

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 28, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 34

In the air, on land and streams

3/7 hones water crossing skills

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

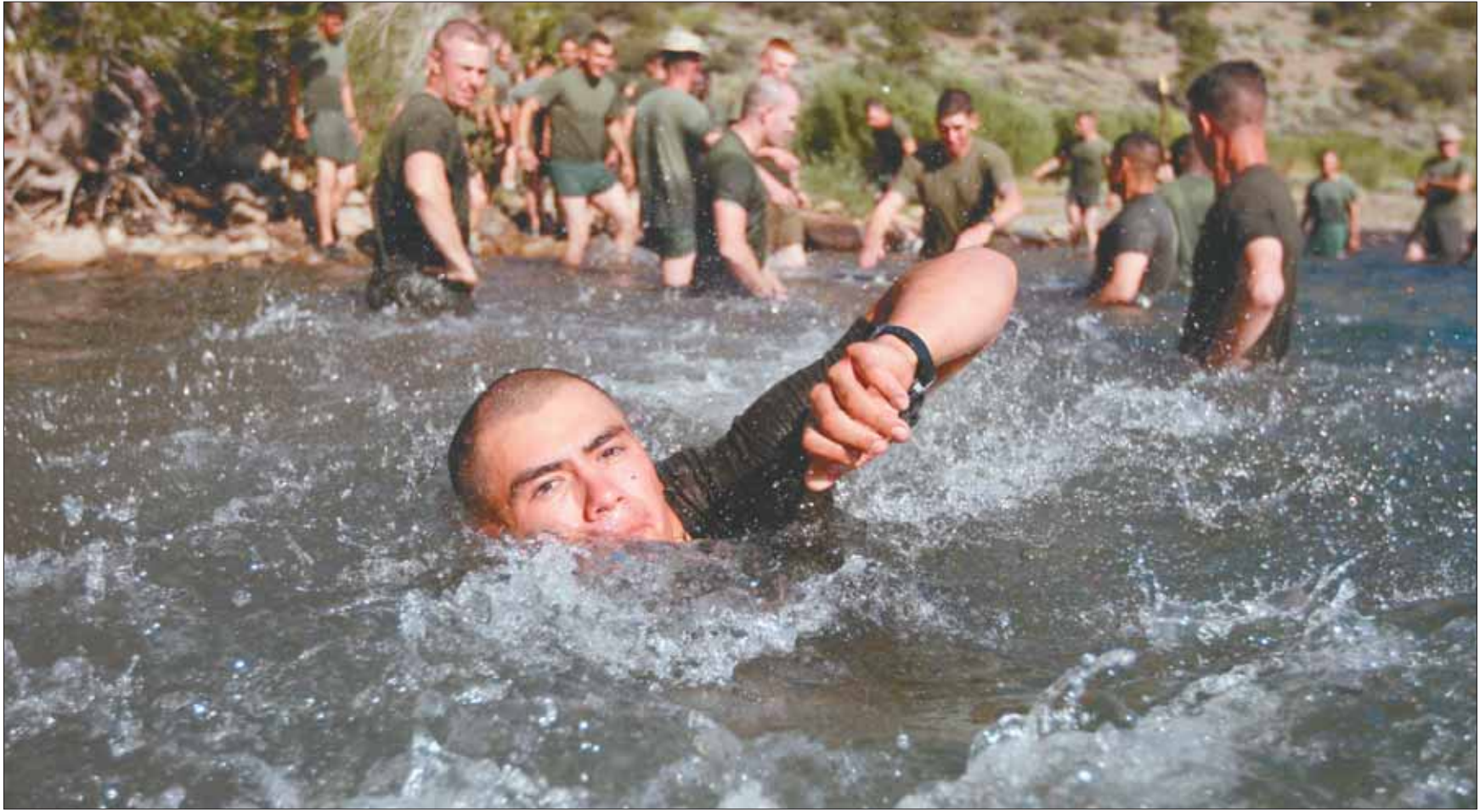
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – Marines and sailors from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, returned to their amphibious roots during a stream crossing training exercise at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Leavitt Training Area Aug. 20.

The exercise focused on moving fire teams across streams and rivers as safely as possible.

“These Marines are being afforded the opportunity to gain the confidence and ability to do something they’ve never done before as a unit,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller, a mountain warfare training instructor with the Unit

See **CROSSING, A3**



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Lance Cpl. Rafael Ramirez, a rifleman with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, swims across a stream during a training exercise at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center's Leavitt Training Area Aug. 20. The exercise focused on moving fire teams across streams and rivers as safely as possible.

New commanding officer welcomed to 3rd CEB



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Col. James H. Bain, (right) the newly-appointed commanding officer for 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, receives the battalion colors from Sgt. Maj. James Walsh, 3rd CEB's sergeant major, during an assumption of command ceremony at the Combat Center Aug. 21.

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lt. Col. James H. Bain, formally introduced himself to the 600 Marines of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion as their new commanding officer during an assumption of command ceremony aboard the Combat Center Aug. 21.

The battalion was recently reactivated in October 2008, after being deactivated in 1995. The battalion fell under 1st Tank Battalion administratively as they waited for a commanding officer.

“When standing up a battalion, the challenge is always going to be filling that battalion with personnel,” said Sgt. Maj. James D.

Walsh, the battalion sergeant major and a Rochester, N.Y., native. “Combat engineer officers are a fairly rare breed in the Corps to begin with and finding the one who would be a perfect fit for a newly-reactivated battalion just took some time.”

During the ceremony, Bain, a Shreveport, La., native, thanked 1st Tank Battalion for their support. He also spoke to his Marines and described a brief history of 3rd CEB.

“Once again 3rd CEB is being activated,” he said jokingly. “It is like a cockroach, you just can’t get rid of it.”

He continued to say he was proud of the Marines he will lead, and impressed

See **WELCOME, A5**

Task Force 3rd LAR prepares to leave Sahl Sinjar

CPL. ALAN ADDISON

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 8

SAHL SINJAR, Iraq – Nowadays in Iraq, it isn’t uncommon to find forward operating bases spread throughout the various regions where U.S. forces operate. These bases come equipped with contractors whose jobs are to ensure the area is sanitary and provide certain creature-comforts for service members who are deployed to such bases. These comforts include running water, shower areas, internet and telephone access, and a chow hall that offers three meals a day. However, life on Sahl Sinjar Airfield is rather different.

The Marines of Task Force 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion are preparing to return home after seven months of independently operating without the help of contractors.

“With the buildup of FOBs, we’ve become reliant upon commercial contracts, but this deployment has helped show us, that in certain situations, we can still remain effective without them,” said Capt. Chad Dodd, 3rd LAR’s logistics officer.

Without the help of outside sources for assistance, 3rd LAR has had to rely on the hard work of their Marines to keep the airfield functioning. Two of the main areas that required a large amount of attention came from the battalion’s supply and

See **3RD LAR, A3**

Warm welcome home for 3rd LAR

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-eight Marines and sailors from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion returned home Sunday evening after a seven-month Western Pacific deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, aboard the USS Essex, a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship.

While with the MEU, 3rd LAR acted as a light armored support asset for Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, said Gunnery Sgt. Edward Brickert, 3rd LAR’s training chief.

Their first stop was Chiang Mai, Thailand for the joint

service exercise Cobra Gold from Feb. 4-17. Cobra Gold is an annual event hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand to promote regional peace and security. This year, the countries of Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan and the United States took part in the two-week event.

Members of 3rd LAR also took part in two classes at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa, Japan. One group took the Jungle skills course, a 6-day course that focuses on patrolling and combat skills in a jungle environment.

Members of 3rd LAR and 31st MEU also took part in the Jungle Endurance course. According to the JWTC web site, <http://jwtc.mcbbutler.usmc.mil/>, “The Jungle

Endurance Course is a 3.4 mile trek through the jungle designed to test the student’s newly developed skills.” The group managed to tie the course record for fastest time to complete the course.

Next, the MEU set sail for the Philippines to participate in Balikatan, a joint Philippines-U.S. military exercise.

The culminating exercise for 3rd LAR and the MEU was Talisman Saber, one of Australia’s largest multilateral training exercises, July 6-25. This biennial combined training activity is designed to help U.S. and Australian forces work together more efficiently.

When the Marines and sailors were riding the bus to

See **HOME, A4**



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Sgt. Jeremy Quackenbush holds his 5-week-old son Caerus for the first time after returning from a deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan, Sunday at Victory Field.



Birds of a feather... ~ See A3



Leaders of tomorrow ~ See A5



Dealer or no dealer ~ See B1



VMU-1 in 'spare' time ~ See B1

Semper Moto

It's Milwaukee or nothin'

BY JOHN FLEMING

For some motorcyclists, choosing a new motorcycle has only one primary criteria. It has to "look right." For many riders, that look can only be found in a cruiser. Built low to the ground, cruisers have a distinctive appearance that spans several decades. The range of accessories is extensive, and the bikes are often dripping with chrome and equipped with after-market pipes that produce a distinctive "Potato, Potato" sound.

But cruisers have their down side. Because they have less ground clearance than "standard" motorcycles or sport bikes, they have more limited lean angles, and can't corner as vigorously.

Most cruisers are powered by V-Twin motors. They have prodigious amounts of torque for neck-snapping acceleration. But those same motors tend to have more inherent vibration than four cylinder machinery.

On the other hand, because they are big and powerful, cruisers can comfortably carry a passenger and luggage. Some are equipped with impressive sound systems, cruise control, and anti-lock brakes; all of which can make long distance touring safer and more enjoyable.

Cruisers can also be quite reliable, with shaft drive or belt drive for low maintenance, and fuel injection. Many of today's Japanese models offer liquid cooling. And the list of options is nearly limitless - adjustable windshields, hard or soft saddlebags, passenger backrests, floating floorboards, and a wide selection of appearance accessories or "safety chrome."

For all-around riding, a cruiser is tough to beat.

But if your idea of a dream ride is leaning way over in the canyons and mountains, with smooth power and nimble handling, while at the same time carrying two weeks worth of clothing and a companion, you may want to think about another option.

Next week, we'll talk about a growing segment of the motorcycle market - The Sport Tourer.

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

Hot Topics

NAVAL HOSPITAL OFFERS SPORTS PHYSICALS

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital here will be offering free sports physicals on a walk-in, first come, first serve basis to all military dependents in school grades 7 through 12 on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. To book a school or sports physical appointment, call Dr. Bidstrup on the appointment line at 830-2752. Contact the customer relations officer at 830-2475 for more information.

NEW RELIGIOUS SERVICE AVAILABLE

A new inter-denominational and traditional Protestant Christian worship service will be available on base at Christ Chapel, every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. Children's church and child-care are available. For more information, please call 830-6464.

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS NEEDED

The local football leagues are looking for officials to help with Junior-All American, High School, and Marine Corps football officiating. Yearly dues of \$70 are required to get a game schedule, plus you must buy your own uniforms. You will receive a rule book, a mechanics manual and study guides. Most officials earn between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per season. Weekly meetings will be held every Tuesday night starting Sept. 1, and are mandatory for all officials. Interested parties should call Mike Harris at 880-0676.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Combat Center's 1st Tank Battalion will hold a memorial service for Lance Cpl. Adam Lynch, an anti-tank missileman with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tanks, at the Catholic Chapel here Wednesday at 10 a.m. Uniform for the event will be desert camouflage utilities. For more information, contact Navy Lt. Russell Hale, the 1st Tanks chaplain, at 830-6789.

Centerspeak

If you could retire today, where would you go and what would you do?

