

## Yucca Valley hosts 15th Annual Veterans Day tribute

BY LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

YUCCA VALLEY — The sun shined on a picturesque day as the National Anthem was sung and the Combat Center color guard presented the American flag. A sense of patriotism and pride was felt over the crowd of veterans, active-duty service members and civilians at the 15th Annual Morongo Basin Veterans Day Tribute at the Yucca Valley community center in Yucca Valley, Tuesday. The event alternates where it is held each year between Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms. It offered static displays of military vehicles and equipment like the Logistics Vehicle System Replacement, a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement and a High Mobility Multi-purposed Wheeled Vehicle from the Combat Center and other vehicles from law-enforcement agencies in the area along with a free barbecue lunch.

"The tribute ceremony is held to take a moment and recognize the efforts of veterans that have served in the past and present," said Curtis Yakimow, Yucca Valley town manager and a coordinator for the Veterans Day tribute.

Mayor Robert Lombardo, Yucca Valley mayor, was the master of ceremonies and Col. John Kasperski, assistant chief of staff of G-4 installation and logistics, was the guest speaker.

"I love this event and it is good that the community does this for veterans," said retired Army Spc. Peter Schmuckle, a Purple Heart Medal recipient and guest at the Tribute Ceremony. "Coming home from Vietnam, a lot of us did not have this type of support or homecoming. I'm glad that the community puts on this event for people like me, we really appreciate it."

Veterans Day was created to thank all service members for preserving freedom. The holiday is celebrated by communities thanking service members, past and present, in different ways. More than 400 people were present at the event, including Veterans from every branch of service, who served in conflicts from WWII to Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The event is brief but meaningful," Yakimow said. "It is a [Morongo] basin-wide approach to thank the vet-

See **TRIBUTE** page A6

## 239 YEARS STRONG



Lance Cpl. Rafael Fernandez, special intelligence system administrator, G-6 Communications and Information Systems, marches into position dressed as a Marine from the war of 1812 during the uniform pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 6.

For story and more photos, see **Page B1**

## The Climb: Marines scale rocks at JTNP

BY PFC. MEDINA  
AYALA-LO

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK — The sun shines bright over a mountainous landscape as one-by-one, Marines ascend the rock face. As they climb higher, they look for natural grooves in the rock to better anchor them on their way to the top. Joshua Tree Uprising in association with Mil-Tree, a non-profit organization, hosted a rock-climbing event for Marines at Joshua Tree National Park, Sunday.

"The rock climbing can sometimes be scary but it's the safest form of climbing," said Sue Cram, owner and lead guide for Joshua Tree Uprising. "We are all '25-plus' year climbing veterans and we do this full time. So when people want to come out here, it's as safe as it can possibly be."

Joshua Tree National Park is home to a vast amount of desert wildlife. It is open year-round and hosts a variety of activities for any participants; hiking, rock climbing and nature walks to name a few.

"It helps people that come from a lot of differ-



PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Niccolo Bono-mo, recreation attendant, Single Marine Program, descends a rock face during a rock-climbing event for members of the SMP at Joshua Tree National Park, Sunday. Events such as this one are open to all Marines and sign up is available at The 5th Street Zone.

ent places who don't really know [many people] on base

See **CLIMB** page A6

# Helping Hands gets helping hands

BY CPL. KATE SEILER

SAN BERNARDINO — A radio is playing music through a portable speaker and the smell of onions fills the air of the worn down warehouse where volunteers spend their spare time seven days a week. From the outside, the building looks abandoned and graffiti covers the surrounding areas making it obvious that this neighborhood isn't the most fortunate. It is a neighborhood that is located in the second most poverty stricken city in America. There is a small sign on the door that says 'Helping Hands Food Pantry' and a very welcoming gentleman just on the other side of it.

Marines, sailors and civilians bag fresh groceries for low-income families who cannot afford groceries from the local San Bernardino Helping Hands Food Pantry, Saturday.

According to the Helping Hands Food Pantry's website, their mission is "to serve, by providing a place where those in need can come for relief from hunger and find acceptance, while being assisted in finding other resources for their needs, both physical and spiritual."

They serve more than 10,000 men, women and children every week and have about

340 volunteers every week.

