

Marines to the 'rescue' Silence is golden when faced with active shooter



CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

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. The prospective infantry officers pointed a non-lethal laser at simulated protesters, which can cause nausea and disorientation.

Exercise targets simulated riot

BY CPL. LAUREN A. KURKIMILIS

Eerie cries for help and startling gunshots echoed through the night as a CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter descended on the country of Red. A riot of angry protesters surrounded the Sofitel Hotel, where trapped inside were American non-combatants. As the heavy-lift helicopter ominously hovered above its objective, sand, rocks and debris rocketed at the surrounding crowd in a wave of brief deterrence. The Marines of Infantry Officers Course 4-14 emerged from the belly of the massive aircraft, fast roping one-by-one on to the roof of the hotel, as a mob swarmed around the building, threatening the Americans inside and the small group of Marines who had come to their rescue.

Infantry Officers Course students conducted a multi-objective exercise, Exercise Talon Reach IV at Range 220, Sept. 19 and in to the next morning as part of IOC 4-14.

"Infantry Officers Course is designed to develop 0302 and 0203 infantry officers and ground intelligence officers for service in infantry and reconnaissance battalions in the Marine Corps," said Maj. George Flynn, director, IOC.

The IOC 4-14 class is made up of 55 students, who were selected for the 13-week course. Most of the training takes place at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., with a patrolling exercise also held at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. The new lieutenants then transitioned out to the Combat Center to conduct three weeks of combined-arms, live-fire

See RESCUE page A7



CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Second Lt. Timothy Meyer, student, Infantry Officer Course 4-14, observes messages on the PRC 117G Tablet during Exercise Talon Reach IV on Range 220, Saturday. The tablet connects to a network which allows for dynamic communication between commanders.



CPL. LAUREN KURKIMILIS

Participants of Infantry Officers Course 4-14, use PRC 117G tablets on top of a simulated hotel rooftop after conducting a long-range vertical insertion from a CH-53 Super Stallion Helicopter during Exercise Talon Reach IV at Range 220, Sept. 19. The tablets allowed the Marines to wirelessly access a connected network on which they were able to access GPS coordinates and engage in group chats in order to quickly relay mission-essential information.

BY LANCE CPL. PAUL MARTINEZ

The United States Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area." Generally, there is no specific pattern to choosing victims.

There are, however, established guidelines to help individuals survive the situation. If caught in the midst of a hostile active-shooter situation, there are three approaches to maximize chances of survival and assist in the apprehension of the shooter.

The first approach to surviving an active-shooter situation is hiding. It is imperative to first observe your surroundings, and seek a room for shelter. Immediately lock the door and improvise a barricade with nearby furniture if necessary. Ideal furniture can include chairs, podiums and desks. When it is safe to do so, contact emergency authorities and remain in place.

While cellular devices can be considered useful, they present both an advantage and a threat to surviving an active-shooter situation.

"It is important to keep cell phones on silent," said Niki McBain, emergency

manager, Force Protection, G-7. "If a cell phone rings or makes any noise, it can give away your location to the shooter."

The second approach to making it through an active-shooter situation is fleeing the danger zone.

In this instance, it is important to observe any accessible escape routes and leave the premises if possible. Leave any and all personal possessions behind and, if able, lead other co-workers out of the building.

Once successfully away from harm or danger, seek the assistance of authorities. At this point, keep hands visible and slowly approach first responders. If anyone is wounded nearby, leave them in place and seek attention from first responders to assist. Cooperation with first responders is vital. Give any details that may assist with identification and apprehension of the shooter.

"The first thing the victim needs to do is relay to the first responder as much information as possible," said Capt. Ben Gutek, operations officer, Provost Marshal's Office. "Anything that will paint the picture, whether it is how many victims are alive or injured, or where the shooting is

See SHOOTER page A7



COURTESY PHOTO

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center is looking to strengthen service families during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Learn how not to abuse

BY PFC. MEDINA M. AYALA-LO

October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness month and Marine Corps Community Services' Marine and Family Programs will be partnering with various organizations aboard the base to raise awareness and educate the Combat Center community on maintaining healthy relationships.

"Our initiative is to educate all the active-duty Marines, sailors, family members and civilians on what safe relationships look like," said Michele Godfrey, Prevention and Education Specialist, Behavioral Health Branch. "We are targeting all the services on our installation by offering workshops and distributing information and resources so that people will understand what a safe relationship is."

Family violence, whether it's domestic or child abuse, is directly related to stressors, according to Godfrey. An important key to preventing domestic violence is knowing how to reduce and handle stress.

"It's important that we educate everyone on the signs," Godfrey said. "We give them resources and tools and a lot of the classes offer ways to reduce stress."

During October, BHP will work with the Single Marine Program, the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and

the Lifelong Learning Library to release information pertaining to domestic violence.

"We have a reading list that we're encouraging people to read about, whether you're a victim, or you want to help someone who may be a victim of domestic violence," Godfrey said.

