



The guidon of D Company “Dragoons”, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, is officially retired during the deactivation ceremony aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9. D Company was deactivated by order of the Commandant of the Marine Corps after 32 years of service.

# ‘Dragoons’ makes final pass in review

PHOTOS AND STORY BY  
**LANCE CPL. PRESTON MORRIS**

D Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, also known as “Dragoons”, was officially deactivated during a ceremony

at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9. The decision to deactivate Dragoons was made courtesy of Marine Corps Bulletin 5400, which directed 3rd LAR to deactivate D Company no later than Sept. 30

of this year under the order of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller. During the ceremony, Dragoons made a final pass in review and

See **Dragoons** A6

The 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion color guard presents the national colors during the D Company “Dragoons” deactivation ceremony aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.



## Combat Center receives conservation award

Reno, Nevada- On Jan. 18, the installation was awarded the Federal Outstanding Statesman Award by the Wild Sheep Foundation.

WSF is an international organization that focuses on sheep conservation efforts. The organization was recently involved in sheep conservation projects in training areas aboard the Combat Center.

According to <https://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/>, the recipient of the award is recognized for their outstanding contributions to the wild sheep at the national level.



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. David Tran, director, Environmental Affairs, delivers an acceptance speech following the receipt of the Federal Outstanding Statesman Award in Reno, NV, Jan. 18. The award is granted to a government official or organization for their outstanding contributions to the wild sheep at the national level. Tran accepted the award on behalf of the installation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. David Tran, director, Environmental Affairs, and Ilima Segoviano accept the Federal Outstanding Statesman Award on behalf of the Combat Center in Reno, NV, Jan. 18. The award is granted to a government official or organization for their outstanding contributions to the wild sheep at the national level. Tran accepted the award on behalf of the installation.

## Inside the Observation Post

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### Rock-crawlers climb King of Hammers canyons

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. Joshua Chacon.



Marine pilots with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron All-Weather 225 walk off the Air Combat Element landing strip aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 29, as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18. The purpose of ITX is to create a challenging, realistic training environment that produces combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF.



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
Feb. 16, 1960

# Bitter, Brutal 26 Days — Iwo Jima 15 Years Ago

This week, fifteen years ago more than 5,000 Marines lost their lives. More than 20,000 Japanese warriors lost theirs.

It was war! It was a small but bloody episode of the Second Great War.

It happened on an island in the Pacific — eight square miles of the most strongly fortified area of a comparable size the world has ever seen.

It was the “inevitable island” — Iwo Jima.

February 19, 1945 — D-Day. In the clear dawn of February 19, an armada of transports bearing three Marine divisions drew abreast of the powerful naval task force which had been shelling Iwo for three days.

Altogether, including warships, carriers, tankers, transports, LCIs, LSTs and LSMs, minesweepers- all the different craft that were needed to put thousands of troops ashore, supply them during battle and keep the Japanese navy from interfering in the fight.

As H-Hour neared the bombardment of Iwo increased in crescendo. Among the battleships now pounding the shore were the old unsinkables — the New York, the Arkansas, Texas, Idaho, Nevada and Tennessee. The boat waves assembled behind the line of departure. At 8:30 a.m. control boats signaled the first wave in and other waves followed at two-minute intervals. According to plan, the assault battalions, seven altogether, would be

ashore in forty-five minutes.

By 9:30 a.m., half an hour after the invasion had begun, the first five waves had been landed, receiving only light small-arms fire and some artillery and mortar fire. It almost looked as if the Japanese on Iwo Jima had been destroyed by our bombing and shelling — or at least driven far back from the beach.

At 10 o’clock the island really came to life. From the sand dunes up ahead machine guns began to sweep the beach. From the airfield, high above the rest of the beach, 20mm dual-purpose guns opened a plunging fire on the Marines.

From Mount Surabachi and the hills to the north, mortars and artillery laid down an increasingly heavy volume of fire.

No one will ever know how much of this was by plan, how much simply because the enemy had been punchdrunk and was just now beginning to come to.

At any rate, our forward troops found Japanese suddenly in front of them and all around them.

When the mysteriously silent beach grew all at once so hostile, Marines at first lay there on it, clinging to the sand. Gradually, the realization of what was happening came over them. The battle was far from won — in fact, it was just beginning.

Yes, so began twenty-six, bitter, brutal days. 60,000 Marines felt that volcanic sand under their boots 5,000 of them died, more than 15,000 were

wounded.

