

Aviators check out ground game, page A4

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Engineers pave the way, page A3

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

August 5, 2011

Since 1957

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1st Tanks returns from historic Afghan deployment

EMILY ANDERSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERV

Seven months ago, a group of Combat Center Marines made history when they deployed as one of the first tank battalions to step foot and roll track in Afghanistan.

On July 28, the boys of Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, came home.

"What we demonstrated with this deployment is that the tank is a viable platform for any type of war, whether it's a full-on war or a [smaller] counter-insurgency operation," said

Capt. Daniel Hughes, the Co. D commander.

During their deployment, the company provided combat support for the infantrymen on the ground, said Hughes.

Families lined up with signs and flags heralding their heroes' return.

Lisa Bane, wife of Capt. Denver Bane, and her two children were among the families waiting anxiously for the buses to arrive. "He's making it home just in time to see his first steps," she said about the couple's

See RETURNS, A7



EMILY ANDERSON

Courtney Marsh leaps into her husband's arms shortly after he exited the bus during the 1st Tank Battalion, Company D homecoming at the 1st Tanks compound July 28.



EMILY ANDERSON

A child holds a sign welcoming her father home.

Up, up away



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER BAINES

[Above] Marines with 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, provide security as California National Guardsmen with the 1/168th General Support Aviation Battalion perform a practice medical evacuation, July 23. The National Guardsmen supported the Marines as they trained for their final exercise during Exercise Javelin Thrust at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.

[Left] Marines with Company E, 2/24, load a simulated casualty onto a UH-60 Blackhawk with Company C, 1/168th General Support Aviation Battalion, Army National Guard, as part of medical evacuation training during Exercise Javelin Thrust.

See story and more photos on page A5



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Plant provides green energy, cost savings

DIANE DURDEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Many of us take for granted that our lights and computers will come on when we flip the switch. Or that hot water will pour from the faucet when we turn the knob. Rarely do we think about where the energy to power the lights or heat the water comes from.

For the Combat Center, a good portion of that energy is generated aboard the installation at the cogeneration plant.

The 7.2-megawatt plant, along with the 1.2-megawatt photovoltaic solar array, provides nearly 60 percent of the Combat Center's energy, with the remaining 40 percent provided by a local power company.

Cogeneration plants make efficient use of multiple resources. Natural gas, an environmentally-friendly fuel source, powers a single turbine plant to produce electricity aboard the Combat Center.

The turbine also generates waste heat. The plant's waste heat recovery system uses the thermal energy to provide the installation's domestic hot water and provides comfort heat in buildings during the winter months.

The high-temperature water is also used to power the chilled water plants aboard the Combat Center, which provide for all cooling needs throughout the installation.

The use of high-temperature water eliminates the need to fire up diesel-burning boilers and reduces additional electrical demands.

Compared to purchased electrical power, and conventional boilers and air conditioners, it is estimated that cogeneration reduces greenhouse gas emissions by half. The use of a single conventional boiler alone produces

an equal amount of greenhouse gas as the entire cogeneration process does.

The plant has already captured a significant cost savings for the Combat Center. The cost to generate our own power compared to purchasing it from an outside source saved the Combat Center more than \$7 million last year.

"We strive to make as much energy as possible," said Nate Snyder, project manager for Johnson Controls. "We want the government to have as much money as possible for other projects."

The cost savings from the cogeneration plant have been used to build chiller plants and the photovoltaic solar array. Future projects include replacing an additional five chiller plants with more efficient chillers.

Providing fiscal savings and decreased environmental impact are important factors when evaluating the pros and cons of having the plant.

The Combat Center is located at the end of the commercial electrical distribution line and frequently experiences power outages. These outages can negatively affect Marine Corps training and mission readiness.

In the event of a power outage, the cogeneration plant is capable of providing 100 percent of the energy for the installation's mission essential operations.

Lowering the Combat Center's carbon footprint and dependence on external energy sources, teamed with the significant cost savings and ability to maintain a reliable production of energy make the cogeneration plant a vital asset to the Combat Center, said Erin Adams, air resources manager, Natural Resources Environmental Affairs.

Clear, Hold, Build training combines infantry, tanks Marines

LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's 1st Tank Battalion and 2nd Bn., 4th Marine Regiment, teamed up Wednesday at Range 210 to practice breaching and clearing a simulated city.

The exercise integrated the infantry and tanks during the Clear Hold Build 2, one of the largest events at Enhanced Mojave Viper.

"What we hope to see is a learning curve, as the tank platoon and the infantry units they're supporting get better at working closely together," said Capt. Gary Slater, company commander for Company A, 1st Tanks. "These are

perishable skills, and it's something we need to do frequently, that is one of the purposes of Clear Hold Build 2.

The CHB-2 exercise is a company level attack that incorporates a host of attachments and supporting elements, usually including artillery and close air support.

A tank platoon's sole purpose in life is as an attachment to an infantry company.

"A tank can do a lot of things, but it needs the infantry. The infantry can do a lot of things, but they need the capability that the tanks bring to the fight," Slater said. "Together, as

a task-organized combined arms team, they are much more lethal, much more dominate and much more powerful."

Using live fire, the Marines and sailors had to make their way through a training town, clearing simulated improvised explosive devices and eliminating dummy insurgents.

"We are doing live fire, this is my favorite part," said Pfc. Manuel Lopez, an M1A1 Abrams tank crewman with 2nd Battalion, Co. A, 1st Tanks. "We have been doing dry fire for the last three days. We finally get to shoot. This

See CHB-2, A7



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, run into a building with cover fire from 1st Tank Battalion during Clear Hold Build 2 July 27 at Range 210.

TRICARE survivors benefits

SHARON FOSTER

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

The loss of a loved one can bring tremendous grief and sadness to surviving family members. It's comforting to know that TRICARE continues to provide coverage for family members if a sponsor dies. ("Sponsor," refers to the person who is serving or who has served on active duty or in the National Guard or Reserves.)

TRICARE options and costs will vary based on:

- The sponsor's military status when he or she dies
- If the surviving beneficiary is a spouse or child

If a beneficiary is the spouse of an active duty service member (ADSM) who died while on active duty, the beneficiary remains eligible for TRICARE as a "transitional survivor" for three years following his or her death and will have active duty family member (ADFM) benefits and costs. After three years, a beneficiary remains eligible, as a "survivor," for TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, and may purchase TRICARE Prime at the retiree rates. If a beneficiary is overseas, he or she remains eligible for TRICARE Overseas Program Standard once the transitional survivor status ends.

