

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 16, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 28

Honoring fallen, remembering sacrifice



CPL. NED JOHNSON

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, salute as they pass the battle crosses of their fallen comrades during a memorial ceremony, July 7. "Press on and make these three Marines proud," Lt. Col. Clay Tipton, battalion commander of 3rd Bn., 7th Marines urged his men. "Make them proud of your resiliency and proud of your actions."

CPL. NED JOHNSON
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 2

FOB DELARAM, Afghanistan – Men and women of America have been honoring those who die on the battlefield since Arlington National Cemetery was built after the Civil War, but few understand that honor better than the Marines.

"Amazing Grace" played, seven guns fired three volleys into the distance, and "Taps" sounded in a ceremony to honor three Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country: Cpl. Michael Bailey, Cpl. Kevin Cueto, and Cpl. Claudio Patino IV.

"These men fought hard; these men fought bravely," said Lt. Col. Clay Tipton, battalion commander of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "We will set aside today to mourn them

See **FALLEN, A4**

'War Dogs' return from sea deployment



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Family and friends wait for loved ones at Del Valle softball field Tuesday, as Marines from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment return from their deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The unit served as the 31st MEU Battalion Landing Team.

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Pure joy brimmed over the faces of wives, children and family members of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, as the busses pulled up carrying the Marines returning from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

People cheered and waved 'Welcome Home' signs, as the Marines exited the busses and ran to their loved ones waiting for them on the Del Valle softball field.

The battalion returned from a six month deployment serving as the battalion landing team for the 31st MEU. The War Dogs trained with forces in Japan, the Republic of the Philippines and Thailand.

"Marines and sailors conducted mission rehearsals to ready themselves to fight from the sea to objectives ashore," stated Lt. Col. John M. Reed in a newslet-

ter sent to the families of the battalion. "Not only did each of the companies conduct successful raids by helicopters, small boats, and amphibious assault vehicles, but the battalion also conducted an amphibious landing for the Cobra Gold Combined Arms Exercise [in Thailand]."

While the Marines were busy with training overseas, family members like Lora Turek back home, found ways to stay involved with their Marines from afar.

"We gave him a build-a-bear named Snicker-Doodle and he took it with him everywhere," said Turek, wife of Gunner Brett Turek. "We have pictures of it by Mount Fuji, in Humvees, everywhere. It was really cool."

Some Marines left for deployment as newlyweds.

"We got married a week

See **WAR DOGS, A5**

'First Team' arrives in Okinawa to join 31st MEU

1ST LT. CALEB EAMES
31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

KADENA AIR BASE, OKINAWA, Japan – Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., arrived in Okinawa July 11 to be deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

First Team is arriving throughout the week to serve as the new Battalion Landing Team for the 31st MEU, an amphibious rapid-reaction force. They will take part in the MEU's fall patrol of the Asia-Pacific region.

"We are bringing about 1,200 Marines and sailors out here, as well as artillery, Amphibious Assault Vehicles, and Light Armored Vehicles -

lots of Marines and equipment that are ready to go," said Lt. Col. Todd Simmons, Commanding Officer, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn., 7th Marines.

First Team is expected to participate in Amphibious Landing Exercise 2011 in the Republic of the Philippines and the Korean Incremental Training Program 2011 in the Republic of Korea. They will also prepare to respond to any humanitarian or contingency crises that may arise.

"Our goal is to do whatever we can to contribute to the 31st MEU's and III Marine Expeditionary Force's success," said Simmons. "We want to get out on ship and get back to our amphibious roots to allow us to be that force in readiness from the sea."

The Marine Corps is the

Nation's sea-based crisis response force, and the 31st MEU and newly arrived 1st Bn., 7th Marines, represent power projection in the Western Pacific.

In the past 20 years, U.S. amphibious forces have responded to crises and contingencies more than 120 times, such as Afghanistan in 2001, Beirut in 2006 and Haiti in 2010. This rate is more than twice that of the Cold War period, according to the publication, Marine Corps Operating Concepts 2010.

The 31st MEU responded to three humanitarian crises in 2009 alone, including Taiwan, the Republic of Indonesia, and the Republic of the Philippines.

The battalion is replacing

See **OKINAWA, A8**



1ST LT. CALEB EAMES

Lieutenant Col. John Reed [right], commanding officer for Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, greets Lt. Col. Todd Simmons, BLT 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Commanding Officer at K-5 Right Flight line, July 11. The BLT will serve as the 31st MEU's ground combat element for its fall patrol.



Emissary visit ~ See A3



Splash zone ~ See A6

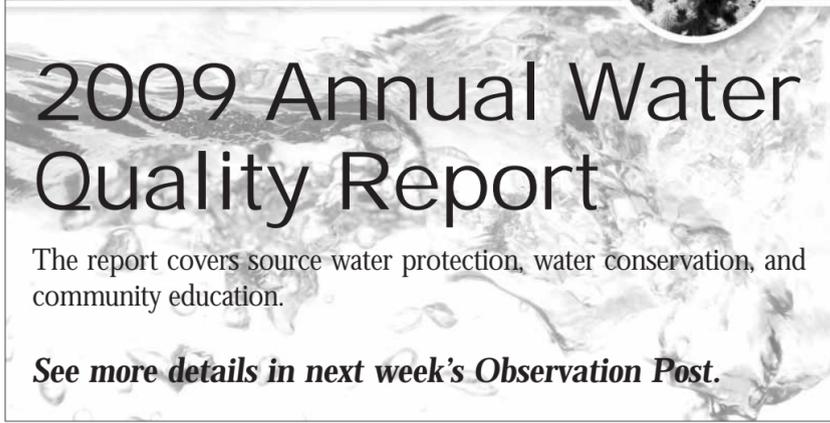


Softball showdown ~ See B1



Summer sports ~ See B3

In Our Desert Environment,
Water is Everyone's Responsibility



2009 Annual Water Quality Report

The report covers source water protection, water conservation, and community education.

