



# OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS  
Since 1957  
www.marines.mil/unit/29palms



March 30, 2012

Vol. 56 Issue 11



## Safari

2/7 wives head to Combat Center outback for counter-IED course

LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Nicole Thorpe, wife of Cpl. Joshua Thorpe, mortarman, Weapons Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, takes a picture of Marines conducting a counter improvised explosive device course during 2/7's Field Safari at Range 800 March 23.

When the small group of wives from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, set off for the training area, they knew they'd get an inside look at what their warrior husbands do during the average field exercise. What they didn't expect was they'd have to negotiate those same booby-trapped trails themselves first.

Continued on A5

## New off-highway vehicle rules

### Riders allowed in Ocotillo Housing

SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Off-highway vehicle riders can now move through Ocotillo Housing area to the Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to the Combat Center, per installation Bulletin 5100.

The route is open only to residents of Ocotillo Housing, and all riders must walk or otherwise transport their OHV to the perimeter road behind the housing development without riding it. Once on the perimeter road, operators can start their OHVs and ride to the perimeter gate and exit the installation to access BLM land.

Riders need to keep their speed to 10 miles per hour, or stay in 1st gear, while on base, and all operators under the age of 14 must have parental or guardian supervision. All riders also need to complete the SIVA ATV or the installation Safety Division's ATV course and dirt bike school before riding on base.

As with all vehicles driven on base, OHVs need to be registered with the Military Police Vehicle Registration office in building 901, located near the main gate. When registering and riding, operators should have their proper state license, permits, vehicle registrations and proof of

See PMO, A5



NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS MONIQUE

An improvised explosive device is detonated at the Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration course at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. The course was designed to prepare troops before going into combat situations.

## 3/7 continues IED training

### Battalion preps for combat situation with counter IED training while in Afghanistan

COMPILED BY THE OBSERVATION POST STAFF

Training prepares the fighting forces to properly react to, and even prevent possible incidences they encounter overseas. It is an important part of the Armed Forces to not only learn these skills here, but continue to keep those skills sharp while they are overseas as well.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, aided

overseas training coalition forces at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, by sharing their experiences in the field with people who would be heading there soon.

The 3/7 Marines had recently returned from Sangin and shared their experiences from the front lines with troops taking a counter improvised explosive device course.

The counter-IED course, part of the Reception, Staging,

See TRAINING, A5

## ServMart hosts outreach day

### Special events held to thank customers for service.

ServMart held a Customer Outreach Day March 21, where more than 45 vendors shoed off their wares to the Combat Center personnel. The store had a racing simulator, two NASCAR cars and Tony Stewart was featured.

ServMart is the Combat Centers one stop shopping for Marines and sailors. The store has nearly 2,000 products in store and more than 400,000 supplies available for order. The products range from pens to power tools. If the product is not available in the store or not in enough quantity there is a referral ordering process that delivers usually within two to five business days.

For more information on the ServMart visit web site <https://www.usmcservmart.gsa.gov> or call at 830-1933.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

NASCAR driver Tony Stewart asks Cash Linn, 4, son of Cpl. Caleb Linn, Wounded Warriors Battalion, about what he is looking for with the flashlight during the ServMart Customer Outreach March 21. ServMart brought in vendors to show the Combat Center the equipment available for them to purchase and provide feedback opportunities for the Marines and sailors.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This will be the last issue for spotlighting women for the month of March. Check out our timeline this week for events in women's history.

1692: Rebecca Nurse died, hanged in the Salem witch craze.

1700

1725

1750

Look for this bookmark next to our women's history features.

WE CAN DO IT



# This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated March 30, 1990, Vol. 35, No. 13

## Fully automated, small arms range opens

■ New range provides pop-up, moving targets to sharpen shooters' combat marksmanship

WRITTEN BY: SGT. TONY SINAGRA

The Marine Corps' first fully automated, computerized small-arms range opened here March 21 at Range 107<sup>1</sup>.

MGen. John I. Hopkins, base commander, and Col. R. E. Tschan, chief of staff, were on hand to send the first rounds down range.

The state-of-the-art range, known as "IRETS" (Infantry Remote Engagement Target System), features 144 pop-up and 12 moving targets fastened on aluminum rails. The targets are spaced from 75 to 300 meters from the firing line in an inverted "V" shape, facing six 4-foot deep, two-man fighting positions.

