

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 3, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 26

Tank Battalion beats 'Summer Heat'

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of 1st Tank Battalion worked up a sweat during "Summer Heat," a battalion-level training evolution that began June 26 and ended Thursday.

Capt. Stephen Campbell, 1st Tanks operations officer for last year's Summer Heat, said the exercise is essentially the battalion's version of Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment training evolution, and uses Marines and sailors who have recently returned from deployments to train their fellow Leathernecks for future missions.

"It's very similar to Mojave Viper, except we are not only the training audience, but the instructors as well," said Campbell, a native of Enid, Okla.

Summer Heat is one of two major combined arms exercises 1st Tanks hosts during the year. The other is Steel Night and it takes place in winter.

"This is a major, significant combined arms exercise."



CPL. J. J. BUTLER

A tank from Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, fires on a target during the training exercise Summer Heat Saturday. Summer Heat is one of two major combined arms exercises 1st Tanks hosts during the year.

See TANKS, A5



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lt. Col. James G. Jonston, the reserve liaison officer here, received a Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal, while Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ernesto Hernandez, the former Combat Center personnel officer, was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal in a ceremony at the commanding general's flag pole Wednesday.

Marines' hard work recognized by Combat Center, commanding general

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's commanding general presented two Marines with awards at the base of the flag pole outside the command deck building Wednesday morning.

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the commanding general of the Combat Center, awarded a Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Col. James G. Jonston, the reserve liaison officer here, and a Meritorious Service Medal to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ernesto Hernandez, the former Combat Center person-

nel officer.

Jonston, a native of Cookeville, Tenn., was awarded the Bronze Star for his service as the transition team chief of Brigade Border Transition Team 4210, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, from August 15, 2008 to January 17, according to the award citation.

Jonston and his 11-man team gave crucial logistical support to 5th Brigade helping them attain provisions such as drinking water, food, fuel and vehicle maintenance. This support increased the success of training and patrols on the borders of Iraq, Syria and Jordan, and

contributed to the resources needed to train Iraqi Security Forces.

"I'm very grateful to my boss [Linda Barnes, assistant chief of staff] who allowed me to go on that deployment," Jonston said. "I'm certainly honored to receive this award and pleased to be here in Twentynine Palms."

Jonston was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his duties as the deputy assistant chief of staff and reserve liaison officer here from March 28, 2006 to July 7, 2009. Jonston's efforts were a factor in the overall success of

See AWARD, A8

Colonel bids final farewell

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A Combat Center leader and long-time Marine said his final farewell to Marines, sailors, family and friends during his retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Tuesday.

Col. David N. Gill, the former branch head and officer-in-charge of the Individual Mobilization Augment Detachment, Career Management Team,

Reserve Affairs, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, bid farewell to the Marine Corps after 30 years of dedicated service.

Gill was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1979 and reported to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., shortly after.

Gill worked his way through the officer ranks, and was appointed to key billets in Camp Pendleton, Okinawa, Japan, Quantico, Va. and

Twentynine Palms, Calif.

He was mobilized in 2001 during Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan and again in 2005 to Fallujah, Iraq. Gill extended in Iraq until he was demobilized in 2007, where he reported to his final unit at the IMA detachment.

He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Air Force

See RETIRE, A4



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, shakes the hand of Col. David N. Gill, the former branch head and officer-in-charge of the Individual Mobilization Augment Detachment, Career Management Team, Reserve Affairs, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, after being presented the Legion of Merit during his retirement ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 30.



Ospreys soar at MWTC
See A3



NMCRS volunteers reach out
See A5



Recruit revenge
See B1



Putt putt and away
See B3

Proposed solar array field

The Marine Corps gives notice of a proposed action to construct and operate a solar array field as part of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's Alternative Energy Program. The proposed solar array field would utilize photovoltaic solar panels in the Mesquite Dry Lake Bed of the Combat Center's main area. The solar array field development would be phased over the next 10 years, with each phase of development in five-acre parcels. The PV solar panels would be capable of one megawatt of power per five acres. The Combat Center plans to develop two to four parcels (10 to 20 panels) per year. If the 243 available acres of the Mesquite Dry Lake Bed were fully developed, the solar array field would generate approximately 40 megawatts of alternative energy.

The proposed action would occur in a floodplain. Executive Order 11988 requires that Federal projects avoid, to the extent possible, the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains, and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. Practicable alternative sites were considered, and the proposed placement of the solar array field in the Mesquite Dry Lake Bed area was chosen as the preferred location due to the absence of active training ranges. The construction site also would not adversely impact natural or cultural resources, or interfere with existing military supply routes or utility infrastructure.

The REIR addressing the proposed action is on file and may be reviewed by interested parties at the place of origin: Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, NREA Division (Attn: Dr. Jim Cassidy) Twentynine Palms, California 92278-8110, telephone 830-8190.

Effective braking requires finesse

JOHN FLEMING

When was the last time that applying your brakes seemed hazardous? For car drivers, the question may seem puzzling, and prompts a skeptical, "What are you talking about? My car has anti-lock brakes!"

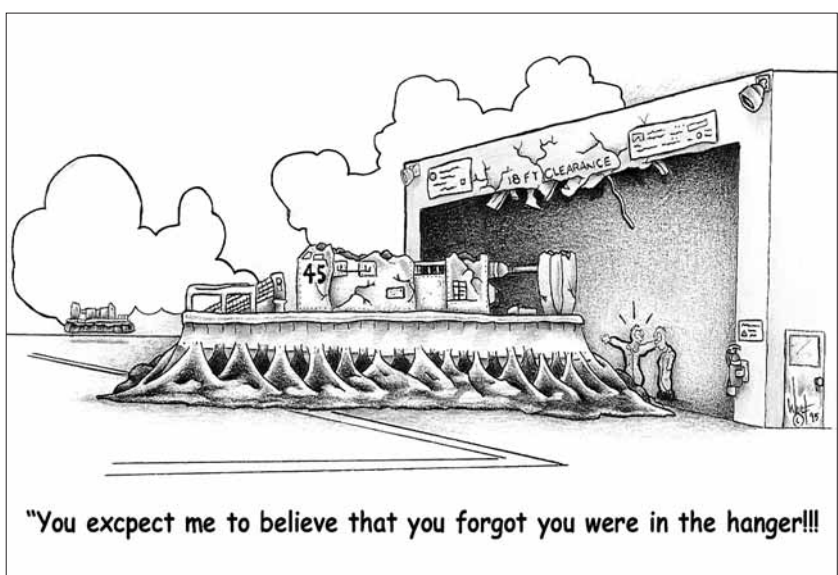
But in the world of motorcycling, improper use of the brakes can be touchy. Let me explain. Motorcycles have two brake controls: a hand lever which controls the front brake, and a foot lever for the rear brake. They must both be applied, in proper proportion, to execute a smooth stop.

