

## Talon Reach V provides essential training for IOC



2nd Lt. Brett Woolard, student, Infantry Officers Course 2-15, posts security atop a building during exercise Talon Reach V at Range 220, March 27.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD**

A CH-53 Super Stallion hovered over Farah City as 25 Marines inserted in the still of night. Moments after their patrol commenced, the Marines were suddenly bombarded by sounds of explosions that echoed through the streets. As the mortars fell around the future infantry officers, they set up defensive positions and stood ready to take on opposing forces during exercise Talon Reach V.

Prospective infantry officers conducted multi-installation exercise, Talon Reach V, March 24 – 27 as part of Infantry Officer's Course 2-15. The exercise extended to both the Combat Center and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

"[IOC] is the formal school where we train lieutenants to become platoon commanders in the fleet Marine Corps," said Capt. Conner Gentil, head training officer, IOC. "Most of these lieutenants will join commands that are part of the Special Purpose [Marine Air Ground Task Force.]"

According to IOC officials, the lieutenants of IOC 2-15 conducted Talon Reach V to gain exposure to MAGTF mission planning and execution. The Marines conducted operations as Company Landing Teams that established and provided security to a semi-permissive urban population with contingencies executed in support of Marines on the ground.

Talon Reach V began with plan-



2nd Lt. Anthony Pandolfi, student, Infantry Officers Course 2-15, posts security after entering Range 220 during exercise Talon Reach V aboard the Combat Center, March 25.

ning and preparation for Marines at both installations. IOC students at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., coordinated with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 instructors in the planning and development of a long-range, vertical insert at Range 220 aboard the Combat Center, approximately 220 nautical

miles away.

"Splitting the class gives students the knowledge to teach units they [will be assigned to] a variety of different tactics," Gentil said.

IOC students also conducted urban patrolling lane training at the squad and platoon levels at

See **Talon pg. A7**

## Taste of paradise; Hawaii comes to Littleton



Gwendolinn Doole, volunteer dancer, performs one-of-four different hula dance routines prepared for Marines at Littleton Dining Facility aboard the Combat Center, March 26.

STORY AND PHOTOS  
 BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

to do and change their everyday pace."

The aroma of coconuts and the variety of brightly colored leis gave Marines at Littleton Dining Facility the feeling of a tropical paradise.

Littleton Dining Facility held a Hawaiian holiday-themed service, featuring authentic Hawaiian cuisine and hula dancers, March 26, 2015.

"Every year we give a different performance for the Marines," said Maria Gugliotti, manager, Littleton Dining Facility. "We want to give them something fun

This year the theme was inspired by the Hawaiian holiday, Prince Kuhio Day.

The prince is celebrated for his efforts in improving Hawaiians' way of life following their annexation into the United States in 1898, Gugliotti said.

The staff at the dining facility served Coconut-pineapple cake made in Hawaii, a Hawaiian grilled chicken dish called huli-huli chicken, and an assortment of dishes made with Spam to match the Hawaiian theme.

"Everyone worked hard to make this happen,"

See **Talon pg. A7**



Volunteer dancers Jessica J. Paulino, Joyce Te'o and Jamie Caparo performed a variety of hula dance routines for Marines at Littleton Dining Facility aboard the Combat Center, March 26.

## The great multitasking lie

BY MAGTFTC, MCAGCC SAFETY DIVISION

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and while most people may know that texting while driving is a dangerous behavior, many don't fully grasp the idea that having cell phone conversations while driving is also risky. The National Safety Council helps to dispel the illusion of multitasking and the myths that blind the public into believing it is safe to use your cell phone while driving.

Consider this; it's no mystery that many Americans today have an unhealthy obsession with their cell phones. A 2012 survey conducted by the American Automobile Association for Traffic Safety found that more than two-in-three drivers report talking on their cell while driving at least once in the past 30 days. Nearly one-in-three say they did this fairly often or regularly. Drivers talking on handheld or hands-free cell phones are four times



Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya demonstrates how drivers take their eyes off the road when texting while driving.

more likely to be involved in a car crash.

In addition, according to a 2010 annual estimate, the NSC currently estimates that people talking on cell phones while driving are involved in 21% of all traffic crashes in the United States. In 2011, the average cost of a property damage crash was \$9,100.

