MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS
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LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Combat Center's waste water treatment facility plays a large part in the installation's water conservation efforts. The treatment facility recycles all of the water from the installation's sanitary sewer system. The water is then cleaned, treated and stored as non-potable water, which is used to irrigate the Desert Winds Golf Course.

Combat Center promotes water conservation plan

LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat Center is known as the Marine Corps' premier pre-deployment training venue. With more than 19,000 Marines, sailors and civilians calling the Combat Center home, an integral focus of the installation to ensure that its patrons continue to serve as good stewards of the environment.

The Combat Center is currently promoting an installation-wide Water Conservation Plan. The plan is being developed by Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs and is scheduled to be launched in May. It consists of six elements, one of which will educate Marines, sailors and civilians of the Combat Center on how to better conserve water.

The six elements include: management and tracking of water usage, reaching out to the community through education, improvement of water infrastructure, enforcing water usage regulations, reviewing and improving on maintenance procedures and the reviewing of technology that supports water conservation initiatives.

"We are in the desert and experiencing a drought that has no clear end in sight," said Chris Elliott, water resources manager, NREA, native of Gainsville, Fla. "The only water available to continue the training mission here is ground water. Ground water is a non-replenishable resource; meaning we don't receive enough rain to recharge those aquifers at the rate at which we are pulling water out of the ground."

The installation is equipped with a waste water treatment facility which recycles all of the water from the installation's sanitary sewer system. The recycled water amounts to approximately one million gallons of water per day. The waste water is then cleaned, treated and stored as non-potable water which is used to irrigate the Desert Winds Golf Course.

Through documentation of how much water is used, educating members of the community and implementing technology that supports conservation initiatives, the Combat Center is working diligently to preserve resources.

"I think it's important to raise awareness and through that awareness people will then start to take action," Elliott said. "The average person simply doesn't think about water conservation on a daily basis, and we want to try to bring that forward through education and outreach."

A key effort to reduce water usage is the limiting of watering lawns to pre-determined times of day and frequency. These times will be put in place to lessen the amount of water lost to evaporation. The information will be released when the WCP has been launched.

"Everyone aboard MCAGCC is required to adhere to the Commanding General's policy," Elliott said. "The WCP will ultimately be a part of the Combat Center Order 5090, which is an environmental protection order for the base."

As a part of the WCP, the Combat Center continues to implement native landscaping throughout the installation. Grass is not native to the terrain and requires a greater amount of water to maintain. By landscaping the installation with native and drought resistant plants, rocks and artificial turf, the base is able to reduce the amount of water used for garden and lawn upkeep.

Even the way in which the new landscapes are maintained makes a difference. Through utilizing drip irrigation instead of sprinklers to water desert landscapes, the amount of water used will be great-

See **WATER** A6

LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Maria Librada, administrative specialist, Headquarters Battalion, native of Houston, Texas, reads to children at Friendly Hills Elementary School during their Read Across America celebratory read-a-thon, March 2.

Marines participate in Friendly Hills Read Across America

PHOTOS AND STORY BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Yucca Valley, Calif.,– Sounds of laughter fill the classroom, as elementary students eagerly wait for their guest speakers to arrive. In walks a Marine, book in hand, and instantly captures their attention. He sits down and shares with them a story that has been passed down through the generations, The Cat in the Hat.

Combat Center Marines read to students at Friendly Hills Elementary School, March 2, 2015 in support of the Read Across America celebratory read-a-thon.

"Friendly Hills is one of Headquarters Battalion's adopted schools," said Navy Lt. Donald A. Baker, Protestant Chapel Programs Director, native of Miami, Fla. "Our affiliation began in September when we were trying to determine how we could get involved in the different events the faculty does here at the school."

RAA is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association and part of the project is national RAA day, which is also Dr. Seuss' birthday. In

See **READING** A6

LANCE CPL. GARRETT WHITE

Marines and Sailors with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, provide security during a mass casualty exercise on Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, from Feb. 12.

7th Marines conduct embassy reinforcement training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. GARRETT WHITE

Marines with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, conducted embassy reinforcement training on Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, Calif., from Feb. 8 to13.

The training exercise was a part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command 15.2 Certification Exercise, which took place aboard several locations across Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, and Idaho from February 9 to 14.

"Over the course of the week my company conducted various embassy reinforcement operations," said Capt. James Covey, Kilo Company commander. "This included maintaining fixed-site security, maintaining a vehicle control point, and utilizing lethal and less-than-lethal tools and tactics to various security situations."

Covey explained, under normal circumstances an embassy's regional security officer has a detachment of Marine Security Guards that maintain the embassy's internal security and local guard forces that maintain perimeter security outside of the compound. Should the security situation there begin to deteriorate beyond their capabilities, a rifle company could be called in to add an extra layer to their security, and bring new capabilities to the RSO that he didn't previously have.

