

OBSERVATION POST

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 19, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 24

2/7 Scout Snipers take a 'little' hike

CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNT SAN JACINTO STATE PARK, PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – “We’d be going that fast too if we had such small packs,” said a hiker with a full camping

load on her back as eight men with military hair cuts and proper civilian attire passed her on the steep mountainside.

“Oh, those are the guys who started hiking at three in morning from the bottom,”

See HIKE, A10

3/11 Marines bring steel rain

SGT. SCOTT WHITTINGTON

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE - AFGHANISTAN

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Marines with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and elements of 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, arrived in Afghanistan in late April and early May ready to send a booming message to the enemy.

3/11, out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, is the first artillery battalion to be deployed in their primary mission set since Operation Iraqi Freedom I in March 2003.

They are the first Marine Corps artillery battalion to deploy with a High-Mobility Air Rocket System, M777A2 howitzers, Q-46A counter-battery radars and a light counter-mortar radar system consolidated under a

See ARTILLERY, A4



CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT

1st Lt. Andrew H. Melander, the Scout Sniper Platoon commander, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, leads his Marines and sailor from Scout Sniper Platoon up the steep terrain of Mount San Jacinto in Palm Springs, Calif., during a conditioning hike June 12. They ended up gaining 10,500 feet in elevation while hiking 22 miles of trails in 12 hours and 40 minutes.

Marine helicopters support MLG, 1/23

LANCE CPL. M. C. NEERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – Marines and sailors of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, conducted

cargo airlifts and transported Marines quickly over mountainous terrain from the expeditionary airfield here Saturday.

The CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter squadron, based out of Naval Station Norfolk, Va., conducted support missions for 4th Marine Logistics Group from New Orleans, and 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, a reserve battalion based primarily in Texas and Louisiana.

“Their mission is to give the Marines training the assets they could have available to them in country,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffery A. Bandy, the EAF chief, and a native of Carter, Tenn. “The helicopter’s ability to move troops and equipment quickly over the terrain is valuable to them because of the extra mobility it gives the units.”

The terrain challenges and the nature of the jobs of the logistics and infantry units, provided excellent training and experience, Bandy said.

“Lifting supplies and troops in a helicopter is much easier than moving on foot over the complex, compartmentalized terrain,” he said. “There are landing support specialists with the MLG, whose job it is to hook

See LIFT, A6



LANCE CPL. M. C. NEERL

Marines from Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, unload off of a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, during their insertion training Saturday at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.



LANCE CPL. BRIAN G. CARFREY

Forty Marines from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and eight actors took part in the National Museum of the Marine Corps’ filming of the reenactment video June 9 of the Battle of Belleau Wood.

Marines reenact Battle of Belleau Wood

LANCE CPL. BRYAN G. CARFREY

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

BEALETON, Va. — In the blazing heat and muggy humidity of a Virginia summer, 40 Marines and eight actors dressed in WWI-era uniforms bolted out of a tree line through wheat fields and smoke with old rifles and bayonets to reenact the Battle of Belleau Wood June 9.

Since the National Museum of the Marine Corps opened almost two years ago, it has been their intention to add an

interactive display dedicated to the Battle of Belleau Wood.

“Since we opened, the one question all the Marines asked [when visiting] was ‘where’s Belleau Wood?’” said Chuck Girbovan, the NMMC exhibits branch head.

A research team from NMMC actually went to Belleau Wood last June and filmed the tree lines and wheat fields in order to recreate the battle at the most realistic location.

When looking for a similar field to that of Belleau Wood, they settled on an isolated part

of land in Bealeton, Va., only about 30 miles from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

On site, various historians, uniform experts and weapon experts were on high alert when it came to attention to detail and accuracy. The crew even spent a day teaching the Marines how to properly hold and fire the WWI-era rifles and machine guns.

“We can’t short change the history of the Marine Corps,” Girbovan said.

The 40 Marines came from

See BATTLE, A6



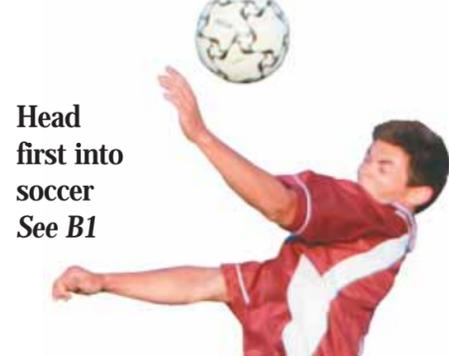
Making friends the Marine Corps way ~ See A3



There will be blood See A4



Ready, get set, throw See B3



Head first into soccer See B1

The fleet is in!

JOHN FLEMING

For the past several months, Marine and Navy motorcyclists who took the Basic Rider Course on base were required to provide their own motorcycles. However, there's an option available for potential riders or those who haven't yet decided to buy a bike.

Eight brand new "loaner" motorcycles are set up and ready to roll. The 250cc Hyosung Comets will be available for use in the Basic Rider Course, which is a requirement for all Marines and sailors who ride.

Bob Piirainen, the base traffic safety officer, highly recommends that Marines and sailors who are intending to purchase their own

motorcycles should plan on riding their own machines in the course, but for potential riders or those who aren't sure whether they want to buy a motorcycle the loaners can provide an excellent means of trying out the sport of motorcycling.

For information concerning the course, contact the Combat Center's Traffic Safety Office at 830-3622.

John Fleming is a rider coach with Cape Fox Professional Services who is providing motorcycle safety training for Marines and sailors aboard the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command. To submit your comments or contributions about motorcycling, his email is michael.j.fleming@usmc.mil



SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

Hot Topics

DINOSAUR/TODDLER PARK RENOVATIONS

The Dinosaur/Toddler Park will be closed for renovations starting June 11 - 29. We will be upgrading the park to expand the current size, add new fencing, sod and playground equipment. Note: New playground equipment is tentatively set to be installed mid July. The park will reopen once the new fencing and sod is in place and the new playground equipment arrives for installation. The current playground equipment will stay in place.

5K COYOTE DESERT FUN RUN

The Combat Center's Installation Personnel Administration Center will be hosting the 5K Coyote Desert Fun Run July 2. The cost of entry is \$15. All entries will receive a free T-shirt. Additional shirts can be purchased for \$7.50. Registration forms are to be completed and returned to IPAC by July 1. To obtain a registration form or more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Welty at 830-1818.

This Day in Marine Corps History

June 19, 1985

Communist guerrillas fire on an outdoor cafe in El Salvador, killing 13 people, including four off-duty Marine embassy guards.

Centerspeak

If you could have any MOS in the Marine Corps what would you choose?

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



CAPT. DANIEL MARQUES
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, STAFF JUDGE
ADVOCATE

"I'd like to be an 03 (infantry) because I want to be a warfighter."



SGT. ADAM MCPHEARSON
1ST TANKS BATTALION, CO. B

"I like my own MOS (tank mechanic) because I like to work with my hands a lot. If something is broken, I know I can fix it and get it out in the field."



