

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MARCH 12, 2010      SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957      VOL. 53 ISSUE 10

## ‘First Team’ returns to amphibious roots, trains like WWII Raiders



Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, charge out of the ocean after sneaking their way through up to eight-foot waves during a Basic Scout Swimmers Course exercise at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., Tuesday.

CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE CORONADO, Calif. — During World War II, an elite group was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to carry out clandestine amphibious attacks while operating from small rubber boats behind enemy lines. The Marine Raiders, as

they were aptly named, were the first American special operations personnel to see combat in the war. The Raiders have since been disbanded, but a set of courses aboard the Naval Amphibious Base here is training Marines in the same fashion to conduct clandestine operations.

Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, are currently participating in an

array of courses in preparation for the battalion’s upcoming deployment aboard the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit this summer.

“Baker Co. is in the beginning stages of a six-week, small boat raid training package,” said Capt. Chris Frey, the officer in charge of the Amphibious Raid and Water Survival branch, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group-Pacific.

“Now what that entails is four weeks of individual skills courses to include the [Combat Rubberized Reconnaissance Crafts] Repair Course, the Basic Coxswain Skills Course, the Basic Scout Swimmers Course and the Over the Horizon Maritime Navigation Course.

“At the end of the individual

See RAIDERS, A3

## AFP, BLT 2/7 plan for Balikatan 2010

LANCE CPL. DENGRIER BAEZ

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

USS ESSEX, At Sea — The Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. forces came together aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex for the final planning phase of exercise Balikatan 2010, Feb. 27-March 3.

Twelve Republic of the Philippines Marine and Navy officers worked side-by-side with their U.S. counterparts from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Amphibious Squadron 11 and USS Essex to coordinate the details for joint helicopter, mechanized, and boat raids for the exercise. Additionally, the planners worked on the details of a community relations project, an engineering project and three medical and dental missions scheduled to take place throughout the Luzon region.

“They’re right there alongside participating in all those planning meetings and the planning of the operations and exercises as a whole,” said Navy Capt. Mark Weber, commander of PHIBRON 11.

The joint planning conducted was a key element in the success of future bilateral training events scheduled during Balikatan, said Col. Raul Caldez, the commanding officer of 2nd Ready Force Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps.

“This bilateral planning and training helps both countries to be interoperable with one another by helping us identify our capabilities and limitations for future military operations,” he said.

Some of the planners viewed this as

See 2/7, A5



CPL ZACHARY J. NOLA

Afghan National Security Forces members and Marines from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, take part in a patrol of the villages in the Buji Bhist Pass area of Afghanistan Jan. 26.

## 3/4 prepares Afghan National Security Forces for success

CPL ZACHARY J. NOLA

2ND MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE

FARAH PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Before coalition forces can leave Afghanistan, they must first make sure the government has a reliable and proficient fighting force. Without one, the country is vulnerable to invasion and insurrection.

Both an Afghan army and police force exist, and the training of these forces is ongoing, but coalition forces must ensure Afghan national security forces

aren’t pushed through training quickly just to get them into the fight.

Through on the job training, Marines of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, have found a way to ensure ANSF members are well trained and an immediate asset in the fight against the Taliban.

ANSF personnel recently received some of this training when they joined Marines from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, for an operation to clear the Taliban presence from Buji Bhist Pass and the sur-

rounding towns.

While the Marines of Co. I admitted their Afghan counterparts still need additional training to be a premier fighting force, they were impressed with the knowledge and effort the ANSF members put forth.

“The ANA did well,” said Lance Cpl. Jordan T. Stevenson, 21, a rifleman with Co. I. “You go [into a compound] and they’d do everything you need them to do. You’d point out a locker and they’d know how

See SUCCESS, A10

## Geletko retires, Walsh assumes HQBN post



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sgt. Maj. Mark M. Geletko, the retiring Headquarters Battalion sergeant major, inspects the battalion colors March 5 before his post and relief and retirement ceremony with Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. Geletko was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as the battalion sergeant major.

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Headquarters Battalion welcomed a new sergeant major when Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh relieved Sgt. Maj. Mark M. Geletko during a post and relief and retirement ceremony March 5 at the Combat Center’s Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Geletko was also awarded

a Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony for his performance as the battalion sergeant major.

Walsh is slated to continue yet another tour of duty aboard the installation, where he has spent a significant portion of his career.

“I was formerly the sergeant major of 3rd [Combat Engineer Battalion] before coming to Headquarters,”

the Rochester, N. Y., native said. “I was in seven different battalions around base as either a first sergeant or sergeant major.”

Walsh, originally an infantry Marine, has served 15 years aboard the installation during his career, which began in early 1985. He said during his tenure in Headquarters

See POST, A8



Dogs of war ~ See A4



Osprey landing ~ See A6



Shadowing the best ~ See B1



Family affairway ~ See B1



## Tax Tips

# Seven facts about Social Security benefits

### IRS TAX TIP 2010, #31

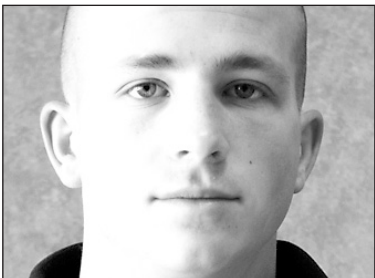
If you received Social Security benefits in 2009, you need to know whether or not these benefits are taxable. Here are seven facts the Internal Revenue Service wants you to know about Social Security benefits so you can determine whether or not they are taxable to you.

- How much – if any – of your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your total income and marital status.
- Generally, if Social Security benefits were your only income for 2009, your benefits are not taxable and you probably do not need to file a federal income tax return.
- If you received income from other sources, your benefits will not be taxed unless your modified adjusted gross income is more than the base amount for your filing status.
- Your taxable benefits and modified adjusted gross income are figured on a worksheet in the Form 1040A or Form 1040 Instruction booklet.
- You can do the following quick computation to determine whether some of your benefits may be taxable:
  - First, add one-half of the total Social Security benefits you received to all your other income, including any tax exempt interest and other exclusions from income.
  - Then, compare this total to the base amount for your filing status. If the total is more than your base amount, some of your benefits may be taxable.
- The 2009 base amounts are:
  - \$32,000 for married couples filing jointly.
  - \$25,000 for single, head of household, qualifying widow/widower with a dependent child, or married individuals filing separately who did not live with their spouses at any time during the year.
  - \$0 for married persons filing separately who lived together during the year.
- For additional information on the taxability of Social Security benefits, see IRS Publication 915, Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits. Publication 915 is available at IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

## Centerspeak


### What team do you want to win March Madness?

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



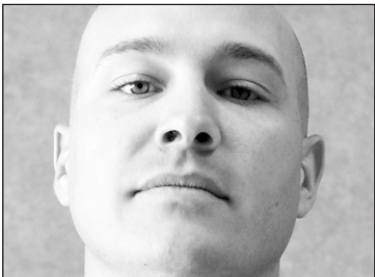
PFC. DUSTIN ROZIER  
Co. A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

“Duke because they have always been my favorite team.”



AARON BANKS  
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE Co., 3RD COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

“Kentucky because they look to have a strong front line and back court.



CPL. WILLIAM ROBINSON  
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE Co., 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“Indiana Hoosiers because that’s were I am from and it makes it simple.”

## Hot Topics

### MEN’S VARSITY SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

The Men’s Varsity Softball Team is currently holding tryouts Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Felix Field for all active duty males aboard the Combat Center. For more information, call 830-4092 or 830-6857.

### HI DESERT PONY LEAGUE

The High Desert Pony League will start baseball practices next week at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. It is not too late to register, and the league is always looking for managers, coaches, umpires and volunteers. The Opening Day Ceremony will be held April 17 at Luckie Park. For further information go to <http://www.pony29palms.com>, or call 910-546-6475 or 910-787-2175.

### WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School will be hosting a celebration for Women’s History Month today from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at building 1707. This year’s theme is “Writing Women Back into History,” and is open to everyone aboard the installation. For more information, call 830-5488 or 830-4567.

