

Students visit Combat Center for show, fun

Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Combat Correspondent

The Adopt-a-School program is one of the many community events that units aboard the Combat Center actively support. The program introduces students to Marines as they exercise and play at their schools. The environment of the Marine-student relationship changed when students from local schools got a taste of the Corps during a visit to the Combat Center.

Students from Condor, Oasis, Onaga, Palm Vista and Twentynine Palms Elementary schools visited the base, Wednesday, to watch the Battle Colors Ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. The schools were split up to spend time with Marines after the ceremony.

The Battle Colors Ceremony is an annual event at the Combat Center. The Battle Color Detachment is comprised of the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard. They are a symbol of Marine Corps discipline and history.

The Drum and Bugle Corps, also known as "The



CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Marines with the Silent Drill Platoon execute a 'bursting bomb' movement during their exhibition at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday. The performance was part of the Combat Center's annual Battle Colors event.

Even if you've seen it 20 times, it's still impressive the 21st time."

— Maj. Gen. David H. Berger

Commandant's Own," is made up of 85 distinguished Marines who are recruited from civilian drum corps, marching bands and other musical units within the Marine Corps.

"Even if you've seen it 20 times, it's still impressive the 21st time," said Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Commanding General, Combat Center.

Every move and sound made was harmonized with their fellow Marines. It was an impressionable experience to approximately 500 students filling the bleachers. For some of them, it was their first time attending the ceremony, but for others it was a repeat performance they were happy to attend.

"It was a lot of fun," said Dillion Smith, 11, Palm Vista Elementary student. "I went to it last year and I want to go again next year."

After the performance, the Marines stayed on the field as the kids rushed up to them. They answered the student's questions, took pictures with them and the Bugle Corps Marines allowed them to try out their

See VISIT, A6

Combat Center hosts Battle Colors performance

Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
 Combat Correspondent

Combat Center patrons were awed during the Battle Color Ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday. The ceremony consisted of performances by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, the Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Color Guard.

"This is truly an impressive performance," said Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, commanding general, Combat Center. "It doesn't matter if you've seen it 20 times, you will be impressed the 21st time."

The ceremony began with 'Music in Motion 2014' performed by the Drum and Bugle Corps, better known as 'the Commandant's Own.' 'Music in Motion' consisted of a variety of songs including The Stars and Stripes Forever, Birth of a Drum Corps, and Rock this town.

"This is motivating stuff," said Cpl. Daniel Logan, scout, 1st Tank Battalion. "The ceremony gives Marines and their families a chance to see one of the

best performances around. Everyone hears about the Silent Drill Platoon and the other Marines but some people don't get a chance to see them perform."

Following the 'Music in Motion' performance was the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The platoon is a 24-man rifle unit that performs drill movements using M1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets. All movements are done with no verbal command. The Marines

marched onto the field showing discipline and precision in every movement. Everyone watched in awe as the Marines execute their move unofficially known as the bursting bomb. To finish the performance an inspection was conducted. A

Marine marched in front of the platoon, randomly selecting who to inspect. The inspection is an iconic portion of the performance because of the skillful rifle spins and tosses.

To conclude the ceremony, the Marine Corps Color Guard marched onto the field to present the colors of the United States and the Marine

See PERFORM, A6

The ceremony gives Marines and their families a chance to see one of the best performances around."

— Cpl. Daniel Logan

SecDef outlines compensation reform proposals

Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
 Headquarters Marine Corps

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel addressed compensation reform over a two-day period during testimony before Congress on the Defense Department's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal.

Speaking to the House Armed Services Committee, March 6, Hagel identified compensation as a "critical" issue.

"Regarding compensation reform, taking care of our people ... means providing them with both fair compensation as well as the training and tools they need to succeed in battle and always return home safely," Hagel said. "To meet those obligations under constrained budgets, we need some modest adjustments to the growth of pay and benefits."

The secretary described those adjustments and noted all the potential savings would be re-invested in training and equipping troops.

"First, we will continue to recommend pay raises,"

Hagel said. "They won't be as substantial as in the past years, but they will continue."

In his written statement submitted to the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday, Hagel said a little more than two-thirds of the department's fiscal 2015 budget, \$341.3 billion, funds day-to-day costs, which

There are no proposals to change retirement in this budget."

— Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel

includes pay and benefits for military and civilian personnel. Military pay and benefits, including health care and retirement benefits, are \$167.2 billion, or about 34 percent of the total base budget, the statement notes.

"And there are no proposals to change retire-

ment in this budget," Hagel said.

The defense secretary's second statement on compensation pertained to the continuation of subsidies for off-base housing.

"The 100 percent benefit of today will be reduced," Hagel said, "but only to 95 percent, and it will be phased in over the next several years."

The defense secretary also noted, "We are not shutting down any commissaries. We recommend gradually phasing out some, but only for domestic commissaries that are not in remote locations," Hagel said.

The fourth adjustment is the merging of the department's health care systems.

"We recommend simplifying and modernizing our three TRICARE programs, merging them into one TRICARE system," Hagel said.

This system, Hagel said, would have modest increases in co-pays and deductibles for retirees and family members, and would encourage use of the most affordable means of care.

"Active duty personnel will still receive health care that is entirely free," Hagel said.

Post & Relief



SgtMaj retires after 28 years of service

Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
 Combat Correspondent

Marines, sailors, distinguished guests and loved ones of 7th Marine Regiment gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to wish fair winds and following seas to Sgt. Maj. Scott A. Samuels, former sergeant major, 7th Marines, during a relief and appointment ceremony, March 7.

Samuels retired after 28 years of honorable service in the Marine Corps. He assumed his post as the regimental ser-

geant major in May 2011. "The only reason I'm here is because I surrounded myself with good people," Samuels said. "All these seated here are the ones that challenged me. They never let me fail and never failed me."

Upon formally relieving Samuels of his post, Col. Jay M. Barger, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, awarded him with a Legion of Merit in recognition for his outstanding leader-



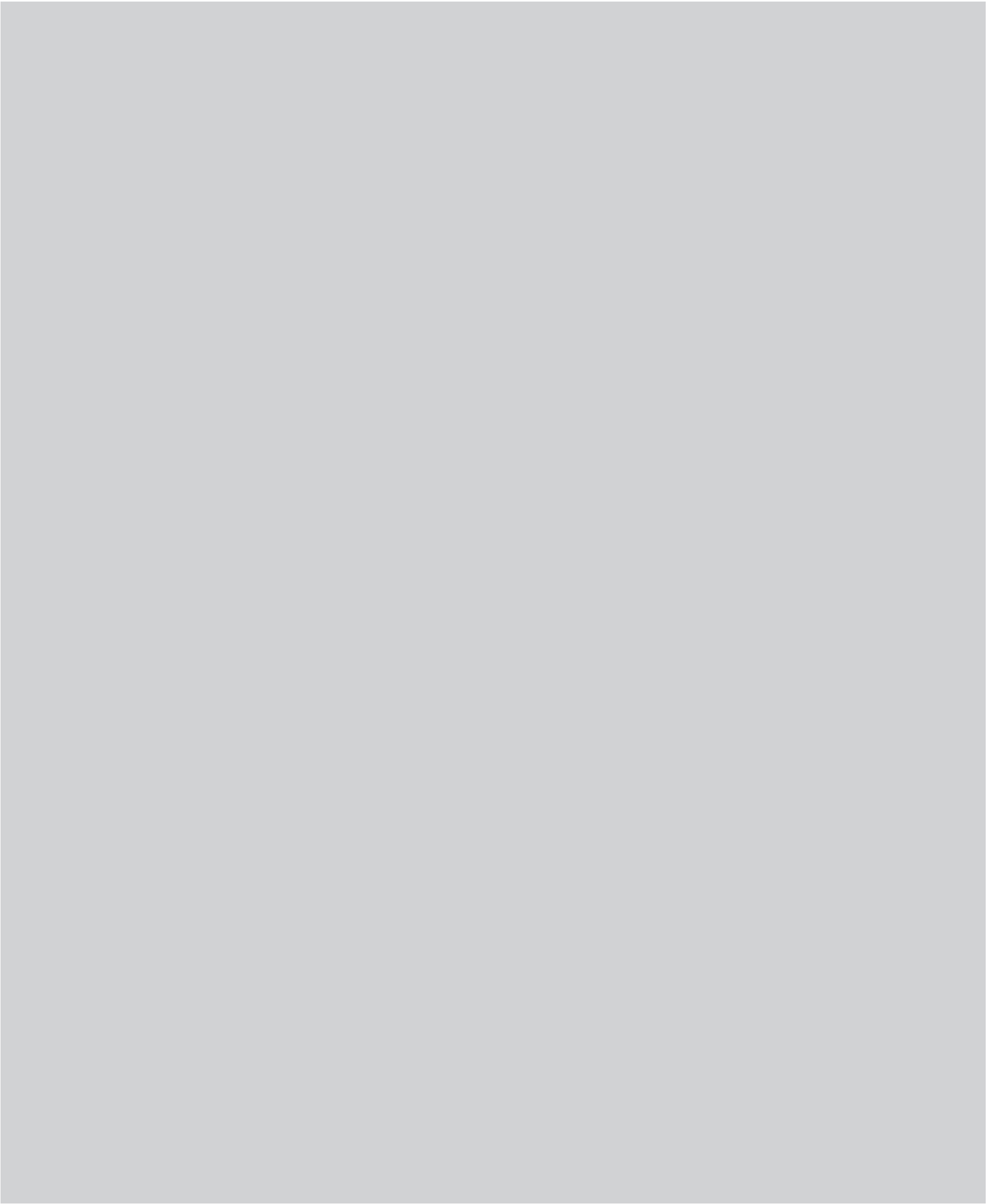
LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

Col. Jay M. Barger, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, Sgt. Maj. Rodney L. Lane, sergeant major, 7th Marines, and Sgt. Maj. Scott A. Samuels, former sergeant major, 7th Marines, stand at attention during a relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, March 7. Samuels was succeeded by Lane in duties as the regimental sergeant major.

