

## 1/7 Marine becomes father while deployed

**Cpl. Joseph Scanlan**  
 Combat Correspondent

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – On March 15, a bright-eyed baby girl was born at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, N.Y. However, her father, Lance Cpl. Kalib K. Walker, was thousands of miles away serving his country in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Walker, rifleman, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, had been training for his second deployment to Afghanistan when his wife, Mariolbis, told him she was pregnant. During his predeployment training he was given a rough estimate of his deployment, date and was hopeful he would be present for the birth of his first child, Kylie. He departed the United States for his deployment ten days prior to her birth.

“When I found out my due date, and realized it was around the same time Kalib was deploying, I was heartbroken,” said Mariolbis Walker, Kalib’s wife. “Knowing he wasn’t going to be able to be with me in the delivery room to experience her birth was miserable.”

Kalib’s prior deployment to Afghanistan during 2012 was kinetic. He went on several patrols and missions each

*“I’m happy and proud to be a father ... having a child definitely changed the way I think and act.”*

– Lance Cpl. Kalib K. Walker

week and encountered enemy fire on a regular basis. The battalion’s mission this deployment is to conduct security force assistance to defeat enemy forces throughout their battlespace, limited offensive operations, and set conditions for the transfer of full-security responsibilities to Afghan National Security Forces in Helmand province.

“I’m constantly asking myself if he is alright,” Mariolbis said. “I’m worried about the possibility of him not coming home and never meeting his daughter.”

Fortunately, for the time being, Kalib has been able to visually contact Mariolbis and Kylie by using video chat on his phone with the available Wi-Fi. While he lives aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, he makes an effort to see his wife and child as much as possible. Due to the time zone difference between New York and Afghanistan, Kalib wakes up in the morning before the sun rises to see his wife and daughter before they fall asleep at night.

Not being there for a loved one during a time of need can put a tremendous amount of stress on an individual, especially if the individual is away in a combat zone where tomorrows are never promised. Unlike his first deployment, he now has a wife and child awaiting his return.

“I’m happy and proud to be a father,” Kalib said. “Having a child definitely changed the way I think and act

See **FATHER, A6**



**CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA**

Sgt. Matt Dorman, joint terminal attack controller, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, relays information from the overwatch team to the rest of the squad during a Tactical Recovery of Air crew and Personnel exercise, March 15.

## Marines, Army Special Forces soldiers execute TRAP exercise

**Cpl. Charles Santamaria**  
 Combat Correspondent

The CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter descended upon the landing zone as Green Berets with Fort Carson, Colorado’s 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) were inserted with Marines into one of the Combat Center’s training areas as part of a Tactical Recovery of Air crew and Personnel exercise, March 15, 2014. Boots hit the ground as they dismounted the helicopter and set up security positions.

The mission was simple: to find two downed pilots and evacuate them to safety while maintaining security for extraction. The training allowed both Marines and soldiers to share tactics and learn from one another.

“It’s always a privilege to work with fellow American service members,” said a communications sergeant, 10th SFG (A). “The Marines were eager to learn, which made for a great exercise and training environment. A team like ours can work with anyone whether they’re foreign military or American which is one of the reasons why we’re so versatile.”

The Combat Center’s training areas provided a real-

istic, challenging environment for the Marines and soldiers to retrieve the downed pilots.

“The terrain made it realistically difficult to see because of the clouds of rocks and sand caused by the propellers of the aircraft,” said a communications sergeant, 10th SFG (A). “The challenges made the training even more effective because we have to train in the areas we may be operating in.”

Marines took the opportunity to learn a thing or two from the Green Berets during the exercise.

Through every step of the TRAP exercise, the soldiers enlightened Marines on different methods of security, avenues of approach and extraction procedures.

Marines were also eager to perform and demonstrate their skills as warfighters.

“Exercises like these are good to show other units what the Marine Corps can do,” said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Champer, joint fires observer, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. “This was a great experience for me and I would do it again without

See **EXERCISE, A6**

*“Exercises like this are good to show other units what the Marine Corps can do.”*

– Lance Cpl. Jonathan Champer

## 23rd Dental Co. fixing smiles, tracking files

**Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**  
 Combat Correspondent

Aboard the Combat Center, Marines and sailors are familiar with the reality of deploying. As the Combat Center is the largest live-fire training center in the Marine Corps, keeping the Marines and sailors medically ready is a top priority.

A big part of keeping Marines and sailors medically ready is their oral health. The 23rd Dental Company Clinic is the only dental facility aboard the installation, and treats more than 10,000 Marines and sailors annually.

“Over 10,000 Marines and sailors come through our dental facility,” said Cmdr. Melissa Ruff, clinic director, 23rd Dental Company. “Those Marines and sailors include all of the stationed units aboard the Combat Center as well as students from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and those units going through the Integrated Training Exercise.”

With much hard work and dedication, the dental clinic recently reached a milestone.

“Our monthly readiness goal has always been to reach 95 percent of Marines and sailors in classes one and two,” said Ruff. “In February 2014, we finally reached that goal and have maintained it through the month of March. All of the hard work and dedication from our staff has helped us in reaching this goal.”

A class-one dental readiness standing means your dental record is correct and all of your treatment has been completed. Class two means your record is administratively current, but you have dental conditions for which dental strongly recommends you schedule routine care. Class three is a status in which patients require treatment to correct dental conditions that are likely to cause a dental emergency



**LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK**

Navy Capt. Anthony Opilka, periodontist, 23rd Dental Company, performs a crown lengthening on Sgt. Aaron Gross, fire supportman, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, at the 23rd Dental Clinic, March 27.

within 12 months. Class four is when you require a dental examination or do not have a dental record.

“We have to know what the needs of the Marines and sailors are aboard the base, dental wise,” Ruff said. “In order to do this, every Marine and sailor is required to do an annual exam, which designates them into a class one, two, three or four.”

Classes three and four place Marines and sailors in a non-readiness category and deems them non-deployable.

To reach the 95 percent goal, Erlinda Glover, front desk manager, 23rd Dental Clinic, devised a ‘stand-down’ that consisted of monthly emails to all of the units aboard the Combat Center, informing them of which service members were approaching classes three and four.

“I remember when I was here nine years ago, we didn’t

See **DENTAL, A6**

## Dance brings fathers, daughters together

**Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez**  
 Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors walked their daughters arm-in-arm to Building 1707 for a night of bonding and dancing during the Father-Daughter Dance, March 28.

