



# MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS OBSERVATION POST



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## The birth of a nation

Cpl. William J. Jackson  
Combat Correspondent

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable (date) in the history of America," wrote John Adams, the second President of the United States, to his wife, Abigail. "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams wrote this letter before the revision of the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress July 4, 1776. Although he was wrong on the date, he was spot on for the significance of the date.

America had been fighting in the Revolutionary War for nearly two years against the Kingdom of Great Britain by the time the Declaration of Independence was signed. America was to be a sovereign nation, and the militia, along with a new style of fighting was going to get America there.

The Continental Congress established a regular army on June 14, 1775, and appointed George Washington as commander-in-chief. Washington continued to develop the Continental Army and used both his regular soldiers and state militia throughout the war.

When the war began, the 13 colonies lacked a professional army or navy and every colony had to fund their own local militia. The men were lightly armed, had little training and usually didn't have uniforms. They did, however, know the land better than their enemy.

When properly used, their numbers helped the Continental armies overwhelm larger British forces. Both sides used guerilla warfare but the Americans effectively suppressed Loyalist activity when British soldiers were not in the area.

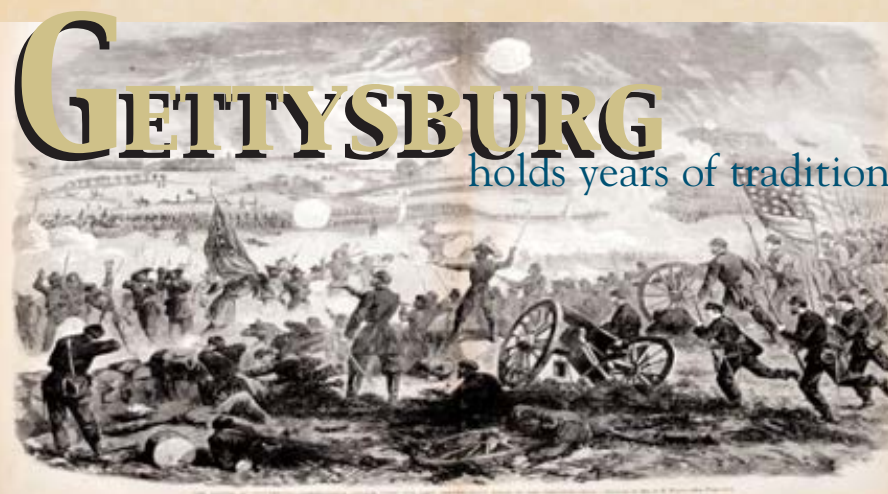
The official military services of today were grounded by the Continental Army and Marines from the Revolutionary time period. From there, America has adapted its military for every conflict it has engaged in.

The United States Marine Corps traces its institutional roots to the Continental Marines. The Marines were formed at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia on Nov. 10, 1775, by a resolution of the Continental Congress, a date regarded and celebrated as the

See **INDEPENDENCE** page A7

July 1, 1863 two massive armies unexpectedly collided on the outskirts of a small Pennsylvania town. That fateful day, 150 years ago, provoked the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War.

Story by:  
Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkimmis



For a kid, summer is a time to be fearless and bold, a time to dig deep and discover what you are made of. For me, it was a time to be trapped in a car with my father and brother driving from south Florida to Gettysburg, Penns., all to learn, and relearn, about the great three-day-long turning point of the Civil War known as the Battle of Gettysburg.

We ran Pickett's charge and walked along the peach orchard. We climbed Little Round Top, stopping to read every monument we came across, and we visited the Jennie Wade House, home of the only civilian casualty during the entire battle.

Our favorite place to visit on the battleground was Devil's Den. The slope of Big Round Top into Devil's Den harbored huge rock formations that were foreign to me and my brother, two Florida natives. When we went there, it was like playing on that crag-covered asteroid from the movie Armageddon. We leapt from boulder to boulder, feeling the prick of fear from a potential fall and we nick-

named just about every area we discovered.

There was the crushing rock, where if a picture was taken from the right angle, it looked as if we were holding up a rock the size of a house on our shoulders. My brother almost fell to his death at what we called the narrow canyon, a gap almost 2 feet wide but several stories deep. My favorite of them all, though, was the Flintstones television. It was a formation of four rocks that somehow created an upright box tall enough for us to stand in.

As much as we made fun of our father for "dragging" us out there every year, secretly, we really liked it. It was a place that my father was captivated by and the experience was special because he wanted to share it with us. My father says it will be written in his will for his ashes to be spread across the battleground. I'm pretty sure that's illegal, but regardless, it will forever be a place I can go and fondly recall the memories of every summer we spent there.



## Maj. Gen. David H. Berger addresses energy conservation

The Marine Corps, in conjunction with our family housing partner, Lincoln Military Housing, is moving forward with a plan to increase awareness and conservation of electrical use in our neighborhoods. The program carries out a policy directed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense with the intent to promote better stewardship of our resources through increased awareness and personal responsibility.

In December 2013, you will start receiving a monthly utility consumption report, referred to as a "mock bill," that will show how much electricity you are using each month. The report will



include a utility usage target, which is the amount of electricity considered normal for your type and size of house. This amount will be calculated monthly based on usage within your home's like-type group.

