

OBSERVATION POST

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

NOVEMBER 26, 2010 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 53 ISSUE 47



CPL ANDREW S. AVITT

Corporal Isaac Hanson with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment loads a 7.62 round into his high-powered rifle at the Combat Center Rifle Range during the 51st Annual Twentynine Palms National Rifle Association Long Range Regional Tournament Nov. 17.

NRA Regionals puts fundamentals to test

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The crack of gunshots sounded throughout the Combat Center Rifle Range Nov. 17-21, as marksmen from across the country steadied their high-power rifles during the 51st Annual Twentynine Palms National

Rifle Association Long Range Regional tournament.

This competition, which featured many unique weapons, gave shooters a chance to truly test their marksmanship skills from the 1,000-yard line, said Cpl. Greg Meinhardt, an instructor with

See NRA, A5

King's Schools helps Marines fill holiday care packages

**LANCE CPL.
ANDREW D. THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Children from King's Schools of the Desert helped Marines from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment get into the Christmas spirit and fill care packages for Marines deployed to Afghanistan Nov. 17 at The Zone.

"We do community service projects at our school, and [during] 3rd grade, we work on how we can serve our soldiers," said Corinne Eagan, a 3rd grade teacher with King's Schools of the Desert.

One of the student's parents helped organize the event with Lora Cowan, the coordinator for the Single Marine Programs, Eagan said.



Joshua Welden [left] and Brennen Scott [right] grab hygiene products to fill a care package for Marines deployed to Afghanistan at the Zone, Nov. 17.

Eagan waited until the Monday before the trip to tell her students because "I

knew they would be so excited, and they have been bouncing off the walls wanting to see the tanks and real-life Marines."

"Awesome. Everybody was hyper and were like 'Yeah!'" said David Capistran, a student at King's Schools, referring to the class' reaction when they found out what they were going to do.

After touring The Zone, the students were lined up to join Marines from 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, to fill the care packages for deployed Marines.

"We explained to them what the packages were all for [and] about the Marines that go over there and defend

our country," Cowan said.

The Marines were eager to help their deployed brethren and were happy for the help.

"They are doing their thing, and I get to be here with my family, so I think we should send them a little piece of home," said Lance Cpl. Alex Modesitt, a Squad Automatic Weapon gunner for Co. E, 2nd Bn., 7th Marines.

"We are always excited when it comes to children," added First Sgt. Rogelio Haro, company first sergeant of Co. E, 2nd Bn., 7th Marines. "Whether they have

See CARE, A3



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Students from King's Schools of the Desert in Palm Springs fill care packages at The Zone for Marines deployed to Afghanistan Nov. 17.

New water survival qualification streamlines training, enhances individual Marine

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER P. BAINES

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – Effective now, the Marine Corps has implemented a new qualification system for combat water survival. The new system enhances safety, increases effectiveness and simplifies qualification requirements.

"The new Marine Corps Water Survival training Program provides a more streamlined and expeditionary-force-relevant program, while simultaneously reducing training requirements on the operating forces," said Capt. Andrew Snyder, program manager, Marine Combat Water Survival Program, Training and Education Command.

This new program breaks down the qualification levels to three instead of six - basic, intermediate and advanced - much like the rating system for the marksmanship program, he added. It allows commanders and unit leaders to know how comfortable their Marines are in water with the name associated.

In addition to the new qualification ratings and mis-

sion enhancement, new elements have been adopted to give Marines practical skills for the combat zone. One such element, known as the gear drop, evaluates the Marines' ability to shed all of their gear while submerged.

"One of the biggest changes is the gear shed," said Gunnery Sgt. Roy Partin, Marine Combat Water Survival instructor trainer, Marine Corps Combat Service Support School, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. "The battlefield is changing so we have to adapt our training to coincide with that. They've got a lot of gear on. If a vehicle turns over in the water, egress situations are going to come."

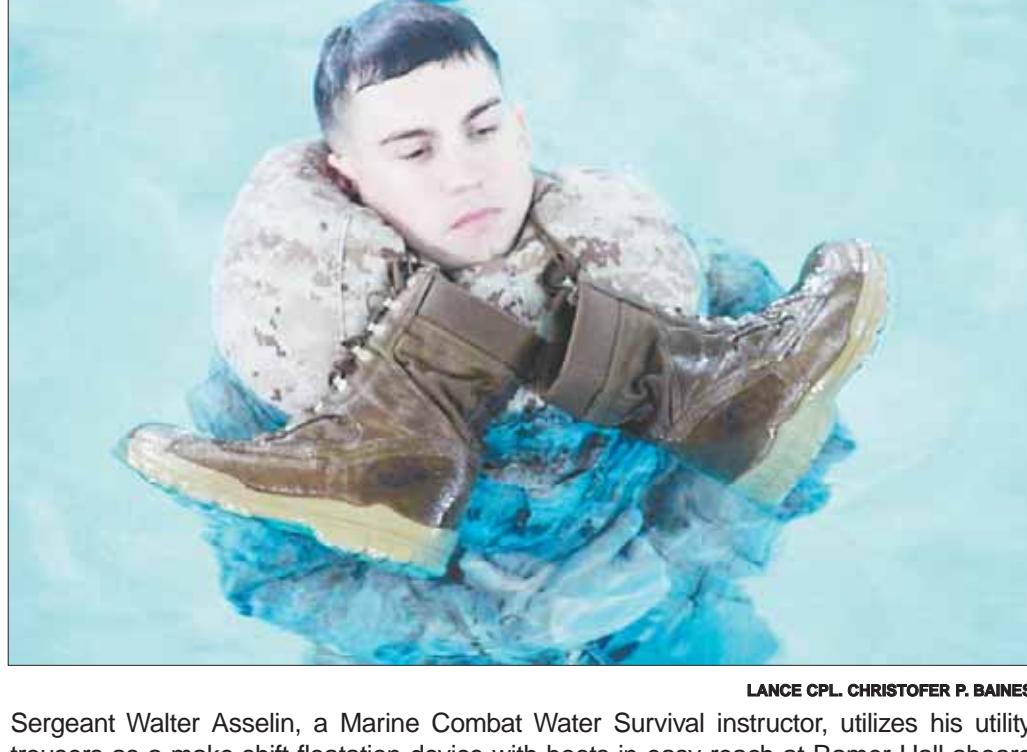
Another goal of the new MCWS program is to enhance the abilities of Marines that may not be as strong in the water as others, allowing those who usually complete the minimum score, CWS-4, to learn and be proficient with gear in the water, which isn't required with the old program.

"Instead of Marines coming in and just [achieving CWS-4] it allows them to do the gear side of things," said Cpl. Katherine Smith, an administrative clerk with 4th Marine Corps Recruiting

Reporting as ordered...



DIANE DURDEN
Young Marine recruit Tory Vetsch, 8, reports to the unit's commanding officer Daniel Montague, during the Mojave Viper Young Marine Detachment's recruit training graduation ceremony held at Twentynine Palms Elementary School Nov. 20. Graduates completed an eight-week training course, which included classes on close order drill, drug demand reduction and the importance of community service.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER P. BAINES

Sergeant Walter Asselin, a Marine Combat Water Survival instructor, utilizes his utility trousers as a make-shift floatation device with boots in easy reach at Ramer Hall aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Nov. 19. The new Marine Combat Water Survival program also focuses on using gear to help Marines in water-borne situations.



