MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS
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Lance Cpl. Steven Hoggand, a machine gunner and section leader with 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, directs his Marines' fire while suppressing an enemy position during platoon attack drills aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

1/7 destroys in platoon attacks

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. SETH STARR

It was a warm morning when Marines from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, rose at 3:17 a.m. to begin preparation for platoon attacks aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

Training kicked off for the Marines of Company C with a combined arms fire and maneuver exercise as part of their Integrated Training Exercise in preparation for their upcoming deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response Central Command 16.1 scheduled to depart later this year.

Platoon attacks started with an assault on three reinforced enemy machine gun bunkers. The goal of the assault was to effectively suppress enemy positions, breach any obstacles toward the objective and clear all three bunkers.

1st Lt. Cress Clippard, platoon commander for 1st Platoon, Company C, said that his Marines performed well and adapted to the situation despite several unknowns.

"This is a lot more challenging than we're used to because instructor trainers from TTECG [Tactical Training Exercise Control Group] will throw obsta-

See **1/7 pg.** A6

1st Lt. Cress Clippard, platoon commander for 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, observes his Marines' approach during platoon attack drills aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

MCAGCC residents enhance quality of life

Members of the Combat Center community discuss ideas during the Resident Advisory Board meeting held at the Desert View Clubhouse, July 24. RAB meetings are held periodically throughout the year to help promote communication between base housing and its residents. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Lincoln Military Housing held a Resident Advisory Board meeting aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate communication between the residents of the Combat Center and base housing. Residents and district managers discussed improvements while representatives from the Provost Marshall's Office listened to concerns. Members of the RAB consist of volunteers from the various parts of the communities representing the different base housing districts. The information passed helped resolve issues faced by the community. The next RAB meeting is scheduled to take place on base Sept. 17, to continue communication between base housing and Combat Center residents.

Combat Center patrons participate in a Resident Advisory Board meeting at the Desert View Clubhouse, July 24.The resident advisory board allows members of the community to have a more active part of the base community. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17.

Riding in the heat

STORY BY BOBBY PIIRAINEN, SAFETY DIVISION

We all know the months of April through September and even into October can get brutally hot.

Riding during these months with your full armored protective gear could actually be a detriment. It could lead you to have heat related injuries, such as fatigue, muscle cramps, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and even becoming unconscious.

But leaving your protective gear hanging in the closet doesn't do much good either. There are alternatives you can use that can help you stay cool and protected at the same time.

Riding in a tank top and short sleeved shirt obviously isn't a good choice. Yes, we know riding this way offers very little protection in the event of an accident. But did you know it actually hinders us from staying cool?

Let me explain. As we ride, our body sweats to help cool us off. But as we ride in tank tops or tee-shirts, that sweat is blown off our bodies immediately. Then the body generates more sweat and you can experience dehydration much quicker. And being extremely dehydrated is no fun.

So, what do we do, stop riding during these months? No! We just ride smarter. We exchange that heavy up armored jacket with a mesh one that has protection in all the critical areas, i.e. back, shoulders and elbows. These jackets run anywhere from $60.00 to more than $200.00.

If this doesn't offer enough cooling, consider buying a cooling vest. They have many different styles with various prices.

So let's say you don't want to spend that extra money on a vest (not calling you cheap), then you can always take a long sleeved shirt, soak it in water and put it on under your mesh jacket. The wet shirt and the air blowing across it create a great cooling effect.

And let's not forget to bring water for consumption as well.

That's all for now. Stay cool!

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. Andre Dakis.

A U.S. Marine assigned to Force Reconnaissance Platoon, Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), provides security for his team while conducting a joint Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) exercise alongside Navy SEALs, during composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX) in the Atlantic Ocean, June 20.

This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post
July 28, 1967
Story by LCpl James Havelka

Reserve Field Artillery Group Shoot

More than 900 Marine Reservists braved the scorching, 100 degree heat of MCB 29 Palms, July 18-20, to highlight their two weeks of active duty training with a Field Artillery Group firing exercise.

"Citizen Marines" from four different units combined to form the 12th Provisional Field Artillery Group, commanded by Colonel J. W. Judy, They were: Headquarters Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Group, Treasure Island, Calif.; 4th 155 Millimeter Gun Battery, Denver, Col.; 4th Armored Amphibious Company, Treasure Island, Calif.; 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Los Angeles, Calif.; 5th 8" Howitzer Battery, a 29 Palms organization, also participated in the event.

According to Colonel Judy, the purpose of the shoot is to exercise the Group headquarters in operational control of subordinate and attached units, including positioning and control of their fire.

In addition, working together as a Field Artillery Group provides units which normally act independently with training in operations they might encounter on active duty.

A variety of weapons were used in the three-day exercise, including the armored amphibian, a dual-purpose weapon which may act as an assault vehicle, but the Howtar, a 107mm mortar mounted on a carriage to give the weapon added mobility.

The reservists arrived at the desert gunnery range Tuesday, July 18, and fired from early afternoon until nearly 3 a. m., concentrating on registration of their weapons and night firing. Col Judy indicated the night firing was very successful. Target of Opportunity, Center of Impact and High Burst firing were also included in the problems the reserve Marine encountered. More than 1500 High Explosive and Illumination rounds were scheduled for the three-day exercise.

One of the major tests for the Group occurred Wednesday, when many of the units were deployed to different positions, a process requiring weapons to be reset and command posts to be rebuilt.