1ST SGT. NELSON HIDALGO
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, CO. B,
COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

"I would want 0313 (Light Armored Reconnaissance). That was my original MOS and I liked it. Other infantry units don't have the wide-range missions LAR battalions cover."

SUDOKU #1431

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Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Wendy Latimore-Ferrell
Job title: Paralegal specialist and review officer

Job duties: I review post-trial courts and investigations. I also take care of commercial solicitation and fundraising.

Hobbies: "I do a lot of gardening and reading. I also spend a lot of time with my children and now my granddaughter."

What is your most significant achievement: "When I first got here we were really backlogged.

Within a few months we got through it all and started working on everything up-to-date. There were a lot of positive changes and it helped our office be more efficient."

Military service: "Yes, I did 14 years in the Navy."

Time aboard MCAGCC: Two years.



OBSERVATION POST

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Deputy Public Affairs Officer 1st Lt. Doy Demick
Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez
Press Chief Cpl. Corey A. Blodgett
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PAIR 'O DOCS

[puzzle Solutions on A8]

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American Profile Hometown Content

06/07/2009

ACROSS

- Sine __ non
- Like lemon juice
- Bibliography abbr.
- City area, informally
- Tile with pips
- "The Lion King" lioness
- Get mellow
- Method of moving files
- Shoulder muscle, for short
- Pro-__ (some tourneys)
- Appropriates as one's own
- The whole she bang
- Jury member, in theory
- Place for undies
- It's circulated
- Nobelist Wiesel
- Start of a bray
- "If it __ broke ..."
- Brits' strollers
- __ monster (large lizard)
- Terhune title dog
- Coty of France
- Mythical goat-man
- Irregular amounts
- Comic Martha
- Angle shape
- Pump figure
- Dallas b-ball
- Old US gas brand
- Breathalyzer flunker
- Claiborne of fashion
- "__ call us; ..."
- Corrida combatant
- 64.Corrada combatant
- Place for rubdowns
- "Hang on!"
- "Oy __!"

DOWN

- Campus locale
- Twist the arm of
- Genesis son
- Tack on
- Reef builders
- Mosque leader
- Goes underground, maybe
- "__ pig's eye!"
- Admits defeat
- "Bewitched" witch
- Ground crew's rollout
- Gazillions
- Places for napkins
- Active sort
- Pentacle bearer, maybe
- Was presidential
- Readied, as a pump
- Comics orphan
- Far from flustered
- Dik-dik kin

- Minuscule amounts
- Hard to hang onto
- Paddler's target
- Like badly worn tires
- Pinocchio, famously
- Petitioned, in away
- Butler player
- Paul's "Exodus" costar
- North American geese
- Went under
- Rider of 1775
- OTB postings
- Field yield
- Melt ingredient
- Mucky stuff
- NYC's Madison and Park: Abbr.
- Pole or Croat
- Slaw or fries
- Heavy metal's Osbourne
- Potter pal __Weasley
- Fabulous bird

Marines, Afghan role players break bread

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, out of Harlingen and Corpus Christi, Texas, learned about the culture and language of the people of Afghanistan Tuesday at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., in an effort to understand its diverse people.

Training for the Marines, normally focuses on the kinetic side of the training – shooting rounds and calling in missions from other systems – but they also learn how to work with the local community in Afghanistan by interacting with actual Afghans acting as role players, said Danny Ogilvie, a site manager with the government training and logistics contracting company Tatitlek, and a native of Palm Springs, Calif.

“The Marines get a good feel that they’re really in Afghanistan,” Ogilvie said. “The role players help them a lot by staying in character. They don’t break it for anything, which really helps the Marines get absorbed into the situation.”

Ogilvie said the goal of the scenarios is to immerse the Marines in the complex environment of Afghanistan, which is different than Iraq because of the isolation and

diversity of the different tribes all within one area.

“It’s a whole lot more complicated in Afghanistan,” he said. “Iraq is not only easier to move through, but easier to communicate in. Most Iraqis speak Arabic, but in Afghanistan they speak many more languages, and it’s an isolated culture from place to place because of the terrain.”

The less-experienced Marines do not always take as much from it as the more senior Marines because the training focuses more on the command element learning the politics and culture of the Afghan people, and dealing with Afghan leaders, Ogilvie said. However, they still learn what they can and it shows.

Marines who had the opportunity to mingle with the role players, such as Lance Cpl. Armando Govea, a rifleman with Company C, 1/23, gave insight into what was happening and how it would pay off in the future.

“It’s kind of strange at first when you realize what’s going on,” said the Corpus Christi native. “I’m from the South; these guys are from another hemisphere. Naturally there’s going to be one or two things we don’t do the same.”

Govea said that speaking to the Afghan people in the village as they conducted a search helped him prepare for what he may encounter overseas.

“If you’re friendly with the locals, they’re going to



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Jason Juarez, a rifleman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, from Halingen and Corpus Christi, Texas, speaks with an Afghan role player Tuesday at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., when the company did its interaction with the local role players exercise.

treat you nice,” Govea said. “That’s something everyone can agree with. I learned that after one of the villagers shared some bread with me. Didn’t see it coming, but it was a good gesture.”

Although the junior Marines do not receive the same experience working directly with the Afghan leaders, Ogilvie said he has seen a change in the attitude of all Marines since he began working with the role players.

“When they started this training, the Marines took a far more aggressive approach in dealing with and handling the role players,” Ogilvie said. “They’ve changed a lot; they’ve learned from the past. The units who come through here now don’t just start yelling and detaining people. They tactfully work with the locals like they’re supposed to.”

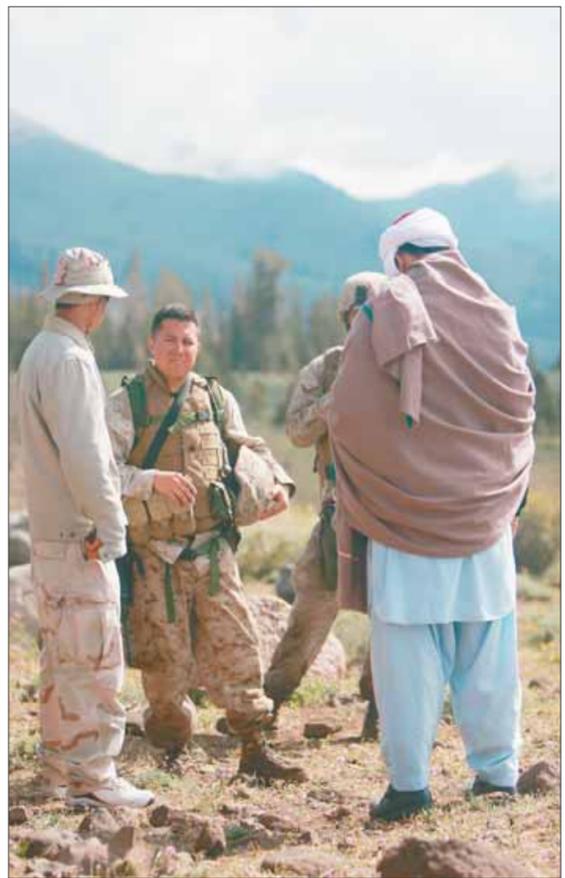
“It’s not just about the language barrier, which is a huge



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

An Afghan role player offers food to Lance Cpl. Armando Govea, a rifleman with Company C, 1/23, Tuesday when their two cultures mixed for the first time at MWTC.

one,” he said. “Marines learn how to conduct themselves in the village of the people of Afghanistan. They learn what gestures are appropriate and which are not. The learning one could take from the experience is almost endless.”



