Tijuana prisons

See Page D1

The Camp Pendleton
Scout

Serving Camp Pendleton

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Marines rescue Taiwanese anglers

K Intel analyst translates after homeward-bound 11th MEU saves beleaguered fishermen

SGT. ERIC MCLEROY
11TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

ABOARD USS BOXER -- The last thing Cpl. Jonathan Su, Command Element, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), expected to do on a Saturday night aboard the ship was ask a Taiwanese fishermen to abandon his boat in the Pacific Ocean and swim toward a life raft -- but that's what he did.

Sailors from the USS Boxer rescued eight men from a Taiwanese fishing vessel that was on fire and flooding several hundred miles east of Guam Aug. 25.

"That was the last thing I expected would ever happen," Su said. "We've been on deployment for 5 1/2 months, on our way home, and it was a Saturday night. I was thinking about sleeping till 8 a.m. on Sunday."

The Boxer began receiving distress signals from the 59-foot fishing vessel late in the evening. Su, an intelligence analyst, was called to the ship's Joint Intelligence Center to help the Boxer communicate with the desperate fishermen. Su shared the responsibility with several other Sailors who speak Chinese and were serving as translators.

"(The Boxer) asked me if I spoke Chinese, and I said yes," Su explained. "They told me about the fishing boat and the Chinese fishermen. Starting at midnight, I was called to relieve a Sailor who had been translating. I talked to them and asked for updates on their position and the ship. They had a fire on their boat and the ship was flooding."

Su's role as an analyst doesn't require him to speak Chinese, although it's his native language. Born in Taiwan and raised in Southern California, he grew up speaking both English and Chinese. After the rescue, he expressed a desire to speak "his language" more often.

"I was nervous at first, because I hadn't spoken Chinese in so long. I thought to myself, Man! I should have been studying my Chinese during the deployment. Chinese is my language, and not speaking it would be like the rest of us speaking broken English."

He admitted his Chinese is rusty and that he struggled with technical terms like flare gun and engine room. Despite the challenges, he learned the fishermen could not swim. Such information was key during the rescue.

Su translated possible rescue scenarios to the fishermen until a solution was agreed upon. The Boxer then deployed rescue swimmers who helped the fishermen into rafts.

The fishermen were brought aboard the ship and given medical treatment, clothes, food and berthing space. They'll remain until the ship's next port visit.

Meanwhile, Su and the other Chinese translators serve as liaisons between the Boxer and the fishermen.

Su has used the experience to refresh his language skills and is thankful for the experience.

"I'm amazed this happened," Su said. "They were pretty far off our course, and for the Boxer to do everything they did to rescue them is just amazing."

Dragon Fire's fury displayed

K Automated mortar could provide more rounds despite needing less manpower

SGT. MATTHEW SHAW
STAFF WQRITER

Marine Corps Warfighting Lab demonstrated a new mortar system Aug. 29 at Camp Pendleton that, according to officials, could aid warfighters by reducing manpower needs while increasing mobility, along with frequency and accuracy of firepower.

The Mobile Fire Support System, also known as the Dragon Fire mortar, is a prototype weapon being evaluated for support of Marine Expeditionary Units. Currently, the weapon is intended not to replace existing weapons systems, but to enhance the arsenal in support of Marines on the ground.

The self-loading, 6,500-pound, 120mm mortar offers a great amount of flexibility and has the potential to be the "meanest weapon on the face of the Earth," according to Forrest R. Lindsey, senior engineer, MCWL.

The United States purchased two of the four existing mortars from the French military for the Marine Corps-directed program. The lab constructed a special trailer for the mortar that fits inside an MV-22 Osprey for air transport. The trailer, designed for towing, features supporting legs that enable the weapon to rotate 360 degrees.

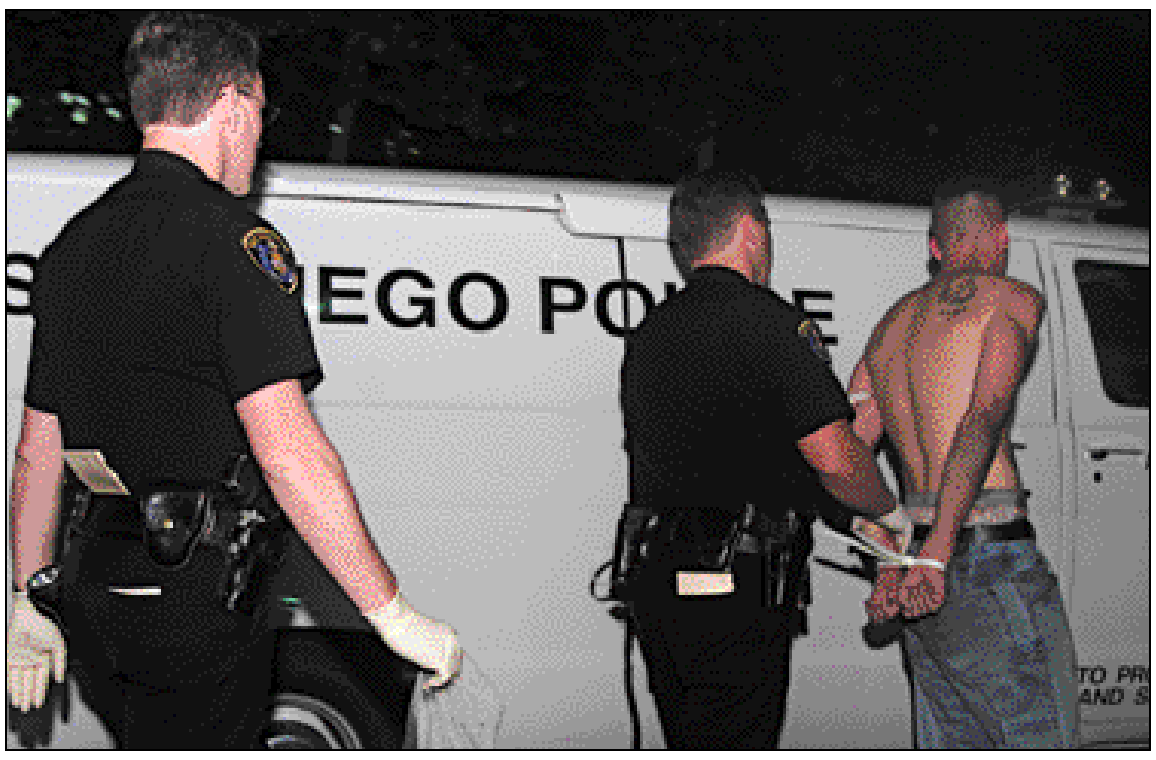
Two Marines can set up the trailer system in one minute, according to Lindsey. In 2 1/2 minutes, the weapon can be ready to fire 10 rounds per minute -- one every six

See **Dragon**, Page A6

Index

Pendleton Points.....A2
Courts-Martial.....A2
Commentaries.....A4
Religious Services.....B2
Bulletin Board.....B2
Base movies.....B2
Family & Home.....B5, B7
Sports Briefs.....C2
Sports Classes.....C2
Grandstand.....C2
Military Marketplace..C7
D-Tour with MCCS.....D2
Classified Ads.....D4

Crossing the line



SGT. BILL LISBON

A lance corporal with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, is led away in handcuffs by San Diego Police officers after being arrested at the San Ysidro Port of Entry Aug. 25. The Marine was detained earlier by the Navy Border Shore Patrol for fighting with a Marine corporal.

Pendleton partiers still finding trouble in TJ

EDITOR'S NOTE: Faces have been blurred on some photos to protect the identity of detainees.

SGT. BILL LISBON AND LCPL. ANTHONY R. BLANCO
STAFF WRITERS

Last month's death of a California Highway patrol Officer mowed down on Interstate 5 by a Camp Pendleton Marine returning home from liberty in Tijuana, Mexico, refocuses attention on liberty rules for service members who travel south of the border.

The Marine, LCpl. Jerome A. Bates, Jr., of 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, was only 20, but was able to drink in Tijuana, where the legal drinking age is 18.

Tijuana, approximately 70 miles south of Camp Pendleton, is a hot spot for San Diego County-based service members in part due to its drinking age, cheap alcohol and active nightlife.

Liberty regulations for Marines in Southern California are clear though. According to Marine Corps Regional Order 1050, all E-3s and below must have a liberty chit and out-of-bounds pass before entering Mexico, and all personnel must use the "buddy system" and travel in groups of at least two or more.

The order, dated March 2, 2000, and still in effect today, was signed by the commanding generals of all of Camp Pendleton's major commands, as well as commanding generals of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms.

Some commands on Camp Pendleton have even tougher regulations. Students at the Infantry Training Battalion and the Marine Combat Training Battalion, as well as recent graduates on base awaiting orders, aren't permitted liberty in Mexico at all, said 1stSgt. Jonathan Schendel, company first sergeant of Headquarters and Service Company, MCT Bn.

Even if they follow all the regulations, there's still very little stopping underage Marines from drinking in Tijuana.

Marine Corps units in the United States typically defer to the legal drinking age of the state they're in. In California, it's 21. As long as underage Marines don't re-enter California under the influence of alcohol, they can't get in trouble, said SgtMaj. Stephen A. Rollins, sergeant major of Headquarters

See **Tijuana**, Page A5

SGT. BILL LISBON

A lance corporal with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, resists Navy Border Shore Patrol members Petty Officer 3rd class Michael Bauman, left, and Petty Officer 2nd class Darren Hume as they attempt to control an intoxicated and belligerent Marine, who was detained for fighting with a Marine corporal Aug. 25 at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. The Marine later was arrested by the San Diego Police.

Body of 1/4 swimmer recovered

K Memorial service is today at 10 a.m. at the 53 Area Chapel

SCOUT STAFF

A Camp Pendleton Marine was found dead in the water off a local beach Friday afternoon roughly 28 hours after he was swept away by strong currents during a unit outing, according to base officials.

The body of PFC Brandon J. Loewe, a member of B Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, was found in shallow water approximately 30 meters offshore, half a mile north of the Red Beach training area.

At approximately 2 p.m. Aug. 30, Del Mar Beach lifeguards were notified that a swimmer was having difficulty returning to the beach. The swimmer disappeared, and a search was conducted by Camp Pendleton law enforcement, fire and harbor personnel, along with civilian law enforcement and fire agencies.

After conducting training in the morning, members of the unit held a barbecue at Del Mar Beach. Some entered the water.

"It hit us pretty bad," Cpl Raymond G. Babbitt, squad leader, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, said about Loewe's death. Babbitt characterized Loewe as "motivated, eager to learn and just happy-go-lucky."

