

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

August 28, 2003

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Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

BARSTOW LOG
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<https://www.barstow.usmc.mil>

Weapons section gives explosive support

By Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt
BARSTOW LOG staff

Some Marines and MCLB Barstow base employees may have never realized before that Maintenance Center Barstow's Cost Work Centers 686, 687, 688 even existed. The shop is not difficult to miss. Located in the west end of Warehouse 404 at the Yermo annex, CWC's 686, 687, 688 is away from the toils of the massive MCB building. However, you can almost bet that a Marine facing an enemy armored-vehicle convoy somewhere in the Middle East with a TOW or JAVELIN missile or shoulder-mounted multi-purpose weapon (SMAW) thanks his "lucky" stars for the existence of such a shop.

Without the technical expertise and dedication to combat support of CWC 686, 687, and 688 Marines could be in the field with equipment that could fail them in the most crucial of moments, when their life is on the line.

CWC 686, 687, and 688 make up the MCB Special Weapons Section Warehouse team and is currently the "hottest section on the market," according to CWC 687's night sight specialist Kevin Peterson.

"(CWC 687) is the blunt of Marine Corps screening," Peterson proclaimed.

The shop receives several kinds of "special weapons" every day, ranging from TOW missile launching systems, JAVELIN missile launching systems, SMAW's and their associated Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment and Weapon System Training Equipment.

Before beginning work on the weapons, TMDE, or training equipment, civilian Marines at the shop analyze different condition codes in which the systems were received. A conditions code identifies the state of the weapon, ranging from "Code F" (unserviceable, repairable), "Code H" (condemned, does not meet repair criteria), and all the way down to "Code M" (In work, has been accepted at Department of Defense maintenance facility for processing).

"We've seen (night vision systems) come in garbage bags before," said Peterson.

The condition of the weapons, however, does not hinder the progress of the shop.

"Right now, (the Special Weapons Section) is building systems from the frames up," said Brad Hart, Special Weapons Warehouse electronic mechanics supervisor.

The parts for the high-tech system are hard to come by, said Peterson,

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Civilian Marines at Special Weapons Warehouse, Cost Work Centers 686, 687 and 688, demonstrate loading a wire-guided TOW missile onto a launcher. The TOW has been in use since the Vietnam War.

Country faces two options in war on terror

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told service members at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Monday that only two options faced the United States in its war on terror: Fight the terrorists where they live today, or fight them in America tomorrow.

Rumsfeld said the war on terrorism is unlike any war the United States fought in the past. Sept. 11 ushered in a new age of asymmetric warfare. "The threats we have faced have not been so much large armies, large navies and large air forces locked in great battle, but suicide bombers, cyberterrorists and low-intensity warfare and the spreading contagion of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

These unconventional dangers threaten the safety and security of Americans and free people around the world as certain as the totalitarian regimes the World War II generation confronted. "Like the greatest generation that saved the world

from the tyranny of their time, your generation has been called to greatness as well," Rumsfeld said.

"Our freedom, our future depends on the courage and the determination of our forces and what they bring to this world. All across the globe, people long for what we have, for what each of you has volunteered to defend - liberty, democracy, tolerance and a future without fear."

Rumsfeld said the United States did not ask for the war on terrorism. "But it is a war we have to fight and we have to win," he said. "There is no safe, easy, middle ground. Either we take the war to the terrorists and fight them where they are - at this moment in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere - or at some point we will have to fight them here at home.

"This war is real, it is difficult, it is dangerous and it is far from over, but we are making good progress," he said.

In the 22 months since the attacks in New York and Washington, the United States has made

great strides against the shadowy enemy, Rumsfeld noted. "Two terrorist regimes have been removed and two peoples have been freed from years of fear and years of oppression," he said. "We're working to lay the foundations of freedom and helping to build the pillars upon which liberty and representative government will rest."

The 100-plus days since Iraq's liberation have been days of difficulty, but also progress, he said. The secretary mentioned the establishment of the Iraqi Governing Council, the formation of dozens of local city councils, the establishment of a central bank and the resumption of oil exports as examples of the progress.

The secretary observed that setbacks in the war on terror will continue. "But there will be more successes and the outcome is not in doubt," he said. The fact that enlistments and retention figures are up is indication of the morale and dedication of the U.S. military. "They are doing impor-

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Reporter relates life on front lines during Iraqi Freedom

By Roger Roy
Special to The Globe

If we reporters often puzzled over Marines there were things about us that didn't make sense to them, either.

The first two questions Marines would ask us when they found out we were reporters were: Did you volunteer to come, and do you get paid extra for covering a war?

They acted like we were crazy when we said we'd volunteered, even though they were all volunteers, themselves, for the Corps if not for this particular war.

They also thought we were crazy when they found out we weren't paid any more to cover a war than to cover a city council meeting. But I

always pointed out that the extra pay the Marines were getting in Iraq was only a couple of hundred dollars a month, scant compensation for being shot at.

A surprising number of Marines, unaware that journalists were forbidden to carry weapons, asked if we were armed.

When we told them the rules prohibited weapons for journalists, more than a few assumed our denials were just to make it seem we were complying with the rules, and that we really had some sort of weapons.

Others seemed almost alarmed for our sakes that we were unarmed. Many insisted on showing us how to fire their M-16s.

After one long, scary night on a convoy in southern Iraq, Sgt. Joseph Gomez had asked

me if I could throw. I knew Gomez played baseball last year on the Marine Corps team, so I answered that I could throw about like a girl, why?

He held out a green ball printed on the side, "Grenade, Frag, Delay." You pull the small pin first, he said, then the larger pin, and throw it.

I couldn't imagine ever using the thing, and tried to stay away from the spot in the bed of the truck where Gomez kept it tucked in between the sandbags.

