



PHOTO BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Pfc. Camren Miller, student, Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15, shoots the FIM-92 Stinger Missile during the class' culminating exercise aboard Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Saturday. LAAD is the only air defense in the Marine Corps.

LAAD gunners aim high

STORY BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Through the sights of the weapon, a Marine scans the horizon, searching for her target. The unrelenting desert sun shines down, failing to break her concentration. Unwaveringly, she continues to gaze through the sights, acquiring the target. She locks on and fires.

The Marines of Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15 conducted a Stinger Missile Live-Fire Exercise for their last graded assignment aboard Yuma Proving Ground, Saturday.

"This was our culminating event for the LAAD Gunner's course," said Master Sgt. Michael Buxkemper, LAAD training section staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Air Control Training Squadron. "The [FIM-92] Stinger Missile is just a short range air defense weapons system. It utilizes an infrared seeker to lock on to the heat in the engine's exhaust and shoot down

See **LAAD** pg. A6



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Pfc. Carolina Castillo, student, Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15, performs the 13 critical checks on the FIM-92 Stinger Missile, prior to shooting it as part of the class' culminating exercise aboard Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Saturday. The targets shot were 'Outlaws,' miniature remote controlled aircraft, one fifth the size of an actual target.

Combat Center honors 30 years of faithful service

PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ



Col. David W. Rowe, assistant chief of staff, G-6 Communications and Information Systems, congratulates Danny R. Yandell, frequency manager, G-6 communications and information systems and Charles A. Douglas Jr. and Timothy Cousins, telecommunications mechanics, G-6, during a 30-year celebration at the G-6 Communications and Information Systems Headquarters building aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 20. The three men received the awards in honor of their 30 years of work for the government.



Marines with G-6 Communication and Information Systems present Gunnery Sgt. David Lynch, cyber network systems chief, G-6, a plaque in honor of his retirement after 20 years of service at the G-6 Communications and Information Systems Headquarters building aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 20.



Col. David W. Rowe, assistant chief of staff, G-6 Communication and Information Systems, describes working with Danny R. Yandell, frequency manager, G-6, Charles A. Douglas Jr. and Timothy Cousins, telecommunications mechanics, G-6, 30-year celebration at the G-6 Communications and Information Systems Headquarters building aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 20.

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 Lance Cpl. Sean Evans.



Marines with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force conduct external lifts during helicopter support team training in Okinawa, Japan. The training helps increase proficiency in logistics tasks and enhances the ability to execute potential contingency missions.

Combat Center maintains readiness through Prepare-A-Thon month

STORY BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Throughout the month of September, the Combat Center will participate in America's Prepare-A-Thon 2015, a presidential initiative geared toward arming Combat Center residents with the knowledge needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and man-made incidents.

AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!
 BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

"When most people come to a new duty station they're trying to get settled in, or preparing for deployment," said Michael Burns, force protection supervisor, G-7 Mission Assurance. "A lot of times they don't realize the need to ensure the safety of their family back home."

The National Prepare-A-Thon occurs twice a year and is overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The month-long event, which is held in hopes of encouraging the nation to become proactive when planning for emergencies, will educate personnel and families on emergency communication planning by promoting preparedness information and resources.

"Staying prepared is important because you ensure that you or your family doesn't become a victim," Burns said. "If you're prepared for whatever may happen, our first responders can assist with other types of emergencies; it's a matter of helping us help you."

The campaign will be split into four categories that pertain to the Combat Center, focusing on one category for every week of the month. The campaign will begin

See **Prepare** pg. A6

**This Week in
Combat
Center**



Reprinted from the Observation Post
August 27, 1970
Story by Cpl. John Ames

Guard duty: a lonely vigil performed best by Marines

It's 4 a.m. at the Rifle Range. The three-ton Marine Corps truck rounds a curve and disappears into the early morning darkness. But the hum of tires on pavement echoes across the barren desert long after the vehicle has passed from sight.

The two Support Co, H&SBn. Sentries are beginning a four-hour task performed most uniquely by United States Marine — guard duty.

Tom Will and Ronald Eve, both lance corporals, both very tired, are nearing the end of an 85-hour and then some work week. Tom has his daytime job at Base Special, Ron is at Motor Transportation.

And now they're charged with the responsibility of protecting the Rifle Range with its main office, supply sheds, ammo dumps, pistol range and office. The fact that the range is isolated from the rest of the Base makes it even more necessary for Will and Eve to be there. Who knows what evil lurks?

Both men could use some sleep. It's Saturday, and their week-long tour of guard duty is nearly ended. Barracks life just isn't conducive to a four on/eight off sleeping pattern.

