

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 4, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 22

Upcoming road show simplifies promotion boards, fitreps

SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN
PRESS CHIEF/EDITOR

Headquarters Marine Corps is hosting a Promotion/ Performance Road Show at the Combat Center Thursday.

The road show is scheduled to be held at the Protestant Chapel at 8 a.m. The annual event offers in-depth information on how to prepare for promotion boards, the responsibilities of each Marine, what board members look for in packages and fitness reports and how to read and understand Official Military Personnel Files. For new sergeants just venturing into the world of fitness reports, there will be information on what they need to do to set themselves up for success in the future, said

Master Sgt. Patrick Whitaker, the Combat Center's career planner.

Although every installation across the Corps has career planners to help answer questions relating to promotions and boards, the ultimate responsibility lies with each individual Marine to have a firm grasp on his or her own career, and how they are represented in their OMPFs, said Staff Sgt. Xavisus Gayden, the Headquarters Battalion career planner.

"I get sergeants in here all the time who have been in their present rank for two or three years and have never pulled [their OMPF]," said Gayden, from Houston. "Most Marines don't know how to."

The spectrum of information available has a little something for

everyone, whether it is a sergeant who has never been in zone or a senior field grade officer with more than 20 years in the Corps, added Whitaker, who has been a career retention specialist for 14 years.

Other than knowing what to do for their own promotions, officers also need to be aware how to prepare their enlisted Marines' fitness reports, said Whitaker, a San Diego native.

This information is coming straight from the "horse's mouth," so to speak, Whitaker added.

"These are the experts up there [who oversee promotions]," he said. "Just get there. This is something for your career."

For more information on the road show, contact Whitaker at 830-6171.



GUNNERY SGT. MATTHEW BUTLER

An Afghan Counter Narcotic National policeman holds the Afghan government's primary drug kingpin in Marjah, Afghanistan, May 18. The mission, a team effort between the Marines, Drug Enforcement Administration and Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan, nabbed high-level drug traffickers.

Joint team nabs top drug lord

GUNNERY SGT. MATTHEW BUTLER

1 MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FWD)

MARJAH, Afghanistan – A swift and decisive pre-dawn raid on a known Taliban commander's compound snared the Drug Enforcement Administration's and the Afghan government's primary drug and terrorist target in Marjah, May 18.

During four other simultaneous hits in Marjah, the DEA, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and the Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan netted other high-value targets and seized narcotics, weapons and explosives as evidence.

Approximately 2,344 kilograms of opium, 16 kilograms of heroin, 27 kilograms of morphine, 5 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine, 3 kilograms of hash, 5 kilograms of poppy seeds, 65 kilograms of marijuana seeds, 502 pounds of homemade explosives, more than two tons of ammonium chloride, other HME making chemicals and weapons and cash were seized as evidence.

For two months, DEA special agents from the Kabul Country Office Strike Force partnered with investigators from the Afghan Ministry of Interior's Counter Narcotic Police Sensitive Investigative Unit to build solid cases against multiple terrorist and drug traffickers in Marjah.

Intelligence was gathered in Marjah prior to the Feb. 13 Operation Moshtarak push by Marines of Regimental Combat Team 7 to clear the area of Taliban insurgency in the

opium-growing belt of the Helmand River Valley. Leading up to the February clearing mission, DEA informants identified 21 pages worth of improvised explosive device emplacements, Taliban commanders and their headquarters and pinpointed other threats.

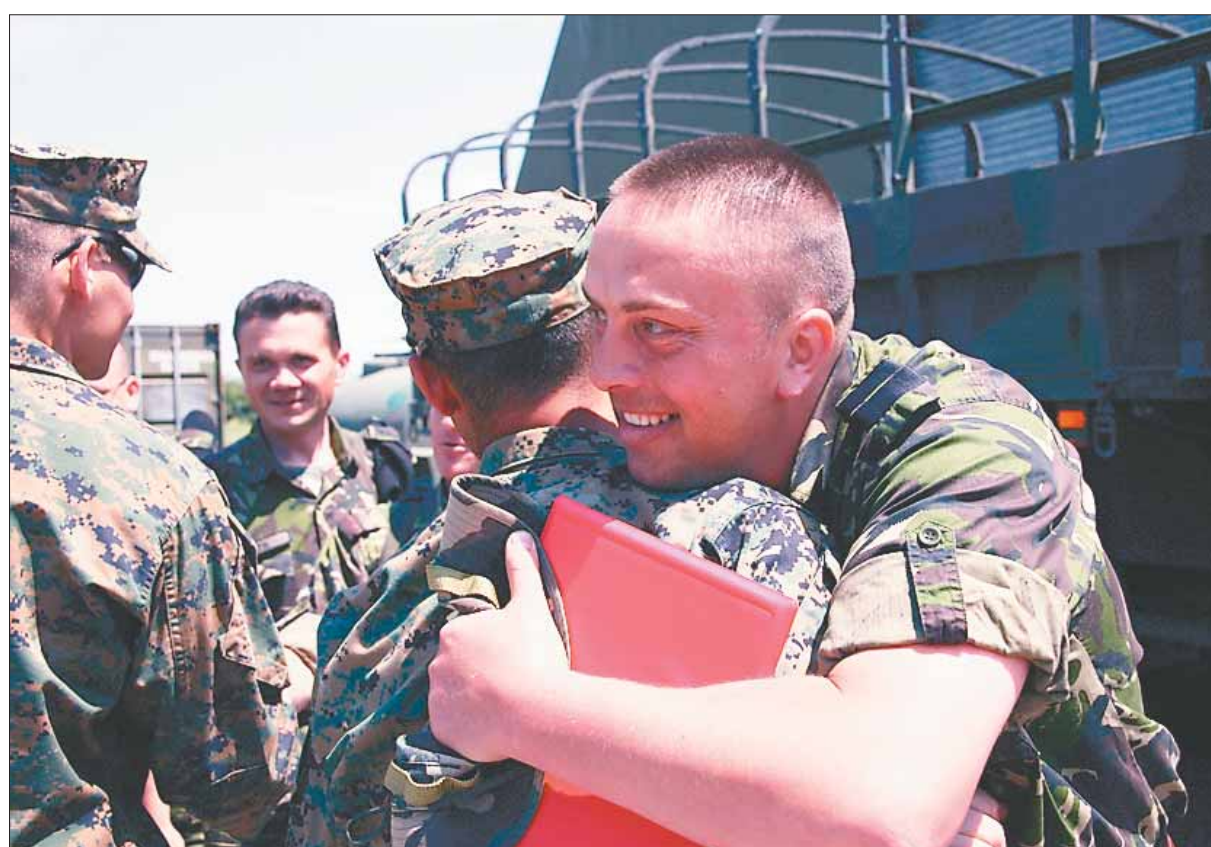
"I think it's good. The DEA is getting the intel to prosecute targets on opium producers and distributors. We all know they are linked to the Taliban or are Taliban," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Vallejo, platoon sergeant, 2nd platoon, Company A, 1st Bn., 6th Marines.

The Taliban and drug trafficking have long been connected. The Taliban uses the rich and illicit poppy growing fields in Helmand province to fund the insurgency through the profits from the byproduct of poppy opium. Local farmers have long grown the crop because they have been forced to and because it has proven as the best way to provide for their families, though it be illegal, explained a DEA agent.

Under the cover of darkness, Vallejo's company led the foot patrol from Patrol Base Littlefoot to the primary target's compound where informants said they could find the Taliban high-value drug kingpin.