Both the M16A2 rifle and the M249<sup>2</sup> Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) can be used on the 24-inch, three-dimensional, green plastic targets, which are shaped like soldiers at port arms.

Prerecorded tapes fed into a computer system in the command tower dictate the frequency and exposure time of the pop-up targets (from one to six seconds). The programming<sup>3</sup> tapes also determine the direction and speed of the mobile targets. The moving targets can travel from 1.8 to 3.7 meters per second in either direction on the rails.

"This system allows you to challenge shooters with an almost unlimited number of combat scenarios on a huge variety of target arrangements," said Mr. Leonard McKenzie of the Range Management Office here. "It's a much better range for improving combat effectiveness than the standard known-distance [KD] course. "For instance, you can set the system to make targets appear to be advancing toward or retreating from the firing line," explained McKenzie. "Or they can pop up as though they're firing back at shooters. It's pretty hard to nail a target when it's only bouncing up for a second," he added. "By the time you get a glimpse of it, it's already back down."

The targets are made of special "self-healing" plastic that expands back into a

shot-hole after impact. Each target can absorb about 1,500 rounds before requiring replacement, according to McKenzie. Each target is also capable of recording how many hits it receives during every exposure, and relaying that information to the command tower.

The targets will only register hits from high-velocity rounds. Wind, rocks and other outside interference cannot make a target drop. To make the course even more challenging, those though little plastic "soldiers" can also be set to require up to 16 hits before "dying."

"It's a great tool for monitoring the progress<sup>4</sup> and success of your shooters," McKenzie noted.

McKenzie also said he expects the range to quickly become very popular.

"We believe it will get a lot of use by units here," he said. "Once commanders see how versatile and useful it is for training their Marines, I think Range 107 will really be in demand."

### FOOTNOTES

(1) The range is now known as Range 103. The ranges in the 100 series were renamed in the early 2000's for ease in locating the ranges. They are now numbered in sequential order of their location.

(2) Weapons that are currently fired on this range are M16A2 and M4 service rifles, M249 SAW, M203/M032 grenade launchers, M0 series sniper rifles and the 60mm Mortar.

(3) The current program allows for multiple scenarios.

(4) The range provides commanders with immediate computer generated feedback on shooters success.

## OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

- In Oceanside:**  
 - Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054  
 - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054

- In Twentynine Palms:**  
 - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.  
 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.

- In San Diego:**  
 - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.  
 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.  
 - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.  
 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.  
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.

- In Yucca Valley:**  
 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.  
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

- In Palm Springs:**  
 - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.

- In National City:**  
 - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.  
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.marines.mil/units/29palms>

## HOT TOPIC

### SCUBA DIVING CLASS SOON ON BASE

Get Wet Scuba will be hosting scuba diving lessons on base, starting April 10. Become a certified PADI scuba diver, master diver or even an instructor. For more information call 377-7160

