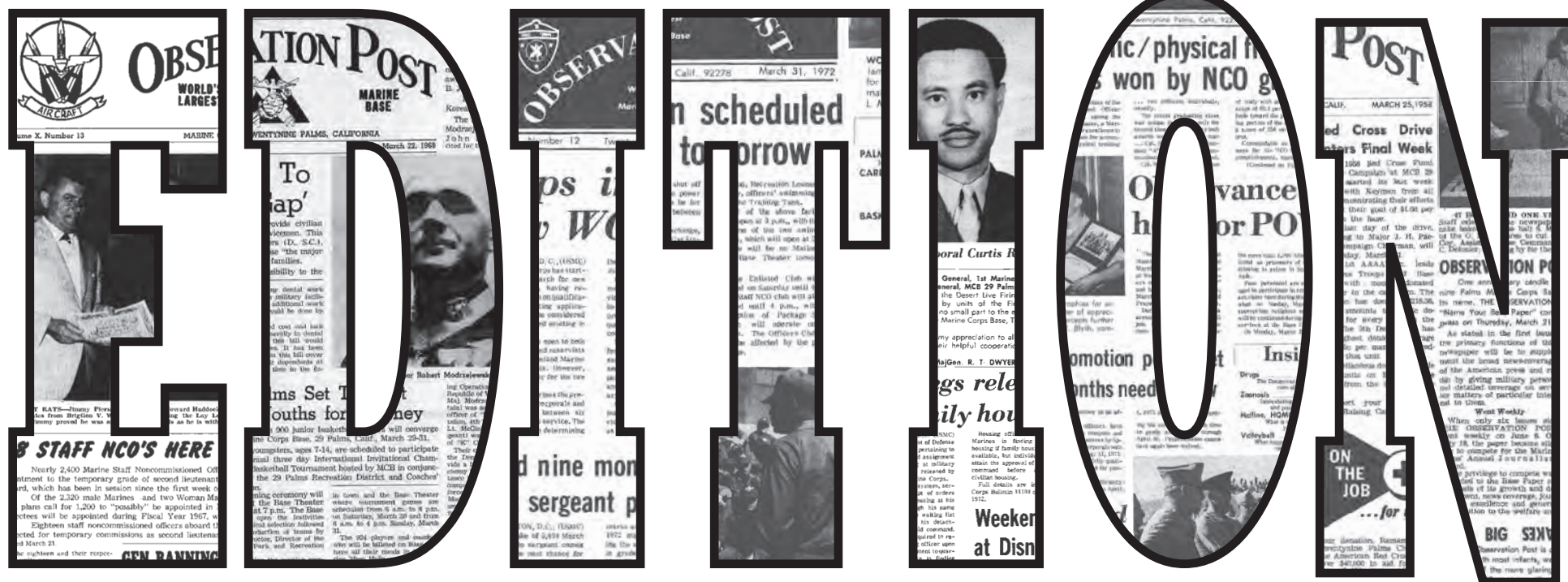


MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS
**OBSERVATION
POST**
Since 1957
www.29palms.marines.mil

June 29, 2018

Since 1957

Vol. 62 Issue 25



The Observation Post bids farewell after 61 years in circulation

Inside the Observation Post

Volume 62, Issue 25

- A2 Combat Center History
A3 The Best of Us
A4 & A5 The Corps' Crowned Jewel
A6 Hello Neighbor!
A8 Alternate Resources
B1 Down Time
B2 Movie Schedule



See the best of the OP on pages
A3, A4-A5, A6 and B1
See page B1



Over the past 61 years, the Observation Post has been published and distributed amongst members of the Combat Center and local communities. In that time, it served to provide updates on current training evolutions, base events and interactions with the local community. For many, it served as a reliable source of information and one that members of the surrounding communities grew accustomed to seeing every week. Although it's become a constant aboard the installation, the base paper no longer serves as a sustainable source of information. As we look toward the future, it is important that we change with the times. Despite the disbanding of the OP, the installation's accomplishments in the field, in garrison and in the community will continue to be showcased via the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service and various social media outlets. Regardless of the way it's distributed, the Marines of the Communication Strategy and Operations Office remain committed to providing the members of our local communities with the highest quality of information pertaining to the installation and the Marine Corps.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
March 25, 1958

