



LANCE CPL. STANLEY MOY

Lance Cpl. Miguel Salazar, an unmanned aerial vehicle technician with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 4, Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, returns an RQ-7 Shadow to the VMU-4 hanger at Camp Wilson, aboard the Combat Center, June 22.

# Marines say goodbye to the Shadow

STORY BY LANCE CPL. MELANY VASQUEZ

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 4 prepared the RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aircraft System for its final flight during Exercise Steel Knight aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 11.

Steel Knight is an annual exercise led by 1st Marine Division that combines air and ground assets to complete a wide range of military operations focusing on ground fires, maneuver warfare tactics, and command and control capabilities.

“The flight was our last of the evolution for Steel Knight and also our last Shadow flight in the Marine Corps,” said Capt. Shanna Ream, an operations officer for VMU-4, Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve. “We have been flying the Shadow for a very long time, it is a system that we employed to Iraq and Afghanistan. It has a lot of capabilities and it’s been in the fight for a long time.”

For over five years with the unit, the Shadow has been operated by two enlisted Marines through the use of a computer system or a

See **Shadow A6**



LANCE CPL. DESIREE D KING

Marines with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 4, Marine Aircraft Group 41, Marine Forces Reserve configure satellites before the launch of the RQ-7 Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 19.

# Marines run for Toys-for-Tots

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. PRESTON L. MORRIS



Marines with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School run during the annual Toys-for-Tots Run aboard the Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Monday. Marines ran with toys and dropped them off in front of the Commanding General’s building.



Marines with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School stand in formation prior to the annual Toys-for-Tots Run aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, receives the first toy during the annual Toys-for-Tots Run aboard the base, Monday.



Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, watches as Marines with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School run past during the annual Toys-for-Tots Run aboard the base, Monday.

## Inside the Observation Post

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Iron Rhino weightlifting event comes to Combat Center

See 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 Sgt. Aaron Patterson.



Cpl. Ryan M. Rosemore, rifleman, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, engages targets during the 3rd Marine Division Annual Squad Competition, Dec. 7 aboard Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. The squad competition is conducted to test and compare each unit to see which is the fittest for combat.





