



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion hold signs with the new names of three 3rd LAR buildings aboard the Combat Center during a building dedication ceremony at 3rd LAR Headquarters Building, April 30.

3rd LAR recognizes fallen heroes

STORY AND PHOTOS
 BY PFC. LEVI
 SCHULTZ

Two Marines and one sailor were honored during a building dedication ceremony at the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Headquarters Building, April 30, 2015.

Lance Cpl. Justin D. Reppuhn, motor transportation operator, Seaman Chadwick T. Kenyon, corpsman, and Cpl. Adam A. Galvez, Light Armored Vehicle mechanic, 3rd LAR, were posthumously honored with the renaming of 3rd LAR buildings aboard the Combat Center in dedication of their valiant actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the ceremony, the citations summarizing the actions of the two Marines and sailor were read by Marines and sailors with 3rd LAR. The citations gave a glimpse of the heroic and brave actions displayed by the 3rd LAR Marines and sailor

During combat opera-



Petty Officer 3rd Class Taylor Belinowski, corpsman, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, presents Charmaine Dorris, mother of Seaman Chadwick T. Kenyon, corpsman, 3rd LAR, with flowers during a building dedication ceremony at 3rd LAR Headquarters Building, April 30.

tions, Reppuhn's decisive and skillful reactions to enemy fire and emplaced obstacles, while serving as lead driver of his convoy, saved the lives of his fellow Marines and sail-

ors. He died of injuries suffered while receiving enemy fire in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 11, 2004.

While serving as a corpsman for Company D, 3rd LAR, Kenyon

risked his life on multiple occasions to provide medical care to Marines while under enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety. He

See **Heroes** pg. A6

Marines provide earthquake relief for Nepal



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MANDALINE HATCH

U.S. Marine MV-22B Ospreys arrive at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday. Marines brought tools and equipment to support the government of Nepal after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck their country, April 25.

STORY BY CAPT. CASSANDRA GESECKI

KATHMANDU, Nepal - Four MV-22B Ospreys arrived at Tribhuvan International Airport May 3 to support relief efforts in central Nepal after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the country, April 25.

An international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation has been taking place in and around Kathmandu since the earthquake struck. These aircraft are part of the first wave of U.S. military aircraft that will arrive in country to support the relief effort.

The United States Agency for International Development has been coordinating the U.S. government's response efforts, conducting disaster assessments, and providing search and rescue capabilities since the disaster struck. On April 29, the U.S. military deployed a 20-person Joint Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team led by Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy, to Nepal to support the USAID's response efforts. A unique capability was identified during that initial assessment and USAID requested Department of Defense aircraft in order to access to hard-hit areas and speed up the delivery

See **Relief** pg. A6



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MANDALINE HATCH

U.S. Marines unload a UH-1Y Huey off of a Boeing C-17 Globemaster III onto Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday. Marines brought tools and equipment to support the government of Nepal after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck their country, April 25.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Cpl. Unique Roberts.



A naval aviator with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 flies above North Carolina during aerial refueling training with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, April 14, 2015.

Children show Earth Day artistry



Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, recognizes Madison Fulcher, Earth Day poster finalist, Condor Elementary, for being one of nine finalists in the Earth Day Poster Contest, May 1.

STORY AND PHOTOS
 BY LANCE CPL.
 THOMAS MUDD

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs visited the Twentynine Palms and Condor Elementary Schools to recognize the finalists of the first Earth Day poster competition, May 1, 2015.

The theme for this year's

Earth Day was "think green, save blue," to raise water conservation awareness throughout the community. The NREA wanted to bring more artistic ideas to this year's Earth Day celebration and decided on a poster contest for Condor Elementary and Twentynine Palms Elementary.

"We held the poster

See **Posters** pg. A6



Reprinted from the Observation Post
 May 3, 1968
 Story by Sgt. D.J. Butler

Night Shoot Ends Spring Launchings

It is here in this isolated corner of the Mohave Desert that Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms earns its keep.

They call it X-ray range — miles of stark desert that, save one, has no apparent purpose. But X-ray and modern warfare met eyeball to eyeball last week in a five-second blue flash of ignition and white flash of impact that is the deadly surface-to-air missile, the HAWK.

The HAWK, a \$47,000 complex guided missile, ideal for the Marine Corps because of its portability, had successfully finished exactly what it had been built for, and what the Marines of Delta Batteries, 1st and 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battalions had hoped it would do.

For the better part of a week, the Marine missilemen, most Vietnam returnees, had been swarming over their equipment deep in X-ray range, testing, checking, and adjusting for their final, triple, "shoot of the Spring. The next would be in October.

The tools and sounds of modern warfare were all there; the revolving snowshoe-shaped pulse acquisition radar, the Mickey Mouse ears of illuminating radar, communications equipment, operating vans, and the bubble-shaped nerve center of operations.

From the main operations cen-

ter, officers and men of Marine Air Reserve Missile Training Detachment, commanded by LtCol. D. E. Erway, scanned their familiar blip of the remote controlled target drone.

Other Marines marked coordinates on transparent plotting boards showing at all times precisely where the drone was at. It all looked exactly as it was supposed to look — the smoky semi-darkness of the windowless nerve center packed with tracking, control and communication equipment.

