

Combat Center pays Memorial Day tribute

Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Combat Correspondent

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — As Trudy Knight, wife of deceased Gunnery Sgt. Charles White, strolled through the grounds at the Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery on Monday morning, she turned to four Marines in dress blues.

“I don’t care what the rules are,”

“Of all things designated federal holidays, Memorial Day we might consider the most reverent and enduring day of remembrance.”

-Maj. Gen. David H. Berger



Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, speaks to an audience of active duty service members, veterans, their families and local residents during the Memorial Day Remembrance at Twentynine Palms Memorial Cemetery Monday.

she said. “I’m hugging each of you.”

When she was done, Knight made her way to the rows folding chairs in front of the cemetery’s rose garden to await the start of the community’s annual Memorial Day Remembrance

Organized by retired Marines — Col. Philip Cisneros, Gunnery Sgt. Andy Anderson, Master Sgt. Phil Garcia and Lt. Col. Jeff Matthews — working with cemetery staff, the Twentynine Palms Elks Lodge, Boy Scout Troop 229 and Cub Scout Pack 78, the ceremony featured the Combat Center Color Guard and Headquarters Battalion rifle detail, an invocation and benediction by Navy chaplain Capt. Steven Moses and words by guest speaker, Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General. The Scouts handed out programs to attendees and placed small American flags on the graves of each veteran before the ceremony.

At Cisneros’ ordered to “march on the colors,” the color guard came forward as the national anthem played and the audience of nearly 100 stood and saluted or held their hands over their hearts.

After Moses’ invocation, Cisneros introduced Berger.

“Of all things designated federal holidays, Memorial Day we might consider the most reverent and enduring day of remembrance,” Berger said. “Today, we remember fallen heroes. Those we remember personally, we

See MEMORIAL, A6

Marines honor fallen in Joshua Tree

Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Combat Correspondent

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. — The Joshua Tree Memorial Park and Mortuary’s gravesites were speckled with American flags. A crowd of veterans, active-duty service members and local residents of the community filled rows of chairs as the color guard marched into place and the national anthem began to play during a Memorial Day service.

We are gathered here to remember the sacrifices of those who gave all they had and all they will ever have for the continuation of this great nation.”

-Col. Andrew R. Kennedy

Combat Center Marines were featured in a Memorial Day ceremony at the Joshua Tree

Memorial Park and Mortuary, Monday.

The event featured static displays of tactical vehicles from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1’s color guard and a Memorial Day address made by Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, director, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

“The beauty of this day serves as a reminder of the beauty of life itself,” Kennedy said. “This commemoration is not about life, it’s about death and sacrifice. We are gathered here to remember the sacrifices of those who gave all they had and all they will ever have for the continuation of this great nation.”

The VMU-1 color guard marched the colors in front of the silent crowd. The national anthem began as men and women stood to honor the United States and Marine Corps colors.

After the colors were presented, a wreath ceremony was held, followed by the release of doves at the corner of the mortuary. The white winged fowls flew over the cemetery and a HQBN firing detail of seven Marines shot three volleys each, performing a 21-gun salute into the opposite direction.

The ceremony concluded, and all guests were invited to a barbecue held at the park. As with the mission of the Marine Corps, the essence of Memorial Day will never change. Marines and members of the community alike recognize that all gave some, and some gave all. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

101 Critical Days of Summer upon us

Story by MAGTFTC, MCAGCC Safety Division

The summer season officially begins on 21 June and is rapidly approaching, which brings along an increase in activities such as barbecues, parties, traveling, swimming, boating, cycling, hiking and camping, to name a few. The onset of summer also brings with it the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign, which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign, units and organizations are asked to provide their service members with the tools and training necessary to help them participate in their summer recreational activities in a safe and responsible manner.

In 2013, there were 10 Marine Corps and 16 Navy fatalities between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Roughly 75 percent of the fatalities involved cars/trucks (10) and motorcycles (10). During the same time period in 2012, there were 33 fatalities. This represents a 21.2 percent decrease in summer fatalities. Let’s work together towards a common goal and bring the number even lower this year.

Tips for motor vehicle safety

Start every trip well rested
 Drive during daylight hours
 Schedule breaks every two hours. Pull over if you get tired. It’s better to get there late than not at all
 Never drink and drive
 Use the Travel Risk Planning System for your trip.
 TRiPS is an easy online survey that helps you recognize and reduce travel risks. TRiPS is available at <http://safetycenter.navy.mil>.

Profile of a Motorcycle Rider Fatality

Sport-bike rider
 First-year rider/Incomplete training
 Under 26 years of age
 Speeding/Failed to identify hazards
 Doesn’t know his/her or the motorcycle limitations

All Marines who ride motorcycles on or off the Combat Center must take the Basic Riders Course. All sport bike riders must take the Military Sport-Bike Rider Course or Advanced Rider Course within 120 days of completing the BRC.

All cruiser/other riders must take the ARC within 120 of completing the BRC and all Marine riders must take a refresher course every 3 years. All Marines who operate a dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle or recreational off-road vehicle on or off the installation must take the appropriate safety training course. Inexperience and complacency are the most common causes of off-road accidents. Training is available at the base Safety Division.

Alcohol awareness & drinking facts

Absorption of alcohol depends on size, weight,

See SUMMER, A6



Spouses shoot the M16A4 rifle at the firing line of Range 105 during Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1’s Jayne Wayne Day May 23.

Spouses step into Marines’ boots

Story by Cpl. Ali Azimi

Marines have tough jobs. They work late, through weekends and occasional holidays. In order to gain perspective of Marine Corps life, approximately 20 spouses took on their Marine’s job for a day.

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 held its annual Jayne Wayne Day May 23. The event took Marine spouses to different Combat Center sites to experience a taste of the Corps.

“They are spending a day in their Marine’s boots,” said Heather Hutchinson, family readiness office, VMU-1. “It gives them a better understanding of what their Marine does and how different their Marine’s life is as opposed to their friends back home.”

Their day started like the beginning of every Marine’s career, with some drill. Rows of men and women formed up into columns at Del Valle Field as they took commands from their temporary drill instructor and screamed, “Aye, aye gunnery sergeant!”

Once they learned obedience to orders, the group of spouses observed a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration, followed by a modified Combat Fitness Test.

