MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS
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Maj. William Tyree, the future operations officer with Headquarters Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and Gunnery Sgt. Carl Phillips, the future operations chief, review data sent to them from Marines and sailors during a battle skills exercise prior to the start of Large Scale Exercise-15 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 3-6. LSE-15 is a combined U.S. Marine Corps, Canadian and British exercise conducted at the Brigade-level, designed to enable live, virtual and constructive training for participating forces.

2nd MLG conducts battle skills exercise, for LSE 15

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MICHAEL DYE

Marines and sailors with Headquarters Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conducted a battle skills exercise to prepare for Large Scale Exercise 15 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 3-6.

"The battle skills exercise that we conducted here with Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group was an opportunity for us to practice command and control for tactical logistics forces at both the regimental and (Marine Expeditionary Brigade) size Marine Air Ground Task Force level," said Col. Gary Keim, the Commanding Officer for Headquarters Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group. "We got to do planning on the tactical level and somewhat on the operation level."

The battle skills exercises gave Headquarters Regiment a chance to review, practice, and apply standard operating procedures prior to putting them into effect at LSE-15.

"This was important because we rarely get the opportunity to practice logistics command and control at a brigade level," said Keim. "MCLOG gave us the opportunity to refresh those skills that we are very good at on a

See **Battle pg.** A5

Marines and sailors with Headquarters Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conduct a Battle Skills Exercise in order to operate on a much larger scale prior to the start of Large Scale Exercisee-15 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 3-6. LSE-15 is a combined U.S. Marine Corps, Canadian and British exercise conducted at the Brigade-level, which is designed to enable live, virtual, and constructive training for participating forces, supports U.S. National Security Strategy, and allows participating nations to strengthen partnerships and their ability to operate together.

Crisis Response Marines always alert

Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa cross a field to establish a security perimeter during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise aboard Naval Station Rota, Spain, August 3. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a crisis contingency force ensuring the safety of Americans and American interests from any threats through prepared response forces, providing military assistance, when directed, in response to human and natural crises.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. VITALIY RUSAVSKIY

Marines of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa continuously train to be mission-ready as a rapid crisis response force.

Alert force Marines, a part of the ground combat element for SPMAGTF-CR-AF, conducted a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission, locating and extracting a simulated downed pilot aboard Naval Station Rota, Spain, August 3.

"We used the MV-22B Osprey because of its capabilities to fly over great distance at a high rate of speed to move in and conduct the TRAP exercise," said 1st Lt. John B. Porter, a platoon commander with SPMAGTF-CR-AF. "We went through a check list of necessary procedures that were required before we deployed to execute a TRAP mission."

The Marines flew approximately 60 miles from Morón Air Base to

See **Crisis pg.** A5

Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa extract a simulated downed pilot during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise aboard Naval Station Rota, Spain, August 3. The training allowed Marines to test their ability to rapidly launch and recover a simulated downed pilot.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Cpl. Brittney Vito.

A Marine with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 sits on the ramp of a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter after completing a portion of a joint Downed Aircraft Recovery Team exercise aboard Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, July 30, 2015.

PMO offers auxiliary reserve program

The Auxiliary Reserve Program provides Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center with a means to experience law enforcement at their own pace during their off duty hours. Volunteers will get experience performing traffic stops, routine patrols and undergo live-fire exercises.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

For Marines preparing to make the transition out of the Marine Corps, many will consider law enforcement as a future career opportunity. The Auxiliary Reserve Program provides Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center with a means to experience law enforcement at their own pace.

"The Auxiliary Reserve Program is an internal program for [the Provost Marshal's Office] where we allow active duty marines and sailors to come and cross-train into law enforcement," said Capt. Benjamin J. Gutek, operations officer, PMO. "The program is generally designed for the Marines who are seeking employment in law enforcement after ending active service from the

See **PMO pg.** A5

This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post
August 10, 1960

4500 Reserve And Regular Marines To Participate in "Operation Charger"

A three-day air-ground exercise, involving over 4500 reserve and active Marines, will take place August 22-25, at this, the world's largest Marine Corps Installation.

Thirteen Marine Corps Reserve ground organizations from as far away as New York City and Chicago, Illinois, will join with elements of several active detachments to conduct the exercise, code-named "Operation CHARGER."

Colonel D. J. Preacher, Commanding Officer, 9th Staff Group (Ground) of Chicago, Illinois, has been named as commander of the combined units, which will be known as Marine Air-Ground Task Force 21.

The 25th Rifle Company of Gary, Indiana, under the command of Captain Constantine Sangalis, has been named as the aggressor unit for the operation.

Concept of Operation Charger is the seizure of aggressor-held areas with the use of close air support to increase the proficiency of air and ground unit coordination.

Night landings of troops and equipment by helicopter will be made to increase the Reserve's knowledge of the Marine Corps' modern concept of vertical envelopment.

When the Operation begins, MAGTF-21 will launch a coordinated air-ground attack against aggressor forces that will be defending an area northwest of this Base in order to seize and secure Sears Field.

Sears Field, a simulated air field, will be constructed prior to the operation to accommodate the take-off and landing of helicopter units participating in the exercise.

After the capture of Sears Field, the Task Force will be prepared to continue the attack against "enemy" forces to the north.

