February 12, 2016 Since 1957 Vol. 60 Issue 6



Lance Cpl. Brandon Timko, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, signals an MV-22 Osprey aircraft pilot as it taxis during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 24. The installation conducts relevant live-fire combined arms, urban operations, and joint/coalition level integration training that promote operational forces' readiness.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. JOSELITO ARIBUABO

Aircraft maintainers with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, participated in Integrated Training Exercise 2-16, aboard the Combat Center, Jan 20 - Feb 20.

The MV-22 Osprey is an American multi-mission, tiltrotor military aircraft with both a vertical takeoff and landing, and short takeoff and landing capability. Ospreys can convert from a helicopter to an airplane in midflight and then back to helicopter for landing allowing it to go to spots that similar type airplanes cannot go to. This capability allows for quick infiltration and extraction of troops in combat zones, rescuing and delivering supplies for humanitarian missions.

The shop follows strict preventative maintenance See **Tilt pg.** A6



Lance Cpl. Edgar Santibanez with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, wipes down the propulsion engine of an MV-22 Osprey during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 25.

Combat Center honors fallen pilots



A memorial for two pilots with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, who passed away following a mishap, last year; stands at the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 23. Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 completed the memorial in time to be unveiled on the anniversary of the incident.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 unveiled a memorial honoring two Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 pilots at the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Jan. 23.

The support squadron built the memorial to commemorate Maj. Elizabeth Kealey, pilot, and Capt. Adam Satterfield, co-pilot, and unveiled the project on the anniversary of the pilots' passing following a crash of their Bell UH-1Y Venom Light Utility Helicopter.

"We wanted something to memorialize those pilots because they lost their lives in the line of duty," said 2nd Lt. Benjamin M. Baltz, combat engineer platoon commander, MWSS-374. "HMLA-169 requested we build the memorial in time for the anniversary."

Construction for the memorial began months in advance. The memorial, located south of the SELF, stands completed at the location of the mishap.

"We began with all the groundwork before we put in the concrete and created a mold out of plywood," Baltz said. "The completed memorial is a ten by ten foot pad with [a pedestal] holding a mounted plaque."

Following the mishap, HMLA-169 held a memorial service in February of 2015 at the [HMLA-169] hanger in which hundreds of Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 39 gathered to pay their respects.

"Their detailed attention to the memorial and charitable contribution will undoubtedly be a location where Vipers can gather and reflect on the lives of Maj. Kealey and Capt. Satterfield," said Capt. Joseph F. Deignan, pilot, HMLA-169. "On the day of the unveiling, a small contingency of Vipers gathered around the memorial."

The ten pilots with HMLA-169 attended the unveiling to remember their fallen comrades.

"Their work came at a perfect time for the Viper family," Deignan said. "With the hard work of MWSS-374, HMLA-169 can continue to move forward in memory of its fallen few."

Recent change to PMO access control policy

STORY BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

The Provost Marshall's Office released a policy regarding access control and registration of vehicles aboard the Combat Center effective November, 2015.

In the past, the Combat Center utilized Department of Defense decals on vehicles to ensure individuals could receive access to the installation. The new policy regarding access control resulted in decals no longer being a recognized form of access control. Valid identification cards, such as a Common Access Card or Teslin, are now required to be presented and inspected to allow access for any individual.

"They previously allowed access to installations with the DoD decal," said Gunnery Sgt. James A. Meak, physical security chief, PMO. "Before, we required that personnel be vetted through the vehicle registration office; now, if you're a military member with a valid [military] ID, you're allowed to come aboard the installation and go about freely without a visitor pass."

According to Meak, this new procedure creates a streamlined process at the entrance gates while still ensuring everything is conducted in accordance with security requirements. Permanent residents must still register their vehicles upon arrival to the installation.

"For Marines [and civilians] stationed here, we still require them to register their vehicles aboard the installation," Meak said. "This gives us a snapshot of what we have and allows us to identify vehicles a lot easier versus running their license plates."

To learn more about the policy change regarding access, control and registration of vehicles aboard the Combat Center, contact the Provost Marshal's Office at (760) 830-6800.

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. Dalton A. Precht.



A CH-53 performs a whiteout landing during avalanche training at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Jan. 20.

A2 February 12, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Reprinted from the Observation Post February 10, 1984

CAX 4-84: Marines learn desert warfare skills

The Earth will shake and roar with the sounds of battle Wednesday, when Combined Arms Exercise operation) begins here.

Marines will face a simulated Soviet force. Enemy positions Exercise Evaluation Control Group (TEECG) controllers, as well as targets set up throughout the Delta Corridor.

