

3/3 trains at EMV for Afghanistan, page A3

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Land Nav. brings NCOs back to basics, page A4

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

OBSERVATION POST

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Since 1957

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Nation's Highest Award MEDAL OF HONOR

Sgt. Dakota Meyer

Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, – President Barack Obama draped the pale blue ribbon suspending the Medal of Honor around the neck of Marine Corps Sgt. Dakota L. Meyer yesterday, the first living Marine to receive the award for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"It's been said that where there is a brave man, in the thickest of the fight, there is the post of honor," the commander in chief said.

"Today we pay tribute to an American who placed himself in the thick of the fight again, and again, and again."

Obama said Meyer, who is now 23 and was just 21 that day in Afghanistan, is "one of the most down-to-earth guys you will ever meet."

Obama turned to the events of Sept. 8, 2009, the day Meyer earned the medal as a corporal serving with Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Just before dawn, a patrol of Afghan forces and their American trainers, on foot and making their way through a narrow valley, was planning to meet with a group of village elders, the president said.

"Suddenly, all over the valley, the lights go out and that's when it happens," Obama said.

About a mile away, Meyer and Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez-Chavez could hear the ambush over the radio.

Soon, the patrol was pinned down, taking ferocious fire from three sides. "Men were being wounded and killed, and four Americans, Dakota's friends, were surrounded," he said.

After asking four times to go closer to the fight and help, and hearing each time that it was too dangerous, the two Marines got inside a nearby humvee and headed into the fight, Rodriguez-Chavez at the wheel and Meyer manning the gun turret.

"They were defying orders, but they were doing what

"Sgt. Meyer embodies all that is good about our nation's Corps of Marines. He is a living example of the brave young men and women whose service, fidelity and sacrifice make us so proud."

– General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps

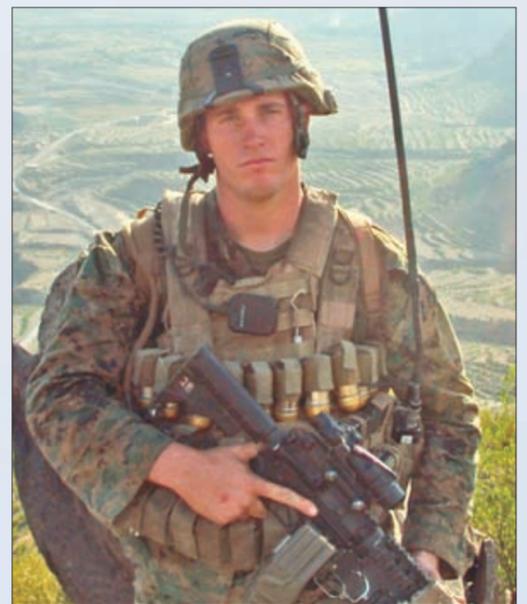
The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the **MEDAL OF HONOR** to

Corporal Dakota L. Meyer United States Marine Corps

For service as set forth in the following

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the repeated risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a member of Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on 8 September 2009. When the forward element of his combat team began to be hit by intense fire from roughly 50 Taliban insurgents dug-in and concealed on the slopes above Ganjal village, Corporal Meyer mounted a gun-truck, enlisted a fellow Marine to drive, and raced to attack the ambushers and aid the trapped Marines and Afghan soldiers. During a six hour fire fight, Corporal Meyer single-handedly turned the tide of the battle, saved 36 Marines and soldiers and recovered the bodies of his fallen brothers. Four separate times he fought the kilometer up into the heart of a deadly U-shaped ambush. During the fight he killed at least eight Taliban, personally evacuated 12 friendly wounded, and provided cover for another 24 Marines and soldiers to escape likely death at the hands of a numerically superior and determined foe. On his first foray his lone vehicle drew machine gun, mortar, rocket grenade and small arms fire while he rescued five wounded soldiers. His second attack disrupted the enemy's ambush and he evacuated four more wounded Marines. Switching to another gun-truck because his was too damaged they again sped in for a third time, and as turret gunner killed several Taliban attackers at point blank range and suppressed enemy fire so 24 Marines and soldiers could break-out. Despite being wounded, he made a fourth attack with three others to search for missing team members. Nearly surrounded and under heavy fire he dismounted the vehicle and searched house to house to recover the bodies of his fallen team members. By his extraordinary heroism, presence of mind amidst chaos and death, and unselfish devotion to his comrades in the face of great danger, Corporal Meyer reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

See MEDAL, A7



COURTESY PHOTO

Sept. 11, a nation remembers its fallen

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, – President Barack Obama remembered those who were lost to terrorist attacks a decade ago and said the American commitment to freedom, justice, courage and liberty has not dimmed in the face of many trials Sept. 11.

On the tenth anniversary, he visited ground zero in New York, to Shanksville, Pa., where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed, and to the Pentagon.

Later, the president spoke at the Concert for Hope at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., where he began his remarks with a quote from the Bible: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning," from Psalm 30.

Americans endured such a night on Sept. 11, 2001, Obama said.

"Mighty towers crumbled. Black smoke bil-

lowed up from the Pentagon. Airplane wreckage smoldered on a Pennsylvania field," he said. "Friends and neighbors, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters -- they were taken from us with heartbreaking swiftness and cruelty. On Sept. 12, 2001, we awoke to a world in which evil was closer at hand, and uncertainty clouded our future."

In the past 10 years, much has changed, and America is at war, the president noted.

"We can never get back the lives we lost on that day, or the Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in the wars that followed," he said, but he added that after a decade it is worth remembering what hasn't changed.

"Our character as a nation has not changed,"

Obama said. "Our faith in God and each other, that has not changed. Our belief in America, born of a timeless ideal that men and women should govern themselves, that all people are created equal, and deserve the same freedom to

determine their own destiny -- that belief, through test and trials, has only been strengthened."

The past decade has shown America does not give in to fear, Obama said. He spoke of first responders running into doomed buildings and airline passengers taking on terrorists as just two

examples, and he said Americans have worked together to defend the nation and its values.

"Two million Americans have gone to war since 9/11," Obama said. "They have demonstrated that those who do us harm

cannot hide from the reach of justice, anywhere in the world."

The men and women who fight America's wars are not conscripts, but volunteers, the president noted. "They are men and women who left behind lives of comfort for two, three, four, or five tours of duty. Too many will never come home. Those that do carry dark memories from distant places and the legacy of fallen friends."

U.S. service members and their families have sacrificed in Afghanistan and Iraq, Obama said, but they do not sacrifice for conquest or to demonstrate America can occupy another country.

"Our strength is not measured in our ability to stay in these places; it comes from our commitment to leave those lands to free people and sovereign states, and our desire to move from a decade of war to a

See 9/11, A7

Kids fussing over flu shots? Lead by Example

SHARI LOPATIN
TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

It's that time of year again, and your kids are throwing a fit about getting the flu shot. But perhaps if they see mom or dad doing it too, they may go more willingly.

Did you know, 9 out of 10 healthy people who get a flu shot, don't get the flu? That's according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If getting a

flu shot is important enough for your kids, it's just as important for you.

Step up and lead by example: Go for your flu shot when you take your kids for theirs, offer to get your shot first. If fun or colorful bandages are available, ask to wear one alongside your children, and finish the flu shot appointment with a treat, such as a trip to the park or a healthy fruit smoothie.

In order to keep you healthy, TRICARE covers all

vaccinations recommended by the CDCP. That includes the flu shot or nasal mist. Just make sure you're receiving your vaccinations from a TRICARE-authorized provider. And remember, you can get all your vaccines now through the local Express Scripts Pharmacies supporting your TRICARE benefit too.

