



# FAIR WINDS & FOLLOWING SEAS

Photos by CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

## CHIEF OF STAFF RETIRES



**[Above]** Col. George C. Aucoin, Combat Center chief of staff to the Commanding General David H. Berger, retires during a ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 31 after 33 years of faithful service.

**[Top, right]** Col. George C. Aucoin, shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Jon M. Davis, deputy commander, United States Cyber Command, during his retirement ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Oct. 31.

**[Right]** Col. George C. Aucoin, sits with his wife and sister during his retirement ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Oct. 31.

## Hey Combat Center fans!

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[surveymonkey.com/s/9CVHK2R](http://surveymonkey.com/s/9CVHK2R)

## 3RD CEB RETURNS TO COMBAT CENTER



LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

A Marine with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion is welcomed home after returning to the Combat Center after a deployment to Afghanistan Oct. 28.

Story by

Lance Cpl. Charles J. Santamaria

## 'Wardogs' pitch in to clean up community

Story and photo by

Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkibilis

Marines and family members with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, volunteered their time in an effort to help beautify the community in Copper Mountain Mesa, Calif., Oct. 26. The Copper Mountain Mesa neighborhood watch requested the Marines to help in an effort to remove trash from more than 30 sites within the area, which have been used as unauthorized dumping sites.

"Copper Mountain Mesa has been known as the dumping grounds for the Morongo Basin for such a long time," said Linda Carmella Sibio, president, Copper Mountain neighborhood watch. "Contractors, who don't want to go out to a

See **WARDOGS** page A7



Marines with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, volunteer in Copper Mountain Mesa to remove trash left at more than 30 unauthorized dumping sites in the community Oct. 26.

Marines and sailors with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion's main body returned home to the Combat Center Oct. 28. The Marines and sailors were deployed to Afghanistan for seven months.

Families and friends waited eagerly at the supply company's motor transport lot to welcome the Marines and sailors.

"It's been seven months of sacrifice and support and now it is time to have their loved ones home," said Erika Capistran, family readiness officer, 3rd CEB.

The mission of 3rd CEB was to provide mobility, counter-mobility, survivability, and limited general engineering support.

"We're a family, not just a battalion. It's not just Marines, its brothers and sisters and I feel honored to be a part of that," Capistran said.

After multiple deployments, 3rd CEB can now begin the transitioning process into their deactivation scheduled for summer 2014.

## Combat Center Marines participate in Patriot Day



LANCE CPL. CHARLES J. SANTAMARIA

A participant in the first Patriot Ride in La Quinta, Calif., greets a line of bikers as he rides through the first stretch of the race Oct. 26. The ride was in honor of the local public servants, including police officers, firefighters and service members.

Story by

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

Combat Center Marines participated in the Patriot Ride for Our Heroes in La Quinta, Calif. Oct. 26. The Patriot Ride was held in honor of all heroes including service members, firefighters and police officers.

The event was open to all ages and ability groups. The ride began and ended at the La Quinta Community Park. Riders were separated into three route distances; 25 miles, 50 miles and 100 miles.

With the park draped in red, white and blue, the local high school band performed the National Anthem and the hymns of each military branch. After the performance, all of the bicyclists and hand cyclists prepared for the ride.

There were snacks and drinks for the riders throughout the route. Vendors lined the sidewalks of the community park. The vendor's expo included sport clothing, food, drinks and veteran's booths.

More than 1,000 riders swarmed to

the starting point of the race. Local police officers, firefighters, and service members all participated in the race to represent their part of the community. Marines from various units throughout the Combat Center participated in the ride. Among the Combat Center Marines were the wounded warriors.

"We are living up to our motto by staying in the fight," said Staff Sgt. Sean O'Leary, Wounded Warrior Detachment Twentynine Palms. "We are so thankful for all of the support towards the rest of the people being represented in this event."

Staff members from the Wounded Warrior Detachment joined the wounded warriors on the ride.

"Events like these are amazing," said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Saunders, Wounded Warrior Detachment Twentynine Palms. "It is great to see the local communities come together to honor these heroes"

The public servants of local communities

See **RIDE** page A7

## 1/8 attacks Range 410

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Charles J. Santamaria

Sand, rock, and the smell of gun powder filled the air as machine gun rounds fired down range. This exercise was utilized to simulate Marines suppressing enemy forces and providing cover for squads advancing toward training objectives.

Company B, 1st battalion, 8th Marine Regiment conducted live-fire drills on range 410 in a

See **RANGE** page A7



Marines with 1st Battalion 8th Marine Regiment provide suppression from Machine gun hill on range range 410 Oct. 29.

## Vietnam veterans describe the battle of Khe-Sahn to a younger generation



LANCE CPL. CHARLES J. SANTAMARIA

A presentation was held at the base theater Oct. 30, by Marines who were part of the battle of Khe-Sanh during the Vietnam conflict. The host was Ken Pipes, who witnessed the events first-hand and presented the battle through experiences of fellow veterans, and a documentary highlighting the conditions of the environment through the eyes of other Marines and their stories.

# CFC Returns

## Combined Federal Campaign beginnings for the Combat Center

Story by Lance Cpl. Charles J. Santamaria

The Combined Federal Campaign's 2013 season has begun and is now available to Combat Center personnel. The CFC supports an estimated 20,000 charitable, non-profit organizations that includes local community charities as well as larger, national charities.

Pledges made by federal employees and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

The CFC is the world's largest, most successful, annual workplace charity campaign, according to the Office of Personnel Management at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov).

"The Combat Center has now joined the southern California CFC, which raises five million dollars a year," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Lawanda Hall, Manpower staff non-commissioned officer in charge.

These partnerships promote donations from federal employees to local and national charities.

