



OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS



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Combat Center conducts NEO

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment coordinated with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 Oct. 19 to conduct a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

The operation simulated an evacuation of approximately 200 Red Cross aid workers and civilian personnel from an embassy in a foreign country.

"This helps us build the integration between all of the elements of the MAGTF as we prepare to do a NEO anywhere around the world. We make sure we have that integration, and the relationships built that we know exactly what we are planning," said 1st Lt. Jeremiah Peter, operations officer, Marine Air Control Group, MAWTS-1. "What's most likely going to happen is that this is going to be a rapid response where we are called upon to execute something like this. This is really preparing our ability to plan and then execute."

The scenario utilized 18 aircraft, both rotor and

"This helps us build the integration between all of the elements of the MAGTF as we prepare to do a NEO anywhere around the world."

— 1st Lt. Jeremiah Peter

fixed wing, and tested the units' ability to work together to get evacuees away from a hostile environment and safely delivered to a safe haven.

"The most difficult part has been communication and time lines," said Sgt. Michael Hoff, evacuation control center noncommissioned officer in charge, Combat Logistics Regiment 17. "When you get an actual scenario in country, you will be working with several different units, so it's good to practice now."

The three-phase operation started with landing several MV-22 Ospreys into the landing zone on the lawn. Each Osprey dropped off its share of 3/6 Marines, who immediately rushed to set up a secure perimeter around the landing zone. The pilots then took off, creating a whirlwind of dust and grass around the area.

After securing the area, the Marines went on to set up an ECC to process the evacuees and locals. They screened dozens of people for contraband and correct documents to confirm their identities before evacuation.

Afghan role players acted the part of both the local civilians seeking rescue and insurgents attempting to get on the plane or engage the Marines in small arms fire.

The security forces kept sharp eyes on suspicious characters while the evacuees were thoroughly searched and processed by ECC

See NEO page A5

REMEMBERING A MARINE



**MAINE
VIETNAM
KUWAIT
NEW YORK
TWENTYNINE PALMS**

Story by Sgt. Heather Golden

He was a recruiter and marksmanship instructor. He set physical fitness records, and helped redesign the Corps' obstacle and confidence courses.

He led Marines just starting their careers at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. He led others into combat in Vietnam and during the liberation of Kuwait.

He advised generals for decades and helped develop doctrine that still influences today's Corps.

For most in Twentynine Palms, he was not Sgt. Maj. Chamberlain, or even Charles. He was Chuck.

He preferred to spend his time bicycling, lifting weights and jogging. He ran 10Ks with friends and collected Invicta watches.

He tuned into Z107.7 every morning, and met up with friends at the town's Jelly Donut for coffee and conversation. He loved sports cars and watching TV.

He was known for volunteering. He loved talking about the time he met Bob Hope while working with Toys for Tots.

Toward the end of his life, combat-related illnesses took their toll, and he spent most of his time at home with his wife of 41 years, Lorraine. He passed away Sept. 9, at the age of 68.

He was referred to as a "community hero."

At his request, his ashes will be interred in Auburn, Maine, at a later date.

Chamberlain enlisted in the Marine Corps Sept. 13, 1962. Once he completed recruit training, he was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.

His military credentials are pages long; but to the local community, he was more than a list of accolades. Twentynine Palms defined his military career and his life afterward.

In January 1964, he reported for duty with 1st Bn., 4th Marines. It was with this unit that he participated in the initial landing at Chu Lai, Vietnam, May 7, 1965.

Upon his return home in 1966, he was assigned as a marksmanship instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He was then transferred to Marine Barracks Subic Bay, Philippines.

Chamberlain returned to Vietnam in March 1969 with 2nd Bn., 9th Marines, as a platoon commander.

In March 1970, he received orders to Quantico, Va., where he served as a physical fitness instructor at the Officer Candidate School.

From there, Chamberlain saw duty as a recruiter in both Maine and New York, and served at the First Sergeants School at Parris Island; with 3rd Tank Bn. in Twentynine Palms; and at the Combat Center's MCCES school house.

In May 1984, Chamberlain reported as the sergeant major for Headquarters Squadron 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, in Okinawa, Japan.

He then returned to 3rd Tank Bn. in May 1985.

In 1988, Chamberlain reported for duty as the director for the first Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif.

In June 1989, he assumed duties as the sergeant major for 7th Marines, and assisted with the unit's relocation to Twentynine Palms in 1990.

