



# OBSERVATION POST



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Since 1957

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# 60 YEARS

The Combat Center's legacy



The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center has come a long way since it was first established 60 years ago. It has grown from a simple Army glider school to the Marine Corps' premier training venue and has hit many milestones along the way.

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

On Aug. 24, the Combat Center will celebrate its 60th anniversary. For more than half a century the Combat Center has earned its reputation as the Marine Corps' foremost training facility.

According to a commemorative letter by Commanding General Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr., "The anniversary celebration serves as a salute to six decades of selfless service by tens of thousands of sun-leathered Leathernecks who have played a role in writing the rich history of this 'crown jewel' of our Corps."

In November 1941, the Army Air Corps established a glider training school on dry lake beds north of Twentynine Palms, Calif. The Camp Detachment Marine Corps Training Center made its start at the Army-built training area, formerly known as Condor Field.

In 1952, Base Headquarters at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., issued Post Order 343. The order made 930 square miles of the Mojave Desert into Camp Detachment Marine Corps Training Center, under Camp Pendleton's command. The Combat Center would not become its own independent command until a few years later.

The operational requirements of World War II led to the establishment of the Corps' new training center. The Marine Corps had quickly outgrown the training areas at Camp Pendleton. The desert was full of training potential.

The Training Center was known as the Marine Corps' largest training base and still is today.

The Combat Center's large training area enables the Marine Corps to conduct live-fire training including long-range artillery operations. The Combat Center is the only installation that can accommodate the Corps' large-scale combined-arms live-fire exercises.

In February 1957, the Training Center became its own command, independent from Camp Pendleton. It was re-designated as Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Many changes and advancements would happen in the 1960s for MCB Twentynine Palms. Two Light Anti-Armor Missile battalions began to call Twentynine Palms home. These additions made the base one of four places in the country to be able to host surface-to-air missile training.

In 1964, Marines and sailors with Twentynine Palms tenant units deployed to combat in Vietnam. The first of many deployments to come.

On Nov. 22, 1963, Headquarters Marine Corps planned to move the Communication-Electronics School Battalion from Marine Corps Recruiting Station San Diego, to Twentynine Palms. In the fall of 1967, "C&E School" graduated its first class of 400 Marines.

History was made Aug. 20, 1965 when Cpl. Ida Buchman became MCB Twentynine Palms' first female Marine. At that time female Marines could only be stationed here if accompanied their by Marine spouse or if they were married to a retired Marine that lived here.

The Vietnam War came to an end in the 1970s. Gen. Louis H. Wilson, 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps expanded the base's mission to include training of all tactical units in the Marine Corps. Construction of the Expeditionary Air Field was completed and plans were formed for the Tactical Exercise Control Center.



The command's name changed again in October 1978 to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center after the completion of the Expeditionary Airfield. The name would change again a few months later in February 1979 to its present Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

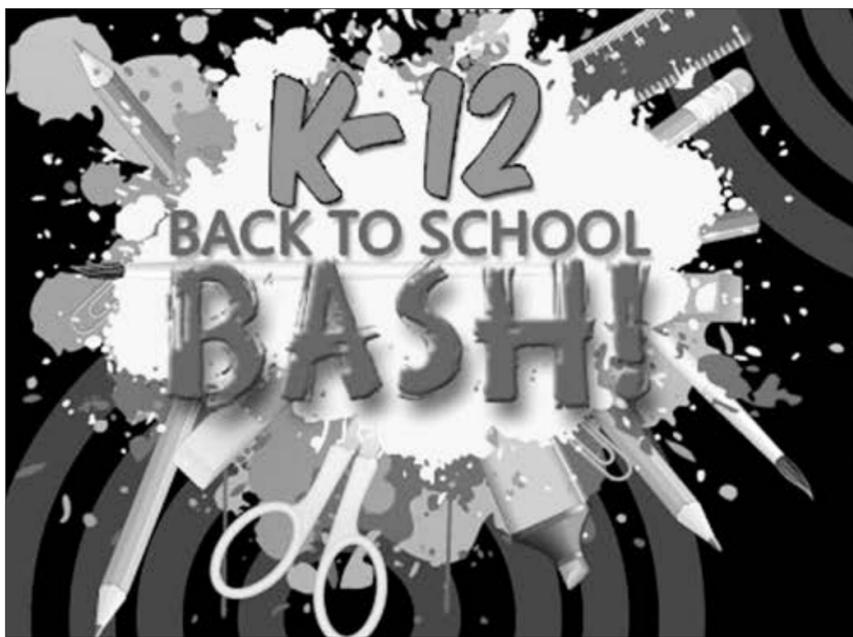
The 1980s brought even more Marines to the Combat Center. Units including Light Assault Vehicle Battalion and battalions from 11th Marine Regiment started calling the Combat Center home.

As environmentalism gained importance in the 1990s, the Combat Center established conservation programs. The installation built a solid reputation within the Corps and community. The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs directorate was stood up in 1992. They kept the Combat Center on the forefront of environmental policies.

7th Marine Regiment came to the desert in the 1990s. Shortly after the arrival of the "Magnificent Seventh," another conflict arose, known as Operation Desert Shield.

"I was the first sergeant for Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, during the transition," said Ron Genet, deputy director for the Center's community plans liaison office and retired sergeant major. "We just started our training cycle at the (Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport) when Saddam attacked Kuwait. We came straight back down and started getting ready."

The training priorities of the Combat Center shifted at that time from Combined Arms Exercise training to preparing units for duty in the Persian Gulf.



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  - 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.

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

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

### SUDOKU #2627-M

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## What is the 'Deadly Quartet?'

