



OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS



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PARK PICK-UP

Community, Marines keep JT clean

Photos and story by
Sgt. Heather Golden
Combat Correspondent

More than 200 volunteers from the Combat Center community joined with others from across the Morongo Basin for an annual clean-up operation of Joshua Tree National Park Sept. 29.

The clean-up was in honor of National Public Lands Day, which celebrates the public lands, like national parks, Americans have available for their use year-round.

"It's a day set aside that's a good day for people to give back to those public lands they enjoy and use frequently," said JTNP Park Ranger Dave Carney. "They literally belong

to everybody in the U.S. People need to understand why the parks are here and take enjoyment of them.

"There is no better demonstration of that than events like this where people come out and give back," he said.

The volunteers split up into groups of about 30 and headed out to one of the handful of areas designated by park staff for clean-up. These areas are the ones most commonly used, including camp sites.

The park has been holding community clean-ups like this for years, but this was the first year they reached out specifically to the base for help. They looked to the base's Armed Services YMCA for coordination. It was a request

See **CLEAN-UP** page A5



[Above] Scouts with the Combat Center's Cub Scout Pack 78 bag pieces of trash they found at Joshua Tree National Park Sept. 29 during National Public Lands Day. Hundreds of volunteers from the base and the local community joined for a park-wide clean-up effort.

[Left] The Scouts with the Combat Center's Cub Scout Pack 78 search for trash at Joshua Tree National Park Sept. 29 during National Public Lands Day.

6 ways you can cut your chances of breast cancer

By Sgt. Heather Golden

This year, more than 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. It is something that has touched families from all across the world, a common enemy. The exact causes of this deadly disease are still unknown, and millions of dollars are invested into research every year. You can lower your own risk of breast cancer by making several simple lifestyle changes.

Sustaining a healthy weight and avoiding obesity lowers your risks of breast cancer later in life, research shows. Obesity can raise your chances of breast cancer, especially after menopause, which is when most cases of breast cancer occur. Try to keep your body-mass index under 25, and maintain a healthy weight over time instead of trying to lose a large amount of weight all at once.

Eating healthy can help you keep your weight down. Consider keeping a diet high in vegetables, fruits, lean proteins like fish and chicken, and whole grains, but low in refined carbohydrates, sugar and fatty foods. Keep red meat consumption to a minimum, and choose vegetable oil over animal fats.

Staying active and exercising can reduce your chances of breast cancer by 10-30 percent, even if you begin a routine later in life. Research has shown moderate exercise is all you need, and even a 30-minute walk five days a week helps keep you covered.

Limiting or cutting out alcohol entirely cuts your chances of breast cancer significantly, according to research. Alcohol consumption has been linked to higher rates of breast cancer, and women should avoid drinking more than one drink per day, no matter what type of alcohol it is. If you have several drinks in one day, consider taking a few days off from drinking afterward.

Quitting smoking cuts your chances of more than one type of cancer. Long-term smoking has especially been linked to breast cancer in women, research shows. Talk to your primary medical care provider about getting help quitting, or take a smoking cessation class offered on base.

Breast-feeding babies for as long as possible, up to a year if possible, has shown to help prevent the onset of cancer later in life.

Editor's Note: Information provided by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. To learn more about the prevention, symptoms and treatment of breast cancer, visit <http://www.cancer.gov>.

MOVING FORWARD

■ ATG mentors Marines for Afghanistan

Andrew Lubin
Marine Corps Association

A stable country needs a competent army and police force to provide security for its citizens. In Afghanistan, the army and police are being mentored by Marines trained specifically for the task by the Advisor Training Group based here at Camp Wilson.

It's not a question of being tough enough, it's how the American military most effectively addresses a threat. While scenes of raw firepower play well on American television, quietly training a third-world foreign military to take over defense of its own country brings American troops home while leaving that country in better shape for our assistance.

"The mindset of an advisor needs to be different than that of a typical Marine hard-charger," explained Col. William Gillespie,

director of the Advisor Training Group, a small, but vitally important cog in the Marine effort to teach the fledgling Afghan National Security Forces how to provide the services a country requires.

"It's like the difference between a recruiter and a drill instructor, plus you've got to take into account the US-Afghan cultural differences," Gillespie said.

The ATG trains the Marines who mentor, advise, and train the Afghan forces including the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. A typical advisor team consists of 14-32 Marines and sailors. Many have prior combat experience.

There are two levels of advisors. While the typical team is assigned to the Afghan army and police in RC-Southwest on a local level, the second is a specialized team of field grade officers working on a regional or national level with a colonel or lieutenant colonel mentoring an

Afghan major general or brigadier general.

Realistic Training a Necessity

With the recent spate of 'green-on-blue' shootings, building Marine-ANSF relationships are of even greater importance. The cultural differences claimed to be responsible for the incidents are studied, with the goal of better understanding the Muslim religion and Pashtunwali. With the Pashtuns being by far the largest ethnic group in RC-Southwest, knowledge of their culture is very important.

