

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 5, 2009      SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957      VOL. 52 ISSUE 22

## MRAP modified from the ground up

**CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Department of Defense partnered with Force Protection Inc. and Oshkosh Truck Corp. to modify Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles with new independent suspension and central tire inflation systems, and plans to ship them to Afghanistan to do what they do best—protect Marines.

The Combat Center will be the first Marine Corps installation to test the new suspension system with troops and run it through a validation process, said Ryan Palmer, a logistics management specialist with Exercise Support Division.

The existing suspension system is not designed for the harsh terrain of Afghanistan, said Erik Stier, a design engineer with FPI. They were not originally designed as off-road vehicles.

The current MRAP has an issue with the axels bending and springs breaking when it hits harsher terrain, said Dan Nickson, a lead technician with Oshkosh. The independent suspension

See MRAP, A5



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Adam Lanier, a field service representative for Force Protection Inc., prepares a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle for a new independent suspension system June 3 at the Combat Center's Exercise Support Division maintenance bay. The process to modify the vehicle takes approximately six to seven days to complete.

## UTG helps prepare ETT for mission

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

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif., - Marines and sailors with Embedded Training Team 7-5, assembled from various units out of Okinawa, Japan, learned how to operate in extreme altitudes and complex terrain at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Sunday through Friday as part of their preparation for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The teams are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan to train and embed with the local forces over there as part of the Marine Corps' support of OEF, said Gunnery Sgt. Jerome Bostick, the chief instructor of the unit training group aboard MWTC.

"These teams will be headed to Afghanistan after their training is done," said Bostick, a Savannah, Ga., native. "They'll be headed to [Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center] Twentynine Palms after this to work with ATG

[Advisor Training Group] to finish all the training they need."

They began training for the complex terrain here with their environmental classes and hands-on training, Bostick said.

"They started off learning how to operate in the mountains, because it's much more difficult to do everything up here," he said. "Once they get finished with learning the skills they need in the new environment, they move on into the 'lanes' we do with them."

"There's six lanes that last 24 hours each, and we rotate the teams through them after one day," he said. "The ranges go from conducting and countering ambushes, discovering a weapons cache, tactical information collection, reacting to indirect fire and conducting a casualty evacuation, to doing a security patrol using pack animals."

Maj. Urbano Cruz, the Mountain Warfare Unit Training Group Bridgeport officer in charge, elaborated on the unique opportunities available at

See UTG, A3



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Ayaks, a military police working dog, is put under general anesthesia before getting preventative surgery on his stomach at the Veterinary Treatment Facility here Tuesday. The procedure is designed to keep his stomach from twisting and causing a fatal condition in dogs his size and body-type.

## Vets help keep 'wardogs' ready

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

The saying goes that a dog is a man's best friend, but in the eyes of the Provost Marshal's Office dog handlers here, military working dogs are considered fellow warriors. Therefore, Marines treat their military working dogs the way they would a fellow Marine.

One Army veterinarian and two veterinarian technicians at the Combat Center Veterinary Treatment Facility strive to keep these furry companions healthy and combat effective.

Since Marines take care of their own, working dogs are monitored and maintained to assure mission readiness and capability, said Lance Cpl. Patrick S. Shanahan Jr., a PMO military working dog handler.

"Both of us have jobs to do," Shanahan, a Baltimore native, said about his dog, Ayaks. "If he's healthy, he's more

likely to complete his tasks."

One of the best ways to assure readiness is through preventative medical care, which is provided by the VTF to military working dogs as well as personally owned pets.

"Every decision we make ultimately impacts the kennel master" said Army Maj. Tod M. Thomas, the western regional surgeon chief. "If a dog is not deployable, that may mean the team is not deployable, or the handler may have to train and certify another dog beforehand."

Thomas and Army Capt. Amy J. Clark, the Veterinary Treatment Facility section chief, performed surgery on Ayaks at the facility Tuesday.

The procedure was done to prevent the specialized search dog from developing a fatal condition known by veterinarians as gastric dilatation and volvulus syndrome, or "bloat" which causes the stomach to

See VETS, A8



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Cpl. Paul Tyler, a rifleman with Embedded Training Team 7-5, listens to commands from his squad Sunday during the team's training at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.



A visit from the health inspector ~ See A3



Shooting wise with sun in your eyes ~ See A4



Good will bunting See B1



Just putt that anywhere See B1







# NHTP sailors keep Combat Center safe and sanitized

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

When people walk into a restaurant, business or lodging facility, they expect it to be both clean and safe. Public safety health inspectors examine these areas regularly to ensure owners are meeting the city, county, state and federal requirements for a safe, hygienic environment.

In order to make sure public areas aboard the Combat Center are held to those same standards, the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's Preventive Medicine and Industrial Health department is constantly working to thwart the dangers of an unsafe, unclean environment.

"We're responsible for everything and everything," said Lt. j.g. Shelley Griffith, the public health emergency officer and environmental health officer for the hospital's Preventive Medicine department. "If we can prevent people from getting sick, it means you have a healthy population who can enjoy activities aboard the base."

"It doesn't matter who they are, we just want them to have a good quality of life," said the Purcell, Okla., native.

One of the ways Preventive Medicine attempts to avoid sickness here is through routine inspections of all eateries, businesses, lodging facilities and public areas on the installation.

"Basically, we cover everything in regards to sanitation," said Petty Officer 1st Class Eme Praska, the Preventive Medicine Division lead petty officer, and an Orlando, Fla., native. "We inspect every single dining facility here from Carl's Jr. to the mess halls, playgrounds, swimming pools, barber shops – we even inspect food vendors who come to the base for special events."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicole Gacayan, a preventive medicine technician and one of the inspectors, said there are a few critical things they check for when inspecting a dining facility.

"Some of our main hits – the things we really check for – are expired food items, cleanliness, temperature of the food and salad bar, and bacteria in ice," said the San Jose, Calif., native. "There's no room for error in those areas because people can get really sick if they're exposed to things like that."

In addition to inspecting dining facilities and public areas, Preventive Medicine also checks detention centers, lodging and the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Praska said. They also perform physical check-



**LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN**  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicole Gacayan, a preventive medicine technician in the hospital's PMIH, and Petty Officer 1st Class Jose Amador, the hospital's Food Service Operations leading petty officer and culinary specialist, test the temperature of the salad bar at the hospital's Adobe Cafe, during a routine inspection Tuesday.



**LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN**  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicole Gacayan, a preventive medicine technician in the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's Preventive Medicine and Industrial Health department, tests the temperature of the salad bar at the hospital's Adobe Cafe, during a routine inspection Tuesday. All foods must be kept at certain temperatures to keep out bacteria.

ups for all food service employees aboard the base to ensure they have a clean bill of health.

