



CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN

Capt. Scott Stewart, left, commanding officer, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, speaks with an Afghan police officer during a mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 17.

Marines disrupt Taliban lethal aid in Helmand province

Cpl. Joseph Scanlan
 Combat Correspondent

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — As the majority of Camp Leatherneck's residents were still asleep one typical Thursday morning, infantrymen with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, reinforced with Afghan commandos, prepared to depart friendly lines, April 17.

Their two-day mission was to disrupt lethal enemy aid and search three compounds of interest in an area suspected of Taliban influence. The compounds were suspected to contain a homemade-explosive lab, a cache for narcotics and be home to local Taliban leadership.

As the company convoy departed friendly lines in the darkness, they made their way to the Washir District center to link up with Afghan National Army soldiers. After hours of driving on seldom used routes to avoid improvised explosive devices, the company arrived at the district center, where Weapons Company Commander Capt. Scott Stewart and an interpreter met with senior ANA officers and received intelligence about the three compounds of interest.

"Our goal was to gather any last-minute information that might help us with our mission," said 1st Lt. Andrew Darlington, a platoon commander with Weapons Company and a native of New Orleans. "We also wanted to check on the Afghan soldiers to make sure they were okay and to see if they needed anything from us."

While the Marines waited to head out to their next objective, they repaired the damaged gear and weapons systems belonging to the Afghan soldiers aboard the post. Gunnery Sgt. Gerald Furnari, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Company and a native of Franklin Square, N.Y., gave Afghan soldiers a class on proper maintenance and usage of the M2 .50-caliber machine gun. With the security responsibility of the surrounding area steadily becoming the responsibility of the ANA, the Marines advised them as much as

possible before departing the post.

"I think by us going there to disrupt the enemy and create a little bit more of a buffer for the Afghan National Security Forces, it won't be as challenging for them once we leave," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Brodrick, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Co., and a native of Huntington, Ind.

From the Washir District center, the company continued to the small village of Duzno. The Marines spoke with locals and the village elder to gather further intelligence about Payawak, the city containing the three compounds of interest. The sun began its descent and it was time for the Marines to proceed toward the compounds.

As the convoy began to approach the city, aerial observation reported dozens of the city dwellers fleeing the area. When the company arrived, Payawak was nearly vacant. Led by Afghan commandos, the Marines dismounted and continued on foot into the vegetation surrounding the compounds.

The area was disturbingly quiet; only livestock and the rustle of wind blowing through foliage could be heard as they maneuvered through waist-high poppy fields. The vegetation was thick enough in areas where an improvised explosive device a footstep away could easily remain unnoticed. Small holes in mud walls could erupt with enemy gunfire at any moment. The Marines proceeded forward with caution as beads of sweat began to run down their faces.

The commandos moved to enter and clear the three compounds as Marines provided security. Traces of ammonium nitrate, a common chemical found in IEDs, were found along with two antipersonnel mines. Fortunately, no one was injured during the discovery. After the mines were properly destroyed and the Marines gathered the intelligence they needed on each of the compounds, they returned to their vehicles to assume overwatch positions. The infantrymen

See 1/7, A6

Casting tour searches for Combat Center Marines

Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
 Combat Correspondent

Combat Center Marines were given the opportunity to be screened for Marine Corps Recruiting Command advertisements during the annual consolidated casting call held at the base exchange, April 25.

The casting call for Marines of all ranks, military occupational specialties and backgrounds was conducted to find eligible Marines to be featured in future MCRC projects. The tour, in partnership with the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, traveled to several Marine Corps installations throughout the continental United States.

"This is one of our better days," said Capt. Wesley Jagoe, advertising operations officer, MCRC. "We've had nearly 50 Marines today. People have heard about this through advertisements or simply saw us when they walked in."

"I've always seen Marine Corps commercials and thought it would be cool to be a part of that."

— Cpl. Zachary Corrales

Some Combat Center Marines saw the tour as a valuable opportunity and way to represent the Marine Corps.

"I've always seen Marine Corps commercials and thought it would be cool to be part of that," said Cpl. Zachary Corrales, Marine, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "Just the general information people have out there for Marines is enough, but seeing commercials and Marines in action can also really be attractive."

Applicants were photographed and given a brief on-camera interview. According to Jagoe, those selected will be cast in advertisements such as web videos for Marines.mil, television commercials, social media platforms and print advertisements.

"When it's time to shoot, we'll see if specific Marines are available on certain days," Jagoe said. "Projects could take a few hours or a whole week of shooting, and will require chain-of-command approval."

To apply for the screening process, visit www.mcrc.marines.mil/casting or call 703-784-9434 and reference casting.



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

2nd Lt. Gustavo Terrazas, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, is screened during the Marine Corps Recruiting Command consolidated casting call held at the base exchange, April 25.

Former chief of staff remembered for contributions to community



KELLY O'SULLIVAN

Retired Col. M.J. "Mac" Dube, left, poses with Phil Jones, the former Air Force pilot Dube rescued March 20, 1967, after Jones' plane went down in Vietnam's Binh Dinh Province. The pair were reunited Aug. 20, 2010.

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock
 Combat Correspondent

Retired Marine colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube passed away, Tuesday.

Dube, a Silver Star Medal recipient, retired from the Marine Corps in 1989 after a 38-year career that included multiple combat tours during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and serving as the Combat Center's chief of staff. After retiring from the Marine Corps, Dube remained in Twentynine Palms, where

he became involved in the local community. He was elected to the Twentynine Palms City Council in 1994, and served as mayor three times before leaving the council in 2002.

"When I raised my right hand and was sworn in, I was very proud to serve my community, especially since I was a relative newcomer compared to all the others," Dube told the local newspaper, The Desert Trail in 2007.

In 2010, Dube was awarded the

See COLONEL, A6



LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK

Marines with the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League jump to head the ball during a quarter-finals match at Felix Field, April 23.

Intramural soccer league heats up

Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
 Combat Correspondent

"It is do or die now," said Cpl. Hugo Antunez, mid fielder, Alliance FC. "If you come out here and don't take it seriously, then you better start cheering for another team because you're going to lose and end up on those side lines. You have to be hungry for that first place."

The start of the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League Playoffs intensified the competition between soccer players at Felix Field, April 23. Every team will qualify but only one will walk away with bragging rights.