Additional events taking place aboard the Combat Center in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month include, a motorcycle ride, lunch-and-learns at the protestant chapel, weekly-healthy relationship discussions at MCCES, and a married-and-loving-it class.

"We know we're not the mission," Godfrey said. "But we can help them meet the mission by giving them tools and resources to take care of their families and take care of themselves."

Assuring that people know they should feel safe with the relationships in their lives is of utmost importance. The BHP hopes to get that message across.

"We want to bring awareness to domestic violence and ultimately remind everyone that domestic violence goes against Corps values," Godfrey said.

For more information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month, contact (760) 830-6345. For domestic abuse reporting and resources, contact the Victim Advocates at (760) 362-9837.

Reflective belts save lives

BY PFC. JULIO A. MCGRAW

Light weight, highly reflective and a silent life saver. The Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office reminds all personnel and family members that reflective safety belts and reflective safety vests are a required addition to physical training gear when walking, running or bike riding.

"It is for safety, because safety is always paramount," said Maj. Kim Keefer, the Combat Center's provost marshal.

Combat Center Order 1630.8D states that

all personnel aboard the base, during hours of low visibility, before morning colors and after evening colors or performing any activity other than a military formation, must wear either a reflective vest or a reflective belt to ensure that they are seen by motorists.

"It doesn't have to be a belt, but as long as the clothing has reflective material and you can be seen by people driving," Keefer said, "the more reflective the better."

On formation runs, road guards responsible for keeping the formation safe from vehicles must

wear a reflective vest to ensure that they are seen.

Preparation is always a key component in any plan. As daylight saving time approaches and physical training goes into periods of darkness it is wise to go ready.

"If you are going to take off on a long run, and you know that you are going to be out after dark, go prepared [with a reflective belt]," Keefer said.

Along with having a reflective belt, service members should keep some things in mind when running or jogging in heavy traffic areas.

"If you are going for a

run, run on the side facing oncoming traffic, so drivers are aware of your presence," Keefer said.

The order also states that service members are not permitted to run on Del Valle Rd. Service members should run with no more than two individuals side by side. Headphones are also not permitted while running.

Physical training is important, but safety is always paramount. Although a reflective belt is a small piece of gear, it plays a vital role in the safety of Combat Center personnel and their family members.

RESCUE, from A1

training during a portion of IOC called Twentynine Palms Field Exercise. Included in Palm-

This is the first time the students were able to integrated planning with pilots from receipt of mission and through execution,"

— Capt. David Donahue, Talon Reach primary package instructor

fix was Exercise Talon Reach IV, which allows students to develop skills necessary to working within the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

"Exercise Talon Reach is the raid package here at the Infantry Officers Course and the main focus points of the exercise are really to introduce students to operating in a MAGTF, learning how to leverage the different technology that the Marine Corps has to offer, and to increase our ability to operate in a chaotic environment," said 2nd Lt. Garret Leffelman, student, IOC 4-14.

During the exercise, the IOC students flew 220 nautical miles in CH-53s, to Range 220 in order to work through the planning and execution of vertically inserting a Company Landing Team into a desired objective, forcing the prospective infantry officers to make decisions and aggressively seize an initiative based on timely intelligence.

"In this case, what we did, which was new, was we flew students out to (Marine Corps Air Station) Yuma, Ariz., to participate with (Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron - 1) instructors in the planning and development of a long-range, vertical insert to secure American citizens as a part of a scenario we developed," Flynn said.

Among the units with which the students were able to coordinate were MAWTS-1, Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group and Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, giving the students a complete look at what it takes to operate within the MAGTF.

"The purpose of this exercise was to introduce the students to the entirety of

the (MAGTF)," said Capt. David Donahue, Talon Reach primary package instructor, IOC. "This was the first time the students were able to do integrated planning with pilots from receipt of mission and through execution."

Donahue was responsible for all of the behind-the-scenes coordination of the Exercise Talon Reach training package, ensuring the Marines reach all learning objectives required.

"A lot of these students, when they graduate next week, could potentially be going to units that are going to be operating as Special MAGTF crisis-response units off of (Marine Expeditionary Units) and this is a very realistic scenario that they could potentially encounter as platoon commanders," Donahue said.

The students were given the opportunity to work out realistic problems in a real-time scenario.

"I thought Exercise Talon Reach was a great way to get exposure to the wing and to the MAGTF in general," Leffelman said. "This exercise allowed us to get with the pilots and see, as the subject matter experts, what they can provide for us in planning for our troops on the ground as far as winning and dominating a chaotic environment."

During Exercise Talon Reach IV, the students were given the opportunity to use and provide feedback for cutting-edge technology, which the Marine Corps has been developing. The two items used were the PRC 117G tablet, a network-enabled, wireless device and the Multi-purpose Unmanned Tactical Transport, a vehicle with the capability to follow Marines through virtually any terrain.



PFC. MEDINA AYALALO

Marines with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School play the role of Afghan protesters as Marines of Infantry Officers Course 4-14 conduct the course's final exercise, on Range 220, Sept. 19. The IOC spans 13 weeks and is made up of 55 students.