Theoretically, a Field Artillery Group supports infantry troops were actually in the area. The 105mm Howitzers used by Regimental artillery units, like 1stBn, 14th Marines, support the infantry regiments directly, while 155mm Guns and 8" Howitzers, capable of thrusting a 200-pound projectile over 10 miles support the operations in general.

According to Col. Judy, the operation was progressing successfully. "I think," he remarked, "It has all the earmarks of a successful shoot."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARKER RYAN SARGENT
Born July 4, 2015
Born to Clayton and Sarah Sargent

GIOVANNA DEOLA SUMMERS
Born July 8, 2015
Born to Shane and Kelsea Newman

SIENNA ROSE CASAS
Born July 8, 2015
Born to Nicholas and Victoria Casas

CHRISTIAN BLAKE STEINER
Born July 15, 2015
Born to Robert and Sara Steiner

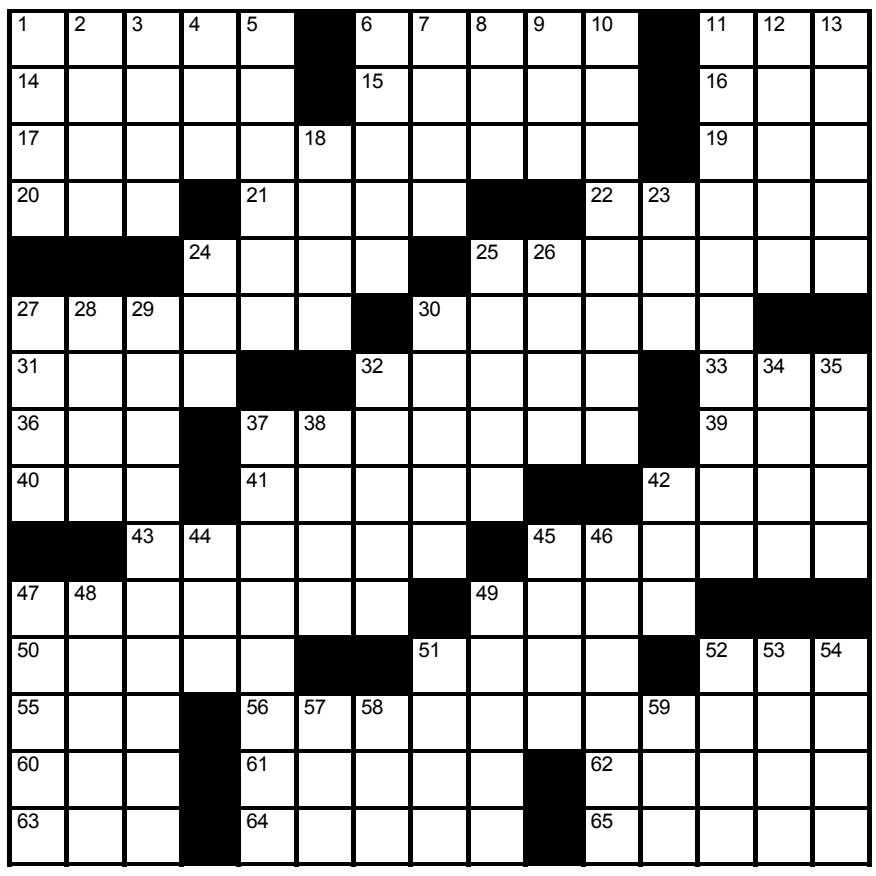
LELA LEANNE DEPONTE
Born July 15, 2015
Born to Mercedez and Roman DePonte

PRISCILLA RIKKI ALVARADO
Born July 16, 2015
Born to Paul and Michelle Alvarado

BRYNN AVA HARLOW
Born July 18, 2015
Born to Brent and Carly Harlow

RIVER SAMUEL AMERO
Born July 19, 2015
Born to Albert and Kayleen Amero

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Go with the tide
6 Lexus alternative
11 Incense stick remnant
14 Fix a patch, say
15 Large drinking bowl
16 Hawaiian accessory
17 Premium shipment selection from an etailer
19 Acted as a guide
20 Happy Meal throw-in
21 Painter's supplies
22 "Easy ___!"
24 Ocho + tres
25 Malcolm's ally
27 Financial transaction party
30 ___-faire
31 Be a breadwinner
32 Torn-off piece
33 Saigon soup
36 Give a piece to
37 Free from friction
39 Doofus
40 Main character in "The Matrix" movies
41 Worked in Vegas
42 Valley girl's comeback
43 Forward a letter
45 Things to come to grips with?
47 Oast
49 Look evil
50 Clock watcher
51 Umps call them
52 Little glob
55 Uma's role in "Pulp Fiction"
56 Tire-maintenance concern
60 On the newsstands
61 Army officer below captain, in slang
62 Justice Kagan
63 Fr. woman
64 Mean smile
65 Classical guitar string material