"We won this league last year

and we want it again this year," Antunez said. "Skill is important, but in the end, you have to want it more than the other team."

Though the competition is fierce, the league also serves as a way for players to get away from their every day schedule.

"These leagues are fantastic," said Lance Cpl. Miguel Garcia, forward, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment soccer team. "We can come out here, have a good time and play the sport we love. Yes the competition is good, but these couple of months mainly serve as something to look forward

See SOCCER, A6

This Week in Combat Center



Reprinted from the Observation Post
dated May 5, 2000

Vol. 46, Issue No. 18

Hospital dedicated to HMCM Robert E. Bush

Story by Dan Barber

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms now has a new look and a new name ... Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

The hospital was renamed and rededicated in a special anniversary ceremony Tuesday, with Medal of Honor recipient, HMCM Robert E. Bush, (ret.) as the honored guest.

Fifty-five years ago, as a Hospital Apprentice First Class, then an 18-year-old medical corpsman, was on patrol with a Marine rifle company with Second Battalion, First Marines, Fifth Marine Division on Okinawa. Though seriously wounded from grenade wounds to the back, stomach and arm and losing one eye, Bush continued to provide medical aide. For this unselfish service, Bush received the Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman, following the war.

In her remarks, Capt. Joan M. Huber, commanding officer of the hospital, said, "Over the years, we have enjoyed Master Chief Bush's participation in a number of our command events. He is very generous with his time for us. It seems that he has adopted us and we have adopted him."

At the hospital ceremony, a bronze statue depicting the actions of Bush was unveiled in a permanent location at the front of the hospital. This statue is a full-size duplicate of a sculpted wooden statue that was erected in Bush's hometown.

Admiral Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations, was the guest speaker. He said, "Lots of hard work is obvious and will

become even more as things unwind here. I will tell you Sailors and Marines who've worked so hard in bringing us to this, as soon as Bob Bush stands up to speak, it will have all been worth it."

The CNO stated that this ceremony gives us the opportunity to remember the service that the World War II generation gave. "A chance to recall the tremendous sacrifice and service that millions of Americans gave, like Bob Bush ... the men and women who really won for us the world we have today." He added, "Sometimes ... too many times, in my humble opinion, we, all of us, have a tendency to take what we have for granted... they, the generation who fought and died for us, never will."

In his remarks, Bush stated that he wasn't doing anything more than his fellow hospital corpsmen were doing in Okinawa, "Believe me, when the Japanese were shooting at you, there were two choices. You either run or you shoot back. The training received in firearms really saved me and saved my lieutenant, so I was pretty happy about that," said Bush.

"Those of us who lived (surviving World War II) have to represent those who didn't," said Bush.

Bush spends the winter months in Indio, Calif., which, is part of the hospital's area of responsibility and during the summer lives in his hometown of Southbend, Wash.

Bush founded the Bayview Lumber Company at South Bend, Washington in 1951, and is still serving as its president.

Bush is a member of a variety of service and social organizations and is a life member of the First Marine Division Association. He is also a member, and Past-President, of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

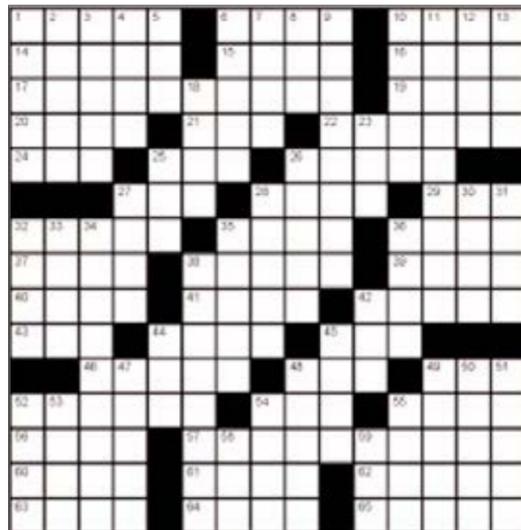


COURTESY PHOTO

[Above] Robert E. Bush, master chief petty officer (Ret.) and Medal of Honor recipient, addresses the audience during the base hospital's rededication, May 2, 2000.

"SOUNDS FAMILIAR"

- Across**
- 1 Capital of Idaho
 - 6 Not many
 - 10 Pollution problem
 - 14 Between March and May
 - 15 Hayworth or Moreno
 - 16 Soap opera plot device, often
 - 17 It keeps you cool in summer
 - 19 Kitchen cooker
 - 20 Approximately
 - 21 Pool stick
 - 22 Courageous
 - 24 "I don't think so"
 - 25 Hollywood legend ___ West
 - 26 Keller or Mirren
 - 27 Split ___ soup
 - 28 Give a hoot
 - 29 Car's navigation system, for short
 - 32 Diet, casually
 - 35 Puzzle with a "finish" you must get to
 - 36 Round shape
 - 37 Makes a mistake
 - 38 Asked, as a question
 - 39 One gender
 - 40 Votes against
 - 41 Cain's brother
 - 42 Ate out
 - 43 Muhammad in the ring
 - 44 Eye part that's also a flower
 - 45 Ancient Egypt's King ___
- Down**
- 46 Rafael of tennis fame
 - 48 Papa
 - 49 Take all of, as the blankets
 - 52 Traffic ___
 - 54 Common container
 - 55 Move slowly
 - 56 Army rank: abbr.
 - 57 Cary Grant in "North by Northwest," for example
 - 60 Have ___ (enjoy good times)
 - 61 Waffle brand
 - 62 On your toes
 - 63 Soprano or Bennett
 - 64 Defeat
 - 65 Extra benefits at work
 - 1 Food that comes in strips
 - 2 Mozart work, often
 - 3 Like people from Dublin
 - 4 Farm building
 - 5 Quarterback Manning
 - 6 Bicker
 - 7 ___ and drum (Colonial Era instruments)
 - 8 Greek letter
 - 9 Roamed far and wide
 - 10 Make a goal or a basket
 - 11 Vehicle stuffed with furniture