Facts you need to know about the four chronic conditions

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

You may have heard of musical quartets, some of them famous singing groups, but did you know one particular quartet can be harmful to your health?

It's known as the "four chronic conditions"—or the Deadly Quartet. And when this group of health issues comes together, the last thing you'll hear is music.

#### High Blood Pressure

The first member of the Deadly Quartet is high blood pressure, also known as hypertension. If left untreated, high blood pressure can cause a stroke or heart disease. Strokes may lead to many other problems, including being paralyzed. And heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the U.S. High blood pressure often has no symptoms and should be checked yearly at your routine doctor visits.

#### High Cholesterol

The second member is high cholesterol. This condition, which may not trigger symptoms right away, increases "plaque" buildup in your arteries, especially in the heart. This buildup can cause a heart attack; it's also a major risk factor for heart disease. You can learn what your cholesterol numbers are through a simple blood test.

#### Obesity

Next up is obesity. This bad boy will sneak up on you, tricking your mind into thinking your clothes are shrinking. However, a combination of unhealthy eating habits and lack of exercise

are usually the real causes. Obesity will strain your heart, joints and bones, and can cause other diseases common in adults, such as diabetes.

Obesity has become very widespread in children, too. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity now affects 17 percent of all U.S. kids and teenagers. In addition, childhood obesity often carries into adulthood, causing high blood pressure, arthritis, sleep apnea and low self-esteem, among other problems.

#### Diabetes

The last member in the Deadly Quartet is diabetes—a major result of obesity. Diabetes is a disorder that causes your body to produce an inadequate amount of insulin. It can affect your heart and blood vessels, causing a decrease in blood flow and eventually the loss of a lower extremity ... even your eyesight.

#### Avoid the Deadly Quartet

Here's the good news: some simple lifestyle changes could help prevent—and even reverse—any of these conditions. Here are some changes to consider:

- Eating more fruits and vegetables
- Consuming smaller portions (a single serving of meat is about the size of your palm, for example)
- Eating more lean meats, such as chicken and fish
- Increasing regular physical activity (even just 30 minutes of walking a day, about four or five days per week, can make a huge difference)

For more tips on living a healthy life, visit [TriWest.com/HealthyLiving](http://TriWest.com/HealthyLiving).

### THE SPECTRUM

See answers on page A4

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65							66			67			

#### ACROSS

- Gondola's place
- Chuckleheads
- Team that last won a World Series in 1908
- Rust, for one
- Jacob's twin
- Home to many Russians
- What total opposites have
- Dummy's perch
- Western treaty gp.
- Pants-?presser's creation
- Auxiliary track
- Double-?decker section
- Director's call
- Snookums
- Twenties suppliers
- Work too hard
- Slap inducer, perhaps
- NASA affirmative
- What a sneak may have

#### DOWN

- Knock on the noggin
- Impulse conductor
- Time for Nick?
- Like a Post-?t
- Oahu souvenir
- Popeye creator Elzie
- Buyer's caution
- Flying Peter
- Short-?winded
- Funt's gear
- West point sch.
- Life stories, briefly
- Having all one's marbles
- Gerund, e.g.
- Bonanza stuff
- Erato is their Muse
- Ice grabbers
- Warn, so to speak
- Bay city
- Gate part
- Quarter back?
- Web surfer's need
- Timetables, briefly
- Bomb of a Ford
- Aspiring one
- Santa's landing spot
- Cat's stomach accumulation
- Brought up
- Hong Kong's Hang \_\_\_ Index
- Porker's place
- Kemo Sabe's sidekick
- Gets hard
- Devil's doings
- Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- Mile's equivalent?
- Wide-?eyed
- Lacoste of tennis
- Chi. Cub or Atl. Brave
- Roy G. Biv element
- Call to Bo Peep

### OBSERVATION POST

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## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

## THE OLD SCHOOLER



> **Twelfth of August 1954.** We had a few other units that were here when we got here but the base was mostly artillery.

> **When I came here** I was with 8 inch battery, I was a master sergeant. It was very primitive.

> **The grinders here** in those days were all dirt. You weren't allowed to park on the grinders.

> **There wasn't anything on them at all.** That's where we did our close order drill, our inspections, and our sports events.

> **We had problems with the heating;** we had problems with the air. Everything was ironing itself out.

> **We had no** place for sports.

> **Liberty was almost** unheard of because there was no transportation out of here. Marines in those days didn't have cars.

> **Arrangements were made** with the bus company to come aboard on Friday afternoon and take them to the bus depot in Los Angeles.

> **They would just drop** them off with instructions to be there at a certain time to bring them back to the base.

> **That went on** for quite a while, and then usage kind of dwindled so they knocked it off. But things were starting to develop where we could keep the troops busy aboard.

> **We would have the** birthday balls in the theater; the chairs were removable in those days.

> **They would bring girls** in from Los Angeles in a bus, and they had a barracks set aside, guarded by MPs and the windows blacked out.

> **Once the girls** went in the ball, in the theater, they were not allowed to go out until they went home.

> **Down the line,** some of the Marines ended up marrying some of those girls.

> **I was single when I first** came here. When I married, we lived in town for a short while until I got my first electricity bill, and then we moved aboard the base. 2060 Lead Drive, Old Marine Palms.

> **She had friends** in Yucca Valley.

> **There was a place you could dance;** they met these girls in this dance place.

> **Only two of the Marines** went in, so there was an extra girl, which was Irma.

> **The gunny said,** "First Sergeant, you've got to meet this girl, she's a really pretty girl."

> **I said, "Well how old is she?"** He told me and I said that I don't know about that, because I was thirteen years her senior.

