



BROTHERS IN ARMS

Photos and story by Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi



Through two world wars and the Korean and Vietnam wars, the New Zealand military forces have fought alongside the United States. Today, this partnership continues in the Middle East and has an impact on both countries' national security.

The 36 New Zealand Army soldiers, also known as "Kiwis," arrived at the Combat Center earlier this month for Operation Galvanic Kiwi. The integration in training provided both the Marines and the Kiwis a new plateau for communication and understanding and interoperability.

After their arrival, the soldiers were trained in Marine Corps equipment and operations. They traded in their Steyr AUG rifles for M-16 A4 service rifles and adapted from a five-man team to the Corps' traditional four-man fire team. Once this initial training was complete, they were ready for the field.

The Kiwis began a three-day joint counterinsurgency exercise with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion June 20 at the Combat Center's Combined Arms Military Operations on Urban Terrain town, or Range 220.

"This is a very rare opportunity to train in an environment and to a scale such as this," said New Zealand Army Maj. Chris Rothery, officer commanding, 2nd Field Squadron, 2nd Engineer Regiment, New Zealand Army. "We operate predominantly in the Southwest Pacific so we've never seen anything like this before. We are extremely impressed by the training facilities here."

The exercise evaluated the Marines' and Kiwi soldiers' abilities to not only adapt to a shared method of operations, but also to work together as an integrated force.

Each squad featured both Marines and Kiwis working together to accomplish tasks during specific time periods. They came across role players acting as Afghan nationals and insurgents, simulated improvised explosive devices and enemy fire.

The first day was nothing short of a challenge. The squads cycled through five scenarios in a 25-hour period.

These scenarios took the Marines and soldiers across

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From across the world

Marines, 'Kiwi' soldiers rekindle bond after 27 years

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Combat Correspondent

A tarp hung over an alleyway, connecting the empty buildings of the Combined Arms Military Operations on Urban Terrain town at Range 220A. Below the tarp, a group of Marines and New Zealand Army soldiers sat around on worn out chairs and benches talking and joking.

The Marines wore their desert utilities while the New Zealanders, commonly referred to as "Kiwis," wore their own tricolor green camouflage uniforms. If you ignored the variations in their accents, you would have never thought they were from opposite ends of the world.

"When you look at a United States Marine and a Kiwi soldier, you see very little differ-

ence," said New Zealand Army Major Chris Rothery, officer commanding, 2nd Field Squadron, 2nd Engineer Regiment, New Zealand Army.

The Kiwis arrived at the Combat Center at the beginning of this month to train with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion Marines. This was the first time Marines have trained with the New Zealand Army in 27 years.

The Marines and Kiwi soldiers worked together, sharing knowledge through training during integrated exercises at the Combat Center. But the time between these training exercises left Marines and Kiwis with plenty of time to get personally acquainted.

"We just talk and have that bonding, get to

See **BOND** page A4



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines and New Zealand Army soldiers, also known as "Kiwis," sit in a circle on worn-out couches, chairs and benches as they wait for their next scenario in their counterinsurgency exercise at Range 220A June 20. The Marines and Kiwis got to know each other during their downtime from training.

Military housing payment change

RECP implemented to conserve Combat Center energy

Cpl. Sarah Dietz
 Combat Correspondent

The Resident Energy Conservation Program is being put into effect at military housing residential areas across the Department of Defense. This program is designed to reduce electrical consumption and keep residents responsible for their energy usage.

The RECP will directly benefit Marine Corps family housing residents because savings will be reinvested back into the community to improve homes, playgrounds, community centers and other amenities that improve quality of life for our Marines, sailors and their families.

With the average electrical consumption established, a 10 percent buffer zone will be implemented above and below the average line to give residents a range of electrical usage per month.

Residents using less energy will be rewarded with a cash refund. Residents using more than the average range will be billed for only the excess use.

The determination of the average will begin with the houses divided into groups, known as "housing types." Housing types are made so four-bedroom

houses will not be in the same category as two-bedroom houses, for example.

Separate averages are calculated each month for each type and size of home.

Basic Allowance for Housing is expected to cover normal utilities use only, not excess.

The process will begin with a three-month mock billing period, starting April 2013. Actual billing will begin in July 2013.

This process is DOD-mandated, and Lincoln Military Housing is not responsible for RECP.

Residents will receive a packet explaining the program, as well as a letter from the commanding general.

The letter will be addressed to "Resident" instead of the individual. It is important to look over all this information.

The funds saved will go toward improving homes, playgrounds and community centers.

The RECP is already in effect at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

Wounded Warriors and Exceptional Family Member Program members will be an exception to RECP, with permission from the hospital commanding officer.

