

## Violence Prevention educates MCAGCC

**Cpl. Ali Azimi**  
 Combat Correspondent

In 2009, Fort Hood, came under attack by former Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan. The incident left 13 people dead and 30 bystanders wounded, and opened the eyes of the Department of Defense to some much needed training. A new training program was implemented to detect and prevent future tragedies.

The Combat Center conducted its annual Violence Prevention Awareness and Recognition Course this week at Bldg. 1707. The class was given by senior instructors from Armada, a contracted security company.

“Last year the program kicked off,” said Eric Kazmierczak, senior instructor, Armada. “It is an annual requirement now.”

The two-hour course identified the warning signs and behavioral indicators of violence, the escalation

*“The workplace has become a violent place.”*

-Eric Kazmierczak

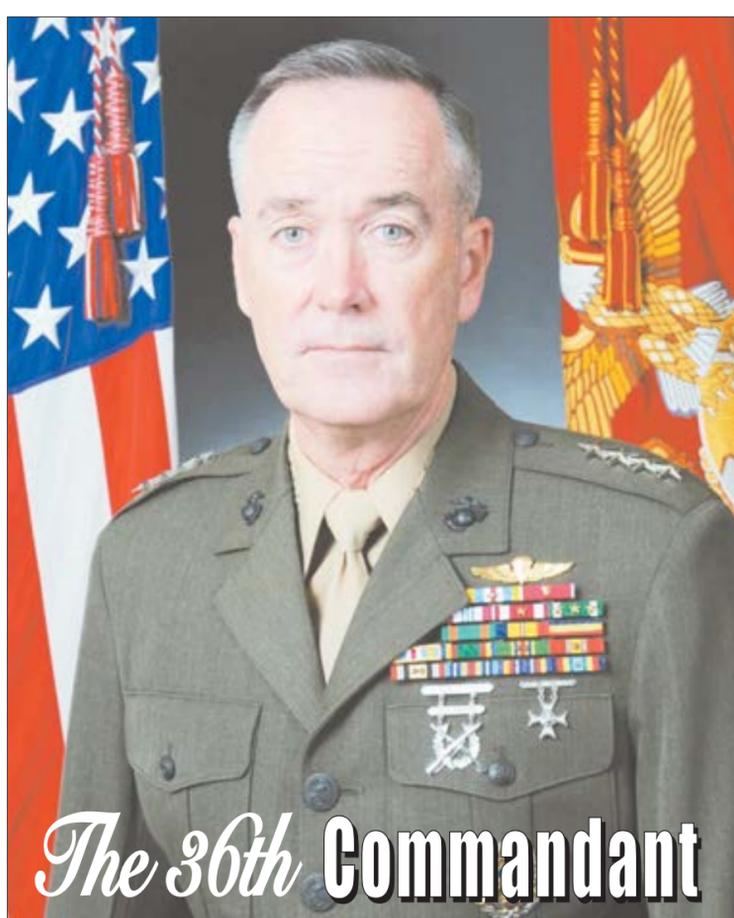
of potentially dangerous behavior, how to properly report warning signs and indicators and lastly, defined an active shooter.

During the course, the instructors used videos, news reports and recent headlines as examples of workplace violence. Their most prominent examples were the active-shooter situations at Fort Hood and the Washington Naval Yard shooting last year. In each case, there were tell-tale signs that could have helped identify the culprits as a threat and prevented tragedies. The instructors urged the audience to look for signs from their coworkers, such as unusual behavior or performance in the workplace.

By identifying these indicators, coworkers can help deescalate situations before they become a problem, or at the very least, raise awareness.

According to the Department of Labor, there were more than 7 million instances of workplace violence in 2009, ranging from threats and intimidation to homicide. The instructors said the numbers have

See **VIOLENCE, A6**



## The 36th Commandant

COURTESY PHOTO

### President nominates new top Marine

**Sgt. Chelsea Anderson**  
 Combat Correspondent

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — President Barack Obama has chosen Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. to serve as the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced June 5. The decision is pending senate confirmation.

Dunford is currently serving as the commander of the International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces-Afghanistan.

Dunford will relieve Gen. James F. Amos this fall, who will retire following his relief and appointment ceremony after 43 years of service.

“He is one of the most knowledgeable and talented leaders and thinkers in the military today,” Amos said. “He has commanded and excelled at every level. His tenure as commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan over the past 18 months has been

extraordinary, and is testament to the full measure of the man. Our country and our Marine Corps will benefit greatly from his continued service.”

Since his commissioning in 1977, Dunford has served in multiple prestigious assignments including the Director of the Operations Division for Plans, Policies and Operations; Commanding General of I Marine Expeditionary Force and the Commander of Marine Forces Central Command; and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. He also served in three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with valor device, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three award stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the NATO Medal.

## IEA presented to Combat Center

**MCAGCC**  
 Public Affairs

For an unprecedented fifth consecutive year, the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC), Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) was recognized as a recipient of the Commander in Chief’s Installation Excellence Award. This award, bestowed by the Office of the President of the United States, recognizes military installations whose workforce achievements are worthy of emulation throughout each service.

Known throughout the world as “The Combat Center,” and home to the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC continues to set the standard as the Marine Corps’ premier combat training installation. During FY13, the Combat Center conducted 360 days of Marine Air Ground Task Force combined-arms training for more than 51,000 warfighters, which increased the combat readiness of Marine Expeditionary Forces, sister services, and our allies.

While accomplishing the training mission, the Combat Center provided resident units and families with excellence in facilities, services, and quality of life programs that those defending our country deserve. The Combat Center’s standard of excellence and innovation was reflected in the Secretary of the Navy’s Energy and Water Management Award, six Marine Corps Community Services Food and Hospitality Excellence Awards, six Public Affairs Merit Awards, National Safety Council’s Defense Driving Course Instructor of the Year Award, Best of the West Mess Hall Award, and the International Footprint Association Award for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Today, the innovative leadership and dedication of the Combat Center’s military and civilian team continue their primary focus of providing the most realistic and challenging fully integrated live-fire combined arms training in the world for our deploying forces.

## Combat Logistics Marines conduct Motorized Operations Training



Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 451 utilize an M240B machine gun to fire down range on long distance targets in a motorized operations training exercise aboard the Combat Center, June 8.

Story and photo by **Sgt. Adwin Esters**

**M**arines from Combat Logistics Battalion 451, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, based in Orlando, Fl., participated in Motorized Operations Training exercise, as part of Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, June 8.

The MOT exercise consists of several events designed to simulate different situations the battalion might encounter while traveling in a convoy of vehicles such as 7-tons and Humvees mounted with M240B machine guns, M2 .50-caliber machine guns and MK19 grenade launchers.