Several role players acted as local nationals in a simulated Middle Eastern country. Throughout the week, Marines guarding the embassy responded to myriad situations of growing anti-American sentiment. Emphasis was placed on applying appropriate escalation of force tactics, as not every situation thrown at the Marines required a deadly response.

"If we are in an embassy, that means we are in a foreign country where we may have a shaky political relationship," said Lance Cpl. Jacob Wiser, a squad leader in Kilo Co. "We can't just go shooting everyone that tries to hop over the walls

See **TRAINING** A6

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph, posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Sgt. Emmanuel Ramos.

Ramos captured an AV-8B "Harrier" preparing to take off, aboard the USS Essex off the coast of San Diego Feb. 24.

WW

This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post
March 5, 1965

U.S. Constitution Ranks with World's Greatest Documents

In April, 176 Years ago, George Washington was sworn in as the First President of the United States and the constitution became the official law of the land.

In the years since its adoption, the Constitution of the United States has become one of the World's greatest documents. While providing for a strong centralized government, it guarantees the basic rights of the individual and the separate states. Young democracies throughout the World have used it as a model. Its flexibility and basic principles amid changing world conditions have proved so lasting that it has been amended only 24 times since its adoption.

Yet many of us take our constitution for granted. Perhaps we wouldn't if we had been a member of one of the original 13 states when our nation was struggling to exist under the Articles of Confederation—its first attempt at a constitution.

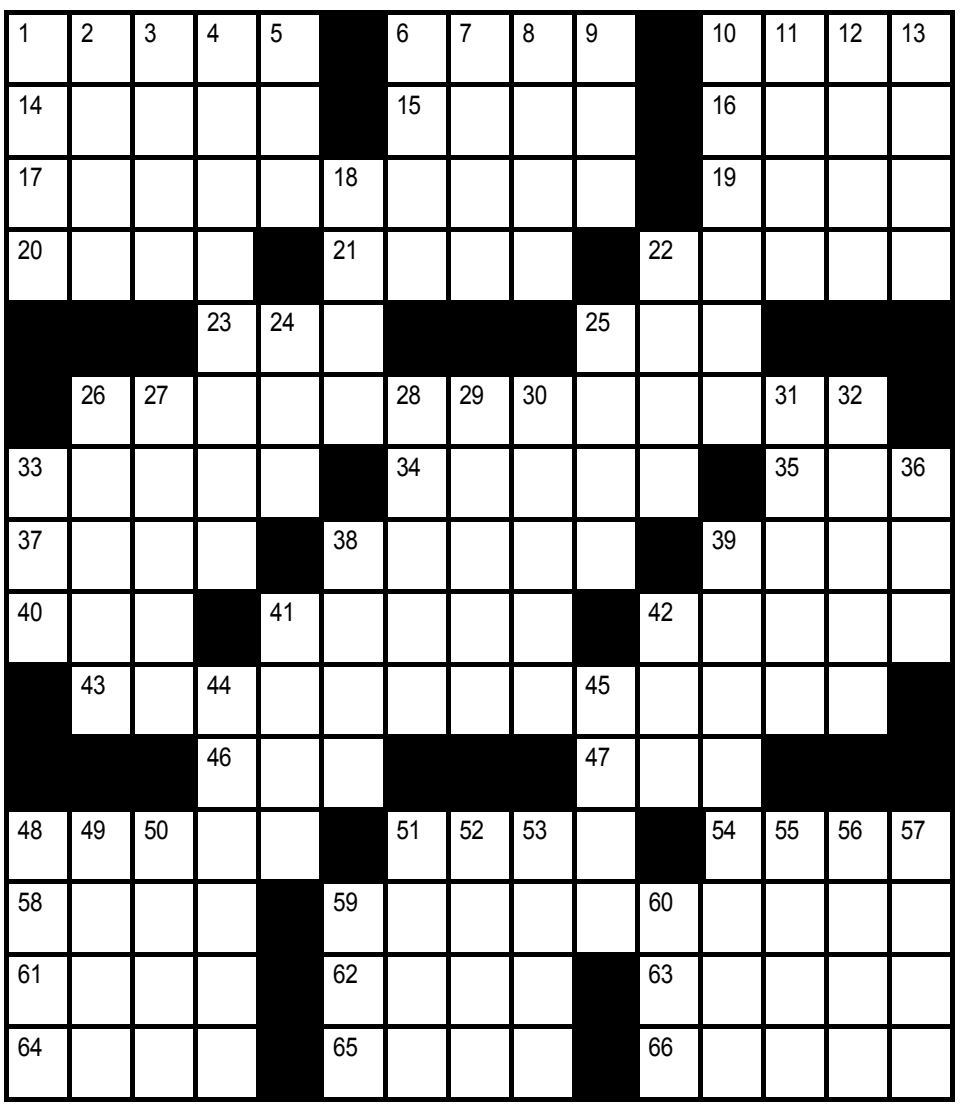
The Articles served for eight troublesome years as our constitution. These years were marked by quarrels between the separate states who feared a powerful centralized government.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the federal government could declare war, make treaties, maintain an army and navy, and establish post offices but it could not levy or collect taxes, control foreign commerce or compel the states to obey its laws.

