



July 12, 2013

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS
Since 1957
www.29palms.marines.mil



Vol. 57 Issue 27

Marine Corps announces early release program

Cpl. William J. Jackson
Combat Correspondent

The fiscal year 2014 Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program was announced earlier this month for eligible Marines. The cost-efficient initiative continues until Sept. 30, 2014, giving eligible Marines the option to opt out of their contract early with an honorable discharge.

The VEERP is a cost-savings measure that will permit the Marine Corps to shape and sustain the force within the constraints of an approved budget.

Enlisted Marines with an end of active service date before Sept. 30, 2014, who utilize the VEERP will be considered to have served their full active service, according to Marine Administrative Message 330/13. Marines may request to separate no more than 365 days prior to their current EAS.

The 365-day, early-release window is based on the Marine's original EAS. Additionally, the Marine looking to VEERP must meet all eligibility criteria outlined in the MarAdmin prior to early release.

To allow for processing, VEERP packages should be submitted as early as possible, but at least 45 days prior to the requested early release date. Commanders are encouraged to expedite requests as early as possible in order to maximize budgetary savings, according to MarAdmin 330/13.

While the intent of this program is cost savings, approving officials should

See **VEERP** page A5

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital

Celebrates **20** years

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
Combat Correspondent

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital held a cake-cutting ceremony celebrating the hospital's 20th anniversary Tuesday. Former and current hospital staff gathered to reminisce on the hospital's history and enjoy a slice of cake.

"Twentytwo years ago, the base started to grow, so the hospital decided to grow with it," said Navy Capt. Jay Sourbeer, commanding officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. "We are always striving to improve our services and availability to Marines and make sure we enhance Marine readiness."

According to Sourbeer, the ceremony represented the proud tradition of the hospital corpsman.

Marine Base Twentynine Palms Medical Dispensary was the first medical facility established shortly after the Combat Center opened in



1953. It remained a medical dispensary until 1974 when it was redesignated as Branch Hospital of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. The command was redesignated in July 1988 and became Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms. Soon after, plans were developed to build a more modern building, allowing the hospital to expand. The new hospital was completed in 1993 and the staff was moved in shortly after.

"It was truly amazing to be able to see the differences between the two hospitals," said retired Navy Commander

See **HOSPITAL** page A3

An act of valor

Robert Eugene Bush was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life while serving as a medical corpsman with a rifle company, in action against enemy forces in the Battle of Okinawa, May 2, 1945. Braving the fury of artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire from entrenched hostile positions, Bush unhesitatingly moved from one casualty to another to attend the wounded. As the attack passed over a ridge top, Bush was advancing to administer blood plasma to a Marine officer lying wounded on the skyline when the Japanese launched a savage counterattack. In this exposed position, he resolutely maintained the flow of life-giving plasma. With the bottle held high in one hand, Bush drew his pistol with the other and fired into the enemy's ranks. He then trained his fire on the Japanese charging over the hill, accounting for six of the enemy despite the loss of one eye and of injuries suffered during his desperate battle in defense of the helpless man. With the hostile force finally routed, he calmly disregarded his own critical condition to complete his mission.



CPL. D. J. WU

An M1A1 main battle tank manned by Australian Army soldiers engage a target during the culminating attack in Exercise Gold Eagle 2013, at the Combat Center's Prospect training area, June 30.

Tankers share knowledge across Corps, world

BROTHERS IN ARMS

■ Tanks maintain asset to infantry

Cpl. William J. Jackson
Combat Correspondent

Tanks were first introduced to the battlefield during World War I due to the consistent deadlock of trench warfare. They were designed to counter machinegun fire and barbed wire that caused horrific casualties from trench warfare. Tank platoons of that time were never properly trained with infantrymen. They learned on the fly, on the battlefield to cooperate with their

infantry counterpart.

United States military leaders debated throughout the war over the best way to employ tanks alongside the infantry. When the tank moves, the infantry remain at its side and protect the tank from enemy soldiers. In order for this to work correctly, the tank crew and infantry needed to communicate, which was a hard task if radios went down and even harder if there

See **INTEGRATION** page A5

Marines with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, train along side Australian Army soldiers with B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, in tank, infantry integration at the Combat Center's Range 200 during Exercise Gold Eagle 2013, June 25.



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

GoldEAGLE

■ Nations unite for bilateral tank training

Cpl. D. J. Wu
Combat Correspondent

The tankers of Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, and Squadron B, 1st Armoured Regiment of the Australian Army seem like they would have a one-dimensional relationship. The Australians arrived at the Combat Center almost a month ago for bilateral and integrated tank operations. They came to train and become more proficient in their fields. What they didn't know, is what else they would be leaving with. At a distance, the two units' differences greatly outweigh their similarities.

They're from opposite sides of the world, they almost speak different languages and one group



CPL. D. J. WU

Australian Army soldiers with 1st Armoured Regiment finished Exercise Gold Eagle 2013, July 2. The Australian tankers were at the Combat Center training with Marines with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion.

has feathers sticking out of their hats. At a glance the only thing they have in common is, the monstrous vehicles they drive and how they blow things up. In the culminating exercise for Gold Eagle 2013, the units formed up for a company-sized tank assault course. They used everything they covered in training for the past month. They learned a lot in their month together, not just about tanks, but each other as well.

"I think this is a fantastic country," said Australian Army Sgt. Finlay Steel, troop sergeant,

See **GOLD EAGLE** page A5

Sexual Assault Awareness



From the Office of The Commandant of the Marine Corps

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

The Article 32 Investigation

Before a case can go to a General Court-Martial, the commanding officer must first send the case to an Article 32 investigation. According to Article 32, UCMJ, "no charge or specification may be referred to a General Court-Martial for trial until a thorough and impartial investigation of all the matters set forth therein have been made." A General Court-Martial may not proceed unless an Article 32 investigation has occurred (or the accused has waived it).

Unlike a grand jury under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6, the proceeding is not secret and the military accused has the right to cross-examine witnesses against him or her.

