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3rd EOD blasts through training aboard Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Marines with 3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, completed a one-month-long training exercise aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 21.

"Since the Marines have been out here, they have encompassed a wide variety of training including a post-blast analysis, cache scenarios, dismounted and mounted [improvised explosive device] scenarios, along with a [Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel] scenario," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Drew B. Jordan, platoon commander, 3rd EOD, 9th ESB. "We also performed a [Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive] event encompassing a platoon-level exercise where EOD technicians identified, [decontaminated,] and disposed of chemical munitions."

Throughout the exercise, 3rd EOD utilized Ranges 112 and 114, and Emerson Lake and Quackenbush training areas. The Marines of 9th ESB took advantage of the desert terrain and vast area of the Combat Center to meet training needs.

"The terrain at the Combat Center is something we don't get a chance to utilize in Japan and we are trying to take advantage of everything we can while we're out here," said Staff Sgt. Joshua K. Crabtree, EOD technician, 3rd EOD, 9th ESB. "Being able to operate in this terrain is extremely beneficial to us because it gives us another medium to train in than a jungle environment."

According to Crabtree, the training aboard the Combat Center is vital in preparing for real-world scenarios the unit might encounter in a deployed environment.

"This training is by far one of the most important things we can do while operating at the Combat Center," Crabtree said. "The mountainous terrain has a lot of choke point areas we can utilize and a sandy environment similar to the Middle East. It's definitely advantageous for our development."

Major goals of the exercise included giving the Marines exposure to a different environment and experience with a wider variety of ordnance.

"Since the EOD technicians have been out here, they have had the opportunity to utilize ordnance they don't normally have access to," Jordan said. "Adding this kind of real-

See **Training** pg. A6

Sgt. Mitchell D. Taylor, explosive ordnance disposal technician, 3rd EOD, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, utilizes rope to remotely dispose of ordnance during a post-blast analysis training scenario at Emerson Lake training area, Sept. 19.

Staff Sgt. Joshua K. Crabtree, explosive ordnance disposal technician, 3rd EOD, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, performs a sweep with a metal detector during a post-blast analysis training scenario at Emerson Lake training area, Sept. 19.

Combat Center stays prepared for power outages

BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat Center is on it's last of four informational weeks for America's Prepare-A-Thon 2015. The month-long presidential campaign is geared toward providing residents aboard the installation with the knowledge needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from man-made incidents and natural disasters. This week's focus is power outages.

An unexpected power outage can occur for any number of reasons, causing unforeseen consequences. Without electricity, people may become more susceptible to extreme temperatures and experience a shortage of clean water and fresh food. In the event of a power outage, one must be prepared to manage without power for an extended period of time.

"It is very important to have a plan because in the event of a natural or man-mad disaster occurring you'll be ready," said J. Luis Aguirre, installation emergency management specialist, G-7 Mission Assurance. "The point that we try to drive home to everybody is that being prepared can make a huge difference in the outcome of a situation."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, extreme heat is the cause of most summertime blackouts and the best way to prepare is to develop an emergency plan that includes a disaster supply kit.

"We live in California and we're all susceptible to power outages because of the earth quakes and other natural disasters," said Gary Morrissett, base energy manager, Public Works Department. "It doesn't really take a lot for a whole area to lose power and you can never tell when you're going to be without power for an extended period of time so it's always good to have the basics whenever something like that happens."

When preparing for or dealing with a power outage it is important to:

- Use flashlights for light instead of candles.
- Throw out any food that has been exposed to temperatures higher than 40° for two hours or more.
- Turn off the electrical equipment that was on when the power went out.
- Drink and use bottled, boiled or treated water.
- Try not to open the freezer or refrigerator too much; a full freezer can keep food for up to 48 hours.

"What we accomplished this month is we created a basic foundation from which we can build on for a more resilient community," Aguirre said. "I don't think taking just one month out of the year is sufficient enough when it comes to staying prepared. I think being proactive, trying to educate ourselves and learn more is what will ultimately make the difference."

An information booth will be set up at the main exchange on Friday at 10 a.m. For additional information on how to take actions to prepare for or respond to a power outage, or any other natural or man-mad incident, visit www.ready.marines.mil or contact the G-7 Mission Assurance branch at 830-1884.

Four-legged robot runs toward potential future with Marine infantry

SGT. ERIC KEENAN

Spot, a quadruped prototype robot, aids Marines in clearing a room during a demonstration at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 16. Employees of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency trained Marines from the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab how to operate "Spot."

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ERIC KEENAN

Employees of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and Boston Dynamics trained Marines from the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab how to operate "Spot," a quadruped prototype robot, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 16.

Spot is a 160-pound, electrically powered, hydraulically actuated robot designed by Boston Dynamics.

"We want to continue to experiment with quadruped technology and find ways that this can be employed to enhance the Marine Corps warfighting capabilties," said Capt. James Pineiro, the branch head for Marine Corps Warfighting Lab.

All week the Marines with the lab tested Spot's abilities on different terrains including hills, woodlands and even in urban terrain.

"I think a robot like Spot has tons of opportunities [Marines] could use it for, like scouting or load carriage," said Ben Swilling, a roboticist with Boston Dynamics.

During a military operation in urban terrain drill, Spot went into the building before the Marines simulating peaking around corners

See **Robot** pg. A6

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 Pfc. Devan Gowans.]

PFC. DEVAN GOWANS

Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Phoenix, stand at parade rest during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the Healing Field in Tempe Town Lake, Ariz., during Marine Week Phoenix, Sept. 11.

This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post
September 29, 1967

Poisonous snakes vary in size, color

Throughout the world there are many snakes whose poisonous bites can be fatal to man. In the United States there are four different types, the coral snake, the copperhead snake, water moccasin and the rattlesnake.

There are 16 distinct kinds of rattlesnakes. There are numerous subspecies and color variations, but they can all be positively identified by the jointed rattles on the tail. Most of the rattlers are concentrated in the Southwestern United States. The Pacific and rattlesnake is the only rattler found in the Pacific region north of Southern California. In California its range extends south from Oregon to lower California.

Some types of snakes lay eggs. In others the eggs are retained in the mother's body until hatched and the young are born alive. Rattlesnakes are among those that give birth to living young.