Chamberlain took his post as the Combat Center Sergeant Major in June 1990, and deployed to Southwest Asia with the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

He retired from active duty service Oct. 1, 1992, and accepted positions as a store detective for the Combat Center's Exchange and as a sports coordinator at the installation's Sports Activities Center.

Running for 237



LANCE CPL. LAUREN A. KURKIMILIS

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Sgt. Maj. Matthew Brookshire takes the next leg of the relay from Cpl. James Spivey, G-6, Headquarters Battalion, during the 237th USMC Birthday Endurance Relay Run, Oct. 20 at the East Gym. Brookshire ran for The Base Sergeant Major's Team, which came in 4th place. Each relay team was comprised of 10 team members who collectively ran 237 miles over the course of three days.

Marines showcase in Pioneer Days Parade

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

Pioneer Days began in Twentynine Palms in 1937. Since its early beginnings, the local event has flourished and now includes dozens of events that represent many different groups in the community, including the Combat Center.

Combat Center Marines represented the base in the annual Pioneer Days Parade Saturday as they marched down the Twentynine Palms Highway or drove the military vehicles they employ overseas.

Men, women and children started lining the streets early to guarantee a good view of the festivities.

The mounted color guard from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., led the parade on horseback. As

they passed, carrying the national colors, the crowd raised their hands over their hearts.

Whether it was intentional or not, the color guard impressed many of the onlookers as their horses walked in step.

The Military Grand Marshal followed close behind colors in a white convertible.



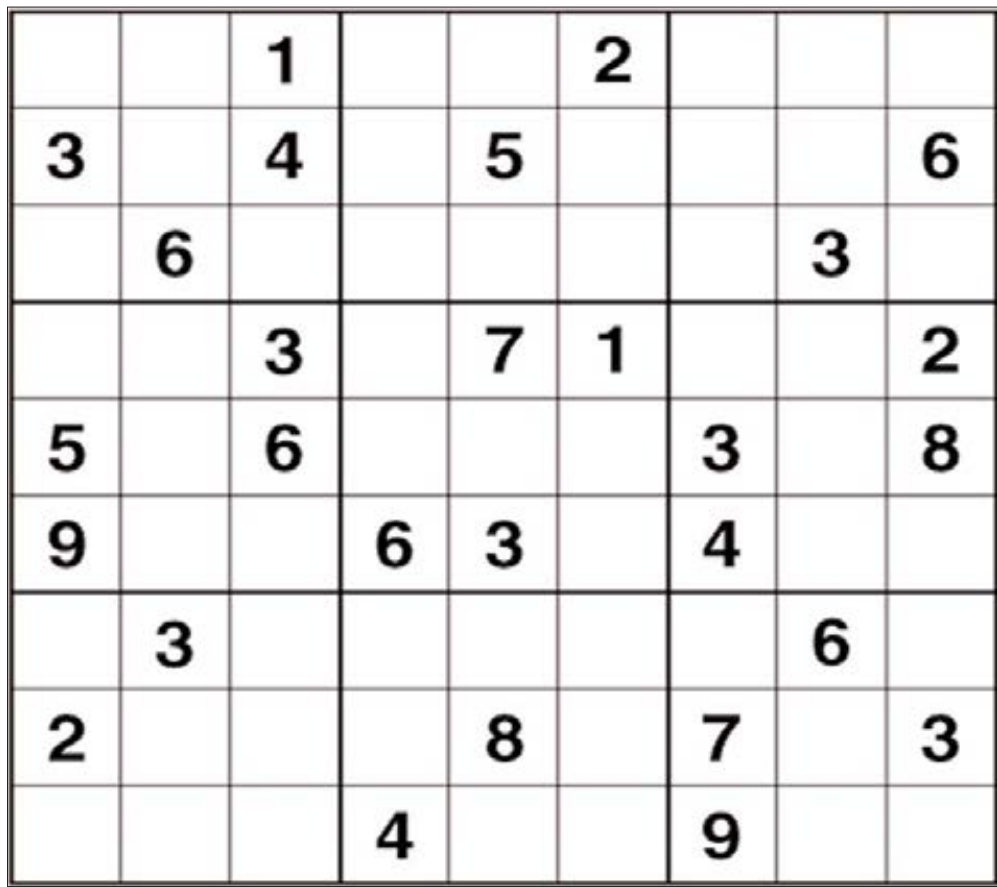
LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Chief of Staff Col. George C. Aucoin, rides in the annual Pioneer Days Parade on the Twentynine Palms Highway Oct. 20.