### MEN’S VARSITY BASKETBALL

Informal Men’s Varsity Basketball practices will be held every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the West Gym beginning March 18. The point of contact is Skip Best at 830-4092 or King Bishop at 830-0293.

### Marine Corps History

#### March 9, 1847

Capt. Alvin Edson leads a Marine battalion ashore with Army forces at Veracruz, Mexico.



# Eagle Eyes

Report any suspicious activity immediately which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

- Surveillance
- Suspicious questioning
- Tests of security
- Acquiring supplies
- Suspicious persons
- Trial runs
- Deploying assets

## 830-3937




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

## SUDOKU #1746

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT



## School Liaison Information

**Question:** How do we build confidence in our child in regards to school?

**Answer:** The Web site <http://www.parentcenter.com> has a wonderful article entitled “Ten Ways to Build Your Child’s Self-Esteem.” Here are a few of the tips:

- Provide regular love, attention and support.** Your child needs to know you will be there for them.
- Offer encouragement.** Let your child know you understand how hard it is to try new things or move to a new school. Talk to them about their efforts and encourage them to keep working on difficult tasks. Make sure to praise the child and not just their accomplishments.
- Establish rules and limits.** When you provide hard-and-fast rules and stick with them, it lets your child know you are looking out for their safety.

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



## Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** Lance Cpl. Matthew Puckett  
**Hometown:** Chico, Texas  
**Job:** Rifleman  
**Duties:** Filling as a rifleman in a fire team, as well as being point man for the squad.  
**What do you like most about your job?** “Being the tip of the sword in the Marine Corps.”  
**Significant achievements:** “Returning home from two combat deployments with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.”  
**Hobbies:** Miniature golf  
**Service:** Four years, four months  
**Time at Combat Center:** Four years

## OBSERVATION POST

**Commanding General**    **Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III**

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

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## LOCKUPS

[puzzle Solutions on A7]

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### ACROSS

- Egyptian visitor to Camp David
- Sphinx site
- Witty sorts
- Santa \_\_\_ Race Track
- Social reformer Jacob
- “Yeah, sure!”
- The Bada Bing! on “The Sopranos,” e.g.
- \_\_\_ of your beeswax!”
- Smallish sofas
- Exclusive group
- Relaxation’s partner
- Didn’t dilly dally
- “Bum” of ‘50s baseball
- One of the Fab Four
- Trojan War epic
- Law in Hollywood
- Resistance units
- Palmist, e.g.
- Like track events

### DOWN

- Simple Lionel layout
- Honey bee construction
- Diamond crew
- Former Rep. Abzug
- Animal husbandry major, say
- Place for a “Welcome to” sign
- The Bada Bing! on “The Sopranos,” e.g.
- Places for rings
- Gary of “Diff’rent Strokes”
- Double-deck game
- 33-Across, for one
- Sharpie, for example
- Talbot of “Hogan’s Heroes”
- Indy driver Luyendyk
- Like some elephants
- Nobel Prize subj.
- Sports blowout
- \_\_\_ Dame

### DOWN

- Give lip to
- Penny-\_\_\_ (low-stakes)
- Malicious gossip
- Keep \_\_\_ (persist)
- Like some pants legs
- “Ew-w-w-w!”
- Sequel-to-a-sequel designation
- \_\_\_ oxide (sunscreen compound)
- Concerning, in a memo
- Fruity adult beverage
- Pull the plug on
- Granter of wishes
- Knight’s mount
- Give a razzing to
- It may result in a put out
- Miles Davis’s instrument
- Othello game piece
- Muffin topper
- Word after per or carpe
- Oscar the Grouch’s home

- Fateful day for Caesar
- Simpsons neighbor \_\_\_ Flanders
- Hendrix of rock
- “\_\_\_ the mayo!”
- Suburban pest
- Duke it out, in practice
- Big jerk
- Sarajevo native
- Setting insert
- Patrolman’s rounds
- Public to-do
- Something to debate
- Sam of the Supreme Court
- Largish chamber group
- Quite a way off
- Wolfe of who dunits
- Lhasa \_\_\_ (small dog)
- Use a cuspidor
- Dotted-line command
- One of the Brontes
- Lucy of “Chicago”





CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, make their way out to the ocean during a Basic Scout Swimmers Course training exercise at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., Tuesday. The company is currently participating in a six-week training evolution to learn boat raid techniques.

RAIDERS, from A1

skills courses, the company will come together for a two-week course where they'll sharpen the skills they learned to become an effective boat company capable of performing raids," he added. Frey said Co. B will be an invaluable asset aboard the MEU.

"When a Battalion Landing Team goes out on a MEU, it provides a battalion commander with the only method of clandestine insertion to conduct missions for a raid,"

he said. "They can go from over the horizon with very little signature, land on a beach, conduct their mission and extract to the mother ship, as opposed to using louder methods like a [helicopter] company or a truck company."

Each course in the evolution tests the Marines in different ways. It requires them to overcome both mental and physical obstacles, thus adding a new set of skills to their toolbox.

Sgt. Roman Trevino, a student in the navigation course, said learning to navigate at

sea has presented a challenge to him.

"Basically we're taking everything we know about navigating on land and transferring it to the sea," said the Kingsville, Texas native. "This course has been a nonstop information overload. There's so much more to consider when navigating across water, but for the most part, everyone seems to be getting it."

So far the course instructors have been impressed with the level of motivation and discipline within Co. B.

Cpl. Joseph Goodnow, a CRRC Repair Course instructor, said the mechanics students have already completed their training evolution and will now support the rest of the company.

"These Marines performed very well," said the Mason City, Iowa native. "Now they will spend the rest of their time here applying the skills they learned throughout the course to support the training of the Marines going through the other courses, and ultimately play a big role in the final two weeks of training."

For the students in the Basic Scout Swimmers Course, the coming weeks will put them through several hours of some of the most physically demanding training they have ever conducted.

Cpl. Jamison Richards, a student in the Basic Scout Swimmers Course, said he has never been put through tougher physical training.

"Easily the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," said the Bryan, Texas native, about the physical demands of the course. "We do these 'run, fin, runs,' where we run two miles, then swim 1,000 meters, and



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Instructors with the Amphibious Raid and Water Survival branch, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group-Pacific, show leaders of 1st Bn., 7th Marines, some of the gear and watercraft their Marines are training with at the Naval Amphibious Base Tuesday.

then run two more miles. It's not your average day at the city pool."

On top of the 'run, fin, runs,' scout swimmer students are put to the test by battling the Pacific Ocean.

The students are required to swim from up to 500 meters out at sea, then dig and blend into the sand in order to

not be seen by enemies.

Richards compared scout swimmer training to the rigorous Navy SEAL regimen.

"This is probably as close as I'll ever get to being a SEAL," he said. "The focus here is to be as clandestine as possible. You don't want the enemy on the shore seeing you flap your arms around and

splashing water everywhere."

The company is slated to complete the training April 8, then return to the Combat Center to continue to train for the upcoming MEU deployment.

"I was pumped up about the deployment before, but now my motivation is through the roof," Richards said.





CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines with Co. B, 1st Bn., 7th Marines, dig into the sand in order to provide themselves with some cover and concealment on the beach during a Basic Scout Swimmers Course training exercise at the Naval Amphibious Base Tuesday.

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# Improvised Explosive Device Detection program for the dogs



CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Cpl. Daniel Hayden, a dog handler with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, puts his improvised explosive device detection dog, Boogy, through training Jan. 15. Hayden is a 23-year-old from Manchester, N.H.

**CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA**  
2ND MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CAFERETTA, Nimruz province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – As improvised explosive devices continue to be a threat in the region as the Taliban’s weapon of choice, coalition forces continue to adapt their ways of dealing with them.

Many counter-IED measures exist, including specialized vehicles, hi-tech computer equipment and classroom instruction for Marines.

While all these measures contribute to saving lives, there is another weapon the Marine Corps is employing to fight the IED threat.

The Corps began a test program in which a Marine is paired with a Labrador retriever as an IED-detection team.

