



OBSERVATION POST

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Public Health confirms severity of flu season

San Bernardino County
Office of Public Health

The County of San Bernardino's Department of Public Health has confirmed an increase in flu-related deaths during this ongoing flu season. Flu activity throughout the state of California continues to increase, and the number of confirmed, flu-related deaths within San Bernardino County has increased from two to 16 since Jan. 10.

The majority of deaths occur in individuals between 40 and 59 years of age.

The confirmed deaths are scattered throughout the county with no specific regional trend. Of the 16 deaths, 13 are confirmed to have been infected with the 2009 H1N1 strain, better known as Swine Flu, that caused the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic. During the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic, the county reported 45 flu-related deaths. The total number of deaths reported during the 2012-2013 influenza season



Seaman Anastasio Gadson, preventive medicine technician, Naval Medical Center San Diego, administers a flu vaccine shot to Ensign John Peters, preventive medicine officer, NMCS, Sept. 13

in the County of San Bernardino was five. "This flu season is severe and may be peaking earlier in comparison to previous seasons. Everyone who has not yet had a flu vaccination is encouraged to do so immediately. The influenza vaccine remains the most effective way to protect oneself from the flu," said Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Health Officer, County of San Bernardino's Department of Public Health.

The influenza vaccine is available at all county clinics. A seasonal flu shot is recommended every year for those ages 6 months and older. All of the 2013-2014 flu vaccines provide protection against the H1N1 strain that broke out in 2009.

People who are ill should take actions to stop the spread of germs such as limiting contact with others,

See **FLU** page A6



The Mobile Detection Assessment Response System uses color and infrared cameras, allowing operators to see things that Marines conducting ground patrols cannot. The system also utilizes a radar system to detect enemy presence and alert the operator.

Combat Center Marines first look at unmanned security vehicle

Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

Over the years, science fiction movies have depicted robotic sentinels as enforcers of the law. These feats of technology were equipped with bionic eyes able to detect multiple spectrums of light, sensor to detect enemy presence and could report their findings to their handlers instantly. The Marine Corps has embarked upon the brink of this once fictitious technology as they research a new and more efficient way to provide security without putting Marines' lives in danger.

Combat Center Marines took a first-hand look at the Mobile Detection Assessment Response System at Camp Wilson's ACE Compound, Jan. 30. The console-controlled Polaris Military Diesel Crew provides unmanned, external security and surveillance on defensive perimeters.

The MDARS was developed by the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, which delivers and sustains capabilities for warfighters. Although it was originally developed for the Army, the Marine Corps is currently

looking into its potential as an asset to improve force protection.

Marines with the Air Combat Element, currently supporting the Integrated Training Exercise, plan to use the new system as part of their enhanced, 24-hour Air Base Ground Defense.

"We are trying to use it to its full capabilities and (further improve) our defense," said Sgt. Timothy Hanla, platoon sergeant, air base guard force. "It will help reinforce certain areas and catch things our eyes can't catch."

The system features multiple laser systems for navigation and a radar system to detect enemy presence on a perimeter. Color and infrared cameras allow its controller to differentiate between enemy or friendly forces.

"Essentially, this thing can operate day and night," said Pat Cullington, MDARS project manager, SPAWAR System Center Pacific. "It will go out there and find whatever it is you want to find."

All the functions of the MDARS are remote-controlled from a computer or pre-set by the controller to run automatically.

Operators can navigate the vehicle and cameras with a console controller

See **VEHICLE** page A6

Congressional changes to UCMJ to come

Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

Congress made the biggest changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice in the past decade, Dec. 26, 2013, under the National Defense Authorization Act. These changes are scheduled to be implemented in throughout 2014 and the Marine Corps will begin to see some of the major changes that were made to Articles 32, 60, 120 and 125 in the coming months.

The Marine Corps is governed by the UCMJ, which is reviewed by Congress every year under the NDAA. While some of the changes made to the UCMJ in December came into effect immediately, others, such as the listed articles, are set to take effect 120 to 180 days after the date it was approved by President Barack Obama.

Upon implementation of these modifications, questions may arise. What are these changes and how will they affect the average Marine in a court case? To find that out,

"They're trying to increase the victim's rights and limit the rights of a commanding officer to not go forward on sexual assault cases."

— Maj. Nathan Bastar

it is best to talk to someone with proper education and experience in military law.

Marine Corps judge advocates undergo additional schooling at the Naval Justice School after passing their bar exams to serve as lawyers in the military. They understand both civil and military law, making them the best qualified representation in a military court case.

The changes being made to the articles largely influence cases of sexual assault, according to Maj. Nathan Bastar, deputy Staff Judge Advocate, office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Combat Center.

"Procedural wise, this is the most they've changed it in a while," Bastar said.

The changes affect the rights of victims of sexual assault in court, the rights of convening authorities, sentencing and the investigations leading to trial.

Article 32 relates to a preliminary investigation to determine reasonable grounds to go forward in a General Court-Martial. Rules of evidence do not apply and in some cases this is the

See **UCMJ** page A6

Combat Center CERT trains members of community

Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria
Combat Correspondent

Emergencies come without warning and families have to be prepared to react. Knowing how to react to anything from a fire in the kitchen to getting someone out of rubble is important for all members of the family. When a disaster hits or an accident occurs all members of a community should be able to respond and know the steps to helping in the emergency.

The Combat Center's G-7 mission assurance division is scheduled to begin a free class to train volunteers for the Community Emergency Response Team Feb. 25.

The class is to certify Combat Center patrons and service members to be part of first CERT to be implemented on a Marine Corps base according to Niki McBain, installation emergency manager, G-7.

