

# ATG deactivates



LANCE CPL. MALIEK FOWLER

Col. Jeffrey Kenney, commanding officer, Adviser Training Group, gives a citation written by Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, to Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, at the base theater during ATG's deactivation ceremony Wednesday.

## Combat Center bids farewell to Advisory Training Group

**Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkimilis**  
 Combat Correspondent

The humbled crowd stood silently as the words of Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, bellowed through the theater, "Your commitment and courage are undeniable. You carried the weight of your responsibilities with the utmost proficiency, professionalism and faithfulness to Corps and country." Somber pride radiated from the audience as an era came to an end.

After eight years of operation aboard the Combat Center, the Adviser Training Group officially deactivated during a ceremony held at the base theater Wednesday. The unit was instrumental in aiding Iraqi and Afghan security forces in the turnover of military responsibilities during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The mission of ATG has been to train Marine Corps transition teams to advise, mentor and train foreign military, police, and border units in operational techniques and procedures to combat terrorism and counter an insurgency.

"Tasked with establishing a Marine Corps formal

training program for combat advisers, the Adviser Training Group has superbly executed its mission by preparing adviser teams for Iraq and Afghanistan during the most intense periods of violence in those theaters," said Gunnery Sgt. Craig Wilcox, master of ceremony, as he read from the citation written by the Office of the Commandant of the Marine Corps to all of ATG.

During its existence, ATG staff trained 424 Security Force Assistance Advisor Teams, totaling more than 7,700 SFAAT advisers who were proficient in live-fire and motorized operations training, the immersion training and role player support, language and cultural studies, mountain warfare training, and mission rehearsal exercise development.

"This is a difficult day for ATG because it's not like they're passing the mantle on to someone else and it's going to keep going," said Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General.

Berger addressed the audience, speaking to the unique nature of what it takes to be not just an advisor, but also an advisor trainer, and asked everyone in the

See **ATG** page A7

## Memorial honors retired Col. Dube

**Cpl. Charles Santamaria**  
 Combat Correspondent

The church was still as those who filled its pews prayed. The memories and thoughts that were shared through the words of friends and family members soothed the feeling of loss, which weighed heavily in the room. The congregation gathered to mourn the loss of an honorable Marine and beloved member of the Twentynine Palms community. Retired Marine Col. M.J. Mac Dube, 80, passed away, April 29.

The base Catholic Chapel held a memorial service for Dube in the chapel's hall, June 13. Dube enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1951 during the Korean War and served as a platoon sergeant during the conflict. He commissioned in 1958, and after graduating the basic school in Quantico, Va., transferred to 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune.

"I only saw the last 12 years of a 38-year career, so my perspective wasn't there until I

*Seeing everything during the memorial and all the memories people shared with him, I see the type of Marine he really was and how much people admired him,"*

— Marc Dube

became older and was able to understand it more," said Marc Dube, one of Dube's twin sons. "Seeing everything during the memorial and all the memories people shared with him, I see the type of Marine he really was and how much people admired him."

Dube, a decorated Marine, was admired by many because of his actions.

His personal and unit decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals with Combat 'V', four Purple Hearts, two Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with Combat 'V', the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, four Presidential Unit Citations, three Navy Unit Citation Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, three Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry and two Vietnam Honor Medals 1st Class. His service to his community after the Marine Corps also affected many.

"Despite the sadness in the room today, I have to say how personally grateful I am Mac was in my life and the positive influences he had on the people in this room today," said Jim Bagley, consultant, G-5,

See **MEMORIAL** page A7



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

Lt. Col. John D. Thurman, former commanding officer, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Brynn H. Schreiner, commanding officer, VMU-3, after the squadron's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday.

## VMU-3 welcomes commander

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

The winds of change could be felt sweeping across a formation of Marines with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3. Before their eyes, they witnessed the induction of a new commanding officer and the commencement of a new location to continue their operations, but their mission of maintaining a combat-ready, expeditionary aviation force capable of swift deployment to the Marine Air Ground Task Force fleet, remained the same.

Distinguished guests, families and friends of VMU-3, also known as "Phantoms," gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to witness a change of command ceremony, Wednesday.

Lt. Col. John D. Thurman, former commanding officer, VMU-3, bid the squadron farewell after more than two years in command, and relinquished all duties and responsibilities to Lt. Col. Brynn H. Schreiner, commanding officer, VMU-3, as a crowd of spectators, among them Brig. Gen. Mark R. Wise, assistant wing commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, looked on.

"There hasn't been a day that I did not look forward to coming to work with [my Marines]," Thurman said. "Everything that I asked you to do, you did it outstanding. Your performance, your conduct and your character are unsurpassed."

Thurman effectively passed on the unit colors, presented by Sgt. Maj. Jason Perry, sergeant major, VMU-3, to Schreiner, signifying his acceptance

See **PHANTOMS** page A7



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Lt. Col. Kevin Murray relinquishes command of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 to Lt. Col. Kain C. Anderson during a change of command ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday.

## VMU-1 under new leadership

**Cpl. Ali Azimi**  
 Combat Correspondent

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 held a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field on Wednesday.

The ceremony signified the passing of duties and responsibilities from the unit's commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Murray, to Lt. Col. Kain C. Anderson, who will be assuming command of the squadron.

The ceremony began with music played by the 3rd Marine Air Wing band at the center of the field. Band members marched to the side of the field, as the squadron prepared for the change of command ceremony to begin.

The squadron and the VMU-1 color guard marched onto the field to watch the change of leadership

from Murray to Anderson.

Murray has been with the unit, also known as the "Watchdogs," since 2012, first as the executive officer and later taking command of the squadron. He led the Watchdogs through deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and on the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

However, Murray passed on much of the credit for the success of VMU-1 to his Marines. "I don't think [some people] understand the scope of what [these Marines] have brought to the fight," Murray said. "These Marines have flown over 65,000 hours. It's unbelievable."

The VMU-1 Marines he led stood at attention in formations at the edge of the field. They looked

See **WATCHDOGS** page A7



# This Week in Combat Center HISTORY



Reprinted from the Observaion Post dated  
June 19, 1970

Vol. 14, Issue No. 25

## First predeployment unit heads for Vietnam tomorrow morning

Story by Sgt. Paul Koloski

The battlefield was a mural in swirling sand, but the young warriors who stalked it were being primed for something entirely different. Theirs would not be the world of the scimitar and camel, but of the M-16 rifle and the jeep – or personnel carrier – or tank.

