

## For Country, For Corps

### Combat Center Marine awarded Navy Cross



PHOTOS BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA



**[Top]** Gunnery Sgt. Richard A. Jibson, Battle Staff Training Program team member, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, stands before a crowd of Marines, sailors, and their family members during a Navy Cross award ceremony held at Lance Corporal Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday. **[Above]** Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Commanding General, addresses the crowd during the Navy Cross award ceremony for Gunnery Sgt. Richard A. Jibson, Tuesday.

#### Cpl. Charles Santamaria Combat Correspondent

The amount of thoughts that can run through a Marine's mind in a firefight can be overwhelming. The strain put on a Marine leading others in battle can be even more intense, but being able to direct the fire and maneuver of Marines and foreign military while under enemy fire is a challenge and stress that is difficult to match. Throughout multiple engagements, which spanned five hours, Gunnery Sgt. Richard A. Jibson, Battle Staff Training Program team member, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, left covered positions and crossed open terrain several times under small arms and machine gun fire to provide suppressive fire and support which inspired his men.

Jibson was awarded the Navy Cross Medal during an award ceremony at Lance Corporal Torrey L. Gray Field Tuesday. Jibson was awarded for his actions while deployed to Afghanistan with Regimental Combat Team 6, serving as an infantry advisor to a Georgian Liaison Team.

Jibson was leading a coalition force, which consisted of Afghan, Georgian, and United States personnel, during the clearing of an Afghan village May 28, 2012. At first contact with the enemy, Jibson unhesitatingly took charge of the coalition force as the senior enlisted personnel present.

"I'm not a superhero, I was just doing my job and I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the outstanding group of men I was with," Jibson said. "Knowing the Marines throughout history who have been awarded the Navy Cross, it is an extreme honor to be receiving it. I just hope that I'm able to walk and fit in the shoes that those before me have filled."

Jibson's first two deployments were with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to Iraq in 2003 and 2004. In March 2005 he became an instructor for the School of Infantry — East and held several billets in his time there. After being an instructor, Jibson was assigned to 2nd Tank Battalion with whom he deployed to

See AWARD, A6

### New adult clinic coming to base

**Dave Marks**  
 Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital

A ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new Adult Medical Care Clinic aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center April 22. This new \$18.7 million, 45,000 sq. ft. medical facility will deliver quality healthcare for all active duty members aboard the Combat Center.

"This will be a modern, state-of-art medical building that will be fully up to standards for accreditation, just the same as any other hospital in the United States," said Navy Capt. Jay Sourbeer, commanding officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

The new facility will integrate both the Navy and Marine Corps Medical Home Port Model of care,

*"We'll have physical therapy and optometry sections. All of the services we need will be here."*

— Lt. Ashley Robertson

which involves each patient being assigned to a team comprised of doctors, nurses, hospital corpsmen, and administrative support staff. The MHP concept is about building the patient/provider relationship, enhancing communication, and meeting the majority of urgent health care needs within the team. The new AMCC will offer comprehensive care that includes: primary care, mental health, physical therapy, and ancillary services. The AMCC in conjunction with the MHP model will maximize efficiencies by co-locating services which are currently fragmented into 11 locations across the Combat Center, thus creating a one-stop shop. The AMCC directly supports the Naval Hospital's mission of readiness by providing healthcare to all active duty troops, so they are medically ready to deploy when needed.

"The new AMCC is going to

See CLINIC, A6

## Earth

### Day



CPL. ALI AZIMI

### Service members, community clean up local area

**Cpl. Ali Azimi**  
 Combat Correspondent

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. — The Morongo Basin is home to dozens of species of animals, insects and plant life. The Combat Center is located in the middle of this delicate system and is dedicated to its preservation. In celebration of Earth Day, the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA partnered with the Mojave Desert Land Trust and Morongo Basin Transit Authority for a cleanup project in Joshua Tree.

More than 120 Marines, families, kids and local citizens volunteered to help clean up the Gateway Parcel,

Saturday. The event drew local residents and Combat Center service members, some of which were able to attend the event because of the services provided by the MBTA.

Section 33 was purchased through a partnership of the Combat Center and MDLT one year ago and has been preserved as a site for the community to enjoy.

"We gathered here today to clean and restore this land which often has trash blowing on it," said Danielle Segura, executive director, MDLT. "There are more than a dozen species of animals, from insects to bobcats. As we're out on

See EARTH DAY, A6



Pfc. Justin Ralph, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, squeezes stress ball to create better blood flow during a blood donation event hosted by Headquarters Battalion and Desert Blood Services at the base catholic chapel, Tuesday.

### Service members donate blood

Story and photo by **Cpl. Charles Santamaria**

Headquarters Battalion, along with Desert Blood Services, hosted a blood drive at the base catholic chapel Tuesday. Desert Blood visits the Combat Center frequently to offer service members and Combat Center patrons an opportunity to donate their blood.

Their services are offered to a different unit each time in the hopes that the opportunity to donate is as available as possible. Each event has a goal they strive to meet. The goal for the event on Tuesday was 20 people. Each blood donor gives approximately one pint at the end of each drawing.

Anyone interested must meet

certain criteria to be eligible to donate. Some of the disqualifications are no tattoos within the last year or anyone who weighs less than 110 pounds. These requirements, among others, must be met to insure that it is safe for the participant to donate and that the blood being given to someone who needs it won't be harmed.

For questions about donating or to see when the next available opportunity to donate is, contact the Desert Blood Service offices at 760-830-8844. You can also look up information about blood donations or the organization at [www.desertbloodservices.org](http://www.desertbloodservices.org).

# Corps' top shooters compete in 2014 Marine Corps Match Championships

**Sgt. Alicia R. Leaders**  
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — In the cold, windy rain, Marines tried to keep a stable position as they held a 17-pound rifle and aimed for center mass. Hitting center mass wasn't always the outcome, but few Marines were able to gain stability and earned gold, silver and bronze medals.

The Marine Corps' top shooters from around the world gathered at the Weapons Training Battalion range at Stone Bay to compete in the 2014 Marine Corps Match Championships, April 14-16.

"At the matches, we are trying to make Marines the best marksman they can be for the competition," said Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Lindeman, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the pistol team, Weapons Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. "Another reason why (the Marines' top shooters) are here is because the Marine Corps Shooting Teams are observing them and will potentially select them for the summer team to represent the Marine Corps in matches around the world."

Six division teams comprised of 84 Marines, from California, Hawaii, Virginia, Okinawa, and the Carolinas competed in three different categories. The individual rifle match, the individual pistol match, and the team rifle and pistol match.

During competition marksmanship, competitors are supplied with unique shooting jackets and non-slip leather rifle slings that provide additional stability, and long-distance scouting scopes to sight shots at distances more than 600 yards, Lindeman added.

Competitors used the National Match M16A4 service rifle with iron sights for the individual rifle match and team match, and shot from the 200-yard line, 300-yard line and 600-yard line. The

match rifle weighs approximately 17 pounds and has a stainless steel barrel with both weighted hand guards and butt stock.

