

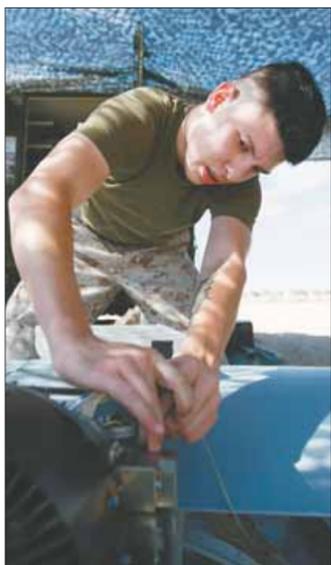
OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

AUGUST 6, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 31



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Corporal Anthony Cuevas, an unmanned aerial vehicle technician with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, helps break down an RA-7B UAV Tuesday at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field. The squadron is currently supporting Enhanced Mojave Viper.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

An RQ-7B unmanned aerial vehicle with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 takes off at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field Tuesday. The RQ-7B's takeoff is the fruit of the labor of many Marines.

Phantoms' mechs support EMV

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A Marine Air Ground Task Force has many moving parts, one of which is an unmanned aerial vehicle team. These Marines are the aerial eyes of the unit, and are known the world over as meticulous, thorough and above all else – professional.

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, equipped with the UAV called the RQ-7B, has filled this role and provided consistent and outstanding UAV-based support during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and here aboard the Combat Center during Enhanced Mojave Viper, said Capt. Jeffrey McCarthy, the

operations officer for the squadron, known as the Phantoms.

"The Phantoms began flying again the second week of June, providing overwatch for ground evolutions in support of EMV," said the Coral Springs, Fla., native.

As part of this overwatch, the Phantoms are also capable of calling in air and artillery fires, he said. "We can call in corrections and get the rounds on target too."

To effectively coordinate and accomplish these critical missions, communication between the ground forces and the squadron is key, McCarthy said.

"The more you know about a mission before you launch, the better," he said. "A lot of times they don't

know to what extent we can help them. If we're both in tune, which is made possible through communication, we can help them almost no matter what the problem is."

Relaying critical data back and forth is very important, but it is just one part of war-fighting. In many cases, having a team who can maintain and fix equipment rapidly when it breaks in combat, can mean the difference between a successful operation and a total disaster.

Attention to detail is very important, said Sgt. Michael Diaz, a maintenance controller in the squadron.

"Before the flight we check the functionality of everything on the bird," said the Miami native. "Every morning in Afghanistan we

would wake up and first do a [foreign object, debris] walk to clean up the runway.

Diaz recalled a time where even though they performed their job impeccably, their system had a failure.

"One time in Afghanistan we had a bird that just wouldn't land," Diaz said. "We did our normal pre-flight checks and everything was fine. The flaps went out on it, and it just wouldn't land properly."

"Thanks to the design of the bird though, we were able to kill the engine and deploy the parachute," he said. "The parachute is on the bottom of the plane, but it's not the plane, it's

See EMV, A4

PSYOP heads to the fight

JENNIE E. HASKAMP

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Two Marine Corps Expeditionary Psychological Operations Teams from the Marine Corps Information Operations Center in Quantico, Va., successfully completed their first step in a proof of concept by training during Enhanced Mojave Viper, a 28-day training and evaluation exercise conducted in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The two teams, which are comprised of PSYOP and IO trained infantry Marines, are preparing for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom along with other EPTs and PSYOP planners of mixed occupational backgrounds currently training at the MCIOC.

"Psychological Operations are often a significantly misunderstood element to warfighting," said Capt. Damien Butel, the expeditionary PSYOP detachment officer in charge. "PSYOP is capable of supporting the full range of military operations such as force introduction, civilian non-interference, information collection, counter to threat propaganda efforts, support to humanitarian assistance and more."

By definition, psychological operations are planned operations to convey selected information and indicators to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately the behavior of foreign governments, organizations, groups, and

See PSYOP, A5

Team effort saves lives of local Afghans after IED blast

SGT. DORIAN GARDNER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP DELARAM II, Afghanistan – After the initial call reported one man with lacerations to his leg, a laceration turned out to be an amputation and one patient grew to nine.

While driving down a commonly used route in Delaram, a commercial bus was struck by an improvised explosive device in the early morning of July 28, with nearly 60 passengers onboard. During a route clearance mission, Gunnery Sgt. Robert D. Ogle, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Route Clearance Platoon, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, took a detachment of his convoy to ensure the safety of the passengers and driver of the bus.

After a brief encounter with the assistant driver of the bus, the Marines assessed the site and swept for secondary IEDs.

"All the passengers were moved to a building about 500-800 meters from the IED site," said Ogle.

The Marines and soldiers on site offered to provide aid and water for the victims of the IED strike. Marines continued their mission after the victims of the bomb had been moved to a clinic within the city of Delaram.

Victims of the IED strike were taken to a medical clinic by Afghan civilians. Those who suffered injuries beyond their clinic's medical capabilities were moved to Camp Delaram II by Afghan Uniformed Police.

At 8 a.m., Regimental Combat Team 2's Shock Trauma Platoon received word from sentries at the entry control point that there was a man present with a large laceration on his left leg and was in need of medical aid.

With a large number of victims and a variety of injuries, the Afghan National Army's aid station partnered with Shock Trauma Platoon and Regimental Aid Station to assist in providing aid to injured civilians.

As injured Afghans were brought in by the Afghan National Army, they were immediately brought to the ANA compound where medics and corpsmen were standing by. As injured individuals were filtered through, the ANA's Brigade Aid Station assessed the patients, provided bandages for wounds and addressed minor hemorrhaging for multiple IED victims. Those in need of immediate surgical attention were transported to the



CPL. MATTHEW TROYER

Staff Sgt. Patrick Jirka, Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Jones, Petty Officer 2nd Class Eduardo Rosas and Seaman Michael Morales carry an injured Afghan civilian on a stretcher to an awaiting transport after the Shock Trauma Platoon provides immediate medical care to his wounds, suffered during an improvised explosive device strike, July 28. Sailors and Marines worked together to get all the victims to the helicopter, which carried them to another base where they would receive further medical attention.

