



CPL. CARSON A. GRAMLEY

Cpl. Kaden Prickett, machine gunner and team leader with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, fires a .50 caliber Special Applications Scoped Rifle at a target 1,200 meters away, in the Central Command area of operations, Jan. 6. Marines and sailors of Golf Company spent time on the range getting acquainted with various weapons systems and cross-training one another in their respective areas of expertise.

# Rounds Downrange: 2/7 Marines cross train on range

BY CPL. CARSON GRAMLEY

**CENTRAL COMMAND** — The range was on the edge of the base's defensive perimeter, atop a plateau overlooking the compounds. In the opposite direction, flat desert sand and rock as far as the eye could see. Through the breeze and swirling dust, two truck-sized targets could be seen in the distance about 1,200 meters away.

A group of Marines and sailors from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, drove out to the range in the Central Command area of operations and conducted a live-fire exercise aimed at cross training members of the company on various weapons systems, Jan. 6.

The Marines and sailors engaged the targets accurately with five different weapons systems, pushing some weapons past their maximum effective range.

"We focused on cross

training the other Marines on our weapons systems and us on theirs," said Sgt. Anthony Abitz, a machine gun section leader with the company. "Basically we know machine guns and mortarmen know mor-

tars, but we want to make sure everyone around here knows how to employ all the weapons systems."

The group brought, it seemed, an entire armory: two .50 caliber M2 heavy machine guns, an Mk19

40mm automatic grenade launcher, an M240B medium machine gun, a long range .50 caliber sniper rifle, and 60mm mortars. They brought enough ammunition to get sufficient

See **TRAIN** page A6



CPL. CARSON GRAMLEY

Lance Cpl. Dalton Walburn, rifleman, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, fires a .50 caliber Special Applications Scoped Rifle at a target 1,200 meters away, in the Central Command area of operations, Jan. 6.

## Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph, posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This weeks top shot comes from Cpl. Evan White.



You voted and this week's Corps Top Shot comes from Cpl. Evan R. White. He captured this photo of Marines with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit during an underway replenishment aboard the Makin Island, Jan. 6.

## Relief, appointment ceremony welcomes new Sgt. Maj. for 'First Team'

BY LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Columns of Marines stood at the position of attention, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field, Jan. 9, with sunlight glinting off their ribbons and badges. They stood in formation representing the Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment during the relief and appointment ceremony of their sergeant major.

Sgt. Maj. Chasen E. Getty passed the non-commissioned officers' sword off to Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Cedeno signifying the symbolic change of senior leadership for 1/7.

"It's bittersweet," Getty said. "Especially going through everything with the battalion, like our deployment among other things."

Getty assumed command as battalion sergeant major for 1/7 in March 2013 and deployed with the battalion to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom later that year.

"It's hard leaving, but change is good for everyone and now it's time for Sgt.

Maj. Cedeno to take charge and lead these Marines," Getty said.

Cedeno was promoted to the rank of sergeant major on Dec. 1, 2014 and received orders to report to

*It's bittersweet, especially going through everything with the battalion, like our deployment among other things,"*

— Sgt. Maj. Chasen E. Getty

1/7 as the new battalion sergeants major.

"I'm definitely excited. I've been waiting for this chance for 19 years," Cedeno said. "Now that I'm wearing the rank of sergeant major, I couldn't be happier taking charge of a battalion of Marines."

While Getty spoke to the crowd, he reminded the Marines of 1/7 what they See **WELCOME** page A6



LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Sgt. Maj. Chasen E. Getty, former battalion sergeant major, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stands in front of Sgt. Maj. Michael Cedeno, battalion sergeant major, 1/7, and Lt. Col. David J. Hart, battalion commander, 1/7, during the relief and appointment ceremony for 1/7 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 9.

## '1st Tanks' fulfills Marine veteran's final wish



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Kenny R. White, Marine veteran, native of San Diego, hugs a tank on the 1st Tank Battalion ramp, Dec. 22. White suffers from Stage-5 kidney failure and one of his most important final wishes was to hug a tank.

BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

On the 1st Tank Battalion ramp, a special moment is being shared. A man walks carefully, but assuredly ascends the ramp. He's moving toward a tank. When he arrives, he is enthusiastically greeted by Marines. Then he stands there for a moment, eyes glistening, no doubt replaying old memories in his mind.

Marine veteran Kenneth R. White, native of San Diego, visited 1st Tanks, Dec. 22, 2014 to fulfill a final wish.

White served 17 years as a tanker for 4th Tank battalion. He is nearly 80 years old and suffers from stage 5 kidney failure and other serious medical issues. White's final wish was simply to be able to hug a tank.

"He's just like a kid at Christmas," said Car-

ol White, spouse, native of San Diego. "It's just absolutely amazing to see how much life he's put back in himself. He's getting really close to the end of his life but he'll be at peace now."

White and his family arrived at the 1st Tanks ramp in the early morning. At the ramp, White was treated to a tour of the M1A1 Abrams and shown some of the newer functionalities. He was also shown the Advance Gunnery Training Simulator and his tour concluded with a visit to a Sherman Tank.

"All my life, when I was a little boy growing up, I wanted to be a tanker," White said. "I used to watch the Tanks at Camp Elliott, California. I can't believe they did all this for me. I can die in peace

See **WISH** page A6

# This Week in Combat Center



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
January 10, 1975

## Marine Houses Foreign Student

Atsuo Kato, a foreign exchange student at Twentynine Palms High School from the industrial city of Kiryu, Japan, is living with the Major Charles F. Kellenbarger family.

Major Kellenbarger, Assistant Academic Director for the Communications Electronics School, his wife Pat, and their three children Mark, Cindy and Dawn are very happy to have a Japanese student in their home, because they were all impressed by the Japanese c/teenagers that were helpful to the, when they visited Japan.

Atsuo, 18, who learned to speak English by attending classes in a Catholic church at night, was surprised when he was selected as an exchange student to the United States. He pointed out that three students were selected from his city and that all three of them were in his class at the church. His best friend, Kyozo Kaneko, also from Kiryu, is now going to school in Minnesota.

English comes easy to Atsuo, who

is taking a regular high school course for seniors in the U.S., and outside of high school, Atsuo feels he is fortunate to be allowed to take a college level course in Astronomy at College of the Desert.

Atsuo has never been around a military installation until recently when the kellenbargers moved into town, he was living with them in Base housing. During the summer he went swimming in the pools and used the tennis courts on Base, and gradually became familiar with the jeeps and military uniforms.

Atsuo says that in his area in Japan, approximately 90 miles northwest of Tokyo, the hottest the temperature gets is 95 degrees, and when he arrived here in mid-July the temperature was 115 degrees! He rates the heat in the desert as one of the things he had to get use to.

He is anxious for spring to get here so he can participate in high jumping competition. Atsuo loves sports and last fall he learned how to play football,

and shares the American pastime of watching footballs games on TV.