Jack of all trades ~ See A4



Champions! ~ See B1

Safe passage ~ See A3



True colors ~ See A4



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Colon cancer: A few minutes could save a lifetime

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Cringing at the thought of a colon cancer test, commonly called a colonoscopy?

Most people do. However, if everyone older than 50 got screened, more than half the deaths from this cancer could be avoided, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's not too bad, especially when colon cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the U.S.

Perhaps the relatively small discomfort of the colonoscopy may be worth avoiding the never-ending stomach aches, cramps and pain that come with colon cancer. The CDC recommends a colonoscopy only once every 10 years, and it could save your life.

Learn the basics behind colon cancer

The colon is the large intestine in your abdomen. Some facts from the CDC that you should know about colon cancer are:

- Colon cancer starts from growths, or polyps, in the colon or rectum. These polyps could turn into cancer over time.
- Colon cancer can begin with no symptoms; that's why screening is extra important.
- Both men and women can develop colon cancer.
- It's most common in people older than 50 years, and the risk increases with age.
- People are more prone to colon cancer if they have had inflammatory bowel disease or have close relative who developed the cancer.
- Remember, if everyone older than 50 got screened, more than half of the deaths from this cancer could be avoided.

Why screenings can save your life

According to the CDC, screening tests can find polyps before they become cancer. This allows doctors to remove the growths before they become dangerous. Additionally, colon cancer screening tests can catch the cancer early enough to successfully treat it.

TRICARE covers a variety of colon cancer testing options for beneficiaries, including colonoscopies once every 10 years beginning at age 50. For individuals at higher risk because of family history, screenings are available more frequently and sooner, depending on their situations.

For more healthy living tips and information about TRICARE benefits, follow TriWest on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/triwest> or on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/triwest>.

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: John Walton

Hometown: Chicago

Unit: Substance Abuse Counseling

Job title: Substance Abuse Counselor

Duties: Provide services to Marines, sailors, retirees and civilians. Evaluate and screen disorders and provide education on substance abuse to commands and their Marines.

What do you like most about your job? "The feeling I get when I help the Marine get back on track."

Significant achievements: Retired Marine, working on PhD in Psychology, obtained Certified Clinical Supervisor certificate and being a good husband and father.

Hobbies: School, bowling, reading, watching movies and going to restaurants.

Time at Combat Center: 10 months

OBSERVATION POST

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

Public Affairs Officer - Capt. Nick Mannweiler
Public Affairs Chief - Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

Press Chief/Editor - Sgt. Heather Golden
Layout, Design - Leslie Shaw

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Centerspeak

What is your favorite part of the holiday season?

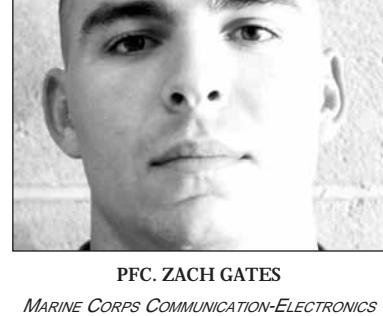
Opinions expressed in Centrespeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



STAFF SGT. TIFFANY STALLINGS

MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 374

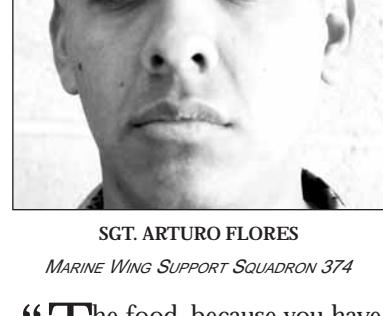
"It is another reason to spend time with the Marines, their families, and it is a joyous season."



PFC. ZACH GATES

MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

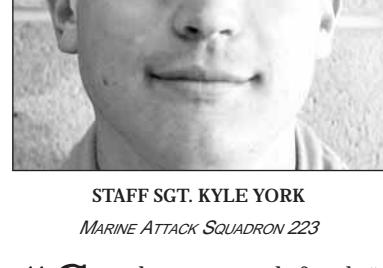
"It is time off you get to spend with family."



SGT. ARTURO FLORES

MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 374

"The food, because you have a little of everything."



STAFF SGT. KYLE YORK

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223

"Spending time with family."

Hot Topics

SINGLE MARINE SHOPPING NIGHT

The annual Single Marine Shopping Night will take place in the Main Exchange on Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. There will be free catering, featuring a carving station with a server turkey and ham for sandwiches, macaroni salad, bagged chips and brownies and cookies; free photos with Santa; free caricatures; a scavenger hunt for prizes; prize drawings; a video game contest with the game as the prize; and discounted prices on selected merchandise.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

The Commanding General's Intramural Basketball competition is on from Dec. 8 through March 31. Participate in games starting at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the East Gym. The entry deadline is Dec. 3. A coaches meeting will be held at 3 p.m., Dec. 6, at building 1341. Those who are eligible will be active duty personnel, DOD/NAF employees and dependents of active duty personnel. Teams will have 15 players with two coaches with unlimited roster. For more information call 830-4092.

TOYS FOR TOTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

The eighth annual Toys For Tots Golf Tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course is scheduled for Dec. 1. Participants should bring an unwrapped toy valued at \$10 or more. A donation of \$10 is also acceptable. \$50 per player includes green fees, cart rental and lunch. For more information, contact Ken Tyree at 830-6480; Dennis Foster at 830-4454; Wendy Chavez at 830-6100; or Connie Larson at 830-4596. Enter by Nov. 24.



Eagle Eyes

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

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

830-3937



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

SUDOKU #2004

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BABY TALK

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ACROSS

1. Disney dog
 6. Faux __
 9. Bel __ cheese
 14. Mongol invader
 15. Little League official
 16. How actors enter
 17. Crumble, as support
 18. Francis Drake title
 19. Not listed above
 20. "California Dreamin'" group member
 23. Hr. part
 24. Poseidon's realm
 25. Takes into custody
 29. Wine expert's sense
 35. "Told you so!"
 36. Decorative pitcher
 39. Ancient Greek physician
 40. Jean Arp spear headed it
 41. Gave a glowing review
 45. Accessory for Miles Davis
 46. __ it or lose it"
 47. Followed orders
 49. Chipmunk or squirrel, to a backwoodsman
 52. UN charter member
 55. Word before - Cator -cone
 56. "Iris" band
 64. Loud, as the surf
 65. Weisshorn or Matterhorn
 66. Bonehead
 67. __ Castle (Havana landmark)
 68. November honoree
 69. Feat of genetic engineering
 70. Comic actor Arnold
 71. Sci-fi visitors
 72. Religious principle
33. Knotted up
 34. Maze word
 37. Cassowary cousin
 38. Cadet's org.
 41. "L.A. Law" actress Susan
 42. Sidewalk-stand drink
 43. Left-hand page
 48. Batman and Robin, e.g.
 50. Accuse of wrong doing
 51. __-oo!
 53. Dry Italian wine
 54. Shoelace tip
 56. Pull a sulky, perhaps
 57. Bar Mitzva dance
 58. Pull down
 59. Privateer's potation
 60. __ out (withdraws)
 61. Liger's father, or tiglon's mother
 62. Situated by itself
 63. Leave in, after all
 64. Early hrs.

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BRC helps keep holiday travelers safe

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The holiday season is one of the most dangerous times of the year for service members. Training for those who ride motorcycles in particular is very important, which is why classes like the Basic Rider's Course teach riders aboard the Combat Center how to handle these challenges.

