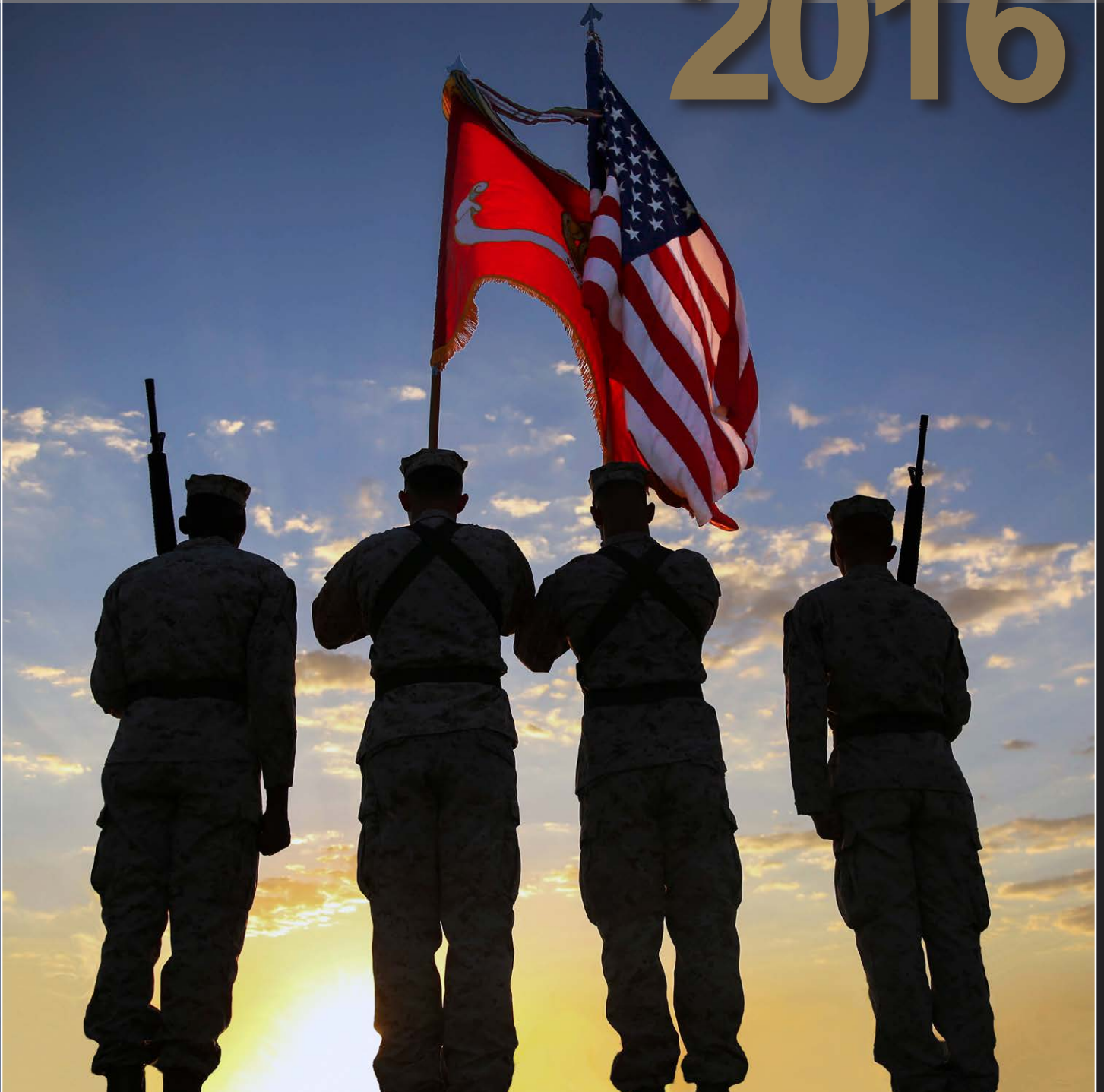


THROUGH THE LENS

INNOVATE, ADAPT & WIN

2016



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Cover: Marines with 7th Marine Regiment honor the regiment's 99th anniversary with a ceremony aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 14, 2016. Known as "The Magnificent Seventh," 7th Marines has a rich history dating back to the Banana Wars. (Photo by Cpl. Timothy Valero/Photo illustration by Samantha Giordano)

"Like it or not, today we are part of this larger world and must carry out our part. We cannot wait for problems to arrive here or it will be too late; rather we must remain strongly engaged in this complex world."