The first example of a myth states that drivers can multitask. The reality is contrary to popular belief. The human brain cannot multitask. Driving

and talking on a cell phone are two thinking tasks that involve many areas of the brain. Instead of processing both simultaneously, the brain rapidly switches between two cognitive activities. Take the classic example of the act of walking and chewing gum. There is a common misconception that because people appear to simultaneously do both they can just as easily talk on their cell phones and drive safely at the same time. The truth

See **Lie pg. A7**

## 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. Jamean R. Berry.



A Marine engages targets from a UH-1Y 'Venom' during a Composite Training Unit Exercise above San Clemente Island, Calif., March 20, 2015.



Reprinted from the Observation Post

April 3, 1981

Story by Sgt. Jonh Lavaliee

### Airstrike training boost's infantry's combat readiness

They have been called the "back bone of the Corps," the "ground-pounding" grunts who tactically move within the combat zone with the age old mission to seek out, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver.

At their disposal is a variety of weapons from small arms to mortars and dragons. Perhaps the most powerful weapon that an infantry battalion can coordinate to attack an enemy position is an attack aircraft.

Every infantry battalion has an Air Liaison Officer (ALO), who serves as the battalion commander's air representative. The ALO is directly in charge of the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) that actually calls in air strikes from the forward element should the need arise.

Captain Troy Caraway, an A-6 Intruder bombardier navigator by MOS, is the ALO of One-Four, where he has run a very active TACP for the last 14 months.

"It is imperative that the ground element understands how to request and coordinate aircraft to attack targets during all types of warfare," Caraway claimed.

Therefore, Captain Caraway and the TACP, composed of Captain George McDowell, a CH-46 pilot who is the Forward Air Controller (FAC) and five field radio operators, Cpl Chris Leon, Cpl James Barker, LCpl Ronald Moyer, LCpl Kevin Lovell and LCpl Dave Valerie, go to the field at least twice a month to polish their skills in requesting and controlling close air support aircraft.

Training however, is not confined to the field as each member of the TACP has undergone classroom instruction in subjects such as air support requests, aircraft characteristics, aviation com-

munication and ordnance type and selection.

Captains Caraway and McDowell attended training classes at the Landing Force Training Command in Coronado, Ca. The ALO and FAC then in turn, trained the radio operators in the TACP.

The TACP members are not the only Marines in One-Four who are trained in requesting and controlling close air support. They also lend their skills in the training of company and platoon commanders.

At least once a quarter the TACP trains the Marines filling leadership billets in how to call in air support by going to the field and actually requesting and coordination an air attack.

Weapons Platoon Leader, 2dLt Gregg Forsberg was one of the leaders TACP trained in the most recent exercise March 17, he said, "It is important for any leader in the battalion to be familiar with the procedure because in certain wartime situations it may be your responsibility to call in air."

"If you have an objective that needs to be immediately suppressed and the FAC or ALO isn't with your platoon for some reason, it would then be the platoon leaders responsibility, so he should know what to do."

Another recently trained platoon leader, 2dLt Mark Promutico of Company B explained, "In TBS we had a brief introduction with airstrikes but it was such a short phase in the training that it was easily forgotten. Out here with Captains Caraway and McDowell, we went into detail and learned the importance of the Marine Air Ground concept. With the way the modern battlefield is, it is vital that we know how to call in air strikes."

"It was really good training," said 1stLt David Shelton, Company A, third platoon leader. He added, "At the company level you would usually have an FAC. But, if he gets killed in combat, somebody else has to be able to do the job."

With regular air support training provided by the TACP, platoon leaders in One-Four are rapidly becoming capable of performing the job of the FAC in a combat environment.

The need for close air support could arise when an advancing ground unit is stalled by an encounter with the enemy. The ground commander would determine if an airstrike is needed to knock out the target.

The FAC calls in the request for aircraft and, while waiting for the aircraft to arrive, he plans a mission to strike the target.

When the aircraft arrives he establishes radio contact with the controller and the mission is relayed to the pilot. As the aircraft approaches the target area, the target is marked by a marking round from mortars, artillery or tanks.