The dance was held for a second time following its success among Combat Center families last year, according to Jessica Arthur, Family Readiness Officer, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command. Participation from service members and their daughters increased by 50%.

“It was so successful last year,” Arthur said. “It’s all about making memories for the service members and their daughters.”

According to Arthur, FROs convened to plan and organize the event. Through sponsorship by Lincoln Military Housing and hours of volunteer time from civilians and service members alike, the dance was ready for show time.

Approximately 576 attendees danced the night

*“Events like this definitely help given the deployments, and bring the families together.”*

– Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh

away, according to Arthur. Fathers could be seen wearing suits, Navy dress blues and Marine Corps dress blues as their daughters, of various ages, donned their finest dresses for the night.

“[The dance] was fun,” said Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh, mortarman, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, whom attended with his 1-year-old daughter, Genevieve. “It was our first dance and we had been looking forward to it.”

The music played ranged from upbeat pop hits to slow, serene tunes provided by Lance Cpl. Andrew Cornell, whom was the disc jockey for

See **DANCE, A6**

# Combat Center mess halls serve up something new

**Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis**  
Combat Correspondent

When service members think of eating at the chow hall, there is often a negative connotation that comes along with it, but aboard the Combat Center, and at mess facilities across the Department of Defense, the bar has been raised with regards to food options and hours of operation making the on-base mess facilities a more desirable option when it comes to chow.

"There is a team of people who get together from Head Quarters Marine Corps and they look at the guidelines and nutritional information of all the possible menu items to serve in the chow halls," said Bill Gearhart, technical representative, Base Food Service. "From there, they try to put together a variety of dishes that will be what the Marines will be interested in. For instance, (Cpl. Jason L. Dunham Memorial Mess Hall) offers a salad bar, market, grill, pizza, pasta bar, Panini station, and a Mongolian grill."

The Combat Center hosts four mess facilities aboard the installation, which offer a wide variety of nutritious options for Marines and sailors to choose from.

## Littleton Hall

The main dining area at Pfc. Herbert Littleton Mess Hall is currently closed for construction and will be re-opening in mid-April after being renovated with two new sculleries, and all new flooring.

"Littleton (Hall) serves breakfast to-go (from 5:30 to 11 a.m.), which consists of breakfast sandwiches that are egg and cheese with either bacon or sausage. They also have breakfast burritos, which come with chorizo, bacon or sausage," said Cpl. Timmothy Mackert, quality assurance evaluator, Base Food Service.

"During lunch, they serve hamburgers, hotdogs, riblets and chicken sandwiches with fries; and from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., they serve pizza."

Littleton Hall will offer a salad bar as well as grill, market, and fusion, which serves various Asian foods prepared in a wok and custom-made salad prepared with chicken or shrimp.

## Phelps Mess Hall

Pfc. Chance Phelps Mess Hall offers a salad bar as well as grill, market and fusion lines. This mess hall also offers a submarine bar in between meals.

"The market line will always have two proteins, chicken, pork, beef or fish and then two vegetables and two starches like rice or potatoes," said Sgt. Jose Rojas, quality assurance evaluator, Base Food Service.

## Dunham Hall

Cpl. Jason L. Dunham Mess Hall is the newest addition to the Combat Center and offers a salad bar as well as market, grill, pizza lines, a pasta bar, panini station, and Mongolian grill.

"The Mongolian Grill is served on Wednesdays, and also Saturdays and Sundays during breakfast brunch," Gearhart said.

## Camp Wilson Mess Hall

Camp Wilson is a field feeding site, according to Gearhart. The Marines who come to the Combat Center for training such as the Integrated Training Exercise, staff the chow hall at Camp Wilson. This gives them the opportunity to train and practice using all of the cooking equipment they will use when they are forward deployed. Marines who are not participating in a training exercise will not have access to the Camp Wilson Chow Hall.

All of the mess halls also serve a variety of different coffee flavors including French vanilla, hazelnut, dark roast, light roast and decaffeinated, which are all fresh-brewed every 45 minutes.



PHOTOS BY CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

Lance Cpl. Roger Bivens, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, ladles dressing on to a salad at the salad bar in Dunham Hall, Monday. Marines and sailors may choose from a variety of healthy toppings with which to adorn their salads.

### Phelps Mess Hall

Hours of Operation:  
Breakfast 6 – 8 a.m.  
Lunch: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Dinner: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Breakfast Brunch: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Dinner Brunch: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### Phelps Hall Submarine Bar

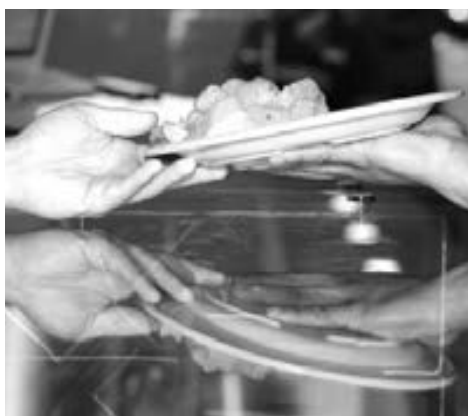
Hours of Operation:  
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
Weekends: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

### Dunham Hall

Hours of Operation:  
Breakfast: 6 – 8 a.m.  
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Dinner: 5 – 7 p.m.  
Breakfast Brunch: 8 a.m. – 11 p.m.  
Dinner Brunch: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### Littleton Hall

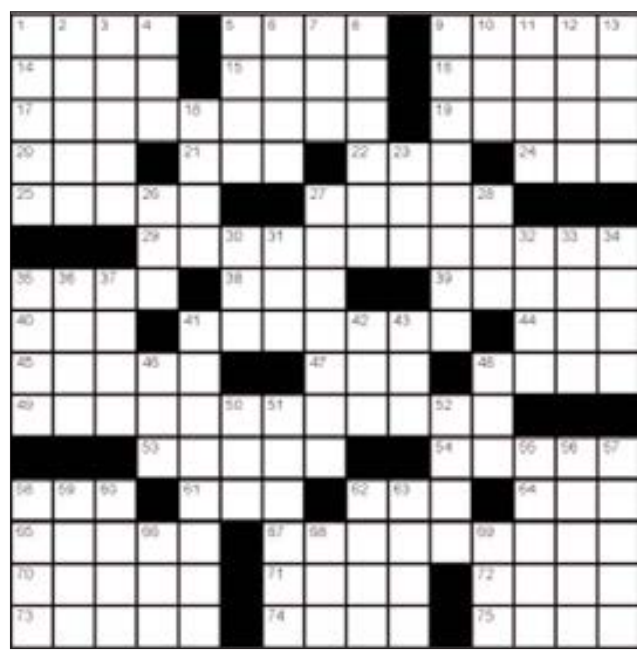
Take-out only  
Hours of Operation:  
Breakfast: 5:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Lunch: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Dinner: 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Not open on weekends.



