



Col. William Vivian, commanding officer, Sgt. Maj. Edward Zapata, oncoming sergeant major, and Sgt. Maj. Rodney Lane, outgoing sergeant major, 7th Marine Regiment, salute the National Colors during the pass in review portion of the regiment's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field, March 18.

'Magnificent Seventh' bids farewell to senior leader

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Sgt. Maj. Rodney Lane relinquished command of 7th Marine Regiment to Sgt. Maj. Edward Zapata during the regiment's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, March 18.

Lane passed the non-commissioned officer's sword to Zapata, signifying the symbolic change of senior leadership for the 'Magnificent Seventh.'

Lane assumed command as the regimental sergeant major for 7th Marines in March 2014 and deployed with the unit as part of the command element of Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central



Sgt. Maj. Rodney Lane, outgoing sergeant major, 7th Marine Regiment, salutes the national colors during the playing of the National Anthem during the regiment's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field, March 18.

Command 15.2, in support of operations in the area. His personal awards include: the Meritorious

Service Medal with gold star, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy/Marine

Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, Combat Action Ribbon and Good See **Farewell pg. A6**

Congressman Ruiz tours Combat Center



Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, shows Congressman Raul Ruiz how to determine the age of a desert tortoise during his visit to the Combat Center, March 18.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

As the largest combined arms, live-fire training facility in the Marine Corps, the Combat Center has the responsibility of ensuring Marines remain a force in readiness. With that mission comes great responsibility. Through initiatives such as the Water Conservation Plan, co-generation plants and the desert tortoise Headstart Program, the installation exceeds training expectations while remaining good stewards of the environment and conscientious contributors to the surrounding community.

Congressman Raul Ruiz visited the Combat Center to discuss the various programs aboard the installation March 18 and engage with command leadership to gain a better understanding of the Combat Center's unique capabilities. Ruiz serves as the Congressman for California's 36th District and serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources.

"One of the things that I'm really impressed with is the use of renewable energies," Ruiz said. "There are programs the base has in place that can be used

See **Tour pg. A6**



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, explains the mission of the Combat Center to Congressman Raul Ruiz during his visit to the Combat Center, March 18. Ruiz serves as the congressman for California's 36th District and the purpose of his visit was to discuss the various programs aboard the installation.

Bishop officiates Palm Sunday Mass



Bishop Neal J. Buckon, Military Archdiocese Vicar for the Western Region, begins Palm Sunday mass at the Combat Center's Catholic Chapel, Sunday.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Marines, sailors and members of the Roman Catholic Church joined together to sing hymns, confirm their faith and celebrate a special Palm Sunday weekend alongside the Military Auxiliary Bishop for the western half of the United States.

Bishop Neal J. Buckon, Military Archdiocese Vicar for the Western Region, made a pastoral visit to the Combat Center, Saturday and Sunday.

Buckon spoke with different leaders of the Combat Center during his visit, including Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General and Capt. Stephen M. Lee, assistant chief of staff, Religious Ministries.

"I figured if there's any place to spend Palm Sunday, it would be Twentynine Palms," Buckon said. "I know you're never going to be short of palms

See **Visit 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 Sgt. James R. Skelton.



A Navy Corpsman assigned to Field Medical Training Battalion East, checks on members of his squad during a final exercise at Camp Johnson, N.C., March 1.

Let's get moving

A letter from the Distribution Management Office

WRITTEN BY CARNOTA GARR,
PERSONAL PROPERTY SUPERVISOR

The Distribution Management Office is now a Personal Property Processing Office. Since we've regionalized with the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office in San Diego, we no longer book your shipments. DMO processes your application for shipment and/or storage and forwards it to JPPSO for booking. This change makes it critical that you plan your move as soon as you receive your orders. JPPSO sends our office a daily notification of the "First Available Pickup Date", which can be available 9 to 15 working days after submission of your application. During the peak season the "First Available Pickup Date" can be up to 45 days.

Our peak season begins May 15 and extends through July 31. To ensure a smooth move for yourself and your loved ones, we encourage you to prepare yourselves using the following information:

- Process your application in the Defense Personal Property System. Go to www.move.mil and register

to obtain a user ID and password. You can build your profile or update your profile any time. Send an email to smbplmstmohhg@usmc.mil and we'll send you complete instructions.

