

# OBSERVATION POST

February 3, 2012

Since 1957

Vol. 56 Issue 4

## 1/7 begins EMV, prep for OEF

LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

"Heavy fire!"

Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, completed a series of platoon live-fire exercises in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper at Range 410 Jan. 24.

The exercises coordinated the movement of Marines toward three objectives, facing simulated enemy fire and obstacles along the way.

"It's more conventional than what the Marines are used to with an urban type of training," said Staff Sgt. Orlando Avila, platoon sergeant, 2nd platoon, Co. B, 1/7. "We're very good at what we do. We can't stick to that one thing."

There was not a moment of silence on the range as the sound of fire from assault rifles, machine guns and shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapons echoed off the surrounding mountains.

Machine gunners sitting at the top of Machine Gun Hill provided support to the three squads below them, allowing them to advance forward as they sup-



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines with 2nd platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, prepare to fire on top of Machine Gun Hill during the first round of live-fire exercises held at Range 410 Jan. 25.

pressed the simulated enemy.

As 1/7 Marines progressed through the range, Marines with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group stood close by, controlling the exercise.

The TTECG instructors, otherwise known as coyotes, kept the 1/7 Marines on their feet, yelling out changes in scenarios, such as a sudden burst of fire by the enemy.

Marines treated the verbal simulation as actual enemy fire, dropping to the ground and passing the message of "contact right" down the line.

With every move, these Marines made sure to have certain conditions and triggers

See CHB, A4



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

A Marine with 1st platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, advances toward a target during the second stage of live fire exercises at Range 410 Jan. 25.

## THE ADVENTURES OF SERGEANT MAJOR POWER

Sgt. Maj. Douglas E. Power was born and raised a cowboy.

"I grew up riding horses through the mountains," Power said. "When I was five years old, my grandpa had an old pinto mare named Lady."

To be continued!  
page A3

Written by  
Cpl. Sarah Dietz

Photo illustration by  
Sgt. Heather Golden

## Sailors adopt Joshua Tree Elementary kids

LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sailors with the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital headed to Joshua Tree Elementary with the Adopt-a-School program Jan. 25.

Combat Center service members go to the school every other Wednesday to spend time with students during their recess as part of the program.

It was the first time volunteering for many of the hospital corpsmen. The sailors said they did not know what to expect.

"I was expecting them to be a little quieter," said Navy Seaman Jeffrey Santos, hospital corpsman. "I didn't know that they were going to be so active."

Some sailors were used to the hustle and bustle of children, though.

"I work in pediatrics, so I work with kids," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Wall. "I got the opportunity to mingle and play with them. It made me

miss my childhood."

The kids have had Marines and sailors visit them since September of last year. They now come to expect their visitors.

On these days the men and women waiting on the school's blacktop playground are always a little shocked to see the onslaught of kids sprinting in their direction for recess.

"I was just surprised on the amount of energy they had," Wall said. "They were just non-stop."

The sailors took on back-to-back recesses of different grade levels and helped out during one of the school's physical education classes.

But for the sailors, it wasn't just a day off work to play with kids. It was an opportunity to give back to their local community and be role models.

"This is the best volunteer work that we can do," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Shauna Galeazzi. "We're out here staying in shape while at



LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

Sailors from the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital run laps with kids from Joshua Tree Elementary School in the kids' physical education time Jan. 25.

the same time showing them how to say active."

"This is the next generation out here," Santos said.

"We can't just come out

here and half do it. There are things that you do as a kid that you just don't forget. For these kids I hope that this is one of them."

# This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated January 31, 1969, Vol. 13, No. 5

## 29 Palms becomes official Marine Corps Base

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

From A Barren Wasteland In 1953...  
...To World's Largest MCB In 1969

Twelve years ago this week, on Feb. 1, 1957, the world's largest Marine Corps Training Center became the world's largest Marine Corps Base.

The history of MCB 29 Palms, which has included at one time or utilization by three services, began during the early days of World War II as a glider training area for the Army.

When the Army abandoned the use of gliders, they remained convinced that 29 Palms was ideal as an aircraft training center, and turned what is now the "Old Base" area near the main gate into Condor Field to train pilots until late in the war.

In 1945, the Navy moved in and converted the half-million acres of desert into an auxiliary landing field and a rocket training center - the first time its massive gunnery ranges were used for any form of artillery.

At the war's end, the Navy placed the Base into a "caretaker status" for a year and then turned it over to San Bernardino County.

For the next seven years the land lay dormant; the remnants of Condor Field compound forming an empty "ghost town" bordering an unused landing strip.

During the Korean conflict, the Marine Corps also found itself in the middle of a "space age." Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton were too small to handle the influx of new, sophisticated artillery pieces and rockets, so a search was initiated to find an area large enough to accommodate such weapons as 155mm guns, eight-inch howitzers, Honest John rockets, and missiles.

The choice: Twentynine Palms. In late August, 1952, Camp Pendleton officially formed on Base the primary stages of what would eventually become Marine Corps Training Center, and even later, Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms.

In Feb. 1952, with 120 Marines aboard, what is now the Base, officially became Headquarters, Marine Corps Training

Center, 29 Palms.

Once its logistic and administrative permanence had been established, there was the problem of building a Marine Corps Training Center practically from the ground up.

Naval engineers were faced with the challenge of providing adequate housing. They decided on pre-fabricated concrete, a fairly inexpensive method, and at that time, relatively new.

By the time the project was completed, it had become one of the largest pre-fab construction projects undertaken, and the first for a military installation.

First Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion made the move to the desert from Camp Pendleton in Sept., 1953, followed in 17 days by the 1st 155mm Gun Battalion. In October, the 2nd 155mm Gun Battalion, which traveled 3,000 miles from Camp Lejeune, arrived for duty at 29 Palms.

By 1957, 29 Palms was outgrowing its use as a Training Center and the Marine Corps decided to designate it to a full-fledged Base.

On Feb. 1, 1957, Brig. Gen. G. F. Good Jr., and MCTC became MCB, 29 Palms.

Today, the world's largest Marine Corps Base is a training area for newly-formed and forming Marine Corps units.

It's where 9th Communication Bn., and 5th Field Artillery Group got their start. It's where Communication and Electronics Schools Battalion carved a foothold.

Its artillery ranges, fanning out nearly 50 miles to the north, comfortably confine some of the most powerful weapons the Marine corps owns.

But primarily, it is home to 3,000 Marines and their families - a small city with a commissary, theatre, bowling alley, golf course, churches, hospital and Marine Corps Exchange.

In this, the second decade of MCB, 29 Palms, new advancements in the Marine Corps will add to the responsibilities of the Base. But its continued success will remain dependent on the job of Marine stationed here.

### Hot Topics

#### SUPER BOWL XLVI

Watch the Super Bowl XLVI at your club Feb. 5, with food and drink specials. There will be prize giveaways aswell! For more information contact your club. Doors open at 2 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. 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. The league is open to active duty, family members, and NAF/DoD employees. For more information, call MCCS at 830-4092.

#### HOMEFRONT CELEBRATION

Operation Homefront is hosting a special evening out to recognize and thank the military spouses for their sacrifices in support of their military spouse Feb. 9 at the Officers' Club. Enjoy dinner, a special gift and a visit from author and guest speaker Marshale Waddell. For more information call 885-695-6810.



## 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**

"HEY GUNNY!!!, Finally Retired HUH?... So, What do we call you now?"