> **We went and I met her.** She said I was a smart you-know-what when I first met her, which I probably was. It developed and about three years later we married.

> **One thing about her,** she supported me everywhere I went, it didn't make any difference what I did.

> **She was content here.** She was born and raised in Southgate, so we weren't that far. Her mother was alive then so we could visit.

> **I retired from the base.** I chose to stay here; I was born and raised in a small country town in Texas. We knew everybody and everybody knew us.

> **That's why** I retired here, it's a very unassuming little town and we support everything that goes on within reason.

> **We are perfectly happy** here. We know or know of everyone in the town.

> **It's a very good feeling.** I'm honored that people remember me.

> **I'm one and these Marines** are many. I speak to them in formations and birthday balls and the last guy sitting in the back sees me, I don't see him.

> **He'll holler,** "Hi, Sergeant Major." I always stop and shake hands with him and sometimes I'll ask, "Where do you know me?"

> **I don't feel like an icon,** I don't even know what the word means.

> **I'm who I am,** what you see today, that's what you see tomorrow. I don't purport to be anything that I'm not.

> **I'm just proud that I'm honored** by so many people; I don't feel any different other than honored.

> **I get phone calls** from people I've never heard of. I don't know how they got ahold of me.

> **One night,** two o'clock my time in the morning, I got a call from Paris, Texas, that's not too far from where I was born. I don't know how she got my name but she said, "My brother just passed away. He wouldn't talk. We don't know anything about his background. Would you happen to know him?"

And I said, "What is his name?" She said Wayne W. Brisco. I said he was one of my truck drivers. And I told her about us getting sunk and some of the things that he did while we were in combat.

> **She was crying** at the end. I was so thankful that I could tell her something that she had been seeking.

> **It was the best duty station.** I requested it four times and got it each time. My monitor called me one time and said, "What in God's name are you doing requesting to stay in Twentynine Palms? I have to pay people to go there." I said, "Tell me a better place to shoot artillery and send me there."

> **The closeness** of the internal operation of the base; it's small internally, huge externally. You could go to the club and you see everybody you know.

> **When I went to Vietnam,** the wife stayed in quarters, I wanted to come back to Twentynine Palms because I was pushing 50 years of age and I was pushing 30 and the commandant's policy was whichever comes first, you go.

> **I reached** in and got my pencil and paper and said I want to go to Twentynine Palms. My family is there. I'm pushing 30 and 50 and if the commandant won't let me stay longer I've got to get out.

> **I did get permission** to go beyond 30. General Hoffman had never been here before. I told him, "You've never been here before, this is my fourth tour. I'm still useful, I can help the general."

> **I'd do it all over again.** I wouldn't change a thing in combat, I wouldn't change a thing what I did. It must have worked because I'm able to sit here and tell you about it.

## RAY WILBURN

Sergeant major (retired)  
93, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
DIANE DURDEN

**YEARS, from A1**

CAX became the predeployment training standard for the Corps until 2005, when Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom forced the Marine Corps to focus on counterinsurgency warfare. CAX changed to Mojave Viper, and shortly after, Enhanced Mojave Viper. EMV became the standard in pre-deployment training for Marine combat operations.

In the last two decades the Marine Corps has relied on the Combat Center for preparing Marines for deployments to expeditionary operations. The installation's unique ranges and training staff make it central in training and developing core Marine combat skills. "Things have changed so much since my time here," Genet said. "I've served with a few different units on this installation and the things that they do now are just bigger and better."

Recently, the Combat Center has made significant advancements. One major step was the construction of the Combined Arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain city known as CAMOUT, the Corps' largest urban warfare training range.

In 2010 the Combat Center furthered its environmental programs by partnering with the Mojave Desert Land Trust for the installation's first Readiness and Environmental Protection

Initiative project. Efforts like this one and those of the NREA contributed to the Combat Center winning two Secretary of the Navy Environmental Awards for Sustainability.

The Combat Center has mapped an exciting trajectory into the next decade that includes tremendous infrastructure growth throughout Mainside, according to Smith's letter. (It also includes) an ongoing initiative to acquire additional lands to support 21st Century MAGTF live-fire training requirements, and a DOD-leading effort to leverage renewable energy while continuing to serve as responsible stewards of the environment.

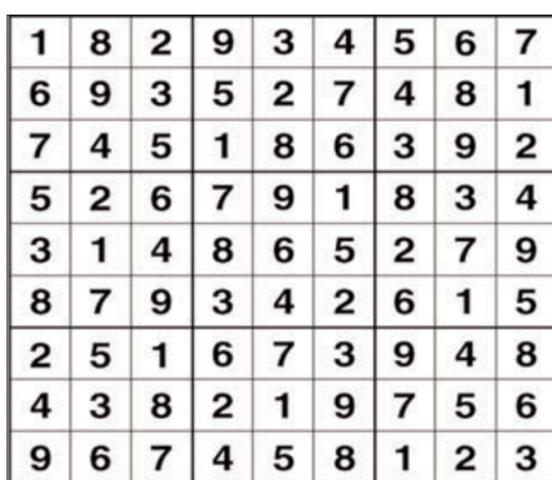
The additions of CAMOUT, the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group and the Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group have advanced the standardization of MAGTF operations.

The tactical training Marines conduct at the Combat Center continues to evolve along with Combat Center's role in ensuring Marine Corps readiness.

One constant remains, the all-important role the Combat Center will play in ensuring that our Corps remains the Nation's Expeditionary Force in Readiness with the core competency of being the most lethal combined-arms fighting force in the world. Our collective responsibility to our Corps and out Nation remains crystal clear.