- As soon as you receive your orders, complete your application in DPS.
- Summer months are the most popular time to relocate. Since requested pickup and delivery dates may not be available during this time, flexibility is important and building extra time into your schedule for unforeseen circumstances is recommended.
- Summer season presents unique challenges since shipment volumes stretch the limits of industry capacity.
- Create your personal moving calendar with checklists, phone numbers and note your dates for pack out.
- Make sure to confirm your pack and pickup dates before making any final moving/travel arrangements.
- Stay in contact with your Transportation Service Provider formerly known as your carrier.
- Immediately notify our office of any changes or

issues that arise during your move.

- Consider performing a Personally Procured Move formerly known as Do-It-Yourself move. An advance can be authorized providing you are renting a truck. Payments for advance may take up to 10 working days after submission of your application.
- Attend the DMO Smooth Move briefing held the first Wednesday of every month. Call the Information and Referral Specialist/Relocation Services Office at 760-830-6344 for the schedule and location.
- If this is your last household goods move due to Separation or Retirement, please call 760-830-6119 for an appointment. Attend the DMO Separation and Retirement brief held every couple months. Call the Career Resource Office at 760-830-7225 for the schedule and location.

Let's beat the stress down and make your move as smooth as possible. To get prepared, go online to www.move.mil, call us at 760-830-6119, or send us an email at smbplmstmohhg@usmc.mil. Let's work together on your exciting transition.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Skatepark feature
- 5 Buddy
- 9 Profundity
- 14 ___ vera
- 15 Nozzle site
- 16 "Aren't we ___?"
- 17 Out-of-focus picture
- 18 "___ your pardon"
- 19 Actress Zellweger
- 20 March Madness failure
- 23 Intense rage
- 24 Certain intersection
- 25 John ___ Passos
- 26 Close relative
- 28 Elon Musk's company
- 30 Cows and sows
- 32 Jemima, e.g.
- 33 Fingers
- 35 ABA mem.
- 36 Physical location
- 37 Eschewed tradition
- 42 Gutter holder
- 43 "___ had it"
- 44 Bit of binary code
- 45 Genesis garden
- 46 Bud holder
- 48 Begin
- 52 Knight's title
- 53 Perfect rating
- 54 Formerly
- 56 Domingo, for one
- 57 Diner food preparer
- 61 Habitual practice
- 62 Obscure
- 63 Penny ___
- 64 Penny, nickel, dime, etc.
- 65 "If only ___ known..."
- 66 In ___ of

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- 67 Chilean mountains
- 68 Like some dorms
- 69 Sticker fig. on a car
- 70 Fencer's blade
- 71 Hilary's outfit
- 72 Connects with
- 73 Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.
- 74 Give the slip
- 75 Sam's Club rival
- 76 Kind of cell
- 77 Equate
- 78 Abominates
- 79 Black ink item
- 80 Nervous excitement
- 81 Honey makers
- 82 Big name in hotels
- 83 Like tennis serves
- 84 Tennis star Ana
- 85 Indy racer Al
- 86 Salad leaf
- 87 Hunk
- 88 Water cannon target
- 89 Begin
- 90 Deuce beaters
- 91 Caught congers
- 92 Arch molding
- 93 Start again
- 94 Waveless
- 95 Actress Thurman

Down

- 1 Bugs Bunny, e.g.
- 2 Magnetism
- 3 Cursor movers
- 4 Bold and saucy
- 5 Upbraid
- 6 "Calvin & ___"
- 7 Exploitative type
- 8 Classic L.A. metal band
- 9 Some laundry loads
- 10

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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

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 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
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- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
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- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
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- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
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 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive
- For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official-website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Joshua CHACON

Carol Stream, Ill. Cpl., videographer, Combat Camera, 23

>I am from Carol Stream, Illinois a suburb Northwest of Chicago. My [Military Occupational Specialty] is videographer and I work at the Combat Camera office.

>I was stationed on Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan before coming to Twentynine Palms. Some of the cool places I have been are Thailand, Nepal, the Philippines, Australia and Iwo Jima.

>In my opinion, in Japan there was not a lot to do on base, so hiking was a good way to get out and do something.

>My sergeant and I were close and we would go out hiking. We would go and find waterfalls and explore random places.

>I'm happy that Joshua Tree National Park is here. I can continue climbing and exploring while being stationed out here in Twentynine Palms.

>Lately my friend Charles and I have gone out and explored the national park. Our next challenge is going to be Mount Whitney in Sequoia [Kings Canyon] National Park.

>I started out small using the rock climbing machines at the gym on base and climbed smaller hills and cliffs. I want to keep practicing to the point that I feel comfortable climbing the big mountains.