Observation Post One Year Old

One anniversary candle and 47 issues ago, the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base newspaper became a reality. It's name, the Observation Post, was selected through a "Name Your Base Paper" contest, and the first issue went to press on Thursday, March 21, 1957 as a four-page bi-weekly. As stated in the first issue, the primary functions of this newspaper will be to supplement the broad news coverage of the American Press and radio by giving military personnel detailed coverage on service matters of particular interest to them.

Went Weekly

When only six issues old, the Observation Post went weekly on June 6. On July 18, the paper became eligible to compete for the Marine Corps' Annual Journalism Award. The privilege to compete was extended to the base paper on the basis of

its growth and development, news coverage, journalistic excellence and general contribution to the welfare and morale of the command. The Palms publication has been putting out a six-page paper since February 4, 1958, which has enabled wider coverage of local events as well as supplementing coverage on service matters of particular interest to members of this base.

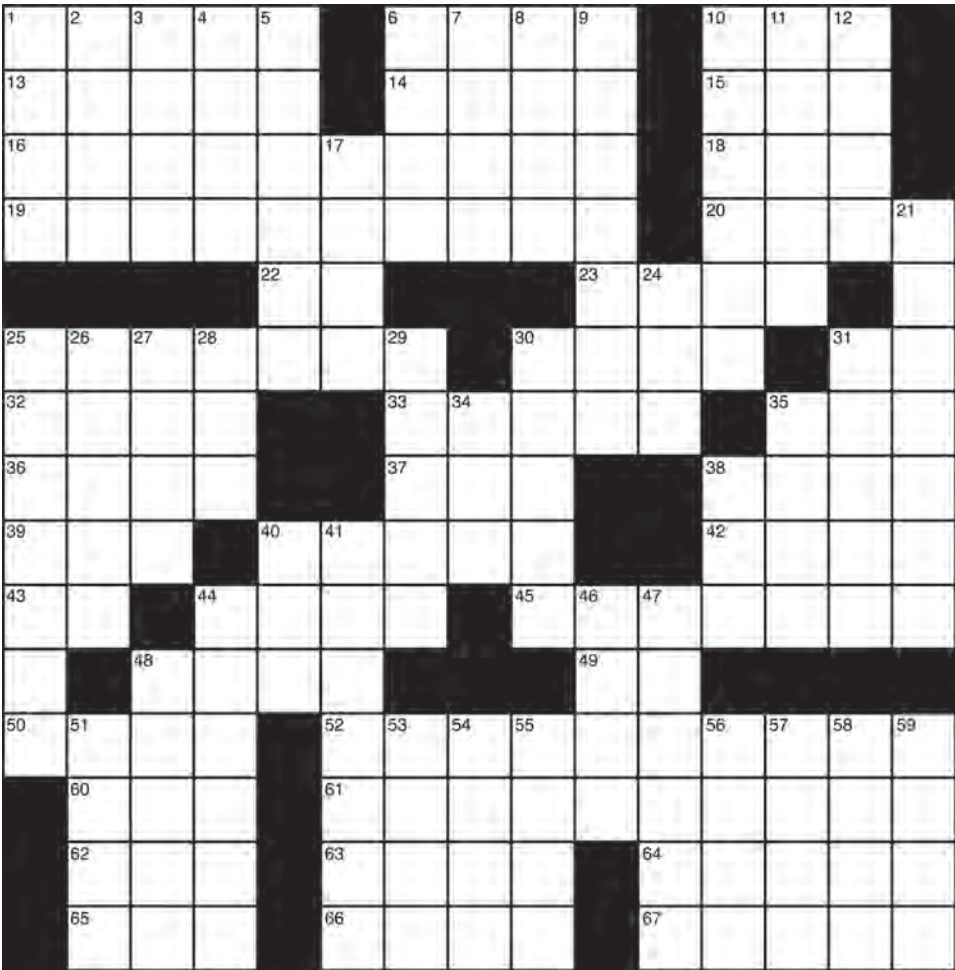
Birthday Celebration

