



Combat Center earns installation excellence award

■ First command to win four straight awards

Cpl. Sarah Dietz
 Combat Correspondent

The Combat Center was once again awarded the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award for 2012. This is the fifth time the installation has been recognized as the top installation in the Marine Corps.

This week's announcement also marks the first time an installation has received the award four consecutive years.

The Office of the President of the United States evaluates each competitor across the range of their command activities, from their

operational support, the state of their facilities and infrastructure, their relationships with their community neighbors and the quality of life programs provided to the service members and civilians that live, work and play aboard those installations. The command was evaluated across 24 categories which included topics like administration, training, environmental management, energy conservation, services and public works.

"One of the things that sets them apart are the multitude of awards, whether it's personal or organizational awards, and all the outstanding work that's accomplished within the Combat Center," said Dr. Alex Pacheco, director of the Business Performance Office.

The Combat Center is home to more than 19,000 active duty service members, 2,300 civilian employees and 19,000 fami-

ly members. One of the defining characteristics of the Combat Center is its unique role in preparing all elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force for global combat operations.

At 935 square miles, the Combat Center's unique training ranges and expert training and assessment groups provide one-of-a-kind training opportunities to prepare Marines, sailors, members of our sister services and troops from our multi-national allies for complex combat situations. The Combat Center supported training last year for 50,000 of these warfighters. It is the only training facility in the Department of Defense where Marines can "train the way they fight," closely integrating all of the weapons in the Marine Corps inventory with air and logistics support.

In addition to its training mission, the Combat Center provided resident units and families with top-quality facilities, services and quality of life programs. The installation benefitted from more than \$100 million in construction projects last year, including a new child development center, an interactive Life-Long Learning Center, renovated fitness facilities, a new compound for 1st Tank Battalion and increased communications infrastructure. Construction of a 9.2 Mega Watt co-generation plant will soon help the command achieve unprecedented energy savings, estimated at \$3 million saved by producing cleaner, cheaper, more efficient energy and eliminating the need for separate heating, air conditioning and water

See **AWARD** page A6

Ceremonies honor Marines and sailors

Cpl. Ali Azimi
 Combat Correspondent

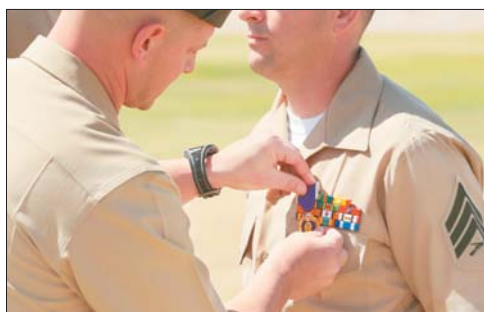
In early September of 2012, Marines with 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment came into contact with intense enemy fire while conducting partnered combat operations with the Afghan National Army in Afghanistan. The enemy force was larger in size and entrenched the area from six separate firing positions. Many stories unfolded from the events of that day and the heroic actions of those Marines led to the commendation of three medals as well as an additional medal being earned by a 7th Regiment corpsman by the end of the deployment.

Four Bronze Stars were awarded to Marines and sailors of 7th Marine Regiment during two ceremonies Thursday for their heroic service during combat operations.

In addition to the Bronze Stars, Sgt. Terry Southworth, squad leader, Co. B, 1/7, was also presented the Purple Heart for injuries he sustained during the engagement on Sept. 6.

"We recognize and thank Sgt. Terry Southworth for his service to our country and Corps," said Lt. Col. Seth E. Yost, commanding officer, 1/7. "We don't

See **MEDAL** page A7



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Sgt. Terry Southworth, squad leader, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, receives the Purple Heart Medal May 23 for injuries sustained during his last deployment to Afghanistan.

Combat Center Country



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Combat Center Marines sailors and civilians scream at the top of their lungs during the 'We Salute You' celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 18. The celebration included laser tag, zip lines for families to enjoy and a musical performance by Big and Rich, and Cowboy Troy.

CG accepts historical rifle

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
 Combat Correspondent

The Combat Center received a gift from history, May 23.

In a private ceremony, a World War II Japanese Arisaka Type-99 rifle that once belonged to 1st Sgt. Williams J. Delorey, was donated to the Combat Center.

Delorey obtained the rifle during World War II. Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, accepted the

See **RIFLE** page A7



LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Navy Capt. Janet Delorey-Lytle, assistant clinic director, 23rd Dental Company, 1st Dental Battalion, and Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Combat Center Commanding General, stand in front of a Japanese Arisaka Type 99 Rifle in the Commanding General's Building May 23.

'Cutting Edge' attacks Range 210

Cpl. William J. Jackson
 Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stormed the Combat Center's Range 210 during their Mission Readiness Exercise May 16. Cutting Edge is preparing for their upcoming deployment later this year.

Range 210 is a company-level mechanized attack that spans the Combat Center's Lead Mountain and Bullion training areas.

The exercise utilized 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, personnel as evaluators during their training. They also utilized 1st Tank Battalion, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion and various air



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, conduct a Mission Readiness Exercise at Range 210, May 16.

elements during the exercise.

"We're just providing the evaluation, like safety officers, and giving them a different view on training," said Gunnery Sgt. John Austin, company gunnery sergeant, Co. G, 2/7. "The most important thing is to allow the Marines to see the ability of combined arms. Once you have all of the agencies working together, the Marines on the ground can actually see how we go from the

See **ATTACK** page A6

A run to remember



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines and sailors competed in the Combat Center's Remembrance Run at the Desert Winds Golf Course May 16, 2013. Luke Rodina won the race with a time of 31:31. Rodina kept the lead the majority of the race with the second place winner, Arold Sylvain, only minutes behind. This is the second year the Combat Center has conducted the 8K run. More than 400 participants looped through the grassy and desert terrains as they followed the pathway to the finish line. Fifty Marines running in the race carried dogtags with them and placed the tags on a battle cross at the finish line to commemorate fallen Marines.

'Phantoms' return home

Cpl. William J. Jackson
 Combat Correspondent

More than 50 Marines and sailors with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 returned from Afghanistan to be welcomed home by a cheering crowd of family members and loved ones during their homecoming event May 19.

VMU-3 fans occupied the unit's compound for hours prior to their arrival. During the festivities children ran around with signs and family members and friends snapped photos memorializing the end to the Phantoms' seven-month-long deployment. The crowd interacted with each other anticipating the long awaited embrace of their Marine.

