

# OBSERVATION POST

February 10, 2012

Since 1957

Vol. 56 Issue 5

## DeCA scholarship deadline soon

**TAMMY L. REED,**  
DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

FORT LEE, Va. – The deadline to turn in applications for the 2012 Scholarships for Military Children Program is Feb. 24.

Applications are available at commissaries worldwide as well as online through a link on <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Applicants must also submit an essay on a topic which is available on <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Awards will be based on funds available, but the program awards at least one \$1,500 scholarship to a student at each commissary.

The scholarship program was created to recognize military families' contributions to the

readiness of U.S. armed forces and the commissary's role in the military community. Since the program began in 2000, it has awarded more than \$9.3 million in scholarships to 6,069 military children from 62,000-plus applicants.

"While these numbers are impressive, what's even more impressive is what past scholarship recipients are doing with their education," said Joseph H. Jeu, director and CEO, Defense Commissary Agency. "Many recipients have entered a wide range of career fields such as teaching, business, law and military service – to name just a few. Many others have earned advanced degrees. They are making their way in this world, and they are making a difference."

To be eligible, the student must be a dependent, unmarried child, no



DIANNA TROTTER

Lance Cpl. Reginald Cockrill, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, reaches the top of an obstacle course rope during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program grey belt class Feb. 1.

## Servicemember participation do's, don'ts during elections

**CPL. ISIS M. RAMIREZ**  
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Just like everyone else in the United States, Marines and Department of Defense civilians have opinions. As citizens, they have the freedom to generate and express their beliefs.

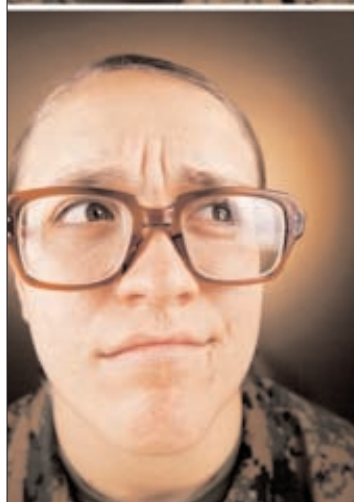
As the 2012 presidential elections draw near, it is a good time to be reminded of the do's and don'ts in regard to service members and civilian government employees participating in the election process, as well as how opinions can be appropriately expressed in a public forum.

The guidelines for any federal employee's participation in political activities are stated in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which applies to service members, and the Hatch Act, which applies to federal civilian employees. Both groups are prohibited from using their official capacity to influence an election.

Service members may express their personal opinion on political candidates and issues, join political clubs and attend their meetings, attend political fundraisers and make donations, when not in uniform, as a

See **SCHOLARSHIP, A5**

See **POLITICAL, A5**



## THE BCGs A THING OF THE PAST

**SGT. MARK FAYLOGA**

DEFENSE MEDIA AGENCY

The standard-issue spectacles, S9s, most widely known as "Birth Control Glasses," or BCGs, are soon to become a thing of the past.

In the coming months, recruits from all branches of service will be issued 5As, a more modern, hipster-chic pair of glasses. While the 5As are inarguably more aesthetically pleasing, they offer very little help as a contraceptive. Also PFLGs (Perfectly Fine-Looking Glasses), or TIGTABCYTPNGs (These? I Got Them At Boot Camp. Yeah, They're Pretty Nice Glasses) doesn't have the same ring as BCGs.

If this is the death of Birth Control Glasses, let this stand as their eulogy.

Birth Control Glasses, labeled lovingly so because they're so ugly you don't stand a chance of finding a partner while wearing them, have always been the great equalizer. Even the most Handsome Harry and Sexy Sally are humbled by their wear. At boot camp, there are many things that break down individual identity and reinforce a unit mentality, but the BCGs do this exceptionally well. Recruits forced to wear them share the bond of constantly thinking, "I look like an idiot in these things." Meanwhile, all the other recruits are thinking, "Look at those idiots," and, "I hope my drill instructor didn't just see me scratch that itch."

The BCGs are like reverse beer-goggles. They can turn even a 10 into a two. Certainly you've heard of Brad Pitt, movie star and former sexiest man alive. And you more than likely know of Drew Carey, television star and for-

mer Marine. Here's a little known secret, that's the same guy. His real name is Hans Vandersmit. He's a woodworker from Oregon who wanted to make it big in Hollywood and figured he'd have better chances if he created two distinct personas — surprisingly he found success with both alter egos. One you know as the global star, philanthropist and heartthrob. The other wears mock BCGs and hosts The Price Is Right.

As ugly as the BCGs may be, they always got the job done. They are sturdy, they are reliable, and they are ugly see-through. They provided clarity for Marines on Iwo Jima just as they did for Marines in Fallujah. They will be missed.

Just as the sun shines through after a heavy rain, all is not dark after the loss of the BCGs. The nation as a whole, and the military especially is looking to cut spending, commit to cleaner energy and find ways to save. With the use of the newer glasses the savings will be tremendous. With the same amount of plastic and glass it takes to make one pair of BCGs, you can make six pairs of the new glasses. Unfortunately all of that money will not be saved, but redirected to TRICARE to compensate for the spike in pregnancies by service members who are no longer wearing BCGs.

As with any good eulogy, let us remember the legacy of the BCGs with a poem. Unfortunately my Robert Frost book of poems is loaned out, so here's a haiku:

*Too thick frames appear  
Taking their place on my face  
Women are repulsed*



# This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated February 1, 1974, Vol. 18, No. 4

## MCB works to help out desert wildlife

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The balance of nature hangs on delicate scales, even in good conditions. Realizing this, Marines here are working to tip the scales in favor of desert wildlife.

While a majority of this 932 square mile tract of land is used as impact area for artillery and bombing practice by the services, there are large training areas inhabited by coyotes, rabbits, desert tortoise, and even an occasional mountain goat. To help insure their survival the Marines are providing them with the deserts rarest commodity...water.

Water holes are rare in this corner of the Mojave Desert, and the Base is located on some of the most rugged desert in the United States. Temperatures in summer may soar above 110 degrees daily, but water is a must year-round for even the hardiest of desert animals.

A guzzler water system has been built on the western portion of the base by members of the Base Environmental

Enhancement Committee. This may seem like a relatively simple task, but in fact it required a great deal of planning and work.

"First we had to find a suitable site for the water storage tank," says Capt. Kenneth W. Berkey of the Base Explosive Ordnance Disposal Section, who helped build the water system, "then transport the water to the tank by truck."