General training objectives of the three-day problem will be reconnaissance and patrol missions, maximum air support participation and at least three helicopter assault missions.

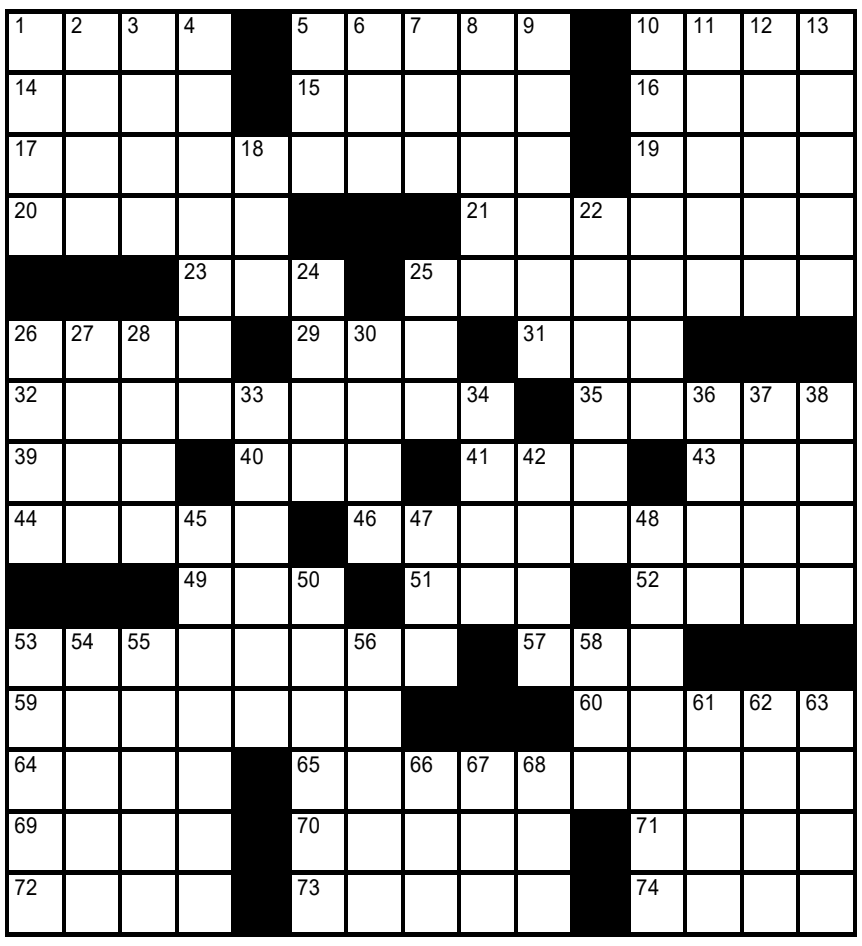
Other training objectives include fire support coordination offensive operation, defense of strategic areas, atomic aspects of land warfare, tank-infantry attacks, air defense and command post emplacement, security and displacement.

Secondary objectives have been named as helicopter supply missions, resupply and evacuation, camouflage discipline and communications functioning, with emphasis on radio techniques.

Before Operation Charger goes into effect, however, the Reserve organizations will undergo seven days of rigorous Hi-Desert training.

This pre-exercise training program includes small arms instruction and firing, the firing of each unit's respective weapon, classes on warfare, desert survival, and classes on each man's respective job within his unit.

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Gator's kin
5 "This Boy's Life" author Tobias
10 Taps
14 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
15 Midwest transfer point
16 Tesla founder Musk
17 Contract, as in pain
19 Stew bean
20 Test
21 Place for a blast furnace
23 Minister: Abbr.
25 Kerosene source
26 Jeans color
29 Bridal vow
31 Explosive stuff
32 Baby in a barn
35 Tennis player John
39 "___ Buttermilk Sky"
40 Be in hock
41 Night spot
43 ___ Jima
44 Trig. function
46 Doctrine that everyone must follow legal principles
49 "No sirree"
51 Phoned document
52 Monocle part
53 "Later!"
57 Prefix with light
59 Live inside, as a spirit
60 Classic toothpaste brand
64 "The Time Machine" caste
65 Tots
69 Boat propellers
70 Call forth
71 State with six sides
72 Nasdaq rival
73 Artoo ___
74 Become bored

Down

1 Musical finale
2 Little hoppers
3 Cross to bear
4 Some theater
5 Heartache
6 "Look here!"
7 John
8 Sassy
9 French mathematician with a noted "last theorem"
10 Beanbag contents
11 Justice Samuel
12 Actress Marisa
13 Tie-up
18 Alkaline liquid
22 Pacific phenomenon
24 Vista
25 Farm mother
26 Legislative group
27 Disney's "___ & Stitch"
28 Western Indians
30 No layabout
33 Site
34 Wallace of Reader's Digest
36 Shade of green
37 McGregor of "Trainspotting"
38 Column crossers
42 Dismissive call
45 How some dominos are placed
47 Blinking light, maybe
48 Go nuts
50 Rose
53 Attach
54 It's a relief
55 Smells
56 Antipasto morsel
58 Golfer Michelle
61 Against
62 Around
63 Connors contemporary
66 Small amount
67 Bout stopper, for short
68 Summer zodiac sign that is hidden in all the long across answers

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

AYDEN ALEXANDER NICOLAYSEN
Born July 23, 2015
Born to Alex and Mallory Nicolaysen

MAYA GABRIELLA MCLELLAN
Born July 23, 2015
Born to Gary and Yesenia Mclellan

MADELYN AUBREYANN SCHAFER
Born July 25, 2015
Born to Colin and Moriah Schafer

WILLIAM H. TSAI III
Born July 26, 2015
Born to William and Connie Tsai

SUDOKU

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	7			8			1	
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8		2			3		4	

Last week's answers

C	R	E	A	M		J	A	K
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	A	I	S	L	E			
O	T	O	R					

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

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

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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.