See more details in next week's Observation Post.

Anxiety nothing to blow off

SHARI LOPATIN
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Did you know when people with heart disease, chronic lung conditions and digestive disorders also suffer from untreated anxiety, their conditions are harder to manage?

According to Harvard Health Publications, they are. Not only is the disease harder to treat, but the symptoms can grow worse.

Anxiety is nothing to try and shake off. Harvard Health Publications reports that about 57 million adults in the U.S. suffer from an anxiety disorder. That's more than double the entire state of New York, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 population estimates. About 30 percent of those people go through their lives without seeking treatment for anxiety.

What is generalized anxiety disorder?

According to the Anxiety Disorder Association of America, "generalized anxiety disorder is characterized by persistent, excessive, and unrealistic worry about everyday things." It's usually diagnosed in people who have suffered from extreme worry about everyday problems for six months or longer.

Individuals can also suffer from social anxiety disorder and panic disorder – experiencing spontaneous panic attacks for no apparent reason. Many times, anxiety disorders and depression go hand-in-hand.

How can I treat my anxiety?

The National Institute of Mental Health says that anxiety disorders can be treated with medication or psychotherapy, or both. Psychotherapy usually includes sessions with a counselor, social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist, to discover the root of the anxiety and how to deal with its symptoms.

If you're an eligible TRICARE beneficiary ...

You can seek help through the TRICARE Assistance Program, or TRIAP. This program:

- Offers non-clinical, online videoconference counseling from masters- and PhD-level therapists.
- Is available from one's home computer and is accessible 24/7/365.
- Is non-reportable and confidential.
- Offers support for stress management, relationship problems and self-esteem.

For more information on coping with stress and anxiety, as well as TRIAP, visit TriWest's Behavioral Health Portal at <http://www.triwest.com/bh>.

Centerspeak

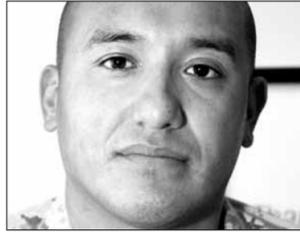
What is your favorite form of PT?

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



SGT. KEVIN BARRETT
COMBAT CENTER BAND

"Circuit Courses. They're good because you get so many different exercises in one workout."



STAFF SGT. URIEL LEMUS
COMPANY B, 1ST TANK BATTALION

"Combat conditioning because it concentrates on what we're going to be doing out there instead of just running in green on green."



PFC. NATHANIEL EMMONS
ENGINEER COMPANY, COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 3

"Crossfit. Workouts should be done in under 30 minutes and it should work you hard."

Hot Topics

HOUSING SURVEY

The Commanding General is asking for all hands participation in a housing survey released by Headquarters Marine Corps. The survey is to ensure adequate housing on and off base for all Combat Center Marines and sailors, married or single, and to predict a need for Basic Allowance for Housing rate increase. The survey is extended until July 23. Go to <https://survey.rdniehaus.com> to take the survey. Username: Twenty-nine. Password: 2010.

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.

WOUNDED WARRIOR POKER RUN

Bikers come out for a run. The event is to raise money for a Marine who lost his legs in Afghanistan. Bikers will ride to different locations to pick up a playing card, whoever has the best poker hand at the end wins! The ride will end at Club Vo, where there will be a concert for everyone, featuring the local band "Deep 6." There will be food and raffle drawings. The event is Saturday, July 24 starting at 8 a.m., for more information call 830-3934.

VOYAGE TO BOOK ISLAND

Encourage your children to come to the summer reading program 2010 at the Lifelong Learning Library during the hot summer days! Preschool age children will meet every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. and children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade will meet every Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information please call the Library at 362-3934.

Marine Corps History

July 10, 1798

President John Adams signed an act establishing the U.S. Marine Corps.



Eagle Eyes

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

"Operation Commissary is a GO!!!... Steady.... UP... Steady.... Good...! NOW.... You there.... "Cargo Transporter".... proceed to the pantry!!"



Logistics Marines

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

SUDOKU #1871

		1	2					3
			4	5		2		
2		5	6	7				8
8	4		1					2
		6				1		
5			9				4	7
	5		2	7		6		4
		4	3	1				
7			8			9		

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

GET UP

[Puzzle solutions on A5]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
			20					21	22			
23	24	25		26			27					
28			29			30						
31					32					33	34	35
36				37						38		
39			40						41			
		42	43					44				
45	46						47			48		
49						50				51		
52				53	54					55	56	57
58					59					60		
61					62					63		

ACROSS

1. Sierra Nevada resort lake
6. Seance sounds
10. One who raised Cain
14. Fields of expertise
15. Soothing lotion
16. Stubborn sort
17. Jenny Craig head
19. Wall St. debuts
20. "Rumor ___ ..."
21. Ryder of "Beetlejuice"
23. "Silent ___" (presidential nickname)
26. ___ XING
27. South Pacific wraps
28. Brought a smile to
30. "Touche!" elicitor
31. Lacking zest
32. Witches' gathering
33. Source of syrup
36. Geraint's lady
37. Word before tie or lunch

38. "Buzz off, fly!"
39. Dapper guy?
40. Olympics distance unit
41. The Rockies' ___ Field
42. Readied for print
44. Subject of the play "Tru"
45. Puts forward as evidence
47. Voting "nay"
48. Roofer's need
49. Tuition collector
50. "___, I'm Adam"
52. "In memoriam" item
53. Pasta topping with a watery texture?
58. Enthusiastic thumbs-up
59. Sheriff Taylor's boy
60. "___ Andronicus"
61. Neck and neck
62. Socially clue less sort
63. On one's toes