At first, when we'd climb into a truck we'd wait for one of the Marines to move the weapons that were lying around. But after a while we'd just pick up the rocket launcher or M-16 and move it ourselves. Most of the

Marines, after we'd spent some time riding with them, would hand us their rifles to hold while they climbed in or out of the truck, and it became so second nature I never thought about it until later.

Maybe that would have made us fair targets. But on the convoys, one of the biggest dangers was snipers, and there was no reason to believe they'd have any idea we were reporters rather than Marines, or that they'd avoid shooting us even if they knew.

The reporters I knew, myself included, didn't expect any Geneva Convention niceties if we were captured, noncombatants or not.

In any case, my sense of security was

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Loving others as well as ourselves

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



There is an old saying that has been passed down to seminary students for decades or maybe even centuries.

The saying goes something like this, "never ask a question for which you do not

already have an answer." This type of reasoning does not seem too bright at first since a question is normally asked to fill in a void in the knowledge tablet each of us has.

However, when asking a question in class, you can find yourself in deep trouble because normally instead of an answer the professor will ask you what you think. Then you have the opportunity to respond with something fairly well thought out.

If you are incorrect, at least you can demonstrate your rationale with academic acumen that may account for something in the professor's opinion. You may also recall times when you have asked questions for which you really did not desire an answer.

Others of you may be able to recall times when you asked a question and the person you

were asking said something like, "Are you sure you want me to answer that question truthfully?"

Of course at that point you started to consider many things and thought very carefully before answering. Your response probably depended on what question you asked. If a person asks "Do I look fat in this shirt?" you may not necessarily want to hear the answer mostly because you already know the answer. If you do want the honest response then you kind of brace yourself for the worse and hope for the better.

Sometimes we are shocked by what we hear. Sometimes we are pleased by what we hear. It seems that we have strong opinions about ourselves and that we resist someone telling us that our opinion of ourselves may be incorrect.

This kind of thinking was displayed in a text I recently read where someone asked Jesus a question in front of several other people. The passage, if you would like to read it, is in St. Mark chapter 12:28-34.

In this passage the person asks Jesus which of the commandments are greater than the rest. Jesus' response was that the two most important were to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and the other was to love

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Just did my job ...



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Master Sgt. Neil Pinchefskey, formerly the maintenance branch chief for Fleet Support Division, stands at attention while he receives his retirement orders Friday at his retirement ceremony in front of Building 15.

Chapel Services

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer in the Building 15 Administration Office Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Rosary

First Saturday of every month.

3 p.m. at the Base Chapel.
For more info call 577-6849.

Episcopal Mass

Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Building 406 in Yermo.
Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Base Chapel.

For more info call 577-6849.



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For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, Lancaster, Calif., phone: (661) 945-5634.

News Briefs

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon Thursdays for the next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Lunch Menu

Unless otherwise indicated lunch menus for the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe are the same. Lunch menus are subject to change.

Today – Family Restaurant: Fruit and salad bar Cactus Cafe: Baked chicken, steamed rice

Friday – Tuna casserole

Monday – Holiday hours

Tuesday – Ham sandwiches

Wednesday – Beef stir fry

Active duty military \$3.25, all others, including civilians \$4.75. Lunch entrees include roll/butter, vegetable, coffee, tea or soft drink.

Lunch is served at the Family Restaurant from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 11 a.m. to noon.

Cactus Cafe serves hamburgers, subs, salads and other line items available for walk in lunch – for other Family Restaurant lunch menu items, call in orders before 9:30 a.m. to the Family Restaurant at 577-6428.

Breakfast

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant is from 5:30 to 8 a.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.

Family Night Dining

Tonight – Southern night. Southern fried chicken, collard greens, black-eyed peas, corn bread and dessert, plus a fountain drink of choice.

Pool hours

Beginning Tuesday the Family Pool will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lap swimming only. The Family Pool and Oasis Pool will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for recreational swimming. The pools will be open Monday for the Labor Day

Holiday, after which the pools will be closed for the season.

Medical requirements

To better serve the active-duty Marine and sailor community stationed at MCLB Barstow, the Branch Medical Clinic will be conducting Active Duty "C" Status/Medical Readiness Record Verifications on service members' birth month. This new process will begin in September. Service members will be contacted through their chain of command based on their birth month to schedule an appointment with the Preventative Medicine Representative and complete their annual medical readiness requirements. The point of contact for any questions and scheduling of appointments is Petty Officer Juan Ayon at 577-6491, ext. 114.

Essay contest

The City of Barstow invites all Barstow-area students in grades six through 12 to compete in an essay contest inspired by the September 11 tragedy.

Prizes donated by the Barstow College Associated Student Body will be awarded to the top-place finisher in three categories: 1) sixth, seventh and eighth grades; 2) ninth and 10th grades; and 3) 11th and 12th grades. The total prizes awarded will value \$300.

Each student is asked to write an essay about an everyday hero who is part of his or her life. Essays must be typewritten and limited to two double-spaced pages.

Essays should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Sept. 5 to Tanya Concho at 220 E. Mountain View St., Suite A Barstow, CA 92311; or via e-mail at tconcho@barstowca.org/.

The essay contest winners will be announced at the city's September 11 memorial event, "Remember the Fallen, Celebrate Our Freedom," to be held at the Robert Sessions Sportspark (2800 Guadalupe Rd.) on Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sue Jones at 252-2411, ext. 7350, or John Rader at 256-3531, ext. 3265.



Labor Day Safety

The Labor Day holiday causes some major safety hazards. Some of the most common accidents on holidays are vehicle related.

Drinking and driving is one of the main contributors to fatalities for Marines over holidays. Another is driving long distances without the proper rest.

Always take a designated driver if you are planning on drinking. Do not chance it by thinking you are okay after a couple of drinks. It takes the average person one hour to metabolize one 12-ounce beer, 6-ounce glass of wine, or one ounce of liquor.