Combined with the Marine patrol were two DEA special agents – the case leader on the entire case from the DEA's Kabul Country Office Strike Force and a special agent from the Foreign Advisory Support Team – and a team of Afghan Counter Narcotic

See DRUG, A5



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY

A U.S. and Romanian Marine say goodbye following the ceremony, May 28, closing two weeks of peacekeeping operations training. U.S. forces of Black Sea Rotational Force will now conduct peacekeeping operations training with Macedonian forces, and the Romanian forces are slated to begin airborne training with Black Sea Rotational Force's air combat element.

Marines, Romanian forces wrap up initial phase of training

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

BABADAG TRAINING AREA, Romania – Romanian Marines and soldiers topped off two weeks of peacekeeping operations training with U.S. Marines and sailors at Romania's Babadag Training Area

with a final exercise, May 27, and a ceremony marking their accomplishment, May 28.

Lt. Col. Tom Gordon, the commanding officer of Black Sea Rotational Force, said he was proud of all the hard work put in by his Marines and the Romanian troops.

"If we, as a band of brothers,

find ourselves together in combat, I'll be proud to serve alongside Romanian forces," said Gordon, a Boston native, while giving a speech during the ceremony.

Marines participating in the training said the Romanian forces worked hand-in-hand with 1st Tank Battalion's scout platoon, honing their skills in combat marksmanship, convoy operations, military operations on urbanized terrain, martial arts, nonlethal weapons techniques and other areas. Scout platoon serves as the ground combat element of the Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force currently deployed to Eastern Europe for Black Sea Rotational Force.

"These guys worked hard the whole time they were here," said Cpl. Devin Bullard, an assaultman with scout platoon. "No matter what we threw at them, they were ready, willing and motivated to try."

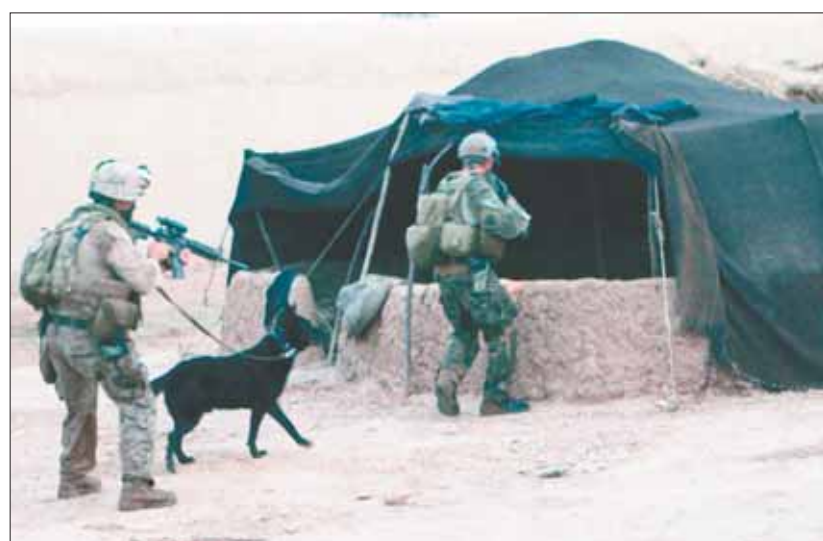
During the training, the Romanians logged more than 14 hours of Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instruction, were exposed to Tasers and Oleoresin

See ROMANIAN, A6



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Romanian Marines arrive via tactical vehicles to conduct military operations in urbanized terrain during the final training exercise of their peacekeeping operations training, May 27. Romanian Marines and soldiers capped off two weeks of training with U.S. Marines and sailors with a final exercise and ceremony.



GUNNERY SGT. MATTHEW BUTLER

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent [right] and Cpl. Michael Zarate, 22, from Chula Vista, Calif., and his patrol drug-detection dog, Roy, search a structure for drugs and anyone evading arrest at the compound of a known Taliban commander and drug trafficker in Marjah, Afghanistan, May 18.



Shocking training ~ See A3



Ace arrives ~ See A5



Reaching out ~ See A7



Fitness frenzy ~ See B1

TRICARE tips to tame travel trouble

BRIAN P. SMITH
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Whether you're leaving on vacation or changing duty stations, TRICARE is here to keep you medically covered. Take a few steps now to help make sure your coverage remains constant during your travels.

Keep DEERS updated

No matter which TRICARE program you use, your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System record is the key to keeping your eligibility. If your address changes for more than 30 days, update DEERS.

Go to <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS> or update your information online using the Beneficiary Web Enrollment application at <http://www.triwest.com/bwe>.

When changing addresses, don't withdraw from TRICARE Prime. You can transfer your enrollment and choose a new primary care manager. You can use BWE or fill out the TRICARE Prime Enrollment Application & PCM Change Form. Find it at <http://www.triwest.com> by clicking the "Find a Form" tab.

Get routine care at home

Before you hit the road, take care of your family's routine health care, such as annual exams and required immunizations at home.

This doesn't just help you focus on your journey, but can help you avoid claims issues and out-of-pocket expenses.

Know your urgent and emergency care options

Emergency care is covered for conditions which could result in a loss of life, limb or sight. Urgent care covers those issues which require medical attention in 24 hours, such as a rising fever, sprain or sore throat.

To avoid extra out-of-pocket costs, TRICARE Prime enrollees should contact:

- Your PCM before receiving urgent care
 - Your PCM within 24 hours of receiving emergency care
 - TriWest at 1-888-874-9378 if you are admitted to a hospital
 - TriWest if you do not have a PCM
- TRICARE pharmacy delivers
- When you get your medications through the TRICARE mail order pharmacy, remember to get your refills before you leave.
- Need medications away from home? TRICARE pharmacy can deliver to a temporary address. To register for home delivery and to manage your prescriptions online, visit <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE> or call 877-363-1303.

Locate a provider

In the West Region, you can find network medical providers (with maps and driving directions) at <http://www.triwest.com/providerdirectory>. Outside of the 21-state West Region, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/findaprovider>.

Centerspeak

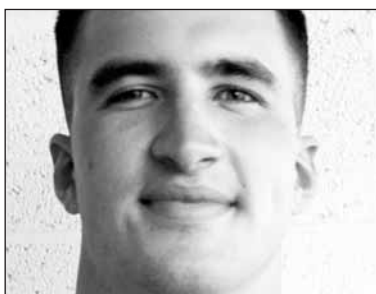
Who is your favorite military war hero and why?

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



LANCE CPL. COREY WHIDDEN
COMBAT INSTRUCTOR COMPANY,
INSTRUCTOR BATTALION

"John Basilone, because he is a machine gunner like me, and he won the Medal of Honor."



LANCE CPL. SHANE BROWNLEE
COMPANY D, 3RD ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BATTALION

"Lt. Baldomero Lopez. When no one would go over the seawall in Korea, he did. He led his Marines."



STAFF SGT. CHARLES BUTCHER
BATTERY I, 3RD BATTALION,
11TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Senator Dan Inouye of Hawaii, because while in the Army, he won the Medal of Honor. He also started from humble beginnings, became something special and did it with one arm."

Hot Topics

VET CLINIC SERVICES LIMITED

Full veterinary services for privately-owned animals will not be available until August. Limited relief veterinary services will be available for privately-owned animals July 7-9. Pet owners are advised to seek care for their animals from a local veterinarian in the surrounding communities. Contact 830-6896 for more information.

OPERATION DRIVE ONE

Ford is hosting Operation Drive One for the Combat Centre community today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the main exchange parking lot. Participants will get the chance to drive new Ford models and meet former wrestling champion Bill Goldberg while raising money for the National Military Family Association.

SCION BATTLE OF THE BUILDS

Scion, in conjunction with MWR and MCCA, is offering a car design contest for all active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel. The top designers from each base will be given money to build their dream cars and fly to Vegas for the final contest in November. Teams must have 5-8 people. Registration deadline is June 11. Go to <http://www.battleofthebuilds.com> for more details.