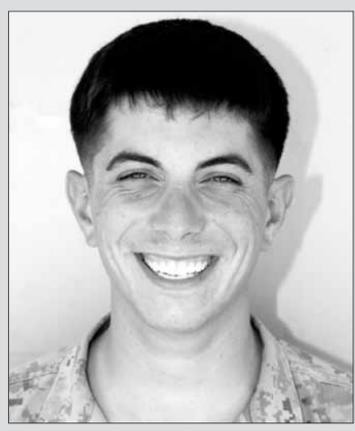
DOWN

1. Little bit
2. Onassis, informally
3. Half a bray
4. Inaugural event
5. Went over the wall
6. Part of BART
7. Jillions
8. Smoke-filled-room figure
9. Desalinization input
10. Key of Beethoven's "Fur Elise"
11. Photo session at a chemicals giant?
12. "Moving right ___..."
13. Badlands formations
18. No longer mint
22. Rock's ___ Maiden
23. Yielded to pressure
24. Name on a range
25. Wolf's tee shot?
27. Break off
29. Tom Sawyer's half-brother
30. Used a kind of fitness machine
32. Pigeons' pads

34. Left ventricle outlet
35. Tough nut to crack
37. Jazz pianist Oscar
38. ___ up (absorb)
40. Mineral that's easily split
41. Two-deck game
43. Checked for prints
44. Buffalo Bill ___
45. Pull the plug on
46. Persian Gulf emirate
47. Like many superheroes
50. John of the Sierra Club
51. Check's place, in a promise
54. Unfold, in poetry
55. Sport ___ (versatile truck)
56. Mangy mutt
57. Body shop fig.

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Cpl. Mike Messmer
Hometown: Havelock, N. C.
Unit: Tactical Training Exercise Control Group
Job title: Coyote
Job duties: Supervising maneuvers during Enhanced Mojave Viper.
What do you like most about your job? We get to affect and assess Marines in final phase of training before they deploy.
Accomplishments: Received a Navy Achievement Medal and placed on meritorious sergeant's board for achievements and work at the office.
Hobbies: Boulderling, fishing, and staying active in the church community.
Service: Four years



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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US ambassador visits Marines in Bulgaria

STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – James B. Warlick Jr., the U.S. ambassa-

dor to Bulgaria, visited Black Sea Rotational Force Marines and sailors conducting a peacekeeping operations course with Bulgarian soldiers at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 8.

During his visit, the ambassador watched as U.S. and Bulgarian troops participated in a situational training exercise, demonstrating many of the skills they learned over the two-

week course.

The course was the last of four separate training events conducted by the Black Sea Rotational Force during the deployment. During the Security

Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force in the Black Sea Region-Black Sea Rotational Force Marines and Sailors completed more than 40 percent of Marine Corps Forces Europe theater security cooperation requirements, while promoting regional stability, bolstering partner nations'

military capabilities and building enduring partnerships in the region.

Many of the force's Marines have traveled to Ukraine for Exercise Sea Breeze, while others will soon be returning to friends and families at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY

James B. Warlick Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria, enjoys lunch with Lt. Col. Tom Gordon, the commander of Black Sea Rotational Force at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 8. The ambassador visited the training area to view the final day of a peacekeeping operations course conducted by U.S. Marines and Bulgarian soldiers.



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY

James B. Warlick Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria, browses among the different varieties of Meals, Ready-to-Eat, during his visit to Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 8. The ambassador traveled from the nation's capital in Sofia to the training area, to watch the final day of a two-week peacekeeping operations course conducted by U.S. Marines of Black Sea Rotational Force and Bulgarian soldiers.



CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

Bulgarian soldiers detain a simulated enemy during a situation training exercise concluding a two-week training exercise they conducted with U.S. Marines at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 8. James B. Warlick Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria, traveled from the nation's capital of Sofia to Novo Selo to observe the final day of a two-week peacekeeping operations course conducted by U.S. Marines of Black Sea Rotational Force and Bulgarian soldiers.

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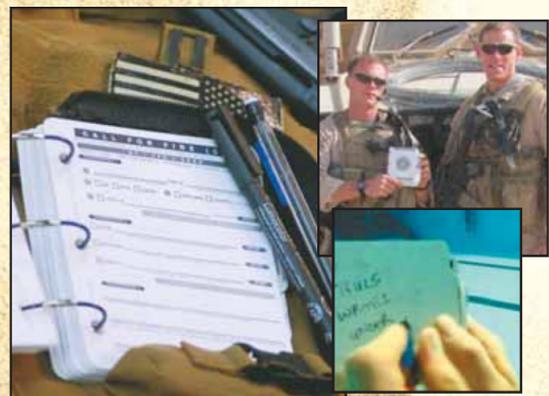
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Marines, Bulgarians bring out the big guns



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Bulgarian army soldiers with 38th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Light Infantry Brigade, demonstrate the proper steps to take before firing a Rocket-Propelled Grenade-7 during a live-fire exercise with the Marines and sailors of scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Bn., at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 7.

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – The Marines and sailors of scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, partnered with Bulgarian army soldiers with 38th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Light Infantry Brigade, during a live-fire exercise at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 7, as part of the final peace-keeping operation of the Black Sea Rotational Force 2010 deployment.

During the shoot, the Bulgarians had the opportunity to fire M2 .50-caliber heavy machine guns, and the Marines familiarized themselves with the Rocket-Propelled Grenade-7.

Cpl. Arnol Albarenga, a



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

A Bulgarian army soldier with 38th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Light Infantry Brigade, fires an M2 .50-caliber heavy machine gun during a live-fire exercise with the Marines and sailors of scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 7.

motor transportation operator with Headquarters and Service Co., 1st Tank Bn., fired the RPG-7 and said it

was just another great memory he will take away
See BIG GUNS, A7

Family readiness: Passion, not occupation

FFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Family Readiness Officers and Family Readiness Volunteers are always willing to help any military family who needs it. The FROs and their assistants have organized a system to streamline information so families can be well informed and understand what is happening with their Marines overseas.

The women involved in the Combat Center's Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program make it their job to help others.