Two operational set-ups were being used — a manual mode of control consisting of senior and assistant missile directors and two recorders, and the automatic mode of control, a table-sized console capable of controlling an entire HAWK missile battalion.

The console, which is new to the Marine Corps, looked vaguely like an extract from Buck Rogers — a luminous green scope. Flashing red identification lights — that does everything but make the coffee.

From his position at the automatic mode, the controlling officer can relay target distance, height, decisions on friend or foe, and commands to fire, and receive the results from the batteries themselves without uttering a word.

Down in Delta 1, all was ready. Operators were synchronizing their scopes with the operation center, and making last hour adjustments to their equipment.

The launch of four drones began a little after sundown. Inside D-1's operation center, a suitcase-sized box was following every move made by the operating center.

That small box, which was being tested for the first time by the Marine Corps, was replacing a two-man operations van.

For more than 30 minutes one drone circled the desert, while Delta-1 and 2 tested and experimented with their tracking equipment.

From inside the bubble came "drone incoming, sir. D-1 locked on." Delta 1 had a "fix" on the small pilot-less plane, and was waiting for a fire order.

A few last minute adjustments were made as the 16-foot HAWKS swung around in their launchers, nosecones to the sky. LtCol. Erway nodded to his operations officer, the command was given, and the 500th HAWK to be launched by the Marine Corps was on its way.

In four seconds of violent flight by the HAWK, the visit with modern warfare was over, the drone downed, and progress caught in the act.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Benjamin O. Williams
 Born April 3, 2015
 Born to Sharon and Jason Williams

Landon Lynn Pugh
 Born April 10, 2015
 Born to Derek and Krystina Pugh

Parker James Aranda
 Born April 12, 2015
 Born to Malcolm and Amber Aranda

Aspen Kate Harbeson
 Born April 12, 2015
 Born to David and Nichelle Harbeson

Micaela Marie Nunez
 Born April 12, 2015
 Born to Edwin and Laura Nunez

Madilynn Rae Zelenka
 Born on April 14, 2015
 Born to Payden and Deven Zelenka

Carson James Nissen
 Born April 15, 2015
 Born to Chance and Jordan Niessen

Mia Dalia Leyva
 Born April 16, 2015
 Born to Horacio and Janet Leyva

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Sparks, as of ideas
 - 6 Bounding main
 - 11 Depressed
 - 14 Profit
 - 15 Rich kid in "Nancy"
 - 16 Big galoot
 - 17 "Shake It Off" singer
 - 19 Feb. follower
 - 20 "___ to Joy"
 - 21 Level, e.g.
 - 22 Aesop story
 - 24 Edit a report
 - 26 Muffin choice
 - 27 Start of a nursery rhyme
 - 34 Church section
 - 37 At no time
 - 38 Bagel fish
 - 39 Off, like a note
 - 40 Hauls
 - 41 Ask for more service
 - 42 B&B or lodge
 - 43 Apartment manager
 - 44 Made sure of
 - 45 Erica Jong novel
 - 48 Louisville slugger
 - 49 Chocolate dessert
 - 53 Primrose with yellow flowers
 - 56 Chew like a mouse
 - 58 Nexus of activity
 - 59 Two-piece top
 - 60 Delivery service of old
 - 64 Light-colored wood
 - 65 In the know
 - 66 Causing shivers, perhaps
 - 67 Storm center
 - 68 Point on a line
 - 69 Certain hucksters
- Down**
- 1 Not a croc
 - 2 Equivocate
 - 3 Having beams of light
 - 4 Cool amount?
 - 5 Miniature racer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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59				60	61	62					63		
64				65							66		
67				68							69		

- 6 Approximating words
- 7 Monk's head covering
- 8 Biblical high priest
- 9 Fuzzy TV E.T.
- 10 Equity complaint
- 11 Petting zoo baby
- 12 Translucent gem
- 13 Had been
- 18 College marching org.
- 23 Where to draw 24 hrs. a day?
- 25 "Your door is ___"
- 26 Low scores
- 28 Publisher Alfred A. ___
- 29 Nut of a certain palm
- 30 Opposite of no
- 31 Bungled, as a task
- 32 Oafish sort
- 33 Large intl. show
- 34 "No way!"
- 35 The ___ Ranger
- 36 Casserole fish
- 40 Cluster of small feathers
- 41 Name in tomato sauces
- 43 Kitchen cleanser
- 44 Stir-fry unit
- 46 Slugger's stat.
- 47 Big theater
- 50 Col. Potter of "M*A*S*H," to pals
- 51 "___ Q" (CCR)
- 52 "Beverly Hillbillies" star
- 53 Clarinet kin
- 54 CAT scan ancestor
- 55 Salt ___ City
- 56 Kin of a pita
- 57 Classic hair removal brand
- 61 Take on debts
- 62 Power ___ (exec's break)
- 63 Electoral map shade

SUDOKU

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		5			8						3	
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		9									4	2
		8									1	
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						5	3					

Last week's answers

S	O	A	P		M	O	B	S		G	O	O	N	S			
I	N	F	O		A	R	E	A		R	U	B	I	K			
B	U	R	P		D	E	A	N		A	T	O	N	E			
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8	9	7	1	4	2	6	3	5
4	5	3	6	8	7	9	1	2
2	1	6	3	5	9	7	4	8
9	6	1	4	2	3	8	5	7
7	4	8	5	9	1	2	6	3
3	2	5	8	7	6	1	9	4
6	8	9	2	3	5	4	7	1
5	7	4	9	1	8	3	2	6
1	3	2	7	6	4	5	8	9

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 - 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.
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 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
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- 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

Robert AGUILERA

Los Angeles, CA, Lance Cpl., Administration Specialist, Installation Personnel Administration Specialist, Headquarters Battalion

>I grew up in a bad neighborhood in South LA but I never had any issues and managed to keep myself separated from any trouble.