Out of an estimated 23,000 Japanese first-class troops on Iwo, a mere 600 were taken prisoner. Later it was found that a great percentage of these men were Korean laborers.

One war correspondent wrote later, “At Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian I saw Marines killed and wounded in a shocking manner, but I saw nothing like the ghastliness that hung over the Iwo beachhead” — February 19, 1945.

The Japanese knew that sooner or later the United States would attempt to capture Iwo Jima, since it was a keystone in their final island defense area. Because of the nature of the island, they knew precisely the only point at which a landing could be made.

They were determined to make every square foot of the island untenable and even after the Marines had fought their way ashore the enemy garrison continued building fortifications.

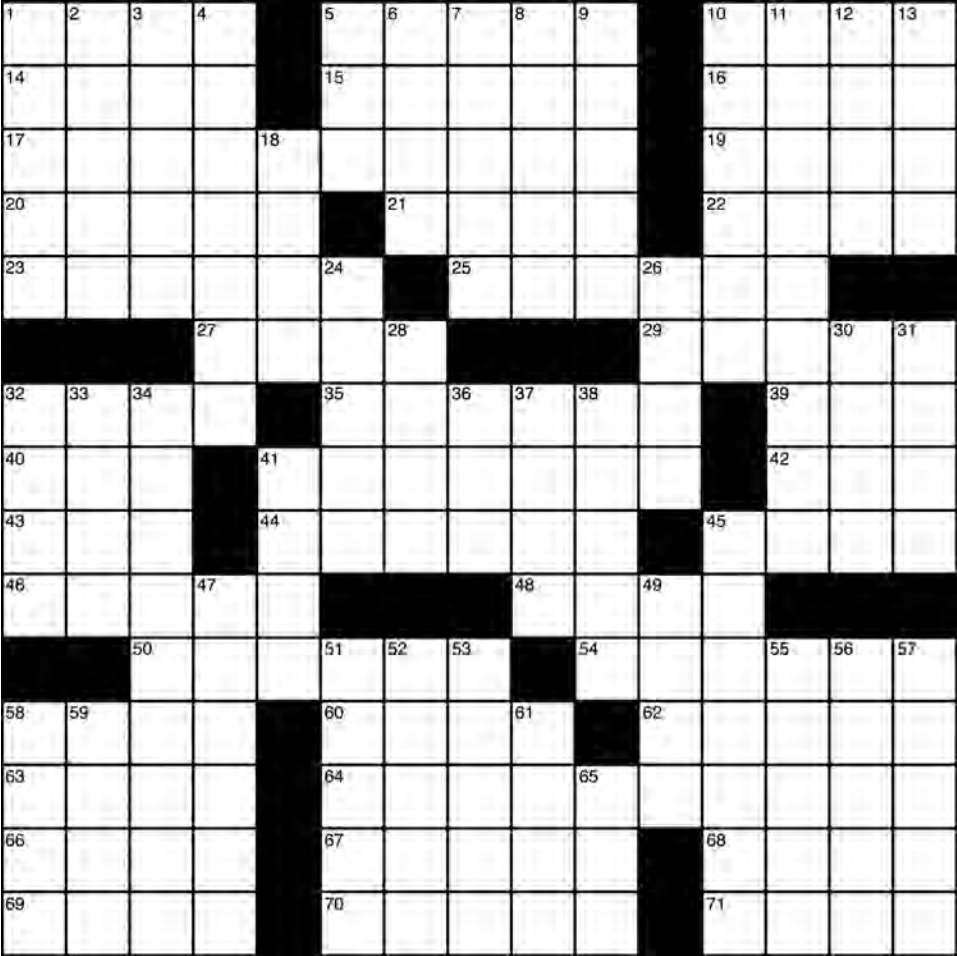
In the words of Lt. Gen. H. M. Smith, then Commanding General, FMFPac, “The operation at Iwo Jima was a strategic success, a completed phase toward the fulfillment of the over-all Pacific-Asiatic offensive of the High Command.

“And it was more — much more — than that. It was a saga of American heroism destined to endure undimmed as an inspiration for all true Americans for generations to come.”