Down

1 "Curses, foiled again!"
2 San ___ (Riviera resort)
3 Ray Charles' "What'd ___"
4 Red topper
5 Blastoff lead-in
6 Not in short supply
7 2006 Best Animated Feature nominee
8 Gun with multiple safeties
9 "Shiny Happy People" band, 1991
10 Numbers after 1
11 Type of flour
12 Check for the possibility that
13 What some sports are broadcast in
18 Kindly
23 Reagan era prog.
24 Boast possession of
25 French revolutionary Jean-Paul stabbed in his own bathtub
26 Opposite of sans
27 Novelist Koontz
28 Choice
29 Tank protector
30 Oyster-shucking discard
32 Canary Islands country
34 Rapunzel's ladder
35 Murders, mob-style
37 Commanders of fleets
38 From whence you may get down
42 It can cause inflation
44 Barely beat, with "by"
45 Tennis champ Sampras
46 Make smaller
47 Sidelines TV greeting
48 Hate state
49 Vamp, e.g.
51 Bee minder of '60s TV
52 Mortal combat
53 The Santa Trìnita bridge crosses it
54 Pinto ___
57 Plasma component
58 Shad eggs
59 Done with a wink

SUDOKU

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

Last week's answers

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

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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.

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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

Joshua CHANG

Court reporter, Headquarters Battalion, 21

Chang hopes to travel to South Africa once he leaves the Marine Corps. After that he wants to go to college and pursue a career in criminal investigation.

>I'm from Arcadia, Calif., which is about two and a half hours away from here so on the weekends I can visit my family.

>I'm really lucky to be able to see my family and friends on such a regular basis. They are an added support system in addition to the people I've met here.

>My parents came here from Taiwan about 20 years ago. My brother and I are first generation American.

>I come from a very small family but my extended family is very large. I have one brother; his name is Wesley. He's younger than me by 3 years.

>I ran track during my senior year in high school. I actually joined because there was this cute girl on the track team and I thought, "Yeah, I'm going impress her with my awesome running skills." Turns out she was faster than I thought.

>Toward the end of high school I knew that I wasn't ready for college. I didn't want to end up going to college not knowing what I wanted to do.

>All the men in my family have served in the military, and that influenced my decision to join.

>At first my parents weren't supportive of my decision to join the military, but I think it's because they were worried. After a while they accepted my decision.

>I've been in the Marine Corps for about 3 years.

>I was going to join the Navy first, but then the Marine Corps recruiter intrigued me. Ultimately I joined because I wanted to make my parents proud.

>I trained hard before I left for boot camp and I got to the point where I was maxing out at 43 pull ups.

>I like to go to the gym and just work out until I can't work out anymore. Fitness has become an important part of my life and it helps me combat weight gain from the amount of food I eat.

>I like to play video games that help take my mind off of work. I play League of Legends a lot. I'm not very good but I still like it.

>Something I like about the Marine Corps is that I can go to a chow hall, and because they take 300 dollars out of my pay check, I'm going to eat until I don't feel like eating any more.

>I think my time in the Marine Corps has helped me grow and mature as a person, far more than I would have outside of the Marine Corps.

>I'm going to go travel the world after I get out. I want to get the chance to explore a new place and immerse myself in different cultures. There's this place that has the world's largest bungee cord jump, I think something like that would be really cool to do.

>I use humor as a vice, if I don't joke around I'll get really sad, so I joke around all the time.

>I really like art. I'll try to draw things some times, but I'd much rather observe it and appreciate what the artist has created.

>In my time here I have learned not to take certain things for granted. The people I've met and the lessons learned will carry on with me wherever I go.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

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EOD Marines reach out to JTNP

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines educated Joshua Tree National Park staff on safety procedures for identifying and dealing with Unexploded Ordnance for the first time, at JTNP Headquarters, July 23.

The Youth Conservation Corps, a summer volunteer group, along with JTNP staff and park rangers attended the 90 minute training opportunity.

"One of the focuses was helping the staff communicate how they report UXO," said Sgt. Juan Fernandez, explosive ordnance disposal technician, EOD. "A lot of people will take photos of UXO they find, but what's helpful for us is getting shots of the terrain they found it in." Using the Military Grid Reference System to report UXO, as opposed to geodetic (latitude and longitude), saves hours of work, added Fernandez.

Fernandez led the attendees through a guided presentation while Capt. Erin Roush, explosive ordnance disposal officer, EOD, answered questions. Gunnery Sgt. David Dignan, explosive ordnance disposal technician, EOD, presented WWII ordnance ranging from artillery shells to ammunition rounds found on military training areas, to provide attendees with tangible examples.

According to Chuck Heard, park safety officer, JTNP, having examples of ordnance to look for, brought reality to the presentation. Heard said the Combat Center and the park are continuing to build a great relationship.

"One of the best parts about the Marines coming out is everyone got to meet them face to face," Heard said. "It made everything more personal."

George Land, park public affairs officer, JTNP, said working with Combat Center service members on tasks ranging from volunteer projects to military education has helped build a cohesive relationship between the base and the park.

"The Combat Center is a tremendous partner," Land said. "We're always here to do whatever we can for the troops and we've benefited mutually."

The Marines' presentation provided a lot of clarity for the YCC and newer staff members will know what to look for if they encounter UXO, Land said.

"I think it went excellently," Land said. "Everybody I've talked to is just so pleased. I'd like to thank the base because the Marines did such a good job."

More Marine-led EOD training is scheduled for later this year to educate new volunteers and park employees. "The Marines helped bring an understanding to UXO," said Heard. "We're looking forward to continuing this partnership."

Sgt. Juan Fernandez and Gunnery Sgt. David Dignan, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, answer questions regarding unexploded ordnance at Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters, July 23.