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



LANCE CPL. ALEX SOLORZANO
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT,
COMPANY K

"I would go home to Orange County and live a civilian's life."



CPL. TERRION MAPP
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE
BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS AND
SERVICE COMPANY

"I'd go home to Atlanta and work on cars."



CAPT. MATHEW STULZ
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER
SQUADRON 364

"I'd go to Minnesota and play lake sports all day."

School Liaison Question of the Week



Question: How can I find out my school's stats and recent scores on the state tests?

Answer: For best results, you can look up your school and their test scores on the California Department of Education Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov>, go to Data and Statistics and click on Data Quest under Highlights.

The past school year's test scores should be online the first week of September.

For more information, please contact smbplmsmccsschoolliaison@usmc.mil or call 830-1574.

This Day in Marine Corps History

Aug. 29, 1916

The Marine Corps Reserve was founded seven months before the onset of American involvement in World War I.

SUDOKU #1529

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

STOOLIES

[puzzle Solutions on A7]

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | 21 | | 22 | | | | | |
| | | | | 23 | | | 24 | | | 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | 30 | 31 | 32 | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | 34 | | | | | 35 | 36 | 37 | |
| 38 | | | | | | 39 | | | | | 40 | 41 | | | |
| 42 | | | | | | 43 | | | | | 44 | | | | |
| | | | | 45 | 46 | | | | 47 | | | | | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | | | | | | 51 | 52 | | | | | | |
| 53 | | | | | | 54 | 55 | | 56 | | | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| 61 | | | | | | 62 | | 63 | | | | | | | |
| 64 | | | | | | 65 | | | | | 66 | | | | |
| 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | | 69 | | | | |

ACROSS

- Little green man
- Sunscreen letters
- Spectacles parts
- Laundry soap brand of old
- Familiar with
- Leave unmentioned
- 1938 Ronald Reagan comedy
- "Peter Pan" dog
- Shipping out
- Quake-related
- Word following pigeon or web
- Unlike a rolling stone?
- Gemologists' units
- Big name in printers
- Give a keynote, say
- Nose-in-the-air sort
- Air safety org.
- Las Palmas residents, e.g.
- Moth-eaten
- Pindaric works

DOWN

- Hall's singing partner
- You can get slapped with them
- Like much of Chile
- Blackthorn fruits
- Resurfaces, in away
- Water gate misdeed
- Splits in two
- Gung-ho movie
- City near Lake Tahoe
- "We have met the enemy" lake
- "Socrate" composer Erik
- Genesis eviction site
- Funny Foxx
- Chip away at

DOWN

- Some Wall St. workers
- Trevi fountain cash
- Look __ (visit)
- Abbr. before a year
- Any of seven Nolan Ryan gems
- Political house-cleaning
- Auto loan letters
- Burlesque show wraps
- Pre-deal chip
- Big name in lighters
- Mosque leaders
- Some skirts or computers
- Keach who played Mike Hammer
- Slaughter in Cooperstown
- Chatroom "I think"
- Least likely to get it
- Chanel of fashion
- Fast-shrinking Asian sea
- Fan dancer Sally
- __ snail's pace
- Inside-the-Beltway

- figures, for short
- Entrepreneur-aiding org
- Slaw or fries
- Big bash
- Plane measure
- Part of NBA: Abbr.
- Hither's partner
- "Bull!"
- Stay-at-home __
- Get nourishment from
- Haifa's land: Abbr.
- Woody's son
- Say "Boo!" to
- Was nuts about
- Like Little Bo-Peep's charges
- Didn't just sit there
- Super, slangily
- Trim down
- Way off
- Head Corleone
- Oklahoma city on the Chisholm Trail
- __-Ball (arcade game)
- Get __ of (toss)

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Jennifer Goodman
Job Title: Marine Corps Community Services operations assistant
Job Duties: "Consolidating paperwork and helping with what the manager needs done."
What do you like most about your job? "The people on base, the Marines are usually polite and courteous, feel like apart of something bigger than just this one store."
Significant achievements: "Boosting moral through recognizing and celebrating employee birthdays at work every month."

Hobbies: Horseback riding, horse training and gardening
Military affiliation: Father and husband were in the Marines
Time at Combat Center: 11 years

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp
Deputy Public Affairs Officer 1st Lt. Doy Demisick
Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez
Press Chief/Editor Lance Cpl. Nicholas M. Dunn
Layout, Design Leslie Shaw

The Observation Post is published by Hi-Desert Publishing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the Observation Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States government, the DoD, or the United States Marine Corps. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD or Hi-Desert Publishing of the services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is prepared by the Public Affairs Office, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92278. All photos, unless otherwise indicated are Official USMC Photos. Questions can be directed to the Public Affairs Office, located in building 1417, during normal working hours at (760) 830-6213 or FAX (760) 830-5474. The Observation Post is made with 60 percent recycled paper.

Squadrons train at Combat Center for upcoming deployment

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Two Marine Corps aviation units combined forces at the Combat Center's Prospect training area to prepare for their deployments later this year.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, both from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., tested their knowledge, skills, and a new aircraft during the training.

The Marines of MWSS-372 set up a Forward Area Refueling Point at the training area to allow HMLA-367 pilots opportunities to push the limits of the new UH-1 Yankee Super Huey helicopter in a climate similar to areas in Afghanistan.

Both squadrons are currently participating in Enhanced Mojave Viper, a month-long pre-deployment training evolution here which integrates air, ground and support element exercises to prepare for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen G. Rudinski, the MWSS-372 Air Ground Support Detachment expeditionary airfield and emergency services officer, said it was his unit's mission to assess forward operating bases and FARPs during the EMV exercise.

"We're focusing on assessing FARPs and training for air base ground defense, base recovery after attack, damage assessment teams, and more," said Rudinski, a Wellsboro, Pen., native. "The airfield we're operating out of makes us look at day-to-day life sustainment. We're designed to support one FOB and two FARPs at any given time."

1st Lt. Steve Draper, the MWSS-372 FARP prospect training mission commander, said for several Marines, this was the first time training in conditions so similar to that of Iraqi and Afghani climate and terrain.

"Right now we want to establish a FARP at Prospect in order to extend the capability of the MAGTF [Marine

See **SQUADRON, A6**



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Ethan Schreffler (left) and Cpl. Joseph Moore, both aircraft communications, navigation, electrical and weapon systems technician with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, go down a weapon systems checklist on a new UH-1 Yankee Super Huey helicopter during Enhanced Mojave Viper aviation training at the Combat Center's Prospect training area Tuesday.

CROSSING, from A1

Training Group. "This training is not the end-all, be-all by any means. It gives them the basic knowledge they need for get-

ting across the water safely."

The company hiked nearly four miles through hills and ridges to get to the training area, and for some, the water was welcomed

with open arms.

"They set up the training schedule just right," said Lance Cpl. Randy Devore, a rifleman with Company K, 3/7. "The water was a perfect way to cool

down after that hike."

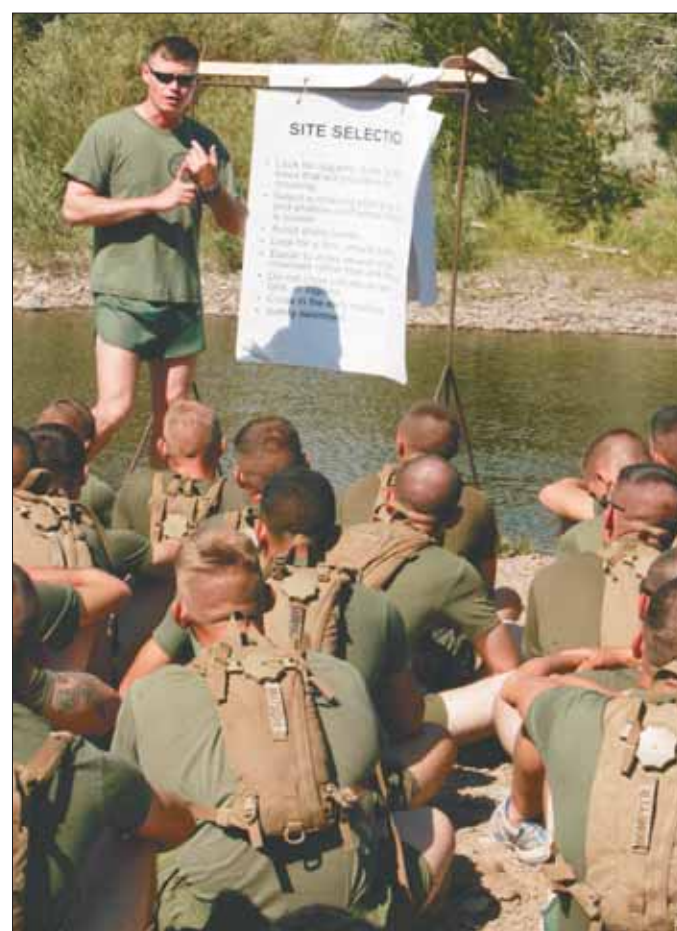
During the class, Miller demonstrated different techniques to use when crossing rivers and streams such as using sticks to determine the depth of the water and for support.

He said these lessons can save lives at home and overseas.

"There were two Marines in Iraq that, for some reason, decided to cross the Euphrates River in full combat [personal protective equipment]," said Miller, a Chalmette, La., native. "One Marine was swept down the river and survived, and the other Marine got stuck about knee-deep in the mud right where he jumped in and drowned. He was still clutching his rifle when they found him."

Devore, a Cherry Point, N.C., native, said he took a lot away from the exercise.

"I think this training will make for better teamwork in general," said Devore. "We've been doing a lot of platoon-sized training exercises, so getting to train at the fire team level was nice."



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller teaches a stream crossing class to the Marines and sailors of Co. K, 3rd Bn., 7th Marines.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller, a mountain warfare training instructor with the Unit Training Group, teaches a stream crossing class to the Marines and sailors of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, at the Leavitt Training Area Aug. 20. During the class, Miller demonstrated different techniques to use when crossing rivers and streams such as using sticks to determine the depth of the water and for support.

3RD LAR, from A1

maintenance sections.

"We've focused a lot of our efforts around our logistical supply and maintenance support," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Kassner, battalion commander for 3rd LAR. "For example, we support our companies, who are continuously operating in the battle space, by ground convoy. The [logistics] Marines go out to deliver food, fuel and water to those Marines."

As expected in this type of desolate, dust-filled environment, remaining functional and ready has been no easy task. The Marines of 3rd LAR have faced certain challenges that have made their deployment difficult at times.

"One of the biggest challenges we've faced with our gear is making sure the generators are running properly," Dodd said. "Over time, these generators are placed under a lot of stress because of the weather and constant use. After a while they need to be refurbished or replaced. Because of the situation, we haven't always been able to do that, but we've done a good job of getting them fixed when needed."

Although 3rd LAR is operating under circumstances different from other units, they have still been able to provide their Marines with certain creature-comforts and morale enhancers.

"We maintain an expeditionary chow hall, which serves two meals a day, air conditioning and water," said

Dodd. We have also worked to provide some creature-comforts such as laundry services, showers, and internet and phone services so Marines can keep in contact with their families."

Sahl Sinjar may be a less than desirable area for a service member to be deployed to; however 3rd LAR believes their situation is the reason why they've been successful throughout their deployment.

"Our mission in this area

has been characterized by its expeditionary nature," Kassner stated. "Working out with limited luxuries at a remote outpost has enhanced our combat effectiveness, because we've been able to operate continuously throughout our battle space."