Once the cement pools were constructed, shelters consisting of plywood and rocks were put up to keep the water cool and help stop evaporation. A float-like device is used to keep the water at a constant level. The guzzler site is then periodically checked to ensure the water supply is open and full.

"We don't often find desert animals at the guzzlers," says Navy Ensign Lee Smith, Base Sanitation Officer who helped build the guzzlers, "but judging from the animal tracks, a lot of coyotes, rabbits and other little animals appreciate their new drinking fountains."

## Why Walking Can Help Your Heart

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Regular walking can reduce your chances of heart problems by about 30 percent, according to Harvard Health Publications.

Those results came from the analysis of 18 studies between 1970 and 2007. Study participants who walked 5.5 miles each week began showing benefits to the heart. And the more they walked, the greater the benefits.

So, just how can walking help you live healthier this year?

### Heart Health Benefits of Walking

While countless activities are available to try—such as cycling or yoga—walking has the lowest drop-out rate, said Health Coach Meghean Cook of TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Regular walking will: Lower your risk of heart disease, improve your blood pressure and blood sugar levels, lower your bad (LDL) cholesterol, while raising your good (HDL) cholesterol, help maintain your weight, lower the risk of obesity, reduce your risk of Type 2 Diabetes.

In addition, did you know walking fast 35 minutes a day, five days a week, will make you feel better if you're depressed?

A Harvard Health study published in 2005 proved such activity had a significant influence on mild to moderate depression. If walking five days a week is too often, you can substitute it for 60 minutes a day, just three times a week, for the same results.

### Start a Walking Club!

If you're tired of walking alone, or need new motivation to get up and move, why not start your own walking club?

The American Heart Association will "walk" you through the steps at <http://www.mywalkingclub.org>

If you're not up for starting your own, you can also browse nearby clubs based on your zip code. Walking clubs aren't only a positive way to improve your health, but help those around you. They can also develop into a great social bonding experience with new or existing friends.

Want more healthy living tips?

Visit TriWest's Healthy Living Portal at <http://www.triwest.com/HealthyLiving>.

## Hot Topics

### DODGEBALL SEASON

It's time again for dodgeball. Games will be held every Wednesday evening at the East Gym. The league is open to active duty, family members, and NAF/DoD employees. For more information, call 830-4092.

### MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Celebrate Mardi Gras at the Zone Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. There will be roulette, black jack, poker and craps, food and prizes. For more information please call 830-4767.

### COACHING JOBS AVAILABLE

Resumes are now being accepted for the coaching position for varsity men's, varsity co-ed and varsity women's softball teams. Please submit resumes to athletic director Danielle McKeever-Smith at building 1341 no later than March 1. For more information call 830-4092.

### VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center presents their Valentines Day Special. Two bowl for the price of one Feb. 14 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Bring your special someone. For more information call 830-6422.



## 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**



Visit the official

MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/the-combatcenter>

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

## SUDOKU #2438-M

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT



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

## WRINKLE REMOVERS

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20										22			
		23			24					25			
26	27			28	29			30	31				
32			33				34		35		36	37	38
39			40						41				
42					43						44		
		45		46		47				48			
49	50	51			52	53			54	55			
56				57				58				59	60
61				62			63	64					
65		66							67				
68				69						70			

### 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. Wher 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
44. Corleone's 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
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 the 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

## OBSERVATION POST

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# LIVIN' ON A PRAYER

■ 3rd CEB chaplain brings message of hope to troops



CPL. MEREDITH BROWN

Navy Lt. Bryan Davenport, the chaplain for 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division (Forward), takes his turn as Guitar Hero, playing Bon Jovi's hit "Living on a Prayer" as a transition to the night's Bible study Nov. 5.

## CPL. MEREDITH BROWN

2ND MARINE DIVISION

It is Saturday night. The moon is visible through the sandy haze. The sounds of Guitar Hero are heard outside a small tent. A group of Marines are gathered inside rocking out to the various bands.

Navy Lt. Bryan Davenport, the chaplain for 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division (Forward), watches the Marines give their best shot before piping up from the back row and asking to get the next turn.

His selection is Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer." He rips up the solo and uses it as he transitions into the night's Bible study. Naturally, he catches some flak for his use of the song, but when he stands in front of the Marines and sailors in attendance, he has their respect and attention. After a video and discussion, he takes prayer requests and closes with a word of prayer.

The Marines continue on with their night and prepare for the next day's mission. It has been a long two days leading up to this opportunity at Forward Operating Base Geronimo, convoying across Helmand province. Davenport does not have the privilege of staying at one base, his Marines are divided up and spread across the province executing different missions. Whether it is rolling on a multiple-day convoy, or waiting at the airstrip terminal, Davenport adapts to the needs of his Marines.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," Davenport said with a laugh. "You don't spend too much time thinking about it. 'Okay, we'll get there when we get there.' You own it, and that helps you just do it."

As a chaplain, it is his duty to facilitate religious services for his Marines and sailors, provide worship for his own faith, care for everyone and advise the command on the welfare of his troops as well as counseling and advising individual Marines.

While his Marines are out conducting clearing missions, detecting and detonating improvised explosive devices, the Poolsbo, Wash., native, takes time to prepare for his Bible studies and worship services.

A single light shines over Davenport's shoulders as he sits in FOB Geronimo's chapel, illuminating the scattered sheets of music just enough for him to rehearse. His fingers move methodically up and down the

neck of the guitar, playing familiar tunes. He quietly sings the lyrics; the look of unsaturated happiness showers his persona. He is busy preparing for a church service Sunday night, held in coordination with Lt. Charles Ferguson, the chaplain for 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment.

The night of the service comes. He stands and puts his guitar strap across his shoulder and grabs his pick from the music stand. This is the first time the attendees have had live music in months. The rhythm begins; the congregation joins in, singing words of praise.

Davenport's call to serve as a chaplain came easily once he finished seminary at Talbot School of Theology.

"My father was career Navy, my brother is a CH-46E pilot in the Marine Corps and I saw God working in their lives, so when the Lord convicted me and was like 'you need to be about my business' the question of where, was easy."

Davenport completed seminary school at Talbot School of Theology and became a chaplain in the Navy reserves in 2007 and then made the switch to active duty in 2009.

"I guess the short end of it is simply obedience," Davenport said. "I'm not the most experienced, not necessarily the most skilled, but I've just taken that step to obey God and He's opened up every door ever since then."

"Chaplain Davenport is absolutely dedicated to the welfare of his Marines and sailors," said Ferguson, who attended chaplain school with Davenport and has known him for more than three and a half years. "He does an outstanding job and is full of compassion, concern and care for those he serves and I am glad to call him both a colleague and a friend."