Or jungle boot.

The young Marines, mostly non-line specialists, were undergoing pre-deployment training at this base, rather than running the gamut of activities at Camp Pendleton's Staging Battalion.

The unit, a provisional training company of about 130 men, thus becomes the first to be trained here in this manner – with the training at Camp Pendleton being paralleled as closely as possible.

The unit came into being on April 29 of this year, when a message was received from Headquarters Marine Corps providing for its inception.

The job was far from small but by May 20 the unit was ready to go.

The troops ere drawn from Force Troops, Pacific, and even with the lack of Camp Pendleton's mountainous and fertile characteristics – so adaptable to jungle warfare – training began.

With the three platoon commanders handling 90 percent of the instructional duties, holstered by 1st Lt. Michael W. Shepard, company commander, and Gunnery Sgt. W. E. Turner, company gunnery sergeant, the unit began to work its way down the training schedule.

The platoon commanders, Staff Sgt. A. J. Smith and J. D. Tate and Sgt. Mark Killian, all Vietnam vets, taught lessons ranging from use of the compass to the Code of Conduct.

Gunnery Sgt. Turner kept a more than watchful eye on the proceedings; on orders to WestPac himself, he will accompany his troops at least as far as Okinawa.

"I think the training here is as good as it is at Camp Pendleton," he said. "Even if the facilities aren't. There's more unit integrity up here and we can accomplish more."

If conditions are not quite best for jungle training, the desert has one "helpful" FACTOR.

"The heat," said Gunnery Sgt. Turner, "is about as close as you can get to Vietnam or Okinawa without going there."

And if the heat wasn't enough to warm the young Marines, the schedule was.

A typical day would begin, after such incidentals as waking up and eating, with about an hour of physical training. Following that would be a class – a lecture on the .45-caliber pistol is representative – and still another class, this time on weapons used by the enemy.

Care and cleaning of the M-16 rifle might follow, to be backed up by a break for noon chow.

More classes in the afternoon; weapons, sanitation and the like. More physical training. Finally the evening meal.

How did the Marines react to all of this?

Pfc. Ira McCord of Dothan, Ala., sat quietly making his shoe's glisten.

"I enjoyed it myself; picked up a lot of information that I missed in ITR. It was a lot of fun.

"Besides, I figured without it we'd be in a lot of trouble once we got to Vietnam."

This pretty well echoed the opinion around the barracks, from the Marine who wanted to ask a visitor what he thought of the answers to his own questions, to the Marine who was keeping a very healthy looking young rattlesnake in an empty peanut can in his locker.

No one has asked the snake about all this, but the training really isn't his problem. This is strictly to do with young Marines – and how they are learning to stay alive in a war, fought in surroundings far different from what they now enjoy.

And the clock begins to move just a bit faster than it did on May 20.

The Base Band will provide a musical send off for these replacements sometime after 5 a.m. tomorrow at Quadrangle No. 3.

From there, MCB's first provisional training company will heat for Norton Air Force base, and from there, Vietnam.

It's a far cry from the desert, but a month of solid work and determination developed over a much longer haul will help to make the difference as small as possible.

## 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)

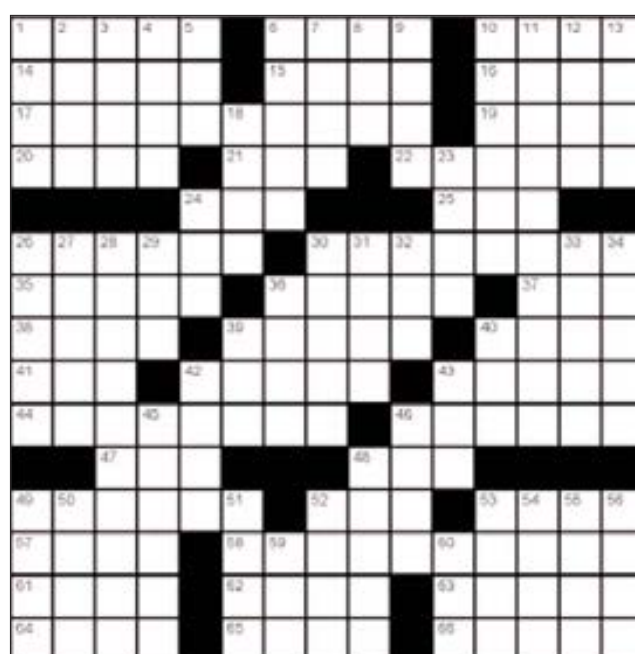
**WEB:** Log on to [www.ncis.navy.mil](http://www.ncis.navy.mil) & submit your tip

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

Sponsored by NCIS

## "LET IT RAIN"

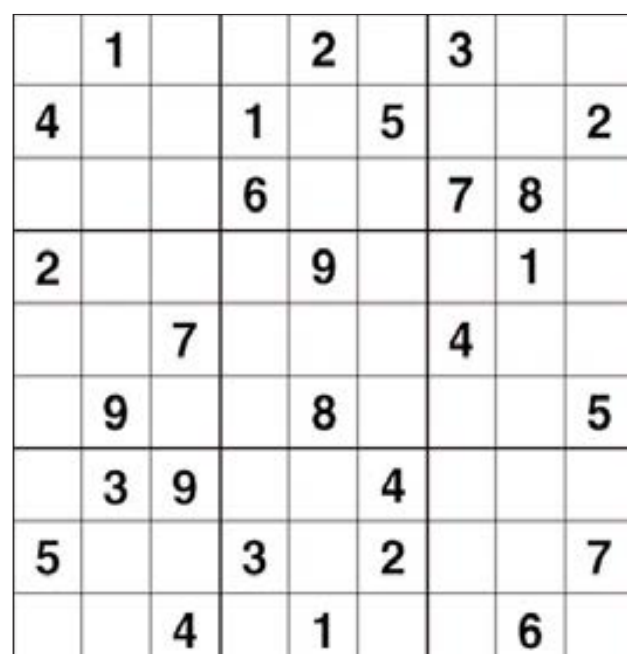
- Across**
- 1 Capital of Egypt
  - 6 Composer Johann Sebastian \_\_\_\_
  - 10 Slender and fit
  - 14 Tom Hanks or Paul Newman
  - 15 In addition
  - 16 Go up
  - 17 Like some bread
  - 19 A long, long time
  - 20 Put in the mailbox
  - 21 Asner and Bradley
  - 22 Marks permanently
  - 24 Possesses
  - 25 Soaking
  - 26 Larger, as a price
  - 30 Restaurant feature
  - 35 Company in an early 2000s scandal
  - 36 Husbands' counterparts
  - 37 Electronics brand
  - 38 Actor Alda
  - 39 Was guilty
  - 40 Pulled tight, like a rope
  - 41 Gun (the motor)
  - 42 Long-term spies
  - 43 Where Hobbits live
  - 44 Hairdressers
  - 46 Stadiums
  - 47 Lowest two-digit number
  - 48 Part of WPM
  - 49 Narrow waterway
  - 52 By way of
  - 53 Choir voice
- Down**
- 57 Tall tale teller
  - 58 It can be clogged by leaves
  - 61 "\_\_\_\_ Brockovich"
  - 62 Actress Winslet
  - 63 Supermarket section
  - 64 Studies
  - 65 Went quickly
  - 66 Wins at chess
  - 1 Crow sounds
  - 2 Dull pain
  - 3 "Blame \_\_\_\_ the Rain"
  - 4 \_\_\_\_ Gold (pretel brand)
  - 5 Iron \_\_\_\_
  - 6 Poets
  - 7 "Woe is me!"
  - 8 Show set in Las Vegas
  - 9 Sharpen
  - 10 Didnt do an original drawing
  - 11 Area for creative thinking, it's said
  - 12 "Understood"
  - 13 Something that needs to be cleaned up
  - 18 Equipment
  - 23 "\_\_\_\_ the night before Christmas..."
  - 24 Egg layer



