

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 3, 2010    SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957    Vol. 53    Issue 35

## CMC Labor Day message

On Sept. 5, 1882, the United States celebrated the first Labor Day in recognition of the strength and 'esprit de corps' of American trade and labor organizations. We continue to pay tribute to those who helped make our country great. Our warriors today greatly benefit from the superior equipment and services provided by the American worker and our industrial base.

Enjoy this holiday and the much deserved time off. Don't forget to include risk management and force preservation in your activities. Take care of yourself, your families, friends, and fellow warriors. Come back to work refreshed and reenergized. Your Marine Corps needs each and every one of you in the fight.

Semper Fidelis, James T. Conway, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

## Commanding General's Education Town Hall rescheduled

In the interests of providing a more productive and informative event, the Commanding General's Education Town Hall meeting has been rescheduled for Oct. 20, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group theater.

The Commanding General will be joined by members of the Morongo Unified School District's administrative staff and will discuss and take questions on the current 2010-11 school year budget situation, educational issues, and transportation changes. Active participation by the base community is encouraged.

## Mechanic receives Purple Heart

**PFC. SARAH ANDERSON**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

In August of 1782, Gen. George Washington introduced the concept of the Purple Heart when he had a desire to award his soldiers for acts of bravery. With the lack of funding, Washington turned to his wife, Martha, to make hearts out of purple velvet with the word 'Merit' sewn in the middle. This was the beginning of the Purple Heart.

Washington presented the first Purple Hearts, then called the "badges of Military Merit,"

to three of his soldiers in 1782.

Wednesday, Lance Cpl. Tiofilo Corona, Jr., a heavy equipment mechanic with the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, received his own Purple Heart.

In May, Corona, 20, from Charlotte, Texas, was driving a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle during a route clearance mission in Afghanistan, when his front left tire ran over a pressure plate improvised explosive device. The 60-pound explosion, which

**See MECHANIC, A6**



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

The 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion remain behind element waits in formation before Lance Cpl. Tiofilo Corona Jr. receives his Purple Heart Sept. 1. Corona sustained a broken foot after his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Tiofilo Corona Jr., a Marine with the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion salutes after receiving a Purple Heart Wednesday at the 3rd CEB command section. Corona's vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device last May in Afghanistan.

## K-9 welcomes home last two Marines from Afghanistan



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines and family welcome home Lance Cpls. Christopher Wallace and Jose Rivera, both dog handlers with the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit, after their return from a deployment to Afghanistan Tuesday.

**LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Friends, family and co-workers waited as the sun set for the return of the last two K-9 dog handlers from their unit to return from their deployment in Afghanistan Tuesday.

Lance Cpls. Christopher Wallace and Jose Rivera, both dog handlers with the Provost Marshal's Office, III Marine Expeditionary Force Military Working Dog platoon, returned home after spending about two months longer in Afghanistan than the 13 other Marines who deployed together earlier this year.

"It feels awesome to be back home," said Wallace, a Kansas native. "I am going to rest and relax. We have been going, going, going, so it will be nice to just lie down, relax and take my mind off of everything."

Not one Marine from the two Marines' shop was missing from the waiting crowd.

"They are what every unit should be," said Kathleen Schmitt, the family readiness officer for Headquarters Battalion.

"Everybody is here willingly for just two people. It is really nice to have this small group support because I think that is what makes a difference."

When the truck carrying the two Marines drove around the back of the building, everyone gathered with excitement evident on all of their faces.

"The first thing we are going to do is send these Marines home to spend some time with their families," said Cpl. Chris Reinhardt, a dog handler. "I am sure they can't wait to see their heroes home."

"It feels really good to have them back," added Maj. David D. Jones, the Provost Marshal. "All of us are really excited to get them back safely after an extension to help out the Marine Corps a little bit longer. They did a good job, and they got back home safely, and that is all that matters right now."

When the hugs and handshakes were done and the Marines made it back to their rooms, they found a delightful surprise of home baked cookies and new grooming gear provided by Schmitt as a welcome home gift with that mother's touch.

## Marine Corps' prevention program fights to lower suicide rate

**LANCE CPL. JACOB D. OSBORNE**  
*HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS*

ARLINGTON, Va. – At a rate of 24 deaths per 100,000 people, 52 Marines took their lives last year.

Having exceeded the rate of civilian suicides, as well as its sister services, the Corps initiated the Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program in hopes of reducing the number of suicides.

"Since we launched our new course, 'Never Leave a Marine Behind,' privates to sergeants now make up a smaller proportion of

our suicides than they did previously," said Col. Grant Olbrich, section head of Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

The course is taught, trained and mandated to all Marine noncommissioned officers and the length of the course varies depending on the needs of the unit. The instructors of the course are fellow NCOs that have finished the Train-the-Trainer course and are certified for the training.

"We initially targeted our NCOs due to their unique position to impact their peers and the younger Marines they lead," Olbrich added.

The reason NCOs are in such an exclusive situation is because they work more closely with junior Marines and typically know them better, he said.

"It is very important to get to know your Marines. If you get to know them then you will know when they are getting out of character," said Brenda Ray, a health and education coordinator at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

Olbrich said multiple stressors are usually a precursor to suicide or an attempt.

"If someone in your shop is having some difficulties, has experi-

enced some significant loss in their life, or has demonstrated a desire to die, you need to take on the responsibility of getting them to a care-giving professional for an evaluation," said Cmdr. Charles R. Kessler, chaplain for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

Depression could be a sign that somebody is considering suicide, but some people show a renewed sense of calm because they have come to terms with their problem, Kessler said.

He added that 75 to 80 percent of all suicides are related to depression, but there is no typical or com-

mon reason for someone to commit suicide.

Abusing alcohol or drugs, deliberately injuring themselves, extreme mood swings, giving away of personal possessions, talking about wanting to die and threatening suicide are all common signs that someone is suicidal, Kessler said.

The Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program has paired up with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors to help families who are victim to suicide.

"TAPS is recognized nationally as

**See SUICIDE, A3**



Countering IEDs ~ See A3



Chuck wagon delivers ~ See A4



Three stripes up ~ See A7



'Dawg' food ~ See B1





Check out **EXCLUSIVE**  
Fight Club 29 photos

Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page by seaching  
“The Combat Center at Twentynine Palms” at <http://www.facebook.com>

Suicide Prevention Week:  
■ Family first to notice signs of distress

**SHARI LOPATIN**  
*TriWest Healthcare Alliance*

Your service member recently returned from a deployment. And you noticed some changes.

