



PHOTO COURTESY OF IDENTITY OPERATIONS TEAM

Marines conduct a field user evaluation for the Identity Dominance System-Marine Corps, or IDS-MC, in Dahlgren, V.A. In September, Marine Corps Systems Command completed fielding of the IDS-MC, which is a new biometrics system to help deployed Marines identify and track the movement of individuals encountered on the battlefield, conduct entry control point operations, and determine who is a friend or foe.

## Marine Corps fields ‘game changer’ biometric data collection system

STORY BY KAITLIN KELLY

In September, Marine Corps Systems Command completed fielding a new biometrics system to help deployed Marines identify and track the movement of individuals encountered on the battlefield, conduct entry control point operations, and determine who is a friend or foe.

Identity Dominance System-Marine Corps, or IDS-MC, is a simple and effective biometric data collection, matching, and transaction management system that is composed of a handheld device, known as the Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit, and a laptop computer with specialized biometric collection sensors and a badge printer.

IDS-MC replaces the Biometric Enrollment and Screening Device to assist with detainee management and questioning, base access, counterintelligence screening, border control and law enforcement operations. Unlike the BESD, IDS-MC’s transactional data management capability conveniently collects, shares, matches and stores identity information immediately, allowing the user to connect to the Tactical Data Network, manage and submit collected data and receive responses and feedback on submissions. This improves on the

legacy system, which could take days to download data via a CD or DVD, and then Marines had to transmit that vital identity information from a separately connected computing system. This process was not only logistically cumbersome, but the latency in data submission and response receipt created force protection mission challenges for the Marine.

“The IDS-MC is more convenient because it connects directly to the Marine Corps’ Tactical Data Network, allowing Marines to share data and submit biometrics and receive the responses effortlessly,” said Sarah Swift, Identity Operations Team lead for Biometrics and Forensics Systems at MCSC.

To develop the IDS-MC, the Identity Operations Team identified a need for a portable, easy-to-use system via feedback from Marines in the fleet. The system was created to directly address the specific needs of Marine Expeditionary Forces in a contested environment.

Using IDS-MC, Marines collect biometric data by capturing a person of interest’s fingerprints, iris and face images. That data can then be matched with pre-existing information onboard the system, either on a BEWL or other lists, such as an access control list used for

base force protection. The IDS-MC also has the capability to capture location, biographical and any other reference data that may be useful to an intelligence analyst now or in the future.

The IDS-MC user submits biometric information to the Department of Defense’s Automated Biometric Identification System authoritative database via a web portal, allowing data to be shared across the Biometrics enterprise, and also aiding in the creation of the DoD extensive Biometric-Enabled Watch List, or BEWL. The BEWL contains an ongoing collection of biometric intelligence that helps users determine what actions to take immediately when they encounter a person of interest. Additionally, the Marine Corps Intelligence Agency Identity Intelligence Analytical Cell, or MCIA I2AC, reviews the IDS-MC user’s biometrics submissions and other collected biographical and reference data, and provides direct support to the submitting Marines, providing them analysis reports and intelligence products for potential Persons of Interest.

“The BEWL helps Marines match nefarious people they might encounter anywhere in the world to the ones listed

See **Game Changer** A4

## Calling all NFEs, private organizations aboard the Combat Center

STORY BY MARY ELLEN BARRENA

Throughout the Combat Center, Non-Federal Entities (NFE), formerly called Private Organizations, operate to improve the quality of life for our Marines, sailors, their families, and Department of Defense employees. NFEs such as Scouting, the Officers Spouse’s Club, Petty Officer Associations, Combat Center Firefighters, Golf Associations and American Heritage Girls, to name a few, expand the opportunity for social, professional, and educational activities within our community. These are not government organizations, but rather groups of individuals who meet for their mutual enjoyment, professional development, and/or enrichment of the population they serve. NFEs are led by dedicated volunteers who give their time, creativity and use a host of other skills to organize and implement events and activities that enhance the lives of their members, and provide a variety of experiences for the Combat Center community.

NFEs, once recognized and authorized by the installation, are allowed to utilize government facilities/space on a limited basis and with permission; to conduct fundraisers authorized by SJA; to participate in special events; and are allowed to seek use of government property or equipment for loan or rent.

Combat Center Order 5760.1D requires each NFE to be formally recognized and authorized to operate on the installation. This order, available at [www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/adj/ccotoc.asp](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/adj/ccotoc.asp), requires each NFE to request authorization from the Commanding General (Attn: Director, MCCS) annually, no later than 31 December, or within 30 days of an organization’s establishment. Failure to reapply for authorization by 31 December of each year can be cause for revocation of authority to operate aboard the base.

