The West Coast Marine Corps bands participated in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 2, in Pasadena, Calif. The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade is a five and a half-mile long parade in Pasadena that involves marching bands from across the nation, floral floats and horse units. This year marks 123 years of the parade and its events.

The first marching band to appear in the parade was the Monrovia Town Band in 1891. Back then they had fewer than 20 members. These days it’s in the norm to see bands with 250 members marching in the parade. Every year there are 16 openings for bands to fill. The combined forces of Marine Band San Diego, 1st Marine Division Band and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, is one of them with approximately 90 members.

“This is a great opportunity to combine our forces,” Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephanie Wire, band officer, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. “This is the only event that brings all the west coast bands together. It’s an honor and privilege to be part of this event.”

The three bands come together at this annual parade to form a Composite Band. According to Wire, the bands have been participating in the parade for 123 years. The USC Trojan Marching Band, a collegiate marching band, has been a part of the parade every year.


Marines, Junior Rank wrap up inaugural Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl Week

PHOENIX – After a year of preparation and anticipation, the inaugural Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl Week, which ran from Dec. 29, 2011, to Jan. 3, 2012, represented a successful foray into the high school football world for the Marine Corps and Junior Rank.

Shaun Berry, a youth football coach and former University of Pittsburgh running back founded Junior Rank in 2008. The goal of the program is to develop the next generation of student athletes through education, evaluation and instruction.

The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl, an East-West format game, was the culmination of Junior Rank’s yearlong partnership with Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

“We believe this is an opportunity to really impact America and return better citizens in the form of student-athletes,” said Berry, CEO, Junior Rank. “We were excited to partner with the Marines because they represent everything we want our student athletes to be.”

Throughout 2011, Junior Rank and MCRC partnered for 21 Diamond Flight football camps and the nationwide Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl selection tour.

Football players from middle school age all the way up to high school seniors attended the Diamond Flight camps. During the camps, players had the unique opportunity to learn from former NFL players and some of the best football coaches in the country. Assisting the coaching staff during the camps were Marine Corps drill instructors, who instilled discipline and taught leadership skills to the student-athletes.

“What the [drill instructors] brought to our camps was a level of intensity that most of these young men hadn’t seen before,” said Berry. “Most of these young men have aspirations to play college football. What we share with them is the intensity and...”

Marines run half-marathon

Marines and Coalition Forces run in a half-marathon on New Year’s Day, aboard Camp Bastion, Helmand province, Afghanistan. The event was held to raise money for the British Limbless Ex-Service Men’s Association, an organization dedicated to helping UK troops who have lost limbs in Afghanistan and Iraq.
Camp Bastion Afghanistan

Aircraft mechanics of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 work on their MV-22B Osprey at Camp Bastion Afghanistan, Jan. 4. The Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey moves NATO International Security Assistance Force troops and their gear throughout the battlefield as part of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

Survive: prepare for disasters year round

Provided by Mission Assurance

A new year is ahead and Mother Nature is making her plans for the seasons. As the year evolves and the seasons change, it is imperative that people are prepared for whatever natural disasters might come this way.

In order to assist with disaster relief, www득어.com has an easy four step plan that will give anyone a head start on preparation.

First off, make a plan. Not everyone will always be with their family when disaster strikes, so it is important to have the basics set in place and even practice it. The following information at minimum should be gathered for a plan:

- Contact information and how to use it
- Where to meet once possible
- What to do in the event of different disasters

Building a kit is the second step in this plan. Conveniently, the items needed are already located in most people’s homes, but the key is to have one assembled prior to an emergency.

Even disaster response teams will be on the scene afterward, there is no telling how long it will take them to reach out to everyone. A good rule of thumb might be to have at least three days of food, water and other essential supplies, such as gas. Prepared. Oh, and don’t forget about pets.

Take the next step. Get Involved. Citizens should not hesitate to get involved in their own safety and the safety of those around them.

According to www.ready.gov, every day millions of people are finding ways to make meaningful, rewarding contributions to their communities.

Programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team are designed to help protect people in emergency situations.

CERT is an all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable course is designed CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference.

Finally, stay informed. The County of San Diego, in partnership with Twenty First Century Communications, Inc., has instituted a regional notification system that will be able to send telephone notifications to residents and businesses within San Diego County impacted by, or in danger of being impacted by, an emergency or disaster.