Some may be part of the “new normal.” But others you wonder about: bursts of anger, withdrawal from friends and family, trouble sleeping or sleeping too much. Should you brush it off as just a phase?

Absolutely not. Family members are often the first to recognize symptoms of stress, depression or post-traumatic stress. They can be the help for a loved one before it’s too late.

But where can you turn if you’re not sure what to do? Many resources are here to help, even online, through TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the company which administers your TRICARE benefit throughout 21 western states.

- Online Care**
- For life issues such as stress management, relationship problems and self-esteem, you can connect with a counselor 24/7/365 using chat and Web video from your home or any Internet connection. As part of TriWest Online Care, you may have access to the TRICARE Assistance Program, or TRIAP. TRIAP offers non-medical, non-reportable video counseling sessions. To be eligible for TRIAP, you must meet one of the following criteria:
- An active duty service member (includes Guard/Reserve members who’ve been activated)
  - An active duty service member’s spouse
  - An active duty family member 18 years or older
  - Guard/Reserve members who’ve purchased coverage under TRICARE Reserve Select
  - Eligible for TRICARE benefits under the Transitional Assistance Management Program
- Want more information? Curious to see what kind of help a counselor offers, even if it’s guidance for you to help your spouse? Visit <http://www.triwest.com/OnlineCare> to get started.
- Other TriWest Resources**
- TriWest and TRICARE have many other resources available to support you and your spouse: pre-deployment, post-deployment, and during deployment.
- Behavioral Health Crisis Line, 1-866-284-3743: Having a stress crisis? Not sure what to do and need to talk? Call us here, 24/7/365.
  - Behavioral Health Contact Center, 888-TRI-WEST (874-9378): Information about your behavioral health benefit and help finding a counselor.
  - TriWest Behavioral Health Portal: <http://www.triwest.com/BH>: This portal is filled with a number of resources, from literature on coping with stress and parenting problems, to a map of national support organizations.
  - “Help from Home” video series: <http://www.triwest.com/HelpFromHome>: Watch “Help From Home,” a free series of online videos (also available as a free DVD set) that offers advice from other families and experts who’ve lived through it, firsthand.

## Combat Center Spotlight


**Name:** Angel R. Rios  
**Hometown:** Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico  
**Job title:** Occupational Safety and Health Specialist  
**Duties:** Respiratory protection manager, confined space manager, Alive at 25 instructor and trained trainer, attitudinal instructor.  
**What do you like most about your job?:** Working with Marines  
**Significant achievements:** Only trained trainer for the Alive at 25 program in the Marine Corps and is currently in the process of certifying 60 instructors to teach Alive at 25.  
**Hobbies:** Baseball, softball, umpiring  
**Time of service:** 21 years as active duty Marine, 4 years of civilian service.  
**Time aboard the Combat Center:** 13 years



## Centerspeak


**What are your plans for Labor Day weekend?**

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




PFC. RAYMUNDO ORTIZ  
*COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL*

“Going to San Diego to see my family.”




PFC. MITCHELL GUERRA  
*COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL*

“Going to the San Diego Zoo.”



NAVY CHIEF TOMMY CHILDRESS  
*BATTALION CHIEF, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT*

“Training for my deployment to Afghanistan.”



2ND LT. JEREMIAH WOOD  
*INFANTRY OFFICERS COURSE STUDENT*

“Training until the 17th.”

## Hot Topics

**9-11 MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A 9-11 Memorial Service is scheduled for Sept. 10 at the Christ Chapel at 11:30 a.m. to honor and remember those who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001, and in the War on Terror that followed.

**STAFF CLUB LATIN NIGHTS**

Thursdays are Latin Nights at the Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club. Dance lessons are from 6 to 7 p.m. Couples and singles are welcome! The floor will be open at 7 p.m. for social dancing with a wide array of Latin music. This event is free and is open to all staff NCOs, civilian equivalents and their guests.

**YOUTH CHEERLEADING**

Children 5-14 are eligible with proof of age to participate in the Commanding General's Youth Cheerleading. Cost is \$15 and includes use of uniform and award. Registration begins Sept. 20 to Nov. 5, or until program is filled. For more information call 830-8421 or visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

**CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

Combat Center personnel can sign up for the Commanding General's Co-Ed Softball League. Teams are limited to 16 players plus one coach. The preseason starts Oct. 6 and regular season starts Oct. 13. Games are played Wednesday nights on Felix Field from 6-9 p.m. Deadline to register and mandatory coaches meeting on Sept. 28, at noon in building 1341. For more information call 830-4092 or visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

**Marine Corps History**

**Sept. 2, 1945**

The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay.




# Eagle Eyes

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

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

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## SUDOKU #1921

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## GOOSE EGGS

[Puzzle solutions on A9]

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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57						58			59					
60					61			62				63	64	65
66					67					68				
69					70						71			

**ACROSS**

1. Diplomat Bunche

6. Height: Prefix

10. Word following spoon or force

14. MacDonald's refrain

15. Hockey thug

16. Folklore fiend

17. Colorful cereal

19. Like some vaccines

20. \_\_-Aztec (language group)

21. Once-popular ice cream brand

23. Obsolescent car-stereo input

27. Lipton rival

28. Well-put

29. Popular cruise port

30. Cop's, slangily

31. Slip a Mickey to

33. Round-buyer's words

35. Like ozone-layer "holes"

39. Pop rocker Vannelli

40. Everest is on its

border

42. Slimy stuff

43. John of pop

45. Meat-grading gp.

46. Sing the praises of

47. Johnny of "Donnie Brasco"

49. LAX posting

51. Prefix with corn or pod

52. Having magnitude, but no direction

55. Twisted, as a knee

57. Monument carved from a singlestone

59. Cpl., e.g.

60. Jason's vessel

61. Play one-on-one, maybe

66. Stink to high heaven

67. Realtor's sign

68. Gives the thumbs-up to

69. Sub hands

70. The season to be jolly

71. Send, as to a specialist

**DOWN**

1. Ring or rink figure

2. Freebie at some gas stations

3. Baseball's Durocher

4. Godly

5. More curry-laden

6. In the past

7. Almost ready for the tooth fairy

8. Get bombed

9. Bughouse

10. Ottoman or hassock

11. Everglades bird

12. Wipe clean

13. Triangular land formation

18. After-shave, e.g.

22. Take a bungee jump

23. Mooch

24. Showery time

25. Double's task

26. Get into shape

30. Off-the-noggin soccer shot

32. Model's prerequisite

34. Ft. Benning watch dogs

36. Reluctant

37. Sky shade

38. Changed the decor of

41. Fingerprint made visible by dusting

44. Oscar-winning Patricia

48. Excessively primand proper

50. Popeye's tattoo

52. Like some bombs and cards

53. Jazz keyboardist Chick

54. Steam up

55. Creedence Clearwater's " \_\_ Stop the Rain?"

56. "Chain Gang" singer Sam

58. Ten C-notes

62. Praiseful poem

63. Chucklehead

64. \_\_-dog (stray pooch)

