



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Lance Cpl. Carlos Morris, administration specialist, Installation Personnel Administration Center, grooms a horse during a volunteer event in one of the stables of the Crazy Horse Ranch, Aug. 24.



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Jacklyn Wilson conducts a class for Pfc. Sandra Cuellar, administration specialist, Installation Personnel Administration Center, and Cpl. Thomas Salukumbo, administrative specialist, IPAC, during a volunteer event in one of the stables of Crazy Horse Ranch, Aug. 24.

Marines learn natural horsemanship at volunteer event

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

MORONGO VALLEY, Calif. — Four Marines walk to a horse stable after a morning of work. A white horse stands tall in front of them, patiently waiting. Its owner slowly approaches and introduces herself by presenting a saddle to place on its back. The Marines watch closely, ready to learn anything they can about horsemanship.

The Marines volunteered Aug. 24 at the Crazy Horse Ranch in Morongo Valley through the Combat Center's Single Marine Program. They helped clear pens of rocks, prepare food for the animals and organize stables for the duration of the event.

Jacklyn Wilson, owner, Crazy Horse Ranch, also gives classes to the Marines as gratitude for all their help. Wilson teaches the finer points of natural horsemanship.

"Your control of the horse only travels down

half the rein," Wilson said. "Knowing how to approach a horse and learning their body language is a big part of natural horsemanship."

Natural horsemanship is the method Wilson teaches at the ranch, which has been open for approximately 12 years. She comes from a family of ranchers and has been riding horses for 50 years. About a year ago, she began inviting Marines to her ranch as an opportunity for volunteer work through the Single Marine Program.

"Every time I've come to the ranch I've learned something new," said Cpl. Thomas Salukumbo, administrative specialist, Installation Personnel Administration Center. "With each class, I've learned skills that I could take anywhere ... If I ever encounter horses again, I will

See **Horse Ranch** A7



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Pfc. Sandra Cuellar, administration specialist, Installation Personnel Administration Center, grooms a horse at the Crazy Horse Ranch after a saddle-mounting class at one of the ranch stables, Aug. 24. In 2013, Jacklyn Wilson, owner, Crazy Horse Ranch, began inviting Marines to her ranch as an opportunity for volunteer work through the Single Marine Program.

Aiming for excellence; base shooting matches begin

BY CPL. LAUREN
 KURKIMILIS

This year's Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Intramural Shooting Matches are scheduled for Sept. 22 to Oct. 10 and the installation's Marksmanship Training Unit encourages all who are interested in signing up.

The matches will be held five days a week at the Combat Center's rifle range. Up to 192 active-duty Marines and sailors, and DoD employees who are permitted to handle a

government firearm, are eligible to complete.

"Marksmanship is crucial," said Cpl. Kyle Mass, shooter, Combat Center Shooting Team. "It's what we do as Marines and we want to help maintain that standard by hosting these matches. That is why we are trying to get max participation."

The competition allows Marines to gain experience in a match-like environment in case they want to continue shooting competitively. During the matches, shooters will fire

the M16A4 or M4 service rifle and M9 service pistol at various ranges. The rifle ranges begin at 200 yards and end at 500 yards. The pistol portion is shot from 25 yards and is all shot using one hand.

"The competition is set up similar to division matches," said Sgt. Wayne Gallagher, head coach, Combat Center Shooting Team. "The only difference is, we run ours with a coaches' course, so it's three weeks long instead of two."

All shooters will report

Monday for a welcome aboard brief, and those aren't not be participating in Coaches Course will show up on Friday to begin firing.

"The only requirement by the commands is that they send their Marines and they provide them with an M-16 A4 or M-4, with RCO, and an M-9 or M-9 A1," Gallagher said.

Last year, the installation took 11 shooters to division matches. Of those 11, seven were new shooters who completed in intramural events and

were picked up for division matches. Of those seven, one became the Western Division Champion on the rifle. He outshot two national champions as well as many distinguished shooters.

Last year, Gallagher won the Lockheimer Award, which is the gold medal for being the Marine Corps shooting champion.

"Last year, we had 82 shooters total and this year we're trying to get more participation from all and encourage more

females and officers to sign up," Gallagher said. "At the end of the match, everyone has fiscal [qualifications] out of the way. It's a fun time. You can become a better shooter and eventually you could even make your way to the Marine Corps Shooting Team."

For more information on how to participate in this year's Intramural Shooting Matches, sign up with your command or call the Marksmanship Training Unit at 830-6700.

Award ceremony honors old and new generation of E Co., 2/7

BY CPL. CHARLES
 SANTAMARIA

The Marine Corps' storied legacy spans hundreds of years since its humble beginning in 1775. To this day, the Marine Corps takes pride in its traditions. Aboard the Combat Center, E Co.,

2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, continues a tradition of its own, alongside the 1st Marine Division Association, Phoenix Chapter, which began 20 years ago.

The 1st Marine Division Association hosted a coin

See **Ceremony** A7



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Gene Wuestenfield, president, 1st Marine Division Association, Phoenix Chapter, presents a coin to Gunnery Sgt. Kelly M. Cardinell, infantry unit leader, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during a ceremony at Bldg. 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 22.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Cpl. Matthew Callahan.