Quarrels among the states and fear of total collapse of the central government finally led to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787. The articles were abandoned and a new agreement, the Constitution was drawn up. It contained several compromises, such as dividing the legislature into two houses, with votes on the basis of population in the lower house and equal status in the upper house.

Remembering the weakness of the Articles of Confederation, and looking toward the future of our country, the Constitutional Convention produced a document recorded in history as a masterpiece of political forethought. A failure in itself, the Articles played an important role in our nation's history as forerunner of our present Constitution.

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Nintendo hero
6 Farm yield
10 Rest fitfully
14 Track meet part
15 Pathetic
16 Press, as pants
17 Keep watch over a clothing store?
19 Get to shore
20 Stinky smell
21 Not mine
22 Career choice
23 Physicist with a law
25 Gift for repartee
26 Changing locations of department stores?
33 Guardian Angels wear
34 Took to jail
35 Neutral possessive
37 Automaking pioneer
38 Climb aboard
39 Cartoon beagle born in 1978
40 Fermented quaff
41 Dealer's suggestion
42 Bald-faced
43 Line up a clothing store?
46 Dr. with a dream
47 Goof up
48 Features of some winter hats
51 Bring together
54 Culmination
58 Enveloping glow
59 Aerate a mobile phone store?
61 Spongy shoe
62 Bible victim
63 Irons, for one
64 Sherpa shelter
65 Copy editor's mark
66 ___ Apso

Down

1 Note at the office
2 Like real fans
3 Splitting point
4 How herds of cattle arrive?
5 Mel in the Hall
6 Queen's nickname
7 Pasta sauce brand
8 Actor Epps
9 Get up and go
10 Cause to expand
11 Like dental surgery
12 Quarter
13 Edges
18 "Amazing Grace," e.g.
22 Write one's John Hancock
24 Skeet feat
25 Legal order
26 ___ Yello (soda brand)
27 It's given to a waiter
28 Tile border, perhaps
29 Grayish
30 Room for expansion
31 Beach washers
32 Commotions
33 It may be feathered
36 Decided upon
38 Fellow in a frock
39 Dominate
41 Toon collectibles
42 NHLer Bobby
44 Effect
45 Felt-tip items
48 "And that's a ___!"
49 Fishhook bait
50 "Moses und ___"
51 Agree
52 Like Nash's lama
53 At leisure
55 Bread for a gyro
56 Slaughter with a bat
57 More, cutesy-style
59 Crumple up paper
60 Homeboy

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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

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ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

In Oceanside:
- Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
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In San Diego:
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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.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

In Twentynine Palms:
- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.

In Yucca Valley:
- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
- Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

In Palm Springs:
- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
- Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official-website at http://www.29palms.marines.mil

U.S. Marines, Georgian soldier

PHOTOS AND STORY BY CALVIN SHAMOON

HOHENFELS, Germany – Georgian soldiers and U.S. Marines completed their Mission Rehearsal Exercise with a final mission in a simulated Afghan village, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 26. The MRE concluded at the Salaam Bazar, which Georgians called "Operation Mgheli".

"What the MRE is designed to do is put the Georgians in an environment where they deal with civilians in the battlespace while having a living, breathing enemy in the form of the OPFOR (opposing forces) that's working against them," said Maj. James Geiger, the officer in charge of the Georgia Liaison Team. "The Georgians also have a higher headquarters that they have to interact with and make sure all their procedures are correct."

Upon completion of the final portion of the MRE, the Marines embedded with the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion will make final preparations before deploying to Afghanistan.

The training events include close air support training where U.S. Marines and Georgian troops communicate with another to coordinate the use of air evacuation and strikes on the enemy targets. The second portion is the situational training exercise.

Georgian troops patrol through simulated Afghan villages, talked to actors role-playing key leaders and village elders to support regional security, receive intelligence on enemy and provide humanitarian aid.

The Georgian battalion engaged in a six-day event where they complete operations with minimal support from the training teams. Georgian soldiers and U.S. Marines must integrate and face challenges replicating what they may face during their deployment to Afghanistan. During the MRE, the forward operating base simulates Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan, to include a bazar within the base.

For the six-day event of the MRE, the Georgian soldiers alongside U.S. Marines have to make sure the Afghan role-players are supportive of their presence and ensure villagers are willing to cooperate with the troops.

I think the relationship is very positive, I feel we built a level of trust where we can be open with each other and we can discuss what we are doing well and where we need to improve, said Geiger.

