

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

NOVEMBER 12, 2010 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 53 ISSUE 45



## Happy Birthday, Marines



SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

A Civil War Marine, modeled by Lance Cpl. Michael Cain, marches onto Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field during the Combat Center's Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant Nov. 5.

Story and photos on page A4 and A6



### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Sixty years ago, the United States Marine Corps — as it has throughout our history — demonstrated its vital role as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness. Just weeks after North Korean Communist forces crossed the 38th Parallel, the First Marine Provisional Brigade landed in South Korea, forming the backbone of the perimeter around the city of Pusan. The efforts of the "Fire Brigade" at Pusan allowed for the daring amphibious landing at Inchon and set the stage for one of the most savage campaigns in our Corps' history — the Chosin Reservoir. As we pause to celebrate our 235th Birthday, we pay special tribute to the Marines of the Korean War and recognize their contributions to our enduring legacy.

This past year marked the end of Marine Corps combat operations in Iraq. Beginning with the invasion in March 2003 and through the next seven years of fighting, our Corps acquitted itself valiantly in the Anbar province and throughout the country. Locations such as Fallujah and Ramadi have taken their place in the illustrious battle history of our Corps. Our efforts in defeating the insurgency helped to build a brighter future for all Iraqis.

For 235 years, at sea and ashore, Marines have succeeded in every clime and place...where hardship and adversity have often been the common thread. Today, in the rugged mountains and valleys of Afghanistan — and recently in earthquake-damaged Haiti...in flood-ravaged Pakistan...or off the coast of Africa — we continue to protect our Nation, just as we did 60 years ago in Korea.

To the Marines and Sailors deployed overseas, to those training and preparing for their next deployment and to the warriors who no longer wear our uniform...we honor your selfless service to the Nation. To our loved ones who endure the many difficulties that come with being part of the Marine Family, I want to extend my sincerest thanks for all you have done and all you continue to do.

Happy 235th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

James F. Amos  
General, U.S. Marine Corps

## 'The Cutting Edge' honors fallen brothers

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Four brothers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who were killed in action, were represented with military crosses on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field during the units memorial service Nov. 5. Corporal Michael Bailey, Cpl. Kevin Cueto, Cpl. Claudio Patino IV and Lance

Cpl. Robert Newton gave their lives while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The field was still, apart from the slight breeze that gently swayed the dog tags hanging from the pistol grips of each "cross." Upon each rifle was a helmet, and at the base were a pair of boots and a photo of the heroes hundreds came to honor that day. Bailey, 29, born in

Freeport, Texas, was a turret gunner with Weapons Company. On June 16, 2010, Bailey's section came under heavy fire during a patrol. He was struck by an enemy round as he provided suppressive fire with his 50-caliber machine gun. Bailey was not married. Cueto, 23, from Santa Clara, Calif., served as the assistant jump commander on

See FALLEN, A5



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

A graduate of the Marine Corps Tactical Operations Training Group shakes hands with MCTOG staff Nov. 5 during their graduation ceremony. The class trains operations officers and enlisted chiefs in how to fluidly run their battalions' training and future operations.

## Operations experts get vital training at MCTOG

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Tactical Operations Training Group graduated its first "war time" expedited class Nov. 5 at their headquarters aboard the Combat Center. The class' schedule was compressed from six to three weeks to help meet operational forces' needs for well-trained and knowledgeable operations officers and chiefs, said Lt. Col. Stephen

Van Riper, the MCTOG operations officer and a native of Gainesville, Fla. "Our mission is to provide advanced and standardized training in [Marine Air Ground Task Force] operations, combined arms training and unit readiness at the battalion and regiment levels and synchro-nize doctrine and training standards [in order to] enhance combat preparable operations officers and chiefs, said Lt. Col. Stephen

units in MAGTF operations," Van Riper said, quoting the organization's mission statement. Van Riper said MCTOG also grows and evolves with every training evolution. "We've learned a lot. We take critiques from all of our students and evaluate what we're teaching constantly," he said. "Our goal is to make sure the course never stagnates," he said. "The next course will

See MCTOG, A3



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Third Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Marines salute as they pass by the memorials of their fallen brothers Nov. 5 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.



A taste of tradition ~ See A3



Going the distance ~ See B1



'Tis the season ~ See B1



Play ball! ~ See B1





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# TRICARE covers the HPV vaccine in the fight against cancer

**SHARON FOSTER**  
*TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY*

In a recent study published in the Lancet medical journal, scientists identified the eight human papillomavirus types responsible for more than 90 percent of cervical cancer cases worldwide. Scientists agree these types should be the targets for the next generation of HPV vaccines.

