



Gary Morrissett, utilities and energy management supervisor, Public Works Department, informs Christine Bannortrick and Mary Koval of Yucca Valley about how the base utilizes solar energy aboard the Combat Center during the Yucca Valley Earth Day celebration at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, in Yucca Valley, Calif., April 18.

Combat Center promotes Earth Day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs and Public Works Department reached out to the community with education and awareness, during the Yucca Valley Earth Day Celebration at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, April 18, 2015.

“We came out here today to show the community all the different programs we have in recycling, water conservation and our energy plan,” said Keith Mohn, comprehensive environmental training and education program representative, NREA. “Telling the community about these programs gives them insight to the way See **Earth Day** pg. A6



Palani Paahana, internal administrator supervisor, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, explains the different types of projectiles and other ordnance that are recycled aboard the Combat Center during the Yucca Valley Earth Day celebration at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, Yucca Valley, Calif., April 18.

Marine Corps’ Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps’ Facebook page. This week’s top shot comes from Cpl. Todd F. Michalek.



Lance Corporal Seth Taylor, a field radio operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 24, 24th MEU, communicates over radio with Marines on the USS New York as a Landing Craft Air Cushion transports Marines and equipment assigned to CLB 24 ashore, Djibouti, March 27.

Combat Center cleans up

STORY BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Combat Center patrons work diligently to ensure the installation continues to serve as a good steward of the environment. This was especially so during the week-long, base-wide observance of Earth Day, April 20-24, and the promotion of an installation-wide clean-up effort.

“The base-wide cleanup is a good way to promote Earth Day fundamentals of conservation and help to protect our eco-system,” said Keith Mohn, Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program coordinator, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. “Within this time period we are able to reach out to the people on base and ask them to take the steps needed to maintain the installation.”

According to Combat Center Order 11000.1C, personnel are directed to maintain and frequently clean their respective outdoor and indoor areas. NREA has encouraged each unit to actively participate in the Earth Day cleanup efforts by exercising proper management of their designated areas and ensuring the areas are kept in a proper state of cleanliness.

“We would like each unit to police their areas,” Mohn said. “If they are in need of large-scale landscaping, they would need to contact the Public Works Department, but if it’s something that can be done with a simple working party and a bunch of rakes, we encourage the units to take care of it themselves.”

Units are also

“The base-wide cleanup is a good way to promote Earth Day fundamentals of conservation and help to protect our eco-system.”

— KEITH MOHN,
COMPREHENSIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING AND
EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

required to turn-in recyclables in two categories; local solid waste recyclable materials, which include paper, plastic bottles and glass, and industrial, commercial, and bulk recyclable materials, which consist of large metals, tires and batteries. While NREA encourages units to recycle these items throughout the week, the turn-in of these items extends beyond the week-long, base-wide cleanup. Units can contact the Residential Commercial Recycling Section for turn-in instructions.

“Throughout the week, some units may be surprised to see what assets they actually have available to them,” Mohn said. “Not only does it benefit the Combat Center, but this clean-up is also a good chance for every unit to inventory their areas.”

It is up to the members of the Combat Center community to ensure the welfare of the installation and continue to take steps to preserve it. Directives issued by the Commanding General can be found at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/adj/ccotoc.asp>.

Post office named in honor of Col. ‘Mac’ Dube



Patricia Dube, wife of retired Col. Marcel Jacques ‘Mac’ Dube, and Dube’s sons, Erik and Marc Dube, are presented with the official plaque during the post office dedication ceremony held at the United States Post Office of Twentynine Palms, April 17.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.—More than 100 members of the local community and Combat Center honored a local legacy, retired Col. Marcel Jacques ‘Mac’ Dube at the United States Post Office of Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 17.

