



# OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

Since 1957

www.marines.mil/unit/29palms



June 15, 2012

Vol. 56 Issue 20

## 1/7 Marine builds bonds with Afghans

**Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz**  
1st Marine Division

WUSHTAN, Afghanistan - During a halt in a security patrol May 18, Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Barth, a native of New Albany, Ind., sat next to Muhammed Hasim, one of his counterparts with the Afghan National Army, and struck a conversation.

Though Barth is not fluent in the Dari language, he knew enough to be able to make jokes with Hasim.

Soon, the Marine and soldier were laughing together, and a crowd of Afghan children gathered to see what was going on. Hasim and the other Afghan soldiers handed out food and candy to the children while other soldiers and Marines spoke with adults of the village.

Barth is a team leader serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. He acts as an advisor and liaison to Afghan forces serving alongside Marines.

During Operation Sangin United Horizons, Marines and ANA forces entered the town of Wushtan to investigate insurgent activity. Terrorists operating throughout the region were known to use Wushtan as a staging point for attacks in Sangin, Kajaki and Musa Qa'leh.

Marine patrols were accompanied by detachments of ANA soldiers, searching for insurgents, weapons caches and hidden stockpiles of narcotics. When a compound needed to be searched or a local civilian needed to be spoken to, Barth and the ANA are in the lead.

"The ANA assisted us in moving in and establishing a baseline," said Capt. Peter Ankney, commanding officer of Baker Company. "Their ability to get in there and talk to people and

See **FIRST** page A4



LANCE CPL. TYLER REIRIZ

Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Barth, a team leader serving with Animal Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, talks to Afghan children in a secured compound May 17.



CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Sgt. Andrew Craddock, helicopter mechanic (left), taxis a UH-1Y Huey helicopter off of the airfield under the supervision of Lance Cpl. Jeremy Dowdy, crew chief, HMLA-167.

## Airwing Fraternity

### Maintenance sections keep birds in the flight

**Cpl. Sarah Dietz**  
Combat Correspondent

Getting a military aircraft into the air is a tedious process.

Inspections must be done. Many of them. Last minute electrical issues must be fixed. Parts may need to be replaced. Weaponry and ammunition must be 100 percent functional and fully stocked.

This entire process needs to be done quickly, and the heavy responsibility falls on the shoulders of some of the youngest Marines in the Corps—the maintainers.

The maintainers are divided into four sections: Flightline, airframes, avionics and ordnance.

The four sections work together like a sleek machine, each in step with their responsibilities, moving fast and not missing a beat to get the birds back up in the air as fast as possible.

But even as one machine, each section maintains their own identity, like the separate cliques in high school.

Flightline are like the cool kids, the prima donnas. They are the "big wrench" mechanics and the only maintenance section that actually flies and shoots the weapons onboard the aircraft. They are even responsible for guiding the pilots into their landings. It's understandable why they walk around

See **MAINTENANCE** page A4

## PMO rescues AMCC in exercise

**Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu**  
Combat Correspondent

The suspect walked into the clinic calmly. He was dressed in all black and was carrying a case.

In his other hand was a pistol. As he walked up to the front desk, the clerks informed the man that weapons were not allowed in the clinic.

He did not hesitate to shoot both the clerks. From there, panic erupted.

The shooter continued his rampage up and down the halls of the Adult Medical Care Clinic. The clinic personnel hid or ran for their lives. The staff did the right thing and barricaded themselves in a room to wait for help to come to them.

The Provost Marshal's Office answered the emer-

gency call and made it to the clinic in minutes. They surrounded the building and proceeded to execute a plan to best take out the shooter.

The shooter quickly realized he was outnumbered and locked himself in a room with the clinic officer in charge. The situation quickly turned from an active shooter to a hostage situation to a barricaded suspect.

These situations can often go from bad to worse in a very short amount of time. PMO quickly took control of the scene and took down the suspect. The patrolmen made their way into the barricaded room and took out the shooter, but not before the shooter killed the OIC.

The scenario was based on the Ft. Hood shootings

See **PMO** page A4



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Patrolmen with the Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office prepare to storm into the room of a barricaded suspect at the Active Shooter Exercise at the Adult Medical Care Clinic June 7.

## School's Out



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Staff Sgt. Patrick Galindo, student, Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, leans in to give his daughter, Madison, 5, a kiss after her last day of kindergarten at Condor Elementary School June 12.

## Check out safety tips



Featured on page A6

# This Week in Combat Center History



## Reprinted from the Observation Post dated June 9, 1959, Vol. 3, No. 23 1st AA-AW Bn. deactivated, all personnel reassigned

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Deactivation ceremonies for the 1st Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion were held Friday, June 5, 1959, symbolized by the final encasement of the Battalion Colors. Although the deactivation is not effective until June 15, ceremonies were held early in order that transfers of personnel could be made before that date.

The cut in Marine Corps strength from 200,000 men to 175,000 and an effort to keep abreast of the new tactics and weapons techniques were the reason for the deactivation.

The 1st AA-AW battalion was activated at Camp Pendleton October 1, 1950, under the command of Lt. Col. John H. Gill. Battalion's primary weapons at that time consisted of towed .50 caliber machine guns, (M-55) and single 40mm guns.

In the summer of 1953 the Battalion was moved to Marine Corps Training Center, 29 Palms, California. The desert training grounds provided vast areas of open land for field firing and maneuvers, as well as a climate which rarely interfered with or restricted operations.