See RETIRE, A6



For more Combat Center photos, visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at
<http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



GOING for the GOAL

Combat Center outdoor soccer season kicks off

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

The Combat Centers 2014 Intramural Outdoor Soccer League kicked off at the newly renovated Felix Field, March 10.

The league is comprised of players ranging from military dependents, Department of Defense personnel and active-duty service members with various units including 1st Tank Battalion, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, and more.

“Our goal was to accommodate the Marines and what they wanted for the season,” said Tommy Burke, sports specialist, Marine Corps Community Services. “We started this season in March in hopes to have it ended by May, before it gets hot. Our ultimate goal is to give the service members and their families a fun, competitive environment for them to enjoy their time out here.”

This season, the 12 teams will be split into two, six-team divisions. Each team within those divisions will play each other once. Starting next week, games will consist of

two, 30 to 35-minute halves, allowing the players to have more opportunity to get in sync with one another and build consistency with their teammates.

Each week, six games will be played with three on Monday and three on Wednesday.

“I look forward every year to a new challenge playing in this league,” said retired Gunnery Sgt.

Jose Pereira, goalie, Headquarters Battalion Team 2. “Last year, we took first place playing under the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital team, and we have a lot of returning players. We are aiming to play well and have another successful season.”

While competition can be considered second nature to Marines, soccer leagues, like this, also build camaraderie and offer something valuable for Marines to do on their off time, Pereira added.

At the end of the season, the top four teams will receive a first-round bye for the playoffs. The other eight teams will battle it out in a single-elimination style tournament to see who will play the top four teams.

For more information, contact MCCS sports at 760-830-6857.

“I look forward every year to a new challenge playing in this league.”

— Jose Pereira



[Top] Sgt. Wilder E. Cacho-Dolmo, mid-fielder, dribbles the ball up field during the opening night of the Combat Center's 2014 Intramural Outdoor Soccer League at the newly renovated Felix Field, Monday.

[Above] Capt. James Everett, forward, kicks a goal during the opening night of the Combat Center's 2014 Intramural Outdoor Soccer League at the newly renovated Felix Field, Monday.

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 or higher.

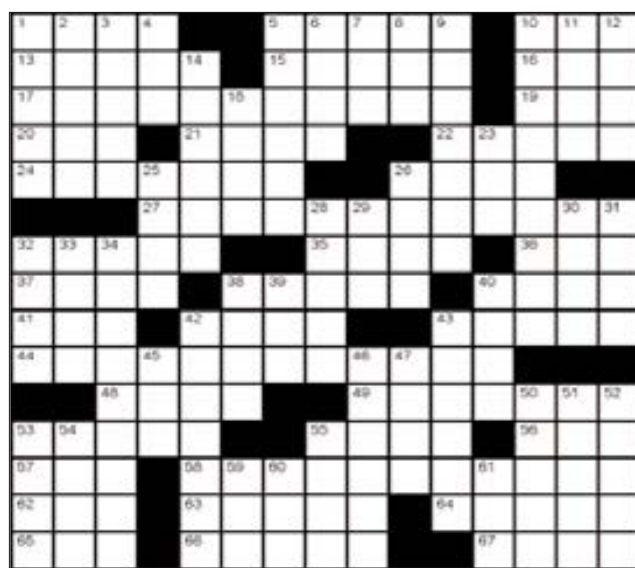
Location: Martial Arts Facility, Building 1652
For more information, contact Staff Sgt Fulgencio at 830-0290

“WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE”

See answers on page A9

- Across**
- 1 Build a road
 - 5 Greek letter that's also an airline
 - 10 Spinning toy
 - 13 Like people who say "Top of the mornin' to ya!"
 - 15 Falco and Brickell
 - 16 "Curb Your Enthusiasm" channel
 - 17 Body of water between Saudi Arabia and Iran, known for its oil
 - 19 Color in the American flag
 - 20 Language you speak: abbr.
 - 21 Make sure there will be no kittens
 - 22 Hellos at sea
 - 24 TV reporter John
 - 26 Nancy ____, fictional detective
 - 27 Body of water that Jamaica and Aruba are on, known for its beautiful weather
 - 32 March 17th honoree, for short
 - 35 Large coffee holders
 - 36 Paddle
 - 37 Pinball problem
 - 38 Out in the open for all to see
 - 40 Has to
 - 41 ____, whim (without forethought)
 - 42 ____, impasse (stuck)

- 43 Names as a reference
 - 44 Body of water where Hawaii is, known for its great size
 - 48 Work units
 - 49 Pest killer
 - 53 Look bad together, as two colors
 - 55 Apple's middle
 - 56 "... man ____ mouse?"
 - 57 Barbecue bit
 - 58 Body of water that flows through Brazil, known for its length
 - 62 ____ of a kind (unique)
 - 63 Baseball great ____ Ryan
 - 64 Aroma
 - 65 Soaked
 - 66 Mystics
 - 67 Times of history
- Down**
- 1 Sherlock Holmes smoked them
 - 2 "____ we all?"
 - 3 Astrological sign
 - 4 Letter before "tee"
 - 5 Alaska park that's also an SUV
 - 6 Hip
 - 7 Actress Lucy
 - 8 Device you call people on: abbr.
 - 9 "And that's ____ it goes"



- 10 Ejects
- 11 Do what you're told
- 12 Where peas grow
- 14 Show hostility toward, as a cat might
- 18 Copycat
- 23 Egg layer
- 25 "Begone!"
- 26 New car worry
- 28 Good: Sp.
- 29 "It's cold!"
- 30 Relax, as rules
- 31 ____ and crafts
- 32 Red road sign
- 33 Turner or Fey
- 34 Put some money on it
- 38 Singer Redding
- 39 Sucking piece of cleaning equipment, for short
- 40 ____ chocolate chip (ice cream flavor)
- 42 Shawls made of yarn
- 43 Provides food for an event
- 45 Tax org.
- 46 Sings like Frank Sinatra
- 47 Make, like money
- 50 Range ____ (automaker)
- 51 Stadium
- 52 Sections
- 53 Black bird
- 54 Supermarket hassle
- 55 Former Russian ruler
- 59 "The Simpsons" tavern owner
- 60 Ginger ____
- 61 Cubes in the freezer

SUDOKU 3201D

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



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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

Ashley COPLEY

Juliet, Ill. food services specialist, MCMWTC, 20



> **My mother was a** source of inspiration throughout my life; she has taught me the right and the wrong in the world.

> **It's my belief that** blood doesn't decide who raises someone as a mother but rather someone who chooses to take the time to raise you as one.

> **My mother is a** teacher and a director to a daycare, so one of my goals is to also become a teacher. She is a big influence and will continue to be for the rest of my life.

> **It is my experiences** in life that make me who I am and define my character.

> **I participated in** Army JROTC throughout high school and having that structure taught me about seeking responsibility for my actions. Leadership was the main focus of the program and knowing how to work with people. Finding out the value of the dynamics of leadership was fun to learn.

