

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 1, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 53

ISSUE 39

TSA to launch new security measure, affects DTS

PRESS RELEASE

DEFENSE TRAVEL SYSTEM

This fall, the Transportation Security Administration will complete implementation of the Secure Flight Program, which aims to enhance the security of domestic and international commercial air travel using improved watch list matching.

Effective Nov. 1, all passengers will be required to have Secure Flight Passenger Data in their reservation at least 72 hours prior to departure. You will be unable to travel without providing this information. Although not effective until Nov. 1, please note some airlines are requiring this information immediately.

SFPD includes traveler's

full name, date of birth, gender and redress number, if applicable. The traveler's full name must match the government issued identification (driver's license, passport or military identification). For example, if the government identification used contains full middle name, then the SFPD must reflect full middle name.

The Defense Travel System

was modified in Sept. 2009 to capture and transmit the required SFPD. Travelers making reservations in DTS must verify the SFPD is accurate and complete. Do not include rank, titles, suffixes ("CPT", "Maj", "CMSgt", "Mr.", "Dr.", "Ms.", "Jr.", "Sr.", "III", "IV", etc.) or special characters in the SFPD. This information will be saved to your DTS TSA

profile. The system will continue to prompt travelers to verify or update this information each time they attempt to make any travel reservations.

Effective today, if you contact the commercial travel office directly to make reservations, you will be required to provide your SFPD at the time the reservation is requested or the reservation

will not be accepted.

About the Secure Flight Program

The goal of the Secure Flight program is to identify known and suspected terrorists and prevent them from boarding aircraft or gaining access to secure areas of U.S. airports. Under the program,

See TSA, A6

ATG trains Road Warriors



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marines training with the Combat Center's Advisor Training Group set off signal smoke Monday after being hit by a notional improvised explosive device. The group trains Marines in convoy operations, which is among many other things they will use in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Corporal Maulalo Cortez, a rifleman from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, takes shots at simulated enemy targets here Monday during convoy operations live-fire training at Combat Center Range 220. The Combat Center's Advisor Training Group trains Marines like Cortez to get them prepared to train Afghan forces.

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Mounted and dismounted patrols and movements are some of the most common methods Marines in Afghanistan use to get around.

The Combat Center's Advisor Training Group held a motorized operation event to evaluate standard operating procedures and tactics of teams training with them through a live-fire training evolution.

"They haven't had a chance to work together on this as a team," said Capt. Jimmy Lindemann, an officer tactics instructor with ATG. "The run of the course they get is a practical application of what they learned in [prior] training."

The teams struggle with properly coordinating within themselves when learning to move and shoot for the first time.

"During the live fire course, the big problems we see are internal communication and practicing the concept of fire and movement," said Lindemann, a Rosenberg, Texas, native. "If the exercise allows, we try to teach, coach and mentor as we move, but we always take copious notes to give them a thorough debrief afterwards."

Corporal Maulalo Cortez, a rifleman from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, said he likes the training and believes it should be utilized by more units.

"When you're over there [Afghanistan], that's what most of the operations are, is motorized," said the Temecula, Calif., native. "Any unit who wants to come through here I would

See ATG, A5

Fraudulent TRICARE phone surveys surface

PRESS RELEASE

TRICARE

There has recently been a rash of calls to military personnel from individuals who claimed to be with DoD and requested information under the guise of it being a TRICARE national survey.

Numerous cases have been reported of the fraudulent surveyors requesting social security number, home addresses, dates of birth, deployment statuses and length of deployments. During one such call to an airman Sept. 15, the caller hung up after the service member asked why personal information TRICARE already had on file was being asked. The airman attempted to call the number back, but no one answered. The member saved the phone number (312) 258-4260. The number originates from Chicago, Ill., area. A search on <http://www.who-callsme.com> turned up a blog about the above number calling others across the United States for similar reasons. An answering machine connected to that number played back a message about a TRICARE survey.

National and local TRICARE offices were contacted and verified they do conduct surveys, but never request the above type personal information.

If you receive a call from anyone about a TRICARE survey and believe it to be false, contact your local TRICARE office.

If you receive a call requesting personal information, do not disclose it. Asking for a call back number, the caller's name and employee

See TRICARE, A7

Combat Center now generates 58 percent of own energy

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center is continuing to lead the Corps in the use of "green" or renewable technology with the unveiling of 982 new solar panels.

The Combat Center uses a cogeneration plant, which is a power station that generates both heat and electricity,

to produce a majority of its own energy

The installation currently gets three percent of its energy from solar panels like those recently installed on buildings 1801-1805, and 1210. These are expected to produce 340,000 Kw of renewable energy per hour, said Garry Morrissett, Utilities & Energy Manager for the Combat Center.

These panels will soon power the entire 1st Tank Battalion compound.

"It's the greenest way to get energy. It is better [for the Combat Center]," said Navy Ensign Jonathan Kim, the assistant resident officer in charge of construction. Installation officials the newly-installed

See ENERGY, A7



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Newly-installed solar panels on buildings 1801-1805 and 1210, power the entire 1st Tank Battalion compound. The panels produce renewable energy which helps the base not only go green, but contribute to the self-sufficiency of the base.



Hot shots~ See A3



What a relief ~ See A7



Blast zone ~ See B1



Buttin' in ~ See B1



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/the-combatcenter>

Breast cancer awareness month: For you, for your family, get a mammogram

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

In 2006, more than 110 women died every day – from one disease.

Breast cancer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these are the facts. However, here's the kicker:

That death rate is an improvement.

The Susan G. Komen website says in the past 35 years the death rate from breast cancer in white and hispanic women, has declined. Unfortunately, the rate for black women has increased slightly. As screening programs have become more popular, more cases of breast cancer are caught early, making them more treatable.

That screening boils down to one word: mammogram.

Get Screened and Join the Fight!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time when women and their families come together and bring awareness to this deadly disease. As part of that mission, women can take action to lower the breast cancer death rate even more, by getting their mammograms.

A woman who saves her life is doing it for others besides herself – her husband, her children and maybe even her parents. No one wants to bury their mom or child because of breast cancer.

The CDC says mammograms or x-rays of the breasts are the best method to detect breast cancer early, when it's easiest to treat. For women 40 years or older, the CDC recommends having a mammogram every one to two years.

Women who are TRICARE beneficiaries can receive their mammograms at no cost. TRICARE covers one mammogram every 12 months for women older than 39. If a woman is considered high-risk for breast cancer, she can begin receiving mammograms at 35 years old.

So this October, don't just wear the shirts or sport the pink ribbons. Take action. Get a mammogram. And help slow the number of women that breast cancer claims each day.

