

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 2, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 26

Commandant seeks input to improve family readiness

COMPILED BY OBSERVATION POST STAFF

The Commandant of the Marine Corps wants your opinion on how the Family Readiness Program is working and how it can be improved.

Let the Commandant know your perception of the program, voice your concerns, identify best practices, provide recommendations and influence positive change.

Service-wide participation in the family readiness surveys is insufficiently low. Participation is still needed from Marines, sailors, family members, Family Readiness Officers, volunteers and staff.

Responses are anonymous and will be compiled and analyzed with the intent of program improvement.

Go to the link which corresponds to your group. The survey deadline is July 10. The surveys are part of a comprehensive program assessment being conducted by the Readiness Division and will also include interviews and focus groups.

The following is a list of the surveys and their corresponding Web sites:

Commander Teams

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/command-team-survey>

Family Readiness Officers

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/fro-ig-survey>

Marines, sailors and family members

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fr-marines-and-families-survey>

Marine Corps Community Services and Family Readiness Support personnel

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mccs-and-fr-support-survey>

Volunteers

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/fr-volunteer-survey>

Hospital seeks patient support during increased medical staff deployments

DAN BARBER

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER,
ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL

This summer, the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital is expected to deploy more than 54 staff members in support of Pacific Partnership 2010 aboard USNS MERCY and around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The typical rotation schedule for doctors at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital occurs during the summer months, and the hospital leadership plans for those moves accordingly. This year, however, due to unforeseen events such as early orders for several providers and unexpected additional deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, there will be fewer primary care providers onboard through September.

"Our staff is aware of the challenge ahead and is prepared for and capable of adapting to the needs of our patients," said the Navy Capt. Michael Moeller, the hospital's executive officer. "I am confident in our medical team's ability to ensure all patient needs are met."

The hospital's staff is asking patients for their support during this temporary decrease in family medicine physicians.

"We are asking patients to be flexible if they are referred to the Emergency Department for care rather than their primary care manager," Moeller said. "We are asking for their patience in the waiting room and the pharmacy while our staff work extended hours and augment other departments. Finally, we ask that patients call to cancel their appointments as early as possible if they are unable to make it, so we can use that time slot for someone else."

The hospital currently has an eight to 16 percent "no-show" rate, which equates to closing Primary Care one

month per year from patients failing to meet their scheduled appointments.

Since January, the hospital successfully filled the anticipated shortages due to increased operational requirements by contracting additional physicians, providers, nurses and support staff. In addition, Navy Reservists and staff from hospitals in San Diego, Camp Pendleton and Bremerton were also used to fill in when needed.

To fully staff emergency care through the summer, military staff members from various clinics throughout the hospital are working shifts in the Emergency Department to ensure full service to all eligible beneficiaries.

In September, civilian nursing and physician contracts are scheduled to be implemented in combination with an Emergency Department contract to improve access to care.

"We thank all of you [beneficiaries] for your patience and assistance during these temporary shortages in appointments and access to primary care," Moeller said. "We are extremely proud of all of our active duty, reserve, civilian, contract and volunteer staff who serve our beneficiaries 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, both overseas and here in Twentynine Palms."

What does this shortage mean to you?

During the next few months, with fewer providers in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and the Adult Medical Care Clinic, there will be fewer appointments and likely longer wait times to speak with a clinic nurse or to make an appointment. Based on individual patient needs, medical staff at the hospital will assess and determine when patients should receive care from their primary care manager, such as for chronic care, or when patients may need the

See HOSPITAL, A7



CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

Lance Cpl. Jesse Watson, an assaultman with scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, demonstrates a combat marksmanship stance to Bulgarian soldiers during a class at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, June 29. The Marines have constructed an intense training schedule covering a wide variety of topics including combat marksmanship, nonlethal weapons, an introduction to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and convoy operations.

Black Sea Rotational Force arrives in Bulgaria for last leg of training

CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – The Marines and sailors of Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion,

are currently training with Bulgarian soldiers at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, as part of the fourth and final peacekeeping operation training course of the Black Sea Rotational Force 2010 deployment.

Members of scout platoon spent the past two months training with Romanian, Ukrainian and Macedonian forces at Romania's Babadag Training Area, but left the rolling plains and farmlands of

Babadag to venture to Novo Selo's mountainous terrain for their final PKO training.

Corporal Delshan Martinez, an assaultman with scout platoon, H and S Co., 1st Tank

See BULGARIA, A8

Donations offer invaluable charity

CPL ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Name something money can't buy and no one can live without. Everyone has it. You make it, and according to <http://giveapint.org>, every two seconds, someone needs it.

Although some might claim a fear of needles or a mild indifference to the cause, donating blood really does save lives, said Martin Arredondo, the Senior Donor Recruitment Representative for Community Blood Bank, during a blood drive hosted at the Combat Center's Protestant chapel June 24.

"Local hospitals depend

on the Marines here for their donations," he said. "They make a difference twice. They help to save lives and help to defend our country, we are very appreciative of what they do."

A blood drive is hosted each month for a different unit aboard the Combat Center, but those eligible to give blood can still donate no matter which unit's name is on the docket.

"Donating blood is very important, especially if you have a rare type of blood," said Seaman Joshua Srey, a corpsman for 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Company B., from Jacksonville, Fla.,

who donated a pint during the blood drive.

Srey, blood type AB+, felt obligated to donate, he said. "About three percent of the population shares my blood type. The more of a supply they have, the easier it will be to get."

"I tried to get them to take two pints, but they wouldn't do it," added Cpl. Jonathan Crofoot, a Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided missile gunner with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

For Crofoot, a pint will have to do for now. But Double Red Cell donations

See CHARITY, A7



CPL ANDREW S. AVITT

Sergeant Steven Boone, an administrative clerk with Company A, Headquarters Battalion, donates a pint of blood during a blood drive at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel June 24.



Hazmat made new ~ See A3



Fresh start ~ See A4



Softball stardom ~ See B1



Soccer stand-off ~ See B1

Winners quit

DIANE MAYER
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

There are more than 1,000 people a year in the America who could have prevented their own deaths, but didn't.

That's because those 1,000 people died from tobacco-caused diseases, the leading type of preventable death in the U.S., according to the American Lung Association.

The key here is these deaths are preventable. The power lies in your hands.

"My dad smoked his entire life, and I think that smoking is what, in fact, killed him eventually. But I wasn't thinking about that. I just thought it was a cool thing to do, and I wanted to smoke too," said Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson in a video interview posted on TRICARE's tobacco-free Web site, www.tricare.mil/tobaccofree.

"The reason I stopped smoking was because of my patients. Kicking an addiction is probably among the strongest things that we will ever do," he added.

Ready to Quit?