LANCE CPL. ALEX W. MITCHELL

This week's Marine Corps Top Shot comes from Lance Cpl. Alex W. Mitchell. He captured this photo of Lance Cpl. Garrick R. Upton, an Amphibious Assault Vehicle operator, splashing into the surf of the Atlantic Ocean in an AAV aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
August 22, 1987

Random drug tests installed for Marines

WASHINGTON, D.C., (USMC)— Active duty Marines below the age of 29 will be subject to random urinalysis tests at all stateside and foreign military installations to determine whether they have been using drugs.

The measure, adopted for all branches of service, previously affected only returnees of Southeast Asia and other overseas ports. Now, regardless of location, most personnel will be involved with the program.

Most Marine Corps bases have already started urinalysis screening.

An earlier Department of Defense directive ordered all

active duty Armed Forces personnel to be tested, but the order was rescinded after an Army study showed that fewer than one percent of the 19,000 drug users detected were 29 years of age or older.

Still, commanders may have personnel over 29 tested whenever they consider necessary.

By eliminating older men from testing, Marine Corps officials feel that they can center drug testing on younger Marines stationed in areas where the drug abuse rate is higher.

DOD estimates that the services can no administer a million additional tests in the high inci-

dence areas (to include Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Okinawa—where exposure to illegal drugs is more likely) without increasing expenditures. Each test costs \$2.50.

Just who will be administered the tests, and when, have been detailed in Marine Corps Bulletin 6710, of June 20.

Highly refined and fool-proof, the random selection was described by one Headquarters official as "as simple as throwing darts... and as unpredictable."

Current Marine Corps plans are to conduct tests in the high incidence areas at a rate of 3.0 tests per man per year. Marines stationed in

Korea, Taiwan, California, Oregon, the state of Washington and the northeast coast of the U.S. will be tested at a ratio which computes out to 1.6 times per person annually.

All other areas will be tested at a rate which figures out to 1.2 times per person annually.

Mandatory testing has been established for recruits and officer candidates upon initial entry on active duty.

Rehabilitates who have received treatment at a formal drug rehabilitation center and returned to active duty will be tested twice a month during the first year.

These tests too will be unannounced.

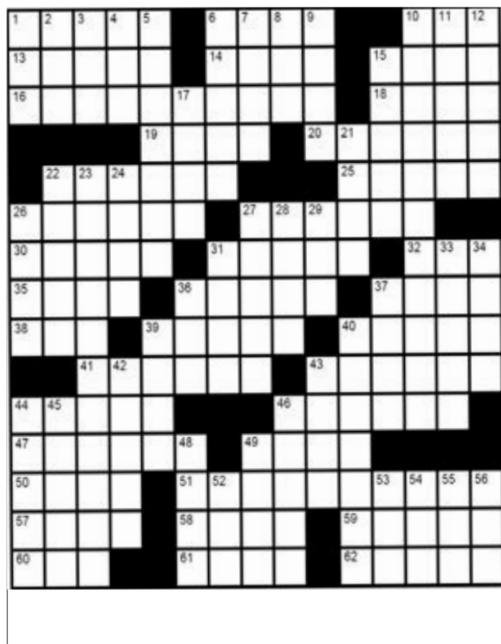
CROSSWORD

See answers in next week's edition

"Greetings"

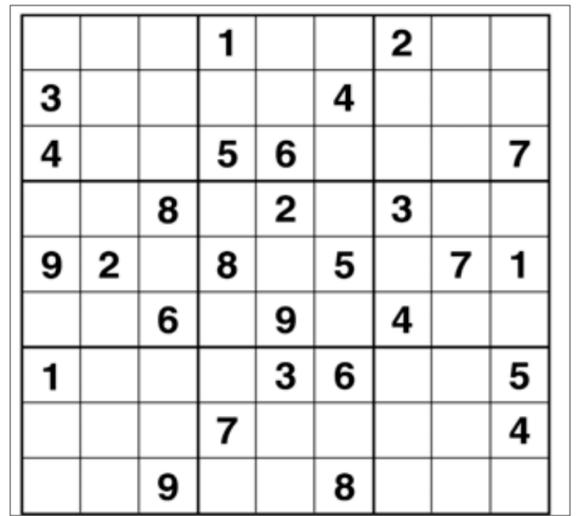
- Across**
1 Sends a letter
6 Dangerous snakes
10 Fellow
13 Set aside
14 ___ of approval
15 "I always like walking in the rain, ___ one can see me crying"
— Charlie Chaplin
16 Casual greeting
18 Tick—
19 Lemon meringue and Boston cream
20 Draw pictures while you're on the phone, say
22 Circle and square
25 Places to live
26 Daily or weekly tasks
27 "Indeed!"
30 Helped a breakdown car
31 Food that jiggles
32 Knock
35 ___ Parks
36 Like some faucets
37 ___ occasion (never)
38 Go down a mountain
39 Poles on ships
40 Potato ___
41 Has faith in
43 Mac or Madoff
44 Book parts
46 Oversee
47 Makes up (for)
49 Henry of Detroit fame
50 "___ true?"

