

September 16, 2016

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# **CFC kicks off with luncheon** Combat Center receives

#### STORY AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center Combined Federal Campaign representatives held a luncheon at the Frontline Restaurant Sept. 9, to speak with Combat Center leadership on how to achieve 100 percent contact and awareness of the CFC among Marines and sailors across the base.

CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. More than 300 CFC campaigns held throughout the country and internationally help raise millions of dollars annually. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season, which runs from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15, support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. Donors can choose which organization receives their donations when they make



Col. James Harp, Combat Center Chief of Staff, presents the Combined Federal Campaign Hero Award to Ramon Victor-Ortiz, adjutant, G-1 Manpower, during the Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off luncheon at the Frontline Restaurant, Sept. 9, 2016.

#### their pledges.

"Every one of us relies on charitable campaigns," said Beverly Caires, campaign manager, CFC. "It's important to reach the Marines and sailors in attendance so they can take the message back to the Marines they are in charge of. These charities rely on Twentynine Palms, 23rd

donations; if we don't help them, they can't help us."

During the luncheon, Col. James Harp, Combat Center Chief of Staff, awarded three units with the Bronze Award for their efforts during the 2015 CFC. Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital

Dental Company, and Marine Corps Logistics and Operations Group all achieved 50 to 65 percent participation, or \$50 to \$65 per capita giving in fiscal year 2015.

Additionally, Ramon Vargas-Ortiz, adjutant, G-1 Manpower, received See CFC pg. A6

# 'Wolf Pack' conducts irregular warfare at Range 100

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Marines are continuously training to combat both conventional and unconventional military forces in order to support contingency operations around the globe. Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, conducted training to enhance their understanding of irregular warfare at Range 100, Sept. 5-9.

During the training, the Marines acticed a variety of exercises to include patrolling, land navigation as well as planting and locating improvised explosive devices. "The idea behind this training is to get away from the cookie-cutter exercises that we sometimes fall into," said Sgt. Aaron Rivera, platoon See Wolf Pack pg. A6



# SecDef environmental award

Vol. 60 Issue 37

#### STORY BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center earned the Secretary of Defense's Environmental Quality for a Non-Industrial Installation Award, presented by The Honorable Mr. Frank Kendall III, secretary of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics during a video teleconference, Sept. 9.



PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat Center is renowned as the Marine Corps' premiere training facility. While meeting the needs of visiting units, the installation also utilizes a significant amount of resources while also dedicating to resources to conserving energy, while maintaining the training standards.

"We received the award for three key things we do here: water preservation, recycling efforts and hazardous waste efforts," said Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

Due to the Combat Center's harsh desert environment, water is important not only to Marines and sailors stationed aboard the base, but also to service members who come here for training. NREA and the Combat Center Water Conservation Task Force focus their efforts on the conservation and sustainability of water resources. One of the many results of their efforts includes the reduction of potable water use, which is at 69 gallons per person per day. By comparison, the state of California uses 181 gallon per person per day.

"We want to encourage Marines, sailors and their families to think about how they can save water throughout the day," said Chris Elliott, water conservation manager, NREA. "We also take different steps in the training environment side, such as recycling water for washing equipment. It is important to educate families and Marines who are training on the importance of water conservation."

Pfc. David Tangitan, rifleman, Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, runs a drill with an simulated M72 Light Anti-Tank Weapon during on Range 100, Sept 8. During the training, the Marines practiced a variety of exercises to include patrolling, land navigation as well as planting and locating improvised explosive devices.

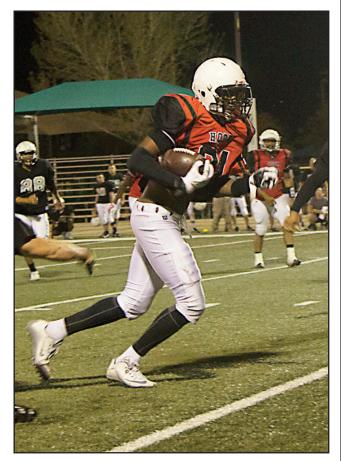
The Combat Center's reduction of waste generation and reutilization of waste also played a large role in the award.

