Vol. 60 Issue 7 February 19, 2016



An M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank with Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, advances along a road while receiving indirect-fire support from artillery during a Tank Mechanized Assault Course in the Quackenbush Training Area as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center Feb. 9.

# STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

The cadence of artillery and mortar fire echoing off the hillside was accompanied by a melody of humming engines as Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, engaged a notional adversary over a vast desert landscape.

A Co. joined forces with multiple elements of a Marine Air Ground Task Force to form 'Team Tank' during a large scale assault known as a Tank Mechanized Assault Course as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 in the Quackenbush Training Area aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.

"The TMAC takes the tank company that is here in support of the regiment and allows them to execute as a Team Tank," said Master Sgt. Timothy P. O'Brien, tank leader, Co. A, 1st Tanks. "We take two tank platoons with an attached infantry platoon and allow them to execute a combined-arms, live-fire event where there is a breach involved."

Alongside the tank platoons and infantry platoon with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the combined



Two M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks with Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, post security along a road during a Tank Mechanized Assault Course as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 in the Quackenbush Training Area aboard the Combat Center Feb. 9.

anti-armor team also with "You have a lot of dif- allowed them to simulate 2/7 and engineers with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, supported the push across the training area. Additionally, artillery, mortars and closeair support provided the indirect-fire necessary to advance through the cor-

"Trying to get everything to come together at one time the right way is always a challenge," O'Brien said.

ferent agencies from across the MAGTF coming together in one place to put their rounds on the same objective. It's a great opportunity to bring everything together and see all the different elements of a MAGTF."

According to Capt. Andy S. Beavers, company commander, A Co., 1st Tanks, the exercise provided an opportunity for the Marines to experience a host of challenges that

situations they would see on a battlefield.

"We did the TMAC with the intent of executing the capabilities and strengths of Team Tank in maneuver warfare to allow us to close with and destroy an enemy mechanized infantry company," Beavers said. "We were able to execute our fire-support procedures using our company fire-support teams. Additionally, we had support from fixed and rotary

See TMAC p. A7

# PWD, LMH bands together during power outage

STORY BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Last week, Ocotillo and Fairway Heights residents experienced an extended power outage. Multiple installation and local entities joined forces and worked diligently to restore power and accommodate Combat Center residents in their time of need.

Ocotillo was the first housing area to be affected by the outage and upon investigation of its substation, Public Works Division discovered damage to a portion of its breaker. The cause of this initial damage is still under investigation. In following standard operating procedures, some power was then drawn from the Fairway Heights substation to supply Ocotillo. This then resulted in the failure of that substation as well.

"This was one of those outlier situations that are difficult to plan for," said Lt. Cmdr. James Stewart, public works officer, PWD. "We are looking at what future projects are necessary to improve the robustness of our utility systems to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of electricity, water and gas."

During the power outage, the tireless efforts of PWD, a department of G-4 Installations and Logistics, and civilian contractors served a critical role in ensuring electricity was restored as quickly as possible.

PWD, as part of G-4 Installations and Logistics, works continuously to maintain and improve infrastructure aboard the installation to keep the Combat Center a rewarding and satisfying place to live."

~ Col. Jay Wylie, Assistant Chief of Staff for G-4 Installations and Logistics

"The original power outage occurred on February 4 in the Ocotillo Heights housing area," Stewart said. "It took two bucket trucks, a crane, and a service cable service truck, combined with outside contractors and a PWD team of approximately 25 high-voltage linemen, electricians, testing technicians, safety technicians and electrical engineers to get the power back on. It was truly a team effort."

Lincoln Military Housing, in conjunction with Marine Corps Community Services, joined in the efforts by providing residents with interim accommodations. The Ocotillo Club house remained open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, providing residents with subsidized meals, ice, Wi-Fi, movies, and video games.

"Lincoln Military Housing went above and beyond for the residents of both Ocotillo and Fairway Heights during the six-days that we were without power," said Bree Salas, resident, Ocotillo Heights. "They sent email updates twice a day, offered ice and coolers, made meals available, opened their office for extended hours, and tried to make events to keep the kids busy in the dark hours of the evening.'

Additionally, as service members often do, many Combat Center residents opened their homes to those who were affected.

"This event highlighted the community spirit of the Combat Center," said Col. Jay Wylie, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 Installations and Logistics. "As several unaffected residents offered support for those [without power]."