- 12 Sign of what's to come
- 13 Scary group
- 18 "March Madness" org.
- 23 Ginger ___
- 25 Was introduced to
- 26 Eye color
- 27 Throw the football
- 28 Book holders
- 30 Ashen
- 31 Wintertime fun
- 32 Singing great Horne
- 33 Spoken
- 34 What you might cook 1-Down in
- 35 Company that merged with Exxon
- 36 Leave out
- 38 Like lines that never meet
- 42 Firecracker that doesn't go off
- 44 Actress Lupino
- 45 Cab
- 47 Feeling nervous
- 48 Extinct birds
- 49 Marge Simpson's husband
- 50 ___ Mountains (Springfield, Missouri is there)
- 51 Fellas
- 52 "Beat it!"
- 53 Shakespeare villain
- 54 Grocery store "Paper or plastic?" items
- 55 Stare
- 58 Self-importance
- 59 Snooze

See answers on page A6

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



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OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

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

- In Oceanside:**
 - Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
 - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
- In San Diego:**
 - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
 - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
- In National City:**
 - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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

- In Twentynine Palms:**
 - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
 - In Yucca Valley:**
 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
 - In Palm Springs:**
 - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
 - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive
- For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

John WALTON

Chicago, Ill. substance abuse counselor, Substance Abuse Counseling Center, 47



WALTON IS A RETIRED MARINE WHO HASN'T STOPPED GIVING BACK TO SERVICE MEMBERS. UPON RETIREMENT, AS A SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR, WALTON CONTINUED HIS SERVICES ABOARD THE COMBAT CENTER BY BECOMING A CIVILIAN SACO.

>**I was born** and raised in Chicago and went back and forth between there and Minneapolis until I ended up in the military.

>**I was raised** mostly by my grandparents. I wanted to move on and be my own, and not burden them with me being there. College at that time wasn't really on my radar, so I decided to look into the military.

>**I wanted to go** into the Air Force, but the recruiter wasn't returning my phone calls. It was a Sunday afternoon, the Chicago

Bears were playing, and I saw a commercial for the Marine Corps. It said they take raw steel, mold it and shape it. After that I said I was going into the Marine Corps.

>**Most people thought** that was a humorous idea because I was 6'3 and 147 pounds.

>**I originally wanted** to fix airplanes, but I couldn't because I am color blind. I ended up choosing communications because it sounded high tech.

>**I signed up with the** Quality Enlistment Program, which back then meant I could choose my first duty station, and I was guaranteed to pick up corporal in 13 months.

>**I remember I picked** Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., as my first duty station because coming from Chicago, it sounded nice. I thought it was going to be like Palm Springs, and didn't realize how wrong I was until I got out here.

>**I originally didn't plan** to retire from the Marine Corps. I originally signed a six-year contract and at about my four-year mark I remember thinking I wanted to get out and do something else. Around the time I picked up sergeant was when the Gulf War happened, and I ended up extending. Before I knew it, I was at 11 years, and decided to go all the way.

>**I ended up stationed** at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. I was taking a few college courses in psychology, and the opportunity came up to become a substance abuse counselor. I put in for a package and got it, and ended up moving to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

>**It wasn't until** I started doing it that I realized how much I enjoyed it, and it inspired me to continue with my education in psychology.

>**The month that** I retired, the SACC program became civilianized, so I was

fortunate enough to be able to go to work one day as Staff Sgt. Walton, and come back the next as Mr. Walton.

>**While working as** a civilian addictions counselor, I absolutely loved it. I loved continuing to work with Marines and sailors.

>**I finished my** bachelors and masters degrees in psychology while working as a counsellor, and am currently working on my doctorate degree.

>**What keeps me** wanting to be a counsellor is seeing the difference myself and this program makes in Marines and sailors. I get calls all of the time, after they complete their programs, letting me know how they are doing, and that makes it all worth it.

>**I think me being** able to empathize and feel for my clients' aids me in being a successful counselor. I don't shy away from feeling bad for my clients, because I genuinely care about Marines and sailors. It can be a lot to take in and deal with at times, but we have a great support system here with other counselors.

>**I always say** the day that I have a client here, and what he or she has to say doesn't fade me, that is the day I shouldn't be a counselor anymore.

>**I'm a simple guy**, I love movies, a good restaurant and bowling. I'm also working on learning to play the guitar.

>**I consider myself** kind of a nerd; I love comic books and comic movies, and already have my tickets for the new Spider Man 2 movie.

>**I love the Marine Corps**, and I love Marines and sailors. It sounds corny, but that is the truth, and that is why I continue to work here. It is what I have done since I was 18 years old.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock April 28, 2014



[Right] Children gather around the Desert Tortoise display during the Earth Day Spectacular at the Lincoln Military Housing football field April 19. The event was sponsored by the Natural Resources and Environmental Coordination office in conjunction with Lincoln Military Housing.

Activities inspire Combat Center service members to clean up

Story and photos by
Cpl. Ali Azimi

Earth Day is a celebration that demonstrates the commitment to environmental protection. It is an annual event held around the world, including the Combat Center.

The Combat Center celebrated Earth Day last week with three events held on the base.

Earth day started with a base-wide, clean-up project. Combat Center units collected common recyclable goods, including, paper, cans, plastic bottles, as well as industrial types, such as large metals, boxes and wooden pallets for recycling.

The clean-up started on the morning of April 21 and continued for three days. All the collected waste was sent to the Hazardous Waste Lot and the Residential Commercial Recycling Section to be properly disposed.

Following the clean-up, the 5K Fun Run, hosted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs office and Semper Fit, kicked off on the morning of April 25. The entry fee for the run was a recyclable can or bottle. More than 400 people arrived to run the course. The hundreds of runners paid the fee, filling multiple recycling bins.

But the run was not only beneficial to the environment. The runners expressed joy because of the opportunity to run on grass, as opposed to the usual dirt, sand, and cement.

In attendance was the Combat Center's chapter of the Stroller Warriors, a Marine Corps-wide running club made up of military spouses. The members ran the entire 3.1-mile course with their children snugly seated in the strollers in front of them.

"It's very casual," said Keith Mohn, Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program assistant, NREA. "We had formation runs and we had the ladies with the strollers. We are bringing people out for awareness and some fun."

Later that day, the NREA continued Earth Day with the Earth Day Spectacular at the Lincoln Military Housing football field.

Detrick Edger, 9, ran in between the inflatable slides and rock-climbing walls on the field. As he crossed the NREA's booths, his face lit up and he ran to the attraction that made his day.

"I got to see a real desert turtle," Edger said. "This is the best day of my life."