>Usually I free climb smaller rocks without equipment but ultimately I want to use ropes. It's scary and awesome at the same time. If I break a bone I'm not going to stop, it's something I enjoy and I'm going to keep doing.

>As Marines, we are very competitive and we have the attitude that we can accomplish just about anything. I can safely say that rock climbing has checked that attitude more than once. It's probably the scariest fun I have in my free time.

>I ran cross country in high school and my coach taught us a lot. Things like camaraderie and teamwork. So when I joined the Marine Corps I saw many similarities between my team and the military.



>I credit two people with my success, the first is my father. He used to take me with him to work when I was little and he taught me the value of working hard to be successful and earning everything.

>He works as a truck driver and he always told me "If you don't want to work this hard, become educated." He has always pushed me to be better.

>The second person I credit is a Marine who passed away; Cpl. Sara Medina. To say she supported me a lot during my Marine Corps career is an understatement.

>When I first met her we were very

Chacon is a hiker and climber from the Chicago area and enjoys exploring Joshua Tree National Park. He hopes to reach the peak of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, Mount Whitney, which is also the highest summit in the Contiguous United States.

distant, but she was from Chicago and that was pretty cool meeting someone else from my home area who I could relate to.

>When I was at a low spot in my career she helped me pick myself up. She showed me the true meaning of what it is to be a Marine non-commissioned officer. I wouldn't trade meeting her with anything else.

>My time in the Marine Corps has taught me to be grateful for the things that I have. I've visited places where people struggle to get one bucket of clean drinking water and I'm glad to live in a country where we don't have to live that way.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

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'Wolf Pack' welcomed



Sgt. Maj. Marcus A. Chestnut, incoming battalion sergeant major, receives the noncommissioned officer sword from Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, battalion commander, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, during the battalion's relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, March 18.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Sgt. Maj. Edward G. Zapata relinquished his post as battalion sergeant major, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to Sgt. Maj. Marcus A. Chestnut at Felix Field March 18.

"My heart is with 'Wolf Pack' and has been since the day I arrived here," Zapata said. "Being a part of the pack has gotten me to where I am today."

Zapata has served as the battalion sergeant major since 2014 and will now move on to execute orders as regimental sergeant major, 7th Marine Regiment. During the ceremony, the Marines and sailors stood in formation while Zapata passed the noncommissioned officer sword to Chestnut.

"The passing of the sword represents the transfer of the office of authority for this great command," Zapata said. "The responsibility to the welfare and readi-

ness of the Marines are all contained in that sword. When the sword is passed off to a new sergeant major, he inherits those responsibilities."

Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, battalion commander, 3rd LAR, spoke on Zapata's dedication while serving the battalion.

"It's been said that the battalion level is the last real opportunity to reach out and grab the Marines and sailors souls," Laing said. "I can assure you that Sgt. Maj. Zapata had a positive impact on the pack's

soul. His legacy, mentorship and leadership will continue to resonate throughout the battalion for years to come."

Chestnut, previously battalion sergeant major for 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Regiment, expressed optimism toward his future with the battalion.

"To the Marines and sailors of the 'Wolf Pack', you don't owe me anything, but I owe you a lot," Chestnut said. "I'm here to tell you that I am here to serve you."

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...mes new Sgt. Maj.



Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, battalion commander, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, salutes battalion staff during the battalion's relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, March 18. During the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Edward G. Zapata relinquished his position as battalion sergeant major of 3rd LAR to Sgt. Maj. Marcus A. Chestnut.



Sgt. Maj. Edward G. Zapata, outgoing battalion sergeant major, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, speaks during the battalion's relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, March 18.

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Farewell from pg. A1

Conduct Medal, eighth award.
 "I want to thank everyone who has helped me and also the Marines behind me for all that they have done and everything that they are going to do in the future," Lane said. "7th Marines will always be part of my DNA. Sergeant Major Zapata, I want to welcome you, your wife and your family to the Magnificent Seventh; they could not have picked a better sergeant major for the job."

Prior to receiving orders to report to 7th Marines, Zapata was the sergeant major for 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. As Zapata steps into a new role, he plans to maintain and continue the regiment's illustrious history.

"When I received the sword from Sgt. Maj. Lane, I also received the Marines and sailors that are behind me," Zapata said. "Not only them, but their training, their families, their morale and welfare and everything this sword signifies. It is a big responsibility and I am looking forward to it."