Except for the extreme northern portions of California, mating takes place in the spring and the young are born between August and October. If all goes well they will grow rapidly. As they grow larger, and each time they come out of hibernation, they shed their skin. Each time they shed their skin a new rattle is added. During the rapid growth of the first few years they may shed their skin three times a year. Thus the number of rattles is not a true indication of age.

Rattlesnakes eat lizards and small rodents. They strike rather than attempt to hold their prey. The fangs are hollow, and when they penetrate flesh, the venom is injected into the victim. Much of their small prey is stunned. If a larger animal runs some distance before it dies, they trail it down and proceed to swallow it whole.

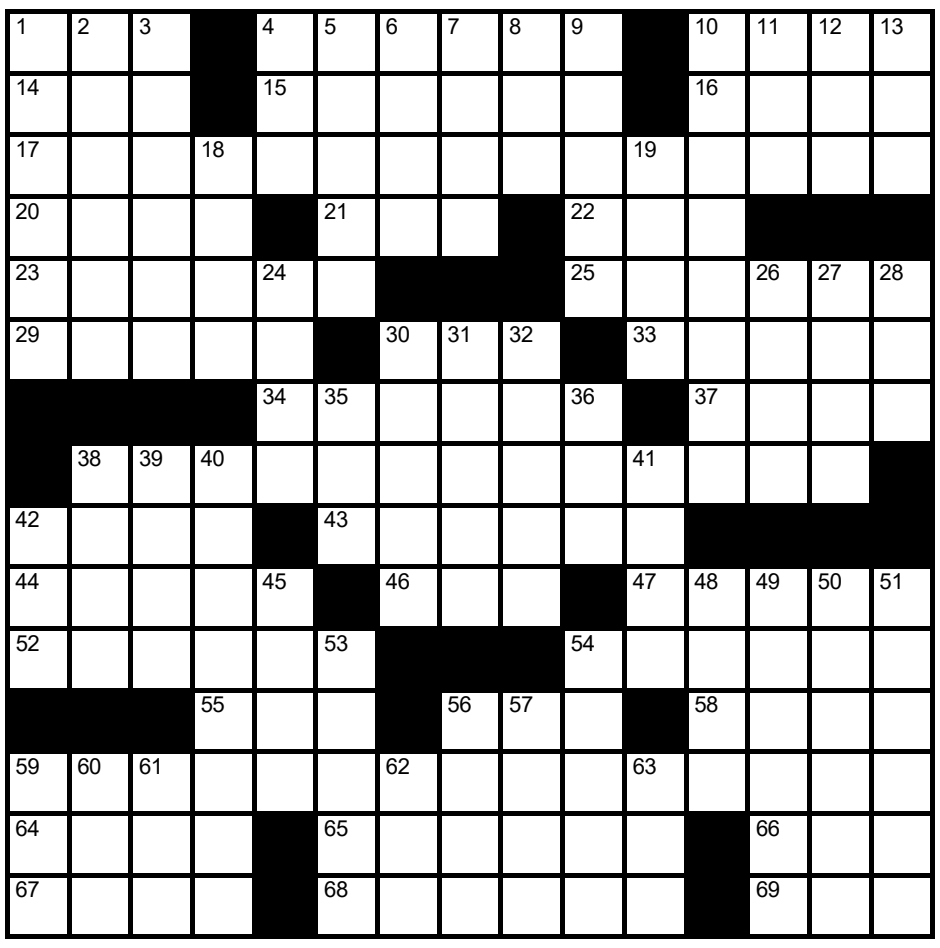
From Lake Tahoe north you might see the Great Basin rattler; from Tahoe south, the sidewinder and Panamint rattlers; along the Colorado River, the western diamondback; in the southwestern area, the red diamond back and speckled rattlers; and in the Mojave Desert, both the Mojave and of the sidewinder.

Many persons spend a lifetime hunting, fishing and picnicking in California and never see a rattlesnake. Few people are bitten. Yet, because the bite is extremely painful and can be fatal, when you are in the field you should always keep alert as to where you step or put your hands. Be careful after dark, for on warm nights rattlesnakes are out searching for food. If you are alone and are struck where the wound can be reached, suck out as much poison and as you can in two or three minutes. Then, moving very slowly, seek a cool spot, preferably near water, and remains as quiet as possible. Expect ugly swelling and extreme pain.

There are varying degrees in the amount of poison a snake injects. Many people recover without medical aid. If help is near, get a doctor as soon as possible. Most rattlesnakes when disturbed normally try to withdrawal, but if they think they are cornered the explosive sizzling buzz of their rattles is an unmistakable warning and a sound that will long be remembered.

CROSSWORD

"Q-Tips"



Across

1 6, for a TD
4 Stopper, slangily
10 Bookstore area, often
14 "___ we there yet?"
15 "Same here"
16 Automobile pioneer
17 Young feudal attendant from Austria?
20 Jedi Skywalker
21 Gardening aid
22 Boil fluid
23 Ring combination
25 Flagpole ___ (exhibitionist of sorts)
29 Page 2, usually
30 Sinai snake
33 Like fuel-rich bogs
34 Prankster
37 Arched recess
38 Corrective pier?
42 Subjective surrounding
43 Cool and calm
44 Short drinks
46 Actor Beatty
47 Muslim holy men
52 Slim and graceful girls
54 Frisbee forerunner
55 '"A Boy Named ___"
56 Country north of Mex.
58 Last single-digit number
59 Getting in line?
64 "Pay me later" marker
65 Take flight
66 Chauffeur's "office"
67 Wait, as one's time
68 Informed (on)
69 1997 U.S. Open champ Ernie

Down

1 Stimulating scientist
2 Three in one
3 Petitioner
4 People related to you
5 Moscow is there
6 Kidvid puppet-hobo
7 Early Nebraskan
8 Healthful crop
9 Test sites: Abbr.
10 "Calypso" captain
11 Ring name
12 32nd pres.
13 Dir. opp. WNW
18 Hits into the goal
19 Bon mot
24 Get down to business
26 Appetizer that literally means "lid"
27 Online DIY jewelry source
28 Bread choice
30 Home of the world's longest chair lift
31 Freak out
32 Stepped off
35 Biblical equine
36 Tony winner Cariou
38 Hide, as a dog's bone
39 Uzbekistan's___Sea
40 Jamboree locale
41 Liner, briefly
42 Commercial info
45 Avoid socially
48 List of alternatives
49 Each, in pricing
50 Aid for a confused user
51 Signs of superciliousness
53 Popeye creator
54 Art class goop
56 Military force
57 Place at the table
59 Letters in "Respect"
60 ___ tuna
61 Word repeated in "I ___! I ___!"
62 Fertility lab supply
63 Theorem letters