### NFEs seeking to operate for the 2018 year must submit the following documents:

- Copy of the organizational constitution and bylaws
- Roster of current officers with contact numbers and addresses; and the organization correspondence address
- A 2017 financial report
- An insurance liability certificate or request for waiver (if applicable)
- The organization’s 2018 Events and Activities Calendar.

Local regulations and general guidance is provided in CCO 5760.1D. Detailed instructions and document templates are available by request. To receive an NFE packet or inquire about the program, interested parties may contact Ms. Mary Ellen Barrena, MCCS Management Analyst, at [BarrenaM@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:BarrenaM@usmc-mccs.org) or 760-830-7263.

## Inside the Observation Post

Volume 61, Issue 49

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B1	Combat Center Marines receive letters
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### Marines visit Friendly Hills Elementary School

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. Roderick Jacquote.



Cpl. Oliver Ramirez, a field radio operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, shoots a M2 machine gun during a machine gun course exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 17. The machine gun course is led by the Combat Skills Training School who provides sustainment training in individual machine gun skills for Marines assigned to machine gun teams throughout the 1st MLG in order to develop technical proficiency and maintain combat readiness.



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
December 15, 1959

# 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines exercise in desert

Rounding up their semi-annual training program, the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Marine Regiment, stationed at Camp Pendleton, set up shop in the vast backyard of Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms for a nineteen day exercise that will conclude Wednesday, December 16.

The 105 millimeter howitzer unit, commanded by major J.

M. McLaurin, bucked a variety of desert weather during their stay.

The battalion's advance party arrived November 27th in order to establish camp before the main body of the unit arrived, December 1st.

Mild weather prevailed for nearly a week after the main group's arrival. But shortly

thereafter, the battalion experienced a rare Hi-Desert down-pour.

The remainder of the unit's stay was capped with cold, sand-filled windy days which cut down visibility and hampered firing operations considerably.

On hand for the major portion of the operation

was Colonel E. J. Rowse, Commanding Officer of the 11th Marine Regiment.

The colonel was apparently satisfied with the tactical firing exercises of the battalion and he stated that he was "Well pleased" with what he had seen.

Monday morning, December 14, the Battalion was paid a visit by Major General Henry R.

Paige, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division.

The general toured the gun positions, observation posts and the main camp during his short visit.

The battalion began breaking camp this afternoon (Tuesday) in preparation for their return to Camp Pendleton Wednesday.

## CROSSWORD

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- Across**
1. Canal bank opposite towing path.  
5. Northern arm of the Rhine River.  
8. Silk thread formed of two or more threads twisted together.  
12. Acronym for Australian Pipeline Industry Association.  
13. Give false representation.  
15. Stratagem practiced for deception.  
16. Catherine \_\_, Mackenzie on Jag.  
17. Device to hold photographic paper flat during exposure.  
18. Term sometimes applied to a canopy over an altar.  
19. Disease transmitted by a mosquito.  
22. Portion of a stock issue that investment bankers return to the underwriter so it can be sold to institutional investors.  
23. \_\_ Barsi, Alberta's Female Recording Artist in 1999.  
24. Fossil fuel.  
26. Garment size for short women.  
29. Stirrup-shaped ossicle that transmits sound from the incus to the cochlea.  
31. Shape with one to five corners and one open side.  
32. Base on eight.  
34. Release from military service.  
36. Violent public disturbance.  
38. Having the qualities of man.  
40. Lacking risk.  
41. Land under control of a Medieval lord.  
43. Large, soft, flat bag filled with feathers used as a bed.  
45. Clean land of obstructions.  
46. Unhappy and unwilling to speak,

- smile or be pleasant to people.  
48. Cooper nickel alloy with high and low temperature coefficient.  
50. Characteristic sound of a cat.  
51. Furnish with apparatus.  
52. Religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.  
54. Group of densely populated metropolitan areas.  
61. Leading resort on the French Riviera.  
63. Book of blank pages with pockets for organizing photographs.  
64. Hawaii honeycreeper.  
65. Type of bivalve mollusk found in shallow ocean water and fresh water.  
66. Pair of single-headed, tuned drums used in north Indian classical music.  
67. Bound off one point after another.  
68. Acronym for Electronic Emitter Location System.  
69. Dried legume such as lentils, beans  
70. State of disorderliness.

- Down**
1. Invention which one proudly considers as their own.  
2. French for sword.  
3. Small rivulet.  
4. Wooden hammer  
5. Metal beaten into extremely thin sheets.  
6. Other than.  
7. City invaded by the Mongols in 1240.  
8. Middle English variant of "two."  
9. One of the wavy lines produced on sand by waves, wind or the like.  
10. In addition.

