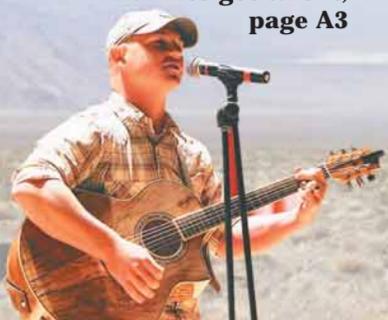


Marines got talent,  
page A3

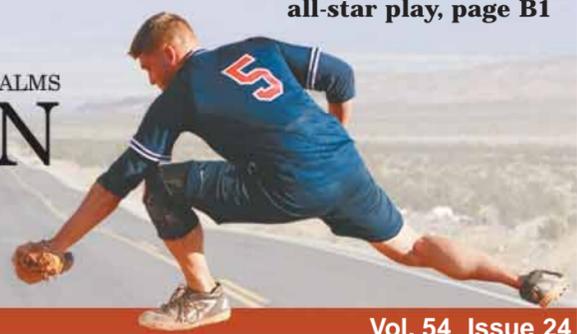
WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/29PALMS  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECOMBATCENTER  
WWW.FLICKR.COM/THECOMBATCENTER

Intramural softball continues  
all-star play, page B1



# OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS



June 17, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 24

## MWSS-371 trains convoy skills

**CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of Motor Transportation Co., Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, practiced live fire and maneuver, setting up a landing zone, suppressing fire and pushing through the kill zone as part of their Enhanced Mojave Viper training at Range 205 June 10 for their upcoming deployment later this year.

"It's very important, it helps us hone our skill as not only Motor T operators, [but as] gunners and other responsibilities with the convoy," said Capt. Matthew L. Hendrickson, the commanding officer for Motor Transportation Co.

As the training began, the Marines, who have trained at other

See CONVOY, A5



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A gunner with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, talks with an instructor before conducting the convoy training for Enhanced Mojave Viper at range 205 June 10.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A simulated improvised explosive device detonates as a vehicle with Motor Transportation Co., Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, approaches during Enhanced Mojave Viper convoy training at range 205 June 10.

## Wolf Pack opens memorial park for fallen Marines



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Marines and sailors of 3rd LAR pause to reflect at their new memorial dedicated to the Wolf Pack Marines who lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom after the dedication ceremony of their memorial park Tuesday in front of the 3rd LAR headquarters building.

**LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Third Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion dedicated a memorial to the 11 Wolf Pack Marines who fell during Operation Iraqi Freedom between 2003 to 2009 Tuesday during the unveiling of the 3rd LAR Memorial Park in front of their headquarters building.

The two-year-long project finally came to a close Tuesday when the OIF memorial was dedicated to the battalion.

"We aren't deploying to Iraq anymore," said Capt. Michael Simon the company commander for Company D. "It's time to recognize that while this battalion did amazing things in Iraq, it came at a cost."

Simon lost seven Marines



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

The Marines of 3rd LAR dedicated this monument to 11 brothers who lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom during the dedication ceremony of their memorial park Tuesday in front of the 3rd LAR headquarters building.

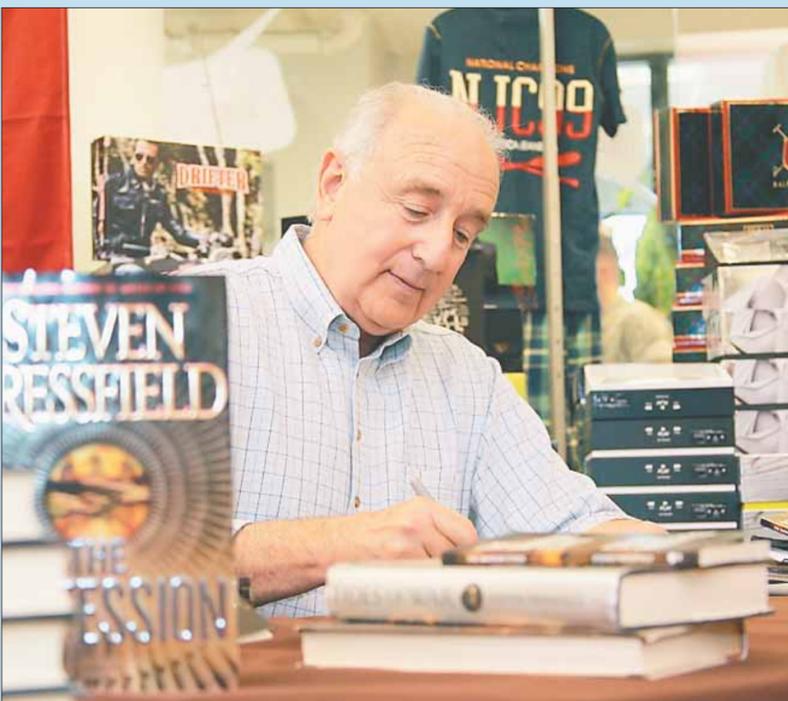
in Iraq in 2006 during OIF when he served as a platoon commander for Co. D.

"It's important to have a place that we can remember," he said. "We have a

short, but rich history, and they played into it as much as anyone else, if not more. This is the price we have to

See MEMORIAL, A5

## Commandant chosen, Marine approved



DIANE DURDEN

Author and former Marine Steven Pressfield signed his books at the Main Exchange Wednesday. Pressfield began a book signing tour earlier this month to promote his most recently published book, *The Profession*. Pressfield's notoriety with Marines is primarily due to an earlier published book, *Gates of Fire*, which is on the Commandant's Reading List.



SGT. MICHAEL CIFUENTES

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos hands the sword of office to Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett during a relief and appointment ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington June 9.

## 'Warfighter' takes charge as Corps' new Sergeant Major

**LANCE CPL. DANIEL A. WEITZEL**

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON -- "The Marines in uniform today, every single one of them, had a choice and they all chose to serve. I get to serve them, and I am privileged to get to serve in this capacity," said newly appointed Sergeant Major of the

Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett after he took the reins as the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Barrett became the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps during a relief and appointment ceremony June 9 at Marine Barracks

See BARRETT, A5

Hey Combat Center fans!  
Check out the official MCAGCC  
social media sites at:

**flickr** <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

**You Tube** <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>

**facebook** <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

## TRICARE flushes out swimmer's ear

**KRISTIN SHIVES**  
TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Swimming and splashing are sure signs summer is here. Flips, twists and jumps into the pool are fun but may cause water buildup in the ear, which can lead to a common ear infection known as swimmer's ear.

In the United States, swimmer's ear results in an estimated 2.4 million health care visits every year and nearly half a billion dollars in health care costs, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Swimmer's ear, also known as otitis externa, is an infection of the outer ear canal. The infection can occur in all age groups; however, it is common in children and can be extremely painful.

Swimmer's ear occurs when water stays trapped in the ear canal for extended periods of time. The warm, moist environment provides a place for germs to multiply and infect the skin. Germs found in pools or other recreational water venues are the most common causes of swimmer's ear, though infection can also develop when objects used to clean the ear canal cause a break in the skin.

TRICARE beneficiaries who are experiencing signs or symptoms of swimmer's ear should seek medical attention. Symptoms of swimmer's ear include itchiness inside the ear, redness and swelling, pain when the ear is touched and pus drainage. Whether symptoms are mild or severe, it's important to have the ear evaluated. In most cases, swimmer's ear can be treated with antibiotic eardrops.

