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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 25, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 30

Combat Center goes all out in base-wide anti-terrorism training

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As military police and firefighters approach the scene of the incident, cries for help rise with the smoke emitting from a vehicle stalled near the guard house. Injured Marines lay scattered and squirming on the ground while others lie completely still.

This is not the aftermath of a terrorist attack, but rather an intricate base-wide anti-terrorism force protection exercise Combat Center Marines, sailors, employees and residents participated in July 14 to 18.

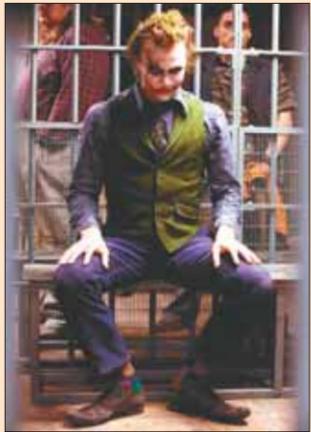
The exercise, dubbed Desert Defender 2008, was coordinated by the Department of Defense Anti-Terrorism Specialists Red Team and was designed to test the Combat Center's coordinated response to a terrorist attack.

Over a week's period of time, base officials collected intelligence justifying an increase of the base's Force Protection Condition from Alpha to Delta.

Condition Alpha, which is enforced when a general threat against installations or personnel exists, warrants security measures such as random identification checks by armed sentries at base access points.

As threats escalate, an installation may need to heighten to its highest condition Delta, which is enforced after an attack has occurred or intelligence suggests an attack is likely to take place in

See TRAINING, A8



3 Latest Batman vs Joker flick gets rave reviews



6 Delta Company executes combat training drills



7 3/4 takes operations off road



10 Marine Corps ball fund raising begins



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Adam Craighead and Jason Swift, Combat Center firefighters, carry a mock casualty away from the scene of an improvised explosive device detonation. This incident was part of a base-wide anti-terrorism force protection exercise that took place July 14 to 18.



COURTESY PHOTO

The RQ-7B, or the Shadow 200, is the type of unmanned aerial vehicle flown by VMU-3. The squadron will be activated at the Combat Center in September.

VMU-3 lands at Combat Center

PFC. MICHAEL NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In order to better support training as well as integrate into the deployment cycle of the Marine Corps' only two other unmanned aerial vehicle units, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 is scheduled to be activated at the Combat Center Sept. 12.

VMU-3 will be the third UAV unit in the Marine Corps established to give reconnaissance and assist in deployments and training with

ground units.

"Part of our mission will be rotation with our sister unit, VMU-1, which is here already, and with VMU-2, which is based out of Cherry Point, North Carolina," said Sgt. Maj. Rufino Mendez Jr., the squadron sergeant major. VMU-2 is the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's drone squadron based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

"When we do deploy, and even

See VMU-3, A11

A lesson in always faithful

LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, got a small history lesson July 21 at the 1/7 command post here when Russ Vermillion, commandant of Marine Corps League detachment 1196, Griffin, Ga., returned the guidon of 1/7's now de-activated Delta Company.

In 1969, while serving as a basic rifleman with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Vermillion

and his platoon occupied a position at the Cau Do Bridge near Da Nang, Vietnam.

While there, Vermillion witnessed Delta Company, 1/7, passing through the area of operation when strong winds ripped the guidon from its staff and swept it underneath the bridge.

Without regard for his own personal safety Vermillion retrieved it and attempted to return the guidon to its rightful owners.

When all attempts failed Vermillion packed the guidon

See LESSON, A7



LANCE CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Russ Vermillion, commandant of Marine Corps League Detachment 1196, Griffin, Ga., speaks with Marines from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during his tour of the Combat Center Monday.

This Day in Marine Corps History

July 25, 1930-

Lieutenant Lewis Puller awarded first of five Navy Crosses chasing Sandino guerillas in Nicaragua.



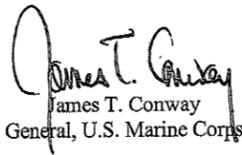
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS DIVERSITY POLICY

As United States Marines, we pride ourselves on our ability to remain “most ready when the Nation is least ready.” Diversity in the background and experience of those who join our Corps is not only a reflection of the American society we represent, it is also a key element to maintaining the strength and flexibility required to meet today’s national security challenges. Each individual brings to our team a set of qualities that adds to our overall effectiveness. It is the combination of all of these individual qualities that makes our Marine Corps the strongest in the world.

Maintaining diversity within our ranks infuses our Corps with a continuous stream of fresh ideas and innovative capabilities. Our ability to recruit, retain, and promote a diverse, quality force is essential to progress and mission accomplishment. This is where leadership is critical. Our leaders must ensure that all Marines, Sailors, and civilians are provided equal opportunity to develop their skills, advance, and contribute to the overall effectiveness of our Corps. By encouraging everyone who is part of our Marine Corps team to reach his or her full potential, we allow our Corps to capitalize on the wide variety of talents and ideas available.

I expect all who serve together as part of our Marine Corps to respect and value each individual. We are all united in our common values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment — and we are all here to defend our great Nation and the freedoms and ideals on which she was founded.

Semper Fidelis,



James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps

WHERE IT'S AT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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62					63					64			

- ACROSS**
- Bit of verbal fanfare
 - Makes better
 - Instrument for a Marx
 - “Bearded” bloom
 - Join forces
 - “Back to you”
 - Top of the standings
 - __ sci (coll. major)
 - Jack Sprat no-no
 - Muddy up
 - Up-and-comer
 - Ceramist’s oven
 - “Get Smart” bad guys
 - End of one’s patience, perhaps
 - Like tabloid headlines
 - Thumbs-downs
 - Prefix with natal
 - Till stack
 - Hostilities ends
 - Lasting impression
 - OCS grads
 - Koko Head island
 - Mean look
 - Yoga posture
 - “__ went that away!”
 - “The Sweetest Taboo” singer
 - Big commotion
 - Shop sign abbr.
 - Seashell seller
 - Stoogian assault
 - Fashionable mole
 - Braxton of R&B
 - Photographer Adams
 - San __, Italy
 - “__ boy!”
 - “A-laying” Christmas gifts
 - Wilson of “Starsky & Hutch”
- DOWN**
- Petty quarrel
 - Bocelli delivery
 - Malicious gossip
 - Pompous sort
 - St. Peter’s topper
 - Disconnect
 - Iranian money
 - List-ending abbr.
 - Slow leaks
 - Words of optimism
 - Bell-ringing cosmetics company
 - Move, in Realtor-speak
 - Strait-laced
 - Took a stab at
 - Brewer’s need
 - Singer Kristofferson
 - Clove hitch or granny
 - French seaport
 - Ear’s “anvil”
 - Ancient Peruvian
 - Within earshot
 - Ran like mad
 - Veg out
 - “... lamp __ my feet”
 - Lunch holder
 - Seafarer’s “Hey!”
 - __ gin fizz
 - Work place watchdog org.
 - Lighththeaded
 - Perfect world
 - Units of Time
 - Be a snitch
 - Netmen’s org.
 - It may thicken
 - Talk wildly
 - Move gently
 - Eject forcefully
 - Order to James
 - School on the Thames
 - Suffix with butyl
 - “Full,” at a theater
- [Solutions on A4]

Admin Corner

PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION (PCS): If you are a newly arriving (PCS) Marine or sailor to Twentynine Palms and have not visited the Installation Personnel Administration Center to conduct your New Join Audit and Travel Claim, please do so now. You will need to update your Basic Allowance for Housing entitlements and other duty station allowances. Completing this requirement could entitle you to receive EXTRA money and prevent your pay from being unnecessarily checked for travel advances received during your PCS move.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN: All members are required to receive a Survivor Benefit Plan counseling at the 18th year of service. If you have reached 18 years of service and have not received a counseling (Page 11 entry) pertaining to Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), report to the IPAC Separations Office. SBP affects pay entitlements upon retirement. Retirement pay is offset based upon your SBP election. Reference: MCO 1741.11C.

TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DUTIES (TAD): For service members who return from performing a period of TAD/TDY in excess of 30 days away from Twentynine Palms, you will need to come to the IPAC (New Joins Section) and conduct a “From TAD” Audit and possible Travel Claim. You must complete this within three days of returning to your parent command. This will help assist in ensuring that you are in receipt of appropriate entitlements and avoid any possible pay related checkages.

SGLI PREMIUM RATE DECREASE: Effective July 1, the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits issued a memo, dated March 13, decreasing the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) premium rate from the current level of \$0.07 per \$1,000 of coverage to \$0.065 per \$1,000 of coverage. For example, \$400,000 of coverage will now cost \$26 a month vice \$28 a month. (\$400,000 divided by \$1,000 x .065 = \$26). For additional rates, please refer to <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/>. Reference: PAAN 17-08 and RPAAN 13-08

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Teresa E. Williams
Employer: Military Family Housing, Installation and Logistics
Job Title: Housing Manager
Job Duties: Manage 600 government leased quarters at Vista del Sol, to include monitoring the budget, contractor compliance and supervision of three employees.
Hometown: Oxford, Miss.
Hobbies: Fishing, sewing and decorating
What do you like most about your job?: Taking care of the needs of the residents with the focus of making a positive difference.

Significant Achievements since coming to MCAGCC?: Promotion from inspector to manager, instrumental in acquiring several quality of life projects for residents at Vista Del Sol, coordinated the opening of a satellite office in 2005, and recipient of the Outstanding Mid-level Housing Manager, USMC 2006.

Military Service?: A civilian Marine to those who serve the Military.
Time on base: Began working at MCAGCC in December 2003.

Centerspeak

If you could choose any T.V. personality to be president, who would you choose?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense



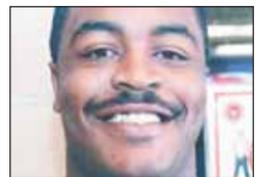
LANCE CPL. KEVIN ROTH
MARINE CORPS TACTICAL OPERATIONS GROUP

“John Stewart. He’s well-informed about issues and he’s not bound by any political limitations.”



CPL. JOE LOPEZ
DELTA COMPANY, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

“J.D. from ‘Scrubs.’ He’s got a good personality and that ‘I don’t care’ kind of attitude.”



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS WILLIE CAMPBELL
BRAVO COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

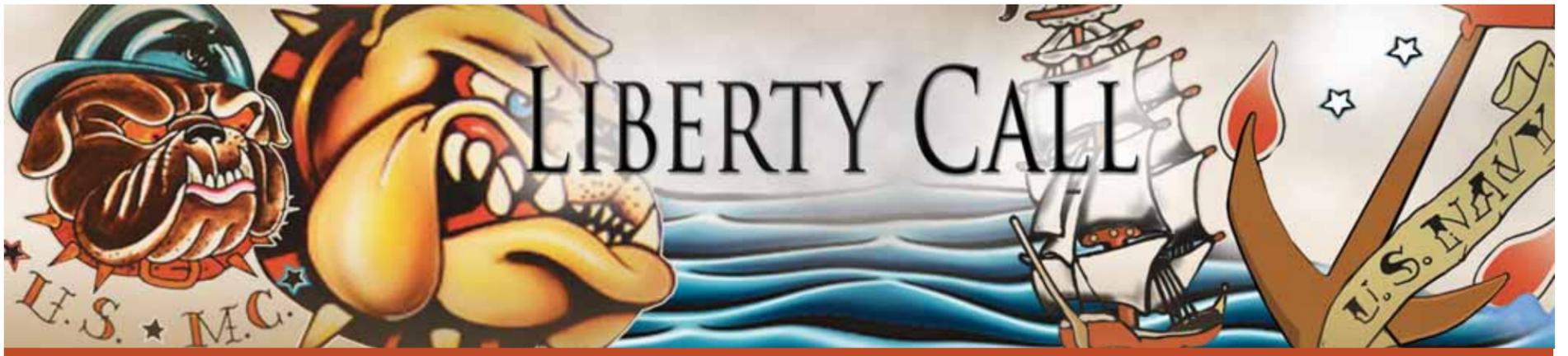
“The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air because he’s cool, calm and collected.”

OBSERVATION POST

- Commanding General** Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus
- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
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<p>FRI. 7/25 Hospice Art Auction Time: 5:30-9 p.m. Where: California Welcome Center, 56711 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley For more info call 366-1308</p>	<p>FRI. 7/25 Theatre 29: Grease Time: 7 p.m. Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Rd, 29 Palms For more info call 361-4151 or visit http://www.theatre29.com</p>	<p>FRI. 7/25 Baseball - Palm Springs POWER vs U.S. AIRFORCE Time: Gates open @ 6 p.m. First pitch @ 7 p.m. Palm Springs Stadium, 1901 E. Baristo Rd., Palm Springs For more info call 864-6278 or visit http://www.PSPBB.com</p>	<p>FRI. 7/25 Music by John Whytock with JB & MT Robison Time: 7 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co., 55844 29 Palms Hwy, YV For more info call 365-7771 or visit http://www.myspace.com/watercanyon</p>	<p>FRI. 7/25 Kenny G in Concert Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy, Indio Call 342-5000, or http://www.tickets.com or http://www.fantasy-springsresort.com</p>
<p>SAT. 7/26 Desert Landscaping Workshop – “Designing & Planning a Desert Landscape” Time: 10 a.m. Where: Hi-Desert Water District, 55439 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley - Call for more info 365-8333</p>	<p>SAT. 7/26 YV Summer Music Festival, FAT CAT SWINGER - Jump Swing Time: 7 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy. For more info call 369-7211 or visit http://www.yucca-valley.org</p>	<p>SUN. 7/27 Plush @ The Pool-Adult pool activities Time: Every Sunday 1-7 p.m. Where: Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, 44600 Indian Wells Ln, Indian Wells For more info call 898-1449 or e-mail CaroldeanR@aol.com</p>	<p>TUES. 7/29 Woodcarving Classes Time: 6-9 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211 or visit http://www.yucca-valley.org</p>	<p>THURS. 7/31 Life Drawing Classes Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Retreat & Event Center For more info call 365-8371 or visit http://www.jtrcc.org</p>

‘Dark Knight’ defends Gotham, gets great reviews

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Caped Crusader struck again July 18 with the opening of “The Dark Knight,” striking fear into the hearts of Gotham City’s criminals and psychos. He also captivated audiences nationwide with the premiere of what has been said to be one of the most anticipated movies of 2008.

Critically-acclaimed actor Christian Bale has done it again. He began playing my favorite comic book hero in the 2005 film “Batman Begins,” which portrayed the rise of billionaire Bruce Wayne and his crime-fighting alter ego, Batman.

Supported by a number of Hollywood stars, such as Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Katie Holmes, and many others, Bale’s performance wrestled all previous Batman films to the ground, pinned them and stole the title. Before Bale, I always considered Michael Keaton to be the true Dark Knight.

After the release of “Batman Begins,” I knew there would be more movies to follow. In fact, I was expecting it to happen. Clearly I wasn’t alone in that feeling since tickets for the midnight, 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. premieres in thousands of locations across the country sold out, proving the high anticipation for the film.

Tension also struck the production of the sequel when Heath Ledger, who played Batman’s one true arch nemesis, The Joker, was found dead from an overdose in January. Despite this tragedy, his scenes in the movie had already been filmed and had gone through post-production.

WARNING: POSSIBLE SPOILERS AHEAD!

Many of the major roles in the film have not changed. The only character from “Batman Begins” who went through a new casting call was the fictitious Rachel Dawes. I say fictitious because she was never originally in any of the Batman comics or graphic novels. Actress Katie Holmes, who por-

trayed Dawes in “Batman Begins,” was replaced by Maggie Gyllenhaal.

However, several new major characters appear in “The Dark Knight.” First is Gotham City’s new district attorney Harvey Dent. Dent is played by Aaron Eckhart, famous for his lead role as the quick-witted tobacco lobbyist Nick Naylor in the 2005 film “Thank You For Smoking.”