Depending on where the marking round strikes, the FAC gives corrections to the pilot such as, "Target bears, 200 meters west of mark."

The aircraft spots the target and proceeds with the attack while the FAC watches to make sure the wings are level and the plane clears his position before giving the go ahead "cleared hot."

From here on in it is in the hands of the pilot and in an instant, the flash from his bombs erases the smoke of the mark. The strike is made and the ground forces can carry on with the remainder of their mission.

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elizabeth Grace Stober**  
Born March 4, 2015  
Born to Richard and Monique Stober
- Hadley Ann Bishop**  
Born on March 5, 2015  
Born to Brandan and Jana Bishop
- William Arek Lopez**  
Born March 5, 2015  
Born to Saul and Lisa Lopez
- Isaiah Devon Mangum-Felder**  
Born March 7, 2015  
Born to Clifford and Brianna Felder
- Aisling Harper Lawrence**  
Born March 10, 2015  
Born to Brian and Ondrea Lawrence
- Hanah Grace Thompson**  
Born March 14, 2015  
Born to Peter and Johanna Thompson
- Harper Elaine Bryant**  
Born March 16, 2015  
Born to Tony and Erin Bryant
- Adeline Carol Loyd**  
Born March 17, 2015  
Born to Jordan and Rachelle Loyd
- John Edward Franzen III**  
Born March 19, 2015  
Born to John and Erin Franzen
- Roman Cash McCoy Peterson**  
Born March 20, 2015  
Born to Jonathan and Jennen Peterson
- Journee Celeste Dorsey**  
Born March 22, 2015  
Born to Jeffery and Mercedes Dorsey

### CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Incursion
  - 5 Hypothesize
  - 10 Computer memory
  - 13 Italian soup pasta
  - 14 Low-growing shrub
  - 15 Like mortals?
  - 16 Prohibition profiteer
  - 18 Excited
  - 19 Close down
  - 20 Designer Picone
  - 21 Doctrine
  - 22 Scandinavian man's name
  - 23 Congolese, once
  - 25 "Same here"
  - 28 Scottish-born singer Donegan
  - 29 Mediterranean port
  - 30 Airport waiting area
  - 32 Recyclables container
  - 35 Best-liked, in chat rooms
  - 36 Fraternity parties
  - 37 Put into action
  - 38 Draught drink
  - 39 Sickness
  - 40 Cold capital?
  - 41 It might be gum
  - 43 Songwriter Leonard
  - 44 Made a little sweeter
  - 46 "Peter and the \_\_\_"
  - 48 Feeling of dread
  - 49 DVR system
  - 50 \_\_\_ out an existence
  - 53 Aerobics type
  - 54 Healthy snacks
  - 57 Madams' mates
  - 58 Flying-saucer chauffeur
  - 59 Rug's coverage, perhaps
  - 60 A word to Virginia
  - 61 Meanders
  - 62 It may help one choose sides

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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48						49			50	51	52
53						54	55			56	
57						58				59	
60						61				62	

- Down**
- 1 Court wear
  - 2 Schoenberg opera "Moses und \_\_\_"
  - 3 Label on some sportswear
  - 4 Prompt arrival time?
  - 5 Bother
  - 6 Instrument most often played on Sunday
  - 7 Close a contract
  - 8 Word with skater or water
  - 9 Cigarette gunk
  - 10 2005 Heisman Trophy winner
  - 11 Kitchen emission
  - 12 Fox of "Transformers"
  - 15 Native New Zealander
  - 17 Manufacturer Strauss
  - 21 Has an elegant meal
  - 22 Royal wish
  - 23 Divided into sectors
  - 24 Boiling
  - 25 Causeuse
  - 26 Nonwritten exam
  - 27 "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius" author
  - 28 Former Senator Dick
  - 30 Pay to stay
  - 31 Leered at
  - 33 Castaway's confines
  - 34 Sign element
  - 36 Discount giant
  - 40 Comic-strip cry
  - 42 Harsh sounds
  - 43 Blockage
  - 44 Smart alecky
  - 45 Destroy a knot
  - 46 Took a bride
  - 47 Pizza cookers
  - 49 Sealy choice
  - 50 Banshee's land
  - 51 Whetted
  - 52 Biblical brother
  - 54 Like meat thrown to a lion
  - 55 Singer/actress Lohan
  - 56 Part of an old-fashioned pinup