- 26 Gets word of
- 27 Small bay
- 28 Lucrative endeavor
- 29 Darlin'
- 30 Teams
- 31 Rental car company
- 32 Allow
- 33 Honda car
- 34 Prices
- 36 Basketball great Chamberlain
- 39 Two, in Spanish
- 40 Most common word in English
- 42 Small
- 43 Some H.S. students
- 45 Gets new information
- 46 Name in the Garden of Eden
- 48 Technology magazine
- 49 Wintertime transportation
- 50 One of four on a Ford
- 51 "You shouldn't have done that!" sounds
- 52 Participate on Election Day
- 53 Song for one
- 54 Final
- 55 Scrabble piece
- 56 Dollar bills
- 59 Faucet
- 60 River blocker

See answers on page A4

## SUDOKU 3298 D



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



## OBSERVATION POST

- Commanding General** - Maj. Gen. David H. Berger
- Installation 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** - Cpl. Ali Azimi

- Press Chief** - Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
- Correspondents**
- Cpl. Charles J. Santamaria
- Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez

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.

### In Oceanside:

- Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
- Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054

### In San Diego:

- Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
- Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
- Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
- Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.

### In National City:

- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
- Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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

### In Twentynine Palms:

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.

### In Yucca Valley:

- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
- Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

### In Palm Springs:

- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
- Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>



## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# Van NGUYEN

Fort Worth, Texas, deputy assistant chief of staff, G-1 Manpower, 50

NGUYEN WAS AN AVID MOTOCROSS RIDER AS A TEENAGER. YEARS AFTER HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MARINE CORPS, HE AND HIS FRIENDS MAKE AN ANNUAL TRIP CALLED A "MAN-CATION" TO ENGAGE IN OFF-ROAD RIDING.

**>I was in the Marine Corps** for more than 28 years, starting as a private and making my way up to lieutenant colonel by the time I retired.

**>I went through an enlisted commissioning program**, going through the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training program first. Through BOOST, enlisted Marines with educationally deprived or culturally different backgrounds were allowed an opportunity to compete more equitably for commissioning education programs. It helped them with college preparation for a year, and allowed them to apply for another program. I did BOOST and then the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program.

**>I was a sergeant when I was selected**, and went to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. I majored in business administration, and jumped from sergeant to second lieutenant nearly overnight.

**>After The Basic School**, I became an adjutant, doing that my entire commission. I served at nearly every level of command in the Marine Corps, from battalions to Headquarters Marine Corps. I also participated in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

**>I came to Twentynine Palms, Calif.**, several times in uniform. Once as a corporal going through the Combined Arms Exercise, and later as a lieutenant out of adjutant school with 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. They're in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., now, but they were here at one time.

**>[My family and I] like it here.** I came back after I retired in 2010 and the job for deputy G-1 became available. It was a perfect fit for me because I did the same thing that I did in uniform, yet I wouldn't wear a uniform at all.

**>I think it's in my advantage** to bring all of the experience I had in the Marine Corps to my civilian job. In the role that I'm in now, I don't find it as stressful as when I wore a uniform. I don't deploy, I just do temporary additional duty at the most.

**>I still work with Marines**, being in charge of them and civilians. Having been there and done that, I can see what they're going through as far as issues and matters that come up.

**>When I was in Okinawa**, I deployed to Afghanistan in April 2004. I served as a G-1 mentor for the Afghan National Army. I helped them develop personnel policies, retirements, promotions and integration of the militia into the ANA. It was a very interesting six months.

**>I was also stationed in Marine Forces Europe and Africa**, in Stuttgart, Germany. That was one of my most memorable tours. Europe was a great place to be.

**>I chose to come back to Twentynine Palms** because I prefer smaller communities, not where there's a whole lot of traffic or people. There's clean air and a lot of wide open spaces with a reasonable cost of living to match.

**>It also offers me my perfect** combination of skiing and snowboarding. Big Bear, Calif., is not far away, and I go there every chance I get in the winter. I picked up skiing when I was in Germany, and when I came back here I taught myself how to snowboard to the point where I enjoy that more than skiing.

**>Another hobby of mine** is dirt bike and quad riding. Every fall, myself and some friends go on what we call a "man-cation." Most of us are retired or former military.

**>We started the tradition with four guys** and now we are up to about a dozen. Once a year, we meet up somewhere in the nation and ride our dirt bikes and four-wheelers for five days.

**>It's a time for camaraderie and friendship.** Every year we pick a different location. We went to Utah the first year, West Virginia the second year and Colorado last year. This year we plan on going to Wyoming.

**>As a teenager, I used to ride motocross.** After joining the Marine Corps, I became too occupied with deployments, work and my family.

**>Now that I'm retired**, I feel I can relax a little more and get back to doing some of the things I love doing.

**>I have a Kawasaki 700 Prairie.** It's a four-wheel drive, 700 cubic centimeter, utility quad that pretty much takes me wherever I want to go.

