

Bridgeport training keeps  
Marines ready,  
page A3

WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/29PALMS  
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Fight Club  
29 goes to  
nationals,  
page B1

# OBSERVATION POST

July 8, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 27

## Combat Center welcomes new general

**DIANE DURDEN**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

The Combat Center welcomed one general and bid farewell to another when Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III relinquished command to Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr., during the change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field July 7.

Four platoons, each representing one of the four commands that make up Marine Air Ground Task Force

Training Command, as well as the Combat Center Band, marched onto the field to witness the exchange of the MAGTF colors, signifying the shift in command from Clardy to Smith.

"I'm looking forward to supporting our operational commanders throughout the Corps, as we continue to accomplish the Commandant's priority to ensure [we have] the best equipped and best trained Marine units in Afghanistan," said Smith.

Smith, whom last served as the principal assistant, senior advisor and task manager for Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos in Washington, D.C., takes over responsibility for the 28,000-person installation where 90 percent of the Marine Corps trains before deploying to Afghanistan.

As always when embracing a new commander, the

See GENERAL, A5



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Brigadier Gen. George W. Smith Jr., the oncoming commanding general [left], and Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III, the outgoing commanding general, salute the colors during their change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field July 7.



Brigadier Gen. George W. Smith, Jr.

## 31st MEU embrace amphibious roots

**CPL. ANTHONY WARD, JR.**  
MARINE FORCES, JAPAN

KIN BLUE, OKINAWA, Japan – In the early morning hours of June 28, with darkness heavy in the air, Marines

quietly and stealthily launch the 10 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft into the still, warm waters of Kin Blue beach near Camp Hansen.

By the time the sun cast its first rays, the 68 Marines were

jetting through the waves, salt water splashing their faces as they headed to the USS Tortuga off the shore of the White Beach Naval Facility.

There, the training began.

The Marines of Company

F, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force,

See RAIDERS, A5



CPL. ANTHONY WARD, JR.

Marines with Company F, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare to board the USS Tortuga during launch and recovery operations June 28. Once onboard the Tortuga, the Marines turned the boats around and returned to the water.

## Commissary awards 2011 Scholarships for Military Children



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

[From left] Brig. Gen. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's former commanding general; Cyndy Fults, the Commissary store director; Kristina Bevan, recipient of the 2011 Scholarships for Military Children Program scholarship; Craig Bevan, Kristina's father; and Jesse Lopez, a representative of the Fisher House Foundation, pose for a photo after the official presentation of Kristina's scholarship, Wednesday. The annual program awards one scholarship per installation, worth about \$1,500. Recipients are chosen based on grade point average, community service hours and an essay. This year's essay topic was: "Our nation has a goal of improving health and wellness. What are your ideas and, more importantly, how do you propose to put these ideas into action in your local community?"

## DOD launches military spouse employment partnership program

**ELAINE SANCHEZ**  
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In an effort to address military spouses' employment challenges, the Defense Department today launched a program to expand career opportunities for military spouses worldwide, and to recognize the skills and talents they bring to the employment table.

Flanked by military spouses and corporate leaders, top government and military officials unveiled the Military Spouse Employment Partnership during a ceremony at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce here. The partnership encompasses more than 70 employers who have committed to opening their doors to spouse employment.

In remarks at the event, Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, lauded military spouses for their service and sacrifice as they juggle households, children, volunteer work and jobs -- many times in the midst of deployments.

Due to their ability to thrive despite multiple challenges and demands, she noted, military spouses possess the qualities highly sought after by employers, such as dedication, flexibility, a strong work ethic and "endless energy."

"If you're looking for hard-working, highly skilled and educated, dedicated employees," Biden said, "our military spouses are precisely the employees you need."

"Every day our military spouses are giving back to our country," she added. "While their loved ones are called to serve, they serve right alongside them. Now we must serve them as well as they serve us."

Deborah Mullen, who was accompanied to the event by her husband, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, acknowledged the difficulties military spouses face in finding jobs. Many spouses, she noted, are turned away for jobs, not due to their qualifications or training, but due to the frequent moves their service member spouse is required to make.

"More than one spouse has told me, 'All I wanted was to get in the door to be able to be judged on my merits, my qualifications and my strengths,'" she said. But in many cases, she noted, they are unable to even score an interview.

"They aren't asking of rules to be broken or regulations to be cast aside," she said. "They know the economy is tough out there ... This isn't about entitlement for them; this is about opportunity."

"Military spouses just want the same shot as everyone else," she added.

Only one percent of the nation serves, comprising about 2.2 million service members, Mullen said, and about half of them are married to someone seeking a job. And most of those job seekers are women, she noted, "educated resilient, serious women who possess strong values and even stronger work ethic."

The partnership launched today signifies a positive step toward employing these highly skilled spouses, Biden said. "We're making it a little easier for them to find work, and perhaps a little less frightening for new employers to take that gamble and find the talent so resident in our ranks," she said.

But the work is just beginning, Biden noted. Today, the Defense Department launches the

See DOD, A5

# Convenient access to online accounts

**BRIAN P. SMITH**

*TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE*

There is a logon that allows military families access to certain Department of Defense benefit websites with one username and password: it's the DS Logon. Having a DOD Self-Service Logon can mean remembering just one username and password for some DOD and Veterans Affairs websites.

**How to request your single logon:**

- Sponsors with a Common Access Card or DFAS myPay Login ID may request a DS Logon at myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/dsaccess.
- Eligible beneficiaries can request a DS Logon at TRICARE Service Centers.
- Sponsors and family members can also request a DS Logon through the VA eBenefits portal.

**It's safe and secure**

If the sponsor does not use the CAC or DFAS method to request a DS Logon, beneficiaries must finish a verification process known as in-person proofing to be granted full DS logon access. To help protect your identity, users need full, or Level 2, access to view or change personal information through the websites below. You can complete the verification process at a TSC. National Guard and Reserve members who can't go to a TSC for validation may be eligible to complete a remote proofing process. Find more information at <http://www.tricare.mil/reserve>.

After in-person (or remote) proofing, your DS Logon can be used to access these DOD and VA sites:

- Beneficiary Web Enrollment (<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe>): Manage TRICARE Prime enrollments and update contact information.
- Reserve Component Purchased TRICARE Application (<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/reserve>): Purchase TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage.
- TRICARE Online (<http://www.tricareonline.com>): Set appointments and refill prescriptions at certain military treatment facility locations.
- myDODbenefits (<http://www.mydodbenefits.dmdc.osd.mil>): Access and update information that goes directly into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.
- VA eBenefits (<http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>): Apply for Veterans Affairs benefits, download your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) and view benefits status.
- DS Logon Self-Service (<http://www.myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/dsaccess>): Activate and manage your DS Logon account.

**What kind of identification do I need for in-person proofing?**

Beneficiaries need two current forms of approved ID; at least one must be a government-issued photo ID. DMDC's list of approved IDs: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/pub/FAQ.do>.

**What about my secure <http://www.triwest.com> account?**

Your triwest.com account does not use the DS Logon option. A triwest.com username and password are required to manage your health care through a triwest.com account. Go to <http://www.triwest.com>/Register to learn more.

## Centerspeak

What is an interesting fact about you very few people know?

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



SEAMAN JOE URIAS  
HEADQUARTERS CO., 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“When I eat chicken tenders, I always eat the skin first.”



MAJ. WILLIAM SMITH  
G-3 OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

“I teach Sunday School.”



PFC. ERIC PABST  
COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS  
COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

“Every time I get a pack of cigarettes, I flip the center one over and smoke the second to the right of it.”

## Hot Topics

### RED, WHITE AND BLUE GOLF

Join us today at the Desert Winds Golf Course for the four-person scramble Red, White and Blue Golf tournament. Show time is 7 a.m. Start time is 8 a.m. Cost is \$40 and includes greens fee, cart, range balls, tees, a sleeve of golf balls, a barbecue lunch and prizes. Sign up as a team, or as a single and be placed on a team. Call 830-6132 for more information.

### RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Today is the deadline to register for the Commanding General's Intramural Racquetball Tournament July 11 at the East Gym and Fitness Center. This is a double elimination with singles and doubles competition. There is a mandatory players meeting today in the Sports Office, building 1324, at 10 a.m. For more information, call 830-4092.