GOLF SCHOOL

Desert Winds Golf Course is offering Golf School. Cost is \$100 for adults and \$50 for juniors. Adults start at 8:30 a.m. and juniors at 10:30 a.m. Cost includes use clubs, balls, greens fee and six weeks of instruction. For more information, call 830-6132.

Marine Corps History

June 2, 1918

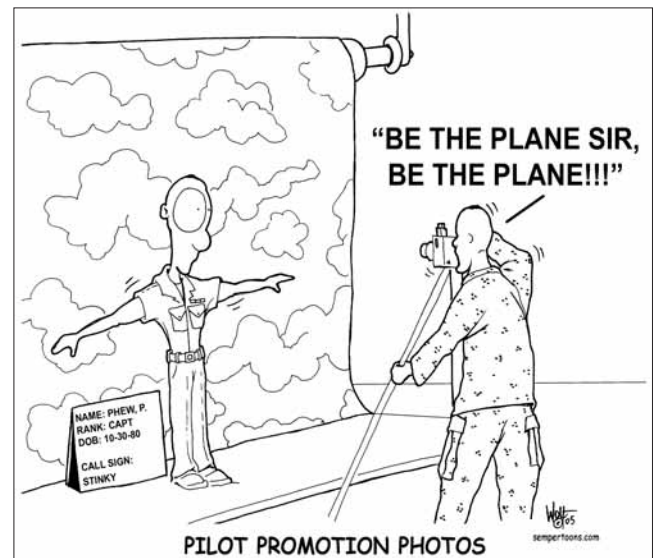
At dawn, the German 28th Division attacked along the axis of the Paris-Metz road. The 4th Marine Brigade opened with deadly rifle fire and set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood.



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

830-3937



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

SUDOKU #1831

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

School Liaison Information

Question: How can I help prepare my child for kindergarten?

Answer: There are several ways.

- Talk with your child about what to expect. A few weeks before the beginning of the year, start discussing plans for the first day. Make a big deal of shopping for school supplies and school clothes. Talk about what will happen at school – lunch, recess, the teacher, the playground and the school bus.
- Visit the school together. Go meet the teacher with your child. He will feel much better when he recognizes the familiar face on the first day. Take a tour of the school and don't forget the trip around the playground. Meeting the principal and secretaries might help too and help you feel more comfortable about leaving your child on the first day.
- Help with social skills. This is a topic you can discuss frequently with your child. They will feel more confident and comfortable on that first day of kindergarten (or any new situation for that matter) if they have some idea as to how to introduce themselves and make friends. For example: If they know to ask another child what their name and favorite color is, they may just come home that first day with a new best friend.

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



Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Cpl. Charles London
Hometown: Montgomery, Ala.
Unit: Staff Judge Advocate
Job title: NCOIC of military justice
Job duties: Assist all units with legal questions and court martials, and serves as the platoon sergeant.
What do you like most about your job? "The mass amount of knowledge, because you never know it all, and when you do they change it on you. It is a heavy mental challenge."
Significant achievements: NCO of the Quarter for the Combat Center and rifle range coach
Hobbies: Body building, learning war history and drill.
Military service: Three years, eight months
Time at Combat Center: Three years

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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Public Affairs Chief - Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez
Press Chief/Editor - Sgt. Heather Golden
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IN THE SACK

[Puzzle solutions on A6]

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- ACROSS**
1. Vocally twangy
 6. Bearded Smurf
 10. Bump off
 14. Make amends
 15. Series-ending abbr.
 16. Putt destination
 17. Movie's music
 19. Hayworth of "Pal Joey"
 20. Turns up
 21. Mad Magazine pieces
 23. Bad fortunes
 25. Like neon
 26. "And how!"
 30. Rural swimming place
 33. Name in mattresses
 34. Fearsome dino
 35. Chums
 39. Andean of old
 40. 1814 treaty city
 41. Much of an atlas
 42. Profreader's "leave it"
 43. Bog fuel
 44. Do something about
 45. Downs (race site)
 47. January honoree, formally
 48. Picketer provokers
 51. Coal-rich German region
 53. Adds up
 56. Emulate, on Halloween
 61. Cinders of old comics
 62. Small IHOP order
 64. A util.
 65. Phone sound
 66. "The Yankee Years" author Joe
 67. Colonel or corporal
 68. Watergate's ___ Throat
 69. Acted the mole
- DOWN**
1. Canaveral org.
 2. Perched on
 3. ___ Nazi ("Seinfeld" character)
 4. Name of two of Henry VIII's six
 5. Ushered out
 6. In and of itself
 7. "Now ___ theater near you!"
 8. DC donors
 9. ___ Seltzer
 10. Clear, tight wrapping
 11. River of Tours
 12. Let out or take in
 13. Brewery need
 18. 2004 Brad Pitt movie
 22. Reason for sudden death, in sports
 24. Primal therapy sounds
 26. Horned goddess
 27. Period following Mardi Gras
 28. Add kick to
 29. Dark purplish shade
 31. Flat payment
 32. Phone no. follower
 34. Baseball exec Epstein
 36. Source of Italian bubbly
 37. L. Frank Baum's coward
 38. Acted the fink
 40. Non-specializing MDs
 44. Slaps the cuffs on
 46. Abbr. on auto tires
 47. Missile typically thrown eight feet
 48. Beef on the hoof
 49. Showy lily
 50. Gracie or Woody
 52. Madison Ave. figure
 54. Business sign abbr.
 55. Comic strip populated by birds
 57. Word in an octagon
 58. Rani's wrap
 59. Farm land division
 60. Depot posting, informally
 63. Formula ___ racing

U.S. Marines, Romanian troops train with nonlethal weapons

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE**

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

Marines and sailors from Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, and Romanian Marines and soldiers experienced the effects of two nonlethal weapons systems during an exercise at Babadag Training Area, Romania, May 25.

"The purpose of this exercise was to teach the Romanians nonlethal techniques, tactics and procedures to subdue violent or potentially violent aggressors," said 1st Lt. Marshall Hand, the nonlethal weapons officer-in-charge for H and S Co., 1st Tank Bn.

During the training, the Romanians were exposed to Oleoresin Capsicum, more commonly known as OC spray, and also had the opportunity to feel the effects of a Taser.

"They were very motivated and eager to learn how to employ nonlethal weapons systems so they can protect

themselves and fellow soldiers without permanently harming the target individual while still maintaining control of the situation," said Hand, a native of Mahopac, N.Y.

Corporal Richard Chavez, a field radio operator with scout platoon, H and S Co., 1st Tank Bn., said despite initial fear, the Romanians showed a lot of courage by voluntarily getting Tased.

"I thought they were very professional about it," said Chavez, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo. "Even though they didn't necessarily enjoy it, they now know the affect it can have on another person."

The Taser works by sending electric pulses through an individual for about five seconds, and the pain ends just after the current stops. However, OC spray brought a much different and longer-lasting pain.

"It was probably the worst feeling I have ever felt," said Romanian soldier Sgt. Vasile Bogdan, with the 1st Company, 341st



Corporal Mitchell Staats, an assaultman with scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, subdues an opponent after being sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum, more commonly known as OC spray, during a nonlethal weapons exercise at Babadag Training Area, Romania, May 25.

Battalion of the Romanian Land Forces. "It burned my face for about 45 minutes, and isn't something I care to experience again."

Nonlethal weapons courses have been a vital part of the peacekeeping operations training U.S. and Romanian forces have conducted since May 17. The Romanian Marines and soldiers are scheduled to graduate May 28 and U.S. Marines and sailors will immediately roll into peacekeeping operations training at Babadag with Macedonian forces May 31.

