

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGOC TWENTYNINE PALMS

September 23, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 37

Corps celebrates 60 years of mountain training

LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center celebrated its 60th year as a Marine Corps installation yesterday with the dedication of a museum filled with historical gear, stories from years gone by and photos of the facility's evolution.

The MCMWTC has been the Corps' premiere high-altitude and cold-weather training center for decades, keeping Marines prepared for any battlefield they may face.

In 1951, the installation was opened as a direct result of the vast number of casualties the Corps suffered during the Korean War, particularly at Chosin Reservoir. The majority of the Marines in the war lost their lives because of insufficient cold-weather gear and environmental knowledge.

The center first opened as a location to host predeployment exercises for troops going to Korea, much like the modern-day Enhanced Mojave Viper training Marines complete before

deploying to Afghanistan.

At MCMWTC, Marines learn survival techniques such as climbing, snow mobility and building shelters.

Courses at MCMWTC also combine training for encountering improvised explosive devices and modern combat operations to keep Marines' abilities fine-tuned to the threats they will most likely encounter in current combat zones.

The center trains nearly 16,000 Marines, other service members and international forces per year.

Then



OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS PHOTO

Now



CPL. G.T. WALKER

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center first opened its doors 60 years ago, and while the courses have evolved to keep up with the times, it appears as though the Marines who cycle through every year have only changed their uniforms.

Tanks on track

[Right] A caution sign on Del Valle Rd. warns drivers to keep on the lookout for some rather unusual traffic at the Combat Center.

[Below] An M1A1 Abrams tank rolls across the Combat Center Sept. 19. The tankers are putting in their driving hours to become qualified as a driver in their crew. The driver is only one billet in the four-man crew, the others being the loader, gunner and crew commander.



PHOTOS BY PFC. ALI AZIMI

Roadshow comes to Combat Center

■ MMOA reps here
to assist officers
advance careers

LANCE CPL. D. J. WU
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center officers will soon have the opportunity to speak with their respective field monitors as part of the Manpower Management Officer Assignments Roadshow Oct. 18 and 19.

The MMOA Roadshow is a chance for officers to attend professional military education and understand what they need to do to progress in their job field.

The roadshow will provide guidance on assignment policies, procedures, promotions and retention information and career patterns. The roadshow also provides officers with the opportunity to speak one on one with their occupational field monitors regarding their career and potential future assignments as well as professional development and education.

The MMOA command visit annual roadshow travels to bases across the Marine Corps to meet with Marines to talk about important topics such as command screenings, promotions and unit management.

The Officer Assignment branch of Manpower and Reserve Affairs enacts Marine Corps policy to classify and counsel active duty officers of the Marine Corps by retaining only the most qualified Marines.

The MMOA brief for company and field grade officers is scheduled Oct. 18 at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel and interviews with respective monitors will be located in the Mesa Room of the Officers' Club.

All officers are highly encouraged to attend.

Marines of 'America's Battalion' prepare for Afghan battlefield

CPL. REECE LODDER
3RD BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT

Storming through the desert on helicopters and tracked vehicles, the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, practiced counterinsurgency operations during Clear, Hold, Build-2 exercise at Range 210 on the Combat Center, from Aug. 14 to 19.

Greeted by a bronze sunrise, infantrymen with India, Kilo and Lima companies took turns loading up and departing their combat outpost. Though the objective wasn't far, their movement was painstakingly slow. Marred by enemy anti-air assets, the helos, tracked vehicles and supporting tanks navigated the route and destroyed aggressors.

Prosecuting these enemy targets enabled the Marines to set the battlefield's condition before moving onto it, 1st Lt. William Peters, the executive officer for Company K, 3/3, said.

Hours later, they escaped the confines of metal to begin their work. Squads of dusty infantrymen bounded through the village flanked by M1A1 Abrams tanks. Dodging simulated explosions, they rooted out the enemy by shooting green upper-

body silhouettes posted in buildings and window frames.

Lance Cpl. Joshua Leventhal, a team leader with Co. K, 3/3, said the range was a reality check needed before deployment.

"We're faced with targets, but they aren't notional any more," Leventhal, 22, from Orlando, said. "If we're not accurate, they aren't going down. In Afghanistan, accuracy over volume is a lifesaver."

"The deployment is going to be long and hard. We won't get the job done overnight, but our work will pave the way for future battalions."