**>I have a 16-year-old son.** At his age, riding is all I would do. I thought that my son would like to get into that hobby, and with me, both he and my daughter do it periodically.

**>I think it's important for everyone** to do something they love to relieve stress and make friends. You've got to find time to get away from work and just wind down.

**>I've been retired almost four years** and I'm starting to see people come and go. The mentality of being in almost 30 years and moving every two to three years, you're the one used to packing up and moving. It feels different not doing it. But that's part of the transition out of uniform and into civilian life.

**>Try to enjoy the time you're given** when you're in the places you would never expect. There's beauty everywhere; you just have to go out and look for it.

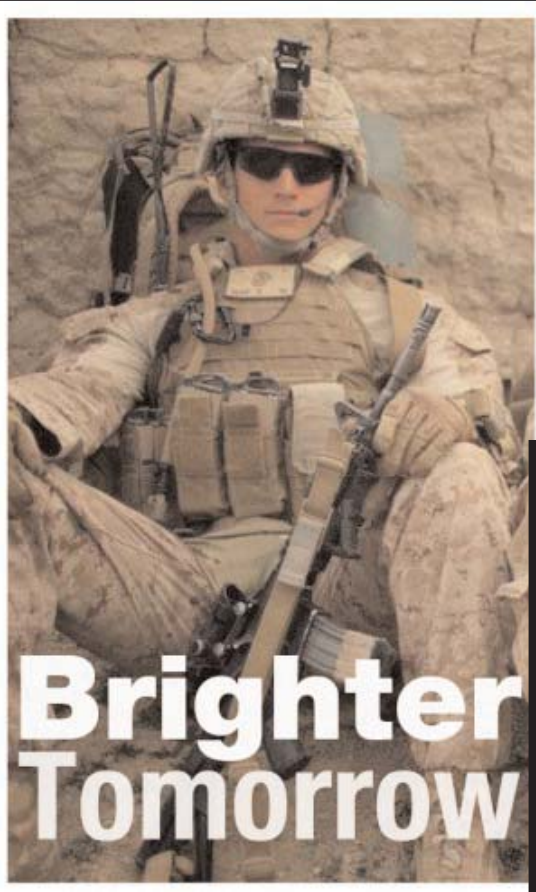


Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Paul S. Martinez, June 16, 2014



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





# PTSD Leaving the Past Behind

Written by  
Cpl. Michael Egan

Two years ago, Cpl. Michael Egan stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device during his last foot-patrol in Afghanistan before heading back to the United States. He lost both legs above the knee, sustained countless fractures to his pelvis, and lost sensation to 40% of the muscle mass in his left arm. Along with these injuries, Egan suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. Despite his wounds, he keeps a positive outlook on life. "By coming so close to death," Egan said, "I have learned that every time I fall in life, I have countless reasons to get back up." This is his outlook on dealing with PTSD.



**COURTESY PHOTOS**  
Two years ago, Cpl. Michael Egan lost his legs by stepping on an Improvised Explosive Device. Now he is dealing with not only his physical wounds, but his mental ones, too.

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

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

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



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



Whether you know it or not, if you're in the military, you have one. It's the frame of mind between when you are at work and when you aren't. When you're in the U.S., it's much easier to manage — to turn the switch off and go home to your family, your wife, your kids, and be able to enjoy spending time with them and get joy in return. Whatever your work entails, flipping that switch back on to go to work is almost as routine as putting on your uniform.

Now you're in Afghanistan. You're surrounded by work wherever you go. You eat, you sleep and you breathe work. Work is 24/7, even in the down times of a deployment, and the switch is permanently on — even more so when you're out in the shit, and you're getting in fire-fights every day. You're watching every step you make, like walking on eggshells, and you're always on guard. You worry about the safety of the brothers to your left and your right, even more if you're in a leadership position. It's a heightened awareness that would drive any normal person crazy. The idea of normalcy is irrelevant in Afghanistan, and there's no such thing as normal sleep patterns or consistent breaks.

Seven months of this switch being on and then you return to the U.S. You may have a few days of travel to unwind, but that doesn't matter: You're back home, in front of your family, your

friends and your loved ones. As crazy as it sounds, it's almost hard to accept love and to have someone embrace you as if they thought they would never see you again because in the back of their mind they didn't know if they would.

It may be easy for some people to move forward and be able to carry on with their day-to-day routine, leaving the past behind them. But for others with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), like myself, that switch is still on.

When someone hears you say, "I have PTSD," most people would automatically think you're nuts. In reality, you're just stuck in the mindset of war — that paranoia of being safe and keeping the people around you safe, the feeling of vulnerability because you don't have an M4 or SAW across your chest and a few grenades on your belt.

We aren't crazy, we aren't losing touch with the reality of being back, we're just lost. We're unable to cope with the bits and pieces of war that is imbedded into our minds and cut deep in our souls. They shake you to the core of who you are, but you don't have to let it define you. The flashbacks may come less frequently and become less severe, but they may never go away. We can learn to conquer our demons.

Hopefully in time, we can turn that switch off and rest easily, leaving what was in the past behind and looking forward to a brighter future.



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Cpl. Michael Egan is presented with his Purple Heart by Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. at Walter Reed Naval Military Medical Center in 2010.

## Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
with the Hi-Desert Star

Thursdays with  
The Desert Trail

Fridays with  
The Observation Post



**Hi-Desert Publishing Co.**

*Your community newspapers working to serve you better*



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





**[Top, right]** Andrew Wagner, audiology department, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, takes cover as youthful archers take aim at Desert Winds Golf Course, June 13.

**[Top, left]** Petty Officer 1st Class Raul Cervantes rings two bells.

**[Bottom, left]** Petty Officer 2nd Class Silvia Blas (left) and Hospitalman Apprentice Michelle Medina enjoy the festivities during the celebration.

**[Bottom, right]** Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Eng carves one of two roasted pigs for guests.

## Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital celebrates Corpsman birthday

Stroy and photos by **Dave Marks**

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital staff and family members celebrated the 116th Corpsman Birthday at Desert Winds Golf Course, June 13.

“Aloha” was heard frequently during the luau-themed celebration as people met or parted, the word’s origins, meaning love, conveying the deeper meaning as love for ship, shipmates and country were on full display.