To learn where you can go for your flu shot, or for more information on TRICARE coverage, visit <http://www.triwest.com/flu>.

This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post dated Sept. 17, 1976, Vol. 20, No. 37

12th MAB¹ Conducts Exercise Palm Tree 5-76

EAF SUPPORT WRITTEN BY CPL. G.L. COLANDRO

Operation Palm Tree² 5-76, held September 6-12 here is the first training exercise to utilize the new expeditionary airfield (EAF)³.

Simulating actual combat conditions meant constructing a flight tower capable of bringing in the "big birds"⁴, and other combat aircraft even under the most adverse conditions.

For the men of Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron (MATCS) 38, Santa Ana, theirs is a 24 hour job.

Fully equipped, the flight tower is stacked with all the necessary instruments a regular control tower needs to manipulate incoming and outgoing air traffic.

Two ultra-high frequency radios enable the tower to communicate with aircrafts. One radio serves as a guard frequency used only in emergencies. A very high frequency radio is used for communications with helicopters. An FM radio offers communications with ground vehicles and crash crews.

Other instruments include an aldis lamp⁵ used to signal aircrafts when there is no means of radio communication. A red flash of light from the lamp prohibits landing, while a green flash okays it. Wind indicators inform the tower of wind speed and direction and a barometer enables the tower to give aircrafts the correct altimeter setting.

Below the tower, a small work area is set up inside a metal van maintaining and repairing equipment. This van also acts as a link between the generator and the tower. Also a storage room, the van houses all the necessary gear to keep the tower in operation.

Tape recorders inside the van tape everything said to aircraft and ground vehicles during the course of the operation. In case of any problems, a possible cause can be traced to find out what went wrong and why.

The nine men needed to operate the tower include six air traffic controllers, two radio technicians and one diesel mechanic.

According to Officer-In-Charge, Warrant Officer 1 William L. Clyde, the crew has been in the field since August 30, but an advance party from MATCS-38 made the tower operational since August 24.

Allowing no underestimation to be made concerning the van, Gunner Clyde states matter of factly that "if the van goes out for any reason, the tower doesn't work. It's as simple as that. That van is this tower's life supporting system."

It's safe to say that at present, the tower is the life supporting system of the entire EAF.

(1) Marine Amphibious Brigade is now referred to Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

(2) Palm Tree was the name given to recurring training exercises aboard Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms. They were later renamed to Combined Arms Exercise.

(3) The expeditionary airfield was built in 1976 to test the naval services aluminum expeditionary runway concept. Today's EAF has changed little since the original construction. Over three million square feet of aluminum AM-2 matting make up the primary runway.

(4) The AV-8 Harrier and the CH-46-F Sea Knight are two of the "big birds" first to use the expeditionary airfield during Exercise Palm Tree in 1976.

(5) Aldis lamp is a signal lamp named after Arthur C.W. Aldis. It is a visual signaling device for optical communication typically using Morse code.

Hot Topics

EDUCATION AND CAREER FAIR

Whether you are looking for further education, to develop new skills, looking for a job or exploring new career fields, the combined Education and Career Fair has something for everyone. The fair will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the West Gym and Fitness Center. For more information, call 830-7225/6881.

BENCH PRESS COMPETITION

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in both male and female divisions. All participants will receive a t-shirt. The event is open to MCCS eligible patrons. You must be at least 18-years-old to compete. The competition will take place at 6 p.m. on Sept. 28 in the East Gym and Fitness Center.

INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL

The Intramural Flag Football League is starting up and will be held Sept. 20 to Dec. 15 at Del Valle Field. Must be active duty, family member or DOD employee. For more information call MCCS Sports at 830-4092.

SOUNDS OF FREEDOM

The fourth annual Sounds of Freedom concert will be held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. The event includes food vendors and a concert with the Combat Center Band, Toy, and headliner, Uncle Kracker. This event is open to all MCCS eligible patrons.



Eagle Eyes

Immediately report any suspicious activity which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

1. Surveillance
2. Suspicious questioning
3. Tests of security
4. Acquiring supplies
5. Suspicious persons
6. Trial runs
7. Deploying assets

830-3937



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

SUDOKU #2298

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

GOOD DE-EDS

[Puzzle solutions on A5]

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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65						66						67		
68						69						70		
71						72						73		

- ACROSS**
1. Ad-__ committee
 4. Olympian's prize
 9. College bigwigs
 14. Vexation
 15. Castle of the ballroom
 16. Sign up
 17. Diarist Anaïs
 18. Al __ (past a specification)
 19. "Oro y __" (Montana motto)
 20. Deprived of one's land?
 22. Personification of the easy life
 23. Troubled state
 24. "___ Gotta Have It" (Spike Lee film)
 26. Something to watch, perhaps
 27. Moray, for one
 30. Minute Maid Park ballclub
 34. Weirdos
 37. George's lyricist
 38. Lusterless finish
 41. "Rope-a-dope" boxer
 42. Plant firmly
 44. Grow older
 45. Genuine
 48. "Nel blu dip into di blu" song
 50. "Slippery when ___"
 51. Coagulate
 55. Bit of old Italian bread?
 57. Section of Los Angeles
 59. Clear from the board
 62. Ironed?
 65. Coffee choice
 66. Southwestern stewpots
 67. Potpie spheroid
 68. Bridget Fonda, to Jane
 69. Moss or fern, for example
 70. Scarf down
 71. Tacked on
 72. Jamboree setups
 73. Rap's Dr. __
- DOWN**
1. Many Eastern Indians
 2. Set straight
 3. Middle, in Manitoba
 4. King with the golden touch
 5. Put up
 6. Fender blemish
 7. Poker opener
 8. West Yorkshire city
 9. Wrinkled?
 10. Join the military
 11. Sea east of the Caspian
 12. "Name That Tune" clue
 13. Do in, as a dragon
 21. Transplant, in away
 25. "2001" computer
 28. Israel's Abba
 29. '80s-'90s legal drama
 31. Adam's donation
 32. Raw resource
 33. Bummed out
 35. Stripped bare?
 36. Word before jacket or insurance
 38. Dallas hoopster, for short
 39. In the past
 40. __ Aviv
 43. Muslim's destination
 46. Above, in poesy
 47. Repetitive
 49. __-Lorraine (region of France)
 52. Spoke like Daffy Duck
 53. "In __ and out ..."
 54. As of now
 56. Take as one's own
 58. Hatchlings' homes
 59. Author Ferber
 60. John __ (the Lone Ranger)
 61. Got 100 on
 63. Fashioning
 64. Scot's family

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3/3 Marines execute EMV attack, Afghanistan workup

CPL. REECE LODDER

3RD BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT

Tucked behind a rocky mountainside, a company of Marines spread out, by platoons, along its base. After a countdown, an explosion growled beyond the thick shield of rocks. As vibrations coursed through the ground, the infantrymen rushed through a breached concertina wire obstacle to begin their assault.

Marines with Co. I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, performed a company live-fire attack at Range 400 here Sept. 10.

The attack, carried out by each of 3/3's line companies, was part of the Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise. During EMV, the Marines of "America's Battalion" are working from squad-level training evolutions to battalion-level counterinsurgency operations. They're training for a fall deployment to Afghanistan's Helmand province in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This range brought all our moving parts together," Lance Cpl. Chad Winchell, a squad leader with Company I, 3/3, said. "It meshed our individual actions together at the company level."

Six teams of machine gunners separated from the attacking horde and hurried up a hill to provide fire support over the battlefield. Simulated enemy artillery and mortar strikes exploded nearby.

From an elevated position, a fire support team coordinated the company's suppression on enemy targets. Communicating

by radio, the FST controlled fire support for the ground forces, from the machine guns to 60mm and 81mm mortars on the ground.