Understanding these cultural differences is a major part of ATG's mission of teaching the Marines the subtleties of how to successfully mentor and advise the ANSF. "It's not just how to teach tactics," said Capt. Alex Luedtke, who is one of the captains who oversees the training. He is responsible for the Influencing Human

Behavior classes.

"It's using the trust and respect, so important in the Afghan culture, to reinforce the tactical and soft skills necessary to lead effectively," Luedtke added. "Our Marines aren't teaching. We are mentoring and advising, and it's important the Marines understand the difference."

Every Advisor Team must complete a 25-day graduate-level Advisor Skills Course, Gillespie said. They learn both hard and soft skills, with a final field exercise designed to emphasize the mentoring role of the mission. To assist in making the training as realistic as possible, a contractor supplies about 190 Afghan-American citizens who act as role players. The men and women play a variety of roles ranging from ANA, shopkeeper, ANP,

See **ATG** page A5

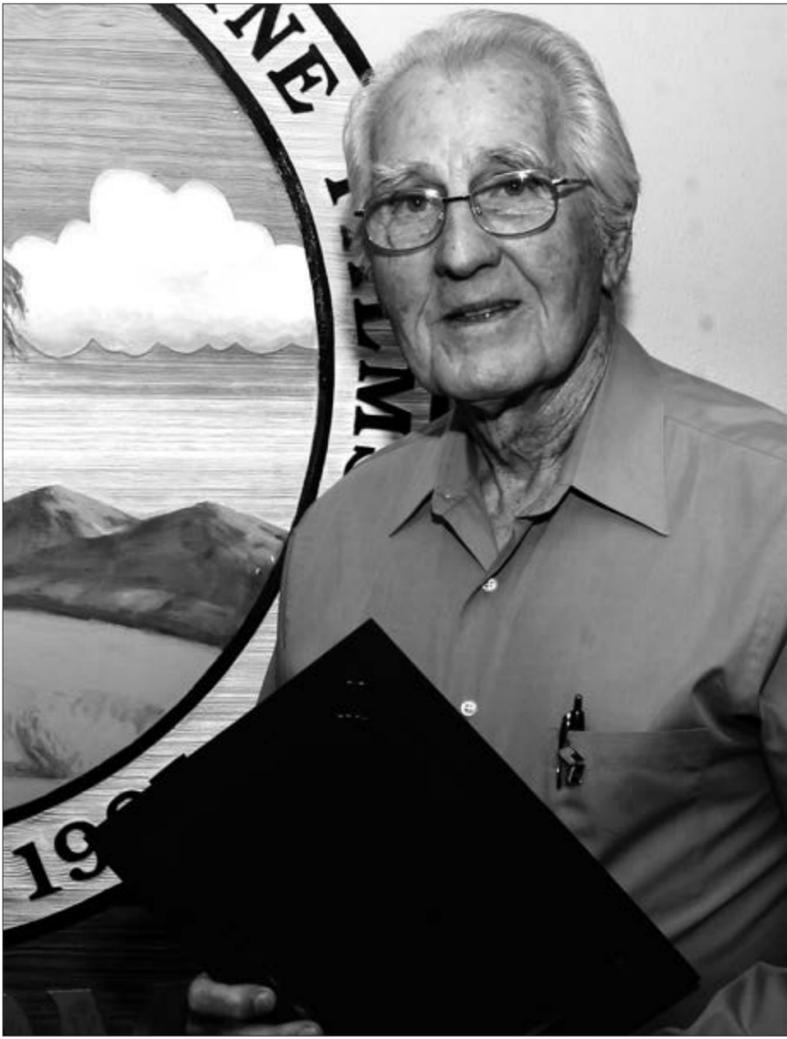
3rd LAR returns home



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Capt. John Fallton, company officer, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, picks up his daughter during the unit's homecoming event at Del Valle Field. Approximately 200 3rd LAR Marines and sailors arrived at Del Valle Field Oct. 2 to a crowd of friends and family members who had awaited their arrival at the field for several hours. The unit deployed in April to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During their six-month deployment, 3rd LAR conducted multiple counter insurgency operations and partnered with Afghan Security Forces, who have taken responsibility for the stability of their communities and as American Forces begin their drawdown in the region.

Bouldin honored for Combat Center service since 1975



LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Retired Col. Billy D. Bouldin was awarded the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Pioneer award during the Twentynine Palms City Council on Sept. 25. Bouldin was the first recipient of the award for his hard work and contributions in helping build the Combat Center in its early years. His first visit to the Combat Center was in 1952. Bouldin returned in 1975 when he oversaw construction of the Combat Center's expeditionary airfield. The initial six-month construction ended in the early months of 1976 and allowed a variety of aircraft previously unable to land on the dry lake bed to come to the Combat Center for training. Bouldin served as the chief of staff from 1975-1979.

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

- 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 A3

Morongo Basin hosts Search and Rescue Desert Run

On October 5, 6 and 7 there will be a 15-20 mile off-road desert run, balance beam, articulation ramp, kids games, prize drawings, vendor displays, hot food, and a drawing.

This is not a race, so bring the whole family. Motorcycles, quads, buggies and all other off road vehicles welcome.