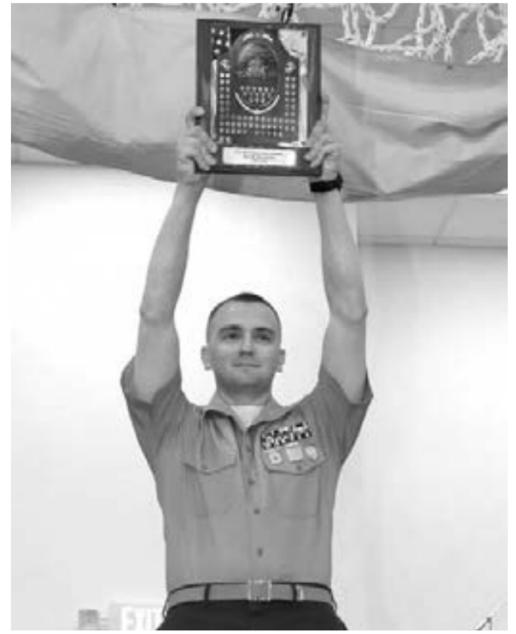
"I was confident going into the competition knowing it was going to be with the match rifle," said Sgt. Richard N. West, drill instructor from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Eastern Division Team. "I never knew a match rifle existed and that it was weighted, and knowing we were using iron sights, I knew I would shoot better. My confidence grew knowing that we were shooting with iron sights because it is easier to 'aim center, hit center.'"

At the pistol range, competitors fired the National Match M1911A1 .45 caliber pistol – one-handed, per competition rules. They started at the 50-yard line and fired 10 rounds in 10 minutes from the standing position. For the next stage, competitors remained in the standing and shot at the 25-yard line for the timed fire stage.

"Before the Marine Corps, I never shot a pistol, and then I qualified as sharpshooter in 2009 and never picked one up again," said West. "Going from 2009 to 2014, shooting a pistol one-handed, definitely added pressure. Pistol is more technical and there's a lot more room for error."

Shooting for competition doesn't come easy, especially in North Carolina. There are long hours six days out of the week, and the shooting continues no matter what the weather. Despite the long hours and wildly varying temperatures, West said he thoroughly enjoyed his experience from being able to take part in the competition.

"Overall, I learned a plethora of knowledge during my stay out at Stone Bay," said West. "There's more pride and more passion in shooting for competition. You definitely have to care about what you do and take pride in marksmanship to want to be here."



PHOTOS BY SGT. ALICIA R. LEADERS

Sgt. Wayne S. Gallagher, Western Division Team, receives the Lauchheimer plaque during the 2014 Marine Corps Match Championships Award Ceremony aboard the Weapons Training Battalion gym at Stone Bay, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 15.

The categories and results are as follows:

#### Individual Rifle

1st Gold – Lance Cpl. Brandon S. King,  
Western Division Team  
1st Silver – 2nd Lt. George Planeta,  
Western Division Team  
1st Bronze – 1st Sgt. Maurice S. Huffman,  
Marine Corps Forces Reserve Division Team

#### Individual Pistol

1st Gold – Gunnery Sgt. Barry A. Worster,  
Far East Division Team  
1st Silver – Cpl. Keith B. Earnshaw,  
Eastern Division Team  
1st Bronze – Cpl. Jeremy Q. Sleeman,  
Pacific Division Team

#### Team Rifle

1 – Western Division Team  
Lance Cpl. Brandon S. King  
Lance Cpl. James C. Pennington  
Cpl. Gerald B. Guerra  
Sgt. Wayne S. Gallagher  
Sgt. Rafael D. Salas  
2nd Lt. George Planeta

#### Team Pistol

1 – Western Division Team  
Cpl. James K. Marker  
Sgt. Wayne S. Gallagher  
Staff Sgt. Stephen T. Ferguson  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Duane S. Ledford



The National Match M1911 .45 caliber service pistol is used during the individual pistol portion of the 2014 Marine Corps Championships from April 14-16 aboard the Weapons Training Battalion ranges at Stone Bay, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. The individual pistol match is shot at the 25-yard line and 50-yard line, and must be shot one-handed.



Visit the official MCGCC  
facebook page at  
<http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

# Marine Infantryman gets chance to deploy



PHOTOS BY CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN

Lance Cpl. Kyler Nielson, rifleman and mine sweeper, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is currently deployed to Sangin, Afghanistan, for his first time. Nielson, a native of Las Vegas, enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 17. He departed for recruit training a month after graduating high school and was set on becoming an infantryman.

## Cpl. Joseph Scanlan Combat Correspondent

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SABIT QADAM, Afghanistan – Earned by few, envied by many, the title Marine appeals to individuals in several different ways. The prestige of the Marine Corps especially appealed to one individual when he enlisted at the age of 17.

“There are a lot of people who have given their lives for this country,” said Lance Cpl. Kyler Nielson, rifleman and mine sweeper, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. “I feel like it is my duty to serve my country as an able and physically fit individual.”

Nielson, a native of Las Vegas, made a bold decision to fight the War on Terrorism as a Marine infantryman immediately after graduating high school.

“I initially thought about becoming a Marine during my sophomore year in high school,” Nielson said. “My best friend’s brother was a Marine. He told me about how he provided security for President George W. Bush, and after hearing about the other cool things he had done, it had a big influence on me wanting to become a Marine.”

Nielson grew up with a very competitive attitude in several sports to include baseball, football, basketball, wrestling and mixed martial arts. A daunting competition awaited him at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

Nielson departed for recruit training a month after graduating high school, then he underwent training at the School of Infantry – West. Midway through his training, he was given the option whether to become a rifleman, machine gunner, mortarman, assaultman or an anti-tank missileman. He chose to become a rifleman, the jack of all trades.

During his time at SOI, Nielson was told combat deployments were ending and he would not get the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was disappointing news because one of his main reasons for enlisting was to fight the War on Terrorism. After graduating from SOI, he received orders to C Co., 1/7, where he learned the

information he had been given was not entirely true.

He began a rigorous predeployment training schedule shortly after arriving to the battalion. Nielson trained at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, and completed a Mission Rehearsal Exercise and Integrated Training Exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

He set himself above his peers during the training evolutions, and became the bearer of the “Suicide” Charley guidon, a relic that has been passed down in the company since the Guadalcanal campaign during World War II. Charley Co. is the sole company in the Marine Corps that is allowed to display and carry a second guidon.

“Nielson is a Marine who doesn’t take any shortcuts,” said Cpl. Jared Swiggard, Nielson’s fire team leader and a native of Manchester, N.H. “His performance exceeds what is expected of him, and it’s been that way since he arrived at Charley Co. Even during his own time, he goes out of his way to learn infantry tactics. If something were to happen to me, he would be the one to take control of the fire team.”

Since arriving in Sangin, Afghanistan, Nielson has been manning security posts and assigned to a quick reaction force as the company prepares to turn over full security responsibilities of Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam to the Afghan National Army.

Aboard the FOB, Nielson does not get to experience many of the luxuries Marines have at larger bases throughout Afghanistan. Sleeping on a mattress, indoor plumbing, hot showers and three hot meals a day are nonexistent, but that does not hinder his motivation.

“I love being here in Sangin,” Nielson said. “I don’t need all of the nice things Marines have on Camp Leatherneck. It’s more of a brotherhood out here.”

Following his current deployment to Afghanistan, Nielson aspires to become a fire team leader and ultimately a squad leader. He is unsure whether or not he is going to make a career out of the Marine Corps, but his eventual goal is to earn a college degree in political science.



Lance Cpl. Kyler Nielson, rifleman and mine sweeper, C Co., 1/7, engages targets aboard Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, April 9. Shortly after arriving at 1/7, he began a rigorous predeployment training schedule before deploying to Afghanistan. His current mission with Charley Co. is to prepare the transfer of full security responsibilities of FOB Sabit Qadam to the Afghan National Army.

See page B2 for  
Sunset Cinema  
movie  
schedule



# DoD unveils improved sexual assault prevention training

**Amaani Lyle**  
Headquarters Marine Corps

As part of efforts to eliminate the crime of sexual assault in the military, Defense Department officials today announced improvements to sexual assault prevention and response training for all members of the armed forces and civilian employees.

