



April 20, 2012

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

Since 1957

www.marines.mil/unit/29palms



Vol. 56 Issue 13

Celebrate Earth Week April 22-28

Special Page B1
WHAT I'VE LEARNED



A SORTED AFFAIR

MAKE THE MOST OF OUR RESOURCES WITH ON-BASE

Recycling*

Diane Durden
Public Affairs Specialist

Our lives are filled with trash. It can't be helped, it's all around us. Everything we do, from preparing food to opening our mail, generates trash. The average American produces about 4.4 pounds of garbage a day. That's 29 pounds per week and 1,600 pounds in a year, according to the Environment Protection Agency. Less than two percent of the total waste stream in the United States is recycled. Not all garbage needs to find its way to the landfill. Many of the products we mindlessly toss in the trash container can be reused or recycled, saving precious money and resources. The Combat Center's Qualified Recycle Program collects recyclable materials from areas around the Combat Center. Items are collected from housing communities, office spaces and bachelor living quarters. Center personnel are provided containers to facilitate the first step in the recycle process, separating recyclable materials from actual trash. Eager recyclers can further separate their salvage into groups of like items; #1 plastic, soda and water bottles, anything with a California Recycle Value; #2 plastic, color bottles like shampoo and detergent and clear or translucent plastics like milk and water gallon jugs; aluminum cans; glass; and paper products. **Recycling, page A4**

MAKE SMALLER FOOTPRINTS FIVE WAYS TO GO GREEN

- 1 Exchange your light bulbs for energy efficient brands.
- 2 Buy local products, like fresh produce at a farmers market.
- 3 Drink tap water. This reduces the amount of trash, like plastic bottles.
- 4 Unplug appliances you don't continuously use, like toasters.
- 5 Use public transportation, like local bus lines or a metro system.



how sorting works?

Break down recyclables into "like" items:
Paper, Plastics, Metals, Glass, and Cardboard

How to break down plastics even further:
There are seven classification values for plastic recyclables. #1 and #2 are the most common.

#1 - Often recycled. Many common household plastics fall in this category, like beverage bottles, medicine jars, peanut butter jars, combs, bean bags and rope. Anything with a California Recycle Value listed.

#2 - Often recycled. Colored bottles, like ones containing shampoo or conditioner, motor oil, bleach and laundry detergent. Clear or translucent plastics, like milk or water gallon jugs.

#3 - Not often recycled. Plastics made from Polyvinyl Chloride, or PVC. This often includes most plastic piping.

#4 - Not commonly recycled. Plastic cling wrap, sandwich bags, squeezeable bottles and plastic grocery bags.

#5 - Not commonly recycled. Diapers, Tupperware, butter or margarine containers, yogurt boxes, syrup bottles, prescription medications bottles and some stadium cups.

#6 - Commonly recycled. Products commonly referred to as "Styrofoam," like coffee cups, carry-out food containers and packing material.

#7 - Difficult to recycle. Items that don't fall into the other categories, like CDs, large multi-gallon water containers, baby bottles. These plastics are recycled into plastic lumber.

When in doubt what classification a certain plastic is, check the number printed inside the recycle symbol somewhere on the item.

earthweek events

- April 21 - High Desert Yucca Valley Earth Day Celebration @ Hi-Desert Nature Museum
- April 23-26 - Basewide clean-up effort
- April 27 - Earth Day 5K Fun Run @ NREA, building 1091.
- April 27 - Earth Day picnic, hosted by MCCA @ Felix Field, 11 a.m.

Spreading literacy

Nat'l program pushes reading

■ Base Sgt. Maj. spends day with school kids

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis
Correspondent

Twentynine Palms Elementary School students and their parents sat on a classroom floor, cross-legged, in a semi-circle around Sgt. Maj. Matthew B. Brookshire, installation sergeant major, as he read aloud to them during the most recent session of the "Tell Me a Story" program.

The program was launched by the Military Child

"A soldier hugged his son goodbye and said, 'I'll miss you little guy,'"

— As read from "Night Catch,"
by Brenda Ehrmantraut

Education Coalition in September 2005, and aims to "empower military children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters skills for resilience, strong peer and parent connections, a sense of pride and accomplishment, and a caring community," according to the coalition's website. This day's book choice was "Night Catch" by

See **READING** page A4



LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

Colton Burton, son of Maj. Robert Burton, who is deployed with 1st Tank Battalion, shows his mom the message he wrote to his deployed father and holds his copy of "Night Watch," by Brenda Ehrmantraut.