— Lance Cpl. Joshua Leventhal

Leventhal is itching to leave on his second deployment. For seven months, his seniority will demand both maturity and proficiency.

"I'm directing my team now, instead of only being a trigger-puller," Leventhal said. "My Marines are looking to me, as their leader, to make the right call. In training, the alternative can be corrected easily. In combat, you can't take it back."

The village quieted upon completion of the Marines' attack. The sky's blue tones shifted back to orange, and then to the black of night.

But the fight wasn't over. From their defensive position, mortarmen with Weapons

See CHB-2, A4

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Chic Robert Evans
Hometown: Twentynine Palms, Calif.
Unit: Maintenance Department, Marine Corps Community Services
Job title: Maintenance helper
Job duties: Assists maintenance workers with various maintenance projects throughout all MCCS facilities.
What do you like most about your job? "I like to help with the lights and the plumbing. I love working for America's finest [Marines]. If I could join any service, it would be the Marine Corps."
How long have you worked here? "I've been working for MCCS for more than 30 years, since before it was MCCS, when it was MWR [Morale, Welfare and Recreation]."



This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post dated Sept. 29, 1959, Vol. 3, No. 39

11TH MARINES TRAIN HERE, COMPLETE MISSION FRIDAY

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

An artillery support unit of the 1st Marine Division, the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, are rounding out a ten-day firing exercise on the Base training grounds.

"The men get more out of the two weeks training they receive here at the Palms than they do in six months of school without firing." This was the opinion voiced by the Executive Officer of the Battalion's Headquarters Battery, Major M. A. Rainer.

The training, which concludes this Friday, featured basic gunnery and battery fire missions to be climaxed with a two day battalion firing exercise. The 1st 155mm Gun Battery and the 8" Howitzer Battery (SP) of the Force Artillery Group, will supply reinforcement fire on the two day problem.

Observing the final phase of the training exercise will be the Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division, Major General E. W. Snedeker and the Commanding Officer of the 11th Marines, Colonel E. J. Rowse.

In addition to artillery training, the Leathernecks were acquainted with the Marine concept of vertical envelopment (1). The four Batteries were airlifted in HR2S (2) helicopters from HMR-462 (3), MCAF, Santa Ana, California. The men and weapons were dispersed to their respective firing areas where they spent the major portion of the day firing the 4.2 mortar (4).

Another unit participating in the exercise is the 3rd Light Support Company of the 1st Service Battalion. This unit takes care of the "bullet and beans" requirement of the battalion, as well as communications and logistical support.

The Support Company maintained a field shower unit with generator which supplied the hot water during the problem. Their motor transport section hauled water continually from the main area of the Base and performed all field maintenance on the Battalion's equipment.

Before returning to Camp Pendleton the Battalion will conduct a 10 mile march, required by the Division. This march will be held at night introducing the Leathernecks to the unfamiliar desert terrain characteristics of this area.

Unhindered by the chief desert characteristic of flying sand, the majority of the Camp Pendleton Marines appeared to agree that the weather, itself, has been good for training.

While in bivouac the artillerymen were served tow hot meals daily with the perennial "C" rations (5) sufficing as the noon meal. Last weekend cooks banded together and came up with an old fashioned bar-b-que for all hands.

(1) A vertical envelopment is a tactical maneuver in which troops, either air-dropped or air-landed, attack the rear and flanks of a force, in effect cutting off or encircling the force.

(2) The Sikorsky HR2S-1 helicopter was redesignated as CH-37C in 1962.

(3) HMR-462, Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron (Medium) was redesignated as HMH-462 in the mid-1960s and is now located at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

(4) The M30 4.2 mortar was known as the "Goon Gun."

(5) Individual canned, pre-cooked or prepared rations intended to be issued to the military when fresh food (A-ration) or packaged unprepared food (B-ration) was not available. C-rations were replaced with the Meal, Ready-to-Eat in the early 1980s.

Hot Topics

SOUNDS OF FREEDOM

The fourth annual Sounds of Freedom concert will be held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field tomorrow 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.

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.

DIABETES CLASS AT HOSPITAL

The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital will be offering a Diabetes Self Management Education Program class Sept. 28 in the facility's classroom 5, from 8 a.m. to noon. Please bring your glucometer. With respect to the instructors and those attending this program, attendance of children is not encouraged. For more information please call 830-2175. Topics to be covered will include introduction to diabetes; prevention of chronic complications; sick day management; medications; and the use of the glucometer.