The post office was officially named “Colonel M.J. ‘Mac’ Dube, USMC Post Office Building.” in Dube’s honor by Congress on December 18, 2014 following his

See **Dube** pg. A6



Reprinted from the Observation Post
April 21, 1967

WestPac replacements now train with M16 Rifle

Marines undergoing training as overseas replacements at Camp Pendleton's Staging Battalion are now receiving a four-phase training cycle on the new M16E1 rifle (E meaning Experimental).

The versatile weapon, already issued to Marine infantry battalions and reconnaissance units in Vietnam, is capable of dealing out 15 rounds of 5.56 ammunition per second in the close-in jungle fighting.

The four-phase training cycle

commenced in early April at Pendleton's Pulgas training site, with more than 1600 men becoming familiar with the new rifle during each week of training. Instruction includes nomenclature, assembly and disassembly, firing and combat coordination.

Nomenclature of the rifle and its single shot XM148 grenade launcher is taught during the early phases of training. The launcher provides an accurate weapon for

registering its 40mm projectiles on target.

The trainees are also schooled in the use of the dual-purpose bayonet-knife which was designed for close-in combat, prisoner guarding or riot control.

Field firing and combat coordination with the M16 is accomplished in one close-knit operation. Each Marine fires from various positions in which include, but are not limited to, from behind framed window

structures, rock piles, sandbags, fox-holes and depressions.

The rifleman is subjected to both pop-up and silhouette targets appearing from all sides.

The Defense Department says all troops in Vietnam will get the M16 "over a period of time."

At present, the M16 is also being used for training at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, and soon be getting the new weapon familiarization training and firing.

CROSSWORD

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 - 16 Detach by tearing
 - 17 Web developer?
 - 18 Valdez cargo
 - 19 Caroline, to Teddy
 - 20 Oater prop
 - 23 Teaching session
 - 24 ___ Lanka
 - 25 Luau loop
 - 28 Dorm employees: Abbr.
 - 31 Vain person
 - 33 "Illmatic" rapper
 - 36 Top dog
 - 38 Exclusive
 - 40 Patronize a diner
 - 41 Northwestern pole
 - 42 Upper echelons
 - 45 Capital ___
 - 46 Esteem
 - 47 Sleek flier
 - 48 Magritte's "Ceci n'est pas ___ pipe"
 - 49 Make picots
 - 51 Disciples' leader
 - 57 Cheering phrase
 - 60 Follow without interruption
 - 63 "___ on a Grecian Urn"
 - 64 Intends (to)
 - 65 Fire tools
 - 66 "Danny Boy" star
 - 67 Tiff
 - 68 Blue Ribbon beer brand
 - 69 Asian bread
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 - 2 Shaw of jazz clarinet
 - 3 Catchers' needs

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- 7 Sounds from a pound
- 8 Aim helpers
- 9 Infantry group
- 10 Exist as a group
- 11 Damone of song
- 12 Hairy arm swinger
- 14 Send back
- 21 Sign letters on the cross
- 22 Portland's state: Abbr.
- 25 Misinform
- 26 City near Mulheim an der Ruhr
- 27 Phone ID of a sort
- 29 "Just wait ___!"
- 30 Persian rulers
- 32 Yoko ___
- 33 Father of Indira Gandhi
- 34 Sci-fi staple
- 35 Kitchen tool
- 36 Most substantial
- 37 Inflammatory suffix
- 39 Number of Trevi coins
- 43 Procure
- 44 Imprint clearly
- 50 Considerable irritant
- 52 Brewer's buy
- 53 Screen parts
- 54 Beyond mad
- 55 Christmas guy

- 56 Champ known for his chomp
- 57 Attila's crowd
- 58 Supposition
- 59 Hymn of praise: Var.
- 60 Enjoy brandy
- 61 Prohibition follower
- 62 Sea dog

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Last week's answers

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 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
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 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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 - 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

Charlene

Henderson, N.Y. Collections Manager, National Resources and Environmental Affairs Division

KECK

Keck has been working in the Combat Center's Archaeology and Paleontology Curation Center since Jan. 26 and finds interest in the Combat Center's history.

