

## Riders trek JTNP in Park to Park Ride



A Park to Park Ride participant cycles through Joshua Tree National Park, Saturday.

### STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. DAVE FLORES

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Cyclists from the Combat Center and the local community took part in the installation's Earth Day celebration by cycling more than 50 miles in the second annual Park to Park Ride and Festival, Saturday. The ride was hosted by the Combat Center's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Joshua Tree National Park and the city of Twentynine Palms to wrap up a month of Earth Day events held throughout April.

Nearly 70 riders made their way from Knott's Sky Park to Keys View in Joshua Tree National Park during the more than 50 mile bike ride.

Other events hosted by NREA included the Earth Day 5K Fun Run, Earth Day Extravaganza, annual bike rides and multiple cleanup efforts made on the base and within the Mojave Desert Land Trust area.

"The Park to Park Bike Ride is a community

See Riders A6



Cyclists from the Combat Center and local community begin the annual Park to Park Ride at Knott's Sky Park in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday. The event, hosted by Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Joshua Tree National Park and the city of Twentynine Palms, took riders from Knott's Sky Park through Joshua Tree National Park to Keys View and back as the final event of Earth Day celebrations in April.



Stroller Warriors, a free running club for military spouses and their families, cheer on bike riders during the Park to Park Ride at the top of Keys View in Joshua Tree National Park, Saturday.

## WTI 2-17 concludes with FINEX



LANCE CPL. MICHAELA GREGORY

Capt. S. Bruggeman, a pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 162 observes as a C-130 refuels an MV-22B Osprey near the Salton Sea, Calif., April 27.



LANCE CPL. CLARE SHAFFER

A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey refuels from a KC-130J Super Hercules during final exercise three (FINEX 3) as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course (WTI) 2-17, near Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., Saturday.



U.S. Marines with 1st Marine Raider Battalion, Marine Raider Regiment, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, await departure during final exercise (FINEX) two as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course (WTI) 2-17, near Yuma, Ariz., April 27.

More photos page A6

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HQBN triumphs 3-1 over MCCES  
 See page B1

## 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. Aaron James Vinculado.



A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) lands after the assault support tactics 3 (AST-3) exercise as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI) 2-17 at Yuma, Ariz., April 21. AST-3 is an exercise focused on conducting non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) in an urban environment while concurrently providing foreign humanitarian assistance (FHA) to the simulated host nation. WTI is a seven-week training event hosted by MAWTS-1 cadre, which emphasizes operational integration of the six functions of Marine Corps aviation in support of a Marine Air Ground Task Force and provides standardized advanced tactical training and certification of unit instructor qualifications to support Marine Aviation Training and Readiness and assists in developing and employing aviation weapons and tactics.



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
May 8, 1959

# Marine Units to Participate in \$1 Million Space Exhibit

The Marine Corps will display more than a million and a half dollars worth of its later combat equipment as part of the Second Western Space Age Conference and Exhibit in Los Angeles. The 2d Medium Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion will represent the Base. A group of four Marines from that unit will leave here on May 3 to start setting up for the exhibit. The

MAAN Battalion's contribution will feature a launcher, twin missile carrier and two Terrier missiles.

Held at the Great Western Exhibit Center, the exhibition is sponsored primarily by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

The Marine Corps will join the other Armed Forces, non-military government agencies, and some 400 indus-

trial contractors with representative displays.

Among the major items of equipment planned to be shown by the Marines will be the HR-2-S helicopter, the Corps' latest and largest air vehicle used in the new vertical envelopment assault technique. The two-engine craft can carry up to 40 Marines, including crew.

The newest, most modern

version of the assault landing craft will also be on display. Known as the LVT-P-5, the amphibian tractor is a greatly improved version of the landing craft used by Marines in Pacific Island landings during World War II.

The Ontos, the highly mobile anti-tank weapon mounting six 106mm recoilless rifles, will give spectators a look at one of the Corps'

most lethal weapons. The 8 1/2-ton truck vehicle generally resembles a tank, but carries greater firepower.

Marine Captain Frank B. Morris, Small Business Specialist from Headquarters Marines Corps in Washington, D.C., is coordinating the Marine Corps' participation in the event and will be in charge of a conference booth, a part of the overall Marine exhibit.