The NHTP First Class Petty Officers’ Association created a family-themed evening with air-inflated bounce houses, archery, miniature golf, dancing and plenty of luau-themed food, including

two roasted pigs.

“We anticipated 250 to 275 people attending,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Raul Cervantes, president, First Class Petty Officers Association.

Cervantes said it was “phenomenal” when ticket sales hit the 300 mark. The DJ present offered lively hits ranging from Kool and the Gang and David Bowie classics, to New Zealand’s pop phenom, Lorde. A good dance beat was the only requisite. As the evening lengthened, such standbys as the Electric Slide and Cupid Shuffle brought more people onto the dance floor.

“A lot of children came out and had fun,” Cervantes said. “All of the effort that went into the event

was done on a volunteer basis. Hospital personnel worked alongside battalion aid station personnel. There was no one assigned to any particular task. They saw what needed to be done and did it.”

The bulk of the funds came from golf tournaments, car washes and food sales. Additionally, proceeds from the First Class Association’s upcoming softball tournament will help pay for the event.

Retired Hospital Corpsman Chief Thomas M. Teleha was guest speaker, recounting his career as a corpsman and spoke about the responsibilities, as well as the camaraderie, fellowship and sense of dedication, that Navy corpsmen experience. After retiring in


2009 with 23 years of active-duty service, Teleha is currently the program manager for Traumatic Brain Injury in Deployment Health at the hospital.

Jennifer Flores, customer relations officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, attended the event with her family including three children, ages 10 months, 14 and 16.

“This was the first time I attended a family-friendly Corpsman celebration,” Flores said. “It was different. Usually people are dressed up and wear their uniforms.”

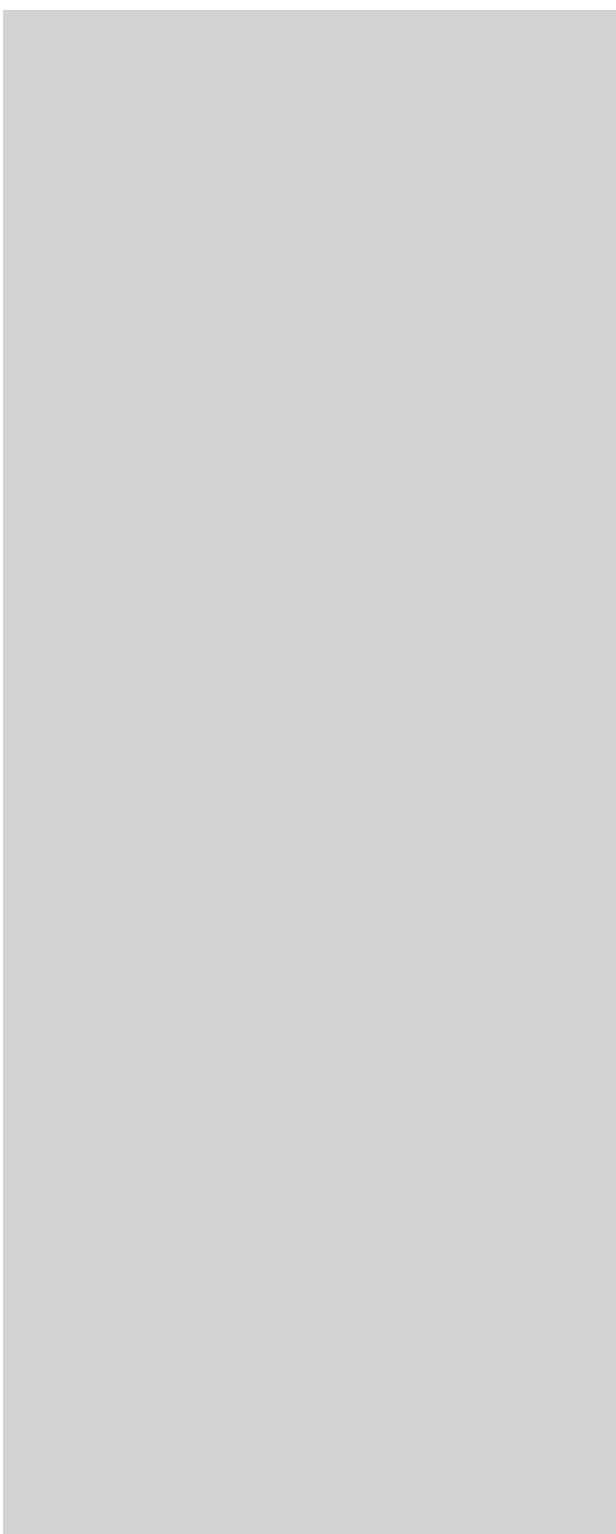
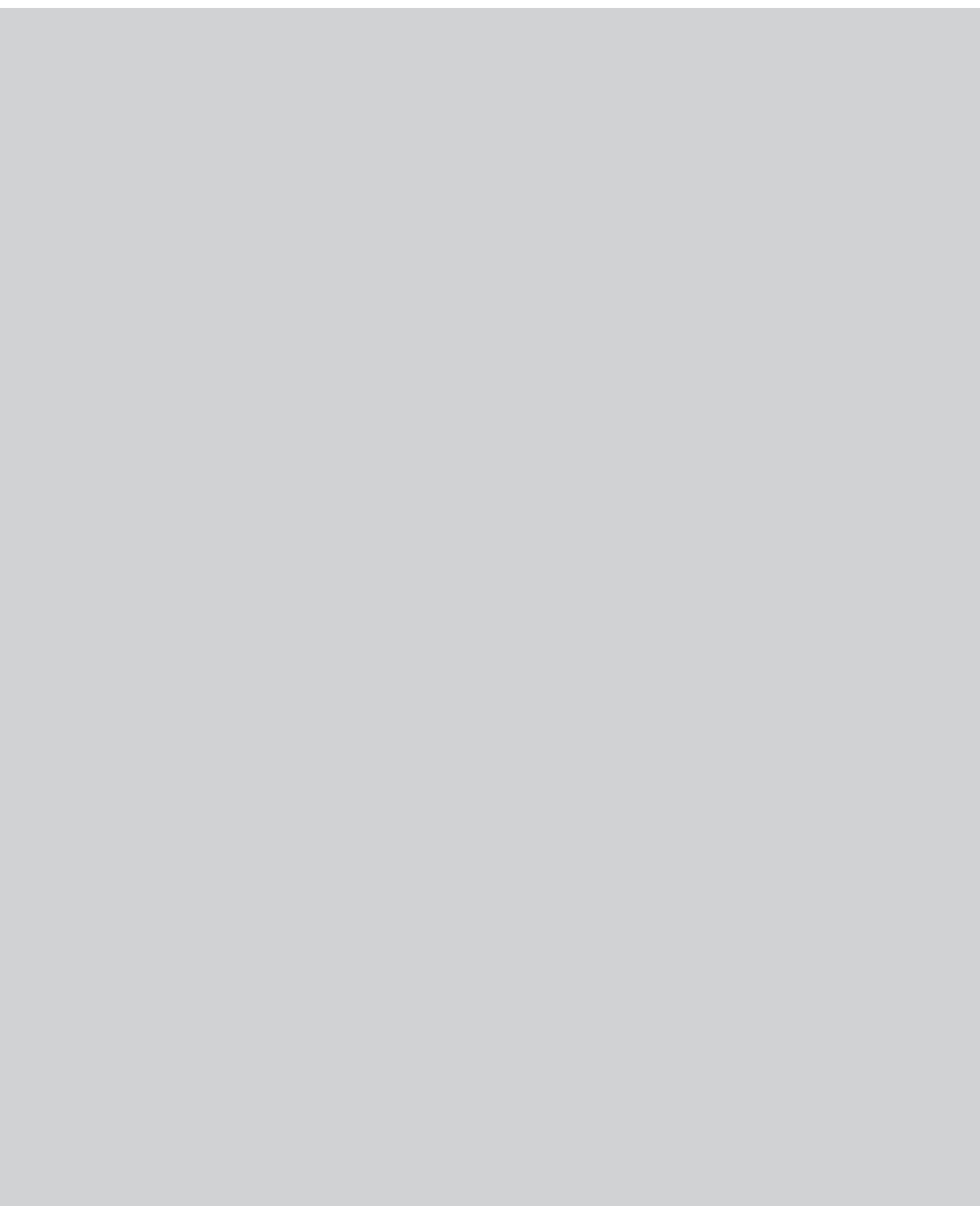
Flores said the casual, family-oriented event was a nice change and she enjoyed seeing the hospital command relaxing and celebrating as a whole.

