

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

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'Green' technology could save lives, money

SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN
EDITOR / PRESS CHIEF

A routine training exercise at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Training and Operations Group provided the perfect opportunity to test new "green" technology that could save the Corps money, time, and most importantly, lives on the battlefield.

Marines are using a generator-hybrid system that promises the amount of fuel used to power generators is a priority, said Capt. Brandon Newell, the renewable and energy efficiency analyst for the Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office for Headquarters

Marine Corps.

Slashing fuel costs, reducing the need for resupply missions for generator fuel and exposure of Marines to enemy attacks on the roadways is also a priority, Newell added.

"Reducing fuel demand at the tip of the spear is key," he said.

This hybrid system is another step in the right direction.

The traditional generators will still be needed to provide some power, but their run time is cut down by about two thirds due to the small set of solar panels and the battery storage in the hybrid system.

This method cuts fuel use

and costs, and maximizes the amount of generator output, said Ken King, the director for the Marine Forces Pacific Western Area Research, Test and Evaluation Center, headquartered at Camp Wilson on the Combat Center. The hybrid is expected to save money by prolonging generator lifespan, and cutting the need to buy new generators.

The Corps has already started using similar solar powered systems, like the compact Solar Portable Alternative Communications Energy Systems, to help power everything from AN/PRC-119F SINCGARS radios to computers and personal devices.

However, the hybrid system tested here last week can easily power an entire combat operations center. This includes the massive amount of energy needed to cool computer equipment in the desert heat.

The WARTEC team compared the amount of fuel needed to power a COC using traditional generators to one powered by the hybrid. Technicians used additional thermal lining in the tents along with the hybrid system to maximize energy efficiency. Fuel reduction has shown impressive results thus far with the hybrid generator

See ENERGY, A7



SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

Solar panels soak up the desert sun outside of the generators and tents they are helping provide power for outside the Marine Corps Training and Operations Group headquarters at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. The Corps is testing several "green initiative" systems designed to boost generator power, cut fuel costs and prolong the generators' life spans.

Combat Center welcomes 3rd LAR home

DIANE DURDEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Marines from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion returned to the Combat Center this week to

a hero's welcome.

Family, friends and service members gathered at the battalion's motor transport lot at what looked like a family day-style barbecue, while they anxiously awaited the buses

bringing their Marines home.

Nervous excitement could be felt throughout the crowd as updates on the buses' locations spread.

For small children who still hadn't developed a solid

concept of time, waiting a few more minutes was unbearable.

"He's taking a long time to get here," said Ema

See 3RD LAR, A7



DIANE DURDEN

Master Gunnery Sgt. Victor Purvis, a battalion motor transport chief with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, holds his 7-year-old daughter, Reagan, moments after returning from a seven-month long deployment to Afghanistan June 1.



DIANE DURDEN

Lance Cpl. Anthony Walsh, a rifleman with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, holds for the first time his 4-month-old daughter, Mya, during homecoming celebrations at the battalion's motor transport lot June 1. Mya was born while Walsh was deployed for seven months to Afghanistan.

K9 deploys to Afghanistan

**STAFF SERGEANT
LYNDEL JOHNSON**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dogs are not only companions to many Marines, but are also a proficient aid in the war against terror. The K9 unit

departed the Combat Center to join the fight in Afghanistan May 31.

Family members and loved ones watched as 32 Marines boarded the bus with their dogs enroute to Afghanistan.

Danielle Barrera, wife of

Cpl. David Barrera said she feels proud of her husband. "I am happy for him because he is finally doing the job he has been training for," she said.

Like infantry units, military dogs and their handlers train

year-long for the day they are called to assist in various combat zones.

The dogs and their handlers participate in a plethora of obstacle courses, ranges so they get accustomed to the sounds of rounds being fired, and daily three to five mile conditioning hikes. Only the best dogs are chosen to deploy.

If a dog struggles with the training, then another dog is chosen to deploy. The new dog and the handler have to expedite their training.

The dog is not the only member of the K9 unit that is required to be transcendent.

"K9 handlers are chosen from the elite of the M.P. [military police] field," said Cpl. Andrew Buckley, a K9 handler. "I guarantee that most K9 handlers run a 270 or above [physical fitness test score]."

While deployed, all 32 Marines and dogs will not be in the same unit. Each handler and their dog will be placed in

See K9, A5



STAFF SGT. LYNDEL JOHNSON

Dog handler Cpl. David Capuzzo, who is part of the unit's remain behind element, hugs every deploying Marine as they board the bus enroute to Afghanistan.

Combat Center branch head receives public service award

**GUNNERY SGT.
SERGIO JIMENEZ**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

The head of the Combat Center's Substance Abuse Counseling Center is the 2010 recipient of the GEICO Public Service Award for his significant contributions in the field of substance abuse prevention, education and treatment during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., May 2.

Dr. Stephen G. Mann was recognized for his vision to improve the proficiency of service members and the local community by helping to identify, rehabilitate and overcome substance abuse and alcohol addiction, according to a GEICO release.

Bill Smith, an alcohol abuse prevention specialist at the installation SACC, credits Mann for being the driving force behind three major SACC programs achieving accreditation. Mann spearheaded a number of prevention initia-

tives and raised the standard for education, treatment and research to improve SACC programs.

Mann said much of the credit should go to the highly dedicated SACC staff. Their hard work in providing screenings, assessments and referral services to combat substance abuse, has led to many successful rehabilitations, and has given the Combat Center SACC a good reputation with Marine commanders.

Mann obtained his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from U.S. International University in San Diego with pre-doctoral work at San Diego State University. He received his master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma.

Each year, GEICO's Public Service Awards honors five civilian career government employees and retirees for outstanding achievements in their respective fields.

flickr™

Hey Combat Center fans – Spread the word! The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>.

YouTube

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

facebook

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

Thinking of quitting? This new TRICARE benefit could help you succeed

SHARI LOPATIN AND DIANE MAYER

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Have you ever thought of quitting smoking, but just didn't feel ready – yet? Or perhaps, you want to quit, but don't know where to start.

After all, kicking that habit isn't exactly easy. That's why TRICARE now offers a new counseling benefit for smoking cessation. You don't need to have a smoking-related illness to use the benefit. You just need to receive the counseling from a TRICARE-authorized provider who's properly licensed or certified for this type of counseling.

The only restriction is this: the smoking cessation counseling benefit is NOT available for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries.

Need a reason to seek more information? Try this: According to the American Lung Association, your lungs will start growing healthier almost immediately after quitting.

Check out any of these resources for more on the counseling benefit, or for help to quit smoking:

- TriWest's tobacco cessation page: <http://www.triwest.com/tobacco>
- TriWest Tobacco Quitline: 1-866-244-6870
- TRICARE Tobacco Free: <http://www.tricare.mil/tobaccofree>
- DoD-sponsored website: <http://www.ucanquit2.org>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.smokefree.gov>

Centerspeak

What is the most interesting excuse you've ever heard or used?