If driving long distances, plan out the trip to make sure you have enough time to rest. Falling asleep at the wheel can seriously harm or kill you and your passengers.

For more information on drinking and driving, call the Substance Abuse Counseling Office at 577-6364.

Barstow Unified School District Bus Schedule 2003/2004

Time	Place	School
PU 7:40 a.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Crestline, Thomson
PU 6:48 a.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Barstow High School
PU 6:56 a.m.	Club Street	Barstow High School
PU 7:40 a.m.	Kwajalein and Inchon	Crestline, Montara
PU 7:43 a.m.	Club Street	Crestline, Montara
PU 7:46 a.m.	Day Care Building 372	Crestline, Montara
PU 8:27 a.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Kennedy Middle School
PU 8:30 a.m.	Day Care Building 372	Kennedy Middle School
PU 8:32 a.m.	Club Street	Kennedy Middle School
PU 7:46 a.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Crestline, Montara and
1st bus Montara Latch Key (NATT) all girls		
DROP 1:46 p.m.	McKinney Youth Center	KMS (WED EO)
DROP 1:50 p.m.	Club Street	KMS (WED EO)
DROP 1:52 p.m.	Club Street	KMS (WED EO)
DROP 1:23 p.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Crestline (THUREO)/Central
Thursday only		
DROP 1:28 p.m.	Kwajalein and Inchon	Crestline (THUREO)/Central
Thursday only		
DROP 1:33 p.m.	Club Street	Crestline (THUREO)/Central
Thurs only		
DROP 1:41 p.m.	Day Care Building 372	Crestline (THUREO)/Central
Thursday only		
DROP 3:45 p.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Kennedy Middle School
DROP 3:48 p.m.	Day Care Building 372	Kennedy Middle School
DROP 3:51 p.m.	Club Street	Kennedy Middle School
DROP 1:26 p.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Montara School(EO THUR)
DROP 1:32 p.m.	Kwajalein and Inchon	Montara School(EO THUR)
DROP 1:36 p.m.	Club Street	Montara School(EO THUR)
DROP 1:40 p.m.	Day Care Building 372	Montara School(EO THUR)
DROP 2:28 p.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Barstow High School
DROP 2:33 p.m.	Club Street	Barstow High School
DROP 3:24 p.m.	McKinney Youth Center	Crestline School
DROP 3:28 p.m.	Day Care Building 372	Crestline School

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEU-287-03-NR	Sandblaster	08-07-03	09-08-03	08-11-03	MCLB Barstow
WG-5423-07 (Term NTE 366 Days)					

Applicants interested in the above positions should submit résumés online at the following Web sites: <http://www.donbr.navy.mil> and/or <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding open continuous announcements go to <http://www.donbr.navy.mil>

For more information concerning public job announcements visit the Self-Service Center, Building 236, Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call the Human Resources Office, 577-6357, 577-6279, or 577-6481.

This is not an official list. See the Web sites listed for a complete list.

Financial planning key to success

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
Editor

Financial planning is a big step in the right direction when it comes to the management of a person's life.

The keys to success with finances can be taught by Master Sgt. Allyson Hedrick, financial counselor for the Financial Management Office, Personal Services Division.

The key to financial success is staying away from credit card debt, said Hedrick.

"Paying off credit cards can take years if you pay the minimum," said Hedrick. "Not getting into too much debt can save you in the long run."

The services of Hedrick are offered to any MCLB Barstow service member or civilian Marine. She can help people plan a budget and set themselves up for a financially successful future.

Hedrick also provides counsel-

ing on how to invest money. She only provides research and advice as to what people should do with their money, but she helps people make a much more informed decision.

"What you do with your money is entirely up to you," said Hedrick. "I will help you by showing the best possible ways to invest your money based on what you are comfortable doing with it."

Hedrick can also teach classes to

groups of people if it is arranged through her. She does group sessions for groups such as an office

on base. The classes are designed to give an overview of financial planning, but she can get into deeper detail in one-on-one sessions, said Hedrick.

The ultimate goal is to be financially stable to set up a retirement and not live paycheck to paycheck, said Hedrick. She can help give guidance toward achieving that goal.

Paying off credit cards can take years if you pay the minimum.

Master Sgt. Allyson Hedrick

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tant work," he said.

Rumsfeld said he did not know how long the United States will remain in Iraq.

He said the answer is "not knowable" today. "I wish it were, but it really depends on when the Iraqi people are able to get themselves on a path towards a sovereign and representative government," he said. "This much is certain: The president said we will stay as long as it takes to finish the job and not a day longer. Our task is to lift the threat of terrorist violence from our people and our future."

Rumsfeld answered some questions from the estimated 3,000 assembled service members.

One asked about proposals to raise the military retirement age. Rumsfeld said he has not made a specific recommendation but noted there are some jobs that people need to serve in longer. He said quick turnovers mean turmoil, more permanent change of stations and so forth.

"It also creates a situation where people move through jobs so fast they don't have a chance to clean up their own mistakes," he said. "That's an important learning experience."

He also spoke of proposals to

"rebalance" the mix between active and reserve components. He said some high-demand skills, now concentrated in the reserve component, may need to have some units moved to the active duty side. "No one person is smart enough to know exactly what that means, but we've got ... each of the services, plus the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, working on it," he said. "There should be proposals coming forward in a reasonable period of time."

Rumsfeld discussed the deployment and redeployment process and said he didn't want to call it "ugly" but rather "imperfect."

In the case of the Army, "at one point, they were averaging only five days' notice for a call-up for reserve and Guard," he said. "Now that's just not right. It's not fair to the families. It's not fair to their reservists. It's not fair to their employers."

"The people are the most important thing we have, and we've got to see that we manage that force in a way that's respectful of people and that gives them a degree of certainty, a degree of predictability," he continued. "So we've got to fix that."

