MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

January 20, 2012

Vol. 56 Issue 2

Tax Center

next week

The Combat Center offers free tax preparation services for active duty, retirees

Each base tax preparer completes a two-week course with the IRS. These are the same qualifications commercial tax preparers are required to meet.

Clients need to bring their W-2, social security card and military ID. Those with children also need to bring in the child's social security card. Bring in all other paperwork, like receipts, for

Couples filing jointly need to come in together, or have a power of attorney granting rights to file on behalf of their spouse. Those filing for deployed spouses also need a power of attorney. If opting for an electronic deposit, clients need their bank's routing number and checking account number.

Deadline to file is April 17 this year. April 15 falls on a Sunday. Deployed members have a one-year extension. The center opens Jan. 24, weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Bldg. 1428. There is a plan to open a location at Camp Wilson to make it easier for Marines training in the field to file.

For more information, or to make an

New online course

required for staff

There is a new prerequisite to the

Gunnery sergeants must now complete

requirements for promotion from gunnery

sergeant to first sergeant or master sergeant.

the Advanced Course Distance Education

Program on MarineNet prior to taking the

Resident Advanced Course as a require-

ment for promotion, as stated in MARAD-

Institute Staff Noncommissioned Officer

Academy Distance Education Program as a

means to better prepare Marines for the

plete advanced course within one year of

taking the ACDEP. Those who do not

complete the ACDEP within the allotted

geants and above. Marines must enroll on

MarineNet with a proctor present before

Marines into five sub-courses covering 18

lessons. It utilizes computer-based training

technology and provides interactive and

Jan. 16. Those currently enrolled have until

June 30 to complete the course.

The original course was discontinued

For more information, refer to

The course automatically enrolls

Enrollment is only open to gunnery ser-

time must retake the online course.

Marines will also be required to com-

The ACDEP replaced the Marine Corps

MIN 729/11, released Dec. 11, 2011.

advanced course.

taking the exam.

multimedia support.

MARADMIN 729/11.

NCO promotions

LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

appointment, call 830-4TAX.

to open

LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI Combat Correspondent

and military families.

miscellaneous claims.

STRENGTHENING From across the border



Canadian Cpl. Gabriel Dufou, Squadron B, 12th Regiment Blinde du Canada translated as 12th Armored Regiment of Canada, and U. S. Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Gwiazdowski, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, await their next orders in their LAV-25 Jan. 14. They were participating in a joint rehearsal exercise known as Desert Fighter/Baroudeur at the Combat Center's training area.

> Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu Combat Correspondent

he Combat Center's unique desert environment and vast training grounds have attracted international military communities around the globe to train with Marines in an environment similar to one they would find in the battlefields of the Middle East.

Squadron B, 12th Regiment Blinde du Canada, or, the 12th Armored Regiment of Canada, is the latest foreign unit to come to the Combat Center for some cross-training.

The Canadian Forces' 12th ARC, based out of Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, Quebec, specializes in their use of light armored vehicles.

The 12th ARC worked with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during the exercise.

Both countries had plenty to gain from the cross training opportunity.

The Marines of 3rd LAR had the chance to work with the country that invented the LAV-25, the battalion's pri-

The Canadian soldiers trained in an environment that they couldn't replicate in their home country.

When not actively engaging in the exercise, the service members talked about what they had in commontheir vehicles.

Trooper Mathieu Lachance, LAV crewman, 12th ARC, enjoyed the change in training venues.

"I really like the heat and the size of the training area," Lachance said. "We don't get either of those things back in Canada."

The unique aspect about these two units is that the few

See BROTHERS, A8

mary vehicle of operation.



Canadian Lt. Jayme Lelerc, 12th ARC, goes over a map with his Marine counterpart during an exercise.

Officers' Spouses' Club gets big boost in scholarship donations

LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With recent cutbacks to military tuition

assistance, scholarships and grants are at a premium.

The Officers' Spouses' Club Twentynine Palms awards scholarships to children and spouses of service members in the Morongo Basin every year.

In the past month, donations from charitable organizations gave the club a big boost to their scholarship program.

"We've had recent donations from the has War Casualty Family Assistance Fund and boosted the club's ability to help the services and provides goods and services to the American Friends of our Armed Forces

that have enhanced the number of people we can reach through our scholarships," said Julianne Wilson, president, OSC educational, community and welfare proj-Twentynine Palms.

The War Casualty Family Assistance Fund is an independent charity organization based out of Indian Wells, Calif., and helps families of military veterans. Their donation of \$25,000 to the OSC

substantially

community.

The club's mission is to foster goodwill among its members and to support social,

> aboard Combat Center and in the Morongo Basin

The AFAF has donated to OSC before and continued their support with a donation of \$10,000 to the OSC. AFAF supports the men and women of the armed

These organizations have supported the OSC and its mission.

"We're a social organization," Wilson said. "We do events for the community and fundraisers for our scholarship programs."

The OSC is scheduled to start accepting applications for these scholarships and grants in mid-January through March 1, with decisions being finalized and released by the end of May.

For more information on the OSC Twentynine Palms and the scholarship program, visit their official website at:

http://sites.google.com/site/ officersspousesclub29palms/

We've had recent donations that have enhanced the number of people we can reach through our scholarship programs,"

President, Officers' Spouses' Club

immediate family members.

