

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

DECEMBER 3, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 48

3/12 comes home to loving families

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Family and friends braved frigid Combat Center temperatures to welcome back the Marines and sailors of Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment Monday at Del Valle Field after a

seven-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Battery L, an artillery unit attached to 3rd Bn., 11th Marines, served as part of 1st Bn., 11th Marines, an artillery battalion out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Combat Center-based cannoners replaced Kilo, 3rd

Battalion, 10th Marines, in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan.

"I am very glad and fortunate that they are coming back safe and sound," said Lt. Col. Ed Abisellan, the commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 11th Marines. "They have been gone for seven months, and by all accounts they

have done a tremendous job."

The families were especially happy because the unit suffered no casualties, and some of the Marines met new additions to their families for the first time.

"He missed his son's birth by a

See HOME, A6

Equal opportunity field looking for Marines

LANCE CPL. DAMIEN GUTIERREZ
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The equal opportunity field is currently looking for more Marines to fill Equal Opportunity Advisors billets, according to Marine Administrative Message 503/10. Packages are due to Headquarters Marine Corps by Dec. 27.

Equal Opportunity Advisors instill fair, scrupulous and unbiased treatment of Marines, which remains part of the Marine Corps' leadership standard.

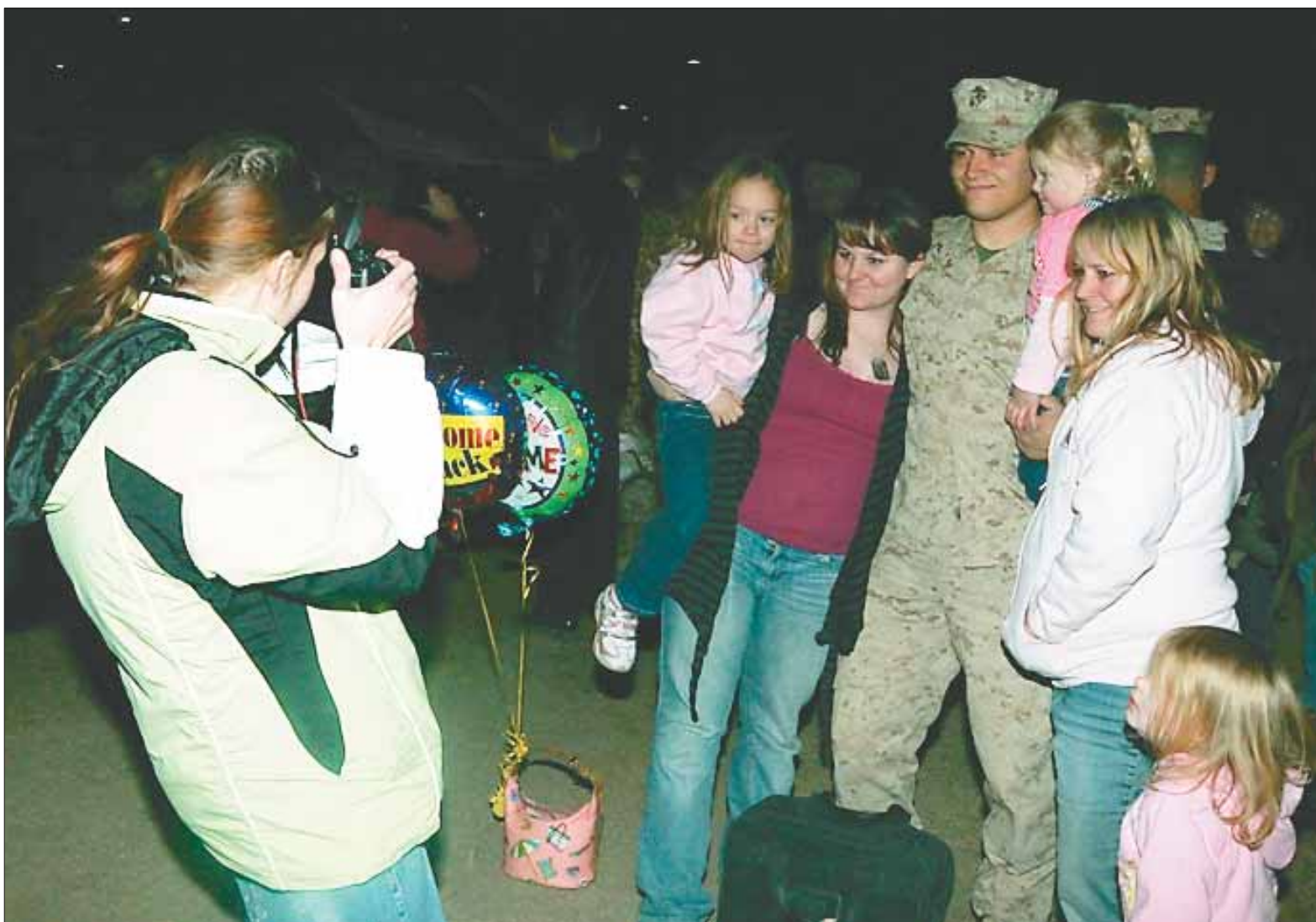
Advisors' duties include providing guidance and advice for command investigations into allegations of discrimination and training personnel to become Equal Opportunity representatives for units within a command.

Additionally, EOAs may provide an analysis of command-specific information that can enable the commander to monitor their unit's equality climate, identify harmful trends and develop methods to improve the work environment.

"A majority of the Marine Corps is unaware that Equal Opportunity Advisors even exist, which is an issue we aim to change," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Marco A. Justiniano, EOA to the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West and to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's commanding officer. "As of now there is a shortage of qualified EOA applicants and it is important that Marines step up and fill these slots."

Equal Opportunity Advisors are volunteer staff non-commissioned officers who are carefully screened and selected. The screening process starts with an endorsement from the commanding officer and local EOA. Once a Marine has been successfully screened, his or her package is forwarded to Headquarters Marine Corps, where a board selects Marines to attend a

See EQUAL, A5



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Friends and family members celebrate the return of their Marine from a 7-month deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan. The Marine is a member of Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, an artillery unit, stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Save-a-Life road block for DUIs

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A 16-year-old girl answers her cell phone to hear the voice of a long-time friend. "Can you come pick me up?"

said a voice on the other end. "I'm stupid drunk, don't want to drive home."

The girl hesitates, fully aware of how her parents would react if they found out about the underage drinking. "I can't. My parents

will kill me if they know about this," she said. "Sorry girl, wish I could."

"Fine, I guess I will try someone else. Later," her friend said. The girl went to sleep, not realizing the conversation she just had would turn into a lifelong regret.

She woke up the next morning to learn her friend was killed that night in a drunk driving accident.

This was just one of many incidents Christopher Rich, with the Save-a-Life Tour, remembered as he spoke to the Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center.

The worldwide Save-a-Life Tour visited Nov. 29 through today and held sessions in Sunset Cinema to bring a message against drunk driving and encourage the Marines and sailors on the installation to make wise choices that could save their lives.

The program is another way to fight drunk driving, said Bobby Piirainen, the Combat Center traffic and motorcycle safety manager.