Reprinted from the Observation Post  
December 23, 1966

# Christmas...1966

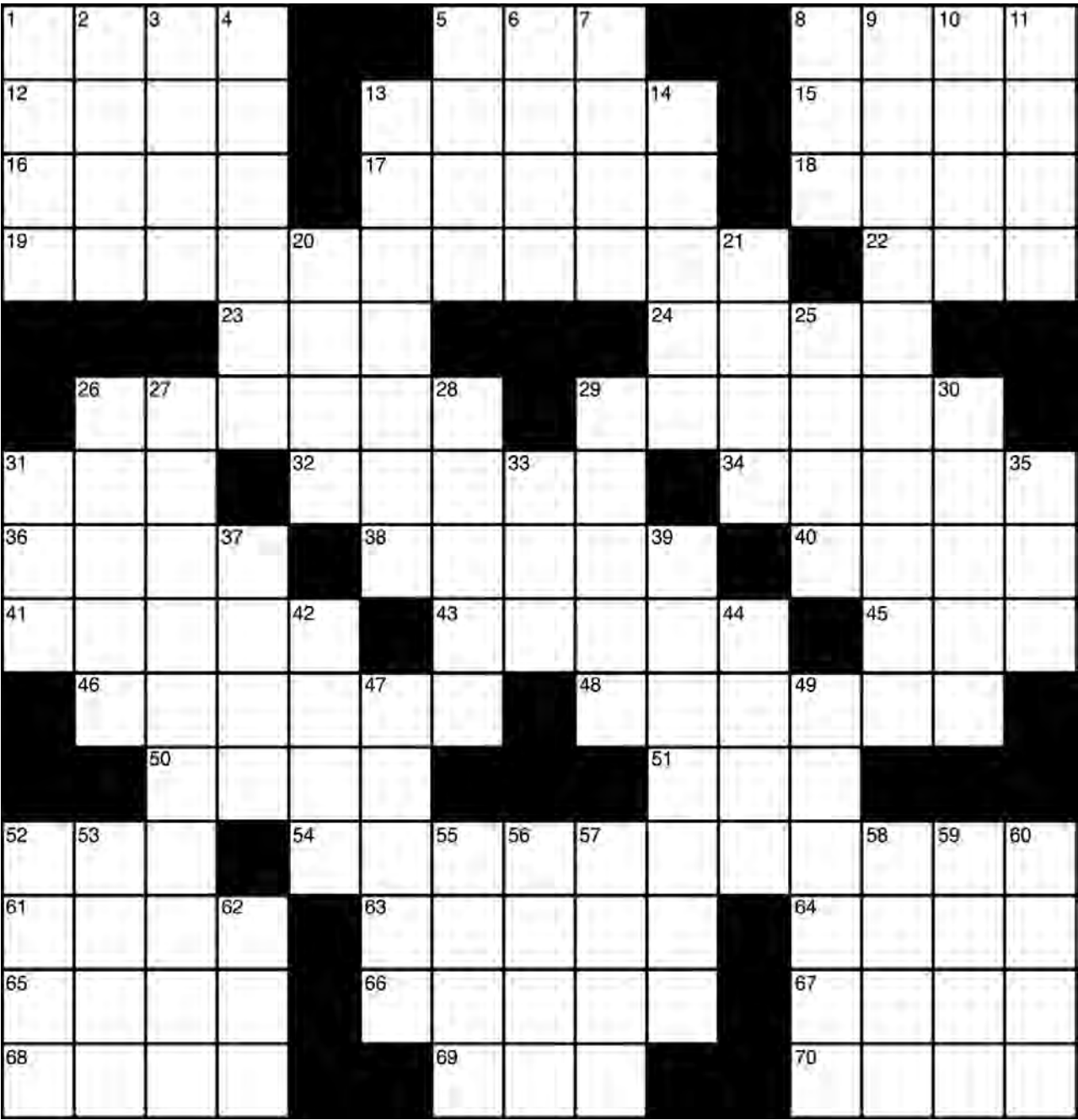
Christmas means different thing to different people. A lot depends on where we are. Many of us are fortunate this Christmas to be with family and friends. Many of ups are far away

from home on this, the happiest of holidays.  
But there's one thing about Christmas — its spirit is so infectious no one except a modern-day Scrooge can hide from it.

Under normal conditions, we know Christmas as a day for carolers, holly, poinsettia and mistletoe. We know it as a family day of feasting and exchange of gifts.  
More important, however, we

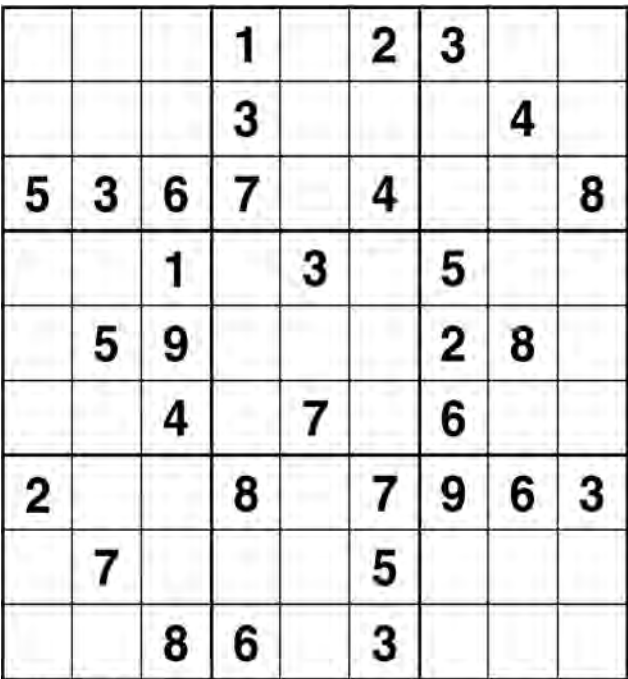
know it as the day hearts are gladdened and spirits are lifted.  
We need not be in the comfort of our home to be filled with the spirit of Christmas. It happens everywhere, to everyone.