Shock Trauma Platoon, while others with less severe injuries were treated on site.

Operating daily on a port/starboard rotation, a sailor is present at the Shock Trauma Platoon tent 24 hours of the day. When they received the call alerting them to an inbound

patient, Shock Trauma assembled a team. Prepared to handle a "laceration," corpsman and officers were caught off guard when the victim's leg was nearly amputated by the explosion.

"The guy showed up with his leg hanging off," said Navy Lt. Jessica Kazer, an Intensive

Care Unit Nurse with the STP, and Boulder, Colo., native.

"It's a shock to see, but it doesn't stop us from moving," said Kazer. "We still do our job. As soon as he came in, I put two IV's in him and we started a blood transfusion."

Due to his massive loss of

blood, the victim's vital signs were weak and he was in dire need of a blood transfusion.

"The doc told me activate the 'walking blood bank,'" said Petty Officer 1st Class Genaro Beltran, a laboratory

See IED, A8



Does this hurt? ~ See A3



Fostering cooperation ~ See A6



Build on Scion ~ See A7



Surprise! ~ See B1



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page by searching "The Combat Center at Twentynine Palms" at <http://www.facebook.com> to see stories and more photos.

SMP hosts 3rd LAR's surprise Barracks Bash



Marines build offroad Scion



See more photos and articles online at facebook and at <http://www.marines.mil>.

Back to school shots: Don't forget them!

SHARI LOPATIN
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

In the midst of your back-to-school rush, don't forget about the most important stop for your child – the doctor's office.

Yes, that's right. Between the running around for new shoes, shirts, fresh pencils and notebooks, part of that back-to-school routine should be your child's vaccinations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that most children be vaccinated against tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis B, human papilloma virus, measles, mumps and rubella. All of these diseases can cause serious health problems if your children's shots aren't up-to-date.

TRICARE will cover age-appropriate vaccinations, as recommended by the CDC. If you're not sure which vaccinations are covered, you can always ask your doctor, check out TriWest's immunizations page at www.triwest.com/immunizations, or call TriWest at 1-888-TRIWEST.

Centerspeak

What are your educational goals?

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



SEAMAN BENSON O. IWE
COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 7

"Hopefully trying to get a pharmacy technician 'C' school."



STAFF SGT. PETER A. CRUZ
COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"Getting a business degree by the end of next year."



SGT. JAVIER GUERRA
COMPANY K, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Getting my Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering."



LANCE CPL. NIKOLAS TIMM
COMPANY K, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Getting my general education out of the way and doing something I already know, like auto mechanics."

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 August 20. Go to <https://survey.rdniehaus.com> to take the survey. Username: Twentynine. Password: 2010.

MOPS ON THE WAY

Mothers of Preschoolers is coming to Twentynine Palms at Knott's Sky Park Preschool August 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for more information about this event or about the local MOPS group call 367-9506 or visit <http://www.mops.org>.

BABY BASICS CLASS

Baby Basics classes cover labor and delivery, postpartum, breast-feeding and baby safety from pregnancy to 12-months. It emphasizes father's involvement and includes demonstrations of basic infant care, bathing, diapering and soothing a crying baby. The class combines Mommy's Basic Training and Daddy's Baby Boot Camp and is provided to expectant parents (couples and singles). Pre-registration required. Classes are offered August 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. For more information call 830-7622.

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

August 6, 1847

Marines commenced their march on the "Halls of Montezuma" in Mexico.



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 #1890

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

THE HOLE TRUTH

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

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- ACROSS**
1. "Barbarella"
 6. Jazz style for Charlie Parker
 9. Like a beaver, maybe
 14. "Maria ___" (40s hit)
 15. AP rival
 16. Single-handedly
 17. Certain circus star
 18. Sample the sherry
 19. Permanent location?
 20. It has holes
 23. The Marlins' home: Abbr.
 24. "Pygmalion" author
 25. Any of the Chicago 7, e.g.
 27. Cartoon skunk
 30. HBO competitor
 32. Car bomb?
 33. Prefix with glottis or dermis
 34. Shoe attachments
 36. Comes down in buckets
 39. Mudville complement
 41. Deep-six
 43. In perfect alignment
 44. 1983 movie with Mr. T
 46. Welles character
 47. Entrepreneur-aiding org.
 48. Surfer, these days
 50. Common surgical replacement
 51. 180-degree turns, slangly
 52. Waldheim was its president
 55. Management level
 57. Librarian's admonition, maybe
 58. It has holes
 63. Grofe's "Grand Canyon ___"
 65. Conventioneer's topper
 66. Sine or tangent
 67. Loud, as the surf
 68. Multipurpose truck
 69. Large computer key
 70. Lionesses lack them
 71. Letters for Leary
 72. Taunt
- DOWN**
1. November paraders
 2. What "there oughta be"
 3. Moore of "C.I. Jane"
 4. Actually existing
 5. Everglade
 6. Attack by surprise
 7. Aunt Bee's charge
 8. Kilted musician
 9. Lessened the pressure
 10. Taking after
 11. It has holes
 12. ___ Gay (Hiroshima bomber)
 13. Kidney-related
 21. Playbill listings
 22. Two cents' worth
 26. "___ You Babe"
 27. Hang in the balance
 28. Monumental
 29. It has holes
 31. First name in afternoon TV
 35. Disinfected
 37. Keeler of "42nd Street"
 38. Salty septet
 40. Vane direction
 42. Charlemagne's father
 45. North African tribesmen
 49. Cruise port, briefly
 51. Suave
 52. State of India
 53. "Star Trek" lieutenant
 54. Worth two thumbs down
 56. White-plumed bird
 59. "___ Make a Deal"
 60. "___ boy!"
 61. Baloney
 62. Folk wisdom
 64. Menlo Park monogram

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Carolyn Johnson
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Va.
Job title: Director of Bright Beginnings
Job duties: Handles all administrative affairs
What do you like most about your job?: "Being able to see and be with the children, and know what I do impacts the children. It makes a difference."
Significant achievements: "The biggest thing is achievement of accreditation, it's hard to gain and it's hard to keep."
Hobbies: Reading, going to the beach, poetry, and writing
Time of service: "I have been in childcare 24 years, and childcare in the military 21 years."
Time aboard the Combat Center: 16 years



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

Public Affairs Officer - Jennie E. Haskamp
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Press Chief/Editor - Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt
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Physical therapy provides road to recovery

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Whether a strained joint or muscle during physical training, or a bullet or shrapnel wound on the battlefield, injuries take time to heal. This is where the Physical Therapy Department at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital comes to the rescue.