>When I applied for this job, I did not think that I would get it. I met all the requirements and wanted to give it a shot, so I went for it.

>I was able to work at Fort Stanwix [Rome, N.Y.], a Revolutionary War battle ground, where I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the history around that amazing place.

>When an artifact is found, it is sent to a facility off-base. There, they clean it and archive it. After they study the artifact, they seal it in a container and it is brought back here, where we store the artifact until people want to study it more.

>I manage where the artifacts are placed while they are stored here. If someone comes to see something we have stored I approve that they can take it and keep track of it.

>I love history. I love seeing the artistic nature of the people that used to live in places like this. That is why I enjoy working here.

>Ever since I was young, I was always fascinated by history. Seeing the way people made things is like looking at art.

>Being able to work in a place with so much history is great. I love learning about how people lived back then and what they made.

>Since I work with the NREA, I get to do more than just work at the curation center. I have gone to help save animals like a baby owl who fell in the tank yard.

>Working on a military base is very different than working in a corporate environment. [In a corporate environment], they want results in a short amount of time.

>Working on a military base is more structured than working for a corporation. They make sure things get done in the proper order and they make sure it is done correctly.

>The people of the base come by here and are interested in what has been found. I enjoy being able to show them new things about the place [in which] they live.

>This place is like its own little state. They can produce their own power and have a great recycling project in place.



>I love to see how the base is able to complete its mission while taking the surrounding wildlife into account.

>This place is every different than where I used to live. I was a little sad to leave New York, but coming out here is a great opportunity.

>I have gone out to scout out different tortoise habitats and see the landscape. I plan on going to Joshua Tree [National Park] and experience hiking fully.

>I did not do much hiking in New York, but after being out in the field on base and seeing the things like the petroglyphs and the wildlife, I am interested in what I can find while I hike.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD



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‘Wolfpack’ conducts Desert Scimitar-15



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, prepare to fire rounds from a mounted M240B medium machine gun at a target down range during Exercise Desert Scimitar, April 14.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

The roar of engines and drumming of artillery echoed throughout the night as Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion conducted Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center, April 12-15.

Desert Scimitar is an annual two-week, division-level exercise designed to give units within 1st Marine Division the opportunity to test their command and control maneuver, and logistical capabilities in a setting that effectively represents the scope of an actual battle. This year was the fif-

teenth iteration since its inception in 2001.

“The exercise gives the division an idea of its capabilities and what it needs to work on,” said 1st Lt. Ben Nicholas, executive officer, Company A, 3rd LAR. “Like a machine, it has gears that need oiling from time to time.”

Many operations that 3rd LAR participates are at the company or battalion level. Desert Scimitar gives units within the Division the opportunity to work collectively as a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

“The reconnaissance performed by 3rd LAR provides the division with valuable

information on the enemy,” Nicholas said. “This function is invaluable in aiding the division, so it can know how to best make use of its assets.”

During the exercise, 3rd LAR participated in exercises that simulated missions they could potentially perform in real-world scenarios, which include security and reconnaissance operations for larger forces, such as 1st Tank Battalion and 11th Marine Regiment. In addition to multiple live-fire events and setting up a defensive line for artillery, they also engaged in a division-level tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission.

“It helps us take into consid-

eration how much coordination and planning is needed [to perform our mission],” Nicholas said. “It’s an opportunity to flex our muscles and see what we are capable of.”

As part of the exercise, 3rd LAR was also tasked with establishing a combat operation center to set up communications with the division.

“The forward COC provides us with recovery, [medical evacuation], and communications capabilities,” said Capt. Brian Hua, assistant operations officer, 3rd LAR. “It functions as a link to the division with greater mobility.”

The exercise challenged the division’s ability to restore sta-

bility during times of crisis by simulating a host nation during an invasion or times of high internal conflict.

“We practice stabilizing operations to aid countries that might need our help,” Hua said. “By training with mission in mind, we can ready ourselves for real-life situations.”

