

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 17, 2009      SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957      VOL. 52 ISSUE 15

## Steel sharpens steel; 1st Tanks hone skills in annual training



Marines of Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, are participating in a five-day, live-fire annual training exercise at Noble Pass Monday through Saturday. The graded exercise tested each platoon's ability to maneuver and maintain formations while engaging targets.

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Marines and sailors of Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, are conducting a five-day annual training exercise at the Combat Center's Noble Pass training area Saturday.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Platoons completing the live-fire training exercise that began Monday and will conclude Saturday, and tests a platoon's ability to maneuver across terrain in formations in M1-A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks, said Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Baker, the battal-

ion master gunner. "This is a final gunner evolution for a platoon's operations," Baker explained. "Communication, accuracy and employment of weapon systems are key in this exercise." The annual training exercise is required of all tank platoons after they have completed exercises

testing the function and efficiency of tank crews and tank sections respectively, Baker added. The live-fire exercise tests a platoon's ability to maintain formations, hit targets with the correct weapon systems, negotiate

**See TANKS, A8**

## Congressmen push for 'Department of Navy, Marine Corps'

**PFC. NICHOLAS J. NEIGHBORS**  
*HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS*

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Marine Corps is a military service branch within the Department of the Navy and since November 10, 1775, its warriors have fought at the tip of America's military spear. Still, some believe that as a branch within the Navy department, the Marine Corps doesn't get the recognition it deserves. Rep. Walter B. Jones of North Carolina hopes to change that with Congressional Bill H.R. 24, which proposes to change the title of the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. "It's three words. It's symbolic, but I think it's important," said Jones who has been trying to push this bill since Dec. 13, 2001. In the short time since the current bill was reintroduced Jan. 6, it currently has 200 cosponsors, which is more than this bill has ever had in its previous attempts in Congress, said George Mulvaney, a former Marine and Korean War veteran. The process a bill goes through to become a law starts at the House of Representatives. If the House votes "yes" to the bill becoming a law, then it is sent to the Senate where the same process occurs. If both the House and Senate agree, then the bill is sent to the president and he makes the final decision on whether or not it becomes law.

In order to speed up the lawmaking process, Jones enlisted the help of Senator, and former Marine, Pat Roberts of Kansas. Roberts introduced an identical bill, S. 504, into the Senate. This is known as a companion bill, and it speeds up the process by allowing the bill to travel through the House

**See PUSH, A4**



**LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Sodexo employees from the Combat Center's mess halls prepare meals for disadvantaged Twentynine Palms residents Saturday at the Little Church of the Desert.

## Combat Center personnel help feed the hungry

Marines from the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall teamed up with Sodexo employees from the base to prepare food for disadvantaged Twentynine Palms citizens at the Little Church of the Desert, Saturday. The effort to abolish hunger in the community is part of a worldwide Sodexo

initiative called the Sodexo Foundation, which was founded in 1999, said Kleo Leopoldo, the food service manager at Phelps Hall. "Every year, 35.5 million people go hungry in America," he said. "When I learned that, I thought it should be our turn to get out there and serve the community." Saturday's menu included barbecue ribs, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked beans and salad with Italian dressing,

Brownies, cookies and fruit cocktails were served for dessert. A children's meal was also included, which included chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, corn and an ice-cream-pop for dessert. Doug Lonsinger, who regularly visits the Little Church of the Desert, also provided an impromptu piano performance at the request of the parishioners and attendees, which

**See FEED, A6**

## 'Wolfpack' takes control of Ninewa Province from 'Highlanders'

**SGT. DEAN DAVIS AND STAFF SGT. RYAN SMITH**  
*REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 8*

SAHL SINJAR, Iraq — First Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, relinquished its operational responsibilities in Iraq's Ninewa province, Iraq, to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, April 7. Operating from a remote airfield near the Sinjar Mountains, the Marines of 1st LAR spent

the majority of their seven-month deployment interdicting smuggling and conducting reconnaissance in the open desert terrain. "As the first sizable ground combat element in this area, we were able to assist the Iraqi Security Forces by slowing and restricting the smuggling of foreign fighters and weapons coming into Mosul," said Lt. Col. Scott D. Leonard, commanding officer of 1st LAR. "We coordinated our efforts by, with and through the ISF,

allowing them to take the lead in security operations in Ninewa Province." The "Highlanders" of 1st LAR spent much of their time in Ninewa living out of their vehicles and staying "outside the wire" for as many as 75 days at a time, returning to Sinjar Airfield for only a few days to rest, shower and refit. "We are a stronger, more capable warfighting team because of the

**See WOLFPACK, A4**



**STAFF SGT. RYAN SMITH**  
Lieutenant Col. Scott D. Leonard (left), commanding officer of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, receives a plaque from Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Kassner, commanding officer of 3rd LAR, commemorating the successful transfer of authority between the battalions.



**Gunny "Locks n' Loads" with 1st Tanks ~ See A3**



**Heroes in a half-shell See A5**



**Combat Center Idol See B3**



**Intramural Volleyball serves up competition ~ See B3**



# Be desert smart on air quality

**PHIL CHAMBERS**  
*COMBAT CENTER AIR RESOURCES MANAGER*

We are partially in an area that is classified by the State of California as being in Non-Attainment for two of the six criteria pollutants. Those two pollutants are: Ozone and Particulate Matter. The other pollutants that we passed the test on are: Lead, Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen, but because some of these are precursors to Ozone production, we must be aware of them in our efforts to reduce Ozone.

Paticulate Matter problems in the high desert are primarily attributable to wind events by mother nature. But dusts are created when no dust prevention techniques are used. Here are a few things you can do to reduce PM pollution and to protect yourself:

Avoid using equipment that raises a lot of dust, try a rake or broom; don't use a wood stove or fireplace on low visibility days or stated unhealthy days; drive slowly over unpaved roads; drive less, particularly on days with unhealthy air; and use your car's recirculate ability if so equipped to prevent the burning eyes from SMOG.

Driving less doesn't mean you have to stay home. It merely means that you should try combining driving with other ways of getting where you want to go, like:

Carpooling; walking or riding a bike or more economical vehicle; shop by phone or mail/email; ride public transit systems; and telecommute when possible.