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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					7	5		

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

GOOD DE-EDS

[Puzzle solutions on A]

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69					70						71	

- ACROSS
1. Navy diver
 5. Baber chair attachment net
 10. Shoelace tip
 14. Therefore, to Descartes
 15. Pamphleteers of 1776
 16. Sandusky's lake
 17. MINNIE
 20. "___ it or lose it"
 21. Animal that bugles
 22. ___ Locks (Great Lakes passage)
 23. "Two Spades," e.g.
 24. "Stormy" bird
 26. Negotiations result, often
 28. Man of Oman
 30. ___ carotene
 31. Stand lookout for, perhaps
 34. French Riviera city
 36. Statuette that's over 90% tin
 40. MIDDIE
 43. Letter after eta
 44. Stand-up's arsenal
 45. Anthropologist Margaret
 46. Tippy-top
 48. Kett of old funnies
 50. ___ tank (disposal system)
 53. Burger huckster ___ McDonald
 57. Actress Meyers
 58. Silly Putty holder
 60. Sportscaster McCarver
 61. Any of 13 popes
 62. MAXIE
 66. Actress McClurg
 67. Past one's prime
 68. Actress Heche
 69. Need a bath badly
 70. Habits
 71. Unwanted flora
 7. ___ Tin Tin
 8. Vending machine inserts
 9. Mescaline source
 10. Corp.'s top dog
 11. Caribbean getaway
 12. Drop in on
 13. Down-at-the-heel
 18. Rural road sign picture
 19. Jazzman "Jelly Roll"
 25. Machine gun noise
 27. Box camera inventor
 29. Pig out
 30. Hosiery hue
 31. Hill builder
 32. Cry to Cratchit
 33. Eden evictee
 35. Johnny Reb's initials
 37. Cedar Rapids campus
 38. Attorney's org.
 39. Roulette play
 41. More frilly
 42. Stripper's closetful
 47. Hanna-Barbera horse Quick Draw
 49. Mausoleum
 50. Cavalryman's sidearm
 51. Chip away at
 52. Playful sprite
 54. Unescorted
 55. Sierra ___
 56. Like some ball parks
 59. Words in many disco names
 60. Camper's shelter
 63. Cartoon squeal
 64. Fall from grace
 65. Word with blue or lemon.
- DOWN
1. Clinch, as a victory
 2. Clear from the board
 3. Shoelace tip
 4. Kit and caboodle
 5. Hammer's creator
 6. To-do list

OBSERVATION POST

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Dimly lit by the neon glow of chem lights, Lance Cpl. Jared Honeyman and his fellow Marines escape from their day into a sanctuary of Spades.

T KILLING

M E



CPL. REECE LODDER

Lance Cpl. Jared Honeyman [left] escapes the day's trials with a game of Spades with friends following a day of pre-deployment training at the Combat Center, Sept. 3.

By Cpl. Reece Lodder

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

Seated in his tent on a box of meals, ready-to-eat, he draws a deck of cards from the cargo pocket of his utility trousers. He deals cards out to three friends seated around him, and in return, receives an equal number of sarcastic comments. A balmy desert heat permeates the air, ignoring the fact the sun has long since disappeared below the horizon.

Honeyman's days are long and often boring. He rotates through a tedious cycle of standing post, picking up trash and practicing infantry skills. Playing Spades is his escape from the grind of grunt life.

"After training and working in the heat all day, it's a good mental break from the stress and monotony of being here," Honeyman said. "Everything we're doing has a purpose, but there is always down time. Sleeping gets old."

Though Honeyman sits among infantrymen, he isn't one. He's an administrative specialist-turned-grunt with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Guard Force Platoon. Since he's a POG — the grunts' affectionate name for "personnel other than grunts" — there's a gap he needs to bridge. By opening conversation over Spades, he steps into their personalities and family lives.

"Even if we only have a few minutes, we throw down a game, open up and break the ice ... that barrier," Honeyman said. "A simple card game builds a common bond and gives us a chance to compete. We're

Marines; competition filters into everything we do."

Necessity didn't lead him here. At home in Tulsa, Okla., a short while ago, the 26-year-old was near completing a bachelor's degree and managing his successful lawn maintenance business. But he knew money and book knowledge didn't equal life experience.

As he relaxes and festers in a filthy, sweat-starched uniform, he's experiencing life. Honeyman doesn't say it, but he knows he's somewhat crazy to have left what he had. He wanted a challenge, and in this moment, it's winning a card game and fighting to convince he's been wearing sunscreen. A toothy grin and leathery red face kill his argument.

