

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 15, 2010 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 53 ISSUE 41

‘Magnificent Bastards’ utilize Steel Knight for future operations

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As Marines traveled through Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain towns, they were constantly kept on their toes. Improvised explosive devices were a serious threat, every Afghan citizen was sus-

picious, every weapon at the ready. This was a small taste of the reality Marines face on the true battlefield. Second Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, made its mark on Exercise Steel Knight at Combat Center Range 215 Oct. 11. Exercise Steel Knight is a large-scale combined arms exercise

where Marines train as a competent Marine Air Ground Task Force, and for its upcoming deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. “The main purpose of our training out here [at the Combat Center] is to increase

See MEU, A5



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Lance Cpl. Andrew Gosink, a rifleman with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., wards off a role player after declaring a building cleared during Exercise Steel Knight Oct. 11. The Marines and sailors went through squad live-fire attacks, mechanized attacks, counterinsurgency and military operations on urbanized terrain training to get ready for their upcoming deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

A Marine with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, crosses a one-rope-bridge over a stream in Toiyabe National Forest Oct. 12.

River crossing skills essential in Afghanistan strategy

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – Afghanistan’s rolling hills, and seasonal snowfall supply many rivers and streams throughout the country, many of which have no bridges to aid in crossing. That’s why the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center has just the solution for service members deploying to the middle eastern country, who may encounter the wet obstructions more than frequently. Marines and sailors with Special Operations Training Group, 2nd Battalion 5th Marine Regiment, learned to cross and navigate water obstacles during an Assault Climbers Course Oct. 12. After a short class on one-rope-bridges, two teams of about 10 Marines made their way to a nearby stream to conduct the practical appli-

cation of the bridges with a little twist – competition. The teams raced to set up their one rope bridge and get their team across the quickest. However, under close instructor supervision, neither team took shortcuts. A unit crossing a stream should set up security like they would crossing a road or any other danger area, said Cpl. Anthony Frank, an instructor at MWTC, during the debrief. Communication was also stressed, attributing the majority of each team’s unorganized efforts to the well-known phrase, “Too many chiefs, not enough Indians.” During the course students were taught to consider multiple things before crossing a river or stream. “If there are rocks or a downed tree which make a natural bridge, a dry crossing would be best,” Frank said. “Next would be shallow or standing water, the shallower the better.” Although both teams managed to stay dry during the practical application, they didn’t for long. The Marines and sailors’ next crossing practical application involved little to no communication as they waded in groups of four in order to break the stream currents and keep from getting swept away. Conveniently, the training was scheduled toward the end of the training day, so that service members could change into dry clothes shortly after. Keeping as dry as possible and having dry clothes available to change into is more a necessity than a luxury, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Shirley, a Corpsman with 2nd Bn., 5th Marines. “On a day like today, warm, around 75 degrees Fahrenheit, many Marines don’t think of hypothermia as much of a threat, said

See RIVER, A7

Hospital celebrates Navy birthday



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sailors, family members and civilian counterparts at the Combat Center’s Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital joined their fellow sailors around the world in celebrating the Navy’s birthday, Oct. 13 by cutting their birthday cake and passing the piece. The senior sailor representative, Force Master Chief Laura Martinez, was accompanied by Lou Green, a retired force master chief and junior sailor representative, Seaman Apprentice Zachary Zanone for the cake presentation. The Naval Hospital staff will be celebrating their 235th birthday ball at the La Quinta Resort in La Quinta, Calif., Oct. 22.

Marines hit the road for Steel Knight



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Exercise Steel Knight is an annual combined arms exercise hosted by 1st Tank Battalion here in the Combat Center’s vast training grounds toward the end of each year. The exercise was held Sept. 28 through Oct. 13. The division-level exercise brings together the elements of a Marine Air Ground Task Force to effectively amass all of its assets and firepower and pursue an enemy force, said Staff Sgt. Leon L. Wojciechowski, the platoon sergeant for scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Bn. Marines with the battalion’s Headquarters and Service Company trained in convoy operations during the exercise Oct. 6 to effectively train them to perform mounted patrols and handle weapons, even though they are not infantrymen.



A pint at a time~ See A3



Taming chaos ~ See A4



Chili today hot tamale ~ See B1



All wound up ~ See B3



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



Check out more photos of Exercise Steel Knight, the annual combined arms exercise.



Marines with the Combat Center's Consolidated Materials Support Center, participate in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program's gray belt course Oct. 13. To see more photos check out the Combat Center's Facebook page.

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Combat Center Spotlight

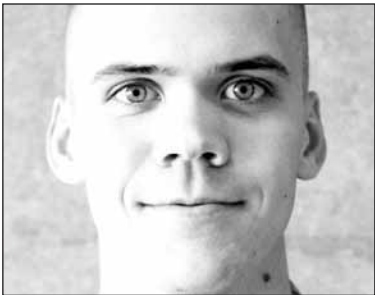
Name: Jan "Granma" Mason
Hometown: Hawthorne, Calif.
Unit: Single Marines Program
Job Title: Recreation Assistant
Job duties: Signing Marines up for trips, pool tables, video games and occasionally make treats for them.
What do you like most about your job? "The Marines, they're my kids and I love them."
Hobbies: "My family and my kitties, I love animals."
Time aboard the Combat Center: Five years



Centerspeak

Since you have joined the Marine Corps, what has changed the most about you?