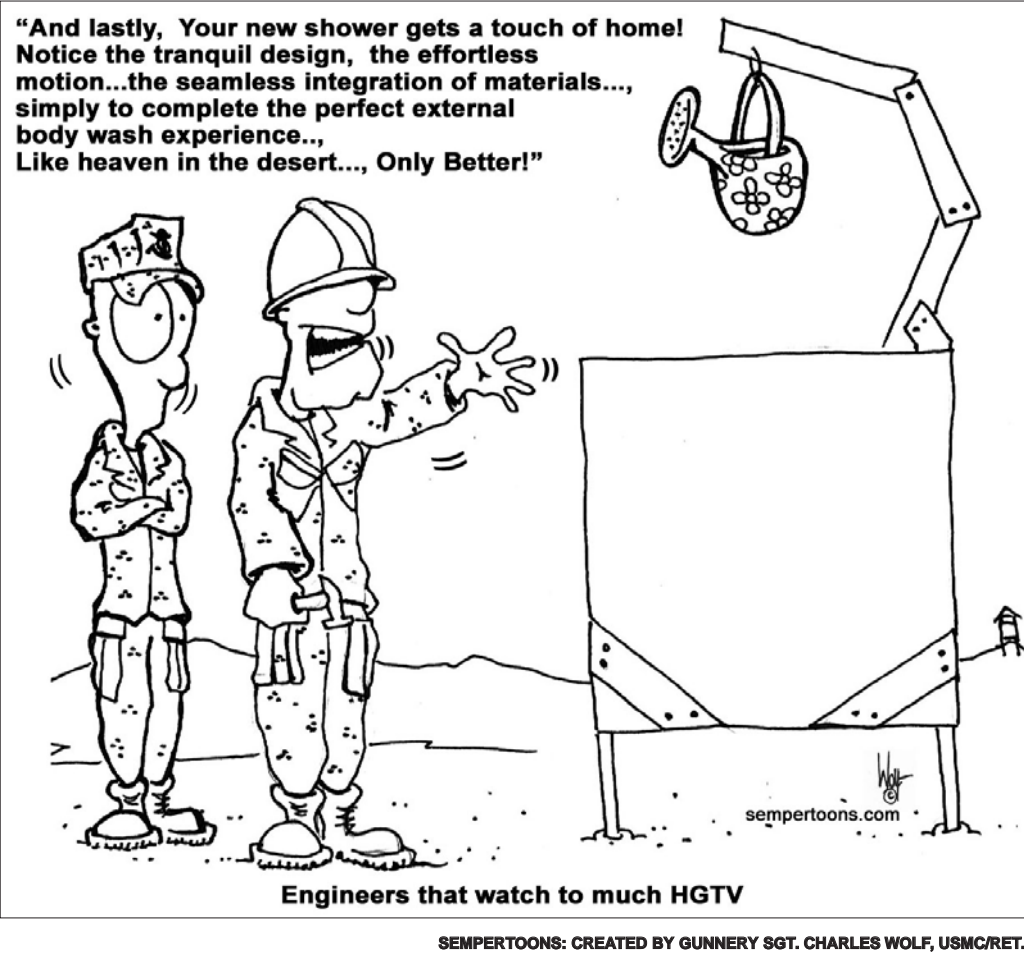
Driving smart keeps pollution at a minimum, so try to:

Accelerate gradually; use cruise control when safe to do so; obey the speed limits; combine your errands into one trip; keep you car tuned; don't top off at the gas pump; replace your car's air filter often in the desert; keep your tires properly inflated; and when buying a car consider efficiency including electric models.

Whenever you burn a fossil fuel, you pollute the air. Use less gasoline, natural gas and electricity to do your part for the desert's environment. Here are a few ways to save energy:

Remember to turn out the lights when you leave the room or use photoelectric sensors; replace your energy-hungry incandesant bulbs with fluorescent lighting; use a programmable thermostat that turns off your a/c or heater when you don't need them; add insulation to your home; use a swamp cooler instead of a/c; use pellet stoves or fireplace inserts instead of conventional fireplaces; microwave small meals; insulate your water heater or use tankless water heaters; and install low-flow shower heads.

Now that you have read some of the terms, examples and thoughts about our desert's air quality, I hope you remember and use these suggestions. You now know more about reducing air pollution than most people on the street. Try some of the ways described and they will make a difference. Then, let other people know about this information.



Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** Lance Cpl. Paul Gordon

**Job Title:** Mechanic

Unit: Exercise Support Division

**Job Duties:** Fixing Light Armored Vehicles, Humvees and supporting the Advisor Training Group and the Tactical Training Exercise Support Group.

**Hometown:** Tucson, Ariz.

**Hobbies:** I like driving my jeep around, working on cars and going to the gym.

**What I like most about my job:** It gives me good experiences for something I like to do.

**Significant Achievement:** Busting trucks out like crazy when they are needed.

**Military Services:** Two years in the Marine Corps.

**Time aboard the Combat Center:** Since December 2007.

OBSERVATION POST	
Commanding General	Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus
Public Affairs Officer	Jennie E. Haskamp
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez
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Hot Topics

**ASYMCA SUMMER CAMP**

Armed Services YMCA is hosting a free summer camp for children of active duty service members who are 8-14 years of age. Registration is limited to the first 86 children. The deadline to sign up is June 11. To register, visit the ASYMCA for a registration form at Building 192 across from Carl's Jr. Current physical and shot records are required. The registration form must be brought by the parent or legal guardian. Service member or dependent's military ID is required. For more information call 830-7481.

**IMMIGRATION**

The Legal Assistance Office, building 1514, assists all active duty (no fee) and their spouses (\$675) with becoming a U.S. citizen. Pick up a packet. Schedule an appointment when forms are complete. A military outreach by U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services is scheduled for June 4. Immigration officers will assist active duty & family members with all types of immigration issues, including naturalization, permanent resident status, VISAs, petitions, applications, immigration forms, and answering questions. For more info and to schedule an appointment please call 830-6111.

**“DRINKING AND MENTAL HEALTH IQ CAMPAIGN”**

The East Gym will be conducting a “Drinking and Mental Health IQ Campaign” April 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All active duty, family members, Department of Defense employees and retirees are welcome. There will be a Fitness and SACCO Drinking and Mental Health Awareness screening and information, and games and prizes will be given away. Confidential Screening and Referral Material, Tricycle and beer goggles, Drunk Driving Car on site, presentation on alcohol and nutrition and other resources will be available.

This Day in Marine Corps History

April 16, 1945

The 4th Marines seizes Mount Yae Take on Okinawa while the 77th Infantry Division launches an amphibious assault on Ie Shima off the west coast of Okinawa.

## AFTER WORDS

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14					15		
16						17					18		
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54							55				56	57	58
60					61	62							
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

American Profile Hometown Content

081214

ACROSS

1. Sat for a shot

6. Flash of brilliance

10. Sign of Aries

13. Higher than

14. In the neighborhood

15. Mah-jongg piece

16. Candy in a roll

18. “We try harder” company

19. Caused to jump

20. Honshu port

21. Did laps

22. Cloaks

24. Where Bowie fell

28. “Rug”

30. Air travelers’ annoyances

32. Colonial bug

33. Donkey pin-on

37. Try to slim down

38. “The Sopranos” restaurateur

40. Kid in “Blondie” comics

41. Beauty queen’s wear

42. Brenda who sang “I’m Sorry”

43. Virginia suburb of DC

45. Romeo and Juliet, e.g.

48. Sling missile

49. Scattered, as seeds

52. Indy service area

54. Orange container

55. Custodial staff

60. Act the nomad

61. What violence or obscenity might have, in movies

63. Currier’s partner

64. Dixie bread

65. Gladiator’s workplace

66. Sword’s superior, in a saying

67. Gung-ho

68. Theater sections

DOWN

1. They hang together

2. “In memoriam” item

3. Napper’s spot

4. Partner of anon

5. Totally trash

6. Cook up

7. Owner’s paper

8. Vulcan’s pointy body part

9. “\_\_\_ gratis artis”

10. One in a love triangle

11. Much the same

12. Flat formations

15. Coke vs. Pepsi event, e.g.

17. In the style of

20. Free throw’s point value

22. City bond, informally

23. More suitable

24. Tacks on

25. “Star Wars” princess

26. Brew pub brews

27. High school problem-solving team

29. Shoot-’em-up

31. Soothing stuff

34. Choir member

35. “\_\_\_ a roll!”

36. Lacking a partner

39. Marsh plant

44. Of summer

46. Have a tab

47. \_\_\_ out (in a fog)

49. Rx, for short

50. Discovered treasure

51. Poe avian

53. Tattooist’s supply

55. “Woodstock” songwriter Mitchell

56. Source of poi

57. Designer Cassini

58. Old Anglo-Saxon letter

59. Salty seven

61. Masseur’s work place

62. \_\_\_ lane (carpoolers’ convenience)

[puzzle Solutions on A6]

SUDOKU #17

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

Centerspeak

How do you feel about changing the name of the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps?

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

SGT. ROBERT SANTO  
MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON 1, S-4

“We’re part of that department and we should be somewhere on there. We do a lot of work and we should be recognized.”

2ND LT. JOHN HENDERSON  
7TH MARINE REGIMENT, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

“I’ve always thought that is how it should be. We’re part of the Navy but we are an entirely different entity that should be recognized. We support them on land, and they support us on sea.”