Too much rear brake pressure can cause the rear tire to "lock up" and cause the bike to skid. If the rear tire skids sideways, and the brake is released, the result can be what's known as a "high side," potentially resulting in a crash. Similarly, locking up the front brake can cause complete loss of steering control.

Today's modern motorcycles, regardless of whether they are cruisers, dual-sport or sport bikes, have excellent brakes capable of stopping incredibly quickly. But they only respond to input, so a rider with inadequate braking skills can be his own worst enemy.

The Basic Rider Course, The Experienced Rider Course, and the Military Sport Bike Rider Course can all provide opportunities for improving braking skills in a safe environment. And unlike some courses, often referred to as "death by PowerPoint," our rider courses are fun, with plenty of on-range practice.

John Fleming is a rider coach with Cape Fox Professional Services, who provides motorcycle safety training for Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center. To submit your comments or contributions about motorcycling email him at michael.j.fleming@usmc.mil.



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

Hot Topics

NEW HASHMARKS SNCO CLUB LUNCH HOURS

Hashmarks Staff NCO Club is now open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to all hands. For more information please call 830-5035.

JULY 11-12: DIRT BIKE, ATV SAFETY COURSE

The dirt bike and all-terrain vehicle courses are coming to the Combat Center July 11. We can take up to 16 riders for each class. This is your chance to hone your skills and develop better riding habits. To become qualified to teach either course, this is your first step in becoming an instructor. You are required to have your own dirt bike or ATV. Vehicles must be in good running condition, and you must have the proper protective equipment. The point of contact will be the Traffic Safety Office, building 1447. For any additional questions, please call 830-6154.

MILITARY POLICE REQUESTS

The Provost Marshal's Office is undergoing changes to better support and provide assistance to units with request that require Military Police support such as special events like homecomings, blocking off roadways, complaints, patrol or gate request, safety briefs, vehicle registration, towing, K-9 support, etc. If your unit needs this type of support, please contact the personnel listed below.

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Gunnery Sgt. Roy C. Buchanan
830-6095, roy.c.buchanan@usmc.mil
Operations Officer
Master Sgt. Brian S. Scamman
830-5456, brian.scamman@usmc.mil

This Day in Marine Corps History

July 4, 1966

The 9th Marine Regiment launches an offensive operation to clear the An Hoa area south of Da Nang, Vietnam.

Centerspeak

If you could go back in time and fight in any Marine Corps battle or war, which one would you choose?

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



SGT. WESLEY MANSON
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.

"I would go back to World War I to the battle of Belleau Wood because there is so much history connected to it."



CPL. JOHN GAGLIONE
1ST TANK BATTALION, CO. A

"Vietnam because my uncle was in Vietnam. It was a more unique war because it was more political and everyone was watching it on TV. I have a lot of respect for the era."



LT. MATTHEW MERKEL
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.

"Two Jima because it was a monumental moment in Marine Corps history."

SUDOKU #1480

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

FOOD PROCESSING

[puzzle Solutions on A5]

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ACROSS

- Showed fright
- Sports equipment
- Air hero
- Partner of beyond
- Eye lecherously
- Rock's Jethro ___
- Plug for a star of "The Godfather"?
- Cheese in a ball
- Orchestrate anew
- Talia of "Rocky"
- Pub projectile
- Dentists call this "calculus"
- Bell in a London clock tower
- IRA-establishing law
- Not so congenial
- Coffee or vanilla
- Barely beats
- Kegger attire
- "Now I understand!"
- La ___ Tar Pits

DOWN

- Carson replaced him
- Fit for duty
- Cuts, as with hedge trimmers
- Take to a MASH, maybe
- Unscrambling device
- Dead duck
- Prima donna's problem
- ___ carte
- Carrot-top's nickname
- Taxpayer's dread
- Bow or Barton
- Sinclair Lewis's Gantry
- Persian spelling contest?
- '80s foe of Iraq
- Flier to Stockholm
- Wobbles on the edge
- Beauty salon job
- Drill inserts
- Clickable symbol
- Prefix with byte or watt
- Snoopy's doc? (vegetable stew)

DOWN

- Big name in stereo equipment
- Nest eggs, briefly
- Silver-exporting land
- "___ who?"
- Burst of wind
- U2's guitarist
- White Monopoly bill
- Deserving a slap, maybe
- Easy infield chance
- Stag, at a party
- Basket made on are bound
- "American Idol" winner Taylor ___
- Genesis son
- Mall bag
- "Spamalot" creator Idle
- Job for a bodyshop
- To's partner
- Slithery swimmer
- Homer Simpson neighbor ___Flanders

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Lynda Rummel
Unit: East Gym
Job Title: Fitness Manager
Job Description: "I am the facility manager, the lead personal trainer and I coordinate with health promotions."
What I like most about my job: "I like helping the Marines train."
Significant achievement: "I developed a fitness and training program and I have been running it since I got here."
Hobbies: "I run and I read a lot."
Military service: "Yes, I was in the Army for three years."
Time aboard MCAGCC: 10 years with Marine Corps Community Services, one and a half years with the East Gym.



OBSERVATION POST

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Ospreys serving in every clime and place

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – An MV-22 Osprey crew from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, based out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N. C., lifted off on one of many training flights through the high altitude terrain of Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., June 25.

The Ospreys are training to be ready to provide the versatile support capability the Marine Corps needs, said Staff Sgt. Jeffery A. Bandy, the expeditionary airfield chief for MWTC, and a native of Carter, Tenn.

“The Osprey is going to be filling the role of the CH-53 in coming years as a heavy transport aircraft,” Bandy said. “They’re taking the more experienced pilots in VMM-261 first before the rest of the squadron comes up here to learn in the mountains.”

Bandy said the difference

in terrain and elevation makes taking off and landing the aircraft difficult if the pilot is not prepared.