65. Map abbr. until 1991

## OBSERVATION POST

**Commanding General**     **Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III**

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# 'Amphibian,' logistics Marines train to foil IEDs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. SARAH ANDERSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Improvised explosive devices are the number one casualty-producing weapons in Afghanistan. The Marine Corps is taking measures to make certain the Marines facing that threat have the knowledge and training necessary to avoid such attacks.

Combat Center Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, prepared for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan by participating in an IED training course at Range 800 Sept. 24-26.

"The enemy does not go toe-to-toe with us," said Mike Fay, a counter IED instructor for Range 800. "It is important for them to learn about the number one cause of casualties in Afghanistan."

The upcoming mission will be unique for both units. CLB-7 and 3rd AABN have never deployed together, so working together in this environment was an invaluable opportunity and a good way to build much needed camaraderie, said Capt. Keith Charles Brenize, the company commander of Company D, 3rd AABN.

The instructors made the exercise as real as possible so the Marines could get a feel



A simulated improvised explosive device goes off next to a humvee during a scenario designed to teach Marines how to react to a real IED prior to their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The exercise was held at Range 800 on Sept. 26.

for what could happen and learned what actions to take under different situations.

"This is the most accurate training IED environment before they get to Afghanistan," said Don Mischke, another counter IED instructor. "When they come here they get real world scenarios." Understanding IEDs is a crucial part in keeping Marines safe, he added.

The Marines spent the beginning of the course in a classroom where they learned the basics and proper procedures to take during an IED attack.

During the following two

days, the Marines ran scenarios which included finding IEDs and implementing the proper handling procedures for exploded IEDs.

During a convoy scenario, a simulated IED went off beside a humvee, and the Marines inside were pronounced severely wounded.

"I was worried about the Marines, I felt helpless," said Pfc. Francisco Valdez, a motor transport operator and the driver of the hit vehicle. "It surprised me. It's pretty realistic."

The Marines had their first taste of what an IED was like. Wounded friends,

strategy and procedure to follow, and the anxiety of waiting to find out exactly what happened. A wave of reality hit the Marines when they thought about an actual IED killing or injuring them.

The instructors taught the Marines that the enemy is trying to destroy them through cowardly means, but is working to their advantage, Marchadier said. The course is put in place to keep the Marines one step ahead.

As the Marines' knowledge progressed, so did their confidence in the training, Valdez said. "I felt my team is here to get better, we are doing good, and getting the concept."

"I didn't know much about the IEDs," said Cpl. Ernesto Loredo, a radio operator with 3rd AABN. "The course helped me with a lot of knowledge."

Loredo said he is now confident in his Marines' ability to react well to any IED attacks they may face in Afghanistan.

"I think they will be calm and ready for it."



Lance Cpl. Tony Vang [left], a Marine with the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, carries Lance Cpl. De'andre Rogers, also with Company D, 3rd AABN, who received simulated shrapnel in his leg during a scenario designed to teach Marines how to react to a real Improvised Explosive Device attack. The Marines of the Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and 3rd AABN participated in the IED training course at Range 800 Sept. 26.



Herve Marchadier, a counter improvised explosive device instructor, debriefs Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion after successfully completing an IED exercise at Range 800 Sept. 26. Marchadier went over the scenario with them and re-capped what they did well and what they need to work on.

## SUICIDE, from A1

the leading provider of comfort and care to anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one," Olbrich said. "Our Casualty Affairs Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps and local chaplains from the

unit are always available to assist grieving families."

The Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program is only one of many to help prevent suicide. Also available is the chaplain services, counselors, suicide hotlines, unit medical, chain of com-

mand and many more.

"Education is the key to prevention. We need to let Marines know that there is help," Ray said.

For more information on suicide prevention, visit [www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent](http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent).