Food service employees prepare and serve a variety of dishes at the mess halls aboard the Combat Center. Menus are created by a team of people at Headquarters Marine Corps, and reflect the recommended nutritional intake Marines need to perform effectively.

## “RHYME TIME”

- Across**
- 1 Sheep sounds
  - 5 Robert Frost work
  - 9 \_\_\_ video (Internet sensation)
  - 14 Singer Fitzgerald
  - 15 Not pro-
  - 16 Pleasant smell
  - 17 Another person
  - 19 John and Jane and Jim and Janet
  - 20 Anger
  - 21 Dir. away from SSW
  - 22 “I don't think so”
  - 24 Tiny crawler
  - 25 Gin and \_\_\_
  - 27 Pitching great \_\_\_ Ryan
  - 29 Roasted garlic has it
  - 35 Eminem songs
  - 38 Church seat
  - 39 Kind of resin
  - 40 Individual
  - 41 He has a carrot nose and coal eyes
  - 44 Golfer's peg
  - 45 Swipe
  - 47 Possesses
  - 48 Writing instruments for brave crossword solvers
  - 49 Kind of bee
  - 53 Perspiration
  - 54 Bowling alley parts
  - 58 Charlotte of “The Facts of Life”
  - 61 \_\_\_ and flow
  - 62 Wal-Mart founder Walton
- Down**
- 64 “Bravo!”
  - 65 Deodorant brand
  - 67 Shout in a deep voice
  - 70 Japanese 5-Across
  - 71 Section
  - 72 “The King \_\_\_”
  - 73 Expensive
  - 74 Half of checkers pieces
  - 75 Spotted
  - 1 Suit
  - 2 Oldsmobile model
  - 3 Director Woody
  - 4 Actor Mineo
  - 5 Chess piece that can become a queen
  - 6 “This one's \_\_\_!”
  - 7 Greek letter
  - 8 Tiny fish
  - 9 “Jump” rock group
  - 10 Nest egg money
  - 11 Tomato named for an Italian city
  - 12 “I agree!”
  - 13 Final
  - 18 “\_\_\_ upon a time...”
  - 23 TV alien
  - 26 Types to online, for short
  - 27 “Where do we go from here?”
  - 28 Snooze
  - 30 Medical professional,



- for short
- 31 Actor DiCaprio, or a zodiac sign
- 32 Mark a ballot
- 33 Beasts of burden
- 34 Bread choices
- 35 Optimistic, like an outlook
- 36 Money before a poker hand
- 37 Lemon or orange covering
- 41 Reduced the progress of
- 42 \_\_\_ and cheese
- 43 Inquire
- 46 Roker and Michaels
- 48 School org.
- 50 Spider's home
- 51 NBA great Kareem Abdul-\_\_\_
- 52 “Tickled” doll of the 1990s
- 55 Not a soul
- 56 Keep away from
- 57 \_\_\_ stone (unchangeable)
- 58 Crowd cheers
- 59 “I smell \_\_\_!”
- 60 One of the Great Lakes
- 62 Wintertime fun
- 63 “Poor me!”
- 66 Pres. Eisenhower
- 68 Before
- 69 Used to be

See answers on page A6

## SUDOKU 3222 M

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

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- 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.  
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- 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

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## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Nick

Buffalo, N.Y. data systems technician, 9th Communications Battalion, 19

## CARBONI



> **When I was growing up**, my grandpa, on my mom's side, was one of those guys you would see in a 1950s movie. He had fast cars, leather jackets, slicked back hair and was always working on cars.

> **My grandpa** on my dad's side was also into cars and participated in amateur racing. Having both grandparents into cars developed my fascination for them.

> **When I was younger**, I was also interested in art, and would enjoy drawing cars. I have always been fascinated with the way they look, especially sports cars.

> **I learned to drive** at a very young age, helping my grandparents by driving tractors in the cornfields. As soon as I turned 15, I was in line for my permit and eventually my license.

> **While I was in** Buffalo, there wasn't a lot of opportunity to drive like there is in California.

> **My true passion is** luxury sports cars. My dream is to own a Lamborghini or a Ferrari.

> **My first car was a** red, 1991 Thunderbird. After having that, I realized how much I admired and appreciated the open road. Being able to hit the highway without a care in the world, with no one around, is a great feeling.

> **I would also eventually** like to get a motorcycle. I could see myself doing a roadtrip across the country on a bike.

CARBONI IS A MARINE WITH G-6 COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS WHO SHARES A PASSION FOR BEING A MARINE AND FOR AUTOMOBILES. HE DRIVES A SPORTS CAR THAT IS NO LONGER MADE, AND ONE DAY ASPIRES TO OWN A LAMBORGHINI.

> **Being stationed at** Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., I have a lot of opportunities to drive. There are a ton of old highways and scenic routes that I enjoy. My favorite route to drive is the Pacific Coast Highway. There is a ton of history on that highway, and the view of the entire West Coast is amazing.

> **Being temporarily assigned** to the Combat Center, I have had the opportunity to enjoy desert driving as well. There is a ton of open road, straight roads out here that I have learned to appreciate also. I was here a few years ago as a student, and it is definitely a different experience being out here with my car.

> **When I go back to** Camp Pendleton, I have a few rituals. I always make it a point to stop at Black Rock Coffee, where they serve this drink called the 'Jackhammer.' It consists of five espresso shots. A trip to the beach is also a must.

> **I currently drive** a Toyota MR2 Spyder that I purchased at the lemon lot on Camp Pendleton. I chose that car because you don't see a lot of them around and I like that. You see a lot of people with the same cars and I like to drive something that stands out.

> **Being a Marine** hasn't affected my love for cars. While I stay busy at work during the day, I still have plenty of opportunities to drive and research things to do to my car.

> **I eventually want** to do some modifications to the Spyder. There is a lot of opportunity to upgrade it, and I plan on doing that once I pick up corporal and start making a little bit more money.