U.S. Marines and sailors 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. They are serving as the first Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force in the regions, known as Black Sea Rotational Force 2010.



Romanian Land Forces Sgt. Vasile Bogdan, 1st Company, 341st Battalion, is sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum, more commonly known as OC spray, during a nonlethal weapons exercise at Babadag Training Area, Romania, May 25. Romanian Marines and soldiers received nonlethal weapons familiarization training as part of their peacekeeping operations course.



Staff Sgt. Troy Ferderer, left, a nonlethal weapons instructor with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, demonstrates how to properly employ a Taser on Cpl. Mitchell Staats, an assaultman with scout platoon, H and S Co., 1st Tank Bn., during a nonlethal weapons exercise at Babadag Training Area, Romania, May 25.

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AMCC sailors, staff keep Marines in fight

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With few staff members and limited space, the sailors at the Adult Medical Care Clinic get the job done.

The AMCC has 25 total staff members – one branch head, one permanent active duty nurse, two temporary nurse practitioners on loan from the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, two independent duty corpsmen certified to diagnose patients and prescribe medication, two administrative clerks and 12 working corpsmen. The final five sailors are currently deployed.

With an average of 100-130 patients a day from Headquarters Battalion and Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, these few keep themselves busy.

"It's incredibly busy," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Evan Cofer, a hospital corpsman at the AMCC. "We are open all day, so [the clinic staff] needs to know how to do everything so we can cover each other to go to lunch. It's been to the point where we couldn't go to the bathroom, because there was no one to cover for us."

Another corpsman, Petty

Officer 3rd Class Christine Wallin, said life can get crazy at times, especially since she is the only female corpsman at the AMCC.

"When appointments get booked up, I take the overflow of patients," Wallin said. "I am the only female down here, so for female issues I'm being pulled to do standbys."

On average Wallin sees 10-20 patients a day, she said.

An older, cramped working space also keeps the group on their toes, said Lt. Cmdr. Joseph A. Gomez, the branch head of AMCC.

"We have an old building. We are limited in space," he said, explaining they are anticipating a new building in the year 2013.

However, Gomez said nothing can slow his staff down, adding he has full confidence in them to get the job done to the highest level of quality possible.

"Some days it can be really hectic," said Gomez. "Despite the number of corpsmen, everybody steps up to the plate. Everybody knows and does everybody's job. Everyone knows we need to come together as a team to accomplish our number one



Seaman James Louck, a hospital corpsman with the Adult Medical Care Clinic, takes a blood sample from Pfc. Lyle Anderson at the clinic Wednesday.

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

priority, and that is taking care of the Marines."

Despite the short staff, busy days and confined work space, the corpsmen create an environment where it is easy to work together as a team, Cofer said.

"Morale is really high. We

are all getting along really well," he said.

Gomez said he is proud of the effort his staff puts out on a day-to-day basis.

"We have great staff here. My corpsmen here are outstanding corpsmen. They are all eager and willing to learn,

[and] they question what they are unsure of," he said. "My job is to make sure they are well educated, so when they are out with Marines, they know what to take care of."

"I've been in 29 years, and I've served with a few corpsmen, and these guys are by far

the best," Gomez added.

If you're at the AMCC for an appointment, be on time and be patient - and be assured you are in for quality care.

To schedule an appointment at the AMCC, call 830-2621.

MCCS provides easy way to send care packages

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A care package sent to loved ones overseas contains more than simple supplies and treats from home. To the Marines and sailors on the receiving end, those care packages represent love and support from the homefront.

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services' Care Package Program makes it even easier for family members of deployed service members

to send their loved ones supplies and pieces of home.

The mission of the Care Package Program is to raise morale, send love and remind deployed servicemembers they are in the thoughts of their families and friends.

"It's support from the homefront," said Jessica M. Arthur, the supervisor administrative assistant for the MCCS Retail Division. "Who doesn't want to know someone back here is thinking about them? We don't know

what kind of day they've had. Some days are okay, some days are horrible, so the best thing they can receive is that morale boost."

The Care Package Program will box items, tape them up and mail them for their customers. The mailer does have to pay postage, but will receive a \$10 coupon for the Main Exchange for every package mailed, said Alisi Tuiotetai, the general clerk for the Retail Division administration.

"You get a free box, fill it, and you get a \$10 coupon. You can't get that at the post office," Arthur said. "Since December 2009, the program has mailed almost 450 packages to deployed Marines and sailors. We have an impressive average of approximately 38 care packages mailed out each week for the past eight weeks."

The cost of sending packages should not hinder the deployed service members from receiving mail, Arthur said.

"This is so families can afford to send care packages to their loved ones," she added. "I remember being married to a lance corporal, and we didn't have money. At least this way, maybe I pay by cash or check, but at least I get something [back in the form of gift certificate]."

Anyone interested in using the Care Package Program can stop by the Retail Division's office behind the Main Exchange.

For more information on the Care Package Program, contact the Retail Division administration by calling 830-6163. Their offices are open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Jessica M. Arthur, the supervisor administrative assistant for the Marine Corps Community Services Retail Division, packs a care package for her husband in Afghanistan at the Retail Division administration building Wednesday.

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<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child. Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>	<p>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Call for free van ride Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs Visitors Welcome Sunday Concert Series • Call for info 29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7135 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>
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KC130-T unit arrives to support Black Sea Rotational Force

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU AIRFIELD, Romania – Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, based out of Newburgh, N.Y.; and VMGR-234, from Fort Worth, Texas, arrived at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield, Romania, May 28 to support Black Sea Rotational Force as the air combat element of the Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force currently deployed to Eastern Europe.

The ACE's mission is to provide the Marines and sailors of Black Sea Rotational Force with air resupply operations and troop transport support, as well as to provide support of Romanian special forces airborne training, said Maj. George Christel, a pilot with VMGR-452.

"It feels great, and we're excited to be here," said Christel, a native of Clinton, N.Y. "I think for all of us, it's our first time in Romania, and we're looking forward to the experience."

The Marines arrived with their compliment of two KC130-T Hercules aircraft, which they will use to support several flight operations scheduled throughout BSRF. Both KC130-T squadrons are composed of reserve and active duty Marines from 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

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 nations' 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 – the first of its kind in the region.

For some Marines, like Sgt. Geoff Boreman, a flight mechanic trainee with VMGR-452, this deployment will also serve as a valuable training experience.

"I'm in training to become a flight mechanic," said Boreman, a Newburgh, N.Y., native. "I've gone through about five months of ground training, and I'll learn more about the different systems on the plane while I'm here."



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

An air traffic controller for the Mihail Kogalniceanu International Airport, Romania, guides a KC130-T aircraft with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234, 4th Marine Air Wing, based out of Fort Worth, Texas, upon arriving at the airport May 28. The unit, along with Marines with VMGR-452, 4th MAW, out of Newburgh, N.Y., is supporting Black Sea Rotational Force 2010 as the air combat element of the Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

DRUG, from A1

Police National Interdiction Unit. A Marine dog handler and his patrol drug-detection canine helped complete the search of the compound.

The team of Afghan NIU agents armed with automatic weapons and search-and-arrest warrants led the forced entry into the compound. The DEA and Marine dog handler and his canine followed behind.

The rest of the Marines from Co. A surrounded and secured the outside of the compound, ready to provide additional firepower if required inside.

Soon after the NIU team entered the compound, a bearded man confronted them. He initially resisted the commands to surrender. While the NIU detained the man, the DEA agents and the dog handler cleared each room and searched possible hiding spots for Taliban fighters.

Still unaccounted for was the primary target. With one detainee secured, the NIU, DEA and Marine canine team continued to search the compound through a second entrance.