Davenport strives to encourage his Marines and sailors, but an example of the rewards of his job occurred recently during his day-to-day interactions with his troops when the encouragement was returned to him.

"The other day, I was talking to one of my Marines and he was like 'It's okay Chaps, you just be yourself,' and that was a Marine just turning around and I don't know if he meant to, but that was just an amazing encouragement," Davenport said. "They give me the motivation to do what I do."

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# THE DUTY BELT



## THE DUTY BELT

ALL THROUGHOUT THE CORPS

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY

LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

FEB. 8, 2012

Sometimes it's just funny, the things Marines get into. We all know what I am talking about. A bored Marine is a MacGyver waiting to happen.

> **The lucky nights** are when all is quiet. Mostly the weekends after a long holiday period. Everyone is too tired, or too broke, to get into mischief.

> **I think that** means we need more holidays, then.

> **You get to do a lot** of people-watching. > **I've seen a lot** of Marines come in and out of this post.

> **It's fun to see** first timers on duty. You know the ones. Fresh from the schoolhouses. That's always fun. They're extra nervous.

> **The number of people** who don't know how to report in or answer a phone would astound you. It's actually really simple. It's just a phone call, people.

> **At the end** of the day, like 3 a.m., it's a grind to make it through. And they'll count down the minutes until their relief shows up. > **Watching the clock tick** seconds past doesn't make them go any faster.

> **But, there's no rest for me.** The end of the duty day is just the start of another one for me.

> **There are 12 actual general orders.** But the 13th is the most important.

> **It's something that has** to be done and something that everyone has to do.

> **The list comes at** the beginning of the month and almost everyone complains and tries to get out of it.

> **But I'm here with** them and I think at least some of them understand what it is to stand a post.

> **It's not like they're alone.** They've got a couple of guys with them, too.

> **It's for everybody's** safety that I'm around.

> **If I could only** tell you some of the stuff I've seen go on at the barracks on non-payday weekends.

> **The thing is, I'm usually** the first person of authority on the scene.

> **I think it's important that** I'm around. I think I make a difference.

> **It's not always** intense though.



# Week **IN** Photos

## 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines



PHOTOS BY: CPL. REECE LODDER

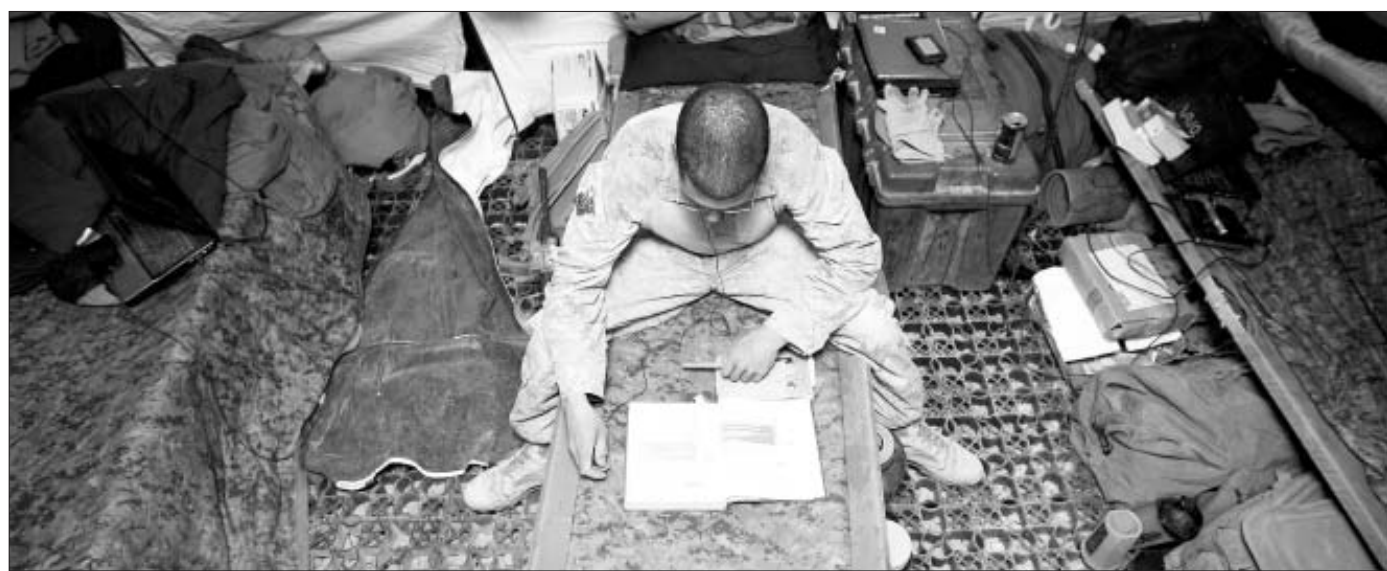


**[Left]** Afghan Border Police Sgt. Khan Jan, patrolman, 2nd Tolai, 2nd Kandak, Helmand ABP, holds security with Lance Cpl. Michael Medina, machine gunner with Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, Weapons Company, 3/3, at the entry control point here, Jan. 30. The ABP is younger and significantly smaller than the Afghan National Army and police forces, but its mission is vital as Afghan forces prepare to assume lead security responsibility in Garmsir.