U.S. Marines and soldiers from the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion post security as another soldier attends to a simulated casualty during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 22.

The Georgian troops also received support from Moldovan soldiers who are replicating Afghan National Army and Afghan Police Force. The forces work together to ensure prosperity and stability in the region.

"I've seen dramatic improvement," said Geiger. "Where they have bloomed, it has really been here at the MRE they've shown significant improvement in my opinion."

The Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group trains the Georgia Training Team and the GLT in cultural emersion, basic foreign language and foreign weapon systems.

At our home station we did all of our annual training, marksmanship and basic combat skills, but we could not get the advisor training that MCSCG specializes in, said Geiger. The Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group prepared us for this deployment.

The Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group provides logistics, communication and operational support throughout the exercise. Marine Forces Europe oversees the Georgia Deployment Program while MCSCG handles the MRE and ensures its success.

YouTube

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel Find it at http://www.youtube.com/user/Combat CenterPAO.

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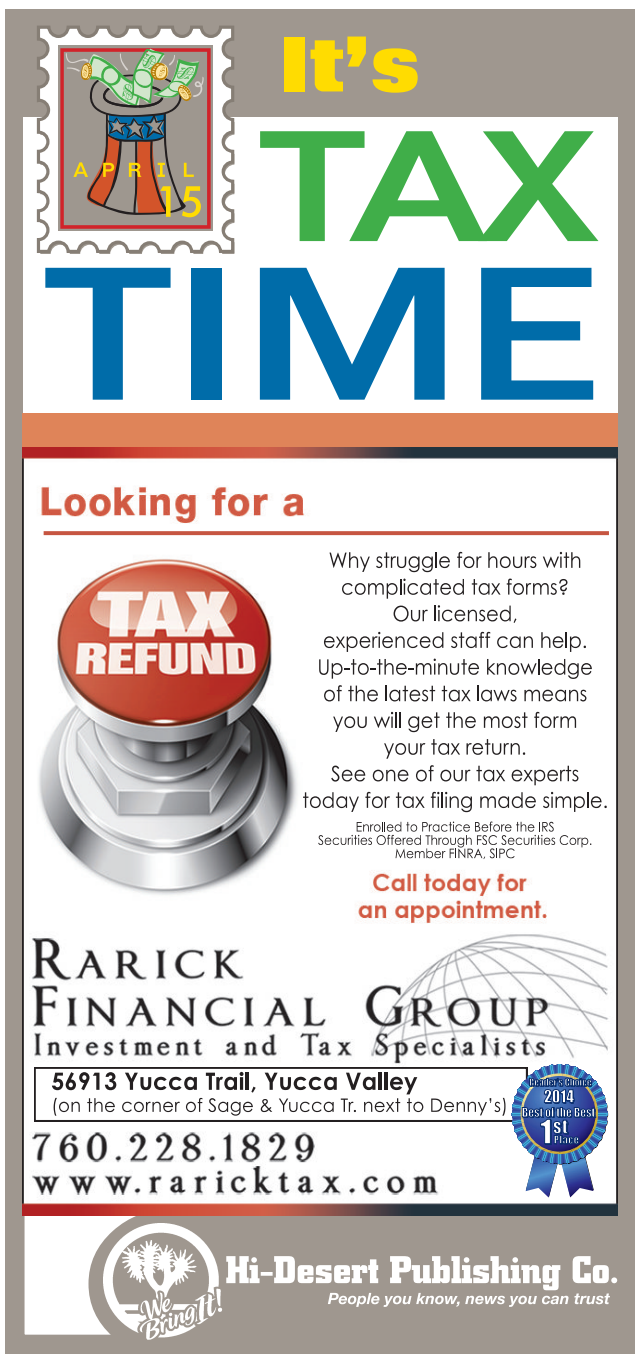
Tortoise Rock
15554



rs maintain Combat Readiness

U.S. Marines, soldiers from the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion and Moldovan soldiers playing the role of Afghan National Army soldiers, rush to cover after receiving simulated enemy fire during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 26.

Soldiers from the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion sprint toward a CH-47 'Chinook' during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 22.

A soldier from the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion dismounts a vehicle during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 23.

A soldier from the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion carries an Afghan role-player with a simulated injury during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 21.

U.S. Marines and Georgian soldiers from the 43rd Georgian Infantry Battalion, enter a building after receiving simulated enemy fire during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 22.