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

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Mike CHIQUITO

Passaic, N.J., Mechanic, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion

Chiquito spends his free time practicing martial arts, drawing and listening to music. He manages to train in Jiu-jitsu at Yucca Valley Jiu-jitsu Gym almost every day and still finds time to improve upon his other hobbies.

>I came from New Jersey so coming to Twentynine Palms has been a big transition from the east coast.

>I've been in the Marine Corps for almost three years now.

>I hold the title of 'Marine' close and I feel that it is a part of me now. All the time and work I have spent here and the people I have met have made it that way.

>For me, being a Marine means continuing to dig for that extra bit to expand from where you started. Instead of saying, "I'm a good Marine," I can show you I'm a good Marine.

>I grew up in a small town, called Passaic, New Jersey with my two sisters. I am the only one in my family who has served in the military.

>I've been working since I was a sophomore in high school. After I graduated, I wasn't ready to go to college so I worked for a couple of years.

>The first time a recruiter came to me, I turned him down and threw away his card. It was only a few months later I realized I had gotten complacent with my job. I needed a change, so I joined the Marine Corps.

>I've always had an interest in martial arts. As a kid I would watch Power Rangers and action movies.

>When I was growing up, I had a friend who was taking karate lessons. I didn't have the money to take lessons so it turned into him going to karate and coming back the next day to show me what he learned.

>Once I started making money I began going to school for karate. Eventually I moved on to Muay Thai, until high school when I moved on to sports like wrestling. I was always into the world of fighting but I could never afford to do it until now.

>After I got here, a friend and I began going outside every other day to train.

>I've developed a love for the people and the sport of fighting. There is that feeling of competition and camaraderie and when the fight is over you shake hands out of mutual respect.

>My best memories while practicing martial arts come from the people. No one I've ever met has been full of themselves to the point they refuse to shake my hand at the end of a fight.

>It really is a community of fighters and not how Television can make it out to be. It is actually a very nurturing environment where you grow together and that's the best experience I have from it.

>I don't have a role model in the fighting world because I have my own style. The closest thing I have is Diego Sanchez because when he fights he gets wild, but at the end of the day he never forgets to shake someone's hand.

>My friend and I talk about trying to get into professional fighting all the time. Martial arts has become a big part of my life, and before I decide to do anything else I want to give myself about two years of experience in amateur fights before I advance to anything else.

>My favorite position to fight from is the standing because I can do takedowns and stay on my feet well. I'm a passive fighter and will often wait out my opponent to see how they are going to move before I decide what I'm going to do.

>I've learned so much about myself and I don't think that I would be who I am without martial arts. It's taught me to think about my actions, stay fit and always work to achieve higher goals.

>The metaphor "one step forward, two steps back" never applies to me. I'm always moving forward and becoming better.

>I started at Yucca Valley Jiu-jitsu because my friend and I were just looking for a place to spar and have fun. We started coming every single day and now it's become just another family.

>The closest bond I have is with friends who I've met through martial arts. Even outside the gym we spend time together and when we go over to each other's house we bring a mat. It's become how we talk and understand one another.

>When I'm looking for a big change of pace from fighting I like to draw.

>In first grade there was a cocky kid who could draw Dragon Ball Z characters and that was pretty impressive. I took it upon myself to try to beat

him but I couldn't draw so I started tracing pictures. We would race to see who could finish an image first, until he moved away in third grade. I have been drawing ever since.

>I went from tracing paper to drawing Yu-Gi-Oh and Pokémon cards to drawing people, sculptures and paintings by Picasso. Often I would go online to find pictures of statues and monuments to draw.

>In high school I got more into art with self-portraits, computer design, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, and using different mediums like paint, ebony, chalk, charcoal, pastels and water coloring. I experimented with everything I could get my hands on.

>Drawing is something that has essentially been following me since I was a kid.

>I don't see someone and think that I have to beat them. When I see someone who is better than me, I have to try my best to see if I can beat them. If I can't beat them after that then I can only move forward.

>I love being able to know how I work and that I can achieve higher if I just try. Doing these things I enjoy have helped me to be open to learning new things and believe in myself more.

Interviewed and photographed by Pfc. Levi Schultz

Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 8/14/15 - 8/20/15

Man from Uncle (PG13)
12:30 3:30
6:30 9:30

Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation (PG13)
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

The Gift (R)
12:30 3:30
6:30 9:30

Fantastic Four (PG 13)
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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Fair winds, following seas; 'Tanks' 1st Sgt. Retires

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

Marines with 1st Tank Battalion joined 1st Sgt. Nelson A. Hidalgo, Company A First Sergeant, 1st Tanks, as he bid farewell to the Marine Corps after 20 years of service during his retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Aug. 7.