Swimming is the third most popular recreational activity in the United States and the most popular recreational activity for children, reports the CDC. They offer these tips to reduce the risk of swimmer's ear:

- Dry ears after swimming and showering
- Don't put objects in the ear canal
- Don't try to remove ear wax
- Use a bathing cap, ear plugs or swim molds when swimming

Beneficiaries who need medical treatment for urgent illnesses should go to an urgent care facility. Beneficiaries should contact their PCM for a referral or call their regional health care contractor for assistance before receiving care. For Prime beneficiaries, failure to obtain a referral may cause care to be covered under the point-of-service option, which means higher costs.

When splashing and swimming this summer, remember to keep ears dry and protected. For more information on how to prevent swimmer's ear, visit [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/rwi/illnesses/swimmers-ear.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/rwi/illnesses/swimmers-ear.html). Find out more on covered services by going to [www.tricare.mil/coveredservices](http://www.tricare.mil/coveredservices).

## Centerspeak

### Marines give a Father's Day shout out.

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

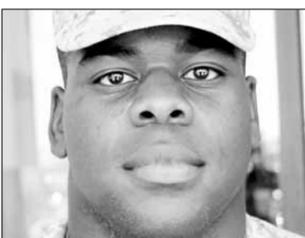


PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS DANIEL ROGERS

COMPANY B, 3RD COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

To his father, Phillip Rogers of Waxahachie, Texas:

"Thank you for always being the best example of what a man should be even when you don't think I'm watching."

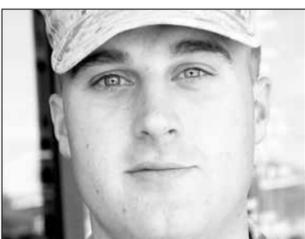


LANCE CPL. MICHAEL BAKER

COMPANY A, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

To his father, Michael Evans of Greenville, N.C.:

"Happy Fathers Day. Thank you for making me who I am."



CPL. RICHARD SCHMITZ

7TH MARINE REGIMENT

To his father Edward Schmitz of Roseville, Calif.:

"Not as lean, not as mean, but still a Marine. I love you Dad. Semper Fi."

## Hot Topics

### GLOW BALL TOURNEY

There will be a glow ball tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course June 24. Show time will be at 5 p.m., the game starts at 6 p.m. Sign up as a four-man team or as an individual and be placed on a team. Play nine holes at twilight, break for dinner, then finish the last nine holes. Cost is \$45 including green fees, cart, range balls, food and prizes. Golfers, bring your family to eat for only \$7 extra per guest. Call 830-6132 for more information.

### FREE KIDS BOWLING

Kids bowl free during the 60 Days of Summer event at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center, from June 13 to August 13. Children up to age 17. Those 18 year old, but still in high school are also welcome. Event runs 1 to 9 p.m., seven days a week, with a two-game per day limit per child. Registration required. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Standard shoe rates apply. For information call 830-6422.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

There will be a "Kingdom of the Son" Vacation Bible School for children from kindergarten to 6th grade at the Protestant Chapel aboard the Combat Center July 11-15, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Children will discover exotic animals, do safari crafts, play games, sing songs and enjoy safari snacks. They will also explore the Lord's Prayer. For information call 830-6464. Volunteers are needed.

### MEDIEVAL FUN AT LLL

Come to the Lifelong Learning Library's Medieval amusements to win prizes, enjoy guest speakers and royal activities June 17 - July 29. For children ages 5 to 12 years, and will be at the library every Friday from 10 - 11:30 a.m. For information call 830-6875.

## Marine Corps History

### June 15, 1944

Preceded by naval gunfire and carrier air strikes, the V Amphibious Corps assaulted the west coast of Saipan, Marianas Islands. By nightfall, the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions, moving against heavy opposition, established a beachhead 10,000 yards wide and 1,500 yards deep.



## 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



..and just like that, The Orange Traffic Cone found itself deeply in love!"

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

## SUDOKU #2207

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## CRIMINAL

[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								
32	33	34												
36														
40														
45														
53	54													
59														
62														
65														

### ACROSS

1. Word before transit or fire
6. Father: Prefix
11. Statesman Hammar skjöld
14. "Get \_\_\_" (Chris Elliott sitcom)
15. Folklore villains
16. Before, to Byron
17. Criminal tennis player?
19. Not "agin"
20. Garr or Hatcher
21. Faucet problems
22. Bisque morsel
23. Former counterpart of Jay and David
25. Comic Charlotte
26. Criminal psychoanalyst?
32. \_\_\_-cop
35. "Clue" weapon
36. "... \_\_\_ penny earned"
37. Illinois city
39. Slap the cuffs on
40. Sugar holder
43. Some NCOs
45. Criminal Rosalind Russell role?
48. Pup's cry
49. November marcher
53. Tattered attire
55. Awaited the anthem
58. Autobahn auto
59. Craft in the tabloids
60. Criminal talk show host?
62. Tax-deferred investment, for short
63. Man from Mars
64. Raison \_\_\_
65. Petal-plucker's word
66. Use the finger bowl
67. Salon apparatus

### DOWN

1. Dread-locked Jamaican
2. Take in or let out
3. Places for seaside strolls
4. Most uncertain
5. Dict. offering
6. Organized persecution
7. Introduction to culture?
8. Pebble Beach hazard
9. Officiates
10. Suffix with hobby or lobby
11. Ridding of pests, in a way
12. Plane measure
13. Idea's beginning
18. Beatnik's "Understood!"
22. Niggle
24. Peoples or Long
25. Country mailing initials, once
27. Extremist
28. Opposite of paleo-
29. Veep before Al
30. \_\_\_ the crack of dawn
31. Ball honorees
32. Costa \_\_\_
33. Jacob's twin
34. Farm female
37. Broke bread
38. Moon vehicle, briefly
41. "How sweet \_\_\_!"
42. Drink daintily
43. Citi Field player
44. Mudslinging pol
46. DeCarlo of "The Munsters"
47. Lamarr of Hollywood
50. Out of practice
51. Be nuts over
52. Forty-\_\_\_ (old prospector)
53. Bring crashing down
54. Curly coil
55. Individual performances
56. Watered down
57. Teller's stack
60. Jelly holder
61. Say further

## Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** June Richardson  
**Hometown:** Cathedral City, Calif.  
**Job title:** Area Operations Manager, Sodexo Government Services  
**Job duties:** Oversees operation of both Combat Center mess halls  
**Hobbies:** Yoga and Golf  
**What do you like most about your job?:** "I love serving our Marines as they leave and come back from deployments. Working here is a great way for me to show my appreciation for everything that they do."  
**What kinds of community projects have you been involved in?:** "Champions of Hunger is a big one. It allows us to use the food business to do good work in the community. We also help with the Little Chapel of the Desert project, Food Pantry, and other food drives. We have an event called Buck-a-Bag. And we've also sponsored participants in local activities like the Soapbox Derby."