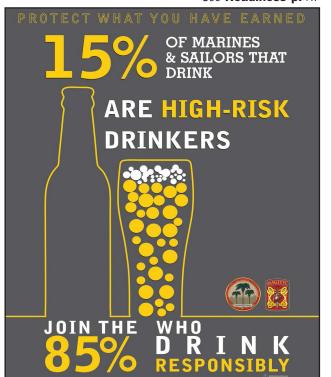
See Power p. A7

# **Marines and sailors** maintain readiness

BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

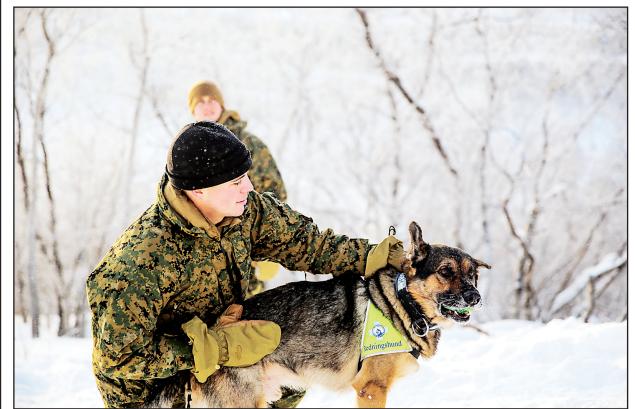
The Combat Center is participating in the Protect What You've Earned Campaign. The campaign is a Corps-wide initiative to encourage Marines and sailors to maintain safe drinking practices, which in turn protects their title, rank and career.

According to Bill Smith, alcohol prevention specialist, Substance Abuse Program, the installation has been addressing the issue of alcohol abuse before See **Readiness p.** A7



# **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. Immanuel Johnson.



Capt. Robert Mortenson, a company commander with Black Sea Rotational Force, spends time with a Norwegian search-and-rescue dog during cold-weather training aboard Skoganvarre, Norway, Feb. 5.



**Reprinted from the Observation Post** February 18, 1958

# **155 Guns Simulate Naval Fire** For "Naval Gunfire Spotters"

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Simulated Naval Gunfire echoed across the desert firing ranges here last week as the 1st and 2nd 155 GunBtrys became "battleships" for the Naval Gunfire Spotter Teams assigned to Camp Pendleton's 11th Marines. The two gun batteries fired some 580 rounds of varied ammunition in the Fox-Trot area from February 11 to February 14.

Firing at a range of 14,000 yards the 155 Guns simulated the 5 inch guns of hypothetical supporting fleet located just off-shore. Several miles inland, Naval Gunfire Spotter Teams manned Forward Observation Posts and divided the ships batteries onto their targets.

From the OPs, the teams spotted and adjusted each fire mission, relaying the information to the Fire Direction Center via radio. FDC, upon receipt of the fire mission, converted the data

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into a firing order and transmitted the command to the "ships" via the Executive tent.

This field firing was part of the annual training exercises designed to indoctrinate and acquaint Naval Gunfire Spotting Team with the capabilities and limitations of Naval gun fire, and to teach the duties of the forward observer. The 155 Guns were used because of the similarity to the Naval 5 inchers.

During the exercises, the communications system and Observation Posts were manned by 40 personnel from the 11th Marines under the direction of Lt. R. T. Clark (USN). The detachment included eight Naval officers and 32 enlisted Marines.

This type of training exercises aid the FOs and FDC in coordinating proficiency in carrying out the concept of Naval Gunfire Support to the land forces.

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# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

# **CAMERON HANLON**

Born November 13, 2015 Born to Matthew and Rosalyn Hanlon

# **ETHAN JAY ROWBOTTOM-MARTINEZ**

Born November 14, 2015 Born to Zachary Rowbottom and Briana Martinez

## **CHARLES THOMAS WILLEFORD**

Born November 16, 2015 Born to Harrison and Kimberley Willeford

# KAIDEN JAMES FRYMIRE

Born November 17, 2015 Born to James Frymire and Denecia Weekes

**BLAKELYN AURORA UPCHURCH** Born November 18, 2015 Born to Evan and Sarah Upchurch

# **LUCIANO EDMUNDO GEORGI**

Born November 25, 2015 Born to Ernesto and Bridgette Georgi

# **MADELINE BROOK BEBEDJIAN**

Born November 27, 2015 Born to Simon and Lauren Bebedjian

## **NINA YVETTE ANSLEY**

Born November 27, 2015 Born to Antwan and Elizabeth Ansley

# CROSSWORD

- 1 " show time!"
- 4 Graze
- 7 Trickery
- 10 Capp and Capone
- **13** Vet
- 14 Panting dog, e.g.
- 16 Upholstery problem
- 17 "I'm impressed!"
- 18 Insulin regulates the amount of it in the blood
- 19 Nashville-based awards org.
- 20 "You choose"
- 23 Meteorological effects
- 25 Kind of grass
- 26 Some small batteries
- 27 Rush job notation
- **28** "Alley !"
- **30** Heavy water, for one
- 31 Classic children's nursery song
- 35 Remote abbr.
- **36** "I got an \_\_\_ my test!"
- **37** 1970 Jack Nicholson film
- 45 Some grape sodas
- 46 Put to work **47** Orange juice feature
- 48 Harem rooms
- 49 Car ad abbr.
- 51 Hardly a he-man
- **52** 1955 Marilyn Monroe movie, with "The"
- **56** Chopper
- 57 Better
- 58 Publicity, slangily
- **61** Hula hoop?
- **62** Early MP3 sharing site
- **63** Ninny
- **64** Summer hrs. in D.C.
- 65 " luck?"