When you are ready to quit using tobacco, TRICARE and TriWest have tools to help you succeed:

- Visit <http://www.ucanquit2.org>. The site offers interactive, Web-based tobacco cessation training and real-time live encouragement with trained tobacco cessation coaches, a quit plan and calendar, texted quit tips, savings calculator, games and much more.
 - Great online resources including Web chat with health professionals
 - TriWest's dedicated toll-free telephone quitline, 1-866-244-6870, is available around the clock.
 - TriWest.com's tobacco cessation page, <http://www.triwest.com/tobacco>, provides information about local and statewide resources, as well as tools and tips to help you quit.
 - TRICARE's tobacco-free Web site, <http://www.tricare.mil/tobaccofree>
 - TriWest Tobacco Quitline - 1-866-244-6870
- When you are ready to quit smoking, help is only a phone call away.
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays
 - Speak with a trained smoking cessation coach who assesses each individual's stage of the smoking cessation process and recommends appropriate treatment and resources to quit smoking or remain smoke-free.
 - All non-Medicare eligible beneficiaries can receive assistance.
 - This telephone line is NOT a counseling service.
- TRICARE and TriWest want you to be a successful quitter. It all boils down to choice. Imagine a world where you have the freedom to choose to live longer. Get help today.

Centerspeak

How are command-sponsored surveys beneficial to Marines and their families?

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



SGT. EBONY BIRD
CLB-3 HEADQUARTERS CO.

"It's there for the Marine Corps to see what the families need and adjust to them."



CPL. VANESSA JAMES
CLB-3 HEADQUARTERS CO.

"It lets the family know that they have a say in what goes on in the base. It makes them feel like part of the team."



SGT. DARRYLE HUTCHENS
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"They're there to give a voice to Marines and to see what they think."

Hot Topics

MESQUITE SPRINGS ROAD CLOSURE

Mesquite Springs Road in Twentynine Palms is closed for a month-long reconstruction project. The stretch of the road between Two Mile Road to Indian Trail is affected by the project, which is expected to last until the third week of July. Call 367-7623 for more information.

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. Call 830-6896 for more information.

CHEER '10 BOOTCAMP

Beginner and intermediate cheerleading classes are scheduled for Aug. 2-6 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Register now at the community center, building 1004. Registration is \$15 and includes a T-shirt and graduation certificate. For more information call 830-8421.

FREE ADMISSION TO KNOTT'S

Knott's Soak City celebrates Fourth of July by offering free admission to Armed Forces at all three water parks - Palm Springs, San Diego and Buena Park. The offer is available to active duty and retired personnel on Sunday and Monday. Purchase of discounted admission tickets for immediate family (max. 6) for only \$23.99 with valid military ID. For more information visit <http://www.Knotts.com>.

Marine Corps History

July 4, 1801

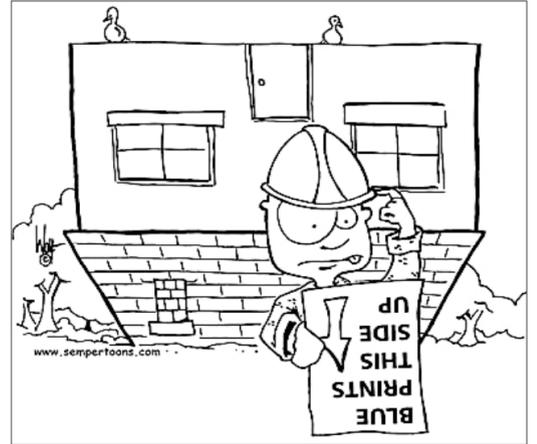
President Thomas Jefferson reviewed Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Col. William W. Burrows, in honor of the nation's 25th anniversary.



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 #1859

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT



School Liaison Information

Question: How can we help our children be successful students?

Answer: There are lots of ways you can help out at home and shape your child's vision of themselves as a successful student.

- Read, read, read! Feel like you have heard that before? The bottom line is the more successful your child is as a reader, the better they will do in school.
- Help your children learn to do things for themselves. Show them how to break down tasks into manageable pieces. Be patient and give them time, even if you can do it better and faster yourself. Praise them for their successes, and help them learn from their mistakes. This attention will build confidence, persistence and self-esteem.
- Stay involved and active in your child's education. Children with parents who know what is happening in their school and with their children are better students. Ask your child about their day - encourage them to answer in detail by asking open-ended questions. Talk about the projects, homework and assignments they are doing. Communicate regularly with the teachers; don't wait for a problem to open the lines of communication. Attend school activities, and volunteer when you can.
- Establish routines. When daily home life is stable and predictable, children will do better in school. Give your child a certain chore for which they are always responsible. Establish family traditions like eating dinner together at the table. Military families understand the importance of order and getting everyone to work their best - this commitment instills good habits for the future.

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

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Cpl. Darryl Neely
Hometown: Chattanooga, Tenn.
Unit: Combat Logistics Battalion 7, S-1
Job title: Legal Chief
Job duties: Draft legal paperwork for the battalion and ensure accuracy of all documents.
What do you like most about your job? "The opportunities to meet new people and learning something new about my job every day."
Significant achievements: Started college, started training for a marathon and earned brown belt in MCMAP.
Hobbies: Running and reading.
Time at Combat Center: Two years and five months



INNER SELVES

[Puzzle solutions on A5]

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| ACROSS | 42. Early Paul Anka hit | DOWN | 30. Prima donnas' problems |
| 1. "Jurassic Park" critters | 43. A date may include it | 1. "Star Trek" android | 31. Polo Grounds player of 1962-63 |
| 6. Seek bargains | 45. "Stormy" bird | 2. Bowie's model wife | 33. Take Amtrak |
| 10. Movies, slangily | 46. Tuckered out | 3. First in line | 35. Mr. Peanut accessory |
| 14. One-celled organism | 48. Nurse at the bar | 4. Big Apple theater award | 36. Series ender |
| 15. Far from ruddy | 49. Well-bred | 5. Bums out | 38. Big racket |
| 16. ___ Sea (saline lake) | 51. Cuts up? | 6. Hurt on purpose | 39. "Beat it!" |
| 17. 1976 De Niro movie | 56. Move, in Realtor lingo | 7. Wealthy one | 41. Aardvark's snack |
| 19. Unlikely to bite | 57. Much of Mongolia | 8. Violinist ___ Bull | 42. Bum out |
| 20. Come before | 59. Genesis victim | 9. Smart-alecky | 44. Dr. Scholl's product |
| 21. Rotational force | 60. Aunt Bee's charge | 10. Supporter of the arts | 45. Like a colorful horse |
| 23. Word after naked or evil | 61. Sealy competitor | 11. Cash in Sadr City | 46. "Beat it!" |
| 24. Like a towelette | 62. ___ mortals | 12. "The Stranger" author | 47. Academy newbie |
| 25. Beaus of yore | 63. Alley crawlers | 13. Winter hazard | 48. Many Le Carre characters |
| 29. Supply partner | 64. Not so dotty | 18. 2008 American League champs | 50. Lugosi role in "Son of Frankenstein" |
| 32. Acts sulky | | 22. Sharif of film | 51. Article bordered in black, often |
| 33. "Copy that" | | 25. Sauna spots | 52. In a muddle |
| 34. Cause of skidding | | 26. Bookish sort, slangily | 53. Fork-tailed seabird |
| 37. Added conditions | | 27. Where to get an A3 or A4 | 54. Former Harper's Bazaar artist |
| 38. Chunk of fairway | | 28. TGIF part | 55. Red giant or white dwarf |
| 39. Swarm member | | 29. White cliffs locale | 58. ___ Locka, Fla. |
| 40. Enjoy Telluride | | | |
| 41. Senate staffers | | | |

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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Recycling HAZMAT the Combat Center way

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. M. C. NERI**
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management Branch saved almost \$1 million in taxpayer money last year.