EMILY ANDERSON

## OBSERVATION POST

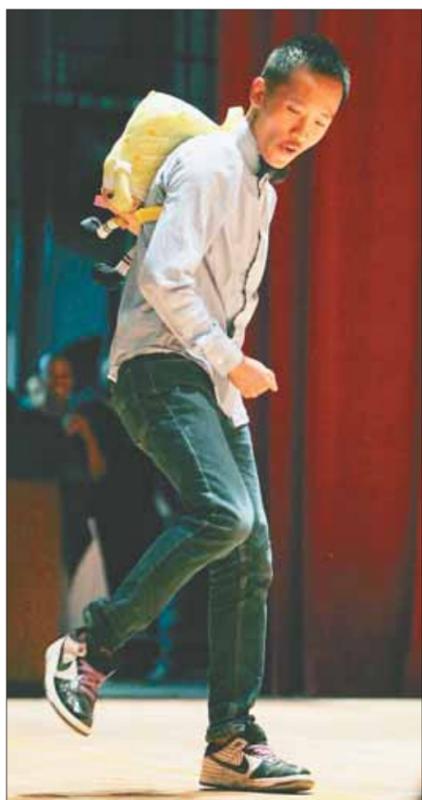
Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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**Deputy Public Affairs Officer** - 2nd Lt. Sin Carrano  
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Corporal Lester Bose, a ground communications technician with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, shows off his dance moves for the judges of the fifth annual "Marines Got Talent" show at Sunset Cinema Saturday. Bose's performance earned him first place.



Corporal Robert Iaulualo and Lance Cpl. Shakiem Smith, both administrative clerks with Headquarters and Service Company 3/7, rock the crowd as Johnny Thunder and Bobby Lightning.

## Who's got talent? You do!

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

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Sunset Cinema was packed with members of the Combat Center community Saturday for the fifth annual "Marines Got Talent" show hosted by the Single Marine Program and the Drug Demand Reduction Program, with Marine Corps Community Services.

The audience laughed, cried and cheered for the 19 entries, which included bands, dancers, acoustic guitar players, singers and monologues.

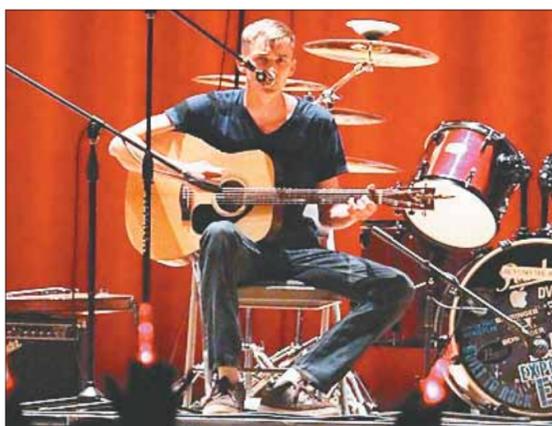
"I think it is going to go great, because everybody is

going to bring their group of friends and units to cheer them on and win," said Beth Ayash, DDRP coordinator with MCCA. "We have been doing this for four years now. Marines can show off their talent and feel good about coming here and enjoying a night out."

As the performers strutted their stuff, some thought the crowd, although supportive, could be more energized.

"I think the audience just needs a little boost, and they will definitely get it from us and then see if it goes through the roof," said

**See TALENT, A7**



Corporal Andrew Hobbs, a ground communications technician with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School energizes the audience with his acoustic guitar performance.



Musical act Rhythm & Rhymes raps and beatboxes for the crowd.

# Norquist retires after 26 years

**LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant Col. Brent Norquist, the now-former assistant chief of staff for the G-4, gathered with his friends, family and Marines to bid farewell to the Corps he's served for 26 years during a retirement ceremony June 10.

During one of his final acts as an active duty leader, Norquist shared some of the things he's learned and experiences he's had during his time in the Corps.

"A lesson I will take away from my career is bloom where you're planted," Norquist said, referring to multiple times in his career

where things did not go according to his plan. "Also, focus on the important things. It is more important to do the right thing than to be right all the time. Lastly, leadership is an honor and a privilege. The true joy of leadership is facilitating other people to success."

The retiring officer, Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, the Combat Center's commanding general, expressed his sorrow over the departure of a friend and trusted colleague, but conveyed his appreciation of a great Marine's fruitful service.

"I could not have had a finer G-4 than there was in the last year," Clardy said. "He is in a colonel's billet, a senior colonel's billet. He's

done exceptionally well.

"Lt. Col. Norquist consistently demonstrated that he is what all of us strive to be, a warrior, professional and a leader," he said. "He is a great Marine, great officer and great American. he accomplished his mission and looked out for the welfare of his Marines,

sailors and family."

Amongst the congratulations, handshakes and reminiscing, Norquist highlighted the driving force of his last 26 years of service - his family.

"I don't have the words to say how much all of this is due to your support and the

See **RETIRES, A6**



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Brigadier Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, the retiring officer for Lt. Col. Brent Norquist, presents Norquist with a presidential pin and a Legion of Merit Medal during Norquist's retirement ceremony at the Combat Center flag pole June 10. Norquist retired after 26 years of service to the Corps.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Lieutenant Col. Brent Norquist and his retiring officer, Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, stand at attention during Norquist's retirement ceremony at the Combat Center flag pole June 10.

# Semper FiPad: Marine Corps aviators use popular tablet in Afghanistan

**CPL. RASHAUN X. JAMES**  
2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FWD)

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan - Marine Corps aviators in Afghanistan are using one of the hottest electronic devices on the market to help keep Afghan civilians and coalition ground troops safe.

"iPads allow close-air support aircrew several advantages," said Maj. Marc Blankenbicker, the lead fire control officer for the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport

Squadron Harvest Hawk detachment at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan. "First is the ability to carry 500 large charts, known as gridded reference graphics, on one electronic tablet."

Currently, a handful of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) squadrons use Apple's iPad in Afghanistan. This includes crewmembers for AH-1W and UH-1Y light attack helicopter squadrons, AV-8B Harrier pilots and the crew of the Harvest Hawk

equipped KC-130J.

Each of these aircraft provides close-air support for Marines, Afghan forces and other combined ground troops in Nimroz and Helmand provinces. Marine aviators said the electronic tablet helps them quickly access maps and other data they can use to ensure precision strikes are targeted at enemy positions.

"There are hundreds of thousands of buildings in the area of operation. Essentially

there is no room to carry all of the maps in the small cockpit of the Cobra. It can be a real inconvenience to pull them all out and reference them during flight," explained Capt. Michael Christman, an AH-1W Cobra pilot with Marine Light Attack Squadron 267.

"Instead of scanning sheets of paper, we type in a sector name or a four-digit grid coordinate and the iPad will center on the desired

See **IPAD, A7**



CPL. RASHAUN X. JAMES

Corporal Eric Monroe, an UH-1Y Huey crew chief with Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 267, searches for a fully charged iPad before departing for a mission at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, June 8.

## SJA CORNER

# What is a judgment of legal separation?

**CAPT. SHANNON MAWSON**  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER

Often clients will come into the Legal Assistance Office wondering about how divorce works. Inevitably they ask about legal separation as well. Legal separation and dissolution (or divorce) in California are two completely separate actions.

In California, a judgment of legal separation can be granted by a judge. This is an alternative to dissolution and is used when the parties do not want to absolutely end the marriage. The most common reasons people will seek a legal separation is so that they can remain as a beneficiary under a medical insurance policy that would otherwise be terminated if there was a dissolution, or their religious beliefs preclude them from getting a divorce.

The legal process for a judgment of legal separation is very similar to a dissolution proceeding. Custody, visitation, separation of community property rights and other issues related to the marriage can be determined in a judgment for legal separation. Unlike dissolution, there is no residency requirement for a judgment for legal separation. For a judgment of dissolution, a petitioner must have lived in the state of California for six months before they can file their papers with the court. However, a person can file for a judgment of legal

separation at any time regardless of how long they have lived in California.