"The volunteers come from the local colleges, high schools, churches and the neighborhoods that benefit from this program," said Veronica Roman, volunteer.

Marines from the Combat Center had the opportunity to give back to the community by volunteering at Helping Hands. They bagged food and loaded it onto a food truck that stops around the city in six different locations to provide homeless people with nutritious food.

Lance Cpl. Brandon Taylor, Headquarters Battalion, Alpha Company, administrative specialist, was one of the Marines that volunteered through the Single Marine Program.

"I am bagging food for the homeless for the holidays to help out the community. I feel that, since I'm not deployed, that I should give back my time," said Taylor.

The SMP offers many opportunities similar to the Helping Hands Pantry and is located at The Zone aboard the Combat Center. Active duty single Marines are eligible for all events. If you have any questions or would like more information about other events, please contact The Zone at (760) 830-8454.



CPL. KATE SEILER

Lance Cpl. Brandon Taylor, administrative specialist, Headquarters Battalion and Seaman Jory King, corpsman, Headquarters and Support Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, help move boxes of fresh food to load onto a food truck at the San Bernardino Helping Hands Food Pantry, Saturday. The event supported more than 900 homeless people with fresh and nutritious food.

## Marine Corps' Top Shot

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



You voted and this week's Corps Top Shot comes from Cpl. Matthew Callahan. He captured the image as Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting doused the flames engulfing a mobile aircraft firefighting training device as a part of night-time 360 degree firefighter training aboard Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Oct. 30.



CPL. KATE SEILER

Marines, sailors and civilians bag fresh onions to take to low-income families who cannot afford groceries from local grocery stores at San Bernardino Helping Hands Food Pantry, Saturday. More than 30 volunteers participated in the event to provide food for the less fortunate.



**TRIBUTE, from A1**

erans and make everyone feel like one community.”

As the Veterans Day

event wrapped up, smiles and thankfulness could be seen on the faces of

veterans present. For some who did not receive a proper 'thank you' when

they returned home, the  
tribute gave them that  
and more.







Reprinted from the Observation Post  
November 23, 1960  
By Observation Post

# Base Order has Effect on Medicare Patients

The purpose of the Medicare Program is to provide hospitalization and doctors' services from civilian sources when local government medical facilities or government professional services are inadequate or absent. When either adequate government facilities or government services are locally available, Medicare benefits are not authorized in place of these facilities or services.

Military dependents now receiving medical care of any type from civilian physicians, including obstetrical care, under the provisions of the Medicare Program, are effected by the recent base order (as quoted on this page), governing the medical practice of Naval Medical Officers attached to this base.

Dependents may exercise free choice of doctor by continuing their care with their care assumed by te Naval Medical Officers on duty at this base. By prior arrangement with the administrator of the Thomas H. Ince Memorial Hospital, all necessary in-patient care may be provided now at this hospital by Marine Corps Base.

Any dependent who for any reason may

now desire to have their care assumed by Naval doctors are advised to so notify their present civilian doctor and ask that their medical records be forwarded to the Officer-in-charge of the Family Clinic, Station Hospital, U.S. Marine Corps Base, Tewnty-nine Palms, Calif. Any dependent who desires to have their care continued by Naval doctors, in so doing, will incur no additional expense. The provisions of the Medicare bill allow the civilian doctor to be compensated for the care provided up to the time that his services are discontinued.

In as much as the minimum charge of \$25 for dependents receiving benefits from the Medicare Program is applied to the costs of hospitalization, and not to the doctor's fee, the dependent must continue to pay this charge in the event of either choice.

As of November 21, 1960, dependents, living in this area with their sponsor, electing medical care by a local civilian physician must bear the expense of all doctors' fees so incurred. However, non-availability statements (Medicare Permit) will be issued for local hospitalization cost.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