The new program is an effort by the Marine Corps, partnered with K2 Solutions Inc., a civilian contracted company composed of former service members, to help improve the battlefield capabilities of American service members.

According to the company’s Web site, K2 trains those canines accepted into the detection program to identify explosives. After the dogs are trained, they are paired with a Marine handler and sent overseas to help locate explosives used by enemy fighters.

“It was back in March when we found out that the battalion wanted to send some guys to Virginia to become dog handlers,” said Lance Cpl. Austan Flener, a dog handler with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan. “I know a lot of guys put in for [selection to become a dog handler]. I was just one of the lucky ones who got picked.”

Flener, who is primarily a rifleman, said volunteers were sent to Virginia where they observed how the dogs worked and were assigned a specific dog by their instructors.

“The instructors actually picked what dog the handlers got depending on their personalities and the dogs’

See DOGS, A7



CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Boogy, an improvised explosive device detection dog, searches for traces of explosives placed by a trainer to simulate an IED during training Jan. 15. Boogy is a part of the Marine Corps IED detection program, and with the help of her Marine handler, is tasked with identifying explosives before they can inflict injuries on coalition forces.

# Set the example; equal opportunity begins with basic leadership

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When a Marine is making derogatory remarks or jokes, many coworkers may laugh or join in, but what may be overlooked is the one Marine who is offended by what is being said, but is too afraid to speak up.

Every Marine, sailor and civilian has a right to be comfortable in their work space, explained Master Sgt. Al Rose, the equal opportunity advisor who oversees all equal opportunity representatives aboard the Combat Center. If they are uncomfortable, then they will be unable to achieve their full potential. This reduces morale and combat readiness.

According to Marine Corps Order 5354, the Marine Corps Equal Opportunity Manual, the Marine Corps strives for equal opportunity to “build and maintain a cohesive combat ready corps of Marines who are focused and determined to accomplish their mission,” and to promote teamwork by eliminating prejudices and harassment.

Every unit aboard the Combat Center has an equal opportunity representative, who handles individual cases, and trains personnel to understand the powerful positive and negative influence equal opportunity, or lack thereof, can have on personnel job performance.

“Equal opportunity begins with basic leadership,” said Rose, a Montgomery, Ala., native. “If a commander lets his Marines get away with the racial slurs and inappropriate jokes, then everything will just continue to escalate until it is far out of control.”

When a situation arises where an employee feels uncomfortable with discrimination based on race, color, ethnic background, religion, gender, age, nation-

al origin, or any other type of discrimination, they have two options they can use to report an incident.

The first is to use the Informal Resolution System by directly approaching the offender and asking them to stop. A third party such as a friend, co-worker, commander, or equal opportunity representative, can also be used to approach the offender.

For those who need help communicating, there is a variety of books, videos, lesson plans and other materials that teach personnel good communication techniques to let the offender know his or her behavior is unacceptable.

The second way to handle an equal opportunity issue is to file a formal complaint. The quickest and easiest way is to request mast. Communicating with the inspector general or writing a letter to congress are other options. If the complaint is against a commanding officer, personnel have the option to file an Article 138 under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Easter, an equal opportunity representative for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said he considers equal opportunity to be a leadership issue and tries to tackle problems before they arise.

“It is important to speak to the Marines, show them the Marine Corps Order and let them know we have no tolerance for it,” said Easter, a Valley Springs, Calif., native.

Rose said if a service member feels uncomfortable with their equal opportunity representative, or is just unsure of where to begin, they can schedule an appointment with him as well.

For more information regarding equal opportunity, contact your unit representative or the Combat Center’s equal opportunity advisor at 830-4567.



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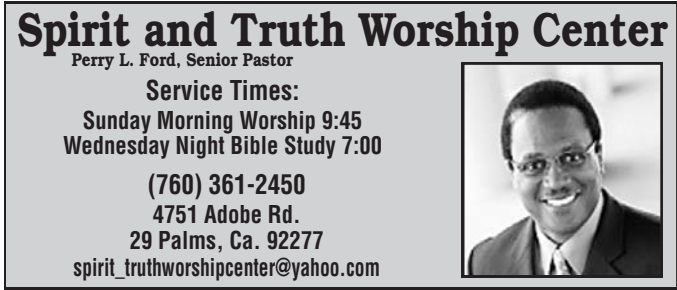


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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TRAVIS ROBERT WINN**  
Son of Cpl. Austin Winn and Lance Cpl. Chelsea Winn born Feb. 1, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19.7 inches.

**GABRIELLE REBECCA MILLER**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. James Miller and Maria Miller born Feb. 2, weighing 10 pounds, 15.2 ounces and measuring 20.8 inches.

**AIDAN JAMES WANG**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Nick Wang and Rachel Wang born Feb. 2, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 22.5 inches.

**CLAIRE MICHELLE STONE**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Joshua Stone and Kimberly Stone born Feb. 3, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

**CASE JOSEPH WALKER**  
Son of Staff Sgt. Matthew Walker and Jacqueline Walker born Feb. 4, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

**MICHAEL LOTHER KRUKOWSKI III**  
Son of Sgt. Michael Krukowski and Ashley Krukowski born Feb. 5, weighing 7.2 pounds and measuring 21 inches.

**VICTORIA ELIZABETH FLETCHER**  
Daughter of Staff Sgt. John Fletcher and Elizabeth Fletcher born Feb. 5, weighing 7.07 pounds and measuring 20.7 inches.

**ZACARIUS RYAN RODRIGUEZ**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Jaime Rodriguez and Jackie Rodriguez born Feb. 7, weighing 7.4 pounds and measuring 19.3 inches.

**SAMUEL GUNNER HUNT**  
Son of Sgt. Jonathon Hunt and Lili Hunt born Feb. 9, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 20.6 inches.

**JASMINE MARIE ARCE**  
Daughter of Cpl. Raul Arce and Staphany Jaimes born Feb. 10, weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

**HONOR MAE RUNSABOVE**  
Daughter of Lance Cpl. Brock Runsabove and Owachige Runsabove born Feb. 10, weighing 10 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 21.6 inches.

**DONALD CHRISTOPHER BRAVE HUGGINS**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Vincent Huggins and Elizabeth Huggins born Feb. 12, weighing 8.6 pounds and measuring 21.6 inches.

**REID JOHN TOSSETTI**  
Son of Chief Petty Officer Jesse Tossetti and Jennifer Tossetti born Feb. 13, weighing 7 pounds, 13.7 ounces and measuring 20.9 inches.

**DEZERAY ANN HOYCOTT**  
Daughter of Cpl. Michael A. Hoycott and Shannon Hoycott born Feb. 15, weighing 7.05 pounds and measuring 20.4 inches.

**AADEN JAMES HIXSON**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Thomas Hixson and Saira Hixson born Feb. 15, weighing 9 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

**THOMAS JAMAIL JACKSON, JR.**  
Son of Cpl. Thomas Jackson and Dorothea Jackson born Feb. 17, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

**LOGAN LUKE LOPEZ**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Eric Lopez and Jerica Lopez born Feb. 18, weighing 9.9 pounds and measuring 19 inches.

**SYDNEY EZEKIEL A REYES**  
Son of Petty Officer 2nd Class Sydney Reyes and Vicki Reyes born Feb. 19, weighing 8 pounds, .5 ounces and measuring 22 inches.

**RICHARD JONATHAN A'HARRAH**  
Son of Jonathan A'Harrah and Shilo A'Harrah born Feb. 19, weighing 9.06 pounds and measuring 21.2 inches.

**MICHAEL PEACOCK**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Darin Peacock and Catherine Peacock born Feb. 22, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 20.7 inches.

**CARLOS A. DUQUE, JR.**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Carlos Duque and Jaclyn Duque born Feb. 22, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

**JUDE GALEN JENKINS**  
Son of Pfc. Cody Jenkins and Katelyn Jenkins born Feb. 23, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

**ADRIAN MARCUS ALLEN**  
Son of Lance Cpl. Christopher Allen and Ashley Allen born Feb. 24, weighing 8 pounds, 2.5 ounces and measuring 19.6 inches.