Preventative Medicine is also a part of Lean Six Sigma, a business strategy designed to eliminate defects and increase productivity, for which they monitor the amount of vaccines being purchased and stored to ensure the hospital is not overstocking, Griffith said. When units visit the Combat

Center for pre-deployment training, Preventive Medicine also provides the vaccines to them so they can be ready for deployment.

Another of their duties is to monitor viral and disease outbreaks, and report them to the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control to ensure the health and safety of Combat Center personnel, she said.

"The bottom line is Navy and Marine Corps personnel on this base are on one team," Griffith said. "We try to support that by making sure everyone on base has what they need to accomplish their mission."

For more information about the Preventive Medicine and Industrial Health department, or to file a complaint, call 830-2002 or 830-2474.

## UTG, from A1

MWTC and how the training performed here is essential for an ETT to be successful in theater.

"During training at MWTC, each team conducts operations across the Marine Corps' six war fighting functions in complex, compartmentalized and mountainous terrain in cold weather," Cruz said. "This is extremely important for units deploying to anywhere in Afghanistan because one; it is not Iraq, and two; conditions and distances are far more severe. MWTC ensures long haul command, control, communications and sustainment are exercised across multiple venues."

When the six days of lane training began Sunday, service members with ETT 7-5, conducted lane six, in

which they had to react to indirect fire and conduct a casualty evacuation.

"It's tough operating when you're at a high altitude," said Staff Sgt. Paul McCawley, a communications-electronics maintenance chief with 7-5 and a Centreville, Va., native. "You learn a lot in a short period of time. It's all great stuff that we know we will need to operate at the extreme altitudes and in the complex terrain we're going to face over there, so it's worth the hard work."

With their lane training complete, the transition teams will wrap up their mountain warfare training at MWTC and begin their movement to the Combat Center for additional pre-deployment training before heading to Afghanistan later this year.



**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
Marines with Embedded Training Team 7-5 cross a bridge Sunday while they try to capture enemy role players at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., after a simulated ambush.

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# Hitting black with sun on your back

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Qualifying at the rifle range is an annual requirement Corps-wide and some Marines cannot escape from shooting during the summer.

Even with the scorching desert summer season quickly approaching, the Combat Center does not put a stop to its training.

According to the 2008 Combat Center community impact assessment, there are

about 8,500 active duty Marines and sailors here who require this annual training. This means many of them will need to qualify during the hottest months of the year.

Due to extreme desert elements like light, heat, wind and sand storms, qualifying shooters may feel anxious or doubtful about hitting in the black.

Marines of the Marksmanship Training Unit here have a few words of wisdom for those who

may be “sweating” the summer qualification months.

Sgts. Peter E. Cornelius and Jacob T. Addington, MTU instructors at the Combat Center rifle range, explained the effects of bright, consistent light on targets, weapon sight systems and the human eye.

“Bright light can distort the image of your front side post if it’s shiny, causing the shooter to aim at one spot and shoot in another,” said Addington, a Sauquoit, N.Y., native. “This effect can be minimized by preparing your weapon with sight black.”

In addition to sight distortion, bright light also impacts the shooter’s vision. Although shooting while wearing black lenses is a preference, Cornelius recommends shooters qualifying in brighter months bring sunglasses to wear when not shooting.

“The more time you spend out in bright light, the more fatigued your eyes will get,” Cornelius said. “Minimize that exposure as much as you can.”

Addington suggests shooters with rifle combat optics on their weapons put either drab or black electrical tape on their fiber optic light collector to reduce glare and eye fatigue.

Extreme heat, an element exclusive to summer, has an even greater effect on sights, targets and vision.

Heat creates mirages on both the barrel of the weapon and on the target, causing the target to either “float” or move.

“A lot of the effects on heat are illusions, but it



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Travis Walto, an aircraft electrical systems technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, fires a shot on the 500 yard line during a Combat Marksmanship Coaches course at the Combat Center’s Rifle Range in May. As summer creeps closer, qualifying Marines run into more elemental obstacles on the firing line.

increases the chance of fatigue and you’ll be more likely to perceive something that isn’t there,” Cornelius said. “When the heat starts getting to you, your body functions start shutting down in a sense.”

To prevent a majority of heat related issues, he suggests the cure-all liquid, water, and a controlled amount of electrolytes to help the body produce saline, the salt-water coating that protects and hydrates eyes.

Other external characteristics, like wind and sand, cannot be controlled by preparation of the shooter.

“Getting sand blasted can definitely put you in a bad mood,” Cornelius said. “If you’re ready to take a shot and

you suddenly get sand blasted, you might jerk or twitch and miss your shot.”

Addington and Cornelius suggest wearing clear, protective lenses or sunglasses to reduce sand damage to the eyes or distractions.

Intense sandstorms could also pose a threat to weapons if they are not properly maintained and cleaned daily, Addington said.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frederick T. Keeney, the MTU range officer, said shooters should also make a point to be in good physical shape, bring food to the range, and wear sunscreen.

“The sun will drain all of your strength and if you do not mitigate its effects, it will affect your shooting,” Keeney said. “Don’t be a fat body. Overweight Marines are not effective in combat

or on the range.”

All in all, shooters may have a better chance of staying safe and hitting black by following these, and other MTU instructions and tips covered during class time before each relay steps on the firing line.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Travis Walto, an aircraft electrical systems technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, fires on the rifle range during the cooler days of early May.

Range Officer’s summer qualification tips

- Eat breakfast
- Hydrate
- Don’t be a fat body
- Wear sunblock
- Wear sunglasses
- Use sight black to reduce glare
- Bright sunlight makes the target appear smaller and farther away than it really is, therefore, placement of the front sight post/RCO reticle aiming point center mass on target is all the more critical even if more difficult
- Heat mirage can make targets appear to move or drift from side to side. Shooters can ensure natural point of aim by focusing on a clear front sight tip as the shot breaks
- Help MTU help you. If you move slow, the range moves slow, too

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Carter St. in the heart of Joshua Tree  
366-8429 / One80jtr@hotmail.com

St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church

God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child.  
Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M.  
Onaga at Church St., Y.V.  
365-7133

Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm  
Ladies’ Bible Classes 11am Wed.  
Wed. Bible Study 5pm  
7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215

Two Mile Apostolic Tabernacle

74301 Two Mile Rd., 29 Palms  
(Next to Lucky Park)  
“Where Jesus Embraces You”  
Sundays 10:00 am 6:00 pm  
Wednesdays 7:30 pm  
Website: TwoMileApostolic.com  
760-367-0080

Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science

Healing Lives & Building Dreams  
Reverend Ron Scott  
Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM  
7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley  
365-2205  
yvcrs.org

Oasis Community Church

6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms  
Service Times  
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am  
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# Combat Center helps students ‘shoot’ for teamwork

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Students and teachers from the Morongo Unified School District and Copper Mountain College visited the Combat Center May 29 as part of the local Career Pathways event to help students select a career goal and to encourage students to use the educational systems.

