

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

NOVEMBER 6, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 44

3/4 Marines, corpsmen save Afghan lives

STAFF SGT. LUIS AGOSTINI

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM-7, 1ST
MARINE DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan – As Seaman Jared D. Wilson, a corpsman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stepped into his humvee on the morning of Nov. 2, he knew he very well could find himself in the position of saving lives.

He didn't expect it to be Afghan civilian lives.

On the evening of Nov. 1, the Marines of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment were tasked with the security of a resupply convoy the following morning for the Afghan national army.

The Marines have been down this road before. Part of the route the Marines have taken from their forward operating base to their final destination has been identified as a Taliban hotspot.

"The last time we went down that route, we found three, 100-pound improvised explosive devices. It was kind of nerve-racking," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua J. Azarte, also a corpsman with Co. I, 3/4.

"That's a bad place. We're finding IEDs all of the time over there, and last time, we

took indirect fire that came really close to our trucks," said 2nd Lt. Robert R. Fafinski III, the commander of 1st Platoon, Co. I, 3/4.

After a two-hour delay, waiting on the Afghan national army right outside of the FOB, the convoy made its way to the Afghan uniformed police checkpoint, with Ford pick-up trucks of Afghan national police and Afghan national army soldiers integrated.

The Marines have learned to exercise patience and develop their mentoring skills with the Afghan forces. From departure times to picking up trash, the Marines are trying to lead by example when it comes to military discipline.

"We're going to continue working with them. It looks like their heads are in the right place, they just need more mentoring," said Lance Cpl. Jacob Fournier, a section leader with Co. I, 3/4.

Although labeled as a security mission, the Marines were looking to "get some." Because of the previous attacks on the Marines in the same location, the Marines were hoping to draw fire from any enemy forces in the area and do what Marine "grunts" are known for: seek, close with and destroy the enemy.



STAFF SGT. LUIS AGOSTINI

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua J. Azarte, a corpsman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, labels an injured Afghan boy for medical priority following a car accident Nov. 2. The Marines were providing security for an Afghan national army resupply convoy when they were waved down by an Afghan truck driver, who informed them of a nearby accident. An Afghan family of nine was involved, two of which were pronounced dead on the scene. Marines, Navy corpsmen and Afghan forces provided security and treatment for the injured Afghans.

About an hour into the convoy, a domino effect of red brake lights brought the convoy to a complete stop. An Afghan truck driver waved down the lead vehicle of the convoy, and through

a Pashtu translator embedded with 1st platoon, informed the Marines of a nearby car accident.

The Marines didn't take any chances, keeping a strong sense of vigilance

while investigating the scene.

"Myself and a bunch of the Marines approached the scene thinking it was an ambush. Within 30 seconds, we switched gears

from expecting enemy contact to a lifesaving mission," Fafinski said.

Wilson approached the scene, and immediately

See **SAVED, A10**



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Marines, sailors and Combat Center personnel show their support for breast cancer awareness by wearing "Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs" T-shirts at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Run Oct. 30. Karen Dohman, a six-year breast cancer survivor and mother of Pfc. Chad Dohman, a student at MCCES, created and brought the shirts from her native Houston.

'Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs' debuts at Fun Run

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Six years after being declared cancer free and one year after marrying her husband, a Marine mom added another anniversary to her list Oct. 30.

Karen Dohman, whose son, Pfc. Chad Dohman is a student at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, surprised her Marine when she showed up at the starting line of the MCCES Fun Run bearing 70 shirts sporting her personal slogan, "Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs."

Dohman said she and her son have been participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Houston for the past several years and this year, Chad couldn't take leave to run the race. She knew it bothered her

son to not be able to run this year.

"He has always been there to support me," said the Houston native. "In anything I've done and in everything that has happened to me, he's been there."

Chad, 26, from Montgomery, Texas, said he felt badly for being so far from his mother for her Oct. 12 birthday and for missing the race.

"My mom is something else," said the Marine whose friends call him "Tex." "I saw her get so frail, but no matter how bad it got for her, she always found it in her to help others."

"Even now – even if she doesn't know them – she'll go out to the hospitals and try and give every person she meets the gift of

See **TAH TAHS, A6**

Veterans Day; a day to honor those who served

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

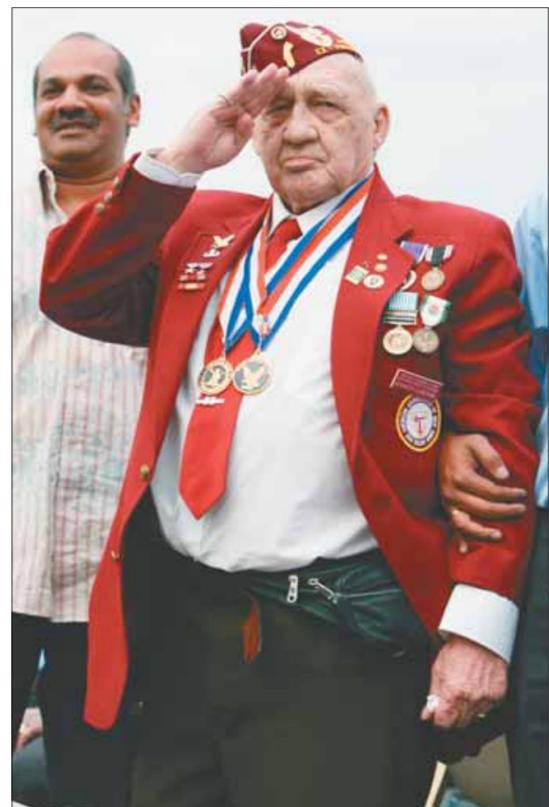
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was created for Americans to remember the sacrifices military members have made to ensure the safety and freedom of the United States.

Initiated in 1919, Nov. 11 was set aside as Armistice Day to remember the veterans who served during World War I. After World War II, a movement swept across the nation, which inspired America to include all veterans in the holiday. Congress approved the change and thenceforth, Nov. 11 was known as Veterans Day in 1954.

According to the All Marine Message 036/09, Veterans Day is "a special day of solemn observance and reflection to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have proudly worn the uniforms of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard."

For some Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center, Veterans Day is not just a holiday and a couple days off work. First Lt. John Kivelin, the commanding officer for Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said he takes time



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

A veteran stands to his feet clutching a cane and salutes the American flag as it passes his way during a Veterans Day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., last year. Veteran's Day, originally known as Armistice Day, honors all American military service members and the sacrifices they made for the nation.

during each Veterans Day to remember the Marines he fought with and lost during his deployments.

"All of November seems

like the month for Marines to go back to our roots," said Kivelin, an Albany, N.Y.,

See **VETERANS, A5**



Fun and fashion ~ See A4



Nifty Thrifty ~ See A7



Behind the scenes ~ See A8-A9



Dog gone Fun Run ~ See B1

Semper Moto

Stormy Weather Is Not Your Friend

JOHN FLEMING

Ask any motorcyclist whose been around these parts for awhile about the wind, and you'll get an earful. Heat, cold, rain or ice can all be unpleasant. But when the wind kicks up, particularly if you're a motorcyclist, it can be downright nasty.

First of all, almost every rider knows that a motorcycle is less stable than a car or truck. It's simply a product of two wheeled travel. When prevailing wind conditions get up into the double digits, a motorcycle can be significantly shoved around on the road. High crosswinds can be especially precarious, and motorcycles have to lean into the wind, even if traveling in a straight line. Many local riders can tell harrowing tales about exiting Interstate 10 onto Hwy.62, and being nearly blown off the road.

Wind can also affect the chill factor. (Just ask anyone who has lived in Chicago during the winter.) Consequently, a motorcyclist can be especially vulnerable to hypothermia – a lowering of the body's core temperature, which results in diminished mental acuity and impaired fine motor skills. Neither of these are good, even for a car or trucker driver. But for a motorcyclist, they can be especially dangerous.

And finally, the wind can kick up all manner of dust and debris. A full-face helmet or goggles can be helpful. But believe me, nobody likes the sting of blowing sand in the face, or damage to the windshield.

Wind is one of the many factors that a motorcyclist must take into consideration when planning a ride. A safe rider knows that part of riding is minimizing risk. Occasionally, it simply makes sense to stay home, rather than ride. But if riding in the wind is necessary, a smart rider will at least have the common sense to pull off the road and wait it out if the winds get too hairy. The smartest riders are the ones who "pick their battles."

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

NOV. 6: MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY MEAL

Please join us at the Combat Center mess halls on Friday, Nov. 6 for the 234th Marine Corps Birthday celebration meal. Both the Phelps Hall, building 1460, and Littleton Hall, building 1660 will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Enlisted personnel on meal cards are no charge. Military on COMRATS, military sponsored family members of E-5 and above, military retirees, and military sponsored civilians are \$7. Military sponsored family members of E-1 through E-4 pay \$5.95.