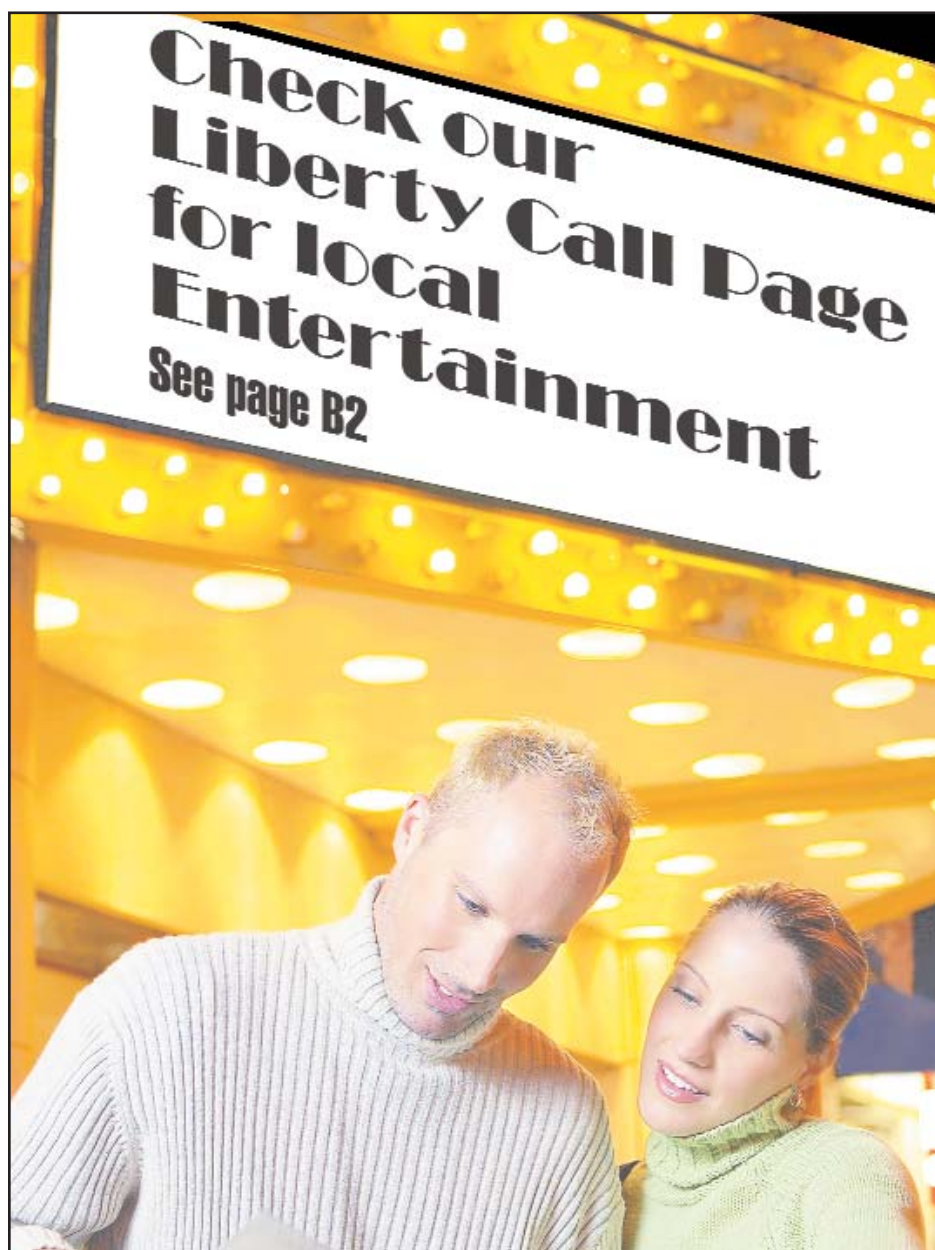
> **Many of the problems** or situations I come across in the military can help be solved with lessons and experiences I learned while in JROTC. It is because of all the lessons of professionalism and leadership that I hope that program continues for many years to come.

> **I also loved sports,** one of which was football. I played from freshmen year all through my senior year and had a blast.

> **My journey on the** football team began when one of the coaches walked up and asked my brother if he wanted to play football. When I asked if I could play, he simply laughed but sure enough I showed up for the first practice.

- > **I am the type** of person that will not let someone say I can't accomplish something because of a stereotype they may have in their mind.
- > **For the first year,** no one on the team talked to me and we didn't communicate. Over time, I was determined to prove myself to them which I eventually did.
- > **For me, I had to** run faster than the guys, be tougher than the guys and just be better every day to show everyone that I had what it took.
- > **They were like** my big brothers, they had my back and I had theirs.
- > **I was the only** girl on my football team and that gave me a lot of pride. Other than my responsibilities in JROTC, football was my life. I fought for every inch and made it to the varsity team as a starting player.
- > **When I was in** my normal day-to-day routine off the field, I was Ashley Copley, a girl in high school. But when I put my gear on and wore my jersey I was a football player. When I ran onto the field with my teammates there was no race, color, ethnicity, religion or gender, we were simply football players ready to go at it on the grid iron.
- > **The lessons** JROTC and the football team taught me was loyalty to a common goal and how to overcome doubt with hard work.
- > **Those same principles** carried over into the Marine Corps because Marines have the same mentality. Once someone puts on the Marine Corps uniform, they are my brother or sister.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria Feb. 23, 2014



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with the Hi-Desert Star
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The Observation Post



PHOTOS BY CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines featured during 'Salute to Heroes' event

Cpl. Ali Azimi
Combat Correspondent

The stadium lights shined onto the tennis court as 15,000 people cheered from their seats. As the Marines marched on to the court, their faces were illuminated alongside the United States and Marine Corps colors.

The Combat Center Marines were featured during the Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's Salute to Heroes in Indian Wells, Calif., March 7.

The base color guard, students with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, and the base's commanding general all participated in this year's ceremony.

"There are a bunch of people in the stands screaming and hollering and even more watching at home," said Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Commanding General, Combat Center.

The BNP Paribas Open is an annual tennis tournament held in Indian Wells and has hosted Marines as part of its ceremonies for close to a decade. Their Salute to Heroes, set in the middle of the stadium honors those who serve.

The televised event's Salute to Heroes portion began after 9 p.m. with the introduction of the commanding general, who stood alongside wounded warriors and members of the police department.

The Combat Center color guard stepped onto the court holding the

Marine Corps and national colors. They marched around the court to their staging position, facing the commanding general and other honorees.

"It was amazing stepping onto the court," said Lance Cpl. Simon Kellogg, Combat Center color guard. "It's an honor to represent the Marine Corps here."

They were followed by approximately 100 MCCES students and instructors holding the United States flag. They unfurled the flag covering the entire court. The Marines raised their right hands to salute as the crowd rose from their seats to pay tribute to the symbol of the United States.

After they rolled up the flag, the crowd cheered as the Marines left the court.

The Marines were invited to stay and watch the rest of the tournament and enjoy the evening's competitions, where Rafael Federer won his match against Dmitry Tursonov and Tomas Berdych was defeated by Roberto Bautista Agut.

Each Marine was also given a meal card, allowing them to eat for free at the many food courts around the stadium. While walking through the stadium after the ceremony they were stopped and thanked by many attendees for their service.

"Not many Marines get a chance to be on national television and show the rest of the world what Marines are about," Berger said. "It's good for us to represent our Corps."