*The all-important role the Combat Center will play in ensuring that our Corps remains the Nations Expeditionary Force in Readiness with the core competency of being the most lethal combined-arms fighting force in the world.*

— Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr.



# China Marines

## Pendleton's 1/4 leaders take on TSULC



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



STAFF SGT. DORIAN GARDNER



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

**[Above]** Lance Cpl. Luis Garces, rifleman, Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, kneels to the ground while conducting buddy rushes on Range 105, Aug. 14. Approximately 150 Marines visited the Combat Center from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., as part of the Tactical Small Unit Leaders Course.

**[Far, left]** Lance Cpl. Cosmo Peters, machine gunner, Co. A, 1/4, conducts buddy rushes on Range 105, during TSULC, Aug. 14

**[Left]** Lance Cpl. Thomas Overzet, rifleman, Co. A, 1/4, fires a round during a buddy rushing exercise at Range 105, during TSULC, Aug. 14.

# Piece of home

## ON DEPLOYMENT

### ■ MCCS offers cheap, easy way to ship care packages

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

**M**arine Corps Community Services provides a care package program to help Combat Center families send their deployed loved one a piece of home in a cost efficient way.

"We help deliver the care packages that friends and families want to send overseas," said Anisi Tuiioletai, general clerk, MCCS.

A care package can mean a lot to a deployed Marine. The packages they receive can boost their morale and make them feel better.

"It felt great getting a care package," said Cpl. Timothy McAnulty, cannon crewman, L Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. "Your spirits get lifted 100 percent when you get a care package."

Combat Center MCCS helps facilitate the process of sending care packages and provides the supplies at no charge.

"We give them all the packaging supplies that they need to ship their package," Tuiioletai said. "We supply the boxes, tape, labels and the customs forms they need."

Senders can bring in their own boxes to ship through the program, paying for the weight of their shipment or can use one of the program's flat rate boxes. As a bonus,

when someone spends more than \$10 sending a package, they get a \$10 coupon to use at the main exchange.

Packages are shipped on a daily basis. The program has its doors open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"People come in every day to send out care packages," Tuiioletai said. "I have regulars that come in at least once a week and sometimes they have more than a few boxes to send."

There are rules senders need to follow in order to send out packages.

"We tell them some of the things that they can't send," Tuiioletai said "You can't send propane or any kind of spray cans. Marines may ask, but cigarettes can't be sent over there either."

Package senders are encouraged to send books, snacks and baby wipes to their deployed Marines and sailors.

"People usually send things like canned food and lots of baby wipes. I always see a lot of those," Tuiioletai said. "They also send electronics sometimes. We show them how to write that

in the customs forms to send over."

There are things that those deployed looked for in their care packages.

"We're always looking for things like beef jerky, magazines, foot powder and seeds," McAnulty said. "The seeds are great. When we get a big bag we munch them for weeks on post. They keep us awake and keep us alive."

**Your spirits get lifted 100 percent when you get a care package."**

-Cpl. Timothy McAnulty

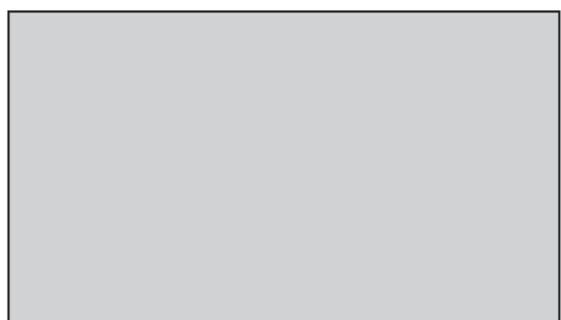
There is no limit to how much someone can send in the care package. The program encourages people to send their love in the form of a care package to their loved ones overseas.

"I've had people come in with more than ten boxes to ship and we'll help them out," Tuiioletai said.