2010 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Scholarship applications will be available Nov. 3 in commissaries worldwide and online through a link at <https://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Since the program began in 2000, it has awarded \$7.3 million in scholarships to almost 5,000 children of service members. See A7 for more details.

AREA CODE OVERLAY

In light of California's new area code overlay, Combat Center personnel can expect only small changes in phone operations. Beginning Saturday, local phone numbers dialed aboard the installation will require callers to dial 9-9-1 and the area code (760) followed by the phone number. All numbers within the installation may still be reached by dialing 830-xxxx. For more information about the area code overlay, call the G-6 telephone division at 830-7141.

CELL PHONE EMERGENCY NUMBER

To reach a 9-1-1 emergency line from a cell phone aboard the Combat Center, please call 1-(760) 830-3333.

Marine Corps History

Nov. 6, 1942

The 2nd Raider companies set out from Aola to track down enemy elements escaping the encirclement at Koli point, Guadalcanal.

Centerspeak

What is your favorite getaway place?

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



LANCE CPL. JESSE MENDEZRAIGOSA

1ST TANK BATTALION, BRAVO COMPANY

"Back home because of my family."



STAFF SGT. THADEUS SAMUELS

HEADQUARTERS BATTALIONS, EXERCISE SUPPORT DIVISION

"Jamaica because it's a beautiful land and where I was born."



CPL. MICHAEL VAZQUEZ

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, ADMINISTRATION SECTION

"Vegas because it is relaxing and all the people who are not Marines and on vacation."

School Liaison Information



Question: How can we find out the school stats on the State Tests? How well did our school perform and compare that to other schools in our District?

Answer: There are many ways to research schools and their academic track record. Among these is the California Accountability Report Cards (SARC).

California public schools annually provide information about themselves to the community allowing the public to evaluate and compare schools for student achievement, environment, resources and demographics. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>. Additionally, the state provides performance statistics on individual schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/>.

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

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

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Victoria Varriale
Job: Barber with the C&E Barber Shop
Job Duties: Cutting hair and managing money.
Like Most: I like that everyday's different and I like the money.
Significant achievements: My ability to move up quickly.
Hobbies: Singing, working out, running marathons and cooking.
Military affiliation: My father and brother were in the Army and my sister has been in the Air Force for 15 years.
Time at Combat Center: 7 months



OBSERVATION POST

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

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[puzzle Solutions on A10]

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ACROSS

1. Strokes of genius
6. SST part
11. Vietnamese holiday
14. Long suit
15. Princess's topper
16. "... and that ain't ___!"
17. Carla Tortelli portrayer on "Cheers"
19. Telepathic letters
20. Steak ___ (raw dish)
21. Conical abode
23. Diamond arbiters
25. Brunch rolls
26. Inventor Tesla
30. Nucleus part
32. Trims to fit, perhaps
33. "Laughing" scavenger
34. Prefix with logical or metric
37. Applies a patch, perhaps
38. Swerved off course
39. Tulip planting
40. ___ chi
41. "Rabbit food"

DOWN

42. Ethiopia's ___ Selassie
43. Maker of German WWI biplanes
45. Low-fare shuttlebus
46. Manhattan theater district eatery
48. Key with four sharps: Abbr.
50. Pizza perimeter
51. Egg containers, biologically
56. "Thrilla in Manila" boxer
57. Emu and Kiwi trait
61. Dino, of the Flintstones
62. High-tech eye surgery
63. The "K" in DKNY
64. Chucklehead
65. Idyllic places
66. Pelt with rocks

DOWN

1. Links vehicle
2. Govt. workplace watchdog
3. Exploitive type
4. Fuel from bogs
5. Cathedral that's the seat of the Bishop of London
6. Throat malady
7. Jed Clampett's discovery
8. Where many vets served
9. Roth acct.
10. Bach choral work
11. Batman foe played by Burgess Meredith
12. Flip chart holder
13. A, B, AB, and O
18. Humorist Bombeck
22. Swelled head
24. Intrusive PC programs
25. Ootzy
26. Fit snugly
27. "The very ___!"
28. Chinese gooseberries, more familiarly

29. Extra periods: Abbr.
31. Marsh plant
33. Patriotic Nathan
35. Model Macpherson
36. Do as told
38. Hairy Himalayan beasts
39. Black Halloween animal
41. Piece of chewy fruit candy
42. Horseplay
44. "___ bodkins!"
45. Coffee, slangily
46. ___ Flow (Scottish channel)
47. Van Gogh city
49. Pokes fun at
52. Baseball card tidbit
53. Jesse Jackson hairdo, once
54. Tartan-sporting family
55. "Auld Lang ___"
58. "___ enough?"
59. U-turn from WNW
60. Yang's counterpart

Indian Wells Rotary Club helps 3/7 through ASYMCA

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. – Last year, with Thanksgiving looming, and a newborn baby in their house, a lance

corporal and his wife couldn't afford to have a proper traditional holiday meal.

The Armed Services YMCA stepped in and gave him a gift certificate from Stater Bros. Markets for a

traditional meal for the whole family to enjoy.

Members of the Indian Wells Rotary Club, who have adopted a company of Combat Center Marines donated gift certificates to the ASYMCA's holiday program Monday to help Marines and sailors afford the upcoming holiday season.

The club adopted the Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and donated, through the ASYMCA, 100, \$50 gift certificates to Stater Bros. to help as many of the company's 190 Marines as possible.

"We might not have enough gift certificates for all of the Marines," said first Sgt. Michael Woods, H and S Co.'s first sergeant. "But we will have enough to help the married Marines and the ones who are struggling."

The ASYMCA's mission is to serve active duty military members and their families, said Anita Neu-Fultz, the executive director of the Combat Center's ASYMCA.

"We work as a conduit between civilians and the military to help give back to the Marines," said the Albuquerque, N.M., native.

She said in the past, civilian enterprises wanted to give Marines and sailors turkeys and other food



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

First Sgt. Michael Woods, the company first sergeant for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment's Headquarters and Service Company, sits at a table with some of the members of the Indian Wells Rotary Club. The rotary club has adopted 3rd Bn., 7th Marines H and S Co. and donated 100, \$50 gift cards through the Armed Services YMCA, to be given to 100 of the company's Marines and sailors for the holiday season.

products for the holidays. However, it was not logistically possible considering there was not enough space and refrigeration available aboard the installation.

This, along with the variety of traditional foods each family eats, she credits as the reason gift cards are donated instead of actual food.

The members of the Indian Wells Rotary Club said they want to support

the Marines and sailors who fight for their freedom.

"This club has strong ties to the military," said Floyd Rhoades, the president of the rotary club. "A lot of our members are retired military and we try to give back to the military as much as we can."

"There is no way we could ever fully give back to [the military] for all they do for us, but we're trying our best to make their lives just a

little easier and more fulfilled – it means a lot to us to be connected to the military," he added.

The rotary club's contributions to the Marines and sailors are more than generous and assuredly appreciated, Woods said.

Rhoades said the club works to complete at least three projects a year to help the military and will sponsor some of the soap box derby cars in June.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Floyd Rhoades, the president of the Indian Wells Rotary Club, hands a bag filled with 100, \$50 gift certificates for Stater Bros. Markets to Anita Neu-Fultz, the executive director of the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA.

Marines, sailors cautioned about security on social networks

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan – With more than 300 million active users worldwide, spending eight billion minutes a day, uploading more than two billion photos a month and the numbers continuing to grow, Facebook has expanded social networking exponentially in just five years.

No longer are individuals relegated to a modest list of friends they update via e-mail every few weeks, they can update hundreds of people with one post virtually anytime they can access the Internet.

More and more smart phones provide Internet access allowing these updates to be an hourly affair, and Facebook just represents one of the largest networks.

Even though social networks provide amazing opportunities for information exchange worthy of consideration, they are still a part of the Internet; precautions must be taken.

"If you remember school, it's typically the quiet kids who get bullied," Eric Schwartzman, an independent consultant and senior communications professional, said. "If you don't speak your mind on the Internet, someone else will define your identity for you if you're afraid to define yourself."

Schwartzman has been publicly and privately contracted to teach social media and new media communications.

Social interaction, in a way, has become so simplified individuals no longer need to know one another to form an opinion about each other.

"We're living in a time where people source opinions on the Internet," Schwartzman said. "The reason we source opinions on the Internet is because it's easier."

This simplification can be good and there are plenty of examples where use of the social networks has incited social awareness of important issues.

