



MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS OBSERVATION POST



September 21, 2012

Since 1957

Vol. 55 Issue 32

www.marines.mil/unit/29palms

CFC kicks off at MCAGCC

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

The Combined Federal Campaign had its kick-off event Sept. 13 with a breakfast held at the Combat Center's Officer's Club.

The Combat Center Commanding General, Brig. Gen. George W. Smith, set the example at the breakfast as the first Combat Center Marine to participate in the CFC this year.

The campaign is the only authorized solicitation of Federal employees in their workplaces on behalf of approved national, international and local charitable organizations.

"It's good because it gives everybody an opportunity to make a change and contribute," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Lawanda Hall, Manpower, staff noncommissioned officer in charge.

The yearly event gives service members an option of more than 2,700 charities to choose from, ranging from helping the unfortunate to funding in medical research, and provides a variety of options for payment.

"Our donations can help make a change. If everyone gives a little, it helps a lot."

— Master Gunnery Sgt. Lawnda Hall

Participants can choose between a one-time lump sum payment, cash or check, or they can choose to sign up for a payroll deduction for a monthly amount to be taken out of their paycheck from January 2013 to the following December.

"I've heard a lot about, 'We have the Ball coming up. We have Christmas coming up.' Yes we do, but when we encourage Marines to use payroll deductions it won't take affect till January," Hall said. "They can give as little as \$2 a month, whatever they desire."

Those who donate also have a choice to have that organization send them information about the organization and how the donation is used.

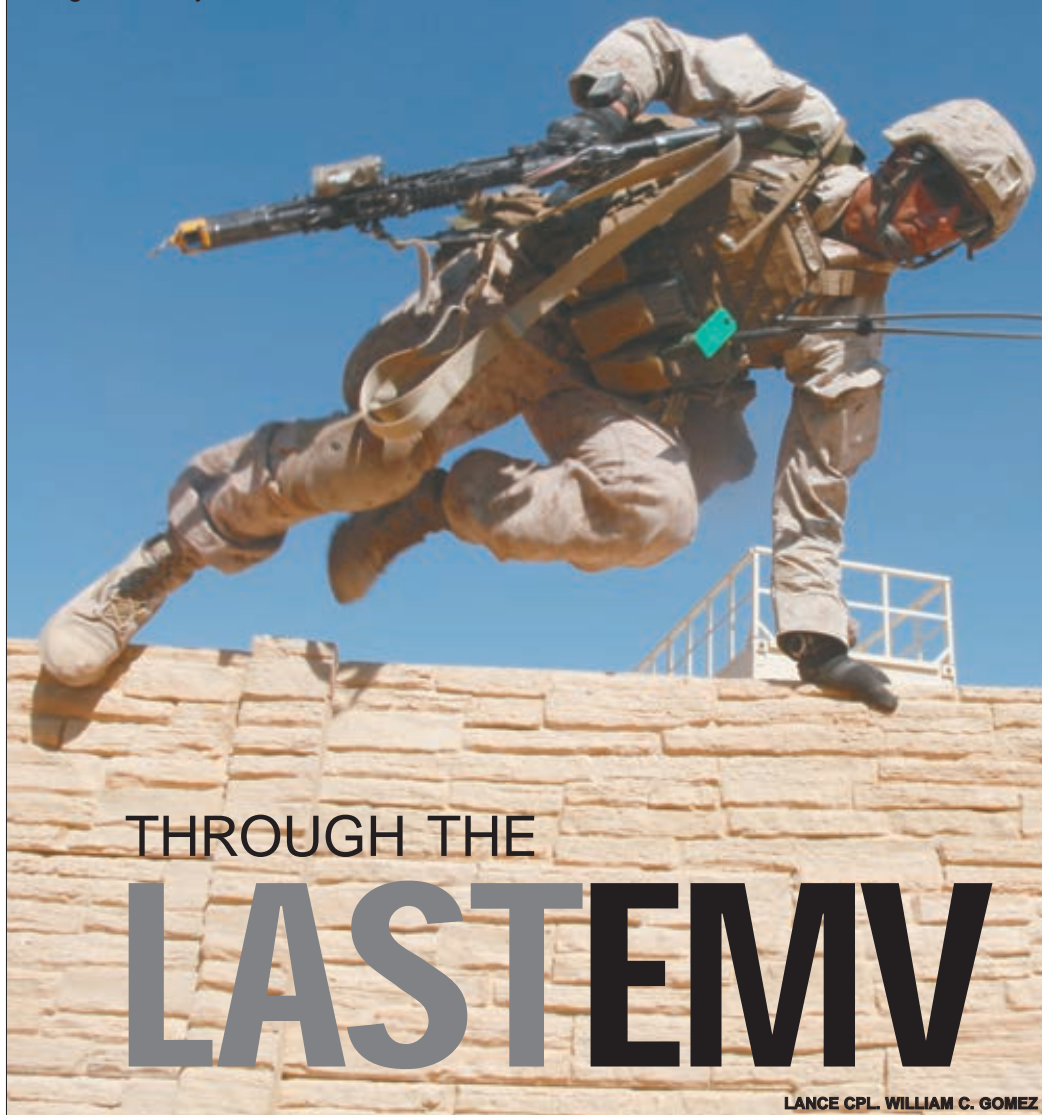
Last year, the Combat Center was able to raise more than \$200,000 for a variety of charities. This year, the bar has been set higher with a goal of \$500,000.