"A local organization on the campaign list is the Armed Services YMCA," Hall said. "It allows the uniform thrift store and the food pantry on base to support the community."

There are approximately 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas that raise 256 million dollars each year. Each campaign is managed by a volunteer group of federal employees who work with non-profit executives in their communities to raise funds and distribute them to an eligible recipient.

This partnership provides an opportunity for federal employees to become involved in assisting their local communities.

"There are 26 service categories that federal employees can choose to donate to, ranging from employment and nutrition to military organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project," Hall said.

Online donations can be made directly to the CFC at [www.socal-cfc.org](http://www.socal-cfc.org). Anyone interested can also request donation forms from their respective unit representatives to donate.

# ONE HOUR CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Mark A. Hartwig  
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

We all know it is getting darker, we all know it's time to change our clocks, and hopefully we all remember that we need to change the batteries in our life saving devices – smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, flashlights, etc. On Sunday November 3, 2013 San Bernardino County Fire is once again asking residents of San Bernardino County to test and change batteries, but we are also asking for all homeowners to review their home escape plan with their families. Being prepared and having the right equipment can mean the difference between being safe or being a victim.

When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead. Almost ne-quarter of the smoke alarm failures was due to dead batteries. Smoke alarms save lives. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. When a fire occurs and smoke starts to spread you need to remember that it is: hot, dark, you have NO time to waste, and the smoke and toxic gasses can kill you.

An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, either types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes. Knowing the needs of your family will help make the decision process easier as there are recordable alarms (you record a brief message for your hild/family), alarms for hearing impaired, and alarms that combine technology with carbon monoxide detectors.

Have a plan, practice, and get the right devices for your family. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of carbon monoxide (CO) over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. Make sure to review with your family the different sounds between your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and practice escape plans at different times of the day/night. For more life safety information, visit our website at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org).



### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

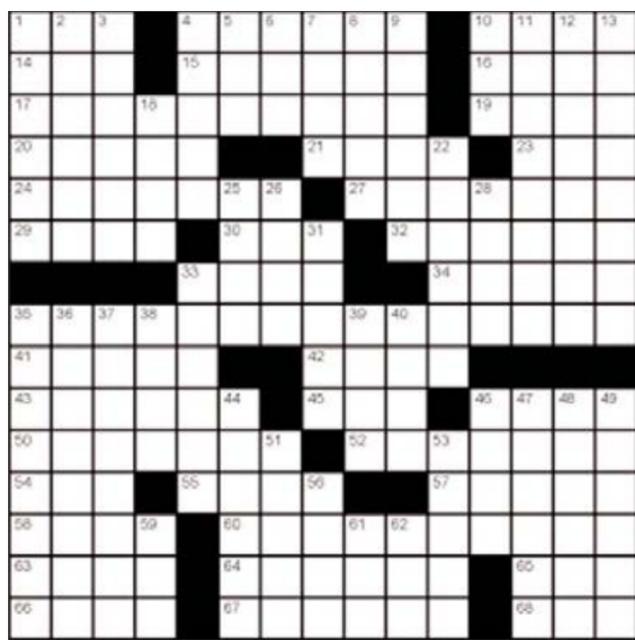


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|---|---|
| <p><b>SALYSIA ROSE ARGUIJO</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 18, 2013<br/>Born to: Gilbert and Serinna Arguijo</p> <p><b>DAIHVIENKAL-EL SERRANO</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 17, 2013<br/>Born to: Carlos Serrano and Heather Schiel</p> <p><b>WINSTON MICHAEL TURNER</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 16, 2013<br/>Born to: Daniel and Monique Turner</p> <p><b>GREYSON ISAAH GILBERT</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 15, 2013<br/>Born to: Jeremy and Rebecca Gilbert</p> | <p><b>DAVID EARLE TOPPSAL</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 14, 2013<br/>Born to: Edward and Lorrails Toppsal</p> <p><b>ISAAH JUSTIN ESPINOSA</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 13, 2013<br/>Born to: Matthew and Jasmine Espinosa</p> <p><b>ISAAH JUSTIN ESPINOSA</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 13, 2013<br/>Born to: Matthew and Jasmine Espinosa</p> <p><b>MILO MARCUS CUMPSTON- O'CALLAGHAN</b><br/>Born on: Oct. 10, 2013<br/>Born to: Evan O'Callaghan and Daisy Cumpston</p> |
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## JOINT CHIEFS

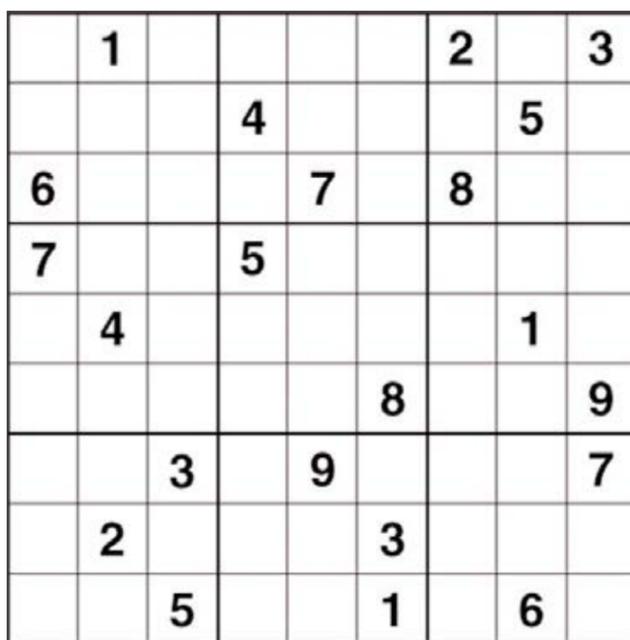
- ACROSS**
1. Basket boundary
  4. Unreleased, as emotion
  10. Start for a playwright
  14. Turkish title
  15. Get excited
  16. First word of two Springsteen albums
  17. Person who hauls shrubbery?
  19. "Beat it!"
  20. Count \_\_\_\_ (jazz great)
  21. "Exodus" author
  23. Ending for lemon or lime
  24. Properly organized
  27. Consoling one
  29. Not nuts
  30. Jamaican export
  32. Boot the dictator
  33. Just \_\_\_\_ and dandy
  34. Sandwich shops
  35. Federal money for a project?
  41. Lucy's sidekick
  42. Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
  43. Coral reefs
  45. Nancy's husband
  46. "Make a \_\_\_\_"
  50. Vote back into office
- DOWN**
1. Torah readers
  2. Exotic pet
  3. Vintner Paul
  4. Acted nervously
  5. Baseball stat
  6. Neither go-with
  7. South African Peace Nobel
  8. Computer owners
  9. Sentence stopper
  10. Crunch target
  11. Pepsi rival
  12. Swaps
  13. Money with a loan
  18. Take on
  22. Sister \_\_\_\_ ("We Are Family" singers)