RCM 405 governs the conduct of the Article 32 investigation and states in its discussion that "the investigating officer should be an officer in the grade of major ... or higher or one with legal training ... and may seek legal advice concerning the investigating officer's responsibilities from an impartial source." As a matter of regulation in the Marine Corps, for a case alleging a sexual assault, the Article 32 investigating officer (IO) must be a Judge Advocate who meets specific rank and experience requirements, in accordance with Marine Corps Bulletin (MCBul) 5813, "Detailing of Trial Counsel, Defense Counsel, and Article 32, UCMJ, Investigating Officers." MCBul 5813 was published on 2 July 2012 and ensures that Judge Advocates who are detailed as trial counsel (TC), defense counsel (DC), and Article 32 IOs possess the appropriate expertise to perform their duties.

Once the Article 32 investigation is complete, the IO makes a report to the Convening Authority that addresses matters such as the sufficiency and availability

See **SAPR** page A3

Family readiness offers volunteer opportunities

Cpl. D. J. Wu
Combat Correspondent

Volunteering is something Marines, sailors and families can do to contribute to the community and help others. It brings you closer to the people around you and can have a lasting effect on the volunteer and the community.

There's a lot you can do as a volunteer. There are many organizations in and around the Combat Center that are always looking for helping hands. Some of the avenues you can take are, family readiness officers, the Single Marine Program and the Armed Services YMCA.

Each battalion on base has a family readiness officer that takes care of their unit's members. They often organize events for the battalion and are almost always looking for volunteers.

"We're always looking for volunteers here at the battalion, whether it be for a working party for an event or car washes and fund raisers."
— Megan Bishoff

"There are so many volunteer opportunities for Marines and sailors to take part in," said Meagan Bishoff, family readiness officer, Headquarters Battalion. "We're always looking for volunteers here at the battalion, whether it be for a working party for an event or car washes and fundraisers."

Volunteering has a number of perks, both personally and professionally. Volunteers are often recognized with letters of appreciation or with unit challenge coins. Marines and sailors can also earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for a certain amount of hours of dedicated service to the community. But more than awards, it is about being a part of the community you live in. With programs on base, you can get to know people throughout the base and make connections everywhere.

"For me, I volunteer for the camaraderie," said Lance Cpl. Ashley Burnett, family readiness officer assistant, HQBN. "Working in the FRO's office, I really get a chance to be around Marines. I've met a lot of people, some great Marines and a few great friendships while volunteering."

Child Care

Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
Combat Correspondent

Parents and caregivers looking to enroll their child in any of the Marine Corps Community Services programs can look at what the Children, Youth and Teen Program has to offer.

The following child care and recreation programs are available for both military and civilian families at the Combat Center.

The options are organized by age groups, such as the Bright Beginnings Center, which accommodates children six weeks to 36 months old and New Horizons, a similar program for children newborn to six years old. Both provide breakfast and lunch and offer a care program that can be paid by the hour.

CYTP also offers Leaps & Bounds for children six weeks to three years old, which is a partial-day preschool. This child-care program helps preschool-age children prepare for both social and structural concepts and prepares them for kindergarten.

Parents and caregivers can also turn to Family Child Care, in-home child care option for children six weeks to 12 years old. All providers in FCC are trained and licensed to maintain qual-

Combat Center implements programs for kids

ity child development in a home environment.

School Age Care is for kids six to 12 years old, is affiliated with the Boy's and Girls Club of America. Through this partnership the program strives to enhance the character and leadership of those enrolled.

Special recreational activities, such as dancing and field trips, are available at the Open Recreation Youth Program, offered to kids in 1st to 6th grade.

For teenagers, the MCCS Teen Center offers homework assistance, computers, arcade games, music, and televisions. Extracurricular activities and field trips are also offered in this program. The MCCS Youth Teen Oasis provides a place to relax after school hours for kids age 12 to 18.

Additionally, the Youth and Teen Sponsor Program allows local youth and teens to meet others that are relocating to the Combat Center. Through mail, e-mail, and telephone, participants are able to get to know existing residents. The goal is to enhance communication skills and help facilitate a teen's successful relocation to a new military installation.

For more information, visit www.mccs29palms.com.

■ Child and Adult Care Food Program

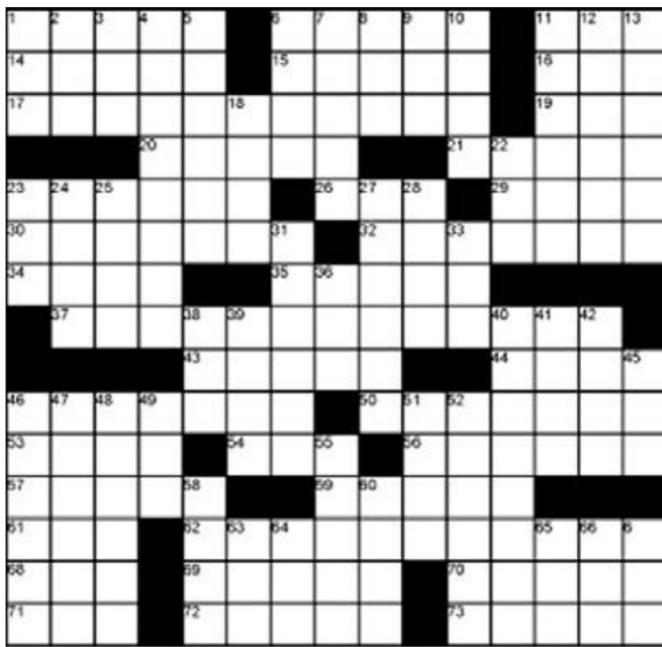
The Twentynine Palms Child Youth and Teen Programs / Family Child Care announced its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The CACFP is available without charge to all enrolled children aboard the installation. For more information please contact Michelle Minatrea-Te'o at 830-3344. Qualification is based on the gross household incomes are listed below.