According to the 2016 Secretary of Defense Environmental Narrative Environmental Quality-Non-Industrial prerequisite, the Combat Center's See Award pg. A6

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Intramural Tackle Football Jamboree Page B1

# **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 Photo by Cpl. Allison Lotz.



Lance Cpl. Matthew Byrd, dog handler, Provost Marshall's Office, K9 Section, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, catches Military Working Dog (MWD) Bbutler while decoying as an aggressor during training aboard Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 6. MWD's are trained to subdue or intimidate suspects before having to use lethal force; they are also used for detecting explosives, narcotics, and other harmful materials.



**Reprinted from the Observation Post** September 16, 1966

# **C&E** construction nears quarter mark

The end of August marked a 22 percent completion mark for the new Communications and Electronics School now under construction at Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California. Concrete foundations, columns, and underground water and sewage systems are complete with underground electrical systems now reaching the 60 percent completion mark. Work on the interior electrical and plumbing systems continued with the waste plumbing of all build-

walls of the north and south portions finished.

During the month of September the contractor, R. J. Webb Co. Inc. of Riverside, will continue the installation of the concrete block walls and the electrical systems with the underground electrical system nearing the completion mark.

A major step towards completion for the basic structure for the MTDS, Marine Tactical Data System, building is the erection of the framework

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ings and the electrical rough-in for the exterior in preparation for the placing of the concrete portions with the concrete pouring slated for early October.

> Upon completion, the new school will house and train more than 2,000 Marines in the fundamentals of the many electronics and communication systems the Marine Corps today utilizes. The new buildings will consist mainly of laboratory and classroom space totaling 58,000 square feet.

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## **OFF-LIMITS** ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

#### In Oceanside:

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

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

#### In San Diego:

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

#### In National City:

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

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

#### In Twentynine Palms:

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
- In Yucca Valley:
- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy. - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy. In Palm Springs:
- 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 officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines. mil

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Effc Administrative personnel, IPAC, Headquarters Battalion

Fletcher studies automotives at Copper Mountain College and is learning skills that enable him to work on his beloved Mustang.

>I'm from Americus, Ga. It's a small town in the country side. Growing up, there were a lot of animals outside, a lot of running around and doing nothing. There's nothing to do unless you make something to do, so we were always busy doing anything.

**>We'd play a lot of sports like** football and basketball. I came from a single-parent household, even though my grandparents lived right next door. My siblings and I worked odd jobs here and there to help out.

>My four siblings and I grew up right next to my grandma and step-grandfather and I also had my granddad and step-grandma across town.

**>Growing up, we were** always together. We would eat at my grandma's house and during the holidays we would all spend time together; it wasn't like we had to go far.

**>I have cousins who aren't even** my cousins and sisters who aren't even my sisters; I've just known them my whole life. Everyone was like family especially growing up where I lived. It brings adventure to life because there's always something different to do and someone to go to if you need anything.

**>Growing up in a tight-knit family was** kind of stressful, especially as a middle child. The oldest sibling would get away with this and the youngest sibling would get away with that and you're just in the middle.

**>It was also beneficial.** If you were slacking with one thing you had others to help you and with them being family, everything came from a place of love.

**>When I was younger, my grandma always** got on me the most. Half of my life we would argue a lot. As I got older, she mentored me and she would always help me whenever I needed it.

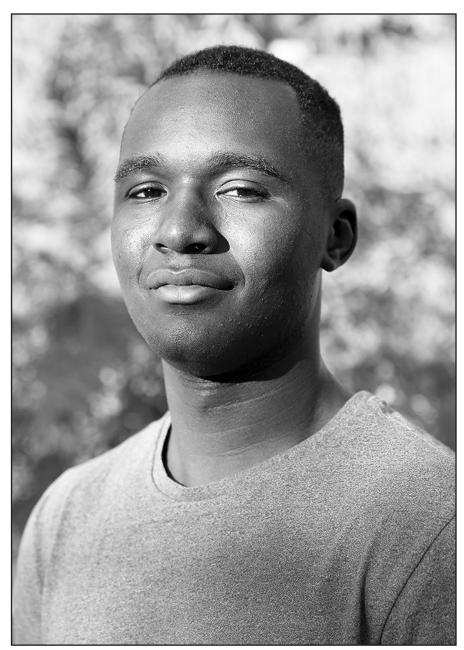
>My grandma and my grandfather both molded me into who I am today. They really had a big impact because my mom worked all the time. >My mom worked from six in the morning to six at night, and she still does. She rarely did things for herself and seeing her work so hard made me want to work harder to limit the things she had to do.

**>Everything that my grandparents and mother did** contributed to me wanting to be the best in everything I do. You can't always be the best, but you can always strive.