## CROSSWORD



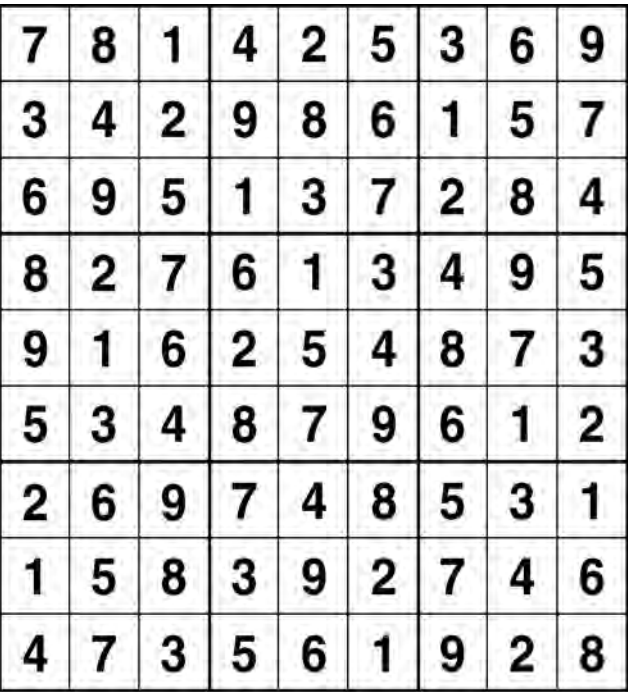
- Across**  
1. Ardent devotees.  
5. Put in a horizontal position.  
8. Rough projection arising from an object's center.  
12. Function customarily occupied by another.  
13. Slender, elongated, solid substance.  
15. Enter someone else's territory and take spoils.  
16. Same.  
17. Daughter of the goddess of justice Praxidike.  
18. \_ Dourif, actor.  
19. Bringing to an end.  
22. Acronym for Accuracy Speed and Style.  
23. Saint \_\_, Irish bishop.  
24. Exclaims in great joy.  
26. In this document.  
29. Assume a drooping posture.  
31. Huge, powerful bird in Arabian mythology.  
32. Composed of relatively large particles.  
34. Polynesian tree with bright red flowers and hard wood.  
36. Object that represents an aspect of a character.  
38. Showing happiness.  
40. Foolish person.  
41. Nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne.  
43. In a reversed direction.
45. Scottish or Northern English word for "no."  
46. Move outward.  
48. Legendary serpentine creature.  
50. Term used in Thailand as a formal closing to a sermon.  
51. Until.  
52. Resinous substance of insect origin.  
54. Decorated with small pieces of colored glass fitted together.  
61. Oxime.  
63. Running knot that binds closer the more it is drawn.  
64. Prepare by chemical processing in order to preserve.  
65. Small lunar impact crater located on the Mare Imbrium.  
66. Low spirits.  
67. Bishop of Edessa from 435 to 457.  
68. Other than what is under consideration.  
69. Mystical straight line between features of a landscape.  
70. Filled with water and descended to the bottom.
- Down**  
1. Move along rapidly and lightly.  
2. Basque numenistic deity of the air.
3. Acronym for Nuclear Engineering Education Research.  
4. Warmest season of the year.  
5. Italian coin equal in value to the French franc.  
6. Assist, usually in some wrongdoing  
7. Large, hairy humanoid creature said to live in the Himalayas.  
8. Urban area.  
9. Sweet liqueur distilled from the juice and crushed pits of a wild cherry.  
10. Slanting diagonally across the grain of a fabric.  
11. Probability of a specified outcome.  
13. Person having a strong liking for something.  
14. Descriptive term for the kidneys.  
20. Japanese video game console developer and publisher.  
21. Wind god.  
25. Particular gradations of color.  
26. One who cheats.  
27. Species distinguished by ecological features.  
28. Nymph of lakes and springs and rivers and fountains.  
29. Council convened to discuss ecclesiastical business.

