



[Above] Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, conduct pass and review during the battalion's deactivation ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 30. The ceremony drew a crowd of hundreds, including distinguished Marine Corps guests and veterans that served in the battalion.

[Left] Lt. Col. Jeff Kenney, commanding officer, 3/4, and Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, battalion sergeant major, case the battalion's colors during its deactivation ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 30.

3/4 cases colors, ends an era

Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
 Combat Correspondent

As the adjutant's command echoed throughout Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 30, hundreds of spectators silently watched as the Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, conducted their final pass and review.

The battalion, ordered deactivated by the Marine Corps, drew a crowd of distinguished guests and veterans of the unit, which holds a reputation as the most deployed Marine Corps battalion this past decade. They and the Marines and sailors before them knew this wasn't the battalion's first deactivation, nor would it be its last.

Marines, sailors, families, friends and distinguished guests gathered to witness the casing of 3/4's colors.

"There are 12 infantry battalions in the 1st Marine Division," said Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division. "Tomorrow there will be 11. That is a loss all of us will feel."

The battalion, nicknamed "Darkside," was acti-

vated in 1925 at Naval Base San Diego, according to the unit's official history. It was reactivated six times and consistently supported military engagements in the 89 years that followed, leaving its mark across distant lands.

"From the build-up of forces in Kuwait, to the march to Baghdad, to the draw-down of forces in Helmand and the closure of Now Zad, Darkside Marines and sailors have been there," said Lt. Col. Jeff Kenney, commanding officer, 3/4.

Nicholson and Kenney stood before the battalion to observe the pass and review. The Marines and sailors of Headquarters and Service Company, Co. I, Co. K, Co. L, and Weapons Company rendered their last salute as a unit to their commanders on memorial ground named after one of their very own fallen comrades.

"There were 24 of our [Marines and sailors] killed in action this past decade," Kenney said. "I find it perfectly fitting today that we're deactivating our historic battalion on a field named after a Darkside Marine, Lance Cpl. Torrey Gray, whom was killed in action in Iraq."

The history of the battalion was read aloud to

I find it perfectly fitting today that we're deactivating our historic battalion on a field named after a Darkside Marine, Lance Cpl. Torrey Gray, whom was killed in action in Iraq."

-Lt. Col. Jeff Kenney

See DARKSIDE, A6

MCCS hosts annual Remembrance Run

Cpl. Charles Santamaria
 Combat Correspondent

The runner climbs the hill with each stride. His feet sink into the sand with each step as he inches closer to the top. His muscles begin to burn but he continues his charge, knowing there will be more terrain to traverse after this moment but still, all he can think of is conquering the hill. Many thoughts cross his mind but the one that remains strongest is his reason for running on this day.

Combat Center Marines, sailors and families participated in the annual Remembrance Run hosted by Marine Corps Community Services Sports Division at Desert Winds Golf Course and Felix Field, May 29.

The run is in commemoration of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts the United States has been a part of throughout its history.

"Its perfect timing to host events like this during the week of Memorial Day," said Cpl. Romero Fields, combat engineer, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion. "A lot of men and women have died for us and this country, so anything we can do to remember and honor them feels right."

It's because of the sacrifices of those who came before us that we are still here, so running a few extra miles for them is nothing compared to what they did for us."

-Cpl. Romero Fields

The Remembrance Run was split into two separate runs, a competitive eight-kilometer race for individual runners and teams, and a five-kilometer run for families and younger participants. The eight-kilometer course took runners to new areas of the golf course by having half of the distance over sand and steep terrain, and the other half over the grass.

"We wanted to give the runners a new challenge this year by adding more of the desert terrain to the course," said George Schadegg, sports specialist, MCCS Sports Division. "We also learned that the 8k was more enticing toward individual runners. For safety purposes MCCS made the 5k run a separate event hosted on the track at Felix Field."

Event coordinators see the importance of events like this. The starting lines of both races were lined with signs which depicted the names of different battles Marines fought in and the year each one occurred.

"It's a remembrance run for Marines and families to pay respect to those who gave their lives," Schadegg said. "The signs give insight to all the battles service members have been in."

To remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice is to give them eternal life in memory and in the hearts of those they were close to.

"It's because of the sacrifices of those who came before us that we are still here, so running a few extra miles for them is nothing compared to what they did for us," Fields said.

Students see leadership in action aboard Combat Center

Story by Cpl. Charles Santamaria

The Combat Center searches for ways to interact and build a better relationship with the local community. One of the ways the installation builds relations with the surrounding community is through youth visits from local schools. Twentynine Palms Junior High School visited G-6 Communication Department, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and the Provost Marshal's Office, May 30 and saw leadership in action in the workplaces of Marines.

The visit touched on how Marines use lessons they have learned, such as the leadership traits, in their daily routines. Sharing what Marines do at work gave the students insight on how the military functions and utilizes leadership.

"Today taught the kids about how leadership is applied in the real world," said Terry Brunette, leadership teacher and Associated Student Body advisor, Twentynine Palms Junior High School. "Everyone the kids saw today loved

their jobs and they're going to take that with them. I think the trip also exposed them to possible careers they may want in their life."

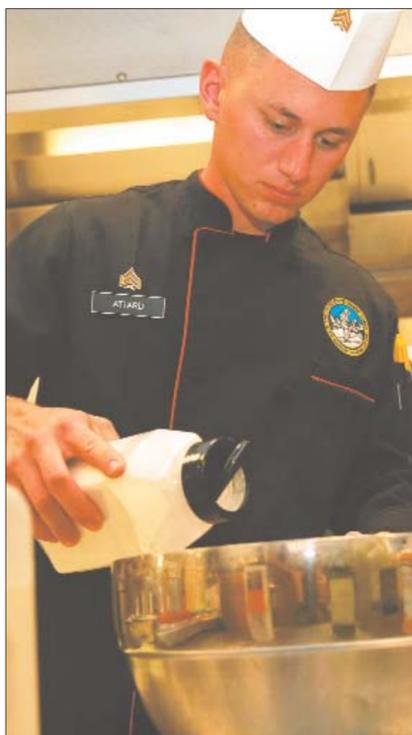
Students enjoyed many aspects of the trip, one of which was the trip to PMO and the canine demonstration.