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



PFC. ADAM BURGESS
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.,
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

"I have become more disciplined since I have joined and more determined in everything I do."



STAFF SGT. JIMI JUMA KHAMISI
MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 374

"My life has changed in a positive way because of the core values that I have integrated in my personal life."



SGT. JUAN AKELL
TACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP,
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"My attitude is more serious and I don't play around like I used to."



GUNNERY SGT. LYLE SCOTT
COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS
COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"I have become more responsible, less patient and more mature."

Hot Topics

WRESTLING CLINIC

All-Marine Wrestling coach, Maj. Dan Hicks, will be conducting a wrestling clinic Oct. 20 at the Sergeants Course gym, building 1356 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Skip Best at 830-4092.

PREP MARRIAGE COURSE

A Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program course is scheduled for Oct. 21-22. PREP teaches married and engaged couples communication skills and ground rules for handling conflict and promoting intimacy. The program's aim is to prevent marital problems, including divorce. Register by Oct. 15 for free childcare. For more information and for registration please call 830-6464 or visit the Protestant Chapel, building 1541.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL TICKET DEAL

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

UPCOMING HALLOWEEN EVENTS

The Combaat Center's Single Marine Program is gearing up for ghost season. Don't miss this year's Haunted Lunatic Asylum at the East Gym and Fitness Center from 7-10 p.m. Oct. 27, and 7-11 p.m. Oct. 28. The SMP is still looking for volunteers to help set up the scare house. Combat Center personnel are also encouraged to dress their scariest and volunteer for the Asylum. Call 830-4SMP for more information.

Marine Corps History

Oct. 17, 1820

General Archibald Henderson appointed as the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Henderson held the position for 39 years – longer than any CMC to date.



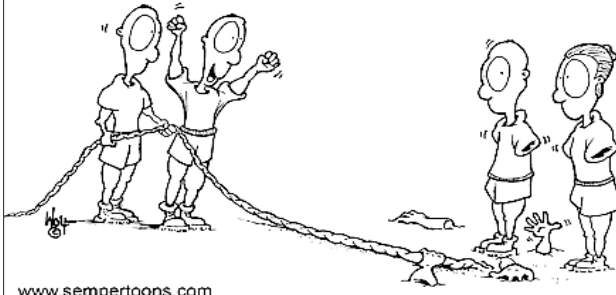
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SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

SUDOKU #1963

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

SMALL AMMO

[Puzzle solutions on A9]

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70						71						72		

ACROSS

1. Regular or high-test
4. Chicago Bears founder George
9. Fat eschewer of rhyme
14. Gardner of film
15. Novelist Jong
16. Use a pattern
17. Cop's weapon
19. Put on the radio
20. Down in the dumps
21. Hypnotic state
23. "Bullitt" director Peter
25. Old Scratch
28. Atlantic City game
30. Coastal region
31. Pince-__ glasses
34. City near Tahoe
36. Eighteen-wheeler
37. YOU __ HERE
38. Smokey, when he was rescued
42. Modern-day trial evidence

DOWN

43. Roll-on name
44. Pro __ (free, in legalese)
45. Actor's workplace
46. Diffuses, as through a membrane
51. Rude dude
53. Scavenge, in away
55. Playwright Capek
59. Disco light
60. __ Lee cakes
61. Curriculum __ (resume)
63. Fine performance
67. Upturned, as a box
68. Iroquois tribesmen
69. Commotion
70. Merchandise
71. "The Inferno" author
72. The Beatles' "And I Love __"

DOWN

1. Hayes of old westerns
2. Walled city of Spain
3. Port-__ cheese
4. "You there!"
5. Rainbow shape
6. Dog patch diminutive
7. Less than right?
8. Buffalo hockey team
9. Ballad part
10. Does some comparison shopping
11. Unique individuals
12. Aviation hero
13. Mack of old TV
18. Vichyssoise veggie
22. Tankard filler
24. Belgrade resident
25. __ fide
26. City northeast of Venice
27. Sired, biblically

29. Formerly named
31. Wealthy one
32. Wipe clean
33. Revered Buddhist
35. Celestial body
39. Baseball's "Georgia Peach"
40. Big-selling card game
41. Throw the __ at (punish severely)
47. Fuel rating
48. Reduces to confetti
49. Environmentalist's prefix
50. Blubbered
52. Coarse file
54. Stiller's mate
56. Big Indian
57. Wear down
58. Cabinet department
61. "I do," e.g.
62. Pig-poke connection
64. Diarist Anais
65. Comprehend
66. Put to work

OBSERVATION POST

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‘King of Battles’ goes digital at Steel Knight



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Artillery crewmen from Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, wait for instruction after they fire the M777A2 Lightweight 155mm Howitzer Oct. 6. The digitally upgraded Howitzer allows better communication from Fire Direction Control to the gunline.

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, geared up with their digitally-upgraded M777A2 Lightweight 155mm Howitzer Oct. 6 to display the “King of Battle’s” quick-firing capacity during Exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center.