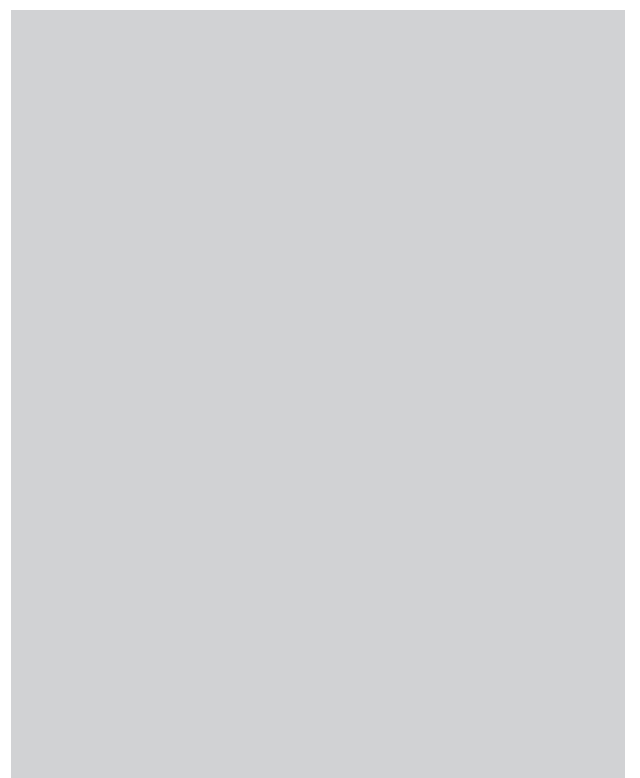
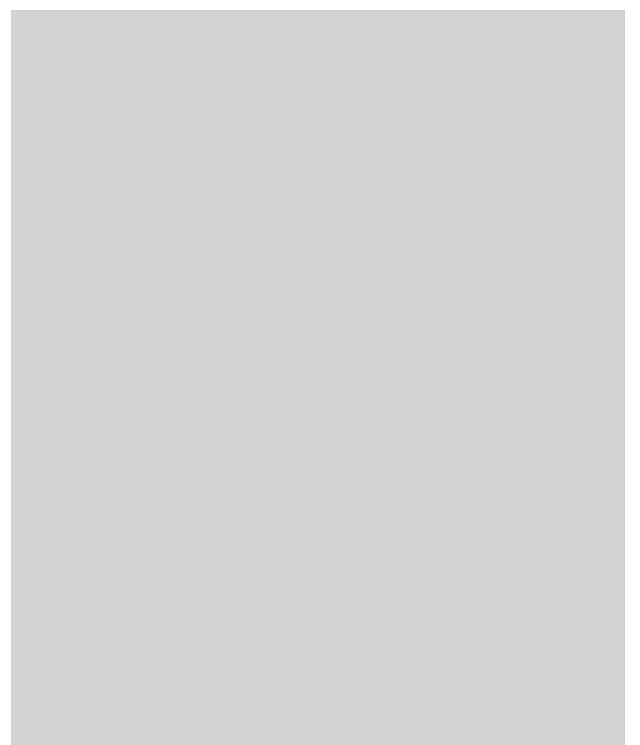
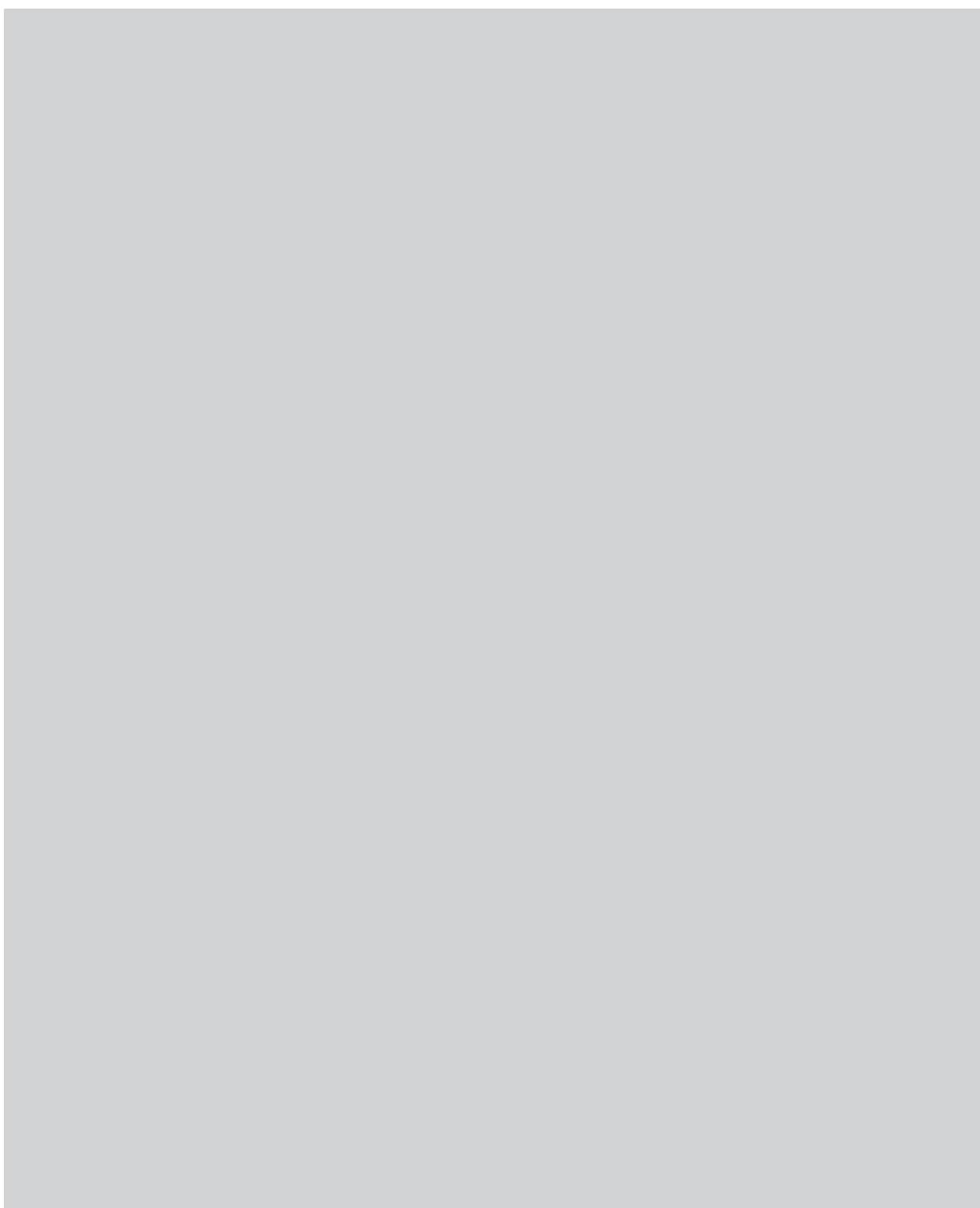
[Top, left] Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, commanding general, Combat Center, is honored during Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's Salute to Heroes in Indian Wells, Calif., March 7. Approximately 15,000 fans in the stands watched as Marines marched onto the court with the colors.

[Above] The Combat Center color guard represent the Marine Corps during the Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's Salute to Heroes in Indian Wells, Calif., March 7.

[Bottom] Approximately 100 students and instructors with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School salute the flag during the Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's Salute to Heroes in Indian Wells, Calif., March 7. The Marines unfurled the flag in the stadium as the crowd paid tributew to the national colors.



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



SLEEVES under SLEEVES



SGT. SAJU K THOMAS

Marines were prohibited from getting sleeve tattoos April 1, 2007. Those that already had them were grandfathered into the new policy, keeping them competitive for promotions. The policy remains in effect.

Marine Corps tattoo policy remains in effect

Lance Cpl. Janelle Y. Villa
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

After a two-year break in rolling sleeves, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos reinstated the tradition. All Marines returned to rolling sleeves, Mar. 9. However, with sleeves going up some problems may arise with Marines having out-of-regulation tattoos.

Unless in Service Charlies or Dress Blue Delta uniforms, Marines have been afforded extra coverage on their arms. Some Marines may have taken advantage of this and gotten tattoos that violate Marine Administrative Message 029/10.

This MARADMIN explains the rules and regulations for tattoos in the Marine Corps.

"The policy is a lawful general order given by our previous commandant of the Marine Corps," said Capt. Lisa Woo, special assistant U.S. attorney. "Even though he is no longer our active commandant, we must follow the order."

The policy was written to help Marines maintain the military appearance America has come to expect from Marines. It helps ensure that all Marines can be assigned wherever they are needed and to maintain the high standards the Marine Corps has set.

"According to the order, Marines who disobey this order will receive administrative actions," Woo said.

Administrative actions can and are not limited to a

Page 11, non-judicial punishment or extra military instruction. The punishment is up to the discretion of the chain of command.

Over the years the tattoo policy has gotten stricter with more regulations. Marines and men and women enlisting in the Marine Corps are not allowed to get or have tattoos or brands on their

The policy is a lawful general order given by our previous commandant of the Marine Corps."

— Capt. Lisa Woo

neck, head, mouth, hands, fingers or wrists.

Tattoos may not exceed above a person's collarbone in the front area or above the first cervical vertebrae in the back area. It cannot be visible with the open collar of the short sleeve khaki shirt when worn without an undershirt.

Marines may have tattoos visible in the standard physical training uniform, however, they cannot exceed the length of said person's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb touching the base of the index finger.

Tattoos and brands cannot be visible or apparent on the feet or legs while in the Service Alpha, Dress Blue Alpha and Bravo, Blue-White Dress Alpha and Bravo

and the evening dress uniforms. Ultraviolet light tattoos must follow the same rules as all brands and tattoos.

Tattoos that are sexist, racist, eccentric or offensive, or express an association with illegal substances are prohibited. Marines cannot have tattoos that are vulgar or anti-American, bring discredit to the Marine Corps or associate any Marine with an extremist group or organization.

Officers are limited to a maximum of four visible tattoos or brands in standard physical training gear.

"The order states that it was the Marines responsibility to document their tattoos to be grandfathered in," Woo said. "They had to have the information in by June 1, 2010 and if they didn't, they would be subject to disciplinary action."

Enlisted Marines with grandfathered sleeve tattoos are not eligible for any Marine Corps commissioning or warrant officer programs. However, they are still eligible for promotion and re-enlistment, but only as an enlisted Marine.

Officers are allowed band tattoos that either partially or fully encircles the circumference of a body part with a maximum width of two inches. Enlisted Marines can have band tattoos that take up no more than one-quarter of the body part.

Many of the regulations vary between enlisted and officers, with stricter policies for officers. Anyone with questions or concerns can speak with their chain of command for a copy of the MARADMIN or contact the Legal Services Center at 257-6743.