"He is the definition of what every officer wants in a Marine," said Maj. Dominique B. Neal, battalion executive officer, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. "It's not just that he has my intent in mind as a commander but he has the Marines' welfare in mind as well. When you have all those together in one facet, you get the total package of a Marine."

Hidalgo began his service in the Marine Corps as a basic rifleman in 1995. Throughout his career, he has served as a guard instructor in Norway and Estonia, combat instructor at the School of Infantry in Camp Geiger, North Carolina, recruiting duty in Long Island, New York, and company first sergeant for Headquarters Battalion and 1st Tanks, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. Over the course of his career he was meritoriously promoted four times.

"I am extremely happy to have the privilege and honor to serve with him," said Lt. Col. Lee M. Rush, commanding officer, 1st Tanks. "I wanted today to be special for him and his family. He was a senior leader of Marines who cared."

Neal, the retiring officer for the ceremony, served alongside Hidalgo, the operations chief at the time, in 1st LAR for two consecutive deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"There's no shine for glory or personal recognition; he does everything for the Marines," Neal said.

Following his retirement, Hidalgo intends to focus on taking care of his family.

"We're headed to New York and I have a job lined up as a human resources manager," Hidalgo said. "The past twenty years have been focused on me and the Marine Corps; now it's all about my family."

Hidalgo left the Marines of 1st Tanks with one last piece of advice, reminding them to find time to enjoy their work.

"Don't just go to work, have fun," Hidalgo said. "Sometimes you forget to have fun. Certainly you cannot work hard for 20 years and be successful and not have fun."

Looking back on his career, Hidalgo attributed his growth as a Marine to both the good times and the challenges he faced along the way.

"I truly believe all the deployments and time away from my family have made our family stronger," Hidalgo said.

Marines with 1st Tank Battalion stand in formation during a retirement ceremony for 1st Sgt. Nelson A. Hidalgo, Company A First Sergeant, 1st Tanks, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Aug. 7. Hidalgo left the Marines of 1st Tanks with one last piece of advice, reminding them to find time to enjoy their work.

Lt. Col. Lee M. Rush, commanding officer, 1st Tank Battalion, speaks during a retirement ceremony for 1st Sgt. Nelson A. Hidalgo, Company A First Sergeant, 1st Tanks, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Aug. 7. Hidalgo retired after 20 years of service in the Marine Corps.

1st Sgt. Nelson A. Hidalgo, Company A First Sergeant, 1st Tank Battalion, thanks the Marines and sailors he served with throughout his 20-year career during his retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Aug. 7. Looking back on his career, Hidalgo attributed his growth as a Marine to both the good times and the challenges he faced along the way.

SUMMER SALES EVENT

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Battle from pg. A1

battalion level and begin the transition to thinking on the regimental or brigade size level."

LSE-15 is a combined U.S. Marine Corps, Canadian and British exercise conducted at the brigade-level, and designed to enable live, virtual and constructive training for participating forces. The exercise supports U.S. National Security Strategy and allows the partner nations to strengthen relationships and their ability to operate together.