**>In high school I ran cross-country** and track. I also participated in wrestling so I was always busy.

**>Wrestling was my favorite sport because** I accomplished a lot. I made it all the way to sectionals before I got put out. During my time wrestling I got a concussion and I also broke my shoulder.

strength like one may think. If you won, it was because you knew more than the other person. > knew I wanted to join the military since the ninth grade but I wasn't sure of which branch. Eventually I decided that I wanted to go into the Marine Corps. >Since I'm from a small town I wanted to be a part of something bigger; I wanted to be known. That's what drove me throughout high school. >I had an uncle in the Marine Corps and my grandad was in the Army. I have cousins and siblings in the military. **>The Marine Corps drew me in because** of what you hear about them. The few, the proud; that's why I chose the Marine Corps. Plus my uncle would talk so much trash to my grandad. >In my free time I like to run. It helps me clear my mind. When I'm back in Georgia I love going fishing. Even though it takes a while and you get frustrated, everyone loves fishing back home. Anything that involves the outdoors I love doing. Whether it's hot or cold it doesn't matter. I just feel so free. >Being stationed at the Combat Center feels the same as being back home. Aside from the fact that there's no grass or trees it's still the same concept. I know that in order for there to be something to do, I have



to make something to do.

>I like traveling out here. It's calming to just drive my car and look at the sights.

**> drive a Mustang.** I like cars in general but Mustangs are my favorite car. A lot of people didn't own them at home, so when I did see them it was just this cool-looking car.

wrestling I got a concussion and I also broke my shoulder.
> I liked that you actually had to know it to win it. It wasn't about strength like one may think. If you won, it was because you knew more than the other person.
> When I was little, we lived close to the highway, and there was this red convertible that would drive by almost every day. The top was always down and it would always ride by and I would look at it and think "that is a nice car."

**>When I got here I found a Mustang in** Yucca Valley and I thought "this is it, this is destiny." They're American-made so they're easy to fix and learn with.

>I plan on making a career out of the Marine Corps. I like the stability the Marine Corps gives me. You already know what's expected of you and there's also the credibility. I'm a United States Marine; that carries a lot.
>The lessons I learned playing sports have come back to help

me now. In wrestling, you have to plan your meals throughout that week in order to stay in your weight class. It's the same as maintaining the standards in the military.

**>If I was forced to retire from the Marine Corps I would** definitely go back to Georgia and get me a little house. I would sort of retire but pick up something that I could do to stay busy. I would make sure to get a career and continue moving forward until it's actually time to retire.

**>Something I've learned in the Marine Corps** that will stick with me is that how you carry yourself is directly related to how people treat you. If you hold yourself to a higher standard you'll be treated a certain way by other people.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo



# **AEMBERING 9/11** PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DANA BEESLEY



#### Cpl. David Hernandez, - Chicago, Illinois 24 ·

I was a fourth grader in Chicago. Despite being ten years old, living in a major city we were scared we could be the next city to be hit. You could see it in everybody's faces. We could see the Sears Tower, and my teacher would constantly be looking out the window to see if something had happened in Chicago.

The teachers tried to keep us in our studies, going over our dailies, but you could see that they were worried. They kept

looking at their phones; they kept trying to get a hold of people in the transition between classes.

I have two brothers who were in the first Gulf War, and from my family's experiences, my parents knew that something was about to happen.

September 11th gave me my first true feeling of aspiration and that was to become who I am today: a United States Marine. After seeing my brothers' service, I knew that this was going to be my turn to answer our nation's call.

One of the biggest

things that we can take away from 9/11 is readiness. Despite us not being prepared for such a horrific incident, we had people that were ready to respond, ready to give their lives in the defense of our country.

Marine Corps will be accepting recruits who weren't alive when 9/11 happened. Where I work, we train to constantly be ready for when the next incident happens. It's not about whether it will or will not happen.

We have to be ready, regardless.



Master Gunnery Sgt. John L. Abbracciamento, 56 — Valley Stream, New York

I was home. I received a phone call from my wife, and she said, "You better put the TV on." My sister was in the Towers.

Like everybody else, we thought it was just an accident. As a New Yorker, you know those buildings are built to withstand something like that. When the building came down I realized that this was really bad.

I went and picked up my kids from school. My oldest was only five. We shut off all the TVs. Fortunately, my sister survived, and my brother-in-law is a firefighter and he survived as well. Amongst all that grief, you got a little bit of reprieve because your loved ones were okay.