Sleep could surely come easy out here. The cool breeze blowing softly down through the hills and the desert calm would make for some pleasant dreams. And quiet? A sentry could hear the guard vehicle or the Officer of the Day miles away. With two guys it would be easy to

take turns napping. But Tom Will and Ronald Eve won't sleep...

Boot Camp. The super-squared away Marine Drill Instructor is chalking numbers onto a blackboard. He's explaining posting of the guard to more than 70 almost-Marines who don't quite understand — yet.

Over and over: Cpl. Of the Guard, post number one; challenge! Challenge! Challenge! And then the real thing at San Diego. He's only going to use the head; but better challenge. And always, keep alert and observe. You've taken charge of this post, it's yours. LCpl's Will and Eve won't be sleeping at the Range...

The Rifle Range is one of two posts assigned to H&SBn. The other is the complex of Special Services Bldgs. and MCX warehouses between Second and Third Streets.

Each week a different company of H&SBn is responsible for supplying the guard. Guard headquarters, or the "Guard Shack", is located in the Staff Duty Office of H&SBn Hdq. Bldg. The daily Staff Duty NCO is also the Commander of the Guard. Under his direction are the sentries, Cpl. Of the Guard, the supernumerary and the guard's duty driver. All are assigned for a week.

From out of the Rifle Range in the past have emanated tales, the validity of which is at least debatable, necessitating the posting of

a second sentry. These tales vary from the legend of a huge "Yucca Man" sighted in the surrounding hills to a variety of reports concerning strange, weird lights and a host of unexplainable sounds. Marines aren't afraid of the dark, of course, but when the coyotes begin their mournful wailing it's nice having someone to talk to.

Every hour sentries are required to call the Guard Shack and report conditions at their post. And at anytime the OD, Commander of the Guard or Cpl. of the Guard might make a quiet surprise appearance. Just a few more reasons why Will and Eve will stay awake. No one is ever going to be sold on the good points — and what are they? Of being assigned to a week of guard duty.

But in an age of society where planes are constantly re-routed to Cuba, and our Nation's leaders and martyrs are being fired at in the streets, is it so improbable that some of humanity's less than desirable characters would want to gain access to a military firing range? The Marine Corps doesn't think so. And, as much of an ordeal as guard was for LCpl's Tom Will and Ronald Eve, they don't believe so either. Nor did the captain who conducted guard class recently for a group of sentries, which included this writer:

"Take it for what it's worth. And that's a lot. Guard Duty is the Marine Corps' bag."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Maya Gabriella Mclellan
Born July 23, 2015
Born to Gary and
Yesenia Mclellan

Ayden Alexander Nicolaysen
Born July 23, 2015
Born to Alexander and
Mallory Nicolaysen

Madelyn Aubreyann Schafer
Born July 25, 2015
Born to Colin and
Moriah Schafer

William H. Tsai III
Born July 26, 2015
Born to William and
Connie Tsai

Rachel Dorothy Shortway
Born July 27, 2015
Born to Matthew and
Lindsay Shortway

Leena Madelynn Krehmeier
Born July 28, 2015
Born to Thad and
Berek Krehmeier

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Barbershop item
- 5 Token taker
- 9 Open, as an envelope
- 13 Outdoor party
- 14 Fuss
- 15 New moon, e.g.
- 16 One to grow on?
- 17 In a while
- 18 Comic Mandel
- 19 Start of a quote
- 22 Tolkien creature
- 23 Polly, to Tom
- 24 Uneven?
- 27 Art collectibles
- 30 Olympic prizes
- 34 Autostrada sights
- 36 Dodge model of the 1980s
- 38 Village Voice award
- 39 Quote, part 2
- 40 Writer Mark who said the quotation
- 41 Quote, part 3
- 42 Writer Buchanan
- 43 "Darn it!"
- 44 Hoity-toity sorts
- 45 Stop working
- 47 Dole's running mate, 1996
- 49 Deli bread
- 50 Bill
- 52 Battery size
- 54 End of the quotation
- 61 Copycat
- 62 Reddish-brown
- 63 Combine
- 64 Put up with
- 65 Ricelike pasta
- 66 "Exodus" author
- 67 Tennis's Sampras
- 68 Nair competitor
- 69 Garret

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61						62				63			
64						65				66			
67						68				69			

