OBSERVATION POST

MAY 14, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

Vol. 53 Issue 19

Marines seize airfield in exercise



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Lance Cpl. Samuel Joyce, a rifleman and his fellow Marines, with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, take cover behind a plane during an airport seizure exercise at the Twentynine Palms Airport May 10. The exercise is a part of 1st Bn., 7th Marines' training for their upcoming deployment as the battalion landing team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit this summer.

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TWENTYNINE PALMS AIR-PORT, Calif.— Sand blew lightly across a quiet Twentynine Palms' Airport runway, as the chopping sounds of flying metal beasts echoed throughout the Morongo Basin Monday.

The Marines, with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, glided to the soft sand now whirling around their CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters, as shots from role-playing insurgent fighters rang out across the airfield.

Company C's objective was to seize control of the airfield from a para-military group and hold it until reinforcements arrived to make the airfield completely operational.

"We came in, got out and centered on line," recalled Lance Cpl. Thomas Freeman, a team leader in third platoon, Co. C, 1st Bn., 7th Marines, "I called the squad leader and told him, 'Hey we've got a lot of guys over there with AK-47s.' At that time they opened fire on us, so we started blasting them."

Freeman was on the first of three helicopter waves transporting Marines directly to the airfield for the assault and eventual take-over of the installation.

This exercise was just one installment in the battalion's training for

See AIRFIELD, A3



Lance Cpl. John Lamecker, a field radio operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, practices setting up satellite communications equipment at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield, Romania, May 8. The battalion is currently deployed with Black Sea Rotational Force 2010 to act as a Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force throughout the Caucasus, Balkan and Black Sea regions.

1st Tanks deploy to Black Sea region

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Black Sea Rotational Force

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU AIRFIELD, Romania - "Everyone knows our motto, 'No better friend, no worse enemy," said Cpl. Tim Miller, an administrative assistant with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion. "But Marines aren't just on the front lines in Afghanistan. We're all over the world, strengthening partnerships with the nations that support us there."

Miller and his fellow 1st Tank Bn. Marines and sailors deployed from Twentynine Palms, Calif., throughout the first week of May, traveling to Romania to begin a three-month commitment as the core of the first Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force in the Black Sea region.

The Marines will work in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions to promote regional stability, strengthen enduring partnerships and build the capacity of partner nation's

military forces. The Security Cooperation MAGTF, named the Black Sea Rotational Force, is Marine Corps Forces, Europe commitment to a rotating presence of Marines in Eastern Europe to meet the U.S. European Command's theater security objectives.

By task-organizing as a Security Cooperation MAGTF, Marines from 1st Tank Bn., II Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Forces Reserve will work together to meet 40 percent of Marine Forces Europe's theater security cooperation requirements during a three-month deployment.

"I think it's really neat to do things with these countries which will strengthen our relationships with them," said Miller, a native of Levelland, Texas. "This is my first time out of the country, and I'm really excited to go see different parts of the world."

During the deployment, the battalion will train with other military forces, provide

See TANKS, A9

Marines deploy effective artillery to Afghanistan

CPL. ANDREW S. AVIIT

For most of the Marines with

L Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, the place they were headed only existed in the news and rumor mill.

In a short time, however, Afghanistan will be as real to them as the loved ones they were holding, close in their arms at the Del Valle softball field May 7.

Lima battery, which is headed to Afghanistan for a 7-month deployment, to support maneuver elements, is made of the right stuff to get the mission done, said Lt. Col. Eduardo Abisellan, the battalion's commanding officer.

"Lima three-twelve is well trained and well led with a tremendous reputation," Abisellan said to the departing battery. "I know you're ready to do what needs to be done."

The battery began preparing as soon as they heard about the upcoming deployment nearly nine-months ago. Some of their training included split-battery operations, provisional infantry tactics and a slew of other predeployment training.

"We are going to make some good things happen," said 1st Sgt. Celestine Casias the first sergeant of L battery. "These Marines know what they are doing. Their fire is accurate, it's fast and it's effective."

"What we have been working on and working for



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Sgt. Neil Grone, the operations chief with L Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, says goodbye to his wife, Jessica, and daughter, Kayleigh, as Marines board buses and head out for a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom May 7.

is ethical muscle memory," said Casias. "So that in combat when we are dealing with right or wrong, we have trained Marines to make the right decision," he said.

For the majority of Marines with Lima Battery, the deployment will be a change of pace, since about 90 percent of the battery hasn't deployed before, Casias said.

"I've got mixed emotions

right now," said Cpl. Steven Earnest, a Motor Transport operator with L Battery. "My wife doesn't want me to go, but I'll be back soon enough. The first month or two is always the hardest. I heard where we are going is going to be rugged."

Rugged or not, Earnest said, he is as confident as his leaders that his battery will do great things while deployed.





Civil Affairs convoy ~ See A3 | Black Sea Motor T ~ See A8



Good Medicine ~ See B1



Community cops ~ See B1

A2 May 14, 2010 **OBSERVATION POST**

Medal of Honor recipients speak out in PTSD public awareness campaigne

ELIZABETH HILLESTAD TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a time when suicides among service members continue to rise, America's Medal of Honor recipients are launching a public service campaign urging today's military to seek help

for post-traumatic stress disorder.

The campaign, called "Medal of Honor - Speak Out!," features nearly 30 video testimonials by recipients who survived the most harrowing experiences in battle, including severe physical wounds as well as emotional trauma. Their message - available at http://www.medalofhonorspeakout.org – is simple: Don't let the enemy defeat you at home. Make use of the resources available today for combat stress.

The "Medal of Honor - Speak Out!" Web site provides downloadable videos from the Medal of Honor recipients, a two-minute montage and branchspecific montages urging service members to seek assistance for combat stress issues that may have become problematic in their lives. The public, military leadership, and news organizations are invited to download and share these resources with Service members and their families.

This is the first time a group of the 91 living Medal of Honor recipients have participated in a public service campaign that aims to encourage today's service members to stay both physically mentally strong and reduce the tragic number of military suicides.