Soon after that when I came back to work, I think everyone in that situation wants to say "What can I do?" So I contacted our head of operations and asked, "What's the chance of me going up to New York and playing Taps at some memorial services?"

For three days I was with the Marines In three years, the up in New York City.

I came into the Marine Corps in '92. When I am asked to play Taps, it's an honor and a privilege — after 9/11, even more so. But what is most sacred about Taps is that you're never going to know who the performer is. And that's the way it should be, because I'm not performing, I'm not providing entertainment, I'm providing a service, and it never should be about me. It should always be about the fallen.

Today, I want people I still work at the



I went and performed with the band at ground zero for an anniversary. As a New Yorker, being back at ground zero was really something. It was a little windy and they had to bring a truck to keep the debris down. As you were standing there, you'd have small debris and grit in your mouth. I turned to my right and I see a woman wearing her husband's police shirt, and if you had any complaints, you stopped right there when you saw the look on her face.

We have short memories, and I think we take our freedom for granted. Never forget what happened.



watching it live on TV.



#### М. Rivers, 31 Brooklyn, New York

Growing up, I could see the Manhattan skyline from my room.

Every night, I'd pull the window all the way up and stare out at the skyline until I'd fall asleep. The twin towers were the only two buildings you could clearly distinguish. They were my focal point. I could see them from my bed, or when I was outside playing. I would just stare at the towers for hours on end. Whether I was thinking about what I wanted to be when I grew up, or even when I was just pissed off at the world. They were always there.

On September 11th, I was a junior in high school.

Gunnery Sgt. Krystofer From my school you could see all of Manhattan. Someone came in and told the teacher that one of the towers had gotten hit, so naturally we all turned around and looked and we saw all the smoke.

> We were just sitting there staring for what felt like three hours, but it was probably about 15 minutes. TVs on carts were getting wheeled into the classrooms, and no one really knows what's going on. We're sitting there staring at the skyline, and then, the second plane hits the south tower.

> You see it, but it's not real to you. You don't really get the gravity of what was happening.

> The smoke started falling and all of Manhattan disappeared. Police started

lic transit, the shuttle. All of the students are starting to go crazy thinking of their family members at home, there's people running in the hallways. "My dad's in there, I can't get in contact with him!"

Everybody knew someone that was in there or worked down the road.

My father worked in the city, and when he got home, he was just covered in this soot. He had on a blue suit and it was just covered, his face was wiped clear. You could tell he tried to clean himself off.

This haze covered the city for two days. You couldn't really see the sun.

Being able to do something that could help all of my friends who lost someone or all of my family members, it definitely played a part in my joining the military.

Enjoy your life. Don't waste any moments with the people you love, because it's an ugly world out there and we never know when something could happen again. I just woke up and went to school, never thinking that anything was going to happen.

No one ever thinks they're going to be at ground zero.

#### locking down schools, pub- Master Sgt. (Ret) Patrick Glenn Higgins, 53 — San Diego, California

I was driving down I-15 towards Marine Air Station Miramar when I received a phone call from my wife about what happened. I asked her, "What's the weather like, Ramona?" She told me it was a clear day, and that's when I knew it was a terrorist attack.

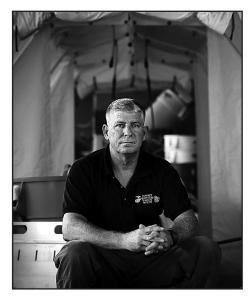
I'd just left CBIRF [the Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force] a month prior, so she thought that it was just my CBIRF paranoia.

By the time I got to Miramar, the second plane had hit and shortly thereafter, I was on an airplane headed toward Bahrain to evaluate the airfield for strikes on Afghanistan.

I was concerned because several friends of mine are New York City Firefighters. Got on the phone to try and reach them and naturally the cell service was dead. Ray Downey, the man this facility is named after, was one of them.

Ray Downey was an 0311. He joined in the fifties, got out of the Marine Corps after serving his initial tour. The biggest thing about Ray is he took the Marine Corps Ethos that he was taught and took it to the fire department. He was one of the founding fathers of the Urban Search and Rescue program (FEMA). He was no nonsense, knew his job, was an awesome American, a fine Marine, and an exceptional firefighter. He was the type of man who when he walked into a room everybody shut up and listened — like talking to the burning bush.

He was instrumental in helping me and several other individuals here get the technical rescue program at CBIRF off the ground. We were trying to train Marines at this new unit called CBIRF.