The units participating in Desert Scimitar alongside 3rd LAR include: 1st Marine Division Headquarters, 7th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, as well as 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Marine Logistics Group.



Light armored vehicle crewmembers with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion prepare their Anti-Tank LAV for the next exercise during Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center, April 14.

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Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion traverse the desert on the way to set up a combat operations center during Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center. April 12.



Light armored vehicles with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion set up security during Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center, April 13.



Sgt. Trevor Miller, anti-tank missile-man, Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, packs water onto his Light Armored Vehicle 25 during Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center, April 12.



Marines with Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, conduct a resupply during Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center, April 12.



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion set up a communications network for a combat operations center during Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard the Combat Center. April 12.

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Combat Center hosts Tech Expo

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Combat Center Marines attended a Tactical and Technology Day hosted by the Communications Training Battalion at the Mameluke Officers’ Club, Tuesday.

CTB and National Conference Services Incorporated, an event planning and production company, worked together to facilitate the semi-annual event.

“NCSI hosts this event twice a year,” said Kristen Etzel, event manager, NCSI. “We bring in companies to allow them the chance to expose their products to the service members who will be using them.”

Combat Center Marines were able to look at new technologies, such as the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network System. The GREENS is a solar-powered generator capable of replacing normal generators in deployment zones. The generator was one of many products on display at the expo.

“This event gives the Marines of this base an opportunity to look at what tools are available to the Marine Corps, and allows them to find out exactly what the technology is capable of,” Etzel said.

Seventeen companies participated in the event, to include DELL Cloud Client, Technical Innovation and ClearCube Technology. A few of their presentations included a heavy-duty DELL laptop capable of withstanding the rigors of the field, and a wireless computer server capable of holding mass video conferences on secure network.

“There was a large turn-out for today’s event,” Etzel said. “We try to find out what they want to see and bring in companies that have that kind of technology.”

The technologies showcased in the event are projected to be used across the Marine Corps. This allows the Marines to become accustomed to present and possible future technology.

“The things we see at these events help us better understand what we may be using in a few years,” said Sgt. Collin Graff, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. “Getting a chance to see the new technologies and equipment available to us is a great opportunity.”

The displays showed the Marines who attended the expo the present and future technology that could potentially be used to positively impact their respective career fields.



Brian Inge, federal outside sales manager, and Tim Orselli, federal sales manager, Transition Networks, explain a product and job opportunities to Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students during the Tactical and Technology Day at the Officers’ Club, Tuesday.



Misti Bender, account manager, Eaton Corporation, explains a product to Sgt. Collin Graff and Sgt. Rhys Ferris, students, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School during the Tactical and Technology Day at the Officers’ Club, Tuesday.

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Image Courtesy of the DoD.





Chris Elliott, water resources manager, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, explains how the Combat Center conserves water during the Yucca Valley Earth Day Celebration at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum in Yucca Valley, Calif., April 18.



Nora Hotch, biological science technician, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, hands out informational posters to a local family during the Yucca Valley Earth Day celebration at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum in Yucca Valley, Calif., April 18.

Earth Day form pg. A1

the base does things.” Law Enforcement,” NREA and Public Mohn said. Works Division worked side-by-side providing five booths, which featured the various environmental compliance efforts the installation possesses. “We set up booths for the NREA, Natural Cultural Resources, Hazardous Waste Management, Water Quality Management, PWD and Environmental

At the booths, representatives from NREA and PWD spoke to members of the community about ways to improve their conservation efforts in their homes. “We can help the community conserve by informing them of the things the base does,” said Chris Elliott, water resources manager, NREA. “If we

can spread our knowledge about conserving, we can save even more of the community’s resources.” Dozens of Yucca Valley citizens stopped by the booths during the Earth Day celebration. “We have a lot of data, static displays and visual displays to show all the different things the base does to recycle and conserve,” said Mohn. According to Mohn, every person informed is one more win for the Combat Center in showing the community what the installation does to protect the environment.