The following summer the Battalion became self-propelled. The M-55's were replaced by the M-16 which provided the .50 caliber machine guns with half track carriers. The towed 40mm guns were replaced by the M-42. This weapon consisted of power or manually operated, twin 40mm guns mounted in a turret on the T-141, Walker Bull Dog, light tank chassis.

The great fire power and easy maneuverability of both the M-16 and the M-42's made them excellent ground support weapons in addition to their primary mission is anti-aircraft weapons.

In 1957 personnel of the 1st AA-AW Bn. Proved their worth as athletes by winning or placing in all major sports aboard the Base. They became the first to win the Commanding General's Perpetual Cup and went on to repeat this performance the following year.

Captain Cyril Wadzita assumed duties as Battalion Commanding Officer May 2, 1959. With the reassignment of all battalion personnel, Captain Wadzita was transferred to the office of Force Troops G-3 as assistant G-3 Officer.

## Register and request your ballot for upcoming primaries

Voters from these States should visit FVAP.gov to register and request their absentee ballot for the July, August, and September 2012 Presidential Preference Primary (P) and State Primary (S) elections listed below:

July Primaries (30-Day Notice): NOTE for July Primaries: If you have not received your requested State ballot, submit the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot at FVAP.gov (see FWAB information below).

- North Carolina: July 17 (Primary Runoff)
- Georgia: July 31 (S)
- Texas: July 31 (Primary Runoff)
- August Primaries: (60-Day Notice)**
- Tennessee: August 2 (S)
- Kansas: August 7 (S)
- Michigan: August 7 (S)
- Missouri: August 7 (S)
- Washington: August 7 (S)
- Hawaii: August 11 (S)
- Connecticut: August 14 (S)
- Florida: August 14 (S)
- Minnesota: August 14 (S)
- Wisconsin: August 14 (S)

- Georgia: August 21 (Primary Runoff)
- Wyoming: August 21 (S)
- Alaska: August 28 (S)
- Arizona: August 28 (S)
- Oklahoma: August 28 (Primary Runoff)
- Vermont: August 28 (S)
- September: (90-Day Notice)**
- Guam: September 1 (S)
- Massachusetts: September 6 (S)
- Virgin Islands: September 8 (S)
- Delaware: September 11 (S)
- New Hampshire: September 11 (S)
- Rhode Island: September 11 (S)
- Wisconsin: September 11 (S)

It may not be too late to participate in the July primaries. View the Primary Election Calendar at FVAP.gov for more information.

Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes! All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States should submit an FPCA for these elections by going to FVAP.gov or by following the instructions in the Voting Assistance Guide, also available at FVAP.gov.

Be sure you include an email address, phone number, and/or fax number on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs to contact you. Remember, many States allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically, or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov

or your State's election website to see how you can return your form.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office, or visit your State website.

Vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election (or longer based on your geographic location) you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it (especially in July Primary States), vote the FWAB at FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

Additional information Check your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices. Find your State's website at FVAP's web portal.


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

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

### OBSERVATION POST

**Commanding General** - Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr.  
**Public Affairs Officer** - Capt. Nick Mannweiler  
**Deputy Public Affairs Officer** - 1st Lt. Sin Y. Carrano  
**Public Affairs Chief** - Gunnery Sgt. Leo A. Salinas  
**Press Chief/Editor** - Cpl. Sarah Dietz  
**Layout, Design** - Cpl. Sarah Dietz

**Correspondents**  
 Sgt. Heather Golden  
 Cpl. William J. Jackson  
 Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu  
 Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi  
 Diane Durden

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

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

## 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.
  - K Smoke Shopp, 5865A 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

### YOUTH SPORTS SUMMER LEAGUES

It's time again for youth sports to begin. There will be a series of activities which include a fitness program, cheer camp, basketball camp, bowling league and more. The programs begin in July. Registration began June 1st at the MCCS Community Center. For more information on participating, call MCCS Youth Sports at 830-3010 or visit their website at <http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/events/index.html#summersports>.

