



Uncle Kracker  
lights up  
stage, page B1

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MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS  
**OBSERVATION  
POST**



“America’s  
Battalion” preps  
for battle,  
page A3

September 30, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 55 Issue 39



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

A mannequin on display at the new Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center museum models gear worn by Marines throughout the past at MCMWTC.

**Bridgeport celebrates  
60 years of history**

LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, six decades’ worth, gathered at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Sept. 22 for the installation’s 60th anniversary celebration.

Old and new-school Marines alike observed the dedication of a new museum, designed to look like the quonset huts used to house students there.

The museum also features uniform and gear displays from every era the base has been in operation, and an exhibit of the Corps’ premier high altitude and cold weather training facility.

“The stories are flowing fast and furious,” said Col. Phillip Chandler, MCMWTC commanding officer. “We always talk about the ones who’ve gone before us. Well, yes we have the guys who’ve gone before us, but they are still alive, and they’re right here where we can talk to them.”

The center, which opened in 1951 as a result of the number of cold weather related casualties the Corps suf-

**“A lineage is not just words typed on a piece of paper. A lineage is the people who made up those years .”**

— Col. Phillip Chandler

fered during the Korean War, became the predeployment training requirement for Marines deploying to Korea. Time spent there acclimated them to the high altitude and snowy terrain.

The ceremony’s date held a special meaning for the installation personnel. September 22 marked the exact day the first Marines with the 14th Replacement Draft, stepped aboard the MCMWTC for training.

“I was here 60 years ago to this day,” said Roy Cratty, a veteran of the Korean War and one of the very first trainees at the MCMWTC in 1951. “The year was colder than it is now. We didn’t have shelters then. I don’t remember being in a tent. They gave us blank ammunition for our M1s and that’s all we had really.”

Gunnery Sgt. Henry Vozka, retired, shared memories of time spent as an instructor guide at the Cold Weather Training Center from 1959 to 1961.

“I enjoyed the outdoors, I enjoyed the challenge of living

See HISTORY, A6

**CROSS CULTURE**

**Wives experience MOUT town culture**



PFC. ALI AZIMI

Yasma Tanomand, a Marine wife, takes a photo with an Afghan role player during the “A Day in the Life Of” event held on Range 215, Sept. 25. The program introduces Marine wives to Afghan culture and the field environment. They interact with Afghan women in an environment similar to life overseas.

PFC. ALI AZIMI

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

From the moment the ladies stepped off the bus, their heads began to twist and turn as they examined the buildings around them. They closely examined, even at times touching, the buildings and the stone walls separating the buildings and the dirt roads.

The wives of the Marines of Tactical Training Exercise Control Group got a taste of their husbands’ jobs in the “A Day in the Life Of” event held on Range 215 Sept. 25.

As they entered one of the buildings, they were introduced to a number of Afghan women role-players dressed in their native garb.

They were then led into a room with floors covered in Middle Eastern rugs, where a group of Afghan men sat in a circle speaking a foreign tongue. The wives sat in chairs lining the walls of the room, looking at the men in confusion and interest.

The program allowed these wives to

go out to a military operations on urban terrain town and meet Afghan role-players, experience some of the culture Marines overseas are exposed to, and get a feel for the Combat Center’s training environment.

The event started with an introduction of the Afghan women to the Marine wives. They began talking in an

**“It gives the spouses a little bit more appreciation and hands on of what their husbands do.”**

— LeAne Bustamante

informal manner, sitting and talking. They took pictures with the Afghan women and asked questions about them and their culture. Laughter and chatter filled the small room.

As they continued in their discussions around the room food was brought in, the table was the floor.

The Afghan women served the col-

orful arrangement of food, handed out plates to their guests before preparing a plate for themselves.

“It’s amazing,” said LeAne Bustamante, wife of Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Bustamante and a mother of two. “The food is really good.”

After their meal, the wives were introduced to some music and dancing by the Afghan women, an event off-limits to men.

The event concluded with a brief tour of the MOUT town, leading the wives and the accompanying Afghan women through the dirt roads covering the city.

The women were led by a guide, who described the daily exercises performed there, and the role of the Afghan contractors who help simulate the overseas environment.

Women who attended the event recommend it for all Marine wives.

The event is scheduled around the Combat Center’s training schedule, and the next date is not yet released.

“It gives the spouses a little bit

See CULTURE, A4

**5/10 goes hot, supports 3/3 before deployment**

PFC. ALI AZIMI

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

“Fire mission!”

At the moment the call was made, Marines dropped what they were doing and jumped into their positions without need of further order. Soon radios started to roar with voices and the gun line with fire.

Battery S, an artillery unit with 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, provided fire support from the Lava Training Area, for 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment’s Enhanced Mojave Viper rotation, Sept. 19 to 23.

“This supports everyone,” said Cpl. Carl M. Hunt, the number three cannonier for Gun 4 with Sierra Battery. “This is a combined operation.”

The artillerymen spent day one setting up and conducting a series of dry fire exercises. As the week progressed, the dry fire turned into live fire, providing suppressive fire, smoke screens and illumination rounds. These exercises ran both day and night, covering different types of simulations.

“We can lay a smoke screen down for the ‘grunts,’ they can run through it, then we can sit on top of it with helos,” Hunt said. “It’s actually a vast operation in itself, and it’s actually really good.”

By partnering with artillery experts, the 3/3 Marines became familiarized with artillery’s role in combat, learned how to call in a request using a grid and how to effectively deploy the artillery arsenal.

Besides training 3/3, the practice helped Battery S Marines improves their own skills.

“It helps me get better at my job,” said Lance Cpl. Christopher Hosein, a fire direction controller with Battery S. “Every time I do it, I get better.”

The process of firing the M777 A2 Howitzer consists of a system of safety checks and calculations leading to a fire at the gun line.

After receiving the call for a fire mission, the Fire Direction Control Marines manually calculated all the information to find

See SUPPORT, A5



PFC. ALI AZIMI

Marines from Gun 3 of Battery S, 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, provided support fire to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during their Enhanced Mojave Viper predeployment training Sept. 22 at the Lava Training Area aboard the Combat Center.