"Going to see the dogs at the kennel had to be one of my favorite parts of the trip," said Arielle Healy, 13, president, ASB leadership. "I love dogs. Watching how the military uses them for training and police work was really enjoyable."

The students visited the kennel to see where the working dogs were kept. They also stopped at the G-6 to learn about how the base operates, and got a close-up look at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service section.

"It was so great to see the different parts of the base and how they work," said Kevin Maxwell, 12, student, Twentynine Palms Junior High. "Seeing the evidence room and jail cells taught me a lot about

See STUDENTS, A6



CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Sgt. John P. Attard, food service specialist, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., mixes ingredients into a bowl during the Chef of the Quarter Competition at Phelps Chow Hall, Wednesday. Attard and his teammate drove down from the northern California for the competition.

Culinary competition challenges chefs

Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
 Combat Correspondent

The aroma of roasting chicken filled the kitchen as the chefs hustled around the galley attempting to complete their assigned tasks before time was up. One by one, they brought their dishes out to a buffet setting in front of candle-lit tables.

Each team set a couple of plates aside and added last-minute touches to the presentation. The judges took their seats at the head of the room as the first team anxiously waited to be called.

Combat Center Marine and civilian chefs fired up their grills and competed in a Chef of the Quarter Competition at Phelps Mess Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday. The chefs were tested in three different aspects of culinary arts during the event.

"This competition gives the chefs a chance to prove their skills," said John Rocha, Sodexo Government Services. "The food has to look and taste good, on top of being prepared safely and in a timely manner."

The competition began with five teams. The first day of the competition, the chefs participated in a test focusing on basic culinary knowledge such as temperatures and

See CHEF, A6

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated
June 5, 1992

Vol. 37, Issue No. 21

Brig. Gen. Sutton takes Combat Center Reins

Story by Staff Sgt. Scot Jenkins

Brig. Gen. Russell H. Sutton assumed command of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center from Maj. Gen. John I. Hopkins during a Monday morning change of command ceremony at the Combat Center parade field.

Bright blue skies provided a canopy, and temperatures in the 90s greeted the crowd of approximately 1,500 people, involving nearly 500 Marines participating in the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Sutton became the 25th commanding general since the Combat Center was established in 1957, during a ceremony which included Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, and several other Marine Corps officers.

After an invocation, and in between honors for Maj. Gen. Hopkins and Brig. Gen. Sutton, Combat Center Sgt. Maj. C. E. Chamberlain retrieved the Combat Center colors for the transfer of colors ceremony. This signified the official transfer of command.

Maj. Gen. Hopkins said when he assumed the helm as the Combat Center commanding general from Maj. Gen. G. A. Deegan on July 18, 1989, he had three goals. The first was to maintain the readiness of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The next was to ensure the training of the Fleet Marine Force through the Combined Arms Exercise program and the third goal was to work on the quality of life for people stationed here.

During Hopkins' tenure as commanding general, the Combat Center had many quality-of-life improvements including a Youth Activities Center, auto hobby shop, Marine Palms Exchange, Warrior Club at Camp Wilson, 100 new Adobe Flats hous-

ing units, a new main gate, groundbreaking for the new Naval Hospital and a dental clinic. The quality of life emphasis also included groundbreakings for Phase 1 of the Combat Center child care facility and the 801 Housing Project located off base.

Marine Corps officials also recognized the Combat Center's exchange as the Large Exchange of the Year.

"Gen. Mundy, we just finished a multiple-battalion Combined Arms Exercise and it was a big success," Hopkins said. "We need more equipment, but we're ready and we're on the way to more success."

He noted the success of the 7th MEB, which was deactivated this past March. "We had a rendezvous on the 16th of August of 1990 and less than nine days later, I declared them combat ready."

While Hopkins noted the contributions of Marines, he also praised the efforts of civilian employees on base.

Hopkins also praised the community for its support of the Combat Center. "I'd like to thank the city of Twentynine Palms, when I've been here and even when I was away, for its wonderful support."

He told Sutton that he should enjoy his tour at the Combat Center.

"To the Marines, goodbye and good hunting," Hopkins said.

After both the incoming and outgoing commanding generals addressed the audience, Mundy spoke to the crowd.

"This is a day when we recognize one of the greats," he said. "We say this a lot, but in this case it is really true."

Mundy said if anything characterizes Hopkins, it is the word "leader."

Finally, before awarding Hopkins with his second Distinguished Service Medal, Mundy referred to a song about a coal miner and an American legend — Big John.

"He hoisted up a sagging beam and let all the miners escape," Mundy said.

"Big John (Hopkins) is a big, big man. I would say the timber that shores the essence of the Marine Corps has been resting on your shoulders for a long time."

Martial Arts Instructors Course

July 8 - July 28

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

Location: Martial Arts Facility, Building 1652

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Fulgencio at 830-0290

Reward up to \$1000

for information leading to a felony arrest, the recovery of drugs or stolen property. **And you never have to give your name!**

TEXT: NCIS plus your tip information to 274637 (CRIMES)

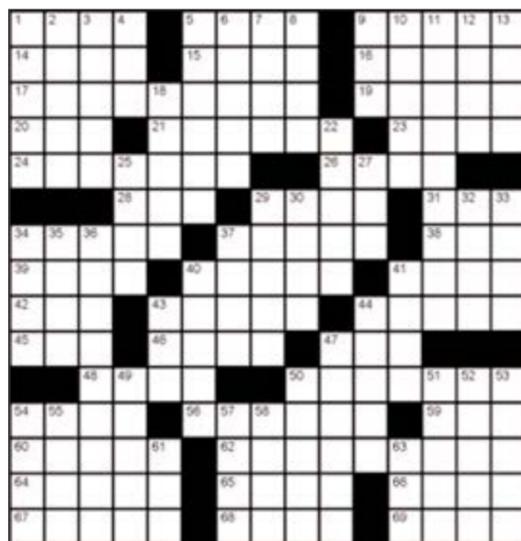
WEB: Log on to www.ncis.navy.mil & submit your tip

APP: Visit the iTunes or Android mobile store to download the **TipSubmitApp**.