"Each of America's Medal of Honor recipients has seen the ugliest side of war," said retired Air Force Col. Leo Thorsness, a former Vietnam prisoner of war and president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. "Yet, when we returned home from Vietnam, Korea and World War II, the military had few tools to help. Today's service members have access to numerous online resources and crisis hotlines, which we hope they'll use."

Despite all of these resources to fight PTSD, 65 percent of service members say they fear being "seen as weak" for seeking help, and half fear it will hurt their military careers.

"Central to providing behavioral health care in the military is ending the stigma that a person is weak if they seek counseling when needed," said David J. McIntyre, Jr., a Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation board member. "Medal of Honor recipients know first-hand what today's service members need – the reassurance that it is okay to seek help."

The campaign launches Saturday, which is Armed Forces Day. Established in 1949, the day was the result of a consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the various Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Days. However, observance of these days, especially within each particular service, still continues to this day.

For more information about this new program, log on to the "Medal of Honor - Speak Out!" Web site.

Centerspeak

Who is your favorite superhero and why?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not nec essarily those of the Observation Post, the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



LANCE CPL. JOHN TORREZ COMPANY K, 3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Datman, because he's a real person and always gets the girl."



PFC. CHRISTIAN CHESSIE COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

The Punisher, he has no ■ super powers and never



GUNNERY SGT. DON HENSON MARINE LIGHT ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON 773

"Tesus, because He saved the

Hot Topics

CLINIC CLOSED

The Adult Medical Clinic will be closed today for the Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms change-of-command ceremony. Direct all emergencies to the hospital's emergency room. Assistance with non-emergencies, and sick call and administrative issues will resume at the clinic Monday.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS CASE LOT SALE

The Commissary is hosting a Midnight Madness case lot sale in its parking lot today and tomorrow from 6 p.m. to midnight. The event will also include barbeque from 8 to 10 p.m. and music throughout the night.

MOTORCYCLE REGULATIONS

Motorcycles on base are required to have two rearview mirrors. CCO 1630.8d (Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations) states "Privately owned motorcycles shall not be operated on a Marine Corps installation without a rearview mirror mounted on each side of the handlebars or fairing.

CO-ED SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

The Sports Department is looking for women to play on a varsity traveling co-ed softball team. The team is open to active duty service members and their families, and civilian employees working on the base. For more information, call 830-6857.

Marine Corps History

May 16, 1945

The 22nd and 29th Marine Regiments continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Division as the "bitterest" fighting of the Okinawa campaign.

WHERE YOU LIVE

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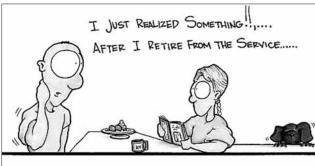
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Report any suspicious activity immediately which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

- 1. Surveillance
- 2. Suspicious questioning
- 3. Tests of security
- 4. Acquiring supplies 5. Suspicious persons
- 6. Trial runs
- 7. Deploying assets

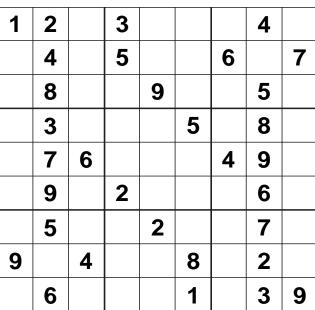
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SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

SUDOKU #1809



CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

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[Puzzle solutions on A10]

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31. Winter's-day nose

33. Carry on, as a war 35.Rose, the all-time

hits leader

36.Sent packing

38.Don't share

39. The D'backs, on

41. Chiquita's bunch

45. Normandy port

46.MDX and RDX

automaker

scoreboards

42.Paid for with

plastic

44.___ Aviv

hue

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School Liaison Information

Question: How do we build confidence in our child in regards

er: 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. Consistency is the key there!

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

Combat Center Spotlight

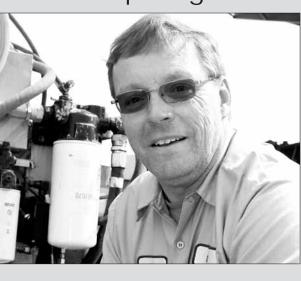
Name: Pat Kilpatrick Hometown: Miami, Ariz. Job title: Light armored vehicle mechanic Job duties: Maintaining LAVs

What do you like most **about your job?** "Helping out the Marines.'

Significant achievements: "Keep equipment running so

Marines can keep training. **Hobbies:** Riding quads **Service:** 20 years

Time at Combat Center: 12 years of career



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

Public Affairs Officer - Jennie E. Haskamp Deputy Public Affairs Officer - Capt. Doy Demsick Public Affairs Chief - Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

Press Chief/Editor - Sgt. Heather Golden Layout, Design - Leslie Shaw

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ACROSS

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- 1. Metro map points 6. Takes shape
- 11. Horror director Craven
- 14.Present one's case
- 15. Celestial hunter 16.Job for a tailor
- 17.Steak selection
- 19.Oath affirmation 20.Oater toppers
- 21.Battle-hardened 23.Mantra sounds
- 24. Congo, for a time
- 25. Make a mess of 29. Scattered here and 60. Sphere of combat
- there 32. "This __ a drill!" 33. Over-caffeinated,
- maybe 34.4.0 is a great one
- 37. Sales tag words 38.Put through hell night, say
- 39. Very top 40.Rugrat

- 41.Respectable score
- for a duffer 42. "Use No Hooks"
- stencil site 43. Rocket sections
 - 45.Said "Tsk!" to 46. "Quaking" tree 48. Highest level of
 - minor league ball 49. Maria of the Met
 - 51. Hams it up 56. Hagen of stage and screen
 - 57. No time at all 59.__ room (play space)
 - 61.Slezak of TV soaps
 - 62. Fruity quaff 63. Hall University 64. The silent Dwarf

DOWN

- 1. Drains of energy 2. Sulky-puller's pace
- 3. Cruel dude 4. Any mini golf shot
- 5. Shows to the door 6. Long __ (cold-
- weather wear) 7. Libidinous god
- 8. Lucy of "Ally
- McBeal" 9. Like Bo Peep's sheep
- 10.Reacted to pollen
- 11. Note-taker's need
- 12. Source of soft down
- 13. Name in fine china
- 18. Easy victory 22. Magician's prop
- 25. Autostrada auto
- buco (veal dish) 27. Column just left of the decimal point
- 28.Rock's __ Lonely
- Boys 29. Grande and venti, at