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

### SUDOKU #2437-M

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## Base Power Outage

### Electrical shutdown scheduled for Feb. 6-7

There will be a power outage scheduled for 8:30 p.m. on Monday Feb. 6, until 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Given the nature of this outage, all base personnel, including housing residents, should be prepared to be without power during this period of time.

During the outage, critical and emergency essential facilities will receive power from the Co-generation plant or emergency generators. To facilitate this, Public Works will be placing mobile generators at key facilities off the co-generation grid on Feb. 6. At 3 p.m., power to nonessential facilities in the core area of the base (generally from 1st street to 9th street will start to be shut down and will remain without power for the duration of the outage the remainder of base will continue to have power until SCE shuts off the power at 8:30 p.m.

If additional information is needed prior to the outage, please call G4 Operations at 760-830-6100 or 760-830-3718. The Combat Center Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated for the outage on Feb. 6 until power is restored. Contact the EOC for non-emergency issues or questions regarding the power outage at 760-830-7923 or 760-830-7159.

For life threatening emergencies during the outage call 760-830-3333 or 760-830-3334 immediately.

### OBSERVATION POST

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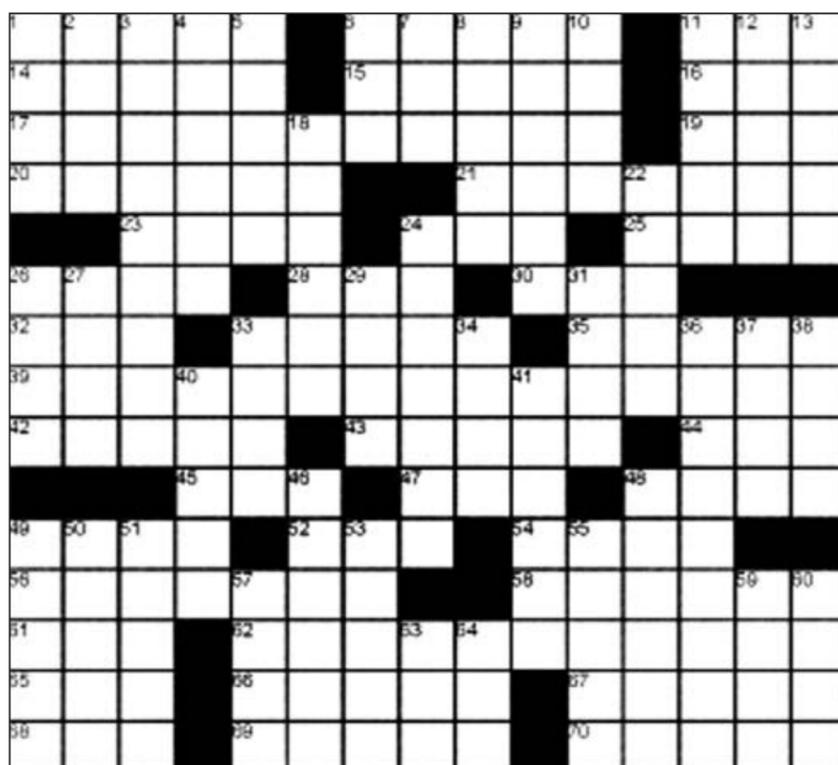
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### YABBA DABBA DO!

[Puzzle solutions on A4]



#### ACROSS

1. J. Fred Muggs was one
6. Henry VIII's house
11. Sine \_\_ non
14. Book after Daniel
15. In flames
16. City area, informally
17. Barrier whose name was popularized by Churchill
19. Self-?image
20. Checker for poison, maybe
21. Vexed
23. Musical conclusion
24. Sought a seat
25. "If all \_\_ fails ..."
26. Trucker with a handle
28. Dundee denial
30. "High \_\_" (Anderson play)
32. Where to send IMs
33. Blair of "The Exorcist"
35. Watery porridge
39. Setting for a resignation announcement, maybe
42. Food of many shapes
43. Hall of Fame grid coach Greasy
44. Corleone' title
45. PIN requester
47. \_\_-?Magnon
48. Bit of progress
49. Abbr. on an envelope
52. Sitcom planet
54. Angling area
56. The USS Constitution, notably
58. Slip by
61. Won \_\_ (Chinese dumpling)
62. Asphalt flattener
65. Genesis figure
66. Columnist Joseph or Stewart
67. Theater capacity
68. Hi-?\_\_ graphics
69. Cheats at Pin the Tail on the Donkey
70. Motel meeting, maybe

#### DOWN

1. Gambler's marker
2. Bar mitzvah dance
3. Having two equal sides
4. Wise counselor
5. Acted the expectant father, perhaps
6. Smoker's intake
7. Educators' org.
8. Actress Dors or Rigg
9. Point in the right direction
10. Patronize U-? Haul, e.g.
11. Put down forcibly
12. Hankerings
13. Where you live
18. Pertaining to element 92
22. \_\_ Haute, Indiana
24. Jeff Foxworthy's "You Might Be a \_\_ If ..."
26. Dogpatch creator Al
27. When doubled, one of the Society Islands
29. Ever's partner
31. Folklore fiend
33. Future atty.'s exam
34. In th distance
36. Deal with subtly
37. MBA subj.
38. Shrove Tuesday follower
40. Bespectacled comedian Arnold
41. Justice of the peace's client
46. Pattern on a pinto bean
48. Holder of all the cards, temporarily
49. Intro to math?
50. Treasure cache
51. Dinner fork quartet
53. Ebbets Field shortstop
55. "The Love \_\_" (Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes hit)
57. "Pronto!" to a CEO
59. Match divisions
60. Formerly, formerly
63. NASA go-?ahead
64. AWOL chasers

## POWER, from A1

He has a long family history of cattle ranching, and horses were his first true passion in life. "When I was in 3rd grade I worked to buy my first horse. My mom and dad actually went along with it," he said.

The cowboy from Rifle, Colo., grudgingly moved to Phoenix, Ariz., when he entered high school. The bull-riding athlete hated city life.

Although longing for open spaces and mountains, Power did find one positive aspect in his new urban life. It's one that is still with him today.

"I met my wife Gretchen in 1978 when I was a junior and she was a sophomore," he said.

They were married July 1981 after she graduated.

Juggling raising his eight children and his military duties was a challenge, Power said. But Gretchen is the one who made it possible.

"The trick is the wife," he said. "She holds together the family. I didn't realize how tough it was to be left behind until my son deployed. Wives have to be tough. My wife is tough. You gotta be tough to be with a Marine."

His father and cousin Darrell were big influences.

"My dad was drafted into the Army in 1945," Power said. "He always had a lot of cool stories. Deer hunting was like being on a patrol when we were with him."

Power's cousin was a Marine stationed at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in Southern California before the base was retired. His visits inspired Power to join the Corps.

Power shipped off to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in August 1980 and later became a motor transport operator.

Power laughed, "That was way before we had 7-ton vehicles."

He originally enlisted in the Reserves and held a side job in construction. But, Power grew to love the Corps and decided to take it on full time.

"Working construction got old," Power said. "I thrived in the Marine Corps."

His love for the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., began early in his Marine Corps career, when he trained in the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1982.

"I fell in love with this place," he said. "I couldn't stop talking about it and thinking about it."

Power served at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., with Transport Company, 7th Motor Transport Battalion, and then transferred to Japan in April 1987, as a sergeant with Company A, 9th Motor Transport Battalion.

Through all this, he was still on the lookout for an opportunity to return to Mountain Warfare Training Center.

Power spent seven months in South Korea while stationed overseas. It was an experience hard to forget, he said.