### TEXAS HOLD 'EM

The Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, hosted by the SNCO Club, is July 16. Doors open at 2 p.m., game starts at 3 p.m. Buy-ins are \$20 for early registration, or \$25 at the door. There will be limited free finger foods and prizes. Open to all NCOs and above, as well as spouses. Call 830-5035 for more information.

### MARINE POOL PARTY

All active duty service members are invited to a summer pool party at the Training Tank from 6-10 p.m. July 22. There will be a DJ, food, prizes and beer, for those of age with ID. No outside alcohol or pets allowed. Call 830-5086 for more information.

## Marine Corps History

### July 7, 1941

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was activated at Quantico, Va. Within a year of activation, the Wing would participate in the Marine Corps offensive at Guadalcanal. That bitter campaign would be the first in a series of legendary battles in which the Wing would add luster to its reputation.



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 #2226

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## SPREADING THE GOSPEL

[Puzzle solutions on A6]

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63										64		65	
66										67		68	

- ACROSS**
1. Greeley's direction
  5. Sunscreen ingredient
  9. Self-righteous
  13. Brunei's home
  14. Yemeni port
  15. Chili hotness unit
  16. Something missing
  17. Germinated barley
  18. Oslo's land, on stamps
  19. Gospel-spreading Hall of Fame shortstop
  22. Barbie's beau
  23. BA or RBI
  24. "That hurts!"
  26. Adversaries in "Risk"
  29. Idaho's nickname
  33. Colorful equines
  34. \_\_\_ carotene
  35. Carpeting calculation
  36. Make a selection
  37. Mongol invaders
  40. Durante's \_\_\_ Calabash
  41. Prefix with morphic
  43. A mode of transportation
  44. Be crazy about
  46. Supporter of a cause
  48. Overcooked to the max
  49. Historians' time slices
  50. Man Friday
  51. Stranded driver's need
  53. Gospel-spreading author of "The Client"
  59. Balkan capital
  61. Scruggs or Hines
  62. Act the pack rat
  63. Board flaws
  64. Suit to \_\_\_
  65. Bad to the bone
  66. \_\_\_-Coburg and Gotha (German duchies of old)
  67. "Home on the Range" player
  68. Sit a spell
- DOWN**
1. One of four on a squash court
  2. Jacob's twin
  3. Green around the gills
  4. Accepts, as boarders
  5. Where to find a gaucho
  6. Adjust to fit
  7. Round-ending signal
  8. Voting "no"
  9. \_\_\_-mo
  10. Gospel-spreading "NCIS" actor
  11. Egg on 12. Feds
  15. Black \_\_\_ (cattle breed)
  20. "This is only \_\_\_"
  21. Baseball's Garciaparra
  25. Windy City train initials
  26. Sachet emanation
  27. Partitioned, with "off"
  28. Gospel-spreading "Lost" actor
  29. "Dig?"
  30. "And others," briefly
  31. \_\_\_ Haute, Indiana
  32. Alleviated
  34. Muffin choice
  38. Retort to "Am not!"
  39. Riyadh resident
  42. \_\_\_ Lingus
  45. Wardrobe assistant
  47. Big Indians
  48. Player of a lumberjack's game
  50. Correspond, grammatically
  51. Sounds of reproach
  52. \_\_\_ O'Neill Chaplin
  54. Brewski topper
  55. Hoopster Archibald
  56. Moneyed one
  57. They try harder
  58. Disappear à la Frosty
  60. Suffix with social or urban

## Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** Cpl. Domenic Andreoni  
**Hometown:** Chicago  
**Unit:** Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion  
**Job title:** Crew Chief  
**Job duties:** In charge of the track, crew, gear, ammunition, guns and maintenance.  
**What do you like most about your job?:** "That we are what makes the Marine Corps the Marine Corps by going from ship to shore."  
**What is your most memorable moment while with the unit?:** "Deploying with the 31st [Marine Expeditionary Unit] and all the great places we were able to go."  
**Significant achievements:** Two Certificates of Commendation, two meritorious promotions and a beautiful daughter.  
**Hobbies:** Playing sports, working out and playing Xbox 360.  
**What made you want to work with AAVs?:** "I love water, being in a combat [Military Occupational Specialty] that goes from ship to shore, learning all the facets of the Marine Corps and working on the vehicles."  
**Time at Combat Center:** One year and seven months.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

## OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. George W. Smith, Jr.

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Students of the Scout Snipers Course snap in on their target at the base of a mountain in the Mountain Warfare Training Center training areas in January. The sniper students climbed the mountains and built a snow shelter while keeping their eyes on their target.

## Bridgeport keeps Marines in fight

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — Deep in the Sierra Nevada Mountains lies one of the Marine Corps' most elite training facilities, where the nation's top warriors face freezing conditions and summer heat in high-altitude mountainous terrain. This is where they learn to operate and thrive in the wilderness with little food, sleep and shelter.

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center was formed in 1951, after the Corps lost thousands of Marines in the battle of the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. Many perished due to their inadequate gear and the lack of knowledge and skills needed to survive and fight in the extreme cold of the Korean mountains.

Much like the modern day Enhanced Mojave Viper, a pre-deployment exercise which prepares Marines and sailors for combat in Afghanistan, located at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., the MWTC served that purpose for Marine units deploying to Korea.

In the past 60 years, the center has incorporated current and hybrid threats such as improvised explosive devices into their training. It has evolved into one of the country's premiere training resources, training roughly 16,000 personnel a year from across the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense and coalition allies.

The center's mission and focus is to train Marines to adapt to and overcome challenges in unfamiliar and unforgiving terrain, said Col. Phillip Chandler, the commanding officer of MWTC. "The key words we use are 'shoot,' 'move,' 'communicate,' 'sustain,' and 'survive'

in this complex terrain."

The center has two different types of school programs, formal schools and unit training.

During formal schools, individual Marines or sailors come to learn very specific skills to take back and teach to their units. These nine schools are offered throughout the year, varying between the summer and winter seasons.

The Summer and Winter Mountain Leaders Courses are 36 training days each and produce duty experts in alpine and cold weather operations. The advanced technical skills enable the students to lead their

See SNOW, A8



A student with the Scout Skiers Course fixes his ski after wiping out in the Mountain Warfare Training Center training areas.



Sailors with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, strike their tent just before they prepare to move to a new campsite at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in January.

**Looking for local entertainment?  
See page B2 for our Liberty Call section**

### SJA CORNER

## How to request a stay on civil lawsuits

CAPT. SHANNON MAWSON

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER

Most service members are familiar with the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act. They understand that this federal statute exists to protect them from civil lawsuits and related proceedings when they are deployed.

They are able to request a stay, or pause, the proceedings. They do not however, understand how to initiate the use of this protection. It is not automatic, and a service member cannot just call the court or send them a copy of their orders. Just the fact that a person is in the military alone is not enough. There is a test.

When a service member files an application for stay, the court shall (this means the court does not have a choice) enter a stay of proceedings for at least ninety days if the request includes the information required by the SCRA. They must submit a statement explaining that their duties as a service member materially affect their ability to be present for the court proceedings, the date when he or she will be able to appear for the court proceedings, a statement from the service member's commanding officer that his or her military duty prevents their ability to be present at a court proceeding and that military leave is not authorized for the service member at the time of the proceedings.

After the service member requests a stay, the court will most likely allow the opposing party a chance to challenge the stay. The court will then evaluate when the service member's unavailability time expires in order to determine if his or her military service truly is materially affecting the ability to appear.

What does materially affect mean? The term, does not have a definition; it is determined on an individual basis. The court will use its discretion based on the facts presented in the service member's statement and anything the opposing side offered on the issue to determine if there is a material affect or not.