The live-fire portion of the exercise consisted of the platoon receiving simulated enemy fire at long range. The range controllers, or “coyotes,” first direct a gunner on each of the convoy vehicles, step aside to allow the vehicle commanders to direct fire, and then allow the convoy commander to control all vehicle gunners’ direction of fire. The platoon is later evaluated by the coyotes on how well they performed.

“The training is situated to provide a building block approach to providing effective fire,” said 1st Lt. Jian Cardenas, 2nd platoon commander, and

See **TRAINING, A6**



CPL. ALI AZIMI

A volunteer with Gladiators of Christ Ministries breaks a board with a kick during a mixed martial arts demonstration as a part of the Serving Those Who Serve event at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School barracks, June 5.

## Serving those who serve: GOC supports Combat Center

**Cpl. Ali Azimi**  
 Combat Correspondent

The Gladiators of Christ Ministries, sponsored by the Combat Center’s Christ Chapel, held a Serving Those Who Serve event at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School barracks, June 5.

The GOC is a Christian group from Temecula, Calif., that conducts two yearly events for Combat Center service members and their families: Serving Those Who Serve and Project Love.

“God put it in my heart,” said Deborah Csecs, event coordinator, GOC ministries. “Coming out here in the middle of nowhere, I realize why God was bringing us out here and why

he brought us out here so strongly.”

This visit gave Csecs and her volunteer crew an opportunity to pull service members away from their usual routine for an afternoon of fun, food and good company.

The event featured a DJ, raffle, a mixed martial arts demonstration and free food. However, some Marines confessed what they enjoyed most was the people.

“Considering we live in the desert, this provided a nice atmosphere,” said Lance Cpl. Garnett Jackson, student, MCCES. “I thought it was nice that everybody could get together.”

Marines, sailors and their families lined up to the buffet table, where they helped themselves to Tri-tip

See **GLADIATORS, A6**

# This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated  
June 22, 1979

Vol. 23, Issue No. 24

## Marine reservists invade desert

Story by Sgt. Paul Koloski

Over 700 Marine reservists arrived at the Combat Center June 16, initiating annual training duty for 4th Marine Division Leathernecks.

The reserve force consisted of Headquarters Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Group, Based in San Francisco; 4th 8" Howitzer Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Group, based in El Paso, Texas; 4th 175 millimeter Gun Battery M, 3rd Field Artillery Group, based in Denver; 5th 8" Howitzer Battery, based in Oklahoma City; Battery M, 4th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment based in Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Detachment, 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, based in West Palm Beach, Fla. Augmenting these Marines are 37 regulars, members of Inspector-Instructor staffs from each of the units.

"While here at the Combat Center, the various units will perform as one artillery group with an eye on achieving 'realtime readiness,'" explained Col. George Killam, USMCR, commanding officer of 3rd Field Artillery Group and overall commander of the ATD Marines. "To achieve this readiness, my men will concentrate on 'gun-and-run' artillery tactics needed to meet the challenges of the modern artillery threat."

This past week, the current Camp Wilson tenants underwent classes in desert survival, explosive ordnance dangers, artillery surveillance, meteorology and forward observation.

The early part of the week served as an acclimation period. However,

the recent unseasonably cold weather spoiled any acclimation plans aimed at adapting marines to 100-degree plus weather.

The weather also caused headaches when high winds lifted sand and sent it swirling over artillery pieces and motor vehicles and into the faces of grimacing Marines. The situation "necessitated continued action attention to maintenance procedures," according to Killam, though he noted that "the men have performed exceptionally well regardless of the less than always ideal weather conditions here."

Killam also asserted a high opinion of the Combat Center, calling it "far superior to any other facility readily available to Marines in the Continental United States for artillery operations."

Rounding out this week's activities was a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System test involving all of the ATD units. This artillery test ascertains whether competent mission performance standards are maintained by the batteries, or not.

Next week, from Monday through Thursday, Exercise Custom Cordite will be held, involving all ATD units. The group level exercise will drill cannoners and ANGLICO personnel in delivery of coordinated artillery fire on a continuous basis in response to an enemy threat that could be logically expected in combat.

Local support for the ATD came from 4/11, the host unit, and the Reserve Training Directorate aboard the Combat Center. 4/11 supported the bulk of combat equipment, fire direction operation assistance and maintenance of motor transport equipment and the self-propelled howitzers and guns. Killam termed the Combat Center's support as "exceptional in every respect."

The ATD ends June 30, at which time all five batteries along with ANGLICO and attached active-duty personnel will return to their individual reserve centers.

## 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

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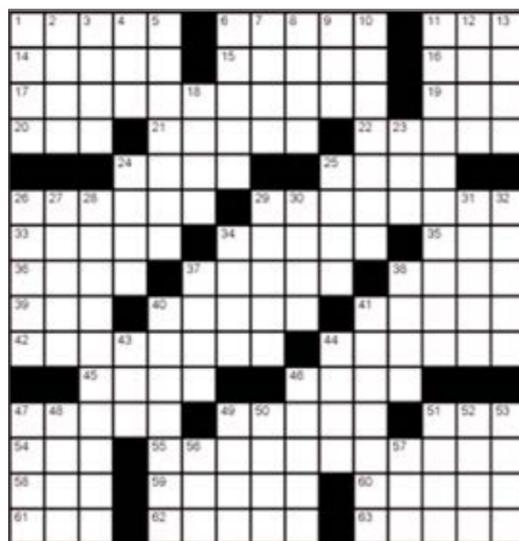
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**APP:** Visit the iTunes or Android mobile store to download the **TipSubmitApp**.

