



The Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, presents the Combat Center's recognition for a Gold Level of Achievement, under the 2015 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Awards Program, to Col. Jay Wylie, assistant chief of staff, G-4 Installations and Logistics, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 21. The award recognizes the Combat Center as an installation for maintaining a very good to outstanding energy or water program.

ESD, Combat Center earn SecNav awards

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

As the largest combined arms live-fire training facility in the Marine Corps, the Combat Center has the responsibility of ensuring Marines remain a force in readiness. The mission of the Navy and Marine Corps is to provide the global presence necessary to ensure stability and to deter potential adversaries. Ensuring access to secure, reliable energy and water is critical to the Marine Corps' ability to provide that presence.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, awarded the Combat Center's Exercise Support Division the 2015 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Award in the United States Marine Corps Expeditionary category, Jan. 21, 2016 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. McGinn also recognized the Combat Center as an installation, for a Gold Level of Achievement under the awards program, which indicates a very good to outstanding energy or water program.

"The Combat Center is a tough environment for water and energy conservation," McGinn said. "The installation's mission, to be able to



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, welcomes the Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, at the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 21.

prepare Marine units to go forward in peace and in war, is absolutely critical. The fact that the team here at the Combat Center has been able to win these awards tells me a lot about the leadership, the hard work, and the team work that goes on here."

Lt. Col. Randal Pape, officer in charge, ESD, accepted ESD's award on behalf of the unit and Col. Jay Wylie, assistant chief of staff, G-4 Installations and Logistics, accepted the Combat Center's recognition on

behalf of the installation.

The Department of the Navy's Energy and Water Management Awards Program is designed to promote and reward excellence in areas of energy efficiency, energy management, new technology, renewable energy, energy training innovation and energy awareness. Each year, the Secretary of the Navy recognizes the accomplishments of Navy and Marine Corps operational

See **SecNav** pg. A6

'Rhinos' field new hydraulic excavators



Staff Sgt. John Vasquez, heavy equipment operations chief, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, scoops sand with a John Deere 250 GR Hydraulic Excavator near the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 22. Marines with MWSS-374 and MWSS-371 attended the two-week maintainer and operator courses, Jan. 11-22.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Heavy equipment operators and maintainers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 and MWSS-371 conducted new equipment training with the John Deere 250 GR Hydraulic Excavator near the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 11-22.

MWSS-374 held the new equipment training over a two-week period for heavy equipment maintainers and operators to conduct hands-on style training with the new excavator taught by the U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Command-Life Cycle Management Command.

This is the first time MWSS-374 is using this model of hydraulic excavator aboard the Combat Center, and the excavator enables Marines to fulfill critical engineering missions including: Backhoe excavations, development of field fortifications, digging water and sewer lines, emplacement of culverts in-road, air-field construction and creating command bunkers. It completes these missions by utilizing interchangeable attachments. The excavator is scheduled to be fielded across the Marine Corps by September 2016.



Staff Sgt. John Vasquez, heavy equipment operations chief, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, scoops sand into a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement with a John Deere 250 GR Hydraulic Excavator near the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 22. This is the first time MWSS-374 is using this excavator aboard the Combat Center and it is capable of utilizing interchangeable attachments to fulfill critical engineering missions.

Wolfpack, MCCES march on national stage



The 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Color Guard presents the national colors during the playing of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' during the Career Builder Challenge Military Appreciation Ceremony at the Tom Weiskopf Private Course located in the Professional Golfers Association of America Course West in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

LA QUINTA, Calif., – Combat Center Marines ceremoniously represented the Marine Corps in front of a national audience during the Career Builder Challenge Military Appreciation Ceremony at the Tom Weiskopf Private Course located in the Professional Golfers Association of America Course West in La Quinta, Calif., Jan. 23, 2016.

More than 50 Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students led by Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Soto, company gunnery sergeant, MCCES, ceremoniously marched in their Blue Dress B uniform onto the 18th

See **Golf** pg. A6

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. Justin Updegraff.



Marines with the Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force, Bulgarian and Romanian Forces conducting a joint exercise utilizing Bulgarian and U.S. main battle tanks, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, Jan. 15.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
January 27, 1967
Story by Master Sgt. G. E. Wilson

Marine Scout Dogs aid in Vietnam War

Wounded in the foot an cut off from the rest of the reconnaissance patrol during a fire-fight, Woton crawled underneath the flying bullets to join the their members of the team.

He had been scouting several meters to the front when he signaled to Pfc. Nicholas J. Willis that the enemy was ahead.

Willis, a scout in the 1st Military Police Bn, 1st Marine Division, alerted the rest of the patrol and commanded Woton, a Marine scout

dog to return.

Before he could respond, heavy fire broke out. Woton was wounded and in the firefight that followed there was no way for the Marines to reach his side.

