

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MAY 1, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 17

Swine flu; information for concerned parents and caregivers

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

What is H1N1?

H1N1, or swine flu, is a type of influenza virus that causes respiratory disease that can spread between people. Most people infected with this virus in the United States have had mild disease, but some have had more severe illness, and there has been at least one death. Young children, pregnant women, and people with chronic diseases like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease may be at higher risk for complications from this infection. More information about who may be at higher risk will be available when more is known about the disease. There are steps you can take to protect your family and to know when to seek medical care.

What are the symptoms?

In most children, the symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the symptoms of regular flu. They include: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, and occasionally vomiting and diarrhea.

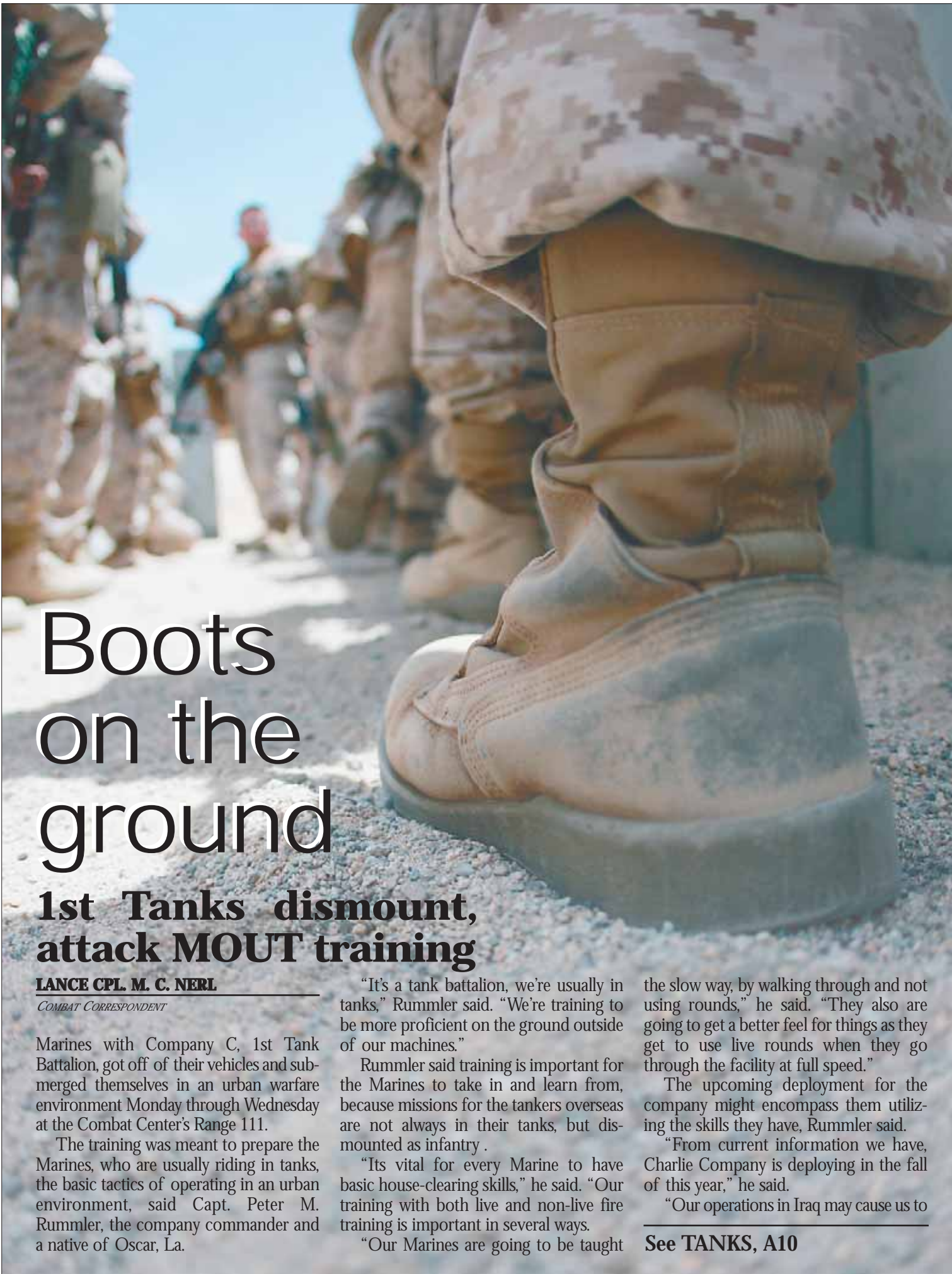
Young children may not have typical symptoms, but may have difficulty breathing and low activity. Little is known about how H1N1 may affect children. However, the CDC believes the infection may be similar to other flu infections. Typically, flu infections cause mild disease in children, but children under five years old are more likely to have serious illness than older children. Flu infections tend to be more severe in children with chronic medical conditions.

How to keep from getting it:

Flu viruses spread from person to person mainly through the coughing or sneezing of a sick person. Flu virus may also be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with the virus and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth. The CDC believes H1N1 spreads the same way as other flu viruses. Right now, there is no vaccine to protect against H1N1, but there are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like H1N1:

- Teach your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cough and sneeze into a tissue or into the inside of their elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least six feet away from people who are sick.
- Children who are sick should stay home from school and daycare and stay away from other people until they are better.
- In communities where H1N1 has occurred, stay away from shopping malls, movie theaters, or other places where there are large

See FLU, A3



Boots on the ground

1st Tanks dismount, attack MOUT training

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, got off of their vehicles and submerged themselves in an urban warfare environment Monday through Wednesday at the Combat Center's Range 111.

The training was meant to prepare the Marines, who are usually riding in tanks, the basic tactics of operating in an urban environment, said Capt. Peter M. Rummler, the company commander and a native of Oscar, La.

"It's a tank battalion, we're usually in tanks," Rummler said. "We're training to be more proficient on the ground outside of our machines."

Rummler said training is important for the Marines to take in and learn from, because missions for the tankers overseas are not always in their tanks, but dismounted as infantry.

"It's vital for every Marine to have basic house-clearing skills," he said. "Our training with both live and non-live fire training is important in several ways."

"Our Marines are going to be taught

the slow way, by walking through and not using rounds," he said. "They also are going to get a better feel for things as they get to use live rounds when they go through the facility at full speed."

The upcoming deployment for the company might encompass them utilizing the skills they have, Rummler said.

"From current information we have, Charlie Company is deploying in the fall of this year," he said.

"Our operations in Iraq may cause us to

See TANKS, A10

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Marines of Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, dismounted their tanks at the Combat Center's Range 111 Monday and Tuesday to conduct urban warfare training as part of their pre-deployment training process.

Combat Center graced by 'The President's Own'



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpl. Daniel Phillips, a trumpeter with the Combat Center Band makes his trumpet sing during the Coats of Red and Blue 2 concert at the Sunset Cinema Sunday.

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With help from eight members of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band filled the Sunset Cinema with brilliant music during the Coats of Red and Blue 2 concert Sunday evening.

The members of "The President's Own" came to the Combat Center April 21 and shared their musical skills with the Combat Center band throughout the week in preparation for Sunday's performance.

"The President's Own" is the oldest professional musical organization, established by Congress in 1798, and therefore brings a great deal

of knowledge and history to the table whenever they perform, said Sgt. Steven A. Hofmann, a percussionist with the Combat Center Band and Dallas native.

To be selected for "The President's Own," the only band tasked with performing for the president and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, one has to be the cream of the crop in the music world, he said. The eight musicians who came to the Combat Center have, combined, more than 200 years of musical experience and bring a wealth of knowledge to share with members of the Combat Center Band.

At the start of the performance, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen B. Giove, the Combat Center Band's conductor and Hollywood,

Fla., promised the crowd an entertaining show featuring music the audience might not expect from a military band.