The spouses got some hands-on training with both events, as they partnered up and applied some MCMAP techniques and moved on to the test, where they conducted a 400-yard movement to contact, 50 ammo can lifts and a modified maneuver-under-fire portion, where they carried water jugs instead of another person.

“I have not been to Jayne Wayne Day before,” said Cassie Coke, wife of Capt. Joshua Coke, officer in charge, intelligence, VMU-1. “The CFT was the hardest part; the water jugs specifically.”

After their CFT, the group geared up in flak and Kevlar and loaded up into the back of seven-ton trucks

See SPOUSES, A6

3rd LAR Color guard marches in Grubstake Days Parade

Story by Cpl. Ali Azimi

YUCCA VALLEY, Calif. — The 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion color guard represented the Combat Center in the 64th Annual Grubstake Days Parade, Saturday.

Grubstake Days has been celebrated in Yucca Valley, Calif., since 1950. It is an annual event that brings the community together and with it the Marines of the Combat Center.

The parade celebrates the mining heritage of the town.

The Marines led the parade, passing hundreds of spectators as the United States and Marine Corps colors waved in the air. As they passed by, people on the sides of Onaga Trail stood to honor the colors.

“It was a really special opportunity,” said Sgt. Dylan Nessner, color sergeant, 3rd LAR color guard. “I’m glad to be able to do it, not only to represent our unit, but the Combat Center as well.”

The color guard was followed by a trail of vintage cars, high school bands, and local club and business members. Although the crowd cheered during the rest of the parade, it was not nearly as loud as the “Oorahs” and “Semper Fi’s” they shouted when the leaders of the parade passed.

“My kids [and I] love the Marines,” said Kasidy Williams, local resident. “I hope we get to see them again next year.”

This Week in Combat Center



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated
May 29, 1981

Vol. 25, Issue No. 21

MULE testing ends today

Courtesy Story



COURTESY PHOTO

[Above] Pfc. Raleigh Rowland sights in on his target, some 4,000 meters downrange, during a test aboard the Combat Center. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment tested the Modular Universal Laser Equipment.

A new laser device, which is capable of directing sophisticated, laser-guided weapons with deadly precision, has completed its final week of testing here.

If adopted by the Marine Corps, the Modular Universal Laser Equipment device will be used primarily by forward observers, forward air controllers and naval gunfire spotters. The new laser device will enable Marine Corps observer teams to spot targets accurately for conventional fire and direct all laser-guided weapons now in operation or under development.

According to Maj. Richard D. Rodriguez, who heads the MULE Test Directorate here, testing of the device began April 2, and has included controlled sequences of events to evaluate the total MULE system, its operators, communication links, tactics and doctrine.

The final week of testing, which concludes today, May 21, has included a live-fire demonstration of the MULE's interoperability with copperhead projectiles, laser-guided bombs and hellfire missiles.

Test Directorate personnel included 156 Marines and 14 civilians who were assigned to the MULE test on temporary orders. The Marines were assigned here from Fleet Marine Force units at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton,

Calif., as well as the Combat Center.

Maj. Rodriguez is TAD here from MCB Camp Pendleton where he is a member of the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

Civilians from the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, and contractor representatives also supported the Test Directorate.

"These figures," states Maj. Rodriguez, "do not include the numerous local Mechanized Task Force units providing excellent direct support to the MULE testing that are not on orders."

A unique feature of the testing has involved the use of six rehabilitated M-47 tanks equipped with mini-computers and remote control. According to Rodriguez, the use of these tanks was intended to add realism to the testing environment.

The MULE can be described as a man-portable, tripod-mounted device that can easily be carried and readied for action by a two-man crew. It consists of three modules: the laser designator-rangefinder module, a north-finding module, and a stabilized tracking tripod module, which is a multi-functional tripod.

Upon completion of its testing phase at the Combat Center, the MULE will be the subject of an evaluation by a Marine Systems Acquisition Review Council, scheduled for August. MSARC will be tasked with making the adoption decision.

Martial Arts Instructors Course

July 8 - July 28

Students who complete the course will be a minimum of a green belt instructor. Students must be a corporal or above with a grey belt.

Location: Martial Arts Facility, Building 1652

For more information, contact Staff Sgt Fulgencio at 830-0290

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"SHAKER STUFF"

Across

1. Relating to method
6. Places to shape up
10. Hit the mall
14. Center of action
15. Bottle part
16. Whipped up
17. International agreement of 1972
19. Toledo's lake
20. Hockey miscreants
21. Jimmy's veep
23. Living or dead follower
24. Court order
25. Zippy comeback
29. Senator Gramm
30. Long or Block: Abbr.
33. Send to Siberia
34. Baby-sitter's handful
35. Cpl. or sgt.
36. Champ in 5 different weight classes
40. "To a ..." poem
41. Gen. Robert ___
42. Picture falsely
43. Van ___ Waals forces
44. Eggs order
45. Sacred songs
46. Auto grille protectors
47. Source of funds in D.C.
48. Cash in

51. Positioned
56. 440-yard-long path
57. Malibu university
59. "Miss Peach" cartoonist
60. Brickell or McClurg
61. Producing goosebumps
62. Predator's dinner
63. Address components, these days
64. Bits of bravery

Down

1. Physics calculation
2. Viva-voce
3. Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya
4. Wee workers
5. Barber, at times
6. Dummy Mortimer
7. Carrots' go- with
8. Tread the boards
9. Air a message?
10. Got a whiff of
11. Lyricist Lorenz
12. Jim Davis comics dog
13. Jury member, in theory



18. Patronize U- Haul, say
22. Be out of sorts
24. Pod member
25. Do a groundskeeper's chore
26. Radiate, as confidence
27. Cereal pitchman Tony, e.g.
28. Ending with pay or plug
29. Nosy sort: Var.
30. As a whole
31. Curtain fabric
32. Silver streaks
34. Plantation units
37. New and improved
38. Not in plain view
39. Org. for teachers
44. Specimen for an assayer
45. Cracker spread
46. Beer drinker's protrusion
47. Singer's asset, slangily
48. Lopsided win
49. "Well, did you ___?"
50. Chip's cartoon mate
51. Kebab holder
52. "Zip-___ Doo-Dah"
53. Get bushed
54. Oklahoma city
55. Poor marks
58. Tokyo, formerly

See answers on page A3

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MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

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- 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.
 - Get It 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.
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 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

Heidi

Orlando, Fla. aide-de-camp, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 32

COVERT



>**My father was** a Marine officer, and seeing the way he was able to provide for his family inspired me to want that.