1st Lt. Aaron Davidson, an artillery forward observer with 3/3, said the FST provided the maneuver commander a view over the battlefield.

"Our job was to war-game every angle as the company attacked," Davidson, 24, from Union, Mich., said. "We worked to support their maneuver by controlling the rates of fire and adjusting our fire suppression on the fly."

Ammunition men responded to the machine gunners' commands for re-supply by scurrying through white smoke with ammo cans atop the hill. They trekked down and back up the hill loaded with brass when their store depleted.

Supported by the hail of fire, infantrymen, engineers and military working dog handlers moved through a ravine masked by rocky terrain. Mixing attachments into the platoons allowed the Marines to learn each other's jobs, essential knowledge if demanded by a situation in Afghanistan.

"If myself or any of our other Marines go down, the other Marines need to be able to step into their jobs and still fulfill the mission," Lance Cpl. Marcus Caldwell, a squad leader with Co. I, 3/3, said.

As they maneuvered, snipers, mortar men and machine gunners pounded rounds onto the enemy positions. Finally, the attacking forces arrived at the enemy strongholds and



CPL. REECE LODDER

Pfc. Daniel Candelaria and Capt. Gareth Hughes, a rifleman and air officer with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, carry ammunition to a machine gun position during a company attack at Range 400 Sept. 10. The attack was part of the 35-day Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise before their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

worked through clearing their three objectives.

The 23-year-old Caldwell, from Atlanta, said navigating through the range helped him understand his squad's mission within the company. He said it also taught an important lesson to his new Marines.

When some of them thought the attack was over, they faced an unexpected enemy counterattack.

"Once we got to our final objective, our job wasn't done," Caldwell said. "In country, our battle begins as soon as we step out of the wire. Today taught them it's never over until we're back inside."



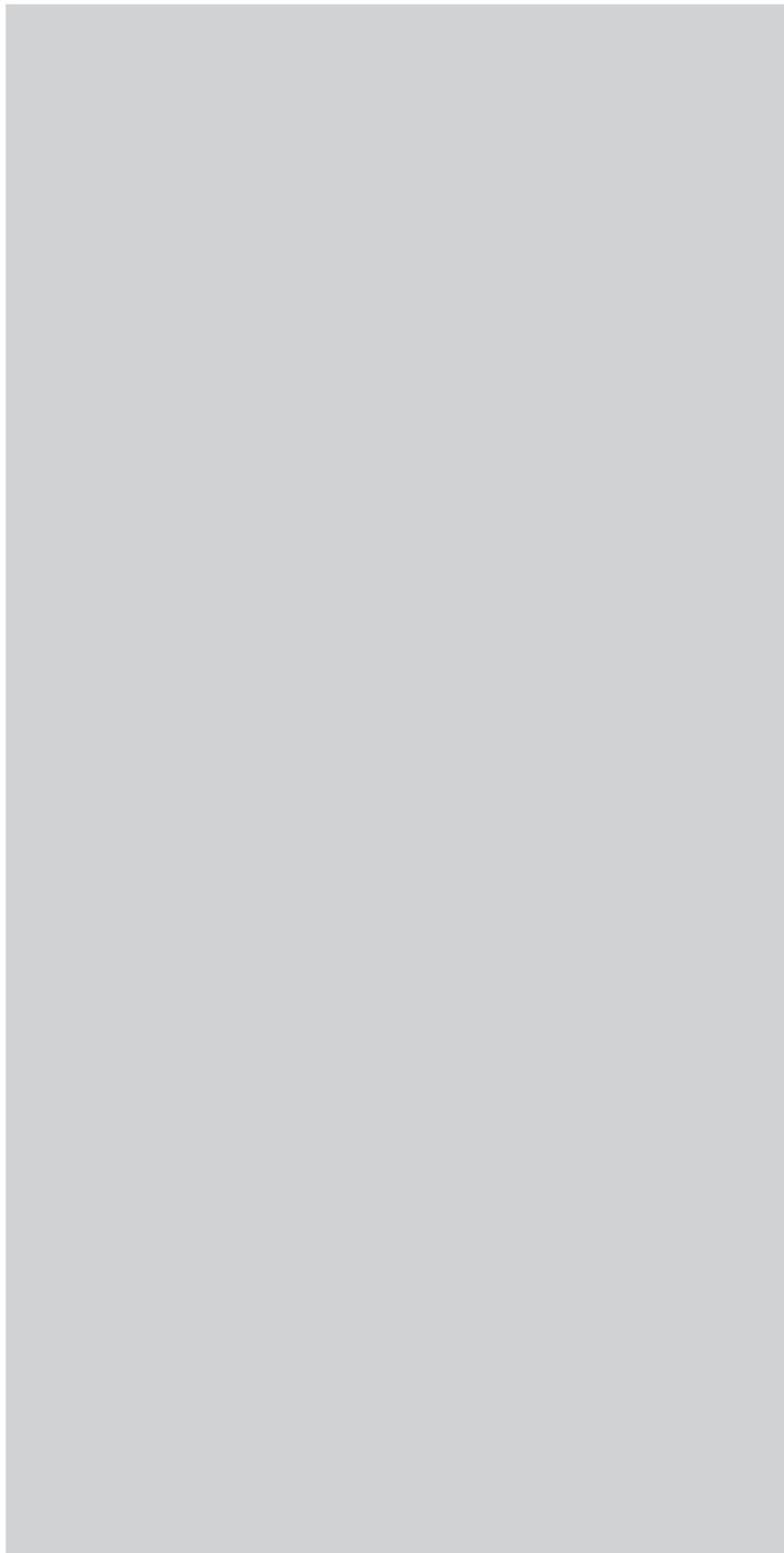
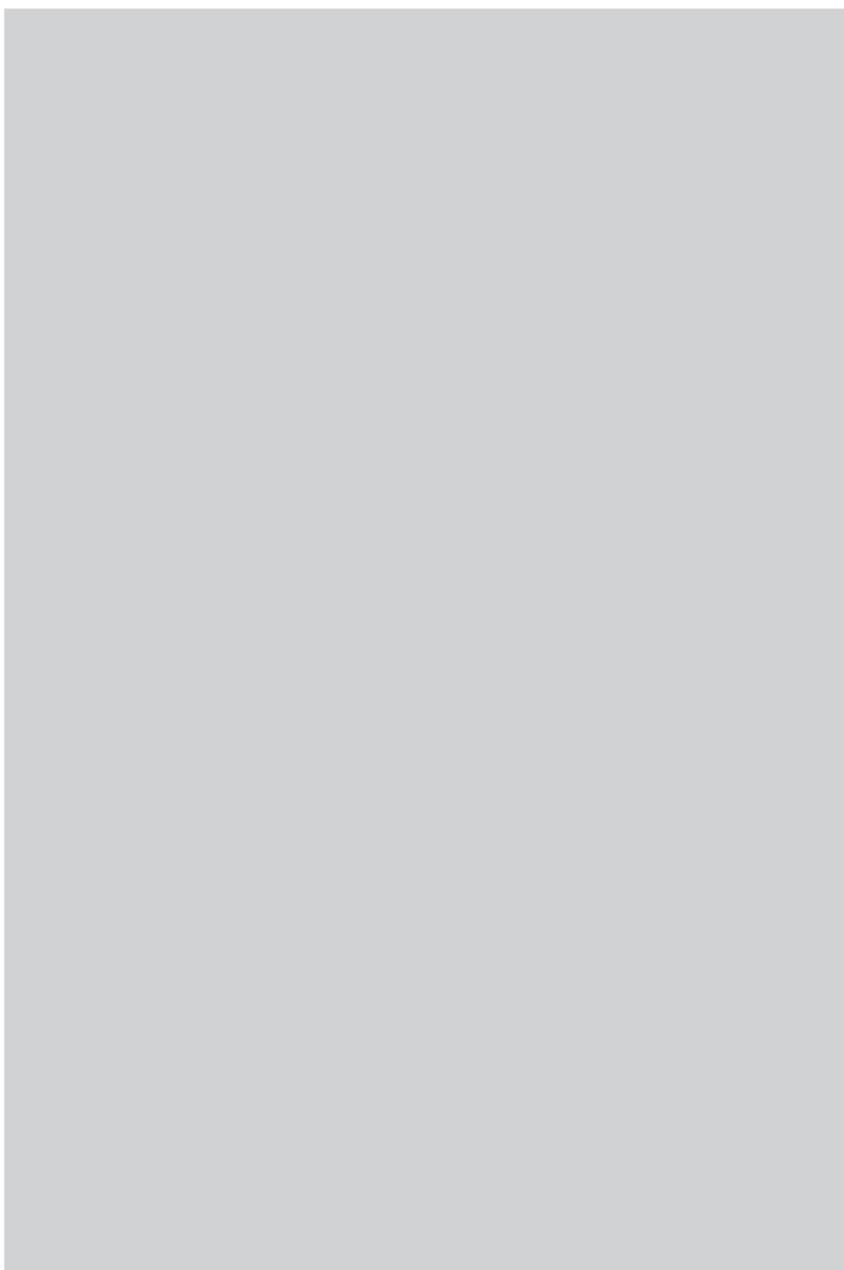
CPL. REECE LODDER