Following behind him and waving to the crowd was MCAGCC Chief of Staff Col. George C. Aucoin. Two platoons of Marine Corps

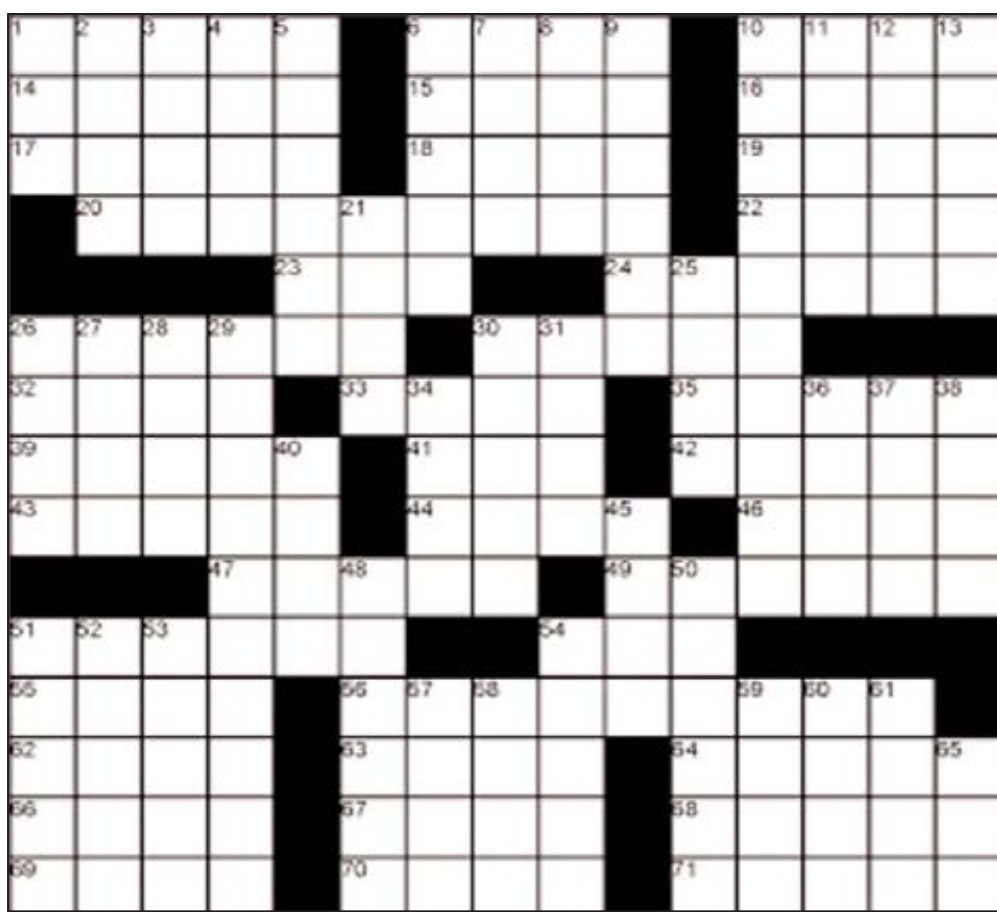
See PARADE page A6

SUDOKU #2630-D



See answers on page A6

SOUNDS LIKE WEDDING BELLS



ACROSS

- 1. Workbench gripper
6. Take rudely
10. Con job
14. Lofly lair
15. Casino city
16. Hankering
17. Places for plaques
18. Familiar with
19. Bog fuel
20. ACE
22. Singer James or Jones
23. Demolition need
24. Let out, as fishing line
26. Daytona 500 org.
30. Boxing ring boundaries
32. Baltic Sea feeder
33. With cubes
35. Marsh plant
39. Edgar, painter of ballerinas
41. Mil. mail drop
42. Bald tire's lack
43. After-school 66-Across, e.g.
44. Stinging remark
46. Peddle in the

- bleachers
47. ___face (show of affection)
49. Fuel provides it
51. Syrian city
54. Sis's sib
55. ___ sci (coll. major)
56. ACE
62. Place for a cooling pie
63. Horn sound
64. Stiller's mate
66. Twistable cookie
67. Slaughter in baseball
68. Passion
69. Shipped off
70. ___ a soul (no one)
71. On the lam