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Jason Juarez, a rifleman with Company C, 1/23, and an Afghan role player hold a conversation through a translator Tuesday at MWTC.

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TIRES & WHEELS

Blood drawn? Where has it gone?

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A prick of the needle, a bit of blood drawn, and the appointment is over for the patient. But what happens to the blood in the needle after the patient has left the hospital?

The laboratory at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital provides testing for those blood samples and returns timely, accurate results for the tests.

"Basically, we are responsible for all laboratory testing on the base, which includes

active duty and reserve service members, family members and retirees," said Petty Officer 1st Class Alex Escobal, the lead petty officer of the hospital's laboratory. "We conduct and average of about 3,000 tests every month. Depending on what's going on, we may have even more than that."

Recently, in light of the H1N1 virus pandemic, the hospital's 21 laboratory technicians processed and shipped numerous blood samples and specimens to Naval Health Research

See LAB, A7



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Petty Officer 3rd Class Arnel Mangosing, a laboratory technician at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, conducts blood typing tests on specimens for the blood bank at the lab Monday. Blood typing is important because if a patient receives the wrong blood, he or she could die if not treated quickly.

ARTILLERY, from A1

single composite headquarters.

In years past, artillery battalions deployed with only 155mm howitzers and had to rely on other units to provide

the breadth of capabilities available to 3/11 today.

"The systems are newer, more accurate and effective than we used to use," said Lt. Col. James C. Lewis, the battalion commander of 3/11.

"We move quicker, and have a much more tailorable capability for the COIN [Counter Insurgency] fight."

Advances in technology such as the HIMARS, a multiple-launch guided rocket sys-

tem, and laser range finders that make use of global positioning satellites help the artillerymen make precision strikes on enemy targets.

"This isn't your granddaddy's artillery," Lewis said.

"What 3/11 brings is indirect fire support for the close and deep fight," said Maj. Waco Lane, the battalion's operations officer. "Somebody needs help? We'll shoot."

If an infantry unit calls for indirect fire support, there are a few things to be considered before rounds are sent downrange. Is the target near a sensitive or protected landmark, friendly forces or an innocent civilian population? What type of ammunition will accomplish the mission most effectively? How will weather or climatic conditions effect the flight of the round? And how do all these things figure into the mathematical computations that can put a howitzer round within meters of the desired target from up to 18 miles away.

After these calculations are determined, Marines like

Lance Cpl. Fredy A. Villalta, 21, and Lance Cpl. Ernest L. Mastel, 22, both field cannoners with Battery N, 5th Bn., 14th Marines, will be ready to bring the steel rain.

"I look forward to getting on those cannons," said Villalta, a Los Angeles native. "That's what I signed on and trained for."

"I can't wait to do what we trained to do," said Mastel, also a Los Angeles native. "Normally, we fill roles outside our occupational specialties such as military police, base security and convoy operations."

Even with technology and motivated Marines, there are still challenges to overcome. Most of those challenges stem from one primary obstacle - distance.

The farther one is away from a location, the more difficult it is to maintain clear communication and provide logistical support. Even facing challenges like these, the leathernecks of 3/11 exhibit confidence in their unit's ability to be successful.

"We have enough assets to

accomplish the mission right now," said Lane, a Yucca Valley, Calif., native.

"We're here to provide close supporting fires and responsive counter fires in support of Regimental Combat Team 3 within the full spectrum of counter insurgency operations," said Lewis, a Lincoln, Neb. native.

To ensure the battalion's mission is successful, the Marines at the guns have to be accurate and quick, he explained. A gun team is normally made up of 10 Marines, working in rotation to support 24-hour operations. Each team is responsible for their gun's maintenance, its accuracy and its own perimeter security.

"Accuracy is number one; getting a good gunnery solution. Number two is quickness; procedurally correct," Lewis said. "If we don't do it, we fail."

The noncommissioned officers on the ground ensure the unit achieves success. Whether it is an active duty Marine or a reservist, the Marines say they know what they have to do to have a successful fire mission.



SGT. SCOTT WHITTINGTON

Marines from Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, fire an M777 A2 lightweight howitzer during a field fire at the training ranges near Camp Leatherneck in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, June 4. 3/11 is an element of Regimental Combat Team 3, whose mission is to conduct counterinsurgency operations in southern Afghanistan with a focus on training and mentoring the Afghan national police.

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1885 Liberty Nickel.....	\$190-\$1,000
1916-D Mercury Dime.....	\$275-\$6,000
1796 Draped Bust Quarter.....	\$3,500-\$25,000
1901-S Barber Quarter.....	\$2,000-\$18,500
1932-S Washington Quarter.....	\$45,000-\$1,000
1921-D Walking Liberty Half.....	\$80-\$5,000
1893-S Morgan Silver Dollar.....	\$1,050-\$50,000
1829-1834 Capped Bust \$5 Gold.....	\$6,000-\$12,000
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Marine Corps changes EFMP policy

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps is taking one more step to give families associated with the Exceptional Family Member Program the steady and seamless continuing care their children need by updating the policy of continuation on location.

According to Marine Corps Administrative Message 348/09, EFMP families face challenges with maintaining continuity of medical care and educational services that can often be disrupted by permanent change of station assignments.

EFMP assists and advocates for families with special needs children in the military, said Titus Burns, the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services EFMP manager. Any child

who requires special education or has complex medical issues, to include mental health, can be considered for enrollment in EFMP.

"We are here for our Marine Corps families and families from all service branches," he said.

Enrollment in EFMP is not a factor in the sponsor's deployment obligations; they are still required to deploy. The program is based on family readiness and allowing the deployed service member to know their family will be cared for in the best way possible while they are overseas, he said.

The MARADMIN is an advance notice of changes to Marine Corps Order 1754.4A. The policy states that Headquarters Marine Corps Personal and Family Readiness Division will recommend a continuation on location for a Marine and

their family when care for the exceptional family member would be seriously disrupted by the Marine's permanent reassignment.

To be considered, the Marine must have permanent change of station orders in hand, Burns said.

If the gaining command is unable to provide the needed level of educational and medical care, the current command will try to keep the EFMP Marine and his family at the same duty station if a valid billet exists that will not hinder the Marines progression in the Corps, Burns said.