"Our donations can help make a change," Hall said. "If everyone gives a little it helps a lot."

To donate, Combat Center service members and employees can talk to their section's CFC representative. Representatives have been trained and familiarized with the CFC program and can help provide pledge cards, brochures and answer questions.

For more information visit <http://www.cvand29palmscfc.org>.

U.S. Marines with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, participate in a Key Leader Engagement lane during Enhanced Mojave Viper Range 220, July 19, 2011.



THROUGH THE
LAST EMV

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM C. GOMEZ

Corps changes deployment training

Since 2001, the Combat Center has provided comprehensive and collaborative training for combat operations in the Middle East. Training exercises have evolved from the Combined Arms Exercise to what is known today as Enhanced Mojave Viper.

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis
Combat Correspondent

As the demands of war have evolved, so has training. The Corps is taking a new step in training evolutions and predeployment preparation. The EMV training cycle is going away and the Integrated Training Exercise is taking its place.

ITX will consist of many of the same training objectives as EMV. The exercise will still focus on preparing Marines to fight and win in Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally, Marines will be trained to support general contingency operations for Unit Deployment Programs and Marine Expeditionary Units.

"It is essentially a melding of the (Marine Air-Ground Task Force)," said Col. Kip J. Haskell, commanding officer, Technical Training Exercise Control Group. "Consisting of 129 integrated events involving the (Ground Combat Element, Logistics Combat Element and Air Combat Element)."

MAGTF-Training Command initially planned, staffed and briefed the future training syllabus to concur with exercise design and training objectives. TTECG is currently completing the necessary requirements to build, publish and execute those mission-essential tasks contained in the

ITX exercise design, Haskell said.

As the requirements and missions for the Marine Corps changed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and OEF, so did the training requirements and support at the CAX, Revised CAX, Mojave Viper and EMV training evolutions.

CAX began in 1975 as a 23-day long exercise developed to train Marines in essential combat skills and allowed for both brigade and battalion-sized live-fire and maneuver exercises. During CAX, Marines were able to move on foot and mounted on vehicles through live-ordnance impact areas. Most air and ground weapons found commonly within the MAGTF were able to be employed as well. CAX not only prepared Marines for desert warfare, but other terrains as well.

In 2004, in preparation of OIF, RCAX was next in the training evolution. RCAX was known as a leaner and meaner CAX due to training being cut in half and tailored to suit the needs of the Iraq-bound warrior. It no longer consisted of typical large-scale battlefield scenarios. It was modeled to resemble the occupation mission in Iraq and less like a fast-moving invasion. Marine leaders said the maneuver training that was

See **ITEX** page A5

OPSEC

Guidelines to follow when protecting deployed Marines

Sgt. Heather Golden
Combat Correspondent

The emergence of the Internet and social media as the new information highways has made finding facts easier and faster than ever.

Google "operational security" and you'll find pages of official and unofficial references, tips for bloggers and people's opinions on what exactly counts as a violation.

What you won't find is an official, in-black-and-white, Department of Defense list of absolute do's and don'ts. It's simply a guidance, and it implies using common sense.

So how do we identify OPSEC violations? If it all boils down to common sense, who can make that final decision? And who can decide what information is releasable to the public? With all the risks, why do we need to release any information to the public?

Why release any information at all to the public?

That's a simple answer. The accepted public affairs philosophy is "maximum disclosure, minimum delay."

"It is Department of Defense policy to make available timely and accurate information so that the public, the Congress and the news media may assess and understand the facts about national security and defense strategy," as stated in the Principles of Information, which is an enclosure within DOD Directive 5122.5. This directive outlines the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Those who share information about the military or military personnel and their families have to balance the public's right to know with protecting mission accomplishment, personal safety and an individual's right to privacy.

What is an OPSEC violation?

Operational security is compromised when the enemy knows more than we want it to. To keep this from happening, everyone is responsible for making sure critical information is not leaked.

Critical information is "information an adversary seeks in order to gain a military, political, diplomatic, economic or technological advantage," according to DOD Manual 5205.02-M, which outlines the DOD Operational Security Program.

What is critical information?

There is no one answer. Critical information varies by organization and unit, depending on their roles within the DOD. It is up to the commanders who plan and execute a unit's mission to determine what information is critical.

The best way to decide what may be critical is to think like the enemy. What are some of the questions an adversary might ask? What sort of information would impact the organization's success or contribute to the likelihood of

See **OPSEC** page A5

1/7 Advon comes home

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis
Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, arrived at the Combat Center, Saturday, after a seven month-long deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Family, friends and fellow service members of 1/7 anxiously gathered at Del Valle Field to welcome home the advanced party.