## SUDOKU



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Last week's answers





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

**Off Limit Establishments as of Oct 25, 2016**

  - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
  - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
  - Puff's Tobacco, 57063 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
  - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
  - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
  - Sam's Smoke Shop, 16520 West Main Street, Barstow
  - Teazer's Bar & Grill Nightclub, 14269 Seventh Street, Victorville
  - Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast
- Highway, Oceanside
  - Denny's Parking Lot, 692 E Street, Chula Vista
  - Burger King & McDonald's, 28th Street (parking lots), San Diego
  - Club Mustang, 2200 University Avenue, San Diego
  - Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
  - Get It On Shoppe, San Diego
  - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego
  - Trolley Stations, Palomar Street & San Ysidro, San Diego
  - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar Street, San Diego
  - Dream Crystal, 1536 Highland Avenue, National City
  - Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# Stephen COOK

Walla Walla, Wash. Staff Sergeant, legal chief, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters Battalion

**>I'm from Walla Walla, Washington.** It's a small town, I believe the population was 38,000 people when I was growing up.

**>I have two brothers and one sister** who I grew up with. I'm the oldest child and there isn't exactly a huge difference in age between us.

**>I grew up very close with my brother,** who is right under me. My brother and I played a lot of sports and participated in a lot of after school activities, so the amount of time we spent at home was very limited.

**>I played a year of football** but my main sports were baseball and basketball up until my first year of high school. After that I ran track, which was probably the sport I was best at, but I enjoyed playing baseball the most.

**>I got to play baseball** with my brother and two of my cousins. The three of us were always on the same team. Growing up, we didn't have a lot of money so a charitable program would pay for our gear. I started out as a pitcher then played as first base and pitcher. There was one year where we didn't have a lot of fast runners so I was placed in the outfield and center field and that's where I stayed.

**>Besides my father and mother's generation,** every generation before them had a substantial amount of people who served in the military. My grandma was a military brat and even though she didn't serve actively I would definitely consider her a military member because of the way she lived and conducted her life.

**>Growing up, I was very close to** my grandmother and grandfather. They had a homestead, so if we weren't spending time in the trailer we spent it at the homestead. At the homestead they had livestock, small patches of fruit and vegetables, two apple trees, a bunch of chickens and llamas.

**>It was absolutely wonderful.** My most vibrant memories are from the homestead. I even got married there.

**>My grandfather was a Marine.** He served in the Vietnam War. While he was there he wrote two different types of letters whenever he wrote home. One was to his mom saying everything was fine and then one was to his dad explaining what was actually happening.

**>My grandfather was a huge influence** in my life. As a child I remember growing up sitting on his lap in the house at the homestead watching the history channel. I'm the oldest grandchild so I knew if I joined I would be the first to start the tradition back up. My grandparents were very patriotic so growing up it wasn't until I was a bit older that I learned it wasn't a requirement to join the military. When I found out that wasn't true I still wanted to start the tradition back up and join the Marine Corps. As good of a person as my grandfather was, I figured if he joined it must've been a good place.

**>I've been in the Corps for nearly 8 years** and I would like to stay the full 20.

>I did take the [non commissioned officer] creed to heart and one specific part of that is to train the new and influence the old. I think my favorite thing about being a Marine is being able to do that.

**>My favorite thing about the Marine Corps** has changed many times, because of time and rank. Now, as a staff NCO I have to say the best thing



in the Marine Corps for me is having an influence on both the new and the old Marines.

**>On MarineNet there was a course** that teaches you how to listen better. I would have to say that had a very huge impact on my life. A lot of it is quite obvious but I truly took it to heart and it had a very big impact on my life.

**>The first thing I ask any of my Marines,** regardless of rank, is what their hobbies are. Hobbies are my favorite thing. I am a huge advocate and I will lose much sleep over my hobbies. I like making things. If it's make-able or breakable that's my thing.