"You get an opportunity to network with people who share your own interests," said Schwartzman.

Making new friends has

never been easier and many social networks already have groups formed by individuals with common interests.

By the same token, the simplification of friend making also expands the possibility someone you know is already on a social network talking about you right now.

"If I don't sign up, my friends will define me," said Schwartzman. "To be a young person today not participating in social media, is to be socially irrelevant."

While failing to engage in social networking may not make the average middle-aged adult end up a social

pariah, children are learning a different lesson very quickly, and therein lies an area of primary concern for parents.

"The most vulnerable are the children," Gunnery Sgt. Jose Paloschavez, the station operations security coordinator, said. "That's because they are not really aware who is behind that screen."

The fastest growing demographic on Facebook is 35 years and older.

Not only is the population of potential predators growing, but Facebook and other social networks are reaching upward in age, which increases the odds of affecting mid-

dle-aged adults.

At the very least, becoming familiar with emergent forms of social media is one way to help protect children and yourself if you choose to engage.

Choosing to engage creates another set of considerations, considerations for loved ones as well if they are engaging.

"When you're in the Internet you're in Times Square," said Schwartzman. "It's a hostile environment and you need to behave accordingly."

"There are people with no money and no food who scrounged enough money up for an hour in an Internet café and they are looking for your personal information," he added.

With any social network,

being aware of what will and will not be visible to the public is paramount.

"Just because your Facebook profile is private does not necessarily mean it is," said Schwartzman.

Making a profile as private as possible takes a few extra steps with the plethora of applications running rampant (see the end of this article for those steps).

Facebook alone has more than 350,000 active applications and it is by no means the only social networking site.

Besides the dangers presented by individuals is the potential for abuse by the stewards of the information provided during sign up.

Social networking sites

See SOCIAL, A7



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter allow Marines to tell the Marine Corps story from their own eyes. With these sites growing in popularity, Marines and their families need to take caution to keep themselves safe and secure.

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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Kelly Beasey, wife of Capt. Howard Beasey, the Support Company commander for 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, models Khols outfits along with daughters Virginia, Clara, Olivia and Sophie, during a luncheon at the Officers' Club hosted by Stonecroft Ministries, a women's ministry organization, Saturday.

Women's ministry goes heart-to-heart with spouses

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A women's ministry group hosted a luncheon and fashion show for military spouses at the Combat Center's Officers' Club Saturday.

Stonecroft Ministries, whose headquarters lie in Kansas City, Mo., hosted a "Heart-to-Heart" women's luncheon as part of their mission to connect women to their communities, to each other and to God, said Nancy Carter, the ministry's regional representative.

"We are a nonprofit, non-denominational organization with more than 1,100 other groups in 64 countries," said Carter, a resident of Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

Carter explained the purpose behind the ministry's visit to the Combat Center, which is something that has not taken place in almost 15 years.

"We're trying to be supportive of military women and wives and let them know it's not just their fellow military communities who appreciate and understand their sacrifices," she said. "These sacrifices are real and they are great."

To honor military spouses' hardships of enduring long-term deployments, frequent and unexpected moves and facing the fear their loved ones may not return from assignments, the women of the ministry hosted a luncheon with a fashion show sponsored by Khols Department Store. They also provided musical entertainment, prize drawings and words of wisdom from a guest speaker who lived the military wife lifestyle for more than 20 years.

As spouses enjoyed their lunch, other volunteer spouses and children mod-

eled autumn and winter outfits provided by Martha Mountain, the store manager of Khols in La Quinta, Calif. Mountain provided spouses and several children with the clothes, which they comfortably sported as they strutted across the Officers' Club dance floor in the main dining room.

As each model made their entrance onto the floor, Mountain narrated a brief biography about the model, as well as the origin of the outfit he or she wore.

T.J. Roethe then took her place behind a wooden lectern and told her stories of living the adventurous life of a military wife.

Roethe, a professional organizer by trade, was married into the military lifestyle with her Navy husband who retired in the 1980s. Through

See SPOUSES, A11

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

In celebration of Veterans Day, a spaghetti dinner honoring all veterans who served our country will be held at the Twentynine Palms Elks Lodge from 5 to 8 p.m., on Nov. 14



at 6501 Elk Trail, Twentynine Palms.

Any veteran with up to two guests will not be charged, dinner for all others is \$5.

The event is sponsored by

Twentynine Palms Mojave Viper Young Marines and the Twentynine Palms Elks Lodge.

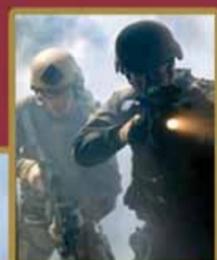
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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire an M485 Illumination Round from their M777-A2 Lightweight 155-mm Howitzer at their designated target during their Tactical Air Control Party qualifications at the Quackenbush training area Monday. The battery supported the students with the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific, qualify for calling in artillery and air strikes.

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center artillery Marines dove into their second consecutive week of air strike training in support of students with the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific, Monday through Today.

Marines and sailors with Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, conducted their Tactical Air Control Party qualifications after spending the previous week completing their Weapons and Tactics Instructor Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

The battery, which did not anticipate immediate follow-up training upon their return from WTI Friday, had to adapt and overcome a short fuse on their training schedule.

"We had to hurry up and get back from the field then get ready to go out to the field," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Hill, the battery gunnery sergeant. "We had to get supplies, equipment and help from other batteries and the battalion because we were not ready."

With the help of fellow

artillery Marines, the battery loaded up their vehicles and drove the lengthy road to the Quackenbush training area northwest of the installation's mainside.

Hill, a native of East Bridgewater, Mass., explained how the TACP qualifications train Marine students how to properly call in artillery and air strikes to engage designated targets. The battery accommodated the Marines in training by using live 155-mm rounds and forward observation teams.

The battery provided three howitzers for the exercise, which were manned and ready to fire at the student commands from the Fire Direction Center.

As part of the exercise, the students were required to inform each gun of the coordinates of its target, as well as which 155-mm round to load into the 39 caliber barrel of the weapon.

"We are at the mercy of the students while out here," Hill said. He explained that the operation is designed to educate and grade the students on their knowledge – the officers decide where, when and what to fire.

Monday was slow for the Marines manning the guns – a total of seven shots were fired the entire day. The pace picked up considerably by the following afternoon, with each gun firing at least 10 rounds.

"At the start of the week we don't fire that many shots," said Sgt. Levi Eisenhour, the section chief for gun two. "As the week goes on, we will be firing more shots a day."

When the Marines were not firing rounds down range or checking their gear, they killed time playing card games, reading books, ripping open Meals-Ready-to-Eat or slept in the shade of the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements.

No matter how relaxed the gunners were, they would drop everything as soon as a firing order came in. The Marines scattered about and were in their respective positions, ready to fire rounds down range in seconds.

"We are more motivated compared to other units," said Lance Cpl. Jose Rodriguez, a cannoner with gun four and native of Dallas, Texas. "We train the hardest and spend more time out in the field than we do in our rooms."

VETERANS, from A1

native. "We have Veterans Day and then it rolls into the Marine Corps Ball."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Keith Ferguson, a dental technician with the 23rd Dental Company, agreed with Kivelin saying Veterans Day is more of a day of fellowship where he tries to spend as much time with his friends and family who have served in the military.

"I take the day to support people who have made America better," Ferguson said.

Retired Gunnery Sgt. Bob Keister, who served aboard the Combat Center from 1958 to 1964 when he deployed to Vietnam, takes extra time on Nov. 11 to remember the friends with whom he served.

"I've had a lot of good friends... and I have lost a lot of good friends," said Keister, with a smile on his face as he remembered good memories. "Veterans Day is not for the likes of me. It is for remembering them. I made it through the war unharmed – they did not."

Keister, a Clarksburg, W. Va., native, also said he hopes every year, Veterans Day opens the eyes of the those who are against the military.

"When I came home from Vietnam, I was spit on and called a baby killer," Keister said. "I don't ever want to see a [service member] go through what Vietnam veterans did. And those who did get that treatment need to know that they are appreciated."



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Two World War II veterans wave at cheering parade-goers during a Veterans day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., last year. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day and honored only veterans of WWI. A congressional vote in 1954 changed the holiday to honor all American veterans.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

The last remaining Marine Corps mounted Color Guard from Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., leads the way for the Veteran's Day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., in 2007. Each year, the city does its part in honoring veterans of all branches and eras.



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TAH TAHS, from A1

laughter. She's a real special woman."

Her quest to give others the gift of laughter led her to write the book, "If Only I Could Laugh About... My Booby and Me," in 2005. A compilation of anecdotes about the relationship she developed with her prosthetic breast post-mastectomy while awaiting reconstructive surgery, it features a superhero in the form of T.B. (temporary booby) and a villain, the Evil Expander.