In commemoration of William Shakespeare's baptism date, the band began their performance with Reed's "Othello," a musical rendition of Shakespeare's tragedy.

Next, the band changed tempo and moved to a jazz song, featuring a solo by Combat Center clarinetist Cpl. Patricia A. Newby, a Miami native.

As promised, the band then played some rather unconventional music, venturing into songs from the classic "Looney Tunes" cartoon.

The band didn't stop there; they then played music

See BAND, A10



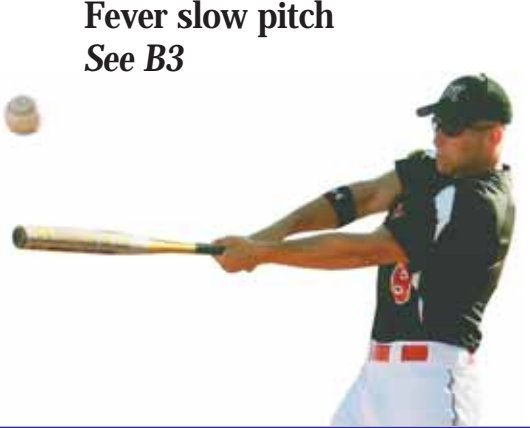
Correcting sight picture
See A3



See you 'Lei'-ter Twentynine Palms ~ See A3



Better to burn out then fade away ~ See B1



Fever slow pitch
See B3


BUS SCHEDULE			
Morning Route	1st Run	2nd Run	
Two Mile Rd. - Two Mile Rd.	5:15 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	
Two Mile Rd. - Desert Knoll Ave.	5:17 a.m.	6:32 a.m.	
Desert Knoll Ave. - Joe Davis Dr.	5:20 a.m.	6:35 a.m.	
Joe Davis Dr. - Luckie Ave.	5:25 a.m.	6:40 a.m.	
Condor Rd. - Argos Rd.	5:30 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	
Condor Rd. - Rainbow Canyon	5:32 a.m.	6:47 a.m.	
Condor Rd. - Saddleback	5:35 a.m.	6:50 a.m.	
Agate Rd. - Desert Ave.	5:38 a.m.	6:53 a.m.	
Plant St. - Cactus Dr.	5:40 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	
De Valle - 3rd St.	5:45 a.m.	7 a.m.	
De Valle - 12th St.	5:50 a.m.	7:05 a.m.	
De Valle - 11th St.	5:55 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	
Griffin Rd. - 10th St.	6 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 7th St.	6:05 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 5th St.	6:07 a.m.	7:22 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 3rd St.	6:08 a.m.	7:23 a.m.	
Brown Rd. - 1st St.	6:10 a.m.	7:25 a.m.	
Afternoon Route	1st Run	2nd Run	3rd Run
De Valle - 3rd St.	3:15 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
De Valle - 12th St.	3:17 p.m.	4:32 p.m.	5:47 p.m.
De Valle - 11th St.	3:20 p.m.	4:35 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
Griffin Rd. - 10th St.	3:25 p.m.	4:40 p.m.	5:55 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 7th St.	3:30 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	6 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 5th St.	3:32 p.m.	4:47 p.m.	6:02 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 3rd St.	3:35 p.m.	4:50 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 1st St.	3:38 p.m.	4:53 p.m.	6:08 p.m.
Two Mile Rd. - Two Mile Rd.	3:40 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Two Mile - Desert Knoll Ave.	3:45 p.m.	5 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
Desert Knoll - Joe Davis Dr.	3:50 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
Joe Davis Dr. - Luckie Ave.	3:55 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	6:25 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Argos Rd.	4 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Rainbow Cny.	4:05 p.m.	5:20 p.m.	6:35 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Saddleback	4:07 p.m.	5:22 p.m.	6:37 p.m.
Agate Rd. - Desert Ave.	4:08 p.m.	5:23 p.m.	6:38 p.m.
Plant St. - Cactus Dr.	4:10 p.m.	5:25 p.m.	6:40 p.m.

ACTIVE DUTY SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

TIRED OF TRYING TO FIND PARKING ON BASE?

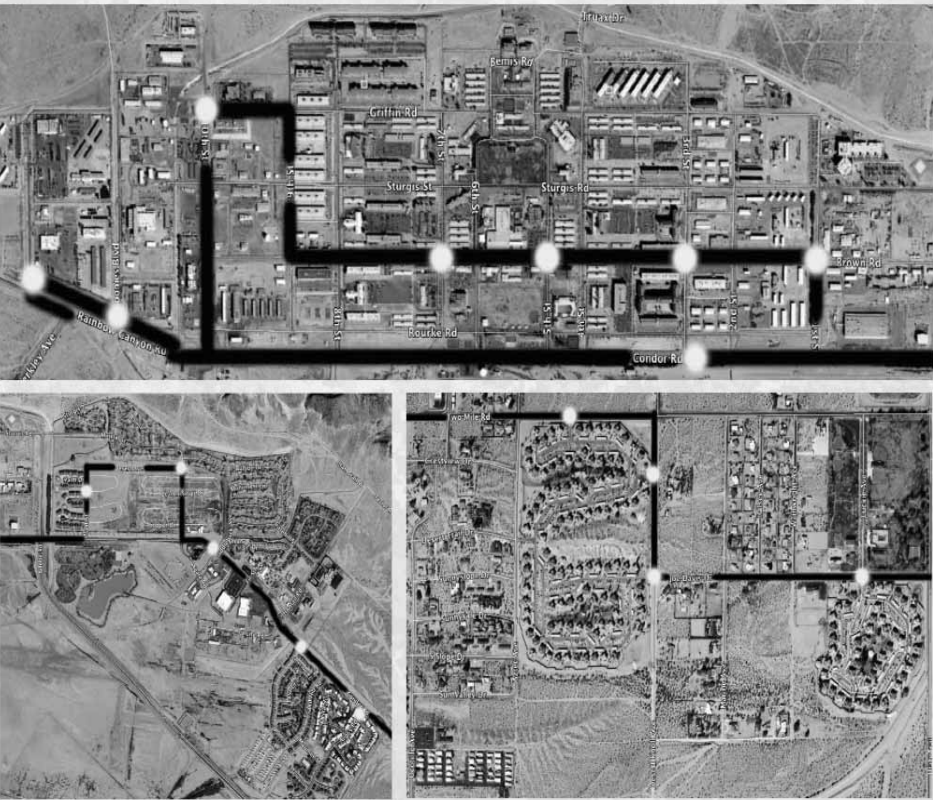
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TREBLEMAKERS

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61						62				63	64			65
66										67				
68				69						70				

American Profile Hometown Content 04/26/2009

ACROSS

1. Drags one's feet
7. Study all night
11.Profs' aides
14.Biblical plague insect
15.Gives a new look to
17.Sketcher's eraser
18.Average Joe
19.Railroad cross beam
20.Fuse unit
22.Flows slowly
23.“Peanuts” epithet
26.__ out (just manage)
28.Pundit Coulter
29.Gives a thumbs-up to
30.About 1/28 ounce
34.Brake features
36.Some English collegians
37.“Do a Good Turn Daily” group
40.Remove via wagon, maybe
43.The Beatles’ “Any Time __”
47.Chewy Italian candy

DOWN

48.Architect I.M. __
50.Long or Peeples
51.California's Big __
52.Dines at noon
55.Zesty dip
59.Fond du __, Wisc.
60.Jeans brand
61.Aesthetic pursuits
63.Take back, as one's story
66.Unlikely protagonist
67.End of a bully's threat
68.Classic British two-seaters
69.Remained
70.Go down hill, so to speak

ACROSS

32.Involve by necessity
33.Main point
35.Radioer on the road
36.Outer: Prefix
38.Hither's partner
39.Dragged to court
40.Oz. and kg
41.Part of HUD
42.Adventurous rovers
44.Toughens, as metal
45.Driver's need
46.“Well, __-di-dah!”
48.Prankster's spheroid
49.Money set aside
53.Former “The Price Is Right” announcer Johnny
54.Gastric woe
56.Hawaiian keepsake
57.Satirical Mort
58.Land measure
61.Relatives: Abbr.
62.Prefix with angle or pod
64.Suffix with ranch
65.Letterman list count

[puzzle Solutions on A5]

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Msgt. Fernando Ramirez
Job Title: Instructor Group Chief
Unit: Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group.
Duties: Faculty advisor for the tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force course, writing curriculum and working with the academics instructor course.
What do you like most about your job?: Going out to assist units with their three-four day excersises.
Hobbies: Smoking cigars and drinking scotch.
Military Service: 22 years in the Marine Corps.
Time at Combat Center: four years

Hot Topics

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.