The course provides riders with a basic knowledge of how to handle a bike and also about the dangers of driving fatigued and intoxicated, which unfortunately many people do during the holiday season, said Frank Santiago, a Combat Center motorcycle safety instructor here and a native of La Puente, Calif.

"Roughly 50 percent of [the material in] our classes focus on the dangers of drinking and fatigued driving," Santiago said. "Those things always happen, but we have had trouble with them during long holidays."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Basic Riders Course students maneuver through obstacles during training Tuesday at the Combat Center's motorcycle training range. The students, along with all others on base, are thoroughly educated on the dangers and joys of driving or riding on long holiday weekends.

Santiago said while the material is covered in the classroom, they rely more on word of mouth and units to

properly educate their Marines about the dangers of impaired driving of any kind.

Santiago added the accidents that take Marines' lives can be avoided, through education and planning.

"About eight years ago, three Marines died in a Ford Ranger coming back from the Thanksgiving holiday," he said. "The driver was drunk and ended up killing all three of them."

"Seeing three caskets set up is tough, along with seeing and hearing their three mothers crying," he said. "The hardest part is that it was all an easy prevention. That's why we hammer these things so hard in safety briefs."

Lance Cpl. Mark Cason, a rider with some experience under his belt and an aspiring coach, testified to how training can help.

"The great value of [BRC and other safety training] is knowing your limits and training yourself to pay attention," said the Abilene, Texas, native. "Riders really benefit from the confidence that

BRC gives you."

Cason offered advice to new bikers, particularly those planning on getting out of the desert during the holidays.

"Ride smart, check the conditions before you leave and stop frequently," he said. "Too many Marines can't just take their time, it isn't worth the risk just pushing through to where you're going."

Lance Cpl. James Phillip, a new motorcycle rider, said he's certainly gained confidence because of the knowledge he has gained, but will take the advice of his senior riders this weekend.

"I'm certainly going to spend part of this time off we have riding," said the Washington, D.C., native. "Nowhere crazy though. It's pretty cold and I don't want to run the risk of anything happening any more than I have to."

For more safety information, the Alive at 25 course is expected to kick off following Thanksgiving.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Corporal Derick Stabeno, a rider in the Basic Riders Course here, shares a laugh with friends before their next lesson Tuesday at the installation's motorcycle training range.

CARE, from A1

their own children or they have nieces and nephews, they enjoy hanging out with little kids because they are the future of our world. So it is always fun to have them around, and they always have a bunch of questions."

With two students assigned to every Marine, the work flew by and impressed the student's teacher.

"They follow directions well and are just excited to have a real-life opportunity to serve, and it is so new that all I can say is wow," Eagan said.

With 30 boxes packed and ready to go, Haro, with the help of a few 3rd grade volunteers, showed some of the gear Marines wear when they are deployed.

The class then headed for the Provost Marshal's Office kennels for a military working dog demonstration.

"It's exciting when they come out for demos. We like to show off what we do all day," said Sgt. Christopher

Reinhardt, the PMO anti-terrorism force protection coordinator. "We made sure to cancel any training we had today, so all of our guys are on standby, and we can pull this off."

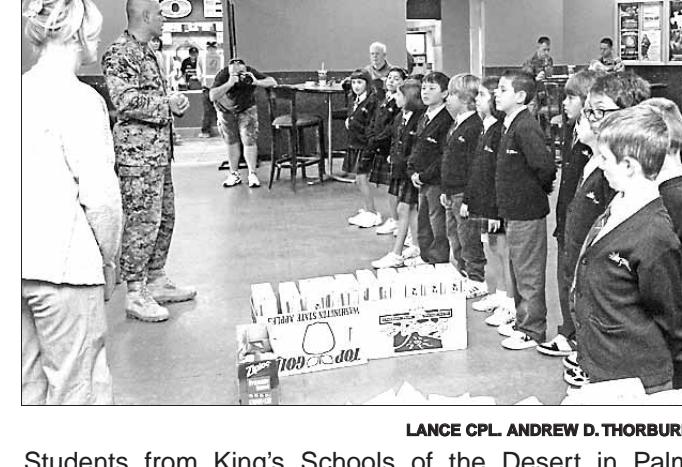
After the dogs showed off their capabilities, the students went around the back for another demonstration from the Special Reaction Team.

"We always enjoy showing

what we can do, and the kids really seemed to enjoy it," said Staff Sgt. Michael Thomas, the PMO SRT commander. "They had lots of good questions mainly about the gear we used," he said.

Once the demonstration and questions were over with, the students ate lunch at Phelps Hall before heading home.

"We have been praying for



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Students from King's Schools of the Desert in Palm Springs line up to be assigned a Marine from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7 Marine Regiment, to fill care packages for Marines deployed to Afghanistan at The Zone Nov. 17.

Educational Seminar

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SJA CORNER

Check your credit report: Now!

CAPTAIN DAVID SEGRAVES

Your credit report and credit score can have a huge impact on your life. Mortgage rates, auto loans, life insurance, even your security clearance are all affected by your credit report. Unfortunately, errors are all too common on credit reports. You must be the guardian of your good financial name. The first step is to check your credit report.

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC 1681), credit reporting agencies must provide you a free copy of your credit report annually. The three main agencies are Transunion, Equifax and Experian. You can check their individual websites or go to <http://www.annualcreditreport.com> (note: the other website that is often advertised with clever jingles on television is not free; it signs you up for a credit monitoring service with recurring charges). You can either access your report online or request your reports in the mail. Many consumer advocates recommend going through the mail route because you must give up certain rights in exchange for accessing the report online. Please read the agreement before clicking through for your credit report.

Once you have your credit reports, look for errors. The common ones are accounts belonging to your parents that are on your report, accounts that were paid off that are still listed as having a balance or completely unexplainable accounts that could be a sign of identity theft. When you find an error, you need to send a letter notifying the credit agency of the disputed account and enclose a copy of your credit report with the item flagged. As with any legal correspondence, send the package via certified mail with return receipt requested and keep a photocopy of the package.

Credit reporting agencies must reinvestigate the disputed account within a "reasonable time" which has been ruled to be 30 days. If 30 days pass from the date the agency received your request for reinvestigation, you should send another letter demanding the account be deleted or corrected. In this new letter, you should enclose a copy of the old package and a copy of the proof of delivery. Be sure to warn the agency that you will make a complaint to the Federal Trade Commission if the account is not corrected or deleted.

Once your credit report is accurate, you need to continue to monitor it. Some consumer advocates recommend alternating which agency you use to pull your credit report. Since there are three main credit reporting agencies, you could check a different report each four months. Also, if you have an upcoming deployment or TAD orders that will take you away from home for an extended period of time, you can put an "active duty alert" on your file which will force creditors to confirm your identity before issuing credit. You can put this alert on your file by contacting any of the three agencies listed above.

Proactively fixing and protecting your credit report is free and will pay dividends. Take the initiative and check your report now.

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MARINE CORPS CIVILIAN POLICE

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA



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Police Officer Salary: \$34,881 - \$56,174

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Federal Employees Retirement System

REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum of 1 year law enforcement or security experience or educational equivalent
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HOW TO APPLY:

For complete information on this opportunity, visit the program's website: www.usmccle.com

All U.S. Citizens may apply at: www.usajobs.gov

Veterans, Prior Service, Current Federal and Appointment Eligibles may apply at: <https://chart.donhr.navy.mil>

31st MEU helps Hong Kong nursery school

1ST LT. CALEB EAMES

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

HONG KONG, People's Republic of China – Eighteen Marines and Sailors, from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit spent the day helping children at the Ma Tau Chung Nursery School in Hong Kong Nov. 19.