Currently, Cervarix and Gardasil vaccines are licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect females against the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers and other genital cancers. TRICARE covers both vaccines.

“It is important to safeguard the health of our beneficiaries,” said Kathie McCracken, Health Affairs program director for Patient Advocacy, Medical Ethics and Women’s Health Issues. “Immunization for preventable diseases is one of the ways we do that. TRICARE covers all immunizations the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends and adopts.”

The FDA recommends that all girls who are 11 or 12 years old receive the full series of either brand of HPV vaccine to protect against cervical cancer and precancerous abnormalities. Gardasil also protects against two additional types of HPV that may cause most genital warts. Girls and young women ages 13 through 26 who have not started or finished the vaccine series should receive all missing doses for the greatest protection.

HPV is a viral infection spread through sexual contact. It is a group of more than 100 different viruses, with at least 30 strains known to cause different types of cancers of the cervix, vagina and vulva. Other types could cause genital warts in both males and females.

Symptoms of HPV normally appear in the form of cauliflower-like growths called genital warts. These growths may take weeks or even years to show after having sex with an infected partner. It is possible to have HPV without knowing it.

The best way to be sure that a person gets the most benefit from HPV vaccination is to complete the vaccine series before sexual activity begins. The HPV vaccines do not prevent all types of cervical cancer or other types of sexually transmitted diseases. It is important for women to continue routine cervical cancer screenings.

Interested beneficiaries should speak with their healthcare provider to learn more about the HPV vaccine and how it may protect them and their children. To learn more about military vaccines, visit MILVAX’s website, <http://www.vaccines.mil/>, and click “Vaccines and Diseases”. For more information on HPV vaccines, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/vaccine.html>.

## Centerspeak

### How are you going to honor veterans during Veterans Day weekend?

*Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.*



LANCE CPL. JOSHUA WATSON  
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO., 3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

“Call my dad and grandfather, because they are both veterans.”



MAJ. REGGIE LEWIS  
TACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP

“I am going to take my family and volunteer at a VA hospital for a few hours.”



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS  
SERVANDO QUINONES  
3RD DENTAL CO.

“Hanging out with buddies who I deployed with and having a barbeque.”



PFC. KEVIN CABAN  
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

“Going to a barbecue and then paint balling.”

## Hot Topics

### FAMILY CARE CRAFT FAIR

Local artisans will be selling their latest creations during the 9th annual Family Care Craft Fair at the Combat Center’s Community Center tomorrow. There will be a bake sale and raffles. For more information, call 910-9028.

### TURKEY SHOOT

Desert Winds Golf Course is hosting a four person scramble tournament Nov. 19. Four people can sign up as a team, or individuals can sign up to be placed on a team. The \$45 fee includes greens, carts, range, balls, food and a chance to win a Thanksgiving turkey. For information, call 830-6132.

### AEROBICS MARATHON

The Combat Center’s East Gym Fitness Center is hosting an aerobics marathon Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those interested can spend the day at the marathon or participate in any number of classes. Snacks will be provided. For information, call 830-3381.

### TOYS FOR TOTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

The eighth annual Toys For Tots Golf Tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course is scheduled for Dec. 1. Participants should bring an unwrapped toy valued at \$10 or more. A donation of \$10 is also acceptable. \$50 per player includes green fees, cart rental and lunch. For more information, contact Ken Tyree at 830-6480; Dennis Foster at 830-4454; Wendy Chavez at 830-6100; or Connie Larson at 830-4596. Enter by Nov. 24.

### Marine Corps History

#### Nov. 10, 1775

This date marked the first formal commemoration of the Marine Corps Birthday as Nov. 10.

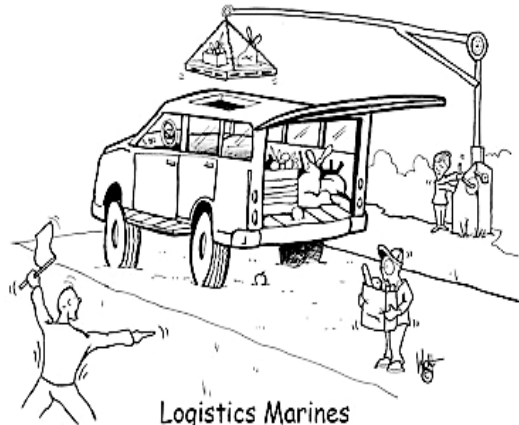


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1. Surveillance
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3. Tests of security
4. Acquiring supplies
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6. Trial runs
7. Deploying assets

830-3937

"Operation Commissary is a GO!!!..Steady...., UP...Steady...., Good...! NOW,...You there,..."Cargo Transporter"...., proceed to the pantry!!"



