



# OBSERVATION POST

November 11, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 55 Issue 43

## HONORING OUR HISTORY

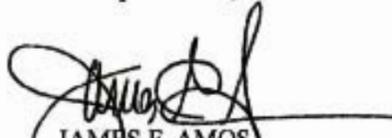


# PAST & PRESENT 236<sup>th</sup>



**F**or ten years now, our Corps has been engaged in continuous combat operations against those who threaten the security of America and our allies. We turned the tide in the Anbar province of Iraq and continue to see success today in southwest Afghanistan. While it has come at a cost, we have much to be proud of. This past year in operations around the world including humanitarian disaster relief, counter-piracy, theater security cooperation, special operations, counter-insurgency and many more, you continued to solidify our place as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness. Since the Continental Congress created two battalions of Marines 236 years ago, our legacy as an ever-ready, ever capable, victory producing organization remains intact. Our rich heritage of selfless service and fidelity to Nation and to one another lives on in all who currently wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor - those who have answered the clarion call to duty with remarkable courage, dedication and unshakable resolve that Marines are so well known for. To all Marines - past and present - and especially to our families, I extend my deep gratitude for all you have done and all you continue to do. As we celebrate our 236th birthday, let us look forward to future challenges whatever they may be - and reaffirm our pledge to be America's premier crisis response force; to be the first to fight... Always ready for the toughest and most challenging assignments. Happy 236th birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

  
 JAMES F. AMOS  
 General, U.S. Marine Corps

# This Week in Combat Center

History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated November 13, 1998, Vol. 42, No. 45

## MCCES honors hero, dedicates mess hall

By SGT. JERRID M. DAWES

The Marine Corps Communication and Electronics School honored the late PFC Herbert A. Littleton, Medal of Honor recipient for gallantry shown during the Korean War, by dedicating their mess hall in his name, Nov. 6.

The nation's highest decoration for valor was received by the MCCES-trained field radio operator for extraordinary heroism on April 22, 1951, when he smothered an enemy hand grenade with his body. By his prompt action and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice, he saved the other members of his team from serious injury or death.

After attending members of PFC Littleton's family were seated, the ceremony began with full Marine Corps regalia. MCCES Adjutant, Capt. John Armellino, called the formed platoons to attention and received their accountability report before ordering the colors posted. With the accompaniment of the MCAGCC Band, the colors were marched on and the National Anthem was played.

Following the invocation by MCCES Chaplain, Lt. Glenda Jennings-Harrison, MCCES Commanding Officer Col. Charles E. Cooke, stepped to the podium and welcomed all to the ceremony. Speaking of how the Marine Medal of Honor recipients epitomized the title

Marine through their actions, honor, courage and commitment to the Corps, Cooke told the Littleton family, "the spirit of the past is alive today as new Marines step up to the challenge."

After receiving Honors from the band, MCAGCC Commanding General, Brigadier General C.L. Stanley, spoke to the Marines present and then directly to the Littleton family. The general assured them that PFC Littleton would not be forgotten, and that all who enter the mess hall, even those who have never heard of PFC Littleton, will know of the sacrifice he had made for his fellow Marines.

The general and colonel presented PFC Littleton's brothers, Chuck and M.K., with plaques duplicating the larger dedication plaque in front of the mess hall, before the four gentlemen unveiled the permanent plaque which officially dedicated the MCCES mess hall as Littleton Hall.

"It feels like the whole world has been lifted off my shoulders, seeing there are still Marines like this (Herbert) around," Chuck said. "We have been treated so well during our visit. It has just been excellent."

PFC Littleton and all fallen Marines were honored by the MCAGCC Band with 'Taps and the Marines' Hymn to close the ceremony.

The entire dedication was summed up in four words spoken by M.K. "It was very emotional."

## Can You Quit for Just One Day?

Shari Lopatin  
Triwest Healthcare Alliance

Fact: Smoking can be just as addictive as using heroin or cocaine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

So making the decision to quit, even for just a day, is no small task. However, did you know that the CDC lists smoking as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States? If you quit smoking, you could extend your life by 14 years.

Quit One Day for the Great American Smokeout!

Do you think you can quit for one day? Just one?

That's all the Great American Smokeout asks you to do! This year, the Smokeout will take place on Thursday, Nov. 17. If you participate, you will quit smoking for one day, alongside thousands of other smokers. Are you up for the challenge?

the CDC on its website.

If you're a TRICARE beneficiary and not eligible for Medicare, TRICARE may cover smoking cessation counseling for you. You don't need to have a smoking-related illness to use this benefit.

Counseling must be through a TRICARE-authorized provider.

The provider must be working within the scope of their licensure or certification.

Counseling may be received in any TRICARE-authorized outpatient facility, as long as the provider is TRICARE-authorized and properly certified.

For more information on quitting smoking, visit [trwest.com/tobacco](http://trwest.com/tobacco).



## OBSERVATION POST

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## Hot Topics

### FRAUD, WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT HOTLINE

The Command Inspector General's Fraud, Waste, Mismanagement Hotline is available to all military personnel, civilian employees and family members at 830-7749 or DSN 230-7749. Facsimiles can be called in at 830-6155 or DSN 230-6155. You can also file a complaint at SMBPLMS CenterInspector@usmc.mil

### HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

The Marine Corps Community Services here will be hosting a Holiday Festival Dec. 5 at Felix Field. Games, Santa, toys and beverages are available to the families in attendance along with holiday candy. For more information on the day, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

### TURKEY SHOOT AT GOLF COURSE

There will be a two-man scramble at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 18. Show time is 8 a.m., and tee time is 9 a.m. Sign up as a team or as an individual. The fee is \$30 and includes golf, food and prizes. Sign up by Nov. 11 at the golf course. For more information, call 830-6132.

### WOMEN'S GOLF LESSONS

The Desert Winds Golf Course will be hosting golf lessons for Combat Center women. The six weeks of instruction will be taught by a PGA professional. The cost is \$100, which includes the use of clubs and green fees. For more information, call 830-3900.