For more information, call your local housing office.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN

BILLING BEGINS JULY 2013.

IF YOU WASTE, YOU PAY.

IF YOU SAVE, YOU GET PAID.

Corporals Course to be required

Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu
 Combat Correspondent

Corporals hoping to add on their third stripe will soon be required to give a little extra before seeing a promotion starting Oct. 1, 2013, according to MarAdmin 314/12.

The requirement will be the completion of either a command-sponsored or distance education Corporals Course.

A MarineNet version of Corporals Course is now available to Marines in need of training.

Resident Corporals Courses conducted at the regional Staff NCO Academies are now considered command-sponsored courses. These courses will count the same as the distance learning version when it comes to promotions.

The distance education program is not just limited to corporals. Lance corporals who have completed the

See **CORPORALS** page A4

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated July 3, 1964, Vol. 8, No. 27

MCB Cops SECNAV Safety Award for 2nd Time

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

For the second consecutive year, Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, has won the coveted Secretary of the Navy Award for Achievement in Safety.

Mr. R. L. King, Base Safety Director, and SSgt D. F. Johnson, Safety NCO, presented the award to BGen Jones on June 26. Gen Jones noted that while winning the award was difficult, winning it twice in succession reflected highly on the outstanding safety program maintained by Mr. King and SSgt Johnson, since the standards for the repeat win were much higher.

Accompanying the award were letters of congratulations from the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Paul Nitze, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr.

The Safety Award is representative of achievement in all aspects of safety, except flight safety, in shore activities of the Navy Department. Activities must qualify for the award on their disabling work frequency and severity rates, and motor vehicle minimum mileage per accident. All types and sizes of activities may compete for the award.

Both civilian and military injury statistics are used to determine eligibility. Civilian expo-

sure data is figured on an eight hour day, plus overtime, during the regular work days. Since data on military personnel covered a 24-hour day, only "on-duty" injuries were used for competition purposes. In addition, each activity in the competition needed a minimum exposure of 250,000 work hours to qualify.

According to Mr. King, an effective safety program depends on the three "E's" of safety, Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. Education to keep all hands well informed on the causes of accidents, how they can be prevented, and the benefits derived from an accident-free program; engineering of proper protective equipment such as guards on saws, shields on grinders, load testing, safety belts and glasses, hard hats, safety shoes, etc; and Enforcement of safety regulations.

While most people have a desire to prevent accidents, there is always that 10 percent who sneer at the rules and refuse to wear their safety equipment. It is at this 10 percent that the main effort of the enforcement program is directed.

"You don't receive this type of award by just waving a magic wand," said Mr. King. "It requires a great deal of planning and co-operation. SSgt Johnson and myself would like to thank everyone at MCB who helped earn this award. Let's make it three in a row."

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.

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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.
 -K Smoke Shopp, 5865A 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

MCMAP INSTRUCTOR COURSE

There will a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor course at the Combat Center's dojo July 9-27. Students can contact the dojo at 830-0290, or check out their new Sharepoint site for more information. The site features information about MCMAP, instructor re-certification and how to sign up for the instructor course. Official link - <https://ehqmc.usmc.mil/org/mccdc/TECOM/subcmds/TRNGCMD/schools/mcces/dojo/default.aspx>

SUDOKU #2578-M

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 See answers on page A3

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ACROSS

1. Unmannerly sort
5. Printers' measures
10. They impart bitterness to beer
14. Church recess
15. Sachet emanation
16. Assist in wrongdoing
17. One of two on a diamond
19. Hermitic
20. Richards of "Jurassic Park"
21. Beer lover's heaven
23. Get underway
24. On the bounding main
25. "___ the dirty, rotten ..."
29. Hi from Hawaii
33. Sheepskin receiver
37. Take habitually
38. Like many O. Henry stories
39. Vintner's prefix
40. "___ by the bell!"
42. Farmland measure
43. River in a Strauss waltz
45. One of the Clantons

46. Supply grub to
47. Wolfgang Puck eatery
48. Work the dough
50. Car engine connection
52. Streetwise, perhaps
57. Raises trivial objections
61. Prepares for a crash
62. Golden Rule word
63. Social elite
65. Without purpose
66. "Circle of Friends" author Binchy
67. Elder or alder
68. Smoke-filled room fillers
69. Knight's mount
70. Srs.' exams

DOWN

1. Rummy yummys
2. '60s poster genre
3. Port of old Rome
4. Pave over
5. Lawyer's assistant, briefly
6. Apr. addressee
7. Baseball's "Georgia Peach"
8. Indifferent to right and wrong
9. Big band section
10. Result of compromise, figuratively
11. Bassoon's kin
12. Stationer's supply
13. Editor's "leave it"
18. Opposite of ecto-
22. Have on
26. Rag, to a Molotov cocktail
27. Botanist Gray
28. "Rosemary's Baby" writer Ira
30. First word of "The