“It seemed like hours,” Willis said “before he came crawling on his belly through the fire to our position. We called in a ‘Med-Evac’ but it was unable to land.”

By the time Woton was lifted out of the area

that night he had lost a lot of blood and was suffering from shock.

At the hospital Army Cpt. Wayne E. Cunningham worked for three hours to extract the bullet from Woton’s leg. During the operation Woton stopped breathing six times but was revived by swift action of the doctor.

Cunningham estimates Woton will be out of action for a month but will recover. For handler Willis and the Marines it can’t be too soon.

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 "Aeneid" poet
 - 7 Show ____
 - 10 GI-free area
 - 13 Requiring decryption
 - 14 Only
 - 15 Heating alternative
 - 16 Maine park
 - 17 Cork's country
 - 18 "Xanadu" group
 - 19 "In all likelihood"
 - 21 "Over here!"
 - 22 Curses
 - 25 Keeps at it
 - 27 One studying saucers
 - 29 Breaks off
 - 30 Creative
 - 31 Acapulco gold
 - 32 Letter abbr.
 - 33 Sneak a peek
 - 34 Melodious
 - 36 Did too much
 - 39 Shock grp.
 - 41 Terse question
 - 42 Agrippina's slayer
 - 43 Kind of salami
 - 45 Squeezes (into)
 - 47 Grading aid
 - 49 It's a plus
 - 50 Boys in the 'hood
 - 51 Hides out
 - 53 Singer Rawls
 - 54 Unix scripting language
 - 55 Locations
 - 59 Long stretch
 - 60 Laptop co.
 - 61 Trattoria dessert
 - 62 Criterion: Abbr.
 - 63 AOL rival
 - 64 Off the mark

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53				54					55		56	57	58
59				60					61				
62				63					64				

- Down**
- 1 Itinerary word
 - 2 Mag for execs
 - 3 Major TV brand
 - 4 1966 Beach Boys hit
 - 5 "You'd better believe it"
 - 6 Its symbol is Pb
 - 7 Lebanese port
 - 8 Like some vbs.
 - 9 End of a series
 - 10 Makes something better in a big way
 - 11 Country singer Ronnie
 - 12 Polish bread

- 14 Food delivery service for the homebound
- 20 VP Agnew
- 21 Comedian who is the narrator on TV's "The Goldbergs"
- 22 Kind of income
- 23 60's do
- 24 Berry Gordy Jr. pioneered it
- 26 Boom source
- 28 "____ light?"
- 32 Soothing plant
- 35 Nautical calls
- 37 Coastal eagle
- 38 Biblical verb

- 40 Significant other
- 43 Some roof ends
- 44 Implant deeply
- 45 Vail trail
- 46 Oahu outsiders
- 48 Like a Boston accent
- 52 Women's links grp.
- 54 Cook's spray
- 56 Elevator ____
- 57 J.F.K. posting
- 58 Kind of flour

SUDOKU

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

Last week's answers

S	E	R	I	F		O	A	S	I	S		P	G	A
U	T	E	R	I		T	W	E	R	P			R	A
S	H	A	K	E		A	T	O	W	E	R		E	Y
H	O	I				C	O	L	S			I	B	S
I	S	R	A	E	L						O	N	U	S
			B	L	U	S	H	I	N	G		C	R	O
C	O	B	B	S		L	O	G	E	S		C	O	D
H	U	L	A		P	A	U	L	A		P	O	O	R
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1	9	8	2	6	5	7	4	3
2	4	7	3	1	9	5	8	6
3	5	6	8	4	7	9	1	2
8	7	2	4	9	6	1	3	5
9	3	1	5	7	2	8	6	4
4	6	5	1	8	3	2	9	7
5	2	4	9	3	8	6	7	1
6	8	3	7	5	1	4	2	9
7	1	9	6	2	4	3	5	8

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel

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

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Donald

Miami, Fla. Lt. Cmdr., Headquarters Battalion Chaplain, 37

BAKER

Baker began his military career as a Marine officer. Over the years, he developed a love for music as well as a desire to help the Marines with whom he served and made the decision to become a chaplain.

>Both my parents were enlisted in the military and I was born on a military base. The idea of joining the military didn't happen until later in my life and as I approached adulthood I couldn't believe I never considered the possibility. I first became active duty Dec. 15, 2000.

>My decision to become a chaplain came to a head while I was serving as the commander for Company A, Headquarters Battalion [aboard the Combat Center]. I saw a lot of Marines making messes of their lives with different decisions and tragedies, over time I developed [sympathy] for the Marines. What I wanted to do was tell the people, who I love the most, about what I love the most, which is God.

