

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 38

## HQBN completes gas chamber qual

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Early Tuesday morning, Marines and sailors from Headquarters Battalion gathered in front of their command post with their gas masks and a canteen in hand ready to take part in annual gas chamber qualification at Combat Center Range 105.

Though a common sight on bases around the Corps, it's been a while since this battalion sent members to the chamber.

"Headquarters doesn't have, has never had, a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical officer on our table of organization," said Lt. Col. Brandon McGowan, Headquarters Bn.'s commanding officer. "We didn't even have gas masks on our table of equipment."

That changed recently in order to meet a Headquarters Marine Corps requirement. Marines in the battalion were issued gas masks and until an NBC officer is assigned, units



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Marines and sailors from Headquarters Battalion stand in full protective gear as o-Chlorobenzylidene Malononitrile, more commonly known as CS gas, fills the gas chamber at Combat Center Range 105 Tuesday.

See GAS, A10

## Hard work pays off for CLB-7 Marines



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Four of the five Marines praised in a ceremony Sept. 16 show their meritorious mast awards they received for going above and beyond their jobs in helping Marines of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Marine not present in the photo was unable to attend the awards ceremony.

**PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Five Combat Center Marines were recognized Sept. 16 for going above and beyond the parameters of their job by training Marines bound for Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Marines from Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 received meritorious masts for training 10 Marines from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, to repair their own generators, refrigeration systems and to operate forklifts prior to their deployment.

Sgt. Chadd Baker, a platoon sergeant; Cpl. Israel Garza, the operations chief, dispatching noncommissioned officer and quality con-

trol NCO; Cpl. Nicholas Guljas, a generator mechanic; Cpl. Joshua Johnson, a refrigeration mechanic; and Cpl. Wesley James Hutchings, the lot foreman and licensing NCO — all with Support Company, worked together to train the Marines from 3/4 to receive their certifications.

"It's great to finally be appreciated," said Hutchings, a Sweeny, Texas native. "Marines across the Marine Corps do so many little things that look insignificant on the small scale, but make a huge difference in the big picture. It's nice to be recognized for doing our part."

Capt. Geoffrey Holloper, Co. K's commanding officer, and a Yuma, Ariz., native, noticed the extra effort the

See CLB-7, A10

## Reserve LAR company prepares for return to U.S.

**GUNNERY SGT. KATESHA WASHINGTON**

COMBAT LOGISTICS REGIMENT 27 (FWD)

CAMP AL TAQADDUM, Iraq — Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Kassner, the commanding officer of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, officially relieved the Marines of Company E, 4th LAR, of their duties during a ceremony held aboard Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq, Sept. 16.

The company, a reserve unit based out of Syracuse, N.Y., was augmented to 3rd LAR to serve in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2008 to October. For more than 150 days they lived and operated out of their armored vehicles as they conducted continuous combat operations in Ninewa Province, Iraq.

Although the company is an organic element of a reserve unit, Kassner attributed their success throughout the deployment to their ability to seamlessly blend with the active components of 3rd LAR.

"Your integration into 3rd LAR allowed the unit to become a stronger, more capable war fighting team," Kassner said to the Marines.

Kassner also recognized five Marines with Co. E with Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for the superior performance of their duties which

See RESERVE, A9

## 4th Tanks celebrates first year aboard Combat Center

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Wives mingled, children played and Marines from the only reserve tank battalion in the Marine Corps showed off their 'Marine toys' at their headquarters during their first family day picnic aboard the Combat Center Saturday.

During the picnic, members of Company D, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, and their families celebrated the first anniversary of 4th Tanks being stationed here. The battalion is currently on reserve status and travels to the Combat Center once a month for training. The families also

learned about the many support services available to them throughout the installation.

The Marine Corps Community Services' Marine Corps Family Team Building program took advantage of the event to answer questions from family members and held workshops on Marine Corps history, and customs and courtesies inside the headquarters building.

Attendees learned about the battalion's long history dating back to World War II, when the Marines participated in the Kwajalein, Saipan and Iwo Jima campaigns.

They also learned how

See TANKS, A7



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpls. Daniel Ramirez and Andres Rodriguez, tank mechanics with Company D, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, battle with pugil sticks during the battalion's first family day picnic Saturday.



One shot, one kill ~ See A4



Meeting of the minds ~ See A6



Shoot to thrill ~ See B1



Attention single Marines! ~ See B1

# Semper Moto

## Where's the AC?

**JOHN FLEMING**

Most car and truck drivers can easily adjust their heater or air conditioner as conditions dictate. In contrast, for motorcyclists the prevailing weather conditions can be brutal.

When the temps reach into the hundreds, a motorcyclist can become dehydrated in short order. The combination of wind, low humidity and blistering sun will suck the moisture out of a rider.

In the winter, the low temperatures combined with wind chill serve up all the necessary ingredients for hypothermia. The loss of fine motor skills combined with impaired cognition can be deadly.

What's the answer? The right gear can make the difference between comfort and misery.

Ask any experienced motorcyclist, and she'll tell you that dressing in layers makes a ton of sense. Even in the summer, starting out in the morning can be chilly. But by mid-morning, the temps can often reach the 90's. So, peeling off an outer layer, either a riding jacket or a pullover makes sense. But even then, you'll want to wear a long-sleeved shirt. The latest wicking fabrics will keep you cool, and protect your arms from sunburn.

In the winter, when the morning temperatures can be well below freezing, nothing beats a good riding jacket. As the day warms up, a riding jacket offers zipper-controlled ventilation. And for extended rides in cool temperatures, several manufacturers offer heated vests and jacket liners. They can be connected to a motorcycle's electrical system, and utilize thermostats for temperature control.

And finally, whether it's hot or cold, riders should drink plenty of water, both before and during a ride. The hydration is essential for maintaining maximum mental and physical control.

Remember, comfort is a significant variable in the motorcycle safety equation.

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

## JEWISH HOLIDAY

Jewish High Holy Days are Sept. 18-28. There will be observances at the Mission Lakes Country Club in Desert Hot Springs. For details, call the Religious Ministries Directorate at 830-5430.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT CHILI LUNCH

Tickets are now on sale for the Combat Center Fire Department's 12th Annual Chili Lunch. This year's lunch will be held Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$2 and are good for your choice of a hot dog or a bowl of chili. Blood Mobile will be on site and those who donate a pint of blood will receive a free ticket. Bring the kids – a bounce house, free popcorn and balloons will be provided. Call 830-5239 to request tickets.

## VARSITY BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

The Marine Corps Community Services Sports Department is now hosting tryouts for the base's Men's Varsity Basketball Team Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m. at the East Gym. Tryouts will be held until further notice and are open to active duty service members only.

## COMMISSARY OPEN FOR 'MAD MONDAYS'

Mad Monday at the commissary allows shoppers to purchase groceries found on store shelves. No sandwich or sushi bar services will be available without booking them in advance. Mad Monday store hours will be from 12 to 7 p.m.

# Centerspeak

## What is your favorite and least favorite aspect of the Marine Corps?

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



1ST LT. ADAM ROHLOFF  
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,  
COMPANY C

"I like the high standards in the Marine Corps and I hate Twentynine Palms."



LANCE CPL. MARK HOLLINSWORTH  
EXERCISE SUPPORT DIVISION

"I like the camaraderie and I don't like that lance corporals have to live in the barracks."



CPL. STEVEN AFALLA  
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

"My favorite part is the brotherhood, and I don't like Marines who hate being Marines – they signed a contract and should be happy to honor it."