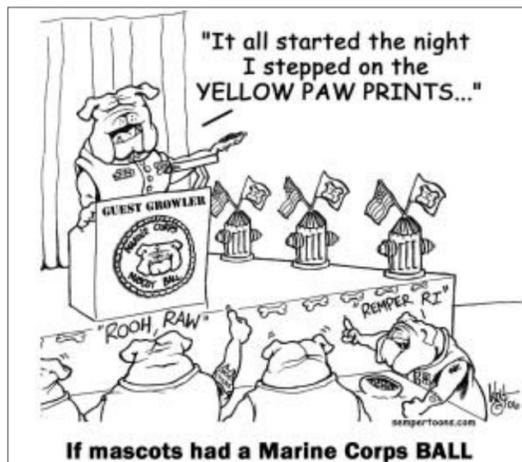


## Eagle Eyes

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 #2352-M

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## LINKS LETTERS

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

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17				18					19					
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52	53	54						55				56		
57								58				59		
60								61				62		
63								64				65		

### ACROSS

1. Healthful places
5. \_\_\_ Beach, Florida
9. Dinghies and dories
14. New Ager John
15. 440-yard-long path
16. Warbucks ward
17. Estimator's words
18. It may be stemmed or turned
19. Hold sway
20. Baltic Sea feeder
21. LAX guesstimate
22. 14-line poem
23. Do this and that
26. First word in many limericks
27. UK leaders
28. Frequently, in rhyme
31. Halos, e.g.
34. "Star Wars" princess
36. "Scram!"
37. Popular high school course
40. Agatha Christie's title
41. Shi'ite leader
42. Early fiddles
43. Machiavellian
44. In the past
45. Word said with a salute
46. It has no exceptions
52. Singlet wearer
55. Bricklayer's burden
56. Thames town
57. Little green man
58. Chum, on the ranch
59. Sign of impact
60. IV part
61. Like some confessions
62. Do some arm-twisting
63. Hangs in there
64. Dixie bread
65. Like a church mouse

### DOWN

1. Posture problem
2. Concealed
3. Entry in black
4. Radio type
5. Subjects of tracking polls
6. Musical set in Argentina
7. Nehi drinker on TV
8. Corrida shout
9. Von Richthofen and von Steuben
10. Without letup
11. Has \_\_\_ (is connected)
12. Buster Brown's bulldog
13. FedExed, e.g.
22. Poison \_\_\_ (irritating shrub)
24. Maneuver carefully
25. Codeine source
28. Xenia's locale
29. Pull a fast one on
30. Quite a bit
31. States further
32. Caspian Sea feeder
33. Frost-covered
34. Car bomb?
35. Writer LeShan
36. Provoked
38. Inflexibility
39. Rah-rah
44. Pugs' venues
45. Word before shoe or soap
46. Like helium
47. An ex of Cugat
48. Navigation acronym
49. In \_\_\_ (not yet born)
50. "Oh," phonetically
51. Punch in
52. Tout's hangout
53. Forearm bone
54. Little lice
58. Weasel word?

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

## THE GUNNER

## Gunner Don Rieg

Infantry weapons officer, Lovelock, Nev.

INTERVIEWED AND  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY

## SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

OCT. 29, 2011

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

> **I had amnesia** in sixth grade. I smashed my head on a pole playing football. I don't remember much before sixth grade.

> **As I understand it**, I was a really bad student. Then, after I hit my head, I did pretty well.

> **I was a little skinny runt** in high

school. I was the prom king. I still have a picture of me as the prom king with a mullet.

- > **I was 16.** I was living on my own.
- > **My parents got divorced** and my mom did a lot of bad things. I did the emancipation proclamation. I figured it wasn't a very good environment for me.
- > **I was cutting school** all the time and hunting rabbits.
- > **I want to hunt feral pigs** most of the year, and hunt alligators the rest of the time. The (feral pig) population went up like, 800 percent in the last 10 years.
- > **I really don't have** much of a personality.
- > **What do I do for fun?** I do play some video games.
- > **Hey, I'm a classy guy.**

## CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK

- > **My son's 17.** Getting ready to join the Marine Corps.
- > **He's interested in all** that stuff because his daddy's a sniper. He didn't see all the work it took to get to this point.
- > **I have two** little baby girls also, 11 and 12.
- > **The oldest is** a swimmer. She'll be going to the Olympics in a few years. That's how well she swims.
- > **My baby daughter** got first place playing volleyball out in town. She's a firecracker. She's got a sassy attitude on her.

## MY TIME HERE

- > **I've been in 20 years**, five months maybe. I don't know.
- > **When I was a sergeant**, I was stationed in Iceland. In the same building (as the guard post), was a bar. Guard law was the only law. So I'd have to chuck people out. Like a bouncer.
- > **I was a gunny** with two years experience before I became a Gunner.
- > **I went from saluting half the Marine Corps** to saluting the entire Marine Corps.
- > **I deal with everything**, it doesn't matter what it is.
- > **I have the ability to affect** thousands of Marines at a time.
- > **Here's what a Gunner does:** He moves to the point of friction and fixes s\*\*\*.
- > **It seems when I put on these utilities**, I say a lot more bad words, I don't know what happens
- > **I've seen upwards of 20,000 Marines** come through here, units in their final phase of training before they deploy to Afghanistan. That's a good chunk of the Marine Corps.
- > **It's pretty neat.** It's Saturday, and there's so much activity going on. There're thousands of Marines running around out here, and people don't even realize it.
- > **I offered him half my cookie.** He wouldn't take it. I could see he wanted it though. I could see the way he was looking at it. Ha. The young captains.
- > **The most fun I had** in the Marine Corps is getting to go to Australia and work with the Australian military.
- > **I want to be a CW05.** And I'd like to be the senior Gunner in the Marine Corps.