### SUDOKU

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			6			4			

Last week's answers

P	E	A	T	M	I	S	E	R	M	A	L	T	5	1	6	2	8	3	7	4	9
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L	I	O	N	T	A	K	E	N	L	I	M	N	9	2	7	4	1	6	5	3	8
S	A	L	I	N	E	M	A	R	C	H	C	O	M	E	S	I	N	M	E	E	T
E	V	I	L	S	R	E	A	L	M	S			2	7	9	6	3	1	8	5	4
L	I	K	E	F	I	V	E	A	M	D	S	L	4	5	3	8	7	2	9	1	6
M	A	E	A	L	I	O	N	R	I	O			1	6	8	9	4	5	2	7	3
A	N	D	M	T	E	T	N	A	G	O	E	S	8	9	1	5	2	4	3	6	7
B	I	A	S	E	S	B	O	O	N	E			7	3	5	1	6	8	4	9	2
L	I	A	M	S		S		S		S			6	4	2	3	9	7	1	8	5
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L	I	M	B	E	L	L	I	S	L	A	M	B									
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N	A	Y	A	P	A	T	T	Y	D	E	M	O									

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## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# Ra'Anna GORDON

Paris, Tx. Cpl. 20, Non-commissioned officer of promotions, IPAC

Gordon has participated in various sports since the age of 12. She attributes her involvement in sports to setting her up for the Marine Corps.

> **I was born and raised** in Texas so people tell me that I'm very southern. I have four sisters on my dad's side who I'm very close with. My family is very small with just my mom, grandmother my baby brother and my step dad.

> **I'm the oldest one** of all. My sister Kiana she is 17, Dasia who is 15, Jasmine is 13 and Kaitlyn is 12.

> **They always ask me** why I joined the Marine Corps. They think it's pretty cool and Jasmine told me she is thinking about joining herself.

> **I powerlifted all throughout high school.** I tried it a little bit my freshman year but I only went to practices because I was dedicated to track. My sophomore year came around and that's when I started learning about weight classes and making sure I met weight every meet.

> **I've always liked to be different** and no one else was doing powerlifting, so of course I wanted to try it and I have loved it ever since.

> **When you're powerlifting** you accomplish a lot. It requires you pushing yourself to the limit. You're not running and you're not doing conditioning but you're going to feel as if you ran 10 miles if you actually put forth the effort.

> **I like the feeling** that comes over you when you go past that breaking point, or when you reach a new max.

> **I also enjoy track**, which I've been doing since middle school. We always did weight training and athletics in track. It was harder for me to revert back to it once I was through with

power lifting because I gained more muscle and it slowed me down.

> **At the power lifting meets we did** squats, bench press and deadlift. When I went to state my senior year I was in the 128 lbs. weight class. I squatted 285 lbs., the most I bench pressed was 135 lbs. and the most I got on deadlifted was 345 lbs. All of those, except for my bench, were personal records.

> **The way I was raised**, when you start something you finish it. I remember trying out for soccer when I was younger and thinking it was too cold to play. I wanted to quit and my mom told me no.

> **Having track and powerlifting** under my belt did help me transition to the Marine Corps. I was in good shape and I think it helped me mentally more than it did physically.

> **When I say getting in shape**, I think more mental than physical, because your body can do more than it thinks it can. When you get tired, are you going to tell yourself you're tired and quit or are you going to think past the pain and keep going.

> **I joined the Marine Corps because**, I'll never forget when I was sitting in government class and the recruiter came in. He was on-point and I liked what he was saying. I thought 'I have to do something for myself' and I went to the recruiting office and I enlisted.

> **Ultimately the reason I wanted to enlist** was because of everything the Marine Corps stands for, I wanted for myself.



> **I am the [non-commissioned officer]** of promotions at IPAC.

> **I'm leaving the [Combat Center]** April 30, you never get complacent here. I think I'm going to miss it a lot along with the relationships I've formed and the friends that I've made.