"There will always be a need for first responders," McBain said. "What we're doing is training people aboard the Combat Center in the different steps of emergency first response so if the day comes that emergency responders need that backup we will have people ready."

The CERT class will be split five sessions once a week culminating in a exercise evaluating skills that participant learned throughout the course. The sessions will go over responding to emergencies such as light fire suppression, first aid and triage and extracting people from buildings.

"I think with mission assurance as a whole the CERT program is just another pillar that helps support the G-7 mission," Michael Burns, force protection supervisor, G-7.

One of the program's goals is to not only

prepare parents and service members but all members of the family, regardless of age.

"One of the great things about the CERT program is that the whole family can participate," McBain said. "Not every participant has to be an adult. This is information that people of all ages should know how to respond to emergencies that can happen in the home as."

After the five sessions of the CERT course is complete, participants will be evaluated in a culminating exercise that encompasses all the classes and emergency response procedures that were taught. Participation in the classes gives service members volunteer hours as well.

"Every session ends with practical application which makes the learning process more hands-on than classroom oriented," McBain said. "the final exercise brings all of that together so the participants get a real taste of the experience."

A CERT allows a community to be more self-efficient by giving participants the knowledge needed in times of urgency.

"The program is just a good way to get people into talking about the importance of emergency response and readiness in the community," Burns said. "We just hope that the CERT is successful so that we can continue to educate people and in time, make a big impact on the families that decide to take the course."

The program allows for participants to not only react to disasters, but also prepare for them.

"Each and every one of us will be faced with a disaster in our life whether that be an earthquake, kitchen fire or even a downed power line," McBain said. "Its important to be proactive not reactive to emergencies or disasters."



Jennifer Livingston, unit representative, Officer Spouses Club, watches as students from the University of California, Riverside, enter the Officers' Club ballroom in a lion costume to perform a Chinese lion dance during the Officer Spouses Club celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Officers' Club, Jan. 31.

Combat Center celebrates Chinese New Year

Story by **LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ**

Celebration and laughter filled the air as Marines and their spouses gathered for a festive start to the Chinese New Year at the Officers' Club Jan. 31.

Representatives with the Officer Spouses Club, who organized the event, kept the party going with continuous games, food, prizes and a unique traditional Chinese dance.

"The Officer Spouses Club was originally established as an opportunity for fund-raising events for scholarships and grants to military dependents," said Kristie Kennedy, representative, Officer Spouses Club. "Unit representatives came together this past fall at the OSC welcome

aboard and greet at Quarters One."

According to Kristie, the event was chosen by her, representing the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, and Jennifer Livingston, unit representative for Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, to coincide with the date of the Chinese New Year. The event quickly sold all 150 tickets.

As attendees filled the room to enjoy Chinese cuisine, games of bingo commenced. Prizes included health and beauty products, gift cards, and an ammunition gift set. Paper lamps, wooden horses, and fortune cookies supported the Chinese theme, and were provided

See **NEW YEAR** page A6

Corps adds new requirements to Marine Security Guard Program

Story by
Ameesha Felton

The Marine Corps Embassy Security Group is looking for Marines who are smarter, faster, stronger and more mobile. The program announced changes this month to admission requirements for Marines who want to serve overseas as internal security at U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities. The new prerequisites address the military's entrance exam, fitness levels, height, security clearances and family members.

According to Marine administrative message 010/14, Marines now need a first-class score on their Physical Fitness Test to be eligible, where previously a third-class was sufficient.

"Numerous studies demonstrated that there is a high correlation between having at least a first-class PFT score and success at Marine Security Group School," said Frank Baker, executive director, MCESG. "These Marines also tended to have successful tours as Marine security guards on post."

Additionally, staff noncommissioned officers must earn 100 on the General Technical portion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam,

instead of 90.

Similar to PFT outcomes, Baker said a Marine's GT score, which is the sum of a word knowledge, paragraph comprehension and arithmetic reasoning test, is strongly related to occupational success in the field.

"Staff NCOs in the program are detachment commanders who have a great deal of responsibility and must have the ability to engage with senior officials in the interagency environment of an embassy," Baker said.

To ensure Marines can observe and operate equipment at the entrance of the building that houses diplomatic missions, often referred to as a chancery, the program changed height requirements to at least 64 inches.

"Post 1 is the entry control point for the chancery and it is constructed to specific standards that accommodate the controls, alarms and other equipment that assists the Marine in controlling access," Baker said.

"Sixty-four inches was determined to be the minimum height that will afford a Marine the ability to observe the lobby, entrance doors and other surroundings without having his or her vision obstructed by the equipment."



LANCE CPL. DERRICK IRIONS

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph H. Faragone, recruiting, advertising, and security team chief, Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, meets with a Marine security guard applicant in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton during a Marine Corps Embassy Security Group recruiting and screening orientation.



LANCE CPL. DERRICK IRIONS

Gunnery Sgt. Derald Hampton, a representative with the Marine Security Guard Recruiting, Advertising and Screening Team, Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, interviews a Marine Security Guard applicant in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, March 20. The Marine Security Guard program has been in place since December 1948.

Under the new rules, all Marines must have an adjudicated secret clearance prior to applying. Baker said since guards are required to have a top secret clearance before deploying overseas, "having an adjudicated secret security clearance in advance quickens the process of obtaining a top secret."

Increased safety is another concern that prompted amendments. According to the MARADMIN, Staff NCO's dependents must be at least nine months old prior to reporting to MSG School and cannot be assigned to the Exceptional Family Member Program. Also, their spouses must have U.S. citizenship before applying.