Although Sahl Sinjar Airfield may be looked upon as an extreme austere environment, to the Marines of TF 3rd LAR, it is the place they've come to know as home. As the overall

providers and operators of that home, they have worked feverishly to ensure they are not only successful while operating in their battle space, but they are also successful in providing their Marines what they need without support from outside contractors.

Saturday September 5
11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

JULIAN GRAPE STOMP FESTA

Adults: \$10
Age 20 and Under \$5.00
Under 5 - FREE

Live Music by Roman Holiday

Sponsored By
San Diego Gas and Electric
Julian News

Albertsons Ramona • Amber Ramirez at Farmers Insurance American Legion Post #468 • Butterfield B&B Deborah Kerch, Realtor, @RMS • Hawk Watch Winery Julian Disposal • Julian Grille • Julian Yesteryears Kathy's Dress Shop • Luers & Dyer, CPA Mom's Pies • Patrick Engineering Santa Ysabel Indian Mission • Seidl's Party Supplies SMV Insurance Agency • The Round Up BBQ Grill The Springs at Borrego

• Bocce Ball
• Jolly Jump
• Great Food

Over 2 Tons of Grapes

MENGHINI WINERY
1150 Julian Orchards Drive
Julian, CA.

www.julianca.com

LOCAL BUSINESS STIMULUS PACKAGES!

- Vinyl Vehicle lettering • Mobile Billboards
- Magnetic Vehicle Signs • Banners
- Business cards • All types of signs!

Call Stevie – (760) 902-9366
I can get you noticed! Guaranteed!

MARSOC
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

TAKING WARFARE
BEYOND THE FRONT LINE

TO WIN WARS BEFORE
THEY EVER BEGIN

CONTACT A MARSOC RECRUITER AND
STEP BEYOND THE TIP OF THE SPEAR

WWW.MARSOC.USMC.MIL
EAST COAST: 910-451-0099/3349
WEST COAST: 760-763-5101/5102
E-Mail: marsoc_recruiting@usmc.mil

MCTOG, USJFCOM enhance joint readiness for Marines

CASEY BAIN
JFIIT, USJFCOM

The Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group and U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint Fires Integration and Interoperability Team partnered here Tuesday to improve the joint training and combat readiness of Marine battalion and regimental staffs before they deploy to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The recently completed Spartan Resolve exercise included academic instruction, a command post exercise and a live-fire event.

The training exercise focused on integrating joint, coalition, and interagency partners in a live, virtual, and constructive environment replicating conditions commanders and staffs will experience once deployed, according to leaders at MCTOG.

"The only way you can replicate the environment that you find in Afghanistan and Iraq is to make it joint and interagency," said Marine Corps Col. William F. Mullen III, the commander of MCTOG. "We want our units going through the training here to have a déjà vu-like experience when they get into

theater - we don't want them to have any surprises."

An important part of this training equips Marine Corps commanders and staffs with knowledge they need to use the joint combat multipliers at their disposal when deployed, according to MCTOG leaders.

"Our goal is to teach Marines how to plan, integrate, and employ joint fires and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets in a realistic operational environment similar to what they will experience once in theater," said Marine Lt. Col. Rob Buzby, the executive officer of MCTOG. "It's a joint fight, and organizations like JFIIT help our Marines learn how to employ joint capabilities that will improve our effectiveness against today's asymmetric threat."

JFIIT assisted MCTOG as they trained battalion and regimental staffs by providing joint fires and ISR subject matter experts to help coach, teach, and mentor during Spartan Resolve.

"MCTOG does an excellent job of integrating joint assets to replicate a near-real-world environment," said Army Maj. John Bowman, the JFIIT lead at MCTOG.

"Our mission is to help integrate the joint enablers of the targeting process that teach, and reinforce tactics, techniques and procedures that will shorten their learning curve once in country."

Spartan Resolve also provided immediate training feedback to the commanders and staffs throughout the exercise.

"By working together with JFIIT and others, we're able to provide a realistic training environment and feedback methodology that is based on current doctrine and TTP being used in theater," said Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tim Barrick, the operations officer for MCTOG. "The lessons that the Marines learn here are a vital part of the unit's pre-deployment training."

Other organizations supporting this training were the U.S. Special Operations Command, the Central Intelligence Agency, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Operations Integration Center, National Ground Intelligence Center, U.S. Agency for International Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, and others.

"The strength of this exercise is our ability to pull in so many experts who represent



CASEY BAIN

Spartan Resolve focuses on integrating joint, coalition, and interagency partners in a live, virtual and constructive environment replicating deployment conditions.

many of the same organizations that our Marines will work with in theater," said Scott Campbell, the joint exercise planner at MCTOG. "It's the only exercise that provides this kind of training to our battalion and regimental staffs before they deploy."

The primary training audience may be the Marines, but other services also value this joint training experience.

"I will be able to apply the

lessons that I've learned from this exercise to better plan and execute future training events," said Army Maj. Brian Ferguson, the assistant fire support coordinator for 10th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. "The training here has helped me achieve a higher level of understanding of how to conduct joint operations."

MCTOG plans to continue integration of joint assets

preparing Marines for today's irregular warfare environment.

"This training is a necessity for any unit that wants to fight in today's operational environment," added Buzby. "Today's operating environment requires Marines to have an open mind and an absolute willingness to work with others. We will only fight and win as a joint team - that integration will be the key to our success today and on future battlefields."



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lance Cpl. Zackary Marulitua, a 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance machine gunner, arrives at Victory Field Sunday.

HOME, from A1

Victory Field to see friends and loved ones some were calling ahead to let family and friends know how close they were.

As the bus got closer, everyone stoop up and anxiously waited for the bus to finally pull up. The Marines and sailors quickly got off the bus and went straight to those who were here to welcome them home.

There were hugs, kisses and several teary-eyes all around.

Sgt. Jeremy Quackenbush held his five week-old son Caerus for the first time. When he finally held his child, he seemed not to notice the world around him. It was just him and his new baby.

Ana Marulitua wife of Lance Cpl. Zackary Marulitua said "It is exciting

to see him after so long"

Ana has been raising two children, ages' 15-months and 11-years, while their father has been deployed.

Friends of Sgt. Christopher Perez waited with a welcome home sign made by friend Kirsten Reed.

Now the Marines and sailors of 3rd Platoon are back at home and will take some time off to be with their friends and family, before they begin training for their next deployment.

READY FOR A CHANGE?
CHECK OUT
ONE EIGHTY

Same Jesus, Same Message, Different Attitude
Worship with a coffee house atmosphere
Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Located directly across from the JT Saloon on Hwy. 62 and
Corner 58 in the heart of Joshua Tree
366-8429 / One80j@hotmail.com

Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays
with the Hi-Desert Star
Thursdays with The Desert Trail
Fridays with
The Observation Post

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.
Your community newspapers working to serve you better

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship 9:45
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

(760) 361-2450
4751 Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, Ca. 92277
spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com

Evangelical Free Church

Bill Wilcox, Senior Pastor Marcus McDaniel, Youth Pastor

Sundays: Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM
Nursery and Children's Church Available

Wednesday: Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:00 PM
AWANA (during school year) 6:15-8:00 PM

Youth Groups:
Jr High Wednesday 6:30-8:00 PM
High School Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM
Refinery (young adults) Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM

6804 Mohawk Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 (760) 228-1747

GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
Christian Center Church

"Developing Disciples For Christ"

Begin Your Week With Pastor T. K. & Gerri Washington

- Sunday School - 10 A.M.
- Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.
- Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
- Friday Night Interspersory Prayer - 7 P.M.

Don't Just Be...
...LIVE!

760.361.6510
5898 Adobe Rd. Twentynine Palms, CA
www.gfccc.org

57373 Joshua Lane
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 365-0769
www.JoshuaSprings.org

Joshua Springs
CALVARY CHAPEL

Sundays 7:30, 9:00, 10:40 AM & 6:00 PM
Wednesdays: 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Servicio en Espanol
Sundays 10:40 AM Wednesday 7:00 PM

CHURCH • CHRISTIAN SCHOOL • BIBLE COLLEGE

We Believe... You Belong!

KJSM Radio 97.1fm / www.kjsmradio.com

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

SUN. SERVICE & SUN. SCHOOL... 10 AM
WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM
READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs. 12-3 PM
Sat. 9-Noon (Except Holidays)
56039 Santa Fe Trail • 365-4185
Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley

Skyview Chapel
Church of God

Worship Service
10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree
Pastor Abe Casiano
Church (760) 366-9119

This Week's Spotlight Church

DESERT
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Call for free van ride
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship
Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs
Visitors Welcome

Sunday Concert Series • Call for info
29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086

DESERT
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Call for free van ride
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship
Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs
Visitors Welcome
Sunday Concert Series • Call for info
29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086

29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST

72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)

Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
367-9400

St. Joseph of Arimathea
Episcopal Church

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

New Beginning
Community Church

Pastor Lynn Gary Thompson
Christ Centered Church
Sunday School - 9:30 am Adult & Youth
Worship Service - 10:30 am
Music & Fun - 6:00 pm
55922 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley
760-910-5261

DESERT
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Call for free van ride
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship
Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs
Visitors Welcome

Sunday Concert Series • Call for info
29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086

United Methodist Church
of Twentynine Palms

6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338

Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Child Care Provided)

Reverend Lynn Reece
"open hearts, open minds, open doors"

St. Martin-In-The-Fields
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am
Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am
We're Here for Everyone
Phone (760) 367-7133
72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms
www.stmartinschurch29.org

*"The will of
God will never
take you where
the grace of
God will not
protect you."*

Yucca Valley Church
of Religious Science

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

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

56750 Mountain View Trail
Yucca Valley • 365-6331

1st Service 9:30 AM w/Sunday School
2nd Service 11:00 AM w/Adult Bible Study
Bible Studies, Choir
A Friendly and Loving Congregation!

JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER
Calvary Chapel Fellowship

Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph
6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree
Sunday Services 9am, 10:30am & 6:00pm
call (760)366-7420
Website: JHOPCC.ORG

First Baptist Church of 29 Palms

Childcare Available
Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:15 am, Morning Worship 10:30 am.
Evening Service 6:00 pm.
Wednesday Services
Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm.
Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm.
www.fbc29.org
6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
365-4014

SUNDAY
Bible School.....9:30am
Worship.....10:45am

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)

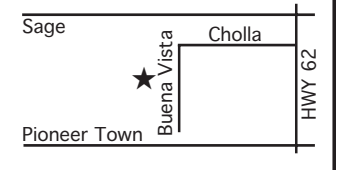
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM
LIVING UNDER THE SON
59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley
CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590

Two Mile Apostolic Tabernacle
74301 Two Mile Rd., 29 Palms

(Next to Lucky Park)
"Where Jesus Embraces You"
Sundays 10:00 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesdays 7:30 pm
Website: TwoMileApostolic.com
760-367-0080

First Baptist Church of 29 Palms

Childcare Available
Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:15 am, Morning Worship 10:30 am.
Evening Service 6:00 pm.
Wednesday Services
Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm.
Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm.
www.fbc29.org
6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561



Come Pray With Us

JOIN US IN WORSHIP IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:
VALLEY INDEPENDENT PRINTING - COPIES, COLOR COPIES, COMMERCIAL PRINTING AND MORE!
7333 Apache Trail, Yucca Valley • 365-6967 • Military and Church Discounts Available

Comanche Marines conduct leadership training

LANCE CPL. JASON HERNANDEZ

MULTI NATIONAL FORCE - WEST

SAHL SINJAR, Iraq – Marines from Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, or “Comanche Company,” conducted leadership training on an abandoned farming compound north of Sahl Sinjar, Iraq, Aug. 5.