Service members visited the school during a port visit by the USS Essex (LHD 2) while on deployment in the Asia-Pacific region.

"This is a great day for all the children here," said Snow Cheng, principal of the school. "We can all join together and enjoy our time with our U.S. Marine visitors."

The Marines and Sailors spent several hours at the nursery school, playing games and doing activities like finger-painting and creating artwork with the kindergarten-aged students.

"This is a good opportunity to show that we care about the community and to serve them," said Lance Cpl. Nathan Karasch, rifleman, Company C, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st MEU. "My favorite part was playing a game with all the kids screaming and run-

ning around. They are just like kids back at home - kids are kids."

After the fun activities were completed, the volunteers painted the front entrance and interior walls of the school. They also cleaned up around the school property.

Kitty Lau, a kindergarten teacher, helped the Marine volunteers. "It is good to have our visitors today; our kids are happy because the Marines are here. Thank you so much for helping us make our school beautiful."

The nursery school is operated by the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children, which cares for children by providing a stimulating environment in which to educate them and nurture their growth and development, according to their website.

Many of the children come from less privileged or families with acute social problems, said Cheung. The school also helps educate parents on age-appropriate parenting. "This volunteer work not only helps the children, it also helps develop the relationship between the citizens of Hong Kong and the visiting military members," said Cheng. "We welcome the

Marines to our school."

Cmdr. Raymond Bailey, 31st MEU chaplain, organized the event for the Marines. "Today was awesome, we had lots of fun. We get to do painting and help the school, and we are rewarded by spending time with the kids – it is the best of both worlds," said Bailey. "The Marines are all about advancing and enhancing their relationships."

Gunnery Sgt. Tobin Orr, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge, communications detachment, 31st MEU, lent his expertise as a former professional painter to the job, and commented on the meaningful nature of the volunteer work.

"This is absolutely important for the relationship between the service members and the people of Hong Kong," said Orr. "It is great to be around little kids who just enjoy you being around and don't have any preconceived notions. They appreciate us so much, and we are proud to be here."

Pictures taken of the students and the visiting Marines and Sailors will go up on the school bulletin boards so the school can remember their U.S. military friends.



CPL. MICHAEL A. BIANCO

People's Republic of China-Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit finger paint with students from Ma Tau Chung Nursery School during a community relations project, Nov. 19.

Jump Platoon - Kings of the road, jacks of all trades

SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM I

NAWA, Afghanistan – The Jump Platoon, though the members of it would never say so themselves, is special.

Unique in size, mission and structure, the platoon is entrusted with the responsibility of providing security for the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, commanding officer while circulating him throughout 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, battlespace in Helmand province roughly every eight days.

While this is an honorable task and certainly Jump Platoon's most visible function, the platoon continuously works behind the scenes to accomplish many other vital tasks for 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, as well.

The Jump Marines per-

form a variety of tasks, from providing supplementary security and running vehicle checkpoints, to masonry and gardening.

Not only have they logged more than 5,000 miles on the road in Helmand province while performing their primary duty, they've also assisted with reinforcing defensive positions and taken to odd tasks like planting a vegetable garden.

"It's kind of cliché to say, but no mission is too small or too big," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James P. Law, the Jump Platoon commander and battalion gunner for 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines. "We do whatever the battalion needs us to do."

Because the Jump Platoon is capped to a certain size, everyone pitches in, regardless of rank, and has to be

prepared to complete tasks outside of their traditional roles, Law said.

The mentality that each man might be called upon to perform any task is a driving

force in Jump, and a part of the reason Law is in the platoon. It isn't typical for a battalion gunner to be as much of a part of the battalion's security team as Law, but in a

small section tasked various responsibilities, necessity dictates otherwise.

"There's no other way I could get around the battlefield without being with

these guys," Law said. "Nawa is too large and we're too few in numbers to have a special group that takes me around. I'm another member of the team."

Being a part of that team affords Law the ability to perform more traditional battalion gunner duties. Here, he moves from position to position, teaching and mentoring Marines. Although he says it's rarely necessary, he'll dig into Marines for the small mistakes.

"I would feel I was not doing my job if I did not go around and get into people for little minor things that I think could save their lives," said Law, a native of Portland, Ore. "The Marine Corps picked me to be a battalion gunner; they didn't pick me to be a guy that sits in an office and critiques people. I'll go out there and teach a Marine how to change magazines quicker and, when necessary, I will explain to him why his gloves need to be on correctly and why his sleeves need to be rolled down, because if he goes home with



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

Lance Cpl. James Torres, a rifleman with Jump Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, mans a vehicle checkpoint in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 22. Jump Platoon's primary mission is to provide security for the battalion commander and transport him throughout the battalion's battlespace, but the platoon performs a variety of tasks from providing supplementary security and running vehicle checkpoints, to masonry and gardening.

**TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM**
by Lou Gerhardt



This Thanksgiving I am sharing with you a revealing incident from the life of the Duke of Wellington. The Duke, as you may recall, was the British military leader who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. The Duke was not an easy man to serve under. He was arrogant, demanding and not one to shower his subordinates with compliments.

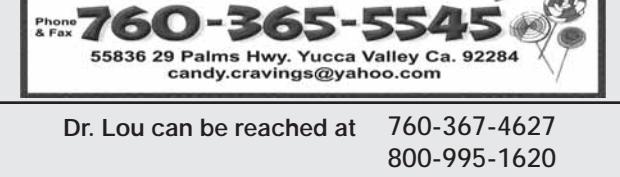
Yet even Wellington realized that his methods left something to be desired. In his old age someone asked him what, if anything, he would do differently if he had his life to live over again. Wellington thought a moment then replied, "I'd give more praise."

Think about it, dear friends, and do not hesitate to offer praise and gratitude at every opportunity. My mother often said that we are never wrong when we offer our thanks and our praise.

This Thanksgiving give more praise to the Creator for the beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies. Give more praise to your husband or your wife. Give more praise to your children. Give more praise to your friends. Give more praise to those who serve your needs in restaurants, grocery stores and in other public places. Give more praise!

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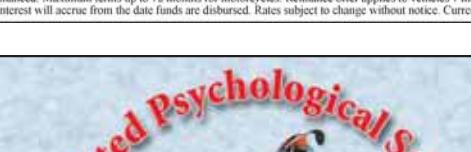
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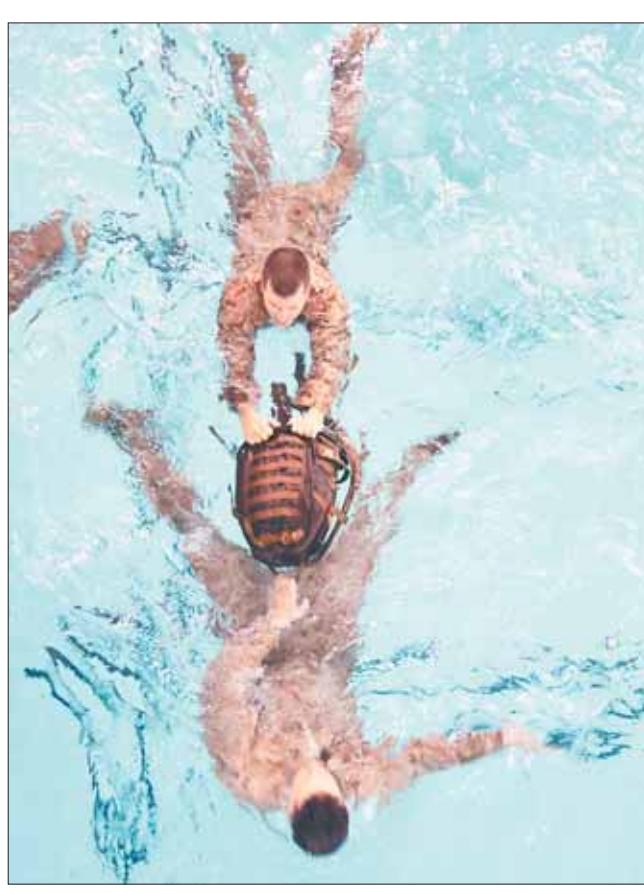
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LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER P. BAINES

Two Marines swim to safety during a drowning victim recovery exercise at Ramer Hall, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Nov. 19.