- Raven"
31. Add to the payroll
32. Didn't merely pass
33. Mount Olympus dwellers
34. Use a sickle
35. Paquin or Magnani
36. Tommies' WWI allies
38. Prelude to an invention
41. ___ out (just manage)
44. Chucklehead
48. Stay with
49. Ste. Jeanne ___
51. Urban eyesores
53. ___ and all (as is)
54. Integra maker, once
55. Revert to 12:00, say
56. ___ Park, Colorado
57. Groucho remark
58. Bring to naught
59. "___ never fly!"
60. Graf ___
61. Raised, as racehorses



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

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

MR. POSITIVE

Andre Carrillo

Starbucks Barista, 24
Glendora, Calif.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY
SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN
June 22, 2012

- > **I'm the only guy** at Starbucks. I'm surrounded by women, all day, every day.
- > **I didn't know** anything about coffee before I started working here.
- > **It's a fun place to work** at. Anywhere there are people, that's where I try to be at. I try to make everyone feel like family.
- > **Everyone should be in a good mood** all the time. There's no way that's going to happen, but I can do my part.
- > **There are a lot of different** people. It's like an information highway.

Everyone knows something. You just have to learn how to talk to them.

- > **There's this character named John** who used to come in here every day and tell us these crazy stories, like about him getting blown up. Turns out, he never actually got blown up.
- > **I was literally a track star** in high school. I did a lot of track and field and football. Basketball – I found out I'm garbage at that.
- > **A lot of people don't take me seriously** because I laugh and joke all the time. But if you can't enjoy life, then what's the point, you know?
- > **I have Kyligh.** She's my oldest. She's 2 and a half. She's a New Year's baby. My other one Li-Anah just turned 1. She's starting to take her first steps, so that's pretty cool.
- > **Their first names have no meanings**, but their middle names do. Kyligh's is Isaly. It stands for "I shall always love you." Li-Anah's is Jo-Omniq. She's named for her aunts. My sister's name is Omniq. My old lady's sister's name is Jo. They like that a lot actually.
- > **My little girl, she has Shirley Temple curls.** She swears they're dreads.
- > **The dreads start a lot** of conversations with me. They attract a lot of attention.
- > **People thought I was a girl** from the back for, like, the first two months. At least once a day, I'd hear "Excuse me, miss."
- > **My daughter pulls them** out sometimes. I don't throw them out. My grandmother told me something about how if crows get your hair, it's the devil. So I have a drawer full of dreads. Kind of creepy, huh?
- > **I use dreads to tie** my hair back. I used to have one as a keychain. But that went away. My old lady had to use those keys once and took it off.
- > **They're strong, like ropes.** I can probably hold up a cinderblock with these if I tied one in.
- > **I don't let people touch** my hair, actually.
- > **I don't look at it as** anything religious. It's a hairstyle. People always think I'm Rasta, but I'm not.
- > **It's a lot of work.** If you want the style, you've got to embrace it. Live the look, don't let the look live you.





LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

New Zealand Army soldiers practice counterinsurgency principles with a Marine from 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion acting as an insurgent, June 20 at Range 220A.

BROTHERS, from A1

Range 220. They had to cope with collapsed bridges, hospitals, schools and an underground tunnel system. The soldiers were evaluated on their abilities to use Marine Corps tactics, finish different objectives at each location and patrol while keeping on the lookout for improvised explosive devices and enemy activity.

"They used to take fire and egress. But now they assault through, and that's not something they used to do," said U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Alejandro Jasso, platoon sergeant,

2nd Platoon, Company B, 3rd CEB. "They're learning quite a bit."

The New Zealand Army left for Camp Pendleton after the completion of the three-day exercise Saturday to continue their training with 1st CEB Marines. They will be learning to use heavy equipment and familiarizing themselves with more Marine Corps equipment and procedures.

"This has been an opportunity for us to operate in a different operational environment and use the skills and the experiences of the U.S. Marines to enhance our training and improve our own knowledge," Rothery said.

CORPORALS, from A1

"Leading Marines" DEP may also enroll in the program.

The DEP option for Corporals Course consists of 24 lessons within seven subcategories and includes operations, offensive operations, combat orders, defensive operations, land navigation, Marine NCO and leadership techniques and tools.

The online course is comprised of 30 hours of work, which includes study time, completing exercises and end-of-course exams. After each of the seven courses with the Corporals Course DEP, Marines will need to take an end-of-course exam, proctored by a staff sergeant or higher.