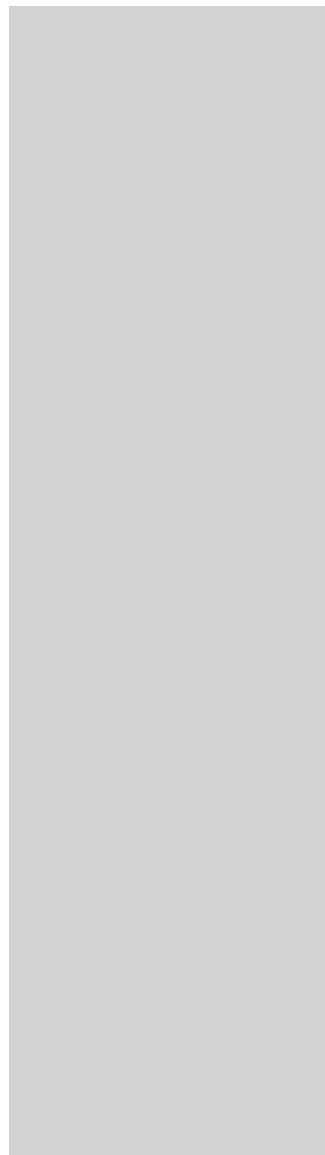
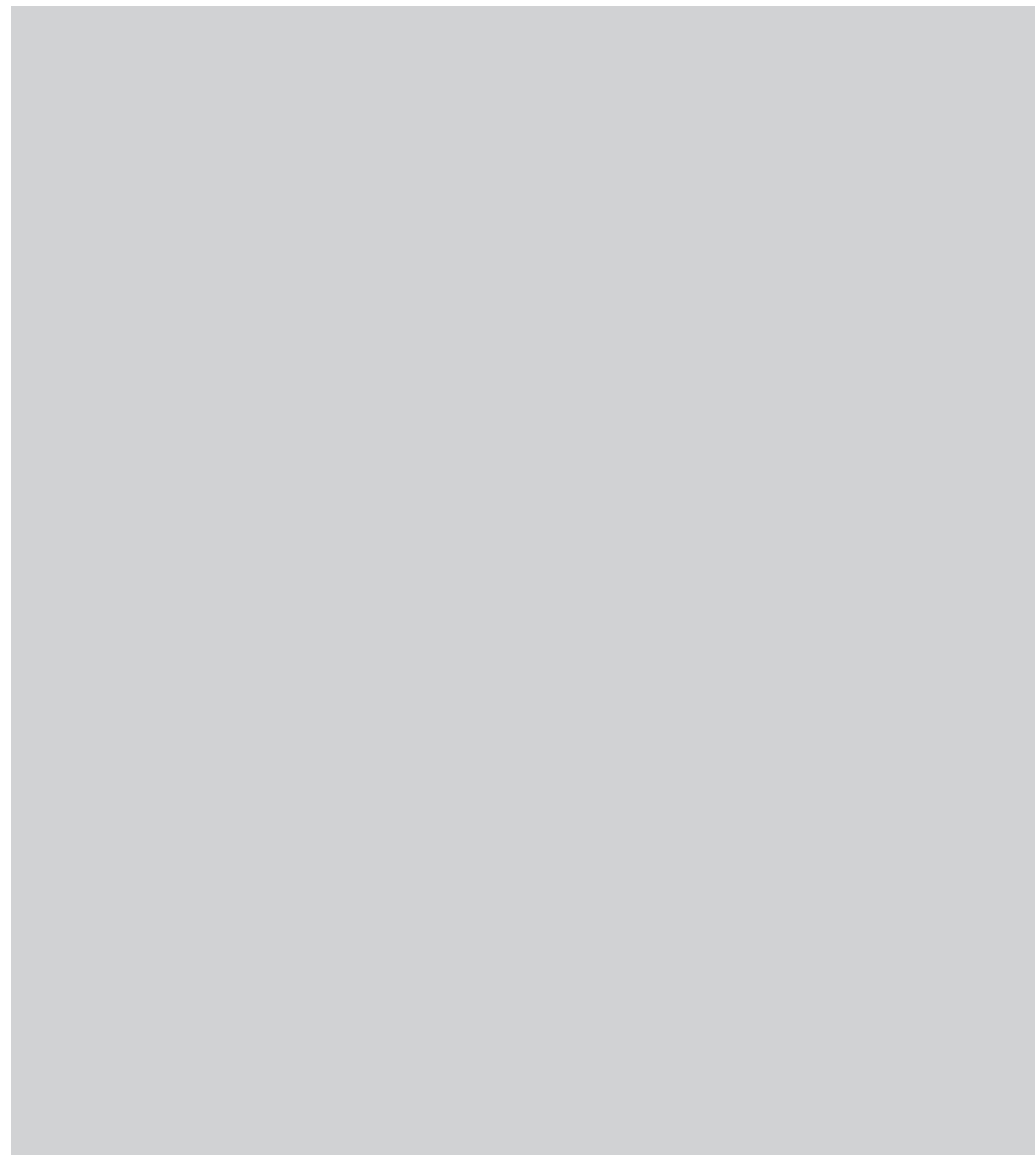
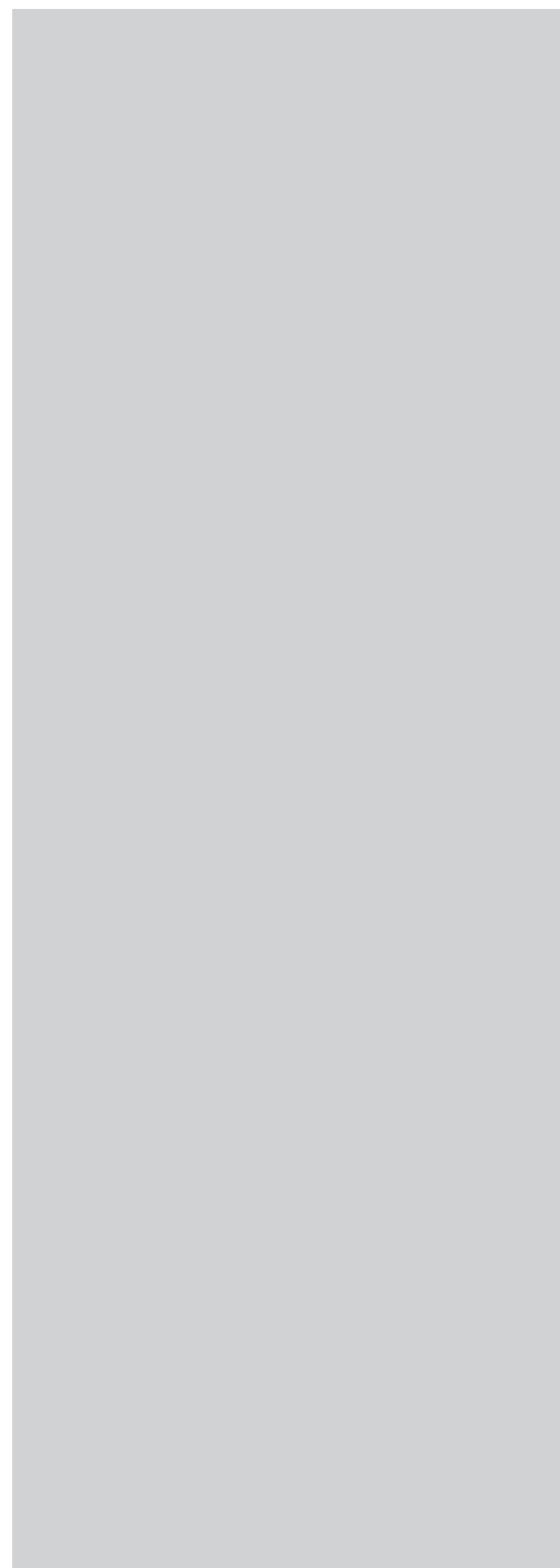
**[Far Left]** Lance Cpl. Galen Murphy-Fahlgren, 22, anti-tank missileman, Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hands candy to a group of Afghan children during a partnered security patrol with Afghan Border Police in Southern Garmsir district, Jan. 30.