"He was always in high spirits and you could always talk to him about anything," said Loewe's roommate, LCpl. Brandon R. Needler.

Loewe, 18, had been part of the unit for about seven months and left an impact, his comrades

See **Loewe**, Page A6

9th Comm. powers up for Exercise UFL

LCPL. ANTHONY R. BLANCO
STAFF WRITER

During Exercise Ulchi Focus Lens here last week, one of the largest annual exercises in the world involving more than 80,000 service members from across the globe, units from Texas, Camp Pendleton, Korea and Japan were electronically connected to play "war games."

With critical decisions made minute by minute, every phone, computer and wire needed to function flawlessly to ensure commanders were kept up to speed.

Ninth Communication Battalion laid more than 30,000 feet of wire, linked 360 computer systems together and connected more than 100 secure phones for the exercise. With all that, their job is a never-ending battle because of power outages and requests for new computers and phones.

"We're never really finished," said GySgt. John Nightingale, data chief, B Company, 9th Comm. Bn., I Marine Expeditionary Force. "I couldn't even begin to estimate the number of man-hours my Marines have put into this exercise."

Throughout the exercise, 9th Comm. Marines served as a help desk when someone needed assistance with a computer or phone. They also responded to a power outage when a generator ran out of gas.

"We maintain all the phones on the complex - we're basically the military's phone company," said Cpl. Raul Auitia, unit level circuit switch operator, B Co., 9th Comm. "When the generator ran out of fuel, it knocked out the power for about two hours. Training like this is very important because when something goes wrong, everyone

See **Comm**, Page A6

Pendleton Points

Submissions for Pendleton Points must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. to make that week's paper. Submissions can be brought to Building 1160, Room 113; faxed to 385-0053; or e-mailed to lamaybe@mail.cpp.usmc.mil.

Road restriping under way

Traffic delays at various locations on base can be expected through early October because of road restriping under way since Aug. 6.

Affected roadways include Vandegrift Boulevard and, Rattlesnake Canyon Road, Ammunition Road, Golf Course Road and roads in 26, 31, 62 and 64 areas.

Transitioning help on tap

Marines and spouses planning their transition from the Marine Corps can learn the ropes from seasoned veterans tonight at a meeting of the Marine Executives Association.

Retired Marine Jim Burke and his wife will offer perspectives on the transition to civilian life at 5:30 p.m. at Sharkey's in the Bachelor Officers Quarters. Dinner (optional) is $20 apiece.

Burke retired in 1992 as Camp Pendleton's base inspector.

To inquire, call Steve Fisher, 728-4956, or send e-mail to fishercs@aol.com.

Intel MOS seeks Marines

The Counterintelli-gence/Human Intelligence field, MOS 0211, is open to Marines looking for a challenge.

Marines in the field collect tactical intelligence and help prevent espionage and terrorism directed against Marine Corps forces. They receive extensive, specialized training in foreign languages, interrogation and investigation. Specialists write threat assessments, conduct vulnerability surveys and use high-tech equipment.

First-term sergeants and corporals who are able to work independently and in small teams are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have an interest in learning a foreign language. Other requirements: GCT score of 110 or higher, male, U.S. citizen and a solid performance record.

For more information, call 1st Intelligence Battalion, 725-6872/6227.

Exceptional families sought

Enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program is mandatory for families with a member who has special needs as a result of a physical, intellectual or emotional handicap.

For more information, call C.J. Donarski, 725-5363.

Home-buying workshop

A free workshop titled "How to Create Thousands of Dollars of Equity" by using VA and Cal-Vet loans to buy a home will be offered Aug. 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Joint Reception Center, Building 130132.

The workshop will show buyers

* How to create thousands of dollars with no money out of pocket

* How to determine maximum home-buying power.

To reserve a seat or for more information, call 966-6941.

Camp Del Mar detour

A portion of Imhoff Road, between Buildings 210730 and 210846, is closed permanently. The segment is being demolished to facilitate construction of the 12th Street extension, which will link Imhoff Road and C Street. Beach access will be detoured to the south along 8th Street. Beach access via 12th Street is expected to be opened in November.

Bridgeport to mark milestone

Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 6. Anyone who wants to attend should make reservations for civilian lodging nearby.

Ceremonies also will mark the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

Festivities will include static displays of current cold-weather equipment and gear.

For more information, call Capt. Scott Broberg, 932-7761 or e-mail broberg@mwtc.usmc.mil.

NCOs sought to help others

Corporals and above are needed as substance abuse counselors in the Marine Corps. The assignment is for people who enjoy helping others. Candidates will receive professional training that could lead to internationally recognized certification.

The counselor tour is normally four years at one of 18 Marine Corps installations.

For more information, call the Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center, 725-5538 or 5539.

Border crossing advisory

Marines are reminded that E3s and below need an Out of Bounds chit to go to Mexico, according to Marine Corps Regional Order 1050.

The order is meant to deter underage drinking in Tijuana. When conducting OSC, San Diego Police will check IDs of anyone suspected of being younger than 21 before they enter Mexico. Moreover, anyone younger than 18 will be turned away unless accompanied by a parent.

Military personnel without armed forces ID cards will be turned away.

Air Force general pegged as new JCS chairman

General Peter Pace nominated as first Marine to serve as vice chairman

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON -- President Bush announced Aug. 24 his nomination of Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, 59, to become the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Speaking to reporters at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Bush added that Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, 55, would succeed Myers as vice chairman. The current JCS chairman, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, is slated to retire Sept. 30.

Choosing a new JCS chairman is "one of the most important appointments a president can make," Bush said. The Senate must confirm both nominations.

"Secretary (of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld and I thought long and hard about this important choice, and we enthusiastically agree that the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future, is Gen. Richard B. Myers," Bush said.

Bush called Myers, who has served as vice chairman since March 2000, an officer "of steady resolve and determined leadership" who "understands that the strengths of America's armed forces are our people and our technological superiority.

"And, we must invest in both," he added.

Pace "represents a new generation of leadership and military thinking," Bush said, adding that he has spent "a substantial amount of time" working with both men and "is convinced they are the right people to lead our military into the future."

Currently the commander of U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Pace is the first Marine to serve as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

In making his announcements, Bush was accompanied by Rumsfeld, in Texas for force review and defense budget consultations; nominees Myers and Pace; and their wives.

The president has tasked DoD to transform the armed forces into "a 21st-century military that can deter aggression and help us extend peace" well into the new century, Rumsfeld said. That kind of change is difficult and "not undertaken lightly. It takes clarity of vision, and unity of purpose, and it takes leadership. Gen. Dick Myers is such a leader."

Myers was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, is a former commander of U.S. Space Command, and was the assistant to former JCS chairman Army Gen. John Shalikashvili. Rumsfeld characterized Myers' military career as "the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman as the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

Pace, a former deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan, has extensive experience, having served "from the jungles of Southeast Asia to the streets of Mogadishu," Rumsfeld said.

"General Pace has fought the country's fights, small and large, and demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for leadership along the way," he added, noting that Pace's "background, expertise and insight" would complement Myers'.

Under the leadership of Myers and Pace, "the men and women of the U.S. armed forces are in fine hands," Rumsfeld said.

The secretary also thanked Shelton, the outgoing chairman, for "his outstanding and his courageous service" and professionalism.

Shelton himself noted in a Aug. 24 statement that he was pleased with Myers' and Pace's nominations, describing Myers as "a crucial and indispensable part of the national security team for the past two years," and praising Pace's "wide-ranging operational and joint experience."

Both nominees said being chosen humbled them. Myers noted that he had learned a great deal under Shelton's tutelage, adding he has "figuratively and literally enormous shoes to fill."

Pace said he and Myers "would work to take great care of the wonderful young men and women who serve this country in uniform."

Savings, investment program touted service members

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Service members starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civilian employees. The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002. Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, http://www.tsp.gov, or can be obtained at local military finance offices. Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

* The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.

* The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 7.87 percent -- and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.

* The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent, but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.

* The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds -- but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

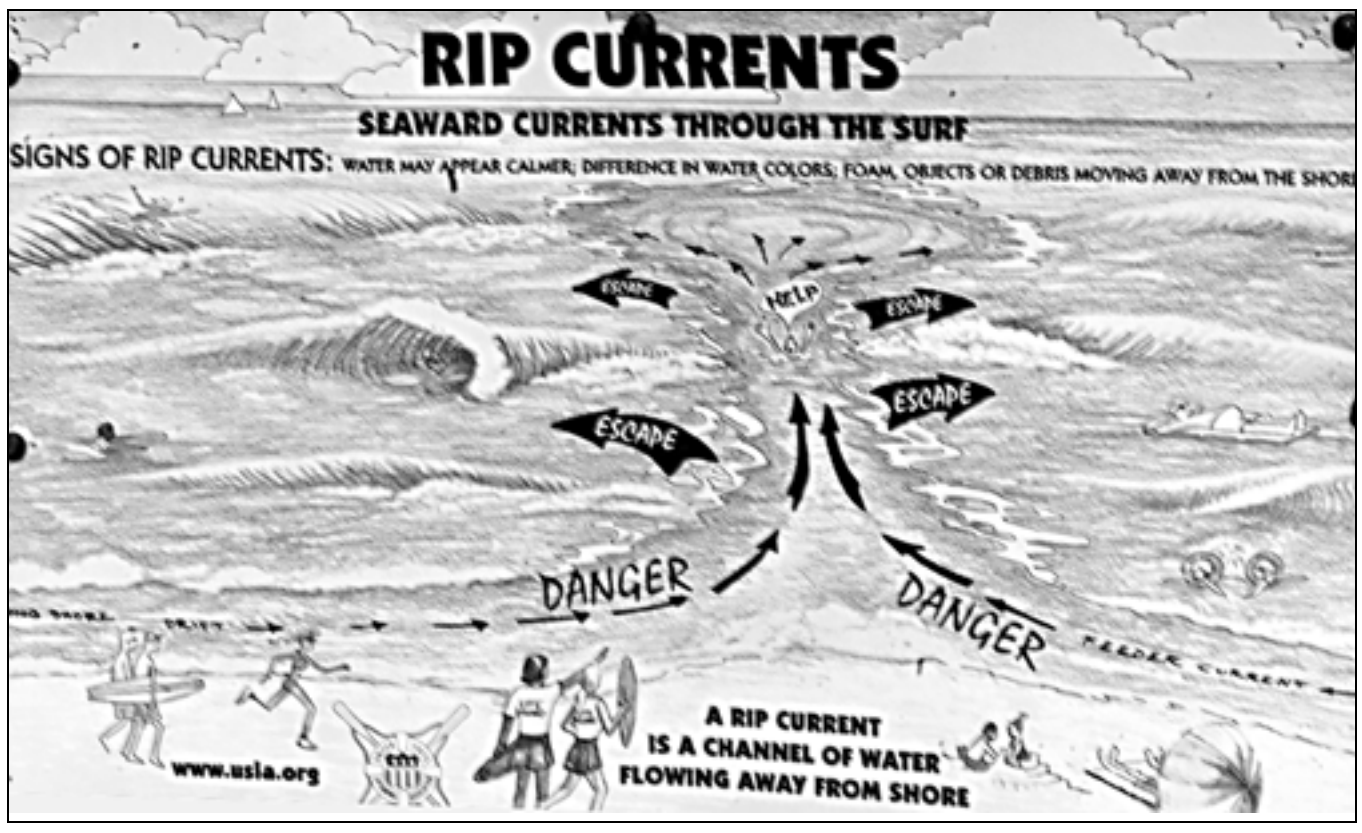
Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members generally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government.

