



Mark Gletko, the boxing coach for the installation's Mixed Martial Arts Fight Club 29, teaches practical application during a self defense class as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 22. The class was held to give parents and their children the opportunity to learn how to defend themselves in a dangerous situation.

Families participate in Teen Dating Violence Awareness month

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JENNESSA DAVEY

Each year the Family and Victim Advocate Office hosts a Teen Dating Violence Awareness workshop that spans the month of February. The workshop is held to raise awareness about teen dating violence as well as provide attendees of the workshop with the tools and resources to protect themselves.

"Everybody should know how to defend themselves," said Natasha Ratchford, the Family and Victim Advocate and coordinator of the events throughout the month. "Everybody should talk about and be aware of

the possibility of dangerous situations, whether it be in dating or day-to-day life."

Several events are held throughout the month to include a talent show and a self defense class. Marine Corps Community Services and American Friends of our Armed Forces helps fund and coordinate the events.

"The kids think it's fun," Ratchford said. "Engaging them increases the likelihood of them receiving the message because they enjoy the activity that goes along with what we are trying to bring awareness to."

The most popular part of the workshop is the self

See **Teen Dating** A6

Josiah Fredricks participates in practical application during a self defense class as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 22.



Reminder: the Tax Center is open for business

STORY BY LANCE CPL. RACHEL K. PORTER

The Tax Center aboard the Combat Center is open and still welcoming customers on a walk-in and appointment basis.

"At the end of the day, we're here to help Marines and sailors avoid spending \$100 for H&R Block to do some-



CPL. D. J. WU

Combat Center Marines fill out forms before getting their taxes prepared at the installation's Tax Center.

thing that we can do for free at the tax center," said Capt. Adam LoCascio, officer in charge, Tax Center, Legal Services Support Team, Headquarters Battalion.

You can visit their website at 29palms.marines.mil/Offices/Legal-Services-Support-Team/Tax-Center and find directions to their office. The Tax Center's website informs visitors of a list of items to bring in for an

See **Tax Center** A6



CPL. D. J. WU

Pfc. Anthony Maldonado, tax preparer, Combat Center Tax Center, assists a Marine with his forms before assigning them to a specific preparer at the Tax Center, Tuesday. Tax center staff are certified with the Internal Revenue Service and know military deductions Marines can utilize.

Inside the Observation Post

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- B1 Origins of the First Female Marine
- B2 Movie Schedule



Learn more about
Pvt. Opha May Johnson

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. Andy Martinez.



A Marine with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, jumps off a CH-53E Super Stallion at the Sattahip district in the Chonburi province, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 12. The Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 'Wolfpack' aided the reconnaissance teams of the U.S., Thai, and Republic of Korea Marine Corps in a helocast exercise. The Super Stallion belongs to HMH-466, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, currently forward deployed under the unit deployment program with MAG-36, 1st MAW, based out of Okinawa, Japan. Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 is an annual exercise conducted in the Kingdom of Thailand held from Feb. 13-23 with seven full participating nations.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
March 3, 1967

Marine Artillery Officer Awarded Medal of Honor

A Marine artillery officer on temporary duty, and who took command of a rifle company under fire when the company commander was mortally wounded, was the fourth Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam.

On Monday, Feb. 27, Secretary of the Navy, Paul H. Nitze, presented the nation's highest award for valor to Captain Harvey Curtiss Barnum, Jr., of Cheshire, Connecticut.

Ceremonies were held at 11 a.m. at the Marine Barracks at Eighth and "I" Streets, Southeast, in Washington, D.C.

At the time of his heroic actions in

Vietnam on Dec. 18, 1965, Captain Barnum, then a first lieutenant, was serving as an artillery forward observer attached to Company "H" of the Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division (Reinforced). The company of Ninth Marines regimental landing team was then on an operation as a part of Second Battalion, Seventh Marines. Barnum himself was permanently assigned to Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor, and was in Vietnam on temporary additional duty orders. Such temporary orders to Vietnam were issued to a few Marines during that period as a means to augment the combat forces, and to provide com-