## CROSSWORD

- Across**  
1. Clay solution for coating biscuit.  
5. Formula with magical power.  
10. Music magazine.  
14. Money of Western Samoa.  
15. Lover.  
16. Sea eagle.  
17. Toothless.  
19. Sound of waves breaking.  
20. Escape understanding of.  
21. Aeode, Melete or Mneme.  
22. Ancient Roman poet.  
23. Fish with sucking disk.  
25 \_ Me.  
27. Remarkably.  
29. Mosslike lichens on trees.  
32. Emperor or king.  
35. Deplorable.  
39. Took notice of.  
40. Move in short, quick leaps.  
41. Annoy excessively.  
42. Before.  
43. High mountain.  
44. Medical injury or trauma.  
45. Cupid.  
46. Australian-bred military saddle horse.  
48. Spleen.  
50. Interior part of a country.  
54. Give without limit.  
58. Agreement between nations.  
60. Cavil.  
62. Monetary unit of Lesotho.  
63. 8th month of the Jewish calendar.  
64. Space shuttle that exploded in 1986.  
66. Motion picture.  
67. Monetary unit of India.  
68. Miscellany.  
69. Put stake into pot.  
70. Jellylike protozoa.  
71. Improve.

- Down**  
1. Pursue a course.  
2. Container for transferring molten metal.  
3. Anterior portion of insect's hindpart.  
4. Brutal, marauding soldier.



5. Grand \_.  
6. Small island in a lake.  
7. Love affair.  
8. Use again.  
9. Hebrew prophet who led Israelites out of Egypt.  
10. Watery in nature.  
11. Dry food for livestock.  
12. Basic unit of money in Peru.  
13. Urgent want.  
18. Set of three.  
24. Unsegmented portion of arthropod's body.  
26. Group with sacred ideology.  
28. Belonging to us.  
30. Wallaroo.  
31. Historical periods.  
32. Metal projection holding gemstone in place.  
33. Emile \_\_, French novelist.  
34. Candidate.  
36. Large, flightless Australian bird.  
37. Hung down.  
38. Onward to.  
41. Wheel or cam.  
45. Embitter.  
47. Main course.  
49. Bring slowly amidships.  
51. Sapele wood.  
52. Minor prophet in 7th century B.C.  
53. Let fall carelessly.  
55. Hearth.  
56. Earthenware mug.  
57. King of Judea.  
58. Abnormal craving for substances not fit to eat.  
59. 16th letter of Hebrew alphabet.  
61. Commoner.  
65. Meadow.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Scarlett Ovi Corl**  
Born Dec. 27, 2017  
Born to Jacob and Janice Corl

**Savannah Jade Brookins**  
Born Jan. 16, 2018  
Born to John and Brandi Brookins

**Mackenzie Claire Murray**  
Born Jan. 17, 2018  
Born to Kristen and Joshua Murray

**Layla Adaline Nunez**  
Born Jan. 20, 2018  
Born to Louimmi and Cynthia Nunez

**Sebastian David Sanches**  
Born Jan. 22, 2018  
Born to Blake and Jonna Sanches

**Jaysa Rose Wittler**  
Born Jan. 23, 2018  
Born to Brianna Meal and Izaya Wittler

**Felicity Don Meharg**  
Born Jan. 23, 2018  
Ethan and Kelsey Meharg

**Lillian Teresa Ramirez**  
Born Jan. 27, 2018  
Born to Edwin and Christina Ramirez

**Beatrice Ann Adams**  
Born Jan. 28, 2018  
Born to Laura and Dakota Adams

**Piper Elaine O’Neal**  
Born Jan. 28, 2018  
Born to Jeffery and Morgan O’Neal

## SUDOKU

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

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**Difficult**

Last week's answers



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

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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.

**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

Kenneth

Lance Corporal, food service specialist, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion

MARTIN II

MARTIN ENJOYS THE WORK OF MUSICIAN MARILYN MANSON AND HOPES TO CREATE MUSIC OF HIS OWN SOMEDAY.

>Growing up it was just me and my sister. We were born only 14 months apart which made us really close.

>I was born in Los Angeles, [Calif.] but we moved around a lot. I lived in Fort Worth, [Texas], California, and South Carolina before we finally settled in Austin, [Texas] when I was 12.

>I come from a military background on my father's side of the family. My dad was in the Navy, my aunt was a Marine, and my grandpa was in the Army. Growing up, military service wasn't something that was necessarily engrained in me but I was always aware of it.

>It was the summer before my senior year in high school and I got a phone call from a Marine Corps recruiter. At the time the recruiter called I wasn't doing so well in high school and I had no plans to go to college. I found out later that my dad went on the website and filled out the application. Even though he was the one who provided my information, he wasn't expecting me to join. My mom didn't know what to say; she didn't want me to leave her. We're pretty close.