66 Common ID

67 Big Apple inits.

# Down

- 1 Phrase of commitment
- **2** Extremely
- 3 Librarygoer
- 4 Nips
- **5** 1968 folk album
- de force
- 7 Football's Bowl
- 8 Change, as a clock
- 10 Extremely old
- 11 Citrus drink 12 Spread out
- **9** Early smartphone

- 21 Slangy denial
- 23 Pillbox, e.g.
- 32 Nights before **33** Those opposed

- 15 Cousins of squids
  - 22 Kind of stand
  - 24 Volcano output
  - 28 Wind up on stage?
  - **29** Earthen pot
  - 30 All: Prefix

  - 34 Numbskull
- 37 Overnighted, perhaps
- 38 "Eureka!"
- 39 Workbench
  - attachment 40 Body substances

- 41 Huge
- 42 Banquette item
  - 43 Golfer Ernie
  - **44** 007, for one
- 45 Key on some registers
  - 49 "Homey!"
  - **50** Full of energy
  - 51 Unsmiling
  - 53 Columbus ship
  - 54 Goes bad
  - 55 "Concord Sonata" composer
  - 59 "Uh-uh"
  - 60 No Clue

# **SUDOKU**

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Last week's answers

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- In San Diego: - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
- Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St. - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
- -Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St. In National City:
- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave. Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

# In Twentynine Palms:

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd. - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd. In Yucca Valley:
- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy. - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
- In Palm Springs: - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
- Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines. **OBSERVATION POST** FEBRUARY 19, 2016 A3

# **WHAT I'VE LEARNED**

# Brandon Russell, Arkansas, Landing support Specialist, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 RUZ

Ruiz plays outside linebacker for his unit's football team. He began playing football in the fourth grade and was drawn to the sense of brotherhood that came from working as a team.

>I'm a really big sports fanatic and love to work out so that takes up all my time. Sports seasons are held throughout the year, so there is always something to keep me busy. Football, basketball and baseball are my favorites.

>As a landing support specialist I work in logistics for my unit. We could be compared to a shipping service and are capable of loading and unloading ships, aircraft and vehicles.

**>Our unit team,** combined with Combat Logistics Company 13, won against the other teams on base and had the opportunity to play in the 'Best of the West,' against a team from [Marine Corps Base Camp] Pendleton last year.

>In a way, football can be a lot like the Marine Corps. It's like being a part of a big team. When times are tough, they are tough for everyone and it builds relationships. When you're going through the 'ups' together it's a great feeling.

>My favorite thing about sports is the team aspect. In sports and in life, you really can't do everything yourself. While on a team, you either all lose or all win. It takes 100 percent from everyone on a team to achieve success.

>My mother was the reason I first got into football. At the time, I had too much free time on my hands so my mom put me in sports to keep me busy. I've loved it from the start.

>My first experience playing football on a team was when I was in the fourth grade. In the south, people tend to worship football. In my hometown, sports can be more like a religion then a game. Your team loves you, your town loves you and even the surrounding towns love you. You can go to local restaurants and eat for free because they appreciate you so much.

>The hardest part about football is getting everyone on the same page, working together.

>Of course I'm a Razorbacks fan. I usually don't watch the [National Football League] because I don't care to watch the people who play to get paid. A professional player doesn't have as much heart as someone in college trying to make it to the NFL.

>For basketball, I'm a Lakers fan. For baseball, I tend to watch individual players rather than a team itself.

>My belief is that in sports, if your team is solid and is close as a family, it is going to be hard for you to be beat.

>I have two older brothers and



one younger brother. My brothers played a major role in my sports career. They were my biggest fans. I watched my older brother play through high school and he watched me play. I watched my younger brother play through high school as well.

>I'm the first one in my family who joined the military. It's weird because I know a lot of people who have a long military background, but I can go as far back as I want and not find anything. It's a good feeling and it makes me proud to sav I served.