In honor of its first birthday, the staff of the Informational Services Office had a birthday party. A cake, baked and decorated by Mess Hall No. 6, and other refreshments were served. Guests of honor for the occasion were Brigadier General R. M. Victory, Commanding General Marine Corps Base, Colonel C. W. McCoy, Assistant Base Commander and Base Sgt. Maj. L. C. Delozier.



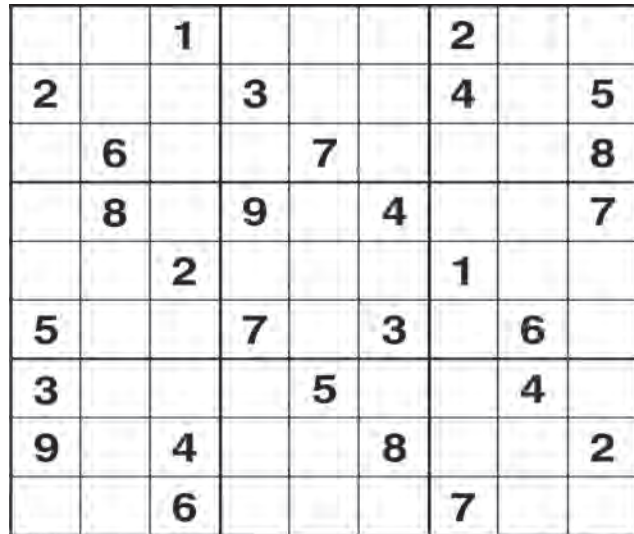
CROSSWORD

- Across**
- First-place winner.
 - Free, rapid descent by the force of gravity.
 - Make a solemn promise.
 - Person with a record of failing.
 - British English term for state-subsidized living wages.
 - Anger.
 - Having relevance.
 - Moral offense.
 - Time that has elapsed.
 - Closing section of a musical composition.
 - Certain unspecified degree.
 - By a specified time.
 - Large, unbroken distance.
 - Old people.
 - Make a certain noise.
 - Acronym for Uniform Residential Appraisal Report.
 - Disturb normal functioning.
 - Make a loud noise.
 - Make turbid by stirring up the sediments of.
 - Plan a layout.
 - One of the biggest ski resorts in Finnish Lapland.
 - Sweet roll.
 - Indicator with a graduated sequence of marks.
 - Occurring at fixed intervals.
 - Used to indicate position within.
 - Singer _ Mellencamp.
 - Molding at a column top.
 - Something causing misery.
 - Fourth album by American singer-songwriter Elliott Smith.
 - Acronym for Educational Insights.
 - Piece of tack used on horses to control head carriage.
 - Unit of work.
 - Being a notion.
 - Whole.
 - Without.
 - Groups of people living together for a particular purpose.
 - Singer Peggy _.