>My favorite part



about being in the Marine Corps is the friendship. It's like living in the same neighborhood with everyone you go to high school with. You go to work with them, you go home and it's like, "hey, they're your neighbor", so the friendship continues. Also just knowing that everyone is facing the same hardships as you helps to reinforce those bonds because you all have each other's backs.

>When I was younger, I was the kid who was just different from everyone else. I was

rebellious from the stand-point of societal norms. I listened to a lot of music that wasn't mainstream, like classic rock and hard rock.

>One of my favorite artists is Marilyn Manson. He's different and not afraid to let people know. His music is about expressing his opinion and basically just being yourself.

>Music and the culinary arts interest me. I'd like to write music of my own someday. I used to write short stories. I liked being able to write whatever I wanted. I would mostly write fantasy; they kind of just popped into my head.

>I think the hardest part of writing, for me, is the introduction because I want to draw people in, but once I get past that I'm on a role.

>I've always liked cooking even before the Marine Corps. I enjoy the presentation of the dishes and learning how to make new things.

>Always treat people with kindness. Whenever someone asks me for a favor, I think, "what if that person was God and he's just hanging around asking for favors?" I always try to be kind to people, no matter who they are. If I was in need, I would want someone to help me, so I try to help others.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

# BINGO

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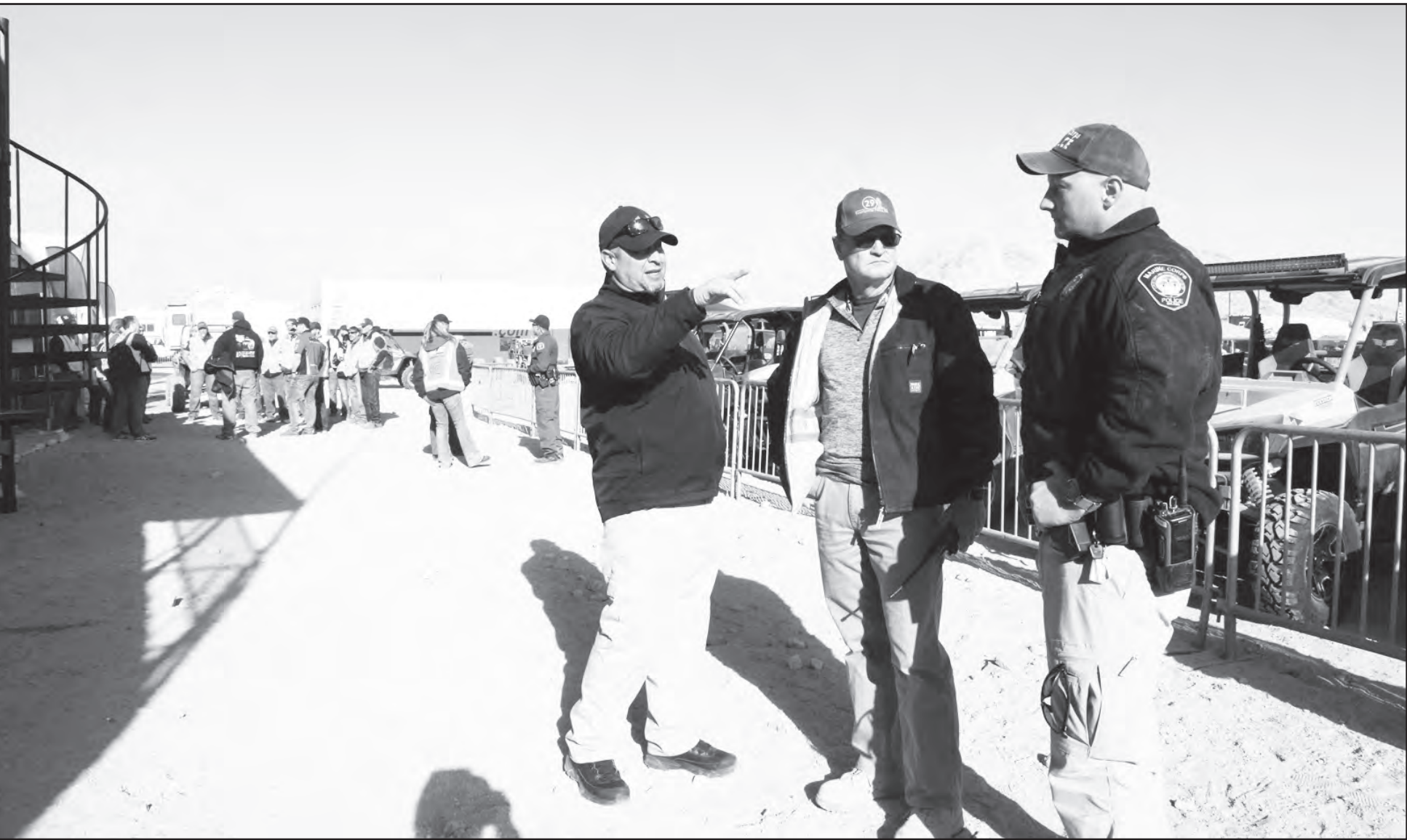
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Combat Center Range Safety Officers Gary Santiago, left, and Steve Lomax discuss what’s happening with the Can-Am KOH UTV Race with Sgt. Aaron Thiel of the Provost Marshal’s Office, Feb. 7, outside the King of the Hammers operations trailer in Hammertown, Johnson Valley, Calif. Behind them, KOH co-founder Dave Cole leads a tour of Hammertown for members of the media, and volunteer KOH liaison Dawn Rowe talks with law enforcement officers. King of the Hammers is the largest off-road racing and rock-crawling event in North America.