- Julianne Wilson

This Week in Combat Center



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated January 24, 1969, Vol. 13, No. 4

Asst. Director Tells Future WM Plans During Inspection

Author Unknown

LtCol. Margaret A. Brewer, Assistant Director of Women Marines, conducted the IG inspection of 29 Palms WM's last week.

The colonel began her inspection by viewing one-half of the local Women Marines² taking the PFT. The women's test, a scaleddown version of the men's fitness exam, includes modified sit-ups and push-ups, a jump-and-reach 240-foot shuttle run (in 27 seconds) and a 600-yard run-walk in 2 minutes, 40 seconds.

All women tested passed, for 2 noteworthy, from LtCol. Brewer.

Cpl. Thyra Garlick, DPI, set a Base (and possible WM) women's 600-yard run-walk record. She ran the 600 yards in one minute, 36 seconds.

Following the PFT, Colonel Brewer held a clothing display and personnel inspection. These the colonel rated as satisfactory with minor discrepancies.

After the test, LtCol. Brewer discussed future Corps plans for Women Marines.

New purses are being wear-tested for possible WM use. They will be worn on the arm, instead of over the shoulder. The purses are reportedly more serviceable than the ones now in use.

In the near future, women recruits will be issued one pair of high heel pumps, one pair of low-heeled shoes and one pair of oxfords. The two pair of oxfords are found to be seldom used after recruit training.

An idea is now being considered to change the long sleeve winter service blouse. If the idea is accepted, the blouse will be shortsleeved and no ties will be worn.

The Assistant WM Director also said education of Women Marines is increasing. Approximately 80-95 percent of all recruit graduates are sent to some type of formal schooling.

For those women interested in a tour of duty overseas, she said these tours have been lengthened from 13 to 18 months. So, Women

Marines must have at least 18 months obligated service before consideration.

LtCol. Brewer added the strength of the Woman Marines has grown to 2,600 and they are serving in approximately 50 duty stations around the world.³

A graduate of the University of Michigan in 1952, LtCol. Brewer⁴ was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in March 1952. She is one of the eleven Women Marine lieutenant colonels on active duty in the Corps.

FOOTNOTES

(1) The use of the term "WM" when referring to a woman Marine was considered acceptable until the 1990s.

(2) The United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve, established in 1942, was a Reserve unit which provided women for shore duty in the Marine Corps to take over jobs so men could be released for combat duty. Although in a co-ed working environment, they were considered to be part of a seperate unit.

(3) Currently, women serve in 93 percent of the occupational fields, making up 6.2 percent of the Corps.

(4) In May 1978, Brewer became the first female general officer in the Marine Corps. She served as the Director of Division Public Affairs until retiring in 1980.

Hot Topics

BINGO

The O'Club will be hosting a fun night out of Guys & Dolls Bingo tonight. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door. This event is open to all hands from 6 to 9 p.m.

KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

There will be a Kickball Tournament Feb. 7-9 at Felix Field from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Teams must consist of 11 players. There will be a mandatory coaches meeting February 1 at noon, Bldg. 1341. This event is open to active duty, civilian, family members, contractors and DoD employees. Contact Marine Corps Community Services sports department at 830-4092 for more information.

DODGEBALL **SEASON**

It's time again for dodgeball. The season will be held every Wednesday evening at the East Gym from Feb. 8 to April 11. Deadline to register is Feb. 1 at 3 p.m. at the East Gym. The league is open to active duty, family members, and NAF/DoD employees. For more information, call 830-4092.

WINTER **SCRAMBLE**

The Desert Winds Golf Course will be hosting the Winter Scramble January 27 at 9 a.m. the game is a fourperson scramble. The tournament costs \$30 per person or \$5 for members. Door prizes and prizes for winners will be given. For more information call 830-6132.



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

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

830-3937

"Am I BUSY??!!!..., HA!, Take a look around, EINSTEIN!!

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

SUDOKU #2422-M

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF @ 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

CORN-UCOPIA

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

MYTH-BUSTING! Top 4 Myths about Pap Tests

TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

Did you know that cervical cancer was once a leading cause of cancer death in American women?

In fact, in many developing countries, it still is. However, cervical cancer deaths in the U.S. fell by about 70 percent between 1955 and 1992, according to the American Cancer Society.

What caused this difference? One life-saving exam: the Pap test.

Yet many women don't go for their Pap tests, often because of misunderstandings about the exam. Avoiding this test boils down to one important thing: not having it could take you away from life's most important moments with your family.

Let's take a few minutes to some common debunk myths:

Layout, Design - Cpl. Sarah Dietz

ALYSSA WHETSTINE Myth: I can skip a few given birth to three or more Pap tests without serious consequences.

> Reality check: According to the American Cancer Society, 60 to 80 percent of women diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer haven't had a Pap test in the past five years. Skipping just a few of these exams can allow cancer to develop without you knowing.

> Myth: If I'm going to get cervical cancer, a test won't make a difference either way.

Reality check: When found early, cervical cancer is highly treatable. Nearly 90 percent of diagnosed women survive because of early detection, according to the American Cancer Society. That's why getting your Pap tests can mean the difference between life and death.

Myth: Once I'm done having children, I can stop getting my Pap tests.

Reality check: If you've

children, you have a greater chance of developing cervical cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC). Plus, this cancer often forms after a woman's child-bearing years.

Myth: If I've had the HPV vaccine, I can't get cervical cancer, and I don't need any more Pap tests.