With an average of 1,000 patients a month and only four physical therapist technicians, one clerk, and one physical therapist, the department never seems to stop buzzing around treating patients.

Surprisingly, many of the injuries are due to individual error during physical training. "A lot of injuries have to do with incorrect running form," said Navy Lt. Aileen Pletta, the department's physical therapist. "As I drive, I see Marines running with terrible form and seeing that makes me think 'You are a future patient waiting to happen.'"

The large active duty population here provides Pletta with 10-12 patients per day. "It's a busy clinic, but I love what I do."

Unlike the average hospital section, they develop a connection with the patients because they sometimes have three appointments a week. "We get to build relationships with each person," said Petty Officer 1st Class Heath Wilhoit, a physical therapy technician at the Naval Hospital.

"We build a trust and educate them in rehab. It's not only physically therapeutic but also mentally therapeutic," he added.

The staff seems to always stay busy, but the amount of patients needing help are

too much for a six person staff. "I am a month out with appointments," Pletta said. "We are backed up right now. If an injury is severe, you should get with your doctor and I will communicate with him to see if I can squeeze you in for an earlier appointment."

Despite the crazy schedule, the department gives patients nothing but their best. "The care we give here is exceptional," Pletta said, a native of Rochester Minn.

As the only physical therapist in the department, Pletta makes it a point to personally understand what each patient is going through to properly care for them.

All the while Marines undergoing physical therapy see themselves progress. "I have seen a lot of improvement," said Cpl. Justin Reeves, a Marine with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

Reeves has had a shoulder injury for more than three years, which originated in recruit training. He recently underwent surgery and is now recovering. "I went from no range of motion [in my arm] to almost full [range of motion] in two months. They do a good job here."

Lance Cpl. Alfonso Mavarro, a Marine from 3rd LAR, is recovering from a knee surgery and is working hard to better his chances of deploying in the future with his unit. "I have been in therapy for three months, and I feel like I am getting better," Mavarro said. "I am trying to deploy."

Recovery is the ultimate focus when being treated in the department. Some patients the staff has treated in the past will never be forgotten because of their recovery story. "We had a



Physical Therapy Technician Frank Gonzales stretches out the arm of Cpl. Justin Reeves, a Marine with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during physical therapy Wednesday at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. Reeves, who's dislocated his shoulder multiple times, is now recovering after surgery.

Marine who was hit with an Improvised Explosive Device in Afghanistan," Pletta said. "He came in with lower back pain. He has made tremendous strides through physical therapy and the chiropractor and has now been pain free for two weeks. That Marine recently got to hold his little girl, because he wasn't able to before. He is looking to reenlist as well."

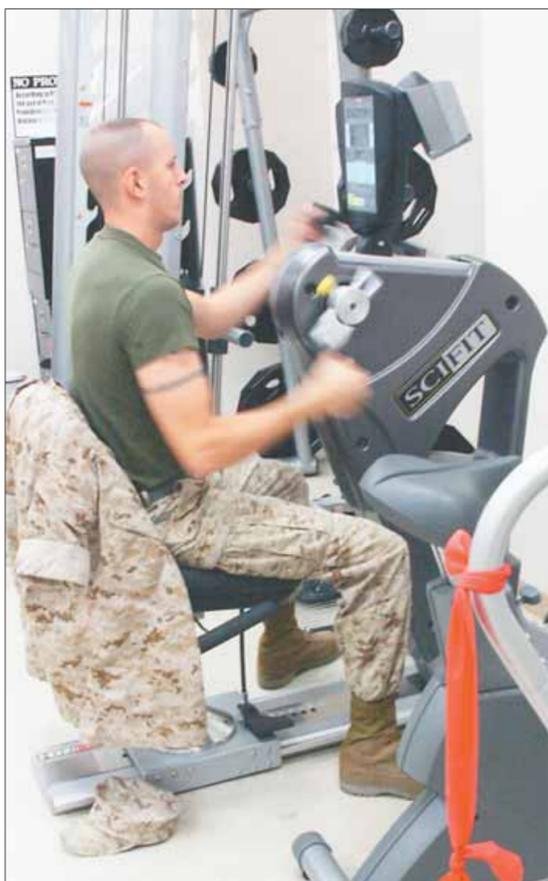
Seeing people recover and watching their improvement shows the men and women in the department their job makes a difference. "That is

ultimately why I'm here," Pletta said. "I'd say the best thing is getting people back on full duty, when you can get someone ready to reenlist or deploy. It hurts me the most when people aren't getting better."

Although pain is a part of healing, pushing through the hard times of recovery produces great results. "We make people cry here," Wilhoit said, "but to see them go from barely walking to being able to get around and continue with the Marine Corps and their job, that's huge."



Kettlebells sit on a table in the Physical Therapy Department of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. The kettlebells are a good tool to act as weights when working out injured muscles and joints.



Corporal Justin Reeves works his left arm on a machine during physical therapy Wednesday at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. Reeves is recovering from shoulder surgery performed two months prior.



Therapeutic balls are helpful when it comes to working out core muscles. A person can use them by leaning on them and performing crunches or bouncing with a straight spine and tight abdominals.