**GAVIN DANIEL LEONIDAS MAHLER**  
Son of Sgt. Matthew Mahler and Kirsten Mahler born Feb. 24, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 21.7 inches.

**TRISTAN SCOTT HALL**  
Son of Sgt. David N. Hall and Vivian Hall born Feb. 25, weighing 7 pounds, 6.3 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

**WYATT JAMES MITCHELL**  
Son of Cpl. Christopher Mitchell and Whitney Mitchell born Feb. 25, weighing 6 pounds, 11.7 ounces and measuring 20.3 inches.

2/7, from A1

an opportunity to enhance this year’s exercise.

“We are looking forward to working very closely with the U.S. military to make this exercise even more successful than in the past,” said Maj. Ronjon Razon, an operations officer with Headquarters, Philippine Marine Corps.

Capt. Ross Schellhass, the commander of Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, said he was grateful to have a chance to work with his counterparts from a close U.S. ally.

“We’re building strong relationships with a strong partner,” Schellhass said.

Balikatan, which translates to “shoulder-to-shoulder” in Tagalog, is an annual bilateral exercise that is part of a long-term security assistance program; which includes a 58-year mutual defense treaty between the Republic of the Philippines and United States. And due to such long history, both sides are looking forward to

improving on previous performances by working together and applying past lessons learned.

“Our purpose through the execution of Balikatan is to work hand-in-hand through bilateral operations and exercises with the Philippine Marine Corps,” said Lt. Col. John Reed, the commanding officer of BLT 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. “It’s our plan to leverage the experience of those who had come before us to do what they’ve done well and not to make mistakes that had been done in the past.”

Razon echoed the BLT 2/7 commander.

“By looking at the way U.S. Marines and sailors conduct operations, we want to take away as much as possible and share some of our experience in the field,” Razon said.

The MEU and PHIBRON 11 team are currently scheduled to participate in Balikatan March 19, and will continue on their spring patrol of the Asia-Pacific region.

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To some, the low-key landing would seem anticlimactic and disappointing; to Combat Center planners, onlookers and Navy medical personnel, it was about as motivating as it could get. Successfully landing the Osprey has great medical implications, said Navy Capt. Michael Moeller, the executive offi-



cer of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, who is from “just a stones-throw away from Camp Lejeune”

Larson said officials

The Osprey is replacing the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter in the Marine Corps' arsenal. It combines the range and speed of a fixed-wing aircraft, and the vertical lift and transport capacity of a helicopter. The Osprey can travel 1,100 nautical miles at speeds up to 300

Lane, a Paris, Ark., native, and his crew; Maj. Kevin Grindel, the co-pilot and tilt-rotor training instructor, Master Sgt. Michael Brodeur, the crew

Thanks to the teamwork and hard work of everyone involved, the hospital now has one more emergency transportation option to help save lives, Moeller said. "We look forward to seeing the Osprey in the skies here soon."



Maj. David L. Lane [right], an MV-22 pilot, and operations officer from Marine Medium Tilt-Rotor Squadron 161, greets Navy Capt. Michael Moeller, the executive officer of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, Tuesday during the first landing of an Osprey at the hospital aboard the installation.



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# Distractions main cause of accidents

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Last year, more than 300 vehicle accidents occurred aboard the Combat Center. Many of these could have been avoided if drivers had not been distracted behind the wheel.

According to a study released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, 80 percent of car accidents and 65 percent of near-crashes involve some form of driver distraction.

The biggest distractions for personnel aboard the Combat Center are cell phones and messing with radio controls, said Staff Sgt. Michael Stahl, the Provost Marshal's Office chief accident investigator.

The state of California passed a law July 1, 2008, which states all drivers 18 and over may use hands-free devices while driving; those under the age of 18 may not use any cellular devices.

"The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels," according to the California Department of Motor

Vehicles. "The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening."

If caught using a cell phone aboard the installation, the accused will receive a ticket followed by a mandatory court appearance. The court and Combat Center sergeant major will decide if the accused will lose driving privileges on the installation.

Another distraction most people do not think about is eating while driving.

The California DMV explains when drivers eat they are not only chewing and swallowing, they are also opening packages, unwrapping and re-wrapping food, reaching, leaning, spilling, wiping, and cleaning themselves or their vehicles.

The distraction most drivers fail to avoid is concentrating on something besides the road. It is usually an accident, a vehicle pulled over by law enforcement, construction work, a billboard advertisement, a scenic view and street names and addresses, according to the California DMV.

Last year Lance Cpl. David

Delk was involved in a car accident that killed this friend, and injured himself and another Marine. It was after an extended liberty weekend they spent in Arizona.

"When we got in the car none of us were tired or had anything to drink," Delk said in a 2008 interview. "There was no reason to think that we were going to be in an accident."

On the way back they exceeded speeds of more than 120 mph along Highway 62. The driver lost control of the car along an "S" turn, flipping the vehicle multiple times. The driver was instantly killed.

Delk spent five weeks in the hospital and was put into a coma for days during this time. He lost four feet of intestine and received six broken ribs from the crash.

Delk said it is not worth the pain and suffering it caused everyone.

"The most important thing is to slow down and pay attention to what you are doing," said Stahl, a native of Saugus, Calif.

For more information on traffic safety, log onto the California DMV Web site at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov>.

## DOGS, from A1

personalities," Flener said.

Handlers had to pass written and practical application tests to pass the class. Upon completion, handlers and their dogs were assigned to units throughout the battalion.

The missions of the detection teams vary and there is no average day, with operational tempo ranging from sluggish to fast paced.

"It goes in spurts it seems," Flener said about the pace of his job. "Sometimes we're busy for one or two weeks, then it'll be slow for a couple weeks."

However, the slow times are not spent watching movies or sleeping in. The handlers use that time to prepare the dogs for their next mission, which includes training sessions that can last several hours.

"Just like any Marine, you have to go to the rifle range yearly, you have to take a [physical fitness test], you have to maintain your skills as a Marine just to call yourself a Marine," said Staff Sgt. Steven M. Rogers, 35, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 4th Marines, who serves as the battalion's kennel master. "The dogs have to maintain their skills at smelling odors."

Down time also allows the dogs to recuperate from the physical stress they endure while helping prevent coalition force casualties.

"It's hard out there on the dogs, terrain wise, with the sharp rocks and thorny bushes," Flener said. "I haven't met a dog yet that likes the [mine resist-

ant-ambush protective-vehicle], but they do well."

The time inside the wire also provides a chance for the Marines to reinforce the confidence of the dog as well as the handler's confidence in the dog.

"The more confident your dog is, the better it's going to work, the more [the dog is] going to go off on its own and feel confident in itself," Flener said. "If my dog isn't working well, I'm going to lose confidence in her."

Rick Cicero, 40, the field service representative for K2 Solutions Cicero, said when there is trust built in a tight organization like the Marine Corps — where Marines trust those to their right and left — it is possible to build that same bond with the dog.

"There's a trust," said Cicero, a native of Weeki Wachee, Fla. "The dog begins to trust the handler and the handler develops a great trust in the dog over time. He has to trust [the dog]. The dog is what is going to keep him alive and keep others alive."

It is this confidence between dog and handler, coupled with skills fine tuned during long training sessions, that has resulted in the teams' success in finding IEDs and the materials used to create them.

"We've had lots of success," Flener said. "If [the dogs] are used right, they're very effective."

"They're saving Marine lives," Rogers said. "That's the key part as far as the program being successful. The dogs are doing what they are trained to do."

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POST, from A1

Bn., he intends to do his best on a daily basis.

“I’m going to bring my ‘A’ game every single day for the battalion and the Marines,” he said. “I’ve always been ready for any challenge the Marine Corps has to offer.”

Walsh said he has changed over command with Geletko before, and was thankful for the solid foundation Geletko always left behind.

He added Geletko is always humble about what he has achieved, because he often jokes that Walsh had to clean up after him, but it was never the case.