>Having been raised on a military base, I understood what the dependent perspective is like because I was that military child. Being on active duty, allowed me to understand what service members go through because I was there too.

>I believe I'm doing what I was put on this Earth to do. Having all my experience and having walked the same path as the Marines there is a very easy connection with them.

>People that have been influential to me would be my father-in-law, who was the chaplain at my first unit, and my father because of his work ethic. He showed me if you put your mind to whatever it is you want to do, you can do it.

>If I could have the perfect day, I would go snowboarding, spearfishing and surfing and I would travel between each of those locations on my Harley.

>I first started playing guitar because I wanted to learn Jimmy Buffett to get the girls. Just through learning those songs I actually became pretty good at the guitar.

>My first time leading worship was actually at this chapel where I lead the music program. I kept learning overtime and increasingly got better as I developed a passion for it.

>My favorite era of secular music would have to be '90s alternative. I love praise and worship music in general but specifically Hillsong music is my favorite.

>Music is a gift that everyone shares.



When you think about it everyone can enjoy music, it is what distinguishes conversation from something that has melody, tone and intonation.

>It's the same thing with food. Food can taste like paper but can also allow us to have a whole gamut of flavors.

>Music really is an expression of heart and soul. It's interesting how influential music is. There's a famous philosopher who said, "I don't care who writes the laws of the country, I want to know who writes the lyrics." Music is an amazing phenomenon that is really multilingual, multinational and crosses cultures.

>I think one of the difficulties of being a chaplain is that you never really know the impact that you have on people's lives.

>When you mow grass and you can look behind you and see where you cut and where you haven't, there is a tangible product. I like to think that the impacts that we have on people are lifesaving.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

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SecNav from pg. A1

units and installations.

“We in the Department of the Navy have come a long way in the past six or seven years,” McGinn said. “Whether it’s new energy technology like solar panels or new procedures, we’re finding out how much progress we’re capable of making.”

The Marines of ESD earned the award for their ability to record information with regard to energy usage in an expeditionary environment.

“ESD’s role is to allow the equipment in the enhanced exercise allowance pool to be utilized for data capture,” Pape said. “The Combat Center is the only place in the Marine Corps, in a training environment, where we can get accurate data on the amount of energy that our ground equipment is using during operations.”

Divisions such as ESD, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, and Public Works Department are responsible in part for the installation’s success in their conservation efforts. Due to the programs put in place by the installation and executed by each division, the base has not only met but exceeded expectations with regard to protecting the Combat Center’s natural resources.

“ESD is a tenant aboard this installation,” Pape said. “It’s important to ensure that we participate in all the Combat Center energy programs and ensuring that we are being good stewards with government resources, not only to save money, but to protect the environment.”

In honor of their accomplishments, ESD received a certificate of achievement, a monetary award, and are authorized to display the Secretary of the Navy Energy Conservation Award flag for one year.

“Our energy and water initiatives across the board are all about creating an even more effective combat force,” McGinn said. “We want to have better mission effectiveness, and operational efficiency. Because the Combat Center is the source of excellence for so many war fighting capabilities, they’re setting the standard.”



The Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, presents the Exercise Support Division’s 2015 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Award in the United States Marine Corps Expeditionary category to Lt. Col. Randal Pape, officer in charge, ESD, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 21.



The Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, addresses distinguished guests and personnel of the Combat Center at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 21.

Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Soto, company first sergeant, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, stands at parade rest with his formation of more than 50 MCCES students during the Career Builder Challenge Military Appreciation Ceremony at the Tom Weiskopf Private Course located in the Professional Golfers Association of America Course West in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday.



Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students prepare to march during the Career Builder Challenge Military Appreciation Ceremony at the Tom Weiskopf Private Course located in the Professional Golfers Association of America Course West in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. More than 50 MCCES Marines marched in formation during the event.

Golf from pg. A1

green of the TPC Stadium Course at the conclusion of the Career Builder Challenge golf tournament.

“Events like this are the reason why some people join the Marine Corps,” said Pvt. James Barrett, student, MCCES. “We get to be out here in our best uniform rep-

resenting the Marine Corps, as a whole, on such a large stage.”

In addition to the marching detail, the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Color Guard presented the National and Marine Corps Colors as Navy Band Southwest played

their rendition of the ‘Star-Spangled Banner’.

After 3rd LAR retired the colors, speakers from the PGA and Career Builder Challenge spoke, thanking all active duty, veterans and retired service members. Some of the speakers included Phil Mickelson, professional golfer, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Alston, command senior enlisted leader, United States Strategic Command.

Alston expressed his gratitude toward the individuals, organizations and charities that support the military for everything they do and reminded everyone of the importance of continuing to back the troops.

Throughout the ceremony the formation of MCCES students stood stoic in formation behind the lectern as retired U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jacque Keeslar and U.S.