The digital capabilities allow the gunline to communicate faster and more efficiently with fire direction control specialists, and almost eliminates human error. This new technology will make Marines “more responsive,” said Capt. Eric Williams, the Battery K commander for 3rd Bn., 11th Marines’.

The Digital Fire Control System on the gun receives information from FDC and

displays the necessary information, such as round type and charge needed to fire the Howitzer on target, said Cpl. David Evans, a Battery K field artillery cannon crewman. The FDC can also give instruction on when to fire the shells.

“As far as firing, it really hasn’t changed the procedures for the gunline, for emplacing and displacing and carrying out the mission,” Williams said. “All it has done is compressed the time that we need to actually put rounds down range.”

Exercise Steel Knight is a large-scale combined arms exercise where the Marines train as a competent Marine Air Ground Task Force. It’s the largest field training exercise the Marine Corps has to offer with more than 5,000 Marines participating, from Sept. 28 – Oct. 13.

Combat Center donates to save lives

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 4.5 million patients need blood transfusions each year in the U.S. and Canada, and one pint of blood can save up to three lives, according to America’s Blood Centers research.

The Community Blood Bank from Eisenhower Medical Center held a blood drive on Brown Street Friday in support of this year’s annual Combat Center Challenge. The goal for every blood drive the Community Blood Bank conducts on the installation is 25 pints.

“The military is very

generous when it comes to giving blood,” said Charles Dougwillo, the Semper Fit Fitness and Wellness branch chief.

Although there is an element of competition involved, Marines and civilians give blood to save lives.

“It is real important; there is a shortage of blood in the

Morongo Basin,” said Dougwillo, originally from Lenn, Mass. “The blood goes throughout the basin. It is a worthy cause.”

Giving blood is another way individual Marines support the country and its people.

“By donating, the military saves lives in two ways,” said Martin Arredondo, the senior donor recruitment representative for the Community Blood Bank. “Not just defending the country, but saving lives of patients at home who need blood.”

Some donors have seen the lives saved by donated blood, such as Carl Scheck, the owner of D’Carlo’s Italian Cafe. He has experienced first-hand the



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Carl Scheck, the owner of D’Carlo’s Italian Cafe aboard the Combat Center, gives blood during a Community Blood Bank blood drive in front the Combat Center Fire Department October 8. Scheck’s granddaughter was saved by donated blood; he said he does his part to give blood as often as he can.

Looking for local entertainment?
See page B2 for our Liberty Call section

Local Stylists Learn From the Best

Charlene Luongo, owner of Char’s Casa Di Bello and stylists Elle Schauls and Michelle Becker traveled to the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada to attend a 3 day education seminar. While there, they had the opportunity to meet and learn from top Hollywood hairstylists who create styles for Sarah Jessica Parker, Halle Berry, Kate Hudson, Nicole Kidman, Meg Ryan, and countless other “A” list actresses.

“We learned about all of the latest trends, new up-do’s, hair cutting and coloring techniques for women and men” says Becker, “it was an amazing experience!”



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Forward Operating Base reacts to mass casualty

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – A crowd of Afghan role-players gathered outside of 3rd Marine Regiment’s forward operating base, on Marine Corps

Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Oct. 7 to protest U.S. occupation and involvement in Afghanistan. The Marines in the FOB were challenged with determining which of the protestors were hostile, and how they could neutralize them without harming innocent bystanders. “Intel told us this morning

that we would be operating in a hostile environment,” said Cpl. Travis Hamrick a fire team leader with 3rd Marine Regiment from Gaffney, S.C., a heads up that undoubtedly helped them keep their bearing during the exercise, he said. The chants grew louder as the leader of the protestors approached the Marines

standing guard at the FOB to address their grievances. “They came up, and tried to lure us out of our positions,” Hamrick said, “but instead of taking the bait we cordoned off the area.” The quick reaction force, prepared since hearing from intelligence that morning, sprung into action to neutralize the hostile role players, who were yelling and spitting at the service members standing guard.

“During the protest, we noticed some guys holding stuff beneath their clothing,” said Lance Cpl. Samnang Chang, a radio technician with 3rd Marine Regiment, from Fall River, Mass. “I knew something was going to happen, I was just waiting for it.” That’s when a Marine standing security saw one of the role players reach inside his garbs, and called for the QRF to “Get back!”

Marines posting security took heed of the warning and withdrew into the forward operating base just moments before the insurgent detonated a simulated improvised explosive device in the middle of the crowd leaving three in the crowd notionally dead and 6 others wounded.

“There was blood and guts everywhere,” Hamrick said, commenting on the realistic makeup and blood the victims wore.

The QRF rushed to set up security for the casualties and assessed their wounds, taking care of the victims from most life threatening to least.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Afghan role-players call out for help after a simulated improvised explosive device detonated in the middle of a crowd as they were gathered outside 3rd Marines Regiment’s forward operating base during a mass casualty exercise at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Oct. 7. The regiment is based out of Marine Corps Base Kanehoe Bay, Hawaii.

The exercise was mostly a success, Hamrick said. Although the reaction force responded rapidly and effectively, the Marines knew it probably wouldn’t end there.

“Because of the attack they might become more violent in the next few hours, so now we are looking for secondary attacks,” he said.