One exception is troops in specialties designated critical by their service secretaries; those receiving matching funds will be obligated to serve a six-year active duty commitment.

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire. Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are penalized under some circumstances.

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information on military participation in TSP can be found on the Web at www.tsp.gov.



This sign at Del Mar Beach lets swimmers know to beware of underwater currents and how to escape a riptide.

Courts Martial

Private First Class E. A. Lewis, Headquarters and Service

Private First Class E. A. Lewis, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group; special court-martial; Aug. 20; unauthorized absences, wrongfully used marijuana, fraudulent enlistment, breaking restriction. Confinement for three months, forfeiture of $600 pay per month for three months, and reduction to pay grade E-1.

Corporal R. J. Scamahorn, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, general court-martial; Aug. 21, violate a lawful general order, larceny on diverse occasions, fraud; dishonorable discharge, confinement for 36 months, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and reduction to pay grade E-1.

Private E. D. Moulin, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base, special court martial; Aug. 21, unauthorized absence; Bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 55 days and forfeiture of $600 pay per month for three months.

Lance Corporal J. D. Layne, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division; special court-martial; Aug. 21; unauthorized absence; Bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 90 days, and reduction to pay grade E-1.

Private T. J. Drawbaugh, Headquarters and Support Battalion, School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base; special court-martial; Aug. 21, unauthorized absence; Bad-conduct discharge and confinement for 50 days.

Private F. O. Barker, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, special court-martial; Aug. 21; unauthorized absence, larceny on diverse occasions; Bad-conduct discharge and confinement for 90 days.

Private C. D. Crutcher, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base; special court-martial; Aug. 22; unauthorized absence; Bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 75 days and forfeiture of $100 pay per month for one month.

Private First Class J. E. Suarez, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division; special court-martial; Aug. 22; unauthorized absence and false official statement; Bad-conduct discharge, confinement for two months, and reduction to pay grade E-1.

Private First Class T. R. Galloway, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base; special court-martial; Aug. 22; unauthorized absence; confinement for two months, restriction for two months, forfeiture of $600 pay per month for four months, and reduction to pay grade E-1.

Private C. D. Gardiner, Headquarters and Support Battalion, School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base, special court martial; Aug. 24, unauthorized absence; Bad-conduct discharge.

Private M. E. Stoner, Headquarters and Support Battalion, School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base, special court-martial; Aug. 24; unauthorized absence; Bad-conduct discharge and confinement for 60 days.

Staff NCO Academy changing its directors

Sergeant Maj. T. E. Keniry will assume the billet of director, Staff Noncommisioned Officers Academy here. Keniry's predecessor is MGySgt. N. Martinez Jr.

The change of command ceremony will be held at the Base Training Center Sept. 13 at 10 a.m.

Rescue training conjures real-world images

CPL. NATHAN J. FERBERT
13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

With a recent real-world situation fresh in their minds, the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel force got up to speed on one of the MEU's essential missions at the Special Operations Training Group's TRAP course recently.

When the Navy EP-3 reconnaissance plane collided with a Chinese fighter plane April 1, it had to make an emergency landing into Communist China. A Marine TRAP force could have been called to respond, and they were ready.

But not since the 24th MEU's recovery of Air Force Capt. Scott O'Grady in June 1995 has the Marine Corps performed a real-world TRAP.

The mission of the 13th MEU TRAP team -- 40 Marines and Sailors of the 81 mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines -- is to rescue downed U.S. pilots and crewmembers behind enemy lines and recover or destroy aircraft or sensitive material.

The SOTG course is designed to wake them up to the reality the 24th MEU saw: training and the real world are two different things. Instructors stressed that Marines must train the way they fight, and then some.

"Too many times in the Marine Corps the training is scripted," said SSgt. Vince Kyzer, 35, chief instructor of the SOTG TRAP course. "In this course, we don't do that, because a TRAP is not something that is supposed to happen -- they are a surprise. We train them so hard in recovery, so it's easy when they actually have to do one."

Every TRAP is unique, and time is crucial when the team is 200 to 400 miles behind enemy lines, Kyzer said.

"Doing a TRAP is like getting a bucket of cold water in the face," said HM3 Mika S. Thornton, 27, Mortar Platoon's corpsman. "As soon as you get on the bird, your adrenaline is going. Your heart is racing when you first get to the evader. Then, you breathe, relax and focus on what you need to do. Evaders are prone to shock since they usually don't have food or much sleep, so they need immediate reassurance and treatment."

Evader refers to any personnel being rescued.

Alongside the main team are 12 Marines from the Helicopter Support Team, Landing Support Section, Transportation Support Detachment, MEU Service Support Group 13. The HST recovers or destroys information and aircraft during the TRAP by externally rigging equipment to helicopters for recovery. Three Marines from the 13th MEU communications section provide the TRAP team with communications for the missions, such as transmissions between downed crewmembers and the team.

The course was divided into three phases -- classroom instruction, evasion techniques and air week. In the classroom, Marines learned about individual tactics to all-out TRAPs. Videos of past TRAPs showed Marines the "dos and don'ts" of the mission. Combat cameramen from the 1st Marine Division videotaped seven TRAP exercises for the team to critique.

The evasion phase concentrated on Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape. Man-tracking; detecting booby traps and mines; eating vegetation, insects and animals; and the effects of leaving trash behind showed Marines "how to kill, instead of being killed" -- a concept the course has added since it was last taught, Kyzer said.

Learning SERE techniques allows TRAP team Marines to understand what the downed pilot or crewmember is going through. Also, SERE training becomes critical in case a TRAP team gets stuck behind enemy lines.

"Since the last course (in March with the 15th MEU), we're trying to teach the gunfighter mentality -- to engage the enemy and win," said Kyzer, a Trail, Ore., native and 15-year Marine Corps veteran. "Second place in a gunfight is the first loser."

"The survival training was motivating. We don't get that at the School of Infantry," said Cpl. Jeffrey J. Jones, 4th Team leader. "Now, we not only know how to survive on our own, but we also know what the downed pilot is going through and his state of mind."

During air week, the TRAP team receives, plans, rehearses and completes seven different missions at seven different locations here. Each mission gets progressively tougher, including location, number and extent of damage to casualties, and time to prepare for the mission.

"When this group of Marines first started doing missions, it took them 30-plus minutes to rescue a single evader," Kyzer said. "Now they can rescue five evaders in 20 minutes."

"More than half of the TRAP force is new Marines," said Sgt. Jason P. Bleichwehl, 21, 1st Team leader. "This course put a lot of responsibility on team leaders to get every Marine to do what they're supposed to. The first couple of TRAPs, a lot of Marines were standing around watching. By the end, we all worked together and Marines were taking the initiative to help out."

The TRAP team improved its efficiency by rehearsing parts of the mission, said Jones, 21, from Gleason, Tenn. "We rehearsed everything when we were given a scenario, from getting on and off the helicopters, to formations for movement to the evaders, to treating and strapping evaders into a spine board for rescue."

Sgt. Leo Guillen, 20, 2nd Team leader, said the team is now well-trained.

"The instructors have been pounding us with information, so we'll be ready for a real-life situation," said Guillen, a native of Ontario. "I learned how much preparation goes into a TRAP. In real life, it would take a couple of days to plan one.

"Staff Sgt. (Kyzer) made the course more realistic by giving us something different every day. He incorporated (nuclear, biological and chemical) training, civilians present during a rescue mission, different terrain and enemy forces."

Air support for the TRAP mission was provided by Marines and helicopters from the 13th MEU's Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (Rein.). Six of the missions required either a CH-53E Super Stallion or two CH-46E Sea Knights for insertion and extraction of the team. Close air support was provided by the squadron's AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1N Huey helicopters.

For the first time in the SOTG TRAP course, a live-fire Escort Flight Lead was performed. Cobras fired live 2.75mm rockets, illumination rounds, 20mm turreted cannon rounds and Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missiles for CAS while the TRAP team conducted the rescue.

"In this course, the pilots were good," said Bleichwehl, of Port-Washington, Wis. "If we wanted to land in a certain spot, the pilots put us right there. There was a lot involved with getting on and off of the aircraft. We had to decide how to set up our teams inside the helos, so we got off in the right order and direction.

"Once we hit the ground, there was a lot of running to get to the evaders, so everyone had to worry about flanking your partner (with the muzzle of their rifle), so trigger discipline throughout the course was very important," he explained.

On the ground, the platoon commander must evaluate the situation to get to the evaders as quickly as possible.

"On site, every TRAP is different," said 1st Lt. Vinton C. Bruton, 26, platoon commander, 81mm Mortar Platoon. "I can't plan a scheme of maneuver until we hit the deck. Because I don't have a plan of attack or know the landing zone, I have to be flexible and execute my standard operating procedures.

"These missions require a lot of initiative from NCOs and we're good at it," continued Bruton, from Roanoke Rapids, N.C. "It's surprising to see how much planning goes into a TRAP. I really don't see my Marines until I step on the bird, so that speaks volumes about the rehearsals and preparations NCOs do to get us ready."

After running to get to the rescue site, the TRAP team must positively identify the evaders by secret means to ensure they are not the enemy. Conversely, the evaders must identify the TRAP team.

Thornton, from Austin, Texas, is responsible for treating evaders' medical problems so they can be evacuated. He gave TRAP team Marines splint and intravenous needle training in case there is more than one evader who needs care upon retrieval.