It will be your personal responsibility to develop habits that will help lower utility usage and save energy. The primary tool to gauge your efforts will be the monthly utility consumption report, which will eventually serve as an actual bill or a credit back to you for electricity consumed. If your usage is within 10 percent above or below the average usage for your type of home, you will receive no bill or credit back to you. The vast majority of residents will fall within this range. You may receive a rebate if you fall below the 10 percent range. If you are above the 10 percent range, you will receive a bill. While actual billing will not take place for at least three months after the "mock billing" begins, you should start comparing your usage with the usage target amount as soon as you get your first report.

To assist your efforts to conserve, you will receive tips and ideas on ways to reduce electric consumption. Individually, these energy saving tips result in small savings but collectively they can make a big difference in how much electricity you use in a given month.

Additional information and details on this program will be provided as we get closer to implementation. Furthermore, I will hold a town hall meeting later this year to discuss this program and hear your concerns.

## Sexual Assault Awareness, prevention

Editor's note: This is the fifth installment in a series about sexual assault prevention.

### The Disposition Decision

When NCIS completes its investigation, the Commanding Officer must make a disposition decision. Essentially, the Commanding Officer must decide if the case should go to Court-Martial or some lesser forum. There are two important points to cover at this stage. First is the type of Commanding Officer who is making this decision. Second is the process the Commanding Officer uses to make his or her decision.

On April 20, 2012, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) issued a memorandum withholding Initial Disposition Authority (IDA) in certain sexual assault offenses to the

Colonel, O-6, SPCMCA level. The SecDef withheld the authority to make a disposition decision for penetration offenses, forcible sodomy, and attempts to commit those crimes. This withholding of IDA to a Sexual Assault Initial Disposition Authority (SA-IDA) also applies to all other alleged offenses arising from or relating to the same incident, whether committed by the alleged offender or the alleged victim (i.e., collateral misconduct). On June 20, 2012, I expanded this O-6 level withholding to include not just penetration and forcible sodomy offenses, but all contact sex offenses, child sex offenses, and any attempts to commit those offenses.

My expansion of the scope of the SecDef's withhold of IDA is another example of the important role a Commanding Officer plays in military justice. I felt it was important for good order and discipline to make it clear to our Marines that all types of non-consensual sexual behavior were worthy of a more senior and experienced Commanding Officer's decision. I also made it clear that under no circumstance could the SA-IDA forward a case down to a subordinate authority for disposition.

Before discussing the procedures our SA-IDAs use to make the initial disposition decision, I want to point out a specific Marine Corps policy on collateral misconduct by an alleged victim (e.g., underage drinking). Marine SA-IDAs are encouraged to defer adjudication of any alleged victim collateral misconduct until the more serious non-consensual sex offenses are adjudicated. This policy is specifically aimed at encouraging victim reporting and making the fairest decision regarding collateral misconduct at the most appropriate time.

In accordance with Rule for Court-Martial (RCM) 306(c), the SA-IDA for sexual assaults may dispose of charged or suspected offenses through various means: "Within the limits of the Commanding Officer's authority, a Commanding Officer may take the actions set forth in this subsection to initially dispose of a charge or suspected offense," by taking (1) no action, (2) administrative action, (3) imposing Non-Judicial Punishment, (4) disposing of charges through dismissal, (5) forwarding charges to a superior authority for

See **SAPR** page A7

# Conservation & Sustainability

2012 Consumer Confidence Report

## CCR & You

Under the Consumer Confidence Rule of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), community water systems are required to report water quality information to the consuming public on an annual basis.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is proud to present our 2012 Consumer Confidence Report. This edition covers all drinking water testing completed from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. We are pleased to report that our compliance with all State and Federal drinking water laws and standards remain exemplary.

As always, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water to all personnel aboard MAGTFTC, MCAGCC. Through continued vigilance we meet the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while ensuring the needs of all our water users are met.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is committed to the sustainment and protection of the environment.

This report was compiled by the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Water Resources Office. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Chris Elliot, Water Resources Manager, at 830-7883 or e-mail [chris.elliott@usmc.mil](mailto:chris.elliott@usmc.mil).

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## Contaminants In My Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or

through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits or contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Lead Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Arsenic Information

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## Water Conservation

To ensure the continued existence of MAGTFTC, MCAGCC water conservation must be a priority. For 60 years MAGTFTC, MCAGCC has been training Marines to meet the demands of the world and accomplish the mission. Without water MAGTFTC, MCAGCC would be unable to accomplish the mission of training Marines.

Simple steps can be taken every day to ensure water supplies continue to be available for future generations of Marines. Reduce your water use by: running tap water only as long as you need; taking shorter showers; watering plants during the cool of the day and don't overwater; and have full loads when using the washing machine and dishwasher.

*With everyone's help in making water conservation a priority we can ensure the mission continues to be met today and for the next 60 years.*

## Program Spotlight

The Combat Center provides unique training opportunities in support of the Marine Corps mission. One element supporting that mission is the NREA Compliance Branch. To ensure environmental impacts are minimized, the Compliance Branch implements an Environmental Compliance Evaluation / Self-Audit Program as a tool to assess environmental compliance across multiple media areas.