Gunnery Sgt. David Dignan, explosive ordnance disposal technician, shows a 105mm illumination round along with other examples of WWII ordnance found at Joshua Tree National Park to Joshua Tree National Park staff at Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters, July 23.

Gunnery Sgt. David Dignan, explosive ordnance disposal technician, explains the process in identifying and reporting unexploded ordnance at Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters, July 23.

Lava Dogs go wheels up

Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Martinez, left, a corpsman, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Quintanilla, a platoon sergeant, both with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, brace as a CH-53E Super Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366 takes off after inserting the company into a landing zone aboard the Combat Center, Sunday.

Lance Cpl. Alexander Etter, a rifleman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, posts security from a window during ground air integration training aboard the Combat Center, Sunday. The Marines cordoned the area and cleared multiple houses in order to locate high value targets.

STORY AND PHOTS BY SGT. OWEN KIMBREL

The sound of CH-53E Super Stallion rotors spinning in the distance could be heard as Marines and Sailors with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366 teamed up to run drills in ground air integration training aboard the Combat Center, Sunday.

Utilizing helicopters, the Marines increased their ability to reach a remote area, insert, and conduct a cordon and search to locate potential targets housing weapons and drugs.

"This type of training is important because it gives the Marines the opportunity to conduct TSE [Tactical Site Exploitation] methods and also be able to exploit an actual village to set up an inner and outer cordon," said 1st Lt. Alan Blackburn, a platoon commander with Company B, 1/3.

The Marines inserted on the outskirts of the village and tactically cleared buildings in search of possible targets, establishing a cordon of the area to not let anyone in or out.

After clearing the buildings, the Marines found five possible targets. Upon further questioning and battling varying combatant attitudes from the role players, the Marines used a biometric scanner to scan each individual's eyes and finger prints to determine which individuals needed to be detained.

"A good thing to take away from this type of training is that you sometimes are going to have to force people to do what you say, and when they don't speak the same language as you, it makes it that much harder," said Lance Cpl. Arata Young, a team leader with Company B, 1/3. "So you have to be patient yet assertive in order to make progress."

After completing the mission, the Marines were able to receive feedback from observers with varying fields of experience from detainee questioning to employment of the biometric scanners.

"It was a good opportunity for us to come out here and perform," added Blackburn. "Everyone likes to conduct [Military Operations in Urban Terrain] towns, so we came in here and had a good time."

This training allows Marines to successfully replicate sectioning off an area in order to search and seize hazardous material or individuals.

Pfc. Caleb Crabtree, a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, posts security while participating in ground air integration training aboard the Combat Center, Sunday. The training allowed the Marines to perform a cordon of the area and searches for weapons and high value targets.

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1/7 from A1

cles in our way that test our skills of leadership and problem solving," said Clippard. "However, my Marines took charge and quickly handled the situation without error."

When the assault began, Marines occupied two support by fire positions and initiated suppressing of all three enemy bunkers, while engineers and rifleman skirted along a jagged creek bed under the cover of M240 medium machine guns.

"In order to grow and develop my platoon as a whole, I allow my squad leaders to take charge after I issue a command," said Clippard.

After breaching several wire obstacles in the creek bed and sustaining two casualties, riflemen aggressively closed on their objectives one by one and eliminated threats through the use of fragmentation grenades and close quarters fire.

"I believe this kind of training is necessary for refining the basics," said Lance Cpl. Randy Dick, a grenadier with 1st Platoon, Company C. "Improving marksmanship, communication and violence of action are all skills that ensure we do this job right."

Through aggressive action and effective communication, 1st Platoon will continue to prepare for their deployment with SPMAGTF-CR-CC.

Lance Cpl. Randy Dick, a rifleman with 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, fires on an enemy machine gun bunker during platoon attack drills aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

A medium machine gun team with 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, prepares to advance to their support by fire position during platoon attack drills aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

Two Marines with 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, distribute ammunition during platoon attack drills aboard the Combat Center, July 24.

YouTube

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

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Tarawa Marines come home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MATTHEW BRAGG

The 3rd Marine Division conducted a repatriation ceremony Saturday to honor the remains of at least 36 Marines in Tarawa, Kiribati, who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa in World War II.

The Battle of Tarawa, also known as the 76-hour battle, took place from November 20-23, 1943 on the heavily fortified island of Betio, which was held by 4,500 Japanese troops. More than 18,000 U.S. Marines were sent to secure the island, but the corals reefs surrounding the island acted as a blockade and cause unexpected problems during the Marines' amphibious assault.

When the battle finally ended, more than 1,000 U.S. troops had been killed in action and were left to become a piece of unrecoverable history. However, the Marine Corps has a saying: Never leave a Marine behind.

"Today provides for us the opportunity to bring home some Marines who were lost here during the Battle of Tarawa over 70 years ago," said Maj. Gen. Richard P. Simcock, 3rd Marine Division commanding general. "Those Marines that gave their lives and ensured our way of life continued here in the Pacific were fully expected to come home, but it didn't work out that way. Today we've filled that obligation for those Marines."

In March 2015, History Flight, a privately owned organization working in cooperation with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, discovered a long-lost burial trench and recovered what are believed to be the remains of at least 36 U.S. Marines killed during the battle. One set of those remains is tentatively believed to be those of 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., who was one of four Medal of Honor recipients for his actions on Tarawa, and the only one whose remains have been unaccounted for.