>Some of the activities I like to do include working on cars and taking the vehicles down to the track when I get a chance. In my spare time, I hang out with friends and I usually go and spend my weekends down in LA.

>My interest in cars started in high school when I got my driver's license at the age of 16.

>My knowledge of cars came by working on them myself and hanging out at my brother's friend's auto shop. On the weekends I would go there and watch them work.

>I don't see myself as a car designer or anything like that, but I have a couple of goals such as opening up a garage and having a small business to go along with my career.

>I was more interested in cars for their looks at first, but now the handling and performance is what draws me to them.

>Everything in a good car just fits together; the way it looks inside and out, how comfortable it is and how it performs.

>Recently I sold my 2014 Scion FR-S. It was a [coupe] but it had four-passenger seating, so the people in the back would be uncomfortable.

>My dream cars aren't impossible, million-dollar vehicles. The car I want to own one day is an Audi RS7, a four-door Sedan with a big engine.

>There are six of us in my family. Most of my siblings were a bit older, but I grew up having a closer relationship with my younger brother. I see myself as his mentor and want to make sure he does well.

>My older brother shares my interest in cars and recently I have tried to introduce my younger brother to cars.

>I've been in the Marine Corps for about a year and eight months.

>The way Marines carry themselves and the customs and courtesies they practice are what brought me into the Corps.

>Before I joined the Marine Corps, I was a police cadet in Los Angeles for three years which had me working alongside police officers and detectives.

>I built a lot of good relationships with the officers who were former Marines.

>I noticed the way they carried themselves and worked with each other was different than the other officers who had gone to college or different branch of service.

>The former Marines were a factor in my decision to join the

AGUILERA, WAS A CADET FOR THREE YEARS WITH THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT. ON HIS SPARE TIME HE ENJOYS DRIVING AND WORKING ON VEHICLES. HIS OLDER BROTHER BEGAN INTRODUCING AGUILERA TO VEHICLES IN HIGH SCHOOL AND IN THE FUTURE HE HOPES TO OPEN HIS OWN CAR GARAGE.



Marine Corps. I also wanted a military background before I joined law enforcement. Being a cadet was seeing other cadets in the city volunteering their time and putting themselves in danger for the community and I wanted to be a part of that.

>When you join as a cadet you go through a six-month academy before you get assigned to a station to work under police officers.

>All the work I did as a cadet gave me a small grasp on what law enforcement is like and I realized it's a [career I want to pursue].

>After I get out of the Marine Corps, I plan to join the LAPD.

>I never felt forced to be a cadet, to like cars, or join the Marine Corps. They were all things that I became passionate about and I will never forget.

Interview and photo by Pfc. Levi Schultz

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12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
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12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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12:30 3:30
Ex Machina (R)
12:30 3:30

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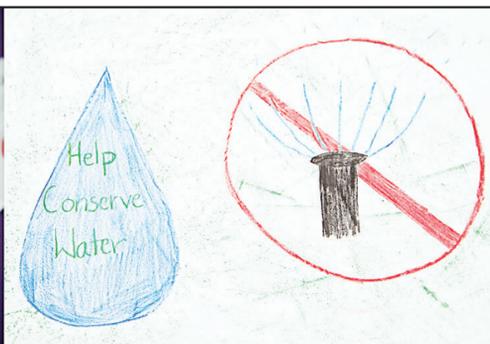
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NREA Earth Day Poster Contest finalists

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs visited the Twentynine Palms and Condor Elementary Schools to recognize the finalists of the first Earth Day poster competition, May 1, 2015. Students gave their artistic view of Earth Day through these posters. Out of 125 posters submitted, NREA representatives selected nine finalists.

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

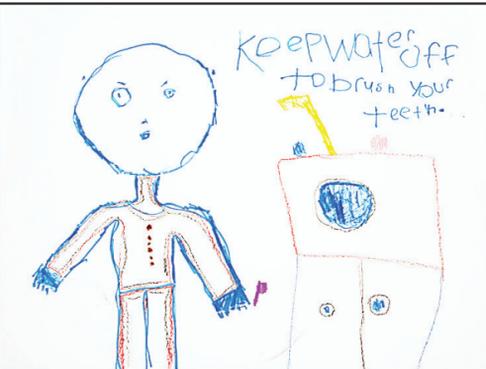


Patricia Ochoa, Earth Day poster finalist, Condor Elementary

What would you do if you saw someone littering or being wasteful? I would tell they should not do that and ask them to pick it up. I would try to remind them next time so they don't do it again.