Sponsored by NCIS

## "GRATE JOB"

- Across**
- 1 Irritating people
  - 6 Becomes softer, as music
  - 11 Car navigating device, for short
  - 14 Bother persistently, as a feeling of guilt
  - 15 Integra automaker
  - 16 Music for Will Smith
  - 17 Early education
  - 19 Kwik-E-Mart owner on "The Simpsons"
  - 20 Sneaky
  - 21 Meat-based spreads from France
  - 22 Academy Award
  - 24 Knotts and Johnson
  - 25 \_\_\_ on (give lots of attention to)
  - 26 All-time great
  - 29 Material of Davy Crockett's cap
  - 33 See it the same way
  - 34 Winter clothing
  - 35 Historical period
  - 36 Country next to Iraq
  - 37 Vaccinations
  - 38 Gun sound
  - 39 Minister's title: abbr.
  - 40 Orange covers
  - 41 Nick of "The Prince of Tides"
  - 42 Pittsburgh's football team
  - 44 Show that you accept the offer
- Down**
- 1 Cribbage needs
  - 2 James \_\_\_ Jones
  - 3 Remain
  - 4 Small amount
  - 5 First part of a process
  - 6 Information
  - 7 Dull pain
  - 8 Singing pairs
  - 9 Ending for ranch
  - 10 Taverns
  - 11 "To Catch a Thief" actress, 1955
  - 12 Daddy
  - 13 Part of a cowboy boot



- 14 15
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  - 57 58
  - 59 60
  - 61 62 63
- 18 Beach stuff
  - 23 Roads: abbr.
  - 24 Celeb chef Paula
  - 25 Connect-the-\_\_\_
  - 26 Lion's homes
  - 27 Long-legged bird
  - 28 Blunder
  - 29 Makes less hot
  - 30 Quaker cereal
  - 31 More than mad
  - 32 Expecting parents choose them
  - 34 Sonny Bono's former partner
  - 37 Viewed
  - 38 Men of the future?
  - 40 Makes a promise
  - 41 Talks nonstop
  - 43 Night before
  - 44 Harness the wind, in a boat
  - 46 Game with pawns and rooks
  - 47 Ivory Coast or Irish Spring
  - 48 Enormous
  - 49 Space Shuttle organization
  - 50 Sign on a store
  - 51 Opposite of good
  - 52 "\_\_\_ of the D'Urbervilles"
  - 53 On the water, poetically
  - 56 Uncooked
  - 57 Small battery

See answers on page A3

## SUDOKU 3291 D



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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.

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.
  - 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.

- 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

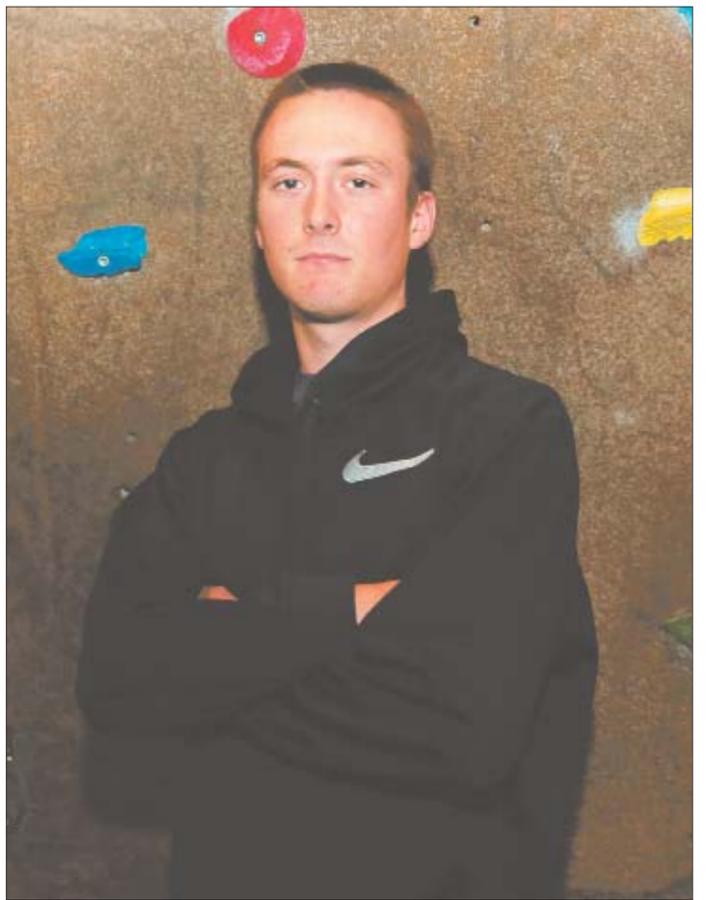
# Aric POPE

Richcrest, Calif. recreation attendant, West Gym, 18

POPE HAS BEEN CLIMBING AND HIKING FOR THE 13 YEARS HE HAS LIVED IN JOSHUA TREE. SINCE THE AGE OF FIVE, HE HAS ALSO RIDDEN DIRT BIKES, CONSTANTLY SEEKING A THRILL EITHER IN HIS DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, IN THE OPEN STRETCHES OF SAND IN THE DESERT, OR ON THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN.

**>I've lived in** Joshua Tree, Calif., for 13 years now and absolutely love the desert.  
**>Most people see** an empty space with sand, I see freedom.  
**>Growing up in the** desert made me discover how free it truly is. The wide-open desert is empty. No one complaining, it's just calm and it has a lot of opportunities for fun.  
**>I've been riding** dirt bikes since I was five years old. When I ride, it's for the experience of having no limits out in the open. Everything goes blank. I forget about all of my problems and stresses. It just becomes me, the bike and the desert.  
**>There's a lot of** maintenance that goes into dirt bikes after riding, but it's all worth it once you're out there.

**>I've never done** dirt bike racing or anything competitive but when I'm with friends, we always challenge each other.  
**>It's more of** a passion for me when I'm on my dirt bike.  
**>I'll always** be on two wheels.  
**>I also got** into rock climbing and hiking growing up.  
**>Now that I** think about it, no one ever introduced me to climbing and I never really talked to my family about it. I lived in Joshua Tree and there was a mountain in my backyard so I started climbing and that's how it began.  
**>Even when I** was younger, I was never afraid of climbing something just because it was higher. I always just went for it.  
**>The mountain behind** my house was approximately 200 feet high so it was a combination of climbing and hiking to make it to its peak but I always wanted to get all the way up just to see the desert from that vantage point.  
**>The life or death** situation of hanging on a side of a mountain gives me a sense of excitement I enjoy.  
**>I don't really ever** use a harness; I just go out there with what I have on. It's kind of dangerous but that's what makes it exciting.  
**>I was eight years old** the first time I made it all the way to the top of the mountain behind my house and I didn't want to go half way and plan it out, the goal was to make it up there.  
**>I would go to** my friend's house and we would go to a fort I made up there and I just enjoyed the environment.  
**>I see the desert in** a different way, Every time I went up to the top I saw this huge stretch 30 miles of desert, but I never only saw sand, I saw 30 miles of freedom.



Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Charles Santamaria, June 4, 2014



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**AYDEN ROBERT BROADWAY**  
Born on: April 27, 2014  
Born to: Kevin and Chelsea Broadway

**JESSE MICHAEL MCSPADDEN**  
Born on: May 16, 2014  
Born to: Michael and Rachel McSpadden

**MARCELLUS ALONZO CARDENAS**  
Born on: May 18, 2014  
Born to: Albino and Cresencia Cardenas

**NATALIE MARIE NATION**  
Born on: April 22, 2014  
Born to: Brandon and Summer Nation

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

101 Days of Summer



# Swimming pool safety guidance

Story and photo by **Cpl. Ali Azimi**

**[Left]** A Marine swims laps at the Combat Center's Training Tank, May 26. The pools at the Combat Center provide an avenue for fun and exercise, and they are open to all service members and their families.