- 51 Greeting from Bugs Bunny
57 Camera part
58 Car
59 Abdul or Deen
60 Droop
61 Jury person
62 Hard to climb
Down
1 ___jongg
2 Ginger ___
3 Not feeling well
4 "That's hilarious!" in three letters
5 Slammed on the brakes
6 Cigar stuff
7 Observes
8 Golf course score
9 Wintertime vehicle
10 Greeting in the a.m.
11 Aunt's man
12 Ox holders
15 Got up
17 Father's Day gifts
21 Cincinnati's state
22 Trembled
23 Another casual greeting
24 Part of town
26 HQs
27 Irish poet William Butler ___
28 Benevolent lodge
29 Sneaky
31 Joking
33 Musical about a



- red-headed orphan
34 Mug for the camera
36 ___ Vegas
37 Southern vegetable
39 Ponder
40 Parodies
42 Monthly payments
43 Taverns
44 Buckets at the beach
45 Not on shore
46 Engine
48 Make an even trade
49 Destiny
52 Color
53 Butter amount
54 Word on a bill
55 "Bravo!"
56 Pen part, sometimes

SUDOKU 3375



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

"Drink Up!"



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- 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

Wayne Quint

Corona, CA. legal assistance officer, 1st Lieutenant, 30

QUINT

>I played basketball growing up and was a pretty decent point guard but once I got into high school I became more of a runner.

>Although it doesn't look like it anymore, I graduated high school at 125 pounds and could run about a 16 minute 3-mile. Track and Cross Country were the sports I was into. I also became the captain of my Cross Country team.

>Going into college at UCLA, I practiced with the running team for a short time, but I was never fast enough to run with the Pack 10, so I strayed away from that.

>The best run time I ever received was 16 minutes and 8 seconds at the California Interscholastic Foundation tournament which had high school-level runners compete from all over southern California.

>I went to college at UCLA and I was working as an emergency dispatcher but I knew it wasn't for me.

>Public service always felt like my calling. My brother became a teacher; my father was an Orange County sheriff for many years, so it ran in my family in a way.

>I graduated in 2002 and I remembered the effect 9/11 had on me and I wanted to serve in the military but I wanted to get my education first. Once I went to law school, I began looking into the different branches.

>I saw the Marine Corps' Judge Advocate Program and thought that was the best option.

I worked as a lawyer for two years in the public sector and began preparing to join the Marine Corps.

>The Officer Selection Officer prepared me very well but after I got to Officer Candidate School, I realized I actually didn't know what I was getting myself into.

>When you're a student for that long and you have time to yourself with no one depending on you, it's a different mentality.

>The discipline and organization of the Marine Corps always impressed me.

>I think the change in environment from what you expect prepares you well for anything you would expect later on.

>Adaptability is vital; it helps you be a better Marine and a better person for it.

>It was interesting, I came as a new lieutenant to a shop with Marines who had been in longer than me and done so much. You come in and they expect you to run the ship and lead, which is how it should be, but what happens in the process is a lot of on-the-job learning. You have to take it and own it.

>From where I began in this job field to where I am now as a legal assistance officer ... There is a lot more direct helping with Marines.

>No one ever likes seeing an attorney, and it's part of the challenge which is breaking down that mental barrier so we can fix the problem.

>We see about 15 people a week, all with different issues, and law school helps with this in terms of knowledge of the law, but the lessoned I learned throughout my life in school, running and the Marine Corps is what helps me connect with that Marine or spouse to help come up with a solution to a problem.

>It's a good experience

being able to help Marines more directly, and I relish this position for that reason.



Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Charles Santamaria



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Curation Center gardens, wetland teeming with native wildlife

STORY BY KELLY O'SULLIVAN

When the staff of the Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center began creating a series of outdoor gardens to showcase plants native to the Combat Center, they had no idea a cheeky little girl named Mabel and her family would take over.

D'Anne Albers, a cultural resource specialist who has helped build the gardens since coming to work for the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs directorate as a contractor in 2010, first noticed Mabel in 2012. The tiny, round-tailed ground squirrel stood out in the four-legged crowd that initially took up residence in the Tortoise Garden burrows built for Thelma and Louise, a pair of captive desert tortoises who periodically come to the curation center so visitors can see the threatened species up close.

"I named her Mabel because Thelma and Louise had such old-fashioned names," Albers recalled, noting that Mabel — the only one member of her clan with a name — was as curious about people as they were about her.

"She was just so cute. She started coming when I would call her," Albers said. In short order, Mabel moved from the Tortoise Garden to the more spacious Ethno-botanical Garden, entertaining Albers and others with her antics as she grew to adulthood.

Round-tails reach reproductive maturity at 325 days old, and Mabel had her first litter in 2013. Now a grandmother, she and her offspring both welcomed litters earlier this year. While no definitive information exists on the average life expectancy for the species, an online database on animal longevity noted that one wild-born round-tail lived 8.9 years in captivity. If Mabel survives such natural predators as coyotes, snakes and hawks — all of which visit the gardens on occasion — she could spend years living at the site, people-watching

and raising several more generations of young squirrels.

A stroll through the gardens, built using grant funds starting in 2009, offer curation center visitors an insight into how ecosystems work.

The Nectar Garden draws bees, butterflies and moths, the Tortoise Garden showcases plants favored by the desert tortoise, and the Ethno-botanical Garden features plants that Native American tribes living in the area thousands of years ago used for food, clothing and medicine. Additional garden areas showcase various native plants.