# Combat Center Range Safety, law enforcement critical to King of the Hammers’ success

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
KELLY O’SULLIVAN

JOHNSON VALLEY, CALIF. — King of the Hammers week keeps the Combat Center Range Safety and law enforcement personnel busy.

With air and ground live-fire training conducted daily during the year’s first Integrated Training Exercise, and thousands of off roading enthusiasts racing and rock-crawling along the base’s western and northwestern border, it’s up to the Combat Center’s crew to

work with other government agencies and HammerKing Productions staff to make sure no one gets hurt.

When four motorcycle riders made their way onto the Combat Center’s Emerson Lake training area Feb. 3, they were spotted by Provost Marshal’s Office patrol officers, who called the incident in to Gary Santiago, the lead Range Safety officer on duty in Hammertown. Santiago immediately called Range Control (call sign “Bearmat”) to shut down training while the riders were escorted safely from the area.

“This is the first time in three years we’ve had to put the base into cold status,” Santiago said. Training resumed about 30 minutes later and the ranges were hot again.

The incident was one of a historically low number of incursions onto the base that occurred during this year’s weeklong event, which Combat Center officials attributed to education and outreach conducted by Government and External Affairs personnel since 2015.

During the race event, Santiago and fellow range

safety officers work with law enforcement officers from PMO and the Combat Center’s Environmental Affairs Division, as well as law enforcement rangers from the Bureau of Land Management and California State Parks. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and California Highway Patrol also provide law enforcement during the event.


Interagency cooperation is essential to the safety and success of King of the Hammers.

“Park rangers have been instrumental in assisting with

the northern border,” Santiago said. “Our guys patrol the southern borders. BLM helps HammerKing Productions to make sure the course is safe.”

During the three years he’s worked the event, Santiago has seen relationships and battle rhythm build.

“Every entity has its own specialty,” he said. “This is a people business. All egos are left at the door. When you know what’s supposed to happen, you know where you need to be. Everyone works for the success and safety of the race.”




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# Don't bring this green



## where this green lives and works




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For more information, call the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate  
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JAN 10 2018

POLICY LETTER 1-18

From: Commanding General  
To: All Hands  
Subj: ADULT USE OF MARIJUANA ACT IN CALIFORNIA  
Ref: (a) 21 U.S.C. 811  
(b) 21 U.S.C. 847 ET AL  
(c) Executive Order 12564  
(d) CCO 111101.12N

1. Purpose. On 8 November 2016, the state of California approved Proposition 64, which is also known as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). Among other items, the act legalized possession and use of up to one ounce of marijuana and personal use cultivation up to six plants per residence by adults 21 and over. The AUMA takes effect 1 January 2018, but it does not justify violation of Federal Law.

