



Combat Center hosts career fair

Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

Approximately 300 Marines and sailors attended the education and career fair at the West Gym and Fitness Center, Wednesday.

The education and career fair has been a bi-annual event at the Combat Center for more than a decade. This year, it packed the gym's basketball courts with Marines and sailors, and booths providing information on career and educational paths after active-duty service.

"The mission of the career fair is to help Marines, sailors and spouses about to transition out of the military to get good high-paying jobs and also education for military-friendly universities," said Dennis Warren, career fair event coordinator.

The event brought nearly 80 representatives from schools and career fields from across the nation to the



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines with 1st Tank Battalion fire the M1A1 Abrams tank during the 11th Annual Tank Gunnery Competition at Range 500, Feb. 20.

1st Tanks wins Corps-wide competition

Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

The Tank Gunnery Competition, also known as TIGERCOMP, is an annual competition that has been pitting tank crews from active and reserve units against each other in fierce competition since 1996. This year, the Corps-wide competition brought the best crews from the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tank Battalions to the Combat Center to test their skills. The previous champions, 2nd Tanks, consecutively earned the title the past three years, but their winning streak has been broken.

Marines with 1st Tank Battalion earned first place in the 11th Annual Tank Gunnery Competition, at Range 500, Feb. 20, proving themselves to be the best from 163 crews from across the Corps. Second place was earned by 2nd Tanks, followed by 4th Tanks in third place.

"I'm happy as I can be as the 1st Tank Battalion [commanding officer] to bring the trophy back here to Twentynine Palms," said Lt. Col. Gregory T. Poland, CO, 1st Tanks. "I can't wait to call my commanding general and tell him he has the best tank crew in the Marine Corps."

TIGERCOMP XI tested each crew's decision-making abilities, communication, technical proficiency and cohesiveness while operating their tank during six scenarios conducted back-to-back. These scenarios ranged from weapons system changes from the defensive to engaging long and short range targets.

Marine Tankers from each battalion, as well as members of the Tanker's Association based in San Diego, observed the competition from behind the firing line as the tank crews competed.

Prior to the competition, each crew said they felt confident in taking first place. They had bested the crews within their respective battalions and it was time to take on the best of the others.

"Each of these crews was so good today," Poland said. "I think it was very close competition. A couple of seconds here or there and any one of them could have walked away with the trophy."

However, by the end of the competition, Staff Sgt. Kevin Cook, tank commander, Cpl. Matthew Gonzales, gunner, Lance Cpl. Jonathon Shaver, loader, and Lance Cpl. Trevor Lambert, driver, all with 1st Tanks came out ahead of the rest.

"It's an awesome feeling," Cook said. "Being the top tank crew in the Marine Corps, that's like being the top tank crew in the military."

After the competition, an award ceremony was held. The winning battalion received the team trophy, which is now displayed at their headquarters building and the winning four-man crew each received individual trophies and were each awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

The end of TIGERCOMP XI marks the beginning of training for next year, where the best crew from each battalion will meet again to prove who is the best of the battalions.

Lt. Gen. Faulkner visits MCLOG, logisticians

Cpl. D. J. Wu
Combat Correspondent

Lt. Gen. William M. Faulkner, deputy commandant, installations and logistics, visited the Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group to talk to students in the Intermediate (Marine Air Ground Task Force) Logistics Operation Course about the future of Marine Corps logistics, Tuesday.

The members of the class, consisting of logistics operations officers and chiefs serving at the battalion and regimental level, attend IMLOC to become better logisticians for the Corps of tomorrow. The students asked Faulkner questions regarding the Corps moving forward and how their duties would change in the coming years.

"The lieutenant general is the advocate for the entire Marine Corps logistics community," said Capt. Robert Jankowski, IMLOC



CPL. D. J. WU

Lt. Gen. William M. Faulkner, deputy commandant, installations and logistics, speaks with Col. David E. Eskuland, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group during a visit to MCLOG, Tuesday.

course chief, MCLOG, "He's giving the logistics chiefs and officers here an idea of what to expect in the logistics community."

IMLOC is a relatively new class. Since its inception, only four iterations have graduated, and it is constantly evolving to suit the needs of the changing occupational field. The course and MCLOG as a whole are designed to set the doctrinal standard on how the logistics fields operate in the Marine Corps. They aim to prepare logisticians for the future of the field. Faulkner's visit reinforces those principles and clarifies some of the concerns students may have.

"His wealth of knowledge is truly impressive," said Capt. Justine Whipple, sports operations officer, Headquarters Marine Corps Semper Fit. "His answers to

See VISIT page A6

"This is all great. I am about to get out and I have all these options laid out before me."

- Cpl. Sam Dietz

Combat Center.

"My understanding is more than half are schools," said Erin Keeran, education services specialist, Education Center. "We have been getting great feedback. People have been telling us they really enjoy it."

The representatives informed Marines about their opportunities after leaving the Marine Corps in a number of fields, ranging from police officers to attending film school, and answered any questions they had.

"This is all great," said Sam Dietz, facility manager, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "I'm about to [get out] and I have all these options laid out before me."

This year's fair was filled with opportunities for Marines and sailors to seek after transitioning out of active-duty service. The bi-annual event is scheduled to return in September.



LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK

Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, meets with various members of Military Officers Association of America during a luncheon at Desert Springs Resort clubhouse in Palm Desert, Calif., Feb. 21.

Commanding general speaks during MOAA luncheon

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock
Combat Correspondent

The Combat Center color guard, along with Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, and his wife, Mrs. Donna Berger attended a Military Officers' Association of America's luncheon at the Desert Springs Resort clubhouse in Palm Desert, Calif., Feb. 21.

MOAA is made up of retired military officers from all different branches of service and plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and

veterans of the uniformed services.

Senior members of the Palm Springs chapter of MOAA invited Berger and his wife to attend the lunch to speak on present and future military matters.

"We all spent a lot of time in the military, and are still very much interested in which direction it is going," said William Bester, retired Army brigadier general. "We feel particularly close to the base at Twentynine Palms, and are extremely thankful to have Maj. Gen. Berger and his wife take time out of their busy schedules to speak at our luncheon."

See LUNCHEON page A6



COURTESY PHOTO

Commandant revives uniform regulation

A message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Sergeants and Corporals,

Sgt. Maj. Barrett and I have now spoken to the majority of you about our efforts to "Reawaken the Soul of our Corps." Each time that we have talked with you, we come away with a strong belief that you "get it." You understand that our renewed focus on the four enduring principles of: discipline; adherence to standards; engaged and concerned leadership; and faithful obedience to orders, is key to resetting the Corps and getting ready for tomorrow's fight. You understand that those four principles define what we have called "The Soul of the Corps." They have been with us for over 238 years...it's always been that way.

As we complete the mission in Afghanistan, it's critical to understand that there will be no "peace dividend" for America's Marines...there will be no operational pause for us. The world that we will live and operate in over the next two decades will be a dangerous one; there will be plenty of work for those who wear our cloth.

As we have travelled throughout our Corps, many of you have let us know how important your identity as a Marine is to you and the Marines you lead. I can't tell you how many times we have been asked

See UNIFORM page A6

WeekINPhotos

I Marine Expeditionary Force



PHOTOS BY SGT. MELISSA WENGER

[Above] Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's ground combat element, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, employ non-lethal crowd control techniques during the Crisis Response Course, Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Feb.19.

[Top, right] Lance Cpl. Nick Jacoves, rifleman, 2/1, 11th MEU ground combat element, observes the surrounding area during the Crisis Response Course, Special Operations Training Group, I MEF, Feb.19.

[Bottom, right] Marines with the 11th MEU ground combat element, 2/1, employ non-lethal crowd control techniques on role players acting as protesting local nationals during the Crisis Response Course, Special Operations Training Group, I MEF, Feb.19.



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LOOKING for local entertainment?
See page B2 for our **LIBERTY CALL** section



Stephanie Andrews, visual information specialist, Marine Corps Community Services Marketing; Frank Williams, geographical information systems analyst, Public Works Division; Steven Dell, mechanic, ESD; Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General; Mrs. Donna Berger, Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major; Robin Hoke, MPR analyst, G-1; and Leonard McKenzie, training resource officer, G-3, gather for the Commanding General's Civilian Honors Breakfast at Quarters One, Feb. 14.



CPL. D. J. WU

1st Sgt. Donald Young, company first sergeant, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, retired after 20 years of honorable service in the Marine Corps at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Feb. 21.

Young retired in front of friends, family and his Marines in the battalion. He decided to open the ceremony by remembering the Marines who were killed in Afghanistan while he was the Company D first sergeant during the battalion's deployment in 2011.

"I was married to the Marine Corps for the past 20 years and it has been my entire life," Young said. "It is now time that I focus on my personal life, but I will truly miss what the Marine Corps has given me."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADDISON OLIVIA GARCIA
Born on: Feb. 4, 2014
Born to: Rene and Jaclyn Garcia

JASON ALEXANDER HERNANDEZ
Born on: Feb. 8, 2014
Born to: Michael and Erika Hernandez

MADELINE MAE TAORMINO
Born on: Feb. 10, 2014
Born to: Kyle and Brittanie Taormino

COLLIE MARIE SPRINGER
Born on: Feb. 12, 2014
Born to: Adam and Dana Springer

ASHTYN DAVID HILLIARD
Born on: Feb. 12, 2014
Born to: Devan and Allyson Hilliard

Martial Arts Instructors Course

March 31- April 18

Students who complete the course will be a minimum of a green belt instructor. Students must be a corporal or above with a grey belt.

Location: Martial Arts Facility, Building 1652
For more information, contact Staff Sgt Fulgencio at 830-0290



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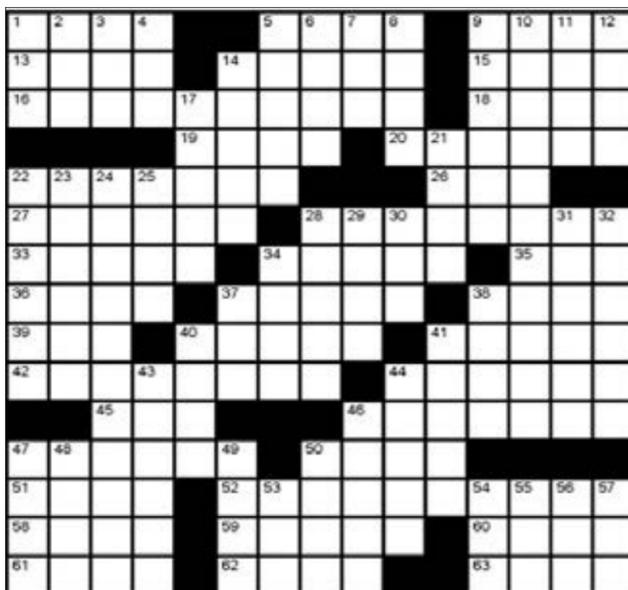