"We were there over Christmas," Power said. "A bunch of Korean military wives came onto our ship and did their best to make us feel welcome. It was awesome. I've donated to the USO ever since."

Power finally received his ticket back to MWTC, but not the way he wanted.

After hearing of his father's death while overseas, Power was given emergency leave with PCS orders to MWTC.

"It was bittersweet," Power said. "My dad died, but I got my dream duty station."

Power said the mountains were therapeutic, they felt like home. "I was comfortable there."

He served as a "red hat" instructor there, cycling Marines through the installation's courses and

teaching them to survive in mountainous terrain.

Power then entered the drill field. He served as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., from 1990 to 1993.

The drill field was an interesting experience for his children.

The kids were curious about what their dad did for work, and Power remembers teaching them the Marines' Hymn and watching them sing it as they stood at the position of attention.

Power also playfully followed the same routine for putting his kids to bed as he did when securing recruits for the evening. He gave commands to mount the racks and his children all yelled "Click" when he shut off the lights.

Power eventually moved onto Hawaii for his next duty stations. His family spent 11 years on the islands, a place most of his children still call home.

"I got two son-in-laws there," Power said with a smile. "We are connected to Hawaii."

During his time in Hawaii, Power served two tours to the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Power faced a major challenge upon leaving Hawaii. He was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., but knew nearly nothing about the aviation side of the Corps. He made it a goal to get down and dirty learning about all the aircraft with his young Marines.

"You grow where you're planted," Power said. "I learned quick. I went around to the different sections and said 'Hey teach me something,'

Once I got to know those Marines and I saw how hard they work, I gained all sorts of respect for them. I enjoyed my time with the air wing. They feel good about showing the old man something."

Three years later, Mountain Warfare Training Center needed a new base sergeant major. Power scrambled and pushed for the spot.

"The last three years are the best three years of my entire career. I've been able to do amazing things that I've dreamed about. I loved my time here.

"I got it. I got my dream," Power said. "I knew I wanted to retire here, and sure enough I am."

"When I was a kid riding a horse, I would have never dreamed that I would have gone the places I wanted to go, see the things I've seen."

Despite all the places he's been and experiences that changed his life, Power's cowboy roots still show.

He is known around Mountain Warfare Training Center for grabbing a horse from the base stables and riding through the training area to check on Marines.

"It's God's country, I'm just riding a horse through God's country," he says.