The Self-Audit Program consists of internal evaluations in the form of technical assist visits and formal assist visits aboard the Combat Center. Inspections are conducted by NREA and the unit-assigned Environmental Compliance Coordinators. The program focuses on environmental practices which include several media areas, such as hazardous material/waste, air quality, water quality, storage tanks, National Environmental Policy Act compliance and solid waste management.

The program is designed to work with the unit ECC, identifying and correcting compliance problems while reducing the potential for possible adverse regulatory actions and minimizing risks to human health and the environment. To learn more on how to comply with applicable environmental regulations contact the NREA Compliance Branch (830-8480) or your unit - assigned ECC.

## Where does my water come from?

All domestic water supplied to MAGTFTC, MCAGCC is ground water from the Surprise Springs sub-aquifer of the Twentynine Palms Ground Water Basin. This water is extracted by 11 production wells at a depth between 500 and 700 feet located in a protected area of the Sand Hill Training Area.

This water is consistently of such high quality in nature that it routinely meets or exceeds all EPA and California Department of Public Health Services primary and secondary drinking water standards without any treatment required (other than basic disinfection) before distribution. Basic disinfection is required by California Department of Health Services as a safeguard against possible microbial contamination due to repairs or maintenance of the system.

## "LAUGH IT UP"

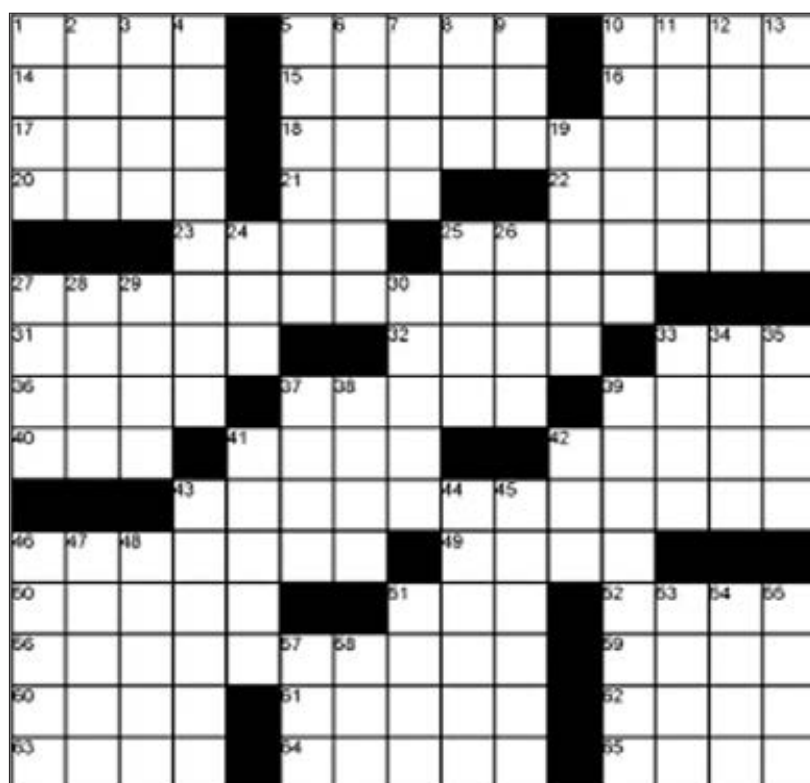
### ACROSS

1. Have braking problems
5. Plant firmly
10. Nightclub of song
14. Taylor of "Six Feet Under"
15. Rita Hayworth title role
16. A Baldwin
17. Cobblers' tools
18. Offerer of insincere greetings
20. Catchall abbr.
21. Catch in the act
22. "Mule Train" singer Frankie
23. Waffle maker
25. Paris Hilton, for one
27. Without a care
31. Bonaparte's punishment
32. Court star Arthur
33. Fruit center
36. "Or \_\_\_!"
37. Simply smashing
39. Show anger
40. "Black-eyed" veggie
41. Philandering sort
42. Visit unexpectedly
43. Carnival ride with organ music
46. Submits an amended return
49. Safire piece, once
50. Speedy train
51. "Hail!"

52. It's clenched
56. Flag for Captain Kidd
59. Mental invention
60. Skin care substance
61. Fictional Scarlett
62. High-five sound
63. Subtle flavor
64. Woes for toes
65. Call to Fido

### DOWN

1. \_\_\_-dunk
2. New Zealand bird
3. Causes of misery
4. Faithful follower
5. Seasonal quaff
6. Alyssa of "Who's the Boss?"
7. Talk too much
8. Former Leno announcer Hall
9. Morse T
10. One who sings to the cops
11. Nostalgic number
12. Hammer parts
13. The 40 of "the back 40"
19. Much the same
24. Ham holder
25. Corn covering
26. Tunnel effect
27. Dickens's hateful clerk
28. Trucker's toll unit
29. Galileo's home
30. Cagney's TV partner