Rumsfeld said the deployment process is an Industrial Age process "where either the big lever is off - it's peace, or it's on - and it's World War III."

Reality is not so black and

white, and the country is much more likely to have a series of activities and requirements and contingencies that have to be addressed. The process needs to be much more nuanced, he said.

Rumsfeld said the United States is actively seeking allies for help in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said the United States is speaking with more than 70 countries about assistance. "I think the number currently is somewhere around 40 countries (that) are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom in one way or another," he said. "We do need international support and assistance. It's a big help."

He said it is not likely, however, that U.S. forces will be serving under U.N. leadership in Iraq. "That is not to say that there are not important places and roles that could be played by United Nations forces," he said.

Finally, Rumsfeld was asked about blue battle-dress uniforms the Air Force leadership is proposing.

"I guess the answer is if it's as bad as you say it is, I hope it's not coming," the secretary responded. He said he'd ask Air Force chief of staff Gen. John Jumper about that when he returned "and explain to him that at least a few handfuls of folks down here have a minimum of high regard for what they think they're doing."

Program helps relate military work into civilian terminology

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
Editor

The Personal Services Division can help Marines use a computer program that will turn their military occupational specialty into words they can use on a job application or in an interview in the civilian world.

The program is called Job Browser Pro, and Chuck Ashbrook, career resources program manager at the Personal Services Division can show the employees of MCLB Barstow how their military and government work experience can be relayed into words for a resume or job application, or during the interview

process.

"The Job Browser Pro runs off of codes on your Verification of Military Education and Training document that classify your (military occupational specialty)," said Ashbrook. "The code is

entered into Job Browser Pro and it gives you a lot of information about your job."

The document gives a synopsis of a person's job, the nature of work it will be in the civilian world, the skills and competen-

cies necessary for the job, the education needed for the job, the temperaments needed to do the job, the physical demands of the job, the national average wages and earnings of the job, and the long-

term outlook of the job.

"The job description can almost be used verbatim to put on a job application or resume," said Ashbrook. "It gives a really accurate description of the job you have been performing in the military and is good for somebody who may not be able to write it very well."

Ashbrook said the Job Browser Pro is a great tool to help people decide if they want to pursue the job they have now.

"The Job Browser Pro will tell you the education you need and the temperament you need to do the job in the civilian sector," said Ashbrook. "If you don't think that you want to deal with the stresses of the job, you might consider a career change."

The Job Browser Pro program is available to all Marines and civilian Marines aboard MCLB Barstow, said Ashbrook.

To take advantage of the services available, call Ashbrook at 577-6533.

It gives a really accurate description of the job you have been performing in the military and is good for somebody who may not be able to write it well

Chuck Ashbrook

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directly in proportion to my confidence in the Marines around me.

We spent the first week of the war with Marines I came to trust completely - Gomez and his crew on a truck that provided security for the convoys, driver Lance Cpl. Robert Kissmann and .50-caliber gunner Scott Stasney.

Gomez, whose parents live in Sanford, was only 23, but the others on his squad had the same sort of confidence in him. "He's my daddy," was how one Marine in Gomez's squad described him. Gomez called his M-16 Marie, after his wife's middle name, and even his choice of wife I regarded as a sign of bravery, since he married his platoon sergeant's daughter, a thought that made the toughest Marines cringe.

I always figured nothing bad could happen until Gomez had fired his last round, but I was with him during my scariest moment of the war.

On an Iraqi highway south of the Euphrates, during a blinding dust storm, our security truck stopped to guard a stalled truck

full of ammunition and guided missiles while the rest of the convoy drove ahead.

The dust and howling wind cut visibility at times to only 50 or 60 yards, and Iraqi trucks and cars would suddenly appear out of the dust, often turning to speed off.

We felt like a whole Iraqi army could be 100 yards away in the dust and we wouldn't know it.

The wind blew dust in my eyes even with my goggles on, and I was standing behind the truck, out of the wind. I wasn't particularly worried until Gomez came back and told me he couldn't see and asked me to take a look at his eye. That was when I realized all my confidence was tied up in him.

His eye was bloodshot and full of sand, and I dug out the worst of it with my fingernail, then washed it out with a bottle of water. It still looked bad but he said it felt better, and he went back to the road.

The mechanics were still working on the truck, and a few more Marines had joined us, when we heard a loud squeaking

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adding that the section “tries to salvage every piece.”

More importantly than building weapons is the calibration of the systems. The TOW missile system is wire-guided, meaning that once a missile is fired, the operator must keep his crosshairs of the optical sighting systems of the weapon on the target. The missile is attached to the launcher by a wire that receives signals from the missile guidance set, guiding the missile on target. Improper sight calibration can lead to misfires and other weapons malfunction, said Peterson.

According to Peterson, the sights are calibrated through a series of machines and computer programs. For example, infrared night vision modules are sighted into a completely dark chamber with only a small metal bar inside.

The bar is exactly 0.3 degrees above ambient room temperature. The bar, in total darkness, will show up clearly on the sightscreen if the system is calibrated properly.

The Special Weapons Section not only provides support to U.S. armed forces, but the shop also assists in the repair and sales of weapons to countries around the world.

The TOW missile systems alone have been in service since the Vietnam War and is currently used in about 44 countries across the planet, said Hart. But the mission of the shop has not been forgotten.

“Our real customer out there is the 18 year-old Marine in harm’s way. He needs to protect himself and those around him,” said Hart, adding that the mission of the shop is to maintain Marine Corps readiness in TOW, Javelin and SMAW systems.

“These are weapons,” Hart stressed, “and we take our product very seriously.”



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

The civilian Marines of MCB’s Special Weapons Warehouse, CWC 686, 687 and 688.