25. "\_\_\_\_ go brag!"
26. Ladder section
28. Copycat
31. Taxi equipment
33. Unavailable, as a position
35. Most exhausted
36. Vouch for
37. Where loafers
38. Alternative to high water
39. Olfactory stimulus
40. Boy, in Bogota?
44. Checks (out)
46. Street urchin
47. Altogether
48. Caught
49. Empty-\_\_\_\_ (having gained nothing)
51. Court proceeding
53. Program parts
56. Southwest sight
59. Scrabble 3- pointers
61. Show off on one's Harley

See answers on page A8

## SUDOKU 3067D





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

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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>

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**Scott** Huntington Beach, Calif. HQBN sergeant major, 43

# COOPER



> **I got my first job when** I was 11 at a little surf shop. I made a dollar an hour plus free pizza. I grew up with just my mom so this family gave me a job to sort of keep me out of trouble.

> **I was never really** into conventional sports. Growing up, I did BMX, dirt biking and freestyle. I also skate boarded and I surfed. I did all of those things practically my whole life.

> **I also worked making** t-shirts later on and the next thing you know, I'm making jerseys of my favorite motor cross riders like Jean-Michel Bayle, Jeff Ward and Ricky Johnson. I thought it was the coolest thing ever.

> **I always thought I was right**, and maybe that's something I never quite got rid of, but I'm at least a lot more patient now.

> **I worked for my** wife's dad as a handyman for a camp at United Methodist Church in Mission Hills. I worked a lot with my hands and it was only 10 minutes away from the beach so for a guy like me, it was perfect.

> **I admired her family so much.** I guess you could say her father was kind of like a dad to me but kind of had more of a competitive rivalry. He's like the master of all trades. He always said that it was good to know a little about a lot of things.

> **When I think back**, it's kind of funny. There was this kid in high school named Chris, and he'd always have the high-and-tight and the red poolee jacket and we thought, "Dude, what a dork." So, I never thought I'd be in the military. I wanted to get into construction because that's what my buddies were doing.

> **I owe it all to my recruiter**, Sgt. Sullivan, and I thank my mom for calling him. He chased me down relentlessly. He even called my work and eventually, he finally cornered me and he goes, "Hey! Hey you! You had an appointment with me." He told me that since I made a commitment to talk to him, that I needed to step up and do that. So, I did. I don't know what my life would have been like if he hadn't been so persistent.

> **I'm an engineer by trade** and initially I joined for the job. I had no idea what the title was but at some point, I really got the Marine part of it and I fell in love with that.

> **One of the turning points** was probably in my first unit, when I was running up Cardiac and they just gave me the guidon and said get up front. I didn't ask for it and kind of didn't want it, but they said, "Cooper, get up front with this next to the (Commanding Officer) and I don't even know how it happened but suddenly, I became the guide for Bravo Company, 3rd (Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion). I thought to myself, "I'm the freakin' welder. How the heck am I up here in the front of an infantry platoon?" It just hit me like a ton of bricks.

> **Right around the time** I was coming to the end of my first enlistment, Master Gunnery Sgt. brought me in and said, "Cpl. Cooper, you do a dang good job. You should stick around." Honestly, I think it was because someone had believed in me that I kept going.

> **My mom and my wife** were always my biggest supporters. Every enlistment, they told me that they liked what I was doing and how proud they were of me.

> **My wife is such a sweetheart** and she doesn't get caught up with rank. Her theory was that she's not in the Marines; her husband is but she is not. I think that when you get up there in rank, you sort of get caught up in the lifestyle and it's almost like they are serving in the military too. There's a way you can balance it all and it's tough, but now I'm coming home.

> **I have a 13-year-old son**, an 18-year-old daughter, and a 20-year-old daughter. My 20-year-old is out of the house and she has a son. I got them all into dirt biking from the time they could balance on one. My daughters both did it and my son, Kirby, is actually better than I am now.

> **They're going to be tired** of me when I retire and I'm going to be glad. The words stay-at-home dad have actually come up, and stay-at-home grandpa.

> **Cpl. Cooper certainly** wasn't perfect but I had a good work ethic and a respect for the institution and I didn't ever mistake what the Marines Corps' mission was. That was to be ready to fight whenever the nation called and whether that meant you got recalled off your honeymoon to go to Desert Storm or you missed Christmas to go to Somalia, it's just what you had to do.

> **The Marine Corps** gave me an opportunity to grow up and be a part of something. It's been a great ride. There have been a few bad days but it has all been worth it.