Thanks to the branch's work ethic, it has become an outstanding example of HAZMAT recycling and monetary saving, said Patrick Mills, the branch manager.

Mills added the efforts here are as a team, with input and critiques of every process being looked at by all 11 members, not just himself.

"Our impact here is profound," said the New York City native. "We are of very few installations in the [Department of Defense] or Marine Corps that does what we do [HAZMAT recycling]."

The installation doesn't just benefit financially. Training is made easier because of the availability of resources, said Carl Atchley, a HAZMAT identifier, who is from Bakersfield, Calif.

"Anti-freeze costs about \$400 a drum, and we give it free to the units," Atchley said. "I enjoy helping Marines and keeping them doing what they need to do – focusing on training."

The branch does much more than recycle anti-freeze however. They handle many more projects, leaving virtually nothing left to the landfill, said Tim Christian, another HAZMAT identifier.

Anti-freeze, the branch's biggest "money maker," comes from nearly all vehicles which have maintenance performed on them aboard the installation. The center re-processes and stocks it for future use.

The branch handles a very wide variety of materials – everything from lithium batteries, antifreeze, plastics, oil filters, paint cans, televisions and computer screens, said Christian from Monteo, N.C.

"We're here to reduce the base's carbon footprint, but also the cost of running the base," Christian said. "Something we're all very proud of is the [Re-Utilization] Program. We'll sometimes get [HAZMAT], and it's not used at all or only partially used. We stock these things, and they're available free to any units on base."

Christian, who like the rest of the team was highly praised by their boss, Mills, said the branch wouldn't be where it is today if it wasn't for the new leadership.

"In the three years we've had Mr. Mills here, we've



Carl Atchley, a hazardous material identifier with the Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management Branch, inspects a battery's charging status Tuesday at the branch's area of operations here. Atchley is one of 11 on staff who manage the installation's hazardous waste.

made leaps and bounds forward," Christian said. "He's probably the best boss I've had."

For more information on handling hazardous materials or the Re-Utilization program, call 830-5403.



John Vigar, a hazardous material identifier with the Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management Branch, inspects a battery's charging status Tuesday at the branch's area of operations here.



Tim Christian, a hazardous waste identifier at the Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management Branch, expunges paint cans Tuesday at the branch's compound here. Many resources collected and re-processed at the center are available free to units here.

Fireworks Show

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Marines help local community residents

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. ANDREW D.
THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Early Saturday morning, nine Combat Center Marines armed with rakes and trash bags volunteered their time to help a hospitalized widow and her sister with some long overdue yard work.

The Marines raked up more than 25 bags of weeds

during four hours.

"I was an Eagle Scout in school, and that is one of the creeds I said daily," said Pfc. Mathew Ripley. "Do a good turn daily. I just love helping people anyway."

Helen Bliss was home for most of the volunteer work and overjoyed to have the service members helping them out.

Bliss said what the Marines did was fantastic. She was

heading out to the hospital that morning to visit her sister, when she noticed the Marines already hard at work.

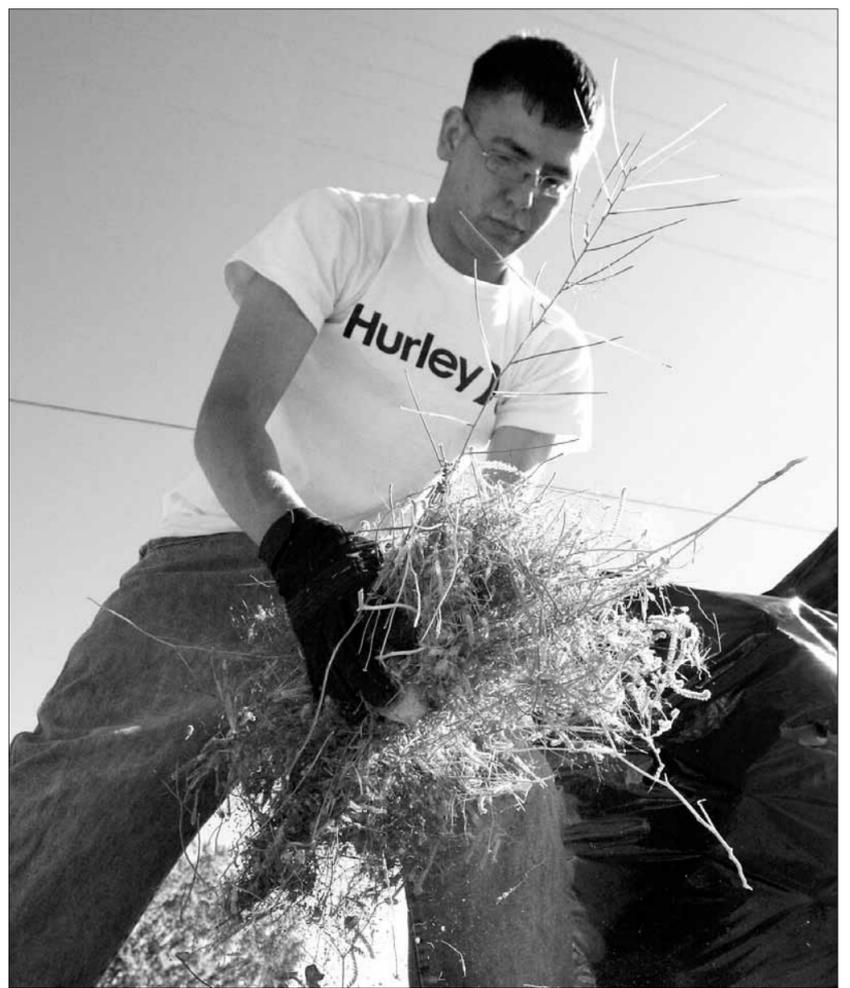
The Marines arrived around 7 a.m. and were getting close to the halfway mark at around 8:30 a.m.

Private First Class Kahlan Sword, a traffic management specialist with Company B., Headquarters Battalion, said he expected the job to take a large part of the day. But because of the productivity and the number of volunteers who showed up with rakes in hand, the workers were shaking the dirt off their clothes and heading home by 11 a.m.

As the Marines readied to head out with their vehicles full of trash bags, Bliss came out, thanked them and shared the conversation she'd had with her sister at the hospital.

Bliss said when she told her sister the Marines were at the house, her sister said, "They came today" before shedding tears of joy. "If I ever get out of this hospital, I might be able to see my yard looking decent one more time."

The sweaty Marines then headed out, comfortable in their exhaustion, knowing they did something meaningful for the two ladies, and their Saturday was well spent.



Corporal Christopher Jones, a motor transportation operator with Headquarters Battalion, stuffs piles of weeds into garbage bags while the rest of the volunteer workers push ahead with the raking at the home of two local women Saturday morning.



Private First Class Kahlan Sword, a traffic management specialist with Company B., Headquarters Battalion, works on the front yard of two local women Saturday morning. The sisters were overjoyed to have Marines from the Combat Center come out and help them with the overdue yard work.