**It's a hot day in the Hi Desert. The air is dry and the sunrays are beaming onto the Combat Center, but the Marines still need to exercise. They are warrior-athletes. Running is out of the question and the gyms are packed with people. So what is there to do?**

The pools at the Combat Center provide fun and exercise, and they are open to all service members and their families. However, there are a few safety tips everyone should know before diving in.

**Protect yourself from the sun**

Sunscreen is immensely important, especially in the desert. However, some people don't understand how to use it. Sun screen should be applied 20 minutes before entering the water and reapplied every few hours.

"I see it when the families are putting sunscreen on their kids right before they go in the water," said Sherry Powell, aquatics director, Marine Corps Community Services. "It's basically washing off."

When it comes to sunscreen, higher sun protection factor means greater protection from the sun. SPF is rated by how long it will take you to start to burn, for example: if it takes a minute for a person to get burned in the sun, 30 SPF would protect them for 30 minutes and 50 SPF for 50 minutes, according to Powell.

Sunscreen is not water proof. Many brands advertise water resistant, but that does not mean it won't eventually wash off as you swim. Reapply regularly.

"Everyone needs to use it. Some darker skinned people say, 'Oh, I don't burn easily.' But then they do," Powell said.

**Know how to swim**

The pool offers many programs to teach kids how to swim. One of the many programs offered by the Training Tank is the infant class. Parents get in the pool with kids as they are taught swimming techniques.

In order for anyone under the age of 16 to be able to enter the

pool, they must have a swim badge. To earn the badge, kids are tested on their ability to swim 25 meters, tread water, and jump into the pool and orient themselves.

In addition to programs for kids, the pool offers classes for anyone wishing to better themselves in their aquatic techniques.

"We'll work with any Marine who just wants to swim for just fun or if they want to do competitive swimming," Powell said.

**Don't forget to hydrate**

When you're surrounded by water, it may be easy to forget, but hydration is still key. Swimmers sweat without realizing it, as the perspiration is washed off during exercise, however, that's when drinking water may be most important.

"You can actually dehydrate faster in the pool than outside the pool," Powell said. "People don't think about it. They're surrounded by water and don't feel themselves sweating."

The water pushes the excess fluids out of the cells and into the bloodstream.

"[That's] why you have to go to the bathroom 20 or 30 minutes after you go in the pool," Powell said. "You want to keep a water bottle next to the pool."

Remember to hydrate regularly even in the pool. It will keep you safe and it will keep you going.

The Training Tank offers multiple classes to advance swimming techniques and also has open-swim hours for recreation. In addition to a towel and some shade, remember to put on sunscreen and a water bottle. To see Combat Center pool hours visit [www.mccs29palms.com/index.cfm/sports-gyms-recreation/aquatics1/](http://www.mccs29palms.com/index.cfm/sports-gyms-recreation/aquatics1/).

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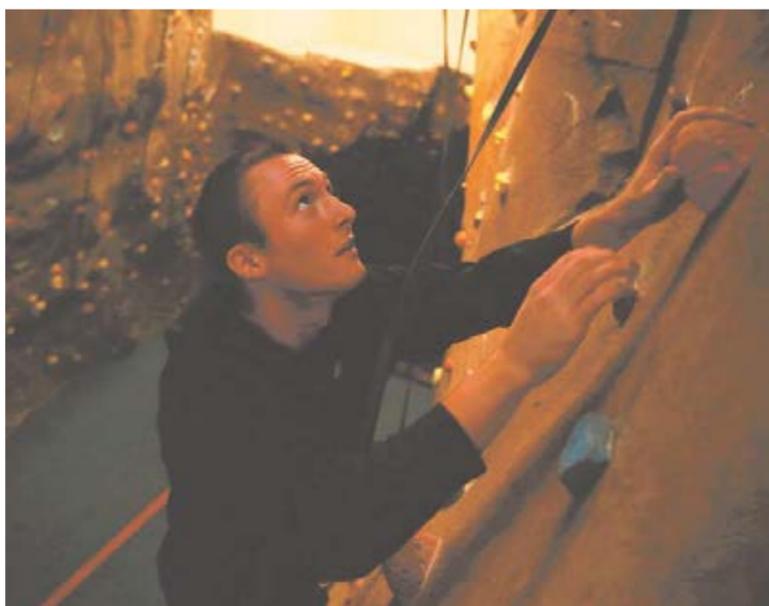
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# TOP of the ROCK



**[Left]** Aric Pope, recreational attendant, West Gym, reaches the top of the rock wall located at the West Gym June 4. To use the facility, participants must first attend a 15-minute class given by the gym staff and receive a 'red card' signifying they have the knowledge to climb safely.

**[Above]** Aric Pope, recreational attendant, West Gym, grips a handle on the rock-climbing wall at the West Gym, June 4.

## Base gyms, national park offer opportunities

**Cpl. Charles Santamaria**  
Combat Correspondent

**A** climber hangs on by his fingertips, tirelessly clinging to a small part of the mountain face. Using every limb, the climber inches his way up, methodically placing his feet and hands for each advance. Every grip brings him higher until he reaches the top. With ease, the climber slowly lets go, allowing the retractable rope clipped to his harness to ease him back down to the padded floor.

The 101 Days of Summer Campaign began aboard the Combat Center, May 26. The campaign encourages safety in exercise, recreational activities and daily routines.

With the summer season going into full swing, the base gyms are offering their diverse facilities for Combat Center patrons to have a safe and fun alternative during this time of year. The West Gym offers a rock-climbing wall for patrons to climb not only for recreational use, but also a full-body workout.

"I've been climbing for most of my life," said Aric Pope, recreational attendant, West Gym. "The challenge it gives your body by requiring so much exertion from both arms and legs makes for a great exercise."

With the wall's automated belay system, all climbers are required to do is hook on their harness and begin climbing. The system equips the

wall with a retractable rope that connects to a harness which wraps around the waist and through the inner thighs. With the harness fastened, climbers can feel safe knowing if they lose grip or fall, the rope will pull on the harness and lower the participant safely.

With air-conditioning, hydration readily available and safety systems in place, the rock-climbing wall at the West gym offers a safe facility for patrons of all ages with proper supervision, and a great start for beginning climbers.