"I found it so hard to laugh after I was diagnosed and it wasn't until I found laughter again things began to look more positive," she said of her October 2003 Ductal Carcinoma In-Situ diagnosis "I wrote my book hoping to give women a way to laugh through the horrific times they're facing - adversity through laughter; 'tumor-humor.'"

When it came time to help her son find a way to show his support, she decided to make T-shirts he could wear during the MCCES Fun Run with hopes he would take a quick picture to send home.

After the initial idea was put into action, she explained she was stuck trying to figure out what the shirts should say. After consulting with some of her employees, "Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs" was born.

Karen said she realized soon after she received the first five olive drab shirts with the slogan printed in hot pink camouflage across the chest they were too good for only camera-phone pictures.

With the help of Combat Center officials, Dohman hatched a plan to surprise her son in person. After

hearing of the plans her employers, Pam and Mike Manning of Napco Chemical Inc. in Spring, Texas, had 70 more shirts printed for the Marines attending the Fun Run and so began Operation "Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs."

With her son still unaware, she and her husband made their way to California the night before the race.

The next morning, Chad, worried because race day arrived and he could not find the shirts, called his mother asking her where they were. He didn't know his mother and stepfather were only a few streets away aboard the Combat Center.

Dohman led him to believe she was at work in Texas and someone at the race would have the shirts.

With the trap set, Dohman and her husband Andy Murdock made their way to the fun run, T-shirts in tow.

Chad, still oblivious to his mother's plan, was worried about finding the shirts and taking the picture for his mom - until he saw her standing at the starting line.

"Chad was almost in tears he was so happy," Dohman said. "I think he was still in shock the next day."

Chad described seeing his mom at the run as priceless, like a commercial.

After a quick reunion, Dohman, Andy and Chad passed out the shirts, which were snatched up by Marines and race participants in a matter of minutes.

"I thought Marines might be wary about wearing shirts with pink 'Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs' lettering across the front," Dohman said. "I was wrong; they loved them."

Capt. Elishama Wheeler, the executive officer of Company B, MCCES, told Dohman about his sister, Kourtney, who is a breast and ovarian cancer survivor.

He said breast cancer awareness is near and dear



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Marines and sailors wearing their "Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs" T-shirts stretch and warm up at the starting line of the Bi-Annual Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Fun Run Oct. 30.

to his heart as a result of his sister's diagnosis and survival.

"Any coverage and support by the military can only do positive things to raise awareness and ensure other women take the steps to stay cancer free," said the Richmond, Va., native.

It is this kind of support Dohman hopes to gain with the T-shirts.

"Every Marine has a mother, a grandmother, aunt, sister or even a friend," she said. "Breast cancer doesn't discriminate - it can affect anyone."

She said she plans to sell the shirts and donate half of the profits to the American Cancer Society, and the other half to the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

"Women who have breast cancer fight for their lives just as the Marines fight for our lives everyday," Dohman said. "I want to be



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Karen Dohman, a six-year breast cancer survivor and mother of Pfc. Chad Dohman, a student at Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, hands out "Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs" T-shirts to promote breast cancer awareness at the Bi-Annual MCCES Fun Run Oct. 30.

able to do my part to give back to both communities as a survivor and as proud

Marine mom." For more information about Dohman and her 'Ooh-Rah for Tah-Tahs' shirts, visit <http://www.ooh-rah-for-tah-tahs.com> or

email oohrahfortahtahs@gmail.com. For more information about Dohman's book visit the Web site, <http://www.myboobyandme.com>.

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ASYMCA Thrift Shop helps service members, families

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA Thrift Shop offers many benefits to Marines, sailors and their families, who take advantage of on a regular basis.

The shop offers numerous goods at discounted prices, along with certain items which are cost-free to service members, said Theresa Puga, the thrift store manager and a native of Rosharon, Texas.

"We give uniforms to active duty military for free," Puga said. "Pretty much everything

we have is from donations, so we don't charge much."

Puga said the store is a charity and relies on generous donations and volunteers aboard the installation to keep it operating.

"We're a nonprofit organization," she said. "All the money we make goes to the ASYMCA's programs to help service members. We also have some volunteers who come and help out around the Thrift Shop as well."

Puga said those who donate to the thrift shop can benefit from showing kindness.

"People who donate can receive a tax discount," she said. "Usually they don't take it, but they always have the option to get something back for their donations."

Anita Neu-Fultz, the executive director of the ASYMCA here, and a native of Albuquerque, N.M., said the shop's benefits are regularly enjoyed.

"Since the YMCA took over the store in 2005, we have been able to provide a great resource to all the service members and their families," she said.

Neu-Fultz said the shop's donations to programs for

the benefit of Marines, sailors and families impacts many organizations.

"All the funds generated through the thrift store are put into helping military families," she said. "Parent/Child Interactive Programs and Operation Hero are all meant for young children and their parents. During the school year they provide them with age-appropriate toys and books as well as help them study and give them extra help with school."

Neu-Fultz said the shop's offering of free uniforms is a particular favorite of hers.

"It's truly an honor to wear

the uniform," Neu-Fultz said. "That's why we love to give the opportunity for Marines to get those items for free; they've earned it."

Neu-Fultz said many service members have taken advantage of their opportunity to get free uniforms, so many that it has caused them to run low.

"We really encourage Marines and sailors to empty out their closets of things, especially uniforms they don't need," she said. "We love to give the uniforms out for free to Marines, but they [the shoppers] come so often we're getting empty right now."

Neu-Fultz said beyond the uniforms, the shop offers service members and their loved ones a chance to save money while still getting what they want.

"Every day we see many young families come in and find what they were looking for at a great, low price," she said. "Every day is amazing,

The Thrift Shop helps out many young Marines and their families when they are in need and it feels great to do that."

Bethany Wilson, a spouse of Lance Cpl. Michael Wilson, a combat engineer with Company A, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, said she thinks very highly of the shop and everything it offers.

"It's great to be able to find things we need in one place, especially at the prices you get in thrift stores," said the Lincoln, Neb., native. "These types of stores are always a great place to look for things. You never know what you're going to find here, but you know it's going to be a great price."

The Thrift Shop will continue its money-saving mission of granting Combat Center Marines, sailors and their families low-cost items. For more information or to donate to the shop, call 830-7481.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Theresa Puga, the manager of the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA's Thrift Shop, talks with a customer purchasing goods from the store Wednesday. The shop receives their merchandise from donations and sells them at a low price.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA runs the installation's Thrift Shop. The shop offers uniforms free to active duty personnel and a variety of goods for family members of the Marines and sailors aboard the installation.

SOCIAL, from A3

may provide the information to other companies for marketing purposes.

"When signing up for these individual services, be cognizant of each individual site's privacy policies," said Paloschavez.

Schwartzman is less concerned with the marketing, but some might be and Paloschavez's advice is sound if the prospect of magazine offers outweighs the potential benefits.

Schwartzman's concern is the management of the

information by those marketing companies and so he recommends certain information never be provided either through a profile page or during sign up.

Pre-existing health conditions, exact location information or travel plans, and information establishing a pattern of negative behavior, such as heavy drinking, are all areas of potential concern.

One more inherent issue comes from signing up and engaging; the duty to continue updating and engaging.

"Once you establish your-

self, people expect you to update," said Schwartzman. "To not update validates their negative statements."

Non-response to negative statements, even untimely responses lends credibility to accusations.

"Social networks have their good, their bad and their ugly, so just continuously be in tune with each individual and find out what they're doing," said Paloschavez.

Parents need to be checking on their children just as leaders need to be checking on their subordinates and

each other.

Anyone can make a slip.

As recently as June, the wife of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service MI6 chief posted holiday photographs and personal details on her Facebook page.

"Think before you click — that one, two or three seconds asking should I be doing this will save a lot of damage," said Paloschavez.

"Once it's sent, it's sent and there is no taking back; it's gone," Paloschavez said.

Bottom-line: if there is a moment of hesitation, don't post.

As time moves forward and social networks continue to grow, it appears the choice to engage or to not engage is rapidly disappearing.

Eric Schwartzman's steps for making Facebook profiles as private as possible:

First and foremost, deciding who can see your profile is up to you. Carefully review what information is viewable by friends only or anyone by going to settings, clicking the privacy tab and then the profile section, this part is up to you.

Next, while logged in, click settings in the blue

menu bar in the top right of the screen. Click the privacy tab. Now click applications. In the applications page, click the settings tab. Uncheck all the boxes under the "Share my name, networks and lists of friends as well as the following information" radio button.

If you uncheck all those boxes, your personal information will not disseminate through applications.