Morris recalled similar real-world scenarios he observed while deployed in Iraq. “They’ll

hit us with an IED on one side and then a vehicle born improvised explosive will come from the other direction.”

The mass casualty exercise is one of the last pieces of training for the Marines of 3rd Marine Regiment as they prepare to return to Hawaii.

“We’ve had a lot of diverse training here, and the Marines had a good time with it and are better prepared because of it,” Morris said.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Marines and sailors with 3rd Marine Regiment help an injured role-player after a simulated improvised explosive device detonated in the middle of a crowd as they were gathered outside 3rd Marine Regiment’s forward operating base during a mass casualty exercise at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., Oct. 7.

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Lance Cpl. Andrew Gosink, a rifleman with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., catalogs writing on the wall during Exercise Steel Knight at Combat Center Range 215 Oct. 11. Steel Knight is a combined arms exercise incorporating more than 5,000 Marines and sailors.

MEU, from A1

the individual and collective skills of our small unit leadership, which will in turn increase combat proficiency,” said 1st Lt. Gerald I. Noe, the executive officer for Company G, 2nd Bn., 4th Marines.

The “Magnificent Bastards” went through squad live-fire attacks, mechanized attacks, counterinsurgency and are currently training for military operations on urbanized terrain, Noe said.

The training Co. G does prepares them for the variety of missions or tasks the 11th MEU might have in store, said the Lakewood, Colo., native.

As the Marines and sailors made their way through the MOUT town clearing build-ings and cordoning off areas, they encountered improvised explosive devices and local nationals played by Marines.

“What they have available to us, as far as what we’re seeing out in country, is more realistic every day,” said Cpl. Joshua Hoblit, a squad leader for Co. G, 2nd Bn., 4th Marines.

“It gives the Marines a bet-ter idea of what they’re going to see,” Hoblit added. “Not every incident is going to be the same, but they’ll have a base line to use,” added the Hagerstown, Ind., native. “Operating out here and hav-

ing role players working that situation for us, makes us think a little more about what we’re doing.”

With their upcoming deployment closing in, 2nd Bn., 4th Marines, took to the Combat Center’s variety of training eagerly.

“I think [the Combat Center] is one of the best Marine bases that we have,” said Hoblit. “We’re allowed to operate on bigger scales. It gives a bigger picture for the Marines to use. Some of the conven-tional methods that we’re using are battalion-wide and this is one of the better places to actu-ally get a view of the full scale of what’s actually going on.”



Marines with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., wrestle with a role player while conducting military operations on urbanized terrain training at Combat Center Range 215 Oct. 11 during Exercise Steel Knight, a combined arms exercise.



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Molding the future of the Marine Corps

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

If you asked Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Beaty, 4th platoon's faculty advisor for Class 6-10 of the Combat Center's Sergeants Course, what it takes to be a faculty advisor for the course, he'd say you have to know a little bit about everything.

"You have to be confident enough to stand in front of 80 sergeants and teach them the right way to do things," Beaty said. "Encourage the wayward and commend the deserving," added the Kingston, Tenn., native, quoting the Noncommissioned Officers Creed. Beaty, originally an Advanced

Aircraft Electrical Systems technician, came to the Combat Center's Sergeants Course because he wanted to lead Marines in an atmosphere where they would take to learning.

FAs for the Combat Center's Sergeants Course come from a variety of different military occupations and bring a different perspective to the table.

In his three years experience as an FA with an infantry background, Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Hester, an infantry Marine prior to serving as the Deputy Director for the Sergeants Course, said the course has developed more adult learning techniques that include more interaction and involvement.

"It's up to us to provide the

schedule," said 1st Sgt. Michael Miller, Director of the Sergeants Course. It's more interactive; the FAs have to naturally communicate with their students.

"It's 50 percent leadership training here, the intangible aspect" Miller said, while also teaching them the skills necessary for an NCO to know, added the Denver native.

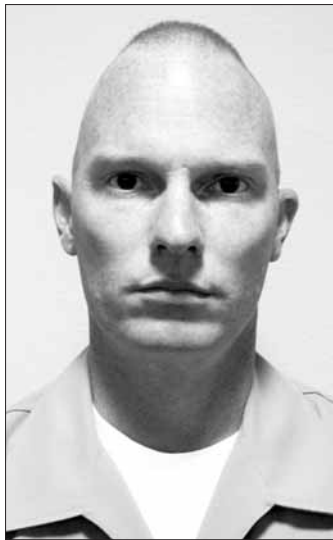
Each Marine interested must be interviewed and go through a two and a half week course at Headquarters Marine Corps, Quantico, Va.

Although it isn't technically a "B-billet," the Marines wanting to apply should fill out a screening checklist and then be interviewed by any Director of a Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, said Hester.

The staff members for the Sergeants Course take the sergeants of today and try to turn them into the sergeants they looked up to as junior Marines.

"I can still remember being a lance corporal and being in awe of the sergeants, and that was because they were the best around," Beaty said. "This isn't always the case now and the sergeants of today need to make this so again. That is the main thing I try to teach the sergeants I see that come through the course."

