May 6, 2016 Since 1957 Vol. 60 Issue 18

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Combat Center promotes Sexual Assault Prevention

RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Department of Defense released a department-wide strategy to improve the way it provides support to service members who experience retaliation and to align prevention and response efforts across the services.

The DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy provides support to individuals who experience retaliation after reporting sexual assault or sexual harassment. It also applies to service members, bystanders/witnesses and first responders.

"Supporting those who make the difficult decision to report sexual assault or harassment not only upholds our commitment to them, but also influences others who may be considering whether to make a report," said Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, the director of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. "Service members reporting sexual assault or sexual

harassment should be able to do so without the fear of retaliation by their peers or leadership.

Reporting the crime is the only way offenders can be identified and held appropriately accountable."

The DoD conducted several data gathering efforts to capture sexual assault victim experience with retaliatory behavior in 2012 and 2014. DoD and RAND surveys in 2014 indicated that well over half of military women who experienced a sexual assault and reported the matter

to a DoD authority perceived some kind of retaliation associated with doing so. In May 2015, Secretary Carter directed the development of a Department-wide strategy to address retaliation.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The RPRS aligns departmental efforts in combatting retaliation and responding to it with respect to (1) standardizing definitions, (2) improving data collection and analysis, (3) building strong and supportive systems of investigation and accountability, (4) providing comprehensive support to reporters, and (5) creating a culture intolerant of retaliation.

"The department is committed to eliminating retaliatory behavior, improving resources for reporters, and providing tools for commanders, supervisors, and peers to prevent and respond to retaliation against those who report violations," said Clarence Johnson, director of the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity. "Ending retaliation is crucial to effectively addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military."

Members of the DoD community can anonymously report retaliation through a secure web form at safehelpline.org, which will report the incident directly to the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. Those who have experienced or witnessed retaliation also have the option to share their personally identifiable information with the DoD Inspector General Hotline to begin the official retaliation reporting process.

The RPRS is available online at www.sapr.mil.

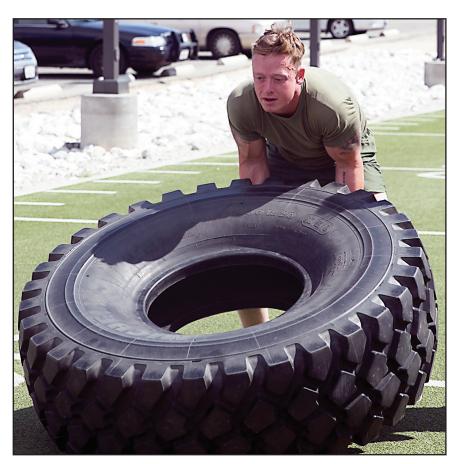
Amazing SAPRRace returns toCombat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office held their annual Amazing SAPR Race aboard the Combat Center April 29.

Marines and sailors received the opportunity to compete in a three-mile course, which involved running and performing different exercises for the purpose of increasing sexual assault prevention and response.

"The race gets good feedback as a learning tool," said Deliesse



A member of the 7th Marine Regiment team conducts a tire flip at the West Gymnasium during the Amazing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Race held aboard the Combat Center April 29.

Hitt, installation sexual assault response coordinator. "The people who participate in this event come out of it learning something new about the investigation process and sexual assault prevention."

Along the course, participants ran to several locations where they learned about sexual assault prevention through various briefs and physical activities. For the exercises, participants worked in teams of three to four individuals to complete various exercises such as pull-ups and tire flips.

"Thanks to the help we received from various base entities, we were able to show the runners all the different offices that help

See **SAPR pg.** A6

ACS G-5 achieves 40-year Career Service Award

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, presents Jim Ricker, assistant chief of staff, G-5 Government and External Affairs, with the Career Service Award at the Commanding General's Conference Room April 28. Ricker received the award for his 40 years of service to the Department of the Navy.

See Award pg. A6

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. Ryan Coleman.



Marines with Medium Marine Tiltrotor Squadron 264, fire stinger simulation rounds aboard the USS Wasp April 17.

A2 May 6, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**

Exercise Support Division earns maintenance awards

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES



Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, and Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, present Marines and civilians from Exercise Support Division with the Marine Corps Motor Transport Maintenance Unit of the Year Award at the ESD compound April 27.