The Marines and sailors were shown a 20-minute video of scenes from drunk driving accidents and how it affects families. The graphic nature of the material is to show people the reality of what drunk driving does, not

See DRIVING, A8



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Christopher Rich, with the Save-a-Life Tour, helps a Marine with a drunk driving simulator designed to let Marines experience what driving as a drunk driver is like during the Save-a-Life Tour rally Tuesday at Sunset Cinema.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West holds an all-hands call at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital during his visit to the Combat Center Nov. 23.

Top enlisted sailor visits MCAGCC

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West was aboard the Combat Center Nov. 24 to visit the sailors of Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital while touring commands along the West Coast, just before the holidays.

Although his visit came with a cautionary tone of safety for the liberty periods ahead, West also took time

to congratulate the sailors on a job well done.

During his talk with the troops, he also took time to answer questions on subjects ranging from promotions, retention to personal fitness assessments and Navy standards.

"We are going to maintain our course and speed, as you all know we are a force in readiness," he said. "I think standards are very important."

As a part of the mission

aboard the Combat Center sailors are expected to deploy and with Marines he said, "We have more sailors in the Middle East ashore than we do afloat."

"Fighting wars isn't all that the Navy does either, and perhaps one of its more important roles in the world is the humanitarian assistance the United States Navy is on call and ready to give at a moment's notice,"

See MCPON, A5



"Spree" de Corps ~ See A3



ANA saves Marine ~ See A4



Holiday thrift ~ See A8



Softball almost over ~ See B1



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

Connect with others on Facebook to beat the holiday blues

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Ever wonder why you sometimes feel down during the holiday season?

According to Mental Health America, formerly the National Mental Health Association, many factors can cause the holiday blues:

- Stress and/or fatigue
- Unrealistic expectations
- Financial constraints
- Inability to be with one's family or friends

That final point can be especially taxing for military families, as the military lifestyle is mobile and sometimes unpredictable.

Connect with others on the Facebook discussion

TriWest launched a discussion board on its company Facebook page asking visitors how they beat the holiday blues. The discussion gives service members and their families a place to connect and share how they get through their biggest stressors during the holidays.

Additionally, behavioral health specialists at TriWest will periodically monitor the discussion and may interject some general advice if the opportunity arises.

To join the Facebook discussion:

- Log into your personal Facebook account.
- "Like" TriWest's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/triwest
- Click the "discussions" tab toward the top of the page.
- Click the "holiday blues" discussion and post your thoughts!

Other Holiday Coping Methods

Mental Health America offers some good advice on how to deal with the holiday blues. For one, keep holiday expectations manageable and set realistic goals. Spread out activities and don't concentrate all holiday sentiment on just one day.

The organization also suggests doing something for someone else, such as volunteering your time. For those who are financially strapped, enjoy low cost or free activities, such as driving around and looking at Christmas lights or building snowmen. Most of all, save time for yourself and share the responsibility of entertaining with others. Don't do it all alone!

Centerspeak

What is your favorite winter sport and why?

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



SGT. ANDREW MAUK

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Snowboarding, because it is so much fun."



2ND LT. ERNEST ZACHER

COMPANY E, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Skiing, because you get to go so fast."



SGT. DANIEL BURNS

TACTICAL TRAINING AND EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP

"Ice skating, because it is way more dangerous than people think it is."



CPL. TIMOTHY SEARS

DETACHMENT 29, WOUNDED WARRIOR BATTALION

"Downhill ski racing, because I did it in high school."

Hot Topics

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

The Commanding General's Intramural Basketball competition is on from Dec. 8 through March 31. Games start at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the East Gym. The entry deadline is today. 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. For more information call 830-4092.

LIFELONG LEARNING CELEBRATION

The Lifelong Learning Library will be hosting a holiday celebration today from 6 to 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for holiday music, stories and refreshments. You can share your holiday wishes with some special North Pole guests. For more information, call 830-6875.

WINTER FESTIVAL

The all-hands MCCA Winter Festival is tomorrow at Felix Field from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be free photos with Santa, food, toys and crafts for the whole family. There will also be a chance to win a free Christmas tree. Shuttles will be available from the Home Store.

EFMP FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Exceptional Family Member Program is hosting a Financial Management Training class Dec. 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Village Center for EFMP families. Come learn how to prioritize expenses and have financial questions answered by the base Personal & Financial Management Program.

Marine Corps History

Dec. 4, 1950

Lieutenant Col. Raymond G. Davis led his battalion into Hagaru-Ri, Korea after four days of fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force. His battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, helped clear the way for the 5th and 7th Marines, and Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.



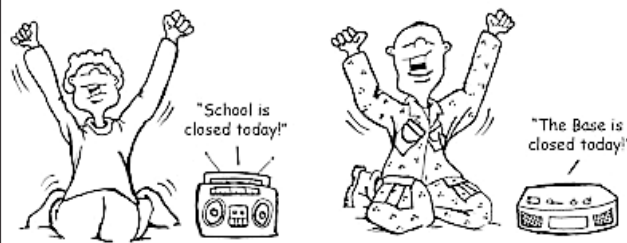
Eagle Eyes

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830-3937

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6						3	8	
	9		5		7		1	
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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

CAUGHT!

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

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62							63			64				65
66							67					68		
69							70					71		

ACROSS

1. In the thick of
5. Burn to a crisp
9. Essential part
13. Coin redesigned in 1945
14. Anise-flavored liqueur
15. Totaled
16. Part of Krupa's kit
18. Early anesthetic
19. Seaweed extract
20. Accesses to attics, sometimes
22. Spiral-shelled mollusk
24. Writer Hentoff
25. Numero __ (first-rate)
26. David __ -Gurion
27. Those on the bench
30. Name of several Egyptian kings
32. Scratch a dele
34. Doll's word
36. Juror, in theory
37. Cyberspace administrator
40. Beach plaything
42. Height: Prefix
43. Wing it, musically
47. Harvard student
49. Suffix with earth or duck
51. A Hope-Crosby destination
52. E-mail address suffix
53. "Dad," to Jethro Clampett
55. Homecoming returnees
57. Some attempts at baskets
61. K-12, educationally speaking
62. Kukla's puppet pal
63. Bottom-line number
66. Jesse Ventura was one of them
67. Feature of pine paneling
68. Carrier to Tel Aviv
69. Jamboree sight
70. Egyptian snakes
71. Be dependent

DOWN

1. Billboard messages
2. Mosque tower
3. Use the mind's eye
4. Rid of vermin, Pied Piper-style
5. Package letters
6. On the disabled list
7. France's Côté'd __
8. Word before nose or candle
9. Barbieri of jazz
10. Using one's own staff
11. More unyielding
12. Body stockings cover them
15. Bureaucratic tangle
17. Cupid, to the Greeks
21. Bogey beater
22. "My Boys" channel
23. Ready for drilling?
28. The Crimson Tide, for short
29. Like some talk or print
31. Griffin of game shows
33. Nincompoop
35. __ spumante
38. Slips by
39. Ike's singing partner, once
40. Conditionally-released con
41. Zambian's neighbor
44. Where a sleeve starts
45. Barely adequate
46. Luau fare
47. Kathie Lee, to Regis, once
48. Cry to Cratchit
50. Watkins __, NY
54. "Willy __ and the Chocolate Factory"
56. Tummy trouble
58. Bagpiper's garb
59. Change for a C-note
60. "Whoa!"
64. "__ about time!"
65. Bridge guru Culbertson

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Higgs
Hometown: Pueblo, Colo.
Unit: Combat Center Band
Job title: Small ensemble leader
Duties: Conducts small ensembles, records for the band, organizes performances.
What is your favorite part of your job?: "Teaching Marines music."
Significant achievements: Single handedly organizes the performances around the holiday season.
Hobbies: Recording, music
Years of service: Nine
Years aboard the Combat Center: Less than a year

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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Exchange hosts night for single Marines



Lance Cpl. Tyler Warren [left] and Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Ross, both with Combat Camera, get into the spirit by taking a picture with Santa Claus Wednesday during the Single Marine Shopping Night at the Marine Corps Exchange.