GROSS INCOME OF HOUSEHOLD										
Household Size	Weekly		Every Two Weeks		Twice Per Month		Monthly		Annual	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$288	\$409	\$575	\$818	\$623	\$886	\$1,245	\$1,772	\$14,937	\$21,257
2	\$388	\$552	\$776	\$1,104	\$841	\$1,196	\$1,681	\$2,392	\$20,163	\$28,694
3	\$489	\$695	\$977	\$1,390	\$1,058	\$1,506	\$2,116	\$3,011	\$25,389	\$36,131
4	\$589	\$838	\$1,178	\$1,676	\$1,276	\$1,816	\$2,552	\$3,631	\$30,615	\$43,568
5	\$690	\$981	\$1,379	\$1,962	\$1,494	\$2,126	\$2,987	\$4,251	\$35,841	\$51,005
6	\$790	\$1,124	\$1,580	\$2,248	\$1,712	\$2,436	\$3,423	\$4,871	\$41,067	\$58,442
7	\$891	\$1,267	\$1,781	\$2,534	\$1,929	\$2,745	\$3,858	\$5,490	\$46,293	\$65,879
8	\$991	\$1,410	\$1,982	\$2,820	\$2,147	\$3,055	\$4,294	\$6,110	\$51,519	\$73,316
For each additional family member add:	\$101	\$144	\$201	\$287	\$218	\$310	\$436	\$620	\$5,226	\$7,437

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

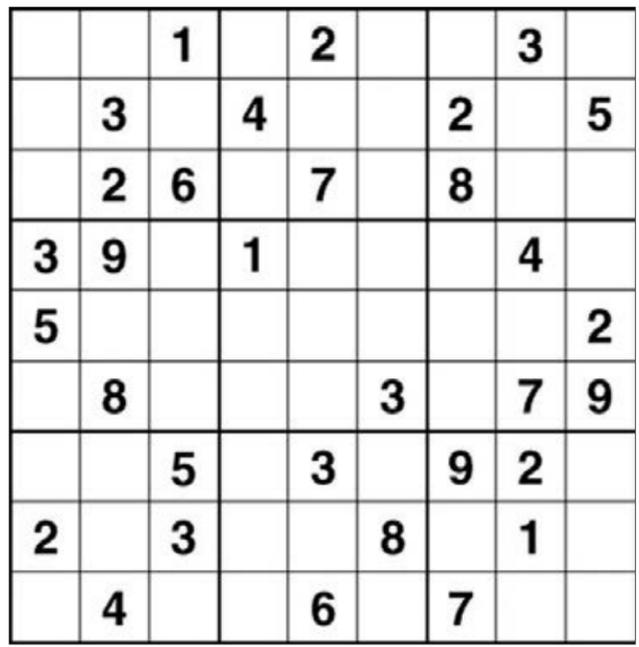
HAVING A BRAWL

- ACROSS**
- Not quite right
 - Africa's largest city
 - Mega-proportioned
 - Classic Milton Bradley card game
 - Nasty-smelling
 - Toothpaste-endorsing org.
 - Real pity
 - An LBJ dog
 - French capital, in song
 - Bogart's sleuth
 - Peloponnesian War side
 - Calendar box
 - Send out
 - Natives of Lima or Toledo
 - Nursery arrival
 - Guilty one, in copspeak
 - "Yum!"
 - Droopy tree
 - Stale from overuse
 - "Hear no ..."
 - Run-of-the-mill
 - Dinosaur, e.g.
 - Bank take-back
 - The limit, in a saying
 - Mind teaser
 - Online message to RSVP to
 - Cisco Kid, to Pancho
 - '59 Caddy feature
 - Jerusalem prayer site
 - Drink with a head
- DOWN**
- ___ de Triomphe
 - Cover with graffiti, e.g.
 - Hardly hospitable
 - Play Double Dutch, e.g.
 - Beethoven opus
 - Job for Perry Mason
 - Had a yen
 - Portfolio part, for short
 - Lens holder
 - Works of Shelley
 - Grand ___ (island near Florida)
 - Cry of triumph
 - Egg, for one
 - The "G" of GTO
 - Fenced-in area
 - ___ up (absorb)
 - "That was close!"
 - Suffix with zillion
 - Respond to a knock
 - Abominable Snowman
 - Christmas gift giver, informally
 - Popeye's gal Olive ___
 - Tupelo's favorite son
 - Lint-trapping navel
 - Fourposter, e.g.
 - Driving hazard, in winter
 - Adlai's running mate in 1956
 - ___ University
 - Assembly-ready
 - Speak badly of
 - Put in one's two cents
 - Pub crawler
 - Limerick's land, literarily
 - Toe, in tot-speak
 - Certain Ivy Leaguer
 - She sheep
 - Niagara's veil
 - The whole shebang
 - "___ Got a Secret"
 - Doodlebug's prey
 - Lay it on thick
 - "___ Miz"



See answers on page A7

SUDOKU 2963-M



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 Chief - Gunnery Sgt. Leo A. Salinas
Press Chief - Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkimilis

Correspondents
 Cpl. William J. Jackson
 Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Cpl. D. J. Wu
 Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
 Lance Cpl. Paul Martinez

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.

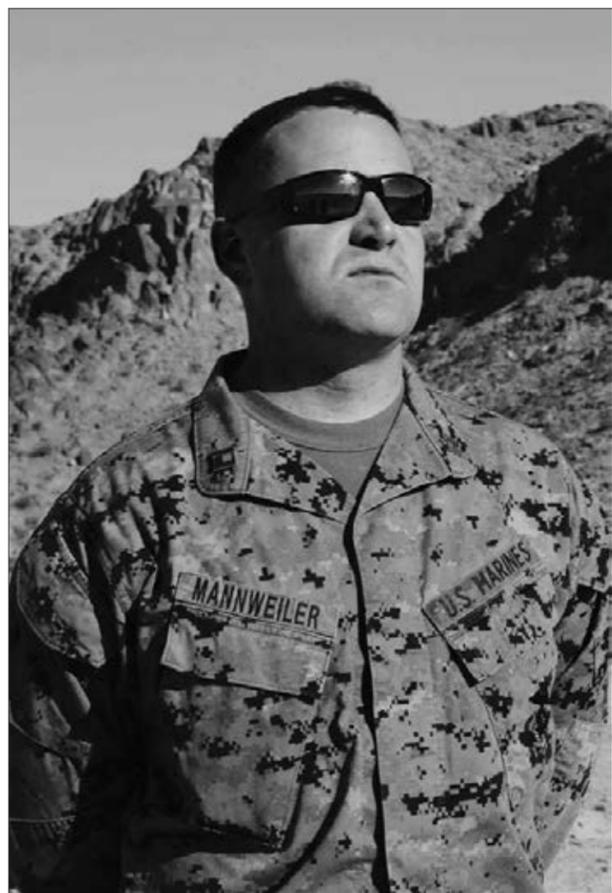
In Palm Springs:
 - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
 - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

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

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Nicholas Indianapolis, Ind., Public Affairs Officer, 29

MANNWEILER



> **I've spent seven years as a Public Affairs Officer**, so I've been interviewed before; throughout deployments, Combat Center business and Marine Corps news-breaking events.