In a twist, the more experienced Marines tasked junior Marines with organizing, briefing and planning a mock assault on a simulated insurgent headquarters.

Together, four lance corporals and a private first class laid out a mock attack for their platoon and even built a detailed terrain model of the entire compound. The Marines then took their squads aside and gave them more detailed briefs on their plans of attack.

“Exercises like this are good because they give the junior Marines the experience of being in a higher billet,” said Cpl. Matthew D. Parker, a vehicle commander with Comanche Co. “Some of us with more experience may not be [with the unit] next year if the unit deploys [again], so we use what time we have here to prepare them for any leadership roles they’ll need to take on.”

After the briefs, the senior Marines gave the junior Marines their first bits of



LANCE CPL. JASON HERNANDEZ

Marines with Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, advance on an abandoned compound during a training mission near Sahl Sinjar, Iraq, Aug. 5. The training was designed to give junior Marines leadership experience vital to the continuity of successful missions.

advice, which concentrated mostly on how to brief a platoon of Marines. Everything from tone of voice to body language can make or break the confidence one has in a leader, which is why the instructors considered briefing an important segment of the training program.

The unit then conducted a warm-up drill, which involved going through the

plan and drilling what needed to be done during each phase of the simulated attack.

“It’s better practicing out here,” said 1st Lt. Luke A. Williamson, 1st Platoon commander. “Here we don’t have to work with range controllers, do scheduling or anything like that. We’ve got a massive desert with abandoned buildings scattered throughout. It’s a perfect

training environment.”

Once the opening stages of the briefing and dry runs were completed, the Marines packed their equipment into their vehicles and drove away, only to return 20 minutes later for the actual mock mission.

They stormed in from the direction of the sun and the Light Armored Vehicle 25s rolled to a stop within a safe

distance of the compound. The Marine scouts on board raced out and covered one another as they advanced.

Before long, they were searching buildings and clearing room after room. Suddenly a voice called out, “Alright, he’s hit,” and the junior Marines were faced with the unexpected task of calling for an aerial medical evacuation.

Fortunately, arrangements had already been made, and the mock mission proceeded as planned while the simulated casualty was evacuated. Atop the final building, a Marine yelled, “all clear,” signaling the end of the exercise. In all, the mock assault lasted seven minutes.

“I think my Marines did a fantastic job,” said Williamson. “They were well-trained and needed very little guidance or supervision. Their planning, refinement, rehearsal and execution of the deliberate attack was nearly textbook.”

After the operation, the Marines sat down and were debriefed and counseled by senior members of the platoon. Together, they went over the mission and discussed what was done well and, more importantly, what could be improved.

“It could’ve gone better,” said Pfc. James P. Hagy, a scout machine gunner. “We’ll work on our communications skills and movement. It’s all repetition and practice, which is important.”

As the sun faded into the horizon, compliments were paid to the junior enlisted Marines who led the simulated assault. The day’s work had paid off, and a future deployment may see the Marines of Comanche Co. using the lessons they learned at a long-abandoned compound in the northern deserts of Iraq.

WELCOME, from A1

with their fortitude to fight in the war without a commanding officer to lead them. Since being activated, 3rd CEB has sent elements to deploy with various units

from the Combat Center to Iraq and Afghanistan. Bain plans to work with his Marines so the entire battalion can deploy at once.

On of the reasons Bain was selected to become 3rd CEB’s new commanding offi-

cer was because of his background in the engineering field. Bain entered the Marine Corps as a combat engineer officer and served with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, where he held various billets throughout the unit.

Bain had deployed to the Mediterranean and Africa and participated in Operations Silver Wake in Albania, Southern Watch in Iraq, Resolute Response in Kenya and Tanzania, Joint Guardian in Kosovo, Allied Forces in

Yugoslavia and Joint Task Force Noble Anvil in Kosovo.

Bain also deployed to Iraq in 2003 with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, where he served as the commanding officer of Company A and later Engineer Support Co.

In late 2007 and early 2008, Bain commanded a provisional infantry task force in Iraq’s Al Anbar province, conducting security and stability operations.

When he returned from deployment he was assigned as the force engineer with U.S. Marine Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. This is where he was chosen to become the commanding officer of 3rd CEB.

Many of the leaders in 3rd CEB are excited to begin working with him and learn from his experiences as they prepare for their future in the Marine Corps, Walsh said.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Col. James H. Bain, the new commanding officer of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, speaks to the Marines and sailors who attended his assumption of command ceremony Aug. 21, thanking them for their support of his new unit.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

A Marine hands a gift and stuffed animal to the wife of Lt. Col. James H. Bain, Nicole, and their daughter, Haley, after the assumption of command ceremony for 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion the Combat Center Aug. 21.

REMEMBER



THOSE WHO SERVED

WITH A TRIBUTE IN

MILITARY MEMORIES

A special section to be placed in the Hi-Desert Star, The Desert Trail and Observation Post for Veterans Day 2009



Hi-Desert Publishing Co. welcomes stories, photos and memorabilia about you, your spouse or family members who served in the military in wartime or in peace

Submission Deadline: Sept. 30

Please send stories, photographs and memorabilia to:

**Hi-Desert Publishing Co.
Military Memories
P.O. Box 159
Twenty-nine Palms, CA 92277**

You may bring submissions to The Desert Trail office, 6396 Adobe Road, Twenty-nine Palms, or the Hi-Desert Star office at 56445 Twenty-nine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley or e-mail them to osullivan@deserttrail.com. If you have questions or need help writing your story, call Kelly O’Sullivan at (760) 367-3577.



Photographs courtesy of the Library of Congress



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

In 2001 football star Michael Vick was the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft. He was an instant success on the field and between 2001-2006 he had a pass completion rate of 53.8 and was the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season. He was All-Pro his last three years. Then everything fell apart in his personal life. He was convicted of bank-rolling an inter-state dog-fighting ring and sentenced to 23 months in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. He was hated and reviled by animal lovers, banned from professional football, and many assumed that the career of Michael Vick was over.

Then a tough minded optimist got involved, Tony Dungey the former head coach of the Indianapolis Colts who led them to a Super Bowl Championship in 2007. Dungey has now returned and devotes his time to helping men who need emotional support and mature advice.

Dungey visited Vick at Leavenworth many times and became convinced of his sincerity and determination to change.

Dungey spoke with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Vick was conditionally re-instated for this year beginning in October. Dungey spoke with 12 NFL teams on Vick’s behalf and on August 13 the Philadelphia Eagles signed Vick to a one year contract for 1.6 million with a second year option for 5.2 million.

All parties involved agree that none of this would have been possible without Dungey’s persistent efforts. Tony Dungey is not only a tough minded optimist but he is a very devout Christian who believes to the depths of his being that regardless of what a person has done they can be redeemed.

This message sponsored by:

Joshua Tree Certified Farmers’ Market
Saturday’s 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
In the heart of Joshua Tree
Farm fresh, locally grown produce
Lori Herbel, Proprietor

Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627
800-995-1620
res19mxc@verizon.net

STORAGE

WITH 24 HOUR “REAL TIME” SECURITY

State Of The Art Security Control With Full Time Resident Managers Household Storage, RV, Boat & Auto

- Ground Level Units
- Controlled Gate Access
- Large Moving Truck Friendly
- Month-to-Month Rentals

SPECIAL MILITARY PRICING ON ALL UNITS!

ATLANTIC SELF STORAGE

367-2510
5020 Adobe Rd • 29 Palms



We're in your neighborhood

W. Joseph Atiya, M.D.
Family Practice/Pediatrics
54910 Pine Crest
Idyllwild, CA 92549
(951) 659-4908

Alejandro Bautista, M.D.
Pediatrics
81715 Dr. Carreon Blvd, Ste. B1
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 347-1850

Bernard Cohen, M.D.
Pediatrics
6186 Adobe Rd.
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 361-8525

Robert Evans, M.D.
Internal Medicine
55585 29 Palms Hwy.
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 228-3366

Joshua Imperio, M.D.
Internal Medicine
35-400 Bob Hope Drive, Suite #A201
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 202-8900

Manzoor Kazi, M.D.
Internal Medicine
73345 Highway 111, #101
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 340-5800

Arinola Lawson, M.D.
Internal Medicine
71-780 San Jacinto Dr., Suite I-1
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 346-1223

Howard Levy, D.O.
Family Practice
57370 29 Palms Hwy, #203
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 369-0069

Shehryar Mahmood, M.D.
Internal Medicine
1180 N Indian Canyon #W-208
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 323-3711

Yvonne G. Morgan M.D.
Family Practice
1080 N. Indian Canyon, #200
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 318-0067

German Musch, M.D.
Pediatrics
6186 Adobe Rd.
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 361-8525

Steve Novak, M.D.
Family Practice
80545 Hwy 111
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 347-9221

Kamran Qureshi, M.D.
Internal Medicine
54910 Pine Crest
Idyllwild, CA 92549
(951) 659-4908

John W. Samples, M.D.
Internal Medicine
35-400 Bob Hope Drive, Suite #A201
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 202-8900

Naria Rose Sanoyan, M.D.
Internal Medicine
1180 N. Indian Canyon, Ste. E421
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 416-4949

Sean Thomas, M.D.
Family Practice
6186 Adobe Rd.
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 361-8525

- PERSONAL ATTENTION BY PHYSICIANS AND STAFF
- INDIVIDUAL PHYSICIAN OFFICE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
- COVERAGE BY MAJOR HEALTH PLANS



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT

Coachella Valley Physicians is a network of independently contracted physicians.

CSP080609

SQUADRON, from A3

Air Ground Task Force],” said Draper, a West Milton, Ohio, native about the training mission. “It extends the time on station for attack birds, shortens transit time from their station back to the base, decreases time they need to fly back for fuel, and increases the overall scope of the MAGTF.”

Draper said having HMLA-367 join with them during the training is a great example of how operations may change with short notice while in theater and allows the HMLA-367 Marines chances to conduct maintenance operations, refuel and rearm aircraft, and stage the birds over-night like they would in real operations.

“When we get to Afghanistan, will be asked to do this exact same mission,” he said. “We’re going to be asked to go to a site that’s never been constructed before, one that’s totally austere. Depending on the type of soil you’re working with, it can be long process. We’ve never set up our own FARP like this and we’ve seen many lessons learned. This training is practical, very realistic to what we’ll see in Afghanistan, and it’s beneficial for both units.”

Capt. Bret Morriss, a UH-1 Yankee pilot with HMLA-367, said although the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit

was the first to use three of the new aircraft, his unit will be the first to deploy having fully transitioned into flying the new bird.

Aside from the UH-1Y having more power, agility, offensive weapons and crew-carrying capabilities than the UH-1 Twin Huey, one of the key differences is that the UH-1Y has a left-side fuel port, meaning aircraft fuelers need to adjust their operations on the ground as well as the mechanics.

Lance Cpl. Tim Tynan and Cpl. Michael Carlin, two helicopter mechanics and specialists with HMLA-367, said they had to go back to school to learn about the new aircraft prior to their first deployments this year.

“This is definitely good training for Marines who have not deployed yet,” said Tynan, a native of Healdsburg, Calif. “It’s great for guys who don’t know what to expect in a deployment so we can be more combat-ready.”

Carlin, a native of Klamath Falls, Ore., said he agrees and thinks the training prepares all the air wing Marines involved.

“This is catching us up to speed,” he said. “This is also great since the Yankees haven’t been operated in really high altitude yet. This is a faster pace for the aircraft so we can know what it can do.”