Sponsored by NCIS

"Z-Z-ZOOM"

- Across**
- 1 Farm building
 - 5 "___ Lama Ding Dong"
 - 9 Stuns
 - 14 Black and white cookie
 - 15 Australian birds
 - 16 Coral island
 - 17 Aquarium swimmer named for an animal on land
 - 19 Took without asking
 - 20 ___ in a million (rare)
 - 21 Throw trash on the ground
 - 23 ___ out a living
 - 24 Cracker type
 - 26 Actress Bancroft or Heche
 - 28 Donkey's sound
 - 29 Nose, eyes, etc.
 - 31 Self-importance
 - 34 Twelve
 - 37 ___ mignon
 - 38 Baby doggie
 - 39 Norse god
 - 40 Ranted and ___
 - 41 "The Way We ___"
 - 42 Howard or Paul
 - 43 Watch brand
 - 44 TV show they've already shown before
 - 45 Dog's bark
 - 46 Beers
 - 47 Brooks or Gibson
 - 48 Land measurement
- Down**
- 50 Shop class noisemakers
 - 54 ___ Lisa (famous painting)
 - 56 Harsh sound
 - 59 Last month: abbr.
 - 60 Country whose capital is New Delhi
 - 62 Renee of Hollywood
 - 64 Strict
 - 65 Having the power
 - 66 Donated
 - 67 Songs for one person
 - 68 Tampa Bay baseball team
 - 69 Got larger
 - 1 Stadium
 - 2 Fight back
 - 3 Neither here ___ there
 - 4 Make more elegant
 - 5 Not much
 - 6 Has to
 - 7 Tennis great Arthur
 - 8 The, in German
 - 9 When some local news shows begin
 - 10 Worker with animals
 - 11 Fashion magazine
 - 12 Wintertime



- transportation
- 44 Extend your magazine subscription
- 18 Creature from space
- 22 Went quickly
- 25 At that point
- 27 Badminton barrier
- 29 Bills with Lincoln on them
- 30 "Jeopardy!" host
- 32 Wise one
- 33 Sign on a store
- 34 "___ the Explorer"
- 35 Unpleasant scent
- 36 Wine store choice
- 37 Renown
- 40 Agitates
- 41 Use a blowtorch
- 43 Road goo
- 47 Trees used in syrup- making
- 49 Egypt's capital
- 50 Actress Field or astronaut Ride
- 51 ___ Allan Poe
- 52 Christopher of "Superman"
- 53 Nail's cousin
- 54 Hit or ___
- 55 Not fooled by
- 57 Former Russian ruler
- 58 McEntire of country
- 61 Part of Q&A
- 63 ___ McMuffin

See answers on page A3

SUDOKU 3284 D

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

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



OBSERVATION POST

- Commanding General** - Maj. Gen. David H. Berger
- Base Sgt. Maj.** - Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino
- Public Affairs Officer** - Capt. Justin Smith
- Public Affairs Chief** - Staff Sgt. Dorian Gardner
- Media NCOIC** - Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkimilis
- Layout/Design** - Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
- Press Chief** - Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
- Correspondents** - Cpl. Al Azimi, Cpl. Charles J. Santamaria

The Observation Post is published by Hi-Desert Publishing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the Observation Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States government, the DOD, or the United States Marine Corps. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD or Hi-Desert Publishing of the services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is prepared by the Public Affairs Office, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92278. All photos, unless otherwise indicated are Official USMC Photos. Questions can be directed to the Public Affairs Office, located in building 1417, during normal working hours at 830-6213 or FAX 830-5474. The Observation Post is made with 60 percent recycled paper.

OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

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

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

- 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.
 - 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.

- 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

Patrick

Scottsdale, Ariz. game advisor, GameStop, 24

WHITAKER

WHITAKER'S FATHER WAS A MARINE AND HE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS LIFE GROWING UP ON MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS IN CALIFORNIA. WHITAKER, WHO NOW WORKS AT THE COMBAT CENTER GAMESTOP, IS CURRENTLY GOING TO SCHOOL TO BE A VIDEOGRAPHER AND HE HAS A TRUE PASSION FOR GAMING.

>Growing up, we didn't move around very much. We were stationed in California for the majority of my father's enlistment. Even after he retired, he stayed in Twentynine Palms, Calif., and so did I.

>I know that not a lot of people enjoy Twentynine Palms, but I have no problem with the area. What keeps me here now is the fact that I have a family and I love my job.

>I got married on the Marine Corps birthday in 2012. It was actually a total coincidence. My wife wanted to get married Oct. 7, but due to planning we decided to move it to Nov. 7. At that point we decided to move it to the weekend which so happened to be Nov. 10. It is great to look back on now, because I'll never forget our anniversary.

>Growing up, I always worked on base, never had a job anywhere else. I have always enjoyed working with Marines. We have a lot of gamers on this base, and I have gotten pretty close with a lot of them who come into the store.

>It feels fantastic to be able to interact with Marines about something I love. I have regulars who come in and we talk and get to know each other. I have guys who I know before they go on deployment, then they come back and tell me their stories. It is a really cool opportunity for me.

>I found the job listing on the internet when the GameStop first opened. I ended up getting lucky and got the job, and I have been here ever since.

>Working here has been great for me, and knowing what you are selling makes it easier.

>I have been going to school for a lot of video-related things. I took some photography classes, as well as video making. My ultimate goal is to be a cinematographer.

>I'm working on two short-films right now. One is a music video and the other is related to a video game.

>I do a lot of video editing, and I also have my own YouTube channel. I do a lot of random stuff, video game reviews and other stuff to help me break into the industry.

>I see myself in film school in about two or three years. In the meantime, I plan to keep working with my YouTube channel, and continue working at GameStop.

>Hopefully after I graduate film school, I can do it as a career. I have pretty low standards as far as what I need in life, as long as I'm doing something I love and have enough to get by.

