



# OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS



March 29, 2013

Since 1957

Vol. 57 Issue 12

www.29palms.marines.mil

## Women's History Month

*Dare to be bold*



Story on B1

LANCE CPL. LAUREN A. KURKIBILIS

## Steps to take for PCS vehicle transfer

**Cpl. William J. Jackson**  
Combat Correspondent

**Editors Note:** This is the second of a three-part series on permanent changes of station. The series focuses on complicated issues when moving from station to station.

When a Marine or sailor receives permanent change of station orders, they're entitled to ship one privately owned vehicle to or from locations overseas, if that location allows the shipment of a POV. However, storage will be provided for one POV if the country the Marine is traveling to does not allow a shipment.

"First thing they need to do is contact us at (the Distribution Management Office) and set up an appointment to get entitlement questions answered, as far as his POV is concerned," said Kern Garr, distribution management specialist, DMO. "It depends on what country they're going to. That will determine if they're allowed to ship or to store (a POV). You are only allowed to ship or to store one POV per order. They'll need their web orders and (vehicle) registration."

It is the military service member or Department of Defense civilian's responsibility to ensure they are properly counseled on POV entitlements before bringing their vehicle they wish to transfer to the Vehicle Processing Center. The nearest VPC for Combat Center personnel is located in Rancho Dominguez,

See PCS page A4



# 10 YEARS LATER

LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Sally Gannon embraces her daughter, Maria Gannon, 10, during Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment's reunion at Camp Wilson March 23. The Gannon family attended the reunion in honor of their father and husband, Maj. Richard Gannon, who served as company commander of Co. L and was killed in action Al Anbar Province, Iraq April 17, 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## 'Cutting Edge' family reunites for OIF anniversary

**Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya**  
Combat Correspondent

Ten years after the invasion into Iraq, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, reunited at the Combat Center March 21 to celebrate their history and meet the Marines and sailors who filled their shoes after they left active duty.

The Marines reunited with their brothers who served in Co. L in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In January 2003, Co. L played a vital role in the invasion of Iraq. They were responsible for capturing and detaining many of the highest ranking officials of the Ba'ath Party during covert operations south of Baghdad. The unit returned to the United States in September of 2003 and continued to serve seven combat deployments consecutively in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"When you shoot the same dirt, experience the same experiences and feel the same losses, you grow together," said Maj. Dominique Neal, who served with 3/7, Co. L, from November 2000 until November 2004. "That is a brotherhood."

The former Marines of 3/7 and their families met

at the Combat Center's Phelps Mess Hall to eat breakfast and reunite. The Marines and their families had an hour and a half to tour the updated 3/7, Co. L office and the Marine Corps Exchange after they were finished with breakfast.

The Marines later visited a static display of modern vehicles and weapon systems the unit utilizes at Camp Wilson.

"Knowing what I know, if someone asked if I would do it all again, I absolutely would," Neal said. "I served with a great group of men. I would do it in a heartbeat."

*When you shoot the same dirt, experience the same experiences and feel the same losses, you grow together. That is a brotherhood.*

— Maj. Dominique Neal

Once the day's events concluded, the group went into town to have dinner. The reunion gave the Marines an opportunity to share stories and experiences they went through together in an environment where there was a common bond and understanding, said Capt. Javier Gonzalez, officer instructor at Advisor Training Group.

"Most Marines don't realize the lasting impact the Marine Corps leaves within them for the rest of their lives," Gonzalez said. "Whether you loved the Marine Corps, while you were in, or if it wasn't for you, you start to miss the people you served with. These guys are just flat-out proud to have served their country with each other."



[Above] Combat Center support personnel aide CLB-7 in non-lethal weapons training exercise at the Combat Center's Range 800 March 21. CLB-7 employed the use of the ADS 2 exercise as part of their training.



[Below] Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 patrol during a non-lethal weapons training exercise at the Combat Center's Range 800 March 21. CLB-7 employed the use of the Active Denial System 2 exercise as part of their training.

## CLB-7 trains with non-lethal weapons

**Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya**  
Combat Correspondent

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 participated in a non-lethal weapons training exercise in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense Non-Lethal Weapons Program on March 21 at Range 800.

The Marines learned to use the Active Denial System 2, an advanced non-lethal, direct-fire support system that projects a man-sized beam of heat-emitting, millimeter waves. It can effectively engage targets up to 1,000 meters.

One of the many roles the ADS 2 can play is suppressive fire. It can support troops in a number of different scenarios such as perimeter security, crowd con-

trol and advance-to-contact if employed in-country.