Pentagon takes action

New initiatives to stop sexual assault

Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON— The Pentagon's top civilian and military leaders took their campaign to stop sexual assault in the military to Capitol Hill today, where they announced new initiatives to combat the problem.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke with reporters after meeting with three members of the House of Representatives who are working on the issue.

"General Dempsey and I consider this a serious problem that needs to be addressed," Panetta said. "It violates everything the U.S. military stands for."

Panetta and Dempsey met with Rep. Loretta Sanchez of California, Rep. Mike Turner of Ohio, and Rep. Niki Tsongas of Massachusetts. Sanchez chairs the Caucus on Women in the Military, while

See **ASSAULT** page A4

2/7 faces flurries during mock medevac

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
Correspondent

Snow flew in white swirls everywhere as the Black Hawk helicopter came in for its landing.

Four Marines took off toward the landing zone, sprinting toward the waiting flight crew with stretcher in hand, a simulated wounded Marine stretched out on top of it.

Marines with Fox and Weapons Companies, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, completed a medical evacuation exercise at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center,



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines from Fox and Weapons Companies, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, rush a simulated casualty through snow flurries to a waiting Black Hawk helicopter during a medical evacuation exercise at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., April 5.

See **HELO** page A4

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated April 20, 1995, Vol. 40, No. 16

Combat Center to hold 4th Annual Earth Day

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day, the Moral, Welfare & Recreation Directorate, in conjunction with Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs invites everyone to come and enjoy the 4th Annual Earth Day festivities at the Commanding General's Parade Field Friday from 9 a.m. to 4p.m.

This event is open to the general public and provided at no charge.

Scheduled to appear are many government environmental agencies including, but not limited to, the Bureau of Lance Management-

Barstow Office, Desert Protection Council, Combat Center Recycling, and more.

Other groups in attendance include Joshua Tree National Park, Hi-Desert Nature Museum, Palms and Paws and others.

This event provides a unique opportunity for local residents to find out how the desert area is being provided for, what protection measures are in place, and how the general public can help in reducing our ever-increasing amount of waste.

Displays, films, and handouts from attending organizations make this a very informative and educational event.

Food and beverages will be available at the event.

Commissaries support Month of Military Child

CHERIE HUNTINGTON
DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

FORT LEE, Va. - Since April is the Month of the Military Child, maybe your children would enjoy doing the shopping for dinner one night. Imagine what would happen if you stuffed their pockets with cash and dropped them off, on their own, at the commissary.

Facing the spotlight during their special month, would they pack the basket with healthy items - plenty of fruits and vegetables, lean meat and whole grains? Or would they head straight for the aisles of sweet treats?

Surely they would do you proud, because you've raised them to eat healthy.

And this month, the commissary and its industry partners will make it easier than ever to make the right choices at the best prices, for military children and their parents.

The Defense Commissary Agency's Director of Sales Chris Burns said he com-

mends military children for their role in maintaining a resilient and supportive armed forces community.

"These young people are the silent heroes in our military today," said Burns. "Their life is constantly uprooted, but they deal with daily challenges, loneliness and sometimes even terrible loss, all so far beyond their control. Yet they survive and thrive."

The Department of Defense estimates that about 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 2001; and nearly half those coped with multiple deployments.

Recognizing those sacrifices, commissary vendors plan a month packed with fun and goodies. Though parents will appreciate the gift cards, high-value coupons and product demonstrations, youngsters will enjoy donations from industry partners, from basketball hoop sets for toddlers to popular electronic gaming systems.

Also, in late April, commissary shoppers can expect

to see colorful "Fresh Fun with Fruits & Vegetables" activity booklets filled with brain teasers and puzzles for little shoppers and high-value coupons for parents, as well as entry details for a Walt Disney World vacation in Orlando, Fla. There will be six winners worldwide, and the contest runs through June 30.

Families should benefit from the commissary's nod to child nutrition via end-cap displays of canned fruits and vegetables, some featuring more than 40 percent savings. These displays help unite DeCA's commitment to healthy food selections at healthy savings, said Burns.