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS SPENSER SMITH  
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT, HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

“I think it should stay as it is. They’re a very separate branch of the military and should be recognized as a different service –not combine the two.”



# ‘Lock n’ Load’ hooks up with Tanks

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Retired Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermeý and his crew visited 1st Tank Battalion at the Combat Center Monday through Wednesday to shoot footage for his new show, “Lock n’ Load,” on the History Channel.

The Combat Center was the best place to shoot the episode, for multiple reasons, Ermeý said.

“We did away with “Mail Call” and came out with our new show, now the crew is here shooting 1st Tanks,” Ermeý said.

The episode is going to follow the history of the tank, so it was vital to talk about the tank used on today’s battlefield, the M1–A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

“This episode had to have the Abrams in it; it’s about the history of tanks,” he said. “The most recent generation should be the best one of all the tanks.”

Ermeý said he could not wait for the training to begin and get footage of the battalion.

“We’re going to film the best part of the episode here,” he said. “Twenty-nine

Palms is the best place for training.”

Ermeý said he has been to Twenty-nine Palms many times before, but he still has fun every time.

“It’s always something new out here for us,” he said. “There’s a huge amount of space for the Marines to train in, which gives us a lot of stuff to shoot and experience out here.”

After experiencing the oldest operating tank in existence before coming to the Combat Center, Ermeý noticed the benefits of the modern tank.

“Being a tanker wasn’t glamorous back in the day,” he said. “The old tanks used to overheat after an hour and only went four miles per hour. The tank now is much more powerful in the gun and the engine. The tankers may not agree with me, but it’s a lot roomier as well.”

Marines going through the exercise got a break from their work to see Ermeý and got a chance to be on the History Channel.

Lance Cpl. Tyler Roberts, a tank driver with Company C, 1st Tanks, said he had meeting Ermeý on his “list of 10 things to do while in



LANCE CPL. JEREMIAH HANDELAND

Retired Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Ermeý talks to Sgt. Daniel Jacobson, a tank commander with 1st Tank Battalion, at the tank ramp aboard the Combat Center Monday. Ermeý is at the Combat Center filming “Lock n’ Load,” his new television series for the History Channel.

the Marine Corps.”

“I just thought it was going to be us out here doing platoon training,” Roberts, a Grand Junction,


Colo., native said. “This is a good time for them to come out, there is a lot of moving and firing with the tank platoons.”

Roberts said the chance to be on the History Channel is going to get him through the rest of their training.


“This is a once in a life-

time chance,” he said. “It’s going to be a nice break from just driving a tank.”

The new show is expected to air in July.



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**LONDON TYREKE BENTLEY**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Britinay Bentley and husband, Tyshan. Born March 3, weighing 6lbs., 13 oz and measuring 19 inches.

**DALLAS CADEN GRUNDEN**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Robert Grunden and wife, Donna. Born March 4, weighing 7lbs., 4 oz and measuring 20 inches.

**MIGUEL ANGELO SANCHEZ JR.**  
Son of Sgt. Miguel A. Sanchez and wife, Michelle. Born March 5, weighing 7 lbs., 2.5 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.

**LOGAN LEE STUBBLEFIELD**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Justin Stubblefield and wife, Cassandra. Born March 6, weighing 5lbs., 15oz and measuring 18.1 inches.

**AHMYYIAH ANN-RENEE HUTCHINSON**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Joseph Hutchinson and wife, Tiana. Born March 6, weighing 5.17 lbs., and measuring 18.5 inches.

**KANDYCE PAIGE NORMAN**  
Daughter of Sgt. James Normon and wife, Crystal. Born of March 8, weighing 7lbs., 2.9 oz., and measuring 19.8 inches.

**JOSHUA ANTHONY MAINVILLE**  
Son of Sgt. Richard J. Mainville II and wife Maria. Born March 9, weighing 7.13 lbs., and measuring 20.8 inches.

**LEE DEE CLAYWELL**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Jesse Claywell and wife, Kimberlee. Born March 10, weighing 7 lbs., 10.6 oz., and measuring 20.9 inches.

**LORELI DYAN CONAWAY**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Jordan Conaway and wife, Naomi. Born March 11, weighing 9.2 lbs., and measuring 21 inches.

**ZACHARY JORDAN NOLL**  
Son of Cpl. Daniel James Noll and wife, Jenny. Born March 11, weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz and measuring 20.6 inches.

**JOHN PATRICK PERRON III**  
Son of Sgt. John P. Perron Jr., and wife, Nikaley. Born March 12, weighing 7.14 lbs. and measuring 20.2 inches.

**JOSHUA PHILLIP MONDAY**  
Son of Sgt. Michael Monday and wife, Sarah. Born March 13, weighing 8lbs., 1.8oz., and measuring 20.6 inches.

**DARRINGER EDWARD GONZALES**  
Son of Pfc. Crystal Gonzales and husband, Darringer. Born March 13, weighing 7 lbs., 13oz, and measuring 20.4 inches.

**MCKENZIE HUSTON SMITH**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Marcus Smith and wife, Stephanie. Born March 13, weighing 7lbs., 12.5oz, and measuring 20.6 inches.

**VINCENT MI'KAEL STOUT**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Rickey Stout and wife, Karrissa. Born March 14, weighing 7lbs., and measuring 19.8 inches.

**JAYCIE-LEIGH ERTEL**  
Daughter of Cpl. Daniel Ertel and wife, Autum. Born March 17, weighing 7.74 lbs., and weighing 20.2 inches.

**MOISES PEREZCID**  
Son of Sgt. Moises Perezcid and wife, Tiffany. Born Mach 17, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz and measuring 19 inches.

**KARA MICHELE BOUDREAU**  
Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. David C. Boudreau and wife, Catherine. Born March 18, weighing 6 lbs., 3 oz and measuring 18.9 inches.

**AVA SAGE LENDENNIE**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Christian Lendennie and wife Amanda. Born march 18, weighing 7 lbs., 1.8 oz and measuring 18 inches.

**GAVIN MICHAEL ATWELL**  
Son of Seaman Michael Atwell and wife, Crystal. Born March 19, weighing 8 lbs., 13 oz and measuring 21.8 inches.

**JEREMY MICHAEL SINGLETON**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Jeremy Singleton and wife Wendy. Born March 19, weighing 7 lbs., 8.6 oz and measuring 20.6 inches.

**ELIZABETH CATHERINE KOTYNSKI**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Eric Kotynski and wife Nedai. Born March 20, weighing 8.2 lbs. and measuring 19.6 inches.

**HUNTER ALEX DOVER**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Jeff Dover and wife, Sarah. Born March 21, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz.

**ALYSSA ROSE CUTRER**  
Daughter of Master Gunnery Sgt. William S. Cutrer and wife, Michele. Born March 21, weighing 6 lbs., 5 oz and measuring 18.5 inches.

**AVERIE GRACE DOMINGUEZ**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Michael J. Dominguez and wife Kimberly. Born March 21, weighing 5.6 lbs, and measuring 17.5 inches.

**OLIVIA ANN SCHENK**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Adam Schenk and wife April. Born March 21, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz and measuring 19.25 inches.

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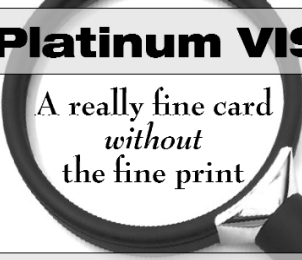
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&  
the Copper Mountain College  
Foundation  
would like to wish

Leota Bell a  
Happy Birthday!



Thank you for  
all you have  
done for  
the college.



# Scouts compete for top honors

**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Marines and sailors of Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, hosted their first competition to determine the “best scout” in their company April 10 at the Combat Center. “We want to honor the best scout we have in the company,” said 2nd Lt.