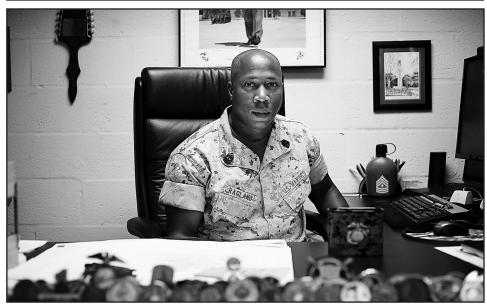


Marines go into a building, if the building comes down around them, the civilian populace, firefighters and whatnot are not going to go into a chemically contaminated environment to pull them out, so we want to train Marines to do that.

The facility itself was built in the late fifties, early sixties. I came up here in 2000 and it was abandoned. So we looked into it as a training venue, overtook the perimeter and haven't left since. It was dedicated October 22nd, 2004 to Ray Downey, the Deputy Chief of Special Operations. We try to keep his memory alive.

The Marines and sailors of CBIRF go through the 14 days of training and then have a very arduous last day of practical application. I explain to them what 9/11 was, and tell them that we don't have the right to forget. It can happen tomorrow, and it is necessary for us to train and have vigilance today in the event that it does happen.

I have a calling to ensure they remember it. As long as I have a breath in my chest, they will.



James Ragland, 43 — Manhattan, New York

I was a platoon sergeant at Quantico. I was work- on, it seemed to get a lot so that we can defend our

Sgt. Jonathan to help but we were told to stand down and stay on base and make sure we were accounted for.

because he wants to do his part. My daughter is in college, and going to join the Air Force because As the situation went she wants to do her part,



Gunnery Sgt. Joey Woods, 34 -Birmingham, Alabama

would be put in harm's way but I told them not to worry because I was doing what I wanted to do - I was coming

ing on some pistols at the time when I heard over the radio that 9/11 happened.

I called my wife; she called the school to make sure the kids were OK, because at the time it sounded like we were under a world attack and not just the Towers. My wife left work at Little Hall, picked the kids up and made sure they were safe at home.

Myself and a couple other Marines wanted to try to get together and drive over to see if there was anything we could do

worse. I tried to make my way to the Pentagon but they wouldn't let us in to the city.

My initial reaction was "this is unreal, where can I go to help, and who needs payback for what's just happened." I have family members in New York, and I wanted to make sure they were ok.

It was a lot of anger, a lot of disappointment that something like that could happen.

We talked to our kids about what happened. My son joined the Marines

nation. That was what they grew up on, that there's a purpose why we're here and why we do what we do as military members.

At the time, I was already prepared to go to the drill field. I was going to help prepare young men to be Marines so they could go out and do the job with me.

Fifteen years have passed and it's not going to ever go unremembered. It's always in my prayers that it doesn't happen again, and that we all stay safe, and we all come home.

I was a Radio Operator stationed in Lone Park, California at Vanderburgh Air Force Base.

I just transferred to the 11th MEU. I went there to primarily help out with noncombat evacuation operations. We were headed down to Camp Pendleton when we saw on the news that 9/11 had occurred.

I was confused because I didn't know why it had happened or who would do something like that to America.

At the time I was a young Marine and I didn't know if I was going to combat.

My family was scared at first, but they understood that I had signed up to do the intangibles, and they accepted that. At the time, I couldn't tell them what we were planning to do or if I

back home.

At the beginning, I was immature, and seeing that, I knew that everything was getting real. I became very mature very quickly, knowing I had to be on top of my game and couldn't be complacent.

I think it changed the landscape of how we fight in the Marine Corps and opened a lot of people's eyes.

I think that being 19 years old at the time of 9/11, it forced me to be a leader. We had heavy deployment rotations, and I became an NCO very quickly. I want my Marines to know what we do in training is to get to a point where they understand that the time could come where they're called to lead, and they have to be in a certain mindset, hands down.

You can't be afraid.



# CFC From pg. A1

support and dedication during the 2015 campaign.

While the Marines and sailors ate lunch, they discussed different ideas and strategies to inform their Marines and raise awareness of the campaign.

"We want to hold a squadron movie day to inform our Marines about what

the National CFC Hero Award for his they can do to help," said 1st Lt. Maria Medrano, adjutant, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. "If we can reach the 100 percent contact, the base as a whole can donate more money did last year."