Marines with 3/3 watch the Marines of Co. I, 3/3, maneuver through a company attack at Range 400 Sept. 10. They are training to deploy to Afghanistan's Helmand province this fall in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



CPL. REECE LODDER

Lance Cpl. Jeremy Coltharp, a machine gunner with Co. I, 3/3 holds links of ammunition during a company attack at Range 400 Sept. 10. During EMV, they work from squad-level training to battalion-level counterinsurgency operations.



NCOs go back to the basics, land nav comp

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. ANDREW D.
THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine noncommissioned officers returned to the basics in land navigation when they competed against each other for the NCO trophy and the bragging rights as the best land nav. NCO throughout the battalion.

The challenge was simple, after receiving their coordinates, Marines plot them on a small map, then travel to the locations, find the ammunition can marker, and mark down what was on the can. This proved harder than the participants thought, due to the Marines time away from land navigation because of primary responsibilities.

"Every month we try to do something to get them back into their Marine Corps roots," said 1st Sgt. Nelson Hidalgo, the first sergeant for Company B, Headquarters Battalion. "For most of our Marines [it] will be a big challenge because they never do land nav. Most of our Marines we send to corporal's course mention land nav. Kicks their butt, so little things like this, when we can plug it in, is great."

A few of the Marines went the extra mile and refreshed their skills and knowledge to help ensure



A Marine noncommissioned officer with Headquarters Battalion sights in on a target at Range 100 Sept. 9 during the battalion's monthly NCO challenge.

their sections' victory.

"We studied for about an hour and a half last night so I thought we were going to take one of the top three spots," said Sgt. Ashley Bently, the legal and promotion noncommissioned officer in charge with Installation Personnel Administration Center. "Then we got started and quickly got lost. We wish that we could have gotten a few more of the [ammo cans] right."

The challenge not only sharpened land nav. skills, but also caused the Marines to

'network,' or learn more about the other shops in the battalion and what they do.

"It's good to work togeth-

"For most of the Marines it will be a challenge. Little things like this, when we can plug it in, is great."

— 1st Sgt. Nelson Hidalgo

er with some of the NCOs within the battalion because we get to see each other's

strengths and weaknesses," said Cpl. Joseph Burden, a distribution management office freight clerk.

After the Marines trekked through the hillside of Range 100, climbing hills, rocks, and avoiding the local wildlife, the times and scores were calculated.

Cpls. Michael Mara and Steven Dodd, both ammunition technicians with the Center Magazine Area, achieved first place for their time completing the course and number of correct ammo cans.



Cpls. Michael Mara and Steven Dodd, both ammunition technicians with the Center Magazine Area, locate a reference point before hiking to their next ammo can during the HQBN monthly NCO challenge at Range 100 Sept. 9. The two Marines' skill and speed earned them first place in the challenge by locating one more ammo can than their competitors.



PFC. ALI AZIMI

Safety instructor wins worldwide safety award; saves lives, careers

Angel R. Rios, an occupational safety and health specialist with the G-7 safety division, was presented the 2010 Marine Corps Superior Safety Achievement Award by Col. Halliburto J. Sellers, the G7 assistant chief of staff, at the installation's safety office, for his work in improving the Marine Corps safety program Sept. 9. Rios acted as an instructor and representative for the "Alive at 25" program, which has helped reduce reported driving under the influence incidences by 52 percent in the last three years. "I've seen Marines' careers get ruined because of a DUI," said Rios, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. Prior to being awarded the Marine Corps Superior Safety Achievement Award, Rios received the Alive at 25 Instructor of the Year Award, two years in a row, 2008 and 2009. "We teach from the heart," Rios said. "We have to get it through to these young Marines that it's important." Rios was nominated by David W. Horn, a safety director for G-7 safety division. Horn nominated Rios for his consistent work over the past couple of years, Horn said. It's not just what he has done that year, it's everything he's been doing. The Marine Corps Superior Safety Achievement Award is a worldwide award bestowed each year to the person who has contributed the most to the Marine Corps Safety Program. "It's an honor if you ask me," said Horn, "Angel has proven himself time and time again, year after year as one of those individuals."

**For local entertainment
see our LIBERTY CALL section on page B2**



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



OLIVIA LYNN RICKERTSEN
Born to Paris and Stefannie Rickertsen
Aug. 27, 2011

RIVER AVANGELYN EWING
Born to Randall and Alyssa Ewing
Aug. 24, 2011

CAVOLINE ROSANNE MARTIN
Born to Sam and Heather Martin
Aug. 27, 2011

SOPHIA MICHELLE WILLIAMS
Born to Michael and Elaine Williams
Aug. 26, 2011

EMMA FAITH HEARLD
Born to Blaine and Cossandra Hearld
Aug. 24, 2011

MANUEL RICHARD RAY ESPINOZA JR.
Born to Manuel and Daisy Espinoza
Aug. 25, 2011

THOMAS ANDRE DOUGLAS
Born to Thomas and Krystal Douglas
Aug. 23, 2011

TRENT JACOB RUCKER
Born to Scott and Katelynn Rucker
Aug. 16, 2011

EZEKIEL ADRIC JOHN BARBIERI
Born to Gregory and Cara Barbieri
Aug. 8, 2011

ALEXIS JANE MUMAW
Born to James and Jodi Mumaw
Aug. 12, 2011

SHADOW ELIJA RIVERA
Born to Meagan and Christopher Rivera
Aug. 12, 2011

BROOKLYNN SKYE ENTRIKIN
Born to James and Tanya Entrikin
Aug. 10, 2011

LILYANNA ELIZABETH HORTON
Born to Ann and Justin Horton
May 15, 2011

ALEXANDER WILLIAM EPPS
Born to Jason and Rachel Epps
Aug. 31, 2011

KEVIN SCOTT COLLINS
Born to Robert and Brittany Collins
Aug. 31, 2011

HAZEL ROSE SEDELMAIER
Born to Justin and Amber Sedelmaier
Sept. 1, 2011

DEREK JAMES YOURELL
Born to James and Sarah Yourell
Aug. 29, 2011

NOAH RYAN ZARAGOZA
Born to David and Alexis Zaragoza
Aug. 9, 2011

SOFIA EIERMAN
Born to Kevin and Macarena Eierman
Aug. 05, 2011

ABIGAIL RACHELLE DENIS MYERS
Born to Randall and Ashley Myers
Aug. 5, 2011

DELANIE ALEXIS LANIER
Born to John Lanier and Megan Davis
July 20, 2011

TIMOTHY JAMES CABELIN
Born to Zues and Joy Cabelin
July 27, 2011

SJA CORNER

The new wills process; steps to take

BY 1ST LT. R. H. CLARKE

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

It's common knowledge that the legal assistance office provides free will preparation services. However, it has become increasingly apparent that what is lesser known are the steps that a Marine needs to take to actually obtain one through the legal assistance office. Contrary to popular belief, a will is not an instrument that can be properly drawn and executed in a five minute span, only two days before a deployment. There are no 'instant wills.'