"When I started with the

military, there was no Family Readiness Program, I was alone and had a hard time getting information," said Jillian King, the battalion family readiness officer for 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. "When they opened up a FRO position to civilians, I jumped on it. We now provide information and communication between the military and their families."

Major Trent Gibson, the executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, spoke highly of the battalion's Family Readiness Officer, Katie Clark. He

said Clark served an invaluable role while the battalion was deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"She was completely plugged in and incredibly proactive throughout our whole deployment," said Gibson, who calls Quantico, VA, home. "Having her here, taking care of the families while we were training in Okinawa was an absolute asset. Our FRO is pure money."

The FROs act as a bridge between a Marine's family and their unit. The UPFRP is organized so a FRO can disseminate information, using their

family readiness assistance to get information to the Marines in different companies and their individual families.

When information is spread, families start coming together and the support for the Marines is outstanding, said Debra Lopez, the family readiness officer for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

"We are family, we can rely on each other," Hunter said. "When families feel included they want to get involved."

The men and women involved in the UPFRP work because of a desire to reach out to military families in need.

At times, families are hit with hardship. Jillian King recalls a time in her life when she needed the programs the military now offers.

"When my husband was hit with an improvised explosive device, that's when I realized how important the programs were," said King. "It's been my drive to give back to the families, kind of like the movie 'Pay it Forward.'"

FROs and FRAs not only stream line information but also share the hardship military families endure.

Because of the loneliness which military families must

face during deployments, the FRO and FRA representatives reach out and offer a support network to spouses of deployed Marines and sailors.

"I didn't know anybody, that's what pushed me, no more being alone, no more being secluded. I finally realized that I am a military spouse and this is my life too, I will be involved," said Brandy Hunter, a family readiness assistant for 3rd LAR.

FROs and their assistance can also relate with the struggles military families go

See FAMILY, A7

FALLEN, from A1

and then we will drive on from here."

The commander's words were about more than mourning their loss; they were about honoring their sacrifice.

"Press on and make these three Marines proud," Tipton urged his Marines. "Make them proud of your resiliency and proud of your actions."

The words of those who knew the fallen warriors showed their pride in the sacrifice.

"There is an old saying that the key to immortality is living a life that will never be forgotten," said Capt. Carin Calvin, Weapons Company Commander, 3rd Bn., 7th Marines. "These Marines will not be forgotten."

Each Marine who spoke of his comrades said they died doing what they love

and protecting the Marines around them.

"These men were protecting their men just as Psalms 23 says God protects us," said Navy Lt. Terry Moran, battalion chaplain for 3rd Bn., 7th Marines.

The ceremony was drawn to a close as battalion Sgt. Maj. Troy Black called the names of the fallen Marines, receiving no answer, a tradition that dates back to before the

Civil War when units would call roll after a battle.

"Honor the dead!" were Black's chilling final words before a 21-gun salute and 'Taps' played.

The men saluted, prayed, and even shed a few tears remembering their brothers, but their mission continues.

"We still have challenging times ahead of us," Tipton said. "But we will use the memory of these men to push us to fight on."



CPL. NED JOHNSON

An Afghan National Army soldier salutes the battle crosses of three fallen U.S. Marines during a memorial ceremony, July 7. The ANA and their Marine counterparts honored the lives and courage of Cpl. Michael Bailey, Cpl. Kevin Cueto, and Cpl. Claudio Patino IV, all assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2 who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Helmand province.

Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified** section

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<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>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>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>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am. Morning Worship 10:30 am. Evening Service 6:00 pm. Wednesday Services Prayer Bible Study 6:30 pm. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm. www.fb29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</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>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>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>	<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>First Christian Church 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am + FCYV Apache Mobile Home Park 29 Palms Hwy HI Desert Star</p>
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United Methodist Church
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Acts 2:38
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PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Braiden Dospital, the son of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Dospital, proudly holds up a sign as he awaits his father's arrival from deployment at Del Valle softball field Tuesday. 2nd Bn., 7th Marine Regiment, is coming home from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine greets his family upon his return with 2nd Battalion 7th Marine Regiment from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Tuesday at Del Valle softball field.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Gunner Brett Turek holds his daughter Katie Turek after his return with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Sunday at Del Valle softball field.

WAR DOGS, from A1

and a half before he left for deployment," said Eryn Vargas, wife of Lance Cpl. Michael Vargas. "You just have to push through it together, it's part of our life."

More deployment-experienced families are used to the flow of military life and have learned how to cope with deployments. "This is my seventh deployment in nine years. It was one of the easy ones because you didn't have to worry about him in a combat zone," said Bobbie

Dospital, wife of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Dospital.

"You find friends you can count on when you meet during deployments," she added. "I am so excited for him to come home, my stomach is in knots!"

The Marines and sailors are relieved to be stateside after the MEU and can't wait to take their leave to spend some time at home, said Lance Cpl. Del Gilbert, a Marine with Company F.

"It was a good training experience. We are glad it's finally over and happy to be back," said Lance Cpl. Bryce Ritter, a Marine with Co. F.

SUDOKU

4	6	1	9	2	8	5	7	3
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5	1	2	3	9	6	8	4	7
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6	9	4	5	3	1	7	2	8
7	2	3	6	8	4	9	5	1

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For local entertainment see our LIBERTY CALL section on page B2

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Combat Center pool party pumps up morale

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. SARAH ANDERSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's training tank was wild as Marines and sailors turned the pool into a battlefield. The weapon of choice? Beach balls.

The party provided time for Marines and sailors to kick back, eat barbeque, and swim.

Local band "Deep 6" made an appearance and played for the festivity, put on by Marine Corps Community Services.

"It gives the Marines and sailors a chance to relax and get away from work," said Katrina Pride, the MCCA special events coordinator.

Events like pool parties,

raise morale and let the Marines and sailors know they are appreciated, said Pride.

"They help develop and maintain a sense of community on base, to let military and families know, we are all in it together."

Friday's splash zone fun was specifically for patrons of the Combat Center's Single Marine Program.