SUDOKU

Sudoku Puzzle #3768-D

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

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Difficult

Last week's answers

I	D	I	O	T	■	S	I	L	L	■	A	T	O	P
D	I	N	A	H	■	T	R	E	E	■	C	U	B	E
L	O	C	K	E	R	R	O	O	M	H	U	M	O	R
E	R	A	■	K	E	E	N	■	O	U	T	S	E	T
■	■	■	S	N	A	P	■	K	N	E	E	■	■	■
B	I	T	M	A	P	■	K	A	T	Y	■	C	A	B
A	D	H	O	C	■	T	R	U	E	■	S	H	O	E
S	T	O	C	K	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	S
T	A	N	K	■	H	I	F	I	■	O	R	A	T	E
E	G	G	■	T	I	N	T	■	S	N	A	P	A	T
■	■	■	C	O	V	E	■	C	I	T	Y	■	■	■
T	R	A	U	M	A	■	A	O	N	E	■	S	P	A
B	A	R	R	E	L	O	F	M	O	N	K	E	Y	S
A	V	I	D	■	R	H	E	A	■	T	I	A	R	A
R	E	D	S	■	Y	O	W	S	■	S	T	R	O	P

Sudoku Solution #3766-D

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

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- 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.

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- 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 officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines.mil

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Marcellous MASON

Las Vegas Supply administrator, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Age 19

Mason has been producing rap music since he was in sixth grade. He uses his lyrics as a form of preaching to spread the word about his beliefs.

>Before I started making music I used to preach. I felt that music was a good way to get the word out because people love to listen to music. If people listen to my music, then they are listening to preaching.

>I like to make music that motivates people. I would make songs of a different genre but I can't sing.

>Music uplifts people in a way. You don't know what people are going through and music can help them bond and get through hard times.

>I believe that my music can help people realize that life is short and that things will get better.

>My religion is Christianity. Through my own research I've come to believe in Jesus Christ. I feel that he reveals himself to people in different ways than you can see with your eyes.

>I've been in the Marine Corps for just over a year now.

>In my time in the Marine Corps, I've built bonds with my fellow Marines. Each Marine in a company or platoon knows what the others have to go through.

>There is always that rivalry between west and east coast Marines, and Marines from different battalions or platoons. In the end, we are all Marines and will work together to accomplish the mission.

>There is also rivalry between the Marines and the other branches of service. In the same way, services members have a bond and can work together when the time comes.

>My family consists of my mother, father, three brothers and two sisters. I have a twin brother who is a pastor.

>I moved around a lot throughout Alabama growing up. One thing I noticed growing up in Alabama is that people say sir or ma'am to show respect. The Marine Corps is similar in that we use our customs and courtesies to be respectful and professional.

>Before I joined the Marine Corps, I used to cook everyday with my mother. While we would cook every meal, my specialty is breakfast foods. In Alabama, my grandfather would also show me different things to cook.

>Drawing is another way for me to express my beliefs. I noticed that I was very artistic and that I loved to draw. Many of my drawings have hidden meanings and symbols.

>While in my [military occupation specialty] school I received the motivation award. I don't know why but I seem to motivate people. I like to keep a positive attitude because it helps those around me stay motivated.

>I joined the Marine Corps for the challenge. A Marine Corps' recruiter came to me and asked me if I would accept the challenge. I took it and it certainly has been difficult.

>Before boot camp, I never knew anything about the military because none of my family members are in the service.

>If I get out of the military, I will be able to put the skills I've learned to use in my resume. There are a lot of little things that go into doing your job in the military and they help you when you are looking for a job.

>The most important thing in my life right now is my career. I have high hopes for the future and would like to be a sergeant major someday.

Interview and photo by Lance Cpl. Levi Schultz

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Partnership

U.S. Marines, Senegalese military

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. OLIVIA MCDONALD

U.S. Marines and Senegalese military members spent a week sharpening their infantry skills in Toubacouta, Senegal, Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

Marines with the Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa worked with their Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commando counterparts on everything from the planning process to how troops move and why. These skills are necessary to help the Senegalese mitigate illicit trafficking and maintain regional stability in the area.

This engagement is an evolution of the multiple training progressions the COFUMACO and Marines have shared together in the past.

"In this week's training we have learned a lot of things," said Senegalese Private Jean Pierre Thiare, who previously trained twice with U.S. Marines. "They are things we have not experienced before. It is very good training that we can use to add to the techniques we have and apply it when we are on the front or in a real situation."

The Senegalese COFUMACO are equally a land and water-based fighting force, much like U.S. Marines. This is the latest rotation of Marines in Senegal exchanging maritime security force assistance tactics with the Senegalese.

"The Senegalese are really motivated," said Cpl. Mario Montanez, a machine gunner and primary instructor with the U.S. Marines. "They are a smart group of individuals. They are really energetic and eager to learn."

After seeing the COFUMACO's drive, the Marines jumped into training with their counterparts, challenging them at every chance.

"Across the Marine Corps we learn from a crawl-walk-run method and we didn't change anything here," said Staff Sgt. James Renwand, course and team chief with the team. "We started off day one, introduction to buddy pairs. So you and your buddy, how do you move? How do you support one another? We built on that the next day with team movement. Now how do you move in a team? Then we started targeting small-unit leadership on the team level."

The fifth and final day of infantry tactics was a culminating exercise that tested skills in notional, real-time scenarios.

"I like working with the Marines because they are respectful and they respect their jobs and they do everything to make it correct," Thiare said. "They are very tactful in time management. Those are the important things I have noticed in other trainings as well as this one."