Geletko gave thanks to everyone who supported him throughout his career.

“I’d like to thank everyone in Headquarters Bn., for their professionalism and hard work over the past two years,” said the Pittsburgh native. “It’s been a great twilight tour, and I’m grateful to my family and all the Marines for their hard work.”

Geletko said he intends to keep in touch with installation personnel and in particular the sports community, where he is already well-known as

the Fight Club 29 coach.

“I’m going to be staying in the area,” he said. “I have a lead on a couple of jobs around base and I’m going to stay with Fight Club, especially.”

Geletko also shared words of encouragement and thanks to all the service member athletes he has worked with during his time with Headquarters Bn.

“I feel like I can teach kindergarten after coaching the fight club all this time,” he chuckled. “We had a good run with the football team as well. One base championship, as well as a runner-up and a Best of the West Championship in football made for a good time with the team.”

Lt. Col. Brandon D. McGowan, the Headquarters Bn., commanding officer, and a Mission Viejo, Calif, native, spoke on behalf of the character of his outgoing sergeant major.

“Sgt. Maj. Geletko is one of the finest Marines I’ve ever served with in the Marine Corps,” McGowan said. “He always takes time to get out from his office and go around and talk to all the Marines in his battalion.”



Members of the Headquarters Battalion command staff salute the National Ensign March 5 during a post and relief and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. Sgt. Maj. Mark M. Geletko relinquished his post as battalion sergeant major to Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh, then retired after being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for 25 years of service.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Sgt. Maj. Mark M. Geletko.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Geletko says goodbye to his fellow service members and friends March 5 during a post and relief and retirement ceremony.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Sgt. Maj. James D. Walsh [right], Sgt. Maj. Mark M. Geletko [center], and Lt. Col. Brandon D. McGowan [far left], march out to inspect their battalion March 5, during a post and relief and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

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NMCRS Fund Drive tracker

Unit	Percent of personnel briefed
MCAGCC HQBN	6%
MCCES	0% *
MWSS-374	0% *
TTECG	0% *
NAVAL HOSPITAL	0% *
23RD DENTAL	0% *
MWTC BRIDGEPORT	0% *
VMU-1	0% *
VMU-3	0% *
SERGEANTS COURSE	0% *
MVSD	0% *
7TH MARINE REGIMENT	0% *
1ST BN., 7TH MARINES	0% *
2ND BN., 7TH MARINES	0% *
3RD BN., 7TH MARINES	100%
3RD BN., 4TH MARINES	0% *
3RD BN., 11TH MARINES	0% *
3RD AAV	0% *
3RD LAR	36%
3RD CEB	0% *
1ST TANKS	40%
CLB-7	0% *
MCTOG	49%
ATG	100%
SJA	0% *

\* Unit brief pending  
Total funds collected \$8,769

# Vaccine, screenings could protect against cervical cancer

SHARI LOPATIN  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Cancer prevention comes in many forms; a healthy lifestyle, vaccines and routine screenings. All involve your ability to make healthy choices, but TRICARE makes those choices even easier by covering a vaccine that protects against cervical cancer, as well as routine screenings for early detection.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 99 percent of cervical cancers are related to the human papilloma virus. In 2009, the National Cancer Institute estimated about 4,000 women died from cervical cancer and more than 11,000 women were newly diagnosed.

Literature from the American Cancer Society states more than 100 different types of HPV exist. The vaccine protects against the four types that cause 70 percent of all cervical cancers. But the vaccine will work only if given to girls before they are

exposed to HPV.

**Vaccinating against HPV**

The HPV vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends and TRICARE covers giving the vaccine to females between ages 11 and 26, although girls as young as 9 may get it. Women interested in getting the HPV vaccine should talk to their doctor.

The vaccine does not protect against every type of HPV infection and cannot prevent all cervical cancers. Therefore, women should still continue getting regular exams and Pap tests. Additionally, the vaccine does not protect women from sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

**Why Pap Tests?**

Cervical cancer used to be one of the most common causes of cancerous death for American women. But, according to the American Cancer Society, the death rate plunged 74 percent between

1955 and 1992. The reason? More women used the Pap test for early detection. Women should start testing within three years of becoming sexually active or at age 18, whichever comes first.

For more information on TRICARE benefits for cervical cancer, visit <http://www.triwest.com/healthyliving>. Register on [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) to manage your health care online, anytime from any Internet connection.



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Contact Information  
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(760) 369-GUNS  
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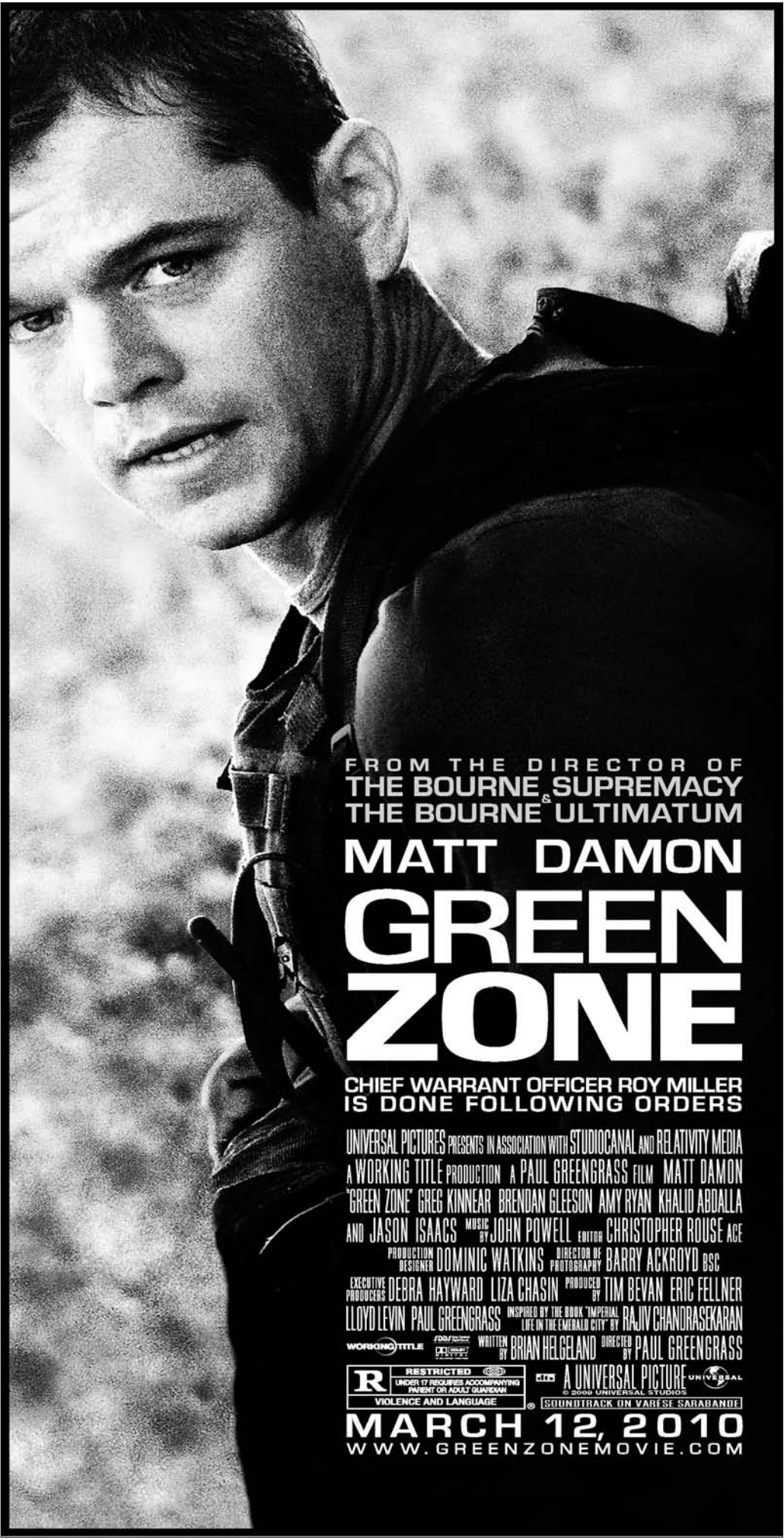
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF  
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THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

MATT DAMON

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Combat Center Trader Ads

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**2006 GSX-R 600.** For sale, blue and black. \$5,000. OBO. 925-784-4474. 1/22/10  
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**8 X 20 CONEX BOX.** \$1,750. Call 219-2184. 2/12/10

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**The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.**

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 830-6213.





CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Cpl. Bradley Penn, a section leader with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, gives an Afghan National Security Force member advice about his weapon during a security halt while patrolling villages north of the Buji Bhist pass. Penn is a 22-year-old from San Antonio.



CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Afghan national security force members speak with local boys while taking a break during a patrol of a village north of the Buji Bhist pass, Jan. 27.

SUCCESS, from A1

to search it.”

Marines take pride in knowing they can trust the Marines to their left and right during critical situations. Stevenson said he felt no different when it was an ANSF member instead of a Marine.

“I felt completely confident that the ANA were doing their job just as well as we were doing ours,” said Stevenson, a native of Fletcher, Okla. “They did their job efficiently and effectively.”

This training implemented by the battalion is paying dividends since it is providing ANSF members with strong training and providing the Marines a helpful tool when interacting with Afghan locals.

“They know how to handle the people,” said Lance Cpl. John J. Seguna, a rifleman with Co. I. “They’re very important when it comes to the females and other cultural aspects. They know what’s normal in a house and what to search.”

While a language barrier existed during the operation, the Marines and ANSF members did their best to communicate through hand signals. Both groups also made sure to learn each other’s names, and shared chow and the occasional laugh.

Throughout the operation, the Marines and ANSF had to battle inclement weather. Rain, sleet, high winds and low temperatures attacked the clearing force throughout the day.

While the situation was less than perfect, it allowed the Marines and ANSF to share an experience that neither will forget for some time. Sharing these experiences will hopefully break down any barriers remaining between the two forces and create a sense of brotherhood between all those who were there, no matter what their nationality.

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<div>2008 FORD RANGER XL SUPER CAB</div> <div></div> <div><div>4-Cyl 2.3L, 5-Speed, 2WD, PS, Tilt, Sliding Rear Window, Custom Bumper. VIN A38197 / STK P1776</div><div>\$11,995</div></div>	<div>2005 FORD MUSTANG GT COUPE</div> <div></div> <div><div>V8 4.6L, Auto, AC, Tilt, CC, MP3/Multi-CD, Premium Sound, Traction Control/R/Spoiler, Premium Wheels. VIN 138758 / STK P1829</div><div>\$13,995</div></div>	<div>2005 HONDA S2000 CONVERTIBLE</div> <div></div> <div><div>53K MILES 6-Speed, 4-Cyl., 2.2L VTEC, AC, PW, PDL, CC, CD, Leather, Premium Wheels. VIN 004740 STK 10F038A</div><div>\$15,995</div></div>	<div>2007 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S</div> <div></div> <div><div>Auto, 4-Cyl., 2.5L, AC, PS, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, MP3/CD, Alloys. VIN 464963 STK P1770</div><div>\$15,995</div></div>
<div>2008 FORD F-150 XLT SUPER CAB</div> <div></div> <div><div>V8 4.6L, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, CD, Bed Liner, Custom Bumper, Alloys. VIN D25832 STK P1809</div><div>\$19,995</div></div>	<div>2009 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LS CREW CAB</div> <div></div> <div><div>LOADED V8 4.8L., Auto, AC, PW, PDL, TILT, CC, MP3/CD, OnStar, Custom Bumper, Low Mileage. VIN 138758 / STK P1829</div><div>\$22,995</div></div>	<div>2008 FORD F-150 XLT SUPER CREW</div> <div></div> <div><div>4X4 V8 5.4L, Auto, 4WD, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, MP3/CD, Bed Liner, Custom Bumper, Alloys. VIN D44572 STK P1814</div><div>\$25,995</div></div>	<div>2009 FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER 4X4</div> <div></div> <div><div>LOW MILES Auto, 4WD, Stability Control, Rear Air, Full Power, Leather, MR/ROOF, Two-Tone Paint, Alloys, Loaded. VIN A27671 / STK P1852</div><div>\$26,995</div></div>

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# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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MARCH 12, 2010

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B1

## Local students shadow Combat Center personnel, build path toward future

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The annual 2010 Job Shadow Day for Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms High Schools brought 46 students to the Combat Center to observe installation personnel in more than 20 technical fields March 4.

The children arrived at the Officers' Club at 9 a.m., where they teamed up with their sponsors.

"Bringing the children to the base is one of the best choices because a lot of these kids have ties to the base and feel comfortable here," said Lori Cosgriff, a job coach developer with Twentynine Palms High School who helped set up the tour. "The children tell us what they are interested in, and then we find that job [aboard the installation]. It is wonderful because any career description we can think of is here."

A few of the careers the children were interested in included: auto mechanic, business, computer programming, law enforcement, firefighter and emergency medical technician. One of the more popular locations that hosted students was the Twentynine Palms Veterinary Services clinic.

"We ran clinics this morning, so our children got to see us administering vaccines and conducting heartworm tests," said Army Capt. Amy Clark, the officer in charge of the clinic, and an Anchorage, Alaska native. "They had a lot of good questions regarding their

See **SHADOW**, B2



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Tony Kompier, a firefighter with the Combat Center Fire Department, shows his "shadows" what a normal heartbeat looks like with a monitored defibrillator during the 2010 Job Shadow Day aboard the Combat Center March 4.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Children of Marines and sailors of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion play musical chairs during the battalion's family day at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 5. The events lasted from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## 3rd CEB hits hole-in-one in first family day, golf tournament



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lance Cpl. Andrew Lemley, a motor transportation mechanic for 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, practices his swing at the Desert Winds Golf Course during 3rd CEB's family day March 5.

**LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion held a family day as a farewell to the Marines and sailors deploying to Afghanistan at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This was the first time 3rd CEB has hosted an event like this since the battalion was reactivated last year.

More than 500 Marines, sailors and family members of the battalion participated in an afternoon of free golf, food and games.

The day started with 36 two-man teams competing in 18 holes. Many of the players had never golfed before and needed a little practice before the competition.

"The golfing was the main attraction for the day," said Sgt. Maj.

See **FAMILY**, B4

## MCJROTC goes commando



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Carlos Perez, a Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet from Sweetwater High School from National City, Calif., fireman carries another cadet Tuesday during a Combat Fitness Test. Perez was one of 34 cadets to complete the CFT, and other training during their four days aboard the installation.

**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Sweetwater High School in National City, Calif., traveled to the Combat Center this week to participate in and learn about what real Marines do on a day-to-day basis, and get a taste of Marine life in the operational forces.

The cadets ran drills and obstacle courses, and enjoyed Marine cuisine while they furthered their knowledge about Marines aboard the base, said Sgt. William C. Shepherd, a chaperone to the group, and a native of Fayetteville, N. C.

"They're going to be here for four days," Shepherd said on Tuesday, cadets' first day of training and education. "They're starting off by running the Combat Fitness Test, as well as learning about [the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program], trying on gear and visiting [Explosive Ordnance Disposal]."

Shepherd said they also received a tour of the installation's facilities used for training Marines before they deploy.

"They'll get to shoot off a few rounds at the [Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer], and learn about what Marines do to shoot," he said. "They'll get to check

out the [Expeditionary Air Field], too and hopefully watch a few planes land.

"They're going to get to run through the virtual vehicle simulators at Camp Wilson, too, so they can see what Marines do before they deploy," he added.

Shepherd added it was a rewarding experience, and he was glad he jumped at the opportunity to work with the Marine Corps' future prospects.

"This is my first time working with a group like this," he said. "I consider myself a career Marine."