The Desert Run is a 4-wheel drive course with 5 game playing stations along the way and the half waypoint has restrooms available. Participants will encounter rocks, sandy washes, hills and some extreme areas for the hardcore enthusiast. If you don't feel comfortable with an obstacle, we'll direct you to the easy way around. Our event is co-sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management and held at Means Dry Lake in Johnson Valley, Calif. Our event will have plenty of family fun at the base camp and a course sure to please everyone. Last year, we gave away more than \$10,000 in prizes! More than 450 vehicles participate annually, making the total attendance at approximately 1,800 people. There will be a truck and Jeep teeter-totter, vehicle articulation ramp, kids games, bounce house, vendor displays and much more.

For more information call 760-365-8185 or 760-366-4175, email mbsar_desertrun@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.desertrun.org>

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| ACROSS | 44. Actress Tyson | DOWN | 30. Sharply decked out |
| 1. Subbed with the band | 45. Sniveling sorts | 1. Dry cleaner's removal | 32. Trains in the ring |
| 6. Like a cheetah | 47. All-work, no-play student | 2. ___ Romeo | 34. Took a nosedive |
| 10. Plan part | 48. City west of San Antonio | 3. Our last mustachioed president | 35. Where Paris took Helen |
| 14. Nursery purchase | 49. Swerve off course | 4. Part of a mortgage payment | 37. "H.M.S. Pinafore," for one |
| 15. Director Kazan | 50. Jurist ___ Warren | 5. To the ___ degree | 38. Out of whack |
| 16. Carpet quality | 54. Hold sway | 6. Like an alley cat | 40. Risked a ticket |
| 17. Needing no altering | 55. Words before exiting, perhaps | 7. DJ Freed | 41. ___ Tin Tin |
| 19. "Lucky Jim" novelist | 58. Building wings | 8. Assault a la Rover | 43. Most up to the task |
| 20. ___ Modern (London gallery) | 59. Arcade flub | 9. "Listen up!" | 44. Some elephants or whales |
| 21. Office PC linkup | 60. Designer Geoffrey | 10. Thirteen in a deck | 45. Not so risky |
| 22. Firstborn | 61. Staff symbol | 11. Arithmetic to memorize | 46. Rudimentary seed |
| 24. Craps turn | 62. Big galoots | 12. Beethoven dedicatee | 47. Football star-turned-congressman J.C. |
| 26. Liederkranz and Tilsit | 63. Venomous snake | 13. Moles, moths, et al. | 49. One of the Ivies |
| 27. Opportune | | 18. ___ May Clampett | 51. Scored 100 on, or scored 1 on |
| 30. The Mets' div. | | 23. King of tragedy | 52. Ancient letter |
| 31. Beyond plump | | 25. "___ Buttermilk Sky" | 53. Lecher's look |
| 32. Prefix with braten | | 26. This, and 77 others in this puzzle | 56. With it |
| 33. Fore's opposite | | 27. Pre-kickoff ritual | 57. Wharton deg |
| 36. Pretzel topper | | 28. Construction piece | |
| 37. Made a selection | | 29. Honeydew morsels, maybe | |
| 38. Smokey spotter | | | |
| 39. "Full," on B'way | | | |
| 40. Fancy legwear of yore | | | |
| 41. Rich kid in "Nancy" | | | |
| 42. Tablecloths and such | | | |

OBSERVATION POST

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

THE FITNESS BUFF

JEN MILUS

Chiropractor, 45,
Annapolis, Md.

INTERVIEWED BY
LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS
September 27, 2012

- > **I used to drive a rickshaw bike** in Annapolis. You know, those little three-wheeled bikes that take people around town? I'd give tours of the Naval Academy and historic tours of Annapolis.
- > **I'm a little bit** of a fitness buff.
- > **I played Division I lacrosse** in college. In grad school they didn't have lacrosse so I just ran a lot.
- > **During grad school**, I ran 17 marathons, 10 ultras and

I ran the Western States 100. Oh! I also ran 11 or 12 triathlons. I don't remember.

> **When I stopped running** so much, I taught group exercise, which is aerobics, spin, step and a few others.

> **I also became a certified strength** and conditioning coach and owned a lacrosse club for a while.

> **I started lifting** (weights) when I was 12. I guess I've always been into health and fitness and nutrition.

> **I try to keep my work-outs** different every day, but sometimes my job is so physically demanding on my arms that they're dead by the end of the day. So, I end up riding my mountain bike two or three times a week for two to three hours.

> **I'm a big believer** in doing something different every time I workout, so it's never the same. It's usually super sets, interval training or high intensity interval training, but I can't do CrossFit. I'm too old. It hurts me.

> **Sometimes when I'm** walking my dog, I'll do walking lunges. You can always fit a work out in somewhere.

> **You have to take care** of your body, too. I get a massage and a chiropractic adjustment once a week.

> **But, who knows** what my x-rays look like. My knees are probably terrible, but I don't even want to know.

> **I'm new in town**, I moved from Pleasanton, Calif, but I need to find a chiropractor around here. Do you know of any good ones?