> **I think getting the [Combat Center]** as my first duty station will help me in my Marine Corps career because you can learn a lot from being stationed here. We learn to make the best of everything and I think my experience here will help me continue to stay positive in all situations.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO



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# 'Lava Dogs' prepare for



Lance Cpl. Taylor Trion, assaultman, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Tulsa, Okla., advances to higher ground for better position during Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 23.

BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Gusts of up to 30 Mph blew through the rolling hills and valleys of the Sierra Mountains as 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment traversed treacherous terrain to gain a superior position over the enemy. Marines traveled over creeks, up steep inclines, and through snow banks at elevations of up to 10,000 ft. The environment tested their resolve and tactics as they hunted opposition forces.

Marines and sailors with 1/3, based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, conducted the Final Exercise of Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 22 through March 26.

The 'Lava Dogs' were inserted into the mountainous terrain of MCMWTC, leaving the battalion to remain self-sustained for extended periods of time, as companies traveled to opposition forces perched atop several mountains.

"The Marine Corps prepares Marines for 'every clime and place' and that's what I feel our Marines are demonstrating when they learn and train here," said Capt. Francisco Vega, company commander, Company A, 1/3.

Marines were observed by mountain leaders, who monitored their progress and recorded all notional casualties or enemy fire sustained during contact with opposition in order to keep track of the battalion's progress throughout the exercise. Assets used during 1/3's Final Exercise included simulated artillery fire, scout sniper elements, crew-served .50 caliber Machine Gun teams, simulated mortar fire and air support.

"You have to be more alert to your squad's capabilities, not only physically but mentally," said Lance Cpl. Chris Downs, squad leader, 1/3. "It's my first time training at



Pfc. Johnathan Deadman, assaultman, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, carries the receiver of a .50 caliber machine gun as he trudges through deep snow during Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 23.

[MCMWTC], so having a solid foundation with [Standard Operating Procedures] is important because then all you have to worry about is taking on the challenge of the terrain and weather."

Freezing temperatures, high elevation, strong winds and long movements over rugged terrain were some of the challenges faced by 1/3 Marines and sailors during their assault. The battalion's ability to adapt and overcome the environment allowed them to obtain a favorable position over the enemy, effectively pushing the opposition further down the mountain.

According to Vega, the battalion went through mobility training before beginning the final evolution. The class taught Marines and sailors the best ways to navigate the terrain, pack and utilize the right equipment, and properly traverse the training area without being spotted.

"I'm very impressed by the Marines; their conduct, behavior, and ability to adapt to the environment and to use it to their advantage," Vega said. "Over the duration of their mobility training they learned many lessons, like packing the right equipment and utilizing it effectively [to traverse the area.]

The 'Lava Dog's' main effort would end the exercise with a final assault on enemy forces at Sonora Pass, located approximately 10,000 ft. above sea level. Marines continue to train for 'every clime and place' at MCMWTC, just as they did during the base's creation in the early 1950's in response to lessons learned at Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.

"You'll always find someone who is willing to step forward and answer the call," Vega said. "I don't think there's a big difference between the Marines of the past and the present; it boils down to the spirit of Marines which carries on."

# I ♥ MY MOM

because

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**MOTHER'S DAY LETTER CONTEST:** We want children to write a brief 100 words or less letter to us about "Why I love my Mom...." Only 1 entry per child is allowed. All entries may be mailed or brought in to the Hi-Desert Star or The Desert Trail by 5 pm April 24th. Winners in each age category will be notified by phone before Mother's Day. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will be published in the newspaper and be given a gift certificate for them & their mother.

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# 3x4 Gateway 16231

# 'every climate and place'



Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Martinez, Corpsman, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Santa Ana, Calif., provides first aid to Marines while providing direction to teams escorting Marines to a casualty collection point during Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 23.



Lance Cpl. Taylor Trion, assaultman, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Tulsa, Okla., patrols just below a ridge during Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 23



Assaultmen with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, assist one another in crossing a creek by using fallen branches during Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 23.



Lance Cpl. Kyle Dubois, assaultman, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Smiths Station, Ala., looks through his rifle combat optic during Mountain Training Exercise 2-15 at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., March 23.



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Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.

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## Talon from pg. A1



Infantry Officers Course 2-15 students carry a casualty away from a simulated Improvised Explosive Device explosion while on patrol during Talon Reach V at Range 220, March 26.