Sergeant Maj. James Walsh, Headquarters Battalion sergeant major and Master Gunnery Sgt. Douglas Webster, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Advisor Training Cell, I Marine Expeditionary Force, enjoy the festivities and the buffet during the Single Marines Shopping Night Wednesday at the Marine Corps Exchange.



A Marine serves up turkey and ham at a carving station during the Single Marines Shopping Night Wednesday at the Marine Corps Exchange. The event also had a caricature artist, a scavenger hunt, shoe clinics, Xbox 360 games and even pictures with Santa Claus.



Marines play an Xbox 360 game with Kinect during the Single Marines Shopping Night Wednesday at the Marine Corps Exchange. The Kinect is a controller-free system that enables users to interact with the Xbox 360 using gestures, spoken commands or presented objects and images.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL.
SARAH ANDERSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines buzzed about the Marine Corps Exchange Wednesday for the annual Single Marine Shopping Night.

"The single Marine is our primary customer," said Lance Lenon, a divisional sales manager for the MCX. "We do this event to give back to the single Marine, because they support us so much."

The event had a caricature artist, buffet line, a scavenger hunt, shoe clinics, Xbox 360 games, and even pictures with Santa Claus.

"I've come to this event the last three years," said Don White, posing as Santa Claus for the event. "I love doing this for the Marines. It puts a smile on their face."

The participants walked around the exchange and enjoyed being in the spotlight.

"It's free and a fun time," said Deron Perkins, a tank mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 7. "I came here just for this event. It's a great opportunity to socialize with Marines."

The event was not only held to support the Marines, but also to encourage them during a time when it can be most difficult to be away from family, said Tracy Stork, a replenishment clerk for the MCX.

"This and the Family Fun Festival [Dec. 15] are the biggest events of the year and the nearest and dearest to our hearts," she said. "It is important to look after our Marine family in this time of deployments. We want to let them know that we are here for [them]."

For more information on upcoming Single Marine Program events, call 830-4767, or for more information about upcoming events at the MCX, contact Marine Corps Community Services at 830-4767.

Did you know?

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member you can place a **FREE** ad in our Combat Center Trader Ads. See page A7 for details and limitations.

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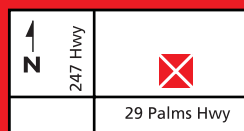
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Marine's life saved by Afghan soldiers

CPL. NED JOHNSON
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 2

FORWARD OPERATING BASE JACKSON, Afghanistan – When bullets begin to impact all around, a split-second decision can make the difference between life and death for a fellow comrade. For some, what happens next will make them heroes.

As the sun started to slowly rise over Sangin district and the nearby Helmand River, Oct. 23, several Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers began an episode that would change the lives of two Marines: Lance Cpls. Shane Preston and Jason Hallett, both infantrymen with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2.

Marines with Co. I received intelligence of a local compound that was filled with improvised explosive devices. The squad that was searching the compound found three IEDs before Hallett triggered one of the booby traps, said Master Sgt. Ismael Sagredo, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge with the embedded training team, 3rd Bn., 5th Marines.

Hallett was severely wounded, and Preston suffered a concussion and was bleeding from both ears.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Mitch Ingoglia, a corpsman with the Marines, instantly began treating Hallett, while Preston's comrades treated him.

"When I got there, they had just finished digging Hallett out of the rubble, and I immediately started working on him," said Ingoglia, a 26-year-old native of Dyer, Ind.

The next step required



COURTESY PHOTO

Lance Cpl. James Hallett was wounded Oct. 23, and is currently recovering at Bethesda Medical Center. Despite having three limbs amputated, Hallett's life was saved under intense fire from the enemy.

them to move the two Marines out of the area and to the pre-appointed casualty evacuation site. Hallett's life hung in the balance, and the Marines had two issues. The first was that their vehicles were two heavy to cross a newly-constructed bridge, and the second was an imminent attack on the evacuating Marines.

The Marines had already planned with their Afghan partners for how to cross the bridge, Sagredo said.

"This was not our original plan, more like 'Plan C', but it's what we had to do," said Sagredo, a 42-year-old native of Lansing, Mich. "We would use the ANAs pickups to transport the casualties across the bridge and then move them to our vehicles."

The Afghan soldiers rapidly

See **SAVED, A7**

The scores are in...

Match report for the 51st Anniversary Long Range and High Power Regional Matches, held Nov. 17 - 20

KEN MILLER
CONTRIBUTOR

This year's turnout featured 39 individual Long Range shooters, as well as six Match Rifle teams and four Service Rifle Long Range teams. There were also 54 individual High Power shooters and nine Service Rifle teams. In the "Leg" or Excellence In Competition match, there were 23 shooters vying for "Leg" points, as well as 14 Distinguished shooters helping to "raise the bar" in this shooting event.

November 17
Practice day at 1,000 yards. This enabled shooters to get their "zeros" at the long line.

November 18
The McVey (any rifle /any sights) Trophy Match winner was Gary Rasmussen with a 595-32x. High Palma rifle went to John Van Santford with a score of 587-26x, which also qualified him as the 1st High Master. High Service Rifle went to a newcomer D. Hager, with a

score of 544-5x. Winner of the Master Class was Army National Guard Master Sgt. George Morgan with a score of 364-7x. The combined Expert/Sharpshooter Class was won by John Hermsen with a 589-15x.

A great feature of these matches is the number of new shooters that continue to enter into the long range event. This year had another good group with 11 Unclassified shooters taking up the challenge. The winner in that class was D. Hager, shooting a service rifle to a 544-5x. He also followed this with a 362-5x to win the overall Service Rifle class.

The F-Class group had better turn out this year to shoot on that very challenging target, and the winner was Chris LeFort, who also went on to win the grand aggregate with a score of 941-21x.

November 19
The Stockinger (any rifle/iron sights) Match winner was Gary Rasmussen, driving his match rifle to a 399-15x.

High Palma shooter in this event was Army National Guard shooter Allen Spiker, who also ended up winning the overall Palma event with a score of 978-32x.

The Match Rifle/Palma winners was the team of Rasmussen, Watcher, Stilson and Van Santford, with a total score of 790-43x. Service rifle winner was the team of Hager, Murphy, Gendhar and Geib, with a score of 650-4x. The F-Class folks winning team of Wilkey, Drenth, Miller and Carter had a score of 690-3x.