Starbucks

30. Deuce topper

- 47. Stuffed to the gills 48.Bird-related 50.Really teed off
- 51. "This can't be!" 52. Early Michael
- Jackson 'do 53. YouTube video
- offering
- 54.Make off with
- 55. Hang out
- 58. Vietnamese holiday

OBSERVATION POST May 14, 2010 A3

ATG Marines make Civil Affairs road ready

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Not all Marines have extensive experience in basic operations overseas. The Combat Center's Advisor

Training Group, which different mission. normally trains Partner Mentor advantage of their down time between training training cycles to teach Marines with an entirely

Civil Affairs teams from Teams, took the 11th Marine Regiment trained Tuesday through Friday on basic convoy operations, said 1st Lt. Javier Gonzalez, an officer

Gonzalez said. Fortunately, the unit's and ATG's schedule matched up perfectly. Civil Affairs needed to train and ATG instructors don't like sitting around,

for everyone. "This is why I came to ATG," he saiď. "To help Marines train to go to Afghanistan."

First Lt. Alan Sung, the leader of 11th Marines Civil Affairs Team 3, spoke to the difficulties in shifting roles his team has faced in their training.

"We've had limited exposure to convoy operations," said the San Jose, Calif., native. "We've been on two [Marine Expeditionary Unit] deployments where we

"Normally we train those going overseas to

instructor with ATG, from

Des Plaines, Ill.

train the Afghanistan police, army and border guards. These guys are civil affairs; most of them haven't done this before,"

making it a win-win situation

Lance Cpl. Sam Leprohan, a motor transportation operator with 11th Marine Regiment's Civil Affairs Team 3, provides security for the rest of the team Wednesday at Combat Center Range 220. The Advisor Training Group here trained the Marines in basic convoy operations skills.

operated out of helicopters and boats. We're getting a lot of exposure to very different scenarios right now."

Sam Lance Cpl. Leprohan, a motor transportation operator with the team, said he was looking forward to taking on a new challenge and new skills.

"I haven't handled a [.50caliber machine gun] since I

See CONVOY, A4



Humvees with 11th Marine Regiment's Civil Affairs Team 3 navigate Combat Center Range 220 roads Wednesday. The team, along with several others from the regiment, was trained by the Advisor Training Group this week.



Marines with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, wait in a defensive position for the third and final wave of helicopter support to land at Twentynine Palms Airport during an airport seizure exercise May 10. The exercise is a part of 1st Bn., 7th Marines' training for their upcoming deployment as the battalion landing team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit this summer.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Cpl. Lang Vang a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion 7th Marine Regiment, yells to his squad as they approach an insurgent stronghold during an airport seizure exercise at Twentynine Palms Airport May 10. The exercise is a part of 1st Bn., 7th Marines' training for their upcoming deployment as the battalion landing team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit this summer.

AIRFIELD, from A1

their upcoming role as the battalion landing team with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit this summer. Marines usually try to avoid such a "hard hit" on an airfield in order to harness the element of surprise, but some situations may require it, said 1st Lt. Jeremiah Adams, Co. C's executive officer.

"Usually the first thing we do when we step into a theater is secure an airfield," Adams said. It's a standard MEU mission that is necessary to facilitate the insertion of the rest of a much larger force. "One of the missions we have been tasked with while on the MEU is airfield seizure, which is something that would be used to insert follow on forces."

As the first wave returned fire, the enemy fighters retreated into two buildings on edge of the runway.

"They had the advantage, and we were in the open," Freeman said. "First squad started swinging around to close the gate as our squad

started pushing up. "We have all these small skills you develop as an infantryman, and in a situation like this, you have to combine them all at once,"

he said. "We incorporated buddy team rushes, room clearing, calling for fire, setting up a defense, security. It was a culminating event."

After pushing across the runway and clearing each building, Marines gathered intelligence as they prepared for the follow-on waves of reinforcements.

"It's a two part operation," Adams said. "At first you're being very aggressive, and then you've got to flip the switch and sit back and tell yourself, 'Alright, I'm not assaulting this place anymore, I have to defend it. How do I stop what happened to the people here ear-

lier from happening to me?" Follow-on reinforcements included increased firepower, air traffic controllers and engineers to make the airfield operational as soon as possible.

The whole point is to be able to use the runway and the airfield, so with this in mind we want to preserve it," Adams said, "The last thing you want to do is add weeks or months to an operation" because the airfield needs to be repaired.

their landings and the raiding force grew, chances of a successful counterstrike from the enemy decreased. Marines with Co. C now had a strong foothold. First Team was in control, and the air-As additional waves made field was open for business.

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at 12:00pm

Marines with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, move under the cover of dust as a helicopter takes off at Twentynine Palms Airport during an airport seizure exercise May 10.



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Dental facility to be smoke free

1ST DENTAL BATTALION PRESS RELEASE

The Surgeon General of the United States has determined the use of tobacco products, as well as exposure to secondhand smoke and tobacco product residues, are hazardous to human health.

Tobacco products also adversely impact the health and readiness of our military forces and are immense burden on the DoD healthcare system as a whole.

This guidance establishes guidelines for a tobacco-free campus at 1st Dental battalion, which consists of 10 branch clinics and head-quarters elements aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

The 1st Dental Battalion/Naval Dental Center Camp Pendleton Tobacco-Free Initiative's intent is to evoke positive and meaningful change through the actions of healthcare providers. Implementation of tobacco-free environments sends a powerful message encouraging the installations' patrons to be smoke-free.

This policy announces the implementation of a tobacco-free campus no later than Oct. 1, providing staff, patients and visitors a tobacco-free environment, discouraging the use of tobacco products, promoting education about the hazards of tobacco use and encouraging and assisting tobacco users who wish to quit.

Any questions can be directed to Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Delsie at steven.delsie @med.navy.mil.

CONVOY, from A3

messed around with one in [Marine Combat Training]," said the Tacoma, Wash., native. "It's scary and exciting learning all this new

stuff before you deploy.