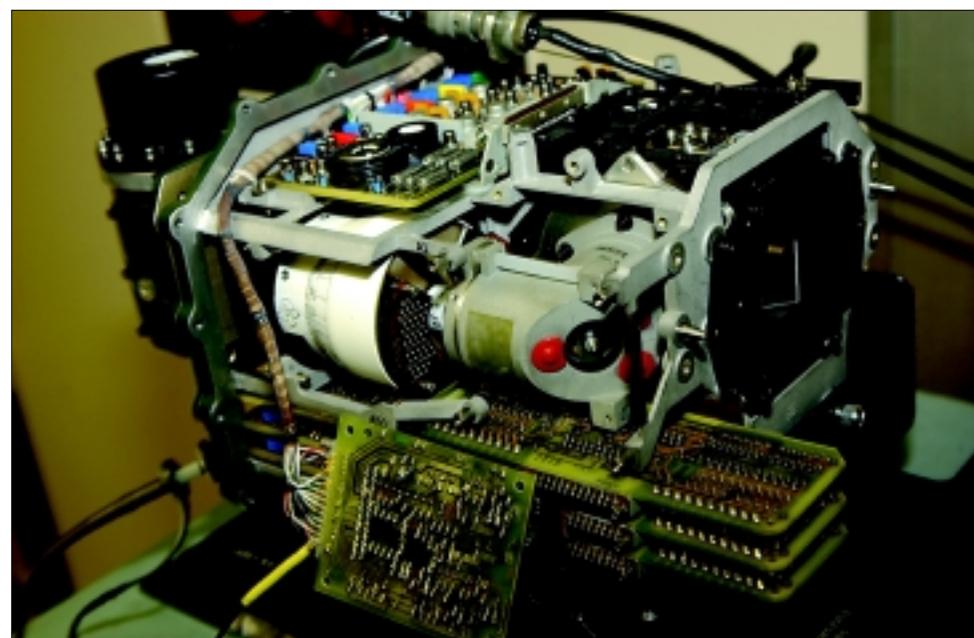


Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

A stripped-down and rebuilt “Alpha model” infrared night vision scope, seated on a computer-generated simulator. Sights are received with damaged or missing components, but each one leaves the shop in condition code “A.”

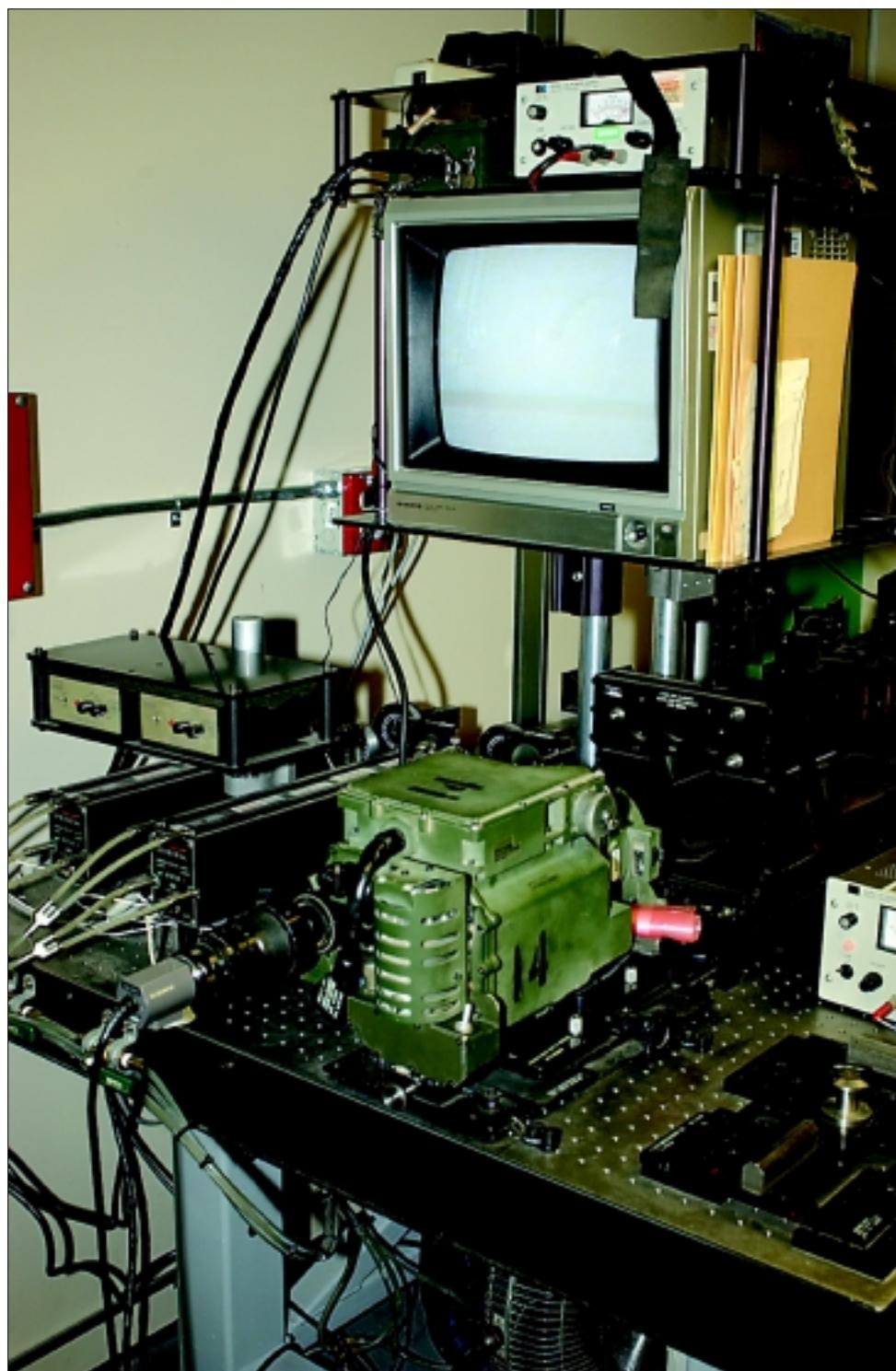


Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Night vision optical equipment is calibrated through a “dummy” firing of two high-powered lasers. If the equipment is not calibrated to precise specifications, the TOW Missile could face malfunction.