Army 1st Lt. Brian-Lee Donarski, Purple Heart Medal recipients, were presented with a custom set of Callaway golf clubs.

“The Marines did a fantastic job,” said Soto. “They showed discipline and professionalism the entire presentation and I could not have asked anyone of them.”

The Marines were afforded the opportunity to stay at the Patriots Outpost tent prior to the ceremony where they

were given food and beverages. After the presentation, Mickelson and his wife Amy further showed their appreciation for the military by signing autographs and posing for photos with the Marines.

“We are glad to be out here interacting with the community,” said Soto. “The Marines really did the Marine Corps and the base justice by showing how good of a group of men and women they really are.”

TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

2015 has been a very good year for me. I have enjoyed good health, a loving family, many friends, and worthwhile tasks that challenge me.

I am an ordained minister and I officiated at several weddings including two same sex ceremonies. I delivered a number of talks at Rotary, Kiwanis, and other service groups, and of course, I offered a total of more than 60 positive living seminars. I also did considerable family counseling, blessings of homes, adult and child baptisms, etc.

My point is that at the age of 90 I have a pretty good perspective on our society and its individual citizens.

So as we begin a new year I give you the words of a world-renowned historian Will Durant speaking from the pulpit of the Church I served in Los Angeles.

“I was once challenged to sum up civilization in a half hour. I did it in less than a minute. Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream is sometimes filled with blood from people killing, stealing, shooting and doing things that historians usually record. While on the banks, unnoticed, people are building homes and making love, raising children, singing songs, writing poetry and even whittling statues. And the story of civilization is the story of what happens on the banks. Too often historians are pessimists because they ignore the banks and write about the rivers.”

This column sponsored by:

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Around the Corps** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Predator and prey: Pre-Scout Sniper students stalk targets



Cpl. Brighten Bell, a student undergoing the 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center's Pre-Scout Sniper Course, acquires a target during a stalking exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 22. The exercise required students to traverse approximately 1,000 meters of high grass and fire on a target, all without being detected.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. - The 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center held its final week of instruction for aspiring Marine scout snipers as part of the Pre-Scout Sniper Course at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Jan. 22.

The course concluded its three-week training period by bringing Marines to the Greater Sandy Run training area. Following day and night land navigation, Marines were required to “stalk,” or pursue a target while remaining undetected.

“The Marines are using all the knowledge they have gained to execute a stalk,” said Sgt. Bradley S. Brouwer, the chief instructor of the course. “The intent is to have them move, identify and shoot without being detected.”

Marines traversed between 800 and 1,000 meters as stealthily as possible, relying on the camouflage of their ghillie suits, their grassy environment and careful movement to keep as low of a profile as possible. Instructors observed the area through scout sniper observation telescopes, keeping an eye open for error that would give a Marine’s position away to the enemy.

“There is no room for error in a scout sniper platoon,” said Cpl. Aaron Straight, a student in the course. “Something as simple as leaving behind a piece of tape is a matter of life or death. It can be challenging to stay mentally engaged and avoid a serious slip-up.”

Brouwer hopes the skills developed over the past three weeks will help Marines be successful in the school house.

“We stood this course up to give these Marines a buffer-course before they tackle the real thing, and we want to see a higher graduation rate at the school house and the production of skilled scout snipers,” Brouwer said.

Straight considers his completion of the course a confidence-booster for the challenges he will face in one of the Corps’ most elite schools.

“We did so much shooting and land navigation that helped me improve all around,” Straight said. “The instructors here are some of the most knowledgeable scout snipers in the Marine Corps and it was great to work under them.”

Marines are scheduled to begin the Basic Scout Sniper Course Jan. 25.



Corporal Brighten Bell, a student undergoing the 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center Pre-Scout Sniper Course, prepares to move during a stalking exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 22.



Marine students undergoing the 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center's Pre-Scout Sniper Course depart a field following a stalking exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 22.



A Marine student undergoing the 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center's Pre-Scout Sniper Course prepares to move during a stalking exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 22.

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WeekINPhotos

TRAP EX IV

Capt. Alexander Smith, forward air controller, with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, communicates with local air support during a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Monday. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is ready to respond to any crisis response mission in theater to include the employment of a TRAP force.



Capt. Alexander Smith, forward air controller, with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, communicates with local air support during a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Monday.

Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, board a MV-22 Osprey attached to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268, as part of a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Monday.

Photos by Cpl. Akeel Austin

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Combat Center Cub Scouts race for gold



Roman Wylie, 10, son of Col. Jay Wylie, director, G-4 Installation and Logistics, displays his racecar, the Gator, and his first place trophy during the annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Armed Services YMCA aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ**

The sound of children cheering echoed across the makeshift racetrack as finely-tuned racecars flew across the finish line. This race was special though, because in lieu of high-performance engines, the vehicles owed their rapid acceleration to ingenuity, determination and gravity.