11. Come together with someone.  
13. Charm.  
14. Conversion of a conditional order into a market order.  
20. Potpourri.  
21. Long, smooth, narrow course.  
25. Planet of the \_\_, 1968 film.  
26. King of Troy.  
27. Using the minimum of resources necessary for effectiveness.  
28. Exercise for a solo instrument.  
29. \_\_ 1, name of Boba Fett's starship.  
30. \_\_ Gubaidulina, two-time Koussevitzky International Recording Award winner.  
31. Forelimb of any vertebrate.  
33. Unit of mass.  
35. Bottom of a watercourse.  
37. Past tense of "tear."  
39. Tumor growing from a nerve.  
42. Space for movement.  
44. Journey from a person's home.  
47. Moisture forming on the surface of any of various substances.  
49. Theory that the pursuit of your own welfare is the basis of mortality.  
52. In one case.  
53. Bitterness of feeling.  
55. Very willing.  
56. Bishop of Syriac and Coptic churches.  
57. Period of no wind.  
58. Similar.  
59. Certainly.  
60. Acronym for Side Impact Protection System.  
62. Acronym for Emergency Medical Service.

## SUDOKU

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Difficult

Last week's answers

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

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- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
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- Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast

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- Denny's Parking Lot, 692 E Street, Chula Vista
- Burger King & McDonald's, 28th Street (parking lots), San Diego
- Club Mustang, 2200 University Avenue, San Diego
- 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

# Chad MIGKINS

Brooklyn, N.Y. Lance Corporal, S4 clerk, Company A, Headquarters Battalion

FOLLOWING MIGKINS' GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL HE VOLUNTEERED TO DO MISSIONARY WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA FOR HALF A YEAR AND UPON HIS RETURN TO THE STATES HE BECAME A YOUTH PASTOR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

**>I was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y.,** but when I was 15 I received a football scholarship from St. Anne's-Belfield Boarding School and ended up moving to Charlottesville, Va., by myself.

**>After high school I went to Ecuador** for six months doing missionary work for the community through the Salvation Army. While I was there I spent my time feeding the hungry and building furniture for churches.

**>When I got back from Ecuador** I got a job in D.C. as a youth pastor. I spent the next year and a half being a youth pastor and guiding kids who came into the center. At the time I thought that was what I was going to do for the rest of my life.

**>My sister, an Army soldier, got back from Iraq** where her convoy was hit by an [Improvised Explosive Device]. She had a severe back injury and needed a lot of help with her new home. After spending a lot of time with her and bonding by listening to her experiences about her time in Iraq and how she never really felt like she was in the fight inspired me to enlist.

**>Originally I wanted to join the Army,** but I met a Marine recruiter and he introduced me to the job of a Military Policeman. In May 2013 I enlisted into the Marine Corps as a Military Policeman to put the Migkins name in the fight for my sister.

**>Being in the Military Police field,** you can get chosen to be a part



of the K9 handling field. I'm happy to say I was put on a board and hand chosen to be a K9 handler and now it is a big part of my life.

**>Even though work takes priority in my life** I still have hobbies

off the clock. I used to lift before the Marine Corps but now I am currently training for a body building competition in Las Vegas, Nev., that will take place in July.

**>I enjoy working with dogs** and

I enjoy lifting so I hope when I get out of the Marine Corps in May of 2018 and start my new life as a dentist that I can continue working as a dog trainer and continue with body building competitions.

Photographed and interviewed by Lance Cpl. Jennessa Davey

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Game Changer From A1

in the database,” said Swift. “We support Marines by providing them the most up to date BEWL, and then they can collect a person’s biometrics. If it shows up in the system as a match, they’ll be notified with a pop-up on the device.”

“All of this provides the Marine Air-Ground Task Force with the ability to rapidly and efficiently identify people encountered in the battle space in support of targeting, military intelligence, law enforcement operations and force protection,” said Maj. Keystella Mitchell, project officer for IDS-MC.

In addition to identifying known threats, the system also collects information on potential future threats and stores it for future reference. If an individual is a match in the system, Marines are able to immediately receive that information and use it to inform on-the-spot decisions.

“It can be difficult to determine who the enemy is because they truly blend in with their surroundings,” said Mitchell. “The IDS-MC is a game changer and force multiplier as a

connected system for the commander on the ground because they can identify the threat and take action much quicker than before.”

In addition to the planned fielding of the IDS-MC system, an urgent system quantity shortfall was identified by the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force and Marine Corps Forces Central Command customers. This required an unplanned increase in the number of production assets which required a fielding re-prioritization strategy, additional rapid procurement and integration. The Identity Operations Team adapted its strategy, and within two months of validating the requirement, it fielded the additional systems.