## OUR CORPS: THE WAY I SEE IT

- > **It'll be 10 years** once we get rid of all this Gucci gear and get them back to being men.
- > **That's the thing that kills most units.** Being at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment, ready to train.
- > **The scopes are in meters.** All of our ranges need to go to meters. We need to get with the rest of the world. That's the bottom line.
- > **How can you not love** hitting a steel target?
- > **One of the top five things I've learned** is we need to be able to communicate out here. We've become better technology-wise. If we can learn to use better equipment, then we need to learn how to communicate better verbally. These young Marines, they need to know what we expect; if they don't, then the leader hasn't communicated well enough.
- > **We don't have as much time to train** before deployments. That's detracted from our skill. But we'll get back there soon.
- > **At the end of the day**, the most important thing to me as a Marine is to make our young infantrymen the best they can be by providing them with the best training and best equipment possible.



## Did you know?

**The Liberty Call page on B2 now has Combat Center club information**

**Excursions Enlisted Club**

**Bloodstripes NCO Club**

**Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club**

**Combat Center's Officers' Club**

# Did you know?

## 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, Medal of Honor

On April 14, 2004, Cpl. Jason Dunham, of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, while manning a checkpoint near Karabilah, on the Iraq - Syria border, found himself in a physical fight with an Iraqi man. As the two fought, the Iraqi dropped a live grenade. Instinctively, Dunham grabbed his helmet and jumped on top of the grenade, using his body to hinder the blast from killing or injuring his comrades. Dunham died at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., eight days later. Dunham's selfless and heroic actions, saved the lives of his fellow Marines and earned him the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award.

## 3/4, A Battalion Alone

Fourth Marine Regiment has not been stationed in one location because of historical reasons. Now attached to 7th Marine Regiment, 3/4 was separated from its original regiment in 1942 after the Battle of Corregidor. After a brutal Japanese attack on May 5, Army Gen. Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright surrendered his forces on the island in order to minimize casualties. By June 9, allied forces had surrendered completely. The regiment burned their colors and, temporarily, ceased to exist. Third battallion, 1st Raiders were redesignated as 3/4, and fought in the battle for Iwo Jima. Today, 4th Marines is based out of Camp Schwab in Okinawa, Japan and its battalions are part of 1st, 5th and 7th Marine Regiments.

## CLB-7, Identity Crisis?

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 has been called many different things over the last 30 years. They were activated on Aug. 30, 1976 in Twentynine Palms, as Detachment A, 1st Force Service Support Group, Fleet Marine Force. They were renamed Combat Service Support Detachment 12 on Dec. 27, 1989. After actions in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, they were once again redesignated on Aug. 2, 1991 as 1st Force Service Support Group, Fwd. The very next year, Aug 1, 1992, the name changed to Combat Service Support Group 1. Finally, April 1, 2005, the name changed a fourth time as the battalion settled on the current name of Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

## 1st Bn., 7th Marines, Co. C: "Suicide Charley"

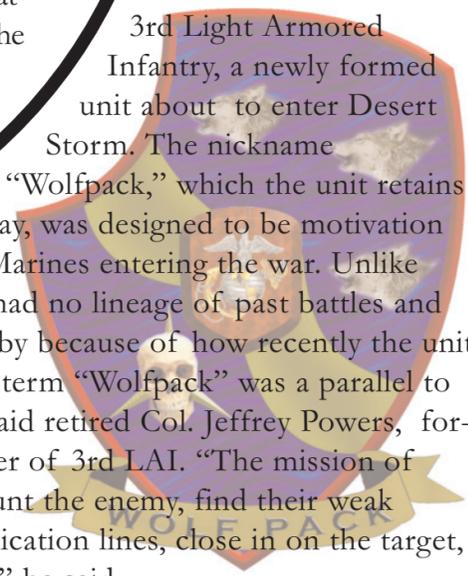
Company C of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment is the only company in the Marine Corps allowed two guidons. The guidons and their company nicknamed "Suicide Charley" of their start on Guadalcanal, Oct. 24, 1942. The Japanese launched a major offensive, throwing more than three regiments at the Marines of Companies A, B and C. Company C received the brunt of the attack. In the morning of Oct. 25, a white flag with a black skull and crossbones



roughly painted on it with the words "Suicide Charley" written below, was raised over Co. C's position. The reason for the misspelled name is unclear. The flag was not seen again until the battle for Peleliu, and again at Korea. The name and replicas of the flag have been passed down by each generation in the unit. In 1961, the commanding general of 1st Marine Division authorized the company to officially carry it as an additional guidon.

## 3rd LAR "Wolfpack"

In the 1980's 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion was called the 3rd Light Armored Infantry, a newly formed unit about to enter Desert Storm. The nickname "Wolfpack," which the unit retains today, was designed to be motivation for the Marines entering the war. Unlike most units, LAI had no lineage of past battles and Marines to be inspired by because of how recently the unit had been instated. The term "Wolfpack" was a parallel to the unit's occupation, said retired Col. Jeffrey Powers, former commanding officer of 3rd LAI. "The mission of LAI is to go out and hunt the enemy, find their weak points, hit the communication lines, close in on the target, devour it and move on," he said.



## Our Navy Brothers



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jorge Medina, a hospital corpsman with Jump Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provides security while escorting the deputy secretary of defense through the Nawa Bazaar in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 28, 2010.



# THE DOCS

## WHAT THEY MEAN TO THE CORPS

**LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**N**avy hospital corpsmen, more commonly known as the “corpsmen.” They wear the Marine Corps uniforms but they have never trained at Marine Corps Recruit Depot. They have saved the lives of hundreds of Marines, yet they do not claim the title themselves.

Corpsmen have a long standing tradition of serving alongside Marines because the Corps does not train medical personnel. They stand as a necessary part of a Marine fleet. Their mission is to prevent or treat any injury Marines may come across in the unpredictable combat zone.