Cub Scout Pack 78, located aboard the Combat Center, held their annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Scout Hut, found behind the Armed Services YMCA, Saturday. Prior to the event, the Scouts created their own racecar out of wood, which they were allowed to customize in appearance. The children then competed in a series of races down a metal racetrack with trophies for first, second and third place.

"A lot of people associate pinewood derbies with the Cub Scouts," said Nicole Fenstermaker, troop coordinator, Cub Scout Pack 78. "Every year, the biggest thing we try to teach the children is that they are racing against themselves. It doesn't matter what the other car is doing because it's all about bettering their own."

According to Fenstermaker, the pack currently has 38 boys registered between the 1st and 5th grades from families locat-

ed on base.

"Sometimes our events involve just the Scouts and others can include the whole family," Fenstermaker said. "We usually include a sibling or adult category [for this event] each year so they can have fun as well."

Taking home the first place trophy, Roman Wylie, 10, son of Col. Jay Wylie, director, G-4, had the fastest overall time with his racecar, the Gator.



Pinewood Derby racecars are displayed after the annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Armed Services YMCA aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



Nicole Fenstermaker, troop coordinator, Cub Scout Pack 78, gets the Cub Scouts excited before the annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Armed Services YMCA aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



Scouts with Cub Scout Pack 78 cheer for their racecars during the annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Armed Services YMCA aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



Combat Center Events

Head down to Hashmarks for a Texas Hold ‘Em tournament, Jan. 30. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the tournament begins at 2 p.m. The event is open to all hands and food and drink will be available throughout the evening. Come out to watch UFC fights and the Bud Girls. For more information call (760) 830-5035.

Marine Corps Community Services is taking registration for the 2016 Winter Dodgeball League starting Feb. 10. The league is open to active duty military, family members and NAF/DOD employees. To register, download the sign-up sheet at mccs29palms.com. For more information, contact (760) 830-6857.

Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a Father Daughter Dance. This event is open to all fathers and their daughters aboard the Combat Center. Guests will enjoy light refreshments and a complimentary photo. Limited tickets are available, for more information call (760) 830-5086.

Frontline Restaurant & Mameluke’s Pub is hosting weekly Taco Tuesdays from 4:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact (760) 830-8429.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, January 29
5:00 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (3-D), PG-13
8:00 p.m.- Point Break (3-D), PG-13
10:30 p.m.- Daddy’s Home, PG-13

Saturday, January 30
12:00 p.m.- Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip, PG
2:00 p.m.- Daddy’s Home, PG-13
4:30 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG-13

Sunday, January 31
12:00 p.m.- In the Heart of the Sea, PG-13
2:30 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG-13
5:30 p.m.- Concussion, PG-13
8:00 p.m.- The Big Short, R

Monday, February 1
7:00 p.m.- Sisters, R

Tuesday, February 2
7:00 p.m.- Point Break (3-D), PG-13

Wednesday, February 3
5:00 p.m.- Brooklyn, PG-13
7:30 p.m.- Daddy’s Home, PG-13

Thursday, February 4
5:00 p.m.- Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip, PG
7:00 p.m.- In the Heart of the Sea, PG-13

Friday, February 5
5:00 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG-13
8:00 p.m.- Daddy’s Home, PG-13
10:30 p.m.- The Big Short, R



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Butting Heads

Will Smith tackles the NFL in ‘Concussion’

NEIL POND

“Concussion”
Starring Will Smith, Alec Baldwin & Albert Brooks
Directed by Peter Landesman
Rated PG-13

Will Smith has fought zombies, space aliens and killer robots. Now he’s squaring off against an even bigger, completely human foe—and certainly a much more popular one.

In *Concussion*, he plays Dr. Bennett Omalu, who discovers the link between football and CTE, chronic traumatic encephalopathy—potentially fatal brain damage from repeated concussions.

The true story (originally told in a 2009 article in *GQ* magazine) begins as we meet Nigerian-born Omalu in 2002, while he’s working in Pittsburgh as the county coroner’s forensic pathologist. The untimely death, and bizarre final days, of a former Pittsburgh Steeler football Hall of Famer, Mike Webster (David Morse), troubles him: Webster’s autopsy reveals severe brain trauma that caused him to go crazy, freak out and eventually expire of a heart attack. When Omalu learns of other NFL players dying in similar fashion, he investigates further and comes to a conclusion that almost no one wants to hear—especially not the National Football League.

Playing football can kill you.