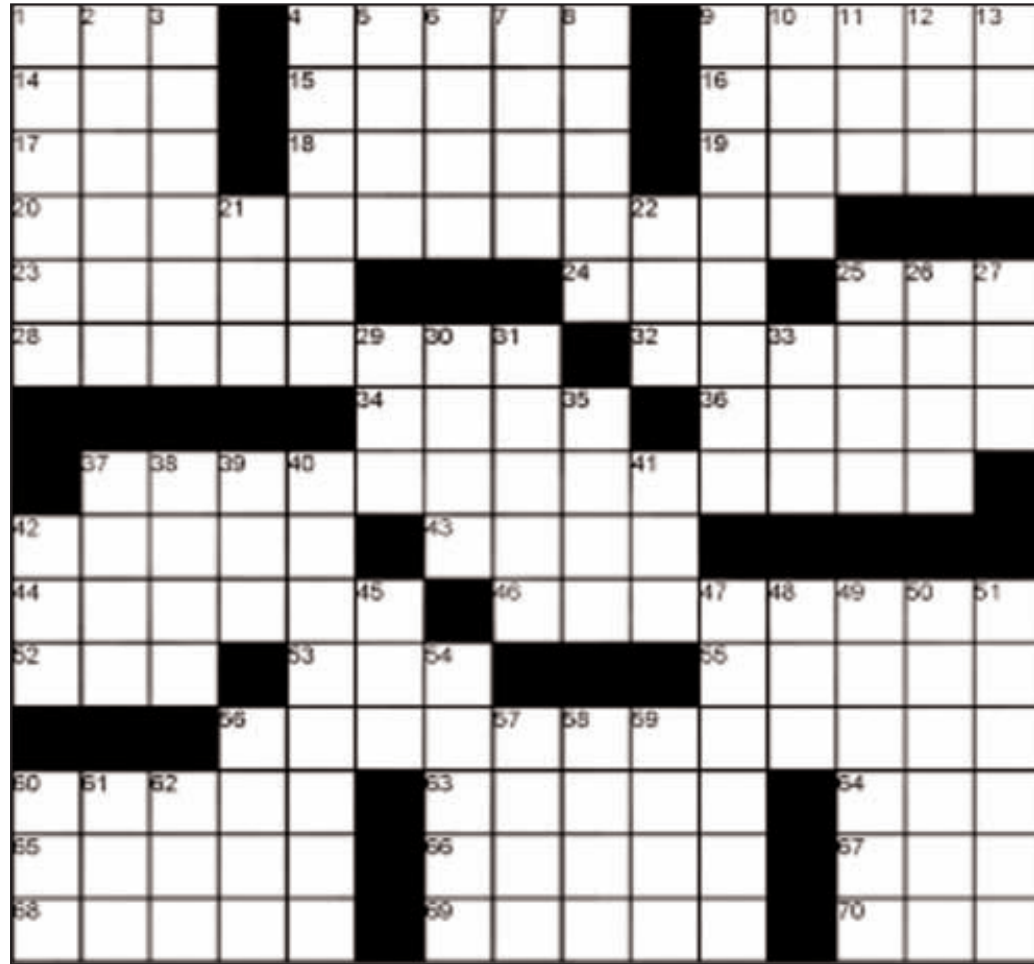
## SUDOKU #2494-M

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

PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

[Puzzle solutions on A6]

## NO PUSHING!



### ACROSS

- Lass's mate
- Words of compassion
- Committee head
- Grounded avian
- Snub- (short, as a gun)
- Share fifty-fifty
- Play \_\_\_ with (do mischief to)
- Carpentry or plumbing, e.g.
- City where van Gogh painted
- YANKEE
- Thumb-turning critic
- Nearly worthless coin
- Don the feed bag
- Communications technician of sorts
- Quickie portrait
- Neural transmitter
- Garbo line ender
- PULLEY
- Beta's follower
- Carpenter's groove
- Whiz
- Employment for many illegals
- Brown of renown
- Doris Day song title starter
- Roomy dress
- JERKY
- Rash action
- Spoil
- Sacrifice fly stat
- In the neighborhood of
- Beethoven honoree
- Op. \_\_\_
- Hockey thugs
- Xodus memorial meal
- Visitors from other worlds

- Conferred knighthood upon
- Counting everything
- Business name abbr.
- "Yesterday!", in business memos
- Give a fresh look to
- Utopias
- Eight-day Jewish celebration: Var.
- Lyricist Lorenz
- The whole enchilada
- "\_\_\_ seen enough!"
- Scale notes
- \_\_\_ Lanka
- Dawn goddess
- School founded by Henry VI
- Teen's woe
- Word often ignored in indexing
- \_\_\_ de mer
- Gave the pink slip to
- One sans permanent address
- Pharmaceutical giant \_\_\_ Lilly & Co.

- Zilch
- \_\_\_-Coburg-Gotha (British royal house, once)
- Little devils
- Mrs., in Marseilles
- Inlaid floors
- Shy, in a flirtatious way
- Styling goo
- Winery cask
- Hook partner
- Priest's garment
- "The Devil's Dictionary" author
- In the least
- Makes alterations to
- A cube has twelve
- Knock senseless
- Auditioner's goal
- "What am \_\_\_?" (auction query)
- Maneuver carefully
- Broom rider
- Blood-typing letters
- US/Canada's \_\_\_ Canals

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

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1777: Jane McCrea and Sarah McNeil are captured by Native Americans working for the British; Jane McCrea's story became an American standard.

1826: Anne McDowell born. (editor, journalist and publisher 1855-1860 of *Woman's Advocate*)

1775

1800

1817: Jane Austen died.