The Phantoms arrived by bus at their compound at approximately 8 p.m. where they were greeted by their commanding officer and sergeant major.

"I don't want to waste your time because I know everybody's ready to get off," said Lt. Col. John Thurman, commanding officer, VMU-3. "Welcome back, it's good to see you and thanks for all of your hard work. We're really proud of



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Najet Martinez, 6, holds up a sign for her father, Staff Sgt. Calixtro Martinez, during Marine Unmanned Aerial Squadron 3's homecoming, May 19.

See **HOME** page A6

Troops, families can visit museums free for summer

Terry Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

During the busy season of military transfers, adjusting to new communities and registering children for school, more than 2,000 museums across the nation will open their doors, free of charge, to service members and their families as a break from the summer challenges, a Defense Department official said today.

From Memorial Day, May 27, through Labor Day, Sept. 2, all active duty service members, National Guardsmen, reservists and their families can take advantage of this cultural and educational opportunity in all 50 states.

"It's an exciting, inspiring, educational and economical activity for our families to enjoy this summer," said Navy Cmdr. Leslie Hull-Ryde, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

Launching its fourth year in a news conference today at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the 2013 Blue

Star Museums Program is a collaboration among the Defense Department, Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts and the museums to give service members and their families a way to spend time together in their local museums.

"After long deployments, rigorous training schedules and very long hours, our time with our families is very limited and extremely precious to us," Hull-Ryde said. "We are so grateful [to have] these programs. This program is an investment in our families."

A record number of museums are participating this year. The program began in 2010 with free access to about 600 museums, while this year's 2,000 is a figure that's still growing, Blue Star Families and NEA officials said.

"This program is helping us make memories — memories for our families," Hull-Ryde said. "But it's more than that. It is making a difference not only in the force of today, but in the force of the future."

Marine proves his loyalty to country, Corps

Cpl. Chelsea Flowers Anderson
Headquarters Marines Corps

The start of the Korean War in 1950 wasn't an easy time to be an Asian American. Many failed to make a distinction between the enemy in the current conflict and their fellow countrymen — Asian Americans.

For 1st Lt. Kurt C. Lee, the first Asian American to be commissioned as a regular Marine officer, this stark reality had an enormous impact. Lee had recently been put in command of a machine gunner company with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, which was headed to Korea. In order to obtain the trust and confidence of the troops beneath him, Lee knew he needed to prove himself.

"Certainly, I was never afraid," Lee said in an interview with reporter Michael Robison in 2011. "Perhaps the Chinese are all fatalists. I never expected to survive the war. So I was adamant that my death be honorable — be spectacular."

Lee's opportunity to show his commitment to his men and country came on the night of Nov. 2, when a numerically superior Chinese force attacked his unit.

Just around midnight, the enemy overran the left flank of the Marines' defensive position. According to Lee's Navy Cross citation, he immediately exposed himself to enemy fire while performing a one-man reconnaissance mission to re-deploy his machine gun positions.

Lee then reorganized his men and, while they provided supporting fire, he advanced up the slope to draw enemy fire,

thereby exposing the enemy position in the dark.

At one point, Lee advanced all the way up to the enemy position by identifying himself as Chinese in Mandarin. He then hurled an assault on the position with grenades and supporting fire. His attack threw the enemy into a confused retreat.

Although wounded in the assault, Lee inspired his men to continue to fight and route the enemy forces. For his brave actions, he was later awarded the Navy Cross and earned the respect and loyalty of his men.

Throughout the remainder of the Korean War, Lee proved his tenacity time and again. Although wounded by sniper fire, Lee returned against doctor's orders to lead from the front five days later. He received the Silver Star for heroically leading his Marines in a night march through frozen mountain

ridges to reinforce an isolated Marine unit and for continually exposing himself to enemy fire during numerous firefights.

Lee's valor and initiative was influential in the Marines' success

and he continued to inspire his men even after he was removed from the fight due to injuries from a burst of enemy machine gun fire Dec. 8.

Lee went on to serve at The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and valiantly led Marines once again during the Vietnam War. He retired after 22 years of faithful service.

Throughout his service, Lee proved he was willing to sacrifice it all for the sake of his men and the country he called home. The legacy he left reflects great honor on the Marine Corps and serves as an inspiration for future and current Marines.



THINGS TO KNOW

Red Cross dental assistance program application deadline June 5

The American Red Cross operates a Dental Assistant Program that consists of approximately 700 hours of classroom and clinical experience. The program is designed to provide military members and their dependents with a marketable job skill that they can take with them throughout the many moves associated with military service. The Red Cross and the Combat Center Dental Clinic provide this training free of charge. Equivalent training would cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in the civilian marketplace. Space is limited for this highly popular program. Applications for the next class are due by June 5 at 4 p.m. Interested applicants can pick up an application from the American Red Cross office in the Village Center. Applicants must be 18 or older, be able to pass a background check, must be a military member or dependent and must be able to commit from 6:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, for approximately six months. For more information, please call or stop by the American Red Cross office in the Village Center.

Memorial Day message from Commandant of the Marine Corps

Each year we observe Memorial Day, honoring the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great nation. As a day of remembrance it is only fitting that all Marines around the world pause, reflect and pay tribute to those that have chosen to wear the uniform of any of our armed forces and lay down their life for the principles of liberty and democracy.