## School Liaison Question of the Week



**Question:** Is there a free resource for parents to help with homework help or tutoring?

**Answer:** Tutor.com provides free online homework help and tutoring for military students grades K-12. For more information, passwords and access to this resource go to <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/library/tutor/index.cfm>.

**NOTE:** As of Sept. 15, all users will be required to obtain a personal username and password to access this service. Call, e-mail, or drop by your installation library to create your account.

For more information, please contact [smbplsmccsschoolliaison@usmc.mil](mailto:smbplsmccsschoolliaison@usmc.mil) or call 830-1574.

## Marine Corps History

Sept. 27, 1944

The American flag was raised over Peleliu at the 1st Marine Division command post. Although the flag raising symbolized the island was secured, pockets of determined Japanese defenders continued to fight as late as April 1947.

SUDOKU #1575

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## THE DT'S

[puzzle Solutions on A9]

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66							67				68			

### ACROSS

- Three-\_\_ sloth
- Logs some Z's
- Took four of four games, say
- State with a panhandle: Abbr.
- Garfield's pal
- Tinker Bell, e.g.
- "Dang!"
- Italy's shape
- In the cooler
- 1998 Daytona 500 winner
- Classic Jaguar
- Wide shoe spec
- Track down
- Six-pack muscles
- Jean Arp's art genre
- Loud, like a crowd
- Trevi fountain coins, now
- Partner of games
- House Majority Leader, 1989-95
- \_\_-wop music

### DOWN

- Less loopy
- Reed section members
- Piece of cake
- Roller coaster unit
- For formal affairs
- Sturge on delicacy
- Bumped into
- "You're No Good" singer, 1975
- Parting word
- Wear a puss
- Painter's calculation
- Mr. Moto player Peter
- Choice word
- Mark for a life
- Eat like a king
- Musher's transport
- Hawaiian coffee area

### DOWN

- Broadway's "Sweeney \_"
- Bourbon Street veggie
- Carrier to Ben-Gurion
- Go out with
- Easy-to-prepare, as cheesecake
- Be nuts for
- Subatomic particle
- Brother of Cain and Abel
- Mushroom's reproductive cell
- Out of breath
- Lighted sign in a theater
- Snapshot, for short
- \_\_ time (course slot)
- Cast-of-thousands players
- "Sour grapes" fabulist
- Adds fat to
- Heavenly hunter
- Drink often topped with marshmallows
- Sound of relaxation

- Hole-making tool
- Harris's \_\_ Rabbit
- Jackson 5 'dos
- Weekend ranchers
- Prone to fidgeting
- \_\_ Turnblad in "Hairspray"
- Two-reelers, e.g.
- Did a 10K
- "Honest" nickname
- Rap sheet listings
- In need of bodywork
- Initial stage
- Clock climber of rhyme
- Trevi fountain coin, once
- Friends of Tarzan
- Sushi morsel
- To-do list entry
- With the bow, in music
- Rat Pack cohort of Frank
- Scarlett's home
- Cuddly TV ET
- Buck's partner

## Combat Center Spotlight



**Name:** Deborah Cook  
**Hometown:** Brooklyn, N.Y.  
**Job Title:** Supervisor at the Marine Corps Exchange movie rental store  
**Job Duties:** Checking movies in and out, customer service  
**What do you like most about your job?** "I like working with the customers."  
**Military Affiliation:** Husband is a retired Marine Corps master sergeant.  
**Time at Combat Center:** 20 years

## OBSERVATION POST

**Commanding General Maj. 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 Cpl. Nicholas M. Dunn
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# Marines break sweat to upgrade Bridgeport airfield

**CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., are in the process of upgrading the expeditionary airfield here to help meet the Corps ever-changing logistical needs.

Gunnery Sgt. Brad Lenox, the project chief with MWSS-373, said he and his team of nearly 70 Marines started working on the EAF in August.

"We've pretty much broken this project down into three phases," said Lenox, a Kenosha, Wis., native. "We're putting down new matting, moving the runway, and widening the taxiway and runway."

The matting gives aircraft a flat, smooth surface to maneuver around and take off from the airfield, he said. Once they finish, the squadron will have put down about 220,000 square feet of matting, Lenox said.

Each airfield mat is installed by hand and is six to 12 feet long, and weighs up to 150 pounds. Once the mats are placed, Marines take jackhammers and sledgehammers to drive metal stakes in the ground to secure the mats.

Lance Cpl. Kenneth Thomas, an EAF technician with airfield operations, MWSS-373, said driving the stakes is a long, hard process.

"We've driven about 20 stakes in the past two days," said Thomas, a Silverton, Ore., native. "By the time the EAF's done, we'll probably have about 120 stakes in the ground."

The EAF's 1,000-foot runway is being moved away from the squad bays the units training aboard the base use, to avoid any safety issues. It is also being widened from 78 to 96 feet to accommodate the VM-22 Osprey, Lenox said.

Lenox said in order to move the runway away from the squad bays, his Marines had to use tractor, rubber-tired, articulated steering, multipurpose vehicles to dump enough dirt to elevate the back of the runway 15 feet. These are heavy-duty bulldozers Marines use for construction needs across the Corps.

However, with dirt comes a runway's worst enemy – rocks.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Lance Cpl. Bradley Sheets, a heavy equipment operator with engineer operations, MWSS-371 based out of MCAS Yuma, Ariz, drives a compactor to flatten a new section of the expeditionary airfield here Sept. 17.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., secure new airfield mats to the ground with metal stakes at the expeditionary airfield here Sept. 17. Once the EAF is completed, the Marines will have laid nearly 220,000 square feet of new mats on the airfield.

Lance Cpl. Donald Linville, a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear specialist with Headquarters Company, MWSS-373, was one of several Marines tasked with picking up large rocks along the new section of the runway.

"They don't have machines that pick up rocks," quipped Linville, an Albuquerque, N.M., native, about his laborious tasks. "If there is a machine that can do this I don't want to know about it."

Despite the strenuous labor, Linville said he is glad he volunteered for the working party.

"I had never heard of Bridgeport before August," he said. "It's beautiful up here, and I'm just enjoying the scenery and getting some good cross-training in."

The Marines are also using

a variety of other vehicles including 7-ton trucks to move large boulders and compactors to flatten the new section of runway.

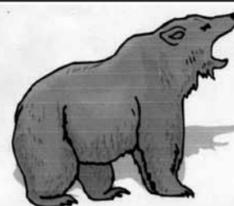
First Lt. Kathleen Halle, the mission commander for the project, said she is proud

of the hard, quality work the Marines are doing.

"This airfield belongs to 3rd Marine Air Wing and each year a different MWSS is tasked-out to perform maintenance," said Halle, a Bakersfield, Calif., native.

"Our Marines have been out here for nearly two months and still have about a month to go, and they're doing an outstanding job."

The EAF is slated to be operational by the end of October.



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**(760) 369-GUNS**

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# Local Dealership TO SELL REPOSSESSED CARS

**“A bargain hunter’s dream” will take place September 25 - 27 at both Yucca Valley Chrysler locations. Due to the tremendous success of this program in the past, more banks are participating now, which will represent a better selection and more savings to the public on a special selection of reposessed vehicles special factory buy back and overage cars & trucks**

## YUCCA VALLEY

“This is the opportunity I’ve been waiting for to save on my next used car purchase,” according to customer Mark Freed.

“I actually came in to look at a car for my daughter, and ended up buying one for myself as well,” says another customer.

These are but a few of the many positive statements heard at Yucca Valley Chrysler Center in the past few repo sales.

