

OBSERVATION POST

March 4, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 9

ATG course keeps convoys moving forward

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Successful convoy movements through enemy terrain must be alert, precise and resolute.

But the fine-tuned coordination needed to move vehicles, personnel and equipment across dangerous geography is hardly something that comes natural to Marines. This state of readiness is reached only through training.

The Combat Center's Advisor Training Group conducts interactive live-fire convoy operations at the Combat Center, designed to help units work out the kinks and sharpen what is already solid.

"Command and control and delegation of tasks within a patrol," said Maj. Randall Horner, the training officer for ATG, and a native of Huntington Beach, Calif. "There are many tasks, that can't all be done simultaneously by one patrol leader."

But that's not to say that many units haven't figured some of these things out

already, said Horner.

"A lot of units coming through have ideas and [Standard Operating Procedures] put in place for these kinds of operations; this is a nice opportunity for them to validate and refine," he added.

Marines from the II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, made up three convoys and put this course to the test Wednesday aboard the Combat Center.

Before the exercise, the units supplied ATG with their motorized operations SOPs, which the assessors and instructors then evaluated and used to guide and mentor each team through the pros and cons of their unit's approach.

Each team conducted a 10-kilometer movement over rough terrain, keeping a watchful eye for remotely activated simulated improvised explosive devices, or "targets"

See ATG, A8



A Marine with II Marine Expeditionary Force's Enabler Team yells to the driver of his Military All-Terrain Vehicle to, move up, as his convoy bounds systematically to neutralize targets during a motorized operations training exercise aboard the Combat Center, March 2.



Salvador Rodriguez, an assessor with the Advisor Training Group aboard the Combat Center, clears a turret gunner from II Marine Expeditionary Force's enabler team March 2 in preparation for the day's motorized operations training exercise.



A Marine with II Marine Expeditionary Force's Enabler Team runs through a smoke screen as his team moves closer to their simulated enemy targets, to perform a direct assault, March 2, during an Advisor Training Group, motorized operations training exercise.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine observes as a destroyed Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle is pulled up onto a Joint Recovery and Distribution System during a demonstration of the new trailer's capabilities Tuesday in the Combat Center training area.

Combat Center demos new trailer

**LANCE CPL.
SARAH ANDERSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 organized a Joint Capabilities Technology Demonstration of a prototype trailer aboard the Combat Center this week.

The Joint Recovery and Distribution System have multiple functions, and they are designed to load a trailer or aircraft without using extra equipment like forklifts, said J. R. McDonald, the Joint Concept Technology Demonstration operational manager.

With a 40-foot long deck

that lowers, the JRaDS can directly load and unload equipment or damaged vehicles using two winches and is capable of carrying up to 68,000 pounds.

The demonstration covered many variables such as recovering disabled vehicles, conducting a Lockheed C-130 Hercules load and offload and transporting supplies.

The goal of the demonstration is to see if the system has military utility, McDonald said.

"We want to make sure the Marines get enough hands-on time to do things they would normally do," said John

Munn, an independent assessor with Nevada Automotive Test Center. "All these Marines out here know recovery. We are just giving them a different tool."

The demonstration also allowed the young Marines, who would actually operate the system in a real-world situation, to test it out for themselves and give their feedback.

"This is their chance to influence this and put their fingerprints on it," Munn said. "My goal is to not say

See TRAILER, A6

HQBN Marines upgrade, beautify barracks

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with the Combat Center's Headquarters Battalion gathered Feb. 24 to improve the living conditions of their barracks.

"We are trying to make the barracks more of a place the Marines can be proud to call 'home' as oppose to where they stay," said Cpl. Eric Kotynski, the barracks manager for HQBN. "The Marines

deserve a good place to stay, and if we have to get them all out here, working together and building a little unit cohesion, then so be it."

Battalion leaders planned their attack by focusing on specific goals, such as making outdoor common areas more enjoyable.

"[We want] to make it more attractive for the Marines who live in the barracks to

See BARRACKS, A7



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines dig alongside drainage pipes to place dresser stones during a working party at the Headquarters Battalion barracks Feb. 24.



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Hey Combat Center fans – Spread the word! The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.

Five foods that prevent colon cancer

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month.

However, instead of providing the same boring facts about colon cancer awareness, below are the top five foods that help prevent this disease.

Remember, the American Cancer Society lists colon cancer as the third most common cancer in American men and women.

1. Dairy products (such as yogurt or milk): According to the ACS, several studies have shown that foods high in calcium may help reduce the risk of colon cancer. Dairy products are some of the best sources of calcium.

2. Broccoli and cauliflower: These veggies belong to a food group called "cruciferous vegetables," which are part of the cabbage family. The ACS says these foods contain certain compounds that may reduce the risk of cancer in general, including colon.

3. Spinach or asparagus: The American Dietetic Association (ADA) says that spinach and asparagus contain high amounts of folate. Too little folate, according to the ACS, may increase the risk of colon cancer. So stock up!

4. Whole-grain breads and pasta: Whole-grain foods are high in fiber, which helps food move faster through the digestive track, says the ADA. High-fiber foods also have many antioxidants, which help protect against several cancers, one of them colon.

5. Strawberries: Strawberries are packed with fiber, vitamin C and folate – all nutrients that both the ADA and ACS say help reduce the risk of colon cancer. They make a great breakfast or snack fruit, too.

Don't forget – get screened!

Experts agree that one of the best ways to survive colon cancer is to find it early—through screening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a screening test called a colonoscopy only once every 10 years, after age 50. Therefore, TRICARE covers one colonoscopy every 10 years for beneficiaries ages 50 years and older. For more information, visit www.triwest.com/colon.

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Sgt. Iris Duran
Hometown: Hollywood, Fla.
Unit: Sergeants Course
Job title: Faculty advisor
Job duties: Mentoring other sergeants and providing them with tools to sharpen their leadership skills.
What do you like most about your job?: "Being surrounded by so many sergeants who have so much knowledge, experience and different leadership styles."
Significant achievements: Attending the academy. When with Marine Aircraft Group 16, she was one of the few chosen to go with the Iraqi Women's Engagement Team.
Hobbies: Running, hiking and other outdoor activities.
Time at Combat Center: Two years and six months.



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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Centerspeak

Where do you see yourself in five years?

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



PFC. MARK SHELTON

COMPANY 1, 3RD BATTALION,
7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"I will probably be either reenlisting or getting a job with the FBI."



CPL. LUIS FLORES

SUPPORT CO., 3RD COMBAT ENGINEERING
BATTALION

"I am going to school for architecture, and I want to own my own tattoo shop."



LANCE CPL. TRAVIA WILSON

CENTER MAGAZINE AREA

"It depends, because I am thinking of reenlisting or I could join the police force."



SGT. SEAN O'NEIL

TACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP

"Hopefully working for the Department of Energy."

Hot Topics

COMBAT CENTER HEALTH FAIR

An Active Duty and Base Employee Health Fair will be held April 7-8 at the base theater. It will be presented in two-hour segments each day from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will offer Hearing Conservation, Men's Health, Women's Health, Tobacco Cessation, Sexual Health/STD Prevention, Behavioral Health, Internet addiction, Self Esteem and Sexual Assault Prevention. For more information call Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicole Gacayan at 830-2002, or Petty Officer 2nd Class George Herrera at 830-2621.

BASE BOWLING LEAGUE

The Commanding General's Bowling League is coming up soon! Sign-ups are now, and league play will begin March 16. Coaches meeting will be March 9 at 3 p.m. at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center. For more information, call 830-4092.

SIGN-UP FOR VOLLEYBALL

Sign-ups for the CG's Intramural Volleyball League are now. Games will be played Tuesday nights at the West Gym at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. There is a mandatory coaches meeting March 8 at noon at building 1341. League play will begin March 15. Open to all Active Duty, DOD/NAF Employees and family members of Active Duty. Call the sports office at 830-4092.