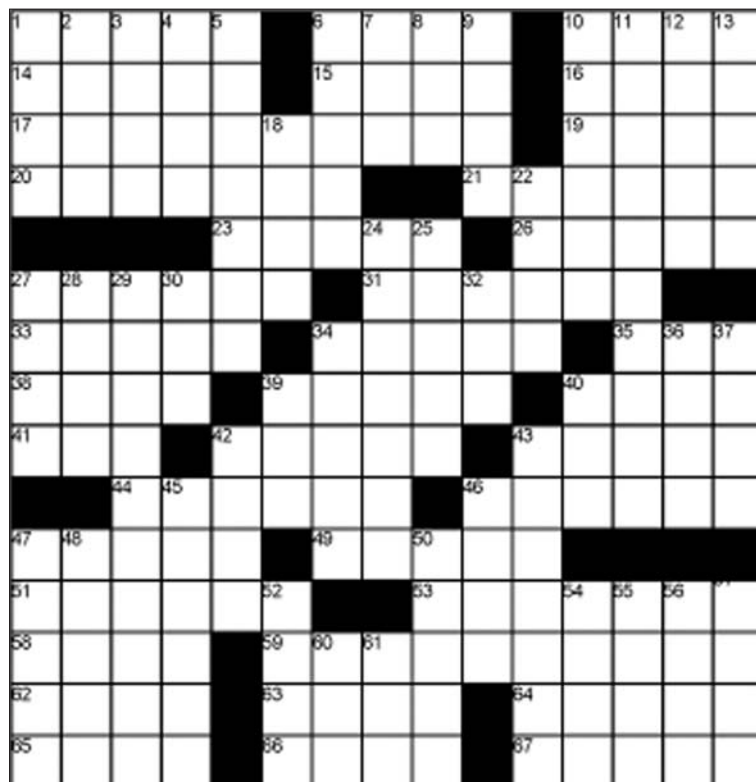
Memorial day unofficially marks the beginning of the summer holiday season and a certain amount of excitement naturally accompanies these early days of summer. As you begin to plan and anticipate the thrill of outdoor activities and getaways, I encourage all Marines and their families to enjoy the season without becoming statistics due to off-duty accidents. I want all Marines to have fun this summer, but still take safety into consideration. If you are going to drink alcohol, do so responsibly...the decisions you make will not only affect yourselves, but your families, your colleagues and our mission. Just as we stand shoulder to shoulder on the battlefield, Marines look after their fellow Marine at home and on liberty.

This Memorial Day serves to remind us of all that our fallen and wounded have done for our nation. Sent into harm's way in the name of liberty, these brave Americans, and the hundreds of thousands of servicemembers who served alongside them, have defeated tyranny, repelled terrorism and have come to the aid of our neighbors and allies. For those currently deployed, know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Semper Fidelis, James F. Amos, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

IN CODE

- ACROSS**
- Apartment window sign
 - Be obsequious
 - Fun house sound
 - Mentally acute
 - Orchestral reed
 - Lumbago, e.g.
 - Formal military attire
 - PC pic
 - Drugged to sleep
 - Glossy fabric
 - Outdoes in competition
 - Piglike
 - Dangerous cargo, for short
 - Catchall category
 - For the birds?
 - Makes java
 - Letter after pi
 - Optimistic view
 - Dollars and cents
 - Worth a D
 - More than none
 - Part of RAF
 - "The Bridge" poet Hart
 - Started the show
 - Colossus site
 - ___ out (produce hurriedly)
 - "Sweet" O'Grady of song
 - Larger-than-life figures
 - Whales and wombats
 - Small brook
 - Fisherman's max
 - "Each Dawn ___" (Cagney film)
 - Simple Lionel train layout
 - Sans support
 - Nurses at a bar
 - Washington's Vietnam Memorial, e.g.
 - Assailed on all sides
- DOWN**
- Little shavers
 - Shrek, for one
 - Told a whopper
 - Hostess Maxwell
 - Nuclear treaty subject
 - Does origami
 - ___ Simbel
 - Great sorrow
 - "The Untouchables" protagonist
 - Skier's leg covering
 - Way to a highway
 - Wingtips, e.g.
 - Director Marshall
 - Borscht ingredient
 - "Rag Mop" brothers
 - Transport to Oz
 - Iron-carbon alloy
 - Mirthful syllables
 - Mary Kay competitor
 - "Hush!"
 - Dogpatch's Daisy ___
 - Numbered rte.
 - Charles of "Gaslight"
 - Apply to a whetstone
 - Blast furnace input
 - Many a legal holiday: Abbr.
 - Con's opposite
 - Coty of France
 - HS experiment site
 - Lower class in "1984"
 - Money in Abadan
 - Newsman Matthews
 - Johanna Spyri heroine
 - Like some talk or print
 - Like a change-up
 - Event not run in the Olympics
 - Author Oz
 - Conga feature
 - Leave be, editorially
 - Mendes or Longoria
 - Guy's date



See answers on page A5

SUDOKU 2913-D

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	7			8					4			1
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Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified section**

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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:
 - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
 - 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 official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

Sin

Seoul, South Korea — deputy public affairs officer, 29

KOOK

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

> **I only lived in Korea** for the first five years of my life and only visited for a month back in '95. But I'll still claim it as my hometown... I have a ridiculous memory of it and I'm totally, mostly, fluent so it still counts.

> **Sometimes ... actually most of the time**, when people only know me through email, they address me as 'sir.' I don't correct them because they don't know. I suppose "Sin" could be a dude's name. Eventually they end up calling my phone or meeting me in person and feel badly. They apologize at least a couple times but it's okay. I do get a small amusement out of it, though.

> **I couldn't get** into the Air Force. I chose the Marine Corps because I didn't know anything about it. I'm glad I made that choice.

> **Within three** months of being in my new unit, I was in Kuwait.

> **I knew nothing** about the Marine Corps. I didn't want to deploy, it was my first time away from home. I was homesick and it was so new, I didn't have a good head on my shoulders. I didn't understand the war.

> **A collective idea is better** than your own intuition. I always use and take little bits and pieces of everybody's ideas. It's better than "my way or the highway" mentality.

> **I think if it wasn't** for the two deployments (to Iraq) I wouldn't have matured the way I did. I was very happy, I got the opportunity to be independent.

> **People get very comfortable** at home. To be truly independent you need to get out of your parents' house and do something, get out of your comfort zone, I definitely was out of my comfort zone my first two deployments; I did things I never thought I could do.

> **I wanted the route** to be an officer, I wanted to get a college education. College was always in my head.

> **I was able to get** into a program like MECEP, I was able to pay my own way through college, which is something I'm really proud of. I didn't acquire any loans or debt, it was such an accomplishment. I was like, "Wow, I made that goal, what other goals can I make?"

> **As enlisted I didn't know** what public affairs was, I thought everyone was Combat Camera. I hate that now. No one corrected me.

> **In a work environment** I'm super social. I really suck at names but in the Marine Corps we have name tapes. I remember details about people and their lives; people really respond to that.

> **I changed my major** three times. Business really fit my personality.

> **There were three spots** for Public Affairs (in The Basic School class I was in). I chose Public Affairs and I'm really happy I did because I match that profile, I match that personality.

> **My passion?** Definitely not writing, just putting it out there that I can edit the crap out of something but I can not write for anything, I need to work on it.