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<http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

PLACES TO PLAY

- Across
- 1 Turn toward
- 5 A goatee covers it
- 9 Random guess
- 13 "American ____"
- 14 Call up
- 15 "The Way We ____"
- 16 Where players drive, putt
- 18 Boleyn or Tyler
- 19 Slimy veggie
- 20 Yogurt brand
- 22 Some infielders
- 26 Hawaiian necklace
- 27 Stated to be true
- 28 Become unified
- 33 Basmati and jasmine
- 34 Chewing gum, chocolate bars, etc.
- 35 "____-ching!"
- 36 Apple computers
- 37 Extra feature
- 38 Dress up like (for Halloween)
- 39 Devoured
- 40 Songs for one
- 41 Not beating around the bush
- 42 Soft piece of sports equipment
- 44 Journalist's secret
- 45 Little white lie
- 46 Weightlifter's helper
- 47 Nike rival
- 50 Store
- 51 One of many in a strawberry
- 52 Where players check and deke
- 58 Starbucks size
- 59 Host
- 60 Swedish furniture chain
- 61 Word in cutesy store names
- 62 Speaker's platform
- 63 Moisture covered, as a meadow
- Down
- 1 ____ Newtons
- 2 "Much ____ About Nothing?"
- 3 Rank below gen.
- 4 Will Ferrell XMas movie
- 5 Make butter
- 6 Circular dance
- 7 Plug-____
- 8 Require
- 9 "Way down upon the ____ River..."
- 10 Where players lob and volley
- 11 Florence's river
- 12 "Where have you ____?"
- 14 Nudged with a stick
- 17 Shows up
- 21 No enemy
- 22 Server of beers
- 23 Take to the skies
- 24 Where players dribble and shoot
- 25 Female sheep
- 28 Panama or Erie
- 29 Burden
- 30 Super Bowl highlights?



- 31 One of three spaces on a Monopoly board
- 32 Holiday with eggs
- 34 Cobra's shape
- 37 Sports ____
- 38 Oversupply
- 40 Swedish group that did "Fernando"
- 41 Pirate's treasure
- 43 Violin's cousin
- 44 Shopping ____
- 46 "____ alive!"
- 47 Concerning
- 48 "Let's Make a ____"
- 49 Place for storing tools
- 50 1221, in Roman numerals
- 53 Grandma, in Germany
- 54 (Free) of
- 55 Pres. Eisenhower
- 56 ____ Mexico
- 57 Letter after "jay"

See answers on page A3

SUDOKU 3186D

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6		7			8			
	5	8					9	
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Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified** section

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- Lance Cpl. Charles J. Santamaria

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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

Paul

Albuquerque, N. M. Chaplain, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, 43

ARMSTRONG



> **I started off** my military career as a navy reserve supply corps officer to help pay for college. With time, I found that as I worked hard, I was rewarded and it sold me that this was a great organization to be a part of.

> **I was raised in** a home that was impacted by divorce but I worked hard in school, which opened doors for me. Church was an integral part of my life then and now as a chaplain.

> **Growing up**, one of my hobbies was music and playing piano, clarinet and trumpet.

> **When you think** about a band, every instrument is unique but it's only when all those instruments come together that they create a truly full sound. I'd say that carries on. Each one of us has a role to play. Whatever your role is, we only function well when everyone's doing their part, like in a band. If one instrument is out of tune, it could bring the whole performance down.

> **When every person** does their part and knows their role, it makes a band great just like it makes a military organization great.

> **I've always enjoyed writing.** It helps me with my sermons but also my creativity like poetry. It's definitely one of my hidden talents.

> **I began a mass** e-mail of devotionals while deployed in Afghanistan because there were Marines who couldn't go to a church service but had access to e-mail. Over time, it just turned into a blog where anyone could look up little excerpts of writing to encourage, inspire, or just give something to think about.

> **I end up doing more** devotional writing because that's the world that I live in but I would like to get into some more creative writing. I'll be honest, the only person that gets to enjoy my poetic side is my wife and to everyone else it's just cheesy and sappy but I know she gets it.

> **When I reach writer's** block, it's always good to walk away from it temporarily. That connects into our day-to-day life. I think we underestimate the value of rest, especially as people in the military where we like to push ourselves real hard.

ARMSTRONG BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A NAVY SUPPLY OFFICER. HE THEN COMMISSIONED AS A NAVY CHAPLAIN. HE ENJOYS WRITING SONGS AND PLAYING INSTRUMENTS AND HAS BEEN DOING SO FOR MORE THAN NINE YEARS.

> **Sometimes, if we actually** take the time to step away momentarily, we find that when we re-engage we're sharper, more effective and more productive.