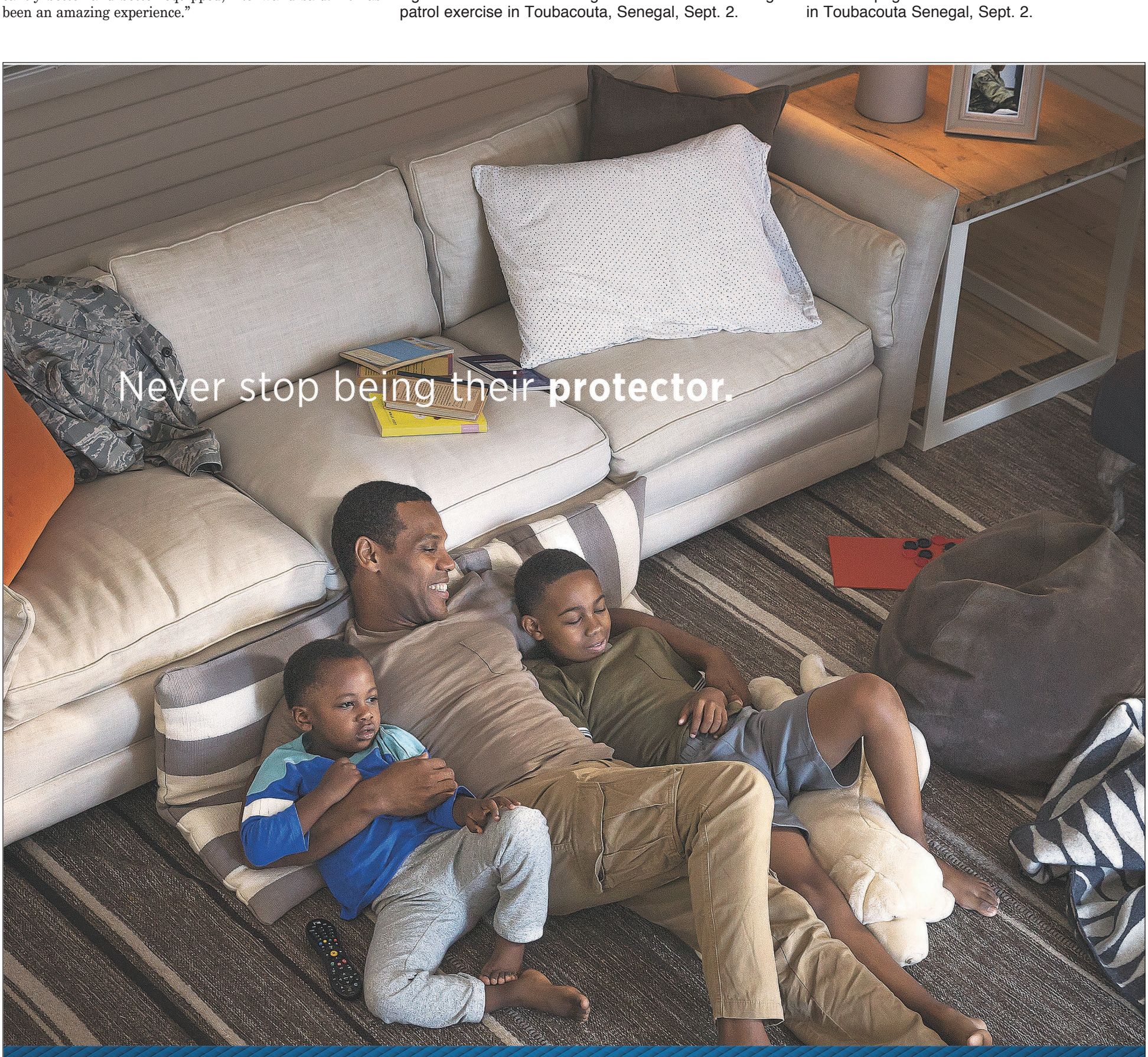
As the final training event for this rotation nears, COFUMACO will conduct an exercise that challenges all the skillsets, land and water based, that they have worked on with the Marines and Coast Guard. It is these skillsets that are essential for Senegalese to keep stability in the region.

"I don't think we only came here to better the COFUMACO. The US Marines coming out of it are definitely significantly better and better equipped," Renwand said. "It has been an amazing experience."

A team of Compagnie Fusilier De Marin Commandos prepare to enter a room during an "actions at the objective" class conducted by Marines with Security Cooperation Team- 4, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, in Toubacouta, Senegal, Sept. 3.

Cpl. Benjamin Swanson, a rifleman with Security Cooperation Team-4, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, 'bumps' his Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commando counterpart to signal him to cross the danger area with cover during a patrol exercise in Toubacouta, Senegal, Sept. 2.

Cpl. Mario Monteanez, a machine gunner with Security Cooperation Team-4, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, posts security during a patrol exercise with Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commandos in Toubacouta Senegal, Sept. 2.



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in action

sharpen infantry skills

Three Marines with Security Cooperation Team-4, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, demonstrate the proper handling of a non-hostile to Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commandos during an 'actions at the objective' class in Toubacouta, Senegal, Sept. 3.

Lance Cpl. Nathan Howard, a rifleman with Security Cooperation Team-4, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, uses hand and arm signals to communicate with his Marine and Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commando counterparts across a danger area during a patrol exercise in Toubacouta, Senegal, Sept. 2.

Two Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commandos scan their surroundings during a patrol exercise alongside Marines with Security Cooperation Team-4, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, in Toubacouta, Senegal, Sept. 2.

Staff Sgt. Renwand, Security Cooperation Team-4 team chief with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, explains different techniques to cross danger areas to Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commandos during a patrol exercise in Toubacouta, Senegal, Sept. 2.

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Training from pg. A1

ism to the training multiplies it exponentially."

The event concluded with a culminating exercise, Sept. 20 and 21, with support from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. During the scenario, 2/7 Marines provided security and conducted patrols through a simulated IED-laden battle space.

"We integrated with 2/7 while the command operations center was tasked to provide direct and general support to the Marines as they go about the 48-hour scenario," Jordan said. "It encompassed them coming in and setting up a patrol base where they performed cordon and searched throughout areas located close by."