Interviewed by Cpl. Lauren Kurkimalis  
Oct. 29, 2013

COOPER IS THE HQBN BATTALION SERGEANT MAJOR AND IS RETIRING AFTER 22 YEARS OF HONORABLE SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS.



Story by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

The mission of the American Red Cross is to provide care to those in need. The Red Cross is supported by people who donate, volunteers, and employees who all share the same mission. Although the Red Cross is not a government agency, it is an essential part of the nation's disaster response. It works in partnership with other agencies and organizations to provide services to victims. They offer five key types of service to people in the United States and around the world.



"We are here to help people in any type of struggle," said Michael Wolfe, station manager, American Red Cross, Combat Center station. "We are a program made up of donations and 97 percent of us are volunteers all wanting to complete the same mission."

**Disaster Relief**

According to their website, the Red Cross supports approximately 70,000 disasters in the United States. They respond to

disasters ranging from home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that affect many more. When they respond to these types of incidents, they provide shelter, food, medical and mental health services to help people get back on their feet.

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*These volunteers and donations make a huge difference to our country and the world."*

— Michael Wolfe

**Supporting the Military**

"Most family emergencies are usually time critical," said Capt. Shannon Mawson, company commander, Company A, Headquarters Battalion. "Swift and sensitive action on emergency leave requests are essential."

The Red Cross helps service members and their families cope with the challenges of serving in the military.

Emergency communication is one thing provided to serv-

ice members by the Red Cross in case of an emergency with the service member or their family.

"Emergency Leave does not mandate a Red Cross Message," Mawson said. "However, a Red Cross Message provides verification of the emergency. Most Marines are mature and responsible individuals whose emergency leave needs can be considered on their merits."

The Red Cross also provides things like training and support to wounded warriors, veterans and access to community resources. According to their website, these resources help an average of 150,000 military families and veterans annually.

**Blood Saves Lives**

The American Red Cross is the largest single supplier of blood and blood products in the United States, according to their website. Nearly four million people donate blood through the Red Cross, helping to provide more than 40 percent of America's blood supply.

**Health and Safety Training**

The American Red Cross is also the leading provider of health and safety courses. Some of the courses provided by them are Cardiovascular Pulmonary Resuscitation, first aid and lifeguard training. According to their website, more than nine million Americans participate in their training programs each year. Some of the people participating in these courses are first responders, educators and babysitters.

**International Services**

According to their website, The American Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network with 13 million volunteers in 187 different countries. They help respond to disasters, build safer communities and educate future humanitarians all around the world. The Red Cross reaches an average of more than 100 million people across the globe.

"This program plays a huge role in society," Wolfe said. "These volunteers and donations make a huge difference to our country and the world."

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**To support the American Red Cross, you may donate, fundraise, give blood, teach a class, volunteer, help internationally or become an advocate. For any questions about the Red Cross, call (760) 830-6685, or visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).**

## Combat Center Marines ride together through Joshua Tree Lake Bed

Story by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

**C**ombat Center Marines participated in the monthly Dirt Day hosted by Headquarters Battalion at the Joshua Tree Dry Lake Bed Oct 25. All service members and their families were invited to bring their off-road vehicles and participate in the event.

“Dirt Day has a lot to offer,” said Sgt. Jake Seibert, technician, Explosive Ordinance Disposal. “We are out here to have fun and build camaraderie between the Marines, but there is much more to it than that.”

Dirt Day began with the Marines finding a place to setup in the middle of the dried lake bed. Once the Marines parked their trucks and trailers, the fun began. Before taking off for their first ride, the Marines were inspected for safety gear. One of the biggest focuses of Dirt Day is to teach participants to be safe when they ride.

“You should always be as safe as possible when riding,” Seibert said. “Most of the people out here are pretty experienced and have plenty of tips or personal stories to share with people who aren’t as experienced.”

Riders of all levels rode together, charging toward



the first trail. The service members rode in a variety of trails including soft-sand, hill-climb and flat-ground trails. After each trail was completed, the riders would ensure their bikes were still operational. They also shared their experiences on the trail and any other advice they had to offer.

“The more you do something, the better you will get,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Eichelberger, master gunner, company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. “This place offers trails for all levels of riders but the first step is actually getting out here and doing it. It is like heaven out here for off-road vehicles.”

The Headquarters’ Battalion Dirt Day is open to all service members and family members with off-road vehicles aboard the Combat Center. It is held monthly in different locations throughout Southern California. This event gives people a chance to join a

community that looks forward to spending time in the dirt and teaching one-another.

“It truly is a great time,” Eichelberger said. “It’s a full day of riding, learning and playing in the dirt. It doesn’t get better than that.”

For more information on how to sign up, contact Sgt. Jake Seibert, Dirt Day liaison, at (760) 830-6050.

**[Above]** A Marine jumps his dirt bike during the monthly Headquarters’ Battalion Dirt Day at the Joshua Tree Dry Lake Bed Oct 25.

**[Left]** Staff Sgt. Andrew Eichelberger, master gunner, Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, prepares to ride his dirt bike on a trail during the monthly HQBN Dirt Day at the Joshua Tree Dry Lake Bed Oct 25.

# CAX FOR SPOUSES



**[Left]** Spouses were challenged with completing an inflatable obstacle course during the Combat Center's annual CAX for Spouses event at Felix Field Oct. 24. **[Above]** Spouses competed in a game of laser tag during the Combat Center's annual CAX for Spouses event at Felix Field Oct. 24. The spouses learned fire and movement drills and fought against Marines portraying an enemy force.

## SPOUSES SPEND A DAY IN THE BOOTS OF THEIR MARINES

Story and photos by LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

**L**ifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills hosted the annual combined-arms exercise for Combat Center spouses at Felix Field Oct. 24. The spouses participated in different mock-training events that their Marines are regularly required to conduct.