Logistics Marines

SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

## SUDOKU #1990

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4					3		5	
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	2	4			6		1	
	3		5					7
	9			4			6	

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## SOMETHING’S BREWING

[Puzzle solutions on A4]

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57				58			59	60			61	62	63	
64			65			66					67			
68						69					70			
71						72					73			

### ACROSS

1. Former TV show host Downs
5. Pianist Gilels
9. Cracks the books
14. It’s east of the Urals
- 15.Foreign: Prefix
- 16.Welles or Bean
- 17.Dudley Do-Right’s girl
- 18.Concerning
- 19.Ship in the news in 1898
- 20.Consideration in a football trade, maybe
- 23.Surname ascribed to an unknown
- 24.W.C. Fields persona
- 25.Musical acuity
- 26.Go off course
- 27.Dance performances, e.g
- 32.Neither’s partner
- 34.Word form for “twenty”
- 35.“Cat On \_\_\_ Tin Roof”
- 37.On vacation
- 41.Repressed anger, et al.
- 44.Roy Rogers’s real surname
- 45.Move, in Realtor lingo
- 46.A way to order ham
- 47.Sacrifice-fly stat
- 49.Hiking boots, e.g
- 51.Scale divs.
- 54.Hosp. section
- 56.Stephen of “Bad Behaviour”
- 57.Flight from justice
- 58.Waiting-room entertainment, perhaps
- 64.Taken \_\_\_ (surprised)
- 66.Quaff with sushi
- 67.The Mideast’s \_\_\_ Strip
- 68.An Osmond
- 69.At all times
- 70.Cupid’s counter-part
- 71.Furrier John Jacob
- 72.Tracy’s Trueheart
- 73.Marquis de \_\_\_

### DOWN

1. Round of applause
2. Manipulative one
3. \_\_\_ monster (large lizard)
4. Extended-family member
5. \$2 window option
6. Fit together, as gears
7. Division word
8. Sarge’s superior
9. The Joker portrayer
- 10.Mound stat
- 11.Comment to the audience
- 12.Blood giver
- 13.Villainous look
- 21.Wreck beyond repair
- 22.Bel \_\_\_ (operatic style)
- 27.Barbecue entrée
- 28.Environmental sci.
- 29.Cosmetics name
- 30.Fill with cargo
- 31.Book holder

- 33.Precipitation measurers
- 36.Melville classic of 1847
- 38.Had on
- 39.“Dragonwyck” author Seton
- 40.River of Belgium
- 42.Novelist Jong
- 43.Tribal symbol
- 48.Quarrel
- 50.Picks from the menu
- 51.Andean pack animal
- 52.Alcoholic cakes
- 53.Like some bombs and cards
- 55.Like fresh concrete
- 59.Basilica center
60. \_\_\_ out a living
- 61.Poet Teasdale
- 62.Shirt with a reptilian logo, once
- 63.Four six-packs
- 65.AFL’s partner

## OBSERVATION POST

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### Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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SJA CORNER

SCRA enhanced

CAPT. DAVID SEGRAVES

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Whether it is breaking a lease for a PCS move or postponing court matters while deployed, many Marines have sought the protections of the Service members Civil Relief Act. Oct. 13, the current administration passed public law 111-275, titled the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, which enhanced the rights of veterans under the SCRA. The law added protections for breaking leases, the ability to terminate portions of cellular phone "family plans," and provided new provisions for enforcing rights under the act.

The new law amended Section 305(e) of the SCRA and prohibits landlords or car lessors from charging early termination fees when a lease is terminated under the act.

The SCRA now invalidates any provisions explicitly providing for early termination fees in leases. However, this provision also applies to landlords who seek to recover some sort of "move-in special" where they provided reduced rent or free rent.

If a landlord tries to recoup this money, a tenant needs to send a letter to the landlord addressing it as an early termination fee and citing public law

See SJA, A7



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Colonel William F. Mullen, the commanding officer of the Marine Corps Tactical Operations Training Group, addresses the newest graduating class Nov. 5 aboard the Combat Center. The goal of MCTOG is to train operations chiefs and officers for future engagements and operating environments.

VMU-1 keeps tradition alive



DIANE DURDEN

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's oldest Marine, Staff Sgt. Marcus Brown, holds the cake while the youngest Marine, Pfc. Michael Monagham, takes a bite. Tradition dictates the two Marines share the first piece of cake signifying the passing of knowledge and experience from one generation to the next. The Marines and family members gathered Wednesday to celebrate the Marine Corps' 325th Birthday with a cake cutting and barbecue lunch.

