

Combat Center Band prepares for Vegas Tattoo, page A3

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WWW.FLICKR.COM/THECOMBATCENTER

A 'pitched' battle, page B1

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

April 15, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 15

Sex Signals delivers information, laughs

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors entered Sunset Cinema this week to receive their annual sexual assault awareness train-

ing expecting a PowerPoint or lecture.

Instead, they were entertained and informed by the touring sexual assault awareness program, Sex Signals.

"Sexual assault is not an easy topic to talk about," said

Jenifer Husung, the Combat Center's sexual assault coordinator and sexual assault prevention and response program manager. "For most people, if you mention sexual assault they want to run the other way. However, when

they see this show the feedback is unbelievable.

"They come to the show and it is very interactive and engaging. It really hits in a lot of the ideology, the myths out

See SIGNALS, A8



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines laugh at the exaggerated stereotypes played by Kyle Terry and Judith Lesser, both actors with Sex Signals, during a sexual assault awareness brief at the Combat Center Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

MCTOG graduates first Marines, soldiers of new integrated ops chief, officer program

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Senior enlisted and commissioned Marines, along with a handful of Army officers, filled a Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group classroom for the very first integrated Ground Operations Chief Course and Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course graduation April 8.

In January, Gen. James F. Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps, signed into effect the Operations & Tactics Training Program Marine Corps Order 3502.7 that requires operations chiefs and officers to become certified as operations and tactics instructors before assuming an operations leadership billet.

The newly-integrated course prepared the Class 2-11 ground combat element operations chiefs for opera-



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Brigadier Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, III, the Combat Center's commanding general, congratulates a Marine and presents him with his Operations and Tactics Instructor certificate during the very first integrated Ground Operations Chief Course and Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course graduation at the Combat Center April 8.

tional planning, fire support planning and coordination and warfighting functions at the battalion and regimental level, said Master Gunnery

Sgt. Dennis Stieber, chief instructor for the Ground Operations Chief Course, out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Each class now incorporates non-infantry subject matter experts to craft a

See MCTOG, A6

Combat Center Marine named SMMC

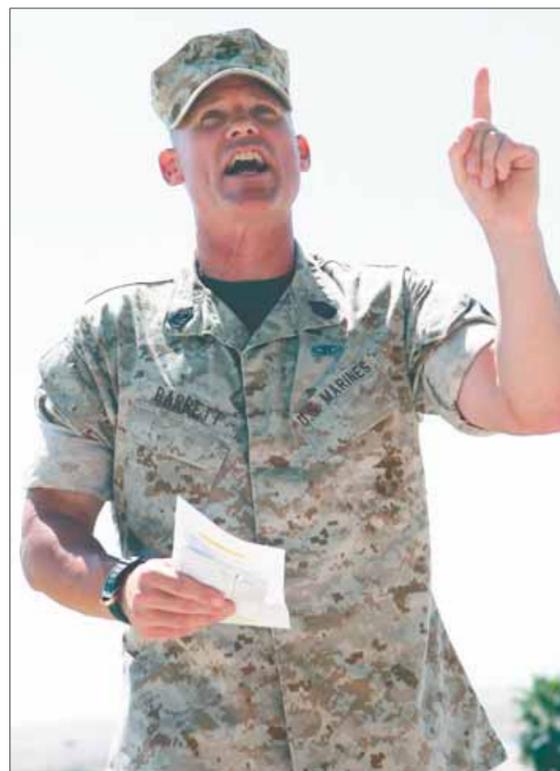
LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Newly selected sergeant major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, has had a colorful career as a Marine. Barrett is currently acting as sergeant major of 1st Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and previously served at the Combat

Center with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, from May 2005 to October 2007.

"Second Battalion, 7th Marines, is very proud that one of our own has been named as the new sergeant major of the Marine Corps," said Lt. Col. Donald J. Tomich, 2nd Bn., 7th Marines battalion commander. "While serving with 2/7, Sergeant Major

See SMMC, A5



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN GRILLY

Sergeant Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, the 1st Marine Division sergeant major, makes a point during his address to Marine and Navy noncommissioned officers of 7th Marine Regiment, at the Combat Center Aug. 20, 2009. The Segreants Major's visit came before "The Magnificent Seventh" deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the fall of 2009.

Flat Stanley trains with Combat Center Marines

GUNNERY SGT. SERGIO JIMENEZ
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

In 1994, according to the project's website, Dale Hubert, a third grade teacher in London, Ontario, Canada, began the Flat Stanley Project. He invited other teachers to take part by hosting flat visi-

tors and to encourage their students to write their own Flat Stanley journals. Jeff Brown, the author of the Flat Stanley book, was delighted with the Flat Stanley Project as it renewed interest in the book which resulted in a sequel almost 40 years after

See STANLEY, A8



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GUNNERY SGT. SERGIO JIMENEZ

Corporal Timothy Doak, 1st squad leader, 2nd platoon, Company A, or "Animal Company," 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stationed here, holds a picture of Flat Stanley after completing a hand and arm signals exercise aboard the Combat Center Thursday. Doak, who is from Nashville, Tenn., said the exercise is designed to teach "Animal Company," how to maneuver on patrols without using verbal commands as part of the unit's standard basic infantry skills training.

Marines make brass rain at Range 400



CPL. M. C. NERL

Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment storm the Combat Center's Range 400 as part of their Enhanced Mojave Viper Pre-Deployment Training exercise, Saturday. Range 400 is a company-sized, combined arms maneuver, designed to help Marines prepare for the rigors of combat and maneuver before they head overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Combat Center Band gears up for Las Vegas



Warrant Officer Stephanie Wire, the band officer, conducts the Combat Center Band at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field April 11, as part of a rehearsal for the band's upcoming trip to the Las Vegas International Tattoo. The tattoo features bands from all branches of service and acts from Ireland, Scotland and Canada.



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

The Combat Center Band practices their formations and movements during a rehearsal show at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field April 11. The band members wanted Combat Center personnel to see the performance they have been preparing for nearly three months and will perform at the Las Vegas International Tattoo.