# Military families ‘go green’ by the millions

**ELIZABETH HILLSTAD**  
*TriWest*

PHOENIX — Embracing the urge to purge their paper clutter, beneficiaries with TriWest Healthcare Alliance, military members and their families have helped halt the printing of more than 1 million health care statements.

The TriWest Healthcare Alliance is the Department of Defense contractor that manages the 21-state TRI-CARE West Region health care program. Beneficiaries have chosen in droves to receive their healthcare statements in paperless form, surging past the 1 million mark in August.

And by providing electronic solutions, TriWest is ensuring military families

receive prompt, accurate delivery of their health care information.

TriWest’s “Go Green” program started in fall 2009 and has since branched out to include paperless options for referrals and authorizations, and fee statements.

All told, more than 200,000 TRICARE West Region beneficiaries have “gone green.” Nearly 10 percent of all TriWest health care statements generated are now paperless.

“Military families are increasingly turning to electronic methods for managing their bills, banking and other important information – including their health care,” said TriWest president and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. “We’re committed to providing them with easy options

for their health care, such as e-mail, text and mobile.”

TRICARE beneficiaries can register for a TriWest.com account, pick paperless and be on their way to getting electronic notifications for their healthcare needs.

For more on how to clear the clutter, visit <http://www.TriWest.com/Paperless>.

Electronic statements aren’t the only convenient, electronic healthcare management options available for service members, retirees and their families through TriWest.

TriWest recently unveiled a mobile application for smart phones and mobile devices; a mobile website, <http://www.TriWest.com>; and text alerts.

Learn more about TriWest mobile capabilities at <http://www.TriWest.com/GoMobile>.

## This Week in Combat Center History

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

### AUTHOR UNKNOWN

On October 2, 1950 the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Automatic Weapons Battalion was activated at Camp Lejeune and now on September 30, 1959 the same unit was deactivated here. Major E. V. Easter, Commanding Officer of the battalion, cased the colors<sup>1</sup> for the last time in an official ceremony last week.

In keeping with the effort to keep abreast of the new tactics and weapons techniques the battalion was deactivated.

When the Battalion was activated, Lt. Col. W. A. Buckingham commanded the unit. In the fall of 1953 the battalion, now under the command of Lt. Col. Prescan, was transferred to 29 Palms by way of the Panama Canal.<sup>2</sup>

With the integration of the fast and highly maneuverable M-42<sup>3</sup> in the spring of 1954 the battalion became self propelled. The dual mission of close infantry support and defense against low flying aircraft was enhanced by the M-42.

In March 1954 the unit began a ten day training exercise in the desert. Twenty-six drones were shot down in the first four days of the problem.

From August 1955 until July 1956 Lt. Col. J. F. Holt commanded the battalion. During this period the unit participated in numerous field problems<sup>4</sup> in support of the 1st Marine Division both here and at Camp Pendleton.

On July 17, 1959 the battalion proved itself in the athletic world by capturing the coveted Commanding General's Perpetual Trophy for outstanding achievement in sports.

The summer of 1959 was busy for the now 2nd AA AW Bn. in the field. Reserve training was the primary mission of the unit. The summer's activities were climaxed by “Operation Handyman” involving over 2,000 Marines.

Major Easter relieved Lt. Col. C. A. Lipot as the Commanding Officer of the battalion in July of 1959. With the reassignment of personnel, Major Easter was transferred to the 1st 75mm Gun Bn.<sup>5</sup>

**(1)** Casing of the colors is a ceremony where the flag of the unit is taken down and put into a protective covering, marking the unit’s inactivation.

**(2)** The battalion was relocated from Camp Lejeune to Twentynine Palms in order to free up barracks and training spaces to accommodate an infantry training program initiated at Camp Lejeune for young Marines just finishing up boot camp.

**(3)** The M42 was a 40mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun, known as “Duster” and used as an armored light air-defense gun.

**(4)** “Field problems” was a phrase used to describe specific field or operational challenges units were expected to complete.

**(5)** Also called 1st 75mm Anti-Aircraft (Sky Sweeper) Battalion, in 1960 the unit was disbanded and redesignated as the 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, replacing the 75mm guns with the HAWK missile.

## Hot Topics

### UNDERSTANDING PTSD

Enhance your knowledge of PTSD, TBI and operational stress. Classes are from 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 5 in Building 1707 classroom A and from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Oct 6, in Building 1707 classroom C. Register with Nicole Hoyt by calling 830-3674 or email her at [nicole.hoyt@usmc.mil](mailto:nicole.hoyt@usmc.mil)

### 6-84 INTRAMURAL RACE SERIES

There will be a six-mile race on Oct. 5, an eight-mile race on Oct. 12 and a four-mile on Oct. 18 at various locations. Trophies will be awarded to First and second place teams and individuals. The first 250 entrants receive a T-shirt. Deadline to enter is 30 minutes prior to the race. For more information on the race and entry form visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>

### BALL GOWN FASHION SHOW

View this season's ball gowns and fashion accessories. Enjoy refreshments and a wine tasting as well as exclusive offers on gowns and accessories during the event. There will be two shows at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13 at Heritage Park.

### HQMC/MMOA (OFFICER) TEAM VISIT

The Manpower Management Officer Assignment Team will be aboard MCAGCC Oct. 18-19. An informational PME will be held at 8 a.m. on Oct. 18 at the Protestant Chapel, Building 1541 for all company and field grade officers.

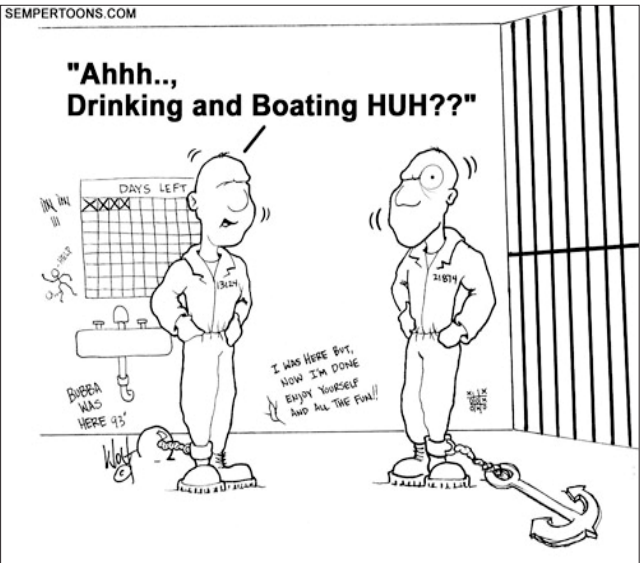


## Eagle Eyes

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 #2310

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## WHAT’S MY NAME?