A will is a powerful legal document controlling the disposition of assets and property upon death. It must be drafted and executed in a way that is in accordance with both the persons wishes and the law of the state governing the document. All of this takes time and effort on two ends: that of the legal assistance office and by the Marine seeking the services of the legal assistance office. To facilitate all of this, a wills policy and procedure has been developed and implemented. In brief, there are three steps to the procedure: the worksheet, the brief and the execution.

One seeking to create a will must first stop by the legal assistance office, building 1514, to pick

a will worksheet. At this time, they need to register for either the next will briefing or any subsequent will brief. The individual must bring their will worksheet to the brief. Don't be misled, the worksheet alone is not a will and has no legal significance in itself.

The will briefings take place Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in that same building and typically run between 40 to 45 minutes. During the brief, the individual will complete their worksheet to the best of their abilities. Any questions or concerns will be answered at that time by either an attorney or one of the legal assistance clerks. Upon having completed the worksheet and having it reviewed by either an attorney or clerk, the individual will then turn in the worksheet to one of the legal assistance clerks. The office will use this worksheet to then draft the will.

After having turned in the completed worksheet but prior to leaving the brief, the clerk will instruct the individual the date they are to call and confirm their attendance for the execution of the will. The office will not begin drafting the will until the individual has called to confirm that they will be attending the execution. Failure to do so will result in

having their worksheet shredded and requiring the individual to begin the process again. The individual must call and confirm by the Friday immediately following the brief. The execution of the will takes place approximately 10 days later, the Friday of the following week.

The process can again be summarized thusly: Pick up a worksheet and ascertain the date of the next briefing, attend the briefing with the worksheet, complete and turn in the worksheet at the conclusion of the briefing, call within 3 days to confirm your attendance for the execution and attend the execution, 10 days later, on the Friday of the next week.

It is important to note that many Marines do not need wills. It is the responsibility of the Marine to determine if it is appropriate or necessary to take these steps to create such a document. Such a determination is based on the Marines' individual circumstances. Do this well in advance of any upcoming deployments or other foreseeable personal life events which might affect such a need. We welcome the opportunity to assist you in this matter. If you have any additional questions you can contact the legal assistance office at 830-6111.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

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VOLARE	WET	CLOT
LIRA	ENCINO	
ERASE	DECREASED	
DECAF	OLLAS	PEA
NIECE	PLANT	EAT
AIDED	TENTIS	DATE

LOOKING for local entertainment?

See page B2 for our **LIBERTY CALL** section

WeekINPhotos

9/11 around the Corps



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS GINO A. FLORES

Cpl. Lorenzo Ruiz [right] and Sgt. Shatia Felder salute every American flag raised on Sept. 11, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. They flew 370 flags for troops who submitted requests for signed certificates by Commanding General Maj. Gen. John A. Toolan of certified flown flag in recognition of 9/11. Ruiz and Felder are both radio operators for Regional Command Southwest, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Neil F. Murphy, Jr. lays a white rose at the base of a recovered piece of the World Trade Center buildings turned into a memorial, Sept. 9. Marines and sailors from USS New York joined other locally stationed troops, first responders and veterans for a ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

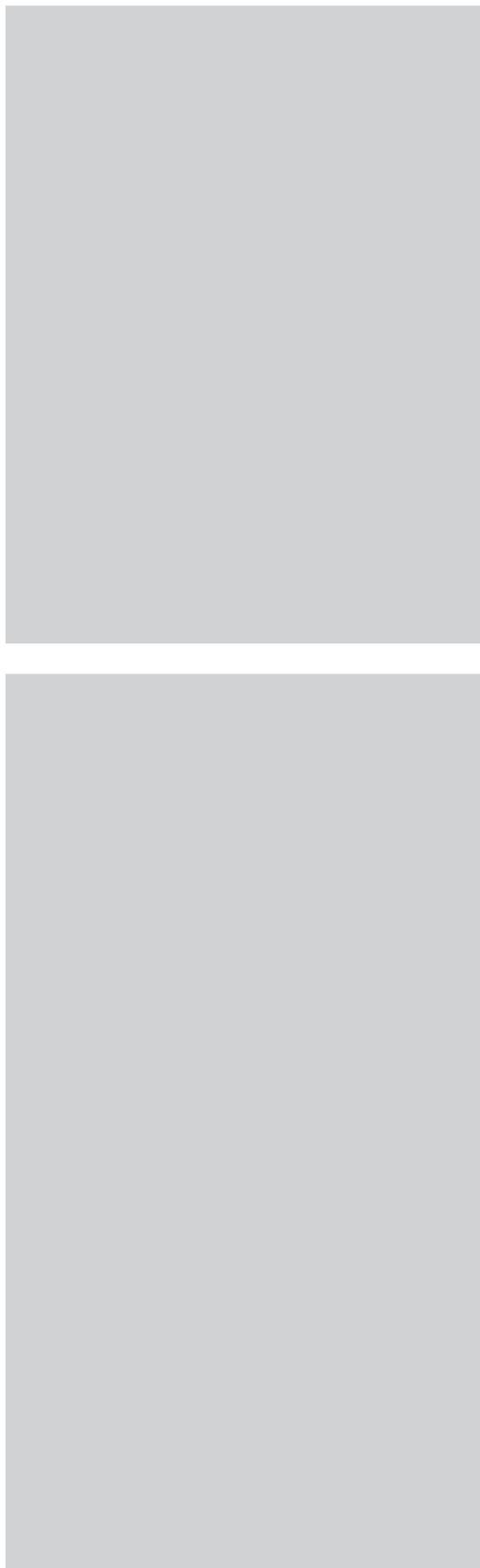
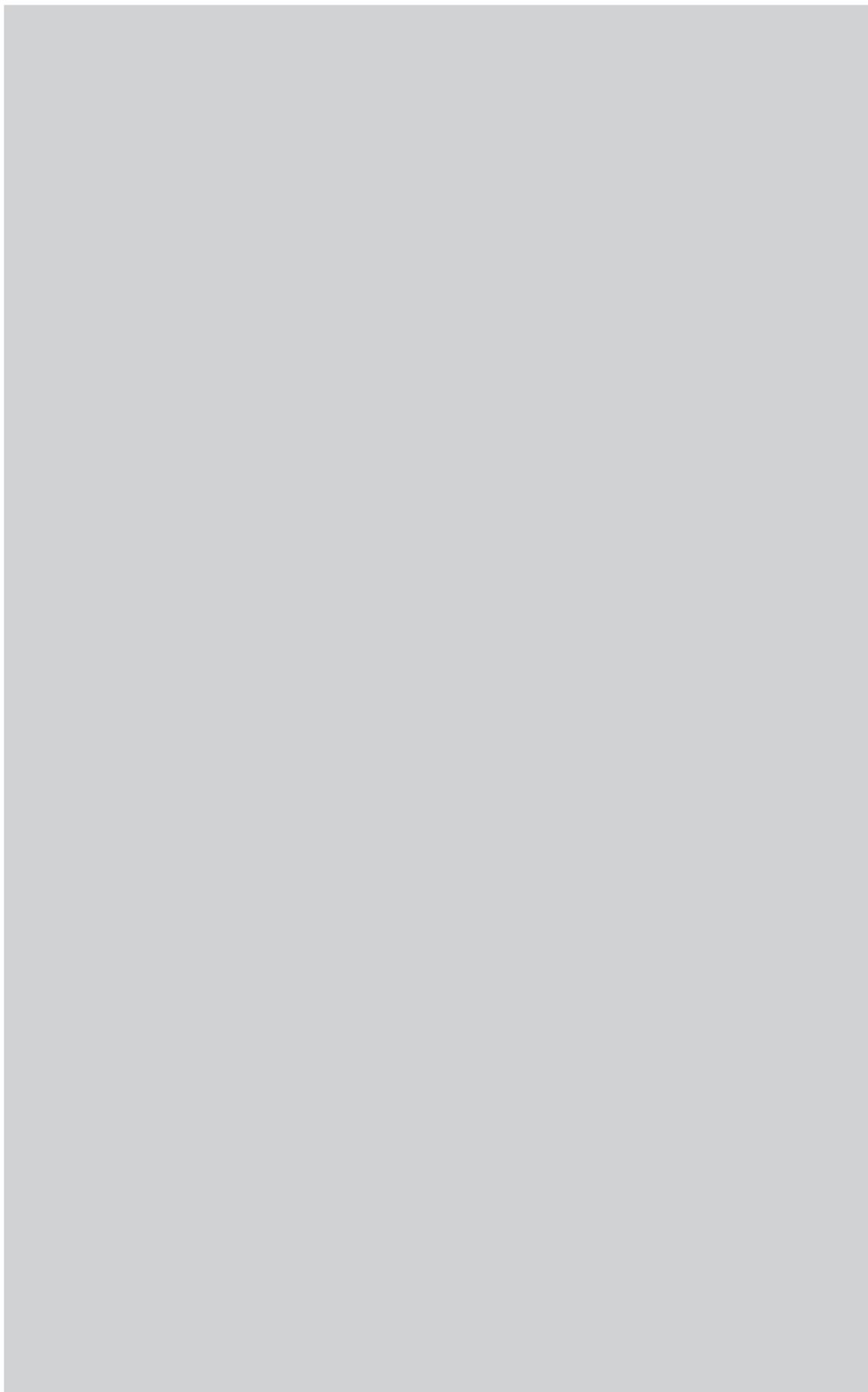