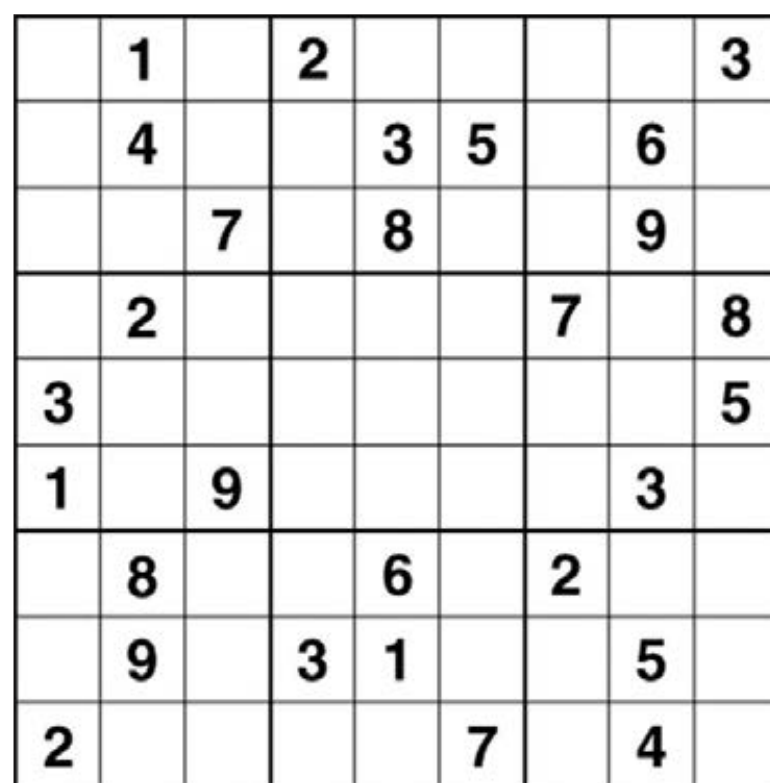
33. \_\_\_ platter (Chinese menu choice)
34. Remark while anteing
35. Take care of
37. Like poor losers
38. Yours and mine
39. Salmon and trout, for two
41. Pass-the-baton race

42. Lead-in for law or med
43. Forage grass
44. Wield authority
45. "Manon" and "Carmen"
46. Big Indian
47. Gastroenteritis cause, maybe
48. One facing life, maybe

51. Gelling substance
53. Not in use
54. Mark with a branding iron
55. Piece of Watergate evidence
57. Bird in "Arabian Nights"
58. Exclamation of discovery

See answers on page A7

## SUDOKU 2948-D



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

## OBSERVATION POST

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## 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.  
 - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road  
 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

## Investing In Our Future

Challenges facing the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC utilities are similar to those faced by other utilities in the area: water supply, aging infrastructure, and population growth. MAGTFTC, MCAGCC issued multiple contracts to repair improve the quality of the water system. Some of the contracts issued were: 4.5 million gallon water reservoir; North Mainside infrastructure, and other smaller repair and system improvements. Several million dollars were spent on the repairs and upgrades to the potable water system in 2012.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC's drinking water system consists of 11 potable water wells, multiple reservoirs that serve the military and civilian work force through a series of pipelines that extend over 84.2 miles of service area.

## No Drugs Down The Drain

Pharmaceutical waste remains a threat to water supplies. One way to reduce this threat is to dispose of all over-the-counter drugs and prescriptions properly. **DO NOT FLUSH DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN.**

Old medicines can be taken to the San Bernardino County Community Household Waste Collection Center located at 62499 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree. The hours of operation are the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on proper disposal of unwanted medicines please visit [www.nodrugs-downthedrain.org](http://www.nodrugs-downthedrain.org).

## Water Quality Data

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC conducts extensive water quality testing. No contaminants were found at levels higher than what the Environmental Protection Agency or California Department of Public Health allows. As a result of the continued commitment to bring the safest, best quality water to everyone at MAGTFTC, MCAGCC our water continues to meet or exceed primary and secondary drinking water standards. The table shown is a snapshot of last year's 2012 water quality. The table shows details about what your water contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The presence of contaminants in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change.