2. Information. The Federal Government regulates drugs through the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), reference (a), which does not recognize the difference between medical and recreational use of marijuana. Under Federal Law, marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug and Schedule I drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.

a. Marijuana is prohibited on Marine Corps Installations and Service Level Training Installations. The AUMA does not apply on Federal property. More specifically the AUMA does not apply on Marine Corps Installations or Service Level Training Installations. Article 112A, Uniform Code Of Military Justice prohibits the wrongful use, possession or distribution of marijuana regardless of location. Civilian personnel may also be prosecuted for the use, possession or distribution of marijuana on or off a military installation under reference (b). In addition to potential criminal prosecution, both military and civilian personnel may face debarment, removal from base housing, and other negative administrative actions for violating Federal Law.

b. Reference (c), Drug-Free Federal Workplace, mandates that (A) Federal employees are required to refrain from the use of illegal drugs; (B) the use of illegal drugs by Federal Employees, whether on or off duty, is contrary to the efficiency of the service; and (C) individuals who use illegal drugs are not suitable for Federal Employment.

c. Per reference (d), and the Twentynine Palms Tenant Lease Agreement signed by tenants in privatized housing, regardless of location, the misuse or illegal use of the premises, or conduct of residents, occupants and/or invitees which is detrimental to community safety and health, is grounds for termination by Owner prior to expiration of term. Furthermore, residents agree within the lease agreement that Residents shall not use the premises for any unlawful purposes including but not limited to: using, manufacturing, selling, storing

POLICY LETTER 1-18


and transporting illicit drugs or other contraband, or violate any law or ordinance.

d. Units may submit information on establishments that adversely affect health, safety, morals, welfare, morale, or discipline of service members and their families to the MCAGCC, MAGTFCTC, 29 Palms Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB). Information may be submitted to the president of the AFDCB, Mr. David N. Gill at david.n.gill1@usmc.mil.

3. Point of Contact is the Staff Judge Advocate, MCAGCC, MAGTFCTC, 29 Palms at (760) 830-7484. Matters affecting Federal Employees are to be reported to Labor/Employee Relations Division, Human Resources Office.

W. F. MULLEN III

Cinema 6



Showtimes Effective  
2/16/18 - 2/22/18

Black Panther  
(PG13)  
2D 12:00 6:00  
3D 3:00 9:00

Fifty Shades Freed  
(R)  
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

The 15:17 to Paris  
(PG13)  
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

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(PG)  
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

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Dragoons From A1

retired their guidon. Lt. Col. Rafael Candelario II, commanding officer, 3rd LAR, addressed Marines and attendees at the conclusion of the ceremony. Music for the ceremony was provided by the 1st Marine Division Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephanie Wire.

“It is a sad day that we must retire Dragoons,” Candelario said. “But one day we will reactivate Dragoons and when war comes, we will be ready.”

The guidon for D Company was placed in a glass case inscribed “in case of war, break glass” which will hang in the Wolves Den at the 3rd LAR building. The display comes complete with a hammer with which to smash the glass in the event Dragoons is called upon to fight our nation’s battles once again.



Marines with the 1st Marine Division band begin the pre-ceremony serenade before the deactivation ceremony of D Company “Dragoons” aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.



The company guidon and commander of D Company “Dragoons” lead the company in a pass in review during its deactivation ceremony aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.



Lt. Col. Rafael Candelario II, commanding officer, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, observes his battalion’s pass in review during the deactivation ceremony of D Company “Dragoons” aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.

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# 3/7 participates in lane training

Photos by Lance Cpl. Margaret Gale

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, participate in door breaching training at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9, as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18. The purpose of ITX is to create a challenging, realistic training environment that produces combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF.



Lance Cpl. Cade Khademi, team leader, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, listens to commands from a distant building at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9 as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, inspect a flying drone for threats at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9 as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



Cpl. David Leyden, assistant patrol leader, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, prepares for a movement through Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9, as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



Pfc. Jacob Bonczkowski, machine gunner, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, observes the surrounding area at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9 as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



HN Hector Corona, corpsman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, calls in for a medical evacuation at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9, as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.

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Can-Am KOH UTV Race drivers line up to take their turn at the track, Feb. 7. The UTV race is one of five held during King of the Hammers, the largest off-road racing and rock-crawling event in North America. The winner was Mitch Guthrie Jr. of Glendora, Calif., who finished first with a time of 5:54:43.

# Cooperation is king in Hammertown

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KELLY O'SULLIVAN

JOHNSON VALLEY, CALIF. — Every January, an army of HammerKing Productions employees and volunteers descend on Means Dry Lake bed here to build Hammertown, a 56-acre, high-tech encampment that serves as a hub for the annual King of the Hammers races held the first week in February.