"I'm a [motor transportation] mechanic," he said. "I definitely know how to fix a 7-ton, but I know I have to pay attention and learn how to operate a heavy machine gun,

because I haven't touched one in a long time."

The teams are scheduled to deploy and attach to various battalions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this summer.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERI

First Lt. Alan Sung, team leader of 11th Marine Regiment Civil Affairs Team 3, scans the open desert for possible improvised explosive devises during a security halt Wednesday at Combat Center Range 220. The team received convoy operations training from the Advisor Training Group.

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COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Christ Chapel

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services

8:45 a.m. - Confessions+ 9 a.m. - Rosary

9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass*

9:30 a.m. - Children's Liturgy of the Word 4 p.m. - Choir Practice 4:15 p.m. - Confessions+

4:30 p.m. - Rosary 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass **Christ Chapel**

8:30 a.m. - Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast in the West Wing

Non-denominational: **Calvary Chapel-AGC**

9 a.m. - Contemporary Worship* 9 a.m. - Children's Church 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School, building

Interdenominational: **Good Shepherd**

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School, building 1551* 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship* 10:45 a.m. - Children's Church

Lay-led Gospel Service 12:15 p.m. - Worship

Youth Group 6 p.m. - Jr. and Sr. High School Youth

Indicates child care is provided + Appointments can be made for confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Monday - Friday, 11:45 a.m. - Catholic Mass **Christ Chapel**

Monday - Friday, noon - Daily Prayer **Tuesday**

9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (September through May)

6:30 p.m. - "EKKLESIA" Assemblies of God Fellowship

Immaculate Heart of Mary

3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women **Wednesday**

Christ Chapel Noon - Communion

Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class First Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus

Thursday Christ Chapel

6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary

9 a.m. - Adult Class 6 p.m. - Children RCIA 6:30 p.m. - RCIA (September-April) 7 p.m. Gr. 7 and Confirmation

Christ Chapel 5 p.m. - Gospel Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. -Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament

Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87. Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93. For more information call 830-5430.



or call 800-736-4500.

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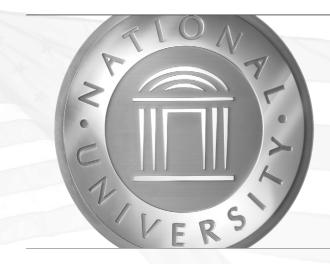


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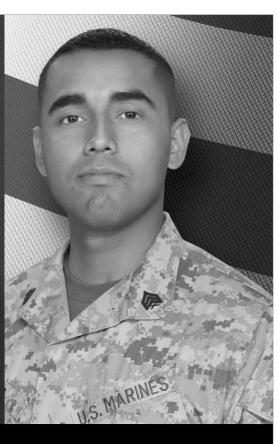
1.800.NAT.UNIV (628.8648)www.nu.edu/military



The University of Values







MILITARY GREEN to LAPD BLUE

Military Recruitment Seminar **Saturday, May 15, 2010** Info Session at 9:00 am • Written Test at 11:00 am

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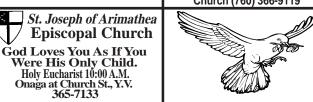
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OBSERVATION POST MAY 14, 2010 A7



Som Harz, a receptionist at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and Thai native, performs a traditional dance from Bangkok, Thailand, during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month awareness ceremony Wednesday.

Combat Center celebrates Asian, Pacific Americans

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center personnel embraced the spirit of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which lasts all of May, by celebrating its own diversity during a cultural presentation in a Combat Center classroom Wednesday.

"For centuries, America's story has been tied to the Pacific. Generations of brave men and women have crossed this vast ocean, seeking better lives and opportunities, and weaving their rich heritage into our cultural tapestry," said President Barack Obama in a proclamation released April 29, officially opening this year's observance.

"During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we celebrate the

these diverse peoples have made to our nation," he said.

Asian and Pacific Islander cultures are broad terms which cover the entire Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

"It's good to recognize everyone's individuality," said Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Martinezpadron, the equal opportunity representative for 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

Master Sgt. Al Rose, the Combat Center's equal opportunity advisor, agreed, saying individuality can be used to strengthen the Corps, if employed properly.

"It is up to us as leaders and Marines to value that [diversity], and learn how to deploy that," Rose said. "We

immeasurable contributions have to know how to take all of those differences ... ball it up into one thing, put leadership on top of it and lead Marines.

"The best way to lead Marines is by understanding Marines," he said.

Attendees of the event learned about the history and important contributions Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made to shape the nations cultural identity. They were also entertained by several native dance performances.

The observance is not restricted to the military community. Asian and Pacific Islander contributions have been nationally recognized for more than 30 years.

President Jimmy Carter

See ASIAN, A9

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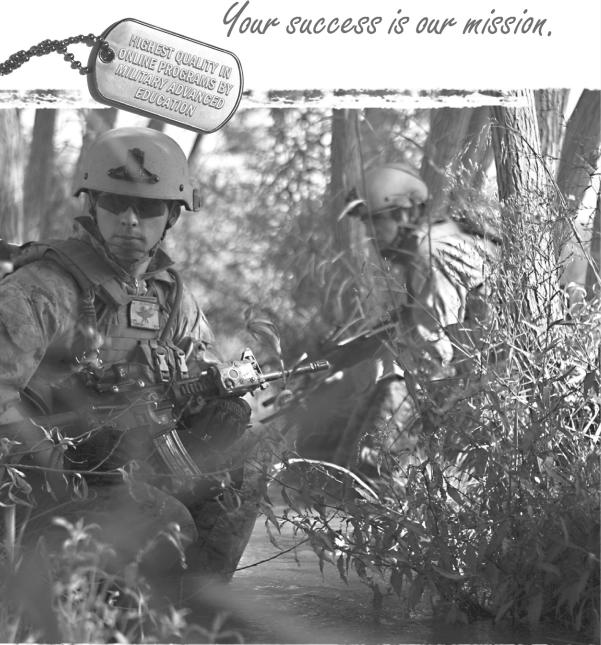
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BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

NICEANU AIRFIELD.