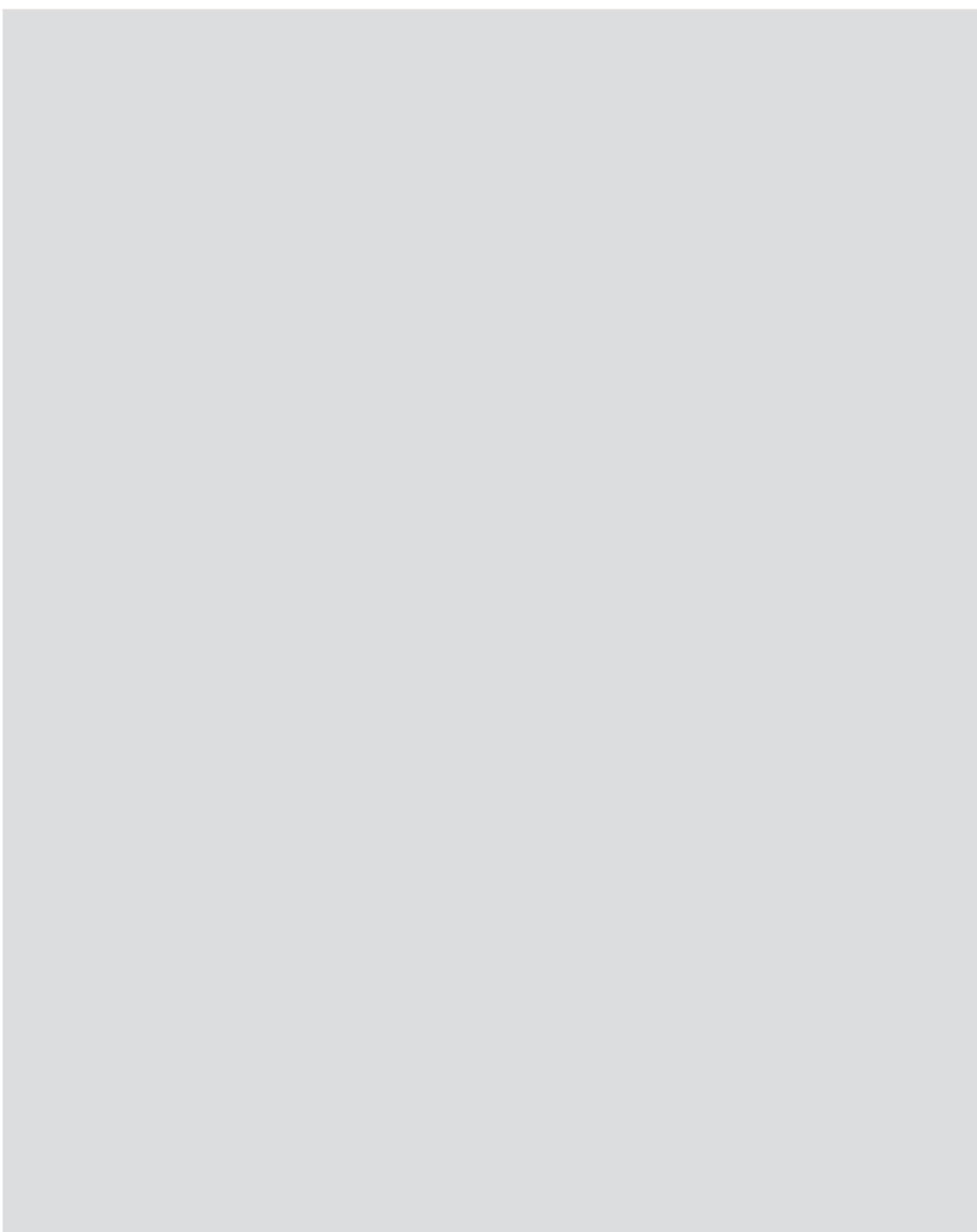
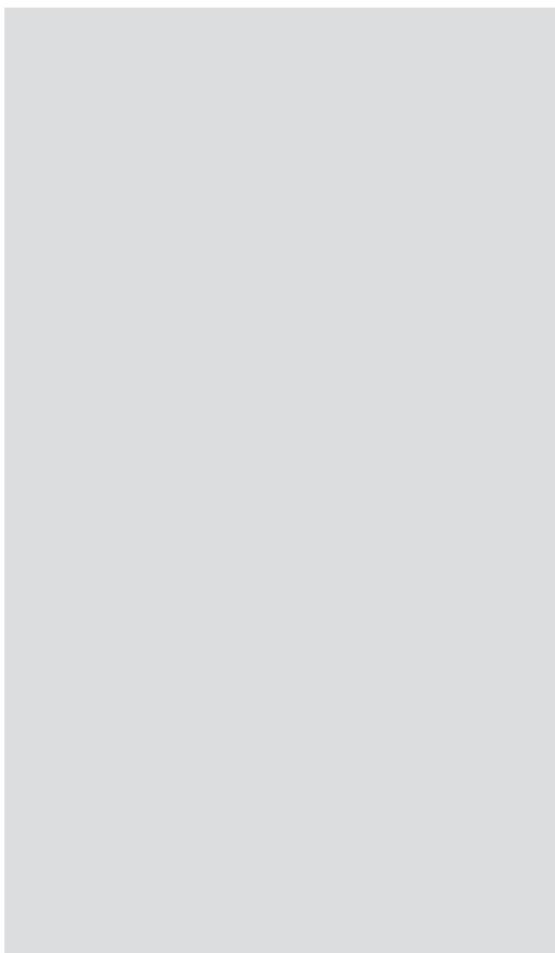
The Combat Center Band forms up before their rehearsal show at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field April 11. The band gave a rehearsal performance for Combat Center personnel in preparation for the Las Vegas International Tattoo April 15th and 16th.



The tuba section of the Combat Center Band plays as part of a rehearsal show at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field April 11. The band practiced for their full performance at the Las Vegas International Tattoo. The tattoo features tributes to service members, friends and family.



The trombone section of the Combat Center band takes the lead on the mock stage during the rehearsal performance at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field April 11.





DIANE DURDEN

Raelene Ross, an admissions and records specialist for Copper Mountain College, assists Combat Center personnel with class registration at the Base Programs Office. Active duty service members, veterans and their families have priority registration status, allowing them to register for classes several weeks before continuing and new students.

Early registration begins for Copper Mountain College

DIANE DURDEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Early registration for Copper Mountain College's fall semester classes will begin Monday for students with priority status.

Priority registration status is given to all active duty service members, veterans and their families [spouses and children].

Raelene Ross, an admissions and records specialist for CMC, works in the Base Programs Office located aboard the Combat Center. Ross encourages those

with priority status to take advantage of the early registration date, especially if students want to get into their first choice of classes.

Last year, the large number of students registering for classes forced many to choose alternate schedules when classes quickly filled to capacity.

Registration for students without priority status begins April 25 for continuing students and May 9 for new students.

The school's Base Programs Office provides more than class registra-

tion. Other services available to students are assessment testing, financial aid information, counseling and academic advisement. Students may also access the school's internet resources provided by CMC's Greenleaf Library.

"Anyone with base access can be helped here," Ross said.

More information about the Base Programs Office along with registration information, class descriptions and schedules can be found at the school's website, <http://www.cmccd.edu>.

SJA CORNER

Powers of Attorney: Important to have, understand

CAPT. DAVID SEGRAVES
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Regardless of rank or MOS, at some point in time the Marine Corps causes every Marine to be out of touch. Whether it is during training, deployment or mission critical work, Marines should have powers of attorney in place to allow others to act on their behalf.

Powers of attorney can range from a POA allowing a spouse to file a joint tax return to a "blank check" general POA. Marines should learn the proper uses for and hazards concurrent with executing POAs.

The two main categories of POAs are general and special powers of attorney. Both types have advantages and disadvantages. A general POA appoints a person as the attorney-in-fact for the grantor, meaning the person appointed can enter into any transaction on behalf of the grantor. Marines should be careful when considering whether to give someone a general POA. Many Marines have come home from deployment to find someone has misused their general POA by clearing out bank accounts, opening and maxing out credit cards and even purchasing vehicles in the Marines' names. Some organizations have begun refusing to accept general POAs; other organizations such as IPAC cannot accept general POAs by regulation. While a general POA provides a broad array of powers, the legal assistance office recommends considering using our special POAs as a

substitute or in conjunction with a general POA.

Special POAs provide only for the powers explicitly listed in the power of attorney. With a SPOA, Marines can appoint different people to act as their attorneys-in-fact for different matters. For example, they could use a vehicle SPOA to appoint a non-deploying friend to drive and maintain their vehicles while using a fill-in-the-blank SPOA to appoint their parents to handle taxes and financial matters. The Legal Assistance office can make a POA to meet any special need, but we have three main SPOAs: in loco parentis, vehicle and fill-in-the-blanks.