> **When I preach**, I look at it as an art form. I craft it in such a way that words are my paint and the paper is my canvas. In the development stage of any sermon I write, I'm able to write the teachings in a way that will connect with people and bring the words to life.

> **One of the first things** I learned in the military was that we don't rely on just one person and there is a reason behind the regulations and structure we have.

> **I've also learned** the value of a leader early on. Understanding the Marines you are put in charge of and knowing the dynamics of how they work together is important and fundamental to be a successful organization. A good leader can be indispensable.

> **As you move up** in the rank structure, you realize that it's not enough to only be good on your own but to develop those who come after. Take what you've learned and invest in others through mentorship.

> **Everyone can contribute.** I've come to realize that someone can always find a way to help. Never discount anyone.

> **If we can acknowledge** that every single person has value and worth, and thus everyone can help, I think it shapes how someone leads and gives a sense of appreciation for each other.

> **When people feel** like they have purpose, I think they truly have a rich and rewarding life.

> **Our culture tends to focus** on being happy. I would argue that the primary focus is to feel like you have meaning and purpose. When people actually feel like they are contributing to a bigger cause than their own, it's amazing what can be accomplished.

> **Recognize when a conflict** is 'right, right'. Typically when people reach a conflict they think one side is wrong but what I've learned is that sometimes both people can be correct from different perspectives without realizing it.

> **A mistake is a sign** that you're doing something. People who never make a mistake are either doing nothing or not doing anything new.

> **The safe route was to** stay a supply corps officer but I took the risk with no guarantees to become a chaplain, which was my dream.

> **It's amazing what** you can accomplish when you go out of your comfort zone and chase your dreams.

Interviewed by Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria Feb. 20, 2014

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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LOOKING
for local
entertainment?

See page B2 for our
LIBERTY CALL
section

BLACK *History* MONTH PARADE



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK



[Top, left] Combat Center Marines and Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets march down Palm Canyon drive during the 27th annual Black History Month Parade & Town Fair in downtown Palm Springs, Calif., Saturday. The parade, hosted by the Palm Springs Black History Committee, was open to the public and had more than 40 entries.

[Top, right] A Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 color guard leads the march during the 27th annual Black History Month Parade & Town Fair in downtown Palm Springs, Calif., Saturday. The parade included local high schools, politicians, various Southern California motorcycle clubs and more.

[Bottom, left] The Palm Springs High School Band and Visual Corps march in the 27th annual Black History Month Parade & Town Fair in downtown Palm Springs, Calif., Saturday. The color guard, VMU-3, led the way in the parade that included local high schools, politicians, various Southern California motorcycle clubs and more.

[Bottom, right] A VMU-3 color guard from the Combat Center prepares to march during the 27th annual Black History Month Parade & Town Fair in downtown Palm Springs, Calif., Saturday.



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CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Montford Point Marine receives highest civilian honor from congress

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock
Combat Correspondent

Raul Ruiz, Congressman, California's 36th District, presented the Congressional Gold Medal to retired Montford Point Marine Joseph Beaver at the Tolerance Education Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., Feb. 24.

Beaver, now 91 years old, served in the Marine Corps from 1943-1946 and was one of the first African-Americans to join the Marine Corps and attend training at Montford point, which is now known as Camp Johnson in N.C.

Upon completion of his service, Beaver dedicated his life to the civil rights battle, founding the Black Historical and Cultural Society of the Coachella Valley. He also took part in the march on Washington on August, 28, 1963, when Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream" speech.

"Their struggles, their perseverance, led this country into a time of remembrance," said Michael Johnson, veteran, Montford Point Marine Association. "I stand here today fully aware that I wouldn't be

where I am if it wasn't for people like Joseph Beaver."

In attendance to the ceremony were various family members and friends of Beaver, as well as the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center color guard and Marines with 4th Tank Battalion who took part in presenting the medal alongside Ruiz.

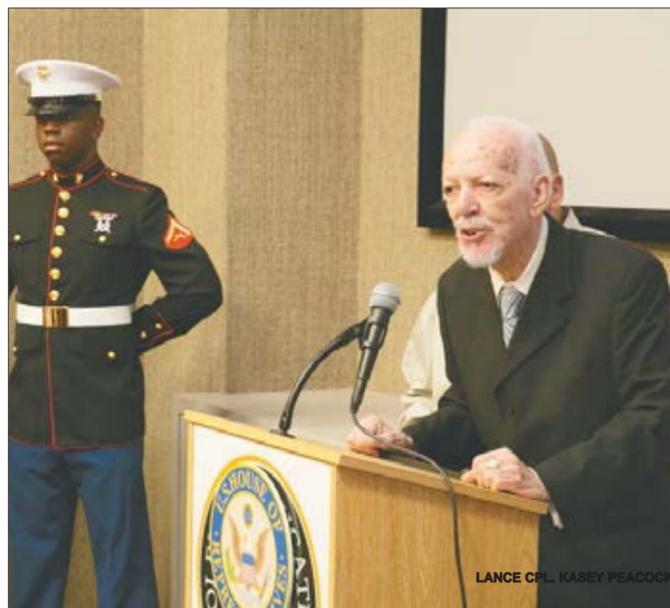
"Serving our veterans has been one of the greatest joys I have had in my time in office," said Ruiz. "Our freedom endures because our veterans fought to protect it. It is my great honor to award this medal to Joseph Beaver, and may he and all of our veterans be remembered."