> **I want to be** my own boss. I want to be the head of something at one point in time. I want to go corporate.

> **In a corporate world** there is Public Relations School. If there is a director of public relations, I want to be that. I want to help, mentor and build people in that sense without it being in a Marine Corps environment.

> **Sometimes Marines are scared** to say what they need to say and be opinionated. There's a lot (to consider) like tact, respect. It comes with any job, but in a corporate world, it's more open, and I want that. I want to know what people are thinking.

> **I like to be** good at what I do. I need to grow.

> **Leadership is important**, but it's really in the eyes of the beholder, it's how people see you and receive you. I am more stand-offish. You can ask things about me but I'm more into you, like at the end of our conversation you will know like two things about me and I will know your whole life story. It's just how I roll.

> **With leadership**, you need to tell more about yourself, you need to make yourself a little vulnerable in front of that person you're trying to mentor. I definitely need to work on it but that's something I strive to be.

> **I'm one of those** people where if I say I'm going to do something, I'm going to go for it.

> **I want to stay** in this job realm.

> **In TBS I ran a 17:30 3-mile.** Running is really important, it's a way of life. I tell people the reason I run isn't necessarily because I love it, I do it because I eat a lot and drink a lot and those are a lot of calories I have to burn.

> **I will probably** still be running when I'm 80 years old.

> **There's so much change** happening in the Marine Corps — women are allowed in combat MOSs now, our PFT standards are changing.

> **If I was to give someone advice** it would be, you have to stick to your guns. If you're going to decide to do something, you have to stick to it, you can't keep changing what you thought was right or where your moral compass was, if you don't stick to it, people are going to see it and you will be easily swayed left or right.

> **Sometimes you just have** to bite your tongue, I've learned that the hard way.

> **I'm a very blunt person.** I like to stick up for what I believe in and usually that's my Marines.

> **I've learned patience.** It got a lot better when I started caring. Right when I hit corporal, it all started turning around for me.

> **If I did anything different**, everything I've learned this far would have changed. No, I wouldn't do anything different.

> **I thought about going** to law school. It's something I think I can be good at. But I can't sit around and just study all day for the LSATs. I'm a busybody type of person. I have to be constantly doing something in order for me to function. I need to do what's logical, which means I still need an income and find a job that I have experience in.



Interviewed by Cpl. Sarah Dietz
May 16, 2013



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Don't learn the hard way



“Nobody expects to wake up in the morning without the ability to walk. It is something you are born with and never expect to lose.”

— Kelly Narowski

Survivor relives accident, teaches Marines

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
Combat Correspondent

Headquarters Battalion Marines and sailors, as part of the Safety Division's "101 Critical Days of Summer," gained a deeper understanding of driver safety during a brief at the base theater May 16.

Kelly Narowski, a safety speaker, focused her message toward driver safety, situation awareness and the consequences of quick decisions. She used her own unique experiences to emphasize many of the points.

Kelly began her brief with facts about traumatic brain and spinal cord injury and just how unexpected an injury can be.

"Nobody expects to wake up in the morning without the ability to walk," Kelly said. "It is something you are born with and never expect to lose."

During her presentation, Kelly also mentioned that traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries have claimed more American lives than every war the country has been involved in since 1977.

Utilizing a Power-Point presentation, Kelly highlight not only civilians but known celebrities who were both the cause and victims of drunk and reckless driving.

She continued her presentation with a series of videos and various news broadcasts from around the country that highlighted tragic events.

Driving while texting and drowsy driving are just as dangerous as driving under the influence, according to Kelly.

"They are just bad habits," said Kelly. "People make these choices on a sub-conscious level. They aren't

even thinking about it and that's what I did."

Kelly concluded her presentation by sharing her own story:

"It was Sept. 27, 1998, when I got in the accident. I was living in Santa Barbara and was working two full time jobs. I worked with a girl named Heather. She was very fun to be around but was always drinking. I went to meet her at her place that Sunday afternoon to go to the beach and she was already drinking martinis. I wasn't a big drinker, but she kept asking and I ended up having two drinks with her that night. It is important to pay attention to who you surround yourself with.

"We jumped in her Jeep Wrangler and started heading down Highway 1. People always told me to be careful on that road because it is a very curvy mountain road. Her blood-alcohol content at the time ended up being .28, which is toxic. My blood alcohol level at the time was .10. I didn't think anything of it, I just thought I had a buzz. She looked over at me and told me she was too drunk and that I needed to drive. My first thought was, she is always drunk so it must be really bad this time.

"I jumped out of the passenger seat and switched places with her. I remember a lot about that moment. I remember what I was wearing, I remember the sight of the mountain, I remember a lot about that moment because it was the last time I would ever walk again.

"Once I hopped into the driver's seat, I did not put my seat belt on. Heather put hers on as soon as she sat down."

Kelly emphasized the potential severity of a

consequence that results from quick decisions.

"There were a lot of things going on at the moment. All I remember was saying, 'Oh my God, Heather.'"

"The police report showed that the jeep hit the guard rail. If that rail wasn't there, we would have gone down the side of the mountain. After hitting the guard rail, my chest hit the steering wheel at about 70 miles per hour, breaking a couple ribs and my collar bone. The jeep then swerved over and hit the guard rail a second time. This time, my body flew around the jeep like a rag doll. I ended up in the back seat where I shattered one of my vertebrae. It shattered all in my back and my spinal cord was stretched out like a piece of taffy.

"I try not to complain about it because no one wants to hear it. It has been very hard, but I learned that it could always be worse."

In the days to follow, Kelly was told by her doctor that she was paralyzed and had lost the use of her legs. The quick decision to jump in the driver's seat had changed her life entirely.

"I couldn't imagine getting a serious injury," said Pfc. Chris Smith, supply clerk, Consolidated Material Support Center. "It really opens your eyes when you have someone going through an injury, giving the brief about what could happen to you if you injure these body parts."

Narowski was once a travel agent but now travels around the nation to share her story.

"Small, split-second decisions can have enormous consequences," Kelly said. "You're rolling the dice every time you make a bad decision. Don't learn the hard way like I did."

Counter Insurgency



CPL. ALI AZIMI

‘Cutting Edge,’ ‘War Dogs’ team up for COIN exercise

Cpl. William J. Jackson
 Combat Correspondent

A call to prayer rang out over the Combat Center’s Range 220 as Marines and sailors with Company K and Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, performed a counterinsurgency exercise during the final days of their Mission Rehearsal Exercise, May 20.