>I'm ready for a change of scenery. I have been in Twentynine Palms for so long that my family and I are definitely ready to move. I haven't set anything in stone yet, but eventually would like to move somewhere else.

>I remember back in high school, I realized I wasn't an artist at all. I would draw stick figures and think they were masterpieces, but quickly learned that wasn't going to cut it. I still needed to take an art credit, so I took a video production class.

>I really started to enjoy that, and started doing short anime music videos, and I have had a passion for video ever since.

>I used to have an old VHS camera that my brothers and I used to have a lot of fun with. We would make these old-school horror films.

>I have worked a bunch of different jobs throughout Marine Corps installations, but GameStop has been my favorite. It allows me to follow my passion for video games, as well as interact and give back to the Marines on base.



Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock, May 27, 2014

Looking for local entertainment?
See page B2 for our Liberty Call section

Looking for the right
job for you?



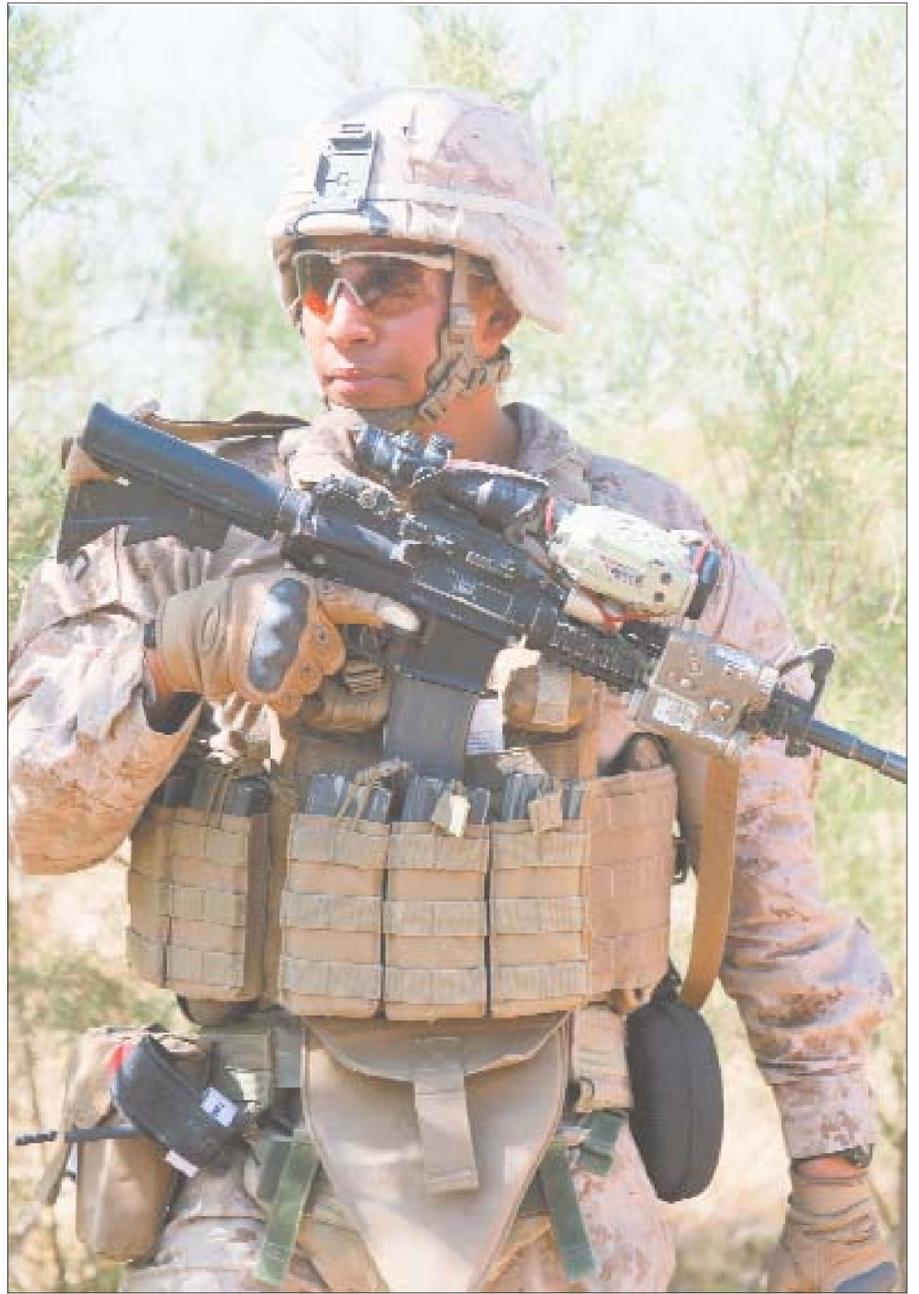
Check the Observation Post
Classified section

WeekINPhotos

1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment



PHOTOS BY CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN



[Above, left and right] Cpl. Isaac Garcia, mortarman, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, patrols during a two-day mission in Larr Village, Afghanistan, May 22. Garcia and the rest of the unit conducted several patrols to disrupt Taliban fighters in the area and gather intelligence. The infantrymen received small-arms and machine gun fire from enemy fighters during the second day of the operation. **[Top, left]** Lance Cpl. Heroshi Mendoza, mortarman, 1/7, provides security from behind a mud wall during a two-day mission in Larr Village, Afghanistan, May 22.



Prefer your news from the web?



Visit

29palms.usmc.mil

Tips to staying safe while off-roading

Story by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

The exhilaration of riding an all-terrain vehicle or dirt bike is a thrill many service members enjoy while stationed aboard the Combat Center.

Opportunities to ride these vehicles throughout the desert may seem endless. However, service members need to be sure safety precautions are taken while doing so.

With safety in mind, operating these vehicles can be a fun pastime, according to Daniel Mulvihill, a tactical safety specialist with 7th Marine Regiment.

“Our goal when riders come to us for safety is to (make) them aware of the risks associated with unsafe riding,” Mulvihill said. “The same operational risk management that service members apply in their daily duties needs to correlate with their off-duty activities as well.”