November 20
Dennis Demille (of Creedmoor Armory fame) won the MSgt Jenks Trophy Match (the aggregate of all of the matches) and the High Power, NRA Gold Medal in the Match Rifle category, with a score of 774-29x.

Another fun entrant to the past two year's matches has been that of R. Lee Ermy. He shot in the Expert/Sharpshooter class. As in the Long Range, there

were also 12 new shooters in the Unclassified group. This group was won by P. Gendhar with a 734-17x.

The Grand-Grand aggregate of both the Long Range and the High Power matches, the Gorchinski Trophy Match, was won by Gary Rasmussen with a score of 1768-68x.

A unique feature of this regional was the inclusion of the Poof Trophy Match, designed by Retired Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 4 Doyle D. Gracey. This match is a 500-point aggregate consisting of the first 10 rounds for record of the 200 yard standing slow fire, 200 yard sitting rapid fire, 300 yard prone rapid fire and all 20 shots of the 600 yard slow fire prone matches. First place and winner of the gold Twentynine Palms medallion was Dennis Demille. Second place and the silver medallion went to Jim O'Connell and the third place bronze medallion went to Allen Spiker of the All-Guard Team.

SJA CORNER

Citizenship expedited for active duty service members

AMY TORYK
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

If you are active duty and not a U.S. citizen, you have earned the right to become naturalized. If you have permanent resident status, you can apply for naturalization/citizenship and all fees are waived, saving you \$675.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will expedite the process for service members' naturalization. The process to become a U.S. citizen was simplified in July 2002 when President George W. Bush signed the Expedited Naturalization Executive Order calling for the accelerated naturalization of non-

citizens serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. The order allows active duty personnel serving on or after Sept. 11, 2001, to immediately file for citizenship with all fees waived. Before the order, a military service member had to complete one year of honorable service before qualifying to file for citizenship. This process takes approximately three to five months from application submission to oath ceremony.

If you have an expired permanent resident card or it is about to expire, save yourself \$450 (\$365 application fee and \$85 fingerprinting fee) by filling out and submitting your N-400

Application for Naturalization instead of renewing your card. Your citizenship will probably come through about the same time your new card would reach you.

A military outreach is scheduled for February 2011. Officers from CIS will come to the installation to fingerprint and assist active duty service members, retirees and their family members with general information on all types of immigration issues by appointment only. The closest location for mandatory fingerprinting by CIS is in Riverside, Calif., approximately two hours away.

The Legal Assistance Office, building 1514, assists all active duty and their spouses with their citizenship. The spouse's fees are not waived. Pick up a citizenship packet, follow instructions, complete forms and schedule an appointment with the paralegal. If you are deploying, executing a permanent change of duty station or ending your term of active duty service soon, please do not procrastinate. Pick up your packet now.

Take advantage of this opportunity and call the Legal Assistance Office at 830-6111 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

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CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West challenges a hospital corpsman to a pushup contest during an all-hands call at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital during his visit to the Combat Center Nov. 23.

EQUAL, from A1

10-week EOA course at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base, Fl.

During the course, students study EO program management, multicultural history, diversity, discrimination, effective communication and training management. Upon completion of the course, students are then trained in Marine Corps service-specific classes, such as the Marine Corps Equal Opportunity Manual, interview techniques and investigations. They also learn course material that will allow them to train newly assigned EO representatives assigned to battalions and squadrons.

"The benefit of becoming an advisor is that it allows you to engage, develop and train Marines you may not otherwise have had the opportunity to come in contact with," Justiniano said.

Part of the training EOAs provide for EO representatives include various avenues that are available to Marines for resolving conflicts. Two main paths to conflict resolution are the Informal Resolution System and requesting mast.

The Informal Resolution

System consists of three options; directly approaching an offender, requesting assistance from another person to intervene on your behalf and requesting discrimination, harassment or inappropriate behavior training materials to present at the work place.

Requesting mast is a service member's right to directly talk to his or her commanding officer, normally in person, and it is required that the commander seriously consider the matter and personally respond to the member requesting mast.

"Equal Opportunity Advisors hope to assist commands in handling issues at the lowest level, utilizing the IRS," Justiniano said. "We also know that this will not

always be the desire of the complainant, and in those cases, the preferred method is to launch an official EO complaint through utilizing the request mast process."

Discrimination, harassment and inappropriate behavior are issues that detract from a unit's readiness and mission accomplishment capabilities. Because of this, the Marine Corps is determined to fight this dilemma just as they would any battle - with the experience and guidance of its senior leadership.

For more information about becoming an Equal Opportunity Advisor contact your local EOA. For Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Installations West, call 725-

5742; I Marine Expeditionary Force 725-9167, 1st Marine Division 725-0484 and 1st Marine Logistics Group 725-5117.

MCPON, from A1

he said. "Sometimes it is better to prevent wars through humanitarian assistance than to always fight them."

Changing focus from operational tempo to morale, West asked the sailors to raise their hands if they've ever had a bad day. The audience members raised their hands.

"When you're having a bad day, work through it, and realize it could be worse."

The former submariner's views, some focused and serious while others comedic and light, received a large amount of feedback from his blue and green-clad audience.

"You could really relate to what he was saying, and you could tell the troops really

related," said Petty Officer 1st Class Eduardo Pamatz, an X-ray technician with at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and native of King City, Calif.

"The sea story he had at the end about having a bad day really put it into perspective," he said. "I take X-rays every day; it's not a bad job. There will always be bad days no matter what you do, and like he said, you just have to remind yourself it could be worse, and there will always be better days ahead."

"It's always good hearing from the top," Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Arroyo, a corpsman with Regimental Combat Team 7. "I think what he said was highly motivated, highly dedicated and could never be duplicated."