The battalion, led by Afghan National Army role players during their security patrols, was also accompanied by 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who acted as evaluators during the exercise.

During their patrol, the Marines of Co. K and ANA role players maintained a positive presence with the local populace while they kept an eye out for simulated improvised explosive devices that laced their area of operation.

They patrolled the streets and were ambushed by simulated insurgents. The Marines were pinned down at an intersection, causing one simulated casualty, an ANA soldier with a sucking chest wound.

“After the gunshot they called in the battalion quick reaction force,” said 1st Lt. James Cromley, platoon commander, Co. F, 2/7. “The ANA also wanted to come out on the quick reaction force. He said it was fine but to not take Alternate Supply Route Hawaii, which (they did). I know he’s getting frustrated but this is exactly the kind of (thing) that’s going to happen in country.”

The quick reaction force specialist drove up to the friction point with two vehicles. The first vehicle took the gunshot wound victim away and the second vehicle hit an IED. Co. K and the ANA assessed the two simulated casualties and brought them to safety.

“They definitely know how to keep us on our toes,” said Pfc. Tyler Holmes, automatic rifleman, Co. K, 3/7.

Holmes also said he’s hoping to learn more about the Afghan culture to help interact with the local populace and recognize ways insurgents interact with them also.

Throughout the morning, Co. K and the ANA soldiers detained a high value target, dispersed a crowd of role players and continued to patrol their area of operation.

3/7 finished their final exercise Tuesday. Their training spanned multiple Combat Center ranges to include Range 210, 220 and 800.



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines with Company K and Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, conduct counterinsurgency exercise at the Combat Center’s Range 220 Monday. The Marines utilized 2/7 personnel to evaluate their training during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise.

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

T	O	L	E	T	F	A	W	N	G	A	S	P	
A	G	I	L	E	O	B	O	E	A	C	H	E	
D	R	E	S	S	B	L	U	E	S	I	C	O	N
S	E	D	A	T	E	D	S	A	T	E	E	N	
B	E	S	T	S	M	E	S	S	Y				
H	A	Z	M	A	T	O	T	H	E	R	S		
A	V	I	A	N	B	R	E	W	S	R	H	O	
H	O	P	E	M	O	N	E	Y	P	O	O	R	
A	N	Y	R	O	Y	A	L	C	R	A	N	E	
O	P	E	N	E	D	R	H	O	D	E	S		
C	H	U	R	N	R	O	S	I	E				
H	E	R	O	E	S	M	A	M	M	A	L	S	
R	I	L	L	L	E	G	A	L	L	I	M	I	T
I	D	I	E	O	V	A	L	A	L	O	N	E	
S	I	P	S	W	A	L	L	B	E	S	E	T	

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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



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ATTACK, from A1

assembly area to the limit of advance, with all of those agencies doing their job. It's a good thing to have the Marines see that this actually works."

After unloading from the back of amphibious assault vehicles and setting up a support position, Co. K rushed into the town which dominates the range.

The Marines assaulted the buildings, clearing each building as they advanced toward the simulated enemy. The layout of the town gave the Marines different challenges, including simulated enemy targets and weapons caches.

"I was pretty impressed," said 2nd Lt. Tyler Winters, maintenance management officer, Headquarters and Service Company, 3/7. "It's nice to see the combination of fires, like indirect fire from artillery, 81mm mortars and tanks."

The five-hour assault came to a close after they took control of the town. The company set up a defensive perimeter around the town, preparing to defend against an imminent counter-offensive from the insurgents.

The Marines and sailors of 3/7 will be continuing their predeployment training during their 28 day Integrated Training Exercise this summer. They plan to train and push themselves hard before their deployment later this year.



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, conduct a Mission Readiness Exercise at Range 210, May 16.

AWARD, from A1

temperature systems.

Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Commanding General, attributed the recognition to the teamwork atmosphere found here.

"The training mission here is absolutely unique. It creates a shared sense of purpose for everyone that comes to Twentynine Palms. Whether you are a Marine assigned to one of the many units stationed here, or one of our dedicated Civilian Marines and NAF employees, everyone is pulling on the same rope. If you're in Twentynine Palms, you are preparing for a deployment or supporting those who are. You come to work every day with a sense of why you are here."

But the accomplishments which the award recognizes aren't shared by the military community alone.

"Our extremely close relationships with our neighbors in the local communities are a foundation for the success of what we do here. This local community literally wraps their arms around us, around our Marines. During the holidays, families welcome Marines in if they can't get home. Our military families live in the neighborhoods, our kids go to the same schools. The Combat Center and the Hi-Desert are tightly knitted together. The boundaries of the base extend well beyond the fenceline, like there's not even a line there. When one does well, the other does well," said Berger.

A formal ceremony will be held in Washington, D.C., later this year to present the Combat Center with the commemorative trophy and flag.

HOME, from A1

you. Everything we've been getting from forward is all positive. Good job, every one of you."

As the Marines and sailors exited their busses they turned in their weapons, and picked up roses to give to their loved ones.

"Oh my God!" shouted Staff Sgt. Calixtro Martinez, ground training chief, VMU-3, to his three children, Najet, 6, Soley, 5, and Scarlet, 1. "I told you guys not to grow. You've all grown so big."

For some families this was a first deployment and for others it was a well-known part of life, but all rejoiced in being reunited with the ones they love. The crowd slowly dispersed throughout the night as their loved ones finally took them home.

"After 7 months of 24/7 operations it's great to be back so that we can recharge and prepare for the next fight," said Capt. Chris Perry, operations officer, VMU-3.

The battalion returned home from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The squadron provided day and night intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and logistics support to units within the Regional Command Southwest area of operations. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 who deployed earlier this year replaced the VMU-3.



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Cpl. Wealey Purdue, motor transportation mechanic, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, hugs his wife, Hayleigh, during his unit's homecoming May 19.

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MEDAL, from A1

congratulate people for getting wounded but we can certainly thank them for their willingness to go out there and serve their country on the battlefield.”

The 90-minute firefight in September led to two of the Bronze Stars awarded Thursday; Sgt. Arturo A. Ley, squad leader, Co. B, 1/7, was one of those two.