Lane is scheduled to report to 4th Marine Aircraft Wing for his next duty assignment. After addressing the crowd, Lane turned to the regiment of Marines and sailors in formation behind him and left them with parting words.

"Marines and sailors I want to tell you that you all have knocked it out of the park," Lane said. "You are the best of the best, you motivate the heck out of me because you take complex tasks and make it look easy. I leave you with this: continue to do the right thing for the right reason; by doing that, everything else will fall into place. Thank you, God Bless and Semper Fidelis."

The NCO sword is no longer used in combat; however passing it from one leader to another is a proud Marine Corps tradition that has been performed since 1875. Now, with this responsibility in the hands of Zapata, the Marines of the 'Magnificent Seventh' will continue to make history through their Honor, Courage and Commitment.



Col. William Vivian, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, oversees his regiment during its' relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, March 18.



Sgt. Maj. Edward Zapata, regimental sergeant major, prepares to take the non-commissioned officers' sword from Col. William Vivian, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, during the regiment's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field, March 18.



Sgt. Maj. Edward Zapata, oncoming sergeant major, and Sgt. Maj. Rodney Lane, outgoing sergeant major, stand in front of Col. William Vivian, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, during the regiment's relief and appointment ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field, March 18.

Visit from pg. A1



Bishop Neal J. Buckon, Military Archdiocese Vicar for the Western Region, blesses palm leaves during Palm Sunday mass, at the Combat Center's Catholic Chapel, Sunday.

here in the desert."

According to Catholic faith, Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's arrival in Jerusalem before he was crucified.

Buckon also met with several church members before their respective confirmation to the Roman Catholic Church and led two Palm Sunday Masses with an average attendance of 150 people at each service.

"I see the faith, the hope and the love," said Buckon. "It's a wonderful thing to see and be a part of."

Following the Palm Sunday Masses, Combat Center senior officers and staff non-commissioned officers met with Buckon for breakfast at the Catholic Chapel.

Col. Andrew Kennedy, assistant chief of staff, G-3, volunteered to escort Buckon throughout the Combat Center during his three-day stay.

"It tied the [community and the Combat Center] together," Kennedy said. "Having someone visit who sees the picture across the entire area of military [religious] services, really broadens your view."

There was a general consensus of appreciation for Buckon's visit from Combat Center patrons in attendance.

"It helps bring us all together," said Abby Carnero, volunteer. "It was exciting to have the Bishop come all this way to see us on Palm Sunday."

Tour from pg. A1

as an example for other communities."

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, briefed Ruiz alongside representatives from the staff offices on the mission of the Combat Center and the role each staff office plays in supporting that mission. Following the brief, Ruiz was treated to an aerial tour of the base via helicopter. The visit continued with lunch at Phelps Mess Hall and concluded with a tour of the Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center.

"I think it's good to raise people's awareness outside of the installation as to all the conservation measures that we take," said Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources

and Environmental Affairs. "All the efforts we have in place to conserve water, to ensure good air quality or minimize impacts on the tortoises, are great to advertise to folks outside the fence line so they know what we're doing here."

In addition to gaining insight as to how the base functions, the congressman also hoped to gain more knowledge on what the transition from active duty to veteran is like.

Ruiz says serving our veterans is important to him because of the dignity with which they served our country and the spirit they have for serving one another. Ruiz spoke highly of his visit to the installation saying he enjoyed the people he met and the facilities he toured.

"I had a great time," Ruiz said. "Seeing the combat and training grounds via helicopter was very impressive, I enjoyed my conversations with good human beings who care about our country, who have the discipline to do good work and a devotion to our communities."



Congressman Raul Ruiz speaks to Marines at Phelps Mess Hall during his visit to the Combat Center, March 18.



Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, presents examples of petroglyphs that can be found aboard the Combat Center to Congressman Raul Ruiz during his visit to the installation, March 18.

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Artwork created by Jasmine Kumpke, Age 9
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Annual Easter Egg Hunt

THE HUNT

IS ON

Saturday, March 26th promptly at 9:00 a.m.

* ages 8 and under welcome *

Yucca Valley Community Center softball field

* NO ADMISSION CHARGE *

- Bring basket or container to collect eggs and goodies
- Bring your camera for photographs with the Easter Bunny!
- Bunny whiskers painted on the kids

Following the Easter Egg Hunt, participants are welcome to enter themed contests including "Guess How Many Jelly Beans" and "Name the Easter Chick".