Volunteers had the opportunity to step into the path of the ADS 2 and feel the effects of the system.

"What an amazing device," said Master Sgt. David Lee Sutherland, battalion maintenance chief, Headquarters Company, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "As far as the capabilities, getting hit with it and how it felt, it is an absolutely great deterrent."

Following the individual exposures, a squad-sized element of Marines acted out a number of scenarios during a live demonstration to portray its versatility.

Instructors also gave Marines a chance to see just how useful this non-lethal weapon is during the demonstration. The Marine patrol utilized the ADS 2 to deter the combatants from perusing the

See NON-LETHAL page A4

## VFW sponsors day of family fun for 'Phantoms'



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Mathew Pimentel, 2, son of Lance Cpl. Eric Pimentel, plays soccer during Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3's squadron party.

**Cpl. Ali Azimi**  
Combat Correspondent

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, District 22, held a squadron party for the Marines and sailors of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 March 22, at the Combat Center's Heritage Park. Members of the VFW contacted the unit during their deployment to Afghanistan in 2010 and adopted them for their Adopt-a-Unit program.

The VFW is a national organization, made up of service members who have served in combat zones, that supports veterans and active duty service members from all branches.

For more than eight years, VFW posts around the world have adopt-

ed units and sponsored events that benefit the unit's service members.

The event provided an afternoon of fun and food for approximately 175 Marines and their families.

"We wanted to have an event for the VMU, because they've been gone. Since the last one, it's been three years," said Lee Quarcelino, commander, District 22, VFW. "We got them all together, brought everybody in and we want (the Marines) to have a nice day, compliments of us and the Marine Corps."

In the center of the park, kids played around in the grass as a band played music on stage. Marines dressed in padded sumo suits and rammed into each other to knocking their opponent out of the circle. Marines also stepped

See VFW page A4

Faces in the Crowd



1

CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON



2

CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON



3

LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS



4

LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS



5

LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

**[1]** Michael Johnson, 2, son of Lance Cpl. Michael Johnson, rifleman, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, plays in a bouncy house at 1/7's Family Day held at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 22.

**[2]** Ethan Scheffer, 2, son of Lance Cpl. Nick Scheffer, mortarman, 1/7, hangs onto the sides of a bouncy house at 1/7's Family Day held at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 22.

**[3]** Carly Brandt, 1, daughter of Cpl. Joe Brandt, squad leader, Co. A, 1/7, collects Easter eggs at 1/7's Family Day held at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 22.

**[4]** Alisa Avila, 5, daughter of Staff Sgt. Orlando Avila, platoon sergeant, Co. B, 1/7, puts Easter eggs into her bag at 1/7's Family Day held at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 22.

**[5]** Asa Jones, 2, daughter of Sgt. Luke Jones, section leader, Weapons Company, 1/7, plays at 1/7's Family Day held at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 22.



**Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis  
Combat Correspondent**

1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment held a family day for their Marines, sailors and family members at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 22.

"Events like this help to build unit morale," said Lt. Col. Seth Yost, battalion commander, 1/7. "These guys work hard and this is a chance for them to come together outside of work."

The morning of the event, the Marines and sailors were invited to participate in a battalion-wide golf tournament. The service members and their families then ate lunch and were able to enjoy rock wall climbing, mechanical bull riding, face painting and bouncy houses.

"This is a great opportunity for the families to get to know each other," Yost said. "Especially with everyone's kids out here, they get a chance to see that throughout the ranks, many have children the same age."

The day of festivities ended with three Easter egg hunts for children of varying ages. Most of the eggs were filled with candy while some had raffle tickets that were traded in for Easter baskets.

"We had a great turn out today," said Ruby Zunino, family readiness officer, 1/7. "We love it when everyone comes together to relax and have fun. They deserve it."