> **I mean, those Marines** are big. Doing (chiropractic) adjustments on them, really takes it out of you. I had a guy come in the other day who was like 6 feet 8 inches and 280 pounds.

> **My dog is a Queensland heeler**; an Australian cattle dog. He "rescued" me 15 and a half years ago. He's my best friend.

> **I found him** on Mother's Day outside of Wal-mart. He had on a little blue bandanna. His name is Bluedog.

> **He's 15 and he chases** me on my mountain bike, still. Like six miles a bunch of times a week.

> **A friend of mine** is the chiropractor at Quantico and he called me, bragging, shortly after the got the job there. He said, "I have so many patients now and I get to work on the Marines." I thought, "Really? How neat is that?" So he told me there was a job out here, and I had to take it.

> **I have more** than 300 patients, and I've been getting about 10 more each week.

> **The Marines are my favorite**. It's always been my favorite branch. I really took the job because I felt like there was such a need. Here, I have this opportunity to work on people who really need it. Nobody beats up their bodies more than Marines. With regular adjustments, I'm able to give them relief when other things haven't worked.



Federal Impact Aid

Impact aid is federal funding given to school districts to compensate for the loss of state and local property taxes, which normally provide funding to schools, but are lost because many military children live on federal property and therefore do not pay these taxes. It also compensates for the loss of state revenue, given to schools, because military members are allowed to pay state taxes according to their home of record.

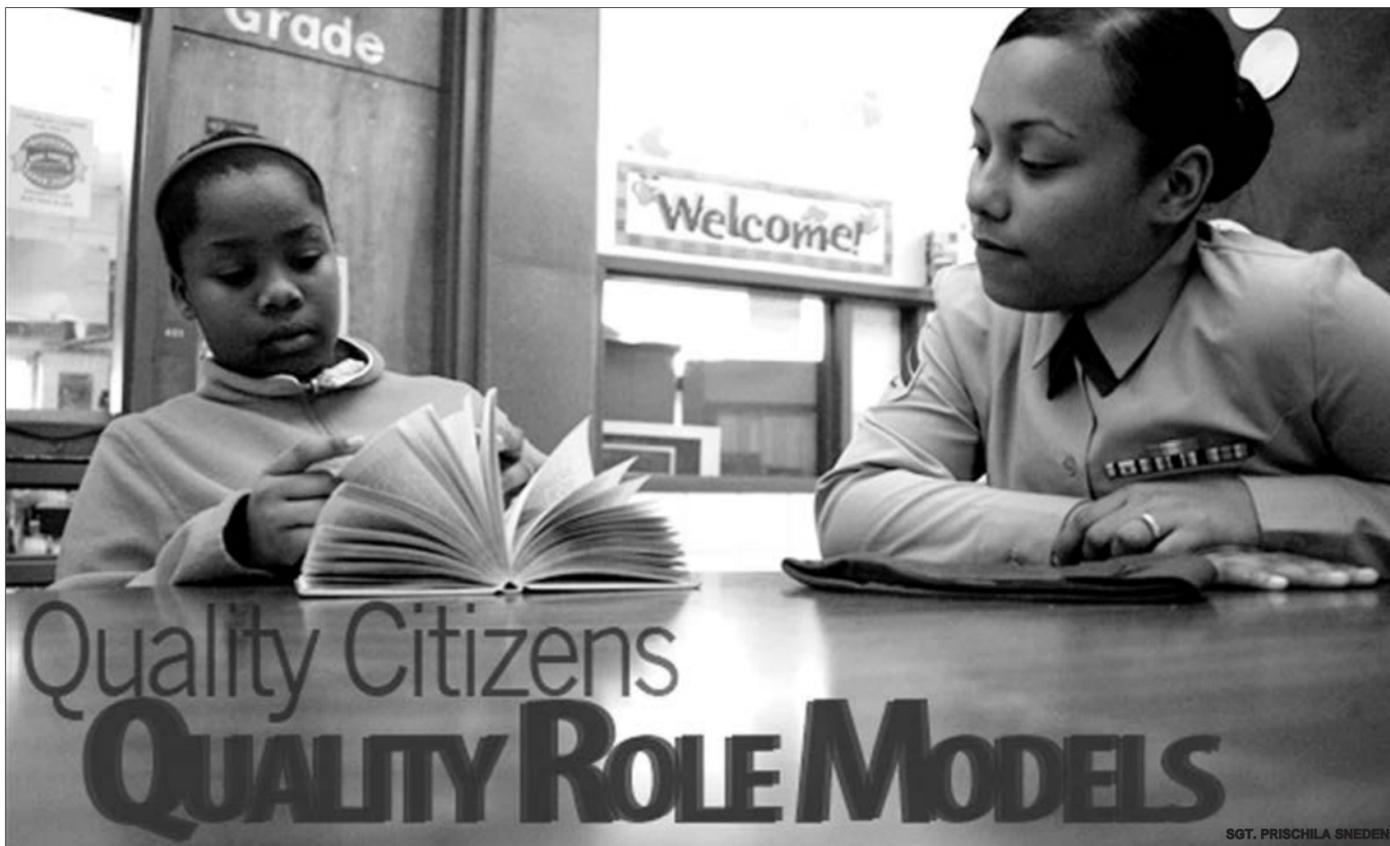
The survey is conducted by school districts each year in October to be submitted to the federal government.