DOWN

- 1. Crow's cry
2. Wife of Jacob
3. Folk's Guthrie
4. Place for grist
5. Pre-euro Barcelona buck
6. Sty sound
7. Taken-back car
8. Auth. unknown
9. Cram for an exam
10. ACE
11. Minotaur's home
12. Playing marble
13. Heavy ___ music
17. Calvary letters
25. Digs made of twigs
26. Silent assents
27. Yemeni port
28. Nintendo rival
29. ACE
30. Satisfy, as a debt
31. Limburger emanation
34. Semi compartments
36. "In the headlights" critter

- 37. "West Side Story" faction
38. Whirling water
40. Go directly from first to third grade, say
45. Titanic totaler
48. Use saddle soap on, say
50. 98.6°, body temperature-wise
51. Lhasa ___ (Tibetan dogs)
52. River of Tours
53. Barkin or Burstyn
54. ___ Wetsy (old doll)
57. Scottish isle
58. The Koh-i-___ diamond
59. Prefix with dyne or drome
60. Carpentry groove
61. Libidinous god
65. "___ you for real?"

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated Oct. 25, 1991 Vol. 36 Issue No. 40

Camp Pendleton pilots locate missing 1/7 executive officer

Staff Sgt. Scot Jenkins Observation Post

On Oct. 18, the executive officer of 1st Bn., 7th Marines came up missing. A search and rescue team quickly formed to locate the missing Marine. The SAR team included fire trucks, military vehicles and a host of Marines on foot.

Camp Pendleton-based pilots with Marine Light Attack Squadron-267 joined in and lent their aircraft to help find Maj. Walter Casebolt, who went running at 5:30 a.m. He was reported missing at 9:50 a.m. and a search effort was established.

The search continued until a four-man two-bird AH-1 "Cobra" helicopter team found the major who was lying in a small ravine about three kilometers from the Combat Center's golf course in the early afternoon.

"We were out here to participate in a combined arms exercise," said Capt. D. J. Anderson of Fallbrook, Calif. "Another two "Cobras" had been looking for the major and were running out of fuel. We were then dispatched to search for him."

Anderson, his co-pilot Capt. Dean A. Vey and another two Cobra pilots, Captains M.G. Bierschenk and A.S. Cauthen, received a message to fly out and search for Casebolt.

"We asked the returning pilots where they had been searching because we didnt want to duplicate their efforts," Anderson said. "We flew over the evaporating ponds (Lake Bandini) and started to expand our area."

The two "Cobras" flew only about 75 to 100 feet off the ground. "We flew low enough to look for footprints and clothes that might have been lying around," said Cauthen.

The pilots persisted in their search for Casebolt. "We were flying over an area and at the same time Vey and I noticed something," Anderson said. "We flew in the same area to continue our search."

The pilot said they saw a blue bush and noticed something that caught their attention. Casebolt, according to Anderson was wearing a grey pullover that looked similar to the color of the bush.

"We landed the "Cobra" and Capt. Vey

quickly jumped out of the craft," Anderson said. "We had brought a cooler of water to drink and Vey brought it with him. He tried to roust Casebolt."

While Vey attempted to get Casebolt to respond, Anderson shut the helicopter off. "I got the attention of the other helicopter. It landed and Bierschenk got out of the helicopter and helped us pull Casebolt out of a bush. We put water on him. Once he acknowledged Bierschenk we knew he was going to be alright."

Vey, Anderson and Bierschenk attempted to revive Casebolt, while Cauthen relayed messages back to Bearmat, a communications site used to send messages from the Combat Center's mainside and units in the field.

"I relayed messages back to Bearmat," Cauthen said. "They kept asking me if he was alive and I wanted to know. Finally I got the thumbs up that Casebolt was alive and told Bearmat to launch a medevac."

Once word got out that Casebolt was found, vehicles started pouring into the area. "A corpsman from his unit started giving Casebolt basic care such as putting in IVs and splints for his leg. We assisted the corpsman as best we could."

At first everyone thought they would have to use the vehicles to transport Casebolt, but 1/7 Marines arrived, they quickly started clearing out brush to create a makeshift landing zone.

Anderson and Vey felt happy to find Casebolt when they first saw him. "We still had a sense of urgency because we knew he had been out in the elements since early in the morning. We were concerned he was dehydrated," Vey said. "We moved him and noticed he was limber. That was a relief. We started checking he was limber. That was a relief. We started checking for a pulse. We found one, but it was very weak."

While Vey, Anderson and Bierschenk provided medical assistance to Casebolt, Cauthen kept saying to himself, 'come on, he's got to be alive.'"