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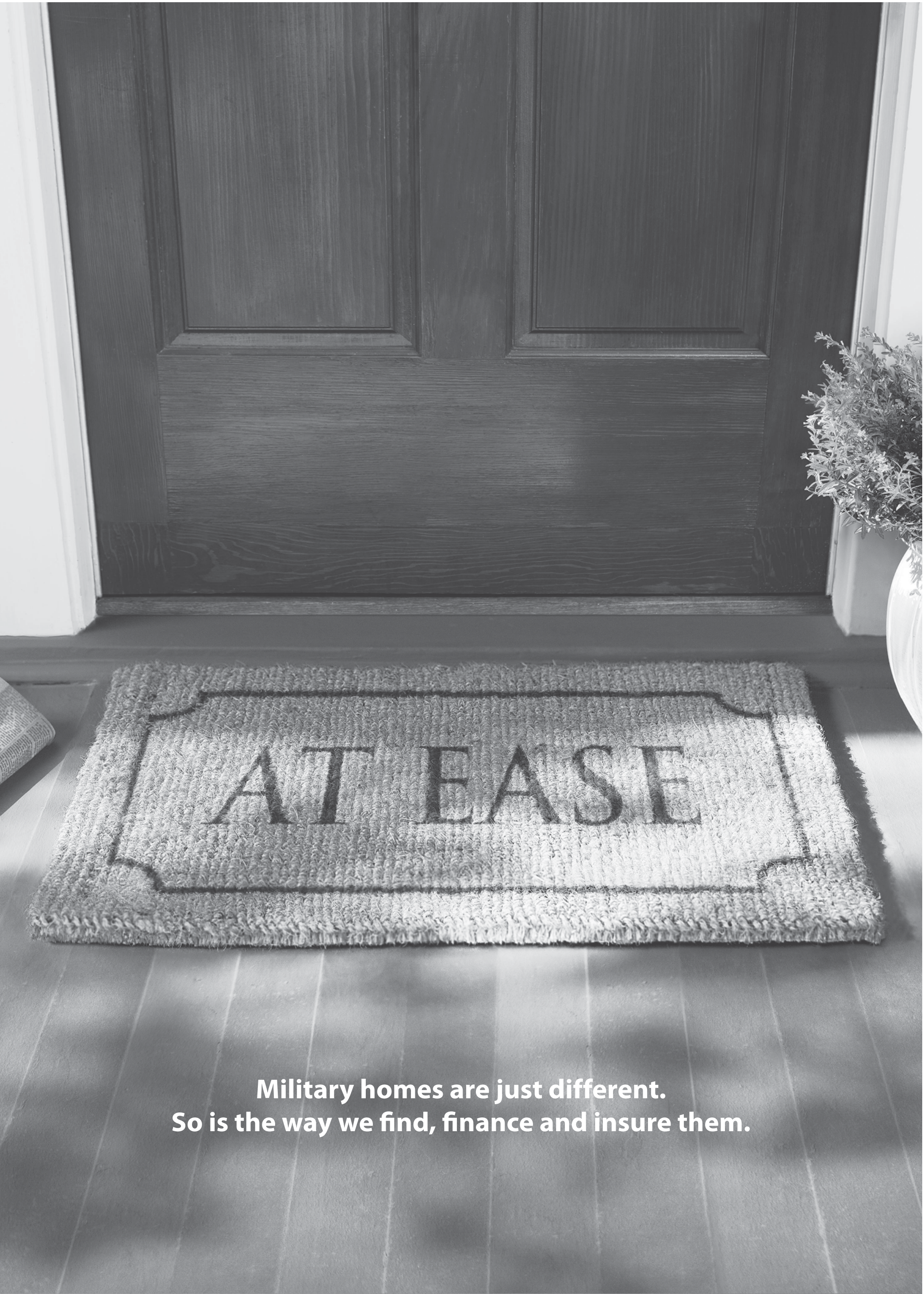
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# 3rd MAW supports 26th MEU helos bound for Pakistan

**SGT. DEANNE HURLA**  
*3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING*  
*(FORWARD)*

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) proved its versatility and flexibility as they stepped up to support the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit on its way to Pakistan – without compromising its already-intense combat operations support.

The Marines of 3rd MAW (Fwd) spent about a week preparing before the first helicopter and Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Reinforced), 26th MEU, arrived, Aug. 22. The 26th MEU is on its way to relieve the 15th MEU and bring humanitarian aid to the people of Pakistan. When the call came into 3rd MAW (Fwd) for support, there was no hesitation.

“When you receive a task, you don’t say ‘It’s impossible’ or ‘We can’t,’ we say ‘We’ll make it happen,’” said Sgt. Maj. Anthony Spadaro, the 3rd MAW (Fwd) sergeant major. “There is no such thing as the impossible for us. There are only challenges and challenges that are met.”

The Marines rose to the

challenge by continuing to give life to the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles Krulak’s concept of the “three block war.” This concept involves a unit taking part in full-scale military action, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian aid all within about three city blocks. In the case of 3rd MAW (Fwd), it applies to the expanse of one flight line.

A light attack helicopter squadron is taking the fight to the enemy from one end; medium and heavy helicopters squadrons down the line are transporting cargo and personnel to support counter insurgency operations for Afghanistan; and now the MEU detachment is positioned at the other end preparing for humanitarian assistance missions.

“We’re not just air-centric, we’re three-block-war-centric,” Spadaro said.

Before this joint-effort concept could become reality, Marines here had to build a temporary home for their visitors. Marines from the 3rd MAW (Fwd) logistics section and Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 set to work preparing a work space for the incoming detachment.



SGT. DEANNE HURLA

Marines from 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), move an empty tent transport box in preparation to pull out the next tent here Aug. 21. The Marines set up a temporary site with four tents for an incoming detachment of Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. 3rd MAW (Fwd) Marines prepared the site for Marine Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Reinforced), 26th MEU, before the unit brought in four CH-53E Super Stallions headed to support humanitarian relief efforts in Pakistan. 3rd MAW (Fwd) Marines spent about a day preparing and setting up the site for the detachment.

“The biggest thing here is the ground where you are going to lay tents and where you will be working,” said Capt. Pollard Ham, the logistics operations officer. “You have to make sure the ground is level. That in itself is its

own evolution, then tents and electronics need to go in.”

Logistics Marines constructed four climate-controlled tents and fitted them with flooring. They finished preparing the tents just in time for MWSS-274 to begin

running wires for computer and phone access and setting up generators for power.

When a unit comes on deck it’s important to cover all the functions of logistics, Ham explained. The logistics section must account for engi-

neering requirements, food, water, billeting and other life support logistic requirements.

The planning process took about a week, but the Marines accomplished their

See HELO, A10

## MECHANIC, from A1

was closely beneath him, blew upward through the floorboard, breaking his foot and ankle. He was immediately evacuated for medical care.

“Heavy equipment mechanics are usually inside the wire,” said 1st Sgt. Joe L. Bartee, the remain behind element sergeant major for 3rd CEB. “Being a lance corporal, a young Marine, and doing things outside his [Military Occupational Specialty] and receiving a Purple Heart, is commendable and admirable.”

Corona, like many Marines who are recognized for a job well done, said he feels like he was simply doing his duty.

Soon after his return to the Combat Center, Corona, who joined the Corps in July 2008, learned two of his friends in

his platoon had lost their lives in Afghanistan. To Corona, that loss completely overshadowed his own injuries. Receiving a Purple Heart was the last thing on his mind.

“It wasn’t something I was looking to get,” he said. “I was just doing what I was supposed to.”

“That’s what we are all about in the Marine Corps,” Bartee said of Corona, who joined the Marine Corps in July 2008. “It doesn’t matter your rank, it’s what you do. He went out there and did his job. He was doing his mission and job. We are proud of every Marine out there. We are behind our guys.”

While deployed, he formed strong friendships, ones he said he wants to get back to.

Corona was sent home early to give his injuries time to heal. His unit is still out there



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Tiofilo Corona Jr., [right] a Marine with the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, receives a Purple Heart Wednesday at the 3rd CEB command headquarters. Corona’s vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device, fracturing his foot while in Afghanistan.

and he said, if given the option, he would jump on the opportunity to get back to the fight with his fellow Marines.