The remains of the Marines were placed into American flag-draped caskets and loaded onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft during the ceremony.

"This ceremony I could not describe; it is one the most solemn ceremonies I've had the opportunity to participate in," Simcock said. "Seeing those flag-draped coffins getting on the aircraft and knowing they're going home, it makes me feel good as a Marine. For us it's always about accountability and bringing our Marines home after the fight is over."

After the final casket was loaded onto the aircraft, the audience remained still in a moment of silence as a bugler performed Ceremonial Taps.

Once the caskets were loaded aboard the aircraft, the C-130 departed from Tarawa to begin the transportation of the remains back to the U.S.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. had this to say upon the initial discovery: "I was very pleased to learn of the discovery of the remains of our Marines on the island of Tarawa [...] This battle demonstrated the indomitable fighting spirit of our Marines [...] The lessons learned there paved the way for our success in the Pacific campaign and eventual end to the war. We look forward to their return home."

After transportation back to the U.S. has been completed, the remains will undergo DNA testing to confirm the identities of the Marines and will then be turned over to their respective families for burial with full military honors.

A 3rd Marine Regiment color guard takes its place, Saturday, during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati. The ceremony honored the remains of approximately 36 Marines who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa during World War II, and were loaded onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft to be transported back home to the United States.

3rd Marine Regiment pallbearers prepare to escort a casket of remains onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft, Saturday, during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati. The ceremony honored the remains of approximately 36 Marines who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa in World War II, and are being transported back to the United States for proper identification and final burial.

Caskets holding the remains of approximately 36 Marines who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa in World War II are loaded onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft, Saturday, 2015, during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati. The remains will be transported back to the United States for proper identification and burial.

3rd Marine Regiment pallbearers carry a casket onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft, Saturday, 2015, during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati. The caskets held the remains of approximately 36 Marines who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa in World War II. The remains will be transported back to the United States for proper identification and final burial.

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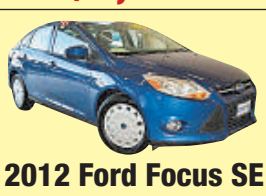

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STAY COOL, HIT BASE POOL

Gunnery Sgt. Todd B. McKeown, administration chief, Headquarters Battalion, performs sprint drills during a High Intensity Tactical Training session at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 23.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

Twentynine Palms is renowned for its sweltering temperatures as summer reaches its peak. During this time of year, Combat Center residents find ways to keep cool and stay active in the rising temperatures.

Whether it is children enjoying their summer vacation or Marines looking for a way to cool off while on liberty, escape from the heat can be found at the various swimming facilities on base. Swimming offers a great aerobic workout and is an exercise that challenges the swimmer, by requiring the use of the whole body.

"In the pool you can get more of a muscle workout," said Staff Sgt. Theodore C. Hutchins, aquatic staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "In the water, you are working more muscles than you would at the gym focusing on only one muscle in the same amount of time."

Learning to swim is something that can be done at any age or fitness level. Lifeguards assist in swimming clinics held at the training tank for children learning how to swim or Marines who may need help with their stroke.

"The most important thing is becoming comfortable in the water," Hutchins said. "Young Marines who need help swimming can come to the lifeguards to try to strengthen their swimming. We also have time reserved for unit training, so if company or platoon commanders want to come in and schedule training for their Marines they can."

For swimmers who already have the basics down, different drills can be found online that will help them to further develop their swimming. Investing in equipment such as a snorkel, paddle and fins can also help to bring training to the next level.

"As lifeguards we offer different training courses and water sports for those looking to improve their swimming," Hutchins said. "A lot of the time, its people who don't understand their swimming limits or capabilities that are most at risk in the water."

Safety in the water should be the priority at all times and patrons should never swim alone without lifeguards. Sunblock and proper hydration are paramount and should be stressed even on cooler days with less sun.

"Hydration is the biggest key as well as sunblock to stay safe during the summer. Wearing shirts or anything to protect you from the sun is important," Hutchins said. "Often swimmers will come out here thinking they'll be really good but sometimes it's the opposite and they are really struggling. It's up to us lifeguards to ensure we keep our eyes on them."

Regardless of an individual's swimming ability, a trip to the base pool can be a refreshing and effective way to stay cool and fit during the hottest time of year.

Anthony Barba, 8, son of 1st Sgt. Roberto Barba Jr., first sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, practices swimming the backstroke during swimming lessons held at the Combat Center Training Tank, Monday.

Cpl. Austin McGregor, administrative specialist, Headquarters Battalion, demonstrates swimming with a rifle to other Marines during a High Intensity Tactical Training Session at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 23.

Staff Sgt. Theodore C. Hutchins, aquatics staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, oversees swimmers as he performs duties as a lifeguard at the Combat Center Training Tank, Monday.

Cpl. Kyle Fierro, radio technician, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, practices the breaststroke at the Combat Center Training Tank, Monday.

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 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.

Join the Marine and Family Programs and PMO for America's Night Out Against Crime. The nationwide crime prevention awareness event will be held at the Felix Field Sports Complex, August 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will include demonstrations and activities for kids, a movie, food and giveaways. For more information or to register, call 760-830-3244.

Visit the Mameluke's Pub for a fun 90's Themed Trivia Night, August 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come in your best themed attire while competing to win prizes throughout the night. Food and drink specials will be available. For more information, contact 760-830-8429.