1825

## Puzzle Solutions



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



## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

## THE FIRST LADY

— of the Combat Center —

## Kathleen Smith

Solana Beach, Calif., 49  
Commanding General's WifeINTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

March 27, 2012

> **I always bristle at the "First Lady" thing.** I think it really means being old and being around the block.

> **I don't have too many bad days.** Family and friends are really important to me. Faith is really important to me. I don't think I've changed too much since high school, actually.

> **I really honestly believe in blooming** where you're planted. Make each place your favorite.

> **As much as you need to be involved** in the Marine Corps, you need a place where you can get away, that's not Marine Corps related.

> **I think this town** is one that really embraces the base as their own. They feel very strongly about it. Not like Camp Lejeune or Camp Pendleton where they are surrounded by a lot of cities.

> **The desert folks are just a different group** of people, and you have to understand what's important to them. They are very proud of being here. You realize that different is sometimes a good thing.

> **I think the most important thing** is I am there as a bridge between the Marine Corps, the community and groups that support the Marine Corps. I attend a lot of events with and without George.

> **The hardest thing** about being a spouse at this stage is not being able to truly invest to work in a full-time capacity.

> **I'm still working** in non-profit now. So I didn't give up all of the things I do. I'm very drawn to non-profits that work with children.

> **I've always liked** my job, and I've always liked being a Marine Corps spouse.

> **Being a public persona is not** always the most comfortable for me. I always dread interviews and pictures. I get this feeling of I'm not any different than any other military spouse.

> **In my childhood,** my dad was a defense contractor in the Navy. So the Marine Corps was a bit foreign to me.

> **George's dad is a retired war veteran.** He retired in Hawaii. My parents were in Hawaii as well. I got a job at the Officers' Club there. I did cocktailing, back when you could cocktail at 18. George was washing dishes. That's how we met.

> **He went to Chapel Hill** and I went to UCLA. Talk about fate. Most of my extended family worked around Chapel Hill, and his extended family was around Costa Mesa. Costa Mesa is not too far from UCLA.

> **We consider Southern California** our home base. I think everyone has a home base they keep returning to.

> **We had a long distance romance.** I was 22. In our generation, that wasn't quite so young.

> **George is a very quiet person,** and he listens more than he talks. I'm the opposite. He's not a scary person; we're not scary people. What a lot of people take as intensity is really him listening to what's being said.

> **We got married in the Marine Corps-efficient way** in the one week between TBS and Infantry Officers' Course.

> **George deployed** within six months. It's so different from how it is today. There was no Family Readiness Program. You didn't get the kind of contact you do now.

> **We were there** in the transition from the Old Corps to the new, family-friendly Corps.

> **I saw George in Singapore** and again in Hong Kong on two different MEUs. We laugh because we had more disposable income then than we do now, with all our college bills.

> **We didn't have children** for four years. When we lived in Carlsbad, we used to joke that our apartment looked like Melrose Place, except the average age was 75.

> **I have three children.** Megan is 22. She works in LA, so it's nice because we see her often. Matt is soon-to-be 20. He's a sophomore at George Mason. I miss him. We are used to seeing him, and his dirty laundry. Lauren, she lives here. She's 16.

> **The cat,** her name is Malia. She's older than President Obama's daughter Malia, so she is the original.

> **We're looking toward** being empty-nesters. I'm scared, but it is nice to look forward to that stage, getting back into it just "you and I."

> **Life is a series of stages,** and you need to enter and exit gracefully with joy of what's next to come.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

1850

1875

1900

1866: Mary Suratt was the first woman to be executed by the United States federal government. She was convicted as a co-conspirator with John Wilkes Booth in the Lincoln assassination.

## Relax with the paper

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The Desert Trail

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# Warriors in the MAKING

(Part 2)

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Andrew D. Thorburn

The lieutenants of the Infantry Officers' Course tackled Range 410A and developed their skills at assaulting entrenched positions March 17.

While this training is common for infantrymen, the lieutenants of IOC confronted the training with unique conditions.

When they used live ammunition to clear the trenches they also used live fragmentation grenades which have a kill radius of 5 meters and casualty radius of 15 meters. When the students assaulted the range at night, they did not have the luxury of flares to aid with illumination.