The Marines bagged about 25 bags worth of weeds in four hours while helping two local women clean their yard Saturday morning.

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor
Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship 9:45
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
(760) 361-2450
4751 Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, Ca. 92277
spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com



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• Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.
• Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
• Friday Night Intercessory Prayer - 7 P.M.
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JOIN US IN WORSHIP

 <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>Skyview Chapel Church of God Worship Service 10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. 7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree Pastor Abe Casiano Church (760) 366-9119</p>	<p><i>This Week's Spotlight Church</i> 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) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>	<p>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST SUN. SERVICE & SUN. SCHOOL... 10 AM WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs. 12-3 PM Sat. 9-Noon (Except Holidays) 56039 Santa Fe Trail • 365-4185 Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley</p>	<p>29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST 72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC) Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM 367-9400</p>
<p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</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>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>Joshua Tree First Baptist Church Bible School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Wednesday 6:15 PM 6740 Sunset Rd. 366-3704</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>Two Mile Apostolic Tabernacle 74301 Two Mile Rd., 29 Palms (Next to Lucky Park) "Where Jesus Embraces You" Sundays 10:00 am 6:00 pm Wednesdays 7:30 pm Website: TwoMileApostolic.com 760-367-0080</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am. Morning Worship 10:30 am. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Services Prayer Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.fb29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	<p>United Methodist Church Joy in Worship-Fun in Fellowship Sunday Worship-10:30 AM 57273 Onaga Trail at Joshua Lane Yucca Valley CA-760-365-3671 Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors</p>	<p>Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church 73493 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, Ca 367-4185 Pastor Titus R. Burns Sunday Service: 10:00 AM Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."</p>	<p>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road Phone: 367-7338 Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m. (Child Care Provided) Reverend Lynn Reece "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>
<p>Valley Community Chapel Non-Denominational Sunday Services - 9:00 AM • 11:00 AM Wednesday Service - 6:30 PM Sundays en Español - 1:30 PM • 3:00 PM 59025 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley</p>				

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Heavy-lift helos haul big missions in Afghanistan

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUNNERY SGT. STEVEN WILLIAMS

3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FWD)

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – A CH-53E Super Stallion flew across the dawn-ing sun June 26 as it returned with an 18,000-pound piece of vital cargo slung beneath its belly. The sight of the air-craft against the painted morning sky was impressive on two accounts – the vision of the silhouetted helicopter floating in Afghanistan’s vibrant dawn, and the fact that the cargo toted below was a United Kingdom Mk3 Merlin (EH-101) helicopter.

The Super Stallion, deployed here with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, was recovering the air-

craft from a forward operat-ing base after the Merlin went down in a non-hostile event. Perhaps the most impressive part of the recovery mission – HMH-466 pulled it off with less than 18 hours notice.

“In order for it to go down,” Lt. Col. Mitch Cassell, the HMH-466 Commanding Officer, explained, “it required the entire squadron to throw themselves behind the lift.”

The planning and prepara-tion involved in outfitting a CH-53E to carry tens of thousands of pounds is exten-sive and requires meticulous attention to detail. Pilots and crew in the ready room who weren’t even flying the mission planned it. An entire mainte-nance department jumped into action pulling off 2,000 pounds worth of gear,

including the auxiliary fuel tanks, fuel probe, troop seats, ramp, cargo wench and utility hoist. “We had to remove all that equipment from our air-craft to make it light enough to lift the stricken Mk3 Merlin,” said Cassell.

The mission is called TRAP – Tactical Recovery of Aircraft or Personnel – a mis-sion Marines actively train for all the time. However, very few real world TRAP missions have ever been conducted. Conducting one TRAP during a deployment is rare. Twice is practically unheard of ... until now. In addition to the Mk3 Merlin mission, HMH-466 conducted an earlier TRAP mission to recover a U.S. Army MH-47G Chinook heli-copter May 15 that made a hard landing near Kandahar.

This mission was also conducted with less than 24 hours notice and followed many of the same planning and execution processes, “but more weight had to be removed from our aircraft because the Chinook was much heavier than the Merlin” said Cassell. To suc-cessfully lift the Chinook over 5,600 pounds of equip-ment had to be removed from the CH-53E helicopter.

“The fact that an Army unit was able to call across the boundaries to ask the Marine Corps to support a mission is pretty remark-able,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Sheyda, HMH-466’s execu-tive officer. “We were able to smoothly interact with their airborne assets on station, as well as their ground team which was at the site, and their command and control system that was in place.”

The CH-53E squadron is getting the call on these big missions because, according to Sheyda “there are only three aircraft in the world that could possibly do that lift.” The other two besides the CH-53 are the Russian-made MI-26 Halo and the CH-47 Chinook. Although



The ‘lifeless’ body of an Mk3 Merlin with Joint Helicopter Force (Afghanistan) at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, sits just off the air field where a CH-53E Super Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 put it down moments earlier.

those aircraft are available in the area, “the Marine Corps is the only service capable of reconfiguring its aircraft and performing the mission on such short notice.”

But the greatest accom-plishment extends beyond the rescued aircraft being deliv-ered to their respective own-ers. The capability the HMH-466 Marines have to plan, organize and execute these operations with very limited advance notice speaks to their

teamwork and dedication.

“The fact that a team can throw a plan together in less than 24 hours to do a mission really validates the Marine Corps planning process,” Sheyda exclaimed. “This process will have to be passed on to future generations.”

He went on to say, “Marines are trained to be light, agile, quick and lethal. In this case, we were able to do all of those things and effectively accomplish our

mission in a short timeline. That’s how we operate.”

At the end of the summer, HMH-466 will return to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and pass off their responsibilities to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361. As HMH-466 flies off into the sunset, HMH-361 picks up a “heavy” mission supporting the Afghan National Security and NATO Forces as the “heavy haulers” of southern Afghanistan.



A CH-53E Super Stallion flies overhead carrying an Mk3 Merlin from a forward operating base in Afghanistan June 26. This early-morning operation to recover the Merlin is a prime example of the joint operations now taking place between the United States and the United Kingdom in the region.

School, Sports Physical Rodeo Days set at Naval Hospital

Seize your opportunity now! The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Pediatric Department will be holding a school and sports physical rodeo on July 12-13. These appointments are for school-aged children who need medical forms filled out to start school or participate in sports activities. The appointments are for screening purposes only and may be with someone other than the child’s primary care manager. Should an issue be identified that needs further evaluation, a follow-up appointment can be scheduled at the time of the screening appointment.

If your child has had a well child visit or physical exam done in the past nine months, an appointment is not necessary. Simply fill out the school forms and drop them off at the front desk of either Family Medicine or Pediatrics, depending on where the child normally receives their care. The medical chart will be reviewed and the forms signed and ready for pick up with-in two-to-five working days.

To make an appointment, please contact central appointments at 830-2752. Please be sure to fill out the school forms and bring them to your appointment or you may need to be rescheduled. If unable to participate during a rodeo day, please schedule your physical at your earliest opportunity as appointment times fill quickly.

Corporals Course 2-10 graduates



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Cpl. Kirk H. Schaffer, the honor graduate and gung ho recipient for Corporals Course 2-10, receives K-bar plaque during Corporals Course graduation ceremony June 24.