The fielding of the IDS-MC system has led to a 154 percent increase in the biometric collections submitted to MCIA I2AC and resulted in 11 watch list hits in just the first month of fielding.

The IDS-MC is managed by the Identity Operations Team which falls under Command Element Systems at MCSC.



Lance Cpl. David C. Mattox, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, conducts personnel search procedures in Hidalgo City during Integrated Training Exercise 1-17 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.



Lance Cpl. Chance J. Dorman, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, utilizes the IDS-MC to conduct personnel searches in Hidalgo City during Integrated Training Exercise 1-17 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.



Lance Cpl. Chance J. Dorman, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, utilizes the IDS-MC to conduct personnel searches in Hidalgo City during Integrated Training Exercise 1-17 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.



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WeekINPhotos

Supplies from the skies

Photos by Pfc. William Chockey



Lance Cpl. Chase R. Toms (left) and Cpl. Joseph P. Desmond (right), crew chiefs, Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, guide the supply crate onto the CH-53E Super Stallion during training exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center, Saturday. Steel Knight is a two-week long exercise that allows units to work alongside thousands of Marines and sailors of different occupations to reinforce the Marine Air Ground Task Force Concept and instill confidence in the units' ability to work in a combined arms effort.



Lance Cpl. Chase R. Toms, crew chief, Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, gets ready for takeoff on the CH-53E Super Stallion during training exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



Lance Cpl. Chase R. Toms, crew chief, Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, scans the surrounding area while on the CH-53E Super Stallion during training exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



Marines with Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465 arrive at the landing zone in the CH-53E Super Stallion during training exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



A landscape of the Combat Center can be seen from the CH-53E Super Stallion during training exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

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# Combat Center Marines answer students' questions, receive letters

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. RACHEL K. PORTER

JOSHUA TREE, Calif.— Twelve years ago, a teacher in San Bernardino County delivered a package of 300 letters written to United States Marines to the Commanding General of the Combat Center and in return he received a box of 300 pens decorated with the American flag for each student who wrote a letter. For the past eight years Don Henry, U.S. history teacher of 15 years, has organized events that allow his students the opportunity to ask Marines questions in exchange for Veterans Day letters.

The question-and-answer event with Henry's sixth-grade class took place for the first time at Friendly Hills Elementary School, Dec. 7 and Marines from the installation's Marksmanship Training Unit were present to answer questions.

"Freedom has never been free," Henry said. "It's paid for, and without our military we would not have the freedom that we have today."

Sgt. Charles Bump, range safety officer, MTU and a self-proclaimed history buff, answered a student's question regarding why an American flag that has touched the ground would not fly over base again. Bump used the question as an opportunity to speak on the respect that service members have for the American flag and country.

"Right now the children are at a pivotal point in their life where they don't know too much about the military, but they're very intrigued with everything," said Gunnery Sgt. Jaren Wright, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, MTU.

Students were allowed to ask any questions they pleased, touching on subjects of deployments and rank insignia. Wright was one of the volunteers who openly answered questions about his year-long deployment to Afghanistan and his service stripes. Following the question-and-answer session, the Marines received the student's letters.

"It's important for every kid to know where their basic rights come from and who provides them," Bump said. "It's important even if they aren't going to join the military, that they understand and respect the people who chose to do so."



Students raise their hands to ask Marines questions during a question-and-answer event at Friendly Hills Elementary School in Joshua Tree, Calif., Dec. 7. This is the first year the event took place at Friendly Hills.



Marines answer questions for a group of students during a question-and-answer event at Friendly Hills Elementary School in Joshua Tree, Calif., Dec. 7.



Sgt. Charles Bump, range safety officer, Marksmanship Training Unit, answers students' questions during a question-and-answer event at Friendly Hills Elementary School in Joshua Tree, Calif., Dec. 7.



Gunnery Sgt. Jaren Wright, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Marksmanship Training Unit, surprises his daughter during a question-and-answer event at Friendly Hills Elementary School in Joshua Tree, Calif., Dec. 7.