Joshua Ryburn, the executive officer of Company A and a native of Boston. “We’ve never done this before, and we all figured it would be good competition for all the Marines. They’ll really have to push themselves to do well in the competition.” The competition consisted of seven stations after running a physical fitness test, Ryburn said.

“It’s all individual effort,” he said. “This means it is in their best interest to be pushing themselves harder between stations.” Ryburn elaborated on the different stations the Marines had to do along their journey. “The first is land navigation,” he said. “They have to plot and find their way between coordinates to get from station to station. Next is

donning and clearing a gas mask. “The most exciting station, I think, is the ground fighting,” he said. “They have to search a suspect, and then it turns into a ground-fighting competition. There’s Metallica blaring and there’s one Marine, Sgt. Fordham, who’s going to be fighting everyone. He’s a big guy and he’s undefeated in grappling, so it should be pretty good.” He said among the other stations Marines had to complete, were tests that were physically and mentally challenging. “They have to take a 50-question test at the end of all the stations,” he said. “Before that, they have stations where they disassemble, reassemble and function check multiple different weapons. “Another one of the stations is a crossfit workout,” he said. “That should be pretty strenuous given all the things they’ve done before that.” The winner of the competition, Pvt. Brian Rice, showed up all the other Marines in his company, and gave them something to strive for, said 1st Lt. James Covey, the commanding officer of Company A and a native of



**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
Pvt. Brian Rice, a scout with Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, does part of a crossfit workout during a station in the company’s top scout challenge March 10.



**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
Scouts with Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, take down coordinates to their next station during the company’s top scout competition held at the Combat Center March 10.

**WOLFPACK, from A1**  
efforts of 1st LAR,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Kassner, the commanding officer of 3rd LAR. “It’s exciting to be back to continue the war effort and the many successes the Marines have had in [Operation

Iraqi Freedom].” Now, as 1st LAR prepares to return to Camp Pendleton, Calif., the Marines and sailors of 3rd LAR will take over in an area spanning hundreds of miles of desert and mountains. “The ‘Wolfpack’ now


stands ready to continue the distinguished accomplishments of the entire LAR community in combat,” said Kassner. As the Iraqi Security Forces continue to take control of Ninewa province, they will have the continued support from a light armored reconnaissance battalion ready to go anywhere and do whatever it takes to provide peace and security for the Iraqi people. For more information on the ongoing mission in Iraq’s Al Anbar province, visit [www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/iimeffwd](http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/iimeffwd).

**PUSH, from A1**  
and Senate at the same time, Mulvaney said. In the eight years that H.R. 24 has been circulating, it has garnered a lot of support from both the military and civilians. Among the supporters are former Commandants of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles Krulak and Gen. Carl Mundy and former Secretaries of the Navy Paul Nitz and John Dalton. Krulak cited the bill as a logical evolution in a series of legislation designed to clarify the role of the

United States Marine Corps. He said he supports both its “spirit and intent.” The National Security Act of 1947 defined the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force as four separate services with their own individual missions. Furthermore, the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 stated that each service branch commander serves equally on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, even though there are four chiefs of staff, there are still only three Departments, Mulvaney said. If passed, the day-to-day life of Marines won’t change. The only thing that

will change is the Marines will finally get the recognition they deserve, Jones said. All bills start as an idea, and most never make it past that stage, he added. With a strong following and a lot of supporters, H.R. 24 becoming a law is starting to look more like a reality. If Jones has his way, his eight year crusade will succeed with this Congress, and the Department of the Navy will be known as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. If not, he said there’s always next Congress.

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29 Palms, Ca. 92277  
[spirit\\_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com)



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AWANA (during school year) 6:15-8:00 PM  
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High School Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM  
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# Open Space Group works toward a better Basin

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center hosted an Open Space Group working lunch April 10, which invited representatives from local businesses and agencies throughout the Morongo Basin to discuss the best way to conserve the environment for the Morongo Basin.

The Open Space Group was created by local agencies and organizations as a forum to collaboratively protect the natural landscapes and open spaces through regional conservation and land use planning in the Morongo Basin in California.

It's a very important cause for the community to have a hand in the protection of the

overall environment to better the quality of life of this generation and those to come, said Brian Henen, an ecologist for the Combat Center's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

The day began with lunch at the Officer's Club, where the Open Space Group was briefed on the current status of their conservation planning, which was created to help conserve the local environment. Maps that were color-coded to show privately owned lands, were also shown to the group members to give them an understanding of what little free space is available throughout the Morongo Basin.

Members then discussed their main goals and what they needed to do to reach those goals, which included

enhancing community identity, and base and park missions, improving the wildlife corridors, habitats and regional trails, and developing better water quality and quantity through washes, watersheds, groundcovers and infiltration.

Andrea Compton, the chief of resources and management of natural and cultural resources with the Joshua Tree National Park, said she was new to the Morongo Basin and the Open Space Group, but was very impressed with the regional planning efforts that are in process.

"There are so many different groups part of this; it is amazing," said Compton, a San Diego, native. "I've always said 'let's be proactive, not reactive' and that is what

this group is doing.

"We've stepped up and asked ourselves, 'what do we do next and how do we make it happen?'"

After the lunch, members of the Open Space Group were driven to the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site to get a better understanding of what the Combat Center's NREA's office has been doing to preserve and learn from the research center.

Henen, a Vista, Calif., native, lead the group through the facility, giving members a chance to hold baby tortoises' while learning about TRACRS.

Henen said TRACRS has two main functions. The first is tortoise research, which will help advance the understanding of the desert tor-

toise and tortoise conservation. The second is captive rearing, which is to protect eggs and hatchlings from most predators.

"Something like TRACRS can provide [the Open Space Group] with information of

potential problems that not only effect tortoises, but other species or ourselves," Henen said. It will also give them information regarding areas that need to be noted for protection in the environment.



Joel Klink, the mayor of Twentynine Palms, Calif., says hello to a baby tortoise while visiting the Combat Center's Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site during the Open Space Group working lunch April 10.

## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### Sundays

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services**  
8 a.m.-Faith Formation/CCD  
September through May building 1551  
8:45 a.m.-Confessions+  
9 a.m.-Rosary  
9:30 a.m.-Catholic Mass\*  
9:30 a.m.-Children's Liturgy of the Word  
4:15 p.m.-Confessions+  
4 p.m.-Choir Practice  
4:30 p.m.-Rosary  
5 p.m.-Catholic Mass

**Christ Chapel**  
Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast  
8:30 a.m.-West Wing

**Non-denominational:**  
Calvary Chapel-AGC  
9 a.m.-Worship\*  
9 a.m.-Children's Church  
10:30 a.m.-Sunday School\*  
6 p.m.-Youth Group

**Lay-led Gospel Service**  
11:30 a.m.-Worship

Building 1707

**Pastor-led Assemblies of God worship**  
9:30 a.m.-Sunday School  
10:30 a.m.-Worship

**Legend**  
\* Indicates Child Care Provided  
+ Appointments can be for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

### Weekday Events

**Monday-Friday**  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
11:45 a.m.-Catholic Mass (except holidays)

**Tuesday**  
Christ Chapel  
9 a.m.-Christian Women's Fellowship\*  
September though May

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
4-5:30 p.m.-Children's RCIA  
5-8 p.m.-Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday each month)  
6-7:30 p.m.-Baptism Class (First Tuesday each month)

**Wednesday**  
Christ Chapel  
7 p.m.-Lay-led Gospel Bible Study

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
9:30 a.m.-Military Council of Catholic Women\*  
September to May  
6 p.m.-Youth Teen  
7 p.m.-Knights of Columbus (1st Wednesday each month)

**Thursday**  
Christ Chapel  
6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
6-7:30 p.m.-RCIA  
Resumes Sept. 11