"The tablets provide a network for transfer of information between aircraft and the ground units," Flynn said. "We are trying to continue to provide situational awareness while in flight from the place of loading to our actual insert (landing zone.)"

Even while the Marines are in the aircraft, the tablets have the ability to connect to the Adaptive Networking Wideband Waveform network provided by the PRC 117G, which operates similar to Wi-Fi. This allowed the instructors to track where the aircraft was in relation to the objective areas.

"The students were also able to text each other or conduct a chat in order to continually update all their units and aircraft of what's happening on the deck," Flynn said.

The MUTT can be remote-controlled or tethered to a Marine, following him at a distance of two meters and will do so at whatever speed the Marine is walking. It is also able to turn around at a moment's notice and change its course of direction.

"During this exercise,



PFC. MEDINA AYALALO

Marines with Infantry Officer Course 4-14 disassemble an enemy weapon during Exercise Talon Reach IV, Sept. 19. The students were able to apply the skills they learned throughout the 13-week course.

the MUTT transported communication gear but it is also capable of extracting casualties as needed and to facilitate any sort of resupply during operations," Flynn said.

At the end of the course, the future infantry officers had learned innovative and tried-true means of conducting CLT operations, completing training vital to their success as leaders of the Corps' fighting forces.

"For the past 13 weeks, these students have been challenged in chaotic and uncertain environments

and have been asked to push themselves in the interest of preparing themselves to serve Marines they'll be leading in the future," Flynn said. "They have done exceptionally well and they are well prepared to take charge of infantry platoons and take care of the best America has to offer."

SHOOTER, from A1

taking place."

If all else fails, and only if one's life is in imminent danger, it is advised to take action against the shooter to increase your chance of survival.

"Fleeing and hiding are important," McBain said. "To fight is the absolute

last solution to dealing with an active shooter."

Improvise weapons if possible, and seek to incapacitate and disarm the shooter. Commit to your actions once they have begun.

If incapacitation with an active shooter is successful, contact the authorities

when it is safe to do so. The phone number for Combat Center emergency is (760) 830-3333.

"Everyone must remain calm and know what they need to do," Gutek said. "Rehearsals help in this scenario. If people follow instructions, it helps the

first responders be more effective in the performance of their duties."

For more information about guidelines in an active shooter scenario, visit <http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

As we begin a new school year in the Hi-Desert, I want to share with you an illustration.

In the mid-1960's, a professor at John Hopkins University gave a group of graduate students this assignment:

"Go to (name withheld) slum area. Identify 200 boys who live there and are between the ages of 12 and 16, get a profile on their family situations and backgrounds. Then predict what is likely for their respective futures."

The graduate students found the boys and did the interviews gathered additional data, and examined the social statistics for the area. They concluded that 90 percent of the boys would spend time in jail or prison.

Twenty-five years later another group of graduate students was given the assignment of testing that prediction. Some of the boys, now men, still lived in the area, a few had died, and a few others couldn't be located. Amazingly, they made contact with 180 of the 200.

Only four of them had ever been incarcerated. Since the area was now even more a breeding place for crime, the researchers were intrigued. Those who ventured to explain kept saying, "Well, there was this teacher..." Checking further, they discovered that three fourths of the 180 men had been taught by the same woman.

They located her in a retirement facility and asked her how she had exerted such an influence on these boys, that is, could she explain why she loomed so large in their past and their memories.

"No," she said, "I really have no idea." She was quiet for several moments. Then she said musingly-more to herself than to her interviewers: "I did so love those boys..."

This column sponsored by:

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Reprinted from the Observation Post

September 15, 1989

"We will never forget those who gave their all"

BY LANCE CPL LISA BANKS

Today has been designated National prisoners of war / Missing In Action Recognition Day to honor former American POWs, those still missing, and to acknowledge their families.

More than 90,000 POWs and MIAs are still unaccounted for from World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

In addition, 2,343 Americans remain unaccounted for in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War.

Efforts to account for the missing Americans continue. President Bush has stated that accounting for our missing service members has "the highest national priority."

After signing the Paris Peace Accords on Jan. 27, 1973, the Vietnamese released 591 American prisoners as part of Operation Homecoming. More than 15 years later, many Americans have still not come home.

One American, Air Force Sgt. Joseph A. Matejov, a crew member, was shot down over Laos on Feb. 2, 1973. There's evidence that he was taken as a prisoner of war, but he's still listed as "missing in

action."

"My brother's one of several hundred," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Matejov, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Co., Detachment A.

While Vietnam has repatriated the remains of some missing Americans, many have yet to be found. There is also some evidence, through various live sightings according to Matejov, that some of these Americans may still be alive.

According to an August Headquarters Marine Corps message, "... It would be irresponsible to rule out the possibility that live Americans are still being held captive ... Actions to investigate live reports receive ... necessary priority."