MCTOG, from A1

be more improved." Students who recently graduated the course recognized its toughness, as well as the quality of education they received. "The course represented real-life scenarios very well," said Capt. Jacob Butz, the operations officer for First Tank Battalion and a native of Montvale, N.J. They stress the process of coordination between sections during planning and execution of an operation, severe time restraints to make it more realistic, he said. Master Gunnery Sgt. Dennis F. Stiebler, the School of Infantry East chief instructor for the infantry operations chief course, said the communication and planning instruc-

tions they received helped him to see things from a different point of view. "I'm an enlisted man; I don't think or do things like an officer," the Marathon, Wis., native said. "They showed us the big picture, and that helped us gain insight into how commanders operate and see things." Stiebler added the course is important to attend, and it filled in gray areas in his field of work, and provided a wealth of knowledge, making it a great experience for those who attend. The 102 Marines and civilian employees of MCTOG will be putting the critiques and expanded knowledge to use in the future as they prepare for another three classes this fiscal year.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

A graduate of the Marine Corps Tactical Operations Training Group leaves with his diploma Nov. 5 during their graduation ceremony. The class trains operations officers and enlisted chiefs in how to fluidly run their battalions' training and future operations.

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**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**

A large group of military personnel, including sailors, Marines, and soldiers in various uniforms (dress, combat, and historical), posing for a group photo in front of a building with many flags.

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**

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**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**

*PRESS CHIEF/EDITOR*

Hundreds of Marines, sailors, family members and members of the local community showed up to kick off the 235th Marine Corps Birthday season with the Combat Center's annual Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 5.

The pageant, which featured Marine uniforms from 1775 to present, is a "crucial" part of celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday because it reminds Marines of where they came from, said 1st Sgt. Nelson Hidalgo, the first sergeant for Company B, Headquarters Battalion. He also mentioned that, for junior Marines, having the uniforms in front of them, modeled by fellow Marines, can help bring that history to life.

"We get wrapped up in the modern-day Marine Corps," Hidalgo said. "But, when we actually touch it, feel it, see it, we learn from it a lot better."

The pageant is for all Marines, young and old, past and present, said Hidalgo, recalling a conversation he had with a Vietnam veteran during last year's pageant.

“He was on the verge of tears,” Hidalgo said. “He talked about all the negativity they received when they

got back home, and how the little things, like the pageant...bring the good things they did over there to light."

Standing amongst the Marines in their period-specific uniforms was a single sailor, representing the Navy Corpsmen and members of the Chaplain's Corps who serve alongside their Marine counterparts.

"I treat them as my brothers," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Bryan Smith, a Combat Center corpsman, referring to Marines. "There's only one corpsman to 20 Marines [while forward deployed]. We're treated just like Marines when we're out there."

While the pageant itself lasted about an hour, the preparation has been weeks in the making.

Aside from the usual logistical considerations of when and where, pageant planners also have to assess what uniforms they have, what they need to complete partial ones and finding Marines who fit the uniforms, as they can't be tailored to fit.

"There is a lot of scrounging and collecting," said Hidalgo, from Long Island, N.Y. "But, it's all worth it in the end."

## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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## SUDOKU

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7	9	1	8	4	2	3	6	5



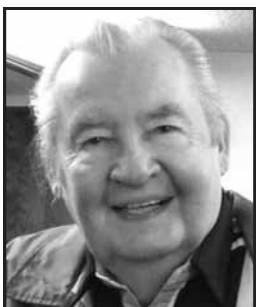
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*by Lou Gerhardt*

*by Lou Gerhardt*



Eli did it again! Last year it was Eli Marshall, owner of Marshall Networking, Twentynine Palms who donated 500 turkeys for the food give-away in Twentynine Palms at Thanksgiving. And now he has repeated that extremely generous gift this year. (Two years ago he donated 300 turkeys.)

When I asked Eli about his motivation he told me that he knows that people are hungry and he simply wants to be of help. What a man!

Eli is my kind of tough minded optimist. He understands the seriousness of the matter but he believes that if we all work together with a generous spirit and a positive attitude we can alleviate a bad situation.

Eli is a computer brain. He knows all about them. He also knows all about computer networking, phone systems, graphic design and other pragmatic matters. He is the only fully qualified representative of APPLE in the Morongo Basin

On the other hand, Eli is a family man with deep love and concern for all people everywhere, especially right here in the high desert.

Eli is the president of the board of his local Youth Club, a leader in one of Southern California's finest non-profits, Dare 2 Care, and a member of the Board of the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce.

Eli is the kind of person who makes it a joy to live in the High Desert.

*This message sponsored by:*

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FALLEN, from A1

the commanding officer's Personal Security Detail. Cueto was hit when an improvised explosive device detonated during a patrol. Cueto was not married.