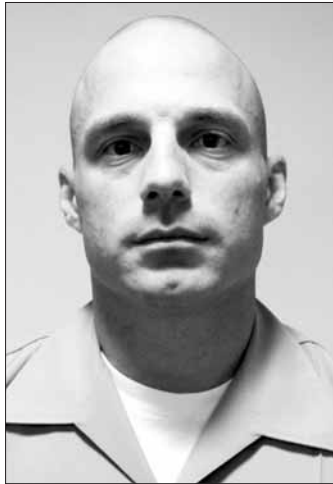
"At the end of the day I wonder who will take what I taught and use it," Beaty said. "Did I really make a difference and what could I have done better?"



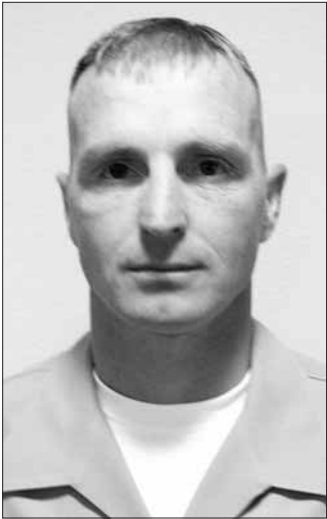
Name: Gunnery Sgt. James I. Petty
Hometown: Exeter, Calif.
MOS: 0369-Infantry Unit Leader
What makes a good leader?
"A good leader realizes that the greatest privilege he or she has is leading Marines. The leaders that are respected by their Marines are those which know their Marines professionally and personally, all while seeking to enhance their performance and professional standards. This includes maintaining of customs, courtesies and traditions. But, most of all, a good leader accomplishes the mission and tasks by employing their Marines effectively."



Name: Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Beaty
Hometown: Kingston, Tenn.
MOS: 6434-Advanced Aircraft Electrical Systems technician
What makes a good leader?
"A good leader is one who is not afraid to make the hard decision and portrays to his subordinates that he has been in their shoes and genuinely cares for them and their well being."



Name: Staff Sgt. Elmer J. Estes
Hometown: Harlan, Ky.
MOS: 2111- Small Arms Repairer/Technician
What makes a good leader?
"Confidence, enthusiasm, bearing and loyalty. Taking time to sit down and be a good mentor for all Marines. Being honest and showing that you care."



Name: Gunnery Sgt. Todd A. Lewis
Hometown: Eaton, Colo.
MOS: 0369-Infantry Unit Leader
What makes a good leader?
"To me a good leader is the Marine that puts him or herself out there for his Marines to see. A good leader must not only show their strengths, but also address their weakness, furthermore, explain to their Marines how they overcome their deficiencies through training and mentorship by either their superiors or peers."



Name: Staff Sgt. Orlando A. Saavedra
Hometown: Albuquerque, N.M.
MOS: 0629-Radio Chief
What makes a good leader?
"A good leader leads Marines from the front. A leader takes care of their Marines and knows everything about them, all the way down to their boot size. Good leaders stand out from the Pack."

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"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." Acts 2:38

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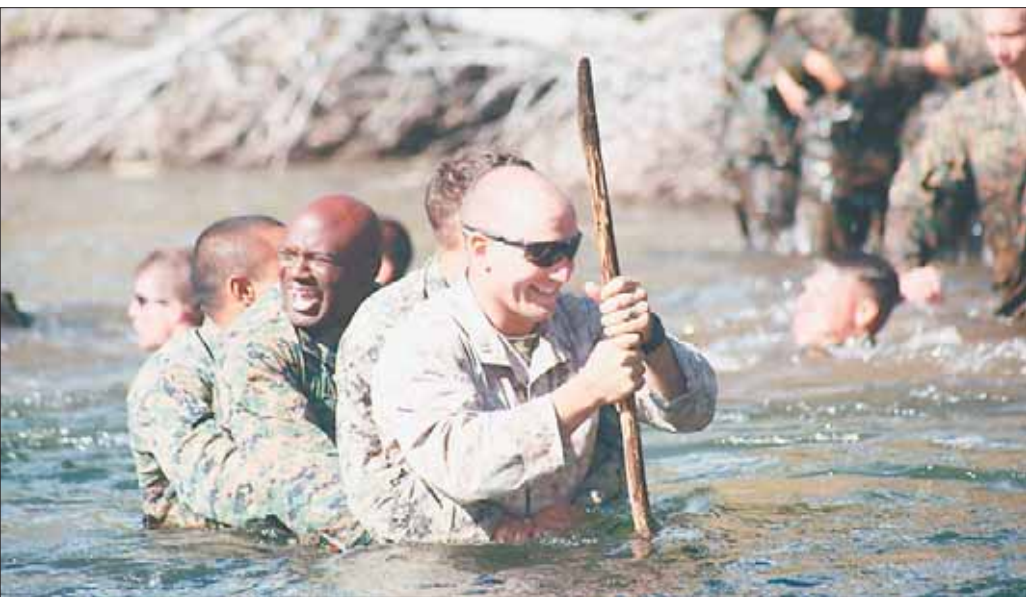
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CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Captain Thomas Irwin, officer in charge of Special Operations Training Group, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, forges a stream with three other Marines in Toiyabe National Forest Oct. 12.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