"We are one of the only units that use live frags during the day and doesn't use illumination at night," said Capt. Christopher J. Amelia, class advisor, IOC. "Not too many units can perform non-illuminated reduction strong points at the platoon level, so it is rather a special thing for them to do and build confidence in their skill and capabilities."

The class started their day with a dry-fire run first to make sure communication and fields of fire were understood before breaking out the live ammunition.

"We looked for friction between the squads and identified things that can go wrong," said 2nd Lt. Jordan Ames, student, IOC.

Having the students skilled at self-evaluations and self-corrections is an important factor for success when they lead Marines into battle.

"One of the critical elements of being an infantry officer is being able to self-evaluate your unit and yourself," Amelia said. "You go through the actual execution, working to make it better and finding what might be making it worse."

The students noticed the similarities with other close quarter engagements and incorporated some of those lessons into the exercise.

"The biggest difference is you are using a hand grenade around every corner," Amelia said.

During the live fire, the instructors brought the experience closer to reality by having a few of the Marines to act as simulated casualties.

"Dealing with a casualty in combat is something most of these guys will experience. So it is important to replicate that here," Amelia said. "For them to go through the decision points and to actually carry out the plan to make sure the casualty gets the next echelon of care is a very important ability of an infantry officer."

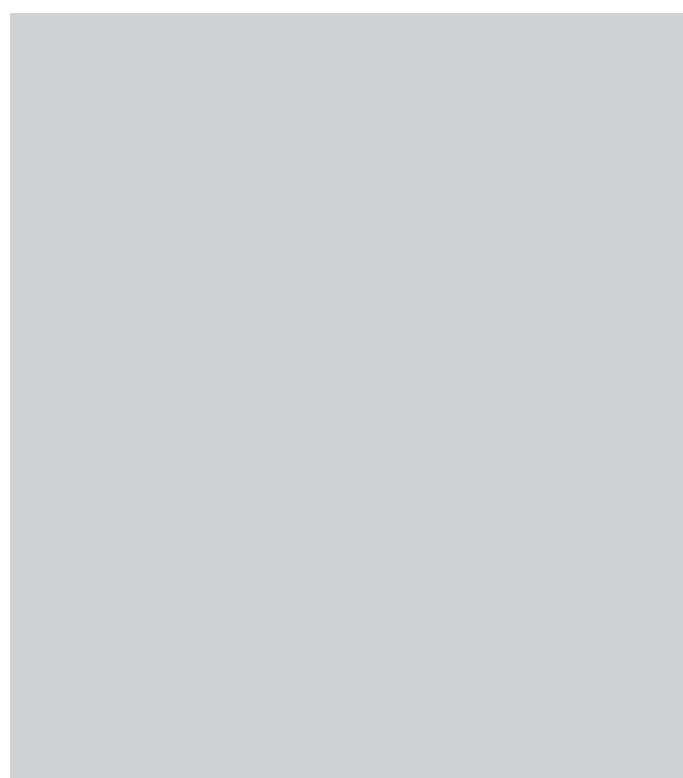


**[Above]** Students with the Infantry Officers' Course charge from trench to trench during a live-fire training exercise at Range 410A March 15. The Combat Center is the last stop for this group of Marines during their training to officially become infantry officers.

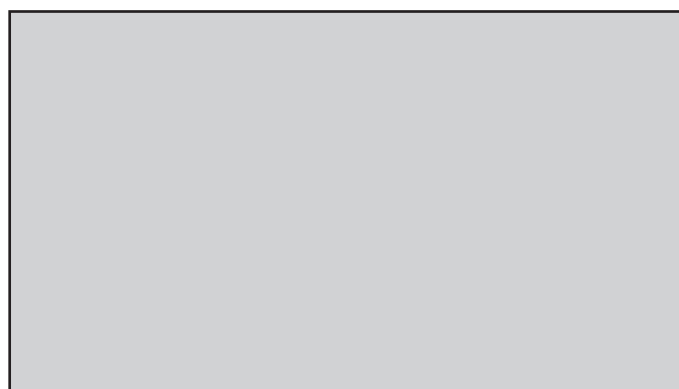
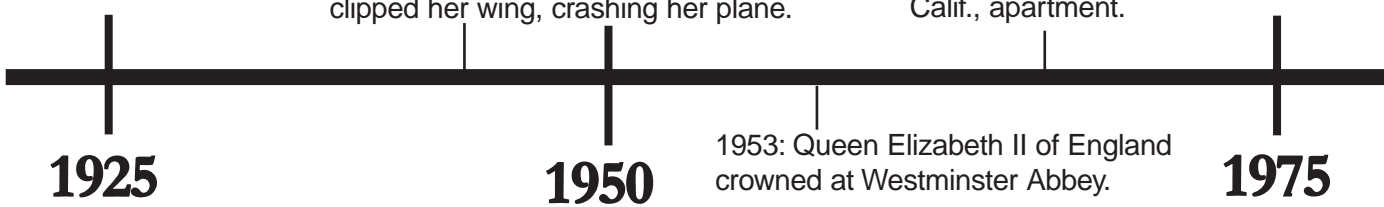