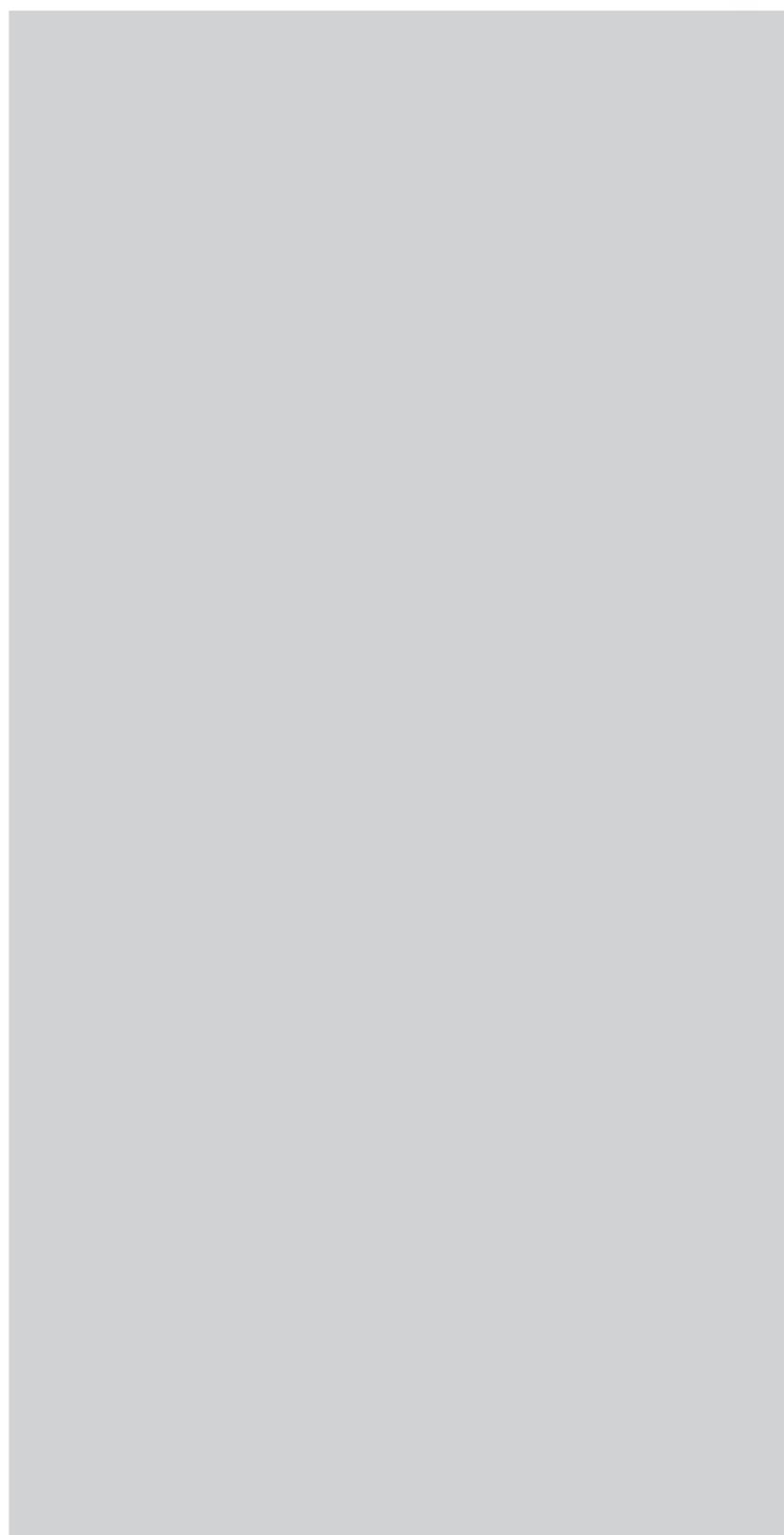
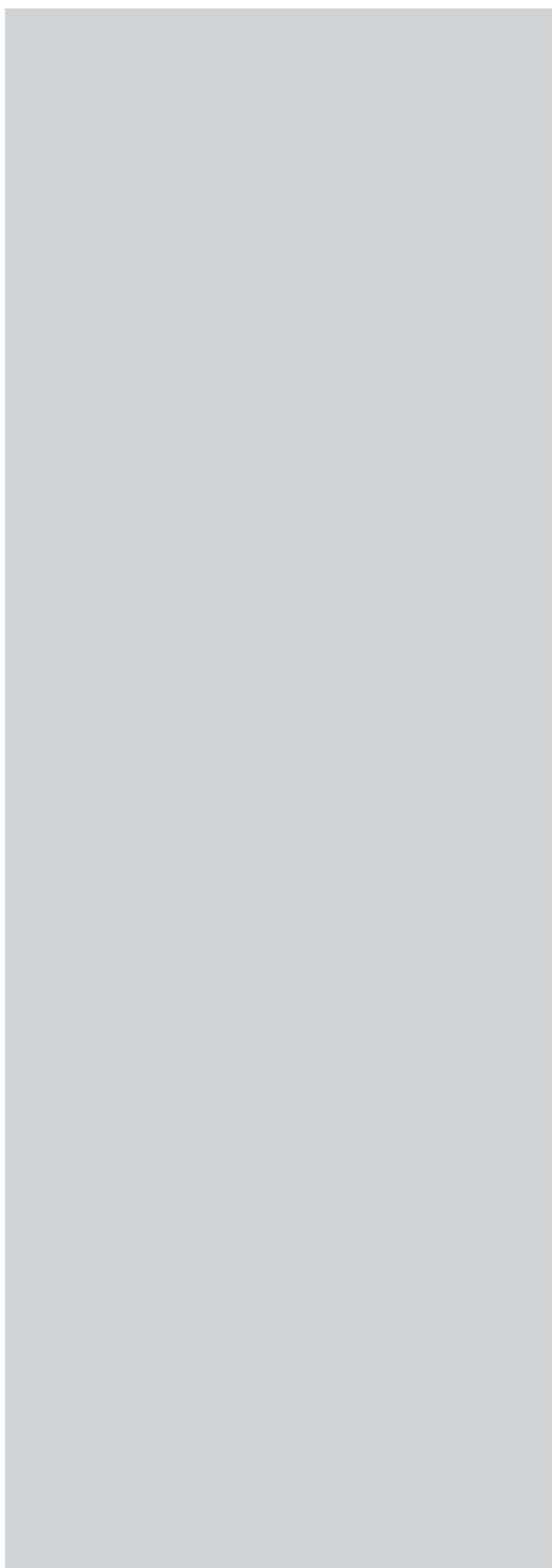
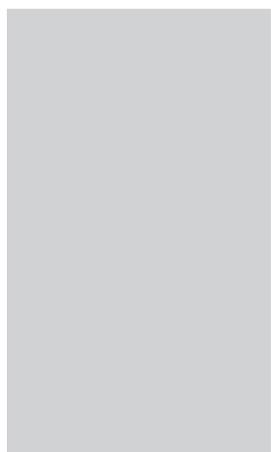
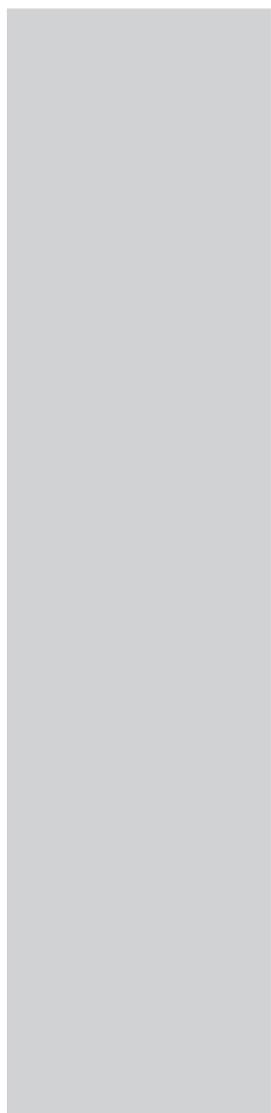
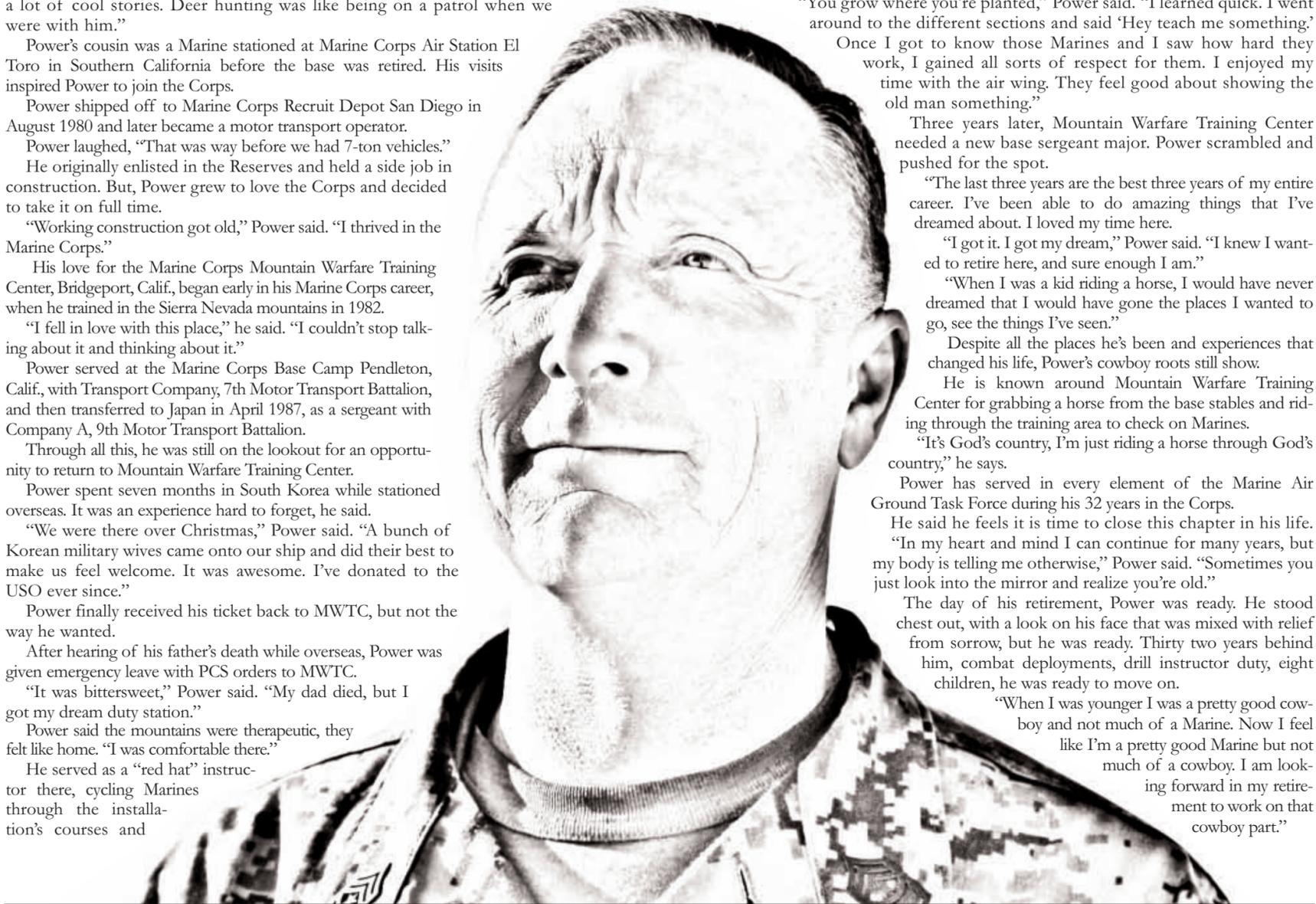
Power has served in every element of the Marine Air Ground Task Force during his 32 years in the Corps.

He said he feels it is time to close this chapter in his life.

"In my heart and mind I can continue for many years, but my body is telling me otherwise," Power said. "Sometimes you just look into the mirror and realize you're old."

The day of his retirement, Power was ready. He stood chest out, with a look on his face that was mixed with relief from sorrow, but he was ready. Thirty two years behind him, combat deployments, drill instructor duty, eight children, he was ready to move on.

"When I was younger I was a pretty good cowboy and not much of a Marine. Now I feel like I'm a pretty good Marine but not much of a cowboy. I am looking forward in my retirement to work on that cowboy part."