Marine Corps History

March 8, 1965

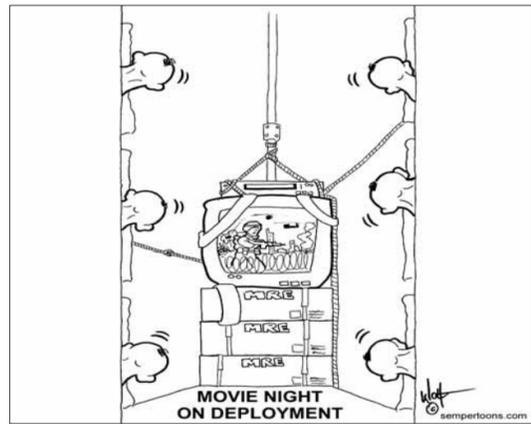
The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam, as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.



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 #2101

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

AT THE \$2 WINDOW

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

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67						68				69				

ACROSS

1. Autumn bloomer
6. Lunch holder
9. Stock or bond
14. "Take This Job and ___ It"
15. Merkel of moviedom
16. Esther of "Good Times"
17. Singer Carpenter
18. Roofer's gunk
19. Doctrines of faith
20. Laugh last, perhaps
23. Coal-rich region of central Europe
24. Bandleader Kyser
25. "An Inconvenient Truth" presenter
28. Company acquired by Verizon
31. Dog patch diminutive
32. Mudder, but not fodder
38. 9-to-5 locale, perhaps
42. Onion rings, for one
43. Murals and the like
44. ___ first-name basis
45. Thinly spread
48. Paranormal letters
51. More toothsome
55. Negotiator's request, perhaps
60. ___ Hawkins Day
61. Arrid rival
62. Aired over the summer, maybe
64. True up
65. St. crosser
66. Slanted letters, for short
67. You may get a rise out of it
68. Hanoi holiday
69. On the briny

DOWN

1. Set as a price
2. "Pygmalion" penner
3. Pop singer Amos
4. "Nevertheless ..."
5. Impressionist Pierre
6. Flat-topped hill
7. Diarist Nin
8. "With parsley," on French menus
9. St. Louis landmark
10. Like some losers
11. Streamlined
12. Kagan of the Supreme Court
13. Bull Moose nick name
21. Suffix with glob
22. Breaks, as a bronco
25. Yodelers' perches
26. 1953 Leslie Caron role
27. Tickled pink
29. Frat X
30. Charged atom
32. "Mayberry ___"
33. Playwright Burrows
34. Dog catcher's quarry
35. Caboose's spot
36. The Baltics, once: Abbr.
37. Italy's Villa d'___
39. Corporate VIP
40. Awfully long time
41. Give a valedictory, say
45. Film's Alastair
46. Noted test-marketing city
47. Desert Storm reporter Peter
48. English-exam finale, often
49. Oil-yielding rock
50. Conductors' platforms
52. Facing the hurler
53. Get rid of the Fu Manchu
54. Religious principle
56. Costume shop items
57. Suffix with bewildering or puzzle
58. Historic times
59. Cornell rival
63. Code-breaking org.



CPL. NED JOHNSON

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dylan Morris, a corpsman with Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Forward), shares candy with local children during a patrol through the area, Jan. 27. Morris is a 25-year-old native of Dayton, Ohio.

Dragoon Devil Doc diagnoses brighter future for Afghans



CPL. NED JOHNSON

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dylan Morris, a corpsman with Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Forward), talks on the radio during a patrol in Afghanistan, Jan. 27. Morris, a 25-year-old native of Dayton, Ohio, understands he must be tactically sound, even as a 'doc,' as he reminds the patrol to stay properly dispersed.



CPL. NED JOHNSON

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dylan Morris, a corpsman with Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Forward), takes an Afghan villager's blood pressure during a patrol, Jan. 27.

CPL. NED JOHNSON 1ST MARINE DIVISION

COMBAT OUTPOST CASTLE, Afghanistan – Navy corpsmen are some of the most respected men on the battlefield in today's fight against the Taliban.

They carry an extra 25 pounds of medical equipment that can save the lives of their Marine brothers in an emergency situation. Their unique mission of counter-insurgency requires them to do so much more, and one corpsman with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Forward) does all he can.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dylan Morris is a corpsman and jack of all trades deployed to southern Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Morris, a 25-year-old native of Dayton, Ohio, is the corpsman for the Police Mentoring Team assigned to Company D, who calls themselves the Dragoons, but Morris says this deployment is about more than just his medical skills.

"I do all sorts of different things out here, and even though I am a 'doc,' I have to be technically sound," Morris said.

Morris talks to the locals every chance he gets on patrol to see if there is some way he can help them.

"I ask them if they have any medical issues, or I let them know they are my friend," he said.

With his "can-do" attitude, Morris has helped at least one Afghan person on every patrol he has been on, which he considers to be his claim to fame. He also understands clearly that his job and the survivability of his men requires more than just seeing patients in

Helmand province.

His patrolling skills must be on the level with his fellow Marines. He understands that one wrong step by himself or one of his "Devil Dogs," could be their last. Morris recalled one lucky instance, that has helped to make him keener of every movement he makes.

"I was at most 10-to-15 meters when a remote-controlled improvised explosive device went off," Morris said. "The only reason I am alive is because they buried it on the wrong side of a berm."

When not on patrols, Morris helps give classes to locals and schoolchildren about hygiene and basic health and attends to the Afghan Uniform Police.

While his fellow corpsmen love the different stories he has to tell, he also has his normal duties.

As corpsman for the PMT, Morris is responsible for the health and emergency care of more than 20 men. Morris says he will never forget to take care of his Marines, even as new missions arise.

He said he hopes to continue helping locals and gaining experience. He prides himself on his positive outlook. The proof of this? Any day you catch him, he will always have a smile on his face.

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

SJA CORNER

Passing life insurance to minors

CAPT. DAVID SEGRAVES

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The largest asset most Marines have when they die is their life insurance. Neither SGLI nor any other additional life insurance policies will distribute their proceeds to minors (someone under 18 years of age). To ensure children receive the intended benefits, Marines may need to set up trusts for their children within their wills and designate the trusts as the beneficiaries of the life insurance.

Trusts within wills that come into existence upon someone's death are called testamentary trusts. Through testamentary trusts Marines can designate trustees (the person who manages the money for the benefit of the child), designate their beneficiaries (their children), designate the assets of the trust (life insurance proceeds) and designate the rules for distributing the assets to the beneficiaries.

To elect to have these testamentary trusts receive the life insurance, Marines need to put language in their SGLI election forms (SGLV-8286) such as "To [name] as my trustee to fund a trust established for the benefit of my children under my will." To ensure that these testamentary trusts in a Marine's will and the Marine's SGLI elections match, the Legal Assistance Office will create a new SGLI election form as part of their will preparation services.

Some Marines designate their children as contingent beneficiaries in case something happens to their spouses. Others designate children as beneficiaries to ensure the other parent is not able to touch the life insurance proceeds. Regardless of the purpose, Marines need to designate someone to be

responsible for handling the insurance proceeds.

Trustees should be very responsible people with business sense. Friends or family who cannot balance their checkbooks need not apply. Marines should also provide for successor trustees in case the original trustee cannot or will not perform his duties. Many banks will perform these duties, but Marines should investigate this option before naming a bank as a trustee.

When considering the assets of the trust, Marines have two main options - a pre-residuary trust and a residuary trust.

Pre-residuary trusts normally spell out exactly what assets are included. Residuary trusts encompass all assets in an estate that are not otherwise distributed by the will. Wills can have both types, specifying different methods of distribution for different types of assets.