**facebook**  
Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

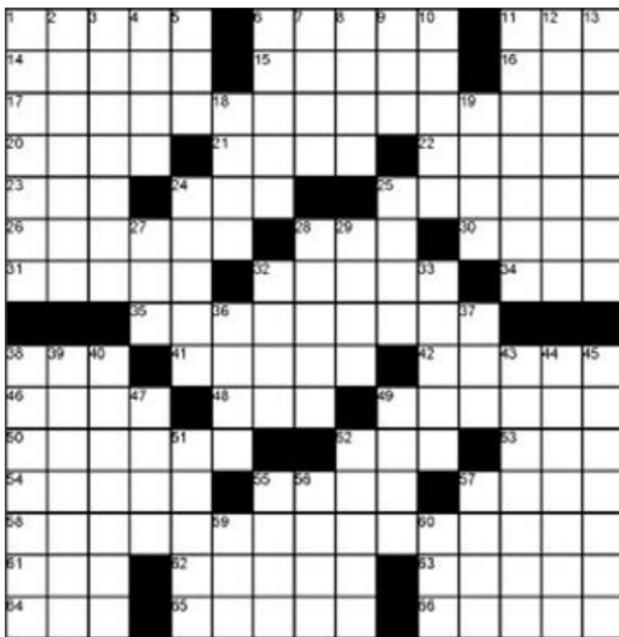
**You Tube**  
The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>

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

**TALLYHO**

- ACROSS**
1. Fake, as an injury
  6. Media exec Roger
  11. Shooting marble
  14. Room at the top
  15. Squash, for one
  16. Chapel vow
  17. Roger Kahn baseball classic
  20. Give a rap
  21. All-star game side, maybe
  22. Does a KP chore
  23. Santa \_\_ winds
  24. Toronto ballplayer, for short
  25. "\_\_\_ to the Marines!"
  26. Walk feebly
  28. Sitcom aunt
  30. Hamlet, for one
  31. Whole bunches
  32. Birch family member
  34. Dropout's doc.
  35. Venomous viper
  38. "M\*A\*S\*H" cops
  41. Sordid
  42. Of the blood
  46. "Musta been something \_\_\_"
  48. Bard's before
  49. Winter melon
  50. Bull pen sounds
  52. \_\_ Four (the Beatles)
  53. Coll. hoops competition
  54. Skylit lobbies

55. Senate position
  57. Peddler's aim
  58. Market feature
  61. Painter Gerard \_\_ Borch
  62. Meet component
  63. Tuscany city
  64. Grads-to-be: Abbr.
  65. Jerks jerk them
  66. Mill output
- DOWN**
1. They're loaded
  2. Gasohol ingredient
  3. Say over
  4. Barbed remark
  5. Sgt. or cpl.
  6. Analyze, as ore
  7. NASDAQ debuts
  8. Choir perch
  9. Hesitation sounds
  10. Dumb bunny
  11. Period between stimulus and response
  12. "Sweet" girl of song
  13. Woolen cloth
  18. Fiscal period
  19. Pinochle combo
  24. Mary Magdalene washed his feet
  25. Irate, with "off"
  27. County div, often
  28. Point the finger at
  29. Whirling water
  32. Way off
  33. Recovery clinic, for



- short
36. Doctors sometimes split them
37. In medias \_\_
38. Behaves badly
39. Black cat
40. Warehouse users
43. Everglades mammal
44. Eisenhower Center city
45. Gridiron pitchout
47. Cartman of "outh Park"
49. "The Censor" of Rome
51. Helps oneself to
52. "Just the \_\_, ma'am"
55. Took to court
56. Sicilian erupter
57. Peevish mood
59. Lacto-\_\_- vegetarian
60. Destroyer letters

See answers on page A5

**SUDOKU 2861-D**

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



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

**OBSERVATION POST**

- Commanding General** - Maj. Gen. David H. Berger  
**Public Affairs Officer** - Capt. Nick Mannweiler  
**Deputy Public Affairs Officer** - 1st Lt. Sin Y. Kook  
**Public Affairs Chief** - Gunnery Sgt. Leo A. Salinas  
**Press Chief** - Cpl. Sarah Dietz  
**Editor/Layout, Design** - Cpl. D. J. Wu

- Correspondents**  
 Cpl. William J. Jackson  
 Cpl. Ali Azimi  
 Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis  
 Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

The Observation Post is published by Hi-Desert Publishing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the Observation Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States government, the DOD, or the United States Marine Corps. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD or Hi-Desert Publishing of the services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is prepared by the Public Affairs Office, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92278. All photos, unless otherwise indicated are Official USMC Photos. Questions can be directed to the Public Affairs Office, located in building 1417, during normal working hours at 830-6213 or FAX 830-5474. The Observation Post is made with 60 percent recycled paper.