There are differences in command-sponsored and distance education options. There are things that just can't be done in distance education. Practical application and hands-on learning isn't available in DEP.

The DEP is designed to provide corporals additional knowledge and skills necessary to become successful small-unit leaders using authentic problem-based situations that a Marine corporal will encounter. It also places an emphasis on leadership and warfighting.

Corporals looking to attend a command-sponsored course will have to go through their individual command and find out the next available slot for a class. Marines looking to sign up for the DEP version can log onto <http://www.marinenet.com.usmc.mil> and look up the course ID EPME4000AA.

For more information visit http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cdet/corporals_course.asp or contact the MarineNet help desk.

BOND, from A1

know each other," said Pfc. Victor Fotu, combat engineer, 3rd CEB. "We talk about what we do in the military, what we do as Marines. They tell us what they do."

During chow, they traded items in their Meals, Ready-to-Eat packages as they talked about shared interests, movies, games or sports.

It was a mirror image of the basic construct that makes up what all Marines do during their downtime in the field. Wait, talk, eat and wait some more.

Just like the Marines, Kiwis had their 'gym rats,' gamers, bar hoppers, and of course, the "boots."

The men even shared similar mannerisms. The group of Kiwi soldiers seemed interchangeable with most regular units in the Corps.

"It's been quite fun," said New Zealand Army Sapper Nicholas Scott, combat engineer, 2nd Field Squadron, 2nd Engineers Regiment, New Zealand Army. "There's been some stuff that's different between us and the Marines, but then there was a lot that was exactly the same."

Similarities between the cultures extended beyond the military.

"They were showing us some of the music they listen to," Fotu said. "The music we listen to, they listen to, too."

They talked about movies they had seen here and there. The Marines asked about the filming of the "Lord of the Rings" series in New Zealand. The Kiwis talked about "Forest Gump," even quoting a few lines in the slow iconic drawl of the famous character. That led them to their next

topic of discussion.

When the Marines grew comfortable around the soldiers, they playfully joked about their unfamiliar accents. The Kiwis' responses was that the Marines were actually the ones with funny accents.

The Kiwis went so far as to fake an American accent, which they pulled off pretty well.

The Marines dared to mimic the New Zealand accent, but without much of the same success.

"Every time someone tries to do a New Zealand accent, they end up sounding like an Aussie," said New Zealand Army Sapper Bryce Luckin, combat engineer, 2nd Field Squadron, 2nd Engineers Regiment, New Zealand Army, laughing.

The Marines' newfound friendships with the Kiwis surpassed their time together in the field. Outside of training, the Kiwis spent much of their time with Marines, being shown around the Twentynine Palms area, hanging out at the barracks playing games or watching movies together.

During a liberty period, some of the Marines even took some of the soldiers to Las Vegas for a memorable day before the group left the Combat Center.

After nearly three weeks at the Combat Center, the Kiwis packed up and headed for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for the next phase of their training. There, they will train with 1st CEB Marines.

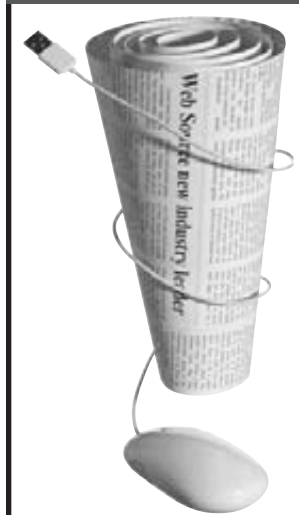
"We're going to continue to go to Camp Pendleton and continue meeting Marines and building those relationships," Scott said.



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines with 3rd CEB work with New Zealand Army soldiers for a counterinsurgency exercise June 20 at the Combined Arms Military Operations on Urban Terrain town at Range 220A. The allies worked together at the Combat Center for the first time in 27 years.

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WeekINPhotos

Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Malaysia 2012



NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JESSICA BIDWELL



NAVY CHIEF AARON GLOVER

[Top, left] Marines and Malaysian soldiers conduct an ambush exercise in Beraus, Malaysia during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Malaysia 2012. CARAT is a series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Navy and the armed forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Timor Leste joined the exercise for the first time in 2012.

[Top, right] Marines and Malaysians conduct an ambush exercise in Beraus, Malaysia.

[Right] Navy Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Stephen B. Andrews, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit, provides training for EOD X-ray equipment to members of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency during demolition materials, procedures and unexploded ordnance training in Lumut, Malaysia.



NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS GREGORY A. HARDEN

MOVING FORWARD

■ First Lady Michelle Obama supports 'Military Family Licensing Act,' easier for military spouses to find work

Lisa Daniel and Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Continuing her efforts to ease employment challenges from duty-related moves, First Lady Michelle Obama joined Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn in Chicago June 26, as the state became the 23rd to facilitate the transfer of military spouses' professional licenses.