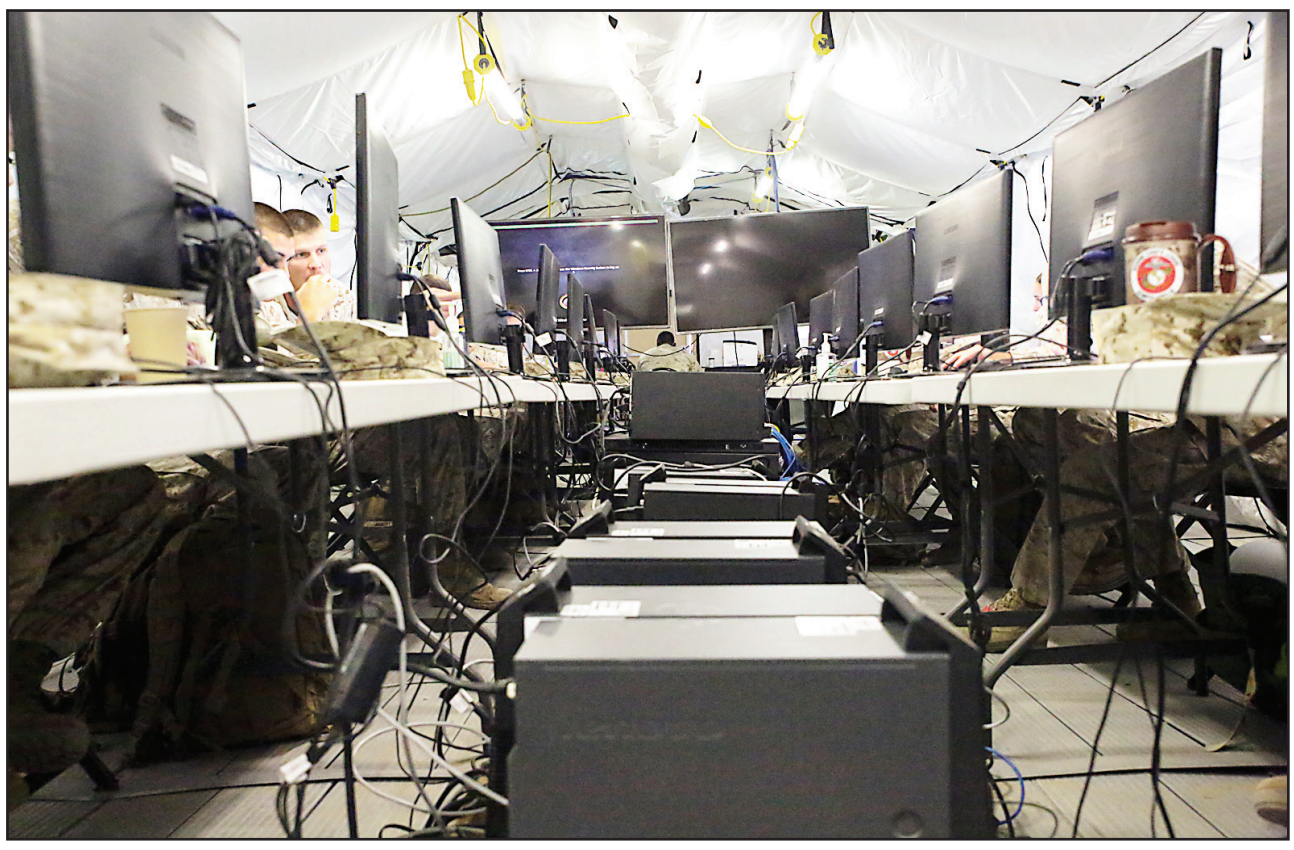
"The biggest thing that we did on this exercise was figure out our process in our combat operation center," said 1st Lt. Tyler Ross, the senior watch officer for the unit. "The biggest thing in (the C.O.C) is the information flow, so making sure the right people know the right information."

Another reason for the unit to conduct this training prior to the start of LSE-15 is to locate and correct any problems that may arise prior to LSE-15 starting.

"The biggest challenge we faced was asking the same person or same staff to now think at two different levels of operations," said Keim. "I am asking the Marines and sailors to think not only at a battalion level, but also at a regimental and brigade size level.

After the completion of the battle skills exercise prior to LSE-15, the commanding officer expressed his gratitude toward how well the unit has been strengthened to take on a larger role of operating on a brigade size level.

"It was exceptional training," said Keim. "It was great training with MCLOG and we came out more proficient than we were before and it was great team building."



Marines and sailors with Headquarters Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conduct a battle skills exercise in preparation to operate on a much larger scale as part of Large Scale Exercise-15 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 3-6. LSE-15 is a combined U.S. Marine Corps, Canadian and British exercise conducted at the Brigade-level, designed to enable live, virtual and constructive training for participating forces.

Crisis from pg. A1

Cpl. Tyler Jameson, a crew chief with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, looks out the back of an MV-22B Osprey while traveling from Morón Air Base to Naval Station Rota, Spain, during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise, August 3. The Marines flew approximately 60 miles from Morón Air Base to NS Rota to accomplish the TRAP mission.

NS Rota to accomplish the TRAP mission.

"As soon as we landed, we established security and sent out a search party for the simulated downed pilot. Once the pilot was found, we rendered first aid and extracted him from the area," said Porter.

Missions such as TRAP are one of the primary competencies of SPMAGTF-CR-AF. Apart from TRAP, SPMAGTF-CR-AF's resources, capabilities, and strategic location allow it to accomplish a broad spectrum of missions ranging from partner-nation training or disaster relief and humanitarian aid, to protecting or reinforcing an embassy at the direction of U.S. Africa Command.

While in Rota, the Marines will refine basic rifleman skills during a two-week package August 4-15. Land navigation, optics familiarization, buddy rushing and fire team movements are some of the fundamentals the platoons polish before moving into more advanced, urban combat missions.

"Without these fundamentals, we wouldn't be able to successfully complete a mission we might be called upon. We operate in a lot of urban environment and it is good to stay sharp because it is one of the more challenging places to work in," said Porter. "It is going to be one of constant themes of improving on basic skills and MOUT to be prepared to any crisis we may be called upon."

SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a self-sustaining crisis response force prepared for the protection of American personnel and facilities on the African continent, when directed.

PMO from pg. A1

Marine Corps."

For Marines in other occupational specialties, the program provides an opportunity to experience some tasks they may do as police officers. Volunteers get to conduct traffic stops and routine patrols.

"It introduces them to law enforcement and can help them know if it's not for them," Gutek said. "Second, it gives them the training and exposure to different concepts in a law enforcement position."

As part of the program, participants will undergo much of the same training military police and civilian law enforcement officers receive in the Field Training Officer program. It is the same three-month course of training military police undergo when they first arrive to their duty station.

"While in the reserve program, we have the Marines complete the FTO program," Gutek said. "It's a 'crawl, walk, run' approach to getting them as up to speed as possible."

Training is very structured and participants engage in a variety of training evolutions in the classroom and practical settings.