Moments later, radio chatter from the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Marines, who were securing the perimeter, said they had detained a man attempting to flee the compound.

The Marines had secured the DEAs most wanted man in Marjah. With flexi cuffs on, the man was turned over to the NIU.

"The reason I'm doing this, is you know the drug traffickers and the Taliban are both connected. The Taliban are getting their financing from the drugs," said a special investigator with the SIU. "The case worked. We arrested the guys and got the seizure."

"This is all task and purpose," said Sgt. Patrick Main, 1st squad leader, 2nd platoon, 1st Bn., 6th Marines. "If we've got to set a cordon [perimeter] for the DEA, or another squad, or ourselves,

it's pretty much the same."

Main underplayed the importance of their part of the mission. His Marines' cordon nabbed the primary target as he attempted to escape.

This was a joint operation with Marine forces, explained the Afghan special investigator through a translator.

"I'm very happy with the cooperation and success," said the SIU agent. "The good part was the Afghans searched the compounds, and the Marines set up the cordon around the perimeter. The search and evidence collection was all the Afghans. This is very good for

Afghan culture, and because we did the searches, the Afghan people respect the Marines a lot, and there were no civilian casualties."

"I think a little bit will help, especially with the drugs because if you take the drugs you take their money," said Main, a 28-year-old, from Eagle River, Wis., before the raid.

With the primary target in cuffs and the team's spirits high on that knowledge, the worst fears of everyone who goes on patrol happened. The Marines providing rear-end security were hit by an IED.

Main, a 10-year, battle-hardened infantry veteran, had been within five meters of the blast and was down. One of Main's Marines, just feet away, sustained severe injuries.

The corpsman treated Main's wounds, but the Marine who took the brunt of the IED was seriously injured. An hour later the bad news was sent down to Co. A the Marine had died.

It was Co. A's first loss of life.

Company A's hearts were heavy, but the Marines maintained the resolve to protect the local population.

"Right now it's hard for them. It's hard for all of us," Vallejo said. "The best thing I can tell them is we are out here and we have a job to do. Mourn the loss, but we've got to stay focused at the same time. It's sounds very cliché, and you hate to be the one to say that to them. There's still a mission to be done here and that's the truth of it."

The Taliban is going to do what the Taliban is going to do. Today we caught one of them and we also saw up close and personal what they do," Vallejo added firmly.

This was the first opera-

tion we have done in Helmand province and especially in Marjah district. From our sources, all of the drug traffickers keep moving from Marjah to other places and provinces and trying to go to other countries," said the Afghan drug police officer.

With the drugs and evidence seized, the men are facing a minimum 10-year prison sentence in the Afghan judicial system.

"We will keep working hard to get rid of the drugs and drug traffickers from Afghanistan," said the Afghan SIU agent.



GUNNERY SGT. MATTHEW BUTLER

The seizure of drugs and the arrest of key drug traffickers was the culmination of months of undercover work by the Afghan Counter Narcotic Police and Drug Enforcement Administration special agents. The drugs in this photo have a street value of more than \$500,000, dollars according to a DEA special agent. More than 2,344 kilograms of opium, 16 kilograms of heroin and 27 kilograms of morphine were seized during the raids.

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CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Romanian Marines move into position during the military operations on urbanized terrain portion of their final training exercise May 27. Throughout two weeks of training with the U.S. Marines and sailors of Black Sea Rotational Force, the Romanian troops practiced Military Operations in Urban Terrain training, nonlethal weapons use, martial arts and other skills crucial to peacekeeping operations.



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY

Lt. Col. Tom Gordon, the commanding officer for Black Sea Rotational Force, gives a challenge coin to Pvt. Marius Dumitru, a Romanian Marine with Amphibious Company, 307th Battalion, during a ceremony concluding two weeks of peacekeeping operations training May 28.

ROMANIAN, from A1

Capsicum spray, and patrolled the fields and MOUT towns throughout the training area.

Pvt. Marius Dumitru, a Romanian Marine with Amphibious Co., 307th Bn., was given a challenge coin during the ceremony for his exemplary performance and willingness to learn throughout the training evolution.

"I really didn't expect that to happen," said Dumitru, referring to the moment Gordon called him front-and-center. "This is a great honor for me. It's really motivating for me and feels good to be appreciated."

The commanders of the Romanian Marines and Land Forces soldiers were also presented with plaques, congratulating them on their hard work. But these weren't ordinary plaques. They were made from fallen trees from the World War I Battle of Belleau Wood, France, the birthplace of the Marine nickname "Teufel Hunden," more commonly known as "Devil Dog."

The Marines received the title after the ferocity and relentlessness they exhibited during the battle, and the woods have become known as the "Bois de la Brigade de Marine," or "Wood of the Marine Brigade."

First Tank Battalion is currently deployed to the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions as the core of a Security Cooperation Marine-Air Ground Task Force, known as Black Sea Rotational Force 2010. The Marines and sailors have the mission to train with partner militaries, provide humanitarian support, promote stability in the region and build enduring partnerships with nations in the regions.

Macedonian forces are slated to arrive at Romania's Babadag Training Area May 31 for two weeks of peacekeeping operations training, and the Marines and sailors with scout platoon said they look forward to continuing training with partner nations in the region.

Romanian forces are scheduled to continue training with U.S. forces during the coming weeks, beginning with airborne training with Black Sea Rotational Force's air combat element, a detachment of KC 130-T Hercules aircraft from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452 and VMGR-234.

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<p>2009 PONTIAC G6 GT</p> <p>V6 3.5L, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CD, OnStar, Traction Control, Alloys. VIN 171855 / STK P1900 \$13,888</p>	<p>2005 JAGUAR X-TYPE 3.0L</p> <p>ONLY 44K MILES</p> <p>V6 3.0L, Auto, AWD, AC, PS, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, Multi-CD, Navigation, Leather, Alloys. VIN E2820 / STK 1071718 \$14,750</p>	<p>2006 CHEVY SILVERADO LS 1500 CREW CAB</p> <p>V8 5.3L, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, CD, Tow Pkg., Premium Wheels. VIN 137563 / STK 97112B \$15,888</p>	<p>2006 FORD ESCAPE HYBRID</p> <p>Hurry! Won't Last</p> <p>4-Cyl, 2.3L, HYBRID, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, MP3/Multi-CD, R/Rack, Alloys, Low P/Glass. VIN B08416 / STK P1670A \$16,750</p>	<p>2009 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE</p> <p>ONLY 46K MILES 7-PASSENGER</p> <p>V6 3.3L, Auto, Rear Air, PW, PDL, Tilt, MP3/CD, Quad Seating, P/Glass, R/Rack. VIN 507552 / STK P1893 \$16,850</p>
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Village medical outreach provides care to Afghans

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. MEGAN
SINDELAR**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

NAW ABAD, Afghanistan – Marines and medical officers from Brigade Headquarters Group and 3rd Low Altitude

Air Defense Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD), and an Afghan National Army medic from Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, set up a village medical outreach May 15 outside the village of Naw-Abad, to provide medical care to the people of

that area.

The Marines and sailors set up a medical tent and aided more than 35 men and children who traveled from their homes down to the medical site.

Lieutenant Cmdr. Aaron R. Huber, 3rd LAAD Bn. medical officer, said his team provided excellent health care and worked to their limits.

Huber, from Southaven, Miss., also said most illnesses treated were acute.

Locals were also given a short class on preventative medicine to encourage district well-being.

Before the villagers returned home, they were given hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and lotion to take back to their families. Solar-powered radios were also handed out so the villagers would be able to listen to their local radio station for information on upcoming village medical outreaches.