Funding is granted based on the number of cards received, so it is important to return the impact aid survey cards.

Help fund your child's education. Fill out and return your impact aid cards today.

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What if I don't have children?

- If you don't have children and you want to get involved in the lives of youth, you can volunteer to
- Be a teacher's aide for a day
 - Coach a sports team
 - Tutor
 - Mentor a student
 - Read a book to a classroom
 - Supervise or judge a science fair
 - Join the local Big Brothers, Big Sisters program

■ **Marines encouraged to get involved with youth education**

Sgt. Priscila Sneden
Defense Media Agency

Marines set the standard for professionalism, courtesy, respect, discipline and integrity. We are trailblazers, decision-makers, and war fighters. Together we bear the weight of the nation on our shoulders. But on a smaller scale, we are equally responsible on the home front to help mold the next generation of great Americans.

Active-duty service members with children must master the art of juggling their military obligations and parental responsibilities daily. But whether we have children of our own or not, we are role models. A few hours of our time can make a huge difference in the lives of students across the country.

"For a school to be successful, the community has to have a role," said Royston Lyttle, assistant principal, Eagle Academy Public Charter School in Washington. "Research shows, students learn more when the community is involved."

According to Citizen Schools, 2.2 million students attend failing schools across the nation, and more than 1 million fail

to graduate high school on time.

We can make a difference. By receiving a positive adult connection in their school, students achieving higher grades, and test scores and graduation rates than their counterparts who do not, Lyttle said. They are

2.2 million students go to failing schools across the nation, and more than 1 million fail to graduate high school on time.

also motivated, have higher self-esteem and positive attitudes.

Research suggests that active parental involvement is the key to improving schools. Unfortunately, many parents cannot be as involved as they would like to. This is where we can fill that void and stress the importance of education to our youth.

When parents are actively involved in their child's education, it sends the message that school and home are connected and that education is important.

"Parent participation is the ingredient that makes a difference," said LaKia Locket, social worker at Eagle Academy PCS. "Children with involved parents have great attendance, they do better academically from head start through high school, and they tend to behave better and go farther in school."

Build a Bridge

Two-way communication between parents and school is paramount. Parent-teacher collaboration benefits the entire class as you model behavior.

Get involved

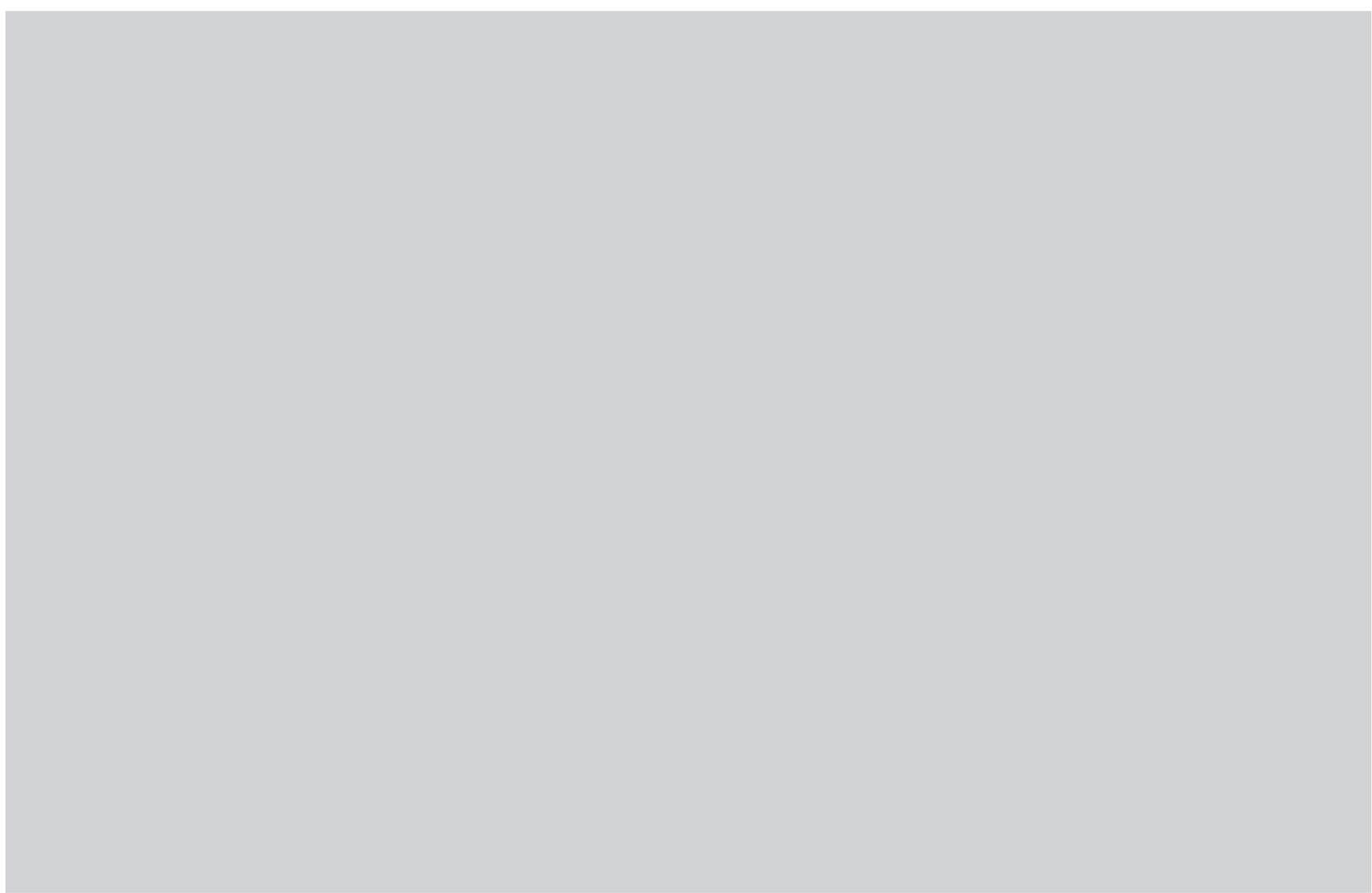
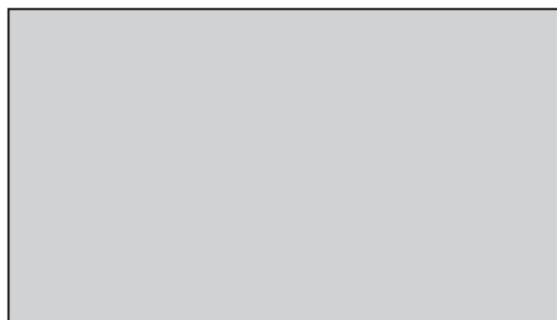
Join the parent-teacher organization, serve lunch, volunteer to help at the school library or your child's class for a day, or send extra supplies to their class, if necessary.