> **The Spyder is a good** vehicle to have in my current situation. I travel back and forth from Camp Pendleton to the Combat Center almost every weekend. It is a manual, so it keeps me awake and alert when I'm driving long distances. It also gets really good gas mileage, which helps me save money.

> **I eventually want to** upgrade to a new sports car, but I think I will keep the Spyder as a side project.

> **I have always wanted** to travel across the country in a vehicle. I could take my admiration for scenery across several states. If a permanent change of station to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. is in my future, I will get that opportunity.

> **I plan on coming back** to California someday. The impression it has left on me makes me want to return if I leave.

> **I have a lot of** saving to do for the car I want in the future. I'm going to have to start saving my pennies for that Lamborghini.

> **A lot of people** from New York don't ever want to leave. While I enjoy going home and visiting Buffalo, there is so much more to do in California and so many more opportunities for me.

> **My favorite part** of being out in Southern California is the cars you see. Down in San Diego, I always see super nice sports cars and it reminds me that I need to save to reach my goal.

> **I don't know** a lot of Marines who drive Lamborghinis, but I wouldn't mind being the first.



Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock March 31, 2014

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# New robots keep Marines safe, assists in IED detection

Story and photos by **Lance Cpl. Joey Mendez**

The Robotic Systems Joint Project Office conducted new equipment training on the Route Reconnaissance and Clearance, or R2C, robot with Marines from the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 10-13. The training event included classroom instruction, practical exercise and an end-of-course test to certify the Marines to operate the R2C robot.

"The R2C robot is a [counter-improvised explosive device] tool," said Lou Anulare, assistant program manager, Marine Corps Unmanned Ground Vehicles in Warren, Mich. "This system provides a new option for route reconnaissance and clearance operations to be used in place of putting Marines in harm's way."

As the office responsible for everything from acquisition to sustainment of unmanned ground systems for the Army and Marine Corps, RS JPO reports to both the Army's Program Executive Officer for Ground Combat Systems and Marine Corps Systems Command.

They have fielded 22 R2C robots to Marine operating forces since January.

The R2C robot features an improved communications system with two radio frequencies so it can operate in the continental United States and overseas. The robot is also equipped with a fiberoptic spooler, allowing it to be tethered to the controller in situations where radio frequency cannot be used.

"While under radio frequency operation, the R2C increases the Marines' arm length to over 800 meters, providing them a safe distance to do interrogation of possible IED threats," Anulare said. "So far in theater, we've had more than 800 robots destroyed. We believe each one of those losses represents a Marine or soldier's life or limb saved."

Additionally, a three-link arm gives the robot increased reach for more flexibility. The robot also has multiple cameras, providing Marines improved visibility when evaluating potential threats.

The R2C robots were fielded to Marine combat engineers who support ground forces by performing demolition, construction, mine clearing, maintenance and repair operations.

"This robot is a great piece of gear," said Sgt. Jared Mount, a combat engineer with the 2nd CEB. "This is the sixth or seventh robot I've worked with. It definitely tops the robots we've used. The controllers are easier to use, and it can pick up more weight with the heavier arm. The cameras and new arm make it much easier to maneuver. It's going to save more Marines' lives."

The R2C robot is based on the Army's FasTac robot, a legacy commercial-off-the-shelf platform. The Army provided excess FasTacs to the Marine Corps, which reduced the time it took to field the capability to Marines, said Col. Ben Stinson, RS JPO project manager.

The Marine Corps worked with Army engineers and logisticians from the Detroit Arsenal Team to modify and upgrade the FasTacs to meet Marine Corps requirements, Stinson said.

"Additionally, [Marines] are embedded with the Army at RS JPO," Stinson said. "Their knowledge and expertise played heavily in our ability to establish a production line to upgrade the robots. RS JPO has a depot-like maintenance capability, so the expertise of how to tear apart and rebuild the robots was resident because of the mission we've had for the last 12 years supporting [Operation Enduring Freedom]."

The R2C robot is the first robotics program of record for the Marine Corps.

"Being a program of record means the robot now has the ability to exist after the war," Stinson said. "It is in the base funding for R2C, will be incorporated into the school house [curriculum] and provisioned through the Marine Corps supply system. We transitioned a commercial item procured for OEF to an enduring program that will be used after the war."

*"This robot is a great piece of gear ... it's going to save Marine's lives."*

— Sgt. Jared Mount



**[Above]** A Route Reconnaissance and Clearance robot, operated by a Marine with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, maneuvers over an obstacle during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 11. The robot is controlled through a computer and hand-held controller, and is used to go places too dangerous for Marines. The robot can climb stairs and maneuver any terrain.

**[Below]** Marines with 2nd CEB, 2nd Marine Division, learn to operate an R2C robot during a training exercise aboard MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 11. R2C robots can scout for roadside bombs, search buildings and vehicles, and are capable of going up to 800 meters away from the control point.



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See page B2 for our **LIBERTY CALL** section

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# FITNESS for Life



## Healthy Base Initiative supports base-wide campaign

Story and photos by Cpl. Charles Santamaria

The Healthy Base Initiative took its first steps aboard the Combat Center and Marine Corps Community Services is introducing new programs and reinforcing existing ones to promote healthier lifestyles for service members and their families. Tobacco Cessation, High Intensity Tactical Training (HITT), Nutrition education and youth sports are some of the programs receiving new elements and attention to support the initiative.

"The Healthy Base Initiative is an effort to increase health and wellness across the installation through education, activity and assessment," said Brad Brimhall, director, Semper Fit, MCCS.

MCCS' Semper Fit division is supporting the initiative by implementing more youth sports, fitness testing and fitness-based activities for families aboard the base. One such program is the Homeschool Physical Education Program which hosts a weekly class for children aboard the Combat Center who receive home schooling.

"The physical education program we started begins with a warm-up exercise then lets kids experience a different sport every month with one class a week," said James Burke, youth sports director, MCCS. "The class actually brings coaches, who are familiar with the sport, teach the fundamentals, and at the end of the month, we move to another sport."

These new programs give children an opportunity to experience sports like rock climbing and golf. As the program progresses, more elements will be added. This includes classes on nutrition and setting goals.

"It's great to see my boys excited to participate every week," said (Ret.) Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Perez. "The program breaks up the normal routine and exposes them to many different sports which give a lot of opportunities to find something else they may like. It also builds family structure because they get to interact with other children and it teaches them about healthy living which sets them up for success."