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PERFORM, from A1

Corps. The 54-colored streamers which adorn the battle colors represent the history and accomplishments of the Marine Corps.

"I was getting chills because of how motivating it was," Logan said. "I can look at everyone's reaction to the performance and say those are my brothers out there doing what they do best." Attendees were invited to meet the Marines who performed after the ceremony was over. The Marines with the Battle Color Detachment will continue to tour the United States to perform.



CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center commanding general, makes his remarks during the Battle Colors ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday. "This is truly an impressive performance," Berger said.

VISIT, from A1

instruments.

Soon it was time to go, but their visit to the Combat Center was not over.

Four of the schools headed to Del Valle Field where they enjoyed their lunches and played soccer and football with Marines from 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, and Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

As they played on the field, the students from Palm Vista Elementary School headed to the compound of their adopted unit, 1st Tank Battalion.

The unit regularly visits the school as part of the program but on this trip, the students were able to see where their 1st Tanks Marines worked.

"My first time volunteering was

probably three months ago," said Lance Cpl. Byron Peterson, supply administrative specialist, 1st Tanks. "I go to Adopt-a-School every two weeks."

The battalion set up multiple static displays of several M1A1 Abrams Tanks, Humvees, 7-ton trucks and their communication equipment.

The students explored the vehicles while Marines taught them about the iron giants.

"I enjoy the fact that they're enjoying it," Peterson said. "It's good to have them out here and see what we do."

The day finally ended with the departure of the buses back to their schools. Although the students had to say goodbye, they will soon be reunited at the next Adopt-a-School event.



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Caylee Pribl, 8, student, Twentynine Palms Elementary, plays one of the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps member's instruments after the Battle Colors ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday.

RETIRE, from A1

ship and service during his time with the regiment.

"[Samuels] may be leaving active duty today, but because of his service and influence, he'll still be around here for a long time," Bargeron said.

Sgt. Maj. Rodney L. Lane, sergeant major, 7th Marine Regiment, was then appointed to his new post as Marines now under his guidance looked on.

"I am honored and privileged to be the regimental sergeant major," Lane said. "[7th Marine Regiment's] reputation speaks for itself."

7th Marine Regiment was activated Aug. 14, 1917, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as an infantry regiment. The regiment last deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in October 2012, returning in August 2013.

The color guard conducts a pass and review during a relief and appointment and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, March 7.



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ



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[Above] Col. James Hanlon, chief of staff, Combat Center and Loretta Hughes, entertainer, present prizes during the 7th Annual Heart To Heart Luncheon at the Desert Princess Golf Resort in Cathedral City, Calif., March 8. **[Right]** Navy Capt. Steve Moses, Combat Center Chaplain, draws a winning name for a prize during the 7th Annual Heart To Heart Luncheon at the Desert Princess Golf Resort in Cathedral City, Calif., March 8. **[Bottom, right]** Rhinestone cowgirls perform during the 7th Annual Heart To Heart luncheon at the Desert Princess Golf Resort in Cathedral City, Calif., March 8.

Organization hosts service members, spouses at luncheon

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

Active-duty women and wives of active-duty service members from the Combat Center attended the 7th Annual Heart To Heart Luncheon at the Desert Princess Golf Resort in Cathedral City, Calif., March 8.

The luncheon, hosted by the Heart To Heart Palm Springs Organization, honored women, both spouse and those currently serving, by treating them to a lunch that included live entertainment, prizes, a fashion show and a guest speaker.

"This event is truly a blessing," said Glenda Esconde, military spouse. "Not only do I get the opportunity to spend a day with my ladies, but also a chance to get out into the world, get rejuvenated, and ultimately be more supportive of my husband."

Heart To Heart Palm Springs is ran by co-founders Nancy Carter and Ella Mae Rawlings who narrated for the event. The first lunch dates back to 2007 when Rawlings and Carter wanted women from the Combat Center to know they were loved, appreciated and not forgotten as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were continuing.

"We understand that freedom isn't free, and being a military spouse can be full of difficult times," Carter said. "We greatly enjoy hosting these events every year, reminding our military wives and active duty that they are

greatly appreciated and are always in our hearts and prayers."

Accompanying their wives to the luncheon was Col. James Hanlon, chief of staff, and base chaplains, Navy Capt. Steve Moses and Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Wheeler. Each of them took turns drawing names for prizes and speaking briefly on the importance of honoring military wives and active-duty women.

"I'm very grateful for my wife and I to have the opportunity to be here, as well as everyone else in attendance," Wheeler said.

Carter and Rawlings, who solicited various companies for donations, acquired more than 40 gift baskets given away as prizes, which included various items such as movie tickets, gift cards, vacations, bath and body supplies, spa packages and new-born baby supplies.

"This event couldn't be made possible without our generous donations," Carter said.

At the end of the luncheon, a special thanks was made from Carter and Rawlings to Anita Neu-Fultz and Laura Scotto, the Armed Services YMCA director and coordinator, who got the word out to the attendees about the event.

"I appreciate everyone's hard work that went into planning this event, and look forward to many more like it honoring our military women and wives," said Neu-Fultz.



Relax with the paper
Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

WeekINPhotos

3rd Reconnaissance Battalion



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL MATTHEW BRAGG

[Above] A Marine with second platoon, Co. B, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, fires a Mk-19 automatic grenade launcher on the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 4.

[Top, right] A Marine with second platoon, Co. B, 3rd Recon Bn., 3rd Marine Division, loads 40mm grenades into a Mk-19 automatic grenade launcher on the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, MCB Hawaii, as part of a weapons-training package, March 4. 3rd Recon Bn. fired multiple weapon systems, such as the .50 caliber M2 Browning heavy machine gun, MK19 automatic grenade launcher and M136 AT4 rocket launchers, as part of a two-day weapons-training package for Exercise Sandfisher. The weapons package focused on increasing the platoon's proficiency with each system on the battlefield.

[Bottom, right] A Marine with second platoon, Co. B, 3rd Recon Bn., 3rd Marine Division, fires an M136 AT-4 rocket launcher after breaking away from the firing line as part of a weapons-training package on the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, MCB Hawaii, March 4.