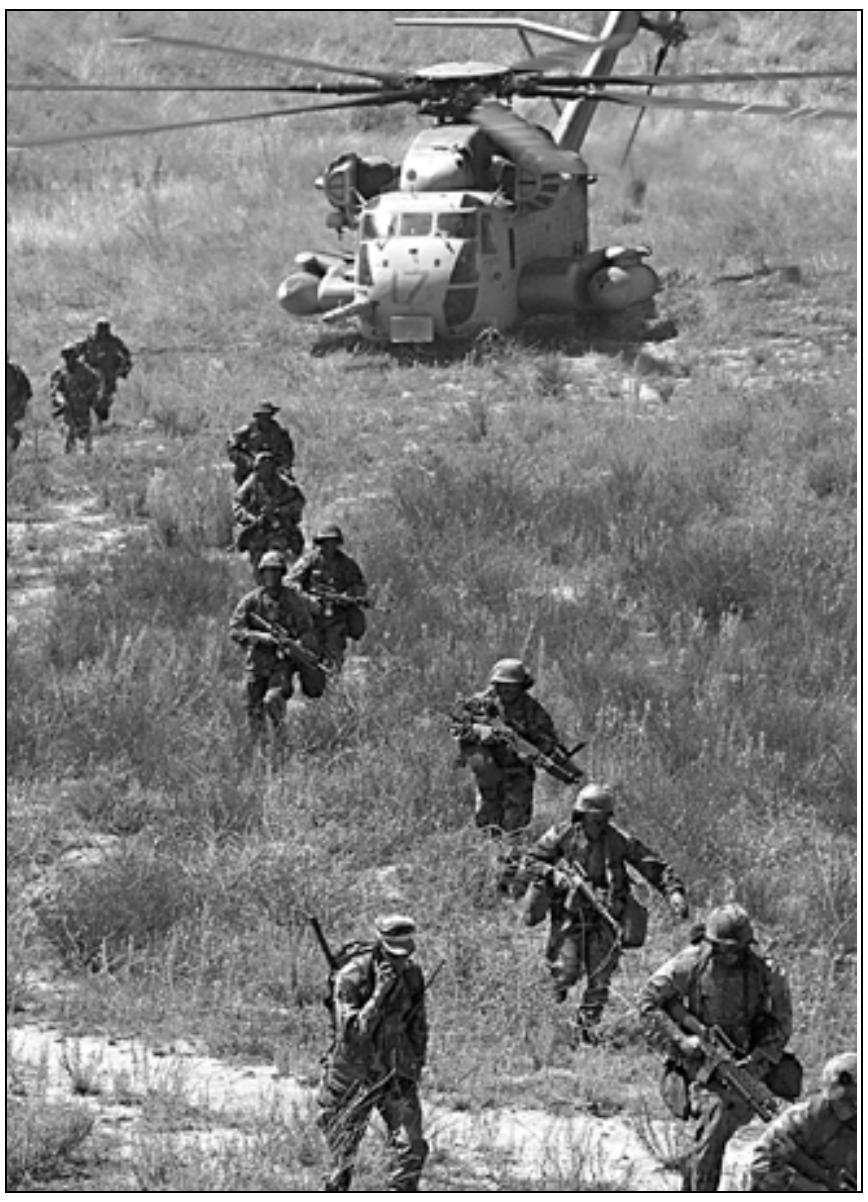
To ensure the TRAP team trains beyond the standards of the mission, they will conduct follow-on training with the Avation Combat Element, fast-roping, Military Operations in Urban Terrain and the Combat Lifesavers Course for more first aid, Bruton said.

Kyzer summed up why a TRAP mission is a delicate situation that requires clean execution. "A TRAP can go from a peace-keeping mission to a full-blown conflict based on a bad decision by a TRAP team member. These Marines will go in and execute targets that are identified as a threat. It is a very tense time, so we want to get what is ours and return it with honor."

The course, which includes classroom lectures complemented by field exercises, such as live-fire drills and assaults, is scheduled to culminate this week in special-mission training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain Facility.

CPL. NATHAN J. FERBERT

Two Marines from 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/4, flank a Marine they're preparing to escort out of harm's way during tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training July 26.



CPL. NATHAN J. FERBERT

Marines from 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/4, disembark from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter on their way to conduct tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training July 26. BLT 1/4 is the ground combat element of 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

ACE birds in good, greasy hands during CAX

CPL. MIKE VRABEL
FOR THE SCOUT

TWENTYNINE PALMS --

To Marines patrolling and assaulting the hills here during Combined Arms Exercise 10, the sight of helicopters overhead often means needed firepower or resupply has arrived.

At the Expeditionary Air Field here, a team of behind-the-scenes warriors works day and night ensuring these airborne war machines continue flying, helping Marine Air Ground Task Force 2 accomplish its mission at CAX.

The fast-paced flight schedule the MAGTF Air Combat Element sustains here requires a furious maintenance routine, according to one CH-46E Sea Knight mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263.

"There are a lot of flight missions here," said Port Arthur, Texas native Sgt. Shawn Miller. "We have to get our 'downers' back in the air."

In the conventional Marine Corps manner of "doing more with less," helo maintenance personnel must improvise to overcome logistical problems.

"Getting parts for the birds is very hard," said Pocahontas, Va. native LCpl. Robert Mabry, also a CH-46E mechanic with HMM-263. "We're having to switch and replace parts in between the helos we have here."

Despite the parts shortage, rotary wing mechanics have a duty to their birds, to their pilots and to the line units at the forefront of the battlefield.

"We have to maintain the capability to support the Ground Combat Element," said CWO-2 Joel Catterton, a maintenance materials control officer with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269. "We have to keep 72 percent of our birds in the air at all times."

The efforts of maintenance Marines here do not go unnoticed. According to HMM-263 mechanic Cpl. Robert Adkins, the warriors who keep the helos aloft also maintain a special relationship with the Marines who actually fly the birds.

"The pilots do recognize our efforts and the job we do," said Adkins, who hails from Houston. "They know that without us, the squadron won't function."

Before takeoff, each helo pilot performs a preflight check of the aircraft. The pilots, however, have full confidence in the work the avionics and airframe crews perform.

"Without these guys, we don't fly," said Maj. Jamie Cox, the executive officer of HMLA-269. "We have a unique relationship, because they take care of us."

Taking care of their pilots is something the helo caretakers are more than happy to do.

"I'm not doing this because I have to," said Adkins. "I'm doing this because I want to. Our job is important."

Feeding an army

Lance Cpl. Douglas Walters, 20, a cook with Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), tosses a bag of ribs from a huge kettle and places them in a pan on the USS Peleliu's mess deck Aug. 30. The Biddeford, Maine, native is one of several dozen Marines working shifts lasting up to 16 hours a day in temperatures as high as 120 degrees to keep the ship's approximately 2,500 Marines and Sailors fed. The 15th MEU left on its six-month deployment Aug. 13.

Tijuana photos, though troubling, beg publication

BY SGT. BILL LISBON

Commentary

In this week's issue of the Scout, we've published what we believe to be really great photos.

These photos show Marines resisting arrest or getting arrested. We show a drunken Marines being detained or led away by law enforcement. We show deplorable prisons where some Marines have found themselves. We show Marines sitting on the beach looking out at the ocean that just swallowed one of their own.

How I can classify photos with that subject matter as really great?

They're real. It happened, and it affects our lives.

Good photographs have the unique ability to tell a story in just one scene. Every photojournalist's goal is to capture that split-second moment that will show everyone who sees it not only what happened, but also capture the essence of the story.

Think of some of the great photos of the 20th century. The photo of one man standing in front of a line of Chinese tanks showed more than just that -- it captured the courage of students protesting communism despite overwhelming odds. The photo of a fireman carrying the battered body of a child from the ruins of the Oklahoma City bombing symbolized how terrorism is a very real thing and that no one is safe from it.

It seems many Marines don't understand the job of Public Affairs, which publishes the base newspaper. It is our duty to tell the Marine Corps story with photos and written articles. We're out there to show the Marine Corps, to capture the spirit of it, to capture defining moments that tell about Marines and their daily struggles and victories.

Enlisted Marines in our field are called combat correspondents. When we're not covering the struggles on the battlefield, we're covering the struggles we face during peacetime, whether it's safety or discipline or alcohol abuse.

Though the photo of the passed-out Marine might be embarrassing to him, it captures the effects of alcohol abuse. Maybe an alcoholic will see that photo and get help. Maybe Marine leaders will take extra steps to ensure the welfare of their Marines. Maybe Marines will be extra careful the next time they go to Tijuana and not embarrass the Marine Corps on our nation's doorstep.

The photo of Marines sitting on the beach isn't intended to capitalize on their loss, but to show that we are a band of brothers who care about one another. It also reminds us to be safe when swimming in the ocean.

We don't intend to make Marines look bad or to highlight their misery to sell papers (after all, the paper is free). Nor do we intend to imply that all Marines are like the ones in the photos. We only intend to show you what's happening out there to some of our Marines, so that you can be informed and take action if you so choose. We would be irresponsible as Marines and as combat correspondents not to publish these photos.

So if we can capture that moment that defines the Marine Corps and the men and women in it, whether it be a joyous occasion or a time of lament, whether it shows Marines at their lowest or at their utmost high, it is our duty to do so.

I expect to receive many phone calls and e-mails after this issue hits the stands from all manner of readers voicing their opinions. I'm sure many of them will question our decision to publish such photos -- images seldom seen in military publications, images of Marines at their lowest. I expect feedback, and I welcome it.

I leave you with this. On Feb. 23, 1945, Associated Press photojournalist Joe Rosenthal took a picture that many say is the most important photograph of the 20th century. It shows a handful of Marines raising a flag atop Mount Suribachi on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima. This image, this single moment in time, still symbolizes the spirit of the Marine Corps more than 50 years after the photo was taken.

Sgt. Lisbon is photo editor for the Scout.

Leadership, discipline void plagues Corps

BY CPL. RICHARD W. ADAMS

Commentary

The Marine Corps is a game. It is a game as strategic as chess and as confusing as bridge. It is an ever-changing game -- the players, the teams, the rules -- though the goal will always stay the same, simply make it through each day. Is it us against them, me against them, me against you, or is it one of many other possibilities? It changes so often that we learn one unfortunate lesson -- trust no one except yourself.

"Troop welfare and mission accomplishment must go hand in hand. In my experience, there has never been a time when mission accomplishment and troop welfare could not co-exist."

Perhaps it is unfair to say that the rules change. More fairly, the rules are set but enforcement varies. What passes one day will not pass the next. What one person gets away with I will not, what I get away with someone else may not. So, I am drawn to one conclusion -- it is me against the world. The rulebook is so thick, though, that it is impossible to know and follow every rule. If you were to sum up the rulebook, it should simply say, "Do what you feel is right and proper to sustain the Marine Corps." That is what it should say, but that is not what the Marine Corps is today.