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14						15			
16					17						18			
19				20				21		22				
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54	55	56	57					58					59	60
61					62		63				64			
65					66						67			
68					69						70			

### ACROSS

1. \_\_\_-Seltzer
5. Get an eyeful of
9. Make suds
13. Do KP work
14. Welcome a word from a weatherman
15. Go ballistic
16. Sitarist Shankar
17. Bolshevism
18. Resting on
19. Big bash
21. Most like Felix Unger
23. Indoor ball
24. Take five
25. Seek information
27. “All \_\_\_” (1931 tune)
29. Tempest site?
34. Erie Canal mule
35. Ready-made, like some housing
37. Bank takeback
38. WWII Sec. of War
40. Chase
42. “\_\_\_kleine Nachtmusik”
43. Trading-stamp recipients

### DOWN

45. Goof up
46. Do a slow burn
48. Golden Fleece ship
49. Charlotte of “The Facts of Life”
50. Mule team?
52. Shoot up Novocain
54. Word in many newspaper names
58. Ill-humored
61. “Hansel and Gretel” prop
62. Subbed with band
64. Wall Street gp
65. Uncool one
66. Speak a la Bryan
67. “Waiting for the Robert \_\_\_”
68. Piccadilly Circus statue
69. Derby competitors, slangily
70. Funny Foxx

### DOWN

1. Car-loan figs
2. Jacob's wife
3. Star of the film “Dave”
4. Dress shape
5. Cassini of fashion
6. First OT bk
7. “Mule Train”
8. Star of the film “Marty”
9. Spoiled kid
10. Size up
11. Freudian topics
12. Blubbered
14. Star of the film “Charly”
20. Nose or eye machine
22. Broke bread
24. Person in stripes
25. Bonesheads
26. Abstract composer Erik
28. Hash house handout
30. Comic strip bark
31. Star of the film “Joe”

32. “Orfeo,” e.g
33. Former baseball manager Joe
36. Ripening agent
39. Bumped into
41. “Don’t tell \_\_\_!”
44. “Whoopee!”
47. Checkroom item
51. Stiller’s partner
53. Clementine’s father, e.g
54. Over the outfield wall
55. State categorically
56. Flunking score
57. Pulls the plug on
58. Byte parts
59. Played for a sucker
60. Garden starter
63. Schoolyard game

## OBSERVATION POST

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# ‘America’s Battalion’ preps for combat with EMV

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

Waist-deep in a row of fighting holes, teams of sweat-starved infantrymen labored without shelter from the unforgiving desert sun. Scoop by scoop, they slung rocks and dirt from their dusty chasms, hewing out defensive positions to prepare for the enemy’s inevitable night attack. Joined by aircraft, tanks and tracked vehicles, the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, assaulted a simulated enemy force during Clear, Hold, Build-3 exercise Sept. 21 through 22. The two-day evolution enabled “America’s Battalion” to improve its capabilities as the ground combat element of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The exercise is their final pre-deployment training event before deploying to Afghanistan’s Helmand province next month to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Sheltered beneath a blanket of stars as night fell, team and squad leaders with Companies I and L moved between fighting holes to control the defense. They bellowed commands through the noisy assault, painting their Marines a picture of the enemy’s size and location. In response, the entrenched machine gunners and riflemen drowned the advancing enemy in a hail of gunfire.



CPL. REECE LODDER

Lance Cpls. Justin Downing and Patrick Walker, mortarmen with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, brace themselves while firing a 60mm mortar round during Clear, Hold, Build-3 exercise at the Combat Center Sept. 21. The two-day evolution was part of the Enhanced Mojave Viper exercises.

Cpl. Matthew Ortins, Co. L, 3/3 squad leader, said his biggest challenge of the night fight was commanding and controlling the men in his squad. “I couldn’t have eyes on every single one of my Marines,” said Ortins, 21, from Beverly, Mass. “My team leaders mitigated the challenge by helping adjust rates of fire and keeping our ammunition spread-loaded.” From the flanks of Companies I and L’s defensive positions, Marines with Weapons Company’s Combined Anti-Armor Teams 1 and 2 supported a tank company in the defense. In a light show of destruction, they fired heavy machine guns, anti-tank missiles and 81mm mortars to help quell the enemy’s simulated mechanized assault. At dawn, the Marines launched their counter-attack. Maj. Sean Carroll, executive officer, 3/3, said shifting from the defense into a planned assault forced the Marines of 3/3 to retain the initiative and gain momentum against an enemy by executing a rapid offensive action. Breaking onto the battlefield in amphibious assault vehicles, the Marines of Co. K, 3/3, secured the battalion’s first objective with the support of CAAT-2. Simultaneously, CAAT-1 supported the tanks to cripple their second objective. Supported by the Marines of Companies L and I on 7-

ton trucks, CAAT-1 and the tanks rolled forward to secure a third enemy objective. Carroll said working with outside attachments tested the battalion’s flexibility as part of a MAGTF. He said this allowed 3/3’s Marines to practice small but critical parts of a combat environment including casualty evacuations, logistics resupplies and downed vehicle recovery — each necessary for what they may encounter in Afghanistan. “My team of Marines is ready to fight,” Pfc. Dan Wood, a team leader with Company L, 3/3, said. “I don’t have combat experience yet, but I’m prepared to handle my team and assist my squad leader because of how we handled ourselves here. This translates to our squad and builds upward from there.” After eight months of training, Wood’s squad leader, Ortins, said his Marines are excited to take their knowledge to Helmand province’s dusty roads. On patrol, they’ll build rapport with the local populace and leadership — and they’ll do so with a view to the future. “We’re going to root out the enemy activity to make our area of operations a safe place,” Ortins said. “In doing so, we’ll free up Marines to continue to the next fight and help our brothers there.”