In 2011, President Barack Obama signed legislation that honored the Montford Point Marines with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor awarded to a civilian by Congress.

"This honor is beyond words, I never thought I would be the recipient of anything like this in front of my congressman and so many friends and family," said Beaver. "America is truly a great country. Although it wasn't always, I have been dedicated to equality and ask the rest of you to always remember to stand up and fight for what is right."

"This honor is beyond words. I never thought I would be the recipient of anything like this."

— Joseph Beaver



Retired Montford Point Marine Joseph Beaver addresses the crowd after receiving the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony at the Tolerance Education Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., Feb. 24. "This honor is beyond words, I never thought I would be the recipient of anything like this in front of my congressman and so many friends and family," said Beaver. "America is truly a great country. Although it wasn't always, I have been dedicated to equality and ask the rest of you to always remember to stand up and fight for what is right."



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LUNCHEON, from A1

Also in attendance were Marine and Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets from various high schools in Palm Springs and Twentynine palms.

"It is great to meet military members currently serving as well as those retired who came before us," said Brian Schick, 17, 12th grader at La Quinta High School. "Maj. Gen. Berger gave us a great insight into a lot of things I wasn't aware of. It was good to hear it from someone who is currently serving and not from someone on the news."

During the luncheon, senior members of MOAA introduced the Marines as well as the JROTC cadets before everyone began with their meal. After everyone finished with lunch, Berger began with his presentation.

The general spoke on various topics related

to the Marine Corps including Afghanistan, various weapon systems, the MV-22 Osprey, the importance of the Asia-Pacific Region, the down-sizing of forces and more.

"You don't need a Marine Corps, unless it can give you something that no one else can," Berger said. "That is what is unique about us. On any notice, or even no notice, we are ready to have forces on the ground, and planes in the air, because that is what we do best."

MOAA was founded in L.A., Calif., on Feb. 23, 1929. Today, MOAA has grown to a membership of more than 380,000 and is the country's largest military officers association. Its purpose has grown to include career transition assistance, improved member products, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families, to include enlisted members, and involvement in military professionalism activities.



LANCE CPL KASEY PEACOCK

[Above] Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, meets with various members of Military Officers Association of America during a luncheon at Desert Springs Resort clubhouse in Palm Desert, Calif., Feb. 21. MOAA is made up of retired military officers from all different branches of service.

[Left] Cpl. Matthew Espinosa-Powers, administrative specialist, Headquarters Battalion, presents arms during a Military Officers Association of America luncheon at Desert Springs Resort clubhouse in Palm Desert, Calif., Feb. 21. Also in attendance to the luncheon were Marine and Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets.



LANCE CPL KASEY PEACOCK

VISIT, from A1

the questions were expected but he also addressed the fact that the logistics community is up and coming and we are a valuable asset to the Marine Corps."

The logistics community is focusing their efforts in extracting assets out of Afghanistan and updating their doctrine. The end of Operation Enduring Freedom has put a lot of pressure on Marine Corps logistics. Marines, operating locations and equipment all have to be considered in the plan to either decommission or be brought back. Many Marine Corps orders and doctrines regarding logis-

tics are outdated. MCLOG and education is part of the process.

"(Faulkner) brings a level of viability of all issues affecting logisticians all across the MAGTF," Jankowski said. "He talked about where we are right now and where we are going in the future as far as facilities and the draw-down in Afghanistan, and the students had the opportunity to ask specific questions regarding the field."

The main goal of the visit was to give the students awareness of the broader spectrum of their specialties. There are many aspects of the logistics that fall outside of the Logistics Combat Element and coordinating between the two is something they need to work on, according to Faulkner.



CPL D. J. WU

Lt. Gen. William M. Faulkner, deputy commandant, installations and logistics, visited the Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group to talk to students in the Intermediate (Marine Air Ground Task Force) Logistics Operation Course about the future of Marine Corps logistics, Tuesday. Faulkner answered questions from students regarding the changes in their field.

UNIFORM, from A1

the persistent question, "Commandant, are we ever going to return to SLEEVES UP?" I've thought a lot about this over the past 2 and-a-half years; I realize that it's important to you. Sleeves up clearly and visually sets us apart.

We hear you Marines!

Because of the persistence of you, my Sergeants and Corporals, this evening I am publishing a MARADMIN that will return us to "sleeves up" status when wearing our desert cammies in non-combat areas. This will take effect on 9 March when we transition to our summer warmer weather uniforms. Get the word out, Marines.

Thank you for your leadership in some very challenging times!

Semper Fidelis,

Commandant of the Marine Corps/Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps



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PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Sgt. Dylan Hulbert, mountain leader instructor, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, lights a flare, signaling the end of the advance toward a simulated enemy camp during a long-range movement exercise aboard the training center, Feb. 20. The exercise was a three-day event and focused on traveling long distances and employing combat tactics at night.

Marines sharpen mountain warfare skills

Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — The temperature began to drop on the mountain side as Marines hiked for miles with ammunition and weapons through the deep snow and mountainous terrain. The three-day long exercise was part of a long-range movement to a simulated guarded position which concluded Feb. 21. As they advanced to a simulated enemy camp, they trudged through the powder-white snow of Range 1000 at an elevation of 8000 feet at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.