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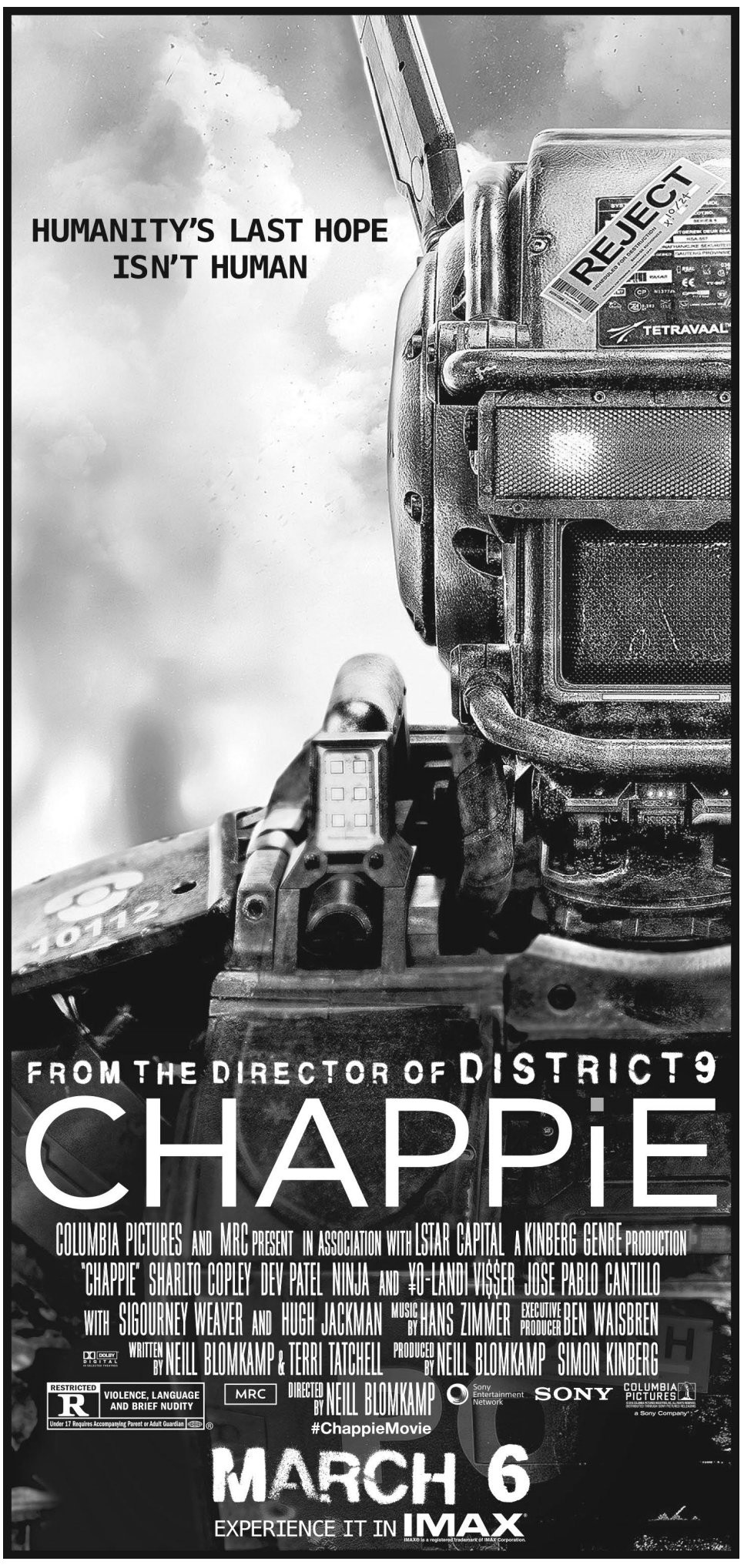

TRAINING From A1

without causing an international incident. What we do have are various less-than-lethal weapons and tactics at our disposal to de-escalate or take individuals into custody without resorting to lethal force."

Over the week, the squads and platoons of Company K rotated through different security posts such as VCP's, over watch positions and the standing quick reaction force. They had to know the standard operating procedures for each post, and how to properly respond to any situation, remaining vigilant to the activities of those inside and outside the embassy compound.

Wiser explained that like most field operations the tempo started off at a crawl but amped up to a sprint as the days went on. Marines had to be increasingly vigilant against potential threats to the compound as role players took notes of their SOP's, tested their defensive positions, and attempted to gain unauthorized entry to the embassy. Insider threats were also something they contended with as role players acting as local national workers were caught with sketches of the embassy with Marines' defensive positions and billeting detailed.

The hostility of the local population grew as each day went by. What started off as peaceful protests and grievances against the American presence there grew into violent rioting and attempts to harm security personnel and embassy assets.

"A heavy emphasis was placed on employing less-than-lethal tactics and procedures to defuse hostile situations," said Covey. "While lethal force is always an option, we don't want to create another problem, or unnecessarily take life."

Marines constantly drilled their riot control procedures, reinforcing the proper use of formations, tactics, and the use of their less-than-lethal tools and equipment.

Several times during the week protestors broke past the first few layers of the VCP and the riot control team was dispatched to disperse the crowd, explained Wiser. Protesters threw water balloons, tennis balls and water bottles at the advancing Marines and crashed against their shields to try and break their formation and enter the embassy compound. Proper application of their riot control tools and tactics allowed the Marines to disperse the crowds and maintain the safety of embassy personnel.