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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59							60				61		
62							63				64		

- Across**
- Certain apartment
  - Halo, e.g.
  - Amigo
  - Preserve, in a way
  - Break
  - Bender
  - Computer picture
  - "I had no \_\_\_!"
  - Forgo
  - Trembled
  - "Shoo!"
  - Downy duck
  - Coal container
  - Cold and sticky hands
  - Service for a death
  - Fix, in a way
  - A, B or C
  - Eastern music
  - Ally
  - \_\_\_ v. Wade
  - Money in the bank, say
  - Unload, as stock

- Dog breed
  - Discharge letters?
  - Goo
  - Spin
  - "Don't give up!"
  - Unimpressed
  - Fill
  - Proximity
  - Auspices
  - Yorkshire river
  - Crazily
  - Great balls of fire
  - Big game
  - Not yet final, at law
  - Reduce, as expenses
  - "To \_\_\_ is human ..."
  - Put one's foot down?
- Down**
- "O, gie me the \_\_\_ that has acres o' charms": Burns

- "That hurt!"
- German married woman
- Two-seater
- Man with a mission
- A chieftain
- Detective's need
- Those who produce offspring
- "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- Impose, as a tax
- Golf ball support
- Hippy tee style
- Beau
- Barely lit
- Sticker
- Pizza feature
- Lid or lip application
- Catlike
- Pedal pushers
- Bob Marley fan
- Bond, for one
- Coffee order

- Certain surgeon's "patient"
- "Sesame Street" watcher
- Roadside problem
- Appeared
- Arch
- Desk item
- Salad green
- Letter
- More like the sky
- Doofus
- "La Scala di \_\_\_" (Rossini opera)
- Biology lab supply
- The "C" in U.P.C.
- Arabic for "commander"
- Comme ci, comme ca (hyphenated)
- \_\_\_ row
- Death on the Nile cause, perhaps

## SUDOKU

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Difficult

Last week's answers

1	G	E	L	S		5	P	E	C	O	S		D	I	O	R		
14	A	L	O	E		15	A	R	O	S	E		16	E	D	G	E	
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34	L	O	O	P		35	R	A	P		37	B	E	R	A	T	E	
38	O	F	F	E	R		39	B	A	T		42	S	A	L	O	N	
43	F	A	I	R	E	R		44	P	A	S		47	T	E	N	D	
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55	S	N	A	R	L		58	C	R	A	S	S		60	H	A	D	
63	H	A	N	K		64	A	T	O	M	I	C		65	P	I	L	E
66	M	A	T	E		67	D	O	M	E	D		68	A	R	E	A	
69	O	N	I	T		70	D	R	O	N	E		71	T	E	E	N	

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

**Off Limit Establishments as of Oct 25, 2016**

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- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
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- Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
- Get It On Shoppe, San Diego
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego
- Trolley Stations, Palomar Street & San Ysidro, San Diego
- Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar Street, San Diego
- Dream Crystal, 1536 Highland Avenue, National City
- Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# Caitlyn BROWN

Louisville, Ky. Private First Class, administrative specialist, Installation Personnel Administration Center, HQBN

**>I'm from** Louisville, Kentucky. I was raised by my mom Sharon Norris and step-father, retired Marine Corporal Norman Norris.

**>I joined the military** because I wanted to see new places. I also knew that even though I had the means to go to college I just didn't have the patience or drive to succeed in college. My step-dad would tell me funny stories of when he was in the Marine Corps, he actually suggested I go Coast Guard, but I was dead set on the Marines. To me there was no other option.

**>I like to go out to** Joshua Tree National Park and hike either by myself or with others. I enjoy both regular hiking as well as night hiking, but since I don't have any gear I don't do any extreme hiking. My mom and step-dad always encouraged me to do anything, no matter how weird or crazy they thought it was.

**>I am obsessed with** astronomy and physics, I love learning about different types of sciences. The first night my mom introduced me to my grandparents, my grandpa took me out to the patio. When my mom went to check on me she found my grandpa pointing out the constellations and telling me all the stories of the stars. My mom said that even as a baby I was giving my



grandpa my full attention, as if I understood what he was talking about.

**>I wanted to learn** how stars worked so I got into physics. I found out that stars are giant balls of gas billions of miles away.

**>I daydream about** these wild stories but I get restless easily so I only write a little bit at a time and it's frustrating because I have an entire world mapped out in my mind like DC and Marvel.

**>The books that really** got me started on writing are Harry Potter and the Percy Jackson

series; I loved how every time I read them I could imagine their entire world.

**>I haven't decided** on what to do after the Marine Corps, I do know that I want to go to college and either be an astrophysicist or a writer.

**>I have two quotes** that I live by. The first one is, "You'll never sail the ocean if you're too scared to leave the shore," which means if you're not willing to get out of your comfort zone you'll never reach your dream.

**>The other is** a story-like quote, "Every morning in

Africa a gazelle wakes up and it knows that it must run faster than the fastest lion to stay alive. Every morning a lion wakes up and it knows that it must run faster than the slowest gazelle so that it won't starve." So either way, when the sun comes up, whether you're a lion or a gazelle, you better be running.