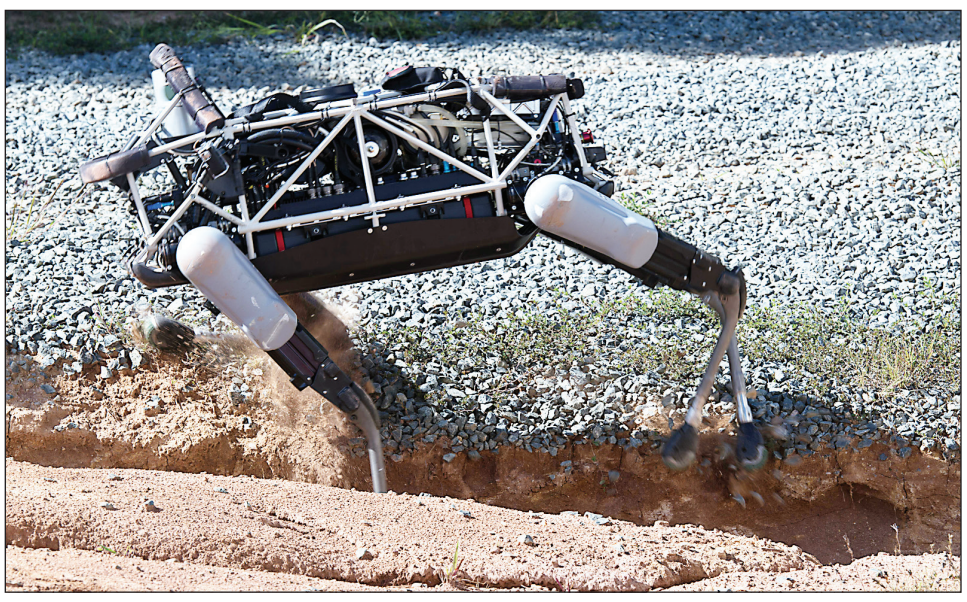
According to Jordan, the company has been training annually aboard the Combat Center for the last five years, but on a much smaller scale. This is the first time the unit brought a wide variety of support personnel to assist in the training.

"We've been able to bring everyone from field radio operators to generator mechanics and it has been valuable training for them as well," Jordan said. "The support personnel have been outstanding. They've put a lot of extra effort to ensuring the realism and accuracy for the scenarios and really challenging the EOD technicians as they go through this training."

With their training aboard the Combat Center complete, the 3rd EOD Marines return to Camp Hansen confident in their ability to operate in any environment.

"This wouldn't have happened without the support of [Brig. Gen. Tracy W. King, commanding general, 3rd MLG,] and [Lt. Col. Ryan E. Scott, battalion commander, 9th ESB]," Jordan said. "They've been great allowing us to come here to perform this training. Having a full platoon come out and train with additional EOD technicians to support is a big deal for us and we'd like to see this continue in the future."

Sgt. Mitchell D. Taylor, explosive ordnance disposal technician, 3rd EOD, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, removes his joint service general purpose mask after decontamination during a simulated chemical ordnance hazard removal exercise aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 20.



SGT. ERIC KEENAN

"Spot", a quadruped prototype robot, maneuvers through a ditch during a demonstration at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 16.

SGT. ERIC KEENAN

Ben Swilling, a roboticist with Boston Dynamics operates "Spot", a quadruped prototype robot, during a demonstration at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 16.

Robot from pg. A1

and looking for enemies and possible threats.

"The Marines have been very receptive to the new technology, embracing it and coming up with new ideas we couldn't even dream up," said Pineiro.

An operator uses a radio link from a laptop computer and a video game controller to operate Spot from as far as 500 meters.

"It's actually very easy to operate the robots," said Swilling. "We have had people as young as four run the robot around."

Spot isn't the first of its kind. It has a few predecessors such as the much larger and heavier LS3 and "BigDog." Spot is leaner, quieter and much more agile making it more efficient.

"Spot is great and has exceeded the metrics that we've provided," said Pineiro. "We see it as a great potential for the future dismounted infantry."

While Spot is not intended to be operational, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab is evaluating the uses of other robotics in the future.

"We continue to invest in research and development of robotics and autonomy to find ways to reduce threat to Marines and enhance our capability at the same time," said Pineiro.

Further evaluation and development of robotics in the Marine Corps could help save lives and lighten the load for Marines in the future.

"Robots can't get shot and they can't die," said Swilling. "If you need to send someone into danger's way, you don't want anyone to get hurt."

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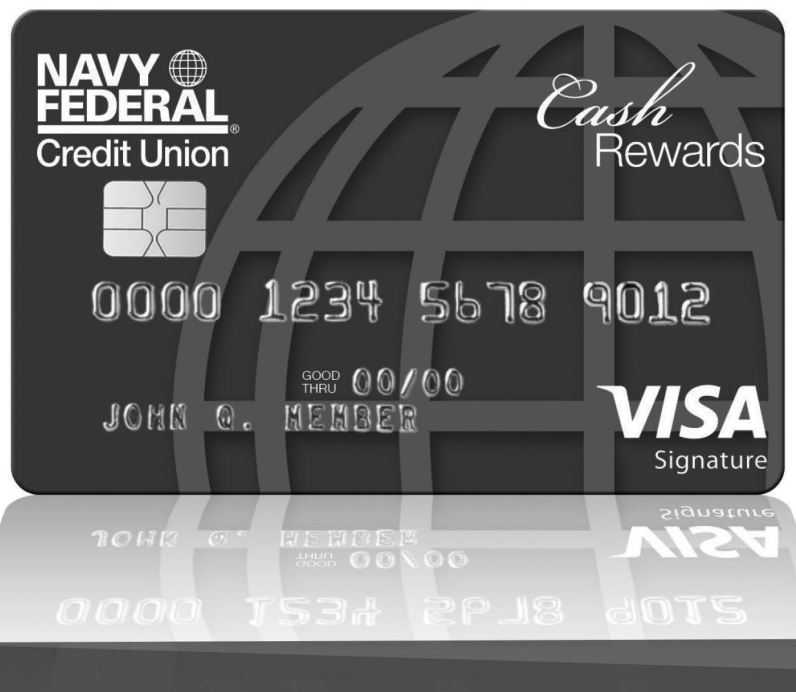

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Marines bid farewell to Phoenix

Marines retire the American flag for the final time in the city of Phoenix at Civic Space Park, Sept. 13.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. CUONG LE

The 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. John A. Lejeune, once said that the future success of the Marine Corps depends on two things: efficiently performing all duties it is assigned, and bringing that efficiency to the attention of the American people.

Six years ago, the Marine Corps came up with a plan to maximize their ability to show that efficiency by bringing assets from across the country to cities across America. With more than six million people in the surrounding area, Phoenix was selected to host 2015 Marine Week.

"Phoenix is so thrilled to have Marine Week, we've been working very hard to bring it here," said Councilwoman Kate Gallego. "We know the purpose of Marine Week is to educate Phoenix about the Marines but we are also hoping they learn how much Phoenix supports our armed services."