If no billet is available at the current duty station, the Marine must agree to an in-country assignment for a minimum of 24 months in order to fill a billet vacancy that promotes career progression, while his family stays in their current location.

"Headquarters Marine Corps estimates that only two percent of EFMP families will fall into this option," he said.

If an EFMP family stationed in Twentynine Palms is medically and educationally taken care of here, and the Marine receives orders and

the family qualifies, they might send the Marine to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Burns said. They try to keep the family in the same geographical area if they can not stay on the same installation.

However, not every EFMP family qualifies for

continuation of location, Burns said. "Each family will be looked at individually and they need to talk with their case worker to see if they qualify to send a request to Headquarters Marine Corps."

For more information about the program call the EFMP office at 830-7740.

Sgt. saves his gunner from burning tank



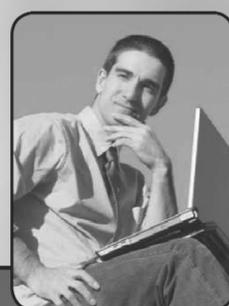
LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Sgt. Christopher Phinney, a 25-year-old Cumberland, Maine, native, smiles as he greets one of dozens of Marines and guests who attended his award ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center June 18th. Phinney's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Thomas Gordon, the commanding officer of 1st Tank Battalion, told the audience the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the second highest the Department of the Navy awards for non-combat actions, is Phinney's fourth personal award. "He recovered from his injuries, deployed to Iraq, received two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals during and after this last deployment," said Gordon. "He had one NAM when he arrived at the battalion – four personal awards in one enlistment; Sgt Phinney is just an outstanding Marine!" When asked what his plans were now, Phinney smiled and said, "I'm going home for the summer. I haven't been home in a really long time." **Check out next week's OP for the full story**

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BATTLE, FROM A1

MCB Quantico, but they had to look like battle-hardened WWI Marines.

"Over the last week or so they told us not to shave or get a haircut," said Lance Cpl. Alex Maze, 21, a comptroller at MCB Quantico. "There were no high and tights then and they wanted us to look rugged like we've been fighting for a few weeks."

Maze, a Toledo, Ohio, native also noticed a difference in the uniforms.

"The gear they had is uncomfortable, hot and not good for mobility," Maze said. "These pants are so tight I'm crouching for five seconds and my legs go numb. It's amazing how they did it with this gear and no water."

Running through the tree lines and the wheat fields portraying a historic Marine Corps battle caused some Marines to think about the Marines who fought the real battle.

"As I am taking part in the charges I'm actually picturing running toward machine gun fire and artillery," said Cpl. Harrison Mealey, 19, a data network specialist from MCB Quantico. "Those Marines were pretty brave. It's nice we can portray the Marines of Belleau Wood and give them the credit they deserve."

The actual finished product will appear inside the new wing of the museum, which is scheduled to open in April 2010. The film will be showed on an eight-foot-tall and 15-foot-wide screen with 12 speakers surrounding the visitor. The sides to the room will be painted to resemble the



LANCE CPL. BRIAN G. CARFREY

Lance Cpl. Alex Maze, 21, comptroller at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., sits down and rests on a bale of hay after shooting part of the National Museum of the Marine Corps reenactment video of the Battle of Belleau Wood June 9. The Marines were fully decked out in WWI uniforms and weapons.

French woods.

"The exhibit will be one of the centerpieces in the new phase of the museum," said Gwenn Adams, the public affairs chief for the museum. "We have been planning it since we opened and spared no expense."

When visitors watch the film at the NMMC, it will be seen from the Germans perspective, with the Marines

marking the locations of the different forces.

"Belleau Wood was the biggest fight Marines had ever had up to that point," said retired Col. Joseph Alexander, a historical advisor and Marine historian. "Marines had fought nothing like the German army; the Germans had the best machine gunners in the world."

It didn't take long for the German machine gunners to show their ability.

"The Marines started with 500 men and within 30 minutes were down to 200," said Alexander, who has helped produce 25 military documentaries for networks such as PBS, the History Channel and A&E.

The Marines did overcome what seemed to be impossible odds, and took Belleau Wood from the Germans and kept them out of Paris.

Alexander said, if the Marines would have lost the Battle of Belleau Wood, the French would have likely dropped out of the war, which could have easily led to the Germans winning the war.

This is also the battle where the Marines adopted a new nickname given to them by the Germans, "teufel hunden," or "devil dogs," because the Marines fought and attacked like they were "dogs from hell."

"The Marines were crazy and the Germans hadn't seen that before," Alexander said.

Marines were excited about taking part in something so rich in Marine Corps history and that will be seen in the NMMC.

"It's pretty cool to be out here and be a part of this," Maze said. "No one knew what to expect, but it's been a lot of fun."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Brandon Midgett, a landing support specialist with 4th Marine Logistics Group, gives signals to a CH-46 Sea Knight Saturday as it descends to pick up cargo as part of their training at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.

LIFT, from A1

cargo up to the helicopter as it flies by.

"Infantry also get their training from navigating to the insertion points and boarding the helicopter," he said. "They also have to get their bearing and navigate from their insertion point afterwards."

The air crews aboard the CH-46s acknowledged the usefulness of their helicopters in any environment, particularly the rugged terrain of the mountains.

"It's a really useful tool anywhere," said Cpl. Sean A. Derobba, an air crewman

with HMM-774, and a native of Niles, Ohio. "It's tough to make your way over all the hills and mountains out here."

Derobba said their helicopters' role is very important in bringing the fight to the enemy.

"We're doing supply and troop transports, and we're doing it fast," he said. "It's way more practical when you can have something quickly airlifted from the rear to a forward position, than having it trucked in slowly up the small roads, or brought in on a mule train."

"It's a great experience for the Marines who haven't yet done this," he said. "When you have the resources to do so, bringing people, weapons, supplies, or anything to the fight faster is always the best option."

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LAB, from A4

Center Point Loma, Calif., to track and study the virus, said the Iba Zambales, Philippines, native.

The lab is also partnered with the Community Blood

Bank, a blood donor organization in Palm Desert, to keep a sufficient supply of blood in the hospital. Blood samples from all Combat Center personnel are also kept at the hospital as part of their medical records. While

stored here, a lab tech must be responsible for tracking all blood samples to ensure there are no mistakes.

"We must label everything carefully to make sure a patient's blood is their blood," said Petty Officer

3rd Class Arnel Mangosing, a lab tech at the hospital. "This is the blood that will stay with your record the entire time you're in Twentynine Palms.

"This is a simple process, but it's also one of the most important," said the Cypress, Calif., native. "There's really no room for error here. We use this blood for identification, blood transfusions or anything else we need. If you give someone the wrong blood, they could die within an hour."