The training corpsmen receive is nothing like the first aid Marines are taught throughout recruit training.

Corpsmen go through rigorous training through the Medical Education and Training Campus on Fort Sam Houston, Texas, learning to become experts in their field. Not only do these corpsmen need to be well-rounded with their occupation, they must also be a rifleman.

In order to be a well-functioning, integrated part of the Marine Corps, they must be combat oriented as any Marine from any military occupational specialty.



Corpsmen for the Corps go through a seven-week course at Camp Lejeune, N.C., or Camp Pendleton, Calif., similar to Marine basic training. There, corpsmen must learn the trade of the Corps—everything from marksmanship and patrolling to uniform regulations.

“It was an introduction to a different world,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Bradley T. Furtado, a preventative medicine technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 7. “They immerse you into the Marine Corps world.”

Corpsmen are accepted into each unit like brothers. They are regarded as equals for their training as well as their vital role in the unit.

“It really is a title in itself,” Furtado said. “Nobody knew my rank, they knew me as ‘Doc.’”

In the field, they serve as any Marine would, digging fox holes or laying down cover fire. When the time comes when a Marine is down, the ‘Doc’ sprints to the aid of his comrade. It is not a question of if they will be needed, but rather, when.

“The most important part of the job is to look after the welfare of the Marines,” Furtado said, after his recent return from deployment.



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**You Tube**

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel  
Find it at  
<http://www.youtube.com/CombatCenterPAO>.

# Marines Hymn: Fact, *Fiction*, Lore

**CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Every branch of military service has a rich history, steeped in as much hard fact as fiction and lore.

Trying to separate reality from myth is hard for your average Marine. While all the other services can trace their songs' lineage, the history of the "Marines Hymn" still holds mysteries for the experts. The Hymn is also commonly acknowledged to be the oldest anthem of all the U. S. services.

The Army's song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along," was first composed in 1908 by Army 1st Lt. Edmund L. Gruber, an artillery officer. The song was originally called "Caisson Song." It stayed as an artillery march until it was dubbed the official song of the Army and paired with new lyrics in 1956.

"The U.S. Air Force" was originally composed in 1938 by Robert Crawford as part of a contest for the then-Army Air Division. Lyrics were changed in 1947 for the newly-formed U. S. Air Force.

"Anchors Aweigh" was written in 1906 by Charles A. Zimmerman, for a class in the Naval Academy. Over the years, it was adopted as the Navy's official song.

The "Marines Hymn," on the other hand, dates back to the mid-1800s. Most of the information on the composer and writer is lost in the sands of time.

According to lore, the songwriter was a Marine on duty in Mexico shortly after the Mexican-American War. Legend has it that he took the first verse, "From the Halls of Montezuma, To the Shores of Tripoli," from the Marine Corps flag, which displayed those very words at that time.

The tune associated with the hymn also raises many questions because the composer isn't known and the inspiration is still disputed.

Throughout history, composers will hear a tune they like and tweak to suit their purposes. To confirm this is where the Corps' hymn came from, historians delved into correspondence between military officials of the time to try to confirm the origin of the famous tune.

In 1919, Warrant Officer John Philip Sousa wrote "The melody of the 'Halls of Montezuma' is taken from Offenbach's comic opera, 'Fenevieve de Brabant' and is sung by two gendarmes," according to information available on the Marine Corps Logistics Command website, <http://www.logcom.usmc.mil>.

"Major Richard Wallach, said that in 1878, when he was in Paris, France, the aria to which the Marines Hymn is now sung was a very popular one."

Wallach also believed the hymn's "aria" was from the

opera "Genevieve de Brabant."

But even with this correspondence, neither origin can be confirmed on this basis alone.

Although the Marines Hymn made an appearance around the 1800s, it didn't have an official version until 1929, when then-Commandant of the Marine Corps Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune authorized the hymn as we know it, except the first verse. The original fourth line read "On the land as on the sea." That line wasn't changed to "In the air, on land, and sea," until 1942.

During the 100 years the hymn has existed, many interesting stories around it have surfaced. Some fact, some fiction, and others still up for debate.

One such story claims that Sir Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister during WWII, and an admirer of the Marine Corps, was said to have showed his respect for U.S. Marines by reciting our hymn.

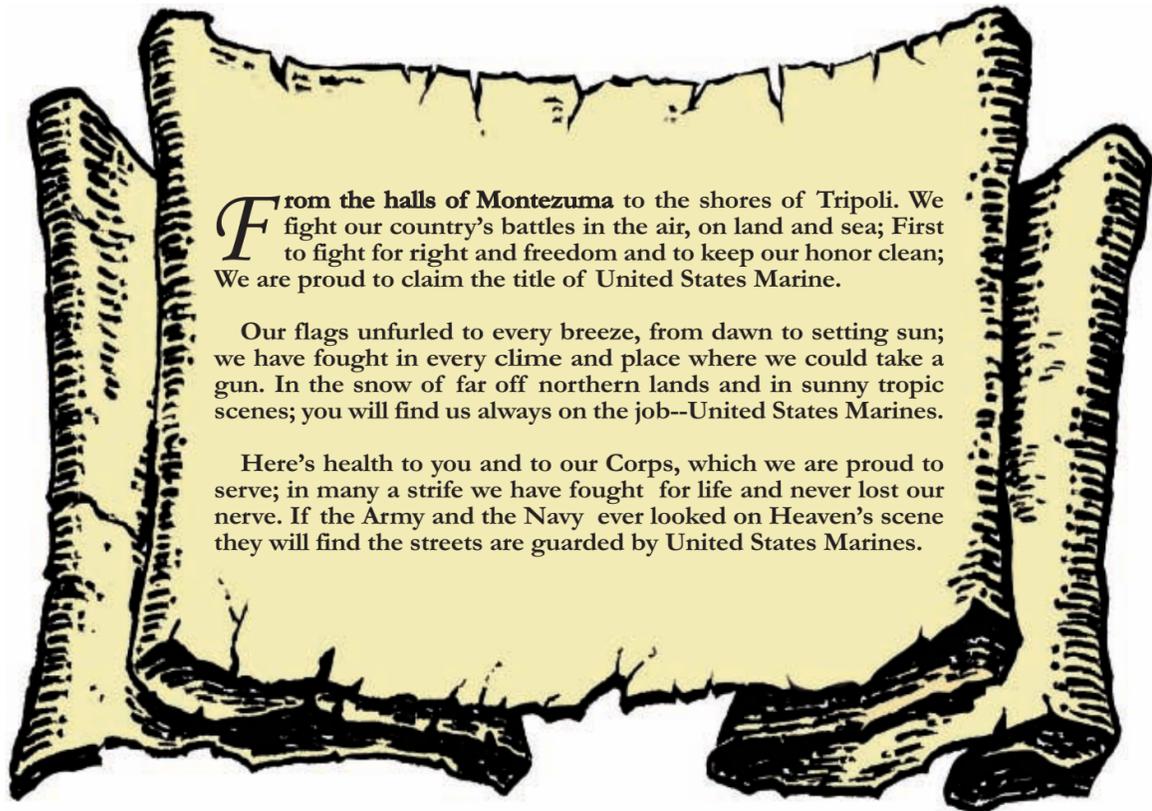
Another story, confirmed by the Library of Congress, states that on Aug. 16, 1918, an issue of the Stars and Stripes