In the desert, Honeyman's been humbled by filling sand bags and serving chow. These menial tasks have adjusted his perspective. They've helped him relate to the boiling pot of Marines with which he lives and works.

"We've come from different walks of life, been thrown into this platoon and are expected to ace our mission," he said. "Simple things like playing cards help us build trust, so when crap hits the fan, you know the other Marines will be there for you — whether it's in our personal lives or on patrol."

The days leading up to his deployment to Afghanistan are long, but the weeks go fast, and Honeyman's key to relaxation is only a cargo pocket away.

flickr

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

[Right] Cpl. Brian Ortiz, a squad leader with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, scans the battlefield before leading his squad forward during a Clear, Hold, Build-2 exercise at the Combat Center Sept. 16.



[Below, right] Lance Cpl. Channing Bergen, a rifleman with Co. I, 3/3, holds watch over a detainee at an entry control point during CHB-2 Sept. 15.

CHB-2, from A1

Co., 3/3, and Co. K machine gunners repelled an enemy counter-attack. Supported by artillery and attack helicopters, they drowned the enemy in fiery explosions and hails of neon tracer rounds.

“We’re practicing twice as hard here,” Lance Cpl. Chris Gazley, a radio operator with Co. K, 3/3, said. “We know we won’t always have the time to react. Firefights can go down in seconds ... he who hesitates is lost.”

As the sunrise signaled a new day, the Marines began re-building their rapport with the village’s citizens — role-playing Afghans.

Peters said the transition from attacking aggressors in a village to integrating back into it is very realistic to what the Marines of 3/3 will face in Afghanistan.

During 3/3’s deployment to Helmand province’s Nawa district last

year, Peters said Co. K transitioned from a daytime firefight to a meeting with village elders the same evening.

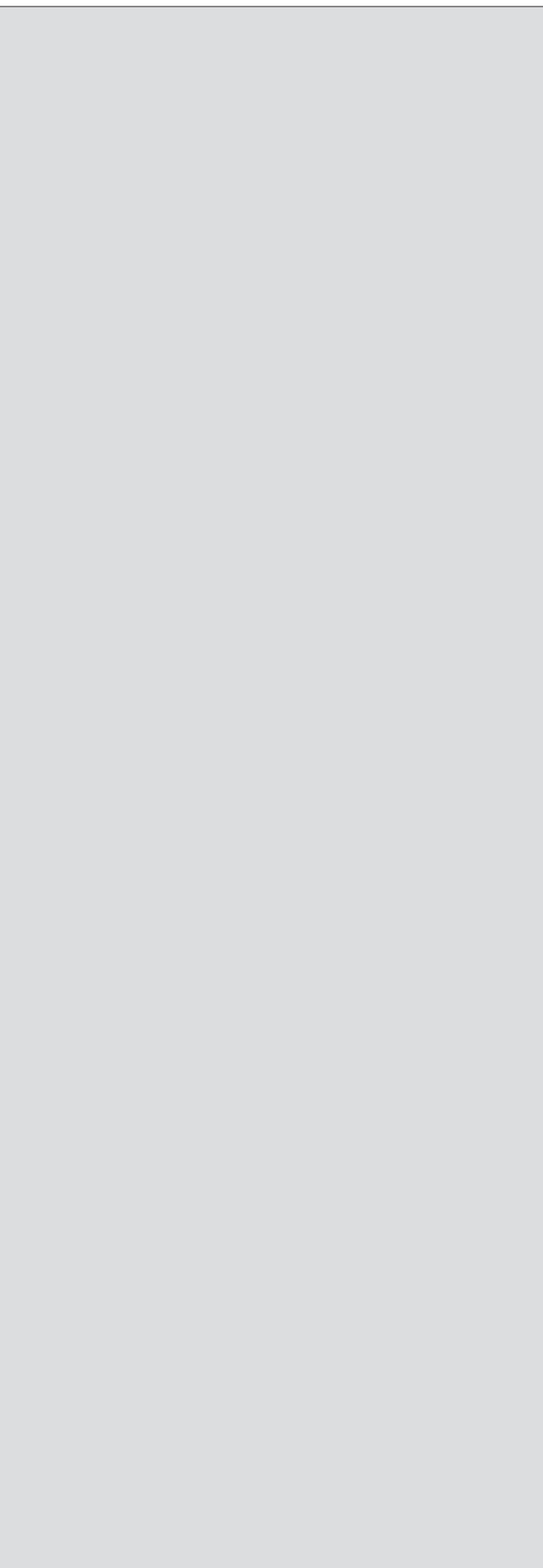
“Sometimes we need to be very aggressive in pursuing targets,” Peters, 25, from St. Louis, said. “At other times, we need to focus on pursuing information and sitting down with village elders.”