### HUDSON RANDAL TUCHER

Born on: Oct. 18, 2014  
Born to: Michael and Daisy Tucker

### SEAN MICHAEL RIVAS

Born to: Oct. 15, 2014  
Born to: Ryan and Jacqueline Rivas

### BENJAMIN BARRY BENSON

Born on: Oct. 31, 2014  
Born to: Bryce  
and Samantha Benson

### KYLIE ELAINE MILLER

Born on: Oct. 31, 2014  
Born to: Amber and Kyle Miller

### JACKSON CONNOR NAVES

Born on: Nov. 1, 2014  
Born to: Adam and Rebecca Naves

### MAHKIAN ANDREW ROBBINS

Born on: Oct. 29, 2014  
Born to: Isiah and Addie Robbins

## CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Turn red, maybe
  - 6 Part of a case
  - 11 Pork product
  - 14 \_\_\_ Lodge
  - 15 Chili con \_\_\_
  - 16 In the past
  - 17 Pleasant greeting when you wake up
  - 19 Dot on a die
  - 20 "Egad!"
  - 21 Red or green fruit
  - 23 Lumberjack's tool
  - 26 \_\_\_ and improved
  - 27 "\_\_\_ over here!"
  - 29 Singer Krauss
  - 31 Customer
  - 32 Goes up
  - 33 Men
  - 34 Edge
  - 37 Dull pain
  - 38 Strong winds
  - 39 Novelist Austen
  - 40 "Over here!"
  - 41 Boy's name
  - 42 Takes to the sea
  - 43 Mozart works
  - 45 Walks casually
  - 46 Words like "hats" and "cats"
  - 48 Honest prez
  - 49 Place for a pig
  - 50 Not as high
  - 51 Bright light
  - 53 High card
  - 54 Pleasant greeting when you go to sleep
  - 60 Baseball great Ripken
  - 61 Stadium
  - 62 Cut off, as a relationship
  - 63 Letter after "kay"
  - 64 President #10

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- Down**
- 1 Ask for alms
  - 2 Environmental prefix
  - 3 Cow's comment
  - 4 Williams or Griffith
  - 5 Pizza chain
  - 6 Tool box item
  - 7 Gets darker
  - 8 Former spokesman for George
  - 9 Traveler's stop
  - 10 Tells stories to
  - 11 Pleasant goodbye, out West
  - 12 Nimble
  - 13 Sulks
  - 18 Sign on a store
  - 22 Be the author of
  - 23 Politician Palin
  - 24 Wonderland girl
  - 25 Pleasant sentiment
  - 27 Back street
  - 28 Falsehoods
  - 30 Understand
  - 31 Cools down
  - 33 Papas' mates
  - 35 Arm of the sea
  - 36 In need of a cleaning
  - 38 "Gone \_\_\_"
  - 39 Quick punch
  - 41 Goes after with claws out
  - 42 Told lies about

- 44 Not post-
- 45 Sleeping, to poets
- 46 "Melrose \_\_\_"
- 47 From around here
- 48 Church section
- 51 Trait carrier
- 52 What a waiter gives you
- 55 Like some humor
- 56 Slippery fish
- 57 TV show pauses
- 58 Harvard rival
- 59 Rd. crossers

## SUDOKU

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### Last week's solutions

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

Rafael

Snydersville, Pennsylvania

Special intelligence system administrator, G-6 Communications and Information Systems. Age: 20

FERNANDEZ

When Fernandez lived in Pennsylvania his neighbor would teach him a few things about playing the guitar or skiing. In return, Fernandez taught him different things on eating right and bodybuilding.

> **Shooting is one thing** that I enjoy. Just going out and shooting, you get to learn about different weapons and get a feel for what you like versus what other people like.

> **Shooting is like bodybuilding** in my opinion. Certain routines in weight lifting work better for some people. Not all guns work the same way but they all function in the end.

> **I also like to volunteer.** I joined the Marine Corps to help people and to experience things that I can tell a story about later.

> **I get a sense of fulfillment** from volunteering and people appreciate the time you put into it. You have to go to work every day, but giving your free time to do something for other people means a lot more.

> **I am willing** to do just about anything once. In high school I did cheerleading. After cheerleading I focused on getting the results I wanted. That is when I started bodybuilding.

> **I like lifting weights** because you can physically see the results of your work. Just by doing the simple thing of taking a weight and repeatedly lifting it.

> **It is so simple** and yet so complex, because when you get into what you have to eat or how you are lifting, it can change the results of your workout.

> **It is also complex** because you have to learn anatomy and your nutrition. You need to learn what is too much for your body to handle and what is too little.