This system, called AlertSanDiego, will be used by emergency response personal to notify those homes and businesses at risk with information on the event or actions at hand. The system utilizes the region’s 911 database, provided by the local telephone company, and thus is able to contact landline telephones whether listed or unlisted. It is also TTY/TDD capable. Because the system uses the 911 database, only land-line numbers are in the system. If a people have a Voice Over IP or cellular telephone and would like to be notified about that device, or if they would like an email notification, it is encouraged to register those telephone numbers or email addresses for use by the system.

To register your VoIP, cellular telephone or email address, please fill out the registration at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/ready/signup.html.

For additional resources visit the following Web sites.
- http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/ready/signup.html

PARADE

“Tournament of Roses Parade for decades.” “Our purpose is to represent the Marine Corps.” said Master Sgt. Stephen Jeremiah, band master, Service Co., H & S BN. “It’s a way to keep America on the alert that the Marines are still out there doing what we do. It shows that while they are watching this parade, there are Marines deployed to protect their country.”

The parade was held on Jan. 2 this year because of a tradition set in 1893. According to tournament officials the “Never on a Sunday” tradition because they felt it would be best not to interfere with Sunday worship if the New Year landed on a Sunday.

“This is the longest parade we do on the West Coast,” said Haynes. “To start the year with a six-mile parade means that the hard stuff is out of the way, and to start the year with a national television appearance is also nice.”

The floats must be covered in flowers or other natural materials like sticks, leaves or moss. Sometimes the floats can use more flowers than a florist will use in five years.

Of course the floats aren’t the only fancy things in the parade. The West Coast Marine bands marched in the parade wearing their dress blue uniforms.

“It’s amazing to see the detail that goes into the preparation of the floats,” said Haynes. “We only get to go by a few of the floats, but even seeing those few floats shows the dedication that people have to the parade, much like how we are dedicated to the Marine Corps.”

The Tournament of Roses Parade precedes the Tournament of Roses, which began as a way for people to watch events like chariot races, foot races and jousting in the California weather. This all originated with the Valley Hunt Club in 1890.

Since flowers bloom in California even in the winter, it prompted the originators to add a parade beforehand. In this parade competitors would decorate their chariots with flowers.

Professor Charles F. Holder announced he wanted to hold a festival to tell the world about our paradise. The East and West Coasts differ greatly about our paradise. The East are buried in snow in the winter time, states in the west have our paradise.”

According to Jeremiah, the audience at this parade are upwards of one million attendees and it is seen around the world.

“The audience is always on fire,” said Haynes. “From the beginning to the end, they are constantly cheering, hollering and motivating us. This motivation is the fuel we feed off of to finish all six miles.”

Many people across the nation tuned in or attended this widely known parade, and were able to see the fancy floral floats, horse units and marching bands, to include the West Coast Marine Corps Bands help kick off the New Year in style.

HYSCV Bn. wants artifacts

Headquarters Service Battalion is soliciting photos/artifacts (with descriptions) from Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

These photos/artifacts will be displayed in the battalion classroom as part of a “Desert Warriors” theme. Items will be returned upon request. Contact Staff Sgt. Vecchia at heather.vecchia@usmc.mil or call (619) 524-1969 for more information or to donate your items.

Write-in absentee ballot

The online version of the revised federal write in absentee ballot is available at http://FVAP.gov. If voters have registered but not received their State ballot 30 days before the election, they can still vote by using the FWAB. Since the FWAB is a write-in ballot, a voter should still vote and return their State absentee ballot if they receive it before the election. The State absentee ballot will be counted instead of the FWAB if received by the State deadline.

Voters can visit http://www.fvap.gov to use the online wizard or access the PD-Fillable forms. The online wizard will list candidate names for federal elections 30 days prior to the date of the election.

The FWAB is a standard form accepted by all 53 States and territories for former service members and overseas voters.

For more information call Juan Gonzalez, National Director of 873/378/834.