>**I spent the majority** of my childhood traveling throughout Marine Corps installations in the U.S. I really loved it because I was always meeting new people and having the opportunity for new beginnings every couple of years.

>**Even though my father** was a Marine, going to Officer Candidate School was still a big change for me. It was really neat being able to say I did the same hikes and training my father did over 25 years ago.

>**I didn't have any** job preference when I joined; I was just excited about being a Marine.

>**My first duty station** was in Okinawa, Japan. It was interesting to me because in the states, everyone for the most part, understands what a Marine is. Out there, that isn't always the case.

>**It was a great** experience because it was the first time I had been out of the country. Once there, I had the opportunity to get out to nine different countries.

>**After Okinawa**, I came to Twentynine Palms, and worked as an instructor for lieutenants at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. I had the chance to mold the future of our job field, and I had amazing instructors that I wanted to emulate.

>**I really enjoy** Twentynine Palms because it is so different from other installations. Everywhere else I have been, you have trees, grass and swamps. You come out here and there is not a lot of any of that.

>**While working as an** instructor, I applied to be the general's aide. I wanted the experience of knowing how decisions are made at higher levels. I was also looking forward to that mentorship from a senior leader, especially from an infantry officer. Coming from the wing, I never got to see much besides what happened in the control group.

COVERT IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS THE COMBAT CENTER COMMANDING GENERAL'S AIDE AND HAS A TRUE PASSION FOR BEING A MARINE. HER FATHER, WHO WAS ALSO AN OFFICER IN THE MARINE CORPS, INSPIRED HER TO ADOPT THE VALUES OF HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT AND PURSUE HER DREAM OF BECOMING A MARINE.

>**My day-to-day** consists mostly of keeping track of Maj. Gen. David H. Berger's schedule. I travel with him everywhere he goes, and do all the things that keep him working.

>**On any given day** we could be in meetings all day, or out among the base, or meeting with people in the community. There are a lot of different things going on, and every day is a new experience.

>**As a general's aide**, you get to see things most Marines never get to see. Having that direct mentorship from a general officer, seeing general officer's speak more than many other Marines, is a great opportunity to seize. Everywhere we go I am constantly taking notes and learning as much as I can.

>**As of now I currently** have orders to report to the Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, Va. It is a nine-month course designed to provide professional military education in combined-arms operations, warfighting skills, tactical decision-making and Marine Air Ground Task Forces in amphibious operations. I am really looking forward to the opportunity to attend the school.

>**I had always wanted** to be a Marine, so this is like a dream come true for me. I plan to stay in and make this a career.

>**Any duty station is** what you make of it. While in Twentynine Palms, my husband and I do a lot of outdoors stuff like rock climbing and hiking. I believe you need to adapt to where you are at in order to be happy, and that's exactly what I try and do.

>**I would never** pressure anyone to join the Marine Corps. It is a lifestyle and a decision you have to make for yourself. It is a good lifestyle for me, but it is not a job where at the end of the day I hang up my hat and I'm off duty. I'm always on duty. If that's not something that you are passionate about, if you don't hold the values of honor, courage and commitment, then this organization is not for you.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock May 16, 2014

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS



SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

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for local
entertainment?**

See page B2 for our
LIBERTY CALL
section

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



Season heats up Combat Center

Story by Cpl. Charles Santamaria

Days of Summer

101

Desert sun rays beam on service members every day aboard the Combat Center. As the seasons transition into the summer, Marines and sailors will continue to train and exercise. The 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign is scheduled to begin May 26, to raise awareness on safety for recreational activities and workouts in the rising temperatures. Whether in the field or on the main side of the base, it is important to consider the weather when planning activities.

The Combat Center offers many alternatives to outdoor exercise at facilities aboard the installation.

"We just want to make sure people on base know the gyms offer free weights, treadmills and other facilities they can use instead of going outside where they can potentially sustain heat injuries," said Felicia Crosson, health and wellness coordinator, Semper Fit, Marine Corps Community Services.

Marines aboard the Combat Center make use of the indoor facilities frequently and understand how effective they are at keeping Combat Center patrons out of the sun.

"We just want to make sure people on base know the gyms offer free weights, treadmills and other facilities they can use instead of going outside."

— Felicia Crosson

"I use the gym because of how practical and convenient it is," said Lance Cpl. Gabriel Emery, supply admin clerk, Headquarters Battalion. "If I can lift then immediately go to a treadmill and run, that means I don't have to ruin my schedule to get the workout I want."

The facilities offer programs like High Intensity Tactical Training and workouts for anyone to participate in. The East Gym offers aerobics, weights, racketball, and basketball courts for recreational sports or leagues that are run by MCCS. The West Gym offers the same, but includes two buildings which contain a rock-climbing wall and HITT facilities like the Hypoxic Chamber which makes the air quality inside feel like training at 10,000 feet above sea-level. Programs such as yoga, HITT, spin class, Zumba, cardio circuits and more can be found at the base gyms for service members and their families to participate in.

"Both gyms offer a lot to anyone who wants to use them," Crosson said. "We also offer programs with dedicated schedules for service members to try new things while they're here. The more we have to offer at the gyms, the safer we can make the base by keeping them out of the harsh conditions during the summer."



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Lance Cpl. Kristian Bandeira, Co. A Clerk, Headquarters Battalion, performs an ab dominal workout with a medicine ball at the West Gym, May 21. Both gyms offer fitness programs with dedicated schedules.

Family members of different age groups can also utilize programs and facilities offered at the gyms such as the rock-climbing program for children.

"We're open to families as well and offer events like rock climbing for children to be introduced to with parental supervision," Crosson said.

For those who would like to break out of the gym for a moment, a new training area has been made available.

"A new turf has also been added by the West Gym to offer other exercise opportunities like rope climbing, tire flips, pull-up bars and olympic weights so Marines can train on grass-like material. The turf by the West Gym was made with sand so the ground does not heat up as quickly and gives Combat Center patrons a safe alternative because they are closer to the gym," Crosson said.