—Gen. James Mattis, to the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, September 2015

Marines are nothing if not engaged, and they've always done more than their share no matter where in this larger world they are called to serve.

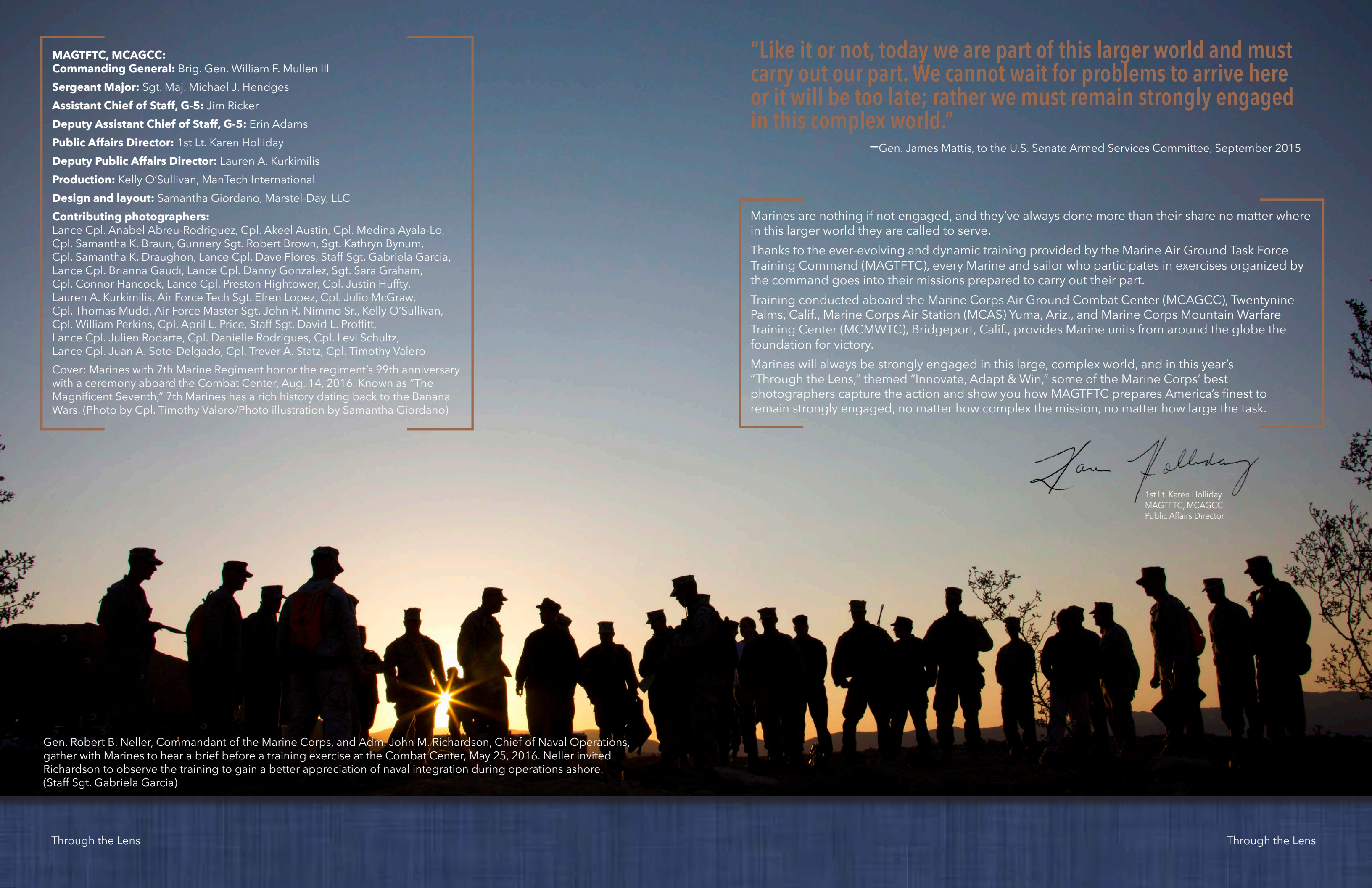
Thanks to the ever-evolving and dynamic training provided by the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC), every Marine and sailor who participates in exercises organized by the command goes into their missions prepared to carry out their part.