The Marine Corps of today has too many people who misuse -- or fail to use -- their power. The things Marines think the Corps was based on -- such as rites of passage -- have ceased. Why? Marines constantly try to take things to a new level, trying to outdo what has already been done. A good attitude for training, but this attitude leads to many incidents that are labeled "hazing." So the Marine Corps has developed a new style.

The boundaries of discipline are now so hazy that paperwork seems to be the only alternative -- though paperwork presents its problems, too. Is the offense worth the time and consequences of putting bad paperwork in a Marine's file? It is a tough question that must be evaluated thoroughly before action is taken. When NCOs try to start paperwork, their decisions are too often second-guessed. The possible reasons are too many to count. One reason may be fear of skylining a platoon, or maybe the Marine Corps' retention is so bad there's fear of hindering a Marine's chances for re-enlistment. Whatever the reason, in the end it seems that a Marine will often get away with his crime because of too many conflicting viewpoints.

The company wants to keep it on its level; the platoon commanders want it to stay on their level; the platoon sergeants want to keep it on their level; as an NCO, I am expected to keep things on my level. NCOs enforce the regulations but cannot discipline Marines. It is almost impossible to keep certain things on my level, so I pass it up the chain with a recommendation of disciplinary action. What happens then is an attempt to resolve the situation without taking it any higher. In reality what happens is the violator gets a slap on the wrist for an offense that deserved a much harder punishment.

Just two years ago as a junior Marine I was disciplined by my NCOs with a loud verbal scolding usually accompanied by a strictly regimented workout. Bad paperwork was for extreme cases or repeated offenses. Did those reprimands solve everything? No, but I see many problems now that were not problems then.

Now I see Marines repeating offenses, having little or no retribution to fear. Ultimately, an NCO wants a Marine's respect and not just his fear, but some fear is needed -- fear of the rank and fear of the individual. When I lost the natural fear of my immediate superiors they lost the ability to mentally subdue me, the goal of those scolding sessions.

One must ask then what has changed to engender all the incidents that we have now with Marines? I can see by the number of courts-martial in The Scout that it is a basewide problem. What is it that young Marines are trying to escape from? If anything, the stress caused by the Marine Corps has decreased in recent years, so it cannot be that. In my opinion, lack of respect from higher-ups is the answer.

I have been in the Marine Corps long enough to see many different types of leadership. There is a direct correlation between leadership and the number of problems. As I climb the ladder, I know there is one thing I cannot forget, and that is how it feels to be on bottom. When a leader forgets what it is like to be on bottom and abuses his power, he shows his Marines lack of respect.

Marines party, drink and do drugs for one reason -- to escape from the reality of being a Marine. It is taking more alcohol and stronger drugs these days for them to reach their nirvana, but reach it they will, whatever the price, and whatever the consequences. Though in today's society, the price is cheap, and in today's Marine Corps, the consequences seem ineffective.

Marine Corps leadership exists for mission accomplishment and troop welfare. Many leaders think that there is a primary and a secondary goal, a No. 1 and a No. 2. That idea shows their ignorance of the ever-changing Marine Corps. Troop welfare and mission accomplishment must go hand in hand. In my experience, there has never been a time when mission accomplishment and troop welfare could not co-exist. It is when one is put before the other that the Marine Corps and its Marines suffer the most.

Every Marine commands a different type of leadership style. What motivates one Marine may not motivate the next. When dealing with a group of Marines, one must look for a middle ground to connect with all Marines. Dealing one on one with a Marine gives a leader the chance to focus totally on that one Marine. On that basis, the leader can use whatever style of leadership is needed to motivate that one Marine.

I know that it is impossible to always satisfy every Marine. As a leader, that is not my goal or desire. I simply try to make Marines content with their lives in the Marine Corps. When free from anxiety and unneeded pressure, Marines will perform better on and off duty.

I have experienced some of the best leadership possible and some of the worst -- though the bad will always outweigh and conceal the good. The key lies in holding on to good leadership ways and implementing them on whatever level I can. As we mature in the Marine Corps, the level on which we can implement our ideals will grow. That is the key to a Marine Corps where respect and dignity will make Marines love it -- instead of loath it.

I understand that there are many good things about the Marine Corps and that everything can never be perfect. But when the bad qualities are seen every day, we must turn our focus inward to our own problems.

This parting thought comes courtesy of Abraham Lincoln.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

Adams is with B Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. He can be contacted at taoof richard@aol.com.

The Scout

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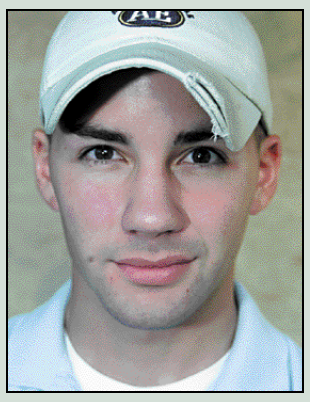
Scouting Around

"Should Tijuana be off-limits?"



"Yes. In light of recent events, there is no other choice but to make Tijuana off- limits, because current regulations have proven ineffective."

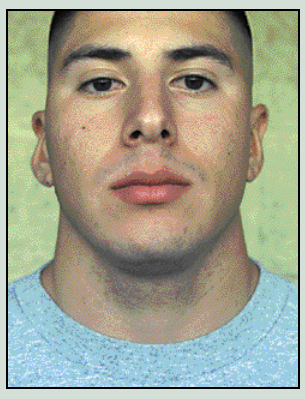
LCpl. Shaun Mckee
Marine Corps Base

"No. The Marine Corps as a whole should not be punished for the mistakes of the few."

LCpl. Zhi Jiang
Marine Corps Base

"Yes, for junior Marines, E-3 and below, because of personal past experiences."

Sgt. Steven Gervais
Marine Corps Base



"No, because I think most Marines are mature enough to handle the fun down there."

PFC David Ramirez
Marine Corps Base

"Yes, due to the increased security by the (California Highway Patrol) and (because) most Marines who go down there are 18."

Sgt. Jon Stamper
Marine Corps Base

"Yes, because of all of the trouble they get in down there. No, if they have a liberty buddy or a (noncommissioned officer)."

SSgt. Keith Washington
Marine Corps Base

Tijuana

From Page A1

and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Most service members are nabbed as they come back across the U.S. border, said Chief Petty Officer David Aguilera, the leading chief petty officer of the Navy Border Shore Patrol in San Ysidro. The Shore Patrol liaisons with San Diego Police and inspectors from the U.S. Customs and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Most detentions involving service members are for alcohol-related offenses. The Shore Patrol logged 140 alcohol-related incidents in the first half of this year -- accounting for 84 percent of the unit's total business in Mexico.

Camp Pendleton Marines are the most-likely offenders. "That's where we see most of our business from," Aguilera said.

Public intoxication is an arrestable offense regardless of age. San Diego police officers are posted at the exit of San Ysidro's pedestrian primary inspection area and will spot-check anyone believed to be intoxicated. If the person turns out to be in the military, he or she is usually turned over to the Shore Patrol.

Still, Shore Patrol also catches service members for not having their military ID, liberty chit or out-of-bounds pass, and many times for denying they're even in the service. Both Navy Bureau of Personnel Instruction 1750.10A and Marine Corps Order P5512.11B state service members must carry their military IDs at all times, and they must surrender the card when a military authority requires it for identification.

Once a service member denies being in the service, they've made a false official statement, said Aguilera. The Shore Patrol then detains the service member and notifies his command, which usually has to send a representative to pick him up.

One Camp Pendleton Marine is currently pending denial of service charges, said LtCol. Paul Cyr, commanding officer of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division. His Marine probably will face a nonjudicial punishment.

"Earlier in the year an NCO, who was crossing the border alone, denied he was a Marine to the Shore Patrol," Cyr said. "Although he was not drunk, he got belligerent and disrespectful to the chief petty officer. The NCO received battalion-level NJP."

Occasionally, measures are taken to prevent unauthorized service members from entering Mexico.

Several times a year, Shore Patrol will team up with the San Diego Police Department for Operation: Safe Crossing, a method to deter underage drinking in Tijuana. Police officers check IDs of anyone going into Mexico, and anyone under 18 not accompanied by an adult is turned away. Anyone believed to be military is turned over to the Shore Patrol for screening.

"We stop all military people, because we don't know who's allowed to come across," said Darrin Knox, a deputy probation officer with the San Diego County Probation Department.

"Many of them lie to us. You ask if they're in the military and they'll say no, but they got shaved heads, and this guy's from Texas and this guy's from Georgia and this guy's from Alabama," said Knox.

During an Operation: Safe Crossing, July 20-21, 85 service members committed 136 offenses, said Aguilera. More than half denied they were in the service, and 25 weren't carrying their military IDs.

The operation is organized by San Diego police and held normally during holiday weekends or times when pedestrian traffic into Mexico is expected to be heavy. Any other time, pedestrian traffic into Mexico passes through the clanking, metal turnstiles unchecked.

Shore Patrol doesn't hold the operation on its own.

"We don't have the personnel. There's so many hundreds of people coming across, there's no way to stop every person and see his ID card," said Aguilera.

Shore Patrol has a close working relationship with the police, port security officers and customs and immigration inspectors. According to Immigration Inspector Steve Fuchigami, approximately 90 percent of the people working at San Ysidro are former military members.

San Ysidro is the largest land border crossing in the world, averaging 60,000 cars and between 50,000-60,000 pedestrians per day, said Erickson.

"We're busy enough without the drunks," said Fuchigami.

Senior Customs Inspector Larry Erickson said he sees border-crossing incidents involving service members every day, and not just involving alcohol. He has caught members of the military for alien smuggling, drug smuggling or for not declaring contraband.

Two weeks ago, Erickson recalled catching two Camp Pendleton Marines trying to cross the border with approximately $10,000 in steroids.

More common offenses include Marines with combat gear in their vehicles.

Marines regularly cross with M-16 magazines, gasmasks or Kevlar vests, all of which are unauthorized to be brought into the United States regardless of citizenship, said Erickson.

"Leave that stuff at home," he warned.

Still, it could have been worse. Where crossing the U.S. border with this kind of contraband would get Marines a warning, a fine or a call to their units, getting caught in Mexico would have guaranteed them at least a night in jail.

"If the Mexican Federales would have found these, they probably would have been arrested," said Customs Inspector William Winter IV, after finding several M-16 magazines in the trunk of a Marine's car.

"Part of it is ignorance," Erickson said, suggesting service members pick up a copy of the customs regulations before leaving the country.