**>What I love about** the Marine Corps is how full of diversity it is. There are so many people from diverse backgrounds and its awesome how one organization can bring so many people into such a diverse community.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Natalia Cuevas

On Twitter: @thecombatcenter

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# 1st Mar Div Association hosts barbecue at Victory Field

PHOTOS BY SGT. CONNOR HANCOCK



Cpl. Zac Noren, rifleman, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, serves barbecue at Victory Field aboard the Combat Center, April 28. 1st Marine Division Association and unit Family Readiness Officers hosted the barbecue to build camaraderie and foster relationships between junior Marines, sailors and family members.



Marines with 1st Marine Division play corn hole at Victory Field aboard the Combat Center, April 28.



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and 1st Tank Battalion enjoy barbecue at Victory Field aboard the Combat Center, April 28.



1st Marine Division Association members prepare chow at Victory Field aboard the Combat Center, April 28.



Lance Cpl. Rahkeim Crawford and Cpl. Devonte Harrison, tank crewmen, 1st Tank Battalion, play corn hole during the 1st Marine Division Association Barbecue at Victory Field aboard the Combat Center, April 28.

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COURTESY PHOTO  
Friends and family of Tina Miller, former deputy, Combat Center Performance and Innovation Office, gathered to celebrate her life Saturday.

## In remembrance of Tina Miller

On March 31, 2017, the Combat Center community lost Tina Miller, age 51, after a fight against cancer. Tina was the deputy director of the Performance and Innovation Office.

"Tina was a great wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend to all the people she came to know," her husband, Mike Miller, said. "She was always doing everything she wanted and making the most of her life."

Tina was born Oct. 19, 1965, in Orange, Calif., and lived in Yucca Valley, Calif., for 22 years. In 1984, she married Terry Kimball, a Marine, and they had two daughters, Valerie and Kristine. During their marriage, the family lived aboard many military bases throughout the country as well as Marine Corps Base Okinawa, Japan.

In 1995, Tina moved back to Yucca Valley with her two children and began working aboard the Combat Center. During her time aboard the installation she worked as a management analyst as well as the deputy director of Performance and Innovation, formerly known as the Business Performance Office.

After moving to Yucca Valley, Tina raised her two daughters as a single mother, working and attending several night schools to attain her master's degree.

In May 2006, she married Mike Miller. The family enjoyed several hobbies, including hiking, camping, traveling and working on home improvement projects. Tina also was known to race cars, ride motorcycles and sky-dive.

"There was always

something that my mother could teach someone," said Valerie Kimball. "She was outgoing and loved bringing other people with her on her adventures. Everyone who got to know her knew that she loved to talk and share her experiences with anyone she could."

On Saturday a Celebration of Life was held in memory of Tina. Throughout the service, her family and friends spoke about Tina and how she impacted the lives of those around her.

In addition to her husband and daughters, Tina is survived by her father, Charles McPherson, and his wife, Susie; her mother, Carole Tumbleson, and her husband, Jim; her brother, Patrick McPherson, and his wife, Tina, and their seven children.

Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the

**Observation Post  
Classified section**

Published every Thursday



### Composting and Recycling Workshop

**Saturday, May 13 • 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

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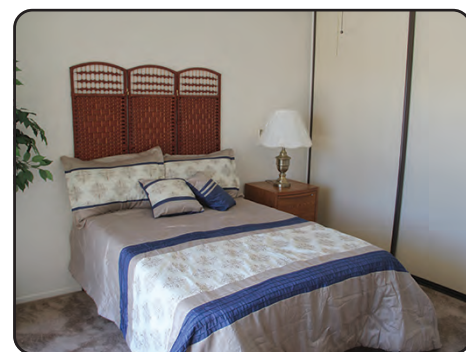
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**Riders** From A1

effort,” said Chris Elliot, water resources manager, NREA, and one of the event’s organizers. “We view this as a great opportunity to talk about the Earth Day message but also to bring the community together.”

When riders returned to Knott’s Sky Park at the conclusion of the ride, they were greeted by an Earth Day educational fair, food and entertainment. Many different Combat Center entities, as well as local community vendors, attended the event.

“There are a lot of great cyclists out here in Twentynine Palms, and that makes this event even better,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Rudd, executive officer, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. “My buddies and I are glad we were afforded the opportunity to support Earth Day and the national park.”



A participant of the Park to Park Ride slows down at one of the rest stops in Joshua Tree National Park on Saturday.

**WTI 2-17 concludes with FINEX**



LANCE CPL. MICHAELA GREGORY

U.S. Navy Corpsmen with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit transport a casualty onto a MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) during final exercise (FINEX) two in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI) 2-17 at Fire Base Burt, April 27.