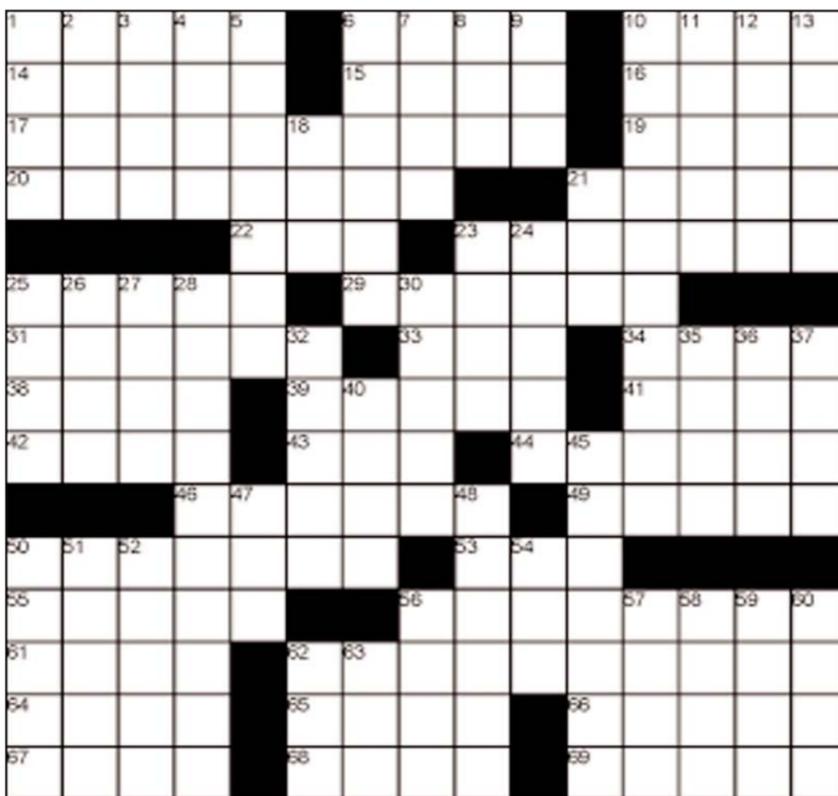
## SUDOKU #2568-D

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

PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

See answers on page A3

## SOLVE WITH EASE



### ACROSS

1. Brake parts
6. \_\_\_ breve(2/2 time)
10. Yin's opposite
14. Tie \_\_\_ (tipple)
15. Downright miserly
16. Natural emollient
17. Tribal dupe?
19. Poo dog's portion
20. Trapped
21. Berlin's "Blue \_\_\_"
22. "Plunk" or "plop" preceder
23. Adriatic port
25. Name in fine china
29. Horse or zebra
31. Like a dirty-?tricks campaign
33. Starbucks vessel
34. \_\_\_ Ono
38. Two-?time Indy winner Luyendyk
39. "Sing \_\_\_ with Mitch"
41. Not know from \_\_\_ (be unfamiliar with)
42. Funny Foxx
43. Go bad
44. Memorable
46. Manual typist's accessory,
49. Rubber center
50. Negotiate like Neville Chamberlain
53. Screw up
55. Run-?down
56. Longfellow's Indian hero
61. Fabled also-?ran
62. Jolson's aquatic bird?
64. "If all \_\_\_ fails ..."
65. Lay down tarmac
66. Pottery fragment
67. Can't do without
68. Ripening agent
69. Trial runs

### DOWN

1. Numskull
2. \_\_\_ instant
3. Does some mending
4. Mass. neighbor
5. Nike or Reebok
6. Fuse unit
7. Sinker material
8. Perry Mason's profession
9. Raggedy doll
10. Removal of a starting pitcher, in the Bronx?
11. Dr. Alzheimer
12. Good-?sized musical combo
13. Skein formers
18. Bard's before
21. Fall into evil ways
24. All-?Starr Band leader
25. Capone facial feature
26. Sponge opening
27. "Metamorphoses" poet
28. Monopoly card for
- political analyst Myers?
30. State, as a price
32. Gogol's "\_\_\_ Bulba"
35. Limburger emanation
36. Green Hornet's aide
37. Prophetic sign
40. Shake, in a way
45. Great Plains-?to-? Pacific Ocean area
47. Bit of sunshine
48. Rob who played "Meathead"
50. Visibly terrified
51. Author Norman Vincent \_\_\_
52. By itself
54. Comic Charlotte
56. Be afflicted with
57. Foe of Connors and Borg
58. "Jabberwocky" beginning
59. LyricistLorenz
60. "No ifs, \_\_\_ ..."
62. Vacation spot
63. Witty sort



Whatever you're looking for,  
you can find it in the  
**Observation Post  
Classified section**

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

## THE WWII VET

## Eugene Mattox

Veteran, 42nd Infantry Division, U.S. Army  
Out in the country, Ind., 87

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN  
June 11, 2012

- > **It's been a long** journey. You live it one day at a time, I guess. It's all you can do.
- > **There's not too many old guys** left from World War II who've seen combat.
- > **I'm going on 25** years old. How about if I said I was born April 1925. Is that better?
- > **My mother said** "Call the boy Eugene." But nobody ever wanted to call me that. I went by "son" by my dad. I was his first boy.
- > **Young kids then grew up** on the farm.

> **We had a pitchfork**, a hoe and a shovel. That's the only tools you needed.

> **It's changed** so much. You wouldn't believe how much it's changed. We grew up poor, but everybody else was just like us. Poor too.

> **All my life, I've drunk coffee**, ever since I was a little kid. We had a percolator back then. We boiled the coffee right on the stove.

> **A good ol' hamburger** back when I was 10 or 12-years-old was the best food there ever was.

> **They've got so many more sports** now than they used to have.

> **I grew up on** the ice. It was a different sport altogether. We tried to play hockey with a tin can. We didn't have ice shoes. They were clamps you put on your regular shoes.

> **There were** eight of us. Five boys, and three girls.

> **There's two brothers** left. And me. So, just the three boys.

> **I got in late** World War II. There were four of us who joined. My dad got me a deferment for six months because he needed me to haul coal for the war efforts.

> **They all went off and** left me. I was six months behind. They went to Germany. I went to the South Pacific.

> **I was in Luzon.** Roosevelt died on my birthday.

> **Battle?** It wasn't fun.

> **We thought we'd be discharged after** the war was over. But they sent us to Japan for occupation. We didn't like it over there at all. I'm sure it's changed a lot since then.

> **It's been 70 years since** World War II ended. I'm just thinking how much has changed. I think about how much the whole world has changed. It's amazing to me.

> **This is still one of the best** countries to live in, I think.

> **I was discharged** in '47. I laid around for a while. I had a friend in Oklahoma. We went all through the service together. So I figured I'd go see what Oklahoma was like.

> **I married a gal** from Oklahoma, and I worked at a telephone company. I made \$25 a week, plus our room and board. We stayed at the best hotel and ate in the best restaurants. I thought we had it pretty good.

> **Anywhere you go, the telephone company**, that's where you went if you wanted to work back then.

> **It didn't work** out. My second one died of cancer. Now I have what I call my caregiver. My third one. We've been together 27 years.

> **She was married to a guy** before me. Her husband died I think within a week of my wife, actually.