The corpsman in Ley's squad was wounded and separated from the rest of the Marines. Ley led Marines over open ground to the doc's aid and helped drag the wounded corpsman to cover, where he received treatment. Ley continued to fight even after sustaining a gunshot wound to the neck during an assault on the enemy position. He remained calm and continued to lead his Marines until the enemy was silenced.

On June 13, 2012, Petty Officer 3rd Class John J. Crowley, a corpsman with 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Co. C, 1/7, saved the lives of multiple Marines after the detonation of an improvised explosive device during a night patrol. He stabilized a double amputee after the first strike and provided further care to Marines injured as a result of a second explosion. Crowley was within close proximity to the second explosion,

sustained injuries himself, but maintained the ability and willingness to conduct triage and help move the casualties to a collection point.

“It's a tremendous honor today to recognize four men,” Yost said. “Their actions represent the character in the war-fighting ethos of our entire battalion.”

In a separate ceremony, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, honored another corpsman, Seaman Apprentice Steven O. Martin, Co. K, for his life-saving actions on two different instances during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

After an IED had struck his squad leader and caused a double amputation, Martin applied tourniquets to each of the Marines' legs, despite having suffered a concussion himself. Three days later, Martin once again provided life-saving care to a single-leg amputee after an IED attack. He boldly rushed to the casualty through an active minefield to stop the bleeding.

“Their actions show why we are the best war-fighting force in the world today as United States Marines,” Yost said. “The action they showed on the battlefield is why wherever we go, whether it's Afghanistan or the battlefield of tomorrow, our enemies fear coming up against Marines.”



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Three Marines and two sailors with 7th Marine Regiment received awards during ceremonies held May 23 for their heroic actions during deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

RIFLE, from A1

rifle on behalf of the installation.

The Arisaka Type 99 Rifle was named after Japanese Colonel Arisaka and adopted by the Japanese military in 1939. The rifle was an improved version of the 6.5mm Type 38 rifle used in the Chinese campaigns during 1930s. It is a bolt-action rifle weighing approximately 8.7 pounds with a barrel length of 26.5 inches. The caliber of the rifle is 7.7mm; it has a magazine capacity of five cartridges.

The rifle was used by the Japanese military during World War II.

“The rifle originally belonged to my father, who was a first sergeant in the Marines and fought in World War II,” said Navy Capt. Janet Delorey-Lytle, assistant clinic director, 23rd Dental Company, 1st Dental Company. “He never really talked much about his time in the Pacific but I know he was very proud of obtaining the rifle.”

First Sergeant William J. Delorey served with the 1st Marine Division. He obtained the rifle after surviving the battle of Guadalcanal during World War II. He then mailed the rifle home to Lake Ariel, Pa. Many of the items never made it.

“Twenty years ago when my dad was still alive, he gave the rifle to my husband, Mel,” Delorey said. “Mel had it cleaned up and did some research on the model. The Chrysanthemum, a symbol of Emperor Hirohito, is intact on the rifle. Many of them have been removed over the years, so this one does make it a true original.”

Capt. Delorey has donated many of her father's military possessions to Marine Corps installations throughout her career. “I have served most of my dental career with Marines,” Delorey said. “My father would be thrilled to know that other Marines now get to enjoy a historical firearm.”

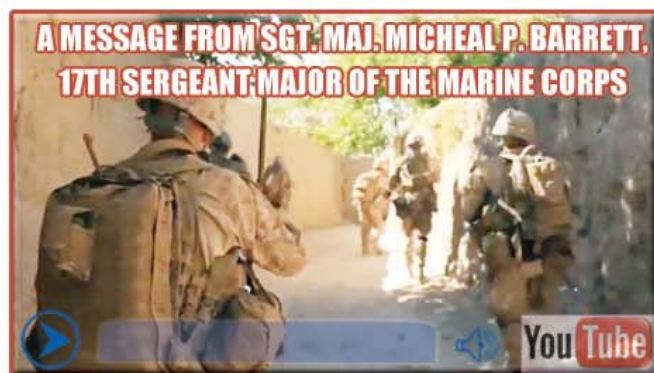
The rifle is currently displayed in the Commanding General's building.

“I am very proud to have something like this aboard this installation,” Berger said. “We have many historical items here but none quite like this.”



LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

Navy Capt. Janet Delorey-Lytle, assistant clinic director, 23rd Dental Company, holds a photograph of her father while standing in front of his Japanese Arisaka Type 99 Rifle in the Commanding General's Building May 23.



'We Salute You'
PRESENTS

BIG & RICH



Annual music celebration lights up Combat Center

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
Combat Correspondent

Country music artists Big and Rich, and Cowboy Troy performed for the Combat Center at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 18. The concert was a part of the 'We Salute You' celebration.

In addition to the live musical performance, the event included static displays of different vehicles Marines use and games like bounce houses, a zip line, rock climbing and laser tag for families to enjoy.

"It is important for there to be events like this on base," said Lance Cpl. Jose Salazar. "Twentynine Palms is considered to be in the middle of nowhere so when there is an event like this one, it puts a smile on all of our faces. We all work hard. It's nice to be able to relax and enjoy a show."

According to Big and Rich, nothing makes them happier than playing for the service members of the United States.

The concert was Big and Rich's second time performing for the Combat Center. Their last performance aboard the installation was in 2006.

"I remember the first time we were coming out here all I could think was, 'where are we,'" said William Kenneth Alphin, the artist known as Big Kenny in the duo. "This is one of the best crowds we have ever played for. They are such patriotic people and it is amazing to see the military side of things."

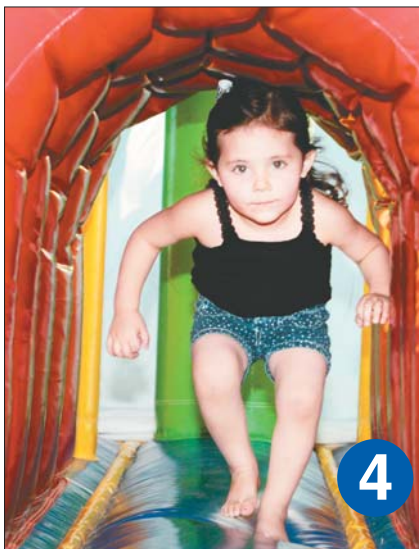
Big and Rich, and Cowboy Troy spoke with Marines to learn about the different vehicles showcased in the static display.

"No matter who you are, everyone loves the idea of being in a tank," said John Rich. "I couldn't imagine having to work with some of that equipment every day. I can tell it takes a lot of discipline."