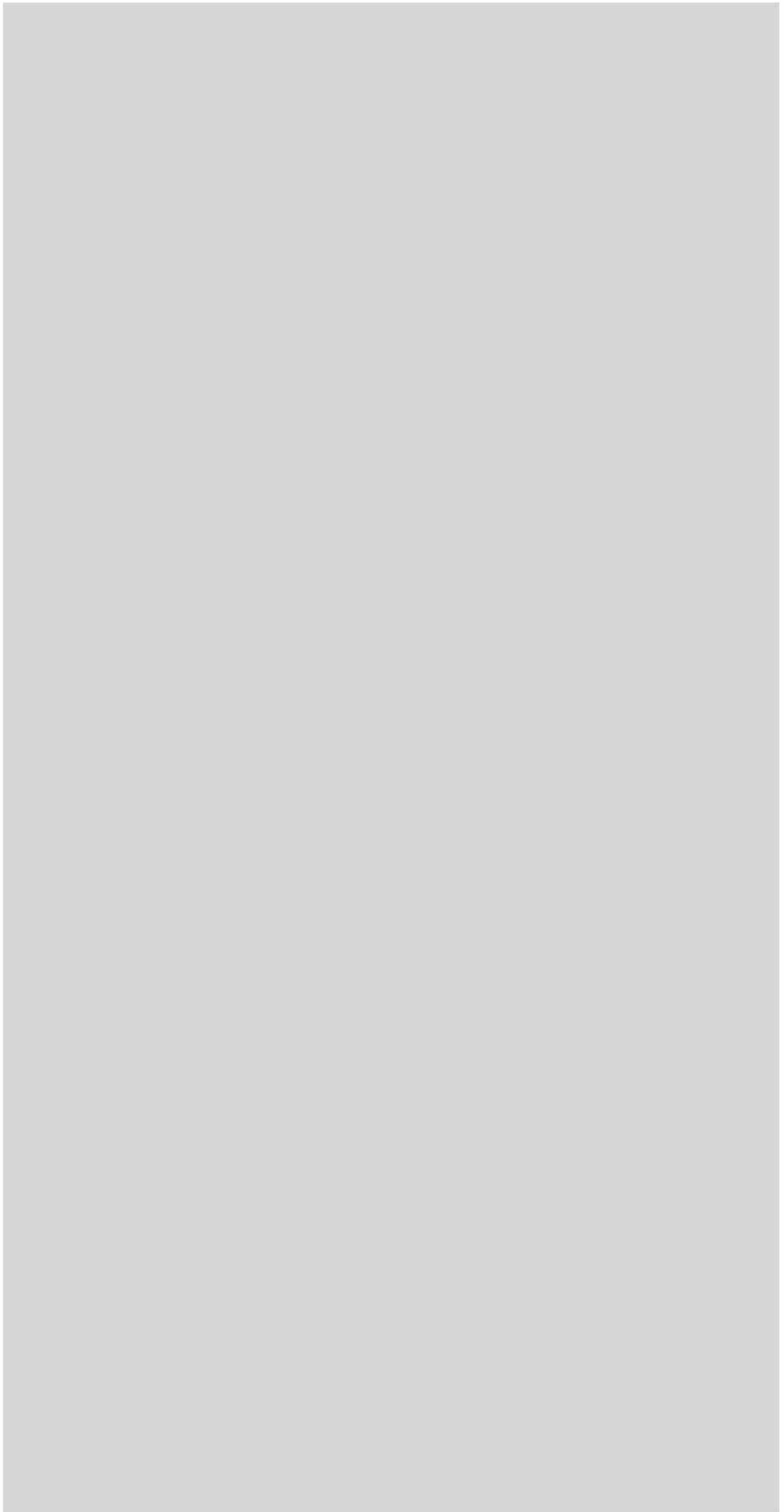
This most often applies when a service member is already deployed and whomever they have appointed to receive their mail and manage their affairs receives a notice, such as a summons and complaint or notice for a hearing, addressed to the service member. At this point, it is very difficult for the service member to prepare a statement and send it to the court.

There are a few ways this situation can be handled. One way a service member can apply for a stay is through his attorney-in-fact. An attorney-in-fact is the person you appoint to act on your behalf when you fill out a power of attorney. This person can write the required statement as long as they have personal knowledge of all the facts needed in the statement.

Another way is by e-mail. A service member can email his or her attorney-in-fact their statement with the required information to provide to the court.

There is no specific format the request has to be in, as long as it is in writing. The request can be combined into one document, with the commanding officer's letter, or it can be two separate documents.

If a service member has any questions about how to use the SCRA or requesting a stay, they can make an appointment with a legal assistance officer at 830-6111.



**GENERAL, from A1**

Marines and sailors said goodbye to another.

"This is the first time I've left a duty station when I wasn't ready to go," said Clardy. "Not because I have left things undone, [but] I'm just going to miss the people. Alison and I have very much

enjoyed the small town feel of Twenty-nine Palms and the Morongo Basin."

Clardy's next assignment is to serve as the deputy commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations, at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. He will perform a dual mission as the operations deputy for the Commandant

on all Joint Chiefs of Staff matters and will be responsible for coordinating the development and execution of service plans and policies related to the structure, deployment and employment of Marine Corps forces in general.

Clardy's advice to Smith as his tour begins was to get out and about to see what the Marines,

sailors and civilians are doing aboard the Combat Center.

"Being entrusted with the MAGTF Training Command and this wonderful Combat Center at this dynamic time in our Corps' history is a distinct honor," said Smith. "I'm smiling from ear-to-ear this morning, and have been since arriving at the Combat Center last week."

**DOD, from A1**

partnership, she said, and "tomorrow, we must make that partnership work."

Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, lauded the partnership, noting that programs like this didn't exist when he joined the Marine Corps in the 1960s. He recalled a time when he and his wife had to watch their spending, unsure of whether or not she'd have a job at the next duty station.

Today, there's an abundance of programs aimed at supporting military families, and their welfare is taken into consideration at every level of command, Stanley said. The partnership is a significant commitment toward that military family care and, he added, "a big deal" for spouses and employers.

The event also marked the inclusion of 15 new employers who signed onto the partnership today.

Leaders from each company stepped forward to sign a statement of support, signifying a pledge to:

- Increase employment opportunities for military spouses, while maintaining employment for relocating spouses;
- Provide career promotion opportunities for military spouses who are excelling at their jobs;
- Ensure pay equity for military spouses commensurate with their level of training, work experience, accomplishments and credentials; and
- Spread the word about spousal support throughout the military and corporate America.

Partners also are pledging to post job opportunities on the Military Spouse Employment Partnership Web portal located on OurMilitary.mil at <http://www.ourmilitary.mil>.

The partnership program evolved from the Army Spouse Employment Program, through which more than 100,000 military spouses have been hired since 2003, explained Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy.

"As [this program] continues to grow, just think about what this partnership can do for our spouses, for our military," he said.

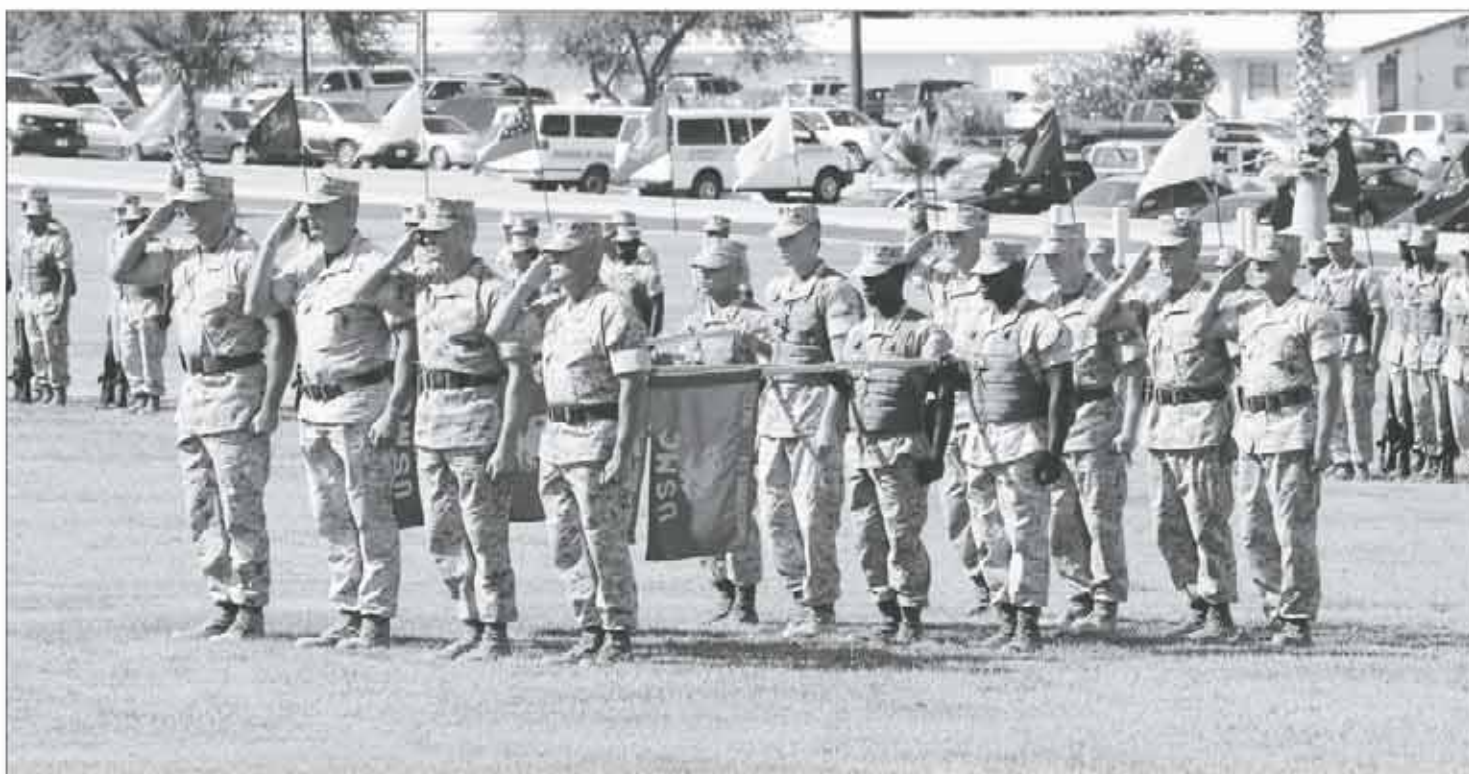
Retired Army Brig. Gen. Gary Profit, senior director of military recruiting for Walmart, one of the program's partners, noted the importance of caring for military families in all sectors of society.