In the future, a client may amend their judgment of legal separation into a dissolution proceeding after they attain the residency requirement of living in California for six months. Then, six months after it has been converted into dissolution proceedings, they may obtain a divorce decree. This is an alternative to divorce for individuals who could not meet California's residency requirement initially, but want to begin the process instead of waiting. You still have to meet the California residency requirements and the six month "cooling off" period before a judgment for dissolution is granted. A judgment of legal separation will simply get the ball rolling and allow the parties to separate their assets, debts, establish custody, visitation and child support orders while they are waiting.

It is important to note for Marines, a judgment for legal separation can potentially affect your eligibility for basic allowance for housing entitlements. Additionally, a judgment for legal separation does not mean you are single. You are still in a married status, and adultery is a chargeable offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. If you are thinking about divorce or legal separation, you can make an appointment to see a legal assistance officer at 830-6111.

## CONVOY, from A1

installations, were impressed with the training capabilities of the Combat Center.

"I think [the Combat Center] has great training facilities," said Cpl. Robert Bingaman, a military policeman attached with Motor Transportation Co. "It doesn't get as real as this, being able to move and shoot, motor simulators, to go from [improvised explosive device] to taking fire, having a casualty and setting up a [helicopter landing zone.] It's better than doing everything notionally."

As the company began their exercise, the commanding officer, executive officer and staff noncommissioned officers observed their Marines and sailors to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

"We did well," said Sgt. Maj. Darryl Cherry, the squadron sergeant major.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Vehicles with Motor Transportation Co., Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, go through a final inspection before the Enhanced Mojave Viper convoy training at range 205 June 10.

"There are things we need to do better, but that is the purpose of training."

Hendrickson said the one area he noticed could use more work was communica-

tion between the vehicles. However, he said that is a simple problem to fix, and he addressed way to improve during his debriefing with the Marines after the exercise.

Hendrickson's general evaluation of the company's training was shared by many of the Marines and sailors.

"I think we performed right about the level we need

to be for where we are today," said Bingaman. "I think we can go back and coordinate with the other shops and set up an overall [standard operating proce-

dures, so when we do this together, we will all be on the same page. Right now we are all getting down on the basics, and for that we performed on par."

## BARRETT, from A1

Washington as Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent retired from the Corps.

It was 90-degrees and humid throughout the evening in the 210-year-old Marine post in downtown Washington when the sword of office was handed to Barrett, signifying

the transition in responsibility. Nonetheless, all Marines in attendance were in their "dress whites," a uniform of a jacket and trousers that have distinguished Marines since the 1800s.

The warm night only intensified as the Corps' two top enlisted took center stage during the scripted traditional

ceremony to impart their genuine comments. Their voices bellowed through the post's courtyard corridors – Kent reflecting on his 35-year career and Barrett sharing anecdotes of Marines he's met and the excitement on becoming a leader of a "fearless and selfless" force.

"I expect all of our

Marines to continue to be selfless. I expect our Marines to continue to sacrifice for one another. I expect our Marines to continue to do brave deeds and endure the tough times that lay ahead," Barrett said.

The position of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957 and was the first such post in any of the branches of the United States Armed Forces. Typically, it's a duty served for four years at the Commandant's discretion.

Barrett praised Kent for his successful tour and said he plans to carry on from where Kent left off – to "work in line with the Commandant's priorities and modernize the force."

"I'm going to be focused on all the issues. I'm going to give it all of my effort. I'm going to give it all of my energies, and I'm going to enthusiastically continue to coalesce the team," Barrett said.

Before the appointment that brought Barrett to his current post, he served as the sergeant major of 1st Marine Division, a combat-ready unit of almost 20,000

Marines and sailors headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

He recently returned from a deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, where he served as Regional Command Southwest's sergeant major.

Sergeant Maj. Anthony Spadaro said to consider the appointment of Barrett a warning order – "everyone better bring their 'A-game' when he's around." Spadaro was the sergeant major of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), a unit recently deployed to Afghanistan that supported Barrett and his Marines when conducting combat operations in Helmand province.

"Duty is not just a sublime word to Sgt. Maj. Barrett. It's everything to him," said Spadaro. "We're talking about a transcendental Marine who's ideal for the part."

In addition to a leader of Marines in a combat zone, Barrett was a sniper early in his career, made Marines as a drill instructor and led Marines on the forward edge of the warzone – to include two tours to Iraq as battalion sergeant major of the battle-

hardened 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

"The man is a warfighter," said Kent, describing Barrett. "And, he's a leader. The Marine Corps is in great shape because of the leaders that we have."

Kent said he's going to do "the most important thing" a Marine should do when he retires from the Corps – spend quality time with his family.

Throughout his 35 years of service in the Corps, Kent has served as a drill instructor and made Marine aviators as a chief drill instructor and senior enlisted advisor at Naval Aviation Officers Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla. He took on lead roles a sergeant major of an artillery battalion, sergeant major of the West Coast's Recruit Training Regiment, and sergeant major of I Marine Expeditionary Force, a position that put him in front of tens of thousands of Marines and sailors.

He said it was an honor to serve as a leader, and he's leaving with a sense of pride in knowing that the Marines today are living up to the legacy Marines from the past have created.



LANCE CPL. DANIEL A. WETZEL

Retired Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent and newly-appointed Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett salute during the pass-and-review portion of the relief and appointment ceremony June 9, at Marine Barracks Washington. Barrett, an infantryman by trade, is the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, a billet appointed by the Commandant to be his senior enlisted advisor.

# Drug Education for Youth

## PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The DEFY program is starting up again this year. The year-long program is designed to strengthen protective factors that increase the likelihood that youth will lead healthy, drug-free lives. DEFY focuses on 9-12 year-old youth and has proven to be an effective early intervention for youth in the target age group who are at-risk for future involvement with drugs and gangs. Our goal is to empow-

er military youth to build positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free, successful citizens. For more information, please contact Navy Chief Terry Morocco at 830-2539 and terry.morocco@med.navy.mil or Petty Officer 3rd Class Courtney Marsh at (520) 252-5517 and courtney.marsh@med.navy.mil.

Camp dates are July 31 to Aug 5. We will be accepting the first 20 applicants. You can find applications and more information on the program at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/support/nadap/Pages/DEFY.aspx>.

## MEMORIAL, from A1

pay when we go to war."

Like a family, the battalion shared good times and rough times together, Simon said, reflecting on his deployments with the unit.

"There is something about the Wolf Pack that draws you together like a family," Simon said. "We lost seven guys in three weeks [that year]. That

was something we had to work through. What's worth noting is while we had seven pass away, the rest of the guys continued to fight. They continued to remember them and fight."

The battalion stood at attention, ignoring the intense summer heat, to pay tribute to the brothers memorialized that day.

"This is an opportunity to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of our Wolf Pack

Marines who have come before us," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Kassner, the battalion commander of 3rd LAR. "The Marines and sailors whose names are etched on the stones before you gave their ultimate sacrifice in support of our nation. Although their lives have been cut short, they are anything but unfulfilled because each embarked on a service of something greater than themselves."



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Combat Center commanding general Brigadier Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, the retiring officer for Lt. Col. Brent Norquist, presents the Norquist family with a letter of appreciation during Norquist's retirement ceremony at the Combat Center flag pole June 10.

**RETIREES, from A4**

family," Norquist said, speaking to his wife, Melissa. "I could not have done anything I have done without the support

and backing of my family. The family members serve also."