Big Kenny and John Rich were solo artists before becoming the Big and Rich duo. They released their first studio album, 'Horse of a Different Color,' in 2004 which produced four of Top 40 hits. Since then, the duo have been nominated for Country Music Television's 'Vocal Duo of the Year' award in 2012 and nominated for Country Music Awards' 'Top Vocal Duo' award in 2013.

"The response we get from the crowd is amazing but they are the true heroes," Big said. "These concerts are a way of saying thank you to all of them."

Faces in the Crowd



[1] Brianna Belleville, 11, puts on a flak and kevlar helmet during the static display before the 'We Salute You' celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 18. The celebration included games for families to enjoy and a musical performance by Big and Rich, and Cowboy Troy.
[2] The 'We Salute You' celebration May 18 hosted a zip-line, allowing kids to fly down the line from a platform more than 20 feet above the ground.
[3] Kids and families enjoy exploring the Light Armored Vehicle at 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion's static display.
[4] Moriah Mauk, 3, runs through the inflatable obstacle course at the 'We Salute You' celebration May 18.
[5] Brianna Belleville, 11, describes the size of the driver windows on a Light Armored Vehicle, during the static display before the 'We Salute You' celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 18.



NAVY SEAMAN ERIK LUEBKE

Viola Imperatore, left, a swim instructor for Morale Welfare and Recreation's "im" program, helps a child swim around the shallow end of the pool during a swimming lesson.

MCCS summer drowning prevention campaign kick-off

HQMC, MCB QUANTICO, VA – Since 2010, 10 Marines have drowned in off-duty recreation incidents. Alcohol was a contributing factor in two of the 10 deaths. Drownings are the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 in the United States and is considered to be a silent killer. Do not assume you will hear a child who is in trouble in the water. Education and knowledge are the best defenses in protecting against this hazard.

This summer, the Marine Corps Community Services aquatics programs will focus on drowning prevention education. Throughout the summer of 2013, Public Service Announcements addressing water safety (PSAs) will be aired and displayed on web and social media sites. The Water Safety PSAs will help increase awareness and aid in the development of the skills necessary to enjoy the water safely.

Please take a few minutes to view the announcements, share them with unit leaders and your Marines and speak with your children about water safety. Drowning prevention and water safety must be an area of focus to help safeguard our Marines and their family members.

For more information about drowning prevention contact your installation's MCCS aquatics program manager or health care provider. You can also view the PSA by going to www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF1051DE0285A124C.

Take Action to Reduce Risks

- **Learn to swim.** Formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by as much as 88% among young children aged 1 to 4 years, who are at greatest risk of drowning. However, even when children have had formal swimming lessons, constant, careful supervision when in the water, and barriers to prevent unsupervised access are necessary to prevent drowning.
- **Closely watch swimmers in or around the water.** Designate a responsible adult who can swim and knows CPR to watch swimmers in or around water, even when lifeguards are present. The supervising adult should not be involved in any other distracting activity such as reading or talking on the phone while watching children.
- **Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).** In the time it might take for lifeguards or paramedics to arrive, CPR skills could save someone's life.
- **Fence it off.** Barriers to pool access should be used to help prevent young children from gaining access to the pool area without the caregivers' awareness when they aren't supposed to be swimming. Pool fences should completely separate the house and play area from the pool, be at least 4 feet high and have self-closing and self-latching gates that open outward, with latches that are out of the reach of children.
- **Use the Buddy System.** Regardless of your age, always swim with a buddy.
- **Look for lifeguards.** Select swimming sites that have lifeguards whenever possible.
- **Heed warning flags.** Know the meaning of and obey warnings represented by colored beach flags, which may vary from one beach to another.
- **Know the terrain.** Be aware of and avoid drop-offs and hidden obstacles in natural water sites. Always enter water feet first.
- **Avoid rip currents.** Watch for dangerous waves and signs of rip currents, like water that is discolored and choppy, foamy or filled with debris and moving in a channel away from shore. If you are caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore; once free of the current, swim diagonally toward shore.
- **Use U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.** Do not use air-filled or foam toys, such as "water wings," "noodles" or inner-tubes, in place of life jackets. These toys are not designed to keep swimmers safe.
- **Avoid alcohol.** Do not drink alcohol before or during swimming, boating or water skiing, and don't drink alcohol while supervising children.
- **Don't hyperventilate.** Swimmers should never hyperventilate before swimming underwater or try to hold their breath for long periods of time.

Know the Facts

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/drowningprevention/index.html>

Drowning Scenarios

Don't swim during bad weather

Three Marines went to the beach. The wind was gusting at 20 miles per hour, the waves were 3 to 5 feet and there was limited visibility. As the Marines were swimming back to shore, one Marine realized that another Marine was bobbing up and down. He called for the Marine, but received no response. The friends attempted to swim the unconscious Marine to shore, but a large wave swept them all under. When the friends reached the Marine, he was foaming at the mouth and nose, his lips were purple, his eyes were rolled back and there was no pulse present. The Marine was declared dead on the scene by medical personnel. The building surf, strong winds, high tide and lack of visibility created a dangerous situation for an inexperienced swimmer. It is highly recommended that parents, safety professionals and unit leaders discuss the hazards of ocean conditions, the importance of being safe in and around the water and ways to prevent accidental drowning. Marines need to look out for one another and make sure inexperienced swimmers are not surpassing their capabilities.

Alcohol and water don't mix

A Marine fell from a pier and drowned after consuming a large quantity of alcohol. Excessive alcohol consumption is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States. The Marine's death was tragic and avoidable. Alcohol tends to be viewed in an acceptable fashion but the fact is, people use and abuse alcohol every day. Alcohol affects the way people behave. People experience a decrease in mental alertness when drinking alcohol and make poor decisions. Alcohol dulls the senses and alters one's perception of situations and surroundings.

It only takes a moment for a child to drown

A 3-year-old was found unconscious in a backyard pool and was later pronounced dead. Adults at the home said the child was playing outside, but disappeared when they stepped inside for a moment.

Never leave a small child in the bath tub

A 9-month-old was left in a bathtub unattended and drowned while her mother was on the phone. Children can drown in as little three centimeters of water. When children are near water, adults must be actively watching their actions.