For more healthy living tips, follow TriWest on Facebook and Twitter: <http://www.facebook.com/triwest> and <http://www.twitter.com/triwest>.

Centerspeak

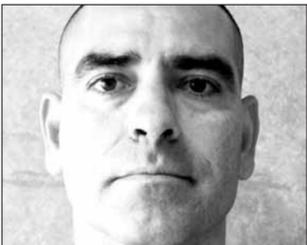
What do you think is the most important of the 14 Leadership Traits to you?

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



CAPT. AARON NORWOOD
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

Judgment, because it will determine whether your Marines live or die."



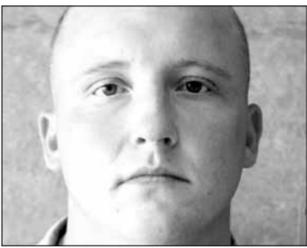
FIRST SGT. ROGELIO HARO
COMPANY F, 2ND BATTALION,
7TH MARINE REGIMENT

Integrity, because if I can't trust you, then what do we have?"



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
CAPT. JOHN VAN HATTEM
TACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP

Courage employs both physical and mental trials to do the right thing in extreme conditions."



CPL. RANDY SCHOOF
COMPANY D, 3RD ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BATTALION

Judgment, because everything you do involves it. If you have poor judgment, then you will never succeed."

Hot Topics

COLLEGE FOOTBALL DEAL

San Diego State University is offering prime tickets for their home games to military personnel and their families for \$5 a seat. They may be purchased through MCCS ticket offices. The seats are located between the 30 yard lines at the Plaza level. Retail value is \$26/seat.

FREE BASKETBALL TICKETS

Free tickets to the Suns vs. Mavs outdoor basketball game Oct. 9 at the Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, Calif., are up for grabs through MCCS on a first come, first served basis with pre-registration. Buses to the event will leave from building 1665 at 4 p.m. For more information, call 830-7481.

COMBAT CENTER CHALLENGE BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive is scheduled for Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in building 1516. You can help your unit win the Combat Center Challenge by donating a pint.

BOOK SALE

The Friends of Twentynine Palms Library is having a Pioneer Days Book Sale. New and used donated books for sale including children's books, general interest, and a generous collection of books on Military History. The first day of the sale is for members only or you can join at the door. From 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15. The second day of the sale is open to all and is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16. The Twentynine Palms Branch Library is located at 6078 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms. For more information call 367-9519.

Marine Corps History

Oct. 1, 1997

Gilda A. Jackson became the first African-American female in the Marine Corps to achieve the rank of colonel. She was promoted during a ceremony at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.



Eagle Eyes

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

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

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myspace.com/semperton

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SUDOKU #1948

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3						5							
8												1	
					2							9	
	7				9						3		
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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

THE RIGHT STUFF

[Puzzle solutions on A5]

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61	62					63			64					
65						66						67		
68						69							70	

ACROSS

1. Mariner's "Mayday!"
4. American elk
10. Bug-eyed
14. Member of the 500 homer club
15. Bufferin rival
16. Actor Rob
17. One of Ireland's 32
19. Swiss painter Paul
20. Sleigh mate of Vixen
21. Piece of protective gear
23. Ciudad Juarez neighbor
25. Sellout initials
26. "Told you!"
29. Actor Alejandro or Fernando
30. Trussert fig
33. Sudden outpourings
35. Object of a scout's quest
38. Eurasian range
39. Feature of old Dick Tracy strips
42. "Good Night" girl
43. Mother of Calcutta
44. Make drinkable, in a way
46. Report card blemish
47. Low-class newspaper
50. Humbling feeling
51. Roth ___ (investment choice)
53. Move back
56. Uniform decoration
60. Conger's cousin
61. Portend
63. Garage supply
65. Mideast's Gulf of ___
66. Clenched fist, e.g.
67. Bridal bio word
68. He played Fred, the junkman
69. With sound judgment
70. Moldavia or Belarus, once: Abbr.

DOWN

1. ___ mom
2. "Lawrence of Arabia" star
3. Fireplug-shaped, perhaps
4. Rolling Stones drummer Charlie ___ day now ..."
5. Prepare for a vacation
7. Clickable symbol
8. Gets pooped
9. Treaty signatories
10. ___ Seltzer
11. Perfect-paper topper, maybe
12. Be in hock
13. "I didn't know that!"
18. Three R's org.
22. Easy chances on the diamond
24. Gaw at
27. Conger and 60-Across
28. Pothook shape
31. Black Flag target
32. Paid to play
34. Lot measurement
35. Turner or Louise
36. Earhart of the air
37. Went lickety-split
39. Coxswain's bunch
40. Tried to grow more grass on
41. Juror, theoretically
42. "Rhoda" mom
45. Depends on
47. "The Honeymooners" episodes, now
48. "Haste makes waste" et al.
49. Yellowstone sight
52. Omega's opposite
54. In dire need of gas
55. Gen.'s subordinate
57. Hang in the balance
58. Bring home
59. Genealogist's diagram
61. Shot spot
62. Exalting verse
64. ___ Kan (pet foods name)

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Linda Rummel
Hometown: "I don't have one, I was in the military family all my life"
Unit: East Gym
Job title: Fitness Specialist
Duties: Design fitness programs, promotions and train trainers.
Significant achievements: Has trained around 5,000 Marines for the Combat Fitness test; in charge of the Wounded Warriors Program; has created numerous unit fitness programs; manager of the East Gym.
What do you like most about your job?: "I love working with Marines and their family. It's giving back to the military community. They give so much, I want to help their quality of life."
Hobbies: Work and running
Time of service: Four years in the U.S. Army, 10 years with Marine Corps Community Services
Time aboard the Combat Center: Three years



OBSERVATION POST

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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Competitors in the Commanding General's Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition blast away at the moving targets of table two rifle qualification during the first day of shooting at the Combat Center's rifle range Monday.

Marines and sailors begin shooting intramural

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Many of the Combat Center's most skilled shooters gathered Monday to compete in the annual Commanding General's Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition at the rifle range.

During the three-week competition, shooters will not only vie for marksmanship honors, but will also satisfy pistol and rifle qualification requirements for fiscal year 2011, said Sgt. Robert S. Lynn, the Combat Center's shooting team captain.

"It is a competition as well as a training package, and it is something we use to our advantage," Lynn said. Encouraging the Marines to compete helps them improve their basic rifleman skills, he said.

"We have people who have only fired in boot camp," Lynn said. "I know two guys who are from Tanks, and this is their first time shooting since boot

camp. They are here to improve. They are here for the training package, which is the best fundamental rifle and pistol training package you can get anywhere near here."