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.

This Day in Marine Corps History

May 1, 1992

Brig. Gen. Marvin Hopgood Jr. led 1,500 Marines from Marine Corps Camp Pendleton, Calif. to help quell the Los Angeles riots.

SUDOKU #11

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

Centerspeak

What is your favorite breakfast food and why?

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



LANCE CPL. RONALD CASTILLO
SEPARATIONS CLERK, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

“H mm ... I like a big stack of fluffy pancakes with melted butter – because they're fantastic.”



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS BENJAMIN SWAIN
HOSPITAL NURSE, 3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I like eggs sunny-side-up and French toast, because they taste delicious.”



2ND LT. ANDREW REAVES
S4 ALPHA, 3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

“My favorite is breakfast burritos, because you can put so much in them and they still taste good.”

Marines ‘set sights’ on marksmanship skills

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines are currently par-taking in the most recent Combat Marksmanship Coaches course at the Marksmanship Training Unit rifle range that started April 20 and is scheduled to end May 8.

The students in the course undergo a 14-day training package designed to enhance their knowledge of basic Marine Corps marksmanship.

In the classroom, Marines polished up on topics such as the effects of weather and wind on a shooter, getting into a combat mind set, ballistics and more.

“Coaches help CMTs [Combat Marksmanship Trainers] analyze, critique and evaluate all aspects of marksmanship,” said Sgt. Peter E. Cornelius, the chief instructor of the course.

Cornelius said the course begins with teaching students how to give preparatory training classes. It then escalates to teaching students more details on basic pistol and rifle marksmanship, and then combat rifle marksmanship.

“There is a lot more to



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Scott Riley, a student in the most recent Combat Marksmanship Coaches course, prepares to take a well-aimed shot at the Marksmanship Training Unit rifle range Monday.

critique than what you originally think of when you first get here,” said Cpl. Grady Harmon, a student in the

course. “Anyone who hasn’t been to this course can come here and really improve their shooting.”

Staff Sgt. David W. Feltgen, a mess hall liaison from Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training

Center Bridgeport, Calif., was also a first-time student in the course. Prior to the course, Feltgen said he had not had

an opportunity to qualify with a pistol and was glad

See SIGHTS, A7



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Base bids “aloha” to security manager

Linda Barnes, the G-1 assistant chief of staff, presents Bruce Dewald, the former Combat Center security manager, with a retirement flag yesterday at the Desert Winds Golf Course eatery, Duffer’s Retreat. The flag, along with many other gifts and awards, were given to Dewald for his retirement after more than 50 years of federal service.

Dewald, a 30-year Navy veteran, has been the base security manager since 2000. Since he began here, he has implemented numerous personnel security plans for the installation, including Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force Training Command.

“[Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center] Twentynine Palms has been my longest association with the Marine Corps and the best, so thank you for that,” Dewald said to the ceremony attendees. “It’s been a long, exceptional time. Thank you for everything. Aloha!”

FLU, from A1

groups of people.

What to do if your child is sick:

- Unless they need medical attention, keep children who are sick at home. Don’t send them to school or daycare.
- Have them drink a lot of liquid (juice, water, Pedialyte).
- Rest is important. Keep the sick child comfortable.
- For fever, sore throat, and muscle aches, you can use fever-reducing medicines your doctor recommends based on your child’s age. Do not use aspirin with children or teenagers; it can cause Reye’s syndrome, a life-threatening illness.
- If someone in your home is sick, keep him or her away from those who are not sick.
- Keep tissues close to the sick person and have a trash bag for disposing used tissues.

If your child comes in contact with someone with H1N1, ask your doctor if he or she should receive antiviral

medicines to prevent getting sick from H1N1.

If your child experiences any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting

- Being so irritable that he or she does not want to be held
- Not urinating or no tears when crying
- Their symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

For more information call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636), or go to <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>

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New program aims to educate about domestic abuse

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Family Advocacy Program office plans on initiating a new program intended to educate Combat Center personnel on domestic violence awareness in June.

The new program, called Violence Prevention Awareness Training, is not a program aimed at assisting victims of domestic violence, but rather designed to educate service and family members on which behaviors are considered domestic violence.

“We needed something that was available for those who desired to get education on domestic violence,” said Peter Morris, the Family Advocacy Program branch manager. “Think of this as Domestic Violence 101.”

Domestic violence is described as any behavior where one person imposes their will on a family member, Morris said.

Demi Dimmae, a family advocacy prevention education specialist, agreed and said the average person usually considers only physical harm and battery as domestic violence.

“Domestic violence can be verbal or preying on someone’s emotions,” Dimmae said. “There are many aspects of it, but people usually don’t see that. They only think of

the physical part.”

The program, which will offer four closed-session classes twice a month, is a solution-focused course, said Barbara Conlee, a clinical counselor with the Family Advocacy Program.

“We don’t focus on the problem as much as we focus on finding a solution,” Conlee said. “When you are solution-focused, you are building on past successes instead of past problems. We want to come from a positive aspect of education of what domestic violence is and how you can prevent it.”

In the course, participants will learn signs of abusive behavior, types of emotional abuse, how to resolve arguments and keep them under control, anger management techniques, and about resources made available to domestic violence victims.

Attendees of the course will also watch videos, have discussions and activities, and receive a certificate of completion on graduation day.

If you or someone you know has fallen victim to domestic abuse, anonymous tips can be reported to the victim advocate section at 830-4314. To sign up for the course or to learn more about VPAT, call the Family Advocacy Program at 830-6345.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



HALLIE LANE BALASSONE
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Domonic and wife, Caitlin. Born March 24, weighing six pounds and two ounces, and measuring 19.2 inches.
JILLIAN KENNEDY
Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. David M. Bull and wife, Katie. Born March 25, weighing six pounds and five ounces, and measuring 17.4 inches.
KHLOE SARIAH MUNIZ
Daughter of Cpl. Michael A. Muniz and wife, Lori. Born March 25, weighing eight pounds and five ounces, and measuring 19.9 inches.
JACOBIE DALE HARRALL
Son of Staff Sgt. Norman D. Harrall and wife, Courtney. Born March 26, weighing seven pounds and four ounces, and measuring 18.5 inches.
KIARI ODALIS BARRETO
Daughter of Cpl. Julio C. Barreto and wife, Satsuki. Born March 27, weighing five pounds and nine ounces, and measuring 18.6 inches.
KAITLYN ELIZABETH LEWIS
Daughter of Cpl. Bryan Lewis and wife, Diana. Born March 27, weighing seven pounds and two ounces, and measuring 19.1 inches.
JACE ASHTON MICHAEL CASTILLO
Son of Cpl. Justin Castillo and wife, Shanna. Born March 27, weighing six pounds 10.9 ounces, and measuring 18 inches.