Dube form pg. A1



The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Color Guard presents the colors while the 1st Marine Division brass quintet, directed by Staff Sgt. Alexander Panes, performs the National Anthem during the post office dedication ceremony for retired Col. Marcel Jacques ‘Mac’ Dube held at the United States Post Office of Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 17.



Col. James B. Hanlon, Combat Center Chief of Staff, speaks on the accomplishments of retired Col. Marcel Jacques ‘Mac’ Dube during the post office dedication ceremony held at the United States Post Office of Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 17.

participating on the city council beginning in 1994 until 2002. Dube served two terms as mayor of Twentynine Palms in 1998 and 2001. Following his time as mayor, he served as a field representative to the first district supervisor. Throughout Dube’s time in the community he participated in various programs benefiting both the local community and the Combat Center. He also served as a board member for the YMCA of the Armed Forces.

“After 38 years of seeing the world and the Marine Corps, he decided to put down roots right here in Twentynine Palms,” said guest speaker Col. James B. Hanlon, Combat Center Chief of Staff. “Col. ‘Mac’ Dube is an excellent person to epitomize the Combat Center and the city of Twentynine Palms. His dedication truly represents who we are as a community.”

At the conclusion of the event, Congressman Paul Cook, along with the other guest speakers, presented Dube’s wife Patricia Dube and his sons, Marc and Erik Dube, with an official plaque and the Congress-approved bill officially changing the name of the post office.

TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Since writing the following column some time ago more than a dozen of you have informed me that they are donating their body to science. Read it once again: One of the regular readers of this column is Darlene Morris of Yucca Valley. Darlene is one of the splendid supporters of the arts in our Morongo Basin and a loving and thoughtful lady. The other day Darlene sent me the following note: “I like how you say someone “physically” died in your articles, because I have learned in Christian Science that Life is spiritual and never-ending. Even though to human sense someone seems to die, actually their life is continuing where we cannot perceive it.” What a great statement! I agree with every word. It was the Apostle Paul who wrote “We look not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen. The things that are seen are only temporary, but the unseen spiritual things are eternal.” (II Corinthians 4:18) I think it is important that each of us prepare now in a very practical way with the certain knowledge that our own physical death is inevitable. Here is what I have done. After discussing the matter thoroughly with my wife Patty I have donated my body to the Bodies for Science Program at the Loma Linda School of Medicine, Loma Linda University. The body will be used to help train young medical scientists and enable that fine School of Medicine to continue making advances in medical science.

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Child Abuse Prevention month

It Only Takes a Minute

STORY BY MCAGCC
FAMILY ADVOCACY
PROGRAM

Children’s safety and well-being is everyone’s responsibility, but many times passers-by, friends, community members and even parents are reluctant to speak up. Talking to people about parenting or reporting potential child abuse or neglect can feel uncomfortable. Many people think it’s none of their business or that if something is truly wrong, someone else will step in. It takes courage to speak up, but it only takes a minute to make a difference. Child safety is your business.

It only takes a minute to reach out to a parent under stress

If you see a parent under stress, offer your help or guidance. Sometimes a frustrated

parent just needs a short break or someone to discuss their parenting woes with. Here are some ways you can help a parent under stress:

- **Volunteer your time** - Offer to watch the child for some time while the parent steps away to cool off.
- **Listen** - Have a conversation about what’s bothering the parent. Actively listen, reinforce that everyone gets frustrated from time to time and that it’s OK to ask for help.
- **Point them to the right resources** - If the child is under the age of 3, the New Parent Support Program can offer support 830-6345. The Family Advocacy Program can advise on local and online resources for parent education, family-friendly activities and services for families with special needs



830-6345. Parents with children of all ages can call Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 for no-cost, confidential non-medical counseling.

It only takes a minute keep your own children safe

Supervision is key to the safety for children and youth of all ages. Here are some precautions you can take to keep your child safe:

- **Avoid leaving your child unsupervised.**

Contact Family Advocacy Program to learn about local guidelines for the safety and supervision of children and youth.