The opportunities offered at these gyms give many options to units, individual service members or anyone who wants to get a well-rounded workout while staying out of the heat, according to Emery.

"Our main concern is safety," Crosson said. "As things heat up on base, we want to make sure people don't go out there and run at the hottest point of the year where they can suffer from dehydration or heat stroke. We have the facilities to provide a good exercise alternative which is most important."



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SGT. TYLER MAIN

Female Marine infantry students hike during patrol week near Camp Geiger, N.C., in October 2013. The Marine Corps plans to stand up an experimental task force consisting of about 25 percent women in primarily ground combat-arms specialties so analysts can assess their performance.

Marine Corps seeks volunteers for new Integrated Task Force

Story by Sgt. Chelsea Flowers Anderson

FORT MEADE, Md. — The Marine Corps will begin accepting male and female Marine volunteers to stand up an integrated task force as part of a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to integrating women into ground combat-arms units and occupational specialties per MARADMIN 252/14.

The Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, which was previously announced in March 2014, will be made up of approximately 500 male and female Marines and is slated to activate at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 2014.

Male and female Marines will take part in a research study that will assess the performance of integrated ground combat arms units and establish physical, physiological and performance standards for assignment to ground combat-arms occupational specialties. The GCEITF is one of the efforts of the Marine Corps Force Integration Plan to integrate female Marines into combat-arms units and occupational specialties as directed by the Secretary of Defense, Jan. 24, 2013.

Recruiting briefs will be conducted May 28-June 9 at bases and stations across the Corps. Those dates and locations can be found in the MARADMIN.

Marines interested in volunteering must provide informed consent through the Headquarters Marine Corps website, over the telephone or in person during the specified recruiting briefs.

Enlisted Marines must be sergeants or below and have less than nine years of service. Male Marine volunteers will participate only within their primary MOS. Female Marines can volunteer to participate in their current MOS (specific MOSs required are listed in MARADMIN) or choose from one of the following combat arms occupations: rifleman, LAV crewman, machine gunner, mortarman, infantry assaultman, anti-tank missileman, field artillery cannoner, AAV crewman and M1A1 tank crewman. For a full list of eligibility requirements, Marines should consult the MARADMIN.

Volunteers will be screened to ensure they meet prerequisites of the task force and Headquarters Marine Corps will notify all selected volunteers no later than June 13. Selected female volunteers will receive orders to appropriate entry-level schools during July 2014. Upon graduation, they will receive orders to report to the task force in September.

Both male and female volunteers can request, at any time, to drop from training or the task force without consequence to future retention, assignment or promotion opportunities.

The Marine Corps will assess the task force from July 1, 2014, to June 20, 2015, in order to help inform future decisions in the assignment of female Marines to ground combat-arms units and jobs.

For more information, visit MARADMIN 252/14.

**MARINE CORPS AIR
GROUND COMBAT
CENTER 29 PALMS
5-6 JUNE 2014**

Representatives with the Ground Combat Element Task Force will be coming to the Combat Center to seek volunteers for a new training integration program. Marines interested in the Task Force are advised to read Marine Administrative Message 252/14 for more information.

**LOOKING
for local
entertainment?**

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

MEMORIAL, from A1



CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Trudy Knight, the wife of Gunnery Sgt. Charles Knight, deceased, hugs Sgt. David Leon of the color guard during the Memorial Day Remembrance ceremony at the Twentynine Palms Memorial Cemetery, Monday. With Leon are Lance Cpl. Simon Kellogg, Cpl. Matthew Espinosa and Lance Cpl. Brandon Taylor, who also received hugs from Knight.

grew up with, or so many others that are unknown to us. Those at this cemetery gave their all.”

Berger spoke of the thousands of American men and women who have given their lives on the world's battlefields, saying he hoped people everywhere would take a moment out of their day to think about the fallen.

“They fought in the sea, they fought on land, they fought in the air,” he said. “They knew their buddy on their right and their left had their backs. In the darkest moments of combat, they relied on each other. It is up to us to never forget their sacrifice.”

After Berger's speech, representatives from 15 community organizations and the Combat Center came forward one by one to place colorful wreaths in honor of America's war dead.

The ceremony ended with Moses' benediction and a 21-gun salute by a firing detail of seven Headquarters Battalion Marines firing three rounds each. The rounds echoed through the ceremony and between each volley a moment of complete silence made palpable the sacrifices of fallen warriors and their families.

As the crowd dispersed, many heading to a Memorial Day reception at the Elks Lodge, one lone Marine stayed behind. For more than an hour, Maj. Gen. Berger walked silently through the cemetery, stopping for a moment at gravesites bearing a flag.

SUMMER, from A1

body fat, gender, amount consumed, amount of food stomach and current use of medication

Alcohol consumption, particularly binge drinking, is associated with risky sexual behaviors

Alcohol-related mishaps result in the death and injury of Marines and Sailors every summer

Intoxication is not cool, sexy or healthy. Don't be that guy.

Many summer activities do not go well with alcohol consumption, but if you choose to drink, do so in moderation

Water Awareness

Utilize the buddy system
Learn to swim and Don't panic
Swim where lifeguards are present
Keep a close eye on children
Obey signs, be aware of water conditions
If you are in a rip current, swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current.

Boating Safety

Take a Coast Guard-approved boating safety class
Ensure everyone aboard has a personal floatation device
Drinking while operating a watercraft is highly illegal.

Summer Sports Safety

Stretch prior to event Wear proper gear/footwear
Know your limits Stay hydrated

According to the Center for Disease Control, suicide rates in the United States are the highest in the summer and spring seasons. Summer months are associated with increased transition and reduced unit cohesion. Leadership must know their Marines and recognize changes in behavior and mounting stress. Periods of transition and relocation may also cause or worsen stressors for Marines and family members. These stressors can include travel, financial strain, relationship problems and separation from support systems. In 2013 there were 45 suicides and 234 suicide attempts Marine Corps-wide. As of February 28, 2014, there were eight suicides and 24 suicide attempts Marine Corps-wide. Look for warning signs such as expressing suicidal thoughts, increased alcohol and/or drug use, withdrawal from family and friends and recklessness. ACT: Ask, Care, Treat. To talk to an anonymous counselor, call 1-877-467-7734 (DSTRESS).