Training conducted aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, Calif., Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, Ariz., and Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC), Bridgeport, Calif., provides Marine units from around the globe the foundation for victory.

Marines will always be strongly engaged in this large, complex world, and in this year's "Through the Lens," themed "Innovate, Adapt & Win," some of the Marine Corps' best photographers capture the action and show you how MAGTFTC prepares America's finest to remain strongly engaged, no matter how complex the mission, no matter how large the task.



1st Lt. Karen Holliday
MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
Public Affairs Director



Gen. Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Adm. John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, gather with Marines to hear a brief before a training exercise at the Combat Center, May 25, 2016. Neller invited Richardson to observe the training to gain a better appreciation of naval integration during operations ashore. (Staff Sgt. Gabriela Garcia)

MAGTFTC

Marine
Air Ground
Task Force
Training
Command

Every mission undertaken by Marines when they're called to action is different, but every mission has a common denominator – the Marine Air Ground Task Force, or MAGTF, an air-ground, combined-arms organization of forces led by a single commander.

Every MAGTF includes four elements – Command, Ground Combat, Aviation and Logistics, all working in tandem toward a common goal of mission success.

The training provided by the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC) aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, Calif., and at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, Ariz., and Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC), Bridgeport, Calif., is crucial to that success. Units train at their home

installations, then come together for the Integrated Training Exercise (ITX), the Large Scale Exercise (LSE) and a host of other exercises at one of the three installations throughout the year. More than 50,000 active-duty and reserve Marines and sailors, as well as other U.S. and allied forces, train annually just at the Combat Center.

Right there with them are the Marines of Public Affairs and Combat Camera, whose jobs are to capture the action and to tell the Marine Corps' story through compelling images and stories. What they saw in 2016 is reflected on the following pages.

A Marine with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, coordinates fire support during an assault on Range 410A, May 8, 2016, as part of ITX 3-16. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)



Clockwise from top left: Marines with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, conduct a simulated urban terrain assault during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 2-16 at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 26, 2016. (Cpl. Trevor A. Statz)

An M1A1 Abrams tank fires at targets during the final exercise of Exercise Valiant Mark 2016, annual training conducted by U.S. Marines and the Singapore Armed Forces at the Combat Center. (Cpl. Akeel Austin)

Cpl. Tyler Velasquez, air support operations operator, Marine Air Support Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, uses the mirror of a Humvee to shave and stay clean while participating in ITX 2-16 at the Combat Center, Jan. 23, 2016. (Air Force Tech Sgt. Efren Lopez)

Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, participate in a company-level live-fire attack aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 24, 2016. The training was part of a series conducted during ITX 2-16, a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)-sized training event led by 5th Marine Regiment. (Cpl. Danielle Rodrigues)



Clockwise from top left: Lance Cpl. Terrell R. Hammond, rifleman, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, communicates with his squad during an assault on Range 410A aboard the Combat Center, May 8, 2016, as part of ITX 3-16. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

Marines with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, provide indirect fire with a M777 Howitzer during the final exercise of ITX 3-16 in the Blacktop Training Area aboard the Combat Center, June 1, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)