Mountain leader instructors participated in the exercise to further their knowledge of cold weather mountain warfare. This iteration was different in that the participants now executed the long-range movement with live-fire drills at designated ranges in the training area.

“Instructors conduct the the exercise twice a year, once in summer and once in winter, each spanning 40 to 50 kilometers to maintain their proficiency,” said Capt. Brian Guiney, future operations officer, MCMWTC. “With this iteration, we wanted to incorporate a greater play of live-fire. It’s a senior instructor progression (exercise) which is intended to train instructors even further so they can give that knowledge back to other infantry battalions to pass on.”

The technical skills instructors teach Marines to maintain a combat mindset in the harshest conditions. Keeping the course diverse and challenging is always a factor.

“We can’t teach and preach something we don’t conduct ourselves,” said Staff Sgt. Edgar Alvarado, summer and winter mountain leader, instructor, MCMWTC. “As instructors,

we have to keep these courses fresh by using different routes, thinking outside of the box, and exposing ourselves to different terrain each time to always learn something new.”

During the day, Marines traveled long distances, and at night they coordinated battle skills while on the same challenging terrain. The exercise involved a simulated call for fire from artillery, movement to an enemy base, proper reconnaissance of an enemy position at night and live-fire and maneuver and firing on targets with night vision goggles.

“These exercises are meant to put Marines out of their comfort zones and into an unfamiliar area,” Alvarado said. “As Mountain leaders, they have to find a way to overcome the effects of Mother Nature. Marines have to be able to employ weapons and conduct tactics with the skills and fundamentals we teach them here. We develop Marines into mountain leaders so they can effectively maintain combat readiness and effectiveness while in the mountainous terrain and harsh weather.”

The instructors take on the course knowing that it is essential for them to sharpen their skills so they can pass on the fundamentals of mountain warfare to the units they train. With this exercise, the instructors furthered their training and can better understand the importance of what this environment can teach infantrymen and the value it has in the Marine Corps.

“These instructors go through this training to better prepare others for the environment. There are no mountain warfare troops or units in the Marine Corps, so we bring individuals up here and make force multipliers by giving them the skills so they can make their unit more effective, which makes the Marine Corps more effective,” Guiney said. “We want to progress the long-range movement exercise and try to make each one more dynamic and challenging in the future.”



[Above] Capt. Brian Guiney, future operations officer, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, advances alongside a squad of Marines to the enemy position as part of a long-range movement exercise aboard the training center, Feb. 20. The technical skills instructors teach help Marines maintain a combat mindset in the harshest conditions.

[Top, right] Sgt. Eric Masters, mountain leader instructor, MCMWTC, conducts a weapons check before going to the night vision live-fire range aboard the training center, Feb. 20. During the day the Marines traveled long distances, and at night they coordinated battle skills while on the same challenging terrain.



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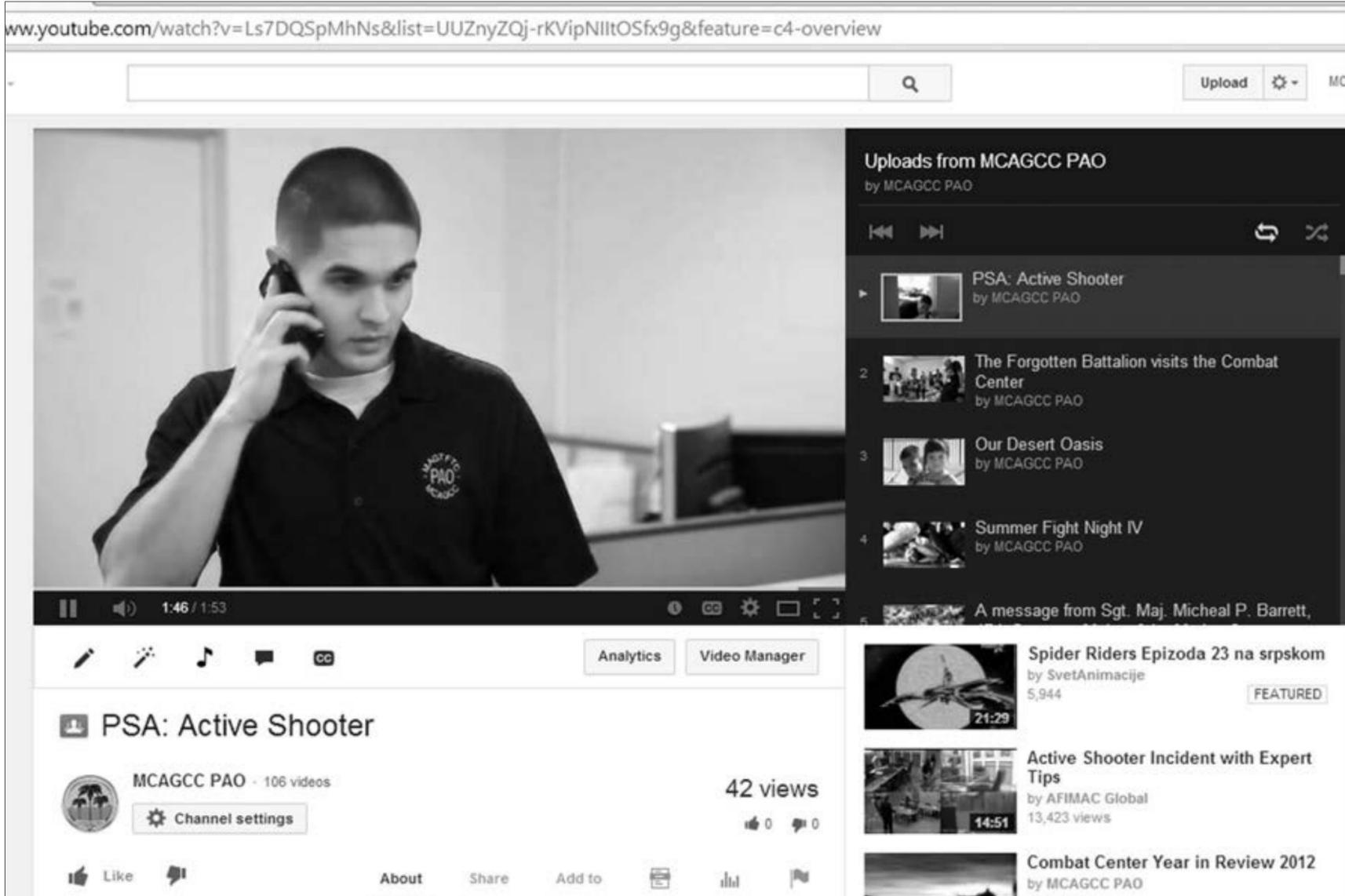
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Women's History Month