More than a dozen of those students and teachers visited the Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy's Sergeants Course aboard the Combat Center for a class on teamwork and leadership while learning about different types of military weapons.

While at Sergeants Course, seventh and eighth graders, and teachers from CMC, were educated about the different weapons systems ranging from an M16-A2 service rifle to the M2 .50 caliber machine

gun. After memorizing the four safety rules regarding weapons, the students learned

about the teamwork it takes to maintain and fire most of the weapons on display.

Gunnery Sgt. Peter O'Brien, a Sergeants Course instructor and faculty advisor,

explained with each weapon system, the entire team must be knowledgeable about the other Marines' jobs.

"If the [machine] gunner gets shot, that [assistant machine] gunner has to be able to jump on that weapon and start laying accurate fire," O'Brien said to the class. "And the third team member now has two jobs. He has to make sure the weapon has ammunition, and he's has to take the [assistant machine] gunner's job as well."

After they had the opportunity to ask questions, O'Brien showed the students how to hold the weapons safely, and then invited them onto the stage for a hands-on experience.

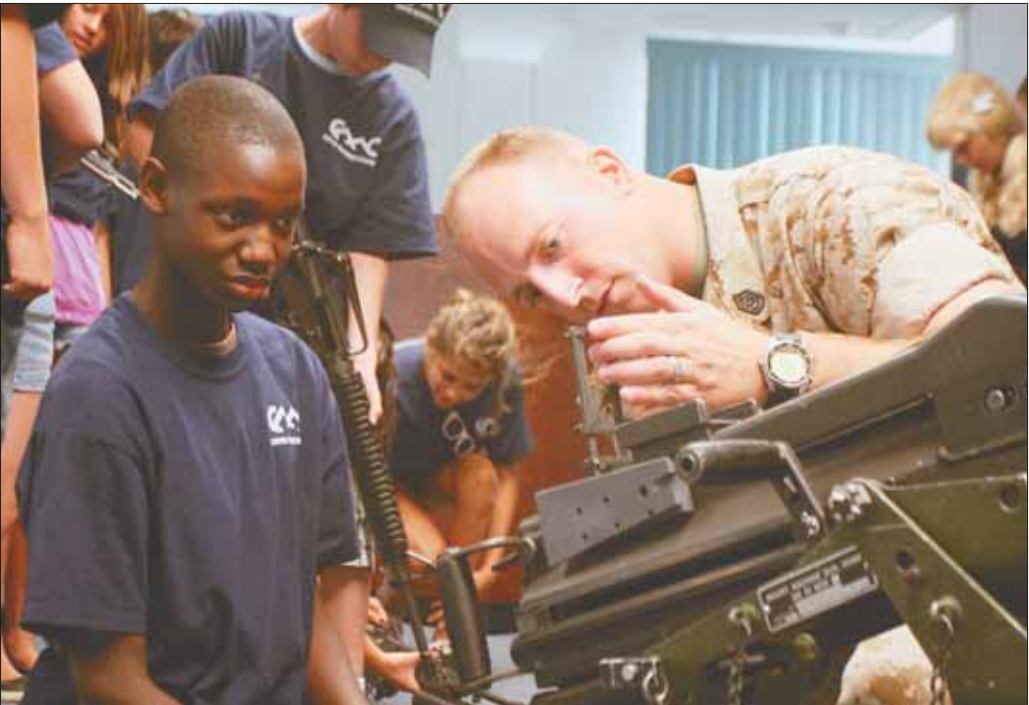
"The entire class was

great," said Annette Bell, the director of the transfer and empowerment program. "The instructor tied-in exactly what we were trying to show about teamwork. These students were able to see with their own eyes how important it is to be able to trust the person in front and behind you."

The students took what they learned from O'Brien and began working together to simulate firing the weapons.

"I learned that it is a lot easier to work as a team than alone," said Jade Cervantes, a 12-year-old student on the tour. "The teacher focused a lot on how it is important to learn the job of those around you or else the entire group can

See STUDENTS, A6



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Gunnery Sgt. Peter O'Brien, a Sergeants Course instructor and faculty advisor, shows Dante Aikens, a 14-year-old Morongo Unified School District student, how to fire an MK-19 automatic grenade launcher during the Career Pathways event May 29 at Paige Hall.

## MRAP, from A1

system virtually eliminates those problems.

"MRAPs were designed to primarily protect war fighters from IEDs [improvised explosive devices]," Stier said. "The new independent suspension system will greatly improve the mobility and help save more lives."

This is the first time FPI, who manufactures MRAP vehicles, and Oshkosh, who manufactures the 7-ton truck, have come together to produce a vehicle that can withstand the terrain in Afghanistan while protecting Marines and sailors from IED blasts, Stier said.

The process for switching suspensions and training the Combat Center's ESD MRAP mechanics on the ins and outs is a collaborative effort between both companies.

FPI field service representatives remove the old suspension system and prepare the hull surface for placing the independent suspension system, said Duane Krug, a field service representative for FPI.

"We align the new suspension, permanently attach the brackets, and finally put the new suspension in their permanently," he said. "We only get one shot to align them correctly, so the whole process takes time."

After FPI finishes with placing the new suspension, Oshkosh takes over and hooks up the brake systems, electrical wires and hoses, and makes sure everything is in working order, he said.

The process for conversion takes approximately six to seven days. The end result is for not only the company representatives to teach the mechanics the process, but to also find the best way to modify the vehicle so even an inexperienced mechanic in Afghanistan can change the suspension on the MRAP, said Ron Johnson, an MRAP vehicle mechanic for ESD.

"Our job is to find out all of the procedures and modifications, and provide a step by step process so any mechanic can do it," Johnson said.

Once the system is installed, not only will the new suspension increase the mobility of the MRAP, but Oshkosh's central tire inflation system that is also being installed into the vehicles will as well.

"Having the ability to deflate the tires before hitting impervious terrain gives the vehicle a bigger foot print and helps provide better traction on softer terrain," said Dean Coenen, the senior test technician for Oshkosh.

With the new systems, the modified MRAPs will be taller and heavier, but this allows the vehicles to drive over harsh terrain while helping prevent roll-over dangers because the suspension eliminates stress concentrated in one area and distributes the weight more evenly, Coenen said.