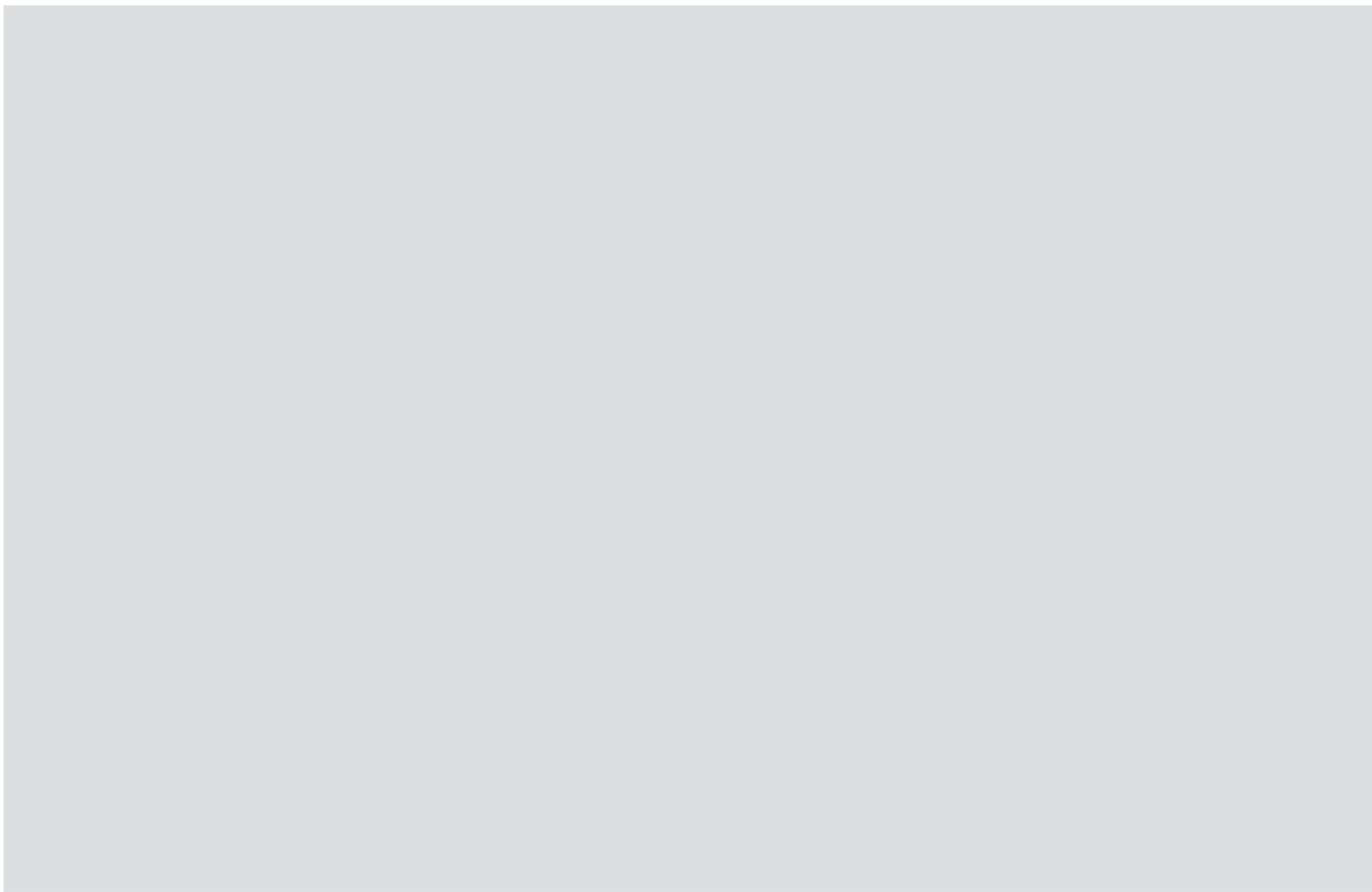
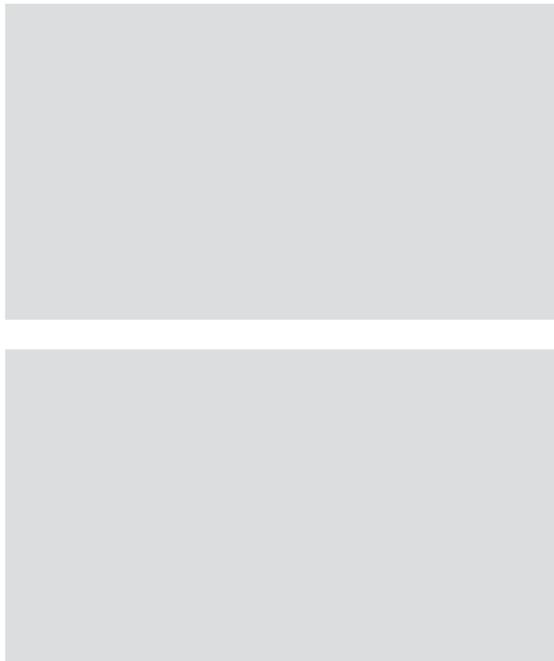
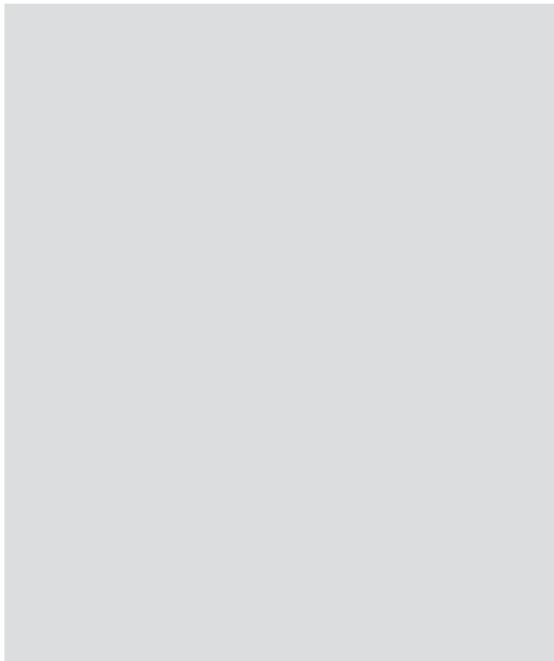
Military members with children should have at least one, if not more, in loco parentis POAs. In loco parentis mean "in the place of the parent." Appropriately, an in loco parentis POA allows a friend or extended family member to stand in the place of a child's parents for things such as picking up the child from school/daycare and taking the child to the hospital for medical care. Many Marines assume their spouse will handle their children; however, Marines need to plan for events where a spouse will need a substitute (e.g. their spouse is bedridden due to sickness).

Deploying single Marines often have a quandary over what to do with their vehicle. Storage or TMO is always an option if Marines take the proper steps. Another option is to have a friend or family member drive the vehicle while the Marine is away. For this arrangement, the Legal Assistance Office provides a vehicle SPOA.

This SPOA allows the attorney-in-fact to drive the vehicle, register the vehicle, insure the vehicle and even have it repaired while the Marine is away. Many Marines make the mistake of just giving their keys to a friend or family member they trust. These same Marines face difficulty when the vehicle breaks down and the mechanic shop will not perform services without the consent of the owner.

Marines seeking the most flexible and powerful POA should choose the fill-in-the-blanks SPOA. It provides 19 powers for Marines to choose, ranging from shipping household goods to terminating residential leases. Many more institutions will accept this POA because it has a block for a signature by each power a Marine wants to give; moreover, for powers such as handling banking transactions, it has spots for Marines to insert their bank name and account numbers for their specific accounts. Because institutions do not have to accept POAs, Marines should do as much as possible to provide an institution with confidence in accepting a POA.

Marines have many situations that need POAs. Prudent Marines can go to the Legal Assistance website at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/SJA/pages/LegalAssistance.aspx> to view, fill out and print their desired POAs. Marines can get their POAs notarized Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings at the Legal Assistance Office. Finally, Marines will need to update their POAs annually as institutions generally only accept POAs within one year of the date of execution.



Marine Corps teaches old plane new tricks in Afghanistan

**STAFF SGT.
CHRISTOPHER FLURRY**

2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FWW)

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan – One of the U.S. military's most seasoned aircraft has found a new purpose as a one-of-a-kind weapon for the Marine Corps in support of troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

The U.S. military has relied on the C-130 Hercules platform for a variety of tasks including air-to-air refueling and cargo and troop transportation for more than 50 years. But the Marine Corps, in partnership with Lockheed-Martin, has recently created a unique variant of its KC-130J by outfitting an existing plane with what has been dubbed the Harvest Hawk weapons system.

"It's a brand new capability for the Marine Corps and it's proving itself very well," said Capt. Joel D. Duniav, a KC-130J aircraft commander with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., who is currently



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

The Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J rests on the runway at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, March 24. The one-of-a-kind Harvest Hawk system includes a version of the target sight sensor used on the AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopter as well as a complement of four AGM-114 Hellfire and 10 Griffin missiles.

ly deployed to Afghanistan. "I've been a KC-130 pilot my whole time in the Marine Corps, but this is a new capability for us to support the Marines on the ground."

The Harvest Hawk system includes a version of the target sight sensor used on the AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopter as well as a complement of four AGM-114 Hellfire and

10 Griffin missiles, a modular, precision-guided missile system typically employed on unmanned aerial vehicles. The system expands the role of the KC-130J for 2nd

Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) beyond its traditional level of support to include close air support against enemy positions and providing surveillance to dis-

rupt improvised explosive device emplacements.

"Harvest Hawk, for me, is an opportunity to help the

See PLANE, A7

SMMC, from A1

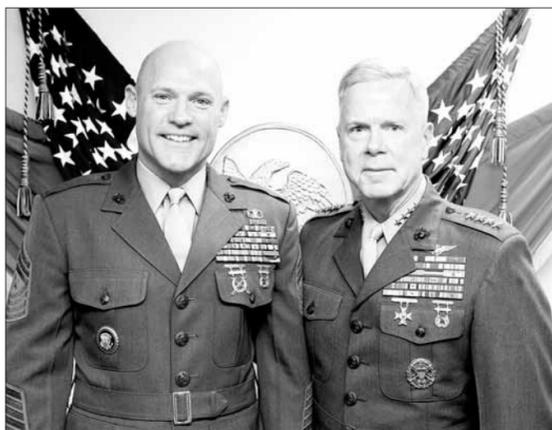
Barrett effectively led our Marines and sailors on two successful combat deployments to Iraq as the Battalion Sergeant Major."