"MCCA provides a wide range of services to support Marines with everything from developing financial responsibility, continuing their education, moving to their next duty station or preparing to return home after completing their obligations," according to their

mission statement.

These are some of the services MCCA offers, but they also offer entertainment based services such as concerts, family fun days, and a wide variety of SMP outings.

Above all the laughter and excitement in the training tank, one thing stands out to Kelley Coe, the MCCA events manager. "When we see Marines smiling and having a good time, that means more than anything," she said. "That's why we do our job."

To find out more information about upcoming events, call 830-5086 or go online to <http://www.usmc-mcca.org> and visit the MCCA Twenty-nine Palms facebook page.



A Marine relaxes in the pool as he gathers up pool noodles to swim with at the Marine Pool Party in the Combat Center's Training Tank July 9.



A battle takes place as Marines pelt each other with beach balls at the SMP Pool Party in the Combat Center's Training Tank July 9.



Marines and sailors relax pool side at the SMP Pool Party July 9.

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U.S., Eastern European nations train for efficiency

STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY
BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

CONSTANTA, Romania – U.S. Marines deployed to Eastern Europe for Black Sea Rotational Force partnered with Romanian Land, Air and Naval forces to host a 3-day military logistics symposium in Constanta, Romania, attended by military officials from Bosnia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and the United States, July 7-9.

"When nations work together, everybody comes out smarter and better," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Stephen Rose, the deputy division chief of NATO coalition support for the U.S. European Command, who presented at the symposium.

"The big goal is building partnerships. When people come together, you see it – people are learning, and people are working, together."

Military logistics is the skill

of moving and maintaining military forces, and over the course of the three-day conference representatives from each nation provided insight on how their military forces utilizes this discipline.

"We were fortunate to have the attendees from partner nations give briefs about their logistics capabilities," said Capt. Chris Carter, the logistics officer for Black Sea Rotational Force. "I hope they had the opportunity to learn new ideas from each other, to stimulate thoughts for the future of partnership training."

Carter said, in addition to having partner nations discuss their logistics capabilities, U.S. staff provided insight on where America's military logistics currently stand, and where they plan to be, with presentations on concepts like strategic movement and sea basing, an integral part of the Marine Corps' plan to support "over-the-horizon"

military operations.

"We had a lot of good support from Marine Corps Forces Europe, the Defense Logistics Agency and other commands in the European theater," Carter said. "We had presenters with years of experience, some with more than two decades supporting the war fighter logistically."

Attendees from partner nations who attended the symposium said the event was a good opportunity to learn more about how the U.S. military operates, and to work together for a more fluid relationship in the Black Sea region.

"The better we understand these concepts, the better we can pass this knowledge on to our military members," said Romanian Land Forces Lt. Col. Paul Moglan, the battalion commander for the 341st Infantry Battalion.

"It's extremely important to create these kinds of relationships and understand our



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FLURRY

Lieutenant Col. Tom Gordon, the commander of Black Sea Rotational Force, speaks to an attendee of the seven-nation military logistics symposium in Constanta, Romania, July 9. Military logistics is the skill of moving and maintaining military forces.

capabilities. It's a bilateral effort, and we have to work shoulder to shoulder."

The symposium marked the final major event in Romania for the Black Sea Rotational Force 2010 deployment. Many of the force's Marines have traveled to Ukraine for Exercise Sea Breeze, while others will soon be returning to friends and families at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

A Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force, the first of its kind in the Black Sea region, Black Sea Rotational Force Marines and sailors completed more than 40 percent of Marine Corps Forces Europe theater security cooperation requirements, while promoting regional stability, bolstering partner nations' military capabilities and building enduring partnerships in the region.

"In the future, I can fore-

see a transformation," Moglan said, whose soldiers had previously worked side-by-side with Black Sea Rotational Force's ground combat element during a peacekeeping operations course. "We are increasingly developing the capability to adapt for ourselves, and passing that experience to our young officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted. They are the most valuable asset of any military force."

BIG GUNS, from A4

from the deployment.

"It's been something new, a different experience and another opportunity to do new things in my career," said Albarenga, a native of Dallas, Texas. "When I fired [the RPG], it was an awesome feeling."

The Marines and sailors have spent the past three months training with nations throughout the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions as part of the first Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force to deploy to the area with the mission of promoting regional stability, building enduring partnerships with partner nations and enhancing partner nations' military capabilities.

Some of the battalion's



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines with scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, prepare an M2 .50-caliber heavy machine gun for a live-fire training exercise with Bulgarian army soldiers with 38th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Light Infantry Brigade, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 7. The Marines also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Rocket-Propelled Grenade-7.

Marines will head to Ukraine next week to take part in Exercise Sea Breeze, while others will begin returning to

their families and friends aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

FAMILY, from A4

through, like the loneliness of deployments, unknown territory, or stress from worry about their Marines.

"I was there, I know what it's like to be here by yourself, and you don't know anybody here, I can relate to that," Lopez said.

"We've been inspired by people in our lives that we connected with before these programs, and we want to reach out and do more because we've been touched by people who guided us through it," Hunter said.

For more information on what the UPFRP has to offer, contact your unit's FRO.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



In the almost 16 years that I have lived in our High Desert I have noticed marked improvement in the strength and activities of all four of our fine Chambers of Commerce. And this is vital. Every active professional and business person in their respective community should not only be a member but an enthusiastic supporter of chamber programs.

I reside in Twentynine Palms so I am a little more knowledgeable about our chamber but I know what fine work is being done in Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree. A good chamber is one of the most important factors in the positive development of a healthy and vibrant community.

In Twentynine Palms, our just retired president Gary Daigneault and the Board of Directors did an outstanding job that included the physical relocation of the chamber office to an excellent downtown location.

I think the best action by Gary and the Board of Directors, however, was the wise decision to hire Rob Fleck as Executive Secretary. What a great choice! He is a perfect fit. He has every quality you could want in such a position. I remember making that observation at the time of his appointment and my initial reaction proved to be correct.