Reality check: The HPV vaccine only protects against the few strains of the virus which cause most cervical cancers. However, they're not the only causes. Getting vaccinated is highly recommended, but it does not mean you will never get cervical cancer.

So take the time, make the time. Call for that appointment.

For more information about cervical cancer prevention, visit http://www.triwest.com/Pap.

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General - Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr. Public Affairs Officer - Capt. Nick Mannweiler Deputy Public Affairs Officer - 1st Lt. Sin Y. Carrano Public Affairs Chief - Gunnery Sgt. Leo A. Salinas Press Chief/Editor - Sgt. Heather Golden

Correspondents

Cpl. William J. Jackson Cpl. Andrew D. Thorburn Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis Diane Durden

The Observation Post is published by Hi-Desert Publishing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the Observation Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States government, the DoD, or the United States Marine Corps. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD or Hi-Desert Publishing of the services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is prepared by the Public Affairs Office, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92278. All photos, unless otherwise indicated are Official USMC Photos. Questions can be directed to the Public Affairs Office, located in building 1417, during normal working hours at 830-6213 or FAX 830-5474. The Observation Post is made with 60 percent recycled paper.

ACROSS 1. Bro or sis

4. Pesto, for one

9. Wreck beyond repair

14.Have _ _ at (try) 15.Part of the immune 68.Short-?sheeting, system

16.Awaken 17.CORN 20. Title role for

Madonna 21. Take potshots 22. Feline, to Tweety

23.Pull up stakes 25.Come next

27.Mound stat 29.Make one's case 33.CORN

40.Logical beginning? 41.Barney's sitcom

boss 42.Plow pioneer

43.Critter with a scut 44.Look like a wolf 45.CORN

47. Yuletide candy

shapes 49.Pilot's announcement, briefly

50. Theater floor litter **DOWN** 54.Caught in a trap

59.B-?52's home 62.Bits of news 64.Frank work 65.CORN

69.Big name in metals 70. Obsolete map abbr. 7. Geneticist's 71. Cassius whupped him in '64

72.Much teen talk 73. Tabloid aviators

spokesman 9.Put in alignment 10.Sock-?in-?the-?gut

1.Kept out of the net

2.__ at he office"

3.__ acid (mild

antiseptic)

5. Vaudeville bit

6.One-?eighties

creation

8.Like a Keebler

auto)

4.Stanley ___ (early

response 11. End of a lion's

12. Home to most

Turks 13.Ash Wednesday

starts it

Holland

31. Flying start?

18."Give ___ whirl!" 19.AWOL chasers

24. Gives a poke to 26. Yale or Root

28.Be an accessory to 30.Big cheese in

De.

66.B & B 67."Smoking or ___?"

32.No slacker, he

33. The soft end of

34. Fit for drafting

36.Funereal fires

38.Perry's creator

39.Chances upon

46.Place for Mace

48.Like Limburger

51. Hagen of stage

and screen

53.Locker room

emanation

classical elements

56.Sweeten the pot

60.Casino card game

61.Source of fiber

63.Director Vittorio

57.Dadaist Max

58.Batik workers

59.Fuse units

55.One of the

52.B & B?

or Thompson

the Mohs scale

35.Early eviction site

37.Actress Salonga

OBSERVATION POST JANUARY 20, 2012 A3



Marines with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, run up the Kin Blue training area beach after leaving their combat rubber raiding craft during a mock boat raid here, Jan. 13. The main objective of the boat raid exercise was to eliminate any hostile presence in the Kin Blue "town" and to secure the surrounding area.

Beach secured with amphibious assault

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT

OKINAWA, Japan - Sporadic bursts of rifle fire cut through the still air, drawing an immediate response from the Marines staged on the opposite end of the clearing. Call for maneuvers were made as groups of Marines took up defensive positions, returning fire in the direction of the enemy contact. Minutes later, three hostiles were either killed or captured, and a security perimeter was established around the cleared area.

"So far we've encountered rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire," said Lance Cpl. Derek Gregory, assaultman with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. "After clearing the immediate area and checking for any [improvised explosive devices], we'll return the town to the

Although there is no Kin government on the island of Okinawa, the capturing of Kin town from control of enemy forces is one of the objectives during a training exercise here, Jan. 13. The unit known as Boat Company conducted a raid using Combat Rubber Raiding Craft on the Kin Blue Training Area as part of the MEU's predeployment exercise.

"The focus of this training was to properly conduct a boat raid from the beach, locate and eliminate any offensive forces and patrol the surrounding area," said Sgt. Henry Pulcine, acting range safety officer for the Kin Blue Training Area, 1/4.

A total of 15 craft hit the beach with the Marines quickly moving ashore and setting up defenses around the immediate area. After the boats were camouflaged with sand, the Marines made their way into the simulated Kin town, with cover provided by snipers and mortar teams.

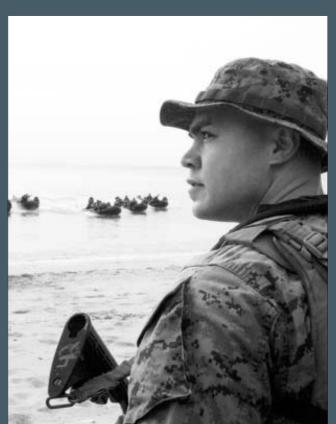
"It may be fake, but it's one of the best ways to keep our skills fresh and ensure we don't forget any beneficial training," Gregory said. "We're going to keep doing it so we're ready when we deploy.'