Units and organizations can contact Safety Division at (760) 830-6154 for training materials and assistance with their 101 Critical Days of Summer training needs. Remember that risk management applies to service members both on and off duty. Plan for the worst case and adjust when new risks arise. Have a safe and enjoyable summer because your family, friends and the Marine Corps depend on you. Safety first, last and always.



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Cpl. Katelyn Capra is hip thrown during a Marine Corps Martial Art Program demonstration as a part of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's annual Jayne Wayne Day at Del Valle Field May 23. The event took Marine spouses to different Combat Center sites to experience a taste of the Corps.

SPOUSES, from A1

to move to their next event at Range 105.

Each spouse was then handed an M16 A4 service rifle and given a magazine with 20 rounds to shoot at stationary targets down range. The spouses enthusiastically moved up to the firing line, five at a time, to test their skill with the rifles. They tried different shooting positions and some proved themselves to be potential marksmen. The majority of the spouses confessed the rifle range was their favorite part of the day.

The group continued their marksmanship practice at Camp Wilson, where they were given the opportunity to work together during a convoy simulation. The spouses were split up into separate rooms at the Combat Convoy Simulator, with stationary vehicles in the center of the room. This time, they were handed a rifle that shot digitally into the projection of Afghan terrain projected on the walls. As soon as each room was ready, the simulation began and they made their way through the streets of Afghanistan.

Their last stop was the air field, where a static display of an unmanned aerial vehicle awaited them. The spouses ended their day controlling the cameras on the UAV and inspecting it up close.

The spouses started their day full of energy, but they left the airfield exhausted from the day's activities and with a better understanding of their Marines' lifestyles.

“It's a lot of fun and interesting to see the ins and outs and experience all the different things,” Coke said. “I would definitely go again next year.”

Story and photos by
Cpl. Charles Santamaria

I am Second

The crowd's heads bow as the guest speaker leads a prayer. He speaks upon the bible, religion and how he came to faith while he served as a Navy SEAL. Chief Petty Officer Remi Adeleke, reservist, SEAL Team 13, gave a testimonial for the 'I Am Second' movement at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel, May 21.

The movement is a series of testimonials from athletes, service members, musicians, and others who look back on their lives and choose to follow a different path.

"As a SEAL, I felt like all the things I was doing on my own time were okay," Adeleke said. "With 'I Am Second,' I not only followed a new lifestyle with religion, but it helped relieve a lot of stress I had in my life."

The presentation began with a cookout and was open to service members and their families. The testimony covered the struggles Adeleke experienced while on active duty and how he could relate to many situations young service members go through today.

"It's easy for service members to relate with him because he knows what we go through, and he's been in our position," said Cpl. Nicholas Frausto, rifleman, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. "For me, following a faith helps my mind be at ease and teaches me a lot of morals that are needed in the military."

Approximately 80 service members and family members attended the event. 'I Am Second' travels across the nation spreading gospel to military bases, college campuses, and other communities.

"The goal isn't to get more people to follow God," Adeleke said. "We want people to have a relationship with Him and learn the morals in His teachings." Combat Center Marines volunteered to serve food and help set up the event.

"I also work the sound board at the chapel but I was more than happy to help for this testimonial," Frausto said. "Religion is important for many families and service members on base. If I can do something to help make their experience better I made sure to have it done."

According to Adeleke, hope becomes an important thing for the families of service members. Hope is what they need when their loved ones are deployed or become injured. For many, religion gives just that.

"I felt like God was always with me," Adeleke said. "It's so relieving to know that no matter what I'm going through whether it is a deployment, ambush or enemy fire, I can find peace by knowing there's someone watching over me. For me, religion provides hope in many things, and that's something that nothing else on this earth can provide. That same hope is something I want to share with other service members and people where ever I can."