SWIM, from A1

District and Combat Water Survival instructor. "In the case you're in a combat zone, you know exactly how to use it and help somebody in water survival situation."

Unit instructors who are unable to receive the training are cleared to continue with the previous system until their training has been updated. The window currently in place for those instructors to get the required training is March 1, 2011.

For more information, read Marine Corps Order 1500.52D at: <http://www2.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN650-10.aspx>.

NRA, from A1

the Combat Center's Marksmanship Training Unit.

A long range distance difficult to find anywhere else and tough competition from all over the continental United States made the tournament attractive to both military and civilian parties.

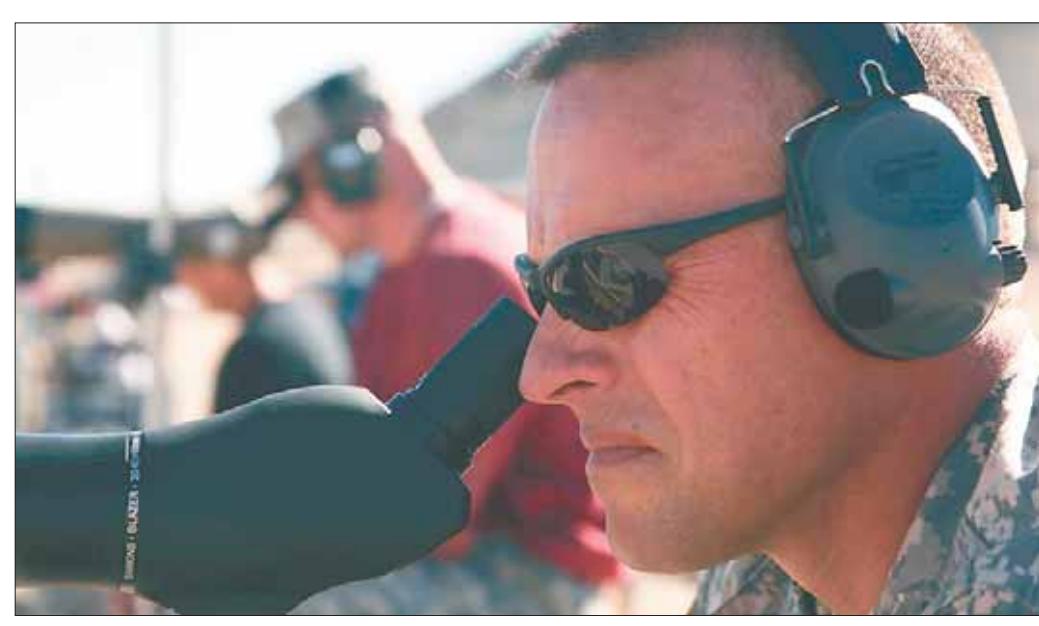
Although it might seem like service members would naturally outshoot their civilian competition any day of the week, that just simply wasn't the case, Meinhardt said. "Most of them are prior service and have been shooting for a very long time," he said.

Corporal Joey P. Rice, an Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer instructor with the Marksmanship Training Unit, admitted he had somewhat of an advantage with his background in marksmanship, and backed this up with the bragging rights of championing the overall base competition last year.

"This is a true test of marksmanship," said the Philadelphia native. "The fundamentals are all the same, and are even more important at such a great distance."

That mixed with the hard recoil from the 7.62-caliber weapon that he was using makes it harder to stabilize and keep shots on target, he added.

"For a first-time shooter, I'm not doing too bad," said



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
Army Staff Sgt. Nolan Cox, a drill instructor from Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., looks down range at a shooter's last shot to score and advise the shooter on adjustments and shot grouping at the Combat Center Rifle Range, during the 51st Annual Twentynine Palms NRA Long Range Regional tournament Nov. 17.

Cpl. Isaac Hanson, an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, after shooting 170 out of 200 from the 1,000-yard line, "One thousand yards is pretty far," he added, looking down range at the tiny speck in the distance.

"I'm glad for the consistency that I've had, but I just got to get it to move," he said.

His shot spotter was quick to console him. "Over a 1,000 yards for a first-time shooter - not too bad."

The competition served as good practice for up and coming deadeyes like Hanson,

reinforcing fundamentals and confidence. It also served as great venue to trade advice and tips from expert riflemen, an aspect the shooters said that they are already looking forward to next year.

Editor's note: Final match results were not available as of press time. Keep an eye on the Combat Center's Facebook page for scores at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>.

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Marines, sailors train Afghan soldiers to operate independently

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

CPL. DANIEL WOODALL

1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – For the past two months, 20 Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), have been mentoring approximately 330 soldiers with the Afghan National Army.

While deployed, the team has been tasked with training, advising and mentoring the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps – an ANA logistics battalion – on the functions of tactical logistics support while preparing them for unilateral operations, said Capt. Victor Kamantauskas, 27, commanding officer, Embedded Partnering Team, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