>I chose the Marine Corps because they're the best. Its cliché, but it's the hardest [branch] to make it in and I

don't like taking the easy way out. >What I like most about the Marine Corps is that the friends you make are more than likely going to be friends forever. It's a bond you create that you won't get anywhere else and it's a strong one.





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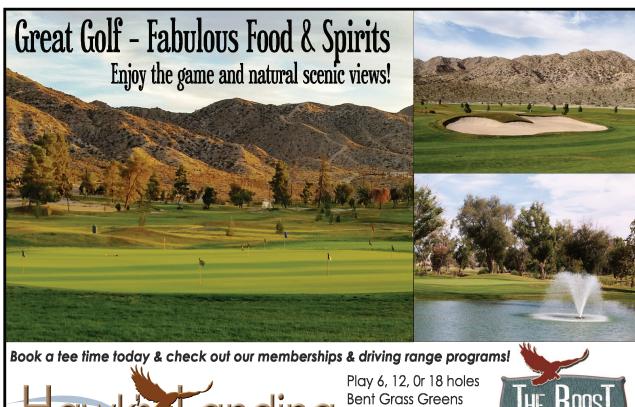
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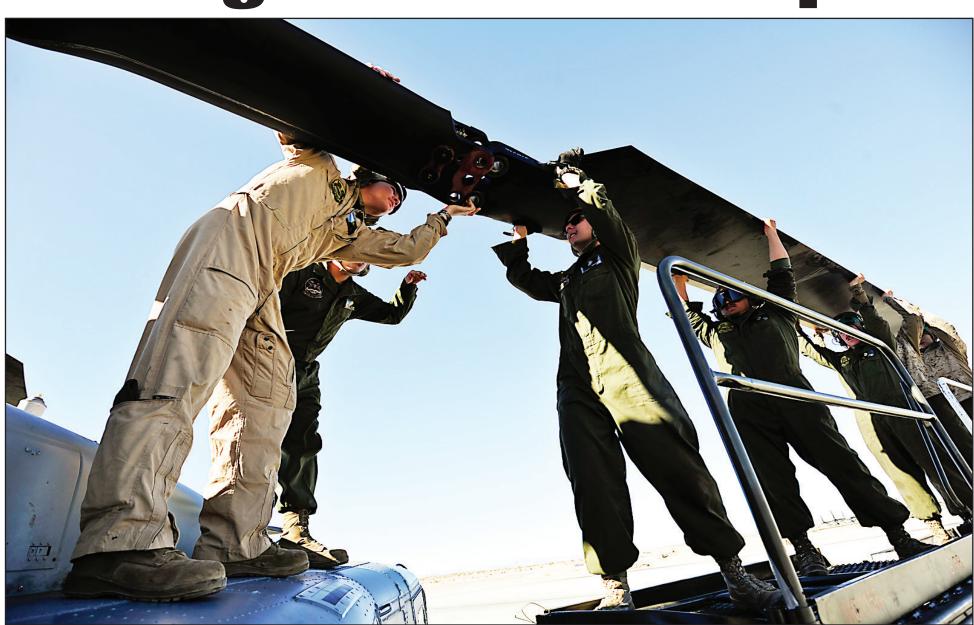


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A4 FEBRUARY 19, 2016 OBSERVATION POST

# 'Gunfighters' ensure quality



Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, replace a main rotor blade of a UH-1Y Huey helicopter during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 6. 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

Keeping military assets in tip top condition and mission ready day to day, especially in a high tempo environment, is a team effort. The quality assurance representatives of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, work hand-in-hand with aircraft maintainers to accomplish mission objectives during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16, aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 20 - Feb. 20.

Quality assurance is the overseer of safety in the maintenance department. QARs observe aircraft repairs ensuring that safety is not compromised in a high tempo environment similar to a deployed location, and maintenance is done within

guidelines once it's complete.

"Our aircraft and crew has to be ready at a moment's notice, Birds need to be launched within minutes, especially for troops in contact for support whether it's in a training or real world scenario," said Master Sgt. Allen Meade, quality assurance chief, HMLA-369. "Our role is very important because we make sure that everyone is doing their job correctly."

Meade explained that with high turnover rate and new Marines coming in taking up new billets and qualifications, ITX is a good training experience for them. Everyone works, coordinates and cooperates together during the 30-day training exercise. The focus is to get the job done and work around the challenges; and this experience

gives everyone an idea of what to expect if they are deployed.

"I like being a quality assurance representative because I have maintenance experience already," said Sgt. Andrew Fisher, quality assurance representative, HMLA-369. "Being able to help someone do their job correctly and safely is a big deal because I already have the expertise to do it right."

QARs can make difficult decisions to postpone or stop sortie missions at anytime based on the quality of maintenance, if the repairs to the aircraft and components are not within guidelines the aircraft will not be certified for flight. It's important that QA provide Marines the most up to date manuals and guidance so they have the information on how to make effective repairs.