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

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Red Cross training preps spouses for dental careers

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The American Red Cross is offering to train family members of military personnel aboard the Combat Center for careers as dental assistants at the 23rd Dental Company on Griffin St.

"Being a dental assistant in the dental field, in my opinion is a respectful career," said Ginisha Charles, a contract dental assistant at the clinic.

Some students like

Shantell Pacheco plan to take the training and then use it to further their careers in the dental field.

"Hopefully after I graduate, I want to get a job and start paying for school so I can become a dental hygienist," Pacheco said.

With class sizes, usually around six, the Red Cross typically holds two, six-month iterations of the class per year.

"We have six different students, and we put them through each of the different

departments," said Charles.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jerry Wolf, a Hospitalman for the dental clinic, said they use the crawl, walk, run method to train the assistants.

They follow an assistant who shows them the day-to-day routines, said Charles. "When they feel comfortable enough, and when we feel comfortable enough with them, we let them step in and assist."

Charles said those who choose to go at it alone through a home study course

can expect to pay as much as \$5,000 and not get the valuable hands on experience.

Unfortunately, not everyone makes it through this training. Often personal issues such as moving, deployed spouses and family problems force 25 percent to drop out.

Charles recommends those who wish to follow this career path to make an honest self assessment because this career is not for the squeamish. Three problems commonly plague students during the

course, said Charles.

"The typical things like the sight of blood, fear and nervousness because you are working with a doctor," Charles said.

"For the candidates who have children or their husbands are deployed, that can be kind of difficult as well," Charles said. "It is a 6:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. job Monday through Friday."

For those who are determined to become dental assistants, there are teachers and staff available to help them

get over personal barriers.

"I'll tell them to go home and go YouTube," she said. "You can see surgeries on YouTube. It's so they can have an idea of what they are going to see, because you can see everything on YouTube."

The current class is completing their final course hours and are excited to receive their diplomas and begin their careers as a dental assistant.

For more information contact the local American Red Cross at 830-6685.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Unmanned aerial vehicle mechanics with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 wheel out an RQ-7B UAV to do pre-flight checks on the systems before one of their flight operations in support of EMV at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field Tuesday.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 mechanics work on an RQ-7B UAV at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field Tuesday. The technicians are a small piece of the puzzle when it comes to a UAV mission in support of ground troops.

EMV, from A1

the expensive camera on it we were able to save."

Corporal Anthony Cuevas, a UAV mechanic with the squadron, said accomplishing their mission is made easier by their repair routines and the durability and ease of repair of the RQ-7B system.

There's not much on the plane that breaks consistently, said Cuevas, from Lehi, Utah. "We replace most of the stuff based on the flight hours, so we kind of take it

out before it gets worn out."

Every one to two hours of maintenance provides roughly six hours of flight time, he said. "It can go up and down pretty quickly, it's a simple system that doesn't need a lot of babysitting."

Given the quality of the Phantom's mechanics and their gear, Marines who come to the Combat Center for EMV can rest assured the squadron will provide them with excellent support during training and down range in support of OEF.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Corporal Robert Smart, an unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, disassembles an RQ-7B UAV at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field Tuesday. Smart and the other mechanics maintain the vehicles so the squadron can provide support to Enhanced Mojave Viper.

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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>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>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>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child. Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>	<p>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>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship Sunday School Child Care 29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive 760-361-0086</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>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>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>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>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>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 9:00 am • Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study 8:00 am We're Here For Everyone Phone (760) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>

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Counseling for couples

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM JACKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

While divorce rates are high for military members, it doesn't mean couples aren't trying to work things out. From counseling classes to self-help books, the Combat Center has used the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program to fine tune marriages for years.

PREP teaches couples to handle many marriage problems like finance, substance abuse, infidelity and communication, said Navy Lt. David T. Nelson Jr., the Headquarters Battalion chaplain and native of Piedmont, S.C.

The class is suggested for couples going through hardships, or for couples who just

want more information to avoid future problems.

"It's not always negative," said Sandra Little, personal financial specialist. "We give advice for budgeting, interest rates, and understanding credit and how to use it wisely."

"The financial part of PREP can be anywhere from 15 minutes to one hour. We use surveys and questionnaires to help couples understand where they currently stand financially," said Little. "PREP provides a relaxed environment for couples where they can possibly use the information as a starting point to the endless questions pertaining to the world of finance."

"The two-day program doesn't fix the problem, but it gives you a tool box of skills to use in enhancing

your marriage," Nelson said. The couples listen to lectures, watch videos, sit through financial classes and practice the exercises being taught.

The classes are generally small. On average, the class accommodates around 10 couples. While the group sessions are the main experience for couples, third party counseling is available for more serious problems.

This is a great free program, Nelson said. "It's open base-wide for active duty military and their spouses."

For more information or to register for the September class, visit the Protestant Chapel at building 1541, or call 830-6464. Free childcare is available for couples who register by Sept. 13.

PSYOP, from A1

individuals. The purpose of psychological operations is to induce or reinforce foreign attitudes and behavior favorable to the originator's objectives.

The deployment of EPTs is still in its inception phase for the Marine Corps and sending teams to train at EMV is a crucial part of program development.

"We had a chance to work with multiple battalions while we were here," said Butel, a Jefferson City, Mo. native. "Working directly with infantry units showed us the most effective way to employ our skill set is to ensure the unit leadership has a solid understanding of our capabilities."

Lieutenant Col. Walter Powers, the PSYOP section head at MCIOC, said training at EMV provides the teams a chance to learn how to engage with their infantry counterparts.

"This training evolution provides the opportunity to allow the PSYOP teams the ability to apply the technical and tactical skills they have learned in a practical real world scenario," said Powers, a Yonkers, N.Y. native.

He said the teams who traveled here to train are setting a new precedent.

"The PSYOP Marines at EMV along with other PSYOP Marines currently in training at Ft. Bragg and Quantico have worked and trained hard to get to this point," said Powers. "Having the opportunity to train at

Twentynine Palms and provide a brand new capability within the Marine Corps to units preparing to deploy is a historic moment."