Sunset Cinema

Friday — Dec. 15

5:30 p.m. — A Bad Moms Christmas, R

8:00 p.m. — Daddy’s Home 2, PG-13

10:10 p.m. — Thank You For Your Service, R

Saturday — Dec. 16

12:00 p.m. — The Star, PG

2:00 p.m. — A Bad Moms Christmas, R

4:30 p.m. — Justice League (3-D), PG-13

7:10 p.m. — Murder on The Orient Express, PG-13

9:40 p.m. — Daddy’s Home 2, PG-13

Sunday — Dec. 17

12:00 p.m. — The Star, PG

2:00 p.m. — Thor: Ragnarok (3-D), PG-13

5:00 p.m. — Justice League (3-D), PG-13

7:30 p.m. — Murder on The Orient Express, PG-13

Monday — Dec. 18

6:30 p.m. — A Bad Moms Christmas, R

Tuesday — Dec. 19

6:30 p.m. — The Star, PG

Wednesday — Dec. 20

6:30 p.m. — Thank You For Your Service (Last Showing), R

Thursday — Dec. 21

6:30 p.m. — Jigsaw (Last Showing), R

Friday — Dec. 22

5:30 p.m. — Wonder, PG

8:10 p.m. — Justice League (3-D), PG-13

10:30 p.m. — A Bad Moms Christmas, R

12/15 Friday - Tuesday

Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13)

2D 1:30 6:00 9:15 9:30 • 3D 2:30 6:15

Ferdinand (PG)

3D 4:00 9:00 • 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Wonder (PG)

1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

12/20 Wednesday

Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13)

2D 1:30 6:00 9:15 9:30 • 3D 2:30 6:15

Jumanji - Welcome to the Jungle (PG13)

Ferdinand (PG)

1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

12/21 Thursday

Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13)

2D 1:30 9:30 • 3D 2:30 6:15

Pitch Perfect (PG13)

7:00 9:30

Ferdinand (PG) & Jumanji (PG13)

1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Friday-Tuesday

#1 Ferdinand (PG) #2 Wonder (PG) 1:30 6:00 9:15

#3 Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 1:30 6:00 9:15

#4 Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 2:30 6:15 9:30

Wednesday

#1 Jumanji (PG13) #2 Ferdinand (PG) 1:30 6:00 9:15

#3 Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 1:30 6:00 9:15

#4 Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 2:30 6:15 9:30

Thursday

#1 Jumanji (PG13) #2 Ferdinand (PG) 1:30

#3 Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 1:30

#3 Pitch Perfect (PG13) 7:00 9:30

#4 Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 2:30 6:15 9:30

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Solid Waste Characterization Study

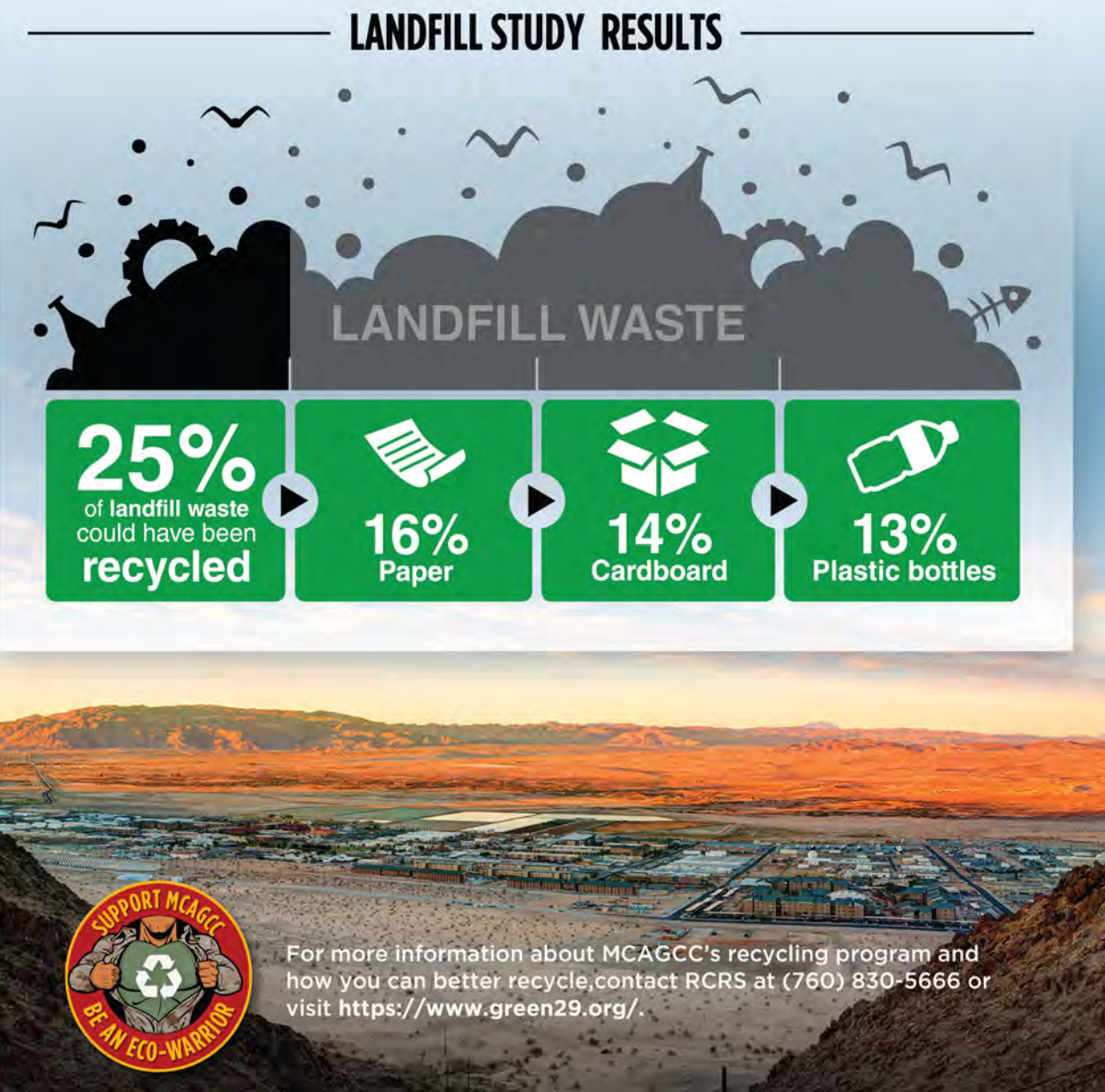
In April of this year, Environmental Affairs (EA) conducted a Waste Characterization Study in an effort to better understand the amount and source of recyclable materials entering the Combat Center's landfill. The study was conducted at the Residential Commercial Recycling Section (RCRS) located on the corner of Rifle Range Road and Del Valle, a facility dedicated to processing recyclable materials. Not only is recycling required by Base and Marine Corps policies, but proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials fund RCRS operational costs as well as morale, welfare, and recreation activities.