"I'm happy to have a seasoned senior team during this exercise," said Meade. "Having subject matter experts is a benefit because they have the background and qualifications already to accomplish QA and maintenance tasking. This is an opportunity to provide on the job training for the junior Marines as well."

Quality and safety go hand-in-hand. It is not possible to have a safe aircraft without some sort of quality assurance program. A good QA program is important to Marines because it creates a workplace where they can develop their skills and learn more about their maintenance process. It creates mutual respect and the confidence that the aircraft and crew is safe to provide support and mission success.





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OBSERVATION POST FEBRUARY 19, 2016 A5

# assurance during ITX 2-16



Cpl. Josue Alvarenga, aircraft maintainer, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, organizes his tools during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 6.



Sqt. Andrew Fisher, quality assurance representative, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, observes Marine aircraft maintainers for safety and work quality during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.



Cpl. Josue Alvarenga, aircraft maintainer, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, performs maintenance on a rotor blade of an MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft during



Master Sgt. Allen Meade, quality assurance chief, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, reviews aircraft test data during Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 9.







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A6 FEBRUARY 19, 2016

OBSERVATION POST

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# **CASTLE MOUNTAINS**

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**OBSERVATION POST** FEBRUARY 19, 2016 A7

# TMAC from pg. A1



An M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank with Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, awaits close-air support during a Tank Mechanized Assault Course as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 in the Quackenbush Training Area aboard the Combat Center Feb. 9.



An M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks with Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, scans for adversaries while traversing through the Quackenbush Training Area Tank Mechanized Assault Course as part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-16 aboard the Combat Center Feb. 9.

wing close-air support to assist in casualty evacuation procedures we could experience in a combat scenario."

The Marines and their commanders faced many challenges throughout the exercise, which often revolved around coordinating the different moving parts as a cohesive fighting force.

"I feel we did well in having a strategy that allowed us to remain flexible in the offense when things didn't go according to plan," Beavers said. "The simplicity of the plan allowed us to change task organization and use secondary forms of breaching when problems

arose and original capabilities weren't able to accomplish the mission."

Beavers said the exercise is of great importance to not only the tank community but the Marine Corps as a whole and provided a great opportunity for A Co. to experience operating as part of a MAGTF.

# Power from pg. A1

vices provided through- to keep Ocotillo and

In addition to the ser- two Town Halls held out the week, there were Fairway Heights residents

informed. Futhermore, according to Wylie, those affected by the power outage will not receive utility billing for the

month of February.

"PWD, as part of G-4 Installations and Logistics, works continuously to improve maintain and

has its own

Find it at

infrastructure aboard the installation to keep the Combat Center a rewarding and satisfying place to live," said Wylie. "Our ser-

vice members and families are the cornerstone of this installation and we are constantly refining the many ways we can serve them."

# Readiness from pg. A1

the last few years the amount of instances involving driving under the influence has steadily decreased. Between 2007 and 2015 the number of DUI's has decreased by 63%. With the Combat Center already making headway to prevent alcohol related instances, the Protect What You've Earned Campaign will only further the installation's efforts to stop alcohol abuse.

"Marines and sailors earn

the start of the campaign. In their title," Smith said. "By drinking irresponsibly they put that title, and more, on the line. This campaign will help keep the base mission ready, and in return protect the Marine

> Combat Center leadership continues to educate their Marines and sailors on the risks associated with drinking by arming them with the tools and knowledge needed to make responsible choices.

Carleen Dickson, substance

abuse prevention specialist, SAP, says units have expressed an increased interest in substance abuse education programs such as the Primed for Life 4.5 class. "The class is geared toward people between the ages of 17 to 25," Dickson said. "It further explains the difference between low risk and high risk behaviors and how those behaviors affect the unit. With the units aboard the base asking for more of this class, we hope the Marines and sailors who participate take that knowledge and use it to safeguard themselves."

Low risk drinking is classified

by an individual drinking no more than 14 standard drinks in one week, with only drinking one standard drink per hour. Anything above this is considered high risk drinking. Marines and sailors take care of the individuals to their left and right. They can do this one responsible decision at a time.

"One of the things that we tell people to do is to self-refer," Dickson said. "A 'self-referral' is when an individual comes in to receive help before they get into trouble. If people self-refer then we can help them make decisions that will not jeopardize their health, their unit's readiness or their careers."

Alcohol abuse affects more than unit readiness. There are repercussions to the individuals' health and their actions can affect their friends and loved ones. It is the choice of the Marine or sailor to make a responsible decision but the Combat Center affords these service members the resources and support that are sometimes needed. For any information regarding help with substance abuse, contact the SAP office at 760-830-6376.



http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter



http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO.