**>I've got a 3D printer at home,** which has really helped me out on a personal and Marine Corps level. I made a prosthetic arm for my little brother and I made an action figure of my previous [officer in charge] for his farewell gift. I got a photo of the front and side of his face and I modeled him on the computer then printed it off, and gave him his own action figure.

**>What got me started in 3D printing** was a remote controlled submarine with a live feed camera. You can't get one for about \$5,000 and I thought that was ridiculous so I decided to build my own. When I first started building it I was using the things that are in my house and it was getting very agitating. My first design had an old diaper dispenser as the main hull of the submarine. But then I designed one on the computer and bought the pieces for it. Altogether it cost just under 100 dollars. That cost included the battery pack, all of the controls and a little screen for it.

**>I also develop video games and apps.** I attempted to make a cartoon but it was too time intensive for what I was already doing. Now I'm completing my first class for a degree in computer science and programming so I have the proof to back up my knowledge.

**>My step-dad, the person I call dad,** made working with my hands a thing for me. We were always doing something. Whether it was working on, making or building vehicles.

**>He worked at a chicken factory** and on the weekends he would let me go

COOK ENJOYS 3D PRINTING. HE IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING A MINIATURE V8 ENGINE THAT WILL LATER BE USED IN A BAT MOBILE FOR HIS 4-YEAR-OLD SON.

me than it does to others. Memorizing it is the key for me. I played the clarinet, the flute, the trombone, the harmonica and the piano. I also play a few songs on the violin but I can't read the music.

**>While making video games** I make riffs, and background music. I absolutely love the free choice of being able to do what I would like to do.

**>I don't receive any monetary compensation** for the things I create. I hope to have a maker's shop that would allow me to help others bring their inventions to life. And for a reasonable price, just over the price of the materials.

**>I love science.** There's a lot of it that is unknown and I think that's what I like about it. Everyone's an inventor. Whether they've thought about it or not if you sit down with someone and ask what would make their life better, they'll come up with something.

**>As I like to tell people,** I may have all these things and technology is convenient, but it's a thing. I'd be fine without it.

**>My grandmother taught me** not to value material things. As a child I remember leaving a parking lot with my grandmother and as we're pulling out there was an individual asking for money. It was quite obvious what he was going to use that money for but my grandmother still pulled over and gave him all the money in her pocket. She told me it doesn't matter what they are going to use it for, if they're asking for it you always give help.

**>My mom always taught us** to leave things better than how we found them. We would go to rivers and swim in them but they were being closed down at a frequent rate because people weren't cleaning up after themselves. So we'd go and she kept telling us to pick up other people's trash and as kids we were pissed off. I understand now. It means a lot that my grandmother and mom instilled certain values in me.

**>If I had to give advice to someone** it would be, in the words of Joe Dirt, life's a garden dig it.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo



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WeekINPhotos

HMH-463 Super Stallions Take Flight

Photos by Sgt. Alex Kouns



CH-53E Super Stallions assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, fly above Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Wednesday. HMH-463 conducted retrograde operations and in-flight training from Marine Corps Training Area Bellows to Marine Corps Base Hawaii. HMH-463 used the training opportunity to maintain their squadron's readiness, as well as provide an experience similar to one they may face while forward deployed.



A CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, prepares to take off Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Wednesday.



CH-53E Super Stallions assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, take off from Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Wednesday.



CH-53E Super Stallions assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, prepare to take off aboard Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Wednesday.



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**at Desert Hills  
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**SATURDAY, DEC. 23RD**  
**2:00 pm ~ "Hope" Cantata**  
Clyde Grabski, director.  
Combined Choirs from Desert  
Hills, Y.V. United Methodist and  
St. Mary of the Valley  
Catholic Church.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 24TH**  
**10:00 am ~ Church Service**

**11:15 am ~ Special Christmas  
Music** by Tommy & Norma  
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hors d'oeuvres.