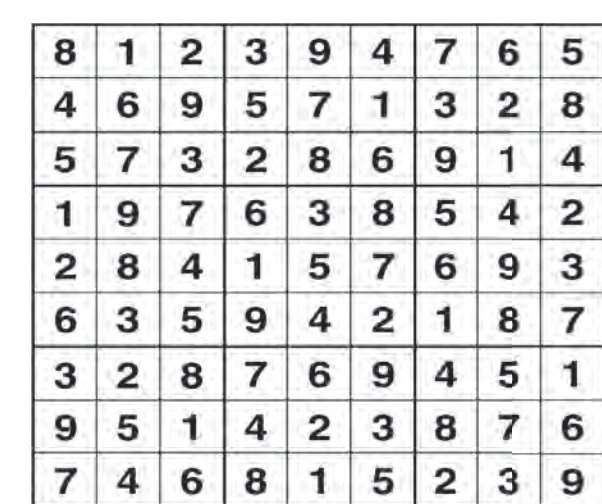
- Identified with Cupid.
- Noisy, riotous fight.
- Down
- Very fine-grained soil that is plastic when moist but hard when fired.
- Actress _ Lange.
- Acronym for Albino Squirrel Preservation Society.
- Second album from Rascal Flatts.
- Spiritual leader in a non-Christian religion.
- Day of special significance.
- Outerwear consisting of a long flowing garment used for ceremonial occasions.
- Spicy stew.
- Peers of a kingdom considered as a group.
- Having properties of glue.
- Giant Boeotian hunter slain by Artemis.
- Direct one's course.
- Referring to the crocus.
- Turning away from sin or doing penitence.
- Obtain.
- Molding above the base of a structure such as a pedestal.
- Various game and food fishes of cool fresh waters.
- Anything happening rapidly.
- Acronym for Extended Range Left.
- Relating to a person.
- Several trees of the genus Populus having leaves on flattened stalks so that they flutter in the lightest wind.
- Assumption taken for granted.
- Associate as a friend.
- Mother goddess.
- Gathering of males of certain animal species for com-

SUDOKU



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Last week's answers



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CommStrat Director - Capt. Karen Holliday
CommStrat Chief - Staff Sgt. Eric LaClair
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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 Pizzeria, 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

2013

WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED



Scott Cooper

When I think back, it's kind of funny. There was this kid in high school named Chris, and he'd always have the high-and-tight and the red poolee jacket and we thought, "Dude, what a dork." So, I never thought I'd be in the military. The Marine Corps gave me an opportunity to grow up and be a part of something.

It began in 2011, when this page in the Observation Post boasted a personality feature about a Combat Center Marine. Shortly following the inclusion of that article, this page became best known for showcasing the stories of members of our installation's community.

Every week, the Marines of the Communication Strategy and Operations Office were tasked with finding one person affiliated with the installation, learning about the unique qualities that made them an integral part of our base's community and transcribing it for the readers. In doing so, the rest of the installation community received the opportunity to learn a little bit more about their neighbors, friends and co-workers. If nothing else, this element of the OP served to further community members' understanding of one another and reinforced the notion that the differences between us aren't that great. Displayed here are snippets of some of the best stories told throughout the years.



2014

"The reason I volunteer is because I feel like I need to give back. Being a Marine is a huge honor but in a non-deployable status, why can't we help out in the community and give back to them? If you're not busy, why not donate your time to make a difference in someone else's life?"

Ramsey Crow



2016

"My most memorable experience by far was on my last deployment to Iraq. While there, I got to work with Iraqis and treat their wounded. It was a different experience working with a force that doesn't even speak the same language or have the same customs as you. It was a very unique cultural experience and it felt good being able to help other people."

Nicholas Otazo



Frank O. Robinson

"One thing I would want my Marines to know about me is that I care for each and every last one of them. I want to see them successful at all costs. I don't want to see any of them fail and even if I'm disciplining them, I still want them to know that I care about them."

2015

Briana Upright



2017

Growing up, I lived with my dad in a small town in Michigan. In Battle Creek everyone knew each other on a personal level. My parents divorced when I was three years old and shortly thereafter they met their significant others who I consider family. My dad was always a fisherman and hunter, so at a young age I picked up an interest in those activities. I have always had a competitive side to me and these sports only fueled that energy.

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Farewell to an old friend

The Observation Post has been part of our Hi-Desert Publishing family of newspapers for many decades, and part of the Morongo Basin's strong history of newsgathering and reporting for even longer — since March 21, 1957, when Volume I, Number 1 rolled off the presses. This paper has been a beacon of news for and about our neighbors aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, even before that was the name of the installation. All of us at Hi-Desert Publishing Co. have been proud of our part in producing the Observation Post, and humbled by the courage and abilities of the people it profiled.

It has been a great partnership and while we regret that it will no longer be published in its current form, it is also a source of great pride to have been a part of this award-winning newspaper over the past few decades.