"Our program is like an introduction to the Marine Corps lifestyle," said Amber Bilderain, L.I.N.K.S program manager. "The spouses get a chance to spend a day in their Marine's boots. It gives them a good understanding of what their husbands do and how difficult it would be to do every day."

The Marine wives started the day with classes covering Marine Corps knowledge including classes on customs and courtesies, and rank structure. The spouses then

charged an inflatable obstacle course. Once they completed the course two times, the wives ran to another section of Felix Field to suit up for laser tag and learn how to conduct

*"We want to be the best Marine wives we can possibly be and with events like these, it will help us achieve our goal."*

— Lindsey Ferguson

fire and movement drills. The spouses were faced with the challenge of overcoming an enemy force portrayed by Marines, whom they defeated.

The spouses grabbed Meals-Ready-to-Eat

for lunch before gearing up in flak jackets and Kevlar helmets to take a ride in a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, or 7-ton. The 7-ton took the wives to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal building to see a static display of different equipment EOD technicians use for training on base, and combat environments.

"Our husbands are used to seeing these kinds of things," said Lindsey Ferguson, spouse. "We are constantly surrounded by them, why not learn about them?"

The spouses were excited to learn about the Marine Corps and use the knowledge they gained to make their Marine Corps experience even better.

"This is like our little boot camp," Ferguson said. "We want to be the best Marine wives we can possibly be and with events like these, it will help us achieve our goal."



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



**WARDOGS, from A1**

dump and pay a fee, come out here and dump garbage in our neighborhood. I moved here in 1997 and back then, it was horrible but with volunteer efforts, we've been able to get rid of a lot."

The Marines and family members drove out to each site and removed various types of trash and separated it into four categories; tires, metal, wood and other trash. After multiple trips of filling truck beds to their limits, the Marines and other local volunteers put a dent in the goal to clean up the area, but there is still much to be done.

"Today we've gotten about one third of the sites done," Sibio said. "We plan to organize more events like this. There's just so much to pick up out there."

Many of the Marines said they chose to volunteer their Saturday for this cause

because they were aware of the limited resources made available to the residents of Copper Mountain Mesa.

"For the people out here, it's very hard for them to get the man power (to perform the clean up)," said Lance Cpl. Tim Cassidy, rifleman, E Co., 2/7. "Maybe if they see us out here they'll think, 'Hey, these people don't even live here and they're doing this.' Then maybe it will help them to stand up and add to the manpower efforts."

The Marine volunteers believe that it didn't matter what their rank or title was, it was important to them to get out into the community and help. Those who participated were comprised of lance corporals all the way up to the battalion's sergeant major.

"This is our community too," said Sgt. Maj. Fredrick Smith, battalion sergeant major, 2/7. "We live here as well and we're all in this together. It's very important that we're seen as

one big happy Twentynine Palms, (Calif.) family. For Marines and the community, it really goes a long way."

Events like this not only help support the community, but also help Marine volunteers come together as a unit and bolster their team building skills.

"This definitely builds camaraderie and the unit's esprit de corps," said Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Hernandez, platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon, E Co., 2/7. "Along with that, it allows the junior Marines to say, 'Not only am I out here, but my battalion sergeant major is out here doing the same thing. I'm doing this because he cares just as much as I care.'"

As the day wrapped up, volunteers with the Copper Mountain Mesa neighborhood watch prepared lunch for the Marines and their family members. As the food was served, 2/7's senior leadership expressed their gratitude and explained that they would wait until all of

their Marines returned from the cleanup sites so they could all eat together. Smith stressed the importance of leading from the front and taking care of the Marines.

"As a leader, we don't ever ask the Marines to do something we wouldn't do ourselves," said Smith, who brought his two daughters to come help clean up. "If my Marines can be out here doing community service, then so can I."

After eating, the Marines and local volunteers decided to go out on one more clean-up run. They knew they weren't going to be able to clean it all in one day and expressed that they would like to volunteer for the next clean-up event.

"I can't say enough about the Marines coming out here," Sibio said. "They are just wonderful to have and we can't express enough how much we appreciate them volunteering."

**RIDE, from A1**

were honored with the display of American flags throughout the city of La Quinta and members of the community lined the streets to cheer as the participants rode past. There were also banners and signs posted for the various organizations that participated.

The Patriot Day ride is an event celebrated throughout the United States and has reached the city of La Quinta. With the large outcome, The Patriot Ride is scheduled to become an annual event.

"We are glad we were invited to participate," Saunders said. "We use this as physical training but we also like to get out here and represent where we come from. We want to continue riding in this event and watch it grow even larger in the years to come."



**See page B2 for Sunset Cinema movie schedule**

**RANGE, from A1**

platoon-level fire and maneuver training exercise Oct. 29.

"This range is ultimately designed to teach Marines that they can shoot near each other and have the confidence in each other that they won't hit one another," said Staff Sgt. Donald Vaughn, platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.

The exercise consisted of platoon-sized attacks on three objectives with support from M249 machine guns, mortar teams, and combat engineers. The platoons had to capture the objectives and breach at a designated location while pushing back a simulated enemy assault.

"The exercise helps out a lot because they can actually see what their piece of the pie is in the operation and execute it," said Lance Cpl. Rob Hearn, team leader, 1st Platoon, Company B, 1/8.

The unit was evaluated on their fire and maneuver through the objectives and obstacles throughout each run. The exercise took approximately 45 minutes per platoon. The live-fire exercise made each platoon work within their squads and support groups to fulfill a role in order to complete the scenario successfully.

"No matter what, you still have to take the objective and know that the Marine to your left and your right is there to support you," Vaughn said.

Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, are scheduled to conduct training exercises on base for one month. Company B will be completing its platoon-level exercises this week. Throughout the month, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group Marines will evaluate the unit's effectiveness in a variety of scenarios until its conclusion in mid-November.

**[Top]** A Marine with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, takes aim at an objective with a M32 Multiple-Shot Grenade Launcher Oct. 29.

**[Center]** Combat Engineers with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, wait for the signal to proceed to the breach point Oct. 29, during an exercise at Range 410.

**[Bottom]** A mortarman with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, carries a mortar piece before a fire-and-maneuver exercise Oct. 29.



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CHARLES J. SANTAMARIA

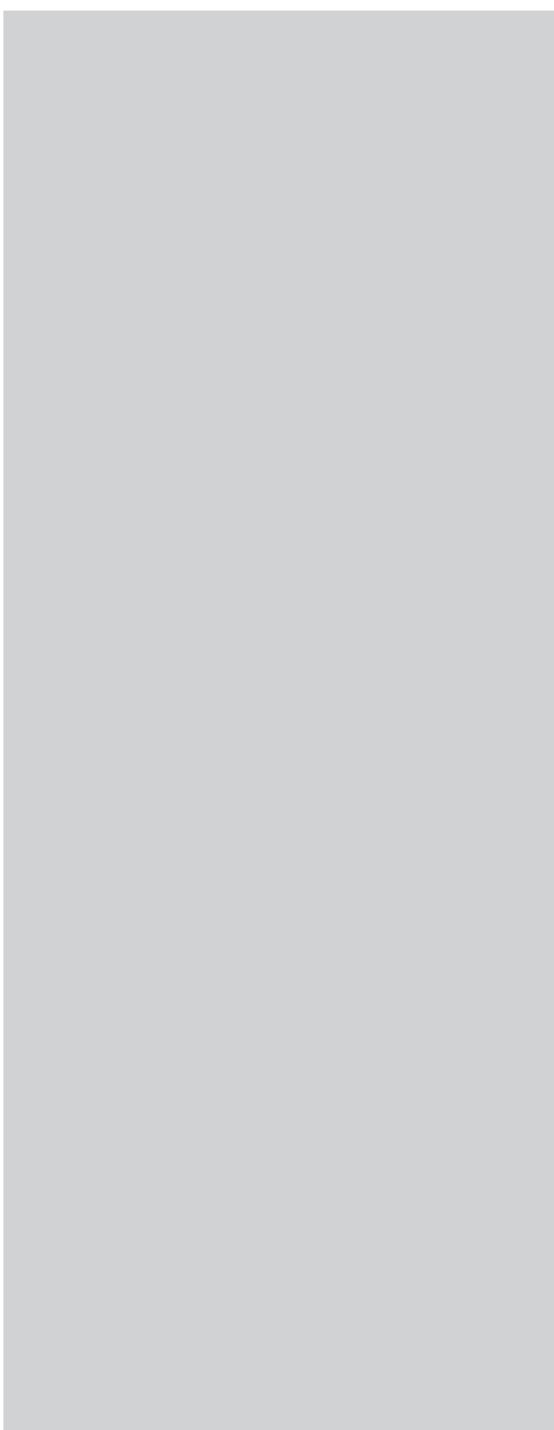
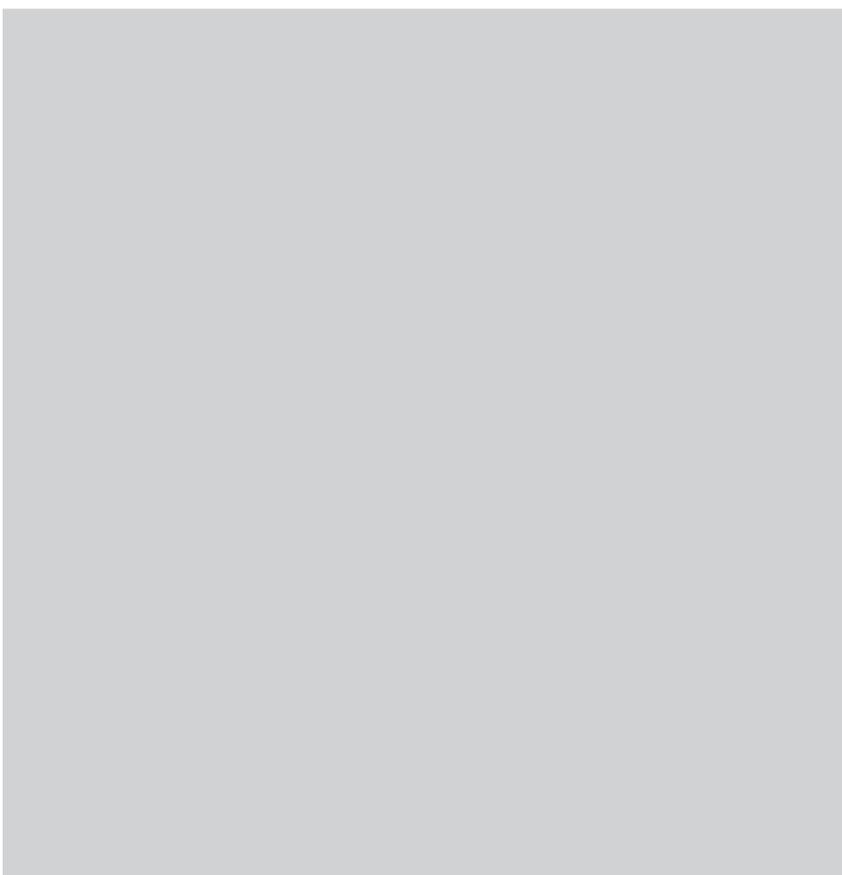
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**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

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# WARRIOR DAY



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JOHN TRAN

## U.S., ROYAL MARINES FACE-OFF IN MULTI-EVENT COMPETITION

Story by **LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA**

**C**ombat Center Marines and Royal Marines with Commando 40 Royal Marines competed in Warrior Day at Del Valle Field Oct. 30. The competition's intent was to bring together Marines from different nations who participated in the annual Black Alligator training exercise. Black Alligator 13 is a combined-arms training exercise conducted by Marines, Royal Marines and Dutch Marines.