This is a skill that will benefit the Marines for the rest of their careers.

"Upon completion of the intramural, the participants will have real firm understanding of how to apply the fundamentals, and it will give them a great base to work off of for combat marksmanship and any other follow-on ranges they may participate in," said Cpl. Nathan Iblings, an instructor for the Combat Instructors Course.

Cpl. Kong Xiong, a participant with the intramural competition, said he looked forward to firing a rifle, but was not feeling confident with the pistol, because he had almost no experience with the weapon.

This is where the instructors come in. They spend their time ensuring every shooter leaves the competi-

tion at the top of their game.

Those shooters who pass their final test Sept. 24, will leave the competition as Combat Marksmanship instructors themselves.

"It is not like they are coming out here just for a competition. They are out here learning something," said Lynn. "It is good for them and is also good for their future."

As the captain of the Combat Center's shooting team, Lynn said he will be looking at the participants as possible teammates for upcoming competitions against other installations.

"I will be forming my team from the individual records of the intramural shooters who do well, but also who have a good attitude, are teachable and are willing to learn," said Lynn.

The competition ends Oct. 8. In the meantime, the Marines and sailors are working hard for a shot at the title of the Combat Center's top shooter and a spot on the shooting team.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lance Cpl. Christopher Patino, a competitor in the Commanding General's intramural rifle and pistol competition, fires a 9mm pistol for initial qualification during the first day of shooting at the Combat Center's pistol range Monday.

ROGER MELANSON ESTATE AUCTION

Pope's Auction
Sat., Oct. 2nd

Auction 11 A.M.
Held at: 3022 Alta Ave., Yucca Valley, CA

Roger was a long time resident of Yucca Valley and a good friend. He served our community for many years as a Sheriff's Sergeant. He will be missed by family and friends.

Auction items: Tractors, implements, tractor parts, forklift, hand & power tools, paint guns & accessories, trailers, construction supplies, furniture, appliances and much, much more.

Any questions call:
Rosemary: 760-819-1031
10% Buyer's Fee
Auctioneer: Jack Pope

Defense Department launches Absentee Voting Week

COMPILED BY THE OBSERVATION POST STAFF

The Department of Defense announced Absentee Voting Week, Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, to help service members and civilians serving outside their home states make their votes count.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program has launched a new set of tools to connect voters with their state election processes.

The program's online electronic voting support program and federal write-in absentee ballot are designed to ensure voters get the appropriate ballot and can submit it before deadline.

The voting support program, launched this year, offers precinct-specific online ballots and submission instructions for the 19 states so far

participating: Virginia, Utah, Montana, New Jersey, Nevada, Kansas, Mississippi, Washington, New Mexico, Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri, New York, Delaware, West Virginia, Idaho, Arkansas, Colorado and Tennessee.

Some states allow ballots to be returned by fax or online, Carey said, but the military postal service will express-mail any ballots military members or their spouses submit from overseas.

The FVAP also has a Facebook page with information on absentee voting.

The program's goal is to make the FVAP Web site the only tool that Defense Department absentee voters need.

For more information, visit <http://www.FVAP.gov>, or search for "Federal Voting Assistance Program" on Facebook.

Combat Center Bullets

STOP LOSS PAY DEADLINE SOON

Service members will lose the ability to claim their Stop Loss Special Pay if they do not submit their application by Oct. 21. Service members who remained on active duty due to Stop Loss Authority may claim an extra \$500 for each month their enlistment or service period was extended. This also applies to those whose retirement eligibility was suspended. The payments cover any Stop Loss periods between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Some restrictions apply if service members voluntarily lengthened their service in exchange for bonuses.

Visit <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss> for application information.

OHIO VETERANS BONUS

Ohio residents can receive up to \$1,500 as a bonus for their service. Ohio is recognizing veterans for their service both on deployment and while here in the continental United States. Ohio residents may receive \$100 per month for months spent in the Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan for a maximum of \$1,000 and \$50 per month spent in the continental United States for a maximum of \$500.

Qualifying periods are Aug. 2, 1990 to March 3, 1991 for the Persian Gulf; Oct. 7, 2001 to present for Afghanistan and March 19, 2003 to present for Iraq. Service members may receive more information and apply online at <http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov>.

The Legal Assistance Office in building 1514 (across from the movie theater) can provide required notary services for the applications.

Upcoming Single Marine and Sailor Program events

NASCAR FONTANA 400

The Combat Center Single Marine and Sailor Program has 38 spots remaining to NASCAR Fontana 400, scheduled for Oct. 10. Seats are located in the grandstand. Cost is \$52. Sign up at The Zone. For more information, call 830-4767.

MEDIEVAL TIMES

Join the Combat Center Single Marine and Sailor Program for a "knight" of fun at Medieval Times Oct. 2. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call 830-4767.

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The University of Values

Combat Center personnel learn future opportunities



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Corporal Joel Carachure, a motor transportation operator with the Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, speaks with the Channel 3 news team in Spanish about the semi-annual Career and Education Fair at the West Gym Sept. 23.

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

This year's semi-annual Career and Education Fair, held at the West Gym Sept. 23, set a new record.

With the number of booths topping out at more than 75, this fair featured more potential employers and school administrators than any other previous fair.

"In these tough economic times and with unemployment so high, it is a wonderful tribute to Marines, sailors and their family members that all these agencies are choosing to spend their recruiting dollars here in Twentynine Palms," said Virginia Sulick, the career resource manager.

The fair also gave service members on their way out of the Corps a brighter outlook on their futures, despite the uncertainty that may lie ahead.

"First of all, it shows the patrons here today that there are companies hiring," said Joanne Ferraro, the employment development specialist for the Marine Corps Community Services. "Additionally it shows them some other options. Maybe

employment is not working out for them right now or not an option. There are colleges here and trade schools so it opens up a lot of options.

The patrons also appreciated the vast diversity of businesses and schools present.

"It gives people the opportunity to get information and apply for different jobs or colleges," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Michal Shine, a field corpsman with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374.

Various local businesses and schools keep coming back to similar fairs, often time inspiring other companies to follow their lead and apply to set up booths as well, because they know something about military personnel.

"A lot of the vendors recognize that the military community has so much to offer," said Ferraro. "I could go on and on about the talents of Marines and sailors. The vendors here recognize the talents and how wonderful and far advanced the Marines, sailors and their families are."