Aloha!



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

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



## ATG, from A1



CPL. LARUEN A. KURKIMILIS

Col. Jeffrey Kenney, commanding officer, Adviser Training Group, shakes the hand of Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General at the base theatre during ATG's deactivation ceremony Wednesday. The unit trained more than 424 Security Force Assistance Advisor Teams, totaling more than 7,700 SFAAT advisers.

audience who had ever worked for or been involved with ATG to rise so that they could be recognized for all of their hard work. He then introduced the unit's commanding officer, Col. Jeffrey J. Kenney, praising him for his job well done.

"There wasn't a better guy in the Marine Corps to do this," Berger said. "There wasn't a more perfectly suited leader to take this (unit) on."

Kenney took the mic and reflected on some of the achievements and capabilities of ATG and thanked his Marines and civilian personnel.

"It was all worth it because our guys went out there prepared ... and the result was gratifying," Kenney said. "ATG was excellent at what they did and they always completed the mission. I can't name off everyone to thank because there are just too many important people, but I will remember all of you."

As the ceremony came to a close, the words of the commandant resonated within the crowd.

"On behalf of all Marines, I salute the ATG and all who have served in this important unit," Wilcox recited. "As this group deactivates, know that your contributions are much appreciated by you nation, Corps and by me personally. You steadfast commitment to excellence will have a lasting impact for years to come."

Among those attending the ceremony were Lt. Gen. John A. Toolan, I Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General, Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, IMEF Sergeant Major and other prominent members of leadership throughout the Corps.

## WATCHDOGS, from A1

ahead as Murray stood beside Anderson. The Marine Corps colors were handed to Murray and passed on to Anderson, officially transferring leadership from one Marine to the other.

"I asked for VMU," Anderson said after taking command of the squadron. "After 10 years of [counter insurgency operations], you are going to see cultural and organizational changes."

Anderson left the field with the eyes of the Watchdogs on him and a plan for the future.

## MEMORIAL, from A1

who served on the Twentynine Palms City Council with Dube.

The priority he had for his family was another trait pointed out by many of his friends and loved ones. Dube leaves behind his wife, Patricia Dube, of 42 years, two sons, Marc and Erik Dube, and grandchildren Allison, Ryan, Marissa, Aiden and Keira.

"He was big and loud but I'm glad my kids got to see the gentle side of him as their grandfather," said Marc. "He loved having his grandchildren around ... I hope as they grow older they are able to learn and understand more about what type of person he was."

Dube served as the chief of staff aboard the Combat Center for his last term and retired in 1989 at the rank of colonel with 38 years of service. Dube remained in Twentynine Palms, Calif., and was elected to the City Council in 1994. He served as mayor for two terms before he left the council in 2002 and became the field representative to San Bernardino County's 1st District supervisor. Dube was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, the American Legion, Marine Corps Association and Desert Cities Mitchell Paige MOH Chapter of 1st Marine Division Association, 3rd Marine Division Association, Elks and Rotary.

"Seeing the impact he had on people through his actions was amazing," Marc Dube said. "Growing up he was my dad, but as I got older I realized he wasn't just my dad, he meant a lot to many people. Once a Marine always a Marine. He never lost that. He always wanted to be connected to the Marine Corps and I see now how the Marine Corps shaped his life."

Through his service to our country and the Twentynine Palms community, Dube affected many lives in a positive way. It is through those memories, acts, and sacrifice that he continues living in the hearts of many.

"Being here in Twentynine Palms, it's very comforting to know that father was well-respected and liked ... To have a ceremony such as this was fitting and much appreciated by my family."

## PHANTOMS, from A1



LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

Lt. Col. Michael Graziani, executive officer, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, leads the squadron staff during the pass and review at the squadron's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Wednesday.

of leading the "Phantoms" wherever they will be needed.

Col. Chad Breeden, commanding officer, Marine Air Control Group 38, awarded Thurman a Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his time with the Marines of VMU-3.

"In my 30 years in the Marine Corps, this has been the pinnacle and the highlight of my service," Thurman said.

The change of command comes at a time when the squadron has officially designated Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, as its new headquarters. Marines have already undergone relocation, with the squadron expected to be completely moved by late July.