# Fair provides head start for transition out of Corps

**DIANE DURDEN**  
*PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST*

When I retired last year, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I knew what career path I wanted to take, where I wanted to get my education. I even knew exactly where I wanted to work. I had the roadmap of my journey laid out and planned.

For many Marines transitioning from the Marine Corps, that is not always the case.

More than 75 schools and companies set-up shop during the Education and Career Fair held at the West Gym and Fitness Center Sept. 21, providing Combat Center personnel with an opportunity to find out what's available for them outside the gate.

The event's primary target audience is service families in transition, said Virginia Sulick, the career resource manager with Marine Corps Community Services.

With recent changes in the

Post 9/11 GI Bill, educators are more eager to target young Marines leaving the service. Many schools also offer programs for transitioning veterans and their families.

The fair provided attendees the chance to speak with schools about programs available while still on active duty.

"The technologies within the communications field are continuously evolving," said Staff Sgt. Rodney Trinidad, a communications technician instructor with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

Trinidad was looking for education opportunities that would enhance his military skills.

Education opportunities were not the only options available. Several companies were on site to discuss career choices with prospective employees.

Many companies attend military career fairs because of the skills and values Marines have to offer.

"A good work ethic and



DIANE DURDEN

Cpl. Christian Calo, a diesel mechanic with Mojave Viper Support Detachment, researches technical schools during the Education and Career Fair, held at the West Gym and Fitness Center Sept. 21. Calo is looking for education programs that will build on his current skill set as a mechanic as he prepares to transition from the Marine Corps to civilian life in a few months.

leadership skills [are what] service members have to offer," said Gus Anderson from Weatherford, one of several companies attending the fair. "We can teach specific job skills. You can't teach the intangibles."

Whether your plan includes going back to

school or a career change, knowing what is available to you and what potential employers are looking for are invaluable tools.

"It's never a waste of time to find out what you have to offer an employer or what's available to you," said Sulick.



PFC. ALI AZIMI

LeAne Bustamante, along with the other Marine wives, tours Range 215's mock Afghan village during "A Day in the Life of" event held on Range 215 Sept. 25.



DIANE DURDEN

More than 75 schools and companies were on hand providing education and career information to Combat Center personnel during the Education and Career Fair, held at the West Gym and Fitness Center Sept. 21.



PFC. ALI AZIMI

Charlette Berry [right] and Jenny Dougherty, two Marine wives, interact with Afghan role players, learning about the cultural environments Marines are exposed to when deployed overseas.

## CULTURE, from A1

more appreciation and hands-on of what their husbands do," said Bustamante.

Ron Matthins, the role player director for Tactical Training Exercise Control group, encouraged all Marine spouses to look for the flyers and information on the next scheduled event.

For local entertainment see our LIBERTY CALL section on page B2



SUPPORT, from A1

the correct trajectory of fire. The FDC take a number of variables into account as they process and map the information.

“It is the hidden madhouse,” said Staff Sgt. Morgan Dickey, the operations chief for Battery S.

Once the calculations are complete, the FDC transmits the processed information to the recorder at the guns.

Five to seven seconds after the information is received, the chosen M777 A2 Howitzer fires, blowing a dust of cloud from its position and sending hot lead toward the target and a shock wave of explosive energy coursing through the immediate area.

The 5/10 Marines are scheduled to stay at the Combat Center until Oct. 1 to continue helping their fellow Marines with training and to keep their own skills sharp for the next time they are called to duty.



Marines from Gun 3 of Battery S, 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, provide support for 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during their Enhanced Mojave Viper predeployment training Sept. 22 at the Lava Training Area aboard the Combat Center.



**[Left]** Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Walker, a fire direction controller with Battery S, 5/10, calls the gun line during a dry-fire exercise.



**[Right]** Lance Cpl. Christopher Hosein, a fire direction controller with Battery S, 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, draws up a map for manual calculations of coordinates at the Lava Training Area Sept. 20. The battery was acting in the exercises supporting 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducting their pre-deployment training.

PFC. ALI AZIMI

PFC. ALI AZIMI

# DOD cracks down on fraud, waste

LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Amid public and Congressional demands to lessen government spending, the Fraud, Waste and Mismanagement program was created to ensure individual offices and commands within the Department of Defense are using their resources efficiently.

The program's investigators look into claims of wasteful spending; fraudulent claims, whether it be with money or government property; and mismanagement, or not utilizing a unit's money and equipment properly.

The goal of the program is "to identify any fraud, waste and mismanagement. That's why we have a hotline program," said Joseph Dunn, a command investigator for the Combat Center.

The FWM program, which originated nearly 35 years ago, was formed to preclude even the slightest impression of impropriety in the handling of our man-

power, material and funding, Dunn said.

Reporting fraud, waste or mismanagement within the government is crucial. If nothing is reported, the taxpayer's dollars are wasted, translating into higher taxes for everyone.

Reporting this type of criminal act should be treated as a duty, said David Gill, the command's inspector general.

"If you think there's something not being done right or suspicious in nature they should report it to us, they don't need to investigate themselves," Dunn said. "When in doubt, contact us."

When submitting a complaint, the reporter may remain anonymous. If this is the course of action they wish to take, it is crucial that they give as much detailed information as possible, because anonymous tips don't usually have contact information attached for follow-up questions, Dunn said.

When reporting an incident, a complaint should

include a description of the violation, dates, times, personnel involved in the violation, witnesses to the violation and where the violation occurred.

If a reporter wants to identify a problem without facing repercussions, they can ask to apply for the Whistle Blower Protection Program, a program designed to keep the identity of a complainant safe. Contact the Fraud, Waste and Mismanagement staff for more information.

"It doesn't matter if it's reported 10 times or not," said Gill. "Do the right thing, be vigilant."

To file a report, call the FWM hotline at 830-6155 or e-mail a complaint to [SMBLPLMSCenterInspector@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBLPLMSCenterInspector@usmc.mil).

Walk-ins are welcome at the FWM office, which is located at Building 1447 on 4th Street and Sturgis.

For more information on FWM, refer to Marine Corps Orders 5370.8 and 5200.24D, and Combat Center Order 7510.1D.

## SJA CORNER

### Taxes: Three month warning

CAPT. S.R. MAWSON

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

January 1, 2012 is just three short months away. The first day of every year marks the beginning of tax season. In 2012, it will mark the opening of the Base Tax Center.