> **I have actually been** to Oktoberfest in Germany. During my second deployment to Iraq, I took R&R and traveled throughout Europe, for what ended up being almost 18 days. The highlight was Munich for Oktoberfest.

> **I had four days** at Oktoberfest. I remember them very well. I consider myself a very responsible enjoyer of alcohol. It was a fascinating international relations experience.

> **If you were to look at my iPod**, it has got everything from Russian gypsy music to German rappers. Just all kinds of eclectic musical tastes.

> **I am known** around the public affairs shop to occasionally quote the philosopher, Lil' Wayne, and share some of the knowledge he has imparted upon his audience.

> **In my daughter's** first couple of months, one of the things that calmed her down when she was upset or cranky was rap music.

> **Personally I attribute** that to my wife, Laura, attending spin class and working out to rap music while she was pregnant. Something about beats and tempo soothes the soul.

> **I played rugby** in high school, in college and played for the (Marine Corps Air Station) Cherry Point team.

> **I began my rugby career** as what's called a wing. You're basically one of the small fast guys on the very outside edges of the field. I think I made my calling when I became a scrum-half. Its kind of like a quarterback.

> **I've had a few injuries.** A couple concussions, mostly just broken bones and twisted ankles, broken fingers, things like that. A total of 27, but not all of those are from rugby. Rugby is maybe 16 of them. Poor operational risk management and general bad decision making very rarely leads to positive outcomes.

> **If I had to identify** a sport that I think is tougher, it's rugby. We tend to tackle a little bit smarter, but you're going to get hit hard and there's nothing protecting you.

> **Joining the Marine Corps**, honestly I was brainwashed since birth to be a Marine. It wasn't my parents' doing, it was hero-worship for my grandfather.

> **He was a WWII Marine**, who fought in Iwo Jima, Saipan and Tinian. The guy was just a living legend growing up.

> **So when I was a kid**, we'd all get together and play war in the neighborhood. I would openly refuse to participate, and I had the largest armory of toy guns in the neighborhood. If anybody wanted to use the real stuff, instead of sticks or something like that I'd say, "Hey guys, we're not playing army or anything like that. We're playing Marines. You're either cool with that or you're not. We're playing Marines or I'm going home."

> **The Marine Corps** is something I wanted to do since I was a kid. Public affairs really just happened by luck. I have a family background in journalism. My dad was actually the Army's equivalent of a combat correspondent, during Vietnam.

> **Going through The Basic School**, I managed to get the only public affairs spot in our entire class and am just grateful for it because I think it worked out pretty well.

> **The thing about PAO** is if you do it right, every single day is a field trip. Some of the most outlandish things I've seen have actually been out here at Twentynine Palms.

> **Truly there is no other** place in the Marine Corps that you can go out to see so many different weapons systems and so many different types of Marines and units all in play. You can't see that in Afghanistan. You might see one thing each day, but that's it.

> **When I asked** for Twentynine Palms as my first pick, I remember people asking me, "What is wrong with you? Do you need counseling?" I remember being excited about it and now that I'm done, it truly is an amazing place.

> **For the public affairs** safety brief, I recommend no Marine should ever combine two of the following; drinking, driving, sex, drugs and texting. And if you combine three you're definitely going to have a problem.

> **I came up** with this list through in-depth analysis of lessons learned from other Marines. Think smarter not harder. So if you can learn lessons from someone else's poor decision making, that makes you a lot better off.

> **For my daughter**, I crack the joke to my wife that she is going to be Naval Academy Class of 2034. My wife didn't find it that funny. Honestly, I'd be thrilled if she wanted to join the military, Marine Corps. I'd be out of my mind proud.

> **I think at 18 months** old, she shows a courage and absolute disregard for her personal safety that would probably earn her valor awards.

> **I haven't seen** her give the knife hand to anyone directly but she's very big on discipline, maybe not for herself, but she is very quick to go find her own subordinates, which are our two dogs, and give a very stern no and maybe a poke in the chest.

Interviewed by Cpl. Ali Azimi
July 1, 2013

HOSPITAL, from A1

Robert Gantt. "We used to walk past the new hospital being built and just drool over it because we were so amazed. Moving into the new hospital was like going from being forced to camp in the woods to staying in a Hilton Head Resort."

In May 2000, the hospital was renamed as the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital for Petty Officer 1st class Robert E. Bush, Medal of Honor recipient. Fifty-five years to the day of this ceremony, Bush, then an 18-year-old medical corpsman, was on patrol with a Marine rifle company on

Okinawa, Japan. Though seriously wounded in combat, receiving grenade wounds to the back, stomach, arm and losing one eye, he continued to provide medical aide to a Marine patient while simultaneously successfully disabling several charging Japanese soldiers.

Hospital corpsmen are always on their toes and wanting to help in any way they can, according to Sourbeer.

"I can't help but to feel a lot of pride," Sourbeer said. "We represent tradition. The passing of traditions is a big part of naval services and we are looking forward to continuing to proudly serve this beautiful hospital."

SAPR, from A1

of evidence, and more importantly, contains the IO's conclusions whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that the accused committed the offenses alleged and recommendations, including disposition. Although the rules of evidence generally do not apply at an Article 32 investigation, it is important to note that the evidentiary rape-shield law and all rules on privileges do apply.

Before deciding how to dispose of charges and allegations, the Convening

Authority again receives advice from his or her SJA and then decides how to dispose of the charges and allegations. Prior to making a disposition decision, Convening Authorities also take the victim's preference into consideration. Victim Advocates, SARCs, and the victim can express preferences to the trial counsel, who will communicate directly with the SJA and Convening Authority. If the Commanding Officer decides to move forward, he or she may refer the charges to a General Court-Martial or a lesser forum.