Afghan National Army Sgt. Khal Mohammad (fourth from left), 22, infantryman with 2nd Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, and a native of Badakhshan province, speaks with his soldiers and an interpreter while resting in an abandoned compound during Operation Winter Offensive, Jan. 4. He's one of the faces of a historic transition in the making; a crucial member of the Afghan National Security Forces as they work with Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and prepare to assume lead security responsibility in Garmsir district.



Lance Cpl. Edward Knudsen, mortarman, Weapons Company, 3/3, studies a mathematics textbook in his sleeping area after a long day of work as an armory custodian, Jan. 31. Knudsen worked through two years of college before joining the Marine Corps in 2008, admitting he couldn't muster the discipline to stay committed to school. Though his days are long and his down time precious, he often fades into study mode after his work is done, refreshing his algebra, trigonometry and calculus and studying for the SAT exam.





# Round Table engages parents, school administrators

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**

*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

About 25 active duty parents met with a panel consisting of principals from across the Morongo Unified School District during a Round Table event at the community center on base Jan. 25 to discuss ways to enhance military students' school experience and to address concerns from their parents.

"The purpose was to have an open discussion between parents and principals," said Carol Burton, Combat Center school liaison. "Both the parents and administrators are interested in making the students' school experience positive and productive."

The panel opened with an introduction into the various programs their schools offer and an overview of student success rates.

The issues that garnered the most attention regarded class size, curriculum, advanced placement classes, funding and budgeting.

Parents were particularly concerned about the effect frequent moves have on their children and what can be done to help ease that strain.

By 2014, parents should start to see a shift in school curriculum state-to-state with the start of the Common Core Standards program, which aims to standardize expectations for each grade level across the nation.

"That question of what does my child need to know is going to broaden," said Donette Swain, principal, Oasis Elementary School. "We will be able to teach the same common core standards. So, you will see some continuity as you

move from place to place."

But, this shouldn't be a concern for parents with students excelling in California school systems already.

*"We've seen parent involvement really augment over the last couple of years. I want to continue to see that grow. I've seen a lot of good things come from that,"*

— Paul Gattuso

"California has some of the highest challenging standards that you can have," said Tom Baumgarten, assistant superintendent, MUSD. "They are trying to align the standards across the country, and that's what you're going to hear as the national standards."

One thing the panel was unanimous about was a request for more parent participation.

"Parent involvement has been growing," said Paul Gattuso, principal, Condor Elementary School. "We've seen our parent involvement really augment over the last

couple of years, and I welcome that. I want to continue to see that grow. I've seen a lot of good things come from that."

There are parent volunteer organizations at each school, and each facility also holds monthly school site committee meetings, Burton said.

"Being part of that process is key to making sure you understand where we are," Swain said. "I have a very difficult time getting parents to come."

That is a place where you can get your hands on the budget and be part of the decision making process."

Parents interested in attending the site committee meeting at their child's school can contact the school or the school liaison for information.

Additional meetings similar to the Round Table are planned for the future.

Contact the school liaison at 830-1574 or carol.burton@usmc.mil with any questions.

## SCHOLARSHIP, from A1

older than 21 – or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of an active duty, Reserve, guardsman or retired service member or be the survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card.

The applicant must also be planning to attend or already attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2012 or be enrolled in a program of studies

designed to transfer directly into a four-year school program.

If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary are used to award an additional scholarship at another store.

Scholarships are funded by donations from commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public. Every dollar donated goes directly to funding scholarships. No taxpayer dollars are expended on the scholarship program.

If students have questions about the scholarship program application, call scholarship managers at (856) 616-9311 or email them at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

## POLITICAL, from A1

spectator and private citizen only. However, aside from making donations, they may not assist any partisan political activity, candidate or cause. The key to being within regulations while in attendance at a political event is remaining a spectator and not becoming a participant and not attending in uniform.

"The DOD directive allows individual service members to support whatever political party [or] candidate they want," said James J. O'Donnell, the attorney advisor at staff judge advocate, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. "They can express their personal opinion but not as a representative of the armed forces. You don't do it in uniform."

It is unlawful for a service member to participate in any interview or group discussion as an advocate for or against any party.

It is also prohibited for any active duty service member to make a public political speech or serve in any capacity for any partisan political campaign, convention or group, whether in uniform or not.

According to Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, service members can show their support for a political candidate or party by placing a bumper sticker on their private vehicles or displaying signs at their homes, if the home is not on a military installation.

They can also support a candidate, party or idea on their personal social media website as long as it's not a part of a communication campaign and they do not appear to represent the view of the armed forces.

A service member cannot post links to official campaigning websites or forums; however, it is permissible to like a campaign's page. They cross the line into participating in the campaign by posting or commenting on the campaign and/or candidate's page.

Nearly all federal civilians at MarForPac are classified as less restricted under the Hatch Act, which allows them to endorse candidates and attend, participate, be active members or hold office in political clubs as private citizens when no inference or appearance of official endorsement can be reasonably drawn; however, they cannot engage in any political activities in any federal building, while on duty or when using a federally-owned or leased vehicle.

Service members who fail to follow Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 may be punished under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. The potential consequence for civilians is dismissal from federal service.

"(They need to) be sure that any activity they do is clearly in a personal capacity and doesn't potentially give an inference that it is in an official capacity," O'Donnell said.

For more guidance on what political involvement is permitted, contact the SJA at 830-6111. Service members may also refer to the Department of Defense Directive 1344.10. Federal civilian employees may refer to the Hatch Act.