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. Tickets will be available on July 13 for presale at Information Tickets and Tours for $8 and sold at the door for $10. For more information, visit MCCS29Palms.com.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, July 31
6:00 p.m. – Terminator: Genisys (3-D), PG-13
9:00 p.m. – Ted 2, R

Saturday, August 01
12:30 p.m. – Inside Out, PG
3:00 p.m. – Terminator: Genisys, PG-13
6:00 p.m. – Max, PG
8:30 p.m. – Magic Mike XXL, R

Sunday, August 02
12:30 p.m. – Inside Out (3-D), PG
2:30 p.m. – Jurassic World (3-D), PG-13
5:30 p.m. – Terminator: Genisys (3-D), PG-13
8:00 p.m. – Ted 2, R

Monday, August 03
7:00 p.m. – Magic Mike XXL, R

Tuesday, August 04
7:00 p.m. – Terminator: Genisys (3-D), PG-13

Wednesday, August 05
5:00 p.m. – Inside Out, PG
7:00 p.m. – Ted 2, R

Thursday, August 06
5:00 p.m. – Jurassic World, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – Insidious Chapter 3, PG-13

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Robo Reboot

New 'Terminator' bangs, bams, crams and slams across the years

NEIL POND

"Terminator Genysis" Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Emilia Clarke, Jai Courtney and Jason Clarke Directed by Alan Taylor Rated PG-13

"I'll be back," Arnold Schwarzenegger's cyborg promised in the original Terminator, back in 1984. And now Ah-nold, THE Terminator, is indeed back, and he's the biggest, baddest and best thing in the new reboot of the iconic sci-fi franchise.

That Terminator envisioned a near future in a ruined, post-apocalyptic world run by artificially intelligent machines battled by a hearty group of human resistance fighters. Schwarzenegger was cast in his first blockbuster role as a virtually unstoppable assassin "terminator" sent back in time to kill the mother of the child who would grow up to be John Conner, the fiery leader of the resistance, before he was conceived, ensuring the opposition could never take root.

Three sequels and a TV spinoff played off that premise. And now, 31 years later, Terminator Genysis backs up and takes another run at it.

This time around, rebel leader John Conner (Jason Clarke) zaps his young protégé Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) into the past to intercept and destroy the terminator that's already there, programmed to kill his mother. British actress Emilia Clarke (dragon mistress Daenerys Taegaryen in TV's Game of Thrones) does a commendable job as the young firebrand Sarah Connor. But the big bang here is the return of the former two-term governor of California, with a now-familiar terminator twist: Schwarzenegger's cyborg is Sarah's guardian, not her killer, protecting her from other terminators.

Characters meet up with themselves coming and going across the decades, in overlapping timelines. At one point, Schwarzenegger's terminator battles the younger version of himself, thanks to modern-day special effects, right out of a scene from the first movie. Oscar-winning J.K. Simmons plays a police detective who remembers the characters from one of their previous eras.

As they zip back and forth through time, our heroes outrun fireballs, shoot and blast shape-shifting, liquid-silver pursuers, throw around phrases like "mimetic polyalloy" and "decay algorithms," try to shut down a "cloud"-like operating system that will eventually quash all living things, and eventually dangle over the edge of the Golden Gate Bridge in a hijacked school bus.

It's all very complicated and convoluted, a muddled sci-fi haystack of past, present and future that looks even denser and darker—as many movies do—in 3-D. Thank goodness the characters seem to know what they're doing and where they're going, because not only did I get lost, I lost my patience trying to sort through all the bangs, bams, crams and slams—and the echoes and clangs of previous Terminator movies ringing in my ears and through the years.

For all its motion and commotion, however, nothing can compete with Schwarzenegger's iconic star power, even when he's standing still and not saying a word. The 67-year-old actor seems to be having a ball back in the swing and stride of his venerable trademark character. There's even a running joke about the mileage on his terminator's odometer. "I'm old, not obsolete," he says.

Too bad the rest of this time-crunching, overstuffed, underwhelming Terminator installment doesn't quite feel like it's aged nearly so gracefully.

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. RICARDO HURTADO

While the main body for Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response Central Command 16.1 prepares to initiate the Integrated Training Exercise portion of their pre-deployment training, a group of Marines arrives at the Combat Center, July 22, to begin setting up the field ammunition supply point.

ITX is conducted to enhance the integration and warfighting capability from all elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

Over the course of a week before the beginning of ITX, the Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Ammunition Detachment, hit the ground and occupied nearly 500 acres of desert, which houses the FASP.

The FASP is the main ammunition distribution point supplying units participating in ITX and stores ammo ranging from artillery rounds to small arms ammo and grenades.

"The FASP is everything that we would do at the ammunition supply point at Camp Pendleton. We issue all the ammo whenever units request it and support them in the same sense, except we are out in the field," said Gunnery Sgt. John Paul Delgado, the SPMAGTF ammo chief with CLB 1, Ammunition Detachment.

Prior to arriving at the Combat Center, the group of ammunition technicians had worked through lengthy hours of planning and coordination to ensure the proper setup of the FASP.

Units slated to participate in the field training exercise submit their ammunition requests, which are based on their training requirements. It is The FASP team's job to pick up the ammunition and store it until the unit is ready to draw it and use it.