Down

- 1 Scratch
- 2 "That hurt!"
- 3 Filly's mother
- 4 Good, in Guadalajara
- 5 Attitude
- 6 Marathon
- 7 Stink
- 8 Skater Harding
- 9 Overpower verbally
- 10 Croquet site
- 11 "What ___?"
- 12 Course requirement?
- 15 Ring
- 20 Spherical triangle sides
- 21 Herb in curry powder
- 24 Proposal
- 25 Part of LED
- 26 Frighten
- 28 "Parks and Rec" actor Rob
- 29 Impact sound
- 31 Loathe
- 32 Recline next to
- 33 Pick up
- 35 Track event?
- 37 Big name in sneakers
- 40 Letter before iota
- 44 Luxury home features
- 46 Rolls ___ (pricey auto)

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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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.
- In National City:**
- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
- Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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- 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

Jason CANTU

Mercedes, Tx. Fiscal chief, Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Headquarters Battalion

Full-time Marine, part-time ninja warrior; Cantu started competing on the American Ninja Warrior show in May and hopes to become the next American Ninja Warrior.

>Growing up in Mercedes, Texas, I looked up to my uncle and my cousin who were both Marines.

>When I signed up at age 17, I wasn't concerned with which MOS I was going to get assigned to. I just knew I wanted to become a Marine.

>I signed up for the contract management option and started my Marine Corps career as a warehouse clerk. Now I'm the fiscal chief for the Sergeant's Course on base, but am looking forward to go into recruiting.

>I've always been into sports. I appreciate the competitiveness of them. In high school I played on the golf team.

>I enjoy playing golf to relax with my friends and socialize.

>My wife and I wanted to keep our kids off the couch, so I coach basketball, soccer and t-ball with my six year-old son. I have a daughter who is three years old and I stay active with her by taking her to the parks on base.

>I play sports all the time, but I never expected to be a competitor on American Ninja Warrior. How I got onto the show was random. I came into work one day and my friend wanted to submit a video application. It was nothing serious; we just submitted a video for fun.

>A couple months later, the show called me and said they wanted me on a military edition episode. I was fortunate enough to get selected out of 50,000 applicants.

>In May 2015, I went out to compete against U.S. soldiers, sailors, and coastguardsmen. At the qualifying round I placed 15 out of 109 competitors.

>I didn't think much of it until I got there. I could have trained more but I just went out there and had fun. I was lucky to get as far as I did with little to no training besides going to the gym.



>I failed on the warped wall and kind of beat myself up about it because it's usually one of the easiest obstacles for me.

>My goal for next year is to build myself a warped wall to practice on.

>Some of the obstacles are pretty easy, but if you think about it too long you'll psyche yourself out.

>When you're out there competing, you have so much adrenaline and it's easy to fatigue early. It's important to practice on a regular basis so you can get the muscle memory down. I've found doing these obstacles without much practice can be a shock to your body.

>You have to push through the pain, but having friends and family watching helps a lot.

>My son looks up to me being a ninja warrior and we setup obstacles around the house for fun.

>Maintaining my health is important. I go to the gym at least five times a week and make sure I'm eating the best foods so I'm able to replenish myself with the right nutrients.

>As far as the Marine Corps goes, I'll be going to Basic Recruiter's Course in October.

>Being stationed here at the [Staff Noncommissioned Officers] Academy has helped me out tremendously. It's helped me with getting my career started by meeting great Marines and receiving good advice from mentors.

>I have been fortunate to be able to have a good relationship with the instructors here and attend their classes.

>Wherever I go next, my family and I will make the best of it. I just hope there will be a ninja warrior course nearby.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

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MCAGCC dives into Summer Splash

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

Live music, the smell of barbeque on the grill, children playing in the splash pool, and a dash of sunshine; the ingredients for an idyllic summer day came together at the Joshua Tree Summer Splash event at the Joshua Tree Community Center, Saturday.

Marine volunteers from the Combat Center assisted in the setup of the event, directed families toward free parking, and held an explosive ordnance display. Sgt. Robert Bouchard and Sgt. Alex Strait, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, G-3 Operations and Training, provided demonstrations of ground robotics systems, the Mark I Packbot and the Mark II Talon, used in their work.

"They are awesome and everyone loves the Marines, so we try to include them in everything we do," said Linda Sande, president, Joshua Tree Rotary Foundation. "They are a part of this community and we want them to feel welcome."

This year was the third Summer Splash fundraiser held by the Joshua Tree Rotary Club. The event raised money for Morongo Basin schools by selling barbeque, drinks and snow cones as well as games and a dunk tank.

"The money that we make goes toward high school scholarships and leadership camps for 7th graders and high school juniors," Sande said. "Anything that is left over goes to community service events. The fundraiser also helps bring the community together for a family fun event."