Leaving a life they've known for so long is going to be a hard transition for them, Melissa said.

"I've been most worried about him retiring because this has been his life," Melissa said. "We love Twentynine Palms. We asked to come back here three times. We have really enjoyed being part of the Marine Corps."

In the beginning of their marriage, 22 years ago, Melissa knew nothing about the Corps, now she said she can't imagine life without it.

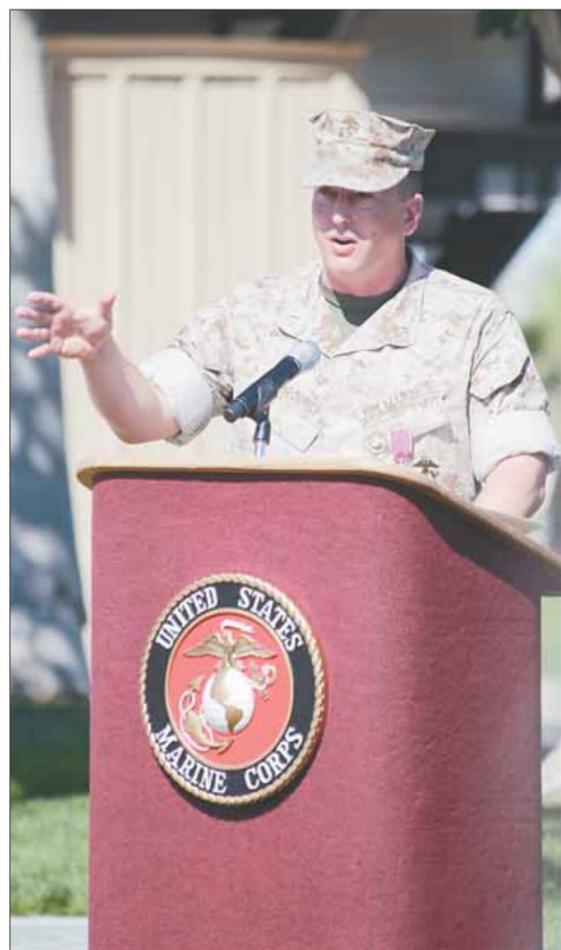
"The hardest part is that

we are so used to the Marine Corps," Melissa said. "It's hard to leave, it's been a great experience. No regrets."

Norquist will be returning to his home in Echo, Ore., with his wife Melissa and daughters Ashley and Emily.

In his last farewell to the Norquists, Clardy reassured them that they will always be a part of the Corps' long and honorable legacy.

"As the Commandant said, 'Once a Marine always a Marine,'" he said. "You don't have retired Marines. Even though you don't happen to be wearing the uniform anymore, you're still a Marine."



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Lieutenant Col. Brent Norquist says farewell to his friends and Marines during his retirement ceremony at the Combat Center flag pole June 10.

**IPAD, from A4**

area," said Blankenbicker.

Another advantage of using the tablet over traditional maps is the pilots' ability to mold its functions to whichever platform they are flying, he said.

"We are not forced to use only one or two configurations or applications for the entire

Wing," said Blankenbicker. "The iPads can be tailored to each platform. The ability to remain flexible is what has made innovations like this so useful."

The aviators said the iPad didn't enter the fight in Afghanistan as a headquarters-driven initiative, but was instead an implementation by a pilot, for pilots. Captain Jim

"Hottie" Carlson, an AH-1W Cobra pilot, with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, thought of and implemented the idea during his Afghanistan deployment as a way to save time and space.

"This was something that a pilot came up with through his own initiative," said Christman. "It was definitely one of those

situations where necessity is the mother of all invention."

"The use of the iPad by Marine aviators is now sanctioned by the Marine Corps," said Lt. Col. Matthew Mowery, the commanding officer of HMLA-267. "Naval Air Systems Command was very skeptical initially but now they have looked at the program and authorized us to do it."

Though many aviators agree the iPad is an improvement over traditional charts, some aircrew members and pilots have noticed limitations and difficulties associated with its use.

AH-1W Cobra pilot 1st Lt. Justin Reinwand and UH-1Y Huey crew chief Cpl. Eric Monroe, both deployed with HMLA-267 from Camp Pendleton, Calif., said one setback they have noticed is that just as with most electronic devices, the iPad will eventually run out of power if not charged.

"Something based on this system specifically designed for what we are utilizing it for would be even better," said Christman. "It doesn't really work the way we would like it to ideally, but we are making it work how we need it to because there is no other convenient alternative."

Blankenbicker's initial

impressions were positive and have remained positive throughout the eight months he has used the tablet.

"My first thought was, 'Brilliant. That makes perfect sense,'" said Blankenbicker. "They fit perfectly into this environment. Even with having never used one, it was apparent that there were endless advantages."

"After eight months in theater, all of the close air support operators continue to come up with more and more ideas about how iPads can be further used," he added. "We learn as we go and expect those that take our place to improve what we have now."

Connect with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) throughout the deployment. Stay up to date with the latest 2nd MAW (Fwd.) news, photos and videos at <http://www.facebook.com/2ndmawfwd>.

**TALENT, from A3**

Lance Cpl. Shakiem Smith, an administrative clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. Smith and his friend entered a musical number as Johnny Thunder and Bobby Lightning.

Some audience members saw the performance as tying everyone together.

"I think it is something that needs to be done," said Lance Cpl. Scott Sutton, a small arms technician with Headquarters and Service Co., 3/7. "It brings out people from the [Combat Center] and the outside community."

Sutton supported his fellow 3/7 Marines from the audience.

After the last group's performance ended, a panel of

five judges from MCCA and SMP rated entries based on first impression, stage presence, talent and audience participation, said Lora Cowan, the coordinator for SMP.

Coming in third place with his acoustic guitar was Cpl. Andrew Hobbs, with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. Snatching a close second, playing the bagpipes in traditional Scottish garb was Pfc. T. J. Wise, with Headquarters Battalion.

However good the music numbers were, a non-musical act was the one that struck the perfect note with the judges. Corporal Lester Bose, a personnel clerk with Headquarters Battalion, stole the spotlight and first place with his mad dance skills.

For more information on upcoming SMP events, call 830-4767.



Private First Class Ethan Lallier, a student with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, and singer with a local group, Shoebox Memories, pours out his heart in song form during the fifth annual Marines Got Talent at Sunset Cinema Saturday.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

R	A	P	I	D	P	A	T	R	I	D	A	G
A	L	I	F	E	O	G	R	E	S	E	R	E
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**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

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

**Combat Center Trader Ads****AUTOMOTIVE**

**2007 CR85R HONDA.** \$1,500 OBO. 366-7626

**2002 XR80R HONDA.** \$800 OBO. 366-7626

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

**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.

**MISC.**

**MOVING SALE:** Like new grill, beds, furniture, kitchen items. All items very cheap. Call Sergio at 56207040-0366.

**BUNK BED WITH MATTRESSES.** White metal, \$200. 366-7626

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

**STORAGE CONTAINER.** An 8 x 10 foot rollup locking door, steel container in excellent shape. \$2,800. Call 362-5293.

**EIGHT PIECE DINING SET.** Very nice tile top, solid wood, light finish set that features an extra long, rectangle, legless table with removable center leaf. Includes six chairs and a two-seat bench. Very heavy and durable, yet semi-formal set. A must see. \$645. Call 362-5293.