# SANGIN

From insurgent hotbed to safe haven



CPL. JAMES CLARK



CPL. JEFF DREW



STAFF SGT. RYAN SMITH

**1.** A Navy hospital corpsman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, greets a patient during a medical initiative at Patrol Base Florida in Afghanistan. The initiative was aimed at providing the civilian populace with an opportunity to receive diagnosis, assistance and guidance from health care professionals, and served to bolster the community's confidence in their local doctor. **2.** Honolulu native, Petty Officer 1st Class Flo Baltazar (center), civil engineer corps chief, walks through the construction site of Sangin High School during a visit. **3.** A young Afghan boy interacts with an Afghan National Army soldier during a security halt outside of Patrol Base Transformer. Partnered patrol, are one way the Marines are able to advise Afghan forces and show Afghan government presence among the people.

----- Story by Cpl. Jeff Drew, 2nd Marine Division (Fwd) -----

Local leaders and representatives of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are working toward a brighter future in Sangin district and made considerable progress in the past year. They effectively transformed the once teeming insurgent hotbed into a relatively secure area where residents feel safe.

In an area five kilometers away, our security forces did not have access; the area was under the threat of the enemy. By the cooperation of Afghan units, there is [now] security and there is a peaceful situation.

Afghan security forces began to take on more responsibility this summer by leading patrols and security efforts in the area, as Marines and sailors with 2nd Marine Division (Forward) began to step back into a role that was more advisory in nature.

"Over the past five months, the situation in Sangin district is improving," said Afghan National Army Lt. Col.

Hazbullah, the commanding officer of 2nd Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps. "We are moving toward development. Today we have been able to gain the trust of the public."

With a solid and confident Afghan security force taking the forefront, local leaders began to focus on rebuilding key aspects of daily life in the district, concentrating mainly on education. With three schools currently in operation and a new high school under construction, the registered number of students rose from 267 at the beginning of 2011 to more than 2,000 at the beginning of 2012.

Education is very important, said Waheedullah, teacher, Afghan National Police in Sangin. If someone is not educated, he is like a blind man.

"People like education," added Mohammad Sharif, district governor, Sangin. "For the past 35 years [Sangin residents] have lost interest in education because of the enemy.

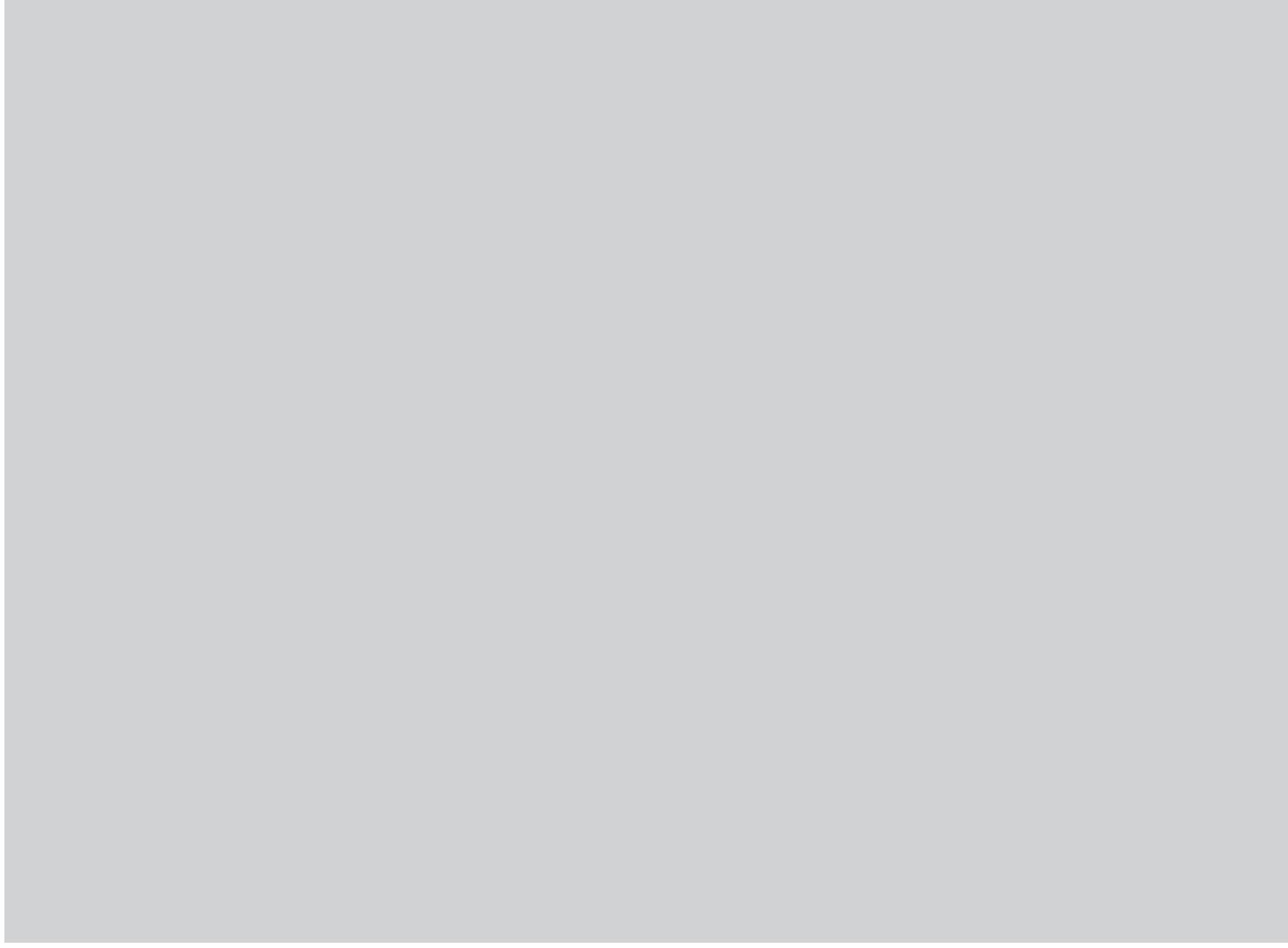
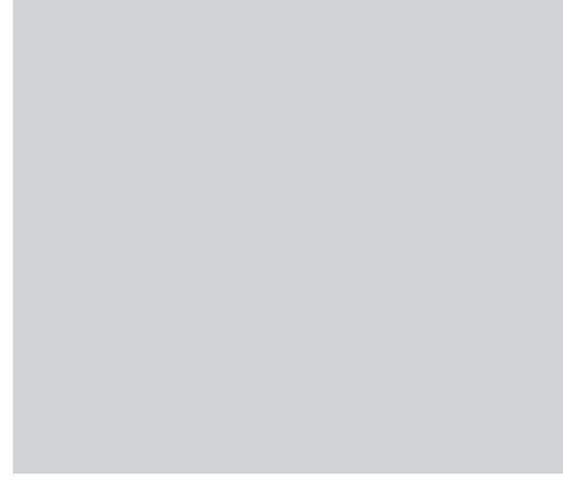
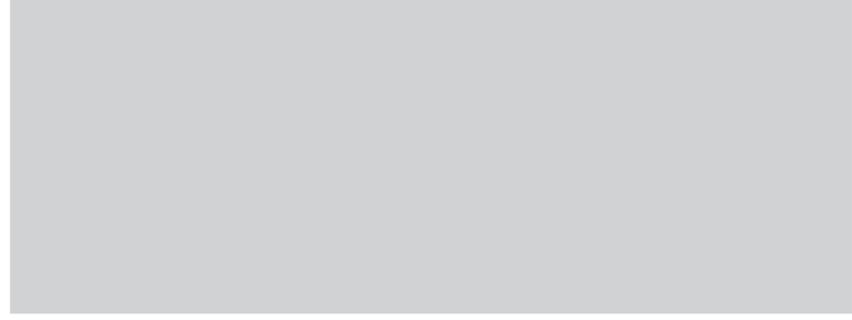
With the cooperation of the international community, they have gained their interest back."