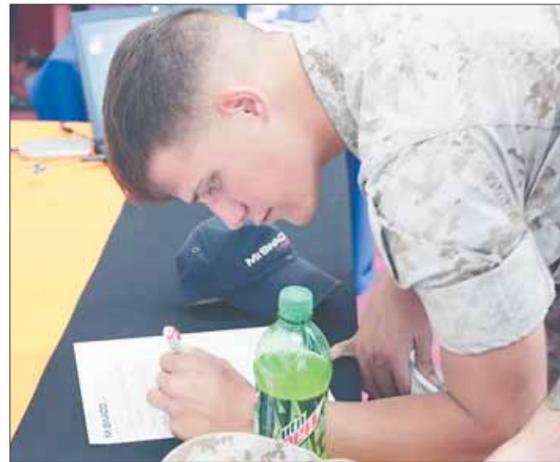
For more information on upcoming Career and Education Fairs or job opportunities, contact Sulick at 830-4029.

Sergeant Course gets the drill



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

[Left] Sgt. Patrick Jackson a supply clerk for the Fleet Support Division Logistics Command Headquarters West, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., who is also a member of 3rd platoon, Class 6-10, of the Combat Center's Sergeants Course, adjusts his sling after the command "sling arms" was called during drill practice at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Aug. 30. [Right] Marines from 3rd platoon, Class 6-10, perform the drill movement "dress right dress" at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Aug. 30. The Marines all try their hand at leading the platoon and calling commands. *Editor's Note: This is part of a series documenting Sergeants Course Class 6-10 on their journey to becoming the best leaders the Corps has to offer.*



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Corporal Christopher Miles, an administrative clerk with 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, fills out the information list for a vendor during the semi-annual Career and Education Fair at the West Gym Sept. 23.

THE COMMANDING GENERAL'S

CAR & BIKE SHOW

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Marine volunteer takes service to new height

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines are encouraged to be active in their local community, but an instructor with the Combat Center's Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School took that challenge to new heights – literally.

Staff Sgt. Robert Hofmann, who also serves as an assistant deputy commander with the Palm Springs, Calif., Civil Air Patrol's Composite Squadron 11, was awarded the Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award after completing CAP's Aerospace Education Program for Senior Members Sept. 26.

Hofmann, who joined CAP in 2008, said the best part about receiving the award is now he can use what he learned to contribute to CAP's mentoring program for children and young adults ages 12-20.

"I took a 100-question exam," Hofmann said. "It took me about two hours to complete and was an elective part of completing the next level of my professional development in the CAP."

"It felt good, as it is the first step in my education in aerospace knowledge, which is a very important part of CAP and CAP's Cadet Program," continued Hofmann, a native of London, Ontario, Canada. "Teaching the cadets about leadership, drill and physical fitness is a skill set that the

Marine Corps has given me, but there is still the aerospace education aspect of CAP, which I also need to learn to be able to fully teach and mentor the cadets."

The CAP is a nonprofit organization with 59,000 members nationwide. The patrol, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions, as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the more than 24,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs, according to its website, <http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com>.

"Many of these people, both young Marines and cadets, come from backgrounds where they have had little or no guidance in their lives, and these young people have taken the first step to bettering themselves," Hofmann said. "By having enlisted in the Marines, or by having joined the cadet program with CAP, they have shown that they want to do something more. It is at that point



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Staff Sgt. Robert Hofmann, an instructor with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School here, also serves as an assistant deputy commander with the Palm Springs, Calif., Civil Air Patrol's Composite Squadron 11, and was awarded the Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award after completing CAP's Aerospace Education Program for Senior Members Sept. 26. Hofmann, who joined CAP in 2008, said the best part about receiving the award is now he can use what he has learned to contribute to CAP's mentoring program for children and young adults ages 12-20.

where I can help them with becoming better people and citizens and mentor them for success."

Hofmann also challenged more Marines and sailors to step up and reach out to their communities.

"There are so many organizations that need help, and it is very gratifying to give that help," he said. "I have met some of the hardest working people I have ever known in the CAP, and they aren't doing it for any-

thing more than the simple feeling of a job well done.

"A lot of people think they don't have time to volunteer, but any effort to lend a hand is appreciated."

The organization's Palm Springs Composite Squadron

11, meets Wednesday nights from 6:30-9 p.m. in the south hangar of the Palm Springs Air Museum. For more information about CAP in the Coachella Valley, call 666-9343 or visit <http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com>.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

A Marine training with the Combat Center's Advisor Training Group signals to his vehicle to pull forward while setting up for convoy operations Monday. The motorized operations course is a live-fire training event.

ATG, from A1

defiantly recommend it. It's a great program, and they teach you quite a bit while you're here."

Captain Paul Tomlinson, a Marine training with ATG, said the course offers practice to those who have done it before, but also helps newer

Marines mentally prepare for their first deployment.

"Some of these Marines haven't had this opportunity yet," said the Indianapolis native. "You

can tell they're new to it, but us older guys have been playing a mentor role along with the instructors, to get them up to par."

Did you know?

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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

9 a.m. - Calvary Fellowship* (Contemporary Worship)
9 a.m. - Children's Church
10:30 a.m. - Redemption* (A blend of traditional and contemporary 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* (Sept. 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 (Sept.-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. Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93. For more information call 830-5430.

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31st MEU remains combat ready while afloat

LANCE CPL. TYLER C. VERNAZA

31st MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

USS DENVER – Marines and sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, onboard the USS Denver (LPD9), participated in enhanced marksmanship live fire drills, Sept. 19.

Marines and Sailors began the day shoot around 4 p.m. and then executed a low-light shoot a short time after sundown.

“We need to be prepared for any situation, day or night,” said 1st Lt. Ryan Tice, executive officer for Animal Company, Battalion Landing Team, 1st

Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st MEU.

The training helps to enhance the combat readiness of the MEU; service members practiced the fundamentals of basic marksmanship.

“During the shoot the Marines and sailors will be focused on trigger control, magazine retention, tactical and speed reloads and close-quarters marksmanship,” said Cpl. Timothy Doak, squad leader with 1st Platoon, Co. A, BLT 1st Bn., 7th Marines.

Tice said he is focused on keeping his Marines combat ready at all times.

“These are perishable skills, and on ship it is easy for these skills to atrophy,” he added.

For most of these Marines, it is their first time with a MEU. The training is not only used to help the troops stay alert, but for the leaders as well; to show them how to outline and conduct live fire training aboard ship.

The Marines and sailors conducted a number of different drills during the exercise, enhancing their combat mindset.

At the 25-yard-line, service members practiced shooting drills and tactical reloads while instructors watched closely for magazine retention.

After moving to the 15-yard-line, the troops practiced 90 degree pivot shooting drills to the left and two-shot drills.