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

COMING HOME



Service members adjust to life after deployment

Cpl. Emmanuel Ramos
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Due to a high-tempo work environment, service members face many emotional challenges while deployed. Unfortunately, many of those challenges can linger after returning home.

Marines and sailors with the 15th

Marine Expeditionary Unit, who returned from Western Pacific 12-2 deployment last month, who are working to transition to their home life, can use their experiences to strengthen family bonds and advance personal growth.

gration with loved ones takes time and cannot be rushed.

“During your deployment everyone has changed,” said Dinkins, who has dealt with these issues after three deployments. “With the amount of time you spend on work-ups and deployed, you may have been gone up to 14 months. In that time your spouse has had to take on new roles and close friends have changed.”

team effort. Finding different ways to communicate such as writing notes, sharing common interests and listening to each other are ways to break through some of the barriers, added Dinkins, Fort Worth, Texas native. The more a service member practices communicating with friends and family, the more connected they’ll feel.

Emotions and feelings are dynamic. Balancing these emotions between a service member and their family can be difficult.

“It’s emotionally tough on everyone involved,” said Garcia, a 25-year-old from Michoacán, Mexico. “But it’s a little tougher on your family. They’ve had to live without you for a long time. They have their routine and it almost feels as if you’re intruding in on their life.”

To get past this feeling, Garcia said that he had to be patient and take the time to adjust to his wife and daughter’s new routines.

“One of the biggest mistakes you can do is rush to solve some of these challenges,” Dinkins said. “Take it slow. Take the time to get to know how your spouse or your children have changed. Your relationship will be stronger for it.”

Service members and their families can also educate themselves on reintegration after deployment through resources such as a family readiness officer or navy chaplain.

Common challenges that service members face associated with these changes are communicating, balancing new friends, sharing and negotiating control and responsibilities and feeling emotionally connected.

“As Marines, we’re trained to take control in almost everything we do,” said Sgt. Sigilfredo Garcia, small-arms technician, Command Element, 15th MEU. “It can be easy for Marines to feel like they need to do that coming home after a deployment, but it can put a lot of stress on the family.”

Overcoming these challenges is a

“As Marines, we’re trained to take control in almost everything we do. It can be easy for Marines to feel like they need to do that coming home after a deployment, but it can put a lot of stress on the family.”

— Sgt. Sigilfredo Garcia

“Marines and sailors go through a wide range of emotions ranging from excitement to frustration when returning from a deployment,” said Lt. Cmdr. David Dinkins, chaplain, Command Element, 15th MEU. “It’s important to understand that these emotions are common and are to be expected.”

Dinkins emphasized that reinte-

Signs and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder can cause many symptoms. These symptoms can be grouped into three categories:

1. Re-experiencing symptoms

- Flashbacks—reliving the trauma over and over, including physical symptoms like a racing heart or sweating
- Bad dreams
- Frightening thoughts.

Re-experiencing symptoms may cause problems in a person’s everyday routine. They can start from the person’s own thoughts and feelings. Words, objects, or situations that are reminders of the event can also trigger re-experiencing.

2. Avoidance symptoms

- Staying away from places, events, or objects that are reminders of the experience
- Feeling emotionally numb
- Feeling strong guilt, depression, or worry
- Losing interest in activities that were enjoyable in the past
- Having trouble remembering the dangerous event.

Things that remind a person of the traumatic event can trigger avoidance symptoms. These symptoms may cause a person to change his or her personal routine. For example, after a bad car accident, a person who usually drives may avoid driving or riding in a car.

3. Hyperarousal symptoms

- Being easily startled
- Feeling tense or “on edge”
- Having difficulty sleeping, and/or having angry outbursts.

Hyperarousal symptoms are usually constant, instead of being triggered by things that remind one of the traumatic event. They can make the person feel stressed and angry. These symptoms may make it hard to do daily tasks, such as sleeping, eating, or concentrating.



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

GOLD EAGLE, from A1

Squadron B, 1st Armoured Regiment. "I'm really fortunate for the opportunity to come over here and train alongside the U.S. Marines."

The two units grew close in the course of a month. They traded lingos, patches, ranks and stories from home. They roomed with each other in garrison and slept side by side in the field.

"I had a blast," said Staff Sgt. Uriel Lemus, tank leader, Co. B, 1st Tanks. "Just from being on top of the hill and seeing everything come together, from day one when I picked them up from the gate, to when they first got into our tanks, to the end where everyone was moving in sync."

They said they had a lot to learn from each other. Although their equipment was mostly the same, the two units had differences in operations and maintenance of their machines. They worked through operational and sometimes linguistic barriers to get their job done together.

"I'm going to take back from being here and working with the Marines, is just the

attitude toward remaining focused and professional above all cost." Steel said. "We'll take in the American culture as well. I think the guys have certainly integrated well with the Marines in a social setting. We haven't just locked ourselves in our rooms and kept to ourselves. We talk to the guys and train with the guys."

A month of integrated, bilateral training not only brought two countries in the tank community together, but they came together as people too. They'll retain the stories of the time they came to America to blow things up and the Marines remember what it was like trying to understand the Australian accents and so much more. They mixed their professional and personal culture to form a bond that transcends the distance between Darwin, Australia, and Twentynine Palms, Calif. They keep those bonds and keep them going when 1st Tanks heads to Australia later this year for more bilateral tank training.

"It's good that they got to see how we run stuff, that way when we send a company, it gives them better training," Lemus said. "I wish I was going to Australia."



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

An M1A1 Abrams tank with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, fires a round from its main gun during a tank assault course for exercise Gold Eagle 2013 in the Combat Center's Prospect Training Area June 30. Gold Eagle paired 1st Tanks and soldiers with B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment of the Australian Army.

VEERP, from A1

be aware of reaching their unit's critical staffing levels to respond to short-term force demands as well as accomplish day-to-day mission requirements.