"While they have to have some classroom training, participants of the program will go through the same live-fire qualifications with rifle, shotgun and 9mm [pistol] as a military police Marine," Gutek said.

The program can be taken at one's own pace and has a flexible schedule. The time spent training can also be counted toward volunteer hours.

"If its four hours a month or twenty hours a month, the program is flexible and all on their own pace," Gutek said. "There is no time requirement and everything is done on your off time."

To learn more or to sign up for the Auxiliary Reserve Program, contact 830-6095.

"The program is an avenue for Marines and sailors to get volunteer time and exposure to law enforcement before they EAS," Gutek said. "I want to encourage Marines who are looking to get out and fulfill some volunteer hours, or are interested in law enforcement to partake in the program."

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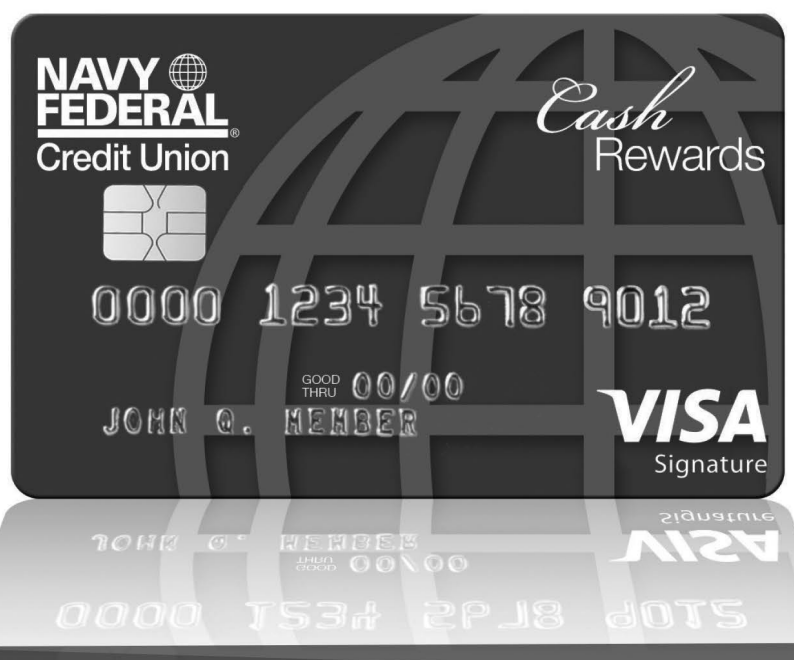

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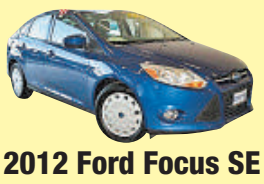
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WeekINPhotos

Brazilians, Marines talk rockets

PHOTOS BY: CPL. WILLIAM PERKINS

Marines with 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, fire an M142 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System as part of SUMMER FIREX, an 11th Marine Regiment exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 9. The two Brazilian officers visited to share and discuss information on military operations, unit structure and different weapons systems.

Brazilian Major Rafael Pires Ferreira, an artillery officer with Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais, observes the tactical capabilities of 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment's M142 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 9. The two Brazilian officers visited to share and discuss information on military operations, unit structure and different weapons systems.

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1st Lt. Kyle Repetti, platoon commander, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, makes a cut on a plywood board with a table saw at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, August 7.

Marines get creative at Wood Hobby Shop

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

The sound of drills and saws reverberating against metal walls do little to distract 1st Lt. Kyle Repetti, platoon commander, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. His focus is centered on his current project; a board of plywood, the humble beginnings of a bedframe.

At the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, Marines, sailors and family members, above the age of 16, are provided with the tools and the assistance needed to create anything they set their minds to.

"Here at the Wood Hobby Shop, we have all the tools the guys are going to need from start to finish," said Robert Henry, recreation safety specialist supervisor, Marine Corps Community Services. "Literally any project you can think of can be done here."

The projects made at the shop vary from simple plaques, awards and cutting boards to more complex woodwork designs such as kayaks, canoes, wooden chests and bedframes.

"Since I was stationed here I've made a bedframe, two nightstands and a wooden box," Repetti said. "It is definitely a good hobby and a way to help out your command. I've worked on several projects for going away and retirement presents. It's a whole lot cheaper than having to buy a present."

For those interested in woodworking, the shop has tools needed to build, repair or modify their own wooden crafts and hobby items.

"It's usually cheaper to build your bookshelf or your entertainment center than it is to buy it," Henry said. "You're the one that built it so you know how it's constructed and you know how to fix it."

Many of the projects that can be made at the Wood Hobby Shop also serve as presents for holidays or retirements.

"I started woodworking after I retired from the Marine Corps and I didn't know this place existed until after that," said Carl Vanderzee, family readiness officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. "One of the first things I made at the shop was a tea box for my mother. It's something that four years later is still a topic of conversation. It's a skill we are losing in America and who doesn't love a handmade gift?"

Even the simplest of designs tests one's problem solving skills when finding the right placement of the pieces. For many, it's a great way to keep their mind active during off hours.

"It's a healthy alternative to sitting in the barracks and playing video games," Vanderzee said. "As far as a hobby, it helps you develop skills and it's just great knowledge to have."