After securing the town, the Marines continued patrolling the rest of the area, discovering and properly clearing mock IEDs along the way.

Another patch of resistance was met when hostiles concealed in the foliage attempted to repel the Marines from securing a landing zone, but were eventually overcome. Those Marines with simulated injuries from the firefights were evacuated by way of helicopter from the secured landing zone.

When the rest of the area was determined to be free of remaining enemy forces, the Marines made their way back to the beach to leave in the craft that brought them in.

"This training combined different elements of the [Marine Air-Ground Task Force] and further taught them how to work as a cohesive whole," Pulcine said. "It was a good learning exercise, and I think it helped the Marines work on any areas that might have needed attention."



A Marine with Co. A, BLT 1/4, 31st MEU, provides security for the incoming combat rubber raiding craft.





A4 JANUARY 20, 2012 **OBSERVATION POST**



WeekinPhotos Air Operations



[Far Left] Lance Cpl. Madison DeLoach, crew chief, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, observes the terrain during a routine flight operation, Helmand River Valley, Helmand province, Afghanistan Jan. 5. HMH-363 conducted flight operations in support of troops throughout the Helmand Province.

[Left] Marines with 1st Radio Battalion, Il Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), load onto a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 during a routine flight operation, Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 5.



Flares are discharged from a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter with HMH-363 during a routine flight operation, Helmand River Valley, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 5. Marine pilots of HMH-363 utilize flares ensuring the safety of the crew onboard and safe guarding the aircraft while in flight during poor visibility weather.

OBSERVATION POST JANUARY 20, 2012 A5

3rd CEB engineers keep Marine, ANA comarades fighting in Afghanistan

CPL. MARCO MANCHA

2ND MARINE DIVISION

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — These Marines are trained to lead patrols as point men and sweep for any improvised explosive devices, the enemy's favored weapon. They are also trained in construction and demolitions, making them a versatile force multiplier on the battlefield.

Their skills as combat engineers make them vital to any team of Marines, but when they work together, these Marines bring a unique element to the units they support. One fire team of combat engineers with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion came together to support the Marines and sailors of Border Advisor Team 1 during Operation Eagle Hunt.

The Afghan-led operation was a small shaping operation to clear the Taghaz area of southern Helmand in preparation for future counterinsurgency operations to expand Afghan-led security. Marines are providing support to the Afghans throughout these operations in order to assist their efforts to expand security, stability and development in the province.

It was a day before the operation when Apple Valley, Calif., native, Sgt. Joshua Malok arrived with his fire team of combat engineers to Combat Outpost Castle. The 3rd CEB squad leader knew little about the operation, but knew what his team was sent there to do.

"As combat engineers we were there to ensure that the Border Advisor Team was able to maneuver wherever they needed to in a safe manner," explained the 2003 Apple Valley High School graduate. "As a squad leader, I was there to ensure my Marines did that properly."

Malok and his Marines focused their efforts in leading the many security patrols the Marines conducted.

Cpl. Andrew Eisen of Seattle is another combat engineer with the team and took point on almost every patrol the Marines conducted. The duties placed on a pointman to scan the path for dangers can mean the difference between life and death.

The 21-year-old Eisen was always on the lookout for suspicious activity or signs of possible IEDs. He applied his training and remained vigilant with every step he took.

"You get used to the feeling of always being in front and accept the fact that it's a part of the job," said Eisen. "But you always have to be on the lookout for stuff no matter what the situation is or where you're patrolling."

Both Malok and Eisen observed their two younger Marines throughout the operation and mentored them as they worked. Malok said it was a good opportunity for his untried Marines to get a little experience under their belts.

The four-man team aided the BAT-1 Marines in clearing compounds and inspecting them before they entered. One Marine said it wasn't at all what he expected out of the operation, but it was a learning experience nonetheless.

"It was a very good learning experience. This is my first deployment, so a lot of this is new to me," said Lance Cpl. Stanton Cromer of Fort Myers, Fla. "It was great to be a



CDI MADCO MANCHA

Lance Cpl. Stanton Cromer, combat engineer, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, provides security during an evening patrol with the Afghan Border Police. The 25-year-old was part of Operation Eagle Hunt, a small shaping operation led by Afghan security forces to clear the Taghaz area of southern Helmand in preparation for future counterinsurgency operations to expand Afghan-led security.

part of this successful operation, and it gives me something to pass on to my junior Marines when I pick up rank."

The 25-year-old combat engineer aided in inspecting any suspicious wires or other objects hidden in the ground. He also helped sweep inside compounds using a compact metal detector to check for improvised explosive devices.

Some of the things they were able to point out on patrols were terrain models and small caches of batteries and wires, which are typically used in making IEDs. Malok said he was proud of the job his Marines did during the operation.

"I have full confidence in my Marines; they performed well," said Malok. "They did what was expected of them and more."

Editor's Note: Border Advisor Team 1 is currently assigned in support of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5 in 2nd Marine Division (Forward), which heads Task Force Leatherneck. The task force serves as the ground combat element of Regional Command (Southwest) and works in partnership with the Afghan National Security Forces and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency operations.



CPL. MARCO MANCH

Lance Cpl. Kyle Harbour, combat engineer, 3rd CEB, digs a hole to sleep in for the night during Operation Eagle Hunt. The operation, led completely by Afghan National Security Forces, was a small shaping operation to clear the Taghaz area of southern Helmand.