Battalion Landing Team (BLT) nies to attack. 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, arrived at the

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Combat Center, Feb. 2, learning the finer points of desert mechanized warfare. Marines from the Center (CAX) 4-84 (a three-day live-fire instructed and assisted the Camp Pendleton Marines in lea rning to During the Exercise the adapt to a desert environment and in desert operations.

When H-Hour approaches will be simulated by Tactical Wednesday morning, artillery will begin to soften up enemy positions. Marine jets will bomb and lay smoke, providing close air support, allowing the mobile assault compa-

> With Tanks leading the way supported by TOW anti-tank jeeps, and

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amphibious tractors loaded with 25 combat equipped Marines each, the combined arms force (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) will attack through the Delta Corridor. During the three-day operation, the Marines will have traversed more than 40 miles of Mojave Desert.

Higher Headquarters (HHQ) Commander is Colonel J.A. Studds, 1st Marine Regiment, with Lieutenant Colonel P. Pace commanding the BLT- the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines from Camp Pendleton, Calif. Lieutenant Colonel W.C. Wolfe will com-

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mand the Aviation Combat Element (ACE), comprised of elements from MAG-13, MAG-16 and MAG-39, 3d MAW, Camp Pendleton, El Toro and Tustin, Calif. Major G. Hughey is responsible for Combat Service Support Detachment (CSSD)-12, 1st Force Service Support Group (FSSG), Camp Pendleton.

With the end of CAX 4-84 Friday, Marines will have experience three days and two nights of realistic desert training, learning the art of desert warfare at the Combat Center.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Fighting
- 5 Highland toppers
- 9 Entreated
- **13** Bit attachment
- **14** Skating jumps
- **16** Canal sites
- **17** A little lower?
- 18 "Walk Away " (1966 hit)
- **19** Jump on the ice
- **20** Unexpectedly
- 23 Baseball Hall of Famer Bobby
- 24 "The Lord of the Rings" villain
- 28 Extreme
- 29 Pos. and neg.
- 33 Christmas in Italia
- 34 Rude one
- **36** Linear
- **37** Unexpectedly
- **41** "|f| Hammer"
- 42 "Relax"
- **43** Get even for
- **46** Spin
- 47 Nincompoop
- **50** Forward progress
- **52** Cove
- **54** Unexpectedly
- **58** Old Testament twin
- **61** Block house?
- **62** Ringlet
- 63 Mannerly sort
- **64** Entanglement
- **65** Ore carrier
- **66** Wild
- **67** Guardianship
- 68 Kill, in a way

Down

- **1** Game keeper?
- 2 Kevin formerly of "S.N.L."
- 3 Worked the land
- 4 Have it

- 5 Twelve Oaks neighbor
- 7 Waiter's handout

- **12** Cable alternative
- 21 Head
- brand
- novelist
- **Flanders**

- 6 Sacks
- 8 Mushers' vehicles
- **9** Wok coater
- 10 Loose
- **11** Before, to poets
- **15** Driver's choice
- 22 Procter & Gamble
- 25 "Buddenbrooks"
- **26** Shake ___ (hurry)
- **27** Animated

- 30 Prospector's need
 - **31** "No !"
 - 32 Ratty place

 - **34** Superior talents
 - **35** Marathon
 - 37 Surfing need
 - **38** Noodle concoction?

 - 39 Beluga yield
 - 40 "Really!" **41** "Told ya!"
 - 44 D.C. campus

 - 45 "Weird" Al tune
 - **47** Magnetism
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Last week's answers

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OBSERVATION POST

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- 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.

- In Twentynine Palms:
- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd. - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.

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members from patronizing the following

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- 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

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Leif Carbondale, III. Fiscal clerk, Combat Logistics Company 13, Age: 19

HART PARTICIPATED IN MANY RE-ENACTMENTS FROM THE PRE-CIVIL WAR ERA IN HIS HOME TOWN AND ALSO ENJOYS LEARNING ABOUT AND USING COMPUTERS.

>Growing up I participated in many re-enactments mainly from [the period] just before the Civil War. I learned all sorts of skills like blacksmithing and how to fire cannons.

>The group I did the re-enactments with was really good at being realistic. There were times we were told not to do certain things because people thought it was real.

> also spent a lot of time camping and doing landscape type work. I learned how to make my own canoes and be allaround outdoorsy. It's fun and I have always enjoyed being outside.

>My father was a photographer. Growing up I was able to learn a little about Photoshop and other programs that would help my dad's business. I guess that was the start of my work on computers.

> did very little on computers while I was young. My parents thought there were more practical things to learn from being outside than being on a computer. However, I lived in a college town so there were plenty of other places that had computers for me to use.