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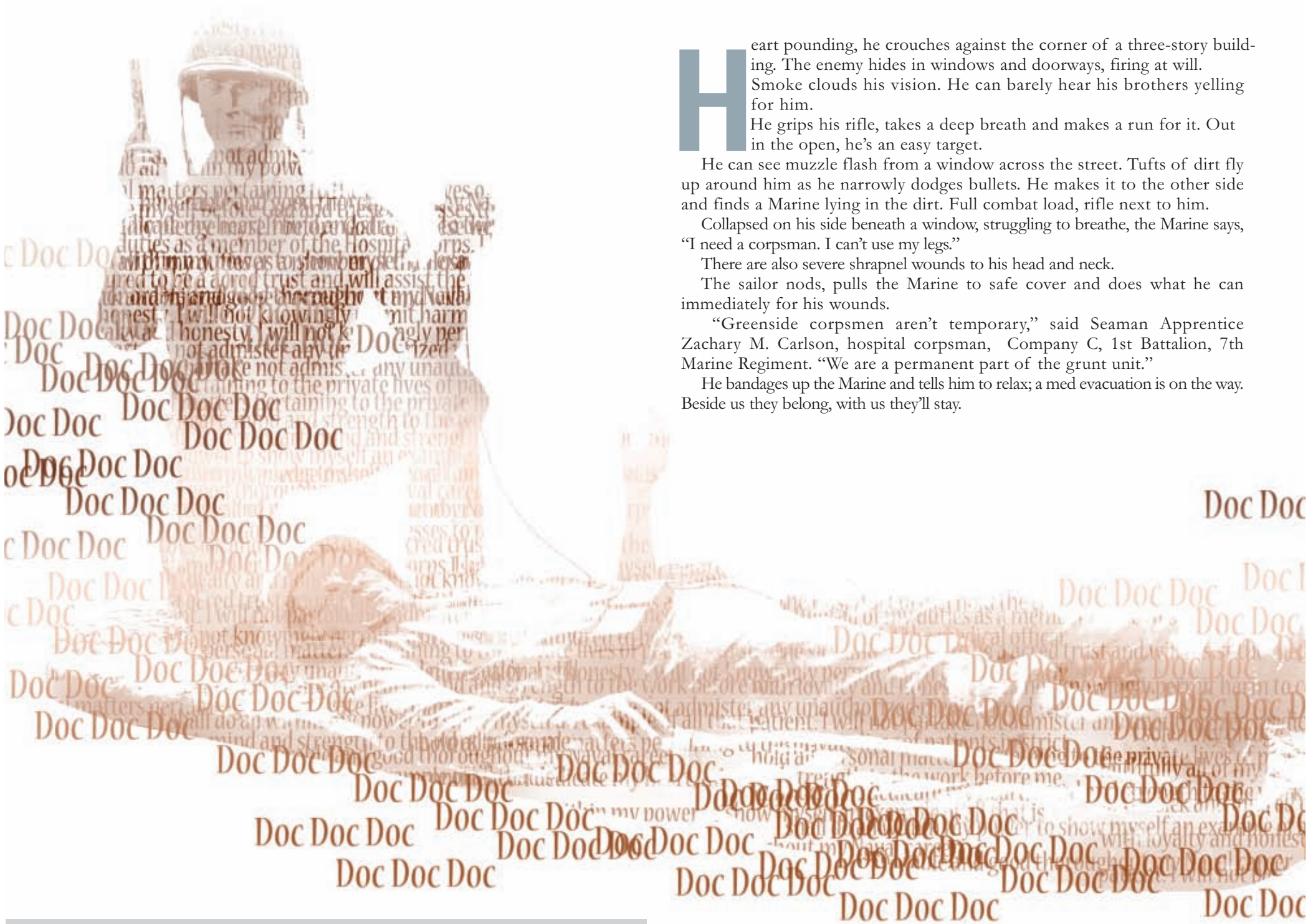
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# MOMENT WITH THE DOC

By LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN



**H** heart pounding, he crouches against the corner of a three-story building. The enemy hides in windows and doorways, firing at will. Smoke clouds his vision. He can barely hear his brothers yelling for him.

He grips his rifle, takes a deep breath and makes a run for it. Out in the open, he's an easy target. He can see muzzle flash from a window across the street. Tufts of dirt fly up around him as he narrowly dodges bullets. He makes it to the other side and finds a Marine lying in the dirt. Full combat load, rifle next to him.