C&E Barracks Bldg 1666  
11:30 a.m.-Bible Study  
Chaplain Moran 830-6187

**Friday**  
Christ Chapel  
5 p.m.-Gospel Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
12:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m.-Exposition/  
Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament  
(First Friday each month)

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# MCCES helps clean up 49 Palms Oasis

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Nearly twenty Marines from the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School aboard the Combat Center spent Friday morning

taking care of the 49 Palms Oasis in Joshua Tree National Park. The students volunteered their free time to help preserve the natural landscape for future generations. "Locals come here to party

after hours," said Jana Mills, the Joshua Tree National Park volunteer program facilitator. "They leave all sorts of trash and debris behind." The trash is invasive to the natural environment and harms the wildlife of the

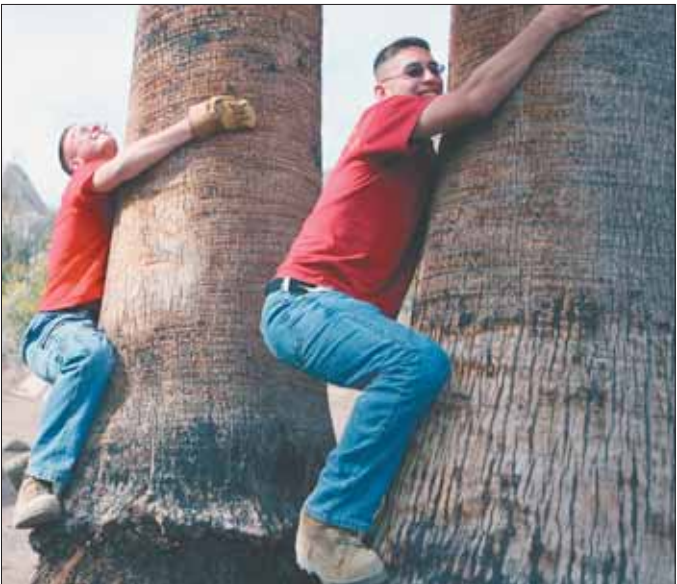
park, she added. The student's volunteered at the perfect time, said Staff Sgt. Joseph Hutchison, an instructor for MCCES. There was an Easter sunrise church service scheduled for Sunday at the oasis and

they helped get the park looking good for it. The students first picked up trash around the parking lot then made the 1 1/2 mile hike to the oasis to remove any debris they could find there and where they discovered a more beautiful part of the desert than they knew existed. "I didn't know the desert could be this cool until I got out here," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Stets, a MCCES student. "I'm glad I got to see what else the desert has to offer besides just sand." There is a totally different

kind of desert in the park than there is on base, said Mills. "There's actually vegetation." The students picked up as much trash as they could find at the oasis and then spent the rest of the time they had exploring the area. "It's really cool back here," Stets said. "Other Marines need to come and see what the park has to offer." The students finished their day with the hike back to the parking lot where they loaded up into their vehicles and headed back to the Combat Center.



Pfc. Johnathon Selby, a Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School student, picks up trash at the 49 Palms Oasis Friday morning.



Lance Cpl. Andrew Stets (right), and a fellow Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School student show that Marines too can be tree-huggers as they clean up the 49 Palms Oasis area Friday.

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**ATLAS SELF STORAGE**



The "early bird" crowd enjoys a meal prepared by Marines and Sodexo employees from the Combat Center's mess halls Saturday at the Little Church of the Desert.

## FEED, from A1

received roars of applause. Leopoldo, who organized the event, said the volunteers are also helping the Twentynine Palms Food Pantry with their canned food drive, which runs throughout the month of April. Sodexo also provided and delivered 50 food trays through the local Meals on Wheels program. "This is a great opportunity to show our partnership with the military and to serve our community," Leopoldo said. "We're out there serving the Marines every day and now we're out there in the community stopping hunger in Twentynine Palms."

Master Sgt. Anthony Butler, the Phelps Hall military mess hall manager and 7th Marine Regiment mess chief, said he was proud to be working with Sodexo and helping the community. "To me, it's an honor to be a part of something this important," Butler said. "To see the impact we have on other people's lives is very rewarding. "No matter where you are or where you go, there are a lot of hungry people out there," he said. "This is a good deed; it really is." Leopoldo said car washes will also be held today behind both mess halls to help raise money to fight hunger. All profits made will go to the Sodexo Foundation. "It feels really good to be able to get out there and help others in need," he said. "I tell all my employees that anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference in their community."

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS																						
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In 1981, a group of Morongo Basin Residents had a dream of building a campus. Three years later with funds raised by volunteers, the dream was realized when the permanent campus opened. In 1999 CMC became an independant community college district. Continuing the dream in 2008 the college broke ground for the new Bell Center. Today CMC continues to grow because of the strong desire for education and the dedication of our community. To our students and the community, thank you for the first 25 years.

## Copper Mountain College cordially invites you to attend our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Join us on April 24th  
10:00 a.m. at the  
Copper Mountain College Campus

In 1981, the Friends of Copper Mountain College (now the CMC Foundation) began to raise money to pay for construction of the first phase of the Copper Mountain Campus, which was at that time part of the College of the Desert. It started with the sale of a quilt and before long, groups such as the local Rotary Clubs came to the rescue with large contributions. Then-President Ronald Reagan was so impressed by this self-help initiative that he awarded the Friends his Volunteer Action Award for 1984.

## CMC Calender of Events

- \* April 23: Earth day Presentation  
Frank Helling, John Muir actor  
Courtyard III, Noon
- \* April 24: Art Seminar  
Man Ray- Lee Miller  
Before and After  
Bruce Miller  
Room 129, 7:00 p.m.
- \* April 24: Anniversary Celebration.  
Celebrating 25 Years  
Phase I, 10:00 a.m.
- \* May 1: *Howl* Reading  
Location TBA 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
- \* May 11: CMC Registration  
Summer Registration Begins
- \* May 22: College Graduation  
6:45 p.m. CMC Campus
- \* June 15:  
CMC Summer Session Begins

Copper Mountain College- 6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree, CA 92252  
Foundation: 760-366-3791 ex. 4200 College: 760-366-3791



# Chaplains, cookies bring smiles on Easter Sunday

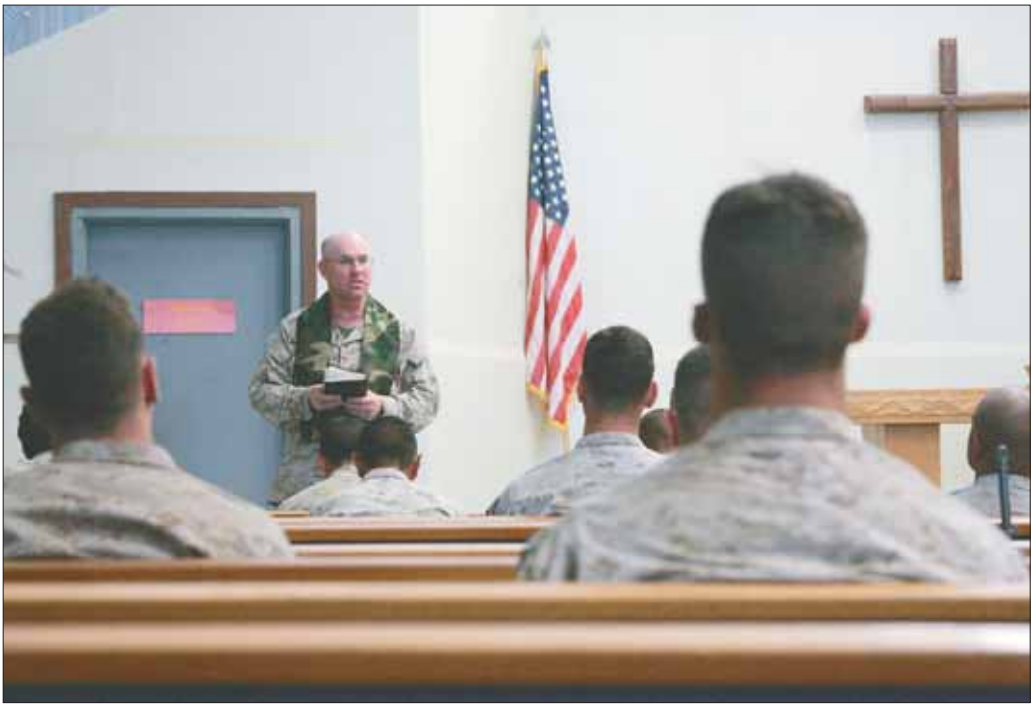
**LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors going through Mojave Viper pre-deployment training, despite their busy schedules, took time to pause and worship in recognition of Easter Sunday. Elements of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., were given the opportunity to attend religious services while in the field on what is considered one of the most holy days in both Catholic and Protestant faiths. The battalion chaplain of 2/3, Lt. Randal K. Potter, and Navy Capt. Conrad Targonski, the Combat Center's religious ministries director, traveled to six locations throughout the base's training areas to provide the services.