An important part of the training happened at the 5-yard-line where the Marines practiced recovering from the three classes of weapon malfunctions.

“We purposefully give our weapons these malfunctions. We practice failure to fire, misfeeds and double feeds for muscle memory,” said Cpl. Victor Pascacio, squad leader with 1st Platoon, Co. A, BLT 1st Bn., 7th Marines. “It’s very possible for us to have one of these malfunctions in a real-life situation. Our life and the lives of the Marines around us depends on how fast we can correct the situation.”

Four Sailors with the USS Denver’s Visit Board Search and Seizure force also participated in the training.

“The Navy shoots for marksmanship qualification only,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Zoar Watts, a Gunner’s Mate with the USS Denver. “This is helpful for the sailors to get all the training they can.”

If a sailor wants this type of training, they have to attend a VBSS course or the Sentry Reaction Force course, a prelude to VBSS, said Watts.

Marines and sailors will be conducting more training exercises similar to this one while at sea. Tice added, “Right now we have a machine gun shoot and a pistol range planned for additional training while aboard the Denver.”



LANCE CPL. TYLER C. VERNAZA

Corporal Victor Pascacio, a squad leader with 1st Platoon, Animal Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, employes controlled shooting at his target during Combat Marksmanship Training aboard the USS Denver (LPD9), Sept. 19.

Corps’ museum collecting children’s artwork for Wounded Marines

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

Washington, D.C. – The National Museum of the Marine Corps is sending out a call to all young artists, asking for their help in decorating the walls of the Wounded Warrior wing of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. The museum is sponsoring a collection of children’s original artwork to brighten both the medical center’s hallways and the spirits of its resident wounded heroes.

“Art for wounded warriors is one more way that the museum extends its support outside our four walls to Marines everywhere,” said Lin Ezell, Director of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. “I hope there is so much art submitted for this program that we can offer it to other hospitals where veterans are recovering.”

All children who enjoy drawing, painting or coloring are encouraged to show their support for America’s Marines by submitting their original works.

“The Museum’s art collection for wounded Marines is a wonderful project for teachers to work on with their students,

or for parents to do with their kids,” said Dr. Barbara Daniels, Teacher-in-Residence, National Museum of the Marine Corps. “Drawing pictures for our wounded warriors teaches children important lessons about caring and allows them to create something that shows their support for our Marines.”

Children who wish to participate should draw a picture and write a supportive message on an 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper. Artists should also write their name, hometown and grade level on the back of their picture. The museum will accept drawings, paintings or colorings, but all works of art must be submitted in a flat, rigid envelope, postmarked by Nov. 30.

“We have a lot of hallways to cover, and I’m looking to our nation’s young artists to help,” said Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas, president & CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. “I know how much it will mean to our recovering wounded Marines, to know that we are thinking about them, and it will be especially meaningful to know that young Americans hold them in their thoughts and want to brighten their day.”

Children’s artwork for Wounded Marines

- Create your picture on an 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper
- Package your work in a flat, rigid envelope
- Submit your art by Nov. 30

Mail all submissions to:
The National Museum of the Marine Corps
Attn: Teacher in Residence
18900 Jefferson Davis Highway
Triangle, VA 22172-1938

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Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

(760) 361-2450
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29 Palms, Ca. 92277
spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com

TSA, from A1

TSA requires airlines to provide a traveler’s SFPD via a secure web portal 72 hours before a flight’s departure. SFPD consists of a traveler’s full name (first, middle, and

last) as it appears on their government issued identification, as well as date of birth and gender. Airlines are not allowed to issue a boarding pass until the SFPD is transmitted and an authorization to print a boarding

pass is received from TSA. If cleared, travelers are able to print boarding passes up to 24 hours before departure. If a traveler does not pass the review, TSA may provide instructions to the airline to conduct enhanced screening

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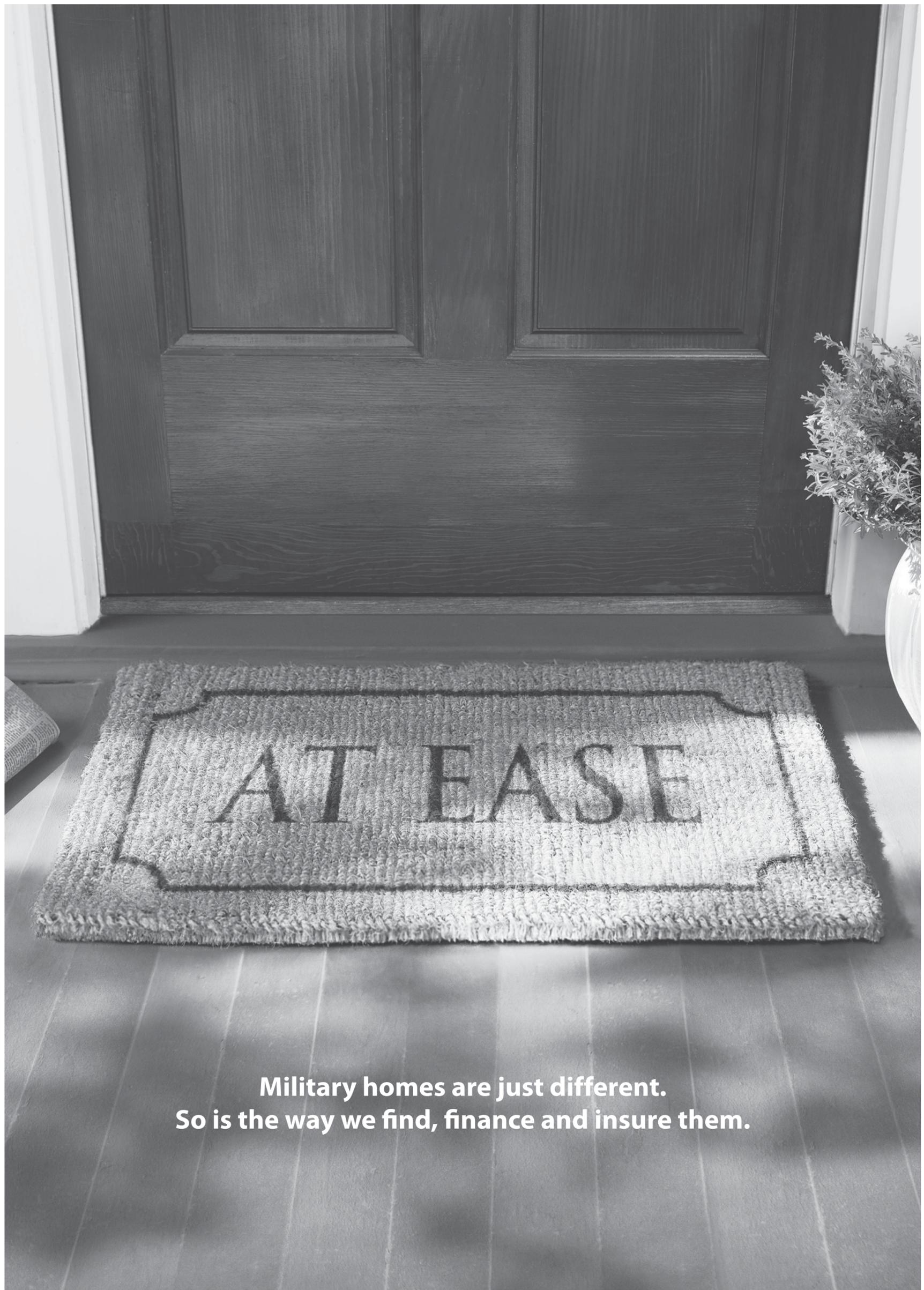
<p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p>Skyview Chapel Church of God Worship Service 10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. 7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree Pastor Abe Casiano Church (760) 366-9119</p>	<p><i>This Week’s Spotlight Church</i></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)</p> <p>Reverend Lynn Reece “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</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>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>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)</p> <p>Reverend Lynn Reece “open hearts, open minds, open doors”</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)</p> <p>Reverend Lynn Reece “open hearts, open minds, open doors”</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am</p>
<p>“The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.”</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.fbc29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>Joshua Tree First Baptist Church Bible School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Wednesday 6:15 PM 6740 Sunset Rd. 366-3704</p>	<p>Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church 73493 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, CA 367-4185</p> <p>Pastor Titus R. Burns Sunday Service: 10:00 AM Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM</p> <p>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 & Eucharist 10:00 am Sunday Gospel Meditation 9:00 am Wed. Morning Prayer 7:30 am “We are baptized into ministry.” 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks N. of KFC) www.stmartinchurch29.org (760) 367-7133</p>