Officials said the improvements center on development of consistent sexual assault prevention and response core competencies and learning objectives for: training for new accessions; annual and refresher training; pre- and post-deployment training; professional military education; training for commanders and senior enlisted leaders before assuming their new positions; and training for sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates and chaplains.

Within the first 14 days of service, officials explained, new accessions to the armed forces receive training that provides a basic understanding of the sexual assault prevention and response program, specific information on reporting options, and the services and resources available both on base and in the local region. Additionally, service members receive annual refresher training in sexual assault prevention and response, as well as before and after deployments.

At the professional military education level, officials

said, the training emphasizes participants' leadership role in supporting the Defense Department's sexual assault prevention and response efforts.

In their training, officials said, commanders and senior enlisted leaders learn about: the complexities of the crime and their role in fostering a command environment of professional values, team commitment, and dignity and respect; proactive measures to reduce sexual assaults in their units; the protections afforded victims and the accused; and the elements of quality victim care.

Training for sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates emphasize effective crisis management in addition to advocating for the victim and coordinating care, officials said.

For chaplains, training competencies focus on awareness of sexual assault as a crime, its impact on victims, and sexual assault prevention and response resources the Defense Department provides.

"The department is committed to eliminating sexual assault and ensuring an environment that provides dignity and respect for all members of the military community," said Army Col. Litonya Wilson, deputy director of prevention and victim assistance in the DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. "We took steps to improve the quality of

SAPR training with a specific focus on developing core competencies and learning objectives, ensuring consistency, and implementing methods for assessing the effectiveness of these training programs."

The training improvements incorporate a coordinated effort designed to ensure that everyone in the military community, including first responders, commanders, new service members, and those deployed around the world have consistent training standards and effective tools to prevent and respond to sexual assault, officials said. The services and the National Guard Bureau developed the core competencies and learning objectives jointly to incorporate best practices from the field and input from sexual assault survivors, they added.

"The entire military community must be engaged in creating an environment where sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexist behaviors are not tolerated," Wilson said. "It is our aim to field innovative prevention strategies, new training approaches, and incorporate best practices for SAPR training to instill an environment that promotes respect and proper treatment of everyone within the department. Our focus is on creating a climate where sexual assault and sexual harassment are seen as unacceptable," she continued, "not just because they are illegal, but because they are wrong."



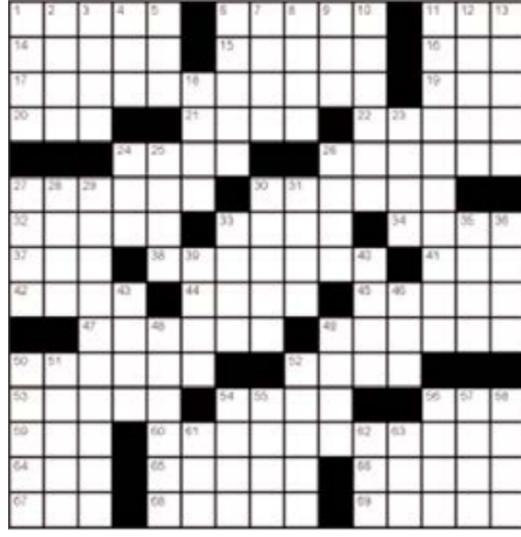
## Advertising Consolidated Casting Tour coming to Combat Center

Marine Corps Recruiting Command is seeking quality Marines of all ranks, military occupational specialties, ethnicity, gender and background whom will best represent the face of the Marine Corps to the nation. Furthermore, MCRC is requesting the support of local unit commanders to find the most qualified and diverse group of Marines and allow their participation. The intent of the on-site casting is to conduct a pre-screening of Marines who are interested in participating in advertising projects. This will be held at the MCX 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 25. If a Marine is selected by MCRC for a particular advertisement, a MARADMIN will be released requesting approval from their commands as well as instructions for completing the command screening form. For more information, contact Capt. Wesley Jagoe (703) 432-9434/ (703) 432-9033 or via email at wesley.jagoe@marines.usmc.mil. Tour information, pre-screening forms, casting guide and point of contacts can also be found on [www.mcr.c.marines.mil/casting](http://www.mcr.c.marines.mil/casting).

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<p><b>SCARLETT JAY JAQUEZ</b> Born on: March 31, 2014 Born to: Victor and Carla Jaquez</p>	<p><b>NATALIE ANGELINA COCHRAN</b> Born on: April 6, 2014 Born to: Michael and Grace Cochran</p>	<p><b>GABRIEL ALFONZO LICEA</b> Born on: April 9, 2014 Born to: Edgar Licea-Sandoval and Yeseida Reyes</p>
<p><b>NOELLE-MARIE MANELA MCKNIGHT</b> Born on: April 6, 2014 Born to: Nowell and Maria McKnight</p>	<p><b>ARIEL AMBER PICKELSIMER</b> Born on: April 9, 2014 Born to: Matthew and Whitney Pickelsimer</p>	<p><b>ELIJAH ROBERT JOHNSON</b> Born on: April 10, 2014 Born to: Isaiah and Desiree Johnson</p>

### "BREAKFAST TABLE"

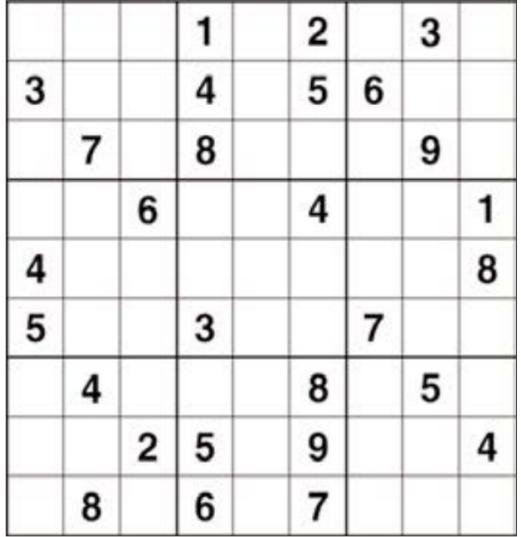
- Across**
- 1 Macho guy
  - 6 Puts gas in the tank, e.g.
  - 11 Bad, in France
  - 14 Clear, as a disk
  - 15 Bring a new child into your family, maybe
  - 16 "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"
  - 17 Minnie's guy
  - 19 Fib
  - 20 "Understand?"
  - 21 Electric \_\_\_ (fish)
  - 22 Stuff out of the faucet
  - 24 Hardly any
  - 26 Just
  - 27 Nail hitter
  - 30 \_\_\_ oneself on (was pleased about)
  - 32 Very angry
  - 33 Money with interest
  - 34 In the center of
  - 37 Ma'am's counterpart
  - 38 Popular cat food
  - 41 Wedding day words
  - 42 "\_\_\_ who?"
  - 44 Big streets: abbr.
  - 45 Tosses the dice
  - 47 Very good chess player
  - 49 Store
  - 50 Position
  - 52 Hands over the money
- Down**
- 1 Does some tailoring
  - 2 Cleveland's lake
  - 3 Defensive spray
  - 4 "Don't \_\_\_!"
  - 5 Born, in wedding announcements
  - 6 Well-known
  - 7 "American \_\_\_" (singing show)
  - 8 Rawls and Gehrig
  - 9 Records, for short
  - 10 Got madder and madder
  - 11 Soda shop buy
  - 12 Disney mermaid
  - 13 Apprehensive
  - 18 Twelve months
  - 23 Length times width, for a rectangle