Although restrictions on who can accompany military members vary with an individual embassy or consulate, Baker concluded that health and safety concerns were a chief determining factor.

"Healthcare for dependents under the age of 12 months cannot be managed at some austere locations, especially immunizations that must be administered for certain postings," Baker said. "Additionally, most of these same austere locations cannot provide the required healthcare needs for those dependents assigned to the Exceptional Family Member Program."

Lastly, all annual training must be completed before reporting to the program, unless a waiver is approved by Headquarters Marine Corps.

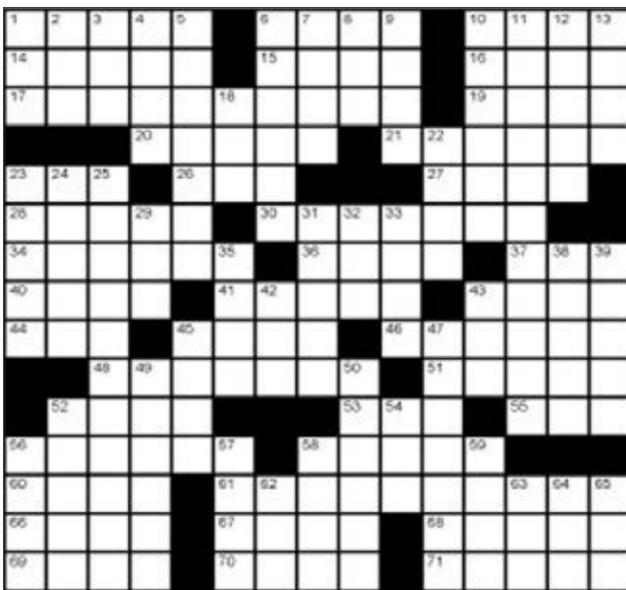
While the Corps plans to beef up their Marine Security Guard force by 1,000, according to the 2013 Defense Authorization Act, Baker said the changes should not adversely impact the program.

"Most applicants already meet these new requirements, [so] it will not negatively affect the program's growth," Baker said.

OH, GIVE ME A HOME....

See answers on page A6

- Across**
- 1 Finalize the deal on your house
 - 6 TV show set on an island
 - 10 Eve's guy in Eden
 - 14 How some household cleaners smell
 - 15 One of the Great Lakes
 - 16 Ripped
 - 17 Houses on the market, e.g.
 - 19 Bed size
 - 20 Exam for future 48-Acrosses
 - 21 Embarrassing public disputes
 - 23 Penalty caller, in football
 - 26 Have a mortgage
 - 27 Snakes of Egypt
 - 28 Love, to the French
 - 30 The ___ Stone (famed archaeological find)
 - 34 It goes wall-to-wall in some homes
 - 36 Christmas trees, often
 - 37 "Uh-huh!"
 - 40 Smooch
 - 41 Make a logical assumption
 - 43 Actor Sharif
 - 44 Org. that kidnapped Patty Hearst
 - 45 "Zip-___-Doo-Dah"
 - 46 "I think it's ___ say..."
 - 48 Attorneys
 - 51 Copenhagen residents
 - 52 Not there
 - 53 Ancient
 - 55 Three, in Italy
 - 56 Have a home
 - 58 Blazing
 - 60 Manning and Wallach
 - 61 Final meeting in the house-buying process
 - 66 Advantage
 - 67 Follow closely
 - 68 Was the father to
 - 69 They cool you off in summer
 - 70 Highfalutin'
 - 71 Gumbo and goulash
- Down**
- 1 It saves thousands of lives yearly
 - 2 Fib
 - 3 ___ whim
 - 4 Be a vendor
 - 5 Unpleasant to look at, like a pile of garbage
 - 6 Alpha, zeta, or sigma
 - 7 "___ my father used to say..."
 - 8 Take a chair
 - 9 Golf pegs
 - 10 Vouch
 - 11 First money towards a home
 - 12 Zodiac ram
 - 13 Word on a public restroom door
 - 18 Tool with teeth
 - 22 Purring Persians, say
 - 23 Gets the pool table ready for the next game
 - 24 Modern message
 - 25 You might see it in front of your dream house
 - 29 Company with brown trucks
 - 31 Bid
 - 32 "Sprechen ___ Deutsch?"
 - 33 Makes a mistake
 - 35 Neat
 - 38 Picky ___
 - 39 Not poetry
 - 42 Wedding announcement
 - 43 "Son ___ gun!"
 - 45 Amazed
 - 47 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, for the White House
 - 49 Comes up in conversation
 - 50 Not in a loud voice
 - 52 ___ grudge
 - 54 "(wouldn't forgive) ___ Abner"
 - 56 Surfing hazard
 - 57 It is, in Spain
 - 58 "He's ___ again!"
 - 59 Give off
 - 62 Body part associated with Van Gogh
 - 63 Before
 - 64 ___ England Patriots
 - 65 Scores for 64-Down:



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OBSERVATION POST

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OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

In Oceanside:
 - Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
 - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054

In San Diego:
 - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
 - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.

In National City:
 - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

In Twentynine Palms:
 - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.

In Yucca Valley:
 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

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

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

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Charles

Smoot, Wyo. Kennel Master, Provost Marshal's Office, 31

HARDESTY



> **I grew up on a farm** and family ranch in Wyoming. I grew up milking cows and putting up hay.

> **Early mornings and yelling** don't really affect me. I remember when I was going off to boot camp, it was kind of funny. Some kids, they get yelled at and they just shut down. My dad, he yelled, like really yelled. So when I was getting yelled at by drill instructors, inside I was laughing a little bit. I was thinking, "You think this is yelling?"