Marines newly stationed at Camp Pendleton currently are not formally briefed on Tijuana liberty regulations during the "Welcome Aboard" brief at the Joint Reception Center, said Gerald Williams, information referral specialist at Family Service Center, which administers the brief. For now, individual units have the responsibility to inform their Marines of liberty policies.

An underlying theme of such briefs: Crossing into Mexico, in some respects, is like crossing into a different world.

"Some people think Tijuana is a suburb of San Diego. They tell me, 'I only went to Tijuana.' You might just as well have gone to Bangkok. It's still a foreign country," Erickson said.

SGT. BILL LISBON

A corporal, right, and an unidentified person, help carry a Marine sergeant to the San Ysidro Port of Entry after crossing the border from Tijuana, Mexico. Port security officers and Navy Border Shore Patrol say this is a common sight. The legal drinking age in Tijuana is 18, but it is illegal to cross the border under the influence of alcohol, even if you're on foot. Both Marines are range coaches with Weapons and Field Training Battalion on Camp Pendleton.

SGT. BILL LISBON

Port security officers Angel Padilla, left, and Jose Gonzalez observe pedestrian traffic crossing the U.S. border from Tijuana, Mexico, outside the entrance to the San Ysidro Port of Entry Aug. 25. San Ysidro is the largest land border crossing in the world, and between 50,000-60,000 people cross by foot each day.

SGT. TRAVIS A. GANNON

Forrest R. Lindsey, senior engineer, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, demonstrates how the Dragon automatically loads prior to firing the 120mm mortar.

Dragon

From Page A1

seconds -- landing rounds within 2 meters of the target from a distance of six kilometers.

The mortar requires very little hands-on operation. It is equipped with on-board communications, navigation and fire control and features automated traverse, elevation and loading. Designers also are adapting 33-round magazines. Dragon Fire crews will consist of about four Marines as opposed to 155mm howitzer crews of 10 Marines.

The Mobile Fire Support System is also mountable on modified Light Armored Vehicles. Currently, the vehicle has to stop for the mortar to fire accurately; however, officials are working on a system that would allow the mortar to fire on the move.

"It's going to take a little work and more development," said Robert Szeluga of L-3 Communications, the communications contractor for the MFSS project. "But it can be done."

Whether the Marine Corps will adopt the system is unknown, but "if commanders want it, it'll come to them fast," Lindsey said.

Colonel Ben Saylor, commanding officer of 11th Marine Regiment, believes the system could fill a fire-support need.

“Our challenge in fire support, both now and in the future, is to provide responsive and continuous fires to force maneuvering at ever-increasing speed and depth,” he said.

Saylor said MFSS “is a promising potential candidate” on the short-range end of a “triad” that includes medium- and long-range fire support systems.

Loewe

From Page A1

said.

The loss of a Marine, especially a good one, leaves an impression, according to 1stSgt. Terry T. Hoskins of B Company. "It makes us renew our Esprit de Corps for each other."

A memorial service is schedule for today at 10 a.m. in the 53 Area Chapel.

Splashdown

LCPL. ANTHONY R. BLANCO

Splashing his way to the finish line, a Marine from Service Company, 9th Communication Battalion, performs a flip into the mudpit Aug. 29 during the battalion’s Mud/Cross Country Race. Marines wore-in boots and utilities with a short-sleeve shirt as they ran up hills and crawled through a watery mud pit. The race is one of six events scheduled to enhance good-natured competitiveness among the platoons.

Comm

From Page A1

needed to know what to do, and everyone did."

In addition to telephones, service members communicated through computers on secure sources when transferring sensitive material.

"This exercise really goes in depth on war scenarios," said LCpl. Christopher Byrne, network administrator, Headquarters Company, 1st Force Service Support Group.

"This is training on a higher level. It's very realistic with counter attacks and missile launches - you've got to train like you fight."

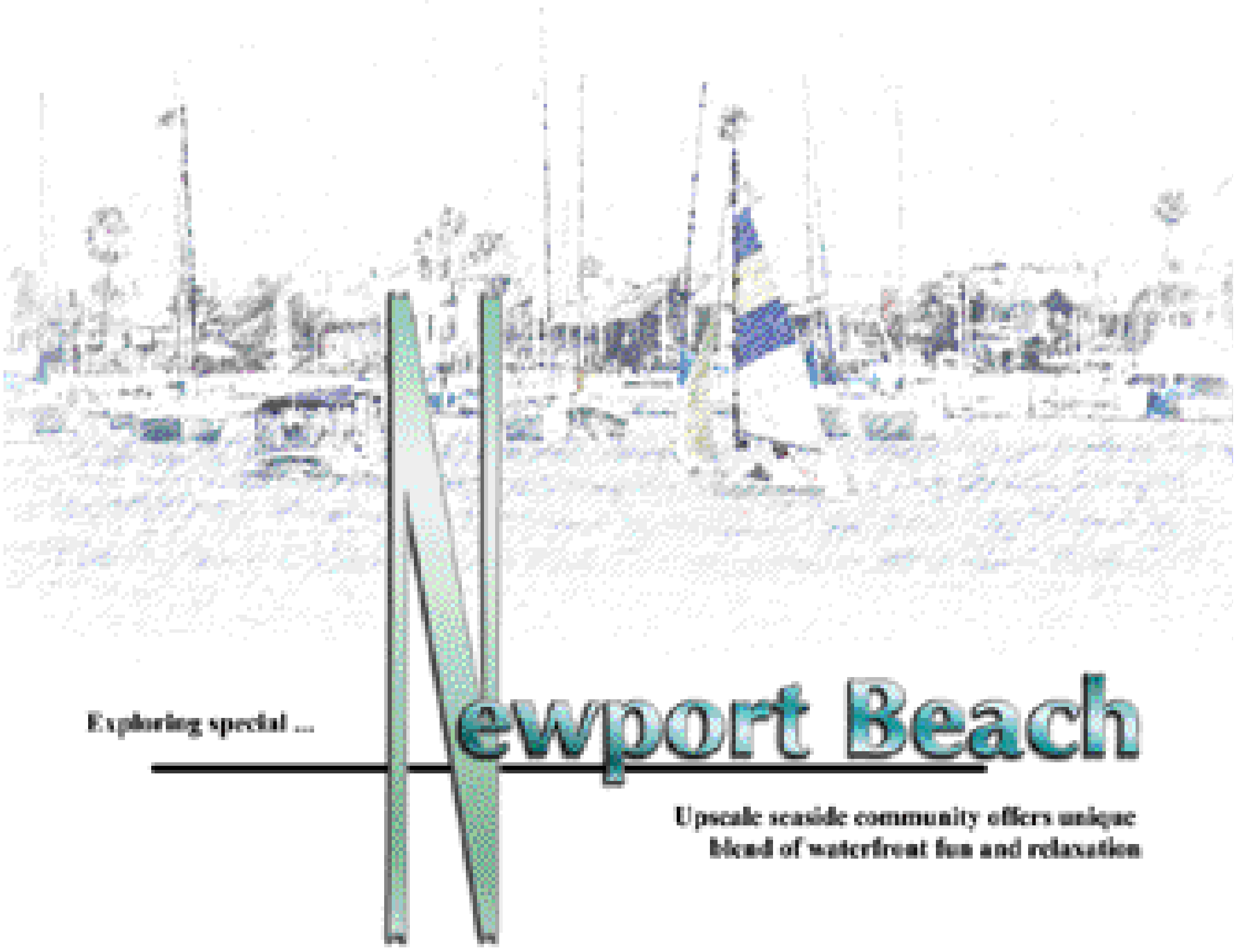
Although UFL didn't go to Korea this year, everyone treated this exercise as if Korea was really under attack.

"In combat, whether I'm here or in Korea, the satellite is still 12,000 miles away, and it's important to be able to communicate at all times," said Col. Larry Brown, operations officer, I MEF.

For the entire exercise, Marines from 9th Comm. were responsible for every piece of communications equipment on the installation.

"For a field environment it's set up pretty smooth," Byrne said. "In fact it's been pretty much flawless."

The Marine team did not do that well we finished 3 and 6 last place. We played really well we just had a lot of bad luck. We lost four



Orange County's 'family fun zone'

WILLIAM WASSERSUG
SPORTS EDITOR

Among the miles of beaches lining Orange County is one stretch where there is more than just sand and sun.

Like its cousins in San Diego and Los Angeles, like Santa Monica and San Diego's Mission Beach, there is lots to do in Newport Beach.

Minutes west of the 405, about 45 minutes north of Camp Pendleton at the end of Highway 55, Newport Beach and Balboa Island offer plenty.

Two piers, the Newport Pier and Balboa Pier, frame a boardwalk built for biking and skating. Shops and restaurants line parts of the boardwalk.

Summer beach rentals are also plentiful.

If you don't have a bike or skates, there are plenty of inexpensive places to rent them.

Across the street is Balboa Island and Newport Bay.

That's where you'll find the Fun Zone.

The Fun Zone, also part of a walkway on Newport Bay, is where you'll find rides, including bumper cars, a Ferris wheel, carousel and "The Dark Scary Ride."

In the Fun Zone area, right next to the ferry that takes cars across the bay from the mainland to Balboa Island. No biking or skating are allowed in the Fun Zone compound.

If there's one drawback, it's parking

Along with the rides, the Fun Zone is where you'll find many boat rentals and boat tours of the bay.

Boat tours are inexpensive and can be informative. For example, one 45-minute boat tour of Newport Harbor is $6.

On one tour, the driver, who was on his last tour before heading to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego as a new recruit the next day, pointed out homes owned at one time by John Wayne and several other celebrities.

Sports stars are also represented on the tour, including home run king Mark McGwire and Mo Vaughn.

There is also no shortage of yachts -- big and bigger.

Tours of different lengths are available.

Electric boats, kayaks, watercraft, speedboats and party boats are all available for rent.

At the end of the bay is a 2-mile hiking trail through a preserve.

On the other end is shopping, including a couple of malls.

If there's one drawback, it's parking.

Street parking is available, and there are parking lots by the piers.

To get to Newport Beach, take Interstate 5 north to the 405. Head west on Highway 55 and follow the signs.

photos by William Wassersug

Heroes reflect on Williamsport

Dependents address the Almonte fiasco and their meteoric rise to Little League World Series

WILLIAM WASSERSUG
SPORTS EDITOR

Their story is one of the most well-known tales of the summer -- a tale that has the nation talking about fair play, honesty and integrity.

The story belongs to the Oceanside American Little League team, a squad of 12 that captured the hearts and minds of a city, garnered the national spotlight - and boasts two players with Marine Corps ties.

Outfielder/third baseman Richard Cranford, who celebrated his 13th birthday Monday, lives at Camp Pendleton. His step-father, Benjamin B. Freng, is with 9th Communication Battalion.