"As a retired Army officer, and with a spouse that followed me around the world for 31 years, it's an opportunity to give back to those with whom we had the privilege of serving," he said of the partnership. "It's an important public and private partnership we have to honor the service and sacrifice of military spouses who have served very much as their uniformed member serves."

Military spouses also voiced their approval of the program.

"It will make our lives as military spouses so much easier, because right before you move, there's that ramp up of getting that resume ready and all that on top of moving," said Kristi Hamrick, an Air Force spouse who has moved 11 times in 17 years. "If you can get a job where you have another job waiting on the other end ... that would reduce so much stress."

"I'm overwhelmed," added Jennifer Pilcher, wife of Navy Cmdr. Eddie Pilcher. "I truly think it's the first time in history that the military spouse has been recognized. To sit here and hear the program is for us is overwhelming and exciting."



DIANE DURDEN

The commanding officers from each of the four units that make up Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command conduct "Officers Center" during the commanding general's change of command ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field July 7. The tactical purpose for "Officers Center" is to provide final instructions to commanders prior to battle. The ceremony signified the shift in command from Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III to Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr.

**RAIDERS, from A1**

showcased the Marine Corps' amphibious nature during launch and recovery operations with the USS Tortuga at White Beach Naval Facility June 28.

Designated as the 31st MEU's boat company, Company F recently completed two months of training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., and a month of training in Coronado, Calif. The Raiders, a name given to a certified small boat company, continued this training on the beaches and in the waters of Okinawa.

"Launch and recovery involves the ability to do a clandestine landing in enemy territory from over the horizon and conduct a raid," said Capt. John A. Dalby, company commander.

For the training at White Beach, the company conducted boarding and launch procedures travelling in Combat Rubber Raiding Craft to and from the USS Tortuga, then finished with beach landings at the naval facility.



CPL. ANTHONY WARD, JR.

The Combat Rubber Raiding Craft is the boat of choice for the Raiders of Company F. The Marines used the boats to conduct launch and recovery operations June 28.

Before assaulting a beach, a boat will stop nearly 1,000 meters out to drop off the company's scout swimmers who swim to shore to scout the beach prior to the rest of the company's landing, explained Dalby.

This is the type of training that makes Marines amphibious,

said some of the participants.

"It goes back to the Marine Corps roots — our amphibious landing, our amphibious raiding, our amphibious assaults," said Cpl. Timothy Hernandez, a chief coxswain with the company.

Hernandez has been with the company since December of

2009 and was a scout swimmer before becoming a coxswain.

Not many Marines get a chance to drive these types of boats, said Hernandez. "A Marine can be in the Marine Corps for twenty years and never get a chance to see one of these boats, let alone drive one."

# Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 2010 Consumer Confidence Report

## CCR and You!

Under the "Consumer Confidence Rule" of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), community water systems are required to annually report water quality information to the consuming public.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is proud to present our 2010 Consumer Confidence Report. This edition covers all drinking water testing completed from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. We are pleased to report that our compliance with all State and Federal drinking water laws and standards remains exemplary.

As always, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water to all personnel aboard the Combat Center. Through continued vigilance, we meet the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while meeting the needs of all our water users.

Because MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is committed to the sustainment and protection of the environment, this report is printed on 100% recycled paper to help reduce waste and minimize impact on the environment while meeting the Marine Corps mission.

\*\*\*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.\*\*\*

This report was compiled by the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) Water Resources Office. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Chris Elliott, Water Resources Manager, at (760)-830-7883 or e-mail [chris.elliott@usmc.mil](mailto:chris.elliott@usmc.mil).

### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/ CDC (Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

Substance (Unit of Measure)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	MCAGCC Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source
Aluminum (mg/L)	1	0.2	<0.05	ND-< 0.05	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Antimony (mg/L)	0.006	0.006	<0.006	ND-<0.006	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.01	0.01	0.0042	0.0020-0.0087	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (mg/L)	1	1	<0.1	ND-< 0.1	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beryllium (mg/L)	0.004	0.004	<0.001	ND-< 0.001	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Cadmium (mg/L)	0.005	0.005	<0.001	ND-< 0.001	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chromium (mg/L)	0.05	0.05	<0.011	ND-0.011	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Cyanide (mg/L)	0.15	0.15	0.1	ND-<0.1	2010	No	Wastewater Discharges or Industrial Emissions
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	2	0.55	0.2-0.9	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Iron (mg/L)	0.03	0.03	0.17	<0.01-0.04	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Mercury (mg/L)	0.002	0.002	<0.001	ND-<0.001	2010	No	Wastewater Discharges or Industrial Emissions
Methyl-tert-butylether (mg/L)	0.013	0.013	0.003	ND-<0.003	2010	No	Leaking Underground Storage
Nitrate (NO3) (mg/L)	45	45	4.892	3.1-7.3	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrite (NO2) (mg/L)	1	1	<0.1	ND-<0.1	2010	No	Natural Deposits or Agricultural Runoff
Nickel (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	<0.01	ND-<0.01	2010	No	Discharges from Industry
Perchlorate (mg/L)	0.006	NA	0.004	ND-<.004	2010	No	May be Found Naturally or Manufactured for Industrial Use
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	5	0.078	ND-0.78	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	ND	ND	ND-1	2010	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Chloride (mg/L)	250	250	18	ND-20	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Color (CU)	15	15	<3	<3-3	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese (mg/L)	0.5	0.05	<0.02	ND-<0.02	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	250	27	ND-28	2010	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	500	175	140-230	2010	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Zinc (mg/L)	5	NA	<0.05	ND-<0.05	2010	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Copper 90th Percentile	1300	170	28	0.37-75	2009	No	Plumbing Corrosion
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (mg/L)	0.06	NA	<0.005	ND-<0.005	2010	No	By-product of System Chlorination
Lead 90th Percentile	15	2	8.6	ND-610	2009	No	Plumbing Corrosion
THMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (mg/L)	0.08	NA	0.0086	ND-0.0086	2010	No	By-product of System Chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria	>1 or 5%*	0	2	ND-2	2010	No	Naturally Present in the Environment

\*Per Month

### Table Definitions

**ND** (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**Unit:** Standard unit of measurement for this constituent

**pCi/L** (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity

**NA:** Not applicable

**ppm** (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter)

### MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

### PHG (Public Health Goal):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

**ppb** (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter)

**Total Coliform Bacteria:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as indicators that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

### Water Quality Data

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC conducts extensive water quality testing. No contaminants were found at levels higher than the EPA allows. As a result of the continued commitment to bring the safest, best quality water to everyone at MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, our water continues to meet or exceed all primary drinking water standards and most secondary standards.