> **Growing up, my dad was** very discipline-oriented. He had no problem swatting my butt for doing something wrong. Drill instructors really couldn't do anything to me. Them yelling at me was no big deal.

> **I'm an outdoors** kind of a guy. I like hunting and fishing. I'm a very avid bow hunter.

> **There is a bear** hanging up in my office. That was from my very first bear hunt in Canada. It's crazy. All the training you get in the Marine Corps is all high speed and low drag. When you truly hunt and you hunt to kill something, it's different.

> **Everyone thinks bears** are big, noisy, clumsy animals. The scariest thing for me was sitting in the tree stand and looking and seeing nothing. It gets to the point where you start getting a little drowsy. So I'm looking, and scanning, nothing. I go ahead and nod back. About a minute later, I look around and down and there's a bear below me.

> **I was looking around** the whole way. That bear did not make a single noise. When you're walking through the woods and going over dry leaves and stuff, it sounds like you're a herd of cows running through the forest. Bears, it's scary how quiet they are. With that said, I shot him with my bow from 15 yards.

> **I've been in the Marine Corps** just over 10 years and I've been in K9 my entire career. As K9 handlers, we typically only do it for three or four years. This is a job that requires a lot of training.

After four years, I barely touched the surface of what it means to be a dog handler. At six years, I looked back and said, at four years I didn't know squat. At eight, I said at six I didn't know diddley. It's taken a long time to get where I am today.

> **There's no job you can compare** to dog handling and dog training. You have to work with this weapon every day. No one dog is the same. A dog needs training every day just to maintain basic proficiency. And we're not looking for basic.

> **I like to tinker** on things. If something is broken, I like to pull it apart and see if I can fix it and put it back together. I've always been that way.

> **Growing up on the farm**, if machinery broke down, we couldn't afford a mechanic to come out every time and fix a part, so guess what I had to do? A couple of times I learned that the hard way.

> **Something would break down** out in the field and I would walk a couple miles back to the house and tell my dad. He would ask, "Where's the part? What do you want me to do about it? Go fix it?" I'd have to walk all the way back pull it apart and bring it back.

> **My wife would say that** I'm a hoarder. I say to that, I'll pull something apart and maybe it's a broken clock. I'll see if it's fixable, if not I'll keep all the screws and the metal pieces. I'm thinking that I can use that somewhere else.

> **Honestly, I'm a very patient** and humble person. I'm very religious. I probably don't walk the walk, but I definitely try to make good moral and ethical decisions in the eyes of God. That's how I try to live my life.

> **I don't go out preaching** but I think, by my actions, that it says enough. As a young Marine you think, "Man, when I get up in the ranks, I'm going to make a difference, I'm going to do things differently." Most of them end up doing the same thing as those before them. I honestly believe that I am different.

HARDESTY'S K9 TRAINING REVOLVES AROUND THE BEHAVIOR OF THE ANIMAL. HE TEACHES HIS MARINES AND CIVILIAN DOG HANDLERS TO PAY ATTENTION TO HOW WORKING DOGS REACT TO SITUATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTS.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. D. J. Wu Jan. 14, 2014



LANCE CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA



LANCE CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

NMCRS provides support for Marines, families

Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria
Combat Correspondent

Before there were benefits for service members and their families, an avenue to help Marines and sailors struggling financially became necessary. The United States, still in its embryonic phase, couldn't afford to provide a benefits package for its service members. In 1904, several naval officers, wives of naval officers, and civilian friends saw the need for more formal and organized assistance, according to the official Navy Marine Corps Relief Society website.

For more than a century, NMCRS has continued to provide financial assistance to service members and their families.

Today, the Combat Center, like many Navy and Marine Corps installations, provides assistance from the relief society via a website, and an office on base where service members can apply.

"We provide a resource for service members when they need assistance and guidance or when they encounter an unexpected financial issue," said Raymond Caldwell, director, NMCRS Twentynine Palms Office. "Financial issues are typically one of the most stressful issues a young service member or young family can have. Having a resource like this one helps service mem-

bers feel secure and safe when confronting financial obstacles."

As a non-profit organization, the NMCRS relies on its volunteers and support from donations to continue providing help.

"We are a volunteer-based organization. Many of them are spouses of service members and every volunteer has a heart to serve," Caldwell said. "The Combat Center's office has been so successful because of our volunteers. Their hard work allows us to provide the support."

The NMCRS office offers counseling on financial budgeting, grants, payment plans and loans in the form of allotments. Representatives listen to all requests and each situation is approved or disapproved for monetary support on a case-by-case basis.

"I think it's a great program and it takes pressure off of Marines when they're going through a crisis," said Master Sgt. Marianna Martinez, base-wide fund drive coordinator. "No matter what you're going through, they will be there to help you and they would never turn someone away."

For more information on the program, how to donate, or how to apply for financial assistance, contact the NMCRS Twentynine Palms Office at 830-6323 or visit the organization's website at www.nmcrs.org.

[Top, left] Raymond Caldwell, director, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Twentynine Palms Office, briefs volunteers on the NMCRS's goals during their monthly meeting at the Village Center, Feb. 3. The NMCRS is always trying to find ways to help Marines and their families in any way possible.

[Above] Audrey Mickelson, client service assistant, NMCRS, looks over receipts for quick assist loans to make sure all information is accurate, Feb. 3. The NMCRS offers counseling for Marines on finances and money management.