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Capt. Kyle Wilt, a UH-1 Yankee Super Huey pilot with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, walks around the aircraft after checking its operational equipment Tuesday at the Combat Center’s Prospect training area.

DeMorrow's Jewelry & Repair

Layaway Now for Christmas!

Minimum 25% down & payments once a month

Up to 50% off certain items

Why pay interest on Quality Jewelry when you can put it on layaway with no interest?

Dean DeMorrow,
Certified Gemologist/Jeweler

Military Discounts for all Service Members

“Remember, everyone that comes in is treated not just like a customer, but a friend,”
Dean

Tues. - Fri. 10-6 Sat. 10-3

367-7185

73501 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms
Parking in the Rear
Corner of Tamarisk & Hwy 62

1st MarDiv sergeant major shares leadership credo

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN CRILLY

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, the 1st Marine Division sergeant major, visited the Marine and Navy noncommissioned officers of 7th Marine Regiment, here Aug. 20.

The visit comes as the "Magnificent Seventh" prepares to deploy to Afghanistan as part of Regimental Combat Team 7, to conduct counterinsurgency operations as the ground combat element of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan.

The visit brought Barrett to his old stomping grounds. Barrett previously served and deployed with the regiment as a junior enlisted Marine and as the sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

"I am back home. This is my home here," said Barrett. "I started off my Marine Corps career here in 1980."

Barrett spoke to the Marines and sailors to remind them about the expeditionary nature of their jobs.

"[Being expeditionary and moving], that's what we do," said Barrett. "Everything I own fits in my blue Ford F-150."

With his energetic spirit and love for the Marine Corps, Barrett talked about seven main points NCOs can use to improve themselves and their Marines.

"NCOs drive this big mean machine, don't think for a second that you aren't important," said Barrett. "That's a pretty awesome responsibility."

"You never know who is watching. You never know who is listening. But I promise you that there are about 314 million sets of eyes and ears on everything that you do and everything that you say every day," Barrett said.

Barrett spoke about what it means to be loyal to the NCO's fellow Marines, how to improve themselves and what to expect for the upcoming year.

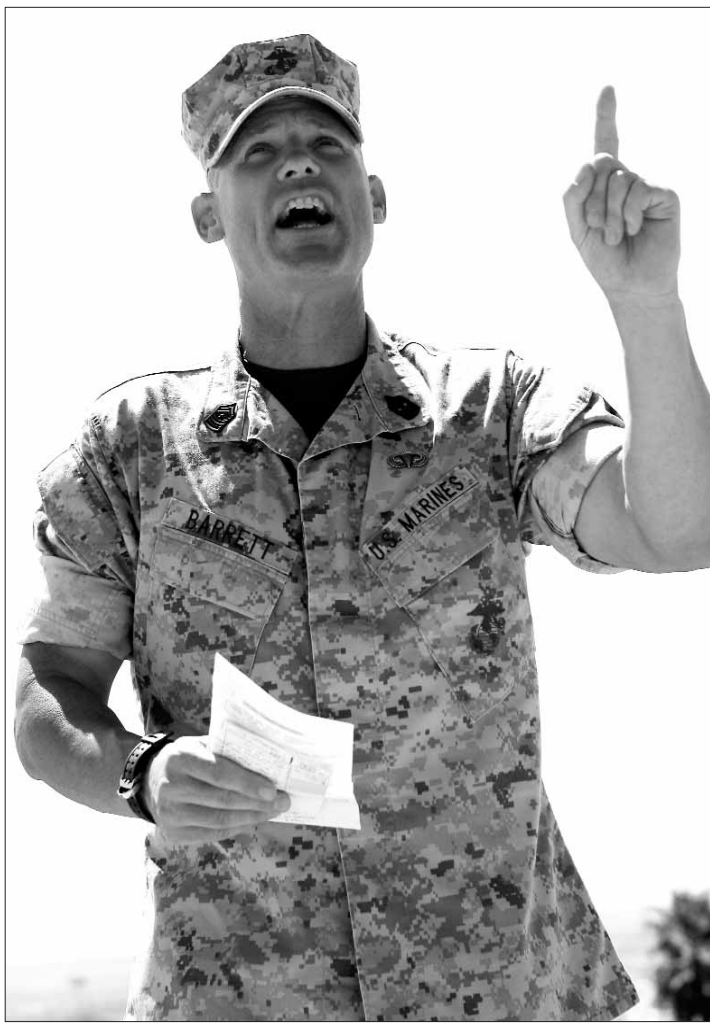
"The highest compliment you can receive from your fellow Marine is when he looks you in the eye and says, 'I can count on you always,'" Barrett said.

Sergeant Major Barrett's visit means a lot especially since he is the sergeant major of division, said Cpl. Christopher R. Stafford, a rifleman with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines.

"It's nice when people like him are willing to come out and listen to us, pay attention and help improve our lives," he said.

After his address, Barrett took questions from the NCOs in attendance. Questions ranged from retention rates to deployment rates to administrative questions regarding the Corps' current operational tempo.

"His talk is not necessarily going to help [NCOs] get ready for deployment," said Stafford, 22, from Reno, Nev. "Its going to help them better themselves because continuing to better yourself is the ongoing mission."



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN CRILLY

Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, the 1st Marine Division sergeant major, makes his point during his address to Marine and Navy noncommissioned officers of 7th Marine Regiment, at the Combat Center Aug. 20. The visit comes as the "Magnificent Seventh" prepares to deploy to Afghanistan as part of Regimental Combat Team 7, to conduct counterinsurgency operations as the ground combat element of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan.

Dear Friend of Scouting,

Summer is winding down and we need your help. Think about your yesterday – you were awakened by the alarm clock. You heard the noises of the morning news or your favorite radio station. Your feet struck ground on the carpet or tile. You headed to work to deal with the trials and tribulations of the day. You returned from work dealing with the frustrations of traffic. The day ended as you fell asleep under the noise of the neighborhood and the buzz of the air conditioning.

At the same time 500 miles away, boys were having an experience of a lifetime. A Scout awoke to the noise of a bird chirping while his tent mate lay restless in the cold morning. Their feet struck the decomposed granite on the uneven ground. He learned how to make a life preserver out of his pants.

Tomorrow he will learn how simple vegetation prevents erosion. He will share his knowledge with younger Scouts in a hands-on atmosphere, to control his breathing and muscle coordination on an archery range to better his own proficiency.

He will also be around others who will learn to swim for the first time, and how to apply pressure to a wound and splint a broken arm or leg. He will learn to understand respect for himself, others and his surroundings, and that a simple piece of rope can become a life-saving tool. Working with his peers he will learn teamwork, compassion and service to others. Most importantly, he will get to be a boy!

Think about what one Scout's knowledge and experience can provide a fellow Scout, a family, or a community. You can be part of the experience. Help keep the Scouting experience alive. Consider supporting Boy Scout Troop 78.

The Scouts of Troop 78, who are located on base and made up of military families, are going to Philmont Scout Ranch, N.M., next August. The cost is \$800 per person. To help offset these costs, the scouts are selling Trails End popcorn. Seventy percent of your purchase goes to Scouting; 30 percent goes to the individual Scouts.

For more information on supporting these young men, contact Scoutmaster Clint Blaul at 660-3091, or by email at clinton.blaul@usmc.mil or troop78palms@yahoo.com.

MARINE CORPS CIVILIAN POLICE

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA



The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms is currently hiring civilian police officers. Positions available include Patrol Officer, Military Working Dog Handler, Patrol Supervisor, Field Training Officer, Watch Commander, and many others.

Patrol Officer Salary: \$34,191 - \$55,058

BENEFITS:

- Annual uniform allowance • Night differential and Sunday premium pay
- Annual vacation and sick leave plans • Access to fitness centers
- Access to base child care • Health and life insurance
- Federal Employees Retirement System

REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum of 1 year law enforcement or security experience or educational equivalent
- Must successfully complete pre-employment screening and USMC Police Academy

HOW TO APPLY:

For complete information on this opportunity, visit the program's website: www.usmccle.com

All U.S. Citizens may apply at: www.usajobs.gov

Veterans, Prior Service, Current Federal and Appointment Eligibles may apply at: <https://chart.donhr.navy.mil>

Looking for local entertainment?

See page B2 for our NEW LIBERTY CALL SECTION

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | I | E | N | P | A | B | A | R | I | M | S | | | |
| R | I | N | S | O | U | P | O | N | O | M | I | T | | | |
| B | R | O | T | H | E | R | R | A | T | N | A | N | | | |
| S | E | N | D | I | N | G | S | E | I | S | M | I | C | | |
| T | O | E | D | M | O | S | S | | | | | | | | |
| C | A | R | A | T | S | E | P | S | O | N | | | | | |
| O | R | A | T | E | S | N | O | B | | F | A | A | | | |
| C | A | N | A | R | I | | I | S | L | A | N | D | E | R | S |
| O | L | D | | O | D | E | S | | O | A | T | E | S | | |
| | | | F | I | N | E | S | | A | N | D | E | A | N | |
| S | L | O | E | S | | T | A | R | S | | | | | | |
| C | O | V | E | R | U | P | | C | L | E | A | V | E | S | |
| A | V | I | D | | B | A | R | T | O | N | F | I | N | K | |
| R | E | N | O | | E | R | I | E | | S | A | T | I | E | |
| E | D | E | N | | R | E | D | D | | E | R | O | D | E | |

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

Natural Beauty

SALON & BOUTIQUE

"Where you're treated like a friend"

Monday-Saturday
9am - 5pm
Early & Late appointments available by appt.

Kathy, Bernadette,
Cori, Sama,
Kim, Yvonne &
Marlena

56410 29 Palms Hwy.
Yucca Valley, CA - (760) 365-3700

Full Service Salon

DESERT AUTO BODY

Don't Let The Body Shop You Pick Be Your Next Accident!

(760) 367-2626
6868 Pine Ave., 29 Palms

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

2001 DODGE DURANGO. 119,000 miles, new brakes, DVD stereo system, runs strong. \$5,000. 266-1193. 8/28/09

2002 32-FOOT FIFTH WHEEL. \$12,500. 1 superslide and 1 bedroom slide. Immaculate shape, sleeps 4, 2 TV's, stereo, microwave, oven, dining table and chairs. 2 rockers. Located on lemon lot on base, call Bo 819-1677. 8/14/09

2006 YAMAHA RAPTOR. White and grey. Five speed with auto reverse. Low hours. Looks great. \$3,500. Call Tammy 285-1603. 7/24/09

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.

1997 WHITE DODGE RAM 1500 CLUB CAB. 2-Door, 4x4 with a 6" suspension superlift, 35" off-road oversized tires and a paging truck alarm. Many more extras. Asking \$8,000 OBO. (cell) 819-3578 or (home) 367-5443. 7/10/09

2000 HONDA CBR 929RR. 7,500 miles, mint condition, never dropped. After market exhaust. \$6,000 OBO. (732) 996-1652. 6/24/09

9" FORD TRUCK REAR END POSI. 3:55 gears/Howe disc brakes, new pads, 5 lug with leaf springs. \$650. 910-1068. 6/12/09

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

MISC.

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPY. Free to good home. Requires interview before adoption. Call 219-1594. Leave message if no one picks up. 8/28/09

32" TV IN OAK CABINET. \$50, Oak veneer coffee table on casters \$15. Leave message 567-7921. 8/28/09

FOOTBALL CARD COLLECTION. Many heroes, many teams. Will sell individual cards or sets or entire collection. Leave message at 567-7921. 8/14/09

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

BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET.