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, speaks with the **Exercise Support Division** before he presents four awards at the ESD compound April 27. The awards presented were the Marine Corps Motor Transport Maintenance Unit of the Year Award, the Motor Transport Maintenance Officer of the Year Award, the Career Service Award, and Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

EXERCISE EXERCISE

The Combat Center will conduct an active shooter response and recovery exercise, May 17. The exercise will assess and further develop the installation's ability to protect personnel and property as well as to counter and contain an active shooter event. This exercise will offer participants an opportunity to practice and improve upon their emergency response standard operating procedures as related to an active shooter incident.

The exercise will take place at bldg. 1551 and bldg. 693 aboard the installation, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. For further information, please contact Michael Burns at 760-830-1884.



Maj. Gen. Lewis A Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General presents Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Truesdale, motor transport and engineering maintenance officer, Exercise Support Division the Motor Transport Maintenance Officer of the Year award at the ESD compound April 27.

CROSSWORD

Across

- **1** Follow, as a tip
- 6 Statutes
- 10 One of the five W's
- 13 Astronomer Tycho
- 14 Nickname for Baryshnikov
- 15 Alternative to Bowser
- 16 Reverence for greatness
- "The best things in life ____ free"
- 19 Pick, with "for"
- 20 Pound, e.g.
- 21 Hog haven 23 Answer
- 25 Clean up, in a way
- 26 The nineties, for one
- 27 Classic muscle car
- 29 Source of strength 32 Gounod opera
- Rogers (fast
- food chain) 35 Eschew
- 36 Meal where you
- might get this puzzle's theme answers
- Houston baseballer, for short
- 38 Stop on a crawl
- 39 Supersized 40 Louisiana water
- 41 Birth announcement
- 43 Strive
- 44 Exterior
- **45** Joints
- 49 Guard
- 51 Netman Nastase
- "The Simpsons" bartender
- 53 One of the Gabors
- Fictional, but realistic
- Nothing
- **58** People person?
- 59 Engine unit

- 15 18 26 30 31 53 58 59 60 61 62
- 60 Commercials
- 61 Torah holders
- 62 Those in favor

Down

- **1** Dislike, and then
- some
- 2 Kind of sole
- 3 Small pastries
- 5 Rhode Island city

- 9 Discerning

- Thrones"

- 4 Cry of surprise
- 6 Enumerate
- 7 Ember coating
- Rear-ender injury
- 10 End-of-filming gala
- 11 "Try this!" 12 Farm team

- 14 TV steed
- 17 Chaplin of "Game of
 - 22 Some appliances
 - 24 Hammer part

 - 25 Actor Willis
 - 27 Sharp-tasting
 - 1960's-70's Italian P.M.
 - 29 Nile viper
 - **30** Feng _ _ (art of placement)
 - 31 Partial sum, e.g.
 - 32 Uproar
 - rang?"
 - 36 Namer

- 40 For just a moment
- **42** Big
- 45 Commoner
- 46 Strikes
- 47 Bank enticement
- Bamba'
- 51 Sews up
- 39 Basis for a Puccini

- 43 Small combo

- 48 Prophets Elizabeth of "La
- 50 Diehard
- **55** Sort
- 56 Trumped-up story

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Last week's answers

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OBSERVATION POST

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

- Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy,
- Oceanside, Calif., 92054 - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy,
- In San Diego: - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.

Oceanside, Calif., 92054

- 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.

members from patronizing the following

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service

- 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 officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines.

OBSERVATION POST May 6, 2016 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Antonio

San Sebastián, Puerto Rico. Company B gunnery sergeant, Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School

Soto has been in the Marine Corps for 17 years and he has participated in nearly 20 volunteer events in the local community.

>l'm from San Sebastián, Puerto Rico. I grew up with all of my siblings around so that sense of family was always there. It wasn't just my mom, my sister and my dad. There were also all my cousins. We went to the same school so we were always together.

>One of my cousins was in the medical field when he was in the military and then he became an officer. He was doing very well for himself and he was someone I wanted to emulate. I thought, "Wow I like how he's living his life."

>My first time in the United States was during basic training at Parris Island, [S.C.].

>I honestly didn't know much about the Marine service]. I had all my paperwork ready, I was just waittraining.

>A buddy of mine was He told me a little bit about was my drill instructor. He it and the recruiter sold me was only with us until initial on it. I admired the professionalism he displayed and what he stood for. After speaking to him, I knew I wanted to be a Marine. So I grabbed my paperwork I wanted to do what he did. from the other branch recruiter.