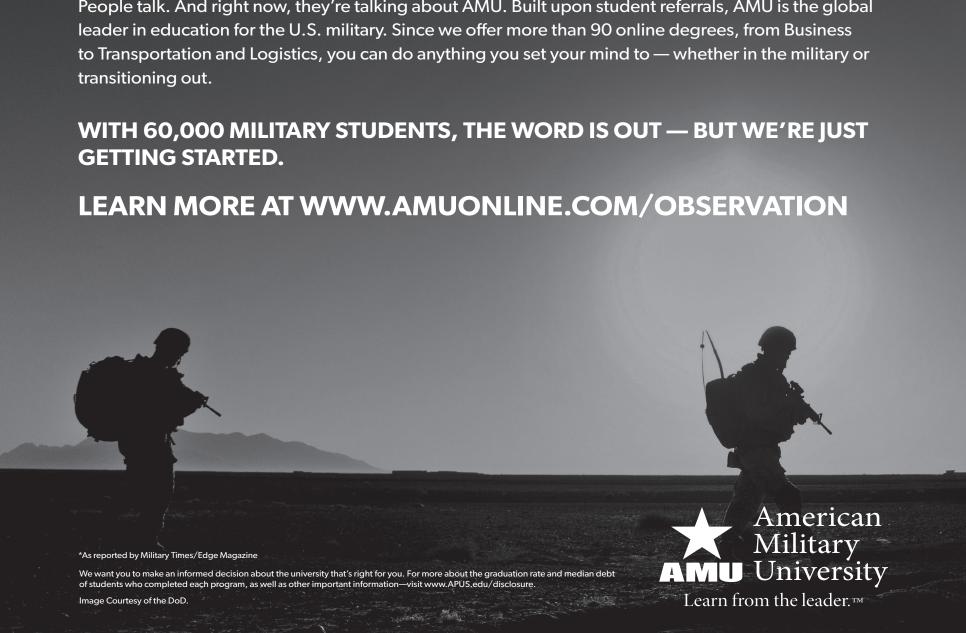
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A8 February 19, 2016 OBSERVATION POST

# Weekinphotos 22nd MEU Conducts CBRN Gas Chamber Annual Training



gas chamber training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., Monday.



U.S. Marines assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit participate in a U.S. Marines assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit practice clearing their M50 Joint Service General Purpose Masks before participating in a gas chamber training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., Monday.



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Nicholas Moore, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear defense specialist assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, briefs Marines before participating in a gas chamber training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., Monday.



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Grant T. Shoemaker, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear defense specialist assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, releases chlorobenzylidene malonitrile, or CS gas, a non-lethal tear gas and riot control agent, during a gas chamber training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., Monday.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Koby Saunders

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## Woodmont **5 HOMES LEFT**

Mid \$300s 3 - 6 bedrooms 3 - 5 baths

2,385 to 3,681 sf (approx.)

# **CANYON HILLS IN LAKE ELSINORE**

## **Meadow Ridge 5 HOMES LEFT**

High \$300s 4-7 bedrooms 3 - 4.5 baths 2,383 to 4,241 sf (approx.)

# Summerfield **4 HOMES LEFT**

Low \$300s 3 – 4 bedrooms 2 - 3 baths 1,538 to 1,948 sf (approx.)

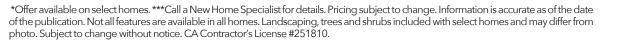
# Amberleaf\*\* **5 HOMES LEFT**

Low \$300s 3 - 5 bedrooms 2-4 baths 1,646 to 2,629 sf (approx.)

\*\* Not move-in ready.

















February 19, 2016 **Since 1957** Vol. 60 B



# **Combat Center Color Guard** presents colors at memorial wall

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — The Combat Center Color Guard presented the national colors and the Marine Corps colors during the unveiling ceremony of a veterans' memorial wall in Rancho Mirage, Calif., Sunday.

"It is an honor to be able to participate in this ceremony," said Lance Cpl. Jimmy Hampton, left rifleman, Combat Center Color Guard. "It is a humbling experience to be able to present the colors in a ceremony that honors the

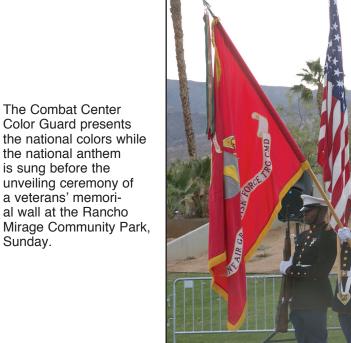
people that came before me."