mentions a French officer mistaking Marines for a group of native Montezuma soldiers because of that first verse.

"A wounded officer from among the gallant French lancers had just been carried into a Yankee field hospital to have his dressing changed. He was full of compliments and curiosity about the dashing contingent that fought at his regiment's left," as written in the article.

"A lot of them are mounted troops by this time, he explained, for when our men would be shot from their horses, these youngsters would give one running jump and gallop ahead as cavalry. I believe they are soldiers from Montezuma. At least, when they advanced this morning, they were all singing 'From the Halls of Montezuma, to the Shores of Tripoli.'"

No matter where it came from, or why, or who wrote it, or who first hummed the first notes, the hymn is as recognizable and ingrained in the spirit of the Corps as are the dress blues, or Eagle, Globe and Anchor, or brotherhood itself.



**367-3577 For Advertising**

# Happy 236th Birthday Marines!



## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



Whatever you're  
looking for, you can  
find it in the  
**Observation Post  
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**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.

# *Lasting Legacy:* History of the Marine Corps Birthday

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**Diane Durden**

*Public Affairs Specialist*

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I took one last look in the mirror before heading down the hallway and turning the corner into the ballroom. Everything had to be just right. Medals on straight, fingerprints wiped from the anodized brass, buttons turned correctly, emblems facing inboard with the eagles' wings parallel to the floor. Alright, I'm ready.

"Happy Birthday," I said to the first Marine I approached. I received a resounding well-wishing in return. Hundreds of Marines and their guests joined together for their unit's annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

The ball, one of several ways Marines celebrate the birth of our Corps is held on, or around, Nov. 10 each year. For generations, Marines around the globe have come together for this time-honored event to commemorate our Corps' traditions and history.

Celebrations range from the very elaborate ball, where Marines, dressed in their best uniforms, conduct a cere-

mony many throughout the Corps have witnessed; to a simple shared cake delivered into a combat zone, or just quietly raising their glasses in a toast.

The Marine Corps has not always celebrated its birthday in Nov. In the early years of our history, many commemorated the day on July 11, the date President John Adams approved a bill recreating the Corps after it was nearly disbanded at the close of the American Revolutionary War. Celebrations were usually meager and without fuss, until 1921.

A memorandum was sent to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday on Nov. 10, 1775, the date the Continental Congress resolved "that two Battalions of Marines be raised," be declared a Marine Corps holiday.

Accordingly, on Nov. 1, 1921, Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921, summarizing the history, mission and tradition of the organization, and directed that it be read to every command on Nov. 10 each subsequent year in honor of the original birthday.

Whether in garrison or forward deployed, visit any Marine Corps unit on this date, and you will find Marines gathered to share in the traditions we have passed from one generation to the next for hundreds of years.

Present day celebrations begin with reading Gen. Lejeune's message, followed by reading or watching a video of the current commandant's message. Both messages remind us of the history that brought us to where we are today.