The table provided is a snapshot of last year's water quality details about what your water contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change.



### CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

WEST	PABA	SMUG
ASIA	ADEN	ALARM
LACK	MALT	NORGE
LUKE	APPLING	KEN
BYAT	OUCH	
ARMIES	DEMBSTATE	
ROANS	BETA	AREA
OPT	TARTARS	MRS
META	RAIL	ADORE
ADHERENT	BURNED	
ERAB	AIDE	
TOW	JOHNGRISHAM	
SOFIA	EARL	SAVE
KNOTS	ATEE	EVIL
BAKE	DEER	REST

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

### Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking Water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## Water Conservation

### Protecting a Critical Natural Resource

Nowhere is a water resource more important to the existence of a community or Military Installation than in a desert environment. The Oasis of Mara was that critical water source that provided the native Indians, prospectors, and homesteaders with a reason to stop in what is now Twentynine Palms. Without it, our valley would have been just another barren landscape that people passed through on their way to somewhere with water.

The water that currently sustains our Combat Center comes from groundwater wells that provide potable (suitable for drinking) water that's located hundreds of feet below the parched desert surface. Just because our water supply can't be seen doesn't make it any less critical to the actual existence of the Combat Center. Groundwater resources are not limitless; you can use them up more rapidly than they are recharged.

Conservation (wise use) and sustainability (extending a finite supply) are words we often hear and are never more important than when talking about our water resources. It's so important that recently both Federal and Marine Corps mandates have been issued that specify goals for reducing water consumption.

The Combat Center is well on its way to achieving the 2020 goal of reducing water usage by 26%, relative to how much was used in 2007. With a base expansion in our future, greater demands on water resources will pose a challenge.

Wherever possible, the Combat Center is looking into using non-potable water (water of lesser quality than drinking water). Activities such as watering grass, dust control, and washing vehicles will not be done in the future with our drinking water supply. This is conservation and sustainability in action.

#### Where Does My Water Come From?

All domestic water supplied to MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is ground water from the Surprise Springs subaquifer of the Twentynine Palms Ground Water Basin. This water is extracted by 11 production wells at a depth between 500 and 700 feet located in a protected area of the Sand Hill Training Area.

This water has consistently been of such high quality in nature that it routinely meets or exceeds all EPA and the California Department of Public Health Services primary and secondary drinking water standards without any treatment required (other than basic disinfection) before distribution. Basic disinfection is required by California Department of Health Services as a safeguard against possible microbial contamination due to repairs or maintenance of the system.

#### Investing in Our Future

Challenges facing MAGTFTC, MCAGCC utilities are similar to those faced by other utilities in the area; water supply, aging infrastructure, and population growth. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC issued multiple contracts to repair and improve the quality of the water system. Some of the contracts issued were: Construct Potable Water Loop in Adobe Flats, Construct 20" Line from the Equalization Tanks to the EAF, Construct Potable Water Loop at Ocotillo Heights, Construct 12" PVC waterline from Rifle Range Road to West Side Road, Replace Potable Water Trunk Lines and water mains at the well fields. Close to 6 million dollars was spent on repairing and upgrading the potable water system in 2010.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC's drinking water system consists of 11 potable water wells, 9 reservoirs with a storage capacity of 10 million gallons that serves the military and civilian workforce through a series of pipelines that extend over 84.2 miles of service area.

#### No Drugs Down the Drain

Pharmaceutical waste remains a threat to water supplies. One way to reduce this threat is to dispose of all over-the-counter drugs and prescriptions properly. **DO NOT FLUSH DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN.**

Old medicines can be taken to the San Bernardino County Community Household Waste Collection Center located at 62499 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree. The hours of operation are the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on proper disposal of unwanted medicines, please visit [www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org](http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org)

#### Program Spotlight

The Combat Center is host to many tenant commands and visiting commands that come to utilize the Combat Center's unique training areas. Contractors and civilian employees add to the large audience working and training at the Combat Center who must be aware of general environmental requirements that affect their day-to-day activities. The U.S. Marine Corps developed the Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program (CETEP) to meet this environmental training need.

CETEP is managed through Natural Resources Environmental Affairs Division. The CETEP coordinator works closely with the unit Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) to ensure all required training elements are met. ECCs act as the environmental liaison for their unit and work with the CETEP coordinator to ensure unit specific training is accomplished and environmental compliance is maintained. Environmental training is key to ensure personnel can perform their jobs in a safe and environmentally compliant atmosphere.

For more information concerning CETEP, contact Keith Mohr at [keith.mohr@usmc.mil](mailto:keith.mohr@usmc.mil) or (760) 830-6603.

## Combat Center Trader Ads

### AUTOMOTIVE

**2001 BOMBARDIER DS850.** Immaculate. Can be seen at lemon lot. \$3,000 OBO. 819-9353.

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

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

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

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

### MISC.

**GOLF CLUBS.** Ping Eye 2 Irons I-SW \$225. Slazenger forged blades 2-PW \$200. Assorted putters and wedges. Call 413-4015.

**MOVING SALE:** Like new grill, beds, furniture, kitchen items. All items very cheap. Call Sergio at 562-704-0366.

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

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

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

**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.

**YOUR FREE AD HERE**

**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.

**SNOW, from A3**

Marines by movement, fire control and force protection in a highly complex rock and glaciated terrain or in snow and ice covered mountains.

"I call the mountain leadership course the premiere leadership school of the Marine Corps," said Sgt. Maj. Douglas E. Power, the sergeant major of MWTC. "You have guys who go through all sorts of schools, and they will tell you that winter and summer MLC is a gut-check, and if it's not the toughest course that they've ever done, it is certainly among the toughest."

Other courses offered are the Mountain Scout Sniper Course, Mountain Medical Course, Cold Weather Medical Course, Animal Packer Course, Mountain Operations Staff Planning Course, Mountain Survival Course and the Mountain

Communications Course.

Entire units can also train together during wintertime and summertime Mountain Exercise Courses.

In the summer, military mountaineering-specific training includes using rope systems to negotiate obstacles. In the winter, Marines learn basic snow mobility techniques using skis and snowshoes, building shelters and cold weather survival.

Besides learning to adapt to and overcome the challenges of the environment, the units also learn a lot about the intestinal fortitude of the individuals on their teams.

"I think this training center is the ultimate small unit leadership training facility," Power said. "This place tests everybody to their limits and beyond to what they think their capabilities are, and in doing so, you find out who really has the mettle and who

doesn't. This place will weed out the non-hackers."

Chandler said MWTC is the closest Marines will come to combat as far as the requirement for both the individual and the unit to operate efficiently. "We've taken a look at everything a Marine needs for pre-deployment, and we incorporate it into everything we do here. We try to give them an exposure to everything they'll see in theater."

Mountains cover 24 percent of the world's land mass. With almost a quarter of the planet's dry land covered in mountains. These "White-hatted drill instructors," as Power describes them, rest the will and nerves of the Marines, forcing them to rely on their character and toughness, giving them the confidence to not only live here, but also to fight and win here.

"In order to develop resiliency in our Marines, you

need mental and physical toughness, and you can't beat this place, without building mentally and physically tough Marines," Chandler said. "They can accept a challenge like this, overcome fears, overcome mental and physical fatigue, be able to bounce back quickly and be able to carry on to the next mission. That's exactly what we are trying to do in combat, to be able to hit stressful events in your life, bounce back quickly. I think that is absolutely critical."