I am confident that with the new board president Gary De Maroney and Rob many great things lie ahead for 2010-2011.

Incidentally, I am also just as optimistic about the teamwork being demonstrated in the Joshua Tree Chamber and in Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley as well.

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COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Sunday
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services
8:45 a.m. - Confessions+
9 a.m. - Rosary
9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass*
9:30 a.m. - Children's Liturgy of the Word
4 p.m. - Choir Practice
4:15 p.m. - Confessions+
4:30 p.m. - Rosary
5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
8:30 a.m. - Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast in the West Wing
Non-denominational:
Calvary Chapel-AGC
9 a.m. - Contemporary Worship*
9 a.m. - Children's Church
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School, building 1551*
Interdenominational:
Good Shepherd
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School, building 1551*
10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship*
10:45 a.m. - Children's Church
Lay-led Gospel Service
12:15 p.m. - Worship
Youth Group
6 p.m. - Jr.-Sr. High School Youth
Weekday Events
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Monday - Friday, 11:45 a.m. - Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
Monday - Friday, noon - Prayer
Tuesday
Christ Chapel
9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (Sept.-May)
6:30 p.m. - "EKKLESIA"
Assemblies of God Fellowship
Immaculate Heart of Mary
3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women
Wednesday
Christ Chapel
Noon - Communion
Immaculate Heart of Mary
First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class and 7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus
Thursday
Christ Chapel
6 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal
Immaculate Heart of Mary
9 a.m. - Adult Class
6 p.m. - Children RCIA
6:30 p.m. - RCIA (Sept.-April)
7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation
Friday
Christ Chapel
5 p.m. - Gospel Rehearsal
Immaculate Heart of Mary
First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament
Legend
* Indicates child care is provided + Call 830-6456/6482 for confession appointments

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

Combat Center Trader Ads

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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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1ST LT. CALEB EAMES

Marines from Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit arrive at K-5 Right Flight line, July 11. The BLT will serve as the 31st MEU's ground combat element for its fall patrol.

OKINAWA, from A1

2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, whose Marines are now back in Calif., after completing a successful spring deployment with the 31st MEU.

The deployment of 1st Bn., 7th Marines, to Okinawa, Japan, is part of the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program, which was established by the

Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1977 to provide for the deployment of units to the Western Pacific for periods of approximately six months.

The newly arrived battalion of Marines will assume its role with the 31st MEU quickly, as there is plenty of training to do.

"We are pretty used to being hot, it was about 110 when we left Twentynine

Palms, but we have to get used to the humidity," said Simmons. "We'll get acclimated over the next few weeks and be ready to go."

Additional photos of BLT 1st Bn., 7th Marines, arrival in Okinawa can be viewed on the 31st MEU Facebook site at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Okinawa-Japan/31st-Marine-Expeditionary-Unit/115253045176016>.



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JULY 16, 2010

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B1

Combat Center's big guns show down



Steve Santana [number eight], the catcher for 1st Tank Battalion, does the splits over home plate as Chris Hicks, charges toward home plate. Hicks would end up scoring after turning around and slapping the plate after Santana dropped the ball.

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

The Commanding General's Intramural Softball League hosted its championship games between 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment and 1st Tank Battalion Tuesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

First Tanks crowned their season with the ultimate prize – first place in the league after they beat out the opposition, who shares the same record of 15 wins and 4 losses in a shootout between the installation's units with the biggest guns.

"We started practicing about a month before the season," said Steve McColl, the head coach of First Tanks and a native of Savage, Minn. "It feels really good to be in this spot. We were in the loser's bracket last year, but this year – since we're undefeated in the playoffs – we're in the winner's bracket."

The team's real weapon is their hitting power, something they constantly sought to perfect said McColl.

"We've worked strictly on batting," he said. "I can only remember one practice where we worked on fielding. Since that month before the season it's been almost all batting practices." 3rd Bn., 11th Marines

players traveled a much different path to the summit of the league.

"We've just played together and tried to have fun," said Jason Barry, the head coach and a native of Las Vegas. "It's been a pretty fun road so far, we've just tried to play as

a team.

"In practice we've just worked on our infield, then our batting later," he said. "At the end of all this we just came out to play every time."

Chris Hicks, one of the

See **SOFTBALL, B3**



First Tank Battalion players dump water on one of their own after winning the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League championship game Tuesday at the Combat Center's Felix field.



Jarrett Edwards, a player from CLB-7, looks to control the ball during the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League soccer semifinal game against HQBN at Felix Field Monday. The game ended with a HQBN victory and CLB-7's elimination.

Soccer semifinals, game of elimination

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. SARAH ANDERSON**
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The competition in the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League playoffs is heating up as Monday nights semifinal game was battled out by Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and Headquarters Battalion. The winner moves on to the final championship, the loser faces elimination.

The game was delayed until 8 p.m. in an attempt to save the players from the heat, but the warm air of the desert, even at night, took a toll on the teams as they fought momentum on the field.

"It was win or go home," said Francisco Sanchez, the coach of CLB-7. "We had to play like we knew how." HQBN knew the game was not going to be easy, and they needed to pull together, said Misker Derseh, a player for HQBN. "Our team always gets together to play at the next level," he said. "We knew we had to put out, and everybody stepped up."

The game was three to zero in the first half with HQBN leading. "For some reason, morale on the team was down," said Edgardo Flores, a player for CLB-7. "We were missing our keeper, the team felt comfortable with him back there before."

CLB-7, tired and discouraged, came together at half-time. "At half we just wanted to play for fun and enjoy playing the game we love," said Sanchez.

HQBN however, was

quite comfortable with their three point lead. "We relaxed after the first half and they capitalized," Derseh said.

In the second half, CLB-7 pulled together and put two goals in the net. The team was making a comeback. The game seemed to be getting more intense by the moment.