Opha May Johnson

A Marine Corps legend

Story by **LANCE CPL. SAMUEL ELLIS**



*She saw an opportunity
to serve her country
in a time of need."*

There it was, her name, Opha May Johnson, simply penned on the applicant line of a Marine Corps Reserve form. Although she typically signed her name Opha M., this was an official document and her middle name was necessary. Her decision to fill out that form entered her into an exclusively male world and would make her nothing less than a Marine Corps legend.

Although historians speculate whether the date was actually the 12th or 13th, there is no argument that Opha May Johnson was the first woman to enter the Marine Corps, enlisting in the reserve as a clerk, in August 1918.

"Maybe she saw an ad, we really don't know her reason for joining," said Kara Newcomer, historian, Marine Corps History Division. "We do know that she was the first, and for that, she should always be remembered."

Maybe she saw an ad, we really don't know her reasoning for joining. We do know she was the first."

— Kara Newcomer

Several errors concerning the pioneer of female Marines have been circulated and published by some, the first of which concerns her middle name.

According to Newcomer, although many spell her middle name Mae, when her middle name is actually spelled May.

"We also believe she probably went by her first name alone, based on how she signed her name," Newcomer said.

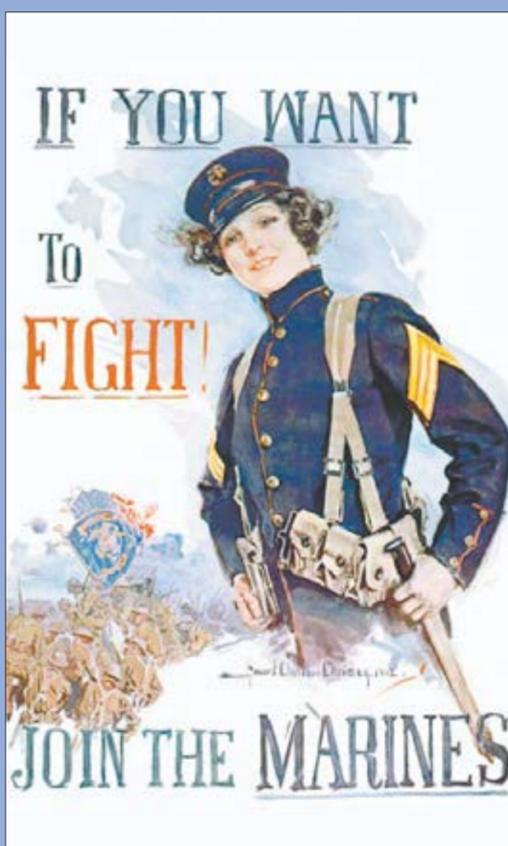
The second fallacy frequently circulated is her age at time of enlistment. Although some report she was in her late teenage years, experts say

something quite the opposite.

"She was almost 40 when she enlisted," Newcomer said.

Historical records verify that fact and show more about the professional life of the 1918 Marine private originally from the Midwest. Johnson worked with the civil service even before enlisting with the Marine Corps.

According to an article from the News in History website, published from the Plain Dealer, a 1918 newspaper out of Cleveland, Johnson's Marine Corps responsibilities included managing the affairs of



other female reservists at Marine Corps headquarters.

As for her personal life, historians paint the picture.

Although they didn't ever have children, Johnson was married to a man by the name of Victor, who may have been an orchestra conductor in the Washington, D.C., area,

Newcomer said.