In large part, the Combat Center relies on individual military, civilian, and residential customers to have the knowledge to identify and separate recyclable materials when depositing waste in dumpsters and other solid waste containers. Despite the efforts of Base personnel, Marines, and residents, large amounts of recyclable materials still enter our landfill. In the course of the study, waste from 100 dumpsters and four residential areas was sorted, representing over 24 tons of waste. In addition, personnel from 60 different facilities were surveyed to gather customer feedback and identify necessary improvements to the recycling program.

The study found that approximately 25% of waste going to our landfill could have been recycled. These items included large amounts of paper (16% of recyclables), cardboard (14% of recyclables), and CRV plastic bottles (13% of recyclables). The study also found that the residential areas participate in the recycling program more than non-residential areas of the Combat Center: only 16% of the residential trash was recyclable, compared to 28% of trash collected from non-residential facilities.

Certain items cannot be put in our landfill, such as hazardous waste, medical waste, and range residue/munitions. However, restricted waste was found in 86% of the dumpsters and all four residential areas, including items such as aerosol cans, e-waste, rechargeable batteries, munitions, medications, and unused MRE heaters.

The study provided several recommendations, including adding recycling containers at several buildings, additional outreach and training, and color-coding dumpsters for ease of use.



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Holiday Decoration Safety

The holidays should be a time of joyful memories, not to remember an avoidable tragedy! The San Bernardino County Fire Department would like to remind you of the following holiday decorating and Christmas tree safety tips:

Check The Lights, Check The Cords

Before you put up any electrically lighted decorations, you should check the equipment to make sure it will operate safely. Check for burned-out lights, empty sockets and broken bulbs. Inspect wires carefully for breaks, fraying and damaged connections before energizing your holiday decorations. Any damaged strands of lights should be thrown out.

Artificial or Natural Tree?

Both can be enjoyed safely. If you use an artificial tree, make sure it is made of safe, fireproof materials. If your artificial tree is pre-lit, make sure you test the tree and check all electrical cords and connectors for damage, fraying or broken parts before using the tree. On a pre-lit tree, check carefully for burnt-out, broken or damaged light sockets. Damaged equipment should be replaced or repaired before using the tree.

Make A Fresh Cut

If you use a natural tree, make a fresh 1-inch cut at the base to open up pores clogged by sap. The fresh cut surface should be creamy-white so that the tree will be able to drink water.

Place In Water

For a natural tree, choose a sturdy stand that holds at least one gallon of water. Rinse the stand with a mixture of one cupful of bleach and one cup of water before inserting the tree. This rinsing reduces the growth of microorganisms that can block the tree's ability to absorb water. If the tree is not going into the house soon after purchase, it should be stored in a bucket of water in a cool place away from wind and sun.