Unlike some other creatures, such as the woodpecker or the bighorn sheep, Omalu points out, humans have no natural shock absorber in our skulls to cushion the blow when one of our noggins impact with something hard—like another noggin. Nature, or providence, simply did not

equip us that way. Therefore, Omalu reasons, “God did not intend for us to play football.”

Smith, a bona fide movie star, is outstanding in a non-flashy role that doesn’t involve car chases, spaceships, shootouts or CGI special effects—just straight-up, strong, dig-in acting and a very plausible, start-to-finish nail-down of Dr. O’s West African accent and mannerisms. He makes you feel Omalu’s passionate sense of commitment—and his dream to be accepted as “American”—as the NFL tries to quash his research and discredit him.

Albert Brooks is Cyril Wecht, the county coroner who helps Omalu while warning him of squaring off against with the NFL. “You’re going to war with a corporation that owns a day of the week,” he tells him. Alec Baldwin plays Dr. Julian Bailes, the former Steelers team doctor who assists Omalu in getting his message to football players, managers, agents and the commissioner. “You’ve turned on the lights and given their biggest boogeyman a name,” Bailes says.

British actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw plays Prema, the Nigerian student who becomes Omalu’s wife, reminding him that his family name means “He who knows, speaks.”

But the movie belongs to Smith, who tackles what might be his one of his trickiest, juiciest roles—a crusading underdog with a potentially life-saving message that falls on mostly deaf ears. “Tell the truth—tell the truth!” a frustrated Omalu jabs at a NFL team neurosurgeon who refuses to admit there’s any connection between football and brain injury.

As millions of football fans tune into games this weekend, it’s a truth that will likely be drowned out by the symphony of cheers in stadiums all across America.

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Permanent Change of Station travel: MARADMIN 001/16 now in effect



A Marine watches a YouTube video describing the details of Marine administrative message 001/16, which states that all permanent change of station travel expenses will now be paid using the government travel charge card. This change is expected to make travel more efficient and cost effective and to protect Marines from being charged interest on their personal accounts.

**STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPL. MICHELLE REIF**

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - The busiest season for duty station changes is fast approaching and a new policy was recently released in an effort to make travel procedures smoother for Marines. According to Marine administrative message 001/16, beginning Jan. 1, Marines undergoing a permanent change of station must use their government travel charge card for all expenses related to the move.

This policy replaces travel advances and protects Marines from being charged interest or overdraft fees on their personal accounts.

“The main reason why we are doing this is because it makes moves more efficient and more cost effective,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Laura Brossman, the orders section officer in charge. “Most of the rest of the Department of Defense has already transitioned to it and they have been using it for a while.”

The process begins when a Marine receives PCS orders. The Marine will log onto Marine Online and complete an outbound interview. Once the Marine has confirmed that they are in possession of a GTCC, the card will be activated 10 days prior to the date the Marine is scheduled to detach from their current unit. The card will deactivate 15 days after the approved report date. The Marine will then submit a travel voucher upon checking in to the new unit.

Marines undergoing a permanent change of address will also complete an outbound interview on MOL but will not use the GTCC for the transition.

“The biggest difference is that everything is automated now,” said Capt. Leslie Harkness, the agency program coordinator in charge of oversight for all the GTCC within the division. “Before, Marines would have to go print out their web orders, go to the [Installation Personnel Administration Center]... they would have to do all this stuff via paper and it would take a lot of extra

time... to do the paperwork, and to have the advance sent to you... this makes the process much more seamless and smooth.”

Some of the other benefits of the change that Harkness highlighted include the fact that Marines would not be charged interest on their personal accounts, they would have customer support from Citi Bank and their unit APC’s during the PCS transition. Using the card would not affect the Marines’ credit history. The money would be immediately available negating the need to wait for a travel advance. Also, the Marine would be in a mission-critical status during the move, meaning that they will not receive any bills or overdue notices until they check into their new unit.

“It will make it easier for the Marine to not have to pay out of pocket for things in their PCS travel,” said Harkness. “It’s going to help the younger Marines especially.”

Brossman emphasized the importance of keeping all purchase receipts and keeping track of statements through the Citi Bank website.

The credit limit on the GTCC will be set based on the estimated cost of that Marine’s travel entitlements. Some of the expenses that are authorized to be charged to the card include authorized transportation expenses, lodging, meals and expenses previously paid with a dislocation allowance such as carpet cleaning or utility deposits. The card is not authorized for personal purchases such as uniform items or auto repairs.

Use of the GTCC for personally procured moves, formally known as do-it-yourself moves, or permanent change of assignment moves is not authorized in connection with this policy.

CWO4 Russell Johnson, a food service officer who recently underwent a PCA from 2nd Marine Logistics Group to 2nd Headquarters Battalion, thought that the use of the GTCC will be a great tool to teach younger Marines to

be financially accountable and was surprised how easy the online module was.