PSYOP isn't currently designated as a military occupational specialty and it takes a particular mindset to understand the mission and be a successful operator. If you're interested in learning more about the field and the mission visit <http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcioc/Pages/index.aspx>

Candidates must have a GT score of 100 or higher, it's a voluntarily designated position and the billet number would be 0521, PSYOP specialist. Candidates must be eligible for a security clear-

ance at the level of top secret sensitive compartmentalized information (TS\SCI). The field is open to male Marines only and candidates may not be colorblind. Talk to your career planner or visit the MOS manual online at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/hqmc/hqbat/Documents/MOS%20MANUAL.pdf>

"I have been at the MCIOC for one year and I am excited to be part of this organization and believe whole-heartedly in the positive and long-lasting effects that PSYOP can provide for the Marine Corps," said Butel. "It's been said, 'Capture their minds and their hearts and souls will follow.'"

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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. and Sr. High School Youth

Weekday Events

Immaculate Heart of Mary

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

Christ Chapel

Monday - Friday, noon - Daily Prayer

Tuesday

Christ Chapel

9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (September through May)
6:30 p.m. - "EKKLESIA" Assemblies of God Fellowship

Immaculate Heart of Mary

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

Wednesday

Christ Chapel

Noon - Communion

Immaculate Heart of Mary

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

Thursday

Christ Chapel

6 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary

9 a.m. - Adult Class

6 p.m. - Children RCIA

6:30 p.m. - RCIA (September-April)

7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation

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

+ Appointments can be made for confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87.

Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93.

For more information call 830-5430.

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Combat Center Trader Ads

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2008 DODGE AVENGER. Red, 6 cyl., 53,000 miles, excellent condition. \$10,900 OBO. 909-910-2923. 7/9/10

2002 CR250R DIRT BIKE. Eline starter, FMF pipe and silencer, paddle tire for the dunes. Runs very strong. \$2,800. 910-3979. 6/25/10

1999 TRANS AM 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONVERTIBLE. White with blue stripes, 5.7 LT-1, Auto, \$12,500. 408-9088. 6/11/10

2006 TRIUMPH SCRAMBLER. 3,275 miles. \$6,000 firm. Modern classic styled after Steve McQueen's Desert Racer. 365-5902. 6/11/10

1957 NASH EXECUTIVE MODEL PROJECT CAR. Registered, complete engine, \$650 OBO. 5 rims, size 15.6 lug, off-road heavy duty. \$180. OBO. Call Jose 361-3509. 4/23/10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leadership conference fosters regional cooperation

SGT. MARK FAYLOGA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Afghanistan – Afghan, coalition, military and civilian leadership throughout the Helmand Province gathered for a regional stability shura at Forward Operating Base Geronimo, Afghanistan, July 26.

“We can achieve more by coming together and looking at our challenges across all the districts, than by each of us trying to individually solve our little problems,” said Col. Randall P. Newman, the commanding officer with Regimental Combat Team 7, during his opening remarks for the event.

Throughout the day-long shura, the third of its kind, several issues were discussed, but with upcoming elections and the school year beginning soon, special focus was put on elections, education and agriculture.

“What we’ve heard from the Afghan people through-

out the region is part of ensuring the promise of a better future, is allowing the next generation to be educated. So we – all of us – have a responsibility to provide that opportunity,” Newman said.

Haji Abdul Manaf, Nawa district governor, echoed Newman’s intent.

“We can make even greater achievements in cooperation, than by trying to do things individually,” Manaf said. “We should keep on celebrating peace and cooperation and honesty with our friends.”

The shura differed from previous iterations with the use of break-out sessions. District governors, Afghan National Security Forces, and ISAF military and civilian personnel broke off into separate groups to tackle issues before selecting individual representatives to brief, all present, and review decisions made during the day.

“If we all work together, there’s no enemy that could face us and defeat us,” Newman said.



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

Lieutenant Col. Jeffery C. Holt, commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, discusses coalition security and strategies during a regional stability shura at Forward Operating Base Geronimo, Afghanistan, July 26. The shura provides a way for Afghan, coalition, military and civilian leadership throughout the Helmand Province to address challenges across all districts.



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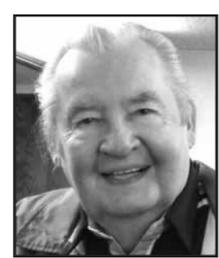
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SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

Haji Abdul Manaf, Nawa district governor, makes opening remarks during a regional stability shura at Forward Operating Base Geronimo, Afghanistan, July 26. The shura provides a way for Afghan, coalition, military and civilian leadership throughout the Helmand Province to address challenges across all districts.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



I feel compelled to write a few words regarding the Shirley Sherrod saga that grabbed the entire nation’s attention a couple of weeks ago.

I’m sure most of you remember how someone took a paragraph out of a speech by Sherrod at the Georgia NAACP Convention several months ago. The completely out of context statement caused an uproar and Sherrod was abruptly fired. Well, the truth came out and it was learned that Sharrod’s speech actually stressed the opposite of what her critics in a rush to judgment had thought she meant. The NAACP, the Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, many media outlets, and members of the White House staff all had egg all over their faces, and, of course, they offered her an opportunity to return to work.

This deplorable incident is reflective of something we all must guard against every day: making hasty judgments without all the facts. One of my seminary professors Dr. Robert Leslie warned all ministerial students to always check the facts before passing judgment.

I am reminded of an anecdote you might enjoy:

A man sitting at his window one evening casually called to his wife, “There goes that woman Charlie Smith is so terribly in love with.” His wife in the kitchen dropped a plate she was drying, ran through the door knocking over a lamp looked out the window. “Where, where?” she cried. “There,” he said, “that woman in the gabardine suit on the corner.” “You idiot,” she hissed, “That’s his wife.” “Yes, of course,” he replied.

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Battle of the Builds starts construction

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center Marines are currently participating in Scion's military Battle of the Builds competition.