Romania - The Marines and Sailors of 1st Tank Battalion travelled more than 6,000 miles to reach Romania's Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield, but the tactical vehicles they

will use while serving as a

Security Cooperation Marine

Air-Ground Task Force

arrived by much shorter and

and Service Company, 1st

Tanks, took time to pre-

pare tactical vehicles at the airfield's motor pool,

Monday, to support the

battalion during Black Sea

Rotational Force 2010, a 3-

month deployment as the

core of the first Security

Cooperation MAGTF to

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MIHAIL

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM by Lou Gerhardt



One of the multi-talented people I admire is my friend Judy Massey of Yucca Valley. Last week, following my positive living seminar, Judy asked for a copy of something I read during my presentation. Judy's request triggered my thinking and I decided I should share what she requested.

What Judy wanted was a copy of some words spoken in my hearing in 1965 by the Re. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate realty. This Hindu-Moslem-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist belief about ultimate realty is beautifully summed up in the first epistle of Saint John: 'Let us love one another; for love is God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God'.'"

Just last Saturday my dear friend Rabbi Bernard Cohen of Los Angeles received an honorary doctorate from St. Mary of the Woods, Terre Haute, Indiana. Rabbi Cohen and I served together in that city from 1963-1967 and exchanged pulpits several times just as the ecumenical spirits began to blossom. In fact, many years later, in 1978, the City of Los Angeles presented me with a citation for 25 years of ecumenical activity.

I'm the words of the Psalmist: "How precious it is when brothers dwell together in unity."

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Motor T preps for Black Sea Rotational Force CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE



CPL, R. LOGAN KYLE

Cpl. Marcus O'Hair, the fuel noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, installs an ISO lock on the bed of a 7-ton truck at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield motor pool, Monday. The battalion is currently deployed with the Black Sea Rotational Force 2010, a Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

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the Black Sea region. The vehicles were supplied to the battalion by Marine Corps Prepositioning Program Norway. The Marine Corps and Norway developed a unique relationship for the storage and care of prepositioned equipment and supplies. The method of storage to support the prepositioned assets for a MAGTF is a series of six caves in the Trondheim region of central Norway.

'We worked pretty closely with the Norwegians in acquiring these vehicles," said 2nd Lt. Corey McMillen, the assistant logistics officer for 1st Tanks. "We went on a tour of the caves, performed the joint limited technical inspections] together, and any discrepancies we found were fixed right away. I was extremely impressed with their maintenance capabilities on the vehicles we store there."

Staff Sgt. Troy Ferderer, the Motor Transportation chief, Headquarters and

See MOTOR, A10



canyonnational.com

ASIAN, from A7

began the observance in 1978 when he signed Presidential Proclamation 4650, which designated one week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, according to information in the Law Library of Congress.

Congress took the weeklong celebration one step further when they petitioned Former President George H.W. Bush to expand the week into a month in 1990. In 1992, Congress got their wish in the form of Publication L. 102-450, which assigned May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

"It's a sense of saying that we haven't been forgotten in history," Rose said.

May was chosen because it marks major milestones in American and Asian Pacific American histories.

The first Japanese immi-

grants, hoping to stake their own claims during the Gold Rush, arrived in America May 7, 1843. A surge of Chinese immigrants directly impacted another event, the completion of the Trans-Continental Railroad, May 10, 1869, which was built by a mostly-Chinese work force, according to information in the Law Library of Congress.

While every month of May since 1992 has heralded the observance of Asian Pacific American heritage, this year holds its own special distinction.

It is the "100th anniversary of the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, a milestone that reminds us of an unjust time in our history," according to a statement in Obama's proclamation. "For three decades, immigrants from across the Pacific arrived at Angel Island, where they were sub-



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

The Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms Pacific Islander Dance Group, performs a traditional Filipino dance with bamboo poles during the Aisian Pacific American Heritage Month awareness ceremony at the Combat Center Wednesday.

ject to harsh interrogations and exams, and confined in crowded, unsanitary barracks. Many who were not turned back by racially prejudiced immigration laws endured hardship, injustice, and deplorable conditions as miners, railroad builders

and farm workers."

Today, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are counted amongst "leaders in business, academia, and public service" and "have served proudly in our Armed Forces," continued the proclamation.

For more information on the history of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, visit the Law Library of Congress at http://www. loc.gov/law. To read the presidential proclamation in its entirety, visit http:// www.whitehouse.gov.

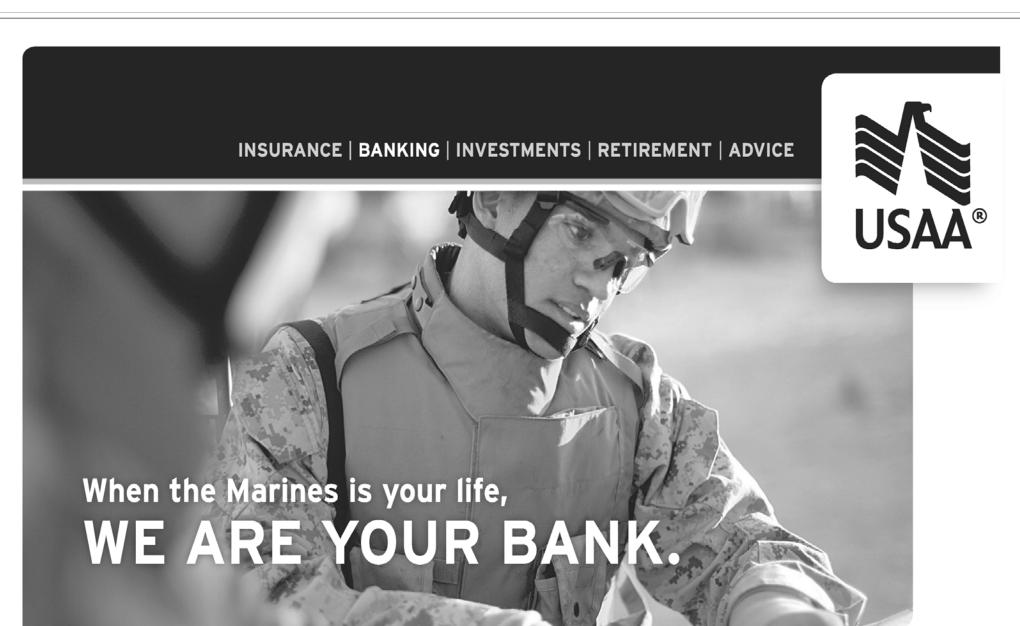
TANKS, from A1

humanitarian support, promote stability in the region and carry out other theater security cooperation activities. The battalion's scout platoon is slated to conduct peacekeeping operations training with forces from multiple nations at training grounds in Babadag, Romania, and Novo Selo, Bulgaria.