- 24 Invoice abbr.
- 25 Overflow (with)
- 26 Small
- 27 Angry cat's sound
- 28 Opera song for one
- 29 "Peter Pan" actress
- 30 Strength
- 31 St. Louis football team
- 33 Valentine's Day word
- 35 Doing nothing
- 36 "Methinks thou \_\_\_ protest too much!"
- 39 Devours
- 40 Doctor's scan
- 43 Make happy
- 46 Surgery sites, for short
- 48 \_\_\_ up (encapsulated)
- 49 Permission-asking phrase
- 50 Pillow covers
- 51 Starbucks sizes
- 52 Rates of speed
- 54 Make changes to an article
- 55 Nibble
- 56 Actor Sharif
- 57 Despise
- 58 Bills with Washington on them
- 61 Actress \_\_\_ Marie Saint
- 62 Right this instant
- 63 Victorian, for one

See answers on page A3

### SUDOKU 3228 D



Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified section**

## OBSERVATION POST

- |   |  |
|---|--|
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| <b>Base Sgt. Maj.</b> - Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino        | <b>Correspondents</b>                      |
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## OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

- MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.
- Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.
- In Oceanside:**
    - Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
    - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
  - In San Diego:**
    - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
    - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
    - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
    - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
    - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
  - In National City:**
    - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
    - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.
  - In Twentynine Palms:**
    - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
    - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
    - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
  - In Yucca Valley:**
    - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
  - In Palm Springs:**
    - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
    - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
    - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive
- For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# Marc SHELTON

Detroit, MI deputy logistics officer, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, 39



**>It is funny because** two months before I joined the Marine Corps, I didn't know what a Marine was. The recruiter appealed to my higher calling, and I said this is something I could excel at.

**>I started out as a** 2811, which is a telephone technician. I came in open contract, and ended up with 7th Communications Battalion in Okinawa, Japan as my first duty station.

**>My mother always** instilled in me to do the best I could. I knew the transition from enlisted to warrant officer wasn't going to be easy, but it was exactly what I wanted to be. The warrant officers I knew prior to transitioning were inspirations. They were leaders, they were fit, smart, savvy, which were a lot of the qualities I wanted to have.

**>I think people gravitate** toward things they are good at. Being a Marine was one of those things for me, which drove me to want to continue on.

**>I was a 13 year** staff sergeant when my package got approved. The first package I put in was denied, and I thought it was as complete as it could be. The second package I put it was while I was conducting humanitarian assistance in Thailand. It came back approved while I was attending Arabic school at the Defense Language Institute.

**>I remember it was** special because I was a part of the last group of warrant officer selects who got to pin on in the fleet. The entire detachment was out there for the promotion. It was special to me because you won't see that again. Promotions to warrant officer now are only conducted in Quantico, Va.

**>As a warrant officer who** spoke Arabic, I endured countless adventures while I was deployed. It was definitely a rewarding experience. Things weren't always great, a lot of good Marines I knew didn't make it back, but it was an experience I will never forget.

**>I spent 5 years as** a warrant officer before I decided to go the limited duty officer route. I was reminded of my mother's words, which were to strive to do my best.

**>I wanted to do** it because of the same reason I wanted to be a warrant

officer. All of the LDO's I had met were inspirational, and I wanted to be like them. The day I pinned on caption as an LDO was a momentous occasion I will never forget.

**>As an LDO, the biggest** transition was taking on more of an administration and command role. My first command as an LDO I had between 250-500 students under my charge. It was a transition that I fully embraced and enjoyed.

**>Being back here in** the desert has been interesting, but I make the best of it. I have a few passions that fit the desert well.

**>I enjoy playing golf** and riding motorcycles. Being out in the desert is like a golf haven. It can also be a great off-roading area for riding my bike.

**>I'm also the boy** scouts scout master here on base, which is also one of my passions. Taking out the kids, getting them familiar with the area and building their professional development is a great opportunity.

**>My greatest advice** to Marines is figure out what your target is, and do everything you can to pursue it. If you want to go through the top of the enlisted ranks, or transition to warrant officer, you need to have a plan and know what interests you. Once you find out what you want, figure out what you need to do to get there. Take it one step at a time.

**>I always ask Marines** a question, 'What is the opposite of success?'. Usually Marines answer failure, and I respectfully tell them that is wrong. The opposite success is quitting. Many people have tried and failed at many things, but they never quit. They never gave up. That is the mentality I try to instill into the Marines. Failure is a part of life, but quitting shouldn't be.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock April 18, 2014

## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

H	E	M	A	N		F	I	L	L	S		M	A	L		
E	R	A	S	E		A	D	O	P	T		A	R	E		
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## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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2	7	4	8	6	3	1	9	5
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4	3	7	9	2	1	5	6	8
5	2	1	3	8	6	7	4	9
7	4	3	2	1	8	9	5	6
1	6	2	5	3	9	8	7	4
9	8	5	6	4	7	2	1	3

**LOOKING**  
for local  
entertainment?

See page B2 for our  
**LIBERTY CALL**  
section

Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the [OP Classified section](#)

# Combat Center Marines earn instructor tabs

**Cpl. Ali Azimi**  
Combat Correspondent

Twenty-eight Marines began a journey March 31 that took them out of their usual routine and challenged them mentally, physically and as leaders. They underwent hours of training every day and three weeks later their progress was challenged with one final test.

Students of Martial Arts Instructor Course 2-14 underwent their culminating exercise at the Combat Center April 17.

The course trains Marines to become instructors in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program during 117 hours of instruction in the classroom, on the mats and in the dirt. Upon completion of the course, Marines earn the right to wear a tab on their MCMAP belts that announces their level of training as an instructor.

But before earning the tab, Marines first must pass their final examination. The five-hour test was a culmination of their training took them through 6-miles of obstacles and fighting, as well as mental and leadership challenges.

Their final day of the course began at 6 a.m. in the morning. The students gathered at what had been their school and dojo for the past 18 days. There was tension in the air as they stretched and went through their handbooks and MCMAP moves with one another, the last few minutes of study before their long-day began.

The group consisted of a wide variety of Marines. There were enlisted and commissioned officers ranging from an assortment of military occupational specialties and units. They had come together during the past few weeks to better themselves as Marines and leaders. Now they were bonded through their hardship.

"We talk about how other units come here for the [Integrated Training Exercise] have heat casualties and cramping up," said Cpl. Christopher Trevino, squad leader, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and student, Marine Corps Instructor Course. "But we were born in the sand, baptized by sugar-cookie."

The inevitable moment arrived and they grabbed their gear and split up into three squads. Each Marine carried a total of 60 pounds, including their flaks, Kevlars and a pack filled with MCMAP equipment and a 35-pound ammo-can they had been carrying around since the beginning of the course.

"Throughout this entire course, the past three weeks we've gotten to know each other," said Staff Sgt. Marc Fulgencio, lead instructor, Marine Corps Instructor Course. "Everyone always says I don't

understand why the ammo-cans are the biggest burden."

According to him, that would be revealed at the end of the day's trials.

Their trek across the Combat Center began with a formation run, during which a mental aspect was included. The Marines were tested on their knowledge on topics concerning the importance of leadership and combat, such as physical aspects and the importance of leading.

All the while, one foot after the other they stepped.

After a few miles of running, they stopped and circled around in the sand. They conducted some exercises to wear them out further. Once they were done and well fatigued, they kicked off classes.