Finally, a penalty was committed in the CLB-7 goal box, and a penalty kick ensued. HQBN scored one more, winning the game four to two.

"We were very anxious

before the game," Derseh said. "It came down to heart and who wanted it more. Our ultimate goal was to play [Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School] for the championship, and we had to go through CLB-7 to do it." CLB-7's first team ever, finished second in the season, Sanchez said. "We did really well and had a fun season."

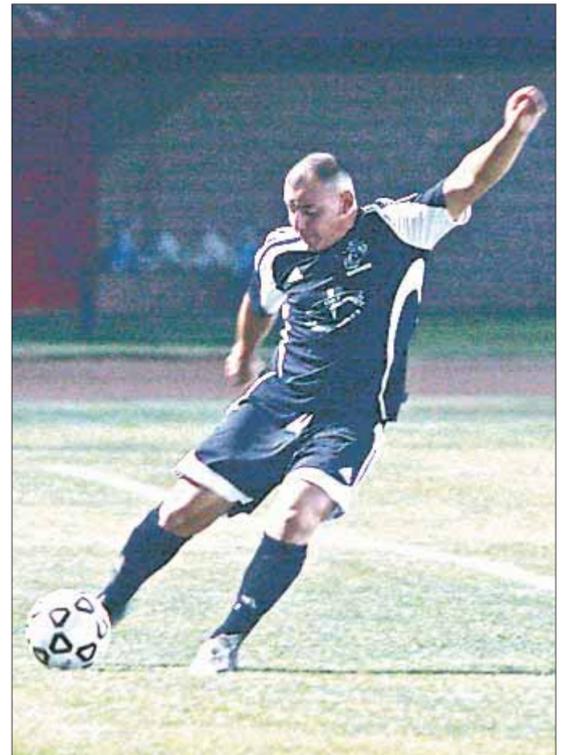
As the game ended, HQBN now looks to the finals to face MCCES, their biggest competitor of the season, based on records, in the championship game.

Women's soccer kicks off



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Sarah Murphey, a player for the women's soccer, league shoots the ball as coach Steve Bohanan watches in the background. This is the first female soccer team aboard the Combat Center formed in more than 20 years, and the season is just beginning. The soccer team practices every Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Felix Field. The location of practice is liable to change. The team is looking for players, active duty, civilian employees or family members. All MCCS eligible patrons are encouraged to try out. The women will start off the season playing six on six tournaments until more ladies come out to play. For more information about the team, call 830-4092.



Eric Argueta, a player from CLB-7, kicks the ball up field during the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League soccer semifinal game against HQBN at Felix Field Monday.



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 Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m.
Wednesdays: Karaoke with DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Mondays: Free chicken nuggets/nachos, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Buffalo wings, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: DJ, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Monday-Friday: All Hands Lunch, 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

Friday, July 16: All hands Bingo. 6 to 6:45 p.m.
Monday-Friday: Lunch served, 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

Dave Gleason and the Golden Cadillacs

Description: Country/bluegrass from Austin, Texas
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday, July 16 and 17
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 "The Rockit Scientists"

Description: Classic rock from the '60s and '70s
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, July 17
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>.

Theatre 29 presents The Pajama Game

Description: A romantic comedy set in a pajama factory
When: 7 p.m., Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17
Where: Theatre 29
73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>.

"Astro Boy"

Description: Free summer movie program at Luckie Park
When: Nightfall, approx. 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22
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.

Lower Desert

KC and the Sunshine Band

Description: A unique fusion of R&B and funk.
When: 9 p.m., Friday, July 16
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.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 16

6 p.m. – Shrek Forever After, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Sex & The City 2, Rated R
Midnight – Splice, Rated R

Saturday, July 17

11 a.m. – Free Matinee, The Spy Next Door, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Marmaduke, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Prince of Persia, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Get Him to the Greek, Rated R
Midnight – MacGruber, Rated R

Sunday, July 18

2 p.m. – The Karate Kid, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Killers, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The A-Team, Rated PG-13

Monday, July 19

7 p.m. – Splice, Rated R

Tuesday, July 20

7 p.m. – Marmaduke, Rated PG

Wednesday, July 21

7 p.m. – Shrek Forever After, Rated PG

Thursday, July 22

7 p.m. – MacGruber, Rated R

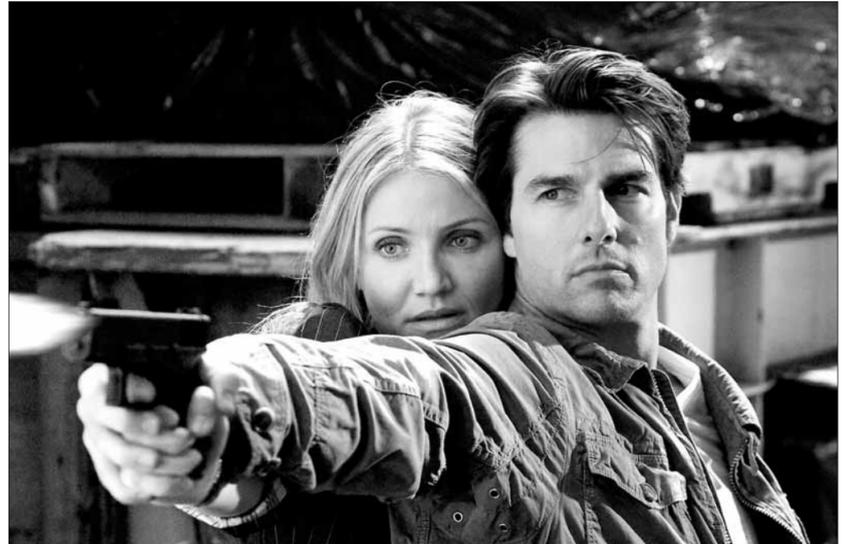
Cruise, Diaz a pretty pair in 'Knight and Day'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

"Knight and Day"
Rated PG-13

Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz arrive just in time to save date night from talking toys and teenage vampires.