If a beneficiary is the child of an ADSM who died while on active duty, he or she remains eligible for TRICARE benefits as an ADFM. Their transitional survivor status ends at age 21 or 23 if the beneficiary is enrolled in a full-time course of study.

In the United States and U.S. territories, pharmacy benefit remains the same regardless of the TRICARE program option the beneficiary uses. Beneficiaries may fill prescriptions through a military treatment facility, TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery (<http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery>), TRICARE retail network pharmacies or a non-network pharmacy.

The TRICARE Dental Program Survivor Benefit Plan is a three-year benefit for transitional survivors offering the same coverage as the regular TDP plan. The beneficiary will have no monthly premiums but is responsible for paying applicable cost-shares for covered services. If enrolled in the TDP at the time of his or her sponsor's death, the beneficiary will be dis-enrolled from the TDP and enrolled in the TDP Survivor Benefit Plan. When the TDP Survivor Benefit Plan ends, the beneficiary is eligible for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. The TRDP may also be available if the beneficiary doesn't qualify for the TDP Survivor Benefit Plan because he or she was not enrolled in the TDP at the time of his or her sponsor's death.

It is important that all information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (<http://www.tricare.mil/deers>) is up-to-date for this process to move quickly and smoothly. For more detailed information of TRICARE Survivor Benefits and other TRICARE programs, beneficiaries can go to TRICARE's website <http://www.tricare.mil> or talk with their regional health care manager.

Centerspeak

Which of the 14 leadership traits is most important to you and why?

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



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL COMBS
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Justice. If you aren't just, what's the point of being a leader? If you don't treat everyone equally, than you lose respect, and respect is key."



PFC. TYLER BRYAN
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Decisiveness. It's important to make a decision and stick to it. Your Marines won't trust you if you don't."



PFC. NICK FRANKLIN
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Dependability. It plays into both garrison and in country. You have to be able to trust the Marine to your left and right. Without dependability, you can't function."

Hot Topics

COREY LEVEL AND STIX CONCERT

Corey Level and Stix are coming to the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. to perform live in concert. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and there will be a snack bar and beer concessions. For more information, call Marine Corps Community Services at 830-5053.

FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Commanding General's Intramural Football League season begins Aug. 29, and ends Dec. 10. Entry deadline for teams will be today. There is a mandatory coaches Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. in building 1341. All active duty members and their families, DOD employees and civilian contractors of at least 18 years of age are eligible to play. Team sizes are limited to 40 players and two coaches. Games will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. at Felix Field. For more information, call 830-4092.

MILITARY DAY AT THE MOVIES

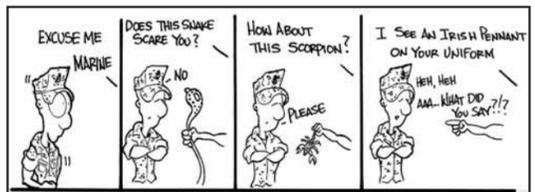
A free movie day is being offered to all active duty military members and their families by two local businesses, Cineplex of Yucca Valley and Donnell's Shooting Supplies, at the Cineplex Aug. 7. The free passes are good for all movies, all day and are available at Donnell's Gun Shop on Indian Trail in Twentynine Palms. Must show active duty ID or dependent ID.



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 #2253

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7			9	4	5		1

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

Marine Corps History

Aug. 7, 1990

President George Bush Sr. ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against a possible Iraqi invasion. One week later, the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area as part of Operation Desert Shield, which became the largest deployment of U.S. forces since the Vietnam War.

BRINKSMANSHIP

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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62					63						64			65
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

ACROSS

1. Surrounded by either way
5. Gets fur all over the rug
10. "The Simpsons" cartoonist
14. Plumb crazy
15. Lose one's cool
16. Masseur's target
17. Ricky's landlord (film)
18. Three-time batting champ Tony
19. "The Haj" novelist
20. 1943 Errol Flynn film
23. Fraternal fellow
24. JFK regulators
25. India's first prime minister
28. Mo. when the World Series begins
31. Andean wool source
35. GP gp.
36. Defender of Scopes
39. Vending machine input
40. They could go either way
43. Conductor Klemperer
44. "The Iceman" (film)
45. Linguistic suffix
46. Summons with a pager
48. "Waking ___ Devine" (1998 film)
49. Coastal feature
51. "How Dry ___"
53. Jetsam of 1773
54. Paid holidays and the like
62. "Clair de ___"
63. Runs out of steam
64. Good earth
66. Added stipulations
67. Marner's creator
68. Toledo's waterfront
69. Chain items
70. McLain, baseball's last 30-game winner
71. Competitor of Gateway and Compaq

DOWN

1. Politico Landon
2. "Encore!"
3. Way to serve tea or coffee
4. Brooklyn ballplayer of old
5. Haunted-house figure
6. Soccer period
7. Geraint's lady
8. Aria performer
9. Gobble, with "down"
10. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park sight
11. Realty unit
12. Michael Moore's "Downsize ___!"
13. Tracy's Trueheart
21. Give the slip to
22. ___-El (Superman's birth name)
25. Fat cat, so to speak
26. Ham it up
27. Poker Flat's chronicler
28. Wenter synthetic
29. It doesn't pay
30. Got in shape, with "up"
32. Photographer Adams
33. Ed of the Reagan cabinet
34. Black-ink entry
37. Pendulum's path
38. Freshly painted
41. Dazed and confused state
42. Crazy Horse, for one
47. Lose tautness
50. Executed perfectly
52. Apportioned, with "out"
53. Short-tempered
54. Bomber pilot's woe
55. Ancient alphabetic symbol
56. Memorial Day weekend race, for short
57. Liver secretion
58. "___ Brockovich" (2000 film)
59. Sign filler
60. Went like the blazes
61. Shove off
65. Blanc, the voice of Bugs