The interest in education extends beyond the classroom and into the fields, as farmers learn new and beneficial farming techniques. Afghan government officials have distributed 3,500 packages containing 50 kg of certified high-quality wheat seed so far to discourage the growth of illegal crops and provide an alternative means of income. Progress does not stop in the fields, however, as roads are being paved, allowing for greater freedom of movement and effectively connecting Sangin to the rest of Helmand province.

"All of the security and development efforts in Sangin district are building toward the ultimate goal of transitioning security responsibility to the Afghan forces in the future," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Spencer, development chief and education officer, Civil-Military Operations section, 2nd Mar. Div. (Fwd).

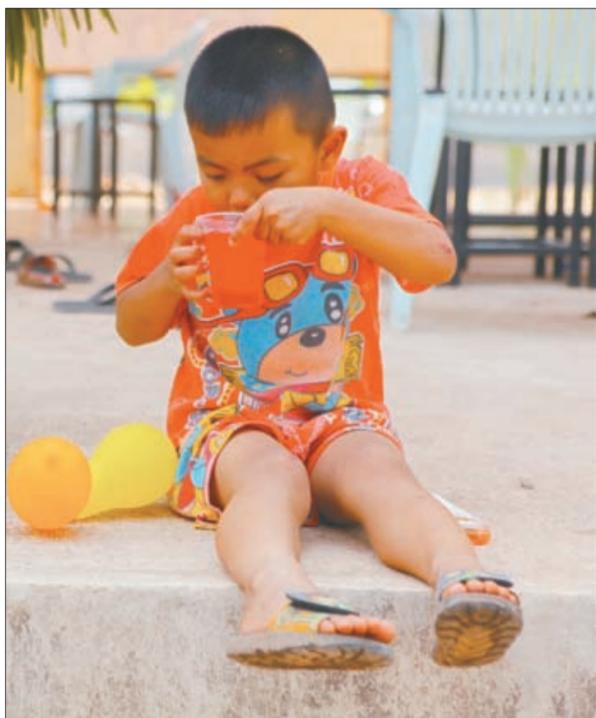
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**LOOKING for local entertainment?**  
See page B2 for our **LIBERTY CALL** section



# WeekINPhotos

Exercise Cobra Gold



CPL. JESSICA OLIVAS



CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

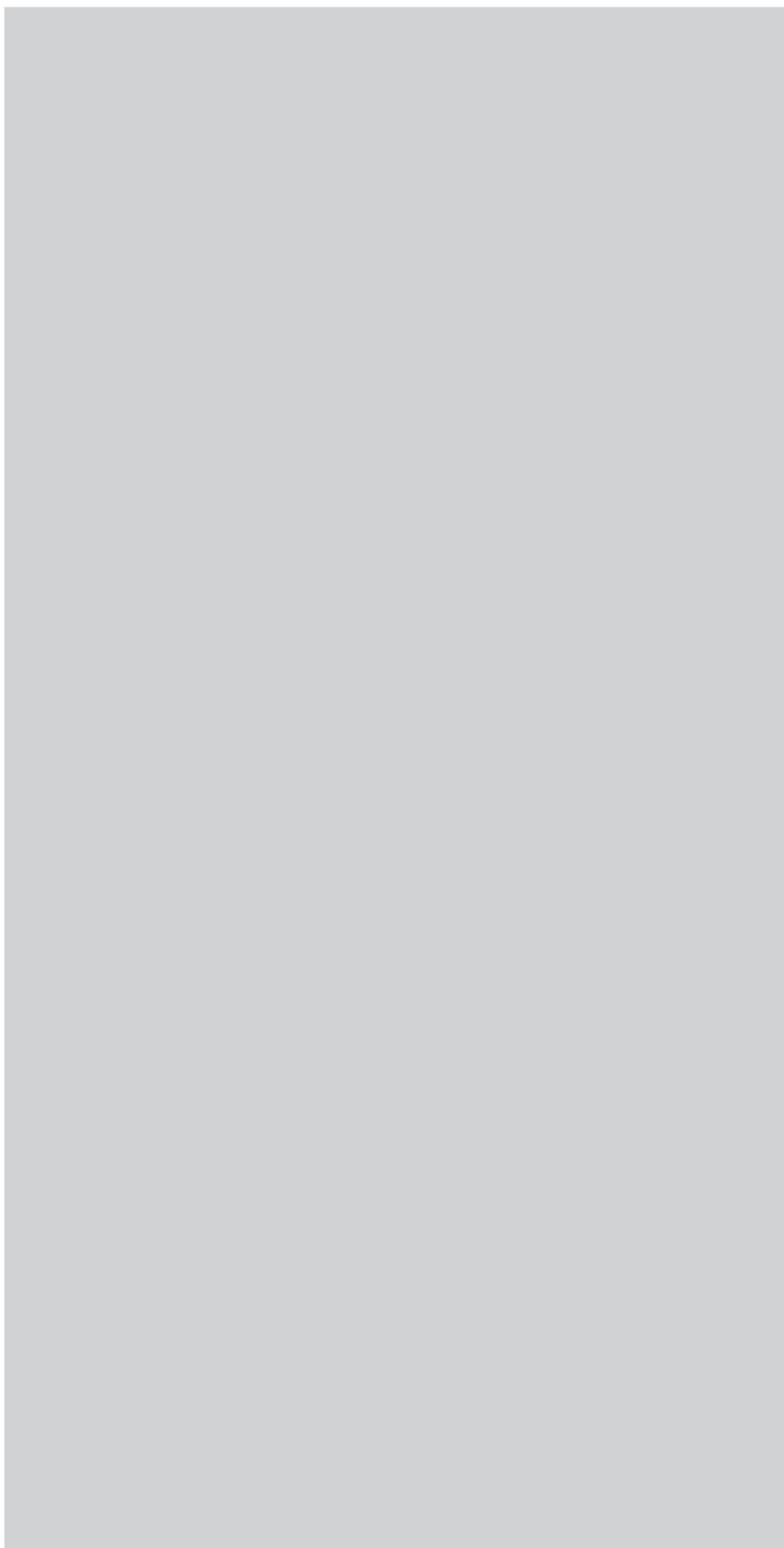
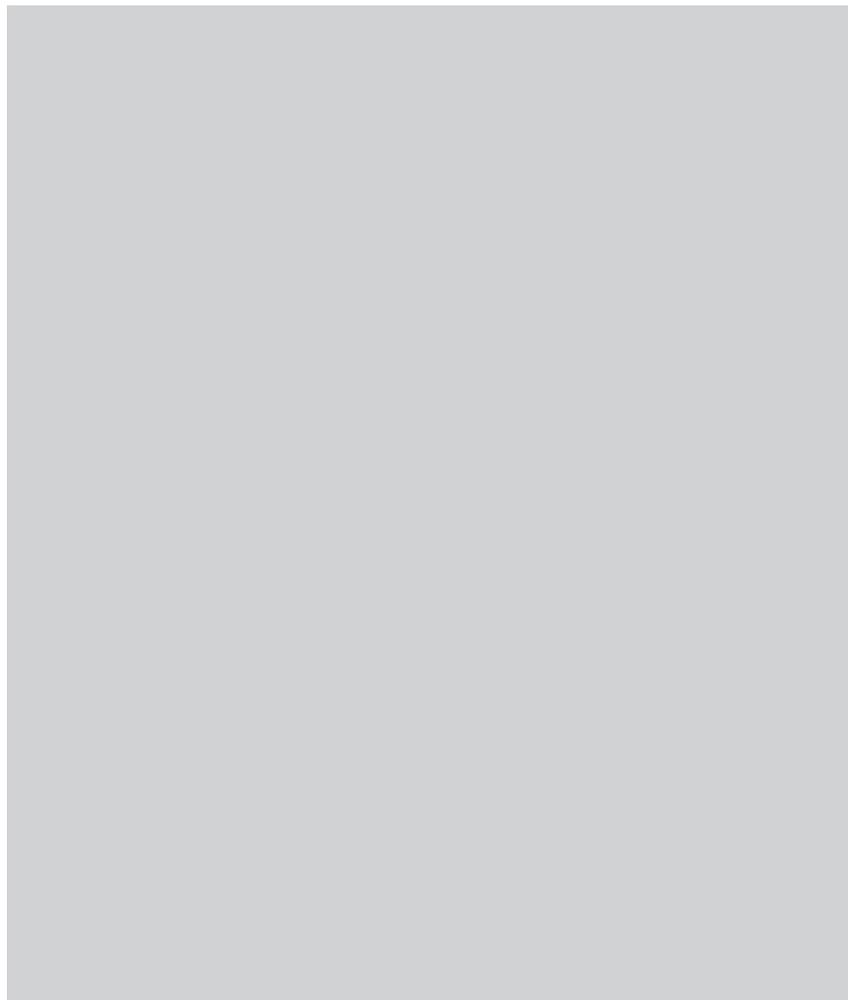
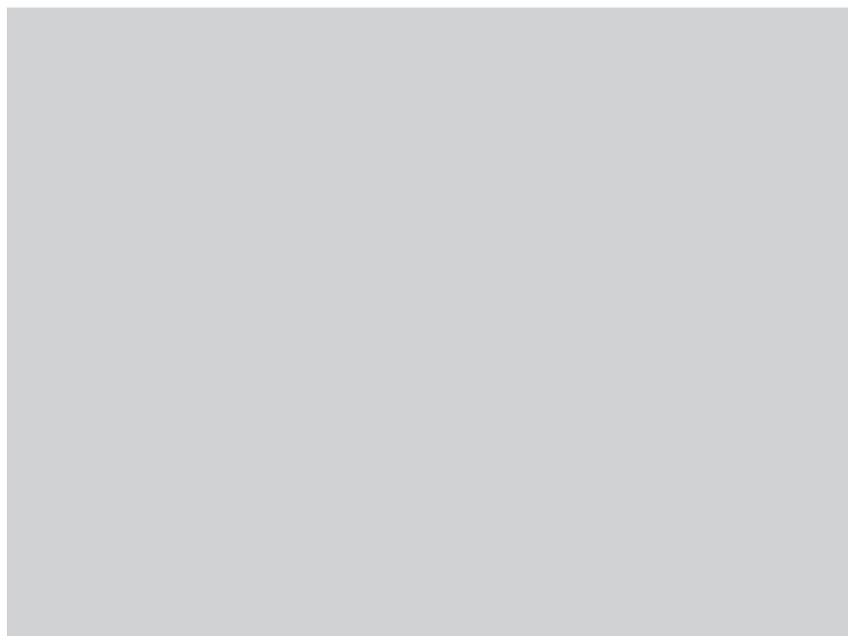