Water Daily

An average natural tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no more water will be absorbed- SO DON'T FORGET TO WATER THE TREE EVERY DAY!

Mini-Lights Produce Less Heat

Miniature lights produce less heat and reduce drying on a natural tree. Always check lights for frayed or cracked wiring and broken sockets before placing on a tree. Do not attempt to repair a worn light—throw it away! Turn off tree lights when leaving the house or before going to bed. Avoid overloading circuits. Plug no more than three light sets into a single outlet.

Keep Away From Heat Sources

Place the tree away from heat sources: heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, T.V. sets, or sunny windows. Keep rearranged furniture away from heat sources as well. Be careful not to block a door with the tree or with rearranged furniture.

And Recycle The Tree Promptly

After the holidays, remove a natural tree from the house as soon as possible. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace; it burns too fast and is explosive! The best alternative is to RECYCLE your tree through your local city or county program.

Have an enjoyable and SAFE holiday season!

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Thursday 11am

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E-mail: [sunsetvillage@verizon.net](mailto:sunsetvillage@verizon.net)

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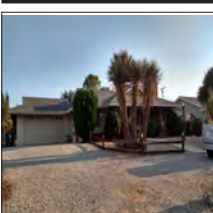
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64433 CAHUILLA 3/2 \$1050

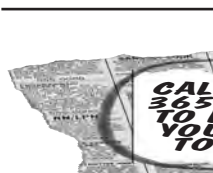
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1bdr Cabin, full kitchen/bath. All utilities included, no dogs \$750 security (760) 323-0602

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Newer home - 4bd/2ba view home in Sky Harbor area. 2400 sqft, Fenced, indoor laundry. \$1550+deposit. 760-835-4470



## APT. & DUPLEXES 200

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Well kept older home 3bd, 2ba. Landscaped, natural gas. heat, w/av A/C, fireplace in livingroom, wall heat in den. Wonderful fenced back yard. MLS#JT17189213 - \$235,900

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## ROOMS FOR RENT 223

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**Furnished Room**  
Garage, laundry, kitchen, utilities paid, senior female preferred. \$400/mo. 760-228-2979

Full house privileges, lovely home, Sr. lady preferred. \$400 mo. Call 760-620-2083

## HELP WANTED 300

**Avalon Pharmacy** is looking for a Full-time Licensed Pharmacy Tech. w/ experience. E-mail resume: [amitabkakar@yahoo.com](mailto:amitabkakar@yahoo.com)

Exp'd tow truck driver, must pass drug/DMV/background checks & live in 29 Palms. AAA exp. helpful. (760) 365-9410 ask for Bob

E Free Church of YV seeking committed follower of Jesus with heart for youth to lead bible studies/ministry and plan outreach email resume: [murphys@efcyv.org](mailto:murphys@efcyv.org)

## HELP WANTED 300

### OFFICE CLERK

**Morongo Basin Transit Authority**

This full-time position is responsible for various office duties, including acting as a receptionist, a compiler of departmental reports and assistant with financial activities of MBTA. This position is also responsible for the day to day administrative duties for MBTA regulated Taxicab services. Applicants must have experience in Word, Excel, Data entry and Customer Service. Cash handling experience desired but not required.

Apply in person at the Morongo Basin Transit Authority, 62405 Verbena Road, Joshua Tree, Ca 92252 or visit us on the web to print the application: [mbtabus.com/customer\\_service.html](http://mbtabus.com/customer_service.html).

### CLIENT RELATIONS CLERK

**Morongo Basin Transit Authority**

This part-time position is responsible for daily activities related to the Transportation Reimbursement Escort Program (TREP) including data entry, assisting clients over the phone, generating reports, and other duties as necessary. Applicants must have experience in Word, Excel, Data entry and Customer Service. Mobility Management experience desired but not required.

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## LEGAL SERVICES 414

**Lynnette's Legal Document Assist. Family Law, Notary, Evictions, Power of Attorney (760) 366-1941**

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## HELP WANTED 300

### COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT \$50,752.55 annual starting salary

SEE OUR WEBSITE OR CALL FOR REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION

DEADLINE: 12/10/2017 BY 5:00P.M. DISTRICT ONLINE APPLICATION REQUIRED [WWW.CMCCD.EDU/HUMAN-RESOURCES](http://WWW.CMCCD.EDU/HUMAN-RESOURCES)

(760) 366-5267  
EOE/ADA/Title IX

### MBTA MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

is now seeking a Mechanic for hire.