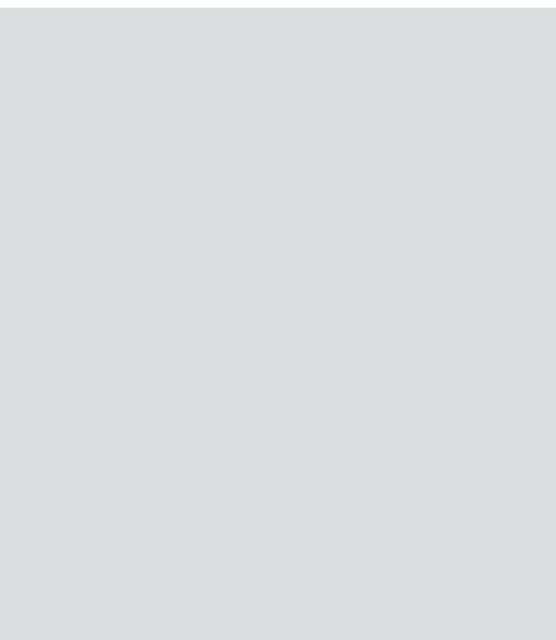
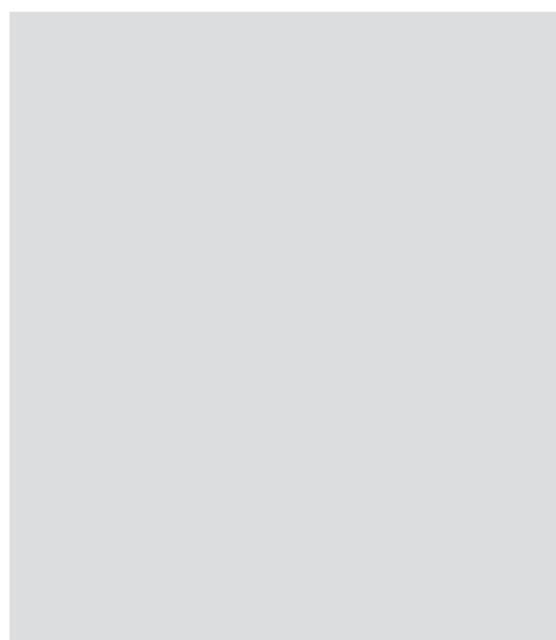
For example, a Marine can designate a pre-residuary trust funded with life insurance to pay for the health, welfare and education of his children, but also have lump sum distributions from the same trust upon graduation from high school or college and final distribution upon a certain age. That same Marine can also create a residuary trust to pass the rest of his assets, including his car and household goods to his children when the youngest of them turns 18.

Marines have many options for passing their assets to their children. However, failing to plan can lead to those left behind having to run administrative and legal gauntlets to care for the children.

Whether deploying in a month or in a year, Marines should visit the Legal Assistance Office and ensure they have a plan.



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Wounded Warriors line up for shot at gold in trials

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The inaugural 2011 Marine Corps Trials, hosted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., gave wounded, ill and injured Marines and other U.S. and allied veterans a chance to compete against one another in various challenges Feb. 17 – 27.

The trials, hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment, gave coaches and regimental staff a chance to hand-pick 50 wounded, ill and injured Marines and Marine veterans to participate in the 2011 All-Marine Warrior Games team. The team will participate in the Warrior Games against the other branches of the service in Colorado Springs, Colo., toward the end of May, said Maj. Susan Stark, the Warrior Athlete Re-commissioning Program officer in charge.

"We have 155 athletes, which include 18 from the countries of Australia, the

Australian Defense Force Warrant Officer Class 2 Dennis Ramsay warms up in his wheelchair Feb. 23 during the track and field portion of the trials.

Netherlands and Great Britain, plus our Marines" said Stark, from Hudson, Ohio. "We put together this event to get these Marines active and get them participating in something – and there's no better way to do that than to provide a little bit of competition."

The athletes competed in swimming, cycling, track and field, archery, shooting, wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball, Stark added.

"We're putting this on so they can learn," she said. "We've brought in about 30 world-class coaches, which includes Olympic gold and silver medalists, along with Paralympics gold medalists and other elite-qualified coaches."

In addition to the games, the competitors were also visited by the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos and Sergeant Major Carlton W. Kent, who went around visiting with wounded Marines and sharing some laughs.

The program is a welcome change from former eras, said Daniel Paul O'Connor, a former Marine who was severely injured in the Vietnam War.



Track participants in the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., explode off the starting line Feb. 23 during the track and field portion of the games.

"There's so much they have nowadays in all the Armed Services for these guys," said the St. Albans, W.V., native. "Back in my day, if you were severely wounded, you were immediately put out and handed over to [the Department of Veterans Affairs]."

O'Connor added the program wouldn't be what it is without the spirit of the service members fighting through their injuries.

"Being an old amputee, I try to work with these kids," he said. "I want to show these kids – I respectfully call them kids, because I'm 64 years old – if this 64-year-old fart can do this, then they can do it."

I see them with their multiple injuries and their multiple amputations and everything," he said. "I see this, and I think. Where do they make them? Where do you find kids that have this attitude? They're few and far between."

Sergeant Daniel Govier, a much younger member of the veterans' team, said the games were a great time, and a great

source of pride for him.

"The best part is seeing the camaraderie between the teammates and how everyone interacts," said the Bauskinville, Wis., native. "It really brings out true Esprit de Corps."

It shows these people we

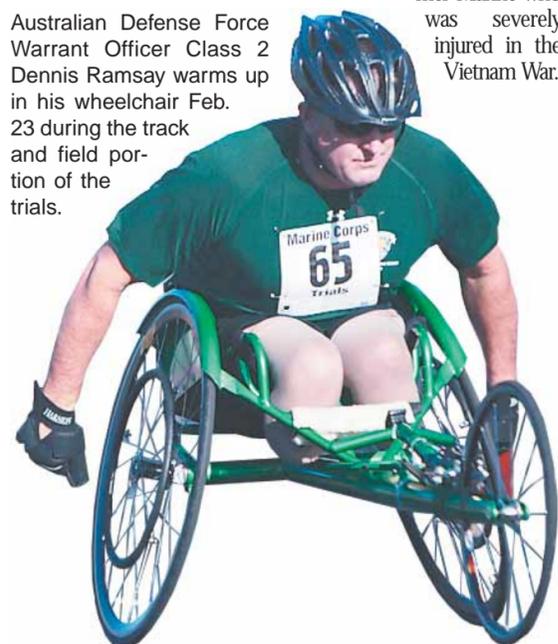
still care about them," Govier said. "There's so many events out there, and it gives all these guys a chance to get the competitive juices flowing again."

Organizers said the first Marine Corps Trials were a success and plans are in the

works to make it an annual event. The 50 Marines who were selected to represent the Marine Corps in May have already begun to prepare to take on competitors from the Army, Navy and Air Force, to see who is the ultimate warrior.

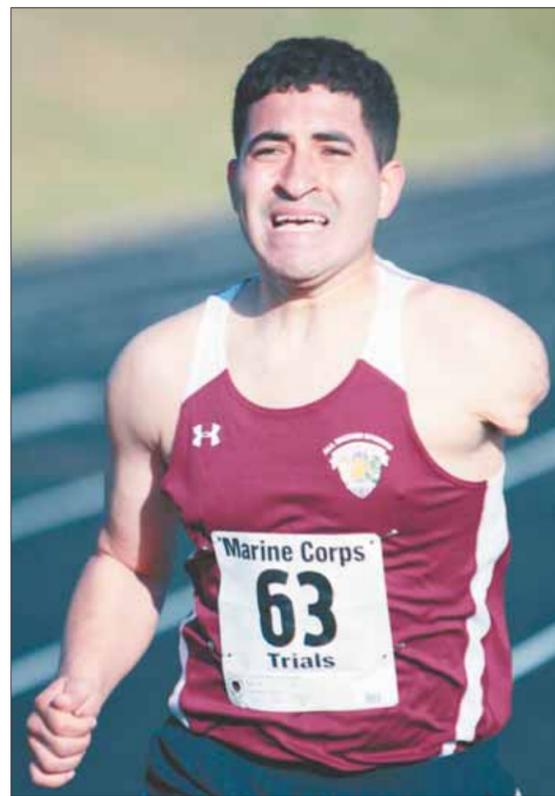


Lance Weir, a former Marine and member of the veterans' team at the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials, reloads his air rifle during the shooting competition, hosted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 25. The trials took place from Feb. 17 - 27.