LANCE CPL. GARRETT WHITE

Marines and Sailors with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, triage and evacuate role-playing victims of a simulated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device during an embassy reinforcement scenario on Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, Feb. 12.

The threats against the embassy didn't end at rioting and protests. Local nationals occasionally fired upon the embassy with small arms weapons to test the security's response or as direct attacks on personnel.

"Several times throughout the exercise we were put in shoot-or-no-shoot scenarios," said Covey. "In every situation we were able to identify a legitimate military target when one existed or identify when less-than-lethal force was necessary."

As a culminating event for the exercise, a simulated vehicle born improvised explosive device was detonated within the VCP creating a mass casualty situation. Marines and Sailors responded by quickly setting up new security positions at the damaged VCP and triaging the dead and wounded. They then proceeded to evacuate the casualties to a nearby airfield, where they again set up a security posture while waiting for the casualties to be airlifted out.

As a leader of Marines you are always looking for your unit's weaknesses alongside it's strengths during a training evolution, said Wiser.

"I've been trying to do that all week and I've only been able to find miniscule things. It's always good from my position as a leader to see my guys putting out constantly," Wiser said. "We can go anywhere in the world and need to be able to apply these skills to properly protect American assets the world over. As much as it might not be the most fun mission, it's a critical one."

With the conclusion of this training evolution, Company K gives SPMAGTF-CR-CC the capabilities to rapidly and successfully reinforce and defend the various consulates and embassies in the central command area of responsibility.

WATER From A1

ly reduced. Drip irrigation feeds water directly to the roots of the plants, as opposed to spraying an excessive amount of water to soak an entire yard.

NREA believes every entity on base plays an essential role in the WCP. From each unit on base, to the families that live here, it is everyone's responsibility to help conserve water.

"The number one mission of the installation and everyone aboard base is to train Marines," Elliott said. "We have a ton of land and the perfect training environment, but if there's no water here, we're done. We have a responsibility as the federal government, Department of Defense and the Marine Corps to ensure that we sustain all of our available resources."

LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Desert Winds Golf Course is one of the many entities on base contributing to the installation's water conservation effort. Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs is currently promoting an installation-wide Water Conservation Plan. The WCP is a six element program that educates Marines, sailors and civilians of the Combat Center on how to better conserve water.

READING From A1

an effort to promote literacy among the students, the school invited Headquarters Battalion Marines for an opportunity to participate in a read-a-thon.

"Having community involvement alongside military members [builds] a connection with the kids," said Jennifer Sands, principal, Friendly Hills Elementary School. "I definitely think it's important. Some students have family members in the military and some don't. I think any opportunity for kids to see Marines outside of their perception is really nice."

Approximately eight Marines participated in the school's read-a-thon. They split the reading up into 30-minute sessions and read to children ages 5 through 12.

"I appreciate the Marines being here and volunteering to read with the children," Sands said. "It's very important to the students in our school and our community."

The Combat Center plays an active role in volunteer efforts in the local area and events like this help strengthen the positive relationship between the Morongo Basin community and the installation.

"I think it's a win-win situation because Marines can get stuck in their day-to-day activities and not realize that they're actually serving a [purpose]," Baker said. "When you bring the Marines out here they get to see the people they're protecting."

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facebook CONTEST

I Like my local merchants!

The results are in!
Congrats to our Facebook Contest Business Winners.

1st Place - 29 Palms Inn
2nd Place - Morongo Basin Humane Society
3rd Place - Naturalives Day Spa & Hi-Desert Medical Center

Thank you to all of the businesses who participated. You all had close votes & even gained more Facebook page likes, which is outstanding.

Precision Garage Doors & Gates, Jazzercise, Desertmoon Pictorial, 29 Creative Gallery, Estate Sale Marketplace, Yucca Valley Medical Marijuana Resource Group, Blue Barn Ranch, MBTA, Fabric Outlet & Hawk's Landing Golf Club.

Congratulations to our 5 lucky readers who each won $10 Gift Certificates to the 29 Palms Inn.

Elyse Malmquist
Angelica Castellon
Laura Valenzuela
Joe Deloye
Alexander Johnson

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WeekINPhotos

Integrated Task Force Tank Platoon locks on targets

Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, send rounds down range via lanyard fire at Range 500, aboard the Combat Center, March 1.

Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, drive an M88 recovery vehicle near the firing line at Range 500, aboard the Combat Center, March 1.

Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, drive an M1A1 Abrams tank to the firing line at Range 500, aboard the Combat Center, March 1.

Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, send rounds down range via lanyard fire at Range 500, aboard the Combat Center, March 1.

[Photos by Cpl. Paul S. Martinez]

YouTube

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel Find it at http://www.youtube.com/user/Combat CenterPAO.