“All the guys over there are like my family,” he said. “All my

good friends are over there.”

Unfortunately for Corona, he will not be able to get back into the fight and join his friends, 3rd CEB is scheduled to come home in October.

## Federal Impact Aid

**COL. J.P. HOLDEN**  
*MAGTFTC/MCAGCC CHIEF OF STAFF*

Morongo Unified School District will be conducting a short survey of all families in the school district regarding parental employment.

The information obtained from this survey is very important in identifying military families and households where one or both parents work at the Combat Center. The information shared on this card is confidential and used only for the required report to the federal government.

The federal government provides funding to the schools based on information from this survey. In the past, this additional funding increased opportunities for schools in the district. This funding will allow the district to provide additional instructional opportunities, which in turn, benefits all children.

I urge you to please take the time to complete the survey. School funding in California is very tight and any help that we can provide will improve education in our community.

It is our hope that each and every one of our military families will provide the necessary information on the survey and return it to their child’s school.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

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Wednesdays 4:30 & 7:00 PM  
Saturdays 6:00 PM

*Servicio en Espanol: Sun 10:40 AM & Wed 7:00 PM*

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## 29 Palms

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at Desert Congregational Church  
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(760) 365-0769




Pastor Chris Wagner

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Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

**Service Times:**  
Sunday Morning Worship 9:45  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

(760) 361-2450  
4751 Adobe Rd.  
29 Palms, Ca. 92277  
[spirit\\_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com)



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<b>Evangelical Free Church</b> 6804 Mohawk Trail, Yucca Valley Sunday School (for all ages) Worship: 9:00am Youth Groups, Wednesday: 10:15pm Awana Clubs, Wednesday: 6:00pm Bible Study, Wednesday: 6:15pm 6:30pm 760-228-1747	<b>Skyview Chapel Church of God</b> <i>Worship Service</i> 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
<b>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am 367-7812 <a href="http://www.oasiscommunitychurch.com">www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</a>	 <b>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science</b> Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 <a href="http://yvcs.org">yvcs.org</a>
<i>"The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you."</i>	<b>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms</b> Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Services Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 p.m. <a href="http://www.fbc29.org">www.fbc29.org</a> 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561
<b>United Methodist Church</b> <i>Joy in Worship-Fun in Fellowship</i> Sunday Worship-10:30 AM 57273 Onaga Trail at Joshua Lane Yucca Valley CA—760-365-3671 <i>Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors</i>	<b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b> (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
	<b>Joshua Tree First Baptist Church</b> Bible School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Wednesday 6:15 PM 6740 Sunset Rd. 366-3704
	<b>Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church</b> 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."

**29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM  
367-9400

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# Training Day 5

## Sergeants Course Marines look sharp, set standards

LANCE CPL.  
WILLIAM J. JACKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

“Present, clean and serviceable,” said a faculty advisor for Sergeants Course.

These words were used repetitively during the Marines’ initial inspection.

The Marines of 1st Platoon stood patiently in front of their racks, as Gunnery Sgt. James Petty, the 1st Platoon Faculty Advisor, efficiently examined his Marines, showing them how to properly inspect their own junior Marines. He noted any unservice-

able uniforms, items or discrepancies that didn’t conform to Marine Corps Order P1020.34G, along with the corrective actions to fix the problem.

“Our goal as [faculty advisors] is to teach, coach and mentor the Marines,” said Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Hester, staff noncommissioned officer in charge for the Sergeants Course.

The inspection taught the students a methodical system of inspecting Marines, who are known for their attention to detail and to ensure their uniforms fit properly for graduation.

The platoon was taught to

inspect every Marine the same way head-to-toe, said Sgt. William MacDonald, a radio repairman from Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Headquarters Company.

Tradition is part of the Marine Corps, and it’s held in high regards for noncommissioned officers in the Sergeants Course aboard the Combat Center.

“We instill in our students the importance of being a leader in today’s Corps by holding several discussions regarding future challenges that most sergeants encounter with their Marines,” Petty said.

Topics such as warfighting, ethical decision making, mentors in violence prevention, and value-based integration training are also covered during the eight-week-long course.

“We show them what ‘right’ looks like by our example, performance evaluations, classes, and all while explaining to them that, ‘This is how you should do it with your Marines,’” Petty said. “We take the time to explain the purpose behind everything that we do here, which all ties into the importance of leading of Marines and maintaining the Marine Corps’ standards.”

The Noncommissioned Officer Creed states junior Marines are a reflection of their leaders, Petty said. By not upholding the standards, such as uniform regulations, leaders are teaching their Marines that lower standards are acceptable.

The leadership course is here to equip the Marines with the tools to better educate their junior Marines, said Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Suter, Deputy Director for the Combat Center’s Sergeants Course.

Four full platoons, or 80 Marines, are registered for Class 6-10.

“In the last two years, we’ve never missed that mark,” Suter said.

However, a class doesn’t always graduate 80 Marines, Suter added. “Our motto is ‘You get out what you put into it.’”

*Editor’s Note: This is part one of a series documenting Sergeants Course Class 6-10 on their journey to becoming the best leaders the Corps has to offer.*



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Gunnery Sgt. James Petty, 1st Platoon Faculty Advisor for Class 6-10, measures the ribbon placement on the Service C uniform of Sgt. Jesus A. Fernandez, a helicopter airframe mechanic for Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. Class 6-10 learned the proper procedures for inspecting uniforms Tuesday.