Besides sports Atsuo has taken a great interest in the desert. His favorite hobby, astronomy, may become his future thanks to the clear skies of the desert. Mrs. Kellenbarger relates that a great deal of their "son's" time is spent on the patio or in the Joshua Tree Monument stargazing. Atsuo says, "Looking at the stars from the desert was always like a dream to me in Japan."

He is experimenting now with different techniques of photographing stars.

Atsuo says he is enjoying his stay in Twentynine Palms because the town is small, he feels the people are friendly, and because of the unusual countryside he is able to explore.

Has he learned much from living in America? He has this to say: "I will probably decide what to do for a career after my stay here. I have learned so many new things it will be hard to decide."

Combat Center commanding general Major General Lewis A. Craparotta, Mike King, operations officer, G-5, Kevin Mullaly, operation research analyst, G-3, Dave Lopez, awards administration, Combat Center sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Mindy Raines, administrative assistant, G-4 and Ranna Contreras, marketing, Marine Corps Community Services, conclude the Civilian Honorary Award Breakfast, at the general's house, Jan. 9.

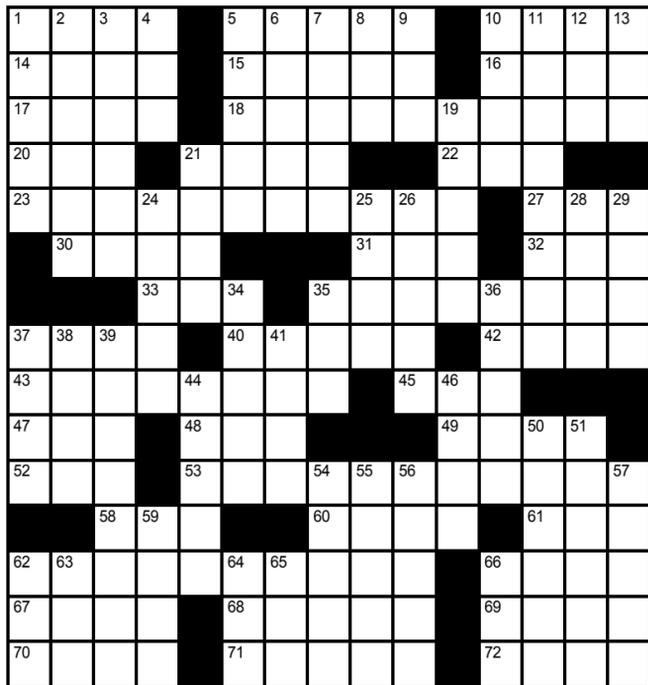


### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

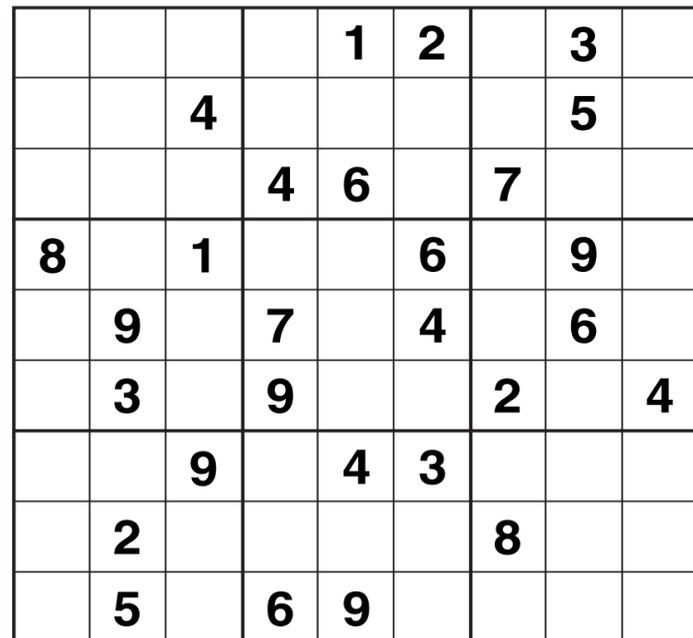
- Gabriel Darrell Gonzalez**  
Born December 5th, 2014 at 8:09 p.m.  
to Ryan and Madison Gonzalez
- Abigail Lorraine Montoya**  
Born on December 11th, 2014 at 2:00 a.m.  
to Jeromy and Makayla Montoya
- Natalia Marie Smith**  
Born December 20th, 2014 at 12:13 p.m.  
to David and Maricarmen Smith
- Jeff William Vinsant**  
Born on December 20th, 2014 at 2:53 a.m.  
to Travis and Emily Vinsant
- Cedrick Edwards Jr.**  
Born on December 20th, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
to Cedrick and Tiffany Edwards
- William Lee Frillman**  
Born on December 21st, 2014 at 1:25 p.m.  
to Kris and Amelia Frillman
- John Wyatt Middaugh**  
Born on December 21st, 2014 at 8:29 a.m.  
to Paul and Cassidy Middaugh
- Elliot Ryan Ennis**  
Born on December 28th, 2014 at 2:11 p.m.  
to Heather and Eric Ennis
- Cameron Troy Dabney**  
Born on December 29th, 2014 at 8:42 p.m.  
to Clay and Chantel Dabney
- Nadia Rose Rivera**  
Born on December 30th, 2014 at 3:06 a.m.  
to Ilan Rivera and Aliza Gaon
- Logan Dean Quinn**  
Born on December 30th, 2014 at 6:52 p.m.  
to Brian and Nicole Quinn
- Kyli Michelle Edwards**  
Born on December 31st, 2014 at 8:42 p.m.  
to Kori and Chiara Edwards
- Sadie Ann Yannetta**  
Born January 2nd, 2015 at 11:13 p.m.  
to Steven and Arianna Yannetta
- Kayleiga Brooke Ditchman**  
Born on January 3rd, 2015 at 7:41 a.m.  
to Mark and Christina Ditchman
- Lilliana Adele Goco**  
Born on January 6th, 2015 at 8:09 a.m.  
to Jeremy and Kendall Goco
- Embyr Rose Peck**  
Born on January 8th, 2015 at 8:23 a.m.  
to Devin and Vera Peck
- Cameron Leigh Raposo**  
Born on January 10th, 2015  
to Kevin and Christina Raposo