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Cpl. Nicholas Desimone
Hometown: Hauppauge, N.Y.
Unit: Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment
Job title: Assistant ordnance chief
Job duties: Tool room noncommissioned officer, calibration NCO and quality control NCO.
What do you like most about your job?: "Training the Marines, because I feel a sense of accomplishment teaching them and bettering them, myself and the unit as a whole."
What is your most memorable moment while with the unit?: "One time when we were lifting gear, one of the straps got caught on a valve. When it came off, it shot out; spewing gas everywhere. If I had been five feet to my left when it happened then it probably would have gone right through me."
Hobbies: Hanging out with my dog and going to the beach.
What is an interesting fact about you that most people don't know?: "Most people don't know how hard and dedicated we work here in the ordnance shop."
Why did you choose this career field?: "I just wanted to work with my hands and do something that I could take out into the civilian world."
Time at Combat Center: Three years, two months

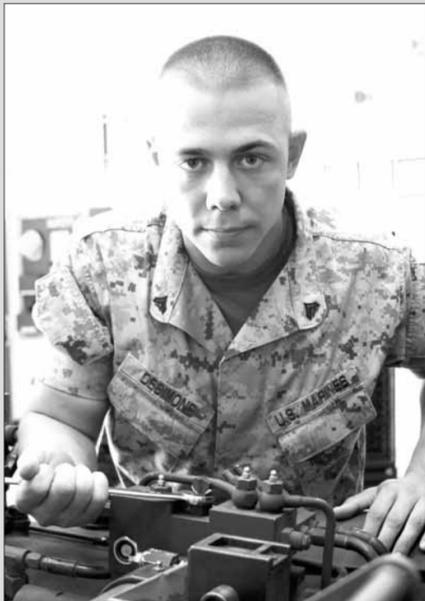


PHOTO BY CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

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Combat Engineers with Company C, 3rd Engineer Support Battalion, spread concrete for a 500-foot sidewalk at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 26.

Engineers a crucial cog in Javelin Thrust

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

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — After cities, towns and military installations are built comes the never ending job of keeping them maintained and adding improvements.

For the Marines with Company C, 3rd Engineer Support Battalion, they have been doing both at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center during Exercise Javelin Thrust.

Their main mission was sidewalk repair to help increase base safety by getting the Marines off the road on their way to the base exchange.

“We have made a new 500-foot sidewalk to get the Marines off the street,” said Sgt. Andrew Zykan, a combat engineer with Co. C, 3rd ESB, and a St. Louis County, Minn., native. “The hardest part of it was [digging] all of it with hand tools.”

After digging out, the critical component didn't come into play until July 26.

“Today was the day we finally got the concrete so it was make or break with our mission,” said Cpl. Austin Noble, a combat engineer from Washburn, Ill.

As the Marines progressed with their projects, some of the leaders began to see how to use the experience in other parts of their job.

“We have been working well with the materials on hand and some of the concrete work will cross over to road repair that some people have to do overseas,” said Noble. “All of the construction with wood will be of great help because we have to work with it in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Besides the main mission, the Marines also repaired a sink hole on one of the main supply routes used during the exercise.

The sink hole wasn't one of the original missions but because of the high visibility and that it hampered Exercise Javelin Thrust, we helped them fill it in, said Gunnery Sgt. Alden Conrad, the site staff non-commissioned officer in charge. It was actually good training for the Marines since fixing a sink hole and an improvised explosive



Marines with Co. C, 3rd CEB, guide concrete from a cement mixer onto their wooden construction grids.

device require many of the same skills and tools.

The speed with which the Marines completed their tasks showcased their skill and

impressed their supervisor.

“The Marines have performed above and beyond everything that was expected of them,” Conrad said.



Marine engineers smooth out the still-damp concrete for a new sidewalk.

SJA CORNER

Community property vs. separate property

CAPT. SHANNON MAWSON

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

How property in a divorce is divided between the husband and wife is determined by the state's laws where the divorce was filed. A very small group of states are called community property states. California, Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin are the nine community property states.

Community property is all the assets and debts which were acquired during the marriage.

Community property is presumed by law and is automatic. It does not matter if the debt or asset is in one person's name alone. This presumption by law means that if an asset or debt is not community property, then the person challenging that will have the burden to prove it to a judge in court.

Separate property is property brought into the marriage, or received by gift, inheritance, bequeathed or devised during the marriage. Separate property is also property acquired after the husband and wife have separated, but have not yet divorced. This will remain separate property if there is a divorce ordered after the separation. Separate property will remain separate property as long as it is not commingled with community property.

For example, if John Smith owned a Porsche before he married Jane, the Porsche is John Smith's separate property. If after John and Jane are married, John decides to trade in his Porsche for a new car where the trade would be equal with no difference to pay on the new car, John's new car is still his separate property, even though it was acquired during the marriage. However, if there was a difference to pay on the new car after the trade-in, and John applies for a loan to pay the difference of the new car off, that is a debt acquired during the marriage and is presumed to be community property. Additionally, the new car is no longer separate property because John is using community property, the new loan, to pay off the car.

When filing for divorce, both parties have a legal obligation to disclose all their debts and assets for the purpose of determining what is community property and what is separate property.

If a service member needs help understanding what community property and separate property is, and how to determine the status of their assets and debts as being such, they can make an appointment with a legal assistance officer at 830-6111.

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Ground, air wing share trade secrets

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

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The concept of "one team, one fight" was in full effect when Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion showed their air wing brethren the ins and outs of a light armored vehicle July 24.

Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, from Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., spent some time with 3rd LAR's amphibious reconnaissance vehicle, the Light Armored Vehicle 25, and refined their shooting skills in the LAV simulators.

"It's about team work," said Gunnery Sgt. Jerel Hofer, the battalion master gunner for 3rd LAR. "Any time you get to mix up the air and the ground side, it's a good day."

It's important to understand the other elements within an operation, he added.

Cpl. Ulysses Guerrero, an



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion give Marines from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, from Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., a tour of a light armored vehicle outside 3rd LAR LAV simulators July 24.

avionics technician with VMM-365, who spends the majority of his day working on MV-22 Osprey systems, said he enjoyed his day away from the birds.

"It's good to see the other side of the Corps," he said.

The wing Marines

inspected the LAV and were encouraged to ask questions about the vehicle. One avionics engineer from VMM-365 noted that the vehicle's mechanics weren't too different from the aircraft they work on.