The Naw Abad village men have little access to health care, but as the women very rarely leave their compounds, most of them have never seen a physician.

Navy Lt. Michelle M. Lynch, a medical officer with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, led a female engagement team inside each compound to give the village women much needed health care.

"They are kept away from mainstream culture," Lynch said. "Their needs are easily overlooked."

Lynch noticed a lack of nutrition in pregnant and breast-feeding women while she was conducting the previous outreach, so this time she brought and distributed Carnation Instant Breakfast



Navy Lt. Michelle M. Lynch, flight surgeon medical officer with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD), passes out toys May 15 while conducting a village medical outreach outside Naw Abad, Afghanistan.



Navy Lt. Jason P. Rice, flight surgeon with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD), checks a child's heartbeat May 15 during a village medical outreach outside Naw Abad, Afghanistan. Marines and medical officers from Brigade Headquarters Group and 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, I MEF (FWD), and an Afghan National Army medic from Camp Shorabak, set up and conducted the outreach to provide medical care and assess the area's long term medical needs.



Afghan National Army Sgt. Maj. Yaseen, a medic from Jalalabad, Afghanistan, checks a child's ears during a village medical outreach May 15 at Naw Abad, Afghanistan.

packets to the women to help keep them and their children healthy.

She was able to look at 17 women, 18 children and two men while she traveled the compounds. The FET entertained the children and interacted with the women while they were waiting to be treated.

Lynch and members of the FET handed out toys, hygiene items and lotion to the children before leaving each compound.

After completing the medical outreach, Marines and members of the ANA distributed corn seed and fertilizer throughout the district.

Huber said distributing the corn seed and fertilizer shows the local people

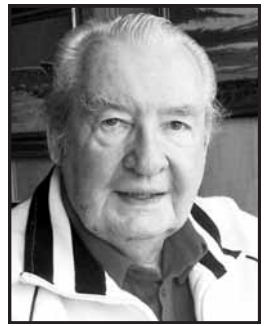
the International Security Assistance Force has an interest in what they do.

The ISAF plans to provide

medical help around Helmand province to continue to build good relations with the people of Afghanistan.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



My ego was really dealt a body blow last Thursday when a lady connected with the radio industry in our High Desert told me she didn't read the local newspapers and knew nothing about my weekly column except for a casual comment from a friend who said I was writing a "little something" that appeared in this newspaper.

Now the fact is that many people tell me daily what they like or don't like about my weekly columns that appear twice a week in the Hi Desert Star in addition to the Desert Trail and the Observation Post.

I have been writing this column for 18 months and I am having a great time.

Thanks to Cindy Melland and the good people of Hi Desert Publishing I have raised considerable money for my non-profit activities and I have met many wonderful people in Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms.

This column is all about maintaining an optimistic attitude even when times and personal experiences are difficult and challenging

I am not Pollyanna-ish. Nor am I Panglossian. (That's a new word I just learned the other day. It means given to stubborn and undue optimism.)

Let me put it this way. I do not believe that every thing happens for the best, but I do believe that something good can come from every thing that happens.

So I hope you will keep reading the column, support my sponsors, and continue to contribute to my non-profit projects.

Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627
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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.

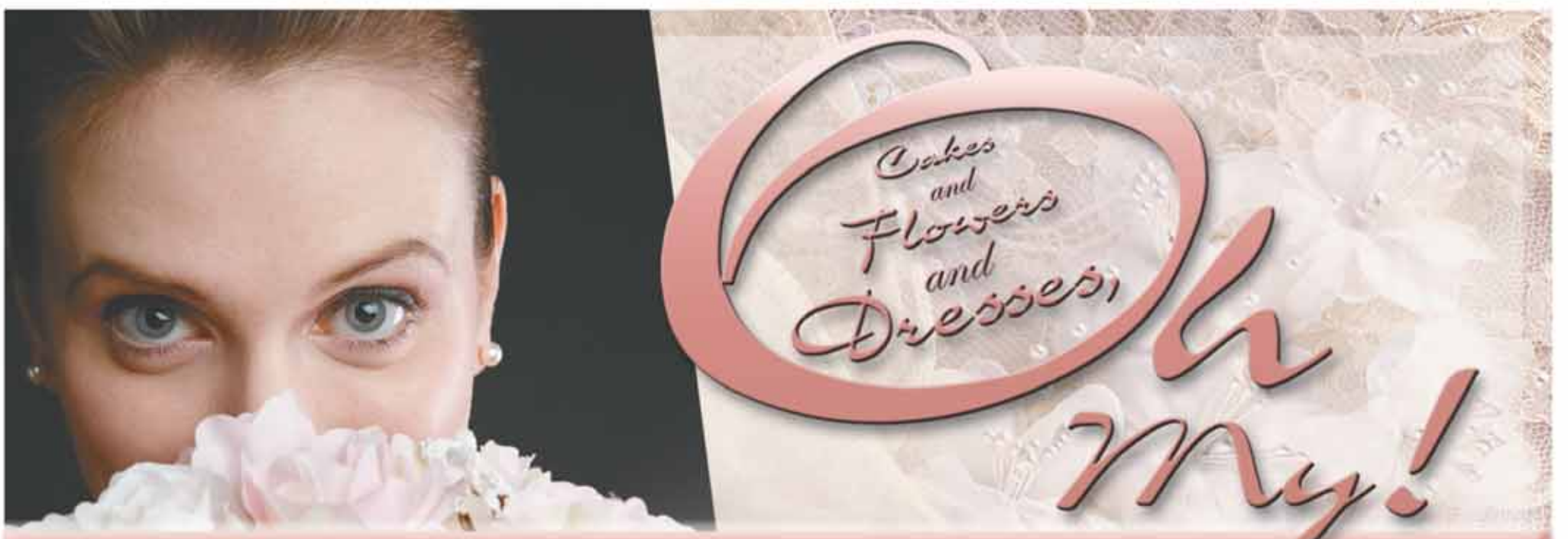
The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used

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.



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- You're not required to open your gifts at the reception or in front of anyone.

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Invitation Problems

- If you don't want children at your wedding, you have 2 options:
- When addressing your invitations, leave the children's names off it and also don't mention them in the invitation.
 - Have friends and family pass the word around that you don't want children there.
- FB Says: How many people know or understand etiquette. In some cases you have to cut straight to the chase and say what you mean. We suggest adding one of these phrases to the bottom of your reply card:*
- Adult Reception
 - We hope that the (# of) of you will be able to join us
 - (# of) seats have been reserved in your names
- Other invitation stuff:
- If someone hasn't responded to your invitation, 1 week past the "Reply by" date, call him or her and confirm over the phone.
 - Children over the age of 16 get their own invitations. (*FB thinks 18 is sufficient*)
 - Your officiant and their better half get an invitation
 - Send your parents and wedding party invitations, as a keepsake. They don't have to reply.
 - You have to put return postage on your RSVP's.

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B1



Navy Shark cheerleaders form a basic pyramid to rouse the crowd's excitement during a Marine versus Navy powder puff football game at Felix Field May 27.



Holly Finnesy, a player on the Navy Sharks football team, attempts to power her way through two Marines during a powder puff football game against the Marine Panthers at Felix Field May 27. The annual game resulted in a Marine Panther victory 40-12.

Marines dominate during powder puff game

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The gridiron erupted in full-fledged inter-service rivalry as the Marine Panthers and Navy Sharks battled it out for year-long bragging rights

and the trophy during the Combat Center's annual powder puff football game at Felix Field May 27.

A powder puff game is one in which roles are reversed. Women take it to the field while the men take on cheerleading.

The game is a great way for the women of the Combat Center to get some competitiveness out of their system, said Tu Tran, the coach for the Panthers.