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



CPL. WARREN MILLER

INSTALLATION PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION CENTER

“I had a Marine who said he was late to PT because his car broke down at the gate. This Marine didn't own a car and lived in the barracks.”



SGT. NIK CASCARRILLA

INSTALLATION PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION CENTER

“A Marine was mad at housing for not taking his trash out, so he dumped it in the housing office lawn and said, 'I didn't know we couldn't do that.' Sergeant Maj. Tanksley then put him on housing beautification for a month.”



CPL. MICHAEL RIOS

INSTALLATION PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION CENTER

“A Marine showed up to OIC PT in a green hulk T-shirt for green-on-green PT. he said, 'But it's green corporal.'”

Hot Topics

MARINES GOT TALENT

Do you have what it takes to perform live? Then Marines Got Talent is the event for you. All acts must pass auditions to perform during the actual show and participants must be active duty or reserve military. Tryouts will be June 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. in building 1707. The show will be June 11 at 6 p.m. at Sunset Cinema. Because of material content, you must be 18 years old or have an active duty military ID. Call 830-4767 for more information.

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

Military Appreciation Night is June 14 at the your respective club. Enjoy product sampling and meet the Bud Girls. The Bud Girls will be at the Officers' Club from 5 to 6 p.m., at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Club from 6 to 7 p.m., at the NCO Club from 7 to 8 p.m. and at the Enlisted Club from 8 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.eatandstaymccs29.com>.

ALIENWARE TOUR

The Alienware Mobile Tour will be stopping at the MCX today, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This tour will feature a military-grade H1 Hummer kitted-out with hardcore Alienware gaming systems and accessories. There will be demo gaming and a chance to win some sweet Alienware swag.

SOAPBOX DERBY

The Soapbox Derby is scheduled for today on Adobe Road. The derby is open to kids aged 5 to 14. Register with the ASYM-CA at building 192, across from the Marine Mart. Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$20 per child and includes a soapbox kit and a sheet of plywood to help with construction.

Marine Corps History

June 2, 1918

At dawn, the German 28th Division attacked along the axis of the Paris-Metz road hitting the American 2nd Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines opened with rifle fire and helped hand the German troops a setback which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood.

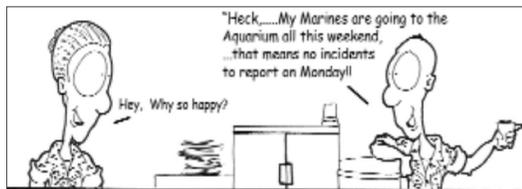


Eagle Eyes

Immediately report any suspicious activity 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 #2194

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

SMALL POTATOES

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
23								24						
			25		26	27	28		29			30	31	32
33	34	35		36				37			38			
39			40						41	42				
43							44					45		
46				47	48		49				50			
			51			52				53		54	55	56
	57	58					59	60	61					
62						63						64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

ACROSS

1. Vintners' vessels
5. It's a long story
9. Replacement players, perhaps
14. River of Aragón
15. Lou Grant's paper
16. Book before Joel
17. Need a bath desperately
18. Rock 'n' roll pioneer
19. Didn't just sit there
20. Avoiding punishment, perhaps
23. Essential acid
24. Comic Rudner
25. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
29. Hand-dyed fabrics
33. An ex of Frank
36. Veep after Hubert
38. Words after "Sit" or "Step"
39. More pressing matters
43. Inter__ (among others)

44. Archie Bunker, to Mike Stivic
45. All right, slangily
46. Little chicken
49. Mideast's __ Heights
51. Suitable for service
53. Styptic pencils' targets
57. Leverage in negotiations
62. Of the blood
63. Plumb crazy
64. " __ the ump!"
65. Parenthetical remark
66. Roulette bet
67. Best or Ferber
68. Statistical values
69. Florida's Miami-__ County
70. " __ we forget ..."

DOWN

1. Vice __
2. Crosswise, nautically
3. Euro-filled
4. "Would you be __?" ("Please?")
5. For fellows only
6. He sang about Alice
7. Composer __ Carlo Menotti
8. Dog patch denizen
9. Cascade Range peak
10. Showy parrot
11. Italian bubbly's source
12. " __ there, done that"
13. Down in the dumps
21. Wild West justice
22. Bro or sis
26. "All Things Considered" broadcaster
27. Avery Fisher's field
28. Circular gasket
30. Poop
31. Scotty's captain

32. Ocular woe
33. Quatrain scheme
34. TV handyman Bob
35. Opposed to, in dialect
37. Capital on a fjord
40. It's sometimes dumped on winning coaches
41. Shakespearean prince
42. Jew's-harp sound
47. Goes for strippers
48. "Cry __ River"
50. Cost of a candy bar, once
52. Had the blahs
54. Reprimand mildly
55. Hops dryers
56. Pie-in-the-face sound
57. Anka's "Eso __"
58. In the thick of
59. Spectacular star
60. Stuck in the cooler
61. Zilch
62. Easter entree

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Lt. Alfonso Raza
Hometown: Santa Barbara, Calif.
Unit: Combat Center Fire Department
Job title: Engineer and fire truck driver
Job duties: Driving the fire truck, getting all personnel to the scene safely, second in command when the captain isn't around, pumping the engine properly for the hose and responsible for personnel training on the engine.
What do you like most about your job? "Serving the Marines and their families."
What is your most memorable moment while working here? "Responding to a Kentucky Fried Chicken fire in Twentynine Palms five years ago and responding to a wild land fire."
Significant achievements: Firefighter of the Year for 2010, former active duty Marine, 20 years federal service.
Hobbies: Fishing and camping.
How long have you been with the MCAGCC Fire Department: 17 years

OBSERVATION POST

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Students deliver thank you notes to Marines

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
DIANE DURDEN**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Students from Palm Vista and Oasis Elementary Schools, Twentynine Palms, Calif., spent the morning with

Marines from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during a field trip to the Combat Center May 20.

As part of an art workshop conducted by the Kiwanis Kids Club, students created and wrote "thank you" notes for the Marines.

"I feel extremely grateful that people we don't know are thinking about us," said Lance Cpl. Brett Sloan, a rifleman with 1/7, and a native of Pearland, Texas. "I'm going to hang mine on

See THANKS, A6



Students from Palm Vista and Oasis Elementary Schools, Twentynine Palms, Calif., deliver handwritten "thank you" notes to Marines of Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during a field trip to the Combat Center May 20. The students created the "thank you" notes as part of an art workshop with the Kiwanis Kids Club.



Marines with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, show off the "thank you" notes they received from Palms Vista and Twentynine Palms Elementary School's students. The handmade notes were delivered to the Marines during a field trip to the Combat Center May 20 to show the students' appreciation for the sacrifices service members make.



Marines with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Palms Vista and Twentynine Palms Elementary School's students, play an impromptu game of basketball in the courtyard of the Marines' barracks May 20.