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Month



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Drawing begins at 7:00

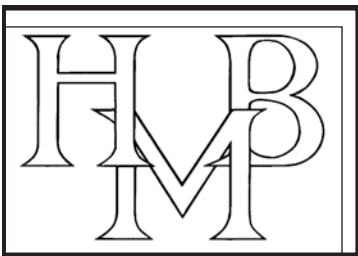
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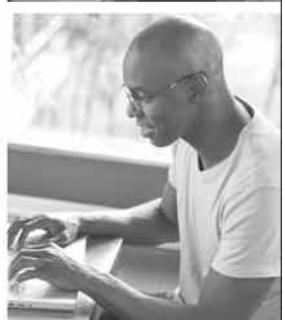


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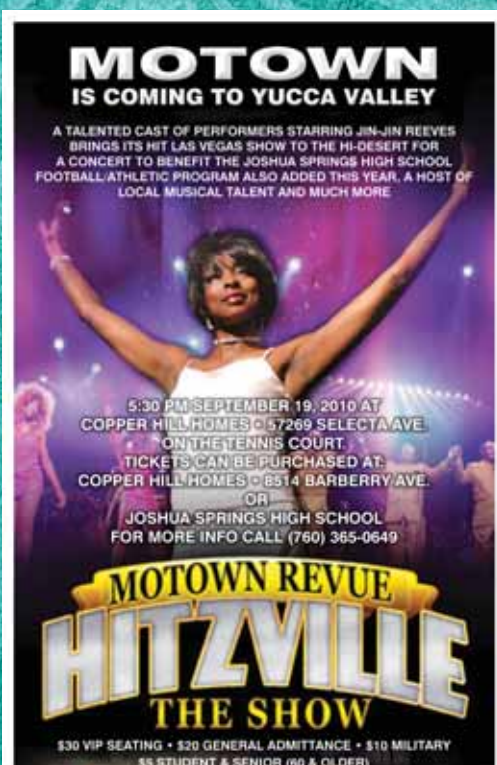
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Combat Center Religious Services

**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  
**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**  
 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship\*  
 10:45 a.m. - Children's Church  
**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)  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women  
**Wednesday**  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
 First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class  
 First Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus  
**Thursday**  
**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**  
**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.**  
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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.





**SGT. DEANNE HURLA**  
Cpl. Joseph Ford, a supply Marine from 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), hammers a stake into the ground during a temporary site setup here Aug. 21.



**SGT. DEANNE HURLA**  
Marines from 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), unload a tent during a site set-up here Aug. 21. The Marines set up four tents for a detachment of Marines from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Reinforced), 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, who will be supporting humanitarian relief efforts in Pakistan.

HELO, from A6

set-up mission in about a day and the site was ready for its new inhabitants.

“Anytime you don’t have to set up when you get there it makes everything easier,” said Staff Sgt. Guy Row, the maintenance control staff non-commissioned officer in charge for VMM-266 (Rein). “Having it already prepared just means we had more time to work on our aircraft.”

VMM-266 (Rein) Marines arrived late in the evening of Aug. 22 in an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane with a single CH-53E Super Stallion and approximately 15 Marines. Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, 3rd MAW (Fwd), helped unload the aircraft and other cargo.

“It’s a very tight and time-consuming process to unload a C-17,” Row said. “The plane’s struts have to be raised and lowered so the landing gears adjust and allow room for the plane to be off-loaded. There is only about one-to-two inches of clearance from the top of the plane to the ceiling of the C-17.”

The squadrons worked together to successfully unload the aircraft, but not without supervision from higher echelons. The logistics mobility Marines from 3rd MAW (Fwd) oversee the offload of the strategic assets like the C-17, explained Chief Warrant Officer 2 Louis Seals, the 3rd MAW (Fwd) mobility officer.

“Any major evolution where you have multiple agencies that are going to converge into one place, you need someone to [monitor] all the business that happens in that process,” Seals said.

Throughout the first week, VMM-266 (Rein) brought in two more helicopters and is expecting one more, each requiring a meticulous off-load.

“Not only are we doing the rotation of 3rd MAW (Fwd) personnel and aircraft in and out of theater, now we are also supporting the reception, arrival and assembly of the [26th MEU’s aircraft],” Seals said. “It’s just an additional task to our combat operations.”

However, the extra work does not bother the Marines.

“It feels good, we all know we’re here to fight this war, but to support another effort for the Marine Corps, we’re all about it,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Singer, the logistics chief for 3rd MAW (Fwd). “That’s why we’re out here today getting it done.”

“We make it happen,” Spadaro said. “The beauty of this is no one ever looks on the ‘I can’t,’ everyone always looks on ‘make it happen.’ I don’t think [‘I can’t] is in our vocabulary.”

VMM-266 (Rein) will have the aircraft fully assembled in the coming days and will soon be joined by the rest of the 26th MEU in Pakistan. Meanwhile, 3rd MAW (Fwd) has shown the Marine Corps truly is America’s expeditionary fighting force and is just as flexible, adaptable and expeditionary as it has been for the last 234 years.



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# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

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B1

## 'Feed the Dawgs' feeds 29 Palms K-9 handlers

COMPILED BY THE OBSERVATION POST STAFF, PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

The sounds of kids laughing, dogs barking and more than 50 pounds of steaks sizzling filled the air during the 2nd annual "Feed the Dawgs" barbeque for the hungry Marines and families of the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit at the Combat Center Saturday.

The "Feed the Dawgs" organization is made up of former service members who worked in the K-9 units and their families who volunteer to come to military installations and provide a good time and good food to current military K-9 units.

"Everyone is pumped up," said Staff Sgt. Michael Skillings, PMO's kennel master. "This is a good time for the families to get together."

The Marines spend much of their time training and working with their dogs, said Skillings, a Milbridge, Maine, native.

"Feed the Dawgs" knows this and wanted to make sure the Marines know they haven't forgotten about their former K-9 comrades.

"We are all about the 'boots,'" said Jon Hemp, one of the organization's



The most senior Marine present, Capt. Eric Kaltrider [right], the operations officer for Provost Marshal's Office, hands the most junior Marines present, Pfc. Ryan Hale, a dog handler with Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit, a steak during the 2nd annual "Feed the Dawgs" barbeque at the Combat Center Saturday.



"Feed the Dawgs" volunteers stay busy serving more than 50 pounds of steak to the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit during the 2nd annual "Feed the Dawgs" barbeque at the Combat Center Saturday.

See DAWGS, B4



The "Feed the Dawgs" volunteers served more than 50 pounds of steak to the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit during the 2nd annual "Feed the Dawgs" barbeque at the Combat Center Saturday.



Jon Hemp, a cofounder of "Feed the Dawgs," and Kenneh Neal, a lifetime member of the Vietnam Dog Handler Association, talk with Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit during the 2nd annual "Feed the Dawgs" barbeque at the Combat Center Saturday.

## All-Marine runner strives for stronger stride

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For some Marines, runtimes seem like fixed numbers on their physical fitness test scores, but for Cpl. Sage Koch the times only get shorter.

A self-proclaimed average runner from Bismarck, N.D., Koch has been working on his run during the course of 11 years earning himself a spot on the Marine Corps running team and he doesn't plan on slowing down anytime soon.