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Pastor Titus R. Burns
Sunday Service 10:00 AM
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 PM
Call 760-367-4185 for more information
"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

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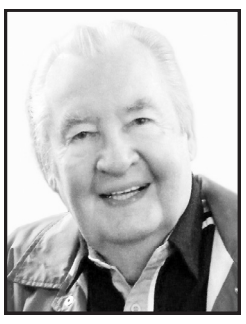
TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



REPEATED FOR EMPHASIS:

I was pleased but not surprised that Big O Tires was selected by the readers of the Hi Desert Publishing Company as the best tire shop in the entire Morongo Basin. And I thought the photograph of the entire staff was outstanding.

Owner Tom Hus and his entire team are as good as it gets. John, Paul, Sandy, Tom, Casey, Jose, Dave, Tommy and Tom make a great picture.

Tom is one of my favorite people. I liked him the minute I met him and my admiration and respect have grown as time goes by. He is truly a good man who loves his family, respects his staff and wants only quality work to leave his establishment.

Big O Tires has been serving the Morongo Basin's automotive needs for 24 years. Owner Tom Huls, who bought the tire shop seven years ago, points out that Big O does much more than tires. Big O also does brakes, maintenance, fluid exchange, belts, hoses and is a true one-stop for your automotive needs.

Philosophically, some words of John W. Gardner, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce come to mind:

"An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society that scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because philosophy is an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water."

This column sponsored by:
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OBSERVATION POST
SPORTS & LEISURE

Now showing on YouTube

March 6, 2015 Since 1957 Vol. 59 B

Condor Elementary holds first 5K Color Run

Participants of Condor Elementary School's First Annual 5 kilometer Color Run take off from the starting line at the Combat Center's Physical Fitness Test track, Feb. 28, 2015. More than 500 people participated in the event.

PHOTOS AND STORY:
LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Combat Center showed its true colors Saturday when hundreds of runners, donning pristine white clothing, were bombarded by a kaleidoscope of colored powder during Condor Elementary School's first 5 kilometer Color Run.

The run was held at the Combat Center's Physical Fitness Test track Feb. 28 and hosted Marines, sailors and family members as runners and volunteers.

"We had more than 500 people show up to participate this year," said Brianna Chandler, noon supervisor, Condor Elementary. "We had volunteers from [1st Battalion 7th Marines] come to help put on the run and families from the school come to participate."

The course utilized the PFT track that runs along Del Valle Road and Adobe Road. According to Chandler, the colored powder used during the event was colored cornstarch, because it is biodegradable and wouldn't damage any of the vehicle displays along the track.

"We set up color stations along the course to throw [colored cornstarch] into the air for the runners to go through," said 1st Sgt. Jairo Fredonis, Weapons Company, 1/7.

The school has been planning the fundraiser since October.

"All the money raised from the run will help pay for pencils, paper, and materials for projects," Fredonis said.

Condor Elementary plans on making this color run grow into an annual fundraiser for the school. New ideas are being developed to improve the event that already brought in more than 500 participants.

Volunteers from 1st Battalion 7th Marine Regiment throw colored cornstarch in a color gauntlet at the finish line of Condor Elementary School's First Annual 5 kilometer Color Run at the Combat Center's Physical Fitness Test track, Feb. 28, 2015. Cornstarch is used as the coloring agent because it is easily cleaned up and it is biodegradable.

First Sgt. Jairo Fredonis, Weapons Company, 1 Battalion 7th Marine Regiment, crosses the finish line of Condor Elementary School's first 5 kilometer Color Run at the Combat Center's Physical Fitness Test track, Feb. 28, 2015. The event was equipped with color stations along the course, giving water to runners and tossing colored cornstarch as they ran by.

Liberty Call

Combat Center Events

The Education Center will be offering free SAT preparation from Feb. 1 to March 22 in bldg. 1524. The course topics that will be focused on are math, writing and critical reading. The course's objective is to increase test scores, introduce test –taking strategies, and connect students with others who are taking the SAT and many more. For more information call 760-830-6881.

The Combat Center and Copper Mountain College are scheduled to host a free mid-air safety class March 7th at Copper Mountain College in Phase I, rm. 119. This class will identify safety issues facing military and general-aviation pilots flying in the Morongo Basin Area. For more information, contact Kristina Becker at 760-830-6213.

MCCS is hosting a Motocross Jam Fest tomorrow from 12 to 4 p.m. at the dirt lot between 13th Street and Dunham Street. The event will feature races, freestyle stunts, band performances a meet and greet opportunity with the racers. Food and drink concessions will be available. For more information call 760-830-5086.

The Paintball Park aboard base is open Friday through Sunday for individuals and private groups. Private groups can rent this facility Monday through Thursday. You can bring your own equipment or rent it on site. It's a day of fun for the whole family! For more information, visit www.ThePaintBallPark.com or call 866-985-4932.