"I'm looking forward to getting this squadron flying and fighting for the future," Schreiner said. "Our efforts and dedication to our ground and airborne Marines does not change. "[Perry] and I have been entrusted with a huge responsibility to take care of this squadron. VMU-3 is relatively new, but we've got a long and very exciting road ahead of us."



Visit  
the official  
MCAGCC facebook page at  
<http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



The Combat Center  
has its own  
YouTube channel. Find it at  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>



The Combat Center has its own  
Flickr photo and video streams.  
Find them at  
<http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>



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

## Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
with the Hi-Desert Star

Thursdays with  
The Desert Trail

Fridays with  
The Observation Post



**Hi-Desert Publishing Co.**

Your community newspapers working to serve you better



We're on  
**facebook**

more than  
30,000 likes



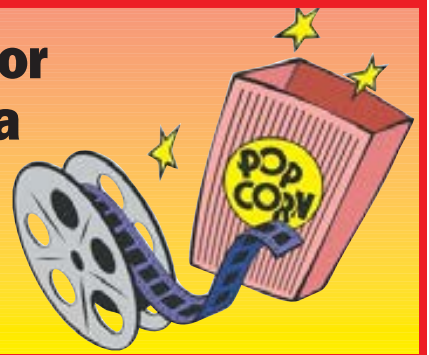
Join the community online

Visit us at [www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter](http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter)



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

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



FIND OUT  
WHY **92%** OF  
USAA MEMBERS  
PLAN TO STAY  
FOR LIFE.

**USAA Auto Insurance. Save up to 15% when you garage on base.<sup>1</sup>**

At USAA, our commitment to serve the military community is without equal. We understand military life. Just one reason our members are as loyal to us as we are to them.

★ GET A QUOTE. [usaa.com/insurance](http://usaa.com/insurance) or 800-531-8722



<sup>1</sup>92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey.  
<sup>2</sup>This is a reduction in your premium for Comprehensive coverage, except in CA, where it also applies to your premium for Collision coverage. Not available in MA and NY. Other restrictions apply. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. "Honorary-served" means a discharge type of "honorable." Membership and product eligibility and underwriting restrictions apply and are subject to change. Eligible former dependents of USAA members may purchase auto or property insurance if the member obtained USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2014 USAA. 206225-0614



# ITX



SGT. RUSSELL MIDORI

## Ordies arm Cobras

**Sgt. Russell Midori**  
Combat Correspondent

Cobra pilots have the pleasure of watching their rockets and Hellfire missiles cruise through the sky and impact targets in the desert mountains.

For that, they can thank the ordnance Marines participating in the Integrated Training Exercise who have spent their days loading and arming weapons on aircrafts.

Ordnance guys pretty much are specifically for missiles, rockets, rounds, anything that has to do with that," said Cpl. Chris Webb, ordnance technician, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773.

"We are the ones who test it, load it, and for the mission we just honestly make [it] happen so that those guys can go out and have fun shooting. And when we're in combat, you know, take care of business," said Webb, a Gainesville, Ga., native.

The AH-1 Super Cobras here have M-197 gatling guns on the front, laser-guided hellfire missiles on one side and high-explosive rockets on the other. Dealing with these types of weapons is a dangerous job, and the "ordies" of HMLA 773 follow rigid safety procedures.

"Our ordnance bible – they say it's written in blood," said Lance Cpl. Laurence Williams, ordnance technician, HMLA 773. "Our safety regulations come from past Marines' mistakes, so if we're loading the weapons, or arming the Cobras, or de-arming them when they land, we take every precaution," said

Williams, of Pass Christian, Miss.

After the ordies load rounds, rockets and missiles into the Cobras, the pilots fly to a runway where an ordnance team meets them to arm the weapons – meaning make them functional for firing. Because of the engine and rotor noise, the team leader uses hand-and-arm signals to direct a team member who swiftly connects wires to firing apparatuses.

During the exercise, Williams ran to the outboard side of the bird and used a small handheld device to check for stray voltage. He armed the Hellfire missiles, then dove under the aircraft to arm the gatling gun. He finished on the inboard side arming the rockets in the rocket pad, and then his team cleared the runway and watched the cobra take off.

Despite how quickly the procedure seems to go, every maneuver is precisely calculated and safely executed. Even in training, mission accomplishment for the pilots depends on the speed and effectiveness of the ordnance Marines.

"The ordnance men are essential to our mission because the ground troops need us to actually go out there and employ the ordnance," said Capt. Brian Riva, pilot, HMLA 773.

"The ordnance Marines have done an outstanding job out here at ITX," Riva said. "Right now we are 100 percent in direct hits with our hellfire missiles which directly correlates to what the ordnance Marines have been doing out here. We've shot so far eight hellfire missiles – we have 4 left to go but 100 percent is pretty good."

[Above] Lance Cpl. Brandon Doty, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, checks for stray voltage and arms a Hellfire missile, at the Combat Center, June 13.

[Below] Ordnance Marines at Combat Center communicate with the hand and arm signals during arming or de-arming of the AH-1 Super Cobra helicopters.



SGT. RUSSELL MIDORI

## Intel Marines brief Pilots during predeployment training

**Lance Cpl. Phillip Patten**  
Combat Correspondent

More than a dozen Marine officers and pilots took their seats and pulled out their notepads, all in need of information on targets and enemy operations. They fixed on a young junior Marine delivering her first "air-intelligence brief."

Lance Cpl. Christine Vavra had rehearsed enough that she didn't even appear nervous as she stood in front of the crowd with a large map behind her at the Assault Support case band at Camp Wilson, Sunday.



LANCE CPL. PHILLIP PATTEN

"Important aspects of briefing are being confident in what you're saying, making sure what you're saying is accurate, and communicating the information effectively" said Vavra, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774.

Vavra presented information on enemy whereabouts for the mock mission, and Lance Cpl. Sean Swarouth, Marine Aircraft Group 41, described the enemy's weapons systems during the brief.

Briefs preceded every mission the pilots flew during the Integrated Training Exercise. These concise meetings informed and instructed the pilots, making them very dependent on junior intelligence Marines.

"You've got to realize the officers and pilots aren't there to judge you," said Sgt. Dustin Knight, Marine Aircraft Group 49. "They are trying to get information from you and if you give them bad intel, you could cost lives."

Knight, a native of Charlottesville, Va., supervised the Marines during the brief and said they performed quite well considering the ITX was their first real briefing experience.