What may be a banks worst nightmare-vehicle reposessions happen in the Morongo Basin area almost daily.

But those nightmares have become pleasant dreams for people looking for bargain used vehicles.

According to Kathy Hartley, Sales manager of Yucca Valley Chrysler Centers, these used vehicles represent huge losses to the banks. “But the banks losses have become real gains for the bargain hunters of this area,” says Mrs. Hartley.

“These bargain vehicles ordinarily are very difficult, if not impossible for the average person to find,” Mrs. Hartley says. “They’re usually

*September 25-27*  
“...since more banks are participating now, it will only increase the savings to the public.”

*-Kathy Hartley*

snapped up at huge discounts by used car dealers, who then retail them to the public - often at top dollar prices.”

But that is about to change says Mrs. Hartley. Yucca Valley Chrysler Center continue to offer what many in the industry are calling “a bargain hunter’s dream.” Beginning Friday, Sept. 25 through Sept. 27, Yucca Valley Chrysler Center will be selling reposessed and inventory overage cars and trucks “to the general public only.”

**No dealers please.**  
“Even more banks have asked us to help out this time, due to the response to this program in the past.” Kathy Hartley explains, “We told them we were still interested, and since more banks are participating now, it will only increase the savings to the public.” The banks once again agreed, he says, and they even offered to finance the vehicles for a down payment of only \$87 on approved credit.\*

“The banks want to put these cars and trucks back on the road,” Hartley says, “and we know from past experience that they’ll do just about anything to help us to keep this a success.”

Mrs. Hartley says that all of these cars and trucks will be

“clearly marked with their discount prices, which should make shopping for these bargains much easier, and some of these vehicles will be marked up to 40% off.

Yucca Valley Chrysler Center will be “staffed up” in order to service everyone as quickly and fairly as possible.

“Trade-ins are not a problem either. Customers with jobs just need to bring their titles or payment books, and we’ll do the rest.”

She says that the Yucca Valley Chrysler Center will have a little bit of everything to offer customers. “If it can be driven, we have it. And each of the vehicles has been serviced and is ready to go.”

Yucca Valley Chrysler Center at 55288 29 Palms Hwy. For more information about this special three day event, customers should contact Sales Manager, Kathy Hartley at 228-1818.

This sale will be for 3 days only. Friday, Sept. 25 - Sunday, Sept. 27, starting at 9:00 a.m. sharp. “We urge all interested parties to be at our dealership as early as they can,” says Mrs. Hartley.

The full inventory of cars and trucks will be available for previewing all day today, she says.

## Yucca Valley Chrysler Center’s

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72878 29 Palms Hwy

228-1818  
367-1919

Yucca Valley  
29 Palms

\*On approved credit. Plus govt. fees, etc & taxes. Any finance charge, any dealer documation preparation charge, and any emission testing charge.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Cpl. Stefan Brouwers, a sniper with Sniper Team, 24th Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Dutch Marines, makes adjustments to fellow sniper Sgt. Vince Manusama's rifle just before a live-fire exercise atop Rocket Mountain here Tuesday. Brouwers said the road to becoming a sniper was rough but well worth the work.

# One shot, one kill; Dutch snipers hone skills at Hawthorne

**CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ARMY AMMUNITION DEPOT HAWTHORNE, Nev. - After making a slight wind adjustment, the observer gives the go-ahead to fire. With the scope's crosshairs aligned perfectly, the shooter slowly squeezes the trigger. Target down.

Royal Dutch Marines with Sniper Team, 24th Company, 2nd Battalion, with little to no guidance from Marine instructors, took advantage of the elevation atop Rocket Mountain here to conduct high-angle, live-fire exercises Monday through Thursday.

The snipers fired their rifles at targets anywhere from 900 to 1,200 meters away, said Staff Sgt. Eddie Syc, the chief instructor of the Mountain Snipers Course at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.

“They don’t have a facility like this in the Netherlands,” said Syc, an Orange, Conn., native. “They come out here once a year to conduct these high-angle exercises. The

maximum effective range of their .338 caliber sniper rifles is 1,400 meters, and they’re pushing the limit firing at these targets.”

Sgt. Maj. Ed Martens, the lead sniper instructor with Sniper Team, 24th Co., 2nd Bn., Royal Dutch Marines, said he looks forward to coming to California every year.

“Everything’s all flat in the Netherlands,” said Martens, a Boxmeer, Holland, native. “This is the ultimate training area for these guys.”

Cpl. Stefan Brouwers, a sniper with 24th Co.’s Sniper Team, said the road to becoming a Dutch sniper was long and rough.

“Becoming a sniper is a one-man show,” said the Rotterdam, Holland, native. “If you fail it’s your own fault.”

In the Royal Dutch Marines, potential snipers start out with a two-day assessment that involves shooting, map reading and a basic physical test, he said. After the assessment stage, the trainees begin training solely on marksmanship, learning the weapon and how things like

weather can affect the trajectory of the round.

Marine 1st Class Toby Wittenboer, a sniper with the team, said marksmanship isn’t the only thing snipers must be experts at.

“We have to be able to track and locate targets without them catching on to us,” said Wittenboer, a Mierlo, Holland, native. “In order for us to kill the enemy we have to get close enough to take the shot while remaining undetected.”

Brouwers said the majority of a Royal Dutch Marine sniper’s training comes from joint training with allied nations around the world.

“We’ve picked up a lot of experience from militaries from just about everywhere,” he said. “We’ve trained in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Norway, France, Germany and just about every other friendly nation out there.”

He said having the opportunity to constantly travel the world, learn new tactics and meet new friends is something he easily

See SNIPER, A6

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# First Warrant Officer Social helps strengthen bonds

**LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Warrant officers from all over the Combat Center gathered to foster camaraderie amongst their ranks at the Officers' Club Pub Sept. 17.

Throughout the night, nearly 60 warrant officers showed up for a night of fun, food, drinks and music during the first Warrant Officer Social, an event organized by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandy Alvarez, the deputy

director of the Installation Personnel Administration Center here.

Alvarez said she organized the event because she noticed a lack of camaraderie between the warrant officers.

"I have been here for a while and never really met my fellow warrant officers, so I thought of this to let all the warrant officers meet," Alvarez said.

Warrant Officer Brian Walker, an ammunition officer for 1st Supply Battalion, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., said he thinks the reason warrant officers do not get

together is because they do not see each other and don't reach out.

Walker explained there are other reasons warrant officers have not been socializing, there are only a few of them, he said. "Often you're the only one from your MOS in your unit," he said. "This is especially true at a busy base like Twentynine Palms where everything is so spread out."

Those who attended appreciated the opportunity to socialize with other Marines who hold their unique ranks and responsibilities.

"I'm excited to be here with all the warrant officers," Walker said. This event helps with morale and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood, he said.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Whiting, the gunner for the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, agreed with Walker.

Whiting explained how this social event was a good thing and long overdue.

"We as chief warrant officers are a different breed and it is good to know what is going on around the base from the other warrant officers," he said.

Due to the success of the event, Alvarez hopes to continue hosting the social at least once per quarter. For more information, call Alvarez at 830-1818.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A small group of the warrant officers who attended the first Warrant Officer Social hang out at the Combat Center's Officers' Club Pub Sept. 17.

## Fire in the hole!



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

"Lava Dogs" from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, detonate a bangalore explosive charge during a company assault exercise at Combat Center Range 400 Sunday as part of their Enhanced Mojave Viper training.

# Candy-and-fruit-flavored cigarettes now illegal in United States; step is first under new tobacco law

**KATHLEEN K. QUINN**

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday a ban on cigarettes with flavors characterizing fruit, candy, or clove. The ban, authorized by the new Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, is part of a national effort by the FDA to reduce smoking in America. Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in America.