Individuals who operate personally owned off-road motorcycles, light utility vehicles and ATVs off installation must participate in the installation or local dealership’s off-road motorcycle, ATV or LUV course, according to Marine Corps Order 5100.19F.

“It’s important for service members to realize when they go home on leave and jump back into riding that they need to take it slow,”

Mulvihill said. “The reality is, when you haven’t done something for a while, you need to ease your way back into it as safely as possible.”

To help keep riders safe from the effects of crashes or falls, proper protective equipment should be worn at all times when operating off-road vehicles, according to Bobby Piirainen, a traffic safety manager with the Combat Center’s motorcycle safety office.

“The PPE that should be worn includes a hel-

Our goal, when riders come to us for safety, is to (make) them aware of the risks associated with unsafe riding.”

– Daniel Mulvihill

met, eye protection, gloves, boots and appropriate clothing such as long-sleeve [jackets] and pants,” Piirainen said. “I would recommend extra protective gear such as a chest protector, neck brace, and off-road riding pants with knee and shin pads, as long as they still allow the rider to maneuver the vehicle accordingly.”

Riders planning for an extended ride or short ride should remember operating off-road vehicles

fatigues riders faster than driving a car, according to Piirainen.

Never ride alone on long rides, and remember to bring extra fuel, snacks and plenty of water to stay hydrated, he added.

Service members have the personal responsibility to prevent injuries. The loss of a service member due to injury can be debilitating to the entire unit.

“You always want to better yourself in everything you do, and you do that through proper training,” Piirainen said. “We feel like service members receiving the proper training and awareness about off-road vehicle safety increases their chances of avoiding an accident.”

Most experienced riders are aware of the risks of unsafe riding, and offer guidance for the newer riders, according to Sgt. Jake Seibert, technician, Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

“You should always be as safe as possible when riding,” Seibert said. “Most of the people out here are pretty experienced and have plenty of tips or personal stories to share with people who aren’t as experienced.”

Throughout the 101 Critical Days of Summer initiative, Marines are encouraged to apply the same safety used during their daily duties to their fun activities while on liberty.



CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

[Above] Staff. Sgt. Andrew Eichelberger, master gunner, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, prepares to ride trails during a Dirt Day event at the Joshua Tree Dry Lake Bed, Oct. 25, 2013.

[Right] Eichelberger jumps his dirt bike during a Dirt Day event at the Joshua Tree Dry Lake Bed, Oct. 25, 2013.



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

CHEF, from A1



CPL. ALI AZIMI

[Above] Cpl. Melvin R. Banuelos, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, slides in his Greek-style pizzas during the Chef of the Quarter Competition at Phelps Chow Hall, Wednesday. The dish was a crowd favorite.

cooking styles. After the test, the chefs competed in a jeopardy-style competition, which also tested them on basic culinary information. The top three teams earned a chance to compete the following day in the cooking portion which was timed and monitored.

“The toughest part of the competition, for me, was the time limit,” said Lance Cpl. Kenneth Martin, food service specialist, Phelps Mess Hall. “Everything seemed so fast. People were scrambling around like crazy trying to meet the deadline.”

All chefs were given the same ingredients to choose from and were instructed to make an appetizer, entrée and dessert. The two main foods that were required to be used by each team were pizza and chicken wings.

The dishes were judged on multiple fac-

tors including taste, presentation and an explanation of how it was prepared and how the ingredients were utilized.

“The competition was a lot of fun but it was also nerve-racking,” Martin said. “You don’t know what to expect. You just do your best to make the food and hope people enjoy it.”

Cpl. Melvin Banuelos, food service specialist, Phelps Mess Hall, and Martin went on to win the quarterly competition.

“We got to showcase our skills and get away from what we do every day at the chow hall,” Banuelos said. “We cook en masse for the chow hall but today we had to pay attention to the flavor, presentation, and actually create a menu of what we were going to serve. We got to use our creative side and it feels good to come out on top.”

DARKSIDE, from A1



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

[Left] Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, makes his remarks about 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment during the battalion's deactivation ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 30. “When our country needs to, it will say once again for the seventh time, 3/4 up,” Nicholson said.

all present, spanning its deployments, service and Marines who built the reputation it has today. Kenney and Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, battalion sergeant major, 3/4, then took their posts to case the battalion’s colors.

“Today, with a heavy heart, I will dismiss the battalion,” Kenney said. “I know it’s not a matter of if we’ll reactivate, but when, and that will be when the nation needs warriors.”

With the colors cased, and an intent to keep them at home aboard the Combat Center, it was time to dismiss the battalion that accomplished five deployments to Iraq, one unit deployment program, and three deployments to Afghanistan within a decade.

“We’re not saying goodbye to these colors,” Nicholson said. “We’re saying goodnight. Take a well-deserved break after a decade of war. When our country needs to, it will say once again for the seventh time, 3/4 up.”

STUDENTS, from A1

how people are punished and what happens after they are arrested.”

At the G-6, the students saw how important the internet and telephone lines are to the base. Their visit to the base also taught the students about internet safety and how things posted on the internet never go away.

“One of the children brought up Instagram during the visit to the G-6,” said James Wehr, deputy operations officer, G-6. “The student was under the impression that once a photo is uploaded it’s gone forever. What the class learned was that anything uploaded onto the internet, even if it’s taken down, remains in the internet cloud in some way.”

The escorts for the visits were mostly former Marines who were able to give more insight on each part of the visit.

“Some of the positive things that come from these trips are the opportunities the children see in the military,” Wehr said. “I think it’s important for the kids to come out and see what happens on the base and how Marines operate. It opens their eyes to new things and takes them out of their normal routine and gives them insight on the military.”

After a day of touring the installation, the students got a better understanding of the military’s law enforcement and communications section and how both aspects are incorporated into the operation of the base.