During the Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise here, the Marines of “America’s Battalion” are training to combat enemy fighters by practicing counterinsurgency operations. Next month, they’ll deploy to Afghanistan’s Helmand province to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

“The deployment is going to be long and hard,” Leventhal said. “We won’t get the job done overnight, but our work will pave the way for future battalions. We’re anxious to get there and fight the enemy.”



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[Left] Lance Cpl. Theodore McCormick, a machine gunner with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, prepares to load an amphibious assault vehicle to begin a Clear, Hold, Build-2 exercise at the Combat Center Sept. 16. During the Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise, the Marines of "America's Battalion" are training to combat enemy fighters by through counterinsurgency operations. Next month, they'll deploy to Afghanistan's Helmand province to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

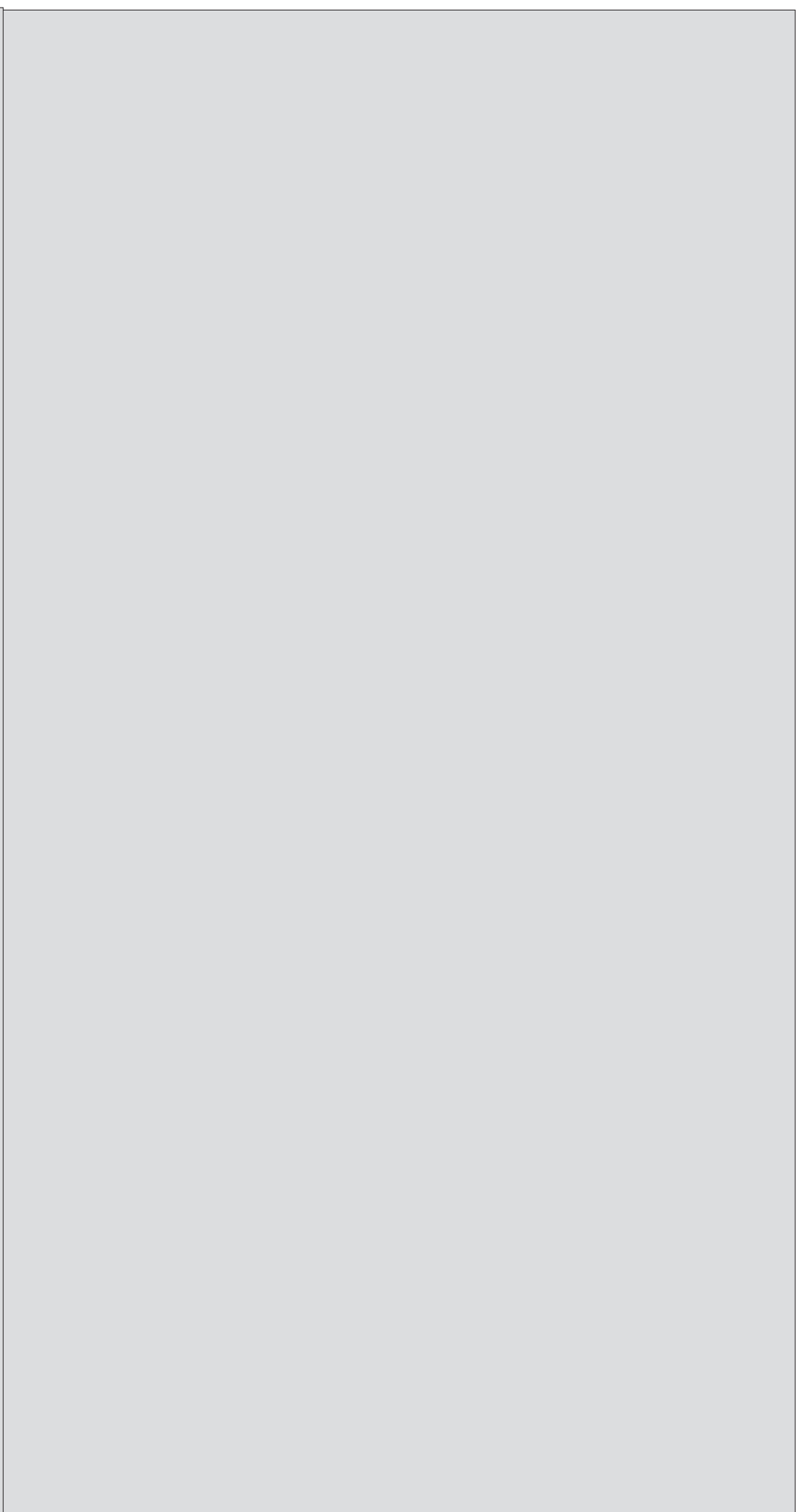
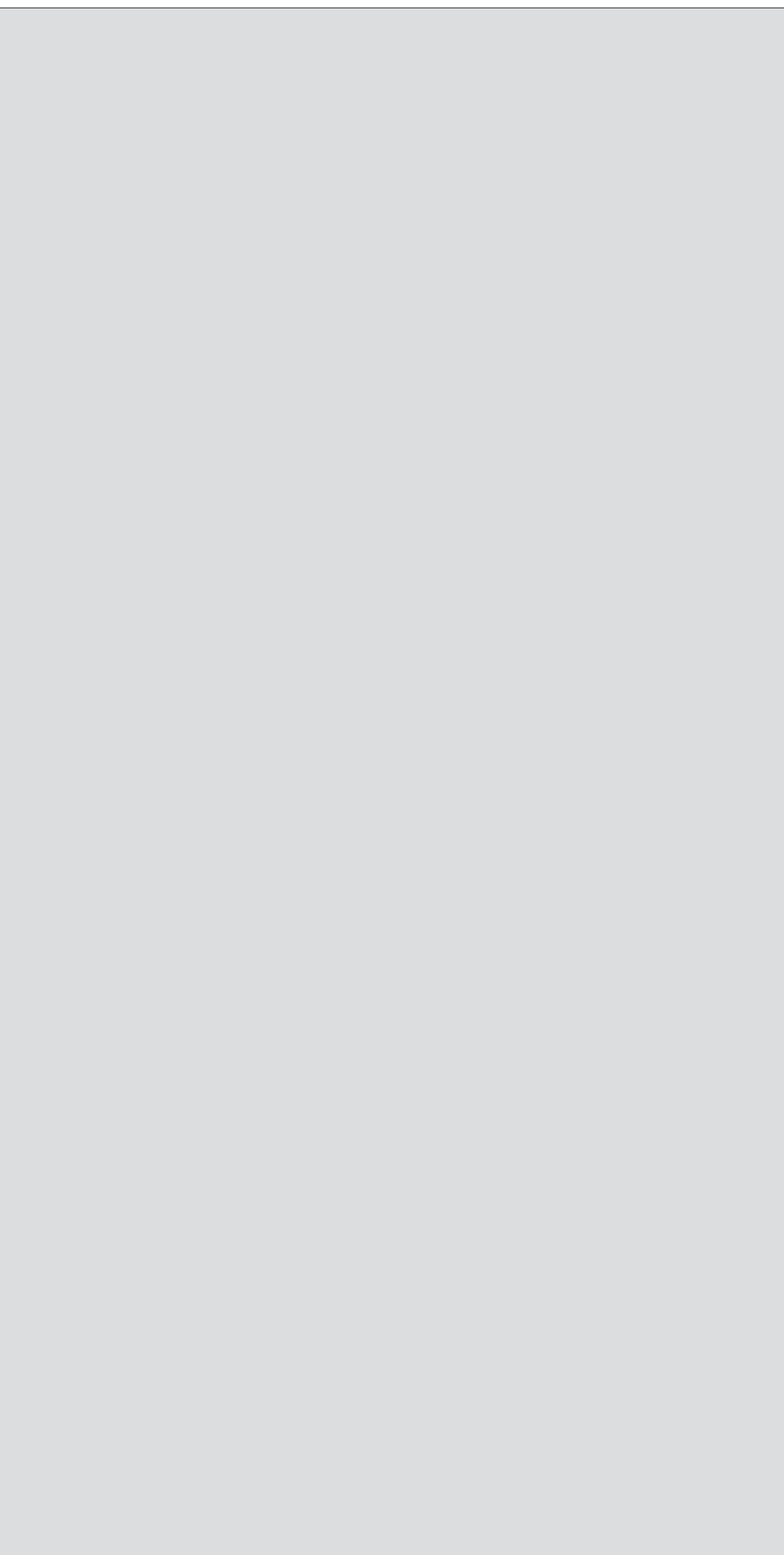


[Far left] Marines with Co. L, 3/3, load a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter to before starting their CHB-2 exercise Sept. 18.