The three finalists, the Salty Dogs from the Navy, Sapper from the Army and Kai Hei Tai, Marines from the Combat Center, were chosen by the vehicle manufacturer out of several entries from around the world after submitting custom designs of Scion's xB compact economy car. Each team received an xB and \$15,000 to build their designs, and are currently working on the projects.

The teams have until Oct. 5 to make their dreams a reality.

The members of Kai Hei Tai designed their xB as a tactical vehicle, dubbed "xB Assault," which loosely resembles the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle.

Gunnery Sgt. Michael A. Lamar, the team leader for Kai Hei Tai, said he was astonished to learn his team's design was chosen to come to life.

"We knew the size of the competition, and to find out we were in the top three was amazing," said Lamar. "The Marines were totally psyched."

The team received their Scion xB July 22 and proceeded to deconstruct it as fast as they could.

"We took it totally apart," said Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Gonzales, the range control supervisor of BEARMAT range control unit. "We took

off everything but the engine and the suspension in about an hour and a half. It is now completely stripped down to the bare frame. Now we are just waiting on the parts we need."

Lamar said his team must overcome two major hurdles to succeed. The first is a lack of experience, an off road Scion has never been built in the United States, and second, parts are very hard to find.

"A couple of the team members have family in Japan, so they were calling home asking for this and that," said Lamar, a Claytonville, Ill., native. The prices for the parts were within their budget but the import taxes were too steep Lamar said. "So that was a bridge too far, and right now we are looking for a total salvage vehicle. That way we can graft the parts into the car."

Since the team can't import what they need from overseas, they are looking around the area for a 2006-07 Toyota Rav 4.

"It has the same engine and same transmission, so we will be able to graft the drive train in almost seamlessly as far as the engine, transition and transfer case," Lamar said. "From there, it's going to be a lot of work getting the sub frame in for the rear axle. We want to use the front suspension from the Rav 4 so we get more wheel travel."

After the extensive drive train modifications are completed and before the exterior is finished, the team plans to add a few aesthetic touches to the body, to include modified wheel wells and flared



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

The pieces of team Kai Hei Tai's Scion xB scattered over the floor of the Auto Hobby Shop, August 4. If team Kai Hei Tai wins the Battle of the Builds their vehicle will be showcased at the 2010 Specialty Equipment Market Association Show in Las Vegas Nov. 2 - 6.

fenders, Lamar added.

"We are working with Kevin, the auto hobby manager, and one of our Marines who grew up doing that back home. Another one went to a technical institute and learned some of that," Lamar said. "So between the three of them, Kevin and our two guys, we'll be able to lay the base paint down. We are looking at the possibility of using a car wrap. It is basically like a big sticker, but it is applied with heat and stretched over the car. With that we are looking at the MARPAT digital pattern."

While progress on the Scion is at a standstill as the team Kai Hei Tai waits for new parts, the members continue to think of ways to improve their vehicle to beat the competition.

Although there is a lot of hard work ahead, there is a payoff, said Lamar. The 1st place team will receive \$14,000, 2nd will take home \$12,000 and \$10,000 will go to 3rd place. Each of the finalists' Auto Hobby Shops who participated will also receive a \$2,500 prize.

The grand prize winners, which will be announced Oct. 18, will also have the opportunity to showcase their creation at the 2010 Specialty Equipment Market Association Show in Las Vegas Nov. 2 - 6.

Winning the cash prize will

be nice but his team is not just motivated by the money, Lamar said. It's a dream come true to get to build and create something unique, he said.

Especially when it's someone else's money.

For more information on the Battle of the Builds go to <http://battleofthebuilds.com>.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

The torn up interior of team Kai Hei Tai's Scion xB sits at the Auto Hobby Shop, August 4. The vehicle is now stripped down to the bare frame until the team purchases the parts they need to continue.

Clearly a better view



CPL. NED JOHNSON

Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, observe a controlled explosion in a nearby tree line in Sangin, Helmand Province, Afghanistan July 26. Combat engineers rigged the area with Composition-4 explosives and leveled several trees with four explosions to expand visibility for the Marines aboard the forward operating base. Because of their newly gained visibility, Marines are able to better protect their position from rocket propelled grenade and mortar attacks. The trees did not go to waste. After the controlled detonation, Marines gathered the lumber and were able to use it to fortify their positions.

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IED, from A1

technician from San Diego. As soon as they were able to identify the victim's blood type, Beltran sent an email to the unit leaders throughout the base requesting donors with that blood type to support the patient. Marines and

sailors rushed to donate blood, not concerned as to whether the patient was American or Afghan. After ample blood was received, surgeons continued to operate while the rest of the staff helped place IVs in new patients, diagnose injuries and assess patients as time

progressed. While this victim was undergoing operations, seven more victims of the IED strike were brought to the STP tent. That evening, three victims of the IED strike were evacuated via British air assets to a larger medical facility, for further medical attention. The STP continued to care for the remaining patients and ensured they received the nec-

essary medical attention. "I like being there for my patients at their time of crisis," said Kazer, who is currently on her first deployment. "That's why I work in the [Intensive Care Unit]. We get the sickest of the sick." Excited to finally be able to support the war effort, Kazer said she would not get out of the military until she deployed at least one time.

Though the patients who came across the platoon's tables were not Marines, sailors, soldiers, or airmen, STP sailors did not hesitate to act and saw nothing more than a patient in need of care. At the end of the day, all overnight patients were transported back to the ANA BAS where follow-on care was provided. By the morning, all were safely dispatched to the city.

Today's combined actions by the ANA BAS and Shock Trauma Platoon show that Afghan civilians in need of urgent medical care will not be turned away by this Afghan-American team. "If you come across our table, our guys are going to treat you," said Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Jones. We are truly partnered in this fight.



COURTESY PHOTO

Aghan National Army medics practice life-saving techniques aboard Camp Delaram II. The medics tended to less-severe injuries when injured Afghan civilians came to the base for medical after being struck by an improvised explosive device.