**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.29palms.marines.mil>

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Women's  
History Month

# Andrea

Kalamazoo, Mich., mother of three, 30

# WALLACE

- > **Coy is our oldest** and he is three, Ransom will be two on April 1 and Hemingway is six months.
- > **For the last three years**, this has pretty much been my life: pregnancy, nursing, having kids.
- > **I guess it's just** what I know now but I wouldn't change it for anything at all.
- > **Coy is my** head-strong, very driven, I'm going to do this, no fear kid. He also has this side to him that's very loving and very much a big brother. Even with Hemingway, he's so gentle and every morning he's in there talking to him.
- > **Ransom is our crazy personality.** I think when he really starts to talk, he's just going to make me laugh every day. He already makes me laugh all the time. He's got that quirky crazy side to him and he just has this really sweet spirit.
- > **Hemingway is definitely** my happy boy. He's always got a smile for somebody and he's super easy going. I mean, at least so far because he's only six months but he is such a good baby. I think God knew I needed a super easy baby to come next.
- > **With my husband, Rob being deployed** right now, life definitely gets really crazy. It's a lot of fun but very, very crazy.
- > **He's just awesome** with the kids. We've always talked about having a lot of kids, like seven. I'm not really sure where we are on that now but we definitely want at least five. Honestly, he is fantastic. He loves his boys and he shares his love with them.
- > **Last time he deployed**, Ransom was four days old the day he left, so we got really lucky. Another

WALLACE HAS ALWAYS WANTED A LARGE FAMILY. SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE THREE CHILDREN AND ARE HOPING FOR A 4TH WHEN HE RETURNS FROM DEPLOYMENT.

Marine had offered to go early so that Rob could stay back for two weeks. We did everything we could to try to get him to come. I started semi-jogging around the block, nine months pregnant. I'm sure my neighbors were looking at me like I was crazy because I looked ridiculous.

> **Once you're in labor**, you're not really thinking of anything other than getting through it and meeting your baby. But, we realized how blessed we were to have him there for it.

> **Rob is really** into motorcycles and both the boys are super into it too. They're always with him in the garage working on stuff even if it's just him talking through how to change the oil and they're just standing there holding a wrench or something. He does a really great job of sharing his love with them.

> **He does a** really good job of sharing his love with them. I think that's not always the case with a lot of parents. They might think it would be easier to just go along with what they need to do, but Rob wants to involve them. He wants to be a positive influence in their lives.

> **Every day we usually** just get up and then eat breakfast together. After that we usually have to shower because everyone is just covered in oatmeal. Then, we're usually off to the park or some sort of play date. I'm involved in the Christian Women's Fellowship on base so once a week we do that and Coy goes to school twice a week. They all nap in the afternoon and then it's usually off to another park or to run errands. Keeping them busy and stimulated is really important. Plus, it's great for them to burn off a bunch of energy during the day so bed time goes better.

> **Their favorite place** to go in the area is Joshua Tree. They like to hike and play. Coy actually loves to climb. Rob got him a harness and he legit climbs. He's pretty good. When we don't have the harness, they just scramble around and they like to hike on their own, so I'll just strap Hemingway to my chest and we go.

> **My husband is one** of seven boys and some of them came here during spring break and they were eating at my house and it made me wonder, 'How does your mom even pay for food?' I couldn't even imagine trying to feed all of these people. Then I realized, now I have three boys and when they get older, that's the way it's going to be. And we want more kids and I'm sure they're going to be boys.

> **Sometime in college** I just thought that maybe one day I'd want like 11 kids. I know, I'm crazy, but I just felt like it would be a lot of fun, just an adventure everyday. I want to have a lot of people in the house with a lot of love and chatter and business and craziness. And now we just want to build that environment. We always want our door to be open and have everyone feel welcome.

> **I'd love to have a girl**, but we have a feeling that won't happen naturally. Just given that he came from so many boys and we already seemed to have begun the same trend.

> **We do have** a heart for adoption. We want to adopt domestically because we feel that there are so many children here in this country that need a good home. Our only stipulation would be that, barring we don't have a girl of our own, we would want to adopt a girl. My husband and I both grew up in Christian homes and we both believe that with that we have a lot to offer children who need good parents and a good home.

> **We've talked about** beginning the adoption process when he gets back or trying for another child ourselves. We just feel like we have so much love to give.

> **While Rob is gone especially** I just have to be disciplined in all areas of life so that I'm a good mom to my kids. I have to stay healthy and go to bed at a certain time because it's just me all the time. That's a choice of love that I make for my boys. I make sure that every morning that I'm reading scripture and leading our lives so that we keep strong and keep motivated.

> **We definitely look** at him deploying as an opportunity for him to serve the Marines around him and it's an opportunity for me to serve the women that are here, especially the ones that have kids too. I get to build relationships with people and be a positive influence not only to those around me but to my children also.