- **Make sure your young child is in a safe place** like a playpen or crib if you absolutely need to step away for a moment.
- **Reach out to a responsible friend, neighbor or babysitter when you need time to yourself.** Everyone has moments when they need

a break. Make sure your child is cared for during those moments.

- **Reduce or eliminate electronic distractions** when providing care and supervision. It only takes a minute for an unintended tragedy to occur.
- **Reach out to any of the resources listed in the section above** if you need parenting advice.

It only takes a minute to report abuse or neglect

If you see an unsupervised child, take immediate action. Find the child’s caregiver or call local law enforcement for help. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, there are resources you can turn to for help:

- **Call 911 or the military police 830-3333** if you are on the installation and if you witness violence or know someone is in immediate danger.

• **Call the installation Family Advocacy Program 830-6345** if you suspect child abuse or neglect.

• **Call your state’s child abuse reporting hotline or contact Childhelp** at 800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453).

When child abuse occurs, the Family Advocacy Program supports the child victims and provides services to parents. The program helps families develop healthy relationship skills and address common relationship and parenting challenges during every stage of life.

Information for this article was adapted from militaryonesource.com. For help, resources, or additional education, please contact the Family Advocacy Program Prevention & Education Team 760-830-6345.

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L.I.N.K.S. hosts CAX for Kids

PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ



Staff Sgt. James Tyson, telecommunications system chief, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, talks to children about the qualities of a Marine during the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Joey Weir, son of Maj. Tony Weir and Amy Weir, signs up for the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Hardiesty, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, demonstrates the capabilities of the K-9 unit to children during the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Kaitlyn Howell, daughter of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy Howell and Valerie Howell, tries on a protective jacket used by military working dog handlers during the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Duran Sword II, son of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Duran Sword and Angela Sword, teaches other children Marine Corps rank structure during the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Children and their parents sign up for the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Children sample a Meal Ready-to-Eat during the CAX for Kids, a "Day in the Life of a Hero" event aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Combat Center Events

Register for a chance to win a spot in the Choose-a-Ride Sweepstakes. Participants will have a one in eleven chance of winning a brand new car. This event is open to active duty military and their spouses only. Visit the MCCS Facebook page for more information. The page can be found at facebook.com/MCCS29 palms.

Come visit Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center. With well-maintained lanes, large screen televisions, and a digital jukebox, it's a great facility for indoor recreational fun and relaxation. Tournaments are offered regularly and cosmic bowling runs every Friday and Saturday evening. For more information, contact 760-830-422.

Participate in the Colorful Consent 5k for sexual assault awareness and prevention month. The event requires no prior registration and will take place at the base PFT track on May 1 at 9 a.m. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 350 participants. For more information, contact 760-830-7118.

The Combat Center Library will be participating in National Free Comic Book Day. Visit the library May 2 at 10 a.m. to select a free comic book. Each person will receive one comic book while supplies last. For more information, visit MCCS29Palms.com, or contact 760-830-6875.

Attend the Mother's Day Brunch at the Officer Club, May 10. The brunch will consist of a full buffet featuring a carving station, waffle station, omelet station, chocolate fountain and more. The event is open to all ranks and civilians, however, space is limited and reservations are highly recommended. For more information and reservations, contact 780-830-6610.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 24
4:00 p.m. Transformers: Age of Extinction (free admission), PG-13
7:00 p.m. Unfinished Business, R
9:00 p.m. The Divergent Series: Insurgent, PG-13
11:30 p.m. Get Hard, R

Saturday – April 25
10:30 a.m. Paddington (NDVD – Free Admission) PG
12:30 a.m. Cinderella PG
3:30 p.m. The Divergent Series: Insurgent (3-D) PG-13
6:30 p.m. Unfinished Business R
8:30 p.m. Chappie R
11:00 p.m. Run All Night R