"As chaplains, it is our duty to provide free exercise of religion for every Marine and sailor," Potter said. "When you go into theater, a Marine is a Marine. It doesn't matter if it's one of your Marines or someone else's." The pair also came bearing gifts – nearly 3,500 cookies baked by sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students at St. Theresa School in Palm Springs, Calif. In the past, the school has donated care packages to units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, but decided to show their thanks to Marines in training as well, said Linda Patton-Hyatt, a teacher at St. Theresa School. "The students and clergy here wanted the Marines preparing for Afghanistan to have a nice treat on Easter," Patton-Hyatt said. The day began when the two chaplains and their escorts departed Camp Wilson for the Emerson Lake

training area to deliver cookies to a company of Marines from 2/4 and provide quick religious services to those who requested them. They then headed back to Camp Wilson to provide Easter services at the chapel. Nearly 100 Marines and sailors came from a variety of units to attend. After a quick lunch, the duo traveled to three forward operating bases surrounding the Combat Center's Range 215 to preach the word of God to numerous Marines and sailors. At the Combat Center's Range 400, Marines and sailors from 2/4 also welcomed the chaplains, who left the encampment knowing they had helped more service members worship on Easter Sunday. Darkness began to fall as the group reached FOB 2 at Range 215. However, low light did not prevent the



Lt. Randal K. Potter, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's battalion chaplain, preaches an Easter sermon at the Camp Wilson chapel Sunday.

chaplains from holding their final services for the day. Potter and Targonski diligently held their services in the glow of flashlights and vehicle headlights, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to take in an Easter sermon. Despite a long and exhausting day, the chaplains were in high spirits and were proud of their accomplishments. "This is what I've been See EASTER, A8

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### TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM by Lou Gerhardt

Baseball season has begun and here are my carefully calculated predictions for the 2009 season. The Dodgers will win their division after a good struggle with the Padres. The Giants will finish dead last. The Angels will win their division without difficulty. I suggest you cut this out of the paper and show it to me in October.

I am reminded of the Tampa, Fla. father who got home just in time to see his son out in their yard with a bat and ball.

"Hey, Dad, watch!" was the boy's eager cry.

He threw a ball into the air. There was a terrific swing and a miss.

"Wait Dad, watch this one," cried the boy, again throwing the ball up. For the second time, he swung and scored a clean miss.

"Here's the one, Dad," he called out. Again he threw the ball up and missed.

"Three strikes and out!" he shouted happily. "Gee, Dad, ain't I a great pitcher?"

It is a delightful story, isn't it? And now I'll tell you why we like stories about little children so much. It is because of the little child who still resides within us and who empathizes with little children everywhere.

That's right, dear reader, there is a little child within you and if you are wise you will heed the child.

A tough minded optimist does not ignore nor neglect his or her inner child. To the contrary C.J. Yung wrote that mature adults embrace and thoroughly enjoy the life-renewing child that dwells within them.

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**TANKS, from A1**

terrain, and do it all in a timely manner.

“When you lead with steel, you give infantry guys the ability to take a minimal amount of injuries,” Baker said. “We give max fire power with minimal people.”

Lance Cpl. Christian

Reyes, a gunner with first platoon, said he has undergone this training at least three times, but still learns something new each time.

Aside from learning how to navigate in platoon fashion, tankers also learn safe traveling speed in specific terrain, which formations to use when engaging targets and how to

work together as a unit.

“When we’re doing these exercises, we learn how to carry on the mission together, even if things go wrong,” said Reyes.

Cpl. Samuel S. Suddarth, a tank loader with first platoon, agreed.

“No matter how many times we do this, we always learn from it,” said Suddarth, a Rockford, Ill., native. “Everyone has to keep their eyes open. For example, the

gunners need to make sure they’re paying attention so the gun doesn’t get buried in the sand while we’re moving.”

The tanks use High Explosive Anti-Tanks Warheads, or HEAT rounds, and Projectile Sabot Rounds during this type of training, Suddarth said.

The Sabot round is a 120mm kinetic-energy round that penetrates armored targets, Suddarth explained. It is

an inert projectile, whereas HEAT rounds detonate upon impact.

Tanks also use two M240 machine guns, a manned .50-caliber machine gun, and day and night time optics for target engagement, Reyes said.

This exercise, like other training tables, is graded by the unit’s command at the battalion level, said Staff Sgt. Christopher Reely, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon.

“At the end of the exercise, we’re graded on what we did well and what we need to work on,” Reely said.

The continuation of these training evolutions helps to assure each company and individual tanker is ready to take on the duties of deployment missions, Reely said.

The battalion expects to continue its training with a similar live-fire and maneuvering exercise this June.

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**EASTER, from A1**

called to do,” Potter said. “It’s been an overwhelming experience, and it’s very rewarding to serve these Marines by doing what I was always meant to do.

“I’ve also delivered cookies to every Marine in my unit,” Potter added with a smile. “It makes you feel special to know these people care about your service to your country and this is their way of giving back.”

Potter and the rest of 2/3 recently completed Mojave Viper training and are set to deploy to Afghanistan in the coming weeks. The Marines and sailors of 2/4 are currently going through the training and will deploy to Afghanistan later this year.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Capt. Conrad Targonski, the Combat Center’s religious ministries director, holds an Easter Mass at the Camp Wilson chapel Sunday.

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## This one's for all the marbles

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

With the title on the line, Ole School Plus and the undefeated MCCES All-Stars took to the courts April 9 at the East Gym.

The teams competed all season in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League and after a three-day tournament, it came down to the wire for the two teams.

Since Ole School Plus was in the loser's bracket, they had to beat MCCES All-Stars twice to win the title.

The game started as the referee threw the jump ball and Ole School Plus won the battle, scoring the first basket. The MCCES All-Stars quickly answered, however, with two points of their own.

The two teams battled hard, keeping the score within two points of each other for most of the first half as sweat started dripping from their faces.

Fourteen minutes in to the first half, Charles Jefferson, with Ole School Plus, swiped the ball from the All-Stars and drove down court to upset the cycle of scoring that both teams had fallen into and breaking the 16-point tie.

As the seconds slipped from the clock, Ole School Plus continued to out play the MCCES All-Stars and at halftime they were leading 29-25.

At the start of the second half, James Stanley and Dewitte Mandley, with Ole School Plus, continued to effectively move the ball down court and consistently score points.

This game seemed to be one sided, but out of nowhere MCCES All-Stars drove hard to the net and slammed the ball in for two points.

That was what they needed and the crowd went wild, screaming the loudest they had all night.