The city built the wall during an expansion of their community park located next to the city's auditorium. During the ceremony members of the community were glad to honor the veterans from the past, as well as those of the present and future.

"We brought the color guard out here because the Marines are a huge part of our community," said Michael Schlange, marketing and events specialist, city of Rancho Mirage. "This event would not be complete without a few of members of the base being here."



The Rancho Mirage Memorial Wall stands erect at the Rancho Mirage Community Park, Sunday. The wall was unveiled during the opening of the expanded community park.







The Combat Center Color Guard carries the national colors and Marine Corps colors during the unveiling ceremony of a veterans' memorial wall at the Rancho Mirage Community Park, Sunday.

B2 February 19, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST** 



# **Combat Center Events**

The Combat Center Commissary will host a Seafood Road show on March 1 and 2. Seafood including Crawfish and Soft Shell Blue Crab will be for sale. The Roadshow will take place between 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on both days.

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.

An Education and Career Fair is scheduled for March 23 at the West Gym from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is open to all hands and business dress or uniform of the day is suggested. For more information call 760-830-7225

# **Sunset Cinema**

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

Saturday, February 20

12:30 p.m. - Norm of The North, PG 3:00 p.m. - The Revenant, R

6:30 p.m. - 13 Hours:

The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi, R 9:30 p.m. - The Big Short, R

Sunday, February 21

12:30 p.m. - Norm of the North, PG

2:30 p.m. - Joy, PG-13 5:30 p.m. - The 5th Wave, PG-13

8:00 p.m. - Dirty Grandpa, R

Monday, February 22

6:30 p.m. - 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi, R

Tuesday, February 23 6:30 p.m. - The Revenant, R Wednesday, February 24 6:30 p.m. - The Big Short, R Thursday, February 25

5:00 p.m. - Norm of the North, PG 7:00 p.m. - Concussion, PG-13

Friday, February 26 5:00 p.m. - The Forest, PG-13

7:30 p.m. - Dirty Grandpa, R 10:00 p.m. - The Revenant, R

# TOUGH MINDED **OPTIMISM** by Lou Gerhardt



"Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the overworked shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them. As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one. I rescued a human today.'

--Janine Allen

This column sponsored by:

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760-367-4627 Dr. Lou can be reached at 800-995-1620 res19mxc@verizon.net

# **Water Water Everywhere**

**NEIL POND** 

"The Finest Hours " Starring Chris Pine, Casey Affleck & Holliday Grainger Directed by Craig Gillespie PG-13

In an early scene of The Finest Hours, shy Cape Cod Coast Guardsman Bernie Webber (Chris Pine) gently tries to coax his new girlfriend, Miriam (Holliday Grainger), into a nighttime boat ride. But she's afraid of the water after dark. "You can't see what's underneath," she says.

"Just more watah," Bernie reassures her.

Just more watah, indeed, in this splashy true tale of against-all-odds nautical heroics almost 65 years ago, by four Coast Guardsmen who responded to the distress signal from an oil tanker that had been split asunder by a treacherous nor'easter, one of the worst winter storms ever in Massachusetts. What happened on that snowpiled, water-water-everywhere February evening is still considered "the most daring rescue in Coast Guard history."

After we meet Bernie and Miriam, and watch their romance sweetly blossom into marriage plans, we're introduced to the men onboard the teeny and constrained behind the soon-to-be-doomed vessel. There the chief engineer (Casey Affleck) quickly becomes the de factor leader after the captain goes down with the front half of their ship.

By the time news of the greatly distressed, disabled tanker reaches the Cape Cod Coast Guard station, Bernie hardly seems like the man for a daring rescue. Some of the locals won't let the soft-spoken coxswain forget a previous mission in which a life was lost, and Bernie is also teased by some of his fellow, more seasoned Coast Guardsmen when they find out that the "takecharge" gal he's planning on marrying proposed to him, not the other way around.

"You sure you got your pants on, Webber?" one of them asks him.

All of this is to set up the "perfect storm" of circumstances for Bernie to prove himself a man, and a hero, when he's asked to round up a crew and head into the maw of the storm, find the troubled tanker shell and attempt a rescue.

Others in the Coast Guard station consider it "a suicide mission."

After seeing Chris Pine command the starship USS Enterprise across the universe in two Star Trek movies (with a third, Star Trek Beyond, coming in July), he looks a bit odd, big screen.

wheel of a small boat, even one battling monstrous, mountainous CGI waves. And even if he's playing his character true to what the actual Webber did, for the star and hero of the story, he doesn't get a lot to do-it's not terribly exciting to watch a "good guy" stand up and steer a wooden lifeboat, squint and shout into the darkness and get splashed with water for most of half an hour.