"I'm looking forward to working with the Romanians and other militaries," said Lance Cpl. Joel Hindman, an assaultman with scout platoon, 1st Tank Bn., from Omaha, Neb. "The people we've met so far have been really friendly in teaching us their language and culture, and I'm excited to get to know them better."

The battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Tom Gordon, said the work of his Marines during the coming months is designed to yield a better relationship with the partner nations.

"It's an engagement, that's grown into a partnership, that we want to develop into a friendship," he said.



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Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-6213.

A10 May 14, 2010 **OBSERVATION POST**



Cpl. Jorge Mawyincedo, a motor transportation operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, guides a 7-ton truck at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield motor pool, May 10. The battalion is currently deployed as a Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force, known as Black Sea Rotational Force 2010.

MOTOR, from A1

Service Co., 1st Tanks, said receiving the vehicles from Norway has made their job a lot easier.

"It's been downright convenient for us," said Ferderer, an Odessa, Wash., native. "We didn't have to embark these vehicles from California, and we didn't even have to go meet up at some port somewhere and take them off a ship or anything. Marine Corps Forces Europe handled all the delivery, and they were sitting here waiting for us when we got here."

Norway relies on the Marine's prepositioning program as a major cornerstone of the nation's internal defense plan. With deepwater ports in close proximity to the storage caves, equipment can quickly be loaded aboard available shipping for operations in

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threatened parts of Europe, Africa or the Middle East. This capability was demonstrated by the supplying of equipment and ammunition in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cpl. Marcus O'Hair, the fuels noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Service Co., 1st Tanks, said most of the vehicles arrived in excellent condition.

"They are pretty much brand new," said O'Hair, a native of Cullman, Ala. "None of the 7-tons have more than 500 miles on them. We've got a couple humvees that are giving us a little trouble, but for the most part, they're all in good shape. It has made our a job one hundred percent easier."

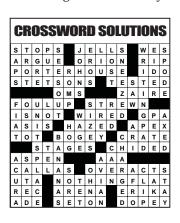
McMillen said his Marines have worked hard so far, and he expects nothing less.

"They're out there to support scout platoon; that's the most important thing as well as when we come to the rear, being able to provide maintenance on those vehicles," said McMillen, a Fort Lauderdale. Fla., native. "We sent our lead sled dogs in terms of motor t platoon, and I'm most confident they'll do a great job."

The Marines are working in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions to promote regional stability, build enduring partnerships and build the capacity of partner nation's military forces. The Security Cooperation MAGTF is Marine Corps Forces Europe's commitment to a rotating presence of Marines in Eastern Europe to meet U.S. European Command's theater security objectives.

"I think this is going to be a learning experience for both us and the nations we are going to work with," O'Hair said. "I was in Okinawa, Japan, for three vears, and I worked with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force while I was there. Working with those guys was awesome, and I think this deployment is going to be similar because you learn a lot of their culture and customs. You make

a lot of friends." Black Sea Rotational Force 2010 is slated to officially kick off Monday and run through the end of July.



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SPORTS AND LEISURE

MAY 14, 2010

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Participants of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's 23rd annual Ridge Run cross the finish line of the 5K run together May 7.

docs with Ridge ommunity supports

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center community raced to raise money for the installation's Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital during the 23rd Annual Ridge Run behind the hospital May 7.

The run featured something for everyone and offered two distinct courses, said Ed Tennison, a race organizer.

'The two routes are the somewhat easy 5K and the extremely hard 8K," said the Silsbee, Texas, native. "The 8K really goes up the ridges."

The event hit an all-time popularity record this year. The number of participants increased to 368, compared to 250 in previous years. It raised nearly \$3,200, which will fund Morale, Welfare and the key reasons for the suc-Recreation events for hospital personnel, Tennison said. The 5K drew 110 runners, while 258 took on the 8K.

Tennison, made a point to recognize the efforts of Matthew Sandlin as one of

cess of this year's run. Sandlin, re-organized the courses to make them more challenging and safer, he said.

"He is one of the top runners in the hospital," Tennison said. "He was instrumental in putting the whole thing together last year, too. That's why I approached him."

Sandlin said a secure route is a better route.

"The past couple years has been kind of a mud run format," said the Columbus, Ind., native. "There was a lot of soft sand and obstacles that made it like an [obstacle course]. We tried to keep the distance roughly the same. We made it a more runable and safer course."

Sandlin confessed it was a labor of love reorganizing the course.

"When you're passionate about something, it makes it a lot easier to get out there and do it," said the self described

See RUN, B4



Runners in the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's 23rd annual Ridge Run make their way up a ridge May 7 at the Combat Center. The race was a charity event to provide more funding for the hospital's service members' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

Fair brings police, neighborhoods together

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"When bad guys come, the police put them all in jail.'

This was 3-year-old Chloe Shawhan's assessment of a military

police officer's job as she listened to members of the Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team during the PMO Family Fun Fair May 7 at Felix Field.

The fair's primary purpose was to promote a new neighborhood watch program PMO is putting together to help keep Combat Center families safe while residing within military housing.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Fox, the physical security chief for PMO, said the opportunity to teach the Combat Center community about PMO and other local law enforce- demonstration about one of their ment agencies, such as the California Highway Patrol and the National Park Services, was an added bonus to the fair.

The CHP booth featured giveaway safety items for children, which explained the importance of safety while riding a bicycle and skateboard, or simply walking down the street. They also provided safe-driving tips and information on the consequences of drunk driving.

Military working dogs and their handlers had their time in the spotlight with a demonstration on how trained K-9s take down suspects and sniff out drugs and explosives. Each demonstration drew shouts for encores from a packed crowd in the bleachers.