CPL. JESSICA OLIVAS

**[Above, Left]** A Thai child at the Ban Khlong Bangbor school in Rayong province, Thailand, celebrates National Children's Day Jan. 13. The school was scheduled to have a multipurpose building constructed during Exercise Cobra Gold 2012. Cobra Gold is a regularly scheduled joint/combined exercise designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand or respond to regional contingencies.

**[Above]** Marines with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, approach the beach in their combat rubber raiding craft Jan. 29. The Marines were conducting a small boat raid during the MEU's Amphibious Integration Training in preparation for Exercise Cobra Gold 2012.

Royal Thai Navy, Indonesian forces and U.S. Marines pour concrete over foundation for a multi-purpose building that will be constructed as part of Cobra Gold 2012 at the Ban Khlong Bangbor school, Jan. 20. Cobra Gold 2012 provides unique and dynamic training opportunities for participating military partners, while also promoting relationship building between militaries and local community.



# MARINE INLINE Hockey

**LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Hockey is a sport of speed, stamina and skill. Its fast pace and hard hits keep fans watching and Marines playing.

Even in the heat of the desert, hockey enthusiasts find a way to play the sport they love.

This year presents the first Marine Corps Community Service-sponsored inline hockey team.

The team was started by two of its present coaches and team captains Jeff McIntire and Matt Smith. After playing on a team in Hawaii together, they met again at the Combat Center and decided to hold tryouts and start a team here.

"I thought we would have trouble filling a 12-man roster," McIntire said. "But we had 30-plus people show up to tryouts."

Marines hailing from all over the country and stationed to different units aboard the installation jumped at the chance to play their favorite sport of choice.

Sixteen Marines, ranging from private first class to staff sergeant, made the team and filled the roster for the season. Little

See HOCKEY, B2



Paul Childers, Twentynine Palms inline hockey team forward, brings the puck up to the goal for a wrist shot during the third round of the Rink Inline Hockey League at the Rink Arena in Corona Jan. 21.

LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



# Fight Club 29

**TAKES STATE CHAMPS**

## TEAM STATS

**Jarret Edwards**  
 1st place  
 170 lb. weight class

**Arthur Powell**  
 2nd place  
 155 lb. weight class

**Dahlen Wilson**  
 2nd place  
 205 lb. weight class

**Kyle Stewart**  
 3rd place  
 185 lb. weight class

[Above] Arthur Powell blocks a kick from his opponent during a match at the 2012 California State Pankration Championships in the Coast Guard Island Alameda gymnasium Jan. 28.

[Left] Ethan S. Surrusco struggles to get out of a hold from his opponent.

## ■ Fight Club 29 travels to Coast Guard Island Alameda to fight for the gold, state title

**LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI**  
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It was dark and the seven fighters sitting in the traveling van could do nothing but make small talk and mentally prepare themselves for the competition the next morning.

As the coach and assistant driver switched out throughout the eight-hour drive to Oakland, the fighters tried to position their heads comfortably and get some sleep before their upcoming fight.

Fight Club 29 fought at the 2012 California State Pankration Championships at the Coast Guard Island Alameda gymnasium Jan. 28.

The double elimination tournament promoted skill and technique instead of

the stall and brawl seen on ultimate fighting shows on television.

As soon as they stepped into the gym the Marines began to slowly spread out to start their personal pre-fight routines. Whether they warmed up, snuck in some extra rest or pounded some protein, they had their focus on the upcoming fights.

Fans and competitors surrounded the rings as the first match kicked off. The gymnasium filled with cheering and the sound of strikes landing against bodies and bodies slamming against the dark padded ring.

Their opponents had come out swinging, and the Marines were ready. The first few matches were easy wins for the fight club. But as the

tournament progressed, they hit a temporary slump.

"We started off strong in the beginning and came to a low point in the middle," said Fight Club 29 coach Mark Geletko. "But then we came back and finished strong in the end."

All five Fight Club members continued on to the semi-finals for their weight class, four moved on to the finals in the afternoon.

Jarret "Juice" Edwards took first place for the 170 pound weight class, followed by Arthur Powell and Dahlen Wilson in second place for the 155 pound and 205 pound weight classes, respectively. Kyle "Big Spoon" Stewart finished third in the 185 pound class.