The Desert Turtle exhibit was one of the many displays set up by the NREA to inform patrons about our delicate environment and the Combat Center's responsibilities and efforts to protect it.

"NREA has booths for awareness, displays for the waste management section and a live desert tortoise display," Mohn said. "It's a combination of fun and education."

In addition to the booths, the event provided free barbecue, rides and games for service members and their families to enjoy.

Although Earth Day is celebrated once a year, Combat Center residents can help reduce waste year-round through small, every-day tasks.

They're very common sense types of things, Mohn said. Remember to turn off the lights when you're not using it, think about how much water you need instead of wasting it and segregate your trash, that's very important.

For more information on how to make a difference, visit <http://www.green29.org/default.aspx>.

"We are bringing people out for awareness and some fun."

— Keith Mohn

Photos by
Cpl. Ali Azimi



Doing OUR Part



[Top, left] Service members and their families enjoy the rides, games and food during the Earth Day Spectacular at the Lincoln Military Housing football field, April 25.

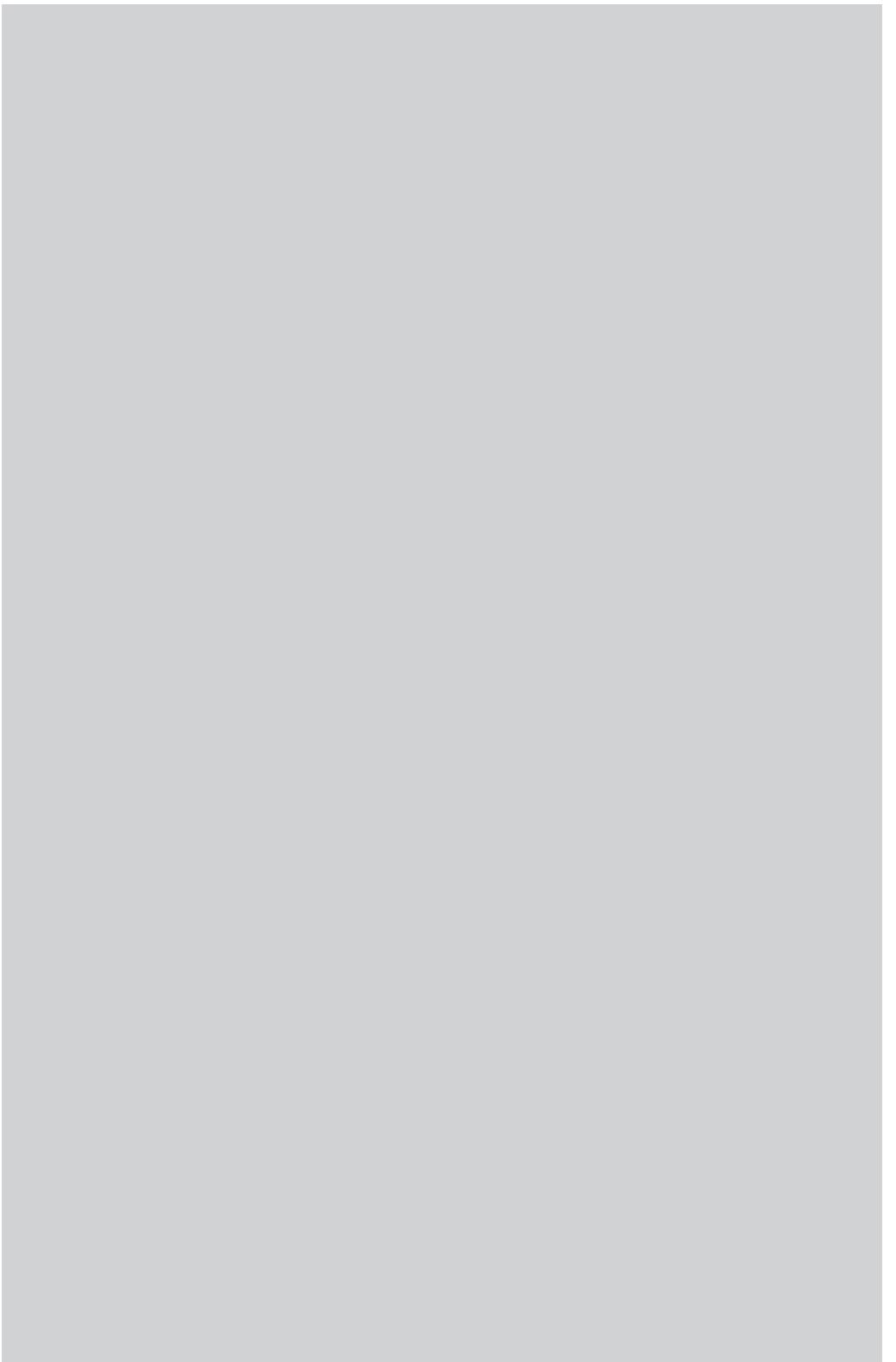
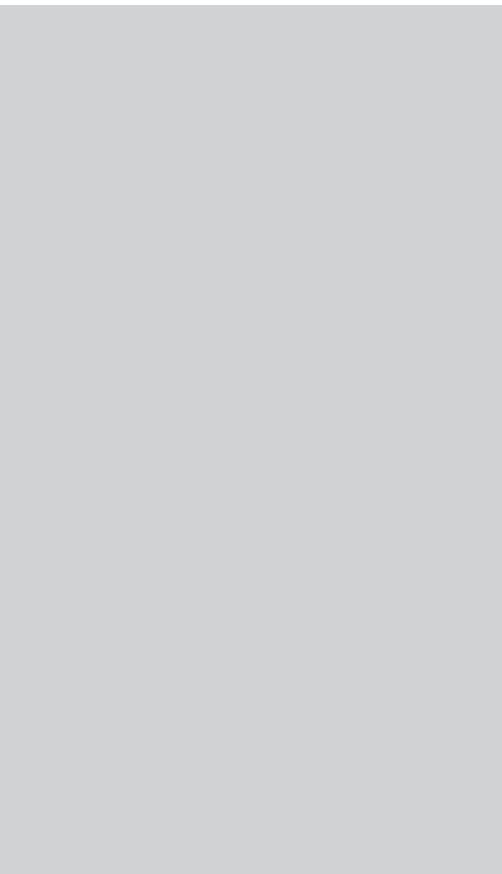
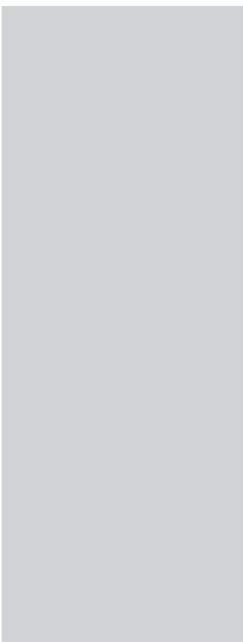
[Top, right] Runners take off from the starting line during the 5K Earth Day Fun Run at Desert Winds Golf Course, April 19. More than 400 people signed up for the run and paid a fee of one used bottle or can for recycling.