AYLA LESLEY RAMIREZ
Daughter of Sgt. Juan Ramirez and wife, Monica. Born March 28, weighing six pounds and eight ounces, and measuring 18 inches.
ABIGAIL WHITNEY
Daughter of Cpl. Adam Austin and wife, Tara. Born March 29, weighing seven pounds nine ounces, and measuring 20 inches.
ISAIAH ENRIQUE ESTRADA
Son of Sgt. Ricardo Estrada and wife, Kayla. Born March 31, weighing seven pounds and 15.6 ounces, and measuring 19.5 inches.
ALIVIA GRACE SCHRAMEL
Daughter of Capt. Ryan Schramel and wife, Emilee. Born April 1, weighing six pounds and 6.5 ounces, and measuring 19.1 inches.
ALEXANDER JOSE VAZQUEZ ROSARIO
Son of Lance Cpl. Francisco J. Vazquez and wife, Giselle I. Vazquez Rosario. Born April 1, weighing seven pounds and 10 ounces, and measuring 19.2 inches.
HAYDEN MICHAEL OLSON
Son of Cpl. Scott T. Olson and wife, Samantha. Born April 4, weighing six pounds and 12 ounces, and measuring 19.2 inches.
SOPHIA CAROLINA LEETE
Daughter of Sgt. Jordan M. Leete and wife, Elena. Born April 4, weighing six pounds and 12 ounces, and measuring 20.1 inches.

LILY RAIN PEPKE
Daughter of Cpl. Randolph Pepke and wife, Jennifer. Born April 6, weighing seven pounds and 11 ounces, and measuring 19 inches.
BRIXTON DINO THOMPSON
Son of Sgt. Colby M. Thompson and wife, Whitney. Born April 7, weighing eight pounds and 15 ounces, and measuring 21 inches.
ELLA MARIE MESSICK
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Christopher Messick and wife, Larissa. Born April 8, weighing seven pounds and 14 ounces, and measuring 20 inches.
AUDREY RACHEL ALLEN
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Melissa Allen and husband, Tim. Born April 10, weighing eight pounds and 10 ounces, measuring 20.7 inches.
CHLOE NICOLE KYLE
Daughter of Cpl. Nathan R. Kyle and wife, Jacquelyn. Born April 11, weighing six pounds 13 ounces, and measuring 18.7 inches.
BRAYDEN ALEXANDER DORFF
Son of Staff Sgt. Daniel Dorff and wife, Jamie. Born April 17, weighing eight pounds and 13 ounces, and measuring 21 inches.
CARTER DEAN BLEDSOE
Son of Staff Sgt. Carl W. Bledsoe and wife, Rachel. Born April 17, weighing five pounds and measuring 18 inches.

JAZMINE ISABELLA ANDERS
Daughter of Cpl. Jeramie Landers and wife, Brittany. Born April 17, weighing seven pounds and one ounce, and measuring 18.5 inches.
ANNABELLA MARIE LYNN HICKEY
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Robert Hickey and wife, Michelle. Born April 17, weighing six pounds and seven ounces, measuring 19.2 inches.
MCKENZEE LYNN FINNEY
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Daniel Finney and wife, Alexandra. Born April 20, weighing eight pounds and 2.9 ounces, and measuring 19.9 inches.
JOSELYN JANE PECKHAM
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Peckham and wife, Tara. Born April 20, weighing eight pounds and nine ounces, and measuring 20.6 inches.
ALEXIS MARIE RODRIQUEZ
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Andrew Rodriquez and wife, Mindy. Born April 20, weighing six pounds and seven ounces, measuring 18 inches.



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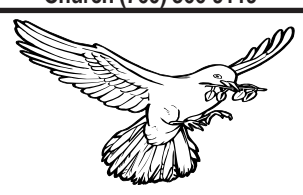
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Recognition week honors 2008 volunteers

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center volunteers were honored for their support during the 36th annual National Volunteer Recognition Week in a ceremony at the Combat Center Community Center April 23.

The Combat Center has honored volunteers this way for 11 years, said Perry L. Ford, the Marine Corps Family Team Building director.

“Volunteers are an essential part of this base,” Ford said. “We have such a great volunteer program here. If we did not have all these volunteers, it might equate to having to cut programs and services.”

Monica Martinez, the administrative assistant of Marine Corps Family Team Building, agreed.

“I think one of the greatest things about our volunteers is how much they save this base,” Martinez said about the base budget. “Some of our volunteers are just temporary or seasonal, but they still help out so much.”

During the 70,612 hours worked by volunteers, they saved the Combat Center nearly \$1.5 million in 2008, a rate equivalent to more than \$20 an hour, Ford said.

He said the work force of Combat Center volunteers is more than 700 strong. Those 700 volunteers spread themselves among 16 base organizations that rely on such volunteers to provided services to the base community.

At the recognition ceremony, about 450 certificates of appreciation were handed out to volunteers, said Martinez. The reason there were not 700 individual certificates is because some certificates were drafted up for each organization.

Some of those organizations included: Armed Services YMCA, the Career

Resources Office, youth sports, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the American Red Cross, the Single Marine Program, and others.

Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Delsie, the leading

petty officer at the 23rd Dental Clinic here, has been volunteering on base since November 2007, he said.

“I’ve been in the military for 17 years and I’ve always been involved with volunteering,” said the Orange

County, Calif., native. “It feels good in your heart to give to those who need it. I even get some of my junior sailors and kids involved.”

Alison Thomas, a Marine Corps Exchange clerk, started volunteering for Marine

Corps organizations while still living in her homeland of North Hamptonshire, England in 2004. After marrying a Marine, she donated her time to Marine Corps Exchanges and United Service Organizations there.

She then moved to the states and continued her volunteer work at the American Red Cross, the Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills organization, and the

See HONORS, A7



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Staff Sgt. Martin Hood, an instructor with Company C, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, volunteers his time on Monday evenings to coach youth track and field. Volunteers like Hood saved the installation almost \$1.5 million last year through their free services.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

The inspiring saga of Richard Phillips, Captain of the Maersk Alabama, and his stalwart crew is the kind of story that we Americans relish. It renews our certain belief in the inherent courage, strength, and just plain decency that lies at the center of every person, even our very own selves.

I am reminded of a 14 year old Anne Frank’s written observation while in hiding during World War II “It is really a wonder that I haven’t dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them in spite of everything because I believe that people are really good at heart.”

Many years ago the Portuguese explorer Dias observed troubled waters where the Indian Ocean smashed against the tip of Africa. He named the tip “Cape of Storms.”

The King of Portugal, however, saw things differently. He saw a new trade route to India and renamed the tip “Cape of Good Hope.”

My dear friends, my thought comes down to this: Accentuate the positive. Always be optimistic. As the blind Helen Keller wrote:

“No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed to an uncharted land or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.”

Therefore, we tough minded optimists continue to believe that with all of life’s heartache, sham and broken dreams it is still a beautiful world!

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All bikers must gear up, take classes

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Anyone wishing to ride a motorcycle on Department of Defense installations and all service members who ride, must be equipped with the proper gear, and have proper training to do so.

The rules set in place over the DoD are stricter than civilian laws, but it is all meant to keep service members safe, said Frank Santiago, an instructor with the bike courses aboard the base and a native of La Puente, Calif.

“Civilian laws require you only have a helmet, but the laws Marines go by cover much more than that,” Santiago said.

Santiago said riders on the base must have certain gear on them.

“Long pants, long sleeves, helmet, eye protection, gloves that cover the whole hand, the list goes on,” he said. “Riders also need to have a reflective vest, and if you’re wearing anything on

your back you need the same 2 1/2 inch stripes over that. Normally it is easy for people to just pull the vest over it.”

Completion of the Basic Riders Course is required for all riders before they can travel on base and also for service members to ride off base, Santiago said.

“BRC has to be completed for riders to have full privileges to go out into town and after dark,” he said.

Santiago said the course is great, and helps out rookie bikers as well as those with more experience.