>When I turned 13, I really started to love computers. My friends who were more into computers would teach me all sorts of cool tricks to make computers run better. [They also taught me how] to read computer code so I could create things like webpages and game servers.

>One of the reasons I like comput**ers** so much is because I'm able to receive instant gratification for my work. When you type a bunch of code and a webpage is created instantly it is really cool to see. It makes me feel like I'm in the Matrix or something.

> used to build computers out of parts that were thrown into recycling bins from the college students. At one point my school replaced their entire computer lab and I was able to pull all sorts of parts and monitors from them.

> I made friends with people taking advanced computer classes and learned so much about the different uses of computers and how they work. I was able to set up

my own email provider from my basement. I also ran four or five game servers from computers I built from recycled parts.

> joined the military to see more of the world. Joining the military taught me new things while having the opportunity to explore new places and meet new people.

>I haven't really had the opportuni**ty** to experience much of the Marine Corps but it's been a great experience so far. I want to see where I can go with the things I learn from my time here.

>I have only been here at Twentynine **Palms** for about three months. What's funny is my first impression of this place was, "this is a little bit like home." There are roughly the same amount of people on this base as there are in my home town and most of them are around the same age. This

base reminds me of a college town, except everyone wears the same clothes.

> I want to make the most of my time here. I would like to see some of the places surrounding the base. Getting camping gear and taking a weekend away from base would be a great way to see what else the area has to offer.





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Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Thomas Mudd





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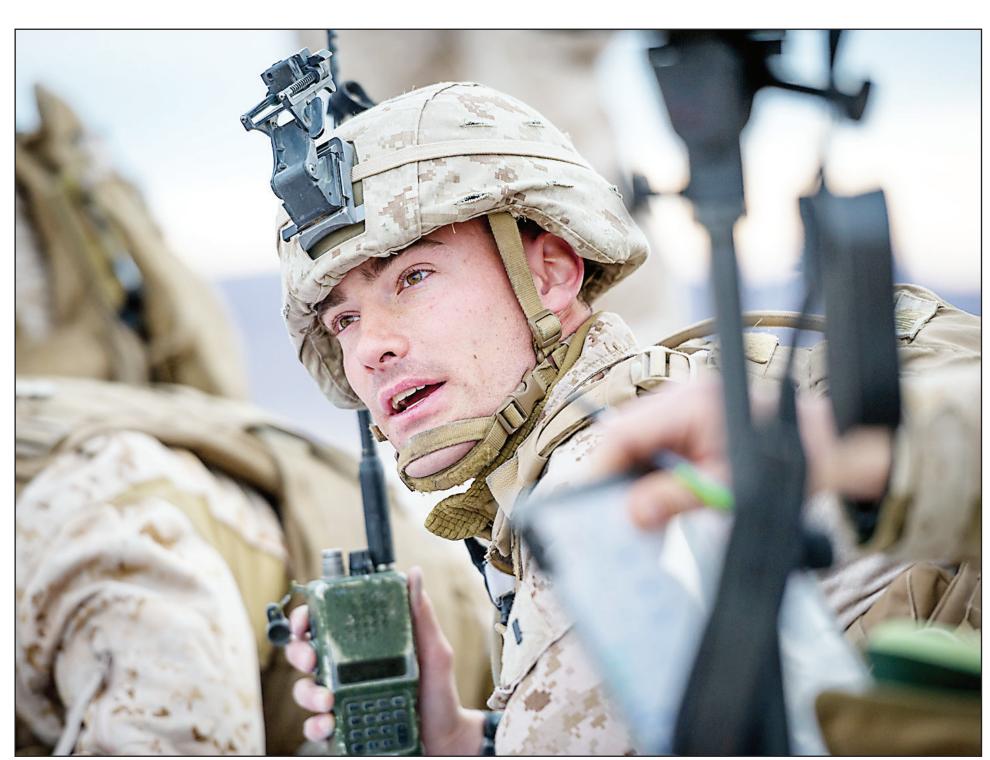
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A4 February 12, 2016 OBSERVATION POST

Indirect fires on t



1st Lt. David Shanks, artillery forward observer, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, coordinates fires assets during a fire support team event at Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 23. The installation conducts relevant live-fire combined arms, urban operations, and joint/coalition level integration training that promote operational forces' readiness.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JOHN NIMMO, SR.

Laying on the icy-cold rocks upon a ridgeline overlooking the valley, a small contingent of U.S. Marines have come together to lay waste to a simulated enemy under the watchful eye of a cadre of coyotes, also known as range controllers. It's fire support coordination training time at Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 23.