[Left] Pfc. Daniel Candelaria, a rifleman with Co. I, 3/3, holds security at the Combat Center's Range 210 Sept. 15.

PHOTOS BY CPL. REECE LODDER



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The Desert Trail

Marine KC-130Js resupply the fight in Afghanistan

CPL. JUSTIN M. BOLING
2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FWD)

CAMP BASTION Afghanistan — When supplies run thin at forward operating bases peppering the Helmand River valley, reassurance often comes with the strong hum of a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules.

“Providing aerial resupplies is one of our primary missions,” said Capt. Sergio Luna, a KC-130J Hercules pilot with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152. “We have been flying out a lot of supplies and putting a lot of energy into getting ground forces in Afghanistan what they need.”

The counterinsurgency in southwestern Afghanistan relies on U.S. Marines and their coalition partners who live at small outposts among Afghan towns and villages. The Marines patrol village streets assisting Afghan citizens and police forces to stand on their own.

However, these small outposts are often largely cutoff from the outside world and can be difficult to reach by convoy. Marine aviators use the Hercules aircraft to drop supplies by parachute, allowing ground troops to stay in the fight with water, food and ammunition.

“I feel that the most important factor of conducting aerial resupplies is the fact you are saving lives,” said Lance Cpl. Shane Johnson, a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport

Squadron 152 loadmaster, and native of Green Bay, Wis. “We are giving supplies to those who need them and keeping motor transportation Marines on the ground from being put into harm’s way.”

In addition to being immune to the threat of improvised explosive devices that could hinder a ground supply convoy’s progress, aerial drops deliver supplies faster without limitation from geographical obstacles.

“Our KC-130J is excellent for delivering large amounts of supplies quickly to where they are needed most,” said Luna, a native of Redmond, Wash. “We can get to areas and perform drops at speeds and places convoys can only dream about.”

The KC-130J Hercules is the largest aircraft in the Marine Corps arsenal. The propeller-driven, fixed-wing behemoth is the latest iteration of an airframe the U.S. military has relied on for more than 50 years.

The Marine Corps uses the Hercules for troop and supply transport throughout southwestern Afghanistan, as well as battlefield illumination during coalition night operations. The KC-130J also serves as an aerial refueling platform for Marine Attack Squadron 513’s AV-8B Harrier attack jets.

KC-130J support in Afghanistan comes from a combined unit made up of three Marine aerial refu-

From the SAND BOX



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JAMES R. RICHARDSON

Laden pallets in a KC-130J Hercules await transport. Marines with Marine aerial refueler transport squadrons deployed in support of NATO International Security Assistance Force operations moved cargo over Afghanistan, Sept. 5.



Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 load cargo onto a KC-130J Super Hercules airplane, under the stars at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 5. VMGR-252 conducted an aerial drop to re-supply ground troops with necessary supplies of ammunition, food and water.

eler transport squadrons’ detachments from Miramar, Calif.; Okinawa, Japan; and Cherry Point, N.C.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, out of Cherry Point, currently serves as the command element for the deployed detachment.

The Cherry Point troops work daily with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 Marines,

deployed from Okinawa.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, deployed from Miramar, operates the specially equipped Harvest HAWK KC-130J, which in addition to typical Hercules duties, is also capable of providing close-air support with its advanced targeting system and air-to-ground missiles.

“This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate that

we are a team. We deliver supplies to all those fighting the insurgency,” said Luna.

The ability to move life-sustaining supplies safely and efficiently keeps Marines on the ground fighting.

The Marines of the aerial refueler transport squadron said they understand the importance of their missions, and use the strength of the Hercules to get the supplies and equipment

where they are needed most.

“We can load up to 30,000 pounds of water and other supplies, which can be lifted and delivered to our forces on the ground in a single drop,” said Johnson. “I have been on more drops than I can count. I cannot even begin to imagine the amount of stuff that we have given to troops and will continue to get them in the future.”

Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadrons deployed in support of NATO International Security Assistance Force operations load cargo onto a KC-130J Hercules at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 5.