Range 220. They trained in Counter-Improvised Explosive Device and Cordon and Search tactics. Concurrently, IOC students located at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., rehearsed in Command Operations Center activities, tested communications and prepared for the use of new and innovative technologies.

"It's good training," said 2nd Lt. Justin Klein, student, IOC 2-15. "We get the opportunity to use [technology] most people don't even get a chance to see. The more time we spend learning these tools and tactics, the better we can teach them to Marines who will be under our command. We can improve our Marines and make them a more effective fighting force."

One device used were the Radio Frequency-7800H High-Frequency Wideband Manpack, an HF tactical radio, which offers expanded data capabilities to long-range, beyond-line-of-sight environments and the PRC 117G tablet, a



2nd Lt. Steven Anderson, student, Infantry Officers Course 2-15, posts security during a patrol in Range 220 during the exercise Talon Reach V, March 25.

network-enabled, wireless tactical tablet. They also employed unmanned aircraft systems such as the Shadowhawk, Raven and MK-2 Instant Eye, which allowed for effective intelligence gathering. With the use of these drones linked to the tactical tablets, the students were able to experience multifaceted communication on a simulated battlefield by gaining access to interfaceted maps of the area.

"Talon Reach is a cul-

minating exercise that allows new lieutenants to get hands-on experience," Gentil said. "The Marine Corps is always coming out with new ways of gathering intelligence and combating enemy forces. These tools improve on the abilities of the students and the Marines who will be under them."

Among the achieved objectives of Talon Reach was the introduction to the MAGTF, air assault planning considerations

and understanding that the Ground Combat Element's ability to develop a complete, ground tactical plan is integral to conducting effective mission execution.

"I see the lieutenants improve drastically over the course of Talon Reach," Gentil added. "The exercise gives the students a chance to get hands-on experience leading patrols, manning a COC and gathering [information] on the enemy."

## Taste from pg. A1

Gugliotti said. "The dancers have been practicing for two months, and we had to bring in the authentic food."

The six dancers were volunteers from the Combat Center community. They spent more than four hours per week to prepare a variety of different hula-dance routines. For each routine, the dancers wore different dresses and performed to traditional Hawaiian music.

"We volunteered because we wanted to help boost morale," said Pasi Larsen, volunteer dancer. "It's a way for us to make day-to-day life better for Marines and break up their routine."

Marines at the dining facility were caught off guard by the bright decorations, Hawaiian music and dancers. The dancers received a positive recep-

tion from their audience in the form of cheering and clapping.

"I wasn't sure what I was walking into at first," said Pfc. Joseph Hughes, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "It was a cool theme and a lot of fun because the performance was something I hadn't seen before."

In past years, Littleton has orchestrated performances such as singing on the Marine Corps Birthday and flash mobs on Halloween, Gugliotti said. The dining facility plans to continue holding events for the Marines aboard the Combat Center.

"We appreciate the Marines that are fighting for our freedom," Gugliotti said. "We want to be able to give back and this is our way of supporting them."

## Lie from pg. A1

is that walking and chewing gum involve a thinking task and a non-thinking task. Conversation and driving are both thinking tasks.

Another myth states that talking to someone on a cell phone is no different than talking to someone in the car. A 2008 study cited by the University of Utah found that drivers distracted by cell phones are more oblivious to changing traffic conditions because they are the only ones in the conversation who are aware of the road.

In contrast, drivers with adult passengers in their cars have an extra set of eyes and ears to help keep drivers alert of oncoming traffic problems. Adult passengers also tend to adjust their talking when traffic is challenging. People on the other end of a driver's cell phone cannot do that.

A third myth states, hands-free devices eliminate the danger of cell phone use during driving. The reality is, whether handheld or hands-free, cell phone conversations while driving are risky because the distraction to the brain remains. Activity in the parietal lobe, the area of the brain that processes movement of visual images and is important for safe driving, decreases by as much as 37% when listening to language, according to a study by Carnegie Mellon University. Drivers talking on cell phones can miss seeing up to 50% of their driving environments, including pedestrians and red lights. The look but they don't see. This phenomenon is also known as inattention blindness.