Patino IV, 22, of Orange, Calif., served as a scout sniper with Weapons Co. With a majority of his company

pinned down during a fire-fight, Patino was caught in the crossfire as he ran to engage the enemy fire. Patino is survived by his wife, Jamie Burns.

Newton, 21, of Creve Coeur, Ill., served with Co. I as a basic rifleman. On Aug. 23, Newton was digging for a possible IED and was struck by a single gunshot from deep in the cornfield to his west,

where an insurgent was hiding. Newton was not married.

"I tell you with confidence, that this mission is relevant, and these men gave their precious lives [in] actions that directly impact this country's freedoms," said Lt. Col. Clay Tipton, the commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 7th Marines. "Were they alone? These fallen men were

in a company of men that shared a sacred bond."

Tears streamed down the faces of the families in the stands and the echo of the Marines' names seemed to pierce their hearts when final role call was sounded and as Tipton waited for a reply that never came.

Hundreds came to honor the fallen with salutes, prayers and tears after the ceremony.

Tipton also ensured three others who had served alongside 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, and who also gave their lives, were remembered and recognized for their sacrifices: Cpl. Christopher Boyd, of 2nd Bn. 4th Marines; Staff Sgt. Michael Bock, of 3rd Combat Engineer Bn.; and Lance Cpl. Ralph Fabbri, from 1st Marine Division Combat Camera.

Tipton left a note of encouragement for the Marines present, who now stood solemn-faced and silent.

"I am confident each fallen Marine wants you to live your life to the fullest, live with your head high and chest out, not to let the death of these men overcome your ability to live out a happy and peaceful life."




LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine pauses to remember a fallen brother from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Nov. 5 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.


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Wishes A

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**United States Marine Corps**  
**Facts**

Formal commemoration of the Marine Corps birthday began on Nov. 10, 1921. Until then, it was celebrated on another date. On Oct. 21, 1921, Maj. Edwin McClellan, Officer-in-Charge, Historical Section, Headquarters Marine Corps, sent a memorandum to Maj. Gen. Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday on 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps.

Nearly 300 Marines have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor. The first was Cpl. John F. Mackie in 1862 and the most recent was Cpl. Jason L. Dunham of the 7th Marine Regiment out of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 2004. The regiment also boasts the most Medal of Honor winners in the Corps, at 36.

Marine Corps identification tags, known as dog tags, have been used by the Corps since 1916 to identify Marines who fall in battle and secure a suitable burial for them.

The famous line, "Once a Marine, Always as Marine" is credited to Master Sgt. Paul Woyshner, a 40-year Marine, who is said to have said it during a taproom argument with a discharged Marine.

Women became a permanent part of the Marine Corp on June 12, 1948, when Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 625), but they'd already proven themselves in World Wars I and II.

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Local elementary schoolers check out Marine uniforms from the 1700s and 1800s during the Combat Center's Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 5.



Lance Cpl. Sebastian Baton, who represents Marines who served in the Persian Gulf during the 1990s, shares a bit of information about the history of the Marines who wore the uniform he is displaying during the Combat Center's Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 5.

Gumpathon runners help celebrate birthday



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Five British service members and one U.S. Marine from the Gumpathon running team made a pit stop to Twentynine Palms to celebrate the Marine Corps' 235th Birthday during a Combat Center uniform pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 5. "We were always hoping to run through Twentynine Palms," said Claire Worsley, the project and sponsorship manager for the run. "We just celebrated the Royal Marines' [Oct. 28] birthday, so it seemed logical to come help celebrate the USMC birthday." The team ran more than 3,500 miles across the states to raise money for both countries' military services. The journey was also a personal one for the runners. "I lost a lot of mates in Afghanistan, Royal Marines and paratroopers alike," said British Army Staff Sgt. James Mazzoni-Dalton, a runner who is in the British Army Physical Training Corps. "This was a chance to give something back to the men and women who have paid the ultimate cost." The team ended their run Thursday at Santa Monica, Calif. For more information on the Gumpathon, visit their website at [www.thegumpathon.com](http://www.thegumpathon.com).



SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

Brigadier Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, the Combat Center's commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. Harrison L. Tanksley, the installation sergeant major, share a laugh during pageant rehearsal at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 4.

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**Skyview Chapel Church of God**  
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10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.  
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.  
7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree  
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Church (760) 366-9119

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111-275.

The new law also provides cellular phone users with additional protections when executing PCS orders and when attempting to cancel their part of a "family plan."

The new law modified Section 305A of the SCRA to allow servicemembers to cancel contracts when their cellular phone carrier does not support their new location.