"Whether it's Month of the Military Child or any other month, we want commissary shoppers to know how much they can save on top-quality, national brand products sold without profit," Burns said. "Shopping consistently at your commissary saves you an average of 32 percent, so you and your family eat better, for less."

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 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 National City:

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

In Twentynine Palms:

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.

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.

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

MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR COURSE TO BEGIN

A Martial Arts Instructor Course is scheduled at the Combat Center Dojo for May 7-25. Any interested Marines can view the requirements and gear list on the official MACE website at <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/mace>. Any instructors interested in helping can contact the Dojo's chief instructor, Gunnery Sgt. Lindstrom at 830-0290.

SUDOKU #2512-D

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

PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

SHIPPING OUT

See answers on page A7A

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20				21						22			
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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			

ACROSS

- Water color
- Crosswise, nautically
- Find abominable
- Consider, with "over"
- "___ Remember" ("Fantasticks" song)
- Galbraith's subj.
- ___ colada
- Attack with a rope
- Cattle zapper
- Essential constituent
- Make haste
- Mauna ___
- Part of MLK
- Critical evaluation
- Greet the dawn
- Slaughter in baseball
- "Well, ___-di-dah!"
- Employer's offering
- Chang's twin
- Dele's opposite
- Pave over
- Denizen of hell
- Electronic music pioneer Edgard
- Granola morsel
- Long, crosser
- Destination of some mail
- Gives two thumbs down to
- Preferred strategy
- Like the Negev
- Westernmost Aleutian
- Moth-___ (timeworn)
- Plain-___ (unadorned)
- Quickly, when doubled
- All tucked out
- Bit of pond scum
- Arrive at
- Pickling need
- Took a gander at
- Resting on
- Louve highlight
- Jazz lover, in old slang
- Farm unit
- Gimlet or screwdriver
- Drop the curtain on
- Fence's supplier
- Bacillus shape
- Silents actress Normand
- "There ___ atheists ..."
- Teethers' aide
- Philosopher Lao-___
- Photographer Adams
- Egyptian Christian
- Make jubilant
- Epic tales
- Last word in a sentry's question
- Ides rebuke
- Carbon 14 and uranium 235
- "Use no hooks"
- Plunk or plop lead-in
- 50-50 chance
- Rode the bench
- Available to rent
- Dirty ___ (potential embarrassment)
- Trodden track
- Not deceived by
- Opening in some pajamas
- It may be tempted
- Mexicali's locale, for short
- Viva-voce
- PED ___
- Candidate's fundraiser: Abbr.
- Narc org.

DOWN

- Fuse unit
- Words from a wag
- Forearm bone
- Controversial orchard spray

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

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Casualty drill becomes Reality

Story and photos by Sgt. John Jackson
1st Marine Logistics Group



Marines and sailors of the Shock Trauma Platoon and Forward Resuscitative Surgery System, Surgical Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), carry a patient from a medevac helicopter to Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, April 10. Within a matter of minutes, the medical personnel and security Marines received several critically wounded patients.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE EDINBURGH, Afghanistan — Doctors, surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and corpsmen began April 10 like every other Tuesday, by conducting medical drills to prepare for the worst.

The sailors and Marines of the Shock Trauma Platoon and Forward Resuscitative Surgery System, Surgical Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), conduct different scenarios every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to ensure the medical personnel are prepared for any patient who arrives at their facility.

The morning of April 10, the 32 sailors and 4 security Marines were conducting a mass casualty drill. The medical personnel and Marines walked through what would need to happen if multiple wounded patients arrived

at the facility at the same time. Shortly after the service members concluded the drill and each person knew their respective role, the sailors and Marines had to put the drill to test.

“We were walking through talking about mass casualty drills and laying out where everyone would be,” said Senior Chief Terry Green, senior enlisted leader, STP and FRSS at FOB Edinburgh. “We discussed how we would handle a situation if we got overwhelming numbers. Shortly after that, we got seven casualties in 15 minutes. Then another four on top of that.”

Following an incident in nearby Musa Qa’lah, in Helmand province, the STP and FRSS got the message they would be receiving multiple critically-wounded patients. Within seconds of the notification, the alarm bell rang, and the sailors and Marines sprang into

action, turning the morning drill into reality.

“The STP is equivalent to an (emergency room) in the U.S.,” said Petty Officer Third Class Joshua Wright, hospital corpsman, STP, FOB Edinburgh. “We are basically a level one trauma center designed to treat anything from stomach aches to blast injuries.”