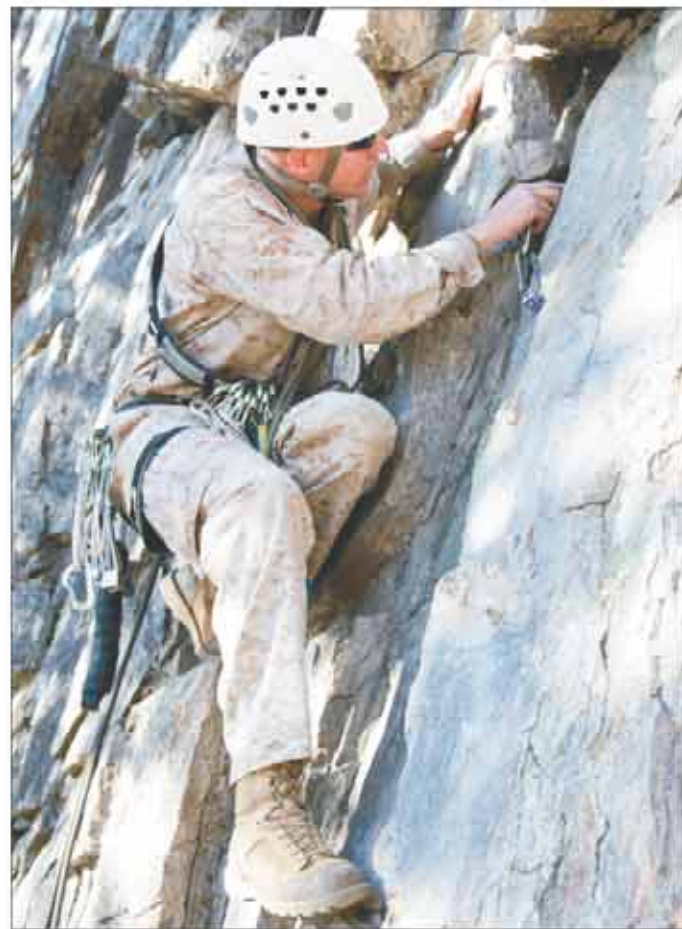
Marines are sworn to fight in "every clime and place," and MWTC helps Marines and sailors live up to that pledge.

"Just because it's not like the current fight [in a desert terrain such as Afghanistan], the Marine Corps has never settled for the status quo of the current fight," Power said. "We need to be prepared to fight and be successful and win [on] our nation's battlefield."



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A student in the Winter Mountain Leaders Course checks his skis after a downhill ski class in the Mountain Warfare Training Center training area in January.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A Marine with the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center's Instructor Qualification Course practices with climbing tools before his ascent in the MWTC training area in May.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A Marine claims a tree as his home for the night as he prepares to dig a snow shelter in January.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Students of the Scout Skiers Course take a lift up the hill before practicing downhill ski techniques in the Mountain Warfare Training Center training area in January.





“Cars 2” sequel rolls into theaters, page B2

July 8, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 B SECTION

# Fight Club 29 wins big at nationals

**LANCE CPL. D. J. WU**  
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Coach Mark Geletko and the Fight Club 29 team have grappled their way through numerous bouts and tournaments to make it to the 2011 USA Pankration National Championships and U.S. World Team Trials in Las Vegas June 25.

Only qualifiers from state and regional finals were offered the opportunity to fight at the Xtreme Couture MMA in Las Vegas for the chance to represent the U.S. in the FILA World Championship in Belgrade, Serbia.

For Fight Club 29, this tournament was a chance for their Marines and sailors to really test themselves against the country’s best in pankration-style fighting.

“We’ve been working hard up to this point,” said Geletko. “They all had to

fight their way here, and now we have a shot to make it onto the world team and represent the U.S. in Serbia.”

With Fight Club 29’s eight fighters competing, Geletko’s confidence was high. Fight Club 29 has medaled in all of their tournaments this year and was expected to do the same at nationals.

While the environment was different than those of past tournaments, the same competition was still in the air. The best in the country were here to fight for a national championship title in the famed Xtreme Couture, designed by MMA legend champion Randy Couture.

The fighters fought in the same cages many professional MMA fighters train in. This was an unexpected twist that made the tournament even more of a rare experience for the fighters. Scheduling delays caused



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Fight Club 29’s medalists and coach Mark Geletko [center], all have a shot at representing the United States in the FILA World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, in September.

a late start, and gave the fighters’ already-warmed up muscles time to ice. Because of this, the first few matches did not go as well. The early

hiccups were cause for concern for the team’s success in the tournament.

But those minor setbacks turned out only to be

early tournament jitters, and when the rest of the team rolled in to their matches, things were going their way. Pankration\Combat

Grappling, which is being considered for the 2016 Olympics, is scored and won

See FIGHT, B3

# Derby hits homerun with batters, families



EMILY ANDERSON

Cesar Vela, a participant in the derby prepares to strike a softball during the first Homerun Derby competition at Felix Field June 29.



EMILY ANDERSON

Phillip Marquez pitches to a friend during the first Homerun Derby competition at Felix Field June 29.

**EMILY ANDERSON**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN

The Combat Center community gathered June 29 for the Combat Center’s first Homerun Derby at Felix Field.

The 21 participants were divided into three divisions based on weight classes. Each batter was allowed ten swings to rack up the most homeruns possible.

Participants who batted in the top 50 percent of their division, during the first round, moved into a championship round.

“It’s very important to have this kind of competition,” said Randy Husted, a sports coordinator with the installation’s Marine Corps Community Services. “First of all, it’s fun, and that’s the number one reason why we should be doing it. It also allows the players to improve their softball skills in a manner besides just playing in a game.”

The derby was also a great way for families to spend an evening cheering on their

See DERBY, B4

# Combat Center celebrates nation’s birthday



KURT SCHAUPPNER

Sergeant Justin Schmidt, a musician in the Combat Center’s Bandini Brass Band, along with the rest of the bandsmen, belts out a tune during the Independence Day celebration in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Monday. The other bandsmen, from left, are Cpl. Jonathan Whittington, on trombone; Sgt. Cynthia Rivera, on trumpet; Sgt. Dustin Kaiser, on saxophone, and Cpl. John Starks, on saxophone.



DIANE DURDEN

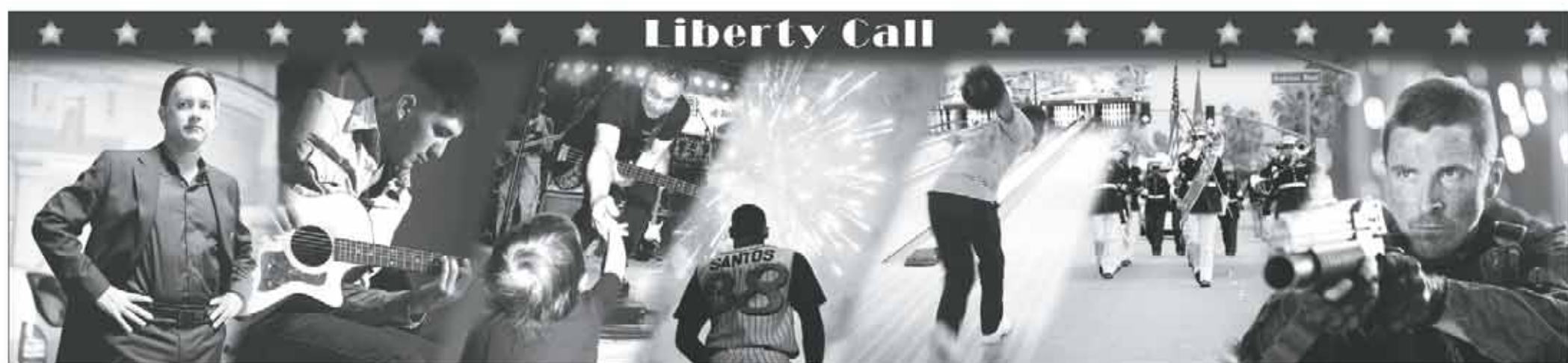


DIANE DURDEN



DIANE DURDEN

Fireworks light up the night sky above the Combat Center. While the installation was not open to the public, the fireworks display was clearly visible for miles.



# Liberty Call

## Combat Center Clubs

### Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m. followed by DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night  
Saturday: Variety Night, DJ Gjettblaque 8 to 11 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., Salsa Night  
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:

**Stone Stanley with JT Trombley and Juan Nelson of Ben Harper and the Innocents**

A mix of soul and funk music

When: 8 p.m., Friday, July 8

### Three Chord Justice

The authentic country band performs

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 9

Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown

For more information, call 365-5956 or visit

<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

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

**Ghost Train followed by Club Willie's**

The rock/country group are now Willie's regular band

When: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, July 8

### Battle of the Bands Charity Event

Early tickets are \$7, or \$10 at the door

When: 10 p.m., Saturday, July 9

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 Movie in Luckie Park, "Nanny McPhee Returns"

When: 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 14

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.