MCRD San Diego combat artist continues legacy

By Cpl. Ethan Rocke
MCRD San Diego

Without the aid of any camera or high-tech broadcast equipment, one Marine completed a very unique mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom, telling the Marine Corps' story with nothing more than a sketch pad, pencils, some charcoal and a very deep love for art.

In America's most recent war, Sgt. Jack M. Carrillo, combat artist, Marine Corps Historical Division, was the first enlisted Marine assigned to the region with the specific mission of creating combat art.

"It was a huge honor to be selected for this mission," said Carrillo. "It was a dream come true to be able to use my art and ability to tell the Marine Corps' story and be a part of something that's bigger than me."

Carrillo, formerly assigned to MCRD San Diego's Combat Visual Information Center, was augmented by Historical Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, for the distinctive mission in January, not long after becoming the first enlisted Marine to design Marine Corps uniform plates.

Carrillo made a name for himself within the small community of Marine combat illustrators after rendering the paintings of Marines wearing the Corps' new combat utility uniforms.

He headed to Kuwait in January anxious to let the inspiration flow and do what he says he does best: create art.

"It's like a nervous twitch," said the 32-year-old, brown-eyed Marine. "Some people tap their fingers or chew on pencils; I have to draw. It's what I do. It's something inside me that always has to get out. Any time, any place, any situation, I'll throw down (art)."

Prior to departing for Kuwait, Jack Dyer, curator of art, Historical Division, briefed Carrillo on the expectations of his mission.

"Jack told me he would not tell me what, how, or when to draw, only that I was to be a hustler, get as close to the action as possible and document through art, the climate of any given situation. With those simple instructions, I set out to do exactly that," Carrillo said.

He arrived in Kuwait to find he was operating very much on his own. His mission became one of adaptation and improvisation as he slowly found the connections and resources needed to accomplish his mission.

By the time the war began, Carrillo had joined a team of Marine "storytellers" who fell under the same command as he did. A fairly well-equipped crew of Marine videographers quickly adopted Carrillo and formed a small combat visual information team.

The CVI team, still needing a parent unit to fall under, found themselves attached to Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, for the operation to liberate Iraq.

It didn't take long for Carrillo to find himself completely absorbed in the front lines of the war with a constant barrage of inspiring images to "throw down."

"I tried to capture anything I thought was historically significant or things I just connected with as an artist," he said. "If I thought something had a good story, I tried to capture it and tell the story."

Carrillo said there were times when he became frustrated because he couldn't capture certain aspects of his surroundings, such as the smell of burning palms and twisted metal, or the sound of stray Iraqi dogs barking throughout the night.

Carrillo, whose art experience includes a lot of work in graffiti art, said he found himself driven by the fast-paced nature of his mission and environment and related it to the spirit of graffiti art.

"The spirit of street art inspired me," he said. "It's fast-paced, in-your-face, create-it-and-go art," he said. "Any graffiti artist has the potential to be a great combat artist. I love that spirit."

Carrillo channeled that spirit consistently, throwing down his art in various locations throughout Iraq. From Kuwait to Baghdad, and eventually further than that, he created more than 150 sketches of everything from female mechanics working to Iraqi prisoners to tank battles.

Like everyone else, Carrillo experienced the constant challenges combat presents. On the second day of the war, the Humvee carrying his equipment drove into a swamp and overturned during a fire fight in Al Basrah. The majority of his art supplies and equipment was damaged beyond salvation, but Carrillo overcame the mishap and carried on with five sketch pads, some pencils, graphite and charcoal.

"All my watercolors and paints were trashed, but in a way, it simplified the way I executed my mission," said the 6-foot Marine. "You have to adapt and overcome in that environment. That's just something we as Marines have ingrained in us. We accomplish the mission no matter what it takes."

While he was accomplishing his mission, Carrillo found himself establishing strong bonds and friendships with the Marines he was serving alongside. It didn't take long for Carrillo to translate those

bonds into his artwork.

"Marine tankers are a very tough crew to run around with," Carrillo said. "Those Marines became my brothers. We fought, served, prayed, sweated and stank together."

Despite the chaotic environment Carrillo was enduring, he stayed motivated and excited about his mission, and his true nature as an artist and instinct as a Marine first drove him to stay in Iraq as long as he could.

"When division finally caught up with me, I didn't want to leave," said the energetic Marine. "I wanted to keep drawing and

doing what I love."

Carrillo eventually left Iraq for Kuwait and then headed back home to San Diego. Since then, he has been assigned temporary additional duty to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

He is currently completing his pioneering combat-art mission by finishing 10 paintings for the Marine Corps Historical Division to supplement the 150 sketches he already rendered in the war, and according to Historical Division officials, they are pleased with his efforts.

"Sgt. Carrillo is a talented, vigorous and productive combat artist," said retired Capt. Charles Grow, assistant curator of art,

Historical Division, and former combat artist. "He is a good Marine, and I think he's going to do good things for the Marine Corps combat art collection."

Carrillo's artwork will tell the Marine Corps story for decades to come, and those who observe it can hear Carrillo speaking to them through the art that served as his voice during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Art is everywhere at any time. It's something I have to do. It's a man's creative voice," Carrillo said. "Art is how I cope in life, and to be a part of the combat art legacy is an amazing feeling."