**5:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service.**

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**St Mary of the Valley  
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Yucca Valley CA

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61261 Sunburst Dr - Joshua Tree  
760-365-2287

**COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!**

<b>Sunday December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
4:00pm Vigil Mass (English)	Joshua Tree
6:00 pm Family Mass (English)	Yucca Valley
11:40pm	Christmas Caroling
12:00 am	Midnight Mass (bi-lingual) Yucca Valley
<b>Monday December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
10:00 am	Morning Mass (English) Yucca Valley



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service 7 p.m.**

**Christmas Day Service  
10 a.m.**

**Good Shepherd  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

*Sunday December 24th*

**4 & 6 PM**

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— Invites you to —

**Christmas Eve Services:**  
6pm  
Family Christmas Eve



Yucca Valley United Methodist Church  
57273 Onaga Trail

**Candlelight Christmas Eve**  
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Dec. 24, 3-4 p.m.

**Let it Shine**  
Morning Service  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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CHRISTMAS**

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CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Cpl. Isaiah Nelson, heavy equipment operator, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, reaches a new personal record of a 550-pound deadlift to help secure first place during the Iron Rhino weightlifting competition at Del Valle High Intensity Tactical Training field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 13. The Iron Rhino event was the first weightlifting competition hosted by MWSS-374 where competitors had three attempts to reach their maximum deadlift, bench, and squat, to claim the title of Iron Rhino.

# Marines test their strength in first ever Iron Rhino competition

STORY BY LANCE  
CPL. ISAAC CANTRELL

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 competed for the title of Iron Rhino during a weight-lifting competition at the Del Valle High Intensity Tactical Training field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 13.

The Iron Rhino event was a contest in which each competitor had three attempts to hit their max weights for deadlift, squat and bench press. The competitor with the highest-overall cumulative score became the Iron Rhino and won the trophy, said 2nd Lt. Brock Turner, communications officer in training, MWSS-374.

“The Iron Rhino was a great opportunity to

bring the unit together and foster unit cohesion and esprit de corps,” Turner said. “Events like this are important because they push Marines to be the best versions of themselves.”

28 competitors took part in the event but only one could earn the title of Iron Rhino. At the end of the event the person to walk away with the title was Cpl. Isaiah Nelson, heavy equipment operator, MWSS-374.

According to Nelson, he began preparing for the event as soon as he heard about it and even began researching training methods to implement in his workouts. His hard work paid off, and Nelson ended the event with a cumulative score of 1,300 pounds, maxing out at 550 pounds

on his deadlift alone.

“It was a tough competition because there were a lot of people who came close to beating me,” Nelson said. “It was a lot of fun though; it was a great contest and I couldn’t be happier with my win.”

According to Turner, the Iron Rhino will become an annual event. As this was MWSS-374’s first time hosting the competition, the unit hopes to bolster their attendance in coming years, even considering opening the event to Marines from other units.

“I love seeing our Marines get passionate,” Turner said. “Marines are always trying to be the fittest versions of themselves, so giving them the opportunity to showcase their strength is great.”



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Maj. Ryan Heider, executive officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, deadlifts 450-pounds during the Iron Rhino weightlifting competition at Del Valle High Intensity Tactical Training field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 13.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Cpl. Raul Ebanies, embark, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, prepares his mind to reach a new personal record of 280-pounds during the Iron Rhino weightlifting competition at Del Valle High Intensity Tactical Training field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 13.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Lt. Col. Christopher Siler, commanding officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, observes his executive officer perform a 370-pound squat during the Iron Rhino weightlifting competition at Del Valle High Intensity Tactical Training field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 13.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 stand with the winners of the Iron Rhino weightlifting competition at Del Valle High Intensity Tactical Training field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 13.