Although the systems are new to the MRAP, they are not new to Marines. Both systems are in vehicles that Marines are familiar with, like the 7-ton truck, Nickson said. With Marines already familiar with the capabilities, they automatically require less training and have an idea of how to handle the vehicles when in theater.

Once the MRAP vehicles are locked and loaded, the project management office will keep records of each vehicles' performance and maintenance from cradle to

grave, Palmer said.

The vehicles will be rotated in with units during Enhanced Mojave Viper, a pre-deployment training exercise, he said.

"This will determine the limitations," Palmer said. "We want them to use it like they will in theater."

At the end of the training evolution, the Marines will receive a survey on the positives and negatives of the

modified MRAP vehicles and provide input and recommendations for improvements.

"This is a great example of how we are trying to continuously improve the vehicles our war fighter's use," Stier said.

The overall projected goal is to ship 700 modified MRAP vehicles to Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq by the year's end, he said.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Jim Brennand, a test technician for Oshkosh Truck Corp., prepares a new independent suspension system to be installed on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, as Dean Coenen, a senior test technician for Oshkosh, observes the process June 3 at the Combat Center's Exercise Support Division maintenance bay.

## 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 made 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 through 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)

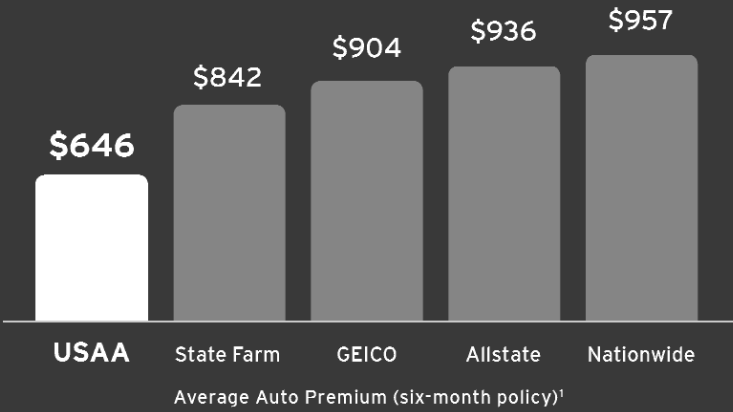
#### Thursday

Christ Chapel  
6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
6-7:30 p.m.-RCIA Resumes Sept. 11  
C&E Barracks building 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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8	3	4	5	6	2	1	7	9	
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<sup>1</sup>Average auto premiums/savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 12/1/07 to 11/30/08, who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to USAA. Savings do not apply in MA. Use of competitors' names does not imply affiliation, endorsement or approval. <sup>2</sup>Online discount is not available in CA, FL, GA, HI, ME and NC. Discount is up to \$30 in MO and MA. Discount applies to new policies only. Restrictions apply. <sup>3</sup>Restrictions may apply to installment payment options. <sup>4</sup>To qualify for the discount, the vehicle must not be driven and must be stored in a secure location. Other restrictions apply. <sup>5</sup>Check with your current carrier on any fees or penalties associated with canceling your current policy. Eligibility restrictions apply to purchase of property and casualty insurance. Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Applicants must meet underwriting guidelines. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. USAA General Agency means USAA Insurance Agency, Inc., or USAA of Texas Insurance Agency. CA Lic. # 0078302, TX Lic. # 7096. Purchase of a USAA General Agency product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. © 2009 USAA. 91887-0509





# Children learn safety at bicycle rodeo

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Combat Center children had an opportunity to join Boy Scout Troop 78 and Girl Scout Troop 70670 for a bicycle rodeo that prepared

bicycles for the upcoming summer months, and taught participants the fundamentals of bike riding at Felix Field Saturday.

Before the children were allowed to ride their bicycle around the field, they had to sign in and get their bicycle

inspected by volunteering Marines.

“This was a great bonding experience for the children because many of their fathers are deployed right now,” said Laura Masterton, whose son Jacob is a 7-year-old tiger scout. “It also helps the par-

ents know their child’s bike is in top condition for the road.”

Gunnery Sgt. Eric Dueweke, the communications chief for 1st Tank Battalion, was the beginning of the assembly line, checking the frame of each bicycle. Dueweke also ensured each seat was the right height, and the bicycle chain was well-oiled.

Next in line, Gunnery Sgt. Marco Flores, the company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, checked the wheels for punctures, and then conducted a brake check before moving the child to the next station.

Before they could take to the track, their helmets were inspected by mothers and then received a short brief from the Provost Marshal’s Office personnel about safety on the road with motor vehicles.

After the safety brief, the riders had to navigate

through various obstacles to finish the rodeo. The children were able to go through the obstacles as many times as they wanted to ensure they felt as comfortable as possible on their bicycles.

Melissa Burke, the committee chair who organized the bicycle rodeo, came up with different obstacles the children had to complete, starting easy and ending in moderate difficulty. They began by riding in a straight line without mishap. Then they had to complete a figure eight without tipping over. The next set of obstacles was designed to keep the riders watching their surroundings, which included weaving, and turning sharply while riding in small circles.

“Cub Scouts encourages sports and outdoor activities,” said Burke, a San Marco Calif., native. “This teaches children how to take care of their bikes, and control their bikes while riding. When a child is more comfortable riding their bike, they will be

more encouraged to go outside and have fun.”

For more information regarding Boy Scouts visit their Web site at <http://www.scouting.org/>. For more information regarding Girl Scouts, visit their Web site at <http://www.girlscouts.org/>.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Patrick Ryan a 6-year-old Tiger Cubscout, leads the pack as riders wait in line to have their bicycles inspected Saturday at the Bicycle Rodeo at Felix Field. The inspection line included checking a bicycles frame, chain, breaks, tires and the child’s helmet.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Gunnery Sgt. Marco Flores, the company gunnery sergeant for headquarters and service company, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, checks the tire pressure on a bike while Loren Dueweke, 6, watches intently during a bicycle rodeo at Felix Field Saturday. The rodeo showed children how to maintain general upkeep of their bicycles while also ensuring they know how to be safe while riding their bicycles.



## TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

While living in Terre Haute, Indiana (1963-68), I became well acquainted with Tony Hulman, president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, his wife Mary and their family, as well as many race car drivers including Johnny Rutherford, Al Unser, George Snider, A.J. Foyt and Billy Vukovich. And they were all tough minded optimists.

I mean that from the president of the Speedway to the most obscure flunky in the pits, they all believed they could overcome any problem and win the checkered flag. My late son Loren (once a Marine aboard the Twentynine Palms base) was among them.

I was thrilled, therefore, when Helio Casatroneves won motor racing’s greatest contest May 24. And in the Indianapolis 500’s Centennial Year as well! The Casatroneves Story will undoubtedly be told and re-told and then made into a motion picture.