The lab also has the capability to test for a variety of illnesses, including leukemia, anemia, influenza, HIV, strep throat and many others, using blood samples, Escobal said. They can also test urine and semen for alcohol and illegal substances like narcotics. Once the tests are completed, they are shipped to Point Loma to be officially analyzed.

To become a laboratory technician, the sailors train

for 13 months at either the Naval School of Health Sciences in San Diego, or at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Va., Escobal said. Afterward, the lab techs may be sent to bases worldwide to support medical operations.

"Most of our staff members have a lot of education not just from military training, but also

from civilian schools as well," he said. "We're also very lucky here because many of the sailors have deployed at least once or have served around the world at different bases, so there is a lot of knowledge and diversity in our lab. There's a test for just about everything and we have a highly trained, qualified staff to get the job done."



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Terri Crow, the microbiology supervisor at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, looks for viruses in blood specimens at the lab Monday. The New Castle, Penn., native, then put the blood specimens into a machine called a microscan to determine what antibodies will or will not kill the virus.

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

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+ 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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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.

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Bike safety course teaches riders 'Total Control'

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Representatives from Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic held a two-day motorcycle safety course



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Frank Santiago, a rider coach for the Combat Center's Safety Office, waits to conduct a motorcycle handling exercise during the Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic.

for Combat Center personnel to teach advanced safety techniques through classroom instruction and practical application on the motorcycle range June 11 and 12.

The representatives from Total Control explained that the course was more of a mentorship program and designed for the senior Marines and the motorcycle instructors who participated so they could take the knowledge they gained and pass it on to the junior Marines and fellow motorcycle riders who were unable to attend.

Total Control has been touring the West Coast, holding clinics aboard Marine Corps bases to help protect the Marines, sailors and civilians who ride motorcycles.

The Marine Corps' top leaders will be evaluating the training to see if it has a lasting effect. If the course is successful, the Marine



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Wally Trevains, a Marine Corps Installations motorcycle safety supervisor, shows near-perfect form as he leans into the turn while negotiating cones during the Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic motorcycle safety course June 11 and 12 at the Combat Center's motorcycle range.

Corps will add Total Control's clinics to the courses already required for Marines and sailors.

The training was a step above the three riding courses already offered aboard the Combat Center, and was designed to teach

advanced motorcycle riders life-saving skills and techniques while riding, especially on highways.

"Most accidents that occur are from curves in the road and intersections," said Roger Huggins, a representative for Total Control

Advanced Riding Clinic. "So many inexperienced riders are getting on these bikes and have no idea of their riding level. They have no control and don't know what they are doing or what is happening."

During the first day, Huggins and Pilot Nelson, another representative from Total Control, stressed the importance of taking corners properly. The riders first went through slideshows that explained the Six Keys of Cornering, which are traction management, mental state, throttle control, visual importance, line selection and body position. After the slideshows, the participants rode back to

the range and applied the techniques they learned.

"What more could a rider ask for then to go riding during work hours to further his education?" asked Sgt. Bryan Harshman, the maintenance chief for Company E, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. "I took the beginner and experienced rider courses out here, and I have been riding for 10 years. This is new stuff that every rider needs to know."

Along with the Six Keys to Cornering, the participants were shown the proper way to use their suspension system and how to tune it properly to their own way of riding.

"Most of the classes people will sit through will not discuss the suspension system," said Nelson, a Las Vegas native. "What people don't realize is that it is a very important and critical aspect of riding."

The second day of riding focused more on the psychological aspect of riding and how to control fear.

"When you stay focused and are concentrating on something, you are using the frontal lobe of your brain," Nelson said. "When you are dealing with fear, or you are afraid, you are using the back of the brain. You cannot use both at the same time. The brain doesn't work that way. So if you stay focused, you can't become fearful. That is what we are trying to show these riders. Stay focused and you'll be a lot safer out there."

Huggins agreed with Nelson, saying fear causes people to hesitate and delay their reaction time, which in turn can cause accidents.

It is important that they are learning this stuff here instead of on the road, Huggins said. "There are so many different variables out there on the highway. If someone doesn't know this stuff, they can easily get killed by reacting in the wrong way."

For more information about the Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic, visit their Web site at <http://www.totalcontroltraining.net>.

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5	7	6	8	9	4	2	3	1

In focus; TRICARE vision care benefits

KRISTEN WARD

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Can you read this? How about now? Better?

If you have trouble reading any of the words above, you may want to have your eyes checked. Fortunately, vision care is a TRICARE-covered benefit. Here's how the benefit varies by your plan and age.

Active duty service members and family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime are allowed a comprehensive eye exam every year with no co-pay. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries older than six years have coverage for one routine eye exam yearly. After the deductible is met, cost-shares will apply for those using TRICARE Standard and Extra plans.

TRICARE Prime retirees and family members are eligible for one comprehensive eye exam every two years with a network optometrist or ophthalmologist. They may have a \$12 co-pay if seen outside the base clinic. Retired beneficiaries with TRICARE Standard only have vision benefits when diagnosed with

a medical condition such as glaucoma, cataracts or diabetes. Normal deductible and cost shares apply.

All TRICARE-eligible children, regardless of plan, are covered for eye and vision screenings at birth and for a routine exam at six months old by their primary or pediatric provider. All family members between the ages of 3 and 6 years are authorized to receive two comprehensive eye exams—including screening for developmental disorders—annually. After age six, they can receive one exam per year by an ophthalmologist or optometrist depending on their TRICARE plan.

Eye doctors use a wide variety of tests and procedures to examine your eyes during a comprehensive exam. These tests range from simple ones, like reading an eye chart, to more complex tests.

Beneficiaries should receive comprehensive exams through an optometrist or ophthalmologist and do not usually need a referral. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries will need a referral for routine eye exams received outside the

provider network. Active duty service members must get a referral through their primary care manager.

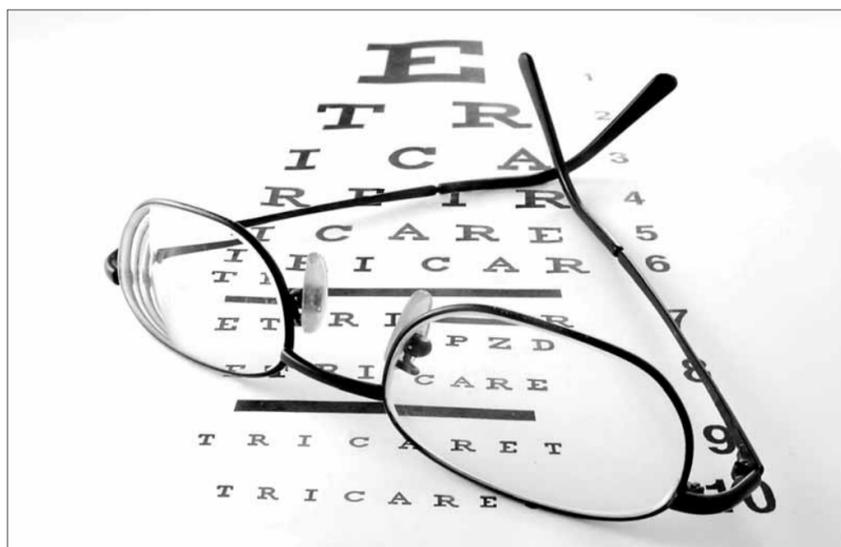
In addition to preventive exams, TRICARE covers most medically necessary eye exams. Diabetic beneficiaries are covered for an eye exam each year with no co-payment, regardless of their sponsor's military status, although they may pay cost shares. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries need referrals for medically necessary visits if they are outside of a military treatment facility.