Mitchell Klich, Earth Day poster finalist, Condor Elementary

Where did you get the idea for your Earth Day poster? I drew a boy turning the water off as he brushes his teeth, because that is what we learned to do.



Isabella Ramirez, Earth Day poster finalist, Condor Elementary

What would you do if you saw someone littering or being wasteful? I would ask them to pick it up and tell them it is a harmful thing to do to the Earth.

Madison Fulcher, Earth Day Poster finalist, Condor Elementary

Why is Earth Day important to you? I think it is important because, if we don't take care of the Earth, then things like trees will die and we won't have fresh air anymore. If we want to stay healthy we need to keep the Earth healthy.



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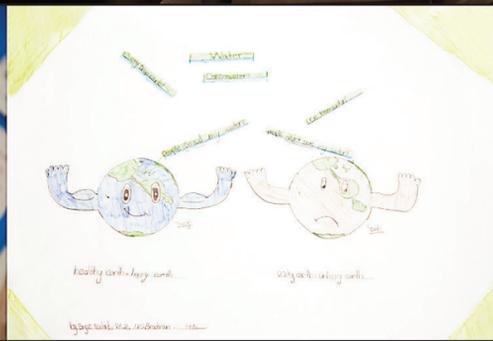
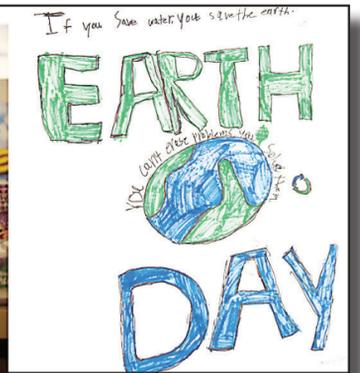
Enjoy the game!

New! Weekend Rates now the same as weekday!

Good thru May 31st

Jesse Williams, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary

What would you do if you saw someone littering or being wasteful? I would ask them to pick it up because it is bad to do that. If they would not do it, I would pick it up for them.



Bryce Newland, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary

Why is Earth Day important to you? Earth Day is important because we need water. If something goes wrong and we don't have water, we can't grow crops or raise animals.

Sara Willis, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary

What would you do if you saw someone littering or being wasteful? I would ask them to pick it up and tell them it is bad to do that to the Earth.

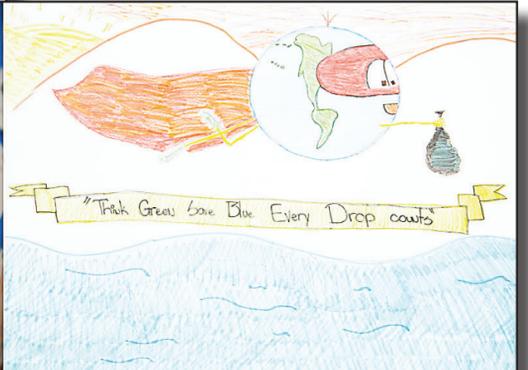


Hailey Beck, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary

Where did you get the idea for your poster? When I heard Earth Day, I thought of recycling, so I made my border with water drops in the shape of the recycle symbol, then I put the logo with the Earth because that is what we are trying to protect.

Kate Bobadilla, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary

Why is Earth Day important to you? There are a lot of people in the world who litter and I don't like it. If they picked up their trash, then we could keep the world nicer.



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Heroes from pg. A1

died of injuries suffered when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Rawah, Iraq, Aug. 20, 2006. Galvez sustained injuries when a traffic control point he was guarding was attacked by enemy forces, July 29, 2006. He was offered time to recover from injuries but returned to his platoon early after volunteering for a patrol. He rode in the same vehicle as Kenyon when the IED was triggered resulting in his death.

The ceremony honored the lives of Reppuhn, Kenyon and Galvez with the battalion's leadership recognizing how their actions gave back to the Corps.

"It's important that we recognize these service members for what they contributed to the Marine Corps," said Sgt. Maj. Edward Zapata, sergeant major, 3rd LAR. "They went above and beyond in their actions and their selflessness serves as a good



Cpl. Garrett Wilson, Light Armored Vehicle crewman, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, carries the Company D guidon during a building dedication ceremony at 3rd LAR Headquarters Building, April 30.

[example] for Marines."

The 3rd LAR Color Guard presented the colors for the dedication ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the families of the service members were presented with flowers by the Battalion while 3rd LAR Marines stood in formation.

"I feel that this is the highest honor they could be given," said Amy Galvez, mother of Adam Galvez. "I'm very proud of my son and I know this would mean a lot to them."

The HN (FMF)

Chadwick T. Kenyon Battalion Aid Station, Lance Cpl. Justin D. Reppuhn Motor Transport Ramp and Cpl. Adam A. Galvez Light Armored Vehicle Ramp are the official names of the buildings in honor of the service members who sacrificed their lives.

"They gave everything they could of themselves," said Lt. Col. Matt Good, battalion commander, 3rd LAR. "May their selfless actions serve as a reminder and call to action for us to emulate."

Relief from pg. A1

of critical emergency supplies.