> **Her father-in-law took** a liking to me. He always wanted her to meet me. That's how we got acquainted.

> **I wanted to get lost** after my second wife passed away. So I sold the trailer park. She sold her house. And away we went.

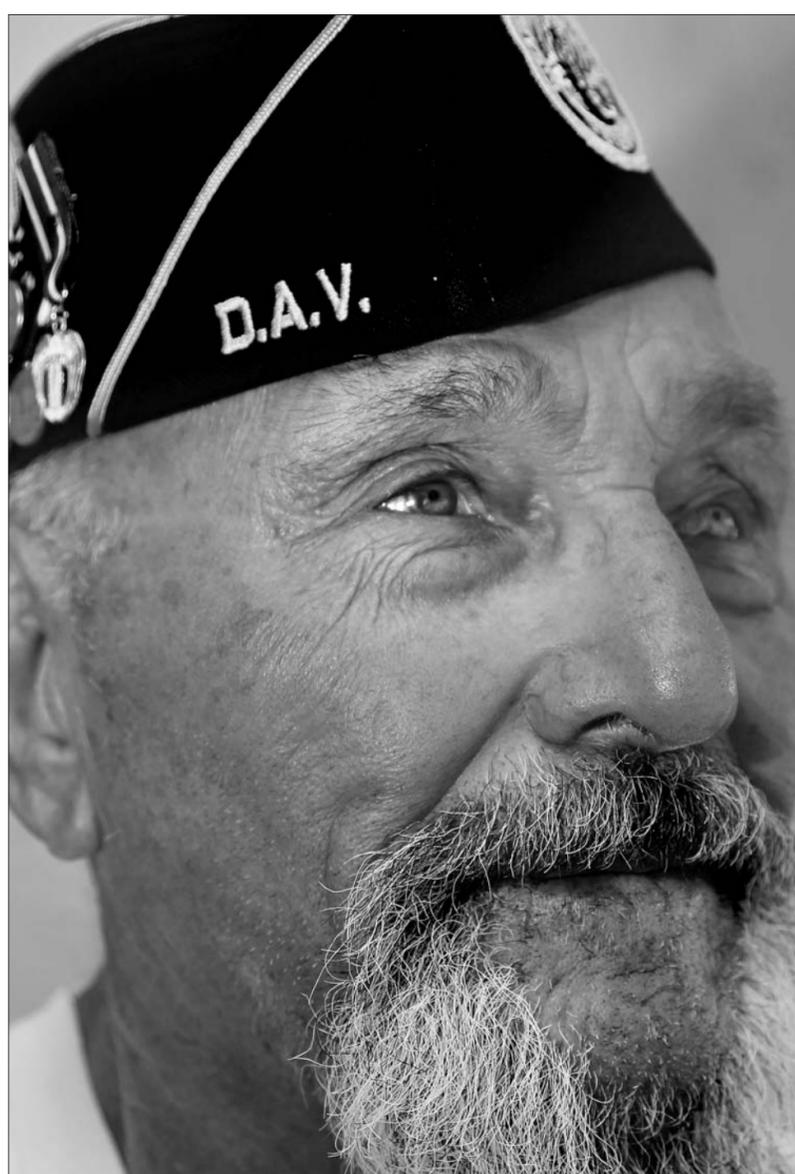
> **This used to be the only town there** was out here. Used to have a lot of gold mining people. Most of them were old World War II guys.

> **My cousin was out here** from Indiana about six weeks ago. We took him out to the Monument. He was complaining about his knee and hip. Those sissy Hoosiers.

> **I have two** children, four grandchildren. I have nine great-grandchildren.

> **How do I remember everyone's** names? I don't.

> **I came out** here in '72. My mother had a sister who lived in Twentynine Palms. She hadn't seen her for years, and asked if we could go find her. I said "Twentynine Palms? I ain't never heard of that place." We've been out here ever since. That's about where the story ends.





LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Cpl. Jared Sellers, K-9 handler, Provost Marshal's Office, acts as the rogue shooter in the Active Shooter Exercise at the Adult Medical Care Clinic June 7.

**PMO, from A1**

and emergency agencies responded accordingly. The Active Shooter Exercise was a collaboration of the Combat Center's Naval Hospital, Provost Marshal's Office, fire department and G-7. The purpose was to put the Combat Center's emergency response agencies to the test. Exercises like this one identify deficiencies in the system which can be improved. PMO had done their job in defusing the situation and made sure the area was all clear. It was now time for the clinic staff to take action in caring for the injured. Mistakes were made in the execution of the exercise, but that was to be expected. "I think everything went pretty well, in the respect that not everything went to plan, which is good, because we identified weaknesses," said Navy Lt. James Barlow, training officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. "An exercise where everything goes as planned is not a good exercise because you don't identify weaknesses," Barlow said.

**For photos, visit the Combat Centers facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/the-combatcenter>**

**MAINTENANCE, from A1**

like they own the hanger. "I love my job," said Cpl. Jimmy Nash, crew chief, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. HMLA-167 is at the Combat Center participating in Enhanced Mojave Viper, a pre-deployment exercise which prepares units for harsh conditions while deployed to Afghanistan. "It's worth it to fly and shoot guns. I'm a crew chief. We are like back seat drivers." Airframes are the gear heads, the kids who spent more time in the metal and wood shop than socializing. They are responsible for the frame of the aircraft, fixing all the nicks and loose screws. They are also responsible for the hydraulics. This section is always working, always has something to do. Avionics are the reigning rulers of the nerd-dom, the smart kids. They repair the aircraft's electrical systems and handle the high-tech

onboard computers. Ordnance is a group all their own. They are like the cool kids, but without the need to actually be cool. They are the loners, fully aware in their own superiority amongst the others. They deal with all the ammunition, weapons and bombs on the aircraft. They also bring a sense of humor to the flightline. When a pilot expels all the aircraft's rounds before returning from an operation, the ordnance section performs their own personal victory jig — the "Winchester Dance." It's tradition, and one they take seriously. But even adding a little harmless spice to their daily grind, the Marines turn serious when it comes to their pre-flight routine. The slightest mishap could prove fatal to the pilot and crew. Nothing can be overlooked. "They are hard workers," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert Riley, flight line division chief, HMLA-167. "They grind it out. Most of them give 100 percent every day."