But don't let this give you a false sense of security; you're still in a public forum where hostile operatives are still looking for information.

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Behind the scenes: keeping



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Win Maung, a sushi chef at the Combat Center's commissary, prepares sushi Thursday at the commissary. Maung makes fresh sushi Tuesdays through Saturdays for Combat Center personnel.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

One of many aspects of the Combat Center is the sushi prepared daily at the commissary here. The sushi chefs along with all the other employees at the commissary work long hours to keep groceries available to Combat Center personnel.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Fealofani Peau, a meat clerk with the Combat Center's commissary, stocks shelves with frozen poultry Thursday. Peau is one of many behind-the-scene workers who keep the Combat Center running.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Marines with the Combat Center's Installation Personnel Administration Center complete their annual Combat Fitness Test at Del Valle Field during their lunch time Thursday.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Employees of the Combat Center's recycling center work to compact a pile of concertina wire Thursday.

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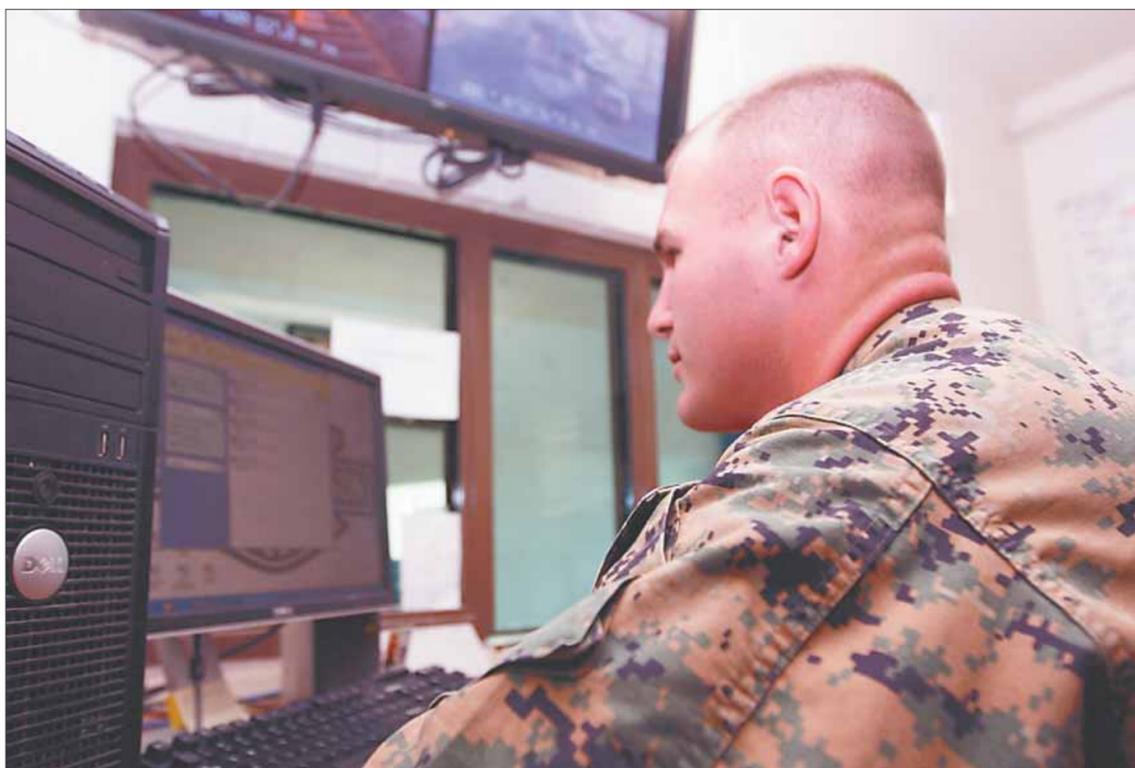
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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lt. Daniel Stanifer, an engine driver with the Combat Center's Fire Department, sprays down the engine of one of the department's fire engines Thursday at their station.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Cpl. Jason Johnson, a military policeman with the Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office, monitors calls and radio traffic Thursday at PMO's headquarters.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Cars line up outside the Combat Center's front gate Wednesday. Military police process thousands of cars through the main gate each week.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Austin Nelson, a food service specialist with Company B, Headquarters Battalion, prepares food at the Combat Center's Phelps Hall.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Natalie Christian, a sales associate at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange, helps a customer purchase goods at the MCX Thursday. Christian is one of many people working at the MCX every day assisting customers.

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SAVED, from A1

noticed signs of a potentially fatal car accident. A rear bumper, glass, windshield and a shoe were strewn throughout the road.

As the Marines and Afghan forces made their way off of the right side of the road, they immediately knew the accident was no ambush.

An Afghan family of nine fell victim to an off-road accident. The injured Afghans lay near a totaled, white, hatchback vehicle. Two Afghans were pronounced dead on the scene.

Although ruled a car accident, Fafinski believes the family may have been swerving, trying to avoid a possible IED. He believes this for good reason.

About two weeks ago, an Afghan family struck a Taliban-emplaced roadside bomb, killing one and wounding several others.

"They're hitting their own people. Not only does it disgust me, it makes me want to get them a lot more," Fafinski said.

Wilson and Azarte immediately went to work, prioritizing their new patients for triage.

The "docs," as the Marines refer to them, have completed extensive training and participated in numerous field exercises, including Enhanced Mojave EMV is a 40-day field exercise at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., required for all Marine infantry battalions deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan. Part of the training includes mass casualty exercises, which Marines and corpsmen learn to work as a team to treat a multitude of simulated casualties.

But this time, it was for real.

Three of the injured passengers looked to just suffer cuts, bruises and shock. As they were identified, the corpsmen moved on to the more serious injuries.

The Afghan family was driving from Lashkar Gah to Afghanistan's Nimroz province, to treat the grandmother for hypertension.



STAFF SGT. LUIS AGOSTINI

Marines with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Afghan national security forces transport injured Afghans to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for a casualty evacuation following a car accident in Farah province, Afghanistan Nov. 2. The Marines were providing security for an Afghan national army re-supply convoy when they were waved down by an Afghan truck driver, who informed them of a nearby accident.

She was now being treated for a severe foot injury, which at first glance, may have required amputation.

The Marines, corpsmen and Afghan forces began working together in a concerted effort. The platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Paul V. Cooke, began coordinating a casualty evacuation for the injured Afghans requiring urgent care, while the rest of the Marines cordoned off the area.

The Afghan soldiers offered what help they could, from communicating with the family members able to speak, to providing security on the main road.

The corpsmen tended to the wounded, which included the grandmother, two boys and a young girl.

While dealing with the wounded, the corpsmen kept the Afghan and Islamic code of conduct in mind.

"I asked the interpreter to ask permission from the son to treat the injured women," said Wilson, a 21-year-old from San Dimas, Calif. "The son didn't hesitate to allow us to treat them."

Within 30 minutes, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicop-

ters landed within the vicinity of where Sgt. Randolph J. Chatfield, a section leader with 1st platoon, popped yellow smoke.

The coalition of Marines, sailors and Afghans again worked in unison, loading the patients onto stretchers and transporting them from the accident site to the helicopters.

"They responded very well," said Azarte, a 21-year-old from Tucson, Ariz.

"If we didn't have the interpreter and the ANA, it would've been a lot harder to treat those people," Wilson said.

"They showed genuine care. They were willing to do what they could, but comfortable enough to know that we had it in control," said Cooke, a 31-year-old from Grant's Pass, Ore.

The injured were taken to FOB Delaram, where they received treatment from the Army's 67th Forward Surgical Team. From there, they were flown to an Afghan hospital in

Kandahar, where they will receive CAT-scans for head trauma and any possible neck and spinal injuries.

As the helicopters departed with the Afghans, the Marines and Afghan forces pushed forward to complete their original mission, but not before being delayed again by several hours, due to a possible roadside bomb.

"I'd rather spend six hours finding out it's not an IED, than .3 seconds finding out that it is," Cooke said.

The Marines completed the re-supply under the cover of darkness and with the use of night-vision goggles. After returning to the FOB, the Marines cleared their weapons, cleaned out the vehicles, and waited for the platoon leadership to give their intelligence debrief, which included praise heaped on the corpsmen.

"The corpsmen handled themselves well and took care of it pretty good," said Chatfield, a 23-year-old from Kona, Hawaii.

"It's Doc Wilson's first deployment, but it looked like it was his fifth. That was his show," said Fournier, a 21-year-old from Lanesboro, Minn.

"The corpsmen kept their cool really well. They had tactical patience, and dealt with a lot more than expected," said Cooke.