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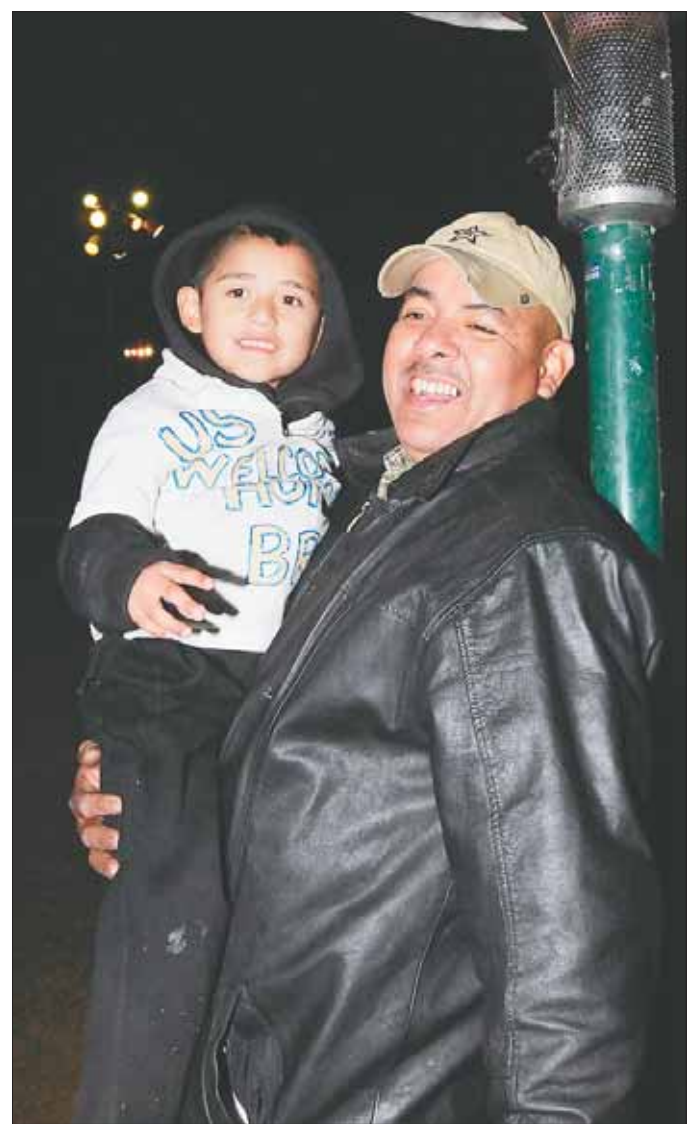
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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Family members swarm over Cpl. Benjamin Lopez, a radio operator, during a homecoming celebration at Del Valle Field aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 29. Lopez is returning from a 7-month deployment to Afghanistan as a member of Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, an artillery unit, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Family members try to stay warm as they wait for their Marine to come home after a 7-month deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, with Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

HOME, from A1

couple of weeks," said Arielis Rojas, wife of Cpl. Cesar Rojas. "He knew that it was probably going to happen, and we were both kind of disappointed. Every time he called from Afghanistan, he would only talk about seeing him."

Even from across the world, Rojas was able to read a story to his son.

"He sent him a video of him reading a book, and I show it to (his son) all the time," Arielis said.

Children old enough to remember their fathers before the deployment could not contain their excitement of the finally being able to see their

dads again.


"His older daughter [14-months-old] has been smiling all day and saying 'da-da' around the house," said Collette Austin, Sgt. Anthony Austin. "She should recognize him, because she has seen photos of him every day, talked to him and even has a daddy doll."

As the Marines, sailors, family and friends left the field, the service members were just as happy as the families to be back home.

"It feels unreal," said Lance Cpl. Micah Hatch. "It has been a long seven months, we did good things out there, and it is feels good to finally be in the real world."

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



Condoms and Pope Benedict XVI in the same sentence. Wow! I love it. I think the entire matter is of extreme significance.

Just four weeks ago I wrote the following words in this very newspaper: "Pope John XXIII is a hero of mine. He was one of the great Christian leaders of my lifetime. I was honored to be invited to a beautiful ecumenical mass he celebrated in Northern California some 20 years ago. I also have good thoughts about Pope John Paul II. And now we have Pope Benedict XVI. He may turn out to be the greatest of them all."

His actions in recent days speak more loudly than anything he said or did before becoming Pope. He has reached out to Muslims, Jews, and other non-Christians with genuine love and respect.

Now the Pope has opened the door for the use of condoms in specific situations for the prevention of the spread of disease. This is a sharp turn from his statements less than two years ago when he was in South Africa. God bless him. He is capable of changing his mind and I am certain that in the months to come we will see a greater loosening of restrictions on the use of condoms by the Roman Catholic Church.

Actually, of course, struggles like this have been going on in religious institutions all of my life. Think of the Mormon Church and the role of black people within the total church life, think of the Episcopal Church and the ordination of women and gays and the election of gay bishops.

The good news is that it is getting better.

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SAVED, from A4

rapidly responded and their trucks were ready to roll, but as the group carrying the wounded Marines began to move, a massive ambush began. The Marines and ANA came under fire from AK-47 and heavy machine-gun fire.

"The ANA saw the insurgents first and started firing," Sagredo said.

Marines quickly assessed the situation and countered the attack with a volley of rockets and heavy machine-gun fire at the insurgents. The Marines evacuating the casualties were under heavy fire in an open field without cover.

"I was helping Preston, who had some shrapnel and a concussion, when Sgt. Gilio and I got pinned down," said Sagredo, who was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in Iraq. "We had to cover about 200 meters through a field to get to the trucks."

Once on the trucks, the Marines loaded the casualties on the vehicles. Because of

the heavy fire, the decision was made to use the ANA vehicles to return to the base.

Hallett's life was still on the line as Marines on the forward operating base called for a helicopter to rush the young Marine to a hospital.

Sagredo, Ingoglia and Petty Officer Third Class Del Reyes rode in the back of the two Ford Rangers with the wounded Marines, under fire the entire trip.

Del Reyes and Ingoglia continued to provide care.

"I was with Hallett the whole trip, and I was focused on keeping Hallett's airway open," Ingoglia said.

Sagredo maintained communication with the base and fired at the enemy.

Within minutes, the vehicles were on base and the Marines safely on emergency helicopters. The medical evacuation was complete.

While there were many roles played in the day's events, the actions of a few changed history.

"Hallett is alive today, without a doubt, because of the actions taken by Master

Sgt. Sagredo, our 'docs' and the ANA," said 1st Sgt. Yomen English, first sergeant of India Company, 3rd Bn., 5th Marines.

"I would definitely use the word heroic," English said. "What they did under fire, well, they definitely weren't thinking about themselves."

The Afghan soldiers are heroes too, Sagredo said.

"Even with the language barrier, nothing was missed, and the Afghan soldiers performed phenomenally," Sagredo said. "We couldn't have done it without them."

The Marines suffered no other casualties that day, even though the firefight continued for several hours before nine rocket artillery rounds silenced the insurgents.

Hallett is recovering at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Preston is recovering at Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

When the smoke settled, both Hallett and Preston were alive because of the brave actions of men protecting their countries and working together to defeat the Taliban.

Combat Center Religious Services

Sunday
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services
 8:45 a.m. - Confessions+
 9 a.m. - Rosary
 9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass*
 9:30 a.m. - Children's Liturgy of the Word
 4 p.m. - Choir Practice
 4:15 p.m. - Confessions+
 4:30 p.m. - Rosary
 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
 9 a.m. - Calvary Fellowship (Contemporary Worship*)
 9 a.m. - Children's Church
 10:30 a.m. - Redemption (A blend of traditional and contemporary worship)
 10:45 a.m. - Children's

Church*)
Weekday Events
Immaculate Heart of Mary
 Monday - Friday, 11:45 a.m. - Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
 Monday - Friday, noon - Daily Prayer
Tuesday
Christ Chapel
 9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (September through May)
Immaculate Heart of Mary
 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women
Wednesday
Immaculate Heart of Mary
 First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class
 First Wednesday, 7 p.m. -

Knights of Columbus
Thursday
Immaculate Heart of Mary
 9 a.m. - Adult Class
 6 p.m. - Children RCIA
 6:30 p.m. - RCIA (September-April)
 7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation
Friday
Immaculate Heart of Mary
 First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament
Legend
 * Indicates child care is provided
 + Appointments can be made for confessions by calling 830-6456/6482