“The air pressure is much different at a high altitude, and it affects the way the engine performs,” Bandy said. “The squadron is based down south. They’re at sea level where the air is thicker and the terrain is all flat.

“The Osprey pilots are

going to be flying in and around the mountains,” he said. The low air pressure will make it harder maneuver and get power from the engine to the moving aircraft, Bandy said.

To acclimate themselves and their aircraft to the high altitude and thin air, the Osprey pilots practiced taking off and landing at

See OSPREY, A5



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Brandon Ryan, a mechanic with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, based out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N. C., cleans a front window of an MV-22 Osprey, June 25 at MWTC’s expeditionary airfield.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

An MV-22 Osprey from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, based out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N. C., takes off from training area Dodo at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., June 25 during the squadron’s high-altitude training.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Staff Sgt. Nicholas McCullogh, an avionics technician with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, based out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N. C., guides an MV-22 Osprey into place at MWTC’s expeditionary airfield.

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CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Col. David N. Gill speaks to his family and friends during his retirement ceremony at Gray Field June 30.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Marines present flowers to Col. David N. Gill's two daughters Gina and Krystle, during his retirement ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 30. Gill served as the former branch head and officer-in-charge of the Individual Mobilization Augment Detachment, Career Management Team, Reserve Affairs, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus awards the Legion of Merit to Col. David N. Gill during his retirement ceremony at Gray Field June 30.

RETIRE, from A1

Air War College. Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, was the retiring officer for the ceremony and presented Gill with a Legion of Merit, a Certificate of Retirement, a Certificate of Appreciation from President Barack Obama, and a farewell letter from the Commandant of

the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway.

Gurganus also said a few words about Gill and his contributions to the Marine Corps.

"There are few that are qualified to be Marines, but there are very few that make it to 30 years," Gurganus said. "You've done an awful lot for this country and an awful lot for the Marine Corps. We are a

better Twentynine Palms community because you're a part of it."

After the general's speech, Gill said his final thoughts, and farewell to his family and friends in attendance. He repeated an influential quotation that stuck with him since the age of 6 and inspired him to join the military.

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," he said, referring to the famous quotation from late

President John F. Kennedy.

Gill said joining the Marine Corps was the best decision of his life, but could not have done it without the support of his family, especially his wife, Rose.

"She made sure everything was in place all the time," he said. "They [my family] stayed with me."

Rose was also recognized during the ceremony with a Certificate of Appreciation from Gurganus for her contributions as a long-time military spouse.

Gill's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals and one Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

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NMCRS plans open house for volunteers

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society will be hosting an open house to recruit prospective volunteers at the society's office in the Combat Center's Village Center July 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The open house will give spouses and other prospective volunteers a way to give back to the service members who sacrifice so much on a daily basis, said Jenny Gonzalez, the oncoming chair of volunteers for the society.

"I enjoy helping out the guys," said Michele Cutrer, the offgoing chair of volunteers for the society. "It's a great feeling to know you are on the road to financial self-sufficiency."

They not only get a chance to give back to the service members, they also obtain many benefits for themselves from volunteering.

"We have very informa-

tive training sessions that teach the volunteers about policies and procedures," Gonzalez said. "Not only is the training free, but it's great for resumes."

Volunteers work in a quant environment with a very strong support system, Gonzalez said. This really gives someone a purpose, especially if they are at home all day with nothing to do, if their spouse is deployed, or if they just want to get away from the children for one day out of the week.

Although participants are not paid, the society makes sure its helpers do not spend money out of their own pockets. They are compensated for child care, up to \$3.50 an hour, and mileage between the home, child care and the Village Center, Gonzalez said.

Volunteers can work flexible hours one day a week or full-time, and anyone who wants to help out is welcome, Gonzalez said.

For more information or to become a volunteer, contact NMCRS at 830-6323.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sarah Hamann, a case worker for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, shakes hands with Pfc. Courtney Wesh, a Marine using the society's services, after he was helped at the NMCRS office in the Combat Center's Village Center June 30. The organization will host an open house to recruit prospective volunteers July 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

TANKS, from A1

said Capt. Mark A. Smith, the operations officer for 1st Tanks. "The benefit is that Marines are working together, building direct trust between units."

The battalion worked closely with Company E, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion; Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment; Company B, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion; and Combat Logistics Battalion 7 to provide all units a hands-on approach to combined arms training, said Smith.

Working with all of these units helps promote unit cohesion and efficiency during their missions when they are forward deployed, said Capt. Jayson Welihan, the air officer for 1st Tanks.

The battalion also worked with the United States Air

Force and the Scan Eagle surveillance program to integrate new surveillance equipment between the services, said the Jackson, Mich., native. The cooperation with the Air Force and the Scan Eagle allows Marines to learn to communicate with the aircraft and ground elements, and control the aircrafts' fire, he said.

"The use of the Scan Eagle allows for Marines in far, remote places to get a top-down view of their location and any enemy involved," he added.

Summer Heat plays a crucial role in preparing Marines and sailors for deployments. Like Mojave Viper, it exists to prepare Marines for what they may face in theater, so they can continue to bring the fight to the enemy and return home safely once the mission has been accomplished, Campbell said.

OSPREY, from A3

various MWTC training areas, Bandy said.

The crewmen of the new aircraft recognized how training at extreme elevation and terrain would benefit them as Osprey pilots.

"It's a difficult task, flying in the mountains," said Maj. Eric Garcia, an MV-22-qualified pilot, and a native of Los Cruces, N. M. Garcia said he expects his unit to deploy to Afghanistan in the near future. "This place is as close as we can get training wise, so we're taking everything we can from it."

Garcia said the crews have only been training for a short time as a unit. "Our aircraft are even fresher. The one we're flying today is only about six or seven months old. This type of experience is a good way to get this young squadron experienced before going straight overseas."