Hundreds of Marines swarmed the streets of downtown Phoenix and along with their tactical vehicles and equipment, filled up parks and parking lots. The suburbs of Phoenix also experienced special events with static displays and performances by military working dogs and handlers, Marine Band San Diego, the Silent Drill Platoon and instructors from the Martial Arts Center of Excellence.

"This week has given us a chance to appreciate what the Marines do and show our support by being out here," said Lorena Ramirez, a spectator at one of the various static display locations around town. "They put their lives on the line to keep our country safe and we appreciate that," adding the Marines were very friendly and hospitable to people who knew very little about the Marine way of life.

Phoenix residents also had the opportunity to participate in daily workout sessions and learned the importance of physical training for Marines. They also tested residents on their own Combat Fitness Test, which includes counting ammunition can lifts, running two track laps, and completing a timed obstacle course.

Each morning, a Marine team participated in community service projects, cleaning up parks and grounds, and building beautification structures in schools across the city.

Marines retire the American flag for the last time in the city of Phoenix at Civic Space Park, Sept. 13. More than 800 Marines participated in Marine Week Phoenix to give the citizens of the Valley of the Sun the opportunity to meet the individual Marines and celebrate community, country and Corps.

Laura Eliza Valdez, a poolee in the Marine Corps' Delayed Entry Program, said she was happy to be able to see the Marines in her community.

"I hope that people learn a bit more about what the Marines actually do for our country and not take what they do for granted," said Valdez, who is slated to attend Marine Corps recruit training in October.

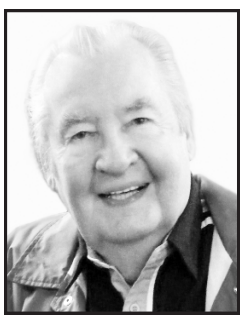
Also as a part of Marine Week, Marines and community members gathered together to pay homage to the Marines lost in battle, as well as to the victims of the September 11 attacks.

"We are a part of the community. We are sons and daughters. We're brothers and sisters, and we only happen to choose to fight a different fight for our country," said Lt. Col. Antonio Scofield, a program manager with Marine Corps Systems Command. "I think this week has gone a long way in explaining, not only to the citizens of Phoenix, but everyone who has seen us, that we love America."

Marine Week ended with a small closing ceremony and ceremonial lowering of the flag to say goodbye to the city of Phoenix.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I become 90 on September 28. My granddaughter Gabriella becomes six on the same day!

My life is unfolding within me and outside me every day. It is also unfolding for my wife Patty and for each of you.

You are precious. You are unique. There has never been another person like you. Accept yourself, like yourself, and have a high opinion of yourself.

Have a high opinion of the other people in your life. Each person is basically good and you should always endeavor to recognize and encourage the good and the beautiful that exists in each person.

Have a significant and practical involvement in a project or institution that demands your best efforts. My efforts include seeking homes for the homeless, food for the hungry, and day by day contributions to alleviate the pain and suffering in my immediate community.

I enjoy each and every day as I follow the advice of the great writer and thinker Johann Goethe:

"A person should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the Beautiful, which God has implanted in the human soul."

Finally, I share the words of John Burroughs:

"I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see. The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world."

This column sponsored by:

Steve Kanold and Lalo Alvarez
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DS-0000381975

1/3 Marines maintain their combat mindset

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. BRITTNEY VITO

Pfc. Benjamin Austin, assaultman, Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, a St. Louis, Mo., native, holds his body weight up while attempting to untie a rope while completing the Leadership Reaction Course at Training Area Boondocker aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 15.

Beneath the scorching Hawaiian sun, camouflaged in utilities, a flak jacket and kevlar, Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted training at Training Area Boondocker aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 15, to keep the Marine's combat mindset sharp and intact.

The Marines put their minds together to complete the Leadership Reaction Course, which empowers small-unit leaders to overcome various obstacles, such as moving a squad from one location to another, using minimal resources. They also worked on hand-to-hand and close-quarter combat techniques with the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, completed multiple iterations of a modified obstacle course and busted down doors during military operations in urban terrain training. Leaders reminded Marines to train like they fight to stimulate their combat mindset.

"Combat mindset is always having a mental awareness of what is going on offensively with your guys and defensively with the enemy," said Sgt. Michael Kelley, a squad leader with Bravo Co. 1st Bn., 3rd Marines.

The Marines recently returned from Integrated Training Exercise at Marine Air-Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif., which is the last step in the Hawaii Marines' predeployment training cycle before departing Hawaii on the Unit Deployment Program later this year. To avoid complacency as well as sustain and build upon the skills they gained at ITX, the Marines will continue to train here while awaiting deployment.

"Just because we have a scheduled UDP doesn't mean the Marine Corps couldn't decide (It) needs us somewhere else," said Cpl. Zachary Soto, a squad leader with Bravo Co. 1st Bn., 3rd Marines, and a Salem, Ore., native. "That is why we go to ITX and we train to the same standard as the rest of the Marine Corps."

Soto, who is also a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor, stressed the importance of constantly having a combat mindset to ensure Marines are prepared for the unexpected. During the sustainment training, he instructed Marines on martial arts techniques ranging from gray to brown belt.

"(MCMAP gives Marines) an introduction to interpersonal violence," Soto said. "If you don't continue to do MCMAP, you may lose your edge, making you a target. You need that aggressiveness to keep you aware and in a combat mindset so we are ready for anything."

Kelley, a Philadelphia native, who has completed two combat deployments in Afghanistan with the 'Lava Dogs," said it's important to maintain that level of aggressiveness even during peacetime. He said it can be hard for the Marines to keep a combat mindset because they may think there's no chance of seeing combat, but it should not deter them from their training.

"As a squad leader it's my job to make sure they are keeping their minds focused on the training that we are doing," Kelley said. "It's important to always have a combat mindset because the Marine Corps is the United State's expeditionary fighting force, and we always have to be ready."

Training like this supports the mission of Marine Corps Base Hawaii by enhancing and sustaining combat readiness.

Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, move in a fire team while conducting military operations in urban terrain training at Training Area Boondocker aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 15.