Johnson started something that, although uncommon in the early 1900s, would slowly allow females into more military roles. According to the Women Marines Association website, some of those roles include: first female commissioned officer in 1943, Capt. Anne Lentz; the enlistment of the first black female Marines in 1949; the first female Marine to be promoted to the grade of E-9 in 1960, Master Gunnery Sgt. Geraldine M. Moran; and the first female general officer in 1978, Brig. Gen. Margaret A. Brewer.

Today, women have a larger role in the Corps, as shown by the statistics.

According to the Marine Corps Concepts and Programs website, today there are more than 1,300

She was a typical American woman who wanted to help."

— Kara Newcomer

females serving as officers and more than 12,000 serving as enlisted Marines.

As females' roles continue to evolve and female Marines participate equally with male Marines on many levels, Marines should know that Opha May Johnson had the same characteristics as those who wear the uniform today.

"She was your typical American woman who wanted to help," Newcomer said. "She saw an opportunity to serve her country in a time of need and took it."



Combat Center Events

Intramural Soccer League

Registration has begun and will end March 3 at noon. The league is open to service members, dependents and civilians.

When: March 10

Where: Felix Field

For more information, call 830-4092

St. Paddy's Day Bash

All hands are invited every Tuesday and Thursday to Celebrate Irish heritage with the California Celts. Tickets will be sold at the Officers' Club Friday. Space is limited.

When: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Saturday, March 15.

Where: Officers' Club

For more information, email osc291up@gmail.com

Coping with Work and Family Stress

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

Where: Bldg. 1530, Classroom 303

When: Tues. 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call 830-5035

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.

Where: Village Center

Call 830-7622 for more information

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

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Feb. 28

6 p.m. - The Legend of Hercules, PG-13

8:30 p.m. - Lone Survivor, R

11:30 p.m. - Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, PG-13

Saturday, March 1

10:30 a.m. - Free Admission Free Birds, PG

1 p.m. - The Nut Job, PG

3:30 p.m. - The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, PG

6:30 p.m. - August: Osage County, R

9:30 p.m. - Lone Survivor, R

Sunday, March 2

12:30 p.m. - I, Frankenstein, PG-13

3 p.m. - Advanced Screening 300: Rise of an Empire 3-D, R

5 p.m. - Advanced Screening 300: Rise of an Empire, R

Monday, March 3

6 p.m. - Lone Survivor, R

Tuesday, March 4

5 p.m. - The Nut Job 3-D, PG

7:30 p.m. - Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, PG-13

Wednesday, March 5

5 p.m. - The Legend of Hercules 3-D, PG-13

7:30 p.m. - I, Frankenstein, PG-13

Thursday, March 6

5 p.m. - The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, PG

7:30 p.m. - Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones, R

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.

Farndale Murder Mystery

A dramatic murder mystery on Farndale Avenue

When: 7 p.m., Feb. 28 - March 29

Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 316-4151

Low Desert

Joan Rivers

An evening with "The Queen of Comedy"

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 1

Where: Spotlight 29 Casino

46200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.

For more information, call 866-377-6829 or visit

<http://www.spotlight29.com>



Will 'Nebraska' finally crack the Oscar ice for Bruce Dern?

NEIL POND

"Nebraska"

Starring: Bruce Dern and Will Forte

Directed by Alexander Payne

R, 115 mins

Bruce Dern has only been up for two Academy Awards. Back in 1979, he was nominated for his supporting role as a stressed-out Vietnam-vet husband in "Coming Home." (He lost to Christopher Walken, who played another, even more stressed-out Vietnam vet, in "The Deer Hunter.")

Now, 25 years later, he's back in the running again, this time for a Best Actor trophy, for what might well be the crowning performance of his entire career — as a cantankerous Montana senior citizen on a crazy quest to claim a sweepstakes jackpot across the state line in "Nebraska."

Dern plays Woody Grant, who mistakenly thinks that the Publishers Clearing House-style notification/solicitation he's received means he's won a million dollars. Woody may have a touch of dementia, might have a drinking problem, and he certainly "believes stuff that people tell him," according to his adult son, David (Will Forte of "Saturday Night Live" fame).

This "little" film shuffles along at a leisurely pace, without a lot of the frills, thrills or spills that usually

mark box-office champs. Yet it's up for five other 2014 Oscars: Best Picture, plus nominations for June Squibb (Supporting Actress), who plays Woody's tart-tongued war horse of a wife; veteran cinematographer Phedon Papamichael, whose black-and-white vistas often look like fine-art photographic prints; writer Bob Nelson, who provided the wit, warmth and humanity of the screenplay; and director Alexander Payne ("The Descendants" "Sideways," "About Schmidt," "Election"), a native of Omaha, whose affinity for the empty, wide-open spaces and deadpan social cadences of the Midwest shows in the authenticity of every scene, every conversation, and every character, and in the way he gradually reveals the details, wrinkles and folds of the story.

It's a story of a simple road trip that becomes something much bigger, much broader, and much deeper. A tale of fathers and sons and families, of generosity and grudges, of old memories and youthful frolics, of the many shades of grey in the wide spectrum of love.

"He doesn't need a nursing home," David tells his brother (Bob Odenkirk, of TV's "Breaking Bad"). "He just needs something to live for."

It's got six shots at taking home an Oscar this year. But even if doesn't, this wonderful, warm-hearted winter gem of a film is already a big winner, especially for anyone fortunate enough to see it.

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