OBSERVATION POST A6 JANUARY 20, 2012

■ 9th ESB demilitarizes Afghanistan firebase

Photo and Story by Cpl. Bryan Nygaard II Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

Firebase Saenz, Afghanistan — Firebase Saenz, Afghanistan, has been destroyed. Its defenses have been torn down, and its walls completely leveled. This destruction was not caused by insurgents - it was the handiwork of Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion.

With the recent reduction and reorganization of troops, Saenz is the first of several forward operating bases being demilitarized in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

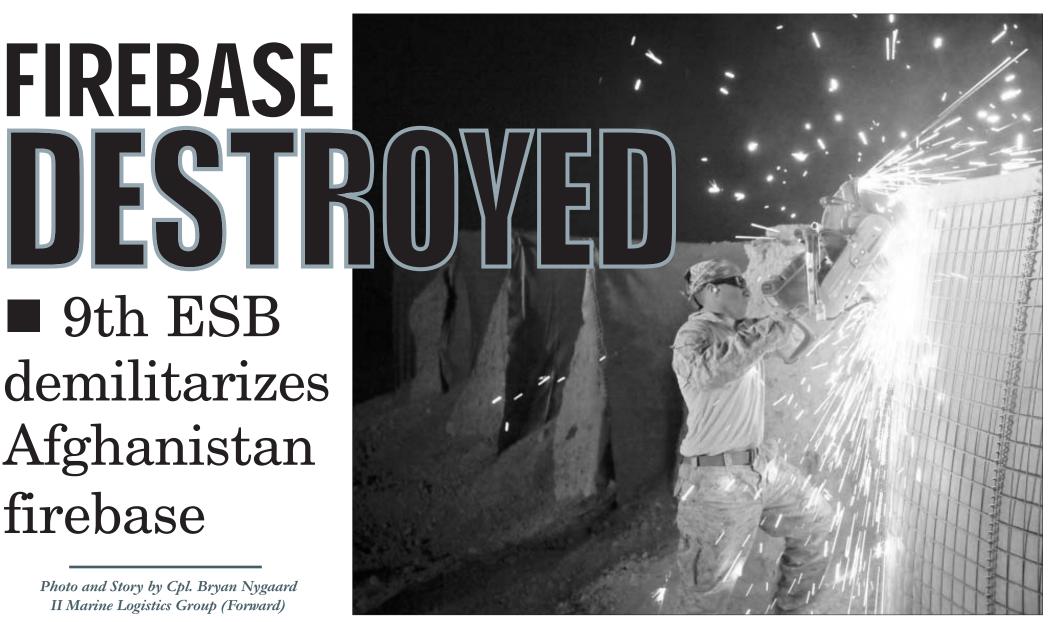
The firebase, which covered a little more than 11 acres of Afghan desert, was built more than a year ago and named after Sgt. Jose Saenz III, who was killed in action Aug. 9, 2010. During its existence, Saenz housed Marine artillery units that provided indirect fire support for coalition ground forces operating in the northern half of Helmand province.

After convoying north from Camp Leatherneck, the Marines of 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, currently attached to 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), worked diligently Dec. 13-15 to properly dismantle the base and ensure there was little, if any, footprint left by the Marines.

"The Marines have been doing a good job taking everything down and making sure to keep it neat so it fits on the trucks," said 1st Lt. Andrew Fassett, commander, 1st platoon, Company A, 9th ESB. "We did the right job in terms of cleaning up after ourselves in Afghanistan." Doing the right job included emptying sandbags, pushing

down berms and coiling up hundreds of yards of razorsharp concertina wire surrounding Saenz.

One of the more challenging tasks was dismantling the able positions on top of their packs and body armor.



Cpl. James Hernandez, combat engineer with Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, uses an electric saw to dismantle a dirt-filled barrier at Firebase Saenz Dec. 13.

numerous dirt-filled barriers that made up the guard posts at each corner of the base. Dirt-filled barriers, also known as HESCO barriers, are military fortifications that have seen extensive use in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

A typical dirt-filled barrier is 4-feet tall and 3-feet wide and is made of a collapsible wire-mesh container with a heavy-duty fabric liner usually filled with sand.

The Marines used tractors, forklifts, electric saws, shovels, pick axes, bolt cutters, knives and their bare hands to rip apart the barriers that once protected the Marines at Saenz from explosive blasts and small-arms fire.

"It's pretty tedious work for myself and the other Marines," said Lance Cpl. Zachary Couch, combat engineer,

The Marines who were equipped with the electric saws were able to cut through the wire-mesh with relative ease compared to those with bolt cutters.

As the Marines labored, sparks lit up the evening sky and resembled fireworks that could be seen on the Fourth of July.

When darkness fell, the Marines used the headlights from the front end loaders to aid them in their disassembly

As they continued working deep into the night, the temperature dropped below 20 degrees, forcing them to put on several layers to keep warm. A little before midnight, the Marines called it a day. There were no tents to house them, so they slept inside of the armored vehicles that brought them up to the secluded base. Several Marines crammed into one vehicle and slept in some very awkward and uncomfort-

The more Marines that crammed into a vehicle, the warmer it became inside.

The Marines woke up the next morning, the sun shone on their weather-beaten faces that were still covered with sand from the day before. They grabbed their tools and slowly made their way back to where they had left off.