> I've been in the Corps on the drill field was the a lot stronger. It was almost



years at a time.

drill instructor.

drill, but everything he did as a Marine; the way he conducted drill, the way he presented himself, his demean-

> was a drill instrucand gave it to the Marine tor for three years. What I enjoyed most about my time

Corps. I was actually going **for** 17 years. At first, I didn't sense of accomplishment. to join [a different branch of think I was going to make it When you see the recruits a career. I just took it four maintain the discipline that you instilled in them from ing on a date to go to basic >As soon as I graduated day one, it's a great feeling. boot camp, I wanted to be a Then they graduate and you Marines to help one joining the Marine Corps. >Staff Sgt. Nicholson appreciative they are of how hard you were on them in the beginning.

> >Out all of the duty stations I've been to, Japan had the most lasting impact on me. When I was there, or, had an impression on me. communication with your family and friends wasn't as accessible. The sense of unity in the people I met while I was over there was

as if we were our own little family.

>If I am able to help others, I am willing to do it. I've volunteered at horse ranches, golf tournaments and tennis matches.

> l like to show the Marines that there is more to do than just sit around their barracks. You just have to seek the opportunities.

>I think it's a person's attitude toward things that determines how successful they become. Anywhere you go, you have to make the best of it.

>During a lot of volun**teer events,** the Marines have only a small understanding of what they're about to do, but they realize they have the responsibility of representing the Marine Corps on a huge platform. The sense of duty and pride that comes with that resonates with them.

>I always tell the see the end result of how another. Instead of beating each other down, they should take pride in uplifting the people to the left and right of them.

> >When I leave the **Corps,** I think I'll take my work ethic with me. Marines don't stop until the mission is done. The sense of responsibility, urgency and knowing you have to meet mission is something that won't ever leave me.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

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OBSERVATION POST

Officers' Spouses Club hosts scholarship, grants reception

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

The Officers' Spouses' Club hosted the annual Scholarship and Grant Awards Reception at Quarters One, Tuesday.

OSC presented 12 college scholarships to military dependents and more than twenty grants to local organizations in front of their family and friends. During the ceremony Kimberlee Eggers, vice president, and Lisa Bargeron, grant committee chair person, OSC, awarded the grants and scholarships to students and local organizations.

"We came together to award college scholarships to military dependents here at Twentynine Palms," Eggers said. "I'm humbled to award the scholarships because I know how hard they work. I'm very proud of them and I know they're going to be successful."

Scholarship applicants are allowed to receive the scholarship only once. In order to be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be a child or spouse of a service member, who is active duty, reservist or retired, and stationed in the local area. Both high school and college students are eligible.

"We're part of the community," said Cherie Lewis, president, OSC. "I think sharing our community spirit is important and I'm grateful that I'm able to do that with the students and organizations."



Students take photos with friends and families after receiving scholarships during the annual Officers' Spouses' Club Scholarship and Grant Awards Reception at Quarters One, Tuesday.



Matthew Perez, boy scout, Boyscout Troop 78, accepts a grant on behalf of his troop from Lisa Bargeron, grant committee chair person, Officers' Spouses' Club, during the annual OSC Scholarship and Grant Awards Reception at Quarters One, Tuesday.



Kimberlee Eggers, vice president, Officers' Spouses' Club, presents a scholarship to Adriann Miller during the annual OSC Scholarship and Grant Awards Reception at Quarters One, Tuesday.







71757 29 Palms Hwy., Suite E Twentynine Palms, CA 92277 OBSERVATION POST MAY 6, 2016 A5

101 Critical Days of Summer 2016

STORY BY COMBAT CENTER SAFETY DIVISION

The summer season officially begins on June 21 and is rapidly approaching, which brings along an increase in activities such as barbeques, parties, traveling, swimming, boating, cycling, hiking, and camping to name a few. The onset of summer also brings the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign, which runs from Memorial Day, May 30, to Labor Day, September 5. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign, units and organizations are asked to provide their Marines and sailors with the tools and training necessary to help them participate in their summer recreational activities in a safe and responsible manner.

Tips for motor vehicle safety:

- Start every trip well rested
- Drive during daylight hoursSchedule breaks every two hours
- Never drink and drive
- Pull over if you get tired. It's better to get there late than not at all
- Use the Travel Risk Planning System for your trip. TRIPS is an easy online survey that helps you recognize and reduce travel risks. Leadership involvement is a key element. TRIPS is available at the Naval Safety Center website, http://www.public. navy.mil/navsafecen/Pages/ index.aspx.