Come visit Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center. With well-maintained lanes, large screen televisions, and a digital jukebox, it's a great facility for indoor recreational fun and relaxation. Tournaments are offered regularly and cosmic bowling runs every Friday and Saturday evening. For more information contact 760-830-422.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, March 6
6:00 p.m. – Selma, PG-13
9:00 p.m. – Taken 3, PG-13
11:30 p.m. – The Wedding Ringer, R
Saturday, March 7
10:30 a.m. – Kung Fu Panda, PG (Free Admission)
1:00 p.m. – Paddington, PG
3:30 p.m. – Black or White, PG-13
6:30 p.m. – The Boy Next Door, R
11:30 p.m. – Project Almanac, PG-13
Sunday, March 8
12:30 p.m. – The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water (3-D), PG
4:00 p.m. – SNEAK PREVIEW – Run All Night, R
7:00 p.m. – Jupiter Ascending (3-D), PG-13
Monday, March 9
6:00 p.m. – Seventh Son (3-D), PG-13
Tuesday, March 10
Jupiter Ascending (3-D), PG-13
Wednesday, March 11
5:00 p.m. – Taken 3, PG-13
7:00 p.m. – The Wedding Ringer, R
Thursday, March 12
5:00 p.m. – Paddington, PG
7:00 p.m. – The Boy Next Door, R
Friday, March 13
6:00 p.m. – Black or White, PG-13
8:30 p.m. – Project Almanac, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – Jupiter Ascending, Pg-13

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Super (cool) Spies

'Kingsman' makes other spy flicks look old, slow and tame

NEIL POND

"Kingsman: The Secret Service"
Starring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton, Samuel L. Jackson & Michael Caine
Directed by Matthew Vaughn
Rated R

Move over, James Bond—or get blown off the road. Some new supercool spy guys—and gals—have just laid claim to the multiplex, and they make just about everything that came before them look old, slow, tame and even lazy.

Kingsman: The Secret Service, based on a 2012 Marvel Comics-distributed series, takes the spy game to wildly adventurous, dizzily fun-tastic new heights of both homage and spoofery. Colin Firth, the Oscar-winning British actor best known for his roles in dignified historical dramas (The Kings Speech; A Single Man; Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy) makes his smashing "action-lead" debut as Harry Hart, the top agent in this international intelligence agency of high-ranking, impeccably dressed, lethally trained gents organized in the mid-1850s as a latter-day Knights of the Round Table to "preserve peace and protect life."

Newcomer Taron Egerton is "Eggsy" Unwin, the streetwise London lad whose fate leads him into the ranks of the Kingsman elite. And Samuel L. Jackson plays, well, basically Samuel L. Jackson, as an evil, lisp-y philanthropist billionaire whose altruistic façade hides a super-sinister plan of global domination.

Michael Caine is aboard as the Kingsmen's top dog; Mark Strong has a key role as his senior officer; and Algerian-born dancer Sofia Boutella makes a memorable impression as the high-hopping villainess Gazelle, who slices and dices foes to ribbons with her razor-sharp prosthetic feet. Mark "Luke Skywalker" Hamill—of Stars Wars fame—plays a college professor appearance is a bit of an inside joke that will delight readers of the comic book, which featured a character with the actor's name.

The action is frenetic, super-stylized and sometimes gleefully hyper-violent. During fight scenes and other adrenaline-pumping moments, director Matthew Vaughn (Snatch; Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels) and cinematographer George Richmond keep the camera moving, zooming, sweeping, bobbing and weaving, then speeding up and slowing down the film to increase the visual intensity.

The fan-boy comic-book crowd will lap it up, but mainstream audiences will find plenty to like about Kingsman, too—its nonstop plot is full of cheeky British humor, meta spy-movie satire, and jabs at politics, government, celebrities and everyone's greed for the latest with-it technology. But be warned: It definitely earns its R rating—especially in its final moments, when it dives into a particularly randy joke. It may be just to cap off its playful naughtiness with a real zinger, or perhaps it's seeking something more profound, a profane parody statement about how spy movies have always "debased" their female characters.

Spy movies have also always been about gadgets and secret-agent do-daddery, and here Kingsman goes all-out: Bulletproof umbrellas, exploding cigarette lighters, shiv-toed shoes, holographic eyeglasses, lethal fountain pens, electrocution signet rings. And the suits! When it comes to fashion, the Kingsmen are the coolest cats around—and, in one of the most extensive merchandise marketing tie-ins of any movie ever, almost anything you see onscreen (suits, ties, shoes and—yes—umbrellas) can be purchased in special Kingsman product lines.

See the movie, buy the suit—and get me one of those indestructible umbrellas!

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Chappie (R)
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Unfinished Business (R)
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Focus (R)
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

The Lazarus Effect (PG13)
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