



Sgt. Maj. Fredrick A. Smith, former battalion sergeant major, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, passes the noncommissioned officer sword Lt. Col. Christopher T. Steele, battalion commander, 2/7, during the battalion's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, June 19.

Senior 'War Dog' passes sword

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

The passing of the noncommissioned officer sword was performed between retiring Sgt. Maj. Fredrick A. Smith, former battalion sergeant major, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Sgt. Maj. Gabriel E. Macias, battalion sergeant major, 2/7, during a relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, June 19.

The passing of the sword is a symbolic tradition representing the transfer of authority and responsibilities from one sergeant major to the next.

During the ceremony, Smith was honored for his 24 years of service and was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. The award added to a list of decorations that include; the Bronze Star Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with distinguishing "V" device in lieu of fourth award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards.

"The most pivotal man in the command team is the battalion sergeant major and I truly appreciated being able to work with him," said Lt. Col. Christopher T. Steele, battalion commander, 2/7. "[Smith] is an exceptional man of character and
 See **Sword pg. A5**



Sgt. Maj. Fredrick A. Smith, former battalion sergeant major, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, walks alongside his wife, Stacey Smith, during the battalion's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, June 19.

Marines adapt to heat for ITX



Sgt. Charles Retter, motor transport maintenance chief, and Lance Cpl. Gustavo Arellano, radio operator, both with 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, carry a casualty to an aircraft in a casualty simulation exercise during 4-15 Integrated Training Exercise aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY **CPL. IAN FERRO**

Halfway into a 109-degree day, without a cloud in the sky and nothing but sand as far as the eye could see, a small number of Marines and Sailors were prepared to do their job and be the difference between life and death.

Fourth Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve is one of the many units participating in the 2015 Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

In addition to their own period of training and exercise, 4th Med. Bn. is also providing a critical asset to ITX 4-15.

"Our primary mission is not only to train but also provide medical care for the Marine Air Ground Task Force," said Petty Officer 1st Class Adam C. Strotz, 4th Med. Bn. lead petty officer.

Going above and beyond a sideline medical center, the unit is currently using their Shock Trauma Platoon Forward and Resuscitation Surgical System at the exercise ranges.

"We are much depended upon," said Cpl. Maurice L. Webb, water purification specialist, with Surgical Company A, 4th Med. Bn. "If anyone goes down for any reason, we can treat them for anything from heat casualties to dismemberment or gunshot wounds, and be the first ones on deck to get that person stabilized and out for a higher echelon of care."

The STPFERS System was developed in 2001 and was initially utilized during the invasion of Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since then, the system has been updated and is now more efficiently providing aid and support to casualties.

"In this unit we are capable of providing surgical care for up to 18 patients over a period of 72 hours without resupplying," said Navy Capt. Carl Bergren, 4th Med. Bn. officer in charge. "This is a highly mobile system. It is designed to be able to be broken down and set up again within an hour at another location."

The most common casualties the unit has seen at ITX are heat casualties. However, they are equipped and ready to handle much more.

"In a combat situation this unit would be capable of transporting blood, we would have limited laboratory capabilities, to be able to draw blood and run

See **Heat pg. A5**

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 Lance Cpl. Asia J. Sorenson.



Marines and Sailors competed in the 2015 Commanding General's Cup Mud Run at Camp Pendleton, June 12. More than 1,800 Marines and Sailors in groups of five waded through muddy pits, trudged up slippery slopes and swam through thick mud during the race to the finish line.

Warrior Games commence



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. TIMOTHY TURNER

A member of Team Navy and Team Air Force tip off to start a wheelchair basketball playoffs game during the 2015 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games at Barber Fitness Center, Quantico, Va., June 22. See **pg. B1**



Reprinted from the Observation Post
June 22, 1973

Reservists combine units for training

Three Marine Corps Reserve Companies combined to form Headquarters Company (Reinforced), 6th Engineer Battalion, USMCR for their annual two weeks active duty training here at Marine Corps Base, Service Company, from Oregon, Headquarters Company from Portland Oregon, and Detachment C, of East Peoria, Illinois arrived

here June 9 to begin their two weeks of training, ranging from building things up to blowing things down.