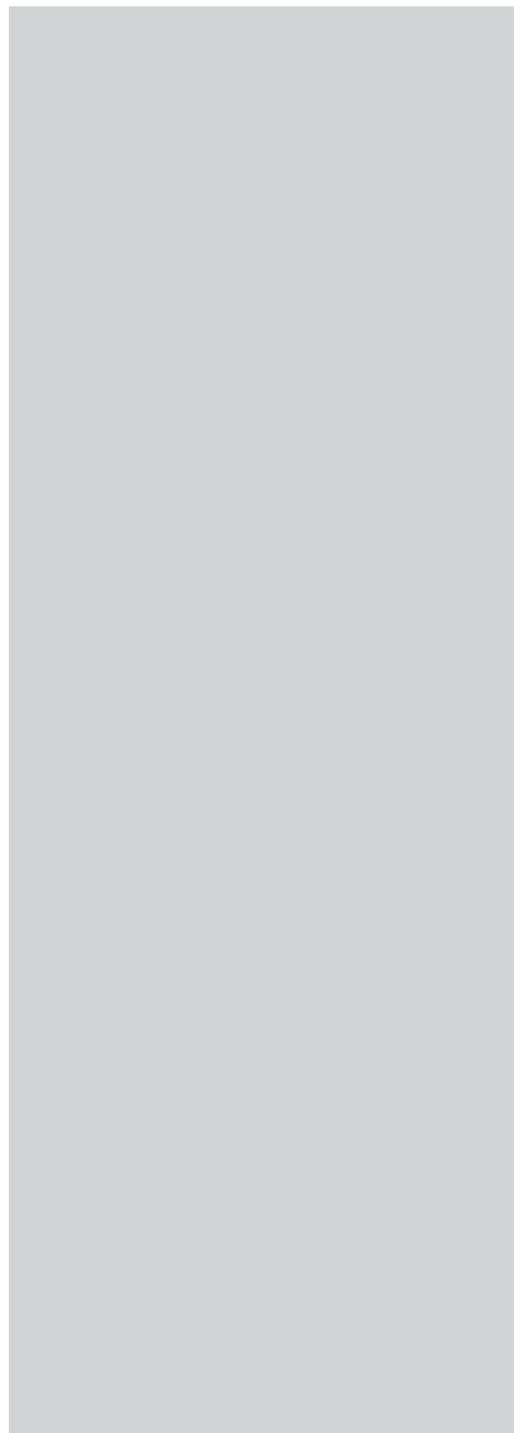
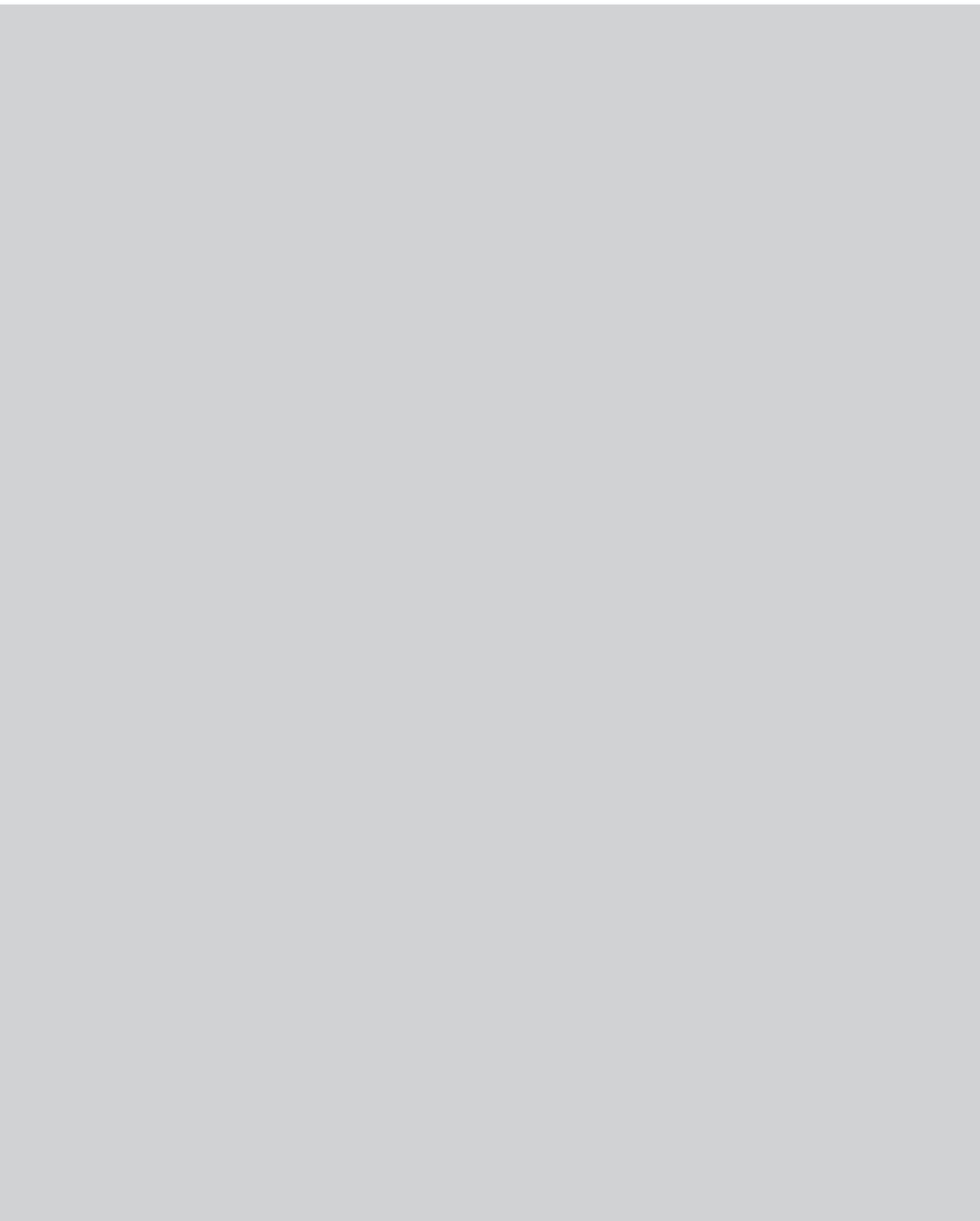
[Above] Chief Petty Officer Remi Adeleke, reservist, SEAL Team 13, prays for participants who want a prayer for something specific in their life during the 'I Am Second' event hosted at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel, May 21.

[Below] Service members and their families listen to a testimonial during the 'I Am Second' event hosted at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel, May 21.

[Bottom, left] Chief Petty Officer Remi Adeleke, reservist, SEAL Team 13, gives the testimony of his life and how it changed with religion while serving during the 'I Am Second' event hosted at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel, May 21.



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





'Darkside' Marines support community

Story and photos by **Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez**

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Every Marine a rifleman. These words have no truer meaning to the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, which is currently known as the most deployed Marine Corps battalion throughout Operation Enduring Freedom. These Marines underwent a different mission in the early hours on Sunday, one that afforded them the opportunity to serve the community in between their periods of serving the nation.

Marines and sailors with 3/4 traveled to San Diego to volunteer at a shelter and participate in a military recognition ceremony in a San Diego Padres baseball game at Petco Park, Sunday.

"We wanted to do something for our single Marines for some time," said Navy Lt. Travis Jewell, Chaplain, 3/4. "We're getting ready to ease the colors soon and we thought about a combination of community relations and fun."

According to Jewell, the battalion was familiar with reaching out to the community, but this time around, the Marines and sailors would be setting foot in a new location and earning a seat at a baseball game for their morning of work.

"We've done community relations, such as adopt-a-school and school visits since coming back from deployment, but [the shelter and game] were a first-time things for 3/4," Jewell said.

The group arrived at the St. Vincent de Paul Village around 5 a.m. to help prepare and serve food to less fortunate members of the community. There was plenty of work to go around as the group chopped fruit, scooped spoons of hot eggs and oatmeal, cut frozen desserts and prepared bag lunches with sandwiches and chips.

"This truly is a village," said Delilah Prokosh, cook on duty, St. Vincent de Paul Village. "We have about 700 men, women and children that live in this area. I love having the Marines here because we don't get this many volunteers on a regular basis."

According to Prokosh, the efforts of the group helped feed approximately 500 people, some of them military veterans. Once breakfast was over, the group turned to wiping tables and mopping floors to conclude a morning of feeding others and leaving a spotless kitchen.

"I thank them for their service," Prokosh said. "Volunteers matter here."