The FDA's ban on candy-and-fruit-flavored cigarettes, effective today, highlights the importance of reducing the

number of children who start to smoke, and who become addicted to dangerous tobacco products. The FDA is also examining options for regulating both menthol cigarettes and flavored tobacco products other than cigarettes.

"Almost 90 percent of adult smokers start smoking as teenagers. These flavored cigarettes are a gateway for many children and young adults to become regular smokers," said FDA commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. "The FDA will utilize regulatory authority to reduce the burden of ill-

ness and death caused by tobacco products to enhance our Nation's public health."

Flavors make cigarettes and other tobacco products more appealing to youth. Studies have shown that 17-year-old smokers are three times as likely to use flavored cigarettes as smokers over the age of 25.

"Flavored cigarettes attract and allure kids into lifetime addiction," said Department of Health and Human Services assistant secretary for health Howard K. Koh,

M.D., M.P.H. "FDA's ban on these cigarettes will break that cycle for the more than 3,600 young people who start smoking daily."

The FDA is taking several steps to enforce the ban. A letter recently sent to the tobacco industry provided information about the law, and explained any company who continues to make, ship or sell such products may be subject to FDA enforcement actions.

The FDA has also made available today an advisory

to parents on the risks associated with flavored tobacco products.

"Youth are twice as likely to report seeing advertising for these flavored products as adults are," said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, a pediatrician and the FDA principal deputy commissioner. "Marketing campaigns for products with sweet candy and fruit flavors can mislead young people into thinking that these products are less addictive and less harmful."

The FDA encourages con-

sumers to report continuing sales of flavored cigarettes through a special tobacco hotline, 1-877-CTP-1373, and Web site <http://www.fda.gov/flavoredtobacco>. Parents and consumers can learn more about the risks of flavored tobacco products at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

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# ISAF deputy meets with Garmsir District governor

**CPL. DANIEL A. FLYNN**

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 3

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – British Royal Marine Lt. Gen. Jim Dutton, the

International Security Assistance Force deputy commander, visited Forward Operating Base Delhi and spoke with the Garmsir District governor Haji Abdullah Jan during a walk through the dis-

trict center Sept. 3.

When he arrived, Marines were already geared up and ready to escort him out into town.

During the short hike into the town Lt. Col. Christian G.

Cabaniss, the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 3, pointed out many of the improvements that had been made in the months his battalion has been here, as well as what previous forces here before had done.

Capt. Micajah P. Caskey, civil affairs officer with 2/8, said, "The reason for the general's visit was to see the changes within the Garmsir District."

The streets were filled with people going about their daily routine. Cabaniss took Dutton to a small ice cream shop which had opened up a few weeks earlier. According to Cabaniss, this small shop being open is a symbol of how the Garmsir District is becoming safer for locals and changing for the better. Caskey echoed the sentiment, saying the ice cream shop is a sure sign life in the town is improving, because the shop owner's success relies on disposable income rather than selling things people need to survive.

While at the ice cream shop, Haji Jan met up with Cabaniss and Dutton and accompanied them on their walk through the town adding his input to the conversation.

Dutton asked the governor

many questions about their district's growth and improvements and was impressed with the progress which has been made.

Caskey said looking at this little town with the streets lined with vendors and kids running up and down the streets, it is amazing to think only 20 months ago none of this was here. At that time, when 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit first got here, the shops were empty and people were afraid to spend time outdoors.

This change can be directly attributed to the Marines who have consistently worked with the Afghan national security forces to bring about this environment of safety and security, he added.

After only an hour of walking and talking through town, Dutton had to leave to catch his flight. Both he and Haji Jan parted with smiles, and as fast as the ISAF deputy had shown up that morning, he was gone – helicoptering back to his headquarters in Kabul. Taking back his experience to the staff and government there to report that Garmsir was no longer the lawless trouble spot it once was. The people of Garmsir and the Marines are making progress, and the situation is well in hand.



CPL. DANIEL A. FLYNN

Haji Abdullah Jan, the Garmsir District governor, and British Royal Marine Lt. Gen. Jim Dutton, the International Security Assistance Force deputy commander, meet for the first time at a local ice cream shop in the little town of Garmsir, Afghanistan Sept. 3.

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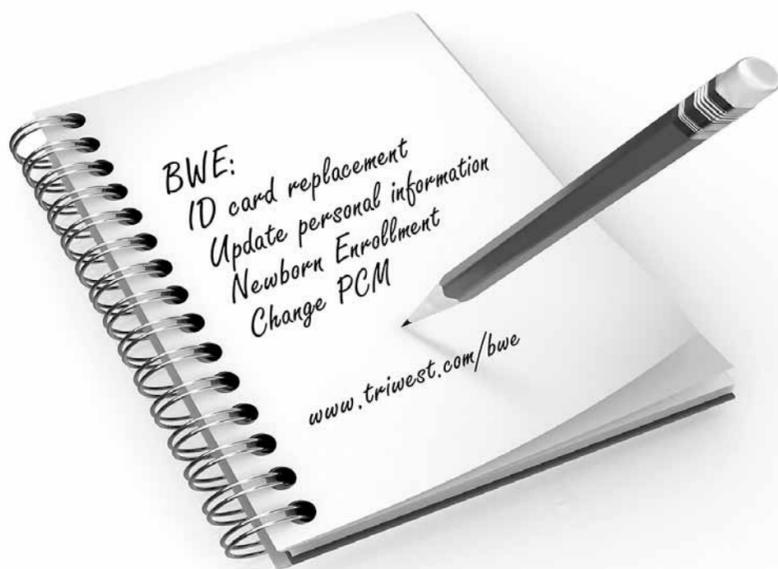
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CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Cpl. Stefan Brouwers, a sniper with Sniper Team, 24th Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Dutch Marines, searches for targets during a training exercise atop Rocket Mountain at Army Ammunition Depot Hawthorne, Nev., Tuesday. Brouwers said becoming a Dutch sniper was not an easy task, but was well worth the hard work.

### SNIPER, from A4

became accustomed to.

"I personally like to be on the move," he said. "If we're back on base in Holland for too long I start to get restless."

Wittenboer said his favorite training has been right here in the United States.

"Arizona is the best place to me so far," he said. "We went through a trackers course out there. Now I know how to trace someone as far as 10 clicks [km] away from me."

However, the most important weapon in the sniper's arsenal is not his rifle, or even his ability to track the enemy – it's his observer. The observer is responsible for making all the wind and other adjustments to insure the target is eliminated, said Sgt. Vince Manusama, a sniper with the team.

"The observer has a lot better scope and can tell where the shooter's round hits and what adjustments he needs to make," said the

Groningen, Holland, native. "It makes things run a lot smoother and faster."

Each sniper had the chance to shoot and be an observer throughout the training to ensure maximum effectiveness of the exercise.

The snipers completed their training at Hawthorne and are now on their way back to the Netherlands. They are slated to deploy to Afghanistan to support other Dutch and Australian forces in November.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Adrian Arteaga, a 7-year-old family member attending Company D, 4th Tank Battalion's family day, plays in a mud pit, which was the biggest attraction at Saturday's event.

## TANKS, from A1

4th Tanks earned their motto: "53 Days" during the Korean conflict. "'53 Days' comes from the entire battalion deploying quickly to join the fight," said Capt. Paul Krumenacker, the commanding officer of Co. D. "From that first phone call to being in combat it only took the entire battalion 53 days."