### "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

Theatre 29 presents the famous comedic play

When: 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, July 1 and 2

Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms

For more information call 361-4151 or visit

<http://www.theatre29.com>

## Lower Desert

### George Thorogood and the Destroyers

The bad-boy rocker performs

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 30

Where: Agua Caliente

32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage

For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit

<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

### Queen Latifah

Hip-hop's first lady turned movie star performs

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio

For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit

<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

### Diana Ross

The Motown diva/actress performs

When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 9

Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa

49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon

For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit

<http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

## Sunset Cinema

### Friday, July 8

6 p.m. - Something Borrowed, Rated PG-13

9 p.m. - Jumping the Broom, Rated PG-13

Midnight - Bridesmaids, Rated R

### Saturday, July 9

11 a.m. - **Free Matinee.** Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hollows Part 1, Rated PG-13

2 p.m. - Pirates of the Caribbean 4, Rated PG-13

6 p.m. - **Sneak Preview.** Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hollows Part 2, Rated PG-13

9 p.m. - Thor, Rated PG-13

Midnight - Priest, Rated PG-13

### Sunday, July 10

2 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13

6 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13

9 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13

### Monday, July 11

7 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13

### Tuesday, July 12

7 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13

### Wednesday, July 13

7 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13

### Thursday, July 14

7 p.m. - TBA, Rated PG-13



COURTESY PHOTO

"Cars 2," the sequel to the 2006 animated hit, brings back most of our favorite characters, introduces a few new "faces" and is the summer's first must-see family movie.

## Mater the Tow Truck takes the lead in delightful new computer-animated automotive adventure

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

### "Cars 2"

Starring the voices of Owen Wilson, Larry the Cable Guy and Michael Caine

Rated G

Buckle up — the stars of "Cars," the wonderfully inventive 2006 animated hit about a community of talking, thinking, feeling, anthropomorphic automobiles, are back and running off on a new adventure.

The summer's first must-see family feature film is another cross-generational treasure from the folks at Pixar-Disney, who continue to live up to their own high standards of "Toy Story," "Finding Nemo," "Up" and other cinematic gems that combine humor, high-tech animation in the service of a good story and heart.

The original movie was set in the slow-lane, make-believe burg of Radiator Springs, but this time a fresh cast of new car characters helps set the stage for a for a wild trip around the world.

Owen Wilson returns as the voice of Lightning McQueen, the shiny red racer whose speed and spunk have made him a local legend. Challenged to compete in an international Grand Prix event, Lightning and his rusty, trusty sidekick, Mater the tow truck (Larry the Cable Guy), strike out for Tokyo, Italy and London.

Little do they know that they're about to be steered into a global scheme of mistaken identity, secret-agent sedans and a devious plan to upset the world automobile order.

The marvelously imaginative plot will be especially delightful to any parents (or



COURTESY PHOTO

The movie's villain is superspy Finn McMissile, voiced by Michael Caine, packs a deadly arsenal under his hood.



COURTESY PHOTO

Best buddies Lightning McQueen, voiced by Owen Wilson, and Mater the Tow Truck, voiced by Larry the Cable Guy, team up again for an action packed trip around the world.

other grown-ups) with fond memories of James Bond movies from a previous era of super-cool spy gadgetry, evil "international" villains, devilishly close calls and daring escapes.

Michael Caine voices Finn McMissile, a sleek '60s British superspy sportster that gives a whole new meaning to "fully accessorized." Finn can dispatch an arsenal of firepower, spread a slippery oil slick in his wake, rappel vertical surfaces and convert into a speedboat.

Other recognizable voices include John Turturro as Lightning's cocky Italian competitor; Eddie Izzard as

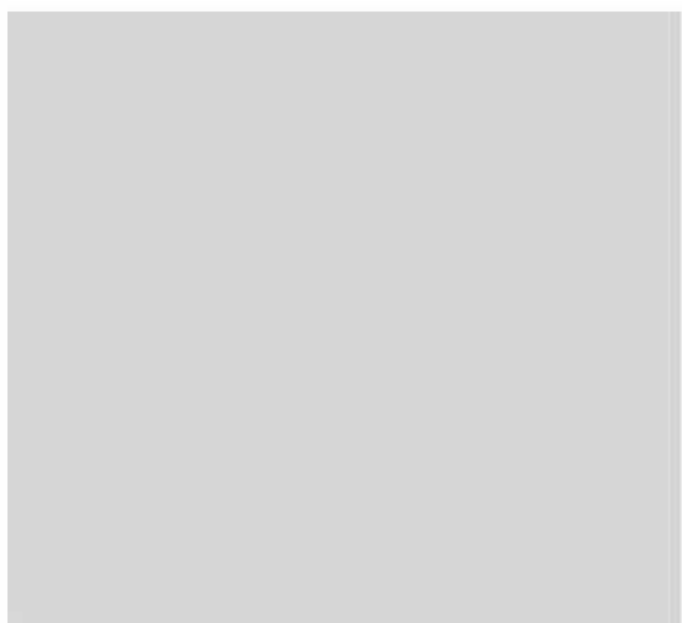
billionaire alternative-fuel tycoon Sir Miles Axelrod; and Joe Mantegna as a grungy little AMC Gremlin. Racing fans will want to keep their ears peeled for "car cameos" by Darrell Waltrip (as "Darrell Cartrip"), sportscaster Brent Musburger ("Brent Mustangburger") and Speed Channel commentator David Hobbs ("David Hobbscap").

The clever, almost non-stop automotive puns and delightful sight gags zip by so fast there's little time for funny bones to shift gears before the next one, and the espionage storyline may be a

bit much for smaller children to fully follow and appreciate for all its witty wonders.

But there's certainly plenty here for tots to love, especially the comedic antics of Mater, who's hands-down the star of "Cars 2." His devotion to Lightning knows no bounds, but the drawly tow truck nonetheless manages to make a real mess of everything — until given an opportunity to save the day.

And at the core of this 100-smiles-an-hour road trip is a fine to-go message about friendship, loyalty and the dents and dings of life that will get the winner's flag from audiences of all ages.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mater the Tow Truck, voiced by Larry the Cable Guy, is not the sharpest tool in the shed, and is easily duped by superspy Finn McMissile, voiced by Michael Caine.

# Combat Center Leisure



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Fight Club 29 made the journey through regionals and to Las Vegas to the USA National Pankration Championship June 25. They fought hard to qualify for this chance to make U.S. National Pankration and Combat Grappling Team.

## FIGHT, from B1

through body strikes and submissions.

Fight Club 29 made a surge in their striking and pushed forward in the tournament. One match was even won with a "white wash," where a fighter stops the match prematurely by leading with more than 15 points.

"We've been striking very well," said Geletko. "The fighters trained hard and knew their strengths when going into a match."

"I could've thrown some more knees," added Dahlen Wilson, a Fight Club 29 athlete about one of his fights. "But at the same time, I knew that guy had a wrestling background. That's why I didn't throw as many kicks. I didn't want to get taken down."

This forethought and the awareness in recognizing the strength of an opponent helped the club's journey to nationals.