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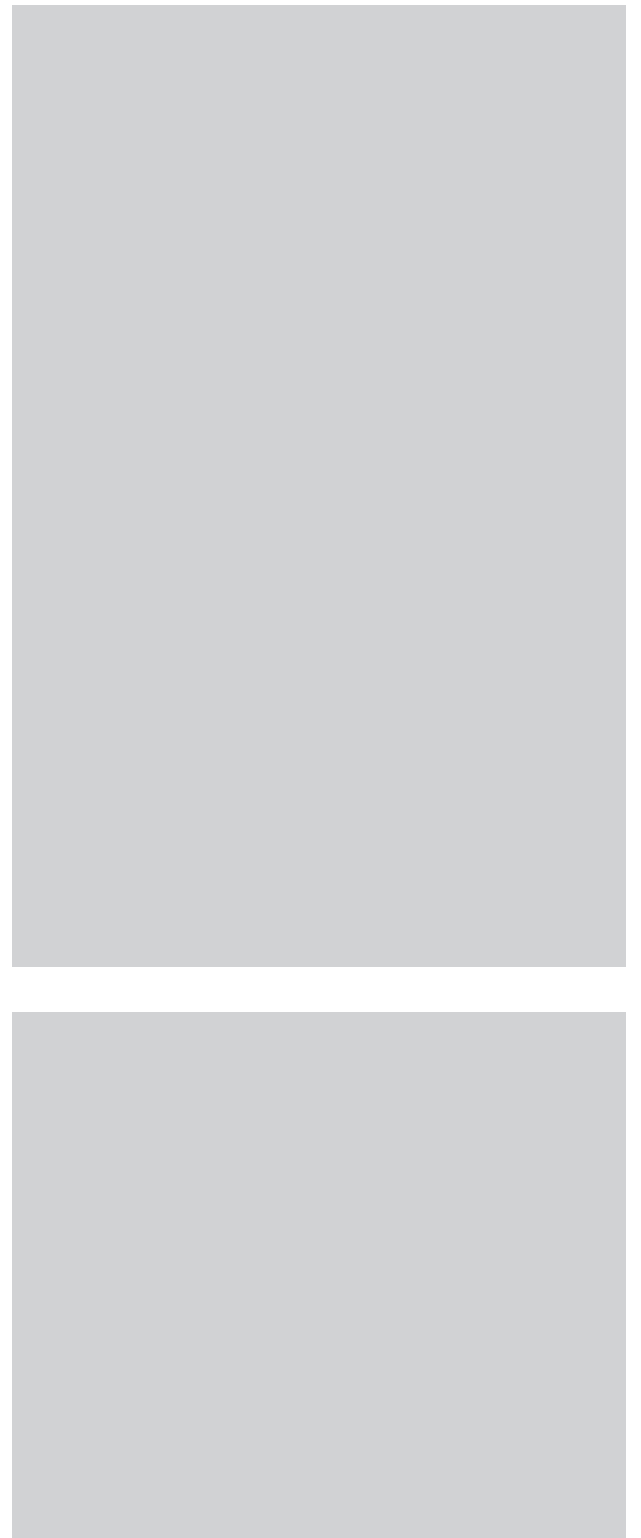
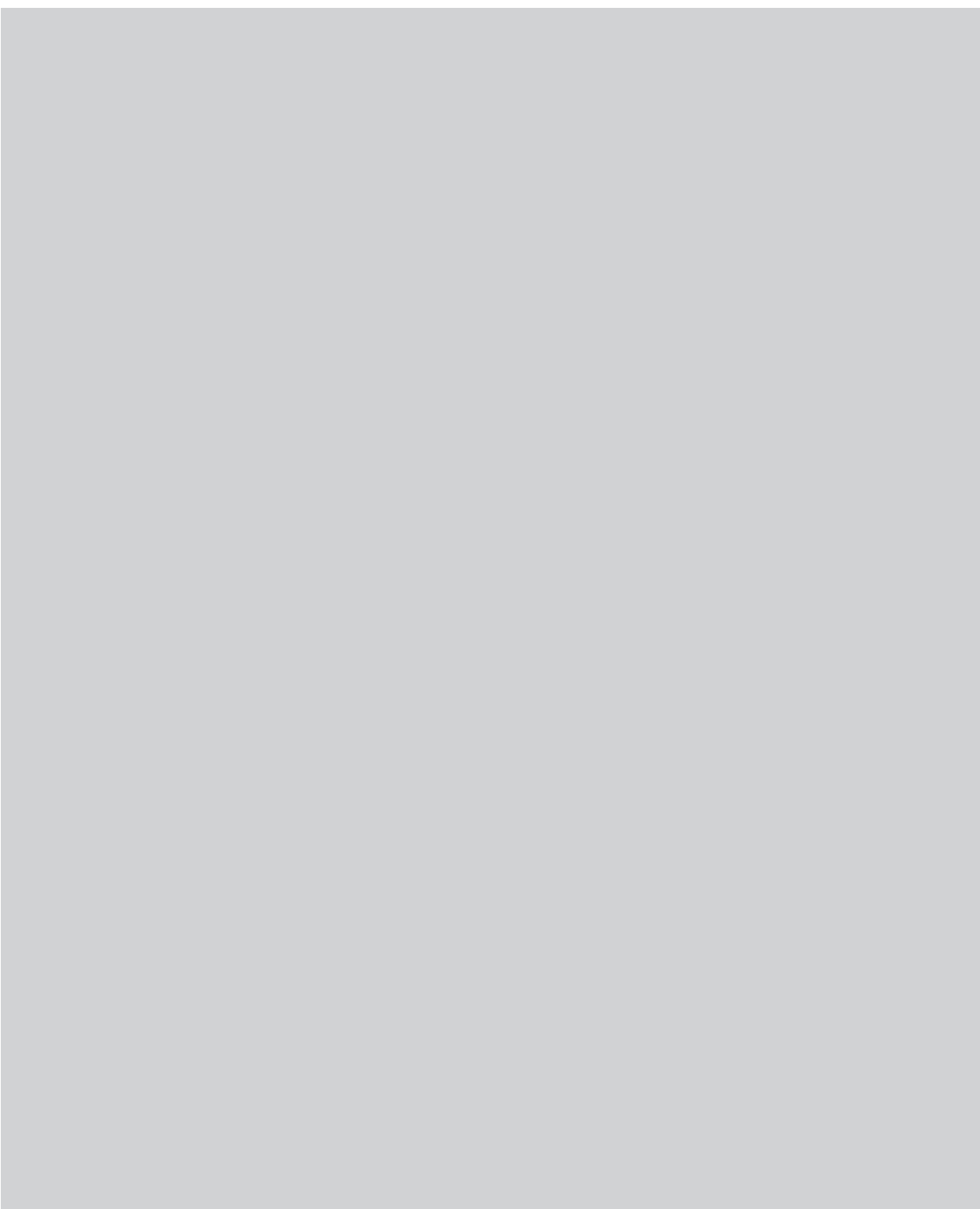
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<http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>



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

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



NCO Course refines MCMWTC Marines

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria

The sound of a synchronized chant began to rise through the streets of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. The words became clearer as the wind settled on the mountainside. "I am an NCO dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old. I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire him to the highest standards possible. I will strive to be patient, understanding, just, and firm. I will commend the deserving and encourage the wayward. I will never forget that I am responsible to my Commanding Officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my men. Their performance will reflect an image of me." This is the creed that is learned by every NCO in the Marine Corps as the standard for leadership, mentorship and responsibility.

NCO's, Marines whose purpose is to de-centralize authority and provide a bridge of communication between junior enlisted and the command. Corporals and sergeants are the 'backbone of the Marine Corps' in many ways. NCOs give mentorship to Marines they are put in

charge of in order to guide the next generation of warfighters.

The creed was recited at the end of each day by Marines and sailors of the MCMWTC during their NCO course held on base.

"The course contains most of the material covered in the Marines Corps' Corporals Course," said Benjamin Workman, instructor, NCO Course, MCMWTC. "The difference with the NCO Course here is that it is for both sergeants and corporals to further their knowledge of leadership and Marine Corps tactics."

The course lasts approximately a month covering combat tactics, hand and arm signals, land navigation, sword manual, physical fitness and radio communications. The classes last the majority of the day and include a workout session at noon.

"It's a great refresher course," said Sgt. Charles Peterson, wireman, MCMWTC. "This is knowledge all Marines should know and pass on to their junior Marines. "Just because we are winding down from a war doesn't mean we forget all the knowledge essential to being effective in tactics and leadership."

The classes challenged the students both physically and mentally.



The workout portion of each day would vary from running hill sprints on a dirt path to racing around a track with water jugs and ammo cans in utilities. The Marines and sailors were also tested at the end of each section of the course whether it was by practical application or written exam.

"The course was fairly challenging," said Peterson. "It was always something different and the instructors made sure that we were always on our toes and ready."

The NCO course at MCMWTC builds upon the Corporal's Course and furthers the knowledge of those who

attend. Towards the end of the course, instructors reflect on the main goal of the classes and why having the skills and knowledge from the course is so important to the future of the Marine Corps.

"I've personally never seen a course like this one that allows both sergeants and corporals to attend," Workman said. "It's an important part of going into a garrison force, as everything winds down it's our responsibility to retain and sharpen ourselves further. I am very proud to know that I am an instructor for a course that is giving back to fellow NCO's not as just as a requirement but for invaluable knowledge."



[Top] Sgt. Charles Peterson, wireman, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, plots a point with his team as part of the land navigation class in the MCMWTC training area, Feb. 26. **[Left]** Sgt. Marc Morris, motor transport operator, MCMWTC, sheathes a Non-Commissioned Officer's Sword during a sword manual class as part of the NCO Course, Feb. 24. **[Below]** Students with the MCMWTC NCO Course look down a mountain during a land navigation exercise in an MCMWTC training area, Feb. 26.



SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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9	1	4	5	3	2	7	8	6
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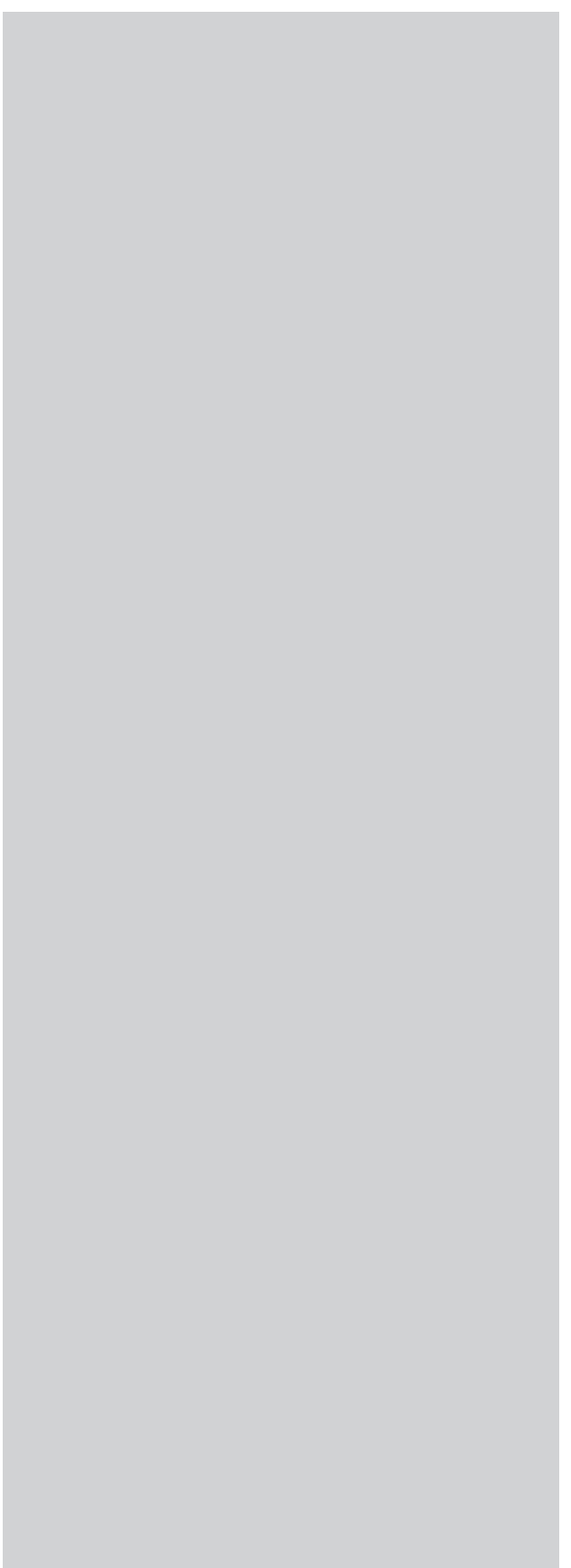
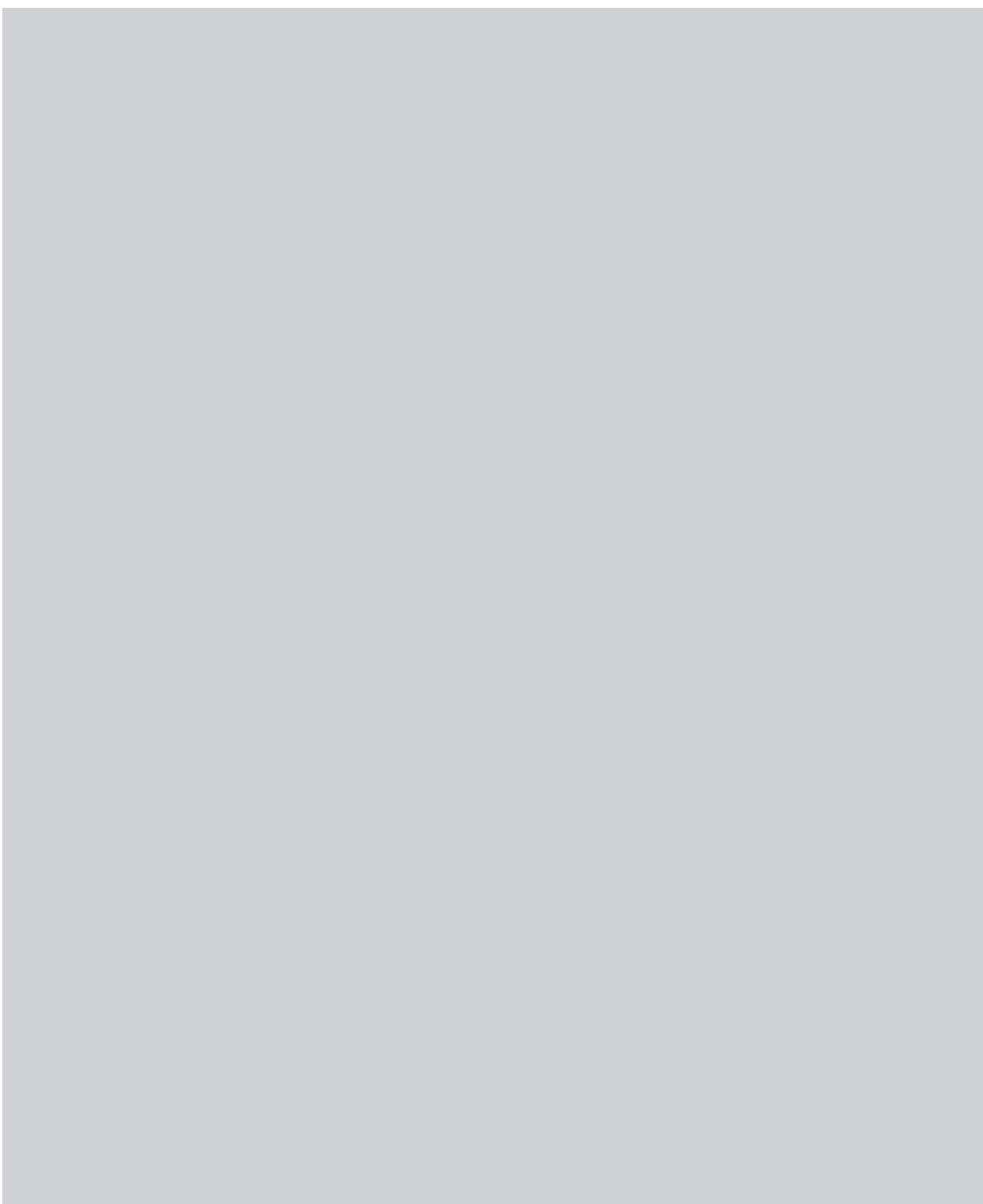
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ENG			SPAY		AHOYS
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STPAT			URNS		OAR
TILT			OVERT		MUST
ONA			ATAN		CITES
PACIFIC			OCEAN		
			ERGS		RATTRAP
CLASH			CORE		ORA
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See page B2 for Sunset Cinema movie schedule





Celebrating St. Patrick's Day



Story by **Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria**

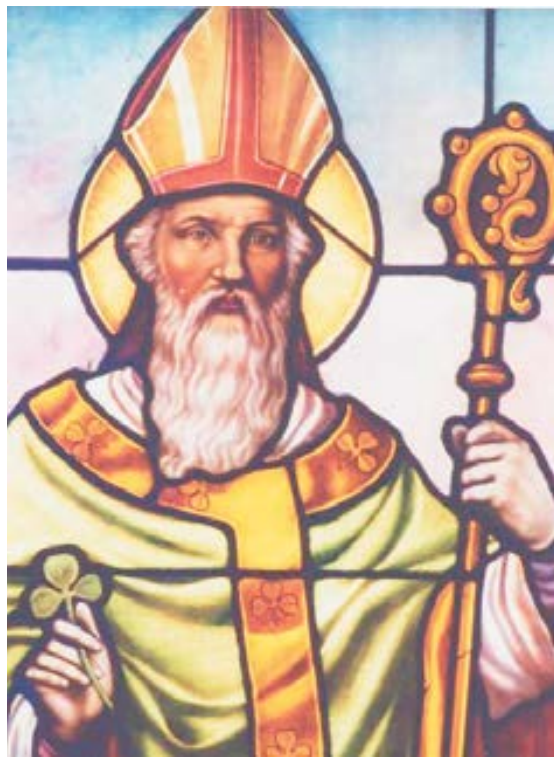
Green fills the streets as parade floats drive by and people cheer in celebration. People in green outfits swarm the streets alongside parade floats, drinks and merry songs. The story behind the annually celebrated festivities starts with a man named Maewyn who was born in Britain, kidnapped and taken as a slave in Ireland. He later escaped to a monastery in France where he converted to Christianity, according to GeoriaPublicBroadcast.org.

Eventually, Maewyn became a bishop, spreading the Christian faith and beliefs throughout Ireland. Many of the symbols used today for decorations and lore are tied to things Maewyn, later known as St. Patrick, used during his travels. One such item is the Shamrock (three-leaf clover), which he used to explain the holy trinity to groups of people. Some traditions stem from practices that were started after the annual celebration began in the United States.

Traditions include dyeing a section of a river green, which began in Chicago in 1962 when city officials decided to dye a portion of the Chicago River green. Another staple of the holiday comes in the form of a popular dish. Due to poverty, certain meals couldn't be afforded so Irish American families bought beef and



BRIAN KERSEY



'St. Patrick,' born Maewyn, was born in Britain and taken as a slave in Ireland. He later escaped to a monastery in France where he converted to Christianity, according to GeoriaPublicBroadcast.org.

cabbage which became a famous dish for the holiday, according to GeoriaPublicBroadcast.org.

Until the 1970s, St. Patrick's Day, in Ireland, was a minor religious holiday. A priest would acknowledge the feast day, and families would celebrate with a big meal. The celebration truly became popular by Irish-Americans in America, according to NationalGeographic.com.

After the fame of the parade in New York City increased, other cities with Irish communities began hosting their celebration such as Boston, Massachusetts; Savannah, Georgia; and Charleston, South Carolina. As St. Patrick Parades began to flourish, wearing the color green signified a commitment to Ireland.