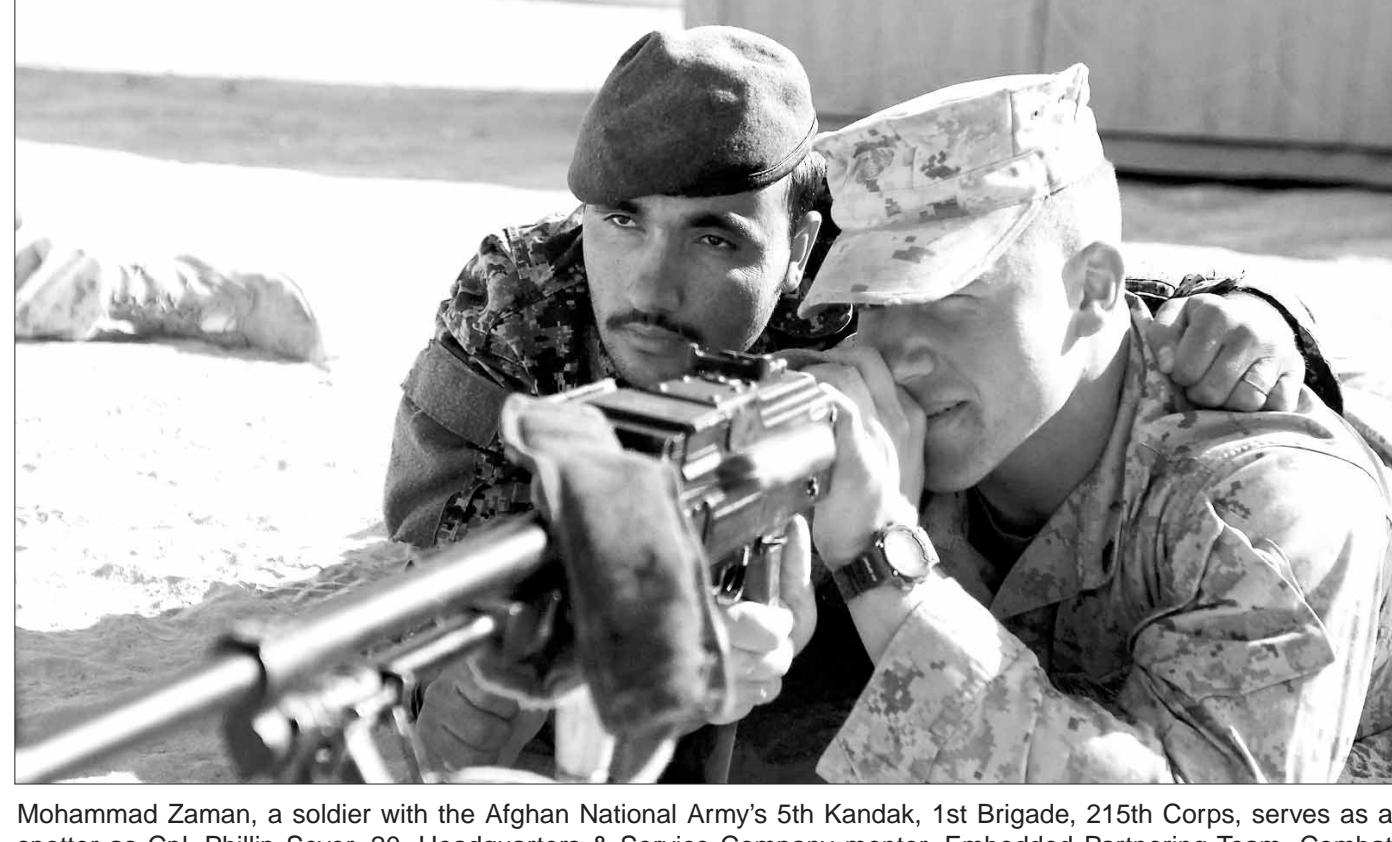
In recent speeches, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has expressed his desire to see coalition forces play a more limited role in current operations, allowing the Afghan National Security Forces to operate autonomously throughout the country. Embedded partnering teams have been training Afghan forces to do just that.

Combat Logistics Battalion 3 is the third unit to embed a Partnering Team since 5/1/215's formation in the summer of 2009.

"We have definitely seen a paradigm shift in the ANA where they are more willing to take on their own tasks," said Kamantauskas, a native of Orange, Texas. "They are building their confidence and ability to conduct independent operations day by day."

The soldiers of 5/1/215 are responsible for providing logistics support to three ANA infantry battalions throughout Afghanistan's Helmand province. To accomplish their mission of providing 5/1/215 with the skills to become a self-sufficient logistics battalion, CLB-3's EPT conducts daily mentoring sessions spanning a wide-range of logistics and military topics as well as frequently conducting partnered combat logistic patrols.

"We're taking a 'back-seat' approach right now, letting the ANA lead but eventually we'll wean off of that," said Capt. Redmond B. Gautier IV, 34, executive officer, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), a native of Miami. "That's not to say our replacing unit won't



Mohammad Zaman, a soldier with the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, serves as a spotter as Cpl. Phillip Sever, 20, Headquarters & Service Company mentor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), sights in during a weapons class on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 21. The 20 Marines and sailors with CLB-3's EPT are mentoring and training the soldiers of 5/1/215 – an ANA logistics battalion – so they can operate independently.

have a job; there's still work to be done. The ANA are definitely taking the lead – more than we expected – and that's a positive thing."

The Marines and sailors who compose CLB-3's EPT were hand-selected prior to their Afghanistan deployment because they are generally considered the most proficient individuals in their respective military occupational specialties.

For Cpl. Phillip Sever, 20, Headquarters & Service Company mentor, EPT, CLB-3, working with the ANA has been an enjoyable experience. Prior to joining the EPT and becoming a mentor, Sever served as a bulk-fuel specialist with CLB-3's Engineer Company.

"I joined the EPT because I wanted to make a difference, and I knew this would be the best way to do it – working with Afghans in their own country," the Effort, Pa., native, said. "Basically our mission here is to work with the ANA on a daily basis to make them self-reliant so one day we can leave this country. The language and cultural barriers

are the most difficult aspects of the job. Their customs are much different than ours, and having to work through interpreters slows the work down a little."

Fortunately, Sever is not alone in thinking the EPT makes a difference in Afghanistan. Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Amanullah Kohbandi, commanding officer of 5/1/215, believes the joint efforts of Marines and Afghans will help make a better country for his people.

"I am thankful the Marines are here to help," said Kohbandi, speaking through an interpreter. "[As a logistics battalion] we're the heart of the brigade. If the heart stops pumping, the blood stops flowing."

The Marines and sailors of CLB-3's EPT will continue training and mentoring 5/1/215 until the spring of 2011 when CLB-3 is scheduled to redeploy. For the soldiers of 5/1/215, their passion for success is apparent in Kohbandi's parting words: "As long as there is one drop of blood left in my veins ... I will continue to stand and defend my country."



Cpl. Michael Wimberley, 22, Headquarters & Service Company mentor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and an Afghan National Army soldier practice weapons-handling drills on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 20.



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Bhavananda Hickox, 24, medical mentor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), teaches a class to Afghan National Army medics on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 20.

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JUMP, from A4

horrific burns on his arms, what do I tell his mom? 'I was a weak leader and didn't have morale courage to correct him.'

When Jump travels, they roll rank heavy, typically moving with the battalion commander, the battalion sergeant major and the battalion gunner.

When that many command members come rolling into patrol bases and combat outposts, a general feeling of unease sometimes spreads through the Marines and sailors who live there. Although they have no reason to be on edge, as Law says, "Our corporals and sergeants are some of the best I've ever seen."

Still though, there is a general attitude about Jump.

"The Jump Platoon is kind of an outcast because we're different, not because we're anything special," said Cpl.

Parsons, a Jump Platoon vehicle commander. "We're the same riflemen that are in line companies. Only, because we're a small unit in a large battalion, and we're not 300 strong like the line companies, people look at us different. You see the same kind of attitude toward elite units, only we're not elite."

But in a way the platoon is elite. The majority of the men who make up Jump were selected by their company first sergeants to represent their respective company and the battalion as a whole. For Parsons, the opportunity to be a part of Jump was a shot at redemption.

Parsons, from Pensacola, Fla., had gotten himself into trouble, and after losing two pay grades, the Marine was facing administrative separation.

"Lt. Col. Holt and Sgt. Maj. [Andrew] Cece came on board as new commander and sergeant major and decided, graciously, to give

me an opportunity to redeem myself," Parsons said. "Since then, I've been reestablishing my identity in the battalion and trying to piece meal a career back together. Working as the colonel's personal security assistant is an honor. It's put me in the right place at the right time to try and salvage and rebuild what I've previously destroyed."

Parsons has worked hard at redeeming himself. He's already picked up one of the ranks he lost and is among the most active members of Jump Platoon.