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JASON ZANDER SLAVENS**  
Born on: March 26, 2012  
Born to: Joshua and Jennifer Slavens

**RYAN ANTHONY CUELLAR**  
Born on: April 30, 2012  
Born to: Cesar and Jamie Cuellar

**ALEXANDRA MACKENZIE TUCKER**  
Born on: April 16, 2012  
Born to: Shane and Ana Tucker

**ALANA GRACE CUMMINGS**  
Born on: April 18, 2012  
Born to: Jared and Hannah Cummings

**DYLAN LUCIAN HALL**  
Born on: April 20, 2012  
Born to: Damien and Roxanne Hall

**ADRIANNA MARIA CORDERO**  
Born on: April 23, 2012  
Born to: Javier and Marissa Cordero

**JOSEPH ALEXANDER JENSEN**  
Born on: April 23, 2012  
Born to: Justin and Dorothy Jensen

**RANGER LEE OLMSTEAD**  
Born on: April 24, 2012  
Abel and September Olmstead

**ISABEL LILA KOI**  
Born on: April 25, 2012  
Born to: Jayston and Alicia Koi

**MADISON ANNA LUBIN**  
Born on: April 28, 2012  
Born to: Philip and Jessica Lubin

**JAMES DON CLARK**  
Born on: April 30, 2012  
Born to: Joshua and Toni Clark

**BRAIDEN LOCKWOOD MOULDEN**  
Born on: April 30, 2012  
Born to: Grant and Rebecca Moulden

**MADISON ELIZABETH COONEY**  
Born on: May 1, 2012  
Born to: Charles and Brittany Cooney

**BROOKE AVERY DAVIS**  
Born on: May 2, 2012  
Born to: Justin and Mackenzie Davis

**DANIEL LAWRENCE QUETEL**  
Born on: May 3, 2012  
Born to: Justin and Davelyn Quetel

**BARDLEY WILLIAM BREWER**  
Born on: May 3, 2012  
Born to: Luke and Brittany Brewer

**ABIGAIL PATRICIA KILINAHEOKALANIPILI MCCLARY**  
Born on: May 5, 2012  
Born to: William and Kira McClary

**OLIVIA KATHLEEN RUTH HOLTSMANN**  
Born on: May 5, 2012  
Born to: Jason and Elizabeth Holtmann

**WILLIAM WALLACE GERHART**  
Born on: May 8, 2012  
Born to: Nathaniel and Britany Gerhart

**CARSON JEFFREY ROYER**  
Born on: May 9, 2012  
Born to: Adam and Rachel Royer

**AURON ANDREW HOWARD**  
Born on: May 9, 2012  
Born to: Jelani and Jacqueline Howard

**EDEN NOELLE POUND**  
Born on: May 15, 2012  
Born to: Steven and Ashley Pound

**ISABELLA FELICIA HAMILTON**  
Born on: March 26, 2012  
Born to: James and Nanci Hamilton

**CAROLYNE HELEN PENA**  
Born on: May 19, 2012  
Born to: Omar Pena

**BRETT ERIC FISHER**  
Born on: May 18, 2012  
Born to: John and Suzette Fisher

**RAYMOND FRANCISCO VRIEZE**  
Born on: May 21, 2012  
Born to: Alan and Yicel Vrieze

**GUNNER SETH BILLINGSLEY**  
Born on: May 21, 2012  
Born to: Richard and Laticia Billingsley

**ALEXA GRACE DAVIS**  
Born on: May 21, 2012  
Born to: Terry and Ashley Davis

**MAIAH LEILANI KROPP**  
Born on: May 24, 2012  
Born to: Lorenzo and Yvonne Kropp

**JATHANIO JOSE RODRIQUEZ**  
Born on: May 28, 2012  
Born to: Jose and Liz Rodriguez

**FIRST, from A1**

get things done brought us to a different level than we could have done without them. The Afghan soldiers have patrolled Wushtan before, so they were familiar with the area. That familiarity helped patrols move smoothly and efficiently. Barth always makes sure to keep a positive attitude and to be approachable to the Afghans during patrols. "Whenever the civilians see me joking around and talking with the ANA they will be more willing to come and talk to me," he said. Barth said having a good relationship with the local population helps Marines and ANA gather information and limits the ability of the insurgency to operate in the area. A large part of bonding with the civilian population comes from interacting with the kids. "We want the people to like us," Barth said. "The kids all like it when the Marines come around. The adults will see that. They will see us give them candy and have fun with them and show them we are good people." The ANA have learned from the example set by Marines, and also make an extra effort to connect with the civilian population. Barth and the ANA he patrols with frequently come across groups of curious children. During one patrol, Hasim opened a bag of rations and began handing out the food and candy inside to a group of laughing children. Even after all the food was gone, the crowd of children remained, asking questions and playing games with the Afghan soldiers. Barth said it isn't hard for him to connect with the people of Afghanistan. "The people are very hospitable to us," he said. "Anything they have, they offer to share with you. Even when they really don't know you, they will offer to bring you in and give you things. That's just their culture, and that's who they are." As the operation ended and the Marines and ANA left the town, Mohammed Ikhahlas, a local farmer, offered to let the tired troops rest in his compound. He said the ANA and Marines help the people of Afghanistan, and he wanted to return the favor. Barth said his most meaningful connection has been with his brothers-in-arms of the ANA he serves alongside each day. "We have a good friendship," Barth said. "We go on patrol together all the time, so we have built trust. I trust them with my life."