"We always want to be sure people of all climbing levels are safe when they use our facility," said Felicia Crosson, health and wellness coordinator, Semper Fit, Marine Corps Community Services. "The belay system is an extra safety measure to ensure patrons have a safe experience at the gym."

To utilize the wall, participants must attend a 15-minute safety class and receive their 'red card' signifying they have received a safety brief on the facility and know how to operate all of the equipment safely. The facility caters to climbers of many skill levels by offering a side of the room for more advanced climbers to climb freely without the use of a rope or belay system. The West Gym staff also performs hourly checks on the room to ensure a proper response time to any emergencies or accidents.

Located near the base is also Joshua Tree National Park. Some Combat Center patrons go there to climb its rock faces, or simply

enjoy the desert environment.

"Just the open desert of the Joshua Tree National Park makes me feel free," Pope said. "I like going because of all the opportunities for climbing or just hiking through with a group of friends."

Joshua Tree National Park accommodates for rock climbing, hiking, camping, and other activities with the proper equipment. Although the facility at the gym is not like those that can be found at Joshua Tree; the rock-climbing room is a great starting point for patrons to hone their skills.

"I've been climbing for about 13 years now and have traveled the world doing just that, but with Joshua Tree in my back yard, this is where I've done a lot of it," Ryan Rothacker, rock climbing enthusiast, assistant manager, Nomad Ventures. "Climbing has multiple difficulties in this area and the ease of access always attracted me. With approximately 8,000 available routes in the world-renowned park, there's a lot of freedom to climbing at Joshua Tree. As long as you have the knowledge, experience and equipment needed to be safe, the climbing opportunities are hard to match."

During the summer season, Combat Center patrons look for ways to enjoy the weather and have enjoyable experiences. During the 101 Days of Summer Campaign, safety is encouraged in all activities. Locations like the base gyms or Joshua Tree National park offer just that during this time of year in the form of rock climbing.

Whatever you're  
looking for, you  
can find it in the  
**Observation Post**  
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**GLADIATORS, from A1**



CPL. ALI AZIMI

**[Above]** Teagen Ybarra, 8, the youngest Gladiators of Christ Ministries volunteer, passes out raffle tickets during the Serving Those Who Serve event at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School barracks, June 5

sandwiches, potato salad, fruit salad, chips and drinks.

During their meal, Luis Galdamez, an evangelist and speaker, spoke to the crowd about his personal experiences and how Jesus Christ helped him through turmoil.

Galdamez was born in Central America during a time when Communist forces tried to take over countries in the area. He credited the Marines to saving his and many other countries in a time of need.

He spoke about the gospel, praised the power of the Lord and urged crowd members to open their hearts to Him as well.

Throughout the rest of the event, music hummed through the air only interrupted by the voice of the DJ calling out raffle winners.

“They love the military, they are

patriots,” said Navy Lt. Donald Anthony Baker, chaplain, Protestant Chapel. “They try to figure out ways to become a part of what’s going on here. This group of people really wanted to get connected with us and let the [service members] know that they are cared about.”

As people ate, members of the GOC started an MMA demonstration for the audience. The demonstrators performed takedowns, techniques to disarm an opponent and chopped boards of wood with their bare fists.

The event provided a place for service members and families to relax and enjoy their lunch together. They were brought together by good food, music and company but left with prizes and a sense of community. GOC is scheduled to return in December for Project Love.

**VIOLENCE, from A1**

been on the rise.

“Work place violence is increasing,” Kazmierczak said. “The workplace has become a violent place.”

The Awareness and Prevention Course was given to individual Combat Center personnel, however, Armada instructors also provided more exten-

sive classes on the subject: the Violence Prevention Team Course, Officers Course and Violence Preventions Representatives Course, for unit leaders.

The instructors are scheduled to return next year to provide the training to new service members and employees of the Combat Center and reinforce it in the minds of those who attended it this year.

**TRAINING, from A1**



SGT. ADWIN ESTERS

**[Above]** A Marine from Combat Logistics Battalion 451 prepares to fire down range with a M240B machine gun on long distance targets in a motorized operations training exercise aboard the Combat Center during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, June 8. ITX 4-14 is a cornerstone of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Training Program and is the largest annual Marine Corps Reserve training exercise that helps sharpen skills and planning guidance for Reserve units.

native of Tampa, Fl. “We are learning a lot from this exercise and the coyote’s direction.”

Another part of the MOT exercise emphasizes the constant threat of improvised explosive devices as part of convoy operations and requires extensive training on how to detect them and what to do if a convoy is hit by one. The coyotes instruct the Marines first and then direct them through a practical application of the five steps in response (clear, cordon, call, check, confirm) to an IED threat or attack.

“It’s not often that we get to do stuff like this,” said Sgt. David Gonzalez, 2nd platoon convoy commander and native of Sarasota, Fl. “Coming out here and learning the operations is good for us.”

The exercises during ITX 4-14 count towards the Reserve Marines required annual training and monthly drills. ITX is a cornerstone of the Marine Air Ground Task Force training program. It is the largest annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve training exercise, which helps refine skills necessary to seamlessly integrate with active-duty counterparts as well as operate as a complete MAGTF.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

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

**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

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

**LOOKING for local entertainment?**

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

# College student changes life, becomes anti-tank missileman

Story and photos by Cpl. Joseph Scanlan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A large number of young adults in the United States pursue college immediately after graduating high school. While many students continue to pursue a degree, some decide to do something completely different.

Cpl. Jonathan Hollis attended college immediately after high school, but after a few short years of enduring the monotonous routine, he was fed up and sought an adventure. Now an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Hollis is more than 6,500 miles away from home, serving his country in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hollis and his eight siblings were raised in an Irish-Catholic family in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was home-schooled until he was a teenager and then attended Caledonia High School.

“Because I was home-schooled, it was pretty strict at home, so when I got to public school, I never missed a homework assignment,” Hollis said.

His superb grades ultimately earned him an engineering scholarship and he went on to pursue an education at Grand Rapids Community College. He continued to earn good grades with his unwavering work ethic and made the Dean’s List during his first year, but he wasn’t content.

“I hated college,” Hollis said. “I didn’t like sitting in a room for hours upon hours every day just repeating the same schedule. I would show up in the morning, do my classes and leave at night while having a job on the side. It was just the same thing every day and I was sick of it.”

While Hollis was a student, two of his brothers who were infantrymen in the Marine Corps told him about their experiences, and that’s when he decided to become a Marine himself. Like his two brothers, he enlisted as an infantryman and departed for recruit training Dec. 10, 2012.