Sunday – April 26
12:00 p.m. Home (3-D) PG
5:00 p.m. SNEAK PREVIEW – Avengers: Age of Ultron (3-D) PG-13
8:00 p.m. The Gunman R

Monday – April 27
7:00 p.m. The Gunman R

Tuesday – April 28
7:00 p.m. Run All Night R

Wednesday – April 29
7:00 p.m. Chappie R

Thursday – April 30
5:30 p.m. Home (3-D) PG
7:30 p.m. Unfinished Business R

Friday – May 1
6:00 p.m. The Divergent Series: Insurgent PG-13
8:30 p.m. Get Hard R
11:00 p.m. The Gunman R



Need for Speed

'Furious 7' is a masterful cavalcade of carefully orchestrated vehicular mayhem

NEIL POND

"Furious 7"
Starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker & Jason Stratham
Directed by James Wan
Rated PG-13

Fast cars and stunt driving have always been Hollywood staples, but nothing raised need-for-speed thrills to the level of pop-art success like the Fast and Furious franchise, which began almost 15 years ago, spawned six sequels and became a \$2 billion-plus property—one of the most lucrative ever—for Universal Studios.

Now, in the seventh installment, Vin Diesel and his virtually indestructible crew of pedal-jammers reunite to save the world from more devious dudes, including a super-bad Brit (Jason Statham) out to avenge the death of his brother from a previous movie. But the plot's just so

much air whizzing by from the dozens of vehicles that zoom, smash and sail across the screen. Don't worry about following a storyline: Just sit back and marvel at the masterful cavalcade of carefully orchestrated vehicular mayhem, a dose of high-octane escapism ramped up to ridiculous, fantastical extremes.

In addition to Diesel (who's also one of the franchise's producers), the parade of pedal-slaming, road-ripping all-stars includes Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, rapper-turned-actor Ludacris and Tyrese Gibson, all of whom will be very familiar to anyone who buckled up for previous F&F joyrides. Kurt Russell comes aboard as a slick, mysterious quasi-governmental deep-cover operative, Mr. Nobody, who needs Diesel & crew's help to put the brakes on an international criminal (Djimon Hounsou) who's kidnapped a mastermind

computer hacker (Nathalie Emmanuel, who plays Missandei on TV's Game of Thrones).

Director James Wan, the maestro of horror and suspense whose resume includes Saw, Insidious and The Conjuring, creates some absolutely stupefying set pieces, jaw-dropping scenes of stunts and special effects. In one, cars drop from a cargo plane, parachute onto a winding mountain roadway and roar off to assault a heavily armored convoy, leading to a literal cliffhanger—then keep going! The other features the world's most expensive car racing through—and I do mean through—the world's tallest building.

And, as usual, the car scenes are broken up by equally impressive fight scenes, magnificent, crashing, smashing slam-o-ramas, choreographed to perfection and shot with inventive, topsy-turvy camera angles that bring you right along for the tosses and tumbles. Mixed martial arts fighting champ Ronda Rousey and Thai warrior Tony Jaa both have bone-crunching cameos.

But for all the speed and spectacle, something else truly makes this one special for Fast and Furious fans—and that's the final appearance of Paul Walker, one of the series' top stars, who died (ironically) in a car crash in 2013 while it was still in production. Using footage already shot, digital effects and body doubles as stand-ins, the filmmakers were able to complete all the scenes—and amazingly, most viewers will likely never be able to spot any trickery.

Rather than simply a character, Walker's role is a cornerstone of the entire movie, which actually becomes a eulogy and a tribute to him. At the end, as Vin Diesel's character rides, literally, into the sunset and says farewell, literally, to his old friend, a montage of scenes from their previous movies plays. It's not fast, and certainly not furious, and it may make your eyes misty, for just a sweet moment or two, from something other than gravel dust, exhaust fumes and the head-spinning speed at which the next sequel, number eight, is already being readied to head our way.