War Art by Sgt. Jack M. Carrillo

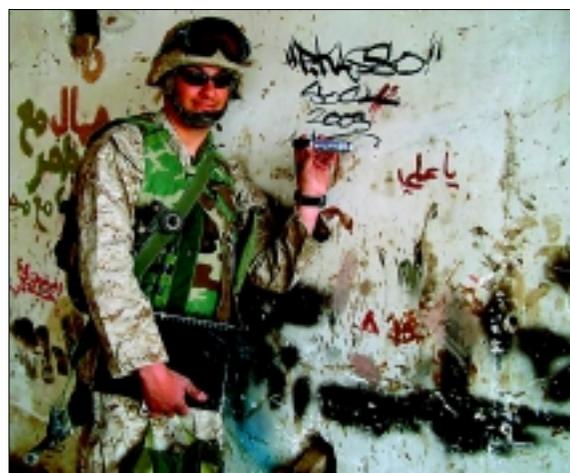
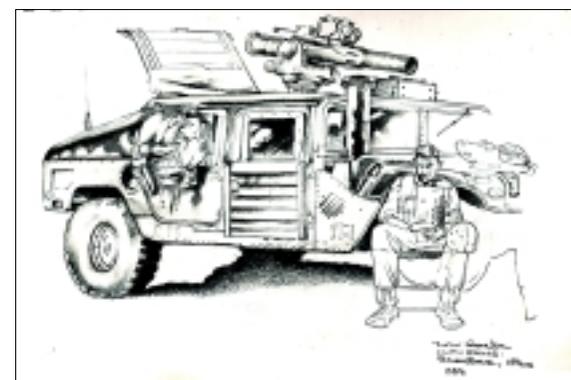


Photo courtesy of Sgt. Jack M. Carrillo

Carrillo gets back to his roots during Operation Iraqi Freedom, taking a moment to tag a wall. Carrillo was once a street artist painting graffiti murals as a specialty.



War Art by Sgt. Jack M. Carrillo

IRAQ from Page 5

clatter coming up the road behind us.

We all knew what it was even before someone said it was tracks, which meant armored vehicles.

A day earlier, American Cobra gunships or F-18s would have massacred any Iraqi tanks that dared to venture out, but now nothing was flying in the dust storm.

Maj. Jeff Eberwein yelled at a Marine to grab the AT-4 rocket launcher from one of the Humvees, but I had no confidence in the little rocket.

Besides, you could tell there were several sets of tracks coming up the road. And I already had a vision of a column of Iraqi tanks coming up the road and was trying to figure whether it would be better to run north or south and how long it would take to get out of sight of the road in the dust storm. I was about to disembed myself on foot.

But when they clattered into sight, the tracks belonged to four U.S. Army Bradley Fighting Vehicles, which were as surprised as we were by the encounter. They stopped suddenly, backed up and crossed the road, keeping their cannons trained on us even as they rolled past and disappeared into the dust.

I managed to snap a photo of the Bradleys just as they came out of the dust, but when I looked at it later the image was blurred, as if I'd moved when I took the shot. I don't think I could blame the wind.

Aside from the fact that the Marine's inclination was to fight and mine was to run, another difference between the press and the Marines is we tended to see things as black and white, sometimes in ways that seemed comical to the Marines.

One night, some Marines had dropped me off after dark at an advance camp for our unit. I was fumbling around trying to unroll my

sleeping bag when I startled a Marine who came walking around the command tent, which I was sleeping next to so I wouldn't be run over by a truck in the dark.

"Friend or foe," he asked me, and I had no ready answer. Technically, I was no one's foe, as a non-combatant. And while I'd made friends who were Marines, to call yourself a friend implies some compromise of objectivity.

After a long pause I finally mumbled "Reporter," and when the Marine laughed I wasn't sure if it was because of my answer or how long it had taken me to spit it out. To the Marines, the biggest difference between us was that we were more or less free to do as we wished.

Technically, the rules were that we would stay with our assigned unit, and that someone would keep track of us. Our press badges said "Bearer must be escorted at all times."

But within a day of the war's

start, we were pretty much free to do as we wanted, jumping on and off convoys and wandering around wherever we could get a ride and find Marines to give us water, MREs and a place to throw our sleeping bags.

We learned to avoid unfriendly officers and the friendly ones directed us to the convoys that were heading closer to the action, even telling us when we should jump off to another unit.

Unlike the Marines, we could dress as we wanted and sleep until we wanted to get up.

But the biggest difference was that we could leave whenever we wished. Many Marines told us they couldn't believe we would stay out there if we had the option to go home.

I think it was the knowledge that we could pull out whenever we wanted that cemented our connection with the Marines.

Just before Woolley and I flew

out of Iraq on a C-130 back to Kuwait, we were saying our goodbyes to the Marines at their base south of Baghdad.

Staff Sgt. Charles Wells, a firefighter and EMT for Orange County Fire Rescue, made a point of pulling us aside before our flight.

The Marines hadn't known what to expect when they heard reporters would be living with them, Wells said, and some had feared the worst, that we'd pry into personal details or try to portray them as bloodthirsty baby killers. But Wells told us his Marines appreciated how we'd lived as they'd lived, gone where they'd gone, eaten what they'd eaten, used the same MRE boxes as toilets and slept on the ground they slept on.

By then Wells knew we'd understand exactly what he meant when he told us, "You guys are good to go."

We considered it the highest praise.

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

your neighbor as yourself.

The person who asked the question then agreed with Jesus and said that living by these two rules was better than offering burnt sacrifices that were supposed to appease the Almighty and to relieve one of the guilt of sinful living. The person asking the question did not fully understand what he was saying

because when Jesus responded that he was not far from the kingdom of God with that thinking it caused everyone to stop asking Jesus questions.

The dilemma seems to have been that when the barriers are down and we are open and honest about our feelings that much of our personality and desire are revealed. In this particular instance the person found himself on unfamiliar ground which was beginning to

align him with Jesus over against his Jewish scribe brothers.