"It's important for them to take these exercises seriously so they get practice with 'real-world' scenarios," Knight said.

The scenario Vavra presented resulted in a successful mission for the pilots. They used her brief to successfully take out a mock enemy target, and Vavra said she learned from the experience.

"I can improve on taking my time...and making sure that I get all the information across the first time," Vavra said. "I could do a little bit better, but I think for the first time it didn't go bad."

Lance Cpl. Christine Vavra, intelligence specialist, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, practices her portion of the air-intelligence brief, Sunday. The brief, held during the Integrated Training Exercise at the Combat Center, gave intelligence Marines an opportunity to practice presenting important intel to Marine Corps officers.



## Liberty Call



### Combat Center Events

#### Summer Fight Night V

Kick off the summer by watching live mixed-martial arts fights free of charge. 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 20

5:30 p.m. - The Quiet Ones, PG-13

8 p.m. - The Amazing Spiderman 2, PG-13

11:30 p.m. - Godzilla, PG-13

#### Saturday, June 21

10:00 a.m. - **Free Admission** Mr. Peabody, PG

12 p.m. - Mom's Night Out, PG

2:30 p.m. - The Amazing Spiderman 2 3-D, PG-13

6 p.m. - Godzilla 3-D, PG-13

9 p.m. - Neighbors, R

11:30 p.m. - Million Dollar Arm, PG

#### Sunday, June 22

12 p.m. - Maleficent 3-D, PG

4 p.m. - **Advanced Screening** Transformers: Age of Extinction 3-D, PG-13

8 p.m. - Blended, PG-13

#### Monday, June 23

6 p.m. - Godzilla, PG-13

#### Tuesday, June 24

6 p.m. - 12 p.m. - Maleficent 3-D, PG

#### Wednesday, June 25

5 p.m. - Neighbors, R

7:30 p.m. - Blended, PG-13

#### Thursday, June 26

5 p.m. - The Quiet Ones, PG-13

7:30 p.m. - The Amazing Spiderman 2, PG-13

# Disney puts girrrl-power backspin on 'Sleeping Beauty' tale

NEIL POND

"Maleficent"

Starring Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning and Charlito Copley

Directed by Robert Stromberg  
PG, 97 min.

Disney turns one of its own stories inside out in this inverted fairy tale back-story about the "mistress of all evil" who put the deep sleep on Sleeping Beauty.

Long before slumbering princess comes along, we meet the tiny winged creature who'll grow up to become Maleficent, "the strongest fairy of them all," protecting her idyllic land of fluttering pixies, gnarled tree warriors and mischievous, mud-slinging gnomes from the greedy, marauding humans in the neighboring kingdom.

Angelina Jolie plays the adult Maleficent, a baroque sight — with bright red lips, gleaming white teeth, jutting prosthetic cheekbones, a gigantic set of wings, and a pair of imposing dark antlers — as the flesh-and-blood incarnation of the cartoon character many grownups will recall from the classic 1959 Disney version of the age-old Brothers Grimm folk tale.

A cruel betrayal hardens Maleficent's heart and sets her on a path of vengeance toward the vile new king (Sharlito Copley), which leads to the famous curse she puts on his infant daughter: When the princess turns 16, she'll prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning loom and fall into a deep, death-like slumber from which she'll never awaken. The only way to break the curse is with a kiss of "true love."

But here's the movie's big twist: As princess Aurora (Elle Fanning) ages and becomes more adorable every year, Maleficent finds her own maternal instincts. Instead of waiting in wicked anticipation for the

princess' fateful 16th birthday, she begins to regret the horrible hex of doom she's placed on the innocent girl.

A trio of fluttering fairy nannies provides comic relief, a fire-breathing dragon is as fearsome as you might expect, and there's a shape-shifting young man (Sam Riley) who, depending on when you see him, may be a bird. And as the title character, Jolie is a campy composite of theatrics, costuming, makeup and special effects that create the movie's swirling center of dramatic gravity.

Disney has shaken things up before, most successfully in last year's "Frozen," which stepped out from the company's decades-old template to feature princesses that didn't need princes to save them, complete them, or even make them interesting. "Maleficent" has a similar girrrl-power spin, but plays even looser with its own mythology and the possibilities for what "true love" can really mean.

First-time director Robert Stromberg is an award-winning set decorator and visual effects artist for major movies including "Avatar," "The Life of Pi" and "The Hunger Games," but his directorial inexperience shows. The movie practically spills over with lavish, flashy things to see, but overall it's a bit of a muddle, a "Game of Thrones"-meets-"Lord of the Rings" bedtime story with a confusing tone that will likely puzzle many younger viewers accustomed to clearer, cleaner motives for characters, and needing more distinct lines separating heroes and villains. And too often, the special effects seem like cartoons, or computer-game graphics, at odds with its live action.

"There is an evil in this world, and I cannot keep you from it," Maleficent tells Ambrosia at one point. Alas, neither can Aurora Jolie's star power stir up enough magic Disney pixie dust to keep this big fractured fairy tale from falling into its own cracks.

## Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
with the Hi-Desert Star  
Thursdays with  
The Desert Trail  
Fridays with  
The Observation Post



**Hi-Desert Publishing Co.**

*Your community newspapers working to serve you better*



# WeekINPhotos

## 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. LUKAS ATWELL

**[Above]** Cpl. Linden Munro, left, corporals course student, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit prepares Cpl. Angel Gaspar, 22nd MEU corporals course student, for a pugil stick match as part of a corporals course combat conditioning session aboard the USS Mesa Verde. The 22nd MEU is deployed with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve and crisis response force throughout U.S. Central Command and the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



**[Top, right]** Corporals course students with the 22nd MEU perform push ups during a combat conditioning session aboard the USS Mesa Verde.




**[Bottom, right]** Cpl. Qumarye Dawson, left, 22nd MEU corporals course student, strikes Angel Gaspar, 22nd MEU corporals course student, during a pugil stick match as part of a corporals course combat conditioning session aboard the USS Mesa Verde.

**Relax with the paper**

Wednesdays and Saturdays with the Hi-Desert Star  
 Thursdays with The Desert Trail  
 Fridays with The Observation Post

**Hi-Desert Publishing Co.**  
*Your community newspapers working to serve you better*

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

 <p>Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter">http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter</a></p>	 <p>The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO">http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO</a></p>	 <p>The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <a href="http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter">http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter</a></p>
--	--	---