> **Certain routines work better** for other people, so when I see a buddy of mine at the gym I'll do his work out to see how well it works for me.

> **I enjoy working arms** at the gym more because you can see your results from the workout the fastest. You see your arm get swollen and feel it almost right after you finish.

> **Getting a good workout** makes the day seem better. If I don't go or I get a bad workout



in, I feel bad the rest of the day. I want to progress myself.

> **I want to try** being in a strength competition one day. Right now I am setting up my routine. After I get a good start up I want to go for it.

> **The great thing** about working out is that there is always competition. There will always be someone faster than me, stronger than me, and that's a good thing. It makes me want to work harder to be better than them.

> **Being a Marine** is a lifestyle. Weight lifting

is one of the ways that I continue to make myself a better Marine.

> **Even though we are all Marines,** we are still our own person. I am going to be my own person so I can reach my goals.

> **I plan on re-enlisting** and going into [Marine Security Guard] or lateral moving into an [Military Occupational Specialty] that is not Intelligence. However, when I get out of the Marine Corps I want to go into law enforcement.

Interview and photo by Lance Cpl. Thomas Mudd

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# 15th MEU conducts ve

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. EMMANUEL RAMOS

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – After being briefed by their platoon commander, Cpl. Jose W. Delgado gathered his Marines around a terrain model to go over his squad’s mission.

“There’s nothing routine about this, gents,” said Delgado, squad leader, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. “We’re the main effort on this. There’s a lot of moving parts so try to keep up.”

This was the scene as Marines with Lima Co., BLT 3/1, 15th MEU began preparations for a raid exercise during a week-long vertical-assault training course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 31.

The course is designed to give Marines a solid understanding on how vertical-assault missions are conducted while deployed as the Helicopter Company with the 15th MEU.

“This training makes us better,” said Sgt. Andrew McGinty, a squad leader with Lima Co., BLT 3/1, 15th MEU. “The instructors are throwing us real-life scenarios with buildings and key terrain that we may be encountering, with regards to what’s going on in the world.”

Students in the course first received lessons on the capabilities of the aircraft they could use in a vertical-assault

operation. They also learned about overcoming hurdles, like improvised explosive devices and handling casualties, they may encounter when conducting a raid.

In these scenarios instructors preached that immediate actions make the difference between success and failure.

“Your key leaders can’t be with you at all times, so in order for the mission to get accomplished you have to rely on the individual actions of all the Marines, down to the simple rifleman,” McGinty said. “The squad leader is going to be tasked out to do different things, as well as team leaders, so it really falls on the individual actions of the most junior Marines to make the right decision.”

After receiving classes, platoon commanders were given their orders and platoon sergeants had a few hours to brief and prepare their Marines.

“This is the most crucial part of what we do. This is where it all starts,” Delgado said. “[The Marines] have to understand what’s going on, and how they fit into it. Once they get that, they can get into the mindset and we do rehearsals until it becomes muscle memory.”

Fresh from completing a raid-leaders training course, Sgt. Joshua Germond, a platoon sergeant with Lima Co., provided his squad with valuable knowledge that helped them iron out



Marines with Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, disembark from a CH-53E Super Stallion while conducting a vertical-assault raid course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 29.



Marines with Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, use ladders to breach a fence during a vertical-assault raid course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 29.



Marines with Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, sweep through a training area during a vertical-assault raid course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 29.

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*in Honor of Bob Burke*

November 21, 2014

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

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# vertical-assault training

wrinkles in their tactics.

“It definitely gave us a leg up,” Germond said. “I trained my guys how to set up blocking positions and assault support security, so we came ready to build on that and get better.”

During the course Marines learned two types of raids; offset and hard-hit raids. An offset raid inserts Marines away from their target and allows them to tactically make their way to the objective, versus a hard-hit raid that where Marines land directly on their objective..

“The Marines did well,” McGinty said. “[Military Operations in Urban Terrain]

and raids are a difficult beast. A lot of these Marines have less than two years in [the Marine Corps], so there is a bit of a learning curve. Doing it to the level that [Expeditionary Operations Training Group] wants us to be at is new for them, but they’re adapting well.”

To add to the realistic training, platoons were given new intelligence that would affect their raid minutes before their raid exercise began.