Unlike having a direct line of sight to your target, indirect firing of weapons is performed by calculating azimuth and elevation angles.

"The fire support team is a team that controls all of fairly atypical for a fire support team.

the indirect fires," said Sgt. Jacob Flurry, joint terminal attack controller, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance

In the arsenal of indirect fires, Marines use artillery, mortars, and fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

"We use communication equipment to coordinate their attack safely but effectively and try to achieve simultaneous actions, so we can support the maneuver element proceeding toward an objective area while they're covered by indirect fire support," explained Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Haack, air operations coyote, Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group.

Not having previous experience working together is

"When you form new teams, you have to build that cohesiveness and learn the nuances of how each person communicates," said 1st Lt. Zzmarr Stone, fire support team leader, 3rd LAR. "It took us about a day to iron out the wrinkles, but I think we're on the right track."

Off in the distance, far beyond that which is seen without the assistance of binoculars or other specialized spotting scopes, sits the virtual enemy.

"We started with two targets. One was an air defense asset," said Stone. "We're learning how to integrate our indirect fire assets and get [aircraft] safely in and out of the objective."

Being evaluated is nothing new to a U.S. Marine, and this timed assessment is no different.

"A well-executed fire support plan with no safety issues where the objective areas have been taken over by notional maneuver, we're calling that 'success," said Haack.

Sgt. Jacob Flurry, Joint Terminal Attack Controller, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, directs close-air support during a fire support team event at Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 23.



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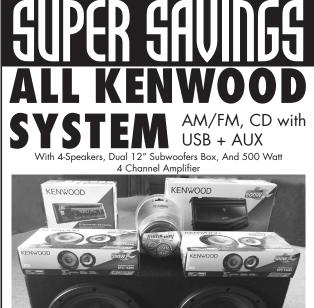
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FEBRUARY 12, 2016 A5 **OBSERVATION POST**

arget at ITX 2-16



Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Haack, air support operations operator, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, point out target objectives to a fire support team observer during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 23.



1st Lt. Zzmarr Stone, fire support team leader, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, coordinates fires assets during a fire support team event at Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 23.



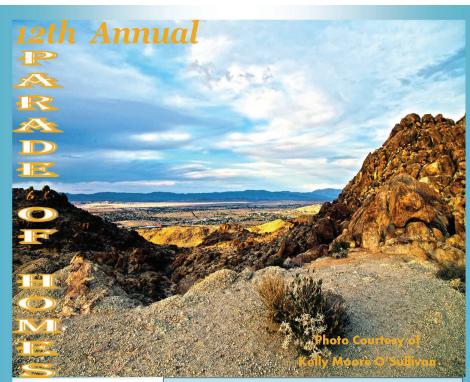
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Cpl. T. J. Cameron, artillery forward observer, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, spots fires assets on target during a fire support team event at Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 23.



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Thank you to our







A6 February 12, 2016 OBSERVATION POST



Cpl. Tucker Reed, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, performs preventive maintenance on an MV-22 Osprey during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 25.

Tilt from pg. A1

measures daily to hold the aircrafts at its high standard of capability. During continuous operations, maintainers must be diligent with their planned and unplanned maintenance, especially in dry, dusty environments, such as the Combat Center.

"Being able to work on a very unique aircraft that can take off vertically and also have the capability to fly like a plane is something not many people can brag about," said Cpl. Josue Alvarenga, aircraft maintainer, VMM-363. "As a participant in ITX 2-16, I'm able to practice and get more training, because what we do here is exactly the same in a deployed location."

In addition to checking key components and replacing faulty parts so the aircraft can be safe for flight, the training environment provides experienced Marines the opportunity to train junior Marines during the 12-hour shift on duty.

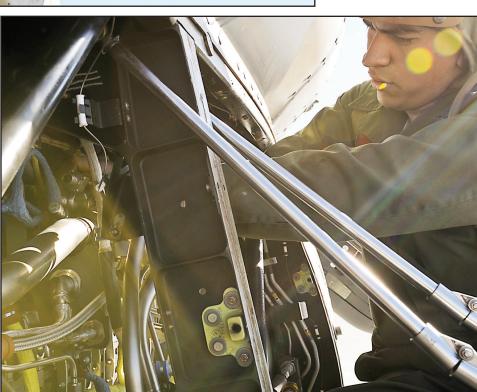
Alvarenga said that on the job training plays a key role, because junior Marines learn their jobs by watching and doing, and everything is hands on.

"I trained a junior Marine how to taxi an aircraft and he performed it well,"Alvarenga said. "It feels great to know that I was part of that."

ITX requires military personnel to perform their duties in detailed scenarios that replicate situations they may face in a deployed environment.