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# HQBN triumphs 3-1 over MCCES



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Navy Lt. Richard Schaffer, head coach, Headquarters Battalion soccer team, gives his players pointers during an intramural soccer game against the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Monday. Marine Corps Community Services, in partnership with Semper Fit, hosts an intramural soccer league for units aboard the installation. HQBN came out victorious with a score of 3-1.

**STORY BY CPL. DAVE FLORES**

Headquarters Battalion triumphed over the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School in an intramural soccer game at Felix Field, here, Monday.

Marine Corps Community Services, in partnership with Semper Fit, hosts an intramural soccer league for units aboard the installation. This partnering affords active-duty service members and their family members who are 18 and older, as well as civilian and contract employees aboard the base the opportunity to compete in unit-level athletic competitions seasonally.

MCCES came out strong in the first half, scoring the first goal, but HQBN quickly equalized the standings before the end of the first half. Going into the second half, HQBN flipped the switch and gave a dominating performance scoring two more goals to end the game at 3-1.

“We give the Marines and their families an opportunity to get away from the stresses of their jobs through our Intramural Sports program,” said Tommy Burke, sports specialist, Marine Corps Community Services.

Burke said the goal of the soccer program is for everyone to get together with people from their units and build camaraderie while having fun.

“It’s an awesome experience to be able to play with and against many of the different units across the base,” said Miguel Torres, midfielder, Headquarters Battalion team. “I grew up playing soccer, so this lets me get myself back into a sport I love while getting in a good workout.”



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines from the Headquarters Battalion and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School teams, run for the ball during an intramural soccer game at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines from the Headquarters Battalion and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School teams, run for the ball during an intramural soccer game at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines from the Headquarters Battalion and the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School teams, congratulate each other following an intramural soccer game at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

A Marine from the Headquarters Battalion team, heads the ball during an intramural soccer game against the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



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- Friday, May 5**  
8:00 p.m. – Beauty and the Beast, PG  
11:00 p.m. – Ghost in the Shell, PG-13
- Saturday, May 6**  
12:00 p.m. – The Boss Baby (3-D), PG  
2:30 p.m. – Beauty and the Beast, PG  
5:30 p.m. – Power Ranger, PG-13  
8:30 p.m. – ChiPs, R  
11:00 p.m. – Life, R
- Sunday, May 7**  
12:00 p.m. – Power Rangers, PG-13  
3:00 p.m. – Smurfs:The Lost Village (3-D), PG  
5:00 p.m. – Ghost in the Shell (3-D), PG-13  
7:30 p.m. – Going in Style, PG-13
- Monday, May 8**  
6:30 p.m. – ChiPs, R
- Tuesday, May 9**  
6:30 p.m. – Going in Style, PG-13
- Wednesday, May 10**  
5:00 p.m. – Smurfs: The Lost Village (3-D), PG  
7:00 p.m. – Life, R
- Thursday, May 11**  
5:00 p.m. – Beauty and the Beast, PG  
7:30 p.m. – ChiPs, R
- Friday, May 12**  
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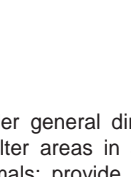
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Proposals will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. on May 17, 2017. Information can be obtained on the Town of Yucca Valley website at [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org), or by contacting Janet Yochmowitz at 760.369.6579 extension 308.

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CPL. AARONJAMES VINCULADO

Sgt. Paul Guillen, crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 (HMLA-169) fires a GAU-17 during the final exercise (FINEX) two as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor course (WTI) 2-17 at Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., April 27. The FINEX exercise is designed to execute a simulated special operating forces raid while simultaneously supporting regimental combat team objectives and focusing on conducting all six functions of Marine Aviation.



LANCE CPL. SARAH PETROCK

U.S. Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force 17.1 detonate a donut charge during Exercise Platinum Eagle 17.2 at Babadag Training Area, Romania, April 26. Marines conducted a demolition range to maintain and improve on skills.



LANCE CPL. VICTORIA ROSS

Col. Doug Bruun, commander of the Marine Coordination Element with Marine Rotational Force Europe 17.1 (MRF-E), and a cadet with the Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy deliberate over a mock forward air refueling point operation in Giskaas, Norway, April 25. The cadets briefed Bruun on how they intend to execute their mission tasks.



CPL. AARONJAMES VINCULADO

UH-1Y Venom assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) lands during the final exercise (FINEX) two as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor course (WTI) 2-17 at Yuma, Ariz., April 27. The FINEX exercise is designed to execute a simulated special operating forces raid while simultaneously supporting regimental combat team objectives and focusing on conducting all six functions of Marine Aviation.



PFC. TAYLOR COOPER

Marines plunge into the ocean during a beach landing drill at Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 26. The Marines conducted various drills with their Amphibious Assault Vehicles as part of a certification exercise ensuring readiness for their upcoming deployment with 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

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