From the beginning of his 30 year career in the Corps, Barrett has made a lasting impression.

"I first met [Barrett] in 1988," said retired Lt. Col Joe L'etoile, a former battalion commander of 2/7 who served closely with Barrett throughout their service in the Corps. "I was a newly minted second lieutenant on my first assignment with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Back in the day,

3/9 was part of 7th Marines which was headquartered at [MCB] Camp Pendleton. Then Sgt. Barrett was truly a 'stand-out' in the battalion. He was in the Surveillance and Target Acquisition platoon and was the battalion's chief sniper. Our service together continued through the Gulf War in 1991 and we have been close ever since."

Barrett will assume his role as sergeant major of the Marine Corps after a relief and appointment ceremony and the retirement of Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlton W. Kent June 9 at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.



SGT. BEN J. FLORES

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos [right], announced Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett as his selection for the next sergeant major of the Marine Corps. Barrett recently returned from Afghanistan where he served as the sergeant major of Regional Command Southwest and I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Fair educates Combat Center on healthy lifestyle, choices

LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and Combat Center personnel attended the inaugural Twentynine Palms Active Duty and Base Employee Health Fair at the Combat Center's Sunset



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

A Marine looks at literature provided at the Twentynine Palms Active Duty and Base Employee Health Fair at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema April 8. The literature and digital media accompanied the presentations featured at the health fair.

Cinema April 8th.

The fair, sponsored by Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Palms and the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, invited Marines, sailors and installation employees to educate themselves on topics like hearing conservation, men's and women's health, tobacco cessation, STD prevention, internet addiction, behavioral health and sexual assault prevention.

The health fair educated the audience on common misconceptions and the dangers of certain lifestyle choices and the use of protective equipment.

Dr. Clayton Barbour, an HIV specialist with the Desert AIDS Project, was a speaker at the health fair and warned the audience on the dangers of unprotected sex and AIDS.

"There are a lot of young Marines here that can benefit a lot from these kinds of presentations," Barbour said.

"One of the things we're trying to stress here is hearing conservation," said Petty Officer 2nd Class George Herrera, one of the health fair coordinators. "Hearing loss is one of the major health problems of Marines upon leaving the service," added Herrera.

Herrera was the bridge between service members and the personnel presenting the information, filling in the blanks and relating the infor-



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Bellavia, presented the dangers of internet addiction and the health benefits of tobacco cessation at Twentynine Palms Active Duty and Base Employee Health Fair at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema April 8.

mation to all service members lifestyles and making it digestible.

One of the fair's main points was to lead a healthy lifestyle. It covered topic relating to everyday life that can effect health problems.

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly half of all pre-

mature deaths in this country were caused by lifestyle related problems.

Speakers invited the audience to ask any questions they had after each presentation. Literature and materials, including interactive software, were available to attendees. "We want to be able to educate the people here on base and we want to

make the health fair an annual thing," said Herrera.

Herrera and other speakers encouraged the audience to be proactive, to live a healthy lifestyle and to take precautions into their daily lives, whether remembering to wear ear protection or to practice safe sex.

MCTOG, from A1

well-rounded operations chief, capable of taking charge of a ground combat element with a more sharpened skill set.

"[The Marines] will be comfortable with taking the lead. They should be able to emplace and displace the [Combat Operations Center], and they should be able to take the lead on training the COC battle staff," said Steiber, before the graduation ceremony began.

Steiber said the training staff dismantled the old operations chief course and essentially built the new integrated course from scratch. "There's more practical application than there is classroom time. They spend

the majority of the seven weeks actually doing what they're supposed to be doing," added the Marathon, Wisc., native.

The first course, Class 2-11, integrated training officers and enlisted Marines, allowing them to work under similar conditions they will face while serving as part of a unit. Each gained the knowledge it will take to work together as ops chiefs and officers in their respective job.

"It was all valuable and pertinent training," Capt. Quinci D. Martin said, about the two courses. "I'd recommend it for anyone." Martin, a self-proclaimed "Navy brat" from the Naval Station Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, will take

charge as the supply officer for the 8th Communications Battalion at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"I have been paying attention to this particular course," said Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, III, the Combat Center's commanding general. "It's important to me personally, as a Marine, as the commanding general here, a former director of Expeditionary Warfare School, but more importantly it's important to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and therefore imperative that this [course] goes well.

"We as Marines are war fighters. The wars we are fighting now have gotten more complicated, more complex," said Clardy. "We need skilled operators who understand the complexities of the battlefield, who understand how training should be conducted in a sophisticated manner, and just as importantly, how to plan and execute operations. We owe it to the command to give them those skills and that's why this course exists."

The pilot class received their Operations and Tactics Instructor certificates and are qualified to assume an operations billet as per the order.

"For master sergeants and master gunnery sergeants who have not worked in a combat operations center, this is a great opportunity for them to understand the job and what's expected of them in garrison and while



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Marines and soldiers wait to receive their certificates at a Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group classroom for the first integrated Ground Operations Chief Course and Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course graduation April 8. The class graduated 57 officers and 18 enlisted personnel.

deployed forward," said Master Sgt. Bernardino Moreno, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge for the Doctrine, Standards and Training Division for MCTOG. "Anybody that has the opportunity to come to the course definitely needs to come. Even the ones that have experience in working in a combat operations center can still learn a great deal by just going through [the course]."

The 57 officers and 18 enlisted personnel of Class 2-11 exemplify the beginning of better training and preparation for operations chiefs and officers.

Colonel William F. Mullen, III, the commanding officer of MCTOG, said the goal was for the graduates to be able to work within a full-fledged COC and develop the proficiency they'll need to succeed.

"At this point now we're giving them the confidence to roll in there and take charge," added Mullen.



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Recent graduates of the first integrated Ground Operations Chief Course and Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course sit with their certificates in a Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group classroom April 8.

PLANE, from A5

guys on the ground," said Capt. Bradley C. Stadelmeier, with VMGR-352, a co-pilot for the Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J.

Even with its expanded capabilities, Harvest Hawk crewmembers said the aircraft retains its original capabilities in refueling and transportation. Crewmembers said the Harvest Hawk KC-130J has been used to refuel other coalition aircraft in Afghanistan, and that the entire system can be removed in less than a day if necessary.

The Harvest Hawk first saw service in the Afghan skies in late 2010. Nearly six months since its inception, the aircraft has spent hundreds of hours in the air supporting coalition troops.

"I was highly skeptical of this program until I was on the ground side," said Capt. Christopher Klempay, the air officer for 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. "Now, my opinion is that this is one of the best missions the Hercules can provide the ground force commander."

Supporting Marine Corps ground forces and coalition partners is one of the primary missions for the Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J, and both aircrew and Marines on the ground said its ability to stay in the air for long periods of time, providing both surveillance and close-air support is a primary reason for its success.

"It's great to be a part of something that helps Marines get home safely at night," said Cpl. Jessica M. Egan, a crew chief with VMGR-352, who serves with the Harvest Hawk detachment.

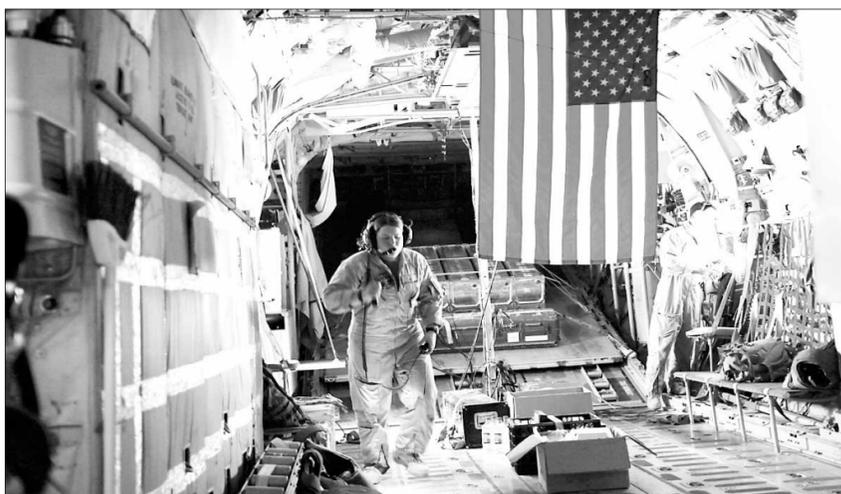
Additionally, the aircraft's laser-guided weapons allow for pinpoint accuracy, helping to ensure insurgents are neutralized with minimal impact on the Afghan people and their property.