Obama joined Quinn at the Illinois National Guard Armory, where the governor signed the "Military Family Licensing Act" into law.

Military spouses are the "folks who are giving their heart and soul to this country every single day," Obama said. "Every time our country asks them to pick up their families and move across the country at a moment's notice, they do it and they do it with pride."

The first lady also reminded spectators that homefront duties remain — and increase — for working military spouses while their uniformed husbands or wives serve overseas for months or years on end.

"On top of all that, they are some of the best volunteers in their communities," Obama said. "They still find time to participate on the [Parent-Teacher Association], in their parish council, to support the Little League and the Girl Scouts. So we owe it to these individuals to get this licensing issue right."

The first lady said she intends to renew the call to action for all U.S. states to facilitate license transfers for military spouses. "This is an eminently solvable problem," she added.

Getting states to ease the transfer of professional licenses for military spouses is a key issue for the "Joining Forces" campaign Obama started last year with Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden. They've set a goal of having all 50 states ease the burden of accepting military spouses' out-of-state licenses by 2014.

In states without the eased restrictions, military spouses spend too much time compiling and transferring documents and being retested, and many decide it's too much trouble, Marcus Beauregard, the Defense Department's state liaison chief, told American Forces Press Service in a June 22 interview. "We started looking at how to truncate that time," he said.

States require licenses for those in virtually every medical occupation, as well as teaching, social work, cosmetology and other fields, and the requirements vary from state to state, Beauregard said. Of working military spouses, one-

"Every time our country asks them to pick up their families and move across the country at a moment's notice, they do it and they do it with pride."

—First Lady Michelle Obama

third work in fields that require licenses, and most of those are medical, he said.

To ease the burden, some new state laws allow military spouses to transfer an out-of-state license with an endorsement of the office that issued it, Beauregard said, while others will accept the licenses with documents that validate the license or the holder's clean business record, and other states issue temporary licenses for spouses to do business.

"We don't ask them to lower any standards," he said.



LAWRENCE JACKSON

First Lady Michelle Obama holds the "Military Family Licensing Act," which will help military spouses and veterans transfer their professional licenses to Illinois more easily, during a signing ceremony in Chicago, June 26. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, to the right of the First Lady, signed the act.

"We just ask them to encompass military spouses in licensure more quickly."

Teachers, generally, must go through a different process through each state's Board of Education, Beauregard said. Attorneys also have not been part of the legislative effort, as their licenses must be approved by each state's Bar Association. Last year, spouses in the legal profession created The Military Spouse JD Network, which lobbies the American Bar Association and state Bars to make attorney licenses more portable for military spouses, officials with the network said.

Military spouses whose work requires a license should prepare well ahead of a move by having a copy of their current license, as well as any documents needed to show the license is in good standing, Beauregard said.

"They need to be prepared for that transition, and hopefully, we will have the processes in place now to make it happen more quickly," he added.

While processes vary from state to state, Beauregard said, license approvals usually happen in the state's division of occupational licensing, as part of a consumer protection office, or a state board of health or education.

Since its launch, the Joining Forces initiative has helped significant numbers of military spouses and veterans alike, the first lady said today in Chicago.

"I want all of our military families to know that America does have your backs," she said. "It is really a country that appreciates and cares about your service. Whether it's fixing this licensing issue, or helping you find a job, or making sure that you and your family have the health care and benefits you've earned, we are working hard every day to serve you as well as you have served this country."

Warrior Games

Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta, left, congratulates U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Ronald Sullivan at the 2012 Warrior Games recognition ceremony in the Pentagon center courtyard June 25, in Arlington, Va. Sullivan is stationed with Wounded Warrior Battalion East at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.



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Lifelong Learning Photos by Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi

Summer reading program kicks off with arts, crafts at library



[Left] Kylin Brunick, 9, daughter of Sgt. Mark Brunick, engineer equipment mechanic, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, paints a pot with her friend Nia Davidson, 9, during the Summer Reading Program at the Lifelong Learning Library June 22. The theme of this year's program is "Reading Is So Delicious," promoting kids eating right with a healthy diet.

[Bottom, left] Children color pictures and clay pots during a Summer Reading Program session at the Combat Center's LifeLong Learning Library June 22.

[Bottom, right] Sarah Shouse, 2, daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Lee Shouse, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, sits at a table in the Lifelong Learning Library ready to start her project for the Summer Reading Program June 22.





Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. D.J. Wu



MMA

RATTLING THE CAGE

Pros face off, Marine vet takes belt

“It means a lot to me that I’m fighting in front of brothers. The Marines are a big reason why I fight. I fight for all my friends who never made it home.”

– Shane Kruchten

Combat Center personnel were treated with a show of live fights June 22, including a main event where a Marine veteran took on an Army veteran during Mixed Martial Arts Fight Night 3 at Felix Field.

Hundreds of attendees witnessed nine MMA matches filled with blood, sweat and tears.

The fights were brought to the base by the Xplode Fight Series, which showcased the fighters’ skills and athleticism.

“It’s an honor to have our fighters here and to give the troops a show,” said Gregg Sharp, CEO, A2M Entertainment. “We brought out the best fighters for this event because the Marines deserve it.”

Eighteen fighters came to show their prowess in the octagon, which was built on top of Felix Field.

The competitors did not disappoint hardcore fans of MMA.

The fighters brought their A-game, giving the audience a series of intense matches back-to-back. The crowds cheered after every strike and blow. Many of the bouts ended in a knock-out or the referee calling the match.

“It’s a great opportunity for us,” Sharp said. “It gets us out of a commercialized setting, and bringing the fights out to the troops is a good thing for us.”

Two of the fighters were service-disabled veterans fighting in the Main Event for the Xplode Fight Series Featherweight title belt.

Shane Kruchten, a Marine combat veteran, challenged Jason Micnuc, Army combat veteran, for the title.

“I’d never thought I’d be back here fighting and have a 14-foot poster of me at the front gate,” said Kruchten, a Oshkosh, Wis., native. “The last time I was training here was for my work up for Iraq in 2004.”

Kruchten served with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was medically separated in 2005.

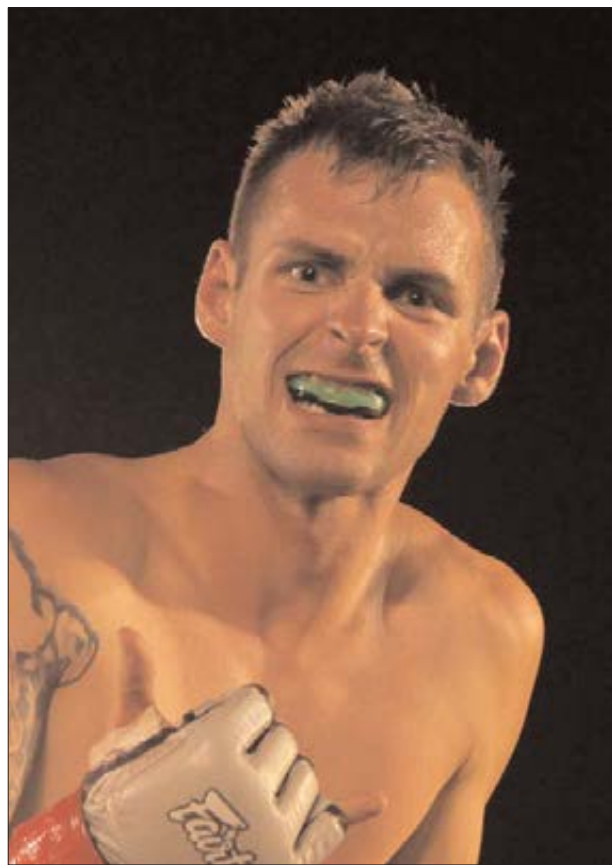
Many of the fighters thanked everyone for coming and they placed great emphasis on thanking the Marines for their sacrifice protecting this country.

Fans cheered loudly when the announcer introduced Kruchten as a Marine. Kruchten dedicated his fight to the Marines and to those who had given their lives in combat.

“It means a lot to me that I’m fighting in front of brothers,” Kruchten said. “The Marines are a big reason why I fight. I fight for all my friends who never made it home.”

Kruchten donated his winnings to charities that help wounded and disabled veterans.

The crowds cheered Kruchten on as his match that went the distance with three rounds. Punch after punch, takedown after takedown, the Marines willed Kruchten on. After the final bell, the judges’ scorecards were in and Felix Field erupted when Kruchten was announced the winner.



[Top] Jason Micnuc, Mixed Martial Arts fighter, ramps up the crowd after his match at MMA Fight Night 3 at Felix Field June 22. Micnuc, a service-disabled Army veteran, lost to Shane Kruchten, a Marine disabled veteran, in a unanimous decision by the judges.

[Bottom] Hundreds of MMA fans from the Combat Center community came out to Felix Field for MMA Fight Night 3. The event featured nine matches of intense MMA action. The main event pitted a service-disabled veteran from the Army against one from the Marine Corps.



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

Seussical The Musical

When: Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 29- July 28
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.