Many of the events held throughout the day included; a car show, a line dancing session, and a medical helicopter landing. Children also enjoyed face painting, a variety of games and a water park.

"We wanted it to be a family friendly event so there is something for just about everyone," Sande said.

The Provost Marshal's Office's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion, Daren, made an appearance and posed for photos with children. Cpl. Michael Hernandez, military policeman, Headquarters Battalion, volunteered to be Daren for the event and enjoyed interacting with the children and representing the Combat Center in the community.

"It's often different volunteers in the suit, but I enjoy being out here interacting with the community," Hernandez said. "The best part is being out here with the kids and seeing their faces when they see the suit. I think it's important to show the community we want to be involved."

Many of the Marines volunteering for the event said they felt it was time well spent.

"Volunteering is great because we can get outside of the barracks and interact with local people," said Pfc. George Florea, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "As Marines, we're part of the community, so it's important to participate."



The Provost Marshal's Office's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion, Daren, interacts with Morongo Basin children at the Joshua Tree Summer Splash event at the Joshua Tree Community Center, Saturday.



Sgt. Robert Bouchard and Sgt. Alex Strait, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, G-3 Operations and Training, demonstrate the use of the Mark I Packbot and the Mark II Talon, ground robotics systems, to Morongo Basin community members during the Joshua Tree Summer Splash event at the Joshua Tree Community Center, Saturday.



Tom Baumgarten, superintendent, Morongo Basin Unified School District, raises money for the Joshua Tree Rotary Club by volunteering for the dunk tank during the Joshua Tree Summer Splash event at the Joshua Tree Community Center, Saturday.



On Tapp, a Morongo Basin local band, performs live music during the Joshua Tree Summer Splash event at the Joshua Tree Community Center, Saturday.

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Ashley Davis, volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, hands out erasers to a child at 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Headquarters Building, during the Back to School Supply Extravaganza, Aug. 20.

'Magnificent 7th' supplies education

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Family Readiness Officers and volunteers of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, gathered to hand out school supplies to families aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 20.

The three battalions worked together to donate 3,000 various supplies ranging from pencils to notebooks for military children during their first Back to School Supply Extravaganza.

"Throughout the year, at least one of our battalions is deployed at any given time," said Andrea Tatayon, family readiness officer, 3/7. "Anything we can offer the children to look forward to or get them excited about going to school is awesome."

The drive was held in an effort to support education for military children, but it was also held for the parents.

"When you have two or three kids and the schools send you a list of supplies you need, it can get costly," said Jessica Rzeszewski, volunteer. "This is a great resource for any families with younger children."

Families received one school-supply bag per child and had the choice to collect additional items such as glue or markers. Extra supplies were donated to other units' families.

"We tend to partner with each other quite a bit," said Sylvia Sanchez, family readiness officer, 1/7. "We have to work as a team in order to be successful."

The next event the three battalions are focusing on is the spouse's self-defense class. Sanchez said each event brings opportunities to foster relationships.

"Every time we host an event, somebody new comes out," Sanchez said. "It's always good to make that face-to-face connection."

Sylvia Sanchez, family readiness officer, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, helps Gunnery Sgt. Lionel Slaughter, radio chief, 1/7, pick out school supplies for his children at 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Headquarters Building, during the Back to School Supply Extravaganza, Aug. 20.

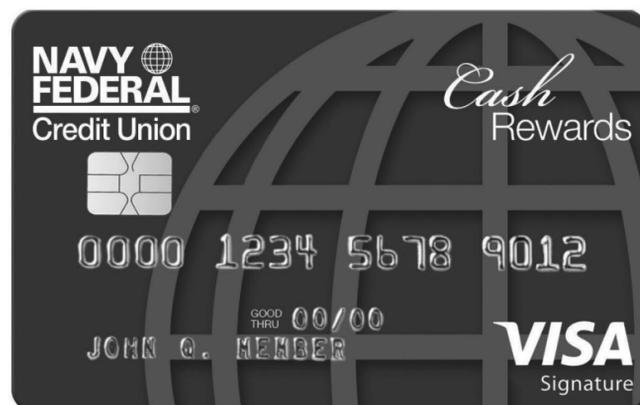


Veronica Mathews, volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, sets up for the Back to School Supply Extravaganza at 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Headquarters Building, Aug. 20.

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LAAD from pg. A1



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Jade Woodend and Pfc. Stephanie Brown, students, Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15, get ready to fire the FIM-92 Stinger Missile as part of the class' culminating exercise aboard Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Saturday. Class 3-15 will be the first to graduate enlisted female LAAD gunners.

low flying aircraft."