Substance (Unit of Measure)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Detection	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source
<b>Primary Drinking Water Standard</b>							
Antimony (mg/L)	0.006	0.006	<0.006	ND-<0.006	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic(mg/L)	0.01	0	0.006	0.0020-0.0093	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (mg/L)	1	1	<0.1	ND-< 0.1	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beryllium (mg/L)	0.004	0.004	<0.001	ND-< 0.001	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Cadmium (mg/L)	0.005	0.005	<0.001	ND-< 0.001	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chromium (mg/L)	0.05	0.05	<0.011	0.0063-0.022	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Cyanide (mg/L)	0.15	0.15	<0.1	ND-< 0.1	2012	No	Wastewater Discharges or Industrial Emissions
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	1	0.66	0.4-0.9	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (mg/L)	0.06	NA	<0.001	ND-<0.005	2011	No	By-product of System Chlorination
Mercury (mg/L)	0.002	0.002	<0.001	ND-< 0.001	2012	No	Wastewater Discharges or Industrial Emissions
Methyl-tert-butylether (mg/L)	0.013	0.013	0.003	ND-< 0.003	2012	No	Leaking Underground Storage
Nickel (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	<0.01	ND-< 0.01	2012	No	Discharges from Industry
Nitrate (NO3) (mg/L)	45	45	4.9	3.7-7.2	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrite (NO2) (mg/L)	1	1	<0.1	ND-< 0.1	2012	No	Natural Deposits or Agricultural Runoff
Perchlorate (mg/L)	0.006	NA	<0.004	ND-< 0.004	2012	No	May Be Found Naturally or Manufactured for Industrial Use
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	ND	ND	ND-1	2012	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (mg/L)	0.08	NA	0.0016	ND-0.0016	2011	No	By-Product of System Chlorination
<b>Secondary Drinking Water Standard</b>							
Aluminum (mg/L)	1	0.2	<0.05	ND-<0.05	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chloride (mg/L)	250	250	18.6	8.1-32	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Color (CU)	15	15	3.2	<3-5	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Iron (mg/L)	0.3	0.3	0.11	<0.1-0.22	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese (mg/L)	0.5	0.05	<0.02	ND-<0.02	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (TON)	3	NA	1	ND-1	2012	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Silver (mg/L)	0.1	NA	0.01	ND-0.01	2012	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	250	27	16-34	2012	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	500	155	120-220	2012	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Zinc (mg/L)	5	NA	<0.05	ND-<0.05	2012	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
<b>Detection of Lead and Copper</b>							
Copper 90th Percentile	1300	170	20	5.9-26	2012	No	Plumbing Corrosion
Lead 90th Percentile	15	2	4	ND-19	2012	No	Plumbing Corrosion

## Table Definitions

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by the laboratory analysis.

**Unit:** Standard unit of measurement for this constituent.

**NA:** not applicable.

**PPM (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the

PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California

Environmental Protection Agency.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

**Total Coliform Bacteria:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as indicators that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

**CU:** Color unit.

**TON:** Threshold odor number.



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<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>

# The BIGuns

*The Marines are known as one of the world's most elite fighting forces. From the day they enter their first stages of training they are taught everything there is to know about the warrior culture. Marines are all trained in hand-to-hand combat and all are taught to be efficient marksmen.*

## Demolition through firepower



### M777 A2 Howitzer

Interesting Fact: This weapon can also be dropped by parachute.

- First use was in 2005
- 33ft long in tow, 35ft when firing
- Weighs 7,500 pounds
- Standard range is 22,400 meters or 14 miles
- Can fire up to five rounds per minute
- Each round may weigh up to 95lbs.
- Operated by a crew of 7 to 8 members.

### Browning M2 50. Cal. Heavy Machine Gun

Interesting Fact: The Browning M2 was heavily used in World War II and is still used today. The M2 is also mounted in a variety of land vehicles as well as vehicles used in air and on water.

- The M2 was first used in 1933
- Fires a .50 Caliber round
- 61.42 inches in length
- Weighs 84lbs
- Weighs 214 lbs with tripod
- Maximum range is 4.22 miles when mounted on a tripod
- Is able to fire 550 rounds a minute



### M242 Bushmaster

Interesting Fact: Unlike most firearms, the M242 does not depend on gas or recoil to actuate its firing system. It uses a 1hp motor positioned in the receiver to drive the chain and dual feed system.

- First used in 1972
- Used on land assault vehicles
- Fires a 25 mm round
- 99.5 inches in length
- Weighs 260 lbs
- Maximum range is 6,800 meters
- Able to fire 200 rounds per minute

### M256 120mm Smoothbore Gun

Interesting Fact: The barrel of the M256 weighs over 2,500 lbs.

- First used in 1980
- Used as the main gun on M1A1 Abrams
- Fires 120mm rounds
- 209 inches in length
- The gun weighs 6,800 lbs
- Maximum range is 3,000 meters



### SMAW

#### Shoulder-Launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon

Interesting Fact: The SMAW is used to damage structures and armored vehicles but is carried by infantrymen.

- First used in 1984
- Fires 83.5mm rounds
- 54 inches in length when loaded
- Weighs 17 lbs
- Maximum range of 500 meters



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# HISTORIC EVENTS IN JULY

*The month of July marks the birth of our nation as well as many other momentous events in United States history*

See A1 for a feature on Gettysburg

July 26, 1775 - **U.S. Postal System established**

July 4, 1776 - **The U.S. Declares Independence**

July 3, 1863 - **The Battle of Gettysburg ends**

July 16, 1945 - **Atom bomb successfully tested**



July 17, 1955 - **Disneyland opens**

July 2, 1964 - **Lyndon Johnson signs Civil Rights Act** – The act prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public facilities, and made employment discrimination illegal



July 20, 1969 - **Armstrong walks on the moon.** America was the first to put a man on the moon, with Neil Armstrong's first words, "Thats one small step for man, and one giant leap for man-kind."

July 28, 1868 - **14th Amendment adopted** post-Civil War Amendment intended to secure rights for former slaves

July 7, 1930 - **Building of Hoover Dam begins.** The Hoover dam is a concrete gravity-arch dam which straddles the border of Arizona and Nevada 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas and impounds Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States.