During the night, the bulldozers had pushed over and flattened the berms that made up the walls of the base, thereby reducing protection from any possible insurgent fire. Cpl. James Hernandez, fire team leader, Co. A, 9th ESB, was still sore from the day before and recovering from small burns inflicted by the sparks created by electric saw.

With fatigue wearing on the Marines in his charge, he frequently gathered them, offering words of encouragement and motivation.

"I hate the cold," Hernandez said. "It just gets to you after a while. That's when all the morale starts going down." Lance Cpl. Tameka Demps, combat engineer, Co. A, 9th ESB, finds her motivation in the work that she does.

"I just like to work, I like to be busy," she said. "If I stop, I just, I don't know – I feel like I'm not doing anything. I like doing this. It's exhausting, but it's fun."

Standing at barely five-feet tall, Demps constantly worked, picking up pieces of the barriers that probably weighed as much as she did. Once all the work was completed, she grabbed a trash bag and began picking up small pieces of trash off the ground.

"It's just helping out with the main mission," said Demps. "We finish this base, we go on to the next one - we can get this deployment over with and go home."

367-3577 For Advertising

Civil Rights Movement, activist remembered

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi Combat Correspondent

hroughout the history of our nation there are few names that stand the test of time, to be remembered and honored. There are even fewer names celebrated every year as a testament to the individual's character and actions during their lifetime.

January 17 celebrated the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his courage, leadership and iconic actions during the Civil Rights Movement.

In the fight against segregation and racism, King stood out as a leader, fighting against violence with nonviolence and against hatred with love. His actions helped change the course of many lives, for the better.

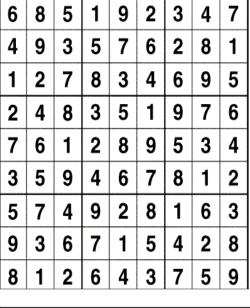
"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality," said King in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1964.

He helped take a large step forward toward equality for people of all colors, but we must not forget the steps taken by his predecessors.

The month following King's remembrance brings about Black History Month, commemorating King, along with other iconic black men and women throughout American history.

We remember their contribution and strides in education, technology and equal rights during their times of hate and bigotry.

King and these individuals led the fight to a future where all people can live equally.





LIV EVALINA NELSON Navy Lt. Dru and

Cynthia Nelson Nov. 23 2011

OWYNN PARKER HUNTER

Sgt. Bradley and Colleen Hunter Nov. 23, 2011

AYLA RENAE MYERS Sgt. Eric and Martina Myers Nov. 26, 2011

ANNA FAITH BRENIZE Maj. Keith and Angela Brenize Nov. 28, 2011

AMBER M. GAMBOA GySgt. Juan and Wendy

Gamboa Nov. 29, 2011 **BRAELYNN ANJOLIE**

BECKLEY Cpl. Russell and Danielle Beckley Jr. Nov. 29, 2011

MICAH RUDY JAIME

Capt. Nathaniel and Alana Jaime Nov. 29, 2011

JOSHUA FABIAN ACOSTA ADRIAN JOSEPH ACOSTA Cpl. Jose and Fanny Acosta Nov. 30, 2011

JAXON LEE EVANS LCpl. Joshua and Jessica Evans Dec. 1, 2011

ALEXANDRA GRACE **LARGUINHO**

SSgt. Eric and Sarah Larguinho Dec. 3, 2011

ISABELLA CORREA Cpl. Jonathan and Montserrat Correa

MICHAEL AARON PHILLIPS JR.

COLTON MICHAEL VIKOWSKI

Vikowski Dec. 4, 2011 SOPHIE ALAINA

WILKINSON

Dec. 3, 2011

HM2 Michael and Sarah Phillips Dec. 3, 2011

Cpl. Brandon and Karlie

Cpl. Kent and Brandy Wilkinson Dec. 5, 2011 PARKER ALEXANDER **PATTERSON**

Capt. Jeffrey and Stephanie Patterson Dec. 7, 2011

FELICITY MAUREEN KING Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott and Nicole King Dec. 8, 2011