**FIREWOOD.** Approximately two cords of dried, split, quality miscellaneous wood. Personally cut and hauled from Big Bear. Includes kindling. Sorry, delivery is not possible. \$295. Call 362-5293

**BABY ITEMS:** Solid wood baby crib, walker, stroller, wooden horse and more. All in excellent condition. Call 217-3310.

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

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

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

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

and complete a request to publish an ad.

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

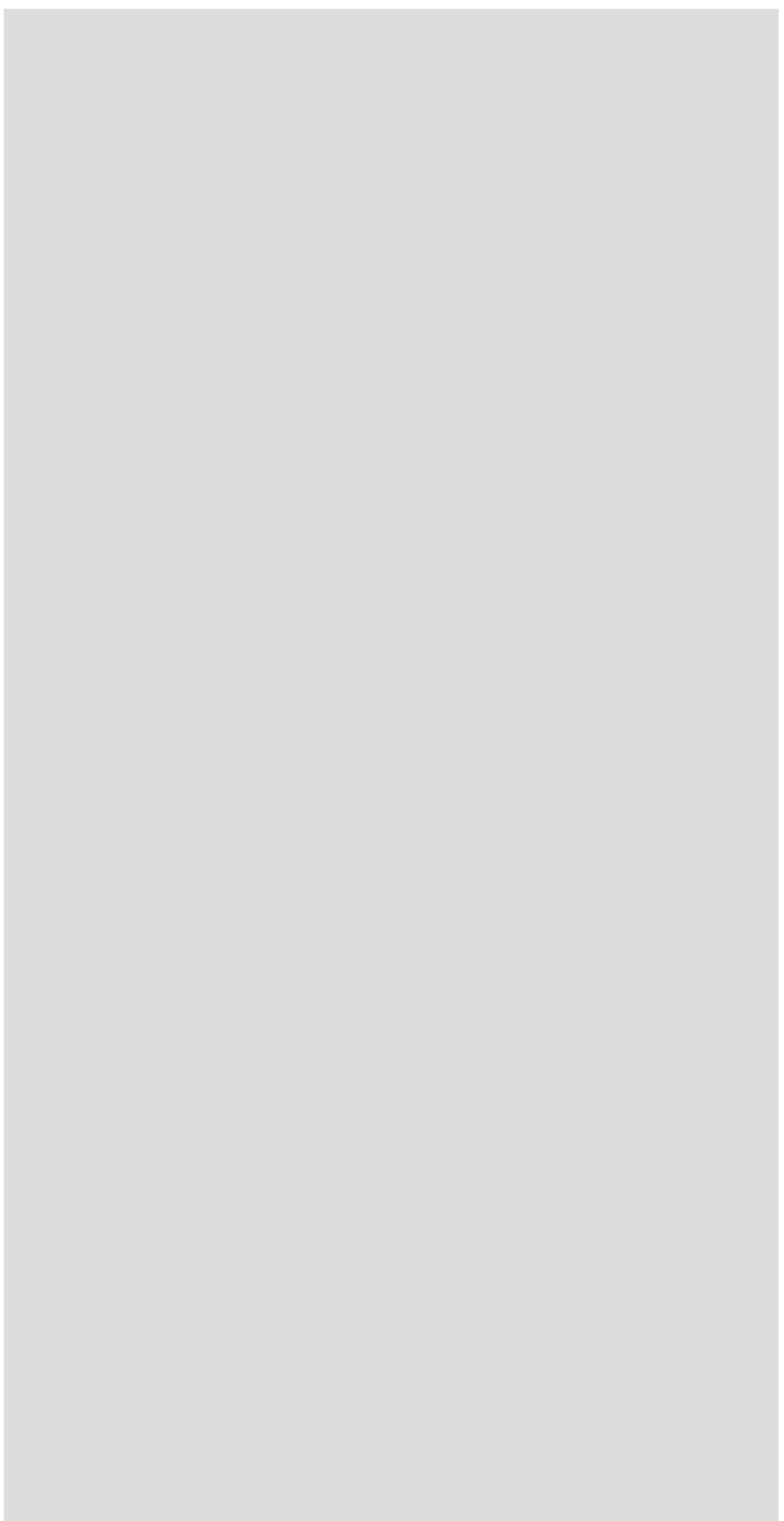
represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

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

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

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

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





June 17, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 B SECTION

# All-star games challenge top players

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, sailors and civilians from all of the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League teams banded together to compete in the fifth annual Intramural All-Star Softball games at Felix Field Tuesday.

The all-star games are held to recognize the top players in the league and encourage teamwork among the players, said Randy Husted, a sports director with the Marine Corps Community Services Sports Department. The players were divided into two teams, the American League and the National League, and played two games to ensure all the players had a chance to participate.

"It [helps create] camaraderie. We have civilians and Marines from six to seven teams on one team, and we represent almost every unit on the base," said Kris Brake, a player with the American League.

Once the games began, the American League shot to an early lead.

"In the first game, the American League got 13 runs at the start, and that set the stage for the game," Husted said. "The National League came back, but it was not enough to overcome the 13-run difference."

The second game, however, was neck-and-neck with both teams gaining the lead throughout the innings.

"The first game was a blow out, but the second was back and forth, and that is what we like in softball," Brake said. "It's great because who wants to go to an all-star game and have it be a blow out?"

As the game continued, and the competition intensified, the players' enjoyment rose steadily.

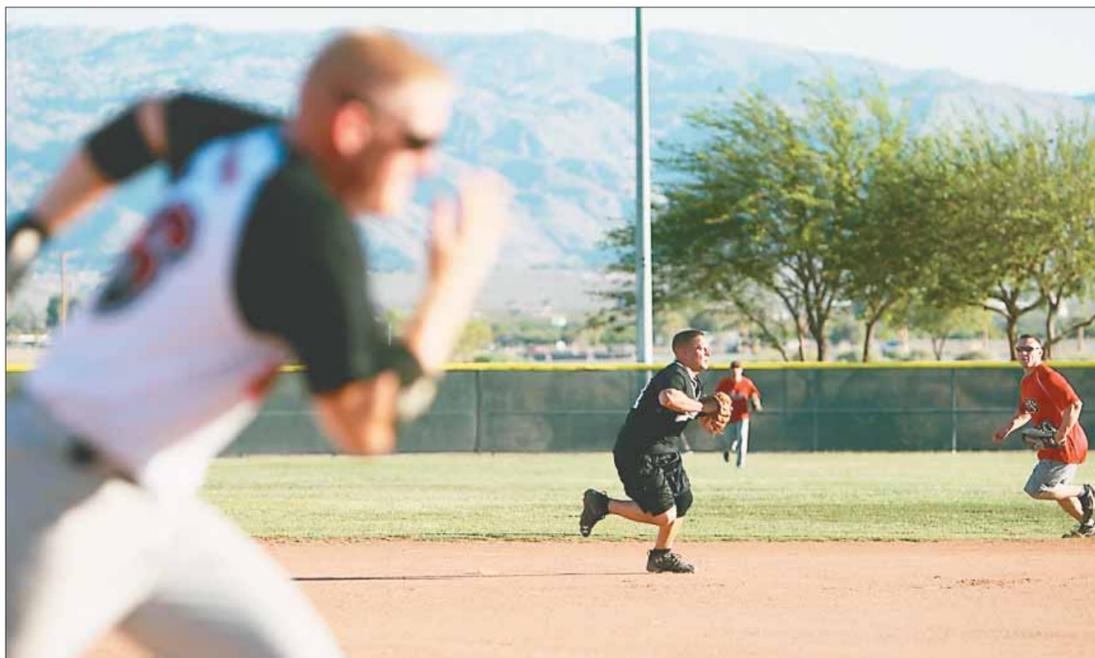
"It's great. Everyone is having a great time, and if everyone is from different intramural teams that shouldn't affect the game," said Edward Lindsay, a player with the National League. What's important is that everyone is trying to have fun and they are enjoying the game.