Marines gather for a live-fire range safety brief the day before conducting the culminating event of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Combined Arms Exercise (MEUCAX) 2016 at the Combat Center, June 16, 2016. MEUCAX is an opportunity for the MEU's ground combat, logistics, aviation and command elements to work together by conducting offensive and defensive mission sets in an austere environment in preparation for their upcoming deployment. (Gunnery Sgt. Robert Brown)





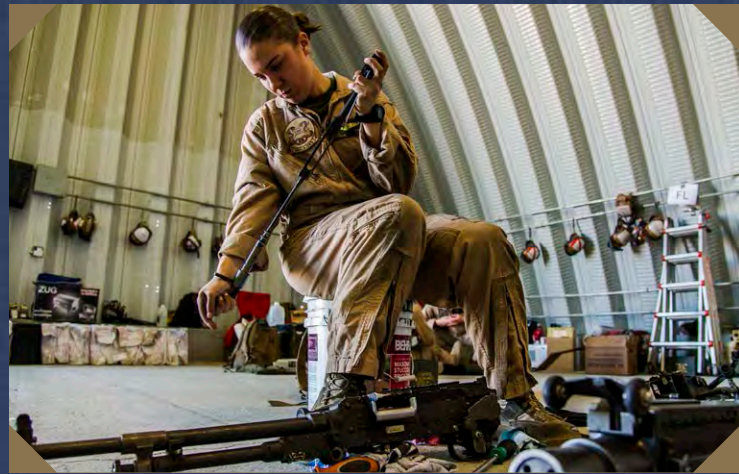
Clockwise from top: Lance Cpl. Silvio Caceres waits to move forward with his platoon during an ITX aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 10, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Danny Gonzalez)
Pfc. Thomas Cuyer, left, and Lance Cpl. Michael Pimenidis with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, conduct defensive operations during an ITX at the Combat Center, Aug. 18, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Danny Gonzalez)
A Marine with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, provides cover fire as Marines destroy an objective at Range 400 during ITX 5-16 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 10, 2016. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)



Clockwise from far left: A Marine with 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, runs back into position after calling in points of artillery fire during mechanized operations while participating in ITX 4-16 at the Combat Center, June 18, 2016. (Sgt. Sara Graham)

Lance Cpl. Login Loftis, a machine gunner with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, fires a M240 medium machine gun as Lance Cpl. Krikland Harrington, a machine gunner with F Co., 2/5, looks through his night vision optic to guide Loftis onto his target during ITX 5-16 aboard the Combat Center. (Cpl. Timothy Valero)

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, test the Medium Altitude Reconnaissance Surveillance System (MARSS) at the Combat Center, Aug. 5, 2016. The system was built by the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL). MCWL identifies possible challenges of the future, develops new warfighting concepts and tests new ideas to help develop equipment that meets the challenges of the future operating environment. (Lance Cpl. Julien Rodarte)



Clockwise from top: Cpl. Shannon Kunz, door gunner on a UH-1Y Huey assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, cleans .50-caliber and M240 machine guns after completing a training mission during ITX 2-16 at the Combat Center, Feb. 7, 2016. (Air Force Tech Sgt. Efren Lopez)

Aircraft maintainers with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, work on an MV-22 Osprey during ITX 2-16 at the Combat Center, Jan. 24, 2016. (Air Force Master Sgt. John R. Nimmo Sr.)

A UH-1Y helicopter and aircrew assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, participate in an air assault mission during ITX 2-16 at the Combat Center, Feb. 9, 2016. (Air Force Tech Sgt. Efren Lopez)



Clockwise from top left: Sgt. Cameron Siegler surveys the flight line during Assault Support Tactics 3 (AST-3) during Weapons and Tactics Instructor course (WTI) 1-17 at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., Oct. 14, 2016. WTI is a seven-week training event hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1), emphasizing operational integration of the six functions of Marine Corps aviation in support of a Marine Air Ground Task Force. (Lance Cpl. Danny Gonzalez)

CH-53E Super Stallions and an MV-22B Osprey assigned to MAWTS-1 taxi down a runway during the final exercise in support of WTI 1-17 at the Combat Center, Oct. 18, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Danny Gonzalez)