[Right] More than 120 Marines, families, kids and local citizens volunteered to help clean up the Gateway Parcel, April 19. The event was sponsored by the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA, Mojave Desert Land Trust, and Morongo Basin Transit Authority.

**Looking for
the right job
for you?**



**Check the
Observation Post
Classified section**



1/7, from A1



CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN

Lance Cpl. Shawn Madruga, left, machine gunner, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, leads Marines out of a field during a mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 17.

manned machine guns, grenade launchers and monitored cameras throughout the night to watch for suspicious activity in the surrounding area.

The area remained tranquil, and the company departed the area shortly after sunrise. The convoy continued to stay vigilant and alert during their return to Camp Leatherneck and arrived safely with each Marine unharmed.

“We proved to the enemy that we can reach out to any area in Helmand province,” Darlington said. “Our mission let the enemy know that no area is safe for them.”

AFAF hosts Combat Center Marines



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Col. James B. Hanlon, chief of staff, Combat Center, was the keynote speaker during the dinner at the 10th Annual American Friends of our Armed Forces Charity Golf Classic at Toscana Country Club, April 28. Combat Center Marines were invited to play for the day. The classic also raised money for the AFAF and goes toward supporting programs for Combat Center service members and troops currently overseas.

SOCCER, from A1



LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK

Players with the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League compete for the ball during a quarter-final match at Felix Field, April 23.

to after our work day.”

The annual soccer league began in March and teams have been competing against one another for a first-round bye. The top four teams will avoid elimination in the first game and will receive an automatic bid to compete in the final 8.

“A first-round bye is always important,” said Lance Cpl. Oscar Almodova, forward, Alliance FC. “The competition is good out here and any team can knock you out. To lose in the first game of the playoffs would be devastating.”

The 12-team bracket will consist of every team who participated in the league. The place that the teams fin-

ished in the regular season will determine who they will play in the playoffs. The higher seeds will play against the lower seeds unless the team has earned a first-round bye. The first round was held April 23 immediately followed by the quarter finals, held April 24. The semifinals were held April 30.

“We have made it this far and we don't plan on stopping,” Almodova said. “We have had our eyes on first place since the beginning of the league and nothing has changed.”

With only two teams left to compete, the league champions will be determined during the finals at Felix Field, May 5 at 6 p.m.

COLONEL, from A1

Silver Star for acts of valor committed during combat operations in Vietnam when he dodged a barrage of enemy fire to rescue a downed Air Force pilot before returning to the aircraft to remove its rockets.

Dube's personal and unit decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals with Combat “V”, four Purple Hearts, two Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with

Combat “V”, three Navy Commendation Medals with Combat “V”, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, four Presidential Unit Citations, three Navy Unit Citations, and two Good Conduct Medals.

Dube is survived by his wife, Patricia, and their twin boys, Marc and Erik. Dube will be forever remembered as a dedicated Marine, and as a person who genuinely cared about his family, his Marines and his community.

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

B	O	I	S	E		A	F	E	W		S	M	O	G					
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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

LOOKING for local entertainment?

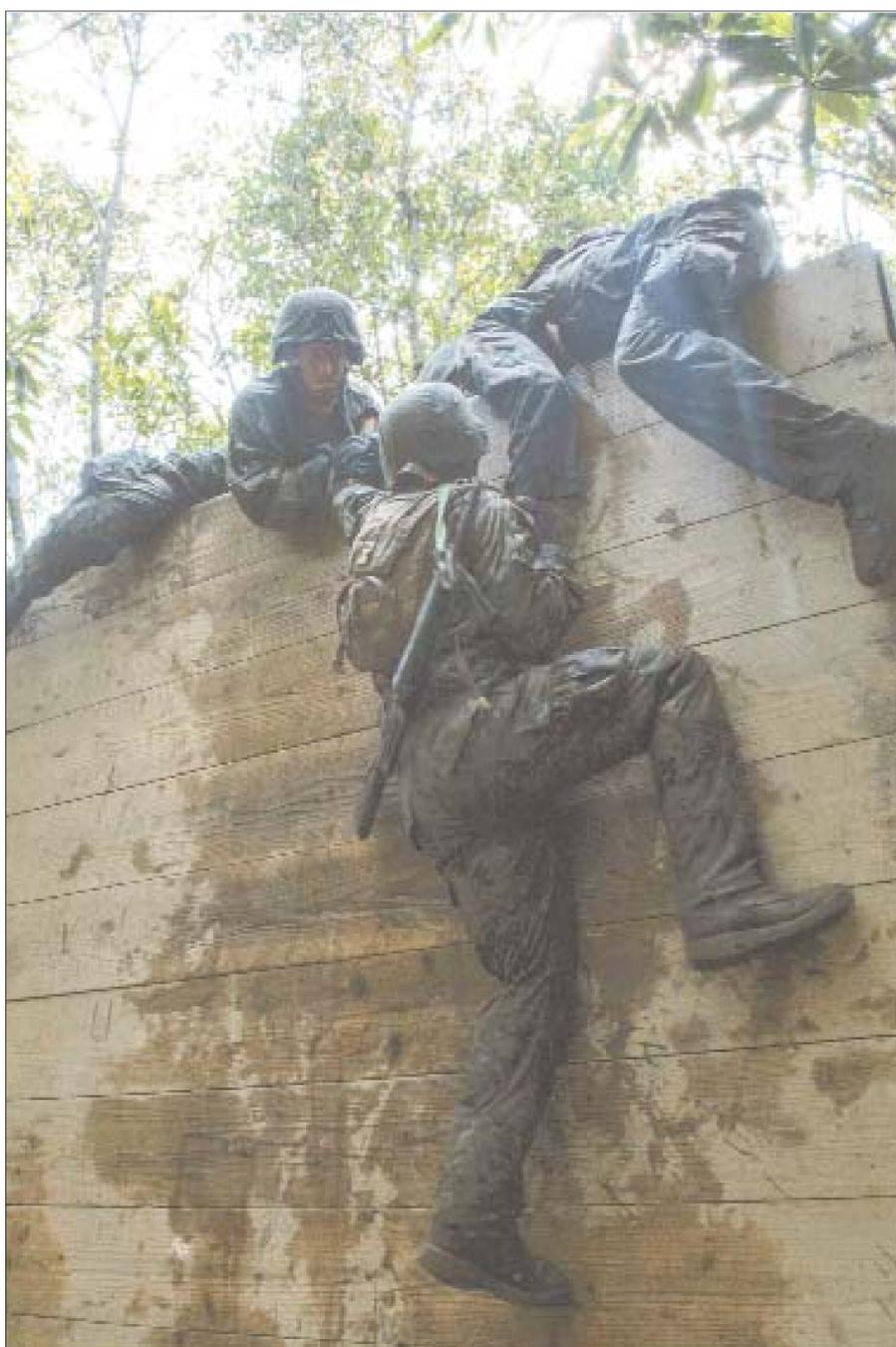
See page B2 for our **LIBERTY CALL** section