July 30, 1945 - U.S.S. **Indianapolis bombed** - The greatest single loss of life at sea in the history of the U.S. Navy. The ship just finished delivering critical parts for the first atomic bomb when it was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine. It sank in 12 minutes taking approximately 300 men with it. The remaining 900 men faced exposure, dehydration, and shark attacks as they waited for assistance while floating with few lifeboats and almost no food or water



## Also in July

- 1775- Congress resolves to forge Indian alliances (American Revolution)
- 1776- The Liberty Bell rings
- 1778- French navy contacts Continentals (American Revolution)
- 1862- Battle of Malvern Hill (Civil War)
- 1863- Surrender of Port Hudson, Louisiana (Civil War)
- 1918- Hemingway is wounded on the Italian front in WWI
- 1918- Second Battle of the Marne begins with final German offensive (WWI)
- 1941- NBC airs first official TV commercial

SAPR, from A1

disposition, or (6) referring charges to a Court-Martial.

Before making a decision regarding the initial disposition of charges, the Convening Authority must confer with his or her SJA. In the Marine Corps model for providing legal services, the provision of legal services support (i.e. trial and defense services, review, civil law, legal assistance) is completely divorced from the provision of command legal advice. Practically, this means the Commanding Officer's SJA is not affiliated with the prosecutors who evaluate the evidence in the case and recommend whether to take a case to trial. Effectively, this ensures the Commanding Officer and his SJA receive impartial advice (in addition to information from NCIS) in order to make an appropriate and well-informed disposition decision in accordance with RCM 306.

If a Commanding Officer decides to proceed with charges against an alleged offender, the Commanding Officer will file a request for legal services with the LSSS that services the command.

INDEPENDENCE, from A1

birthday of the Marine Corps.

At the beginning of 1776, Washington's army had grown significantly with two-thirds enlisted in the Continental Army and the other third in the various state militias. At the end of the American Revolution in 1783, both the Continental Navy and Continental Marines were disbanded.

The main goal of the navy was to intercept shipments of British material and generally disrupt British maritime commercial operations. Because of the lack of funding, manpower and resources, the initial fleet consisted of converted merchantmen.

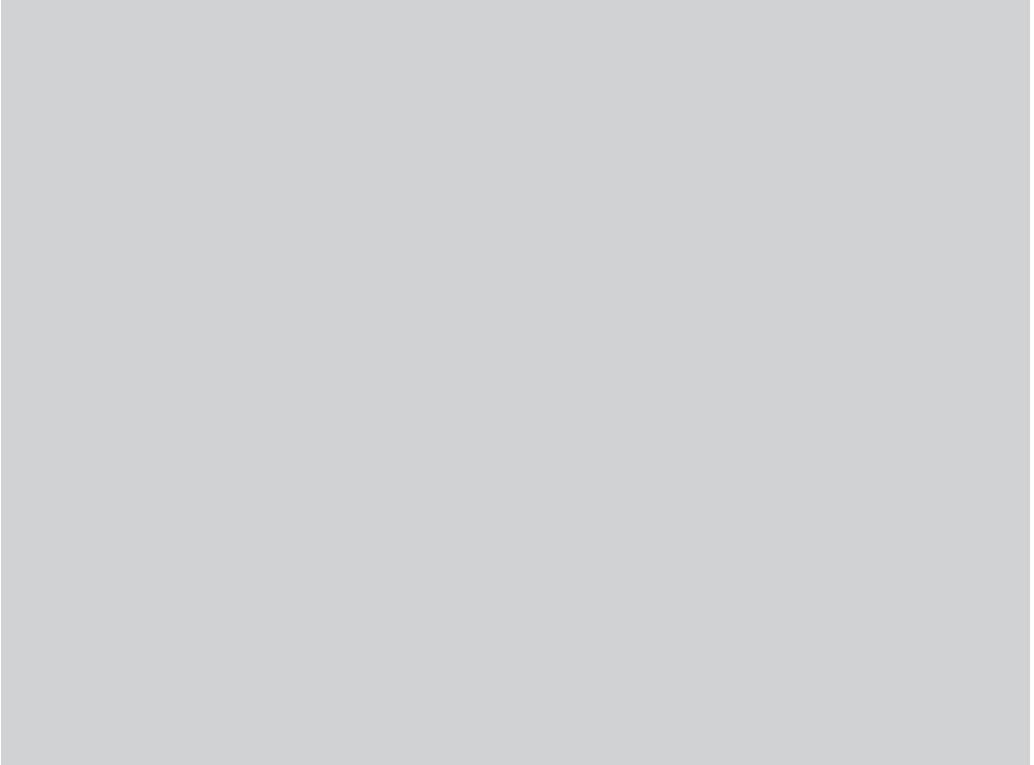
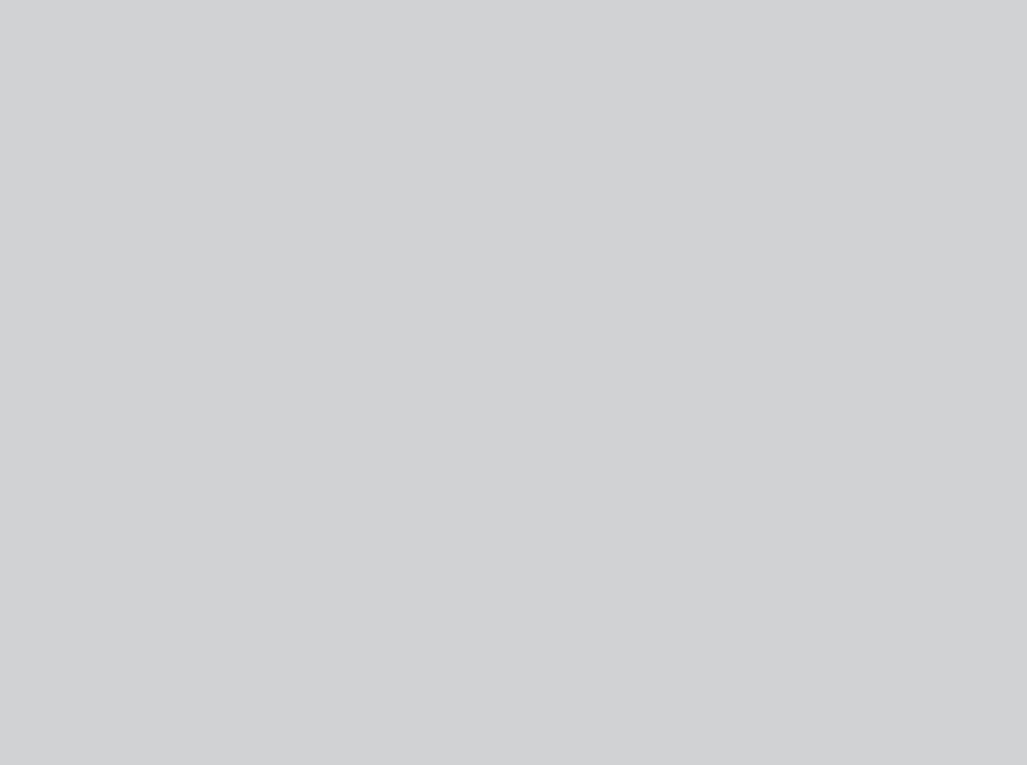
The fleet did serve to highlight a few examples of Continental resolve, notably launching Captain John Paul Jones, a Scottish sailor and the United States' first well-known naval fighter in the American Revolution, into the public eye.