CH-53E Super Stallions assigned to MAWTS-1 prepare to land during the final exercise in support of WTI 1-17 at the Combat Center, Oct. 18, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Danny Gonzalez)



Top row from left: Lance Cpl. Samantha Finnerty passes ammunition to Marines during the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Combined Arms Exercise 2016 at the Combat Center, June 9, 2016. (Cpl. April L. Price)

Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, commander of Marine Forces Reserve, speaks to the Marines participating in ITX 4-16 aboard the Combat Center, June 19, 2016. (Sgt. Sara Graham)

Marines with 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, call in points of fire during mechanized operations while participating in ITX 4-16 at the Combat Center, June 18, 2016. (Sgt. Sara Graham)

Below: Marines gather around an overall terrain model of the area of operations as part of the MAGTF 2 final exercise during ITX 3-16 at the Combat Center, May 16, 2016. (Staff Sgt. David L. Proffitt)



"Organizing and executing high-quality training is not easy. It takes time, deliberate thought and effort. Our approach to training is to emphasize the basics: combined arms, competency in the use of our weapons and systems, and expeditionary operations; but also to reemphasize operations in a degraded command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) environment, camouflage/deception, operations at night, operations in a nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) environment, and decision-making in rapidly unfolding and uncertain situations. We must provide opportunities to experiment and work with the latest technological advances."

—Gen. Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, addressing the Senate Armed Services Committee on Sept. 15, 2016

Gen. Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited the Combat Center several times in 2016 to observe training.

Right: Neller watches the action Nov. 7, 2016, as Marines of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, train at Range 400. (Cpl. Samantha K. Braun)

Bottom row from left: Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, participate in a live-fire exercise observed by the commandant and Adm. John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, May 25, 2016. The two men talk with Marines and sailors before the exercise. The commandant and others observe an urban warfare exercise at Range 220. Richardson attended to observe naval integration during operations ashore. (Staff Sgt. Gabriela Garcia)





Clockwise from top left: Lance Cpl. Nathan Thunstrom, a field radio operator with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, draws the lateral limits of his machine gun's position into his notebook during Exercise Steel Knight 17 at the Combat Center, Dec. 3, 2016. Steel Knight is a division-level exercise designed to enhance the command and control and interoperability with the 1st Marine Division, its adjacent units and naval support forces. (Lance Cpl. Preston Hightower)

Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, board an MV-22 Osprey during a long-range raid exercise as part of Steel Knight 17 at Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma, Ariz., Dec. 8, 2016. (Sgt. Akeel A. Austin)

Lance Cpl. Nathan Thunstrom, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, provides security from a machine gun post during Steel Knight 17 at the Combat Center, Dec. 3, 2016. (Cpl. Justin Huffty)

Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, stand by during a long-range raid exercise as part of Steel Knight 17 at Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma, Ariz., Dec. 8, 2016. (Sgt. Akeel A. Austin)



The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) in Bridgeport, Calif., conducts training courses to prepare units and individuals for operations in mountainous, high-altitude and cold-weather environments.

Clockwise from top left: Marines with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion and 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion participate in a class on cold-weather environments during Mountain Exercise, Jan. 9, 2016, at MCMWTC, Bridgeport, Calif. The battalions were preparing for Exercise Cold Response, a large, multi-national exercise conducted in Norway in March 2016 to test 12 NATO allies' and partners' ability to work together. (Sgt. Kathryn Bynum)



A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, ties a round-turn on a bowline anchor in a time limit of 30 seconds during Assault Climbers Course (ACC) 3-16 at MCMWTC, Aug. 31, 2016. This knot, tied while the service member is blindfolded, is used to anchor a rappel line around a tree. It is one of 16 knots tested during ACC. (Lauren A. Kurkimilis)

An instructor observes a Marine with 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, during ACC 3-16 at MCMWTC, Aug. 30, 2016. (Lauren A. Kurkimilis)

Marines with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion and 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion hike to a landing zone during Mountain Exercise, Jan. 10, 2016, at MCMWTC. (Sgt. Kathryn K. Bynum)