# PALMFEX

Lance Cpl. Emmanuel Ramos, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

## Amphibious Assault Platoon helps train Infantry Officers

Nineteen Marines with Amphibious Assault Platoon, Combat Service Support Company, The Basic School, landed in full effect to support Infantry Officer Course, Marine Corps Base Quantico, in their final live-fire exercise at the Combat Center's Range 210 May 23.

Their first exercise of Palm FEX, a three-week course, was military operation in urban terrain training in which AAP trained IOC students in the employment of tracked vehicles.

The exercise included casualty evacuation and raids during which drivers of the Amphibious Assault Vehicles tactically inserted the students.

"It's something you'll never get to experience in the [operating forces]," said Cpl. Andrew Downs, AAV operator, AAP, CSS Co. "All of these are live-fire exercises, and to see it in action is quite a sight."

The CCS Co. supports IOC with the exercise four times a year.

"It feels great to train future leaders of the Marine Corps," said Sgt. Joshua Pierce, crew chief, AAP, CSS Co. "You give up a lot of family time to come out here, but the Marines in our platoon make it worth it. They're out here fighting the heat and dehydration with you."

Facing temperatures of more than 100 degrees on a daily basis, Marines with AAP, CSS Co., never lose sight of what's important.

"The future of the Marine Corps is at stake here," Downs said. "These officers are going to be leading Marines as soon as they're done here. We have to maintain a high level of professionalism while we're out here. Even though sometimes you just feel like saying it's too hot, you grind it out because we're Marines."

Working day and night, the AAP also assists IOC in setting up training environments like makeshift enemy positions and setting up targets.

"My guys work very hard, and they often get overlooked," said Maj. George Camia, company commander, CSS Co.

"Each track here at Quantico puts an average of 1,000 miles on it a year compared to the rest of the Marine Corps, which puts an average of 300 miles a year," he said.

"A Marine who comes to our unit is going to have more experience than a seasoned sergeant in the [operating forces]," Pierce said. "You put out a lot, but you get so much experience from being stationed here."



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. EMMANUEL RAMOS

**[Above]** Sgt. James Davis, Amphibious Assault Vehicle operator, Amphibious Assault Platoon, Combat Support Company, The Basic School, prepares to head back on a convoy after dropping off Marines with Infantry Officer Course June 9.



**[Left]** Sgt. James Davis, AAV operator, AAP, CSS Co., TBS, maneuvers over rocky terrain.

**[Below, left]** Cpl. Andrew Downs, AAV operator, AAP, CSS Co., TBS, parks his AAV on Range 210.

**[Below, right]** Marines with AAP, CSS Co., TBS, receive a convoy brief before transporting Marines with IOC.



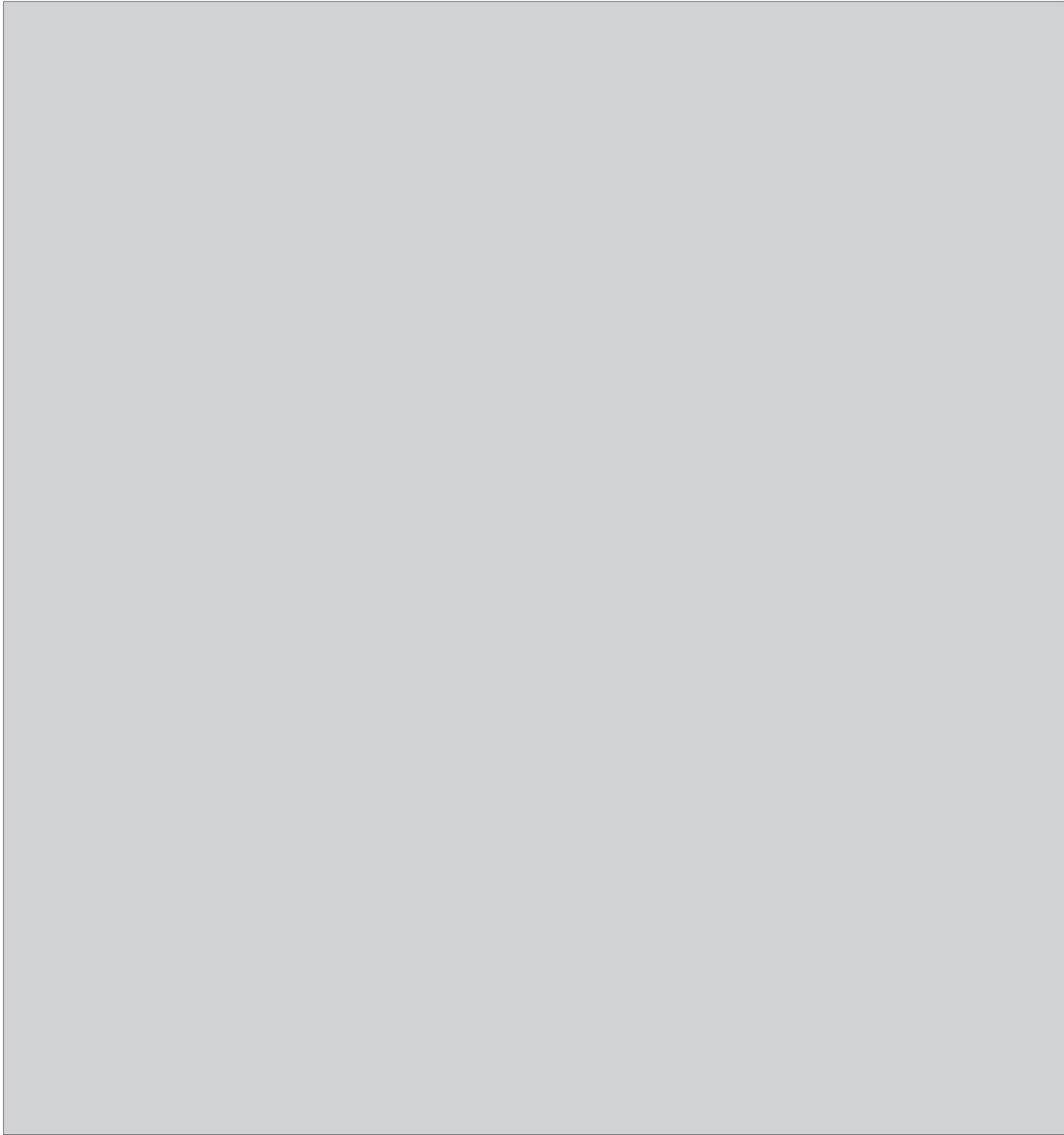
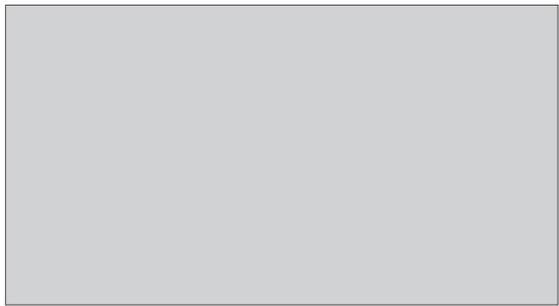