"ITX is a good learning curve for Marines who have never deployed before," said Cpl. Tucker Reed. "I can teach them how to operate in a field environment and complete the mission with very little resources that we have. Plus I enjoy doing it."

Without the hard work and attention to detail that flight line shop maintainers possess, the many missions carried out by the Ospreys would not be possible.



Cpl. Josue Alvarenga, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, replaces a cam plug on an MV-22 Osprey aircraft during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 24.



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Cpl. Josue Alvarenga, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, tests the battery of an MV-22 Osprey during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 25.

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OBSERVATION POST FEBRUARY 12, 2016 A7

$\star\star\star\star\star\star\star\star$ Around the Corps $\star\star\star\star\star\star\star\star$

MWSS-274 Marines conduct aircraft recovery training



Lance Cpl. Jordan Hice clears debris during an aircraft recovery training exercise at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, N.C., Feb. 2. The ability to retrieve aircraft without the aid of outside resources increases the unit's effectiveness and their expeditionary capabilities.



Staff Sqt. William Ford supervises an aircraft suspension during an aircraft recovery training exercise at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, N.C., Feb. 2.



Lance Cpl. Jacob Davis ties down an aircraft during an aircraft recovery training exercise at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, N.C., Feb. 2. Aircraft rescue and firefighting Marines, heavy equipment operators, bulk fuels specialists, motor transportation Marines and combat engineers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 worked hand-in-hand to retrieve a simulated downed aircraft.



Sgt. Kevin Vankoevering directs Marines during an aircraft recovery training exercise at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, N.C., Feb. 2. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 were given a scenario and were tasked to provide a security perimeter around the aircraft while securing and transporting the aircraft in a safe and effective manner.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. NEYSA HUERTAS QUINONES

MARINE CORPS AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD BOGUE, N.C.- The retrieval of downed aircraft is a dangerous, but crucial task for the Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron 274.

The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing unit honed their skills during an aircraft retrieval training exercise at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, Feb. 2.

Aircraft rescue and firefighting Marines, heavy equipment operators, bulk fuels specialists, motor transportation Marines and combat engineers worked handin-hand to retrieve a simulated downed aircraft. They were given a scenario and were tasked with providing a security perimeter around the aircraft while securing and transporting the aircraft in a safe and effective manner.

"There are multiple purposes for recovering an air-

craft," said 1st Lt. Joshua Adams, the motor transportation platoon commander with MWSS-274. "Recovering the aircraft gives us the ability to salvage parts off of it that may contain intelligence or special equipment. Recovering the aircraft also allows us to understand what happened during the crash."

MWSS-274's primary mission is to provide all essential aviation ground support requirements to a designated fixed-wing component of the Aviation Combat Element and all supporting or attached elements of the Marine Air the aid of outside resources increases the units' effective- accomplish the mission." ness and their expeditionary capabilities.

"This training exercise is the first time many of us have been involved in an aircraft recovery," said Lance Cpl. Michael Hayes, a motor vehicle operator with the squadron. "Knowing different scenarios and familiarizing ourselves with different approaches is

giving us a better grasp on the protocol with first hand experience."

According to Adams, the Marines are also familiarizing themselves with tactical aircraft recovery prior to their training deployment to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where the Marines will be evaluated on their ability to perform the recovery with speed and proficiency.

"We train how we would answer to these calls," explained Hayes. "When reality hits out on deployment, Control Group. The ability to retrieve aircraft without we will rely on the fundamentals we learned here to

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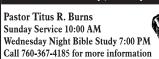


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TOUGH MINDED **OPTIMISM**

by Lou Gerhardt



I have great news for all of us. The brilliant Arthur Kunkin will offer a presentation at my Thursday morning seminar, February 25. It is titled "Be Healthy, Happy and 100 Plus." Don't miss it!

Art Kunkin is one of the most interesting men in our Hi-Desert. What a background! You name it and he has not only done it, he has excelled at it. Let me quote from his business card:

"I am an alternative investigative journalist who founded the L.A. Free Press and edited it from 1964 to 1972. I am also a past President of the Philosophical Research Society. For the last 30 years I have studied laboratory alchemy. I now teach others how to make the legendary Philosopher's Stone that can give a person many additional years of life. Please open www.alchemyrevealed.com to read about the Stone. I am an herbalist, artist, author, tribal elder, master machinist, grateful father and friend. I am also a teacher and student of meditations that heal, balance and evolve the four human bodies (physical, emotional, mental and These powerful techniques help people become happy, healthy, kind, successful, calm, powerful

In my judgment Art is one of the most intelligent men I know. He has an open mind, heart, and spirit and is growing in knowledge every day of his life. Art is 88 years of age with a trigger-sharp mind and a gentle spirit. I really admire this man.