“I’ve had many young riders come into the course and come out a good, basic rider,” he said. “I’ve even had guys who have ridden for 20 or 30 years, and they still learn a thing or two from the course.”

The course lasts three days out of one week, and goes through a full day each day, he said.

“The course goes from eight in the morning until whenever it gets done,” he said. “We take more time sometimes to help out riders



Lance Cpl. Robert Sands, a student in the Basic Riders Course, watches as other students maneuver through turns and around cones Wednesday at the Combat Center during one of Frank Santiago’s classes.

where they think they might be having some difficulty.”

There are multiple options

for riders aboard the base, even those without a bike yet, Santiago said.

“If you don’t have a bike, you can use one of ours for the course on certain days,” he said. “If you already have a

bike, you can only on base for 30 days with a pass only if you are already enrolled in BRC.”

Santiago said while all riders must attend BRC, sportbike riders are also required to attend a course tailored for

their machines.

“We have a course specifically for sportbike owners,” he said. “Also there are advanced courses available on the base as well.”

Riders who have recently been through the course said they took a lot from it, and appreciated the lessons they learned.

Richard D. Lovejoy, a BRC student, said he really took a lot from what the course had to offer.

“I had a bike for 20 years, but I’ve had a long break from riding and this is really helping me get back into it,” the Los Angeles native said. “It’s bringing back a lot, I feel like I’m riding a bike for the first time again. The course is pushing me to get better.”

For more information, or to book a seat in the next course, contact Santiago at 830 – 3622.



Lance Cpl. M. C. Nerl
Richard D. Lovejoy, a student in the Basic Riders Course, takes his motorcycle around a turn Wednesday during his BRC class at the Combat Center. The riders must pass the course to gain riding privileges on base.

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Sun shades provide perfect place for solar panels

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In an initiative to triple the amount of renewable energy the Combat Center uses, the south-facing roofs above all motor pools in the main side of the base are being outfitted with solar panels.

The project, slated to be completed in eight months, was prompted by the Combat Center's need to comply with the Secretary of the Navy's instruction that all installations be running on a minimum of 7.5 percent renewable energy by 2015.

As the current leader in the Marine Corps' race to go green at five percent, the Combat Center already has the largest federally owned solar panel field, located behind the East Gym, said Gary Morrissett, the energy manager for public works.

"It's great that we're moving to renewable energy," said the Belleville, Ill., native. "It's cheaper, cleaner and better for the environment."

The current solar panel project will triple the amount of renewable energy the Combat Center uses and will pay for itself in roughly four years. The solar panels have a life span of 30 years — that's 26 years of savings, said Daniel Kariuki, the project manager.

"I think this is one of the best things we could be doing for the base," said Don Clark, the deputy director of public works. "This is only the beginning of a number of renewable energy projects to come."

The Combat Center is slated to install wind power turbines in the future as one of the ways to promote "going green."



COURTESY PHOTO

A construction worker installs solar panels on the sun shades in the motor pool on 1st Street and Sturgis Street to triple the Combat Center's renewable energy output.

SIGHTS, from A3

could now.

"Marksmanship is one of the aspects of the Marine Corps that really stands out as being important," said the Clearwater, Fla., native. "I want to be the best at it. By becoming a coach, I'll be more knowledgeable in marksmanship fundamentals."

After the first week in the course, many students remarked on how they improved in many different marksmanship techniques.

"There is a lot more to your stance than I thought before," Harmon said. "Generally, there is just a lot more to learn than you would think."

Feltgen said he agreed,

and added that skilled marksmanship truly is the hallmark of the Marine Corps.

"Every Marine is a rifleman first," he said. "We need to always be combat ready and fully understand combat marksmanship."

After completion of the CMC course, Marines will be eligible to enroll in the CMT course and become a trainer, Cornelius said. Any Marine with a qualifying rifle score and command authorization may attend the CMC course.

Students expect to finish their basic rifle marksmanship this week and then progress to combat marksmanship relays before graduation May 8. The next CMC course is scheduled to take place in June.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sgt. Peter E. Cornelius, the chief instructor of the Combat Marksmanship Coaches course, clears the rifles of several course students during the most recent CMC course at the Marksmanship Training Unit rifle range Monday.

HONORS, from A5

ASYMCA, where she still volunteers to this day.

"It's a great way to know what is going on here on base," Thomas said. "It's educational as well as rewarding. I think it's all about finding a need and connecting people."

Volunteers, whether active duty, family members or just local citizens, continue to play a major role in the function of base organizations, according to Ford's statistics.

Combat Center volunteers are scheduled to be recognized in a similar fashion during the 2010 National Volunteer Recognition Week April 18 to 24, Martinez said.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Staff Sgt. Martin Hood, an instructor with Company C, MCCES, volunteers his time on Monday evenings to coach youth track and field. Volunteers like Hood saved the installation almost \$1.5 million last year through their free services.

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Running ridges no easy task



The runners make their way up one of the large hills behind the Combat Center's main side during the 23rd annual Ridge Run Thursday.

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 200 pounding feet kicked up dust in the hills behind the Combat Center's main side Thursday as more than 100 base personnel took off running in the 23rd annu-

al Ridge Run. The Ridge Run, a race put on by Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, offered a modest, relatively flat 5 kilometer (3.11 miles) run and a much more strenuous 8 kilometer (4.97 miles) run through the hills that serve as a backdrop for main side. The competition is broken down into male and female, and by age groups, said Chief Petty Officer Thomas Tennison, the coordinator for the event. "It's a great run," he said. "It tests endurance, naviga-

tion skills and willpower." Lance Cpl. Luis Nolasco, a travel clerk with the installation personnel administration center who ran the 8 km agreed, saying that it was an intense run, definitely harder up the hills than he imagined. Nolasco runs his personal fitness test in under 17 minutes, he said, but the course wasn't at all easy and it was all he could do to keep running up some of the hills.

The winner of the 8 km race for the men was Lance Cpl. Russell Dixon and second place went to Petty Officer 3rd Class Matt Sandlin. The winner of the 8 km for the women was Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Cowill and second place went to Fabiola Pamatz. Only a handful of people raced in the 5 km race and the most notable achievement from the race was the Davis family. Capt. Jeremiah Davis brought his 8-year-old son, Clayton, and his 4-year-old daughter, Kaylee, to the 5 km course to run. Both Clayton and Kaylee won their age groups of 25-years-old or



Clayton Davis, an eight year old son of a Capt. Jeremiah Davis, sprints towards the finish of the five kilometer (3.11 mile) race during the 23rd annual Ridge Run Thursday. Davis finished first in his age group, 25 and under.



Runners spring into action for the start of the 8 kilometer (4.97 mile) race through the ridges behind the Combat Center's main side during the 23rd annual Ridge Run Thursday.



A runner during the 23rd annual ridge run makes his way down one of the steep hills located behind the Combat Center's main side Thursday.

under and neither one stopped running during the entire race. The hospital plans on holding another ridge run next year, Tennison said.

BINGO!

Friday, May 8th

830-6610

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TANKS, from A1

dismount and clear a town or village,” he said. “Now we can use the skills we learn doing things like this as part of our PTP [Pre-deployment Training Program].”
Marines with the company took a lot from the training and thought it was valuable for all of them.
“I’m already a certified MOUT [Military Operations on Urban Terrain] instructor, but for a lot of these [less experienced Marines] its

good training,” said Sgt. Shawn Hicks, who is normally a tank commander. “Its good for me to get back to the basics and work with the new guys.”
Hicks, who comes from Kingman, Ariz., said getting back to the basics will help him out as well.
“I haven’t been through the course in a long time, or even worked with this for that matter,” he said. “As you go through the classes with all the new guys you start to get things back into

your head.
“MOUT is pretty easy though,” he said. “We all made it through MCT [Marine Combat Training]. We’re just doing the basics here so it shouldn’t be too hard for them to get a hold of it mentally.”
With the company’s MOUT training completed, they will have further exercises throughout the year building up to their fall deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Shawn Hicks (center), normally a tank commander with Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, uses his skills as a military operations on urban terrain instructor and gives his Marines helpful tips on how to properly clear buildings.