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Devil dogs help sniff out IEDs

CPL. EUGENIO MONTANEZ

1st MARINE DIVISION

COMBAT OUTPOST SHABU, HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Leading patrols and sniffing out improvised explosive devices may seem like a game for Cpl. Twister, but what she doesn't know is this "game" is saving lives.

Twister is a 4-year-old black Labrador used to find IEDs for Marines with the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. Many dogs such as her are being used with great success throughout the Marine Corps.

"There are many dogs in the battalion that have found IEDs," said Lance Cpl. Cody Campioni, a dog handler with the dog handler platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st LAR Bn. The dogs can find IEDs a lot more accurately and faster than a metal detector can.

Dogs were first used in the Marine Corps to find the enemy during World War II. The number of dogs brought to Afghanistan to find explosive devices has increased throughout the years.

"Luckily we haven't encountered one yet, but if we do, I am more than confident she will find it," said Campioni, a Point Mills, Mich., native.

The dogs can detect more than 10 different types of materials used to make industrial explosives and homemade explosives.



CPL. EUGENIO MONTANEZ

Lance Cpl. Cody Campioni, a dog handler with the Dog Handler Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, sends his dog in search of an improvised explosive devices near Combat Outpost Shabu, Afghanistan Sept. 16. "Luckily we haven't encountered one yet, but if we do, I am more than confident she will find it," said Campioni, a Point Mills, Mich., native.

"We've had a dog find three IEDs in under an hour," Campioni said. "We give the orders and they follow them. They're very obedient to their handler, and that makes it so much easier."

In order to become dog handlers, Marines participate in a six to eight-week course with the dogs at the American K-9 Interdiction School.

"We spend a lot of time with the dogs to build up trust between the dog handler and the dog," Campioni said. "To be able to operate well you have to trust the dog, and

the dog has to trust you."

Not only do they spend a lot of time with dogs during training, but also spend all their time with the dogs during the deployment.

"I have to make sure the dog is well fed, that she has enough water throughout the day and make sure she is medically okay," Campioni said. "Having a dog with you on a deployment is like having a piece of home with you."

The dogs also give Marines more options when it comes to tactical searching.

"The dog helps us whenever we search vehicles, build-

ings and bridges, and it makes our job a lot more effective," said Cpl. James Hammond, a team leader with 3rd platoon, Co. A, 1st LAR Bn. "Especially when we can't really reach certain areas, we can send the dog in to search."

Being able to search an area accurately with the dogs makes the Marines more confident in their abilities on the battlefield, explained Hammond, a Redmond, Wash., native.

"I feel we can do more by having the dogs with us," Hammond said. "The dogs provide us with a sense of security."



CPL. EUGENIO MONTANEZ

Lance Cpl. Cody Campioni, a dog handler with the Dog Handler Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, conducts bumper drills with his dog at Combat Outpost Shabu, Afghanistan Sept. 18. Marines use dogs in Afghanistan to locate improvised explosive devices.

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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.

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B1



Paul Crosby, drummer for Saliva, jams while putting on a show for the Combat Center Community. The 2010 Sounds of Freedom Rock Festival featured rock groups Seether and Saliva.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LESLIE SHAW

Seether, Saliva take stage to rock Combat Center



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

The crowd goes nuts waiting for Seether to step on stage Sept. 25, during the 2010 Sounds of Freedom Rock Festival. Approximately 12,000 fans attended the free concert put on by the Marine Corps Community Service.

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field was filled with the sounds of Seether and Saliva as the bands kicked off the 2010 Sounds of Freedom Rock Festival Saturday Aug. 25.

A sea of nearly 12,000 patrons attended this year's event, quadrupling the 3,000 in attendance from the event in 2008, said Kelley Coe, Special Events Program Manager for the Marine Corps Community Service program.

The crowd screamed with anticipation as the stagehands completed sound checks and set up the stage, signaling to the thousands of fans the bands were about to perform.

First to rock the Combat Center com-

munity was Saliva.

Their set and enthusiasm set the mood for the night as the vast and undulating crowd grew louder, raving for more songs.

"Click Click Boom," shouted the crowd, firing up when the first few notes of the popular Saliva song started to play.

Dave Novotny, the bassist for Saliva, said they've travelled to many military bases to play for the troops.

"My dad was a Marine," Novotny said in an interview before the show, describing the connection he felt with the community he would later entertain. "We love supporting our troops."