3 Chord Justice

2010 winner of the Viejas/ KSON Big Country Showdown.
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 30
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown, Calif.
For more information, call 365-5956.

Lower Desert

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>.

Montgomery Gentry

Country duo evokes sound and spirit of Southern rock.
When: 8 p.m., Sunday July 8
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Al Green

Legendary soul music singer performs.
When: 8 p.m., Friday, July 20
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Adam Lambert

Former American Idol contestant performs.
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 21
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, June 29

6 p.m. - The Avengers, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - Think like a Man, Rated PG-13
Midnight - Battleship, Rated PG-13

Saturday, June 30

10:30 a.m. - Free Matinee Megamind, Rated PG
12:30 p.m. - Dark Shadows, Rated PG-13
3 p.m. - The Avengers 3D, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. - Battleship, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - Safe, Rated R
Midnight - The Raven, Rated R

Sunday, July 1

12:30 p.m. - Dark Shadows, Rated PG-13
3 p.m. - What to Expect When You're Expecting, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. - The Avengers 3D, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - The Dictator, Rated R

Monday, July 2

7 p.m. - The Raven, Rated R

Tuesday, July 3

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

Wednesday, July 4

2 p.m. - The Avengers, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. - Battleship, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - Safe, Rated PG-13

Thursday, July 5

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

High-spirited, all-star musical is full of hair-band tunes from the '80s



COURTESY PHOTO

Based on the Broadway hit about the rambunctious rock 'n' roll scene of the Sunset Strip in 1987, the movie is wall to wall with tunes originally performed by Def Leppard, Foreigner, Guns N' Roses, Twisted Sister, Bon Jovi and other groups from a time when MTV rumbled with hair-band thunder.

NEIL POND

"Rock of Ages"

Starring Tom Cruise, Julianne Hough & Alec Baldwin
Directed by Adam Shankman
123 min., PG-13

"Rock of Ages" wastes no time in cueing the audience it's a musical set in the 1980s.

Just seconds after its central character, doe-eyed innocent Sherrie (Julianne Hough), steps onto the bus in the opening scene that will take her from the sleepy Midwest to the hustle and bustle of Hollywood, it busts out with a sprawling medley of Night Ranger's "Sister Christian," David Lee Roth's "Just Like Paradise" and Poison's "Nothin' But a Good Time."

Based on the Broadway hit about the rambunctious rock 'n' roll scene of the Sunset Strip in 1987, the movie is wall to wall with tunes originally performed by Def Leppard,

Foreigner, Guns N' Roses, Twisted Sister, Bon Jovi and other groups from a time when MTV rumbled with hair-band thunder.

Director Adam Shankman steers the ship with the same sense of singing, dancing playfulness and melodrama he also brought to the TV series "Glee" and the 2007 movie version of "Hairspray." It's a big, showy and over the top with highs, lows, laughs and some truly fist-pumping performances from a diverse cast of familiar actors, most of them in roles requiring some serious belting and hoofing--this is, after all, a musical originally made for the wide-open spaces of the stage.

On the tip-top of the star stack is one of the biggest movie stars in the world, Tom Cruise. His gonzo portrayal of rock god Stacee Jaxx, the tattooed, serpentine, sex-oozing superstar around which the story revolves, is jaw dropping. Chiseled into a shape that would shame many actors half

his age, Cruise throws himself into the role, bejeweled devil-faced codpiece, revealing leather chaps, pistol-totin'-baboon-sidekick and all. And when he spews out "Pour Some Sugar On Me," it's one riotously ripe slice of prime-cut, primo rock opera.

Mr. Mission Impossible will get most of the buzz, but there are plenty of other props to spread around. Alec Baldwin is a big-haired hoot as the proprietor of the rock nightclub where all the action goes down. British comedian Russell Brand plays his right-hand man, and together they provide much of the movie's comedic punch--and one of its biggest surprises.

Hough, a veteran of TV's "Dancing With the Stars" and the star of last year's "Footloose," sings her heart out. Catherine Zeta-Jones sassily throws down the gauntlet as a zealous anti-rock crusader. Newcomer Diego Bonita plays a busboy with big dreams, and Paul Giamatti is a

hardball manager who cares more about the money than the music.

Grammy-winning artist Mary J. Blige makes a late entrance but leaves a lasting vocal impression as the tough-cookie proprietress of a gentleman's club who becomes a mentor to Sherrie. Watch closely for cameos by real-life '80 singer Debbie Gibson, Sebastian Bach of Skid Row and Kevin Cronin of REO Speedwagon.