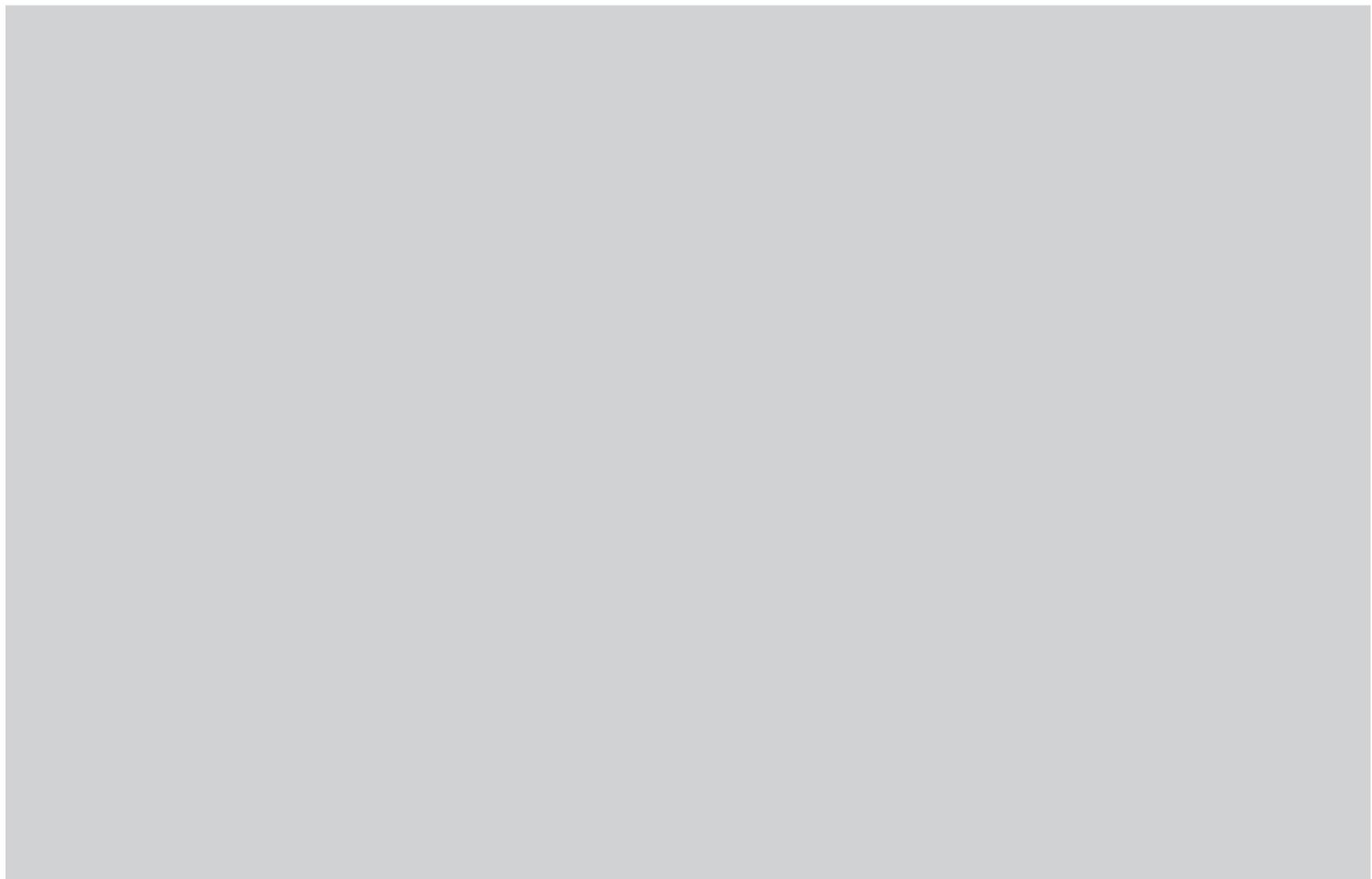
The program takes all the care packages to the post office daily to be sent out. Those sending care packages can drop them off to Anisi Tuiioletai at the MCCS Directorate reception desk in Building 1522. For more information call 830-6164.



 <p>Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter">http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter</a></p>	 <p>The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO">http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO</a></p>	 <p>The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <a href="http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter">http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter</a></p>
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**Looking for local entertainment?**  
See page B2 for our Liberty Call section





## ■ Marine Corps develops universal controller for unmanned systems

**Cpl. Chelsea Flowers Anderson**  
Defense Media Activity

Unmanned systems, which are on the rise in the Marine Corps, are designed to do the dull, dangerous and dirty. And now managing unmanned aircraft, vehicles and ground robots can all be done with one controller called the Tactical Robotic Controller.

“We had five different robots using five different controllers and five different battery types,” said Gunnery Sgt. Steven C. Sullivan, project officer with the ground combat element at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. “Now, we’re trying to standardize everything.”

For the past two years, personnel at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab have worked on the TRC, a fourth-generation prototype, to create the ideal controller for all unmanned assets.

“When this controller started out, it was literally a suitcase with joystick controllers, knobs and push buttons for every command,” Sullivan said. “Here at the Warfighting Lab, we broke it down into a controller that works not only on this system, but anybody who has any robot anywhere can come give us their data package, we can load it into this common controller and it can control the aircraft.”

The TRC prototype hasn’t just dramatically changed in size since its early days, it is now also much easier to use.

“We designed the controller to be as close to today’s operating systems—Xboxes, Gameboys,

iPhones and everything else—as we can get,” Sullivan said. “It doesn’t get any more complicated than that.”

The TRC features directional joysticks like those on any electronic gaming system controller as well as a touch-screen display. The controller pack can be worn on a Marine’s back for easy maneuverability. The display screen is able to show up to four camera views from the unmanned system or can opt for single viewpoint display.

With the creation of the TRC, units can now use the controller to manage all their unmanned assets with one simple system, although only one system can be controlled at a time.

“The TRC, which is eight pounds of hardware, can control close to 16 or 17 different unmanned assets from different vendors right now,” said Brent J. Azzarelli, Chief Robotics Engineer for USMC/USN Programs in Dahlgren, Va.

Although many of the new robots being developed by the Marine Corps as well as the TRC offer exciting possibilities for Marines worldwide, the systems still have a lot of certification and testing to go through.

“We’re going to get it to Marines as fast as we possibly can without jeopardizing anyone’s life,” Sullivan said. “Why give them a piece of equipment that’s going to fail them, especially when their lives depend on it?”

For now, personnel at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory are working hard to ensure Marines receive the best possible unmanned systems and controller to ensure Marines are protected from unnecessary harm.