The other new player is The Joker, played brilliantly by Ledger.

Other minor characters, mostly police officers, detectives and mob bosses, have also been introduced, helping the plot move forward.

Despite a few pre-screening speed bumps, the film was released on time and, according to a July 20 Associated Press news article posted on MSNBC’s Web site, crushed a box office record, grossing approximately \$155 million opening weekend.

The record, previously set by the 2007 film “Spiderman 3,” is for the biggest box office weekend in Hollywood history.

“We knew it would be big, but we never expected to dominate the marketplace like we did,” said Dan Fellman, Warner Bros. head of distribution, in the article.

He added the movie is expected to gross more than \$200 million by the end of the week.

Ledger has also been widely rumored to be a recipient for a posthumous Oscar nomination at the Academy Award for his portrayal of The Joker, a deeply disturbed sociopath whose sole objective is to kill “The Batman.” He would be the first actor to win a posthumous Oscar since Peter Finch’s performance in the 1976

film “Network.”

Though many critics feel Ledger should not win the Oscar, I feel he was able to shock audiences with his portrayal of such a dark, twisted villain. Ledger, who had never played such a role before, blew me away, along with many others, with his performance.

According to a July 2 article on CNN’s Web site, Kevin Smith, a filmmaker and lifelong fan of comic books, posted his thoughts on the subject on his MySpace blog after seeing “The Dark Knight.”

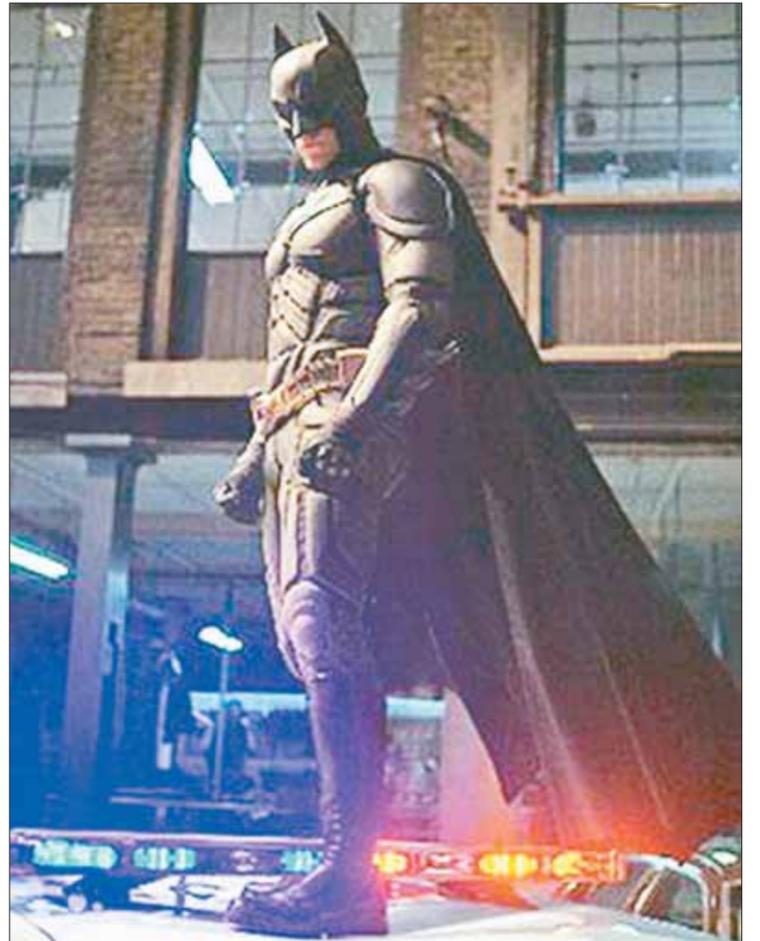
“Heath Ledger didn’t so much give a performance as he disappeared completely into the role,” he wrote. “I know I’m not the first to suggest this, but he’ll likely get at least an Oscar nod (if not the win) for best supporting actor.”

Jack Nicholson’s depiction of the same character in the 1989 film “Batman,” although winning him a Golden Globe, did not fully show The Joker as the sinister maniac he truly is.

The Joker, who has been imprisoned in the fictitious Arkham Asylum too many times to count, is a hell-bent terrorist with what I feel can only be described as the darkest sense of humor imaginable. He is extremely malicious and will stop at nothing to achieve his one goal – bringing death, destruction and chaos to the streets of Gotham City.

Ledger was able to portray those characteristics brilliantly, accurately showing the audience what kind of monster The Joker really is.

The other performances in the movie were equally as astonishing. Bale’s performance as the split personality of Bruce Wayne, a cocky,



COURTESY PHOTO

Batman, played by Christian Bale, standing on top of a Gotham City police car in his most recent movie, “The Dark Knight.” Bale, along with the rest of the film’s cast, has shown his versatility as a performer in the new Batman movie.

self-centered billionaire, and Batman, a disturbed vigilante wrestling with the demons of his own past and constantly questioning his own morality as a crusader for justice, was as awe-inspiring as it was in “Batman Begins.”

Aaron Eckhart also gave a shocking performance as Harvey Dent, Gotham City’s district attor-

ney, and later Two-Face, one of Batman’s many villains. Dent is, like Batman, extremely conflicted in his morality, constantly questioning the rights and wrongs of his actions.

Identifiable early in the film, Dent uses his father’s “lucky coin” to make important choices. Later,

See BATMAN, A4

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MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

<p>The Dark Knight (PG-13) Everyday 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>Mamma Mia (PG-13) Everyday 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>Step Brothers (R) Everyday 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>
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Combat Center's silver screen gets long-needed repairs

PFC. MICHAEL NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Sunset Cinema has been receiving long-needed repairs to its support system for the screen, curtains and stage lighting since July 14.

The theater and auditorium serves as an area for special events, unit meetings and ceremonies. The theater will resume operation each week only after all of the scheduled repairs are complete some time in September.

The six-week project that began almost two weeks ago, is expected to be completed on time, said Tracy L. Boen, the installations manager of San Diego Stage and Lighting, and will no doubt be a much needed change, as well as a better control for the operations done by the theater.

"We are currently removing and replacing the rigging system for the screen and curtains in the backstage area," said Denise Doyle, the president of San Diego Stage and Lighting.

Repairs made to the screen's support and stage lighting system so far include removing all the suspension wire, rope and rig-

ging, installing an entirely new counterweight system for the curtain and screen, said Boen.

The renovations are being made due to old and delapidated equipment, said Paul D'Amico, the manager of Sunset Cinema, Information Tickets and Tours, and Lake Havasu Trailers.

"The ropes, rigging and weights were all either too old for the job or in desperate need of repair," said D'Amico, a former Air Force captain, from North Adams, Mass.

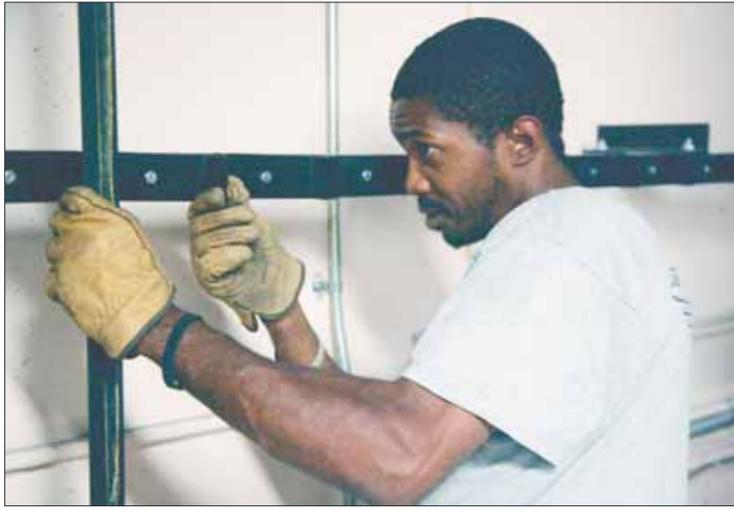
The current repairs are being made in addition to changes already done to the theater. There were already replacements made in the sound system in late June to include new amps, sub-woofers, and wiring, said D'Amico.