Prior to shooting the missiles, students were required to perform 13 critical checks on the weapon from top to bottom. The purpose of the 13 critical checks is to ensure that the weapon that's been issued is functional and that there are no discrepancies. The targets shot were 'Outlaws', miniature remote controlled aircraft, one fifth the size of an actual target. Out of the 35 missiles shot there was only one complete miss.

"That percentage of hits is usually unheard of with the size of this class, and the experience that these gunners have actually had," Buxkemper said. "As a group I couldn't ask for a better class. They clicked as a team from the start. There have been no issues with this class and I couldn't be more proud of the students we're about to release into the fleet."

Class 3-15 will be the first to graduate four enlisted female LAAD gunners.

"I couldn't be more proud of my MOS or my job," said Lance Cpl. Cody Meade, LAAD gunner, unit. "It feels really good to be part of a class that's made history, but at the end of the day, we're all Marines and gender doesn't matter."

According to Buxkemper, LAAD is the only air defense unit within the Marine Corps, making it a close-knit community. From the very start, the students are made aware of how important the responsibilities entrusted to them are.

"Starting from day one we start piling on the stress," Buxkemper said. "As the students get closer to graduation, they've had enough rehearsal time with the stinger missile and enough time dealing with stressful situations, that there is no issue when it comes to actually firing."

Throughout the two-month course, all thirty students were taught the basics of the stinger missile as well as the knowledge needed to succeed in their MOS.

"The students start off with a three-week [High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle] course to get their license," Buxkemper said. "They then learn the missile's characteristics and capabilities, after that they move into practicing on simulated aerial target ranges."

LAAD gunner has been an all-male MOS that the Marine Corps has recently opened to females. These gunners are hoping their success as a whole will continue to break down barriers.

"You want to go through your career knowing you made a difference," said Lance Cpl. Jade Woodend, student, Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15. "Our job is one of the few that have females in a combat-related MOS. It's a really good feeling knowing that I'm part of that history. I plan on going as far as I can. As long as I'm being productive and making moves that are going to benefit the Marine Corps, then I've accomplished my goal."



PHOTO BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Pfc. Stephanie Brown, student, Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15, performs the 13 critical checks on the FIM-92 Stinger Missile, prior to firing it as part of the class' culminating exercise aboard Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Saturday. The purpose of the 13 critical checks is to ensure the issued weapon is ready and functional with no discrepancies.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Cody Potts, student, Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Course 3-15, shoots the FIM-92 Stinger Missile during the class' culminating exercise aboard Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Saturday. Throughout the two-month course, all thirty students were taught the basics of the stinger missile.

Prepare from pg. A1

with flash floods, followed by extreme heat the next week, droughts the third week, and conclude with power outages. During each week, information will be provided on what to do in the event of that particular natural disaster through video presentations, preparedness briefings and social media campaigns.

"If there are any questions, the force protection branch is here to help," Burns said. "If tenant commands or unit sections want additional training, that's available as well. Each section should be developing their own emergency action plan as well."

The month will conclude with a National Prepare-A-Thon Day, September 30, that will review all of the topics that were touched on throughout the month.

For additional information on how to identify actions to be taken, especially in preparing and utilizing emergency communications plans, visit www.ready.marines.mil, or contact the G-7 Mission Assurance branch at 830-1884.

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Combat Center musicians compete in Talent Show



Gunnery Sgt. Jonathon D. Ginn, field artillery operations staff non-commissioned officer, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, performs during the Single Marine Program's annual 'Marines got talent' show at the Sunset Cinema, Aug. 21.

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

STORY BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

The spotlight was on Combat Center musicians as they exhibited their melodic, rhythmic and vocal talents during the Single Marine Program's annual 'Marines Got Talent' show at the Sunset Cinema, Aug. 21.

Performances from 14 competitors varied from solo vocalists to bands with as many as four members. One of the more unique talents, Pfc. Jay Tran, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, entertained the audience with his beat-boxing harmonica abilities.

"I enjoy playing music and keeping it alive in a place where it's not always that common," said Lance Cpl. Kari Thach, cryptologic linguist, MCCES. "I think it is fun to do this stuff and see all sorts of different musical talents."

For many of the participants, playing for an audience of more than 400 Combat Center patrons and three judges was a nerve-racking experience.

"I was afraid while playing that the audience would be quick to judge," Thach said. "Getting used to that is part of doing any sort of show. Playing for Marines is different than a normal audi-

ence, because they're your peers and it feels similar to playing in a high school talent show. You have to go to work with them the next day."