"A mother misses her son no matter how long he's gone or what he's doing," said Mary Shivers, mother of 1st Lt. Derek Shivers, company executive officer, Company C, 1/7. "But, if he's in Afghanistan for months you just can't wait until he's home and safe."

The purpose of this deployment was to transition control from the Sangin District of Afghanistan to the Government of the Islamic Republic of

Afghanistan, said Lt. Col. David Bradney, commanding officer, 1/7. A considerable amount of time was spent building relationships, a sense of cooperation and trust within the coalition and civilian forces and between the United States and its Afghan counterparts.

"Our success overseas can be attributed to hard work, good training and Marines dedicated to the mission," said Maj. Jonathan Holder, battalion executive officer, 1/7. "These Marines are really phenomenal. Out of the five battalions I've been with during my 20 years in [the Marine Corps], this is the best group yet. From enlisted Marines to officers, they're all dedicated professionals."

The unit was part of Regimental Combat Team 6, which works in partnership with the Afghan National

See **FIRST** page A5



LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

A Marine hugs his wife during a 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, homecoming event Sept. 15 at Del Valle Field. He secured a teddy bear to his pack to give his son after 1/7's seven-month long deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan.

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated Sept. 20, 1991 Vol. 36 Issue No. 35

Recruit diagnosed with paralyzing disease, graduates bootcamp from wheelchair

LCpl. D. M. Keegan
The Boot

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. — After nearly six weeks, four hospitals and endless amounts of medical exams and tests, a recruit from Platoon 4021 was graduated from Marine Corps boot camp in her wheelchair.

On Aug. 14, PFC Bernadette Casey was administratively graduated during a ceremony at Naval Hospital, Beaufort, S.C.

Casey was diagnosed with a disease known as Guillian Barre. It is a paralyzing disease that began as numbness in her right leg. It was first brought to the attention of her drill instructors after a physical training session during a mess and maintenance week. Casey became sick to her stomach and soon after-

wards discovered she couldn't stand on her own.

She was taken to the branch medical clinic here. When no obvious reason could be found for her illness, she was transferred to NHB. There, she received another series of tests before being sent to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ga. While at Ft. Gordon, the disease began progressing more rapidly and was able to be diagnosed.

Because there were no specialists at Ft. Gordon trained in the treatment of her disease, Casey was transferred to a university hospital in Georgia.

Throughout her treatment, Casey has endured many painful tests including spinal taps.

"I went to visit her twice while she was in Georgia," said Sgt. Cindy S. Likehart,

Casey's senior drill instructor. "She was heavily drugged and only knew I was in the room for a brief moment. During that time the only thing she was concerned about was getting a Battle Skills Testing book so that she could prepare for getting back into training."

After leaving the university hospital she was returned to NHB. Although the doctors say the disease is 10 percent reversible, said Likehart, I've been told it could take several months to find the exact cure for her body.

In the meantime Casey remains on a disabled retired list awaiting the day she is able to serve full time in the Fleet Marine Force.

Casey made her ambition clear at the graduation ceremony.

"I only hope I can make the Marine Corps as a proud as it has made me."

Signs of suicide, how to prevent it

Brian P. Smith
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Before intervention, before support and even before treatment, there is prevention.

Tragically, 36,000 lives are lost to suicide each year in the U.S. Tens of thousands more attempt suicide. Every day, families, friends, coworkers and neighbors lose someone they care about. Intervention, support and treatment can help, but to get to the heart of suicide, start with prevention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a nation-wide toll-free crisis support and prevention resource. The Lifeline points out that life experience includes two types of factors: risk and protective. These are both sides of the constant struggle to "keep it together." Knowing what they are, and what to pay attention to, can help you or a loved one.

Risk Factors

The Lifeline has identified suicide risk factors. These aren't predictors; they can only be looked at as factors that increase the chance of attempting or thinking about suicide. They include:

- trauma
- physical illness
- substance abuse
- relationship or career problems.

Protective Factors

Protective factors, on the other hand, are characteristics that can decrease the possibility that someone may attempt or think about

suicide and include:

- ongoing medical and behavioral health support
- no access to highly lethal means of suicide
- strong connections to family
- community support
- cultural or religious beliefs discouraging suicide.

Learn more about how both types of factors can affect anyone at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Warning Signs

While risk factors can be important, behaviors can point toward issues. Trust your feelings and your reactions. You probably know more than you think you know. Everyone is different, but common warning signs include:

- talking about wanting to die or feelings of hopelessness
- talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- withdrawal or isolation.

If you are concerned about someone, there are places to go for help and support.

- Military Crisis Line is available (1-800-273-TALK, option 1)
- Self-help information and links to resources at TriWest.com/BH
- TriWest Crisis Line (1-866-284-3743) for West Region TRICARE beneficiaries.

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.

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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.