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

B	A	R	N		R	A	M	A		D	A	Z	E	S		
O	R	E	O		E	M	U	S		A	T	O	L	L		
Z	E	B	R	A	F	I	S	H		S	T	O	L	E		
O	N	E		L	I	T	T	E	R		E	K	E	D		
S	A	L	T	I	N	E				A	N	N	E			
				H	E	E		F	A	C	E		E	G	O	
D	O	Z	E	N			F	I	L	E	T		P	U	P	
O	D	I	N			R	A	V	E	D			W	E	R	E
R	O	N			T	I	M	E	X			R	E	R	U	N
A	R	F			A	L	E	S			M	E	L			
				A	C	R	E			S	A	N	D	E	R	S
M	O	N	A			S	C	R	A	P	E		D	E	C	
I	N	D	I	A			Z	E	L	L	W	E	G	E	R	
S	T	E	R	N			A	B	L	E			G	A	V	E
S	O	L	O	S			R	A	Y	S			G	R	E	W

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

**LOOKING
for local
entertainment?**

See page B2 for our
LIBERTY CALL
section

FIT with the PHANTOMS

Marines volunteer in Big Bear

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

BIG BEAR, Calif. – Cold winds raged and the foggy breath of Marines could be seen as they began their ascent up the mountain to Big Bear, Calif. The Marines, traveling from the Combat Center, were unfazed by the extreme climate change as they had a more important mission to focus on.

Promoting physical fitness is a mission Marines know well. Members of the American Legion and the Marine Corps League detachment in Big Bear came together and decided an initiative needed to be put in place to promote fitness in the area.

Jim Lona, commandant, Marine Corps League Detachment 1038, reached out to the Combat Center to gather volunteers who would be willing to participate. Lona devised an eight-week program in which Marines with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 would volunteer every Tuesday, starting April 22, to conduct two separate physical fitness activities.

The first activity took place in the morning with consumers from the Cole Vocational Services facility. The second activity consisted of Marines

meeting with local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.

"I heard some of the Marines had experience dealing with adults with developmental disabilities, so I wanted to get them involved in this program," said Shari Volpicelli, program director, Cole Vocational Services. "Our consumers and staff have absolutely loved having the Marines come out and conduct physical activities. One of our consumers came up to me and said she had lost 10 pounds in the last three weeks. I always hear them talking about how much fun they have and I know they look forward to this every week."

Marines prepared work-out routines to conduct with the various groups during their visits.

"The purpose of the program is fitness, but it also teaches different aspects of leadership," Lona said. "For the kids and consumers to see a group of Marines working together and leading them, it shows them a lot about leadership which is just as important as fitness."

Each session lasted about an hour. During those sessions, senior leaders from

Big Bear Fire Department, Big Bear Sheriff's Station and Big Bear Cross Fit made appearances to support the program.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback from the city of Big Bear about this initiative," Lona said. "Every week, we have various officials from the city come out and check out what we are doing and they always want to come back because they realize how important it is."

For many of the Marines involved, working with developmentally disabled adults and young children was an opportunity for them to get out of their comfort zone, according to Sgt. Elizabeth Jones, ground support equipment mechanic, VMU-3.

"When we were asked to be involved in this, I volunteered right away," Jones said. "I have learned so much from these past weeks volunteering. It has helped me to become a better leader, as well as being

a better representative of the Marine Corps within the local communities."

Officials from the Big Bear community have supported the program from its very beginning, praising the Marines' commitment to an important cause, according to Lona.

"I really enjoy seeing not only what the kids and consumers get out of it, but also what the Marines get out of it," said Lona. "I always see the Marines out here enjoying their time, and getting so much out of the experience. It is truly a great thing. Each day, after the first physical fitness session, we take the Marine out to a new restaurant and purchase their lunch to show our gratitude for what they do."

The program will continue until the end of the eight-week period, and be capped off with a field day to include a barbeque and award presentation. In the meantime, Marines will continue to meet with the groups every Tuesday, ready to kick off some physical fitness.

"I have seen a lot of excitement and improvement in all of our scouts," said Hunter Natzic, den chief, Cub Scouts. "Fitness, for me, helps me in everything I do. It helps me to focus in school, and I also feel better after a good work out. It is important for us to teach that to these kids while they are young, so they grow up with that mindset."



[Above] Marines with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 assist participants of a physical fitness session in Big Bear, Calif., May 20. With the various groups, Marines pre-planned work-out routines to conduct during their visits.

[Below] Marines with VMU-3 conduct cool-down stretches with Boy Scouts after a physical fitness session in Big Bear, Calif., May 20. The first fitness activity took place in the morning with consumers from the Cole Vocational Services. The second activity consisted of Marines meeting with local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.



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

The CLIMB

Bridgeport team takes on Mt. McKinley

[Below] Mountain Warfare Instructors from Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., reach the summit of Mt. McKinley, May 23. Mt. McKinley is the highest point in North America at 20,230 feet above sea level. The Denali Team consisted of Capt. Bryan Guiney, Capt. Seth Miller, Staff Sgt. Jose Ramirez, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Dible, Sgt. John Nelson, Sgt. Dylan Hulburt, Sgt. Eric Masters and Petty Officer 2nd Class Steven Head.

[Left] Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Head and Staff Sgt. Benjamin Dible, traverse Mt. McKinley's ridgeline as part of the MCMWTC Denali Team's summit effort. Assigned to the Mountain Warfare Training Group, the team executed the 11-day expedition to validate high altitude-cold weather, small-unit mobility techniques, procedures and equipment.



CAPT. BRYAN GUINEY



CAPT. SETH MILLER

**See page B2
for
Sunset
Cinema
movie
schedule**





Adopt *a* School

'Rhinos' visit Landers Elementary

Story and photos by
Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkimilis



A swarm of children buzzed about the fenced-in dirt and concrete play area, spilling a sea of vibrant color on to the desert. The boys and girls collected in color-coordinated clans, resembling co-ed tribes of Peter Pan's lost boys. The sounds of laughter and joy steadily built in a crescendo of school year's end celebration, and peeped into this kaleidoscope of fun and games were spots of olive drab green and desert tan.

Combat Center Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 volunteered in an Adopt-a-School event at Landers Elementary School, Tuesday. The Marines served as leaders for each group of children and navigated the students through nearly a dozen fun-filled stations.