D'Amico also said even though other repairs have been made in the theater, these are the most significant ones yet due to the safety issues from the old cables rubbing on water pipes and a lack of strength in some of the ropes, which were noticed by the theater staff whenever they needed to move the screen or curtains.

"The support wires were also rubbing against and slowly cut-

ting into the pipes overhead," said Boen. "Those needed to be removed and spaced differently, or we would have had a huge mess on our hands."

If these repairs had not been made, there were some support ropes that were possibly a month away from breaking, because they were so old and out of date, said Doyle.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Monteray Bohannon, a rigger/installation technician with San Diego Stage and Light and a native of Kansas City, Mo., works to install new tracks for the support wires going into the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Wednesday.

BATMAN, from A3

after becoming the nefarious Two-Face, he exacts his revenge on those who wronged him he decides their fate with the flip of his coin. Heads, they live. Tails, they die.

An all-star supporting cast helped drive the movie forward, with incredible portrayals of Lt. Jim Gordon, the "one true cop in the city," Alfred Pennyworth, Bruce Wayne's butler and faithful companion, and many others, aided in the overwhelming success of the film.

The movie review site <http://www.rottentomatoes.com> gave "The Dark Knight" a 94 percent approval rating, which I feel would do it justice. Due to a connection error, I couldn't actually view the ratings to see what the critics said, but I'm sure it's somewhere along the lines of how I felt about the movie.

Although I was completely amazed by the skilled acting, as

well as the writing and directing of Christopher Nolan, I did have a couple qualms with "The Dark Knight."

Many people say they felt it was too long, which I can understand. Run time for the film is approximately two hours and 32 minutes. However, can you really try to contain the brilliance of this movie into a small amount of time? The answer is no.

I did have one major beef with "The Dark Knight." I don't feel they shed enough light on Two-Face and his psychology. He is an incredibly complex character and, because they are so similar, is one of Batman's greatest villains, second only to The Joker in infamy. Two-Face should have his own movie. Enough said.

Despite the minor shortcomings, I loved this movie. It not only lived up to all the hype, but surpassed my expectations. It has been the greatest Batman movie to date, keeping true to the real

essence of the comic books. The real Batman story is dark, gritty and surreal, raising constant questions about morality in an immoral world.

Another Marine I talked to felt similarly toward the movie. Having enjoyed the comic books when he was younger, 1st Lt. Adam McLaurin, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, adjutant, said he felt "The Dark Knight" has done the original storylines justice.

"I'm a big fan of the storylines from the two recent Batman movies," said the Gainesville, Fla., native. "They've got a lot of the hero/anti-hero elements in them. I'm also a fan of the vigilante justice aspect of them."

"There always seems to be a humble message in these movies - doing things that are bigger than yourself, which I really like," he added. "I really hope to see a third movie come out and keep with the consistency of a dark, gritty plot."

McLaurin and I share the con-

cern of the next Batman movie falling back in the cartoon-esque style some of the other movies have taken in the past.

As I'm sure many others who saw the film would agree, I am absolutely stoked about the thought of a trilogy for Batman. Christopher Nolan and his cast have done an amazing job at keeping true to the original feel of this complex hero's tale.

"The Dark Knight" is currently playing at movie theaters nationwide and I highly recommend seeing it. Log on to <http://www.moviefone.com> to check your local theater listings.

To read the articles regarding Heath Ledger's possible Oscar nomination and the relentless beating "The Dark Knight" put on the box office record, log on to <http://www.cnn.com/2008/SH/OWBIZ/Movies/07/02/film.ledger.oscarbuzz.ap/> and <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25768665/>, respectively.

HOT TOPICS

SCHOOL AND SPORTS PHYSICAL RODEO SCHEDULED

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital is offering a School and Sports Physical Rodeo in the Primary Care Department Aug. 5 and 6, and again Aug. 19. Please call 830-2752 to make your appointment. You will need to bring your child's immunization card, school and sports physical forms, medication school release forms, and your child's military identification card.

VANPOOL SERVICE FROM BARSTOW/VICTORVILLE

We currently have two vanpool seats for employees commuting from Barstow/Victorville Area. The Van departs Barstow and makes a stop in Lucerne Valley for employees working aboard Twentynine Palms. All interested personnel, please contact Delores Brodie at 830-4723 or e-mail delores.brodie@usmc.mil. This is on a first come, first serve basis.

MILITARY FAMILY MEMBER'S APPRECIATION MEALS

Phelps Hall, building 1460, will be open to military family members, retirees, and guests July 27. Sunday morning brunch meal hours are 8-11 a.m. The following listed prices will apply: COM rats (BAS) \$4.40, dependents of E-4 and below \$3.80, all others \$4.40. Call Gunnery Sgt. David Young at 830-4211 for more information.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The American Red Cross Summer Youth Program is currently accepting youth volunteers. It is running consecutively with the new Red Cross Club LET-N-Tomorrow. The ages to be a member of the club are 10-18. Youth will have the opportunity to gain skills in many areas surrounding and supporting the Red Cross mission and initiatives. Some youth will also have the opportunity to travel to other Red Cross Clubs in California to attend workshops. This club is a year-round club. American Red Cross is also looking for volunteers to fill other positions ranging from volunteering in the hospital to casework. Childcare is provided. For further information please call 830-6685.

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Frequent energy drinkers cautioned about side effects

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Today, the average American hardly suffers from a shortage of food and drink choices. With fast food restaurants, coffee houses

and convenient stores off almost every highway exit, Americans have become used to having easy access to snacks and drinks.

23rd Dental Company, 1st Dental Battalion, sees hundreds of patients a day, with a high

percentage of them bearing cavities and other forms of tooth decay thanks to dietary habits, and especially carbonated drinks, said Cmdr. Steven P. Hernandez, dental clinic operative department head with 23rd Dental Company.

Hernandez said beverages such as soda and energy drinks are detrimental to dental health these days.

"People who have more than three to five exposures to sugar per day tend to develop a greater number of cavities," said Hernandez, a Danville, Ky., native. "No one is telling you not to drink soda. But don't snack on soda, juices or coffee with sugar throughout the day because you are constantly bathing your mouth in sugar."

When people eat, the bacteria in their mouths work on a 20-minute to a half-hour cycle in which it feeds, explained Hernandez. Acid, combined with the plaque it comes from, is produced in a human mouth every time bacteria feeds.

If someone eats breakfast in the morning and has a snack less than 20 minutes after initially eating breakfast, it is considered one exposure to food. However, if someone has a snack more than a half-hour after eating, even more acid is produced and erodes tooth enamel, the hard, protective surface of teeth. This is considered a second exposure.

"When you frequently snack or drink soda, you keep your teeth in an acid-producing state," said Hernandez.

Navy Capt. William C. Morgan, dental clinic periodontist with 23rd

Dental Company, explained further.

Frequent exposures to carbonated drinks are especially bad for teeth because they are very high in phosphoric acid and sugar, said Morgan, a Salisbury, Md., native. Not only is a high volume of sugar being exposed to enamel, but the acid also sucks the calcium out of teeth.

"It's like having your mouth being soaked in battery acid all day long," said Morgan.

For most regular soda or

See DENTAL, A10



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Claudia N. Garza, dental assistant, and Navy Lt. Tom H. Nguy, assistance dental officer, clean a Marine's teeth at the 23rd Dental Company clinic Tuesday. Cleaning and proper hygiene of teeth is a crucial step in preventing tooth decay.

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Amphibious assault Marines prepare for combat

PFC. MICHAEL NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, honed their skills as riflemen by conducting raids and urban warfare training along with dismounted security patrols at night this week.

The Marines of Delta Company, 3rd AABn, have changed their role in their deployments and now must train to adapt and overcome the obstacles presented to them by this change, said 1st Lt. Eric Benjamin, a platoon commander with Delta Company, 3rd AABn.

They lately have been operating as infantrymen in their last deployment and will repeat that role in the upcoming one.