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>

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See answers on page A5

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ACROSS

- Like a lot
- Figure skater Katarina
- Say "@#%\$"
- Garbo line ender
- Bar mitzvah dance
- Declare openly
- Escapades
- School on the Thames
- Stubborn beast
- Part of the system that produces white blood cells
- Trudge along
- Nettle
- Simple hydrocarbon
- Natty of "The Leather-Stocking Tales"
- Bend over backwards
- Jacob's twin
- Small songbird
- Windows typeface
- Six years, for a senator
- Washday units
- Treater's words
- Highly skilled
- Reason to cancel school
- Home furnishings chain
- One of us
- Nantucket, for one
- Cost, slangily
- Volcanic output
- March 17th slogan
- Beethoven, notably
- Bankroll
- Coal-rich region
- Quebec's ___ Peninsula
- Genesis victim
- Ticklish Muppet
- Set free
- Gross minus net, to a trucker
- Baseball's Dizzy or Daffy
- Middays

DOWN

- It may be unmitigated
- Oil of ___ (cosmetics brand)
- Dressmaker's dummy
- Like a GI peeling spuds
- Send again
- Spiral-shelled critter
- I, as in Ithaca
- Sci-fi film of '82
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- Unfilled on TV sched.
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- Stable mother
- Service station attendant's fistful
- Rimes of country
- ___-European (language group)
- Parks in 1955 news
- "___ Dinka Doo"
- Sermon closer
- X-ray vision thwarting
- Swing-and-a-miss sound
- Harbor workhorse
- ___ up (erred)
- Japanese bigwig of old
- Make more lean
- Resort spot off Venezuela
- Worker with a pick
- Golf green surrounder
- Dubya's school
- Doll's cry
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Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified section**

AIROPS

'America's Squadron' practices aircraft recovery

STORY AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Marines with the motor transport section of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 based out of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, participated in aircraft recovery exercises in the Combat Center's Landing Zone Sand Hill training area Sept. 13.

The Marines' mission was to convoy to a downed helicopter, salvage it and navigate back while maintaining a tactical mindset.

"This place is lot different than what we have back in Iwakuni," said Lance Cpl. Brianna Price, motor transport operator, MWSS-171. "We got a lot of road time out here and we fine tuned our skills."

The Combat Center has given the MWSS-171 Marines the opportunity to stretch out and push their vehicles and themselves to the limit. Many of the Marines here are new to the job and have not gotten the chance to drive on a desert terrain.

"This base is really giving us some good training," said Price. "It's completely different to the strictly asphalt roads we have back

in Iwakuni. Back in Japan we just ride around in circles on an even surface to get our driving hours in. But here, we get to drive on a more rugged terrain."

The drivers put their newly refined skill to good use during the training mission. They kept their convoy skills sharp while keeping a keen eye on the road, keeping good dispersion and watching out for possible improvised explosive devices.

"They've done quite well since they've been out here," said Onigkeit. "They're learning to adapt to the situation and they're learning from their mistakes."

"Back in Japan we just ride around in circles on an even surface to get our driving hours in. But here, we get to drive on a more rugged terrain."
- Lance Cpl. Brianna Price

"Today we went out to LZ Sand Hill and placed a downed Huey to make it look like it crashed," said Staff Sgt. Justin Onigkeit, motor transport operations chief. "The afternoon convoy is actually going to go recover it."

The Marines from Iwakuni have been at the Combat Center the last three weeks conducting motor transport operation exercises that they couldn't have done in their home station.



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, of Iwakuni, Japan, look to recover a downed helicopter in the Combat Center's Landing Zone Sand Hill training area Sept. 13.



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

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated Sept. 20, 1991 Vol. 36 Issue No. 35

Recruit diagnosed with paralyzing disease, graduates bootcamp from wheelchair

LCpl. D. M. Keegan
The Boot

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. — After nearly six weeks, four hospitals and endless amounts of medical exams and tests, a recruit from Platoon 4021 was graduated from Marine Corps boot camp in her wheelchair.

On Aug. 14, PFC Bernadette Casey was administratively graduated during a ceremony at Naval Hospital, Beaufort, S.C.

Casey was diagnosed with a disease known as Guillian Barre. It is a paralyzing disease that began as numbness in her right leg. It was first brought to the attention of her drill instructors after a physical training session during a mess and maintenance week. Casey became sick to her stomach and soon after-

wards discovered she couldn't stand on her own.

She was taken to the branch medical clinic here. When no obvious reason could be found for her illness, she was transferred to NHB. There, she received another series of tests before being sent to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ga. While at Ft. Gordon, the disease began progressing more rapidly and was able to be diagnosed.

Because there were no specialists at Ft. Gordon trained in the treatment of her disease, Casey was transferred to a university hospital in Georgia.

Throughout her treatment, Casey has endured many painful tests including spinal taps.

"I went to visit her twice while she was in Georgia," said Sgt. Cindy S. Likehart,

Casey's senior drill instructor. "She was heavily drugged and only knew I was in the room for a brief moment. During that time the only thing she was concerned about was getting a Battle Skills Testing book so that she could prepare for getting back into training."

After leaving the university hospital she was returned to NHB. Although the doctors say the disease is 10 percent reversible, said Likehart, I've been told it could take several months to find the exact cure for her body.