Oak finish. 4 glass doors, silverware drawer, storage below, and glass shelves. Excellent condition. \$300. 567-7921. 8/14/09

WANTED-PISTOL. 45 Caliber, military. 367-6030. 8/7/09

PURE SILVER MARINE CORPS COIN SET. 35 years old. Asking only \$1,000. Marine Corps challenge coins, different prices. Olympic coins. Large entertainment center. Oak. Must sell. \$100. 367-6030. 8/7/09

SPAYED FEMALE CAT. One year old, gentle and loving to good indoor home. Has shots. 364-1133. 8/7/09

TOY POODLE PUPPY. Apricot male. 12 weeks old. 1st shots. Playful, lovable. \$125. 364-1133. 8/7/09

17 AQUARIUM FISH FREE. Portable closets still in box \$150, Twin captain beds \$150 each. Call Tammy 285-1603. 7/3/09

YUCCA VALLEY CUSTOM HOME FOR RENT. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 3 car garage. Master suite & bath, granite throughout. \$1,650 a month. Contact Jamie at 228-0213 or <http://www.get2move.com>. 7/3/09

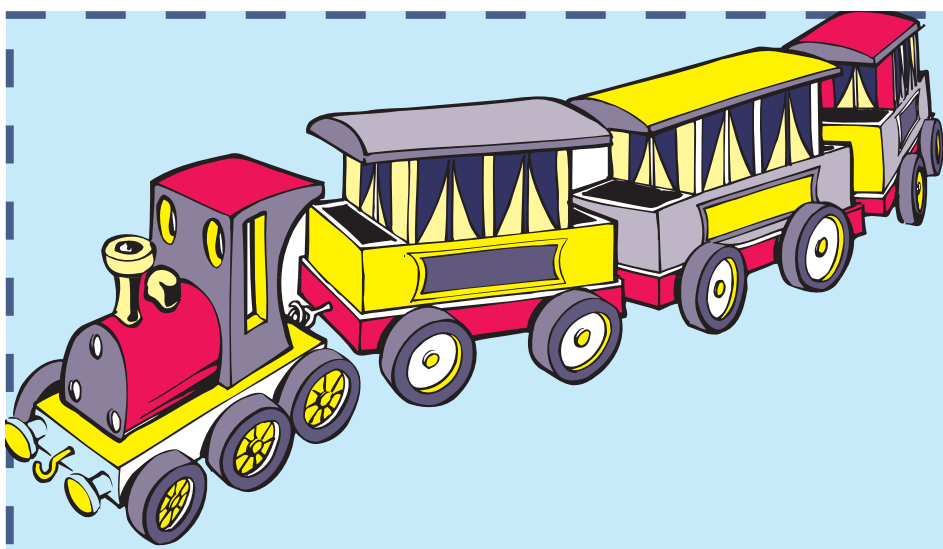
noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

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.



All Aboard the Preschool & Daycare Directory

SUTTON DAY CARE
Friendly Hills Elementary
School Joshua Tree
Bus Stop At The Day Care
Monday - Friday
From 5:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
All Ages are Welcome • All Programs Welcome
11 Years Experience
Lic.# 364-804991
760-366-3936

Where We Treat Every Child as a Gift from God
Little School of the Desert
6085 Ocotillo Ave.
Twentynine Palms, CA
92277
(760) 367-6616
isodin@yahoo.com
(760) 367-9506

HEAVEN SENT
Serving
Newborn - 11 Years
(760) 365-6367 Lic.# 364816768
6976 Prescott Ave.,
Yucca Valley

CXC
COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
760-366-3791

Lotz Family Childcare
M-F 6am - 6pm
Infant - 12y
Lic#364820384
369-0618
On the Mesa

Bennett Day Care
Blessed to care for children
Tony-Helen Bennett
Owner/Manager
73016 Homestead Dr.
29 Palms, CA 92277
760-367-7397
760-553-4128
helen29ynine@aol.com

RHOADES FAMILY DAY CARE
TEACHING HANDS OF THE FUTURE
CAROLYN RHOADES
PRESCHOOL TEACHER/OWNER
760-365-0098
20 YRS. EXPERIENCE
LIC.#360909964

Ahern Family Child Care
Newborn to 12 yrs.
Discounts Available
Open 7 Days A Week 6-10:30
Lic#364819526
760-366-3680

INSPIRE REAL ESTATE
Merl R. Abel
Realtor/MLS
760-835-8060
merlabel@hotmail.com
56187 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(Our new location is next to The Rib Co.)

Johnson~N~Johnson
Licensed Child Care Home
Kelly Johnson
760-365-7561
Lic.#364813192

Moon Family Day Care
Infant thru 12 yrs. M-F.
Close to JT Elementary.
Lic#364801568
760-366-9466

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
Preschool 2 yrs-5 yrs
School Age Daycare 5 Yrs - 11 Yrs
Morning & Afternoon classes
Now Enrolling
760.369.9590
goodshepherdv.org
Lic.# 364814831
Lic.# 364815788

Preschool * K-6 * Jr. High * High School & Daycare
Joshua Springs Christian School
57373 Joshua Lane, Yucca Valley
www.joshuaspringschools.com
365-3599

SHARON'S Playhouse Child Care
760-363-7456
• Preschool programs
• We accept government pay programs
• Center is licensed for 60 children
M-F 6:30-6
Serving Morongo Valley Since 1996
2 yr - K Lic#364803592
K-6th Lic#364803593

Hi-Desert Family Eldercare
"Our Home is Your Home"
6410 El Reposo St.
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
760-366-3845

Acosta Family Childcare
Christian Home
Great Rates • Excellent References
Serving Onaga & Joshua Springs Area, Y.V.
6am - 6pm • 0-12 yrs. old
Shannon Acosta
760-228-3365
Lic# 364813612



Hi-Desert Publishing Co
365-3315
or **367-3577**

Cook Family Day Care
Great Rates
30 years experience
Excellent References
Marine Friendly • 24/7
license #364816973
hm.(760) 361-5766
cell (760) 985-7406
Carol Cook
7027 Mesquite Springs Rd.
29 Palms

School SAFETY Rules

Always stay in your seat while the bus is moving **CAUTION!**
INSPIRE REAL ESTATE 760-835-8060
merlabel@hotmail.com
Merl R. Abel
Realtor/MLS
56187 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(Our new location is next to The Rib Co.)

Pringle Insurance Services, Inc.
56244 Papago Tr. #2
Yucca Valley
760-365-8813
www.PringleInsurance.com

Always listen to the bus driver **CAUTION!**
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
Preschool 2 yrs-5 yrs
School Age Daycare 5 Yrs - 11 Yrs
Morning & Afternoon classes
Now Enrolling
760.369.9590
goodshepherdv.org
Lic.# 364814831 • Lic.# 364815788

FLOWER GARDEN "One Stop Shopping"
Candy, Balloons, Flowers, Bears, Plants
5690 The Plaza, 29 Palms
367-1409
E-MAIL jarheadtop@hotmail.com
WIRE Anywhere, Flowers for any occasion
Betty & Jerry

Always respect the traffic signs when biking **CAUTION!**
FIREWOOD BLOWOUT!!
Cheapest Prices Of The Year
SAVE NOW!!
Delivered
or pick up and save \$
909-800-1352
909-800-1354
www.tandcandson.com

VIP Valley Independent Printing AND COPY CENTER
Save & Share Your Fun Memories With
BRIGHT BOLD COLOR COPIES
(760) 365-6967

Exit the bus calmly and carefully **CAUTION!**
Preschool * K-6 * Jr. High * High School
Joshua Springs Christian School
57373 Joshua Lane, Yucca Valley
www.joshuaspringschools.com
365-3599

RHOADES FAMILY DAY CARE
TEACHING HANDS OF THE FUTURE
CAROLYN RHOADES
PRESCHOOL TEACHER/OWNER
760-365-0098
20 YRS. EXPERIENCE
LIC.#360909964

Don't talk to strangers **CAUTION!**
Hi-Desert Family Eldercare
"Our Home is Your Home"
6410 El Reposo St.
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
760-366-3845

SHARON'S Playhouse Child Care
760-363-7456
• Preschool programs
• We accept government pay programs
• Center is licensed for 60 children
M-F 6:30-6
Serving Morongo Valley Since 1996
2 yr - K Lic#364803592 • K-6th Lic#364803593

Always look both ways when crossing the street **CAUTION!**
CXC
COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
760-366-3791

Ahern Family Child Care
Newborn to 12 yrs.
Discounts Available
Open 7 Days A Week 6-10:30
Lic#364819526
760-366-3680

Don't run out between cars **CAUTION!**
RM CONSTRUCTION
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
INSURED • BONDED
license # 768812
Since 1998
Home Improvements • One Call Does It All
FREE ESTIMATES SENIOR DISCOUNT
760-219-0917

SUTTON DAY CARE
Friendly Hills Elementary
School Joshua Tree
Bus Stop At The Day Care
Monday - Friday
From 5:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
All Ages are Welcome • All Programs Welcome
Lic.# 364-804991
760-366-3936

Stay on the sidewalks **CAUTION!**
Frashers PHOTOGRAPHY
SERVING CALIFORNIANS SINCE 1907
56913 Yucca Trail, Ste. D
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
760-365-5782

Lotz Family Childcare
M-F 6am - 6pm
Infant - 12y
Lic#364820384
369-0618
On the Mesa

Talk to an adult that you know when a stranger approaches you **CAUTION!**
Yucca Valley Adventist Team School
Call **760-365-6637, 364-9177**
or **365-8943** for information.
A home-school program that meets your needs

Hi-Desert Publishing Co
365-3315 or **367-3577**

Don't play near buses **CAUTION!**
O'Connor Graphics
6229 Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, CA 92277
760-367-5835
Screenprinting