April 15, sometimes referred to as "Tax Day," is the date on which your Federal tax filing is due. State due dates may differ. Taxpayers failing to file their returns may be required to pay penalties and interest on their taxes due.

The Base Tax Center anticipates preparing taxes for more than 2,000 customers during the first couple weeks of the upcoming year.

However, we also expect a large number of clients near the deadline. Last year, nearly 30 percent of prepared returns occurred within the last three weeks of the season.

We have taken steps to make our services more accessible, but taxpayers who still have not begun taking the steps to prepare for filing need to plan to come to the Tax Center as soon as possible after its doors open.

Waiting until the last minute could lead to long

wait times and possibly not receiving our free service.

Those who cannot file their taxes by the deadline (e.g. are still waiting for important tax documents) can receive an extension. Taxpayers living in the United States may file form 4868 and receive a six-month extension.

Taxpayers need to understand that while they have an extension to file, the IRS will charge taxpayers interest beginning April 18 on any amount due.

Any taxpayer whose withholding (amount taken out of your pay) is less than 90 percent of the tax due will have to pay a penalty.

To avoid these penalties, the Tax Center preparers can estimate a client's tax due, and the client can make an estimated payment when they file for the extension. If taxpayers do not pay these estimated taxes, the IRS may levy a late payment penalty as well.

Service members in a combat zone and their dependents, if married and filing jointly, are eligible for an automatic extension of a minimum of 180 days from the service member's last day in a combat zone or their last day of continuous hospital-

ization from wounds received in a combat zone.

Taxpayers, their spouses or their units should contact the IRS at [combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov) and provide the name, state-side address, date of birth and date of deployment to a combat zone to put the IRS on notice of a taxpayer's deployed status. Do not include social security numbers in these communications.

Currently, the tax center is being relocated to a permanent location at Building 1428. Building renovations are currently being made.

Remember this - The Tax Center will be opening for business January 1, 2012. To ensure potential clients who cannot leave work are able to use our service, we will have extended hours from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We will also be available for scheduling preparations at the unit level and are open to scheduling unit appointments outside our normal hours of business if necessary to support units' training schedules.

Unit leaders can contact Capt. Mawson at the Legal Assistance Office at 830-6111 if interested in scheduling a tax preparation stand-down.



## HISTORY, from A1

with and looking after the troops,” Vozka said. “We lived in today’s fashion – grim, with quonset huts and the oil stoves. We were only making \$150 a week. We made do with what we had, and nobody complained.”

Veterans from Korea to the current fight laughed together as they talked about their time at MCMWTC. This not only to gave the veterans a chance to reminisce, but also gave the younger Marines a chance to learn about a very specific section of the Corps’ history, one that directly relates to them.

“Having veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and now from the things we’ve been doing this past decade I think is a huge impact on (the younger Marines),” Chandler said.

A museum filled with artifacts allowed visitors to get up close and personal with the center’s history.

“Marines can walk in there and actually see and touch history, and be interactive with it, versus just (reading) pages in a book,” Chandler said. “A lineage is not just words typed on a piece of paper. A lineage is the people who made up those years.”



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Instructors for the assault climbers and mountain leadership courses show visitors how to make a field stretcher during the 60th anniversary event at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Sept. 22.

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 A7 for details  
and limitations



Range 106, revamped



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. D. J. WU



**[Above]** The targets at the new known distance firing range at Range 106 are measured in meters instead of the Marine Corps standard of yards. The new range was built by the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, based out of Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, as an exercise during their Enhanced Mojave Viper training. The new additions to the range were completed Sept. 22.

**[Left]** A berm divides the new individual ranges at Range 106.

**[Below]** The three new additional ranges are a known distance firing range, measured in meters; an unknown distance range; and an alternate position unknown distance range.



COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b> <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> 8:45 a.m. - Confessions+ 9 a.m. - Rosary 9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass* 9:30 a.m. - Children's Liturgy of the Word 4 p.m. - Choir Practice 4:15 p.m. - Confessions+ 4:30 p.m. - Rosary 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass <b>Christ Chapel</b> 9 a.m. - Calvary Fellowship (Contemporary Worship*) 9 a.m. - Children's Church 10:30 a.m. - Redemption (A blend of traditional and contemporary worship) 10:45 a.m. - (Children's Church*) <b>Weekday Events</b> <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> Mon.-Fri. 11:45 a.m.- Catholic Mass <b>Christ Chapel</b> Mon. - Fri., noon - Prayer <b>Tuesday</b> <b>Christ Chapel</b> 9 a.m. - Christian	Women's Fellowship* (Sept.-May) <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class and 7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus <b>Thursday</b> <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> 9 a.m. - Adult Class 6 p.m. - Children RCIA 6:30 p.m. - RCIA (Sept.-April) 7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation <b>Friday</b> <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament <b>Legend</b> * Indicates child care is provided + Call 830-6456/6482 for confession appointments
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**Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87.**  
**Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93.**  
**For more information call 830-5430.**

ADVERTISEMENT

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.