### CROSSWORD

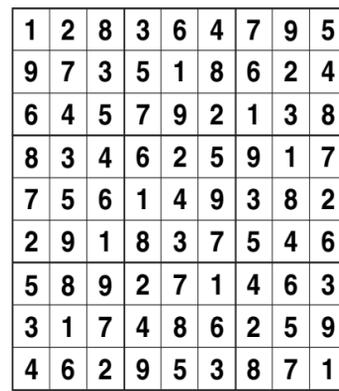
- Across**
- 1 N.B.A. star Lamar \_\_\_\_
  - 5 Cooperstown's Rod
  - 10 Climactic intro?
  - 14 Lens cleaning product
  - 15 Rub out
  - 16 Pencil's innards
  - 17 Play \_\_\_\_ role
  - 18 "Hole" food #1
  - 20 Frankenstein's milieu
  - 21 Lemony Snicket villain
  - 22 Drop in the ocean
  - 23 "Hole" food #2
  - 27 Part of a play
  - 30 "I'm frozen!"
  - 31 Paris's \_\_\_\_ de France
  - 32 At this point
  - 33 US motor club
  - 35 "Hole" food #3
  - 37 "Discover" competitor
  - 40 Play \_\_\_\_ in (influence)
  - 42 Sign on a store door
  - 43 "Hole" food #4
  - 45 11 of 12: Abbr.
  - 47 Singer Williams
  - 48 Use an abacus
  - 49 Film theater
  - 52 Map entries: Abbr.
  - 53 "Hole" food #5
  - 58 Virgo neighbor
  - 60 Voice votes
  - 61 Curative place
  - 62 "Hole" food #6
  - 66 Prepare, as eggnog
  - 67 Las Vegas casino magnate Steve
  - 68 Good way to enter
  - 69 Scoundrel
  - 70 Grand piano supports
  - 71 Different in nature
  - 72 "Careful, now!"
- Down**
- 1 Brush name
  - 2 City west of Chicago
  - 3 Lieutenant's insignia
  - 4 Villa's very
  - 5 Ma plays it
  - 6 Frequently used font
  - 7 "Down by the Bay" singer
  - 8 Legal attachment?
  - 9 Actor Bentley
  - 10 Thomas \_\_\_\_ Edison
  - 11 Be sleepy
  - 12 Gravel replacer, maybe
  - 13 They may be needed to get in
  - 19 Not knowing what to do
  - 21 Mallow shrub
  - 24 Bond portrayer Daniel
  - 25 Glass vessel
  - 26 Actress Page
  - 28 Fundamental
  - 29 Bunk bed occupant, perhaps
  - 34 Rival of Dad's and Barq's
  - 35 Place for a sheet
  - 36 Hollywood release
  - 37 3:1 or 4:1, e.g.
  - 38 Castle guard
  - 39 Infant
  - 41 Gernreich of fashion
  - 44 Wears
  - 46 Folk singer Phil
  - 50 Lipton rival
  - 51 Spots
  - 54 Harmony, briefly
  - 55 Flow freely to the follow-up
  - 56 Bank robber's advance man
  - 57 \_\_\_\_ bird
  - 59 Geologic time divisions
  - 62 Wise Potato Chips symbol
  - 63 Science guy Bill
  - 64 Kanga's kid, in "Winnie the Pooh"
  - 65 Bank statement fig.
  - 66 This miss



### SUDOKU



Last week's answers



### OBSERVATION POST

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- 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.

- 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>

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# De'Arius MILLER

Cincinnati, Ohio Administrative specialist, IPAC, Lance Cpl., 19

> **I work in IPAC** and we handle administrative work for the whole base.

> **I'm in the promotion section.** I'm responsible for ensuring that all the Marine's training is up to date.

> **I moved around a lot as a kid.** I went to about 10 different schools before I got to high school.

> **I didn't always like** moving somewhere new, because you'd have to leave some of your closest friends and start over.

> **I learned how to adapt easily.** Moving around a lot, you have to make friends, you have to meet new people and do new things. Having that type of upbringing made me open to change and starting over for me isn't as hard as it is on some people.

> **I went to** Hughes Science Technology Engineering and Math high school. I attended for the STEM program and I wanted to eventually become enrolled in the Zoo Academy program.

> **I got accepted into the program** my junior year.

> **I always had fun when I was there.** Working with the animals was awesome and I liked being able to deal with them, interact with them and handle them.

> **I got to work with** a large variety of animals. There were different types of snakes and birds. I got to work with cheetahs, weasels, snow leopards, manatees, bonobos, gorillas, lemurs. I really

enjoyed the overall experience of the Zoo Academy.

> **I wrestled all the time,** from the age of six. So when I got older, my mom suggested that I try joining the team.

> **I joined, and was on** the wrestling team all throughout high school.

> **I got the title of MVP and most aggressive.** I wrestled between 103-112 lbs. freshman year. Sophomore year I wrestled between 112-120 lbs. and senior year I wrestled 138 lbs.

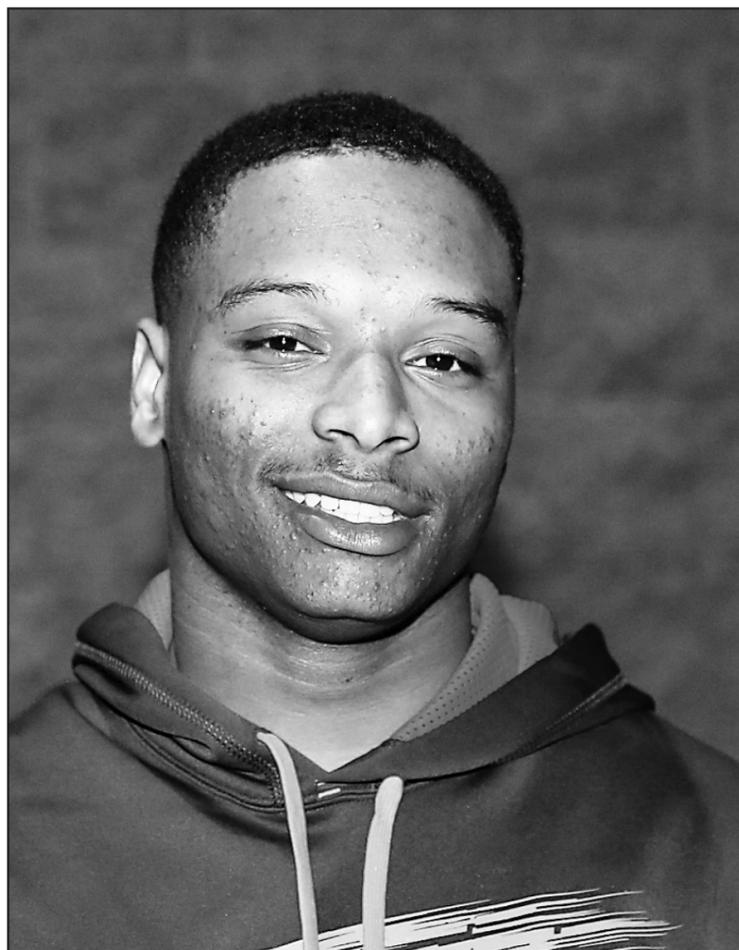
> **I liked the competitiveness** of wrestling.

> **One of my favorite subjects** in high school was history. I earned student of the year when I was a sophomore because I got the highest score on the state exam and straight A's.

> **I enjoyed studying history** because there's a pattern to it. If you study it long enough you'll realize that a lot of the major events are very similar to one another. I think those things are important to know.

> **I was a junior in high school** when I realized I wanted to join the military.

> **Originally I was going to join the Air Force.** My mom took me down to the recruiting station near our house and there was a recruiting station for every branch, but the Air Force. So we walked into the Marine Corps recruiting station.



Miller developed his love of animals from watching his father. During his time in the Zoo Academy program he got the opportunity to work with exotic animals. If he doesn't re-enlist, he hopes to be able to continue working with animals.