Profile of a Motorcycle Rider Fatality:

- Sober during the day
- Sport-bike rider
- First year rider
- Incomplete training
- Under 26 years of ageSpeeding
- Doesn't know his/her or the
- motorcycle limitations
 Failed to identify hazards

All Marines who ride motorcycles on or off the instalCRITICAL DAYS

OF SUMMER

lation 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 other riders must take the ARC within 120 days 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 Safety Division.

Alcohol awareness and drinking

- Absorption of alcohol depends on your size, weight, body fat, gender, amount of alcohol consumed, amount of food in your stomach and use of medication

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

- Alcohol related mishaps kill and injure Marines and sailors

every summer

- Being intoxicated is not cool, not sexy and not 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:

- Learn to swim
- Swim where lifeguards are present
- Keep a close eye on the children
- Obey signs about water conditions

WELCOME TO

- Watch for rip currents

- Don't panic

- 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

Summer Sports Safety:

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

According to the Center for Disease Control, suicides 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. 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 is for 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!



55100 Martinez Trail • Yucca Valley, CA



A6 May 6, 2016 OBSERVATION POST

SAPR from pg. A1

with an investigation," Hitt said. "It is still a race so the Marines and sailors get competitive. They all try to get to the stations as fast as possible."

At each station, the runners received a 10-minute brief on the various parts of a sexual assault

investigation or court case.

"In the end everyone who participates is doing something to prevent sexual assault," said Sgt. Maj. Charles Wells, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School sergeant major. "They now have the opportunity to help others do the same."



The Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms team learns about the different investigative process that are used during a sexual assault investigation at a detention cell at the Provost Marshal's Office during the Amazing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Race held aboard the Combat Center April 29.



Maj. Michael McDonald, senior trial councilman, Legal Services Support Team, explains components of a sexual assault trial to the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion team at the Legal Services Support Team Court Room during the Amazing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Race held aboard the Combat Center April 29.

Award from pg. A1



Jim Ricker, assistant chief of staff, G-5 Government and External Affairs, stands with his wife, Tammy Ricker, and Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, after receiving the Career Service Award at the Commanding General's Conference Room April 28.



Col. David Rowe, assistant chief of staff, G-6 Communications and Information Systems, congratulates Jim Ricker, assistant chief of staff, G-5 Government and External Affairs, for his achievement of the Career Service Award at the Commanding General's Conference Room April 28.

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

"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.

This column sponsored by:

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Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627 800-995-1620 res19mxc@verizon.net

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Vicar, Peggy Ventris

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Weds. Morning Prayer

St. Martin-In-The-Fields

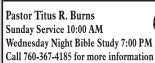
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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10:30 am

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Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church 73493 29 Palms Hwy., Twentynine Palms



"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of ins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

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OBSERVATION POST May 6, 2016 A7

PMO holds prescription | CTB conducts drug take back

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Provost Marshal's Office conducted a Prescription Drug Take Back at the base exchange parking lot,

PMO and Marine Corps Community Services held the event in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration to give Combat Center patrons the opportunity to turn in any expired or unneeded prescription drugs for proper disposal.

"There are a lot of people who flush or throw away their old [medication]," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, PMO. "That is dangerous because they don't break down properly and may contaminate their water supply."

PMO hosts the event twice a year. According to Gerland, medications are one of the most abused forms of drugs. These types of events help prevent misuse or theft of these drugs.

"There are a lot of larceny cases that revolve around prescription drugs," said Gunnery Sgt. Natalie Calderon, chief investigator, Criminal Investigation Division. "These drug take back events help prevent these thefts and help keep the medication with the person they are intended for."

PMO was able to fill three boxes with prescription medication to bring to the DEA for disposal. Another opportunity to turn in expired prescriptions is scheduled later in the year.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, Provost Marshal's Office, helps a Combat Center patron dispose of their prescription medications during the PMO Prescription Drug Take Back held at the base exchange parking lot, Saturday.