**[Left]** A student with the Infantry Officers' Course throws a grappling hook to test the razor wire in front of his position for booby traps during live fire training at Range 410A March 15. The Combat Center is the last stop for this group of Marines during their training to officially become infantry officers.

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part series showcasing IOC and what the Corps does to get new lieutenants ready to lead in combat. See next week's edition of the Observation Post for part three.*



1943: Cornelia Ford, military pilot, died when another plane on the same air ferry mission clipped her wing, crashing her plane. 1974: Patty Hearst, heiress, is kidnapped from her Berkeley, Calif., apartment.



**367-3577 For Advertising**





# Wives watch husbands get in the action

LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

CORRESPONDENT

Marines with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, set up a cordon around the military operations on urban terrain town. The counter to improvised explosive device operation was sure to give them some unexpected surprises.

They see movement on the roof of a three-story building. Preparing for a possible simulated threat, the Marines look through their scopes at the dark figures, only to see they are their wives snapping photos.

Wives and fiancés of Weapons Co., 2/7, Marines went to Range 800 to see their husbands in action during 2/7's Field Safari March 23.

This completed a series of safaris held by the unit for their loved ones. The battalion started the first one on the last Friday in February, continuing to the fifth and final one this month.

Each company completed the counter to IED operation on a different Friday and invited their wives, significant others and family members to get up close and personal with some of what they do as infantrymen.

At other events, families experienced their Marines' job either first hand or by a demonstration. The safari allowed them to see their Marines, not a random person demonstrating a technique, in

their natural environment - the field.

"The whole purpose of this is to bring the spouses out and allow them to see what it is their husband does when they say they're in the field," said Staff Sgt. Ira Prahl, deputy family readiness officer, 2/7. "Not only that but it's good for them to see what it is that we're doing as a battalion to prepare them for our deployment to Afghanistan."

The spouses and fiancés began their day at 2/7's headquarters, learning about the desert environment and safety regulations.

From there, the women loaded up into a van and headed out to the range, where their Marines were waiting for them.

"Look how cute with their little trucks," said Kady Cottle, wife of Lance Cpl. Richard D. Cottle, machine-gunner, 2/7, as the van arrived next to a group of grunts standing beside a line of humvees.

The spouses and fiancés inside looked on with interest, as the Marines prepared for the exercise.

As the ladies stepped out of the vehicle onto the MOUT town, they were warned about the surprises lurking below the sand in the town. Before they could watch their Marines navigate through the town, they would have to survive it themselves first.

They instinctively formed a single-file line, following in the

footsteps of their guide and jumping through doorways to avoid the simulated IEDs staged below. Wary of their every movement, they managed to make it safely to the roof of a building without setting off any of the fake explosions.

With the ladies safely watching from above, Weapons Co. was cleared to begin.

The Marines traversed through the MOUT town, eyes open to any possible warning signs of an IED, while their wives' eyes were open to what played out below.

"As much as they wouldn't admit it, the Marines liked having them out there," Prahl said. "They get to show off a little bit."

The ladies leaned over the side of the building taking pictures and jumping, startled at the occasional boom of a simulated IED or as a burst of simulated gunfire rang out over the town.

After, the women headed down to see their Marines, once again careful of any simulated IEDs still left untriggered.

The group sat down to eat a traditional Marine Corps meal - Meals, Ready to Eat. The ladies had heard MRE horror stories from their husbands, and regarded them with suspicion.

"It was an experience," said Megan Borst, fiancé of Lance Cpl. Cutler R. Brost, squad leader, 2/7. "I'm glad I know what my Marine does for us."