Summer's official start, June 21, is rapidly approaching, and that means an increase in activities such as barbeques, parties, traveling, swimming, boating, cycling, hiking, and camping, to name a few. The onset of summer also brings with it the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign, which runs from Memorial Day, May 28, to Labor Day, Sept. 3. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign, units and organizations are asked to provide their Marines and sailors with the tools and training necessary to help them participate in their summer recreational activities in a safe and responsible manner.

Safety  
**TIPS**

★ **Alcohol Awareness**

- Absorption of alcohol depends on size, weight, body fat, gender, amount of alcohol consumed, amount of food in your stomach and medication use.
- 60 percent of sexually transmitted diseases are transmitted by intoxicated partners.
- In 67 percent of unplanned pregnancies, at least one partner was intoxicated.
- Alcohol related mishaps kill and injure Marines and sailors every summer.
- Being intoxicated is not cool, not sexy and not healthy.
- Many summer activities do not go well with alcohol consumption, but if you choose to drink, do so in moderation.





TIME TO LAUGH @ THE

# comedy club

story and photos by

Lance  
Cpl. Ali  
Azimi

## LEATHERNECK TOUR COMES TO DESERT



Queen Caveat vocalist Lauren Little convinces Marines to sing with her on stage June 8 during the Leatherneck Comedy and Entertainment Tour show at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema. The annual tour also featured the comedic stylings of Alex Scott, Renee Guatchier and Rudy Rush.

**C**

omedians and musicians in the Leatherneck Comedy and Entertainment Tour performed in a theater full of Marines and sailors during their show at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema June 8.

The tour is run by To the Fallen Entertainment, an organization dedicated to bringing cost effective entertainment to service members of all branches.

This year, it started the Leatherneck Comedy and Entertainment Tour, a show tailor-made for Marines.

"What we've tried to do is find the right mix of entertainment that actually really appeals to the men and women in the Marine Corps," said Charles Shorter, president, To the Fallen Entertainment.

The tour has been traveling to Marine Corps bases around the world, leading up to its arrival at the Combat Center, following three shows in Japan.

"We are just showing our appreciation to the Marines," said Alex Scott, comedian.

The show featured the comedic stylings of Alex Scott, Renee Guatchier and Rudy Rush, as well as musical performance by the band Queen Caveat.

The three comedians used comedy applicable to both everyday life and Marine Corps life. They had the Marines in tears from laughter.

"The comedy show was very good," Lance Cpl. Richard Slappy, field radio operator, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. "But the music portion was something I really looked forward to."

Members of Queen Caveat took the stage, after the comedians and started playing. The bands unique style of rock music mixed in with smoke effects and colored lighting, created an the perfect environmetn for a show. But the lead singer, Lauren Little, also made the Marines get involved.

She called up a group of Marines to help sing a Jimmy Hendrix song.

During her next song, Little switched it up. She followed the Marines down the stage and sang as she ran through the rows of seats in the theater and at one point sat down next to a Marine up in the stands.

Not many people could have guessed that this was Queen Caveat's first performance in front of Marines.

The show ended with a meet and greet. Marines lined up to meet the comedians and musicians as they left. Many grabbed their camera phones for a quick picture while others grabbed something to be autographed.

"Our focus is on making the Marines as happy as possible," said Shorter.

The Combat Center was the tour's 17th show, leading up to their final show at Camp Pendleton.