The Marines of VMM-

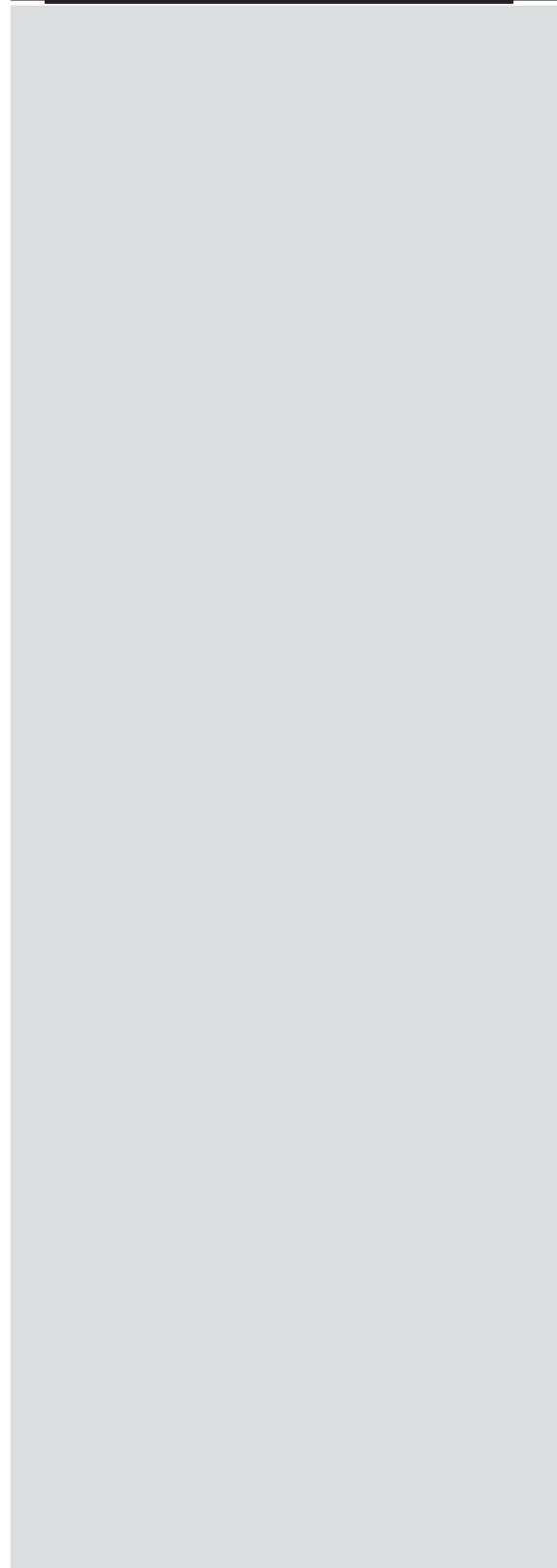
365 who participated in this training are eager to return the favor. The units are currently working on a plan to get the 3rd LAR Marines to VMM-365's temporary flight line at the Enhanced Mojave Viper training area.



Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365 study a light armored vehicle outside of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion's LAV simulators July 24.



Gunnery Sgt. Jerel Hofer, the battalion master gunner for 3rd LAR, speaks to a pilot about the capabilities of a light armored vehicle July 24.



Marines, Army National Guard keep medevac skills sharp

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — When two opposing forces meet on the battlefield, it is more than likely both sides will take casualties. Speedy evacuations can sometimes make the difference between life and death.

The Marines and sailors with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, headquartered in Chicago, and California National Guardsmen with the 1st Bn., 168th General Support Aviation Bn., headquartered out of Mather, Calif., joined together to improve their skills with medical evacuations at Landing Zone Sparrow, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 23.

This important training can save Marines' lives and is often glossed over in pre-deployment workups, said Capt. Tyler A. Freeburg, an inspector instructor with Co. E, 2/24, who briefed the Marines on the training before handing them over to the National Guardsmen.

"I am a firm believer that

you need to know how to take care of your Marines. If you don't know how to do that, you fail yourself, and you fail your Marines," said the Algona, Iowa, native.

During the exercise, Marines guided pilots to the landing zone and briefed the pilots on the ground scenario.

"Talk them in from big objects to the landing zone you've secured," Freeburg instructed his Marines. "Tell them the situation and where to come in and out from. Ask them what they need to know for when they come in."

Before the Marines loaded the simulated casualty into the helicopter, they had to prepare him for the flight.

"The Marines need to make sure the patient is fully secured on the stretcher and all wounds are bandaged up before moving him onto the helicopter," said Petty Officer 1st Class Barry Simno, a hospitalman with Co. E, 2/24.

The Marines also had to consider that they won't see the Marine or the things he takes with him for a while.

"Before you load the wounded onto the helicopter, strip them down to the bare essentials, because if [equipment] goes with them, then you are not getting it back,"



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, demonstrate the proper way to carry a stretcher during Exercise Javelin Thrust at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 23.

Freeburg said.

With the simulated casualties prepped and the helicopter touching down, the Marines rushed to provide security, loading and unloading the simulated casualties as fast as possible.

"This is great training for the Marines since most of them have never called a medevac in and they get to go through the whole process with immediate feedback," said Sgt. George Schaub, a platoon sergeant with Co. E, 2/24, and a native of Davenport, Iowa.

As the Marines finished their training, Freeburg left them with one last piece of advice when handling wounded in Afghanistan.

"Never leave any trace you were there. If the enemy sees blood on the ground, then it's going to take their moral and amplify it," Freeburg said.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Army National Guardsman Sgt. Brian D. Chrisman, crew chief with 1/168th General Support Aviation Battalion, observes Marines along the treeline make preparations for a medevac exercise at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 23.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER BAINES

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, create a secure perimeter in the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center training area July 23.

Ancient transport skill handy in modern warfare

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. - With all the modern technology at our fingertips, an ancient mode of transportation continues to prove its worth to Marines in the field.

While training at the Marine

Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, the Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, and Marine Wing Support Squadron 471 took a condensed version of the two-week Animal Packer Course.

Although seemingly simpler than the complicated mechanics of humvees, tanks or aircraft, a living "vehicle" offers a unique set of challenges.