The club racked up six sub-

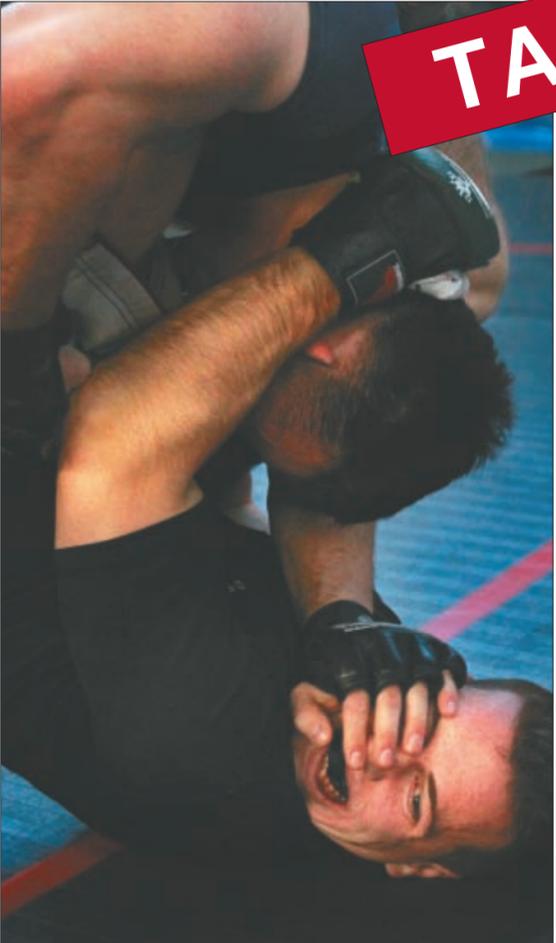
mission victories, one white wash victory and various other points from the matches by the end of the tournament.

They finished as the top team in the tournament and took the California State Pankration Championship title.

Fight Club 29 is the smallest team to hold the distinction.

Although several other teams boasted seven or more members, Fight Club 29 still bested points won with only five members due to the quality of their victories.

"I am extremely proud of the performance today," said Geletko, as he addressed the team after the tournament. "We accomplished what we came to do. We won the state championship."



### 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: Superbowl Party, doors open 2 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.  
 Sunday: Superbowl Party, doors open 2 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.  
 Sunday: Superbowl Party, doors open 2 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

Sunday: Superbowl Party, doors open 2 p.m.  
 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>

#### The Country & The Dustbowl Collective

xxx  
 When: Saturday, Feb. 4 8 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

#### Jeff Dunham

Lice Comedy Show  
 When: 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4  
 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>.

#### Boz Scaggs

Live music performance of funk music  
 When: 9p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24  
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

#### Bruce Springsteen Tribute, Born in the USA

Free with a two drink minimum  
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4  
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
 For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

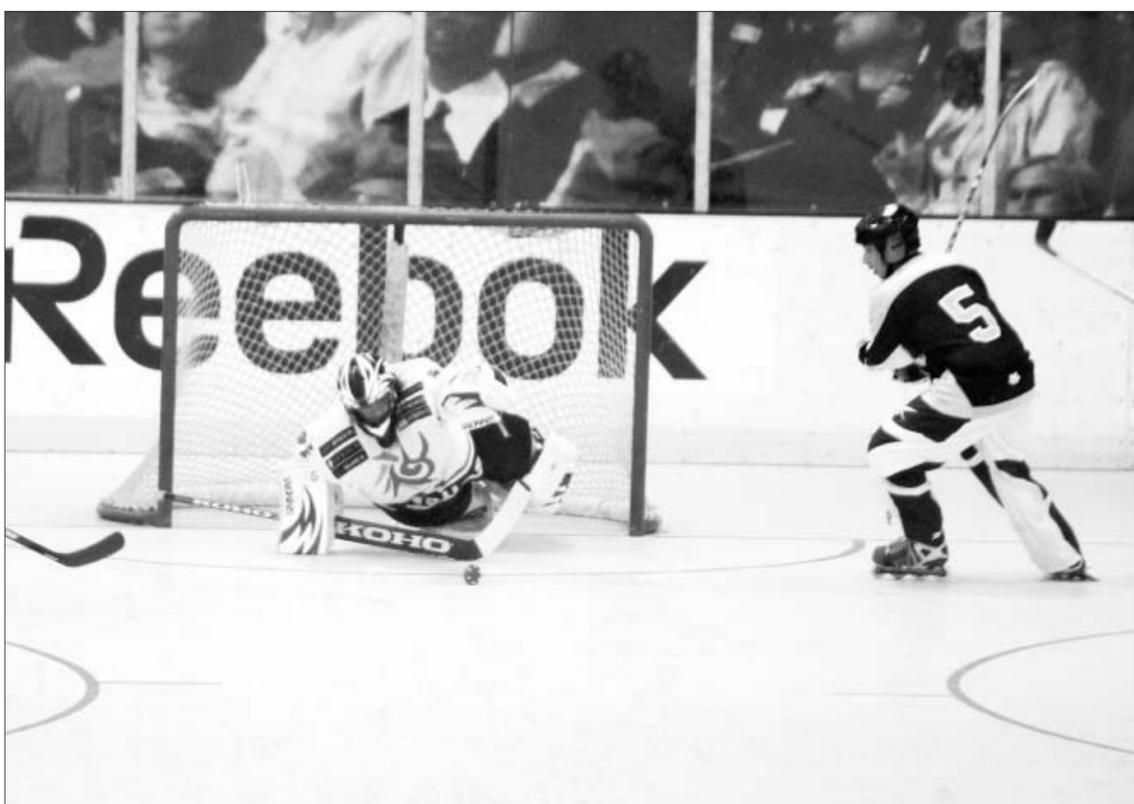
### Sunset Cinema

#### Friday, Feb. 3

6 p.m. - The Adventures of TinTin Rated PG  
 9 p.m. - Hugo, Rated PG  
 Midnight - The Sitter, Rated R

#### Saturday, Feb. 4

11 a.m. - Free Matinee Alvin and the Chipmunks: Squeakqual, Rated PG  
 2 p.m. - Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, Rated G  
 6 p.m. - Adventures of Tin Tin, Rated PG  
 9 p.m. - Sherlock Holmes Rated PG-13  
 Midnight - Mission Impossible, Rated PG-13



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Jeffrey Hallock, Twentynine Palms inline hockey team goalie, dives to stop the puck during a game in the Rink Inline Hockey League at the Rink Arena in Corona Jan. 21.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Left] Victor Jaquez, Twentynine Palms inline hockey team forward, attempts a wrist shot. The team was started by two of its present coaches and team captains Jeff McIntire and Matt Smith.

### HOCKEY, from B1

did they know the work that lay ahead of them. The team practices two times a week, working on their skills in a rink a quarter of the size they compete in.

They play an average of five scrimmage games each practice, adding up to nearly five hours skating and hitting a night.

Fortunately, their work paid off. The Twentynine Palms varsity inline hockey team played in the third round of the Rink Inline Hockey League at the Rink Arena in Corona Jan. 21.

The league, sponsored by the Anaheim Ducks, hosts the best inline hockey teams from the Southern California area.

The Combat Centers' team faced two of the league's teams back-to-back, crushing the top ranked team, the Islanders.

The Twentynine Palms team currently stands 2-3 in the league, working hard toward the play-offs in March.

The inline hockey team plans to hold try-outs for the spring season during April to May timeframe.

For information about try outs call (760)622-6736.

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