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

P	A	L	E	D	G	E	A	R	A	C	E
A	B	O	V	E	O	G	L	E	T	U	L
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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

Retail site operation hours for Fourth of July holiday

Retail site	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
C & E Exchange	Closed	Closed	Closed
Camp Wilson Exchange	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Home store	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Marine Palms Exchange	7 a.m.-9 p.m.	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hospital Ship Store	7 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Military Clothing	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ocotillo Exchange	6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Main Store	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Administration	Closed	Closed	Closed
Seven Day Store	7 a.m.-11 p.m.	7 a.m.-11 p.m.	7 a.m.-midnight
Gas Station	7 a.m.-6 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

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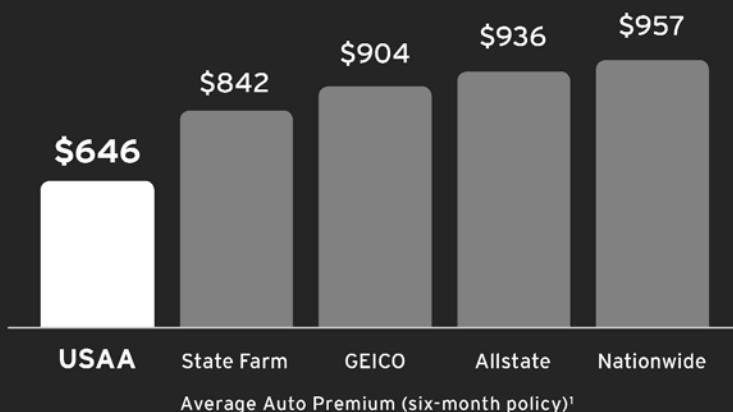
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Family Readiness Officers are here to help

These men and women dedicate their time and hearts to the families of Combat Center Marines and sailors to ensure they are educated and prepared for the duties their loved ones are required to tackle.



Name: Ruby Zunino
Unit: 1st Battalion, 7th Marines
Contact Info:
Office - 830-3768
Cell - 401-5644
Email - roberta.zunino.uk@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "Being able to assist the families, Marines and sailors."



Name: Denise Cullum
Unit: 7th Marine Regiment
Contact info:
Office - 830-6613
Cell - 401-4543
Email - denise.cullum@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "Helping the families, spending time with the spouses, Marines and sailors. Listening and being proactive is how you make a difference in the lives of others."



Name: Sony Avalos
Unit: Marine Wing Support Squadron 374
Contact info:
Office - 830-7494
Cell - 910-5285
Email - sonette.d.avalos1@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "All of it! Their service is my motivation. Serving them and their families is my dedication, and we will all keep charging."



Name: Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Hardy
Unit: Combat Logistics Battalion 7
Contact Info:
Office - 830-4791
Email - jeffrey.hardy@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "I most appreciate being a FRO when I'm able to provide effective assistance and information to a family who thought they were out of options."



Name: Warrant Officer Martin Lopez
Unit: 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion
Contact Info:
Office - 830-6590
Cell - 401-7239
Email - martin.a.lopez@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "Helping families before, during and after deployments to make sure they have everything they need."



Name: Katie Clark
Unit: 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
Contact Info:
Office - 830-5872
Cell - 910-5219
Email - katharine.l.clark@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "Getting to use my life experience to make a difference in the lives of others."



Name: Gil Cardenas
Unit: 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines
Contact Info:
Office - 830-8031
Cell - 910-5282
Email - gilberto.cardenas1@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "The ability to ease stress by providing unit information immediately throughout the deployment."



Name: Jillian King
Unit: 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
Contact Info:
Office - 830-3167
Cell - 401-6139
Email - jillian.king@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "Working with the Marines and family members through the good times and the bad."



Name: Dave Plaster
Unit: Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School
Contact info:
Office - 830-6548
Cell - 910-5225
Email - david.plaster@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "My favorite thing about being the FRO is being able to help our families enjoy the Marine Corps lifestyle."



Name: Gisela Lemon
Unit: Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3
Contact info:
Office - 830-9363
Cell - 910-5283
Email - gisela.lemon@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "I enjoy assisting Phantom families with the resources needed to be resilient throughout the ups and downs of military life."



Name: Jany K. Wasdin
Unit: 1st Tank Battalion; 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion
Contact Info:
Office - 830-1997
Cell - 401-6034
Email - jany.wasdin@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO: "It affords me the opportunity to listen, to empathize, become a communication life-line, and be a primary source for many of the tools necessary to meet the challenges of the military lifestyle and succeed."



Name: Deborah Lopez
Unit: 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment
Contact Info:
Office - 830-8909
Cell - 401-6297
Email - deborah.lopez@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "My favorite part of being a FRO is meeting the Marines, their families, and being included as part of the 3/11 unit and family."



Name: Kathleen Schmidt
Unit: Headquarters Battalion
Contact Info:
Office - 830-3511
Cell - 401-2367
Email - kathleen.schmidt@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "I love to hear young single Marines telling their peers that they should do the programs and things I tell them about in my Headquarter Battalion Welcome Aboard Brief. The programs 'really work' is music to my ears!"



Name: Lori Rogers
Unit: 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines
Contact info:
Office - 830-6638
Cell - 401-5560
Email - lori.rogers@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "My favorite part of being a FRO is assisting all of the Marines with resources and welcoming new families to the battalion. Helping the battalion to be a proactive unit."



Name: Rachel Sandlin
Unit: Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1
Contact info:
Office - 830-6788
Cell - 401-5782
Email - rachel.sandlin@usmc.mil
Your favorite part about being a FRO:
 "Working directly with the Marines and their families, and knowing that by assisting them I am contributing to the overall mission of the Marine Corps."

Name: Lacy Richey, Command Ombudsman
Unit: Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
Contact Info:
Office - 830-6716
Cell - 910-2050
Email - lacy.richey@med.navy.mil

Name: Valentina Ruth, Command Ombudsman
Unit: Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
Contact Info:
Office - 830-2716
Cell - 910-2046
Email - valentina.ruth@med.navy.mil

Name: HM1 Jerry Hughes
Unit: Dental Clinic
Contact Info:
Office - 830-7054
Email - jerry.r.hughes@usmc.mil

Kids DEFY drugs, alcohol, build bright futures

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Drug Education for Youth Program is reaching out to Combat Center children to participate in its annual first-phase trip to Camp Fox in San Diego July 26 to 31.

DEFY is a free, year-long, two-phase program designed to create positive experiences that will help kids ages 9 through 12 choose healthy alternatives to substance abuse and gang involvement, said Chief Petty Officer Jimmy Shannon Jr., the DEFY program coordinator with the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital here.

"DEFY focuses on building self-image and setting goals," said Shannon, a Warrenton, Va., native. "It stresses interpersonal relationships, resisting peer pressure and emphasizes leadership and teamwork."

The first phase of the program allows children to inter-

act through various activities for six days and five nights at a residential camp.