Holding up the training end of the deal is Company A, 7th Engineer Battalion of MCB, 29 Palms who took on the task of training these men in a variety of jobs they might be called upon to perform in actual combat conditions.

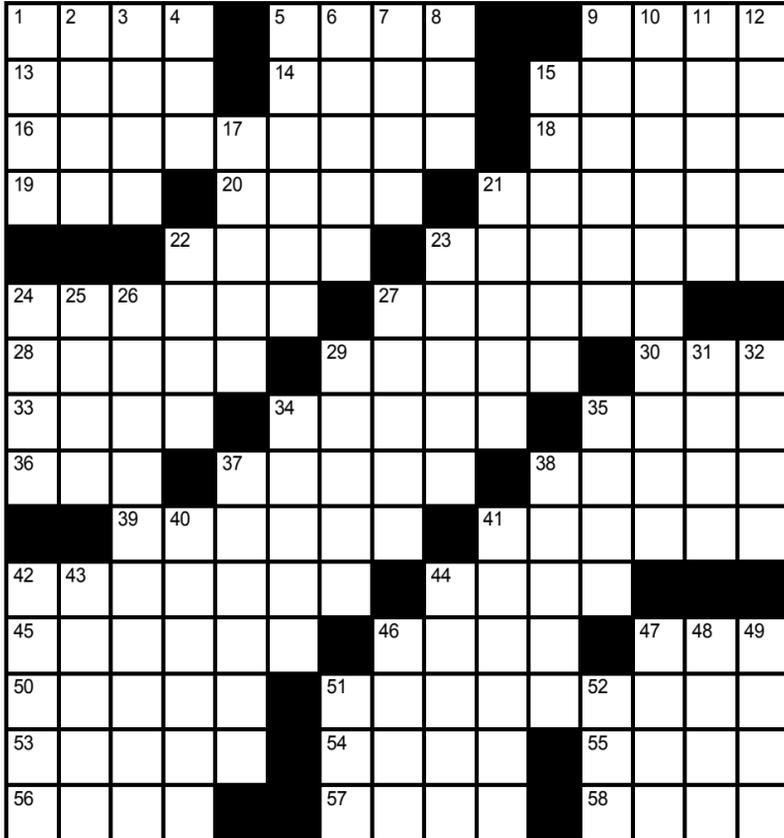
One of the major projects is the construction of a tent city out at Camp Wilson to be used in the summer by over 5,000 other reservists. Another project is laying 3/4 of a mile of water line over rugged terrain. The line will have to be supported, in spots, by scaffolding as it crosses several washes. A Butler Building type house is also part

of the project.

Last Friday the reservists got an opportunity to learn first hand in a field exercise that involved completely demolishing a derelict jeep and amtrack. At the end of the day, the explosives and the reservists had done their job well. Even with sun-burned necks and burned minds it was a satisfied group that returned to mainside.

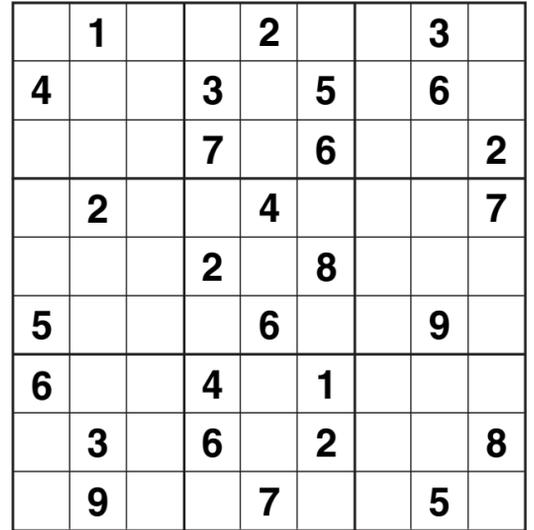
CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Manuscript slip-up
 - 5 Florist's plant
 - 9 Deft
 - 13 Updo or ponytail, e.g.
 - 14 One of the Great Lakes
 - 15 Snoop
 - 16 "Later!"
 - 18 Valuable viola
 - 19 Spanish greetings
 - 20 Abrasive stuff
 - 21 Dance about
 - 22 At no cost to you
 - 23 Outcomes
 - 24 iPad or Nook, e.g.
 - 27 Until the due date
 - 28 April 1st baby, e.g.
 - 29 ___ as a peacock
 - 30 One that's fleeced
 - 33 "Parks and Recreation" actor Rob
 - 34 Cold cuts
 - 35 Stinger
 - 36 WSW's opp.
 - 37 Comedian Leary
 - 38 Intense obsession
 - 39 Straying aimlessly
 - 41 Messy place
 - 42 Handout sign
 - 44 Stadium fillers
 - 45 Standard greetings
 - 46 Soccer goalie Hope
 - 47 ___ Te Ching
 - 50 Biblical archangel
 - 51 Treat everyone to drinks
 - 53 Airs
 - 54 Monthly util.
 - 55 Catch ___ (start to get)
 - 56 Annoying type
 - 57 Playground challenge
 - 58 Having a bad ___ day