"If this was a football game and we were giving out a game ball, I'd give it to the corpsmen and the platoon sergeant," said Fafinski, a 24-year-old from Chaska, Minn. Fafinski mentioned Cooke due to his performance in coordinating the casualty evacuation.

"After it happened and we got back in the trucks, I had a deep feeling of confidence in our corpsmen. One of my lance corporals, Lance Cpl. Joel Fadden, looked at me and said, 'it's sure nice to know that the corpsmen know what they are doing.' If he thinks like that, I'm sure all of the Marines are thinking it too."



STAFF SGT. LUIS AGOSTINI

An Afghan teen is overcome with emotion after his mother is injured in a car accident that injured seven and killed two Afghans in Farah province, Afghanistan Nov. 2. An Afghan family of nine was involved, two of which were pronounced dead on the scene. Marines, Navy corpsmen with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Afghan forces provided security and treatment for the injured Afghans.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Next Wednesday November 11, will be Veterans Day in the United States. It will be Remembrance Day in Canada. Many will recognize the significance of the day and pause to reflect on the enormous sacrifices that have been made and are still being made by the men and women of our armed forces and their families.

I was an infantry soldier during World War II and fought as a machine-gunner in Belgium during December of 1944. I was barely 19. Many of my comrades were killed that winter. I remember them.

My friend Milt Merritt, three months younger than me, served in the South Pacific as a Chaplain in the Navy. He too remembers the sacrifices of so many at that time. Milt reminded me just last Thursday that approximately 1,000 WWII veterans physically die each day. We remember them.

In addition we have hundreds of Korean War veterans, Vietnam veterans, and Cold War veterans who physically die each day. We must remember them.

And we must not neglect to keep ever before us in our thoughts and prayers the on-going sacrifice of so many current members of our armed forces and their families. As I write this column more than 5,176 troops have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq and many, many thousands more have been injured. We must remember them.

How best to remember them?

It is my hope that each person reading this column will re-assess their priorities in life and make certain that they are using their talents and their time in pragmatic ways that improves the quality of life for others less fortunate than themselves.

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4	9	6	5	8	1	7	2	3

SPOUSES, from A4

more than 18 moves in 23 years, Roethe had no choice but to stay organized and efficient for the sake of her family. While her husband was away, she was responsible for knowing the family's crucial information such as insurance, health care, mortgage payments, funeral details and emergency information. She kept all vital information in one three-ring binder which she named her "Just in Case" plan.

"The average person spends five years of their life looking for lost things," Roethe said in her opening statement to the spouses.

Roethe shared her practical, no-nonsense knowledge with the spouses, as well as how she integrates her faith into the everyday struggles most military spouses must face.

"I feel like I'm at home today with these young women," Roethe said as she looked around the dining room. "This has been my whole life. I am so proud to have lived my life as an active duty military wife. I am a much, much better person for it."

After Roethe wrapped up her speech, cards with the attendees' names on them were drawn from a basket to claim \$250 gift certificates, courtesy of Mountain.

Roethe thanked Mountain and her store for displaying such pro-military support in their personal time.

"I'm almost overwhelmed by the generosity of Khols," she said. "They are so supportive of the military community and of children."

As the event drew to a close, Roethe stuck around in the Officers' Club lobby to share last-minute words with gracious spouses, who received free gift bags put together by Kohls.

Many of the spouses who attended the event said Roethe's "Just in Case" plan opened their eyes, while her stories of faith and family touched their hearts.

"This was very inspiring," said Melissa Williamson, wife of Capt. Bobby Williamson, the training officer of Company C, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School. "We really appreciate what they've done for us - coming to a place so far away to minister is a real blessing."

Christine Bouchard, the wife of 1st Lt. David Bouchard, a fire direction officer with Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, said the effort of the ministry did not go unnoticed.

"You can tell how much work it took to put this together," she said. "They are so kind for doing this and they're certainly welcome to come back."

Stonecroft Ministries involves its women with community projects once every month, and invites Combat Center spouses to join their events. The next "Heart-to-Heart" event will be held in March at the Doral Resort in Cathedral City, Calif. To learn more about the ministry, visit their Web site at <http://www.stonecroft.org>. To learn more about upcoming Stonecroft ministries events, call Carter at (760) 413-2531.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Christina Betrie, the wife of Seaman Darryl Betrie, 7th Marine Regiment, and their son, Kenji, model clothes provided by Khols during a Stonecroft Ministry's women's luncheon and fashion show called "Heart-to-Heart" at the Combat Center Officers' Club Saturday.

Looking for local entertainment?
See page B2 for our Liberty Call section

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Combat Center Trader Ads

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1994 KAWASAKI KLR DUAL SPORT BIKE. \$2,000. 910-9071. 11/6/09

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1990 FORD F350 TRUCK. Diesel, 90,000 on re-built engine, new turbo and clutch, stretch with 60" sleeper, 5 speed. Drives but needs tranny work. \$4,000. Call 447-0499. 10/2/09

1987 FORD F250 TRUCK. Extra cab, diesel, four speed with overdrive. Set up for gooseneck or fifth wheel. \$2,850 OBO. Call 447-0499. 10/2/09

2005 KAZUMA 110CC ATV. Runs good, new battery. \$600 OBO. Call Chris 362-5293. 9/25/09

1916 BUICK D-45. Needs complete restoration. Many additional hard-to-find parts to help with the project. Call 367-3326 for more info. \$6,700. 9/11/09

1989 JEEP WRANGLER. New rebuilt engine, new head, new fuel pump, new seats, new tires. Call 367-3326 for more info. \$5,500 OBO. 9/11/09

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TOY POODLE PUPPIES. Also a young adult female. White or apricot. Healthy, shots. \$100 and up. 364-1133. 10/30/09

BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET. Oak finish. Four glass doors, silverware drawer. Lower storage cabinet. \$300. Leave message 567-7921. 10/30/09

TREADMILL WITH T.V. \$1000, weight bench w/ weights \$300, exercise bike \$ 175. Call 910-9052. 10/23/09

PURE SILVER MARINE CORPS COIN SET. 35 years old. Asking only \$1,000. Marine Corps challenge coins, different prices. Olympic coins. Large oak entertainment center \$100. Must sell. 367-6030. 10/2/09

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The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday for the upcoming Friday's paper.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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United States Marine Corps

Facts

Formal commemoration of the Marine Corps birthday began on Nov. 10, 1921. Until then, it was celebrated on another date. On Oct. 21, 1921, Maj. Edwin McClellan, Officer-in-Charge, Historical Section, Headquarters Marine Corps, sent a memorandum to Maj. Gen. Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday on 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps.

Nearly 300 Marines have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor. The first was Cpl. John F. Mackie in 1862 and the most recent was Cpl. Jason L. Dunham of the 7th Marine Regiment out of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 2004. The regiment also boasts the most Medal of Honor winners in the Corps, at 36.

Marine Corps identification tags, known as dog tags, have been used by the Corps since 1916 to identify Marines who fall in battle and secure a suitable burial for them.

The famous line, "Once a Marine, Always as Marine" is credited to Master Sgt. Paul Woyshner, a 40-year Marine, who is said to have said it during a taproom argument with a discharged Marine.

Women became a permanent part of the Marine Corp on June 12, 1948, when Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 625), but they'd already proven themselves in World Wars I and II.

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B1

Scots, a turtle, a mummy and... runners?

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 600 installation personnel braved the morning cold to participate in the biannual Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Fun Run Oct. 30.

The event is held twice each year to raise funds for MCCES functions like the Marine Corps Birthday Ball and encourages its competitors to dress up in costumes, said Don Tolbert, the event organizer and logistics specialist for MCCES.

"We hold this event around St. Patrick's Day and Halloween," said Tolbert, a Canton, Ohio, native. "We started this in 2005 and it's really grown. It's a great time to come have fun, dress up and enjoy the camaraderie - that's what it's all about."

Participants had the option of running a 5 kilometer, 10K and half-marathon race. The event also welcomed leashed canine competitors.

Sgt. Maj. Michael Gray, the MCCES sergeant major, said the addition of allowing participants to run the race with their dogs turned out

See **RUNNERS, B3**



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines dressed as members from the 1995 Mel Gibson flick, "Braveheart," charge the finish line during the biannual Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Fun Run Oct. 30. Runners are always encouraged to wear costumes during the run, which is held around St. Patrick's Day and Halloween each year.

Youth Sports rises to exceptional heights, wins award



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Youth Sports program goes above and beyond to ensure every child has an opportunity to participate in any sport they have to offer.

The National Alliance for Youth Sports recognized the hard work and dedication the installation's Youth Sports staff put forth throughout the year and awarded them the 2009 Excellence in Youth Sports Award in December.