A Marine was called forward to give a class to the rest of the squad on a topic decided by their instructor. The first Marine was still gasping for air as he tried to find the words to describe the fog of war. It was a fitting topic. All the Marines carried sweat on their brows and finding mental clarity in a weary state made it more difficult to think clearly and find the next words. Each Marine was called up after him, one by one, until the whole squad was done.

Once again, they stepped.

The three squads converged at the Combat Center's obstacle course, where they dropped their packs. Still carrying the weight of their flak and Kevlar, each squad worked together to run through the course three times. They lifted themselves over high walls, jumping over logs and climbing the rope at the end of the course. They were panting and covered in sweat.

And step.

The next portion of the pitted the Marines, squad versus squad. The squad fought against each other in a three matches, using training knives, bayonets and their bare hands. The Marines kicked up sand as they worked together to defeat the opposing squad during the grappling and bayonet fights. However, when they picked up their training knives, the odds were changed.

The squads were faced outward during the rounds of engagements and brought into the center too fight with random odds. Some Marines were put against two others and some were faced against greater odds.

"I said it day one, one promise I made to all [the Marines]," said 1st Sgt. Jeffery Vandentop, instruc-



PHOTOS BY CPL. ALI AZIMI

tor of the course. "That [we] will make sure [the Marines] earn this belt."

They moved from the fighting to their testing portion. The Marines were tested through practical application of their MCMAP skills. But there would be no rest.

The squads picked up their packs and moved after every testing a technique.

Push-kick, step.

Hip-throw, step.

Sweep, step.

Their next movement was to the top a mountain, their last obstacle. But before they began, they first added a 15 pound bag of sand to their packs.

They're tired and now they add more weight, Fulgencio said. It's a mental block.

Tired and worn out, the Marines ascended to the top of the sandy mountain, step by step. Squad after squad reached the top, ending their journey at the top of the mountain, a symbolic act.

"You can stand on this hill and look down at all the terrain [conducted] during this course," Vandentop said.

The Marines dropped their all their gear. Beneath their flaks, their desert cammies darkened with sweat.

Fulgencio ordered the Marines to grab their ammocans and form a circle around him.

The Marines emptied the sand below their feet, only to find a surprise within. Through the weeks of training and their arduous day they had carried those cans. Inside, had been their belts being carried with them the whole time.

The Martial Arts Instructor Course takes place once every quarter. The next course will begin July 17. For more information or to sign up for the course, call 830-0290.



**[Top]** Students of Martial Arts Instructor Course 2-14 climb the ropes at the end of the obstacle course, April 17.

**[Above]** Marines undergoing Martial Arts Instructor Course 2-14 fight using training knives during the course's final exercise, April 17.

**[Left]** Students of Martial Arts Instructor Course 2-14 grapple against each other during their final exercise, April 17. The three week course trained Marines to become Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructors.

YouTube

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel  
Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.

# Marines, Palm Springs police team up

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

Mike Kovaleff, lieutenant, Palm Springs Police Department, addresses Combat Center Marines about the new Security Liaison at Palm Springs Police Department program designed to safeguard the health and welfare of Marines and sailors while conducting liberty, April 18. The new initiative, which will be conducted every Friday, Saturday and holiday from the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., will consist of two uniformed service members physically locating at the office of the PSPD.



Combat Center staff non-commissioned officers began working with Palms Springs Police Department's new Security Liaison program designed to safeguard the health and welfare of Marines and sailors and to enforce applicable military regulations and orders, April 18.

The new initiative, which will be conducted every Friday, Saturday and holiday from the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., will consist of two uniformed service members physically locating at the office of the PSPD.

The Marines will act only as liaisons with the police department, which will not require them to leave the building. In the case of an incident with a Marine or sailor out in town, the two uniformed Marines will arrange transportation for them back to the Combat Center to await further action from their commanding officer.

"This is going to keep a positive, open-line of communication between us and the Marines," said Mike Kovaleff, lieutenant, PSPD. "This is another great resource that we have to protect the safety of Marines. Like the tools on my duty belt, having the senior Marines here are another tool that we have to keep Marines safeguarded while they are enjoying their time in town."

While there are no indications of any ongoing or growing incidents, the program is designed provide relatively accessible command representatives in

the area for Marines and sailors to acquire assistance.

"Our main objective is to sustain the safety and welfare of our Marines and sailors while they are on liberty, so they return to work ready and focused to complete their duties and missions," said Gunnery Sgt. Cesar Reyes, Company B gunnery sergeant, Headquarters Battalion.

While this program is not like the traditional shore patrol that is conducted at various stations throughout the Marines Corps, the command presence at the station will provide adequate support from the Marines to the PSPD.

"I volunteered for this, because I believe in the program," Reyes said. "I used to conduct shore patrols overseas, and I believe that it works. If Marines know that senior Marines have a presence out in town, they are less likely to do something they know they aren't supposed to."

With the ultimate goal of safeguarding service members and the community in Palm Springs, this initiative is a positive on both ends, according to Kovaleff.

"We understand that Marines go through various hardships while they deploy, and we want them to be able to come to Palm Springs and enjoy their liberty," Kovaleff said. "Public safety is our number one priority, and having Marines here to liaise with will ultimately help with that."

*Public safety is our number one priority, and having Marines here to liaise with will ultimately help with that.*

— Mike Kovaleff

## Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
with the Hi-Desert Star  
Thursdays with  
The Desert Trail  
Fridays with  
The Observation Post



## CLINIC, from A1



DAVE MARKS

Cmdr. George Newton, Capt. Jay Sourbeer, Ensign Louis Paul, Lt. Alex Aldana and John Tiersma, project manager, break ground for the new Adult Medical Care Clinic aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday.

have radiology, a lab, a bigger pharmacy; everything will be bigger and better," said Lt. Ashley Robertson, Department Head for the current AMCC. "We'll have physical therapy and optometry sections. All of the services we need will be here."

The new facility is being constructed directly behind the old AMCC, which was designed as a dental clinic in 1953 during original construction of the installation. The new two-story building will be completed in January 2015, at which time the old facility will be torn down and a parking will be created to accommodate the new clinic.

"Today we're representing decisions made at the highest level of the United States government, an investment in building a clinic that will provide a superb level of medical care to Marines and Sailors," Sourbeer noted.

## AWARD, from A1

Iraq again. His fourth combat deployment was with Regimental Combat Team 6 to Afghanistan, where his actions and leadership earned him the Navy Cross Medal.

"Every unit I was with always had those leaders for me to look up to. Everything they taught me, along with the good leadership and example, gave me the tools that I have today," Jibson said.

Jibson took charge of the Marines and gave advice and mentorship to the Georgian and Afghan forces. He then led them through heavy, sustained fire, which came from close enemy fortified positions. Attempting to communicate between troops of three different languages became a challenge, as communication began to become more of a factor.

"Being a liaison to foreign troops, and the stresses that come with that, began to become more evident and the language barrier became more of a challenge as I had to relay important information through interpreters, which took time," Jibson said. "But as long as we all knew what we had to do and all sides knew we were there for each other, we were getting out of there."

The Marines with Jibson gave him confidence that they can get the job done through their performance and experience.

"Having the assets that were available, I could've never asked for a more professional group of men," Jibson said. "We had never trained as a group before but everyone there knew what they had to do, we came together and I would serve with those men any day with full confidence."

## EARTH DAY, from A1



CPL ALI AZIMI

Combat Center Marines help clean up cans at Section 33 in Joshua Tree, Calif., during an Earth Day clean-up April 19. The land was purchased through a partnership between the Combat Center and the Mojave Desert Land Trust.

the land we try to teach the volunteers how to interact with the land."