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Civilian heavy team keeps Marines training



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Kyle Matthews, a civilian motor technician mechanic with the Exercise Support Division, tests the turret of an MRAP All-terrain vehicle, Wednesday in an ESD garage. The civilian to Marine ratio is about 19-5.

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine units from across the world travel to train in the sands of Twentynine Palms before heading to Afghanistan and other foreign lands. They come from all walks of life and fill every job the Corps has to offer. The one thing they all have in common – they all, in part owe their successful training cycle to the small cadre of civilians and Marines at the Exercise Support Division who keep their vehicles and equipment running.

The ESD's mission is vital to training units and is no easy task, said Steve C. Johnson, the deputy director of ESD.

"We are continuing to provide a service to the exercise forces in that we are issuing them mission capable safe and reliable equipment," Johnson said. "We also serve as a maintenance backup during the conduct of their training, as well as a valid source of supply on a very large scale."

"If you can imagine 2,000 principle end items being issued out for each Mohave Viper iteration," he added. "When it does come back in the barn, it all comes back at once. We essentially have two-to-three weeks max to turn it around and issue it back out. It's a Herculean task.

We are very good at what we do, we are able to make mission every single time."

Despite ESD's enormous workload and comparatively few workers to handle it, the mission is always accomplished, said Thomas Rosello, a motor technician and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle supervisor for ESD.

"The vehicle mechanic ratio is 45 to one," he added. "No matter what's thrown at us over here, we somehow make it work. They will not let

this place fail. Every one of them is dedicated."

The Exercise Support Division has between 7,000 to 8,000 pieces of equipment, and only a handful of civilians and Marines to manage it at full strength, said Gunnery Sgt. Roberto Ramirez, the ESD operations chief.

"I will put our ESD against any maintenance shop in the [Department Of Defense]," he added.

The civilians in ESD provide knowledge and experience that Marines need, to ensure mission success and provide mentorship for their young Marine colleagues.

"Marines come and go, but civilians always stay," said Julia Herrera, a supply technician for ESD. "We have the background Marines need to learn."

"Most of the civilian

employees are former Marines, or a spouse or family member of a Marine, and that's a plus," added Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Buxton, the ESD supply chief. "It has been a good working environment."

The civilian employees receive just as much in return from their active duty counterparts, said Karen Stadler, a supply technician for ESD.

"It's more respectful [working with Marines] rather than the civilian world," she said. "Because my husband was active duty, I always felt it was a family that I was working with and for."

Others said working with Marines has caused the Corps to become a part of them.

"There's something that makes us want to be here with the Marines," Herrera said. "It's a lifestyle."



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Joshua Schulte [left], Mike Matthews [center], and Pfc. Michael Dinanno, light armored vehicle mechanics with the Exercise Support Division, put new parts on an LAV cooling tower, and service LAV power pack.

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Born June 17, 2010

ALEXANDER EUGENE ELDER

Son of Renee and Deryk Elder
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RYKER DARREN HAYNES

Son of Brandon and Molly Haynes
Born June 16, 2010

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Son of Kyle and Iris Webster
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Son of Marc and Sarah Tucker
Born June 15, 2010

LILLY ANEMARIE MEISTER

Daughter of John and Tori Meister
Born June 13, 2010

SAIGE JADEN KURTZ

Daughter of Ryan and Chelsey Kurtz
Born June 24, 2010

CAROLINE GRACE MOORE

Daughter of Austin and Sarah Moore
Born June 24, 2010

AVERY LAYNE DUFFLE

Daughter of Shane and Jessica Duffle
Born June 25, 2010

JEFFREY THOMAS FUSSELL

Son of Jeff and Michell Fussell
Born June 21, 2010

COLTON ALAN FEUERBARN

Son of Spencer and Kasha Feuerbarn
Born June 21, 2010

ANTHONY SIMON COWEN

Son of Chris and Vera Cowen
Born June 19, 2010

HOSPITAL, from A1

services of the Emergency Department, such as in the case of acute care. As more patients seek care in the Emergency Department, this may mean longer wait times. The hospital's staff appreciates beneficiaries' flexibility and patience during this time.

What has the hospital done to increase the staff?

According to Navy Cmdr. Sharon Kingsberry, the director of Medical Services, the Military Placement Officers, Navy Medicine West and Navy Medicine Logistics Command have been working to get new staff onboard as quickly as possible. Recruitment procedures for hiring civilian physicians, nurses and medical assistants were developed in early 2010, and she anticipates these new staff members will begin

arriving in late summer or early fall.

Is this a long-term decrease in staff?

No, this situation is temporary. The staffing level is scheduled to return to normal by the end of September.

How can patients help?

Appointment Cancellations – Please cancel the appointment as soon as possible by calling 830-2369 or 830-2752 during normal working hours. You can also cancel your appointment by sending an e-mail to NHTP.CAPC@med.navy.mil.

School and Sports Physicals –

The Pediatric Clinic will be offering this service July 12 – 13. Please call the

appointment line at 830-2752 to schedule an appointment.

Treatment over the Phone –

If you think you are pregnant or have a urinary or gynecologic infection, please call the appointment line at 830-2752 and ask to leave a message for the nurse. A nurse will contact you regarding your issue. An appointment is not required, and medications will be provided through the pharmacy.

If at any time the information you receive does not meet your satisfaction or you are not satisfied with the service, please ask to speak with the Department Customer Relations Officer, clinic supervisor, business manager or a nurse.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Seaman Joshua Srey, a corpsman with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, reads a brochure on the benefits of blood donation while Maribel De Guzman, a nurse with United Blood Services, prepares to draw a pint of whole blood from Srey's right arm, during a blood drive at the Combat Center's protestant chapel June 24.

CHARITY, from A1

could be added to the Combat Center's blood drive circuit soon, Arredondo said. A Double Red Cell donation allows donors to give two units of red blood cells in one visit.

Although spending, 30-45 minutes sitting in a chair to save up to three lives seems like a no-brainer to some, there are a few common reasons why others shy away from donating, Arredondo said.

"They think they will faint or contract some sort of disease. But the equipment is sterile and

anything that comes in contact with blood, such as the needle or gloves, is for one-time use only and is disposed of immediately after."

According to <http://americasblood.org>, 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, yet less than 10 percent will each year.

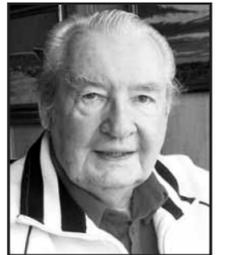
Some circumstances which might restrict a potential donor's eligibility to donate

blood include tattoos less than a year old, and cold or flu-like symptoms within the last week. Depending on where a donor has been stationed also factors into if they are able to give blood, since different regions are more susceptible to foreign disease.

For more information on upcoming blood drives aboard the Combat Center visit <http://www.cbbc-blood.org>

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



If you were to shrink the population of the world down to 1,000 persons, 300 would be Christians (183 Catholics, 84 Protestants, 23 Orthodox), 210 would be atheists, agnostics, no religion, 175 Muslims, 128 Hindus, 55 Buddhists, 47 Animists, 85 other religious groups.