I really believe Art's insight and wisdom will assist any person who attends my 10:00 AM February 25 seminar.

This column sponsored by:

Mark and JoAnn Reischman Landers

> Dr. Barry Mayron Yucca Valley

Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627 800-995-1620 res19mxc@verizon.net A8 FEBRUARY 12, 2016

OBSERVATION POST

Weekinphotos Exercise Iron Fist: Mine Charge



U.S. Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers detonate a Mine Clearing Line Charge to clear an obstacle, during a breaching training event, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 4. The MCLC contains 1,750 lbs of C4 explosives and is launched into a forward area by a rocket to clear a path.



U.S. Marines with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion place guiding stakes along a path cleared by a Mine Clearing Line Charge during a breaching training exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 4. As a part of Exercise Iron Fist, this training showed the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers techniques, tactics and procedures for breaching large obstacles, to help facilitate the creation of a Japanese Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade in 2018.



U.S. Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers fire a Mine Clearing Line Charge to clear an obstacle during a breaching training event aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 4. This training was a part of Exercise Iron Fist, an annual, bilateral training exercise conducted by the USMC and JGSDF to refine combined amphibious operational capabilities.

Photos by Cpl. Garrett White









February 12, 2016 Vol. 60 B Since 195

Learning occurs at Condor Elementary science night



STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Condor Elementary School hosted a science night on the school grounds, Tuesday.

The annual event is held in an effort to further educate students about the wonders of science and help them draw the connection between everyday occurrences and the scientific reasoning behind them.

"I think it's important to give children an opportunity to try new things and experiment while also having fun," said Karla Buchanan, science fair coordinator, Condor Elementary School. "We try to catch their interest in science with activities they enjoy doing, so that they want to

further their education in science."

Students from kindergarten to sixth grade submitted approximately 60 projects, which they displayed throughout the school. Additionally, family members participated in 20 different activities to include snap circuits, balancing boards, a music laboratory, and changing liquids to solids using ice cream.

"All the students and their families are invited because we have activities for everybody," Buchanan said. "The winners each receive a medal and a certificate with the top 10 projects from grades four through six continuing on to the district science fair."

Various judges from around the base judged each sci-

ence project the night before. During the night, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians provided an interactive experience for the children with their demonstration of TALON robots. Representatives from NREA and Hazardous Waste were also in attendance to educate children and parents about their respective topics.

"I was invited by Condor Elementary to come out and have a display, so we happily accepted," said Chris Elliott, water resources manager, NREA. "Being here provides us with an ability to spread the message of water conservation and provide education to the younger children so they can take those lessons, bring them home and hopefully further spread the conservation message."



Emma Fitch, 5, daughter of Tyler Fitch, military spouse, places food coloring Lucas Regan, 1, son of Sydney Regan, military spouse, plays the Xylophone into milk at the exploding milk station during Condor Elementary School's annual Science Night, Tuesday.



during Condor Elementary School's annual Science Night, Tuesday.



Staff Sgt. Abraham Libby, maintenance technician, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and his son Zachary Libby, 7, assemble snap circuits during Condor Elementary School's annual Science Night, Tuesday.



Brinley Long, 6, daughter of Brandi Long, military spouse, peers through a telescope during Condor Elementary School's annual Science Night, Tuesday.

B2 FEBRUARY 12, 2016

OBSERVATION POST



Combat Center Events

Marine Corps Community Services is taking registration for the 2016 Winter Dodgeball League starting Feb. 10. The league is open to active duty military, family members and NAF/DOD employees. To register, download the sign-up sheet at mccs29palms.com. For more information, contact 760-830-6857.

Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a Father Daughter Dance. This event is open to all fathers and their daughters aboard the Combat Center. Guests will enjoy light refreshments and a complimentary photo. Limited tickets are available, for more information call 760-830-5086.

Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a Motocross Jam Fest, March 12 from 12 to 4 p.m. Enjoy some entertainment with DJ Angie Vee and Emcee Kenny Bell. There will be food and beer concessions available. The event is open to all hands. For more information call 760-830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, February 12

5:00 p.m.- Point Break, PG-13 7:30 p.m.- Concussion, PG-13 10:00 p.m.- The Forest, PG-13

Saturday, February 13

12:00 p.m.- Daddy's Home, PG-13 2:00 p.m.- Joy, PG-13 4:30 p.m.- The Big Short, R 7:30 p.m.- The Forest, PG-13