The SRT Marines held their own

primary functions aboard the installation - hunting down scrappers, or people who sneak aboard the Combat Center's training ranges searching for scrap metal to sell.

One other crowd-pleaser featured was a seatbelt convincer, which allowed adults to safely experience the impact of a lowspeed collision using a machine that simulates the jar of a sudden

stop from 15 miles per hour. While nobody was at risk for injury, the resulting force of slamming against the machine's seatbelts did leave a few bruises.

For more information on how to participate in the upcoming neighborhood watch, contact Carey McElroy, a physical security specialist at PMO, at 830-5457.



Commander Tim Tompkins, of the California Highway Patrol, speaks with families during the PMO Family Fun Fair May 7 at Felix Field. The fair promoted a new neighborhood watch program for the Combat Center.

Soccer season kicks off



Andres Castillo, a defenseman for the MCCES team, passes the ball to his teammate during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League preseason game against 1st Tank Bn. at Felix Field Tuesday. The official season starts next Tuesday.

See page B3 for more photos

Combat Center shooters take top honors in Armed Forces Memorial Match

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Six Marines from the combat center competed against some of the best shooters the military has to offer during the 3rd Annual Midwestern Armed Forces Memorial Match and National Rifle Association High Power and Mid Range Regional Championships in Byers, Colorado April 29 through May 2. This year's match was re-designated the Remembering the Brave -Midwestern Armed Forces Memorial Match.

The Combat Center Marines shot in 17 matches, all named for fallen service members. The team took third overall, beating the National Guard and the All Marine teams in the 1,000 Yard Line Any Rifle/Any Sight Navy Seal Danny Dietz Memorial Team Trophy Match.

The Marines also claimed their share of individual awards. Cpl. Brian Sampson was the overall winner for the 600 Yard Line Any Rifle/Any Sight Staff Sgt. Sam Holder Memorial Trophy Match, and Sgt. Sam Lynn took fourth in the 600 Yard Line Service Rifle Lance Cpl. Tommy Slocum Memorial

We competed against some of the best

See MATCH, B4



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Top row, from left, are team captain Staff Sqt. James Baker, Gunner Fred Keeney and Sgt. Jeremy Germain. Bottom row, from left, are Sgt. Sam Lynn, Lance Cpl. Jesse Vanderslice and Cpl. Brian Sampson.

B2 May 14, 2010 **OBSERVATION POST**



Local Events

Citizen Band

Description: An alternative rock band from San Diego When: 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 14

Solid Ray Woods

Description: Performing their raw soul review When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 15 Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more information call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com.

Joshua Tree Music Festival

Description: A three day music festival and camp out When: Begins at 6 p.m. on Friday to 8 p.m. Sunday Where: The Joshua Tree Lake at 2601 Sunfair Road five miles north of Twentynine Palms Highway. For more information call 877-327-6265 or visit www.joshuatreemusicfestival.com.

Aesop's Fables

Description: Slightly altered versions of the famous tales When: 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays through June 5 Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms For more information call 361-4151 or visit http://www.theatre29.com

Joshua Tree Certified Farmers Market

Description: Enjoy fresh produce, local music and art When: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday Where: Turtle Island in downtown Joshua Tree

Yucca Valley Certified Farmers Market

Description: Enjoy fresh produce When: 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Saturday Where: Twentynine Palms Highway just west of Pioneertown Road.

Lower Desert

Earth, Wind and Fire

Description: The soul legends perform When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 14 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com.

featuring Blue Oyster Cult

Description: The psychadelic rock band performs their hits

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 15 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit

http://www.morongocasinoresort.com.

Steve Miller Band

Description: The rock 'n' roll legend performs When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 22 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com.

Heart

Description: The legendary sisters of rock perform When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 29 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com.

Boz Scaggs

Description: The rock legend icon performs When: 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 1 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, May 14

6 p.m. - The Last Song, Rated PG 9 p.m. - Remember Me, Rated PG-13 Midnight - Hot Tub Time Machine, Rated R Saturday, May 15

11 a.m. Free Matinee- Coraline, Rated PG 2 p.m. - How to Train Your Dragon, Rated PG

6 p.m. – The Bounty Hunter, Rated PG-13

9 p.m. - Repo Man, Rated R

Midnight - She's Out of my League, Rated R

Sunday, May 16

2 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Rated PG 6 p.m. – Why Did I Get Married Too?, Rated PG-13

9 p.m. - Clash of the Titans, Rated PG-13 Monday, May 17 7 p.m. – The Ghost Writer, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, May 18

7 p.m. – Remember Me, Rated PG-13 Wednesday, May 19

7 p.m. - She's Out of my League, Rated R

Thursday, May 20 7 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Rated PG

'Furry Vengeance' disastrously unfunny comedy

NEIL POND AMERICAN PROFILE

"Furry Vengeance"

Rated PG

It's not even summer yet, but the race is already on for the worst movie of the year. Heck, we may even have a winner!

"Furry Vengeance" is a disastrously unfunny comedy about a bunch of woodland animals that declare war on a developer (Brendan Frasier) who's trying to inflict upscale residential sprawl on their tranguil habitat-hood.

As the corporate lackey, real estate bozo Dan Sanders, Frasier haplessly hams it up with the motley menagerie of live-action and computer-animated fuzzy-wuzzy foes, all of which have uncanny skills in interspecies communication, heavy machinery operation and the construction of medieval combat devices.

Brooke Shields, bless her heart, is saddled with the woefully straight role of Mrs. Sanders. There's also an overzealous park ranger, a pointless teen-romance subplot and a crew of construction workers without much to do other than mop up the messy aftermath of Dan's clashes with his animal adversaries.

It's fitting, in ways the film-

Robin Hood

(PG13)

Everyday: 1:30, 6:00, 9:00

A Nightmare On

Elm Street

Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

U-HAUL RENTALS

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633 (5)14)



Woodland animals declare war on a developer played by Brendan Frasier when he tries to build an upscale residential community in their tranquil habitat.

makers obviously never intended, that a recurring gag involves spray attacks by a squadron of skunks - because this movie really stinks. It recycles just about every comedic human vs. animal cliche imaginable, and its clumsy, cloying tone is a collision of violent, cartoon-caper fantasy, real-world eco-preach and relentless, cringingly corny slapstick

Presumably, Frasier willingly signed on for this project. So it's difficult to feel too sorry for him as his character is pooped on by birds, pummeled by raccoons and chased by a grizzly bear into a plastic outhouse, leaving

(PG13)

Furry Vengeance

Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Springs!