Delta Company conducted night security patrols as rifle platoons in preparation for their deployment to Iraq in October, said Benjamin.

"We're doing nothing with amphibious assault vehicles on our next deployment, so we're training as a grunt platoon now because that is how we're being utilized," added the Davenport, Iowa native.

The Marines are adapting well, learning from their training and preparing to succeed in a combat environment, said Benjamin.

"Our mission lately has been as an extra infantry company attached to any deployed infantry battalion, and we serve as an extra company for the battalion commanders to utilize to accomplish their mission as they see fit," said

Master Sgt. Donald Vick, operations chief for Delta Company.

"This sort of training is becoming more and more useful for us, a good mixture of our operations on deployment are done at night," added Vick, the Saginaw, Mich., native.

The Marines adapted to their new role through the series of urban warfare training, learning the basics of what an infantry

company does.

"The training that we've been conducting this week has been pretty simple stuff, such as security patrols and urban terrain warfare training," said Cpl. Raymond V. Dellapenta, a Delta Company fire team leader and an Eatontown, N.J., native. "Also, I think that it has been beneficial to the younger Marines who have never deployed with this unit

before or even trained the way that we are right now, which is as infantrymen."

The Marines of Delta Company, have gained lots of experience from their exercises and systematically break down what they have done in each exercise to improve and provide themselves knowledge into the tactics they are using, added Dellapenta.



PFC. MICHAEL NERL

Marines of Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, stack up beside a door and prepare to clear a room Tuesday night aboard the Combat Center. Room clearing was part of some of the training Delta Company executed last week to include a simulated raid on their company office.

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CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN

Cpl. Chris M. McQuitty, assistant platoon leader, 3rd Platoon, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, points out a road that insurgents could use to avoid vehicle checkpoints near Hit, Iraq, July 11. Marines with Company L performed a reconnaissance patrol through the outskirts of Hit in search of routes the enemy could use to smuggle contraband into the city. The information gathered during the patrol will help the company make the area around Hit safer for Coalition forces and the Iraqis that live there.

3/4 Marines scour desert

CPL. ERIK VILLAGRAN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5

ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq — Marines did a little off-roading recently in search of roads that will be valuable in future operations.

Marines with 3rd Platoon, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, conducted a patrol through the outskirts of Hit to get a feel for an area added to their area of operations.

"The mission was a big reconnaissance patrol," said Cpl. Chris M. McQuitty, 21, an assistant platoon leader with 3rd Platoon from St. Louis. "We wanted take a look at roads and areas for future patrols."

Marines set out in vehicles along the main route in the new area. As they drove to the end of their new AO, 1st Lt. John M.

Billiris, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, wrote down the location of vehicle checkpoints, Iraqi Police Stations and other areas of interest.

"We were (conducting a reconnaissance of) the main route, looking for businesses along the route and looking for unimproved roads leading to the desert," said Billiris, 26, from Tarpon Springs, Fla. "We were looking for roads anti-Iraqi forces could use to bypass checkpoints and smuggle things into the city."

To find the paths that could be used by the enemy, Marines had to overcome rough terrain. They maneuvered through soft sand, small hills and rocky grounds in an effort to discover different trails.

"When you go through the desert, big obstacles provide a challenge," McQuitty said. "You risk getting stuck somewhere or

rolling a vehicle."

Although Marines had to travel through unforgiving land to find the paths they were searching for, they said it will pay off in future operations.

"Now that I know the business areas, I can send out patrols to census the area," Billiris said. "It also helps the mobile assault platoon because if they're called out on the fly, they know what the area looks like."

Marines were pleased with the information they gathered on the patrol because it showed them what to expect when they patrol though the new area.

"We didn't do anything glamorous, but the patrol was very successful," Billiris said. "All my intelligence requirements for going out there were met, and that helps build on to follow-up missions."

LESSON from, A1

in his gear and continued to bring the fight to the enemy.

Thirty-nine years later, he found the guidon amongst personal memorabilia and began his mission to bring the guidon to its home.

That mission was completed during the July 21 ceremony aboard the Combat Center. Before the guidon was framed and hung on a wall with other awards and pictures depicting the battalion's history and success, Vermillion was presented with a Meritorious Mast for his act of compassion and esprit de corps.

After the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Paron A. Lewis, 1/7 sergeant major, said the guidon forced him to revisit the history of the battalion.

"For me it was an education of our past history and lineage," said Lewis.

Lewis, who has twice been assigned to 1/7, admitted he never knew Delta Company existed and said the battalion was grateful for the guidon's return.

"It gives us closure," said Lewis, a Mount Vernon, N.Y., native. "A piece of history has now been returned to us."

Lt. Col. Scott G. Fosdal, 1/7 commanding officer, said the real story was the amount of work Vermillion was willing to put forth in order to see the guidon returned.

"It's not so much the guidon," said Fosdal, a native of Rockdale, Wis. "It's the dedication and the mission mind set that [Vermillion] took."

Fosdal said Vermillion did not request transportation aid or other amenities from the Marine Corps, and his goal of ensuring the guidon got back to its guardians was a fine example of the Marine Corps motto "Never leave a man behind."

"The action we saw today, is a perfect example of 'Semper Fidelis,'" said Fosdal.

As a gift of appreciation, Vermillion was provided with a guided tour of 1/7 Marines at work. The tour included a trip to the armory where he was shown the weapons Marines of today

use in combat and a visit to the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer in building 1707 where he was allowed to participate in simulated drills.

Fosdal also presented

Vermillion with sand from Iwo Jima so he could take it back to his detachment to present to a detachment member who had fought in the historic battle.

There is little documented evi-

dence about when or why Delta Company, 1/7, was disbanded, but one thing is sure.

"Should the fourth rifle company come back, the guidon is here," said Fosdal.

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TRAINING, from A1

a specific area.

Combat Center personnel was observed by the Red Cell as they reacted to incidents such as improvised explosive devices, a loss of telephone communication lines in designated areas and coordination of the Emergency Control Center, said Claude B. Markham, Combat Center anti-terrorism officer.

The planning for the exercise, which began in September, was coordinated with DoD Anti-Terrorist Force Protection on a play-by-play format to ensure all who participated would gather as many lessons learned as possible, added Markham.

The exercise reached its peak July 16 when the threat of an IED was reported to the Provost

Marshal's Office, Explosive Ordinance Disposal team and Combat Center fire department.

In the scenario, a military police officer stopped a suspicious-looking vehicle at the Condor Gate, one of the installation's main access points, to conduct a vehicle inspection. As he and other military police officers inspected the vehicle, an insurgent remotely detonated the vehicle rigged with simulated explosives, notionally injuring 10 Marines and killing three.

Insurgents driving a second vehicle, which was transporting another simulated IED, then penetrated the point of entry and proceeded on base.

Base law enforcement secured the area while base firefighters and medical personnel responded to the casualty call with ambulances and a fire truck to douse

the mock-burning vehicle.

The Combat Center Special Response Team was later called to negotiate with terrorists in a situation where they had workers held hostage.

The exercise used MP3 sound machines for weapon sound effects, smoke simulators and body make-up to simulate blood and wounds to create as realistic an experience as possible.

Although exercises similar to this have taken place here in the past, none have demanded such a large amount of involvement in one area, said Markham.

"These exercises may also include scenarios with natural disasters or other criminal events," he said, hinting about what may be in store for future exercises.

Victor Vella, exercise director and chief of the Anti-Terrorism Specialists Red Team, said the Combat Center displayed positive qualities throughout the duration of the exercise.

"The most positive thing I can say about this command is that they took this exercise seriously," said Vella. "They really took this by the horns. The kind of scenarios we threw at them are ones that



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

James Bower, Combat Center paramedic firefighter, calms a mock victim of an improvised explosive device detonation outside Condor Gate during an anti-terrorism training exercise at the Combat Center July 14 to 18.

even the most advance military instillations would have had similar problems with. We slammed them hard."

Many participants of the exercise, like Jason Swift, Combat Center firefighter, said the training was authentic and valuable.