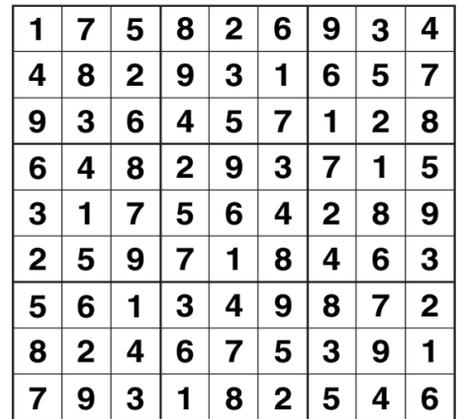


- Down**
- 1 Fro-yo establishment, for short
 - 2 Up-and-down toy
 - 3 Fruit-filled desserts
 - 4 Not in sync
 - 5 Domesticated polecat
 - 6 Sesame Street regular
 - 7 Occasion for using tear gas
 - 8 Part of NYC
 - 9 Love affair
 - 10 "Of course"
 - 11 "___ Be" (Beatles)
 - 12 Holder and Clapton
 - 15 Analyzed
 - 17 Cruel sorts
 - 21 Former embryo
 - 22 Make a break for it
 - 23 Plant anchors
 - 24 Raconteur's delivery
 - 25 Elvis ___ Presley
 - 26 They're published every 14 days
 - 27 Heir's acquisition
 - 29 Pasta selection
 - 31 Penned, to Shakespeare
 - 32 Internet auction site
 - 34 Stands for
 - 35 Grocery quantities
 - 37 Talks foolishly
 - 38 Under 18, legally
 - 40 Bend a little

SUDOKU



Last week's answers



Visit the official Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center facebook page at

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 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
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 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
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 - 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

Lenard JOHNSON

Houston, Tx. Telecommunications specialist, G6 communications and information systems, 50

>I was born in Chinon, France and call Houston home.

>I have a daughter in the Air Force and a son who serves in the Marine Corps.

>My hobbies are football, Martial Arts and recreational shooting.

>When I was 16, I watched the Silent Drill Platoon perform and I was sold on enlisting. I just couldn't believe the level of discipline I was watching.

>When it was over, the team mingled with us. I realized I was talking to an 18 year old who had more discipline in his uniform than I ever had in my whole life.

>Shortly after, a Gunnery Sgt. handed me a business card and said, "When you're old enough to be one of us, give me a call." They never contacted me or harassed me, unlike the Army recruiters.

>I enlisted for three years to get some experience with the goal of becoming a law enforcement officer.

>I took the shortest enlistment contract every time because I was still looking to get out. By the time I opened my eyes and realized I was in for more than ten years, my dad told me I was at the top of the hill. He said, "You can turn around and go back, or you can continue down the hill toward retirement." So I continued down the hill.

>In the restaurant of life, you're the cook. You bring all of the ingredients to the future. When it comes you have to eat it, so have a plan.

>In the ten years I was in law enforcement, I never had to spray anybody and I never had to beat anybody with a baton.

>Everything was intellect. I told the rookies, the most powerful weapon that you have didn't get issued by the department. You were born with it.