SGT. RANDALL A. CLINTON



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CHAD J. MCNEELEY

A Marine prepares to lay a wreath at the Pentagon 9/11 observance ceremony honoring the 184 victims killed when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon during a terrorist hijacking 10 years ago.



MEDAL, from A1

they thought was right," the president said.

On two solo trips into the ambush area, Meyer repeatedly got out of the humvee to help Afghan troops, many wounded, inside the vehicle and back to safety.

"A third time they went back, insurgents running right up to the front of the humvee, Dakota fighting them off," Obama said.

They then headed back on the fourth trip with Meyer wounded in the arm and the vehicle riddled with bullets and shrapnel.

"Dakota later confessed, 'I didn't think I was going to die, I knew I was.' But still, they pushed on, finding the wounded [and] delivering them to safety," Obama said.

On the fifth trip, the two Marines drove through fire "that seemed to come from every window, every doorway, every alley," he said.

Finally, the two reached the four Americans who had been surrounded.

"Dakota jumped out and he ran toward them, drawing all those enemy guns toward himself; bullets kicking up the dirt all around him," Obama said.

Meyer and others who had joined him picked up the fallen Marines and, "through



PETE SOUZA

President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Dakota Meyer during a ceremony in the White House in Washington, D.C., Thursday.

all those bullets, all the smoke, all the chaos, carried them out one by one, because as Dakota says, that's what you do for a brother," the commander in chief said.

"Dakota says he'll accept this medal in their name," the president said. Their names are Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson, Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class James Layton and wounded U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook."

Obama said while he knows Meyer has thought of himself as a failure because some of his teammates didn't come home, "as your commander in chief, and on behalf of everyone here

today and all Americans, I want you to know it's quite the opposite."

"Because of your honor, 36 men are alive today," the president said. "Because of your courage, four fallen American heroes came home, and in the words of James Layton's mom, [their families] could lay their sons to rest with dignity."

Meyer, who is no longer on active duty, is the 298th Marine ever to have received the medal, created during the Civil War. The nation's highest military honor.

Meyer is the third living service member to receive the Medal of Honor for actions during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

9/11, from A1

future of peace," the president said.

America holds on to its freedoms, Obama said, acknowledging that fierce debates have taken place about the balance between security and civil liberties.

"But it is precisely the rigor of these debates, and our ability to resolve them in a way that honors our values, that is a measure of our strength," he said. "Meanwhile, our open markets still provide innovators with the chance to create, our citizens are still free to speak their minds, and our souls are still enriched in our churches and temples, our synagogues and mosques."

America has also not succumbed to suspicion and mistrust, the president said, evoking the words of his predecessor. "After 9/11, President Bush made clear what we reaffirm today: the United States will never wage war against Islam or any religion," Obama said.

In the wake of 9/11, America has arisen from the canvas and demonstrated once again its resilience, the president told the Kennedy Center audience. "The Pentagon is repaired, and filled with patriots working

in common purpose," he said. "Shanksville is the scene of friendships forged between residents of that town and families who lost loved ones there. New York remains a vibrant capital of the arts and industry, fashion and commerce.

"Where the World Trade Center once stood, 'the sun glistens off a new tower that reaches toward the sky,' he continued. "Our people still work in skyscrapers. Our stadiums are filled with fans, and our parks full of children playing ball. Our airports hum with travel, and our buses and subways take millions where they need to go. Families sit down to Sunday dinner, and students prepare for school. This land pulses with the optimism of those who set out for distant shores, and the courage of those who died for human freedom."

America has met the test, and those who follow will appreciate the courage, commitment and resilience of Americans of this era, the president said. He stressed the word "united" when he said, "Nothing can break the will of a truly United States of America."

Those of the future will remember and understand that the people of the

United States "have overcome slavery and Civil War, bread lines and fascism, recession and riots, communism and, yes, terrorism," he said. "They will be reminded that we are not perfect, but our democracy is durable, and that democracy, reflecting as it does, the imperfections of man also gives us the opportunity to perfect our union.

"That is what we honor on days of national commemoration, those aspects of the American experience that are enduring, and the determination to move forward as one people," he said.

That determination to move forward is the real legacy of 9/11, the president told the audience. "It will be said of us that we kept that faith — that we took a painful blow, and emerged stronger," he said.

The president closed with a call that echoed President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "With a just God as our guide, let us honor those who have been lost. Let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals that define our nation, and let us look to the future with hearts full of hope. May God bless the memory of those we lost, and may God bless the United States of America."

ADVERTISEMENT

Combat Center Remembers 9/11



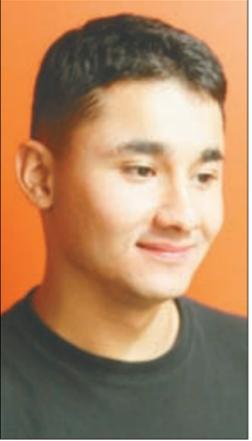
Name: Kelley Coe
Billet/Unit: Special Events Manager, Marine Corps Community Services
Hometown: Brooks, Ga.
What were you doing when you heard about the attacks on 9/11?: "I was at work in Memphis, Tenn. We turned the TV on and watched in shock as the second plane hit the tower. I called my daddy who worked at Delta Airlines in Atlanta. They were on lock down in their building and could not leave. I was more

afraid for him because he was at an airport. He told me there were other planes that had dropped off the radar. Those ended up being the two planes that went down in Pennsylvania and into the Pentagon."
What impact/effect did it have on you?: "The attacks made me realize that as a country we can be vulnerable on our own soil. I was also very proud of the way our country bonded together with such pride and patriotism."