> **The recruiter told me that the Marines** have more heritage, more traditions and I liked the idea of becoming a part of that.

> **I like knowing about** stuff that pertains to me in regards to promotions and my cutting score. I know

what I need to do to further myself as a Marine.

> **What I like about the Marine Corps** is you really can meet some of your closest friends, especially in basic training. People go through the same struggle you do and they can relate.

Interview and photo by Lance Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo



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# PMO K9 division maintains



CChaz, military working dog, K9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, signals where he finds a drug's scent at the Community Center aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 8. The MWDs had to find six different aids throughout the building including: Hash, meth, marijuana, heroin, Ecstasy and cocaine.

Bono, military working dog, K9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, bites Staff Sgt. Charlie Hardesty, kennel master, K9 unit, PMO, during night training at the community center aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 8. All of the dogs are trained to bite and subdue a person on command.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Cpl. Cicchino gripped tightly on CChaz's collar outside of the Community Center. CChaz, a Military Working Dog, was focused and anxious to sniff out the intruder inside. On Cicchino's command, CChaz was on the hunt and wouldn't stop until his mark submitted.

The Provost Marshal's Office K9 unit conducted aggression, drug search and bomb search training exer-

cises at the Community Center Condor Elementary school.

"Once a month, we all come in at night to conduct training," said Sgt. Daniel Andrzejewski, MWD trainer, K9 unit, PMO, native of Toledo, Ohio. "At night is when the dogs would usually work. So on top of any other training the [MWD] handlers do, we also do this

night training."

During aggression training the MWD were sent to search for a person, and when they find the target they bite and try to subdue them. During aggression training, the person is wearing protective clothing to keep the dog from doing any serious harm.

"We don't want the dogs to just go through the motions of biting someone," said Staff Sgt. Charlie Hardesty, kennel master, K9 unit, PMO, native of Smoot, Wyo. "We train them to be aggressive and bite a person when told to."

The dogs were training to find 6 different aids: hashish (hash), cocaine, marijuana, heroin, MDMA (ecstasy) and meth, throughout a building. Aids are what K9 call the drugs or bombs the dogs search for during training exercises.

"We plant the aids in different locations throughout the building and let them sit there for about 30 minutes," Andrzejewski said. "After that, the scent has had time to spread around the room and give the dog a better chance to find it. Most of the time, the substance will be sitting in a hiding spot for longer period of time."

The dog teams went through each room one at a time. The handler released the dog to search the room, only stopping the dog to search a specific area or to stay in the room.

"The dog team is 95 percent dog and five percent handler," Andrzejewski said. "The dog has the nose; the handler just makes sure everywhere is checked."

The handlers use several tools to help praise the dog when it finds one of the aids. Some of the tools are a snowman-shaped toy called a kong and verbal praise from the handlers.

"The training should be a fun experience for the dogs," Hardesty said. "If the dog thinks training is going to get him in trouble it is not going to do its job."

The training serves as a good way to evaluate the teams for what they need more training in, whether it is finding a certain substance or being more aggressive. The teams need to be fully prepared for when duty calls.

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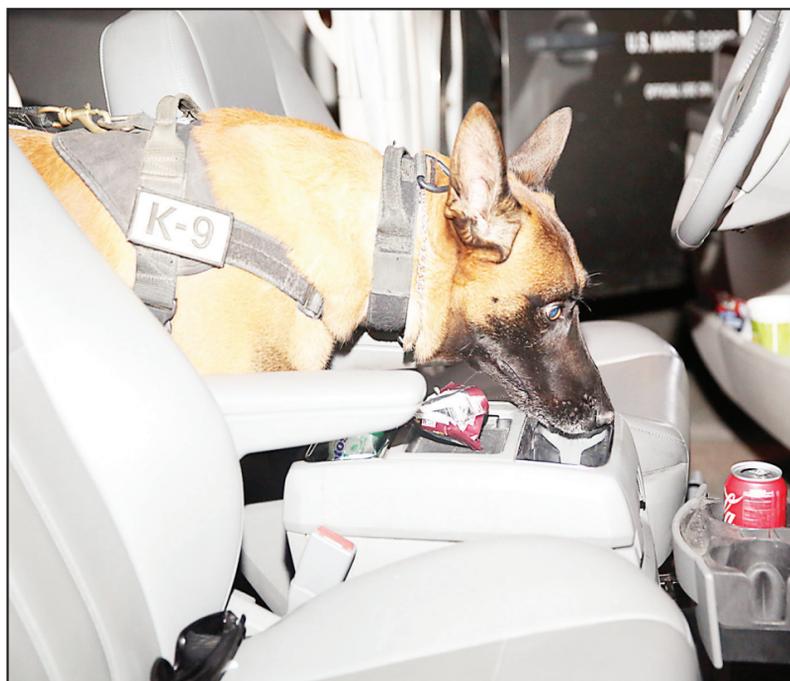
TortoiseRockCasino.com

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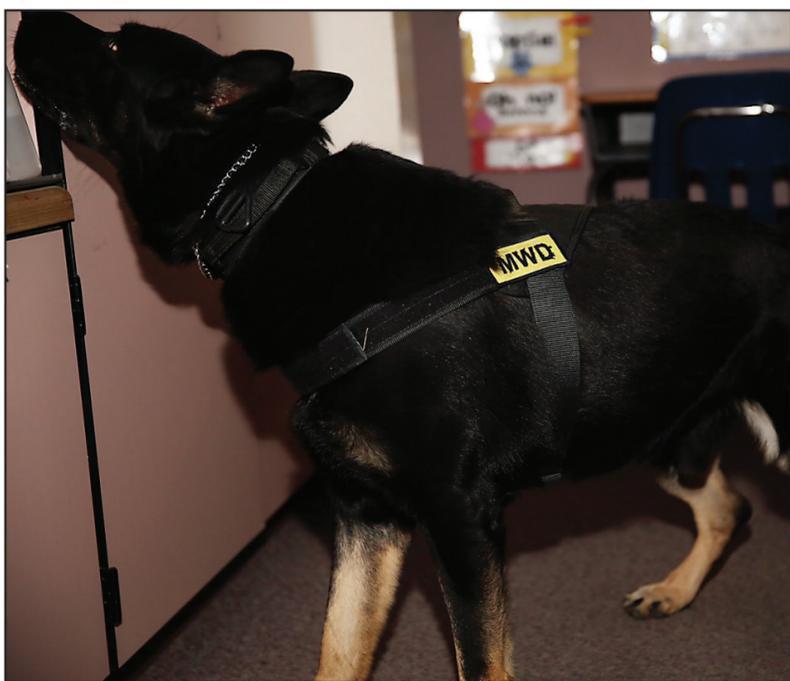
Management reserves the right to alter or cancel a promotion at any time. Some restrictions may apply. See Club 29 for details. Must be 18+.