This was the second year the clean-up event was held on Section 33. The volunteers worked together to cleaned the area of wind-blown trash and cleaned up unwanted debris spread across 640 acres. By the end of their day, they had gathered 300 bags of trash.

However, the event was more than a volunteering opportunity. It was an opportunity for a family outing.

"It's a really good thing for families to do," said Laura Scotto, special events and volunteer coordinator, ASYMCA. "It's not just entertainment; they're giving back and having fun."

The cleanup brought members of the base and local community together. Residents from the surrounding area said they were happy the area was being preserved.

Crystal Wysong, a local member of the community, said she was afraid this land would be home to future development, like so much of the surrounding area. The land was in view of her house and she was glad it was being preserved.

"This is our back yard," Wysong said.

In addition to individual support, many of the surrounding businesses also contributed to the event. Local stores provided food and supplies to aid the Earth Day effort.

"It's always really great to work with different organizations within the community," Scotto said. "We tell them what we do and see what they do."

Just down the road, at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum in Yucca Valley, Calif., another Earth Day event was being held.

The Earth Day Fair was filled with nearly 50 vendors, one of which was the Combat Center's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division.

NREA staff distributed information to the public about the base's environmental efforts, with displays and informative reading material.

"We have set up a display area of all the process that we do in relation to range debris recycling," Norman Troy, supervisor unexploded ordnance specialist, NREA. "We show what shape and form they come, what we turn them into and what we take away."

NREA's work helps further the base in training and economically. Through recycling of materials such as brass and proper management of hazardous materials the base saves money and preserves land for future training.

"We are saving the world in our own way," Troy said. "We are bringing a product that is otherwise going to sit in the ground for 30 years and breaking it down into its basic elements. The money we generate can go back into [this program], prolonging it to last years to come, and puts money back into the Marine Corps."

The Combat Center's Earth Day events continued through the week with a 5K Earth Day run and NREA-sponsored fair on the base today.

# Month of the Military Child

## Marine daughter excels in education

**Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**  
Combat Correspondent

While the challenges that come with being a service member or spouse are fairly well known, the challenges of the military child often go unnoticed.

Throughout the month of April, each branch of service celebrates the Month of the Military Child, to honor the struggles and hardships they must endure to succeed.

"We have experienced, first hand, the unique challenges this lifestyle presents to the children of military members," said Diane Richey, mother to a military child. "Not just our own daughter, but also the children of our friends and our neighbors. Being successful in school, and in life, can be hard enough with the challenges in ordinary life, but add to that moving every few years - new schools, new houses, leaving behind your best friend, trying to make new friends, saying good-bye to your dad for many months at a time, and worrying about where he is and how he is doing. Military children face challenges that are far above those of civilian children. We need to recognize the fact that their successes are just more difficult to achieve."

Diane and her husband, Master Sgt. Phillip Richey, communications chief, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, have always stressed the importance of education on their daughter, KyLynn Richey.

KyLynn, who has gone above and beyond in the education aspect of her life, attributes her successes to a strong moral foundation from her parents and a strong relationship with God.

"Education is definitely a priority, but it is not my only top priority," said KyLynn, student, Azusa Pacific University. "It started becoming really important to me around sophomore year in high school. That was when I learned that I could do really well, so I wanted to continue doing well. I am a pretty balanced person. So, I never really have one thing that completely takes over my life."

Because of constantly moving, I do not have one specific place on earth that I consider home, according to KyLynn.

"When I was really young, I did not fully understand everything with my dad's deployments and constant permanent change of station," KyLynn said. "Around middle school it got harder to move and leave my friends. However, as I grew a little older, I started noticing the pattern of how I would always make new friends and love them and the new places just as much. I started to make the conscious choice to find the positive in new situations, and it has made all the difference."

Despite the challenges of constantly moving and switching schools, KyLynn managed to achieve major success, becoming the valedictorian of her high school while her family was stationed in Hawaii.

"She has been an exceptional person and I am very proud of her," said Phillip. "One thing I think she has taken away from the Marine Corps is accepting challenges ahead of you and pushing through them, rather than making excuses and avoiding them."

KyLynn has also played a major role in every community she has been a part of, volunteering her time to help others.

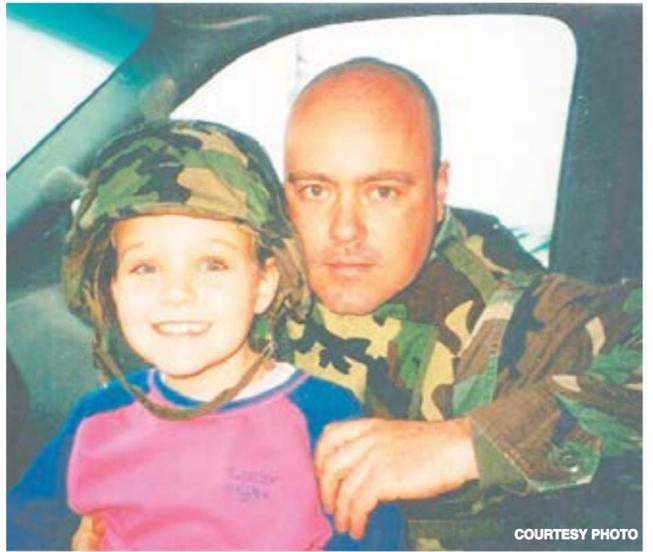
"She spent her summers, during high school, volunteering at a summer camp for underprivileged children, she spent a spring break volunteering at an orphanage in Mexico, and has volunteered to work with other military children in different programs through base military chapels at our last three duty stations," Diane said.

On May 5, 2014, at only 20 years of age, KyLynn will be receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design during a ceremony at APU. She will also be graduating with Cum Laude honors, which require a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

"Senior year of high school, I decided I wanted to pursue graphic design in college," KyLynn said. "Sophomore year of college, I decided that whatever I did, I wanted to be serving and helping others. I still do not know exactly what I want to do as a career. I am hoping that in what I end up doing, I will be able to use both my passion for creativity and service to others."

As KyLynn's college education comes to an end, she reflects on a life of accomplishments and offers guidance to other military children.

"I would say I know it is hard, but you should try to make a conscious decision to make the best of your situations," KyLynn said. "Do not let small things, or lack of motivation, discourage you from doing well in school. This is just a short part of your life and it will be worth it in the long run to work hard now. People will disappoint you, but love them anyway. Forgive people, and put your trust in God."



**[Above]** KyLynn Richey smiles with her father, Master Sgt. Phillip Richey, communications chief, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, before he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 2002.

**[Below]** In pursuit of her education, KyLynn traveled to Italy to study art history in May 2013. Richey will now be receiving her Bachelor's Degree from Azusa Pacific University in May with Cum Laude honors. "One thing I think she has taken away from the Marine Corps is accepting challenges ahead of you and pushing through them, rather than making excuses and avoiding them," said Master Sgt. Phillip Richey, communications chief, TTECG.



**See page B2  
for  
Sunset  
Cinema  
movie  
schedule**



# WeekINPhotos

Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.



PHOTOS BY CPL. LARRY BABILYA



**[Right]** The U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and U.S. Marine Band performs during the funeral of Gen. Carl E. Mundy, 30th commandant of the Marine Corps, in Waynesville, N.C., April 19. Mundy served as commandant from 1991-1995.

**[Top, Left]** Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, were present during funeral service of Gen. Carl E. Mundy, 30th commandant of the Marine Corps, in Waynesville, N.C., April 19.