The section also now allows for "family plans" to be terminated as to service members and anyone else in the family plan that accompanies the service member on a qualifying relocation.

Easily, the most powerful addition to the SCRA was the new title added.

Under Title VIII – Civil

Liability, the Attorney General may pursue actions against any person who engages in a pattern or practice of violating the SCRA. In other words, the Attorney General's office can bring the full weight of the government to bear on anyone who significantly violates the rights of service members under the SCRA.

However, the amendments continue to provide even greater remedies for aggrieved servicemembers.

The new section 802 of the SCRA explicitly provides for a private right of action for service members who have had their rights under the SCRA violated. It also provides the court with the ability to award attorneys' fees and court costs. Finally, the new section 803

reserves the ability for service members to seek punitive damages for violations of their rights. While a service member may not be able to get the Attorney General to take a case, many civilian attorneys will likely be willing to take a SCRA violation case on a contingency fee basis now that they know they have the opportunity to make the violator pay attorneys' fees.

Those who would violate servicemembers' rights often do not keep track of the law. The key is to know your rights and to cite the law and specifically show how the violations apply. If you need help in drafting a communication referencing the SCRA or its new enhanced protections, the Legal Assistance Office can provide guidance.

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**The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.**

Trader Ad forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417. Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used

only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

**Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.**

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-6213.



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# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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## Commandant leads birthday run



SGT. KUANDE HALL

General James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, sergeant major of the Marine Corps lead a formation run of more than 400 Marines on the Marine Corps' 235th birthday Nov. 10. Amos spoke to the Marines at the Marine Corps War Memorial and said no matter the clime or place Marines have always found time to celebrate their birthday.

## Marine Toys for Tots helps local community

**LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The holiday season is fast approaching, and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has been working hard to gather gifts for children who would otherwise go without presents this year.

Toys for Tots began collecting toys Oct. 1, and plan s to continue working with local businesses to collect toys until Dec. 22.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a non-profit charity organization that funds and organizes "annual toy collection and distribution campaigns," according to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation official website.

There are drop-off locations at some local businesses in town and in the Main Exchange, said 1st Sgt. Brian O'Toole, the inspector instructor first sergeant for Company D, 4th Tank Battalion, who helped organize the Combat Center's toys for Tots campaign.

"We are asking for new and

unwrapped toys for donations," added the Long Island, New York, native.

Some local businesses also accept cash donations, said O'Toole. "There is a list of Toys for Tots collect points at the Toys for Tots website."

Combat Center Marines helped make a happy Christmas for 16,000 children last year and is hoping to help at least that many this year, O'Toole added.

To accomplish this , the organization does more than just set out collections boxes at local businesses to gather toys.

"We support events out in the communities," O'Toole said. "We send out a few Marines in dress blues, toy collection boxes and red ammo cans. People who show up usually know in advance to bring a toy or they just feel generous while they are there they can drop money in the box."

The Marines supported more than 80 events last year, and 50 so far this year. They still are receiving calls every day, O'Toole said.

"The people like having



NATHAN L. HANKS JR.

Marines in dress blues will accept new, unwrapped toys as well as cash donations at various collection points including the Albany Mall, Sam's Club, Kmart, Home Depot and Wal-Mart.

Marines around, talking to them and supporting the Toys for Tots campaign," he said. "Last year we received great feedback about the Marines in events."

Families in need of help from the Toys for Tots program in the Morongo, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms areas

can call the hotline from Dec. 1-15, from 9 a.m. to 3p.m., to sign up for the service. The numbers are 830-8936, 830-0984 and 830-8878.

For more information on the Marine Toys for Tots program, log onto <http://www.toysfortots.org>, or call 830-0988 for the local control station.

## Combat Center takes on marathon

**DIANE DURDEN**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

On Sunday, runners from all over the globe, including several from the Combat Center, toed the starting line of the 35th Marine Corps Marathon.

Although the starting gun sounded at 7 a.m., the marathon truly began months before.

Training for a marathon requires months of training which often begins long before runners can register for the event itself.

For many runners, the decision to subject themselves to the 26.2-mile-long commitment can seem a bit overwhelming. For several Combat Center runners, the commitment and preparation leading up to marathon morning was only a small part of their experience.

"It's our nation's capital," said Jackie Cooper, an Marine Corps Community Services employee. "It's a way to show support for our veterans." This was Cooper's second marathon. She finished in five hours and 50 minutes.

First-time marathoner Lt. Col. James McArthur, the Assistant Chief of Staff for the G-3, hadn't decided to run the marathon until just a few months ago.