**LAZ BOY RECLINER.** Like new, no pets/smoking. Dark burgundy fabric. \$75. 385-208-8125.

**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. 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.

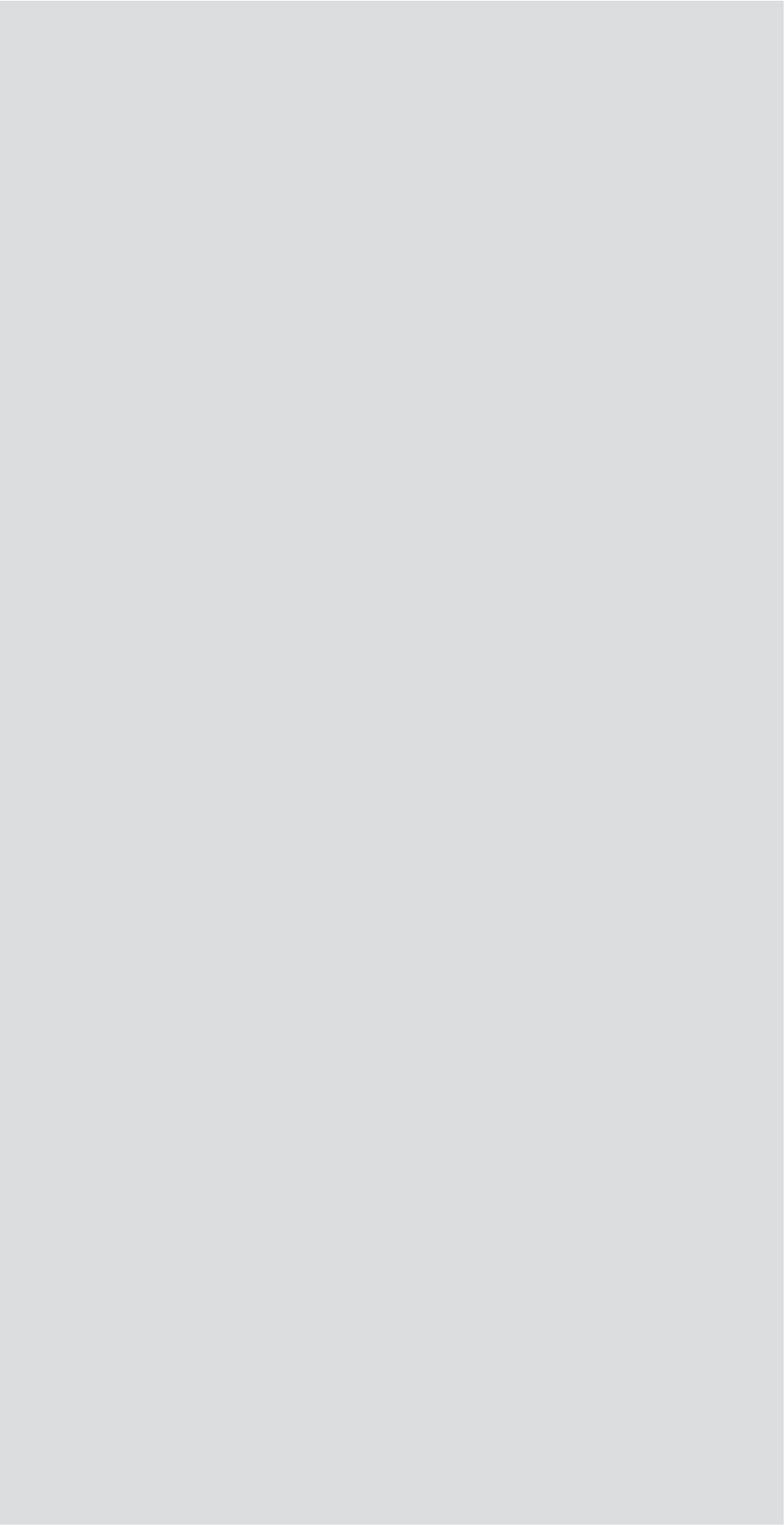
**Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.**

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.









**[Above]** Fans raise up their cell phones to take pictures and light up the crowd at the 'Sounds of Freedom 2011' concert at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Saturday, featuring Uncle Kracker and Toy. This was the first time either of the bands has been to the Combat Center. Toy opened for Uncle Kracker with a rock-style performance, then Uncle Kracker took the stage with country-pop as his style of choice.

**[Right]** The crowd goes wild as Uncle Kracker takes the stage.  
See more photos on page B3

# UNCLE KRACKER

Sounds of Freedom 2011

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

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Former Kid Rock collaborator, Uncle Kracker, with fellow band Toy, stepped onto the stage at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field to the welcome of thousands cheering during the "Sounds of Freedom 2011" concert Sept. 24.

This was the first time either band has played at the Combat Center, but both said they are familiar with military bases across the United States, as well as installations in the Middle East.

"I've been to Iraq and played for troops there," said Matthew Schafer, also known as Uncle Kracker. "It was an experience I won't forget. We definitely appreciate what (the Marines) do."

Alana Grace, the lead singer of Toy, found something at their military concerts that she doesn't find anywhere else, a "thank you fest."

"The thing that blew me away when playing for only troops is how we are thanked so profusely for what we do (as a band)," she said. "I'm not used to that at all. We are here to thank them. This is our

small way of just trying to give back."

Toy and their energetic rock-style music had the crowd going by the time the headliner, Uncle Kracker, took the stage.

Schafer, a Detroit native, which is where he was bestowed the name "Kracker," opened his portion of the concert with a crowd favorite, "When the Sun Goes Down."

Both bands expressed their admiration for the sacrifices troops make and said they participate in concerts like this to show the military community a good time in the best way they know how.

"Our respect level for them is so high," Grace said. "It's so amazing to be here tonight. To feel like we are doing something to give back to (the Marines and sailors) is awesome. Even if we have raised morale just a little bit, we have done our job."

The concert was a big hit at the Center, and one that will stick out in the memory of those in attendance.

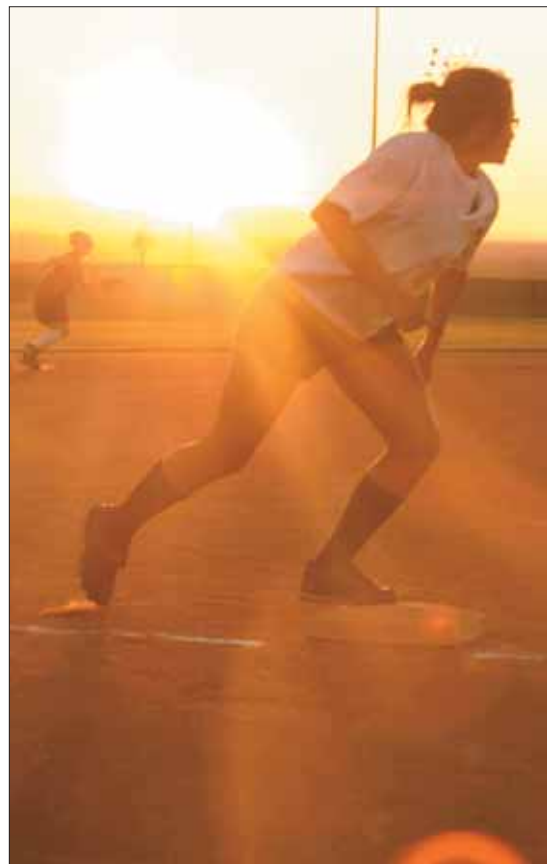
"That concert was awesome," said Lance Cpl. William Hyde, special security officer clerk at the G-6. "It was definitely worth the wait all year for that."