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 252 prepare to spend the day outside of their tents at MCMWTC during Mountain Exercise 1-16, Jan. 12, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Brianna Gaudi)





This row, from left: British Royal Marines conduct an assault on Range 205 as part of Exercise Black Alligator aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 13, 2016. Black Alligator, an annual training exercise, consists of British Royal Marines and Dutch Royal Army soldiers who come to the installation to conduct live-fire combined-arms training, urban operations, and joint and coalition-level integration alongside more than 300 U.S. Marines. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

Cpl. Tan Yongkiat, rifleman with Singapore Armed Forces, poses for a photo after conducting a live-fire rifle and machine gun range during Exercise Valiant Mark 2016 at the Combat Center, Sept. 27, 2016. (Cpl. Akeel Austin)

A field radio operator with the Japan Ground Self Defense Force relays orders to his squad during Exercise Iron Fist 2016 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9, 2016. (Cpl. William Perkins)

This row, from left: A U.S. Army Special Operator with Operational Detachment Alpha, 7th Special Forces Group, fires an 81mm mortar during a training evolution in conjunction with ITX 2-16 aboard the Combat Center Feb. 8, 2016. (Cpl. Danielle Rodrigues)

A U.S. Air Force joint terminal attack controller assigned to 284th Air Support Operation Squadron, and U.S. Army Special Forces Green Berets assigned to 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Operational Detachment-A, use a hide site to conduct observations during a special reconnaissance mission as part of ITX 2-16. (Air Force Tech Sgt. Efren Lopez)

A Green Beret sniper assigned to 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Operational Detachment-A, walks along a ridgeline during a special reconnaissance mission while participating in ITX 2-16 Feb. 17, 2016. (U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Efren Lopez)





MCAGCC

Marine Corps
Air Ground
Combat
Center

There are two sides to every story, and the Combat Center's is no exception. While the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC) focuses solely on training, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) is tasked with managing the facilities and services aboard the installation in support of both tenant and resident commands, and to improve the quality of life for Marines, sailors and family members who are stationed here.

Aside from training, the Combat Center is a bustling place, with changes of command and other military ceremonies, as well as concerts, shows, tours and a variety of events that are all part of the fabric of life here.

Marines, sailors, civilian employees and their families also participate regularly in events off the installation.

It's not uncommon to see a group of men and women from the Combat Center working alongside members of the community at Earth Day events, marching in parades or talking about military vehicles on display at events throughout the Morongo Basin and the neighboring Coachella Valley.

The following pages illustrate how active the Combat Center family is year-round. No matter the season, there's always something going on – a musical salute, a family day, a sporting event or a run for a good cause, with MCAGCC's best making it happen.

Families of 7th Marine Regiment participate in the regiment's Spring Eggstravaganza at Desert Winds Golf Course, March 11, 2016. (Cpl. Thomas Mudd)

Clockwise from top: Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, outgoing Combat Center Commanding General, right, passes the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC battle colors to Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, oncoming Combat Center Commanding General, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, July 14, 2016. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)



Marines of 7th Marine Regiment salute as the national anthem is played aboard the Combat Center during a ceremony honoring the regiment's 99th anniversary, Aug. 14, 2016. The regiment has a rich history dating back to the Banana Wars. (Cpl. Timothy Valero)



Lt. Cmdr. Arthur L. Wiggins Jr. cuts the Navy's 241st anniversary cake at Camp Wilson, Oct. 13, 2016. The cutting of the cake ceremony is a tradition in which the first piece goes to the oldest and youngest sailors to signify the passing of the torch from one generation to another. Wiggins is the chaplain for 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. (Lance Cpl. Juan A. Soto-Delgado)



A sailor hangs the dog tags of a fallen corpsman on a battlefield cross to honor the ultimate sacrifice the corpsman made as part of the 118th Hospital Corpsmen Ball at Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, Calif., June 17, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)



Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, cuts the Marine Corps birthday cake during the Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 10, 2016. The pageant celebrates 241 years of Marine Corps history and traditions. (Lance Cpl. Anabel Abreu-Rodriguez)





Clockwise from top left: Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, greets the Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, at the Combat Center's Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 21, 2016. McGinn later awarded the installation's Exercise Support Division the 2015 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Award in the U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary category. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)

The congregation of the Combat Center Catholic Chapel enters Palm Sunday mass at the chapel, March 20, 2016. (Cpl. Connor Hancock)

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter addresses Marines and sailors at Dunham Amphitheatre aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 15, 2016. Carter visited the installation to observe a combined-arms, live-fire exercise (CALFEX), meet with Combat Center leadership, and address Marines and sailors stationed aboard the installation. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)

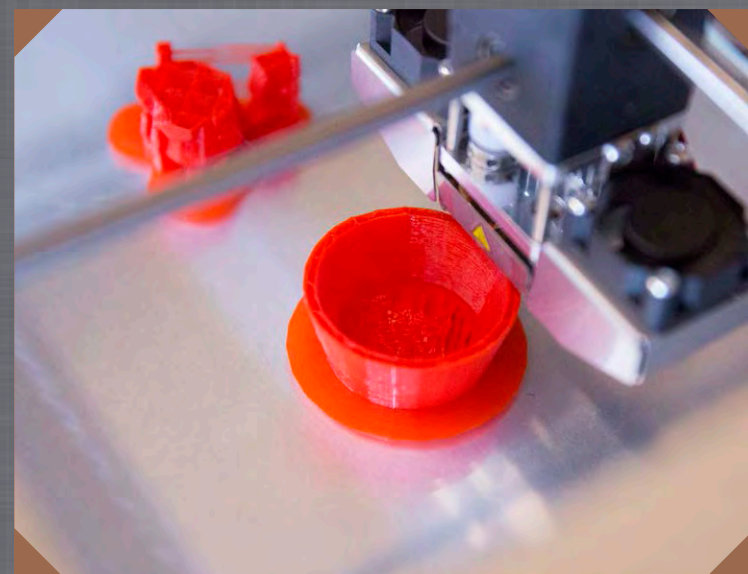
Gen. Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, right, speaks with a Marine, July 28, 2016. Neller visited Twentynine Palms to observe Marines participating in the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Integrated Experiment (MIX-16). (Cpl. Samantha K. Draughon)



This page, clockwise from top: Marines with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, display the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Electronics Network System during the Energy Capability Exercise, in alignment with the Great Green Fleet initiative, at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 6, 2016. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

Two objects are manufactured using 3D printing technology during a 3D printing class aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 16, 2016. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)

Lance Cpl. Jose Marroquin, electro-optical ordnance repair technician, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, launches a ping pong ball using a make-shift sling shot during a 3D printing class aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 16, 2016. Over the three-day course, Marines were challenged to manufacture innovative solutions for the problems presented to them using 3D printing innovation. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)



This page, clockwise from top left: Cpl. Juan Pepperorellana Jr. ascends the rope climb at a Combat Center obstacle course on Fourth Street, July 1, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)

Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, performs the fireman carry during the movement under fire portion of his Combat Fitness Test at Del Valle Field, Oct. 25, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)

Lance Cpl. Joseph Sanchez III vaults over the log wall at an obstacle course on Fourth Street, July 1, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)



Clockwise from top left: Ryder Green, son of Lt. David Green, dentist, 23rd Dental Company, pets a goat during the Earth Day Extravaganza at Lincoln Military Housing Athletic Field, April 15, 2016. (Cpl. Connor Hancock)

Michael Villalino, 5, grandson of Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, outgoing Combat Center Sergeant Major, prays during the invocation as part of a relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 10, 2016. During the ceremony, Villalino relinquished his post to oncoming Combat Center Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges. The ceremony also marked Villalino's retirement after 30 years of honorable service. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

Sgt. Panchico Matthews Jr., embarkation chief, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, embraces his daughter during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 20, 2016. 2/7 was deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)