In the last few innings of the second game the American League pulled ahead and claimed victory for both games.

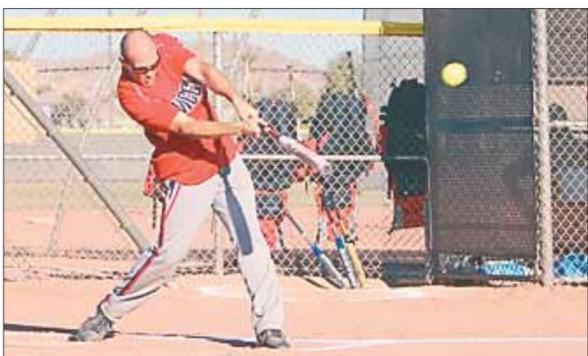
The regular season of the softball league has come to a close, but the playoffs begin Monday with the top eight teams going head-to-head for the top spot.



Charles Binkley, a player with the National League, slides into second base during the sixth annual Commanding General's Intramural All-Star Softball games at Felix Field Tuesday.

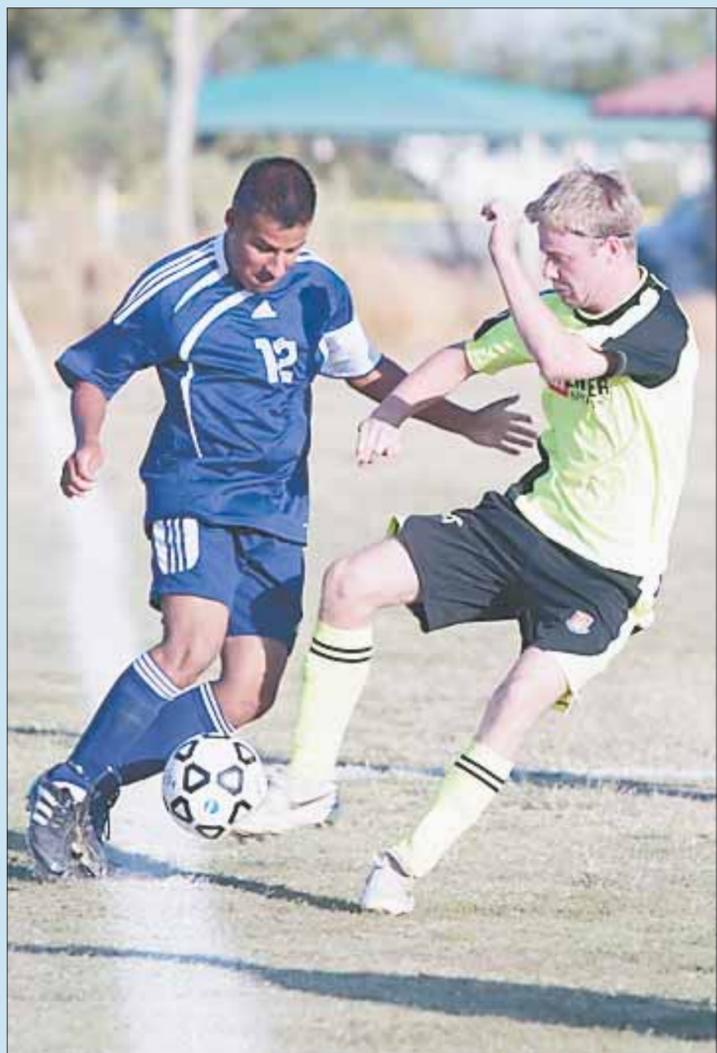


A player with the National League sprints to first as the shortstop with the American League rushes to second with the ball during the sixth annual Commanding General's Intramural All-Star Softball games at Felix Field Tuesday.



Dennis Romo, with American League, slams a ball deep into the outfield during the sixth annual Commanding General's Intramural All-Star Softball games at Felix Field Tuesday.

## Marines, Great Britian face off on soccer battlefield



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A player from the Twentynine Palms base soccer team [left] and a player from the Challenger Football Club fight to save the ball at the line and gain possession of it during a scrimmage at Felix Field Wednesday. The Challenger FC came from England to teach youth soccer on the Combat Center and challenged the base team to a friendly duel.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Nick Kwiatech, a player for the Twentynine Palms base soccer team, scores a goal with a header during a scrimmage against the Challenger Football Club of England Wednesday at Felix Field. This goal was a rare accomplishment for Kwiatech because he usually plays defense.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A player from the Twentynine Palms base soccer team [right] and a player from the Challenger Football Club fight for possession of the ball during a scrimmage Wednesday at Felix Field.



EMILY ANDERSON

The Goalkeeper for the Challengers Football Club dives to save the ball just after a player from the Twentynine Palms base soccer team shoots it during a scrimmage Wednesday at Felix Field.



**Combat Center Clubs**

**Excursions Enlisted Club**

Friday: Honor Your Father T-shirt Night. Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m. DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night Saturday: Request 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 bar food 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. Monday: Steak night and full dinner menu 4:30 to 7:30 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:**

**Peter Murphy with Michael Shapiro**

Playing a mix of jazz, blues and rock When: 8 p.m., Friday, June 17

**Preston Smith & The Funky Crocodiles**

The alternative rockers perform When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 18 Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

**Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up:**

**Train Wreck**

The popular southern rock band performs When: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, June 18

**Ghost Train**

The popular psychedelic rock/folk band performs When: 9 p.m., Saturday, June 11 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>.

**Summer Movies in Luckie Park**

**How to Train Your Dragon**

When: 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23 Where: Luckie Park near the corner of Utah Trail and Joe Davis Drive in Twentynine Palms on the north-facing wall of the racquetball courts.

**Lower Desert**

**The Doobie Brothers**

The famous classic rock band perform their hits 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>.

**Rodney Carrington**

The comedian, actor, singer performs When: 9 p.m., Friday, June 24 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

**The Lipizzaner Stallions**

A dazzling troupe of horses and riders perform When: 2 and 6 p.m., Sunday, July 24 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Sunset Cinema**

**Friday, June 17**

6 p.m. – Rio, Rated G  
9 p.m. – Soul Surfer, Rated PG  
Midnight – Madea's Big Happy Family, Rated PG-13

**Saturday, June 18**

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** Justin Bieber, Rated G  
2 p.m. – Hoodwinked Too, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Water for Elephants, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Fast Five, Rated PG-13  
Midnight – Scream 4, Rated R

**Sunday, June 19**

2 p.m. – Prom, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Something Borrowed, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Thor, Rated PG-13

**Monday, June 20**

7 p.m. – Rio, Rated G

**Tuesday, June 21**

7 p.m. – Fast Five, Rated PG-13

**Wednesday, June 22**

7 p.m. – Soul Surfer, Rated PG

**Thursday, June 23**

7 p.m. – Scream 4, Rated R



COURTESY PHOTO

"Kung Fu Panda" is set in a 3-D ancient Chinese wonderland populated entirely by animals. The action scenes zig, zag and zip, sometimes so fast it's difficult for the eyes to keep up.