HEIDI FAYE STONE Cpl. Josh and Kim Stone Dec. 8, 2011

WESLEY N. KANAMAN Cpl. Sean and Devin Kanaman Dec. 10, 2011

JACOB DREW ANGENEND

Cpl. Jeremy and Amy Angened Dec. 12, 2011

MASON BRADY BUELL LCpl. Patrick and Katie Buell Dec. 12, 2011

LOUIS JACK GRAY Cpl. Ashley and Thomas Gray Dec. 14, 2011

LCpl. Jessica Hall and Trishtion Battle Dec. 16, 2011 EMMALEE GRACE

DOMINIC NARAN HALL

HOLBROOK Sgt. Sherman and Kathryn Holbrook Dec. 17, 2011

RYLAN LAURENCE WEINZIERL Cpl. Henry and Randi Weinzierl

Dec. 17, 2011

MADISON RILEY DONEY LCpl. Jeremy and Amber Doney Dec. 22, 2011

NEVAEH MALLA REYES MARQUEZ LCpl. Fernando and Evelin

Reyes Marquez Dec. 24, 2011 ZANDER BANE STEWART

Cpl. Roosevelt and Tonie Stewart Dec. 25, 2011

ADRIANNE CABADING HM3 Rey and Pauline Chua Dec. 26, 2011

CAIDEN CHARLES GRONE Sgt. Rudas and Jessica Grone Dec. 26, 2011

PEYTON MARIE-ADDISON

2nd Lt. Jeremiah and Amber Culp

Dec. 27, 2011 LLIAM RIVER ANDERS

LCpl. Matthew and Tiffany Anders Dec. 27, 2011

JACOB MICHAEL PARKER Cpl. Walter and Jessica Parker Dec. 28, 2011

SIRUS CRUISE EDWARD ALFORD

Cpl. Brittany Ourso and Raymond Alford Dec. 29, 2011

KEITH DEUANTE JESTER LCpl. Tikon and Chazare Jester Dec. 29, 2011

JASON DANIEL OCHOA Cpl. Jason and Chelsey Ochoa Dec. 30, 2011

PAYTON ELIZABETH

DUGGER Sgt. Richard and Alysha Dugger Dec. 30, 2011

ERIK EDWARD

FREDERIKSEN III Sgt. Erik and Leanne Frederiksen Jr.

Jan. 3, 2012

AVERY MORGAN PULLIAM Sgt. Brad and Brittney Pulliam

Jan. 4, 2012 TRAVIS XAVIER HARDING

LCpl. Christopher and Lynn Harding Jan. 4, 2012

KI'ANAH ALISE WHITE SSgt. Edward and Pamela White Jan. 6, 2012

AMELIA JANE LEWIS Sgt. Andrew and Stefanie Lewis Jan. 7, 2012

HARPER TERESA **MANNWEILER** Capt. Nick and Laura Mannweiler Jan. 7, 2012

SOPHYA MARIE CORONADO SSgt. Anthony and Sonia Coronado Jan. 8, 2012

Tacebook

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



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



The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at

http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

2001 CAN-AM DS 650 ATV.

Immaculate condition. \$2300 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

NORDIC TRACK A2550. Folds up for easy storage, has IPOD docking station, Like new. Asking \$1,000, OBO. 368-5778.

GOLF CLUBS. Ping Eye 2 Irons I-SW \$225. Slazenger forged blades 2-PW \$200. Assorted putters and wedges. Call 413-

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.

\$300 OBO. 361-3509 SPORTS. COLLECTIBLE SCI-FI

BUNK BED WITH MATTRESSES. White

NORDICTRACK CX1000: Elliptical workout

metal, \$200. 366-7626

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.

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

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 repre sent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature

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

Ads for housing rentals will not be con

the Combat Center Trader.

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



Since 1957

Scout transformation

■ Boys graduate from cubs to boy scouts

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

January 20, 2012

CPL. ANDREW THORBURN COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Every culture has a rite of passage that signals to a kid that he is ready to act less childish and begin to work and grow into an adult.

For six former Cub Scouts of Pack 78, their passage was marked by their crossing over ceremony where they joined the young adults of Boy Scout Troops 77 and 78.

When boys are in Cub Scouts, their parents plan all the events and the boys are not allowed to attend them without their parent or legal guardian. Once the boys reach the rank of Boy Scout, the parents step back and let the boys lead their own troop and attend events unchaperoned by their

"My son has been in Cub Scouts since he was a Tiger, about five years ago," said Melissa Burke, mother of Boy Scout Matthew Burke. "It's definitely emotional for me to see him in a new uniform and starting a new journey."

Before they crossed the ceremonial bridge, Thomas Unger, 10; Frankie Newton Jr., 10; Adrian Rios, 11; Ryan Storer, 10; DJ Deselms, 10; and Matthew Burke, 10, were presented their final Cub Scout award, the Arrow of Light, from members of the Local Order of the Arrow Lodge, a group within the Boy Scouts.

"The Arrow of Light represents their career as a Cub Scout with colors for every Cub Scout rank," Storer said. "The Scouts have to complete multiple activity badges and prove they live according to the Law of the Pack and Promise."

All six boys also earned the superior achiever award for completing all 20 activity badges within the year and half as Webelos Scouts.

Growing into the world of Boy Scouts and young men took the boys from the trail of the Cub Scout to the Trail

"They have begun the Trail of the Eagle today," said Ronald E. Storer, Pack Master, Pack 78. "This trail will help them grow as citizens, improve their knowledge and gain experience and skills as an outdoorsman. The trail is one where fewer then five percent of the population even attempt this path."





[Above] Clint Baul, Scout Master, Boy Scout Troop 78, leads two new scouts from Cub Scout Pack 78 over the ceremonial bridge signifying their change from Cub Scout to Boy Scout. The ceremony took place at Heritage Park Jan 6.

[Left] Ryan Storer, 10, is given his red Boy Scout neckerchief for Boy Scout Troop 77 during Cub Scout Pack 78's crossing over ceremony.

CG's Basketball League season opens

PHOTOS AND STORY BY LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League began with the first game of the season at the East Gym Tuesday. The game pitted IPAC against 7th Marines.

Both teams hit the court with victory in mind. But as the game progressed, it became obvious that IPAC was better focused and more on the ball.

7th Marines did, however, maintain better possession of the ball. This may be attributed to their skills in rebounding, stealing or just holding onto the ball. But, this was time the team could have used shooting for more points instead.

7th Marines was down six points at halftime, 31-25. They had a shot at a comeback, but their opponents had other ideas.

IPAC used the time they had with the ball wisely, running the ball down court for easy layups or getting in three-point shots. Their defense kept 7th Marines from scoring points and getting an edge on the scoreboard.