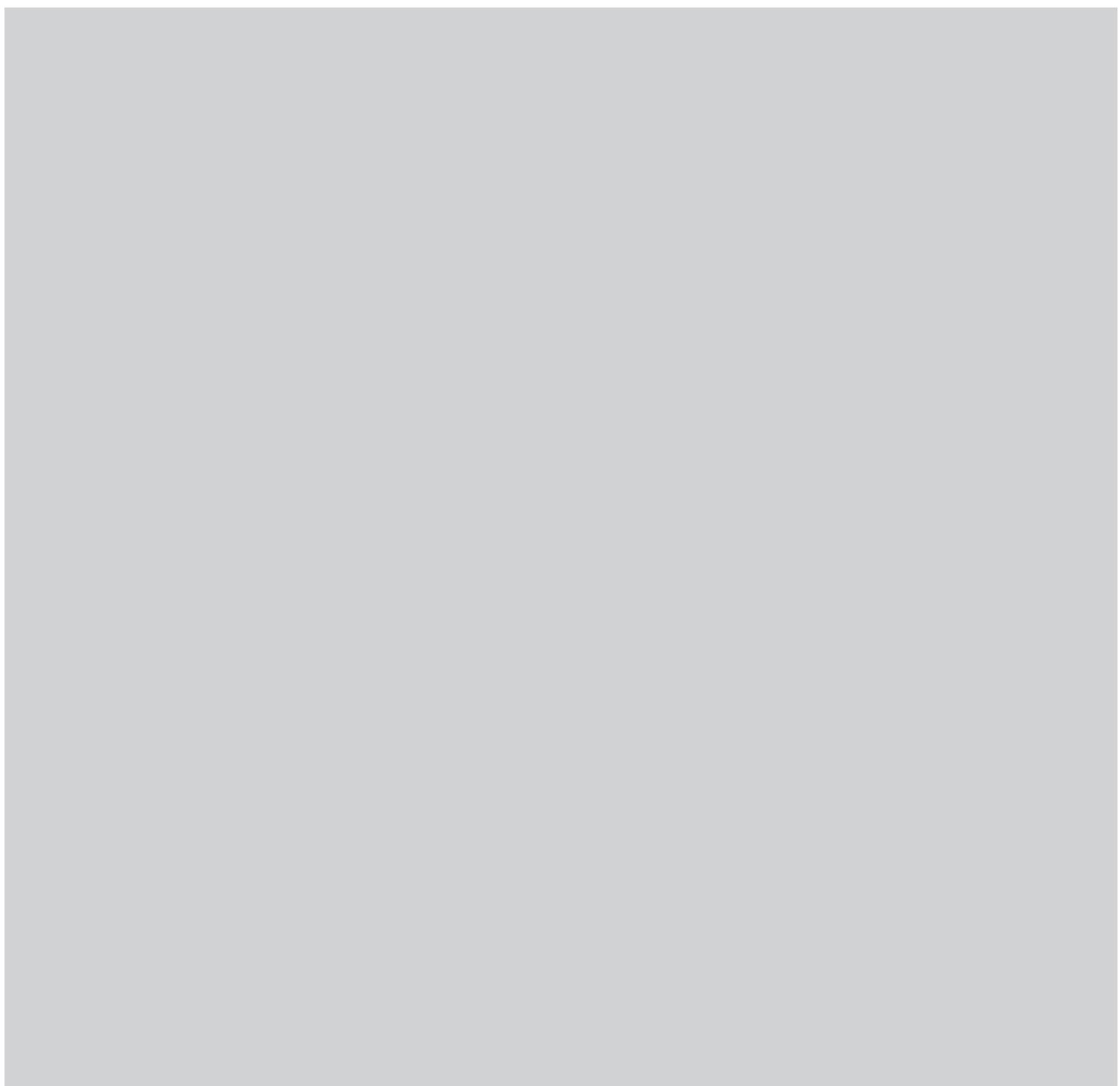
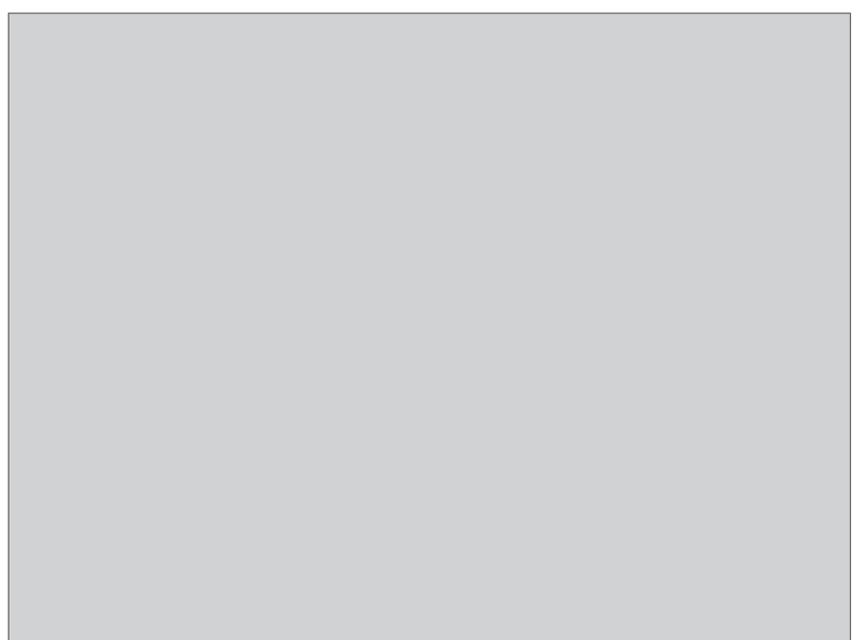
The cake, although now an element of the ceremony, was not formally part of the celebrations until 1956, when Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. formalized the festivities throughout the Corps. This provided an outline for the cake ceremony, and other formal observances still followed today.

Tradition dictates the first piece of cake is shared between the oldest and youngest Marines present, signifying the transfer of knowledge and wisdom into the capable hands of our Corps' future.

Celebrations are not exclusive to Marines still actively serving. Ask Marines who long ago, hung up their uniform, they will tell you they will be celebrating and wishing fellow Marines happy birthday during their own parties.

Old and new, active duty, reserve or retired, Marines will get together, shake hands, toast a drink and throw their arms around one another as brothers.

We will celebrate Marines of the past, our history, each other and our traditions. And in celebrating our past, we celebrate the future.



# The Art of Pageantry



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

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By Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu  
*Combat Correspondent*

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**I**n a world of rushed greetings and salutes, the Marine Corps birthday is the one time of year where Marines can slow down and remember their roots. It becomes a time where Marines prepare their uniforms, dwell on tradition and history, and just enjoy being a Marine – part of a long and proud legacy. On this day, Marines will make sure to look their absolute best from head to toe.

The Marine Corps' birthday Ball is an event where Marines gather and celebrate their birthday together, and in doing so, know they need to be completely squared away. The Marines will primp, press and proudly wear the uniform that is iconic of a United States Marine, the dress blue alphas.

The dress blues or "superman suit" as some

Marines like to refer to them, is the uniform to which Marines pay extra attention, making sure everything is pressed, straight and shiny. Looking good in this uniform is the first step in a successful birthday ball.