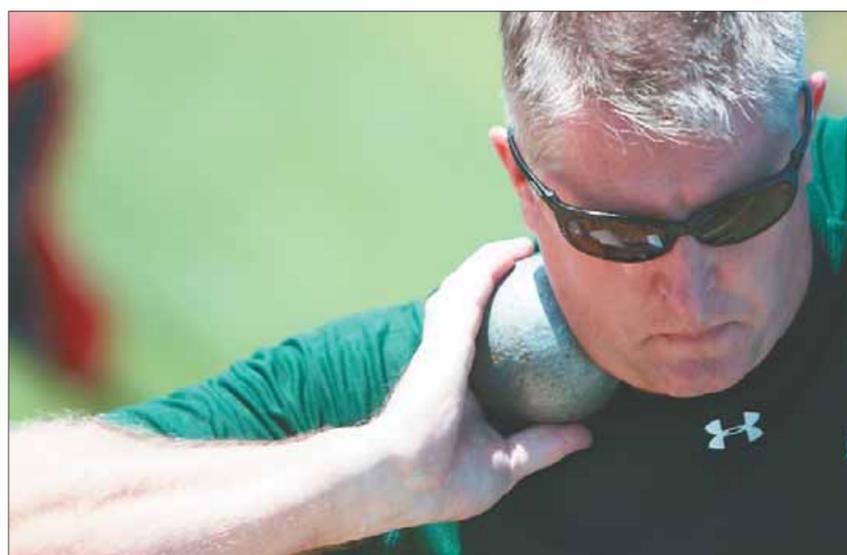




Members of the Allies team [wearing green] watch a failed play, during a game of seated volleyball, Feb. 26 at the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials, hosted aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 17 to 27. The trials pitted teams of wounded, ill and injured active-duty Marines from the East and West coasts against other veterans and members of allied nations.



Corporal Manuel Jimenez, a member of Wounded Warrior Battalion East, digs deep during the last leg of the 800-meter run during the track and field portion of the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials, held at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 23.



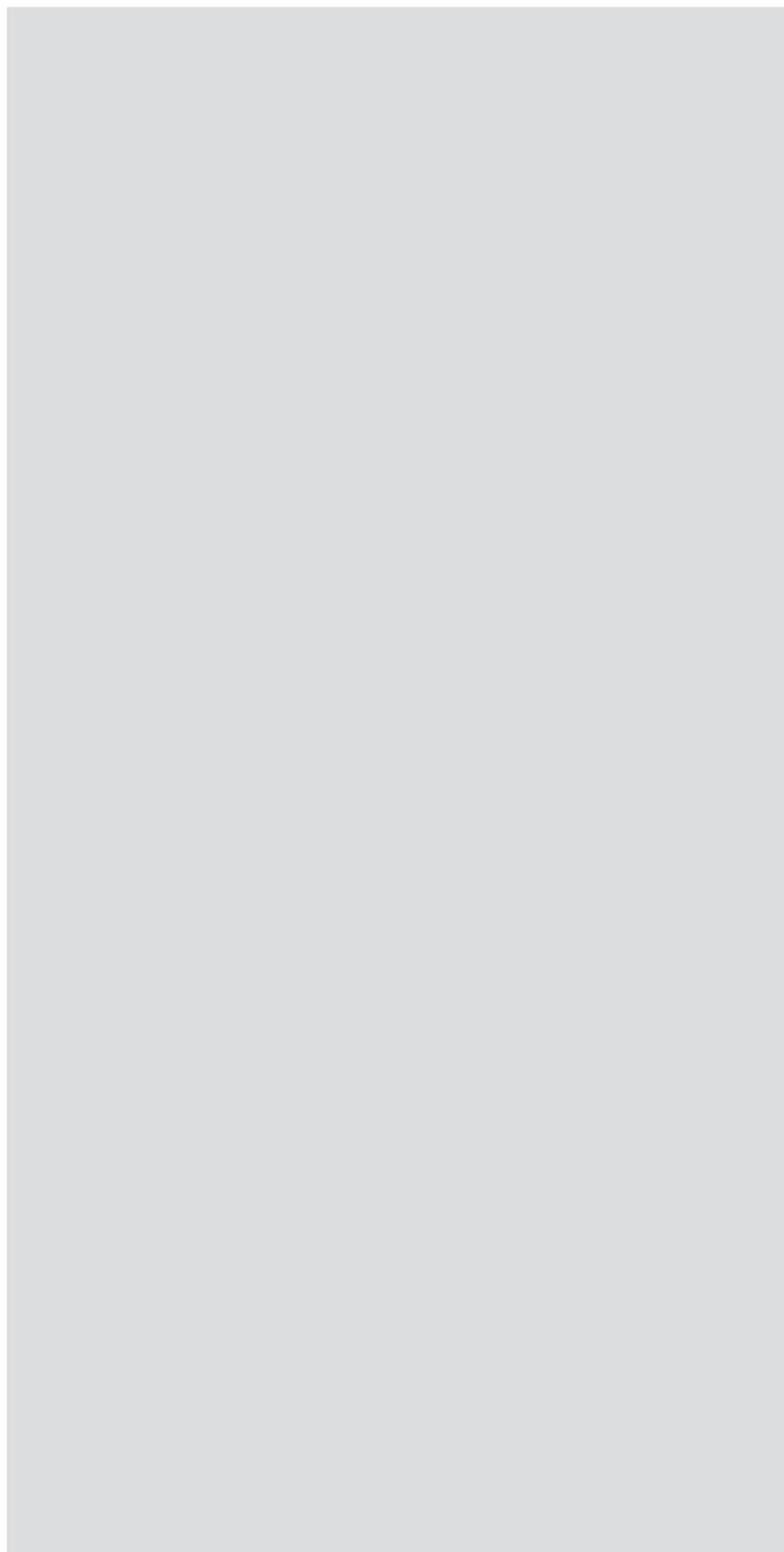
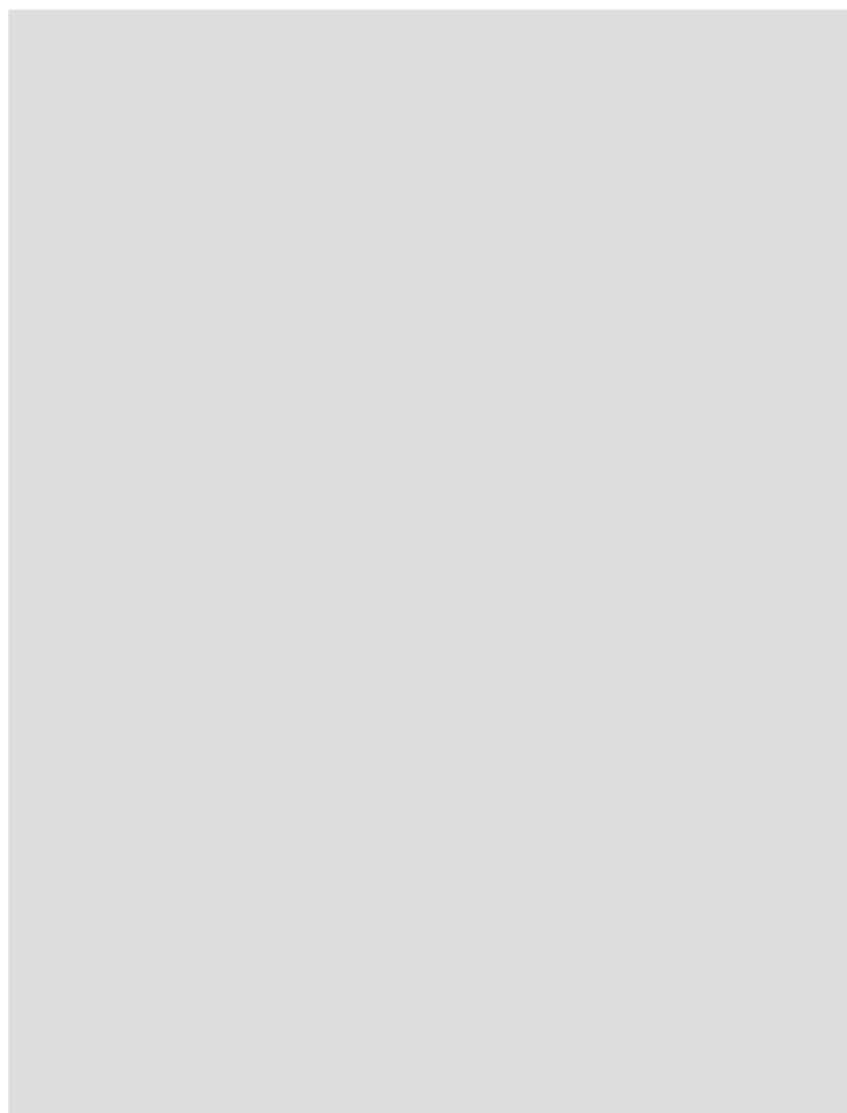
Australian Defense Force Warrant Officer Class 2 Dennis Ramsay, a participant in the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., prepares to throw his shot put Feb. 23 during the track and field portion of the games.