Despite the pressure put on the participants, every act was well-received by the audience.

"The talents were a lot better than I expected and I was very impressed," said Marco Perry, food service specialist, 1st Tank Battalion. "I like going to these events, it's outside of the everyday norm and helps us appreciate what we have on base instead of just looking over it. We are all doing the same thing when we are in the barracks, whether it's playing pool, music or sports. Tournaments or competitions such as this give Marines a chance to show off their talents."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Roxas, corpsman, Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, won first place with his performance of "This is How We Do It."

At the conclusion of the show, and with the stress of their performances behind them, the talent was gathered on stage to receive one last round of applause.

"It's a safe activity that people can get involved in," Thach said. "It's different, it's free and I'd love to see more of it."



'Out of Regs,' a band made up of Combat Center Marines, performs ska music during the Single Marine Program's annual 'Marines Got Talent' show at the Sunset Cinema, Aug. 21. Performances from 14 competitors varied from solo vocalists to bands with as many as four members.



Lance Cpl. Justin Cox, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, tunes his guitar prior to his performance during the Single Marine Program's annual 'Marines Got Talent' show at the Sunset Cinema, Aug. 21. The top three acts walked away with Marine Corps Exchange gift cards.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Darius Woods, corpsman, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, introduces contestants during the Single Marine Program's annual 'Marines Got Talent' show at the Sunset Cinema, Aug. 21. Woods served as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

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 the bowling center 760-830-6422.

Head down to Heritage Park tonight, to spend an evening with family and friends at the Behavioral Health Family Fun Night! The night begins at 5 p.m. and will feature a dunk tank, an obstacle course, a rock climbing wall, and much more. The event is open to all hands. For more information, contact MCCS at 760-830-7461.

Visit the Sand Trap Grill at the Desert Winds Golf Course, The Grill brings back old favorites like the charbroiled hamburger, salads, hot dogs and breakfast. Their expansive seating accommodates large groups of people. For more information, contact the golf course at 760-830-6132.

Are you a Marine or sailor looking to get into law enforcement? Stop by the Provost Marshal's Office anytime to apply for the Auxiliary Reserve Program. You'll be given the opportunity to serve the community while getting trained in practical applications, including live-fire drills. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact the operations officer at 760-830-6095.

Head out to the free Music and Comedy show at Del Valle Field, September 12 from 6 to 10 p.m. The combined comedy show and musical concert will feature special appearances by Lupe Fiasco, Deray Davis and Shayma Tash. The event is open to all hands. Special seating will be available for all active duty members on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact MCCS at 760-830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, August 28

6:00 p.m.- Shaun The Sheep Movie, PG
8:30 p.m.- Vacation, R

Saturday, August 29

12:30 p.m.- Shaun The Sheep Movie, PG
3:00 p.m.- Pixels (3-D), PG-13
5:30 p.m.- Self/Less, PG-13
8:00 p.m.- The Gallows, R

Sunday, August 30

12:30 p.m.- Minions, PG
3:00 p.m.- Ant-Man, PG-13
5:30 p.m.- Vacation, R
8:00 p.m.- Trainwreck, R

Monday, August 31

7:00 p.m.- Southpaw, R

Tuesday, September 1

7:00 p.m.- Ant-Man (3-D), PG-13

Wednesday, September 2

5:00 p.m.- Minions (3-D), PG
7:00 p.m.- Pixels (3-D), PG-13

Thursday, September 3

5:00 p.m.- Self/Less, PG-13
7:30 p.m.- The Gallows, R

Friday, September 4

6:00 p.m.- Fantastic Four, PG-13
9:00 p.m.- Mission: Impossible-Rouge Nation, PG-13



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Say 'U.N.C.L.E.'

Fresh young cast revives Cold War themes of '60s TV show

NEIL POND

"The Man From U.N.C.L.E." Starring Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer and Alicia Vikander Directed by Guy Ritchie Rated PG-13

He wasn't James Bond, but he was close.

Napoleon Solo was a suave, cosmopolitan American secret agent played by actor Robert Vaughn on the hit NBC TV series *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* from 1964 to 1968. Solo was in fact fashioned by writer consultant Ian Fleming, Bond's creator, to be a small-screen version of his more famous British super-spy.

You don't have to know that to enjoy this refreshingly retro-fied revival, which takes the name, characters and Cold War setting of the TV show and enhances them to modern-day Hollywood proportions.