“The new outbound interview process is light-years easier than the old data sheets,” said Johnson. “It will save Marines time from having to run back and forth to IPAC so many times.”

The Marine Corps has been transitioning to the outbound interview module for a couple of years. IPAC Camp Lejeune and the surrounding PACs are some of the last PACs in the Marine Corps to undergo the change.

“Hopefully with the units and the IPAC working together, we can make it as smooth as possible,” said Brossman.

“We are looking at March first for the targeted date for all units to receive training and to transition.”

Harkness encouraged Marines to contact their administration shop to receive guidance or to answer any questions. From there, Marines can contact their IPAC or unit APC for more assistance. For more detailed information about the step-by-step process, Marines can watch a YouTube video explaining the MARADMIN by visiting <https://youtu.be/V7WMkMVX8GQ>.

“Any unit is more than welcome to contact the IPAC for training on outbound procedures as well as any of the areas we support,” said Brossman.

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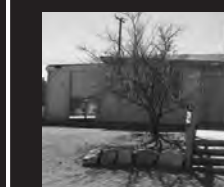
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This newspaper does not accept responsibility for services offered, by any advertiser, using this newspaper. Please carefully evaluate any services advertised, and do not use that service unless you have checked the references, and know and understand all terms of agreement and conditions between you and the advertiser.

California State law requires that contractors, builders, and landscapers who perform work for \$500 or more, including materials and labor, must be licensed. License numbers should be so indicated in their advertising.

Family child care providers are required by state law to be licensed, and facility license numbers must be indicated in all advertising.

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Please refer questions to Contractors State License Board, 1250 East Cooley Drive, Suite 200, Colton, CA 92324

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Applications are available at Town Hall and at www.yucca-valley.org.

Closing date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 by 5pm.

EOE/ADA

Fire Science Occupations Teacher

\$28.62 per hour

Part-time, 180 school days per year

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REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have at least three years paid or unpaid verifiable work experience or higher education coursework in the field of Fire Science Occupations. One of the three years of experience must be within the last 5 years or two years within the last ten years.
- Must meet eligibility requirements for vocational education state certification.
- High school diploma or equivalent is required. Bachelor's degree is not required.
- Must be willing to enter a teacher credentialing program upon hire.*

Applications may be downloaded from www.morongo.k12.ca.us or obtained by calling 760-367-9191 ext. 4225, and must be returned to Human Resources, Morongo Unified School District, PO Box 1209, 29 Palms, CA 92277 on or before **February 9, 2016.**

EOE/AA

Law Enforcement Occupations Teacher

\$28.62 per hour

Part-time, 180 school days per year

Law Enforcement Occupations Teacher Application Packet

PORTION OF BENEFIT PACKAGE PAID BY DISTRICT

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have at least three years paid or unpaid verifiable work experience or higher education coursework in the field of Law Enforcement Occupations. One of the three years of experience must be within the last five years or two years within the last ten years.
- Must meet eligibility requirements for vocational education state certification.
- High school diploma or equivalent is required; Bachelor's degree is not required.
- Must be willing to enter a teacher credentialing program upon hire.*

Applications may be downloaded from www.morongo.k12.ca.us or obtained by calling 760-367-9191 ext. 4225, and must be returned to Human Resources, Morongo Unified School District, PO Box 1209, 29 Palms, CA 92277 on or before **February 9, 2016.**

EOE/AA



Wiefels Funeral Directors are currently seeking a qualified and professional Part-Time Funeral Attendant/Driver at our Hi-Desert locations covering 29 Palms, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Valley. The individual will be responsible for driving the hearse and/or removal vehicle to transport deceased family members to the mortuary, coroner's office, funeral service and interment.

Requirements & Qualifications:

- High School or GED equivalent
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KING OF THE HAMMERS 2016

Ten years later extreme race is world class

By Josh Allen
Hi-Desert Star

JOHN-SON VALLEY — The 10th annual King of The Hammers is busy transforming the Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area into the toughest one-day off-road race in the world.

Race officials arrived last week to make preparations for this year's event, which will start with King of The Motos at 8 a.m. Sunday morning and culminate with the 2016 Nitto King of the Hammers at 8 a.m., Feb. 5.

The extreme course allows vehicles to travel near 100 mph between sections of extreme rock terrain.

The boulder laden rock-climbing sections force riders and drivers to showcase their technical operating skills and the extreme ability of their equipment.

Race founder Dave Cole said the growth of the race over the past ten years has been amazing to watch.

"Ten years ago we wanted to do something different and a race like this had never been run before," Cole said. "What started out as a single race has turned into a week full of events and qualifiers that people come to see from all over the world."