In addition to Mabel and her brood, a variety of reptiles, birds and insects keep the place hopping.

Behind the facility, a large storm-water retention pond offers more chances to see wildlife. A 3/4-mile walking/running trail encircling the waterway makes it easy for all ages and fitness levels to enjoy and explore.

"Every day, you can see different birds at the pond," Albers said, noting that numerous winged species fly over the Combat Center and surrounding areas during their annual migrations. Among the recent winged visitors was a group of about 20 white-faced ibis, medium-sized wading birds that spent several days feeding on insects in the pond's marshy area.

NREA is in the process of creating new informational signs to be placed along the track, featuring none other than Mabel, who will impart fun facts and information on the plants and animals visitors may see as they make their way along the trail. Also in the works is a flier with a map of the gardens and pond.

The curation center gardens and pond walking trail are open to anyone with installation access. For more information, call (760) 830-1196 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



KELLY O'SULLIVAN

The wetlands created by storm runoff behind the Combat Center Archaeology and Paleontology Center is a haven for birds, many of which fly through the area on their yearly migrations. A walkway encircling the pond makes it a great place to walk and run.



KELLY O'SULLIVAN

Mabel is a round-tailed ground squirrel who has made the Archaeology and Paleontology Curation Center gardens her home for two years.



KELLY O'SULLIVAN

Thelma and Louise, a pair of captive desert tortoises who live at the Combat Center's Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site, feast on primrose blooms during a visit to the Archaeology and Paleontology Curation Center. They make periodic visits to the facility so visitors can see the protected desert denizens up close.

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Displays celebrate Combat Center's ancient history

BY KELLY O'SULLIVAN

Long before Marines braved the Mojave Desert's harsh environs to train for combat, the area was home to giants locked in an epic struggle to survive.

Mastodons, giant tortoise and sloths, horses and other prehistoric animals that roamed the peaks and valleys of the Marine Corps Air Combat Center ultimately lost their battle, leaving behind fossilized remains that were discovered in the Gypsum Ridge Training Area in the late 1990s.

Since 2006, the 2.75-million-year-old fossils have been housed at the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division's Archaeology and Paleontology Curation Center along with thousands of other artifacts collected from sites throughout the installation's 1,100 square miles. The curation center — believed to be the only facility of its kind in the Marine Corps — also stores artifacts from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow in its temperature- and humidity-controlled collections room.

Now, NREA wants to share MCAGCC's ancient history with Marines, sailors and family members via a newly opened display room at the curation center, Bldg. 1091 on Del Valle Road.

"There's so much local history here on the base, and the Marines and their families should have an opportunity to view this special place," said D'Anne Albers, a cultural resource specialist who has worked at the curation center since 2010.

The 14- by 36-foot display room, which opened July 18, showcases five areas aboard the installation where artifacts have been collected. They are:

- Gypsum Ridge Training Area, the final resting place of prehistoric desert dwellers such as Hesperotestudo, a giant tortoise that has been

extinct for about 10,000 years. The heavily armored, 400-pound behemoth is not an ancestor of the much-smaller desert tortoise, which experts say has existed on earth for 15 to 20 million years.

- Foxtrot Petroglyphs, where some 10,000 years ago, the first humans to inhabit the area etched and painted images onto rock faces. The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

- Deadman Lake, where archaeologists have discovered objects left behind by people who lived in the area between 2,000 and 10,000 years ago.

- Surprise Spring, a perennial spring fed by underground fossil water used by humans as far back as 6,500 years ago. It remains the Combat Center's sole source of water to this day.

If you go

The Combat Center Archaeology and Paleontology Curation Center is in Bldg. 1091 on Del Valle Road, just south of Felix Field. It is open to anyone with current installation access. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Walk-ins are welcome, but the staff requests that groups of seven or more call in advance at (760) 830-1196. Those wishing to explore the gardens or adjacent wetlands may do so anytime.

- Sunshine Peak Training Area, which contains the largest concentration of abandoned mines aboard the installation. Most were constructed between the 1880s and early 1900s, when mining was prevalent in the area.

Visitors who enter the display room will find themselves drawn to displays that are as colorful and creative as they are informative.

Just inside the doorway are replicas of rock art found at Foxtrot, along with photographs of the site and signs detailing its importance and what the Marine Corps has done to preserve the area.

Next to that display is a matted and framed mining claim location notice. The weathered document, dated 1928 and folded into a tobacco tin, lay hidden in

a cluster of stacked rocks near Sunshine Peak for decades, until its discovery in 2009.

A few inches away, a display case housing old spectacles, a watch, soda can, lighter and other items left behind by homesteaders who gave up their desert retreat to the Marine Corps in 1952 rests under a sign and photographs detailing the history of Surprise Spring.

Across the room, arrowheads dating back 100 to 10,000 years rest next to old beads, pendants, and a milling slab and hand stone discovered in the Deadman Lake area. Nearby is a display featuring a 1,000-year-old ceramic bowl reconstructed by archaeologist Kasey O'Horo after its discovery in 2011. Flanking the bowl is a large pottery shard with colorful markings, discovered in the Lavic Lake Training Area, and fragments of a small ceramic figurine.