Beneficiaries can find a list of TRICARE network vision care providers in TriWest's online provider directory at <http://www.triwest.com/Beneficiary/Provider>.

Searches can be conducted by location and specialty. For eye care, choose ophthalmology or optometry.

Beneficiaries who receive care at a military treatment facility should check to see if that clinic offers special programs for vision care.

For active duty service members, eyeglasses are available at military treatment



COURTESY PHOTO

All family members between the ages of 3 and 6 years are authorized to receive two comprehensive eye exams annually.

facilities for free. All other TRICARE beneficiaries have coverage for contact lens or eyeglasses only if they are diagnosed with infantile glaucoma, keratoconus, dry eyes, irregularities in the eye's shape, or loss of human lens function from eye surgery or congenital absence.

Replacement lenses, or

adjustments, cleaning and repairs of eyeglasses are not covered. Contact screenings and fittings are also not a TRICARE-covered benefit unless you

have one of the medical conditions listed above.

For more information about your vision benefits, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Vision>.

Marine awarded for courage under fire



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, pins a Navy Achievement Medal on the breast of Lance Cpl. Tyler Wilkerson, the protocol noncommissioned officer at the Operations and Training directorate, during a monthly awards ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 11. The Fresno, Calif., native earned the award for his actions in Afghanistan on Aug. 20, 2008 while serving as a fire team leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. According to the award citation, Wilkerson's squad was ambushed by enemy aggressors. He led his fire team on a flanking attack around the enemy position and repelled the ambush, saving the lives of his fellow Marines and killing two insurgents.



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

It always warms my heart when I observe a son happily following in the footsteps of his father. Therefore, I am delighted to write a brief essay extolling the virtues of my friend Gene Nelson who is the owner of Nelson Heating and Air with its slogan "Proudly serving the Morongo Basin since 1973."

Beginning when Gene was only 13 years old his father taught him all about air conditioners and swamp coolers, including installation, maintenance and repair. Today, Gene, of course possesses all of the required certificates that go with his work. His license is 820812C20.

Gene grew up in the Morongo Basin and graduated from Twentynine Palms High in 1977 where he was an outstanding athlete. Gene met his wife Randee almost 20 years ago and they have been a hard working and mutually supportive team ever since.

Gene and Randee live in a lovely home from which they are able to look out over a wide expanse of the Morongo Basin. Gene dreamed of having his permanent home located on that mountain side when he was nine years old. His dream came true!

During this Father's Day Week I salute a tough minded optimist who, like his late father, owns a successful business, is a respected employer, a proud son, a loving husband and a good man.

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HIKE, from A1

said another man in her group. "Never mind," she said. Seven Marines and a sailor from Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, passed a lot of hikers and weekend warriors June 12 on their way to San Jacinto Peak nearly 11,000 feet above Palms Springs, Calif., but the most important thing they passed was the wooden sign that told them they had reached the top.

After more than 10 hours of hiking, Sgt. Matthew C. Walker, a team leader with Scout Sniper Platoon, said it was pretty much the only thing on his mind.

"In my head I just kept thinking, 'can I make it up to the summit?' he said. "That is why we did this, more of a mental challenge than anything. So everyone would learn that if you just keep pushing yourself you can just keep going and forget how you feel. Learn that your body can actually take a lot more than you think it can."

Mount San Jacinto is famous for the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which lifts thousands of tourists a year 8,516 feet to camping areas and trails throughout the state park. Unlike most hikers though, the Marines and sailor opted to start at the base of the mountain near the Palm Springs Art Museum, 16 miles from the summit.

"All together, from the museum to the summit and then back down to the tram it took 12 hours and 40



CPL COREY A. BLODGETT

Marines and a sniper from Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stride through the second half of their climb to San Jacinto Peak nearly 11,000 feet above Palms Springs, Calif., June 12, after having already hiked 11 miles up the steep mountain terrain for more than eight hours.

minutes. We went 22 miles and gained 10,500 feet of elevation," said 1st Lt. Andrew H. Melander, the Scout Sniper Platoon commander. "It was definitely challenging. My feet felt like ground beef after it, but I was amazed by some of the performances of the guys. There were a lot of guys you could tell were struggling, and they just kept going."

Everyone agreed on the high level of drive and endurance it took to finish.

"That was probably the most grueling thing I've done," said Lance Cpl. Jesse R. Lopez, a rifleman new to the platoon. "It was not what I expected beforehand, because as we were hiking up, we'd get to the top of one peak where I thought I could see the top, but

then they were like 'no, we still have six more hours to go.'

"That was the point though," he said. "What they wanted us to take away from that experience was to just have that 'no-quit' mentality, always be on top of our game and be ready to just tackle any challenge that comes our way."

Putting the men through the struggle and labor of the climb was

an important aspect of the training, said Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Solum, the Scout Sniper Platoon staff non-commissioned officer in charge.

"One of the things I learned early on in my career is that there is no better way to build camaraderie than being put through a shared, common suffering to accomplish big goals you can be proud of," he said.

Melander agreed, saying after awhile, they would know all the pain would be worth it.

"I'm sure they were hurting quite a bit, but I know they got a lot out of it afterwards," Melander said. "They're going to drive down to Palm Springs now, see those peaks and know they conquered that mountain."

Solum said he could tell the guys were "beat" after the climb, but he also saw that they built a solid connection with each other, by overcoming obstacles few have overcome.

"The hike was an excellent way to bring everyone together," Solum said. "It was challenging and no one was looking forward to it because it was going to suck, and it did. But at the same time, even when it was sucking, the guys knew they were accomplishing something they could be proud of."

"This is probably something none of them have ever done in their lives before; most of them have probably never climbed a mountain," he said. "Most of them probably never went 22 miles with a pack."

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B1

British Soccer Camp coaches show Combat Center children skills, sportsmanship



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jay Bedford, a midfielder with the British Challenger Soccer Camp 2009, lowers into a slide tackle trying to kick the ball out of the defense during a soccer game at Felix Field Tuesday. Bedford and the rest of the Challenger camp traveled from Great Britain to the Combat Center to teach children how to have fun while playing competitive soccer.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Youth Sports program sponsored the British Challenger Soccer Camp 2009, and invited eight coaches from Great Britain to visit the Combat Center to coach children in their beloved sport from Monday to today.