Name: Pvt. Justin Parks
Billet/Unit: Combat marksmanship trainer, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: St. Francis, Minn.
What were you doing on Sept. 11, 2001?: "I was just getting on the bus for school when my mom ran out and told me. I was in 6th grade, and didn't know the significance of the World

Trade Center or the severity of it until they hit the Pentagon. School was put on hold that day and we watched the news."
What impact/effect did it have on you?: "When I joined the Marine Corps, my train of thought was, 'When you step in our house and take a swing, do you really expect us to do nothing? You don't mess with America.'"



Name: Lance Cpl. Richard E. Galvez
Billet/Unit: Embarkation and Logistics Specialist, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.
What were you doing on Sept. 11, 2001?: "I was in school when the principal announced what happened. We had a moment of silence and returned to our regular day. I was only 10-years-old so I didn't really understand what was going on. My mom came to pick

me up. We tried to leave the city, but found it wasn't possible. So we went to the Williamsburg Bridge to see it for ourselves. Traffic was stopped, a countless number of people were walking across the bridge toward us, away from the towers and the biggest cloud of smoke I had ever seen."
What impact/effect did it have on you?: "It was surreal. It didn't seem like it was really possible. I had never seen so many people in such a panic."



Name: Richard Hardman
Billet/Unit: Logistics Chief, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Massillon, Ohio
What were you doing when you heard about the attacks on 9/11?: "I was in Shadow Mountain housing waiting on my Transportation Management Office shipment watching television as the events unfolded."
What impact/effect

did it have on you?: "I remember the sickening feeling I had as I watched the second plane hit and the increased security measures the base immediately implemented. I will never forget the impact the deployments and casualties had on the Marines, families, and units. I knew a way of life and some of the freedoms we used to take for granted are gone forever."



Football Jamboree; teams meet on the gridiron, page B3

HQBN

Back-to-school

Adopt-a-School program



Lance Cpl. Michael Baker, a postal clerk in Headquarters Battalion teaches a student from Joshua Tree Elementary how to use the cooperative walking boards to walk across the school basketball court as a team.



Sgt. Jacqueline Vilches, an administration chief in HQBN leads a stretching exercise in one of Joshua Tree Elementary School's physical education classes Wednesday.

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu
Combat Correspondent

Marines with the Combat Center's Headquarters Battalion finally got a recess day Wednesday when they went back to school to play and interact with the children of Joshua Tree Elementary School.

HQBN is the first of several units aboard the installation to volunteer at Joshua Tree Elementary School as part of the Adopt-a-School program.

The program connects the Combat Center with schools in the surrounding area. The program also allows Marines to give back to their community.

"We're all one big community here in the Morongo Basin," said Kristina Becker, the community relations officer at the Combat Center. "The program allows Marines to go out and interact with the local community and the young children in the area."

The Marines went to Joshua Tree to help the children with sports and play with them during the school's recess periods.

"I looked forward to showing the kids how to play football, because that's what I'm good at," said Lance Cpl. Michael Baker, a postal clerk in HQBN.

The elementary school children spend their daily 15-minute recesses and 10-minute breaks before lunch outside in the school's playground area. There, the Marines play with the kids twice a month and bring a little more structure into the kid's play time.

Both the Marines and children enjoyed their time together. They played games of football, basketball and dodgeball, as well as other playground activities.

The Marines got the chance to

See HQBN, B4



School children from Joshua Tree Elementary School pose for the camera Wednesday as Marines from HQBN came to their recess period. Lance Cpl. Michael Baker prepares the kids for a game of flag football in the school's playground area Wednesday.

MCAGCC Varsity Basketball competes against Air Force

MASTER GUNNERY SGT. LANCE JONES,

TACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE CONTROL GROUP

The installation's MCAGCC Varsity Basketball Team traveled to Edwards Air Force Base, Edwards, Calif., to battle with their Air Force counterparts Saturday. MCAGCC donned their war fighter gear and com-

menced to battle Edwards AFB in an inter-service shoot out. In the first half, the Edwards AFB basketball team pulled ahead with a 20-point lead. The Marines quickly called a time out and decided they must destroy the opponent with our Corps' values on the hardwood. MCAGCC closed the lead by eight points at the half.

After getting a frag order from the coach, MCAGCC launched an artillery attack of three point shots to come within one point. With one minute left, the fierce warriors of MCAGCC tied the game and sent the contest into overtime. The Marines took the battle and destroyed the opponent by seven points. The final score was 98-89.

In the second game,

MCAGCC took the floor against Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nev. The game was a seesaw in the first half. Both teams fought tooth and nail, neither team surrendering or giving ground. After a pep talk by the coach, MCAGCC came out with guns blazing, but fell short. Nellis AFB went ahead and opened up a 17-point lead. MCAGCC honoring the war fighter code, never

gave up and closed the lead to 81-88 before time expired.

The MCAGCC Varsity Basketball Team represented the Combat Center well, with the assistance of Marine Corps Community Services Sports Department. MCAGCC will be in action again at Edwards AFB September 24 against Vandenburg and Edwards AFB.

Golf lessons with PGA pro



PFC. ALI AZIMI



PFC. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Todd A. Wade, a golf course professional for Marine Corps Community Services, instructs a group of women during the Ladies Golf School, Sept. 14, at the Desert Winds Golf Course. Wade, a class A Professional Golf Association professional, instructs 6-week golf courses for men, women and children at the golf course. "A bad day on the course is better than a good day at work," Wade said.

[Left] Women in a golf class practice their putting at the Desert Winds Golf Course Sept. 14.

VFW Post kept running due to Combat Center sailors

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sailors with the 23rd Dental Company woke up early Saturday morning to volunteer their time to help clean up the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9431, in Yucca Valley, as part of their "Adopt-a-Vet Program."

The volunteers de-weeded the yard, chopped down some bush weeds, and repainted the post mail box.

The sailors had originally started their volunteer work with the VFW post a couple

of months ago and came back Saturday to continue their work.

"They are 'saving our bacon' because our healthiest [member of the post] just came out of the hospital where they had to take out his gallbladder," said Ney Keyes, the quartermaster for the post. "We just have no one to do this for us."

"When we did the initial cleaning, all the grass was up to our waists, so we cleaned the inside and outside," said Senior Chief Kevin Edwards, the senior enlisted leader. "We had

cleared out about 30 to 40 bags of weeds from the first time there."

The hard work of the sailors provided a bigger service for the post than just improving their yard's appearance.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate it, we were two steps away from the fire marshal closing us down," Keyes said.

Before the sailors had cleaned the yard the fire marshal was going to close the post down due to the tall

See VFW, B4



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Dental and hospital corpsmen with the Combat Center dispose of weeds at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9431 yard Saturday to prevent fire safety hazards.



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.
 Sunday: Football coverage, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Monday: Monday night football coverage, 4 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
 Thursday: Social Hour, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m.
 Monday: Monday Night Football, 4 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
 Wednesday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.
 Thursday: Social Hour, 7 to 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Social Hour, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., DJ 8 to 11 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.
 Tuesday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.
 Thursday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 Monday: Steak night, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday: Mongolian Barbecue, 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

The Annual Campout with Cracker & Camper Van Beethoven
 A popular, annual camping/music festival
 When: 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16 and 17
 Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
 For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Nunsense, A-Men!