CPL. MATTHEW TROYER

Navy Lt. Jessica Kazer, an Intensive Care Unit nurse, provides continuous medical care to two local Afghans while awaiting a casualty evacuation at Camp Delaram II, July 28.

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B1

3rd LAR surprised by SMP Barracks Bash



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion had some overdue fun during a Barracks Bash thrown by the Single Marine Program July 29.

As the Marines stood in formation on the 3rd LAV ramp waiting to be released for the day, they received a brief from Sgt. Maj. John Elliott, the battalion sergeant major. That's when cars and vans pulled in honking horns and playing music.

The Marines were surprised with games, prizes, squirt guns, beach balls and 300 pizzas, which were gone in less than ten minutes.

"They had no idea we were coming," said Lora Cowan, the SMP assistant manager. "They needed one, they are deploying soon."

The Barracks Bash is held frequently and units are individually selected by the SMP to participate.

"We do a Barracks Bash every month," said Cowan, a native of Chicago. "The battalions submit an application and tell us why they should be chosen for a barracks bash."

The Marines wanted the bash badly and volunteered their services to increase their

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion run a relay which included putting random clothing items on at different points of the race during a Barracks Bash July 29 at a light armored vehicle ramp.

See BASH, B3



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center's Outdoor Adventures office rents out softball, football, flag football gear, as well as many other types of equipment. They also support unit functions with materials for family fun days, as well as deployment kits.

Outdoor adventure gear here

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Many Marines and sailors stationed aboard the Combat Center think it is isolated and far away from anything fun. The truth is, the installation is in the middle of many places to go hiking, camping and a variety of other outdoor endeavors. Outdoor Adventures here provides the key to do just that.

The office rents out equipment to individuals, and supports unit functions throughout the year, said John Murdock Jr., the Outdoor Adventure's manager.

The office provides access to a very wide variety of equipment like bikes, camping gear, skis, snowboards, grills and virtually anything someone could want. However, the early bird gets the worm at

Outdoor Adventures. "Reservations can be made as much as 180 days in advance, or come in the day they want something and check it out," said Murdock, a Washington, D.C., native. "Unfortunately, we have a limited inventory, so it's first come, first serve."

The office also donates several kinds of deployment

See OUTDOOR, B2

Splash Park provides cool family fun



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Juel Johnson plays with the water cannons at the Combat Center's children's water park Thursday. The water park is a Marine Corps Community Services run program. "It was created to be a fun way for children to get some relief from the summer heat and let them play without parents holding on to them tightly," said Cari Piirainen, the supervisory administrative assistant for MCCS. The park is located beside the training tank off of Bourke Road. The park is open all day everyday.

Women's soccer plays first tourney



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Brenna Aspera shoots on goal keeper Rebecca McCants during a warm up drill before a game for the Combat Center women's soccer team, at the six on six Soccer Festival in San Diego Saturday and Sunday. This is the first opportunity the brand new team has been able to play together. The women played four games in the two day tournament. The team practices at Felix Field every Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. and are looking for experienced women players to come out and play.



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: Italian sausage with pepper and onion and green salad, 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
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

The Ryan Bradley Affair
Description: An outdoor mini-music festival
When: 8 p.m., Friday, August 6
Rock 'N' Roll Rodeo with Jackass, Shawn Kama & the Kings of the Wild Frontier, Sean Wheeler & Zander Schloss, 29 Mules and Cold Blue Rebels
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, August 7
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 "Zydeco Bonne Musique"
Description: Zydeco was originally dance music played by Creole French speaking people of African decent
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, August 7
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>.

Dino Day at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum
Description: Dinosaur themed Family Fun Day
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, August 7
Where: The Hi-Desert Nature Museum located in the Yucca Valley Community Center Complex
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
For more information call 369-7212 or visit <http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org>.

Lower Desert

Billy Idol with Steve Stevens
Description: Hard rock legend brings his famous sneer
When: 9 p.m., Friday, August 20
Where: Agua Caliente,
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Huey Lewis and the News
Description: The San Francisco rock band performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday, August 27
Where: Agua Caliente,
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Meatloaf
Description: The classic rock 'n' roller performs
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 4
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Don Henley
Description: The classic rock legend performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 17
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, August 6
6 p.m. – The Karate Kid, Rated PG
9 p.m. – The A-Team, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Knight and Day, Rated PG-13
Saturday, August 7
11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Everyone's Hero, Rated G
2 p.m. – Toy Story 3, Rated G
6 p.m. – Grown Ups, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Jonah Hex, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Killers, Rated PG-13
Sunday, August 8
2 p.m. – The Last Airbender, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Twilight Saga: Eclipse, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The A-Team, Rated PG-13
Monday, August 9
7 p.m. – Knight and Day, Rated PG-13
Tuesday, August 10
7 p.m. – The Karate Kid, Rated PG
Wednesday, August 11
7 p.m. – The A-Team, Rated PG-13
Thursday, August 12
7 p.m. – Killers, Rated PG-13

Angelina & 'Salt' add spice to summer movie season

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

"Salt"
Rated PG-13

If you've been reading or watching the news, you know about the U.S. government's recent bust-up of a Soviet spy ring. Most of the media attention was focused on a pretty young party girl who made the Manhattan social scene while funneling top-level secrets back to the Russkies.

"Salt" benefits from the connection to the headlines, but it's all coincidence. The movie was in the making, and even in the can, long before the real-life spy drama came to light.

Angelina Jolie rips into the title role of a CIA super-agent accused of being a Soviet counterspy. Outed – or set up? – by a Russian defector, Evelyn Salt suddenly finds herself on the run as a long-incubating Russian plot to take down the United States begins to play out.

Her life, her husband, and all-out nuclear war hang in the balance.

Salt makes it difficult to know her true motives, or her mission, as she slambang her way out of seemingly impossible jams and blazes a path of destruction from Washington D.C. to New York. Bodies start to pile up on both sides, and the movie intriguingly scrambles its signals. Is she a hero, or a villain? Is she trying to stop the Soviets, or help them along?