As a Marine, he said he felt it appropriate to run the Marine Corps Marathon. McArthur finished the marathon in five hours and 50 minutes.

Before the marathon, McArthur was adamant about not running another one.

But when asked via e-mail after the marathon about running another one, he replied with an enthusiastic, "I

See MARATHON, B4



COURTESY PHOTO

Lieutenant Col. James McArthur, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, and Jackie Cooper, a Marine Corps Community Services employee, smile at their accomplishment after completing the Marine Corps Marathon.



DIANE DURDEN

Each runners' reward for crossing the finish line is having a young second lieutenant place a finisher's medal around their neck.

## Softball competition continues to heat up



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A member of the Drama Killers team slides into second base, only to be forced out by a member of the K's Buy team during a Co-ed Softball League game Tuesday at Felix Field.

See more softball photos on page B3





Combat Center Clubs

**Excursions Enlisted Club**  
Fridays: Social food, 5 to 7 p.m.; Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m.; Ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m.; DJ Vlad, 8 to 11 p.m.  
Saturdays: Variety Night with DJ Gjettblaque  
Sundays: Football coverage, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Mondays: Monday Night Football with free hot dogs or chili dogs, 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Karaoke with DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

**Bloodstripes NCO Club**  
Mondays: Monday Night Football with free hot dogs or chili dogs, 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Italian sausage with peppers & onions, green salad. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club**  
Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Social hour 5:30 p.m., DJ, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Mondays: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.  
Monday-Friday: All Hands Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Karaoke, 5 to 7 p.m.

**Combat Center's Officers' Club**  
Mondays: Monday Night Football, 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

**Thunderado followed by Death on Two Wheels**  
Description: A 'double header' concert  
When: 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12  
**Biker Larry and the Black Rope**  
Description: Playing Johnny Cash to the Clash  
When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13  
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown  
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

**A Celebration of the last Harry Potter novel**  
Description: Games, activities, crafts & refreshments  
When: 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16  
Where: Yucca Valley Branch Library  
57098 Twentynine Palms Highway (on Dumosa Avenue just north of the highway) Yucca Valley  
For more information call 228-5455.

**Old School House Lecture Series**  
Description: The topic is "Physical Science Research in Joshua Tree National Park  
When: 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12  
Where: The Old School House Museum  
6760 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms  
For more information call 367-2366 or visit <http://www.29palmshistorical.com>

Lower Desert

**Bill Engvall**  
Description: The "Blue Collar" comedian performs  
When: 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Neil Sedaka**  
Description: The pop star performs his hits  
When: 8 p.m., Satuday, Nov. 27  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella  
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

**760 Christmas Show**  
Description: Featuring Ice Cube, Ray J. Royalty & more  
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Jay Leno**  
Description: The tonight show host performs stand-up  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 15  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

**Friday, Nov. 12**  
6 p.m. – You Again, Rated PG  
9 p.m. – Devil, Rated PG-13  
Midnight – The American, Rated R

**Saturday, Nov. 13**  
11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Last Airbender, Rated PG  
2 p.m. – Legend of the Guardians, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Easy A, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Resident Evil: Afterlife, Rated R  
Midnight – The Town, Rated R

**Sunday, Nov. 14**  
11 a.m. – Legend of the Guardians, Rated PG  
2 p.m. – Alpha & Omega, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Wall Street Money Never Sleeps, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – My Soul to Take, Rated R

**Monday, Nov. 15**  
6 p.m. – The American, Rated R  
8 p.m. – Resident Evil: Afterlife, Rated R

**Tuesday, Nov. 16**  
6 p.m. – You Again, Rated PG  
8 p.m. – The Town, Rated R

**Wednesday, Nov. 17**  
6 p.m. – Devil, Rated PG-13  
8 p.m. – My Soul to Take, Rated R

**Thursday, Nov. 18**  
6 p.m. – Resident Evil: Afterlife, Rated R  
8 p.m. – The American, Rated R

## Buckle up for grown-up guffaws in ‘Due Date’

NEIL POND  
AMERICAN PROFILE

“Due Date”  
Rated R

In a year short on guffaws for grownups, you can finally buckle up for bust-out-lauding movie comedy. In “Due Date,” Robert Downey Jr. and Zack Galifianakis play grounded air travelers tossed together for a bumpy cross-country road trip from Atlanta to Los Angeles. Downey’s character, Peter, is a harried married businessman trying to get home for the birth of his first child. Galifianakis plays Ethan, a prissy wannabe actor with his clueless sights set on stardom in “Two and a Half Men.”