In less than an hour, 11 patients were brought by helicopter to the medical suite for treatment, surgery and life-saving care.

“We saw everything from amputations, penetrating trauma to the chest, head trauma and internal injuries,” Green said. “We also had fairly simple injuries where the patient was able to walk off the (helicopter).”

“As far as an emergency situation goes, we probably saw about every emergency you can think of with those 11 patients,” said Navy Lt. Nicole Lunceford, emergency medicine

physician, STP, FOB Edinburgh.

Approximately three hours after the STP and FRSS received the notification that they would be getting patients, the injured had been cared for and sent to other hospitals in the area for follow-on care. During those intense three hours, the medical personnel had completed blood transfusions, numerous X-Rays, three surgeries, fragment extractions and other medical procedures. Ten of the 11 casualties survived their injuries.

“In the morning we were discussing how we would run a mass casualty situation and discussing roles,” Lunceford said. “Although you can’t really fully prepare for it, you just have to step up to the plate and do it. That’s what happened today. Our corpsmen were amazing; the nurses were amazing; the doctors did everything they needed to do.



[Left] The team works on multiple patients in the STP/FRSS at FOB Edinburgh, Afghanistan, April 10. In approximately one hour period, the STP/FRSS had received 11 critically wounded patients.

[Above] Surgeons perform neck surgery on a critically wounded patient at the STP/FRSS on FOB Edinburgh, Afghanistan, April 10. For approximately three hours, the medical personnel completed blood transfusions, numerous X-Rays, three surgeries, fragment extractions and other medical procedures after an incident in nearby Musa Qa’lah in Helmand province.

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RECYCLING, from A1

The QRP will accept most types of paper products, including used, greasy pizza boxes, as long as any leftover pizza has been removed. Carbon and laminated paper cannot be recycled.

"Anything with the recycle symbol on the bottom can be recycled," said Lea Brown, assistant manager, Quality Recycle Program. "You can use the number in the center of the recycle symbol to identify types of plastics when separating them further."

And although customers are encouraged to separate items by types of materials, it is not required. Just getting everyone to take that initial step to recycle is a huge move forward, Brown said.

Items are collected weekly and brought to the QRP lot on Rifle Range Road where they are further separated and processed. Like items are bundled together and then sold.

Long gone are the days where we contract and pay a vendor to haul our trash away. Recyclable materials are now sold to vendors.

The Combat Center received more than \$587,000 in 2010 in recycling revenue. Money generated from the recycling center is used to support employee salaries, maintain and upgrade equipment and public outreach projects aboard the base, like parks and landscaping projects.

The Combat Center is leading the way in recycling initiatives.

"We want our base to be the one all other bases are looking at and emulating," Brown said.



ASSAULT, from A1

Turner and Tsongas co-chair the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus.

"Service members and their families must feel secure enough to report this crime without fear of retribution, and commanders must hold offenders appropriately accountable," the secretary said.

One Defense Department initiative will elevate the level of investigation for the most serious sexual assault allegations. Local unit commanders will be required to report allegations of rape, forcible sodomy and sexual assault, as well as attempts of those offenses, to a special court-martial convening authority, usually a colonel or Navy captain.

That change will ensure that sexual assault cases receive high-level attention and that cases remain in the chain of command, Panetta said.

The initiatives also include:

- Establishing with congressional approval a "special victims' unit" within each service composed of specially

trained experts in evidence collection, interviewing and working with victims;

- Requiring that sexual assault policies be explained to all service members within 14 days of their entry into active duty;

- Allowing National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been sexually assaulted to remain on active duty status to obtain the treatment and support afforded to active-duty members;

- Requiring a record of the outcome of disciplinary and administrative proceedings related to sexual assault and retaining the records centrally;

- Requiring commanders to conduct annual organizational climate assessments to measure whether they are meeting a culture of professionalism and zero tolerance of sexual assault;

- Enhancing training programs for sexual assault prevention, including training for new military commanders in handling sexual assault matters; and

- Mandating wider public dissemination of available sexual assault resources, such as DOD's "Safe Helpline," a 24/7

helpline via Web, phone or text message operated by the nonprofit Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network.

The helpline, which assisted more than 770 people between April and September last year, is available at 877-995-5247 or <http://www.safehelpline.org>.