Cole said the races garner the majority of the attention but the qualifying rounds are a great time to watch racers push their vehicles.

"I have never seen anyone come out for a day of qualifying and go away disappointed," Cole said. "The course is more accessible on qualifying days and drivers are really pushing themselves to try and put in a good time. Qualifying rounds will be held Tuesday and Wednesday."

King of the Motos is a true extreme test for 2-wheel riders who are forced to take their bikes up sections of boulders that seem impassable at first glance.

Somewhere between 80 and 120 riders will line up for their chance to attack the course early Sunday morning.

The Vision X ULTRA4 vs. SRRS East/West Shootout is always a fan favorite and will be held at the Chocolate Thunder rock climb this year.

The event pits the Southern Rock Racing Series rock bouncers against ULTRA4 cars

and local racers for nationwide bragging rights.

The event has been held at Back Door in previous years, but is being moved to Chocolate Thunder in 2016 because of the accessibility for the number of viewers who have been packed in at Back Door.

The night event is known for its rabid fans and incredible action on a single rock-climbing section.

The event will culminate when the big boys take on the extreme track during the 2016 Nitto King of the Hammers at 8 a.m. Feb. 5.

Mike Bedwell, out of Big Bear Lake, had trouble keeping all four wheels on the ground at Chocolate Thunder during the 2014 King of the Hammers, but he didn't have any trouble reaching the top of the rock climb. The treacherous terrain of Chocolate Thunder will host this year's Vision X ULTRA4 vs. SRRS East/West Shootout.

JOSH ALLEN Hi-Desert Star



2016 KOH Schedule

Friday, January 29

- 9:00 AM Registration Opens – Means Dry Lake Bed
- 9:00 AM Pre-Running Opens
- 9:00 AM Tech Opens - All new cars need to be teched by close of tech on Monday

Saturday, January 30

- Continue Registration and Pre-Running
- 6:00 PM Mandatory King of the Motos Riders Meeting

Sunday, January 31

- Continue Registration
- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM King of the Motos
- 5:00 PM KOM Awards Ceremony

Monday, February 1

- Pre-Running Day
- 12:00 PM Vendor Show opens
- 3:30 PM Mandatory Drivers meeting for 4WPW Qualifying Days
- 4:30 PM Mandatory Drivers meeting for Shootout
- 6:00 PM Vision X SRRS vs. ULTRA4 Presented by King Shoot Out

Tuesday, February 2

- 9:00 AM Start of Qualifying on 4 Wheel Parts Qualifying course
- 12:00 - 6:00 PM UTV Tech and Contingency EMC may take as well
- 12:00 - 8:00 PM Vendor Hours in Hammertown
- 3:45 PM Awards Ceremony for Shootout Participants before Power Hour
- 5:00 PM Close of Day 1 of Qualifying/ Start of PCI GPS and Comms Class
- 6:00 PM Mandatory drivers meeting for all KOH UTV racers
- 6:00 PM Outlaw KOH R/C Rock Racing at Axial Booth (for spectator handout only)

Wednesday, February 3

- 8:00 AM Start of Polaris RZR KOH UTV Race
- 12:00 PM Start of Day 2 of 4 Wheel Parts Qualifying
- 12:00 - 6:00 PM EMC Tech and Contingency
- 12:00 - 8:00 PM Vendor Hours in Hammertown
- 4:00 PM End of KOH UTV Race
- 5:00 PM End of Qualifying
- 6:00 PM Mandatory Drivers meeting for Smittybilt Every Man Challenge Race
- 6:00 PM Outlaw KOH R/C Rock Racing at Axial Booth (for spectator handout only)
- 8:00 PM Volunteer Meeting
- 8:00 PM King Shocks Party

Thursday, February 4

- 8:00 AM Start of Smittybilt Every Man Challenge Race
- 6:00 PM Close of EMC Race
- 12:00 - 7:00 PM KOH Tech and Contingency in Hammertown
- 12:00 - 8:00 PM Vendor Hours in Hammertown
- 6:00 PM Raceline Volunteer Dinner presented by Extreme Wheelers 4 Christ
- 6:00 PM Outlaw KOH R/C Rock Racing at Axial Booth (for spectator handout only)
- 7:00 PM Mandatory Drivers meeting for Nitto King of the Hammers
- 8:00 PM Volunteer Staffing meeting

Friday, February 5

- 6:00 AM Driver Line Up 2016 Nitto King of the Hammers Powered by Optima
- 8:00 AM Start of the 2016 Nitto King of the Hammers Powered by Optima
- 10:00 PM Close of the 2016 Nitto King of the Hammers Powered by Optima

Saturday, February 6

- 9:00 AM Awards Ceremony UTV – KOH – EMC
- 10:00 AM KOH The Experience

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