It's interesting to watch a female in a movie frame-



COURTESY PHOTO

Angelina Jolie rips into the character of Evelyn Salt, a CIA super-agent accused of being a Soviet counterspy.

work that usually oozes testosterone. Tom Cruise was initially signed on for the part, but backed out when he thought the plot was too close to his own "Mission Impossible" franchise. The role was retooled for Jolie.

The plot definitely keeps you guessing, and it's got the snap, crackle and pop you'd expect from a brisk spy-on-the-run romp. But, unfortunately, "Salt" runs straight into a few too many familiar action clichés, without offering much in the way of invention or innovation.

The plot becomes pretty ridiculous, but action scenes and the stunts are well staged, and it's refreshing, in this era of computer-generated overkill, to see some old-fashioned, metal-on-metal car crashes. If you can suppress your "Oh, come

on!" impulses, you'll get a kick out of seeing Salt navigate around the outside of a high-rise building, hop from the top of one speeding truck to another, and catch a descending elevator by soaring like a flying squirrel down the shaft.

She also makes a bazooka out of a conference-room table leg, uses her pantyhose to disable a security camera, leaps from of a speeding subway train, jumps out of a helicopter, and appears implausibly well versed in practically every deadly art.

When Salt shows up at a White House event in a disguise that makes her look like Wayne Newton impersonating a Soviet officer, no one on the security detail flinches. But you'll probably giggle.

A supporting cast of capable (male) actors fills in

the gaps on both sides of the geopolitical divide, but this is Jolie's gung-ho show all the way. Without seeming to worry that it doesn't call for much in the way of serious acting, she plays Salt with just the right tone of cool, sexy, sometimes scary inscrutability that makes her character such a difficult one to peg, and a dangerous one to cross.

If you're not a fan of action thrillers to begin with, you should probably spend your ticket dollars elsewhere. But if you're curious just how this little firecracker cocktail of adrenaline, estrogen and espionage tastes, "Salt" may be just the seasoning to go with your summer popcorn.

And if they ever do make a movie about that New York spy ring, forget Tom. Call Angelina first.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center's Outdoor Adventures office offers gear and furniture to rent for the installation's community. They also have programs to support unit functions.

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OUTDOOR, from B1

kits stocked with recreational supplies, such as playing cards, games and other miscellaneous items to units headed overseas. The kits become the unit's property and do not need to be returned after the deployment.

Murdock said some days are slow but during extended liberty periods, patrons need to plan ahead to make sure they get what they want.

"Our busiest time of the year is holidays," he said. "The busiest day of the year is probably the Wednesday before Thanksgiving."

Murdock said everything in their inventory is quite useful and meant for a good time, but not everyone has room in a barracks room or in housing.

"A lot of what we have here are things that Marines and their families would like to have or like to own," he said. "But because they're [moving] all the time, they can't afford to have four or five big six-foot tables for a family gathering. Well, we have those."

Murdock said the top rented items at the office change with the seasons.

"In the winter time, it's skis and snowboards with-

out a question," he said. "Summer time, it's the camping equipment."

Jessica Spicer, a recreation assistant at the office, said it's a great place to work, and relatively hassle-free environment.

"I like working here because I love the people," said the Twentynine Palms, Calif., resident. "You don't find too many problems."

"There's the occasional late person," she added. "But that doesn't even happen very often."

Cpl. Harris Bienn, an assaultman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, said he's known about the office and its services since he got here and has always tried to utilize it.

"They're great," said the New Orleans native. "I always went camping and backpacking before I joined."

"A lot of people here think all there is to do is go to Palm Springs or San Diego," he said. "There's a lot of fun, outdoors stuff to experience out here, and Outdoor Adventures is cheap most of all."

For more information about rental equipment and rates call 830-7235, or visit the Marine Corps Community Services' website at <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

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Combat Center Sports



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion try to fit into a hula hoop during the Barracks Bash July 29 at the 3rd Landing Assault Vehicle ramp. The bash was hosted by the Single Marine Program.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion pass sponges and towels filled with water in an over under relay game at the Barracks Bash July 29 at the 3rd LAV ramp.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion grab dinner during a Barracks Bash July 29 at the 3rd LAV ramp. The 300 pizzas, provided by the Single Marine Program, were gone in less than 10 minutes.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Tyler Stroven, an LAV crewman with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion playfully shoots his fellow Marine with a water gun provided by the Single Marine Program during a Barracks Bash July 29 at the 3rd LAV ramp.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Brigitte Ng
Hometown: San Antonio
Unit: Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, Company A
Job title: Student
Recognition: Played on female soccer team in the Six on Six San Diego Soccer Festival
Favorite aspect of the sport: "Running and scoring goals."
Advice for aspiring athletes: "Always look to improve and keep on practicing."

BASH, from B1

chances of being chosen. "We had [privates first class] and privates come down to the Single Marine Program to volunteer to improve their chances of getting chosen," Cowan said.

The Marines were surprised at the event and enjoyed themselves immensely. "It was really fun, and we needed this," said Lance Cpl. Kody Simmons, a Light Armored Vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd LAR. "I had a blast."

The squirt guns the Marines were given never seemed to run out of water as they enjoyed blasting each other throughout the event. The Marines laughed and cheered each other on while they played various, and at times, ridiculous games provided by SMP.

One game was a relay race where Marines had to put on random articles of clothing at each check point, including a lei, hula skirt, and pom poms.

Other games involved water and seeing how many Marines can fit in a hula-hoop.

"Marines love to make fools out of themselves," said Cpl. Nathan Sackett, a vehicle commander with Company D. "It was nice that the battalion could do this."

The SMP went all out to put smiles on the faces of the 3rd LAR Marines.

"It boosts the morale of the Marines and helps them understand the SMP better and what they offer," Cowan said. "We want to let them know 'We are here for you and we care about you.'"

For more information about the Single Marine Program, call 830-4SMP.

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