BAND, from A1

inspired by the great-American comic book hero, Superman.
The show finished with a medley of each military branch’s hymns, as Giove asked current and former members of each branch to stand when their song was played.
“The show was outstanding,” said Debbie Baumgarten-Yantes, a Twentynine Palms resident. “I come to the shows as much as I can and they never fail to impress and entertain me.”
Seeing members of “The President’s Own” perform for the first time just added to the night, she added.

The week proved more than just a learning experience for the Combat Center band; it also afforded the members of “The President’s Own” the opportunity to learn from the Marines in a field band.
“It was a great experience,” said Giove. “It was awesome to have Marines from “The President’s Own” learn from us as well as we had the opportunity to learn from them, not just as musicians, but as Marines.”
It’s been an amazing week, said Staff Sgt. Wendy Bickford, a clarinetist with “The President’s Own” band and of Lakeland, Fla. All of the Marines in the Combat Center band are so talented; it has been a blast to work with everyone.
“The President’s Own” will hopefully be back next year to mentor the Combat Center band and put on another stellar performance, said Giove.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Gunnery Sgt. Carl Vanderzee, a tuba player with the Combat Center Band brings his instrument to life during the Coats of Red and Blue 2 concert at the Sunset Cinema Sunday.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Percussionists with the Combat Center Band put on a show for the crowd during Sunday’s Coats of Red and Blue 2 concert at the Sunset Cinema.

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mother's to bee

SOCIAL





Friday, May 15th from 12 - 2 p.m. at the Main Exchange

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- Child Development Center (CDC)
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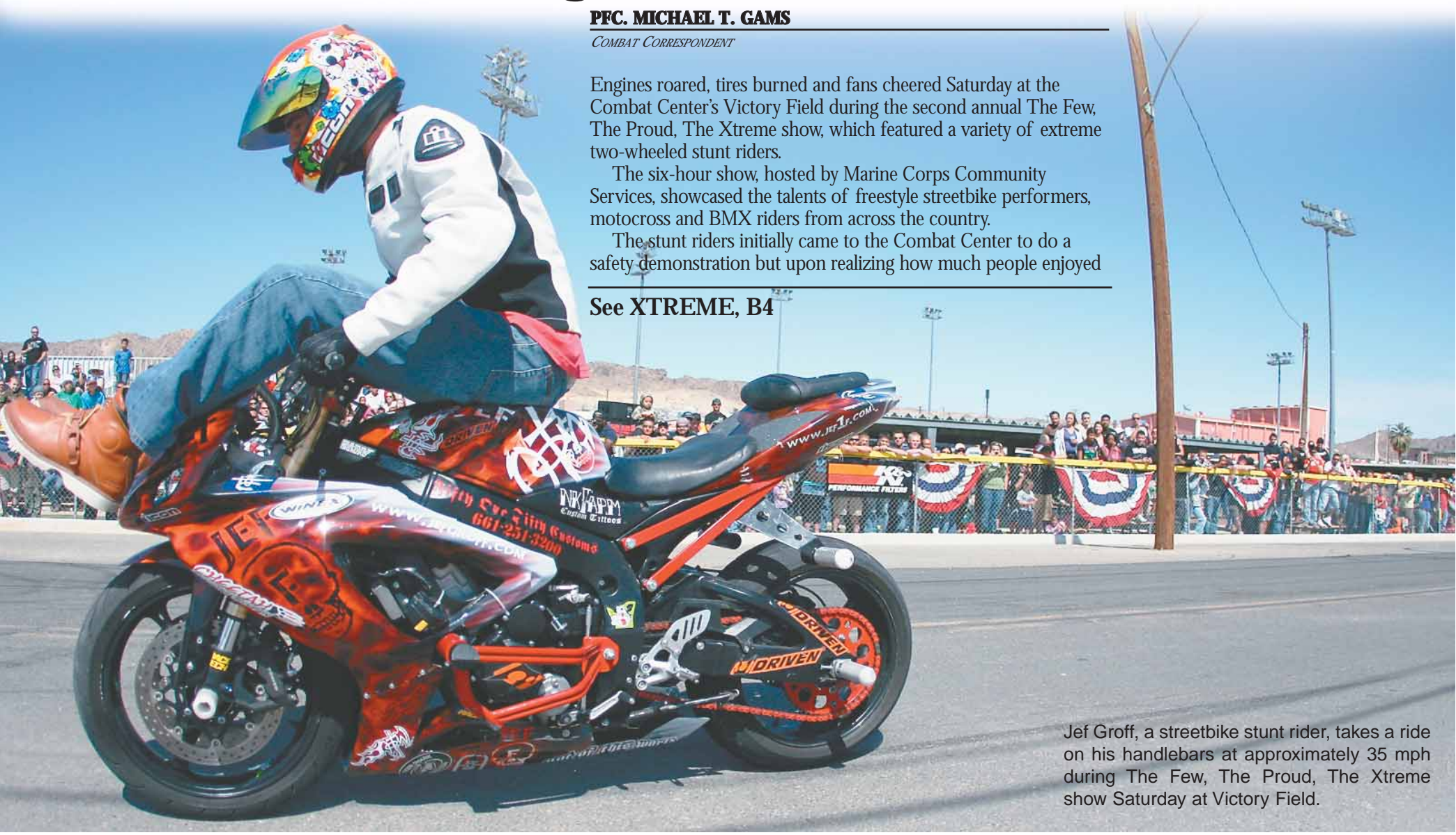
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SPORTS AND LEISURE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MAY 1, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 B1

Combat Center gets a taste of the Xtreme



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Engines roared, tires burned and fans cheered Saturday at the Combat Center's Victory Field during the second annual The Few, The Proud, The Xtreme show, which featured a variety of extreme two-wheeled stunt riders.

The six-hour show, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, showcased the talents of freestyle streetbike performers, motocross and BMX riders from across the country.

The stunt riders initially came to the Combat Center to do a safety demonstration but upon realizing how much people enjoyed

See XTREME, B4

Jef Groff, a streetbike stunt rider, takes a ride on his handlebars at approximately 35 mph during The Few, The Proud, The Xtreme show Saturday at Victory Field.

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Aaron's Exploits; one man's trash, anothers treasure

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

JOSHUA TREE, Calif., - 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 trip to the Noah Purifoy Outdoor Art Museum in Joshua Tree, Calif., to get in touch with his creative side Saturday.

Kristopik said gaining better understanding of art would help him down the road when he leaves the Marine Corps and possibly pursues an art career.

"We all have that spark inside of us to be creative," he said. "Maybe experiencing the works of such a serious artist might help me make up my mind."

Kristopik said he read about the museum online

and thought it would be another strange experience.

"It looked like a lot of impressionistic art at first," Kristopik said. "When I actually got into it and got a feel for the place I found out there was so much more to it."

Kristopik said after reading the information they had on site and literally getting inside, seeing Purifoy's works, he better understood what everything meant.

"Everything had a message behind it," he said. "This guy created art for decades. One of the works that really spoke to me was the water fountain."

"It was like a visual commentary on segregation way back in the day," he said. "The drinking fountain on the left said 'whites,' above it. The fountain on the right said 'colored,' and it was a toilet with the drinking part



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., surveys the rest of the Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum in Joshua Tree, Calif., through a window in one of the exhibits Saturday.

See EXPLOITS, B2

The merry month of May

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Every month is known for something. January kicks off the year with New Year's Day, February is known for Valentine's Day and Black History Month. There's also Easter in April, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving in November and "The Holiday Season" in December.