**All-star cast of familiar voices returns**

**NEIL POND**

AMERICAN PROFILE

**"Kung Fu Panda 2"**

Starring Jack Black, Angelina Jolie and Jackie Chan Rated PG

In a summer already crammed with sequels, Jack Black and his "Kung Fu Panda" cohorts set off for a second adventure, this time in 3-D.

Black is perfectly cast as the voice of Po, the roly-poly protagonist of the title, squaring off against a power-mad peacock (Gary Oldman) with an evil pyrotechnic plan – and holding onto a terrible secret about Po's past.

The A-list cast from the first "Panda" (2008) is all aboard. Angelina Jolie (Tigress), Jackie Chan (Monkey), Seth Rogan (Mantis), Lucy Liu (Viper) and David Cross (Crane) again provide the voices of Po's formidable kung-fu comrades, the Furious Five. Dustin Hoffman reprises his role as the wise martial arts master Shifu, coaching Po along his path to power through self-awareness.

The spectacular sets, of



Jack Black is the voice of Po, the roly-poly protagonist of the title, squaring off against a power-mad peacock, played by Gary Oldman, who is holding onto a terrible secret about Po's past. Dustin Hoffman reprises his role as the wise martial arts master, Shifu, coaching Po along his path to power through self-awareness.

an ancient Chinese wonderland populated entirely by animals, teem with color, texture and detail, often making you forget you're watching animated backdrops instead of the real deal. The frenetic action scenes zig, zag and zip, sometimes so fast it's difficult for the eyes to keep up. The characters all have distinct personalities that come through in their movements, facial expressions and dialog.

Although there's nothing inappropriate for kids, parents should know that this

"Panda" is a bit darker than its predecessor, perhaps a calculated attempt to nudge Po and his exploits into the more grownup cinematic territory of "Lord of the Rings" or Harry Potter. The subplot, about Po's search for answers to his unknown past, provides a rich emotional hook – and a definite setup for yet another sequel.

Like the best animated movies, this one works well on multiple levels. Children will giggle at the antics of Po and his pals, cheer on the hyperactive fight scenes, and cower as Oldman's dastardly peacock, Shen, readies his dark, menacing army of wolves and gorillas for battle.

Grownups will appreciate the movie's heart-tugging messages about family in

Po's quest to find out where he's from, how he came to have a goose for an adopted father, and what happened to his real parents.

And anyone with an antenna for symbolism and social relevance will pick up the signals in the movie's depiction of how colorful fireworks, things of beauty and wonder intended for celebration, are transformed into weapons of mass destruction by the sinister Shen.

The storyline often feels like it's following a bit too closely to Hollywood's familiar build-a-plot playbook, but "Panda 2" packs more than enough personality and visual pizzazz to make up for those shortcomings.

Chopsticks for your popcorn, anyone?



COURTESY PHOTO

The A-list cast from the first "Panda" is back on board. Angelina Jolie voices Tigress, Jackie Chan voices Monkey, Seth Rogan is Mantis, Lucy Liu voices Viper and David Cross is the Crane, making up Po's formidable kung-fu comrades, the Furious Five.

# Mitfits out-match 3rd CEB for championship

**LANCE CPL. D. J. WU**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's volleyball season culminated with the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League Finals at the West Gym and Fitness Center June 7.

The finals were between the league's two top teams, Tanks Misfits and 3rd CEB.

3rd CEB went undefeated during the regular season, including defeating Tanks Misfits. The Tanks Misfits' loss to 3rd CEB was their only one of the season, and the championship was their chance for vengeance.

The combination of high-caliber skill and a sharp sense of competition led

these two teams to the championship game.

"I'm very proud of my team," said Steven Santana, the coach and a player for Tanks Misfits. "We actually play like a team."

The teams played their hardest and made it an extremely close championship.

Much of the match saw both teams within a single point of each other.

3rd CEB took the first in the match, and Tanks Misfits took the second. The match and ultimate victory came down to a third and decisive, tie-breaking game.

With yearlong bragging rights in sight, neither team let off of the heat. But, it was

See MISFITS, B4



LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

Tanks Misfits pose with Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, the Combat Center's commanding general, and the championship trophy ending the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League at the Gym and Fitness Center June 7.

# MMA fight brings entertaining show to Marines

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

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center played host to a show of skill, strength and sportsmanship during the Mixed Martial Arts Tournament June 10 at Felix Field.

The combination of caged men beating each other to a pulp and Bud Light girls mingling with the crowd made it the perfect night to hang out with friends and watch a fight with a cold one in hand.

For the fighters, entertaining their Marine audience was an honor, said Paul "Golden Bear" Garcia, a fighter on the blue team and former army soldier.

"I'm glad that we are here; it takes me back to when I was in the service," Garcia said. "I think it's a great privilege to be here."

A judge for the night, Mike Beltran, a former Marine, said he was excited to be back on a Marine Corps base and felt right at home.

"I love being here," Beltran said. "I would do anything for [the Marines]. They are the real warriors."

Like during any fight, nerves were high and pure adrenaline seemed to drip off the faces of every fighter in the cage.

"Win or lose, I'm still going to be able to hit



A fighter high fives the audience before entering the cage to face his opponent during the Mixed Martial Arts tournament at Felix Field June 10.

somebody tonight," said Jonathan Wagner, a fighter on the red team, and a Marine with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Seven amateur fights also kept the crowd roaring all evening.

For the fighters and the staff, the event was more than just a night of entertainment, but also a chance to give back and say 'thank you' for Marines' service.

"If you have the courage to put on the uniform and step into the ring, you deserve respect," Garcia said. "I love these guys. We are going to put on a good show for them."



Opponents battle it out in the cage as hundreds of spectators aboard the Combat Center cheer them on during a Mixed Martial Arts Tournament at Felix Field June 10. There were seven amateur fights of the night.

For more information on upcoming events, visit the Marine Corps

Community Services website at <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.



Fighters pin each other up against the cage in the heat of the fight during the Mixed Martial Arts Tournament at Felix Field June 10. The fighters were from various parts of California, and the tournament was not restricted to just military personnel.

MISFITS, from B3

Tanks Misfits who eventually came out on top by a slim two-point margin, 15-13.

Even in defeat, Ryan Anderson, coach of 3rd CEB said that his team did well, and he "couldn't ask for much more."

"It just shows that even if you lose in the championship you can still appreciate that ride that got you there," he said.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Danielle McKeever, a player with Tanks Misfits, serves up the ball during the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League Championships at the West Gym and Fitness Center June 7.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Both 3rd CEB and Tanks Misfits fought hard in the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League Championships at the West Gym and Fitness Center June 7. This jump block combo shows how evenly matched both teams were throughout the season.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Nick Kwiatek
Unit: Mojave Viper Support Detachment
Hometown: Orland Park, Ill.
Recognition: A player on the Combat Center's base soccer team and team captain for the game.



Position: Sweeper/ Defense
What is your favorite part of the sport?: "I like competition, going out, giving your all to win. Also, bragging rights come with it."

What was the hardest part of mixing your Marine Corps and soccer career?: "I've played since I was five. When I got into the Marine Corps, I took five years off of soccer because I was in 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and couldn't get time off of work to play. The hardest part was coming back after five years off and getting back in the game. It was like riding a bike to me, it felt natural, and I was back in no time."

Do you have any advice to any aspiring athletes?: "Don't give up. Soccer is tiring, and a lot of times you want to slow down. Keep going and keep fighting until the end."



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