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Flickr photo and video streams.
Find them at
<http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

CORPORAL'S COURSE

Photos by **CPL. ALI AZIMI**



[Bottom, right] Students of Corporal's Course 5-14 practice their sword manual skills in the Hashmark's Staff NCO club parking lot, Jan. 28. The course teaches Marine corporals the education and leadership skills necessary to lead Marines. **[Bottom, left]** Marines with 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion practice their sword manual as part of Corporal's Course 5-14, Jan. 28. **[Top, right]** A student with Corporal's Course 5-14 draws his sword as his class conducts sword manual training at the Hashmark's Staff NCO club parking lot, Jan. 28. **[Top, left]** A student of Corporal's Course 5-14 holds his sword during sword manual practice in the Hashmark's Staff NCO club parking lot, Jan. 28. Sword manual is a Marine Corps tradition and part of the Corporal's Course curriculum.

Marines with Corporal's Course 5-14 utilized practical application with the noncommissioned officer's sword, Jan. 28. As students in the course, the Marines are taught the fundamentals of leading their junior Marines both in garrison and in a combat environment. The curriculum empowers Marines in the areas of warfighting skills, core values and effective leadership. Marines enrolled in Corporal's Course can be seen aboard the Combat Center furthering their abilities as leaders of Marines.



Visit the official MCGCC facebook page at facebook.com/thecombatcenter



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

UCMJ, from A1

first time that the victim would testify in court.

It is the constitutional right of the accused to face the witnesses against them and this is where the first change to the article comes into play.

“At the hearing, the accused had the right to have the victim who was accusing them of the sexual assault present and to be cross-examined by his defense attorney,” Bastar said. “Now they have taken that away. They have granted the victim the right to refuse to testify at an Article 32 hearing.”

This does not violate the alleged assailant’s constitutional rights because an Article 32 is a preliminary hearing and not officially a trial determining guilt, only evidence to move forward. This change significantly reduces the defense’s ability to cross-examine witnesses during an investigation and prepare for a possible trial. If the investigation moves on to a court-martial, the victim can then be called for cross-examination.

These hearings, prior to the court-martial, are investigated by a commissioned officer. Before the changes made to Article 32, it was not a requirement for these officers to have any legal training. Any officer, such as a commanding officer or battalion executive officer, could have served as an investigator. The new changes now require the investigating officer to be judge advocates.

The Combat Center has more than 20 judge advocates, approximately half of which are eligible to serve in an Article 32 under its new terms.

“There are other qualifications to be an Article 32 [investigating officer] that are Marine Corps-specific,” Bastar said. “In the Marine Corps, you must be a JA, O-4 or above, or had to have tried a sexual assault case, either as a prosecutor or defense attorney.”

In the rare occasion that there are not enough judge advocates at the Combat Center to adequately cover the number of Article 32 investigations pertaining to sexual assault, judge advocates from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., can be brought here for the investigation.

“A lot of the driving factors in these changes is sexual assault,” Bastar said. “They’re trying to increase the victim’s rights and limit the rights of a commanding officer to not go forward on sexual assault cases.”

Article 60 involves the sentencing of the accused and rights of convening authorities.

The changes under Article 60 have put new limits on what a convening authority can do after a sentence has been issued, especially when it has to do with sexual assault cases. It was within the right of the convening authority, commanding officers for Special Courts-Martial and commanding generals for General Courts-Martial, to provide clemency for the accused, by approving or disapproving a sentence.

“They’ve been trying to take [the clemency right] away for some time now,” Bastar said.

Article 60 no longer allows the convening authorities to dismiss a sentencing after the accused has been found guilty. These limitations extend to pre-trial agreements made to reduce sentences before the accused can be found guilty.

“In civilian court, it’s a deal between you and the prosecutor that says, ‘Hey, if you plead guilty to this, we’ll support [a certain] sentence,’” Bastar said. “It’s basically a contract between the accused and the convening authority. So say the agreement is to only approve two years [in prison] and the sentence comes back for five years in prison, based on the agreement with the [convening authority], only two years will be served.”

The limitations on pre-trial agreements will prevent the convening authorities ability to reduce any sentence.

Articles 120 and 125 have simple but impactful changes to laws regarding sexual assault. The former, which had a five-year statute of limitations for all sexual assaults, has been lifted, allowing the conviction of Marines within any time period.

“So if on Jan. 20, 2009, somebody sexually assaulted somebody, then today that statute of limitation would have run and you would not have been able to prosecute them,” Bastar said. “But now, it eliminates that.”

Article 125, consensual sodomy, was a crime under the UCMJ. This is a correction in the UCMJ because of a Supreme Court decision of Lawrence vs Texas in 2003, which declared that prosecuting consensual sodomy was unconstitutional.

“It infringes on someone’s privacy rights,” Bastar said. “That was a Supreme Court decision but it has been around the military for quite a while.”

The changes to the articles on Dec. 23 have also made it a requirement to hold General Courts-Martial for certain sexual offenses and mandates a dishonorable discharge if convicted of certain sexual assault offenses.

All changes of the listed articles are scheduled to go into effect this year, but are subject to change. Any questions regarding these changes can be directed to the Victim Legal Counsel.

In civilian court, it’s a deal between you and the prosecutor that says, ‘Hey, if you plead guilty to this, we’ll support [a certain] sentence,’”

— Maj, Nathan Bastar

NEW YEAR, from A1

by donations and volunteers, according to Kristie.

Halfway through the event, students from the UC Riverside, performed a Chinese lion dance for all present. Utilizing a lion costume, the dancers maneuvered and jumped throughout the room.

“The dance is performed to bring good luck and fortune, and to ward off evil spirits,” said Jordan Jew, student, UCR. “People usually have this dance for grand openings, weddings, and parties.”

All eyes were on the dancers as the authentic playing of drums rocked the room and Jew and a fellow student paraded throughout the floor in the traditional lion costume, symbolizing the start of the year of the horse.