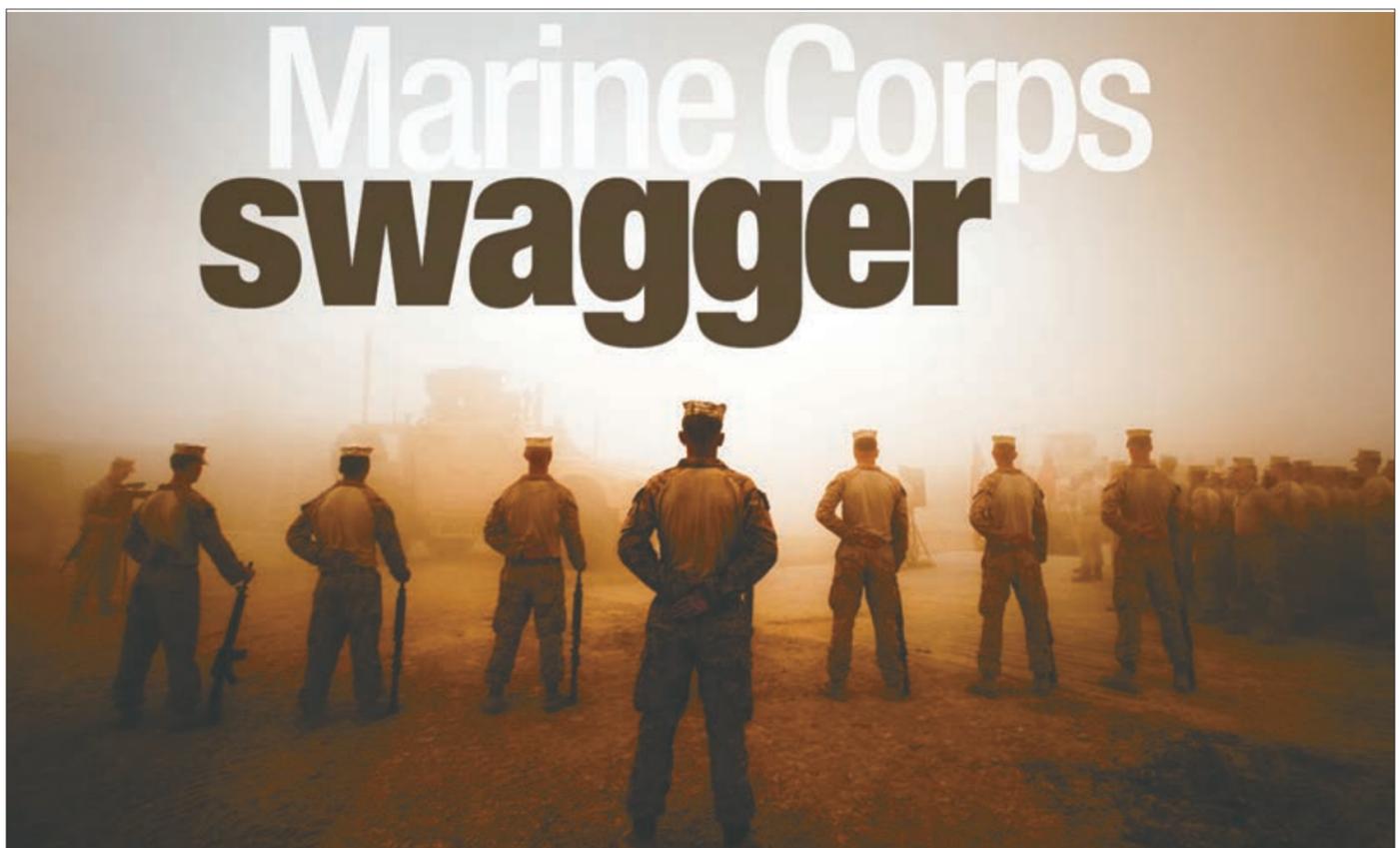


**CPL. CHELSEA FLOWERS ANDERSON**

Cpl. Aaron A. Martinez, logistics coordinator at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., controls the Modular Advanced Armed Robotics System with the Tactical Robotic Controller during a demonstration at MCB Quantico, Va. MAARS is one of over a dozen unmanned systems that the TRC is able to control.



Visit the official Marine Corps Air Ground  
Combat Center facebook page at  
<http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



Marines put a lot of stock in bearing. One of the 14 Marine Corps Leadership Traits is defined as: “The way you conduct or carry yourself. Your manner should reflect alertness, competence, confidence, and control.”

**Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Burke**  
Inspector-Instructor  
3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment

Personally, I prefer the word comportment but it’s the same thing. A civilian friend once described it as an air of “...not to be %&@#!\* with.” It’s not about giving off a bad-ass vibe, though. Any thug can be a tough guy. A Marine should be firm, courteous, tactful and leave you with the impression that if the wolf came knocking, he’d kick the wolf’s tail for you.

This seemingly small attribute can leave a lasting impression on those who

witness it in action.

I’m reminded of when I was standing post on embassy duty in Madrid, Spain. One evening after normal hours, an Air Force buddy who worked in the embassy mailroom stopped by Post One to ask about something. Post One is the main guard post at every American embassy where Marines provide security. It provides a very visible Marine presence to anyone entering or exiting the chancery.

It was after hours and almost everyone was gone, so I had relaxed somewhat from the pacing tiger posture I normally adopted while on duty to leaning casually on the window ledge. In

contrast this could best be described as a loose bag of laundry posture.

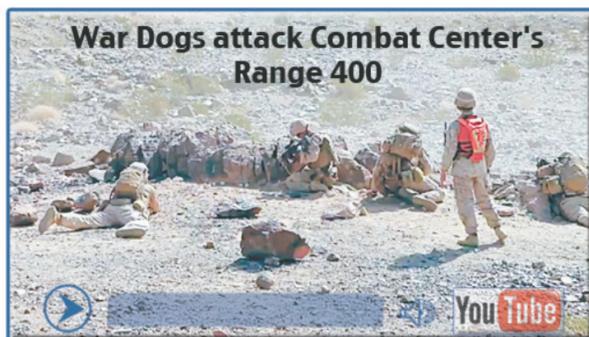
Out of the corner of my eye I could see the elevator doors. They suddenly opened and out came the Defense Attache Officer, a Navy captain. My instant transformation to the position of attention with crisp salute and proper greeting as the captain left for the day completely stunned the Air Force mail handler.