Reinforce

Read to your child every night and make sure he or she can explain the concept of the story. Also, check homework daily.

Keep an eye out for class newsletters and use what you see being taught in class to emphasize at home.

For local entertainment see our LIBERTY CALL section on page B2



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>



The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at

<http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

ATG, from A1

townsperson, to village elder. The field exercise is a week-long mission rehearsal exercise where the team must deal with various Afghan-related scenarios.

"We plan the attacks carefully," said Sgt. Philip Lubin, who is a member of the Role Player Control Team with Sgt. Paul McAllister, the ATG expert in foreign weapons. He and Lubin plan the attacks that include the use of AK-47s and belt-fed weapons. During the exercises, they wore Afghan garb and fired blanks from their weapons, ambush the joint patrols from various locations within the town. "We're able to conduct complex ambushes, with multiple points of attack, which are designed to stress the Marines we're training."

During the MRX, the Marines are observed and graded in how they interact and advise their Afghan counterparts during a series of high-stress exercises ranging from complex ambushes, improvised explosive device strikes, detainee processing, morale and discipline, and air medical evacuations. It's not only about the Marine keeping his composure during a mortar attack or IED strike, but how he ensures his Afghan counterpart is able to keep his.

Although this is an advisor mission, Afghanistan and RC-Southwest is still very much a combat zone and ATG ensures the Marines maintain a high combat proficiency. The ATG program includes foreign weapons courses, along with both basic and refresher courses in machine gun usage, counter-IED, mounted and dismounted patrolling, and medical evacuations. There is also a course specially tailored to teach the Marine how to defend himself in a green-on-blue.

To make the training realistic for both Afghanistan and future expected third-world trouble spots, the Marine Corps built the largest Military Operations in Urban Terrain



A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, listens to the complaints of a role player acting as an Afghan citizen during the final week of his unit's Advisor Training Group course earlier this year. The ATG teaches Marines to successfully interact with and train Afghan military and security forces.

town in the American military, with 1,550 buildings spread over 284 acres. Built primarily from used 20 feet and 40 feet shipping containers, the buildings replicate jails, hospitals, bazaar, and even a multiple-story hotel complete with furniture. Graveyards, Afghan women, and bazaari's add to the ambiance.

In one of today's exercises, a joint Marine-ANA patrol suffered multiple wounded from a notional IED, and was then attacked. With five Afghans bandaged realistically, (including copious amounts of fake blood) while moaning and shrieking in Pashtu, a Marine lieutenant called for a medical evacuation. While awaiting the helicopter's arrival, the patrol was ambushed, with the Afghans being attacked from a nearby village by simulated heavy machine guns, small arms and artillery.

The purpose of the attack was to see how well the Marine lieutenant would liaise with his Afghan captain-partner while under the pressure of combat.