The back portion, and centerpiece, of the display room is dedicated to MCAGCC's oldest known inhabitants.

Four separate display cases house the mandible of the Harlan's ground sloth, a creature that weighed 3,500 pounds and was the size of a pickup truck; the vertebrae, teeth and long bone of a prehistoric horse, a breed that

was much smaller and more zebra-like than modern-day horses; the hind foot and portion of the shell of the giant tortoise; and the small foot bone of the American mastodon, a creature that was the size of modern-day elephants. Believed to be highly social animals, mastodons roamed North America from Alaska to Central Mexico in herds, feeding on the trees and shrubs that flourished on the

Combat Center before the region became a desert.

On the back wall of the room, a large, computer-generated art piece created by wildlife and natural history artist Karen Carr of New Mexico shows each animal as it would have appeared in life, along with other plants and animals that thrived in the lush wetlands dotting the otherwise arid landscape of that long-ago era.

Rounding out the display room offerings is a kiosk with interactive presentations and videos created by former curation center manager Nick Chamberlain, an archaeologist who recently left the Combat Center for a job in Okinawa, Japan.

Using a touchscreen, visitors can play virtual archaeologist, unearthing artifacts and keeping an archaeology journal. They also can watch videos about the desert tortoise and explore the installation's modern history from Condor Field to present.

NREA also pays homage to the installation's military history with a



COURTESY PHOTO

Arrowheads on display at the Combat Center Archaeology and Paleontology Curation Center range from 10,000 years old on the left, to 100 years old on the right. Next to them is a milling slab and hand stone that inhabitants of the installation's Deadman Lake area used to grind things like mesquite beans.

Combat Center before the region became a desert.

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NREA also pays homage to the installation's military history with a

hallway display featuring Condor Field, the Army Air Corps glider base that operated here during World War II. The Navy also had a presence here before the Marine Corps came aboard in 1952.

The military display includes old photographs and such artifacts as a rusty 1940s-era .50-caliber machine gun discovered several years ago during housing construction. Coming soon will be a display of smaller items discovered on Mainside, including an old galley

tray and Old Spice bottles left behind by Marines and sailors stationed here decades ago.

It's all fascinating to Albers, who said she hopes that those who live and work aboard the Combat Center drop by to check out the displays.

"It gives people a chance to see base history and the amazing things that have gone on here," she said. "We want the Marines to see that it is very much like what they do — survive in extreme circumstances."

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Semper Fit puts on 8-4-6 Race Series

BY CPL. KATHRYN SEILER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Runners finished the race with smiles on their faces and arms thrust in the air. The cloudy sky made for a perfect setting for the first race in the Combat Center's 3rd Annual 8-4-6 Race Series, Tuesday.

The series, which began with the eight-mile race, is open for military and civilian runners who are looking to compete and to improve their run times. The three races, held at Desert Winds Golf Course, total 18 miles. The four- and six-mile races will be held in two-week increments following the eight-mile race.

"I'm a retired corpsman and I started doing this shortly after I retired and love putting on events for Marines," George Schadegg, sports specialist, Semper Fit, said. "It's just great to put something on for the Marines."

The series has been going on for three years and is always improving and growing year after year.

The fastest time was 1:00:39 and was completed by Staff Sgt. Seth Lewis, a Marine reservist in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The awards for first, second and third place winners include gift cards to various establishments around Twentynine Palms. The categories include the three fastest males, three fastest females, the three fastest teams and the three fastest runners overall.

The Semper Fit team provided tables throughout the route with water cups for the runners. At the end of the race, all



PHOTO BY CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Seth Lewis nears the finish line of the eight-mile portion of the 8-4-6 Race Series at Desert Winds Golf Course, Tuesday. Semper Fit hosts the annual 8-4-6 race series that allows runners from the Combat Center to compete in a friendly environment.

the participants cheered for one another as they crossed the finish line.

"The secret to being fast is just training," Lewis said. "Running for time builds endurance. Sprints and speed workouts help a lot."

Coming in first has been a goal of his for some time, according to Lewis.

"It feels really good to come in first place for once," Lewis said. "I hit

one hour and 39 seconds, which is good since my training has been slacking, but I have a lot of fast personal records. I've been running for 15 years."

With the close of the race, participants traded training tips with one another to better prepare for the next race.

Registration is available at the East and West gyms or at the starting point the morning of the race.



PHOTO BY CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Members of the Endurance team discuss their run times and training tips after the eight-mile segment of the 8-4-6 Race Series, Tuesday. Semper Fit hosts the annual 8-4-6 race series that allows runners from the Combat Center to compete in a friendly environment.



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Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.

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CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Members of the 1st Marine Division Association, Phoenix Chapter, sit with Marines with E Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during the coin presentation ceremony at Building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 22.



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Gene Wuestenfield, president, Phoenix Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association, explains the design of the coin being presented to E Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during a coin presentation ceremony, at Building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 22. The coin presentation and Oscar P. Austin award has been presented to Co. E, 2/7 annually for the past 20 years.

Ceremony From A1

presentation for Co. E, Aug. 22 at Bldg. 1707.

The event also introduced the Oscar P. Austin award to the Marines and explained its importance to the history of the company.

The award was named after Austin, a Medal of Honor recipient who received the award posthumously for heroism and sacrifice of his own life in South Vietnam in February 1969, while serving with E Co., 2/7.