Although 7th Marines tied it up a few times in the beginning of the game, once IPAC was warmed up, they took the lead and kept it until the final buzzer. The game ended with a score of 54-46, IPAC.

Following the defeat of 7th Marines, the gym hosted two more basketball games that night. CLD defeated CLB-7, 68-45; and 23rd Dental defeated Headquarters ESD, 42-36.



A 7th Marines point guard rushes down the court during the first game of the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League game against IPAC Tuesday. IPAC won the game, 54-46.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



[Above] 7th Marines forward Brad Swafford shoots a jump shot during a game against IPAC.

[Left] 7th Marines Eddie M. Prince (left), fights for a rebound during the first game of the season.

B2 January 20, 2012 **OBSERVATION POST**



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 - 7 p.m. followed by DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 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 - 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

Jake's Women

When: Every Friday & Saturday until February 11 at 7 p.m., and a Sunday Matinee' Feb. 5 Where: Theatre 29 736377 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif. For tickets and information call 316-4151 or visit http://www.theatre29.org

Ritmo Loco

Afro-Cuban Jazz When: Friday, Jan. 20 7:30 p.m. Where: Pappy and Harriet's 53688 Pioneer Town Road, Pioneer Town, Calif. For more information visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com

Free Line Dance Lessons

Learn to dance to traditional country music When: 5 - 9 p.m., every Sunday Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall 50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley, Calif. For more information, call 363-3343.

Lower Desert

Easton Corbin

Live music performance from the country music star When: 9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 27 Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit http://hotwatercasino.com.

Joss Stone & Dave Stewart

Live music performance When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com.

Hiroshima

Live music performance of jazz fusion When: 8p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif. For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com.

Frank Caliendao

Live comedy When: 9 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif. For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Jan. 20

6 p.m. - Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, Rated G 9 p.m. - Hugo, Rated PG

Midnight - Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, Rated PG-13

Saturday, Jan. 21

11 a.m. - Free Matinee Rio, Rated G 2 p.m. - The Muppets, Rated PG

6 p.m. - Arthur Christmas, Rated PG

9 p.m. - New Years Eve PG-13

Midnight - The Sitter, Rated R

Sunday, Jan. 22

2 p.m. - Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, Rated G,

6 p.m. - Hugo, Rated PG

9 p.m. – Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, Rated PG-13

Monday, Jan. 23

7 p.m. - Arthur Christmas, Rated PG

Tuesday, Jan. 24 7 p.m. – New Years Eve, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, Jan. 25 7 p.m. – Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, Rated PG-13

Thursday, Jan. 26

7 p.m. - Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, Rated G

Tom Cruise returns for more action-packed spy-jinks

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol"

Starring Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner & Paula Patton Directed by Brad Bird PG-13, 133 min.

Tom Cruise returns as Ethan Hunt, the leader of the super-elite Impossible Missions Force team, for the fourth installment of the popular movie franchise built on the spy-jinks 1960s TV series of the same name.

In "Ghost Protocol," Hunt and his squad of globetrotting, deep-cover espionage agents are once again called into top-secret service, this time to avert a nuclear war. When things go wrong, creating an international incident at the Kremlin that looks like an intentional act of American aggression, it drives the mission completely off the grid under "ghost protocol," a state of complete disavowal by the United States.

Working without a government safety net makes it a bit more challenging to deploy an arsenal of hightech, cloak-and-dagger doodads and double-cross the Eastern Euro thugs who want to create a mushroom cloud in the sunny skies over California. And you can forget about getting Uncle Sam to sign that expense report.

It's often been hard for moviegoers to separate their feelings for Tom Cruise, the actor, from the roles he plays, especially after he jumped up and down like a delirious monkey on Oprah's couch, ventured far out on the



Tom Cruise returns as Ethan Hunt, the leader of the Impossible Missions Force team, for the fourth installment of the popular movie franchise built on the 1960s TV series.

Scientology limb, and found himself fighting to de-fuse some nasty Hollywood rumors about his love life.

But the guy's still a formidable movie star, especially for roles like this one that call on his buff physique, his considerable leading-man charisma and his willingness to throw himself whole-heartedly into the toss-and-tumble fray of action scenes.

And, believe me, there are some real action-packed doozies in "Ghost Protocol," including an absolutely spectacular sequence filmed outside the world's tallest hotel. Cruise did his own stunts for the scene, in which his character has to scale vertical glass some 2,000 feet above the Persian Gulf, break into a higher floor, then leap back out into the air tethered only by a fire hose.

It's easily one of the most breathtaking five minutes in any movie of 2011, and it leaves you wondering, slack-jawed: How DID they film that?

This "Mission" has a few new faces, including Jeremy Renner, Josh Holloway and Paula Patton. Simon Pegg returns to provide comic relief as IMF tech nerd Benjie Dunn, who finally earns his stripes as a full member of the team.

But the real stripes should

go to director Brad Bird, who makes an outstanding liveaction debut after a string of successful, critically acclaimed animated hits, including "The "The Giant," Iron Incredibles" and "Ratatouille."

Bird juices and gooses the whole affair with edge and excitement, new energy, just the right seasoning of humor and heartbeat, and a terrific feel for big, bold, daring sequences that beg for the biggest screen available.

Your mission: See this "Mission" in an IMAX theater if at all possible. It's a visual treat well worth the extra box-office buckaroos, and your eyes will thank you for the thrill.