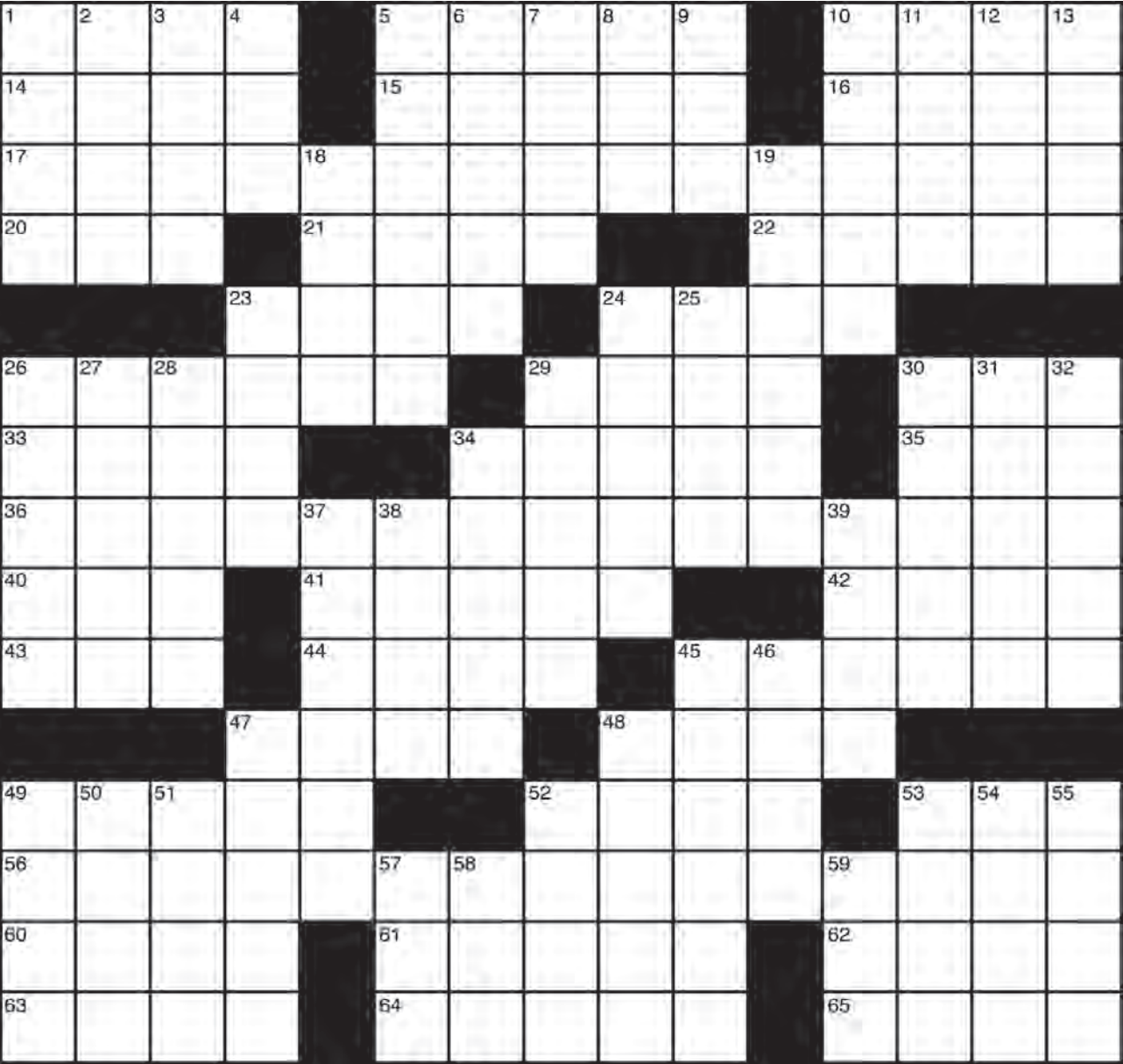
bat experience to Marines who volunteered for such temporary duty.

The citation accompanying his award read in part: "When the company was suddenly pinned down by a hail of extremely accurate enemy fire and was quickly separated from the remainder of the battalion by over five hundred meters of open and fire swept ground, and casualties mounted rapidly, Lieutenant Barnum quickly made a hazardous reconnaissance of the area seeking targets for his artillery. Finding the rifle company commander mortally wounded and the radio operator killed, he, with complete disregard for his own safety, gave aid to the dying com-

mander, then removed the radio from the dead radio operator and strapped it to himself.

"He immediately assumed command of the rifle company, and moving at once into the midst of heavy fire, rallying and giving encouragement to all units, reorganized them to replace the loss of key personnel and led their attack on enemy positions from which deadly fire continued to come. His sound and swift decisions and his obvious calm served to stabilize the badly decimated units and his gallant example as he stood exposed repeatedly to point out targets, served as an inspiration to all."