WeekINPhotos

Combat Assault Battalion



PHOTOS BY CPL. STEPHEN D. HIMES

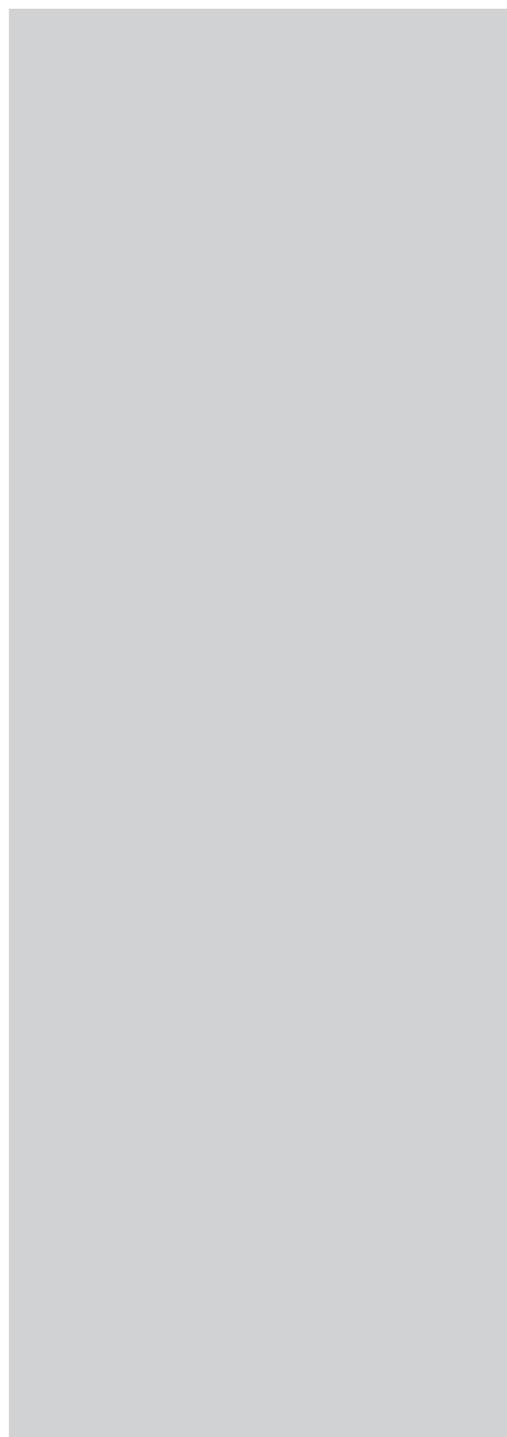
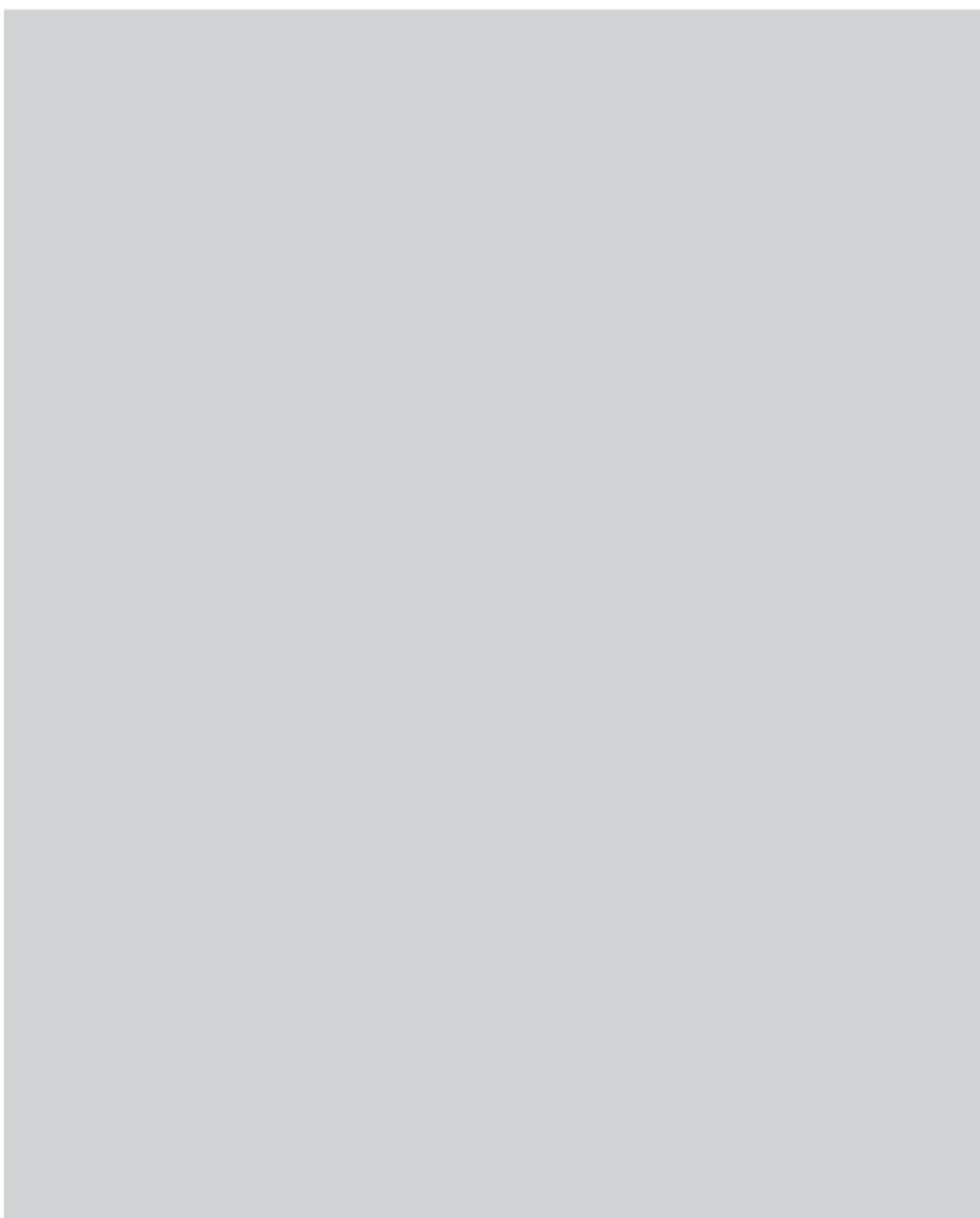