Three months later, he underwent training at the School of Infantry — East, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he would become an infantryman. Hollis earned a significant position of leadership shortly into the training cycle. Midway into the training evolution, he was given the opportunity to choose which kind of infantryman he wanted to become.

“One of the things I liked to do while growing up was to build rockets,” Hollis said. “So I was one of the few that really wanted to become an 0352 (anti-tank missileman).”

Hollis continued to lead Marines during the course through various events and ultimately earned a meritorious promotion to lance corporal upon graduating from SOI. He then reported to 1st Bn., 7th Marines, at the Combat Center.

He began pre-deployment training in Twentynine Palms immediately upon arrival with the battalion. His training included aiding the 30-day Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., a 10-day Mission Rehearsal Exercise and a 30-day Integrated Training Exercise aboard the Combat Center. The countless hours spent training prepared him for his deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 2. His hard work did not go unnoticed.

“Hollis has exemplified what we like to see as a leader,” said Gunnery Sgt. Gerald Furnari, platoon sergeant, Weapons Co., 1/7, and a native of Franklin



**[Above]** Cpl. Jonathan Hollis, anti-tank missileman, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is currently deployed to Helmand province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Hollis, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., earned a combat meritorious promotion to corporal, June 2.

Square, NY. “He has separated himself from his peers since his arrival in the company. He did an outstanding job all throughout the workup. We sometimes put him in positions that he normally wouldn’t have occupied as somebody with his experience and time in service, but he showed us a lot of versatility and he showed us through his good work ethic that he is somebody we can count on.”

Hollis has operated with Weapons Co. during several missions since their arrival in Helmand. He has participated in numerous patrols in Taliban-occupied areas and has received enemy fire on multiple occasions.

Due to his work ethic, intelligence, initiative and leadership ability, Hollis earned a meritorious promotion to corporal, June 2. Weapons Co. is slated to continue a high operational tempo throughout the summer before they return to the United States.

“Hollis is one of the best assets we have in our platoon, if not the company,” Furnari said. “When we return from this deployment, he is going to be one of the noncommissioned officers we lean on because of his prior work experience and his performance. He’s going to be one of the individuals that we’re going to look at to lead the company during our next pre-deployment workup and into the next deployment.”

**[Left]** Cpl. Jonathan Hollis, anti-tank missileman, Weapons Co., 1/7, shakes hands with Capt. Scott Stewart, commanding officer, Weapons Co., 1/7, after being combat meritoriously promoted to corporal aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 2.



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

# WeekINPhotos

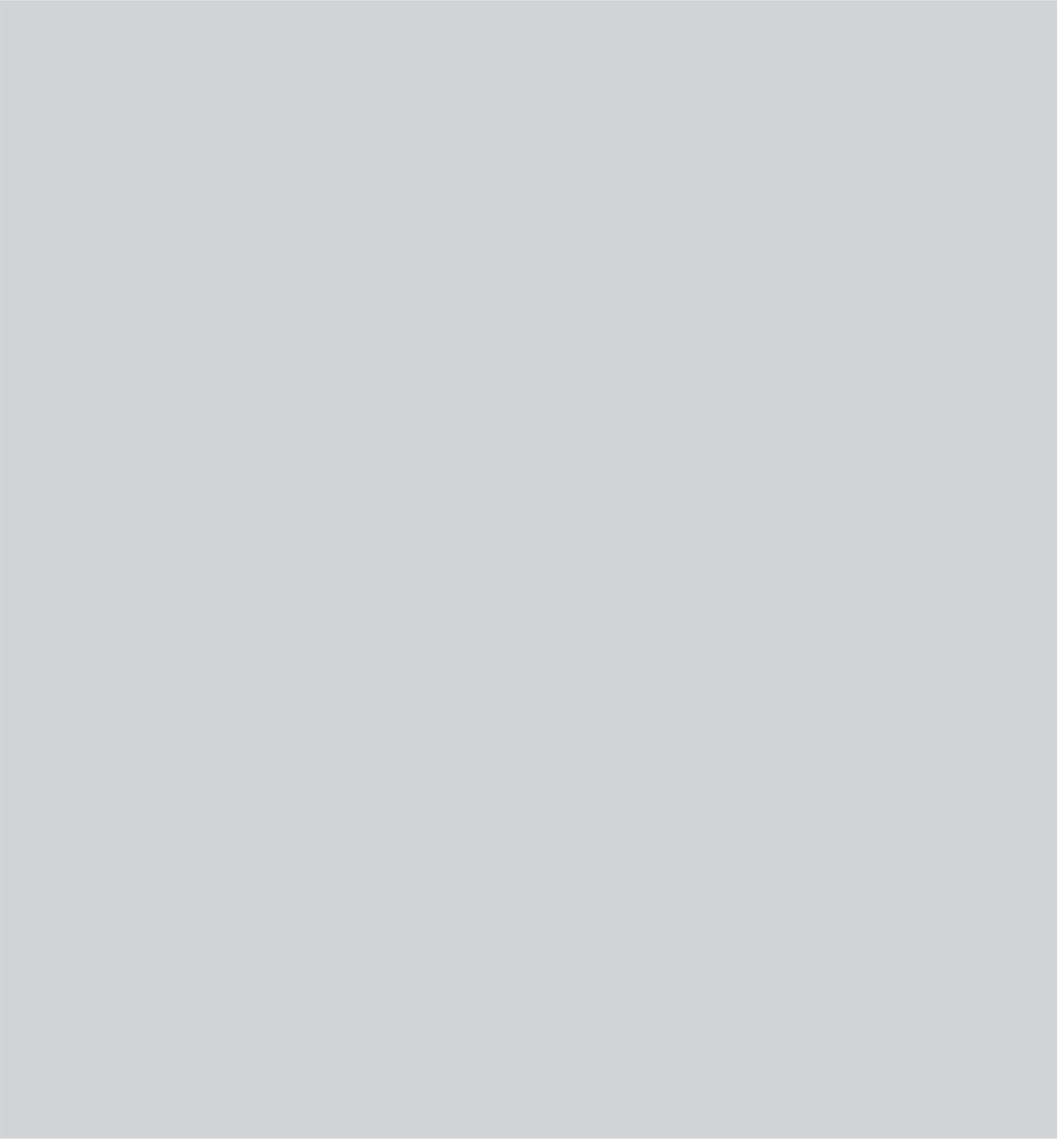
Regional Command (Southwest)



PHOTOS BY CPL. CODY HAAS



**[Top, left]** Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, commander, Regional Command (Southwest), speaks during a flag-lowering ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 7. The ceremony marked the end of operations for the Bosnian service members in Helmand province. **[Bottom, left]** Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, left, commander, RC(SW), and Brigadier Robert Thomson, center, deputy commander, RC(SW), salute during a flag-lowering ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 7. **[Right]** A Bosnian soldier with the Bosnia-Herzegovina Guard Unit – Danish Contingent, salutes as their national anthem is played during a flag-lowering ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 7.