Solid Waste Characterization Study

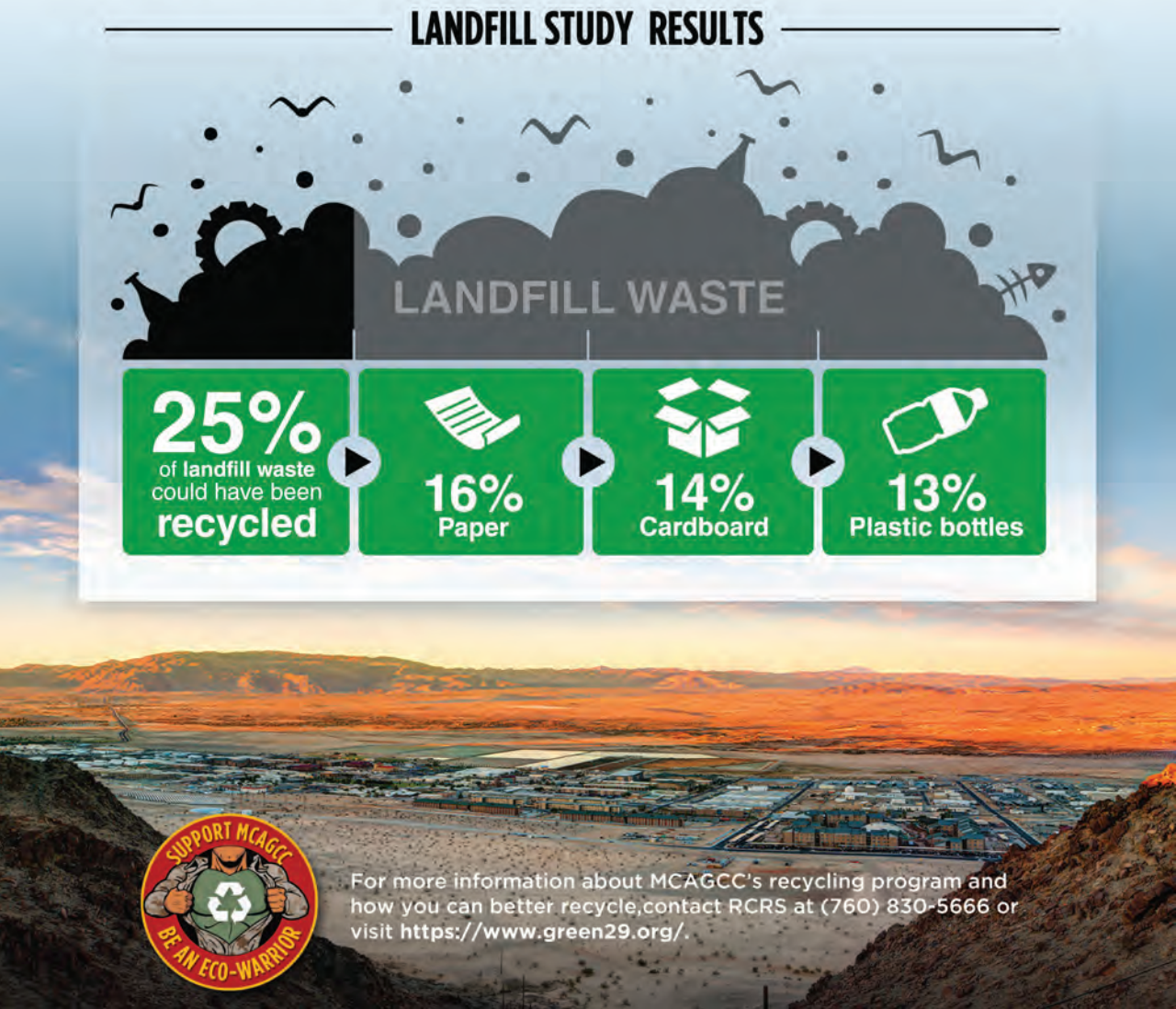
In April of this year, Environmental Affairs (EA) conducted a Waste Characterization Study in an effort to better understand the amount and source of recyclable materials entering the Combat Center's landfill. The study was conducted at the Residential Commercial Recycling Section (RCRS) located on the corner of Rifle Range Road and Del Valle, a facility dedicated to processing recyclable materials. Not only is recycling required by Base and Marine Corps policies, but proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials fund RCRS operational costs as well as morale, welfare, and recreation activities.