Shepherd said he holds

See **MCJROTC**, B4





Local Events

**The Ryan Bradley Affair**  
Description: Rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues  
When: 8 p.m., Friday  
**Solid Ray Woods**  
Description: A mix of soul and rhythm and blues  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday  
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace  
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown  
For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

**Theatre: "Walmartopia"**  
Description: Play lampoons retail giant  
When: 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays through April 10  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms  
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>

**Artist reception for Gene Beebe and Marci Vanderbilt Pealstrom at local gallery**  
Description: An exhibit of photography and paintings  
When: 1 p.m., Sunday through April 9  
Where: A Roadside Attraction  
69197 Twentynine Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms (Indian Cove area)  
For more information call 362-4100.

Lower Desert

**The Comedy of Martin Short**  
Description: TV and movie comic performs stand up  
When: 9 p.m., Friday, March 12  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Paul Anka**  
Description: The pop icon performs  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 13  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Natalie Cole**  
Description: Singer song writer performs  
When: 9 p.m., Friday, March 19  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

**Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons**  
Description: The pop legend performs  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 20  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Chicago**  
Description: Rock ballad legends perform their hits  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, March 26  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Melissa Etheridge in Concert**  
Description: American rock legend performs  
When: 8 p.m., Thursday, April 1  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

**Friday, March 12**  
CLOSED to prepare for tomorrow's concert  
**Saturday, March 13**  
6 to 8 p.m. – **FREE CONCERT. USO presents, The Lt. Dan Band with Gary Sinise** – All eligible Combat Center personnel and families are welcome. Come early for best seating. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 14**  
2 p.m. – The Spy Next Door, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – When in Rome, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – SNEAK PREVIEW, Rated R  
**Monday, March 15**  
6 p.m. – Edge of Darkness, Rated R  
9 p.m. – Legion, Rated R  
**Tuesday, March 16**  
6 p.m. – Tooth Fairy, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – The Book of Eli, Rated R  
**Wednesday, March 17**  
6 p.m. – The Lovely Bones, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – From Paris with Love, Rated R  
**Thursday, March 18**  
6 p.m. – Extraordinary Measures, Rated PG  
9 p.m. – Daybreakers, Rated R

# 'Shutter Island' leaves you to decide who's crazy

**NEIL POND**  
*AMERICAN PROFILE*

**"Shutter Island"**  
Rated R

Marking the fourth big-screen collaboration between actor Leonardo DiCaprio and director Martin Scorsese, "Shutter Island" sweeps you into a twisty, turny, retro mystery drama that deepens and darkens with every scene.

DiCaprio plays U.S. marshal Teddy Daniels, coming in 1954 to a heavily fortified mental institution for the criminally insane located on an island off the coast of Massachusetts. Daniels and his partner (Mark Ruffalo) have been summoned to investigate the bizarre disappearance of one of prisoners, a delusional murderess who butchered her children.

Where did she go? How did she get out? Do those two creepy docs who run the joint know more than they admit? And what goes on in the spooky, forbidding – and forbidden – Ward C, the dark, dank fortress for the really crazy patients?

As the questions start piling up, we also learn that Teddy got off the boat with some heavy mental luggage of his own. He's tortured by the memories of what he saw, and did, liberating a Nazi concentration camp. And he's haunted by feverish dreams of his wife, whom he believes perished in an apartment blaze started by an arsonist.

There's a lot going on in "Shutter Island," not the least of which is figuring out who's who, what's what and why Teddy is really there. It's an understatement to say things aren't quite as they seem.

Working from a script based on a novel by Boston-based writer Dennis Lehane (who also wrote the story that became "Mystic River"), Scorsese paints a moody, ever-intensifying atmosphere of gloom and doom, blurring the lines between what's really happening and what's going on in Teddy's head. It's an intricately orchestrated descent into madness, leaving you to decide who's really crazy.

The spotlight belongs to DiCaprio, but several other actors bolster his performance in strong supporting roles. As the institution's chief psychiatrists, Ben Kingsley and Max von Sydow give veneers of ambiguous refinement to their characters' shady, possibly sinister sides. Jackie Earle Haley is a squirreled-away, Ward-C patient with a key to Teddy's troubled past. Patricia Clarkson has a scene as a wild-looking woman who may, or may not, be the on-the-run murderess.

Some critics have called "Shutter Island" another gem in the Scorsese crown, up there with "Goodfellas," "The Departed," "Gangs of New York" or "Cape Fear." Others are chalking it up as more mess than masterpiece, a jumble of a pulpy detective clichés, unclear plotting, missing pieces, dots that don't connect, implausible stretches of logic and a preachy jumble of messages about war crime, government secrets and the brutalities of psychiatry practice in the 1950s.

One thing's certain – even when it's over, you're still guessing. If you like your movies to end wrapped in a cozy, bright, feel-good ribbon, you should paddle toward calmer waters. If, however, you want something that will stay in your own head, bobbing around in the shadows long after the lights come up, "Shutter Island" might be just what the doctor – or the pipe-puffing German psychiatrist – ordered.

DiCaprio plays U.S. marshal Teddy Daniels, coming to a heavily fortified mental institution for the criminally insane located on an island off the coast of Massachusetts.

COURTESY PHOTO


## Cinema 6

**MOVIE TIMES 365-9633** Showtimes Effective 3/12/10 - 3/18/10

<b>Alice In Wonderland</b> (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>Cop Out</b> (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
<b>Green Zone</b> (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	<b>She's Out Of My League</b> (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

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## Get To Palm Springs!

# RIDE MBTA

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

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

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros 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


15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*				
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

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

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## SHADOW, from B1

next step in this career, and what they need to do to become a veterinarian.”

Many of the students received a hands-on experience with their specified career. The children interested in law enforcement and the veterinarian clinic were able to watch a canine demonstration, and the students who visited with the Combat Center Fire Department had the chance to put out a fire, run an obstacle course and use a high-pressure hose.

“I have learned so much in one day,” said Cody Nash, an 18-year-old Yucca Valley High School student, and Joshua Tree, Calif., native, who visited the fire department. “I feel really enthusiastic and more secure in what I want to do.”

Katie Miller, an 18-year-old Yucca Valley High School student, and Yucca Valley, Calif., native, who visited with the fire department, agreed with Nash, saying she really wants to become a firefighter, and visiting with the installation's fire department really helped her make up her mind.

“When students visit during the job shadow, they get a little taste of what they want to do,” said Cosgriff, a Twentynine Palms, native. “If they decide they don't like it, then they have the time to find something else before they are in college.”

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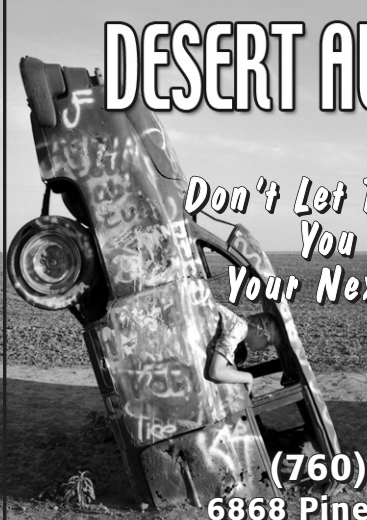
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# Combat Center Sports



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Roderick Beachum, Bad Karma, catches a shot from a Red Dot player Tuesday during their match at the Combat Center's East Gym Fitness Center.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Victor Castellanos [left], The Worst, blocks a shot from Tony Orejel, with Cranial Crushers Tuesday during their match at the Combat Center's East Gym Fitness Center.