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Wives of Weapons Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Marines, look over the military operations on urban terrain town during 2/7's Field Safari March 23.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Left] Marines with Weapons Co., 2/7 react to detonation of a simulated improvised explosive device, while their wives and fiancés watch from above.

## TRAINING, from A1

Onward movement and Integration, not only featured 3/7 Marines, but also detection dogs, metal detectors, role players and the use of an IED course.

"It does not hurt to practice," said Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Perez-Lopez, the staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge, RSOI course. "It puts the Marines in real-life situations and prepares them with the last-minute reminders before going out."

But what makes the counter-IED course unique to recently deployed forces is that it

allows the students to talk to Marines who have recently returned from the fight and have seen the most current situation first-hand.

They also talked about everything involved during an overseas deployment, like area of operations, local life and expectations when working with interpreters.

"One of the big advantages we have on the RSOI lanes here at Camp Leatherneck is that we are so close to the fight," said Douglas Briganti, instructor, Counter IED Mobile Training Team. "We are able get the devices being used by the insurgents in near real time."

## PMO, from A1

insurance on their person.

Proper vehicle safety equipment and personal protective gear is also required when operating an OHV. The guidelines for these mirror the requirements for motorcycle riders - Department of Transportation-approved helmet, gloves, long sleeves, pants and over-the-ankle boots. Wearing bright colors is also

recommended to increase a rider's visibility to motorists.

Violations of these rules is punishable under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. OHV operators are subject to Combat Center Order 1830.8D and California vehicle codes.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Melissa Polich, Provost Marshal's Office, at 830-5457, or Carol Casey-Matthias at 830-7700.

1981: Sandra Day O'Connor nominated by President Reagan as Supreme Court Justice. First woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

1985

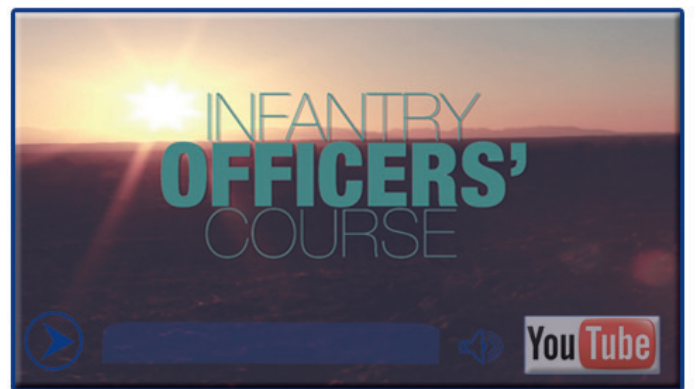
1995: Allison Hargreaves reaches the peak of Mount Everest unaided (without oxygen or sherpas.) She is the first woman and second person to do so.

2000

1997: Women Marines began attending Marine Combat Training, bringing their skills in line with their male counterparts.

2010





# Moments

**WE CAN DO IT**

## The Daughters



**Pauline Spakowitz/** My dad is my hero, and my mom is my idol. I look up to and respect him because he spent 21 years in the Marine Corps.

Part three of our group profile series in the lives of women.



**Elis Batista/** My mom taught me about faith, independence and never giving up. She's my inspiration.



**Kristina Devan/** My parents have given me my two passions in life, music and cooking. I'm lucky to have them as rolemodels.



**Nicole Holmes/** If I can be half the mom that my parents have been to me, I know I'll be an amazing mom.





**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: All-hands lunch from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Monday: Steak night and full menu, 4:30 - 8 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: Taco Night, 5 - 7 p.m.

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

**Local Events**

**Lost in Yonkers**

When: Every Friday & Saturday from March 9 to April 7  
Where: Theatre 29  
736377 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
For tickets and information call 316-4151  
or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

**Shadow Mountain Band**

60's and 70's live music  
When: 5 p.m., Saturday, April 7.  
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**

**Keith Sweat and Brenton Wood**

R&B  
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, April 7  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit  
<http://www.spotlight29.com>.