With the Afghan commander seemingly paralyzed by the heavy fire, the Marine tried to get him to make a decision. "We can't stay here," he emphasized. "We need to move forward and attack, or we need to pull back." An armored vehicle accompanying the patrol moved forward into the fight, but an instructor suddenly declared the up-gunner wounded and the vehicle was pulled back in order to deal with the casualty. Calling for additional ANA troops was another option, but as the audio of incoming fire increased in volume, the Afghan remained unable to make a decision. "We can't wait," the Marine emphasized in a tone one could hear over the gunfire. "You need to decide NOW!"

After an intense 10-15 minutes, the medical evacuation arrived, the mock Afghan casualties were loaded, and the flight departed in a cloud of dust.

It was a complex problem with an

unpalatable answer. If the Afghan continues to waffle, ANA and Marines may die. If the Marine takes command, he undermines the command structure by showing the Afghan commander to be ineffective. The goal is if the ANA commander isn't effective, the Marine will not to take command, but rather to spur him to command effectively.

"Mentoring is often an exercise in pushing the Afghans, but not to the point of pain," Luedtke explained. "Leadership is tone as much as tactics; this is how we build competent Afghan forces."

The Afghan role players understand the need for leadership and spend time coaching the Marines in the finer points of Afghan culture. Omar, an Afghan-American who often plays the part of the ANA commander, explained. "We're able to assist our home country and our adopted country. Whatever we can do to help the Marines, we will do."

CLEAN-UP, from A1

the ASYMCA jumped at.

"Many times Marines ask for activities to do on the weekends, and many Marines have never been to the national park," said Anita Neu-Fultz, executive director, ASYMCA. "It was a chance to introduce them to the national park, and at the same time, give them an opportunity to give back to the local community."

The ASYMCA frequently reaches out through the base's units for volunteers, and many times has to turn people away once their needed quota is filled. This was not a problem they ran into this time. The park was asking for as many people as the base could provide.

"We have so many Marines wanting to volunteer all the time, and I don't always have the capacity to let them," said

Sadie Fisher, special events coordinator, ASYMCA. "So, to tell 200 volunteers 'yes' was just so great."

The ASYMCA had been counting on an estimate of 100 Marines, sailors and family members. The response from more than 200 was a pleasant surprise to all the coordinators, both from the ASYMCA and the park. Park officials actually ran out of volunteer registration forms soon after people began arriving for the morning.

The base's Boy and Girl Scouts also added to the base's volunteer numbers.

"In the three years I've been here, this has been the largest turn-out I've seen," Carney said. "Thanks to the Marines, those numbers increased many fold."

"The survival of public lands like these rely on people's interest," he said.



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Austin Winkler, lead singer for the band Hinder, rocks the stage in front of hundreds of Combat Center fans Sept. 29, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Story by Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Photos by Cpl. Sarah Dietz

SUPERSTARS ROCK COMBAT CENTER

Marines, sailors and family members filled Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field the night of Sept. 29. Their only source of light was the array of colored spotlights streaking off the stage at the edge of the field.

Children were hoisted onto their parents shoulders, overlooking the large crowd. As Hinder walked on stage, the field went dark and the crowd went wild.

Theory of a Deadman and Hinder played at the Sounds of Freedom 2012 concert for Combat Center fans.

The event provided service members and their families with a fun Saturday night out and a break from the regular routine in the high desert area.

"On weekends I usually just go to my buddy's house; the concert was something different to do," said Lance Cpl. Robert McElheny, student, Marine Corps Communication Electronics School. "It was awesome; I loved it."

The show opened up with Hinder, who performed some of their most popular songs and crowd favorites. Fans screamed and sang along with them. However, the members of Hinder emphasized it was their honor to be there.

"Coming here and playing for Marines means a lot to us, we get to give back," said Austin Winkler, Hinder's lead vocalist.

In their 11-year history together, Hinder has performed in front many military audiences across the world, including in Europe, Africa and aboard naval vessels. Visiting the Combat Center however, was a first for the group.

"We always want to say thanks to all the troops," said Mike Rodden, Hinder's bass guitarist.

Theory of a Deadman was the final performance of the concert, and much like with Hinder, the crowd was already well versed in their lyrics. However, unlike Hinder, this was the band's first time in front of a military audience.

"We found out we were playing here not too long ago," said Tyler Connolly, Theory of a Deadman's lead vocalist. "The first thing I thought was, 'Do we get to shoot guns? Can I drive a tank?'"

Throughout their performance, the crowd never lost their momentum. The band, field full of Marines and their families, fed off each other's energy until the final note of the concert.

In addition to playing on stage, the bands met some fans in Combat Center's Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Club before the concert. Marines were able to take pictures and get posters autographed by the musicians.

Meeting the Marines and sailors left a lasting impression on the band.

"We got to meet a bunch last night," said Mike Rodden, Hinder's bass guitarist. "We went to a bar down the street, hung out with them, played pool and chatted."

"It's an honor," Connolly said. "There's a ton of bands that they can choose from, and the fact that they chose us is amazing. It's awesome."

Combat Center fans sing and dance along with Hinder Sept. 29 at the Sounds of Freedom 2012 concert at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. Hundreds of patrons came out to cheer on the bands.





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 - 9 p.m.
 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.