In the meantime Casey remains on a disabled retired list awaiting the day she is able to serve full time in the Fleet Marine Force.

Casey made her ambition clear at the graduation ceremony.

"I only hope I can make the Marine Corps as a proud as it has made me."

Signs of suicide, how to prevent it

Brian P. Smith
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Before intervention, before support and even before treatment, there is prevention.

Tragically, 36,000 lives are lost to suicide each year in the U.S. Tens of thousands more attempt suicide. Every day, families, friends, coworkers and neighbors lose someone they care about. Intervention, support and treatment can help, but to get to the heart of suicide, start with prevention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a nation-wide toll-free crisis support and prevention resource. The Lifeline points out that life experience includes two types of factors: risk and protective. These are both sides of the constant struggle to "keep it together." Knowing what they are, and what to pay attention to, can help you or a loved one.

Risk Factors

The Lifeline has identified suicide risk factors. These aren't predictors; they can only be looked at as factors that increase the chance of attempting or thinking about suicide. They include:

- trauma
- physical illness
- substance abuse
- relationship or career problems.

Protective Factors

Protective factors, on the other hand, are characteristics that can decrease the possibility that someone may attempt or think about

suicide and include:

- ongoing medical and behavioral health support
- no access to highly lethal means of suicide
- strong connections to family
- community support
- cultural or religious beliefs discouraging suicide.

Learn more about how both types of factors can affect anyone at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Warning Signs

While risk factors can be important, behaviors can point toward issues. Trust your feelings and your reactions. You probably know more than you think you know. Everyone is different, but common warning signs include:

- talking about wanting to die or feelings of hopelessness
- talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- withdrawal or isolation.

If you are concerned about someone, there are places to go for help and support.

- Military Crisis Line is available (1-800-273-TALK, option 1)
- Self-help information and links to resources at TriWest.com/BH
- TriWest Crisis Line (1-866-284-3743) for West Region TRICARE beneficiaries.

OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

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

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.

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 #2628-D

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

See answers on page A5

HOLD YOUR SPEED

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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17					18				19				
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47				48					49	50			
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55					56	57	58			59	60	61	62
63					64					65			
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

- ACROSS**
- Like a lot
 - Figure skater Katarina
 - Say "@#%\$"
 - Garbo line ender
 - Bar mitzvah dance
 - Declare openly
 - Escapades
 - School on the Thames
 - Stubborn beast
 - Part of the system that produces white blood cells
 - Trudge along
 - Nettle
 - Simple hydrocarbon
 - Natty of "The Leather-Stocking Tales"
 - Bend over backwards
 - Jacob's twin
 - Small songbird
 - Windows typeface
 - Six years, for a senator
 - Washday units
 - Treater's words
 - Highly skilled
 - Reason to cancel school
 - Home furnishings chain
 - One of us
 - Nantucket, for one
 - Cost, slangily
 - Volcanic output
 - March 17th slogan
 - Beethoven, notably
 - Bankroll
 - Coal-rich region
 - Quebec's ___ Peninsula
 - Genesis victim
 - Ticklish Muppet
 - Set free
 - Gross minus net, to a trucker
 - Baseball's Dizzy or Daffy
 - Middays
 - attendant's fistful
 - Rimes of country
 - ___-European (language group)
 - Parks in 1955 news
 - "___ Dinka Doo"
 - Sermon closer
 - X-ray vision thwarting
 - Swing-and-a-miss sound
 - Harbor workhorse
 - ___ up (erred)
 - Japanese bigwig of old
 - Make more lean
 - Resort spot off Venezuela
 - Worker with a pick
 - Golf green surrounder
 - Dubya's school
 - Doll's cry
 - Prefix meaning "one-billionth"
 - Analogy words
 - Wash cycle
 - Shirts with slogans
- DOWN**
- It may be unmitigated
 - Oil of ___ (cosmetics brand)
 - Dressmaker's dummy
 - Like a GI peeling spuds
 - Send again
 - Spiral-shelled critter
 - I, as in Ithaca
 - Sci-fi film of '82
 - Bicycle built for two
 - Emollient in some skin creams
 - That thing hanging from your palate
 - Wise Athenian
 - Ingmar or Ingrid Bergman
 - Sound of an empty stomach
 - Unfilled on TV sched.
 - Early VCR format
 - Played for a sap
 - Stable mother
 - Service station

OBSERVATION POST

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

An unmanned aerial vehicle sits while airmen and civil service workers prepare to test their experiments detecting UAVs at Range 220. The workers teamed up for the Commander's Challenge 2012. This year's challenge was to find a way to detect and track a small unmanned aerial vehicle through an urban environment.



Competition offers solutions to detecting UAVs

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps provided support for the Air Force during their Commander's Challenge 2012, held at the Combat Center's Range 220 Sept. 13.

The Commander's Challenge is an annual contest that challenges a group of engineers, with Air Force, to come up with a solution to a warfighting problem presented by the Air Force Material Command. These ideas are then applied to real world issues. Previous challenges have included problems such as forward operating base protection, deep canyon surveillance and identification of the enemy through facial recognition.