"It's one of those things, inter-service rivalry; we want to beat the Navy,"

Tran said. "They love competition."

The Sharks used the game as a fundraiser for their Corpsman Ball later this month, whereas the Marines just came to play for some good, ol' fashioned, rough-n-rumble fun.

"We have been practicing twice a week for about a month," Tran said. "We want to win."

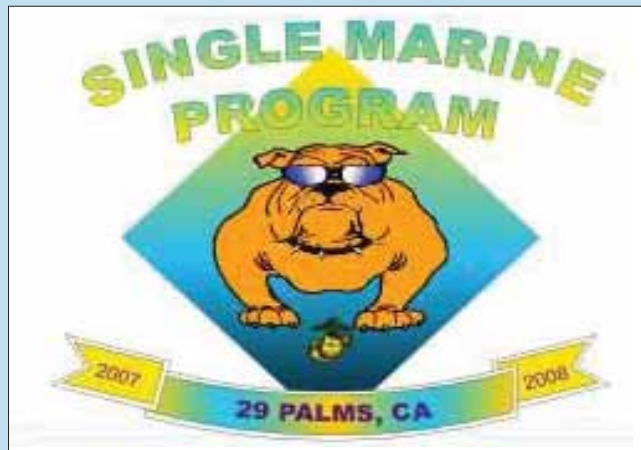
The Sharks said they came to represent what they consider to be a strong minority aboard the installation.

The Navy is a very small

group aboard the Combat Center, and being females we are part of an even smaller group, so this is an awesome chance for us to come out here to represent the Navy, said Sheena

See GAME, B4

SMP amps up summer fun



June

The monthly free pizza and bowling at the Sandy Hills Lanes has already past, but the SMP has more events scheduled for the month of June. All SMP events are open to active duty service members with priority space given to single and geo bachelor Marines and sailors. Rally point for all Saturday trips is in front of The Zone.

- Tomorrow - Ocean kayaking. SMP will head out at 8 a.m. Cost is \$25.
- June 12 - Mini-NASCAR. Participants will depart at 8 a.m. Cost is \$35.
- June 16 - Desert Mail Call. The SMP will start packing for their next shipment at 4 p.m. Care packages will be sent out June 18 at 8 a.m.
- June 19 - Disneyland. Participants will depart at 7 a.m. Cost is \$68.
- June 26 - Raging Waters. Participants will depart at 7 a.m. Cost is \$25.

July

All SMP events are open to active duty service members with priority space given to single and geo bachelor Marines and sailors. Rally point for all Saturday trips is in front of The Zone.

- July 3 - All-you-can-eat Six Flags BBQ. Participants will depart at 7 a.m. Cost is \$35.
- July 3 - Free pizza and bowling. The event will be at the Sandy Hills Lanes starting at 7 p.m.
- July 9-11 - Las Vegas road trip. Participants will depart at noon. Cost is \$310 and includes a two-night stay at a hotel and the Blue Man Group tickets.
- July 17 - Raging Waters is scheduled for Saturday. Participants will depart at 7 a.m. Cost of the trip is \$25.
- July 21 - Desert Mail Call. The SMP will start packing for their next shipment at 4 p.m. Care packages will be sent out July 23 at 8 a.m.
- July 24 - ComicCon. SMP will host its first ComicCon, starting at 12:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to dress up as their favorite comic hero and help solve a mystery.

The Zone

The Zone is a hotspot for Marines to relax, socialize, watch movies and play video games Friday through Saturday 10 a.m. to midnight and Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Zone has a 100 percent ID check policy at the front counter for service members in civilian clothing.

The Zone features include:

- The Core gaming area with more than 30 games available
- Four TVs for game systems and video games
- Movie theater-style seating with hundreds of movies to choose from
- Two foosball and ping-pong tables.
- Five billiard tables
- Dance Dance Revolution and other arcade games
- Snacks and drinks available at the front counter

Free shuttle bus program

The Single Marine Program provides a free shuttle bus program available for Marines and sailors. The shuttle route features stops at the Commissary, Main Exchange, food establishments aboard the Combat Center or just back to the barracks. Keep an eye out for the buses with "Single Marine Program" written across the sides.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Women race through an intense part of a spin class at the East Gym and Fitness Center Wednesday. Spin is one of the many classes available through the Aerobics Program aboard the Combat Center.

Aerobics program keeps Combat Center families on healthy track



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Trisha Kelly, an aerobics instructor, leads a group of women through a power yoga class at the Community Center Wednesday. Power yoga is one of many aerobics classes available to the Combat Center community through the Aerobics Program.

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Music reverberated throughout the gym as sweaty riders cycled their way through miles of calories during a spin class offered through the Marine Corps Community Services' Aerobics Program.

The program offers a wide range of classes nearly every day of the week, including classes for new mothers such as mommy and baby, and stroller class. Other classes include step, spin, muscle mania, Pilates, stability ball, power yoga, Zumba, kickboxing and water aerobics.

"The program is a great way to get yourself into a healthy lifestyle," said Yvonne Warfield, the aerobics coordinator for the Combat Center. "It is a great way to relieve stress and start your day off right."

The East and West Gym and Fitness Centers, the

See AEROBICS, B4

For more information visit
<http://www.mccs29palms.com>.
To sign up for a trip, call 830-4767.



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club
Fridays: Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m., ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m. and DJ Vlad, 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: Variety Night with DJ Bones 8 to 11 p.m.
Wednesdays: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club
Mondays: Free chicken nuggets/nacos, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Free, Italian sausage with peppers, onions and green salad.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club
Fridays: DJ at 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
All Hands Lunch, Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Mondays: Steak Night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays: Karaoke, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center's Officers' Club
Lunch served Monday-Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mondays: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.
For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Twentynine Palms Street Fair and Car Show
Description: A showcase of custom and classic vehicles
When: 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, June 4
Where: Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce
73491 Twentynine Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-3445 or visit <http://www.29chamber.org>.

Miguel Garcia and The Varitones
Description: Self described as a Baja-Western band
When: 8 p.m., Friday, June 4

The Sadies with Tim Easton
Description: An alternative country/rock band
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 5
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Joshua Tree Certified Farmers Market
Description: An open air market with fresh produce
When: 8 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday
Where: Turtle Island; Twentynine Palms Highway in downtown Joshua Tree.

Movies in the Park "Imagine That"
Description: Free movies shown at Luckie Park
When: Nightfall, approx. 8 p.m. Thursday, June 10
Where: Luckie Park at the corner of Two Mile Road and Utah Trail, next to the racquet ball courts.
For more information call the Recreation Department at 367-7562.

Lower Desert

Donna Summer
Description: The disco star performs her hits
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 19
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

The comedy of Howie Mandel
Description: Television show host and comedian performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 26
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Bad Company
Description: The rock 'n' roll stars perform their hits
When: 8 p.m., Friday, July 16
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Jay Leno
Description: Tonight show host performs stand up
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 12
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, June 4
6 p.m. – Why Did I Get Married Too?, PG-13
9 p.m. – Clash of the Titans, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Kick -*ss, Rated R
Saturday, June 5
11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Shrek, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Date Night, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Back Up Plan, PG-13
9 p.m. – The Losers, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Death at a Funeral, Rated R
Sunday, June 6
2 p.m. – Fury Vengeance, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Clash of the Titans, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Nightmare on Elm Street, Rated R
Monday, June 7
6 p.m. – Kick -*ss, Rated R
Tuesday, June 8
7 p.m. – Date Night, Rated PG-13
Wednesday, June 9
7 p.m. – Clash of the Titans, Rated PG-13
Thursday, June 10
7 p.m. – Why Did I Get Married Too?, PG-13

More is less in 'Robin Hood' remake

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

"Robin Hood"
Rated PG-13

The Olde English folk icon Robin Hood has been romanticized in song, dramatized in print and depicted by some of Hollywood's most dashing leading men throughout the years, including Errol Flynn, Sean Connery and Kevin Costner.