For more information, call the Town of Yucca Valley Community Services Department at (760) 369-7211, Monday through Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

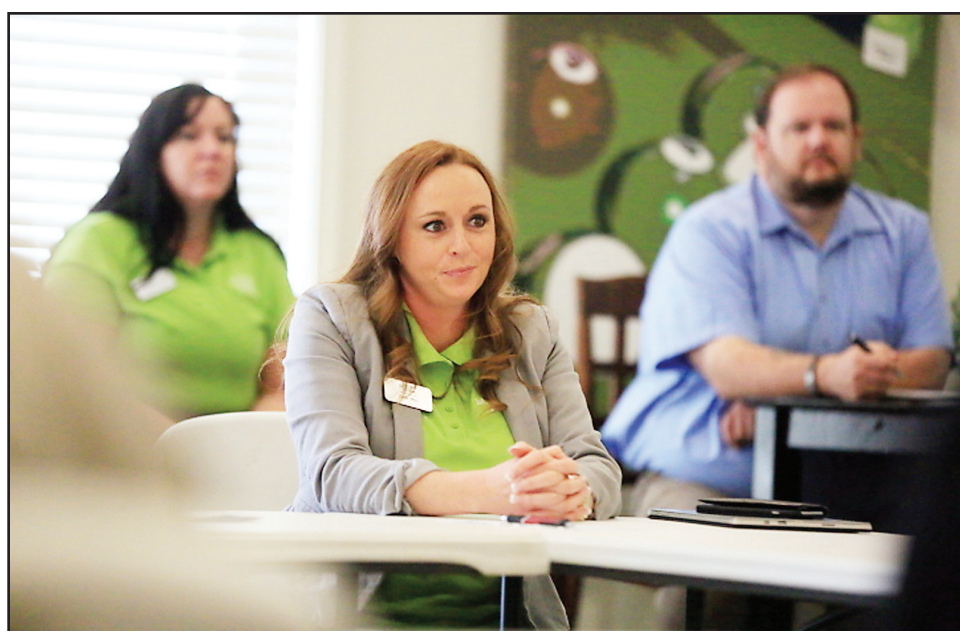
Combat Center leadership, LMH residents meet for RAB



Laurie Craparotta, wife of Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, speaks to a member of the Resident Advisory Board during the boards' meeting at the Ocotillo Club House, March 17. The RAB began March 2015, and was designed to promote the sharing of information to resolve issues and facilitate positive changes, to improve the quality of life for service members and their families who live in base housing.



Soraya Feliciano, wife of Staff Sgt. Anthony Feliciano, intelligence analyst, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, talks to members of the Resident Advisory Board during the board's meeting at the Ocotillo Club House, March 17.



Leslie May, palm housing district manager, Lincoln Military Housing, listens to a member of the Resident Advisory Board speak during the board's meeting at the Ocotillo Club House, March 17. RAB discusses the status of the housing program along with tracking the needs and trends of service members and their families.



Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, discusses how the Combat Center command plans to handle any housing issues that arise during the board's meeting at the Ocotillo Community Center, March 17.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Combat Center leadership, housing residents, and Lincoln Military Housing came together for a Resident Advisory Board meeting at the Ocotillo Club House, March 17.

RAB began March 2015, and was designed to promote the sharing of information to resolve issues and facilitate positive changes, to improve the quality of life for service members and their families living in base housing.

"At this RAB meeting, we discussed ideas on how residents can come together to best communicate as a community and spread the word about policies with regard to base housing," said Leslie May, palm district manager, Lincoln Military Housing.

In addition, the meeting dove into positive and negative issues in each housing area that the command and LMH plan on looking into. Holding meetings periodically,

the RAB discusses the status of the housing programs along with tracking the needs and trends of service members and their families.

"This is a great way of implementing change," said Trista Beavers, wife of Capt. Andy Beavers, company commander, 1st Tank Battalion. "I think it is a way to voice your concerns and have them heard. I've seen great changes in the Ocotillo housing area and I know that it will reach the other housing communities as well."

The members of RAB encourage active participation from residents and volunteer positions are open to residents of the LMH community.

"We can all make a difference if we are willing to be involved and take that challenge to start implementing change," May said.

To fill a volunteer position, residents must meet eligibility standards, which include residence in the respective community with at least one year remaining

on station, no housing violation reports on file with the Military Housing Office, LMH or Provost Marshal's Office, and must volunteer to speak for the community as a whole at the RAB meetings.

"This board is productive and will continue to be productive if more people continuously participate," said Soraya Feliciano, wife of Staff Sgt. Anthony Feliciano, intelligence analyst, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1. "We want people who don't just show up to complain but actually show initiative to want change in our communities."

