

# YEAR

THE HAPPENINGS ABOARD THE COMBAT CENTER  
AND AROUND THE MARINE CORPS

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THE GUNNER / THE KID  
THE GRUNT

PG. A7

# IN

NEVER FORGOTTEN

FALLEN HEROES  
REMEMBERED PG. A2

CLOSE UPS PG. A4

FAV SHOTS OF 2011

# REVIEW

# 2011



2/7  
MARINES  
TAKE ON  
A LIFE  
AT SEA

FAMILY  
TIME

FAMILY DAYS AND HOMECOMINGS HELP KEEP  
LOVED ONES UNITED WITH THEIR HEROES,  
THEIR MARINES AND SAILORS

PG. B6

this year's best sports shots

football basketball softball volleyball

PG. A6

PG. B2



# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY ROLAND BALIK



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

**[Above]** Mannette Zanowick, mother of Cpl. Paul W. Zanowick II, grieves in front of her son's battlefield cross alongside his father, Paul, and wife, Ryanlynn, during the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment's memorial service held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 27. The unit lost five Marines during their deployment. **[Top Right]** A U.S. Marine Corps carry team transfers the remains of Marine Sgt. Christopher Diaz, of Albuquerque, N.M., at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Oct. 1, 011. Diaz was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



SGT. DORIAN GARDNER



CPL. M.C. NERL

**[Above, left]** Cpl. Scotty D. Couch, with Weapons Company, comforts Cpl. John C. Smeeton, sniper, Weapons Co., during the memorial service for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 27, 2011. **[Above, middle]** The 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion's firing detail executes a 21-gun salute before the playing of Taps during Cpl. Paul Miller's memorial ceremony aboard Camp Delaram II, Afghanistan, Aug. 10, 2011. Miller, combat engineer, 3rd CEB, Regimental Combat Team 2, was killed in action while on a patrol. During the ceremony, many Marines from Miller's unit spoke about his character and told stories about Miller as a Marine and a friend. After the ceremony was concluded, Marines passed by Miller's battlefield memorial to say a quick prayer and salute the fallen Marine. **[Above, right]** Marines with 3rd CEB present flowers and words of encouragement to family members of four Marines who were lost in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during the unit's memorial service Jan. 12, 2011 at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

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## Base power outage Monday

Southern California Edison has notified the base of a power outage starting the evening of Monday, Jan. 16, until the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 10.

The base will begin to systematically shut down power at 5 p.m. Monday. Power is expected to be back up by 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. During the outage, portions of the installation will receive power from the Co-Generation Plant.

The goal is to maintain power to all BEQs and housing units, community services buildings and emergency essential facilities.

If power requirements cannot be lowered enough, additional buildings, including sections of housing, may lose power also.

All units and personnel are required to shut down all non-essential equipment and watch water usage during this time.

If additional information is needed, please call the Public Works Officer 830-6654 or Utilities and Energy Management at 830-5128.

If you want to make sure that you can report an emergency during a power outage, you need to have a phone that plugs directly into a wall outlet and does not rely on an electrical outlet to operate.

The fastest and most direct way to report emergencies from your cell phone is by calling one of the 24-hour dedicated emergency lines at 830-3333 or 830-3334.

Take the time to prepare. Program your cell phone when your hands aren't shaking from the excitement of a true emergency.





LANCE CPL. NORRIS PAVALA

The Combat Center’s vast desert landscape is the final stop for Marines around the world preparing for war. The installation’s 932 square miles house firing ranges and mock towns where troops get hands-on experience with the situations they are likely to face when forward deployed to a combat zone.

Year 2011 marked the opening of Range 220, known as the Combined Arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain. CAMOUT features more than 1,500 buildings and is the size of downtown San Diego. It features seven districts, each providing different urban challenges, 1,866 feet of tunnels and a fully-furnished 22,000-square-foot grand hotel. The facility is populated by role players acting as villagers, insurgents and fellow friendly forces. Many of them are native to Middle Eastern countries and well-versed in the language and customs of the areas troops are currently deployed.

**[Above]** Marines with Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, reload their M777 howitzer during a call for fire for Operation Urban Thunder, at the Combat Center’s training area May 17, 2011.

**[Right]** Marines with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, practice their night time standard operating procedures and gun drills Feb. 15, 2011, at the Combat Center’s Lead Mountain Training Area.



CPL. M.C. NERL



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

An M-22 rocket, fired from an M142 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System, flies toward a target at the Quackenbush training area June 15, 2011.