The Hi-Desert Publishing Co. is still here producing community newspapers and we are happy to announce that our Desert Trail newspaper will now carry military news and information as well as the local news our readers have grown to trust.

We will be providing free copies of The Desert Trail in racks on the Marine base and will continue to deliver to our subscribers and readers in Twentynine Palms.

Farewell, our old friend The Observation Post. It was a great ride.

Respectfully,
Cindy Melland, Publisher



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[The Corps'] Crowned Jewel



Marines with the Expeditionary Firefighting and Rescue team for Marine Wing Support Squadron 272, put out a simulated fire as part of a drill aboard the Combat Center during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17, July 29, 2017. MWSS-272 is supporting the Aviation Combat Element of the ITX. The ACE conducts offensive, defensive, and all other air operations to support the MAGTF mission.

SGT. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Among those who live, work and train aboard the Combat Center, there are many different opinions held about its location. Whether or not its inhabitants view the installation with a glass-half-full or glass-half-empty mentality, there is one thing that they'll surely agree on; the Combat Center boasts the most expansive training area in the Corps.

Because of this, the base has earned a reputation as the crowned jewel of the Marine Corps.

The more than 1,100 square miles of unforgiving terrain and the ever-changing climate of the Hi-Desert make it the premier location for conducting relevant live-fire combined arms training, Urban operations, and Joint / Coalition level integration training in a realistic environment.

Since its inception, the Observation Post has strived to document and distribute coverage of the training evolutions that showcase the ways in which Marines, sailors and allied nations are trained to fight and win wars.

- (1) Lance Cpl. Bryan League, team leader, 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, 5th Marine Regiment, ascends a mountain side during a cliff assault at Sardine Rock Face, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, June 16, 2014.

(2) Marines of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, exit an MV-22 Osprey with Marine Aircraft Group 39 as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Exercise at the Chocolate Mountain Training Area, Yuma Ariz., June 22, 2016. This integration training tested the ground combat element and air combat element ability to work together to perform the insert of troops in defense of a territory.
- (3) Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, observe the mountain they are about to scale during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., August 1, 2017. Marines with 2/8, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., conducted the training in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

(4) M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks with 1st Tank Battalion cross into the Combat Center during Exercise Desert March, March 27, 2017. He exercise was made to test the battalion's capabilities in handling a long distance movement as well as test the battalion's capabilities of logistically supporting the battalion throughout the exercise.

(5) Marines with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, exit a landing zone during a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation exercise aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14, 2016.
- (6) Lance Cpl. Luke Conrad, assault-man, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, advances toward an objective from an Assault Amphibious Vehicle during an assault on a Military Operation on Urbanized Terrain town on Range 210 during the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 19, 2015. Each company in 3/7 ran a dry- fire and live-fire assault evolution through the MOUT town.

(7) An F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, performs a conventional take-off at the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field during Exercise Steel Knight 2016 aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 11, 2015. This year's iteration of Exercise Steel Knight works to advance 1st Marine Division's warfighting capabilities, to include interoperability between the ground and air forces and integration of the F-35B.

(8) A student with Infantry Officers Course 4-14, provides security for the extraction of American non-combatant role players after the long-range vertical insertion of a Company Landing Team during Exercise Talon Reach IV at Range 220, Sept. 19, 2014. The prospective infantry officers pointed a non-lethal laser at simulated protesters, which can cause nausea and disorientation.

(9) A Marine with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, provides cover fire as Marines destroy an objective at Range 400 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 10, 2016 during Integrated Training Exercise 5-16.

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Combat Center aims to preserve relationship with communities

In 1951, the Combat Center was established on 935 miles of unoccupied land that was originally used during World War II for U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Navy Training.

Today, it holds its own as one of the top training installation's in the Corps. Although the base has undergone many developments since then, there is one thing that's remained constant; the installation's respect and understanding for the local community and its inhabitants.