This year's challenge was to find a way to detect and track a small unmanned aerial vehicle through an urban environment.

Systems already used to detect manned aircrafts or larger UAVs usually involve radar and cannot be used with the surrounding buildings of an urban environment. The answer to this problem would help in security both overseas and domestically.

"Most of the time what they'll do is reach out to the war fighter," said Bud Cline, project manager, Advanced Weapons Modernization, Arinc, Incorporated. "Folks that just got back from a deployment, they'll talk to those guys, 'Hey what are you seeing out there, here's what we're trying to fix, what would make your job easier out there.'"

Two six-man teams were selected, one team worked from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and the other from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Each team was made up of both airmen and civil service workers.

"What they're looking for are young engineers or professionally degreed people that can contribute. Mathematicians, logistics, all the disciplines of engineering," Cline said. "It depends on the challenge but they are looking for the expert that's going to be able to contribute the most."

Both airmen and civil service workers sent in a resume to join the challenge. The resumes were reviewed and the best candidates for the job were selected to join one of two teams. Airmen looking to join must be O-3 or below and civilians must have less than five years of experience.

"We are looking for fresh ideas," Cline said. "We don't want someone that's been in the Air Force for 30 years that thinks, 'We have to do it this way. We can't change from that.'"

They were granted a budget of \$75,000 and are given six months to solve the problem.

Over the course of the six-month challenge, each team came up with their own way of getting around the obstacles in the detection and tracking of these aircraft.

"It was 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week," said Andre Leone, team leader, Edwards Base team.

All their hard work and innovation led to the final

test at the Combat Center's training areas.

Range 220's Military Operations On Urban Terrain town provided an area to mimic a city as each answer to the challenge was tested.

"We looked at six or seven different urban environments and this was the best we found," Cline said.

The Edwards Base team started off the competition. They used four different sensors to achieve a good tracking method of the UAV.

The team used radar for the long-range detection outside the city canyons, an acoustic sweep for close range detection, video cameras for a visual on the target and finally a RF Geolocation, a sensor that detects video downlink signals from the UAVs.

All the information gathered from the different sensors are run together into a central processor and fused to produce a single track.

This simplification of the data allows one person to run the system from a single laptop.

The Wright-Patterson team used a combination of distributing systems and sensors that worked off each other's strengths and weaknesses to detect and track the UAV.

Their main technique used a unique feature, acoustic notes. Sensors around Range 220 analyzed the noise of the aircraft from initial detection to tracking it through the city.

The frequency analysis used algorithms to detect the specific harmonics of the small aircraft and follow it.

"Car and motorcycle engines will have harmonics but will be at a different frequency," said Dan Gallagher, electrical engineer, Air Force Research Labs, and member of the Wright-Patterson team. "The higher pitch buzz of the UAV will also be at a higher frequency."

The tracking of the craft through harmonics was backed up by visual confirmation of both cameras and ground sighting.

The team developed an application for android phones that can be distributed to various people around the city.

"Say you can have a police force. You can have them download an app to their phone and if they happen to see the aircraft they break out their phones and it helps track the craft," Gallagher said.

In the end, Wright-Patterson team's technology put them ahead, naming them the victors of the Commander's Challenge 2012.

But the losing team's work was not wasted.

The challenge combines the ideas of both teams to create the best system possible. The ideas developed during the challenge go on to help service members across the branches.

"This was a wonderful opportunity," Leone said. "We were really glad to come out here and be a part of it."

For more information on the Commander's Challenge go to <http://www.arinc.com>.



Combat Center keeps Marines on guard, riding safe

Cpl. Joshua Vielstich was a motor vehicle operator for Headquarters and Service Company in 1st Tank Battalion and in January, he successfully completed a combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Vielstich was assigned the Heavy Section Non-Commissioned Officer of his unit for his work ethic and leadership abilities. He also loved riding his motorcycle. He was tragically killed August 18 in a motorcycle accident on Interstate 10, reminding Combat Center Marines that life-threatening situations are not only found in combat but at home as well.

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis
 Combat Correspondent

"One death is too many," said Bob Piirainen, traffic safety program manager, Safety Office. "Our job is to ensure that we can keep every motorcyclist safe and alive to fight another fight."

The Combat Center provides its Marines with the means to be proficient and defensive motorcycle operators. In accordance with the Commandant of the Marine Corps' guidance for reducing motorcycle

between courses, the riders are encouraged to ride their bikes often and to have consistent saddle time. Riders should become comfortable with their bike by themselves and should wait until after the ARC before allowing others to passenger their bike.

"The advanced course will help the rider to become more confident with the bike and to realize what their bike is capable of," said Piirainen. "The course is progressive and takes two days to complete, given the rider is confident and capable."

Lee Parks Total Control, a course that covers riding and maneuvering at higher speeds and the defensive mindset that it requires, is offered once yearly and is available here on base. Track Day is another course offered at a track off base and allows the rider to operate the bike at very high speed in a controlled environment. Full one piece leathers are available for this course, free of charge, along with boots, gloves and spine protectors.