**[Bottom, Left]** A firing party from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., stands at ease during the funeral of Gen. Carl E. Mundy, 30th commandant of the Marine Corps, in Waynesville, N.C., April 19.

**See page B2 for  
Sunset Cinema  
movie schedule**

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Observation Post  
Classified section**



# VETERAN LEAVES BEHIND LEGACY

Story by  
Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

**[Left]** Chuck Adrianson stands with his wife, Terry, during his time contributing to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation in Los Angeles. Later, Adrianson and his wife would move to Palm Desert, Calif., where they founded the Desert Scholarship Program for wounded veterans.

**OF ALL THE TRADITIONS AND SAYINGS IN THE MARINE CORPS, 'ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE' HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF VETERANS.**

**I**t becomes more than just a saying, but a way of living. For Chuck Adrianson, his three years and 10 months of active-duty service in the Marine Corps built the foundation for a life that, up until death, would be dedicated to giving back to the Corps and his comrades.

Adrianson's love of the Corps led him to more than 60 years of contributions to the Marine Corps. From active duty, to becoming the president of the West Coast Toys for Tots program, to founding a scholarship program for wounded veterans, he loved Marines and the Marine Corps right up until his last breath.

A memorial service held in honor of the man and Marine Adrianson was at the Center for Spiritual Living in Palm Desert, Calif., Saturday.

"Whatever they taught him in boot camp all those years ago must have stuck with him," said Terry Adrianson, wife of Adrianson and co-founder of the Desert Scholarship Program. "He was a true man's man, and a Marine's Marine. He dedicated his whole life to giving back to Marines, and never once asked for anything in return."

While Adrianson was in the Marine Corps, he served more than half of his active service overseas, fighting in the Korean War.

"This is where he developed his love for helping veterans," said Daniel K. Mulvihill, tactical safety specialist, 7th Marine Regiment, and friend of Adrianson. "He was there; he fought through combat, and learned the terrors of war. When anyone goes through something like that, it changes you. For Adrianson, it led him to want to help Marines."

After his discharge, Adrianson wasted no time getting involved with the Marines as a veteran volunteer. He began working with the Marine Corps League of Glendale, where he worked his way up to commandant.

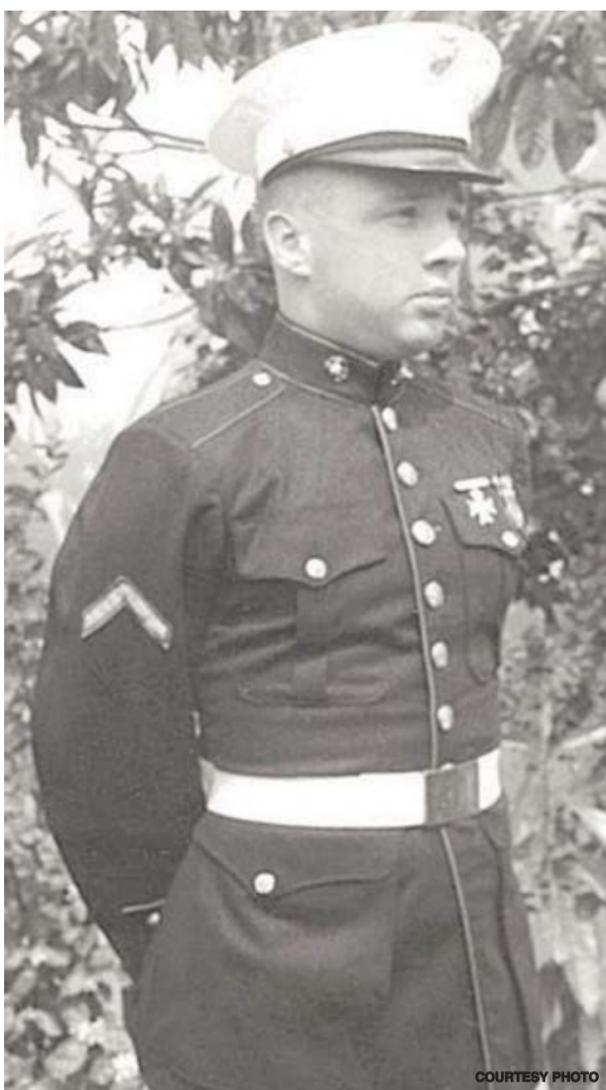
"He really enjoyed his time in the league, and particularly the Toys for Tots program," Terry said. "He left the league to be a part of West Coast Toys for Tots, where he eventually became the president."

While running the West Coast Toys for Tots program, Adrianson became involved in the Marine Corps Scholarship program in Los Angeles, where he would meet his wife Terry.

"For whatever reason, he never stopped loving Marines," said Terry. "I can remember no matter where we were or what we were doing, there were always Marines over. If they weren't over, he was talking and mentoring them over the phone. He gave every moment he had to helping Marines."

From L.A., Adrianson and his wife moved to Palm Desert, where they founded the Desert Scholarship Program for wounded veterans.

"Our application process was simple," Terry said. "We wanted to give wounded veterans an opportunity to pursue the school and career of their dreams. We awarded 153 recipients with Marine Corps scholarships. These individuals made a sacrifice and



commitment to their country, and each was well-deserving."

To fund the scholarships, Adrianson and Terry accepted various donations as well as hosted golf tournaments to raise the money.

"It wasn't hard to come up with the money," Terry said. "Everyone knew what we were doing, and knew the money was going to a good cause."

While some of the scholarship recipients went on to be doctors, teachers and lawyers, one man, Ricardo Bengochea, took his scholarship and decided to follow in the footsteps of Adrianson.

"He was such an inspiration to me, I wanted to use my scholarship and pursue a field where I could give back to wounded veterans, like he did," said Bengochea, wounded veteran and scholarship recipient.

Bengochea, who was wounded in Iraq, applied and was accepted for the scholarship program. From that point, he and Adrianson kept in close contact and continued their bond through love of the Marine Corps.

"He had to have been the most humble guy I knew," Bengochea said. "His contributions to the Marine Corps were remarkable."

Bengochea used his scholarship to pursue a degree in business, and now runs Bullyz 4 Vets, which is a non-profit animal shelter that provides service dogs to wounded veterans.

"Adrianson definitely inspired my passion to want to help veterans," Bengochea said. "What he gave back was unmatched, but I'm blessed to be able to do my part in giving back what I received."

Adrianson, who passed away in April from heart complications, dedicated his entire life to helping Marines. He is loved and remembered by many for his contributions, but will live on through his legacy of upholding the highest standard of what it means to be, 'Once a Marine, Always a Marine'.

"I remember the last thing he said to me," Bengochea said. "He told me that no matter what I did in life to always remember two things. 'Take care of your family, and your brother and sister Marines.'"

**[Left]** Chuck Adrianson served in the Marine Corps for nearly four years, and was a veteran of the Korean War. Following his active service, Adrianson dedicated more than 60 years of contributions to the Marine Corps.

**[Above]** Adrianson held various fund-raising events throughout his post-active duty years to raise money and support for the Desert Scholarship Program, including a golf tournament at the Chaparral Country Club in Palm Desert, Calif.

## Liberty Call



### Combat Center Events

#### Family & Marine Safety Fair

This informational event will help increase safety awareness of military families. K-9 demonstrations can be seen, do-it-yourself child ID kits and more.

When: April 28

Where: Base Exchange and PMCU Bank Parking Lot

For more information, call 830-5086

#### We Salute You Celebration

This family-friendly concert will feature artists Brett Eldridge, Craig Morgan and Shuggah Pies. Food concessions and other activities will be available on site.