The foursome felt happy to participate in the search and rescue mission. "It wasn't really a Cobra mission, but we just happened to be here, and we were glad to help out," Vey said.

Tips to avoid the flu

Did you know that nine out of 10 healthy people who get a flu shot, don't get the flu?

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it's true! And because it takes two weeks for a flu shot's immunity to build completely, now is the best time to get vaccinated for flu season.

TRICARE Covers Flu Shots

Military families, you're in luck! TRICARE will cover flu shots or flu mists at no cost to you. Just make sure to receive the vaccination from your local military clinic, a TRICARE network provider, or a TRICARE network pharmacy. If you go to a pharmacy, make sure the actual pharmacist gives you the flu shot or mist, to avoid out-of-pocket costs.

If you choose to get your shot at the doctor's office, just be aware that some physicians may charge a small co-pay for the office visit. Additionally, it's a good idea to call your local military clinic first, to find out when flu shots are available.

Coaxing Your Kids for a Flu Shot

The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated against the flu. But do your kids throw a fit, or shut down when it's time for their shots? Making the "shot experience" smooth for your children can be a challenge.

Perhaps, if they see mom or dad doing it too, they may go more willingly. That's why we suggest leading by example. Here are some tips:

- Go for your flu shot when you take your kids for theirs.
- Ask if the clinic or pharmacy has flu mist

available as an alternative to the shot. Just check with your child's health care provider first, to see if it's a good fit.

- Offer to get your shot first. It will help to relax your kids.
- If fun or colorful bandages are available, ask to wear one alongside your children.
- Finish the flu shot appointment with a treat, such as a trip to the park or a healthy fruit smoothie.
Other Ways to Avoid the Flu

Keeping active, getting enough sleep and eating healthy foods can help you stand strong against the flu.

- Besides getting a flu shot, taking these everyday steps from the CDC can help you avoid the flu, in the first place:
- Wash your hands properly. By this, we mean scrub with soap and warm water for approximately 20 seconds, or the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday."
- Try to avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze. Then, throw away the tissue. If a tissue is not available, cover your mouth with the crease from your elbow. Never use your hands! Again, this helps prevent the spread of germs.

For more information on flu prevention tips, visit www.triwest.com/flu.

To locate a TRICARE-covered pharmacy that offers flu vaccinations, visit the Express Scripts website at www.express-scripts.com or call 1-877-363-1303.

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

THE SHOOTER

Sgt. Wayne Gallagher

Woodshed NCOIC, MTU
27, Pickerington, Ohio.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY

LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

October 16, 2012



> **I first learned how to shoot in boot camp** in 2004. I shot a shotgun prior, but that was the first time I shot a rifle.

> **I kind of** just figured out how to shoot on my own.

> **I'm an infantry guy** by trade. I've done four combat deployments. Three of them were with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment to Fallujah, Ramadi and Afghanistan, and then one with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, to Afghanistan.

> **I went over to Edson Range.**

That's when I became a part of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego shooting team.

> **Competitive shooting** was something that just sounded fun. It broke up the monotony of dealing with recruits on a day-to-day basis. It looked interesting, so I thought it would be a fun time.

> **I shot in division matches** in 2010 and 2011, Marine Corps Championships in 2011, and All-Navy and Pacific Fleet West matches in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

> **I was a range coach** working with recruits. We were kind of short on personnel, so one coach would have three to five target points and generally about seven relays. So basically, one coach was qualifying a whole platoon's worth of recruits.

> **In boot camp**, I was one of three or four experts in the platoon. In 2006 when I re-qualified, I shot a 240 out of 250. That was my personal best at Table 1.

> **It was kind of surprising** when I shot so well the first time out. But all I did was listen to the instructor and did what he told me.

> **I love the competition** and how mentally demanding it is and how one small little thing that could be going on in your head or in your life can change something.

> **I don't really have any pre-match** rituals. I used to do a blueberry bagel and Nutella before divisions, but it wasn't like I must have it. I just know that it's something that isn't going to mess with my stomach when I'm shooting.

> **I try to clean my weapon** the same way every day. That way the first shot on Monday, first shot on Tuesday, first shot on Wednesday are going to have the same amount of carbon on it. When I went out to the championships in 2011, I was second relay both days. In the end, I was out X'd for a medal. I tied the score for bronze, but had less Xs.

> **There's a phrase called the 'match monkey.'** It just gets on your back and mentally messes you up.