"The realism during the drill was pretty decent," said Swift. "The moulage gave a lot of real-

ism to the patients' injuries. And it was good for our START [Simple Triage and Rapid Transport] training since we don't get to practice it often."

Swift explained the START process is used to separate a group of injured people by the severity of their injuries to ensure maximum care is given to those who need it the most.

Even though the blood was artificial and the explosions were simulated throughout the exercise, the severity of a potential terrorist attack is enough to inspire ATFP to construct training exercises like Desert Defender 2008.

An official report on the end result of the training exercise will be drafted and delivered to the Combat Center's command in about 90 days.

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 366-8429 / One80J@hotmail.com

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms
 Service Times
 Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am
 367-7812
 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com

Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene
 9:45 am Morning Worship
 8:30 am Sunday School (All ages)
 6:00 pm Evening Service
 56248 Buena Vista, 365-7819
 www.yvnazarene.com

United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms
 6250 Mesquite Springs Road
 Phone: 367-7338
 Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. - Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 (Child Care Provided)
Pastor Beth Glass
"open hearts, open minds, open doors"

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014
 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am
 Worship.....10:45am
 WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm

First Southern Baptist Church of Joshua Tree
 Pastor Doug Hutcherson
 Sun. Worship 10:45am - 6:00pm
 Sun. Bible Study 9:30am
 1st. Wed. Potluck 6:00pm
 Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm
 6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211

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Birth Announcements

ARIANNA NIABEL JEMAL

Daughter of Sgt. Daniel Jemal and wife, Gabriela.

Born May 14, weighing 7 lbs, 0.8 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

ARIANNA LYALYNN PARRISH

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Victor Parrish and wife, Alicia.

Born May 16, weighing 7 lbs, 11 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

ETHAN JAKE ZAVALA

Son of Lance Cpl. Milton D. Zavala and wife, Bonny.

Born May 16, weighing 8 lbs, 3 ounces and measuring 19.7 inches.

ALEXANDER MICHAEL HESS

Son of Staff Sgt. Jonathan D. Hess and wife, Cynthia.

Born May 19, weighing 6 lbs, 13.9 ounces and measuring 18.6 inches.

JAYDEN JAMES IBARRA

Son of Cpl. Philip A. Ibarra and wife Krystal.

Born May 19, weighing 7 lbs, 2 ounces and measuring 19.3 inches.

AYLA NICHOLE TOLLETT

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Jason Tollett and wife, Nicholette.

Born May 20, weighing 6 lbs, 15 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

ROGER DEON MATTHEWS JR.

Son of Cpl. Roger Matthews and wife, Kayla.

Born May 21, weighing 8 lbs, 10 ounces and measuring 20.7 inches.

ISABELLA MARLANA VAUGHAN

Daughter of Lt. j.g. Elizabeth Angelo and Michael Vaughan.

Born May 22, weighing 6 lbs, 15 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

ETHAN LEE BYRD

Son of Cpl. Travis Byrd and wife, Jessica.

Born May 23, weighing 8 lbs, 9.5 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

RONIN JAE OCAMPO

LARANANG

Son of Petty Officer 1st Class Lawrence Laranang and wife, Maria.

Born May 24, weighing 7 lbs, 7.4 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

OLIVIA KERRINGTON WILKINS

Daughter of 1st Lt. Jon K. Wilkins and wife, Jessica.

Born May 27, weighing 7 lbs, 8 ounces and measuring 19.9 inches.

LEILANI ROSE QUINTANA

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Andres Quintana and wife, Holly.

Born May 29, weighing 8 lbs, 9 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

JAMES ANNIS

Son of Sgt. Michael Annis and wife, Sabrina.

Born May 30, weighing 6 lbs, 6.4 ounces and measuring 18.2 inches.

BROOKE LYNN BISHEE

Daughter of Navy Seaman Kyle Ashley Bisbee and wife, Erica.

Born May 30, weighing 6 lbs, 7.5 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches.

MICHELLE ANDREA PUPO

Daughter of Sgt. Fernando Pupo and wife, Jacqueline.

Born June 1, weighing 6 lbs, 9 ounces and measuring 17.5 inches.

MALEKI ALEXANDER GARCIA

Son of Lance Cpl. Alejandro Garcia and wife, Erica.

Born June 2, weighing 7 lbs, 2.9 ounces and measuring 19.5 ounces.

TRAVIS DEAN ACOSTA

Son of Lance Cpl. Tomas Acosta and wife, Sally Rebecca.

Born June 3, weighing 7 lbs, 1 ounce and measuring 19 inches.

OLIVIA GENEVIEVE POURLX

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Jamie Proulx and wife, Krystal.

Born June 4, weighing 6 lbs, 14 ounces and measuring 18.4 inches.

ELENA LIN ROJAS

Daughter of Cpl. Ramon Rojas Jr. and wife, Jennifer.

Born June 4, weighing 6 lbs, 3.2 ounces and measuring 17.9 inches.

ROCCO GREGORY CASH WILLIAMS

Son of Sgt. Eron T. Williams and wife, Brittany.

Born June 5, weighing 7 lbs, 12 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

BRODY SLAYER GRAY

Son of Cpl. Dustin Gray and wife, Amber.

Born June 6, weighing 7 lbs, 11.2 ounces and measuring 19.4 inches.

JAZMYN RAINE RODRIGUEZ

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Nicole Ballinger and Mylo Rodriguez.

Born June 6, weighing 5 lbs, 9.6 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

DYLLAN BRAXTON DAVID BENDER

Son of Pfc. James Bender and wife, Samantha.

Born June 9, weighing 8 lbs, 11 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches.

JARYN LASEAN DONNELL

Son of Pfc. Amy Donnell.

Born June 10, weighing 8 lbs, 6 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

JACOB DAMIAN ORTIZ

Son of Lance Cpl. Cesar Tamayo and Lance Cpl. Flora Ortiz.

Born June 10, weighing 6 lbs, 6.24 ounces and measuring 18.8 inches.

SIENNA JENAI RAMILO SCHERRER

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Frank A. Scherrer III and wife, Annette.

Born June 11, weighing 7 lbs, 6.4 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

DELANEY ANN GERBER

Daughter of 1st Lt. James Gerber and wife, Amy.

Born June 12, weighing 5 lbs, 8 ounces and measuring 17.1 inches.

AURORA AIDEN CORNELIUS

Daughter of Cpl. Peter E. Cornelius and wife, Ariel.

Born June 13, weighing 8 lbs, 10 ounces and measuring 19.9 inches.

ESTHER MARIE CARABALLO

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Jose Caraballo and wife, Maria.

Born June 16, weighing 9 lbs, 2.5 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

BRAYDEN SHAWN MICHAEL BENTLEY

Son of Sgt. Barry G. Bentley and wife, Amanda.

Born June 19, weighing 6 lbs, 3.2 ounces and measuring 18.9 inches.

HANNAH JOY CUSTER

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Matthew Custer and wife, Laura.

Born June 20, weighing 7 lbs, 8.5 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

JACK RAYMOND GREEN

Son of Staff Sgt. Gabriel Green and wife, Sarah.

Born June 20, weighing 6 lbs, 8 ounces and measuring 19.4 inches.

ANALISA RENEE LARNER

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Anthony Larnar and wife, Crystal.

Born June 20, weighing 5 lbs, 2.4 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

CAILYN ANNE SCHRODER

Daughter of 1st Lt. Brandon Schroder and wife, Carolyn.

Born June 20, weighing 7 inches, 21.8 ounces and measuring 19.7 inches.

ANTHONY DIEGO LEE MARTINEZ

Son of Lance Cpl. Joshua Martinez and wife, Brittany.

Born June 24, weighing 7 lbs, 7 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

EMMA MARIE SISCO

Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Jeremy M. Sisco and wife, Lisa.

Born June 24, weighing 7 lbs, 3.6 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

DILLON JASON JEMELKA

Son of Cpl. Jason Jemelka and wife, Connie.

Born June 25, weighing 7 lbs, 12.1 ounces and measuring 20.3 inches.