For more information, contact a career planner or visit <http://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/MessagesDisplay/tabid/13286/Article/145525/fy14-voluntary-enlisted-early-release-program.aspx>

Eligibility

A. Any active duty enlisted Marine with an FY13 or FY14 EAS of Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2014.

B. Marines may request to separate no more than 365 days prior to their current EAS. A Marine with an FY14 EAS on or prior to Feb. 1, 2014 is authorized to request a separation within FY13, to execute a cross-year separation. A Marine with an EAS of Feb. 2, 2014 or later may request separation on or after Oct. 1, 2013.

Ineligibility

Marines meeting any of the following conditions are ineligible to participate in the FY14 Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program:

- A. Marines who do not have an FY13 or FY14 EAS date.
- B. Marines scheduled for transfer to the

Fleet Marine Corps Reserve or retired list.

C. Marines who are indebted to the government, to include advance and excess leave. Indebted Marines desiring early separation can make accelerated repayment of their debts by increasing scheduled installment amounts and by making cash collections to repay their indebtedness. Indebtedness must be entirely resolved prior to early release.

D. Marines being released under other HQMC directed early out programs such as early release for education, temporary early retirement authority and voluntary separation pay program.

E. Marines participating in the national call to service program.

F. Marines that are currently on terminal leave away from the permanent duty station pending separation.

G. Marines who manifest symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and are undergoing post deployment health evaluation and management care will not be separated under this authority until that process is complete or a waiver of treatment evaluation has been executed.

5. Marines who do not fit into the VEERP timeline.

INTEGRATION, from A1

was no previous training together.

The available tanks were spread too thin and they quickly outran the infantry, a constant problem for the American forces. Although they flattened concertina wire, crossed the trenches and effectively neutralized German soldiers, without infantry support, the tanks were eventually destroyed.

"We bring the shock effect, the direct firepower, which is the 120 mm main gun," said 1st Lt. Alex Barron, platoon commander, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion. "We bring a stabilized .50 cal machinegun and a stabilized coaxial machinegun, which is basically an (M240). We also bring our optics, which allows the infantry to get 10-digit grids to the targets. Basically we extend their range and capabilities."

From the lessons learned in WWI and WWII, the Marine Corps has been incorporating tank and infantry training for combat deployments.

"Tank-infantry-integration is the key word," Barron said. "Not just speaking of the capabilities, but the limitations, because you can't just send us forward and expect us to do everything. They have to be involved in our protection and we have to be involved in their protection and how we use each other to ultimately accomplish the infantry's goal."

Prior to the Marine's participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the only training between tanks and infantrymen were during the Combat Center's Combined Arms Exercise, a previous version of predeployment training.

Currently, training equates to Range 210, a company-sized, live-fire mechanized

assault in an urban environment and Range 220 which is a patrol-based exercise through an urban terrain environment.

The training focuses on company and battalion level training to better prepare deploying units with the knowledge on how to properly assault fortified positions. The main effort is to see infantry successfully integrate their course of fire with the movements of the tank units and effectively advance on a target.

"The biggest thing I want (infantry) to know is what I can bring to the fight for them and how to use me," Barron said. "It boils down to the capabilities and limitations of the tank. When we roll up you can't expect me to push up to a five-story building and hit the top, you can't expect me to roll over certain terrain or get up close to tall buildings, because that creates a hazard. At the same time, if they don't want to go through a door I can make a door. If they don't want to go through a wall I can make a hole in the wall. Ultimately, they need to know we're not invincible and that we do have to be protected by them, that's the whole point, we have to work together as that tank-infantry team."

Communications, security, maneuver and firing capabilities are taught to the tank and infantry units.

"It's pretty unimpressive to see a tank roll through the streets when they're not shooting," Barron said. "But the second they see that main gun go off it's like, 'Ok, I know what they can bring to the fight.' It's a huge force multiplier for us. (Range 220) is where it seals the deal and sells it to them that we are an asset to be used, that we can actually be that offensive-firepower shock effect."

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

S	K	I	D		E	M	B	E	D		C	O	P	A			
L	I	L	I		G	I	L	D	A		A	L	E	C			
A	W	L	S		G	L	A	D	H	A	N	D	E	R			
M	I	S	C		N	A	B				L	A	I	N	E		
					I	R	O	N			H	E	I	R	E	S	S
H	A	P	P	Y	G	O	L	U	C	K	Y						
E	X	I	L	E		A	S	H	E		P	I	T				
E	L	S	E		S	O	C	K	O		F	U	M	E			
P	E	A			R	O	U	E			P	O	P	I	N		
					M	E	R	R	Y		G	O	R	O	U	N	D
R	E	F	I	L	E	S		O	P	E	D						
A	C	E	L	A			A	V	E		F	I	S	T			
J	O	L	L	Y		R	O	G	E		I	D	E	A			
A	L	O	E			O	H	A	R	A		S	L	A	P		
H	I	N	T			C	O	R	N	S		H	E	R	E		



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



WeekINPhotos

Operation Northern Lion II



PHOTOS BY CPL. ALEJANDRO PENA

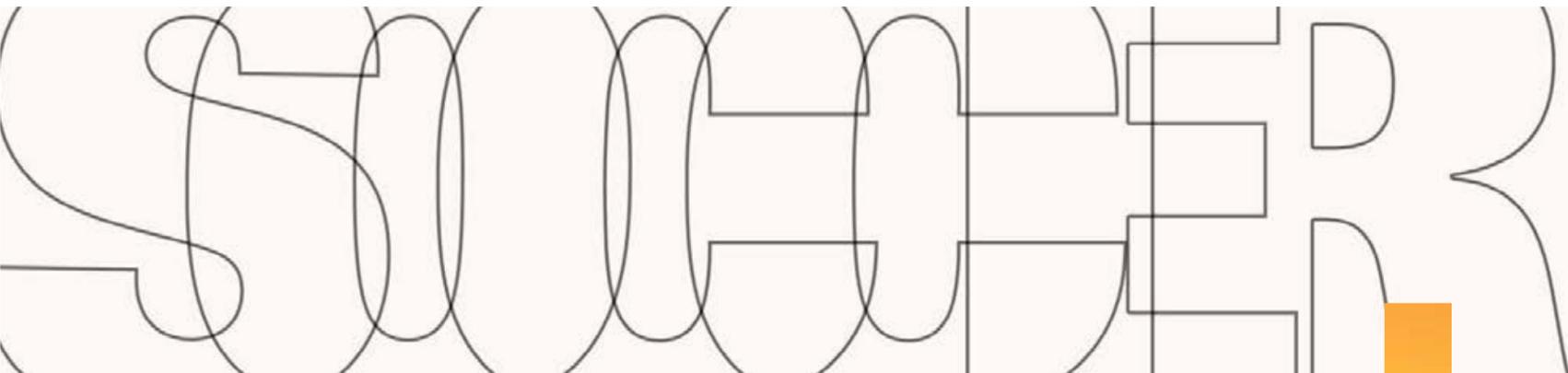


[Top, right] Marines with Georgian Liaison Team-9 and Georgian Army soldiers with 33rd Light Infantry Battalion make their way to an extraction point during Operation Northern Lion II in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 3. ONL II was a Georgian-led operation conducted to deter insurgents, establish a presence, and gather human intelligence in the area.