**[Above, left]** Cpl. Anthony Mazziotti, field radio operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, snaps a photo of himself with comedian Renee Guatchier, after the show. This was the 17th show out of 18 for the year. **[Above, right]** Queen Caveat guitarist, Ben Eband, jams on stage during the show.



## 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

### The Memory Jar

When: Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 8-17  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
For tickets and information call 316-4151  
or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

### 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.

### The Sunday Band

Been playing for the restaurant for 6 years  
When: 7 p.m., Sunday, June 17  
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace  
53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown, Calif.  
For more information, call 365-5956.

## Lower Desert

### Jon Secada

90s contemporary soloist, latin pop artist  
When: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, June 16  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit  
<http://www.spotlight29.com>.

### Joan Sebastian

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>.

### Carlos Mencia

Night of laughter with famous comedian  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 16  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinosresort.com>.

### Ron White

Stand-up comedian entertains live  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 7  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit  
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

## Sunset Cinema

### Friday, June 15

6 p.m. - Think Like a Man, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Five Year Engagement, Rated R  
Midnight - The Raven, Rated R

### Saturday, June 16

10:30 a.m. - **Free Matinee** Puss in Boots, Rated PG  
12:30 p.m. - Three Stooges, Rated PG  
3 p.m. - The Pirate, Band of Misfits 3D, Rated PG  
6 p.m. - The Lucky One, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Think Like a Man, Rated PG-13  
Midnight - Dark Shadows, Rated PG-13

### Sunday, June 17

12:30 p.m. - Dark Shadows, Rated PG-13  
3 p.m. - Think like a Man, Rated PG-13  
6 p.m. - The Avengers 3D, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Dark Shadows, Rated PG-13

### Monday, June 18

7 p.m. - The Lucky One, Rated PG-13

### Tuesday, June 19

7 p.m. - The Avengers 3D, Rated PG-13

### Wednesday, June 20

5:30 p.m. - Think like a Man, Rated PG-13  
8:30 p.m. - The Raven, Rated R

### Thursday, June 21

5:30 p.m. - The Three Stooges, Rated PG  
8:30 p.m. - The Lucky One, Rated PG-13

# Star-packed brand-name pregnancy comedy just doesn't deliver



COURTESY PHOTO

Since 1984, millions of women have become disciples of the best selling series of "What To Expect" books by Heidi Murkoff and Sharon Mazell, which continue to guide pregnant and new moms in detail through the stages of prenatal and childhood development.

## NEIL POND

### "What to Expect When You're Expecting"

Starring Cameron Diaz, Elizabeth Banks & Dennis Quaid

Directed by Kirk Jones  
110 min., PG-13

Since 1984, millions of women have become disciples of the bestselling series of "What To Expect" books by Heidi Murkoff and Sharon Mazell, which continue to guide pregnant and new moms in detail through the stages and phases of prenatal and childhood development.

One thing the books don't address, however, is how to deliver a funny, heart-warming movie about pregnancy from a pregnancy advice book. And so, this new star-packed romantic comedy flies under the famous brand name of the iconic self-help title but flops around exhaustively with a lame script, multiple storylines that only lazily overlap, and a dirty diaper bag of sex

jokes, sentimental mush, cartoonish claptrap and weary parent-to-be cliches.

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Brooklyn Decker, Anna Kendrick and Elizabeth Banks make up the central cast of women whose separate maternal arcs span a spectrum of humor and heartbreak. When things get too heavy, the movie yuks it up with a gaggle of stroller-pushing dads led by comedian Chris Rock. The so called "dudes group" basically walks around a city park and fires off zingers about female reproductive anatomy, minivans, the time one of them picked up the wrong baby from daycare, and other riffs on fatherhood that feel like they should be followed by comedy-club rim shots.

Dennis Quaid clearly has fun with his role as a randy retired sports-car racing champ who's still got quite an engine purring under his hood as he awaits the birth of new twins from his much-younger hottie second wife (Decker). Ben Falcone, a gifted, low-key comedic actor who plays

the husband of Banks' character, an author of breastfeeding books for young moms, is a dentist whose devotion to his wife's ovulation cycle makes him late to his first "grille appointment" for a rapper.

Hunky Chace Crawford, who'll be familiar to viewers of TV's "Gossip Girl," plays a young food-truck entrepreneur whose night of rekindled passion with an old high-school flame (Kendrick) forces him to think beyond his bacon sandwiches. Lopez is a freelance photographer whose inability to conceive leads her to consider adoption. Diaz plays a TV fitness instructor who finds out she's pregnant when she throws up in her trophy after winning a "Dancing With the Stars"-type television competition series.

The movie scores some points by taking its big ensemble cast to shoot on location somewhere that's NOT New York...in this case, Atlanta, Ga. The big-screen change of scene provides a refreshing whiff of Southern air, with some new

skyscrapers and street views for backdrops.

It's also a nice change of pace to see a summer movie where the special-effects budget isn't spent on blowing something up, but instead goes toward convincingly turning flat actress abs into ballooning baby bumps. (Come to think of it, I guess that is "blowing something up," after all.)

Not surprisingly, almost all the characters eventually come together in the local maternity ward (even ones who aren't pregnant), where the movie milks the final stage of child bearing---birth---for one last round of titters before hammering home its message about how the miracle of new life makes all the pain, discomfort and emotional fireworks of pregnancy worthwhile.

Most mothers, undoubtedly, would agree wholeheartedly. But they won't need this half-baked, star-stacked, comedic dissertation on pregnancy to tell them so, even if it does have a trusted trade name that helped bring many a baby into the world.