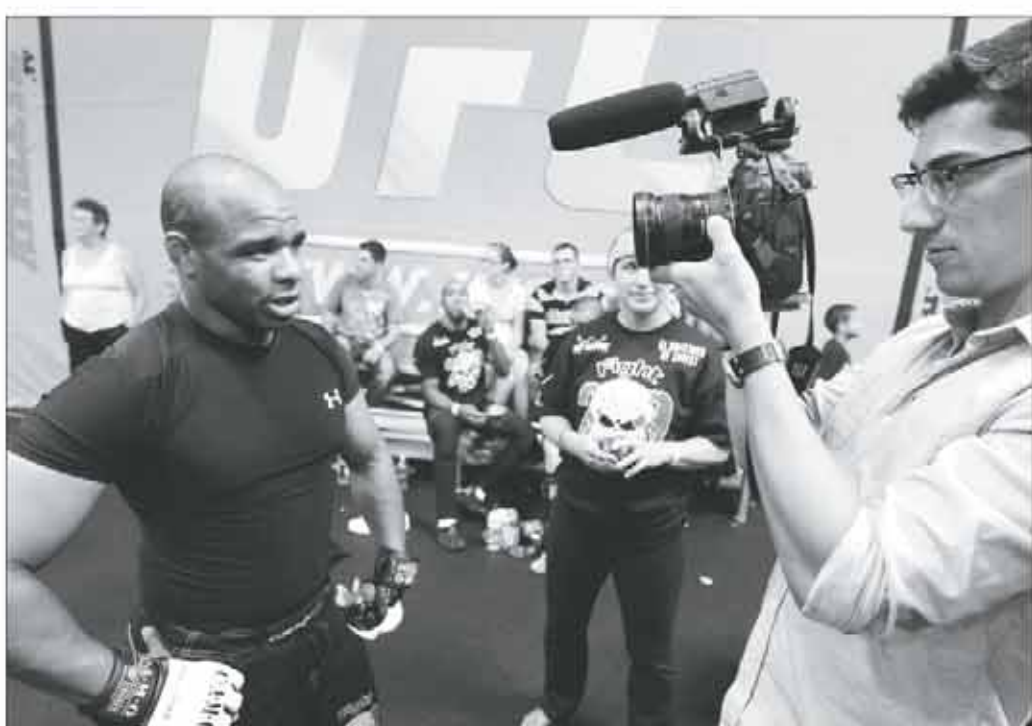
Under the lights and in

the cages where professional MMA fighters train in, Fight Club 29 fought valiantly and won a total of four medals. The team also amassed the most total points and gold medals, earning them the title "Top Team" for the tournament, Geletko said.

James Clark, Dahlen Wilson and Mike Smith won gold medals in their respective weight divisions.

Geletko was named the USA Team Coach due to Fight Club 29's success and will take the U.S. World Pankration Team, including his own three gold medalists to represent the United States in the F.I.A. World Championship in Belgrade, Serbia, in September.

"I am happy about [the win], but I'm more concerned with this next test that lies ahead of me," Wilson said. "It's a big deal. It's representing the United States of America. I did good here, but I also saw a lot of my mistakes and what I need to work on, so I think I need to turn it up a notch."



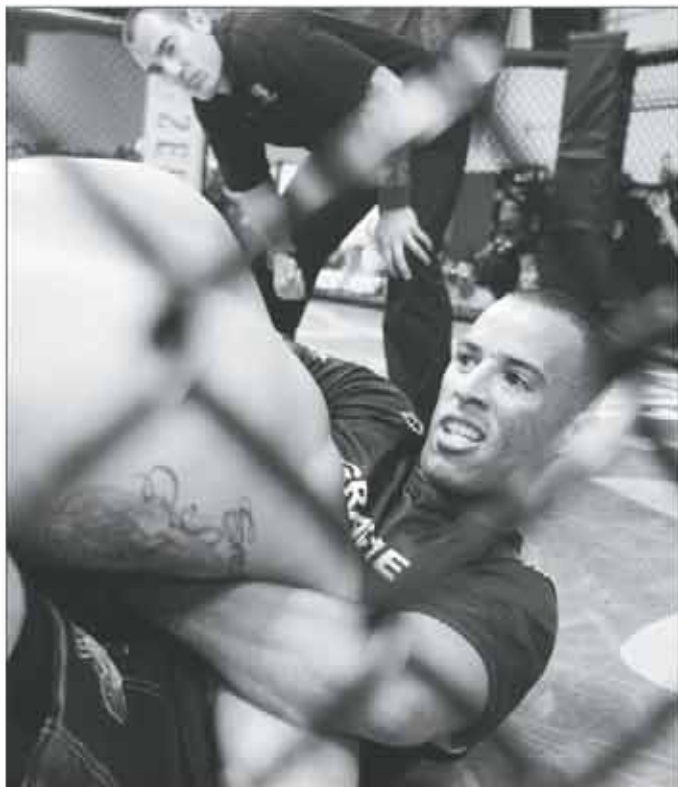
LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Veteran athlete for Fight Club 29, Mario Martinez, speaks to a Marine reporter on his performance after one of his fights.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

The professional cage of the octagon was a welcomed surprise for fighters at the USA National Pankration Championships at Xtreme Couture in Las Vegas.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Edwin Nuñez attempts to choke out his opponent to bring a quick end to his match during the USA National Pankration Championships in Las Vegas June 25.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

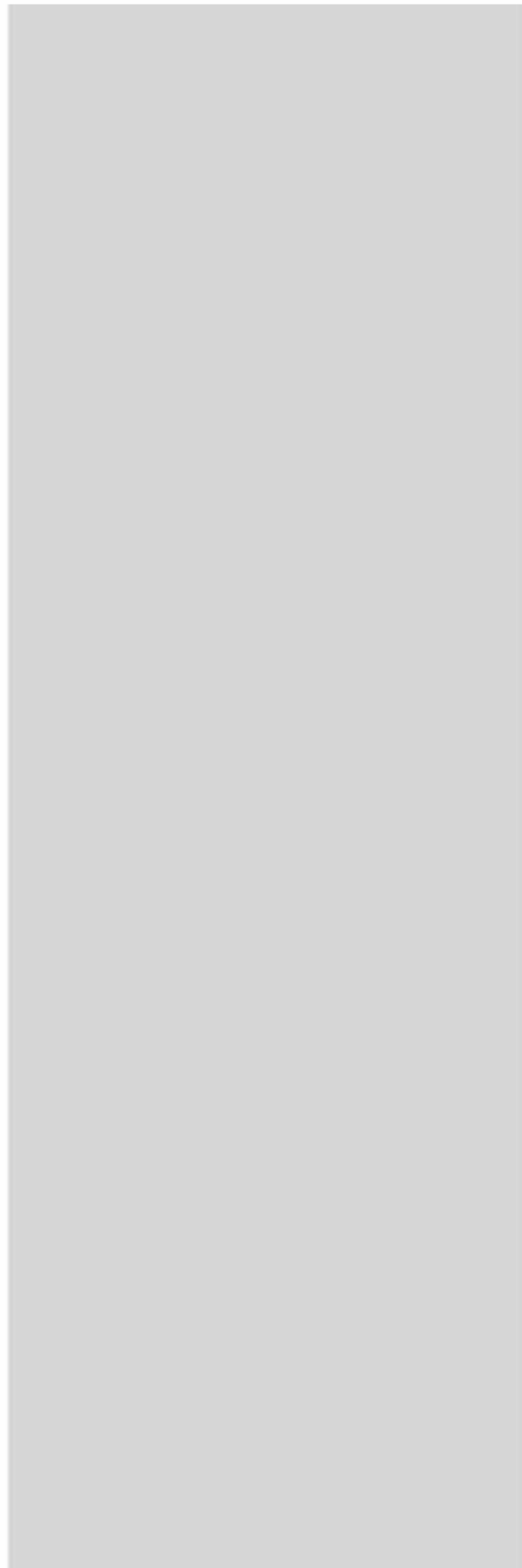
Mario Martinez, a Fight Club 29 athlete, grapples with his opponent at the USA National Pankration Championship June 25.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Mike Smith, a heavyweight fighter for Fight Club 29, was just one of three gold medalists on the team.

ADVERTISEMENT



# Athlete of the Week



DIANE DURDEN

**Name:** Josh Michlitsch  
**Hometown:** Brookings, Ore.  
**Sport of choice:** Triathlons. "I like the longevity of the sport. I can do it for the next 40 years."  
**How did you get involved in the sport?:** "I volunteered at an event, and it looked fun. It looked like a community I wanted to be a part of."  
**Which element is your favorite/least favorite?:** "Running is my favorite. It's the one that everyone can do. It has the greatest level of competition. Swimming is my least favorite. My training progress is slow."  
**Advice to athletes new to triathlons:** "Read and get knowledge where ever you can. Oh, and diet. Normal people don't eat like athletes should."

## DERBY, from B1

favorite batter. Free snow cones sweetened the deal. "I've received several emails expressing that the Homerun Derby was fun, and I look forward to hav-

ing it again" Husted said. "We're looking to double the numbers next year, from 21 to 40 or 50. We're going to get the word out a little better, and we'll hopefully have it during the softball season."



EMILY ANDERSON

Aspen Harwood, 4-year-old daughter of a batter in the Combat Center's first Homerun Derby, enjoys a snow cone on the sideline June 29 at Felix Field.



EMILY ANDERSON

Ross Vollstedt, a derby participant, swings at a softball during the Combat Center's first Homerun Derby competition at Felix Field June 29.