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Richard Cranford
Oceanside Valley All-Star

The storybook season's final chapter ended with pitcher Danny Almonte - now embroiled in controversy over his age and eligibility -- who shut out Oceanside on one hit in the United States semifinal game. An umpire's missed call late in the same game led to the Bronx's only run in a 1-0 win that was later stripped from the Bronx, along with all its other wins during the season, when government officials in the Dominican Republic, Almonte's birthplace, verified Almonte had a forged birth certificate and is 14, not 12, making him ineligible to play Little League baseball.

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See **Stars**, Page C5

WILLIAM WASSERSUG

Josh Klimek, left, and Richard Cranford gained national notoriety as members of the Oceanside American Little League team.

Fumble-itis

Photos by William Wassersug

Marine Aircraft Group 39 and 11th Marine Regiment had a rough time holding onto the rock during MAG's 13-3 win Tuesday at the 11 Area football field. The two teams combined for nine fumbles in the first half alone and put the ball on the ground two more times in the first five minutes of the second half. MAG led 3-0 at halftime.

Fallbrook center a haven for the disabled

JOHN RAIFSNIDER
STAFF WRITER

Life changed dramatically last April for Fallbrook resident Glen Gifford.

Until then, Gifford, 27, spent much of his free time at home in front of a television or in a bar.

Not surprisingly, the alcohol and the lack of activity were contributing to a steady decline in Gifford's already frail state of health.

Gifford was born with Spinibifida, a degenerative disease of the spinal cord, and has been wheelchair-bound for most of his life. Alcohol consumption and sedentary living were accelerating the progress of the disease. Poor eating habits didn't help either.

Gifford was looking to change his lifestyle.

"Honestly, I was a chronic couch potato," Gifford said. "The only time I got up off the coach was when I'd go to work or go to a bar."

Last April, Gifford met Tom Swann, a Carlsbad resident who had just taken over as program director for Disabled Services at the Fallbrook Community Center.

Swann set out to help Gifford and other disabled area residents, including the disabled on Camp Pendleton, to get off the couch and back into the community -- to become more physically and socially active.

For Gifford, it has been a life-changing experience.

"I look forward to coming out to the events," said Gifford, a 1993 Fallbrook High grad. "Mostly, I like the socializing -- getting out and meeting people and making new friends.

"I used to just sit around and watch TV or go drinking. Now, I come out to the sports park and get some exercise and really feel good about myself."

Gifford has tried everything Swann and the Fallbrook Sports Association -- the group that oversees the program -- has offered.

"My favorite right now is the handcycling because it gets my heart racing," he said. "It makes me feel like I've gone out and done something."

For many years, Gifford participated in activities for the disabled at San Diego State University. The commute became burdensome.

"We'd spend four hours getting to and from there, just to have a half-hour of doing whatever activity they had planned," said Gifford. "After a while, it just wasn't worth it. Then my mom got involved in trying to get something going here in Fallbrook"

Lisa Gifford, Glen's mother, was a nurse in Fallbrook and was instrumental in helping

See **Fallbrook**, Page C6

SoCal back in business of legal racing

NHRA founder, CHP urge speed enthusiasts to emerge from shadows, visit dragway

FONTANA -- National Hot Rod Association founder Wally Parks dropped the green flag here Aug. 28 to officially open the California Dragway, the newest drag strip in the state and the first one dedicated to what the NHRA has termed "street legal" racing.

Moments before Parks sent the first two cars down the -mile strip in the parking lot of the California Speedway; he signed a contract with Bill Miller, CEO of the multi-venue racetrack. The agreement, announced in June and made official with the signing, restores to Southern California a sanctioned track catering to the rapidly growing street racing culture.

JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Jeff Talbott, assistant chief of the CHP's Inland Division, drives a CHP pursuit vehicle in a drag race against California Dragway CEO Bill Miller in the facility's first official race.

The first races at the new facility, a 90-minute drive from Camp Pendleton, begin this weekend.

Proponents of the track say it should help curtail illegal street racing -- a problem in many Southern California communities -- by providing a safe racing environment.

Critics of the track -- including one street racer in attendance at the signing ceremony -- say street racers will continue to find side streets, major boulevards and deserted stretches of road to engage in the dangerous activity.

"This isn't going to solve the illegal street racing problem," said one racer who identified himself only as Gary. "Street racing has been going on for so long, since even back in the 1950s. It's not going to stop even if they built a hundred of these tracks."

Gary, in his late 30s, is an admitted street racer. He says illegal street racing isn't just a problem with people 25 and younger, the age group most often targeted by law enforcement officials. Many of his fellow street racers are in their late 30s to early 40s. Some are much older, he said.

"One guy I saw at an (illegal) race was about 60 years old, and he shows up in this brand new Corvette and wants to race. It's a macho thing and a lot of guys want to do it," said Gary, who thinks daytime racing at the new track will stoke the fire for more illegal racing at night.

"I think some kid is going to come out here with his Honda Civic and get all juiced about

See **Racing**, Page C6

Throwin' Over

SGT. KAP KIM

Camp Pendleton's Rob Chute makes an off-balance throw from shortstop during the Armed Forces Championships at Fort Hood, Texas. The defending-champion Marines finished fourth. Chute was selected to play on the All-Armed Forces Team. For more on the tournament, see Page C3.

Stars

From Page C1

WILLIAM WASSERSUG
SPORTS EDITOR

Their story is one of the most well-known tales of the summer -- a tale that has the nation talking about fair play, honesty and integrity.

The story belongs to the Oceanside American Little League team, a squad of 12 that captured the hearts and minds of a city, garnered the national spotlight - and boasts two players with Marine Corps ties.

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"He's not accurate. He throws a lot outside. You think he's coming down the middle, then it breaks out. It's just hard to hit him."

Cranford said most players had an idea something fishy was going on.

"It's annoying," he said after hearing about Almonte's disqualification. "He's 14. They know he shouldn't be playing. I heard he didn't even go to school. That's crazy."

Klimek believes Amonte was in on the alleged ruse.

"I think he knew," Klimek said. "He had no spare time. When he came out, he had to have a guardian with him."

Most observers close to the team believe Oceanside would have had a better chance than the Bronx against Apopka, Fla., the eventual U.S. champs.

"I think they would have won," said Cranford's mom, Stephanie Freng, who was at the tournament. "They definitely would have had a good chance."

Cranford was just as certain.

"In my heart, we could have been champion of the world," he said. "All they had was that one pitcher. We would have won that game and we could have beat Florida. We're a good-hitting team."

Klimek agreed with Cranford.

"We probably would have won," Klimek said. "He was the only person they had."

The Bronx lost its next game to Apopka, with Almonte unable to pitch due to tournament rules.

Cranford and Klimek were selected to Oceanside American's all-star team for their performance during the regular season.

Cranford, playing in only his second year in Oceanside, was a standout for the Blue Jays, who finished the season 10-10.

Klimek's Athletics finished 5-15.

Both players matched those win totals quickly with the all-stars. The team won 20 straight games in tournament play, including its first two World Series games.

In the series, Cranford had a memorable run.

"I was 3-for-7 in the World Series," said Cranford, explaining that he hit in the lower part of the order. "One of those hits was a bunt. I was on base when David Carroll hit his walk-off home run. Even if I didn't get on, I would have advanced the runner. I was pretty happy about that."

Klimek had a tougher time at the plate.

"I was o-fer," he said. "I didn't hit as well as I did in the regular season, when I hit .500."

But Klimek wouldn't trade the experience for a few more hits.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "To be chosen for the all-stars was a very big honor."

From the start, Klimek felt there was something special about his new team.

"At the beginning of the (regular) season, we knew our 11-and-12 year-old team would be good. We had five kids from the Rangers. They were 25-0 this season.

They lost the first game of the Tournament of Champions, then came back to win."

Both players were still letting the magnitude of their accomplishment sink in days after they returned to California.

"In California alone there are 36,000 teams," Cranford said. "Being the best team is the state is an amazing accomplishment."

Cranford said defense was key for the team.

"We had to have a lot of teamwork to get that far," he said. "Our defense was real good. Even after a mistake, we didn't get down. We picked each other up. The defense was real solid. It was a big reason we went so far."

The summer took a small toll on the players.

"I'm a little tired," Cranford said. "There were a few times I kind of wanted out of it all. It was a real long summer. We were away from home for two months. I'm glad to be home."

That doesn't mean Cranford wouldn't do it over.

"I would do it again," he said.

If he could change anything, it would be the way free time was spent in Williamsport.

"It was like a prison," Cranford said, describing the barracks where the team stayed. "You couldn't get out without a coach. You couldn't even see your parents."

Klimek agreed.

"We couldn't get out of the complex easily," he said. "It was OK. They had a rec room with games, TV and pingpong. That's what most of the kids did."

Klimek and his family left Williamsport shortly after

Minnich starts new season with big numbers in victory

Camp Pendleton's 1997 Golden Helmet Player of the Year, David Minnich started his 2001 season at Washington State University in style.

Minnich, a senior, ran for 127 yards on 23 carries in the Cougars' 36-7opening day victory over Idaho, Aug. 20 at home.

Minnich, now the featured back at Washington State, had a 30-yard touchdown run in the second quarter that gave the Cougars a 10-0 lead.

On third and 16, Minnich cut left, followed a block and beat three pursuing defenders into the end zone for the score.

Washington State's next game is at Boise State on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the outlook is still in question for Mike Anderson, another Golden Helmet Player of the Year here.

Anderson ran for 61 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries in a 35-7 win over San Francisco Aug. 31, but fumbled at the 2-yard line. The fumble was Anderson's second in two games.

Coupled with the return to health of Terrell Davis, Anderson's status for the season that begins Monday night against the Giants is unknown.

Coach Mike Shanahan hasn't announced which player will be the starting running back Monday.

His only statement has been that there will be one starter who will see the majority of plays, a backup, who will get six or seven carries a game, and a third back will play special teams.

The feeling in Denver is that Davis will be named the starter and Anderson could be relegated to special teams.

The reasoning, they say, is because Anderson was a special teams standout last season before he was called upon to be the starting tailback when Davis and Olandis Gary each went down with injuries.

Anderson is also the healthiest of the three. Gary is one season removed from major knee surgery. That fact may keep him off special teams.

Anderson finished the preseason with 223 yards on 49 carries. He had three catches for 15 yards and had a kickoff return for 18 yards.

Anderson's rushing totals led the Broncos during the preseason.