In the United States the most recent National Opinion Research Center report states that for the first time in our nation's history Protestant Christians have become a minority. The figures show that 49 percent of the population is Protestant and that the percentage is falling, while the Catholic population has remained stable at 25 percent.

The percentage of Muslims has grown somewhat and the percentage of Jews has declined slightly. The largest increase in the statistics is with the rapidly growing number of people who decline to state any religious affiliation or declare themselves as atheists or agnostics.

So what does all this mean? Well, to me, it suggests that more and more we must recognize the growing religious diversity both nationally and inter-nationally and we must embrace a true spirit of genuine respect and appreciation of religious philosophies that differ from our own.

It is my sincere belief that someday the spirit of ecumenism will dominate the world and "nation will not rise against nation and men will not make war any more."

It almost goes without the need of comment that you and I must be ferocious fighters against prejudice in any form, however subtle.

Marcel Proust wrote, "The universe is true for all of us and different for each of us." Perhaps that is the way it should be.

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2002 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT. Leather interior, loaded, alloy wheels, V-6 3.8L, 77,000 miles. Selling for payoff. \$6,000. Call Dane at 368-9535. 3/26/10

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

Trader Ad forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417. Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address.

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

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

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

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

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

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



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CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

Corporal Devin Bullard, an assaultman with scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, adjusts a pair of night vision goggles during an NVG familiarization exercise with Bulgarian soldiers from the 38th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Light Infantry Brigade, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, June 29. The Marines and sailors of 1st Tank Bn., have spent the past two months partnering with 12 nations throughout the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions to promote regional stability, build relations and develop partner nations' military capabilities.

BULGARIA, from A1

Bn., said he is excited to see a different part of the Black Sea region.

"It was a long convoy out here, but it's a definite change of scenery from where we spent the past six weeks," said Martinez, a native of Lubbock, Texas. "I'm excited about training with, teaching and learning all I can from the Bulgarians. This is our last PKO, so I'm going to make it the best."

Many Bulgarian soldiers said they agree partnering with U.S. Marines creates a unique training environment, as well as an opportunity to learn more about how America's force in readiness operates.

"I've only been in the army for a little over a year so I'm really looking forward to shooting my weapon and learning more about combat marksmanship," said Pvt. Plamen Ianev, a soldier with the Bulgarian Army. "I also want to learn more about

Marine Corps tactics so I will be able to work better with the Americans when I deploy to Afghanistan."

Plamen will get his wish over the next two weeks, as will his fellow soldiers. The Marines have constructed an intense training schedule covering a wide variety of topics including combat marksmanship, nonlethal weapons, an introduction to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and convoy operations. The training will consist of a balance of classroom instruction and practical application exercises which are designed to fit as much training in as possible.

However, training isn't the only mission the Marines will accomplish while at Novo Selo.

The Marines are also scheduled to conduct community relations events in towns near the training Area. They will refurbish a community medical center in the historic village of Zheravna, and hand out clothes, toys and furniture to children at an

orphanage in nearby Medven.

The Marines and sailors of 1st Tank Bn., have served as the core of BSRF 2010, the first Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force to deploy to the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions with the mission of promoting regional stability, building enduring partnerships with partner nations and improving their military capabilities.

Since arriving to the region, the Marines have worked and trained alongside 12 nations in the region, and accomplished more than 40 percent of the security cooperation activities conducted by Marine Forces Europe this year.

The Marines are slated to wrap up the training with Bulgarian forces in mid-July. Many will transition to the Ukraine for additional training, while others will return to their family and friends aboard Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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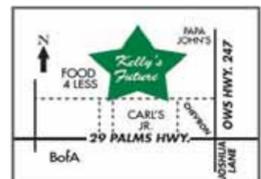
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B1

Combat Center's best slug it out



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's best softball players gathered into two dugouts Wednesday for the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-Star game at the installation's Felix Field.

The players, who were selected from various intramural teams, earned their spots on the roster and enjoyed a much less stressful match than usual, said Kyle Matthews, the head coach of the White team, and a native of Winnebago, Neb.

"I'm normally the coach for [Exercise Support Division]," he said. "It's pretty awesome being chosen for this spot as head coach. For the game though, I'll just put everyone where they're comfortable and work from there."

Matthews said the game was a great opportunity for him, as well as everyone else.

"We're just here to have fun, and play some softball with no pressure, because the game doesn't matter for standing or anything. Just good, ol' fashioned bragging rights," he said.

Matt McCaskill, a first baseman with the White

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
Marvin Barber, a first baseman for the Blue team, makes a catch Tuesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-Star game. They played two games and a tiebreaker, ending in a White team victory.

See **SOFTBALL, B3**

Multi-nation soccer rivalry comes to a head

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

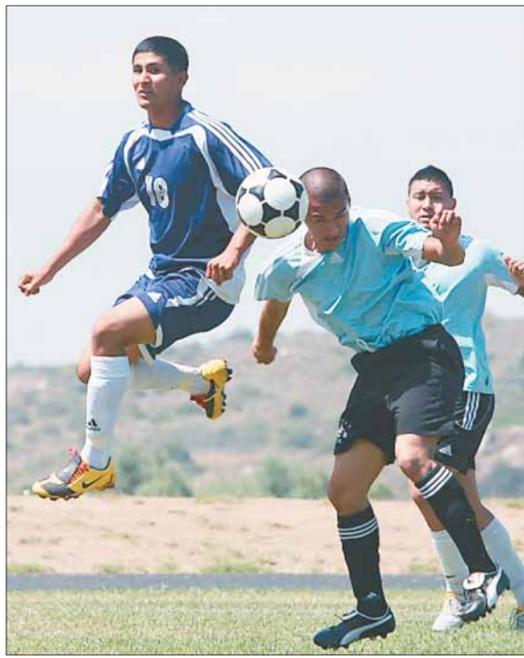
Players seemed but multi-colored blurs as they ran up and down the soccer field, undaunted by the intense heat and seemingly never-ending clock during a soccer tournament at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Saturday and Sunday.

Teams from the Combat Center, MCB Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., MCAS Miramar, Calif., and the Scottish Army challenged each other during the 10-game tournament.

"The tournament went well," said Anthony Hernandez, coach of MCAS Miramar installation team. "I used it as an evaluation tool. The majority of my players are new to this team. The hardest part was waiting all day to play."

The Scottish Army showed up to challenge the Marine Corps and brought

See **SOCCER, B4**



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Oscar Serrano, a player for the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., installation team, heads the ball as Carlos Iruegas, a player for the Combat Center's installation soccer team, flies through the air during a tournament game June 26 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The game ended with a 5-1 Twentynine Palms victory.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

AJ Wilson, the goalkeeper for the Combat Center's installation soccer team, saves the ball as it is kicked toward the goal during a tournament game against the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., installation soccer team June 26 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Michael D. Grubbs II, a Marine from CLB-7, sands the head of a gavel at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop June 25. The Wood Hobby Shop is open to anyone in the Combat Center community.

Marines express creativity at Wood Hobby Shop

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Some people believe child-like creativity fades as a person grows older, but the only thing a man grows out of is the crayons, markers and glue. At the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, members of the Combat Center community are welcome to create anything they set their minds to.

"It brings a sense of achievement knowing that you created something," said Don Miller, who has managed the Wood Hobby Shop for 20 years. "We have a lot of fun here, it is a comfortable environment."