Other programs like Tobacco Cessation and HITT also promote healthy lifestyles by educating service members on tobacco use and exercise. The Healthy Base Initiative will be introducing several programs to promote a healthy lifestyle for not just children but the whole family.

"The initiative is to encourage healthier choices in everything from diets to the way units exercise and educate themselves on nutrition," Brimhall said. "I would like to see more units use the HITT program which not only provides workout programs similar to those used by professional athletes but classes that inform participants on proper technique and workout routines."

Fitness tests will begin in on-base youth sports programs to gauge the impact they have on the youth. In basketball, soccer and football youth leagues, Approximately 435 children from the ages of six to 10 have participated in fitness tests. At the end of each season, the participants will conduct the same test to see how they have improved.

"It's good that this initiative is encouraging healthy choices starting from the youth all the way to the parents and service members," Burke said. "I'm looking forward to seeing even more improvement and support for the initiative and its goal to make a healthier base."

Albeit the Healthy Base initiative has already began, MCCS is always finding way to spread the word of healthy living and will continue to improve facilities and programs to support health and wellness.

"The goal is to give service members and their families the tools and opportunities to make healthy decisions," Brimhall said. "If world-class athletes have top-of-the-line facilities and equipment, why can't service members who defend our nation have the same."



**[Top]** Nick Perez, 10, and Matthew Perez, 11, sons of Timothy Perez, execute warm-up exercises during the Homeschooling Physical Education Program's weekly class, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, at Desert Winds Golf Course, Tuesday.

**[Left]** Amanda Knutson, 9, daughter of Lt. Col. John Knutson, instructor, Marine Corps Training Operations Group, puts a golf ball during the Homeschooling Physical Education Program, hosted by MCCS, at Desert Winds Golf Course, Tuesday.

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**DANCE. FROM A1**

the event. Sweet refreshments such as cookies, candy and drinks were also readily available for the dancers. “[Events] like this definitely help given the deployments, and bring the families together,” Walsh said. In addition to the music, attendees also had portraits taken, capturing the memories of a truly special night.

We couldn’t have done it without the support of our FROs and volunteers, Arthur said. The event coordinators have high hopes to reconvene and plan for the dance to make a return next year. “It definitely is a good bonding event for the fathers and daughters,” Arthur said. “We want to see it happen again, and I think the fathers and daughters do too.”



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

Staff Sgt. Jacob Mahaffey, logistics chief, 7th Marine Regiment, prepares to dance with his daughters, Abigail, 8, and Emma, 4, during the Father-Daughter dance at Building 1707, March 28. Family Readiness Officers and volunteers aboard the Combat Center organized and ran the event throughout the night.

**FATHER. FROM A1**

because I don’t just make decisions for myself anymore, I make them for my family. I feel terrible because I can’t be there for my wife when she needs me most, but I volunteered to fight for my country as a Marine Corps infantryman, and this is one of the sacrifices I have to make.” Kalib is slated to return home to his family during September. This is his final deployment before his current contract with the Marine Corps ends. “I know as hard as this deployment is for me, it’s ten times harder

for him because he is away from his newborn daughter,” Mariolbis said. “I hope he knows how proud we are of what he is doing for our country. I know he is going to be an awesome father, and I can’t wait for him to start bonding with Kylie.” One of the first things Kalib plans to do when he returns from Afghanistan is to take his wife and daughter to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Kalib plans to pursue a college education and work for a local fire department after completing his active service in the Marine Corps.

**DENTAL. FROM A1**

have this in place,” Glover said. “It made me start thinking how we could reach our readiness goal, and this ‘stand-down’ effort has been effective.” Currently, the clinic consists of 16 active-duty doctors and 29 corpsmen that assist the doctors in conducting exams. On any given day, each doctor can have from six to eight patients. “We work extremely hard here, but it’s worth it knowing the impact we have on the Marines and sailors readiness aboard the base,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Sharon Williams, hospital corpsman, 23rd Dental Company. “It has been a great team effort for everyone involved here, and we look forward to maintaining our goal.” The clinic also contains 12 civilian employees consisting of three hygienists and 9 dental assistants, all of which are spouses or dependents of active-duty military personnel. “This is my way of contributing,” said Debbie Genet, root canal assistant, 23rd Dental Company. “My main priority is my patients. I do my best to make sure they are as comfortable as possible. No one wants to come in for a root canal, but

we do our best here to make sure every Marine and sailor is well taken care of.” The clinic offers a Red Cross Dental Assisting Program, which is a volunteer opportunity for civilians interested in pursuing a career in the dental field. They are required to complete 700 hours of assisting, as well as training in all of the departments, to receive their certificate of completion. “The program is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in the dental field,” Genet said. “All of our volunteers take their positions very seriously and it is a chance to get great hands-on experience.” The clinic also remains busy with the task of checking Marines and sailors in and out. The clinic offers check-in and check-outs during their sick call hours, which are 7:00-10:00 am and 1:00-2:00 pm. The clinic also has a 24-hour duty officer on-call for emergencies. “Our ultimate goal is making sure our Marines and sailors are dental-ready while promoting the importance of oral health,” Ruff said. “If we can do all of that, and maintain 95 percent readiness, we are accomplishing our mission in an impressive fashion.”

**EXERCISE. FROM A1**

hesitation.” “It was good training,” said the team sergeant, 10th SFG (A). “The Combat Center’s training areas opened up a lot of options and allowed us to have a TRAP exercise and even multiple exercises that were as realistic as possible.”

Joint-training exercises such as this one allow Marines to share knowledge with other units as well as learn some new tactics themselves. Personnel recovery training with other branches gives service members an opportunity to see different methods of reaching the same objective, and ultimately make better warfighters.



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

An Army Special Forces weapons sergeant, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), informs a Marine on the current situation while providing security during a Tactical Recovery of Air crew and Personnel exercise. Marines and Green Berets worked together to locate and evacuate two simulated downed pilots.

**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

B	A	A	S		P	O	E	M		V	I	R	A	L
E	L	L	A		A	N	T	I		A	R	O	M	A
F	E	L	L	O	W	M	A	N		N	A	M	E	S
I	R	E		N	N	E		N	A	H		A	N	T
T	O	N	I	C			N	O	L	A	N			
			M	E	L	L	O	W	F	L	A	V	O	R
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**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

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

**LOOKING for local entertainment?**

See page B2 for our **LIBERTY CALL** section

# Army Special Forces train with Marines aboard Combat Center

**Cpl. Charles Santamaria**  
Combat Correspondent

The target sits motionless downrange as teams spread across the mountainside stare through the glass of their high-power scopes. Under the camouflage of nets lined with twigs and pieces of brush, Marines and Green Berets begin making adjustments for distance and wind, to hit the mark. The shooter steadies his breathing as his index finger slowly retracts and squeezes the trigger sending the round down range toward a target positioned in a doorway. The spotter confirms the hit and the shooter pulls the bolt back releasing the bullet casing and chambering another round, ready for his next target.