In addition to providing tools and assistance, the shop also provides a laser engraving service.

"Our laser engraving pretty much beats our competitors across the board as far as price," Henry said. "We do our engraving while you wait and our completion time is usually about 30 minutes from when you walk in the door."

A fee of 10 dollars per day covers the use of tools and machines with wood also available for purchase. To get started at the shop, patrons must first attend a free safety class held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m.

"Once you go through the free safety shop, we turn you loose and you can build whatever you would like," Henry said. "We have staff on hand to help walk you through your project for those who have little to no experience."

For more information about the Wood Hobby Shop, located at Building 1342, contact the shop manager at 830-7214.

Carl Vanderzee, family readiness officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and Joseph Viscuso, recreation attendant, Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, sand down a cutting board at the shop, August 7. The shop is open to Marines, sailors and family members over the age of 16.

Image1st Lt. Kyle Repetti, platoon commander, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, makes a cut on a plywood board with a table saw at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, August 7. The shop has the tools needed to build, repair or modify one's own woodwork, craft and hobby items.

Liberty Call

Combat Center Events

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 the bowling center 760-830-6422.

Visit the Sand Trap Grill at the Desert Winds Golf Course, The Grill brings back old favorites like the charbroiled hamburger, salads, hot dogs and breakfast. Their expansive seating accommodates large groups of people. For more information, contact the golf course at 760-830-6132.

Come celebrate the end of the summer and prepare for a new school year at the Back to School Bash. The bash will be held at the Frontline Restaurant, August 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit MCCS29Palms.com.

If you or someone you know has talent, come and perform live at the Marines Got Talent Show at the Sunset Cinema Theater, August 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Auditions will be held August 11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. For more information, contact 760-830-4767.

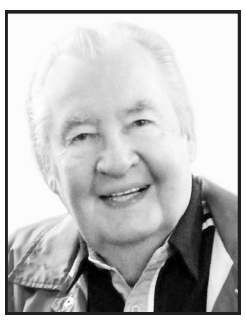
Head out to the free Music and Comedy show at Del Valle Field, September 12 from 6 to 10 p.m. The combined comedy show and musical concert will feature special appearances by Lupe Fiasco, Deray Davis and Shayma Tash. The event is open to all hands. Special seating will be available for all active duty members on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact MCCS at 760-830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, August 14
6:00 p.m.- Minions (3-D), PG
8:30 p.m.- Trainwreck, R
Saturday, August 15
12:30 p.m.- Minions, PG
3:00 p.m.- Ant-Man (3-D), PG-13
6:00 p.m.- The Gallows, R
8:00 p.m.- Self/Less, PG-13
Sunday, August 16
12:30 p.m.- Minions (3-D), PG
3:00 p.m.- Ant-Man (3-D), PG-13
5:30 p.m.- Terminator: Genisys (3-D), PG-13
8:00 p.m.- Trainwreck, R
Monday, August 17
7:00 p.m.- Ant-Man, PG-13
Tuesday, August 18
7:00 p.m.- Trainwreck, R
Wednesday, August 19
5:00 p.m.- Minions, PG
7:00 p.m.- Self/Less, PG-13
Thursday, August 20
5:00 p.m.- Max, PG
7:30 p.m.- Ted 2, R
Friday, August 21
9:00 p.m.- Southpaw, R
8:30 p.m.- Trainwreck, R

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



When I taught a positive living seminar at the federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia, I told the "lifers" and others that if they were ever released they were welcome to come to wherever I was and I would help them get jobs, etc. Three came to see me and I not only helped all three but one is a popular radio personality in the Detroit area today.

When I taught my seminar in the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, I told the prisoners the same thing and I was able to help several men who had served long prison sentences.

Warden Clinton Duffy of San Quentin fame was once asked by Joe Pyne, a West Coast radio personality, why he wasted his time with convicts. Pyne told Duffy that a "leopard never changes his spots." Duffy replied "I don't work with animals, I work with men. Men change every day."

When Warden Duffy died we had a memorial service at our church in Fresno to celebrate his good life. He was a tough minded optimist who never stopped believing in the potential of men and women regardless of how far they had fallen below the expectations of society.

Now it is election time and it troubles me a great deal that some people find it necessary to bring up the past mistakes of candidates even when the candidates have paid in full for any crimes they committed.

And I don't care what kind of crime you are thinking about. There is no crime beyond forgiveness and the possibility of a fantastic and wonderful change in a person.

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A New Champ

Jake Gyllenhaal is pounding, pummeling prizefighter in 'Southpaw'

NEIL POND

"Southpaw"
Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Rachel McAdams & Forrest Whittaker
Directed by Antoine Fuqua
Rated R

The first thing you see in Southpaw is quite literal—it's the left hand, the "south paw," of boxer Billy Hope (Jake Gyllenhaal), as he prepares to enter the ring at Madison Square Garden.

That paw, and its awesome knockout power, has lifted Hope from his humble, hardscrabble orphanage origins to the top of the prizefighting world, where he now reigns as the light heavyweight champ. But how much more pounding, pummeling, bruising and bleeding can the champ take—and give?

As he comes home from another victorious match, his precious young daughter (Oona Laurence) gets up from her bed and puts on her glasses to better see the his fresh scars and cuts.