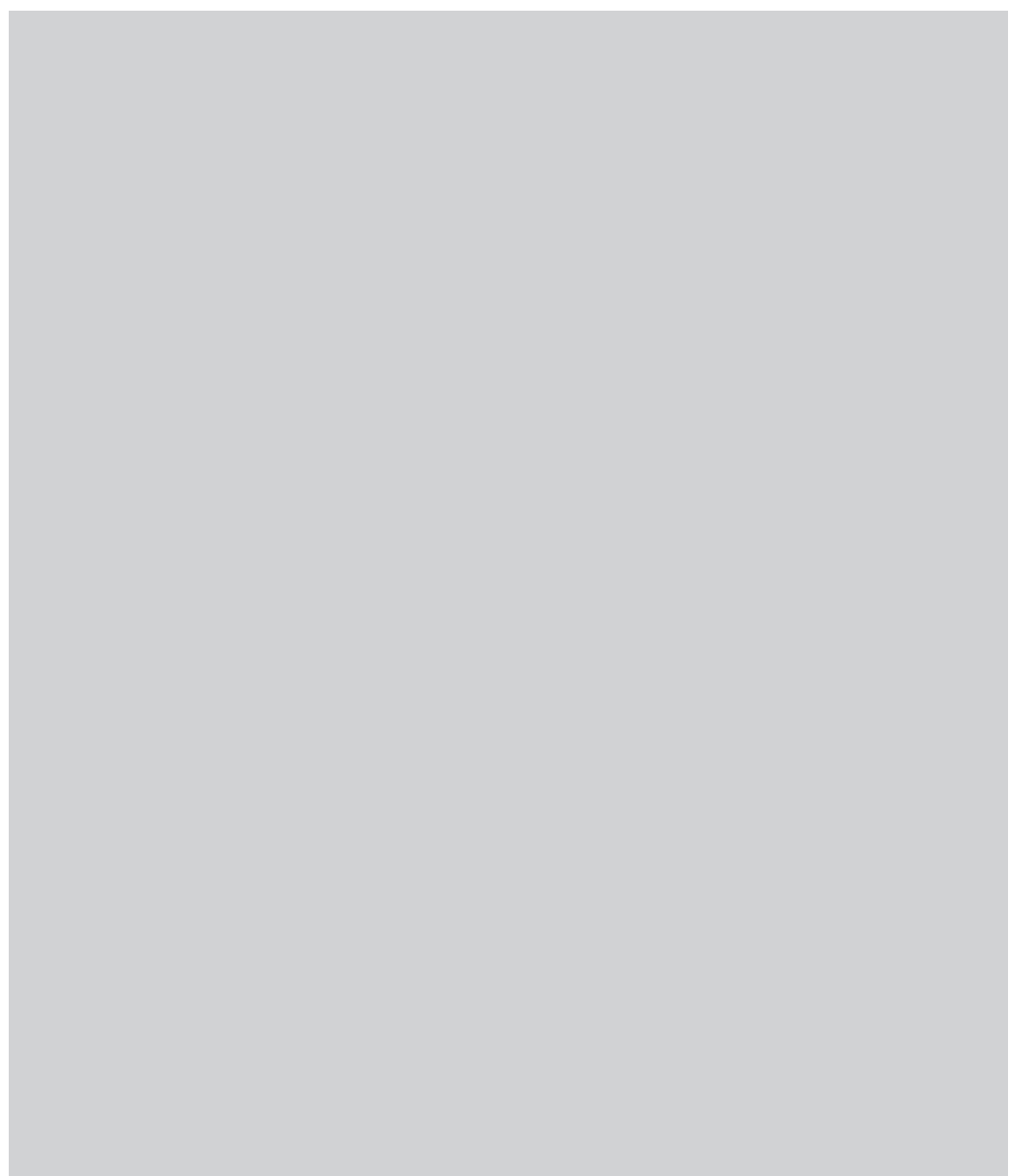
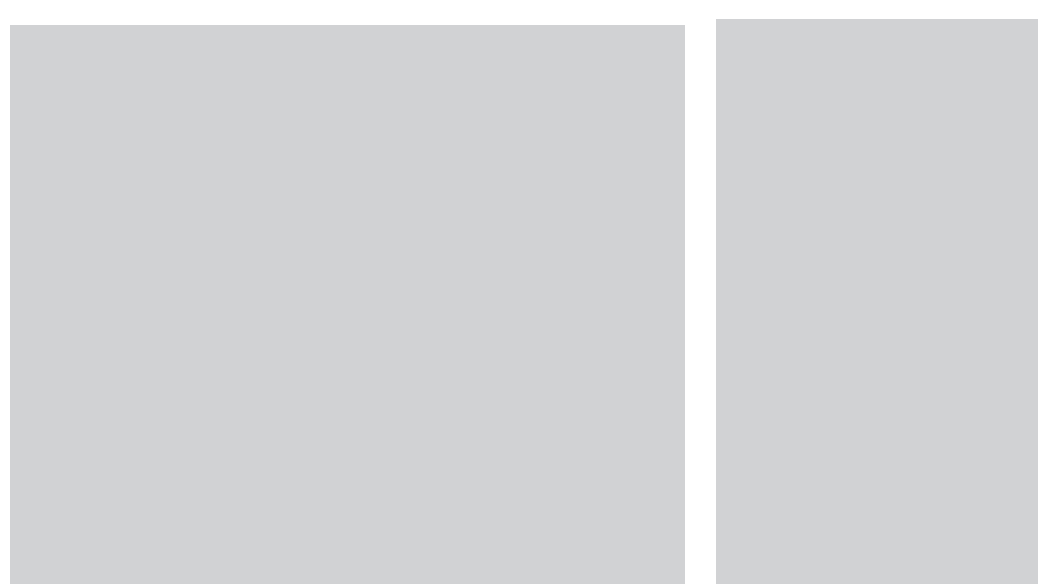
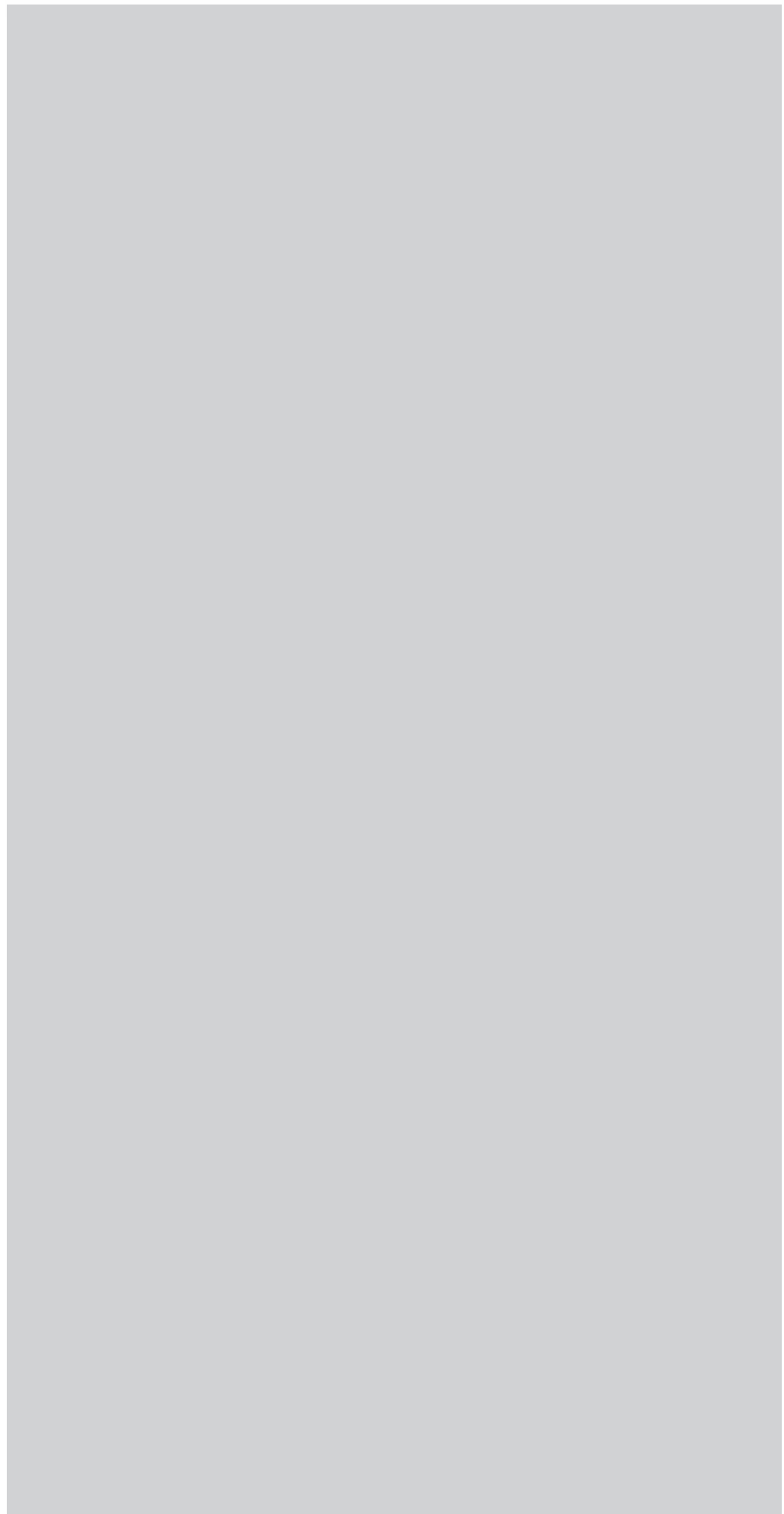
Collapsed on his side beneath a window, struggling to breathe, the Marine says, "I need a corpsman. I can't use my legs."