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- 2000 NISSAN XTERRA.** 4x4, auto, PDL, PW, roof rack, tow pkg., newer timing belt, 31" BFG's, 132K miles, \$5,000. Call 957-5630. 10/8/10
- 1952 PLYMOUTH.** 4 door, restored. 1966 Ford Galaxie, needs work. Call Steve for more information. 272-9948. 9/24/10
- 1957 NASH EXECUTIVE MODEL PROJECT CAR.** Registered, complete engine, \$500 OBO. 5 rims, size 15.6 lug, off-road heavy duty. \$180 OBO. Call Jose 361-3509. 9/24/10
- 2008 TOYOTA YARIS.** \$10,000 OBO. Approx. 38K miles. Good condition. Consistent maintenance. 622-4562. 9/10/10
- MISC.**
- BICYCLE, BABY ITEMS:** Schwinn Stingray bike, solid wood baby crib, baby walker, stroller, wooden horse and more. All in excellent condition. 217-3310. 11/26/10
- MISC. ITEMS.** Ball gowns, navy blue size 9-10, navy blue size 6 \$50 each. Golf set \$20. Baby swing, baby stroller \$40 each. Call 361-3509. 10/29/10
- BALL GOWNS.** Worn once. Long black size 6-8, \$50. 2 long gowns size x-small \$50. 1 short black, size x-small \$40. 367-6030. 10/1/10
- RARE STERLING SILVER MARINE CORPS COINS.** 24 two ounce. Over 35-years-old. Steal at \$750. Great gift. Call Bill 367-6030. 10/1/10
- 1930 DAISY 118 TARGETEER BB PISTOL.** Very collectible, cheap at \$100. Firm Call Bill 367-6030. 10/1/10
- OAK BOOKCASE BUNK BED.** With storage drawers. \$150. E-mail bookowl50@yahoo.com for pictures. 369-4239. 9/24/10
- WANTED, GERMAN LUGAR.** Semiautomatic AR 14-15. Buy or trade (good things) 367-6030. 9/10/10

The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.

Trader Ad forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417. Ads may

also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and

complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such

ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

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

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

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

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

More Marine tanks arrive in Afghanistan

STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER
1st MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marine Corps M1A1 Abrams tanks continue to roll into Afghanistan and are being staged here for inspection before being assigned elsewhere in Helmand province as another tool in waging counterinsurgency operations.

Five tanks have arrived so far, and another dozen or so are expected to arrive in the coming weeks, according to 2nd Lt. Matthew Glisson, officer in charge of the Initial Issue Provisioning lot aboard

Camp Leatherneck, where the tanks will undergo inspections and any required maintenance.

“In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Marine Corps is looking to boost the combat power of the infantrymen on the ground and what better way to do that than with tanks,” said Glisson, 26, from Oxford, Pa., a member of Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Marines from Maintenance Company, CLR-15 (FWD), 1st MLG (FWD), will assist civilian contractors in inspections and conducting maintenance on the tanks as operations continue, Glisson added.

In addition to increased maneuverability and precision firepower, the tanks will provide superior optics, allowing coalition forces to spot improvised explosive devices being employed by the Taliban, their primary weapon of choice, according to Maj. Gen. Richard Mills, commanding general of Regional Command (Southwest).

“The superior optics provided by the tanks give us one more tool to take away the night from the enemy...he can't use the darkness to lay his IEDs that cause so many casualties among our forces and the civilian population,” Mills said.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER

Five Marine M1A1 tanks have arrived to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, and another dozen or so are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. The tanks will undergo maintenance before being assigned missions elsewhere in Helmand province as another tool in waging counterinsurgency operations. In addition to increased maneuverability and precision firepower, tanks will provide superior optics and night vision capability, allowing coalition forces to spot improvised explosive devices being employed by the Taliban.



CPL. M. C. NERL

Patrons look around the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA thrift store Tuesday. The shop offers service members and their families goods at discounted prices, and has sales every Thursday.

ASYMCA helps Marines, families

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For those aboard the Combat Center who need a few ideas for saving money during the holiday season, the Armed Services YMCA is here to help.

The non-profit organization has programs geared for each member of the family, said Anita Neu-Fultz, the executive director of the Combat Center's ASYMCA.

Their programs include Free Bread Fridays, with free bread and pastries donated by a local bakery; the ASYMCA Thrift Store; community outreach programs; Family Assistance Program; after school programs for 2nd – 6th graders; a parent/child interactive program for children ages six months to five years; teen leadership volun-

teer programs; and Healthy Kids Day.

The ASYMCA's thrift store is one of their most valuable assets. Active duty service members can take advantage of free donated uniform items by showing their military identification card, and special needs families receive many items totally free of charge.

In addition to providing a valuable service for primarily sergeants and below, it links the Combat Center with the local community as well, she said.

“From the summertime until about January, we have a huge surge in donations to [the thrift store],” said Theresa Puga, the store's manager and a native of Rosharon, Texas. “We have sales every Thursday, as well as a big one coming up

December 4 [tomorrow].”

Puga said in addition to the sales, the ASYMCA and thrift shop have put their staff and volunteers to good use, providing some military families and single Marines with fully-furnished meals for Thanksgiving, in addition to the free uniforms and great prices provided the rest of the year.

The shop also helps further the cause of good relations with the outlying communities. The Yucca Valley, Calif., Elks Lodge is one of many groups who donate and interact with the ASYMCA.

“We do it [donate to the ASYMCA] because we like to see it go to the right people,” said James Lloyd Todd, a member of the Elk's Lodge, who is from Joshua Tree, Calif. “It's good seeing our donations go to the right people, and we all appreciate what [the military] does.”

Members of the Combat Center community also showed their appreciation for what the shop and ASYMCA do.

“I love coming here because everyone is very friendly, and there's a lot of baby stuff,” said Candieda Chapman, a military spouse with a 7-month-old daughter. “The prices are great too, plus with a baby growing so fast, it's just nice to be able to get all this in one place.”

For more information or to volunteer at the ASYMCA, call 830-7481, or visit their website at <http://www.twentyninepalmsasymca.org>.



CPL. M. C. NERL

Free uniforms are one of many perks available to active duty service members at the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA's thrift shop. The thrift shop offers service members and their families goods at great prices, and has sales every Thursday.

Holiday
family fun
FESTIVAL
Hosted by MCX

Wednesday,
December 15th
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Join us at the Main Exchange on Wednesday, December 15th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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- ✱ Face Painting
- ✱ Light Refreshments

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LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Christopher Rich, with the Save-a-Life Tour, speaks to Marines about the dangers of drunk driving during the Save-a-Life Tour rally at Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

DRIVING, from A1

to disgust them, Rich said. “We are here to further educate people and let them know what could happen.”

Rich started his time with the tour nearly 11 years ago because of a drunk driving incident that changed his life.

“I am here because my sister was in a drunk driving accident, and [I] want to save the lives of others,” Rich said, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich. “[This program] is definitely making a difference. I have seen it decrease in some places I've been.”

After the short film, Rich spoke to the Marines and shared some of the consequences of drunk driving

Taking care of each other was one point he stressed above the others.