According to Caires, the Combat Center raised nearly \$160,000 for the CFC in fiscal year 2015.

Col. James Harp, Combat Center Chief of Staff, presents 23rd Dental Company, 29 Palms the Bronze Award during the Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off luncheon at Frontline Restaurant, Sept. 9. The CFC gives the Bronze Award when a unit has had 50 to 60 percent participation or \$50 to \$65 per capita giving.



Col. James Harp, Combat Center Chief of Staff, presents the Marine Corps Logistics and Operations Group the Bronze Award during the Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off luncheon at the Frontline Restaurant, Sept. 9. The CFC gives the Bronze Award when a unit has had 50 to 60 percent participation or \$50 to \$65 per capita giving.



Col. James Harp, Combat Center Chief of Staff, presents the Bronze Award to Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms during the Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off luncheon at the Frontline Restaurant, Sept. 9. The CFC gives the Bronze Award when a unit has had 50 to 60 percent participation or \$50 to \$65 per capita giving.

## Award From pg. A1

Range Sustainment Branch contributed to the accomplishment of this award by recycling ammunition casings and cans, brass and other recoverable range material. In fiscal year 2014, RSB collected, inspected and dematerialized more than 5.6 million pounds of range residue and training-related ordnance debris. Of that, 5.5 million pounds were recycled, generating \$1.2 million in revenue.

According to Pochop, The Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management Branch has different programs to help with cost avoidance and cost savings, eliminating funds allocated toward unnecessary resources while minimizing costs of necessary resources. These programs save money through methods such as filtering and recycling antifreeze as well as recharging and reusing tactical field batteries.

"The ultimate goal is to be good stewards of the environment," Pochop said. "In order to train and have Marines ready to go forward and fight, we focus

# Wolf Pack From pg. A1

sergeant, Company A. "Doing the same drills over and over helps us master those concepts, but if we don't practice other methods we won't be effective in dealing with the ever-changing conditions of the battlefield."

A Co. marines used the exercise to prepare themselves for an upcoming training event in which they will act as the opposing force for their, 3rd LAR counterparts, Company C.

"This training teaches our Marines a hybrid of combating both traditional and irregular fighting forces," said 1st Lt. Mark Hirschman, executive officer, A Co. "With this, we can teach our Marines to think outside of the normal parameters while also training for encounters with regular military forces." While acting as the opposing force, A Co. will be able to pass on the ideas of thinking outside the box while in a combat mindset.



our efforts on preserving the installation and its resources."

## TOUGH MINDED **OPTIMISM** by Lou Gerhardt



As we begin a new school year in the Hi-Desert, I want to share with you an illustration.

In the mid-1960's, a professor at John Hopkins University gave a group of graduate students this assignment:

"Go to (name withheld) slum area. Identify 200 boys who live there and are between the ages of 12 and 16, get a profile on their family situations and backgrounds. Then predict what is likely for their respective futures."

The graduate students found the boys and did the interviews gathered additional data, and examined the social statistics for the area. They concluded that 90 percent of the boys would spend time in jail or prison.

Twenty-five years later another group of graduate students was given the assignment of testing that prediction. Some of the boys, now men, still lived in the area, a few had died, and a few others couldn't be located. Amazingly, they made contact with 180 of the 200.

Only four of them had ever been incarcerated. Since the area was now even more a breeding place for crime, the researchers were intrigued. Those who ventured to explain kept saying, "Well, there was this teacher ... Checking further, they discovered that three fourths of the 180 men had been taught by the same woman.

They located her in a retirement facility and asked her how she had exerted such an influence on these boys, that is, could she explain why she loomed so large in their past and their memories.

"No," she said, "I really have no idea." She was quiet for several moments. Then she said musingly-more to herself than to her interviewers: "I did so love those boys..."

This column sponsored by: Mark and Joann Reischman Landers **Beverly Burkitt** Landers 760-367-4627 Dr. Lou can be reached at 800-995-1620 res19mxc@verizon.net "Units are constantly getting

Marines with Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, bury simulated Improvised Explosive Devices at Range 100 aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 8. The training prepared the company to be the opposing force for 3rd LAR, Company C.

new Marines," Rivera said. "These Marines are taught the basics but don't yet have the training to fight an irregular force. This training not

only helps Marines in our company but also the other companies in remaining prepared for any situation they may come across."