> **In Marine Corps** matches you have a two-day shoot where you get the opportunity to do better on the second day to raise your scores. Some competitions only have one match day. So you come out, shoot the match and you're done.

> **There's a song called "Savior"** by Rise Against. I remember listening to that on repeat non-stop right before I left the barracks to go to the range so I can have it stuck in my head. When I'm in the standing, I'm playing that song over and over again in my head.

> **I just let my** subconscious take care of my rifle. If you relax and let your subconscious take over, you're gonna do a lot better.

**LOOKING
for local
entertainment?**

See page B2 for our
LIBERTY CALL
section

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

Red Ribbon Week

Combat Center teaches community drug awareness

Lance Cpl. D. J. Wu
Combat Correspondent

The Combat Center is getting involved in Red Ribbon Week by visiting local schools in the Morongo Basin to teach children about staying drug-free.

Red Ribbon Week is a national drug prevention and awareness campaign to educate children on the dangers of drugs from Oct. 23 to 31.

Red Ribbon Week was created, in part, in response to the murder of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena. Shortly after his death, members of Camarena's community in Imperial City, Calif., started wearing red ribbons and pledged to be drug-free to honor Camarena.

The Combat Center's K-9 unit went to schools all week, giving K-9 dog demonstrations and showing students their role in enforcing the law. On Oct. 23, the unit went out to Onaga Elementary School in Yucca Valley, Calif., to demonstrate what military working dogs do, and to answer questions from eager students.

"I went out and I was the decoy for the working dogs for the bite work, showing controlled aggression," said Officer Josh Billig, with the Provost Marshal's Office. "They get really excited when they see the dogs. It's our job to help deter them away from drugs."

The officers also brought their dogs, Dano and Tasli, to show the students their discipline when searching for drugs.

"I showed the students how basic obedience works with my dog," said Cpl. Jared Sellers, K-9 handler, PMO. "Everything we do starts with that. We're out here supporting Red Ribbon Week and showing that drugs won't be tolerated. It's important to show the kids that it's our job to keep them safe."

The K-9 team had more than 10 demonstrations this week at schools all across the community.

"We're giving community awareness about the job we do as K-9 handlers," said Erik Battle, K-9 handler, PMO. "It's important that people have confidence in us and the ability of the dogs."

"My favorite part is just getting out there and interacting with the kids," Sellers said. "I like just talking about what we do and to answer their questions."



[Above] Officer Josh Billig, with the Provost Marshal's Office, takes questions from students of Onaga Elementary School in Yucca Valley, Calif., Tuesday after a K-9 demonstration in support of Red Ribbon Week.



[Left] Cpl. Jared Sellers, K-9 handler, PMO, talks to the elementary students of Onaga Elementary School about his job and importance of staying drug free.



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for, you can find it in the
**Observation Post
Classified section**



NEO, from A1

Marines. The evacuees played their part, creating obstacles for the Marines to overcome and becoming rowdy or aggressive.

The 3/6 Marines handled themselves against this test, managing to break through the language barriers and calming the role-players. The Marines assured everyone they were safe and recognized who needed to be evacuated.

Once everything was ready, the call went out for an extraction. The Ospreys once again navigated through the urban terrain, which tested their ability to recognize the landing zone and land in a compressed space, Peter said.

“One of the biggest advantages of doing this up here at Twentynine Palms is this is one of the first opportunities we have had to conduct this simulated NEO in an urban environment,” Peter said. “The pilots have to deal with constrained physical space landing their aircraft in an urban environment, where as a lot of other NEOs we have practiced in the past have been in an open operating area.”

The second-phase cycled Ospreys in and out. People were evacuated and flown to an intermediate support base.

The third and final phase was evacuating the security forces and ECC back to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., thus ending their long evening of successful training.

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Lance Cpl. Andrew Jeffers, rifleman, Company L., 3rd Battalion 6th Marine Regiment, spots an enemy during a mission rehearsal exercise for a non-combatant evacuation operation Oct. 19 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

[Far, right] Marines from Co. L, 3/6, CLB-15 and MAWTS-1 conduct a mission rehearsal exercise for a NEO Oct. 19.

[Right] Lance Cpl. Matthieu Clifford, rifleman, Co. L., 3/6, searches an evacuee played by Afghan role players used for the NEO Oct. 19.



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PARADE from A1

Communication-Electronics School students dressed in their Dress Blue Delta uniforms followed suit.