>I got them to use their heads so we could go out, finish our 12 hours and come back clean.

>When I was a Staff Sgt., my Marines were loading up trucks for a field training exercise. They found a dolly behind the supply building and started loading with it. I asked them what they were doing. "There are 1,000 ways to do something," Lance Cpl. Scaf replied. "We picked a way that produces less

sweat and gets everything done faster. There's a fine line between hard and stupid." It woke me up. The mission was being accomplished.

>It reminded me of the Headquarters Battalion motto, 'Mission first, people always'.

>Take care of your people and you've already taken care of the mission because they'll take care of the rest.

>That being said, it's like that in law enforcement, it's like that as a civilian, it's like that in everything we do.

>People are objectionable to changes. As soon as something comes out, they want to complain about it. You can complain, but you have to have a way to do it better.

>I've never been the person to brag about all the things I did. I'm not going to come over there and say look what I did. I'd rather you've come and see what I've done.

>A motivation in my life has always been to never back down from a challenge.

>My dad used to ask me, "What are you afraid of, that you might succeed?"

>Learn to be assertive but never do anything with anger because anger is one letter from danger. In the time it takes you to put a "D" in front of anger, you've already screwed up.

>My friends and I go shooting quite a bit. On weekends, we're hitting bull's-eyes.

>We'll take the ten ring and patch it, making it about the size of a quarter. We take three shots, and the closest group wins.

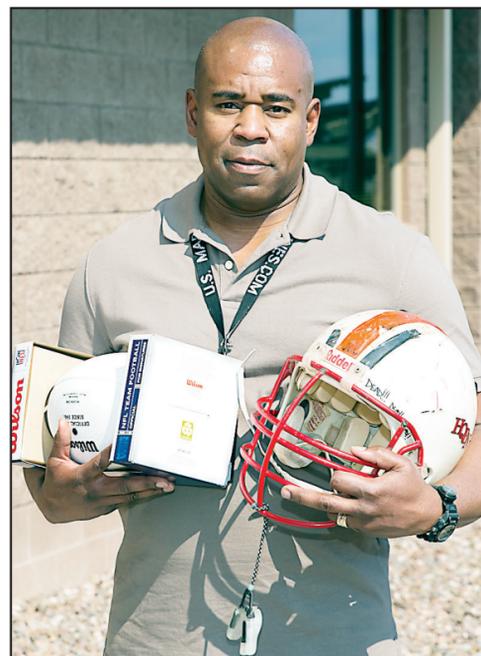
>It's all a gentlemen's bet and we call it "dime time", where everyone brings a dime and bets a dime. Whoever takes the shooting match walks away with the dimes. It's about bragging rights.

>My son started shooting with me at five years old. He wanted to go, I never asked him to come. I believe as a parent, you shouldn't force things on someone.

>My dad forced basketball on me and I backed away from it out of rebellion only to get into football and discover I was good at it.

>I was offered a scholarship twice while I was

Johnson has worked for the U.S. government more than 30 years; 20 as a Marine, and ten as a law enforcement officer. He played linebacker on the Headquarters Battalion football team and was offered two scholarships while in the Marine Corps.



in the Marine Corps and turned it down.

>My strategy in football was simple. There are 11 players; all I have to do is wait for one to make a mistake.

>It's the same thing in the Marine Corps and the same thing when dealing with terrorism. The bad guys are out there, just look for the one who's going to make a mistake.

>You'll never see me wearing a football jersey with my favorite celebrity football player on the back of it. You'll never see a pro football player wearing a camie blouse that has a service member's last name on it.

>112 recruits started in my platoon at bootcamp. 55 Marines graduated but only two of us made it to retirement. We were the clowns who stayed in the pit in bootcamp because everything was funny to us. Everybody else who took it so seriously without margin for error didn't make it.