“This was my first OSC event and I was very pleased,” said Tina Russ, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Russ, avionics officer, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1. “The dance was wonderful and very exciting.”

After the dance, the students were commended for their performance and awarded certificates. Games continued until all prizes were off the shelf.

“We’re very thankful that different units pulled together to make this a good event, and for the college students that came to perform,” Kristie said. “Our next event will celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.”

As attendees prepared to depart the event, they did not forget to read the contents of their fortune cookies, hoping to find fortune and good luck during the Chinese New Year of the horse.

FLU, from A1

covering both nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, washing hands thoroughly with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based rub, and avoiding the touching of eyes, nose and mouth.

According to the California Department of Public Health, those at the highest risk are the elderly, pregnant women, infants, or those with other health conditions. If you show flu symptoms, contact your physician immediately in order to get the most effective treatment. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue.

Continuous health information can be found on the Communicable Disease Section Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CommunicableDiseaseSection>. For more information, and to protect yourself against the flu, visit Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital or contact your unit’s Battalion Aid Station.

VEHICLE, from A1

or joystick much like a video game. A button acts as the dead-man switch, which brings the vehicle to a stop if the joystick is dropped or disconnected.

“We have front lasers for driving and obstacle detection,” Cullington said. “That allows us to move the vehicle at a safe speed.”

The system uses a dual-monitor display, a ruggedized keyboard, mouse, speakers, microphone, uninterruptible power supply, networking infrastructure and power provisions for the radio and GPS base station.

Pre-set functions allow the MDARS to follow set

paths, travel to way-points, or conduct random patrols without anyone sitting behind the computer screen.

“The operator doesn’t have to be sitting at the control station for the robot to run,” Cullington said. “When the robot detects something, it will notify the operator. Then, the operator can come back to the control station and decide what action to take.”

In addition to controlled and automatic functions, the MDARS can be commanded to go into stealth detection mode, which will shut off the engine and allow the unit to continuously scan the area. The batteries in the vehicle can maintain this function for approximately two hours, after which the engine must

run in order to recharge the batteries.

According to Cullington, the system can be adjusted to mission-specific requirements for the Corps and they are continuing to make adjustments. The MDARS is not currently in use as a regular part of defensive operations but continues to be looked into as a future possibility.

“What we’re here for now is to learn more about the Marine mission,” Cullington said. “How this could be used and how we could develop it to fit the mission.”

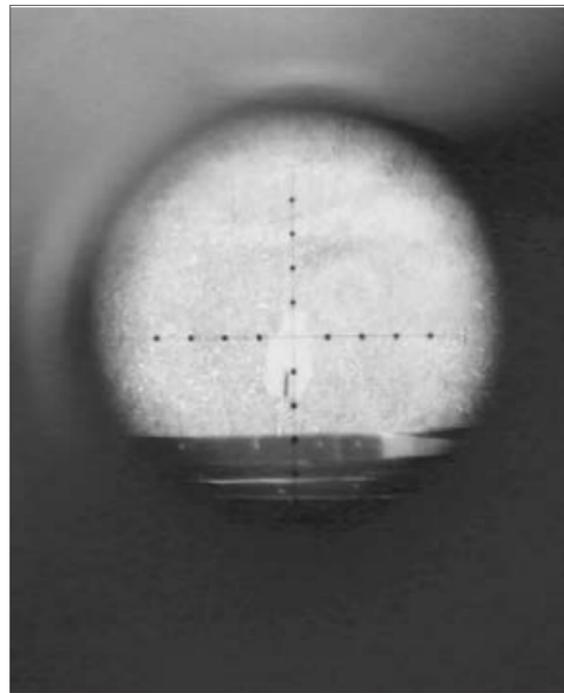
The Marine Corps will continue to observe the capabilities of the MDARS, evaluating its ability to meet the evolving tactics and strategies for tomorrow’s operations.

WeekINPhotos

2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment



PHOTOS BY CPL. DEMETRIUS MORGAN



[Above, Left] A scout sniper with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, sights in on his target during the Sniper Marathon Course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Jan. 30. The course consisted of engaging an unknown number of targets from elevated positions with various weapons systems.

[Top] A scout sniper with 2/1 locks in on his target during the Sniper Marathon Course at MCB Camp Pendleton, Jan. 30.

[Above] A scout sniper team with 2/1 observes the field during a moment of rest at the Sniper Marathon Course, Jan. 30.

[Left] A scout sniper with 2/1, now part of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, participates in the Sniper Marathon Course at MCB Camp Pendleton, Jan. 30.



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<http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>



The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at

<http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

eMarine implements new smartphone feature

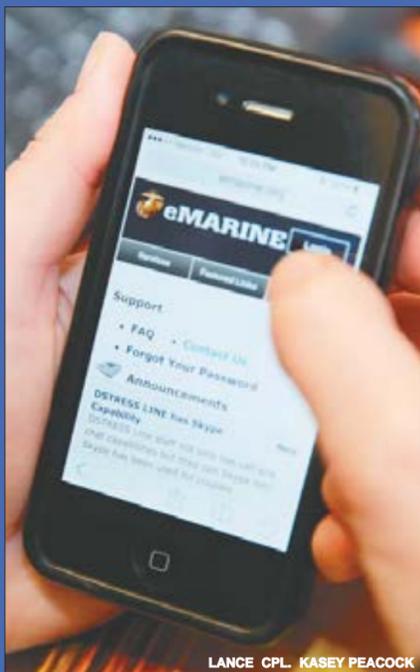
Story and photo by **LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK**

With the goal of allowing service members and their families to have access to all of their units' upcoming events and schedules at the flick of a finger, eMarine created a new mobile view format that can be accessed on hand-held devices such as smart phones and tablets.