10:00 p.m.- 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi, R

Sunday, February 14

12:30 p.m.- Point Break, PG-13 3:00 p.m.- Concussion, PG-13 5:30 p.m.- Joy, PG-13 8:30 p.m.- Ride Along 2, PG-13

Monday, February 15

11:00 a.m.- Norm of the North, PG

1:30 p.m.- The Revenant, R

5:00 p.m.- 13 Hours:

The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi, R

Tuesday, February 16 7:00 p.m.- Ride Along 2, PG-13

Wednesday, February 17

6:30 p.m.- The Revenant, R

Thursday, February 18 5:00 p.m.- Point Break, PG-13

7:30 p.m.- Daddy's Home, PG-13

Friday, February 19

5:00 p.m.- Norm of the North, PG 7:30 p.m.- Ride Along 2, PG-13

10:00 p.m.- 13 Hours:

The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi, R





Where The Wild Things Are

Leo DiCaprio is an unstoppable force of nature in 'The Revenant'

NEIL POND

"The Revenant"
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy
and Domnhall Gleason
Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu
Rated R

Had a tough week? Well, chances are your tales of woe won't stack up very high against Hugh Glass, the 19th century American frontiersman portrayed by Leo DiCaprio in The Reverent. In the course of this rip-roaring winter wilderness tale, Glass is mauled by a grizzly bear, buried alive, attacked by Indians, swept into the rapids of a freezing river and chased—atop his galloping horse—off a high cliff.

"I ain't afraid to die anymore," he says at one point. "I done it already."

Glass eats birds, raw fish, bison guts and moose marrow, and de-bowels an animal carcass to crawl inside, naked, for a cold night's sleep.

DiCaprio's already received a 2016 Golden Globe award and a Critics' Choice prize for his visceral, punishingly physical performance, and The Revenant took other top Golden Globes for its director, Alejandro González Iñárritu, and for best motion picture drama. Now it's headed for the Oscars in late February, and buzz is building about how this year and this movie could be the one to finally net Leo his first Academy Award.

Based on a 2002 novel by Michael Punke, The Revenant is a gritty, brutal tale of tragedy, betrayal, survival, endurance, violence and vengeance. (Its title means someone who has returned, especially from the dead.) It begins as Glass, an experienced wilderness guide, and the hunting expedition he's been hired to lead are ambushed by Arikara Indians somewhere near what is modern-day South Dakota. In a magnificent, sweeping sequence that's like Saving Private Ryan only with bows

and arrows, most of the party is mowed down in mud by a river; Glass and several others escape, including his young, half-Indian son.

And troubles are just beginning—especially for Glass. In one of the film's most harrowing sequences, a bear mauls him almost to death when he comes between her and her cubs. He gets no sympathy from the vicious, greedy Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy), who considers Glass dead weight and thinks they'd all be better off if he was put out of his misery.

Fitzgerald also doesn't care very much, either, for Glass' son, whose mother—Glass' Pawnee wife—was killed in a raid by American cavalrymen.

Fitzgerald's dastardly deed sets the rest of the movie in motion, and director Iñárritu—who last year won acclaim and awards for Birdman—makes the stark, inhospitable desolation of the frontier (much of the filming was done in Alberta, British Columbia) look stunning, lyrical and often beautiful as Glass claws his way back to "civilization," like an unstoppable force of nature, seeking the man who robbed him of the only thing he had left.

This is a raw, richly elemental movie. The screen swells with earth, air, sky and water. You don't just watch it, you feel it—the cold, the wet, the pain, and the primal emotions that drive the characters. At times you almost lose DiCaprio beneath his gnarly beard and matted hair, and there are long stretches where the only sounds are grunts, growls, whoops or howls. Trees figure prominently into symbolism and hallucinogenic dream sequences. There's a strong underlying message about America's indigenous peoples, their mistreatment and the exploitation of America's resources.

It's strong stuff, and won't be everyone's cup of frontier stew. But if you'd like a reminder of just how "wild" the western wilderness really was—just how much will, resources and resolve it took to survive in it—The Revenant serves up a spectacularly jarring, frequently jolting dose.



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- Collections Assistant- The Hi-Desert Nature Museum is currently seeking assistance with collections and exhibit related tasks. Days needed are Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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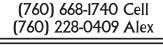
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1st Marine Division Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Retired Marine Sqt. Maj. Martin Vasquez and Maj. Gen. Daniel J. O'Donohue, commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, attach campaign streamers to the division colors during a Battle Colors Rededication Ceremony in honor of the division's 75th anniversary, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 4. Veteran and active duty Marines and sailors who served in the division over the years participated in the ceremony, celebrating the oldest, largest, and most decorated division in the Marine Corps.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. WILLIAM PERKINS

Marines and Sailors gathered in front of 1st Marine Division's historic, "White House," which serves as the unit's headquarters building, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the oldest, largest, and most decorated division in the Marine Corps, Feb. 4.