The seminar educated Marines and sailors on the real danger of drunk driving, and also the consequences if ever caught. A Marine who receives a driving under the influence (DUI) ticket will be handed over to the Marine Provost Marshal's Office and may receive non-judicial punishment, loss of driving privileges, restriction, loss of rank and pay.

“It hit me really hard,” said Pvt. Christopher Graham, a student at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. “I know a lot of people who do stupid stuff like drinking and driving. I want to go back and tell them the

good things I learned here.”

The military has a responsibility to be an example for the world outside of the installation, Rich said. “Be there for your fellow Marine. If they need a ride, be there for them. Look out for each other.”

The military has tools, such as Arrive Alive cards, to help fight the battle against driving while intoxicated.

“Think before you drink,” Piirainen said. “There are too many tools and avenues to use that they don't have to get behind the wheel.”

For more information on the Arrive Alive card or other helpful tools to fight drunk driving, contact the Installation's Safety Office at 830-8463.

SPORTS AND LEISURE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

DECEMBER 3, 2010

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B1

Toys for Tots tees off with tournament

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. M. C. NERL**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course hosted their annual Toys for Tots golf tournament Wednesday aboard the installation.

The tournament contributes monetarily and with toys to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots foundation, which annually collects toys and other goods for needy families via the Marine Corps Reserves, said Todd Wade, the manager and Professional Golf Association pro at Desert Winds.

"Each participant brought a \$10 toy, or made a \$10 donation in cash to the Toys for Tots program," said Wade, from San Diego. "The tournament is a four-person scramble, and we've also had a putting contest. On several holes, we're having a closest to the pin and longest drive contests."

Wade added there was also a raffle for all 74 participants who brought a donation. Prizes included cash and free rounds of golf.

Wade added he and others were proud to be contributing yet again to a good cause.

"Toys for Tots is a really good program," Wade said. "We're always looking forward to the next [Toys for Tots] tournament. It's our biggest one of the year."

Clyde Winschell, tournament participant, said he's played before and has no plans to stop anytime soon.

"I just love to play golf anyway," said the Fairfield, Calif., native. "I've been playing in this tournament for ten years."

"Hopefully one of these years we'll win," Winschell said, laughing. "I, personally just like having fun and enjoying everybody's company during the tournament."

Another one of the participants echoed the sentiments, not just of the other participants, but of the holiday season itself.

"It's great, the whole tournament is here for the cause," said Chris Plummer, a Cleveland native. "That's why we're all here."

For more information about Toys for Tots or to make a donation, call 830-0967 or 830-0968.



Golfers in the Combat Center's Toys for Tots golf tournament tee off Wednesday during the tournament. The tournament is an annual event held at the Desert Winds Golf Course in support of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation program.



Marines collect toys outside the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Wednesday during the annual Toys for Tots golf tournament. The tournament raises support for the charity through money and toys.



Alan Hyde, a participant in the Combat Center's annual Toys for Tots golf tournament, examines the green before putting Wednesday at the installation's Desert Winds Golf Course. The tournament included more than 70 golfers this year.

MCAGCC Toys for Tots drop-off sites

E-Club, building 1532	Roadrunner Inn, building 1565
Commissary, building 1025	HQBN, building 1457
MCX, building 1533	Fire Station, building 1516
O'Club, building 1573	Medical Clinic, building 1552
Village Center, building 1551	FSNB, building 1515
Home Store, building 1551	Building 1121
CDC, building 694	Condor Elementary School
Taco Bell, building 1531	Armed Services YMCA, building 192
TTECG, building 1587	CLB-7
Dental, building 1591	MWSS-374
Desert Winds Golf Course	3RD LAR
Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, building 1145	1st Tank Battalion
Public Works Division, building 1130	2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

Combat Center Sports



Chris Feao, with K's Buy, is set to slam the ball to the outfield during a Co-Ed Softball League game against Outkast at Felix Field Tuesday. K's Buy was destroyed by Outkast 2-12.



Danielle Beckley, with Red Rockets, races to beat the throw to second base during a Co-Ed Softball League game against Sticks & Chicks at Felix Field Tuesday. Red Rockets almost won the game 14-15.

See more photos on page B4



Justin Chacon, with K's Buy, starts to slide into second base during a Co-Ed Softball League game against Outkast at Felix Field Tuesday. K's Buy was handed a humbling defeat by Outkast 2-12.



Jesse Silvas, with Outkast, slides safely into home avoiding the tag by Britney Larvie, with K's Buy, during a Co-Ed Softball League game against K's Buy at Felix Field Tuesday. Outkast defeated K's Buy 12-2.

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Fridays: Social food, 5 to 7 p.m.; Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m.; Ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m.; DJ Vlad, 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: Variety Night with DJ Gjettblaque
Sundays: Football coverage, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Mondays: Monday Night Football, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays: DJ Vlad, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Mondays: Monday Night Football with chicken nuggets and nachos, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays: Free food. Italian sausage with peppers and onions, green salad. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Fridays: Social hour with food from 5 to 7 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 and full menu, 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

Solid Ray Woods & The Raw Soul Review

Description: The soul/rhythm and blues artist performs
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3

Spindrift

Description: Psych rock to spaghetti western sounds
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

The First Christmas

Description: A child learns about the Christmas spirit
When: 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4
Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Road Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>.

Santa visits Yucca Valley parks and town hall

Description: Santa will visit with neighborhood children at Jacobs Park at 4 p.m., then Machris Park at 4:30 p.m., then Paradise Park at 5 p.m. then proceed on to the Yucca Valley town hall at 5:30, followed by the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6 p.m.
Where: Yucca Valley parks and Town Hall
For more information call 369-7211 or visit <http://www.yucca-valley.org>.

Lower Desert

New Years Eve Party

Description: Boogie Knights Dance the Night Away party
When: 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 31
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.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>.

Lewis Black

Description: The edgy comedian performs stand up
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.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, Dec. 3

6 p.m. – Life As We Know It, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Wall Street 2, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Case 39, Rated R

Saturday, Dec. 4

11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Alice in Wonderland, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Legend of the Guardians, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Secretariat, Rated PG
9 p.m. – The Social Network, Rated PG-13
Midnight – My Soul to Take, Rated R

Sunday, Dec. 5

2 p.m. – Life As We Know It, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Red, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Paranormal Activity, Rated R

Monday, Dec. 6

7 p.m. – Wall Street 2, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, Dec. 7

7 p.m. – Case 39, Rated R

Wednesday, Dec. 8

7 p.m. – Legend of the Guardians, Rated PG

Thursday, Dec. 9

7 p.m. – My Soul to Take, Rated R

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I"

Rated PG-13

The latest installment of the Harry Potter franchise comes to the big screen with a darker, denser, more ominous overtone than any of its six cinematic predecessors.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I" is based on the seventh, and concluding, Harry Potter novel by J.K. Rowling, an epic wrap-it-up yarn so sprawling and spread out it had to be split into two separate movies. "Part II" will be released in 3-D next July.

For now, however, fans of the boy wizard will have to be content with feasting on the elaborately structured, two-dimensional set-up for what promises to be one heck of a smackdown between good and evil.