Onboard the floundering back half of the tanker, Casey Affleck fares a bit better, bringing some gung-ho realism and a sense of cool-headed determination to his role as he figures out a way to build a massive makeshift rudder and steer the broken hull of the ship.

And with a passionate, firecracker temperament to match her red hair, British actress Holliday Grainger provides a feisty onshore grounding for the salty seafaring action

This clam-chowder winter drama won't win any awards, but it does stand as a rousing Hollywood salute to a little-known incident in nautical history and a stirring tale of Greatest Generation heroism "rescued" from obscurity by the

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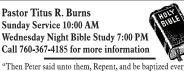


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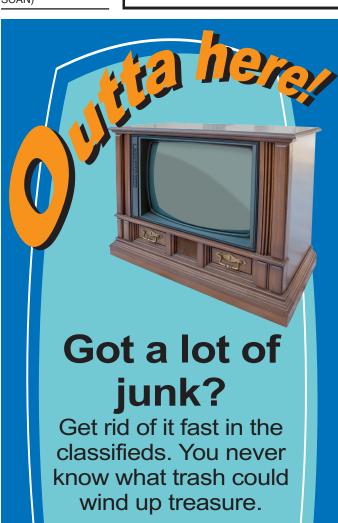
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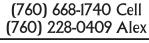
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# \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Around the Corps \* \* \* \* \* \* \*



PHOTO BY CPL. IMMANUEL JOHNSON

Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force receive a visit from Maj. Gen. Neil Nelson, Commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, aboard Porsangmoen, Norway, Feb. 17.

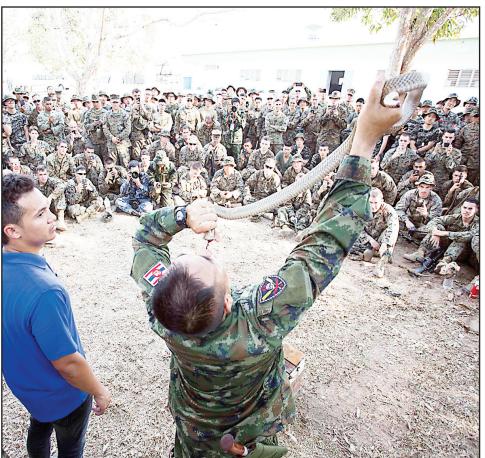


PHOTO BY CPL. DARIEN BJORNDAL

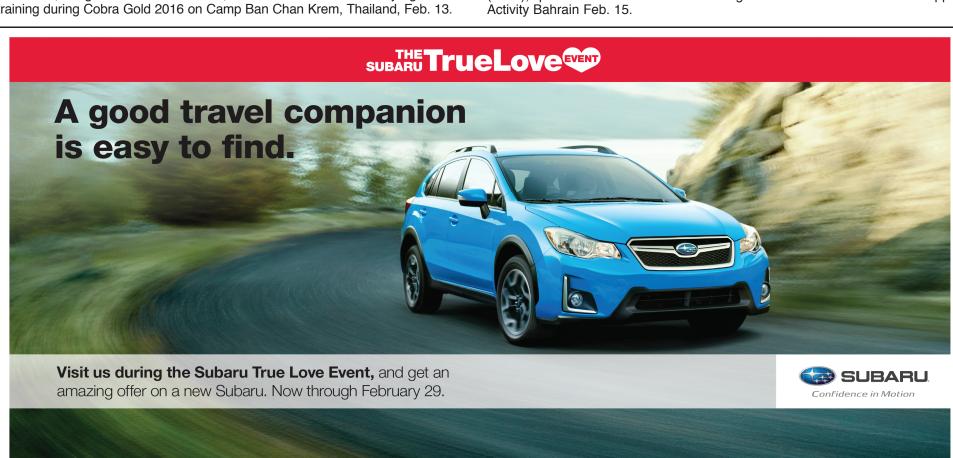
U.S. Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, along with Thai Korean Marines, watch Royal Thai Marine Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Pairog Prasansai, assigned to Recon Battalion, drink the blood of a cobra in jungle survival training during Cobra Gold 2016 on Camp Ban Chan Krem, Thailand, Feb. 13.



United States and Royal Thai Special Forces conduct a partnership airborne exercise from a MC-130 Hercules in Phitsanulok District, Thailand, during exercise Cobra Gold, Feb. 16.



Col. Robert C. Fulford, Commanding Officer of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), speaks to Marines and Sailors assigned to 26th MEU at the Naval Support



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- SUBARU STARLINK™ in-vehicle technology with Pandora app integration
- · Standard heated front seats

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\$0 Security Deposit \$239 First Month's Lease Payment \$1,139 Total Due at GRB/GRC



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