The installation is constantly aiming to preserve the support of the communities in the Morongo Basin that is essential to maintaining the mutually beneficial relationship that's been developed over the years.

Here are just a few ways the OP has highlighted the cultivation of the base's relationship with our surrounding communities.



SGT. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines with Bravo Co., Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, present the national colors during the 15th Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's "Salute to Heroes," in Indian Wells, Calif., March 10, 2017. This event began in 2002 after Sept. 11, and is meant to celebrate, recognize and honor all service men and women as well as first responders.



SGT. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center patrons and Twentynine Palms community members observe the music synchronized fireworks presentation during the Twentynine Palms Independence Day celebration at Luckie Park, July 4, 2015.



CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Sgt. Darren Westmoreland, military working dog handler, K-9 Unit, Provost Marshal's Office, demonstrates the capabilities of Baby, MWD, K-9 Unit, PMO, during the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Combined Arms Exercise for Spouses at Del Valle Field, Oct. 14. The K-9 Unit demonstrated the capabilities of several of their dogs during the event.



LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK

Sgt. Jason Syvrud, rifleman, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, watches as a dump truck disposes of garbage gathered during a community clean-up effort in Wonder Valley, Calif., Dec. 14, 2013.



LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

A local member of the community takes time to discuss features of his car with Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office during the first car show at Luckie Park, in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 23, 2017. Marines from motor transportation, military police and explosive ordnance disposal came out to help the continuing effort to foster a positive relationship with the community by showing what resources the military has to offer.



SGT. CONNOR HANCOCK

Pfc. James Jones, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, removes a log from a trail at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Morongo Valley, Calif., on National Public Lands Day, Sept. 26.

57

33

72

BINGO

Join us every Sunday for our new Early Start Bingo. Doors open at 1:30 pm, with some of the largest payouts in the basin! Sportsman's Club Bingo is now non-smoking. Open to the Public. Good Food at Great prices.

.....

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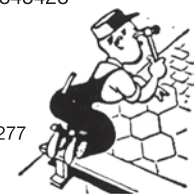
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FREE ESTIMATES

The Communication Strategy and Operations Office will keep Marines connected...

Hey loyal reader! Are you bummed about the Observation Post going out of style? Don't be! The Marines of the Communication Strategy and Operations Office have already begun utilizing various methods of information distribution. These methods have reached a global audience and we want you to join. Listed below are the channels through which we disseminate information. These resources will continue to provide you with the pertinent, newsworthy and high quality products you've grown accustomed to viewing in our weekly publication throughout the years.

- www.29palms.marines.mil: Visit this site to view the most up-to-date, photo, written and video products from our team. This site can also be used to gather information about the various offices and units that reside aboard the Combat Center.
- www.dvidshub.net: Much like the resource above, this site can be used to view the most up-to-date photo, written and video products from our team.
- www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter: Follow our page to view the most dynamic video, photo and written products from our team. Also catch glimpses into what's happening around the Corps.
- Instagram, @thecombatcenter: Check it out! This page boasts our teams best storytelling photos and videos.
- Make "the Stumps" Better. This closed FaceBook group is an initiative of the Commanding General of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. It is designed to welcome innovative ideas to make life and systems aboard the Combat Center better for all who live work and play here. To join the group, send a request to be reviewed by one of the page's administrators.
- The Desert Trail newspaper will also be available on base in many of the same rack locations that have housed the OP for many years. It will report community news and now military news as well and will be complimentary at locations aboard the Combat Center installation. The print edition of the paper carries many coupons and local savings. The Desert Trail is also available online at www.deserttrail.com.

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Date night!

Check out the Sunset Cinema movie schedule

Page B2 every week

Observation Post

4.92"(3C) X 10.5"



SGT. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center patrons cheer for rock band, Buckcherry, during the “We Salute You Fest” music celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 8, 2015. The event featured live performances from rock bands Buckcherry and Adelitas Way, on May 8, and country music singers Rodney Atkins and Caroline Kole on May 9.