The award is given to a Marine who distinguishes himself during a deployment and is chosen fellow Marines who deployed with said Marine.

"The award is to honor the Marines," said Gene Wuestenfield, president, 1st Marine Division, Phoenix



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Coins from 1st Marine Division Association, Phoenix Chapter, sit ready for presentation to the Marines of E Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Chapter. "The important part of the award is that it is chosen by the Marines of the company. Officers and non-commissioned officers do

not vote, which makes it a more personal award."

"It's an honor to have an award like this for the company," said Capt. William T. Kerrigan, company commander, Co. E, 2/7. "It adds to our legacy."

The award is presented after every deployment and beginning this year, will be presented to a corpsman as well.

"When Austin was killed in action all those years ago, you better believe there was a corpsman there treating him," Wuestenfield said. "I think after all these years, it's time corpsman be recognized for what they do."

The on-going tradition of this ceremony honors Austin and the history of Co. E. by recognizing Marines from current generations.



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Jacklyn Wilson, owner, Crazy Horse Ranch, leads two horses to prepare them for saddle mounting during a volunteer event for Marines at the ranch, Aug. 24. The ranch offers trail rides, personal lessons and occasional clinics for groups.

Horse Ranch From A1

feel comfortable around them and not be afraid."

Salukumbo volunteers at Crazy Horse Ranch every Sunday as often as he can. Marines not only work the ranch, they also participate in classes given by Wilson personally. Wilson's approach to horses focuses on suggestion as opposed to submission. The ranch offers trail rides, personal lessons and occasional clinics for groups.

"It's been great having the Marines come," Wilson said. "It's actually become a trade-off. The Marines

come and work, and I always give them a class so they can learn something new about horses."

Wilson's ranch began with only three horses. Today, it houses 35 horses, 20 of which are rescue horses.

As the ranch has grown, so has the need for extra hands. Wilson said she is looking forward to having

more Marines participate and learn about horses in the future.

"I hope to have more volunteers," Wilson said. "I understand Marines move often from base to base. I still hope some Marines become more consistent with coming down here and we form something of a team on the ranch."

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



When we paid for our subscription to the Hi-Desert Star recently, Patty and I realized that we have been pleased subscribers for better than 19 years. We have also been pleased subscribers to The Desert Trail for 19 years.

Not even once in all these years have we failed to get our Star in the mail on the day of publication or The Desert Trail at our home on Thursday morning.

Not only that but they are excellent newspapers. Publisher Cindy Melland and all the staff at the Hi-Desert Publishing Company do superior work and their extraordinary efforts are worthy of our strong support.

Kurt Schauppner, Stacy Moore, Josh Allen, Brandi Larson, Marv Schmelling, Rebecca Unger, Ben Kane and others all do superior work week after week after week.

Every issue of both newspapers carries up-to-date and relevant stories that should be read by every citizen.

Patty and I believe that our local newspapers deserve the support of every resident.

Who would want to live in a community of any size without a local newspaper?

Patty and I believe that every local family should subscribe to the local papers.

More than that we believe every local business and professional office should invest a portion of their advertising dollar in their local newspapers.

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WeekINPhotos

MRF-D's Bravo Company executes Koolendong 2014 as a team

Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, insert by CH-53 Helicopters into a live-fire exercise at Bradshaw Field Training Area during Exercise Koolendong, August 2014. The focus of Exercise Koolendong 2014 is to establish a 4th Marines and Australian Defence Force combined headquarters element, directing ground, aviation and logistics capabilities in austere conditions, employing all maneuver elements in execution of the exercise.

Photos by: Cpl. Scott Reel



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, move as a unit to overtake objectives during a live-fire exercise at Bradshaw Field Training Area during Exercise Koolendong, August 2014.



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, provide supporting machine gun fire during a live-fire exercise at Bradshaw Field Training Area during Exercise Koolendong.



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, insert by CH-53 Helicopters into a live-fire exercise at Bradshaw Field Training Area.



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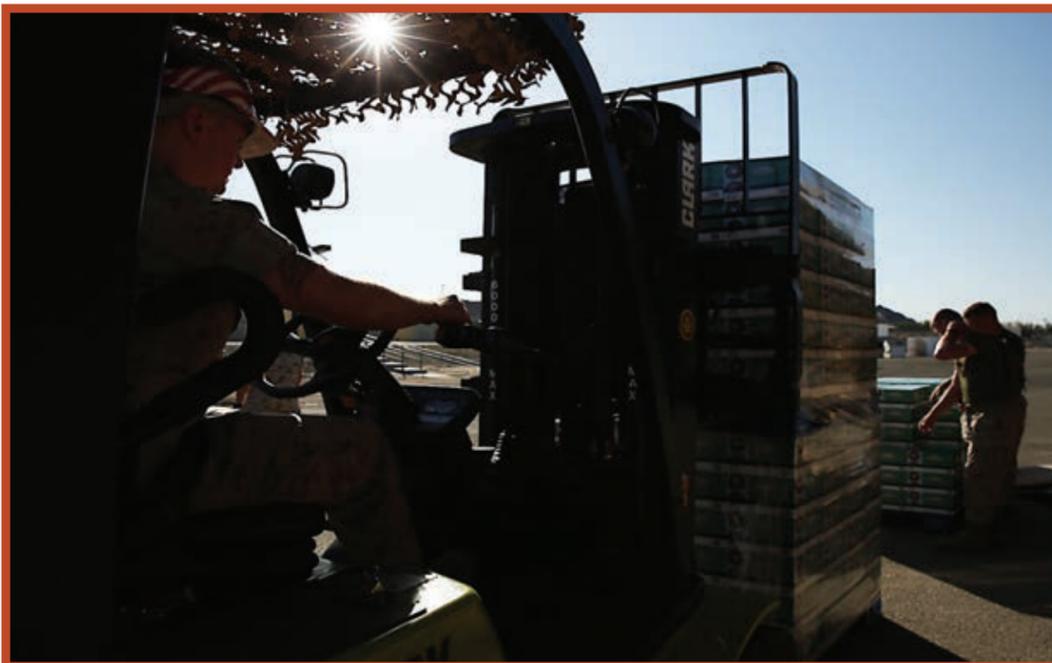
STORY BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