[Top, left] Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricardo Arrequin, hospital corpsman, GLT-9, conducts a dismounted patrol with Georgian Army soldiers with 33rd LIB during ONL II in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 3.

[Bottom, left] Capt. Bob J. Sise, GLT-9, signals to awaiting Marines and Georgian Army soldiers with Company C, 33rd LIB, to approach an extraction point during ONL II in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 3.

[Above] Capt. Bob J. Sise, GLT-9, interacts with Afghan children during ONL II in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 3.

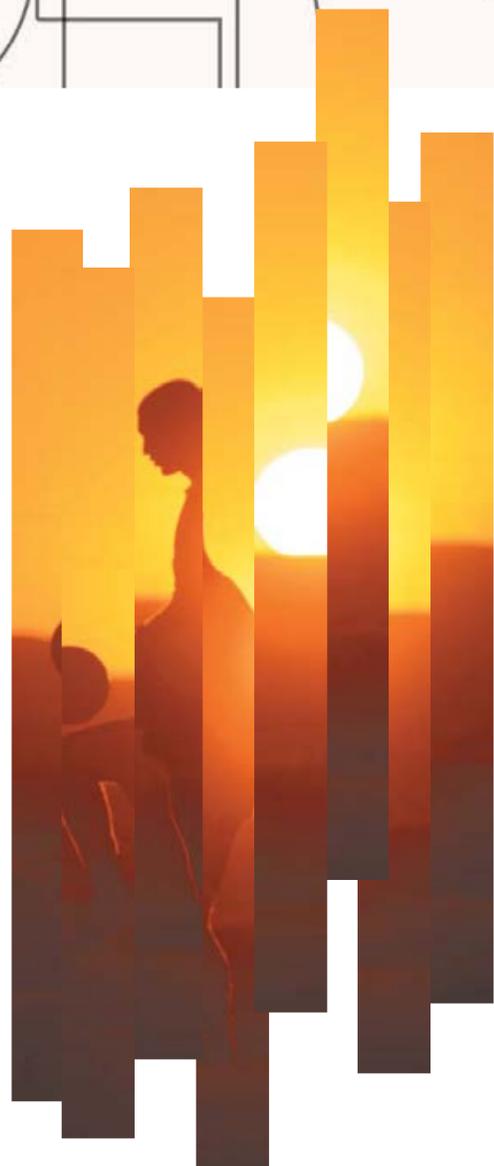


joga bonito...



Story by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

It's the world's most popular sport, a universal language. It brings nations together in times of war through acts of aggression and athletic prowess. The players bleed their team's colors and with those colors, they paint what is known as the beautiful game.



It is the most popular sport in the world, a universal language. It brings nations together in times of war through acts of aggression and athletic prowess. Fans travel far and wide for the pride of a team. They bleed their team's colors. Those colors, fans and the intensity the players bring to the pitch paint what is known as the beautiful game. So many would ask, why even play the game? The sport can be played anywhere; sandlot, rock-strewn field, or even asphalt-paved parking lots. The desert heat adds another problem to the equation. Many people would consider you to be crazy to chase a ball for 90 minutes in the desert heat and even if you do play here, it is only for bragging rights. The season lasts the length of the summer and is forgotten shortly after it ends. The only fans you see on the sidelines of your games are family members or close friends.

The Heat

The vast desert seems never ending, while the overbearing sun breaks your will to even go outside. You could easily stay indoors and watch the game on your television to avoid the desert

heat. The season is played during the hottest part of the year. The average temperature during the summer in Twentynine Palms is 99 degrees and no matter what you are doing, you have a constant layer of sweat. There is not a cloud in sight and the shade seems like an oasis that you are constantly trying to reach and the ever-present heat is impossible to escape. The league carries on through these conditions but you are usually rewarded for how well you play.

No Trophy, No Problem

Here, you are playing for bragging rights. The teams competing are made up of units stationed aboard the Combat Center. Competitive nature is natural among service members but when they are competing against their surrounding units, that competitive nature is amplified.

There is something about passing by another player and rubbing it in his face that your team is the champion team.

Bragging rights are enough to meet the needs of these competitive athletes. Although, the players are forced to play in different conditions and on different fields, but they always a fight to win.

The Field, the Fight

The Combat Center has many fields used for sports and other events. They are also used to run combat fitness tests during the summer and once you see the fields prepped for the combat fitness test, you know they are going to move the games to another field.

You play on grass that is overtaken by sand in the out-field of an under-regulation-sized field. You have a lot of negatives when it comes to playing in the high desert but there is one answer you can say that out-does all of those negatives.

Love for the Game

You play because you love the game. You can be brand new to the sport or be raised by a family who eat, sleep and breathe the game. You may be playing in front of thousands of people or by yourself in your backyard. It could be the most beautiful day or you could be forced to play indoors but no matter where you are or what the conditions are, you are playing the beautiful game, the most popular game. You are playing

...soccer





Liberty Call

Bullock, McCarthy pair up in zesty zinger of cop 'buddy' comedy



COURTESY PHOTO

NEIL POND

"The Heat"

Starring: Sandra Bullock & Melissa McCarthy
 Directed by Paul Feig
 Rated R, 117 min.

"Being a woman in this field is hard," says Sandra Bullock's character at one point in this zesty zinger of a summer comedy in which she plays an uptight, by-the-books FBI agent paired with a foul-mouthed, street-smart Boston cop (Melissa McCarthy) to track down a brutal drug smuggler.