Interviewed by Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis  
March 20, 2013



LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

1st Lt. Seth Monroe, company commander, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, gets hit by heat emitting millimeter waves resonating from the Active Denial System 2 at the Combat Center's Range 800 March 21.



LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 performed a non-lethal weapons training exercise March 21 in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense's Non-Lethal Weapons Program at the Combat Center's Range 800. The Active Denial System 2, an advanced non-lethal direct-fire support system that projects a man-sized beam of heat-emitting millimeter waves. It can effectively engage targets up to 1,000 meters.

### NON-LETHAL, from A1

civilians. In a simulation depicting potential enemy combatants harassing the local civilian populous, Marines were able to see that a combatant standing within five feet of a civilian bystander could be safely engaged without causing undo harm to non-combatants.

"It is a directed energy and advanced system," said Col. Tracy Tafolla, director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate. "However, it is not new. We have studied this particular technology for about 20 years now."

There have been approximately 11,000 exposures from volunteers and

only two have required minimal medical treatment. The 95-gigahertz millimeter wave beam is safe and is only capable of penetrating a skin depth of about 1/64 of an inch, Tafolla said.

"It provides a repel effect," Tafolla said. "It denies an area that you don't want people to be in. It is quite a capability that we don't (utilize in combat zones) right now."

The ADS 2 is designed to be able to withstand small-arms fire and stay in the field for up to a year, in any temperature or weather. The system can be transported by truck and can be dropped off at different operating modules. However, when the ADS 2 is being used, it is made to work alongside lethal weapons.

"We don't employ (non-lethal weapons) by themselves, it's always best that you employ them with lethal systems," Tafolla said. "Just like you would have a lethal crew-served weapon mounted on to a gun truck. This just happens to be a non-lethal weapon that you would mount and be able to provide those suppressive fires."

This is not annual training for the Marines of CLB-7, but training with non-lethal technology gives them a better understanding of its capabilities.

"We are not always in the fight," said 1st Lt. Christopher Nguyen, CLB-7 adjutant. "But we are Marines and it is important to know about this technology so we can leverage its capabilities."

### PCS from A1

Calif. The VPC will let travelers know when and where a vehicle will arrive.

Vehicles may not be shipped within the continental United States unless there are medical circumstances restricting a service member from driving cross-country, said Garr. They must have documentation from a physician that states their inability to drive themselves.

Shipment or storage of a POV is limited to 20 measurement tons. If service members make their own arrangements to ship a POV commercially, they should still contact DMO for any vehicle restrictions that may apply to overseas countries. Expenses will come out-of-pocket and may result in an import fee on personal shipments or a second POV shipment.

To calculate the measurement ton of your POV, multiply the length of the vehicle, times the width, times height then divide by 1,728, which will give you the cubic feet of your POV, then divide the cubic feet by 40 to obtain your POV measurement ton.

For Marines and sailors stationed overseas, POVs will be accepted up to 12 months before they PCS. In the case of a leased vehicle, the service members must also provide written authority from the leasing company to have the vehicle transported to the new destination. All requirements stated in the lease are still the responsibility of the owner.

For more information contact DMO at 830-6119 or 830-6660, or email them at [smbplmstmohg@usmc.mil](mailto:smbplmstmohg@usmc.mil).



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Madison, 2, daughter of Sgt. Chris Jones, unmanned aerial vehicle technician, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 plays with her dad during a VFW sponsored squadron party.

### VFW, from A1

up to the dunk tank to soak officers and staff noncommissioned officers.

The squadron's party helped raise funds for the unit's Marine Corps ball in November and gave Marines a chance to celebrate the completion of their recent involvement supporting units in the Integrated Training Exercise, the Marine Corps' premiere pre-deployment training program.

"They're having a good time," said Sgt. Maj. James L. Johnson, VMU-3 sergeant major. "Anytime they can get together and it's outside the work place, they enjoy one another's company."

In addition to sponsoring events for VMU-3, the Adopt-a-Unit Program builds bonds between the organization and the unit. It introduced the VFW and their cause to VMU-3 Marines and welcomed them to apply for the organization.

"It's awesome," Johnson said. "These guys are us in a few years. I think it's very important for young Marines now to understand the power that they actually have and what they can do to join it now and be a part of it in the future."

 <p>Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter">http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter</a></p>	 <p>The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO">http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO</a></p>	 <p>The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <a href="http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter">http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter</a></p>
---	---	---

# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## Marine Corps urges attentiveness to sexual assault

**Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya**  
Combat Correspondent

**A**pril is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Combat Center personnel seek to bring attention to a subject that continues to have a negative impact throughout the ranks. In a statement to the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, said he supports Sexual Assault Awareness Month with its theme, "We own it. We'll solve it, together."