Think about it. Just two months ago Casatroneves endured a six week jury trial accused of seven counts of tax evasion. The jury found him innocent of any wrong-doing on six of the charges and the prosecution dropped the seventh count.

What really impresses me about the entire matter was the attitude of Roger Penske, owner of the race car, who never wavered in his support of Casatroneves from the day Helio was indicted until the day Helio was cleared. Penske promised Helio that Number Three would be waiting until the trial was over and that Casatroneves would ride it in the Indy 500.

“I had so much faith that Helio had done nothing wrong. We were never, ever going to leave his side.”

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LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jade Cervantes, a 12-year-old student participating with the Morongo Unified School District Career Pathways event, tries to pull the bolt back on an M2 .50 caliber machine gun during the Career Pathways event May 29 at Paige Hall.

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## STUDENTS, from A5

fall apart. It is extremely scary in his position because if someone can’t step up, they can all get shot.”

After leaving Sergeants Course, the students were taken to Felix Field for the last part of their tour, where the Provost Marshal’s Office prepared a mock scenario to show the students what it takes to be a military police canine handler.

Although their time with PMO was mainly to show the students a good time, they had the opportunity to see teamwork and communication skills between the dogs and their handlers.

Cpl. Samuel Corns, the assistant kennel master, told the students for the scenario, the dog had been called to a domestic dispute, and put the call on the speakerphone for all the students to hear.

The radio crackled as the responding officer reported they were in pursuit of a vehicle, speeding down Del Valle Road,

heading toward Felix Field.

After students were seated they heard sirens and a patrol car rounded the field chasing the reported vehicle. As both vehicles came to a stop, the ‘suspect’ jumped out of his car and took off down the field. The students then watched as he was taken down by one of the military working dogs.

After the demonstration, the students asked questions about what it was like to have a dog while deployed, and requested to see other ways the dogs were trained to bring a suspect down.

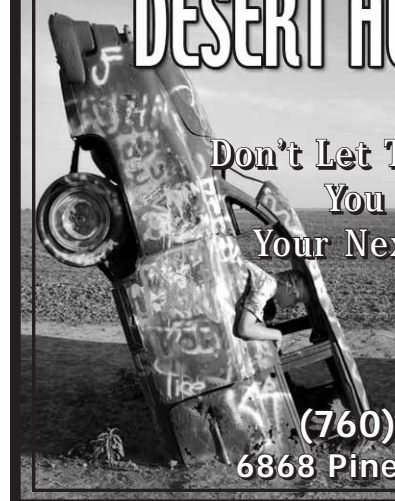
As the tour came to an end and the students began their journey home, the teachers knew that their time aboard the Combat Center will hold a life-long impact on their students and will lead them toward a good future.

“This goes above and beyond what we were trying to show them about teamwork,” Bell said. “This is an experience they will take with them for the rest of their lives. It was absolutely amazing”



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# Safety month; avoiding trips, slips and falls

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

The National Safety Council has designated June as safety



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Using ladders and step ladders properly can greatly decrease the chances of experiencing a devastating fall or accident. This month, the National Safety Council designated each week to specific safety threats. From June 8 to 14, the safety aspect being stressed is fall prevention.

## Positive influence will speak about negative effects of alcohol

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

Although the consumption of alcohol is legal after the age of 21 and is allowed in the Marine Corps, alcohol abuse is not tolerated; it can lead to serious health risks and it can jeopardize a military career if not handled properly.

Retired Lt. Col. Dr. John “Black Jack” Matthews will be holding classes Monday and Tuesday at the Combat Center’s Sunset Cinema at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the effects of alcohol abuse and the toll it can take on a military career.

“Dr. Matthews is going around the entire 1st Marine Division to speak to Marines and sailors about alcohol abuse,” said Billy Smith, a substance abuse prevention specialist at the Combat Center’s Substance Abuse Counseling Center. “I think the issue he’ll be pushing is not to say you can’t drink, but to make

sure you drink responsibly.”

Matthews, a 22-year veteran of the Marine Corps who served in Vietnam, has experienced the effect of alcohol abuse firsthand in his own military career and has continued to see it outside the Marine Corps.

After being wounded twice in Vietnam, he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He said his drinking was a problem for him throughout his military service and nearly his career.

He began speaking to Marine battalions in 1996 at the request of his long-time friend, then-Maj. Gen. Frank Libbutti, the commanding officer of 1st Marines at the time, about his experiences.

“In January 1996, Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas was the head of the manpower section at HQMC and he published an e-mail throughout the Marine Corps detailing the number of suicides we had in the Marine Corps during calendar year 1995,” Matthews said. “At end of

Combat Center.

The week of June 8 to 14 focuses on fall prevention, a danger that claimed more than 20,000 American lives in

2007, and is the leading cause of death and injury in homes and communities, according to the NSC Web site, <http://www.nsc.org>.

Although a majority of those affected by falls are 65-years-old and older, gravity does not play favorites and all are at risk of fall injuries if caution takes a back seat.

“NSC puts out notices to alert people and hopefully minimize these types of accidents at home or in the work place,” said Guy Rosbough, a safety specialist with the Combat Center Safety Office. “A lot of these tips go back to housekeeping.”

NSC outlines several fall prevention tips such as keeping floors clear of clutter, maintaining good lighting throughout the home and on stairs, using non-skid rugs on potentially slippery surfaces like tile or hard wood, installing handrails on stairways, and using sturdy ladders when reaching for high places.

Rosbough said falls can be largely prevented if those

who use equipment such as ladders pay attention to warning labels and use common sense.

Step ladders should only be used on level surfaces and if the arms have been completely locked out, he said.

“You should use every bit of equipment the way it was designed to be used,” Rosbough said. “If you use any equipment for something other than its intended use, you have created a hazard.”

Bob Berg, a fellow safety specialist at the Combat Center Safety Office, agreed saying chairs should not be used as substitutes for ladders.

People in their homes typically use chairs or overextend ladders for household chores, not knowing the danger they put themselves in, Berg said.

“When people overextend their ladders or stand on the top two rungs of a standard ladder, they compromise their center of gravity,” he said. “Most people don’t even tie off [to a tree or sturdy structure] their single ladders to keep from falling back; they just don’t think about it.”

Berg said he has personally

See FALLS, A8

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Land Of The Lost (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Up (PG) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Night At The Museum: Battle For The Smithsonian (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
Terminator Salvation: The Future Begins (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Coming June 12 Taking Of Pelham 123	• ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 <a href="http://www.cinema6theatre.com">www.cinema6theatre.com</a>

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The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's paper. Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FALLS, from A7

experienced a fall from using a step ladder incorrectly and recognizes that it can happen to anyone regardless of age or experience.