Marines trained alongside Green Berets from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) during a sniper course of fire at Range 205. The course of fire was part of a four week, joint-training exercise between Army Special Forces and Marines.

The range included static targets positioned up to 955 meters away. Marines saw the challenge and enjoyment of participating in the exercise.

"I'm an avid shooter myself, but shooting at that distance was really fun," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Champer, joint fires observer, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. "It was exciting seeing this side of the military, so working with the Special Forces team was a great time."

The course taught the Green Berets and Marines the value of having a good position and properly measuring the distance of a target. The fundamentals of marksmanship came into play

even more at the greater distances of fire.

"It's great that those Marines have the opportunity to participate in this training with this team," said Sgt. Matt Dorman, joint terminal attack controller, 2/10. "The training we are doing with the team is usually only reserved for special schools, so it's a great thing to experience."

Along with long-range shooting, the exercise also had the service members construct hide-sights for concealment during fire. The course of fire challenged both Marines and soldiers to fire atop the Combat Center's rocky terrain from several angles. The exercise also challenged service members at night by requiring them to use an attachment on the scope of the rifle and the spotter's scope to engage targets with night vision.

"The focus of this exercise is to train the Marines and soldiers to be able to fire at targets from the inside and outside of a town. The freedom of the Combat Center's ranges provides many possibilities for training," said a team sergeant, 10th SFG (A). "The cross training with the Marines is great for both sides because knowledge can be passed both ways and it's a great opportunity for them to experience something new and out of their comfort zone."

The benefit of this training is that Marines and Green Berets learn from each other. The environment of the Combat Center not only became one of challenging terrain and realistic training, but one of different tactics coming together to become even more refined through cross training between branches.



PHOTOS BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

**[Above]** Lance Cpl. Jonathan Champer, joint fire observer, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, sights in on his target during the "in town" portion of the sniper course of fire which was held at Range 205.

**[Below]** An Army Special Forces communications sergeant, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), fires a round through the window of a room during a sniper course of fire held at Range 205.

**[Below, left]** An Army Special Forces communications sergeant, 10th SFG (A), spots targets and calls adjustments for his shooter on a mountainside by Range 205. The exercise offered the challenge of mountainside shooting.



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# LEADING FROM THE FRONT

## Marine stays true to values, earns meritorious promotion

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

On that cold September day in 2001, mixed emotions filled the hearts and minds of many as the wreckage caused was displayed live across America. Some lost family, some lost friends. Some became fearful of the future, and some decided to make a difference.

For Gunnery Sgt. Craig Wilcox, who at the time was a history student, the tragic event would alter his career route and lead him to the Marine Corps, where he would endure numerous deployments and become recognized as a stand-out Marine.

"I remember after the attacks, I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself," said Wilcox, the company gunnery sergeant for Company A, Headquarters Battalion. "I was majoring in history because I wanted to be a teacher. I came to the decision that instead of finishing school and teaching history, I needed to go out and make history."

In February of 2002, Wilcox made his way to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., where he would earn the title "Marine."

"My first duty station was at Camp Lejeune with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment," said Wilcox, a Minnesota native. "While I was there, from 2002-2006, we did four deployments, one to Iraq, two to Afghanistan and one to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba."

After multiple combat deployments, Wilcox was faced with the decision to re-enlist or accept an honorable discharge and pursue a potential teaching career.

"I decided to extend my contract for the opportunity to go back to Iraq," Wilcox said. "At this time in my career, I was a sergeant, and that was my best time in the Marines. I loved being a sergeant. I was a squad leader, and in the infantry, that is what it's all about."

Wilcox's experience grew with his fifth deployment. In 2006 he re-enlisted and was relocated to the School of Infantry in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. While there, he trained countless future infantrymen while the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan waged on. He was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant before leaving the school.

"While instructing, we had a good foundation of instructors who had a lot of knowledge and experience to bring to the table," Wilcox said. "One thing I learned is that different grunts from different units do things a lot differently. The end state is usually the same, but it was a great opportunity for us all to learn from each other, and that allowed us to prepare future infantrymen for deployment."

As a newly promoted staff sergeant, Wilcox was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, where he would leave on a third deployment to Afghanistan, this time with 43 men under his charge.

"I remember the day I was promoted to staff sergeant," Wilcox said. "An old first sergeant told me 'Congratulations, you deserve it, but keep this in mind, your time is no longer yours.' 'At the time I didn't realize what he was saying, but I learned very quickly what he meant. When you are a staff sergeant, [you are] second. Your troops, the mission, become first and foremost, just as they should be.'"

Wilcox has become very familiar with being



meritoriously promoted. He has received meritorious promotions to private first class, corporal and

worry about any task that I give him. He is extremely professional and dedicated. I have to constantly kick him out of work. He is a true example for everyone, officer and enlisted. He appreciates and takes his position very serious here, and is an extremely valuable asset for anyone he works for or with."

Getting your hopes up and worrying about things out of your control are never things to concern yourself with, according to Wilcox.

"This was my third time putting in for a meritorious gunnery sergeant promotion, so I didn't really get my hopes up," Wilcox said. "I got my stuff together and told myself the record will speak for itself and at this point it was out of my control. I've always believed if you stay focused on the right things, everything else will fall into place. I try to stay as grounded and humble as possible, and if things don't work out, I figure it's for a reason."

Wilcox plans to take advantage of his promotion by furthering his career and continuing to better the Marines under his charge and learn from those above him.

"My philosophy has always been don't worry too hard about trying to promote yourself," Wilcox said. "Take your job, learn it inside and out, and just drive on with that. Work as hard as you can, and the accolades will follow. If you spend so much time worrying about yourself, you are going to drop the ball and miss something. Worry about your troops, worry about the mission, and everything else will take care of itself. Thus far, that has worked for me."

Wilcox, who was officially promoted to gunnery sergeant on Wednesday, will finish his time as the A Co. gunnery sergeant and move into the S-3 training section

within HQBN.