The successful candidate will perform preventative maintenance including but not limited to diagnostics, service & repair of steering suspension, brakes, engines, trans-missions, differentials, electrical systems, wheelchair lifts, and air conditioning systems. Ford, heavy duty vehicles and Compressed Natural Gas experience a plus.

♦ Must be a team player willing to work flexible schedules, be a self-starter and willing to take on various tasks such as facility maintenance or other duties as assigned.

♦ Good driving record is a must and the ability to obtain a Class B license is required. Must provide own tools.

♦ The MBTA has a competitive wage schedule and benefits package that applies to this position. Specialized training for transit vehicles will be provided post-hire.

Apply in person at the Morongo Basin Transit Authority, or visit us on the web to print the application at: [mbtabus.com/customer\\_service.html](http://mbtabus.com/customer_service.html)

Apply attention: Matt Atkins, Operations Manager 760-366.2986 ext. 112 [matt@mbtabus.com](mailto:matt@mbtabus.com).

APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT: 62405 Verbena Rd. Joshua Tree, CA M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

[www.mbtabus.com](http://www.mbtabus.com)



## SERVICES 435

**AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING** Evaporative Cooler Service, Repair & Installation Metal Duct Fabrication. 24 Yrs Exp. Senior Disc. Advanced Mechanical. Mike (760) 228-2934 Lic#880070

**ALTERNATORS** Starters & Alternators for anything. Auto Electric - RV's, Trailer Brakes, Interstate Batteries "No Appointment Needed" Call 760-365-5489

**CHIMNEY SWEEP** - Fireplace & Chimney cleaning. Call Phil at DUDRA'S Construction. (760) 228-0842 or 818-599-6943 Lic. # 702827

**CLEANING/MOVING** - 28 yrs experience. Packing/Unpacking. Rentals, Construction clean-ups, Real Estate. Maria's Professional Cleaning & Moving. Insured. 760-333-0493 L#10986

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APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT: 62405 Verbena Rd. Joshua Tree, CA M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

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## SERVICES 435

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\*Waiters/Waitress  
\*Cooks & Kitchen Help  
\*Cashiers

Please CALL for appt **760-668-5153**

Will NOT accept applicants during business hours. Experienced ONLY!



### MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Now Hiring Qualified **VEHICLE OPERATORS**

\* Competitive hourly earnings and benefit options including retirement.  
\* Paid training, vacation.  
\* Operate SAFE, maintained vehicles.  
\* Must successfully complete a DOT physical and pre-employment Drug Screen.

Interested applicants must be customer service oriented, dependable with a clean driving record (H-6 printout).

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT:**  
62405 Verbena Rd. Joshua Tree, CA  
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**LANDSCAPING** - Irrigation systems, gravel & curbing, turf & grass, plants, trimmings, topplings, tree removal, clean-up & hauling. Weekly or monthly service avail. Francisco @ Hi Desert Landscaping (760) 228-0409 or 760-668-1791

**LANDSCAPING** - Clean-up, weed removal, tree trimming, gardening & trash removal. FREE estimates Call Kris 760-406-1777

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## HELP WANTED 300

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is looking for **EXPERIENCED**

\*Waiters/Waitress  
\*Cooks & Kitchen Help  
\*Cashiers

Please CALL for appt **760-668-5153**

Will NOT accept applicants during business hours. Experienced ONLY!



### MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Now Hiring Qualified **VEHICLE OPERATORS**

\* Competitive hourly earnings and benefit options including retirement.  
\* Paid training, vacation.  
\* Operate SAFE, maintained vehicles.  
\* Must successfully complete a DOT physical and pre-employment Drug Screen.



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**OUTBACK**  
2.5i PREMIUM

- Standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + 32 mpg hwy<sup>3</sup>
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- SUBARU STARLINK™ Safety and Security with Automatic Collision Notification<sup>19</sup>
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Now through  
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- SUBARU STARLINK™ Safety and Security with Automatic Collision Notification<sup>19</sup>
- 17-inch alloy wheels

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Now through  
Dec. 31, 2017

HFE/HFF



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- SUBARU STARLINK™ Multimedia with Apple CarPlay™ and Android™ Auto integration
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\*Subaru will donate \$250 for every Subaru vehicle sold or leased from November 16, 2017 through January 2, 2018 to four national charities designated by the purchaser or lessee. Pre-approved Hometown Charities may be selected for donation depending on retailer participation. Certain participating retailers will make an additional donation to the Hometown charities selected. Purchasers/lessees must make their charity designations by January 21, 2018. The four national charities will receive a guaranteed minimum donation of \$250,000 each. See your local Subaru retailer for details, or visit [subaru.com/share](http://subaru.com/share). All donations made by Subaru of America, Inc.



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