The Marine Corps birthday is steeped in history and tradition. The uniform, the ceremony, and the cake is all part of the ritual that is the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

On the birthday, it is not uncommon to hear "happy birthday" from passing Marines. Extra effort is made by every Marine to make the day special. It not only reminds them of their proud lineage, but also reminds them of the Marines who have gone before them, and those who will not be able to join them at the ball.

The Marines will strut around with their chests

puffed out to show off their medals. They will rise when told to hear the messages of Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune and that of Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos. They will eat their birthday meal and watch the oldest Marine eat his slice of the cake and present it to the youngest Marine in attendance. A cake cutting ceremony is a highly regarded tradition in the Corps; it signifies a passing of knowledge from the old to the new.

When the formalities of the ball ceremonies end, the Marines can kick back and enjoy themselves on their birthday. Marines will dance, sing and cheer in the uniforms they worked so hard to perfect and bring the night of revelry to a close and wake up to another day as a United States Marine. Semper Fidelis and Happy birthday Marines!



LANCE CPL. CARLOS SANCHEZVALENCIA

Combat Center Marines display historical uniforms of the Marine Corps., joined by Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr., Commanding General.



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 - 7 p.m. followed by DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night  
 Saturday: Variety Night, DJ Gjettblaque 8 - 11 p.m.  
 Sunday: Football coverage, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
 Monday: Monday Night Football coverage, 5:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: Social Hour, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Monday: Monday Night Football coverage, 5:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Thursday: Social Hour, 7 - 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Friday: Social Hour, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday: Lunch from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Monday: Steak night and full menu, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Social Hour, 5 - 7 p.m.  
 Thursday: Social Hour, 5 - 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday: Steak night, 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch, from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: Happy Hour, 5 - 7 p.m.

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

Local Events

Bless Me Father

When: Every Friday & Saturday until Dec. 17 at 7pm  
 Dec 1 Thurs., Sunday Matinee' Dec. 11  
 Where: Theatre 29  
 736377 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms  
 For tickets and information call 316-4151  
 or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

The Whispering Pines

Live Groovy Deep roots boogie band  
 When: 9 p.m., Nov. 11  
 Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace  
 53668 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown  
 For more information visit: <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>  
 or call 365-5956

Third Annual Turkey Run

High hand poker run, 50/50 raffle, prize raffle, BBQ, and Cricket dart tournament  
 When: 9 - 5 p.m., Nov. 12  
 Where: 61858 29 Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree  
 \$25.00 single or \$35.00 couple  
 Dart tournament is an additional \$10

Lower Desert

Dierks Bentley

Country Music Star  
 When: 8 p.m., Nov. 12  
 Where: Agua Caliente  
 32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit  
<http://www.hotwatercasino.com>

Reel Band

Live Dance Band  
 When: 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.  
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit  
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Zapp/The Ohio Players

Performing soul and funk music  
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19  
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

The comedy of Bill Engvall

The blue-collar comedian performs his stand up  
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26  
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella  
 For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit  
<http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Sunset Cinema will be closed Nov. 2 through Dec. 8.

# Big, bloated, all-for-one, one-for-all mess



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Three Musketeers" is the latest in a string of more than 30 films adapted from Alexandre Dumas' enduring 1844 yarn of "one for all, all for one" French swordsmen on an international mission requiring both heroism and heart.

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

What do Mickey Mouse, Charlie Sheen, Gene Kelly, and Barbie have in common?

They've all been featured in movies based on "The Three Musketeers," Alexandre Dumas' enduring 1844 yarn of "one for all, all for one" French swordsmen

on an international mission requiring both heroism and heart. A rousing tale that resonates throughout the ages, it's been adapted into more than 30 different film versions over the past 100 years.

And, well, here's the latest one in that string.

This new cinematic riff keeps the novel's 17th century setting and premise but juices up the requisite swordplay with a ridiculous sideline about flying warship dirigibles, which eventually end up as a warships-kabob impaled on a cathedral spire.

"I hate air travel!" notes one character, puking into the clouds.

That line is but one example of the movie's feeble stabs at what passes for humor in the clunky, overly contrived script delivered by mostly unfamiliar, mostly European actors with British accents scampering around in fluffy "period" costumes on enormous, palatial sets and reacting to all sorts of computer-generated mayhem.

Moviegoers will spot a couple of familiar faces. Oscar winner Cristoph Waltz is the duplicitous Cardinal Richelieu, and former model Milla Jovovich plays Milady de Winter, a double-crossing superspy with a few tricks up her flounced petticoat.

Jovovich looks voluptuous in a torso-squeezing bustier, and director Paul W.S. Anderson (also her husband, how about that!) creates more than one opportunity for her to jiggle in slow-mo, cartoonishly acrobatic espionage sequences. Seeing the way Milady outfoxes and outmaneuvers all sorts of boobytraps, you can only surmise her

character must have access to a Renaissance invention that somehow plays "Matrix," "Mission: Impossible" and "Kill Bill" DVDs.

The rest of the actors seem to have been cast for their resemblance to other, better-known stars who all had the good sense to steer clear. One bears a passing resemblance to Robert Downey Jr. Another favors Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, if Rock was a bit smaller and sported a bejeweled eye patch.

And over there—that guy could pass for Orlando Bloom in a poofy pompadour wig as the power-hungry Duke of Buckingham. Wait a minute... that IS Orlando Bloom in a poofy pompadour wig as the power-hungry Duke of Buckingham! How'd he end up here? Maybe he was jonesing for some "Pirates of the Caribbean" action after deciding to exit that successful franchise before the fourth movie set sail.