During the first phase, children learn how to cope with peer pressure, good decision-making skills and physical fitness. They will also learn communication skills, facts about the effects of drugs and alcohol, and how to be a positive role model in the community, said Chief Petty Officer Terry Morocco, the assistant DEFY program coordinator here.

The activities are part of a curriculum developed by the DEFY program.

"The kids play trust games with each other so they learn how to trust their friends," said the Yucca Valley, Calif. native. "They have nature hikes, play skits, walk on rope bridges and learn how to deal with fears and challenges."

Between climbs and rope bridges, the children also sit down with their mentors to take part in group discussions. There are about two

mentors for every 15 kids, Morocco said.

During those gatherings, kids share their thoughts about leadership and review what they have learned, he said.

After the final day of camp July 31, the program will host a phase one completion ceremony upon their return to the Combat Center. This will mark the beginning of the next phase of the program.

Phase two takes place during the remaining 11 months of the year on Saturdays. During this phase, parents become actively involved in parent meetings, and participate in events and field trips to places like SeaWorld and a sobering visit to a local penitentiary to talk to detainees about the horrible impact drugs and alcohol had on their lives.

In May of the following year, the DEFY graduation

ceremony will take place at the Naval Hospital. Children will be encouraged to enjoy pizza, cake and to reflect on their year in the program.

"When the kids come to the classroom for food and certificates, we send them on their way and encourage them to continue in the process of growing," Morocco said. "We let them know we look forward to their involvement with the program in the future."

Children interested in becoming junior mentors are required to be at least 13 years old and be a graduate of the program, he said.

"We're very selective about the mentors we chose so we know they'll be impacting the kids in a positive way," Morocco said.

Adults interested in becoming mentors can be screened for the program. Background checks and other

precautions are taken to assure all mentors are, indeed, good role models, Morocco said.

The deadline to sign up is July 17. Meetings between DEFY coordinators and par-

ents are slated to take place July 13 and 15 at the Community Center and Naval Hospital respectively. For more information contact Shannon or Morocco at 830-2008.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Drug Education for Youth program educates children about the effects of drugs and alcohol and teaches them to build trust and teamwork through various activities.



COURTESY PHOTO

The DEFY program teaches children ages 9 through 12 how to cope with peer pressure, the effects of drugs and alcohol and the importance of good choices.

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 (First 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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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

"Do you remember me?" a lady asked over the telephone early last month. "You officiated at my wedding seven years ago today. I just wanted you to know how extremely happy we are."

What a thoughtful and delightful telephone call for me to receive! And, of course, I remembered them well. They lived in Morongo Valley and each was almost 70 years of age. The children of both the bridegroom and the bride had lovingly decorated their home, including an archway in the living room. There was also a wedding cake, flowers, music, etc. It was beautiful.

I especially enjoy officiating at the weddings of older people because they almost always know exactly what they are doing and why. I had a nice note just recently from a couple who live in Landers. They wrote about the joys they now share together. The English proverb reads "A joy shared is a joy made double." How true. How true.

Marianne Williamson wrote "Whether we love, or close our hearts to love, is a mental choice we make, every moment of every day."

So I close my brief essay with words I have shared with you before. The words are a paraphrase from the writings of the Apostle Paul. *Forgetting what lies behind, we are straining forward to what lies ahead as we face life together.*

This message sponsored by:

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 U.S. Navy, Chaplain Retired

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KITTEN, 8 week old male. Loveable, long hair, perfect for Mother's Day. \$25. 362-4131. 5/8/09

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.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, awards a Bronze Star Medal to Lt. Col. James G. Jonston, the reserve liaison officer here, in a ceremony at the commanding general's flag pole Wednesday.

AWARD, from A1

the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, according to the citation.

Hernandez, a native of Baldwin Park, Calif., received a Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding duties as the officer in charge of the Installation Personnel Administration Center's customer service section, and as the officer in charge of center personnel from July 15, 2005 to July 15, 2009.

During Hernandez's management of these sections, the customer service section improved the efficiency of unit diary reporting by 23 percent. He also coordinated staffing requirements for 4,000 Marines, yielding a 44 percent increase to staffing levels across the command.

Hernandez said he felt honored to receive the award, but made it clear he did not work alone.

"We as leaders are the ones who get recognition, but it's those junior Marines who execute," Hernandez said.

Hernandez has orders to report to 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., upon termination of his duties here.

Jonston has orders to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to apply his skills in reserve affairs, he said.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, awards a Meritorious Service Medal to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ernesto Hernandez, the former Combat Center Personnel Officer, during a ceremony at the commanding general's flag pole Wednesday. Hernandez's efforts increased the efficiency of unit diary reporting at the Installation Personnel Administration Center by 23 percent.

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Former recruit has his revenge

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif. — “Oh hell,” said Lance Cpl. Nathan Goens when it finally dawned on him Saturday morning what he had gotten himself into.

Goens, a heavy equipment operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, was on his way to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to be the first one to take the challenge his former senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schoemer, puts out to every one of his graduating platoons — to come back as Fleet Marines to grapple their former senior drill instructor.

“He’s about 6 feet, 13 inches tall — 650 pounds of muscle,” Goens quipped in a thick Irish accent. “He’s basically a beast, a monster of a man—and I’m going to grapple him — I’m so dead.”

He didn’t let that sentiment show when he walked up to Schoemer at 6 feet, 2 inches, and 200 pounds and exchanged some good-humored trash talk and stories from boot camp.

“I remember when he [Goens] came running into the squad bay with a group



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpl. Nathan Goens, a heavy equipment operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, chokes out his former senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schoemer, Saturday morning. After returning to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to accept Schoemer’s challenge Goens won the match with this chokehold.

See REVENGE, B4

Soccer game helps strengthen community ties



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Isaac Solorio, (center) a forward for Combat Center’s Varsity Soccer Team, maneuvers defenders from the Desert Raiders, a 19-and-under team from the American Youth Soccer Association in Palms Springs, Calif., during a soccer game Saturday at Felix Field.

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center’s Twentynine Palms Varsity Soccer Team competed against the Desert Raiders, a 19-and-under team from the American Youth Soccer Association in Palms Springs, Calif., Saturday at Felix Field, to gain valuable experience playing against various soccer styles.

The base team came out on top with a 4-0 win, and held a barbeque after the game for the Raiders to show sportsmanship and their appreciation for their willingness to come play at the Combat Center.