"It is great to see these units come together and compete," said Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center commanding general. "We want to build on our great camaraderie, and some competition after a good, hard month of training will help do that."

The Warrior Day consisted of multiple events where the military organizations faced off. To start the day, a musical performance was conducted by Joel Daniels, a bagpipe player known as the Marine Sand Piper. Speeches were given by Berger and Lt. Col. Alex Janzen, commanding officer of 40 Commando Royal Marines. The competitions consisted of soccer, football, rugby and softball.

While these sports took place, other Marines participated in a timed High Intensity Tactical Training competition.

"It is an awesome feeling when you compete with someone from another country," said Lance Cpl. Ethan Curnow, ammunition technician, center magazine area. "You can tell how competitive everyone is as soon as you walk out here. I really appreciate them coming out to compete after a long training exercise."

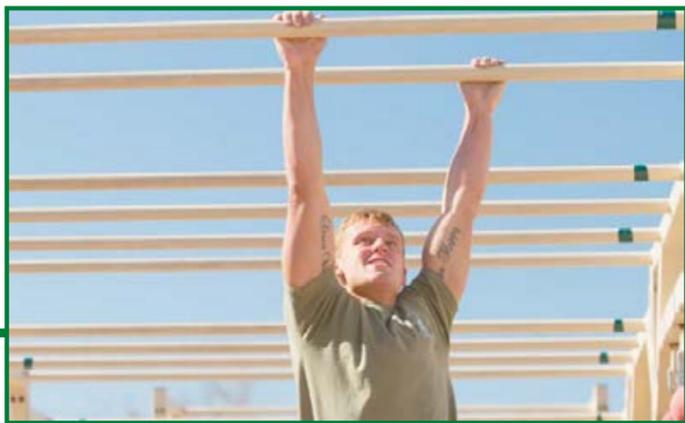
The Royal Marines won the soccer and rugby portions of the event while the United States Marines won the softball and football events.

The units are scheduled to return to their countries next month to continue training in jungle, mountain and cold-weather warfare.



Gunnery Sgt. Joel Daniels, also known as the Marine Sand Piper, plays the bagpipes during the start of the Warrior Day at Del Valle Field Oct. 30.

A Marine navigates the monkey bars on the High Intensity Tactical Training obstacle course, as part of Warrior Day held at Del Valle Field Oct. 30. The day challenged U.S. and Royal Marines in multiple competitions and sporting events.



U.S. and Royal Marines compete in a game of rugby during Warrior Day held at Del Valle Field Oct. 30. The two forces faced-off in multiple events including soccer, football and an obstacle course.

**[Top, left]** A Royal Marine with 40 Commando Royal Marines, jumps over a wall at the HITT obstacle course during Warrior Day at Del Valle Field Oct. 30. The day pitted U.S. and Royal Marines against each other in different challenges. The Royal Marines are currently at the Combat Center to train in Black Alligator-13.

**[Top, right]** Lance Cpl. Thomas Salukombo, administration clerk, Installation Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters Battalion, dodges a player from the Royal Marines' team during a soccer game as part of the Warrior Day held at Del Valle Field Oct. 30.

**[Bottom, right]** A Royal Marine with 40 Commando Royal Marines climbs the rope in the HITT obstacle course during Warrior Day held at Del Valle Field Oct. 30.



**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.  
DJ Gixxa, 8 - 11 p.m.

**Combat Center Officers' Club**

Monday: Steak Night, 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday: Free Pub Grub, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
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 - 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.

**Nightmares Halloween Haunt**

A play that dwells into the nightmare of a little girl  
When: 7 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays, Oct. 18 - Oct. 31  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
For more information, call 316-4151

**Low Desert**

**Wanda Sykes**

Comedian Performs  
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1  
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>

**Craig Ferguson**

Comedian performs  
When: 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.  
For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>

**Moonwalker**

The ultimate Michael Jackson Experience  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9  
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino  
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.  
For more information, call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>

**Ne-Yo**

Grammy award-winning star performs  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 16  
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, Nov. 1**

6 p.m. - Rush, R  
9 p.m. - Parkland, PG-13  
11:30 p.m. - The Family, R

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

10:30 a.m. - Free Admission Monster University, G  
1 p.m. - Hotel Transylvania 3-D, PG  
3:30 p.m. - Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 3-D, PG  
6 p.m. - Insidious Chapter 2, PG-13  
8:30 p.m. - Don Jon, R  
11 p.m. - Prisoners, R

**Sunday, Nov. 3**

12:30 p.m. - Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 3-D, PG  
3 p.m. - Prisoners, R  
6:30 p.m. - Gravity 3-D, PG-13  
9 p.m. - Baggage Claim, PG-13

**Monday, Nov. 4**

7 p.m. - Don Jon, R

**Tuesday, Nov. 5**

7 p.m. - Hotel Transylvania 3-D, PG  
7:30 p.m. - Riddick, R

**Wednesday, Nov. 6**

5 p.m. - Insidious Chapter 2, PG-13  
7:30 p.m. - The Family, R

**Thursday, Nov. 7**

5 p.m. - Free Admission War Horse, PG-13  
8:30 p.m. - Parkland, PG-13

# WikiLeaks drama pounds its story, but becomes a cold, dreary slog



COURTESY PHOTO

**NEIL POND**

*"The Fifth Estate"*

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch & Daniel Brühl  
Directed by: Bill Condon  
R, 128 min.