*It's all right here.*

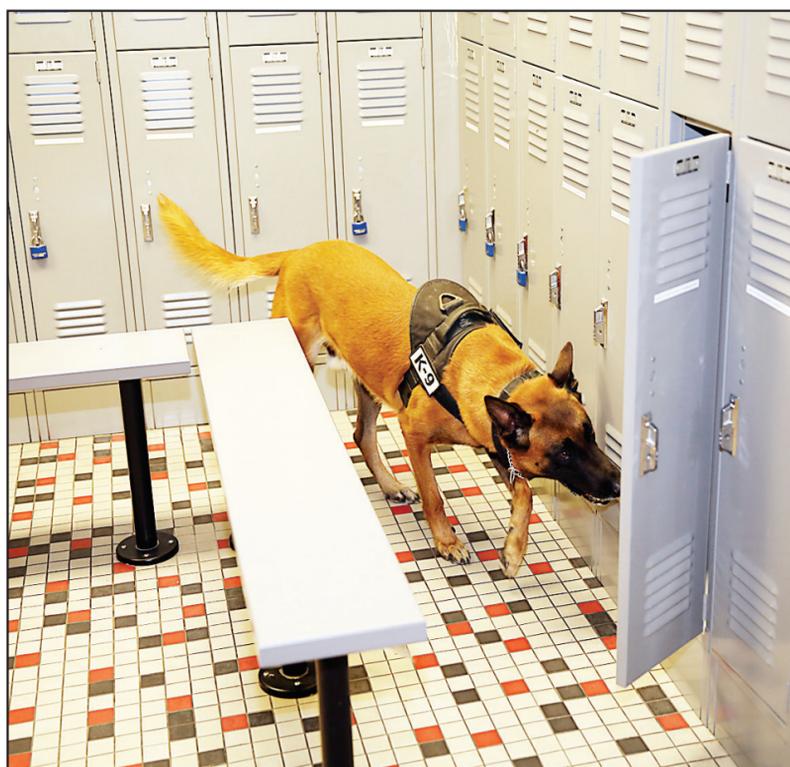
# readiness with night training



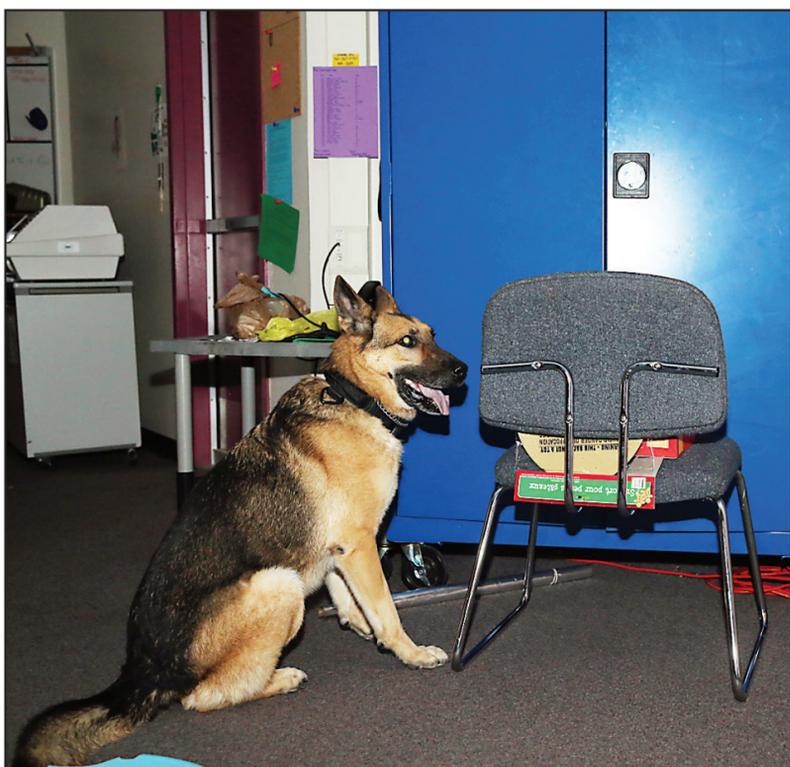
CChaz, military working dog, K9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, searches a vehicle for drugs during night training Dec. 8, aboard the Combat Center. The dogs searched the Community Center as well as vehicles during training.



Bono, military working dog, K9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, searches for simulated bomb threats at Condor Elementary School as part of night training Dec. 9. The dogs are praised every time they find an objective during training.



CChaz, military working dog, K9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, sniffs drug placements during night training at the Community Center aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 8. The K9 unit conducts mandatory night training once a month.



Max, military working dog, K9 unit, Provost Marshal's Office, signals that he found a bomb threat during night training at Condor Elementary School, Dec. 9. The training helped evaluate the condition of the dogs while working.

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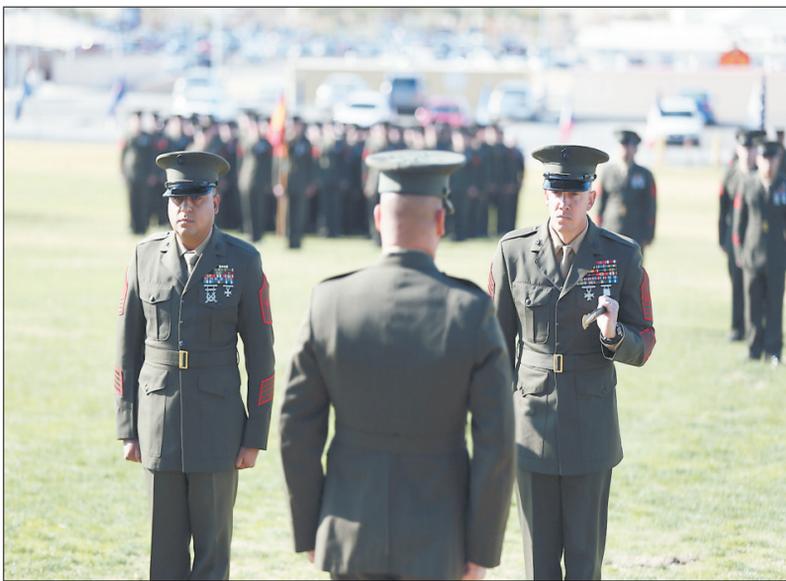
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LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Marines salute during the playing of the national anthem during the relief and appointment ceremony for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 9. Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Cedeno took charge as Battalion Sergeant Major of 1/7 from Sgt. Maj. Chasen E. Getty.



LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Cedeno and Sgt. Maj. Chasen E. Getty stand in front of Lt. Col. David J. Hart, battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, to pass off the non-commissioned officer's sword during the relief and appointment ceremony for 1/7 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 9.

**WELCOME, from A1**

should take with them as he leaves.

"Always stay professional," Getty said. "We all make mistakes, but don't throw away all of your hard work by making a mistake that could ruin the rest of

your career."

As Cedeno takes charge he plans on maintaining 1/7 as a force in readiness.

"My goal while I'm here is to make sure the Marines stay ready to answer the call at any time," Cede-

no said. "It doesn't matter if it is for humanitarian, non-combatative evacuation, or combat operations."