“Dude! How did you do that? You, like, totally uncoiled yourself in the blink of an eye!”

What to a Marine was a seemingly mundane event was a story this guy told for weeks afterward.

How do we teach it? I really don’t think there is an instruction manual on comportment, but institutionally the Marine Corps understands the importance of professional bearing. I always tell Marines if they look squared away then they probably are squared away. If they look like a sloppy bag of smashed buttocks then it is likely they are exactly that. Perception is indeed reality.

I’ve heard more than one story from a Marine who joined because they were sitting in the office of one of our sister services until they saw the Marine recruiter swagger past. Their unanimous response to this was: “Wow! I wanna be like that guy!”



One for the Corps



*At only 5 years old, Jorge Solis has dreamed of becoming a Marine for more than half his life.*

**Cpl. Jovane M. Henry**  
 Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

**J**orge Solis, who suffers from retinoblastoma, a rare type of eye cancer, got the chance to live his dream when the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Orange County and the Inland Empire partnered with Camp Pendleton to conduct a hands-on tour for he and his family, Aug. 10.

Dressed in a tan Marine Corps camouflage uniform complete with cover, backpack, tan boots and a blue button identifying him as a Make-A-Wish child, Solis looked the part when he arrived at the main gate in a

**“Jorge will remember this day for the rest of his life, and his smile today has transformed all our lives.”**  
 -Stephanie McCormick

white limousine with his parents and three brothers, who all wore Marine Corps t-shirts.

“This is a dream come true for Jorge, and we’re so glad to be here,” said Carmen Reyes, Jorge’s mother. “He’s loved the military since he was 2 years old, playing soldiers, yelling ‘move out, move out’ at his brothers, watching all the Rambo movies—it’s just in his blood.”

The Solis family was accompanied by several representatives from the Orange County and Inland Empire Make-A-Wish offices, including chief executive officer Stephanie McCormick, Solis’s wish coordinator Michelle Cuellar, and chairman of the board Michael Rapacz.

Solis’s first stop was the South Mesa Club, where he was greeted by Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations-West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Sgt. Maj. Derrick Christovale, Marine Corps Installations-West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton sergeant major.

During the meeting, Coglianese and Christovale presented Solis with a duffel bag of Marine Corps goodies, promoted him to general, and taught him how

to march and salute.

“I only have one order for you Jorge,” said Coglianese, saluting the new young general as the meeting ended. “Have a good time.”

“Yes, sir,” said Solis, saluting.

Throughout the day, Solis and his family participated in various activities across the base: riding amphibious assault vehicles, shooting rifles and pistols at the Individual Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, received a boxing lesson from instructors at the new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program dojo, eating lunch with Coglianese at the 24 Area chow hall, flying the helicopter simulator controlling an explosive ordnance disposal robot at the EOD Museum, taking photos in vintage military vehicles at the Mechanized Museum and watching a demo and petting the dogs at the K-9 kennels.

At every location he was saluted and presented coins, badges and other gifts from the Marines.

Seeing Solis’s wish granted touched not only the family, but the Marines he came into contact with throughout the day as well.

While waiting in line at the chow hall for a cheeseburger, he was approached by a Marine who offered him a handshake and his boot bands so he could blouse his boots.

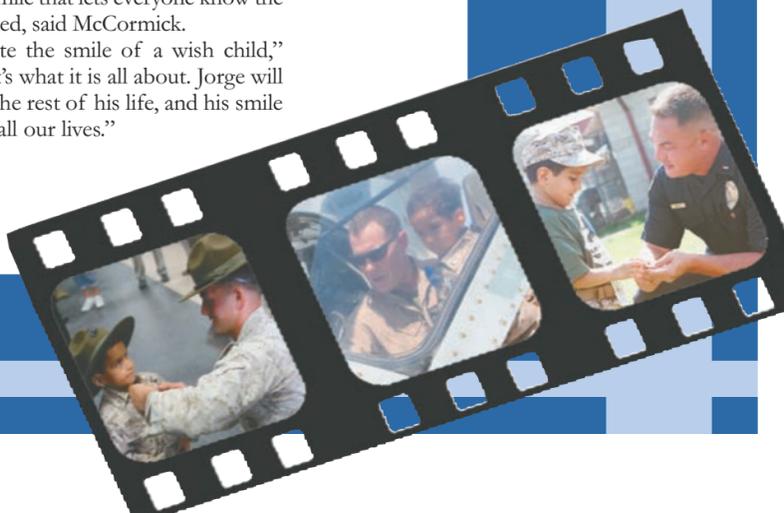
“He’s just a brave little guy, full of life and energy,” said Sgt. Daniel Mullis, a formal marksmanship training course instructor at the ISMT. “We really enjoyed having him here with us today.”

At the end of the day, Solis settled back into the limo with his family for the ride home, arms full of coins, stickers and t-shirts, an ear-to-ear smile still plastered across his face.

“I’ve had a lot of fun today,” said Solis. “I like playing Marines with my brothers, and we liked all the things we got to do.”

In the end, it is that smile that lets everyone know the mission was accomplished, said McCormick.

“Never underestimate the smile of a wish child,” said McCormick. “That’s what it is all about. Jorge will remember this day for the rest of his life, and his smile today has transformed all our lives.”





## 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

### Anne of Green Gables

When: Aug. 24 - Sept. 22  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
For tickets and information call 316-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

### Dana Falconberry

Vocalist visits Pioneertown  
When: 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 23  
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace  
53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown, Calif.  
For more information, call 365-5956.

### Free Line Dance Lessons

Learn to dance to traditional country music  
When: 5 - 9 p.m., every Sunday  
Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall  
50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley, Calif.  
For more information, call 363-3343.