Parsons, along with most members of the platoon, checked out and completed four to five Marine Corps Institute distance learning programs — all on non-infantry topics: refrigeration, welding, generator repair ...

"We did the MCIs on those topics because we had no understanding of them prior to this deployment, and there was a need for it,"

Parsons said. "Sitting there looking at a broke generator won't fix it."

Cpl. Calvin Vaulner, a Jump Platoon vehicle commander and currently the acting platoon sergeant, attributes Jump's mentality not just to necessity, but to upbringing.

"We keep busy with work all the time because for most of these guys it's just part of their background," Vaulner said.

So now, with just weeks left to go in the deployment, after thousands of miles have been driven and hundreds have been patrolled, the radio operator can do what the machine gunner can do, and the corpsman can do what the rifleman can do.

"Everyone took their own expertise and expanded it and blended it in with each other," Vaulner said. "Everybody ended up coming out on top, knowing a little bit of everything."

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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 non-commercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such

ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

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

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide

Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

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



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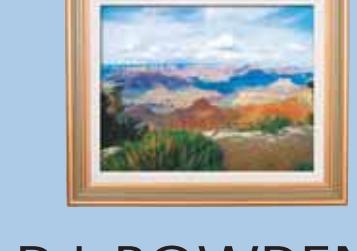
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B1

Rhinos take championship game

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

LANCE CPL.

ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Battle-hardened players from Headquarters Battalion Bulldogs and Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos clashed at Felix Field for the championship title of the Commanding General's Intramural Football League Monday night.

A pre-game coin toss showed favor to the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs kept the pressure on the Rhinos during the first quarter and scored the first touchdown with the extra point. The Rhinos also managed an early touchdown, but failed to gain the two-point conversion, leaving the score 7-6 at the start of the second quarter.

Skip Best, the athletics director for the Combat Center, said he was not surprised with the early lead, because the Bulldogs came into the game undefeated.

The Bulldogs kept their momentum with yet another touchdown and gained the extra point.

"It's just a momentum

shift for us," said Hernandez, number 32 for Bulldogs. "As long as the defense holds them, we should be alright."

The eight-point lead by the Bulldogs did not dent the spir-

it of the Rhinos with still more than half the game to go.

"We're playing the game, and that is all that matters," said Jonathan Brooks, middle linebacker for the Rhinos.

"This is football. Anything could happen."

At the time Brooks did not realize how prophetic his words were. The Rhinos scored soon after and gained

a two-point conversion, tying the teams at 14, and starting the second half on equal footing. The championship was still anybody's game.

During the third quarter,

both teams dug in their heels and prevented each other from gaining an inch or scoring any points.

Five minutes into the final quarter, the tide of the game turned to favor the Rhinos with a touchdown. They followed it with an interception and, after a few yellow flags, blew past the Bulldog defense and scored yet another touchdown with a two-point conversion, making the score 28-14.

"It's not going good," said Dean Edwards, a player with the Bulldogs. "We just got to keep to the basics. It's the basics that win games, and it's defense that wins championships."

The Bulldogs managed to gain another touchdown with five minutes left on the clock, but were denied the extra point by the Rhinos defense.

With less than one minute on the clock, the Bulldogs got their hands on the ball one last time and pushed it down the field up to the last second. With five seconds to go and on the fourth down, the Bulldogs went for a miracle play. But the Rhinos, determined to keep an iron grip on the championship, denied

See FOOTBALL, B3



Antonio Lowe, the wide receiver for Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos, blocks the Headquarters Battalion Bulldogs extra point after the final touchdown of the championship game of the Commanding Generals Intramural Football League at Felix Field, Monday.



Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos number 22 is pummeled by two Headquarters Battalion Bulldog defenders as fellow teammates attempt to pull them off during the championship game of the Commanding General's Intramural Football League at Felix Field Monday.



Headquarters Battalion Bulldogs number 45 leaps after Marcus Dixon, a running back for the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos, during the championship game of the Commanding Generals Intramural Football League at Felix Field Monday.

Turkey Shoot gets golfers ready for holidays

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The latest competition at the Desert Winds Golf Course was for the birds – literally.

Golfers gathered at the course to challenge each other in the annual Turkey Shoot tournament and to win a turkey Nov. 19.

"It's annual and in conjunction with Thanksgiving," said Tim Connolly, the assistant manager for the Desert Winds Golf Course. "The winning team receives a gift certificate for a turkey."

The Turkey Shoot gave Marines an excuse to take a little time off of work and get in the Thanksgiving spirit. "It creates a fun atmosphere and lets them enjoy the day," Connolly said.

"The Marines need to enjoy themselves before deployments," said Dan Boening, a controller at Bearmat.

The tournament also helped foster camaraderie.

"I came as a single player and met up with [other golfers], and we had a blast," Boening said. "It was awesome."

The tournament consisted of four-person teams playing a best ball game on an 18-hole course.

The winners of the tournament were Mike McGivern, Kelly Tripp, Lloyd Salverson and Clyde Winschell. All received a gift certificate for a highly-craved Thanksgiving turkey from the local Stater Bros. Market.

Desert Winds is scheduled to hold the annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament Dec. 1, in support of the Toys for Tots program. Golfers are encouraged to bring a new and unwrapped toy to the tournament. A \$10 monetary donation will also be accepted in lieu of a toy. Contact the Desert Winds Golf Course to sign up at 830-6132.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
Ruis Delorosa, a golfer on the Jantron team, chips the ball toward the green during the Turkey Shoot at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 19.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
Josh Keenan, a golfer on the Jantron team, puts the ball into the hole during the Turkey Shoot at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 19.



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 Gjetblaque Sundays: Football coverage, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays: Monday Night Football with free hot dogs or chili dogs, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays: Karaoke with DJ Gjetblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Mondays: Monday Night Football with free hot dogs or chili dogs, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays: Buffalo Wings. 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: Steak night, 5 p.m. Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up

The Paul Chesne Band

Description: The popular rock band performs

When: 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 26

The Shadow Mountain Band followed by The Country followed by Sean Wheeler & Zander Schloss

Description: Two members of Gram Rabbit, Jesika von Rabbit and Todd Rutherford, team up with Eric Jonnason and Naomi Husaruk for a new country sound When: 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 for the Shadow Mountain Band. Then 8 p.m. for The Country Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

A "Merry Christmas Caper"

Description: Mystery dinner theatre presented by Alice Whytock and friends

When: 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29

Where: The Blak Box Theatre
61231 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 366-3777 or visit <http://www.hidesertplayhouse.com>.

Lower Desert

Craig Ferguson

Description: The comedian performs standup

When: 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio

For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

760 Christmas Show

Description: Featuring Ice Cube, Ray J. Royalty & more

When: 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio

For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

The Temptations & the Four Tops

Description: The bands perform their Motown magic

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 1

Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa

49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon

For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Jay Leno

Description: The tonight show host performs stand-up

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 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>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Nov. 26

6 p.m. – The Town, Rated R

9 p.m. – Easy A, Rated PG-13

Midnight – My Sout To Take, Rated R

Saturday, Nov. 27

11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Percy Jackson: Lightning Thief, Rated PG

2 p.m. – Secretariat, Rated PG

6 p.m. – You Again, Rated PG

9 p.m. – Wall Street Money Never Sleeps, Rated PG-13

Midnight – Case 39, Rated R

Sunday, Nov. 28

2 p.m. – Legends of the Guardians, Rated PG

6 p.m. – Social Network, Rated PG-13

9 p.m. – Case 39, Rated R

Monday, Nov. 29

7 p.m. – My Soul to Take, Rated R

Tuesday, Nov. 30

7 p.m. – Wall Street Money Never Sleeps, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, Dec. 1

7 p.m. – The Town, Rated R

Thursday, Dec. 2

7 p.m. – You Again, Rated PG

Early a.m. TV the subject of 'Morning Glory'

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Morning Glory"

Rated PG-13

Hollywood veterans Harrison Ford and Diane Keaton may be the most recognizable faces in "Morning Glory." But this new romantic comedy built around a struggling network-television morning show really belongs to Rachel McAdams, who shoulders most of the comedy and all the romance.