“Realistically, this is what’s going to happen,” Germond said. “It kind of threw us off a little, but that’s why we do them now, so we’re prepared when it happens.”

After each raid exercise, platoon commanders and squad leaders were briefed by instructors on their actions and given direction on how to improve.

“The raids got progressively harder, but they give us the opportunity to take what we learned and apply it,” McGinty said.

For their final exercise, Marines conducted an offset night raid, inserting three kilometers away from their objective. Under the cover of darkness, Marines moved clandestinely into position to assault a simulated enemy position. After laying down suppressive machinegun and mortar fire, the Marines swiftly swept

through the town and accomplished their mission.

“There was a big difference between our first raid and our last raid,” Germond said. “They were more vocal, and made decisive decisions.”

As the week-long training came to a close, Marines walked away with newfound knowledge and stronger confidence in each other.

“This has been instilled in them by us and the instructors,” Germond said. “You’re going to see this training pay off as we continue to do our training to deploy. We’re better off now, and it shows.”



Marines with Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, coordinate an assault on a target during a vertical-assault raid course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 29.



Marines with Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, boost a Marine over a wall during a vertical-assault raid course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 29.

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BY DR. JOHN HALE, ARCHEOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Like the rest of the Americas, what is now the Combat Center was occupied by Native Americans when the first Europeans arrived. When Col. Henry Washington of the United States Surveyor General of California came through the Morongo Basin to survey the

Instead, seven different groups have an affiliation with the

Indian Tribe, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and the Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians. During prehistoric times, the Native Americans in the area maintained fluid groups so they could quickly and efficiently adapt to the vagaries of desert weather. They traveled throughout

They lived in small bands, based primarily on familial ties, and the size of the group would vary accord-

cool, they ventured back into the desert, where they exploited other resources, such as the mesquite beans that grew on the huge mesquite bosques near what is now the installation's

The Curation Center provides a great opportunity to learn more about the Native Americans that lived and flourished in the Mojave Desert before the arrivals of the first Europeans. The Curation Center is open to visitors from 8 a.m. to 4p.m., Monday through Thursday, and on Fridays by appointment. For groups of over six, please call ahead to 830-1196, to arrange for a more personal tour of the displays and gardens.



The Native

---



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# HQBN Color Guard partakes in Veterans’ Day assembly

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD



The students of Yucca Valley Elementary School say the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans’ Day assembly, Nov. 7. The pledge was led by a member of the student body.



USMC Retired, Col. Paul Cook, U.S. Congressman, gives a speech during the Veteran’s Day assembly at Yucca Valley Elementary Nov. 7. Cook talked about the importance of honoring our veterans that day.



Lance Cpl. Carlos Morris, rifleman, Headquarters Battalion Color Guard, Combat Center, stands at parade rest during the Yucca Valley Elementary School’s Veterans’ Day assembly, Nov. 7. The assembly has had the color guard’s participation for the last four years.

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# MARINES OF OLD:

*Combat Center peers into past with uniform pageant*



Pfc. Katelynn Jenks, ammunition technician, Central Magazine Area, Headquarters Battalion, stands at parade rest next to Lance Cpl. Eric Owens, administration specialist, HQBN, and represent the current generation of Marine Corps uniforms in Blue Dress and digital camouflage during the uniform pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 6.



Lance Cpl. Carlos Morris, administration specialist, Headquarters Battalion, stands in position equipped with the uniform and rifle used by Marines in 1775 during the uniform pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 6. Marines were given lines of dialogue, such as Marines singing parts of the "Marines' Hymn" from the 1800s, a loud 'Semper Fidelis!' from the WW II-era Marine, or the Marine from the Vietnam-era dodge-rolling and aiming down his sights on the way to his position on the field, to capture the audience.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Marines took a step into the past as warfighters throughout the Marine Corps' history were given new life. One-by-one, the Marines of old took to the field; walking, talking and dressing as they were all those years ago. Combat Center Marines wore the uniforms to recognize different eras of the Marine Corps during the annual Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field, Nov. 6.

This event is held during the week of the Marine Corps birthday on November 10th, with this year marking the 239th birthday of the Corps. The event began with the uniform pageant and presenting of the colors.