"The MV-22B Osprey is the ideal aircraft for this type of HADR mission," Kennedy said. "With its medium-lift capacity and ability to cover large distances in a reduced amount of time, we'll be able to ferry supplies to outlying villages for Nepalese forces and NGOs to distribute."

Since the Osprey's arrival in Okinawa, it has established a solid track record as the Marine Corps' go-to aircraft for disaster relief, successfully contributing to the humanitarian efforts during Operation Damayan in 2013. During that mission, the MV-22Bs evacuated more than 1,200 people, saving lives and delivering more than 20 tons of supplies to remote areas where neither traditional airplanes nor helicopters could reach.

The MV-22B has the ability to quickly convert from a rotary to fixed wing configuration, which makes it notably faster than more traditional rotary wing assets.

"This means that we can get more relief aid and much needed supplies to more isolated areas in significantly less time," said Kennedy.

USAID has sent plastic sheeting and other critical humanitarian supplies to Nepal to be distributed to families in hard-hit areas such as Gorkha and Sindhupalchok, where homes have severely damaged or destroyed. USAID



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MANDALINE HATCH
U.S. Marines, Lance Cpl. David H. Serrano (right) and Staff Sgt. Joseph Thomas, unload a UH-1Y Huey off of a Boeing C-17 Globemaster III onto Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, April 25.

will identify how the MV-22Bs can best be deployed to expedite these materials to the people that need it the most.

Official sources have reported that more than 5,500 deaths had resulted from the earthquake in central Nepal and another 7,000 people had sustained earthquake-related injuries. 39 of Nepal's 75 districts have been affected.

The United States military has been training with Nepalese forces to respond to just such a disaster for years. Most recently, Kennedy's Marines from the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade worked together with their Nepalese counterparts during two earthquake-focused training events in Nepal in 2013 and 2014.

"It seems unlikely that an amphibious force would come to this landlocked country but this is an event that we have been preparing for with our partners for years," said Kennedy.

Posters from pg. A1

contest because children are so creative," said Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. "They have a great perspective on things and we want to share that creativity."

The children's poster ideas came from what they believed to be important about Earth Day. Keeping water conservation the main idea for their creativity they submitted their posters.

"Earth Day is important because we need water, said Bryce Newland, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary. "If something goes wrong and we don't have water, we can't grow crops or raise animals."

According to Pochop, the NREA's hope is to change the way people think about conserving water. Teaching children about the importance of conserving

water allows for a greater impact on the community through the youngest members of the family.

"We reached out to the youth to let them be an engine for change," Pochop said. "We wanted to teach the children to conserve so they can take the knowledge home and help bring water conservation to the rest of the household."

One hundred twenty-five posters were submitted by the schools' students. All entries were separated into groups based on grade and considered by NREA representatives until nine finalists were selected. The finalist's posters were displayed during the Earth Day Extravaganza, April 24, 2015, in which members of the community voted for their favorite. The nine students were each given a plaque by the NREA recognizing the creative message displayed in their posters.

"This was a unique opportunity for

the school to work with an entity on base," said Paul Gattuso, principal, Condor Elementary. "I feel like having the NREA come to the school and present the plaques to children really drives their hard work home."

The posters will be shown in this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report goes out in July to Combat Center patrons and covers different topics such as water quality issues and consumption rates for the base.

"Usually the report just has pictures of signs and water faucets," Pochop said. "We wanted to do something a little different this year."

NREA wants to continue to promote the event and make the celebration of Earth Day bigger next year.

"We want to see this grow much larger," Pochop said. "We will figure out the best way to do that in next year's plan."



Kate Bobadilla, Earth Day poster finalist, Twentynine Palms Elementary, presents her poster to the class while being recognized by Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, for being a finalist in the Earth Day Poster Contest, May 1.

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Dunham Hall hosts professional chefs



Lance Cpl. Shawn Burkmier, food service specialist, 1st Tank Battalion, prepares flatbread pizza during Romano's Macaroni Grill's visit to Dunham Hall, April 29.



Ramiro Hereia, executive chef, Romano's Macaroni Grill, teaches Pfc. Dayton Taylor, food service specialist, 7th Marine Regiment, how to prepare Mushroom Ravioli during the restaurant's visit to Dunham Hall, April 29.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

In an effort to provide a change of pace for Combat Center Marines and sailors, Dunham Mess Hall staff hosted chefs from Romano's Macaroni Grill, April 29, 2015.

This is the first time the Combat Center has hosted the Macaroni Grill to serve troops aboard the Combat Center. Their visit was coordinated through William Hunter, general manager, Dunham Hall. The goal of the event is to treat Marines and sailors who dine there to something different.

"Some of the feedback we receive from the Marines and sailors pertain to the variety of food served at the [mess hall]," Hunter said. "If we host events like this every so often, the service members will get that variety."

This is the first time Macaroni Grill chefs have served their dishes in any military installation's mess hall and the event was a way for the chefs to show their gratitude. Mike Kyger and Ramiro Hereia, executive chefs, Romano's Macaroni Grill, prepared Carmela's Rigatoni, Mushroom Ravioli and flatbread pizza as their featured dishes.