Inside Hammertown's fences, on streets with names like King Court, Axial Way and Monster Alley, they set up race headquarters; Wi-Fi hotspots; a media tent with live race feed, charging stations and Internet access for hundreds of journalists from around the world to file stories and videos; team garages; viewing stands; a public square where spectators can gather to watch the action live on a Jumbotron; more than 120 food and vendor booths; and restroom facilities.

They map and mark a series of trails that take competitors out of Hammertown and back through hundreds of miles of some of the most punishing terrain in the country, some on board the Combat Center.

HammerKing Productions co-founder Dave Cole and his crew couldn't pull it off without the cooperation of federal, state and county agencies including the U.S. Marine Corps, Department of the Navy, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, California Highway Patrol, and San Bernardino County fire and sheriff's departments.

"BLM is very excited about the coordination that's occurring among the agencies," said Beth Ransel, BLM's California Desert District manager. "There's an extraordinary amount of planning that goes into this before race day."

The agencies work with HammerKing staff to ensure the safety of hundreds of desert racing and rock-crawling teams competing in five separate races throughout the week. They also ensure the safety of 50,000 spectators who come from all over the world to cheer on their favorites and drive their own rigs on the public lands along the Combat Center's western border.

The Navy and Marine Corps got involved in KOH after the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 was signed into law in December 2013, withdrawing 107,000 acres of public land in Johnson Valley for exclusive military use. The legislation also created the 56,000-acre Shared Use Area, where Means Dry Lake is located, dividing management between the BLM and Marine Corps. For 10 months out of the year, it falls under BLM jurisdiction, with two months allotted to the Marine Corps for military training.

Passage of NDAA 14 left KOH's future uncertain, said Katrina Symons, field manager, BLM Barstow field office, who has monitored the event since 2012.

"With the NDAA, we went to 'oh my God, there's the loss of land and it will impact King of the Hammers,'"

## Hammers history

2007: 12 teams of desert racing and rock-crawling enthusiasts led by Dave Cole and Jeff Knoll compete for beer and bragging rights.

2008: The first official King of the Hammers race draws 50 racers. There are no spectators.

Today: Hundreds of teams compete for cash purses in five separate races before as many as 50,000 spectators. Race organizer HammerKing Productions has eight full-time staff employed year-round, and 30 paid staff brought in for the races, along with more than 200 volunteers who work the weeklong event. KOH also spawned an industry of vehicles designed to move fast on the open desert floor as well as navigate sand dunes, rock piles and nearly-impassable canyons filled with boulders and deep craters.

Symons said. "Everyone was really afraid" the Marine Corps would shut down the popular off-roading event, which pumps about \$5 million into the nearby Yucca Valley and Lucerne Valley economies.

The feared shutdown of the races didn't happen. Combat Center officials worked with the BLM and HammerKing Productions to ensure the races would continue. After an initial three-year agreement expired in 2017, the Department of the Navy entered into a five-year agreement with HammerKing Productions, and the BLM granted a special recreation permit authorizing the event from 2018 to 2022.

"The Marine Corps prides itself on being a good neighbor and we have lived up to that standard," said Combat Center Government and External Affairs Deputy Director Kristina Becker, who serves as the base's KOH liaison.

"We fully understand the economic impacts to the local community from this race, and more importantly, the historic use of the Johnson Valley area," Becker said. "We realize and appreciate that this land has been used by families over multiple generations and are excited to be part of the event."

With the agreements, "it went from uncertainty to certainty," Symons said. "This really is a good example of the federal family working together."

HammerKing's Cole agrees.

"Land like this doesn't exist anywhere else," Cole said during a phone interview from Johnson Valley on Valentine's Day as he was wrapping up Hammertown operations and preparing to take his staff to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, for a week "where we can not be dusty" before gearing up for their next race event in Pennsylvania in April.

"Our ability to lease the land and work with the Marine Corps and the BLM is vital," he said. "It's really cool. It's been 12 years and it's been a rewarding experience."



A rock-crawler tries to make his way up Back Door in Johnson Valley, Calif., Feb. 5. The challenging climb filled with rocks and deep craters is one of many that King of the Hammers attendees take on during KOH, the largest racing and rock-crawling event in North America.



Palani Paahana, left, Combat Center Range Sustainment Branch, talks about ordnance used in military training on the base with a visitor to the Combat Center's static display outreach booth at King of the Hammers in Johnson Valley, Calif., Feb. 7.