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INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Capt. Opilka retires aboard Combat Center



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, congratulates U.S. Navy Capt. Anthony Opilka, staff periodontist, 23rd Dental Company, while handing Opilka his Certificate of Appreciation for his time in the U.S. Navy at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field's flag pole, June 17.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, speaks to U.S. Navy Capt. Anthony Opilka's family before Opilka's retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field's flag pole, June 17.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

U.S. Navy Capt. Anthony Opilka, staff periodontist, 23 Dental Company, thanks his family for being with him through his time in the Navy, during his retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field's flag pole, June 17.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, shakes the hand of Neil Jauffret-Opilka, son of U.S. Navy Capt. Anthony Opilka, staff periodontist, 23rd Dental Company, during Opilka's retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field's flag pole, June 17. Each family member received three different certificates of appreciation during the ceremony.

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Image Courtesy of the DoD.

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Sword from pg. A1

an exceptional Marine. He was stayed that way right up until the last minute.”

Smith reminisced on his time with 2/7, remembering that there were good times and hard times.

“The loss of life is tragic for any battalion,” Smith said. “The fond memories that I have of watching the Marines succeed in the [Integrated Training Exercises] and watching the children born within the battalion are memories that I will cherish forever.”

After leaving Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and receiving orders as battalion sergeant major of 2/7, Macias has set a high standard for his new Marines.

“The Marines of 2/7

have a good foundation and I am honored and privileged to be their sergeant major,” Macias said. “My ultimate goal is to be the best battalion and set the precedence for everyone else to follow suit.”

The ceremony concluded with the reciting of ‘Old Glory’ and the ‘passing of the flag presentation’.

“The oath of the sergeant major is sacred. When one comes in to relieve another it is our solemn promise that we will do better than the last and take the battalion to the next level,” Smith said. “It was an honor and privilege for me to serve. I love being a Marine and there is nothing else I’d rather be.”



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, perform the passing of the colors presentation during the reciting of “Old Glory” as part of the battalion’s relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, June 19.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stand at parade rest during the battalion’s relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, June 19.

Heat from pg. A1

some laboratory exams, as well as surgical capability,” said Bergren. “We are in a position where we are able to provide our own convoy support so that we can quickly resupply ice and intravenous fluids, as well as provide our own ground transportation to be able to take Marines and Sailors back to the main side of the base or Camp Wilson.”

The unique weather and terrain present during ITX in Twentynine Palms allows Marines and Sailors to train under realistic conditions, which gives them a taste of what they may deal with during a deployment.

“This training is getting us ready to deploy at any time,” said Webb. “We have also had cold weather training in Alaska. We are being trained for any terrain or climate that you can possibly think of.”

The battalion’s training and hard work paid off when a mass heat casualty struck the unit by surprise during another unit’s exercise. More than 20 patients with heat-related illness were treated by the medical team over the period of an hour.

“That was a real world scenario,” said Strotz. “They all performed exceptionally well. They were all able to treat, assess and triage the patients accordingly.”

Another crucial factor in the unit’s success is the cohesion and team work between Marines and Sailors.

“The Marines and Sailors here work great together, everyone steps up when needed,” said Strotz. “The Marines are definitely playing a vital part in maintaining security, communication and non-medical assets. All the corpsmen are stepping up and ensuring that any type of support the Marines need is being taking care of.”

Challenges were expected, preparations were made and so far the outcome has been successful.

“My crew has been stellar in their performance. Everyone has stepped up, especially during the real world mass casualty,” said Bergren. “I can’t ask for a better group and I would be proud to go to war with them.”



Marines with 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, extract a casualty from a aircraft during a mass casualty exercise during 4-15 Integrated Training Exercise aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

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Marines provide logistical, sustainment support to OIR



PHOTO BY CPL. JOHN BAKER

A Marine C-130 with the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command prepares for takeoff in Southwest Asia, Saturday. The Marines and Sailors of SPMAGTF-CR-CC provide logistical and sustainment support to Task Force Al Asad and Task Force Al Taqaddum in their ongoing effort to train and enable the Iraqi Security Forces in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