Family members not only learned about their unit's past, but also what their unit can do to support them in the present and future. Representatives from Lifestyles, Insight, Networking, Knowledge, Skills and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve provided Marines and their family members with pamphlets, fliers and other information designed to support them during deployments.

The day started early with Marines setting up the entertainment. Company D rented bounce houses, water slides, obstacle courses, a dunk tank and an inflatable pugil stick ring from Outdoor Adventures on base.

On the side of the building where the water slides were set up, a large puddle had formed, giving the children a mud-pit to play in. Parents laughed as the children rushed to the pond to cover themselves in a thick layer of mud.

Krumenacker, a San Diego native, said the makeshift 'pond' was a bigger hit with the children than any of the other water attractions they had set up.

Marines manned the grill to cook carne asada, and the more traditional hamburgers and hot dogs. Inside their headquarters building, participants could order snow

cones, cotton candy and popcorn.

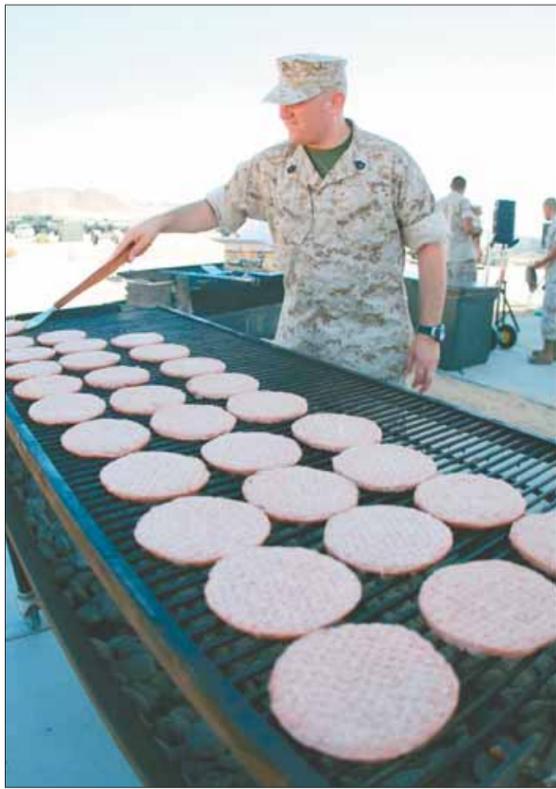
Family members learned about tanks, humvees and the different weapon systems tank battalion's arsenal.

"Events like these give our family members a fun opportunity to see what their Marine does for the military," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert Navarro, 1st Platoon commander for Co. D. "They gained a new appreciation for what we do after they rode in a tank or held a rifle."

Capt Edwin Nunez, the inspector instructor for Co. D., believes being stationed

aboard the Combat Center will help his Marines live up to their history and forge an impressive future.

"From what I have seen so far, these Marines have adjusted to their commute, some having to drive more than 300 miles to get here for their drill weekend," said Nunez, a Twentynine Palms native. "They have started turning it into a competition and a way to prove how dedicated they are. You hear them comparing their drive here and it is not contempt you hear in their voice—it is pride."



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Gunnery Sgt. Robert Navarro, 1st Platoon commander for Company D, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, flips burgers during his company's family day at their headquarters building Saturday. The event was held to help family members learn what is available to them aboard the Combat Center.

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**GAS, from A1**

from across the base will support the training requirement by providing Marines to run the chamber.

After a short bus ride, the training began with classes given on different types of nuclear, biological, radiological and chemical agents and the different levels of equipment used to protect troops from attacks or contamination.

"This training is important because as Marines, we have to be ready for anything," said Cpl. William Hart, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with 1st Tank Battalion, and a native of West Palm Beach, Fla. "Saddam Hussein used gas on his own people in 1988 and the threat is still out there — we need to be ready."

After their classes, they split into groups of 15 and donned the highest level, level four, Mission Oriented Protective Posture equipment, or MOPP gear, then made their way into the gas chamber where they were briefed on o-Chlorobenzylidene Malonitrile, more commonly known as CS gas.

"This isn't a hazing ritual," said Sgt. Robert Jackson, the chemical, biological, radiological

and nuclear chief with 1st Tank battalion, as he addressed the Marines and sailors. "We're here to help instill confidence in your gear; to show you this gear works."

The masked Marines and sailors made their way into the next room and stood along the walls as Jackson cooked the CS gas.

The instructor had them look up, down, left and right and even had them do jumping jacks to prove the masks do not restrict movement and the seal will not break even during moderate exercise.

To ensure the Marines and sailors could don and clear their gas masks properly, the instructors had each of them break the seal on their mask and clear it — helping each Marine and sailor to perfect the technique.

Before exiting the gas chamber, they had one last obstacle to clear. They had to attach canteens to the drinking hose in their mask, suck in a mouthful of water, then spit it out into their mask.

This process not only reminded them how to use a canteen while wearing their masks, it also showed them how to expel liquids, such as vomit, should the need arise.

After exiting the gas chamber, the Marines and sailors were taught the proper way to strip out of

their MOPP gear with the aid of a buddy to prevent contamination of their bodies.

While waiting for the rest of the participants to finish, members of the battalion discussed the training some of them had not participated in since boot camp.

Lance Cpl. Sean Joyce, a military policeman with the Provost Marshal's Office said she learned a lot and that it wasn't as bad as she thought it would be.

"For instance, I had never actually drank with my canteen through my gas mask. It was pretty cool."

Learning and practicing new things with protective equipment is what Hart said makes this type of training important.

He said Marines see the gas mask and they think about the discomfort that comes from the CS gas and not the value of the training.

"We're here to do the training the way it's supposed to be done," he said. "We do the training to prove the gear works and to help Marines learn to protect themselves properly."

The battalion spent the rest of the week completing confidence chamber training and continues to ensure its Marines and sailors are up to date on all of their annual their training requirements.

**CLB-7, from A1**

CLB-7 Marines put forth in order to help him and his company prepare for deployment and did his best to give them the recognition he believed they deserved.

Hollopeter, who went to his company's future area of operations in Afghanistan, noticed his company faced deficiencies in generator, refrigeration and forklift support.

He said rather than request personnel from CLB-7 to deploy to Afghanistan with Co. K, he requested his Marines be trained address those deficiencies.

Capt. Joshua Wells, the commander of Support Co., CLB-7, and who has coincidentally worked with Hollopeter in prior years while overseas, said he was glad his Marines could help.

"I'm proud of my Marines," said Wells, a Hendersonville, N.C., native. "They went above and beyond their job requirements and Capt. Hollopeter was kind enough to recognize them for their efforts."

"To have Marines from a support battalion be recognized for their work by an infantry commander in a battalion we support refocuses our Marines and helps to

motivate them — it puts a name and face to the Marines we're helping," he said. "As Marines and as people — especially as Marines — we like to hear what we're doing makes a difference and to have Capt. Hollopeter recognize our Marines is awesome."

He said Hollopeter's recognition of his Marine's hard work closes the circle between his Marines and the various infantry battalions they support.

"We support them, and then to receive recognition for our support in turn helps our Marines and motivates them for future jobs," he said.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Capt. Geoffrey Hollopeter, the commanding officer of Co. K, 3rd Bn., 4th Marines, and a Yuma, Ariz., native, shares his gratitude to the Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 7 Sept. 16 after five CLB-7 Marines were awarded Meritorious Masts for their hard work helping Co. K prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

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# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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B1

## Becoming an expert; intramural competition hones marksmanship

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

All Marines know the phrase "every Marine a rifleman," but are all Marines as qualified on their rifles as they could be?