# **Combat Center takes active** role in disaster preparedness

THE PREMIER FORCE IN READINESS

#### STORY BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

The Combat Center is taking steps to educate residents on what they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency situations as part of America's Prepare-A-Thon 2016. Throughout the week of Sept. 11-17, the Prepare-A-Thon focuses on encouraging community members to play an active role in disaster preparedness.

"In order to build a resilient community, you have to have all the members of the community involved in one way or another," said Luis Aguirre, installation emergency management specialist, G-7 Mission Assurance. "There are many different programs that anyone can participate in, such as the Citizens Corps where you can learn how to help make your families, communities and homes safer."

Another option for community members aboard the installation interested in plaving an active role in disaster preparedness is the Community Emergency Response Team. CERT teaches volunteers how to organize themselves, provide immediate assistance to victims and support responders' efforts when they arrive.

"During a disaster situation, first responders are going to be overwhelmed,"

Aguirre said. "They might not be able to get to everyone right away. As a member of the CERT, you will have the basic knowledge needed to provide assistance until first responders arrive."

For additional information on the National Prepare-A-Thon or how to take an active role in disaster preparedness, visit www.ready.marines.mil or contact G-7 Mission Assurance at (760) 830-6074.

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# **WeekINPhotos Marine Week Nashville**



The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon preforms during the halftime show at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, as part of Marine Week Nashville. The Marines were able to conduct the performance without the use of commands or cadences. Marine Week is an opportunity to showcase the Marines and help people understand the capabilities of the Marine Corps.



The Marine Corps Band sings a song during the halftime show at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, as part of Marine Week Nashville. More than 700 Marines participated in Marine Week to give the citizens of the greater Nashville area the opportunity to meet the individual Marines and celebrate community, country, and Corps.



The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon preforms during the halftime show at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, as part of Marine Week Nashville.

Photos by Sgt. Cuong Le



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per couple



Marines and sailors from the Headquarters Battalion football team and the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School's joint team prepare to hike the ball during the Marine Corps Community Services Sports hosted Football Jamboree at Felix Field, Wednesday. The event is held annually and functions as a pre-season game for the Intramural Tackle Football League.

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marine Corps Community Services Sports kicked off the 2016 Intermural Tackle Football League with a Football Jamboree at Felix Field, Wednesday.

"This event is held annually and functions as our pre-season game," said George Schadgg, sports specialist, MCCS Sports. "It's allows our staff, the officials and the players, to see how erhood," said Cpl. Rafael Fernandez Jr., special intelligence system administrator, G-6 Communication and Information Systems, Headquarters Battalion. "You've got officers, you've got staff non-commissioned officers, you've got warrant officers and you can learn from them on and off the field."

The regular season will start next week and continues through the end of October. During that time, the four participating teams will have the opportunity to play against each other twice. As of now the Combat Center and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton are the only bases in the Marine Corps where MCCS coordinates tackle football leagues. "I think facilitating these events is very important because it gives the Marines and sailors an opportunity to blow off steam in a controlled environment," Schadgg said. "As long as we're able to hold a tackle football season we're going to keep doing it. It's a lot of work but it's fun to watch and it's fun to see the service members enjoying themselves."



everything is going to work during the regular season."

Five units comprised of four teams participated in the one-night event. Headquarters Battalion, 1st Tank Battalion and Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 made up individual teams while Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms joined with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School to form a team of their own. Each team got a feel for the structure by playing two halves.

"It's cool to meet new people from different sections and build on that broth-



A Marine with the Headquarters Battalion football team evades players from the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School's joint team during the Marine Corps Community Services Sports hosted Football Jamboree at Felix Field, Wednesday.

Marines and sailors from the 1st Tank Battalion football team and the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School's joint team prepare to run a play during the Marine Corps Community Services Sports hosted Football Jamboree at Felix Field, Wednesday



Marines from the Headquarters Battalion football team gather for a motivational talk during the Marine Corps Community Services Sports hosted Football Jamboree at Felix Field, Wednesday.



A Marine with the 1st Tank Battalion football team blocks a player from the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School's joint team during the Marine Corps Community Services Sports hosted Football Jamboree at Felix Field, Wednesday.



#### **Combat Center Events**

Marmelukes' Pub is scheduled to host a Trivia Night Sept. 22 from 5-7 p.m. There will be prizes for the top two teams as well as food available for purchase. For more information call 760-830-8429

Come down to Felix Field Sept. 23 for Picnic in the Park. The event is from 11 a.m. -1p.m. Bring your children and a picnic lunch for an opportunity to meet new families while your children explore and play. For more information call 760-830-3380.

Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club hosts Steak Night every Monday and Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is open to all hands Monday and SNCOs on Fridays. For more information, contact 760-830-5035.

#### Sunset Cinema

Friday, Sept. 16 5:00 p.m. - Peter's Dragon (3-D), PG 7:20 p.m. - Jason Bourne, PG-13 9:50 p.m. - Sausage Party, R 11:50 p.m. - Suicide Squad, PG-13

Saturday, Sept. 17 11:00 p.m. - Kubo and The Two Strings, (3-D), PG 7:20 p.m. – Jason Bourne, PG-13 9:50 p.m. - Sausage Party, R 11:50 p.m. - Suicide Squad, PG-13

#### Sunday, Sept. 18

12:00 p.m. - Suicide Squad, PG-13 2:30 p.m. - Kubo and The Two Strings (3-D), PG 5:00 p.m. - Ben-Hur, PG-13 7:30 p.m. - War Dogs, R

Monday, Sept. 19 5:10 p.m. - Suicide Squad, PG-13 7:40 p.m. - Anthropoid, R

Tuesday, Sept. 20 5:00 p.m. - Kubo and The Two Strings, PG 7:10 p.m. – Anthropoid, R

Wednesday, Sept. 21 5:00 p.m. - Peter's Dragon, PG 7:20 p.m. - Nerve, PG-13

Thursday, Sept. 22 5:00 p.m. – Bad Moms, R 7:10 p.m. – Jason Bourne, PG-13

Friday, Sept. 23 4:30 p.m. - Kubo and The Two Strings, PG 7:00 p.m. – Ben-Hur, PG-13 9:40 p.m. - Mechanic: Resurrection, R 11:50 p.m. - Don't Breathe, R



# Afraid of the Dark?

# 'Lights Out' will give you the fright-night heebie jeebies

#### NEIL POND

'Lights Out' Starring Maria Bello, **Teresa Palmer** & Gabriel Bateman Directed by David F. Samberg Rated PG-13

Are you afraid of the dark?

If you are, then here's something to really give you some real fright-night heebie jeebies. In Lights Out, a family is menaced in a big, old "haunted house" by a beastly figure that shuns light and can only be glimpsed in the shadows of darkness.

Lights on, it disappears. Lights off, it attacks. It's name is Diana.

Expanding on his well-received three-minute short film of the violent figure in the inky same title, first-time feature director-writer David bedroom. F. Samberg makes an

Teresa Palmer is her grown daughter, Rebecca, who's moved out, playfully fending off the advances of her amorous boyfriend, Brit (Alexander DiPersia). Her little brother, Martin (Gabriel Bateman), is still at home, where he's losing sleep because he's afraid to turn out the lights-after he's seen the frightening, corners of his mother's

Some experts think that humans carry an ancient, primal genetic code to be afraid of the dark, a holdover from when we were much more helpless and defenseless after the sun went down-and predators were on the prowl.

This movie certainly plays off that idea, and others, too-including madness, family and the fear of going insane. But one of its most clever ideas is Billy Burke (who plays the way its protagonists fight to keep the "lights on" in every way possible, as Diana fights to turn them off. Boyfriend Brit's resourcefulness, in particular, had the audience literally cheering in the screening I attended. These days, you can watch movies many ways: on your TV, on your laptop, on your tablet, even on your phone. But for full effect, see this one in the big, open expanse of a dark theater, surrounded by people you don't know and by things you can't see... with the lights out!

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**YUCCA VALLEY** 

impressive debut, proving you don't need mega bucks to get maxi scares. Cinematographer Marc Spicer, who worked on Moulin Rouge, The Wolverine and The Shallows, makes the most of every creepy angle, tracking shot and dark blob in the background that might be nothing, or might be something else-something far more menacing, vengeful and deadly.

Maria Bello plays Sophie, a mom with serious mental-issue baggage she's been dragging around since childhood.

Mitch Morgan on TV's Zoo) appears-briefly!as Rebecca and Morgan's stepdad.

All the pieces of the Lights Out puzzle begin to come together about midway through, when we learn more about the mysterious Diana. I give the movie high marks for story development and making us feel invested in its characters, a rarity in a lot of horror flicks. There's virtually no blood, almost zero gore, and a fright machine that runs on well-timed gotchas, real-world surprises and supernatural shocks.



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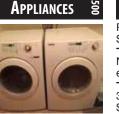
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