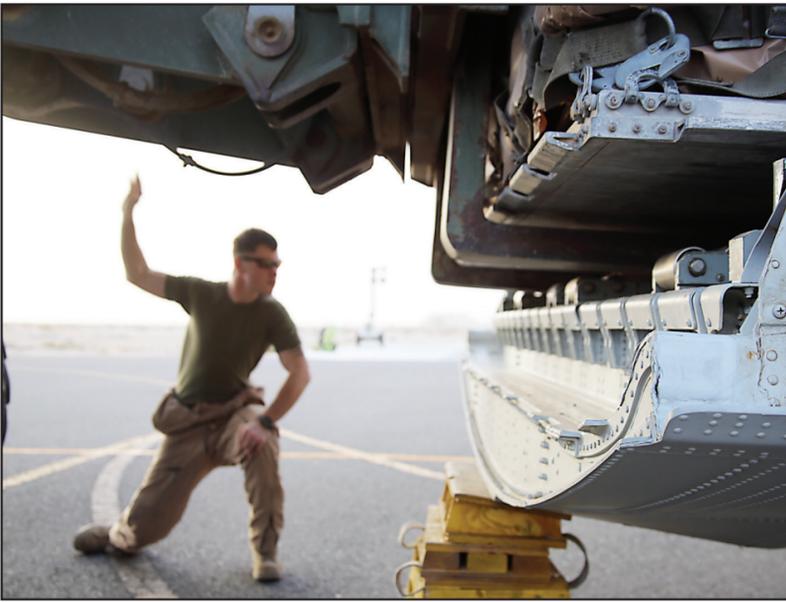


PHOTO BY CPL. CANSIN HARDYGRITAG

A Marine with the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, guides pallets onto a C-130 in Southwest Asia, Saturday.



PHOTO BY CPL. CANSIN HARDYGRITAG

Marines with the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, load palletized equipment and goods in Southwest Asia before shipping it, Saturday.



PHOTO BY CPL. CANSIN HARDYGRITAG

Marine Cpl. George Ramos, from Los Angeles, an embark specialist with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, palletizes equipment in Southwest Asia before shipping it, Saturday.

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Warrior Games Commence

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JACQUELINE A. GARCIA

U.S. Special Operations Command para-commandos perform a jump at the 2015 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games Cycling Awards Ceremony on Lejeune Field, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., June 21.



PHOTO BY CPL. MARK WATOLA

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Gabariel Graves-Wake leads the pack during women's track at the 2015 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games held at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, Va., June 23.



PHOTO BY CPL. ASHLEY CANO

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Kionte Storey, left, listens to a coach's advice on swimming at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, Va., June 20.



PHOTO BY GUNNERY SGT. EZEKIEL KITANDWE

Members of the U.S. Army cycling team compete in the 2015 DOD Warrior Games aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., June 21.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JACQUELINE A. GARCIA

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Richard Lane Dennis, takes off from the start line of the Cycling competition of the 2015 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games at Lejeune Hall Lot, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., June 21.



PHOTO BY GUNNERY SGT. EZEKIEL KITANDWE

A member of the British Armed Forces prepares to throw the shot put during field competition for the 2015 DOD Warrior Games, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., June 23.

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.

To keep your mind active this summer check out the Combat Center Library's Summer Reading Program. The six week program runs from June 22 to August 3 and is open to all hands. The event will conclude with prize drawings to those who have completed all five reading levels. Visit the library for the complete Read to the Rhythm Guidelines and schedule of events. For more information, contact 760-830-6875.

Attend the Four Lenses Workshop to learn more about yourself and those around you. The personality workshop will be held at the Village Center on June 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is open to all Marines, sailors and families. To learn more, contact Lee Risper at 760-830-3115.

Take your spouse out for an evening of tropical island themed fun with Couple's Date Night. The event will be held at the Frontline Restaurant on July 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. Couples will enjoy a luau complete with Polynesian themed food, music and dance. Tickets are 20 dollars per couple and will be available and the Information, Tickets and Tours Office.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, June 26

5:30 p.m. – The Water Diviner, R
8:00 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R
10:30 p.m. – Hot Pursuit, PG-13

Saturday, June 27

12:00 a.m. – Mortdecai, R, Free Admission
10:00 a.m. – Open Season 2, PG, Free Admission
12:00 p.m. – Tomorrowland, PG
3:00 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R
5:30 p.m. – Pitch Perfect 2, PG-13
8:00 p.m. – Hot Pursuit, PG-13
10:00 p.m. – Poltergeist 2015, PG-13
11:40 p.m. – Blackhat, R, Free Admission