"I was just a regular Joe like anybody else. I started from the bottom and

worked my way up," he said, recalling his humble beginnings as a runner.

His competitive stride was first put to the test in middle school, as Koch began running for the school's track and field team.

"The first event I ever ran was a mile," Koch said, "For me, it was good for relaxation to help me with the daily stress."

As he progressed through to high school, he found that becoming a freshman not only meant tougher classes, but also a more serious attitude towards his running.

"As I became older, com-

petition became more a part of the picture, and along with track, I also started running cross country," Koch said.

Although running was his passion, not all running made him happy.

The closest he ever came to running in a sprint event was an 800, but it wasn't by choice, he added. "I hated that race. The coach would always put me in it so that I could get my speed up, so that I could run that faster mile."

After graduating high school, Koch accepted a cross country scholarship to a nearby community college, but after a year decided he

needed something different and enlisted in the Marine Corps in March of 2008.

"I wanted to get out and see the world," he said.

He currently holds a three mile time of 15:19, which has earned him the name "Smoke" from the Company A, Headquarters Battalion, First Sgt. Thomas Russi who unholsters the name every time he sees Koch in the gym.

With a runtime like that, Koch said he had trouble finding a running partner, until about six months ago.

Sarah Raschiatore, also a running enthusiast and a physical trainer at the Combat Center's East Gym began, running with Koch and training for various running events.

"Sage is very passionate about running," she said, "He loves it and has a great

positive attitude and mental strength for it."

Although Koch is the best he's ever been, he continues to get stronger and has transferred his focus on running longer and longer races, she said. "He's building up his miles."

Since January, he has been keeping track of the miles

See RUNNER, B3



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Cpl. Sage Koch, an armorer with the Combat Center's Sergeants Course, has been running for 11 years and currently runs for the All-Marine Running Team.

### Combat Center women take on Camp Pendleton



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

A player for the Combat Center women's soccer team [right] chases after a player from the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton soccer team to get possession of the ball on Sunday at Hospital Field, Camp Pendleton. The women played a six-on-six scrimmage.





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: Baked Ziti, garlic sticks & green salad, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club**  
Fridays: Social hour 5:30 p.m., DJ, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Saturday: UFC Fight, Edgar vs Penn, Doors open at 6 p.m. coverage is 7 p.m. to midnight, Aug. 28  
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.  
Thursdays: Latin Dance Lessons, 6 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.  
Saturday, Sept. 11: Patriot Day  
*For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mc29palms.com>.*

Local Events

**Sara Petite & The Sugar Daddys**  
Description: The popular country artist performs  
When: 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Sept. 3-4  
Where: Pappy and Harriet's  
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown  
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**  
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When: 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays until Sept. 25  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms  
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>.

**Mummies of the World, adult bus excursion**  
Description: Visit the Mummy Exhibit at the California ScienCenter. Pre-registration is required.  
When: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14  
Where: The Joshua Tree Community Center  
6171 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree. 366-8415

**Inspiration Place, Children's Museum and Discovery Center**  
Description: Children's learning activities, classes  
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
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Where: 6461 Cholla, Twentynine Palms  
For more information call 641-9275 or visit <http://www.inspirationplace29.com>.

Lower Desert

**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>.

**Sheryl Crow**  
Description: The American singer-songwriter, musician and actress performs  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Bachman & Turner**  
Description: The rock 'n' roll giants are reunited  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella  
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Sunset Cinema

**Friday, Sept. 3**  
6 p.m. – Despicable Me, Rated PG  
9 p.m. – Inception, Rated PG-13  
Midnight – Cyrus, Rated R

**Saturday, Sept. 4**  
11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Alice in Wonderland, Rated PG  
2 p.m. – Ramona and Beezus, Rated G  
6 p.m. – The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Rated PG  
9 p.m. – Salt, Rated PG-13  
Midnight – Predator, Rated R

**Sunday, Sept. 5**  
2 p.m. – Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Charlie St. Cloud, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Dinner for Schmucks, Rated PG-13

**Monday, Sept. 6**  
2 p.m. – Despicable Me, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Rated PG  
9 p.m. – Predators, Rated R

**Tuesday, Sept. 7**  
7 p.m. – Salt, Rated PG-13

**Wednesday, Sept. 8**  
7 p.m. – Dinner for Schmucks, Rated PG-13

**Thursday, Sept. 9**  
7 p.m. – Despicable Me, Rated PG

  
COURTESY PHOTO

Rapper-turned-actor Bow Wow [right], plays Kevin, a young man from the projects who wins the lottery and tries to keep it a secret until he can cash in.

# 'Lottery Ticket' misses the jackpot

**NEIL POND**  
*AMERICAN PROFILE*

**"Lottery Ticket"**  
Rated PG-13


When a young man in the projects of Atlanta hits the lottery jackpot, he finds friends – as well as enemies – popping up everywhere. In "Lottery Ticket," rapper-turned-actor Bow Wow (formerly "Little" Bow Wow) plays Kevin, who buys a lottery ticket on a whim. After he discovers he's won the whopping \$370 million payoff, he tries his best to keep it a secret until he can turn in the ticket and safely get the check. But, of course, the secret gets out, and pretty soon everyone seems to know – including the neighborhood

thug, who's determined to steal Kevin's ticket and cash it in as his own. "Lottery Ticket" is being promoted as a comedy, and it certainly has a few good laughs. The fine all-black cast includes comedian Bill Bellamy, Terry Crews from TV's "Everybody Hates Chris," the always-solid Keith David and Loretta Divine, and another rapper-turned-actor, Ice Cube (also the executive producer), in a standout performance as a reclusive, washed-up boxer who delivers the movie's knock-out punch, both figuratively and literally. As Kevin tries to stay one step ahead of the bad guys, he finds out how all that glitter isn't gold, especially when it comes to sexy girls who suddenly want to pay

him serious attention. But the laughter comes punctuated with a steady stream of PG-13 violence, including one particularly nasty back-alley beatdown and one character showing another just how tightly – and how excruciatingly long – he can use his hand to squeeze something. In another scene, we hear about the unpleasant fate that awaits Kevin if he fails to pay back an ill-conceived "gift" from an extortionist. It involves a saw, Kevin's legs and a meat grinder. This dark, menacing "street" undertow tends to displace the hilarity, and it also drains the movie's otherwise positive messages about friendship, the temptations of money and standing up for what's right. Plus, the plot's twists and turns play off just about every stereotype, cliché and contrivance you could stir up from its mix of setting (an urban housing project), characters (an array of colorful hangers-out and hangers-on) and circumstance (a low-income teenager who suddenly finds out he's about to be rolling in dough). "Lottery Ticket" means well, but its slapdash mish-mash of elements never meshes into a satisfying movie or a story that carries any real comedic, dramatic or emotional payoff. Want to see a great film about a kid from the projects who suddenly strikes it rich? Rent "Slumdog Millionaire."