KYSON MARK KLUG

Son of Sgt. Mark R. Klug and wife, Jennifer.

Born June 25, weighing 8 lbs, 12.7 ounces and measuring 19.9 inches.

CATHERINE ELIZABETH STAICER

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Isaac Staicer and wife, Christiana.

Born June 25, weighing 6 lbs, 6.5 ounces and measuring 18.1 inches.

KOEYN RYLYNN ROBINSON

Daughter of Cpl. Ryan A. Robinson and wife, Samantha.

Born June 26, weighing 5 lbs, 17.5 ounces and measuring 19.1 inches.

JAYSEN ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Son of Staff Sgt. Jason Williams and wife, Jessica.

Born June 27, weighing 6 lbs, 11 ounces and measuring 17.8 inches.

BRIANNA DESIRAE JOHNSON

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Jessica Briggs and Thomas Johnson.

Born June 30, weighing 8 lbs, 14 ounces and measuring 19.3 inches.

BLAKE FRANCIS ROBERT EDWARDS

Son of Staff Sgt. Dean Edwards and wife, Jolene.

Born July 1, weighing 6 lbs, 7 ounces and measuring 18.6 inches.

ELIJAH EZQUIO GONZALEZ

Son of Cpl. Xavier Gonzalez and wife, Diana.

Born July 3, weighing 7 lbs, 10 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

NATALIE SIERRA BIRD

Daughter of Sgt. Andrew C. Bird and wife, Ashley.

Born July 6, weighing 8 lbs, 13 ounces and measuring 19.3 inches.

CAIDEN DANIEL FORKNER

Son of Sgt. Christopher Forkner and wife, BreAnn.

Born July 8, weighing 8 lbs, 10 ounces and measuring 20.3 inches.

VICTOR ELLIOT BRUGLIERA-BENNIN

Son of Lance Cpl. Kyle Bennin and wife, Leah.

Born July 9, weighing 7 lbs, 12 ounces and measuring 19.8 inches.

MARK DANIEL ROBERTS III

Son of Lance Cpl. Mark Roberts II and wife, Rebekah.

Born July 9, weighing 6 lbs, 11 ounces and measuring 19.4 inches.

KYLA MAE LARKIN

Daughter of Cpl. Scott E. Larkin and wife, Sarah.

Born July 12, weighing 7 lbs, 9 ounces and measuring 20.1 inches.

AIDEN JOSEPH SIMMONS

Son of Lance Cpl. Matthew Simmons and wife, Chelsey.

Born July 12, weighing 7 lbs, 1 ounce and measuring 19.4 inches.

This is a paid advertisement

Local Dealership TO SELL REPOSSESSED CARS

“A bargain hunter’s dream” will take place July 25-27 at both Yucca Valley Chrysler locations. Due to the tremendous success of this program in the past, more banks are participating now, which will represent a better selection and more savings to the public on a special selection of repossessed vehicles special factory buy back and overage cars & trucks

YUCCA VALLEY

“This is the opportunity I’ve been waiting for to save on my next used car purchase,” according to customer Mark Freed.

“I actually came in to look at a car for my daughter, and ended up buying one for myself as well,” says another customer.

These are but a few of the many positive statements heard at Yucca Valley Chrysler Center in the past few repo sales.

What may be a banks worst nightmare-vehicle repossessions happen in the Morongo Basin area almost daily.

But those nightmares have become pleasant dreams for people looking for bargain used vehicles.

According to Kathy Hartley, Sales manager of Yucca Valley Chrysler Centers, these used vehicles represent huge losses to the banks. “But the banks losses have become real gains for the bargain hunters of this area,” says Hartley.

“These bargain vehicles ordinarily are very difficult, if not impossible for the average person to find,” Hartley says. “They’re

July 25-27

“...since more banks are participating now, it will only increase the savings to the public.”

-Kathy Hartley

usually snapped up at huge discounts by used car dealers, who then retail them to the public - often at top dollar prices.”

But that is about to change says Hartley. Yucca Valley Chrysler Center continue to offer what many in the industry are calling “a bargain hunter’s dream.” Beginning Friday, July 25 through July 27, Yucca Valley Chrysler Center will be selling repossessed and inventory overage cars and trucks “to the general public only.” **No dealers please.**

“Even more banks have asked us to help out this time, due to the response to this program in the past.”

Hartley explains, “We told them we were still interested, and since more banks are participating now, it will only increase the savings to the public.” The banks once again agreed, she says, and they even offered to finance the vehicles for a down payment of only **\$87 on approved credit.***

“The banks want to put these cars and trucks back on the road,” Hartley says, “and we know from past experience that they’ll do just about anything to help us to keep this a success.”

Hartley says that all of these cars and trucks will be “clearly

marked with their discount prices, which should make shopping for these bargains much easier, and some of these vehicles will be marked up to 40% off.

Yucca Valley Chrysler Center will be “staffed up” in order to service everyone as quickly and fairly as possible.

“Trade-ins are not a problem either. Customers with jobs just need to bring their titles or payment books, and we’ll do the rest.”

She says that the Yucca Valley Chrysler Centers will have a little bit of everything to offer customers. “If it can be driven, we have it. And each of the vehicles has been serviced and is ready to go.”

Yucca Valley Chrysler Center at 55288 29 Palms Hwy. For more information about this special three day event, customers should contact Sales Manager, Kathy Hartley at 228-1818.

This sale will be for 3 days only. Friday, July 25 - Sunday, July 27, starting at 9:00 a.m. sharp. “We urge all interested parties to be at our dealership as early as they can,” says Hartley.

The full inventory of cars and trucks will be available for previewing all day today, she says.

Yucca Valley Chrysler Center’s

55288 29 Palms Hwy.
72878 29 Palms Hwy

228-1818
367-1919

Yucca Valley
29 Palms

*On approved credit. Plus govt. fees, etc & taxes. Any finance charge, any dealer documation preparation charge, and any emission testing charge.

MCAGCC units work to fund Marine Corps Ball

LANCE CPL.
NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Back in 1775, the Marine Corps came alive, and Marines around the world have celebrated its creation every year for the 232 years since then.

The traditional celebration is the Marine Corps Ball, an event held every November to celebrate the day America's 911 Force was born.

Many of the Combat Center's units are currently raising money to support their commemoration of the Marine Corps' 233rd birthday. Each unit is coming up with its own unique way to reach their goal.

The Marines and sailors of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion have thought up several ways to build their ball funds.

"We want the most bang for our buck - that's what we're trying to do," said 1st Sgt. James Johnson, Alpha Company first sergeant, 3rd LAR. "Each company is doing traditional things like car washes and donations, but the battalion has some

other ideas to help." The battalion plans to hold a pie auction where Marines and sailors will be given the opportunity to throw a pie in the faces of their leaders.

Headquarters Battalion is another Combat Center unit coming up with exciting ways to raise money for their Marine Corps Ball.

"So far, we've already held one car wash and are currently holding civilian Fridays," said Cpl. Carmen Pilman, Headquarters Battalion S-1 noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "We had our first car wash [July 17] and started the civilian Fridays at the end of May."

Pilman, a Sunnyvale native, explained the "civilian Fridays" are when Marines pay a fee to where appropriate civilian attire to work at the end of the week.

So far, Headquarters Battalion has raised more than \$400 toward their ball fund, she added. With more ideas and future events in the works, the money should continue coming in.

"We're thinking of hosting some sort of



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Alfred "Scooby" LeDuc, Pfc. Roger "Slickback" Fox, Lance Cpl. Andy "Tanguera" Jimenez and Lance Cpl. Leonard "Shaggy" Hutton direct traffic toward a car wash to raise money for the Installation Personnel Administration Center's Marine Corps Birthday Ball April 2007. Car washes are just one of many ways units can raise money to support their ball funds.

lunch where we sell hot dogs and other food," said Pilman. "We're also planning on having another car wash sometime next month."

The Marines and sailors of 7th Marine Regiment have also had success raising money for this year's Marine Corps Ball.