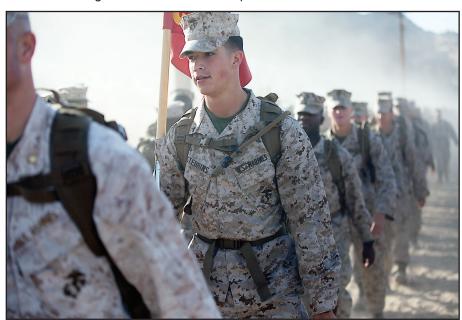
Members of the Provost Marshal's Office and Criminal Investigation Division remove labels from prescription bottles during the Provost Marshal's Office Prescription Drug Take Back held at the base exchange parking lot, Saturday.

ınit hike

PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW



Marines with Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, hike through Gillspie Road during the battalion's ninemile hike through the Combat Center April 27.



Pfc. Will Stebbins, student, Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, hikes with his company's guidon during CTB's nine-mile hike through the Combat Center April 2.



Lt. Col. Speros Koumparakis, commanding officer, Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, inspects his Marines in front of the MCCES barracks prior to the battalion's nine-mile hike through the Combat Center April 27.





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Combat Center Marines, civilians receive awards

PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO



Sgt. Kaylei Curry, watch commander, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Steffins, provost sergeant, Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters Battalion, shake hands after Curry received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at building 693, Tuesday. Two Marines and two civilians with PMO received recognition for their exceptional heroism, bearing and perseverance in response to a hostage situation.



Maj. Daniel Lammers, Combat Center Provost Marshal, presents Officer Gregory Bierman, patrol officer, Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office, the Meritorious Conduct Award at building 693, Tuesday.







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May 6, 2016 Since 1957 Vol. 60 B



Cyclists await the start of the Park-to-Park Bike Ride at Knott's Sky Park in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday. The event was hosted as a joint effort between the Combat Center, the City of Twentynine Palms and the Joshua Tree National Park Service to celebrate Earth Day as well as the 100-year anniversary of the park.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Cyclists from the Combat Center and across the Morongo Basin gathered to complete a 50-mile ride through Joshua Tree National Park during the Park-to-Park Bike Ride at Knott's Sky Park in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.

The event was hosted as a joint effort between the Combat Center, the City of Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree National Park Service to celebrate Earth Day as well as the 100-year anniversary of the national park.

Cutdentifiant Tail. Various base chitics and local community vendors attended the festival.

"Earth Day is very important because we need to be aware of our environment and make sure our planet stays clean," said Daniel Mintz, mayor of Twentynine

"It was a great opportunity for everyone to get together and participate in a weekend activity as well as enjoy the park," said Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. "For Earth Day we wanted to get people, both on base and in the community, to be able to participate in a cycling event, which doesn't burn gas or produce air pollution."

Following the ride, the cyclists proceeded to a family-friendly festival with entertainment, food and an Earth Day educational fair. Various base entities and local community vendors attended the festival.

"Earth Day is very important because we need to be aware of our environment and make sure our planet stays clean," said Daniel Mintz, mayor of Twentynine Palms. "The event successfully raised awareness of both Earth Day and the national park thanks to the efforts of the Marine base, the city, the park service and how well they worked together."



Cyclists complete a 50-mile ride during the Park-to-Park Bike Ride through Joshua Tree National Park, Calif., Saturday.



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B2 May 6, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Combat Center Events

Don't miss the annual "We Salute You Celebration" at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field for the annual We Salute You Celebration, May 7 at 3 p.m. This free event includes a country concert featuring Trace Adkins with Meghan Linsey as the opening act. Enjoy the day with a laser maze, henna tattoos, a rock climbing wall as well as car show. There will be food and beer concessions on site. For more information, call 760-830-5086.

Head down to Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field for the relief and appointment, and retirement of Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, May 10 at 10 a.m. Bring your family and friends to witness the exchange of the noncommissioned officers' sword signifying the symbolic change of senior leadership.

Check out the Combat Center Color Guard at the Homestead Valley Park during the Grubstake Days Rodeo, May 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. The event will feature food, drinks and entertainment the whole family can enjoy. For more information, call 760-218-1980.

Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club hosts Steak Night every Monday from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday. The event is open to all hands Monday and SNCOs on Fridays. For more information, contact 760-830-5035.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, May 6

5:30 p.m. - Batman V. Superman:

Dawn of Justice, PG-13

9:00 p.m. - The Divergent Series: Allegiant, PG-13

11:30 p.m. - Eye in the Sky, R

Saturday, May 7 NO MOVIES

Sunday, May 8

12:00 p.m. - Eye in the Sky, R

2:30 p.m. - Batman V. Superman: Dawn of Justice, PG-13

5:30 p.m. - Barbershop: The Next Cut, PG-13

8:00 p.m. - The Boss, R

Monday, May 9

7:00 p.m. - The Boss, R

Tuesday, May 10

7:00 p.m. - Midnight Special, PG-13

Wednesday, May 11

7:00 p.m. - Miracles From Heaven, PG

Thursday, May 12

7:00 p.m. - The Divergent Series: Allegiant, **PG-13**

Friday, May 13

5:30 p.m. - The Jungle Book (3-D), PG

8:30 p.m. - Eye in the Sky, R

11:00 p.m. - Barbershop: The Next Cut, PG-13



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



Classic story comes to life

Disney scores again with spectacular retool of Rudyard Kipling classic

NEIL POND

'The Jungle Book' Starring Neel Sethi Directed by Jon Favreau Rated PG

British author Rudvard Kipling wrote the stories that came to be know collectively as The Jungle Book more than a century ago, setting the bestknown of the tales in India, where he'd spent his early childhood. It entered the pop-cultural mainstream in 1967 when Walt Disney turned The Jungle Book into a fulllength animated musical children's comedy.

Things have certainly changed in the worldand in the world of filmmaking—since then. Director Jon Favreau has steered steely summer blockbusters (the Iron Man franchise) as well as

TAIRLIFTS

Kipling's ripping, roaring and feather. allegorical fable for a new generation of moviegoers weaned on spectacle as

well as sentiment. The Jungle Book is the tale of a young boy, Mowgli, raised by a pack of wolves. All is well until a fearsome tiger—bearing horrific scars that remind him of what humans can do-catches the scent of the "man cub." With his life in danger, and knowing that his very presence is a threat to the other creatures, Mowgli begins a journey to rejoin human civilization.

But the trip isn't an easy one, as Mowgli learns more about himself and the meaning of friends, family and the "law of the jungle."

The biggest spectacle the new Jungle Book is the sight of Mowgli (newcomer Neel Sethi, the only human, fleshand-blood actor onscreen for the entire film, except for a fleeting flashback) in a jungle teeming with

look, move and "behave" like real animals, they talk—constantly. Remember the computer-generated tiger in Life of Pi? Well, imagine it conversing with Pi, and with every other living thing it encounters. Around The Jungle Book's watering hole, the DirectTV horse, Smokey Bear, the GEICO gecko and Tony the Tiger would feel right at home.

The effects in The Jungle Book are so casually spectacular, you even forget they're effects. You become so completely, convincingly immersed in the realistic, storybook world, just like Mowgli, it doesn't seem unnatural that a menagerie of creatures can speak—or sing—just as easily as they can growl, prowl, crawl or climb.

The all-star animal voices belong to Bill Murray (the slothful bear Baloo), Scarlett Johannson (the seductive snake Kaa), Lupita Nynog'o (the nurturing wolf Rakasa), Idris Elba (the vengeful tiger Shere Khan), Christopher Walken (the monstrous ape King Louie) Ben

fluffier family fare (Elf), wild animals. But none Kingsley (the protective so he was a wise choice— of them are real—they're panther Bagherra) and by Disney, again, 40 years all digital effects, down the late Gary Shandling down the road—to retool to the last bit of fur, fang (a comically possessive porcupine). Giancarlo And not only do they Esposito, who plays Sidney Glass in TV's Once Upon a Time, provides the voice of alpha

wolf Akela. It's rated PG, but there are periods of action, peril and intensity that might be a bit much for very young viewers—especially if their parents, or grandparents, bring them into this Jungle with sugarplum visions of the candy-coated, songand-dance Disney version. This isn't that movie; it's darker, more dangerousand far superior, in almost every way.

It's the same jungle Rudyard Kipling described 120 years ago, and it's even got a trio of familiar soundtrack tunes ("Trust in Me," "The Bare Necessities" and a reworked "I Wanna Be Like You") from 1967. But it's come to life in remarkable, resounding new technological, 21st century leaps and bounds. With this outstanding upgrade to yet another childhood classic, Kipling still gets a writing credit, but Disney—as it usually does-again gets the final word.