With the momentum turned, the All-Stars rallied a comeback and brought the score to 57-55, Ole School Plus with the lead.

A player on the MCCES All-Stars was given the chance to tie the score as he was fouled attempting a lay up.

The crowd stomped their feet, clapped their hands and cheered him on as he made both free throws to tie the score.

But even with one comeback under their belts, MCCES All-Stars could not stop Ole School plus who took the first game 64-59.

As the game came to a close, Skip Best, the athletic director with the



**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
Tracy Mabine, named most valuable player on Ole School Plus, flies past the defense scoring two of his many points during their game against the MCCES All-Stars April 9 at the East Gym. Ole School Plus won 73-61.

See BASKETBALL, B3



**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
Gary Elbrecht, a player with the Red Rockets, slides into home plate during the first round of the pre-season tournament for the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League at the Combat Center's Felix field Tuesday.

## Intramural Softball starts pre-season tournament

**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Combat Center's Intramural Softball League began play for its 2009 season with a pre-season tournament Tuesday through Thursday night at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

Regular season play will begin next week, with games being held Mondays through Wednesdays, said George Schadeegg, a sports specialist with Marine Corps Community Services and a native of St. Paul, Minn.

"Games start at 5:30 p.m. for the tournament and for regular season," Schadeegg

said. "After the tournament the regular season will go every week."

Not all of the teams in the league are going to be in the tournament, Schadeegg said.

"Most of the teams are in the tournament, but for different reasons, not all of the 22 are going to be here for pre-season," he said.

Players, who have been playing here for a long time were eager to get back into the swing of their favorite sport.

"I'm very excited, it's been a while since the last season," said Walt Circles, the pitcher for the Hooligans and a native of Anadarko, Okla.

Circles said he has been playing softball here for more than a decade.

"I've been playing softball here since 1996," he said. "I've moved around to a lot of teams and I keep coming back."

Circles described his passion about the sport.

"It's a lot of fun to play with friends from work," he said after a violent collision at home plate. "It's just a little blood, nothing I haven't done before."

The league's regular play is scheduled to end in July at a date still to be determined, the next step after that will be the championship tournament held here at the Combat Center.

## Aaron's exploits; more rubble than ghosts

**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

This week Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate, and a native of New Britain, Conn., took a break from his recent long journeys to make a short pilgrimage to a more local spot, Old Dale, a ghost town within an hour from the Combat Center.

Kristopik said he's always been infatuated with the Old West, especially the Gold Rush era.

"The Gold Rush is one of those things that really show you what American's have always thought about," he said. "Living the American dream is what brought people here. Places like this are what make this country great. Just people trying to get a better life."

Kristopik said he also wanted to travel to the ghost town to satisfy his urge to experience the paranormal.

"Ghost town, ghosts, abandoned places in the desert-sounds like a place that's going to be haunted," he said before the trip. "I want to find out if this is a ghost town, or if everyone really just packed up and split."

The long trip brought Kristopik to the edge of Riverside, Calif., realizing he was lost, he pulled over onto the side of the road and got his bearing back.

Disappointment settled in after Kristopik realized he was lost, and ended up, oddly

enough on another two-hour drive just to find the town.

"I know I said it, everything is at least two hours," he said. "It's supposed to be less than an hour away, but I'll admit, I got really lost."

When Kristopik finally arrived at the site, he found much less than he expected.

"There was more trash than artifacts," he said. "I expected ghosts, maybe even some gold-panning stuff or some pick axes."

The two rotting, crumbling structures of the town

were the only thing other than shot up metal, shotgun shells and trash lying around.

"From what I read about this place, compared to what it is, it was kind of a bust coming here," he said. "I wouldn't really recommend people coming here. I wondered why I never heard about anyone visiting this 'tourist attraction,' now I know why. There were more beer cans here than bricks."

Kristopik said the history

See EXPLOITS, B2



**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate, and a native of New Britain, Conn., walks through the ghost town known as Old Dale, Calif.





<b>FRI. 4/17</b> <b>India Arie &amp; Musiq Soulchild</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <a href="http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com">http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</a>	<b>SAT. 4/18</b> <b>Documentary film "Pappy Boyington Field"</b> Time: 3 p.m. Where: The Regal Cinemas Riverside Stadium 16 in Riverside (about 90 miles from Twentynine Palms, west towards Los Angeles).	<b>SAT. 4/18</b> <b>Ramon Ayala in concert</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinoresort.com">http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</a>	<b>SAT. 4/18</b> <b>Earth Day Fair 2009</b> Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center Complex 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211	<b>SAT. 4/18</b> <b>Little Petroglyph Canyon Tours</b> Time: All day event Where: Maturango Museum 100 East Las Flores Ave. Ridgecrest. Museum hours are from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m. every day except major holidays. e-mail: <a href="mailto:matmus3@maturango.org">matmus3@maturango.org</a>
<b>THURS. 4/23</b> <b>Songwriting Poetry &amp; Rhythm Club</b> Time: 7 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co. 55844 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley. West end of Yucca Valley, corner of 29 Palms Hwy. and Pioneertown Road. 760-365-7771	<b>SAT. 4/25</b> <b>UB40</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit <a href="http://www.morongocasinoresort.com">http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</a>	<b>TUES. 4/28</b> <b>Ruby Tuesday Open Mic Night</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Saloon 61835 29 Palms Highway Joshua Tree CA 92252 US For more info call 366-2250	<b>FRI. 5/15</b> <b>The comedy of Lisa Lampanelli</b> Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Dr. Rancho Mirage For more info call (888) 999-1995	<b>SAT. 5/23</b> <b>Allman Brothers Band &amp; Doobie Brothers</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <a href="http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com">http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</a>

# 'Adventureland' rich with textures of the '80s

NEIL POND  
AMERICAN PROFILE

**Adventureland**, Rated R  
Starring Jesse Eisenberg & Kristen Stewart

Although its setting is an amusement park in the 1980s, "Adventureland" is about a much more universal, timeless theme—growing up. When brainy James Brennan (James Eisenberg) graduates from college in 1987, the sunny optimism of President Reagan's promise of "morning in America" is somewhat lost on him. Forced to cancel plans for a summer-fun trek across Europe by a change

in his family's finances, he takes a job at the shabby local theme park to raise money for journalism school in the fall. Working at Adventureland, he meets an assortment of fellow summer-job misfits, most of them, like James, only marking time until the next phase of their lives kicks in. Among his new friends is the secretive Em (Kristen Stewart), who's attracted to James but conflicted—and shamed—by the affair she's having with the park's married maintenance man (Ryan Reynolds), a cad with a tool belt and tales of once playing guitar with Lou Reed. Stewart, fresh from the suc-

cess of last year's teen-vampire hit *Twilight*, gives Em (short for Emily) a bruised coolness that hides the turbulence beneath its pale surface. As James, Eisenberg coasts along smoothly with an endearingly awkward, fidgety charm. "Saturday Night Live" cast members John Hader and Kristen Wiig provide comic relief as the square married couple that owns the park. The movie is based on the actual experiences of writer-director Greg Mottola, who logged his own time at an amusement-park job in the '80s before Hollywood came calling. That note of authenticity resonates throughout "Adventureland," rich with the textures of its characters, its setting and its time. The soundtrack of classic '80s tunes is a particular standout, especially when the right song is married to the right moment—like a sky full of fireworks exploding, elegantly, to the Crowded House ballad "Don't Dream It's Over," or James wishing he had an ice



COURTESY PHOTO

Adventureland, starring Jesse Eisenberg & Kristen Stewart, isn't just a teen-sex film. It's a sensitive portrait of living on the edge between youth and adulthood.

pick to jam into his ears as "Rock Me Amadeus" blares endlessly from the ride next to his ring-toss booth. Even though it's rated R for its depictions of drug use (James and his friends find communion in the soft haze of pot smoke) and amorous encounters, this isn't just

another randy teen-sex romp. It's smarter than that, sweeter than that, and more sensitive to how its characters would really think, act and feel as they experience the exhilaration of living on the edge between youth and adulthood. And the messages "Adventureland" sends—

about silver linings in lousy jobs, the collision of hormones and heartstrings, and the adventure of discovering who you really are and what you really want—ring honest and true, for any era. So buy a ticket, take the ride—and remember when you were young

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EXPLOITS, from B1

of the town, and its location is why it may have been forgotten so easily. "We all know it's a pretty isolated community out here," he said. "The Gold Rush was short, so this spot was short lived too." Feeling dismayed and bewildered, he took what he could from his expedition. "I'm not going to call it quits on the local area," he said. "This just goes to show that some things don't get a lot of recognition for a reason." With Kristopik's journey through the desert finished, he said he plans to get away from civilization for his next weekend and live off the land. "It's so easy a caveman can do it," he said. "Pioneers did it, people long before me have lived off the land and I'm going to get back to my roots."