The National League of Families is an organization that helps keep families of MIAs informed. Comprised of family members or MIAs, they send out newsletters and work with the government.

"It's the only organization the U.S. government recognizes as a pool of interested Americans concerned about this issue," Matejov said.

Matejov and his family sell POW/MIA bracelets and T-shirts,

raising money to donate POW/MIA Flags to organizations which fly them benefiting this cause. Perhaps you've seen some Marines at the Combat Center wearing red bracelets with a missing American's name on them. The bracelets, acceptable under uniform regulations, are worn as a reminder and are sent to the person or their family when they return.

What can we do on this day and throughout the year?

"The biggest thing people can do is become aware," Matejov said. "Listen. Ask questions. Write your congressman."

Almost all of the American POWs who have returned say the same thing, according to Matejov. The only thing that kept them alive was the knowledge that our government would someday bring them back.

That's why it's so important that we remember our POWs and those who are still considered "missing in action." If it were your brother who was missing, you wouldn't forget.

For more information regarding this issue, or if you're interested in purchasing POW/MIA items, contact CWO-4 Jon Matejov at 368-6709.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

JETTISON HENRY KASTRUP
Born on: Aug. 15, 2014
Born to: Nancy and Tyler Kastrup

EVELYNN KAY KIRKPATRICK
Born on: Aug. 15, 2014
Born to: Jordan and Erica Kirkpatrick

ADRIEL RAUL PINEDA
Born on Aug. 23, 2014
Born to: Cesar Pineda Alcalá and Stephanie Rodrigues

FFLORENCIO AARON TEJEDA
Born on: Aug. 30, 2014
Born to: Florencio and Esmeralda Tejeda

LUCILLE LORRAINE MARTINEZ
Born on: Aug. 28, 2014
Born to: Fernando and Alice Martinez

ANDREW RYAN KILLIAN
Born on: Aug. 28, 2014
Born to: Anna and Michael Killian

GRAZIELLA CANNIZZARO
Born on: Aug. 27, 2014
Born to: Kara-Andrea Cannizzaro

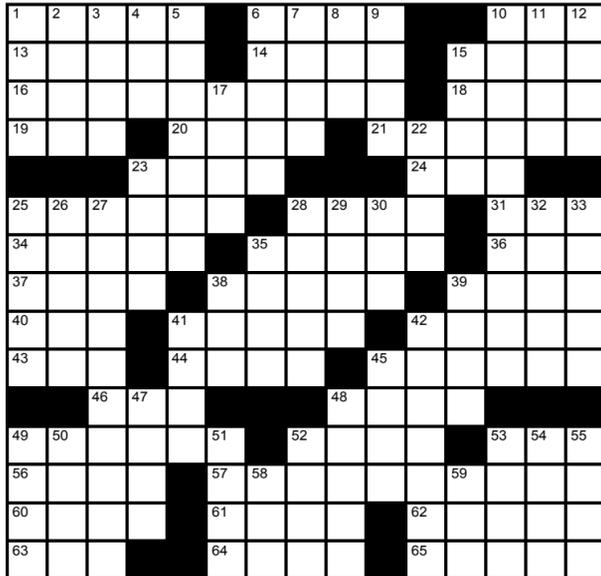
PEMBROOKE JEI SOCHA
Born on: Sept. 4, 2014
Born to: Patricia and Scott Socha

MICHAEL ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
Born on: Sept. 9, 2014
Born to: Adan and Ariadna Rodriguez

CROSSWORD

Across

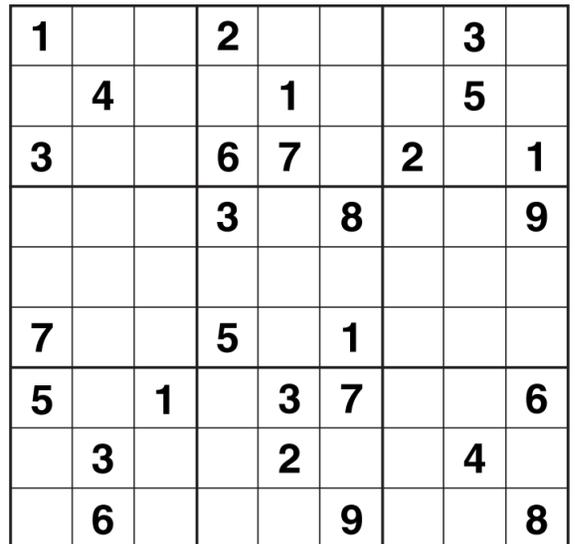
- 1 Pair on the feet
- 6 Tears
- 10 Kickoff need, in football
- 13 Work on the turkey
- 14 Concept
- 15 Not at home
- 16 Short work at the theater
- 18 Achy
- 19 Football scores: abbr.
- 20 Maple or cherry
- 21 Yogurt eater's need
- 23 Crazy as a ___
- 24 Not on the schedule
- 25 Get an A for ___
- 28 Historical times
- 31 Roker and Pacino
- 34 Civil disturbances
- 35 Actress Dunne
- 36 Stabler or Jennings
- 37 Burden
- 38 Happening
- 39 Prima donna
- 40 The, in Germany
- 41 Make law
- 42 Doomed person
- 43 Spooky ability
- 44 Get something off your chest
- 45 Car door opener
- 46 Be in arrears
- 48 Mist
- 49 Powerful beams
- 52 Untainted
- 53 J. Edgar Hoover's org.
- 56 ___ and crafts
- 57 Goldilocks visited their house
- 60 Get together