Down Time

It is no secret that, for many, this is considered one of the less desirable duty stations. Before the service member’s arrival, their thoughts most likely center around the brutal summers and the remoteness of the location. However, once the apprehensive soul settles into their new home they may be pleasantly surprised to discover the amount of resources the Combat Center provides them and their loved ones. Various organizations, to include the Single Marine Program, Marine Corps Community Services and Semper Fit give back to service members by helping them find entertainment and providing them with opportunities to showcase their unique talents. Displayed are the various ways in which Combat Center patrons kept themselves busy throughout the years.



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

A Fight Night competitor prepares for his fight in the octagon at Victory Field, aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 13, 2017.



SGT. CONNOR HANCOCK

Gunnery Sgt. Jonathon D. Ginn, field artillery operations staff non-commissioned officer, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, performs during the Single Marine Program’s annual ‘Marines got talent’ show at the Sunset Cinema aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 21, 2016.



SGT. LEVI SCHULTZ

A motocross rider makes a sharp turn at the Motocross Jam Fest aboard the Combat Center March 12, 2016.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Garret Hill, professional skater and X Games athlete, performs a no comply backslide boardslide during the X Games Action Sports Show at the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 9, 2017. Professional skaters and BMX riders provided entertainment for Marines, sailors and their families.



SGT. LEVI SCHULTZ

Cyclists complete a 50-mile ride during the Park-to-Park Ride through Joshua Tree National Park, Calif., April 30, 2016.



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Mike Lowe, goalie, Bruins ice hockey team, stops the puck during the Desert Ice Castle’s Adult Hockey League Feb. 24, 2013.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Headquarters Battalion’s defense tries to recover possession of the ball from 1st Tank Battalion during the intramural soccer championship game at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, June 12, 2017. Marine Corps Community Services, Semper Fit, hosts an intramural soccer league for units aboard the installation. Tanks came out victorious with a score of 2-1.

JOHNSON VALLEY SHARED USE AREA TEMPORARY CLOSURE AUGUST 1-30, 2018



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Sunset Cinema

Friday — June 29

4:40 p.m. — Tangled (Free Admission), PG
6:40 p.m. — Life of the Party, PG-13
9:00 p.m. — Deadpool 2, R
11:30 p.m. — Solo: A Star Wars Story, PG-13

Saturday — June 30

9:30 a.m. — Toy Story 2 (Free Admission), G
11:30 a.m. — Toy Story 3 (Free Admission), G
2:00 p.m. — Solo: A Star Wars Story (3-D), PG-13
5:00 p.m. — Deadpool 2, R
8:00 p.m. — Adrift, PG-13
11:00 p.m. — Upgrade, R

Sunday — July 1

12:00 p.m. — Planes: Fire and Rescue (Free Admission), PG
2:10 p.m. — Solo: A Star Wars Story, PG-13
5:20 p.m. — Upgrade, R
7:30 p.m. — Adrift, PG-13

Monday — July 2

5:00 p.m. — Adrift, PG-13
7:30 p.m. — Upgrade, R

Tuesday - July 3

4:30 p.m. — How to Train Your Dragon (Free Admission), PG
6:40 p.m. — Solo: A Star Wars Story, PG-13
9:30 p.m. — Deadpool 2, R

Wednesday — July 4

10:00 a.m. — Big Hero 6 (Free Admission), PG
12:10 p.m. — Justice League (Free Admission), PG-13
2:40 p.m. — Avengers: Infinity War (Free Admission), PG-13

Thursday — July 5

5:00 p.m. — Life of the Party (Last Showing), PG-13
7:20 p.m. — Breaking In (Last Showing), PG-13

Friday — July 6

5:00 p.m. — Solo: A Star Wars Story, PG-13
8:00 p.m. — Deadpool 2, R
11:00 p.m. — Ocean's 8, PG-13

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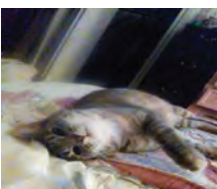
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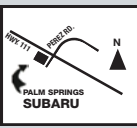
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