"We're here to not only showcase some of Macaroni Grill's [most popular] dishes, but more importantly, honor the military for all they do for us and our country," Kyger said.

During the visit, the chefs walked around the dining area and asked Marines and sailors for their thoughts on the dishes served.

According to Hunter, visits like this benefit the service members who dine at the mess hall frequently. The visit also prepares military food service specialists who are interested in pursuing a career in culinary arts after their military service ends. Hunter hopes to coordinate with more vendors like Macaroni Grill in the future.

The four Marine food service specialists who participated in the event were able to interact with the chefs. They learned new food preparation techniques they can apply in the kitchen when serving Marines every day.

"I'm operating a pizza oven today which is something I've never done before and that's knowledge gained," said Lance Cpl. Shawn Burkmier, food service specialist, 1st Tank Battalion. "I think events like this are helpful to the cooks because it expands our knowledge and improves our skills."



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Petra, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, receives his food during Romano's Macaroni Grill visit to Dunham Hall, April 29.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



As we observe Mother's Day, I share these words written by Mary Gordon in her novel "Men and Angels."

"No one had told her what it would be like, the way she loved her children... How I love you, she always wanted to say. I would die for you without a thought. You have given to my life its sheerest, its profoundest pleasure. But she would never say that. Instead, she would say, 'How was school?' 'Was lunch alright?' 'Did you have your math test?'"

My mother was a tiny Irish lass who rarely expressed tender, loving, compassionate feelings toward her children and other family members. I mean that she often concealed her genuine interest and heartfelt concern.

I recall, for example, when I was picked up by the police for drinking at a school function. My mother told the authorities to keep me in jail overnight, saying, "Maybe it will do him some good." Some years later, my father told me that my mother cried all that night.

Only once did my mother really let down her guard and put some of her private thoughts and feelings on paper. On Sept. 27, 1956, my mother wrote me a letter. It contains these words:

"I believe that a happy family is the greatest success in life. Love in the home makes the person. It is the builder of all great things. You have heard me say many times, 'God is Love.' To me that is the answer to all problems."

I imagine that even as you read this column, your thoughts are on your own mother. I pray that your thoughts are sweet.

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COMBAT CENTER LIBRARY CELEBRATES FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO



Combat Center families visited the base library's first Free Comic Book Day, Saturday.

Free Comic Book Day is a national program that takes place on the first Saturday in May every year. It was started in 2002 with the purpose of introducing participants to comic books, attracting old comic book readers, and thanking current comic book enthusiasts for their continued support.

"Comic books are one of those things that make it easier for kids to get into reading," said Remington Stewart, library technician, Marine Corps Community Services. "When there are super heroes and game characters involved it makes reading fun for those who would otherwise struggle and it's a great way to find out if comic books are something that you're into."

More than 125 people attended the event, which was open to all Combat Center patrons. Those who attended were given one free comic book and an additional one if they checked out a book from the library. They were also allowed to take more comic books if they wore a T-Shirt that was related to comic books in some way.

"Because of our location, getting access to events like Free Comic Book Day can be difficult," said Jim Mallard, library technician, MCCS. "Participating in these things is important to members of the Combat Center because we are able to bring what they enjoy to them."

In preparation for the event, a request for comic books was given to Diamond Comic Distributor, who delivered approximately 2,500 comic books in support of the event.

"I was eight years old when I got my first comic," Stewart said. "We had a special guest who gave handouts to everyone and to this day I still have that book."

The Combat Center library hopes to continue hosting the annual celebration. The library also hosts a series of similar events throughout the year. The remaining books will be available to anyone who missed the event and still wants a free comic book.

"I think comic books have a better opportunity to fully immerse the reader than plain text books do," Stewart said. "Reading comic books is like putting your imagination on auto-drive. There are a lot of things that you see when reading comic books that you wouldn't be able to envision otherwise."



Nehemiah Hill, 7, son of Staff Sgt. Christopher Hill, infantry unit leader, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, native of Albuquerque, N.M., looks at a comic book during the Combat Center's first Free Comic Book Day at the base library, Saturday.



Christine Anderson, 7, daughter of Capt. Michael Anderson, host nation support developer, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, native of Houston, Texas, looks at a comic book during the Combat Center's first Free Comic Book Day at the base library, Saturday.



Ariana Denny, 3, daughter of Petty Officer 3rd Class Jerred Denny, corpsman, 7th Marine Regiment, native of Redding, Calif., looks at a comic book during the Combat Center's first Free Comic Book Day at the base library, Saturday.



Ryan Reifke, 5, son of Staff Sgt. James Reifke, platoon sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, native of Lockport, Ill., chooses between two comic books during the Combat Center's first Free Comic Book Day at the base library, Saturday.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Register for a chance to win a spot in the Choose-a-Ride Sweepstakes. Participants will have a one in eleven chance of winning a brand new car. This event is open to active duty military and their spouses only. Visit the MCCS Facebook page for more information. The page can be found at [facebook.com/MCCS29](https://www.facebook.com/MCCS29) palms.

Come visit Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center. With well-maintained lanes, large screen televisions, and a digital jukebox, it's a great facility for indoor recreational fun and relaxation. Tournaments are offered regularly and cosmic bowling runs every Friday and Saturday evening. For more information, contact 760-830-6422.