Henry Cavill (who'll reprise his 2013 role of Superman in next year's *Batman v Superman*) plays Solo, and Armie Hammer (*The Lone Ranger*, *The Social Network*) is his Russian partner Illya Kuryakin. Rather than just picking up and running with TV characters established half a century ago, the movie wisely starts fresh and anew. (We don't even hear the code word

"U.N.C.L.E." and learn how it spun off from the CIA, the KGB and other international organizations as a separate super-spook division on its own, until the end of the movie.)

We learn backstories and see how Solo and Kuryakin first meet—not as teammates but as enemies, with cloak-and-dagger orders to eliminate each other if necessary, on opposing sides of the '60s high-stakes political and military standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Their fateful collaboration makes for the fun in writer/director Guy Ritchie's witty, snappy, stylish yarn spiced and sprinkled with Nazi fascists, Italian playboys, atom bombs, speedboats, femme fatales, fast cars, double crosses, triple crosses, some very snazzy old-school spy do-dad-dery, and gorgeous, eye-popping fashions. It sometimes looks like the cast of *Mad Men* left their Madison Avenue ad agency and went into dangerous, daring Euro undercover work.

Alicia Vikander (who drew raves as a sexy robot earlier this year in *Ex Machina*) portrays the daughter of a brilliant German rocket scientist who's been abducted and forced to apply his skills toward nefarious ends. She joins Solo and Kuryakin in a

race—an "arms race," to use the Cold War term—to find him.

Elizabeth Debicki is wickedly smooth as Victoria, a svelte, blond "lethal combination of beauty, brains and ambition" whose soft, seductive purr and pouty smile mask a deadly bite. Veteran British actor Hugh Grant makes a welcome impression as Waverly, a character whose motives become clear later in the film.

But the movie belongs to Cavill and Hammer, who seem to really enjoy playing off each other in two very different roles: Solo, the ultra-cool, unflappable ladies' man who can steal almost anything, and Kuryakin, a towering Slavic hunk whose twitchy temper makes his bare hands lethal weapons—and who has trouble stealing even a single kiss. Their banter, comic bickering and constant bouts of spy-vs-spy one-upmanship keep the movie moving along crisply.

There are certainly louder, flashier, bigger spy flicks. If you're dying for Bond, you'll get your fix in November with *Spectre*. But for a classy, sassy bit of cool, Kennedy-era espionage hijinks, this new, revived *Man From U.N.C.L.E.* certainly delivers plenty of fresh, fun spy kicks—and hints at more to come.

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SPMAGTF-CR-CC Security Forces Refine Combat Skills During Live-Fire Range



Security Forces Marine with Marine Wing Support Squadron-371, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force -- Crisis Response--Central Command fires during a live-fire, combat maneuver range in Southwest Asia, August 19. The live-fire range is designed to emulate realistic combat conditions and force Marines to shoot, move, and communicate to overcome targets at an unknown distance.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JONATHAN BOYNES

Enthusiasm: it's one of the intangible characteristics that separate Marines from every other branch of service. Austere conditions, limited resources, and daunting odds are reduced to nothing more than minor setbacks when put before a group of Marines.

This is exactly the mindset shared by security force Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 took to their latest range, deployed in Southwest Asia, August, 19.

"I'm not the type of person who enjoys shooting in static positions at a fixed yard line," said Sgt. Torrence Nelson, a platoon guide and weapons instructor with MWSS-371. "I think that it lacks realism, and Marines lose interest in that. Shooting on the move and engaging targets from multiple yard lines sparks interest within the Marines because it forces them to have a more combat oriented mindset. It's a more accurate simulation of what they would be doing in an actual combat environment. Taking all that into consideration, we decided to create this range."

Training and motivation go

hand-in-hand for Nelson, a Las Vegas native. Without both being present, he doesn't feel as if he is pushing Marines to their limits.

"I try to apply a certain energy to things that helps to engage others. Without motivation, a Marine just becomes a body following orders; with it comes strong bonds that help you to overcome nearly anything."

Nelson's desire to train and inspire stems from his understanding of the platoon plays in protecting Marines. He knows their efforts make others successful. Nelson seeks to inspire them through actions and not just words.

"Our mission as Security Forces is to protect Marines on our base," said Nelson. "It really comes down to protecting military assets and personnel. Standing post for hours every day becomes tedious. It becomes boring. And, we don't want Marines to lose sight of what they are here for. Marines perform not because they're told to, but because they see value in it. That creates better results 10 times out of 10."

The platoon's enthusiasm is easily mirrored in the Security Force Marines. Although they were

drenched in sweat and the sweltering heat continued to climb, none of it seemed to hinder their performance.