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Marines, sailors participate in UFC Clinic and Fight Night



Diego Sanchez, professional fighter, Ultimate Fighting Championship, practices fighting techniques with Capt. Shiek Faruk, Combat Center Aide-De-Camp, at the West Gym during the UFC Clinic and Fight Night Viewing, April 18.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

A Marine and his opponent lock eyes, their faces showing no trace of anticipation. Slowly circling one another, they move close enough to tap hands. Then, with one swift motion and without hesitation, the Marine attacks.

Headquarters Marine Corps Single Marine Program and Marine Corps Community Services hosted an Ultimate Fighting Championship Clinic and Fight Night Viewing at the West Gym and Sunset Cinema, April 18.

“The Marines and sailors train every day,” said Michael Brown, manager SMP, Headquarters Marine Corps. “It’s important that they enjoy themselves during the time they get to relax.”

The event, which was open to all Combat Center Marines and sailors, began at the West Gym and ended at the Sunset Cinema. There were five UFC fighters who came as part of the event. Three of them, to include Uriah Hall, Diego Sanchez and Joe Lauzon, taught different mixed martial arts techniques. Following the demonstrations, there was a meet and greet where the service members were given the opportunity to ask the fighters questions.

“Being able to experience the clinic was great,” said Lance Cpl. Dantrell Hunter, food service specialist, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. “I got an opportunity to interact with the UFC fighters and it was awesome being able to learn new things

from experienced guys.”

Later in the evening, Marines and sailors were treated to a viewing of several UFC fights at the Sunset Cinema. In between each fight, there were prize giveaways, the fighters shared their opinion on the outcome of each fight and the Marines and sailors entered a drawing for an opportunity to win an Xbox-One. There was also a surprise visit from Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green.

Green was visiting the Combat Center alongside Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., to observe Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force and took the opportunity to stop by to acknowledge the Marines and sailors for their hard work and personally thank them for what they do to support the base.

“The [UFC fighters] really enjoy giving back to the Marines because they know they work hard with everything they do,” Brown said. “This is really a great opportunity for them to show their appreciation to the Marines and sailors at Twentynine Palms and across the Marine Corps.”

This is the first of six installations the UFC visited and the events conducted are greatly influenced by what the Marines request. SMP hosts approximately 22 different events throughout the Marine Corps each year and they hope to continue hosting various events in the future.

“We need to continue to bring this type of entertainment to our Marines and sailors,” Brown said. “They enjoyed themselves and that is really what it’s all about.”



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, addresses Combat Center Marines and sailors at the Sunset Cinema during the Ultimate Fighting Championship Clinic and Fight Night Viewing, April 18.



Tom Eaton, grappling coach, Fight Club 29, grapples with Joe Lauzon, professional fighter, Ultimate Fighting Championship, at the West Gym during the UFC Clinic and Fight Night Viewing, April 18.

Americans eat 100 acres of pizza each day.

MOTHER'S DAY LETTER CONTEST: We want children to write a brief 100 words or less letter to us about "Why I love my Mom...." Only 1 entry per child is allowed. All entries may be mailed or brought in to the Hi-Desert Star or The Desert Trail by 5 pm April 24th. Winners in each age category will be notified by phone before Mother's Day. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will be published in the newspaper and be given a gift certificate for them & their mother.

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NREA hosts Mountain Bike Ride



Bike riders begin the seven-mile Earth Day Mountain Bike Ride, which began at the obstacle course, Wednesday.



Colton Charles, son of Ken Charles and T.J. Charles, Retired Petty Officer 1st Class, crosses the finish line during the Earth Day Mountain Bike Ride, which began at the obstacle course, Wednesday. Charles participated in a mile-long alternate course during the event.



Jima Reed, Joshua Tree Bike Shop owner, crosses the finish line during the Earth Day the seven-mile Mountain Bike Ride, which began at the obstacle course, Wednesday. The event was hosted by Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs in conjunction with Marine Corps Community Services.





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