While visiting, the coaches were challenged by the Combat Center's Marine soccer team to a friendly match to give each other an opportunity to play with and defend against different soccer styles.

The camp accommodated 88 children who were separated into groups depending on their age.

Challenger, like its sponsor Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports, places emphasis on teaching fundamentals, athleticism and sportsmanship, and continues to be an enormously popular summer program, said Joe Rosselli, the manager of Youth Sports.

"Youth Sports started inviting Challenger coaches out here in 1991," Rosselli said. "Back then, we only had 24 children sign up. Now look at us, we have 88 children participating."

Nick Howitt, the head coach for the British team visiting the Combat Center, said their main focus was to teach the children how to have fun while playing soccer.

"It is a great feeling being able to come to America and give our knowledge back to the children," said Howitt, a 21-year-old native of London. "Working with these children at such a young age is the best time to teach them the skills they need."

Jami Lewis, an 11-year-old participant, said she was enjoying the camp a lot, and has learned a lot since it began.

"They're a lot of help when you're learning something new," Lewis said. "They have taught us a bunch of new skills and showed us how to improve ourselves. It has been so much fun."

On Tuesday evening, the Challengers, along with a handful of volunteer players from the Combat Center, returned to Felix Field to compete against the Combat Center's Marine Soccer Team.

With 80 minutes on the board, both teams started with fresh legs and maintained a well-balanced game. The base team pulled ahead,

scoring three goals, while the Challengers managed to sink one past their opponent.

Although they lost, the Challengers walked away with their heads held high, and congratulated their fellow teammates for a job well done.

"We did pretty well considering we have barely known each other for a week," Howitt said to his team after the game. "It was a great game, we all did good."

Coaches from the British Challenger Soccer Camp are scheduled to return to the Combat Center next summer.

Youth Sports begins Start Smart program

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports program is accepting applications for their Start Smart Sports Development program until June 26 for children ages 3 to 5.

The children taking part in the developmental program will be able to learn about different sports including soccer, baseball, basketball, and football.

Start Smart Sports Development is a parent and child interactive learning experience where parents work individually with their child during a practice under a coach's supervision.

"It is quite a fun time," said Joe Rosselli, the MCCS Youth Sports director. "Sometimes we get out there and we have to coach the parents on how to play

the sport as well."

Courtney Chambers, an MCCS Youth Sports recreation assistant, agreed with Rosselli saying not only does it give parents the one-on-one time with their children, but it may give the parents the necessary skills they need to play the sport at home with their children.

Start Smart Sports Development program will have the children move to different learning stations where the child will learn the beginning fundamentals of the highlighted sport.

"This is a great program that will teach the basics about each sport," Rosselli said. "This is where a child will learn how to kick and throw a ball and use a bat."

The program is a combination of all the Combat Center's Start Smart programs and is the perfect stepping stone for children

before they become sport specific, Chambers said.

Two goals are to make sure every child has fun and to teach them the skills they need to enter the older league, Chambers said.

Since the program runs during the summer, Rosselli and Chambers decided to run it like a camp instead of a league. "This Start Smart runs for two weeks, meeting seven times," Rosselli said. "In a Start Smart league, they would meet once a week for seven weeks."

In this Start Smart program, children will learn the necessary skills to play the game, but won't compete in matches.

Start Smart Sports Development begins July 21 at the Combat Center's Community Center.

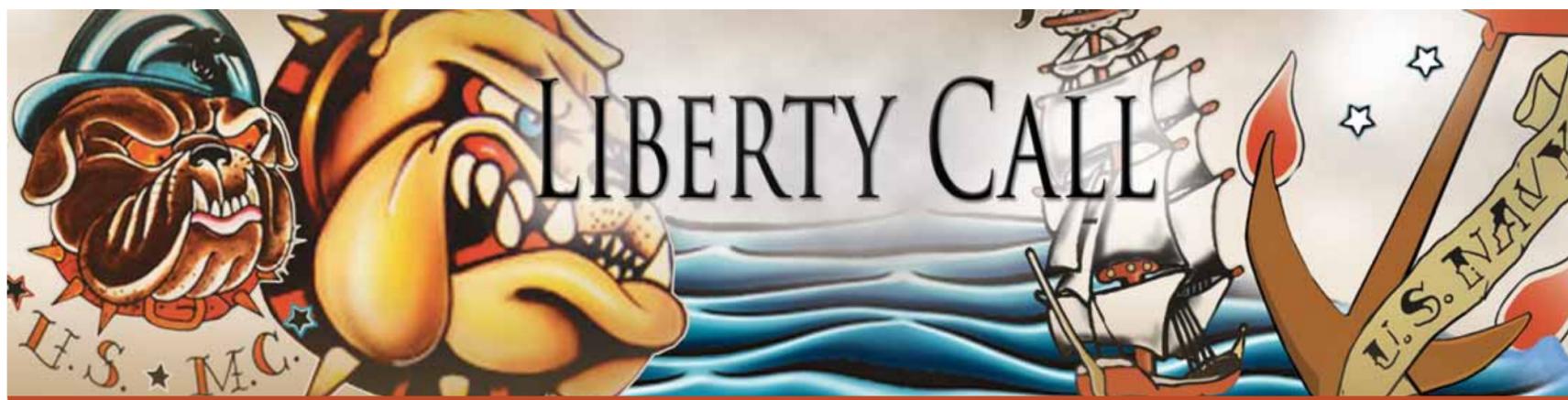
For more information, contact MCCS Youth Sports at 830-8421.

Warriors came out to play



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

(From left to right) Blake Burchfield, Bryan Kern, Bill Harrington, Travis Trombley, Mario Martinez and Jarret Edwards, all Fight Club 29 fighters, took home medals from the Cage Hustlers Mixed Martial Arts Show in San Bernardino, Calif., Saturday. Overall, the team won three gold medals, two silvers, and one bronze for their bouts against other opponents in Southern California. The next tournament Fight Club 29 will compete in will be Grapplers' Experience in Ontario, Calif., June 27.