[Right] A Marine is helped over a wall during an endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, April 17. The course spans several miles and participants overcome an array of obstacles, challenging them both physically and mentally. The Marines are with various units assigned to Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

[Top, left] Marines traverse an obstacle during an endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves, MCB Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, April 17. The endurance course is the culminating event of the week-long basic jungle survival course. The JWTC is the only facility of its type in the Department of Defense.

[Bottom, left] Sgt. Max Hedrington, vehicle repair technician, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, provides rear security during the casualty carry portion of an endurance course at the JWTC on Camp Gonsalves, MCB Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, April 17. The last leg of the course requires the participating teams to stabilize a mock casualty, make a field-expedient stretcher, and transport the casualty over a mile of steep slopes and harsh jungle terrain.

Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the
[Observation Post Classified section](#)





SAFETY

FAIR

[Right] Gabriel Sullivan, 2, meets Daren the Lion during the Marine and Family Safety Fair in the Combat Center Exchange parking lot, Monday. Daren the Lion is a mascot designed to raise awareness to children about Drug Abuse Resistance Education.



Combat Center educates service members, families

Story and photos by **Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**

Marine Corps Community Services hosted the Marine and Family Safety Fair in the Combat Center Exchange parking lot, Monday.

The safety fair, in its third year, was held to increase the awareness of military personnel and their families on the hazards they face on a daily basis, as well as to educate them on other safety practices. In this year's iteration, Safe Kids Worldwide, a child safety organization, also took part in the event to promote child safety to service members and their families.

Various police officers, firefighter and medical personnel within San Bernardino County displayed information and education booths alongside military police and the Combat Center Fire Department.

Also at the safety fair were Combat Center support systems including the New Parent Support Program, Child Development Center, Exceptional Family Member Program, Marine Corps Family Team Building and many more.

During the event, the main attraction consisted of Combat Center and San Bernardino County medical, police, and firefighting staff checking car seats for service members and their families.

"We have a great relationship with the staff at the Combat Center and we were more than willing to come out here and promote safety to the military families," said Michelle Parker, coordinator, Safe Kids Inland Empire, Loma Linda Children's Hospital. "Safe kids in general is all about injury prevention. A huge component of that is the proper use of car seats and seat belts. Everyone out here

is a child-passenger safety technician, so we wanted to offer free examinations of their car seats and provide resources and awareness."

Service members and their families were encouraged to partake in the car seat inspection to help with the ultimate goal of promoting safety, according to Melanie Weaver, police officer, California Highway Patrol.

"Events like this are great because we get to promote safety to service members and their families, as well as keep up with our annual certifications," Weaver said. "The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that approximately 80 percent of all car seats are used incorrectly. A lot of people don't know, but car seats are like milk, meaning they expire. So when you take into consideration that everyone on this base is working for the safety of this country and this state, it seems right to bring our safety message here."

In addition to the car seat awareness, Combat Center military policemen also offered military working dog demonstrations for those in attendance.

"We want our service members and their families safe," said Daniel Iniguez, firefighter, Combat Center Fire Department. "They work too hard every day protecting our country, especially when they are deployed, to come back home and be involved in an accident that could have been prevented."

Safety fairs are conducted aboard the Combat Center annually. While the organizations who participate may change, the ultimate goal of promoting safety is always met.

If you missed the safety fair and have questions about car seat safety, or about safety in general, contact the Combat Center Fire Department at 830-5239.



[Left] Pfc. Caleb Logan, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, rides the Seatbelt Convincer during the Marine and Family Safety Fair at the Combat Center Exchange parking lot, Monday. The Seatbelt Convincer is designed to raise awareness on the importance of wearing your seat belt by simulating the effect of a 5-mile-per hour collision.

[Bottom, left] Melanie Weaver, police officer, California Highway Patrol, conducts a car seat inspection during the Marine and Family Safety Fair at the Combat Center Exchange parking lot, Monday.

[Bottom, right] Service members and their families observe a military working dog demonstration during the Marine and Family Safety Fair at the Combat Center Exchange parking lot, Monday. The safety fair, in its third year, was held to increase the awareness of military personnel and their families on the hazards they face on a daily basis, as well as to educate them on other safety practices.



Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Mother's Day

Make a gift for mom just in time for her special day. All ages are welcome.

When: May 8, 6 - 7 p.m.

Where: Lifelong Learning Library

For more information, call 830-6875

We Salute You Celebration

This family-friendly concert will feature artists Brett Eldridge, Craig Morgan and Shuggah Pies. Food concessions and other activities will be available on site.