As "Part I" unfolds, darkness has crept into the lives of Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, and his friends Ron, played by Rupert Grint, and Hermione, played by Emma Watson. The sinister Lord Voldemort, portrayed by Ralph Fiennes, controls the Ministry of Magic, the government over the magical world in Great Britain.

Harry, the young wizard prince, is the main obstacle standing between Voldemort and immortality in an empire under his vile domination.

The Harry Potter novels, and the movies made from them, have created a rich, teeming make-believe world



COURTESY PHOTO

Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, defends his disguised friends from dementors during their stealthy visit to the heavily guarded Ministry of Magic.

of characters, lingo and mythology, one that would likely prove most nearly impenetrable to anyone just now climbing onboard the HP train. Harry's mission in "Part I" involves finding and destroying Horcruxes, evading swooping Death Eaters, and discovering the crucial relationship between the mysterious objects that make up the so-called Deathly Hallows.

If you know what all those things are, you're already washed in the blood. Everyone else, however, will just have to hang on as the saga races along to its grand finale, with no time now to explain itself for the uninitiated.

There are a couple of standout sequences, neither of which (refreshingly) relies on bombastic computer-generated effects. One involves Harry, Ron and Hermione's stealthy visit back to the heavily-guarded

Ministry of Magic, using a magical spell that lets them assume someone else's physical appearance. Other "grown-up" actors portray them, to often hilarious effect. Another terrific moment comes with a storybook tale depicted as a marvelously creepy animation about three brothers and the deal they make with Death.

It was just a couple of movies ago that Potter fans were buzzing about Harry's first kiss. Just wait 'til they see the smoldering, bare-torso-caressing, tongue-knotting lip lock that smokes up the "Deathly Hallows" forest. It's a real eye-popper that

might have parents scrambling to cover the peepers of their little wizard wannabes.

Radcliffe, Grint and Watson, the young actors who play Harry, Ron and Hermione, have literally grown up before our eyes, from greenhorn kids to adults now in their early 20s--alongside their Harry Potter audience. The three main actors, and many of the other cast members, have appeared in all the movies.

What does Hollywood hold for them next? We'll find out when Harry Potter's magic wand finally goes out, in what's expected to be a blaze of glory, out next summer.



COURTESY PHOTO

As "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I" unfolds, darkness has crept into the lives of [from left] Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, and his friends Ron, played by Rupert Grint, and Hermione, played by Emma Watson.

Cinema 6 Showtimes Effective 12/3/10 - 12/9/10	
The Next Three Days (PG13) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	Burlesque (PG13) Everyday: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
Tangled (PG) 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							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

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	*7:35

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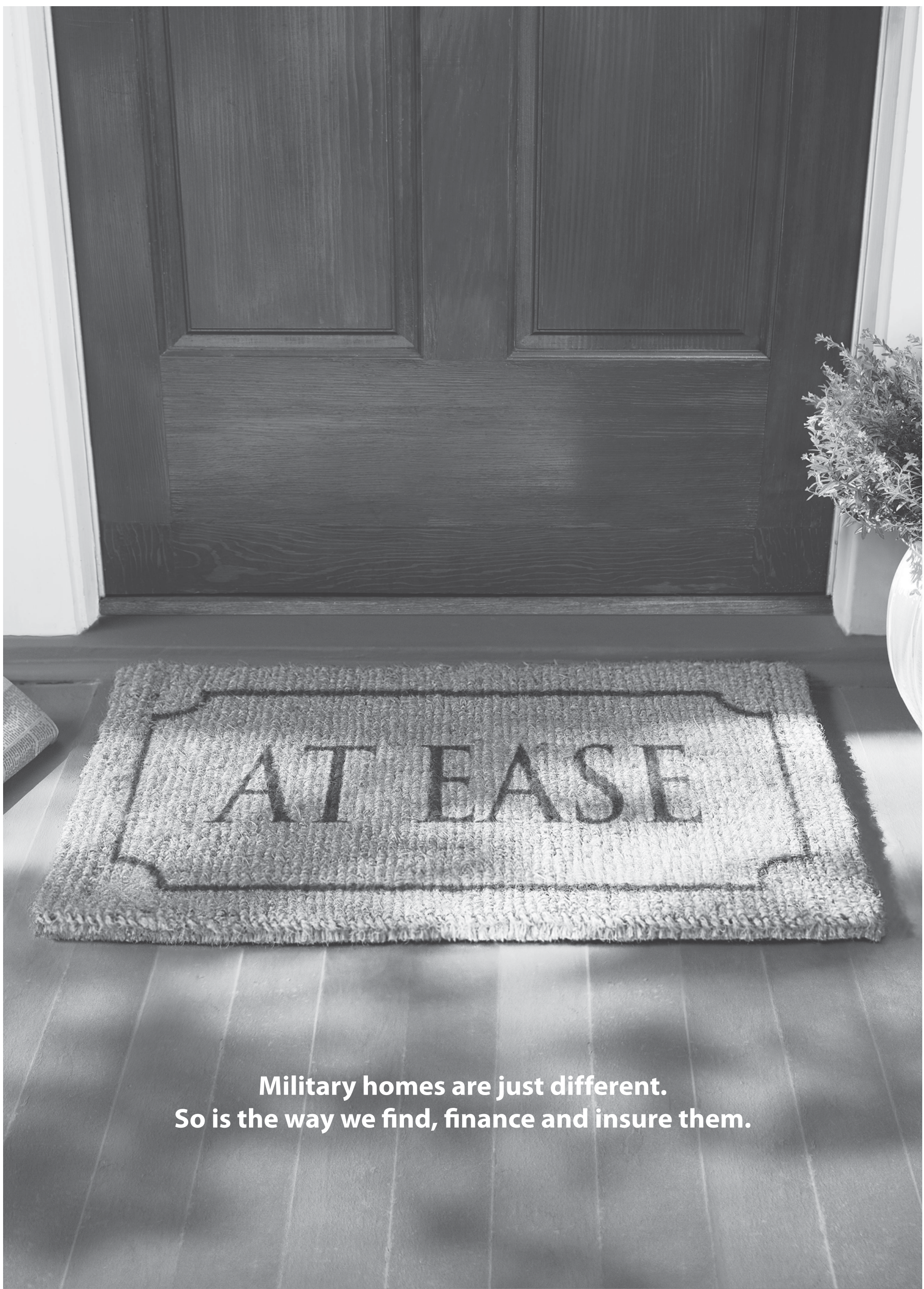
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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
Jesse Silvas, a player for Outkast, fields a grounder during a Co-Ed Softball League game against K's Buy at Felix Field Tuesday. Outkast won 12-2.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
Robert Johnson, the pitcher for Sticks & Chicks, pitches the ball during a Co-Ed Softball League game against Red Rockets at Felix Field Tuesday. Sticks & Chicks pulled off a close win 14-15.



Athlete of the Week


Name: Dexter Parrish
Unit: 1st Marine Division Detachment
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.
Recognition: MVP for the Co-Ed Softball League team Outkast
What is your favorite aspect of the sport?: "The spirit of competition."
Advice for aspiring players: "Practice make perfect, so get out there and play."

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