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# HOT *Summer* COOL RIDES

Car & Bike Show



CPL. ALI AZIMI



CPL. ALI AZIMI

**[Top]** Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Newman, Hospital Corpsman, 1st Tank Battalion, entered his 1973 Plymouth Duster in the Hot Summer, Cool Rides Car and Bike Show, June 29.

**[Left]** Tom Lovejoy, a FedEx Courier from Los Angeles, entered his 1925 Indian Scout motorcycle in the show.

For more photos on the Hot Summer Cool Rides Car and Bike Show, visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter](http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter).

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The Observation Post



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# Stars & Stripes

**The American Flag is the symbol of our nation's freedom, spirit and unity. It inspires those of us that see it as an image of home and incites rage in our enemies that want to destroy our ideals and ways of life.**

**I**t has been flown in places all over the country and beyond. It has reached peaks on the backs of those that personify its greatness and burns when our enemies wish us harm. The flag is something every American should be proud of.

Our flag has taken many forms since the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act more than 200 years ago. This act made it so the flag was made of 13 stripes, alternating red and white; that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.

Stars were added for each state that entered the union and today the original 13 colonies are represented by the stripes. President James Monroe signed the Flag Act of 1818, setting the policy that one star would be added for each new state on July 4th of the year the new state was admitted. Our flag has taken on 26 variations in the design since the first colonial American Flag.

Even with all its cosmetic changes, the meaning of the flag has stood strong. Its colors, red, white and blue, have always meant hardiness and valor; purity and innocence; and vigilance, perseverance and justice, respectively.

The flag is an inspiration to many throughout our nation's history like when Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner," which later became our national anthem.

Our flag has become our icon. Our nation's history is cemented by it, whether it be from atop Mt. Suribachi or on the moon.

## Respect for the Flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- (a) The flag should never be displayed with union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- (b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- (c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- (d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping in front of the platform, and for a decoration in general.
- (e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

- (f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- (g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- (h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- (i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- (j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- (k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

## Display of colors

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously and be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution. It should also be displayed in or near every polling place on election day and during school days, in or near every schoolhouse.

## Rule modifications

Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the flag of the United States of America, set forth herein, may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, whenever he deems it to be appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.

According to Title 4 United States Code





# Liberty Call

## Brad Pitt fights zombies in sprawling, mega-expensive action epic

### Combat Center Clubs

#### Excursions Enlisted Club

Thursday: Karaoke, 8:30 - 10 p.m.  
Friday: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 11 p.m.  
Saturday: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 11 p.m.

#### Bloodstripes NCO Club

Thursday: Warrior Night, 4:30 - 9 p.m.  
Friday: Karaoke Night, 6 - 9 p.m.

#### Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Monday: Steak night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.  
Wednesday: Wing Special Wednesday, 4:30 - 9 p.m.  
Thursday: Free Happy Hour Food, 5 - 7 p.m.  
Friday: Steak Night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.  
Friday: DJ Gixxa, 8 - 11 p.m.

#### Combat Center Officers' Club

Thursday: Free Happy Hour Food, 5 - 7 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.