Sunday, June 28

12:30 p.m. – Tomorrowland, PG
3:30 p.m. – San Andreas, PG-13
6:00 p.m. – Aloha, PG-13
8:30 p.m. – Hot Pursuit, PG-13

Monday, June 29

7:00 p.m. – San Andreas, PG-13

Tuesday, June 30

7:00 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R

Wednesday, July 01

5:00 p.m. – Pitch Perfect 2, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – The Water Diviner, R

Thursday, July 02

5:00 p.m. – Tomorrowland, PG
8:30 p.m. – Pitch Perfect 2, PG-13



Boys' Town

Big, bloated, bro-fest-ic movie picks up where TV series left off

NEIL POND

"Entourage"
Starring *Adrian Grenier, Kevin Connolly, Kevin Dillon, Jerry Ferrara & Jeremy Piven*
Directed by *Doug Ellin*
Rated **R**

Based on the 2005-2011 HBO TV series about a young actor and his posse of best friends in Hollywood, this feature-film treatment is targeted primarily—and blatantly—to the same kind of hedonistic horn dogs who make up the movie's base of bro-main characters.

Tinseltown satire, super-rich success fantasy and chauvinistic sex comedy rolled into one, the *Entourage* movie takes up where the TV series left off—and doesn't go much anywhere else. A-list movie stud Vince (Adrian Grenier), newly freed from

a nine-day whirlwind marriage, is ready to return to work and now wants to direct as well as act. As usual, his longtime nitwit buddies are all-aboard: Eric, his manager and best friend from childhood (Kevin Connolly); Johnny Drama (Kevin Dillon), his dim-bulb, struggling-actor half-brother; and Turtle (Jerry Ferrara), his driver turned tequila mogul.

High-strung agent Ari Gold (Jeremy Piven), now running a movie studio, green-lights Vince's film, a ridiculous, futuristic twist on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, which quickly balloons over its \$100 budget. The movie's investor, a rich Texas oilman (Billy Bob Thornton), sends his starstruck son (Hailey Joel Osment) to ride shotgun over the troubled production.

The pencil-thin plot: Will Vince and his crew cash in once again, or will Hollywood finally break the bros?

The *Entourage* TV show was loosely based, at least originally, on the some of the experiences of actor Mark Wahlberg, who served as executive pro-

ducer and is now one of the producers of the movie (and has a cameo, with his own tagalong "entourage"). But the movie version plays like such an overblown, oafish wet-dream stream of sexy (often topless) women, caustic one-liners and obscene wealth, it seems adrift in its own alt-universe, like an R-rated, 100-minute *Viagra* commercial shot inside a VIP strip club operated by light-depraved leprechauns. If you liked *Entourage* and its free-wheeling, high-living characters on TV, you may think they're even cooler enlarged to cinema-size. Otherwise, you might wonder what anyone ever saw in this pack of boors, mooches, rakes and cads with so few discernable, redeemable skills, talents or virtues or values.

The movie's attempt at addressing something "deeper"—as Eric confronts his paternity with his pregnant ex-girlfriend (Emmanuelle Chriqui), or Ari seeks peace through spirituality—seems pathetically out of sync with its true, crude flow.

To add to the movie's sense of disorientation from the world in which most people live, an almost endless parade of real actors, sports figures and other personalities breeze through, blurring the lines by interacting with the fictional characters. There's a lecherous Bob Saget, a grumpy Kelsey Grammer, a ticked-off Jessica Alba, an incredulous Martin Landau, a loopy Gary Busey, plus rapper T.I., director Jon Favreau, actors Liam Neeson and Armie Hammer, comedian Andrew Dice Clay, Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Emily Ratajkowski, NFL quarterback Tom Brady, TV personality Piers Morgan, zillionaire Warren Buffett, mixed-martial arts fighting champ Ronda Rousey and many, many more. Blink and you'll miss someone.

It's almost like everyone inside Hollywood wanted a piece of the action. The bigger question: How many people outside of Hollywood will want a ticket to this smug, bloated, big-screen, bro-fest-ic boy party?