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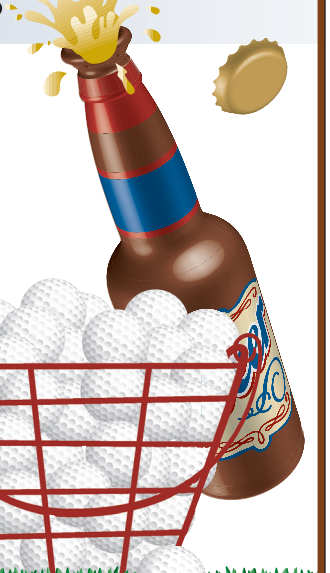

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Installation Personnel Administration Center Marines play volleyball during the Headquarters Battalion Appreciation Day at the Desert Winds Golf Course, Sept. 18.

HQBN gives thanks with appreciation day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Headquarters Battalion promoted camaraderie and troop welfare with a battalion appreciation day at the Desert Winds Golf Course, Sept. 18.

Marines, sailors and their families socialized with people from around the battalion while participating in games such as dodge ball, football, volleyball and tug-of-war. Sgt. Maj. Abel Leal, sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, and Maj. Sean Merlin, executive officer, Headquarters Battalion, gave Marines the chance to drop their leaders into a dunk tank. Additionally, every person who attended received a raffle ticket for a chance to win a $175 gift certificate to the Main Exchange.

"The best part about being out here is that we get to meet people that we never get to see," said Cpl. Nicholas Illames, packaging specialist, Preservation, Packaging and Packing, Distribution Management Office. "We get to play sports with these Marines and grow closer as the battalion."

Various base entities, such as the Substance Abuse Prevention Program and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program provided displays to educate those in attendance.

"Most of us are stuck in our daily routines," Illames said. "being out here breaks us away from our everyday lives and gives us the opportunity to enjoy ourselves for the day."

Marine Corps Community Services, Bob Hope USO and National Communication Training Center sponsored the event.

"I enjoy being out here and out from behind a desk," said Sgt. Christopher Decosier, color sergeant, Combat Center Color Guard. "The best thing is being able to see the members of our command in a different light. It's refreshing."

The leadership of the battalion hosted the event to recognize the hard work of the service members in the battalion.

"I'm truly thankful to all the Marines, sailors and civilian employees for all that they do," said Lt. Col. Dennis Sanchez, battalion commander, Headquarters Battalion. "This means a lot to the Combat Center, to be able to get our Marines out here and break bread with one-another."

Pfc. Adam Gonzalez, administrative assistant, Installation Personnel Administration Center, plays cornhole during the Headquarters Battalion Appreciation Day at the Desert Winds Golf Course, Sept. 18.

Marines of Headquarters Battalion compete in a game of football during the Headquarters Battalion Appreciation Day at the Desert Winds Golf Course, Sept. 18.

Combat Center Events

Check out the Officer's Spouses' Club's Bunco Night at the Frontline Restaurant, tonight at 6 p.m. Show your pride by wearing a jersey from your favorite college or hometown team. Tickets are $15 and include a prize drawing. This event is open to all hands. Purchase tickets at www.ocs29palms.com.

Show off the results of your physical training at the Semper Fit hosted final race of the 4-6-8 Race Series, Sept. 29 at the PFT Course. The entry deadline for the 8-mile run is 7:30 a.m. The race is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. For more information or to register, call 760-830-4092.

Can't get enough of your favorite movies? Marine Corps Community Services is scheduled to host Movie Trivia Night, Sept. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Mameluke's Pub. Come dressed as your favorite movie character and enjoy food and drink specials as well as prizes throughout the night. This event is open to all hands. For questions or more information please call 760-830-8429.

For some friendly competition sign up for the Combat Logistics Battalion 7 hosted Birthday Ball Golf Tournament at Desert Winds Golf Course, October 1. Enjoy a fun and challenging golf tournament while supporting CLB-7 in fundraising for the Marine Corps Ball. The tournament is scheduled to kick off at 7:30 a.m. For more information or to register, call 760-401-6358.

Sunset Cinema

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6:00 p.m. – War Room, PG
9:00 p.m. – American Ultra, R
Saturday, September 26
12:30 p.m. – War Room, PG
3:00 p.m. – The Gift, R
5:30 p.m. – Fantastic Four, PG-13
8:00 p.m. – Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation, PG-13
Sunday, September 27
12:00 p.m. – Straight Outta Compton
3:00 p.m. – The Man from U.N.C.L.E., PG-13
5:30 p.m. – Hitman: Agent 47
8:00 p.m. – American Ultra, R
Monday, September 28
7:00 p.m. – Sinister 2, R
Tuesday, September 29
7:00 p.m. – Fantastic Four, PG-13
Wednesday, September 30
7:00 p.m. – The Gift, R
Thursday, October 1
6:30 p.m. – Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation, PG-13
Friday, October 2
6:00 p.m. – A Walk in the Woods, R
8:30 p.m. – No Escape, R

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To Grandma's house we go

Kids get more than milk and cookies in frightening, funny 'Visit'

NEIL POND

"The Visit"
Starring Olivia DeJonge and Ed Oxenbould
Directed by M. Night Shyamalan
Rated PG-13

Old people sure can be odd—and sometimes scary — to young 'uns.

Director M. Night Shyamalan riffs on that generational rift, with frightening and sometimes very funny results, in this tale of two teenage siblings sent to spend a week in rural Pennsylvania with the grandparents they've never met.

As their divorced mom (Kathryn Hahn) departs on a cruise with her new boyfriend, Becca (Olivia DeJonge) and her younger brother Tyler (Ed Oxenbould, from "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day") ship off via train to get to know her estranged parents, whom she hasn't seen in nearly 20 years.

Nana (Tony-winning Broadway actress Deanna Dunagan) and Pop-Pop (Peter McRobbie) are a bit strange, all right. She walks, runs and crawls around at night all ghost-like, in a white nightgown — and she projectile vomits on the floor and claws the walls. He thinks strangers are watching him, dresses up for a costume party that never happens, and squirrels something away in a shed behind the house.

Becca, a budding filmmaker, captures everything on camera for the movie she's making about her mother's childhood and the difficult relationship she had with her parents. As such, Becca's movie becomes much of our movie, as we watch her "found footage" as she or Tyler are shooting, viewing or editing it.

Writer/director Shyamalan has given us suspenseful movies before — "Unbreakable," "Signs," "The Sixth Sense," "The Village," "The Lady in the Water." It's easy to pick up here on some of his familiar themes: broken families, the mystical power of storytelling, otherworldly creatures, the "magic" of water. Becca's movie-within-the-movie feels almost like a tribute to the director's craft itself, with Becca and Tyler using filmmaking phrases like mise en scene and denouement. A deranged game of the board game Yahtzee veers for a moment into Quentin Tarantino territory. Beneath its carefully crafted scares, this is a very artful movie about movies, a story about stories, and a tale of a tale — with a trademark, last-minute Shyamalan twist.