“It was an eye-opener,” he said. “It goes to show you really need to choose the appropriate equipment for a job.”

Ladders are not the only aspect associated with falls in the workplace or at home. Chords or wires that stretch across rooms without being taped down or covered with a rubber chord wedge also pose a threat.

Other falling hazards are products of the environment and cannot be closely monitored at all times.

“The way the sidewalks are laid down here puts them at an incline, making them more prone to buckling,” Rosbough

said. “People trip on those frequently. If you see an area that’s particularly bad, you can call us or you can call public works to get it fixed.”

Marine and Civilian staff of the Combat Center Exercise Support Division place special emphasis on safety, including fall prevention, due to their work environment, heavy equipment and nature of their jobs, said Steven Johnson, deputy director of ESD.

“We train with consistent emphasis and oversight from management,” Johnson said. “If anyone here sees something dangerous like a falling hazard, they are empowered to take action.”

The same ability goes for any Marine, sailor, family member, contractor or employee aboard the Combat Center who witnesses unsafe or hazardous circumstances.

To learn more about standards of safety enforced by the Occupational Safety and Healthy Administration, refer to OSHA standard 1910.22 on fall prevention. For more information call the safety office at 830-4232.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Improper use of step ladders and single-standing ladders are major causes of home and workplace falls. Heed warnings signs and stickers on equipment to minimize these risks.

ABUSE, from A7

Disciplines – at Washington State University, where he encountered alcohol abuse by students at the school.

“I had my students write an essay about alcohol aboard the campus,”

Matthews said. “As part of their education I had young, college-age recovering alcoholics speak to my classes. In the course of five years I had 15 young students seek help for drinking problems. I suggested to Gen. Christmas

we could do the same thing throughout the Marine Corps and he sent my response to all of the generals in the Marine Corps.”

Since 1996, Matthews has spoken to more than 250,000 Marines and sailors throughout the Marine Corps about alcohol abuse. In January 2006, he joined the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force to help handle Combat Operational Stress.

The following year, he conducted “Combat Seminars” directed at Marines and sailors who had served in combat, for 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. He said he modeled the seminars around many of the small group meetings he attended while on his road to recovery.

Matthews still travels to Marine Corps installations everywhere to teach Marines and sailors the dangers of alcohol abuse. For more information, call Smith at 830-7461.

VETS, from A1

become twisted and cut off blood flow to vital organs.

“It is the number one preventable cause of death in dogs,” said Thomas, a Somerville, Ala., native. “GDV is responsible for nine percent of deaths in DoD [Department of Defense] dogs each year. This dog we’re doing surgery on is a healthy dog; we are doing this for prevention instead of emergency treatment.

“This is a double bang for the buck because there have been no compromises to his blood flow and we maintain the skills we would need to operate on a dog that hasn’t already had this procedure,” Thomas said.

Clark, a native of Anchorage, Alaska, said in addition to supporting PMO and other animal-handling military occupational specialties, providing animal treatment is a personal reward.

“I don’t think I ever

thought about doing anything else,” Clark said. “I may have thought about doing this since I was around five.”

It is recommended by the VTF staff that military working dogs go under the knife for this procedure no more than 18 months after arriving at the Combat Center.

Ayaks’ surgery took about two hours and involved making a shallow incision on his stomach and mirroring it to another incision on the inside of his right abdominal area. The two incisions were connected and sewed together so that as they heal, scar tissue will hold the dog’s stomach in place, reducing the chance of a twist.

As Clark and Thomas stitched up Ayaks’ shaved belly, Shanahan stood in the corner of the room with his arms crossed and his face partially hidden behind a surgical mask. Shanahan has been Ayaks’ handler for the past 11 months and has

already stood by his companion through a minor dental surgery.

Shanahan said he feels more comforted knowing his dog is at a lower risk of developing bloat or other stomach problems.

“I’ll stay with him through the night at the kennels,” Shanahan said, stroking his partner’s head as he awoke from anesthesia. “I’ll check up on him regularly, but I’m sure he’ll be fine.”

The VTF is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and is closed Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Even though the facility will treat personally owned pets through appointments, VTF does not perform emergency procedures.

For pet emergencies, contact the Hi-Desert Animal Hospital in Twentynine Palms at 367-9511 or the Companion Animal Clinic in Yucca Valley at 228-1474. For more information call VTF at 830-6896.

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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Army Maj. Tod M. Thomas, the western regional surgeon chief, and Army Capt. Amy J. Clark, the Veterinary Treatment Facility section chief, wrap up a stomach surgery performed on Ayaks, a military working dog, at the VTF Tuesday.

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# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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JUNE 5, 2009      SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957      B1

## One Marine making the right calls



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Cpl. Jeremiah Thalheimer, a volunteer umpire for the local Little League and umpire for the Morongo Basin high schools, crouches over the plate to make the call during a Little League game at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms, Monday. Thalheimer, the special intelligence communications noncommissioned officer in charge at the Combat Center's Communications and Information Systems directorate, and a Tifton, Ga., native, spends many off-duty hours working as an umpire in several local leagues as part of the California Baseball Umpires Association.

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

By day, he is a mild-mannered Marine corporal working in the Combat Center's Communications and Information Systems directorate, but during baseball season he dons a different uniform.

Cpl. Jeremiah Thalheimer, the special intelligence communications noncommis-

sioned officer in charge, is currently an umpire in his third season for several leagues in the surrounding community as part of the California Baseball Umpires Association.

"I really love sports, but I can't play very well," said the Tifton, Ga., native. "I figured I could either be a sports writer or an official, so I chose to become an umpire."

Thalheimer is a paid umpire for the local high schools and volunteers his time to over-

see Little League games. He also serves as an umpire for both amateur and Triple Crown tournaments in the area.

On average, Thalheimer said he umpires 20 to 30 games per season, and has completed numerous formal training classes and scrimmage games.

"One thing a lot of people don't realize is the amount of work we put into it," he said. "At the high school level, you usually spend

about five hours in a 'rules class' before you even set foot on the field. Then you have to attend another weekend rules clinic, which lasts about 10 more hours. After the classes, you have to umpire at least one scrimmage before you can be put into a live-game scenario."

Although it is a tough job, other league volunteers think Thalheimer demonstrates

**See UMPIRE, B2**



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Matthew Leonard, 8, putts the ball toward the hole to give his teammate a higher chance of making it during the Combat Center's Junior Gold League, Wednesday at the Desert Winds Golf Course.

## Junior Golf League sinks final ball

**LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Combat Center's Junior Golf League came to an end Wednesday as 20 children and their parents played a game of golf and enjoyed an end of the season party at the Desert Winds Golf Course.