In the blazing hot sun of the Middle East, on the cold steel of a ship underway and anywhere else service members may deploy, something as simple as a hot cup of coffee can lift their spirits and get them through the day. In this way, a free cup of coffee reminds service members they are not forgotten.

Holy Joe's Café delivered thousands of boxes of coffee to several chaplains representing individual units aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 21. The organization is an all-volunteer outreach from the first congregational church based out of Wallingford, Conn.

"They supply free coffee to military bases throughout the United States and around the globe," said Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Wheeler, chaplain, "My main job this year, as a coordinator, is to receive a truckload of ground coffee and Keurig cups to distribute."

After all the contents of the truck were unloaded by Marines volunteering from the Marine Corps Communication Electronics School, the 54 pallets of coffee amounted to more than 4,600 boxes.



Cpl. Robert Irwin, packing specialist, Distribution Management Office, unloads a double stack of coffee at a loading dock for Operation Coffee Giveaway with donated Keurig cups and ground coffee from Holy Joe's Café, Aug. 21, 2014.



Bill Thompson, freight handler, Distribution Management Office, unloads a pallet of coffee at a loading dock for Operation Coffee Giveaway with donated Keurig cups and ground coffee from Holy Joe's Café, Aug. 21,

"I feel absolutely grateful I get to contribute to a good cause," said Pfc. Jaylyn Barnett, student, MCCES. "I know if someone is deployed and they receive something from people who are thinking about them, it makes them feel good. I feel great being able to help in this way."

The organization began in 2006 at Sapher Air Force base, Baghdad, with a chaplain who created what seemed like an oasis in the desert. Between two buildings, then Lt. Col. Timothy Sturgill mounted a wooden roof creating a coffee stop. He then bought all the coffee he could and began running five 100-cup coffee urns to give free coffee to deployed service members and anyone else who wanted to stop in for a "cup of Joe."

After all the coffee was off-loaded, the pallets were distributed amongst the base chaplains with extra pallets being given to units preparing for deployment.

"It's heart-warming to see the teamwork that is here at Twentynine Palms," Wheeler said. "Seeing the units coming together and assisting in a project like this is great. This coffee will go to each of the unit chaplains to administer as a facilitation tool in reaching out to service members, and we hope it lifts their spirits wherever they may be."

Back in Connecticut, the ministry began getting requests from more chaplains deployed overseas for coffee since there was none left. This led to a call to Green Mountain Coffee, which made an initial donation of 20 boxes to the church. After a growth in popularity, Green Mountain began donating larger amounts and the positive impact began drawing requests from chaplains in Iraq, Kuwait and ultimately Afghanistan in 2008.

"Holy Joe's is the conduit for chaplains who set up an oasis, not in size but in purpose. It's a taste of home through coffee, which is the most important place for people when they're in the midst of havoc," said Thomas Jastermsky, founder, Holy Joe's Café.

Since 2006, Holy Joe's Café has partnered with more than 1,500 chaplains across the globe with distribution and transportation companies such as Fed Ex and Conway Freight have assisted in transporting the coffee.

As the organization has grown in notoriety and popularity, so have contributions with donations of ground coffee now coming from churches across the country. Ultimately, Holy Joe's Café is a volunteer organization that wants to remind service members in garrison and overseas they are not alone.

"Coffee keeps them going and it reminds them that they're not forgotten over here in the states," Jastermsky said. "It's all for free and we're all volunteers. We respect and have a strong appreciation for the military and we want to get our coffee wherever they may go."



Pfc. Dalton Hubbard, freight specialist, Distribution Management Office, unloads a double pallet of coffee for chaplains and Marines to redistribute at a loading dock for Operation Coffee Giveaway with donated Keurig cups and ground coffee from Holy Joe's Café, Aug. 21, 2014.



Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students help redistribute boxes of coffee onto new pallets at a loading dock for Operation Coffee Giveaway with donated Keurig cups and ground coffee from Holy Joe's Café, Aug. 21, 2014.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

The **Combat Center Fire Department** has begun selling tickets for their 17th annual chili lunch. This year's event will take place at fire station 451 or building 1516, on Oct. 8 from 10 AM to 2 PM. For more information, please call coordinators at 830-5239.