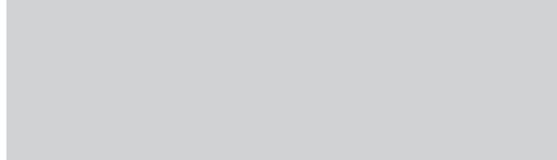
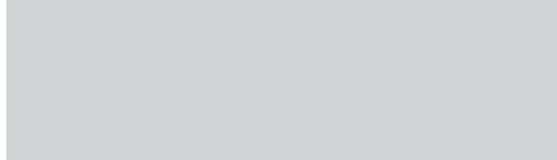
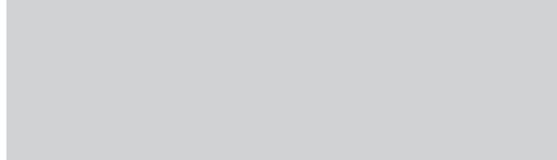
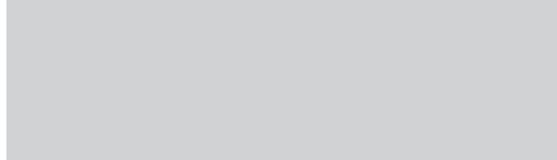
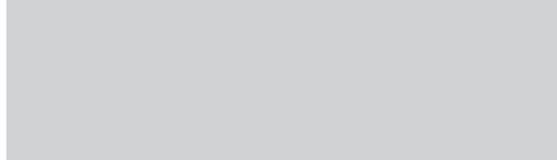
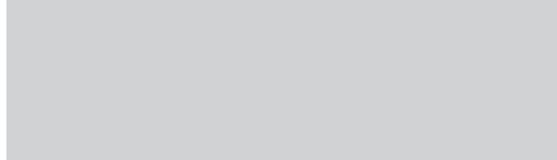
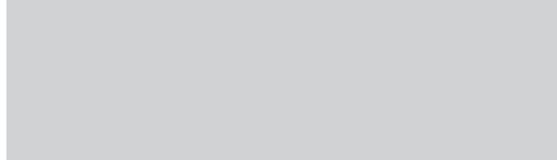
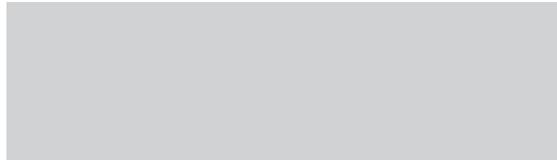
Bloom, and the rest of the actors, however, should have remained dry-docked instead of shipping out on this big, bloated Three Muske-mess, which, unfortunately, is primed for a sequel next year.

All for one, one for all—but no second helping for me, thanks.

"The Three Musketeers"

PG-13, 110 min.

Starring Milla Jovovich, Logan Lerman, Matthew Macfadyen & Ray Stevenson  
 Directed by Paul W.S. Anderson



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# Traditionally Fed: Language of *Food*

**N**ot all Marines get the luxury of celebrating and feasting stateside. But the Corps, knowing its primary mission and the war in Afghanistan, makes every effort to serve the Marines deployed and at home good food, capping off an event that is memorable and special.

"We were served turkey and potatoes by our company commander on the birthday," said Lance Cpl. Nicholas Anderson, formerly an infantryman with Company L, 3rd

Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, who was deployed in Sangin, Afghanistan, for the Corps 235th birthday in 2010. "We had pie instead of cake. We kind of laughed a bit because we cut a pie and gave it to the oldest Marine, who was 28, and the youngest, who was 18. There were no plates so we ate on cardboard."

Unlike dining on their typical Meals Ready-To-Eat, the Marines with Anderson remembered that day in particular among hundreds of other days deployed, because of the extra special grub.

"It was definitely out of the norm," Anderson said.

Once a year, Marines around the world micro-inspect their uniforms, stand a little taller, chests out to show off the bling pinned there and partake in traditions that represent the long history of the Corps. But most of all, the Marines who take part in the Marine Corps birthday anxiously wait through the ceremony to dine better than they have all year, knowing full well they get spoiled every year when it comes to chow.

The formal ball dinner is a time for Marines to sit, build camaraderie in celebration and remember the ones who are no longer with them.

Similar to the nationwide Thanksgiving or Christmas feasts, the birthday meal is an elegant event, with many pieces of shining silverware, beautiful centerpieces and candles.

The Marines dine with shrimp cocktail, seasoned grilled steak, baked lobster tails, baked potatoes, sautéed mushrooms and onions, steamed Italian-cut green beans, corn

on the cob and of course, the traditional Marine Corps birthday cake.

The formal birthday dinner every year is not necessarily the same menu, against popular opinion of "surf and turf" being the norm. While many birthday balls do serve a combination of steak and lobster, there is no official regulation of what the meal should consist of, said Beth Crumley, a historian at the Marine Corps History Division.

No matter where the Marines find themselves around the world, deployed or stateside, each Marine is treated extra special on their birthday, and the birthday meal is a way to show celebration around the Corps.

**By Lance Cpl. Sarah Dietz**  
*Combat Correspondent*

## THIS YEAR ON THE MENU

Shrimp cocktail  
French onion soup  
Deviled eggs  
Grilled steak  
Baked lobster tails  
Baked potatoes  
Steamed Italian-cut green beans  
Sautéed mushrooms and onions  
Corn on the cob  
Dinner rolls  
Marine Corps birthday cake  
Cheesecake with strawberry topping  
Assorted fruit pies  
Assorted beverages



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Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

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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

# WeekINPhotos

Veterans Day Around the Corps



LANCE CPL. ERIK S. BROOKS JR.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



LANCE CPL. CHELSEA FLOWERS

**[Top]** 2nd Lt. Rothana L. Um reads Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message at 9th Engineer Support Battalion's Marine Corps birthday ball at The Palms Club on Camp Hansen, Japan Oct. 28.

**[Above]** Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr. stands at attention, waiting to cut the Marine Corps birthday cake during the Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 9.

**[Top Right]** Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos cuts the Marine Corps birthday cake during the cake cutting ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington Nov. 8. A sword is used to cut the cake to remind Marines that they are a band of warriors, committed to carrying the sword so that the nation may live in peace.

**[Right]** Marines and sailors stand at attention as they display the Marine Corps uniforms of the past 236 years, during the Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Nov. 9.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