Calvary Baptist School
K-12
57175 Crestview Drive
Yucca Valley, CA
365-9731

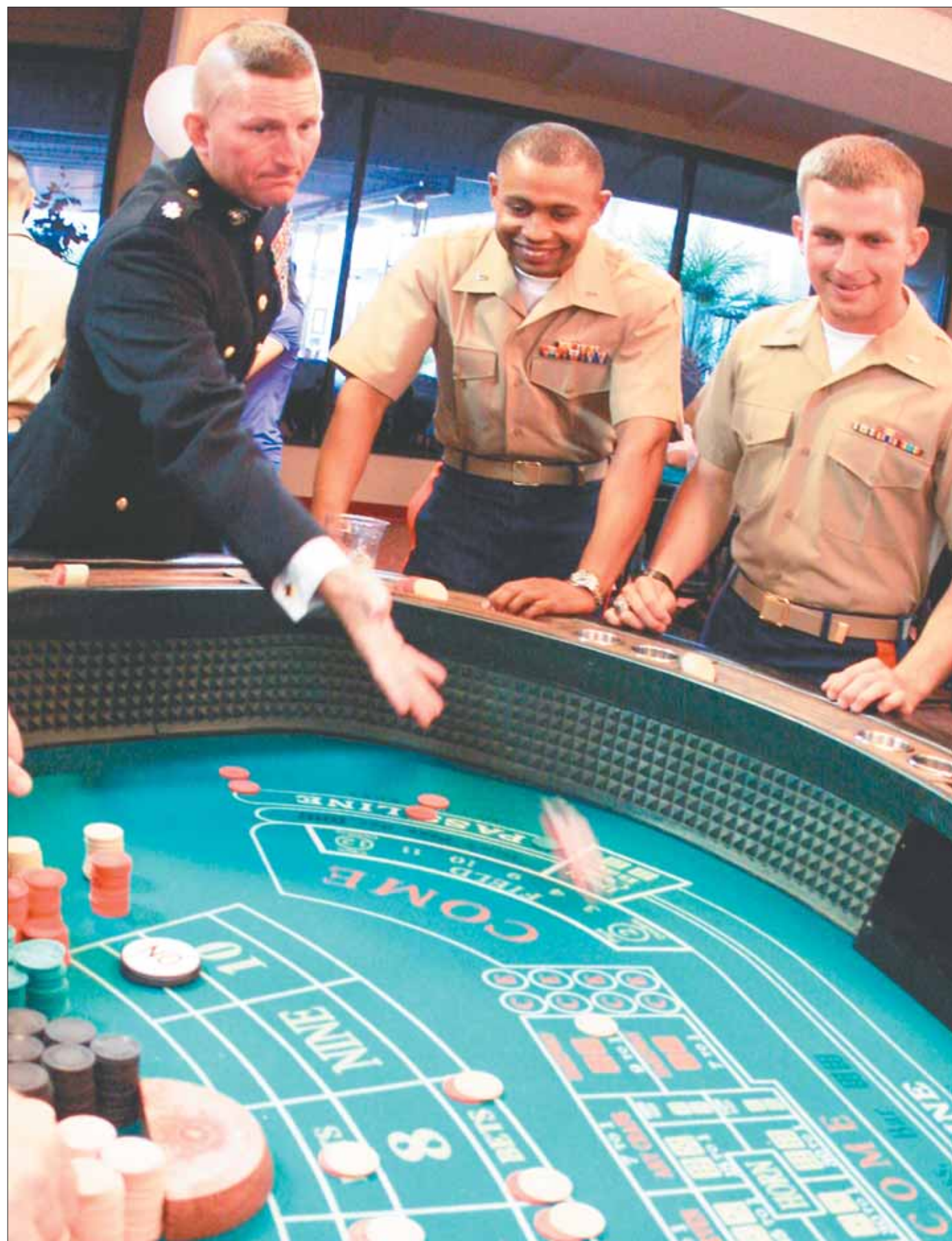
SPORTS AND LEISURE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 28, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

B1



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Col. John Reed, the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, throws the dice during a game of craps during Casino Night at the Officers' Club Aug. 21.

Casino Night a big 'hit'

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine officers and staff noncommissioned officers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, were looking sharp in their dress blues as they hosted a Casino Night at the Officers' Club for all the Combat Center officers, staff NCOs and their spouses Aug. 21.

Casino Night was planned with the intent to raise morale and camaraderie between units, and help Marine and Navy spouses form friendships.

The O'Club removed all the dining tables and replaced them with blackjack, roulette, craps, and Texas Hold 'Em tables throughout the Mojave and Mesa rooms in time for the 6 p.m. "casino" opening. Participants bought a ticket for \$25, and exchanged it for \$100 in chips.

Tiffany Sweetman, the sister-in-law of 1st Lt. Kristopher Nekvinda, was visiting the area and attended the Casino Night. She said she was impressed with the setup, especially since it was her first time playing blackjack.

"I'm not really a gambler, but it is amazing because I'm winning," said Sweetman, a Christchurch, New Zealand, native. "I am absolutely loving this night. It has been so much fun. I am hoping to win big."

Although the O'Club hired professional dealers

from Ultimate Events, Inc., to attend the festivities, 2/7 Marines also dealt at the tables, rotating throughout the club.

Col. Bill Mullen, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, said he came to the O'Club to enjoy the new pub, but saw the set up for the Casino Night and decided to join in the fun.

"Events like these will stick with people their entire lives," said the Medina, Ohio, native. "Being in the military is the best time of people's lives. When you talk to a veteran, you will always be talking about what it was like in the military—and a night like this will definitely come up in conversation."

The O'Club continued to fill up throughout the night as Marines, sailors and spouses came to the club and realized Casino Night was taking place.

"The more people who come, the more fun it is getting," said Sgt. Maj. Matthew Brookshire, the battalion sergeant major for 2/7. "Everybody here is having a grand time."

At the end of the event, participants could trade in their chips for raffle tickets. Big winners with more than \$200 worth of chips, could trade in for a \$50 dollar gift certificate for the O'Club.

At the front of the Mojave Room, winners

See CASINO, B4

Theatre 29 looking for a few good ghouls



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC ROSS

A makeup artist with Theatre 29 prepares a volunteer for a night of fright in October 2008 before the fifth annual "Halloween Haunt." Theatre 29 is currently looking for volunteers for the event, which will occur on Oct. 16-17, 23-24 and 29-31.

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TWENTYNINE PALMS – Marines, sailors and members of the Twentynine Palms community will be given the chance to brave the "haunting" of Theatre 29's building and grounds Oct. 16-17, 23-24 and 29-31.

The non-profit theater is holding auditions for a volunteer cast and crew Sept. 7 and 8 at 6 p.m. for the sixth annual "Halloween Haunt" at the John Calver Theater around the corner from Barr Lumber in

Twentynine Palms.

Prospective cast members will be auditioning for parts as ghosts, ghouls, guides and other creepy-crawly critters. The volunteer crew will build sets and help transform the theater and grounds into a place of fright.

After cast members are selected, they will have two to three-hour rehearsals three times a week until opening night.

This is the sixth year Theatre 29 will host the annual haunt that "has become legendary in its ever shifting mood and ability to

terrify," according to an Aug. 1 Theatre 29 press release.

This year, the theater and grounds will be transformed into a haunted mansion, said Eric Ross, the special effects coordinator with Theatre 29 who formerly worked for Knott's Scary Farm.

Ross said his special effects experience with the theme park and movies drives him to make the experience as realistic as possible.

Ross explained the guided tour will last seven to 10 minutes and guests will feel

See HAUNT, B4

Rolling into a new school year



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Five-year-old Devin Khaivilay patiently waits for his turn to knock down the pins Wednesday at Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's back-to-school family fun day at the Combat Center's Sandy Hills Lanes.

See B3 for story



Local Events

Music: Jeff Hafler

Description: Guitarist Jeff Hafler plays a combination of jazz and folk music

When: 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28

Where: 29 Palms Inn
73950 Inn Avenue, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-3505

Pioneertown Posse Old West re-enactment troupe

Description: Free shows right on Mane Street in front of the Pioneer Bowl

When: 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29

Where: Downtown Pioneertown
Mane Street at Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 364-3544 or 365-4096

Ruby and the Rock Spiders

Description: '50s, '60s and '70s styled rock and roll

When: 9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29

Where: Joshua Tree Saloon
61835 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 366-2250

Music: The Thriftstore All Stars

Description: A true all-star inspirational Southern California desert band and Pappy's Sunday house band playing live

When: 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30

Where: Art Queen
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>

Art: Ann Magnuson

Description: Showing 30 works of art created in 30 days

When: All day event, Sunday, Aug. 30

Where: Art Queen
61855 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 366-2519 or 366-8429

Lower Desert

3rd Annual "Summer of Fun" In concert, Norteño/banda, singer El Chabo de Sinaloa

Description: Fun for everyone, and to continue the celebration with a south-of-the-border twist

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29

Where: Spotlight 29 Casino
46-200 Harrison Street, Coachella
For more information call 800-585-3737 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>

Michael Jackson Tribute

Description: A free tribute to Michael Jackson

When: 9:15 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 342-5000 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>

Concert: Foreigner

Description: Foreigner performs their classic hits

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29

Where: Morongo Casino Resort & Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>

Concert: The Pretenders

Description: The Pretenders perform their classic hits

When: 9 p.m., Friday, Sept. 4

Where: Agua Caliente Casino
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>

Concert: Lynyrd Skynyrd

Description: Lynyrd Skynyrd performs southern rock

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 342-5000 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>

Sunset Cinema

Friday, August 28

6 p.m. – Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, Rated PG
9 p.m. – I Love You, Beth Cooper, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Away We Go, Rated R

Saturday, August 29

11 a.m. Free Matinee – Bolt, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Public Enemies, Rated R
Midnight – Orphan, Rated R

Sunday, August 30

2 p.m. – G-Force, Rated PG
6 p.m. – I Love You, Beth Cooper, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Ugly Truth, Rated R

Monday, August 31

7 p.m. – Orphan, Rated R

Tuesday, September 1

7 p.m. – Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Rated PG

Wednesday, September 2

7 p.m. – Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, Rated PG

Thursday, September 3

7 p.m. – Public Enemies, Rated R

Inventive 'District 9' is a new sci-fi classic

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

District 9

Starring Sharlto Copley
Rated R

For half a century, Hollywood has speculated what it might be like if extraterrestrials paid us a visit. Would they want to destroy us? Rule us? Save us?

"District 9" inventively takes us to a not-so-distant future when intergalactic aliens have already been here for more than 20 years, marooned when their craft stalls out in the sky above Johannesburg, South Africa. And after all this time, humans still have no clue about where they're from, why they came or what makes them tick.

Walled into a shantytown in the middle of Johannesburg, South Africa, the aliens – which walk upright, communicate fluently in their own language and raise families – are dismissively called "prawns" for their physical resemblance to the aquatic bottom-feeders. And they haven't exactly become model citizens. They scavenge through garbage dumps, traffic with Nigerian crime lords and don't care much for the ghetto squalor in which



COURTESY PHOTO

In "District 9," aliens have been marooned on Earth for 20 years and have been living in a shantytown in South Africa. It's time to evict them and the locals say "good riddance."

they've been forced to live in District 9.

When a military-industrial corporation initiates a re-settlement of the aliens into another fenced compound further from the city, none of the citizens of Johannesburg complains. They're thrilled to see them go. Good riddance!

After setting the scene, "District 9" drops us into the two-decades-down-the-road present, as a low-level bureaucrat (newcomer Sharlto Copley) gets the job of heading up the alien evictions.

But things don't go exact-

ly as planned.

To reveal more would pull the movie's punch. Suffice it to say that director Neill Blomkamp, a native of South Africa, has crafted a grittily brilliant allegory about racism, military imperialism and some of humanity's baser instincts. (You don't have to strain to see the movie's connection to South Africa's former separatist policies of racial apartheid, which was boiling and roiling when Blomkamp was coming of age there in the early 1990s.)

But despite its sharp-edged, satirical social overtones, "District 9" is not a political soapbox. It's a rocking, rolling action drama about alien castaways that just want to go home, an evil cor-

poration that wants to capitalize on them at any cost, and one man who freakishly gets caught in the middle.

The special effects are amazing, and the storyline keeps you on your toes. It's a sock-o summer popcorn movie, a heart-tugging drama and a clever cautionary tale, all rolled into one explosive piece of grown-up movie dynamite that detonates like nothing you've ever experienced before. Chalk it up a new sci-fi classic.

Made with unknown actors and produced on a shoestring (a relatively modest \$30 million), it puts most of the recent big-budget, so-called "blockbusters" to shame. See it now, because you'll undoubtedly be hearing about for years to come.

Cinema 6
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633
Showtimes Effective 8/28/09 - 9/3/09

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Inglourious Basterds (R) Everyday: 1:30, 6:00, 9:00 | District 9 (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 | Halloween 2 (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 |
| Shorts (PG) Everyday: 6:30 | G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 9:00 | ADULTS \$8.00 SENIORS \$6.00 CHILDREN \$6.00 |

U-HAUL RENTALS 29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley 361-7141

Get To Palm Springs!
RIDE MBTA

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Base Post Exchange | Building 1664 | Subway | 29 Palms Community Center | 29 Palms Staters | Joshua Tree Park Blvd. | Stater Bros WallMart | Palm Springs Airport |
| 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 |

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

Fares from 29 Palms
One-way Regular Fare \$20.00
Round Trip Regular Fare \$25.00

For more information call MBTA Customer Service at 760-366-2395.