After their volunteer work at the shelter, the group prepared for the baseball game. With a clean appearance in uniform, Marines and sailors took to the field to be seen and cheered on by a crowd of over 30,000, spectators. Sailors from the USS San Diego and drill instructors with soon-to-be-named Marines from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego were also present.



[Above] The San Diego Padres mascot, the Swinging Friar, greets Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, during their appearance at a military appreciation ceremony at a San Diego Padres baseball game at Petco Park, Sunday.

[Top] Baseball players with the San Diego Padres observe the national anthem prior to a San Diego Padres baseball game at Petco Park, Sunday. Service members were invited to watch the Padres play against the Chicago Cubs.



As a treat to the crowd, Navy special operators with the Navy Leap Frog Parachute Team conducted a landing on the field, demonstrating their modern-day military prowess. The San Diego Padres mascot, the Swinging Friar, ran down the line of service members to greet them. Then, a joint Navy and Marine Corps color guard took center field as uniformed service members saluted the colors alongside hundreds of veterans in the crowd whose service spanned different branches and eras.

The service members joined the crowd in watching and cheering for the players from the bleachers, enjoying a game of baseball with a community that welcomed them.

"It was a great time for camaraderie and reflection," Jewell said. "I think the day went very well. [The group] got to serve veterans and eat with them, and received recognition at the game."

Once the game was over, the group returned to the Combat Center, having accomplished their mission to assist a community that needed them and in the process, letting all others know the legacy of 'Darkside' before their colors are cased and the battalion deactivates, until the Marine Corps needs them yet again.

"Now we make sure they go to happy homes," Jewell said. "Whether it's the civilian world or other units. [3/4] has built a great foundation with a legacy to follow. It's not a goodbye but more of a see you later."

Helping HANDS

[Right] Cpl. Christian Martinez, chaplain assistant, 3/4, serves food to a citizen during a volunteer event at the St. Vincent de Paul Village, Sunday. The Marines and sailors within the unit ate breakfast alongside the those who came out, which included veterans.

[Below] Staff Sgt. Abel Olmstead, company gunnery sergeant, 3/4, packs lunches during a volunteer event at the St. Vincent de Paul Village, Sunday. Packing lunches was one of several tasks the group carried out in the kitchen, as well as serving food and chopping fruit.

[Bottom, right] Navy Lt. Travis Jewell, chaplain, 3/4, cleans dishes during a volunteer event at the St. Vincent de Paul Village, Sunday.



Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Intramural Golf Competition

Teams may have up to six players in this 72-hole Stroke Play Tournament. Entry deadline is Friday, June 6.

When: June 9 - 12, 8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Desert Winds Golf Course

For more information, call 830-4092

Summer Flight Night V

Kick off the summer by watching live mixed-martial arts fights for free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Due to the event's violent nature, parental guidance is highly suggested.

When: June 20, 7 - 10 p.m.

Where: Del Valle Field

For more information, call 830-5086

Devil Dogs of Comedy

Form a group and enter a video submission for a chance to win an amazing prize for each team member.

Where: Vlsit www.leatherneck.com for official rules

When: May 19 - June 27

For more information, contact DevilDogsComedy@usmc-mccs.org

For more events, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>

Sunset Cinema

Friday, May 30

6 p.m. - Rio 2, G

8:30 p.m. - Heaven is for Real, PG

11:30 p.m. - The Other Woman, PG-13

Saturday, May 31

10:30 a.m. - Free Admission Free Birds, PG

12:30 p.m. - Rio 2 3-D, G

3 p.m. - Oculus, R

5:30 p.m. - Draft Day, PG-13

8 p.m. - Transcendence, PG-13

11 p.m. - Brick Mansions, R

Sunday, June 1

12:30 p.m. - A Haunted House 2, R

2:30 p.m. - Brick Mansions, R

5 p.m. - The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3-D, PG-13

8:30 p.m. - The Quiet Ones, PG-13

Monday, June 2

5 p.m. - Free Admission Fast Times at Ridgemont High, R

7 p.m. - Rio 2, G

Tuesday, June 3

5 p.m. - Free Admission The Breakfast Club, R

7 p.m. - The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3-D, PG-13

Wednesday, June 4

5 p.m. - Free Admission Ferris Bueller's Day Off, PG-13

7 p.m. - Draft Day, PG-13

Thursday, June 5

5 p.m. - Free Admission Top Gun, PG-13

7 p.m. - Oculus, R

High Desert

A Doll's House

A gripping drama first produced in 1879.

When: June 20 - July 19

Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Rd

For more information, call (760) 361-4151

Low Desert

Golden Boy Boxing

10-round main event will feature Hugo 'The Boss' Centeno against Domonique Dolton

When: 8 p.m., June 6

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Pkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 342-5000

Wayans Brothers Live

Actors and comedians perform live

When: 8 p.m., June 21

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Pkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 342-5000



Here's The Pitch: Jon Hamm stars in unlikely true underdog baseball tale

NEIL POND

"Million Dollar Arm"

Starring Jon Hamm, Lake Bell, Suraj Sharma & Alan Arkin

Directed by Craig Gillespie
PG, 124 min.

Based on a true story from 2008, "Million Dollar Arm" stars TV's "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm as a struggling sports agent who goes scouting for baseball's next pitching superstars in an unlikely part of the world.

After hopeful negotiations to rep a pro footballer (played by Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Rey Mauluga) fall through, Hamm's character, J.B. Bernstein, and his business partner (Aasif Mandif) turn their sights to baseball, hoping to find a young, unknown, unsigned player. But where? All the international hot spots (Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, even China) have already been staked out and tapped.

In a flash of inspiration, J.B. sees a cricket match on TV and gets an idea: Go to India, a country where baseball is virtually unknown, find cricket "bowlers" who can pitch, and bring them back to America.

So he concocts a contest, called the Million Dollar Arm, and sets off to the other side of the globe to discover what he hopes will be the next ballpark sensations — and the ticket to keeping his small agency afloat.

Hamm is the star of this show, clearly, but "Million Dollar Arm" is also a movie about journeys, geographical as well as emotional. As J.B. adjusts to his new surroundings in India, we meet

the two young men, Dinesh (Madhur Mittal, from "Slumdog Millionaire") and Rinku (Suraj Sharma, the star of "Life of Pi"), that will eventually be chosen for a shot — a long one, at that — at baseball's big leagues, and we come to understand their anxieties about leaving their families, their rural villages, and the only ways of life they've ever known.