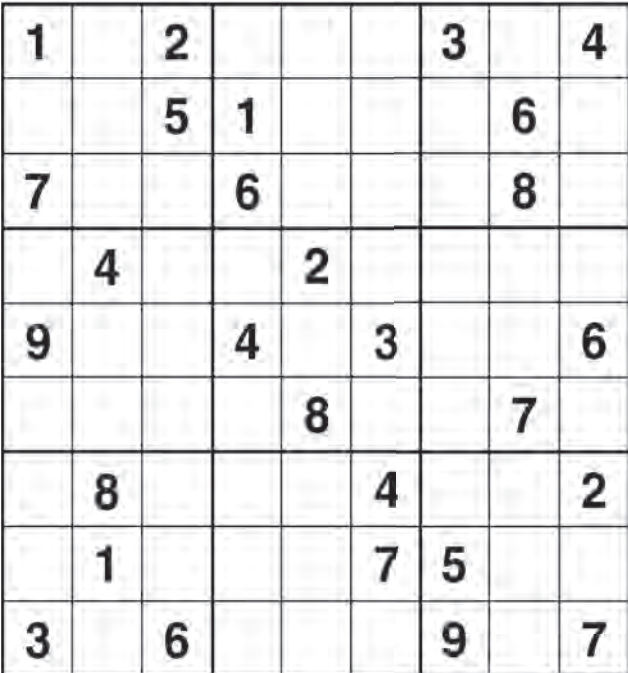
CROSSWORD



- Across**
1. Throng of people.
5. Rob __, Guinness world record holder for ascending the highest summits of all 47 European countries in the shortest time.
10. Japanese form of wrestling.
14. Longest division of geological time.
15. Mottled white and rose art glass.
16. Malleable silvery-white magnetic or metallic element.
17. Shine a bright light through an organ to detect disease.
20. British unit of weight equivalent to 2,240 pounds.
21. Leeward side.
22. Nine daughters of Zeus.
23. Magpie.
24. Drinks by taking in small amounts.
26. As follows.
29. City in Ancient India at the time of Gautama Buddha.
30. Father.
33. Name of the only Australopithecus bahrelghazali specimen ever discovered.
34. Pertaining to the calf of the leg.
35. Acronym for Home Meal Replacement.
36. Needing no explanation.
40. General name for beer made with a top fermenting yeast.
41. Hard return hitting the tennis ball above the head.
42. Old German name meaning "all."
43. American Abstract Expressionist painter __ Krasner.
44. Anxious feeling.
45. Long monotonous harangue.
47. Brownings of the skin resulting from exposure to the sun's rays.
48. Foot covering.
49. Way something is organized.
52. Person who makes deceitful pretenses.
53. Thick mixture of fruit and sugar.
56. Give a professional character to.
60. Contraction of "is not."
61. Treated with oil.
62. Eighth son of Joktan.
63. River in England.
64. Lacking imagination.
65. Direct one's course.
- Down**
1. The Simpsons creator __ Groening.
2. Acronym for European Environmental Research Organization.
3. Anything lent, at interest.
4. Blues singer __ Rabson.
5. Old __, Central Criminal Court in England.
6. Plastic sheath over a shoelace end.
7. Misfortune.
8. Acronym for Engineering Test Unit.
9. Undergo destruction on impact.
10. Abnormal passage leading from a suppurating cavity to the body surface.
11. Sumerian mythology goddess of the earth.
12. Speck.
13. New York City dance music group known for the single "Flawless."
18. Act of traveling by water.
19. High-jumping, lightly built South African antelope.
23. Money.
24. Eskimo Joe song from, Black Fingernails, Red Wine.
25. 1904 Nobel Prize winner __ Pavlov.
26. Elongated rectangular bone forming the