The latest production of the Nunsense series has a hilarious twist; all the nuns are played by men.
 When: 7 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday
 Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
 For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>

Morongo Valley's Fiesta Days

A three-day festival with a Battle of the Bands, the World's Shortest Parade, Firefighters Breakfast, Best Chili Competition and a community fair with vendors and family activities.
 When: Battle of the Bands, Friday 6 to 10 p.m., other events throughout Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.
 Where: Covington Park in Morongo Valley
 For more information and directions, visit www.mvfiestadays.com.

Lower Desert

Santana

Rolling Stone ranks Carlos Santana, a 10 time Grammy winner, as one of their top 100 greatest guitarists.
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Don Rickles

The famous comedian performs his stand up
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15
 Where: Agua Caliente
 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Kenny G

Will perform his mellow sax music
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Chicago

The rock legends perform their hits
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Sept. 16

6 p.m. – Crazy, Stupid, Love, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. – Cowboys and Aliens, Rated PG-13
 Midnight – The Change Up, Rated R

Saturday, Sept. 17

11 p.m. – **Free Matinee** Mars Needs Moms, Rated PG
 2 p.m. – Smurfs, Rated PG
 6 p.m. – Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. – Captain America, Rated PG-13
 Midnight – Friends with Benefits, Rated R

Sunday, Sept. 18

2 p.m. – Spy Kids 4, Rated PG
 6 p.m. – Final Destination 5, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. – 30 Minutes or Less, Rated R

Monday, Sept. 19

7 p.m. – The Change Up, Rated R

Tuesday, Sept. 20

7 p.m. – Crazy, Stupid, Love, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, Sept. 21

7 p.m. – Captain America, Rated PG-13

Thursday, Sept. 22

7 p.m. – Friends with Benefits, Rated R

Zoe Saldana carves a path of preposterous destruction

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

'Colombiana'

Starring Zoe Saldana
 Rated PG-13

Zoe Saldana may be a star on the rise, but this hackneyed, hyperactive action thriller, alas, takes her down a notch.

The beautiful, exotic-looking actress, of Dominican/Puerto Rican descent, steadily worked her way up the Hollywood ladder in a variety of roles before making a major mainstream impression as the noble, blue-skinned female princess in "Avatar" in 2009.

She also shows a lot of skin in "Colombiana," but this time it's her natural shade, displayed in a variety of skimpy, body-hugging outfits to better reveal her buff arms, sexy, super-toned legs and slender, sculpted curves.

Saldana's character is the now-adult version of the little girl, Cataleya, we meet in the movie's opening scenes, a wide-eyed innocent who witnesses the execution of her parents at the hands of a brutal Colombian crime boss.

Yes, a better name for her character might have been Colombiana, to go with the title of the movie. Or maybe call the movie "Cataleya," to go with her name.

The word "Colombiana" is Spanish and refers to a woman from Colombia in South America, which is where an orchid called the cattleya grows. I know that because I looked it up, which is a lot of work to connect the title of a movie to its meaning, and to a character who's named something else.

And that's just the start of the problems with "Colombiana." It piles on so many ludicrous events, puzzling plot points and fake South American accents that it quickly loses any chance it might have had otherwise to become a halfway decent pulp mix of beauty, bullets and bad guys.

Cataleya's plan to take down the men who mur-



COURTESY PHOTO

After witnessing the brutal murder of her parents by a Colombian crime boss, Cataleya, played by Zoe Saldana, grows up and goes on a revenge vendetta.

dered her parents requires an absurdly long, unnecessarily complicated and ridiculously roundabout route to get the job done. And though she's supposed to be the movie's "heroine," audiences may sour a bit on her crusade when she blackmails an honest police chief and threatens to murder his innocent family.

The movie builds to an explosive crescendo that, ironically, brings on one of its biggest hoots. As Cataleya sprays a slow-mo hail of bullets from a balcony in a mansion swarming with her enemies, it comes close to a parody of Al Pacino's iconic, over-the-top "Say hello to my little friend" scene from "Scarface."

And if you're going to have a climactic, hand-to-hand, life-or-death battle in a bathroom, and one of the characters very conspicuously picks up a pair of toothbrushes...for goodness sakes, do something with them!

The final scene shows Cataleya moving on. Here's hoping the talented Saldana does likewise, to another movie that shows her as something more than a clichéd, emotionally dented bit of eye candy carving a preposterous path of destruction.



COURTESY PHOTO

The bittered Cataleya, played by Zoe Saldana, seeks revenge for her parents' death, using any means necessary, including a AT-4 rocketlauncher to blow her enemies away.



COURTESY PHOTO

The young Cataleya has a bonding scene with her father before he is brutally slain by a Colombian crime boss.

Fight Club 29 wins again



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

[From left] Michael Smith, Dahlen Wilson, coach Mark Geletko, Mario Martinez, Edmund Cretens and Alex Hempstead, members of Fight Club 29 won three gold medals and three silver medals at the Long Beach Grappling Experience Invitational Sept. 10. The team only brought six fighters to the tournament, all of them left the tournament as medalists. The fight club is slated to compete next in an armed forces grappling tournament at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Oct. 22.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Tom Eaton
Hometown: Orange City, Iowa

Achievement: Eaton won a silver medal in the 185 pound weight bracket in the intermediate division in the Long Beach Grappling Experience Invitational Sept. 10. Eaton also won seven matches in the tournament that earned him an absolute gold medal in the intermediate division. The absolute gold medal is equivalent to a most valuable player medal in the tournament.

Eaton's advice on how to be an MVP: "You have to work hard in every single moment that you train. That hard work will transpire in the competitions and that will be the difference."

How did you get in to Mixed Martial Arts?: "I grew up wrestling and I did a lot of wrestling in college. After college, I coached wrestling for a year. When I got to the Combat Center, I was looking for a place to train, I talked to coach and he welcomed me with open arms."



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Marines clash on the gridiron



PFC. ALI AZIMI

Guillermo R. Manzo, an ammunition technician with the Center Magazine Area, attempts to evade a tackle by the opposing team in the Commanding General's Intramural Football Jamboree at Felix Field Wednesday.

HQBN, from B1

interact with children of all grades through the elementary school. As each grade cycled in and out of their recess time, the Marines

were in the school's recess area awaiting the next wave of children to play with.

Baker, a Walstonburg, N.C. native said, "It's hard to keep up with some of these kids. They just have

so much energy."

The Marines with HQBN are scheduled to go back to Joshua Tree and play with the children Sept. 28. In the following months, Marines from

Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and the Combat Center Band will also volunteer their time at Joshua Tree Elementary.



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Cpl. Joseph Bishop [right], an ammunition chief and volunteer from Headquarters Battalion, shows the children of Joshua Tree Elementary School the finer points of swinging at the school's playground Wednesday. The Marines were there as part of the Adopt-a-School program where the unit could interact with schools in the local community.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Sailors with 23rd Dental Co., pack the weeds to be properly disposed after raking and de-weeding the yard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9431 Saturday. The VFW was nearly shutdown by the Fire Marshal due to the weeds presenting a fire hazard.

VFW, from B1

weeds which were creating a fire hazard.

The volunteer work moved quickly for the sailors with a large active duty staff of dental and hospital corpsmen providing help.

"Our active duty staff is 42 people and we usually have 10 for every trip. That is about one fourth of all the

sailors," Edwards said. "[It is] hard to get up early on a Saturday to do yard work but the goal is to [help local veterans and have them] pass us onto the next [veteran who needs help] in the area."

With the aid of Keyes and other veterans involved with the VFW hall, the dental and hospital staff will continue to help the retired veterans in the area.