The season began 10 weeks ago with two weeks of practice and eight weeks of matches.

"Golf is a very disciplined sport," said Joseph Leonard, whose 8-year-old son, Matthew, participated in the league. "He had to buckle down and stay focused to apply what he was taught."

The young duffers were

instructed by Todd Wade, a Professional Golfer's Association of America player and manager of the Combat Center's golf course. Wade, along with Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports director Joe Rosselli, showed the players the proper

**See GOLF, B4**

## Summer grilling safety

**COMBAT CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To all those grilling enthusiasts and outdoor cooks – please be reminded that the CCO P11320.1D prohibits the use of bar-b-ques on porches, balconies and within 10 feet of building eaves or structures.

When grilling or cooking outdoors the National Fire Association recommends these simple safety tips:

- Gas and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used in any enclosed spaces, (i.e., indoors, tents, enclosed balconies), they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Place the grill well away from siding, deck railings, windows and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic. Have a three-foot "kid-free/pet free zone" around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Charcoal grills
  - Use only charcoal starter fluid to start a fire.
  - Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid to get the fire going.
  - Store the charcoal starter fluid, matches and lighters out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.

Gas grills

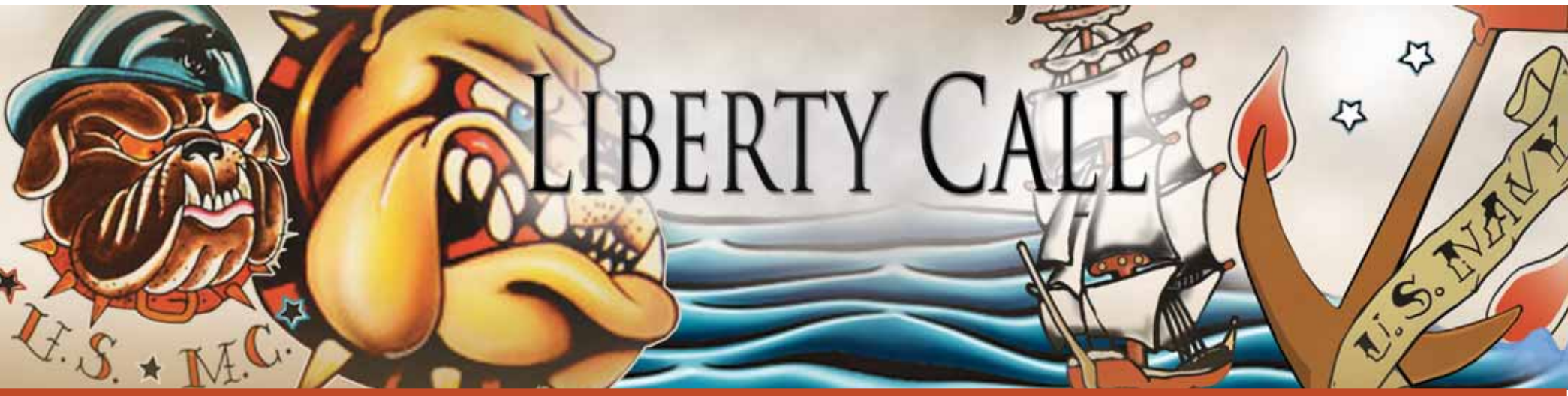
- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame:

- Turn off the gas tank and grill.
- If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Only use equipment bearing the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane gas tanks in buildings or garages.
- For cooking flare-ups:
  - Be prepared to keep the fire under control. If it is possible, raise the grid that the food is on, spread the coals out evenly, or adjust the controls to lower the temperature.
  - Normal flare-ups can be handled with a water spray bottle or small amount of water to cool the flame.

If you have a grill fire, immediately move a safe distance from the fire and call 911.

For questions about fire and life safety regulations aboard the Combat Center please call the Fire Administration Office at 830-5239.





<b>FRI. 6/5 - FRI. 6/19</b> <b>Palm Springs Restaurant Week</b> Time: 20 days Where: Palm Springs to Indio Taste the finest culinary restaurants in the valley at discount prices. For more information call 200-4235	<b>FRI. 6/5</b> <b>Twentynine Palms Street Fair &amp; Car Show</b> Time: All day event Where: Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce 73660 Civic Center Drive Twentynine Palms. For more information call 367-3445	<b>FRI. 6/5</b> <b>Blues after hours</b> Time: 5-9 p.m. Where: Cafe Potpourri at the Carriage Inn 901 N. China Lake Boulevard Ridgecrest. For more information call 446-7910 or visit <a href="http://www.carriageinn.biz">http://www.carriageinn.biz</a>	<b>SUN. 6/7</b> <b>Eagles of Death Metal with Head Lite View concert</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road Pioneertown. For more info call 365-5956 or visit <a href="http://www.pappyandharriets.com">http://www.pappyandharriets.com</a>	<b>FRI. 6/12</b> <b>Jay Leno Show</b> Time: 8 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Casino 32250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more information call (888) 999-1995
<b>FRI. 6/12</b> <b>Mark &amp; Brian Bongo at Morongo feat. Dave Mason</b> Time: 8:00 P.M. Tickets: \$25 Where: Morongo Casino 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more information call (888) MORONGO	<b>SAT. 6/13</b> <b>Scorpions Exhibit</b> Time: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57090 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley For more information call 369-7212	<b>SAT. 6/13 / 6/27</b> <b>Ghost Tours in Barstow</b> Time: 8:30 p.m. Where: Various Barstow locations Go to <a href="http://hauntedbarstow.com/reservations.html">http://hauntedbarstow.com/reservations.html</a> to make reservations or call 881-9132	<b>FRI. 6/19</b> <b>Big &amp; Rich concert</b> Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Casino 401 East Amado Road Palm Springs For more information call (888) 999-1995	<b>SAT. 6/28 - SUN. 6/29</b> <b>National Amateur Radio Field Day in Joshua Tree</b> Time: 12 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Memorial Park 60121 29 Palms Highway Joshua Tree For more information call 366-9210

# No fun or sun in grimy, futuristic ‘Terminator Salvation’

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**Terminator Salvation**  
PG-13  
Starring Christian Bale

When Arnold Schwarzenegger starred in the first “Terminator” movie back in 1984, it was pretty cool stuff—time-traveling robot assassins, a future controlled by evil machines, and special effects that were, indeed, pretty special at the time.

If you haven’t seen any of the three previous “Terminator” movies, you won’t stand much chance of following along for the fourth, which expects its audience to come prepared. In a perpetually overcast, nuclear-winter

future where malicious artificial intelligence has taken over the planet, humans are hunted down and destroyed—or captured for gruesome experiments. A scruffy, scattered band of resistance fighters, led by John Connor (Christian Bale), makes things as difficult as possible for the bad-guy cyborgs while trying to avoid “termination” by the marauding machines.