In Utah, Dennis Smith, a third Golden Helmet Player of the Year who has moved on, was held without a catch in Utah's 23-19 win over Utah State. Smith, a redshirt senior, is playing tight end and some receiver this season.

Utah is at Oregon Saturday.

Racing

From Page C1

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Critics of the track -- including one street racer in attendance at the signing ceremony -- say street racers will continue to find side streets, major boulevards and deserted stretches of road to engage in the dangerous activity.

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"One guy I saw at an (illegal) race was about 60 years old, and he shows up in this brand new Corvette and wants to race. It's a macho thing and a lot of guys want to do it," said Gary, who thinks daytime racing at the new track will stoke the fire for more illegal racing at night.

"I think some kid is going to come out here with his Honda Civic and get all juiced about racing, and then go back out that night and race on the street. The problem isn't going to go away, it's only going to get worse," he said.

Parks and Miller say otherwise.

"This track will give the young people of this area a place where they can come and race and do it safely," countered Parks, whose organization (NHRA) is celebrating its 50th year. "That was our goal from the beginning, and I think we've accomplished that goal.

The aim now, he says, is to woo racers away from the streets and onto the track.

"We know that they will street race, primarily because they don't have any place where they can go and do it legally," Parks said. "By having this track, we're hoping to get them to come here to do their racing."

Miller is sure the new drag strip will prove a huge draw for street racers and their fans.

"We're going to get the kids that would be street racing off the street and get them out on this track," Miller proclaimed. "We'll make sure that it is an entertaining day for everyone that shows up. We're going to have plenty of food booths and soft drinks for the fans and the participants. There will also be several manufacturers here with their booths to show off the latest street racing technology."

Neither Parks nor Miller denies the illegal street racing problem is growing, but both men insist that gaining support from locals will help promote their legal racing program.

"The street racing situation is worse today because the kids have a lot more opportunity to race illegally, and the cars are so much faster than they used to be," says Parks.

"Nowadays, a kid can go and buy a car from the dealer that is faster right off the showroom floor than most of the cars we worked long and hard on to get to go fast. The only limitation the cars have today is traction -- that's because most of them are front-wheel drive."

Parks said business and civic leaders can promote public safety by rallying around the track.

"Once the people of this community see this track up and running, it should inspire folks from the chamber of commerce and some of the local service groups to come out and support the track," he said. "We know from past experience that the more the businesses and local leaders support the track, the more the kids will come to accept the track as a bona fide racing facility."

Adds Miller: "This will be good for the communities in our area because it will give the kids and even the adults a place to take their racing off the streets. This should prove to be a great benefit to the community. We should see a reduction in street racing in this area right away."

Illegal street racers face stiff fines, having their vehicle impounded and skyrocketing insurance rates -- if caught. Officials with the California Highway Patrol say the odds of getting nabbed street racing have increased dramatically, thanks to heightened CHP enforcement.

"We are going to step up our enforcement against illegal street racing," says CHP Inland Division assistant chief Jeff Talbott.

"Now that there is a facility like this here in our area, we feel there isn't any reason for people to be out street racing. Our officers are going to be out patrolling the known locations for street racing, and we will be cracking down on the racers."

Talbott says there's no malice behind the crackdown.

"We know that kids and adults are going to race," he

JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Cars slip and slide during early runs at the California Dragway in the same complex as the California Speedway in Fontana. Traction during the grand opening of the strip was tricky at best. After a weekend of racing, there should be enough rubber laid down to provide better traction.

Fallbrook

From Page C1

JOHN RAIFSNIDER
STAFF WRITER

Life changed dramatically last April for Fallbrook resident Glen Gifford.

Until then, Gifford, 27, spent much of his free time at home in front of a television or in a bar.

Not surprisingly, the alcohol and the lack of activity were contributing to a steady decline in Gifford's already frail state of health.

Gifford was born with Spinibifida, a degenerative disease of the spinal cord, and has been wheelchair-bound for most of his life. Alcohol consumption and sedentary living were accelerating the progress of the disease. Poor eating habits didn't help either.

Gifford was looking to change his lifestyle.

"Honestly, I was a chronic couch potato," Gifford said. "The only time I got up off the coach was when I'd go to work or go to a bar."

Last April, Gifford met Tom Swann, a Carlsbad resident who had just taken over as program director for Disabled Services at the Fallbrook Community Center.

Swann set out to help Gifford and other disabled area residents, including the disabled on Camp Pendleton, to get off the couch and back into the community -- to become more physically and socially active.

For Gifford, it has been a life-changing experience.

"I look forward to coming out to the events," said Gifford, a 1993 Fallbrook High grad. "Mostly, I like the socializing -- getting out and meeting people and making new friends.

"I used to just sit around and watch TV or go drinking. Now, I come out to the sports park and get some exercise and really feel good about myself."

Gifford has tried everything Swann and the Fallbrook Sports Association -- the group that oversees the program -- has offered.

"My favorite right now is the handcycling because it gets my heart racing," he said. "It makes me feel like I've gone out and done something."

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Lisa Gifford, Glen's mother, was a nurse in Fallbrook and was instrumental in helping create the program. Others, including Bob Leonard of the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce and Guacamole Grande Bike Ride organizer Randy Ice, have helped the program grow.

Under Swann's guidance, the program currently helps more than 60 active participants. Swann expects the rolls to reach nearly 200 by the end of 2002.

Activities including tennis, basketball, swimming, golf and handcycling have drawn disabled people from all around North County. Power soccer, which begins Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Fallbrook Community Center, is Swann's latest attempt to offer something for everyone in the disabled community.

All of the activities are free of charge -- thanks to a grant by the Fallbrook Health Care District.

Swann, 54, knows firsthand the frustrations disabled people face. He contracted Polio at age 2.

"I raised two sons and I taught them both how to ride bicycles," Swann said.

"But what I couldn't do is ride off with them. It wasn't until I took up handcycling that I could do that. It is a great feeling to be able to get out of a wheelchair and into a Handcycle and go for a ride. I missed not being able to do that when my boys were young."

Swann believes the handcycling program could be a hit with disabled children at local elementary schools. He hopes Pendleton-based schools will give him a call and let him demonstrate.

Swann says he wants to spread the news that today, disabled people have options.

"It is unfortunate, but some of our people do turn to alcohol," Swann says. "Glen had done that to some extent. He used to go to the bars and hang out and drink. It wasn't healthy for him. Once he became aware of the services that the program offered, he jumped right in.

"We're trying hard to get the word out, to let other disabled people know that these services are available to them. We're not

JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Maggie Moore, 9, (left) and Chase Wellness, 13, ride handcycles at the Fallbrook Sports Park. The cycles were provided as part of the Disabled Services program of the Fallbrook Community Center.

A Mexican man waits atop his concrete bed for his release from the Tijuana Municipal Jail Aug. 21.

SGT. BILL LISBON

doing Time in TJ

LCPL. ANTHONY R. BLANCO
STAFF WRITER

TIJUANA, Mexico -- "I thought TJ would be a good idea because I didn't have to work the next day," said a inmate of a Mexican jail.

What started out as a night on the town in Tijuana, Mexico, turned into nearly a year in the joint here -- with the promise of five more to follow.

On Wednesdays in Tijuana, nightclubs host College Night, which attracts many young people from Southern California. On one such night, two Camp Pendleton Marines, Cpl. Franklin Juarez and LCpl. Osmon Fuller, drove across the border for an evening of excitement.

While they were drinking and dancing at a nightclub, a girl asked Juarez for a ride home.

"She asked if I would take her and her friend back across to the American parking lot," Juarez said. "I said, 'Sure. Why not?'"

On the way home, the group decided to stop and pick up some cigarettes. As they left, Juarez's tires began to spin. The police, suspicious, pulled Juarez over.

"When the police were searching my car, they noticed the two girls in the back seat and asked me who the two girls were," Juarez said. "It turns out they were illegal immigrants trying to cross the border."

The Mexican police arrested both Marines for allegedly trying to smuggle illegal aliens across the border. The Marines were held in a Tijuana holding facility while they awaited their sentence.

"The smell was awful because it was in a closed area and the jail was overcrowded," said Fuller.

Juarez and Fuller spent six weeks at La Ocha jail. No pillows, no mattresses -- nothing but the clothes on their backs to provide cushion on a heartless bed. A rust-covered toilet, with a speck of dirty white showing through, lingered in the back for prisoners to use.

Once both Marines received their sentences, they were transferred to La Mesa Penitentiary, Tijuana's largest prison.

"A Mexican prison is different from an American prison because you're guilty first and you have to prove your innocence later," Fuller said.

La Mesa Penitentiary was built decades ago for 2,000 inmates; now it holds 6,500 within its 20-foot walls. Among the original structures and patchwork of shelters, built with sheet metal, wooden palettes, fabric and old tires, live approximately 80 Americans.

"If you didn't have money, you had to sleep on the ground. There was no plumbing and the cells were infested with rats," Fuller said. "The prison didn't feed us, and we had to pay a dollar to shower and to use the phone.

At a Mexican prison, you're on your own."

Fuller finally proved his innocence -- four months and one weeks after entering La Mesa. Today he is the training noncommissioned officer with C Company, 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group.

"I'm never going back again," Fuller said. "I don't want to downplay Mexico, if you go, make sure you go with people you trust."

Juarez, on the other hand, is still serving a six-year sentence in La Mesa. He lives day to day on the money he receives from his mother and from his job with the prison dentist earning just $10 per week. If not for the three meals a day provided by the Navy Border Shore Patrol in San Ysidro, he probably wouldn't eat at all.

"I don't care if they bust me down to E-1, I just want to be a Marine. That's the one thing I miss," Juarez said.

LCPL. ANTHONY R. BLANCO

Heading south for Labor Day Weekend, vehicles cross the border into Mexico Aug. 31. Americans traveling in Mexico don't have the same rights as in the United States and are subject to Mexican law. According to Marine Corps Regional Order 1050, lance corporals and below need a liberty chit to enter Mexico, and all Marines need to travel in groups of two or more when crossing the border.

SGT. BILL LISBON

Chief Petty Officer David Aguilera, the leading chief petty officer of the Navy Border Shore Patrol in San Ysidro, checks with a guard at the Tijuana Municipal Jail to see if any service members are being detained there Aug. 21. The Shore Patrol visits up to seven Tijuana and Rosarito jails twice a day to assist service members in custody and to coordinate their release.

SGT. BILL LISBON

Cells in the Tijuana Municipal Jail are typical of most Tijuana holding facilities. This jail holds people arrested for misdemeanors, normally for a maximum of 36 hours.

SGT. BILL LISBON

A guard at the Tijuana Municipal Jail keeps watch on prisoners Aug. 21.