361-7141

him marinated in smelly poo goo once the shaking, quaking and upside-down hilarity subsides.

And that's before one of Dan's outdoor adversaries clamps its teeth into his crotch, then turns around and pees all over his face.

Are you laughing yet? Probably not, which is perhaps why the animals – which don't "talk," thank goodness are given high-pitched tittering voices whenever they pull off a good one against Dan. It's a futile attempt to convince the audience that this pottypunch-lined drivel is funny. See, even the squirrels are snickering! See?!

Several other recognizable actors were baited into the "Fuzzy Vengeance" trap by a yummy paycheck, including

Hollywood" and Angela Kinsey from "The Office." Ken Jeong recycles his nowgetting-tiresome shtick from TV's "Community" and the movie "The Hangover" into the role of Dan's greedy, nature-nuking Asian boss. Wallace Shawn plays the local shrink who tries to convince Dan the animals aren't really out to get him – while carhijacking critters are hotwiring his ride in the parking lot just outside the window.

It's capped by a wackedout closing montage synched to a newly sanitized version of the 1993 rap hit "Insane in the Membrane." If you're not hacking up "Furry Vengeance" hairballs in the lobby by that time, you'll welcome this silly sign-out as a herald that your ordeal has finally come to an end.



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OBSERVATION POST May 14, 2010 B3

Combat Center Sports



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Loyd Brown, the coach of the PMO team, prepares to crush the ball during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game against the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's team at Felix Field Wednesday. PMO won the game 22-8.



Wallace Robert, a player for the 1st Tank Bn. team, left, and Jorge Oliva, a player for the MCCES team, fight for the ball during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game at Felix Field Tuesday. The MCCES team won 2-0.

SERVING

Intramural softball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSS
3/11	4	0
MCCES Red	6	1
ESD	6	1
Tanks	6	2
374 #1	5	2
PMO	5	2
ATG	5	3
CLB-7	4	2
MCCES C Co	. 4	2
Mojave Vipe	r 3	3
IPAC	3	4
MCCES White	e 3	4
3rd LAR	3	5
AAV	2	3
Hospital	2	6
374 #2	1	5
Dental	1	5
CMA	1	6
MCCES Main	t 1	6
MCTOG	0	4

Athlete of the Week



Name: Rafael Taboada Jr.

Unit: Headquarters and Service Co., Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School

Hometown: Chicago

Recognition: Midfielder on the MCCES soccer

Favorite aspect of the sport: "Teamwork." Advice to any aspiring athletes: "Practice

with the ball."

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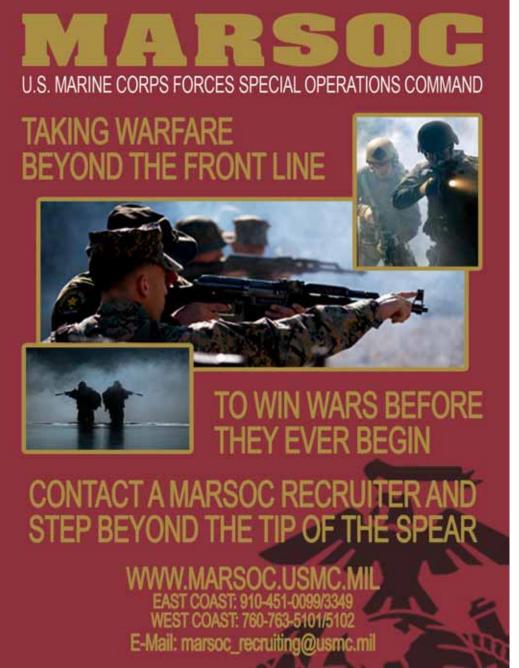
ARMY

DoD

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

B4 May 14, 2010 **OBSERVATION POST**



RUN, from B1

"running fanatic." "Afterward, I got a lot of positive feedback from some of the runners, making it feel like time well spent. It took about twenty off-duty hours to set it up and

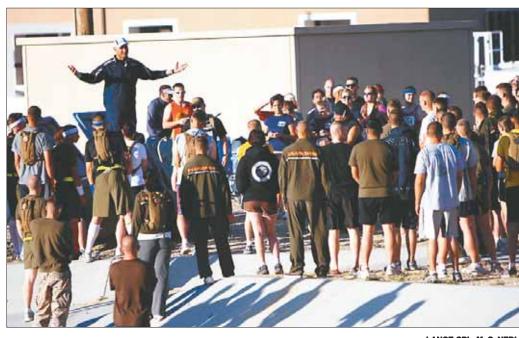
eight or nine hours of making the courses."

Sage J. Koch, a member of Twentynine Palms the Triathalon Team and life-long runner, said the course was one of the toughest he's faced.

"The course was very

challenging, no doubt," said the Bismarck, N.D., native. "It was one of the hardest 8Ks I've ever run."

Plans are in the works to continually improve the course, and continue the tradition next year.



Ed Tennison [standing], addresses runners May 7, before the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's 23rd annual Ridge Run. The run served as a fundraiser for Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities for the hospital in the future.

MATCH, from B1

civilian and military competitors in the U.S., and in a few cases, the world," said Staff Sgt. James Baker, the team's coach. "I have to say this

competition was unlike any other that we have been to. What made this match different was Gold Star Families were present to award the trophies."

"It is a different feel and

humbling experience when the mother and father of a fallen Marine, soldier or sailor is there to tell you 'good job Marine' and 'we are still proud of each and every one of you," he said.



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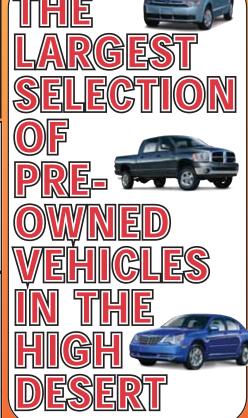
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