"MCAGCC was chosen because they are doing a truly outstanding job of conducting a wide variety of programs that are focused on providing every participant with a safe, fun and rewarding experience, which is what youth sports is all about," said Greg Bach, the vice president of communications for the National

Alliance for Youth Sports. "The MCAGCC staff has clearly demonstrated they are committed to ensuring that each child has a positive experience and it is wonderful to see how devoted they are to making that happen."

Eligibility for the award requires the organization to educate administrators, volunteer coaches, parents and game officials regarding the conduct of the program. To be picked for this award, the Youth Sports program also must demonstrate how they provide a child-centered recreational sports philosophy which is aimed at providing a positive and safe experience for the youth participating.

"Our staff has to be trained through a variety of different elements," said Joe Rosselli, the director of the Combat Center's Youth Sports. "They have to be

See **YOUTH, B4**

New battleground for paintballers

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Dirt and paint flew while sweat rolled off faces and fogged up protective masks as paintballers ran for cover at The Paintball Park at 29 Palms aboard the

Combat Center Tuesday.

Paintballers have been coming here every weekend for an adrenaline rush since the park opened July 1 behind the Outdoor Adventures building.

"We started out [this year] with few customers because of the heat, but

since the weather has been cooling down, the number of players per week has increased to 60 to 80 depending on payday," said Travis Runyan, the general manager of the paintball park. "We also have about 15-20 regulars who are cold-hearted paintballers."

The park is not very big. It only has one field with wooden buildings and a small tower in the middle for the referee, but park officials plan to construct eight other fields if approved.

"It took about two weeks for us to build the park and set it up," Runyan said. "We also found Chris [Moore] who just showed up and started to help out, when we

See **PAINT, B3**



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A paintballer provides cover fire from the prone position behind a building at The Paintball Park at 29 Palms aboard the Combat Center Tuesday. The park opened July 1 behind Outdoor Adventures.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

An Australian from the 1st Armored Regiment sneaks up behind an opposing team member during a game of full field capture the flag at The Paintball Park at 29 Palms aboard the Combat Center Tuesday.



Local Events

Music: Thelonious Monster! With special guests Sean Wheeler, Zander Schloss and Muddy Sparks
When: 9 p.m., Friday
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Theatre: "Reflections"
Description: Successive comedic and dramatic scenes
When: Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows at 2:30 p.m. through Nov. 22.
Where: Groves Cabin Theatre
8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
For more information call 365-4523.

Theater: "The Stuck Pot"
Description: A comedic play in the multi-purpose room
When: 6 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday with a Saturday matinee performance at 1 p.m.
Where: Yucca Valley High School, 7600 Sage Avenue, Yucca Valley
For more info e-mail sphillips@yvhs.net.

Leon Russell with Brad Mercer & The Acquitted
Description: Rhythm and blues
When: 4 p.m., Sunday
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Steve Lester's Songwriting, Poetry, & Rhythm Club
Description: Open mic night
When: 7 p.m., Wednesday
Where: Rattlesnake Jake's, 51572 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
For more information call 363-6513 or visit <http://www.rattlesnakejakes.net>.

Lower Desert

Boxing: Chad Dawson vs Glen Johnson
Description: Dawson puts his record on the line
When: 6:30 p.m., Saturday
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio
For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Comedy: Lewis Black
When: 8 p.m., Nov. 13
Where: Agua Caliente
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Monster of Classic Rock Tour
Description: Band members from AC/DC, Black Sabbath, Steve Miller Band and more.
When: 8 p.m., Nov. 21
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
46-200 Harrison Pl., Coachella
For more info call (866) 377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Music: Willie Nelson
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4
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: Craig Chaquico
Description: Former lead guitar for Jefferson Starship
When: 9 p.m., Dec. 11
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage
For more info call (888) 999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Nov. 6
6 p.m. – Love Happens, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – All About Steve, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Sorority Row, Rated R

Saturday, Nov. 7
11 a.m. Free Matinee: Horton Hears A Who, Rated G
2 p.m. – Fame, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Surrogates, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Informant, Rated R
Midnight – Jennifer's Body, Rated R

Sunday, Nov. 8
2 p.m. – The Invention of Lying, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Whiteout, Rated R
9 p.m. – Zombieland, Rated R

Monday, Nov. 9
7 p.m. – I Can Do Bad All By Myself, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, Nov. 10
7 p.m. – Surrogates, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, Nov. 11
2 p.m. – All About Steve, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Surrogates, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Informant, Rated R

Thursday, Nov. 12
7 p.m. – Whiteout, Rated R

Deception pays off in 'Invention of Lying'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

The Invention of Lying

Starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner & Rob Lowe
Rated PG-13

Imagine a modern-day world in which everyone tells the truth all the time and people say exactly what they're thinking.

British funnyman Ricky Gervais co-wrote, co-directed and stars in this wickedly clever comedy about such a bluntly transparent society. In this movie's "alternate reality," life has evolved without any concept of dishonesty. Unattractive and dull people are told they're unattractive and dull; dating is often a brutal exercise in rejection. Movies are all unembellished narratives about documented historical incidents. Television commercials and politicians must always tell the truth—which often leaves them with nothing much to tell at all.



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Invention of Lying" begins in a bluntly transparent society where life has evolved without any concept of dishonesty. Ricky Gervais (right) plays unlucky-in-love Mark Bellison, who stumbles upon a revolutionary new concept; making things up.

Gervais plays unlucky-in-love Mark Bellison, who stumbles upon a revolutionary new concept: making things up.

In this world, lying is so alien there isn't even a word for it—Mark

describes it as saying "something that isn't." Trying out his new trick, he tells a couple of friends a series of increasingly outrageous lies about things he's done and invented. To his amazement, they believe him!

Mark's lies grow, making him wealthy and wildly popular. And why not—he tells people exactly what they long to hear, even if it's completely false. Most exciting of all, his dexterity in deceit helps him win the heart of the lovely Anna McDoodles (Jennifer Garner), a former blind date who'd previously brushed him off.

But after Mark tries to ease the mind of his dying mother with what he thinks is just another harmless whopper, it puts him in the middle of a big predicament. Increasingly, he must perpetuate some-

thing he doesn't believe—but everyone else desperately wants to.

Gervais, the British funnyman behind the original BBC version of the hit TV comedy "The Office," rounds up an impressive supporting cast—including Rob Lowe, Tina Fey, Jeffrey Tambor, Jonah Hill, Christopher Guest and Philip Seymour Hoffman—to help deliver his barbs on religion, beauty, disillusionment and the basic human need for hope. His satiric arrows aim for our comfort zones, and they all hit home.

Gervais' premise—that falsehoods serve a purpose in the real world—will make you think. A comedic parable that depicts the extremes of both honesty and fabrication, "The Truth About Lying" is a great discussion starter once the chuckles subside.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mark's lies grow, making him wealthy and wildly popular. His dexterity in deceit helps him win the heart of the lovely Anna McDoodles, played by Jennifer Garner, a former blind date who'd previously brushed him off.

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Tribal veterans honored

PRESS RELEASE

A Veterans Day celebration to dedicate a memorial honoring the men and women of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians will be held at 10 a.m. on Nov. 11 at the Morongo Band of Mission Indians Reservation administrative complex at 12700 Pumarra Road in Banning, Calif. The memorial is to honor their proud tradition of service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America

The memorial in the courtyard of the tribe's new administrative complex will be unveiled by tribal veterans.

The ceremony will begin promptly at 10 a.m., so please allow time to get through the security checkpoint and to park.

The event will be attended by Morongo tribal veterans, representatives of other veterans' organizations, the Morongo Tribal Color Guard, members of the Morongo Tribal Council, local elected officials and other honored guests.

The event is meant to honor those who have proudly worn the uniforms of the armed services of the United States of America, to remember their sacrifices so we might live in freedom, and to educate future generations that the precious freedom they fought for is not free.

An estimated 78 members of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians have served in all branches of the military in peace and in war from World War II to Operation Desert Storm. For more information contact Patrick Dorinson at 916-294-7589.

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RUNNERS, from B1

to be a big hit.

"This is the first time we've allowed people to run with their dogs," said the St. Louis native. "I believe the winner was a dog rescued from the pound. I think that's an awesome turnaround; from being put down, to winning races."

Some participants donned their favorite Halloween costumes like a group of Scottish commoners from the 1995 Mel Gibson flick, "Braveheart."

Michael Weber, a runner preferably known as "William Wallace," said he made his group's costumes on his own.

"It wasn't hard," said the Newburg, Ore., native. "I went and got all the fabric, cut it and sewed the buttons on myself."

Halloween is not the only time of the year Weber dresses up and throws on some blue face paint.