Marines aboard the Combat Center have an opportunity to extend their rifle and pistol marksmanship skills beyond what they attain during annual qualification at this year's Commanding General's Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition at the known distance rifle range here from Monday to Oct. 16.

Although many are misled by the name of the event, it is not simply a recreational event meant to select high-shooting qualifiers for annual Marine Corps shooting competitions, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frederick Keeney, the Marksmanship Training Unit range officer.

"There are misconceptions about what this is and what it isn't," said Keeney, a Springhill, Kan., native. "First and foremost, it's a three-week training package for the fundamentals of rifle and pistol marksmanship. We just enhance the training by adding a little competition."

Keeney has participated in three intramural competitions himself, and has strong personal beliefs about the marksmanship of Marines, saying warriors of all ranks and levels of experience can learn equally from the competition. There are lessons, he said, that no Marine is too good to learn.

"[Department of Defense] statistics have shown it is taking large amounts of

See SHOOTING, B4



PHOTO BY CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Cpl. Dustin Miner, an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, fires his last shot during pistol qualification at the Combat Center's rifle range Tuesday. More opportunities to practice their marksmanship skills are available to Marines through the Commanding General's Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition here from Monday to Oct. 16.

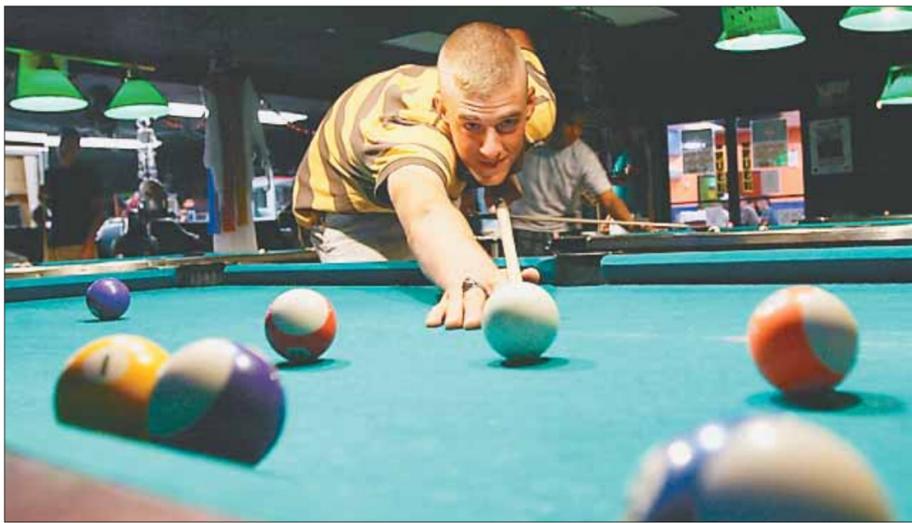
## Kick it up a notch



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Darryl Viscusi, the kicker on the HQBN Bulldawgs team, kicks off to CLB-7 during Wednesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Football League game at Felix Field. The Bulldawgs won 26-14.

For standings, schedule and more photos, see B3



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Matthew Tater, a student with Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, takes aim while playing pool at The Zone Tuesday. The Zone, which is run by the Single Marine Program, offers activities such as these to keep young, single service members entertained and safe.

## Single Marine Program continues providing retreats, entertainment

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"What do you want to do?"

"I don't know. What do you want to do?"

How many Marines and sailors here have had this very conversation on any given night of the week? A solution to their boredom lies in plain sight, tucked between Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field and Taco Bell. No, it is not the bar, it is the Single Marine Program.

The SMP, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, offers single Marines and sailors opportunities to participate in recreational activities, travel, become involved with their communities, learn life skills and achieve career progression,

according to the MCCA Web site, <http://www.usmc-mcca.org>

The Combat Center SMP is one of the most active in the world, said LaVonne Lessard, the SMP coordinator, who has worked for other SMP offices across the globe since 1999.

"On a slow month, we get an average of 10,000 to 15,000 guys in here," Lessard said of the SMP facility dubbed 'The Zone'.

Lessard said since Drinking is not permitted at The Zone, there are fewer chances for Marines to bet into trouble.

"This is a place they can feel a sense of family," she said.

"Many of the regulars are very close to our staff. It's their home away from home – and that was our goal."

The Zone features various

activities and recreational pastimes such as pool tables, a jukebox, a "den" with a PlayStation 3 and other interactive games, old school arcade video games and a cable TV with lounge chairs. It even boasts its own theater with rows of leather sofas and two 48-inch and one 60-inch plasma flat-screen TVs with surround sound.

Pfc. Garrett MacLeod, a student with Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, and native of Las Vegas, is a regular at The Zone.

"This is a relaxing place you can come to when you want to talk to people, listen to some music or just watch TV," he said.

MacLeod said since he is so

See SMP, B3



Local Events

**Volunteer for National Public Lands Day**

Description: Help clean up Joshua Tree National Park  
When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26  
Where: Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center  
74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms  
For more information, call 367-5535 or visit <http://www.joshuatree.org>

**Swift Fox - The Untold Stories of Willie Boy**

Description: The recounting of a national story exploring the relative relationships between teen love, clashing cultures and the exploits of yellow journalism.  
When: 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27  
Where: Hi-Desert Cultural Center & Blak Box Theatre  
61231 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree  
For more information, call 366-3777 or visit <http://www.hidesertculturalcenter.com>

**Karaoke Night at PJ's hosted by Troy Michaels**

Description: High tech musical merriment  
When: 8 p.m., every Tuesday and Saturday nights  
Where: PJ's Pub, 57564 Twentynine Palms Highway Yucca Valley. In the Von's Shopping Center  
For more information call 228-1199

**Morongo Basin Historical Symposium**

Description: Two days of free lectures and programs relating to our colorful local history  
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10  
Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum  
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley  
For more information call 369-7212 or visit <http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org>

**Horseshoes Tournament**

Description: A double elimination tournament  
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10  
Where: The Yucca Valley Community Center  
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley  
For more information call 369-7211

Lower Desert

**Art: Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass**

Description: The works of the renaissance revisited  
When: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12-8 p.m.  
Where: Palm Springs Art Museum  
101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs  
For more information, call 332-4800 or visit <http://www.psmuseum.org>

**Music: Crosby, Stills and Nash**

Description: Classic rock and roll  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy, Indio  
For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>

**Music: Bontaj Roulet**

Description: Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
For more info call (888) 999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>

**Music: Alice Cooper**

Description: The original "shock rocker"  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>

Sunset Cinema

**Friday, Sept. 25**

6 p.m. - Bandslam, Rated PG  
9 p.m. - Post Grad, Rated PG-13  
Midnight - The Goods, Rate R

**Saturday, Sept. 26**

11 a.m. Free Matinee - Bolt, Rated PG  
2 p.m. - Aliens in the Attic, Rated PG  
6 p.m. - GI Joe: The Rise of the Cobra, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Time Travelers Wife, Rated R  
Midnight - Funny People, Rated R

**Sunday, Sept. 27**

2 p.m. - Shorts, Rated PG  
6 p.m. - Perfect Getaway, Rated R  
9 p.m. - District 9, Rated R

**Monday, Sept. 28**

7 p.m. - Post Grad, Rated PG-13

**Tuesday, Sept. 29**

7 p.m. - Bandslam, Rated PG

**Wednesday, Sept. 30**

7 p.m. - Aliens in the Attic, Rated PG

**Thursday, Oct. 1**

7 p.m. - Funny People, Rated R

'Extract' a lightweight, enjoyable comedy

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

Extract

Starring Jason Bateman  
Rated R

Mike Judge, the subversively witty writer-director who created "Beavis and Butthead," "King of the Hill" and the cult-classic movie "Office Space," heads back to the workplace for this quirky, grown-up comedy about what happens when things go wrong inside - and outside -

Ever-likable Jason Bateman stars as Joel Reynold, the founder, owner and manager of the extract-ing business. Things are going well at work, despite a rather dysfunctional group of employees down on the production floor. Profits are up and a big-brand company is sniffing around with rumors of a buyout, fueling Joel's dreams of early retirement.