There are also severe shrapnel wounds to his head and neck. The sailor nods, pulls the Marine to safe cover and does what he can immediately for his wounds.

"Greenside corpsmen aren't temporary," said Seaman Apprentice Zachary M. Carlson, hospital corpsman, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "We are a permanent part of the grunt unit."

He bandages up the Marine and tells him to relax; a med evacuation is on the way. Beside us they belong, with us they'll stay.

**367-3577 For Advertising**





**CLIMBERS MUST BE...**

- AGE 16 OR OLDER
- BE AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, FAMILIES OR ELIGIBLE DOD EMPLOYEES
- COMPLETE A ONE-TIME 15-MINUTE SAFETY COURSE

**INDOOR ROCK WALL**

**CLIMBING TO**

**NEW HEIGHTS**

**AT THE**

**WEST GYM**

**STORY BY LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI**

**T**wentynine Palms is located near one of the world's premier climbing destinations, Joshua Tree National Park. The rock-filled park attracts everyone from local to international climbers with its challenging slopes and picturesque high elevation scenes.

Those who do not have the convenience or skill to climb at the park, can still condition at establishments with manufactured climbing walls. Members of the Combat Center community need only to step into an on-base gym.

A new rock climbing room opened at the West Gym and Fitness Center Feb. 8, after a month of construction.

The room features walls for both free and tethered climbing.

The auto-belay system allows climbers to be strapped in safely to a harness and climb higher on the rock wall without the need of a partner to spot them as they come down.

The two walls sport a total of 12 belay systems, allowing for 12 climbers at a time, with even more on the bouldering wall.

The room is open to all service members and family members, ages 16 and up. However, before anyone is allowed to climb, they must first complete a 15-minute safety brief.

"People that get the climbing bug get pretty crazy with it," said Terry Cunagin, assistant deputy director, Semper Fit. "I'm 61 years old. If I can do it anyone can."







**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.  
Thursday: Social Hour, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Bloodstripes NCO Club**

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 - 7 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>.

**Jake's Women**

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

**Lake Street Drive**

Sinewy Motown bass line with jazz  
When: Saturday, Feb. 11, 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**

**The Doors Tribute**

Free Friday concert series  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit  
<http://www.spotlight29.com>.

**Terry Fator**

"America's got Talent" winner puppet master live  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit  
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Melissa Manchester**

Live music performance  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit  
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Larry the Cable Guy**

Live blue collar comedy performance  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, March 23  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

**Sunset Cinema**

**Friday, Feb. 10**

6 p.m. - We Bought a Zoo, Rated PG  
9 p.m. - War Horse, Rated PG-13  
Midnight - Sherlock Holmes, Rated PG-13

**Saturday, Feb. 11**

11 a.m. - **Free Matinee** Real Steel, Rated PG-13  
2 p.m. - Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, Rated G  
6 p.m. - The Adventures of Tin-Tin, Rated PG  
9 p.m. - Hugo, Rated PG  
Midnight - Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, PG-13

**Sunday, Feb. 12**

2 p.m. - The Darkest Hours, Rated PG-13  
6 p.m. - The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Rated PG-R  
9 p.m. - The Devil Inside, Rated R

**Monday, Feb. 13**

7 p.m. - War Horse, Rated PG-13

**Tuesday, Feb. 14**

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

**Wednesday, Feb. 15**

7 p.m. - Hugo, Rated PG

**Thursday, Feb. 16**

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

# Dueling divas Dolly Parton, Queen Latifa battle, belt it out



COURTESY PHOTO

Dolly Parton and hip-hopper-turned-actress Queen Latifa tussle for the musical direction of their church choir as it preps for a big annual sing-off in this new comedy-drama from writer and director Todd Graff.

**NEIL POND**

AMERICAN PROFILE

**"Joyful Noise"**

Starring Dolly Parton & Queen Latifah  
Directed by Todd Graff  
118 min., PG-13

Dolly Parton and hip-hopper-turned-actress Queen Latifa tussle for the musical direction of their church choir as it preps for a big annual sing-off in this new comedy-drama from writer and director Todd Graff.

Graff's two previous projects, "Bandslam" (2009) and "Camp" (2003), had similar themes of competition and conflict. And Graff is himself a former backup singer, so it's only natural that he keeps returning to a tuneful topic with which he's familiar.

The music does, indeed, flow in "Joyous Noise." There are more than a

dozen performances, several of them full, start-to-finish songs. Some even feature non-actor, real-life performers (the electrifying Kirk Franklin, Southern gospel artist Karen Peck and a phenomenal young Atlanta teen named Ivan Kelley Jr.) in addition to Parton and Latifa, both of whom certainly know how to belt it out.

Much of the story concerns the romantic sparking of two of the movie's younger characters, played by Keke Palmer, 18, and Jeremy Jordan, a Broadway performer of 27. Both Palmer and Jordan also do their own singing, with impressive results.

But with that much musical authenticity, why does "Joyful Noise" hit so many false notes?

Well, for starters, there's Dolly Parton. She's already such an iconic "character" in real life that it's hard to

accept her in this fictional role of G.G. Sparrow, a shotgun-totin', homily-spoutin', glamour-puss granny. The script makes repeated comical references to G.G.'s enhanced levels of physical artifice, further blurring the line between Parton, who's made no secret of her repeated trips to the land of nip and tuck, and her character. The result: G.G. seems more of a parody than a person.

The movie's a hodgepodge of snippy quips and catty clichés, and it frequently feels like a 90-minute, gospel-themed episode of TV's "Glee." The story is layered with subplots about an absentee military husband and father, a one-hit-wonder-obsessed teen with Asperger's syndrome, and a choir member whose night of whoopee leaves her with a lethal reputation.

It's hard to believe the

choir members, in their rural, small-town Georgia setting, would have the polished, uptown chops to do what the movie has them do, like when a mid-song change of plans becomes an impromptu, highly choreographed finale with break-dancing.

And for a product built on a framework of gospel music, the movie never touches on the spiritual components. In fact, it suggests that almost any secular pop song — by Michael Jackson, Sly Stone or Usher — can become a worship tune with only a couple of lyrical tweaks and some praiseful posing.

"Joyful Noise" stretches credulity at just about every turn, but its biggest whopper stems from its basic premise: That a choir with the twin divas of Dolly Parton and Queen Latifa would ever be the underdog in any vocal contest.

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