According to John Hall, the coach for the Desert Raiders, the game went extremely well and provided a wake-up call to his younger players who wish to play in a higher level league.

“Although it is a U-19 league, the majority of my players are under 16,” said Hall, whose team has been invited to play in the 19-and-under national competition. “We had to wake up, but we played great in the second half; I’m really proud of my team. This is great for the

team to experience before we go to nationals.”

Skip Best, the Marine Corps Community Services athletics director, said he was proud of the Varsity Soccer Team, and feels the more teams they play out in town and the more competition they come across will help them come out on top when they travel to regionals.

“The varsity soccer coach tries to keep the team focused, and playing games like this helps the motivation to continue practicing,” said Best. “Our team just loves to play, and competition is hard to find for us.”

The head coach of the Combat Center’s varsity team, Jose Hernandez, said this game was a good barometer of the team’s skill. Based on what he saw, Hernandez said, he feels confident about his teams prospects at regionals.

“Everyone involved played a good game,” Hernandez said. “We moved the ball around and kept it away from the other team.”

The regional competitions, which are scheduled for January, will prove which base has the best soccer team in the Marine Corps. The Marines may also be scouted by the All-Marine Soccer team coach, who is looking for intense and skilled players.

Celebrate Independence Day with the Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, sailors, families, base employees and the surrounding community are invited to the Combat Center’s Victory Field to commemorate America’s Independence Day Saturday.

Participants will be treated to a free night of celebration with games, food, live entertainment from a local band and will culminate with the largest display of fireworks in the Morongo Basin.

Victory Field will open at 6 p.m. The celebration will begin with a performance by Marines from Marines Got Talent.

The band, Deep 6, is made up of Marines and Marine Corps Community Services employees, will be performing throughout the night, playing songs from well-known artists including Sublime, ACDC, Black Crows and Taylor Swift.

“We have been playing in the local area for a year,” said Dan Claire, the rhythm guitarist and lead vocalist for Deep 6. “We weren’t looking to play for the celebration, but when it came up we jumped on board, naturally.”

The band has performed aboard the Combat Center before for Christmas parties and unit functions.

“It is important to show support for the military and with our band being half active duty, half civilian, it shows unity among us.”

The Combat Center Band will also be present and will play after local band Deep 6. After their performance, they will play the National Anthem as the Combat Center’s Color Guard marches onto the field.

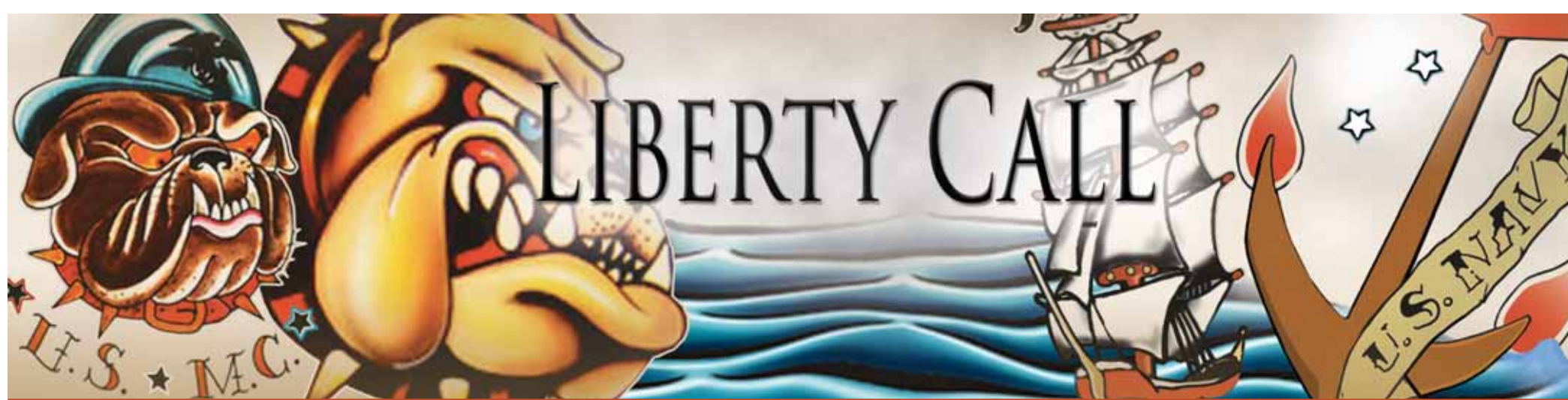
Throughout the entertainment, patrons will be able to purchase food from various vendors from The Rib Co., Grills Gone Wild and Jasmine’s Coffee. Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, 23rd Dental Company and the Provost Marshal’s Office will also be

See FIREWORKS, B4



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center is inviting base personnel and the local community to enjoy a free night of games, food and live entertainment by local bands, Saturday at Victory Field in celebration of Independence Day. The event will end with the largest display of fireworks in the Morongo Basin.



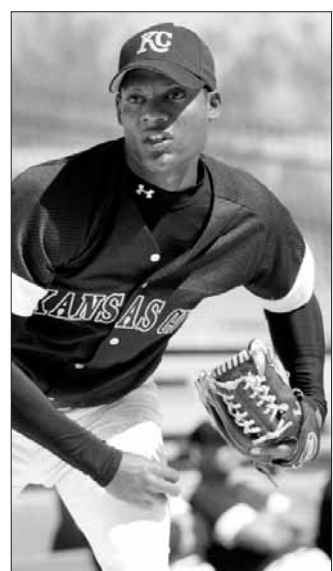
FRI. 7/3 Kelly Clarkson Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com	SAT. 7/4 Fourth of July party Time: 8 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace 53688 Pioneertown Road Pioneertown For more info, call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com	SAT. 7/4 Palm Springs Power Baseball and fireworks show after the game 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 - Military are free	THURS. 7/9 Summer Movies in the Park, "The Great Outdoors" Time: 8 p.m. Where: Luckie Park racquetball courts 5885 Luckie Avenue Twentynine Palms For more info, call 367-7562	FRI. 7/10 First Fridays This week, Country Theme Time: 8:30 p.m. Where: Hashmarks SNCO Club Building 1531 Call 830-5035 for more info, or visit http://www.mccs29palms.com
FRI. 7/17 The comedy of Frank Caliendo Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more info, call (888) 999-1995	SAT. 7/18 Hot Summer Nights with Joe and Mustard Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: La Quinta Playhouse Calle Estado Old Town La Quinta For more info, call 360-9191	SAT. 7/18 Texas Hold 'em Tournament Time: 2 p.m. Where: Hashmarks SNCO Club Building 1531 Call 830-5035 for more info, or visit http://www.mccs29palms.com	FRI. 7/31 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	SAT. 8/22 An evening with ZZ Top Time: 8 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage For more info, call (888) 999-1995

'Sugar' takes a unique swing at America's pastime

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AMERICAN PROFILE

Sugar
Starring Algenis Perez Soto
Rated R

You've probably seen a few baseball movies. But you've never seen anything quite like "Sugar," which depicts the journey of a young



COURTESY PHOTO

Miguel "Sugar" Santos, played by Algenis Perez Soto, in his acting debut.