Working in the S-3, Wilcox will further have the opportunity to interact and influence Marines, as well as prepare himself for the day he returns to the infantry world and is leading troops into the next fight.

"He lives what he preaches," Mawson said. "It is not his personality to make himself known. You can tell he loves being a Marine, and he loves taking care of his Marines. You don't hear him throwing his resume out on the table, or talking about what he's done, or asking for anyone to give him recognition or credit, because I don't think he cares about that. He just cares about being a Marine."

**"When the board for gunnery sergeant came up, Wilcox was a no-brainer decision."**

**-Sgt. Maj. Abel Leal**

staff sergeant, and was selected meritoriously to gunnery sergeant.

"He was a stand-out staff sergeant," said Sgt. Maj. Abel Leal, HQBN sergeant major. "The perception of him is outstanding amongst the senior leaders within HQBN. He is the continuity of the battalion, and a true go-getter. He plays a major role in making this battalion functional. When the board for gunnery sergeant came up, Wilcox was a no-brainer decision."

Being meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant is one of the toughest things to achieve in the Marine Corps. In order to obtain such an honor, a Marine must stand out in all the aspects of being a Marine, and go above and beyond his or her peers, according to Leal.

"He embodies the whole Marine concept," Leal added. "Those are the kinds of Marines I look for. It is great to have a Marine who is good at their

**"He is a true example for everyone, officer and enlisted."**

**-Capt. Shannon Mawson**

job, but if they don't make up the whole Marine concept, then it is tough to succeed. Wilcox grasps the concept and proves that on a daily basis."

To earn the promotion, Wilcox was one of two staff non-commissioned officers affiliated with the Combat Center who were selected to the Marine Corps Training and Education Command board, where Wilcox finished first. After being recognized as a superior Marine in the third and final board at Marine Corps Combat Development Command, he was told he would be promoted.

"When I think of Wilcox, I think of a fire and forget weapon," said Capt. Shannon Mawson, commanding officer, A Co., HQBN. "I never have to

**[Top]** Gunnery Sgt. Patrick Lewis, Company C gunnery sergeant, Headquarters Battalion, and Master Sgt. Mark Schmeisser, academics, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, pin newly promoted Gunnery Sgt. Craig Wilcox, Company A gunnery sergeant, HQBN, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday.

**[Right]** Gunnery Sgt. Craig Wilcox, Co. A gunnery sergeant, HQBN, recites the staff non-commissioned officers' creed to Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, during his meritorious promotion to gunnery sergeant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday. Berger led the ceremony for the newly promoted gunnery sergeant.





## Liberty Call



### Combat Center Events

#### March Madness

All games and top standings can be viewed at the 5th Street Zone. The Marine or sailor with the top scoring bracket will 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, MCCA employees and their families.

When: March 3 - April 11

Where: Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center

For more information, call 830-3910

#### Chief's Show and Shine

Have an evening of cool drinks and cool cars with the performance of The Burning Rome at 1 and 3 p.m. The event is free of charge to attend.

When: April 12

Where: Hashmarks Parking Lot

For more information, call 830-5086

#### 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 - 3:30 p.m. and Thurs. 9 - 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call 830-5035