"The Visit" has some truly hair-raising scares — and some genuine laughs. Many of the chuckles come from young Tyler, a wannabe rapper who uses female pop singers' names instead of curse words ("Oh, Shakira!") when he's in need of expletives. As the grandparents, Dunagan and McRobbie are old pros, TV and film veterans who keep the movie's nasty, bone-chilling surprises closely guarded secrets until it's time to spring them, when "The Visit" shifts from creepy to crazy and Nana and Pop-Pop's home becomes a modern-day, Hansel-and-Gretel house of horrors.

You'll squirm when Becca crawls deep inside the kitchen oven. You'll gasp when Tyler ventures into Pop-Pop's shed. And after the most outrageous, hilariously icky gross-out gag you'll see in any movie this year, you'll never look at an adult diaper the same way again. Don't say I didn't warn you.

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For more info, visit www.urecycle.org, or call 1-888-URECYCLE.

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

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2D 4:00 9:00

The Intern (PG13)
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Kids Klassified 305

Free Ads! – If you are between the ages of 12 -17 and are looking for work after school, bring your ID to the Hi-Desert Star or Desert Trail office and We will give you a free ad in this classification.

Do you need landscaping or yard work done in the Twentynine Palms area?! I'm your guy! Experienced 17 year old looking for work. Call Tate 760-498-8487

Announcements 400

NOTICE TO READERS – California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total $500 or more (labor or materials) must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling 800-321-CSLB. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than $500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

To place your classified ad call 760-365-3315 or submit ad online : www.hidesertstar.com

Hi Desert Publishing Co.

PSYCHIC 1 free question by phone. Call NOW! 760-699-3655 • 760-363-2048

Instructional 425

Classes Offered!
American Red Cross is offering First Aid/CPR, CPR/AED for professional Rescuer and Health Provider, Babysitters Training, Blood borne Pathogens, CA Child care First Aid. We are also offering courses for businesses, corporations and Health care clinics at your location and for your employees' convenience. For more information contact the Riverside Chapter @ 888-831-0031

Services 435

Jones Landscape Designs Xeriscape, hardscapes, college educated, **50% OFF Design fee.** Free consult. Call Mark (760) 974-9323

Help Wanted 300

Services 435

GENERAL POLICY – Please check your ad the first day it runs to see that all the information is correct. This will ensure your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us the very first day your ad appears to make any changes or corrections. This way, we can credit you for the first day if any error occurred. The Publisher wants to do everything possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your products or services to your best advantage. The newspaper does reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or illustration.

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Services Offered Policy – This newspaper does not accept responsibility for services offered, by any advertiser, using this newspaper. Please carefully evaluate any services advertised, and do not use that service unless you have checked the references, and know and understand all terms of agreement and conditions between you and the advertiser.

California State law requires that contractors, builders, and landscapers who perform work for $500 or more, including materials and labor, must be licensed. License numbers should be so indicated in their advertising.

Family child care providers are required by state law to be licensed, and facility license numbers must be indicated in all advertising.

Unlicensed contractors should also be indicated in their advertising.

Please refer questions to Contractors State License Board, 1250 East Cooley Drive, Suite 200, Colton, CA 92324

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Repairs, Renovations, References, 30 yrs Exp. Drywall, Painting, Textures, Stucco Repairs, Plumbing, Electric. 760-660-1678

Help Wanted 300

Appliances 500

Blair's Appliances Appliances, NEW and USED on **SALE! FREE Service call w/ repair.** Open 9-5 55825 29 Palms Hwy. 760-369-2504

Auto Parts 510

NEW DELUXE CHROME, Go Rhino Dominator IV Running Boards with Down Step for 2009-2013 Dodge Ram, Quad Cab. Never taken out of box. Box has only been opened $350 (Retails for $475-$575) Call 760-365-5174

Lost & Found 545

Missing; black, Samsung Note 4 at Base Theater,September 8. Reward for return. Call 760-361-3949 or or 760-401-4657.

Found: Car keys in the dirt 9/10/15 on the (N) side of Yucca Trail in YV. Text 760-636-2347. Describe set/ring.

Missing Grey Female Cat on medication 760-488-7275

LOST OR STOLEN: Red car hauler trailer, has side rails. It is older but has new tires, single axle. It was stolen from our house in Yucca Mesa and we would like it back. If you see it please let me know. $100 to get it back, no questions asked. 714-878-5304.

Desert Tortoise, Lg. female, found in the Alta Mesa/Aberdeen area. Call Wild Life Rescue (760) 819-2231

LOST Very friendly small fm Boxer mix, purple collar, is micro chipped, brown coat w white mussel & chest, last seen 9/17 off of 29 Palms Hwy & National Park Dr. If found please call 760-880-5973.

LOST fm Chihuahua, light brown & gray w white face, no collar, normal house dog,new to the 29P area, last seen 9/16 at Sahara & 29 Palms Hwy. Please call if found 760-498-6805.

FOUND Female dog, fawn colored, medium sized, mixed breed in the area of Cholla & Tamarisk. Call 760-853-0039

Misc. For Sale 550

FIREWOOD SALE!!! – Orange Oak, Avocado, Mxd hardwood. Full, 1/2, 1/4 Cords avail. Call (760) 401-1119

Electric Scooter, like new, runs good. $1000 obo (760) 418-5149

Beautiful Thomas Trianon organ for sale $150. Please call (760) 365-6832

Misc. Wanted 555

WANTED!1950s-60s traveltrailers. 10-24ft. Any condition no title ok. Cash buyer 818-261-5318 Local $$$$$

Pets & Supplies 565

Pitbull Puppys
6 weeks old, father's blue, mother's white $150ea. Please Call (760) 676-7415

Cycles 630

PRICE REDUCED!!! 1999 Yamaha motorcycle, model RC class AC $2,000 (760) 365-4748

RVs 635

2009 Jayco Jay Flight G2 30FT - Xlnt condition. Too many Xtras to list. $15,000. (760) 364-4953

2011 Keystone "Springdale" 28 ft. trailer. Fully loaded, half ton towable. $17,500 call/text (760) 408-7306