HRO reports new hiring system application for USAJOBS

PRESS RELEASE

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

On May 11, 2010, President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Memoranda calling for the Improvement of the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process.

In order to attract and retain a skilled and talented workforce, USAJOBS will replace the current Department of Navy applicant tool known as CHART. The effective date of this transition, for the Marine Corps is June 30. The effective date for the Naval Hospital is Sept. 12.

Employees are encouraged to convert their resumé into USAJOBS before the transition. Once the system switches over, any information in CHART will be lost.

In USAJOBS, all the tools you need to search for a job, build a resume, apply online and keep up-to-date on the status of your applications are at your finger tips. The site offers many tools such as tutorials, online resources, and iPhone, iPad and Facebook applications.

Go to <http://usajobs.gov/> and log in to your USAJOBS account or click on CREATE

AN ACCOUNT if you do not already have one.

Keep in mind, once you create a USAJOBS account, you can:

- Upload supporting documents with your application
- Receive customized job alerts
- Store personalized job searches

For more information on USAJOBS check for upcoming HRO sponsored training classes. You may enroll for classes at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil/base/hro/trng/default.asp>.

'First Team' welcomes new commanding officer

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. D. J. WU**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, welcomed Lt.

Col. David Bradney as their new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 27.

Bradney took over com-

mand of the unit from Lt. Col. Todd Simmons, who had served as First Team's commanding officer since September 2009. Bradney comes to the unit from the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Afghanistan.

Bradney said he looks forward to deploying with his new battalion and working alongside infantrymen again.

"As a Lieutenant Colonel you don't get many shots at being with a battalion," Bradney said about the opportunity to lead a battalion. "It's been a while since I've been at the battalion level, so it's going to be fun."

The unit's accomplishments were recognized by guests, including Col. Austin Renforth, the 7th Marine Regiment's commanding officer. Renforth said First Team knocked every task out of the park every time.

Bradney said he recognizes he has some big boots to fill taking over for Simmons and the battalion, once commanded by the legendary Lt. Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. Bradney said he knows what it means to be part of the First Team and fully appreciates it.

"It is indeed an honor to be among you," Bradney said to his Marines and sailors. "I promise that I will work every day to earn and keep your trust."



Lieutenant Col. Todd Simmons and the new commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Lt. Col. David Bradney, salute the colors as they march by during the change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 27.

While Bradney moves into his position, Simmons will be temporarily serving as the regiment's executive officer before moving on to his next assignment.

With a deployment scheduled in the near future, Bradney reassured his Marines that he would prepare them for Afghanistan and ended his speech with a reminder that while the unit changes hands, its mission remains the same.

"There is much work in front of us, so it is definitely time to prepare to march," he said.



Lieutenant Col. Todd Simmons bids farewell to the Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, at the change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 25.



Lieutenant Col. Todd Simmons passes the unit's battle colors to Lt. Col. David Bradney, transferring command of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during a ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 25.

National Safety Council's National Safety Month turns 15

WES COLLINS

MAGTTC SAFETY OFFICE

This month marks the 15th anniversary of the National Safety Council's "National Safety Month". Founded in 1913, the council is dedicated to the protection of life and the promotion of health. In June 1996, with death rates on the rise, the organization launched a national campaign to increase awareness of the leading safety and health risks

we encounter in our work and personal lives.

The NCS's mission is to prevent unintentional injuries and death through education. Four weekly themes are chosen to help everyone recognize the potential dangers we face in our daily lives. Recognition and solutions are provided on the topics to give us a heightened awareness of the events prior to our exposure. The intent is simple, expose potentially unsafe acts

Realizing that motor vehicle crashes, falls and overexertion are the leading causes of unintentional death, this year's weekly themes are Preventing Overexertion, Teen Driving Safety, Preventing Slips, Trips and falls, and On the Road, Off the Phone. The national event kicks off June 1-4. It seeks to influence people to adopt and maintain safe and healthy practices on the road, at

home and in the workplace.

June 5-11 will focus on preventing overexertion, which is the third leading cause of unintentional injuries in the United States and accounts for about 3.3 million emergency room visits. Whether at work or home, you can take steps to prevent overexertion.

June 12-18 focuses on teen driving. You do not need to have a teen driver in your home to be affected.

In fact, two out of three people killed in crashes caused by teen drivers are passengers, occupants in other vehicles, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

June 19-25 will be geared toward preventing slips, trips and falls. Falls are one of the leading causes of unintentional injuries in the United States, accounting for nearly 8.6 million visits to the emergency room according to NSC injury facts, 2011 edition.

Wrapping up the 2011

National Safety Month will be the On the Road Off the Phone program. According to an American Automobile Association foundation traffic survey in 2010, nearly one out of every four motor vehicle crashes involved cell phone use even though 62 percent of drivers recognize that talking on a cell phone is a very serious threat to their personal safety.

You can find all this information and much more by logging on to <http://www.nsc.org>. Remember, safety doesn't happen by accident.

SJA CORNER

Things to know about child support

CAPT. SHANNON MAWSON
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

One day you might receive something from some government agency saying you owe money to someone for a child that you did not know existed. Without a proper response, you could face dire consequences.

Most states have created agencies which provide child support to a parent with a child living with them (the "obligee") who is not receiving child support from the other parent (the "obligor"). These agencies use those terms because they are effectively debt collectors – but these debt collectors have the power of the government behind them. Handling a dispute with one of these agencies incorrectly can lead to Marines losing their drivers licenses, passports, tax refunds, having their wages garnished and could possibly lead to a loss or ineligibility for a security clearance.

In California, the agency for enforcing child support is called the Department of Child Support Services. While their end state is enforcing child support, they also establish paternity, modify existing court orders for child support (e.g. if they need to be increased or decreased) and some offices work to modify child custody and visitation.

Generally, the obligee applies online or in person to request the state open a child support case file for their child. Obligees have to fill out personal information about themselves and the child. The personal information includes if paternity has been established with the obligor, if there is a court order of support, whether the obligee is employed, how much the obligee earns, if the obligee has other children and if the obligee is receiving support for those other children, what the household's monthly expenses are, whether or not the child or children have medical and dental support and any personal information the obligee has about the obligor from whom they are seeking support.

Then the state will send a notice to the obligor. In this notice, the state will disclose the name of the person who requested the case be opened and request the obligor fill out and return an income and expense declaration. The agency uses this information, along with the financial disclosures the obligee submitted, to determine how much, if any, child support the obligor must provide.

If paternity has not been established or the obligor has not signed a voluntary declaration of paternity, the obligor can go into any DCSS office and request and receive free genetic testing. In order to receive the free genetic testing, the obligor must consent to the state having jurisdiction over them, accept service of a summons and submit the income and expense declaration discussed above. The state will then wait to proceed with a child support order until paternity has been established. If the obligee does not provide a genetic test, and the state is unable to receive one from the child, the obligor may request the case file be terminated. If the obligee does provide a genetic test and paternity is established, then the state will go forward with an order for child support.