## A league of their own



PFC. ALI AZIMI



PFC. ALI AZIMI

**[Above]** S.W.A.T. player Angelica Rodriguez (44) charges to first base, during a game against Where My Pitches Monday at Felix Field. Rodriguez made it a mere second before the Where My Pitches first baseman caught the throw. S.W.A.T. took the game in a near landslide, 23-1.

**[Left]** S.W.A.T. runner Roxanne Benavidez (42), prepares to sprint to home plate Monday, in a game against Where My Pitches. The second game of the night featured Playtime and Cherry Bombers facing off. Cherry Bombers won, 13-2.

# Rhinos in 'Dawg' house after defeat



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Jeremy Hernandez, a wide receiver for HQBN Bulldogs, blocks ahead for his quarterback, Kameron Yellin, to run the ball up the field during the second quarter of a game against the MWSS-374 Rhinos.

## ■ HQBN takes early lead, holds until time expires

**PFC. ALI AZIMI**

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

An early lead and strong defense was all the HQBN Bulldogs needed to go home victorious, 10-6, after a football game against the MWSS-374 Rhinos Wednesday night.

The Bulldogs drove the ball up the field for a touchdown

early in the first quarter, followed soon after by a field goal. With points on the board, they concentrated on their defense, preventing the Rhinos from breaking through.

"Our defense was immaculate," said Bulldogs' defensive end Lemar Hatthet (61). "We definitely held it down."

The barricade of Bulldogs

was not the only problem the Rhinos, who are last year's defending champions, ran into.

The Rhinos couldn't hold on to the ball during the first half of the game. A series of fumbles and incomplete passes forced constant turnover of the ball and prevented the Rhinos from

See FOOTBALL, B3





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

**The Orchid Festival**  
This popular annual event includes tours of the orchid farm, a wine tasting by the Rotary Club, horticultural classes, vendor booths and family activities.  
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1  
Where: Gubler Orchids, 2200 Belfield Boulevard, Landers.  
For more information, call (866) 482-5377.

**Starry Nights Festival**  
This annual event includes lectures and slide shows, a twilight reception with refreshments and evening stargazing.  
When: Lectures from 1 to 7 p.m., the reception is from 7 to 8 p.m. and the stargazing from 8 to 10 p.m.  
Where: The Hi-Desert Nature Museum  
57116 Twentynine Palms Highway just north on Dumosa Avenue, Yucca Valley  
For more information and directions, call 369-7212.

**The Sportsmans' Club Gem and Mineral Show**  
This annual event is packed with vendor booths displaying everything needed for jewelry making and rock carving crafts, a daily breakfast, family activities and entertainment.  
When: 9 a.m.-dark, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 30-Oct. 2  
Where: The Joshua Tree Sportsmans' Club  
6225 Sunburst Street, Joshua Tree  
For more information, call 366-2915.

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, Tonight  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Billy Idol**  
The rock legends perform his hits  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15  
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>.

**Joan Rivers**  
The edgy comedian performs her stand up  
When: 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 23  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

**Friday, Sept. 30**  
6 p.m. — Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. — The Change Up, Rated R  
Midnight — Final Destination 5, Rated R  
**Saturday, Oct. 1**  
11 a.m. — **Free Matinee** Rango, Rated PG  
2 p.m. — Spy Kids 4, Rated PG  
6 p.m. — Conan the Barbarian, Rated R  
9 p.m. — 30 Minutes or Less, Rated R  
Midnight — Fright Night, Rated R  
**Sunday, Oct. 2**  
2 p.m. —Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Rated PG-13  
6 p.m. — Colombiana, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. — Our Idiot Brother, Rated R  
**Monday, Oct. 3**  
7 p.m. — Final Destination 5, Rated R  
**Tuesday, Oct. 4**  
7 p.m. — Fright Night, Rated R  
**Wednesday, Oct. 5**  
7 p.m. — The Change Up, Rated R  
**Thursday, Oct. 6**  
7 p.m. — Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Rated PG-13

Emotionally rich drama about brawling brothers is a knockout

**NEIL POND**  
*AMERICAN PROFILE*

**“Warrior”**  
Starring Tom Hardy, Nick Nolte and Joel Edgerton  
Rated PG-13

Watching two guys beat each other senseless might not be your idea of a great night out, but don't dismiss “Warrior,” because it happens to be set in the pulverizing world of Mixed Martial Arts. What takes place outside the ring (or cage, in this case) is at the heart of this knockout of a movie, not the flying fists, jabbing kicks and bone-breaking body slams of its well-staged fight scenes.

It's a story of two estranged brothers who end up squaring off against each other, their two very different paths lead them to a championship brawl-o-rama of the anything-goes, full-contact sport that takes old-school boxing and wrestling up a few noggin-bustin' notches. The actors who play the brothers are both outstanding. Joel Edgerton is Brendon Conlon, a well-liked high school physics teacher, husband and father secretly moonlighting in mixed martial arts matchups to stave off