"I think it's wonderful to have the Marines out here today," said Vicky Chambless, physical education teacher, Landers Elementary School. "The kids really look forward to seeing them and they really look up to them. It's good to have their presence here to help out."

The day began with the lower and upper grades having separate field days. The nine field day stations consisted of activities, which used skills the children worked on throughout the year from

Frisbee-golf and beach volleyball to obstacle courses and pool noodle javelin throws.

"We get to hang out with the Marines, play outside all day and do lots of stations and different activities outside of the class," said Austin Simms, 10. "That's why it's so much fun."

The students weren't only celebrating getting out of their classrooms for the day, but also the quickly approaching last day of school.

"Next Wednesday is the last day of school and this is sort of a tradition for the end of the year," Chambless said. "The teachers are wrapping up their lessons and the kids have worked so hard on the lessons. This is just a fun activity for the kids to do to get in the summer spirit."

In the afternoon, when the day seemed the hottest, the event metamorphosed. After the students returned from lunch, they discovered a whole new field day where every activity tested them in one thing; how to become completely drenched from head to toe. The recess area had been transformed into an interactive soak-you-to-the-bone splash zone and the Marines were the primary conductors of the water orchestra.

"It's great to be out here with the kids and support the community, even if it does get us soaked," said Lance Cpl. Anna Steever, water purification

specialist, Engineer Company, MWSS 374. "I like being out here because, personally, I love being around kids. It reminds me of being around my little cousins and my family."

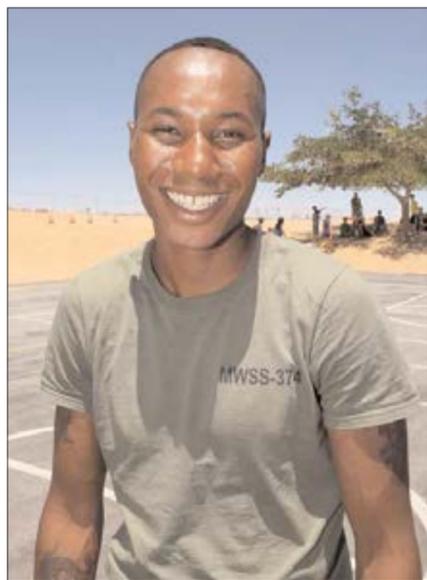
In between celebrating small victories, eating watermelon and trying to splash the Marines at any given chance, the children asked the Marines questions about the Marine Corps, different jobs in the Corps, and why the Marines wanted to join.

"I think the kids benefit from the Marines being here because the Marines are a different kind of leader than their teachers," Chambless said. "I think it's thrilling for them to have these guys and girls that they look up to out here. I think it makes the field day special."

The Marines said they were happy to volunteer their time to interact with the children and expressed the importance of the Combat Center reaching out to the community.

"I think this is a great experience, coming out here and interacting with the kids," said Lance Cpl. Quari Pullin, heavy equipment operator, Engineer Co., MWSS 374. "It lets us give back to the community. It's good for the kids to be around Marines and other service members so we can let them know that we really do care about them and to give them a positive image of us."

What was your favorite part about field day?



"It's good for the kids to be around Marines and other service members so we can let them know that we actually care about them and to give them a positive image of us."

-Lance Cpl. Quari Pullin



"We get to hang out with the Marines, play outside all day, and do lots of stations and different activities outside of the class."

-Austin Simms



[Top] Pfc. Jerry Breazeale, electrician, Engineer Company, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, coaches Kenny Caldwell, second-grader, on how to throw a pool noodle like a javelin during an Adopt-a-School event at Landers Elementary School, Tuesday.

[Above] Cpl. Christopher Woutzke, heavy equipment operator, Engineer Company, MWSS 374, cheers on Damien Sanchez, fifth-grader, during an Adopt-a-School event at Landers Elementary School, Tuesday.

[Below] Lance Cpl. Anna Steever, water purification specialist, Engineer Company, MWSS 374, watches Alyvia Rasted, second-grader, throw a basketball during an Adopt-a-School held at Landers Elementary School, Tuesday.



"I like getting to play with the Marines all day."

-Autumn Kasper



"It's great to be out here with the kids and to support the community. I like being out here because personally I love being around kids. It reminds me of being around my little cousins and my family."

-Lance Cpl. Anna Steever



Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Intramural Golf Competition

Teams may have up to six players in this 72-hole Stroke Play Tournament. Entry deadline is Friday, June 6.

When: June 9 - 12, 8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Desert Winds Golf Course

For more information, call 830-4092

Summer Flight Night V

Kick off the summer by watching live mixed-martial arts fights for free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Due to the event's violent nature, parental guidance is highly suggested.

When: June 20, 7 - 10 p.m.

Where: Del Valle Field

For more information, call 830-5086

Devil Dogs of Comedy

Form a group and enter a video submission for a chance to win an amazing prize for each team member.

Where: Visit www.leatherneck.com for official rules

When: May 19 - June 27

For more information, contact DevilDogsComedy@usmc-mccs.org

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

Sunset Cinema

Friday, June 6

5 p.m. — **Free Admission** Aliens, R

8:30 p.m. — A Haunted House 2, R

10 p.m. — Brick Mansions, R

12 a.m. — The Quiet Ones, PG-13

Saturday, June 7

10 a.m. — **Free Admission** The Goonies, PG

12:30 p.m. — Heaven is for Real, PG

3 p.m. — The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3-D, PG-13

6 p.m. — Transcendence, PG-13

8:30 p.m. — The Other Woman, PG-13

11 p.m. — The Amazing Spider-Man 2, PG-13

Sunday, June 8

12:30 p.m. — Mom's Night Out, PG

3 p.m. — The Amazing Spider-Man 2, PG-13

6 p.m. — The Quiet Ones, PG-13

8:30 p.m. — Neighbors, R

Monday, June 9

5 p.m. — **Free Admission** Pretty Woman, R

7:30 p.m. — The Other Woman, PG-13

Tuesday, June 10

5 p.m. — **Free Admission** Ghost, PG-13

7:30 p.m. — Heaven is for Real, PG

Wednesday, June 11

5 p.m. — **Free Admission** Edward Scissorhands, PG-13

7 p.m. — Transcendence, PG-13

Thursday, June 12

5 p.m. — **Free Admission** Pulp Fiction, R

8 p.m. — A Haunted House 2, R

High Desert

A Doll's House

A gripping drama first produced in 1879.