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

Local Events

Laura Marling

English folk musician from Eversley, Hampshire.
 When: Friday, Oct. 5
 Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown, Calif.
 For more information, call 365-5956.

Darkum Asylum

When: Oct. 19-31, check website for times
 Where: Theatre 29
 73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.
 For more 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.

Lower Desert

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>.

Moon Walker

The ultimate Michael Jackson experience
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday Nov. 17
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.
 For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit
<http://www.spotlight29.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, October 5

6 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, Rated PG
 9 p.m. - Bourne Legacy, Rated PG-13
 Midnight - The Campaign, Rated R

Saturday, October 6

FREE MATINEE 10:30 a.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Rated PG
 12:30 p.m. - Odd Life of Timothy Green, Rated PG
 3 p.m. - Step Up Revolution 3D, Rated PG-13
 6 p.m. - Total Recall, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. - Bourne Legacy, Rated PG-13
 Midnight - The Watch, Rated R

Sunday, October 7

12:30 p.m. - ParaNorman, Rated PG
 3 p.m. - Total Recall, Rated PG-13
 6 p.m. - ParaNorman 3D, Rated PG
 9 p.m. - Expendables 2, Rated R

Monday, October 8

2 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, Rated PG
 6 p.m. - Total Recall, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. - Expendables 2, Rated R

Tuesday, October 9

7 p.m. - ParaNorman 3D, Rated PG

Wednesday, October 10

5:30 p.m. - Step Up Revolution, Rated PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - The Campaign, Rated R

Thursday, October 11

5:30 p.m. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, Rated PG
 8:30 p.m. - The Watch, Rated R

Richard Gere stars as corrupt billionaire in tangled web of lies



COURTESY PHOTO

He's been an American Gigolo, an Officer and a Gentleman, and a Pretty Woman's prince charming. And now Richard Gere has found another memorable, meaty role — just not in a movie with a title anywhere near as catchy.

NEIL POND

"Arbitrage"

Starring Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon & Timothy Roth
 Directed by Jarecki
 Rated R, 107 min.

He's been an American Gigolo, an Officer and a Gentleman, and a Pretty Woman's prince charming. And now Richard Gere has found another memorable, meaty role — just not in a movie with a title anywhere near as catchy.

In "Arbitrage," he plays a high-flying New York billionaire investor, Robert Miller, whose world is rocked by a collision of circumstances that threaten to topple his empire and destroy his life.

But don't go feeling too sorry for the guy. Miller's no saint. He's a philandering husband, kissing his high-society wife (a lovely Susan Sarandon) goodbye and making excuses

to sneak across town for torrid sexy-time lovemaking with young-thing French mistress.

He's a corrupt businessman, propping up his failing company with a \$400 million off-the-books loan to make it look more attractive for a potential buyer. And he's a liar, telling his chief investment officer, his daughter Brooke (a feisty Brit Miller), whatever it takes to keep her in the dark.

The heat gets turned up when Miller's fraudulent shell game is almost exposed. But things really start to boil after a fiery middle-of-the-night automobile crash on a remote country road, one that makes a street-smart NYPD detective (a terrific Tim Roth) smells a rat — a two-legged one who scurried away from the scene of an accident for which he might have been responsible, one in which another person was killed.

After several years of movie misfires, critical flops and films for which audiences

just kind of went ho-hum, it's good to have Gere back in a role that lets him dig deep, one in which viewers will eagerly follow him down every twisted strand of the increasingly tangled web he weaves.

That such an unsavory character can hold our attention, and even warrant some degree of our sympathy, is a testament to the power of Gere's performance, which is top-notch, even Oscar-caliber. Don't be surprised to find his name among the contenders for a Best Actor Academy Award next year. He's that good.

And so is the story. First-time director and writer Nicholas Jarecki creates a riveting tale of a capitalistic impropriety that doesn't seem terribly out of sync with contemporary headlines about corporate greed and Wall Street weasel-ry, crossed with a thrilling criminal procedural that turns its screws tighter with each scene.

But don't try to second-guess it. And be prepared to scratch your head a couple of times. It's not always an easy movie to follow, and it doesn't exactly leave you warm and fuzzy. When it's over, you feel the same chill as its characters, pondering the cold, thin line that slices like a razor between striking it rich and losing it all.

The title is a financial term that means the simultaneous purchase and sale of an asset in order to exploit the difference in its price. The concept, however, is unwieldy and not really essential to the plot; buy low, sell high, blah, blah, blah, whatever.

The exhilarating, electrifying jolt of this movie, clearly, doesn't come from what it's called. It's in the bite of its story, and the most welcome comeback role it provides for an actor who proves once again how much he can command the screen when a project and a part combine to light his fire.



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SOUNDS of FREEDOM 2012

Photos by Cpl. Sarah Dietz



[Above] Marines cheer on Hinder during the Sounds of Freedom 2012 concert at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Sept. 29.



[Left] Combat Center patrons raise their hands to cheer on Hinder during the Sounds of Freedom 2012 concert on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Sept. 29. Hundreds of Marines, sailors and family members watched Hinder and Theory of a Deadman perform.

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