When the obligor submits for genetic testing, they will receive a summons along with a proposed child support order. If the obligor wants to make any challenge against the proposed child support order (e.g. the obligee lied about their wages, the agency not reading a leave and earnings correctly or challenging the arrearage amount), the obligor must respond to the summons within 30 days of receiving it. If the obligor does not make these challenges within the time limit, they waive their rights to challenge the order.

If an individual receives a notice from DCSS that they have been listed as a noncustodial parent or obligor in a child support case, they may make an appointment with the Legal Assistance Office at 830-6111 for further assistance.



STAFF SGT. LYNDEL JOHNSON

Members of the K9 unit receive goodbye hugs and kisses before departing to Afghanistan.



STAFF SGT. LYNDEL JOHNSON

A K9 dog handler says goodbye to his family members and loved ones before departing for Afghanistan.

K9, from A1

different Marine, Navy and Army units across Afghanistan. The bond between the Marine and his dog will be tested as they are not only in a combat zone together, but are the only familiar faces in a new unit. Staff Sgt. Skillings, the K9 Kennel Master said the handler and his dog "are trained to be their own attachment. While on deployment, if something happens to the dog, the handler gets sent back home or given an administrative billet. If the Marine is injured, then the dog gets sent back to the States."

The goal of the team is to ensure missions are accomplished and a safe return back to the Combat Center. With the training they endured prior to the deployment and the support they have from their family members, this deployment is destined to be a success.

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the right job
for you?



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The Desert Trail

Fridays with
The Observation Post



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Marine Corps Hornets, Harriers team up for operations in Afghanistan

PFC. SEAN DENNISON
2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FWD)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – There was a different sort of roar across the southwestern Afghan skies, May 21. For the past year, Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets reigned over the air-space, providing much needed close-air support to coalition forces below.

But for the first time since May 2010, another Marine Corps jet soared overhead – no better friend for coalition troops in Nimroz and Helmand provinces. No worse enemy for the insurgents who operate in southwestern Afghanistan.

AV-8B Harriers with Yuma-based Marine Attack Squadron 513 joined the Hornets that day, supporting NATO International Security Assistance Force operations in Afghanistan.

“Fixed-wing aircraft that support joint tactical air requests are critical,” said Brig. Gen. Glenn M. Walters, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). “We’re a key element in the Helmand and Nimroz provinces.”

The two provinces are known areas of insurgency,

and VMA-513, according to Lt. Col. Peter Lee, the Harrier squadron’s commanding officer, will help “neutralize or eliminate mid- to high-level insurgent control structure.”

“We’re allowing people to rebuild their lives,” said Walters, “to teach their children to improve their lives and how to live like free people.”

During combat deployments, unit turnovers include a transfer of authority, a formal act where the outgoing squadron or battalion relinquishes the area of operations to the incoming unit.

As part of their transfer of authority, VMFA-122 and VMA-513 flew the skies of Afghanistan together, less than a day after Lee landed the squadron’s flagship AV-8B at Kandahar Airfield.

“It is uncommon for different type-model-series fixed-wing aircraft to fly as a section during combat operations,” explained Capt. Jonathan Reed, a VMFA-122 F/A-18 Hornet pilot and Tombalo, Texas, native.

“As far as working with them, that was the first time I’ve done it, and it was no problem at all,” explained Capt. Andrew Biddell, a VMA-513 pilot.

Flying together in sec-



PFC. SEAN DENNISON

Corporal Eric Chiazza, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 272, refuels a KC-130J Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, May 22. MWSS-272 and VMGR-252 are key players in aerial refueling operations, with the support squadron providing the fuel for aircraft and The Hercules squadron providing the means for the jets to get their fuel in the air.

tions, the VMFA-122 Werewolves helped familiarize the Harriers of their new area of operations, the dust-

colored blanket of land not too dissimilar from the ranges of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., that VMA-513 calls home.

The operations also included aerial refueling, courtesy of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, stationed in Cherry Point, N.C., whose KC-130J Hercules aircraft supported both platforms.

“I would say it’s a milestone,” said Reed, whose

squadron recently completely its second combat tour since Vietnam. “Both pilot communities are very well-versed in [close-air support].”

Another milestone for the Werewolves, as well as the Marine Corps, was the first employment of the GBU-54 for an F/A-18 squadron in the Corps. The GBU-54 is a laser-based bomb guidance system that provides greater precision in targeting both stationary and

moving targets.

The Nightmares, for their part, are the first Harrier squadron entering the fray since VMA-231 departed Afghanistan in May 2010, and VMA-513 is also underway on its first Afghanistan deployment since 2003.

“We’re confident that we’ll provide the same quality level of support that VMFA-122 provided,” said Lee. “There will be no degradation in support.”



PFC. SEAN DENNISON

An F/A-18 Hornet from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 and an AV-8B Harrier with Marine Attack Squadron 513 fly together after both completed aerial refueling in Helmand province, Afghanistan, May 22. VMFA-122 flew with VMA-513 during the first three days of the latter’s combat operations to help familiarize the Harrier squadron with the area of operations they would be flying over for the next several months.



PFC. SEAN DENNISON

A Marine Attack Squadron 513 pilot flying an AV-8B Harrier soars in the skies of Helmand province, Afghanistan, while being refueled during a combat flight, May 22. F/A-18 Hornets with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, flew with VMA-513 during the first three days of the latter’s combat operations to help familiarize the Harrier squadron with the area of operations they would be flying over for the next several months.



DIANE DURDEN

Marines with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and students from Palms Vista and Twentynine Palms Elementary Schools, chat during the children’s visit to the Combat Center May 20.

THANKS, from A3

the wall in my barracks room.”

Kayla Ford, an 11-year-old 5th grader from Palm Vista said she felt honored to hand her card to a Marine.

“My step-dad is a Marine, and I wanted to thank other Marines that give us freedom,” she said.

Marines and students mingled in the courtyard of the barracks as over 100 hand-stamped, hand-written “thank you” cards were given to the Marines. The fun continued when several students teamed up with a few of the Marines for an impromptu basketball game.



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

ENERGY, from A1

only coming on three to five hours per day, King said.

Newell said the systems are still in the evaluation process but so far the results are positive.

"There's a good chance it'll save a third to two thirds of the fuel demand," he said.

The teams are also experimenting with the LED lights and using direct current energy for air conditioning instead of

alternating current.

Newell said so far the biggest disadvantage is its weight. Unlike the portable SPACES used to power radios and recharge batteries, this system is heavy and not easily moved.

Newell said his team is currently brainstorming to remedy that issue.

For now, they are preparing to outfit a unit training for deployment with the system to get feedback on the technology.



DIANE DURDEN

Alexander Quackenbush, 6-year-old son of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Quackenbush, a platoon sergeant with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, carries his dad's pack for him upon his return to the Combat Center June 1. Quackenbush has been on a seven month long deployment to Afghanistan.