**Lisa Lampenelli**

Snarky comedian takes the stage  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 7  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit  
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Tony Bennett**

Legendary Entertainer  
When: 9 p.m., Friday, May 11  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

**Joan Sebastian**

Three time Grammy Award winning Mexican singer, songwriter  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 16  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit  
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Sunset Cinema**

**Friday, March 30**

6 p.m. - Journey 2: Mysterious Island, Rated PG  
9 p.m. - Chronicle, Rated PG-13  
Midnight - This Means War, Rated PG-13

**Saturday, March 31**

11 a.m. - **Free Matinee** Despicable Me, Rated PG  
2 p.m. - Big Miracle, Rated PG  
6 p.m. - Woman in Black, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance, Rated PG-13  
Midnight - Safehouse, Rated R

**Sunday, April 1**

12:30 p.m. - Chronicle, Rated PG-13  
3 p.m. - Tyler Perry's Good Deeds, Rated PG-13  
6 p.m. - Journey 2: Mysterious Island, Rated PG  
9 p.m. - Wanderlust, Rated R

**Monday, April 2**

7 p.m. - Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance, Rated PG-13

**Tuesday, April 3**

7 p.m. - Big Miracle, Rated PG

**Wednesday, April 4**

5:30 p.m. - Journey 2: Mysterious Island, Rated PG  
8:30 p.m. - Safehouse, Rated R

**Thursday, April 5**

5:30 p.m. - Chronicle, Rated PG-13  
8:30 p.m. - Woman in Black, Rated PG-13

**Cautionary tale of a toxic world without trees gets a new 3-D update**



COURTESY PHOTO

In "The Lorax," the author channeled environmental concerns into a cautionary fable about a reckless industrialist who creates a plasticized, polluted world without any trees.

**NEIL POND**

**"The Lorax"**

Starring the voices of Danny DeVito, Zac Efron & Taylor Swift  
Directed by Chris Renaud & Kyle Balda  
PG, 86 min.

Dr. Seuss' 1971 save-the-planet wake-up call gets a big-budget, 3-D animated update with the voices of Taylor Swift, Zac Efron and Danny DeVito.

In "The Lorax," the author of "Green Eggs and Ham," "Horton Hears a Who" and "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" channeled environmental concerns into a cautionary fable about a reckless industrialist who creates a plasticized,

polluted world without any trees.

To stretch the storybook to movie proportions, this new version layers on new characters, adds numerous scenes and sequences and scraps almost all the Seuss-ian signature rhythmic rhymes for "contemporary" dialogue. But the basic story, and its message of caring for the world, is intact. And the movie has a genuine feel for the whimsically imaginative, vibrantly visual world of Seuss' well-known illustrations.

Swift and Efron (or, to be precise, their voices) don't really add much to their roles of 12-year-old Ted and Audrey, the tree-obsessed teenage girl on whom he has a crush. Behind the animation, they could be anyone. DeVito, however, pretty much

becomes one with the Lorax, the stumpy, frumpy, moustached creature that stands up when growing things start getting mowed down. He's perfect.

"I am the Lorax," he says. "I speak for the trees."

Betty White sounds like she's having a hoot as Ted's feisty granny, one of the few people in Thneedville who can actually remember when concrete didn't cover every inch of ground. As the tree-chopping, Thneed-making Once-ler, Ed Helms is given significantly more play in the movie than his character was in the book, where his face was never shown.

When it was published back in the 1970s, some readers felt "The Lorax" bashed commerce and industry, feeding kids a subversive, hippy-dippy message of

"environmental activism." Some libraries and schools even banned it, especially in communities where timber was big business.

The movie today projects its theme through a prism of even timelier contemporary woes of failed banks, corporate fat cats and the general feeling that the "green" is being squeezed out of most everyone left and right. In one scene, a framed magazine cover on the environment-destroying Once-ler bears the all-too-familiar headline "Too Big To Fail."

The Lorax may speak for the trees, but his words now reverberate across a modern-day landscape of lost jobs, decimated savings and defeated dreams in ways that even the socially conscious Dr. Seuss could have never imagined.

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# Comedy NIGHT

Photos by  
Cpl. Andrew D. Thorburn



Multiple comedians and vocalist Kimberly Cole brought their best material for Combat Center Marines during "For the Leathernecks" Comedy and Entertainment Tour at Sunset Cinema March 23. "For The Leathernecks" is a Headquarters Marine Corps-endorsed, Office of the Secretary of Defense-sponsored entertainment show based on the feedback from Marines.