Purists may quibble that not all the songs featured were from 1987, or were from bands that never actually made the L.A. scene, or that so-and-so's big hit was left out. But you know what? So what? "Rock of Ages" celebrates youthful passion, cultural rebellion and changing times with an energy, enthusiasm and head-banging fun that's downright contagious.

So to quote one of its nearly 40 songs, come on -- feel the noise!

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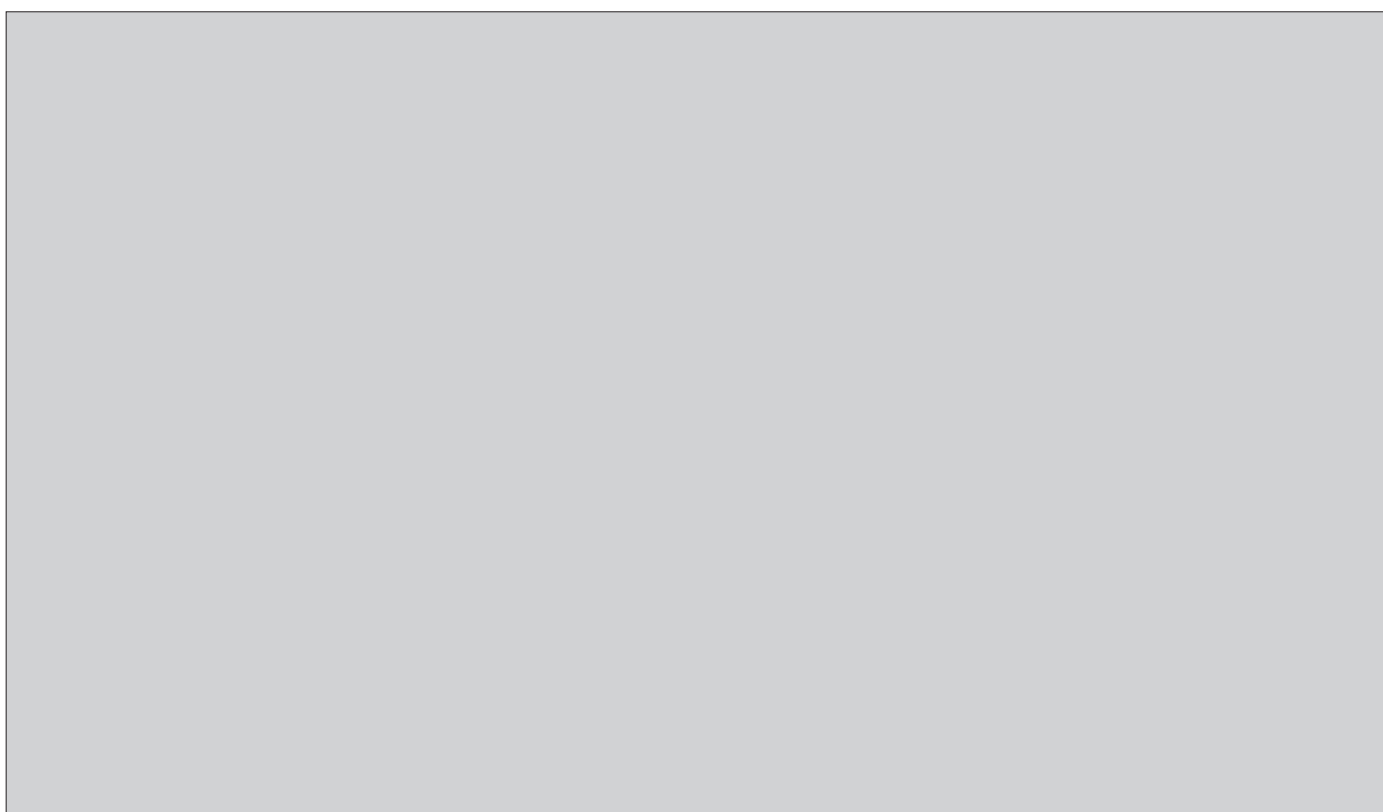
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The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>



Futbol Fanatics



[Left] HQBN forward Chad Gerlach attempts to keep possession of the ball shortly before it goes out of bounds during a game against Naval Hospital Code Blue Tuesday at Felix Field. HQBN beat Code Blue 6-1.

[Bottom, left] HQBN forward Horacio Vieyra traps the ball with his chest during a game against Naval Hospital Code Blue Tuesday at Felix Field.

[Bottom, center] Naval Hospital Code Blue midfielder Bianca Valverde passes the ball up the field to her teammates during a game against HQBN Tuesday, at Felix Field.

[Bottom, right] Naval Hospital Code Blue defender Jennie Pyle jumps over Chad Gerlach's leg to win possession of the ball during a game at Felix Field Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY CPL. SARAH DIETZ