The sword might not be used in combat anymore, but passing it from one sergeant major to another is a proud Marine Corps tradition that has been performed since 1875. Now the Marines of 1/7 will follow Sgt. Maj. Cedeno as he holds the sword to lead them.

**TRAIN, from A1**

practice while preserving plenty of rounds to maintain a secure convoy.

Abitz, from Appleton, Wisconsin, said they do training similar to this regularly to keep the Marines proficient at what they already know and to continue learning new things.

"We try to take advantage of the time and the space we have here so we can get everyone out there on those weapon systems so they understand them; that way, their first time firing

them is in training and not in combat," said Abitz.

Cpl. Drake Llamas, a mortarman and squad leader in the company, agreed that cross training between specialties will keep the company effective and always learning.

"Good training," said Llamas. "Everyone got to shoot a lot of different weapons systems they're not generally used to and the experience was well-rounded."

Golf Company will continue to practice and cross-

train with these systems in the future and even try to incorporate some others such as hand grenades and rockets, said Abitz.

As for the performance of his Marines and sailors, Abitz said that it couldn't have gone smoother.

"The Marines did everything they were expected and helped to train each other," said Abitz. "Everyone did what we were telling them to do and I think they all got something out of it."



CPL. CARSON A. GRAMLEY

Lance Cpl. Young Kim (left), a machine gunner with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, coaches Lance Cpl. Erik Delgadillo (right), an assault man, on the use of an M2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun, in the Central Command area of operations, Jan. 6. Marines and sailors of Golf Company spent time on the range getting acquainted with various weapons systems and cross-training one another in their respective areas of expertise.

**WISH, from A1**

now, because I got to hug a tank."

The bond shared between a Tanker and his vehicle is unique, and one that many may not understand.

"We're such a small

community, and the relationship we have with our vehicles is a special one," said Gunnery Sgt. Paul E. Acevedo, battalion master gunner, native of Pomona.

"There's very few of us around and the way the

Marine Corps is downsizing, tankers are getting smaller and smaller by the day.

To be able to help him fulfill his dream of coming out here to see a tank again [was great.]



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Kenny R. White, Marine veteran, native of San Diego, Calif., passes knowledge to Marines of 1st Tank Battalion on the 1st Tanks Ramp, Dec. 22. White wanted to be a crewman ever since he was younger, watching the tanks go by on Camp Elliott.

**TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM**  
by Lou Gerhardt



As we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day I was reminded once again the Dr. King was the epitome of what it means to be a tough minded optimist.

I met Dr. King in 1961 when he was the guest of honor at a reception and dinner in our church in Seattle. He spoke to us that night in a way that made us feel that he was totally committed to a course of action that would ultimately prevail but only after an extremely difficult struggle that would require heroic sacrifices by many people.

Consider these words spoken only hours before he was shot and killed April 4, 1968: "We've got some difficult days ahead but it really doesn't matter with me now because I've been to the mountaintop. I won't mind. Like anybody I would like to live a long time—longevity has its place—but I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will and he's allowed me to go up the mountain and I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight and I'm not fearing any man—mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

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# Week IN Photos

## MRF conducts interoperability training

Photos by: Sgt. Jamean Berry



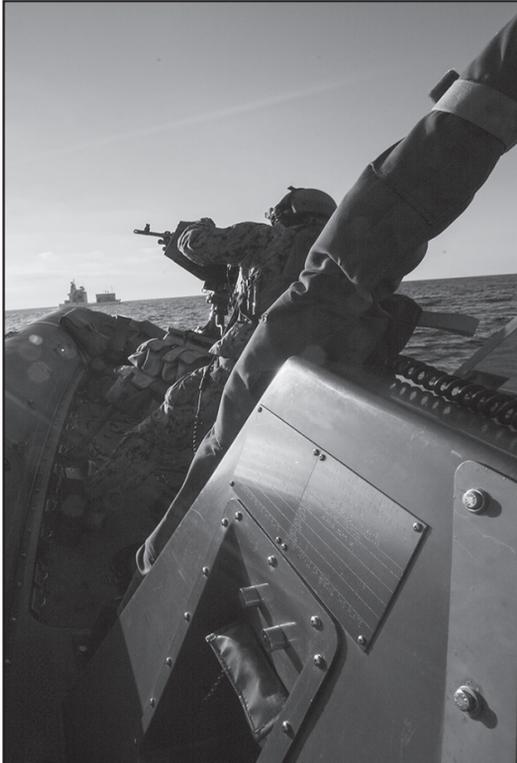
U.S. Navy Sailors and Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force drive Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats during maritime interoperability training off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Monday. MIT prepares the 15th MEU's MRF for their upcoming deployment by enhancing their combat skills and teaching them techniques for boarding vessels.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Mays with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force drives Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats during maritime interoperability training off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Monday.



U.S. Navy Sailors and Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force drive Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats during maritime interoperability training off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Monday.

U.S. Marines and sailors with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force ride in rigid-hull inflatable boats during maritime interoperability training off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Monday.



U.S. Navy Sailors and Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force drive Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats during maritime interoperability training off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Monday.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Mays with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force drives a Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat during maritime interoperability training off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Monday.

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**Into the Woods (PG)**  
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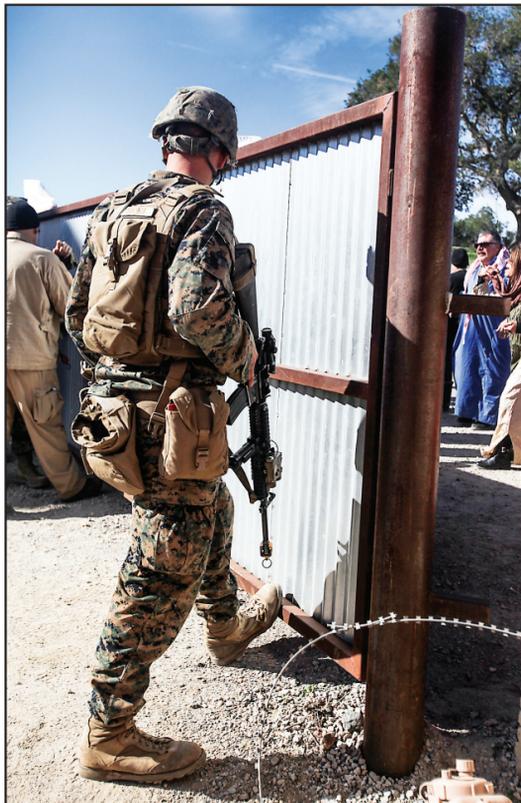
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# Marines with 3/7 train for crisis response

PHOTOS BY CPL. RODION ZABOLOTNIY



Arabic-speaking role-players simulate a riot outside the gates of a combat simulation town aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7.



Corporal Benny Carithers, a squad leader with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, provides security for a combat simulation town during an exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7.



Arabic-speaking role-players simulate a riot outside the gates of a combat simulation town aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7. The role-players dressed for the part and spoke the language to create a cultural and language barrier for Marines of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division during a training exercise.

Lance Cpl. Preston Sandner, an assistant machine gunner with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, provides security for a combat simulation town during an exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7. The training focused on efficient crisis response without the use of lethal force.