Russell Crowe is the latest actor to step into the big-screen boots of the Prince of Thieves, fabled since medieval times for robbing from the rich to give to the poor.

Was there ever a real-life person with that name, or even resembling the character? That's debatable. But the new "Robin Hood" posits him in the historical context of England circa 1100 for this back-story tale about how Robin became a heroic hood.

We meet Robin, aka Robert Locksley, as an archer in the service of King Richard the Lionheart, now driving his tired and tattered army home after spending 10 years and most of his homeland's resources on the Crusades.

The king's death during an attempted castle siege begins Locksley's transformation into a crusading woodland warrior with a quiver full of bad news for bad guys, which in this case includes a prissy British tyrant, a traitorous



COURTESY PHOTO

Russell Crowe is the latest actor to take on the fabled medieval task of robbing from the rich to give to the poor.

plotter, various murderous minions and a beach full of pesky invading Frenchmen.

Yes, this Robin Hood has his hands full – even more so after he comes across a damsel in distress, the resourceful maiden Marion Locksley, played by Cate Blanchett.

Ten years ago, Crowe made another big-budget blockbuster about a former soldier who squared off with a monarch, and that movie made him a household name and a superstar. The long shadow of "Gladiator" looms large over "Robin Hood," not just because both depict brawling, brawny lead characters in historical settings, one with a broadsword and the other with a bow and arrow. Both movies share

the same director, Ridley Scott, who seems like he's trying to "out-Gladiator" himself here, with more of practically everything: more plot, more characters, more star power (award-winning actors Max von Sydow and William Hurt bring a somber "Masterpiece Theater" vibe) and more action.

But sometimes more is less, and "Robin Hood" sags from its bloat. It's overly long, overly complicated, overly staged and, in far too many scenes, awash with British-burr grunts, whispers and growls as part of a bombastic sound mix that over-amps every whisking arrow, every crackling fire, every horse clop. It's a strain just trying to follow what's happen-

ing, who's who and what's being said.

The grand vistas of lush British Isles scenery, and Scott's knack for showing the muddy, messy details of life in the 12th century, make it a handsome enough spectacle. But it all comes across as a heavy-handed hodgepodge, too weighted down with its blockbuster pedigree to be as much pure fun as it might have been.

Hollywood sometimes forgets a good, solid story doesn't have to be a spectacle that takes itself so seriously. Walt Disney certainly got it. Just look at his 1973 adaptation of Robin Hood. It was a cartoon, Robin was a fox, and you could understand him when he talked.

Cinema 6 Showtimes Effective 6/4/10 - 6/10/10

Splice (R) Ev5:day: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Shrek (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Prince Of Persia (PG13) The Sands of Time Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Sex & The City 2 (R) Everyday: 1:30, 6:00, 9:00

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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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COURTESY PHOTO

Robin Hood has his hands full – even more so after he comes across a damsel in distress, the resourceful maiden Marion Locksley, played by Cate Blanchett.

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Combat Center Sports



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Hospital player Marc Maxwell prepares to hit a long ball down centerfield during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball game against 374 #2 Wednesday at Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Hospital first baseman Eric Vaught catches the ball as Jessie Dewitt, a runner for 374 #2, also known as Mad Dogs, runs across the base during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball game Wednesday at Felix Field.

Intramural softball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
MCCES Red	10	1
3/11	9	1
Tanks	10	2
ESD	10	2
374 #1	9	3
ATG	9	3
PMO	7	3
MCCES C Co.	6	4
Mojave Viper	5	5
AAV	5	6
IPAC	5	6
MCCES White	5	8
3rd LAR	5	6
CLB-7	4	7
MCTOG	4	7
MCCES Maint	3	9
374 #2	2	11
Hospital	3	9
CMA	1	10
Dental	1	11



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Mike Muller, a player for the HQBN team, attempts to score, but is shut down by goal keeper AJ Wilson, a player for CLB-7 during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game at Felix Field Wednesday. The game ended in a tie, but CLB-7 ultimately won in a sudden-death shootout.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Daniel Martinez, a player for the HQBN team, attempts to control the ball during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game against CLB-7 at Felix Field Wednesday. The game ended with CLB-7's victory in a sudden-death shootout 7-6.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Jessie Dewitt
Hometown: Brownsburg, Ind.
Unit: Marine Wing Support Squadron 374
Job title: Engineer equipment chief
Recognition: "Most Valuable Player" for the 374 #2 team
Favorite aspect of the sport: "Having fun."
Advice for aspiring players: "It's all about having fun."

Intramural soccer standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
MCCES	2	0
CLB-7	2	1
HQBN	1	1
MWSS-374	0	1
1st Tanks	0	2
NHTP	0	1

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GAME, from B1

Hayes, the quarterback for the Sharks.

In the heat of friendly competition, the Marine Panthers jokingly talked up their game before the kick-off. Marine Irina Jones commented, "BAS [battalion aid station] is

going to be full in the morning."

However, the Navy Sharks were prepared with their own battery of remarks.

"If we injure them, we have to deal with them in our clinic on Wednesday ... that's what happened last year," countered Navy

player Kameryn Hughes.

With neither team able to claim home field advantage, it started out as anybody's game.

However, the Sharks' bravado proved to be a false front as soon as the coin was tossed. A combination of aggressive, well-executed plays and quick thinking kept the Panthers leading the scoreboard.

The Sharks made a minor attempt at a comeback during the third quarter, but by then, it was too late. The Panthers claimed victory 40-12.

Sergio Romero, the Sharks coach, said he believes this game is an important event the girls look forward to every year.

Tran added he looks at the powder puff game as an opportunity for the girls to showcase their talent on their own stage.

"It's a great way for the girls to learn [traditionally] male sport," Tran said. "They watch it, and they [normally] don't get to play it in an organized fashion."

The sailors also stay excited for the powder puff game all year, Hughes said.

"This is probably, for the females at the hospital, one of the most fun things we do all year," Hughes said.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Kayla Erienne, a player on the Marine Panthers powder puff football team, dives to save the ball during game against the Navy Sharks at Felix Field May 27.

AEROBICS, from B1

Community Center and the Family and Officers' Pools are all used for various classes. Units can also request a training session in any of the

classes throughout the week.

Warfield said many Marines prefer using the Aerobics Program because they are a lot more fun than a regular run, which makes the unit as a whole more willing

to put forth an effort during physical training.

"Sometimes we get guys out here who think a certain class is going to be easy, but once they do it, they find it a lot more difficult than they thought," said Warfield, a San Fernando Valley, Calif., native. "Those guys always leave with a new-found appreciation for what we do."

Nickie Dietz, who participates in the spin class three times a week, said the whole program is awesome, but is especially impressed with the spin class.

"It's great to be able to come out here and burn a high amount of calories in only a little bit of time," said Dietz, from San Antonio.

Heather Mitchell, who leads a spin class, said her class was great for everyone because it was based on how the cyclists rate their own strength on a one-to-ten scale.

"When I say go to a six, there isn't a set number on the bike," Mitchell said. "It is all what you perceive your six is. So my six is going to be completely different from [others]."

For more information about the program or to schedule a session for unit PT, contact Warfield at 830-3381. To view the aerobics calendar, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com/calendars/aerobics.html>.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Nickie Dietz keeps a steady pace during a spin class Wednesday morning at the East Gym and Fitness Center. Spin, power yoga, Pilates, kickboxing and dance Zumba are a few of the aerobics classes available aboard the Combat Center.

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