For more information on RAB or how to participate, call LMH at 760-368-4500.

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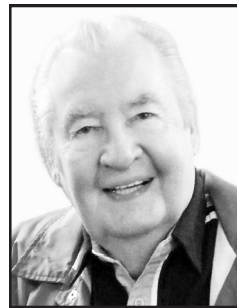
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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



Better than ten years of writing this column in this newspaper I am able to report that all seems to be going well. I receive good comments almost daily from people who appreciate what I am attempting to accomplish. To put it simply, I want readers to find my columns to be helpful in their effort to maintain a positive attitude each day regardless of circumstances.

When I write about having a positive attitude, I am not suggesting that you should abandon common sense or deny the reality of extremely difficult situations.

Tough minded optimists are not naïve, Pollyannaish, or unrealistic. They "smell the coffee" in every difficulty. They are pragmatic, logical, and extremely practical. On the other hand, they have the audacity of hope and a certain belief that something of value may come from any negative experience.

Have hope, dear friends. Tomorrow will be different. Tomorrow you may hear the music, meet the person, read the book, have the insight, think the thought that changes your life in a beautiful way.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell is a tough minded optimist. It was Powell who said with deep conviction "perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

Believe it, my friends, and anticipate with optimism tomorrow, next week, and all your days.

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WeekINPhotos

Coalition Platoon Attack Drill



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, prepare to breach an obstacle during a coalition platoon attack drill during exercise Ssang Yong 16 in South Korea, Tuesday. SsangYong is a biennial combined amphibious exercise conducted by forward deployed U.S. forces with the Republic of Korea Navy and Marine Corps, in order to strengthen our interoperability and working relationships across a wide range of military operations.



Lance Cpl. David Davidson, a rifleman with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducts a coalition platoon attack drill during exercise Ssang Yong 16 in South Korea, Tuesday.



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conduct a coalition platoon attack drill during exercise Ssang Yong 16 in South Korea, Tuesday.



An Australian soldier with Bravo Company, 6th Royal Australian Regiment, conducts a coalition platoon attack drill during exercise Ssang Yong 16 in South Korea, Tuesday.

[Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Evans]



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Sunday, March 27
Easter Egg Hunting for Golfers!

All golfers who play on Easter Sunday, March 27th have a chance at finding a hidden Easter eggs out on the course with a special "treat" inside during their round of golf between 8am - 3pm*

• Driving range prizes too!

*Offer valid while supplies last. Limit 2 eggs per golfer please.





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Yucca Valley, CA





Boy Scouts experience day in the life

PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines from Headquarters Battalion help boy scouts from Boy Scouts of America troops 72, 77, 78 and 180 unravel and hold onto the national colors before the playing of morning colors at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field as part of the Boy Scout Camp Out, Sunday.

STORY BY SGT. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

The sound of morning colors echoed through the Combat Center as the National colors were raised, unfurled and honored by Marines and local Boy Scouts working side-by-side for the daily tradition aboard the installation.

Approximately 60 scouts from Boy Scouts of America troops 72, 77, 78 and 180 from the High Desert area visited the Combat Center for a Boy Scout Camp Out March 17-20. The camp out allowed the scouts to temporarily set up shop at Camp Wilson and showcased many of the installation's training capabilities, facilities used by Marines in preparation for deployment and base conservation efforts. The scouts also received a crash fire rescue demonstration and conducted their own competition and ceremonies.

"Everyone has been so accommodating since the beginning of coordination with the base," said Nicole Fenstermaker, unit commissioner, Boy Scouts of America. "When one event got locked on, every parent and volunteer began throwing in more ways they could contribute to make this camp great."

The event included tours of the Battle Simulation Center, Exercise Support Division, Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center, and the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer.

"Some of the scouts have parents who serve or have retired and some don't have a parent who has ever been in the military, but allowing the group to see sides of the Marine Corps none of them get to see on a regular basis made the camp a unique experience for everyone," Nicole said.

The Boy Scouts' visit to ESD allowed the children to see several of the Marine Corps' more prominent vehicles used on today's battlefield such as the Armored Breaching Vehicle, Amphibious Assault Vehicle, Mine Resistant Ambush Preventive vehicle and the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle among others. ESD personnel guided chaperones and members of the group through the vehicles describing their design and purpose.