## Lower Desert

### Anjelah Johnson

NFL cheerleader, actress and comedian performs  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday Aug. 25  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

### Kung Fu String Girls

Group combines martial arts and string instruments in performance  
When: 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

### B.B. King

King of Blues performs  
When: 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

### Ian Anderson

Professional flutist plays  
When: 9 p.m., Friday, October 19  
Where: Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa  
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

## Sunset Cinema

### Friday, August 17

6 p.m. - Amazing Spider Man, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - That's My Boy, Rated R  
Midnight - Ted, Rated R

### Saturday, August 18

10:30 a.m. - Free Matinee The Smurfs, Rated PG  
12:30 p.m. - Brave, Rated PG  
3 p.m. - Brave 3 3D, Rated PG  
6 p.m. - Rock of Ages, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Ted, Rated R  
Midnight - Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, Rated R

### Sunday, August 19

12:30 p.m. - People Like Us, Rated PG-13  
3 p.m. - Amazing Spider Man, Rated PG-13  
6 p.m. - Amazing Spider Man 3D, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. - Magic Mike, Rated R

### Monday, August 20

9 p.m. - That's My Boy, Rated R

### Tuesday, August 21

7 p.m. - Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D, Rated R

### Wednesday, August 22

Sesame Street Show 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

### Thursday, August 23

Sesame Street Show 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

# Ben Stiller's new comedy aims low...and repeatedly hits the target



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben Stiller stars as the coordinator of a motley neighborhood watch group, rounded out by Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and British comedian Richard Ayoade. Assembled in response to a gruesome murder the local cops seem (conveniently, for the story's sake) powerless to solve, the quartet of volunteer bumblers discovers their sleepy little Ohio hamlet is actually ground zero for a major extraterrestrial attack.

## NEIL POND

### "The Watch"

Starring Ben Stiller, Jonah Hill & Vince Vaughn  
Directed by Akiva Schaffer  
R, 102 min.

Four suburban citizen patrollers find themselves facing down an army of space aliens in "The Watch," a comedy that sounds funnier than it turns out to be.

Ben Stiller stars as the coordinator of a motley neighborhood watch group, rounded out by Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and British comedian Richard Ayoade. Assembled in response to a gruesome murder the local cops seem (conveniently, for the story's

sake) powerless to solve, the quartet of volunteer bumblers discovers their sleepy little Ohio hamlet is actually ground zero for a major extraterrestrial attack.

Of course, no one believes them—which makes their mission to thwart the invasion's advance party all the harder.

To say the movie has problems is an understatement. For starters, there's the title. It started out as "Neighborhood Watch," but that phrase became toxic in the aftermath of the shooting and killing of an unarmed Florida teen, Treyvon Martin, by a neighborhood watch organizer, George Zimmerman, in February.

So the word "neighbor-

hood" was dropped and the title became simply "The Watch."

But the stigma lingers—especially in a scene in which "the watch" apprehends a miscreant, egg-tossing teenager, roughs him up and verbally humiliates him before handing him over to the police. It's meant to be riotously funny, but the chuckles choke themselves out before rising into the laughs they were intended to become.

Much of the other jokes are equally miscalculated—a crude locker-room cocktail of crass bathroom humor, scatological riffing and boys-with-toys weapons revelry that often goes on WAY too long, far after any given gag should have run its natural course or found a punch line.

Just in case four guys trash-talking isn't entertaining enough, the filmmakers throw in a meandering subplot about one character's fertility woes, another loose thread about a rebellious teenage daughter and the dude who wants to get bed her, and a creepy next-door neighbor. Oh yeah, and there's also an orgy—with a definitely not-ready-for-prime-time cameo from "Saturday Night Live" star Andy Samberg.

The four main stars seem comfortable working together, so comfortable that Stiller, Vaughn and Hill all seem to fall lazily back into characters

that they've played in comedies many times before: Nobody's stretching out of their comfort zone, that's for sure. It's hard to tell just how much of the dialogue was improvised on the spot, but you get the impression a lot of it was spun on the fly.

You also get the impression that "The Watch" is one long, feature-length commercial for Costco. As the workplace of Stiller's character, the giant retail outlet is the stage for several extended scenes, including the explosive finale, its motto is incorporated into the script, and its products are everywhere. Talk about a marketing plug!

Anyone who's been to an R-rated comedy in the modern era pretty much knows what to expect from R-rated comedies these days, but this one merits a special notation. It's amazing how much thought, effort and creative energy "The Watch" works into its script about human—and space-alien—crotches.

Almost everyone associated with "The Watch" (including Seth Rogen, one of the writers, and the supporting cast, which includes "Mad Men" actress Rosemarie Dewitt, ex-military character actor R. Lee Ermey and "Saturday Night Live"'s Will Forte) has made better movies than this, a moronic comedy that aims low—but, for what little it's worth, repeatedly hits its target.



Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the

**Observation Post  
Classified section**

# WeekINPhotos

Global Bonds



CPL. MICHAEL PETERSHEIM



2ND LT. JOSHUA W. LARSON

Marines with Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, navigate an obstacle during a water obstacle course at Arta Beach in Djibouti, Aug. 11. Dozens of Marines from the 24th MEU took part in the course, which was hosted and supervised by members of the French 5th Marine Regiment. A contingent of the 24th MEU is currently ashore in Djibouti conducting various unilateral exercises and planning several events alongside the French military. The 24th MEU is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve and crisis response force throughout the U.S. Central and Africa Commands in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



CPL. MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

[Above, right] Cpl. Travis Bryant, front, and Cpl. John Kelley navigate an obstacle during a water obstacle course Aug. 11.