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**Relax with the paper**

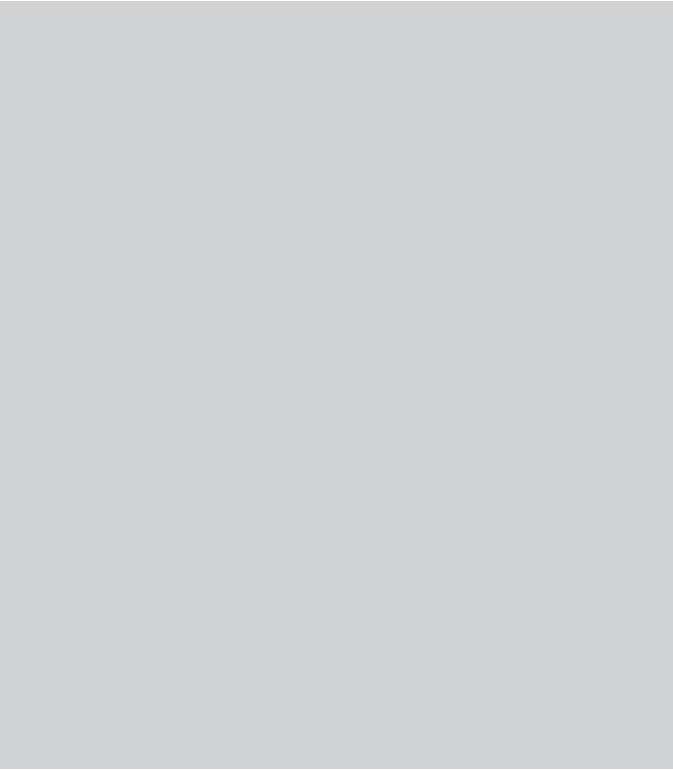
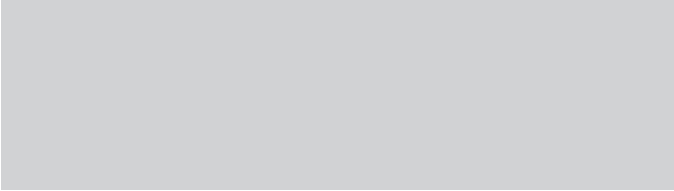
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# TOP PICKS



**1 FOREIGN RELATIONS** Photo by Lance Cpl. William C. Gomez  
A Marine with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment talks with a role player acting as an Afghan local during a Ley Leader Engagement lane during the unit's Enhanced Mojave Viper training at Range 220.



**2 HOSTILE TAKE-OVER** Photo by Cpl. Andrew D. Thorburn

Officers with the California Highway Patrol mobile field force practice using smoke canisters, simulating using CS gas, during a training event at Range 200 Nov. 9, 2011.



**3 SHOUT OUT** Photo by Cpl. Andrew S Avitt

A Marine with II Marine Expeditionary Force's Enabler Team yells to the driver of his Military All-Terrain Vehicle to move up, as his convoy bounds systematically to neutralize targets during a motorized operations training exercise aboard the Combat Center, March 2, 2011.

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A crew chief from HMH-361, looks out the window of a CH-53E Super Stallion during a flight over the MWTC, Bridgeport, Calif., May 25, 2011.  
PHOTO BY CPL. SARAH DIETZ



A Marine with 1st Tank Battalion helps a woman off a tank after a ride during the unit's Jane Wayne Day event at Range 400 March 31, 2011. PHOTO BY CPL. SARAH DIETZ



Lance Cpl. Kyle Binaei gives the UH-1N Huey pilot a thumbs up, signaling the helicopter's engine is good for take off, Dec. 2, 2011.  
PHOTO BY CPL. SARAH DIETZ



# Need for speed

Frank Santiago, installation rider coach, flies around a corner of the Chuckwalla Valley Raceway, May 13, 2011, practicing during a Jason Pridmore's Star School class sponsored by the Combat Center's Base Safety. PHOTO BY CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN



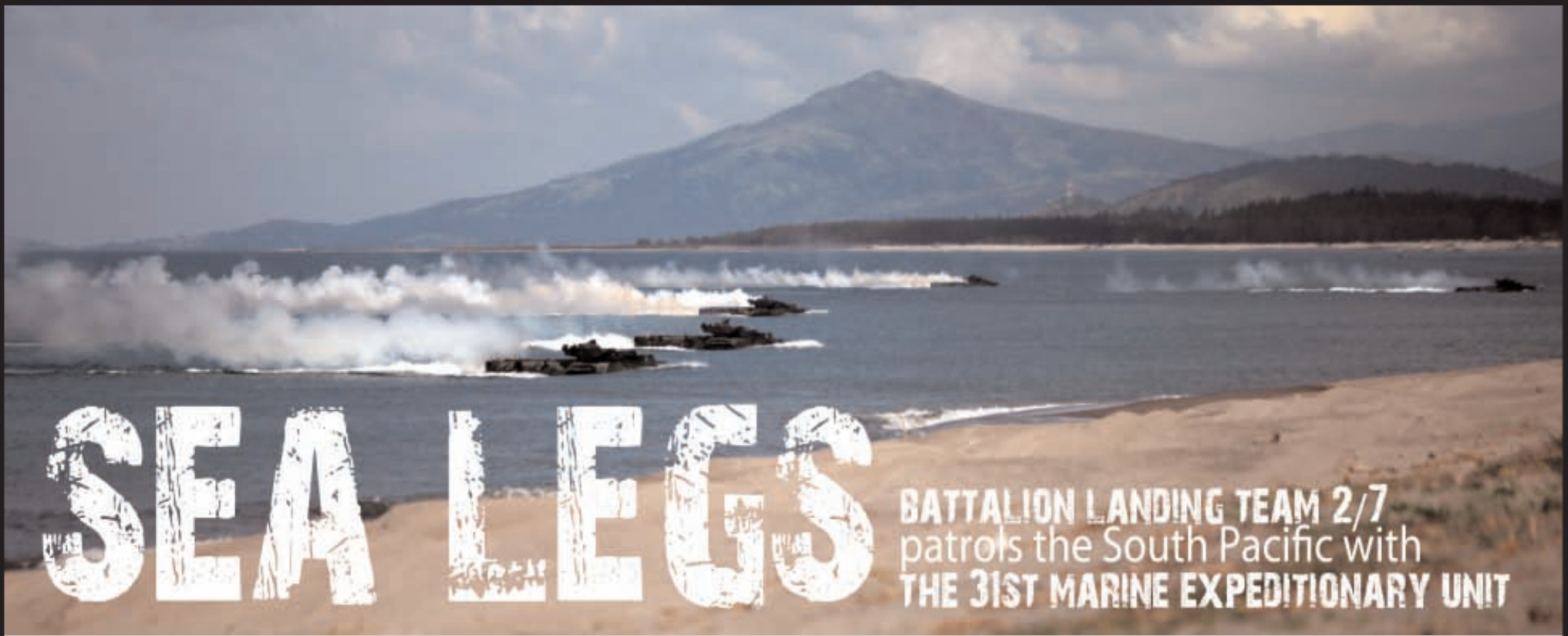
Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, provide security for Marines conducting a simulated Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel exercise in the Combat Center's training area Dec. 3, 2011. PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



## Combat Center Year 2011 highlights

- One of five U.S. installations in the world to be awarded the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence...again.
- Placed in two Environmental Award Winners categories: Sustainability, Individual or Team and Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation.
- Range 220, the largest Marine Military Operations in Urban Terrain town in the Corps, completed.
- Littleton Hall Messhall won the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award, naming them the best in contracted garrison mess hall in the Marine Corps.
- Long-awaited new Marine Corps Exchange opened.
- Single Marines move into improved, state-of-the-art "green" barracks.
- Installation's newspaper, the Observation Post (what you're reading) named top paper of its category in the Marine Corps.





PHOTOS BY CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

Amphibious Assault Vehicles with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, make their way ashore during a mock mechanized amphibious assault, Oct. 23, 2011. The assault was a bilateral exercise, and is conducted annually with the Republic of the Philippines.



[Above] Marines prepare to detach cargo as it is dropped by a MH-60S helicopter with Amphibious Squadron 11, Nov. 26.

[Right] Marines with Co. G., BLT 2/7, 31st MEU, secure Freshwater Beach during an amphibious assault in support of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, which included Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines; Combat Logistics Battalion 31; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 and Marine Attack Squadron 214, provides a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limit contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific area.



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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Best of...

THE GUNNER



**Gunner Don Rieg**  
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INTERVIEWED AND  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**  
OCT. 29, 2011

APPEARED IN ISSUE 43, NOV. 11, 2011

- > **I had amnesia** in sixth grade. I smashed my head on a pole playing foot- ball. 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 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.
- > **Hey, I'm a classy guy.**
- > **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.
- > **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
- > **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.
- > **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.
- > **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.

THE KID

**Charlotte Pothier**  
AGE 5 (AND A HALF)

INTERVIEWED AND  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**  
OCT. 24, 2011

APPEARED IN ISSUE 41, OCT. 28, 2011

- > **My name's** Charlotte. I like Charlie. But nobody calls me Charlie.
- > **I like** gymnastics.
- > **I like** to climb trees sometimes.
- > **I like** to visit other parts of my family in different countries, like Florida.
- > **I have three cousins**, I think. Do we have three cousins? Four cousins, I think.
- > **My daddy goes to work**, and he, um, helps them fight bad guys. But he likes to snuggle with us.
- > **My mommy likes** my kisses the most, and her favorite thing is me.
- > **I want to be a teacher.** I want to teach about lots of numbers, like



- how to count by fives or ones or tens.
- > **I think after** I'm a teacher, I want to be an astronaut.
  - > **And then** I have to figure out what else to do.
  - > **I'm not messy.** Not today.
  - > **I would teach all the animals** to talk like humans. I would teach animals to do stuff like humans, like how to roll over and cartwheel and stuff.
  - > **No throwing trash** on the ground. It's not healthy for the Earth.
  - > **The next one is no running** on the street when cars are coming.
  - > **No smoking**, because it's bad for your lungs. At least that's what Mommy says.
  - > **Grown-ups should** eat their food, like their kids. They should be polite, like their kids. They should be nice, like their kids.
  - > **You can make friends faster** than a grown-up.
  - > **You can get naps**, and grown-ups can't.