"The Harvest Hawk is the close air support platform of choice for counter insurgency in Marjah, where collateral damage is a major concern," said Klempay. "The fire control officers, who sit in the back of the Hercules, are the best in town because they have the ability to devote 100 percent of their attention looking for the enemy on their video imagery and talking to the forward air controllers."

In addition to its standard complement of officer and enlisted crew, the Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J is manned by two fire control officers to monitor and control the weapons and surveillance systems. These Marines, either AV-8B Harrier pilots or F/A-18 Hornet weapon systems officers, bring their expertise in close air support and serve as a vital link between the Marines on the ground and the aircraft supporting them.

"The tools are a little different, but the job is similar," said Maj. Marc E. Blankenbicker with VMGR-352, the lead fire control officer for the Harvest Hawk detachment, whose primary duty in the Marine Corps is as an F/A-18 weapon systems officer. "It's very rewarding to take a skill set from one aircraft and translate it to another aircraft."

Both Marines in the air and Marines on the ground have



STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER

The crew of the Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J move around the aircraft after its take-off from Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan March 25. The one-of-a-kind Harvest Hawk system includes a version of the target sight sensor used on the AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopter as well as a complement of four AGM-114 Hellfire and 10 Griffin missiles.

cited a recent mission as a hallmark of the Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J's effectiveness. On March 14, the aircraft stayed airborne approximately 10 hours, expending its entire complement of Hellfire missiles providing close air support for multiple Marine Corps units operating across Regional Command Southwest.

"That Harvest Hawk was on a general scan for IED emplacements. They found four individuals digging in the road, saw them drop something heavy into a hole in the road, and the battalion determined these individuals to be hos-

tile," said Klempay of one of the requests the Harvest Hawk KC-130J supported that day. "The Harvest Hawk launched a Hellfire, neutralizing the enemy threat."

Blankenbicker explained the KC-130J supported two other Marine battalions operating the same day, eliminating a number of enemy fighters.

"The Harvest Hawk is a great platform. I can talk directly to the pilot and we can improve each other's situational awareness on the spot," said 1st Lt. Charles Broun, a platoon commander with Kilo Company, 3rd Bn., 5th Marine

Regiment. "Throw in the precision ordnance it carries and it is an outstanding combat multiplier."

"Being in the aviation community, as an aircrew, gives you a unique perspective as what the infantry battalions do every day," said Blankenbicker. "You see where they live; you see the villages where they work. We see firsthand the efforts of the units that we're here to support."

"Whenever you are enabling a Marine battalion to better do their job," added Blankenbicker. "That's a good feeling."

Combat Center Religious Services

Sunday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

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

Mon.-Fri. 11:45 a.m.-
Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
Mon. - Fri., noon - Prayer
Tuesday
Christ Chapel
9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (Sept.-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 and 7 p.m. - Knights of

Columbus

Thursday

Immaculate Heart of Mary
9 a.m. - Adult Class
6 p.m. - Children RCIA
6:30 p.m. - RCIA (Sept.-April)
7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation
Friday
Immaculate Heart of Mary
First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m.,
4:30 p.m. - Exposition/ Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament
Legend
* Indicates child care is provided
+ Call 830-6456/6482 for confession appointments

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.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZACHARY RYUON AKER-LAW
Born on: April 5, 2011
Born to Aaron and Yunike Acker-Law

SUMMER GRACE LUCERO
Born on: April 4, 2011
Born to: Jacob and Heather Lucero

SAMUEL ADRIAN SANCHEZ
Born on: April 2, 2011
Born to: David and Kelly Sanchez

SKYLER EVERETT WHITE
Born on: March 30, 2011
Born to Ryan and Chantal White

KIERRA MARIE EHLERT
Born on: March 30, 2011
Born to: Matthew and Mariesa Ehlert

EMILY RENAE MONOHON
Born on: March 26, 2011
Born to: Daniell and Jessica Monohon

MATTHEW LIAM GALLAGHER
Born on: March 26, 2011
Born to: Cori and Scott Gallagher

LEXINE MIRABEL MCBEE
Born on: March 23, 2011
Donald and Katie McBee

DEREK A. THIEMANN
Born on: March 25, 2011
Born to: Dominic and Dianna Thiemann

AMOS NEIL FLEET
Born on: March 25, 2011
Born to: James and Kirsten Fleet

CAMDIN CACIA NEWKIRK
Born on: March 23, 2011
Born to: Montreal and Clatoshia Newkirk

COOPER CURRAN PLATE
Born on: March 22, 2011
Born to Curran and Karen Plate

JULIAN BOSS ROSSITER
Born on: March 21, 2011
Born to: Justin and Amanda Rossiter

LANDON JAMES THOMAS
Born on: March 22, 2011
Born to: Nathan and Albenia Thomas

BLAKE STEPHEN KULLBERG
Born on: March 22, 2011
Born to: Kirk and Jolene Kullberg

BRICE CONNELL PARSONS
Born on: March 20, 2011
Born to: Connel and Trisha Parsons

ETHAN WILLIAM KOHLBRENNER
Born on: March 19, 2011
Born to: William and Elizabeth Kohlbrenner

AIDAM JEFFREY HOLTSMANN
Born on: March 19, 2011
Born to: Jason and Elizabeth Holtmann

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

A	R	B	S	B	A	S	E	S	T	S	O	B
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L	I	E	A	N	N	L	E	E	E	D	G	E
D	E	L	T	E	T	O	N	S	R	E	O	S

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

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

2008 TOYOTA YARIS. \$10,000 OBO. Approximately 58K miles. Good condition. Consistent maintenance. Call 622-4562.

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

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

2007 SUZUKI BOULEVARD. Black and chrome, 1600 CC, \$3,000 in extras included. Asking \$12,500. 401-3739.

2006 PONTIAC SOLSTICE. Fully loaded, excellent condition, 21,500 miles. \$13,500. Call 819-2773.

MISC.

BABY ITEMS: 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.

COLLECTIBLE SPORTS, SCI-FI CARDS: Baseball, football from mid 80's to 90's. Star Trek and Star Wars collectible cards too. Individual heroes, team sets or the whole collection. Call Stephen at 567-7921.

YOUR FREE AD HERE

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 repre-

sent 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.

SIGNALS, from A1

there, and the culture they are in right now with the social media," Husung said.

The presentation has been performed at hundreds of colleges and military installations around the country and worldwide according to the Catharsis Productions website, the organization which pro-

duces Sex Signals.

"We do a lot of college shows as well as military, so it is always interesting to see the different reactions you get from the groups," said Judith Lesser, a performer with Sex Signals.

The performers said they enjoyed performing for the military and that they felt it is important to reach them as

an audience.

"I like the Marines, they are an awesome audience and insane but I love it," said Kyle Terry, a performer with Sex Signals. "I think that sexual assault is a problem everywhere and I like that the military is taking such a proactive approach to combat it."

By the start of the first presentation, the actors got a

good vibe of how the rest of the week was going to play out.

"They are awake and responding and we get a lot of pushback but it is nothing we can't handle," Lesser said.

As the presentation comes to the end, it heads into a more serious direction. The actors played out a scenario where a make-believe Marine, David, newly promoted to corporal

and well liked by everyone, but is accused of raping another Marine in a seemingly innocent yet controversial situation.

The audience heard a quick brief of the victim's side of the story then David, played by Terry, explained his side of what happened that night.

After hearing his side and asking him detailed questions, the performers discussed what really happened. "Labeling anybody like

David as a rapist is difficult for most people because he doesn't look like the stranger jumping out of the alley," Terry said.

The command was pleased with the feedback they were getting from everyone who participated in the presentation.

"The interaction with the crowd and the skits they were doing, were both help-

ful and serious at the same time," said Pfc. Ricky Driver, a student with Marine Corps Communications-Electronic School. "It was extremely entertaining and it did give all the necessary information for people to stay away from problems like rape and sexual assault."

The sexual assault prevention and response program was happy with the success of the program.

"Overall, Sex Signals, through Catharsis Productions, does an outstanding job putting the links together," Husung said. "Really bringing it to the audience for them to take it and make it concrete so they can utilize it later on."

For more information on programs for sexual assault and rape, contact your unit's Uniform Victim Advocate.