When: June 20 - July 19

Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Rd

For more information, call (760) 361-4151

Low Desert

Golden Boy Boxing

10-round main event will feature Hugo 'The Boss' Centeno against Domonique Dolton

When: 8 p.m., June 6

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Pkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 342-5000

Wayans Brothers Live

Actors and comedians perform live

When: 8 p.m., June 21

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Pkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 342-5000



Godzilla: the king of the monsters, makes a rompin', stompin' comeback

NEIL POND

"Godzilla"

Starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Bryan Cranston and Elizabeth Olsen

Directed by Gareth Edwards

PG-13, 123 min.

At an age when some folks are thinking about retirement, the world's most famous mega-monster is enjoying a roaring comeback.

First introduced in a 1954 Japanese flick as a metaphor for the nuclear weapons that had leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, Godzilla went on to become a worldwide pop-cultural phenomenon — and sometimes a parody. The gigantic lumbering lizard appeared in nearly 30 other movies, squared off against everyone from King Kong to Bambi, inspired a song by Blue Oyster Cult, shilled shoes for Nike, and received an MTV Lifetime Achievement Award.

If it sounds like show-business super-saturation turned the King of the Monsters — a title he's held since the 1950s — into a softy and a sell-out, the latest movie returns him to his rockin', rompin', stompin' roots.

While this "Godzilla" has an all-new, modern setting and story, it still connects back to the tale's 1950s Atomic Age roots. Opening in 1999 when a nuclear physicist (Brian Cranston) detects a seismic anomaly in the Philippines that turns out to be something much more ominous, it quickly jumps ahead to present-day San Francisco, the scientist's now-grown son (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), and another Pacific rumble signaling something big and bad once again about to blow...

Godzilla fans may be somewhat disappointed that they have to wait an hour for the main attraction to appear. But director Gareth Edwards deftly plays out the build-up to the big guy. He develops his characters (although Elizabeth Olsen, as the wife of Taylor-Johnson's character, and Ken Watanabe, a fine, pedigreed Japanese actor, are all but lost in the shuffle). We meet a couple of other creatures, the huge, gargoyle-like Mutos, and delve into a subplot of government conspiracy and cover-up.

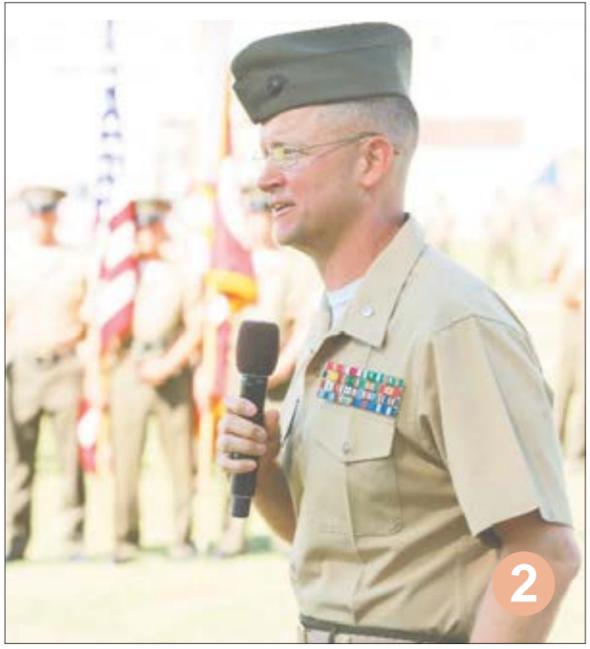
So when Godzilla finally does show, we're ready for the rumble. As monster-movie fans know, Big G's not really a bad guy; in fact, he usually appears when some other monster gets seriously out of bounds. And when two — or more — mega-monsters are tussling, well, you can just expect some things — Tokyo, Las Vegas, San Francisco — to get a bit trampled in the process.

Godzilla is also an environmentalist, of sorts. As Watanabe's character explains, "Nature has an order, a power to restore balance. He is that power."

Edwards, cinematographer Seamus McGarvey, and the special effects team do a great job of integrating digital dazzle and live action, and several scenes have an almost trippy, hypnotic aura of amazement and awe, as soldiers parachute through battling behemoths into the wrecked cityscape below, or children on a school bus watch Godzilla rage alongside the Golden Gate Bridge.

Other monsters come and go. But a prehistoric creature that still has the atomic oomph to strut out of the ocean, make a 400-foot-tall, megaton statement, and set the world straight, well, there's only one that comes to mind.

Godzilla is still da bomb.



3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment deactivation ceremony

1. The color guard conducts pass and review during the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment deactivation ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 30.
2. Lt. Col. Jeff Kenney, commanding officer, 3/4, makes his remarks during the battalion's deactivation ceremony. "Today, with a heavy heart, I will dismiss the battalion," Kenney said. "I know it's not a matter of if we'll reactivate, but when, and that will be when the nation needs warriors."
3. Veterans who served with 3/4 are recognized during the battalion's deactivation ceremony. In addition to these men, whom served in the Vietnam War, former commanders and sergeants major of the battalion were called to stand and be recognized.
4. Lt. Col. Jeff Kenney and Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, battalion sergeant major, 3/4, case the battalion's colors during its deactivation ceremony.



Hey Combat Center fans!
The Combat Center has its own
Flickr photo and video streams.
Find them at
[http://www.flickr.com/
thecombatcenter](http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter).



Visit the official
MCAGCC facebook page at
[http://www.facebook.com/
thecombatcenter](http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter)



The Combat Center has its
own YouTube channel. Find it at
[http://www.youtube.com/user/
CombatCenterPAO](http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO).