The Reliable, Easy and Economical Way to Go!



COURTESY PHOTO

"District 9" is a rocking, rolling action drama about alien castaways who just want to go home.

Stumps BAR AND GRILL
5947 Adobe Rd., 29 Palms • (760) 367-4574
POOL TABLES—Internet Jukebox—Wi-Fi HOT SPOT
Full Service Restaurant—
"BEST BURGER IN THE BASIN" CHECK US OUT: www.myspace.com/stumpsbar

The Flower Garden
(760) 367-1409
FTD & Teleflora
5690 The Historic Plaza, 29 Palms CA 92277



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Five-year-old Devin Khaivilay throws a bowling ball down the lane Wednesday during Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's back-to-school family fun day at the Combat Center's Sandy Hills Lanes. Devin was only one of many children who took advantage of free bowling and pizza throughout the night.

VMU-1 hosts family bash at bowling alley

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 brought their family members to the Combat Center's Sandy Hills Lanes Wednesday night for a back-to-school family fun day.

The bowling alley opened their doors and lanes to the unit's service members and families and were offered free bowling and pizza.

Rachel Sandlin, the family readiness officer with VMU-1, and a Columbus, Ind., native, said the event started with Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office giving a "Stranger Danger" class to school-aged children.

"The class was aimed to

teach kids to be safe with strangers as they go back to school," she said. "PMO also provided parents with the tools to make 'Child ID Kits' in case anything was to ever happen."

Sandlin said because of the summer heat, VMU-1 has not gotten together in a couple of months, but they try to hold family-oriented events regularly to build unit camaraderie.

The single Marines and sailors were not left out. Groups of single service members could be found bowling and having a good time throughout the evening.

Sandlin said they decided to host a bowling event because of the large numbers of single Marines who

requested a bowling trip, and because the bowling alley is a very family-friendly place.

"Normally we do park-type stuff — barbeques and picnics," said Sgt. Salvador Caban, an aircraft mechanic with VMU-1, and Brooklyn, N.Y., native. "No matter what we do, though, it's just good to get everyone together and have fun."

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rainwater, a work center supervisor with VMU-1, agreed, saying events like Wednesday's are a good way to spend time with his family and the squadron.

"I had a great time, said his 10-year old son, Ansel. "It was a lot of fun bowling and it was really nice to spend time with my whole family."

Base personnel invited to play community volleyball

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Community Center will be hosting community volleyball from Sept. 11 through December for adults who want to play volleyball without having to join a team or league.

Stephanie Douvas, the wife of Capt. Alex Douvas, asked the Community Center to open their doors for community volleyball for adults who want to come out and get a little exercise.

"There are so many peo-

ple out there who want to play volleyball for fun," said Douvas, a Thousand Oaks, Calif., native. "This way, they don't have to worry about practices or abiding by a strict schedule. If they want to play, they just show up."

Community Center employees worked with Douvas throughout the summer to get the community volleyball up and running.

"I'm excited it is starting up soon," Douvas said. "It should be a lot of fun, and I am hoping we have the problem of too many people showing up than not enough people. We can always [sub-

stitute] people out, but we can't play if we don't have enough players."

The Community Center will open their gym on the second and fourth Friday of every month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The community volleyball will be open to adults 18 years and older. Players must be out of high school to participate, and childcare will not be provided.

Everyone who wishes to join in the fun will form a team for the evening and begin rotating teams and players throughout the volleyball court to give everyone

a chance to play.

"There is no league play," said Joe Rosselli, the Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports director. "People can play when they want—it is just a pick up game of volleyball."

No one will be in charge of the open gym, but Community Center employees will be available to answer questions, receive feedback from players and ensure everything is run smoothly.

"We may set up an informal evaluation to decide how to improve the open gym," Rosselli said. "It may blunder

in the beginning, but I think it will evolve into its own format with how it is specifically run as it progresses."

For more information regarding community volleyball, contact the Community Center at 830-8421.

Retail site operation hours for the Labor Day Holiday

| | SEPT. 6 | SEPT. 7 | SEPT. 8 |
|--|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| C&E EXCHANGE: | Closed | Closed | 6:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. |
| CAMP WILSON EXCHANGE: | 8 a.m.—10 p.m. | 8 a.m.—10 p.m. | 8 a.m.—10 p.m. |
| HOME STORE: | 10 a.m.—6 p.m. | 10 a.m.—6 p.m. | 10 a.m.—8 p.m. |
| MARINE PALMS EXCHANGE: | 9 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 | 10 a.m.—6 p.m. |
| (Military Clothing will close at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4) | | | |
| OCOTILLO EXCHANGE: | Closed | Closed | 8 a.m.—8 p.m. |
| MAIN STORE: | 10 a.m.—6 p.m. | 10 a.m.—6 p.m. | 8 a.m.—6 p.m. |
| ADMINISTRATION: | Closed | Closed | 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. |
| SEVEN DAY STORE: | 7 a.m.—11 p.m. | 7 a.m.—11 p.m. | 7 a.m.—Midnight |
| (Seven Day Store will close at 11 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5) | | | |
| GAS STATION: | 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m. | Closed | 7 a.m.—6 p.m. |

Bowlin' into the record books



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

David Humphrey proudly shows the ring he was awarded Tuesday for rolling a "Perfect 300" during the Combat Center's bowling league play. Humphrey, who has been bowling for 15 years, was the fifth bowler in the 30-year history of the Combat Center's bowling center to bowl a 300 during league play.

Prefer your news from the web?



Visit op29online.com or 29palms.usmc.mil

Athlete of the Week



Name: Cpl. Alex Ramirez

Age: 24

Hometown: Baldwin Park, Calif.

Job title: Combat Marksmanship Trainer, Marksmanship Training Unit

Recognition: One of six members on Twentynine Palms Shooting Team who won the Western Division Matches

Major shooting accomplishment: "Being able to go to San Diego and take the team trophy for West Divisions."

Favorite aspect of shooting/coaching: "Being able to correct the shooter."

Advice for aspiring players: "Proper sight alignment and trigger control. Take your time."

Eyeglasses Plus!

Yucca Valley's Value Optical Store

- + Over 700 frames to choose from
 - + All brands of Contact Lenses
 - + Repairs & Adjustments made on site
 - + Licensed By The California Medical Board
 - + Most Insurances Accepted
 - + Additional Military discounts available
- 57990 29 Palms Hwy.
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 365-8841
What More Might You See?

New! JOSHUA TREE CELEBRATION CENTER

Grand Opening — 7:00 p.m. Sept. 22

- Weddings • Receptions
- Parties • Music Gigs • Art Shows
- Meetings • Catered events • Open mic nights

Call Stevie — (760) 902-9366
joshuatreebusinesscenter.com



MSGT Taxi



Officially licensed by
Morongo Basin Transit Authority

50% off

American Cab's Metered Rates

Currently not serving 29 Palms Marine Corps Base

760-368-4444

Did you know?

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member you can place a FREE ad in our Combat Center Trader Ads. See page A7 for details and limitations.



☆☆☆
MILITARY
DISCOUNT
☆☆☆

Automotive Clear Film
Paint Protection

Permanent Headlight
Restoration & Protection

— END ROCK CHIPS & SAND DAMAGE —

760.772.3072

78-015 Wildcat, Suite 102,
Palm Desert CA 92211

Mastershieldprotection.com



HAUNT, from B1

like they are actually walking through a run-down, dilapidated mansion.

Tickets for the tour will cost five "bones" at the door.

Theatre 29's president of the board, Gary Daigneault, encourages service members aboard the Combat Center to volunteer as cast or crew members.

to get out of the barracks and have some fun with us," he said.

Theatre 29 will send letters of appreciation to each volunteer's commanding officer, which may help them get promoted, Daigneault said.

For more information about volunteering, go to Theatre 29's Web site at <http://www.theatre29.com> or call 366-8471.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC ROSS

A volunteer at the fifth annual "Halloween Haunt" in October 2008 is all dressed up and ready to perform at Theatre 29.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Gunnery Sgt. Michael Ortiz, the intelligence chief for Headquarters and Services Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, raises his bet during a game of Texas Hold 'Em during Casino Night at the Officers' Club Aug. 21.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Tiffany Sweetman (left) sits next to her sister, Kelly Nekvinda, as they play blackjack for the first time during 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment's Casino Night at the Officers' Club Aug. 21.

CASINO, from B1

could place their raffle ticket in buckets next to the product they hoped to win such as a Wii, a Wii Fit, an iPod Nano, two DVD players and other

electronic items.

The Casino Night was a huge success as bonds were tightened between units, and friendships were made between officers, staff noncommissioned officers and their spouses.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Capt. Nathaniel Jaime, an air instructor for Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, and his wife, Alana, play roulette during Casino Night at the Officers' Club Aug. 21.

760-367-1919

760-367-1919



SELLATHON

Y.V. 29 Palms Chrysler

72878 29 Palms Hwy. • Twentynine Palms
(760) 367-1919 • FAX (760) 367-4430

Sales Open 7 Days a Week • Service Dept. 8am - 5pm Mon. - Fri.



99 HONDA CRV
#XC012942
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$8,888
AFFORDABLE SUV
WAS \$10,888
PRICE \$8,888

03 SUBARU OUTBACK AWD LIMITED
#37200804
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$9,888
FULLY LOADED LEATHER SHARP
WAS \$12,888
PRICE \$11,888

04 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS
#4M086330
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$11,888
NICE LOW MILEAGE
WAS \$14,888
PRICE \$13,588

04 JEEP LIBERTY LTD.
#4W160252
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$12,888
LEATHER LOADED
WAS \$15,888
PRICE \$13,888

06 DODGE RAM SLT
#6J167377
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$12,888
GREAT FOR WORK LOADED LOW MILES
WAS \$14,888
PRICE \$13,888

06 CHEVY COLORADO
#68128507
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$13,888
SHARP AUTOMATIC
WAS \$16,888
PRICE \$15,888

06 P.T. CRUISER
#276729
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$14,888
ROUTE 66 SERIES LIMITED
WAS \$18,888
PRICE \$16,888

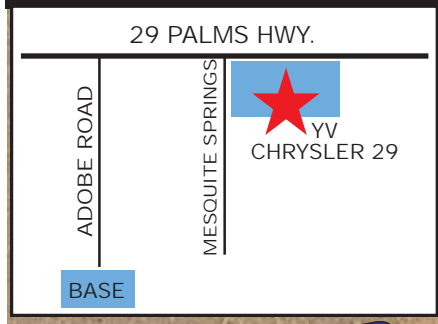
06 DODGE DURANGO
#6F149213
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$15,888
GREAT FAMILY CAR
WAS \$19,888
PRICE \$17,888

06 CHRYSLER 300
#6H216528
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$15,888
SHARP! GREAT FAMILY CAR!
WAS \$18,888
PRICE \$17,888

04 INFINITI G35
#618222
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
\$17,888
LOADED
WAS \$20,888
PRICE \$19,888



*On approved credit. Plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, and any emission charge. Exp. 9-2-09



Y.V. Chrysler 29 Palms Service Department!!

10% MILITARY DISCOUNT

We service all makes and models

**72878 29 Palms Hwy
760-367-1919**

FREE CAR WASH WITH 30-60-90K SERVICE