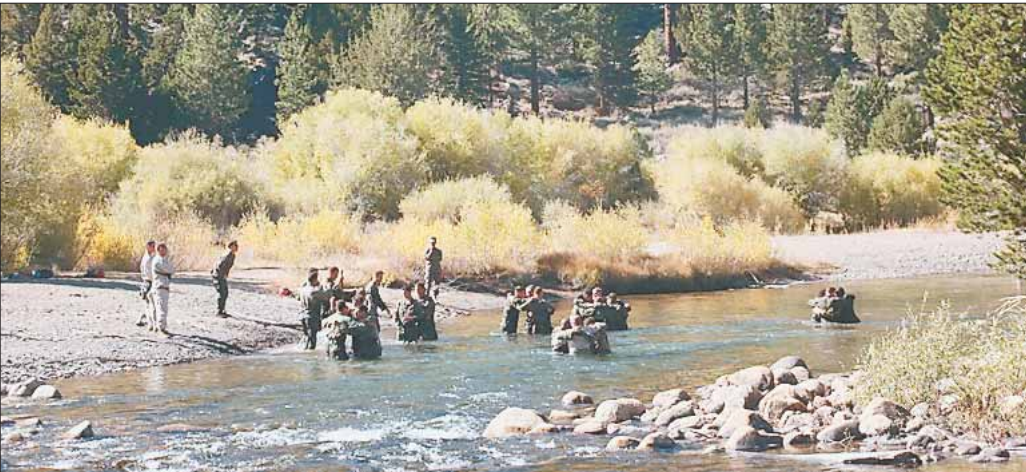
A Marine with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, crosses a one-rope-bridge over a stream in Toiyabe National Forest Oct. 12.

RIVER, from A1

Ganado, Ariz., “But with moisture clinging to their body and a breeze, that’s all it takes.”

After the training Capt. Thomas Irwin, reflected on the training and commented on the benefits that it provided for his Marines while deployed.

“From my experience in Afghanistan, wadis [dry riverbeds] are an important route of travel which often fill with water,” he added. “Knowing how to cross [rivers] allows us to maneuver around the battlespace more efficiently which allows us to be more effective.”



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Marines and sailors with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, forge a stream in a group to brace against the current and avoid being swept away in Toiyabe National Forest Oct. 12.

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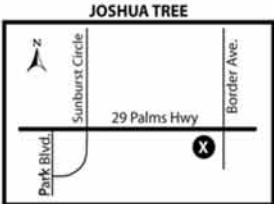
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Tankers take home top award during CG’s shooting comp



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center's Marksmanship Training Unit finished the 2010 Commanding General's Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition Oct. 8 with an awards ceremony where they honored winners who had been shooting since Sept. 20 at MTU's range house. The competition included both team and individual scores, with Cheese and Crackers, who represented 1st Tank Battalion this year, taking the gold in many of the respective categories.

Political do's and don'ts for service members

The Hatch Act was established in 1939 to regulate participation in partisan political activities by government employees. While active duty members of the Armed Forces do not fall under the Hatch Act specifically, military personnel are covered by Department of Defense directive 1344.10 which provides largely the same purpose. DoD policy encourages all military members to “carry out the obligations of citizenship.” The following guide is offered for participation in political activities during this voting season, but it is not an all-inclusive list. There are many variables with regard to the don'ts that need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. These are just a few of the requirements of the regulation:

- DON'T:**
- Participate in partisan political fundraising (rallies, conventions, management of campaigns, etc)
 - Serve in any official capacity with, or be listed as a sponsor of, any partisan political club
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LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Stephanie Flin, civilian employee spouse, gives blood during a Community Blood Bank blood drive on Brown Street in front of the Combat Center Fire Department Oct. 8. The blood drive is part of the Combat Center Challenge.

BLOOD, from A3

importance of donated blood. “It saved my grand-daughter’s life,” he said. “She had a liver transplant when she was eight. I have been giving blood ever since.” Most donate but never know the personal stories of the individuals they help save. However, they know their gift may have a profound impacet on at least one human being in their community. “You never know, the life you save could be your own,” said Stephanie Flin, a spouse of a civilian employee. “It is an easy community

service,” Arredondo said, a native of Rancho Mirage, Calif. “We are always in need.” The blood bank collect- ed 27 pints of blood from 34 donors. More blood drives will be conducted throughout the Combat Center Challenge, so the winner has not been determined. The last drive will be held at the West Gym Oct. 25. The drives are open to all active duty military and spouses. A spouse’s donated blood will count as points for their active duty spouse’s battalion score for the challenge. The goal for the entire blood drive challenge is to

match or exceed the 175 pints of blood collected in the 2008 Combat Center Challenge. “It is up to the individuals to come out and give blood.” Dougwillo said. For any questions on the next blood drive aboard the Combat Center, call 830-5386.

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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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OCTOBER 15, 2010 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 B1

Fire Department chili lunch cooks up crowd

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of Combat Center personnel wolfed down gallons of chili during the 13th annual Chili Lunch at the Combat Center's fire department Oct. 8.

"The event is held every year on Friday during fire prevention week which always falls on the week of the ninth of October," said Darlene Hull, the assistant fire chief for the Combat Center's fire department. "It is in recognition of the great Chicago Fire. [The fire] was an event that heightened awareness about fire prevention," she said. This year's theme is "Stop fires before they start." The key message of fire prevention week is that every home should have a functioning fire detector.