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# Integrated Task Force Tank Platoon

## UNLEASHES FIREPOWER



Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, fire the 120mm main gun of the M1A1 Abrams tank during a live-fire training exercise at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Tuesday. Marines with Tank Platoon conducted offensive and defensive engagements to prepare for an upcoming assessment at the Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. From October 2014 to July 2015, the GCEITF will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ALICIA R. LEADERS

In the pouring rain and gusty winds with temperatures as low as 39 degrees, Marines kept warm in 70-tons of steel as they lit up targets on Range SR-10 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Tuesday.

Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, conducted live-fire gunnery training in preparation for their upcoming assessment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California.

Tank Platoon Marines rolled out to gun positions with 70-ton M1A1 Abrams tanks, complete with a 120 mm main gun, a .50-caliber machine gun, M240 coaxial machine gun, and M240E machine gun to engage targets in the offense and defense in order to grasp the basic skills of tank gunnery, and work together as a team.

“While out in the field, we are trying to get more experience in firing at moving targets, stationary targets, troops, and personnel carriers in order to prepare ourselves for our upcoming evaluation,” said Sgt. Michelle A. Svec, tank crewman with Tank Platoon, Company B, GCEITF. “This allows us to get more unit cohesion in between the crews, and get more experience amongst the crews as far as the driver, loader, gunner and tank commander.”

Before the Marines start firing, they are given a brief from the tank commander, whose job it is to inform the rest of the crew of the current situation, enemy threats, and once the brief concludes, the crew starts preparing their stations and get into position ready to engage targets, said Svec.

“The crews are evaluated on their ability to pull up and engage targets quickly,

and get back down into a defilade position to not expose the tank to enemy fire,” said Staff Sgt. Eric W. Hill, master gunner with Tank Platoon, Company B, GCEITF. “The quicker they (execute), the more points they get toward their engagement time in accordance to their overall evaluation.”

Marines engaged targets in both defensive and offensive positions. If the Marines are in an offensive engagement, they are trained to shoot whatever they see first; so if they see a troop target vice a hard target, they’ll shoot the troop target first. From the defense, the Marines should first engage a more dangerous target before moving to a less dangerous target. For example, if they have a personnel carrier up, and troops up, the Marines should engage the personnel carrier because it poses a greater threat to them than the troops on the ground, Hill added.

“The Marines are progressing pretty well,” said Hill. “They started out pretty rough and as they transitioned into each engagement downrange, they’re learning little by little because this is the only time that they are going to actually get the chance to do live fire. With that, there are little things they can go over in training, but it won’t show until they actually put the rounds downrange. Day by day, they’re transitioning more, learning more, and adapting better.”

From October 2014 to July 2015, the GCEITF will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.



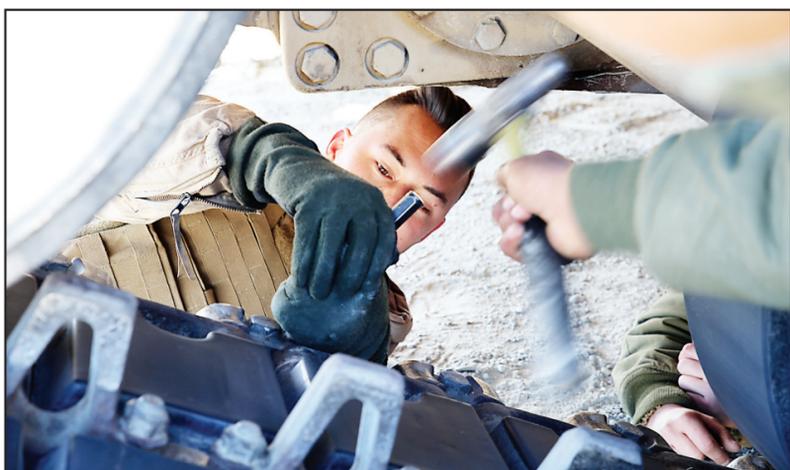
Cpl. Nick A. Buenviaje, left, tank gunner, and Sgt. Michelle A. Svec, tank crewman, both with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, tighten a bolt on the track pad of an M1A1 Abrams tank during vehicle maintenance at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 9.



Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, send rounds downrange in the offensive engagement at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 9.



Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, maneuver to the firing position in an M1A1 Abrams tank during a live-fire training exercise at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Tuesday.



Cpl. Nick A. Buenviaje, tank gunner with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, chisels debris out of the track pads to tighten the bolt during vehicle maintenance at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 9.

## Liberty Call



### Combat Center Events

**MCCS will be hosting a Science Night** at the Combat Center Library on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages will be able to do hands-on experiments and demonstrations. They will also be able to take home their creations. For more information contact MCCS at 760-830-6875.

**The Winter Dodgeball League season** will begin on January 26th to March 9th at the East Gym from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Deadline to register in Wednesday, January 14 at 3 p.m. at the East Gym. For more information contact MCCS at 760-830-4092.

**The Officers Club will be hosting a Black, White & Bling** night on January 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Officers Club. All hands are welcome to attend and tickets will be \$20 dollars and it includes admission, prizes and dessert. To buy your ticket, go to [www.osc-29mccspalms.com](http://www.osc-29mccspalms.com)

**Sandy Hills Bowling Center will be having its Grand Opening** and 35th Anniversary Celebration on January 30th from 11 a.m. to midnight. There will be new interactive bowling games and a automatic scoring system, Marine VS Pizza Eating Contest at 6 p.m., Free Giveaways to the first 250 guest, and lunch combos for free from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Games and shoe rentals will be 50 cents per game and shoe rental.

**The Education Center will be offering Free SAT Prep** from February 1st to March 22nd at the Education Center. The course topics that will be focused on is math, writing and critical reading. The courses objective is to increase test scores, introduce test taking strategies, connect students with others who are taking the SAT and many more. If you would like your son or daughter to participate, please contact the Education Center at 760-830-6881.

### Sunset Cinema

**Friday, Jan. 16**

4 p.m. – Lilo & Stich, PG  
6 p.m. – Annie, PG  
8:30 p.m. – Horrible Bosses 2, R  
11 p.m. – Top Give, R

**Saturday, Jan. 17**

10:30 a.m. – The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, PG-13  
1:30 p.m. – The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, PG-13  
5 p.m. – Penguins of Madagascar, PG  
7 p.m. – Horrible Bosses, R

**Sunday, Jan. 18**

12 a.m. – The Pyramid, R  
12 p.m. – Penguins of Madagascar, PG  
2 p.m. – Wild, R  
4:30 p.m. – Exodus: Gods and Kings, PG-13  
8 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies

**Monday, Jan. 19**

3 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies

**Tuesday, Jan. 20**

p.m. – Exodus: Gods and Kings, PG-13

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**

5:30 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13

**Thursday, Jan. 22**

5 p.m. – Penguins of Madagascar, PG  
7:00 p.m. – Horrible Bosses 2, R

**Friday, Jan. 23**

6 p.m. – The Theory of Everything, PG-13  
8:30 p.m. – The Pyramid, R  
10:30 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies



## Amy Adams & Christoph Waltz shine in quirky true retro-art tale

NEIL POND

*“Big Eyes”*

*Starring Amy Adams and Christoph Waltz*

*Directed by Tim Burton*

PG-13

Appropriately enough, the opening shot of *Big Eyes* is a big eye—and a tear.