Working with other creative souls helps build friendships and ignites new ideas, said Miller. "There's an interaction with the builders and grows camaraderie."

While figuring out the placement of the pieces or the right sand paper for the perfect edge, problem solving skills are being practiced. "It helps Marines to think around problems and how to solve them," Miller added.

There is a common mis-

conception that woodworking is a man's hobby, said Kaylin Hinson, an employee at the Wood Hobby Shop. "The rumor is wrong!" she said. "A lot of wives are intimidated to

See **HOBBY, B3**



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Michael D. Grubbs II, a Marine from CLB-7, makes a gavel to enter into the Most Worshipful Grandmaster Free & Accepted Masons of the Grand State of California contest.



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Fridays: Social food, 5 to 7 p.m.; Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m.; ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m.; 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. This Monday, July 5, The club will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Wednesdays: Free Italian sausage with peppers, onions and green salad. This Saturday, July 3 and Monday, July 5, The club will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: DJ, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tuesday-Friday: All Hands Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays: Karaoke, 5 to 7 p.m. This Monday, July 5, The club will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

Combat Center's Officers' Club

Tuesday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This Monday, July 5, The club will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

The Ryan Bradley Affair

Description: Rhythm and blues with some rock 'n' roll When: 8 p.m., Friday, July 2

Evarol

Description: The local band performs their latin grooves When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 3 Where: Pappy and Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

The Town of Yucca Valley Music Festival "Born Blue"

Description: A mixtures of blues musical styles When: 7 p.m., Saturday, July 3 Where: Yucca Valley Community Center ball field Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway. For more information call 369-7211 or visit <http://www.yucca-valley.org>.

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"

Description: Free summer movie program at Luckie Park When: Nightfall, approx. 8 p.m. Thursday, July 8 Where: Luckie Park at the corner of Two Mile Road and Utah Trail, next to the racquet ball courts. For more information, call at 367-7562.

Theatre 29 presents The Pajama Game

Description: A romantic comedy set in a pajama factory Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>

Lower Desert

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>.

HBO Boxing Night

Description: Bradley vs Abregu and Angulo vs Alcine When: 7 p.m., Saturday, July 17 Where: Agua Caliente, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Enrique Iglesias

Description: One of Latin music's greatest young talents When: 9 p.m., Friday, July 23 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

REO Speedwagon

Description: The rock 'n' roll legends perform their hits When: 9 p.m., Saturday, July 30 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, July 2

6 p.m. – Just Wright, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Robin Hood, Rated PG-13
Midnight – MacGruber, Rated R

Saturday, July 3

11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Shrek 2, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Shrek Forever After, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Letters to Juliet, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Iron Man 2, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Prince of Persia, Rated PG-13

Sunday, July 4

2 p.m. – Prince of Persia, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Robin Hood, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Sex in the City 2, Rated R

Monday, July 5

2 p.m. – Free matinee, How to Train Your Dragon, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Shrek Forever After, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Iron Man 2, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, July 6

7 p.m. – MacGruber, Rated R

Wednesday, July 7

7 p.m. – Just Wright, Rated PG

Thursday, July 8

7 p.m. – Prince of Persia, PG-13

'A-Team' indestructible, overstuffed, macho escapism

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"A-Team"

Rated PG-13

Based on the 1983-87 TV series of the same name, this empty-headed, heavy-handed slab of summer escapism is so noisy, so busy, so start-to-finish overstuffed with its own swaggering, smirking macho bombast that it barely even bothers to make sense, much less give more than a cursory salute to its small-screen roots.

As on television, the movie's A-Team is an elite group of four gonzo U.S. Army specialists, double-crossed by their military commanders and set up to take the fall for a crime they didn't commit. Here it involves the wind-down of the Iraqi War, some of Saddam's henchmen and a massive international counterfeiting conspiracy.

Liam Neeson takes on the role of cigar-chewing Col. Hannibal Smith, the team's grizzled, gung-ho leader. Bradley Cooper is the dangerously handsome Lt. "Faceman" Peck, both a lover and a fighter.

Quentin "Rampage" Jackson, a former mixed martial arts competitor, mirrors the brutish mannerisms, minimalist dialogue and severe haircut of Mr. T for his portrayal of the bruising B.A. Baracas, with the words "PITY" and "FOOL" tattooed on his fists. Sharlito Copley, from the movie "District 9," provides nutball yuks as the borderline-insane pilot "Mad" Murdock.

To avoid blowing a testosterone gasket, the movie includes Jessica Biel as an Army captain – and former Faceman flame – nursing an old grudge. When the A-Teamers bust



COURTESY PHOTO

"A-Team" characters, [from left] Face played by Bradley Cooper, Murdock played by Sharlito Copley, Hannibal played by Liam Neeson and B.A. played by Quinton "Rampage" Jackson race into action.

out of military prison to clear their names, she goes after them...of course!

The plot, and the actors, are just window dressing for the movie's real showpieces: hyperkinetic action sequences and speaker-rattling special-effect blowouts that give new meaning to the phrase "over the top." The most ridiculous involves a tank hurtling to Earth with a tattered parachute – and the wisecracking A-Team inside, still blasting away, eventually emerging none the worse for the ride.

There's also a preposterous escape from a blazing crematorium, a vertical shootout cascading down the side of a skyscraper and a calamitous spill of a docked freighter's load of stacked cargo containers, which somehow doesn't harm anyone in or underneath them.

"I love it when a plan comes together," quips Hannibal. It's his favorite expression, and it refers to several impossibly intricate, meticulously timed heists, chases, rescues, shootouts

and escapes. Most of them defy all sense of logic and blithely discount the possibility that a huge magnet, industrial crane, set of magician's cups and balls or packets of fast-food ketchup just might NOT be available at any particular moment.

Why does there never seem to be a pencil with a usable eraser when I need one, but there's always a

rooftop helicopter, ready-to-go airplane or other vehicle there just in the split-second nick of time for these guys?

This is truly a movie in which nothing ever goes wrong, because if it did, it would derail the entire train – but if that happened, I have no doubt the A-Team would walk away from the wreckage without so much as a scratch.

Fireworks, family fun both Saturday, Sunday

Saturday's event:

The Homestead Valley Park will be hosting a third of July Independence Day celebration beginning at 4 p.m. There will be games, toys for sale and a bounce house for the kids.

A horseshoe tournament is scheduled for 5 p.m. The event's menu will include turkey drumsticks, ribs, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos, frappuccinos and a wide variety of soft drinks. Rotarians are serving their famous Cuervo Gold Margaritas, and there will be beer on tap and wine coolers available.

Live music will play all evening long headlined by blues artist Glen Patrik. The fireworks show will begin at 9:15 p.m. Homestead Valley Park is located at 1501 Belfield Blvd. in Landers.

Sunday's events:

The Combat Center's Fourth of July celebration:

Due to construction projects and ongoing security operations at the installation, the Combat Center will limit its Fourth of July celebration to a fireworks display with no designated viewing area. The display, scheduled to last from 9 to 9:30 p.m., is expected to be visible from the surrounding community.