Myths and beliefs also come with the history of the holiday. Some of which include wearing the Shamrock in remembrance and tradition, a myth that St. Patrick banished all snakes from Ireland explaining the lack of scaly reptiles on the island, and other stories that were spread after his death in 461 A.D. After his death, however, tales of his travels began to spread and eventually his name and stories became a basis for the holiday famously celebrated today, according to the National Geographic's official

website.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated every year on March 17 with shamrocks, stories, Irish food, drinks and parades. Celebrations such as New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade have been part of the history of this country. 18th-century Irish soldiers fighting with the British in the U.S. Revolutionary War held the first St. Patrick's Day parade March 17, 1762, according to National Geographic's official website, making it one of America's oldest Irish traditions. The Parade can still be viewed on New York City's 5th Avenue between 44th St. and 79th St. every year.

March 17, people all over the country will don green outfits and accessories to celebrate the Irish holiday. From a march of Irish soldiers through New York City over 200 years ago to a national holiday celebrated both in the United States and Ireland, St. Patrick's Day continues to be an important part of both American and Irish culture.

So whether you celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a big green hat and clothes or by eating some beef and cabbage, March 17 is set aside to remember what St. Patrick, an adopted citizen of Ireland, did for the people in his country.



COURTESY PHOTO



[Top] Members of the plumbers' union dye the Chicago River green for St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2012. The river was first dyed green in 1962 and has become a St. Patrick's Day tradition in Chicago.

[Above, left] The New York State Fraternal Order of Police Irish War Pipe Band march in the 251st Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City, N.Y., March 16, 2013. Saint Patrick is regarded as the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland, credited with bringing Christianity to the nation.

[Above, right] Due to poverty, certain meals couldn't be afforded. Irish-American families bought beef and cabbage which later became a famous stew for the holiday, according to GeoriaPublicBroadcast.org.



Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

March Madness

All games and top standings can be viewed at the 5th Street Zone. Turn in brackets March 21 for a chance to win a prize.
 When: March 16 - April 7
 Where: 5th Street Zone
 For more information, call 830-4767

Bunny Bowling

Registration is open at the Community Center now through April 11. The event is open to all active duty, retirees, MCCS employees and their families.
 When: March 3 - April 11
 Where: Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center
 For more information, call 830-3910

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, 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Where: Village Center
 Call 830-7622 for more information
 For more events, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>

Sunset Cinema

Friday, March 14

3 p.m. - Special Event: Leatherneck Comedy Tour
 10:00 p.m. - The Monuments Men, PG -13
 12:30 a.m. - I, Frankenstein, PG-13

Saturday, March 15

10:00 a.m. - Free Admission Monsters University, G
 12:30 p.m. - The LEGO Movie 3-D, PG
 3 p.m. - Endless Love, PG-13
 5:30 p.m. - I, Frankenstein, PG-13
 6 p.m. - That Awkward Moment, R
 9:30 p.m. - Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, PG-13
 11:50 p.m. - RoboCop, PG-13

Sunday, March 16

12:30 p.m. - Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, PG-13
 3 p.m. - Winter's Tale, PG-13
 6 p.m. - RoboCop, PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - About Last Night, R

Monday, March 17

6 p.m. - The Monuments Men, PG -13

Tuesday, March 18

5 p.m. - Her, R
 7:30 p.m. - That Awkward Moment, R

Wednesday, March 19

5 p.m. - The LEGO Movie 3-D, PG
 7 p.m. - Labor Day, PG-13

Thursday, March 20

5 p.m. - I, Frankenstein, PG-13
 7 p.m. - Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, 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.

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



Liam Neeson kicks butt high above clouds

NEIL POND

"Non-Stop"

Starring Liam Neeson & Julianne Moore
 Directed by Juane Collet-Serra
 PG-13, 106 mins

His name may not have the same action-hero ring as "Willis," "Norris" or "Stallone," but 61-year-old Liam Neeson has carved a pretty successful niche for himself a one-man kick-butt machine.

Those other stars might have more brawn, but the "everyman" personas of Neeson's characters, pushed to their limits physically and psychologically but always finding ways to overcome, connected with audiences in movies like the 2008 revenge thriller "Taken," its sequel, and "Unknown."

Now, working again with "Unknown" director Juane Collet-Serra, Neeson stars in "Non-Stop" as a stressed-out federal air marshal on a six-hour transatlantic flight, once more a crumpled, crumpled underdog, this time grappling with a plane-full of life-or-death stakes high above the clouds. Just after take-off, his character, Bill Marks, gets a cryptic cell-phone message: Unless he arranges for an immediate transfer of \$150 million dollars, people on the plane will begin to die, one at a time.

Eventually, something even more catastrophic will happen — and it's all rigged to look like Marks did it.

Who sent the message, and others that follow, taunting Marks, spelling out the devious details?




It's obviously someone else on the flight, someone who knows him — and the heavy emotional baggage he's carrying. Everyone becomes a suspect, and the guessing game is part of what keeps the movie — otherwise contained in the closed, confined space of the airliner — moving along at a brisk, breathless clip.

No one is above suspicion, including Marks' overly (?) friendly seatmate (Julianne Moore); two flight attendants (Michelle Dockery, who plays Lady Mary Crawley on "Downton Abbey," and Oscar-winning Lupita N'Yongo from "12 Years a Slave"); a Middle Eastern-looking doctor who practically has "TERRORIST" stamped on his kafi; a mild-mannered school teacher (Scoot McNairy); and a computer programmer (Nate Parker).

There are twists, turns, some cheesy laughs, a serious tussle in the lavatory, a murder by improvised peashooter, and a rip-roarin' finish that had one woman seated behind me whooping, gasping and hollering "Save the baby!!!"

The specter of 9/11 hangs over the plot in more ways than one, but this isn't a movie with much of an agenda beyond being a high-flying, B-grade thrill ride that takes you up, shakes you up and sets you back down when it's over.

So don't buy a ticket to "Non-Stop" looking for award-winning performances or a profound message (although it clumsily, hurriedly tries to tag one on at the end). As the captain tells Marks at one point, just sit back, buckle up and "Enjoy your flight!"

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http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter	http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO	http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter

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Clubbing at its Best

Ladies Golf League now in full swing

Story and photos by **Lance Cpl. Charles Santamaria**

Grass flew through the air as iron chopped off a top layer of the ground. Hands clenched tightly on the grip as the driver sent the white golf ball soaring across the field. With the ball closer to the hole, the competitors moved toward their new shooting location to putt. The player took a deep breath, exhaled, and then gently putted the ball. Silence filled the air as the ball rolled toward the hole. Another second went by before it finally dropped in. The first hole of the nine-hole game was completed, the scores were tallied and the competition continued.

The Desert Winds Golf Course hosted the first Ladies Golf League Monday with an opening game on the course. The league is now open to all women, on or off base, who wish to participate in the league's games every Monday at 10 a.m.

"We just started to realize that there was a growing number of women who are very interested in playing golf but wanted to become better and learn," said Chuck Mastropaolo, manager, Desert Winds Golf Course. "We wanted to give women a day to come out here and learn while they're having fun playing golf without the stress of being rushed by others behind them."

Some of the players are beginners and are happy to see that a league like this one can be run on base for the women who are interested in playing and learning.

"I just started a month ago because it was something me and my husband can play together," said Pamela Crane, player, Ladies Golf League. "It's a challenging sport but I don't get too frustrated because I know I'm new and I will get better. It's just nice to see how supportive the staff and players are for the league."

Although the grand opening and sign-ups have already passed, women interested in the league may still come and participate.

"I just want the league to keep growing," Mastropaolo said. "My goal for this league is to reach 40 competitors before the league ends."

Reasons for playing golf may be different, but everyone who plays has set goals to become better at the sport.

"This sport is one of the most difficult and one truly never masters the technique," Crane said. "One of the most difficult obstacles when trying to improve in golf is dealing with inconsistency from course to course and trying to keep a good swing throughout the day. These challenges, however, are also what make it fun."

The league is scheduled to conclude in September but coordinators have high hopes for the progress.

"I want the first season of this league to be very successful so that it can get longer and attract more players," Mastropaolo said. "We invite all women, no matter the skill level, to come and play golf whether that be competitively or to even just learn how it is played."



[Above] Pamela Crane, player, Ladies Golf League, prepares for the last putt of the hole during the opening game of the Ladies Golf League at the Combat Center Desert Winds Golf Course, Monday. Coordinators hope to have 40 participants by the end of the season, scheduled for September.

[Bottom, left] Pamela Crane, player, Ladies Golf League, chips the ball over a few mounds to gain a better putting position during the opening game of the Ladies Golf League at the Combat Center Desert Winds Golf Course, Monday. Crane has been playing for a month and hopes to become better with each game.

[Bottom, right] Elizabeth Webb, Marine spouse, picks up her golf ball after completing the hole during the opening game of the Ladies Golf League at the Combat Center Desert Winds Golf Course, Monday. The league is open to all women who are interested in playing golf.