For this is a sad tale—sort of. Based on the true story of Margaret Keane, the artist whose paintings of children with big, sorrowful eyes became a kitschy art sensation in the 1960s, it stars Amy Adams as Margaret and Christoph Waltz as her husband, Walter.

The “sad” part of the story is that Walter took full credit for Margaret’s paintings, keeping his wife and her talent hidden in his shadow for almost ten years.

“People don’t buy lady art,” Walter tells Margaret, convincing her that “they” would benefit more if he becomes known as the creator of the wistful-looking, saucer-eyed waifs on the canvasses—and above the signature that read simply “KEANE.”

Amy Adams, whose career has spanned a spectrum of widely diverse roles (*American Hustle*, *The Muppets*, *Her*, *The Master*), shines with a wounded, subdued glow as Margaret, making us understand both the weakness that would let her character remain a victim of Walter’s bullying, as well as the strength it took for her to finally leave him—and then, 20 years later, sue him to prove her rightful claim to the paintings.

Waltz, the German-Austrian actor who became known to American audiences in *Inglourious Basterds* and *Django Unchained*, brings a manic, electrified energy to Walter, depicted him as a trifecta of showy self-promotion, talentless hackery and scary domination.

*Big Eyes* might seem an odd, highly conventional choice for director Tim Burton, best known for the eccentric, wildly imaginative look, feel and subject matter of *Pee-Wee’s Big Adventure*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Ed Wood* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. But there are quirks a-plenty in the weird true story itself, and Burton’s signature touches abound, especially in the movie’s bight, day-glow colors; his attention to far-out, decade-spanning period details; and the casting of some fine character actors in supporting roles, including Terence Stamp (as a snooty New York Times art critic), Danny Huston (a tabloid reporter who serves as the movie’s narrator), Krysten Ritter from TV’s *Breaking Bad* (as Margaret’s best friend), Jason Schwartzman (an art gallery snob) and Joe Polito (a nightclub owner), all of whom provide their own dry, dark-comic edges to the central melodrama.

The movie culminates in a recreation of the 1986 trial, a showdown in which a judge orders Margaret and Walter into an easel-versus-easel contest for the jury to determine who was the real artist of the “big eye” paintings.

Burton’s movie brings up several issues: the subjugation of women in the 1950s and ’60s, intellectual property theft and the role of media and publicity in creating fads, movements and celebrity. But mostly it’s a wacky history lesson about a real-life woman who finally set the record straight, told by a director who loves a kitschy underdog tale, with two lead actors who put their own colorful brushstrokes on a zesty, little-known story. *Big Eyes* may not become a big breakout hit, but it’s certainly a big, bright surprise.

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# Behavioral Health classes

It's a New Year! Are you committed to more effectively managing your work and family life? Then why not sign up for Coping with Work and Family Stress! Coping with Work and Family Stress is an evidence-based program with results proven to help individuals reduce personal stress. Through a series of 12 topics, participants will develop and apply effective coping strategies to deal with stressors at work and home. Participants will identify ways to reduce family and work stressors, increase their social support networks, rely less on avoidance coping strategies, and prioritize roles to create cohesion between work and family life. Topics Include: Understanding Stress; The Eight Problem Solving Steps; Using Personal Networks; Managing Your Stress/Deep Breathing & Relaxation; Listening & Responding; Assertive Communication; Stress Reassessment; Self-Talk; Eating Patterns and Exercise; The Chemical Dependency Cycle; Self-Monitoring and Positive Social Support; Personal Approach to Coping with Work and Family Stress. This 12-session Series began Jan. 12. For additional information please contact Prevention and Education at 830-6345.



Did You Know? Prevention and Education Resources are available to help you navigate through life as a Service Member or Family Member. Check out the courses we have to offer:

**Coping With Work and Family Stress**  
Coping with Work and Family Stress is an evidence-based program with results proven to help individuals reduce personal stress. Through a series of 12 topics, participants will develop and apply effective coping strategies to deal with stressors at work and home. Participants will identify ways to reduce family and work stressors, increase their social support networks, rely less on avoidance coping strategies, and prioritize roles to create cohesion between work and family life. Topics Include: Understanding Stress; The Eight Problem Solving Steps; Using Personal Networks; Managing Your Stress/Deep Breathing & Relaxation; Listening & Responding; Assertive Communication; Stress Reassessment; Self-Talk; Eating Patterns and Exercise; The Chemical

Dependency Cycle; Self-Monitoring and Positive Social Support; Personal Approach to Coping with Work and Family Stress.

**Married and Loving It! (MALI)**  
Married and Loving It! teaches relationship building skills through a series of five classes developed to help couples strengthen their relationships and develop a happy, healthy marriage. The objectives of MALI is to help couples identify communication skills including love languages, give couples guidelines for establishing a sound financial situation, address anger issues and conflict resolution, discuss the role of in-laws and other extended family members, as well as other factors that might influence the relationship. The next session begins January 8th!

**Anger Management for the 21st Century**  
This INTENSE evidence based curriculum teaches skills that can be successfully applied in the workplace, in relationships, while driving, with one's family, or in any other situation in which anger control is an issue. Participants

will learn eight core Anger Management specific tools to help control or manage anger. Tools Covered: Recognize Stress, Develop Empathy, Respond Instead of React, Change the Conversation With yourself, Communicate Assertively, Adjust expectations, Forgive, But don't Forget!, Retreat and Think Things Over! Every Monday beginning Feb. 2 8:30-9:30 a.m.

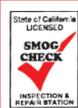
**Triple P- Positive Parenting Program**  
The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® is a parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children and teenagers. It aims to prevent problems in the family, school and community before they arise and to create family environments that encourage children to realize their potential. It aims to equip parents with the skills and confidence they need to be self-sufficient and to be able to manage family issues without ongoing support. Triple P is delivered to parents of children up to 12 years, with Teen Triple P for parents of 12 to 16 year olds. Topics Covered include: The Power of

Positive Parenting, Raising Confident and Competent Children; Raising Resilient Children; Raising Responsible Teenagers; Raising; Raising Competent Teenagers; Getting Teenagers connected.

**Baby Basics**  
Classes (for Couples & Singles) provide expectant parents an understanding of the infant's world along with basic skills necessary to care for the infant. Baby Basics Class 2015: Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May. 7, Jun. 4, Jul. 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3.

**Nurturing Parenting Class**  
Parenting classes open to all service members who are expecting a baby and /or have a child in the home under the age of 6 years old. Nurturing Parenting Class for 2015: Mar. 18 and 25, Jun. 17 and 24, Sept. 16 and 23, and Dec. 9 and 16.

For additional information or to sign-up to attend any of these courses please call 830-6345.



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