The website eMarine rolled out a new mobile access site on Jan. 22, that allows users to quickly check up on their units' command information, most recent photographs, announcements, frequently asked questions and downloads.

While there are certain features a user cannot access on a mobile device, it simplifies the process of obtaining vital, unit-specific information, according to Jessica M. Arthur, family readiness officer, Combat Center.

"This is a great tool for service members and their families to stay connected with one another," Arthur said. "Here at the Combat Center, we have many deployable units, and this can be used as a great tool to gather information on where a service member is or when they



LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK

eMarine rolled out a new mobile view format that can be accessed on hand-held devices such as smart phones and tablets Jan. 22. The new view allows users to quickly check up on their units' command information.

are coming home."

The eMarine website is an online, 24-hour extension of a unit's FRO, who acts as the overall liaison between a Marine's family and their unit. FRO's are in charge of managing each unit's eMarine page.

Every eMarine page includes forums, which encourage interaction and communication within each unit, according to Sharon Altemoos, family readiness program trainer, Marine Corps Family Team Building.

"Marines are able to invite a maximum of four family members to access a specific Marine Corps unit's page," Altemoos said. "Once everyone is synchronized and able to log in, each person can customize their page specific to their Marine or unit. What will be nice about the new mobile view is that now they can get the most recent updates in chronological order, as opposed to having to scroll through the full website."

For more information on a unit's eMarine page or to gain access, contact your unit's FRO or visit www.eMarine.org



... delivering readiness information to Marines & those who support them

eMARINE



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



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CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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Hey Combat Center fans – Spread the word! The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>.



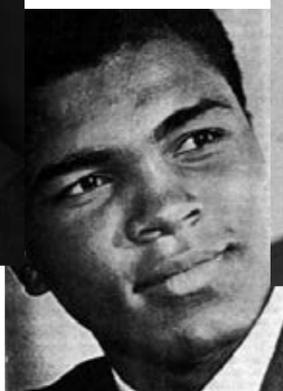
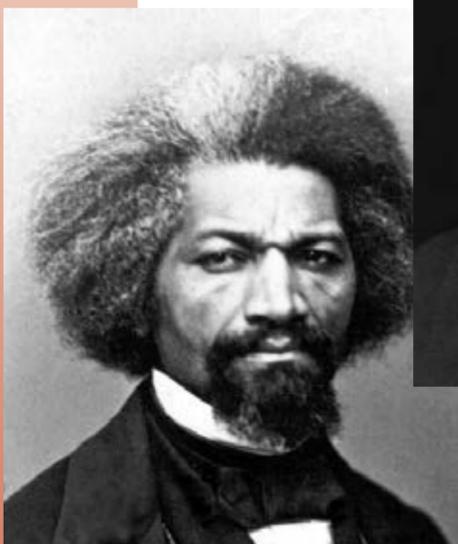
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Black *History* Month



Nation celebrates proud heritage

Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria
 Combat Correspondent

The story behind Black History Month began in the late summer of 1915. Carter G. Woodson, an alumnus of the University of Chicago, participated in the 15th anniversary celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation, sponsored by the state of Illinois, in Washington D.C.

Exhibits presented at the celebration highlighted the progress African-Americans have made since then. Inspired by the three-week celebration in Washington D.C., Woodward, along with several associates and fellow alumni, popularized the celebration of what they called 'Negro Appreciation Week.'

Going forward, the week-long event would inspire people to educate themselves on black history, according to the official Association for the study of African American Life and History website.

During the 1960s, a growing interest in the study and celebration of African-American history had a notable impact on the country. The then one-week celebration was well on its way to becoming the month-long Black History Month that the country recognizes and celebrates to this day. By the late 1960s, African-American students on college campuses throughout the U.S. became more conscious of their history and embraced the mantle of their history and remembrance, according to the official Association for the study of African American Life and History website.

With the start of World War II, the U.S. Armed Forces put aside the differences surrounding race and African-Americans were able to serve in the United States Armed Forces.

After 167 years of operation, the Marine Corps opened its doors to African-Americans who wanted to enlist, June 1, 1942.

The first class of recruits reported to Montford Point, a piece of land on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 26, 1942. By October of that year, only 600 of those recruits began training. The first African-American Marine to enlist was Howard P. Perry, according to the official Leatherneck Magazine website.

It wasn't until the Korean War that African-American Marines were able to serve in all military operations and major military conflicts. On Oct. 22, 1952, Frank E. Peterson Jr., blazed a trail for all African-American Marines by receiving a commission as the first African-American Marine aviation officer. Peterson deployed in support of the Korean War in 1953, flying more than 60 combat missions. Before the Korean War finally came to an end, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and six other air medals for his valor in aerial combat, according to African-American Registry.org.

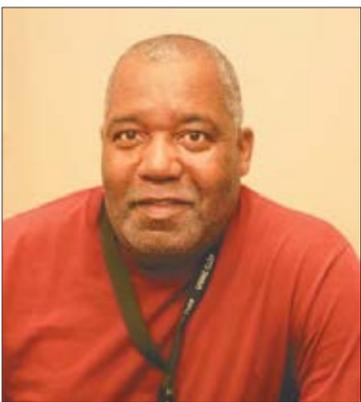
Today, African-American Marines continue to raise the bar and lead the Marine Corps. One such leader is Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, who assumed the post of 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps April 25, 2007, and served in that capacity until June 9, 2011. He was also the recipient of the General Gerald C. Thomas Award for Inspirational Leadership, according to the Marines.mil website.