SJA CORNER

Divorce vs. Annulment

1ST LT. R. H. CLARKE

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The rigors of military life place a lot of stress on the family unit.

Unfortunately, not every marriage is capable of overcoming the difficulties accompanying such a lifestyle.

At the Legal Assistance Office, we are able to assist Marines in beginning the process to end a marriage through uncontested divorce or summary dissolution.

The office is not able to assist Marines in contested divorce proceedings.

On a few occasions, Marines have inquired about the possibility of pursuing an annulment.

There are marked differences between an annulment and a divorce. The Legal Assistance Office is unable to assist Marines in filing for an annulment.

Still, it is important to draw attention to the distinctions in cases where annulment is a legitimate option.

A divorce is an action that results in the dissolution of a valid marriage and is granted to the parties on statutory grounds that arose after the

marriage had been entered.

An annulment is a court declaration that marriage itself is not and was not ever valid based on circumstances that pre-dated the marriage itself.

For example, a marriage is never valid when it involves either an incestuous or bigamous relationship.

In the first case, the individuals married are close blood related relatives.

What's the difference?

DIVORCE: A legal action that results in the dissolution of a valid marriage.

ANNULMENT: A court declaration that a marriage was not valid in the first place.

In the latter, at least one of the parties was already married to someone else at the time they then entered into the current union.

A final important difference between a divorce and an annulment is the fact that there is a statute of limitations to file for an annulment. In other words, there is a limited window of opportunity to be eligible to file this action. The length of time varies depending on the legal ground for which one files or claims the annulment.

It is very important to be

aware that the effect of declaring a marriage invalid has serious consequences on the post-marriage rights and obligations of the parties.

If one was never legally married, then they aren't legally entitled to certain things that they would have been following a legal marriage, as is the case in divorce.

The most important and substantial differences exist in the area of child care or custody, property distribution and financial debt.

If one finds themselves in a situation where grounds for annulment exist, then the parties still need to take further action.

Simply coming to the realization that your marriage is void is not enough to actually end the union from a legal stand point.

In California, an individual can file for an annulment as long as they are presently living here in the state. They simply file in the county they presently reside. Unlike in a divorce proceeding, there is no required time of residency.

If you have questions regarding the difference between the ways to end a marriage or if a given set of circumstance is appropriate for filing one way versus another, call the Legal Assistance Office at 830-6111.

Getaway weekend awarded



PHOTO BY DIANE DURDEN

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services director, Cathy Catlin, with the help of installation sergeant major Sgt. Maj. John Walsh, presented three Combat Center spouses with a two-night stay at a local Indian Wells resort, during an intimate ceremony held at the LINKS House Monday. The spouses, Elizabeth Fisher, wife of Cpl. Brian Fisher Jr., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment; Staff Sgt. Amber Possemato, with Headquarters Battalion, wife of Gunnery Sgt. Rocco Possemato, Combat Logistics Battalion 7; and Laura Williams, wife of Capt. Eric Williams, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment; were each the subject of an essay written and submitted by their husbands for the 3rd annual Military Spouse Appreciation Essay contest. Pictured, from left, are Catlin, Fisher, Williams, Possemato and Walsh.

Annual ballgown giveaway this weekend

Any wives looking for a great new look for this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball? The Free Ball Gown Giveaway is this Saturday at the Desert View Clubhouse, next to the Joshua Heights pool. Registration is required. Call 830-7481, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information.

For local entertainment
see our LIBERTY CALL section on page B2

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

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.

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

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

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

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

COLLECTIBLE SPORTS, SCI-FI CARDS: Baseball, football from mid 80's to 90's. Star Trek and Star Wars collectible cards too. Individual heroes, team sets or make an offer on the whole collection. Call Stephen at 567-7921.

YOUR FREE AD HERE

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

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

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

and complete a request to publish an ad.

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

represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

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

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

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

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

WeekINPhotos

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Fwd)



[Top] Marine Attack Squadron 513 ordnance technicians Cpl. Timothy Johnson [left] and Lance Cpl. Devin Davis, successfully arm an AV-8B Harriers on the flightline of Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 20.



[Right] Cpl. Brandon Jones, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 airframes mechanic, performs maintenance on one of the squadron's AV-8B Harriers at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 20.

PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. SEAN DENNISON



A gunner aboard an MV-22B Osprey surveys the Afghan landscape over Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 3. Ospreys are one of the dozens of aircraft that are used in supporting ground troops.