But things at home aren't going too well. His wife Suzie ("Saturday Night Live" actress Kristen Wiig) has lost interest in the bedroom, leaving Joel frazzled and frustrated.

When a worker is injured in a fluke assembly-line accident that leaves him with only one testicle, a sexy new temp, Cindy (Mila Kunis), comes aboard. She also



COURTESY PHOTO

Joel Reynold, played by Jason Bateman, meets with long-time friend Dean, played by Ben Affleck, who attempts to help him solve his marital problems.

comes on to Joel, who resists her advances - until convinced by his trippy bartender friend Dean (Ben Affleck) to go along with a wild scheme. It involves sneaking Joel a horse tranquilizer and convincing him, in his altered state, to hire a male gigolo to tempt Suzie into a roll in the hay. At that point, reasons Dean, his troubled buddy will be ethically free to cheat on his unfaithful wife. Viola!

By the time Joel is thinking clearly enough to back out, it's too late. Of course,

everything goes awry. Then Joel discovers the seductive temp has a shady past—and a dastardly plan to take down Joel's business.

Although everything revolves around Bateman's character, "Extract" features a solid supporting cast of other actors who all bring a fine comedy shine to their scenes. Affleck is a hoot as Joel's dooper friend, who ushers in one of the movie's funniest settings, a late-night bong-smoking session that reminds Joel why he should stay away from drugs. The dependably splendid J.K. Simmons plays Joel's second-in-command at the factory, hampered little by his inability

to remember any of his employee's names.

David Koechner gets the annoying details just right as Joel and Suzie's pesky, boring, butt-inski neighbor. KISS rocker Gene Simmons has a scene-stealing cameo as a sleazy attorney with a flair for the overly dramatic.

It all adds up to a lightweight but enjoyable comedy, surprisingly free of the unbridled raunch and foul language that often accompany R-rated comedies aimed at adults. "Extract" doesn't have a memorable message, a moralizing mission or a satirical axe to grind. But if your life needs a little humorous flavoring, pour away.

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Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs (PG) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	<b>Thursday, October 1st</b> Midnight Show <b>ZOMBIE LAND (R)</b>	

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Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
<b>15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*</b>							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45
<b>15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*</b>							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

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COURTESY PHOTO

Joel, played by Jason Bateman, flirts with Cindy, played by Mila Kunis, a sexy new temp worker at the factory who is secretly trying to scam the company and its employees.

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PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

HQB Bulls running back Timothy Clark leaves the defense in the dust as he sprints towards the goal line during the Commanding General's Intramural Football Game against CLB-7 Wednesday night at Felix Field. His prowess on the field helped propel his team to a 26-14 victory.

Commanding General's Intramural Football League		
Team	Wins	Losses
MCCES	3	0
1st Tanks	2	0
HQB	2	1
3rd CEB	1	2
CLB-7	0	2
VMU-1	0	3

Schedule	
Monday	Saturday
CLB-7 vs 3rd CEB at 6 p.m.	VMU-1 vs CLB-7 at 7 p.m.
VMU-1 vs 1st Tanks at 8 p.m.	MCCES vs 1st Tanks at 11 a.m.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Matthew Schaeffer, the quarterback for CLB-7, launches a pass towards one of his receivers during Wednesday night's game against the HQBN Bulldogs.

## SMP, from B1

close to home, he uses the SMP Las Vegas trips not only to have fun with friends, but also to see his family.

Cpl. Edwin Clay, a motor vehicle operator with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, also makes frequent visits to the place that waits for him with "open arms."

"It's nice to come here after work and get away," said the St. Louis, Mo., native. He said the facility helps boost his morale, and like Lessard mentioned, keep him out of trouble.

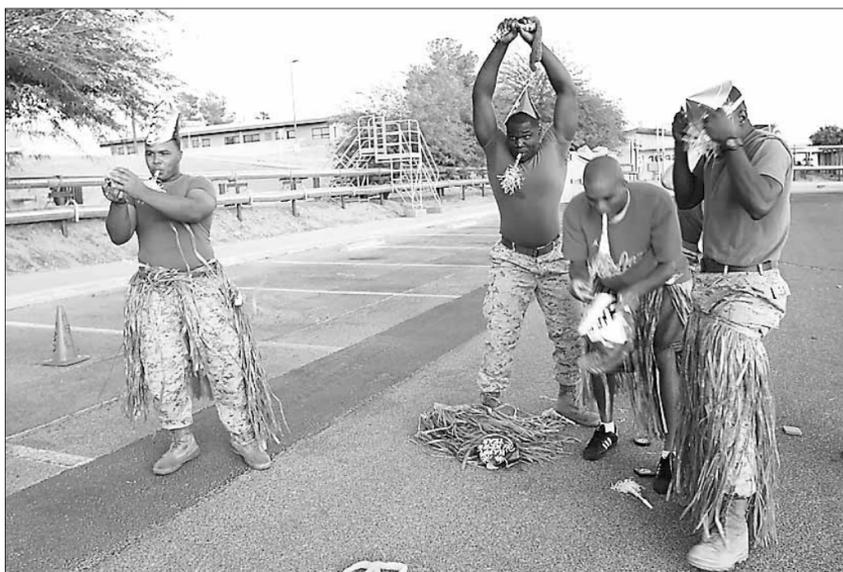
In addition to its in-house entertainment, SMP also steals Marines away on weekend trips to theme parks, big cities, outdoor events, talk shows, shopping trips and more. Lessard said other West Coast installations offer trips once a month, whereas the Combat Center SMP offers trips to single Marines and sailors every weekend.

For Marines with a taste for volunteer work, the SMP here is the only one to perform Desert Mail Call, a monthly effort by the Morongo Basin community to gather and send 40 to 60 boxes of care-package supplies to Marines and sailors deployed overseas.

The SMP also runs a courtesy shuttle across main-side to give single Marines and sailors who don't own cars a way to get to locations such as the bowling alley, golf course, Marine Corps Exchange, commissary and back to their barracks.

"We have one 10-passenger van that runs the Marines around," Lessard said. "On a slow month, we'll have no less than 8,000 Marines who use it."

Even when Marines and sailors do not come to her, Lessard will go to them during events called



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 participate in the Hawaiian hula run event during a Barracks Bash hosted by the Single Marine Program at the MWSS-374 barracks Tuesday. Barracks Bashes only scratch the surface of other services SMP provides single Marines and sailors here.

"Barracks Bashes."

Barracks Bashes, which happen four times a year here, help service members warm up to SMP by bringing the fun home through interactive activities, games, prizes, and 120 boxes of free pizza.

SMP hosted their most recent bash at the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 barracks Tuesday. Lessard coordinates with unit leaders to decide what the bash will include and when it will take place.

"This unit is preparing to go to WTI [Weapons and Tactics Instructor course], and there has been a lot of prep in equipment, communication, gear and themselves," said Sgt. Maj. John J. Elliott, the squadron sergeant major. "They've been conducting field day every day and will continue to do that until we leave. I think they needed a little break."