"The regiment is working with a company in Los Angeles doing a lot of

concert security jobs," said 1st Sgt. Luis Hernandez, Headquarters Company first sergeant, 7th Marine Regiment. "So far, we've raised close to \$10,000 for this year and we've still got a few more events we're working on."

The regiment provides security for events year-round to raise money whenever events become available, added the

Syracuse, N.Y., native.

In order to reduce the cost of Marine Corps Ball tickets, fund raisers are held by units Marine Corps-wide. Every Marine celebrates the Marine Corps' birthday in some way, whether deployed or in garrison. It is a proud tradition that has been carried on for nearly 233 years and will continue for generations.

DENTAL, from A5

energy drink consumers, thoughts of eroding enamel are not the first things on their minds when they pop the top of an aluminum can.

Cpl. Charles London, legal specialist with the Staff Judge Advocate Office, Bravo Company, Headquarters Battalion, said drinking multiple energy drinks is part of his daily routine.

"I drink them all day, every day," said London, a Montgomery, Ala., native. "I like the way they make me feel; like I can take on the world."

London added during his last dental check up, dental specialists said it was obvious he drank multiple energy drinks by looking between his teeth.

Although drinking soda, coffee or energy drinks may be a hard habit to break for some people, it is a habit worth changing, said Hernandez.

Better dental health does not call for cutting out all sugars and carbohydrates from one's diet, but rather a matter of practicing better in-between-meal habits, he added.

"Even swishing your mouth with water after you eat or drink can help reduce the amount of acid the plaque your mouth forms," he said.

For more information about dental health, call the Dental Clinic front desk at 830-7053.



Plan 1B 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1284 Sq. Ft., Two-Car Garage. Starting at \$209,990



Plan 2B 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1467 Sq. Ft., Two-Car Garage, Kitchen with Nook. Starting at \$229,990

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(760) 369-5050
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Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

2001 FORD ESCAPE 4WD, Excellent condition, great mpg. Asking \$5400 OBO. Call 362-1384. 7/25/08

GOODYEAR MT/R TIRES 245/75/R16. 3 pairs, all are road worthy. Newest have only 7K mi on them. Make an offer. 368-1931. 7/25/08

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2006 NISSAN TITAN V-8 4x4, 4 door. Black with Tonneau cover. 19 K mileage \$24,284. Call 361-3509.

2007 HARLEY ROAD KING CUSTOM. Black w/ Stage 1 kit, V&H exhaust, floorboards, Passenger backrest, maintained, 7,600 miles, 1-owner. Exc. Condition. \$16k, (910) 546-1342. 7/11/08

2000 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 Z71, ext'd cab, loaded! Campershell, bed liner, sat radio. \$9,000 OBO. Call 819-1034. 7/11/08

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2005 KASEA 90CC QUAD. \$950 Helmet Included. Call 217-1314. 7/11/08

2005 SIERRA SPORT TOY HAULER, 37', too much to list. Excellent condition. \$31,500 OBO. Call 285-2301. 7/11/08

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 1994, locked, lifted and loaded. Good transportation, Great 4x4! \$5,700 OBO 285-2301. 7/11/08

2004 HONDA ACCORD LX COUPE 55,000K, fully loaded, silver \$14,500 Call Patricia (619) 851-7832 6/18/08

MOTORHOME FOR SALE 1991 PACE ARROW. 35' class A. 460 Ford/Oshkosh many extras. 61,000 miles \$16,500. OBO. Call Jon at 361-5777. 6/11/08

MISC.

MAN'S RING size 10. 14k gold. 7.3 grams on yellow gold. 3 diamonds 0.33 grams each. \$1,000 OBO. Call Tim at (760) 367-7183. 7/25/08

YARD SALE, 2 Aug, 0700-1100, 72573 Larrea Ave, 29 Palms. 7/25/08

2 DOT APPROVED MC HELMETS never worn. Men's Flaming Skull SZ LG Woman's Tribal Butterfly Med. \$30 each. 830-6958. 7/25/08

VARIOUS ELECTRONICS: PS2 \$150 w/GH2 \$200. PSP \$225 w/(5)Games \$275. Dell Computer (P4) \$350. 19" LCD Comp. Monitor \$100. Call 910-9516 7/11/08

FURNITURE Beautiful oak finish breakfront china cabinet 56" wide x 80" tall x 16" deep with 4 beveled glass doors, silverware drawers and 4 lower cabinet storage areas \$300. TV & entertainment cabinet combo \$75. Mint condition bow back mandolin \$200. Call Stephen 567-0400 7/18/08

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KENMORE ELITE DRYER. Excellent condition \$100. Have photo. White. (951)845-1941 Call evenings or 830-6187. 6/25/08

X-LARGE KENMORE ELECTRIC DRYER 220V \$150, AB Lounge \$50, 3 month old gas lawn mower \$100. Please call Tammy 819-1007 6/18/08

MEDIUM PATIO DOGGIE DOOR 10" x 9" opening \$60. Please call 367-5019 and leave a message 6/11/08.

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: there is a 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only

for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.

VMU-3, from A1

in training, our mission mainly consists of getting information for the commander of whatever unit is on the ground and other various kinds of support, which changes depending on our mission," added Mendez, a Newark, N.J., native.

The small part of VMU-3 already in place is comprised of Marines from VMU-1 and VMU-2, along with Marines fresh from military occupational specialty school.

The aircraft mainly flown by VMU-3 is the RQ-B7, also known as the Shadow 200 system, it is the newest system of its kind in use, said Lt. Col. James W. Frey, the officer-in-charge of VMU-3. Frey will become the commanding officer of VMU-3 when it becomes active.

The purpose of VMU-3 at the Combat Center will be to see off our sister unit, VMU-1, and add manpower for rotation in deployments and provide more availability for our Shadow 200 units to be used in training

with ground units, said Frey.

"The most common use of these machines is to support the unit on the ground, provide and gather intelligence, and give reconnaissance from above," added Frey, a native of Ridgebury, Pa.

More than 50 Marines of the squadron are already at the Combat Center and making preparations for the rest of the squadron's arrival. When the rest of the squadron is at the Combat Center, VMU-3 will reach a size of nearly 200 Marines, said Frey.

"Until the standing up ceremony, we will be primarily focusing on setting up our gear, equipment and personnel," said Maj. James Scott, the squadron executive officer.

"We're here to make sure that we get it all here in terms of supplies, equipment and manpower in time for the standing-up," added Scott, who hails from Youngstown, Ohio.

VMU-3 has a lot of work to do before it becomes able to operate. Scott said that it has been a joint effort between the

Marine Corps and civilian contractors.

"It has taken lots of work and foresight from Headquarters Marine Corps. Coordination of the operation in terms of building the sites and working with the civilians has also been a huge undertaking," he said.

VMU-3 Marines have an optimistic future with a lot of work ahead of them.

"We're glad to be here aboard the Combat Center and very excited about the work we're going to do," said Mendez.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+
Sun 10 a.m. Rosary
Sun 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 9:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sun 4 p.m. Choir Practice
Sun 4 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Grp.
Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary
Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group age 18-35, married or single (3rd Sunday of the month)
Fri 12:15 - 4:30 p.m. Exposition/ Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)
Holy Days of Obligation Masses
12:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
Non-denominational Christian Service Christ Chapel
Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School*
Sun 9 a.m. Worship*
Wed 7 p.m. Praise & Worship*
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Protestant Liturgical Service Christ Chapel
Sun 11 a.m. Worship
Lay-Led Independent Baptist Service Christ Chapel
Sun 11 a.m. Worship
Lay-Led Gospel Service Christ Chapel
Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

Midweek Events

Monday Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass

Tuesday Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

5-7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (2nd Tues. of the month)

6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month

Wednesday Village Center

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187

6 p.m. RCIA, building 1551

Christ Chapel

5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal

6 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal

6 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship

7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study

7 p.m. Praise & Worship Service

1st Thursday each month 7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Legend

*Indicates Child Care Provided

+Appointments can be made for Confessions, call 830-6456 or 830-6646

Faith Lessons at Lunch
A DVD series titled "Faith Lessons on the Promised Land. For more information call 830-6187





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