"Sexual assault goes against everything we are as Marines. It goes against everything we pledge to be, honorable men and women of the highest moral and ethical character," Barrett said. "It opposes our Corps values that have made our institution the finest in the world."

All Marines have to participate in annual sexual assault training, regardless of rank. They are taught

ways to report if they are a victim of sexual assault and different ways to prevent it. The training also explains the consequences of committing sexual assault.

"Marines come from all different walks of life and something might have been acceptable in the culture they were raised, but sexual assault is zero-tolerance, Marine Corps wide," said Jennifer Husung, the Combat Center's sexual assault response coordinator. "We don't tolerate individuals advancing on someone else when there is no consent."

Alcohol is involved in the majority of sexual assault incidents, Husung said. Many sexual assaults begin in social situations and often with people they know. When an individual is under any type of influence, they are no longer able to give consent.

Sexual assault prevention includes the notion everyone has the ability to stop an assault if they witness a suspicious situation.

"Sexual assault is a shameful and disgusting crime,"

Barrett said. "Failing to intervene is a cowardly act."

Sexual assault victims or witnesses have options when reporting an incident. There are two ways of reporting; restricted and unrestricted.

A restricted report can only be reported to certain individuals who will remain confidential about the incident like chaplains, advocates and counselors.

Unrestricted reports mean the individual reporting can receive all services, the victim's chain of command will be notified.

"A big part of individuals coming forward is trusting in their command," Husung said. "The training the commands have to go through is causing a huge change, especially here on base."

Two years ago, there were 18 reports of sexual assault. In the past year there were 40 reported assaults on base.

"There's never a wrong time to do the right thing," Barrett said. "We always stand together and we always remain faithful. Remember who you are."



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



# DARE TO BE BOLD

Women's  
History Month

Story and photos

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimillis

*"I'll always love an adventure. I climbed Machu Picchu right when I graduated college and I spent two weeks backpacking through Europe by myself when I finished TBS. I'm very hard headed and independent. It's something I've wanted to do all my life so, I took a military flight over to Germany and I went to Munich, Prague, Budapest and Vienna. You go at your own pace and see what you want. You're much more open to meeting new people and you learn a lot about yourself. It's a real boost in confidence and independence."*

Brandy Soublet says she has been in the right place at the right time. That may be so, but she doesn't back down from opportunities that cross her path – she waits for the moment.

She grew up with two immigrant parents who worked hard to give their children a good life. Their inspiration caused her to work hard. She took leadership roles in her early schooling, earned her master's degree in college and became one of the first women to be placed in an all-male combat unit.

"My father is from Cuba and my mother is from Puerto Rico. They are both very much self-made people," said 1st Lt. Brandy Soublet, S-4 officer, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion. "My dad was an entrepreneur and made a life for himself and for us, but I had a very different childhood than them."

Soublet's parents worked to send her and her brother to private schools. She worked hard because her parents worked harder.

"I had so many opportunities that they could never dream of as children," Soublet said. "Knowing they grew up very poor, and what they came from, I was always kind of feverish to take advantage of opportunities and to work as hard as I could as kind of a thank you to them for all they've done for me."

Soublet attended an all-girls, private high school where she played varsity soccer, became the captain of the soccer team during her senior year and was also elected vice president of the student body council.

"I guess I was one of those over achievers," Soublet said. "I wanted to fill up my resumé with extracurriculars but mostly I just always had my nose in a book or I was on the soccer field. It was really interesting because I went to an all-girls high school to the Naval Academy, which was probably about 80 percent men, which was a big difference."

Soublet was one of the first people in her family to go to college and was the first person in her family to achieve higher than a bachelor's degree. She studied ocean engineering at the Naval Academy and then went on to earn a master's degree in material science and engineering.

"I had a lot of great professors in college who saw that I had a passion for my studies and encouraged me to continue to grad school," Soublet said. "I ended up going to Pennsylvania State University for graduate studies. I was commissioned after I graduated college so I was actually a second lieutenant when I went to grad school."

Soublet took advantage of a very unique program that's offered to Naval Academy graduates, which allows them to commission but also to go to grad school right after college.

"I was just sort of in the right place at the right time," Soublet said, "and I did really well in the Naval Academy. I had to also get the OK from the Marine Corps but I was still active duty the whole time and I was a second lieutenant for two years while I was at Penn State. Once I graduated, I went to The Basic School."