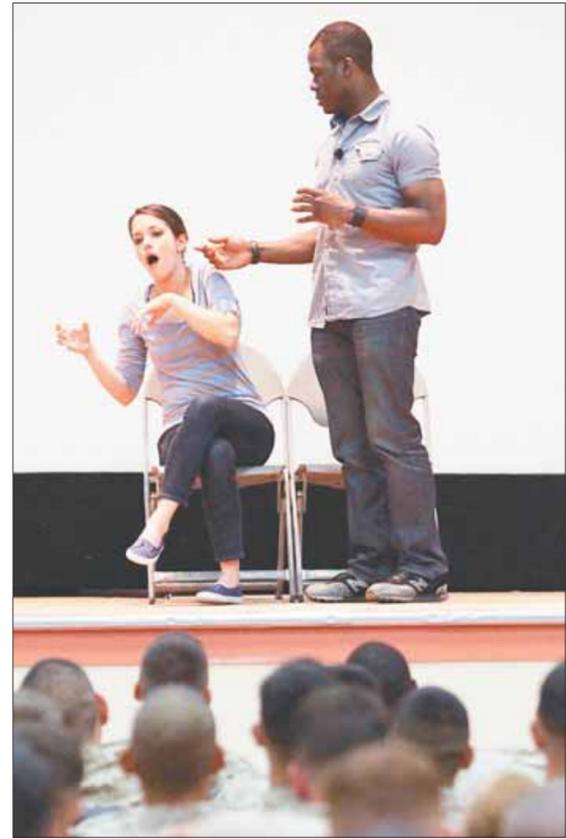
GUNNERY SGT. SERGIO JIMENEZ

The photo was taken at the request of the mother of a young Marine from Twentynine Palms, who is an educator in New Hampshire. She wrote the Marines and asked if they would 'host' one of her student's Flat Stanley.

STANLEY, from A1

the original. Jeff Brown stayed with Dale when he visited Wilfrid Jury Public School in London, Ontario as a guest author and hosted Dale and his family for a wonderful two week holiday in Connecticut. Dale and Jeff remained good friends until Jeff's death in 2003.

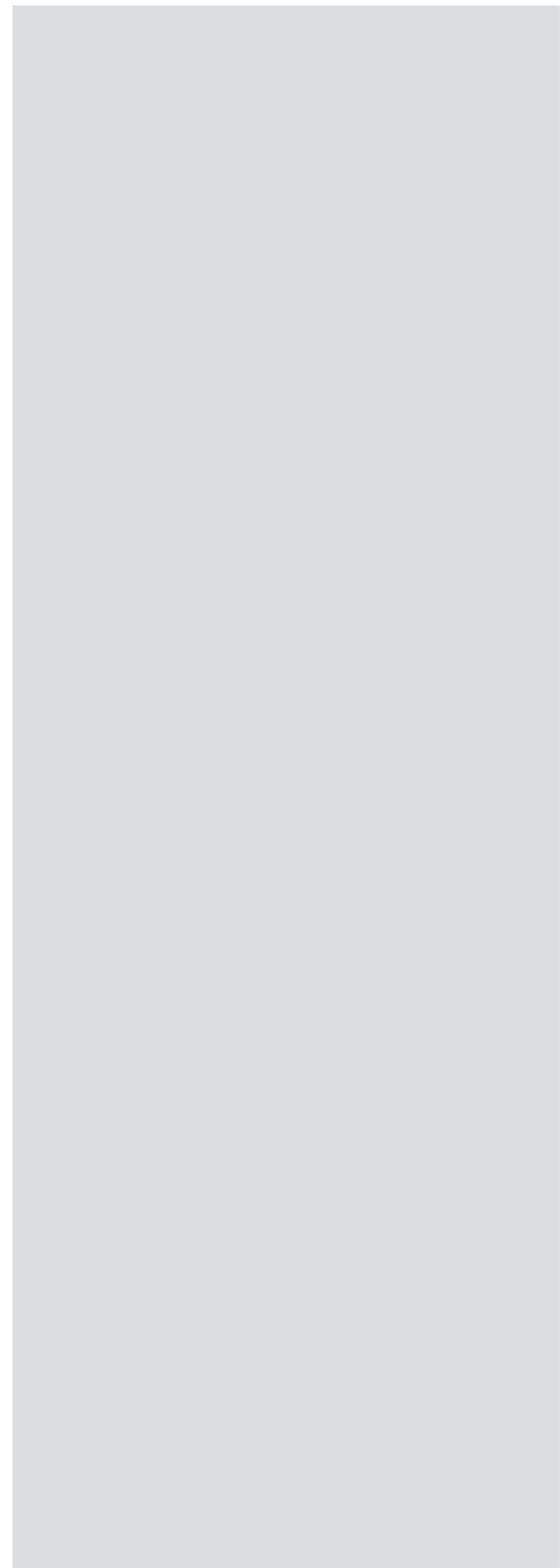
Robbie's Stanley traveled all the way to Kabul, Afghanistan and hung out with service members and civilians in the Green Village, spent a weekend in Dubai, and visited Marines in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Kyle Terry, a performer with Sex Signals, portrays an exaggerated stereotypical male hitting on Judith Lesser, another Sex Signals performer, portraying what the Marines described as a stereotypical female during a sexual assault awareness brief at the at the Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

ADVERTISEMENT





Intramural Softball charges into season

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Fresh teams stormed Felix Field ready to test their skills in the pre-season games of the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League Monday.

Seventeen teams comprised of Marines, sailors and civilians of all ages and ranks participated in the games. With a variety of teams and a range of experience among players, this should be an exciting season, said Randy Husted, a sports specialist with Marine Corps Community Services Sports.

The teams took the field before the games, many warming up with drills practiced in training sessions.

"We have been running a practice every morning for the past two weeks, trying to put together a team. We have people that want to play ball but not effectively ball

players," said Paul Lass, the pitcher for the Uncoachables.

During the games, coaches paid attention to how their teams performed, and took notes on what they needed to improve.

"We are going to do some base running work because that was definitely lacking," said David Palmer, the pitcher for PWD Green Thunder. "So a little bit of batting, base running and some cut-off work. Can't have too much more fun than we already had."

"We need to work on our organizational skills in the infield and maintaining control of the ball," Lass said about his team. "Not making the mental mistakes that allow the other team to gain extra bases when they shouldn't."

According to coaches and unit leaders, the league is not only another form of exercise, but also

See **SOFTBALL, B4**



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Jerry Wolf, a player with Dental, sprints to third base as Sean O'Tool, the third baseman for PWD Green Thunder, snatches up the grounder during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League preseason game at Felix Field Monday.

Earth Day coming soon

LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center has a positive history for conserving energy and "thinking green" when looking for alternative sources of energy. The Center's annual Earth Day events are just another reflection of the Marine Corps' dedication to preserving Earth's natural resources.

Earth Day will be celebrated worldwide April 22, and will be recognized at the Combat Center April 16 to 22. Various events will be held to help clean up the local area.

Over the years, Combat Center personnel have maintained a reputation for being good stewards of the land the Marines and sailors used for training.

In 2010, installation personnel received the Department

of Energy's Federal Energy and Water Management Award, the Secretary of the Navy's Energy Award, and the Secretary of Defense Environmental Quality Award.

The installation has reduced 93 percent of its waste in the dining facilities by installing compostable-waste decomposers. Also, by installing a shredder, 90 percent of the cardboard waste on the Combat Center has been diverted from the base

landfill, all thanks to recommendations from the men and women in the Natural Resources Environmental Affairs department.

The Combat Center is familiar with taking care of the environment, making Earth Day another reason to get out of the house and do something for the community and the Earth.

For more information on the Earth Day events, contact the NREA at 830-6603.

Event Schedule:

April 16 – Yucca Valley Conservation Fair and Earth Day Celebration 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Yucca Valley Library.

April 20 – 5K Earth Day Awareness Run: beginning at 6 a.m. at the Combat Center's PFT course.

April 22 – Information and Activities: NREA Earth Day information awareness display will be at the commissary at 10 a.m.; Lincoln Military housing needs volunteers to help clean up the housing areas on base. For more information call 365-4500.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A participant in the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Charity Golf tournament tries to improve his team's score at the Desert Winds Golf Course April 8.

Marines golf for charity

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With a light wind and sunny skies, Combat Center personnel hit the Desert Winds Golf Course for the second annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Charity Golf tournament, as part of the Active Duty Fund Drive April 8.

The charity golf tournament has been around for years but was not made an official annual event until last year, said Capt. Michael Hoyt, a training officer with Operations and Training.

The tournament raised a few hundred dollars to add to the almost \$220,000 raised

this year. They expect to raise another \$10,000 to \$20,000 by the end of the drive for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provides financial assistance as needed with interest-free loans, grants and scholarships. NMCRS also provides financial counseling, Budget for Baby workshops and visiting nurse services according to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society web site, <http://nmcrs.org>.