"[That is the first step] for us to know what we're going to see on hand, and be able to go back and have an idea of what we are going to need logistically, such as personnel, motor transport support, billeting for where we're to be staying at and where the FASP is going to be located," said Delgado.

Weeks prior to setting up the FASP, Delgado along with Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Kasmarski III, the FASP staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Warrant Officer Branden Palmer, the FASP officer-in-charge, visited the site to coordinate all final logistical needs.

"The site survey allowed us to paint a picture for the command, and let them know how many flood lights we needed, how many cots, and how many vehicles because of how far everything is within the FASP," said Delgado.

Once all logistic efforts were sorted out and the camp was set up, movement began.

The CLB-1, Ammunition Detachment, impressively accomplished the movement of more than 600 pallets of ammunition in only four days. The task that normally is completed by nearly 80 Marines was done by 25.

Convoys, formed by two Humvees; six Logistics Vehicles System Replacements MKR 18 and two Palletized Load System Trailers, traveled back and forth to transport the ammunition from the Central Magazine Area to the FASP.

"The effort was a combination of the ammunition Marines, the heavy vehicle operators and the motor transport operators that we had," said Delgado. "They picked up the ammunition, accounted for it, dropped it off and then made their way back to pick up more."

The thorough and careful planning of the Ammunition Detachment permitted the safe and successful completion of ammo movement.

"There were no injuries, we didn't lose any ammunition, no safety mishaps, no vehicle breakd1owns," said Delgado. "The initial draw and pull of ammunition was one of the most successful ones that I've ever seen."

The FASP services 12 units for the duration of ITX, and it's currently manned by nearly 50 Marines and Sailors, including ammunition technicians, medical and logistics personnel and security forces.

"The type of ammunition we store and the amount of it equals over $15 million, and that is where our security forces augment comes into play. The assets are guarded day and night, and our security forces Marines are an extremely important part of our FASP team," added Delgado.

The fast and successful setup of the FASP and movement of ammo is directly attributed to the hard work of the ammo Marines, who exceeded all expectations, according to Palmer.

CLB-1 continues to work providing logistical support during ITX, while also counting on teams like the Ammunition Detachment to make live-firing events possible.

Lance Cpl. Jason Sacramento, an ammunition technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Ammunition Detachment, reports a final count after performing an inventory of the ammunition supply at the field ammunition supply point during an Integrated Training Exercise aboard the Combat Center, July 22.

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Ammunition Detachment, and 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, load a 7-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle with ammunition during an Integrated Training Exercise aboard the Combat Center, July 22. Ammunition distribution is performed at the field ammunition supply point, which is set-up and operated by CLB-1, Ammunition Detachment. CLB-1 is currently training to support Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response Central Command 16.1.

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Ammunition Detachment, and 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, inspect a 7-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle prior to loading it with ammunition during an Integrated Training Exercise aboard the Combat Center, July 22.

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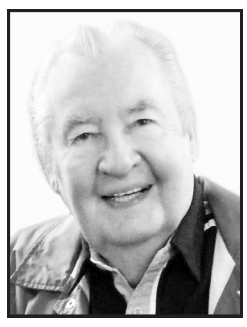
TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



Well, it's official. Tenet Healthcare took over operation of Hi-Desert Medical Center July 15. And everything is in good shape. I am especially pleased that the new local governing board includes some of my favorite people. How can anything go wrong if you have Marti Avels and Paul Hoffman involved in the leadership?

Patty and I have lived in the Morongo Basin for more than 20 years and we know what a fine place the Hi-Desert Continuing Care Center is. I have walked their halls, visited in room after room, conducted worship services of various kinds, eaten their nutritious meals, been good friends with many of the dedicated staff, and I know for a fact it really is an excellent "home away from home."

These words from their own literature say it best:

"At the continuing Care Center, we pride ourselves on being a place that's most like home—but with the support services necessary for those in need of nursing care and other care assistance.

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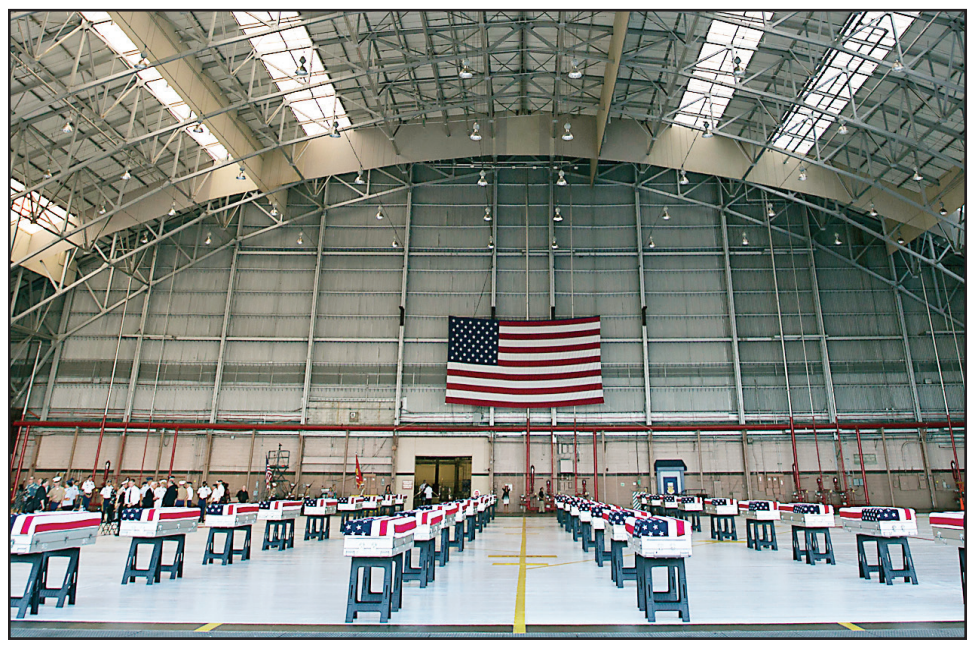
Tarawa Marines come home