The initiatives build on others announced in the past year that include appointing a two-star general to head the department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, and expanding legal assistance to military spouses and adult military dependents.

Panetta called the changes "a strong package," but he added that "there is no silver bullet." All military leaders at every level must understand that they have a responsibility to stop sexual assault, he said.

Dempsey said he agrees with the changes because the crime of sexual assault erodes the trust associated with being in the U.S. military.

"We must send the signal that this is not a problem we are going to ignore," Panetta said.

READING, from A1

Brenda Ehrmantraut, a book about how a deployed soldier uses Polaris, the North Star, to play a nightly game of catch with his son, who is at home halfway around the world. The pair uses this game to stay close throughout the long months separated.

"A Marine hugged his son goodbye and said, 'I'll miss you little guy,'" Brookshire read.

"Well, it actually says 'soldier,' but I'm saying Marine because that's what I am and what, I'm sure, most of your parents are," he said.

The children laughed at the occasional jokes punctuating the story's reading.

"Before you climb in bed each night, find Polaris shining bright," Brookshire read.

Illustrations from the book were projected onto one of the

room's open walls. The sergeant major sat on a couch, in his service "C" uniform, and read by the light of a small table lamp.

"How many of you have dads that have deployed?" Brookshire asked, pausing in the middle of the story.

Most of the children raised their hands.

Every child was given a copy of "Night Catch" to keep. They lined up so the sergeant major could write them a message and sign their books. They all signed his copy of the book in return, a memento of their day together.

Brookshire also stayed to answer any questions the kids had about what their parents do, and why, and how the Marine Corps works.

"I'll board that plane and ask the crew to race that star right back to you," Brookshire read.

He closed the book, smiled at the kids and said, "That was a great story."

HELO, from A1

Bridgeport, Calif., April 5.

Platoon sergeants, squad leaders and junior Marines all practiced both casualty evacuations and calling in aircraft for medical evacuations.

"If we get taken out of the fight, somebody else has to be able to do it," said Sgt. Jared Barnard, joint terminal attack controller, 2/7. "That includes the junior Marines because there are times squad leaders can get hit."

The Marines were briefed on in-air evacuation procedures by the helicopter's crew and the medical personnel who would also be flying in. The birds didn't leave the ground until the Marines fully understood the basic operations and movements of the helo, how to safely approach the aircraft and how to properly handle the stretcher/casualty combination.

"Casualties can hit anyone,"

said Cpl. Dakota Moss, team leader, Company F, 2/7. "You have to be able to fill in and roll with it."

The Marines then experienced first-hand how an evacuation works and how to lift a Marine onto a helicopter without it ever having to land. This keeps the crew as safe as possible, and gives the casualty the highest chance of survival, during an evacuation when the area is still under attack by enemy troops.

The Black Hawk lifted off and circled the area. The Marines called in the the landing zone brief, and the helicopter got into position for its landing.

Once the Marines got their casualty safely onboard, the crew lifted off and again circled the area once before landing to drop off their volunteer casualty and wait for the next group of Marines to try the technique.

"They got some education on what the aircrafts are capable of and the environment it could land in, especially since it was snowing," said Staff Sgt. Calvin R. Ruidiaz, joint terminal attack controller, 2/7.

Once the group mastered landed evacuations, they practiced lifting casualties off the ground while the Black Hawk hovered overhead. A large, yellow hook was lowered from the helicopter, and the Marines strapped their casualty in before the flight crew hoisted him up.

The helo took another trip around the area and repeated the cycle.

"I've never done anything like that before," said Moss, one of the Marines who volunteered to play a casualty and be hoisted up in the hook. "It kind of gave me a heads-up for what is to come if the situation presented itself."



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, wait as a Black Hawk helicopter comes in to hover while they practice medical evacuations at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., April 5.



[Right] A mock casualty lays on a stretcher while his fellow 2/7 Marines work with the flight crew to get him secured before the helicopter takes off again.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Leslie Glover

Archeologist, NREA
Santa Cruz, Calif., 62

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY
SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

April 17, 2012

> **The people who want to protect the environment** aren't always left-wing hippie types. The biggest defenders of environmental conservation are hunters. Because you can't hunt animals if they can't live somewhere.

> **It is an interesting sort of partnership** between people who often have different political social ideas. For different reasons, they share the view that you can't just bulldoze everything and life will still be wonderful for everyone.