A fourth myth states that drivers talking on cell phones still have a quicker reaction time than those who are driving under the influence. The reality is that a controlled simulator study conducted by the University of Utah found that drivers using cell phones had slower reaction times than drivers with a .08 blood alcohol content, the legal intoxication limit.

There is a simple solution - drivers talking on cell phones can immediately eliminate their risk by hanging up the phone, while drunk drivers remain at risk until they sober up. So please put the phone away and live to fight another day.

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### TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



### REPEATED FOR EMPHASIS

Here is an extremely important message from my friend Herb Orban. Please read it carefully and then decide to participate.

"Keep April 7 @ 2 PM Open!  
Mary Ellen and I are inviting one and all to join us at the first Yucca Valley Death Cafe being held at the Center for Spiritual Living. Don't wear black!

We want to take the "taboo" of talking of and/or about death. We hope to engage our neighbors in non-religious issues of concern. Our goal is for all attendees to leave with a great appreciation of life, living, and taking care of business. It is easy to get disconnect and become alone in the desert as we get older. We hope to spread the word about taking care of one another and ourselves. - The first "Death Café" was held in East London in 2011, based on a model developed by Jon Underwood. Since then, more than 2000 Death Cafes have been held worldwide. This "Café format" is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or theme. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. The objective is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives."  
Please R.S.V.P.  
<http://deathcafe.com/deathcafe/1743/>

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# EARTH DAY EVENTS 2015

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

**Yucca Valley Earth Day**  
For more information call Keith Mohn at 760-830-6603



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

**Earth Day Mountain Bike Ride**  
Start Time: 8 a.m.  
For more information Call Keith Mohn at 760-830-6603 or visit [www.green29.org](http://www.green29.org)



**MONDAY, APRIL 20**

**"A Day in the Life of a Hero"**  
For more information contact Ken Tinquist via email at [kenneth.tinquist@usmc.mil](mailto:kenneth.tinquist@usmc.mil)



**THURSDAY, APRIL 23**

**Earth Day Road Bike Criterium**  
Start Time: 8 a.m.  
For more information Call Keith Mohn at 760-830-6603 or visit [www.green29.org](http://www.green29.org)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**

**Electronic Waste Recycling**  
For more information contact Ken Tinquist via email at [kenneth.tinquist@usmc.mil](mailto:kenneth.tinquist@usmc.mil)



**FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

**Earth Day Fun Run** - Start time: 6:30 a.m.  
Location: Desert Winds Golf Course  
**Earth Day Extravaganza!** - Start Time: 4:30 p.m.  
Location: Lincoln Military Housing Athletic Field  
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**PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO**

To the untrained eye, the vast area surrounding the Combat Center looks as if it has nothing to offer. In actuality the desert is home to various organisms co-existing in harmony. The Combat Center will hold

a base wide Earth week April 20-24 for the observance of Earth Day on April 22.

The following is a series of photos, taken at Joshua Tree National Park, display the plants and terrain that surround the Combat Center and make up this unique ecosystem that Combat Center patrons can have a part in preserving.



## Liberty Call



### Combat Center Events

Register for a chance to win a spot in the Choose-a-Ride Sweepstakes. Participants will have a one in eleven chance of winning a brand new car. This event is open to active duty military and their spouses only. Visit the MCCS Facebook page for more information. The page can be found at facebook.com/MCCS29 palms.

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.

The Officer's Club will be holding an Easter brunch on April 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. It will cost \$19.95 for adults, \$7.95 for children ages seven to 12 and children seven and under eat for free. The brunch will be a buffet featuring a carving station, a waffle station, an omelet station, and a dessert station. It is open to all ranks and civilians. Reservations are highly recommended. For more information, contact 760-830-6610.

The Single Marine Program will host a free UFC clinic and fight night viewing April 18th at the West Gym. The event will start with an afternoon of demonstrations and end with a viewing party of the UFC fight at the Sunset Cinema. Space is limited and the event is open to active duty service members only. For more information, contact SMP at 830-4767.

Head to building 1433 for a caregiver peer-to-peer support forum, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The forum is open to anyone who provides support and care to wounded, ill or injured service members. It will give caretakers the opportunity to meet new people and broaden their support network. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Teri Templeton at 909-963-8776.