THE GRUNT



**LANCE CPL. HARIS NADEEM**  
INFANTRYMAN, 21, TULSA, OKLA.

INTERVIEWED AND  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**  
NOV. 29, 2011

APPEARED IN ISSUE 47, DEC. 2, 2011

- > **When I was growing up**, I was more intellectual. I didn't play sports. I played baseball, but that wasn't my fault.
- > **A lot of Marines** played football or wrestling, but not me.
- > **I'm kind of** a nerd, I guess.
- > **When I was 8**, we were at Yellowstone, and I got this scar from a bear. Then a ranger jumped out of nowhere. Not like an Army Ranger, but a real ranger. You know, a park ranger. And stopped it. It was crazy. But I'm OK.
- > **My family is mostly** Indian. Not the Mohawk kind, but the kind with the red dot on forehead.
- > **I left home** when I was 19. I had started to work. I went to a community college. I got fed up with it. I needed a change.
- > **The Marines looked good** in their uniforms. They actually had equipment to work out on in their office. It was clean. They just had their stuff together.
- > **It's just a different world** within a world. You have the Marine Corps, then inside, there's the infantry.
- > **Everyone has this** image that all Marines are crazy, all Marines want to fight. That's just not true.
- > **I see a Marine**, I see a guy kicking down a door.
- > **This was after** I got home from my deployment. One of my friends, we were sitting on the couch, and he was like, "Dude, you've been shot at. You're a veteran." And I was like, "Oh my god, you're right." That was the first time I realized that my experiences truly were different, that I had changed.
- > **There's actually an ant** that will scream before it attacks you. They all screech. They're the size of your finger. They are huge. This was in Afghanistan though. We'd throw pebbles at them, and they'd catch them. They were not to be messed with.
- > **In Afghanistan, they'd watch Dexter** at night. I'd be trying to sleep, and it was a small space. All I'd hear was some woman screaming. And Dexter has this voice that he always uses. It's ridiculous. I'll never forgive that man for that show.
- > **I enjoyed the fact** of the freedom of mentality. I wasn't worried about my family. I wasn't worried about my payments. My car. All you do is patrol, eat, talk to your friends about what you're going to do when you get home. It's that simple.
- > **Ninety percent** of what you talk to your friends about what you're going to do, you don't do.





Softball player, Jennifer Halle, catches the ball during warm-ups for the All-Women's Softball League tryouts at Felix Field. Last year was the first time in six years the installation has hosted an all-women's league.

PHOTO BY CPL. SARAH DIETZ

2011.  
It all  
comes  
down to

THIS

Another year of good times has come to an end. Turn the page to relive those moments.



# THE BEST of SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Combat Center 2011



CPL SARAH DIETZ



CPL ANDREW D. THORBURN

- 1
- Wilson player Scott McCormack practices spiking the ball against his teammate before a game May 5, 2011, at the West Gym and Fitness Center.
- 2
- Where My Pitches? player Rose Silvas stretches for the ball during the All-Women's Intramural Softball semi-final game Nov 21, 2011.
- 3
- 3/12 point guard Sean Young puts the ball up Feb. 9, 2011, during his team's game against the Rhinos. Young and 3/12 lost 45 – 44.
- 4
- A Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcon rushes through the Combat Center Bulldawgs' defense during the annual Best of the West football game at Felix Field Dec. 10, 2011.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



CPL SARAH DIETZ

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DIANE DURDEN

# Keeping family ties STRONG



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



CPL. SARAH DIETZ

**[Above, top left]** Eight-month-old Aristotle Tuvera Jr., says hello to his dad, Petty Officer 1st Class Aristotle Tuvera, hospital corpsman with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. Tuvera returned home Jan. 8, 2011, from an eight-month deployment.

**[Above, left]** Sgt. Benjamin A. Shockey, rifleman with Weapons Company, picks up his daughter, Isabel, after she leapt into his arms during 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment's homecoming celebration at the Combat Center Oct. 17, 2011.

**[Above, right]** Staff Sgt. Arnesto Guevara, instructor, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, watches his 2-year-old daughter, Naylani, as her friend Madison Bork, 4-year-old daughter of Staff Sgt. Randy Bork, follows close behind during the MCCES family day at Felix Field Nov. 22, 2011.