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<b>Nanny McPhee</b> (PG) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	<b>Last Exorcism</b> (PG13) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
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15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday				
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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 WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*				
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35


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# San Diego Chargers electrify Miramar, get taste of Corps

**LANCE CPL. ALEXANDRA M. HARRIS**  
*MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. – More than 400 spectators gathered at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Youth Sports Complex for an up-close view of the San Diego Chargers during their 4th Annual Military Appreciation Day Aug. 20.

The team rehearsed plays for their preseason game against the Dallas Cowboys Aug. 21.

“[The event] shows the community does care about the military,” said Staff Sgt. Rupert Palmer, the motor transportation chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Chargers’ cheerleaders also performed for the crowd. Following their routine, both cheerleaders and players interacted with the audience by taking photos with fans and autographing miniature helmets, Chargers cards and jerseys.

After the signing, the Chargers presented a signed jersey to Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Conant, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, and Col. Frank A. Richie, the MCAS Miramar’s commanding officer. Richie also presented the Chargers with a Military Appreciation Day plaque. After the presentation, the players walked

through defensive and offensive drills.

Several Marines from MCAS Miramar practiced with the Chargers, including Cpl. Donnie Gilray, an air-frame mechanic for Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd MAW, I MEF, and a former quarterback for the air station’s football team, the “Falcons.” Gilray performed several passes for the Chargers to watch.

Gunnery Sgt. Michael Brown and Palmer, both former drill instructors, gave the Chargers a taste of what it takes to become one of the few and the proud.

“It feels amazing to get to work with the Chargers,” Brown said. “I’ve been looking forward to crushing their defensive players.”

The former drill instructors also showed the Chargers the consequences for having a lack of motivation, Palmer added. The DIs had the players perform several minutes of pushups, while enduring “motivating” screams from Brown and Palmer.

After a hot afternoon of fun, the Military Appreciation Day ended with crowds of sun-burned fans still trying to catch a glimpse of their favorite players.

“We appreciate the Chargers coming out,” said Cpl. Michael Pride, with the Wounded Warrior West-Battalion. “They were shaking hands and were genuine



**LANCE CPL. ALEXANDRA M. HARRIS**  
Gunnery Sgt. Michael Brown, a former drill instructor, “motivates” a San Diego Chargers player during the 4th Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Miramar Youth Sports Complex Aug. 20. More than 400 spectators visited the field to receive autographs and take pictures with the Chargers and their cheerleaders.

when they interacted with us. It shows that even celebrities know what we’re doing. It was a good way for them to show their appreciation for us.”



**LANCE CPL. ALEXANDRA M. HARRIS**  
Major Gen. Thomas L. Conant, the commanding general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, spends time with Travis Johnson, a defensive end with the San Diego Chargers, during the 4th Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Miramar Youth Sports Complex Aug. 20. During the event, the Chargers had a walk through practice for their preseason game against the Dallas Cowboys Aug. 21.

## RUNNER, from B1

he’s ran in base-wide competitions such as the Road Runner Challenge and other training. He has just passed the 2,000 miles mark.

The Road Runner challenge helps to keep track of his mileage and the competition always encourages him to give it his all, he said.

“I want to run professionally, but I’ve got a long way to go. But if I keep at it I know good things will come,” he said.

Although that’s the ultimate goal, Koch sees himself back at college running competitively while he earns his degree. “I’m running about 70 miles a week; that’s a lot, where as some professional runners run 130 or 140 miles a week.”

“People always ask me how do I do it, and I tell them, ‘You’ve just got to do it. You’ve got to push your body and your limits to get better.’”

The only way for improvement is by practice, and the best time for practice is now, he said. “If everyone starts at the bottom there’s only one way to go but up.”

He will continue to train for upcoming competitions in Santa Monica, Calif., Dayton, Ohio, and The Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va.

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### Athlete of the Week

**Name:** Joanna M. Martinez  
**Hometown:** Laredo, Texas  
**Unit:** Marine Wing Support Squadron 374  
**Job title:** Motor technician operator and refueler  
**Recognition:** Midfielder for Combat Center's Women Soccer Team  
**Favorite aspect of sport:** "It's a stress reliever for a bad day at work. Soccer never lets you down, you always have fun."  
**Advice for aspiring athletes:** "Be committed and put 100 percent effort into it."

## Remember Those Who Served with a tribute in Military Memories

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You may bring submissions to The Desert Trail office, 6396 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms, or the Hi-Desert Star office at 56445 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley or e-mail them to osullivan@deserttrail.com. If you have questions or need help writing your story, call Kelly O'Sullivan at (760) 367-3577.

**DAWGS, from B1**

cofounders, to the K-9 gathering at the barbeque. "We know you work hard and deserve to come home knowing that we appreciate the sacrifices you do for our country."

Once the steaks were ready, Hemp gathered picnic-goers at the dining tables for a group prayer for all willing to participate.

After the prayer, Tech. Sgt. Angel Landrau, the kennel master for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., requested the group take a moment to remember and honor fallen K-9 service members and dogs from all military branches who gave their lives during the Operation Enduring Freedom.

The most senior Marine present, Capt. Eric Kaltrider, the operations officer for PMO, then presented the most junior Marine, Pfc. Brian Hale, a dog handler, with the first piece of steak.

"Feed the Dawgs" has 14 military K-9 unit on their schedule for 2010 barbeques and has already served more than 3,000 pounds of food this year.

For more information on the organization, visit the "Feed the Dawgs" website, <http://feedthedawgs.com>.



**LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**

Sergeant Christopher Diaz, a specialized search dog trainer with the Provost Marshal's Office, plays a game of horseshoes during the 2nd annual "Feed the Dawgs" barbeque at the Combat Center Saturday.



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