3RD LAR, from A1

Jimenez, 3-year-old daughter of Staff Sgt. Ronnie Jimenez, a platoon sergeant with Company A. Ema had not seen her dad since the unit left for Afghanistan seven months ago.

James and April Wilson of Spring Branch, Texas, could not wait the few extra days it would take for their son, Cpl. Dillon Wilson, to return home on leave. They drove 1,250 miles in order to be here when he got off the bus.

"We were here when he left," said James. "We had to be here when he got back. That's the most we could do except to go with him."

Marines often miss out on special events with loved ones while deployed. That was no different for Lt. Col. Kenneth Kassner, 3rd LAR's commander, who missed holidays and other family events with his four sons.

Nine-year-old Erich, Kassner's son, said he has big plans for his dad, who missed Erich and five-year-old Christopher's birthdays.

"First, we're going to breakfast, then golfing," said Erich. The three will continue the day with lunch and swimming, and finish with dinner with the rest of the family.

Missing events at home did not keep the Marines from accomplishing their mission in Afghanistan. Kassner defined the battalion's deployment a success in two ways, measurable and immeasurable.

The Marines were able to remove more than 100 enemy combatants from the battlefield, found and destroyed more than 20,000 improvised explosive device components and destroyed more than 200 IEDs. Additionally, the battalion was able to destroy or confis-

cate more than 20,000 pounds of illicit drugs.

More importantly, the Marines achieved intangible gains. During the seven months, the Marines enhanced the security environment within their area of operation.

"When local nationals are approaching your patrols to

tell you where the enemy is, or there are IEDs around the next corner, that's success," said Kassner.

Back at the Combat Center, balloons, signs, cheering crowds, smiles and hugs from loved ones were another indicator of a successful mission and a happy return.



DIANE DURDEN

Three-year-old Seth Miller anxiously awaits his dad's return to the Combat Center June 1. Cpl. Jared Miller, a rifleman with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, has been on a seven month long deployment to Afghanistan.

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

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.

ADVERTISEMENT

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 inci-

dental 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.

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.

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.

NORDICTRACK CX1000: Elliptical workout \$300 OBO. 361-3509

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 make an offer on the whole collection. Call Stephen at 567-7921.

Marines conduct simulated raids in New York

SGT. RICHARD BLUMENSTEIN
24th MEU

NEW YORK – The end result of Marines rushing off helicopters in attack formations usually is not hugs and handshakes, but for a group of Marines conducting simulated raids throughout N.Y., that was the case during Fleet Week New York 2011, which ran from May 25 to June 1.

A raid team from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, currently attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted a number of simulated raids taxied by helicopter detachments from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, that are also currently attached to the 24th MEU, to showcase the capabilities of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

The Marines conducted raids at Orchard Beach, Eisenhower Park, Corona Park, Playland Park and Clove Lake Park throughout the week.

“We showed the public how we use fire and movement, fire and maneuver on the enemy as if we were assaulting some kind of enemy position,” said Pfc.

Andrew Curtin, an infantryman with the raid team. “It’s kind of the bread and butter of what the Marine Corps infantry does.”

Spectators cheered at each location as they watched Marines rush off helicopters.

“We loved it,” said Kerri Trotta, a New Yorker who watched alongside her daughter.

“It was very nice, very impressive,” said James Lane, another New Yorker.

At the end of each raid, the Marines interacted with New Yorkers and tourists who attended the events. The Marines manning the helicopters, such as the MV-22 Ospreys and the CH-46 Helicopters, dismounted and attendees got a chance to take a close look at the inside of the aircraft.

The attendees greeted the Marines with hugs, and often thanked them for their service. The Marines posed for pictures, answered questions and let the attendees take a close look at their weapons and gear.

“The importance of the event is showcasing the Marine Corps, letting everyone know what we do,” Cpl. Dennis McKenzie, an



SGT. RICHARD BLUMENSTEIN

Lance Cpl. Trenton Holbrook, an infantryman with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, gets up after posting a 360 degree security perimeter at Orchard Beach, May 27. Various units from II Marine Expeditionary Force and Marines Forces Reserve organized under the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit to form the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - New York. The Marines embarked on the Navy’s Amphibious Assault Ships, the USS Iwo Jima (LHD -7) and USS New York (LPD-21) to take part in Fleet Week New York 2011 from May 25 to June 1. The Marines showcased the capabilities of the MAGTF and also honor those who have served by participating in various events during the Memorial Day weekend.

infantryman with the raid team. “People support us, but it’s good to know what they support, what it is we do on a daily basis and how we train.”



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL J. PETERSHEIM

Marines with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, prepare for a beach assault demonstration at New York City’s Coney Island, May 26.



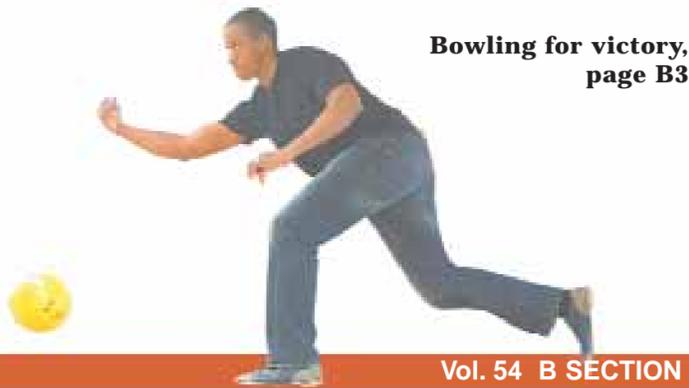
SGT. RICHARD BLUMENSTEIN

Marines with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment greet New Yorkers after completing a simulated raid at Orchard Beach, May 27.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL J. PETERSHEIM

Marines with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, prepare for a beach assault demonstration at New York City’s Coney Island, May 26.



Fight Club takes on other branches

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ**
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It was a battle of the branches as the Marines and sailors of Fight Club 29 took on every service in the Armed Forces Pankration Tournament at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton May 21.