<p>FRI. 6/19</p> <p>Art in Public Places: Photography by Jennifer Ruggiero Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Where: Twentynine Palms City Hall 6136 Adobe Road Twentynine Palms. For more information call 367-6799 or visit http://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us</p>	<p>FRI. 6/19</p> <p>Photography: Memorial show celebrating the talent of Jerry de Guzman Time: All day event Where: Tumbleweed Art Gallery 57490 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley. For more information call 365-066 or visit http://www.chaparralartists.com</p>	<p>SAT. 6/20</p> <p>Exhibit: Impressionist and Modern Masters Time: All day event Where: Palm Springs Art Museum 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs For more information call 325-7186 or visit http://www.psmuseum.org</p>	<p>SAT. 6/20</p> <p>Music: 50 Cent Haircut and David Serby Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road Pioneertown. For more information call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com</p>	<p>NOW - THROUGH 7/25</p> <p>Palm Springs Power Baseball Most games begin at 7:05 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Stadium 1901 E. Baristo Road Palm Springs. For more information call 778-4487 or visit http://www.palmspringspowerbaseball.com - Free admission for active duty military</p>
<p>FRI. 6/26</p> <p>Yes, with special guest Asia Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio. For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</p>	<p>FRI. 6/26</p> <p>The comedy of Mike Epps Time: 9 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinosort.com</p>	<p>FRI. 7/10</p> <p>Elvis Costello and The Imposters Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more info call (888) 999-1995</p>	<p>TUES. 7/14 – SAT. 7/18</p> <p>8th Annual Desert Showdown Amateur Boxing Time: 1 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison Pl., Coachella For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com</p>	<p>FRI. 7/31</p> <p>Huey Lewis and The News Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more info call (888) 999-1995</p>

Thumbs 'Up' for wonderful new Pixar adventure

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Up
Starring Ed Asner (voice)
Rated PG

The new box-office blockbuster from Pixar/Disney is the story of a grumpy old man, a plucky young boy and a bunch of balloons that take them on the adventure of a lifetime. In this tale that's both a flight of fancy and a reminder of the everyday riches of real life, Ed Asner is note-perfect as the voice of Karl Frederickson, a widower who regrets never being able to take his wife

on the trip of her dreams—to South America and an exotic "lost land" called Paradise Falls. The first 20 minutes of the movie sets the stage as Karl and Ellie meet as children in the 1920s. They both love fantasizing about globetrotting adventure, particularly the escapades of a dashing explorer named Charles Muntz, who dazzled the world with his discovery of Paradise Falls, then returned there on his zeppelin, never to return. Little Karl and little Ellie (adorably voiced by the young daughter of the movie's director and writer,

Pete Doctor) grow up and get married, but life keeps intruding on their dream of following Muntz's elusive trail. A masterfully heart-breakingly sweet scene compresses the couple's lifetime of love into a wordless montage that explains much about the depth of their relationship and the strength of their emotional ties that remain after Ellie dies. Now, in the present, Karl lives alone in the only house that he and Ellie ever called home. Developers want it as the last piece of real estate for a big construction project. But Karl has another idea, one involving the inflatable leftovers of his previous career as a sidewalk balloon vendor. After a spectacular liftoff, Karl is surprised to discover that he's not alone. His stowaway, Russell, a roly-poly Wilderness Scout working on a merit badge for "assisting the elderly," begins as Karl's comedic foil but ends up stealing your heart. Making it to Paradise Falls, the unlikely traveling companions encounter talking dogs, an enormous squawking bird and the reclusive Muntz himself, who's not quite as welcoming as he first appears. The gags are plentiful and splendidly smart. Props that seem insignificant—like a leaf blower, or the tennis balls on the feet of Karl's walker—re-appear later in wondrously funny ways. The talking dogs are even more hilarious than



COURTESY PHOTO
Karl Fredrickson, voiced by Ed Asner, decides to thwart the evil land developers who want to destroy his home. Using the remaining stock from his balloon vendor business he takes off to live his dream.



COURTESY PHOTO
The new blockbuster motion picture from Pixar/Disney is the story of a grumpy old man, a plucky young boy and a bunch of balloons that take them on the adventure of a lifetime.

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the term "talking dogs" would suggest; they become the basis for some of the movie's best bits. When Karl and Russell return from their adventure, the movie serves up a touching coda about the treasures that are often life's simplest pleasures. ("It's the boring stuff," says Russell, "that I remember the most.") And keep your ears open for one final pooch punch line about the color-blindness of man's best friend. No matter how you look at it, through the innocent eyes of a child or the wider, wiser worldview of an adult, the bright, buoyant "Up" brims with imagination, adventure, humor and heart. Grab hold of these balloons and get ready to soar.

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Combat Center sports



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

ESD Warriors' first baseman Rodger Barber prepares to catch the ball to get Rippers' runner Joshua Krause out during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game at Felix Field Tuesday night. Currently, ESD Warriors place fourth in the league.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

ESD Warriors' shortstop Ryan Avena gives his teammate second baseman James Stanley a high five after hitting one out of the park during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game at Felix Field Tuesday night. ESD Warriors shut down the Rippers 7-3.

Intramural Softball League

Standings as of Thursday

Team	Wins	Losses
Scrappers	12	0
MWSS-374	9	2
Tanks	12	3
ESD Warriors	11	4
3/11	10	4
VMU-3	11	5
CLB-7	10	5
3rd CEB	9	5
7th Marines	8	6
NAV PERS	7	6
Hospital	7	8
PMO	6	7
MCCES HQBN	6	9
IPAC	5	7
CMA	5	10
G-6	4	9
PMO K-9	4	9
ESD Hooligans	4	10
Dirty Dozen	4	11
2/7	3	13
Dental	0	14



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

2/7's designated hitter Christopher Spurgeon dives into home plate for an in-the-park home-run during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game at Felix Field Tuesday night against Dental.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

ESD Warriors' third baseman Demond McKeever tags out Rippers' runner Dalton Revier as he reaches for the bag during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game at Felix Field Tuesday night.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

2/7's pitcher Savanna Malendoski pitches the ball to her opponents, Dental, during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game at Felix Field Tuesday night. 2/7 defeated Dental 16-6.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Cpl. Omar Askew

Age: 26

Job Title: Paralegal for the Staff Judge Advocate

Recognition: Member of Fight Club 29

Major Sports Accomplishments:

Won the silver medal for California State in 2009, and won the gold medal for nationals in 2008 and 2009 in submission grappling and pankration. Won 20 out of 21 bouts while with Fight Club 29.

Favorite aspect: "I like the conditioning that rubs off on the Marine Corps. It helps with the PFT and CFT. It also establishes great leadership skills that can carry over. It disciplines you and raises morale."

Advice for aspiring athletes: "Be humble and willing to learn everything about the sport."



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Vs. Casa Grande Cotton Kings 7:05	1	2 Vs. Newport Beach Storm Beach Storm 7:05	3 Vs. Newport Beach Storm 7:05	4	5 Vs. California Mariners 7:05	6 Vs. California Mariners 7:05
7 Vs. L.A. Thrashers 7:05	8	9	10 Vs. South Bay Soles 7:05	11 *PH East L.A. Dodgers 1:30 & 4:30	12 Vs. S.F. Seals 7:05	13 Vs. S.F. Seals 7:05
14 Vs. S.F. Seals 7:05	15	16 Vs. Thunder 7:05	17 Vs. Thunder 7:05	18	19 Vs. Colorado Sox 7:05	20 Vs. Colorado Sox 7:05
21 Vs. L.A. Thrashers 7:05	22	23 Vs. WLB Academy 7:05	24 Vs. WLB Academy 7:05	25 *Youth Come	26 Vs. OC Pioneers 7:05	27 Vs. OC Pioneers 7:05
28	29	30 Vs. Newport Beach Storm 7:05				

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