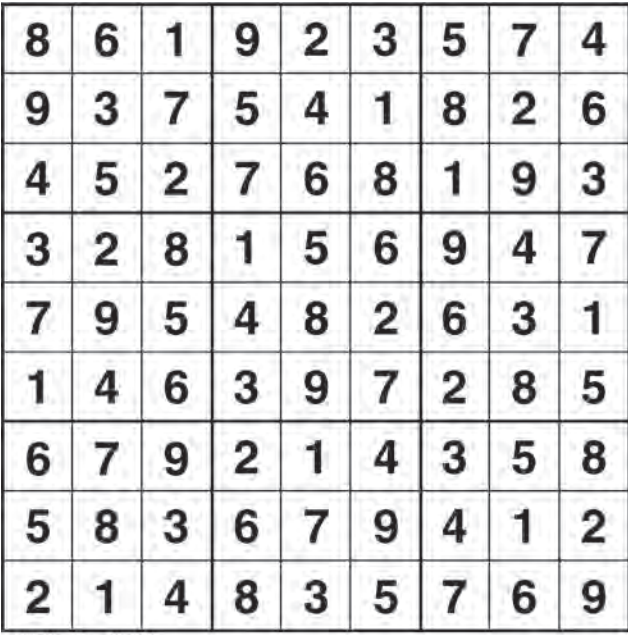
- bride of the nose.
27. White poplar tree.
28. Noisy riotous fight.
29. Edible seeds of pod-bearing plants.
30. Fierce wild dog of the forests of central and southeast Asia.
31. Acronym for Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe.
32. Wood nymph.
34. U. S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve created by FDR.
37. Second album by hip hop group Whodini.
38. Marvel superhero Nate Gray AKA __.
39. Counterweight consisting of an empty container used as a counterbalance to obtain net weight.
45. Drink made of beer and lemonade.
46. Dust and gas surrounding an active comet's nucleus.
47. Cut loops of a carpet pile fabric.
48. American power pop band formed in Zion, IL in 1974.
49. Skewer for holding meat over a fire.
50. Synonym for Irish and sometimes for Scottish Gaelic.
51. Quality of a person's voice.
52. Tall, cylindrical storage tower.
53. Agree with something else.
54. Muslim summons to prayer called by the muezzin from a minaret of a mosque five times a day.
55. Announce for a score of cards in a card game.
57. Drench.
58. Title of respect for notable person in ancient times.
59. Not far above the horizon.

SUDOKU



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Difficult

Last week's answers



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 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
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 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
 - Sam's Smoke Shop, 16520 West Main Street, Barstow
 - Teazer's Bar & Grill Nightclub, 14269 Seventh Street, Victorville
 - Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast
- Highway, Oceanside
 - 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

Joseph HAMMONS

Durham, N.C. Sergeant, H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

> **Most of the time I'll go** down to San Diego and hang out with my brother, so I'll stay there for the week-end and if I'm not doing that then I'll be in Palm Springs at the USO.

> **I went to LAX to pick up** around 30 Marines. We swung by the USO and there was this mother and daughter and they were about to get off their shift. We got there around three [in the afternoon] and they ended up staying and helping us until two in the morning, which was pretty crazy to me. It was something that they did not have to do at all. They were there to help us and I was kind of blown away by it.

> **I've always loved** volunteering because it makes me feel good. I love helping others and the volunteers at the USO are always willing to help. That was something I wanted to be a part of.

> **It's just amazing to see** that they use hours of their time to make us feel more at home across the country. It's something very close to my heart.

> **It definitely comes from** my parents. Like my dad he's never at home, he's always out working in a different state, and he comes home once or twice a month. To me that is the ultimate sacrifice, being away from your family just so you can provide for them. That's kind of where my willingness to volunteer stems from.

> **I always wanted to** serve in the military.

> **I like the family aspect of** the Marine Corps. You'll never find it anywhere else working wise, where everyone is so close and has your back.



There are people who have gotten out and retire, and I can call them up at any time and ask a favor.

> **We moved around a lot** when we were growing up so my brother and I were really close and we didn't have a lot of the typical fighting that brothers have.

> **I like anything outdoors,** hiking, climbing. That's how we grew up, Kayaking, fishing basically anything out doors.

> **My parents always liked** being outdoors, we always climbed when we were little but after that I didn't

really have an opportunity to climb anywhere, until I got here.

> **Climbing is the only thing** that will give me a rush. When it's actual natural rock you have to think and plan out your next moves otherwise you'll get up there and you'll be stuck. It's the only thing I'm kind of afraid of.

> **I climb a couple times a month,** usually in Joshua Tree. A lot of times I climb by myself because it's hard to find people to climb with.

> **The feeling I look for is** that

fear, because you get that feeling in your gut if you make the wrong move you'll fall because I usually go without a rope.

> **You know that you're** alive. When you're not really scared to do that many things and you do something like that and you have that 'oh crap!' moment, it's just a good feeling because you don't have it that often. I've been sky diving and bungee jumping, but I don't get that rush. Because you know the parachute is going to open and that you'll be alright. But for this it's dependent on you.