Soublet says she didn't make up her mind whether she wanted to follow the path of the Navy or the Marine Corps until toward the end of her time at the Naval Academy.

"I actually initially went there thinking I would do anything other than be a Marine," Soublet said. "I would be a Navy pilot or a Navy surface warfare officer but I didn't want to do the Marine thing. But over the years of being there, I found that the people that I empathized the most with and found myself really getting along with, all ended up graduating Marines. With that pattern I discovered that the Marine Corps was more of the mindset that I wanted to be in. We're more disciplined and have a lot of pride in what we do."

Soublet is a go-getter. When an idea pops into her head, she runs with it. "I'll always love an adventure," Soublet said. "I climbed Machu Picchu right when I graduated college and I spent two weeks backpacking through Europe by myself when I finished TBS. I'm very hard headed and independent. It's something I've wanted to do all my life so I took a military flight over to Germany and I went to Munich, Prague, Budapest and Vienna. You go at your own pace and see what you want. You're much more open to meeting new people and you learn a lot about yourself. It's a real boost in confidence and independence."

After completing TBS, Soublet chose to come out to the west coast and was pleasantly surprised to be stationed at the Combat Center.

"Everyone always wants San Diego," Soublet said. "I got Twentynine Palms and honestly, I couldn't be happier here. It's been home since day one. I really enjoy it and I have a great group of friends here."

Soublet is one of the initial 45 women who, as of June 1, 2012, were assigned to a formerly all-male battalion, a new milestone reached in the

Marine Corps' efforts to integrate more females into combat roles.

"Initially, I was assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 7," Soublet said. "But then, when I was at Combat Logistics Officer course, they pulled us in and said, your orders have changed. You're going to CEB." Honestly, I was just in the right place at the right time. June 1 was when this change was being made and I graduated my course in May. But given that, I was more than happy to take advantage of the opportunity."

Any new lieutenant going to their first unit is going to be a little nervous, Soublet said. She was apprehensive at first but once she got to her unit, she told herself that being the only female in a combat unit was not going to make a difference. She was just eager to do her job.



"They responded incredibly well," Soublet said. "The first day or so it was sort of like, 'One of these Marines is not like the other,' because they weren't used to working with females. But then, it was just business as usual and I've never had any issues. They've just accepted me like any other lieutenant and they judge me based on my performance and not my gender."

Soublet will be deploying with 3rd CEB in early April. She says she is excited and eager to go on her first deployment where not only will she get to lead her troops in country, but she will also pick up the rank of captain.

"My grandfather doesn't know much about Marine Corps rank," Soublet said. "But he always says, 'I never thought I would see the day when one of my grandchildren would become a captain in the United States Marine Corps, never in my wildest dreams.' So now I can't wait to come back so I can say, 'Abuelo, I did it. Look, now I'm a Marine Corps captain.'"

Inspired by the love, compassion and dedication of her family, Soublet has worked hard to get to where she is today. She attests her success to the mindset her parents instilled in her at a young age.

"I think that confidence will take you a long way in life," Soublet said. "Be bold, it will take you places."



# Liberty Call

## Halle Berry plays 911 operator on kinky murderer's trail



COURTESY PHOTO

NEIL POND

### "The Call"

Starring: Halle Berry & Abigail Breslin  
 Directed by Brad Anderson  
 Rated PG, 130 min.

Some people go to movies to relax, laugh, kick back, forget their troubles or release the tensions of the outside world.

"The Call" isn't that kind of movie. It's a tightly wound, sometimes terrifying reminder of the real-life horrors that everyone fears could happen to them – or their children.

When a veteran 911 operator (Halle Berry) gets a frantic cell-phone call from a teenage girl (Abigail Breslin) who's been abducted from a Los Angeles shopping mall and thrown into a car trunk, it begins a life-or-death race to save the youngster before she becomes the next victim of a sick-o serial killer.

To add a (vital) dramatic wrinkle, Berry's character, Jordan, is recovering from an on-the-job trauma six months ago, when a mistake she made on her switchboard contributed to the kidnapping and grisly murder of another teenage girl. It's just a matter of time before Jordan, using her keen ear, figures out that the same creepy killer is behind both abductions.

And it's also just a matter of time, until Jordan breaks her own cardinal rules of working as a 911 operator: "Stay emotionally detached. And never ever make promises, 'cause you can't keep 'em."