# SAND &

## Recreation

Whether the children have been released for summer vacation, a Marine has just gotten off duty or the platoon has been dismissed for liberty, the need to find something fun and interesting to do during off-duty hours is always prevalent.



## Base facilities offer fun under sun

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Charles Santamaria

As the summer begins heating up the Combat Center, programs are starting for service members and families to enjoy. Through these programs and facilities, Combat Center families and service members find ways to enjoy themselves in several locations on base.

The base pools give the community a place to cool off during the summer and offers activities and events for Combat

Service members can attend clinics to be more ready for swim qualifications and families can come to both the splash park and the pools for a refreshing swim. We also host movie nights and pool parties which give patrons even more options when planning something fun to do while on base.”

For those who wish to head indoors for a night at the cinema, the base theater offers fun for service members with early showings of newly released movies and a location for live events such

bers and families to go. Our live events also draw big crowds and we’re glad our facility can be used for so many positive things aboard the base.”

The on-base parks give families options for recreation such as the Splash Park by the Training Tank, the skate park by the main exchange, or several sports courts and fields. The East and West Gyms provide their courts for intramural sports leagues, aerobics classes, basketball and racquetball. Felix Field also features a brand new paved track and state-of-the-art, astro-turf football and soccer field.

“Staying active is important to living a healthy lifestyle,” said James Burke, youth and family active living branch head. “Our goal is to have so many programs and opportunities for recreation available... that it will be hard for someone to say ‘the base doesn’t cater to my interests.’ The more people who give input and suggestions on what they want, the more we will be able to cater to those requests.”

Other locations where events are held aboard the base include Del Valle Field and Lance Corporal Torrey L. Gray Field, where live concerts, mixed martial arts and family events are hosted for Combat Center patrons. We Salute You country festival, Summer Fight Night mixed martial arts bout, safety fairs, and unit family days are some of the recreational events hosted at these locations.

Facilities like the Lifelong learning Library add to the array of activities available aboard the base with science fairs, health seminars, arts and crafts for children, a place to relax, and holiday-oriented events for participants of all ages to attend.

“We want to ensure the library isn’t simply known as a place where literature can be found, but as a place service members can go to relax and go on the internet or take a break from what they’re working on,” said Rosanna McGinnis, librarian. “For families, we offer many events and learning programs for participants of varying age groups to attend which encourage reading. Our themed events also go a long way to give children fun experiences while at the library.”

The base offers many activities and programs for Combat Center families to enjoy. With the size of the base and its location, finding activities and events in which to participate is an easy task if equipped with the knowledge of where to look.



Center patrons to participate in. They offer swimming clinics for service members to improve their swimming skills, swim classes for children and adults, open swim for everyone and pool parties units or organizations can schedule for an hourly rate with different aquatic activities. During the summer time, the Training Tank also offers events like Movie Night for the whole family to enjoy pool side.

“It gives people an outlet and during the summer, gives them an escape from the heat,” said Sherry Powell, aquatics director. “The pool has many uses.

as the Leatherneck Comedy Tour. To add to its capability as an auditorium and movie theater, the facility also houses events for other programs and performances for patrons of all ages like Sesame Street Live. Week-long movie marathons also run at the Sunset Cinema with different themes such as, holidays, movie sagas and decade-specific movies.

“The amount of money people save by going to the base theater is a draw on its own,” said Tammy Stewart, recreation operation assistant, base theater. “With free early screenings of new movies, themed movie marathons and the affordable prices, the theater is a fun place for service mem-



[Top] Marlena Mcguire, cycle instructor, Community Center, leads a class in bicep curls during a Cardio Strength session hosted at the Community Center, Monday.

[Above, left] Sherry Powell, aquatics director, base pools, and Hannah Strait, lifeguard, Training Tank, give Matthew Perez, 11, words of encouragement to help him finish his lap during a swimming class for children hosted at the Training Tank, Tuesday.

[Left] Cpl. Decil Burns, lifeguard and safety swimmer, Training Tank, helps a participant overcome her fear of jumping into the pool by catching her on the way down during a swimming class for children hosted at the Training Tank, Tuesday.

[Above] Yoga students transition into the Warrior II stance during the yoga class hosted at the Community Center, Monday.

# Liberty Call



## Combat Center Events

### Summer Fight 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

### Fire Cracker Bowling

Enjoy an afternoon of bowling and some friendly competition with a chance to win a prize.  
 When: June 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 Where: Sandy Hill Lanes  
 For more information, call 830-3380

## Sunset Cinema

### Friday, June 13

5 p.m. – **Free Admission** There's Something About Mary, R  
 7:30 p.m. – Brick Mansions, R  
 10 p.m. – The Quiet Ones, PG-13  
 12 a.m. – Neighbors, R

### Saturday, June 14

10:30 a.m. – **Free Admission** The Nut Job, PG  
 1 p.m. – The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3-D, PG-13  
 4:30 p.m. – Brick Mansions, R  
 6:30 p.m. – The Other Woman, PG-13  
 9 p.m. – Mom's Night Out, PG  
 11:30 p.m. – Neighbors, R

### Sunday, June 15

12:30 p.m. – The Amazing Spider-Man 2, PG-13  
 4 p.m. – Godzilla 3-D, PG-13  
 7 p.m. – Million Dollar Arm, PG

### Monday, June 16

6 p.m. – Mom's Night Out, PG

### Tuesday, June 17

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

### Wednesday, June 18

5 p.m. – Brick Mansions, R  
 7 p.m. – Godzilla 3-D, PG-13

### Thursday, June 19

5 p.m. – The Other Woman, PG-13  
 7:30 p.m. – Neighbors, R

# Sandler and Barrymore return to big screen in romantic comedy

NEIL POND

*"Blended"*

Starring Adam Sandler & Drew Barrymore  
 Directed by Frank Coraci  
 PG-13, 113, min.

You might get a sense of where Adam Sandler's latest movie is headed as the first scene opens to the sound of a toilet flushing and the sight of his co-star, Drew Barrymore, exiting a public restroom stall.

"Blended" marks the third time Sandler and Barrymore have worked together, after "The Wedding Singer" and "50 First Dates." This time around, they play a couple of single parents whose blind date—at a Hooter's—is a disaster, but who later end up, in one of those only-in-the-movies contrivances and coincidences, "blended" together with their respective kids at a luxurious African resort.