"You have to have enthusiasm while out here," said Lt. Ethan Johnston, a security force Marine with MWSS 371. "If you don't you aren't going to sound off and you're not going to be in the moment. Staying fully aware of what you are doing is important no matter what. Even if it's just training you need to be fully engaged with what you do or you won't be effective."

Understanding what inspires people is just as important as understanding what you are teaching them to accomplish, says Nelson. Once Nelson discovered the right ingredients for success, he made sure to apply it everywhere he could.

"It's an overwhelmingly good feeling knowing that we play such an important role out here," said Nelson. "Knowing that what we do prepares Marines to save lives, leaves me with a feeling that can't really be described. At the end of day, I want the Marine out here to leave with revitalized morale and a sense that what they do is important. We are doing what needs to be done to protect those back home."



A distant target can be seen through a bullet riddled piece of wood during a live fire, combat maneuver range for the Security Force Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron-371, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response-Central Command in Southwest Asia, August 19. The live fire range is designed to emulate realistic combat conditions and force Marines to shoot, move, and communicate to overcome targets at an unknown distance.



U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron-371, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force -- Crisis Response--Central Command bound to their next target during live-fire, combat maneuver range in Southwest Asia, August 19. The live-fire range is designed to emulate realistic combat conditions and force Marines to shoot, move, and communicate to overcome targets at an unknown distance.

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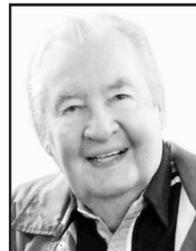
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TOUGH MINDED

OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



The Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles last month were absolutely magnificent. More than 2,700 athletes from 165 countries participated. These athletes with intellectual disabilities offered an inspiring event.

This was possible because better than 30,000 volunteers made all the arrangements, supervised the games, and handled all of the inevitable problems. Not a single person was paid.

One of the volunteers was my friend Stephanie Andrews (Derwood's wife) and I asked her to share the following brief essay with us.

"I was a 'Fan in the Stands' and my assignment was to simply cheer and encourage the athletes during a track and field event. Any doubts that I may have had whether this role was needed were erased when during a relay race, everyone in the bleaches cheered as three athletes crossed the finish line. We sat down, thinking the race was over, when the announcer said 'There's one more athlete on the field, keep it going!' I looked out and saw the final athlete walking, the wind obviously had left her sails. Well, we all stood and hollered our hearts out for her, my pom-poms shaking like they were battery operated. And wouldn't you know it, she started running again and eventually crossed the finish line with a big smile on her face!"

This column sponsored by:

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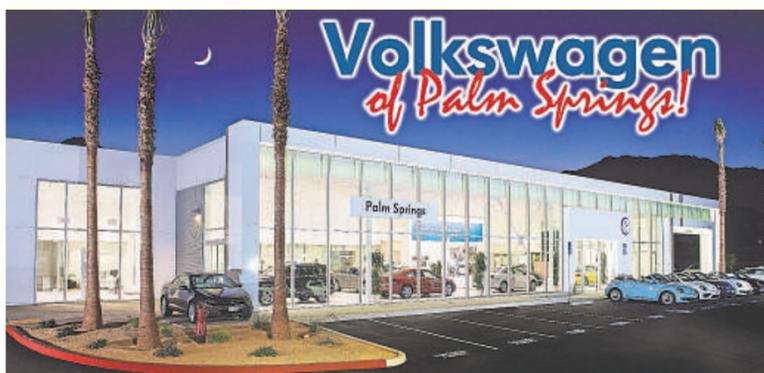
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LMH hosts 'back to school' carnival

PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ



McGruff the Crime Dog and Daren the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion, Provost Marshal's Office, hand out pencils and stickers to Combat Center children preparing to go back to school during Lincoln Military Housing's 'Back to School' carnival at Lincoln Sports Field, Aug. 21. Throughout the festivities, LMH raffled off backpacks filled with school supplies.



Thelma, desert tortoise, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, greets intrigued Combat Center families during Lincoln Military Housing's 'Back to School' carnival at Lincoln Sports Field, Aug. 21. Thelma and her sister, Louise, serve as ambassadors of the base to increase awareness of the protected desert tortoise species.

Kylie Scott, 5, daughter of Cpl. Joseph Scott, range maintenance man, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, participates in carnival games during Lincoln Military Housing's 'Back to School' carnival at Lincoln Sports Field, Aug. 21. LMH and Marine volunteers also served free funnel cake, pretzels, hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, and water.



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