For country music and a family friendly event visit the 'We Salute You Fest'. The event will be held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Grey Field, May 8-9. Live performances from Rodney Atkins and Buckcherry will be the feature of the event. Other attractions include a magician, balloon artist, henna tattoo station, face painting, a Ferris wheel ride, and inflatable games. For more information, visit the MCCS Facebook at [facebook.com/MCCS29](https://www.facebook.com/MCCS29) palms or contact 760-830-5086.

Attend the Mother's Day Brunch at the Mameluke Officer's Club, May 10. The brunch will consist of a full buffet featuring a carving station, waffle station, omelet station, chocolate fountain and more. The event is open to all ranks and civilians, however, space is limited and reservations are highly recommended. For more information and reservations, contact 780-830-6610.

MCCS will host a Father Daughter Dance Saturday, May 16. It will be held in building 1707 from 5-8 p.m. Tickets will be available at Information, Tickets and Tours for 10 dollars per father. Light refreshments and a complimentary photo will be provided. For more information, contact 760-830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday – May 08

4:00 p.m. Penguins of Madagascar PG
6:00 p.m. The Divergent Series: Insurgent PG-13
11:00 p.m. The Gunman R

Saturday – May 09

11:00 a.m. Home (3-D) PG
1:20 p.m. Furious 7 PG-13

Sunday – May 10

12:30 p.m. Home PG
2:30 p.m. The Divergent Series: Insurgent PG-13
5:00 p.m. The Longest Ride PG-13
8:00 p.m. It Follows R

Monday – May 11

6:30 p.m. The Longest Ride PG-13

Tuesday – May 12

5:00 p.m. Home (3-D) PG
7:00 p.m. It Follows R

Wednesday – May 13

6:30 p.m. Furious 7 PG-13

Thursday – May 14

5:00 p.m. The Divergent Series: Insurgent PG-13
7:30 p.m. Get Hard R

Friday – May 15

6:00 p.m. Woman in Gold PG-13
8:30 p.m. The Gunman R
11:00 p.m. It Follows R



Ghost in the Machine

Online, anyone can stream your scream

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"Unfriended"
Starring Shelley Henning, Heather Sossaman, Matthew Bohrer, Courtney Halverson, Moses Jacob Storm & Renee Olstead
Directed by Levan Gabriadze
Rated R

Hackers, spammers, scammers, trolls and identity thieves can make going online pretty scary, right?

You'll have even more reasons to fear clicking and scrolling when you watch this freaky-fresh take on a classic horror-movie standby—teenagers in peril—seen entirely through the perspective of a character's laptop computer screen.

In *Unfriended* (originally titled *Cybernatural*), a group of high school friends having an online chat

notices an anonymous, lurking intruder on their call. Ominously, it's on the anniversary of the suicide of Laura Barnes, one of their classmates, who took her life after being victimized by cyber bullying. Then weird things start to happen: The friends can't boot the lurker off the line; other web pages malfunction; unsettling messages begin coming in—and they say they're from Laura Barnes.

"Something srsly wrong," types one of the chatters. Indeed it is, and it's about to get much wrong-er...srsly.

Director Levan Gabriadze takes what might have been a gimmick—the computer-screen format—and totally makes it work. We see everything as the character of Blaire (Shelley Henning, Malia on TV's *Teen Wolf*) sees it, does it and experiences it. We watch as she moves her cursor around the web—Skype, Facebook, Google, Gmail, Spotify. We follow each click as

she types, enters a command or searches frantically for answers. We read, as she reads, messages as they come in, often bearing hair-raising news. We watch, as she watches, terror contort her friends' faces—and her own—in the windows of her screen.

Computer viruses never seemed so dangerous; a hovering cursor over a link can be a thing of wrenching suspense; that spinning "beach ball" icon becomes not just maddening, but positively malevolent.

Can their late classmate really be taunting them, and haunting them, from beyond the grave? What role did each of them play in her death? What other terrible secrets might be buried—online or elsewhere—just waiting to be brought to light?

When things turn nasty—and they do—the gore is seen as either on a terrifying, in-and-out, glitch-y pixelated webcam connection, or via attachments that the teens have opened

to view. The audience, like Blair, never knows what's going to pop up on the screen. Our eyes, like hers, are glued.

It's a nifty-nightmare premise for an online-saturated culture, so much so it's a wonder someone hasn't done it already. It taps into several themes—the illusion of online privacy; the "permanence" of online content; the compliance of everyone who creates, uploads, downloads or even views material on the web; the evils of cyber-bulling; how social media has supplanted so many other former means of communication and interaction.

Unfriended delivers some truly unsettling jolts with a minimum of effects and what was surely a micro-fraction of the budget of much bigger, bloodier, more bloated horror flicks. Once you see it, you might not stare into your computer screen so casually—or comfortably—again.

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Combat Center adds color to SAPR awareness

PHOTOS AND STORY BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

More than 300 Combat Center patrons participated in the Colorful Consent 5 Kilometer Run held at the Physical Fitness Test track, May 1.