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760-364-3019

because

She makes me dinner. Folds my clothes. Does my laundry. Buys my clothes. She's one of the most sweetest people in the world. She tries so hard to take care of me, and she loves me so much. This is why I love my mom soooo much. I love you mommy. Your the best #1 mom. your so smart and beautiful. your always there for me

Ariana Noonan Age 9 Yucca Valley Elementary

because

I Love my mom with all my heart. She is the wind beneath my wings. Even though I am only twelve years old. She balances me out. She makes sure I go to school to get a good education. And she takes me hiking and bike riding and teaches me about Nature. My Mom is A single parent raising me by herself. Roses are red violets are blue your are my everything and I Love you.

> Cloey Mrzlak Age 12 Hope Academy

because

My dad loves me and my sisters love me, but the person who loves me the most is my mommy. My mommy is the reason why I'm on this planet right now. She has a kind heart and a soothing voice to help through go situations. My mommy is also the one who builds up my confidence so I get good grades, but I love my mom mostly because she will do anything to make me happy. I wouldn't be for any other mommy, except for mine.

Karissa Torgeson Age 11 Onaga Elementary

Blue **Barn Ranch 3070 Yucca** Mesa Blvd 760-965-6019

Copper

Mountain

College

760-366-3791

SO CR

because

She is always there to support me when I really need it. When I am struggling in school, encourages me to never give up. My mom is very helpful in times of need, Even outside of school, my mom brings me back to health when I am sick, she buys the family lots of cool things, she and her boyfriend work as a team to pay the bills, she buys food and water for the family, and more! I love my mom for so many reasons, it's hards to write them all!

Sydney Hartzell Age 11 Onaga Elementary



because

I love my mom is because she's nice to me. She helps me a lot. She keeps me healthy. She never forgets me. She always says its okay when I get hurt. She dances with me. She gives me praises. She keeps me safe. She reminds me. I gave her flowers she lets me go to fun places. She lets me go to my friends house. Every time we go to the store sometimes she lets me get candy. She is the best mom in the world. She takes thing slow. She lets me go to birthdays she is the best moms

> Steven Padilla Age 9 Yucca Valley Elementary

because

Her smile brights up every night and her bright green eyes smile! I love her because she tries so hard to take care of me and she is so funny she can make anyone laugh and make their day better even when their feeling blue. My mom is way beyond beautiful. I am who I am because of my mom and when I see my mom I realize how much I love her and all the great memories we've had. Although my mom is a blonde, she is way more intelligent then anyone I have met. My mom will push me to do the best I can do. She's been there for me every even when she couldn't. Mama, I love you so much I can't even put it in words....so I'll just start it off with Happy Mother's Day !!! Love you very much. Love your daughter,

> Chloe Faith Nixon Age 12 Yucca Valley Elementary



Excellence

Mobile Massage 760-819-1594

Joshua Tree

Saloon & Grill

61835 29 Palms

Hwy

760-366-2250

The Roost Cafe

because

My mom get's me what I need. When I need help with my homework she will help me. and she buy's me toy's. and she encourage's me in soccer game's.

> Christian Venezia Age 6 Morongo Valley Elementary

All letters were typed as the

children submitted them.

because

My mom gave birth to me, and that was probably hard for her. What I love about my mom is her features, she's caring, nice and very strict. Like a mothers post to be. And she has a great attitude. She's sometimes is grumpy in the morning, you do not wake her up at that time. That's what makes her, her. She is very aware and always watching to see if I'm doing something wrong. That's what moms do I'm sure. That's what my mom does, she cares about me and I care about her and she loves me.

> Nick Brown Age 12 Onaga Elementary



because

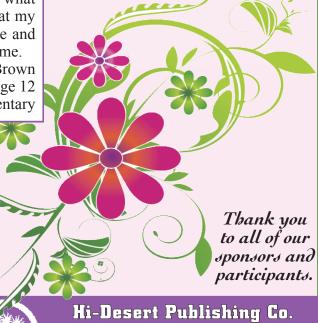
She loves all animals No matter what. Also I love her because she is always so sweet to everyone! Also she Never Judges anyone by they look. in addition she all ways protects me from bullys. Also she helps me when I am sick. Also she buys me cloths I love to ware. Lastly she helps me to live my life.

> Georgeanne Westmorland Age 10 Yucca Valley Elementary



Pickers Shack 56778 29 Palms Hwy 760-821-5221

Massage for Life by Michele 5675 Historic 29 Palms Plaza 6136 Adobe Rd 29 Palms 760-367-6799 760-285-598



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