Yucca Valley's Fourth of July celebration:

The Rotary Club of Yucca Valley will be presenting their Fourth of July celebration at the Yucca Valley High School football field. The snack bar will sell hot dogs, sno-cones, chips, candy and soft drinks. Glo-rings will go on sale at 6:45 p.m. Patriotic music will be played by Z107.7's mobile DJ. A color guard from the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Combat Center will honor the nation's flag. Marines will provide a static display of military equipment. The fireworks show will begin at 9 p.m.

Cinema 6

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The Last Airbender (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Toy Story 3 (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 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

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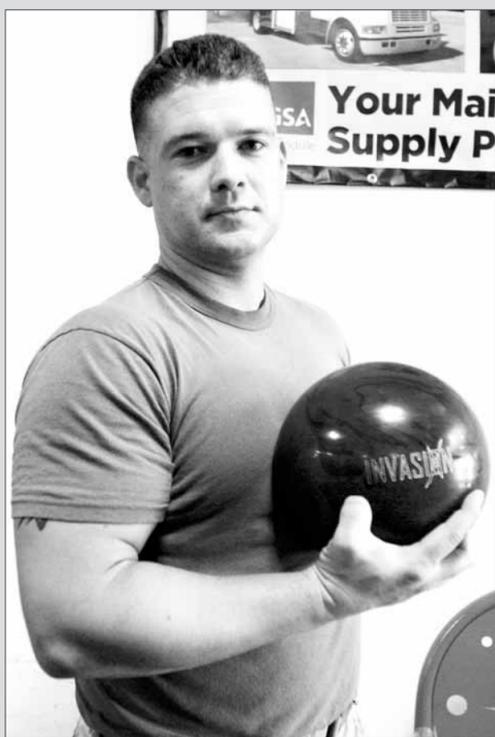
LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Dianna Tanksley, a bowler with Wii Bowlers, goes for a strike during week 15 of the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League at Sandy Hill Lanes Wednesday. The league has four more weeks before the final tournament.

Intramural Bowling Standings

Rank	Team	Wins	Losses	Rank	Team	Wins	Losses
1.	Sport This	47	13	11.	Awesome JPEG	28	32
2.	Cuban Pete's Rollers	44	16	12.	Hit or Miss	28	32
3.	A Co. MCCES	41	19	13.	Pocket Rockets	28	32
4.	We Don't Give a Split	40 1/2	19 1/2	14.	ESD-Gutterly Rediculous	26 1/2	33 1/2
5.	IPAC, 1MB, HQBN	38 1/2	21 1/2	15.	HQBN	23	37
6.	Paper Pushers	37	23	16.	Beer Frames	23	37
7.	Scared Spitless	35	25	17.	Ultimate House Wives	21	39
8.	Wii Bowlers	30	30	18.	We Have Cookies	15 1/2	44 1/2
9.	ESD-OPS	30	30	19.	Abusement Park	11	49
10.	DBL.Secret Probation	28	32	20.	Bye	0	0

Athlete of the Week



Name: Richard Ericson
Hometown: Miami
Unit: Marine Headquarters Battalion
Job title: Special intelligence system administrator/communicator
Recognition: Was on the All-Marine Bowling Team
Favorite aspect of the sport: "The teamwork, the feeding off each other's energy."
Advice for aspiring athletes: "Practice is key."

HOBBY, from A1

come in, but women are more than welcome."

"Wives of deployed Marines come in and make stuff for their home," Miller added.

Marines who have no knowledge of carpentry should not allow that to discourage them. The staff is always willing to share their trade.

"I learned here," said Lance Cpl. Michael D. Grubbs II, a maintenance management specialist clerk with Combat Logistics Battalion 7. Now, "it's not a

hobby, it's a passion. I'm here just about everyday."

The shop also has an engraving service for plaques, awards or murals. Anyone can come in, make a plaque and have it engraved fast, Hinson said.

The shop is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A small fee of 50 cents-\$1 per day covers the use of tools and machines. Wood is also available for purchase.

For more information about the Wood Hobby Shop, call 830-7214.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Steve McColl, an all-star with the White team, cracks away at a pitch Tuesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League All-Star game. The league championship is set for July 13.

SOFTBALL, from B1

team, said he was having a great time and enjoyed the competition.

"It's just a lot of fun," said the Midlothian, Texas, native. "Our team is doing pretty good. I always have the most fun when just a bunch of us get together and play."

The players shined like the all-stars they are, going back and forth between two games. The White team took the first game with a score of 11-8. The blue team had one more chance to make their mark.

"I'm predicting we're going to win this game," said Lee Landin, an outfielder with the Blue team and a native of Dallas. "They got us the first game,

but we can pull it out now, we're awake."

"The second game saw a scorching Blue victory, 23-5, opening up the teams to a tie-breaker. At the end of the night, White claimed the final victory, 11-1.

Landin said his inaugural experience at the game was a good one, and he looks forward to playing more in the future.

"This is my first all-star game I've ever played in," he said. "It feels good to be here. I just can't wait for the end of the season and the playoffs to see how far we go in the post season."

The all-stars have returned to their teams, and will shine again once the season ends and playoffs begin July 7.

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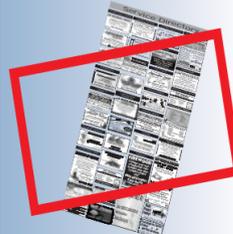
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PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

The Marine Corps Base Yuma, Ariz., installation soccer team and the Scottish Highlanders line up before their game as a bagpiper marches down the field playing a Scottish tune during a tournament game at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 26.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Carlos Iruegas [right], a player for the Combat Center's installation soccer team, pushes against a player for the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., team, as they fight for possession of the ball June 27 at Camp Pendleton.

SOCCKER, from B1

their own piece of flare as they marched onto the field with a bagpipe player, complete with kilt.

"We come every year or two to play with the Marines, we love playing with them," said John Carson, coach of the Scottish Highlander team. The Highlanders are currently stationed in Germany.

The Combat Center's team learned a lot from this tournament, said

Stephan Bohanan, the coach of the Combat Center's base team.

"The tournament as a whole was excellent. Each game tested our resolve to break their style of play," Bohanan said. "We have a unique set of players, and they stepped up to the challenge while displaying great teamwork."

The Combat Center's team dominated the tournament, winning all of their games save one.

"The most difficult obstacle to overcome was the ability to communicate for a complete 90 minutes. We had a several moments of uncertainty. However, the team persevered," Bohanan said. "In the future I see a very strong team and the potential to win the title at the West Coast Regional Tournament."

Camp Pendleton, like the Combat Center, won all their games but one.

The rivalry between the two teams escalated as they prepared to face each other, both with undefeated records so far.

"This is our home turf. We are here to defend it," said Julio Muniz, the Camp Pendleton base team coach. "We are a different team this year. We are ready to come out and play."

A long and intense game ensued and became very heated as the players were easily frustrated in their

deep concentration. The two rivals battled it out until the game ended in a 3-3 tie, a perfect way to hype up competition as all teams prepare for regionals, to be held at MCAS Yuma in September.

"Our team thoroughly enjoyed the competition,"

said Skip Best, the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services athletic director. "A big thank you to Camp Pendleton's MCCS sports department and Theresa Flores for making this tournament happen and all that's involved."

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