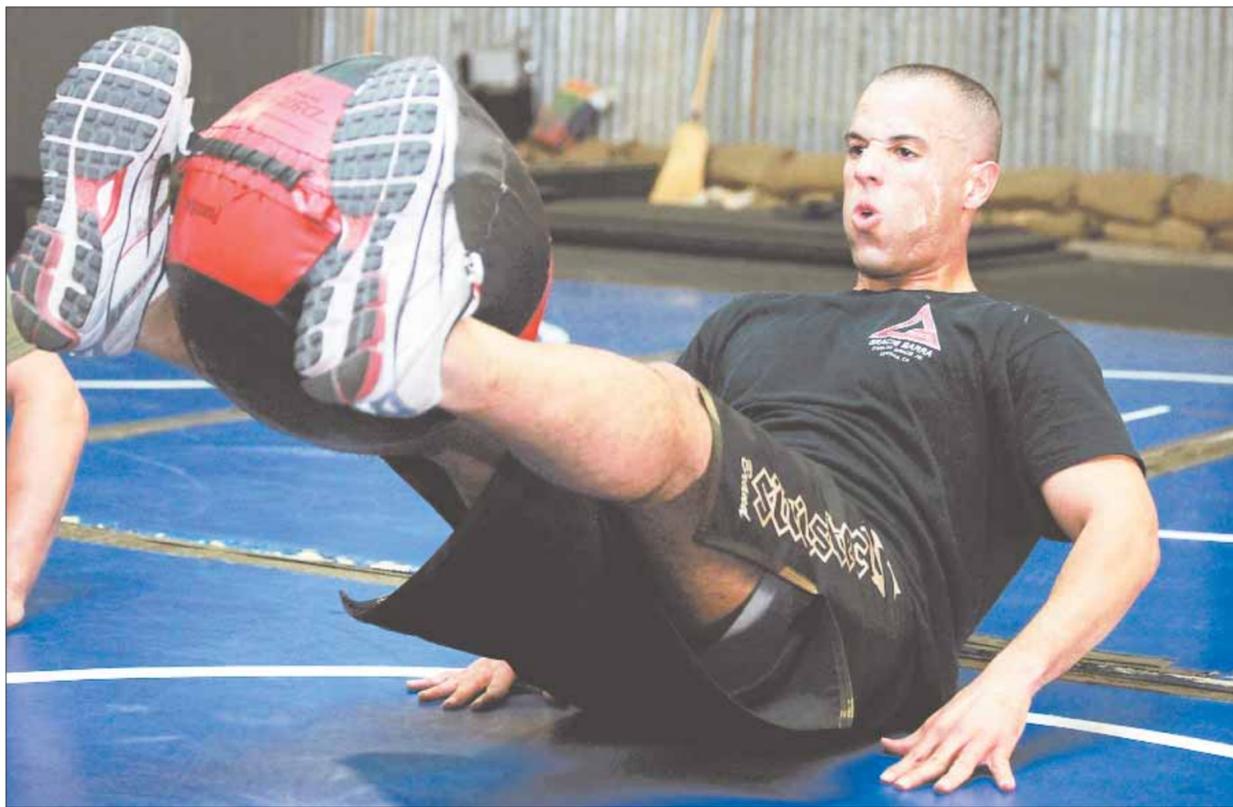
It was a classic underdog story for the club's seven selected fighters, four of whom have never competed in pankration-style fighting. "We are usually a grappling-based club," said Mark Geletko, coach of Fight Club 29. "We practice every night, working on submissions and a lot of Muay Thai, to get the fighters well-rounded before the competition."

Of the four fighters who haven't fought in this style before, three of them came away with four medals, including Michael Smith who took away two golds in the 220 and 215 pound brackets.

The tournament was military only and was not only an opportunity to qualify fighters for an upcoming national tournament, but also sparked interservice rivalry among the fighters.

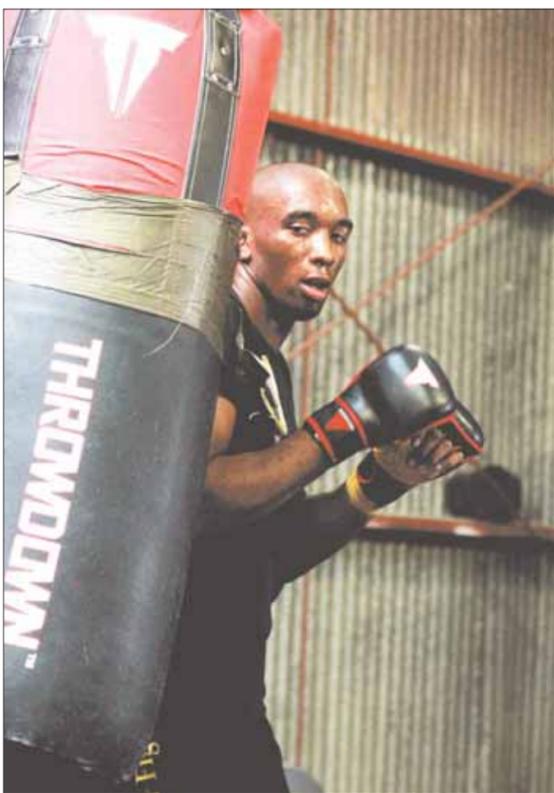
"It was intense," said Omar Askew, a fighter on the team. "After the fight you learned who they were and what ranks they were. It's the only time I could tap out an Army sergeant first class and not feel guilty."

As usual, Marine Corps pride came out when their coach, retired sergeant major

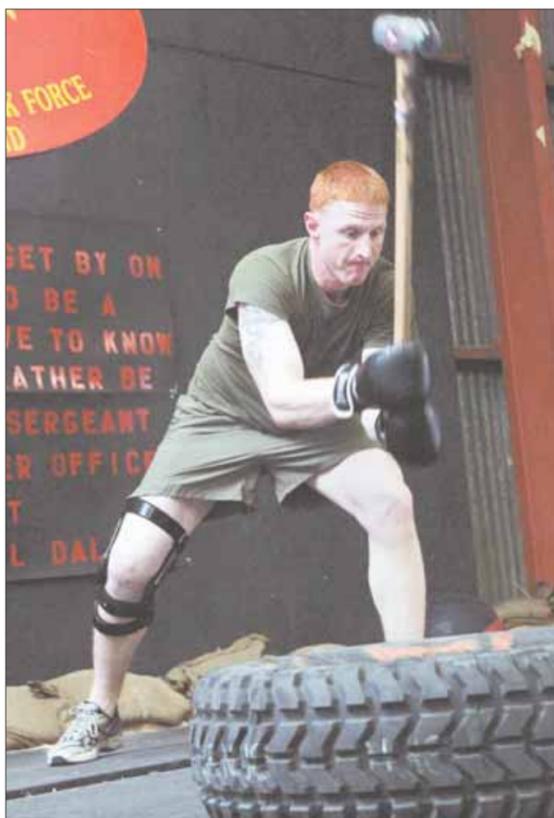


Edwin Nuñez, a member of Fight Club 29, works on his core during a practice at the Sergeants Course Gym. The team practices after work every day to prepare for the National tournament in Las Vegas June 25.

See FIGHT, B4



Dom Waters, a member of Fight Club 29, improves his speed and agility by working on his punches during a practice at the Sergeants Course Gym.



Kyle Stewart, a member of Fight Club 29 conditions himself for his next fight in the Sergeants Course gym.



Members of Fight Club 29 work on improving their core during a practice at the Sergeant's Course Gym.