Combat Center Land Manager Jonell Kosa, center, and Julie McLean, communications and logistics specialist, provide a King of the Hammers attendee with educational outreach products at the Government and External Affairs booth in Johnson Valley, Calif., Feb. 7. King of the Hammers is the largest off-road racing and rock-crawling event in North America. GEA handed out more than 1,700 products in Hammertown over a three-day period.



Riders and attendees test their vehicles on a trail during King of the Hammers in Johnson Valley, Calif., Feb. 5. King of the Hammers is the largest off-road racing and rock-crawling event in North America, prefaced by a week of smaller races that test riders on some of Southern California's famous trails.



[www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G5GovernmentandExternalAffairs/JohnsonValley](http://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G5GovernmentandExternalAffairs/JohnsonValley)



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## ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTENTION Re: 6388 Cienaga, 29 palms. Articles left behind & stored, will be disposed of 2/15. Call 760-851-3927 by 2/10

## Lost & Found

Lost cat, named Thia, 3 white paws, white under-belly & black tiger stripes on body. Last seen 1/28 on Security Dr. in Bonair on the Mesa. Call 365-2628

Lost Chihuahua Boxer Mixed Male, Tan & Cream answers to Magic. Missing Since Sat. 01/20. Green collar w/ clear gemstones in it. Buena Vista & Hwy 247. 951-796-2522 Ask for Art.

Lost dog - Black Chihuahua, green collar, lost on Adobe Rd and Smoketree. Call Louisa 760-819-2375



Lost female Snow Bengal cat, named Sara. Tan coat w/ dark spots. Last seen 6/28/17 by Joshua Dr. & Mojave Ave. 29Palms. 367-9870

## GARAGE SALE

MB Historical Society needs donations for yard sale. Collectibles, furniture, jewelry, small appliances, clothing, etc. Visit mbhs.net for info. Drop off Tues., Fri. Sat 11am-3pm Gene 760-364-2825

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**SEVERAL STORAGE UNITS  
1 DAY ONLY AUCTION!**  
Vehicles, Lots of Tools,  
generator, Jet ski's,  
household, Washer, dryer,  
misc. items, too much to list!  
**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
**Sat. Feb. 24th 8AM**  
7886 Shafter, Yucca Valley  
Top of the Hill x29 Palms Hwy  
Look for signs **NO EARLY BIRDS**

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**EVERYTHING  
MUST GO!**  
Prices Open.  
1929 Antique dining  
suite, Thomasville  
bedroom suite,  
more furniture  
Treadmill, Makita  
table saw. Ev-  
eryday 10-4pm  
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**Moving Sale**  
Everything Must Go!  
Lots of Furniture. Leave  
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Landline # 760-364-  
2324 call for details.

## HELP WANTED

Employment Opportunity: Morongo Basin Unity Home is hiring Domestic Violence Advocates, both part time and full time positions available, hours and shifts may vary. We are an equal opportunity employer. We will be providing training for the right candidates. Please come in to our office at 7237 Joshua Lane in Yucca Valley, between 8:30am & 3:30pm, M-F to get your application in early. This interview opportunity ends February 15th, 2018. No phone calls, apply in person ONLY. We look forward to working with you.

Handyman/ Contractor needed for framing, siding, new roof, concrete and window/door replacement in Desert Heights. Leave message at 424-644-6247

**Experienced bather & prepper for dog grooming shop.**  
Call Lisa @ 760-365-7985

SilverHanger Cleaners has a part-time front counter clerk opening. Must have knowledge about marine corp, experience with p.o.s. systems, clerical exp. great people and communication skills along with clearance pass. Application can be picked up on Base Bldg#1893 or in town at 6376 Adobe, 29 P.

Avalon Pharmacy is looking for a Full-time Licensed Pharmacy Tech. w/ experience. E-mail resume: amitabkakar@yahoo.com

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29 Palms RV Resort Hiring Housekeepers and Maintenance. Apply in person 4949 Desert Knoll.

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Double Wide Mobile Home in Yucca Valley. \$21,500. Gates of Spain 55+ park. New AC. Roof 2 yrs. old. Please call Norma Hernandez, Norma Hernandez Realty. License no: 01027519 (760) 418-5254 Cell: (760) 285-5960

35ft 5th Wheel/ Two Slide Out. Newly remodeled, new floors, FR.z, swamp cooler set up with shirting for permanent living. Nice & clean see to app. \$3,000. 760-363-7241

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## HOMES 4 RENT



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73567 DIDSBUY  
2 / 1.5 \$1200

**YUCCA VALLEY**  
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**HOMES 4 SALE**

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