J.B. is accompanied on his trip by a grumpy semi-retired American baseball scout (Alan Arkin, dialing in his usual comical crankiness), and he ultimately brings his new recruits home to learn fundamentals under the tutelage of a former MLB player now coaching college ball (Bill Paxton, portraying real-life USC coach Tom House with just the right dose of sunburn and seasoning).

Bollywood actor-comedian Pitobash brings both heart and humanity to his sidekick role as J.B.'s volunteer Indian assistant, who dreams of someday becoming a baseball coach himself. But the movie's real "heart" belongs to Lake Bell, as J.B.'s brainy med-student guesthouse renter, whose graceful, unforced acting keeps her character's slow-blooming romance with J.B. feeling more sincere than sappy.

The Disney folks surely took some license, as moviemakers often do, but all of this really happened. To see just how closely the film paralleled the real characters, stay for the credits and the photos, video clips and other postscript highlights.

More cynical viewers might wish for a more cynical movie, a movie with more rough edges or tough breaks or dark corners. But for anyone who wants to bask in a ray of early summer sunshine, this uplifting, spirit-boosting tale of baseball, dreams, second chances and the grand, glorious game of life itself could be just the ticket.

DMO changes policies, offers advice

Story by
MCAGCC Distribution Management Office

Service members marines anticipating a PCS move from 15 May through 31 July 2014 are encouraged to take the following actions:

Plan your move. Attend a "PCS smooth move" or other command-sponsored PCS workshop offered.

Visit www.move.mil and review the household goods move planning tools available. Take the time to review the "it's your move" pamphlets, front load washer servicing notice, flat screen television requirements and other useful training and information tools presented on the defense personal property system website.

Establish a DPS account at www.move.mil. Most service members can establish an account with DPS and proceed with self counseling. However, first-time movers, separators, retirees and other special category personnel must also be counseled at the local personal property office. A DPS account is still required to track and manage shipments and file claims. Local base or station personal property offices can assist in setting up those accounts.

Upon completion of self counseling, immediately provide a copy of official web, separation or retirement orders to the personal property office. Applications for household goods moves must be accompanied by a valid copy of your official orders.

Book early and ensure flexibility in packing, pick-up and delivery dates. The most popular pick-up dates for PCS moves are prior to Memorial Day weekend and two weeks after the 4th of July. Executing household goods moves during this "peak of the peak" summer season presents unique challenges since shipment volumes stretch the limits of industry capacity.

Pick-up dates should be planned to allow for an additional few days between requested and actual pick-up dates in order to vacate housing, commence travel and execute other pcs-related events. The last days and the first days of every month are particularly difficult dates since most leases and rental agreements start or end during that time. As a reminder, final pack and pick-up dates are not confirmed until the conclusion of the pre-move survey, so be sure to obtain confirmation of pack and pick-up dates before making any final travel arrangements. If circumstances require a change to the agreed upon pack and pick-up dates, there is a substantial risk that new requested dates may not be available, which may result in a significant delay in executing your move.

Stay in contact with the household goods moving company, now known as the transportation service provider. DPS provides points of contact for each TSP supporting each move. Pick-ups for multiple shipments should not be scheduled on the same day (household goods, nontemporary storage and unaccompanied baggage, when applicable) as confusion may cause the

wrong items to be placed into the wrong shipment.

Immediately notify the local personal property office should any unforeseen issues arise during the move.

Consider performing a personally procured move, formerly known as a "do it yourself" move. Eligible service members may be paid up to 95 percent of the government's cost for performing a similar move. A PPM offers the greatest flexibility when performing an eligible move. Marines are required to perform a PPM counseling within DPS, or at the local personal property office and complete all documentation requirements within DPS including DD Form 2278. Marines may be advanced up to 50 percent of the cost based on the estimated weight of the household goods.

Note that PPM shipments may be inspected to ensure only authorized household goods are moved.

PPM settlement claims may be turned in to the nearest United States Marine Corps personal property office or mailed to the Marine Corps Logistics Command transportation voucher certification division. Instructions on how to file a PPM claim are located at www.logcom.usmc.mil/tvcd. Empty and full weight tickets are required to complete the reimbursement claim. The incentive payment may not be authorized without the necessary documentation.

If there are any damages incurred during your household goods shipment, ensure the TSP is notified of your intent to file a claim, using the DPS

claims module, within 75 days of delivery and identify those items that were discovered damaged after delivery. Claims must be completed and filed with the TSP within nine months of the delivery date to receive full replacement value and a separate claim must be filed for each shipment (household goods, nontemporary storage and unaccompanied baggage shipments when applicable).

The claims submission process in DPS can be difficult to use but a thorough review of the "how to file a claim in DPS" video at www.move.mil will help you navigate through this process.

If additional assistance is needed, contact the local personal property office. In the event an equitable settlement on your claim cannot be reached through the TSP, contact the Marine Corps Claims Office at (703) 784-9533 for guidance. If your household goods are not picked up or delivered on the dates agreed upon dates, you may have the option of filing an inconvenience claim with the TSP for authorized out-of-pocket expenses. Contact your local personal property office at (760) 830-6119 for additional details.

As of 1 May 2014, there have been changes made to the max amount of pro gear you are now allowed to claim; it is capped off at 2000 pounds. In addition, the definition of pro gear has changed. PBPE, also known as pro gear allowance changes can be found in MARADMIN 177/14.

Consider performing a personally procured move, formerly known as a 'do it yourself' move."

- Distribution Management Office

Helpful Links & Numbers

Creating a DPS account

www.move.mil

Filing a PPM Claim

www.logcom.usmc.mil/tvcd

MCAGCC Personal Property Office

(760) 830-6119

Marine Corps Claims Office

(703) 784-9533

Quick TIPS

Attend a command-sponsored PCS workshop

Plan pick-up dates to allow for additional days in between requested and actual

Maintain contact with the household goods moving company

Immediately notify local personal property office in event of unforeseen issue

Ensure TSP is notified of intents to file a claim if shipments are damaged



Hey Combat Center fans!
The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>.



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



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