Intramural volleyball playoffs at halfway point



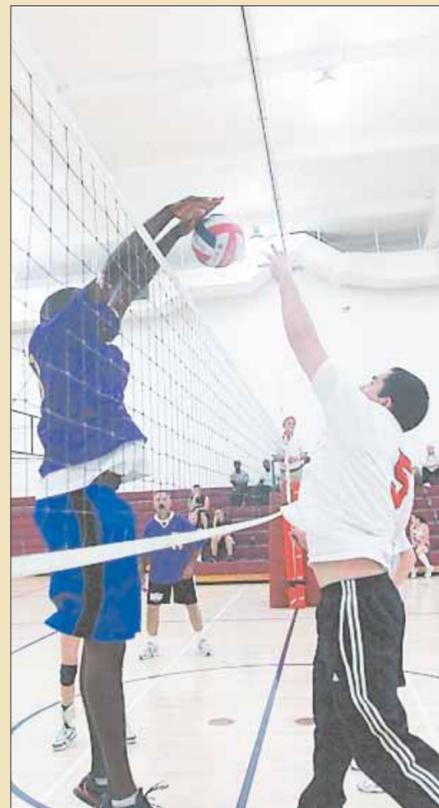
CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Daniel Leopoldo, a player with Team Wilson, volleys the ball with the third bump during a Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League playoff game at the West Gym and Fitness Center Tuesday. Team Wilson started the matches strong but ended up getting knocked out of the playoffs by East Gym.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Kirbie Winn, a player with Team Wilson, bumps the ball for her teammates to spike during a Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League playoff game at the West Gym and fitness Center Tuesday.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Vincent Bullion, a player with Team Wilson, blocks an opponent's spike during a Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League playoff game at the West Gym and Fitness Center Tuesday.



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Favorite Band T-shirt Night. Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m. DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night
Saturday: Country Night with DJ Gjettblaque 8-11 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 food bar 5 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 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, 6 to 11 p.m.
Monday: Steak night and full dinner menu 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday: All-Hands lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Full dinner menu, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Thursday: Taco Night, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

Michael on Fire

Description: The eclectic performer plays a variety of styles
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 3

007 and the Souls

Description: The popular soul band performs
When: 8 p.m. Saturday, June 4
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up:

Keith Castle Berry

Description: The rock band performs
When: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, June 3

The Ghost Train

Description: A blend of rock and country
When: 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday, June 4
Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall, 50048 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
For more information, call 363-3343 or visit <http://www.willieboys.com>.

Twentynine Palms Street Fair, Car Show and Soapbox Derby

Description: Presented by the Twentynine Palms Chamber
When: Derby at 4:30 p.m., and Car Show at 7-10 p.m., today
Where: Downtown Twentynine Palms at Adobe Road and Twentynine Palms Highway.
For more information visit <http://www.visit29.org>.

Lower Desert

Golden Boy Boxing

Description: Presented by Oscar de la Hoya promotions
When: 7 p.m., Friday, June 3
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

3rd Annual Bongo in Morongo Comedy Show

Description: Radio DJs Mark and Brian's comedy show
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, June 4
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Pat Benatar with Neil Giraldo

Description: The classic lady rocker performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 11
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.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.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, June 3

6 p.m. – Soul Surfer, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Arthur, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Scream 4, Rated R

Saturday, June 4

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** Gnomeo and Juliet, Rated G
2 p.m. – Hop, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Source Code, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Hanna, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Your Highness, Rated R

Sunday, June 5

2 p.m. – Rio, Rated G
6 p.m. – Water For Elephants, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Madea's Big Happy Family, Rated PG-13

Monday, June 6

7 p.m. – Your Highness, Rated R

Tuesday, June 7

7 p.m. – Source Code, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, June 8

7 p.m. – Hanna, Rated PG-13

Thursday, June 9

7 p.m. – Hop, Rated PG

Captain Jack races to find fabled Fountain of Youth

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"

Starring Johnny Depp, Penelope Cruz and Geoffrey Rush
Rated PG-13

Johnny Depp returns as swishy buccaneer Jack Sparrow for the fourth installment of the hugely successful Disney movie franchise based on its enduringly popular theme park ride.

This time around, Capt. Jack finds himself on a quest for the fabled Fountain of Youth, the legendary spring with magical powers that 16th century Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon was supposedly seeking when he "discovered" modern-day Florida.

The plot involves Jack's nemesis from the three previous movies, Barbossa, played again by Geoffrey Rush, plus several new characters. Ian McShane smolders as the villainous Blackbeard, whose zombie crew is managed by his spitfire daughter, Angelica, played by Penelope Cruz, a wronged woman bearing a romantic grudge against a certain love-em-and-leave-'em swashbuckler.

There's also an earnest young shanghaied man of the cloth, Sam Chaffin, who falls in love with a mermaid, Astrid Berges-Frisbey, with a streak of kindness that sets her apart from all the other bewitching, bloodsucking sea temptresses.

Keith Richards, who makes another cameo as crusty Capt. Teague, gets off a great line that riffs on his real-life reputation as a hard-living rock and roll star.

There's plenty of sword-



PETER MOUNTAIN

Captain Jack, played again by Johnny Depp, Angelica, played by Penelope Cruz, and Blackbeard, portrayed by Ian McShane, and their eerie crew land on an island where they hope to find the fabled Fountain of Youth.



PETER MOUNTAIN

Captain Jack, played by Johnny Depp, attempts a quick getaway from yet another precarious situation in the Caribbean.

play, lush on-location tropical scenery, a handful of effective 3-D gimmicks and several elaborately choreographed action sequences, including Sparrow's dashing escape from British soldiers,

a duel that spreads throughout a rum warehouse, and a murderous nautical assault by mermaids.

Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom, both along for the first three rides, aren't part of the cast this time around, giving everything a whiff of freshness.

But after four movies, "Pirates" is beginning to feel a bit like a soggy, waterlogged plank that's been afloat in the salty sea a bit too long. Capt. Jack has become a caricature, almost a kooky sitcom

character that remains the same week after week, season after season, year after year. Depp, pushing 40, isn't quite the sprite he used to be. The whole franchise seems like it's settled into a been-there, done-that, jolly-roger rut.

But don't tell that to Disney, which tags on a brief post-credit coda that hints at yet another movie to come. Perhaps, it suggests optimistically, there's still some wind, somehow, left in these tattered "Pirates" sails.



PETER MOUNTAIN

Blackbeard's zombie crew is managed by his spitfire daughter, Angelica, played by Penelope Cruz.

Bowling league champions decided by one victory

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY CPL. ANDREW D.
THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With a championship still in sight, the five teams left in the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League gathered at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center to see who would leave as the Combat Center's top bowlers Wednesday.

"It's been real competitive, we have five teams that are competing for the championship in the last week," said Randy Husted, a sports director with the Marine Corps Community Services Sports department. "The five teams are within

three and a half games of each other. So whoever bowls well today could go home with the Commanding General's Championship."