McAdams plays Becky, the perky, young, anxious-to-prove-herself TV producer hired to turn around the fortunes of a fictitious New York wake-up program called "Daybreak," which trails a distant fourth in the ratings behind "Today," "Good Morning America" and – as another character tells her, "whatever they're calling the crap they're doing over at CBS."

She quickly discovers the hardest part of the job is handling her contentious co-hosts, prickly former beauty queen Colleen Peck, played by Keaton, and cranky veteran newsman Mike Pomeroy, played by Ford.

The "Daybreak" ratings aren't the only things in the dumpster. So is Becky's love life – until, that is, she meets a charming, hunky news reporter, Patrick Wilson, who offers her a passionate respite from her chaotic, high-pressure job.

McAdams is the "fresh face" here, but she isn't



COURTESY PHOTO

"Morning Glory" is a romantic comedy built around a struggling network television morning show. Diane Keaton plays Colleen Peck, a contentious former beauty queen, and Harrison Ford plays a cranky television veteran named Mike Pomeroy.

exactly a Hollywood newbie. Many viewers will remember her breakout role in "The Notebook" in 2004, or as Sherlock Holmes' girlfriend opposite Robert Downey Jr. in last year's box-office reincarnation of the Scotland Yard sleuth.

Watching McAdams juggle all the pieces provides much of the laughs, but both Keaton and Ford get some positively hilarious traction as Colleen and Mike clash on the air and compete for the spotlight. Jeff Goldblum is deliciously dry as the network exec who hires Becky, spelling out in no uncertain terms the early-morning mess that has become her responsibility.

An underlying theme in the movie is the long battle between news and entertainment on the TV airwaves. Mike, whose hard-hitting journalism career includes pulling Colin Powell out of a burning helicopter and wiping down Mother Teresa's fevered forehead during a cholera epidemic, thinks morning television is nothing but sugarcoated puffery. He can't even bring himself to say the word "fluffy."

Colleen, on the other hand, is all smile-over-substance, giving herself to whatever stunt the TV moment offers – kissing a frog, donning a fat suit to bump bellies with a sumo wrestler, bustin' a move with special guest rapper 50 Cent. In one heated hallway encounter, Mike equates "Daybreak" to the fattening, junk-food doughnut he's just

plucked off the food-service table. Becky picks up a prop of her own to counter him: a box of bran flakes, which she waves in his face to make her point that viewers don't want Mike's husky, high-fiber hard news for breakfast every morning.

It's fitting that Mike finally comes around to making something that's both fluffy and nutritious, a frittata, for a "Daybreak" cooking segment. One of the things he likes about it, he notes, is that you can use just about any ingredients you've got handy.

Throw in some of this, slice up a little of that, whisk it around, turn up the heat and voila, you've got a morning meal – or a morning TV show like "Daybreak," with a couple of comically combustive co-hosts, a bunch of colorful odds 'n' ends cohorts, and a spunky young executive producer just out of camera range trying to keep it all from bursting into flames.

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Unstoppable (PG13) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows (PG13) Everyday: 2:30, 6:00, 9:00

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15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs

Friday

Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	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 WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs

Saturday/Sunday

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

Combat Center Sports



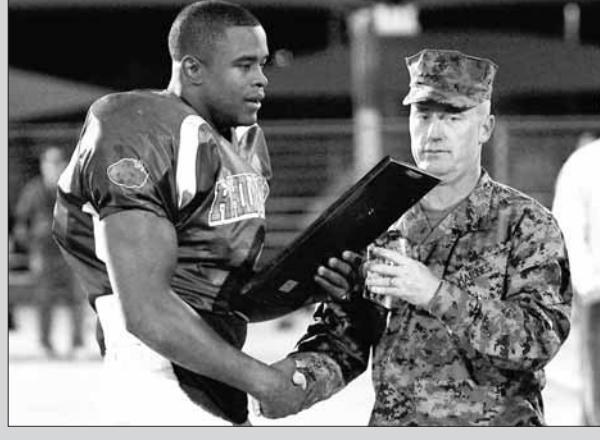
PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A player on the Heavy Hitters Commanding General's Intramural Co-ed Softball League team slides to second just before the ball made it to the hands of the second baseman for the Shenanigans team Tuesday at Felix Field. The Heavy Hitters won the game 17-4.



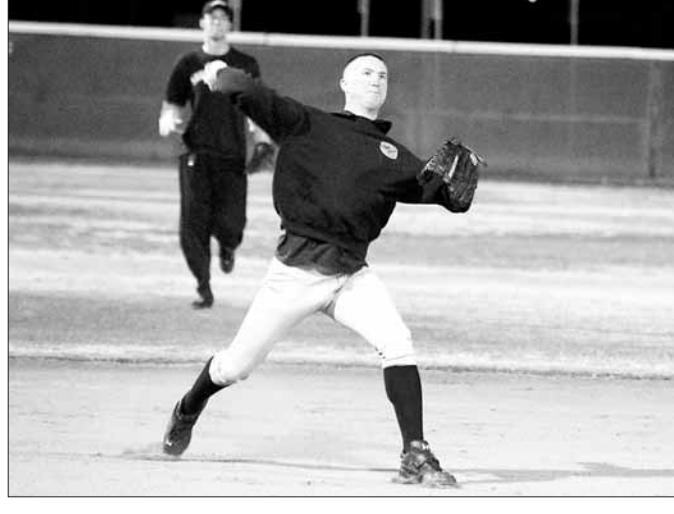
The Drama Killers pitcher throws the ball during a softball game against the Red Rockets Tuesday at Felix Field. The Drama Killers took the victory 14-3.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Brian Moultrie
Unit: Marine Wing Support Squadron 374
Recognition: MVP for the Commanding Generals Intramural Football League championship team
Favorite aspect of the sport: "Love the hit, the 'ugh' when I hit them, to play with my boys and win as a team."

Advice for aspiring players: "Work hard, even when you are tired. You feel like you are going to throw up and you have just one more yard to get, just dig deep and work hard."



A player on the Shenanigans team throws the ball to first during a softball game against the Heavy Hitters at Felix Field Tuesday.



A player on the Heavy Hitters team picks up a grounder during a game against the Shenanigans Tuesday at Felix Field.

FOOTBALL, from B1

their opponents a final touchdown, setting the scoreboard at 28-20, Rhinos.

"At the beginning of the game, we were behind. But we always came back from behind," said Jurnal Phillips, the Rhinos' assistant coach. "I had confidence in my guys, and they pulled through."

The Rhinos, with their place as the champions of the Combat Center set, are preparing to pit their skills against Camp Pendleton Dec. 11 for the Best of the West game.

"It is going to be a toughest that we have played yet," Phillips said. "I expect my guys to give 100 percent, and whenever they do, we win."

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