You also have to get your head around the movie’s trippy, time-travel loopiness, which begins when a prison inmate (Sam Worthington) is executed in 2003, then mysteriously reappears 15 years later. Is he friend or foe? You’ll also need some familiarity with how John Connor’s father-to-be came from the future and

met the woman who would become his mother. And their son, as it turned out, or will turn out, or...whatever—grew up to be John Connor, the bane of the cyborgs.

So not only is John Connor on the terminators’ “terminate” list, so is the young man who’ll become his father, but isn’t yet...or, wait a minute, he must already be. Right? It’s easy to get lost in the dense T-4 mythology, especially if you just wander into the theater looking for a couple of hours of refreshing, summer escapism.

“Terminator Salvation” is gratingly noisy—there’s constant hollering, yelling and screaming, not to mention gunfire, explosions and wall-to-wall stomping, whooshing, crushing robots of every size and shape: storm-trooper bots, flying bots, slithering underwater bots, motorcycle bots, gigantic people-plucking bots. It also has a grimy, relentlessly dreary look, which is supposed to reinforce the story’s bleak setting. But you leave the theater feeling like you’re covered in grit—and



COURTESY PHOTO

In a nuclear-winter future, artificial intelligence has taken over the planet. Human resistance fighters, led by John Connor (Christian Bale), fight against bad-guy cyborgs.

wondering if they don’t have pressure washers in the future.

This “Terminator” bangs and clangs and has some impressive effects, but it seems to have forgotten one thing: These movies used to be giddy, rock ‘em, sock ‘em fun. This one is just plain grim.

In the closing scene, John Connor’s voice gravely intones that the resistance will continue to fight, that he will never stop until the cyborg empire has

been completely crushed. That may be the case for him, but by the time the credits roll on this grimy apocalyptic slugfest, many moviegoers will be ready to throw in the towel—then head for the showers.

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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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**UMPIRE, from A1**

excellence when he is behind home plate.

“He’s consistent and

knowledgeable – I don’t think I’ve ever argued with him about a call he’s made,” said Petty Officer 1st Class David Gibson, a Little

League coach and 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment’s battalion aid station lead petty officer. “I have no issues with him. This is my first year as a coach and I appreciate that he not only takes time out to volunteer, but he knows what he’s doing.

“Being an umpire isn’t exactly a glorious job,” added the Lake Station, Ind., native. “I just appreciate him coming out here on his free time and doing this for us.”

Jennifer Garcia, the Little League treasurer and league parent, said she has also enjoyed working with Thalheimer in the league.

“He’s always out here volunteering as an umpire,” said

the Lake Elsinore, Calif., native. “I commend anyone who takes time out of their schedule to volunteer because it’s not about the parents or the adults, it’s about the children.

“I wish more Marines like him would come out,” she said. “A lot of people from the base come out here, but we’re always looking for new volunteers to help the kids.”

Despite the hard work and amount of time spent, Thalheimer said he is going to continue volunteering as a Little League umpire, and working as a high school and tournament umpire until the end of his Marine Corps contract.

“I do it because I love the game,” he said. “I just really enjoy baseball. My dream one day would actually have to be to be an umpire in the World Series.”

After the Marine Corps, he hopes to enter either the Harry Wendelstedt School for Umpires in Ormond Beach, Fla., or the Jim Evans Academy of Professional Umpiring in Austin, Texas.

Little League All Stars are coming soon and there is a need for volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Larry Adams, the umpire in charge of the Twentynine Palms Little League, and the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group academic coordinator, by calling 969-3031 or e-mailing him at [Coyote.unclean@gmail.com](mailto:Coyote.unclean@gmail.com).

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# Combat Center sports



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Carlos Mendoza, (right), a defenseman with 1st Tanks, stops 3rd CEB's forward, Daniel Adams, by tripping him in front of the goal during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game June 2 at Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Ibrahima Bangoura, (middle) a forward for 1st Tanks, shows his skill as he pops the ball around 3rd CEB's defensive player William Haas, (right) during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game June 2 at Felix Field.

Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League		
Team	Wins	Losses
3rd CEB	3	0
HQBN	2	0
MWSS-374	1	1
MCCES	1	1
NHTP	0	2
1st Tanks	0	3



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Byron Whisnant, 3rd CEB's coach, cuts the ball to the inside, just out of reach to defending player Henry Gray, with 1st Tanks during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game June 2 at Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jorge Martinez, (front) with 3rd CEB, winds up to boot the ball down field during during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game June 2 at Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Carlos Mendoza, a player for 1st Tanks, charges after the ball during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game June 2 at Felix Field.



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Athlete of the Week

**Name:** Stephan Bohanan

**Age:** 39

**Job Title:** Fuels staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374

**Recognition:** Referee for the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League here

**Major sports accomplishment:** Has been a referee for five years on base and at state level; played with the All-Marine Soccer Team from 1995 to 1997 then became a coach; bumped up to the Men's Semi-Pro Open Division and became head coach of Chaos FC team, who won four outdoor championships and three indoor championships

**Favorite sports aspect:** "I like to just watch as plays develop. It's neat to watch the newer guys and some of the older guys playing, because you can see where the mistakes are and how it all comes together."

**Advice for aspiring athletes:** "Understand whatever sport you're going to play, then be in the best physical condition you can be in."



GOLF, from B1

way to handle a golf club, how to stand while swinging and where to lineup behind their ball.

"It's a lot of fun," said 12-year-old Kiefer Preston, a golfer in the league. "It is not wild like other sports and I get to play in tournaments. I have improved my game a lot since I've joined this golf league."

The children also received a class on proper golf course etiquette, including why it is important to remain quiet and refrain from horseplay while others are focusing on their game.

"I saw every single one of those kids improve," said Wade, an Escondido, Calif., native. "They all were hitting the ball better in the end then when they started."

For the last day of golf, parents were invited to play a game of golf with their golfers to see how much they have learned and improved since the beginning of the season.

"I hope you all have had the opportunity to see how well your child has improved throughout the season," Rosselli said to the parents during the party. "We gave them what they needed to play and they took off from there. It was a very successful season."

At the end of the party, each player received a pair of gloves, a box of golf balls, a bag of tees and a hat in recognition for their hard work and dedication throughout the season.

For more information about upcoming youth sports, contact the Combat Center's Youth Sports at 830-8421.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Richard Chambers, a volunteer coach for the Junior Golf League, assists Keifer Preston, 12, as he lines up a putt during the last game for the Combat Center's Junior Golf League at the Desert Winds Golf Course Wednesday.

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