"Anytime I get the opportunity to go out in public and show people, who may not have a lot of interaction with the Marine Corps, who we are, I love that," said Staff Sgt. Seth Spivey, the staff noncommissioned officer leading the MCCES students in the march.

The platoons of Marines turned heads with their sharp display of discipline and obedience to orders.

"The crowd was great," Spivey said. "More people than I expected clapped and cheered."

Behind them, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 Marines showed off some of their armored vehicles. The unit's vehicles stood out in the long line of civilian cars and trucks as they drove along the parade route.

At the very end of the parade, the Combat Center fire department took their place among the other fire departments in the area.

The Marines did their best to show the Combat Center is not only part of the Marine Corps, but part of the local Twentynine Palms community.

"It's awesome we are part of Pioneer Days," said Spivey. "It's a really big deal to the community to have a remembrance for their heritage. This base has been around for 60 years, and we have to show the same support for them as they show for us."



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ALI AZIMI



(1) Retired Col. Billy Bouldin represents the Combat Center as the Military Grand Marshal during the Annual Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms.

(2) 1st Lt. Bryan Colbourn, logistics officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 ground guides a convoy in the Annual Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms.

(3) The mounted color guard from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., represents the Marine Corps at the annual Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms.

Looking for local entertainment?

See page B2 for our NEW LIBERTY CALL SECTION



CAR & BIKE SHOW

Bikers, motorheads show off vehicles, skills

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



Crowds gathered Oct. 20 for the Commanding General's 4th Annual Car and Bike Show at the base's Marine Corps Exchange parking lot. They were treated to a bevy of classic and modern cars, trucks and motorcycles. The contestants in the car, bike and truck categories showed their vehicles competing for category honors and the General's Choice, People's Choice and MCCS Choice awards.

"I'm showing my Mitsubishi 3000 GT with a rebuilt motor from the ground up," said Shane Griffis. "This is my first time out here, and I think it's a really good event. A lot of people put a lot of work into their vehicles."

Griffis was just one of dozens of contenders for this year's prizes. Owners of classic cars and trucks from all over the community were invited on board the Combat Center to show off their sweet rides.

The event also showcased motorcycle acrobatics. Attendees witnessed a street bike stunt demonstration performed by Jason Britton and Eric Hoenshel.

"I've got my truck and my bike out here," said Frank

Santiago, contestant and base motorcycle safety instructor, "It's a lot of fun for the families out here; it's a good time. It's great because the Commanding General is actually putting it together, letting people on base and building the camaraderie. I see a lot of smiling faces".

The auto exhibitors put a lot of work into their vehicle, not just for the show, but because they want to improve their rides any way they can.

"I've put months of work into my baby," Griffis said. "It's been quite a bit of work. I'm always looking for cars that are clean and have a fast motor in it. I go for speed."

The show brought the Combat Center community out to see some cool cars, tricked out bikes and some big trucks. Alongside the showcase was also an assortment of military vehicles for spectators to enjoy. Yucca Valley Chrysler was also on scene offering test drives and giveaways.

"It's just awesome," Santiago said. "We've been smiling all day. So it's been a lot of fun. I just love it all. I'm an enthusiast for anything with wheels and motors. This is my environment."



[Left] Patrons check out an M1A1 Abrams Tank Oct. 20 at the 4th Annual Commanding Generals Car and Bike Show on 5th Street.

[Center] Riders Jason Britton and Eric Hoenshel perform tricks on their motorcycles during the 4th Annual Commanding General's Car and Bike Show at the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot Oct. 20. Guests of the event were treated to a display of custom cars and the motorcycle show.

[Right] A blue 1968 Mustang sits on display at the 4th Annual Commanding General's Car and Bike Show at the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot Oct. 20.



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 from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 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

8th Annual Halloween Party

Crappy and Scarriet's presents Gram Rabbit
 When: Friday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m.
 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

Restless Heart

Night of classic music
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3
 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 26

6 p.m. - Expendables 2, Rated R
 9 p.m. - Lawless, Rated R
 Midnight - FREE Friday the Thirteenth, Rated R

Saturday, October 27

HOWL-O-WEEEN SCREENFEST
 10:30 a.m. - Coraline, Rated PG
 12:30 p.m. - Premium Rush, Rated PG-13
 3 p.m. - ParaNorman 3D, Rated PG-13
 6 p.m. - The Possession, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. - Hit and Run, Rated R
 Midnight - FREE Priest, Rated PG-13