This certainly could lead to having to rethink his whole way of life, and that, as you know, can be a very scary event. I want to encourage you, even though it is scary, to enter that conversation. To ask yourself and someone you deeply care about what are the most important premises in life.

Surely one of them must be loving your

neighbor as yourself. The challenge is not in identifying what we should be doing or how we should live, rather the challenge is taking the plunge to really "hear" the truth that is resident within us and to no longer fear being viewed as naïve because we do want to love others as much as we love ourselves.

Peace,
Fr Randel



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Anniversary Sale Monday

The Super Seven Day Store's Anniversary Sale starts Monday, continuing through Sept. 14. There are some great buys in this sale - check these out:

Apex DVD player sale priced at \$49.99. After a \$10 rebate, you have it for just \$39.99.

Panasonic DVD recorder for \$399.99. Sony 3.2 MP digital camera only \$199.99.

Sharp 20" color TV for \$119.99. Lenmark Printer Trio, scanner, copier and printer, bargain price of \$89.99.

Bari lady's leather coat, in almond or black for \$99.99. Assorted Playstation I games for only \$14.99.

For more information call the Super Seven Day Store at 256-8974. The Super Seven Day Store is open Mondays through Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Single Marine Program events

Single Marine Program events coming up include: SMP will be going to the University of Southern California for Armed Forces Appreciation Day Sept. 6.

USC will be playing Brigham Young University in football at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

The next event SMP will be going to watch is a Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Francisco Giants game on Sept. 20.

Sign up sheets will be available at the base gym, the Super Seven Day Store and the barracks.

For more information call 577-6817.

CO's, CG's Golf Tournament

The Commanding Officer's and Commanding General's Golf Tournament.

This will be the first joint tournament with MCLB and Fort

Irwin.

The tournament will be held Sept. 26 at the Tees and Trees Golf Course, at MCLB Barstow. There is a 7 a.m. registration with an 8 a.m. tee time.

Entry fee is \$20 (carts additional). There will be 4-person teams (If you are not part of a team, Tees and Trees will place you in a team.)

Registration deadline is Sept. 24. Players limited to the first 60 registrants.

A continental breakfast and a lunch will be provided to players.

Join today and be in tournament. Call 577-6431 or drop by the golf course.

Playmornings

Bring your children, 5-years-old and younger, and come to the Child Development Center's Playmornings.

Playmornings are a fun filled morning of crafts, music and toys.

Playmornings are held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Call 577-6332 to register and for location information. Playmornings are free.

Breakfast hours extended

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant has been extended a half an hour from 7:30 to 8 a.m., Mondays through Fridays except holidays.

The restaurant is open as usual every weekday morning at 5:30 a.m. except holidays.

Kindergarten Readiness Program

●3-hour class from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays to Fridays

●Hourly care is available for children who need to arrive before 8:30 a.m. or stay past scheduled contract hours.

●Full day and extended part day classes are also offered.

●Children must turn 5 years of age on or before Dec. 1, 2004 to enroll in this program.

●Class size is limited to no more than 24 children, with one teacher for every 12 children.

●Cost ranges from \$83 for lowest income level to \$200 per month for families with total income over \$70,000. Cost includes morning snack and lunch.

●Core curriculum is reading readiness, math readiness, phonics, music and movement, art and science.



Class begins Tuesday.

For more information call 577-6287.

1986 CHEVY: Van, full size, rebuilt engine and transmission, clean, TV hook-up, refrigerator, \$2,000, OBO 961-2648.

MISCELLANEOUS: Truck tires, Michelin, LT 235-85-R16, xlt. cond., \$35 each.; clip on towing mirrors for most P.U. trucks, nearly new, \$30. pair. Call 256-6629.

MISCELLANEOUS: Coffee table, living room wooden, (purchased from Levitz) beveled glass on top, bottom shelf, rounded corners, xlt. cond. \$40. Call 256-4873 (8-5) or 253-2677.

MISCELLANEOUS: Sharp microwave/convection oven (needs a board) \$200, 10-gal. Suburban RV water heater, gas/propane, \$100, 4-burner drop-in gas stove w/high oven (new) \$250; Kenmore washer & dryer (working) \$200; Sharp Microwave \$40; Kenmore upright freezer (needs thermostat) \$75; eight-foot green velour sofa \$150; five-foot glass & chrome table \$75. Call 252-4996 to see.

MISCELLANEOUS: New 13,000 BTU RV AC w/heat pump \$500; shallow well pressure pump, \$35; Transport wheelchair w/cover and auto carrier, \$175; tub chair/potty chair (offers). Call 252-4996 to see.

MISCELLANEOUS: Loveseat, neutral colors, huge great condition, \$200, OBO; pine TV Tray style lift up top coffee table w/storage underneath, really neat \$75, OBO. Call 252-1343 between 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS: Wheels, brushed alum. 15 x 7, from a 1999 Jeep Wrangler, 5 each. Best offer, call 254-3675 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Comprehensive reading cards and quizzes, select between sports and entertainment, short stories and trivia to improve oral reading skills (grades 4 and 5), \$10 each. Call 252-1160.

MISCELLANEOUS: Telephone table with shelf, \$10; lawn mower (needs seasonal maintenance), \$25; men's dress shoes, Nike tennis shoes and baseball cleats (size 11-13), \$3-\$5, men's work T-shirts, (some college & name brand) XL-XXL, \$1 each. Call 252-1160.

MISCELLANEOUS: Waterbed mattress, king size, Simmons Beauty Rest, paid \$500 asking \$200. Call 256-6629.

MISCELLANEOUS: Queen bedspread, shams, skirt and decorative pillows, floral print of forest green, mauve, and white with green trim braiding, Spiegel collection, \$25; blended family, many duplicate house hold items and furniture. Call 252-1160.