In large part, the Combat Center relies on individual military, civilian, and residential customers to have the knowledge to identify and separate recyclable materials when depositing waste in dumpsters and other solid waste containers. Despite the efforts of Base personnel, Marines, and residents, large amounts of recyclable materials still enter our landfill. In the course of the study, waste from 100 dumpsters and four residential areas was sorted, representing over 24 tons of waste. In addition, personnel from 60 different facilities were surveyed to gather customer feedback and identify necessary improvements to the recycling program.

The study found that approximately 25% of waste going to our landfill could have been recycled. These items included large amounts of paper (16% of recyclables), cardboard (14% of recyclables), and CRV plastic bottles (13% of recyclables). The study also found that the residential areas participate in the recycling program more than non-residential areas of the Combat Center: only 16% of the residential trash was recyclable, compared to 28% of trash collected from non-residential facilities.

Certain items cannot be put in our landfill, such as hazardous waste, medical waste, and range residue/munitions. However, restricted waste was found in 86% of the dumpsters and all four residential areas, including items such as aerosol cans, e-waste, rechargeable batteries, munitions, medications, and unused MRE heaters.

The study provided several recommendations, including adding recycling containers at several buildings, additional outreach and training, and color-coding dumpsters for ease of use.



Sunset Cinema

Friday - Dec. 22

5:30 p.m. — Wonder, PG

8:10 p.m. — Justice League (3-D), PG-13

10:30 p.m. — A Bad Moms Christmas, R

Saturday - Dec. 23

12:00 p.m. — The Star, PG

2:20 p.m. — Coco (3-D), PG

4:50 p.m. — Murder on The Orient Express, PG-13

7:20 p.m. — Justice League, PG-13

9:50 p.m. — Thor: Ragnarok, PG-13

Sunday - Dec. 24

12:00 p.m. — Murder on The Orient Express, PG-13

2:30 p.m. — Coco (3-D), PG

5:00 p.m. — Wonder, PG

7:30 p.m. — Daddy's Home 2, PG-13

Monday - Dec. 25

12:00 p.m. — Coco (3-D), PG

2:30 p.m. — The Star, PG

4:30 p.m. — Justice League, PG-13

Tuesday - Dec. 26

12:00 p.m. — Wonder, PG

2:30 p.m. — Murder on The Orient Express, PG-13

5:00 p.m. — Daddy's Home 2, PG-13

Wednesday - Dec. 27

6:30 p.m. — A Bad Moms Christmas, (Last Showing), R

Thursday - Dec. 28

6:30 p.m. — Thor: Ragnarok, (Last Showing), PG-13

Friday - Dec. 29

5:30 p.m. — Daddy's Home 2, PG-13

7:50 p.m. — Justice League, PG-13

10:20 p.m. — Daddy's Home 2, PG-13

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Star Wars : The Last Jedi (PG13) 1:30 3:30 6:00 9:15

Ferdinand (PG) 1:30 6:30 9:00

Pitch Perfect (PG13) 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (PG13) 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Merry Christmas! Please note our schedule is subject to change

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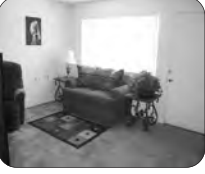
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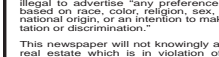
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**is now seeking a Mechanic for hire.**

The successful candidate will perform preventative maintenance including but not limited to diagnostics, service & repair of steering suspension, brakes, engines, trans-missions, differentials, electrical systems, wheelchair lifts, and air conditioning systems. Ford, heavy duty vehicles and Compressed Natural Gas experience a plus.

♦ Must be a team player willing to work flexible schedules, be a self-starter and willing to take on various tasks such as facility maintenance or other duties as assigned.

♦ Good driving record is a must and the ability to obtain a Class B license is required. Must provide own tools.

♦ The MBTA has a competitive wage schedule and benefits package that applies to this position. Specialized training for transit vehicles will be provided post-hire.

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Apply attention: Matt Atkins, Operations Manager 760.366.2986 ext. 112 [matt@mbtabus.com](mailto:matt@mbtabus.com).

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## SERVICES 435

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## HELP WANTED 300



### MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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