The cook-off began humbly in 1998 and has expanded every year, Hull said.

"We started it out using canned chili from Costco. It has evolved to an event where we do it all from scratch," Hull said. "We start out with 210 pounds of ground beef, 150 pounds of



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Sam Moore, assistant chief with the training division of the Combat Center's fire department, pours a cup of chili as a line of hungry patrons winds its way out of the room and down the hall during the 13th annual Chili Lunch at the fire house Oct 8.

See CHILI, B4

Fight Club wins tournament



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

[Top row left to right] Dominic Waters, coach Mark Geletko, Kyle Stewart, [bottom row] Ty Morrisett and coach James Clark, members from the Mixed Martial Arts Fight Club, won gold medals in the Grappler's Experience tournament in Fresno, Calif. Oct. 3. Jarret Edwards (not pictured) also accompanied them. Four fighters went to the tournament, and six gold medals were won. More than 300 people participated in the tournament. The team also took first place in the No-gi competition. The next challenge the team faces is the State Competition in November, which is a Pankration fight.

ASYMCA gives away 600 dresses



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Women quickly try to find their perfect ball gown during the Free Ball Gown Giveaway hosted by the Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association Saturday at the Joshua Heights Clubhouse. The ASYMCA collected 600 dresses which were donated and held an event to give them away to women in need of a dress. "We see an unfulfilled need on base and we try to fill it," said Dawn Clark, the business manager for ASYMCA, and a military spouse. "This was a financial need the families needed so we wanted to help."

Drama Killers dominate in season opener



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Glen Grubs, a pitcher for Shanigans, chucks the ball during a game between Shenanigans and Drama Killers at Felix Field Tuesday. Shenanigans lost to Drama Killers 19-1.

For more photos and Intramural Softball League standings, see page B3



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.
Mondays: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Monday-Friday: All Hands Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Karaoke, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center's Officers' Club
Mondays: Monday Night Football, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Ghost Town Deputies and El Monte Slim
Description: The country rockers perform
When: 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15
Goldenboy & Claremont Voodoo Society
Description: The retro-rock quintet returns
When: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-9596 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Twentynine Palms Library Pioneer Days Book Sale
Description: Offered by the Friends of the Library
When: 3-5:30 Friday, Oct. 15 for members (you can join at the door) and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16
Where: Twentynine Palms Branch Library
6078 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-9519.

"Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got The Will?)"
Description: Groves opens their season with the Del Shores' hilariously biting comedy
When: 8 p.m. on Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through Oct. 31
Where: Groves Cabin Theatre
8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
For more information call 365-4523 or visit <http://www.grovescabintheatre.org>.

74th Annual Pioneer Days
Description: A four day event with a parade, a carnival and more
When: The parade is at 10 a.m. on Saturday. See the website for the events schedule
Where: The Parade begins at Bucklin Park on the highway, the carnival is at Luckie Park
For more information visit http://www.29chamber.org/pioneer_days.83.0.html.

7th Annual Halloween Haunt
Description: The spookiest haunted house in the basin
When: 6 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Oct. 31 with one Thursday performance 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 29.
Where: Theatre 29
73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>

Lower Desert

Tim MCGraw
Description: The country singer/actor 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>.

Los Tigres Del Norte
Description: The San Jose, Spanish band performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday Oct. 22
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Shakira
Description: Shakira plays her original sensual rhythms
When: 8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 26
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

The Sunset Cinema will be closed for the month of October to replace fire sprinklers and to complete the lighting project.
We apologize for the inconvenience.
Please enjoy FREE DVD rentals from the Lifelong Learning Library or \$1 per night REDBOX rentals.

'Social Network,' 'Catfish' seize Facebook moment

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

"Social Network" and "Catfish"
Both are rated PG-13

It's hard to believe that something now as ubiquitous as Facebook wasn't even around a little more than five years ago. "The Social Network" looks at the site's contentious beginnings with a boy-wonder computer nerd at Harvard University back in 2004. The movie is based on a nonfiction book called "The Accidental Billionaires: The Founding of Facebook – A Tale of Sex, Money, Genius and Betrayal."

That pretty much sums it up. "The Social Network," which stars Jesse Eisenberg as Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, traces the tangled tale of the site's invention, awash in beer, drugs and groupies, eventually



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Social Network" looks at the site's contentious beginnings with a boy-wonder computer nerd at Harvard University back in 2004.

leading to a massive, multi-million-dollar knot of lawsuits to determine who had the idea first.

It's an all-around knock-

out of a movie, one that perfectly captures a thoroughly modern irony: How a website that turned the word "friend" into a verb was born under circumstances roiling with backstabbing, jealousy and greed.

The terrific cast also includes pop superstar Justin Timberlake as Sean Parker, the brash young Napster music-sharing entrepreneur who helped take Facebook global. Andrew Garfield, recently announced to play Spider-Man for the next big-screen movie, plays Zuckerberg's business partner, spurned and burned after a temporary moment of doubt leads him to cut off the money flow. Rooney Mara, who you'll see soon starring in the Hollywood adaptation of the popular novel "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo," shines in a small but hugely significant role as Zuckerberg's ex-girlfriend, whose exasperated break-up with Mark in the dynamite opening scene becomes the seed of rejection that sprouts into an empire of connectivity.