As the tournament progressed, the distance between the teams decreased until Get Pins overtook Yat Yas, the leaders for the past few weeks, by one victory with 28 wins. RUDTF also pulled ahead of Yat Yas to earn second place by half a point, with 27 and a half wins. Team G-6, who was two victories down from Yat Yas, won two out of three games and an extra victory for total pins, tied Yat Yas for third but pushed them down to fourth with their

total pins for the league.

"I can't believe we sunk to fourth place after being on top for weeks," said Roman Stewart, a player with Yat Yas. With the strong competition and camaraderie among the teams, participants in the league said they enjoyed their time bowling.

"It was a lot of fun this year, just being out here with the rest of the Marines I work with," said D. J. Erwin, a player with Paper Pushers.

Erwin also said he plans on coming back for next year's league and scoring higher in the standings, he said.

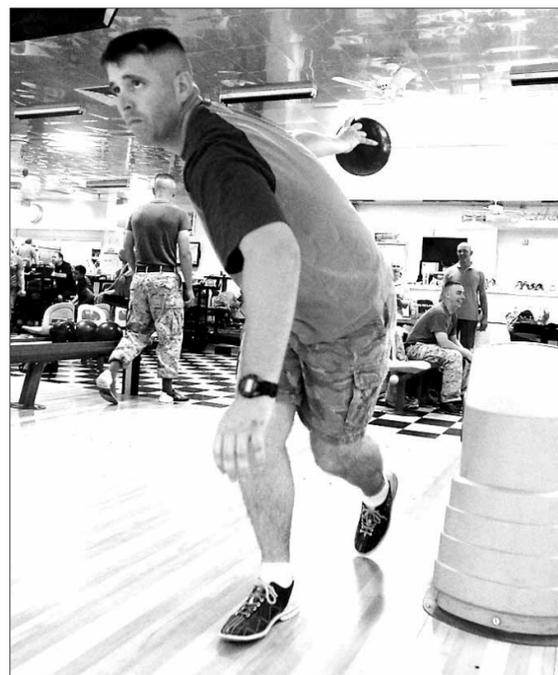
As the top teams received their trophies, other players in the bowling center looked at their final

scores and noticed an overall improvement from when the league began.

"Every year you see improvement," Husted said. "A lot of these Marines come out to just have fun and bowl, and as the season progresses they get better. I have seen bowlers improve their game by 30-40 pins, so by practicing and getting tips from the other bowlers, they have improved their game greatly."

Even though the league is now over, Marines and sailors will have more chances to improve their bowling skills at the lanes, with summer camps for children and one for adults in mid-August and an adult league in early September.

For more information on upcoming intramural sports, call 830-4092. For more information on Sandy Hill Lanes, call 830-6422 or visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.



John Pickard, a bowler with Pin Splitters, aims for a strike during the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League championship at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center Wednesday.



Roman Stewart, a player with Yat Yas, focuses on the pins as he selects his ball during a Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League game at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center Wednesday.



Tracey Walton, a bowler with Get Pins, rolls the ball to pick up a spare.



David Butters, a bowler with Yat Yas, rolls the ball for a strike during a Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League championship game against G-6 at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center Wednesday. The Yat Yas had been the top team for weeks, with a two game advantage over the other teams but lost two out of three games against G-6.

FIGHT, from B1

Geletko, joked with his guys about losing to other branches.

"I told them if they lost to a Coast Guard fighter, they were walking home," Geletko said, laughing. "The only fights we lost all day were to other Marines from different units in Pendleton. The team did

very well. I am very pleased with their performance."

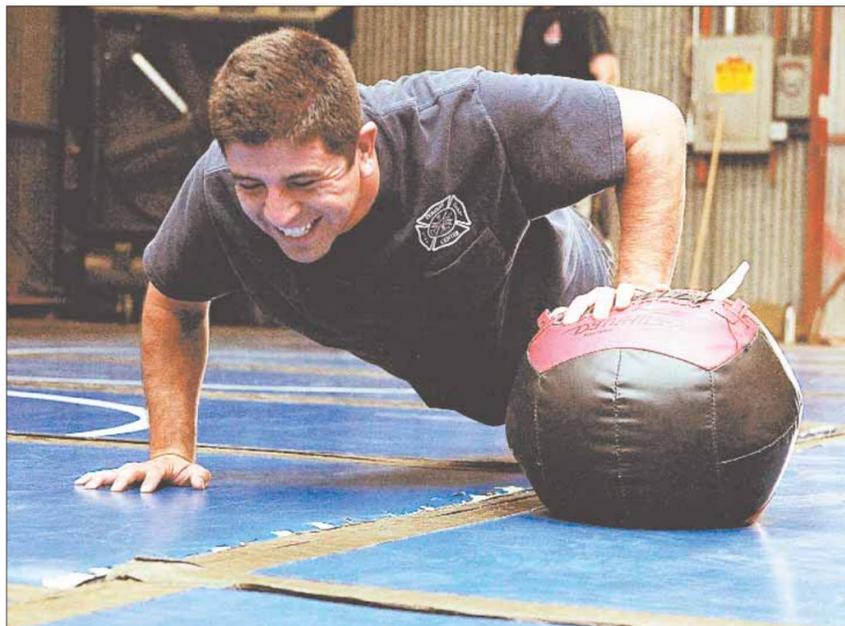
As a whole, the team qualified nine fighters for a national tournament, to be held in Las Vegas June 10.

The upcoming tournament is an open match, meaning the fighters are from all different areas and not restricted to military personnel.

"It always makes you nervous going to nationals,"

Askew said, who has fought in the national tournament three times already. "You're not sure who the competition is. There's a lot of pressure. You can double your fight time, so you need lots of conditioning."

If the fighters medal in nationals, they will be given a chance to fight on the national team, competing in the world championships.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A Fight Club 29 fighter conditions himself during a practice to prepare for the National Tournament in Las Vegas in the Sergeants Course Gym. The team practices after work every day to prepare for the National Tournament in Las Vegas June 25.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Jeannette Hogan

Hometown: Newport, R.I.

Unit: Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School

Recognition: A player on the All-Marine Basketball Team.

Favorite aspect of the sport: "I just love the sport, the competitiveness, and you meet new people."

Advice for aspiring players: "If you get stationed on a base, seek out your athletic director because it is not only just basketball, it's all sports. There are intramurals, unit teams and base teams you can participate in. It's just part of being part of a team and that's what it's all about."

How long have you been playing Basketball? "I have been playing since around the fifth grade. I've played on teams and played in high school, junior high school and the local Boys and Girls Club. Usually it is just backyard games, but since I joined the Marine Corps I was on the Lejeune teams. Now that I am here, I have been on the MCAGCC varsity women's basketball team since 2009."

How did it feel when you were selected? It's an honor, and the feeling was great. "When you get the chance to join a team in the higher level competition, it is just a wonderful feeling."

How many people tried out for the team and how many made the team?

"We had about 23 women try out for the All-Marine team, and they can only allow 12 on a team."



What do you focus on when you are trying to improve your game? "You have to focus on your skill set, stretching, eating right and other things."