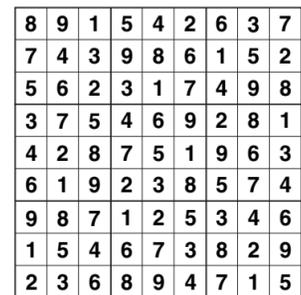
Down

- 1 Get off ___-free
- 2 Finger's place
- 3 Valuable sources of minerals
- 4 Actress Marie Saint
- 5 Parts, as of the economy
- 6 Become edible, as fruit
- 7 Not doing much at all
- 8 Split ___ soup
- 9 Verbalizes
- 10 Perfectly matched pair
- 11 Make, as money
- 12 They may be brown or blue
- 15 Since
- 17 Horse's gait
- 22 Show off for the camera
- 23 Plenty
- 25 Eat away at
- 26 Penalties
- 27 Fancy bed
- 28 Put up
- 29 Monthly bill
- 30 Picnic pest
- 32 Even
- 33 Trap
- 35 ___ the Terrible
- 38 Compass dir.
- 39 Completed
- 41 At any time
- 42 Park structures
- 45 Rabbit's cousin
- 47 Toward the setting sun
- 48 Big helicopters, in military slang
- 49 Light source
- 50 Neighborhood
- 51 "Cut it out!"
- 52 ___ school
- 53 Roosevelt's dog
- 54 Englishman
- 55 "Understood"
- 58 "Curb Your Enthusiasm" network
- 59 Animal with antlers

SUDOKU



Last week's solutions



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 - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
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 - 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.

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 - 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>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Kristian BANDEIRA

Peabody, Ma. Clerk, Company A, 20

BANDEIRA HAS BEEN BREAK DANCING FOR SIX YEARS AND PERFORMED FREQUENTLY THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL. ALTHOUGH ALMOST NO ONE IN HIS TOWN USED THIS FORM OF EXPRESSION, BANDEIRA CONTINUED TO PRACTICE AND TEACH OTHER KIDS IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD. HE STILL PRACTICES IN THE MARINE CORPS AND WANTS TO CONTINUE FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE HIS 'B-BOY' NAME IS RISER.

> **I chose the name** Riser because in my opinion, dancing has taught me to rise to the occasion or to always rise above any competition.

> **I really don't** go to a studio so I guess you can say my room is my own personal one.

> **To be honest** I can practice anywhere but the best place for me is a good wooden floor.

> **Concrete is also really** great to practice on once you get past the pain and get used to it but it can be dangerous. To be alone and train, I will sometimes go to the top floor of the barracks parking a lot and just practice and get in the zone.

> **In high school** I never talked to anyone, especially my freshman and sophomore year, but dancing let that confidence come out because when I dance, there's no fear or anxiety, it's just performing.

> **I practice any time I can.** If I see something I like, I'll work it into a routine and constantly try it.

> **YouTube also helps** me learn moves through tutorials if it's too complicated.

> **Dancing helps me express** myself and for me, and others I hope, it is a unique form of art.

> **My favorite group** of dancers would have to be the Jabowakees. They created a form of pop-locking called 'Dime Stop.' It basically has fast movements with even quicker stops in between, sort of like 'stopping on a dime.'

> **When I'm in front** of a crowd I feel happy and excited but I have to stay calm and collected. I have to perform and be sharp so I can't let emotions get to me.

> **I have battled** other people and I guess you could say I never lost. Once I got to California, I started going up against much more advanced dancers.

> **Dancing comes natural** to me now, almost as natural as walking. It's affected my life so much and it helped me come out of my [shell] growing up.

> **For the first** two homecoming dances I had in high school, I came in sunglasses, a bandana over my face, and a hat and performed for everyone. For two years, no one knew who I was, I finally revealed myself my junior year. It was funny to see the reactions because I never really spoke to anyone or was very popular so I chose to only display my dancing.

byline



> **My dream is** to one day perform on national television in front of millions; that would be cool.

> **In high school** I practiced about three hours a day or any time I could. That's part of the challenge of being a 'B-Boy.' You constantly have to practice your moves and refine them.

> **I like meeting other people** who can dance and practicing with them to learn from each other.

> **Battling is also exciting**, but I learn a lot from them as well and you put your skills to the test.

> **It turned out** that after I left my high school, a lot more people began break dancing. I guess they thought, 'Hey this guy's getting too much of the spotlight, I want to have some of that attention too.'