"[Marines] have a hard time, because [some] people haven't been around animals, so they are not used to them and don't know how to handle them," said Sgt. Terry Southworth, the Animal Packer Course chief instructor at MWTC. "They are also intimidated by the size of the animals. Because of that, they don't realize they are the ones in charge."

As part of their training, the Marines first have to cap-

ture their own animal from a section of the animal center.

"The first time, I was shaking because I thought the mules were going to kick us," said Lance Cpl. Markus Wilkes, a rifleman with Co. F, 2/24. "There were eight of them in a pen, and as we went to catch one, they would run around in circles. The second day was better because we showed some confidence, and the mules knew they were going to be caught, so they gave up ahead of time."

This same attitude with the mules can be applied to other animals as well.

"Any skill the Marines learn on the mule, they can carry it over to any animal from a dog to an elephant," Southworth said.

Once the Marines got used to being around the animals, it was time to prepare the harnesses for the gear. This proved more difficult for some than others.

"The hardest part was the knots, even though I was an Eagle Scout," said Lance Cpl. Peter Chaplin, an assaultman with Co. F, 2/24. "I was never very good at tying knots."

Besides learning how to pack the animals, the Marines also learned ways to patrol with loaded animals.

"Leading their own animal is preferred to tying them up on one line," Southworth said. "If you make contact with the enemy, all of them will run off with all the gear instead of just a few."

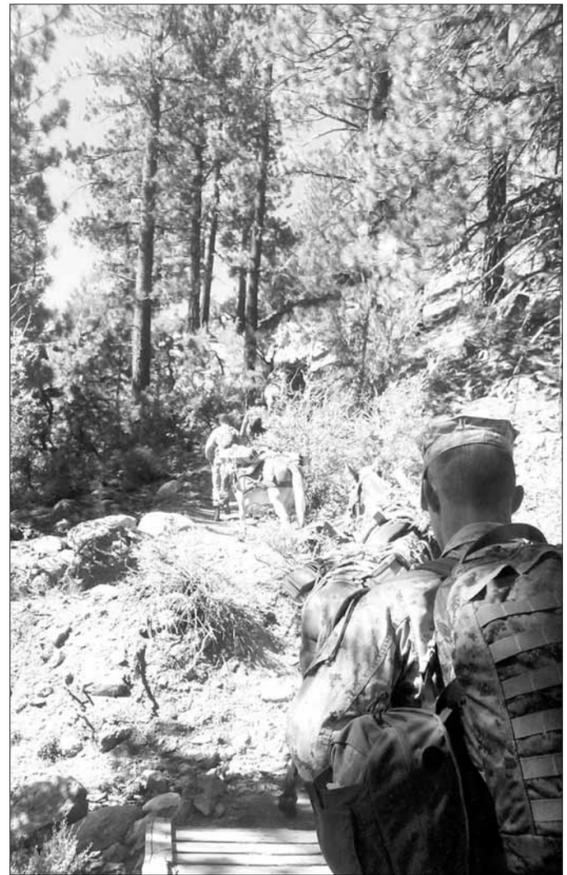
With the class cut so short, the Marines pushed themselves hard to quickly grasp the basics and walk away with knowledge to bring back to their units.

"Even if we don't use animals in our patrols, we learned some different ways to patrol and use different tactics while in Afghanistan," Chaplin said.



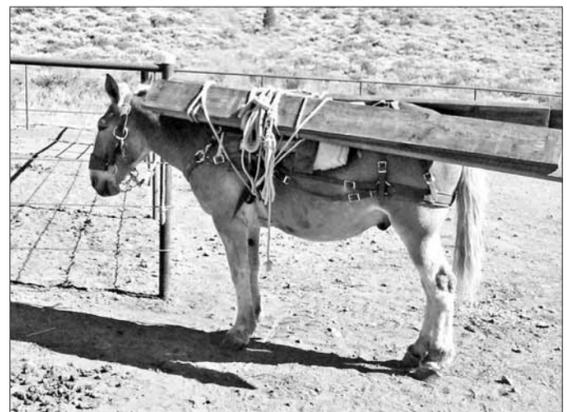
LANCE CPL. AARON J. FARRELL

Cpl. Benjamin J. Couture, an engineer equipment mechanic with Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, awaits the order to move out with a mule packed with supplies to build a bridge aboard the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center during Exercise Javelin Thrust July 22.



CPL. BENJAMIN J. COUTURE

Marines with MWSS-471 use the pack animal skills they learned to build a bridge during Exercise Javelin Thrust.