When: May 17

Where: Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field

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, May 2

5 p.m. — Muppets Most Wanted, PG

8 p.m. — Divergent, PG-13

11:30 p.m. — Noah, PG-13

Saturday, May 3

10 a.m. — **Free Admission** Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, G

12:30 p.m. — Mr. Peabody and Sherman 3-D, PG

3 p.m. — Need for Speed 3-D, PG-13

6 p.m. — Divergent, PG-13

9 p.m. — Noah, PG-13

12 a.m. — Sabotage, R

Sunday, May 4

12 p.m. — Mr. Peabody and Sherman 3-D, PG

2 p.m. — Noah, PG-13

5:30 p.m. — Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3-D, PG-13

8:30 p.m. — The Grand Budapest Hotel, R

Monday, May 5

6 p.m. — Sabotage, R

Tuesday, May 6

6 p.m. — Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3-D PG-13

Wednesday, May 7

5 p.m. — Muppets Most Wanted, PG

7:30 p.m. — The Grand Budapest Hotel, R

Thursday, May 8

5 p.m. — Mr. Peabody and Sherman 3-D, PG

7 p.m. — Need for Speed, PG-13

High Desert

Nunset Boulevard

The Little Sisters of Hoboken return in a brand new show.

When: 7 p.m., April 25 through May 24

Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 316-4151

Low Desert

Robin Thicke

Grammy nominee singer performs.

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 3

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call 800-827-2946

Earth, Wind & Fire

Grammy-winning band performs.

When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 9

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call 800-827-2946



Costner goes to gridiron in NFL event

NEIL POND

"Draft Day"

Starring Kevin Costner, Jennifer Garner and Dennis Leary

Directed by Ivan Reitman

PG-13, 109 min.

Somewhat as "Moneyball" looked at the inside business of baseball, director Ivan Reitman's "Draft Day" pulls back the curtain on the high stakes, high pressures and high-wire hoopla of the annual process by which the National Football League selects its new recruits.

Unlike the better-crafted, based-on-a-true-story baseball movie, however, this formulaic, made-up tale is a pure Hollywood concoction. But it blurs its line between fact and fiction by the use of real NFL locations, cameos by real-life past and present NFL players and other real-life sports personalities, and scenes filmed for the movie at last May's NFL draft at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

The movie is set in one 12-hour period, during which the main character, fictitious Cleveland Browns manager Sonny Weaver (Kevin Costner), has to set things up to get the best new players he can when the Browns' "picks" come up in the draft. This involves some serious war-room wheeling and dealing.

Should Sonny go for the hotshot quarterback (Josh Pence), the humble son of a retired Browns player (Arian Foster), or the passionate defensive tackle (Chadwick Boseman)?

To add Sonny's stress, he's got a team owner (Frank Langella) who wants to fire him, a head

coach (Dennis Leary) who doesn't like him, and a girlfriend/co-exec (Jennifer Garner) who's not happy that he's not happy that she's just found out she's pregnant with their child.

Even Sonny's own mom (Ellen Burstyn) piles on him. "You sold a cow for magic beans!" she chides him after hearing of a deal he intends to make.

Reitman and veteran film editors Dana Glauberman and Sheldon Kahn do some innovative things with split-screen wipes, swipes and pans, as when two characters have a telephone conversation and "overlap" into each other's spaces. It gives a sense of motion to scenes where the only thing going on otherwise is just two people yakking — and there is a good deal of that.

Football fans may be a bit disappointed that there's so much blab-age and so little yardage xcessive talking at the expense of actual gridiron action. But the movie does a good job of dramatizing an aspect of the sport that's become an entertainment event itself; this year's draft will be televised on ESPN May 8-10.

But most fans will likely enjoy the all-around air of authenticity, spotting the real-life sports personalities — and throwing penalty flags when it feels like Hollywood puts a bit too much melodramatic spin on the subject.

And through it all, Costner — trailing decades of weathered charisma from "Field of Dreams," "Bull Durham" and "Tin Cup" — anchors the story with a screen persona that seems right at home in a sports-themed movie about a central character under pressure, making decisions at odds with those around him, but somehow rallying to show that maybe he knows what he's doing, after all.

Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the [OP Classified section](#)

COMBAT READY

'Wolfpack' Marines compete in Warrior Challenge

Story by **Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya**



COURTESY PHOTO

Exhaustion and determination cover the faces of the Marines as they push to the next objective. The senior Marine of the group shouts at the top of his lungs for his Marines to surround the wall. The Marines arrive and in this slight pause, the sand-covered, filthy Marines take a deep breathe, grab their gear, and charge the wall, not knowing what waits on the other side.

Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion participated in 'The Wolfpack' Warrior Challenge held at multiple locations throughout the Combat Center April 25. The course covered approximately 10 miles and included various obstacles to challenge the Marines.

"It teaches you to work as a team," said Sgt. Daniel Ragan, LAV 25 gunner, 3rd LAR. "It is good to get the Marines out there and make them work as a team because it's not every day that you are given an objective and have to think on your feet to get past it with Marines by your side."

'The Wolfpack' Warrior Challenge was a battalion-wide combat endurance test. The course was held throughout the Combat Center causing the Marines to have to run from each obstacle to the next. The obstacles thrown at the Marines included log run, buddy carries, a mud run, burpees, push-ups and getting over walls. The Marines operated in small units consisting of the Marines they work with within the battalion.

"I come from the headquarters side of things," Ragan said. "We all have different jobs so we don't get a chance to work together as much. Things like this course bring us all together and force us to work as a team."

The course was not a timed event but took an average of 2 and a half hours to complete. The Warrior Challenge was not organized as a competition but that quickly changed after it began.

"Everyone wants bragging rights," Ragan said. "We were one of the last teams to start and immediately we wanted to catch up and pass the other teams to prove we are better."

The course also educated the Marines on some of the history of 'The Wolfpack.' After completing some of the obstacles, the small unit leader would stop and read to the rest of the Marines some of the accomplishments of their brothers in arms.

"It's all about unit cohesion," said Cpl. Joshua Rojas, team leader, C Co., 3rd LAR. "To learn about our past, train together, and complete obstacles together, brings us closer as a unit. This course took all of those things and brought them into one event."



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

[Top, left] Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion conduct a boots and utilities run along the Physical Fitness Test track at Del Valle Field during the 'Wolfpack' Warrior Challenge, April 25.

[Left] Marines with 3rd LAR navigate the hand-over-hand pipes at Del Valle Field during the 'Wolfpack' Warrior Challenge, April 25. **[Above]** Marines with 3rd LAR execute a log and tire march at Del Valle Field during the 'Wolfpack' Warrior Challenge, April 25.

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