Retired and veteran Marines and sailors, some members of the 1st Marine Division Association, were also on hand to join in honoring the proud legacy of the division.

The 1st Marine Division was formed Feb. 1, 1941, and not long afterward, its Marines found themselves fighting in the harsh, tropical islands of the Pacific during WWII.

During the next 75 years, Marines and sailors of the division would distinguish themselves in every clime and place from Korea to Vietnam, and from Iraq to Afghanistan.

The day of celebration began with a

Battle Colors Rededication Ceremony, during which veteran and active duty Marines replaced streamers signifying campaigns and unit awards on the unit's Marine Corps flag. Later, anniversary attendees dined together and cut a unit birthday cake while listening to a speech from the 1st Marine Division

J. O'Donohue. Marines as young as 19 and as old as 92 came from all over the country to share pride in the unit's legacy; a trait common to all who serve in the "Blue Diamond."

commanding general, Maj. Gen. Daniel

"What sets us apart is the history of the division," explained Sgt. Maj. William T. Sowers, the division sergeant major. "When we were formed just before World War II, we were most ready when the nation was least ready."

There's an instant connection between Marines who have served abroad during times of war, as most of those in attendance had, added Sowers. It's common ground the veterans are not likely to find



Mike Mervosh, a member of the 1st Marine Division Association, passes a piece of the ceremonial cake to Pfc. Dominic Wynn, an administrative clerk assigned to Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Mar. Div., symbolizing the passing of knowledge and traditions to the next generation, at a ceremonial dinner aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 4.

among their civilian counterparts.

"This is the second time that I've been to this ceremony," said Jack D. Shelver, a rifleman who served in the Korean War with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Mar. Div. "It's pretty stirring; it brings back a lot of memories."

In the days preceding the ceremony, the veteran Marines toured the base, visiting some of their old units and speaking with Marines who currently serve in them, Shelver said. There were static displays of modern equipment including weapons and vehicles the veterans could see up close.

Association members fired at electronic targets in the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, had lunch with young Marines at a chow hall, saw observation equipment and sniper rifles at 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, walked the dozens of M777 lightweight howitzers at the 11th Marines gun park, and watched as recruits navigated obstacles during the Crucible- the culminating event of recruit training that

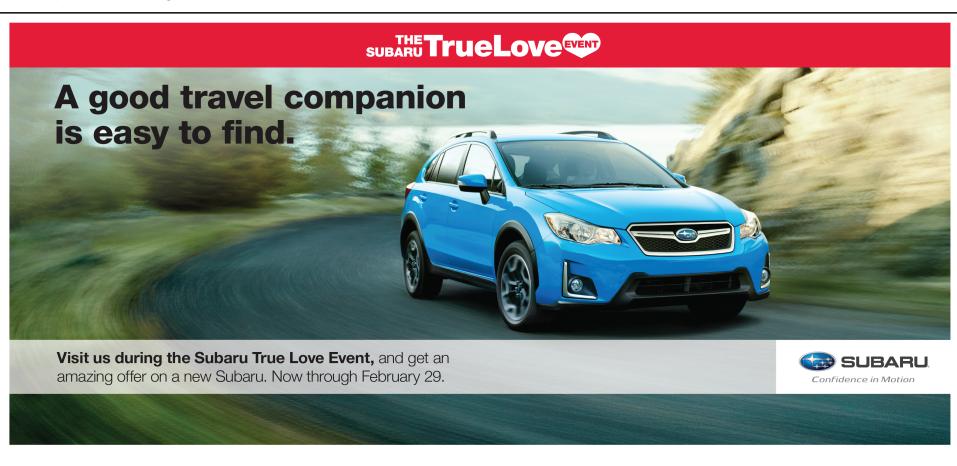
would mark them as ready successors to the veterans themselves.

The veterans said they liked spending time with the Marines who are continuing their legacy, but those active-duty Marines also found value interacting with their predecessors.

"What I've taken away from the veterans is just how much of a brotherhood we have as Marines," said Sowers. "To see them come back here, reliving their youth, visiting the areas that they were at before leaving for war, it brings back a rush of emotion for them. Just being able to witness that is very inspiring."

Despite changing technology, and changing global politics, the Marines of the 1st Marine Division remain largely unchanged after 75 years, Sowers said.

"The division is just like it was during the times of Guadalcanal," Sowers stated. "The same warrior heart is inside of all these young men and women. If called upon, this division is prepared to do what the nation needs, just like the generations before it."



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