PHOTOS BY SGT. WILLIAM HOLDAWAY

The remains of U.S. Marines who had fallen during World War II at the Battle of Tarawa rest in an aircraft hangar on Joint Base Pearl Harbor/Hickam after a Dignified Transfer Ceremony, Sunday.



The remains of U.S. Marines who had fallen during World War II at the Battle of Tarawa rest in an aircraft hangar on Joint Base Pearl Harbor/Hickam after a Dignified Transfer Ceremony, Sunday.

U.S. Marines from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific salute as taps is played at the end of a Dignified Transfer Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor/ Hickam, Sunday.

U.S. Marines with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific carry the remains of Marines who had fallen during World War II at the Battle of Tarawa during a Dignified Transfer Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor/ Hickam, Sunday.

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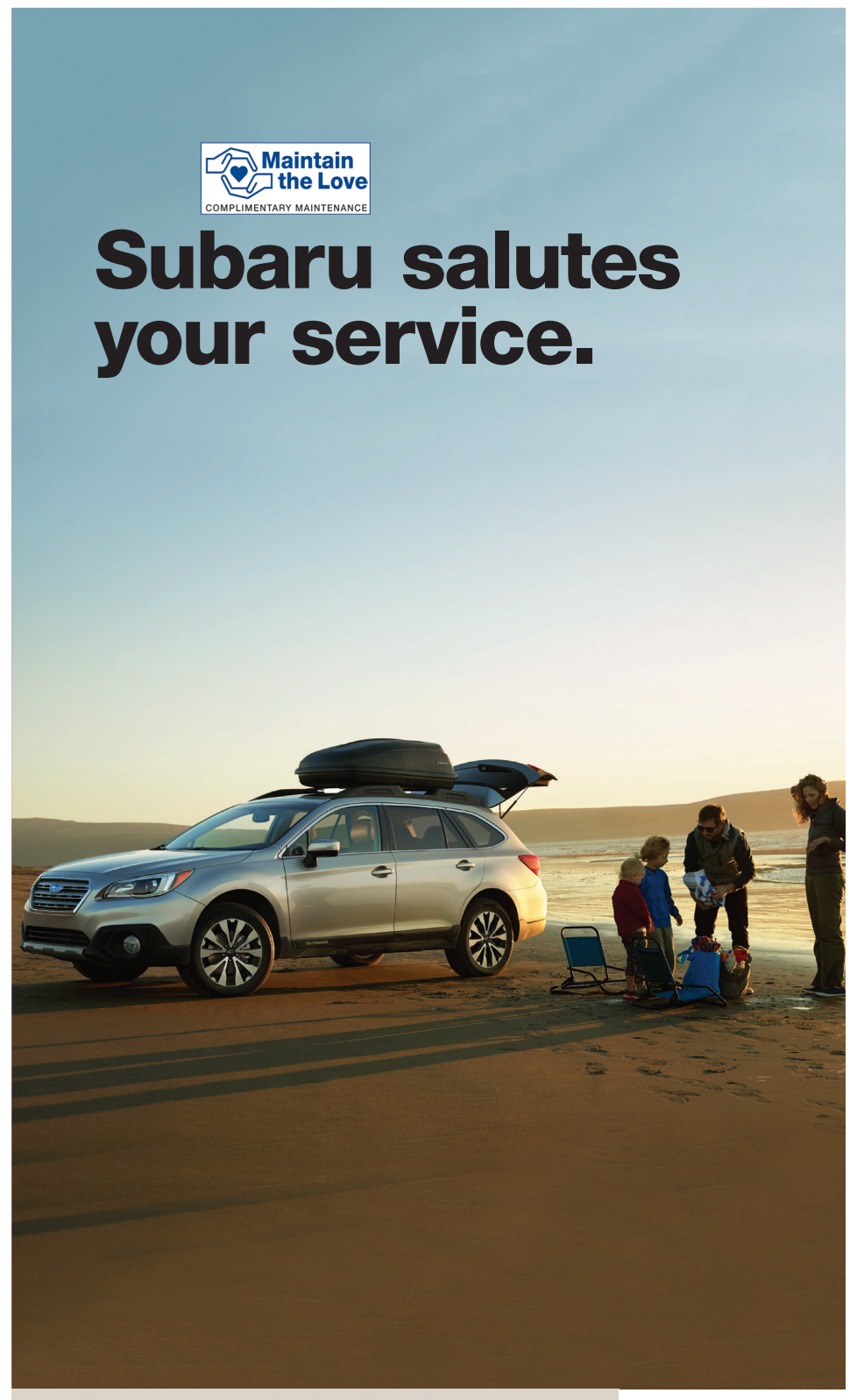

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