CPL. BENJAMIN J. COUTURE

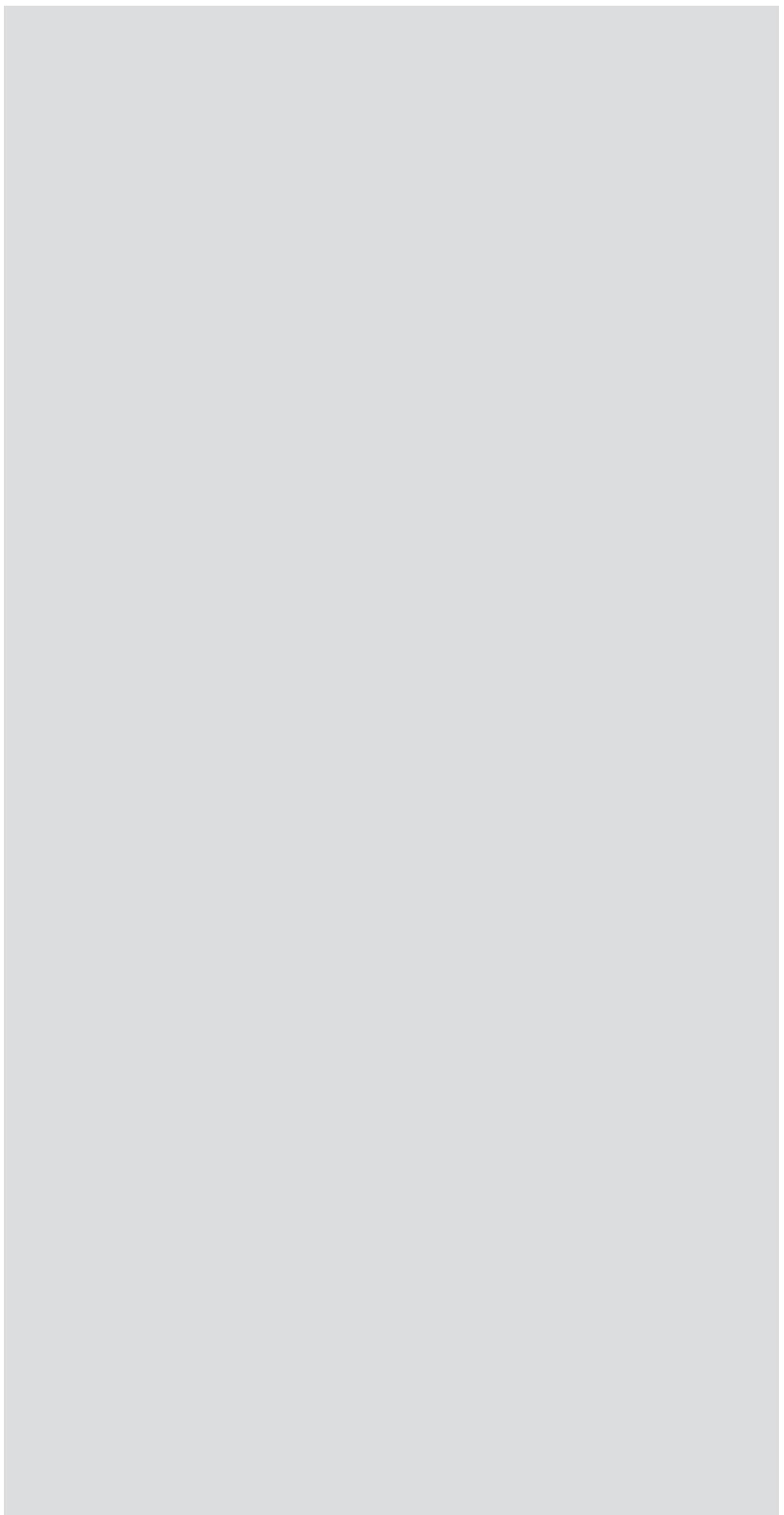
A mule is loaded up with supplies to build a bridge by Marines with MWSS-471 during Exercise Javelin Thrust July 22.



CPL. BENJAMIN J. COUTURE

Pack mules clammer up a mountain path toward the build site during Exercise Javelin Thrust.

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



Star-studded superhero battles Nazis in WWII action flick, page B2



Circuit Course with trainers improves PT

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The personal trainers with the East and West Gym and Fitness Centers are available to help create and conduct circuit courses for units aboard the Combat Center.

Circuit courses provide the Marines with a more intense workout than simply running, and the professionally-schooled trainers usually prepare a more effective routine, as well.

"You can get a lot more out of [physical training] in about the same time," said Sgt. Brendon Arnold, an instructor with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "You can work your entire body. Running, you are just working your legs and cardio. But with the circuit

course, you are able to get a full body workout." Mixing up workout routines with a circuit course can help keep Marines from injuring themselves.

"I think the main importance is to provide variety, so they are not just running every day," said Jacalyn McArthur, the fitness manager for the East Gym and Fitness Center. "It is great so we don't have injuries [from] overuse."

All the different stations and quick movements each course provides builds more than just physical fitness.

Being a physically fit Marine means having the power and agility to maneuver on the battlefield, instead of just being a bulked up muscle head, said Eric Hollis, a personal trainer with the West Gym and Fitness Center.

As the session begins, the Marines appreciate the support from the trainers.

"They are great. Instead of just showing us the course and letting them go run it, they stay out here," said Arnold, a Little Rock, Ark., native.

"They time it for us, they give instruction on how to do each exercise, [and] they are constantly moving around from station to station helping individual Marines out, making sure they are doing it properly and getting the best out of it," he said.

The trainers' main concern during the workouts is having the Marines get the most out of their workout safely.

"We are there to make sure it is safe and timing it so they rotate at the proper time, but really checking for proper technique is our main job," said McArthur, a Joshua Tree, Calif., native.

The trainers are available for scheduling during the week.

"The East Gym and Fitness Center provides on average "three-to-five circuits a week, and there are five-to-six trainers to accommodate that from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.," said McArthur.

The West Gym and Fitness Center has two trainers available from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hollis said.

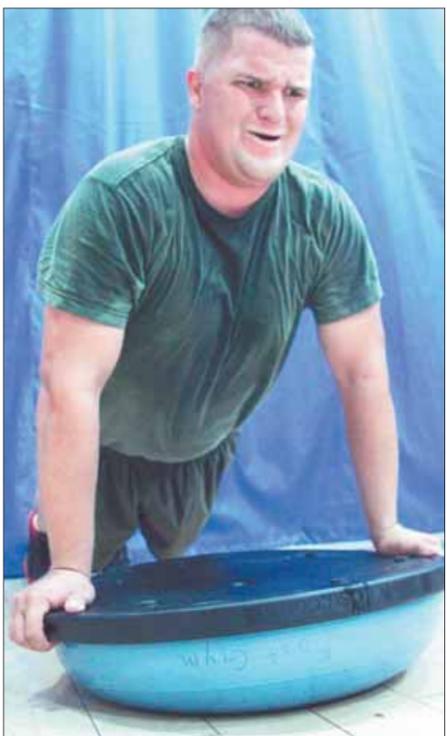
The trainers ask that units call at least a day prior with the approximate number of Marines participating and how long they want the training to last, McArthur added.

Call 830-6440 to set up an appointment at the East Gym and Fitness Center, or 830-6451 for the West Gym and Fitness Center.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

[Front] Lance Cpl. Evan Williamsdejesus and Pfc. David Webber, both students at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, perform an exercise in a circuit course at the East Gym and Fitness Center Tuesday.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Cpl. Robert Madinger, a student with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, struggle to keep himself stable while he performs push-ups.

New flag football league season comes to Combat Center

RANDY HUSTED
 SPORTS SPECIALIST

Are you ready for football?

Here's one man's perspective on the new and upcoming flag football league at the Combat Center.

Now that the National Football League lockout is over, the team owners and players of the NFL have agreed on a new 10-year deal that will allow the fans to keep cheering their favorite players and teams to victory in 2011.