Earlier this year, I went to a team trivia-event where one of the questions was "What is the 'fourth estate?'"

Having a bit of newsprint in my blood, I knew that it was an old British term for "the press." Our team got the point - hooray for us, right? But what struck me that evening was how many teams were completely stumped for an answer.

Was the term really that arcane, that unfamiliar, that antiquated?

If so, are the people on those teams going to have any idea what "The Fifth Estate" is, either? And an even bigger question: How interested will they be in seeing this movie, no matter what it's called?

"The Fifth Estate" dramatizes the beginnings of WikiLeaks, the cyber-organization that shook up world governments and conventional media by posting highly confidential news from anonymous sources, who "leaked" it from places where it was supposed to be contained, sealed away, secreted. Among other stories, the site released sensitive files about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, about civilians killed by military airstrikes, and about what went on at the notorious prisoner detention center, Guantanamo Bay.

The term "fifth estate," the movie tells us, refers to the way news reporting was shaped by the speed, force - and recklessness - of information zipping around the planet in the new millennium's digital, instant-Internet age. If the old-fashioned printing press was the pillar of the fourth estate, new e-media, spurred by WikiLeaks, became the fifth.

The movie centers on WikiLeaks' Australian founder, Julian Assange, and his contentious, co-dependent relationship with Daniel Berg, the site's German representative (on whose book, "Inside WikiLeaks: My Time at the World's Most Dangerous Website With Julian Assange," the screenplay is partly based).

Benedict Cumberbatch is mesmerizing as Assange, a blonde-haired cyber warrior crusading to expose fraud, corruption, injustice, war crimes and other sins in high places. Daniel Brühl, who also co-stars in the new movie "Rush," is Berg, a young computer hacker whose prankish, anti-establishment sparks are fanned into flames of international activism by Assange's zeal and heated rhetoric.

Director Bill Condon - whose diverse credentials include the musical "Dreamgirls," the Gothic drama "Gods and Monsters" and two "Twilight" teen-angst vampire sagas - pumps the story hard, backfilling details of Assange's damaged childhood; weaving in a difficult romantic relationship for Berg; and inserting a pair of Washington D.C. insiders (Stanley Tucci and Laura Linney) who have to deal with the serious fallout WikiLeaks creates as it puts foreign diplomats, military personnel and their families in danger by revealing their identities.

Was Assange a hero or a traitor? That's the question the movie wants us to ponder. It also paints him as a cyber rock star, with throngs of fans, followers and groupies. (He's currently living in London, where he's been granted diplomatic asylum after a 2010 sexual assault investigation.)

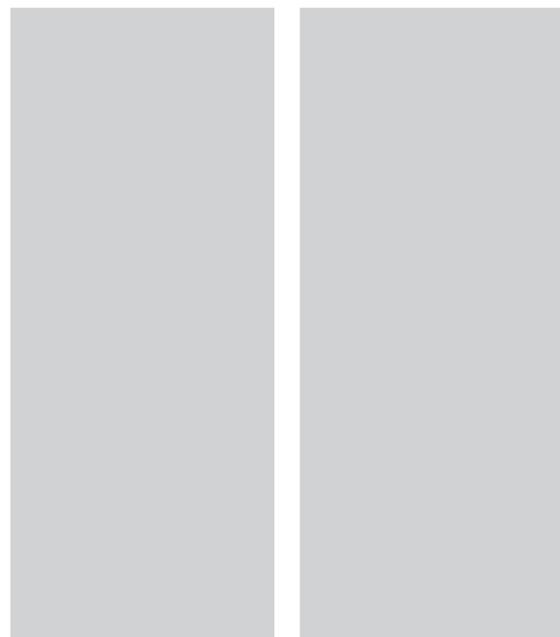
But the movie's all too much of a slog, I'm afraid, through a story that a lot of viewers will find too heavy on current events and history and too light on entertainment. Like the cold, bleak backdrops of Belgium and Germany, where the filming took place, there's far too little warmth, wit or movie sunshine to penetrate its overarching sense of its own seriousness.

The movie ends with a faux-documentary segment in which Cumberbatch, as Assange, addresses the audience, as if he's being interviewed about the movie they've just seen. He somewhat dismissively brushes the question away, then looks directly into the camera and tells viewers to become inspired to seek their own truths, to ferret out their own information, to become their own crusading, whistle-blowing leak-finders and "look beyond this story."

That's assuming, of course, that they see it to begin with - which might require a leap of an estate or two beyond a lot of people's usual areas of interest.

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

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





# C

## OMBAT ENTER HALLENGE

Photos by  
Cpl. Ali Azimi

Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion won first place in the annual Combat Center Challenge Oct. 25. The competition pitted Combat Center units as well as Royal Marines from 40 Commando Royal Marines, in multiple competitions spanning the course of several days. The challenges tested their strength, speed and endurance. The Royal Marines placed second in the competition, followed by sailors from Robert E. Bush Hospital in third place.



[Top, left] Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 weave through obstacles as part of the annual Combat Center Challenge Oct. 25. [Top, right] Royal Marines with 40 Commando Royal Marines, race to the finish line during the last portion of the competition Oct. 25. [Bottom, left] Cpl. Nathan Flaskegaard, Light Armored Vehicle mechanic, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, competes in the challenge at Del Valle Field Oct. 25. [Bottom, right] Cpl. Jorge Vega, squad leader, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, provides medical care for a simulated casualty as part of the last competition of the Combat Center Challenge, Oct. 25.



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