The run served as the culminating event for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month held in April. Throughout the month, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response representatives had booths set up to inform Marines at the dining facilities and the Main Exchange on sexual assault.

"It's a fun event that brings awareness to a not-so-fun topic," said Ivan Norman, installation SAPR representative. "Sexual assault is a big problem in society and our goal is to help stop it the best we can."

During the run, which was open to all Combat Center patrons, the participants wore white T-shirts and ran through clouds of colorful cornstarch thrown by volunteers. The cornstarch was made by adding food coloring to make a dry powder that is biodegradable.

"We held a color run because it's fun for people," said Melody Dolmer, installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. "It helps Marines and their families learn about the help that is out there if they need it."

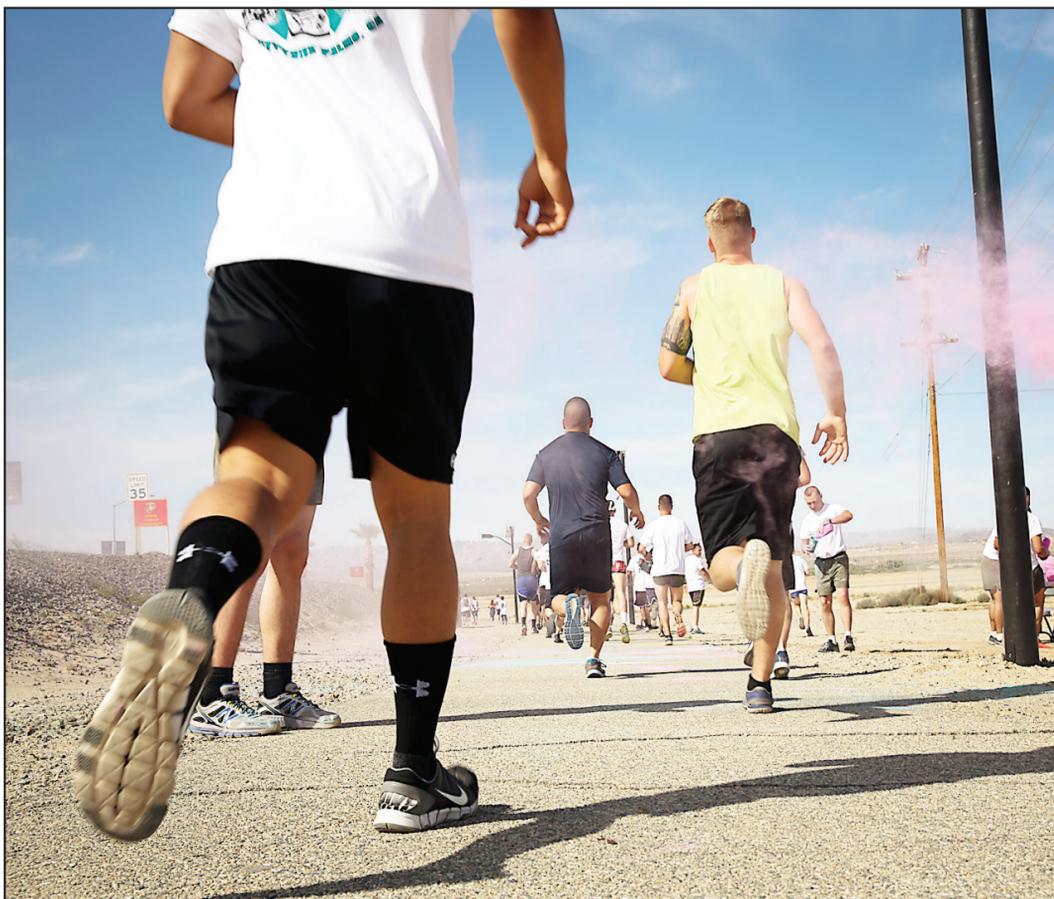
Lance Cpl. Ben Mills, postal clerk, Headquarters Battalion, came in first place, with a time of 20 minutes, 59 seconds.

"The run is a great way to draw more participants in," Mills said. "It's nice to see something other than a class to get people engaged in the subject of sexual assault awareness."

Marine Corps Community Services, American Friends of our Armed Forces and Semper Fit sponsored the event.

"We hold these events to keep the topic in [the Marines] minds so they don't forget that it does still occur and there is help and support available," said Brent Norquist, deputy director, MCCS.

According to Dolmer, due to the large turnout of the event, it is planned to be hosted annually during SAAPM. Other plans for the month include holding an event every Friday to keep Marines and families involved.



Combat Center patrons run through clouds of colored cornstarch during the Colorful Consent 5 Kilometer Run at the Physical Fitness Test track, May 1.



Brent Norquist, deputy director, Marine Corps Community Services, speaks about the importance of sexual assault awareness and prevention during the Colorful Consent 5k Run at the Physical Fitness Test track, May 1.



Jenny Almodova, spouse of Lance Cpl. Oscar Almodova, tank crewman, 1st Tank Battalion, watches her daughter Tati Almodova, 3, run during the Colorful Consent 5 Kilometer Run at the Physical Fitness Test track, May 1.



Combat Center patrons line up before the start of the Colorful Consent 5 Kilometer Run at the Physical Fitness Test track, May 1.



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