"We give them the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe," said Piirainen. "Most things we teach them will save their lives one day. The right mindset and the right gear will go a long way."

On and off base, it is required for military members to wear personal protective equipment when operating a motorcycle. Proper motorcycle equipment consists of a Department of Transportation approved helmet with a shatterproof face shield or goggles. The helmet must fit properly and be secured under the chin with the D-ring.

"If the helmet is on but not secured properly, it's useless," said Piirainen. "What good is a helmet if it flies off during a crash?"

Riders must also wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, full fingered gloves and hard-toed boots that cover the ankle. Violations of the PPE requirements or any other traffic law can result in driving privileges being revoked and required attendance in the Remedial Driving Course.

"Over the past year, the number of enrollments in the remedial course has increased a lot," said Guy Rosbough, deputy director, Safety Office.

In fiscal year 2012, 557 people aboard the Combat Center completed BRC, 121 completed ARC, 90 completed the remedial course and 5,696 completed the Driver Improvement Course, which is a higher attendance rate than any other base in the Corps. The Safety Office also offers briefs, when requested, for individual units to include post deployment motorcycle safety refreshers. The coaches have trained or briefed more than 12,500 personnel in 2012.

"I'll put my coaches up against any others in the Safety Division and the Corps," said Piirainen. "We only accept the best, and we have the awards hanging on the wall to prove it."

In 2010-2011, The California Motorcyclist Safety Program, ran by California Highway Patrol, awarded Combat Center Base Safety for 100% compliance for efficient execution of standard operational procedures, for exceeding classroom standards and for exceeding standards of rider's coaches.

"For four years in a row, our Defensive Drivers Course has been awarded the Best Performance Award from the National Safety Council," said Rosbough. "We are also home of the only person in the Corps that is certified to train Alive at 25 instructors."

The Marine Corps offers many options when it comes to education in motorcycle safety, but the Corps isn't out on the road riding next to its Marines and keeping them safe. The responsibility ultimately falls on the shoulders of the motorcyclist.

"We love this job," said Piirainen. "We try to make a difference and because of that, we get really invested in the Marines lives. When one of us goes down, it really hits home."

"We try to make a difference and because of that, we get really invested in the Marines lives. When one of us goes down, it really hits home."

-Bob Piirainen

incidents, injuries and deaths, the Combat Center Safety Office offers several Motorcycle Safety Foundation riding courses for a variety of skill levels. The motorcycle safety courses offered are the Basic Riders Course, Advanced Rider Course, Lee Parks Total Control and Track Day.

"A rider can come in here with any skill set, from first-time rider to advanced, and they will learn new things, be challenged and ultimately walk away a safer motorcycle operator," Piirainen said.

The courses are open to all military. Service members require a few days off work to participate in Motorcycle Operator Training with the approval of a staff non-commissioned officer or higher from their command.

"The units are really supportive of their Marines getting this training," Piirainen said. "They lose the Marine for a few days, but ultimately they know the course prevents them from losing that Marine for good."

For any active duty personnel to operate a motorcycle on or off base, it is mandatory to complete the Basic Rider's Course. BRC is a three-day long course, available regularly and takes the place of the riding portion of the Department of Motor Vehicles test when obtaining a motorcycle license or instruction permit. To use a personally owned motorcycle in BRC, the bike must have current insurance and registration. The Safety Office does offer loaner bikes to those who don't have their own.

"BRC is designed for someone who has never driven a motorcycle before," said Piirainen. "It begins with teaching the basics but more importantly the mental capacity needed to ride."

The first day of BRC is conducted in a classroom where students learn the introduction to motorcycling, preparation for riding and street strategies. The following two days take place out on the motorcycle safety range where they put the principals they learned to practice.

"Our goal is to build a good foundation with constant repetition of the basics," said Piirainen. "People tend to generate bad habits early on, so our goal is to build good habits from the start with a brand new rider or break the bad habits of someone who is already comfortable with the bike."

Upon completion of the course, the rider will receive a Motorcycle Safety Foundation BRC card and have the opportunity to sign up for the Advanced Riders Course. Military members or those who have a motorcycle license and currently own a motorcycle are required to take the ARC 120 days after BRC. In





Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Monday: Margarita Mondays
 Thursday: Rockin' Karaoke 7-10 p.m.
 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.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Monday: Margarita Mondays
 Thursday: Warrior Night 4:30
 Friday: Karaoke Night 6 - 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Friday: Steak night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.
 Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch
 Monday: All-hands steak night, 4:30 - 8 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.
 Right hand man night 4:30 - 8 p.m.

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

Local Events

Anne of Green Gables

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

Wild Roses with Marc Orell

Former Dropkick Murphy's band-member performs
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21
 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

Joe Walsh

Former Eagles guitarist performs
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday Sept. 29
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.
 For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Ian Anderson

Professional flutist plays
 When: 9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 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>.

John Legend

Nine-time Grammy Award winner performs
 When: 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 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>.