Sandler's tastes in humor have never exactly been hallmarks of high refinement, and by now even most of his fans realize that he seems somehow incapable of evolving to a more enlightened state. There are a lot of things wrong with "Blended," but the biggest is that it drags so many younger actors down to Sandler's crude, bathroom-humor level, all in the name of a "family" comedy about family togetherness.

Sandler's character, Jim, has three daughters; Lauren (Barrymore) has two sons. So when they all end up together in the Dark Continent, it's like an episode of the Brady Bunch, only with cutaway shots of rutting rhinos and jokes about cleavage, buttocks and crotches.

It's hard to hold the "children" in the movie responsible for the actions of the adults, particularly Sandler, director Frank Coraci (who also directed him in "The Waterboy," "50 First Dates" and "Click") and the writers, who concocted not one scene, but two, in which Jim's youngest daughter (six-year old Alyvia Alyn Lind) gets to chirpily mispronounce a certain feminine body part as "bagina." Isn't that adorable?

Sandler, 47, plays the same wisecracking, goof-ball man-child schlub he's basically played in every movie. Barrymore is adorable, but given little of substance to do outside of being his second banana, filling the necessary "female" role. The two of them do have a natural, relaxed chemistry, and some of their scenes together in this rom-com reunion, especially when Sandler's not gobbling every punch line in sight, have a warm, unforced sweetness that almost feels like something from another movie entirely.

It's just too bad that those little seeds of sweetness are buried beneath such a heaping mountain of comedic crap. For every genuinely funny, clever line, there are three dozen moaners. Technically, the movie's a mess—it looks like it was shot, staged and edited in a mad rush. And it's depressing to see such a big cast, including Shaquille O'Neal, "Saturday Night Live" alum Kevin Nealon, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Joel McHale and Terry Crews, yukking around in such muck.

"Is this a sick dream?" ask Sandler's character at one point. After watching a movie that begins with a flushing toilet and ends with kids singing a song about poo, pee and "juicy farts," it sure might feel that way for his audience.

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

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**29palms.usmc.mil**

# Helicopter squadron sets down in desert

Story and photos by Cpl. Codey Underwood

The rotors chomp through a screen of dust as the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter leaps into the sky to conduct an area familiarization of Twentynine Palms as part of Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, June 8.

The pilots and Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, deep in austere desert and surrounded by more than 100 square miles of barren training area, shook off the year-old rust to refresh their piloting proficiency.

ITX 4-14, the largest Marine Corps Reserve training exercise with more than 4,000 Marines and sailors participating from units across the United States, focuses on unity of forces from all over the nation for two weeks to train. This helps demonstrate the

**“This area is drier, dustier and much harder to see than where we normally train.”**

-Lance Cpl. John Buckley

ability to rapidly assemble and employ the Marine Air-Ground Task Force for global contingency operations.

The area familiarization was the first flight operation during the two-week exercise and the first time the pilots had flown in a desert environment since last year's ITX.

“The crawl-walk-run methodology was used for today, being the first day of flight (operations) during the exercise,” said Capt. Stacy Martinez, helicopter pilot, HMM-774. “(The pilots) had to practice landing on the unimproved surface before we conduct training with Marines in the back of the bird.”

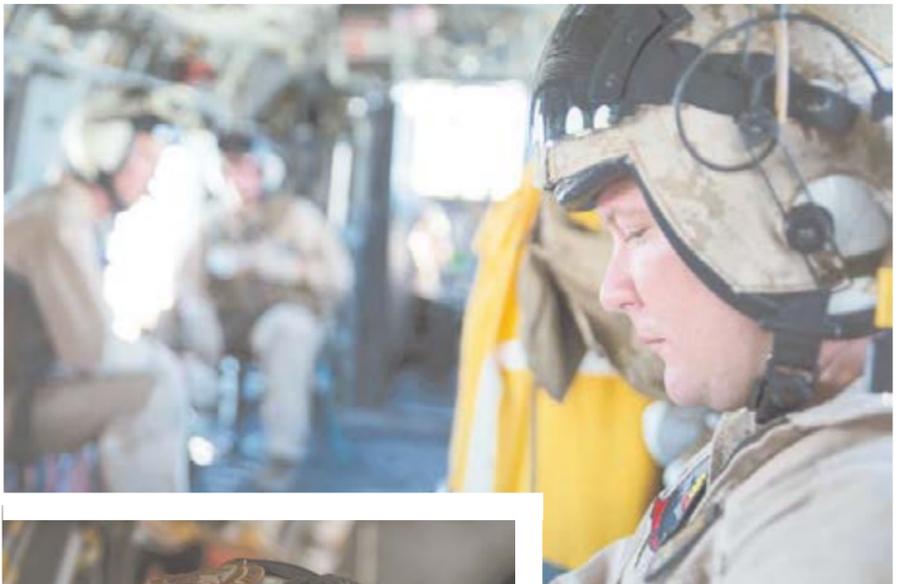
Taking off and landing in a desert environment introduces the pilots to many new and unfamiliar obstacles. The unit is based out of Norfolk, Va., where the training areas have improved surfaces such as flat ground and solid pavement.

“Generally, back at Norfolk, our landings are on solid ground, whether it is a flight line or a grassy field,” said Martinez. “Everything is a perishable skill. Just because we did it last year doesn't mean that we can do it smoothly today.”

The differences between the two training areas are night and day to the pilots. The Sea Knights kick up pounds of dust while landing in the harsh unimproved desert, blocking the pilot's view of the landing area.

“This area is drier, dustier and much harder to see than where we normally train,” said Lance Cpl. John Buckley, helicopter crew chief, HMM-774. “The pilots have to rely on the other Marines in the aircraft to watch for obstacles blocking the (landing zone).”

As battalions and squadrons progress through the training, they are required to integrate as a cohesive team through shared planning, briefing, rehearsals, execution and debriefing. This interaction builds inherent understanding that Marines must possess in order to fight as a complete MAGTF.



**[Above]** Capt. Ian Gough, helicopter pilot, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, rides as a passenger in a CH-46E helicopter before his flying time during an area familiarization flight as part of Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard the Combat Center, June 7.



**[Left]** Staff Sgt. Paul Wood, crew chief, HMM-774, 4th MAW, MFR, sits in the helicopter as it prepares to take off during an area familiarization flight as part of ITX 4-14 aboard the Combat Center, June 7.

**[Below]** Cpl. Steve Verovich, crewman, HMM-774, 4th MAW, MFR, looks out for obstacles during an area familiarization flight as part of ITX4-14 aboard the Combat Center, June 7.