### Sunset Cinema

#### Friday, April 3

5:30 p.m. — Son of God (free admission), PG-13  
8:30 p.m. — Focus, R  
11:00 p.m. — The Lazarus Effect, PG-13

#### Saturday, April 4

10:30 a.m. — Despicable Me 2 (free admission), PG  
12:30 p.m. — The DUFF, PG-13  
3:00 p.m. — McFarland, USA, PG  
6:00 p.m. — Focus, R  
8:30 p.m. — Kingsman: The Secret Service, R  
11:00 p.m. — Hot Tub Time Machine 2, R

#### Sunday, April 5

4:00 p.m. — Chappie, R  
7:00 p.m. — Unfinished Business, R

#### Monday, April 6

7:00 p.m. — The Lazarus Effect, PG-13

#### Tuesday, April 7

7:00 p.m. — Kingsman: The Secret Service, R

#### Wednesday, April 8

7:00 p.m. — Chappie, R

#### Thursday, April 9

5:00 p.m. — McFarland, USA, PG  
8:00 p.m. — Hot Tub Time Machine 2, R

#### Friday, April 10

6:00 p.m. — The DUFF, PG-13  
8:30 p.m. — Focus, R  
11:00 p.m. — Chappie, R



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# Of Rags and Riches

New 'Cinderella' updates age-old fairytale with modern spectacle

NEIL POND

*"Cinderella"*  
Lily James,  
Cate Blanchett  
& Richard Madden  
Directed by Kenneth  
Branagh  
Rated PG

Downton Abbey launched the acting career of Lily James as the rebellious young Lady Rose, a character who joined the show's sizeable ensemble in 2012. Now, in her first major movie role, the 25-year-old actress steps outside the Downton manor and into the iconic glass slippers of the most famous rags-to-riches fairy tale of all time.

Actor-turned-director Kenneth Branagh's lavish, live-action production of Cinderella hews closely to the once-upon-a-time basics of the centuries-old European folk tale, especially the version with which most modern-day viewers are most familiar, Walt

Disney's iconic theatrical cartoon of 1950. But Branagh fills the outlines of Disney's animated characters with pounding human heartbeats, encourages robust performances from his fine, mostly all-British cast, and wraps it all up in a sumptuous package of colorful, to-die-for costumes, spectacular settings and lush cinematography.

This Cinderella is also built on a deep foundation of tenderness and forgiveness, an antidote to all the cruelty and unfairness that our Cinderella will ultimately face, and overcome. "You have more kindness in your little finger than most people possess in their whole body," says her dying mother (Hayley Atwell) to the little girl, "Ella" (Eloise Webb), who will grow up to become the "ragged servant girl" eventually transformed—for one literally magical

night—into the princess of all princesses.

Lily James is as lovely as sunshine as the grown-up Cinderella, whose limitless optimism and kind-heartedness endures even after the arrival of her "evil" new stepmother (Kate Blanchett) and her two mean, dingbat daughters (Sophie McShera, also from Downton Abbey, and Holiday Granger).

You know the rest. But one of the coolest things about Branagh's movie is how he makes this familiar tale feel so fresh, even though you know exactly where it's going. He stages it like a full-scale period drama rather than a bedtime story, and there's an epic splendor to everything—sweeping vistas of coastlines and oceans of the British Isles; vast, ornate castle interiors teeming with extras and activity; the lonely spaces of Cinderella's attic quarters and kitchen.

The ballroom sequence between Cinderella and the prince (Richard Madden from Game of Thrones) is magnificent; the transformation of the pumpkin into a glistening, golden carriage—courtesy of the fairy godmother (Helena Bonham Carter)—is a thing of whimsical wonder; the climactic, kingdom-wide search for the foot that perfectly fits the left-behind slipper has intrigue, humor, edge and suspense.

Both James and Richard Madden, as the prince, find characters beyond—and beneath—their starry-eyed storybook romance, and Blanchett maintains a delicious, delicate balance of coldness and camp.

This grand new version of Cinderella may not make you believe in fairytales. But it might make you think, like Cinderella, that with enough "love, kindness and occasionally, a little bit of magic," the world might, indeed, become a better place.

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