Due to other events around the Combat Center which coincided with the tournament, fewer participants showed than in previous

See **GOLF, B4**

Tanks return trophy



DIANE DURDEN

Captain Philip Peroune, First Tank Battalion's adjutant, returned the Combat Center Challenge trophy Tuesday to Marine Corps Community Services representative Charles Dougwill. First Tanks has won the challenge five of six times and will be one of several units aboard the Combat Center competing in the challenge later this month. "You can just leave it [the trophy] here," said Peroune. "That would save you from having to bring it back."

Volleyball players ace intramurals



CPL. M. C. NERL

Dave Sierleja, a player with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, takes a flying leap at a serve from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School team Tuesday during the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League, hosted at the Combat Center's West Gym Fitness Center.



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: Request Night with DJ Gjettblaque 8 to 11 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Fridays: Social Hour with Food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Monday: Free Gourmet Bar Food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Free Gourmet Bar Food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour with Food, 7 to 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Social hour 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., DJ, 8 to 11 p.m.
Mondays: Steak night, full dinner menu, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday: All-Hands lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday: Steak Night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Thursdays: Taco Night, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

The Evangenitals

Description: The American rockabilly band performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up:

Alyce Bowie

Description: The alternative/classic rock band performs
When: 7 p.m., Friday, April 15

Concrete Blonde

Description: The famous alternative gothic band performs
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, April 16
Where: Willie Boys Saloon and Dance Hall, 50048 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
For more information, call 363-3343 or visit <http://www.willieboys.com>.

The Town of Yucca Valley's adult excursion to the Fallbrook Avocado Festival

Description: Bus to the festival for the all-day trip
When: The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 6:30 p.m.
Where: The Yucca Valley Community Center's north parking lot, 57098 Twentynine Palms Highway, north on Dumosa, Yucca Valley
Reservations are required. Call 369-7211 or visit www.yucca-valley.org.

Lower Desert

Leann Rimes

Description: The country queen performs her hits
When: 9 p.m. Friday, April 29
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Golden Boy Boxing

Description: Librado Andrade vs Enrique Ornelas
When: 7 p.m., Friday, May 6
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Stevie Nicks

Description: The famous rock star performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 13
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

The Doobie Brothers

Description: The famous classic rock band performs
When: 6:45 p.m. Saturday, June 18
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 15

Free concert: Bo Bice Live. Open to all hands. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** Tangled, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Big Mamma's House 3, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – I Am Number 4, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Unknown, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Hall Pass, Rated R

Sunday, April 17

2 p.m. – TBA, Rated G
6 p.m. – TBA, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – TBA, Rated R

Monday, April 18

7 p.m. – TBA, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, April 19

7 p.m. – TBA, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, April 20

7 p.m. – TBA, Rated G

Thursday, April 21

7 p.m. – TBA, Rated PG-13

Brit-lit classic continues to captivate

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Jane Eyre"

Starring Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender and Judi Dench
Rated PG-13

Charlotte Brontë's 1847 novel "Jane Eyre" has been a Hollywood go-to for almost a century. It's been churned into more than two dozen theatrical films and made-for-TV movies, variously starring Orson Welles, George C. Scott, Elizabeth Taylor, Margaret O'Brien, William Hurt and Anna Paquin.

With all the spotlight and star power already spent on its story, you might wonder if there's enough gothic go-juice left in the tale to fuel yet another re-telling.

But the latest version, starring 21-year-old Mia Wasikowska in the title role and directed by Gary Fukunaga, hits all the right notes anew for anyone



COURTESY PHOTO

This latest version of Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre" stars 21-year-old Mia Wasikowska as the spirited young orphan who finds love and terror at the Rochester family mansion.

who'd love to be swept up and away in a stirring, costume-drama saga that has admirably weathered the wuthering tests of time.

Jane, a British orphan, runs a gauntlet of childhood obstacles before her path

finally leads her, at age 19, to a job for brooding Edward Fairfax Rochester (Michael Fassbender), whose handsome countryside manor is full of mystery, deceit and danger.

Newcomer Amelia Clarkson, making her big-screen debut, is impressive as the younger version of the character, enduring a cruel guardian aunt and heartless schoolteachers. But Wasikowska, who held her own against Mad Hatter Johnny Depp last year in Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," gives an especially potent performance as the "older" Jane, running away when we meet her in the opening scene from something we don't know about until much later, and into a future that will hinge on the "goodness of strangers."

Acclaimed British actress Judi Dench takes a supporting role as Rochester's housekeeper, the first adult in Jane's life to treat her with any degree of respect, compassion or kindness.

Anyone familiar with the novel or any of the movie's previous versions won't be surprised by what awaits Jane at the end of her emotionally wrenching travails. But even knowing how the story ends doesn't distract from this version's powerful depiction of a young woman making her way in

an era dominated by men and divided by gaping chasms of gender and class.

The movie is faithful to the storyline and themes of Brontë's novel, which combined a compelling rags-to-riches tale with burning passions and smoldering secrets, spiked with pointed statements about morality, religion, forgiveness and the universal yearning to be part of a loving, caring family.

The cinematography is gorgeous, making forbidding moors all the more desolate, dark hallways all the more ominous – and flowing tears all the more heartbreaking. An elegant musical soundtrack underscores the emotional highs and lows.

Wasikowska is nothing short of amazing – and inspiring – as a strong-hearted 19th century heroine who refuses to see her painful past as a "tale of woe."

At a full two hours, it's a bit sluggish in the middle, and it has little to offer anyone whose movie appetite requires something with a few more contemporary jolts and volts. But if you're a sucker for a love story that never seems to grow old, one that continues to resonate with audiences in a world far more modern than Charlotte Brontë could have ever imaged, this "poor, obscure, plain and little" Brit-lit lassie can still run away with your heart.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Fassbender plays Edward Fairfax Rochester, the moody, cranky master of the house whose crusty exterior melts away as he falls in love with the young orphan.

Combat Center Leisure

Desert Detours: The Palms Springs Tramway, San Jacinto Mountain



Welcome to "Desert Detours," a series that follows correspondent Cpl. M.C. Nerl around on his explorations of the high desert, the basin and the valley. The "out-of-five" palm tree rating scale offers a glance at how worthwhile the writer considers a place to be. Locales will be judged on their accessibility, atmosphere, fun, cost and facilities. Keep an eye out every week for new shenanigans and hot tips on cool things to do.

CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Getting high isn't necessarily a bad thing for Marines.

Just kidding, smoking, especially smoking anything that "expands your mind," is against Marine Corps and DoD regulations, but we're not here to talk about that.

All Marines, sailors and their families should be familiar with Palm Springs, Calif., a nearby city known for a number of things, including the Aerial Tramway into the scenic Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area.

On the drive up, it does not look like the site has much to offer, besides Japanese tourists, old people, and that same, old, out-of-breath feeling you get when walking through the mountains, but there is oh, so much more.

On a daily basis, they offer a military discount. During the month of July, service members rate free passage with the Tram. Trust me, it is worth it.

Make sure you get to the Tram early and head straight for the front of the line. That thing will get packed very fast.

They can hold approximately 80 people in one of the two Tram cars, but really, after about 30 it starts to get pretty cramped. Make sure you're prepared to contain your epilepsy, vertigo, and claustrophobia when you get on these things.

Just kidding, but if you told someone they were about to get on an unidentified flying object-shaped platform with 79 other people and get pulled through the air on a cable up to 8,500 feet...I don't think they'd be too pleased. Did I mention it slowly rotates the whole time?

Don't be dismayed though, after a surprisingly interesting and scenic trip up to the Mountain Station, you can get out on solid ground. Here you can roam around the nature trails in the Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area, which I highly recommend because that place is totally sweet.

Are you ready for this? There are 54 miles of trails to hike on. Fifty-freaking four. And you thought it was a rip-off to pay 20-something bucks just to go up there, huh? You have several dining options at 8,500 feet including a very nice restaurant know as Peaks Restaurant.