The month of May is commonly known for Cinco de Mayo, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day and, amongst service members, Military Appreciation Month.

However, there are many more observances in each month that don't necessarily go unnoticed, but are much more obscure.

For instance, did you know this month pays homage to many foods and culinary concoctions? That's right! Hamburgers, asparagus, strawberries, eggs and salad are among a number of

foods celebrated in the merry month of May.

In fact, former North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms passed a bill in 1988, which even brought about National Duckling Month.

Helms passed the bill on the argument that the duckling industry in the United States is approximately 100 years old, and eating duckling as a delicacy was "rising in popularity in the United States among all people."

Although passing such a bill may seem ridiculous, it was "resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the month of May is designated as 'National Duckling Month,' and that the President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

Other foods, like aspara-

gus, strawberries and eggs, are celebrated in May not only because it's a great time of year to get them, but also because of their nutritional value. According to <http://www.heb.com>, a health Web site, a single serving of strawberries has only 50 calories and more vitamin C than an orange. Strawberries also boast no cholesterol or saturated fats, making them highly nutritious.

On the same note, for those who enjoy dieting and exercising, May also happens to be National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, which encourages people to take up a form of physical activity. In honor of physical fitness awareness, the Combat Center will hold an aerobics marathon May 13.

"The aerobics marathon originally started out in celebration of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month," said Yvonne Warfield, the Marine Corps Community Services aerobics coordina-

May observances		
Monthly Observances National Bike Month National Asparagus Month National Flower Month National Barbecue Month National Egg Month National Duckling Month National Hamburger Month National Salad Month National Photo Month National Physical Fitness and Sports Month National Strawberry Month National Transportation Month Military Appreciation Month	Observers' Day May 5 – Cinco de Mayo May 6 – International No Diet Day, National Teacher Day May 7 – First Stamp Collection Started (1860s), Pulitzer Prize established (1917) May 8 – Victory over Europe Day (1945), Military Spouse Appreciation Day, No Socks Day May 9 – First newspaper cartoon printed (Benjamin Franklin, The Pennsylvania Gazette, 1754), National Child Care Providers' Day May 10 – Clean Up Your Room Day May 11 – Mothers' Day May 12 – International Nurses' Day, Kite Day, Limerick Day May 13 – Tulip Day May 14 – Lewis & Clark Expedition begins (1804) May 15 – L.F. Baum's birthday (author: Wizard of Oz), National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day May 16 – First nickel minted	("Shield Nickel," 1866), Armed Forces Day May 18 – International Museum Day, Visit Your Relatives Day May 19 – Ring Ling Bros. opens, 1884 May 20 – First photo sent from space (Hubble Telescope, 1990) May 21 – American Red Cross founded (Clara Barton, 1881), Lindbergh Flight Day (1927) May 22 – Buy a Musical Instrument Day May 23 – Penny Day May 24 – First Morse code message sent (1844) May 25 – Memorial Day (2009), National Missing Children's Day, National Tap Dance Day May 27 – Golden Gate Bridge opens (1937), Masking Tape patented (1930) May 29 – John F. Kennedy's birthday (1917) May 30 – Ice Cream Freezer patented (1848)
Weekly Observances 1st Week – National Postcard Week, Teacher Appreciation Week 2nd Week – National Pet & National Police Week		
Days May 1 – Hawaiian Lei Day, Mother Goose Day, May Day, Loyalty Day May 2 – Holocaust Remembrance & Space Day May 4 – National Weather		

tor for the base. "Classes will be between 45 and 60 minutes each and will vary between highly active and less active."

National Bike Month, which is also in May, is designed to show an alternative and healthy mode of transportation. Coincidentally,

See MAY, B2



FRI. 5/1 Yucca Valley High School Art Show Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum 57090 29 Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7212 or visit www.hideserternaturemuseum.org	FRI. 5/1 Blues After Hours Time: 5 to 9 p.m. Where: Café Potpourri at the Carriage Inn 901 N. China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest For more info call 446-7910 or visit http://www.carriageinn.biz	SAT. 5/2 Bon Jovi Tribute Band “Dead or Alive” Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info call 342-5000 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com	SUN. 5/3 Rancho Mirage Family Circus Time: 3 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert For more info call 340-ARTS	MON. 5/4 Wine and Books Book Club Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Wild for the Vine 390 N. Palm Canyon Dr. Palm Springs For more info call 325-9930 or visit http://www.palmspringslibrary.org
TUES. 5/5 Cinco de Mayo at Spotlight 29 Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Pl. Coachella For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com	SAT. 5/9 The comedy of Bill Cosby Time: 1st show at 7:30 p.m. 2nd show at 10 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com	FRI. 5/15 The comedy of Lisa Lampanelli Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Dr. Rancho Mirage For more info call (888) 999-1995	SAT. 5/16 Thunder Down Under Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Pl. Coachella. For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com	SAT. 5/23 Allman Brothers Band & Doobie Brothers Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com

Life becomes messy in ‘Sunshine Cleaning’

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Sunshine Cleaning - Rated R
Starring Amy Adams, Emily Blunt & Alan Arkin

The previews for “Sunshine Cleaning” make it look like a comedy. And the premise does seem funny enough: A couple of women start a crime-scene cleanup business. You could almost envision an “I Love Lucy” episode, with Lucy and Ethel mopping and sopping and somehow making even more of a sloppy mess. But this movie isn’t really a comedy; a floor spattered with bits of a suicide victim’s brains is more “CSI” than Nick at Night. And it’s so much more than its premise. It’s what Hollywood would call “low concept,” because it’s the opposite of “high concept.” A high concept movie is one that can be described by using very few words, like “Bruce Willis, terrorists, airplane,” or “Adam


Sandler, football, prison.” Well, it takes more than just a few words to do justice to the multi-layered “Sunshine Cleaners.” The cleanup business started by sisters Rose (Amy Adams) and Norah Lorkowski (Emily Blunt) is but the hub of a bigger wheel that rolls into the heart of the movie on a journey of discovery and healing. The subplots—about Rose’s young son, a family tragedy, Rose’s sleazy affair with a married policeman (Steve Zahn), Norah’s quest to connect with the daughter of a suicide victim—are just as significant as the enterprise that gives the movie its name. Several scenes pack a dramatic emotional wallop. Amy Adams and Emily Blunt, two fine actresses, get the opportunity to glow in strong lead roles as complex, emotionally fractured females who work hard to earn your respect—and reclaim their own. Clifton Collins Jr. is touching as the owner of a cleaning

supply business who befriends Rose’s son and also takes a bit of sweet shine to his mom. The presence of Alan Arkin as a “crusty grandpa”, bring to mind the 2006 comedy “Little Miss Sunshine.” A couple of the producers behind “Sunshine Cleaning” were also the financial backers of “Little Miss Sunshine,” a small-budget release that became a mainstream hit. It’s understandable they’d hope box-office lightning could strike twice. Perhaps it will, as word spreads about this likeably offbeat, ultimately uplifting “dramedy.” “Sunshine Cleaning” won’t make you convulse in laughter. It will, however, remind you that in the process of cleaning up the messes of life, we can sometimes learn a lot about ourselves, discover some unexpected treasures...and maybe even laugh a little.



COURTESY PHOTO

It takes more than just a few words to do justice to the multi-layered “Sunshine Cleaners.” The previews make it look like a comedy but several scenes pack a dramatic emotional wallop.



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15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*					
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35

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MAY, from B1

May also happens to be National Transportation Month, which explores and idealizes alternate modes of transportation. Within the month, there are several weeks that also commemorate something. The first week in May is dubbed National Postcard Week and Teacher Appreciation Week. Teacher Appreciation Week seems to be pretty legit because teachers do a lot for

us by educating children so they will be successful later in life, but why postcards? According to <http://www.lotsofcard.com>, the current National Postcard Week began in 1984 to promote the hobby and business of sending postcards. The second week of May also has a dual personality. National Pet Week and National Police Week are both celebrated during this time. “Every day, I get to see the special bond between kids and their animals,” said Dr.