Another movie with a much smaller budget,

"Catfish," also explores the theme of online connectivity, but with a completely different hook. It's a documentary about a New York photographer who becomes infatuated with a girl he meets on Facebook, and his eventual cross-country trek to meet her in person.

What the photographer, Nev, finds on the other side of the computer screen, however, isn't what he was expecting.

"Catfish" – its title is explained in an anecdote late in the movie – is by turns funny, troubling, heartbreaking and uplifting. To reveal more would spoil its surprise.

There's a lot of buzz about whether it's a real documentary, a fake documentary, or some hybrid in between. See for yourself and decide. A "small" movie that's gradually making its way into the mainstream, it's a modern-day parable about how the Internet can both reveal and conceal.


If you're one of Facebook's 500 million users, you'll find both movies fascinating – and perhaps even more than a little bit profound.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Catfish" is about a New York photographer who becomes infatuated with a girl he meets on Facebook, and his eventual cross-country trek to meet her in person.

Cinema 6		Showtimes Effective 10/15/10 - 10/21/10
Jackass (R) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	My Soul To Take (R) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	
Secretariat (PG) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	Social Network (PG 13) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	
1 (760) 365-9633		
www.cinema6theatre.com		



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29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.
5:40	5:45	6:00
Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport	7:00

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
7:00	7:10	7:15
Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC	
7:50	8:30	

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway
10:00	10:25	10:30
4:00	4:25	4:30
29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.
10:40	10:45	11:00
*4:40	*4:45	*5:00
Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport	11:10
		11:45
		*5:45


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

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Dan Sullivan, the 3rd baseman with Drama Killers, hurls the ball to first base during a game against Shenanigans at Felix Field Tuesday. Drama Killers beat Shenanigans 19-1.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

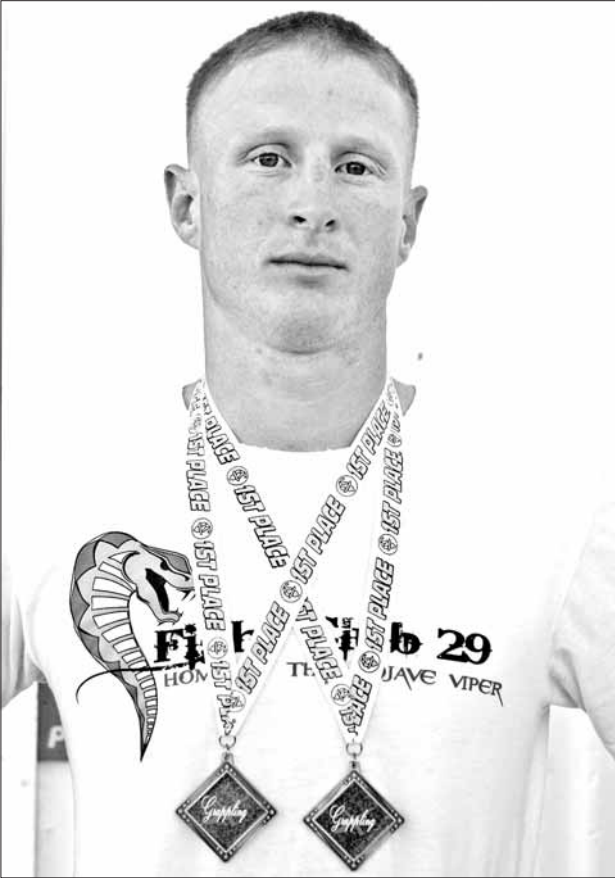
Randy Marine, a pinch hitter for Drama Killers, looks to send one deep during a game against Shenanigans at Felix Field Tuesday. Drama Killers annihilated Shenanigans 19-1.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Chris Petty, the pitcher for Drama Killers, smashes the ball to the outfield during a game against Shenanigans at Felix Field Tuesday. Drama Killers wiped out Shenanigans 19-1.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Kyle Stewart
Hometown: Mesa, Ariz.
Unit: Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment
Job title: Machine gunner, squad leader for the "Lima Machine Guns."
Recognition: Won first place in the Grapplers X mixed martial arts competition in the 175-pound division, and won first in the absolute championship.
Favorite part of the sport: "It's raw battle, competition in its purest form."
Advice to any aspiring athletes: "Keep working on it, seek out ways to get experience."

Commanding General's Intramural Softball League standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Drama Killers	1	0
Outkast	1	0
K's Buy	1	0
Heavy Hitters	1	0
Chicks & Sticks	1	0
Red Rockets	1	0
Diamond Steelers	0	1
Shenanigans	0	1
Misfits Red	0	1
Scared Hitless	0	1
Misfits White	0	1
Team Beiber	0	1



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Desiree Todd, a pitcher for Shenanigans, pitches against Drama Killers at Felix Field Tuesday. Drama Killers destroyed Shenanigans 19-1.

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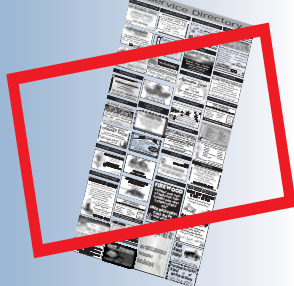


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