> **To me it's just** recreational. Some people are super into, I just think its fun. It's a way to kind of just get away. I always bring a book with me in my backpack when I climb and I read it up at the top.

> **I think being in** Twentynine Palms, climbing is really underrated by a lot of the Marines here. I think a lot more people should get out and do it, at a place not even 10 miles away. They should take the opportunity and enjoy what's here while they're stationed here.

> **I guess you can sum** the Corps up in one word and that's adversity. A lot of people join the Marine Corps because they want a challenge and if you don't challenge yourself in your life and on a daily basis you're not going to get anywhere. But if you challenge yourself, and try to do better, then you'll get better, just like climbing. The more hard and difficult stuff you do the better you get and the more experience you have.

Interviewed and photographed by Sgt. Medina Ayala-Lo

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WeekINPhotos

Americas Battalion participates in Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 combined arms live fire exercise

Photos by Sgt. Ricky Gomez



Sgt. Justice Appiah, squad leader, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, runs toward the objective during Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 at Camp Ban Chen Khream in the Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 23. Cobra Gold 18 is an annual exercise conducted in the Kingdom of Thailand from Feb. 13-23 with seven full participating nations.



Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, maneuver toward their objective during Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 at Camp Ban Chen Khream in the Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 23.



An amphibious assault vehicle fires a M2 .50 caliber machine gun while supporting Korean and Royal Thai AAVs during Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 at Camp Ban Chen Khream in the Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 23.



Marines from Assault Amphibian Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, employ a mine clearing line charge to allow friendly forces to maneuver through a simulated minefield during Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 at Camp Ban Chen Khream in the Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 23.



Cpl. Benton Allen, squad leader, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, yells out commands during Exercise Cobra Gold 2018 at Camp Ban Chen Khream in the Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 23.

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Teen Dating From A1

defense class. The class is taught by Mark Geletko, the boxing coach for the installation's Mixed Martial Arts Fight Club 29. Geletko teaches the parents and their children Maui Thai, Kickboxing and Western Boxing. This class gives families the opportunity to learn how to handle themselves in the event a dangerous situation arises.

"It gives myself and my son knowledge and a baseline for self defense" said Staff Sgt. Rose Reed, a participant in the workshop. "It also gives me a chance to bond with him outside of home".

Not only does this event give families the opportunity to learn basic martial arts skills with which to defend themselves from an enemy, it is a fun hands on activity that keeps everyone interested.

For more information on these events call the Family and Victim Advocate Office at 760-830-6345 or visit them at building 1438. Geletko also hosts classes throughout the year for children as young as 13 and for wives of any age. He can be reached via email at mgeletko@yahoo.com or by calling 760-567-4438.

A Combat Center patron participates in practical application during a self defense class as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 22.



Mark Geletko, the boxing coach for the installation's Mixed Martial Arts Fight Club 29, teaches a self defense class as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 22.



Staff Sgt. Rose Reed and her son Josiah Fredricks listen to Mark Geletko, the boxing coach for the installation's Mixed Martial Arts Fight Club 29, as he teaches a self defense class as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 22.

Tax Center

From A1

appointment, such as a W-2 Form, proper identification and a void check for where the tax refund should go.

The center is open on week days from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but offers after-hours appointments. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Tax Center at 760-830-4829 or visiting building 1525.



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

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ORIGINS OF THE FIRST FEMALE MARINE

STORY BY LANCE CPL.
SAMUEL ELLIS

QUANTICO, Va. — There it was, her name, Opha May Johnson, simply penned on the applicant line of a Marine Corps Reserve form. Although she typically signed her name Opha M., this was an official document and her middle name was necessary. Her decision to fill out that form entered her into an exclusively male world and would make her nothing less than a Marine Corps legend.

Although historians speculate whether the date was actually the 12th or 13th, there is no argument that Opha May Johnson was the first woman to enter the Marine Corps, enlisting in the reserve as a clerk, in August 1918.

“Maybe she saw an ad, we really don’t know her reason for joining,” said Kara Newcomer, historian with the Marine Corps History Division. “We do know that she was the first, and for that she should always be remembered.”

Several errors concerning the pioneer of female Marines have been circulated and published by some, the first of which concerns her middle name.

According to Newcomer, although many spell her middle name Mae, her middle name is actually spelled May.

“We also believe she probably went by her first name alone, based on how she signed her name,” Newcomer said.

The second fallacy frequently circulated is her age at time of enlistment. Although some report she was in her late teenage years, experts say something quite the opposite.