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

### Sunset Cinema

#### Friday, April 4

4 p.m. – Free Admission Journey 2: Mysterious Island, PG

6 p.m. – Winter's Tale PG-13

8:30 p.m. – RoboCop, PG-13

11:30 p.m. – 3 Days to Kill, PG-13

#### Saturday, April 5

10:30 a.m. – Free Admission Brave, PG

12:30 p.m. – Son of God, PG-13

3:30 p.m. – Pompeii, PG-13

6 p.m. – About Last Night, R

8:30 p.m. – 3 Days to Kill, PG-13

11:30 p.m. – 300: Rise of an Empire 3-D, R

#### Sunday, April 6

12:30 p.m. – Tyler Perry's Single Mom's Club, PG-13

3 p.m. – Pompeii, PG-13

5:30 p.m. – 300: Rise of an Empire 3-D, R

8 p.m. – Non-Stop, PG-13

#### Monday, April 7

6 p.m. – Son of God, PG -13

#### Tuesday, April 8

6 p.m. – 300: Rise of an Empire 3-D, R

#### Wednesday, April 9

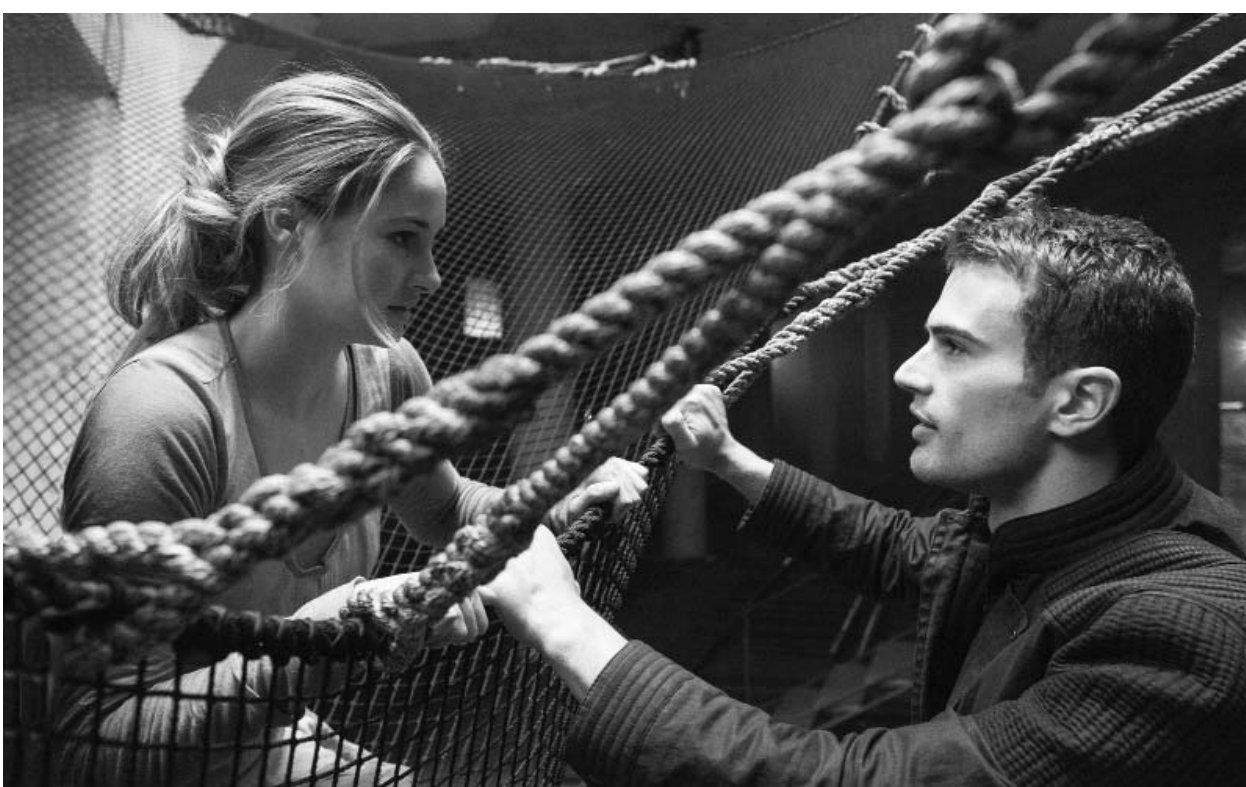
5 p.m. – Winter's Tale, PG-13

7:30 p.m. – Pompeii, PG-13

#### Thursday, April 10

5:30 p.m. – RoboCop, PG-13

7:30 p.m. – About Last Night, R



## Young audiences can relate to the future-shock emotions of 'Divergent'

NEIL POND

*"Divergent"*

Starring Shailene Woodley, Theo James & Kate Winslet

Directed by Neal Burger

PG-13, 139 min.

This latest vision of a totalitarian, dystopian future comes by way of author Veronica Roth, whose popular young adult novels are now Hollywood's latest hopes to cash in with the audience — and payday — of "The Hunger Games" and "Twilight" franchises.

"Divergent," the first in Roth's trilogy of best-sellers, centers on teenagers who are tested and sorted into one of five groups, or factions, when they turn 16. The classification locks them into irreversible courses to become selfless public servants; brainy scholars and scientists; pacifist farmers; warrior protectors; or truth-seeking lawmakers.

Born into the public-service group, Beatrice (Shailene Woodley) "tests" with evidence of more than one faction: Uh-oh, she's a "divergent," and being more than one thing is considered bad — and dangerous. She's a mutation that threatens the social order.

Beatrice bucks her test results, gives a parting glance to her crestfallen mom (Ashley Judd) and runs off (literally) to join the fearless "warrior" group, Dauntless. She shortens her name to Tris

and falls for her mentor/instructor, Four (Theo James), who becomes her partner in uncovering a diabolical scheme by the cold, calculating head of the intellectual Erudite group (Kate Winslet) that could spell doom for Tris and her kind.

It's easy to see how this story has a built-in appeal to young audiences. Teenagers can certainly relate to its young characters leaving home, trying to figure out who they are, facing major decisions about their futures, and rebelling against forces conspiring to steer them places they may not want to go.

The plot is rather dense, often clumsy and clunky, and the whole thing could stand to be about 25 minutes shorter. Director Neal Burger can't quite seem to get out from under the long shadow of "The Hunger Games," which looms large.

But Woodley is delight to watch; her face can convey a spectrum of emotion — delight, bemusement, betrayal, regret — with only the slightest movement, a subtle shift in her eyes or a morph of her lips. She's also now become a capable action-adventure star. The camera also loves James, and the romantic heat between the two of them will melt away a lot of the shortcomings in "Divergent" as far as its sizeable target audience is concerned.

"We need to keep moving," says Four in the final scene, as he and Tris leap aboard a speeding train, heading toward the sun and tomorrow. Keep moving, indeed, and all aboard: The "Divergent" sequel, "Insurgent," begins production in May.



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# Royal Flush

## SMP delivers straights at free Texas Hold 'em Tournament

Story and photos by Cpl. Charles Santamaria

A man sits at a table seating six and feels the tension in the air. The dealer stands up and passes two cards to each player as they exchange glances from their seats. The young man is confident in his ability and without a doubt looks at his cards and places his bet. As the dealer begins flipping the five community cards the players begin reading each other's movements, looking for the slightest gesture as a sign to a bluff. The man knows that the value of the cards he's been dealt does not matter; because it's not the game he is trying to play, it's the players.

Pvt. Alexander Sexauer, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, took the experience he gained from that moment and applied it during the Single Marine Program's free Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament at The 5th Street Zone, March 28. The tournament is held on a monthly basis and saw the participation of 41 service members this time around.

"A lot of Marines ask for these tournaments to happen," said Darryl Elliot Jr., poker tournament coordinator, Single Marine Program. The poker tournaments started as a quarterly event but because of the growing participation and high demand, it became monthly. "It's great to see Marines having fun playing here, and most importantly, it's all free."

The event did not require a fee of any kind and service members of all skill levels were able to participate. Not only newcomers, but seasoned veterans saw the entertainment in the event.

"It's been about 15 years since I began playing card games like poker,"

Sexauer said. "I began watching on television from a very young age and I had a 'board game family' so I played a lot of card games in general. The first thing that actually attracted me to poker was the chips and the rest is history."

No matter how the players learned poker or decided to participate in the poker tournament, the challenge of the game became evident as players dropped one-by-one. Once players lost all of their chips, they had to leave the table and could no longer play for the night.

"I play the player, not the cards. A lot of the challenge and joy I find in poker is the feeling of not knowing what's on the other person's mind," Sexauer said. "Knowing how to read someone is so important because you never know what cards the other player has or if they are just trying to trick you into believing they have a better hand."

Tournament coordinators welcomed all active-duty service members to learn and play the game of Texas Hold 'em at The Zone for friendly competition and a good time.

"We just want these tournaments to be more frequent for more people to participate," Elliot said. "Knowing the Marines can come here and play before going out and spending real money is also reassuring. We just want to welcome service members to The Zone and show them how much we have to offer them."

Sgt. John Krumsiek, platoon sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, was the overall winner of the event and will defend his title at next month's tournament.



**[Top]** Players stack their chips at the end of a hand during the free Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament hosted by the Single Marine Program at The 5th Street Zone, March 28. Players competed for a prize reserved for the poker player left with the most chips.

**[Above]** Lance Cpl. Cory Poole, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, deals cards to the players at his table during the free Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament hosted by the Single Marine Program at The 5th Street Zone, March 28. Players began with the same amount of chips and played until they were the last ones at their table before advancing.

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