FY12 Marine Corps Tuition Assistance – revised

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Funding Provisions for FY12 have been revised. To the following limits:

- Fiscal Year TA limit per individual Marine: $4500 TA Cap per credit unit $52500 per semester hour for undergraduate
- $250.00 per semester hour for undergraduate
- $166.67 per quarter hour for undergraduate
- $57 per check hour for certificate/ vocational program

For additional information contact the Tuition Assistance office at Brigade Mailbox 1275 or 8158, or go to Bldg. 14 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Career & Education Fair

The Personal & Professional Development Division (formerly Marine & Family Services) will host a Career and Education Fair Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Semper Fit Field house (Bldg 660). The event is free and open to military active duty and reserve, family members, military retirees, DoD Civilians, and other personnel with access to military installations.

For information contact Mina Threat at mina.threat@usmc.mil or call (619) 524-1283; or Annie Villalon at annie.villalon@usmc.mil or call (619) 524-1275.

Library

The depot library has reopened with reduced hours under fire control due to lack of heat. The library is currently open Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

The library will be closed Dec. 24, 26, and 31 for observance of the holidays. For more information call (619) 524-1849

Send briefs to:

rdl_pao@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.
Marines with concussion, mild brain injury may qualify for Purple Heart

This change is retroactive to the start of the Global War On Terrorism, which began Sept. 11, 2001.

A lot of people don’t keep them. Hopefully I do. They are goals that get set for people to better themselves.

“Protection for people with a lot of discipline. A lot of people start off good, but then start to fizzle off.” Senior Chief Petty Officer Laura Simmons, senior enlisted leader, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Dental Clinic

“Okay, a lot of people don’t keep them. Hopefully I do. They are goals that get set for people to better themselves.” Cpl. Jonathan Nutter, facilities maintenance noncommissioned officer, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion

Combat zone unmanned aerial system cargo delivery

A detachment of Marines from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 in Afghanistan completed their first unmanned aerial system cargo delivery in a combat zone, Dec. 17. The unmanned helicopter moved about 3,500 pounds of food and supplies from Camp Dwyer to troops at Combat Outpost Payne. The helicopter, an unmanned variant of the K-MAX, completed the delivery in about an hour and a half.

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The San Diego Sockers indoor soccer team hosted a military appreciation night during their 8-3 win over the Tacoma Stars at the Del Mar Arena, Del Mar, Calif., Dec. 17. Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego was given the opportunity to have their youth soccer players take part in the pregame ceremony.

During the pregame ceremony, the youth soccer players lined up in two rows allowing the Sockers players to run through the center of them as their entrance on to the field. "I could feel my adrenaline pumping, being on the field," said Michael Gautane, 13, MCRD youth soccer player. "It was pretty exciting because this was my first game. I'm looking forward to the Sockers winning." MCRD filled other roles throughout the pregame ceremony as well. Tracy Hairston, spouse of Lt. Col. Reginald Hairston, commanding officer, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, after making the first kick during the Sockers' military appreciation night at Del Mar Arena, Del Mar, Calif. Dec. 17. This is the first year the Sockers have had military play a part in their pregame ceremony.

SD Sockers host military night at Del Mar Arena

Chiky Luna, midfielder, runs through a line of youth soccer players during the San Diego Sockers entrance to the field before their game against the Tacoma Stars at Del Mar Arena, Del Mar, Calif. Dec. 17. Service members looking to attend a Sockers game can purchase tickets through Ticketmaster with a military discount.

The San Diego Sockers mascot runs through a line of youth soccer players during the San Diego Sockers entrance to the field before their game against the Tacoma Stars at Del Mar Arena, Del Mar, Calif. Dec. 17. Service members looking to attend a Sockers game can purchase tickets through Ticketmaster with a military discount.

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, makes the first kick during the San Diego Sockers' military appreciation night at Del Mar Arena, Del Mar, Calif. Dec. 17. John P. Kantera, general manager, Sockers, exclaimed the great respect the Sockers have for the military and that an appreciation night can be expected every year.
Chicago siblings train recruits into Marines

BY SGT. WHITNEY N. FRASIER
Chevron staff

One man and one woman share the same genes, but they also share the same uniform. These Chicago native siblings are more alike than what meets the eye, especially regarding their career, as U.S. Marine Corps drill instructors. Many may think it is a rare case to have siblings fighting the same battle versus fighting each other, but this common pair shares a common goal. To influence the product the Marine Corps receives.

Sgt. Mark Peters, drill instructor, Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion and his younger sister, Sgt. Amanda Peters, drill instructor, Company N, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, S.C., spends endless hours training recruits in hopes to meet their goals.