Ain't it the truth: The "buddy" genre, like the FBI, is almost exclusively the province of guys, and we've seen exhaustive pair-ups over the years of male co-stars in endless variations on the scenario described above.

Which is one reason "The Heat" seems so fresh and feisty: It plunks two females into a situation we're much more conditioned to filled out with some team-up of testosterone. But that's only part of why it works.

McCarthy, the star of TV's "Mike & Molly," has a true comedic gift that combines her generous physicality with a willingness to do, or say, just about anything, and a timing that's spot-on and pitch-perfect. She primes the audience for laughs from her very first scene, going all-out to bust a couple of "perps," and keeping the flow of funny going till the end. She gets laughs just by walking into the camera's frame.

Her "crazy" haywire cop, Mullins, and Bullock's straight-arrow agent, Ashburn, totally mismatched partners—of course. But the actresses have a chemistry that clicks even as

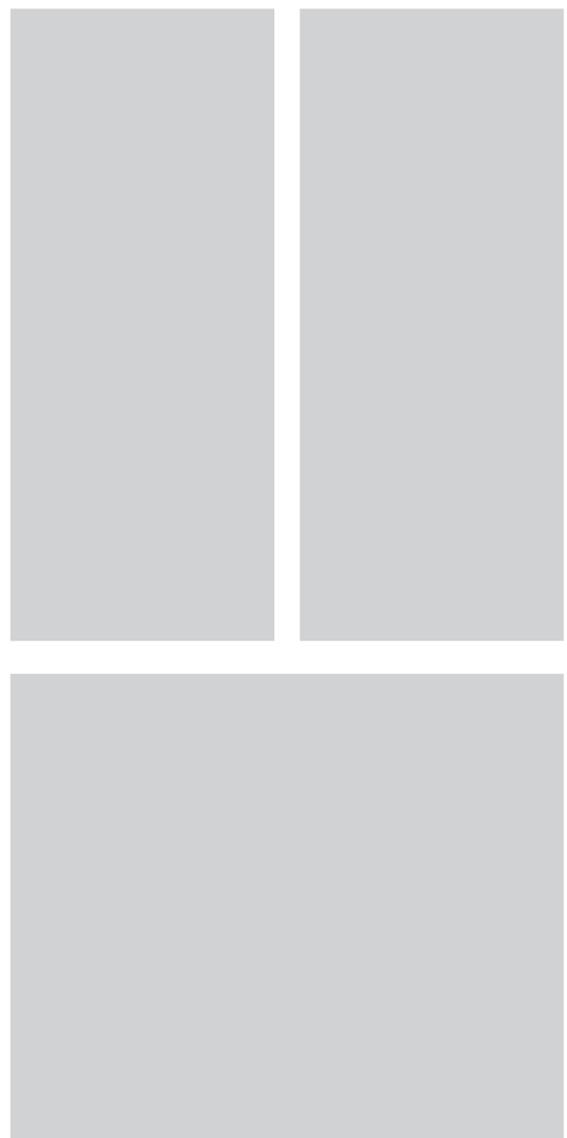
it's clashing, and the circumstances in which the movie places them often lead to flat-out hilarity.

Credit the gold-star script, from "MADtv" and "Parks & Recreation" TV writer Katie DiPold, with a lot of the rapid-fire wit, especially the arsenal of howlingly funny R-rated put-downs McCarney's character zaps at suspects, coworkers and even her new partner.

Director Paul Feig, who made his splash with the bawdy hit comedy "Bridesmaids" in 2011 (which featured McCarthy's breakout role), knows that women can be just as funny—and raunchy—as men. Since audiences these days should realize what they're getting when it comes with an R rating, it should be obvious that "The Heat" isn't for children.

The movie sprinkles in appearances from a number of recognizable faces, including former Backstreet Boy Joey McIntyre; current "Saturday Night Live" actor Taran Killam and founding cast member Jane Curtain; Thomas Wilson, who played the bully Biff in the "Back to the Future" movies; Chris Gethard and Zach Woods, two former actors from TV's "The Office," for which Feig also directed; and Kaitlin Olson from the sitcom "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

Everything rocks, rolls and rollicks along on the comically charged combo of McCarthy and Bullock, to be sure. But the whole project is a testament to what can happen when you round up funny people and cut them loose to do what funny people do. And it boils down to this: A director, a writer, two all-aboard actresses and their supporting cast, and everyone in synch with everyone else's funny bones. In a summer of big, over-cooked, over-stirred drama-ramas and other excessive cinematic crockery, the simple surprise recipe of "The Heat" makes it the hot comedy to beat.



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

Lonestar
 American country group performs
 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.morongocasinosresort.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>.

Intocable
 Popular Tejano/Nortena group performs
 When: 8 p.m., Sat., July 20
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.
 For more information, call 866-377-6829 or visit
<http://www.spotlight29.com>

Sara Evans
 American country star performs
 When: 8 p.m., Sat., July 27
 Where: Agua Caliente Casino, Resort and Spa
 32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage, Calif.
 For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>

Sunset Cinema

Friday, July 12
 6 p.m. - The Hangover Part III, R
 9 p.m. - Fast and Furious 6, PG-13
 11:50 p.m. - The Purge, R

Saturday, July 13
 10:30 p.m. - Free Matinee: Up, PG
 12:30 p.m. - Fast and Furious 6, PG-13
 3:30 p.m. - After Earth, PG-13
 6 p.m. - Now You See Me, PG-13
 9:30 p.m. - The Internship, PG-13
 11:50 p.m. - The Purge, R

Sunday, July 14
 12:00 p.m. - After Earth, PG-13
 2:30 p.m. - The Internship, PG-13
 5:30 p.m. - Man of Steel 3-D, PG-13
 9 p.m. - This is the End, R

Monday, July 15
 7 p.m. - The Purge, R

Tuesday, July 16
 6:30 p.m. - Man of Steel 3-D, PG-13

Wednesday, July 17
 6 p.m. - Fast and Furious 6, PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - This is the End, R

Thursday, July 18
 5:30 p.m. - The Hangover Part III, R
 8 p.m. - The Internship, PG-13

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