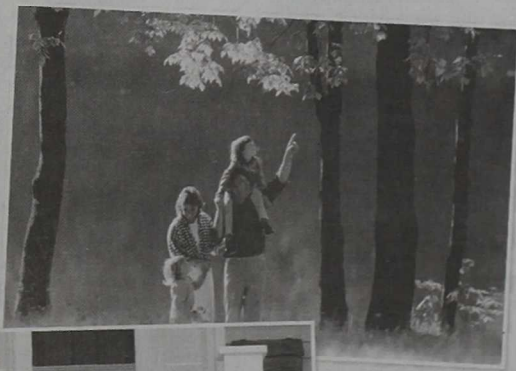
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