"I started dressing up as Wallace a long time ago,"

said the MCCES student. "I usually patrol the barracks as Wallace. Everyone there knows what 'Wallace Watch' is."

Noe Pena finished the 5K first after leaving his competition in a wake of dust and lost hopes.

Due to a timer malfunction, no times were able to be recorded throughout the race.

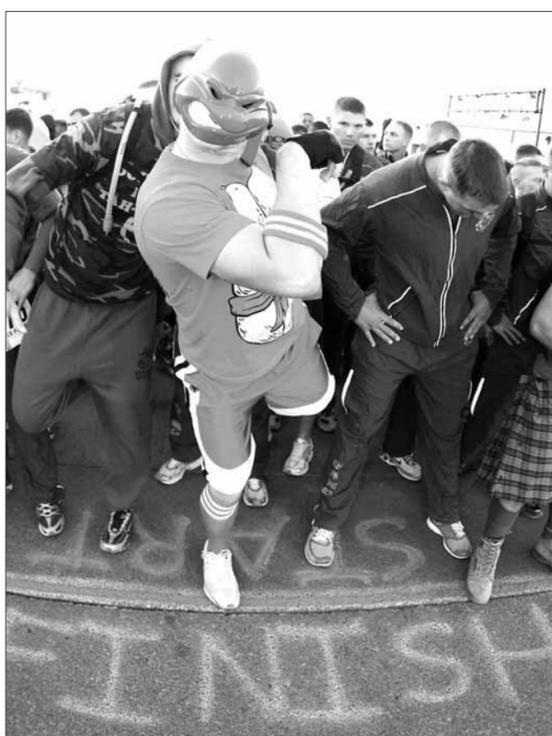
Eliseo Dominguez crossed the finish line first to win the half-marathon overall, and Faviola Pamatz, placed first for the women's half-marathon.

After the race, participants were rewarded complimentary snacks and drinks to refuel their bodies.

Massage therapists from the local area also provided free massages for those whose muscles needed a little TLC.

"I'd really like to thank Paul Hirsch and Amy Fouts for taking the time to come up here," said Tolbert about the massage business owners.

The next Fun Run is slated for March.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

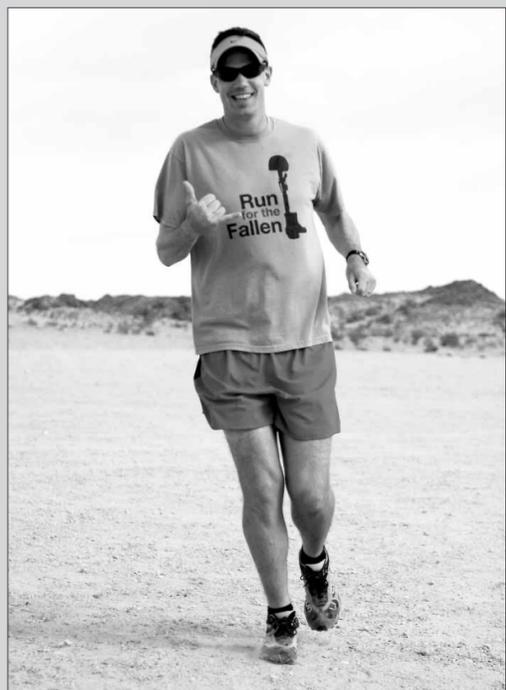
Gary "TMNT" Davis stretches out before starting the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School biannual Fun Run Oct. 30. Nearly 600 installation personnel took part in the event, which is held to raise money for MCCES functions like the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Participants in the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Fun Run push to the finish line during the biannual event Oct. 30. Nearly 600 installation personnel braved the morning cold to take part in the run.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Matt Sandlin
Hometown: Columbus, Ind.
Unit: Pharmacy, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
Job: Pharmacy Technician/Corpsman
Recognition: Finishing 100-mile race in McDowell Mountain Park, Ariz., known as Javelina Jundred
Major sports accomplishment: Finishing the grueling desert race that touts a 50 percent attrition rate.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "I like the challenge of it."
Advice for aspiring athletes: "Hydrate and eat right. It takes a lot of time and practice."



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

An Australian from the 1st Armored Regiment, fires away at the opposing team while making a dash for his next firing position at The Paintball Park at 29 Palms.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

An Australian from the 1st Armored Regiment, skids to a halt near the opposing team's building during a game of attack and defend at The Paintball Park at 29 Palms.

PAINT, from B1

started to build the field."

Every weekend the park has Alexis Wilson and Moore working in the shop, who have all the necessary knowledge about the park and make sure the paintballers have all the equipment they need.

On weekends, the park is open to walk-ins as well as private parties. The private parties may call to make reservations during the week, if they give at least a full week's notice.

The park only has two rules: participants must wear full face protection while in the field area, and they must have the barrel plug in the gun when in the preparation area. To keep the games fair, the park classifies players into three different levels based on their individual skills: beginner, intermediate and expert.

"If we can't keep the levels in different games, then we try our best to even out the teams so everyone can have a good time," Moore said.

Private groups can alter 20 different types of games. If the general manager happens to like the rules of a new game, it may be added to the gaming list.

The gear and rental shop has plenty of equipment for players who do not own their own including clothes, paintball guns, face masks, body protection and attachable pouches for more advanced equipment. If the shop does not have the gear, a catalog is available at the front desk so players can order straight from the suppliers.

The park has worked with military units, community organizations and private parties for training, special activities and team

building exercises.

"We have been at every event on base with a small tent and paintball gun filled with rubber paintballs," Runyan said. "We do this to promote the new park on base so kids

can have the opportunity to hold a paintball gun."

For more information about "The Paintball Park at 29 Palms" visit the Web site <http://www.thepaintballpark.com> or call at (866) 985-4932.

Commanding General's Intramural Football League

Team	Wins	Losses
MCCES	7	0
HQBN	5	1
1st Tanks	4	2
CLB-7	2	4
3rd CEB	1	6
VMU-1	1	6

Schedule Monday

CLB-7 vs VMU-1 at 6 p.m.
 HQBN vs 1st Tanks at 8 p.m.

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Public Notice

On October 16, 2009, Sunnylands Broadcasting LLC filed an application with the FCC to construct a new Class A FM station on channel 238, serving Twentynine Palms Base, California from studios at a location to be determined with 6 kw from an antenna 50 meters above ground at a site 34 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds north, 116 degrees 03 minutes 55 seconds west.

The attributable owners are David E Hartman, 37th Avenue Group LLC, Gregory J Smith, Carol J Smith, Patricia Thurman, Angela Koplan, Walter Smith, Gwyn Schneider, Denise DeBlick and Russell Smith.

A copy of the application, amendments and related materials are on file for Public Inspection at the Lifelong Learning Library, MCCS Building 1528 MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, CA. 92278

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Roy Center, owner of Roy's Tires, and staff

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YOUTH, from B1

trained in first aid, CPR, and [recognizing] child abuse. They also have to go through a world-class customer service class since they have to know how to properly interact with parents."

The Combat Center's Youth Sports program hosts a variety of sports throughout each season, including summer camps for soccer, football and golf.

Youth Sports is also home to the Start Smart program, which caters to younger children, normally 3 to 5 years old. The program teaches the children basic fundamentals of a sport through a parent-interactive learning experience.

The Combat Center will receive the award itself in December when members from the Youth Sports program will travel to Orlando, Fla., to attend the 2009 Youth Sports Congress.

"It's an honor for the National Alliance for Youth Sports and Athletic Business Magazine to present such a prestigious award to a Marine base," Bach said. "There are so many outstanding organizations around the world that do amazing work with children in sports, and MCAGCC should be extremely proud of their programs because they are most deserving of this honor."



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Joe Rosselli, the director of the Combat Center's Youth Sports, directs a child during soccer tryouts in 2008 at Victory Field. Rosselli and his team at Youth Sports were awarded the 2009 Excellence in Youth Sports Award for their outstanding work in the program.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Staff Sgt. Martin Hood, an instructor with Company C, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, volunteers his time on Monday evenings to coach youth track and field. Volunteers like Hood helped the Youth Sports program earn the 2009 Excellence in Youth Sports Award.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gunnery Sgt. Michael Prince, a coach for the Youth Sports Program, tells a child how to properly hit a baseball. The Youth Sports Program won the 2009 Excellence in Youth Sports Award by the National Alliance in Youth Sports and Athletic Business Magazine.

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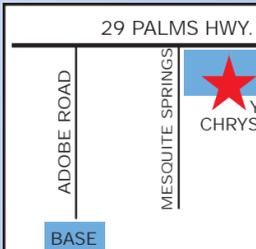
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