"The birthday is a time to celebrate the history of our Corps and the legacy of success in battle," said Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General.

Uniforms worn by Marines included those in service during the war of 1812, 1898, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom I and II, and the present-day Blue Dress uniforms.

"It's one of the greatest feelings knowing that you can take part in honoring Marines who paved the way for us to be where we're at today," said Sgt. Phillip Mitchell, motor transportation operator, Headquarters Battalion. "I was portraying Desert Storm and Desert Shield-era Marines ... You get to feel a little piece of what it might have been to be a Marine from a past generation."

Elementary and middle-school students from the Morongo Unified School District also visited the base to watch the pageant aboard the Combat Center. At the end of the ceremony, children were able to talk to role-players directly.

"Seeing the looks on the children's faces as they observe the uniform [Pageant] in amazement is nice," Mitchell said. "Then you actually show them the weapon, slide the bolt to the rear, let them look down the sights, and this look of excitement comes across their face ... Somewhere down the road they may wear the uniform and you see that inspiration in that moment; the twinkle in their eye."

Each uniform presentation included a detailed description of conflicts Marines of that era served in. For some role-players, their part in the ceremony included a little more than just marching. Marines were given lines of dialogue such as Marines singing parts of the Marine's Hymn from the 1800's, a loud 'Semper Fidelis!' from the WW II-era Marine, or the Marine from the Vietnam-era dodge-rolling and aiming through his sights on the way to his position on the field to capture the audience.

"There are Marines right now serving around the globe. In fact there's hundreds of Marines from the [Combat Center] serving, many of them in harm's way. Whether they're in a combat outpost, protecting a U.S. embassy or somewhere on a ship at sea, every one of them will take a moment on or around November 10th to reflect on the history of our Corps and what it means to serve as a Marine," Craparotta said. "[For those] wearing the uniform today, it is important that we remind ourselves that we have an obligation to live up to the legacy of the Marines who came before us."

A cake-cutting ceremony was also featured during the event which signifies the passing on of tradition from the oldest Marine in attendance to the youngest. The oldest Marine in attendance was retired Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ray V. Wilburn, 95, who passed on the piece of cake to the youngest Marine present, Pvt. Brandon Munguia, 18, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

"Being given this opportunity to be part of this tradition gave me a huge sense of honor," Munguia said. "The pride I felt was almost indescribable. Seeing someone who has served for so long in the Marine Corps and hearing some of his stories gave me something to look forward to in my career."

The title that Marines throughout the Corps' history have earned with sacrifice and fierce warfighting is passed on through 239 years of service to the current generation of Marines. In that way, those who came before are honored and live through the Marines who wear the uniform today.



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, cuts the first piece of the birthday cake with the Mameluke Sword during the uniform pageant and cake-cutting ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 6. The oldest Marine in attendance was retired Sgt. Maj. Ray V. Wilburn, 95, who passed on the first piece of cake to Pvt. Brandon Munguia, 18, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.



Combat Center Marines line up in preparation for the uniform pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 6. Uniforms worn by Marines included those in service during the War of 1812, 1898, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom I and II, and the present-day Blue Dress uniforms.





**Combat Center Events**

**MCCS is scheduled** to host the first Military Kids Birthday Bash at Bldg. 1004, Nov. 19. The event is designed to give children a glimpse of the traditions of a Marine Corps ball. For more information call 760-830-3818

The **Sandy Hill Lanes** Bowling Center is hosting turkey bowling on Nov. 22. Registration is open until Nov. 21. For more information call 760-830-3910.

**Mameluke's Pub** is hosting the Battle of the Units Competition from October through December. With every drink purchased, a chip is put into a jar with the respected unit of the buyer. For more information call 760-830-6922.

A **'Coping with work and family stress'** workshop is scheduled to be held in bldg. 1530 every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information call 760-830-6345.

The **Semper Fit** home school physical education program is scheduled for every Tuesday and Thursday in the month of November at Felix Field and the hobby shop. Archery will be conducted at the field and wood working at the hobby shop. Children aged 5 to 9 are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and ages 10-17 are scheduled 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. All home school children are welcome. For more information call 760-830-8421.