Kevin Fitzgerald from Animal Planet’s television show “Emergency Vets,” on the National Pet Week Web site. “Whether it’s a salamander or a Great Dane, having an animal provides children with a sense of responsibility, incredible companionship and some great learning experiences. “On this, the 25th anniversary of National Pet Week, the American Veterinary Medical Association urges you to provide your pet with proper nutrition, regular exercise and visits to the veterinarian,” he said. “Remember, you’re special to your animal companion. Be as special as they think you are.” As we all know, every day counts for something. Everyone knows about Cinco de Mayo, but nearly every day in May is cause for celebration. Today, you can decorate a Maypole, and kick back wearing a Hawaiian lei

while reading nursery rhymes, because it’s May Day, Hawaiian Lei Day and Mother Goose Day. Tomorrow is a day to recognize both NASA’s achievements and hold a moment of silence for the victims of the Holocaust. And let’s not forget Mother’s Day, which is held May 11. May is filled with important anniversaries, such as the establishment of the Pulitzer Prize May 7, the beginning of the Lewis and Clark expedition May 14, the birth of the American Red Cross May 21, and Memorial Day, which will be held May 25 this year. As we march on through the month of May – and the rest of the year – know that nearly every day is a cause for celebration. Whether you celebrate by cooking with asparagus, thanking a police officer, or wrapping a lei around your neck, make this month a good one.

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Showtimes Effective 5/1/09 - 5/7/09

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Ghosts Of Girlfriends Past (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Obsessed (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
Fighting (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 6:00, 9:00 Mon-Wed: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 Thur: 2:30, 4:45	Star Trek Opens May 7th (PG13) Thur: 7:00, 10:00	• ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 www.cinema6theatre.com

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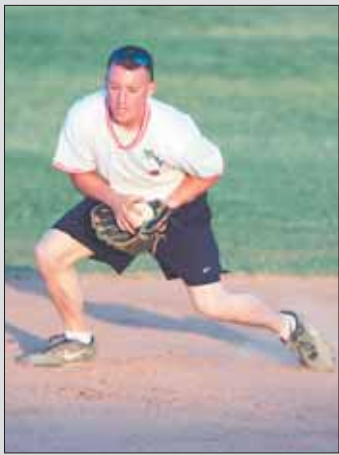
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Combat Center sports



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

A fast throw slips past Hospital second baseman Eric Morgan as he tries to beat VMU-3 left fielder Cody Walker to the bag for an out during league play at Felix Field Wednesday night.

VMU-3 third baseman Shawn Eriole stops a fast-moving ground ball during league play at Felix Field Wednesday night.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

David Seagraves of HQBN 2, leaps to deflect the ball being hit by Hospital 2 opponent Ray Romero.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Nolan Jolly, a member of Hospital 2, faces off with HQBN 2 opponent Ray Hamling.

Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League		
Team	Wins	Losses
HQBN 1	8	0
Hospital 1	4	4
MCCES	4	4
HQBN 2	3	5
Hospital 2	0	8

Wednesday's games

MCCES	defeats	Hospital 1
HQBN 1	defeats	Hospital 1
HQBN 2	defeats	Hospital 2
Hospital 2	forfeits to	HQBN 1

Intramural Softball League		
Standings as of April 29		
Team	Wins	Losses
MWSS-374	4	0
CLB-7	4	0
7th Marines	2	3
PMO "The Fuzz"	2	0
Scrappers	3	0
2/7	1	2
G-6	1	2
ESD Warriors	3	2
CMA	2	1
Hospital	1	2
3rd CEB	2	2
Tanks	3	1
ESD	1	1
IPAC	1	1
NAVPERS	1	3
MCCES HQBN	1	2
PMO K-9	0	3
Dirty Dozen	0	3
Dental	0	4
3/11	3	0
VMU-3	1	1
CLB-7 "Hooligans"	0	1



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Outfielder Kenny Sprehe, 3rd CEB, makes a dash for home plate during league play at Felix Field Wednesday night.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Megan Mannon of the HQBN 2, hits a fast spike during the team's game against Hospital 2 at the East Gym Wednesday.

EXPLOITS, from B1

on it. Pretty messed up, but that's how things were back then."

Kristopik said there was more to the artwork than just opinions on racism.

"I really liked the keg train," he said. "I heard some rumor about there being a train made of kegs welded together. It wasn't a lie. I saw it, and I didn't know what to say."

He traveled around the site a little longer, and found some cool stuff he said may have just been trash.

"I saw a pile of shoes, which didn't make any sense," he said. "I think it might have been another commentary, but what it was about I still haven't figured out."

Kristopik said the influence of the Combat Center and the military in general was obvious in some of the artist's work.

"I saw a wall of plaques with Marines that had died in several different wars," he said. "I even saw a mound of earth that looked like a mass burial site from the Vietnam War."

"There was even a small spot that looked like Arlington National Cemetery," he said. "A bunch of white crosses lined up in kind of a formation, with a couple graves and a pedestal. That was different."

The museum can be reached by taking a right on Highway 62 and taking another right onto Sunburst Street and following that until mak-

ing another right on Golden Street, making a left onto Border Avenue.

Off of Border, take a right on Aberdeen Road and another right on Blair Lane, and you will see all the sculptures and buildings, admission is free at any time.

Kristopik said seeing the artwork was one thing he had always wanted to do, bringing him almost where he wanted to be in terms of his California travel.


"I know now where I'm going and what I'm doing," he said. "One of my last expeditions, possibly one of my best yet."

"Next week I'm going to see the biggest versions of toys I've ever seen that I played with as a kid," he said. "LEGOLAND, I hope you're ready."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik reads a wall made of plaques with the names of various organizations and deceased service members who's units are aboard the Combat Center at the Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum in Joshua Tree, Calif.



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XTREME, from B1

watching them, they were invited back to do an all-out stunt show featuring wheelies, handstands and burnouts, said Jef Groff, a stunt bike rider that performed Saturday.

Hopefully, the people who watch the show realize that they can't just hop on a street bike and do the stuff they see at stunt shows, he added. It takes a lot of practice and a lot of talent.

"We love coming out here and performing," said Dan Hubbard, a BMX rider who has been riding for more than 33 years. "Not only are we out here doing what we love, we get to do it in front of a crowd that we truly respect and admire, and they totally dig it."

Hubbard coordinates stunt shows for his company, Creative Sports Inc, and said it was his first time coming to a military installation, but hopefully not his last.

He said the best part of the day for him was being able to share something he loves doing with the men and women that make his lifestyle possible.

"These people we're out here performing for, give their lives to protect the freedoms we take for granted so much," he said. "It just sheds a whole new light on things to be out here giving back to them."

The more than 1,000 base personnel and members of the community who attended Saturday's festivities left with smiles on their faces.

"This stuff is awesome," said Lance Cpl. John A. Gauss, a rifleman with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "I can't believe some of the stuff they were doing out there—it was crazy."

Gauss said having the riders travel all the way out to the middle of the desert shows that the Marines and sailors at the Combat Center aren't forgotten, and it is nice to know people appreciate what Marines do.

The riders belong to multiple teams and information can be found on their individual Web sites at www.jefgroff.com, www.edub32.com, www.stunt-teams.com and www.alexstunts.com.



A rider with the Riders For Christ motocross team pops a wheelie during a race held at Victory Field Saturday during The Few, The Proud, The Xtreme.



Alex Flores, a stunt rider with Alex Stunts, rides backwards as he wows the crowd during The Few, The Proud, The Xtreme show Saturday at Victory Field.



A rider with Creative Sports Inc. flies head over heels for the crowd while performing at Saturday's The Few, The Proud, The Xtreme show at Victory Field.

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