When: May 17

Where: Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field

For more information, call 830-5086

### Sunset Cinema

#### Friday, April 25

4:30 p.m. — **Free Admission** Thor: The Dark World, PG-13

7 p.m. — Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG

9:30 p.m. — 300: Rise of an Empire, R

12 a.m. — Sabotage, R

#### Saturday, April 26

10 a.m. — **Free Admission** Monsters University, G

12:30 p.m. — Tyler Perry's Single Mom's Club, PG-13

3 p.m. — Muppets Most Wanted, PG

6 p.m. — 300: Rise of an Empire 3-D, R

8:30 p.m. — Need for Speed 3-D, PG-13

11:30 p.m. — Divergent, PG-13

#### Sunday, April 27

12 p.m. — Mr. Peabody and Sherman 3-D, PG

2:30 p.m. — Noah, PG-13

5:30 p.m. — Need for Speed, PG-13

8:30 p.m. — Sabotage, R

#### Monday, April 28

6 p.m. — Divergent, PG-13

#### Tuesday, April 29

6 p.m. — Need for Speed 3-D, PG-13

#### Wednesday, April 30

5 p.m. — Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG

7:30 p.m. — Sabotage, R

#### Thursday, May 1

5 p.m. — Tyler Perry's Single Mom's Club, PG-13

7:30 p.m. — 300: Rise of an Empire, R

## New take on Old Testament tale isn't familiar Sunday School fare

NEIL POND

"Noah"

Starring Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Emma Watson & Anthony Hopkins

Directed by Darren Aronofsky

PG-13, 138 min.

Is director Darren Aronofsky's sprawling saga of Noah and the Great Flood a profane violation of a sacred story? Or is it a mind-blowing cinematic exploration of a character wrestling with faith, doubt, dreams, guilt, miracles and the fate of mankind itself, set in one of the most epic tales of all time?

You'll have to see it to decide for yourself, but there's ammunition for both camps.

Russell Crowe plays Noah as the last good man — literally — in a bleak, barren world that's gone downhill after the good ol' Adam & Eve days of yore in the Garden of Eden. He gets a message from "the creator" that mankind isn't worth keeping around, and it's time to wipe — or wash — the slate clean and start over. ("God" isn't mentioned by name, which has apparently rankled some by-the-Book viewers.)

So Noah builds a big boat, with a plan to take along only his wife (Jennifer Connelly), their three hunky sons, an orphaned girl who'll grow up to become his daughter-in-law (Emma Watson) — and the only creatures on the planet that haven't defiled and depleted it, the animals.

"Men are going to be punished for what they've done to this world," Noah says. "The creator has chosen us to save the innocent."

You probably know the rest of the story. But you probably don't know the parts about Noah

and his lineage being plant-loving, peaceful vegetarians, while the rest of mankind are bloodthirsty, meat-craving barbarians. (Take that, Earth-killing carnivores.) Or that Noah was pretty handy snapping necks or dispatching his enemies with an axe, or a knife, or whatever weapon was handy. Or that he had a pretty sizeable assist in putting the ark together by a group of stone giants, one of them voiced by Nick Nolte.

There are also subplots about teenage rebellion and young love — this is a big-budget, big-studio movie, after all — and a cool, artsy film-within-the-film when Noah explains the seven days of creation. (Cue even more controversy.) The flood itself is something awesome — and awful — to behold. And there are explosions.

Anthony Hopkins plays Noah's father, Methuselah, and Ray Winstone is Tubal-Cain, a minor character barely noted in the Old Testament who gets elevated to his own subplot as a conniving thug of a king who threatens to derail Noah's entire mission.

The sets — especially the locations filmed in Iceland — look spectacular. Some of the special effects have an over-the-top, sci-fi, "Lord of the Rings" feel that may be a bit jarring to some viewers, but hey, consider the magnitude of what the story is about, after all — a cataclysmic mega-event bigger than anything hobbit Bilbo Baggins ever faced in Middle Earth.

It's long, a lot to digest, and it certainly deviates from what you covered in Sunday School. But boy, is it ever interesting — and well worth seeing, especially if you're open to a bold, trippy new interpretation of an old, old story, about miracles of varying size and shape, in which you still today might find some new angles of inspiration.

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# Flying High

## Palm Springs Air Museum showcases WWII aircraft

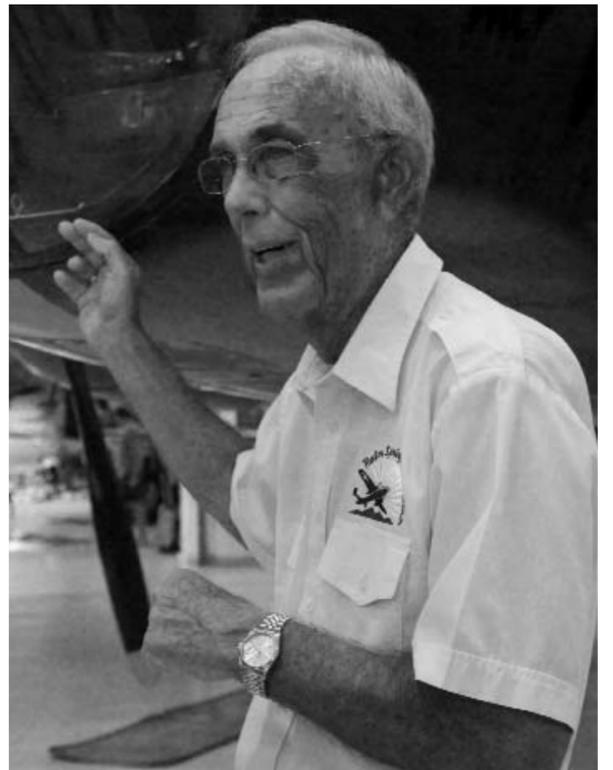
Photos by Kelly O'Sullivan



Military families interested in aviation history need look no further than the Palms Springs Air Museum, which boasts one of the world's largest collections of flyable World War II-era aircraft housed in three hangars.

Visitors can inspect the 31 vintage aircraft on permanent display indoors and out; learn about the era through static and interactive exhibits; conduct research in the 8,700-volume library and test their pilot skills in flight simulators.

The museum, at 745 N. Gene Autry Trail in Palm Springs, also offers a variety of historical programs, docent-led tours, special events and flights. It includes a theater, children's area, gift shop and cafe. Admission is free to active-duty military, their spouses and children. For more information about the museum and its programs, visit [palm Springs Air Museum.org](http://palm Springs Air Museum.org) or call (760) 778-6262.



**[Top]** A Grumman F6F Hellcat is among several dozen on display in the Pond Hangar at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The museum boasts one of the world's largest collections of flyable World War II-era aircraft. The hangar, which is dedicated to the Pacific Theater of WWII, includes a Pearl Harbor diorama, battlefield weapons display, Corsair mural, models of five U.S. warships, and Bob Hope memorabilia and stage.

**[Above]** "Miss Angela," which graces the museum's B-17G-195VE Flying Fortress, is an example of colorful World War II nose art. Paintings on military aircraft originally started as a way to identify friendly units and eventually evolved into elaborate expressions of pilots' personalities.

**[Above, right]** Docent Sam Huff details the history of the North American B-25 "Mitchell" Bomber during a tour of the museum, April 16. The museum's plane, named "Mitch the Witch II," was one of 11,000 produced during World War II. It was delivered to the U.S. Air Force in June 1945.

**[Right]** A docent guides wannabe pilots April 16 as they test their skills on flight simulators at the museum.