To close their performance, Saliva's front

See **CONCERT, B4**

Combat Center takes second in Regional Championship

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – After a week, and six games played under the scorching Arizona heat, the West Coast Regional Tournament came down to the championship game at the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., soccer field Sept. 24. The top two teams, the Combat Center and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, both undefeated, faced off in a game everyone knew was for keeps.

These two, long-time rivals have been butting heads all season and eagerly awaited the chance to claim ultimate bragging rights.

"The rivalry between the teams is making me anxious to play," said Carlos Iruegas, a forward on the Twentynine Palms base team. "We were all waiting for this game. We are going to play our game, and if we do, we will succeed."

The Camp Pendleton team was amping up as well.

"It was our goal to make it to this game," said Joseph Wooten, a midfielder for MCBCP team. "We are confident and ready. This is going to be the best game in the tournament so far—they are an equally-good team."

The coach of the Twentynine Palms team, Misker Derseh, was anticipating a physical game.

"It's going to be a battle," Derseh said. "We were ready since day one; everything built up to this game."

Tension was felt on the field as well as in the stands. Players knelt down to pray before the game to have a moment of peace and a break from their anxiety.

When the whistle blew, Twentynine Palms took the ball first. Camp Pendleton battled back and the ball changed possession several times. From the stands, spectators witnessed a first half that resembled a large-scale ping pong game, with neither team holding the ball long enough to claim dominance on the field.

Fighting exhaustion in a tournament designed to favor the survival of the fittest, both teams fought hard but each failed to score.

When the referee mercifully blew his whistle, the scoreboard still read 0-0.

After the short 15-minute breather, both

See **SOCCER, B4**



AJ Wilson, a goalkeeper for the Twentynine Palms base soccer team, kicks the ball during the West Coast Regional Tournament championship game against Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Rene Renteria, a player for the Twentynine Palms base team, shields the ball from a player on the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., team.



Carlos Iruegas, a player for the Combat Center fights for the ball against a player from the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., team.



The Twentynine Palms team celebrates with their hard-earned second-place trophy after the West Coast Regional Tournament championship game at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Sept. 24. The team went undefeated throughout regionals and lost the final game to the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., team.



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
Sundays: Football coverage, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Mondays: Monday Night Football, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays: Karaoke with DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Mondays: Monday Night Football with chicken nuggets and nachos, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays: Baked ziti, garlic sticks & green salad. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Social hour 5:30 p.m., 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: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., 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

Rose's Pawn Shop

Description: Visiting all the way from Swenden
When: 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1

KCRW presents the 3rd Annual Manimal Vinyl Festival

Description: Outdoor and indoor performances
When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Wandering the West & Evoking the East art exhibit

Description: Painter Chuck Caplinger and mixed-media artist Ann Congdon display their work
When: Artist's reception is 12 to 3 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 3. The show will run through Oct. 31.
Where: 29 Palms Art Gallery
74055 Cottonwood Drive, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-7819 or visit <http://www.29palmsartgallery.com>.

Make Native American style pottery

Description: The Desert Institute offers classes and workshops available through the fall season
When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday Oct. 2
Where: Black Rock Visitor Center, Yucca Valley
For more information or to register call 367-5535 or visit <http://desertinstitute.homestead.com>.

Lower Desert

Golden Boy Boxing

Description: Eloy Perez battles Rialto Dominic Salcido
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.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>.

Tim McGraw

Description: The country star performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Al Green

Description: The soul legend performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Gladys Knight

Description: The classic soul/pop artist performs
When: 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 7
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

The Sunset Cinema will be closed for the month of October to replace fire sprinklers and to complete the lighting project.

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Ben Affleck pulls off triple coup in 'The Town'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

"The Town"
Rated R

Welcome to Charles Town, a section of Boston infamous for home-growing more bank robbers and armored-car hijackers than any other square mile in America.

That's what you learn in the opening shot of "The Town," and it sets the stage for the gritty cops-and-robbers drama that follows.

Ben Affleck wrote, directed and stars as Doug, the leader of a neighborhood crew of semi-pro thieves swimming in a gene pool of law-breaking DNA. Larceny is a trade in Charles Town, and fathers pass it down to their sons.

When Doug becomes infatuated with one of his gang's victims, a pretty young bank employee, it sets in motion the complications that give the movie its propulsive, pulpy pulse.

It turns out Claire, the bank worker, is also a "townie," living just blocks away from the gang. She has no idea Doug was one of the masked men who robbed and terrorized her. Doug's longtime friend and partner in crime, the high-strung, dangerously unpredictable ex-con James (Jeremy Renner from last year's "The Hurt Locker"), worries about what she knows – and what she might reveal to the FBI.

So when Doug ends up courting Claire, we see the storm clouds forming even



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben Affleck wrote, directed and stars as Doug, the leader of a neighborhood crew of semi-pro thieves.

if she doesn't. Eventually Doug, Claire, James, and the FBI are going to collide. And when they do, take cover.

Bullets and F-bombs fly, people die. But the R-rated ingredients never feel gratuitous. "The Town" covers some rough, tough terrain, and the language, characters and action honestly reflect it.

As an actor, Affleck finds the perfect tone of conflicted loyalties for Doug, who's looking for a way to break out of the cycle of crime into which he was drawn after an injury ended his career as a rising hockey star. As the director, Affleck expertly weaves together the story's various threads, and he captures the color, charac-

ter and texture of real Boston locations – including a thrilling heist that takes you inside Beantown's legendary baseball's shrine, Fenway Park – that provide the movie's settings.

The supporting cast is just as terrific. Renner is riveting as the volatile James, whose coiled intensity puts you on edge whenever he's onscreen. As the druggie-barfly single mom who still carries a flame for Doug, Blake Lively demonstrates that she's got some serious dramatic game beyond TV's

"Gossip Girl."

Jon Hamm, from TV's "Mad Men," fine-tunes frustration and focus as the no-nonsense FBI agent closing in on the gang. And Rebecca Hall's rock-solid portrayal of Claire becomes an emotional anchor for the shootouts, car chases and other spasms of ferocious violence that unfold around her.

But the real star here is Affleck, who pulls off an impressive triple-crown, writer-director-actor coup. He makes "The Town" sizzle on both sides of the camera.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben Affleck plays Doug, a bank robber who becomes infatuated with one of his gang's victims, a pretty young bank employee named Claire played by Rebecca Hall.