Corporal Kevin McCall, a member of Wounded Warrior Battalion West, cranks his sit-down-bicycle with one hand and a broken handle Feb. 23 during a 10 kilometer race segment of the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, shares a laugh with one of many wounded, ill and injured Marines Feb. 25 during the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials. The trials were hosted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 17 – 27.



Cub Scouts advance ranks, celebrate birthday with dinner

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Cub Scouts with the Combat Center's Pack 78 celebrated scouting's 101st birthday with their annual Blue and Gold Dinner.

The dinner not only celebrated the birthday, but also advanced every scout to their next rank and awarded adult volunteers for their contributions to the pack.

"The importance is for the advancement of the dens," said Frankie G. Newton, Cub Master for Pack 78. "They do a lot of activities to earn their ranks, so this is a good time for them to be recognized."

"It is the best Blue and Gold Dinner I have been to this month," added Jim Ansell, the unit commissioner for Pack 78. "It was very well-organized. The boys got the recognitions they deserved and so did the adults."

The dinner was also attended by the Combat Center's commanding general, Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III.

Clardy spoke highly of the

program and what it does for the scouts.

"It teaches the young boys to work hard, and [if you] do your best, you will be recognized for it and achieve the goals you've set for yourselves," said Clardy, an Eagle Scout himself.

Guest speaker Miles Boardman, the advancement chairman for Troop 229, also spoke of the impact scouting has on young men.

"I think Cub Scouts teaches a lot of things they don't learn at school," Boardman said. "They learn to be aggressive in a good way, to set goals and become better citizens, because they learn about the country."

Ansell believes scouting has the ability to affect far more than just the lives of the boys who participate.

"The scouting core values, duty to God, duty to country, have not changed in more than 101 years now," Ansell said. "Personally, I think those values are coming back into society again, and it is partially because of the involvement of boys in scouting."



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Cub Scouts with the Combat Center's Pack 78 salute the National Ensign while saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the Boy Scout Blue and Gold Dinner at Building 1707 Monday. The dinner celebrated the 101st birthday of the Boy Scouts of America organization.

TRAILER, from A1

whether the thing is good or bad, but if it's not up to what they want, I need to know why.

"[It] is their chance to influence what the final design looks like," he said.

The demonstration also focused on the capabilities and benefits of what a trailer like this can do, not necessarily the particular model.

The Marines said that while the system had potential, it is still a few improvements away from perfection.

"It's a great idea, but it takes as long or longer to perform recoveries [with this trailer] than it did with the old one," said Pfc. Diana Leavell, a motor transport operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374.

The plan is very flexible, McDonald said. The team will take the data collected at the demo and revise the JRaDS in any way necessary.

The Marines who worked with the equipment will give their assessment and experiences with the trailer to help improve its functions and suggest alternatives to any problem they had.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

The new Joint Recovery and Distribution System is tested on the harsh Combat Center training roads to see what it can handle during a demonstration of the new trailer's capabilities Tuesday at the Combat Center training area.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Marines pull a cable from the new Joint Recovery and Distribution System to hook up to a destroyed vehicle Tuesday at the Combat Center training area. The exercise tested the recovery system for military utility.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines work together to build picnic tables for the Headquarters Battalion barracks Feb. 24.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Private First Class Dario Davis, an administrative clerk with the Installation Personnel Administration Center, places a dresser stone along the common area during a working party Feb. 24.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines dig along the side of the drainage and place dresser stones during a working party at the Headquarters Battalion barracks Feb. 24.

BARRACKS, from A1

come and congregate here rather than going out in town," said Capt. Michael Wopschall, the operations officer for HQBN.

Both the number of Marines who showed up to help and the speed of their work exceeded the expectations of their leaders.

"We came out with the initial idea of putting togeth-

er teams and focusing individuals groups of six or seven Marines on specific tasks," Wopschall said. "What had happened was some of the tasks finished early, and we surged Marines to the areas we needed them the most."

Marines laid a stone border around the barracks, and also built four smoke pits.

"There was only one smoke pit in the whole area,

and that is one of the complaints the [commanding officer] has been hearing when he has breakfast with all the different ranks at a time," said First Sgt. Nelson A. Hidalgo, the company first sergeant of Company B, HQBN.

The stone border project is only in stage one, as the group ran into complications.

A supply shortage of cement blocks meant the Marines could only encircle

one section of the barracks.

"Right now we are focusing on the middle area as a recreational, nice place to eat," Hidalgo said. "Then in another two or three weeks, we are going to hit both sides."

Hidalgo and the other member of the battalion's leadership expect the barracks restorations project to be completed as soon as the remaining pallets of stone arrive.

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. - Cr. 7 and Confirmation

Friday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament

Legend

* Indicates child care is provided
+ Appointments can be made for confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

**Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87.
Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93.
For more information call 830-5430.**

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

A	S	T	E	R	B	A	G	A	S	S	E	T		
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5	8	2	4	7	1	6	3	9
7	9	3	5	2	6	4	1	8

ADVERTISEMENT

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

CLASSIC 1957 CHEVY PICK-UP. 350 engine, 3 speed automatic, \$6,900 OBO. 361-3509.

1983 YAMAHA VIRAGO 750. Not running. Complete. New seat, front tire and battery. Full face helmet also. \$300. 413-4015.

2007 SUZUKI BOULEVARD. Black and chrome, 1600 CC, \$3,000 in extras included. Asking price \$13,500. 401-3739.

2002 CR250. FMF pipe and silencer, paddle tire, eline starter, runs very strong. \$2,600 OBO. 910-3979.

2000 NISSAN XTERRA. 4x4, auto, PDL, PW, roof rack, tow pkg., newer timing belt, 31" BFG's, 132K miles, \$5,000. Call 957-5630.

2008 TOYOTA YARIS. \$10,000 OBO. Approximately 46K miles. Good condition. Consistent maintenance. Call 622-4562.

C5 CORVETTE FRONT BRA. \$50. 413-4015.

MISC.

BICYCLE, BABY ITEMS: Schwinn Stingray bicycle, solid wood baby crib, baby walker, stroller, wooden horse and more. All in excellent condition. Call 217-3310.

DIAMONDBACK MOUNTAIN BIKE. Like new. \$100. 413-4015.

REDWOOD BURL COFFEE TABLE. Beautiful. \$325/offer. 413-4015.

COLLECTIBLE CARDS: Baseball, football mid 80's to 90's. Call 567-7921.

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.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

A Marine with Police Advisory Team, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, runs to make contact with a neighboring vehicle in his convoy during a motorized operations training exercise aboard the Combat Center, March 2.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

A Marine with II Marine Expeditionary Force's Enabler Team keeps a watchful eye on the terrain ahead as his convoy bounds systematically to neutralize targets March 2 during a motorized operations training exercise.

ATG, from A1

that help instructors simulate enemy direct and indirect fire.

Under the watchful eye of experienced instructors, teams practiced convoy dispersion and how to properly react to the enemy fire and IED attacks.

"There's got to be a method behind the madness, some sort of concept behind why a team makes certain decisions," said Troy Rector, a lead assessor with ATG, during an after action discussion with one team.

"You didn't do anything too sexy. You kept it simple. Shoot, move, communicate – you did what you were suppose to," he explained to the II MEF Marines after their convoy. "On the other hand, pushing through the enemy fire [like the team did at the very beginning of the exercise] might work once or twice, until an enemy catches on and becomes more bold and creative with this [Tactics, Techniques and Procedures] and uses IEDs."

While in combat zones, units might find that some of their SOPs are already being exploited, he added.

It is this constant psychological back-and-forth between Marines and a "thinking" enemy that makes it necessary for units to stay up to date on the latest tactics and techniques to remain even

more adaptable and unpredictable than their enemy.

Between convoy operations in Iraq and now in Afghanistan, there have been changes to the SOP, said Sgt. Hugh Davenport, a patrol leader during the exercise with 1st Bn., 3rd Marines.

"This is definitely a great live-fire training opportunity for units getting ready to deploy," added the Chesapeake, Va., native, admitting that in addition to SOPs, other things have changed since the last time he conducted motorized operations like the ones during the exercise.