> **I was big with animals.** I liked being outside. I was not much of a dolls and teddy bears type of kid.
> **I got a dog.** Dutch, he's a Newfoundland. Giant black dog, they're water rescue dogs. He weighs about 150 pounds. He's not too active anymore. He doesn't like to swim. Just because that's what's the breed does doesn't your dog wants to. And he doesn't.

> **I had a grandmother, but she** ran a tavern. I don't know. Does that make her an old sage? I doubt it.

> **The only man I ever knew as a grandfather was** three months older than my mother. Back then, that was quite the thing. It was way before cougars were cougar-y.

> **Her name was** Myrtle and his name was Bert. It was called Mert and Bert's.

> **They didn't have bar food,** in that time period. They had peanuts.

> **Interesting thing about my family is a history of** terrible names. My mother's name was Ianthafay. They named her sister Vievina-Laverne. She went by Betty her whole life. What part of Vievina-Laverne do you want to use? My mother was more of a stickler. She stuck with Iantha.

> **My grandmother's name** before she changed it to Myrtle, and in those days Myrtle was considered a very sophisticated name, was PonceDeLeon.

> **My grandmother's mother had a cousin** from Spain who was selling clothing. He had some velvet dress, and her mother really wanted that velvet dress. And he said, "If you name that baby you're carrying after that great Spanish patriot, Ponce De Leon, you can have it."

> **My mother grew up being called** Iantha, and she tried very hard to give everyone names that were more normal. Although when I was a kid, Leslie was not a woman's name. In high school, every year I had to go down and say you signed me up for the boy's PE. I got the selective service notice for the draft, telling me, "You turned 18. Come down and register."

> **I'm not going to lie** and say that I am the biggest green person around, because that's not true. I do the things that most people do; that's common.

> **We recycle** our stuff. We don't buy a lot of junk. I have a cell phone that's eight years old. They took the last one. They said, "Sorry, we just don't do analog anymore. You have to buy a new telephone."

> **We're not contributing** a whole lot into the technological trash dump that's going with people buying the new technology and then immediately changing it for the next thing. To be fair and honest, a lot of that is just because I'm old.

> **I want my phone** to make phone calls. I don't leave it on. I don't understand people want to be bothered by phone calls 24 hours a day. I don't want to be available to everyone. I don't want to take pictures with my phone. I don't want to go on the Internet. But that's a reflection of being old. That's not because I'm some wonderful green person.

> **It's not like we're too good and too proud** to do anything that fouls the world. I take showers, I do my dishes.

> **If I tell you** I make my own bread and grow all my own food and I walk to work from my home in Morongo Valley, that doesn't make sense. And most people don't live like that. You do some of it, but all that stuff takes time too.

> **You try to do the things that are** easy. Depending on how strongly you feel about some of the stuff, you add to it.

> **If you're going to log,** I'm not sure you have to log the old growth forests, because you don't have 5,000 years for it to come back.

> **The most you can hope for,** and the most you really, I think, should expect, is for people to think about it before they do it.

> **My sister and brother** have a bunch of kids, who also have kids, and I would like them to see the kinds of things I saw.

> **If Theodore Roosevelt hadn't put together** the National Park Service, a lot of those places wouldn't be there anymore. Because we see it now as a special place that people have to go, people have this sort of feeling that all special places get saved. But they don't. If you don't people speaking up to save some of this stuff, it'll all get used up.

> **You had these big developers** who they themselves had thousands of acres that they keep pristine for themselves. They pushed that gas line that was originally going to go across their 10,000 acres off onto their neighbors' one and two and five acre properties, because those guys didn't have the money to fight it.

> **No one thing is going to ruin** everything. No one development is going to ruin the world. But if you do all of it everywhere, you will ruin it.

> **There're already lots** of animals and lots of places that already aren't what they were, what they used to be.



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2ND LT. JOSHUA W. LARSON

[Top, left] Marines with Alpha Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, open the hatch on top of an assault amphibious vehicle to extract Marines and sailors after the vehicle stalled April 10 during the bilateral training exercise African Lion '12 in Morocco.

[Above] Marines with BLT 1/2, 24th MEU, conduct bi-lateral training with Royal Moroccan Armed Forces on the shores of Morocco April 10.