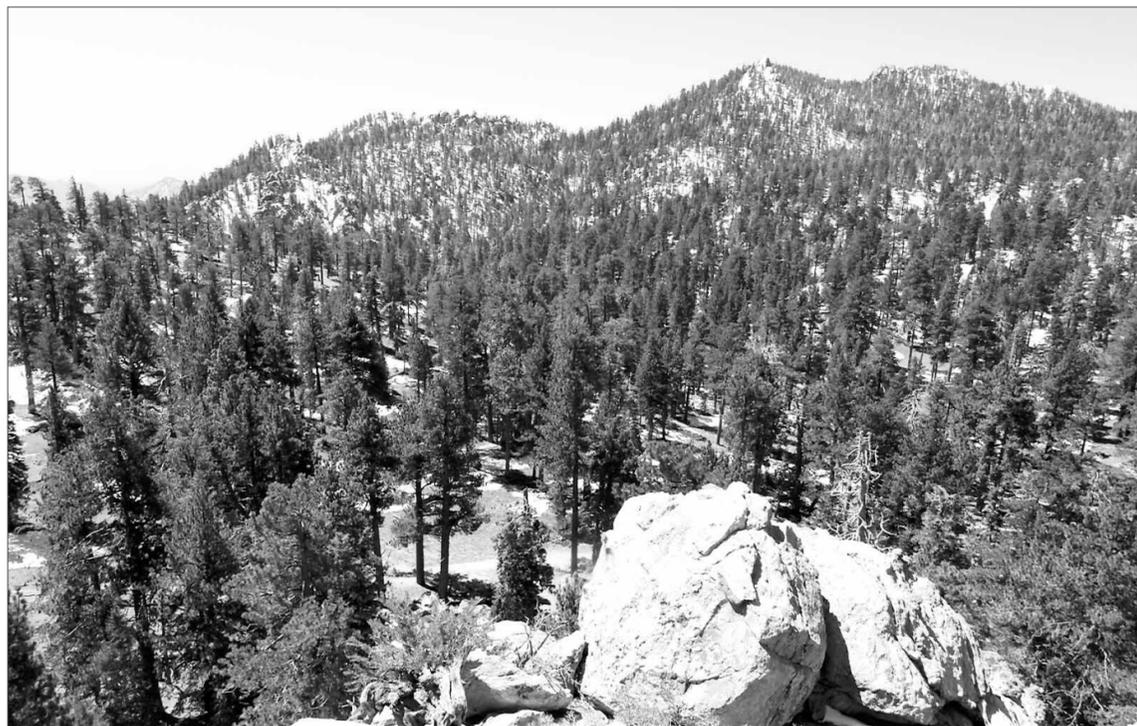
Enough about chow – it's a crutch anyway, and there are enough fat Marines to go around.

The park itself is absolute-

ly beautiful; one can easily lose their problems and phone reception while in those majestic peaks.

The best part of the entire place are the picturesque hiking trails. There is still snow and it doesn't look a thing like Twentynine Palms. I mean let's face it, that's the whole reason why you turned right to this page, isn't it?

While you're hiking these trails you are bound to see tons of wildlife. Do not feed them though. There are quite a few signs around the park and main lobbies beating that particular dead horse rather hard, so do anyone in uniform a favor and don't mess with the cute lit-



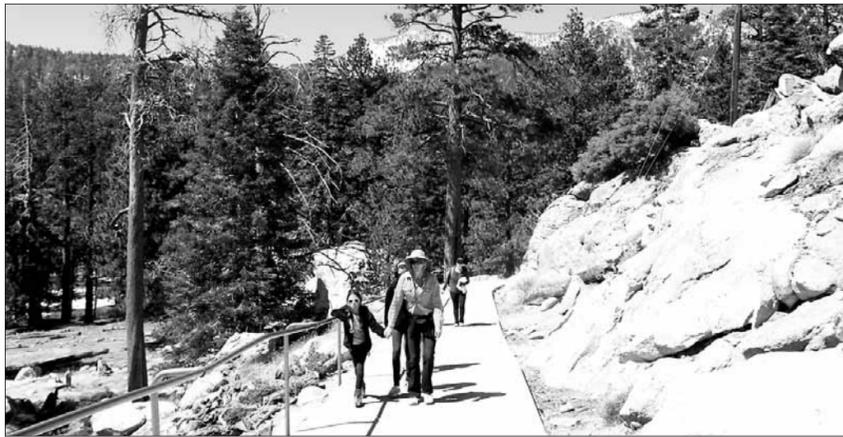
PHOTOS BY CPL. M. C. NERL

The Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area is at the end of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway ride. The 14,000 acres of the park and wilderness area offer everything from hiking, to guided nature walks and camping.

tle squirrels. Ok?

The Aerial Tram gets 3 out of 5 palm trees. I didn't have enough time to do

what I wanted to do, which was go camping, but hey there's always next week for that, right?



Visitors walk through some of the Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area's 54 miles of hiking and nature trails Tuesday at the park. Access to this part of the area is available via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which is located right outside the city of Palm Springs, Calif.



The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway is located in the city of Palm Springs, Calif., which is already a popular getaway for many Marines and sailors stationed aboard the Combat Center. During the month of July, service members are also eligible to ride the tram for free, which goes up to the Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area.



That squirrel looks so cute, but don't feed it, who knows what could happen. Wildlife like this, and many other species make their home in the Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area, which is at the end of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway ride.

GOLF, from B1

years. Many of the attendees however, were excited about supporting a good cause.

"We have good weather, good reason to get a half day off of work, donate to charity and hit a few balls around the golf course," said Sgt. Scot Pride, a platoon

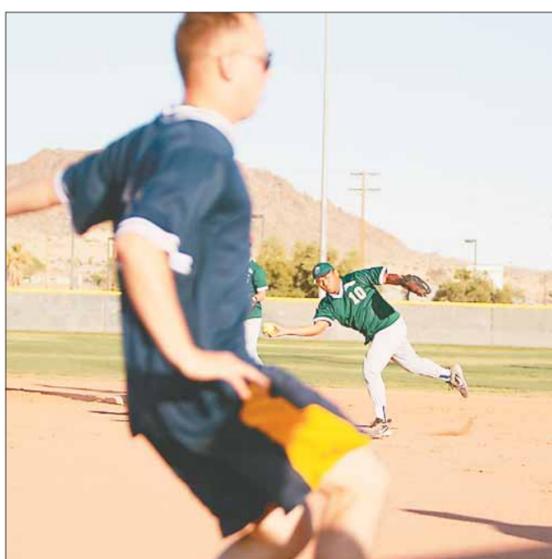
sergeant with Company D, 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion.

Raymond Caldwell, the director of the local NMCRS, would like to thank the Marine and Navy forces that supported the fund drive in the past year: "We are looking forward to another good year," he said.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Participants in the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Charity Golf tournament practice their swings at the Desert Winds Golf Course driving range April 8.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Kin Cruz, the second baseman with PWD Green Thunder, chucks the ball to first base as Jeff Boggs, the right fielder for Dental, sprints to make it to first base during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League preseason game at Felix Field Monday.

SOFTBALL, from B1

as a way to grow as a team.

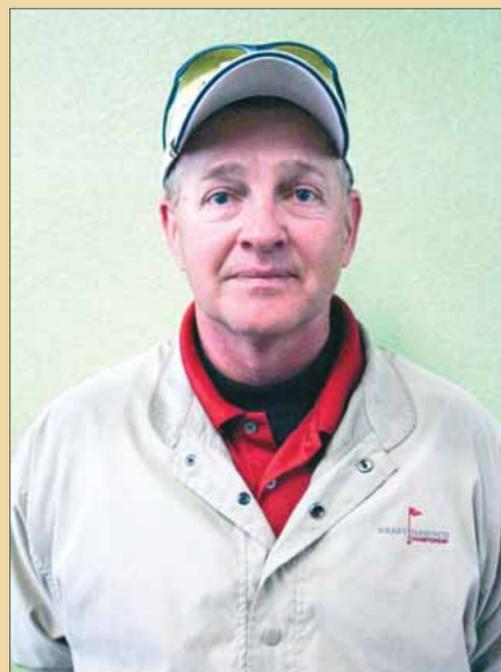
"It builds unit camaraderie, unit cohesion," Lass said. "Everybody on the team with the exception of one or two is from the unit I work with. We look at this as a great sporting event to get all the Marines out together, from the most junior Marine to the most senior."

The teams will continue to

compete against one another every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evening at Felix Field starting at 5:30 p.m., until June 13. At the end of the season, the top eight teams will vie for the title of the best team in the league. Playoff games start June 20.

For more information on softball or other Combat Center Sports contact the sports department at 830-4292.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Danny Yandell
Hometown: Fort Gibson, Oklahoma
Unit: Communication and Information Systems
Recognition: The most valuable player on the winning team of the second annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Charity Golf tournament.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "The challenge of the courses because each one is different and it is you against the course instead of the other players."
Advice for aspiring players: "Don't get frustrated when you start out. Just stick with it, it will get better with time."