"A lot of the culture in the Boy Scouts mirrors the mil-

itary because of how it began," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brandon Fenstermaker, troop leader, Boy Scouts of America. "This organization was started by a man who was a commander in the British Army and he brought those skills back to England because he saw the value in passing those on to the youth."

Scouting's history goes back to the turn of the 20th Century, beginning with British Army officer, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell. While stationed in India, he discovered that his men did not know basic first aid or the elementary means of survival. Baden-Powell realized he needed to teach his men many frontier skills, so he wrote a small handbook called Aids to Scouting, which emphasized resourcefulness, adaptability, and the qualities of leadership that frontier conditions demanded. This would lay the groundwork for him to begin teaching these skills to children and the early Boy Scout organization, according to the Boy Scouts of America resource website, www.scouting.org.

"When the scouts are out here we have them do everything from resource management to leadership amongst themselves," Brandon said. "That leadership skill is something we stress upon them so they can work as a team and rely on each other, much like small unit leadership in the Marine Corps."

The scouts also visited the installation's Curation Center allowing them to see Thelma and Louise, ambassadors of the Desert Tortoise, up close along with the Combat Center's efforts toward conserving artifacts and history found aboard the Combat Center. The center also stores artifacts from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

"It's very satisfying to show anyone how much is actually going on here at this center," said Charlene Keck, collections manager, Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center. "Because the Boy Scouts are so focused on camping and how people interact with the natural environment, it seems [like a good fit] for them to visit this center and find out more about what was in the local area and what they can find today."

The scouts also visited the Battle Simulation Center

where they had the opportunity to experience the Combat Convoy Simulator and Vehicle Rollover simulator. The group's trip to the ISMT also had scouts participating in weapon simulators for the M240B Machine Gun, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon and Mark 19 Grenade Launcher. These events gave the scouts a different perspective on the kind of training Marines conduct to prepare for any mission.

"This is all really cool," said Devin Castanon, boy scout, Troop 72. "Being able to be around all the [weapons] and other [vehicles] up close is different and new."

The scouts used this event to not only observe aspects of Marine life, but to also conduct their annual Order of the Arrow Call Out, which selected scouts from each troop who were nominated by their peers for exemplary scouting skills, leadership and willingness to learn. The order is an honor society within the organization symbolized by a white sash with a red arrow for members who have been officially accepted, which is a title they earn and keep for life.

"This portion of the camp is a big deal for a lot of the scouts," Brandon said. "Once they officially become a member of the Arrow, it is something that stays with you for life, like earning a title they can always have with them."

The scouts concluded their camp with a scout competition encompassing trust, leadership skills, endurance, knowledge and knot-tying techniques. Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Crash Fire Rescue Marines also visited the group at Camp Wilson to demonstrate the nature of their job, equipment they use, and the mission of crash fire rescue.

During the Installation's daily flag-raising ceremony Sunday morning, the Combat Center allowed three scouts to become part of the base's flag detail and assist in the unfurling and raising of the American Flag alongside Marines.

"I really hope this becomes a tradition," Nicole said. "You get the same expression of [excitement] whether they have lived around this environment or not. That first 'Aha!' or 'Wow!' moment you get from the kids makes all the work worth it and its memories they will keep with them."



PHOTO BY SGT. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Cpl. Matthew Barnes, machine gunner, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, observes the Mark 19 Grenade Launcher as Devin Castanon, 12, boy scout, Troop 72, prepares to fire at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops March 18.



PHOTO BY SGT. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

Col. Jay Wylie, assistant chief of staff, G-4 Logistics, explains the purpose and design of the Marine Corps' Amphibious Assault Vehicle to boy scouts at the Exercise Support Division's staging area during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops March 18.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Head down to Del Valle Field for the Colorful Consent 5K run, April 1. The run, held in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all hands. For more information, call 760-830-7118.

Get ready for the MCTOG Softball Tournament, March 26th. Enjoy food, prizes, and bounce houses. The tournament is open to both service members and civilians. Teams will consist of 10 to 15 players. To sign up, or for more information, call 760-830-5660.