Members of the Combat Center community - don't just sit back and be that armchair quarterback on Sunday afternoon.

Bring back those school days and form your own eight-man flag football team with your unit or command.

Flag Football is one of the most exciting games to play and watch. Flag football incorporates speed, passing and extreme hand and eye coordination.

One of my fondest memories playing flag football was back in junior high school playing for our

school team with only one minute remaining in the game. The score was tied as I loudly called out several numbers - "44, 32, hike" - as we ran the double reverse pass play for the game winning touchdown.

This play and several others have forever implanted lasting memories of how much fun a simple game of flag football can be.

If this story brings back memories of your childhood days or brings a smile to your face remembering that time you snapped the football from the center position, then quickly maneuver off the line of scrimmage to catch a pass for a winning touchdown, then it is time to organize your own team.

Teams need to consist of eight to 16 players. The Marine Corps Community Services sports department will be offering other new programs in the near future, including floor hockey and kick ball, just to name a few.

For more information on flag football or any other upcoming sports event, call 830-4092.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

An HQBN Bulldog tackles an MWSS-374 Rhino during the intramural football league championships Nov. 22, 2010. Starting this year, the Combat Center's sports department will also be starting up a flag football league. For more information about starting a team, call Randy Husted, an installation sports specialist, at 830-4092



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Two MWSS-372 Rhinos attempt to take down an HQBN Bulldog during last year's intramural championships.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

An MWSS-372 Rhino [left] clings to the ball as he plows through the opposing team's defense during the Best of the West game at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., against the 1st MLG Beasts Dec. 11, 2010.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A 1st MLG Beast closes in on an MWSS-374 Rhino during the Best of the West game.



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 8-11 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 10:30 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.
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:

Tea Leaf Green

The four-piece jam band from San Francisco performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 5

The Bingo Dream Band

The folk/psychedelic rock band performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Yucca Valley Summer Music Fest, Cash Up Front

The Johnny Cash Tribute band will perform
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6
Where: Yucca Valley Community Center ball field
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
For more information call 369-7211 or visit www.yucca-valley.org.

Bug Blast Family Fun Day

Explore in incredible world of insects with the museum staff
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6
Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum
Located in the Yucca Valley Community Center Complex just north on Dumosa Avenue from Twentynine Palms Highway in Yucca Valley.
For more information call 369-7212.

Lower Desert

The Hitmen

Alternative rock with a hint of punk
When: 9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 12
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Queen Latifah

The diva of hip hop 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>.

Weezer

Alternative rock with a hint of punk
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Miranda Lambert

The country music star performs
When: 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 21
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Carlos Mencia

The famous comedian performs his stand up
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 24
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Aug. 5

6 p.m. – Judy Moody, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Mr. Popper's Penguins, Rated PG
Midnight – Super 8, Rated PG-13

Saturday, Aug. 6

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** Toy Story, Rated G
2 p.m. – Cars 2, Rated G
6 p.m. – Green Lantern, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – X-Men: First Class, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Bad Teacher, Rated R

Sunday, Aug. 7

2 p.m. – Monte Carlo, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Transformers: Dark of the Moon, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Larry Crowne, Rated PG-13

Monday, Aug. 8

7 p.m. – Cars 2, Rated G

Tuesday, Aug. 9

7 p.m. – Judy Moody, Rated PG

Wednesday, Aug. 10

7 p.m. – X-Men: First Class, Rated PG-13

Thursday, Aug. 11

7 p.m. – The Conspirator, Rated PG-13

Hero fights Nazis in World War II action yarn

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Captain America: The First Avenger"

Starring Chris Evans, Hugo Weaving and Tommy Lee Jones
Rated PG-13

The summer of superheroes continues with Captain America, the latest Marvel Comics character to go big-screen.

We meet the unlikely kid who'll become Capt. Steve Rogers, back in the early days of World War II. Steve's a reed-thin, 98-pound weakling with a strong red-white-and-blue heart and a list of health problems that takes up a full page on his enlistment form. Not surprisingly, Uncle Sam turns him down...again and again.

How scrawny Steve eventually transforms into secret-weapon studcake is part of the fun of "Captain America," which embeds a rollicking superhero backstory into a gung-ho, retro-glow World War II yarn about a mad Nazi scientist known as Red Skull, played by Hugo Weaving, his storm-trooper minions and a diabolical plan to out-Hitler even Der Führer himself.

Stanly Tucci plays the defected German bioengineering genius whose research gives little Stevie the boost he needs to become a U.S. Army superhero. Tommy Lee Jones is the crusty colonel who learns how to handle his unique



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Rogers, played by Chris Evans, is transformed from a 98-pound weakling, who was rejected by the armed services, into superhero and secret weapon, Captain America.

new recruit. British actress, Hayley Atwell, brings brains as well as beauty to the role of special military agent Peggy Carter, for whom defeating the Nazi menace will mean she can finally let down her hair and go dancing with America's splashiest battlefield star.

But the real star of the show is Chris Evans, the relative newcomer who plays Rogers. His Captain America is a hero with heart and a sense of humanity that rises above the slam-bang special effects and pulpy myth 'n' science subplot. As Rogers is told on the eve of his trans-

formation, he needs to be not only a great soldier, but also "a good man."

Director Joe Johnston, who previously steered "Jumanji," the 2010 remake of "The Wolfman," and "Jurassic Park III," confidently walks the line between faithful comic-book iconography and contemporary action-movie splash, ultimately setting up Marvel's next movie, "The Avengers," which will bring together a federation of superheroes – including Captain America, Thor and Iron Man – next summer.

Johnston even uses his special effects with admirable restraint, a refreshing change from most superhero-movie blowouts of computer-generated bombast. And less is more. The explosions, gunfire and chase scenes are all

the more exciting because they're not coming at you every five minutes.

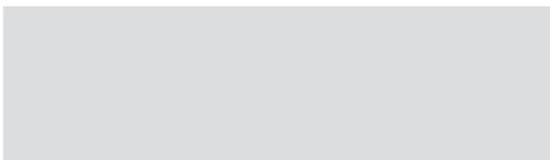
The movie pulls off an interesting twist in its closing act, but its neatest trick is practically invisible. An impressive bit of Hollywood digital "erasure" trickery lets Evans play Rogers as both the pre-Captain string bean as well as the muscle-bound, shield-wielding crusader he becomes.