Sinbad/Zapp

Comedian performs
 When: 8:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 23
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, September 21

6 p.m. - Ice Age 4, Rated PG
 9 p.m. - Moonrise Kingdom, Rated PG-13
 Midnight - Savages, Rated R

Saturday, September 22

10:30 a.m. - Free Matinee Rio, Rated PG
 12:30 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, Rated PG
 3 p.m. - Ice Age 4 3D, Rated PG
 6 p.m. - Step Up Revolution, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. - Batman: Dark Knight Rises, Rated PG-13
 Midnight - The Watch, Rated R

Sunday, September 23

12:30 p.m. - Ice Age 4, Rated PG
 3 p.m. - Total Recall, Rated PG-13
 6 p.m. - Step Up Revolution, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. - The Campaign, Rated R

Monday, September 24

7 p.m. - Batman: Dark Knight Rises, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, September 25

7 p.m. - Ice Age 4 3D, Rated PG

Wednesday, September 26

5:30 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, Rated PG
 8:30 p.m. - Batman: Dark Knight Rises, Rated PG-13

Thursday, September 27

5:30 p.m. - Ice Age 4, Rated PG
 8:30 p.m. - The Watch, Rated R

Prohibition-era moonshine saga packs a strong punch



COURTESY PHOTO

Based on "The Wettest County in the World," a 2008 historical novel by Matt Bondurant, the grandson of one of the story's main characters, "Lawless" is the saga of three backwoods brothers and their booming bootleg whiskey business in the early years of the Great Depression.

NEIL POND

"Lawless"

Starring Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy & Guy Pearce
 Directed by John Hillcoat
 Rated R, 116 min.

Like a familiar song goes, the hills of "Lawless" are alive. But the thing that keeps the Prohibition-era community of Appalachian mountain men humming in this movie isn't music, but moonshine.

Based on "The Wettest

County in the World," a 2008 historical novel by Matt Bondurant, the grandson of one of the story's main characters, "Lawless" is the saga of three backwoods brothers and their booming bootleg whiskey business in the early years of the Great Depression.

The ruthless Bondurant boys are legendary in their region of the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains, even rumored to be immortal, impossible to kill. Forrest (Tom Hardy of "The Dark Knight") and Howard (Jason

Clark) run their operation with brutal efficiency, paying off the local lawmen with a case or two of hooch to keep them looking the other way.

And any outsider who makes the mistake of crossing their path learns a hard, painful lesson. "I'm a Bondurant," growls Forrest. "We don't lay down for nobody."

The youngest brother, Jack (Shia LaBeouf), doesn't have Forrest or Jason's imposing build, their fearlessness or their taste for confrontation. But he desperately wants to prove himself a capable partner, something more than just the driver of their delivery truck.

Running moonshine is a dangerous business, as we learn in the opening sequence when Forrest comes to Jack's rescue in a dark downtown alley with a set of brass knuckles. But the danger takes a much darker turn with the arrival of a crusading "special deputy" from Chicago (Guy Pearce) on a mission to shut down the county's bustling bootlegging trade.

It doesn't take long to discover the detective, Charlie Rakes, is a preening peacock of a psychopath, and he's on a fateful collision course with the Bondurants. Soon the backwoods are flowing with blood.

These are violent people living violent lives in a violent tale set in a violent place in a violent time, and this is a violent movie. It's not for the squeamish. But the violence never seems

gratuitous; it's essential grit to a gritty story. And for all the camera shows (every sickening blow of a prolonged beating Ricks administers to Jack, or the awful beginning of a tar-and-feathering), there are other equally unsettling things that it leaves just out of view, or completely to the imagination.

The ensemble cast is uniformly strong, especially Hardy as Forrest, the Bondurant brother of few words, many grunts, and an almost animalistic drive to survive. The always-dynamic Gary Oldman is underused as a citified gangster looking to make his move into the country-bumpkin whiskey business.

Providing lovely sweet spots in the middle of all the mayhem, Jessica Chastain plays a former Chicago showgirl looking to make a new start in the sticks, and Mia Wasikowska is a preacher's daughter who catches young Jack's wandering eye — which eventually leads to a catastrophic showdown.

A rip-roaring saga of a family living outside the law and willing to do whatever necessary to protect their way of life, regardless of the lines they had to cross, "Lawless" certainly lives up to its name.

And, like the kickapoo hillbilly brew slow-cooking in one of the Bondurant stills, it packs a punch that may be thrilling to some, but possibly a bit too strong and unsettling for some stomachs.

WeekINPhotos

Photos by Cpl. Kyle N. Runnels

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit



[Above] Lance Cpl. Dylan Tinsley, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, dons his personal protective equipment at Fort Pickett, Va., Sept. 14.



[Right, top] Chief Warrant Officer Scott Myhra, CBRN defense specialist, 26th MEU, inspects a field protective mask at Fort Pickett, Va., Sept. 14.



[Right, bottom] CBRN Marines set up a decontamination area at Fort Pickett, Va., Sept. 14.

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