Dominican baseball pitcher whose killer curve ball becomes his ticket to the United States—and a way to pull his family out of poverty.

Sugar's story is fictional, but it feels like an absolutely real slice of what life is like for many aspiring players in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico or other places where Major League Baseball scouts and trains potential stars.

When the likeable, soft-spoken Miguel "Sugar" Santos (a completely believable Algenis Perez Soto, making his acting debut) is chosen to play for a Class-A farm team in America, one of the bottom rungs on the Major League ladder, he becomes a wide-eyed stranger in a strange land of a foreign language, unfamiliar customs and palaces of consumerism.

Based in Iowa and housed with an elderly, baseball-loving farm couple, he develops a shy crush on their lovely granddaughter, Anne (Ellary Porterfield). Much of the movie's

Spanish dialog is subtitled, with the notable exception of one moment in one scene, when Anne asks Sugar about the scar on his head. As he falters to find the English words, she tells him it's OK to speak in Spanish. He does so, and Anne's expression indicates she's clearly moved by what she's hearing.

We never find out what Sugar says, because there are no subtitles. Does Anne understand him, or is she connecting with Sugar on a level that transcends the spoken word? Perhaps she's sacrificing her own ability to understand so that Sugar can express himself freely. Regardless, it's an intriguing moment, and "shutting out" the audience provides a glimpse into how it must feel to be someone, like Sugar, who faces a frustrating communications challenge at nearly every turn.

The movie follows its own path, defying stereotypes and avoiding just about every sports-movie cliché and fish-out-of-water con-



COURTESY PHOTO

"Sugar," depicts the journey of a young Dominican baseball pitcher whose killer curve ball becomes his ticket to the United States.

vention, all the way to the end. Even the things that don't necessarily come as a surprise—a scuffle with locals at a nightclub, or the relationship between Sugar and Anne—don't go where you expect them to go.


This movie may be hard to find. But if it's playing anywhere near you, it's well

worth the extra effort to see. It's an eye-opening new way of seeing "America's pastime."

Dominicans make up the largest number of foreign-born players in America's big leagues. The Angels' Vladimir Guerrero, Albert Pujols of the Cardinals and Red Sox slugger David Ortiz

are among the hundreds of players on current MLB rosters who came up through the Dominican system.

Watch "Sugar" and you'll have a new appreciation for the long, hard, odds-defying road most of them took before they could ever step foot on the green, green grass of an American ball field.



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5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

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

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

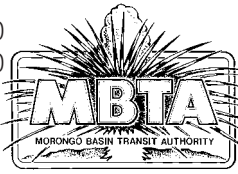
15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35

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Fight Club 29 brings the heat to Grapplers X-treme



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Manny Velasquez (left) and Mario Martinez, members of the Combat Center's Fight Club 29, display the second place medals they won at the Grapplers X-Treme Heat Wave competition in Ontario, Calif. Fight Club 29 will head to the Long Beach Invitational Aug. 8 for their next match.

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen (PG13) Everyday: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	Public Enemies (R) Everyday: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	
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Combat Center sports



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Chad Richard, pitcher and first-base coach for CMA, lobs a pitch during Wednesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Softball League at Felix Field.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Robert Starkey, the pitcher for the Navy Personnel team, lets a pitch fly during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game against MWSS-374 Wednesday night at Felix Field.

Intramural Softball League

Team	Wins	Losses
Scrappers	14	1
MWSS-374	14	2
Tanks	13	3
ESD Warriors	13	5
VMU-3	13	5
CLB-7	12	5
3/11	11	6
3rd CEB	11	7
7th Marines	10	7
Hospital	11	9
MCCES HQBN	9	9
NAV PERS	8	9
PMO	8	10
IPAC	7	10
ESD Hooligans	6	10
PMO K-9	6	11
G-6	4	13
Dirty Dozen	4	13
CMA	5	14
2/7	3	16
Dental	0	17



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Ty Baker, a designated hitter for MWSS-374, narrowly beats the ball to third base with a slide Wednesday evening during their game against Navy Personnel at Felix Field.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Jeremy Angenend, an outfielder for the Red Rockets, slams a hit to the fenceline with the bases loaded.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Todd Wade, the golf course manager and professional golfer, directs children attending the Hook a Kid on Golf program to grab a ball if they putted a hole-in-one at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course June 24.

MCCS hooks kids on golf

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Community Services hosted Hook a Kid on Golf at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course June 22 through June 26.

Children ages 7 to 14, who are new to the game of golf were given a chance to learn the fundamentals of the sport.

The whole week concentrated on golf etiquette, putting, chipping and working with irons and woods on the driving range, said Todd Wade, the golf course manager and professional golfer.

"On Monday the kids were able to watch a golf pro [Scott Butterfield] and see how it's done, while I helped narrate what he was doing," Wade said.

The kids practiced each skill during the remainder of the week and had friendly competitions against each other and the instructors, including Wade himself.

"I enjoy the fact that we get to try this," said 14-year-old Alyssa Peacock, a teenager in the program. "It's great they opened up the golf course for even inexperienced players."

Each day the children learned something new, Wade said.

"I learned to hit the ball and how to use the tool to fix the grass," said 7-year-old William Speigle, a child in the program.

Not only did the younger children in the program learn

from the experience, the older children attending gained knowledge from the program as well.

"I learned that if you don't align the putt just right, it won't go where you intend it to," Peacock said. "Putting is a lot harder than most people think."