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Jurassic World (PG13)
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

Inside Out (PG)
2D 12:30 6:30
3D 2:30 9:30

Friday - Monday
San Andreas (PG13)
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
Tuesday - 12:30 3:30

Terminator Genisys (PG13)
Tuesday 3D 7:00
2D 10:00

Wednesday - Thursday
3D 12:30 6:30
2D 3:30 9:30

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Marines, French Gendarmerie quiet the riots



U.S. Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa and members of Escadron de Gendarmerie Mobile, a unit with France's national police force known as the Gendarmerie, form a shield wall against rioters at the National Gendarmerie Training Center in St. Astier, France, June 19. The Marines trained to operate through dense smoke and riot-control gas while maintaining tightly organized formations.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST. LT. DANIELLE DIXON

SAINT ASTER, France - Crisis-response Marines held their position alongside men and women from the Escadron de Gendarmerie Mobile, a unit with France's national police force known as the Gendarmerie, while more than 50 rioters threw flaming Molotov cocktails, bricks, and tear gas at the National Gendarmerie Training Center in St. Astier, France, June 18-22.

"We got to do something we don't normally get to do today. We took a step away from all of the rifles and picked up some shields and batons, and tried some new skills," said 1st Lt. Scott Vicino, the platoon commander with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa.

France's National Gendarmerie is a branch of the country's armed forces tasked with maintaining public safety and conducting police duties. Stationed aboard Moron Air Base, Spain, the SPMAGTF serves as a rotational crisis-response force for U.S. Africa Command and remains ready to respond to a variety of missions, some almost identical to what the Gendarmerie routinely rehearse.

Throughout the final exercise, subsequent scenarios continued to build on the last in intensity and violence. Each mission became more complicated as the two forces needed to work together as simulated neighboring embassies.

"The Marines are getting things thrown

at them. They've got gas masks on. They can't hear anything. They can't see anything," explains Vicino. "The communication is implicit."

Lt. Col. Jean-Luc Renault, the course director, hailed the exercise as both successful and applicable to mission sets both units may be called to complete. This is his second time working personally with the U.S. Marines after his initial experience with SPMAGTF-CR-AF in December 2014.

Since 1996, the unit's instructor corps has trained numerous foreign units not only during common joint exercises with organizations such as NATO, but also the European Police Force, European Gendarmerie Force, and even Swedish units that return each year.

"The goal of these courses," Renault explains, "is not only to improve our mutual understanding in both crowd and riot control and combat missions, but overall to be able to work together on missions abroad dealing with evacuation of nationals and protection of goods and properties."

By the conclusion of the exercise, the joint force mastered maneuvering in unison and providing their own cover, all without verbal commands. Implicit communication was critical, as the scenarios left little room for error or time to entertain alternate solutions. The training scenarios ranged from non-violent demonstrators and city-wide riots to hostage recovery, where the Marines learned how to effectively lead and tacitly communicate amidst the disorder.



U.S. Marine Cpl. Charles Carlile, left, a member of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, holds a defensive line at the National Gendarmerie Training Center in St. Astier, France, June 19.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



Since writing the following column some time ago more than a dozen of you have informed me that they are donating their body to science. Read it once again:

One of the regular readers of this column is Darlene Morris of Yucca Valley. Darlene is one of the splendid supporters of the arts in our Morongo Basin and a loving and thoughtful lady. The other day Darlene sent me the following note:

"I like how you say someone 'physically' died in your articles, because I have learned in Christian Science that Life is spiritual and never-ending. Even though to human sense someone seems to die, actually their life is continuing where we cannot perceive it."

What a great statement! I agree with every word. It was the Apostle Paul who wrote "We look not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen. The things that are seen are only temporary, but the unseen spiritual things are eternal." (II Corinthians 4:18)

I think it is important that each of us prepare now in a very practical way with the certain knowledge that our own physical death is inevitable. Here is what I have done.

After discussing the matter thoroughly with my wife Patty I have donated my body to the Bodies for Science Program at the Loma Linda School of Medicine, Loma Linda University. The body will be used to help train young medical scientists and enable that fine School of Medicine to continue making advances in medical science.

This column sponsored by:

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