"There's better gear and equipment now, which allows us more maneuvering capabilities and tactics and gives us more options," he said.

The upgrade in tactics and gear is expected to give the unit the confidence to operate in a fast pace environment, while using live ammunition, a confidence that will be required of them in theater.

And it's not just individual capabilities that this intensive training aims to foster, said Horner.

"Some teams are a collection of misfits, an assortment of [Military Occupational Specialties] that have never collectively trained before. To others, this is nothing new. For both, this is where to make the mistakes and to learn."



Adam Sandler weaves a complicated web of deceit in the new romantic comedy "Just Go With It," page B2

March 4, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 9

Underdog fighters come out on top

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Fight Club 29 traveled to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to participate in a pankration tournament in San Mateo Saturday.

This was the first pankration, or striking, tournament a majority of the team's fighters have experienced, as opposed to the grappling tournaments they usually participate in.

"I didn't expect to go as far as I did," said Thomas Murphy, a fighter on the team who is fighting in his first pankration tournament. "There is no skill division, only weight. So I can be up against fighters way more experienced than me."

The teammates, aware of their inexperience in official tournament pankration, trained exceptionally hard to prepare for it.

"I was very confident in their training before we came," said Mark Geletko, the coach of Fight Club 29. "These guys were doing three-a-day [physical training] sessions. I could tell they wanted it."

The all-day tournament featured a mix of military and civilian fighters. With only six Marines, Fight Club 29



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Arthur Powell, a fighter with Fight Club 29, front kicks his opponent during the Camp Pendleton Pankration Invitation Saturday in San Mateo, Calif. Powell went on to win the gold medal in the 160 pound bracket.

See FIGHT, B4

Desert Marines explore amphibious roots

CAPT. NICK MANNWEILER
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Several Marines from the Combat Center descended on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's ocean shore last weekend to brush the sand off their shoulders and experience a very foreign sensation - a strong ocean breeze surging through canvas sails.

The four Marines made up the inaugural student class of the Seaborne Applications for Integrating Life Skills program, a program designed by the Headquarters Battalion chaplain to teach fundamental life skills through lessons learned in sailing.

"I have had an interest in sailing for years," said Navy Lt. David Nelson, Headquarters Battalion chaplain. "I've always seen, especially from a pastor's perspective, how it could be used to teach life principles, spiritual principles, the things I have learned from it, like adjusting your sails and your course."

But before the Marines could begin learning this ancient art, they needed to learn the basics and the theory. After two evenings of classroom instruction on the parts of a sailboat, points of sail and the specifics of harnessing the wind, the group packed their bags and headed to Camp Pendleton's Del Mar Marina and the small fleet of vessels on which they would begin their new adventure.

For several of the Marines, the most challenging obstacle to overcome in this new environment was communication, according to Lance Cpl. Maxwony Jean, a Marine with the Installation Personnel and Administration Center, and a Houston native.

"You hear, 'Prepare to tack,' and I think to myself, 'Now I know what a tack is, but what am I supposed to do?'" Jean said.

In order to keep track of the chaotic environment, one of the first lessons the Marines learned was to think past five minutes. The



CAPT. NICK MANNWEILER

Navy Lt. David Nelson, the Headquarters Battalion chaplain, and Cpl. Nathan Courtney, an administrative clerk with the Combat Center's Installation Personnel Administration Center, experience the thrill of sailing near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during a program led by Nelson designed to teach life skills through lessons learned in sailing.

Marines learned that in sailing, you can't always point your boat towards a destination and go straight there. It takes several sets of maneuvers and attention to detail to reach the goal as efficiently as possible. The secret to success, the Marines learned, was to plan out the steps they had to take to reach each point.

The same lesson can be applied for life by establishing goals and determining what steps will need to take place in order to reach that goal, the Marines learned. But unexpected conditions can sometimes make you rethink your approach altogether.

"You don't get to choose the weather. You don't get to choose what's thrown at you in life," said 1st Sgt. Nelson Hidalgo, Bravo Company first sergeant with HQBN, and assistant instructor for

SAILS. "You have to adapt and overcome."

Several students learned an important lesson when their boat ran aground in a soft mud bottom. The crew began paddling furiously, hoping to back their boat out of harm's way. Eventually, the crew had to rely on marina staff to lend aid with a tow boat.

"I just realized we were in trouble and weren't going anywhere," said Cpl. Nathan Courtney, a Pflugerville, Texas, native, and an IPAC Marine. "We were stuck. It was not a good feeling."

Nelson turned this into a valuable learning point for his students, reminding them that even Marines can't handle everything on their own.

"Sometimes you're going to have to ask for help,

See SAILING, B2



CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. James Grove, a patient with the Combat Center's Wounded Warrior Detachment, zeros in on his target during the archery portion of the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials, hosted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 25. Grove is from Sellersville, Penn.

Wounded Marine regains stride at 2011 Marine Corps Trials

CPL. M. C. NERL
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For Marines like Lance Cpl. James Grove, a member of the Combat Center's Wounded Warrior Detachment, conventional methods of rehabilitation don't always cut it.

Grove, who broke 14 bones in a motorcycle accident in 2009, said physical therapy sessions left him feeling as if

he wasn't getting anywhere, and he wanted to take his progress to the next level.

"When I was having feelings that normal physical therapy had hit a plateau," said the Sellersville, Penn., native. "I decided I wanted to take a different avenue."

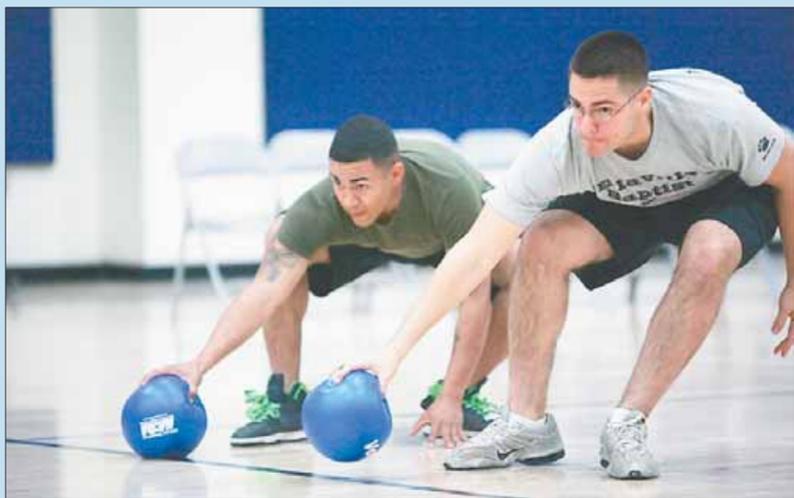
He turned to an alternative offered through his command, competing in the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials for the Wounded Warrior games.

Wounded, ill and injured Marines like Grove, along with other wounded from the U.S. and allied nations, gathered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Feb. 17 - 27 for the trials, where they competed in multiple events to claim gold, silver and bronze medals.

"It's far less conventional," Grove explained. "We've

See TRIAL, B4

Midnight Meat Train derails Beatdowns



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Two players from the Beatdowns grab dodgeballs for their team during a Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League match Feb 24. The Midnight Meat Train beat out the Beatdowns two matches to zero. See more photos on page B3.



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

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

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Monday: Chicken nuggets and nachos
Wednesdays: Buffalo Wings, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Free salsa lessons

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 dinner menu
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 Officers' Club

Monday: Valentine's Day Dinner, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Taco Thursdays: 5 to 7 p.m.

For complete calendars visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

Vic du Monte's with Future Ghost

Description: The rock bands perform
When: 9 p.m., Friday, March 4

007 and the Souls

Description: Inspired by the Beatles and the Stones
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 5
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up: Acronycal

Description: The rock band performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday, March 4

Mojave Rhythm

Description: The rock band performs
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, March 5
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Pulitzer winning play, "W;t" offered at Groves

Description: Margaret Edson's Pulitzer winning drama
When: 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through March 12
Where: Groves Cabin Theatre
8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
For more information call 361-4523 or visit <http://www.grovescabintheatre.org>.