The wing Marines and sailors enjoyed activities such as the Whip the Chip, which involved whipped cream, poker chips, hula hoops, and

the unfolding and wearing of a frozen T-shirt. They also had events which required them to wear adult diapers loaded with water balloons, a pogo stick race and a Hawaiian hula run.

Lance Cpl. Tyshan Bentley, a logistics and embarkation specialist with MWSS-374, was happy to take part in each activity.

"Things like this release the stress of your day-to-day jobs," said Bentley, a Vicalia, Ga., native. "Leaders are really stressing suicide prevention these days and this is a good way to enforce that."

Cpl. Joshua Hatchett, an administrative clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, was invited to the bash despite being from another unit.

"This gives you the chance to get to know the Marines in

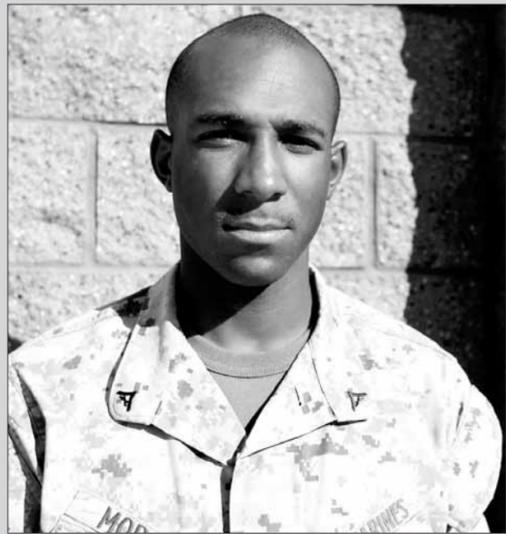
your unit on another level," said Hatchett, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., about events like these. "You feel less tense around your higher ups when you see them have fun. I think you'll be more willing to approach them if you have a problem when you know how cool they can be."

The long hours Lessard and her staff put in day after day pay off when they see Marines enjoying themselves, she said.

"I've been doing this a while, and this group of Marines here in Twentynine Palms is by far the best group I have had the pleasure of working with," she said. "I know it sounds typical, but I really am honored each day I can do something for them."

For more information on SMP, visit The Zone for a calendar of monthly events, or call 830-4767.

## Athlete of the Week



**Name:** Eric Morent

**Hometown:** Pittsburg

**Job Title:** motor transport mechanic, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion

**Recognition:** Made some good plays while playing on the 3rd CEB intramural football team.

**Major Sports Accomplishments:** Went to a Division 1 college for baseball and went to state championships two years in a row playing highschool basketball.

**Favorite Aspect of Sport:** "Hitting people; getting tackled — basically the physical aspects."

**Advice for Aspiring Athletes:** "Work hard and be dedicated to your sport."

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**SHOOTING, from B1**

ammunition to produce enemies KIA [killed in action],” Keeney said. “In my opinion, and going off what I have seen in combat, units spend far too little time on marksmanship fundamentals – an average of two hours and five minutes of live-fire training per year. I wouldn’t even call that a hobby; that is a travesty. It has become a check in the box for promotions.”

“It’s historically shown that the Corps tends to back away from intensive marksmanship training during war, when it’s most important,”

he said. “But if your fundamentals are not perfect, you won’t get a ticket to the game [deployment].”

Keeney urges all Marines to change that trend by taking advantage of a rare training opportunity like this.

During the competition, the teams, made up of four-to-six shooters, will be in a more laid-back setting and will focus more on technique quality rather than the number of rounds and shooters who must finish the daily requirements, said Ed Foltz, the MTU range chief.

“Marines who do the competition this year are considered to have qualified for

FY [fiscal year] 2010,” said Foltz, a Buffalo, N.Y., native. “It’s our way of giving back to the units who let their Marines participate.”

Sgt. Robert S. Lynn, a coaches course instructor with MTU, said he has signed up to be on the intramural team Hot Garbage, which took the infantry team trophy at the intramurals last year. Lynn hopes to continue the team’s winning streak.

Most would agree Lynn knows his stuff after learning he took the personal rifle award in last year’s intramurals. He also claimed the individual gold rifle award at the 2008 Western Division Team Match at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 20, and the Infantry Team Trophy and medal at the Marine Corps Championships at Stonebay, N.C. in April. Even Lynn said he still has more to learn about improving his marksmanship techniques.

“When you do one thing for an extended period of time, you begin to more fully understand all the little details and how important those details can be,” said Lynn, a native of Glenmont, N.Y. “A lot of Marines show up, shoot, get a score and are perfectly happy with whatever score they get.

They don’t always see how those skills may apply further down the road.

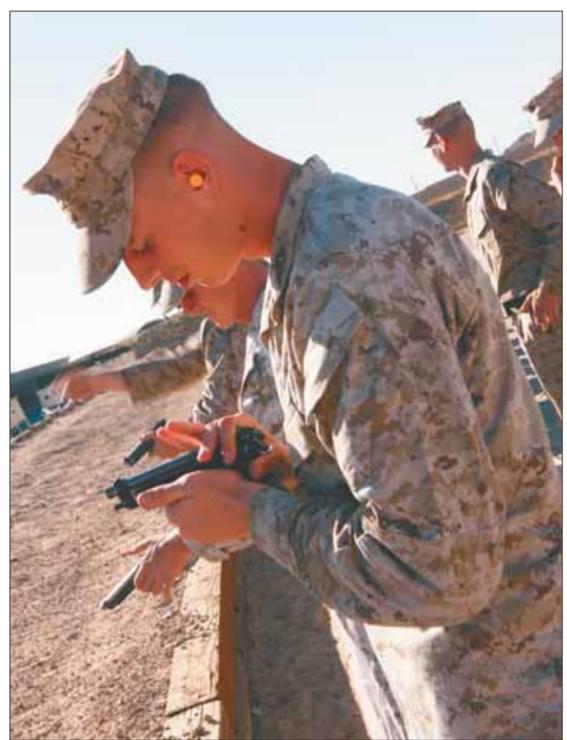
“There’s instant gratification in it,” he said about hitting black. “It takes a lot of hard work and sweat. But when you see a shot in black, you know that you put it there and knew where the round would go the whole time.”

Gunnery Sgt. Tim Warren, the Provost Marshal’s Office training chief, agreed with Lynn about continuously improving marksmanship skills. Although he has never participated in an intramural competition, he said he felt compelled to do so this time around.

“I wanted to improve my marksmanship,” said Warren, a native of Binghamton, N.Y. “You can always learn because learning never stops. I’ll take any good advice from the lowliest private to the saltiest sergeant major or master guns. Shooting is a perishable skill and I think doing it more than just once a year will keep up those skills.”

Marines who place well enough in the intramurals may secure a spot on the Combat Center team for the 2009 Western Division Team Match.

Now Marines may know the difference between myths and facts surrounding



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Dustin Miner, an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, makes sure a round is seated in the chamber while qualifying at the Combat Center’s pistol range Tuesday. Marines may fire their pistols and rifles again this year at the Commanding General’s Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition here Sept. 28 to Oct. 16.

the intramural competition; it offers far more benefits than simple bragging rights or trophies. MTU will accept sign-ups until Monday at 7

a.m. Marines interested need authorization from their command before signing the roster. To learn more, call Keeney at 830-7280.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Petty Officer 3rd Class Gilbert Flores, a corpsman with Co. L, 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, qualifies at the Combat Center’s rifle range Tuesday.

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