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Thursday: Karaoke, 8:30 - 10 p.m.
Friday: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 11 p.m.
Saturday: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 11 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Thursday: Warrior Night, 4:30 - 9 p.m.
Friday: Karaoke Night, 6 - 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Monday: Steak night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.
Wednesday: Wing Special Wednesday, 4:30 - 9 p.m.
Thursday: Free Happy Hour Food, 5 - 7 p.m.
Friday: Steak Night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.
Friday: DJ Gixxa, 8 - 11 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Thursday: Free Happy Hour Food, 5 - 7 p.m.
Thursday: Taco Night, 5 - 7 p.m.

For complete calendars visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Free Line-Dance Lessons

Learn to dance the night away
When: 5 to 9 p.m., every Sunday
Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall
50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley, Calif.
For more information, call 363-3343.

Ragtime

When: May 3 - June 1
Where: Theatre 29
73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.
For more information, call 316-4151
or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

Lower Desert

Scotty McCreery

Country musician performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 1
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.
For more information, call 866-377-6829 or visit
<http://www.spotlight29.com>

Jewel

Folk singer performs
When: 9 p.m., June 7
Where: Agua Caliente Casino, Resort and Spa
32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage, Calif.
For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>

The Doobie Brothers

California pop/rock band of the '70s
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 15
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.
For more information,, call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

MC Hammer

American pop artist performs
When: 9:00 p.m., Friday, June 21
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.
For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit
<http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, May 24

6 p.m. - G.I. Joe Retaliation 3-D, Rated PG-13
9 a.m. - 42, PG-13
Midnight - Oblivion, Rated R

Saturday, May 25

10:30 a.m. - Free Matinee, Monsters Inc, Rated PG
12:30 p.m. - Scary Movie 5, Rated PG-13
3 p.m. - Jurassic Park, 3-D, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. - G.I. Joe Retaliation, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - Oblivion, Rated R
Midnight - Evil Dead, Rated R

Sunday, May 26

12:30 a.m. - Big Wedding, Rated R
3 p.m. - 42, PG-13
6 p.m. - Jurassic Park, 3-D, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - Pain and Gain, Rated R

Monday, May 27

7 p.m. - Oblivion, Rated R

Tuesday, May 28

7 p.m. - G.I. Joe Retaliation 3-D, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, May 29

5:30 p.m. - 42, PG-13
8:30 p.m. - Scary Movie 5, Rated PG-13

Thursday, May 30

5:30 p.m. - Jurassic Park, Rated PG-13
8:30 p.m. - G.I. Joe Retaliation, Rated PG-13

Flamboyant, lavish new version is a real show, old sport!



COURTESY PHOTO

NEIL POND

"The Great Gatsby"

Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire & Carey Mulligan
Directed by Baz Luhrmann
Rated PG-13, 142 min.

Hollywood keeps returning to author F. Scott Fitzgerald's American-Lit masterpiece of Roaring Twenties excess, undying love and a mystery man named Gatsby, and for good reason. It's a juicy tale with social, dramatic and emotional fruits that remain just as ripe as when the story first hit the page in 1925.

Australian director Baz Luhrmann's lavish new version stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby, the self-made New Yorker of formidable but secretive wealth whose single-minded obsession with an old flame, Daisy (Carey Mulligan), continues to drive his opulent lifestyle.

Joel Eggerton is a standout as Daisy's philandering, bullish husband, Tom, who's got a married mistress (Isla Fisher) on the poor side of town who's keeping her own jealous husband (Jason Clarke) in the dark.

The story is told through the narration of Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire), the young stockbroker renting a small cottage next door to Gatsby's towering mansion. Through a twist of fate, Nick becomes the reclusive millionaire's friend and confidant — and the eyes, ears, heart and soul of the tangled tale that unfolds.

Subtlety isn't really the strong suite for Luhrmann, whose previous credits include the sumptuous "Moulin Rouge!" (2001) and a hipster remake of "Romeo + Juliet" (1996) that also starred DiCaprio. His vision of Gatsby's world is a dizzy, almost discombobulating swirl of explosive, excessive partying,

with balloons soaring, confetti flying, dames on trapezes swinging, music blaring, champagne flowing and dancers hoofing. In 3D, the revelry almost seems to be pouring into your lap. These Roaring Twenties really did roar — and you can bet the mornings after did.

The first third of the film really front-loads the eye-popping effects that stress the go-go decadence of the era, a cornucopia of loose morals and other readily available vice into which Nick falls during that fateful summer. A hotel-room party with Tom and some flappers is filmed as such an intoxicating, slow-motion, sensory overload you might think you're in a pad of '60 hippies head-tripping on acid.

Even though the story never veers from its 1920s setting, the movie further plays with its sense of time by tweaking the soundtrack with contemporary songs by rock and hip-hop artists including Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Jack White, Fergie and will.i.am.


"Gatsby" purists may bristle over the modernist touches, and about how the new movie's framing device — having narrator Nick relate the tale from a sanatorium, where his physician has encouraged him to write it down to overcome his depression at watching Gatsby's world crumble — wasn't anywhere in the book.

But the story's themes — about the dark, seductive underbelly of the American dream, about a certain class of people in a certain place at a certain time with the means to live the high life beyond the dismal "valley of the ashes," and about a tragic chain of events that begins when one man can finally hold, again, the "precious thing" he's been straining for so long to reach — remain very much intact.

And for sheer spectacle, to drop Gatsby's favorite expression, this fancy, flamboyantly embellished version of that familiar tale is quite the show, old sport!

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Relax with the paper

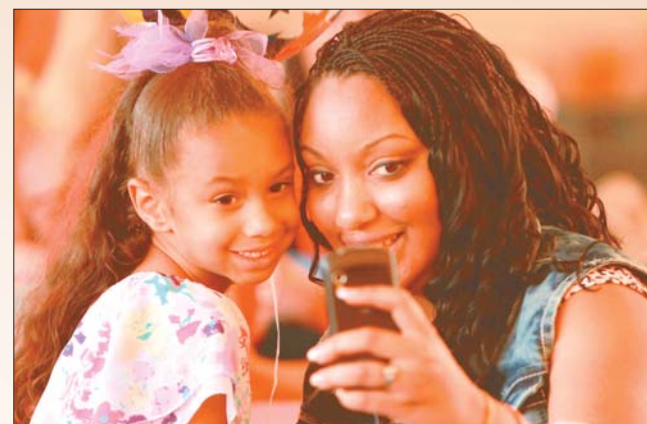


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You Tube

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