Theatre 29 presents "Pinocchio"

Description: Adapted from the novel by Carlo Collodi
When: 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, March 11 to April 9. Opening night activities begin at 6 p.m.
Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>

Lower Desert

Melissa Ethridge

Description: The pop/rock legend performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 19
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Kenny Rogers

Description: The country legend performs his hits
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, March 26
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

The Comedy of Sinbad

Description: The comedian performs stand up
When: 5 p.m., Sunday, April 3
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, March 4

6 p.m. – Despicable Me, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Country Strong, Rated PG-13
Midnight – True Grit, Rated PG-13

Saturday, March 5

11 a.m. – Free matinee: Alpha and Omega, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Megamind, Rated PG
6 p.m. – The Green Hornet, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Dilemma, Rated PG-13
Midnight – No Strings Attached, Rated R

Sunday, March 6

2 p.m. – True Grit, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – The Rite, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Mechanic, Rated R

Monday, March 7

7 p.m. – Green Hornet, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, March 8

7 p.m. – No Strings Attached, Rated R

Wednesday, March 9

7 p.m. – The Rite, Rated PG-13

Thursday, March 10

7 p.m. – The Mechanic, Rated R

Adam Sandler asks you to 'Just Go With It'

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Just Go With It"
Rated PG-13

With only a couple of exceptions over the past 20 years, Adam Sandler has made a successful career – in movies like "Big Daddy," "You Don't Mess With The Zohan," "Little Nicky" and "Happy Gilmore" – by playing man-child characters who have grown older, but not quite grown up.

Continuing the trend, his leading role in the romantic-comedy screwball romp "Just Go With It" is a commitment-free plastic surgeon, Danny, who pretends to be married in order to woo his latest female conquest.

Yes, it sounds strange. But just go with it.

Jennifer Aniston plays his long-suffering, divorced-mom office assistant, Katherine, who gets recruited to playact as Danny's sparring, soon-to-be-former spouse. The ruse quickly grows to include Katherine's two kids, plus Danny's skirt-chasing cousin, Eddie (Nick Swardson), all pretending to be someone they're not.

Where, in this shaky world built on fabrication, can true love take root and bloom?

Modern-day moviegoers probably won't care that the whole shebang is a remake of another movie, "Cactus Flower," a comedy from 1969 starring Walter Matthau, Ingrid Bergman and Goldie Hawn. Or that "Cactus Flower" was based on a French play.

Director Dennis Dugan, a frequent Sandler collaborator, packs the screen with giggle and jiggle. The PG-13 rating reins in the raunch somewhat, but there are still plenty of jokes about boobs, butts and erectile dysfunc-



COURTESY PHOTO

Adam Sandler plays Danny, who pretends to be married in order to woo a new girlfriend, Parker, played by Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker. Jennifer Aniston plays Katherine, Danny's assistant, who poses as his soon-to-be ex-wife.

tion. Anyone who's bought a ticket to "The King's Speech" will quickly realize they've made a wrong turn in the multiplex.

As Parker, Danny's new love interest, former Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker, seems to have been cast primarily for the way she fills out her bikini, especially in slo-mo. Her cleavage receives so much camera time, it deserves its own billing in the credits.

One scene exists only to provide a reason for both Parker and Katherine to peel out of their clothes for a dip in a lagoon – while Danny and Eddie try to keep their bulging eyes in their sockets.

By this time, the characters have all found their way to Hawaii, a la Brady Bunch, for an extended-pretend-family vacation. Nicole Kidman appears, wiggling her hips in a hula dance! Eddie performs the Heimlich maneuver on a comatose sheep. Danny gets hit in the crotch. Children spout precocious one-liners



COURTESY PHOTO

Danny, played by Adam Sandler, weaves a complicated web of lies in order to win Parker, played by Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker.

in funny fake accents!

Sandler's fellow "Saturday Night Live" alums Kevin Nealon and Rachel Dratch, rocker Dave Matthews and tennis pro Andy Roddick, Decker's real-life husband, also plug

into the rom-com craziness, if only briefly.

Don't try to understand it, analyze it or explain it. If you're a fan of Adam Sandler's brand of arrested-adolescence wackiness, as the title suggests, just go with it.

SAILING, from B1

because you're not Superman," he said. "You don't know everything. It doesn't matter what your [military occupational specialty] is, or your education. Sometime you are going to have to stop and ask for help."

The same rule applies for Marines who see others in need, the group collectively agreed. When asked what their first instinct was when the rest of the group saw the impeded boat, a unison chorus of "Go help them!" rang out. Nelson pointed to the fact that the other boats would have been susceptible to the same shallow waters and wind conditions as the boat that became stuck. A rescue attempt would have left the rest of the fleet stranded in the same spot.

"You've got to know when to say, 'Hey, this is bigger than I am equipped to deal with,'" said Nelson. "So how do you best help them? You let somebody who can help them know. You let your

staff [noncommissioned officer] or whoever else in your chain of command, know. They're here to help you, to instruct you, to move you forward as a Marine, to move you forward as a person."

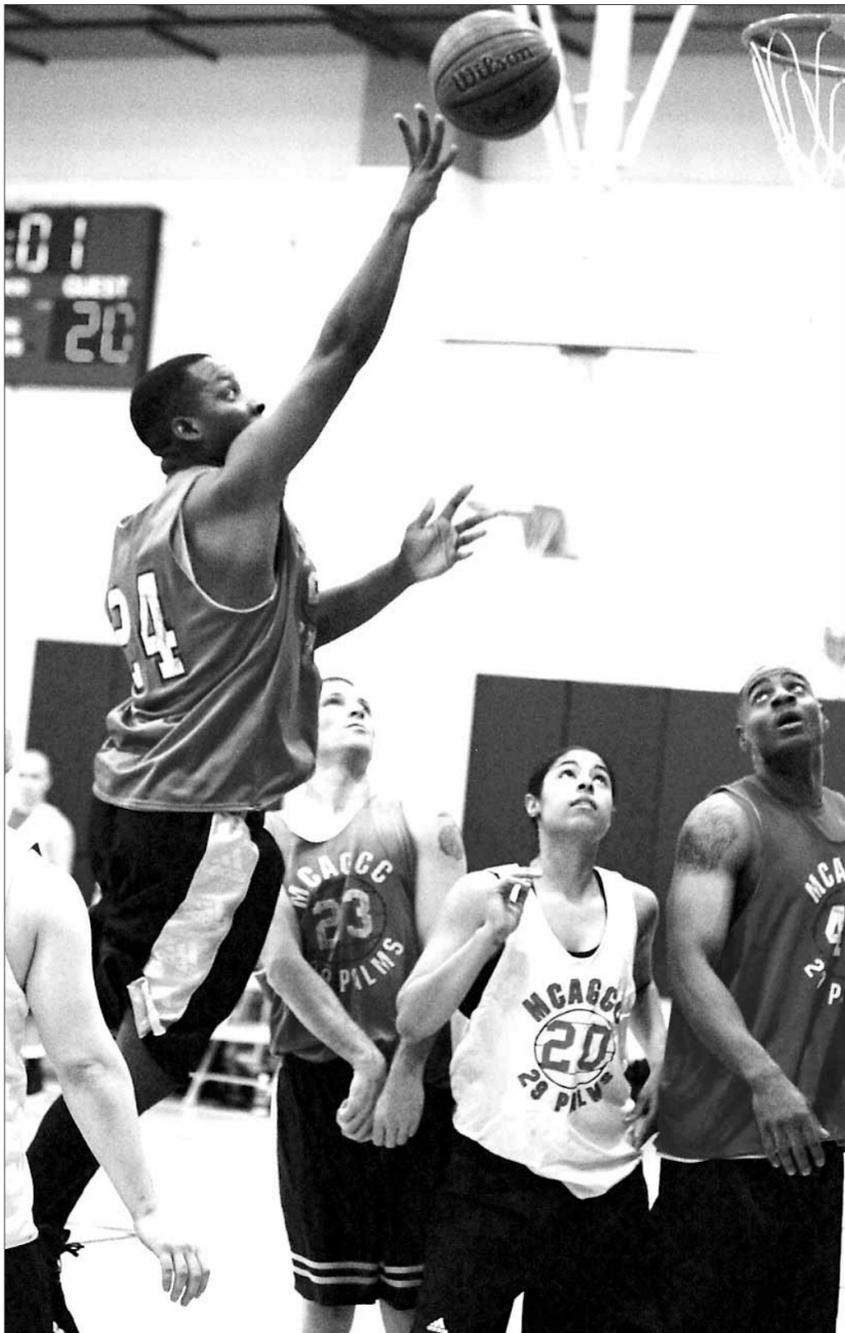
The value of the course was readily apparent to the students and to their instructors.