[Bottom, far left] A member of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces prepares to ride in an assault amphibious vehicle with Marines from BLT 1/2, 24th MEU April 12. The training allowed the Marines to introduce the Moroccan troops to the unique capabilities of the assault amphibious vehicle.

[Left] Lance Cpl. Richard Hager, intelligence analyst, BLT 1/2, 24th MEU, launches an RQ-11B Raven Unmanned Aerial System for a demonstration flight for members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces April 11.

Journey (Part 3) through Snow

AS TOLD BY

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi, combat correspondent

A photojournalist spends a month in the snow with an infantry battalion during cold weather training at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.



W

Editors note: This is the third and final installment of a three-part series written from the perspective of a combat correspondent new to cold weather and high altitude training.

We had to leave Grouse Meadows and head up to Summit, almost 1,000 feet higher in elevation. We filled in the trenches and holes where our tents used to sit, packed up our gear and headed out. The hike to Summit was nothing like the initial hike at the beginning of Basic Mobility. The entire movement was in the snow and the higher we went, the deeper the snow became. We had our snow shoes on the entire time.

A few times, during the steeper mountains we scaled, I almost tilted over, hurling back down the mountain, my main pack firmly still attached to my back.

But we finally reached our destination.

I wasn't with Fox Company the last time they dug in, so I was curious to see how they built such well-structured trenches and living areas. I soon found out their secret – simple hard work.

Digging-in was much harder than filling the trenches with already broken pieces of ice and snow. By the end of the day, my back hurt, and I couldn't wait to lay down. But I couldn't. I had to make some "snow soup" to quench my thirst and reserve for the next day's activities.

Next game - They took away our tents, and we now only had our tent flies, a white cover that we put over the main body of the tents. There was no lining between me and the ground, so I expected to be freezing. Weird, but it was one of the warmest nights I had so far.

The days were much the same. Melting snow for water in the evenings, training in the daytime. But, the schedule was switched up on our second to last day.

After two nights, we filled in our trenches before another move. This time it was only a few clicks, across another open field. It wasn't a hard move, comparatively speaking.

That morning, we staged our gear near the future encampment and went cross-country skiing. What awaited us at the end of the trip was something much more interesting than slushing across the ice in a single file line, staring intently at either the snow or the guy in front of your head.

The red hat instructors taught us other methods to transport Marines involving a long piece of rope and a foreign-made, tracked all-terrain vehicle called a Bandvagn 206, or BV for short. Marines on skis were pulled along by the BV after tying their ski poles to the rope hanging behind the two-compartment craft.

Only a few Marines were actually able to try it. The rest watched, waiting for someone to face-plant in the snow. Only one did, who will not be named only for my own concern for my personal safety.

We paid for our merriment though, and the rest of our evening was spent digging. Still without our tents, we constructed "snow coffins."

I was paired up with an infantryman who was shorter than me, so we built our hole to my height, which is two isomats wide, scientifically speaking. We made it as shallow as possible. "The smaller the hole, the warmer you are," I remembered one of the instructors saying.

We placed a water-resistant poncho beneath and on top the hole. Each Marine pair built theirs differently. We were told our imaginations were our only limitations. In that case, I imagine we should have snuck inside the BV and saved our time for making snow soup.

By the end of our efforts, though, I was proud of the "coffin" we had built. I worked hard on it, thinking it might actually be my final resting place. It seemed near impossible to sleep in actual snow overnight and not be a person-shaped, life-size popsicle in the morning.

Once again, I was wrong. I thought our tent fly's contraption was warm. I was wrong. This really was the warmest I'd been since sleeping in the temperature-controlled squadbays in mainside. I don't understand the science of it, even though it was explained. All I know is that it works.

Our final night out, Fox Company held a bonfire. Not for fun of course, but mostly to dry us off after digging our sleeping holes. Marines gathered around the warm, crackling flames like flies to one of those electric bug zappers.

One guy sang "The Circle of Life" from The Lion King movie, and others told hilarious stories I cannot repeat in a polite, public forum. Before heading to bed, and I now use the term in the loosest sense of the word, an officer began to recite a few passages from the book, "The Last Stand of Fox Company."

And tucked in here, high in the mountains, hidden by snow and lines of tall, darkened evergreen pines, was something special. Here was brotherhood and here was family. Even for a POG like me, amongst the grunts.

A	Q	V	A	A	B	E	A	M	H	A	T	E		
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B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	P	A	C	K	A	G	E
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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