HISTORIC PHOTO
Pvt. Opha May Johnson, 40, first enlisted female Marine sometime after joining the Marine Corps. Johnson enlisted into the reserve in August 1918.

“She was almost 40 when she enlisted,” Newcomer said. Historical records verify

that fact and show more about the professional life of the 1918 Marine private originally

from the Midwest. Johnson worked with the civil service even before enlisting with the Marine Corps.

According to an article from the News in History website, published from the Plain Dealer, a 1918 newspaper out of Cleveland, Johnson’s Marine Corps responsibilities included managing the affairs of other female reservists at Marine Corps headquarters.

As for her personal life, historians paint this picture.

Although they didn’t ever have children, Johnson was married to a man by the name of Victor, who may have been an orchestra conductor in the Washington, D.C., area, according to Newcomer.

Johnson started something that, although uncommon in the early 1900s, would slowly allow females into more military roles. According to the Women Marines Association website, some of those roles include: first female commissioned officer in 1943, Capt. Anne Lentz; the enlistment of the first black female Marines in 1949; the first female Marine to be promoted to E-9 in 1960, Master Gunnery Sgt. Geraldine M. Moran; and the first female general in 1978, Brig. Gen. Margaret A. Brewer.

As females roles continue to evolve and female Marines participate equally with male Marines on many levels, Marines should know that Opha May Johnson, had the same characteristics as those who wear the uniform today.



“She was your typical American woman who wanted to help,” Newcomer said. “She saw an opportunity to serve her country in a time of need and took it.”



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11:00 p.m. — Winchester: The House that Ghosts Built, PG—13
Saturday — March 3
12:00 p.m. — Paddington 2, PG
2:20 p.m. — The Post, PG—13
5:00 p.m. — The Commuter, PG—13
7:30 p.m. — 12 Strong, R
10:30 p.m. — Den of Thieves, R
Sunday — March 4
12:30 p.m. — The Shape of Water, R
3:30 p.m. — 12 Strong, R
6:30 p.m. — Winchester: The House that Ghosts Built, PG—13
Monday — March 5
6:30 p.m. — The Commuter, PG—13
Tuesday — March 6
6:30 p.m. — Winchester: The House that Ghosts Built, PG—13
Wednesday — March 7
6:30 p.m. — Den of Thieves, R
Thursday — March 8
5:00 p.m. — Paddington 2 (Last Showing), PG
7:10 p.m. — The Post (Last Showing), PG—13
Friday — March 9
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HELP WANTED

Town of Yucca Valley Job Announcement
Part-Time, Temporary Skilled Maintenance Worker I
Public Works Department

Positions: Two Part-time positions
Salary Range: \$16.15 to \$23.39 hourly (Skilled Maintenance Worker I)
Days/Hours: One schedule: 6:00a.m. – 3:30p.m., Monday through Wednesday.
One schedule: 6:00am-3:30pm Thursday, 6:00am-2:30pm Friday, 6:00am-3:30pm Saturday
Benefitted: No
Closing Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

Under general supervision, this position will perform heavy physical work in the maintenance and repair of the Town parks and facilities; and perform all other work as assigned. Knowledge of the following applicable areas: the operation and maintenance of tools and equipment used in the workplace; safety precautions and procedures; traffic laws, ordinances, rules and regulations related to truck and heavy equipment operations. Skill in the safe operation and use of a wide variety of equipment and vehicles; hand and power tools; and establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with all those contacted in the course of the work.

Ability to perform skilled tasks in the areas of work safely and efficiently; understand and carry out directions; use a wide variety of tools and equipment; perform semi-skilled and/or skilled tasks in maintenance activities; parks, safely operate vehicles; equipment and stationary mechanical equipment; communicate effectively with a variety of personnel and establish/maintain effective working relationships; apply policies and procedures.

Physical Profile: Assignments in this position require moderate to heavy physical exertion associated with the ability to regularly work outdoors often in extreme heat or cold weather; perform heavy manual labor and physically strenuous tasks on a regular basis; and lift up to 100 pounds on a regular basis.

Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from high school or equivalent. Public works maintenance or similar experience preferred. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a valid California driver's license; possession of, and ability to maintain, a satisfactory driving record; must be able to pass a post-offer drug and tuberculosis screening, medical exam and criminal background check.

Applications and job announcement are available at Town Hall or on our website at www.yucca-valley.org. Applications must be received by the closing date.

EOE/ADA

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- 17-inch alloy wheels

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Now through 4/2/18

JFE/JFF



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