Sunday, October 28

12:30 p.m. - ParaNorman, Rated PG
 3 p.m. - House at the End of the Street, Rated PG-13
 6 p.m. - Resident Evil 3D, Rated R
 9 p.m. - FREE Nightmare on Elm Street, Rated R

Monday, October 29

5 p.m. - FREE The Devil Inside, Rated R
 7 p.m. - The Possession, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, October 30

5 p.m. - FREE The Last Exorcism, Rated PG-13
 7 p.m. - Resident Evil, Rated R

Wednesday, October 31

5:30 p.m. - House at the End of the Street, Rated PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - FREE Halloween 2, Rated R

Thursday, Nov. 1

5:30 p.m. - ParaNorman, Rated PG
 8:30 p.m. - Expendables 2, Rated R

Tim Burton's boy-and-his-dog riff on classic horror yarn



COURTESY PHOTO

When Victor's beloved pooch, Sparky, meets an untimely end, he puts a lesson from his science class to good use, concocting a laboratory from bits and pieces of attic junk to catch a jolt from a lightning bolt and reanimate the sewn-together canine. Victor tries to keep his successful experiment a secret from his parents, his classmates and his neighbors, but you can imagine how long that lasts...

NEIL POND

"Frankenweenie"

Directed by Tim Burton
 PG, 87 min.

Before director Tim Burton struck box-office gold, he toiled away in obscurity as a 22-year-old animator apprentice for Walt Disney Studios.

There at the House of Mouse in the early 1980s, he put together a little black-and-white short about a boy who brings his deceased puppy back to life, a la Dr. Frankenstein.

Burton called it "Frankenweenie." The Disney execs were not sold on his quirky, dark-comedy riff on the classic horror movie that had stoked his childhood imagination. It was too scary, they said, too dark and unsettling for kids. Burton's back-from-the-dead doggie, they said, was no Snow White.

Burton didn't last long at Disney. They sent him packing — and on to much greater things, including "Pee Wee's Big Adventure," "Beetlejuice," "Edward Scissorhands," "Batman," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Alice in Wonderland" and other hit movies, all signed with his colorfully off-center, darkly comedic, idiosyncratic flourish.

Now, some 25 years later, Disney has welcomed Burton and "Frankenweenie"

back with open arms. Times may have changed, and Disney may have finally seen the gem they overlooked all those years ago.

But "Frankenweenie" is still the quirky dark comedy Burton originally intended it to be, now stretched to full movie length. This time, it's done with meticulous stop-motion animation, instead of live action, which allows even more leeway for Burton's trademark touches of creative weirdness.

Martin Short, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Landau and Winona Ryder are the recognizable "star" names providing voices for the delightfully imaginative black-and-white tale of young Victor (Frankenstein), in this version a misfit, science-obsessed teen growing up in a drab, prefab 1970s suburb.

When Victor's beloved pooch, Sparky, meets an untimely end, he puts a lesson from his science class to good use, concocting a laboratory from bits and pieces of attic junk to catch a jolt from a lightning bolt and reanimate the sewn-together canine.

Victor tries to keep his successful experiment a secret from his parents, his classmates and his neighbors, but you can imagine how long that lasts...

Visual nods abound to horror movies of yesteryear, with Goth-ghoulish characters that resemble iconic scary-cinema icons, scenes that reference various 1950s creature fea-

tures, and a pull-out-the-stops, monster-rama finale.

Woven into the movie's comedic parody of the familiar Frankenstein-story framework, however, is an extremely touching tale of a boy and his dog, one that makes "Frankenweenie" much more than just a dazzling exercise in pop-culture cleverness. All those years ago, when Burton made the original movie, he was inspired by the loss of his own childhood pet.

And boy, does it ever show. It's hard for any dog lover to watch "Frankenweenie" without feeling a solid tug, or two, on the heartstrings.

Victor's "experiment" freaks out the neighborhood, sparks a raid on the local pet cemetery by his classmates who hope to best him in the school science fair, and incites a riot that follows the "village mob" to the climactic windmill setting of the showdown, appropriately enough, of the original "Frankenstein."

All because Victor couldn't imagine life without his dog. This puppy tale has its scars and its stitches, but it's also vibrantly, electrifyingly alive with sweetness.

But Disney may have been right about one thing: It still may be a bit too dark and unsettling, at least during some parts, for the youngest of kids. Sparky still isn't Snow White.

And Tim Burton clearly wouldn't have it any other way.