#### The Perils of Goldilocks

When: 7 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays, June 28 - July 27  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
For more information, call 316-4151  
or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

### Lower Desert

#### The Legend Continues

Tribute to the King of Pop  
When: 10:30 p.m., Fri., July 5  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

#### KC and the Sunshine Band with the Village People

Two iconic bands perform  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 6  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.  
For more information, call 800-827-2946 or visit  
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

#### Lonestar

American country group perform  
When: 9:00 p.m., Friday, July 19  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

#### Golden Boy Boxing

Junior welterweight fighters compete  
When: 5 p.m., Sat, July 20  
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.  
For more information, call 800-827-2946 or visit  
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

### Sunset Cinema

#### Friday, July 5

6 p.m. - The Incredibles, PG-13  
9 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness, PG-13  
11:50 p.m. - The Hangover Part III, R

#### Saturday, July 6

10:30 p.m. - Free Matinee: Planet 51, PG  
12:30 p.m. - Despicable Me, PG  
3 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness 3-D, PG-13  
6 p.m. - Fast and Furious 6, PG-13  
9:30 p.m. - Now You See Me, PG-13  
11:50 p.m. - After Earth, PG-13

#### Sunday, July 7

12:30 p.m. - Despicable Me, PG  
3 p.m. - The Internship, PG-13  
6 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness 3-D, PG-13  
9 p.m. - The Purge, R

#### Monday, July 8

7 p.m. - The Hangover Part III, R

#### Tuesday, July 9

7 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness 3-D, PG-13

#### Wednesday, July 10

5:30 p.m. - The Incredibles, PG-13  
8:30 p.m. - After Earth, PG-13

#### Thursday, July 11

5:30 p.m. - Despicable Me 3-D, PG  
8:30 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness 3-D, PG-13



COURTESY PHOTO

#### NEIL POND

#### "World War Z"

Starring: Brad Pitt & Mireille Enos  
Directed by Marc Forster  
PG-13, 116 min.

The Z is for zombies...but could also represent the zillions of bucks that went into making this extravagantly expensive star vehicle for co-producer Brad Pitt as a global humanitarian racing to save the planet from annihilation by the undead.

In "World War Z," Pitt is Gerry Lane, a former United Nations international crisis specialist called back into action when a fast-acting pandemic begins turning humans worldwide into rabid, raging carnivores. Within hours, entire cities have fallen as the teeming, rampaging living dead overwhelm the living still.

Gerry, now a devoted "househusband" and father, must worry not only about saving a world quickly descending into darkness and chaos, but also about the safety of his wife (Mireille Enos) and two young daughters.

People seem to never lose their appetite for zombies. Based on a 2006 apocalyptic horror novel by Max Brooks, the son of comedic movie director Mel Brooks, "World War Z" comes to audiences primed by the success of the current AMC-TV series "The Walking Dead" and a steady pop-cultural stream of movies about cannibalistic corpses.

But this project's massive \$200 million mega-budget puts it

in class all by itself. For one thing, it's got Pitt, one of the biggest stars on the planet; never has there been a hunkier, higher-paid zombie hunter. For another, a lot of that money shows up on the screen in some spectacular special-effect segments: The destruction of major global cities doesn't come cheap. And director Marc Forster, who steered the James Bond outing "Quantum of Solace," sets up a several other stunning set pieces as his zombies bring down a helicopter trying to take off, overturn a bus, mob an airplane and climb up a sheer wall like a pyramid of ravenous rats.

But balancing the spectacle, much of the movie's emotional impact comes in the smaller moments between Pitt's character and his family. He may be fighting for everyone, but his intimate connection to his loved ones humanizes his epic efforts as he races from America to South Korea, Israel, Wales and Nova Scotia in search of answers.

All that running around, however, seems to go nowhere—at least nowhere many zombie-movie fans will really want to go. For a flick about a zombie apocalypse, there are a lot more scenes without zombies than scenes with zombies. And the PG-13 rating sanitizes out the blood, guts and gross-out gore that's a signature of the genre—the very thing a lot of fans will want to see.

And it's never a good thing for a "serious" zombie movie when the audience giggles at your zombies, as the audience did at the screening I attended, repeatedly, during scenes obviously not intended to be funny.

The opening montage depicts the words of the title slowly coming together from pieces of what look like broken shards of glass. That's an interesting choice for a movie whose production was widely reported as being fractured and fraught with trouble long before it made its way to the big screen—beset with dissension between top members of its production team, grossly over budget and behind schedule, and requiring costly, last-minute rewrites and reshoots.

"World War Z" has some effective, genuinely scary-fying moments, but too often it comes across as the bloated, overwrought affair it must have been on the production side, a sprawling affair too big and messy for any one movie to contain. The fact that actor Matthew Fox, from TV's "Lost," is credited for his nanosecond of screen time (even knowing that he's in the movie, you'll still have trouble spotting him) suggests that he was cast in a role that was originally more significant, but later chopped down to near invisibility.

"Daddy's gotta go to work," Pitt's character says as he kisses his youngest daughter goodbye and prepares to head off to battle. Now that his job's finished, this movie's global hero is hoping everybody else springs into action and helps recover some of those mega millions he scattered all over the world.



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