In the Marine Corps, African-Americans serve proudly alongside Marines of all races and religions. Remembering the progress and sacrifice they made to make racial equality possible is no small task. In the month of February, we remember.



Black History Month shouldn't be the only month people remember black history. People should try to progress and accept everyone for their character and not their color.

— Cpl. Brandon Wilson



I respected Martin Luther King because he practiced peace. It's important to remember influential people like him. I was in the Navy during the time of segregation and I'm proud to see the progress society and the military has made.

—Richard Little



My step father would take us to a March in honor of Martin Luther King. Growing up, I was raised in a very diverse family and we never focused on race or color because it was like a melting pot. no one had a race, we were all family.

— Warrant Officer Stephanie Nicole Greenleaf



Combat Center Events

Love is in the air

Celebrate Valentine's Day by taking part in some festive stories and games. Create a special something for that special someone.

When: 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13.

Where: Lifelong Learning Library

For more information, call 830-6875

Valentine's Day Dinner

Enjoy a four-course dinner this Valentine's Day. Cost is \$55 per couple, reservations are required.

When: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14.

Where: Officer's Club

For more information, call 830-6610

Coping with Work and Family Stress

This workshop will cover a wide range of active coping skills, ways to make better use of social networks, and specific stress management approaches.

When: Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

Where: Bldg. 1530, Classroom 303

For more information, call 830-4950

Nurturing Parenting Class 2014

This class is an evidence-based and family-focused program that is recognized internationally for enhancing self-worth, empathy, discipline and empowerment.

When: March 12 and 19.

Call 830-7622 for more information

For more events, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Feb. 7

6 p.m. - Saving Mr. Banks, PG-13

9 p.m. - Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues, PG-13

12 a.m. - 47 Ronin, PG-13

Saturday, Feb. 8

10 a.m. - Walking with Dinosaurs 3-D, PG

12:30 p.m. - Free Admission Ice Age Continental Drift, PG

3 p.m. - Walking with Dinosaurs 3-D, PG

6 p.m. - Grudge Match, PG-13

9 p.m. - American Hustle, R

Sunday, Feb. 9

8:30 p.m. - Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones, R

Monday, Feb. 10

6 p.m. - American Hustle, R

Tuesday, Feb. 11

6 p.m. - 47 Ronin, PG-13

Wednesday, Feb. 12

5 p.m. - Tyler Perry's a Madea Christmas, PG-13

7:30 p.m. - Grudge Match, PG-13

Thursday, Feb. 13

5 p.m. - Walking with Dinosaurs 3-D, PG

7 p.m. - The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3-D, PG-13

High Desert

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 (760) 363-3343.

The importance of being earnest

A trivial comedy for serious people

When: 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday

Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 316-4151

367-3577 For Advertising



Surprisingly sweet, ultimately warmhearted 'what if' about love in not-so-far future

NEIL POND

"Her"

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams and the voice of Scarlett Johansson

Directed by Spike Jonze

R, 126 mins

Can you love someone who isn't really anyone? That's one of the questions at the heart of "Her," in which a lonely writer in the not-so-distant future develops a romantic relationship with the operating system of his computer.

Think of Siri, the speech-recognition software that comes with an iPhone, or the "voice" that narrates routes mapped out by your vehicle's GPS navigational device.

Only Samantha (voiced by Scarlett Johansson), the first of an advanced new operating system (OS) product line, is much more than just a voice. She has personality and a powerful "artificial intelligence," and she immediately begins to wow her new owner Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix) with attention to his every need. She proofreads his work, composes music for their moments together, helps him play his favorite holographic videogame and sends him dirty-minded doodles that make him laugh.

Samantha "gets" Theo — understands him, relates to him — like no flesh-and-blood woman ever got him before. Soon enough, he begins to develop feelings for "her."

Written and directed by Spike Jonze ("Where The Wild Things Are," "Being John Malkovich," "Adaptation") "Her" takes an old-fashioned romantic convention — guy meets girl — and runs it through an innovative wavelength of sci-fi wi-fi that at the same time doesn't seem all that out of sync with today. We never know when it takes place — presumably, it's only

a couple of decades from now — but its scenes of people walking around with ear buds, constantly speaking commands for their portable devices to check email or play songs, look oddly contemporary.

Jonze's movie — nominated for four upcoming Academy Awards, including Best Picture — raises issues about relationships, intimacy, isolation, jealousy, sensory experience, and our connections to the technologies on which our lives have increasingly come to rely. Phoenix gives his usual standout, immersive performance in a very tricky role, playing to a co-star who isn't really "there" in a physical sense.

As for Samantha, heard but never seen, Johansson is mesmerizing, a warm, sensual, palpable "presence" that moves from Theo's head into his heart, re-awakening him in every way.

Amy Adams frumps down her recent firecracker role in "American Hustle" to play Theo's old college friend with love problems of her own, and Rooney Mara portrays his soon-to-be ex-wife, scoffing at his inability to find and date a "real woman." Theo's co-worker (Chris Pratt from TV's "Parks and Recreation"), however, doesn't bat an eye when he finds out his girlfriend is an OS. Olivia Wilde has one scene as a date with doubts about Theo's abilities to commit.

At one point, Theodore plays a ukulele and plunks out a song for Samantha. It's a charming little tune about being "a million miles away" with the one you love. The very idea of a guy head-over-heels with a female voice coming out of a device in his shirt pocket may seem, indeed, w-a-a-ay out there. But Spike Jonze's surprisingly sweet, audaciously witty, somewhat weird and ultimately warm-hearted "what if" makes you wonder if it's not so far off, after all.