**Sunset Cinema**

**Friday, Nov. 14**  
6 p.m.—Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day, PG  
8 p.m.—The Judge, R  
11:30 p.m.—Annabelle, R

**Saturday, Nov. 15**  
10:30 a.m.—Brave, PG  
12:30 p.m.—The Boxtrolls, PG  
3 p.m.—The Maze Runner, PG-13  
5:30 p.m.—The Equalizer, R  
8:30 p.m.—The Judge, R  
11:30 p.m.—Dracula Untold, PG-13

**Sunday, Nov. 16**  
12 p.m.—The Book Life 3-D, PG  
2 p.m.—The Boxtrolls 3-D, PG  
4:30 p.m.—The Best of Me, PG-13  
7:30 p.m.—Fury, R

**Monday, Nov. 17**  
6 p.m.—The Good Lie, PG-13

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
5 p.m.—The Book Life 3-D, PG  
7:30 p.m.—The Maze Runner, PG-13

**Wednesday, Nov. 19**  
5 p.m.—The Equalizer, R  
8 p.m.—Annabelle, R

**Thursday, Nov. 20**  
5 p.m.—The Boxtrolls, PG  
7:30 p.m.—The Maze Runner, PG-13

**Friday, Nov. 21**  
6 p.m.—The Best of Me, PG-13  
8:30 p.m.—Dracula Untold, PG-13  
11 p.m.—Fury, R



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# Nicole Kidman's an amnesiac damsel in distress

NEIL POND

*"Before I Go To Sleep"*  
Starring Nicole Kidman, Colin Firth and Mark Strong  
Directed by Rowan Joff   
Rated R

"Who are you?" asks Nicole Kidman's character, Christine, in the opening scene to the man she's just woken up next to in the bed.

It's not a particularly unique movie situation—a lot of characters have found themselves in hazy morning-after scenarios. But in Christine's case, she really, truly has no idea: She has a form of amnesia that makes her wake up every day totally blank about everything that happened the day before—and every day before that.

"You store up information for a day, and when you wake up in the morning, it's all gone," her husband of 14 years, Ben (Colin Firth) explains to her, and to us. We also learn, through Ben, that Christine's memory loss was due to the head trauma of a terrible automobile accident, 10 years ago.

But was it? That's only one of the questions that soon begin to pile up in director Rowan Joff 's adaptation of British author S.J. Watson's bestselling psychological thriller. Why doesn't Christine trust Ben? Why does she have flashbacks of an airport hotel room, a violent assault by a man with a scar, and a woman named Claire? Why does her psychologist, Dr. Nasch (Mark Strong), insist on seeing her without Ben's knowledge, often in his parked car in a damp, underground garage?

Each morning, Christine receives a call from Dr. Nasch, instructing her to retrieve a digital camera from its hiding place in her closet. She watches the

recording(s) she's made on it previously, as her memories painfully, partially begin to rebuild again bit by bit every day. Suspicions mount, secrets are revealed, and things turn out to be different from what they seem—and from what Christine has been led to believe.

To say more would spoil the surprises (although probably not to anyone who's read the book). But fans of contemporary mystery-suspense thrillers will get a kick out of following the twists and turns, and of cheering on Christine as she struggles to piece together her life from the scattered, shattered shards of her past—not to mention the even greater, bloodier struggle she faces in the movie's final act.

Kidman has become quite adept in roles that suggest a certain physical frailty and vulnerability, especially when it can be stoked into wounded fury and ferocity. She evokes the audience's total sympathies as Christine, not only operating in a memory vacuum, starting every day from scratch, but also seemingly being manipulated by those she's come to trust. Firth and Strong, two terrific actors, only have one brief scene and one snippet of dialogue together, but they weave the tangled, mangled web of dramatic tension from which the entire movie is suspended.

Released just as Hollywood prepares to launch a barrage of box-office fall and winter heavy hitters, Before I Go To Sleep will likely get lost in the shuffle of bigger, flashier movies. It's a little slow to get going, it sags and drags it bit in the middle, and its heavy-handed ending seems stitched on from a hammy, leftover Nicholas Sparks project. But for anyone who wants a stylish, somewhat brutal, Brit-centric bedtime story about deception, danger and Nicole Kidman in distress, well, sleep tight!

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