In "Knight and Day," a seemingly casual airport encounter with a smooth-talking man of mystery, played by Tom Cruise, turns into a globetrotting spy-versus-spy adventure for a single gal from Boston played by Cameron Diaz. After a surreal crash-landing in a Kansas cornfield, she spends most of the movie trying to figure out if the "Roy Miller" she just met is truly a rogue secret agent on a noble mission...or a crazy sociopath intent on pulling her into his wide-ranging path of destruction.



FRANK MASI

As the danger escalates during their global adventure, June Havens, played by Cameron Diaz, finds herself increasingly drawn to the mysterious Roy Miller, played by Tom Cruise.

June and Roy race to various exotic locations one step ahead of shady CIA pursuers and a

Spanish weapons monger's henchmen, all of who want the top-secret, high-tech doodad Roy has vowed to keep from falling into the wrong hands.

It's good to see Cruise and his million-dollar smile back on the big screen in his first movie outing since the somber "Valkyrie" in 2008, and in a role that lets him show off multiple shades of his leading-man charisma. After watching him have such a good time, and looking like such a good fit for the part, it's difficult to think of anyone pulling off the enigmatic, wildly energized, ridiculously resourceful and reassuringly cool-as-a-cucumber Roy, even though other actors, including Chris Rock, Gerard Butler and Adam Sandler, were all reportedly considered.

But it's Diaz who really sparkles, as the initially frazzled June becomes more and more comfortable as Roy's cloak-and-dagger collaborator. Their wide-ranging trek, by plane, train, speedboat and helicopter, takes them to an isolated hideaway tropical island, into the Austrian Alps, and finally to Spain, for a high-speed motorcycle chase smack in the middle of the annual running of the bulls.

Like most movies that try to marry romance, comedy and action, "Knight and Day" bumps around everywhere without leaving a lasting impression anywhere. Its overriding comedic tone is

punctuated by spasms of mostly bloodless PG-rated violence – stabbings, shootings, bone-shattering hand-to-hand bouts, even a decapitation by speeding train. A script that leaves both main characters without anything resembling actual human heartbeats undermines the romance. The action is so staged, choreographed and computer enhanced, it's difficult to feel any real edge of danger or even excitement.

But Diaz and Cruise do make a pretty pair. He takes off his shirt, she ends up running through the jungle in a teenie weenie red bikini, and they bring enough marquee-name mojo to the screen to make most viewers appreciate the two hours of pure popcorn escapism "Knight and Day" offers – especially if you're just not in the multiplex mood for the heart-tugging, eye-dampening wonders of "Toy Story 3" or the supernatural Goth-teen angst of "Twilight: Eclipse."

Diaz's character has trouble finding the "real" Roy and figuring out what the madcap mayhem is all about, but she finally does. Don't get caught up in connecting all the zigzagging dots, pulling together the ricocheting plot points, smoothing out the uneven dramatic textures or trying to figure out what in the heck the "Knight" and the "Day" in the title mean. Just go with it, like June does, and find out how this wild ride finally ends.



FRANK MASI

Roy, played by Tom Cruise, and June, played by Cameron Diaz, prepare for the ride of their lives, as they flee pursuing assassins and bulls through the streets of Seville, Spain.

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15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday				
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC
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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 WallMart	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 WallMart	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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Combat Center Sports



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
Hal Grey, a bowler for the "We Don't Give a Split" team, prepares to throw the ball down the lane during the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League tournament Wednesday at Sandy Hill Lanes.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
Ryan Kisling, a bowler for the "Pocket Rockets" team, throws the ball down the lane during the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League tournament Wednesday at Sandy Hill Lanes.

Intramural Bowling Standings

Rank	Team	Wins	Losses	Rank	Team	Wins	Losses
1.	Cuban Pete's Rollers	52	16	11.	Awesome JPEG	32	36
2.	A Co. MCCES	49	19	12.	DBL.Secret Probation	31	37
3.	Sport This	49	19	13.	ESD-Gutterly Rediculous	29 1/2	38 1/2
4.	We Don't Give a Split	42 1/2	25 1/2	14.	Pocket Rockets	29	39
5.	Paper Pushers	41	27	15.	HQBN	23	45
6.	IPAC, IMB, HQBN	40 1/2	27 1/2	16.	Beer Frames	23	45
7.	Scared Spittless	39	29	17.	Ultimate House Wives	21	47
8.	ESD-OPS	36	32	18.	We Have Cookies	19 1/2	48 1/2
9.	Hit or Miss	35	33	19.	Abusement Park	11	57
10.	Wii Bowlers	34	34	20.	Bye	0	0

Athlete of the Week



Name: Bryan Brannon
Unit: First Tank Battalion
Job title: Tank mechanic
Hometown: Waleska, Ga.
Recognition: Most Valuable Player at Intramural Softball Championship
Advice to aspiring athletes: "Keep playing, it's just a lot of fun."
Favorite aspect of the sport: "Hitting home runs."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
First Tank Battalion were the championships after outbatting their opponents, 3/11, in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League championship game Tuesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field. 1st Tanks ended their season with a record of 15-4.

SOFTBALL, from B1

players on Barry's team, played his heart out throughout the game. "I figured we'd make the playoffs, it's been a good season," said the Maud, Texas native. Hicks pulled a fast one at home plate and slipped around the First Tanks' catcher to score a run in the first game. "It felt good to get in there and get the run," he said. "I thought he had it [the ball], but he didn't. I just flipped around and slapped home plate when I realized he dropped it." In the end, there was room for only one champion and McColl's decision to focus on batting proved to be a home run for First Tanks.

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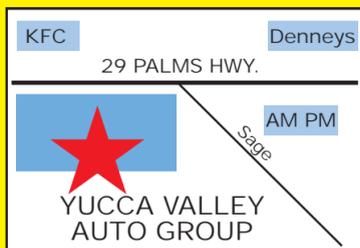
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