"After this course, you think more about the things that you do and have a focus on what's going to happen in the future," Jean said.

"It's not about making sailors out of them," Nelson said about the program. "It's about showing them that they can do something that they've never done before in their lives."

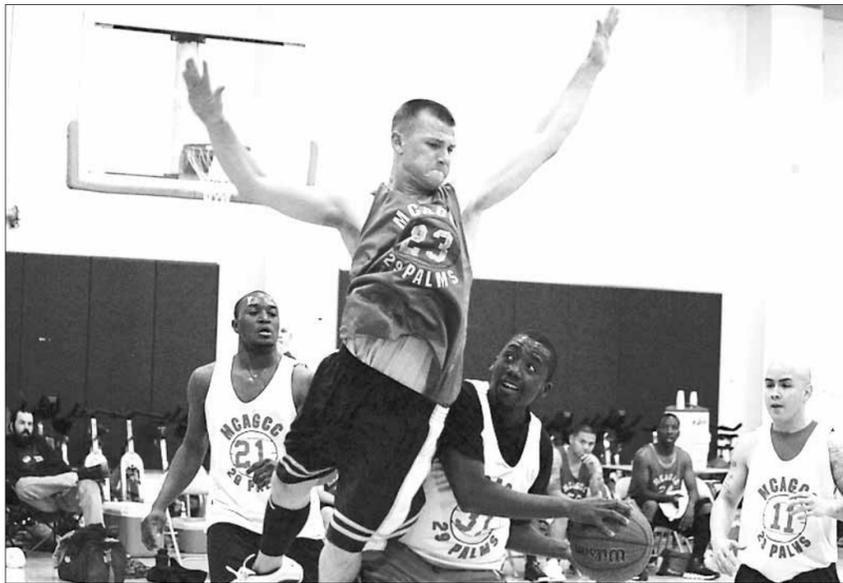
"If they can do this, maybe they can take on that college course they've been thinking about, or put in a package for some special training, like embassy duty," he said. "If they can get out here on the water and in two days be running these boats by themselves, there's nothing they can't accomplish that they set their minds to."

Combat Center Sports



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Lonel Holmes, a player for MCCES-TTS, goes for a lay-up during the first playoff game against HQBN in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League Championship Monday in the East Gym and Fitness Center. The Bulldogs beat MCCES-TTS 91 to 62.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Shea Foland, a player with MCCES-TTS jumps in an attempt to block a shot during the first playoff game against HQBN in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League Championship Monday in the East Gym and Fitness Center. MCCES-TTS lost 91 to 62.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Chris Brown, a player for HQBN, fights for the ball during the first playoff game of the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League Championship against MCCES-TTS Monday in the East Gym and Fitness Center. HQBN won 91 to 62.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Midnight Meat Train players wind up and get ready to unleash a flurry on the Beatdowns during a Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League match Feb 24. The Midnight Meat Train beat out the Beatdowns two matches to zero.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Two players from the Beatdowns grab dodgeballs for their team during a Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League match Feb 24. The Midnight Meat Train beat down the Beatdowns two matches to zero.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Members of the Beatdowns reach for a ball deflected by a third member of the team during a Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League match Feb 24. The Midnight Meat Train beat down the Beatdowns two matches to zero.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Arthur "Nino Brown" Powell
Hometown: Rocky Mout, N.C.
Unit: VMU-3
Recognition: Won gold medal in the 160 pound bracket at the Camp Pendleton Pankration Invitation Saturday.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "I like striking. The target accuracy and precision takes a lot of training to perfect."
Advice to aspiring athletes: "Do what makes you happy. There's a sport out there for everybody."

Intramural Dodgeball League standings as of Feb. 25

Team	Wins	Losses
Untouchables	7	3
Sharking	6	4
Midnight Meat Train	6	4
Sukka Dukkas	6	4
The Beatdowns	4	6
Thunder Canons	1	9

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FIGHT, from B1

held their ground extremely well, considering they were up against 22 separate teams.

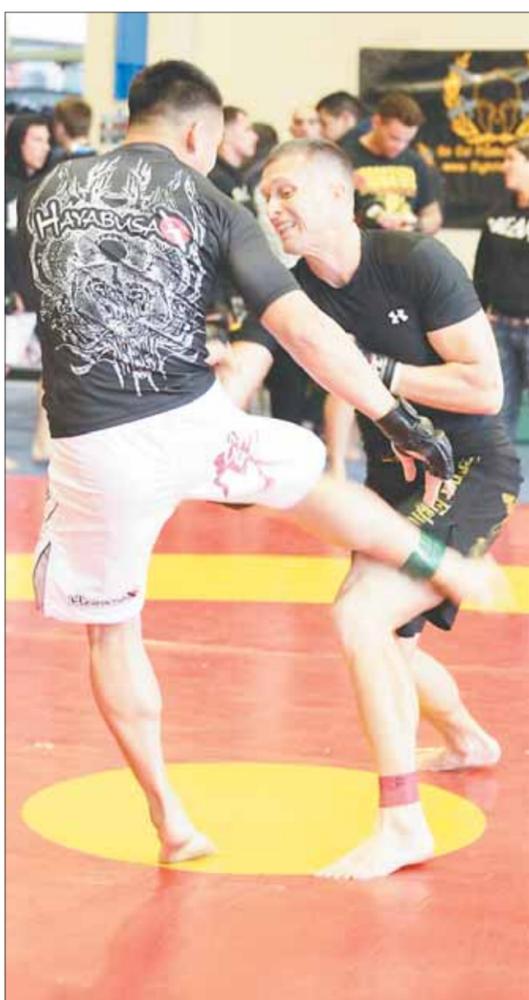
"Striking went well for us," Geletko said. "They listened to us really well. We had some issues getting caught in submissions, so we are going to work on that."

Towards the end of the tournament, the team became the underdog victors. Out of the 22 teams, Fight Club 29 hooked second place in the team competition.

Along with their success as a team, Arthur Powell, a first time pankration fighter, won gold in the 160 pound bracket.

"I was fighting one fight at a time," Powell said. "Before I knew it I was in the finals. There are definitely still things I need to work on, though."

The team is currently training for the Armed Forces Championship at Camp Pendleton in May, and the National Tournament in Las Vegas in June. Both will be pankration matches.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Bill Harrington [right], a fighter with Fight Club 29, tackles his opponent during the Camp Pendleton Pankration Invitation Saturday in San Mateo, Calif.



CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. James Grove, a patient with the Combat Center's Wounded Warrior's Detachment, participated in the archery portion of the Inaugural Marine Corps Trials, hosted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 25.

TRIAL, from B1

played a lot of sports and I've had a great experience."

Grove, who competed in swimming, archery and wheelchair basketball, added while he wasn't always a basketball player, he was a fan of the other two before he was injured.

"I picked swimming and archery," he said. "They were things I was interested in and did before I was injured. [I picked] basketball because of the team aspect. It sounded like it would be a lot of fun." Carla Decker, a volleyball coach at the trials, said working with athletes like Grove was an enriching experience.

"I was glad to get the opportunity to come here and meet

these fantastic people," she said. "I want to keep these athletes as my friends forever. I feel like I've made a thousand brothers while I've been here."

Decker added working with the wounded, ill and injured has helped her understand a world that was previously unknown to her.

"Working with any of these brave men has given me a chance to understand who they are and the sacrifices they make for our country," she said. "It's really incredible to see young men like this who have already overcome so much in their lives. I'm honored to have been able to come here and work with them."

Australian Defense Force Warrant Officer Class 2 Dennis

Ramsay, a member of the Allies team at the trials, testified from his own first-hand experience to the spirit of younger men like Grove.

"Well, having both of my legs amputated was incredibly tough," Ramsay said. "They take great care of all of us. Seeing a lot of the young Yanks and others with something that would, you know, wreck someone psychologically, is a bit overwhelming at first."

"I know though that all these kids are pretty tough," he added. "I've met a lot of strong young men who have shown me a thing or two. It's good to see, and everything really has been a great boost not just in confidence, but reassuring for our future as well."