In a summer of oppressive temperatures, political mire and numbing economic ache, it feels good to see someone swathed in the cool colors of the good ol' U.S. of A, bravely buckling down to make the world a better place, one bully at a time. We could all use a rah-rah dose of the get-'er-done movie mojo Captain America is peddling.



COURTESY PHOTO

British actress, Hayley Atwell, brings brains as well as beauty to the role of special military agent Peggy Carter.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mad Nazi scientist, Red Skull, played by Hugo Weaving, is the diabolical villain of the picture.

Did you know?

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member you can place a FREE ad in our Combat Center Trader Ads

See page A9 for details and limitations

Desert Detours: L.A. Memorial Coliseum



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

SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

EDITOR / PRESS CHIEF

Although more of a venue than an activity, the L.A. Memorial Coliseum, commissioned in 1921 in honor of World War I veterans, is still a worthwhile spot to keep an eye on.

While it is the official home of the University of Southern California Trojans' football team, the stadium also plays host to the occasional concert, expo or show.

This past weekend was my first trip to the Coliseum, which can hold as many as 92,000 people and was declared a National Historic Landmark in July 1984.

Somehow I scored tickets to L.A. Rising, a rock concert with the most amazing line-up I've seen – "opening" acts Lauryn Hill, formerly of the Fugees; Rise Against; and Muse, all of whom have headlined their own shows.

Rage Against the Machine was the main event.

L.A. Rising was also the only 2011 appearance for Rage, and is the most recent gig in the long list of shows during the band's sporadic reunion tour, which began in 2007.

Sure, the events themselves are nothing to scoff at, and are absolutely the main reason for any Coliseum visit.

But it's the little "things" that make trips truly memorable:

...Things like the world famous kettle corn, which took up just as much comment space on blogs as the events did.

...Things like the fact that it is the only stadium in the world to host the Olympics twice – once in 1932 and again in 1984.

...Things like the fact that it is also the only Olympic arena to also have hosted multiple World

See **DETOURS, B4**



SAMANTHA GIORDANO

A Muse fan plays the air drums from his perch on a buddy's shoulders during L.A. Rising.



SAMANTHA GIORDANO

Rock band Rise Against takes the stage after Lauryn Hill's set during the L.A. Rising concert at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles July 30. The Coliseum is typically the home of the University of Southern California Trojans football team and was commissioned in 1921 as a memorial to World War I veterans.

DETOURS, from B3

Series and Super Bowls, too. ... Things like the Olympic Cauldron still being lit anytime the Olympics are held and during every fourth quarter of any USC game, or for solemn occasions like the Space Shuttle Challenger crash in 1986 and the terrorist attacks in New York on Sept. 11, 2001. ... Things like the lack of expensive amenities like luxury boxes and club seats. Just as all athletes are equal on the playing field, so are all fans in their shared experience of the faded orange, flip-down plastic seats, slick and shiny from years of sup-

porting sports fan derrieres. ... Things like the perpetually wafting scent of tacos, hot dogs and jumbo-sliced pizza purchased from vendors lining the outside of the stadium's walls. ... Things like the shared camaraderie and chants of painted fanatics, plastic cups of generic beer in hand, throwing arms around strangers as if they were brothers during moments of team triumph. When you look at all the nuances that make the Coliseum a special place, all the victories and heartbreaks that defined many a fan's childhood, all contained in one place, why you go is not

nearly as important as just getting there and adding your own memories to the stadium's collective soul. Only a long, three-hour drive and the typically hefty price tag on event tickets keep this historic treasure at a three palm rating. Check out the event schedule, basic visitor information, history and news at <http://lacoliseumlive.com>. *Editor's Note: "Desert Detours" is a weekly series exploring opportunities for Marines and sailors from a firsthand perspective. All material included therein is the opinion of the writer and does not imply an endorsement by the U.S. Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.*

Athlete of the Week



PHOTO BY CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Name: Kristina Duran
Hometown: St. Louis
Unit: Personal trainer with the East Gym and Fitness Center, Marine Corps Community Services.
Favorite aspect of being a personal trainer: "Just working with all the different people and helping them reach their goals."
Advice for aspiring players: "Stick with it, don't give up and don't lose your motivation."
What made you want to become a personal trainer?: "Life has its turns, I was a fitness instructor and I started focusing more one-on-one with my clients."
What type of training programs do you usually help with?: "I work with units, groups and dependants and for them it is usually endurance or weight loss programs."



Visit the official Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, push through a MOUT town with 1st Tank Bn. July 27, at Range 210 during Clear Hold Build 2.



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A Marine with 2/4 kicks down a door to clear a building while a "Coyote" combat instructor looks on at Range 210.

CHB-2, from A1

is the biggest gun out here."

This breaching exercise was the first time these two battalions worked together as a ground element.

"This is good training. It develops the crew, platoon and other supporting assets," said Cpl. Cody Romer, a M1A1 Abrams tank gunner with 2nd platoon, Co. A, 1st Tanks.

With the value of this integrated partnership proven

over and over again on the battlefield, the Corps keeps combining the training of battalions such as these to better prepare them for a more effective style of combat in the future.

"It was a good run, it was the first time any of these units worked together," Slater said. "There was plenty of friction, like there always is in a live fire environment, but we pushed through that, and the mission was accomplished."



EMILY ANDERSON

Lance Cpl. Edwardo Santillan meets his niece, Jaylin, for the first time shortly after stepping off the bus during the homecoming for Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, July 28.

RETURNS, from A1

15-month-old son, Dawson.

Ashley Davis, wife of Lance Cpl. Terry Davis, waited with her 3-year-old daughter, Faith, to see her husband return home.

The family had recently moved from Washington, and Faith was practically bubbling over with excitement as she waited.

"I love him to the moon and back," she said.

When the troops stepped off the bus, previously composed wives rushed to kiss their husbands, excited children ran to tackle their fathers, and relieved parents spent long moments embracing their sons.

The Marines and sailors were finally home, and their families once again complete.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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7	3	8	9	4	5	2	1	6

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

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

2001 BOMBARDIER DS650. 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.

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.

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.