Hashmarks Staff Non-commissioned Officer Club hosts steak night open to all hands Mondays from 4:30p.m. to 8 p.m. and SNCOs only on Fridays. For more information call 760-830-5035.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, March 25

8:00 p.m. – Risen, PG-13
10:30 p.m. – The Witch, R

Saturday, March 26

12:00 p.m. – Zoolander 2, PG-13
2:30 p.m. – Race, PG-13
5:30 p.m. – Hail, Caesar!, PG-13
8:00 p.m. – How To Be Single, R
10:30 p.m. – Deadpool, R

Sunday, March 27

1:30 p.m. – Risen, PG-13
4:00 p.m. – Gods of Egypt, PG-13
7:00 p.m. – Eddie The Eagle, PG-13

Monday, March 28

7:00 p.m. – Zoolander 2, PG-13

Tuesday, March 29

7:00 p.m. – Gods of Egypt, PG-13

Wednesday, March 30

5:00 p.m. – How To Be Single, R
7:30 p.m. – The Witch, R

Thursday, March 31

5:00 p.m. – The Choice, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – Hail, Caesar!, PG-13

Friday, April 1

5:30 p.m. – Zootopia, PG
8:00 p.m. – The Witch, R
10: p.m. – London Has Fallen, R



Race Relations

Jesse Owens biopic reminds us of runner and historic 1936 Olympics

'Race'
Starring **Stephan James & Jason Sudeikis**
Directed by **Stephen Hopkins**
Rated **PG-13**

NEIL POND

No one had ever seen anyone run anything like Jesse Owens.

The sharecropper's son from rural Alabama began burning up the track in junior high. By the early 1930s he was setting new championship records for Ohio State University, and in 1936 he wowed the world, where he brought home four gold medals—for track, relay race and long jump—from the Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

Race tells Owens' tale, and its simple-sounding title packs a double meaning—about his fleet feet as well as the spotlight on him as a black man in a historically loaded moment in time, where he faced discrimination, racism and

the pressure to represent his country and his "people."

In the movie's opening sequence, as Owens (Stephan James) prepares to leave home for college, his mother touches a scar on his bare chest, the leftover of a childhood tumor that almost claimed his young life. "God spared you for a reason," she tells him.

That reason, the movie leads us to believe, was to stand up for what's right, to walk (and run) humbly with your God-given gifts—and to stick it to the Nazis.

In 1936, the movie shows us, the United States was conflicted about whether to participate in the Summer Olympics at all. Germany had won the bid to host the events five years earlier, two years before Nazi Germany came to power. Adolph Hitler's goal of a blue-eyed, blonde-haired master "Aryan race" was already making nasty interna-

tional ripples. When a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee pays a diplomatic visit to Berlin to negotiate terms of America's participation, he sees signs outside the gargantuan Berlin Sports Center reading "No Jews or Dogs."

Hitler's Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels (Barnaby Metschurat), expecting his highly trained athletes to dominate, wants to use the Olympics as the ultimate world stage to showcase German grandeur. He's hired his country's acclaimed filmmaker, Leni Riefenstahl (Carice von Houten), to document everything from start to finish.

Director Stephen Hopkins takes a mostly straightforward, meat-and-potatoes approach, especially to Owens' life in Ohio, where we meet his wife-to-be Ruth (Shanice Banton) and his coach, Larry Synder (Saturday Night Live TV vet Jason

Sudeikis, very strong in a non-comedic role). The movie doesn't really come alive until Owens arrives in Berlin, specifically when he first steps onto the futuristic field and is awestruck by a hundred thousand cheering spectators, a massive dirigible overhead blocking out the sun, Nazi banners, athletes giving "Sieg Heil!" salutes—and the sight of dur fuher in his boxed seat.

Owens was an enormous part of the history of the 1936 Olympics, where his achievements delivered a big black slap to Germany's smug Nazi face about their so-called racial "superiority." A subplot about his friendship with their top athlete, Lutz Long, represents the bridges—instead of barriers—of the Olympics' loftiest ideal.

After the Olympics, the great Owens came home a winner and a new record-setter, but we're showed how his four gold medals didn't exactly change the world—for him or anyone else. As the movie and the Black History Month timing of its release reminds us, there was—and remains still—a much longer race to be run.

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Start: 8 am | 4th Street
Adjacent to Bldg. 1480 by the Rappel tower

April 14

Road Bike Criterium

Duration: 8.8 miles (1.1 mile loop)
Start: 8 am
15th & Dunham Street

April 15

5K Fun Run

Start: 6:30 am
Desert Winds Golf Course
Register early and get your FREE t-shirt while supplies last.

Register & view maps at green29.org

For more information, contact 830.6857

Entry Fee: One recycled item
Walk ups for all events are welcome!

Trophies will be presented at Earth Day Extravaganza.

April 15

Earth Day Extravaganza

Carnival Rides
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4:30 – 8:30pm
Trophy presentation: 6pm

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