Not only does Jordan reassuringly promise Breslin's character, Casey, that she'll be rescued, but she also puts on her Nancy Drew "girl detective" pants, so involved is she, and heads out to do her own sleuthing work when the cops – including her hunky boyfriend (Morris Chestnut) and his hunky partner (former WWE wrestler David Otunga) – hit a dead end.

Michael Eklund plays the kinky killer as a truly unhinged psycho, a normal-looking family man with kids and a wife who have no idea of his extracurricular activities--or his

twisted sister issues going back to childhood. Michael Imperioli (son Christopher on "The Sopranos") makes the most of his brief part as a limo driver who has a highway encounter with the abductor.

And Breslin, whose character goes for that vile and violent trunk ride and ends up strapped to a gurney in a Lair of Unspeakable Horrors, weeping and begging to be dispatched rather than subjected to the god-awful fate she knows awaits her... Well, she's certainly come a long way since "Little Miss Sunshine," the uplifting movie comedy that put her on the map as a loveably geeky 11-year-old in 2006.

A promising young actress, now 18, she's no doubt got a lot of movies ahead of her. Perhaps her next ones will offer her more scenes in which she gets to be upright, and more dialogue beyond desperate yelps of "Please help me!!," "Noooo!!!" and "I don't want to die!!!"

The movie has some elements of a good, gripping thriller-chiller early on. We're immersed in the teeming, humming world of the 911 call center "hive," and when Jordan and the police use all their forensic skills to piece together a trail of scattered clues (broken bits of glass, background noises, splatters of paint, information from a dead man's wallet) that help them close in on the killer.

But things then devolve into an exploitative, even trashy wallow in the gratuitous, especially when Breslin is relieved of half her clothes and spends the movie's entire third act--its most blatantly borrowed "Silence of the Lambs" segment--luridly stripped down to her bra.

The story also hinges on some absolutely preposterous plot turns, not the least of which is its ludicrous "payback" ending, an impossibility to imagine after what's just gone before it – except, of course, in the movies.

I suspect a lot of folks, ones who tune in each week to TV's "Criminal Minds," the "C.S.I." procedurals and other nitty-gritty cop shows where detectives delve into all sort of unsavory, graphically depicted misdeeds, won't flinch at the sight of pretty teenage girls being scared out of their minds, menaced, mauled, beaten, sliced, and treated as the sexualized objects of a grown man's perverted fantasy. To some, it's just another story on another screen.

Others, however, should be advised that this "Call," a rather unsavory experience overall made even less pleasant by its ultimate pandering to the basest of its audience's entertainment tastes, is one with which they just might not want to connect at all.

### Combat Center Clubs

**Excursions Enlisted Club**  
 Monday: Margarita Mondays  
 Thursday: Rockin' Karaoke 7 to 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 to 11 p.m.

**Bloodstripes NCO Club**  
 Monday: Margarita Mondays  
 Thursday: Warrior Night 4:30 - 9 p.m.  
 Friday: Karaoke Night 6 to 9 p.m.

**Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club**  
 Friday: Steak Night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch from 11 a.m. to 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. to 1:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: Taco Night, 5- 7 p.m.

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

### Local Events

**Free Line Dance Lessons**  
 Learn to dance the night away  
 When: 5 to 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.

**Gypsy**  
 When: March 8 through April 6  
 Where: Theatre 29  
 73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
 For more information call 316-4151  
 or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

### Lower Desert

**Matchbox 20**  
 Pop-rock band performers  
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 30  
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Commodores**  
 American soul/funk band performs  
 When: 9 p.m., Friday, April 5  
 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>.

**Morris Day and the Time**  
 comedian performs  
 When: 9:00 p.m., Friday, April 12  
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

**Brian Regan**  
 comedian performs  
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, April 12  
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
 For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>

### Sunset Cinema

**Friday, March 29**  
 6 p.m. – Safe Haven, Rated PG-13  
 9 p.m. – Beautiful Creatures, Rated PG-13  
 Midnight – Side Effect, Rated R  
**Saturday, March 30**  
 10:30 a.m. – Free Matinee Despicable Me, Rated PG  
 12:30 p.m. – Hansel and Gretel, Rated R  
 3 p.m. – Escape from Planet Earth 3-D, Rated PG  
 6 p.m. – Parker, Rated R  
 9 p.m. – Side Effect, Rated R  
 Midnight – Identity Thief, Rated R

## Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
 with the Hi-Desert Star  
 Thursdays with  
 The Desert Trail  
 Fridays with  
 The Observation Post



Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

Your community newspapers working to serve you better