The children learn more than just playing golf, they also learned about the equipment that maintains the course. A representative from the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program also came out to speak to the kids about staying active and saying 'no' to drugs and alcohol.

On the last day of the program, the children put all

of the skill sets they learned over the past four days to the test and played the course, Wade said.

At the end of the camp, the children left with a brand new skill set and their very own clubs and bag so they can continue to improve their game.

For children who want to step up to the next level, the Challenge Kids Golf League is a good place to start. The next league will be scheduled later this year. For more information or to sign up for the next program call the MCCS community center at 830-8421.

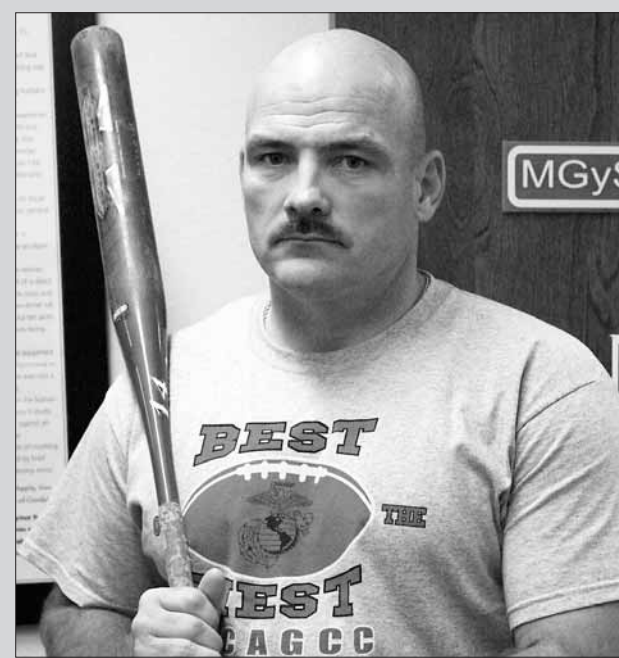


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Athlete of the Week



Name: Daniel Sullivan

Age: 40

Job title: Staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Electronics Fundamentals Training Section for Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School

Recognition: Playing softball and being an umpire, along with coaching the female All-Marine Softball Team. Also played for the football and soccer teams, and officiated for basketball.

Major sports accomplishments: Played softball at regional level for the last 13 years.

Favorite aspect of the sport: "Hitting the ball. It is probably the favorite aspect of anyone who plays softball."

Advice for aspiring players: "Get out and do something. Become active in the base's sports program."



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REVENGE, from B1

of green-belt drill instructors on his heels," said Schoemer, a Chicago native. "Turns out, he walked by them and shouted, 'top o' the mornin' to ya, gents,' then realized it was a mistake and took off running."

"Then there were the times Goens would pound on my hatch in the middle of the night, just for a chat," he recalled. "Overall, he was just a crazy recruit."

After talking for a while, the two got down to business, walking to the very same pit Goens learned the basics of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program just one year ago.

The two twisted and rolled for minutes, slinging dirt and pieces of rubber into the sky, neither one gaining any ground on the other.

Every few moments it looked like one was coming close to putting the other in arm-bars, leg-bars and guillotines to no avail. As soon as one came close, the other would slip out and start working on getting the other in a move.

After a while of this, Goens screamed out in pain



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpl. Nathan Goens, a heavy equipment operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, is shown first-hand by his former senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schoemer, submission techniques in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Saturday morning.

as his knee came down hard on the ground and started bleeding, but he wouldn't give up.

"I was hurting out there pretty bad," said the Wichita, Kan. native. "But ever since I heard the challenge go out a year ago, I wanted to come back here, and I was going to make him work if he was going to beat me."

True to his word, Goens fought hard until Schoemer finally tapped out, making his former recruit the victor.

"I underestimated you," said an exhausted Schoemer to an even more exhausted

Goens. "I thought that this morning was going to be a cake walk. I guess I was wrong."

After they finished their match, the two stayed in the pit, exchanging grappling tips and techniques to one another, and laughing about the result of their bout.

As the pair parted ways once again, Schoemer congratulated Goens and made sure he understood to stay motivated for the rest of his time in the Marine Corps.

Goens' reply was simply a bellowed, "kill!"



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpl. Nathan Goens (left), a heavy equipment operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and his former senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schoemer, shake hands and exchange goodbyes after Goens returned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to grapple Schoemer. Goens made Schoemer tap out to end their match.



OFFICIAL FILE PHOTO

The Combat Center Band plays the National Anthem as the color guard presents the colors during last year's Fourth of July celebration at Victory Field.



OFFICIAL FILE PHOTO

People wait in line to climb the rock climbing wall during last year's Fourth of July celebration at Victory Field. Marines, sailors and family members gathered with civilians from the local community to enjoy the festivities.

FIREWORKS, from B1

selling food and drinks.

Games and activities available to participants include; the Jupiter jump, bungee run, the surf simulator, water tag, slip-n-slide, one-on-one basketball and dolphin water slider.

Before the fireworks show, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, is scheduled to address the audience, and thank the

sponsors who helped make the night possible.

Once it gets dark, the fireworks will commence and light up the skies to end the celebration with the largest fireworks display in the community.

MCCS special events coordinator Kelley Coe offers some tips to participants and asks everyone to follow the rules when coming to enjoy the celebration.

"Bring lawn chairs and blankets," Coe said. "Don't

bring coolers with your own food and alcohol, and no pets allowed. Alcohol will be sold at the field."

Independence Day has been celebrated on base for 11 years. Coe expects around 6,000 people to attend the event.

"This is a great way for everybody to come on base, enjoy a free show and thank the Marines, sailors and their families for the sacrifices they have made throughout the year."

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July Schedule						
5 - DH @ OC Pioneers 7:05	6	7 - Vs. Santa Barbara Foresters 7:05	8 - Vs. Denver Cougars 7:05	9	10 - Vs. Tumble Thunder 7:05	11 - Vs. Tumble Thunder 7:05
12	13	14 - DH @ L.A. Thrashers 1:00 & 4:00	15 - Vs. North County Waves 7:05	16	17 - Vs. East L.A. Dodgers 7:05	18 - Vs. East L.A. Dodgers 7:05
19	20	21 - Playoff (Tentative)	22 - Playoff (Tentative)	23 - Playoff (Tentative)	24 - Vs. Bay Cal Yankees 7:05	25 - All Star Game 6:15
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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