> **I'm looking forward** to meeting more break dancers in the future even in the Marine Corps. I've already met some while stationed here, including a gunnery sergeant who used to dance back in the day, so you never know.

> **Honestly, I want to** keep dancing for the rest of my life. It has given me so much and even though I'm in the military I am a firm believer in that if you truly love something that is a big part of your life, you will always find time to do it no matter what.

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Combat Center Marines take

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. THOMAS MUDD

3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion Marines conducted live-fire training with 1st Company, 17th Battalion, United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard Reconnaissance Group, aboard the Combat Center Sep. 17 and 18.

The UAE soldiers participated in various training exercises to increase proficiency in patrolling, combat marksmanship, reconnaissance and surveillance.

“Generally speaking, we have gained a great deal working together with the Marines, said Capt. Ahmed Humaid Al Shamsi, company commander of 1st Company, 17th Battalion, UAE Presidential Guard Reconnaissance Group. Your ranges are exceptional in the way they are set up and in the way you have utilized modern technology, such as the moving targets.”

The Marines of 3rd LAR have been working with the soldiers since the beginning of September. The joint training has also helped strengthen the relationship between the nations.

“I would like to emphasize one point, and that is morale.”

— 1st Sgt. Salem Saeed

“My men clicked so well with the Marines [during training],” said 1st Sgt. Salem Saeed, senior enlisted advisor, 1st Company, 17th Battalion, UAE Presidential Guard Reconnaissance Group. “We work as if there are no language barriers, no impediments of any kind.”

The soldiers started their training with patrolling exercises and counter Improvised Explosive Device training.

The next week was spent patrolling battle-sight zeroing throwing live hand grenades, combat marksmanship, room clearing, light machine guns and finally squad and platoon size maneuvers.

“I would like to emphasize one point, and that is morale,” said Saeed. “The morale of my men has been really enhanced. I feel it, I sense it. It has been getting better every day.”

The soldiers practiced these skills with guidance from 3rd LAR Marines. During their training the soldiers were split into three squads to conduct a combat marksmanship competition between their best shooters and determine who excelled at combat marksmanship the best. Third squad won the event while following the instructions being shouted by the Marines. The UAE soldiers used their SIG516 rifles from various distances while aggressively firing hammer pairs followed by shots to the head or pelvic areas on their targets.

While conducting room clearing exercises, the soldiers were coached by the Marines. The Marines started the soldiers off in pairs, going in to one room and cautiously clearing the corners to secure the objective. The soldiers practiced room clearing several times without live ammunition. After they practiced their technique the UAE soldiers then moved to live ammunition.

The live fire training exercises covered multiple weapons and techniques, including their light machine guns.

The soldiers fired in pairs from several positions using their M249. The automatic rifleman also moved into different positions to practice communicating while using the weapons.

The exercise then transitioned from building clearing to squad maneuvers.

The squads had two maneuver elements and one support element. The maneuver elements used the SIG516 rifles and the support element used two M249 with two spotters using the SIG516s.

“We came here and we trained and we gained so much knowledge,” Saeed said. “Some of these things we have done before, but we learned your way of doing it and that I feel has enhanced our experience.”

While executing the maneuvers, Marines had two elements bounding past one another to attack targets while the third element followed. During this portion of training, Marines also taught the UAE squad leaders how to effectively lead their squad during movements.

“It’s good training for me and it’s good for all the members of the squad. It teaches them how to teach other people. When we get more junior Marines we are already a step ahead,” Hyde said.

The UAE soldiers concluded their three-week training evolution through live fire training, room clearing and combat marksmanship. The soldiers have trained and are prepared to return to the UAE later this week.



Cpl. Jesse Leight, exercise advisor, 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, helps a United Arab Emirate soldier place and set his weapon while on Range 108, Combat Center training area, Sept. 18. The UAE soldiers were on Range 108 to learn how to perform fire and maneuver tactics.



The United Arab Emirates soldiers kneel ready to engage targets on Range 108, Combat Center, training area Sept. 18. This training environment prepared the UAE soldiers to use techniques in similar environments.



Lance Cpl. Gary Goldman, exercise advisor, 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, watches a United Arab Emirate soldier reload his SIG516 during live-fire training on Range 108, Combat Center training area, Sept. 18. Marines took ample time demonstrating the correct techniques for UAE soldiers, to ensure proper execution and stressed safety on the firing line.

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Lance Cpl. Gary Goldman, exercise advisor, 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, instructs two United Arab Emirate soldiers during room clearing exercises at Combat Center training area, Range 111, Sept. 17. The UAE soldiers went through several runs entering the room to make sure they entered efficiently.

Cpl. Jesse Leight, exercise advisor, 3rd Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, explains where the United Arab Emirate soldier should focus his weapon on Range 108, Combat Center training area, Sept. 18. The UAE soldiers were coached on the best places to focus their fire during this portion of training.



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Education fair prepares service members for the future

PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

An education fair was held at the West Gym Sept. 17 for service members and dependents aboard the Combat Center to provide insight on colleges and job opportunities outside the Marine Corps.