The **Single Marine Program** is offering several volunteer events and group outings to active duty Marines aboard the Combat Center. The 'Marines Got Talent' show is scheduled to be hosted at the Sunset Cinema Sept. 5 for all hands to watch for free. The talent show is one of several events that can be attended through the SMP.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, August 29

2 p.m. — **Free Admission** — The LEGO Movie PG
 4 p.m. — **Free Admission** — Dumb and Dumber PG-13
 6:30 p.m. — Planes: Fire and Rescue PG
 8:30 p.m. — Get On Up PG-13
 11:30 — Dawn of the Planet of the Apes PG-13

Saturday, August 30

10:30 a.m. — **Free Admission** — Ratatouille G
 1 p.m. — Planes: Fire and Rescue PG
 3:30 p.m. — Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (3D) PG-13
 6:30 p.m. — Hercules (3D) PG-13
 9 p.m. — The Purge: Anarchy R
 11:30 p.m. — Lucy R

Sunday, August 31

12 p.m. — Planes: Fire and Rescue PG
 2 p.m. — Hercules (3D) PG-13
 4:30 p.m. — Dawn of the Planet Apes PG-13
 7:30 p.m. — Sex Tape R
 9:10 p.m. — **Free Admission** — Gladiator R

Monday, September 1

1 p.m. — Guardians of the Galaxy (3D) PG-13
 4 p.m. — Lucy R

Tuesday, September 2

4:30 p.m. — **Free Admission** — God's Not Dead PG
 7 p.m. — Hercules PG-13

Wednesday, September 3

5 p.m. — The Purge: Anarchy R
 7:30 p.m. — Sex Tape R

Thursday, September 4

5 p.m. — Plane: Fire and Rescue PG
 7 p.m. — Lucy R

Friday, September 6

8:30 p.m. — Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (3D) PG-13
 11:30 p.m. — Guardians of the Galaxy (3D)



L to R: Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Rocket Raccoon (voiced by Bradley Cooper), Peter Quill/Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel) and Drax the Destroyer (Dave Bautista)

Across the Universe

Marvel's newest superheroes are an inter-galactic gas

NEIL POND

"Guardians of the Galaxy"
 Starring Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana & Dave Bautista
 Directed by James Gunn
 PG-13

Marvel Comics gives their all-stars a breather with Guardians of the Galaxy. But Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor and other tried-and-true, brand-name superheroes had better watch out: This flip, witty, wily, cheeky, action-adventure sci-fi yarn—which introduces an all-new Marvel team of cosmic crusaders—is all set to become one of the summer's biggest, most buoyant mainstream hits.

Based on little-known Marvel characters that first made a brief appearance in the 1960s, the Guardians are a motley crew of space misfits led by Peter Quill (Chris Pratt from TV's Parks and Recreation), who was abducted from Earth by alien pirates as a youngster and taken to the far reaches of the galaxy, where he grew up to become a rogue smuggler with an intergalactic price on his head, a taste for retro FM rock and a weakness for extraterrestrial hotties.

When Peter swipes a silver orb that turns out to be something Very Powerful Indeed, it puts a series of events in motion that eventually congeal the other guardians around him—although not necessarily as teammates, at least at first.

Gamora (Zoe Saldana) is a genetically mutated, green-hued assassin sent to retrieve the orb. Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper), a motor-mouthed raccoon bounty hunter, is in cahoots with Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel), a tree-like creature that speaks volumes with the one sentence he can speak, "I am Groot." And pro wrestler Dave Bautista is Drax, a hulking wall of red-tattooed muscle.

Their adventures bounce them, like interplanetary pinballs, across the galaxy, racing away from—and sometimes into—an ever-growing cloud of trouble. Director James Gunn, at the helm of his first mega-budget, major studio project, creates a teeming sci-fi cosmos of colorful creatures, humanoid hybrids and dazzling digital effects for a totally immersive eye-candy experience. Everywhere the movie goes—and it's constantly going somewhere—it's a wild, exuberantly fun new kick.

The cast is first-rate, even down through the supporting ranks. Glenn Close plays the matriarch of a gleaming utopia on the brink of destruction; Michael Rooker is terrific as the swaggering scavenging scoundrel who abducted Peter all those years ago; Benicio Del Toro is The Collector, a mysterious curator of cosmic odds and ends.

But it's the Guardians, the mismatched team of "losers," who command the spotlight. And credit the zippy script, by Gunn and Nicole Perlman, for the steady stream of jaunty comedic banter that just keeps the laughs coming—along with a sprinkling of sweetness, a dash of sadness, and even a flash of romance, orchestrated to Elvin Bishop's "Fooled Around and Fell in Love."

Will it remind you of Star Wars, Indiana Jones and several other movies, some references to which it just goes ahead and hands you? Sure, but that's just part of its big, fizzy, movie-lovin' funhouse spirit. "It's got a Maltese Falcon kinda vibe," Peter says of the orb. One scene, when Groot gently gives a young girl a flower, is an obvious nod to a similar moment in the 1931 classic Frankenstein.

You may see classier movies this summer, and you'll certainly see more serious, sensible ones. But won't see another one that takes you on such a rollicking carnival ride halfway across the universe and back, and leaves you with such a big, goofy, satisfied smile when it's over.



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