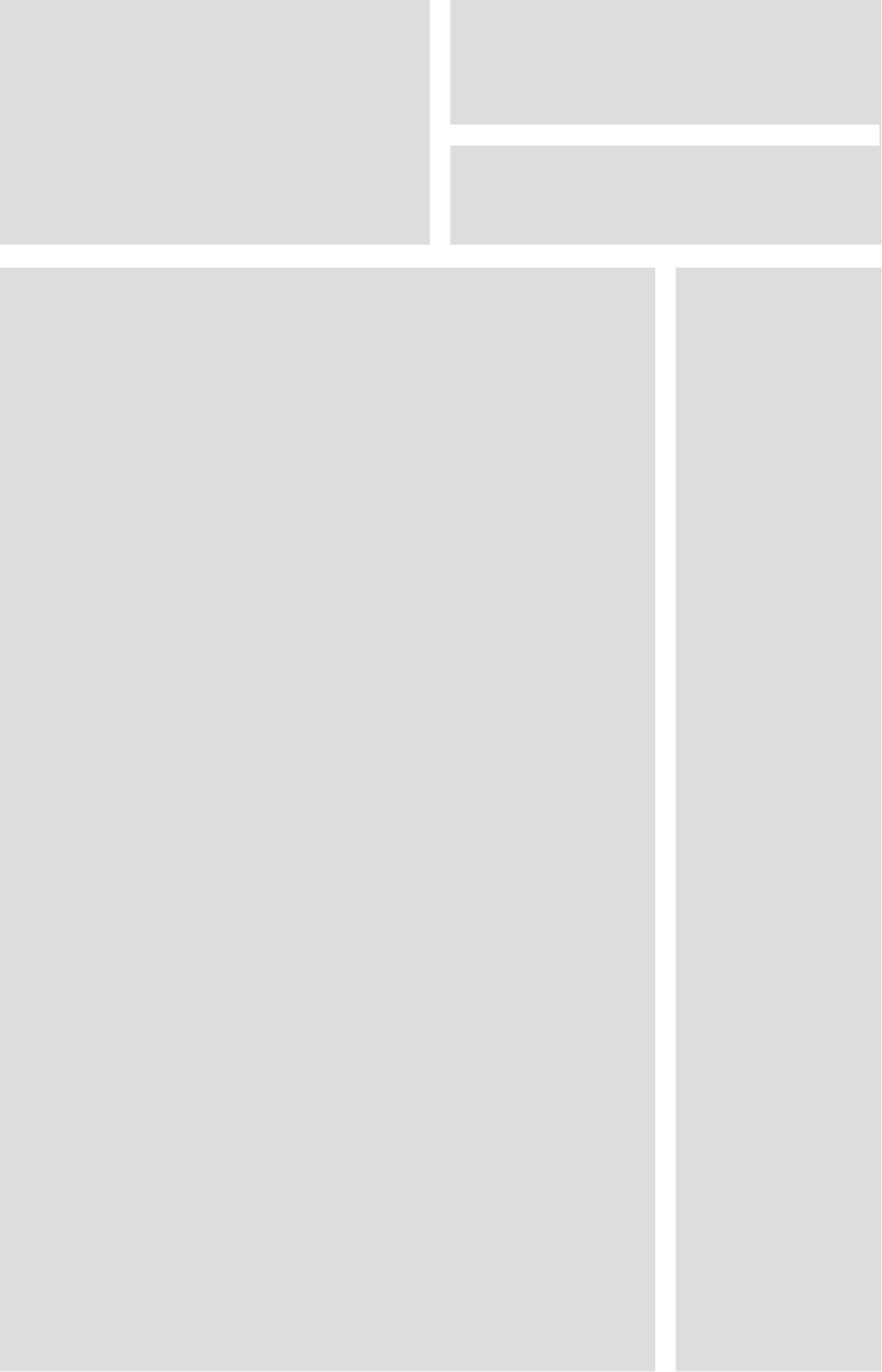
COURTESY PHOTO

“Warrior” is the story of two estranged brothers who end up squaring off in the full-contact sport of Mixed Martial Arts that takes old-school boxing and wrestling up a few notches.

foreclosure on his home. Tom Hardy is a raging force of nature as Brendan's younger brother, Tommy, an ex-U.S. Marine fighting to exorcise his battlefield demons. The movie artfully conveys the differences between Brendon and Tommy's motivations, personalities, life experiences and fighting techniques. Brendon enters the arena to Beethoven's “Ode to Joy” and wears his opponents down by waiting patiently for the precise moment to pounce. Tommy strides in silent and sulking, comes out swinging, and doesn't even hang around at the end of about for the referee to

declare him the winner. But Nick Nolte packs the movie's power punch as the brothers' father, a recovering alcoholic whose drinking split up his family. This is the meatiest dramatic role Nolte's had in years, and he sinks in his teeth. His heartbreaking efforts at reconciliation with his sons, both of whom despise him, is the stuff of which Oscar nominations are born. The legacy of other boxing movies, “Rocky” in particular, looms large. But “Warrior” confronts the obvious clichés early, then clobbers them and gets down to business. The fighting is

shot and choreographed with great detail, effectively and powerfully depicting a dangerously violent sport without glorifying its brutality. Director Gavin O'Connor, whose sports drama “Miracle” (2004), sets up a schmaltz-free zone where there's much more at stake than the championship bout's \$5 million prize. Yes, “Warrior” has a fierce-sounding title, it's about two fighters, and it hits hard. But its story, characters and dramatic intensity make for a stronger, more sensitive and much more emotionally rich movie than its surly-looking surface textures might suggest.







**[Above]** A crowd of hundreds cheers on Uncle Kracker.

**[Left]** Former Kid Rock collaborator, Uncle Kracker, belts out a tune at the “Sounds of Freedom 2011” concert at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Sept. 24. Uncle Kracker is the stage name for Matthew Shafer.



**[Above]** Alana Grace, the lead singer for Toy, helps energize the crowd before headliner Uncle Kracker takes the stage. Toy’s music has a rock vibe.



**[Right]** A guitarist for Uncle Kracker gets intense with a guitar solo.

## FOOTBALL, from B1

moving up to the end zone.

The Bulldawgs moved the ball up the field on every offensive play possible, getting yards in and using their offense, defensively.

The Rhinos, however, did not falter. They improved their defense, which won them the title last year, in the second quarter, preventing the Bulldawgs from reaching the end zone.

The offensive team’s faults also decreased as the game progressed, as they completed more passes with each quarter, leading to the amazing catch by Rhinos wide receiver Ronny Williams (22), at the corner of the end zone in the fourth quarter.

“I concentrate on the ball and try to get ahead of it,” said Williams. “I just did what all my team wanted me to do.”

Unfortunately for the Rhinos, this sudden comeback was too late.

Their first touchdown, followed by a failed attempt at a 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter, was also the last touchdown of the game, leaving the Bulldawgs still ahead by four.



Wide receiver, Ronny Williams (22), with the MWSS-374 Rhinos, makes a catch and takes off with the ball during the second quarter of a game against the HQBN Bulldawgs. The Bulldawgs took it to the Rhinos with a strong defense and won the game 10-6.