The fair provided service members with information about more than 60 education and job opportunities available to them like Mayfield College and the University of Phoenix. Agencies also had booths showing service members job opportunities, like the Sacramento Sheriff's Department.

"Our main goal is to make sure that our young men and women, Marines, sailors and other members are ready to leave after their military service," said Rick Colton, manpower development specialist and one of the event coordinators.

The fair offered information booths which allowed representatives from different schools, companies and agencies to answer questions and inform service members of possible opportunities.

"It's a good place to ask questions to

prepare us for when we get out," said Cpl. Luis Narvarez, motor transportation operator, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. "It also gives us a chance to find interest in different fields."

Although the fair was geared toward junior-enlisted service members, albeit senior enlisted and officers also benefited from the information provided.

"Without a doubt, it helps everyone," said Randy DeLeon, military outreach liaison, University of Phoenix. "Junior [service members], non-commissioned officers, higher enlisted, officers, service members getting out, and even veterans that want to go back to school benefit from this."

Marines and sailors from around the base steadily came seeking information throughout the duration of the fair.

"We want service members that are getting out to have a Plan A, Plan B, and a Plan C." Colton said. "That way they are prepared for the transition out."

In an ever-changing world where education and forward planning are the keys to success, education fairs like this provide service members with the necessary tools to meet their future goals.



Lance Cpl. Deontia Starling, motor transportation dispatcher, 2nd battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, talks to Detective Stephanie Landry, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and Detective Aaron Russell, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, about his future goals during an education fair at the West Gym, Sept. 17.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy Howell, Company C, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, talks to Stacy Magurn, military administrator, Mayfield College, during the Education Fair at the West Gym, Sept. 17. At the fair, service members asked questions about their education opportunities.



Cpl. Luis Narvarez, motor transportation operator, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, fills out an application at a booth at the Education Fair held at the West Gym, Sept. 17. Narvarez participated in the education fair to become better prepared for when he gets out of the military.

Photos by Pfc. Julio McGraw

Visit the official MCGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

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Infantry Marines play vital role in Valiant Shield 2014



PHOTO BY CPL. DAVID WALTERS

Marine infantrymen make their way to a compound held by Guam Army National Guard who are acting as an opposing force Sept. 20 during the island seizure portion of Exercise Valiant Shield 2014 at Tinian's North Field. The Marines were transported from Okinawa to Guam and from there to Tinian. Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners. The Marines are with Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

BY STAFF SGT. WARREN PEACE

TINIAN – Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands– U.S. infantry Marines conducted an island seizure exercise on Tinian Sept. 20 during Exercise Valiant Shield 2014.

Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only biennial exercise focusing on the integration of joint training among the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Army. The exercise consists of several different smaller exercises, or vignettes, one of which is the island seizure.

The Marines, with Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, were inserted via two Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. They were met with opposition from Company A, 1st Battalion, 294 Infantry, Guam Army National Guard.

Days earlier, six Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, began collecting intelligence on their objective in the jungles of Tinian, an old World War II era compound. They relayed their intelligence back to Guam where the infantrymen were waiting.

“The overall mission for this exercise vignette was to seize this (compound),” said Capt. Philipp Rigaut, commanding officer for Company A. “This is a great proof of concepts in our ability to execute while having a lot of things happen at the same time.”

Approximately 25 National Guardsmen spent three days and two nights at the compound in order to learn the geography of the surrounding forest and attempt to discover the area where the Marines would most likely attack from.

During the recon, the senior enlisted personnel of the National Guard emphasized using noise discipline and using their training in order to not get complacent.

“When we are training with other units, the bottom line we tell our soldiers is ‘be professional,’” said Staff Sgt. Clarence Elicio, squad leader with the Guam National Guard. “Anytime we are conducting training, we tell them to keep an eye open for the tactics the other units use, then we come together afterward to pick and choose certain things that worked for them that wouldn’t have worked for us, and vice versa.”

After hours of recon from both sides and multiple hours of silence, the Marines intercepted the National Guard security and later arrived at the compound.

Though Marines seized their objective, 1st Lt. Marcelino Figueroa, rifle platoon commander with Company A, believes his Marines learned new things for future conflicts.

“This keeps our proficiency high, and its competitive working with the National Guard,” Figueroa said. “We saw their tactics and how they do things versus us. Now we’ll take those lessons and hopefully apply it for another operation.”