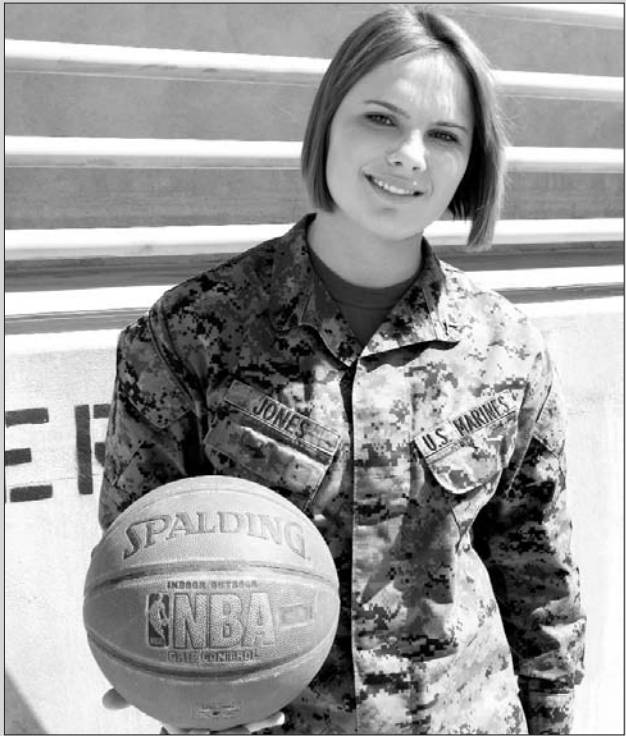
LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Brandon Boles [left], Cranial Crushers, watches an incoming ball Tuesday night during their game against The Worst in the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League. The matches take place every Tuesday at the Combat Center's East Gym and Fitness Center.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Victor Castellanos [left], a player with The Worst, takes a shot at a member of the other team Tuesday during the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League. The league plays every Tuesday.

Intramural Dodgeball standings		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Red Dot	11	3
Hospital	11	3
Cranial Crushers	10	4
Bad Karma	9	5
Jive Turkeys	9	5
Sitting Ducks	7	7
Scrubbs	6	8
Plaza Sesamo	4	10
Worst	3	11
Lollygaggers	0	14

## Athlete of the Week



**Name:** Irina Ann Jones  
**Hometown:** Gaithersburg, Md.  
**Unit:** Company A, Headquarters Battalion  
**Job title:** Postal clerk  
**Recognition:** Wing guard for Combat Center Women's Varsity Basketball team.  
**Favorite aspect of the sport:** "I love all the running, and the aggressiveness of the sport."  
**Advice for aspiring players:** "Always give your all on the court."

2010 Intramural Basketball standings		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
MCCES All-Stars	8	0
Tatitlek	7	0
3rd CEB	7	1
Ole School	6	1
MCCES A	5	2
IPAC	4	2
1st Tanks	4	3
CLB-7	4	4
MCCES B	3	4
MWSS-374	2	4
NHTP	2	6
3/4	2	7
VMU-1	1	8
CLD	0	13



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Tiare Barber [center], a guard with one of the Combat Center's women's basketball teams, charges through defenders Wednesday at the East Gym Fitness Center. The Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League meets every Wednesday.



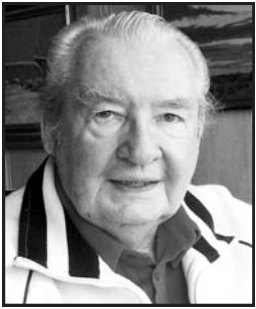
LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Jeanette Hogan, a forward with one of the Combat Center's women's basketball teams, throws a shot Wednesday at the East Gym Fitness Center. The league meets weekly throughout the season.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL  
Jaclyn Halsey, a guard on the Combat Center's women's basketball team, charges past defenders Wednesday here at the East Gym Fitness Center. The two women's teams are the only ones aboard the installation.

## TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



One of my favorite Roman Catholic saints is St. Patrick. I have him right up there with St. Thomas, St. Augustine, St. Bernard, and, of course, St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Patrick was probably born in 389 in Wales. St. Patrick's mother was a beautiful Welsh maiden and his father was a handsome Roman soldier. His family name was Sucat. The name Patrick is the English form of his Latin name, Patriciuis.

St. Patrick had a romantic early life, filled with adventure. He was captured by pirates from Ireland at the age of 16 and spent six years tending flocks for a feudal lord. While in Ireland he became a devout Christian. He escaped in 411 and fled to France. It was in a monastery in France that St. Patrick committed himself to the Roman Catholic Church for life and became a monk. After years of spiritual preparation, St. Patrick was ordained a priest at the age of 27.

In 432 a compelling vision led St. Patrick to return to Ireland as a tough minded optimistic missionary bishop. He worked zealously all over Ireland for the rest of his life. He founded more than 300 churches and personally baptized more than 120,000 people. He died in 461.

Please know, however, that there was also a fun side to this great man and he brought much joy and good cheer to the Irish people. It was said that people knew where Patrick had been by the trail of gladness that he left behind.

He was a hard working, hard playing, tough minded optimist. He was my kind of guy.

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Lt. Col. James Bain, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion's commanding officer, goes for a swing against his daughter, Haley, in the pugil sticks arena during 3rd CEB family day at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 5. Throughout the day, children battled each other and their family members.

**FAMILY, from B1**

Robert Sites, the battalion sergeant major and Kenton, Ohio native. "We had so many teams participate that we had to start the games early."

During the golf tournament many Marines and sailors went to the driving range to work on their swing. Others went to the back of the Duffers Retreat with guitars, dominos and card games as others bought drinks and conversed with one another.

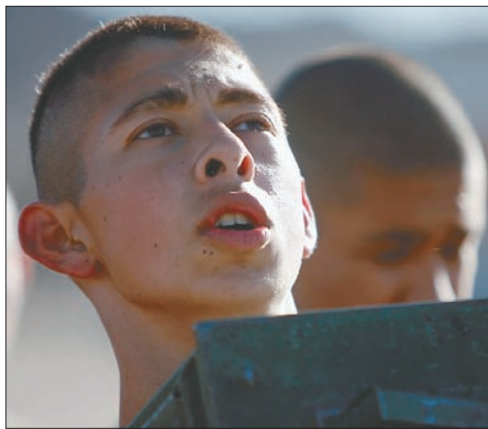
Afterward, families took their children to an area filled with picnic tables, blow-up bouncing castles and a pugil sticks arena. The arena quickly became a popular attraction, and children were encouraged to take on their parents.

"This is a good time to mingle and try to meet people," said Stephanie Graves, the wife of Sgt. Sidney Graves, and native of Jackson, Miss.

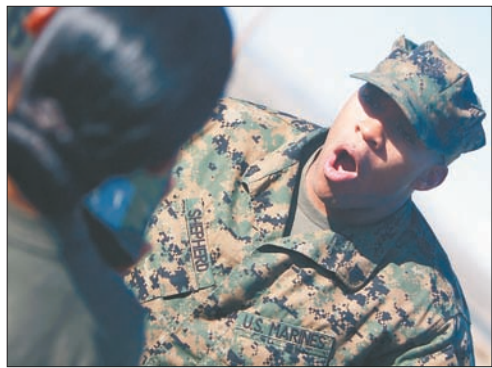
The battalion is slated to deploy to Afghanistan later this spring.



Cpl. Robert Reuter [left], a martial arts instructor, throws Sgt. William L. Shepherd, a group chaperone, Tuesday during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration for Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets aboard the Combat Center.



Erik Felix, a Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps candidate, struggles at the end of ammunition can lifts Tuesday at the Combat Center.



Sgt. William Shepherd, a chaperone for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps from Sweetwater High School from National City, Calif., encourages MCJROTC candidates Tuesday aboard the Combat Center.

**MCJROTC, from B1**

these situations in very high esteem because he gets a chance to show kids who are interested in joining the Corps how Marines live, work and play aboard the Combat Center.

The cadets' Marine instructor, retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gerry Forand, a Chula Vista, Calif., native, said the trip is a good learning experience for his students.

“When we make these [Training and Education Command] funded trips every year, it’s great for the kids,” Forand said.

Forand added the students got a great taste, both literally and figuratively, for what Marines do right now.

One of the 34 cadets mirrored his mentor's opinions of the education.

"It's fun to be on a Marine base," said Arturo Guzman, a National City native. "I really want to join one day, and it's cool to see all the stuff Marines get to do and spend a couple of days training like them."

A second group of cadets is also scheduled to take a tour of the Combat Center next week to get a taste of what the Marine Corps has to offer.

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