The wacky wheels start rolling – and soon start falling off – as Ethan gets both himself and Peter placed on the airlines’ no-fly list. Against his better instincts (and in a bind without his wallet), Peter agrees to share Ethan’s rental car. Away we go! It’s an R-rated romp, but a tad less raunchy – if such things can be quantified – than the breakout comedy from last year, “The Hangover,” from the same



COURTESY PHOTO

In “Due Date,” Robert Downey Jr. and Zack Galifianakis play grounded air travelers tossed together for a bumpy cross-country road trip from Atlanta to Los Angeles.

director, Todd Phillips. That movie also happened to put Galifianakis’ name on the Hollywood hot list. Burly, bearded and at ease with all sorts of buffoonery, he continues to be a gold mine of gross-out giggles. And Downey, not necessarily known as a comedic actor, certainly more than holds his own when the funny starts flying. Other familiar faces, including Juliette Lewis and

Jamie Foxx, crop up briefly, but Downey and Galifianakis carry the movie from start to finish. Every scene spins around them, and they both look like they’re having a blast, spitting out the script’s hilarious one-liners and bouncing from one frantic antic to the next.

This odd couple’s escalating misadventures include a side trip for Ethan to purchase “glaucoma medication,” an assault by a disgruntled, wheelchair-bound Western Union employee, a daring escape from a Mexico border crossing and various gaffes (including a comedy staple, the “spit take”) built around a coffee can containing the cremated ashes of Ethan’s father. There’s also a scene that can’t be detailed in a family newspaper, but it involves Ethan’s ritual for getting to sleep, and his little dog doing the same thing.

Behind the wild humor, however, is a warm heart. It’s no surprise that Peter and Ethan become soul mates through the ordeal they share, particularly when the movie taps into the recurring theme of fatherhood. It’s never sticky-sweet, but it warms up the wit with a welcome human touch of sentimentality. It’s hard to miss the overtones of a certain other “road trip” comedy. Back in 1987, Steve Martin and John Candy were the thrown-together road companions, united by comedic circumstance and Thanksgiving travel plans. “Planes, Trains and Automobiles” may have gotten there first. But Downey and Galifianakis start this year’s movie countdown to Christmas ho-ho-ho’s with a solid round of rousing ha-ha-ha’s. Leave the kiddies at home and get ready to laugh.



COURTESY PHOTO

Galifianakis’ character, Ethan, gets both himself and Downey’s character, Peter, placed on the airlines’ no-fly list. Against his better instincts Peter agrees to share Ethan’s rental car.

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15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
7:00	7:10	7:15
7:50	7:50	8:30

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway
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10:40	10:45	11:00
11:10	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30
*4:40	*4:45	*5:00
*5:10	*5:10	*5:45

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
12:00	12:10	12:15
12:50	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15
*6:50	*6:50	*7:35

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COURTESY PHOTO

It’s no surprise that Peter and Ethan become soul mates through the ordeal they share, particularly when the movie taps into the recurring theme of fatherhood.

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LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON  
A player from the Sticks and Chicks team bats the ball during a Co-ed Softball League game against the Scared Hitless team Tuesday at Felix Field. Sticks and Chicks won by 10 runs.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON  
Lindsey James, a player for the Scared Hitless team, takes a stride toward first base but is stopped by the first basemen for the Sticks and Chicks team, who forces James out during a Co-ed Softball League game Tuesday at Felix Field.

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Runners cross the coveted finish line after 26.2 miles during the Marine Corps Marathon in Washinton, D.C. Oct. 31.

MARATHON, from B1

WILL DO ANOTHER MARATHON!!! It was extremely exciting and a rewarding experience.” Running the marathon was a challenge Lynda Rummel, a Marine wife and M CCS employee, took on with her cousin, Gunnery Sgt. Darrel Boatman, whom Rummel describes as her pro-

tector growing up. They were going to put themselves through the highs, lows and the pain together. When he was killed in Iraq, she decided they would still run it together. Before the race she remembers asking him to be the wind pushing her along, a teary-eyed Rummel said. Rummel completed the marathon in four hours and 27 minutes, improving

her time from her first marathon in June, in spite of her cousin’s efforts. “It’s like he was there in front of me blowing the wind in my face, saying ‘ha ha.’” Editor’s Note: Plans for next year’s marathon are already in place. The countdown to registration is also already on the marathon’s website, <http://www.marinemarathon.com>.

Athlete of the Week



**Name:** Danielle Smith  
**Hometown:** Pittsburg, Pa.  
**Unit:** West Gym, Marine Corps Community Services  
**Recognition:** 3rd baseman for the undefeated Dram Killers Co-ed Softball League team  
**Favorite aspect of the sport:** “The competition and being part of a team.”  
**Advice for aspiring players:** “Don’t give up; stick with what you love.”

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