PHOTO BY CPL. DAVID WALTERS

Two MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft containing Marine infantrymen land near Tinian's North Field Sept. 20 as part of the island seizure portion of Exercise Valiant Shield 2014. The Marines within the aircraft disembarked and the Osprey took off before the Marines made their way to reclaim a compound that has been captured by simulated opposing forces, Guam Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment. Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners. The Ospreys are with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Ngiraswei/ Released)



PHOTO BY CPL. DAVID WALTERS

Cpl. Kyle W. Losee, left, and 1st Lt. Traver K. Mayfield lock in with a Stinger missile weapon system on aircraft flying by during the island seizure portion of the Valiant Shield 14 exercise Sept. 20 at Tinian's North Field. They are acting as opposing forces who are trying to defend a captured compound that Marine infantrymen from Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment are trying to reclaim. Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners. Losee, from Norfolk, Virginia, is an assistant gunner and Mayfield, from Triangle, Virginia, is the officer in charge and both are with the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Detachment. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Ngiraswei/ Released)



Combat Center Events

The Commanding General's fifth annual Car and Bike show is scheduled to be held at the Marine Corps Exchange Parking lot Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. Applications for the show can be turned in at MCCS Marketing building 1024.

The Desert Winds Golf Course is scheduled to host the Commanding Generals Golf tournament on Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. Registration in the competitive golf tournament can be in teams or as singles. Registration can be done at the Desert Winds Golf Course.

A Craft Fair & bake sale is scheduled to be held at the community center, building 1004, Oct. 25 at 9 a.m. Applications are due on Oct. 24 at the community center.

The 239th Marine Corps birthday endurance run is scheduled to begin at the East Gym Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. The two day endurance event can be run as a team with a maximum of 10 participants per team. The run is open to all active duty, retirees, DoD and dependents.

The Officer's club is scheduled to hold Italian Night Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. The Italian night is open to all but reservations are required.

The Officers' Spouses' Club scheduled to host Bunco Night Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. The dice game is open to all hands and hometown and college jerseys are welcome.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Sept. 26
5 p.m. – If I Stay, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – The Giver, PG-13
10 p.m. – Teenage Mutant Ninja Trutles, PG-13

Saturday, Sept. 27
12 a.m. – Let's Be Cops, R
10 a.m. – The LEGO Movie (NDVD – Free Admission), PG
12 p.m. – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D, PG-13
2:30 p.m. – Into the Storm, PG-13
4:30 p.m. – The Hundred-Foot Journey, PG
7 p.m. – Let's be Cops, R
9:30 p.m. – The Giver,, PG-13

Sunday, Sept. 28
12 a.m. – The Expendables 3, PG-13

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Latest 'found-footage' scare excursion is a subterranean mess

NEIL POND

As Above, So Below
Starring Perdita Weeks & Ben Feldman
Directed by John Erick Dowdle
Rated R

If young actors ever stop filming themselves going into creepy places, Hollywood's going to be in a real pickle—filmmakers will have to come up with some other premise for movies like this one, in which yet another batch of 20-somethings go exploring somewhere goose-bumpy, "documenting" the whole thing from the get-go.

This "found footage" technique started back in 1999 with *The Blair Witch Project* and spawned an entire sub-genre of horror-movie filmmaking, wherein the video that the characters make is later "discovered" and becomes the movie itself.

In *As Above, So Below*, British actress Perdita Weeks plays Scarlett, a spunky, sexy young history buff-archeologist-adventurer-truth-seeker looking for the Philosopher's Stone, an ancient fabled object supposedly endowed with magical and mystical properties, including the power to heal and turn objects into gold.

All signs point Scarlett, her clue-deciphering friend George (Ben Feldman, who plays Michael Ginsberg on *Mad Men*), and their tag-along documentary filmmaker, Benji (Edwin Hodge), to the catacombs underneath Paris, the labyrinth of tunnels where some six million bodies have been interred for centuries. Linking up with a trio of cocky, graffiti-tagging French spelunkers, they dig in.

If you're looking for good scares, you'll have to wait a while; it takes a while to get going in the shock-o-ra-

ma department, and starts out much more in Indiana Jones/Tomb Raider mode. For the first hour or so, it's all blah-blah and buildup, which adds a bit to the creep-out factor but will disappoint anyone expecting something scarier.

The explorers have to crawl through a narrow passageway full of bones; Benji freaks out and gets stuck. Then they find out they've been going in circles. They come across a room full of topless chanting women—ooh la la! And when the real "jolts" start coming, they somehow don't seem to alarm anyone nearly as much as you'd think they would, especially when things take a decidedly weird, paranormal turn.

"Abandon hope, all ye who enter here," reads the inscription over one passageway they encounter. Hmm, notes Scarlett "That's the inscription over the gates of hell." But in everyone goes—of course!

The plot meanders, like the characters, who spend the majority of the movie lost, wandering, scooting, squirming, slithering, sliding, crawling, running, splashing, or thrashing around in the semi-darkness, rappelling up and down holes, and peeking, panting and peering around corners. It's almost feels like they're looking for not only the Philosopher's Stone, but also a basic storyline, much like the audience.

Things eventually turn violent and bloody, and even more confusing. At the end of it all, it's a hopelessly tangled, shaky-cam knot of "gotcha!" haunted-house images, loopy, incomprehensible mumbo-jumbo and bargain-basement recycled ideas from other movies. *As Above, So Below* is reportedly the first movie ever given permission to film in off-limits parts of the Paris catacombs, the largest cemetery in the world. Too bad it comes out such a super-sized subterranean mess.

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