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Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps Everyday: 2:15, 6:00, 9:00 (PG13)	Alpha Omega (PG) Everyday: 2:15, 6:45	The Town (R) Everyday: 4:30, 9:00
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Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WallMart	Palm Springs Airport
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4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC			
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

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Combat Center Sports



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Rhinos tailback receiver and quarterback James Jones jumps over the opposition as he advances his team up the field during a Commanding General's Intramural Football League game against Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Dragons at Felix Field Wednesday.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Marine Wing Support Squadron 374's Rhinos celebrate their victory over Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Dragons at Felix Field after a Commanding General's Intramural Football League game Wednesday.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Dragons prepare to hike the ball against the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374's Rhinos at Felix Field Wednesday. The Rhinos beat out the Dragons, 15-13, advancing their record to 2-1.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Coach of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374's Rhinos football team, Timothy Fitzpatrick, talks to tailback receiver and quarterback James Jones, during a Commanding General's Intramural Football League game against Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Dragons.

SOCCKER, from B1

teams charged out for the final and most heated 45 minute half.

Camp Pendleton struck first, scoring the first goal on a cross to a forward near the goal who in turn kicked the ball into the corner, where the

Twentynine Palms goalkeeper, AJ Wilson, was helpless to stop it.

Then to lengthen their stride to victory, a second goal was scored shortly after the first.

Despite the lead Camp Pendleton had against them, Twentynine Palms fought back with everything in

them until forward, Marcos Madrid, received a cross from the right side and with one touch kicked the ball in and scored a goal, putting his team on the board and lifting his teammates' spirits.

Twentynine Palms continued to fight, but they struggled against the clock and their powerful opponent. Camp Pendleton made one more last-ditch play to further distance themselves from Twentynine Palms and scored a third goal in the last five seconds of the game.

The game ended with 3-1, Camp Pendleton's victory.

The Twentynine Palms players soon shook off their initial disappointment, and laid out a show of good sportsmanship with introductions, congratulations, and laughter as players shook each other's hands.

Although disappointing, the Combat Center's team was proud of their long fought battle and effort on the field.

"You played your hearts out today," Derseh said as he addressed his team after the

game. "For those who come back next year, remember how this tastes, so next year you will be motivated."

Following the game, Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms were presented with the 1st and 2nd place trophies in front of every team which attended as well as the spectators.

There was still good news for the Combat Center, however, as scouts from the All-Marine Soccer Team announced their nominations for the All-Marine Corps Soccer Camp currently being held at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Four names were selected from the Combat Center: goalkeeper AJ Wilson, forward Rafael Taboada, midfielder Rene Renteria, and defender Andrew Ericson. Taboada chose not to attend the camp, but the other three are currently in North Carolina beginning the camp and vying for their chance to become a member of the All-Marine Soccer Team.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Jason Streets
Hometown: Hopedale, Ohio
Unit: Engineer Company, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374
Job title: Staff noncommissioned officer in charge of engineer platoon
Recognition: Quarterback for MWSS-374's Rhinos football team. Streets led his team

to a 15-13 victory over Combat Logistics Battalion 7's Dragons during a Commanding General's Intramural Football League game at Felix Field Wednesday.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "The teamwork."
Advice for aspiring athletes: "Everything revolves around heart. You've got to set goals for yourself."

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



We had a terrible mobile home fire in Twentynine Palms just last month that destroyed just about everything in Delores and John Moore's small mobile home.

I learned about the fire when Delores telephoned to report that the marriage certificate I had given them on July 24, 2007 when I officiated at their wedding had been lost in the fire. She said the certificate had been one of their most precious documents and wondered if I could replace it.

My wife Patty took care of preparing a new certificate and it is a daily reminder for Delores and John of the commitment they made to each other better than four years ago. I have learned a few things over the years as I have prepared people for weddings and counseled literally hundreds of families with special problems.

The primary thing I have learned is that all great relationships require patience, forgiveness and commitment.

I like an anonymous writer's description of commitment:

"Commitment means we take the worst of each other, the best of each other and the in-between of each other. Stirring it all together we say with loyalty and gentle understanding, 'I love and totally accept the mixture of you.'"

Eric Fromm in his masterpiece "The Art of Loving" said it best:

"To love somebody is not just a strong feeling—it is a decision, it is a judgment, it is a promise. If love were only a feeling, there would be no basis for the promise to love forever. Feelings come and go, but love, which is a judgment and a decision, should go on forever."

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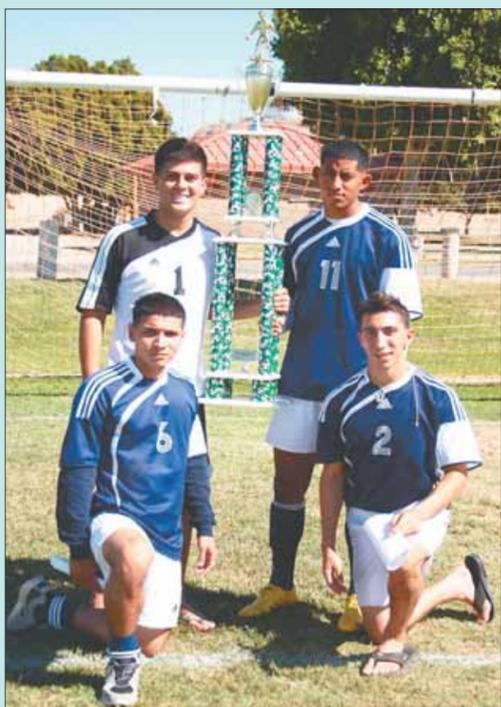
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Soccer spotlight

Combat Center Marines selected for All-Marine Soccer Camp



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

[Clockwise, from top left] AJ Wilson, Rene Renteria, Rafael Taboada, and Andrew Ericson are the four players selected to attend the All-Marine Soccer Camp at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Wilson, Renteria and Ericson are currently at the camp competing for a spot on the All-Marine Soccer Team, followed by a shot at making the All Armed Forces Soccer Team. Taboada elected not to attend the camp.

CONCERT, from B1

man Josey Scott gave a personal shout-out to the Marines and sailors, saying how great it was to play for people who put their lives in jeopardy for the sake of the country. Seether then seized the stage. The stage lights dimmed as an intri-

cate guitar and rhythm session proceeded, lulling the Combat Center into a daze before cranking up the volume and beat to reenergize the crowd. Seether played well into the night. However, it was a side comment that raised the volume of the crowd to its loudest of the night – they professed the Marine Corps was their favorite

military branch. "Marines are nuts," added Dale Stewart, bass player and back up vocals for Seether, in an interview before the concert. While neither Seether nor Saliva has any other future military performances planned, both bands said this will probably not be their last.



LANCE CPL WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Shaun Morgan, lead vocals and rhythm guitar for Seether, rocks out while playing for the Combat Center community Sept. 25. Seether and Saliva both headlined for the 2010 Sounds of Freedom Rock Festival.

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