Spouses of Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, shoot M4 rifles at Range 106 during the battalion's Jane Wayne Day, Oct. 14, 2016. (Cpl. Thomas Mudd)

Staff Sgt. Jakob Schulz, explosive ordnance disposal technician, shows Kyle Webber, 9, son of Staff Sgt. Chris Webber, communications maintenance chief, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School (MCCES), how to operate a TALON robot during Condor Elementary School's annual Science Night, Feb. 9, 2016. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)





Clockwise from left: Participants of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response annual Colorful Consent 5K Run throw colored powder during a color party at the finish line of the run held aboard the Combat Center, April 1, 2016. (Cpl. Thomas Mudd)

Lance Cpl. Caleb Batiste and Pfc. Taylor Miller, students, MCCES, perform during the Single Marines Program's seventh Annual Marines Got Talent Show at Sunset Cinema, Aug. 12, 2016. (Cpl. Thomas Mudd)

Participants in the third annual Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk organized by the Officers' Spouses' Club show their enthusiasm for Zumba at Felix Field, Oct. 14, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)



Clockwise from left: Col. James F. Harp, Combat Center Chief of Staff, tees off during the Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament at Desert Winds Golf Course aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 28, 2016. The event raised \$1,090 for charity. (Cpl. Julio McGraw)

Marines and sailors from the 1st Tank Battalion football team and the joint Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and MCCES team prepare to run a play during the Football Jamboree hosted by Marine Corps Community Services Sports at Felix Field, Sept. 14, 2016. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)

Master Sgt. Fernando Andrade, instructor, MCCES, hits a softball during the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group annual Softball Tournament at Felix Field, March 26, 2016. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)



Clockwise from top left: Don Tolbert and Tom Gardner, cyclists, round a corner during the annual Earth Day Road Bike Criterium at the Combat Center, April 14, 2016. (Cpl. Thomas Mudd)

Jay Jones, right, work leader, Range Sustainment Branch, tells supporters of the Armed Services YMCA how items collected from the Combat Center's training ranges are recycled during the group's tour of the installation Dec. 18, 2016. (Kelly O'Sullivan)

Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, shows Congressman Raul Ruiz how to determine the age of a desert tortoise during his visit to the Combat Center, March 18, 2016. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)

Girl Scouts of Troop 1744 hold a 3-year-old tortoise during their visit to the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site, April 10, 2016. The Scouts visited the installation to earn their Wildlife Habitat Badges which are earned through education on native wild animals and how they live. (Cpl. Thomas Mudd)





Clockwise from top left: Marines with MCCES unfurl the U.S. flag during the 14th annual Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's Salute to Heroes at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, Calif., March 11, 2016. (Cpl. Julio McGraw)

Morongo Basin residents and visitors, including Combat Center families, enjoy a fireworks display during the Yucca Valley Independence Day Celebration at Brehm Youth Sports Park, Yucca Valley, Calif., July 4, 2016. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

An Air Force veteran lays a carnation atop a casket to pay respect to fallen service members during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park at Big Bear Lake, Calif., May 30, 2016. Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, represented the installation as the guest speaker, talking about the importance of remembering the ultimate sacrifice many American service members have paid. (Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo)

The Combat Center Color Guard leads the Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 22, 2016. The parade is held annually to celebrate the unique culture and history of the community. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)





Clockwise from top left: Petty Officer 2nd Class Johnathan Lough-Wekell, corpsman, 4th Tank Battalion, loads toys into a truck during the 2nd annual Toys for Tots Fly-in, Dec. 10, 2016. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

Students and staff of MCCES place toys in donation bins during the Toys for Tots Fun Run aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 14, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Dave Flores)

A stuffed bear sits on the wing of an aircraft that was flown by volunteers from the Redlands Airport Association to deliver toys to the Twentynine Palms Airport as part of the second annual Toys for Tots Fly-in, Dec. 10, 2016. (Cpl. Levi Schultz)

Children play in the snow during the Armed Services YMCA Holiday Joy Program aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 21, 2016. (Cpl. Connor Hancock)