"The more you get hit, the harder you fight, I get it," his beautiful wife, Maureen (Rachel McAdams) tells him, pleading with him to stop—or at least take a long break.

Billy's manager (rapper 50 Cent) prods him in a different direction. "If it makes money, it makes sense," he says, urging him to sign a three-year, three-fight, $30 million deal with HBO. A cocky young Columbian upstart (Miguel Gomez) itches for a fight. "You ain't ever been hit by a real man!" he taunts him. Maureen warns Billy of his swirl of hangers-on, warning him they will scatter like "cockroaches" once his bubble of money and success bursts.

And burst it does, and worse, in a tragic and terrible turn of events. Hope is dethroned, forced to give up his home and stripped of everything that ever meant anything to him. Starting again from the bottom, he works with a demanding trainer (Forrest Whittaker) to try to put the pieces of his crashed, crumbled life together again.

It's a classic tale told anew, and not without its share of clichés. But Gyllenhall is phenomenal, adding yet another role to his growing resume of parts that it's hard to imagine going to any other actor (although rapper Eminem was reportedly considered). With a shaved head, 200 pounds of ripped and rippling muscle, a billboard of tattoos across his body and a perennially banged-up face, he's almost unrecognizable. But it's impossible to take your eyes off him.

Working from an original story by Kurt Sutter, the creator/writer/producer/director of TV's Sons of Anarchy, director Antoine Fuqua (Training Day, Shooter, Olympus Has Fallen, The Equalizer) weaves a powerful human drama about home and family into the framework of a dynamic, rousing boxing saga. A soundtrack of tunes from Eminem, the Notorious B.I.G., Busta Rhymes and other hip-hop artists helps set the scene in today's f-bombing, bling-a-fied realm of modern sports, a world away from The Champ, Raging Bull and Rocky. The camerawork and choreography of the fighting scenes are outstanding—and so realistic, you'll probably be checking your garments for splat and spatter when you leave the theater.

It may not be everyone's idea of relaxing, uplifting escapist matinee balm. But above and beyond the brutal, visceral slaps, jabs, and upper cuts is a bigger, softer story, a tale of a father and a daughter on a journey of emotional homecoming that packs quite a punch of its own.

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Marines and Sailors with 3/5 take part in MCCRE

COURTESY STORY, PHOTOS BY
CPL. DEMETRIUS MORGAN

The Marine Corps takes pride in being a rapid response force, capable of completing any task assigned. From combat operations and logistical support to humanitarian assistance mission Marines are always ready to execute the mission. In order to live up to their prestigious reputation, Marines, and their Sailor counterparts, have to maintain readiness through high level training evolutions conducted on a frequent basis.

On Aug. 3-7. Marines and Sailors with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, put their training to the test by taking part in the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The MCCRE measures a unit's performance in all operational tasks. Personnel of all ranks within the unit participate in the evaluation and are put in a simulated combat setting to test their required skill sets. Capt. Brandon Currie, the company commander of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Mar. Div., who evaluates as part of the MCCRE, said if executed in the correct way, units can use the MCCRE not only to measure their capabilities, but as a way to plan for future training events and missions.

During the MCCRE, Marines and Sailors with 3/5 conducted weeklong combat operations training for the purpose of the evaluation. Cpl. David Krehbiel, a platoon sergeant with 3/5, said this event forced Marines and Sailors to revert back to all the numerous rehearsals and training evolutions they have executed throughout their time with 3/5 in order to succeed.

"This isn't new for us honestly," said Krehbiel. "We go out to the field almost on a weekly basis and do raids and assaults on the objective, so when they say, 'Hey, this time it's for real,' we aren't wondering what we are going to do, we just repeat the same standard operational procedures over again."

While 3/5 implemented their duties, Marines from adjacent units observed every aspect of the exercise and evaluated the unit's mission readiness. Using the combined notes taken for each criteria judged an overall evaluation is made.

"My job right now is to observe their tactics, how cleanly they execute them, how quick they do it, there are so many things to take into consideration, which is why there are so many of us," said Currie. "Hopefully when all is said and done, we can have a good idea of what they did well and some things to fine tune."

3/5 will conduct other training evolutions and maintain overall unit readiness prior to taking part in a unit deployment program later this year.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, insert into the designated landing zone during a helicopter raid, as part of the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 4. The MCCRE is used evaluate the operational readiness of a designated unit.

Marines and a Sailor with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, establish security during a helicopter raid, as part of the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 4. The MCCRE is used evaluate the operational readiness of a designated unit.

‘Darkside’ unveils headquarters sign

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stand in front of their newly unveiled headquarters sign, August 7. ‘Darkside’ is set to be officially reactivated Sept. 17.

Lt. Col. Brian Middleton, commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and Lt. Col. Jared Spurlock, executive officer, 7th Marine Regiment, unveil 3/4’s headquarters sign, August 7. ‘Darkside’ is set to be officially reactivated Sept. 17.

Lt. Col. Brian Middleton, oncoming commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, addresses the Marines of the battalion prior to the unveiling of 3/4’s headquarters sign, August 7. ‘Darkside’ is set to be officially reactivated Sept. 17.

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