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik looks at rubble from the former mining town, Old Dale, Calif.



# Eight Marines prove they have talent

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Combat Center's Sunset Cinema was host to the many talents of eight service members Saturday night. The contestants sang, joked and rapped their way through the night as they wooed the judges in attempts to win the first

place prize, a 500 dollar gift card to the Marine Corps Exchange, in the second annual Marines Got Talent Competition. The talent started flowing across the stage from the start as Andrew Bush and Victor Diaz, both from the Combat Center Band, poured their souls out with their rendition of Bob

Marley's song, "One Love." As the show progressed, patrons were treated to one contestant's version of "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy," and another's beatbox compilation of many popular songs.

Christine Anslow, the fourth contestant of the night, was introduced by LaVonne Lessard, the Single Marine Program coordinator, as a small girl with a huge voice. She didn't disappoint, singing Evanescence's hit, "My Immortal" and getting the crowd to light their lighters and hold up their cell phones while swaying to the music.

The night wouldn't be complete without a comedian and Trey Elmore was just that man. His act had audience members laughing the whole way through.

Next were PJ Lykes, Justin Chatters and Lowell Dozier with a mix of singing talent and an ability to make the audience laugh as they fought over who was the lead singer.

There was no doubt who the lead singer was as Steven Jackson slammed out a rap the he wrote himself with Ronnell Scott backing him up. The rap, "That's What We be Yellin'," showed the two Marine Corps Communications-

Electronics School students' motivation and love for the Marine Corps. As the competition wound to a close, the judges had a tough decision ahead of them—which contestant, or contestants, would walk away with the 500 dollar gift card to the PX?

They decided shortly after the last contestant took the stage that the two rappers, Steven Jackson and Ronnell Scott took the top prize.

The second place prize, a 250 dollar gift card to the PX, went to Christine Anslow for her performance of "My Immortal."

Third place and a 100 dollar gift card went to Justin Chatters, Lowell Dozier and PJ Lykes for their humorous singing act.

There were a lot of good, talented individuals to come out and perform. It was a fun night and it seemed everyone enjoyed it, Lessard said.

"I loved getting out on stage and getting a chance to perform," said Jackson, who released three successful underground records before he joined the Marine Corps. "It was the first time I got to do something fun that I wanted to do since I've been out here."

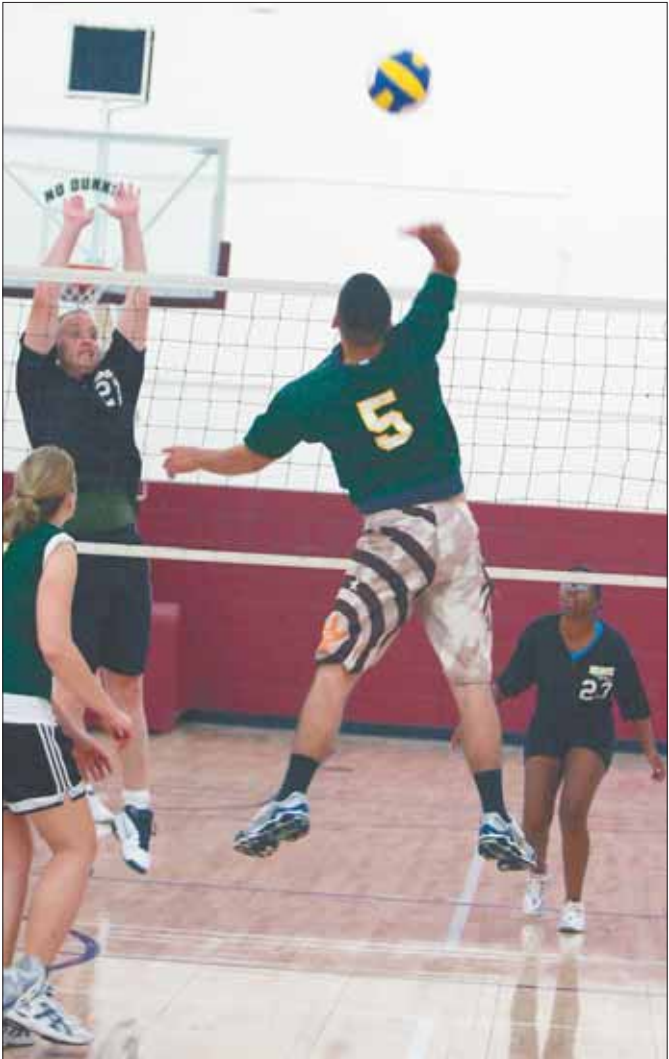
The SMP plans to hold another Marines Got Talent competition next year.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Andrew Bush, the first contestant, starts the show off with style as he and his partner played Bob Marley's "One Love" at the Sunset Cinema Saturday night.

Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League					
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Hospital 1	2	2	HQBN 1	defeats	Hospital 2
HQBN 2	2	3			
Hospital 2	0	4			



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Chris Apodaca of MCCES spikes the ball in the first half of their game against HQBN 1 at the West Gym Wednesday.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Tracy Mabine, named most valuable player on Ole School Plus, jumps to stifle a drive by the MCCES All-stars. Ole School Plus won the final game with a score of 73-61.

## BASKETBALL, from B1

Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Service, announced to the crowd, "MCCES All-Stars are no longer undefeated."

While waiting for the next game to start, James Stanley, the coach and shooting guard for Ole School Plus, pumped his team up, saying, "We started slow this season, but we came together as a team. That team effort is what got us here today. Stay smart out there and everything's going to go as it should go."

Already exhausted the teams jumped to get the jump ball, and MCCES All-Stars came out on top.

Elvis Tate, with Ole School Plus, broke the dominant hold the All-Stars held on the first half with a nice three-point shot at the buzzer to end of the first half with Ole School Plus in the lead, 35-30.

Both teams came out strong in the second half, sprinting their way across the court and easily scoring.

Ole School Plus must have come with just a little more heart though, as they out-sprinted, out-passed and out-scored the MCCES All-Stars throughout the second half.

As the game came to a close, Stanley led Ole School Plus on a charge to show the opposition what they could do, scoring one lay up with a minute to go.

He didn't stop there, however, and quickly got the ball back and charged down the court for yet another two-point shot.

This final charge helped lead Ole School plus to win the game and the championship with a score of 73-61.

Trey Mabine was named Most Valuable Player by the winning team and said, "We played good, came together as a team and even though the MCCES All-Stars are a good team, we had the heart and drive to win it."

Ole School Plus came with a lot of heart, said Samuel L. White, the coach for MCCES All-Stars. The All-Stars just thought they could come back any time which killed them.

"We performed well, it feels great," Stanley said after the game. "We played good team ball and that's what wins—playing as a team."

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