With more than 2,000 miles between them, these two dedicated Marines stay motivated by keeping faith and pride in the Corps values, honor, courage and commitment.

Commitment usually plays a big role in the Marines, no matter what task is taken on. For drill instructor duty, a time commitment could be the most demanding of them all.

“The hardest part is time management,” said Mark, 27. “I have a hard time balancing work with my family, but I make it happen.”

Both agreed balancing personal time with work was a bit of a challenge, but neither lacked the understanding of the importance of their presence around the recruits.

“If you want to make good Marines you have to be here as much as you can,” said Amanda, 23. “It’s not only for the recruits, but for the other drill instructors in the company. It’s a team effort.”

Sometimes people say there aren’t enough hours in a day, for drill instructors burning midnight oil becomes a reality on a daily basis. Having the courage to advance and succeed in such a challenging environment is far from easy.

“This is a man’s world that we are bringing these females into,” said Amanda. “I need to show them the don’t have to rely on the eye, especially regarding their career, as U.S. Marine Corps drill instructors. Many may think it is a rare case to have siblings fighting the same battle versus fighting each other, but this common pair shares a common goal. To influence the product the Marine Corps receives.

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Amanda. “But how would we be able to influence the entire Marine Corps from the same place?” said Mark.

What’s next on their to-do list? Both agree their mission is to be able to build their own product of Marines and leave the “Peters” footprint throughout the Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth A. Conover
Parade Reviewing Officer

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth A. Conover enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1983 and reported to recruit training at MCRD San Diego in June 1984. After training he received orders to Infantry Training School, Camp Pendleton Calif., for his military occupational specialty training as a rifleman.


Upon selection to his current rank, Conover has served with 3rd Bn., 25th Marines, 2nd Bn., 5th Marines and Combat Logistics Regiment 1.

Conover has attended Mountain Leaders Course P. Lewis, Wash., Army Airborne School, Infantry Squad Leaders School, Combat Leadership School, Infantry Platoon Sergeants School, Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival, Drill Instructor School, Small Arms Weapons Instructor Course and has attended all resident periods of military education.

“The Marine Corps is the finest institution in America and it’s the duty of every Marine to keep it that way.”
The character displayed by Marines is what they’ll need to achieve on and off the field. According to the commanding general of MCRC, the partnership between the Marine Corps and Junior Rank was one based on the shared values of both organizations.

“The reason we decided to partner with Junior Rank was because the program is very concentrated on the character of the student-athletes,” said Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman, commanding general, MCRC. “They share our Marine Corps core values of honor, courage and commitment.”

Unlike other high school All-American bowls, where the selection criteria is often limited to performance on the field, student-athletes chosen to play in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl were required to demonstrate outstanding character, leadership and academic excellence.

Student-athletes participating in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl arrived in Phoenix Dec. 28, 2011, registering and receiving their pads and uniforms. For the next five days they attended practices, a short preparation time for players who in almost all cases had never played together.

The East team practiced at Arcadia High School in Phoenix while the West practiced at Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Practicing alongside Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl players were seventh and eighth Junior Academic All-Americans. These young student-athletes, like their high school senior counterparts, were required to display more than football skill. Players were required to have a 3.0 grade point average and a character recommendation in order to be invited.

Junior Rank, the Marines and the student-athletes in Phoenix brought Chase Field to life Jan. 2. Starting the day off was the USMC Proving Ground Combine. The USMC Proving Ground Combine was a football skills competition modeled after the NFL’s annual college combine. Participating were 300 high school juniors who competed for a chance to play in next year’s Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl. After a week of practice, two Junior Academic All-American Games were held following the combine, giving the young student-athletes a chance to play at the stadium.

The main event was the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl. The estimated 4,000 fans in attendance saw a hard fought defensive battle. Ultimately, the West came away with the victory, edging out the East 17-14.

Overall, the bowl week was very successful, exceeding the high expectations of organizers.

“We’ve exceeded our own expectations, based on feedback from parents, coaches and the people who joined us in Phoenix this week,” said Berry. “My only hope is that the product we put on the field is representative of the men and women we have serving our country.”

Kye Morgan, East Squad running back from Somerset, N.J., rushes past the West Squad defense during the Semper Fidelis Bowl in Phoenix. The West Squad was victorious in the inaugural high school all-star game, beating the East Squad by a final score of 17-14.